



## Recent Facts & Statistics on Drug Use, Homelessness and Overdose

### Overdose

- ◆ Overdose deaths have increased in Massachusetts amid COVID-19<sup>1</sup>.
- ◆ 1,967 opioid-related overdose deaths confirmed and estimated in Massachusetts in the first nine months of 2020<sup>2</sup>.
- ◆ Methamphetamine and cocaine found to be the next most common attributers to overdose.
- ◆ This represents a 2% increase compared to the same time period in 2019.
- ◆ Reports show people of color being disproportionately impacted by overdose compared to non-Hispanic whites.
- ◆ Reentry populations are one of the highest risk group for fatal overdose (BMC OBAT).

### Homelessness & More

- ◆ The City of Boston 2020 Homeless Census reported a total of 6,192 individuals experiencing homelessness, including an 8 percent increase in family homelessness from 2019<sup>3</sup>.
- ◆ Homeless populations have been disproportionately affected by the opioid epidemic and are at higher risk for fatal opioid overdose<sup>4</sup>.
- ◆ Boston Public Health Commission reported this month an uptick in cases of HIV among people who inject drugs. Many of those are individuals currently experiencing homelessness<sup>5</sup>.
- ◆ BMC's Office-Based Addiction Treatment program distributed more than 200 phones to ensure continuity of care for those in need during the pandemic.

### Treatment Response

- ◆ Utilization of telemedicine
- ◆ Harm Reduction Services
- ◆ More Flexibility for Medication Assisted Treatment
- ◆ Comfort Stations for those experiencing homelessness
- ◆ Changes in insurance coverage