



*Serving Commercial Fisherman
and their Families*

FISHING PARTNERSHIP



SUPPORT SERVICES

Training Fishermen as First Responders

January 9, 2024



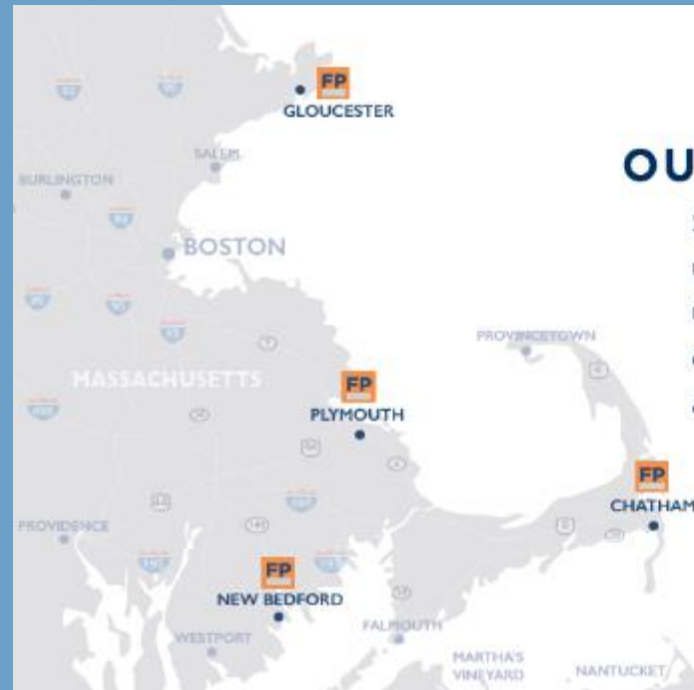
Agenda

- Increased Risk for Commercial Fishermen
- Substance Use Disorder & Stigma
- Fishing Partnership's CHW Model
- Deb's Approach
- Data & Impact
- Next Steps

From Health Plan to Non-Profit



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OUR MISSION

Since 1997, Fishing Partnership has responded to the unique needs of the fishing industry and has maintained an unwavering commitment to improving the health, safety, and economic security of commercial fishermen, their families, and their communities.

LOCATIONS

- **Gloucester** · 2 Blackburn Center · 978-282-4847
- **Plymouth** · 139 Court St., 101A · 508-746-5400
- **New Bedford** · 398 County St. · 508-991-3043
- **Chatham** · 894 Main St. · 774-840-9393

For the Community, By the Community



- 12 years experience as a Community Health Worker
- Certified Community Health Worker
- Certified Recovery Coach

Community Health Workers



Left to right: Morgan Eldredge, Angela Sanfilippo, Maria Carpenter, Julia Messersmith, Jenny Verde, Debra Kelsey, Nina Groppo, Shannon Eldredge

Commercial fishermen:

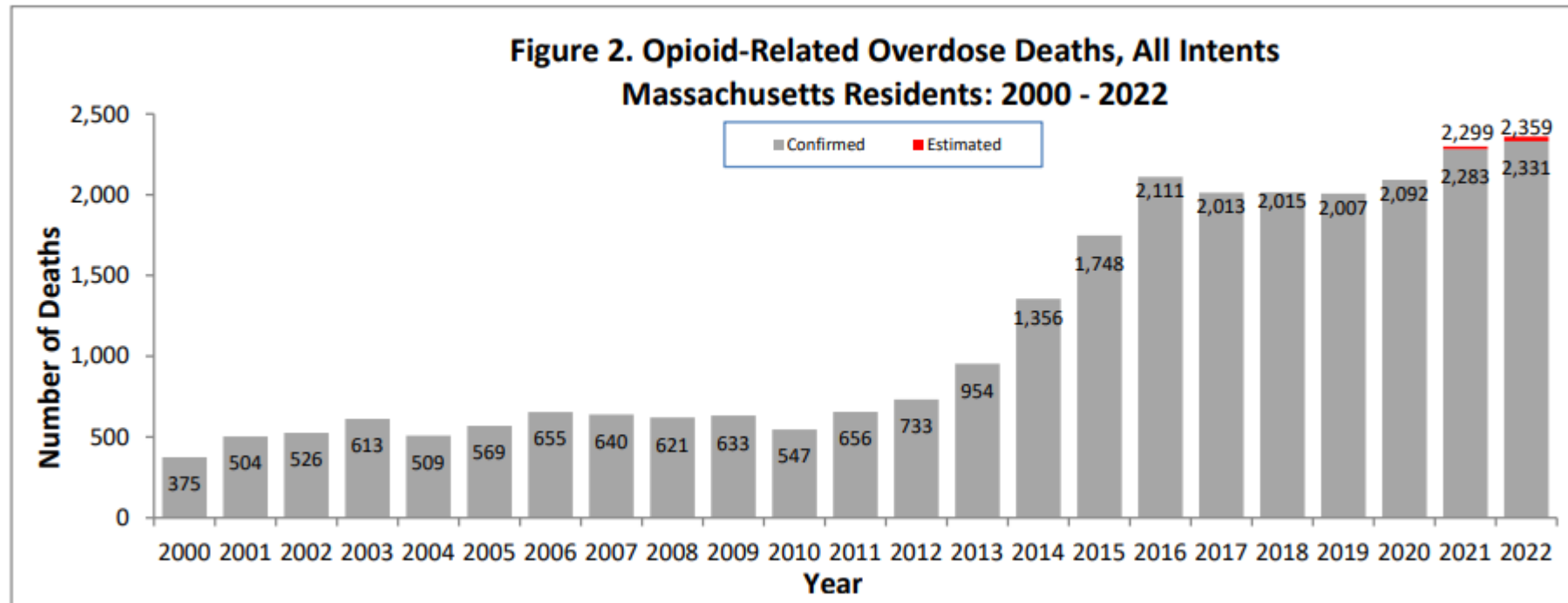
- Lowest paid
- Most likely to die on job
- Most likely to die by suicide



High Rates of Pain and Injury



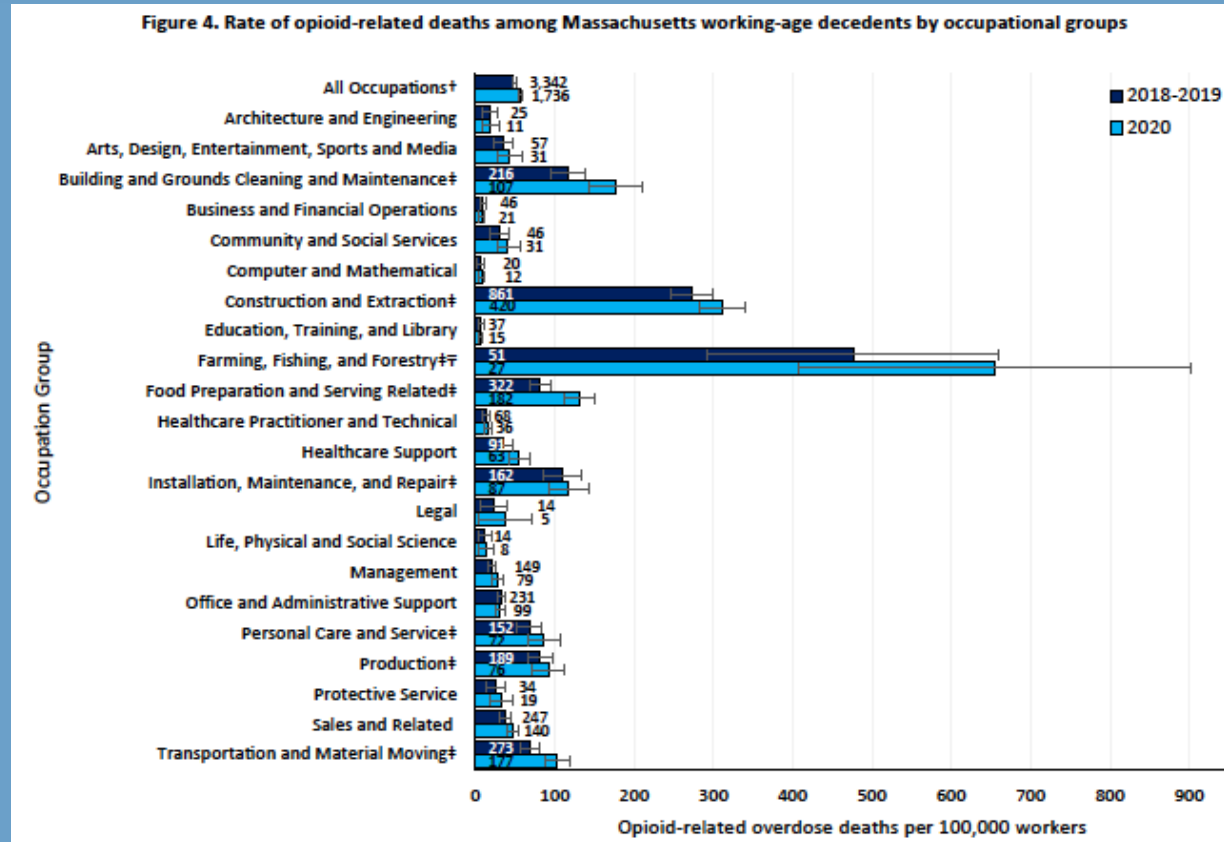
Massachusetts Data Brief



Opioid overdose deaths increased 36% per year between 2012-2015 ¹

¹ Massachusetts Department of Public Health. (2023 December.) Data Brief: Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths among Massachusetts Residents. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/48pRQaD>

Massachusetts Data by Occupational Groups



Massachusetts Department of Public Health found that fishing industry workers have an opioid overdose death rate more than eleven times that of the average worker. ²

² Massachusetts Department of Public Health. (2022 September.) Opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts by industry and occupation, 2018-2020. Retrieved from <http://bit.ly/3v3mgBt>

Substance Use Disorder

The CDC defines a Substance Use Disorder as a treatable, chronic disease, characterized by a problematic pattern of a substance, leading to impairments in health, social function, and control over substance use.

Language Matters

Stigmatizing language perpetuates negative perceptions.

“Person first”
language focused on
the person, not the
disorder.



SAY THIS:

Person who uses drugs/with a substance use disorder

Person living in recovery

Person living with an addiction

Person arrested for drug violation

Chooses not to at this point

Medication is a treatment tool

Had a setback, resumed use

Maintained recovery

Positive drug screen



NOT THIS:

Addict, junkie, druggie, abuser

Ex-addict or reformed addict

Battling/suffering from an addiction

Drug offender

Non-compliant/bombed out

MAT is replacement addiction

Relapsed

Stayed clean

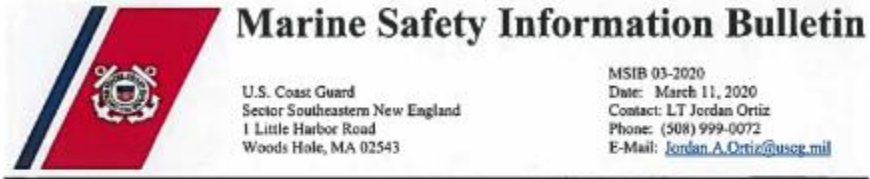
Dirty/failed drug screen

Barriers:

- Stigma
- Misperceptions of Substance Use Disorder
- Perpetuating Stereotypes
- Risk Assessment
- Financial Constraints



Collaboration



NASAL NARCAN (NALOXONE) ABOARD VESSELS

BACKGROUND/FACTS

Opioid use disorder can affect anyone. A 2018 study by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health determined that the highest rate of opioid-related overdose deaths was among workers who experience pain or injury on the job, have limited sick days, and have low job security.¹ Many of the physical health conditions faced by these workers result from the strenuous work they do and their limited ability to take time off to rest and recover from injuries and illnesses. As reported by the National Institutes of Health, roughly 21-29 percent of patients who were prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse them, and 8-12 percent of patients who are prescribed an opioid as a painkiller develop an opioid use disorder.² Workers in the maritime industry are just as susceptible as anyone to the risks of opioid use and might face the same conditions that could potentially put them at risk.

EMERGENCY TREATMENT

Generic naloxone hydrochloride (HCl) nasal spray, commonly known as Narcan, is a FDA-approved emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose. Naloxone HCl quickly reverses an opioid overdose and restores breathing. This is especially important as a person who has overdosed can have very shallow, slow, or halted breathing. Enabling the person to return to normal breathing patterns can save their life. If you suspect someone is overdosing, always call 911 first, and then administer Naloxone HCl.

Overdoses are not limited to land; they occur in the sky as well as on the water. In fact, Delta Airlines recently disclosed that it would now carry Naloxone HCl on its airplanes. Vessels equipped with this medicine can save an individual's life if they are experiencing an accidental overdose. Time matters; every second a person is not breathing can cause permanent brain damage, and in many cases, premature death. At sea, there can be limited or delayed access to emergency services, making an emergency treatment drug an indispensable resource in the event of an accidental overdose.

Naloxone HCl is available from your pharmacist, without a prescription. Other agencies also offer free Naloxone HCl and training including Fishing Partnership Support Services, the New Bedford Health Department, SevenHills Behavioral Health, and the New Bedford Police Department. **For more information please contact:** Fishing Partnership: Deb Kelsey, 508-884-6661, dkelsey@fishingpartnership.org.



Deb's Approach

- Myth-Busting
- Additional Training, Certification & Field Hours
- Motivational Interviewing
- Understanding perceptions about carrying naloxone at sea



Trusted Messaging, Trusted Individuals

- Messaging must be relevant and targeted
- Training for the fishing industry, from the fishing industry
- Decreasing Stigma
- Empowering Fishermen

Training specific to Fishing Industry

- Chronic pain & Substance Use Disorder
- Good Samaritan Law & Applicability at Sea
- Training where fishermen are



Training in New Bedford, Massachusetts

- In 2022 - 2023, Deb and our New Bedford team:
 - Trained 621 fishermen in Overdose Prevention training
 - Trainings occurred at Safety Training programs, on vessels, and on the docks
 - 2/3 of people trained in administering Naloxone in New Bedford had never been trained previously

Training in New Locations



In 2022, Fishing Partnership partnered with community organizations to bring opioid overdose prevention training to 727 fishermen and coastal community members across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.



Next Steps



- Training Navigator and Safety Team
- Facilitating all Trainings in-house
- Maintaining relationships with harm reduction organizations
- Remaining connected with local SUD task forces
- Updating training materials to reflect best practices

Since 2020,
Deb has **directly**
trained over
850 fishermen





FISHING PARTNERSHIP



SUPPORT SERVICES

Thank you!

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Acknowledgement

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Health Resources in Action
Advancing Public Health and Medical Research

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