**Useful Questions and Observations 9/21/15**

1. **How many opioid overdoses occurred in 2014 in the greater Worcester area?** There were a total of 1,534 documented non-fatal overdoses and 22 documented fatal overdoses in the greater Worcester area in 2009.[[1]](#footnote-1) Using these numbers, we can estimate that the probability of death given an overdose is 1.41%. We can also narrow down rates to towns, as shown in the following table. Combining the towns outside of Worcester, we see that the death rate was lower in Worcester, given an overdose. The death rate in Worcester was 1.25%, compared with 2.51% for the surrounding towns.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **City** | **2009 Deaths** | **2009 Overdoses** | **2009 OD Death Rate** |
| Worcester | 17 | 1,357 | 1.253% |
| Holden | 1 | 26 | 3.846% |
| Leicester | 1 | 28 | 3.571% |
| Millbury | 2 | 53 | 3.922% |
| Shrewsbury | 1 | 58 | 1.724% |
| West Boylston | 0 | 34 | 0.000%3 |

Worcester’s death rate given an overdose was also lower than that of Massachusetts as a whole in 2009, which was 1.63%. This was down for Massachusetts however from 2007, when the death rate given an overdose was 2.08%.[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. **What were the OD rates by town?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **City** | **2010 Population** | **2009 Overdoses** | **2009 OD Rate** |
| Worcester | 181,045 | 1,357 | 0.750% |
| Holden | 17,346 | 26 | 0.150% |
| Leicester | 10,790 | 28 | 0.260% |
| Millbury | 13,261 | 53 | 0.400% |
| Shrewsbury | 35,608 | 58 | 0.163% |
| West Boylston | 7,669 | 34 | 0.443% |

1. **What were the reasons for BSAS admissions? How many were overdose related?**
2. **How many people are prescribed opioids each day? What is the distribution of the length of these prescriptions?**
3. **Can we get raw data of the BSAS admissions?**
4. **What is the redact flag significance for 2 of the columns in the medicare\_d table?**
5. **What is the timeframe of the data from the medicare\_d table?**
6. **What percentage of each town is on Medicare?** There were 1,039,000 Medicare enrollees in Massachusetts in 2009.4 This was approximately 16% of the population.

1. <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/injury-surveillance/overdose/opioid-nf-related-cases-town-fy09.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/injury-surveillance/overdose/opioid-trends-2009.pdf>

   3 Because the percentage of overdoses resulting in death was likely greater than 0 for a 10-year period in the city of West Boylston, we assumed it was .01 by default.

   4 <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2012/tables/12s0147.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)