Massachusetts Responds to the Opioid Epidemic
Using Data To Inform Policy and Programs

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Data For Massachusetts

2017 Q2 Quarterly Report and Chapter 55
Opioid Related Deaths

Figure 1. Opioid\(^1\)-Related Deaths, All Intents
Massachusetts Residents: January 2000 - December 2016

450% increase in 16 years
The opioid epidemic burden in Massachusetts

Deaths by Age

- All Deaths:
  - <25: 1%
  - 25-44: 16%
  - 45-64: 78%
  - 65+: 5%

- Unintentional Opioids:
  - <25: 8%
  - 25-44: 58%
  - 45-64: 33%
  - 65+: 1%
Opioid Related Deaths

Confirmed Opioid-Related Death Rates, All Intents, by Race and Year

- All: 20.3, 25.1, 29.6, 34.1
- White non-Hispanic: 23.9, 29.5, 34.1
- Black non-Hispanic: 11.1, 14.2, 16.2
- Hispanic: 15.8, 19.8, 30.4
Opioid Overdose Death Rates by County

2011 - 2013 vs. 2014 - 2016
Chapter 55 Report

An Assessment of Fatal and Nonfatal Opioid Overdoses in Massachusetts (2011 – 2015)

August 2017
### Chapter 55 – Additional Key Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statute Question</th>
<th>Analytic Question</th>
<th>Preliminary Findings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Instances of multiple provider episodes, meaning a single patient having access to opiate prescriptions from more than 1 provider</td>
<td><em>Does an abnormally high amount of prescribing physicians increase a patient’s risk of fatal overdose?</em></td>
<td>Individuals who obtain prescriptions for opioids from more than one doctor may be at greater risk of death. Based on observed data, the use of 3 or more prescribers is associated with a <strong>7-fold increase in risk of fatal opioid overdose</strong>.</td>
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<td>2. Instances of poly-substance access, meaning a patient having simultaneous prescriptions for an opiate and a benzodiazepine or for an opiate and another drug which may enhance the effects or the risks of drug abuse or overdose</td>
<td><em>Does the addition of benzodiazepines to opioids increase the risk of fatal opioid overdose relative to taking opioids alone?</em></td>
<td>Preliminary findings support the hypothesis of increased risk of fatal overdose associated with concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines. Based on observed data, the use of benzodiazepines concurrent to opioids is associated with a <strong>4-fold increase in risk of fatal opioid overdose</strong>. Future analysis should include other drugs.</td>
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Treatment with Medication

Patients treated with methadone and/or buprenorphine (Opioid Agonist Treatment or “OAT” that block the effect of opioids) following a non-fatal overdose were significantly less likely to die; however, very few patients (~5%) engage in OAT following a non-fatal overdose.
Chapter 55: Key Finding

Figure 5: Opioid Deaths rates, inmates since being released from a state Correctional facility in 2013-2014 (reference group: 12-24 months)

The risk of opioid overdose death following incarceration is 56 times higher than for the general public.
Data visualization

A Deadly Problem

Massachusetts is currently experiencing an epidemic of opioid-related overdose and death.

These overdoses are driven by the underlying chronic disease of opioid addiction or opioid use disorders. People with opioid addiction are at high risk of overdose and death.

http://www.mass.gov/chapter55/
Governor Baker’s Opioid Working Group
Safe Prescribing

- Rx 7-day limit
- Check Prescription Monitoring Tool
- Prescriber Education
Core Competencies

- Medical Schools
- Dental Schools
- Advance Practice Nursing

- Physician Assistants
- Community Health Centers
- Social Work Programs
Parent Campaign Launched

• Rx opioid misuse
• Parents of middle and high school age kids
• Tips for how to start conversation
Access to Naloxone (Narcan®)

- First Responders
- Bystanders
- Pharmacies
- Community Bulk Purchasing Program
Treatment

• 600 more Tx beds since 2015
• Ended use of prison for women with SUD
• Expanded Office Based Treatment
• Treatment for High-Risk Populations
Revamped Helpline
Recovery

- 2000 + sober home beds certified
- Recovery Coaches
- Recovery Support in emergency rooms
PMP Activity Trends

Figure 2. Individuals Receiving Schedule II Opioid Prescriptions and MassPAT\(^1\) Search Activity\(^2\) Trends
MA: 2015 - Q1 2017

\(^1\) MassPAT is the Massachusetts Prescription Awareness Tool (Online PMP)
\(^2\) Search activity includes prescribers, delegates, and pharmacists registered in MassPAT
\(^3\) Pharmacies required to report daily
\(^4\) STEP bill signed into law (7-day supply requirements go into effect)
\(^5\) MA prescribers required to look up patient when prescribing a Schedule II or III opioid medication
Opioid-related deaths in Massachusetts declined by an estimated 5 percent in the first six months of 2017 compared to the first six months of 2016.

Figure 2. Opioid-Related Deaths, All Intents by Month
Massachusetts Residents: January 2016 - June 2017

Estimated 1031 deaths
Estimated 978 deaths
Additional Resources

• Massachusetts Helpline:
  • www.helplinema.org

• Massachusetts Responds to The Opioid Epidemic:
  • With links to current stats & Chapter 55 Report
  • Mass.gov/opioidresponse

• Stop Addiction Before It Starts:
  • Mass.gov/stopaddiction