



# Massachusetts' Opioid Crisis

*How the opioid epidemic has continued to impact the people of Massachusetts*

## State Facts



# Rx



**1,169 Deaths** **1.04 Million Claims**

or **82.7% of all overdose deaths** in the year ending March 2025 involved opioids.<sup>1</sup>

or 2.86% of all Medicare Part D claims were for opioids in 2023 - an average of **26 per prescriber**.<sup>2</sup>

**28.6 Opioid Prescriptions**

were written for every 100 persons in Massachusetts in 2023.<sup>3</sup>

**\$144.9 Billion**

the estimated total societal cost of opioid use disorder (OUD) in Massachusetts in 2024.<sup>4</sup>

## National Data



**90%**

of surgical patients receive an opioid prescription following surgery annually.<sup>5</sup>

**7.6 Million**

people misused prescription opioids in 2024.<sup>6</sup>

**1.2 Million**

Medicare beneficiaries suffered from OUD in 2023. **53,165 experienced an opioid overdose**.<sup>7</sup>

**\$1.5 Trillion**

the estimated cost of the opioid crisis, with Medicare shouldering \$33 billion.<sup>8</sup>

**Over 48,000 Americans**

died from an opioid-related overdose between April 2024 and April 2025<sup>9</sup> –

**66% of all drug overdose deaths.**

That translates to approximately

**133 lives lost every day**

in the United States due to an opioid-related drug overdose.<sup>9</sup>

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3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025). Opioid Dispensing Rate Maps. <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/opioid-dispensing-rate-maps.html>

4. Avalere Health (2025). The cost of addiction: Opioid use disorder in the United States. [https://advisory.avalerehealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Avalere-Health-White-Paper-The-cost-of-opioid-addiction\\_OUD-in-the-United-States.pdf](https://advisory.avalerehealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Avalere-Health-White-Paper-The-cost-of-opioid-addiction_OUD-in-the-United-States.pdf)

5. Singh, K., Murali, A., Stevens, H., Vydiswaran, V. G. V., Bohnert, A., Brummett, C. M., & Fernandez, A. C. (2022). Predicting persistent opioid use after surgery using electronic health record and patient-reported data. *Surgery*, 172(1), 241–248. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.surg.2022.01.008>

6. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2025). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt56287/2024-nsduh-annual-national/2024-nsduh-annual-national.html-071425-edited/2024-nsduh-annual-national.htm#ill11c>

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8. Desmarais, M. (2024). Opioid Use Disorder in the Medicare Fee-for-Service Program. The Moran Company, an HMA Company. <https://www.healthmanagement.com/insights/briefs-reports/economic-analysis-of-opioid-use-disorder-in-the-medicare-fee-for-service-program/>

9. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025). Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>