

NDEWS *National Drug Early Warning System*

Funded at the Center for Substance Abuse Research by the National Institute on Drug Abuse

Southeastern Florida (Miami Area) Sentinel Community Site (SCS) Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2019

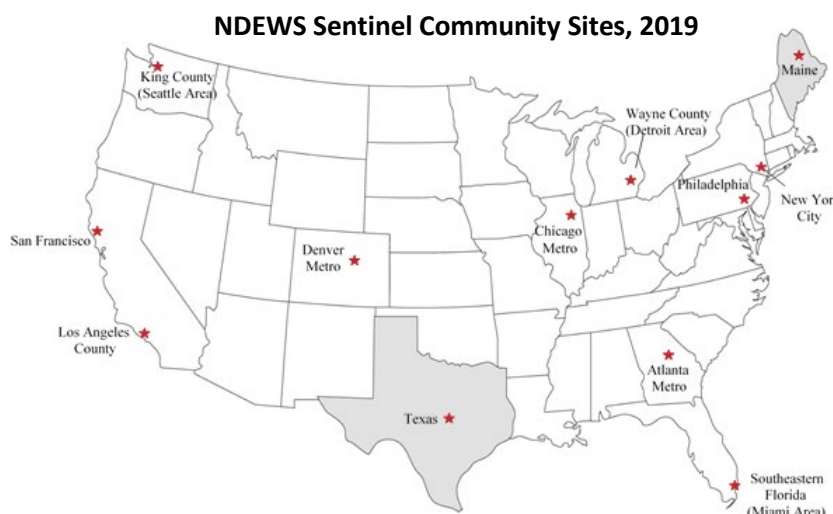
November 2019

NDEWS Coordinating Center

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A unique feature of NDEWS is its capability to describe and compare drug use patterns and trends in selected communities across the United States. The NDEWS Coordinating Center works closely with Sentinel Community Epidemiologists (SCEs) in 12 Sentinel Community Sites (SCSs) across the U.S. Emerging drugs and changing drug trends are monitored by each local SCE utilizing indicators such as drug overdose deaths, treatment admissions, hospital cases, poison center exposure calls, and law enforcement seizures. **In May 2019, each SCE was asked to review available indicators and identify up to five drugs they considered most important to summarize for their site and include in their 2019 annual *Drug Use Patterns and Trends Report*.**



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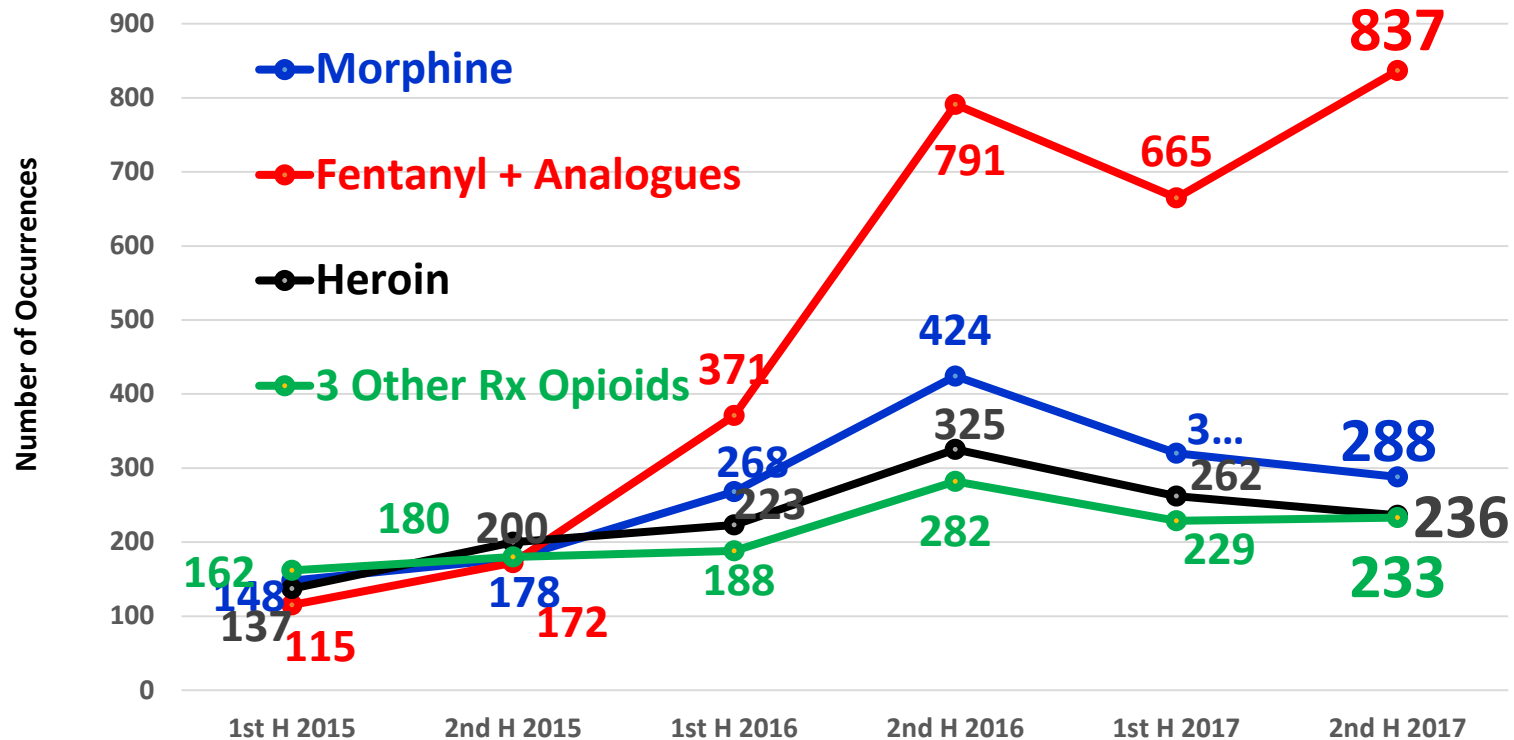
National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS) Southeastern Florida Sentinel Community Site (SCS) Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2019

Ben Hackworth, M.P.H.
Commission on Behavioral Health & Drug Prevention
United Way of Broward County

Highlights

- The sharp escalations of heroin use, treatment admissions, and deaths in Florida along with stable and high levels of prescription opioid indicators constitute an opioid epidemic.
- Non-pharmaceutical fentanyl from foreign clandestine labs is a major factor for the increase in opioid deaths related to adulterated heroin and counterfeit medications.
- Prescription opioids has remained at stable levels in the Southeast region.
- The number of cocaine occurrences has plateaued for the Southeast region but remains at extremely high levels.
- Indicators of methamphetamine remain relatively low compared with other drugs in Southeast Florida but have been increasing more dramatically since 2015. The increase follows suit with the increase of methamphetamine for the state of Florida
- Treatment admissions for heroin and prescription opioids has decreased from previous years in spite of the number of occurrences from these two primary drug admissions in Southeastern Florida.
- Infectious diseases such as HIV indicates high rates in Southeastern Florida and is considered as one of the highest rates of new infections in the nation.
- Policy change throughout the state of Florida could help subdue the new rates of HIV with the passing of SB 366, giving counties in Florida the autonomy to authorize a sterile needle and syringe exchange program.

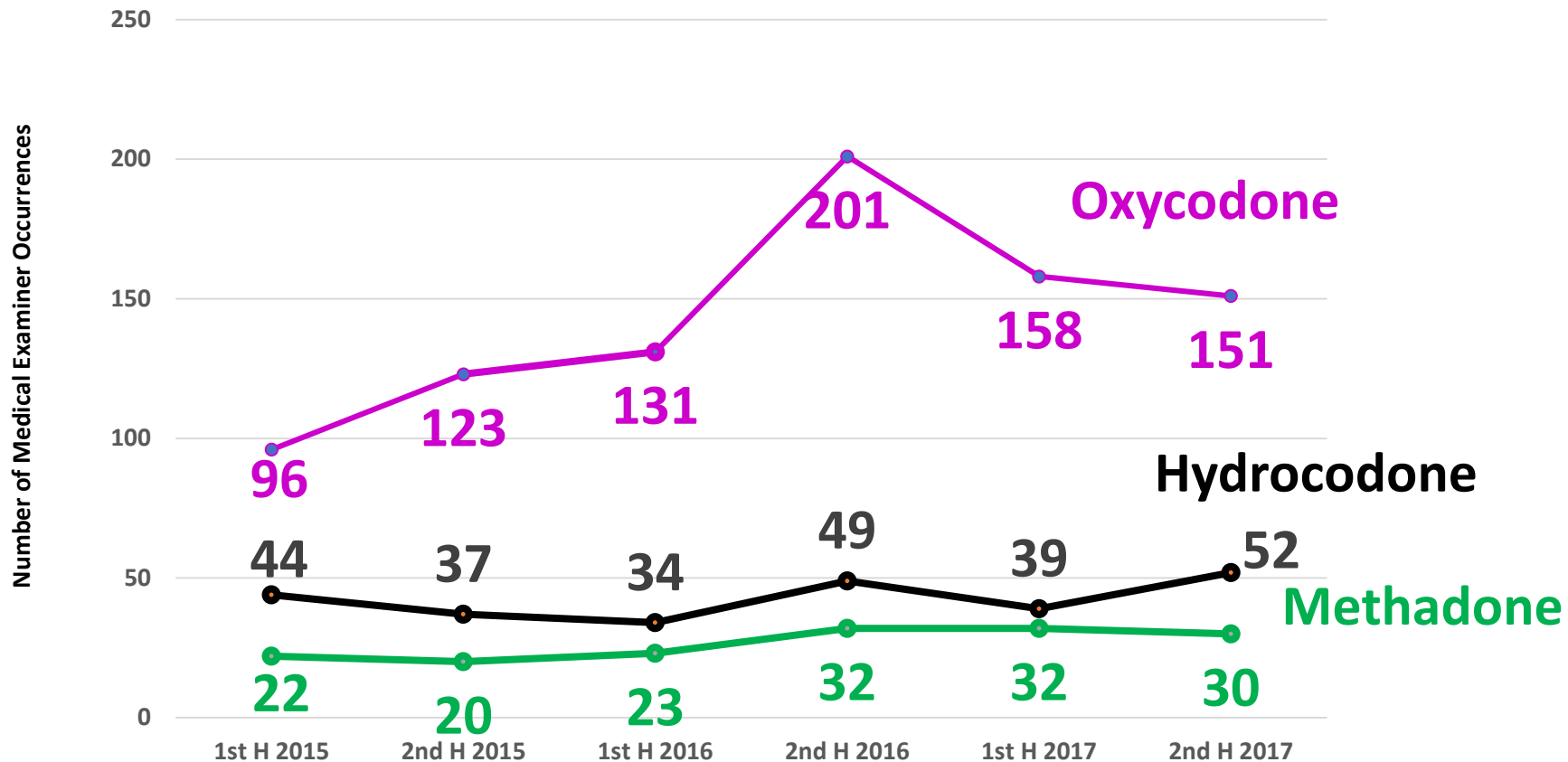
Number of Heroin, Morphine, Fentanyl, and 3 Other Rx Opioid Occurrences Among Deceased Persons in Southeastern FL: 2015-2017



- Morphine decreased by 84 decedents from 2016 to 2017.
- Heroin decreased by 50 decedents from 2016 to 2017.
- Fentanyl and fentanyl analogues increased by 29% from 2016 to 2017.
- Prescription opioids decreased by 8 decedents from 2016 to 2017.

Source: FDLE - Florida Medical Examiners Commission

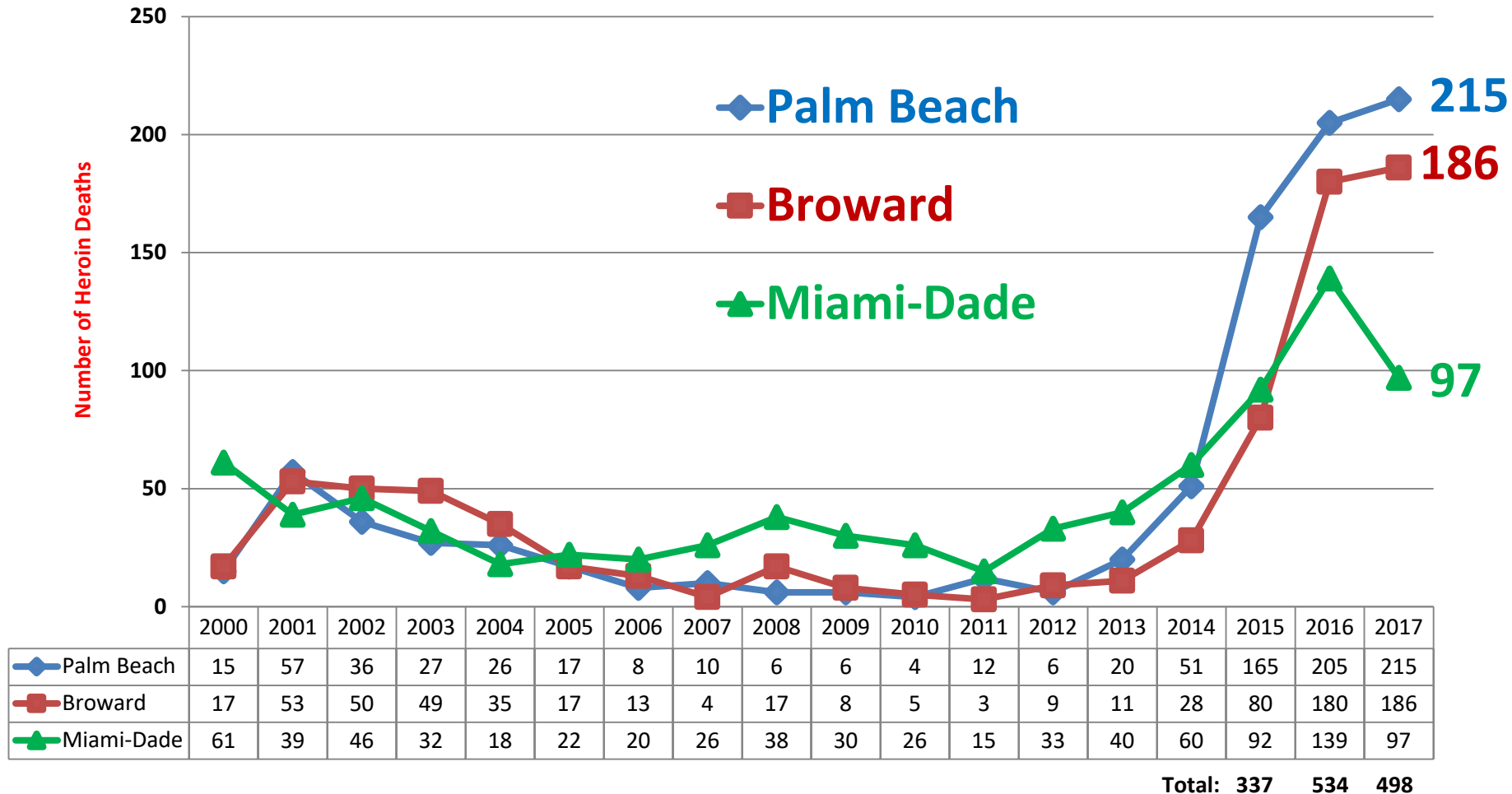
Number of Occurrences for 3 Selected Rx Opioids Among Deceased Persons in 3 Southeast Florida Counties: 2015 - 2017



- The three prescription opioids that the medical examiner tracks are oxycodone, hydrocodone, and methadone.
- Oxycodone decreased from 2016 to 2017 while hydrocodone and methadone increased slightly from 2016 to 2017.

Source: FDLE - Florida Medical Examiners Commission

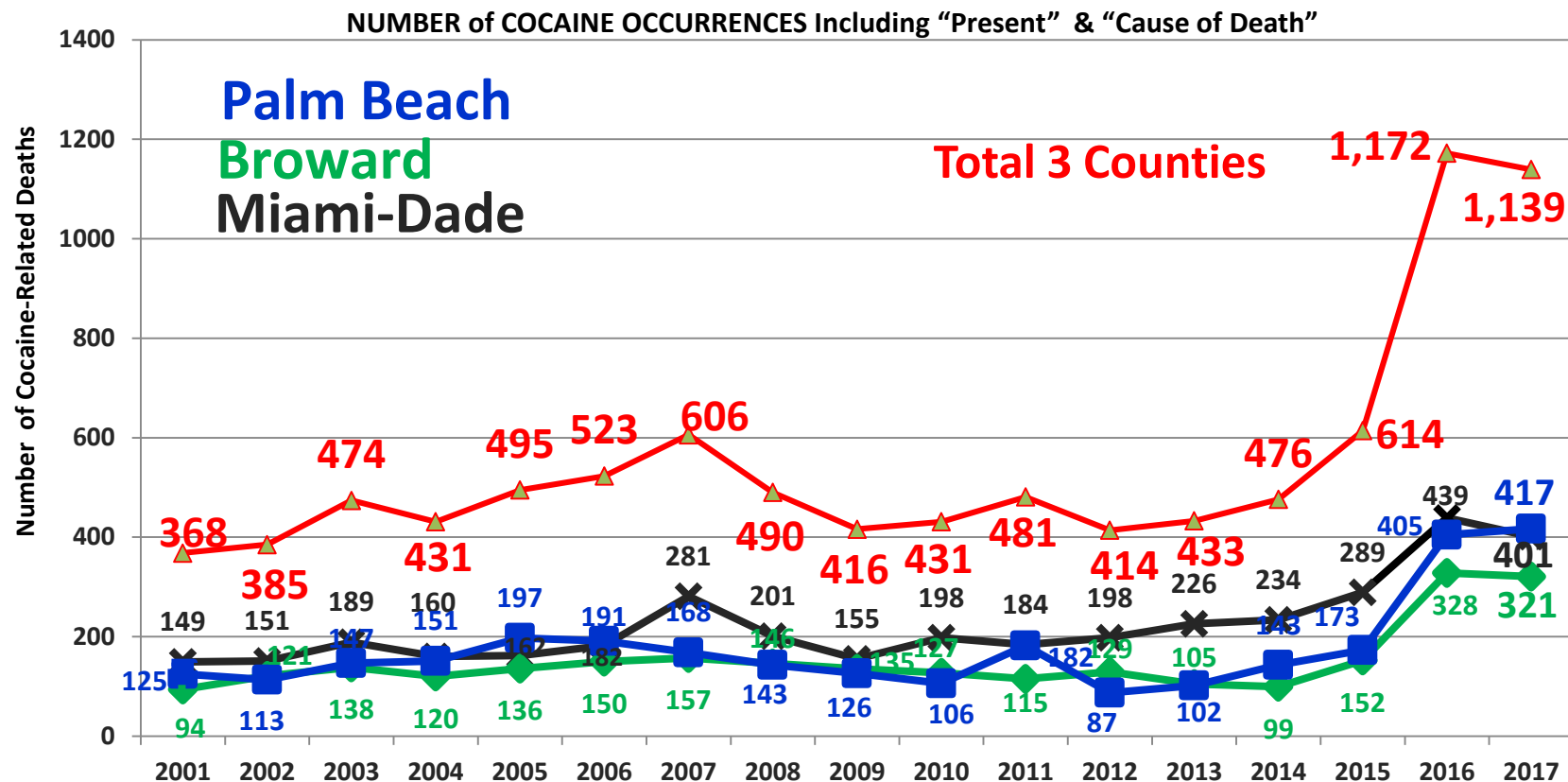
Number of **Heroin-Related** Deaths in 3 Southeast Florida Counties: 2000-2017



- From 2015 to 2016 there was a 55% increase in heroin-related deaths.
- From 2016 to 2017 there was an approximate 5% decrease in heroin-related deaths.

SOURCE: Florida Medical Examiners Commission Annual Reports 2000-2017

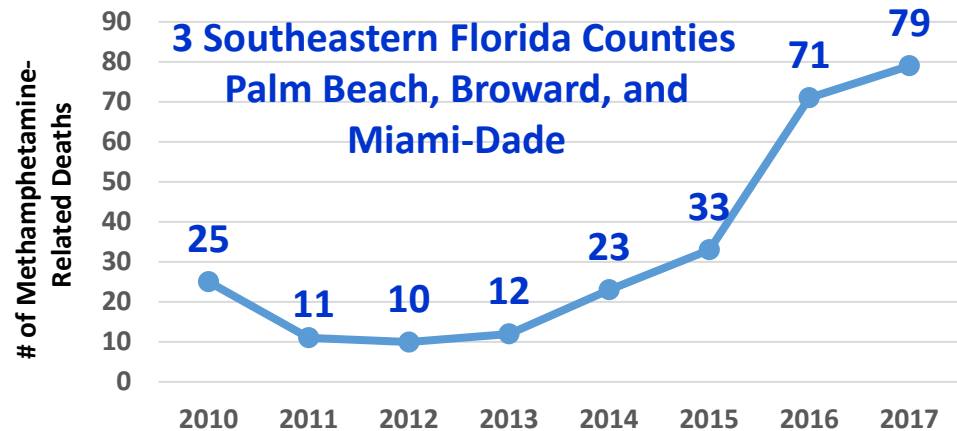
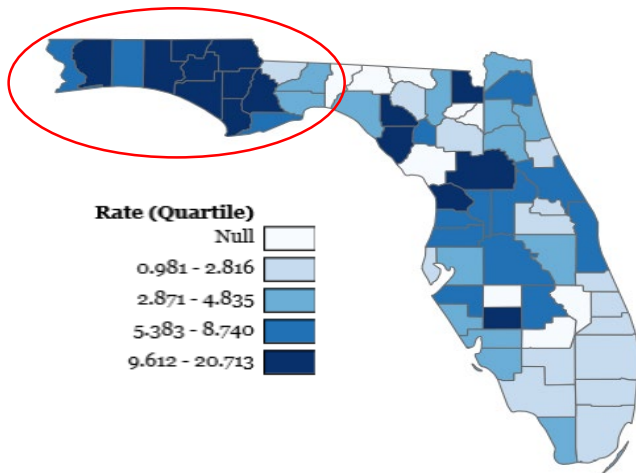
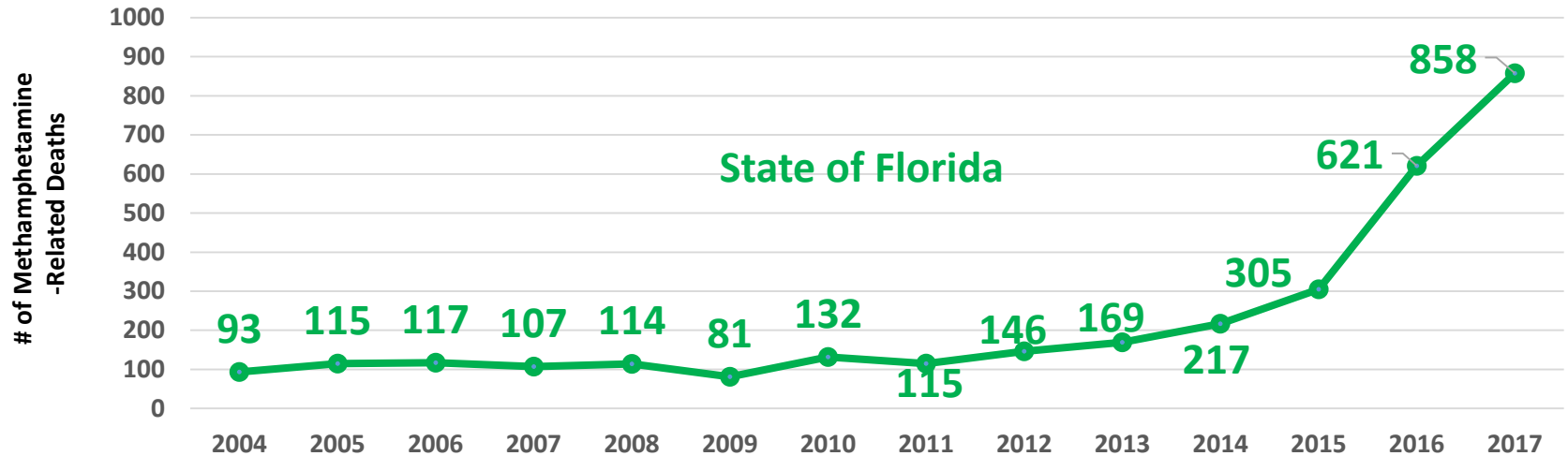
Number of Cocaine Reports Detected Among Decedents in Southeast Florida: 2001 - 2017



- The number of cocaine occurrences has plateaued among Southeast Florida decedents from 2016 to 2017.
- In fact, the number of cocaine occurrences decreased by 2.8% in 2017 from 2016, a reduction in cocaine occurrences in which Southeastern Florida has not seen in previous years with a 90% increase in cocaine occurrences from 2015 to 2016.

Source: Florida Medical Examiners Commission Annual Reports 2001 – 2017

Number of Methamphetamine-Related Deaths In Florida and 3 Southeastern Florida Counties: 2000-2017

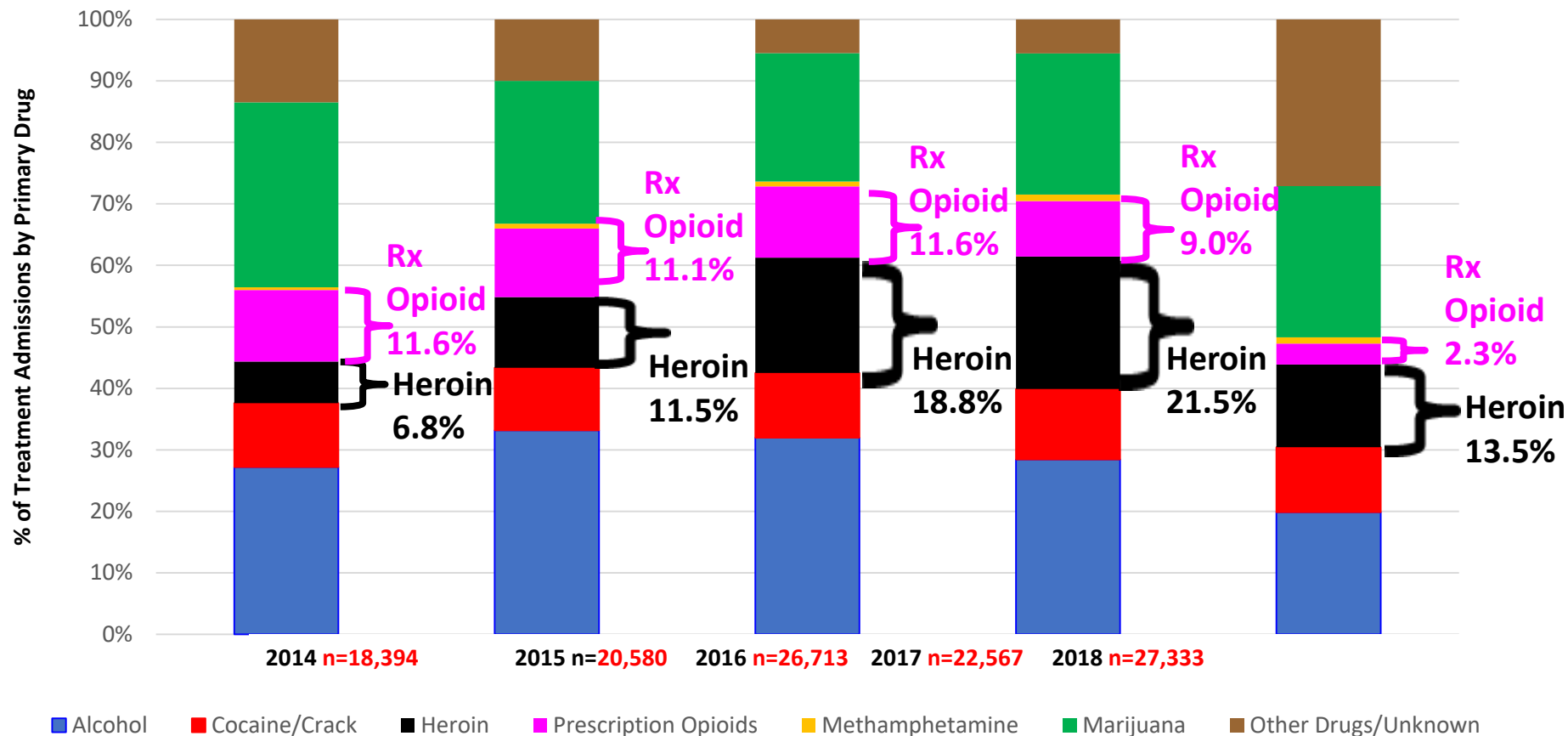


- The number of methamphetamine-related deaths has increased in Southeastern Florida by 139% from 2015 to 2017.
- The number of methamphetamine-related deaths is highly concentrated in the panhandle of Florida.
- Overall, the state of Florida has seen a 181% increase in methamphetamine-related deaths from 2015 to 2017.

Source: Florida Medical Examiners Commission 2004 - 2017 Annual Reports

NDEWS Southeastern Florida (Miami Area) SCS Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2019

Percent of Treatment Admissions by Primary Drug in Southeastern Florida (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade Counties): 2014 - 2018



- The graph is by percent of treatment admissions rather than by actual number because of the significant differences in the total number of treatment admissions in the years covered.
- The graph highlights the 2014-2018 treatment data by percent of primary admissions highlighting the changing patterns with heroin and other opioids. Both substances have seen a decrease in 2018 admissions compared to previous years.
- Alcohol (19.8%) and crack (10.5%) have been consistent over the years presented above. Marijuana admissions were seen at 24.6%. Other/unknown drugs has seen the biggest increase in admissions making up 27.2%

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families - SAMH

Number of Persons Living with HIV (PLWH) in Southeastern Florida Counties as of June 30, 2017

County	Population	# PLWH	Rate per 100,000
Miami-Dade	2,754,749	27,969	1,015.3
Broward	1,884,545	20,661	1,096.3
Palm Beach	1,411,054	8,488	601.5
Total 3 County Region	6,050,348	57,118	944.0
State of Florida	20,555,728	116,944	568.9

Number of Persons Living with HIV (PLWH) by **Injecting Drug Use (IDU)** **Modes of Transmission** in Southeastern Florida Counties as of June 30, 2017

County	# by IDU	# by IDU + MSM	Total IDU	Rate per 100K
Miami-Dade	1,634	763	2,397	87
Broward	1,147	639	1,786	94.8
Palm Beach	561	213	774	54.9
Total 3 County Region	3,342	1,615	4,957	81.9
State of Florida	9,044	4,344	13,388	65.1

- The rate of Southeastern Florida counties for people living with HIV are 944 people per 100,000 as of June 30, 2017.
- Of those living with HIV, injecting drug use was 4,957 meaning almost 82 people per 100,000 pursue injecting drug use.

Source: Florida Department of Health – Florida CHARTS online

Florida SB 366: Infectious Disease Elimination Program

“Infectious Disease Elimination Programs; Citing this act as the ‘Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA)’; providing that a county commission may authorize a sterile needle and syringe exchange program; requiring the development of an oversight and accountability system for certain purposes; providing for immunity from civil liability, under certain circumstances, etc.”

Source: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/00366>

Treatment Tables

Table 1: Trends in Admissions* to Programs Treating Substance Use Disorders, Southeastern Florida (Miami Area)^ Residents, 2014-2018

Number of Admissions and Percentage of Admissions with Selected Substances Cited as Primary Substance at Admission, by Year and Substance

	Calendar Year									
	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Total Admissions (#)	18,394	100%	20,580	100%	26,713	100%	22,567	100%	27,333	100%
Primary Substance of Abuse (%)										
Alcohol	5,006	27.2%	6,830	33.2%	8,539	32.0%	6,415	28.4%	5,430	19.8%
Cocaine/Crack	1,906	10.4%	2,088	10.1%	2,812	10.5%	2,588	11.5%	2,889	10.5%
Heroin	1,249	6.8%	2,366	11.5%	5,011	18.8%	4,857	21.5%	3,679	13.5%
Prescription Opioids	2,142	11.6%	2,298	11.2%	3,092	11.6%	2,040	9.0%	923	3.4%
Methamphetamine	76	0.4%	166	0.8%	216	0.8%	235	1.0%	284	1.0%
Marijuana	5,532	30.1%	4,779	23.2%	5,582	20.9%	5,187	23.0%	6,714	24.6%
Benzodiazepines	343	1.9%	483	2.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
MDMA	50	0.3%	17	<0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Synthetic Stimulants	23	0.1%	464	2.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Synthetic Cannabinoids	0	0.0%	2	<0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Drugs/Unknown	2,067	11.2%	1,087	5.3%	1,461	5.5%	1,245	5.5%	7,414	27.2%

NOTES:

^Southeastern Florida: Includes the three counties of the Miami MSA—Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties.

***Admission:** Includes all admissions to programs receiving any public funds. Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

SOURCE: Data provided to the Southeastern Florida NDEWS SCE by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Table 2: Demographic and Drug Use Characteristics of Treatment Admissions* for Select Primary Substances, Southeastern Florida (Miami Area)^ Residents, 2018
Number of Admissions, by Primary Substance and Percentage of Admissions with Selected Demographic and Drug Use Characteristics

	Primary Substance																	
	Alcohol		Cocaine/Crack		Heroin		Prescription Opioids		Methamphetamine		Marijuana		Benzo-diazepines		Synthetic Stimulants		Synthetic Cannabinoids	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Number of Admissions (#)	5,430	100%	2,889	100%	3,679	100%	923	100%	284	100%	6,714	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%
Sex (%)																		
Male	3,632	66.9%	1,859	64.3%	2,261	61.5%	416	45.1%	206	72.5%	4,589	68.3%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Female	1,798	33.1%	1,030	35.7%	1,418	38.5%	507	54.9%	78	27.5%	2,125	31.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Race/Ethnicity (%)																		
White, Non-Hisp.	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
African-Am/Black, Non-Hisp	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Hispanic/Latino	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Asian	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Other	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Age Group (%)**																		
Under 18	292	5.4%	18	0.6%	8	0.2%	5	0.5%	0	0.0%	3,317	49.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
18-25	347	6.4%	281	9.7%	343	9.3%	96	10.4%	46	16.2%	1,597	23.8%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
26-34	1,165	21.5%	726	25.1%	1,853	50.4%	397	43.0%	99	34.9%	1,102	16.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
35+	3,626	66.8%	1,864	64.5%	1,475	40.1%	425	46.0%	139	48.9%	698	10.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Route of Administration (%)																		
Smoked	40	0.7%	1,518	52.5%	142	3.9%	29	3.1%	135	47.5%	6,146	91.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Inhaled	6	0.1%	1,075	37.2%	548	14.9%	107	11.6%	24	8.5%	32	0.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Injected	6	0.1%	43	1.5%	2,730	74.2%	293	31.7%	83	29.2%	3	0.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oral/Other/Unknown	5,378	99.0%	253	8.8%	259	7.0%	494	53.5%	42	14.8%	533	7.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Secondary Substance (%)																		
None	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Alcohol	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cocaine/Crack	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heroin	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Prescription Opioids	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Methamphetamine	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Marijuana	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Benzodiazepines	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Synthetic Stimulants	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Synthetic Cannabinoids	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

NOTES:

^Southeastern Florida: Includes the three counties of the Miami MSA—Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties.

***Admission:** Includes all admissions to programs receiving any public funds. Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

****Age Group:** Categories for Southeastern Florida are not the same categories presented for other NDEWS sites.

n/a: Not applicable; **unavail:** Data not available; **n/a:** Not Applicable; **Percentages** may not sum to 100 due to missing data, rounding, and/or because not all possible categories are presented in the table. Category frequencies may not sum to drug total due to missing data and/or not all possible categories are presented in the table.

SOURCE: Data provided to the Southeastern Florida NDEWS SCE by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Sources

DATA FOR THIS REPORT WERE DRAWN FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

Data on drug-related deaths are from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement: Florida Medical Examiners Commission Interim and Annual reports on Drugs Detected in Deceased Persons in Florida 2001—2017. The Florida Medical Examiners Commission uses a statewide classification of drugs detected among deceased persons as being either (1) “a cause of death” determined by one of the state’s 24 local medical examiners or (2) merely found as “present at the time of death.” Thus, the terms “drug-related,” “drug reports detected,” “number of drug occurrences,” and “drugs identified in a decedent.” The number of drug occurrences exceeds the number of drug deaths for a specific drug because of multiple drugs detected in most decedents.

Treatment data are for primary drug admissions in calendar year 2017 of all clients in programs receiving any public funding located in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties as provided by the Florida Department of Children and Families Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual as some persons are admitted to treatment more than once in the same calendar year.

Data on **HIV** are from the Florida Department of Health-Florida CHARTS online.

For additional information about the drugs and drug use patterns discussed in this report, please contact Ben Hackworth, Commission on Behavioral Health & Drug Prevention, United Way of Broward County, Phone: 954-453-3740, E-mail: bhackworth@unitedwaybroward.org.