

The Boston Marathon Bombing's Inflated Injury Tallies

By [James F. Tracy](#)

Region: [USA](#)

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Exactly how many people were injured as a result of the April 15 Boston Marathon Bombing (BMB)? An official tally from the Boston Public Health Commission puts the number at an incredible 282 injured and four killed, including MIT police officer Sean Collier. "Only two patients wounded in the Boston Marathon bombings remained in critical condition" on April 22, the Boston Globe reported, "but the count of injured people who were treated in area hospitals has risen sharply to 282, according to the Boston Public Health Commission. That is far higher than the initial estimate of 170."

 According to the Globe,

The number rose because dozens of victims delayed seeking medical care for minor wounds or symptoms that they thought would go away on their own, said Nick Martin, a spokesman for the health commission. He said the latest data ... show patients were seen at 27 hospitals in Greater Boston.

The threshold for allegedly having sustained a bomb-related injury is not high.

"One of the best examples is hearing issues," Martin said. "People might have first thought their hearing problems would be temporary." Instead, hearing loss or continuous ringing or buzzing in their ears remained. Others sought delayed care for minor shrapnel wounds.[1]

On the same day Reuters reported 264 people injured.[2] Each of the exorbitant figures trumpeted by these organs differs sharply with the tallies provided by the New York Times-owned Boston Globe and listed on the popular Globe-owned website [Boston.com](#). Here one finds only 55 victims out of the purported 268 (Reuters) or 286 (City of Boston and Boston Globe) injured and deceased.

"This is a list of confirmed deceased and injured victims of the Marathon explosions and their aftermath," the website reads.

"We will continue to update this list. If you have some information, please click [here](#) ... If you would like to donate to the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings, please visit [onefundboston.org](#).

The 55 victims listed on Boston.com are categorized below by name, age, hometown, injury description, and the news source where initial reportage of their injuries or deaths appeared.[3]

Name	Age	Hometown	Injury	News Source
Krystle Campbell	29	Arlington	Fatal injury	Boston.com
Martin William	8	Dorchester	Fatal injury	Boston.com
Lingzi Lu	23	China	Fatal injury	Boston Globe
Sean Collier	26	Wilmington	Fatal injury	Boston.com
Sydney Corcoran	17	Lowell, Lowell High School Senior [sic]	-	Boston Globe
Richard H. Donohue Jr.	33	Woburn	Severe injury	Boston.com
Kaitlynn Cates	25	Boston	Severe leg injury	Boston Globe
Heather Abbott	38	Newport, R.I.	Severe leg injury	Boston Globe
Jeff Bauman Jr.	27	Chelmsford	Severe leg injury [sic]	Boston Globe
Roseann Sdoia	45	Dracut	Severe leg injury	Boston Globe
David Yepez	15	Andover	Head and arm injuries	Boston Globe
Jarrold Clowery	35	Stoneham	Hearing loss, leg injuries	Boston Globe
Aaron Hern	11	Martinez, Calif.	Leg injury	Boston Globe
Remy Lawler	25	Amesbury	Upper leg injuries	Boston Globe
JP Norden	31	Wakefield	Severe leg injury	Boston Globe
Paul Norden	33	Stoneham	Severe leg injury	Boston Globe
Beth Rothe	59	Highland, Ind.	Severe leg injury	Boston Globe
Marc Fucarile	34	Stoneham	Severe leg, chest injuries	Boston Globe
Michelle Connolly	52	South Boston	Head injuries	Boston Globe
Nicholas Yanni	32	Boston	Temporary hearing loss	Boston Globe
Ascer Barlatier	35	Boston	Wounded in chest and leg	Boston Globe
Jenny Chung	-	-	Shrapnel wounds	Boston Globe
Dan Soleau	36	-	Hearing loss	Boston Globe
Unidentified female	9	-	Severe leg injury	Boston Globe
Zhou Danling	-	China	Chinese student studying actuarial sciences [sic]	Boston Globe
Gillian Reny	17	Boston	Senior at Buckingham Brown & Nichols School in Cambridge [sic]	Boston Globe
Marilyn Kight	63	Redding, Calif.	Severe leg injury	Boston Globe
Erika Brannock	NA	Towson, Md.	Severe leg injury	Boston Globe
Darrel Folkert	42	Redondo Beach, Calif.	Leg injuries	Boston Globe
Unidentified male	5	-	No longer in critical condition, severe injuries,	Boston Globe
Celeste Corcoran,	47	Lowell, Sydney's mother	Severe leg injury	Boston Globe
Denise Richard	-	Dorchester	Severe upper body injury, Martin Richard's mother [sic]	Boston Globe
Jane Richard	7	Dorchester	Severe leg injury, Martin Richard's sister [sic]	Boston Globe
Lee Ann Yanni	31	-	Severe leg injury	Boston.com
John Odom	NA	-	-	Boston.com
J.P. Craven	24	Hingham	Head injuries	Boston.com
Patrick Downes	30	Cambridge, BC alumnus [sic]	Severe leg injuries	Boston.com
Jessica Downes	32	MGH nurse [sic]	Severe leg injuries	Boston.com
Brittany Loring	29	Ayer Boston College JD/MBA student	Severe head, leg and arm injuries	Boston College
Liza Cherney	-	Boston College MBA student was a spectator [sic]	-	Boston College
Jacqui Webb	-	-	Severe leg injury	Fundraising website
Ryan C. McMahon	33	Longmeadow	Back and arm injuries	MassLive
William White	-	Bolton	Severe leg injury	Worcester Telegram & Gazette
Mary Jo White	-	Bolton	Hand injury	Worcester Telegram & Gazette
Kevin White	-	Bolton	Moderate injuries [sic]	Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Nicole Gross	31	Charlotte, N.C.	Leg injuries	Charlotte Observer
Michael Gross	38	Charlotte, N.C.	Head injuries	Charlotte Observer
Eric Whalley	65	Charlestown	Severe head injury, other wounds	Eagle-Tribune
Ann Whalley	65	Charlestown	Severe flesh wounds	Eagle-Tribune
Kevin Corcoran	-	Lowell, Sydney's father [sic]	Minor injuries	The Lowell Sun
Denise Spenard	-	Manchester, N.H.	Abdominal injury	GreenwichTime.com
Victoria McGrath	20	Northeastern student	Severe leg injuries	Connecticut Post
Sarah Girouard,	20	Falmouth, Maine	Injuries to lower extremities, received surgery	Portland Press Herald
Michelle L'Heureux	NA	Quincy	Severe arm and leg injuries	Lewiston-Auburn Sun Journal

As indicated in the above table, The Boston Globe and Boston.com are responsible for the initial and in many cases only reportage on 37 of the 55 victims, with Boston.com otherwise referring readers to either Boston College's website, eight local or regional newspapers' sites, and in one instance a donation page, for information on the remaining 18 injured.

The 231 added to the overall City of Boston count of April 23 appear to be phantom victims who might have sought care for modest injuries in the week following the incident but for which no records have been made publicly available. Even Boston.com's list of 55 has numerous informational gaps. For example, eleven of the 55 have no age recorded, an especially glaring oversight for medical authorities administering care, while five have no injury listed.

Boston.com provides an [online form](#) for victims to submit a description of their injuries and the hospital where they are being treated. When I contacted Boston Globe newsroom via telephone on May 11, 2013 to clarify why the injury list had not been updated in accord with the City of Boston's figures, or whether entire names and injury descriptions might still remain unpublished, a reporter identifying herself as Mary Covlu responded that the website "is just for people with serious injuries." When I inquired whether "temporary hearing loss," listed as the medical condition of 32-year old Nicholas Yanni of Boston could be considered a "serious injury," the reporter expressed astonishment and could not respond.

Repeated email inquiries by Memory Hole to Boston Globe's chief and associate editors asking whether the newspapers have obtained autopsies or death certificates for the four decedents remain unanswered.

If temporary hearing loss can indeed be counted as a demonstrable injury and the figures provided by Boston's Commission on Public Health are comprised primarily of those complaining of such minor problems, then roughly eighty percent of the BMB-related injuries might be negligible.

The 264/282 figures stand in even greater contrast with the original injury count in the immediate wake of the BMB, which was reported as a much less sensational 23 injured and two deaths—figures in rough accord with the number of individuals whose images were recorded on CCTV and surveillance cameras involved in and around the initial blast that exhibited ostensible injuries.

This estimate of injured also conforms with arguably excessive eyewitness accounts, such as those of Roupen Bastajian, an off-duty Rhode Island State Trooper who told the Associated Press that he just completed the race when he heard the first detonation. “I started running toward the blast. And there were people all over the floor,” Bastajian recalls. “We started grabbing tourniquets and started tying legs. A lot of people amputated. ... At least 25 to 30 people have at least one leg missing, or an ankle missing, or two legs missing.”[4]

Early reports lend further credence to the event’s drill-like qualities, with acknowledgment from “a senior U.S. intelligence official” who said “on condition of anonymity” that “two other explosive devices found nearby were being dismantled.” According to the AP,

A third explosion was heard about an hour after the first two after authorities warned spectators to expect a loud noise from a water cannon that police apparently were using to destroy one of the devices.[5]

This account closely conforms with reports in alternative media outlets that drills were being carried out around the Marathon.

In sum, the photos, videos, stories and figures comprising the mediated BMB do not add up and suggest elements of a manufactured event. The inflated injury count provided by the City of Boston is not readily supported by existing visual documentation of the two bombings, where at most several dozen individuals may have been seriously impacted. Nor are the calculations supported by the information made publicly available through the primary news outlet reporting on the event.

The Boston Globe has played an inordinately powerful and arguably suspect role in framing the BMB narrative. The outlet’s distribution of information concerning victims—information that remains inconsistent or sorely lacking in important details—clearly diverges from the dubious and unusually high “official” casualty counts so heavily propagated in corporate media.

Notes

[1] Deborah Kotz, “[Injury Toll From Marathon Bombing Rises](#),” Boston Globe, April 23, 2013.

[2] “[Boston Officials Say 264 Injured in Boston Marathon](#),” Reuters, April 23, 2013.

[3] “[Victims of the Marathon Bombings](#),” Boston.com, n.d. Accessed on May 11, 2013.

[4] “[RI State Trooper at Boston Marathon Says Blast Tore Limbs Off Dozens](#),” Associated Press/Providence Journal, April 15, 2013.[5] Ibid.

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James F. Tracy was a tenured Associate Professor of Journalism and Media Studies at Florida Atlantic University from 2002 to 2016. He was fired by FAU ostensibly for violating the university's policies imposed on the free speech rights of faculty. Tracy has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the university, with trial set to begin November 27, 2017. Tracy received his PhD from University of Iowa. His work on media history, politics and culture has appeared in a wide variety of academic journals, edited volumes, and alternative news and opinion outlets. Additional information is available at MemoryHoleBlog.com, TracyLegalDefense.org, and jamesftracy.wordpress.com.

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