



Opioid-Related EMS Incidents in MetroWest: 2016 - 2020

SOURCE: MA Department of Public Health

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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. Beginning with the August 2017 report, incidents are only among people ages 11 and above. This report documents all opioid-related events in Massachusetts, defined as 911 calls in which opioids are involved; not all events are clinical overdoses and not all are nonfatal.

Results – Statewide

The percentage of EMS incidents that are considered opioid-related increased on average 14.1% bi-annually from 2013 until mid-2016 and then began decreasing 2.2% bi-annually through the end of 2020. The number of all EMS incidents involving naloxone administration increased on average 16.7% bi-annually from 2013 until mid-2016 and then began decreasing 0.9% bi-annually through the end of 2020. In 2020, the greatest number of suspected opioid-related incidents treated by EMS continued to be among males aged 25-34, accounting for 22% of opioid-related incidents with a known age and sex. In 2020, 55.3% of all Opioid-Related Events were categorized as Acute Opioid Overdose Events, 20.8% were categorized as Other Opioid-Related Events, 18.5% were categorized as Opioid Intoxicated Events, 3.7% were categorized as Opioid Withdrawal Events, and 1.7% were categorized as Dead on Arrival Events.

Technical Notes

This data brief made by the state 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. **The state's data brief was further edited to include only MetroWest communities.*

Source

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

METROWEST COMMUNITIES:

	2016	2017	2018	2019					2020				
City/Town	Total	Total	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Ashland	25	25	18	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	14	(1-4)	7	5	(1-4)	18
Bellingham	42	46	36	(1-4)	9	7	(1-4)	23	10	(1-4)	6	(1-4)	20
Dover	†	(1-4)	8	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Framingham	213	193	203	43	66	46	44	199	47	24	37	29	137
Franklin	44	47	36	7	11	6	9	33	8	5	13	9	35
Holliston	†	14	6	(1-4)	7	(1-4)	(1-4)	14	(1-4)	†	5	(1-4)	9
Hopedale	(1-4)	7	11	(1-4)	7	(1-4)	(1-4)	14	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	10
Hopkinton	10	14	18	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	9	(1-4)	†	(1-4)	(1-4)	8
Hudson	36	33	32	8	*	7	(1-4)	24	†	6	7	7	20
Marlborough	66	56	82	17	19	21	17	74	18	19	26	17	80
Medfield	8	11	5	(1-4)	(1-4)	†	†	5	†	5	†	†	5
Medway	19	36	22	8	9	(1-4)	(1-4)	24	*	8	(1-4)	6	21
Mendon	(1-4)	7	7	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	9	†	(1-4)	†	(1-4)	6
Milford	56	70	70	24	18	22	8	72	8	*	13	(1-4)	31
Millis	18	15	14	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	11	(1-4)	(1-4)	5	(1-4)	13
Natick	33	30	35	12	14	15	5	46	6	11	13	9	39
Needham	15	7	9	6	(1-4)	(1-4)	6	16	*	(1-4)	5	8	21
Norfolk	18	7	6	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	†	8	(1-4)	(1-4)	6	(1-4)	12
Northborough	24	14	21	7	(1-4)	(1-4)	5	18	(1-4)	(1-4)	13	5	25
Sherborn	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	†	†	†	(1-4)	(1-4)	†	†	†	†	†
Southborough	6	5	9	(1-4)	†	(1-4)	(1-4)	5	(1-4)	(1-4)	6	(1-4)	11
Sudbury	5	7	11	†	(1-4)	†	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	6
Wayland	(1-4)	6	(1-4)	(1-4)	†	(1-4)	†	(1-4)	†	(1-4)	†	†	(1-4)
Wellesley	12	14	16	(1-4)	(1-4)	(1-4)	†	5	(1-4)	†	(1-4)	(1-4)	7
Westborough	87	26	47	14	13	15	20	62	24	21	22	24	91
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State Total	22,422	24,834	23,584	5,000	5,761	5,740	5,098	21,599	4,829	5,413	5,928	4,769	20,939

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.

* indicates complementary suppression of the next smallest count was applied if only one count was between 1 and 4. (1-4) indicates the cell value was between 1 and 4.