



MOAR

Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery

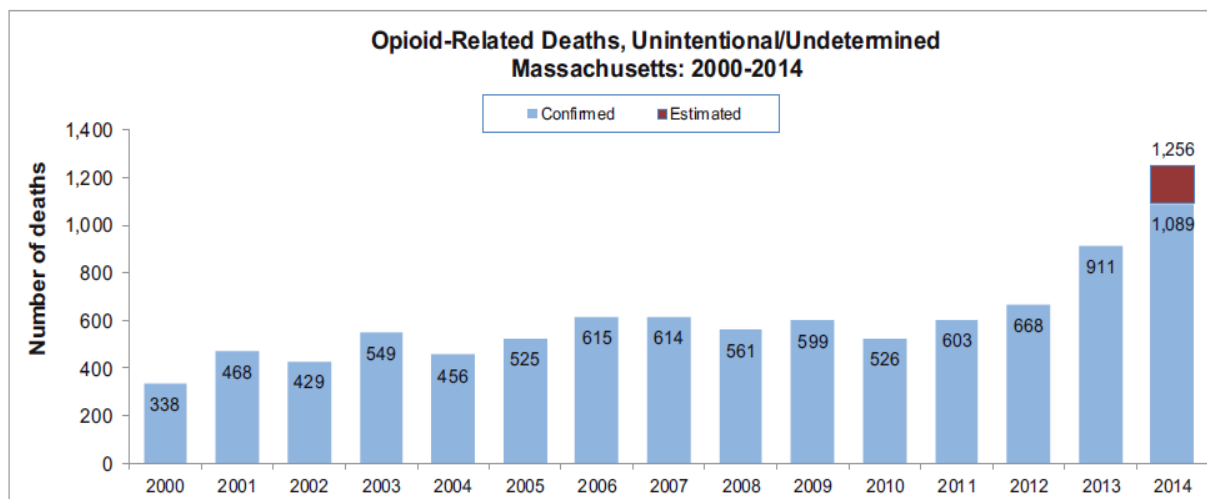
Addiction in Massachusetts: The Facts

The Basics

- ❖ Massachusetts ranks among the top 8 states with the highest levels of “illicit drug use” for adults ages 26 and older.¹
- ❖ National data (2013) finds that 22.7 million people, ages 12 and older, needed treatment for “illicit drug” or alcohol addictions of which only 2.5 million received treatment.¹
- ❖ Governor Baker, in his January 2016 address to the Commonwealth, recognized our crisis when he stated, “the statistics are terrifying; nearly four people are dying a day in Massachusetts.”

Overdoses

- ❖ The number of deaths due to opioid overdose has risen over the past 3 years from 668 in 2012, to 911 in 2013, and to 1,256 in 2014.²
- ❖ Massachusetts has experienced over 10,893 deaths due to unintentional opioid overdose since 2000.²
- ❖ Massachusetts’s individuals aged 44 and younger are far more likely (as high as 40% more likely), to die from an unintentional opioid overdose than any other cause of death.²



DPH analysts have also made month-by-month estimates for each month from January 2014 through June 2015. We only report data for those months in 2015 for which at least 80% of deaths have a recorded final cause of death. This data should be considered preliminary, and not necessarily representative or depictive of any larger trend.

Demographics

- ❖ Males in Massachusetts, overall, have a higher rate of substance use related hospital admissions (68%) than females (32%).³
- ❖ Thirty-four percent of bisexual and 17% of gay and lesbian adults in Massachusetts reported “illicit drug use” over the last 30 days compared to 8% of heterosexual residents.⁴
- ❖ In Massachusetts, 25-34% of individuals ages 18-25 and 10-14% of individuals ages 26 and older reported “illicit drug use” in the past month. These rates are higher than national averages.
- ❖ Sixty-eight per cent of all Massachusetts civil commitments (includes commitments for mental health, drug use, and sex crimes) were for drug use and over half of the 68% were male minorities.⁵
- ❖ Twenty-five percent of veterans ages 18-25 meet the criteria for substance use disorder.⁵

Homelessness

- ❖ As of February 2015, there were approximately 600 chronically homeless people in the Boston area.⁶
- ❖ Boston Public Health Commission confirms that there are significant physical and mental health needs among people who are homeless with 84% reporting some level of substance use treatment in their lifetime.
- ❖ 80% of deaths among individuals who were homeless in the Boston area were due to opioid overdose. As of 2013, substance use related deaths replaced HIV as the leading cause of death for the Massachusetts homeless population.⁶

Recovery

- ❖ The Massachusetts Department of Corrections finds a 27% recidivism or reconviction rate for drug related offenses, on average, from 2008 to 2011.
- ❖ Only 19% of those who received addiction services in 2013 received Outpatient Treatment Services.
- ❖ Massachusetts experiences over 3,000 acute care discharges from hospitals a year, but having limited community resources leave the majority of these individuals with no support on their continued path of recovery.³ Thus, there is a movement for Recovery Coaching to build positive connection.
- ❖ There are 10 regionally based Peer Recovery Support Centers funded by the Department of Public Health’s Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS). Great strides have been made, but peer recovery supports are still not a consistent, statewide offering within our continuum of care.
- ❖ In 2014 **MOAR** was awarded a SAMHSA grant to support the development of a statewide network of peer recovery community organizations, including BSAS funded Peer Recovery Centers and local grass roots groups. SOAR, Speaking Out for Addiction Recovery, the title, and effort is moving!

1. Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

2. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Stop Addictions Campaign (updated January 2016)

3. Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, Description of Admissions for 2014

4. Massachusetts Department of Public Health A Health Profile of Massachusetts Adults by Sexual Orientation Identity

5. Commonwealth of Massachusetts District Court Department of the Trial Court

6. Boston Public Health Commission