

Good morning,

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health released new state opioid data yesterday. MDPH collects statistics to track the progression of the opioid crisis and uses this data to target services. Opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts has increased by 2.5% in 2022, compared to 2021. Additionally, the largest overdose death increases in 2022 were in Worcester County (18% increase) and Plymouth County (14% increase). Importantly, data from the first three months of 2023 suggests a 7.7% decrease in opioid-related overdose deaths, compared to the first three months of 2022.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration is focusing on opioid prevention efforts at the local level. Since 2020, Massachusetts has distributed close to 300,000 naloxone kits, as well increasing their investments in naloxone by more than 140% in the last few years. Naloxone, also known as Narcan, is an important harm reduction tool and life-saving resource. In the first three months of 2023, Naloxone was administered in 97% of acute opioid overdoses. MDPH suggests, “everyone, especially those around high risk for overdose, should carry and know how to use naloxone”.

For more information about the new opioid data, visit www.mass.gov/lists/current-opioid-statistics.

The Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health continues to host group and individual Narcan trainings, led by our public health nurses. All participants receive a free kit with 2 doses of Narcan, fentanyl test strips with instructions, a face shield, instructions on Narcan administration, and a recovery resource guide. Since the start of this program, December 2022, we have hosted 37 trainings and given out 436 Narcan Kits (872 doses of Narcan). To sign up for an upcoming training, click [here](#) or visit www.gbph.org.

NEED NARCAN FOR YOURSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE?

ABOUT NARCAN

Narcan is the brand name of the generic **naloxone** and is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids—including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications—when given in time.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Nearly 40% of overdose deaths occur while a bystander is present. Narcan access for bystanders can help save lives.

We provide FREE Narcan and training to residents who live or work in Boylston, Northborough, Southborough and Westborough.

During your appointment, you will receive a brief training on recognizing an opioid overdose and when and how to use Narcan.

The life-saving overdose reversal drug Narcan and other resources will be given after the training.