

Southeastern Florida (Miami Area)
Sentinel Community Site (SCS)
Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2020

August 2020

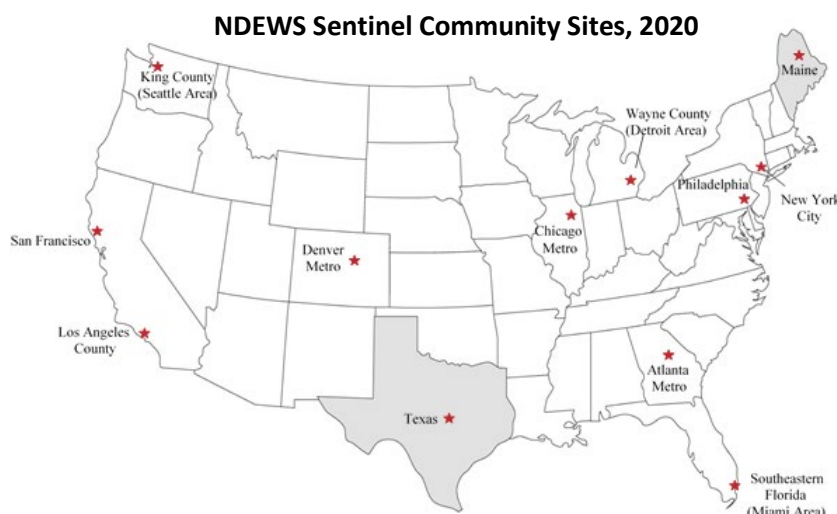
NDEWS Coordinating Center

NDEWS *National Drug Early Warning System*

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

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 2020, 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 2020 annual *Drug Use Patterns and Trends Report*.**



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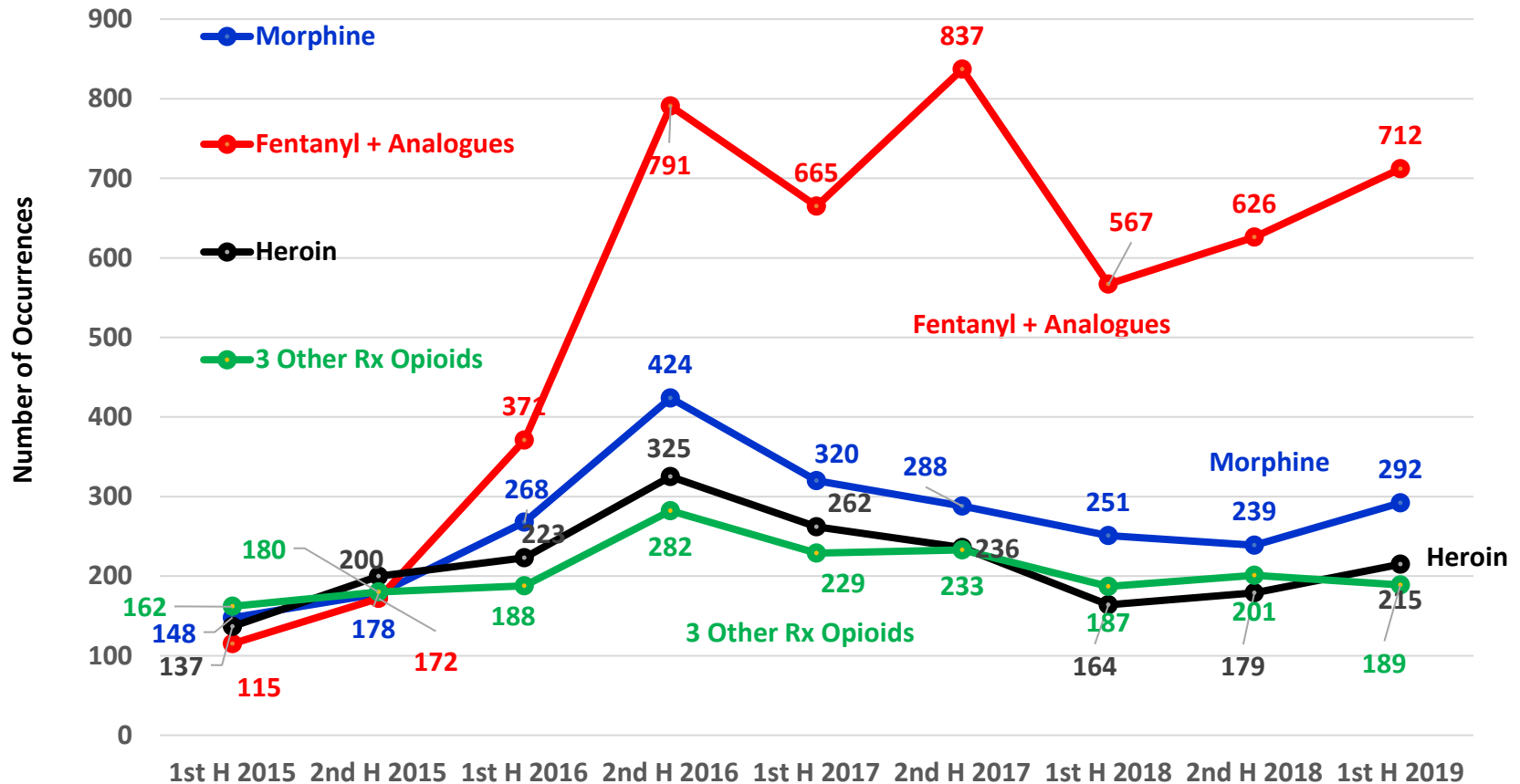
National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS) Southeastern Florida Sentinel Community Site (SCS) Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2020

Ben Hackworth, M.P.H.
Florida Department of Health in Broward County

Highlights

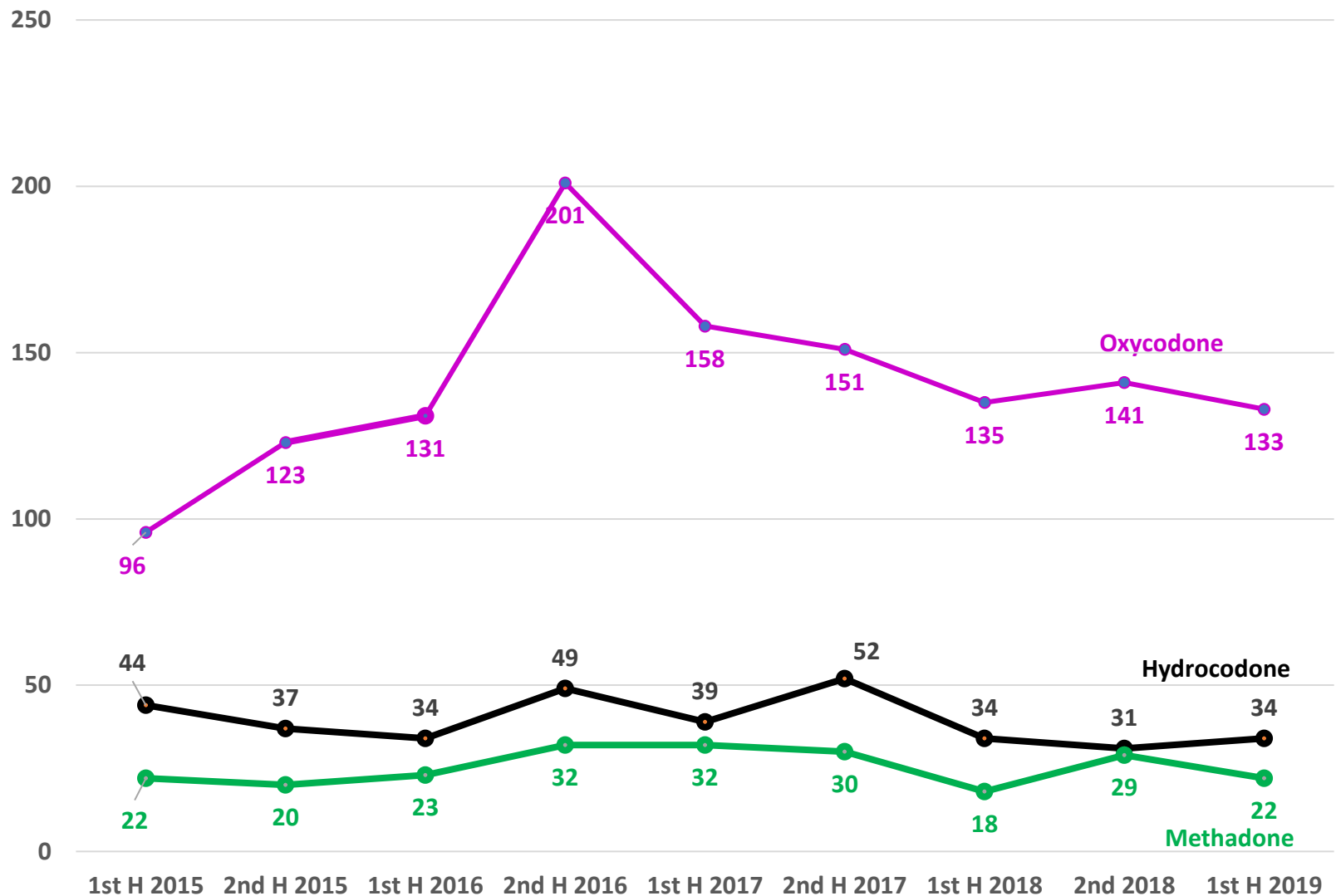
- **Cocaine**-related deaths have stabilized from 2018 to 2019 after a dramatic decrease in deaths from 2017 to 2018 in the Southeastern Florida region.
- Most of the **heroin** deaths in the three counties region during the first half of 2019 involved at least one or more other drugs detected in the decedents demonstrating the polysubstance abuse patterns of the opioid epidemic.
- **Methamphetamine deaths** are projected to increase again for 2019, with the highest number of deaths reported in the central part of Florida and the Northwestern Panhandle. In the Southeastern region, methamphetamine-related deaths have increased to the point where the first half of 2019 numbers are almost equal to annual death data for methamphetamine-related deaths. It is projected that deaths will increase by 48% from 2018 to 2019.
- **Nonpharmaceutical fentanyl** from foreign clandestine labs is the major factor for the dramatic increase in opioid deaths. The number of occurrences for 2019 is increasing again from 2018.
- The most prevalent **synthetic cathinone** in the region and the state for 2019 is eutylone.
- The number of primary treatment admissions for **prescription opioids** increase in the Southeastern Florida region from 2018 to 2019 and rose by 10% among male clients.

Heroin, Morphine, Fentanyl, and 3 Other Rx Opioid Occurrences Among Deceased Persons in Southeastern FL: 2015-2019



Source: FDLE - Florida Medical Examiners Commission

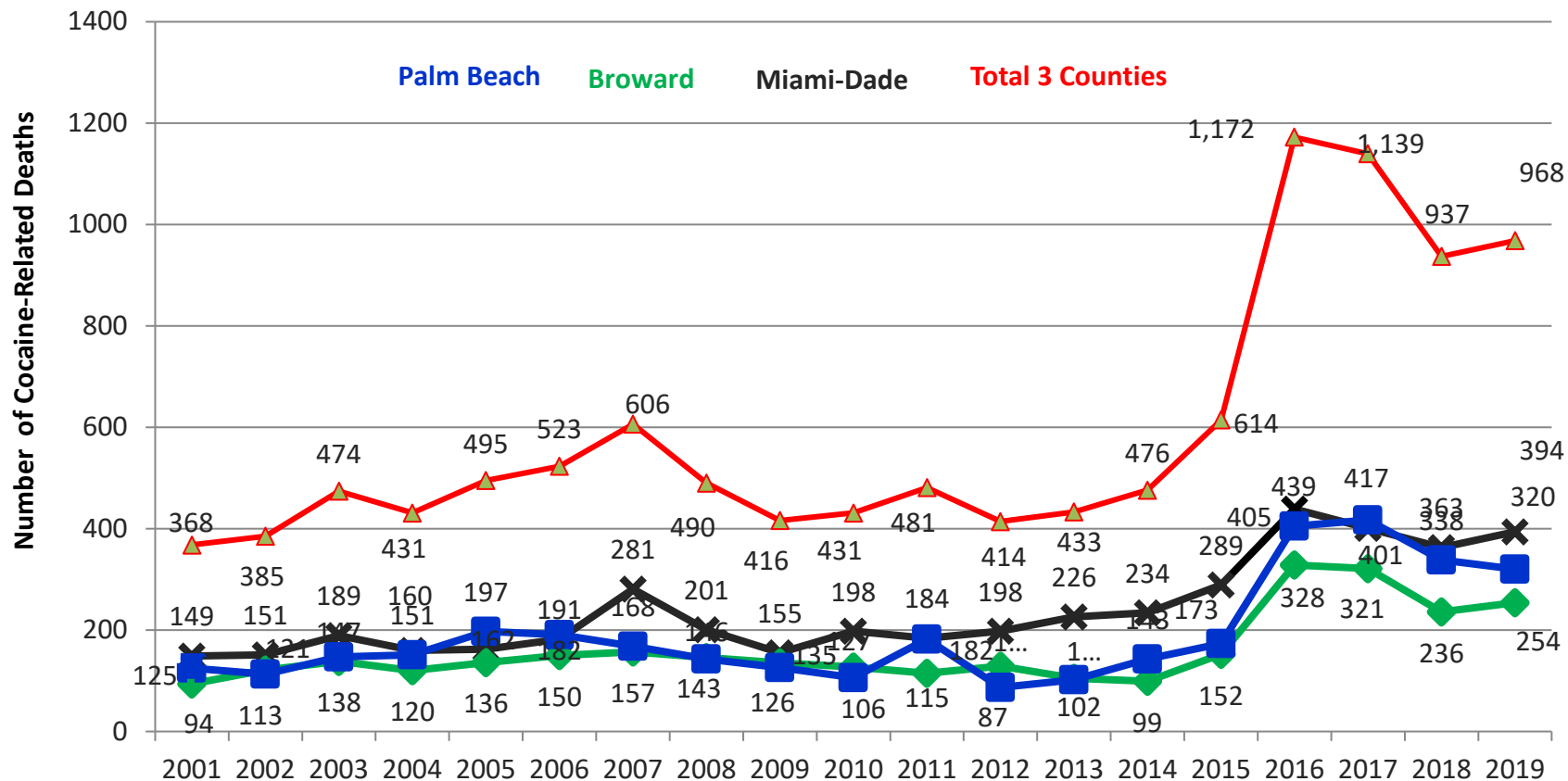
Occurrences of 3 Selected Rx Opioids among Deceased Persons in 3 Southeast Florida Counties: 2015 – 2019



Source: FDLE - Florida Medical Examiners Commission

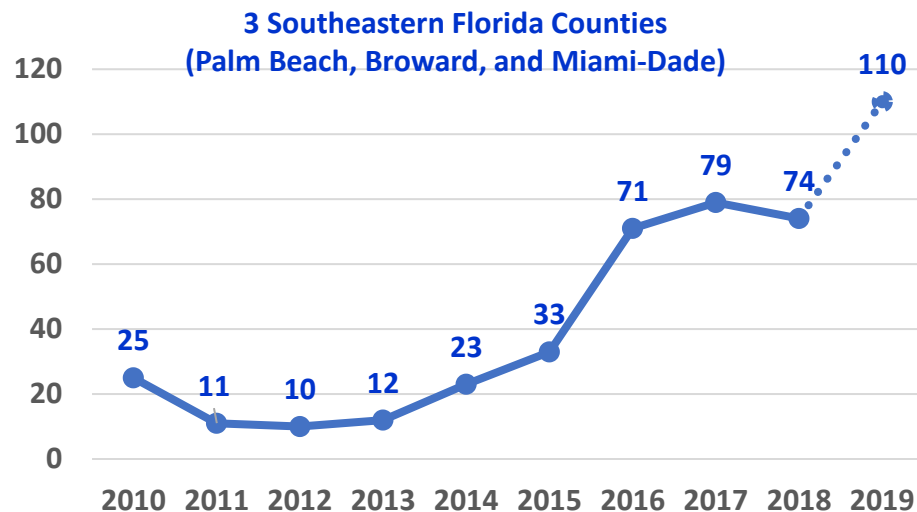
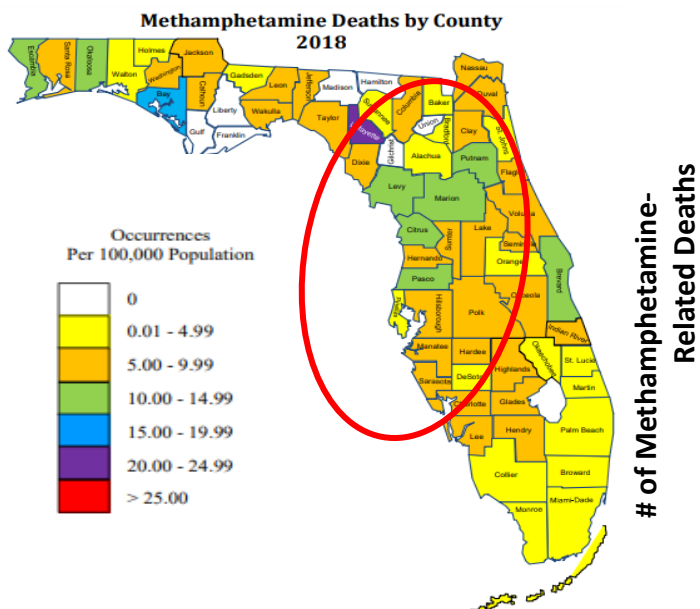
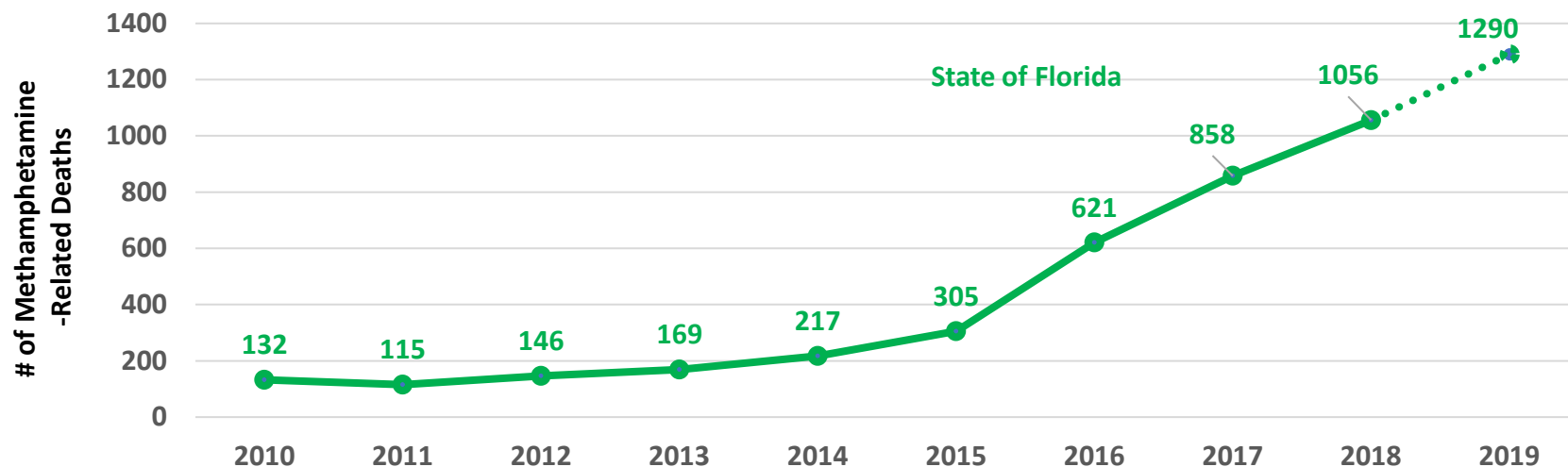
Number of Cocaine Reports Detected Among Decedents in Southeast Florida: 2001 – 2019

Number of Cocaine Occurrences Including “Present” & “Cause Of Death”

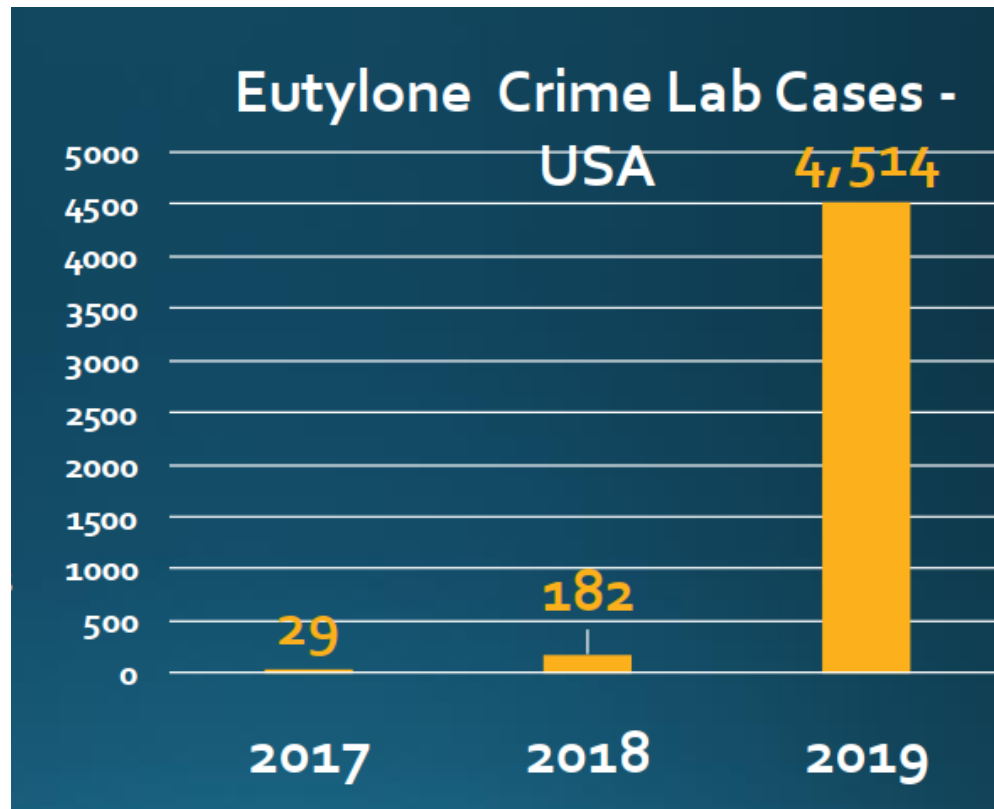


SOURCE: Florida Medical Examiners Commission Annual Reports 2001 – 2019*

Number of Methamphetamine-Related Deaths In Florida and 3 Southeastern Florida Counties: 2010-2019



National Eutylone Crime Lab Cases, 2017-2019



- Recent law enforcement encounters of eutylone, as reported by the DEA National Forensics Information Laboratory System (NFLIS)), have markedly escalated.
- 3,026 (or 67%) of the 4,514 national eutylone crime lab cases in 2019 were in Florida.
- The most prevalent synthetic cathinone in the region and the state for 2019 is eutylone (data not shown).

Source: DEA NFLIS and South Florida HIDTA Investigative Support Center Data

Treatment Tables

Table 1: Trends in Admissions* to Programs Treating Substance Use Disorders, Southeastern Florida (Miami Area)^ Residents, 2015-2019

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

	Calendar Year									
	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Total Admissions (#)	20,580	100%	26,713	100%	22,567	100%	27,333	100%	22,908	100%
Primary Substance of Abuse (%)										
Alcohol	6,830	33.2%	8,539	32.0%	6,415	28.4%	5,430	19.9%	4,108	17.9%
Cocaine/Crack	2,088	10.1%	2,812	10.5%	2,588	11.5%	2,889	10.6%	2,829	12.3%
Heroin	2,366	11.5%	5,011	18.8%	4,857	21.5%	3,679	13.5%	2,659	11.6%
Prescription Opioids	2,298	11.2%	3,092	11.6%	2,040	9.0%	923	3.4%	1,296	5.7%
Methamphetamine	166	0.8%	216	0.8%	235	1.0%	284	1.0%	248	1.1%
Marijuana	4,779	23.2%	5,582	20.9%	5,187	23.0%	6,714	24.6%	6,196	27.0%
Benzodiazepines	483	2.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
MDMA	17	<0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Synthetic Stimulants	464	2.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Synthetic Cannabinoids	2	<0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Drugs/Unknown	1,087	5.3%	1,461	5.5%	1,245	5.5%	7,414	27.1%	5,572	24.3%

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, 2019
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 (#)	4,108	100%	2,829	100%	2,659	100%	1,296	100%	248	100%	6,196	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%
Sex (%)																		
Male	2,748	66.9%	1,934	68.4%	1,698	63.9%	715	55.2%	182	73.4%	4,378	70.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Female	1,360	33.1%	895	31.6%	961	36.1%	581	44.8%	66	26.6%	1,818	29.3%	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	137	3.3%	13	0.5%	3	0.1%	6	0.5%	5	2.0%	3,636	58.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
18-25	287	7.0%	263	9.3%	211	8.0%	121	9.3%	40	16.1%	1,076	17.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
26-34	906	22.1%	597	21.1%	1,171	44.0%	495	38.2%	113	45.6%	849	13.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
35+	2,778	67.6%	1,956	69.1%	1,274	47.9%	674	52.0%	90	36.3%	635	10.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Route of Administration (%)																		
Smoked	28	0.7%	1,738	61.4%	130	4.9%	82	6.3%	151	60.9%	5,897	95.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Inhaled	5	0.1%	995	35.2%	582	21.9%	219	16.9%	25	10.1%	76	1.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Injected	7	0.2%	36	1.3%	1,822	68.5%	315	24.3%	45	18.1%	5	0.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oral/Other/Unknown	4,068	99.0%	60	2.1%	125	4.7%	680	52.5%	27	10.9%	218	3.5%	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	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Alcohol	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Cocaine/Crack	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Heroin	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Prescription Opioids	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Methamphetamine	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Marijuana	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Benzodiazepines	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Synthetic Stimulants	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Synthetic Cannabinoids	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail

NOTES:

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***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 2019 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 crime lab cases are from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration: National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS): - Synthetic Drug Threats in the United States: 2020 Update.

Information on emerging drug issues are from the United Way of Broward County Commission on Behavioral Health and Drug Prevention- Surveillance Support Committee.

For additional information about the drugs and drug use patterns discussed in this report, please contact Ben Hackworth, Florida Department of Health in Broward County, Phone: 419-769-1927, E-mail: Benjamin.Hackworth@flhealth.gov