



# Opioid-Related EMS Incidents MetroWest: 2016 - 2019

SOURCE: MA Department of Public Health

POSTED: February 2020

## Enhancement of Opioid Overdose Surveillance

MATRIS, the Massachusetts Ambulance Trip Reporting Information System, is a statewide database for collecting emergency medical service (EMS) data from licensed ambulance services. It was not specifically designed to track opioid overdose incidents. DPH is currently working with all EMS providers to improve the quality and completeness of these data especially with respect to opioid overdose incidents. To more accurately identify ambulance trips that are opioid-related, several pieces of information from MATRIS are combined such as: a notation that a trip was listed as a poisoning, that there was an administration of naloxone, or that the patient admitted to drug use. In combination, this information allows DPH to more accurately count opioid overdose incidents.

Not all ambulance services have reported their most recent data at the time this report was generated, and therefore the numbers cited here may be underestimates. Counts will be updated on a quarterly basis. Beginning with the August 2017 report, incidents are only among people ages 11 and above.

## Results - Statewide

The percentage of EMS incidents that are considered opioid-related increased on average 7.8% per quarter from 2013 until 2016 and the number of all EMS incidents involving naloxone administration increased on average 7.8% per quarter from 2013 through the third quarter of 2016. In 2016, both the proportion of EMS incidents that were opioid-related as well as the overall number of EMS incidents involving the administration of naloxone began slightly decreasing. This pattern also closely resembles the 2013-2019 trend in the confirmed and estimated opioid-related overdose death rate (see Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths among Massachusetts Residents). In the first nine months of 2019, the greatest number of suspected opioid-related incidents treated by EMS continued to be among males aged 25-34, accounting for 24% of opioid-related incidents with a known age and sex.

## Technical Notes

This data brief was supported by funds made available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Highway and Transportation Safety Authority. The findings of this data brief are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of or endorsement by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Source

Office of Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality, MDPH

## METROWEST COMMUNITIES:

Please note, counts in this table reflect the town in which the incident occurred (not the city/town of residence as shown in the table of deaths by city/town). † indicates no opioid overdose incidents were recorded, which may be due to non-reporting by EMS services or no incidents occurring.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
City/Town	Total	Total	Total	Q1, Q2, Q3
Ashland	25	25	19	10
Bellingham	42	46	21	15
Dover	†	<5	7	†
Framingham	213	193	207	160
Franklin	44	47	33	24
Holliston	†	14	6	13
Hopedale	<5	7	9	10
Hopkinton	10	14	18	8
Hudson	36	33	32	20
Marlborough	66	56	82	57
Medfield	8	11	6	5
Medway	19	36	27	20
Mendon	<5	7	8	7
Milford	56	70	70	62
Millis	18	15	14	8
Natick	33	30	35	46
Needham	15	7	9	10
Norfolk	18	7	5	7
Northborough	24	14	21	13
Sherborn	<5	<5	<5	†
Southborough	6	5	9	<5
Sudbury	5	7	11	<5
Wayland	<5	6	<5	<5
Wellesley	12	14	16	5
Westborough	87	26	47	42
<b>MW estimate</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>554</b>
<b>State Total</b>	<b>22,422</b>	<b>24,834</b>	<b>24,574</b>	<b>16,809</b>