



# Opioid-Related EMS Incidents MetroWest: 2016 - September 2018

SOURCE: MA Department of Public Health

POSTED: FEBRUARY 2019

## 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

Since 2013, there has been an overall increasing trend in the percentage of EMS incidents that are considered opioid-related and the number of all EMS incidents involving naloxone administration. In the first nine months of 2018, the greatest number of suspected opioid-related overdoses treated by EMS is among males aged 25-34, accounting for 25% of opioid-related overdose incidents with a known age and gender.

## Technical Notes

Suspected opioid related incidents for all cities/towns except for Boston are identified using an algorithm that DPH developed with CDC using multiple fields in the MATRIS system. In Boston, this algorithm was applied to a subset of incidents that were reported in their internal "Narcotic Related Incidents" database. This data brief was supported by funds made available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support, under B01OT009024 and NU17CE924877. 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 & Prevention.

## 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.

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>City/Town</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Q1-Q3</b>
Ashland	25	25	12
Bellingham	42	40	11
Dover	†	<5	5
Framingham	213	180	146
Franklin	44	46	24
Holliston	†	14	<5
Hopedale	<5	7	7
Hopkinton	10	13	11
Hudson	36	27	23
Marlborough	66	51	51
Medfield	8	10	<5
Medway	19	35	18
Mendon	<5	7	<5
Milford	56	65	40
Millis	18	15	11
Natick	33	30	13
Needham	15	7	8
Norfolk	18	6	5
Northborough	24	12	11
Sherborn	<5	<5	<5
Southborough	6	5	8
Sudbury	5	5	6
Wayland	<5	5	<5
Wellesley	12	14	12
Westborough	87	66	33