

Man overdoses in homeless encampment in New Bedford

New Bedford Fire Department and EMS revived a homeless man around 1:45pm on November 10, 2016, afternoon under the 195/Route 18 overpass. After being revived with Narcan, the man became belligerent and can be seen running from the homeless encampment.

New Bedford man overdoses and revived with Narcan on SRTA bus

A 39-year-old New Bedford man was treated with two doses of Narcan after overdosing on a SRTA bus at Spring and Purchase streets at 9:46 a.m. Tuesday.

After receiving a second dose of Narcan and the use of an oxygen mask, the man regained consciousness. He was conscious when he was transported by ambulance to St. Luke's Hospital.

The man told police he snorted heroin prior to getting on the bus.

39-year Old New Bedford Man Overdoses On SRTA Bus

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Woman overdoses while driving, revived with Narcan in New Bedford

A Dartmouth woman was charged with OUI drugs and reckless operation of a motor vehicle Monday after her vehicle was observed driving erratically and randomly stopping in traffic at Pleasant and Kempton streets.

Rebecca Arruda, 33, of Dartmouth, was given Narcan and transported to St. Luke's Hospital for evaluation.

An immediate threat of license revocation was submitted to the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Officers Dominique Sherburne and Nathan Pimentel responded to the incident, which was reported at 2 p.m.

This was the second overdose behind the wheel on Monday and fourth overdose behind the wheel in two days in New Bedford.

Woman overdoses behind the wheel in the south end of New Bedford

A Westport woman was charged with OUI drugs Sunday after evidence of drug use was found in her vehicle near 215 W. Rodney French Blvd.

Alison M. Gillespie, 42, of Westport, was found unresponsive while sitting in the driver's seat with the engine running at about 11:46 a.m. Sunday. Police administered Narcan and after about 30 seconds, she became responsive. She was transported to St. Luke's Hospital.

An immediate threat of license revocation was submitted to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Needles and a spoon with drug residue were located in the vehicle. Sgt. Candido Trinidad and Officers Carlos DePina and Jose Correia responded to the incident.

There was a second overdose in New Bedford on Sunday. A Middleboro man was charged with OUI drugs, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and carrying a cutting instrument after he was found overdosing Sunday afternoon in a car parked near the fire station at 868 Pleasant Street in New Bedford. Details [here](#).

Man overdoses behind the wheel, revived by Narcan in New Bedford

A Middleboro man was charged with OUI drugs, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and carrying a cutting instrument after he was found overdosing Sunday afternoon in a car parked near the fire station at 868 Pleasant Street in New Bedford.

Joseph S. Delsignore, 25, of Middleboro, was given Narcan and regained consciousness. He was transported to St. Luke's Hospital for evaluation.

A hypodermic needle and syringe were found on his lap. Police also located two knives, including a large, Bowie-style knife, in the vehicle.

An immediate threat of license revocation was submitted to the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Sgt. Jon Pollard and Officer Stephen Gwozdz responded to the incident.

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Fatal Opioid-Related Overdoses Continue to Rise in Bristol County and Across the State

Fatal overdoses on the Southcoast and across Massachusetts continue to rise, according to health and law enforcement officials.

Bristol County is averaging four overdose-related deaths a week in 2016, according to statistics provided by the Bristol County District Attorney's Office.

As of September 25, 150 overdose-related deaths had been reported, signaling a rise from 2014, 122 deaths reported, and 2015, 159 deaths were reported.

Fatalities in New Bedford nearly doubled from 2014 to 2015, jumping from 27 confirmed deaths to 48.

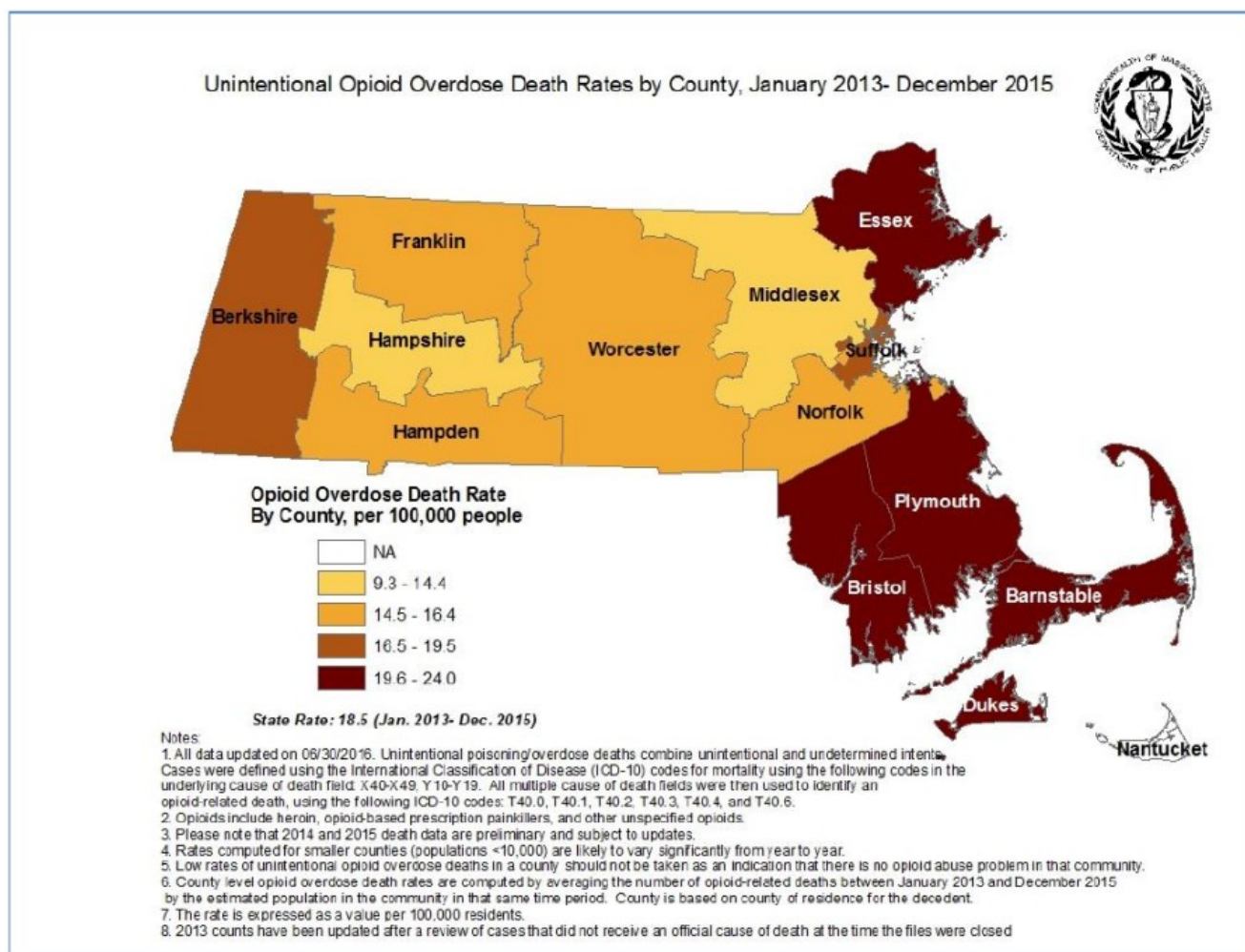
Data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) shows that the rise in fatal overdoses is not unique to the Southcoast. Since 2013, overdose-related deaths have been on the rise across all counties in the Commonwealth.

It's difficult to point to one reason for the rise in numbers, but one major contributing factor concerning officials is the increased use of fentanyl. The synthetic drug is estimated to be up to 100 times more potent than morphine.

In a report by DPH, "among the 439 individuals whose deaths were opioid-related in 2016 where a toxicology screen was also available, 289 of them (66%) had a positive screen result for fentanyl. In the first quarter of 2016, heroin or likely heroin was present in approximately 30% of opioid-related

deaths that had a toxicology screen.”

More information about recent statistics, as well as available treatment and recovery options, can be found on the Commonwealth’s State Without StigMA webpage.





Number of Unintentional¹ Opioid²- Related Overdose Deaths by County, MA Residents: 2000-2015³

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment

Posted: August 2016

County	Year of Death																Total 2000-2015
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 ³	2015 ³	
Barnstable	12	17	21	15	16	17	19	29	22	21	19	15	23	40	53	66	406
Berkshire	2	3	0	2	3	9	1	8	3	8	4	6	16	21	28	33	147
Bristol	37	57	65	84	70	78	81	61	79	66	74	77	94	111	137	154	1326
Dukes	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	5	6	21
Essex	46	61	52	79	67	80	85	85	58	72	47	55	87	112	206	223	1415
Franklin	5	2	1	5	3	4	6	4	2	2	4	6	8	9	11	17	89
Hampden	32	36	41	45	27	35	44	38	48	46	46	43	52	69	61	99	762
Hampshire	5	5	5	10	8	2	9	12	10	9	10	9	10	28	25	17	174
Middlesex	61	80	89	109	103	116	113	102	106	116	92	120	112	144	274	321	2058
Nantucket	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1 ⁴	1 ⁴	7
Norfolk	26	40	42	41	40	49	48	53	69	64	55	59	69	80	125	154	1015
Plymouth	23	25	29	45	27	37	47	50	47	48	39	64	55	83	113	164	897
Suffolk	46	85	96	102	82	65	105	101	69	91	61	80	85	106	144	194	1513
Worcester	59	73	63	50	48	59	73	70	73	65	80	79	86	113	164	209	1364
TOTAL DEATHS	355	486	505	587	494	554	635	617	587	610	532	613	698	918	1,350⁵	1,658⁵	11,201

¹Unintentional poisoning/overdose deaths combine unintentional and undetermined intents to account for a change in death coding that occurred in 2005. Suicides are excluded from this analysis.

²Opioids include heroin, opioid-based prescription painkillers, and other unspecified opioids.

³Please note that data for 2000-2013 have been updated following a review of cases that did not receive an official cause of death at the time the file was closed. Data for 2014-2015 death data are preliminary and subject to updates. Case reviews of deaths are evaluated and updated on an ongoing basis. A large number of death certificates have yet to be assigned final cause-of-death codes. These counts are based on the estimates rather than confirmed cases. Data updated on 06/30/2016.

⁴Numbers and calculations based on values less than 5 are suppressed for years in which the death file is not yet closed if they are based on pending cases. The 1 death listed in Nantucket County in 2014 and 2015 is a confirmed opioid overdose death.

⁵In both 2014 and 2015, there was 1 death of an MA resident whose city/town of residence was not known.

Please note that there is rounding of counts for 2014-2015.

Technical Notes:

Cases were defined using the International Classification of Disease (ICD-10) codes for mortality. The following codes were selected from the underlying cause of death field to identify poisonings/overdoses: X40-X49, Y10-Y19. All multiple cause of death fields were then used to identify an opioid-related death: T40.0, T40.1, T40.2, T40.3, T40.4, and T40.6.

This report tracks all opioid-related overdoses due to difficulties in reporting heroin-associated overdoses separately. Many deaths related to heroin are not specifically coded as such due to the fast metabolism of heroin into morphine.

To maintain consistency with NCHS reporting, we do not include the ICD-10 code F11.1, which may include opioid-related overdose death.

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH

33-year old Seekonk woman overdoses behind the wheel in New Bedford

33-year old Dawn Barnett of Seekonk has been charged with Operating Under the Influence of Drugs following a call to police of an unresponsive female behind the wheel of her 1997 Toyota Corolla color red.

The incident occurred on Saturday, October 1st at 2:50 pm. Officers found the female in her vehicle with the vehicle running at the exit of the rear parking lot to Giammalvo's Market in New Bedford. Officers administered 2 doses of nasal

naloxone and female was transported to St. Luke's hospital. She is being charged with OUI drugs.

Community Town Hall Organized to Discuss Crisis in Opioid Addiction and Overdoses

Local physicians and healthcare professionals team up with police, city officials, and with people and families suffering from substance abuse issues to take action.

As deaths from opioid overdoses continue to surge, local physicians have joined forces with others in the community to hold a Town Hall discussion about the crisis.

It will be free, open to all, and held at the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center in New Bedford on June 22, Wednesday, starting at 6:30 pm.

It will include refreshments, musical entertainment, and a panel of experts, including doctors, addiction specialists, police department representatives, city officials, and people and families who have been directly impacted by the tragedy of opioid addiction.

"There were 46 overdose deaths in 2015 in New Bedford and we are on a pace to almost double that in 2016," said Dr. Craig Longo, an emergency department physician at St. Luke's and co-director of the newly-formed Physicians to Prevent Opioid Abuse (PPOA). "The deaths only represent a fraction of the epidemic. In addition to those who die, many hundreds of overdoses are arriving each year and are being revived by

paramedics or emergency department staff.”

The deaths are occurring at a pace of about one a week in the St. Luke’s emergency department. “These are young people who should have bright futures, but instead end up overdosing and dying, or ending up alive but neurologically devastated,” said Dr. Longo.

PP0A, which is organizing the Town Hall along with the New Bedford Health Department, is a group of about two dozen local physicians across various medical specialties, from oncology to orthopedics, who are concerned by this crisis and are working to try to contain it.

The Town Hall program will include a session after the expert panel for the public to ask questions.

“Come educate yourself about this crisis and what you can do to protect yourself and your family,” said Dr. Michael Rocha, a cardiologist with Hawthorn Medical Associates and co-founder with Dr. Longo of PP0A. “Every family is at risk. We really need to remove the stigma surrounding this, and start speaking openly about the dangers, because opioid addiction can strike any family.”

Among the speakers will be Bill Scannell, a local lawyer who will discuss his own family’s encounter with opioid addiction tragedy.

Dr. Jennifer Pope, the chair of the St. Luke’s emergency department, will provide an overview of the current state of the opioid epidemic. Dr. Pope’s ED physicians are the front line for opioid addiction, and her team of St. Luke’s ED physicians and social workers collaborate in stabilizing acute overdoses, but then also in trying to help patients and families broker addiction treatment programs.

“Our goal at the St. Luke’s emergency department is make sure patients are safe and that they can get help. We work with a

dedicated team of social workers to offer patients and families the services and resources they need,” said Dr. Pope.

St. Luke’s ED social workers at the Town Hall will also speak about how to recognize addiction / dependency and will review local resources available. Representatives of centers like Seven Hills Behavioral Health, Clean Slate, and Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA) will also be present to discuss treatment options. Representatives of the New Bedford police department and other first responders will discuss their own role in this crisis, as well as the role of the life-saving opioid-reversal agent Naloxone (Narcan).

Physicians at the June 22 Town Hall will also review changes mandated by new Massachusetts laws championed by Governor Charlie Baker, which limit the amount of narcotics that can be prescribed by physicians that do not specialize in pain management.

The Town Hall will also include a presentation by Dr. Alison Gorski, a pain management specialist, who will review the role of opioids and non-opioid alternatives in managing chronic pain.

The program will also feature performances by Craig DeMelo, a versatile, passionate and eclectic local singer and songwriter, and Matt Ganem, an accomplished poet who writes and raps about his experiences while in active heroin addiction and in recovery afterwards.

DeMelo’s live shows have made a name for him throughout New England.

Ganem is the author of a collection of poetry called “The Shadow of an Addict”, which won the 2013 Mass Poetry Awards Best Poetry Book of the Year, and he has been nominated by The Boston Phoenix as the Best Poet in Boston. Ganem also works as the Northeast Regional Coordinator for the Banyan Treatment Center, a Florida-based addiction treatment program, and he

serves as Radio Host for Banyan Recovery Radio.

New Bedford man overdoses, revived with Narcan and then tased after fighting EMS

Yesterday morning at approximately 1 a.m. south end New Bedford police officers and medics were sent to 40 Thompson St. for a man laid out on the ground. The man was shoeless and shirtless and experiencing an overdose. It took 4 doses of Narcan to revive him and he was led into the back of the ambulance.

Once inside, he became combative and began swinging and punching the paramedics. He was finally subdued by police after being tased and handcuffed to the gurney. Upon arrival at St. Luke's Hospital he continued to act out and had to be physically restrained. Upon being medically cleared, he was transported to Police Headquarters for booking.

He was arraigned yesterday morning on 2 counts of Assault and Battery on medic personnel and one count of Assault and Battery on a person over 60. (One of the medic personnel is over the age of 60)

Jacob Gorham age 40 of 40 Thompson St.