Preliminary data show 2,023 confirmed and estimated opioid-related overdose deaths in 2019.

Figure 1. Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths, All Intents by Month
Massachusetts Residents: January 2018 - December 2019

Estimated 2,031 deaths
Estimated 2,023 deaths
The rate of opioid-related overdose deaths has stabilized in 2019 compared with 2018 and has decreased an estimated 5% since 2016.
Fentanyl remains a key factor in opioid-related overdose deaths (93% present in toxicology screen).

Figure 4. Percent of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths with Specific Drugs Present
Massachusetts Residents: 2014 - Q3 2019

Methodology Change*

1 Fentanyl
2 Likely Heroin
3 Prescription Opioid
4 Benzodiazepine
5 Cocaine
6 Amphetamine
The trajectory of the opioid epidemic would be far worse without public health interventions to address the crisis.

Figure 6. Confirmed and Estimated Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths by Six Month Intervals, Massachusetts Residents: January 2012 - December 2019

June 2015: Governor Baker’s opioid working group delivers recommendations to combat the epidemic.
Registered MassPAT providers conducted more than 2.8 million searches in the 4th quarter of 2019, an increase of approximately 500,000 searches since the previous quarter.

There were just under 500,000 Schedule II opioid prescriptions reported to the MA PMP in the 4th quarter of 2019; this is a small decrease from the previous quarter and just over a 40% decrease from the 1st Quarter of 2015.

In the 4th quarter of 2019, just over 225,000 individuals in Massachusetts received prescriptions for Schedule II opioids; this is a small decrease from the previous quarter and nearly a 42% decrease from the 1st quarter of 2015.