Massachusetts Opioids Fact Sheet

What are opioids?
Opioids are a type of drug that is prescribed to reduce pain. The frequent use of opioids can lead to developing tolerance and dependence.

What is the current opioid situation in MA?
The state has a rate of opioid-related deaths that is lower than the national average. People that are ages 25-44 account for 50% of all confirmed opioid-related overdose deaths.

Between 2020 and 2021, both White non-Hispanic and Hispanic/Latinx residents experienced a notable increase in the rates of confirmed opioid-related overdose deaths.

From January 2021 – December 2021, there were 2,234 opioid overdose deaths. Out of these deaths,

1,632 (73%) accounted for all males.

602 (27%) accounted for all females.

Acute overdose incidents (ODs) account for 55% of all suspected opioid-related incidents by category.