

SOUTH FLORIDA HIDTA

Drug Use Trends



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OVERVIEW

- Drug use trends in the SFLHIDTA
- Primary and Secondary Drug Threats
- Data Analysis
 - Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons – Florida Medical Examiners Commission
 - Florida Department of Children and Families – Treatment Episode Data
 - Florida Department of Health – EMSTARS database

SOUTH FLORIDA HIDTA



The SFLHIDTA represents 31 percent of the 21,477,737 residents in the State of Florida, with Miami-Dade County accounting for 40 percent of the region.

Population - SFLHIDTA Region

US Census Bureau Population Estimates 2019

Miami-Dade	2,716,940
Broward	1,952,778
Palm Beach	1,496,770
Collier	384,902
Martin	161,000
Monroe	74,228
Total	6,786,618

COCAINE

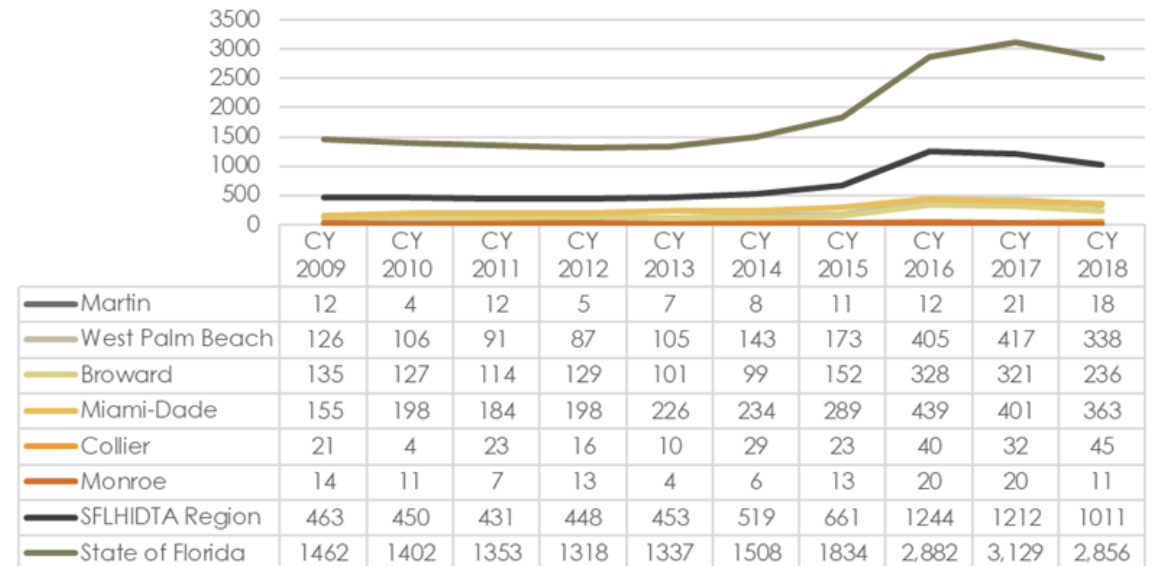
Increased cocaine use with opioids, dubbed the “fourth wave” of the national opioid epidemic, is supported by historically high poly-drug substance abuse trends involving the deliberate or unwitting use of cocaine and/or methamphetamine with heroin and/or fentanyl.

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ANNUAL COCAINE DETECTED DEATHS

- Increased from a historic low of **431** in 2011 to a record high **1,244** in CY 2016, with a decrease to **1,011** in CY 2018.
- Interim data for the first six months of 2019 compared with the first six months of 2018 shows a slight increase from 510 in 2018 to 521 in 2019.
- Although cocaine deaths stabilized in 2017, they remain at extraordinarily high levels.
- Thirty-five to fifty year-olds represent 37 percent of the 1,011 cocaine deaths, with 36 percent of them attributed to Miami-Dade County, followed by Palm Beach County, with 32 percent, according to the ME report for 2018.

(U) Cocaine Detected Deaths - SFLHIDTA Region
Florida Medical Examiners Commission
Annual Reports 2009 - 2018



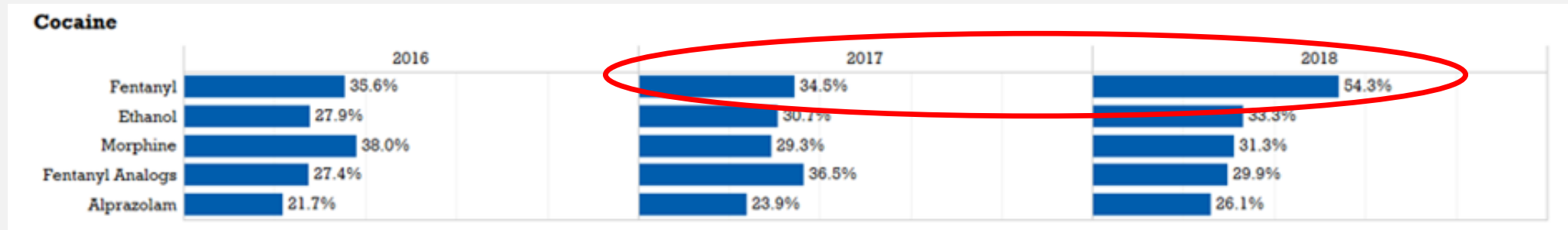
COCAINE & POLYSUBSTANCE ABUSE

“The intentional use of cocaine and heroin together, known, as speedballing has long been popular among hardcore drug users. It is a classic, or later state of cocaine or heroin addiction, using one to counteract the adverse effects of the other. Since more drug distributors are replacing heroin with fentanyl, it is likely they also use its analogs to replace heroin.”

-Nova Southeastern University Epidemiologist Jim Hall.

COCAINE & POLYSUBSTANCE ABUSE

According to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission, the top five co-occurring substances among cocaine drug-caused deaths in the SFLHIDTA from 2016 to 2018 were fentanyl, ethanol, morphine, fentanyl analogs, and alprazolam.



**The most notable shift is the moderate increase in cocaine deaths with fentanyl from 34.5 percent in 2017 to 54.3 percent in 2018.*

COCAINE – TREATMENT ADMISSIONS (FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

- Cocaine accounted for 15 percent of 19,439 publically-funded treatment admissions in the SFLHIDTA during 2019
- Cocaine treatment admissions increased from 2,889 in 2018 to 2,944 in 2019.
- Slightly more than 50 percent of the 5,207 statewide cocaine admissions were in the SFLHIDTA.
- Slightly more than 50 percent were treated for crack vs other-cocaine.
- Miami-Dade County represents two-thirds (1,967) of the 2,944 regional cocaine admissions in 2019.
- Two-thirds of regional cocaine admissions are male.
- The majority of cocaine admissions report inhaling cocaine crack cocaine admissions; whereas most crack cocaine admissions report smoking as the preferred route of administration.

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OPIATES

Heroin, and illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogs continue to be a key issue for the SFLHIDTA, particularly fentanyl from foreign clandestine labs in China and Mexico.

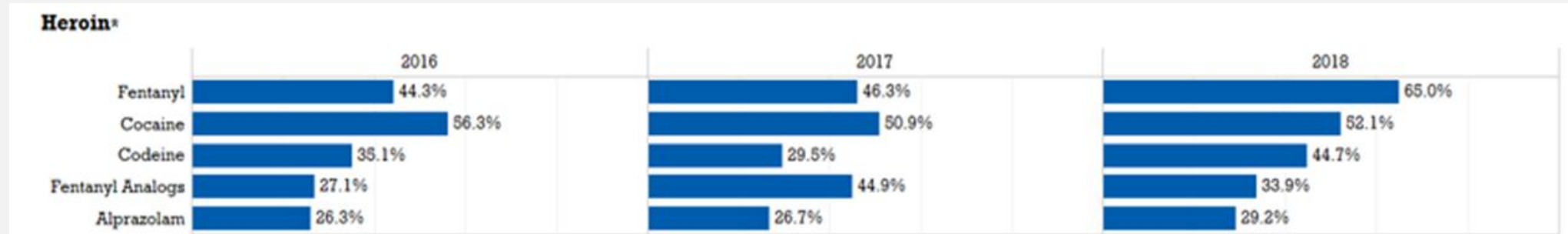
These poisonous drugs have been the main contributor over the past two years for the dramatic escalation in opioid deaths related to adulterated heroin, counterfeit medications such as oxycodone and alprazolam (Xanax®), and contaminated street drugs including cocaine, methamphetamine, and Molly.

ANNUAL HEROIN DETECTED DEATHS

- There were 358 heroin detected deaths during 2018, compared with 520 in 2017, according to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission Annual Report for 2018.
- Note however that heroin deaths increased during the first six months of 2019 with 224, compared with 172 during the same time in 2018, suggesting the previously noted decline may be reversing.

HEROIN & POLYSUBSTANCE ABUSE

- The top five co-occurring substances of heroin-caused deaths from 2016 to 2018 were fentanyl, cocaine, codeine, fentanyl analogs, and alprazolam.
- Fentanyl was detected in 65 percent of all heroin deaths in the SFLHIDTA during 2018.



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HEROIN - TREATMENT ADMISSIONS (FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

Heroin accounted for 14 percent of 19,439 publically-funded treatment admissions in the SFLHIDTA during 2019, decreasing from 3,741 in 2018 to 2,762 in 2019, according to data provided by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

- Slightly more than one-third of the 7,451 statewide heroin admissions were in the SFLHIDTA.
- Palm Beach County accounts for 47 percent (1,297) of the 2,758 regional heroin admissions in 2019.
- Two-thirds of regional heroin admissions are male.
- Close to 75 percent of heroin admissions reported injection (IV or Intra muscular) as the preferred route of administration.

FENTANYL

“Yuancheng, a chemical company based in Wuhan, sells more fentanyl ingredients than any company in the world. Their biggest customers are Mexican cartels, who sell the fentanyl in the United States.”

Ben Westoff, Fentanyl Inc.

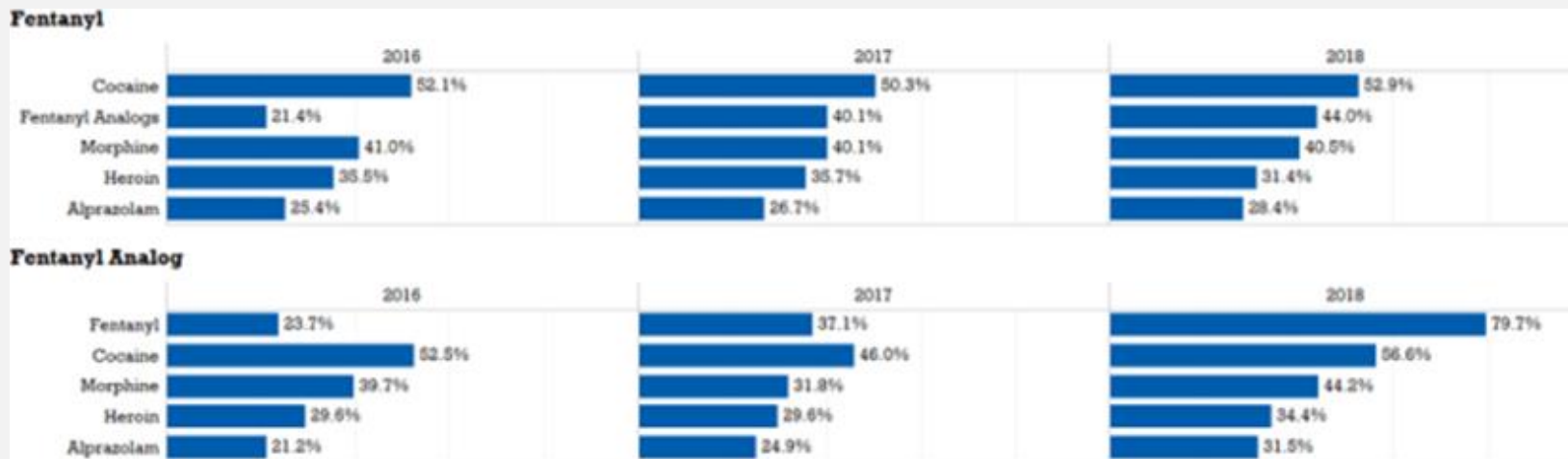
The inexpensive cost of illicitly manufactured fentanyl and its related analogs combined with the ease of ordering them over the Internet and having them shipped directly to local dealers greatly contribute to the widespread availability of illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogs.

ANNUAL FENTANYL DETECTED DEATHS

- Fentanyl deaths increased by 13 percent, from 750 in 2017, to 851 in 2018.
- Conversely, deaths for fentanyl analogs decreased by 46 percent, from 798 in 2017, to 430 in 2018.
- Note however that fentanyl deaths increased during the first six months of 2019 with 513, compared with 406 during the same time in 2018, and fentanyl analog deaths increased during the first six months of 2019 with 254, compared with 210 in 2018.

FENTANYL & POLYSUBSTANCE ABUSE

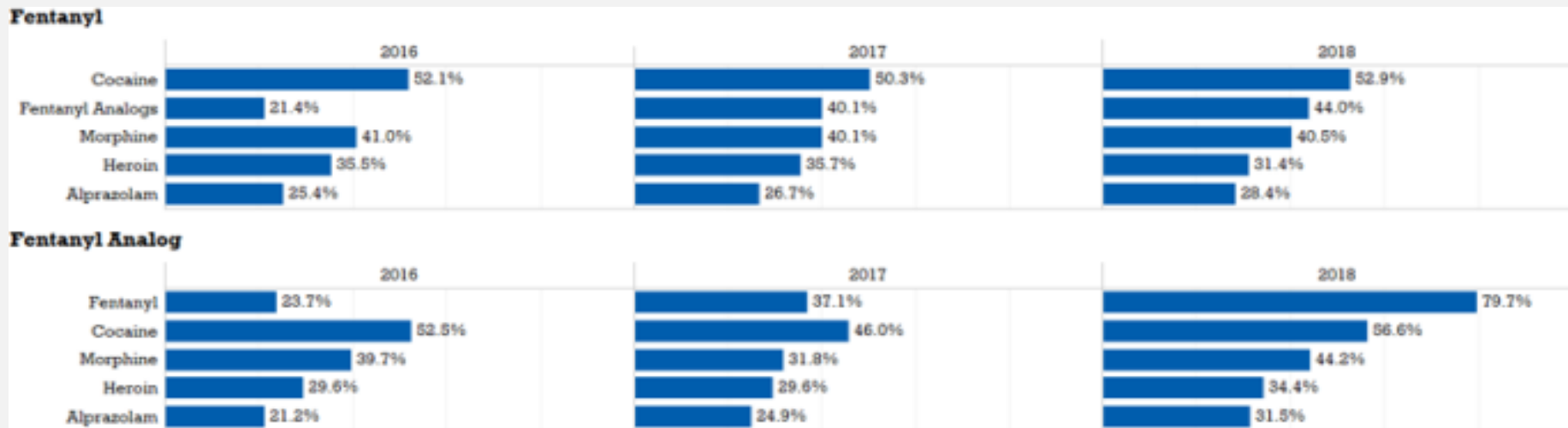
- The top five co-occurring substances of fentanyl-caused deaths in the SFLHIDTA from 2016 to 2018 were cocaine, morphine, heroin, and alprazolam.
- Cocaine is present in more than 50 percent of fentanyl and fentanyl analog deaths, and fentanyl is present in 79.7 percent of fentanyl analog deaths.



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FENTANYL POLYSUBSTANCE ABUSE

Cocaine, morphine, heroin, and alprazolam are the most frequently co-occurring substances of fentanyl and fentanyl-analog caused deaths in the SFLHIDTA. Cocaine is present in more than 50 percent of fentanyl and fentanyl analog deaths, and fentanyl is present in 79.7 percent of fentanyl analog deaths.



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





NON-FATAL OPIOID EMS RESPONSES

Analyst's Notes:

- When reviewing the following non-fatal opioid overdose EMS response data, there is currently no standardization for data collection practices among the state of Florida, however they are continuing to evolve as they adapt to the demands of the opioid drug threat.
- Earlier reporting lacked detail.
 - Just the administration of naloxone was considered a suspected opioid overdose.
 - Reporting Fidelity Improvements in 2019:
 - A later version of the EM STARS database introduced in 2018 included ICD-10 codes to more accurately distinguish between opioid overdoses and other non-overdose related symptoms that could have led a medic to push naloxone.
- For these reasons, the SFLHIDTA could not establish a clear baseline. In addition, since the totals represent the number of EMS responses per overdose, the question of how available resources influence the number of units deployed for each overdose is unclear.

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**NON-FATAL OPIOID OVERDOSE EMS RESPONSES
WHERE NALOXONE WAS ADMINISTERED
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – EMSTARS**

	CY 2017	CY 2018	CY 2019		INCREASE
Collier	130	148	276		86%
Broward	689	476	768		61%
Martin	105	87	114		31%
Miami-Dade	462	213	252		18%
Monroe	27	25	27		8%
Palm Beach	5,154	2,523	2,660		5%
SFLHIDTA Region	5,154	3,472	4,097		18%

- The abuse associated with the opiate epidemic including, heroin, fentanyl and its analogues, has resulted in the administration of naloxone, an opioid antagonist that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose.

NON-FATAL OPIOID OVERDOSE EMS RESPONSES WHERE NALOXONE WAS ADMINISTERED FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – EMSTARS

2017			2018			2019		
Rank	County	Number	Rank	County	Number	Rank	County	Number
1	Palm Beach	5,154	1	Palm Beach	2,523	1	Palm Beach	2,660
2	Orange	1,527	2	Pinellas	2,047	2	Pinellas	2,484
3	Pinellas	1,509	3	Hillsborough	1,118	3	Duval	1,593
4	Duval	1,380	4	Brevard	997	4	Brevard	1,294
5	Hillsborough	1,371	5	Orange	929	5	Orange	1,002
6	Broward	689	6	Duval	558	6	Hillsborough	992
7	Manatee	582	7	Escambia	550	7	Broward	768
8	Miami-Dade	462	8	Broward	476	8	Manatee	754
9	St. Lucie	287	9	Manatee	445	9	Escambia	555
10	Seminole	285	10	Miami-Dade	213	10	Collier	276

Palm Beach County continues to lead the region, and the state with 2,660 EMS responses in 2019.

OPIATE – TREATMENT ADMISSIONS

Fentanyl and other opiates/opioids accounted for five percent of 19,439 publically-funded treatment admissions in the SFLHIDTA during 2019, increasing from 843 in 2018 to 1,004 in 2019, according to data provided by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

- Over one-fifth of the 4,396 statewide fentanyl and other opiates/opioids admissions were in the SFLHIDTA.
- Broward County accounts for 43 percent (438) of the 1,004 regional heroin admissions in 2019.
- More than 50 percent of regional admissions are male.
- Close to 50 percent reported oral as the preferred route of administration.

OPIATES – INTELLIGENCE GAPS

- It is unclear how many reports of morphine-caused deaths are actually heroin due to the rapid metabolism of heroin to morphine in the deceased person.
- To what degree naloxone availability, Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT), and public awareness initiatives are mitigating the escalation of opioid-related deaths.

METHAMPHETAMINE

Increased methamphetamine use with opioids, along with cocaine is part of the “fourth wave” of the national opioid epidemic, involving poly-drug substance abuse trends.

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ANNUAL METHAMPHETAMINE DETECTED DEATHS

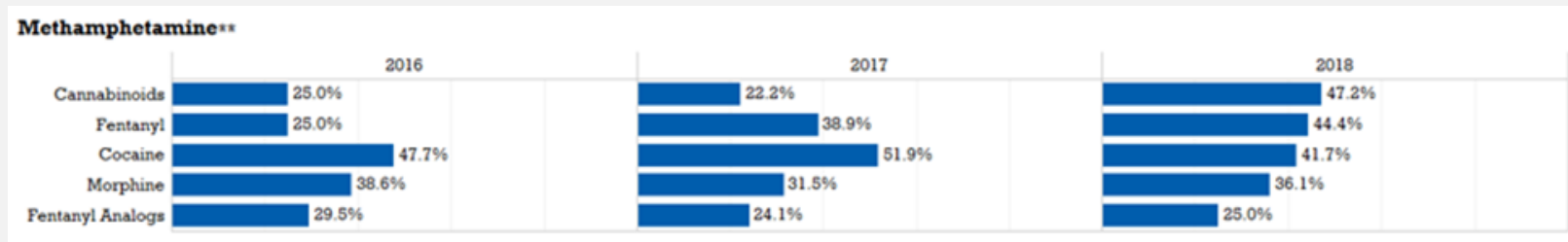
Methamphetamine detected deaths were stable from 2017 to 2018 and the first half of 2019.

- There were 84 methamphetamine detected deaths during 2018, compared with 93 in 2017.
- There were 157 amphetamine detected deaths during 2018, compared with 129 in 2017.
- There were 321 methamphetamine detected deaths during the first-half of 2019, compared with 283 in the first half of 2018.

(Analyst note, since methamphetamine metabolizes to amphetamine, it is likely many amphetamine deaths are actually methamphetamine-related deaths.)

METHAMPHETAMINE POLYSUBSTANCE ABUSE

- The top five co-occurring substances in methamphetamine-caused deaths in the SFLHIDTA were cannabinoids, fentanyl, cocaine, morphine, and fentanyl analogs.



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METHAMPHETAMINE - TREATMENT ADMISSIONS FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Methamphetamine accounted for one percent of 19,439 publically-funded treatment admissions in the SFLHIDTA during 2019, increasing from 250 in 2018 to 275 in 2019, according to data provided by the Florida Department of Children and Families.
- Less than 10 percent of 4,248 statewide methamphetamine admissions were in the SFLHIDTA.
- Miami-Dade County accounts for 43 percent regional heroin admissions in 2019, followed by Broward County with 30 percent.

MARIJUANA

“Cannabis use appears to increase rather than decrease the risk of developing nonmedical prescription opioid use and opioid abuse disorder.”

Mark Olsson, professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia University
American Journal of Psychiatry

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MARIJUANA

- Rampant reports of increased vaping of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) among adolescents and teens is a particular concern. Vaping does not replicate the unmistakable odor of marijuana that is associated with traditional smoking, and any flavoring can be added to mask the THC smell.
- Marijuana was detected in 910 deaths in the SFLHIDTA during 2018,
- Marijuana was the most commonly detected drug and increased from 1.7 percent in 2017 to 1.9 percent in 2018 for the State of Florida, compared with 2 percent in 2017 and 2.3 percent 2018 for the United States, according to Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index for the United States.

MARIJUANA – TREATMENT ADMISSIONS

- Marijuana accounted for one-third of 19,439 publically-funded treatment admissions in the SFLHIDTA during 2019, remaining stable with 6,427, compared to 6,567 in 2018 according to data provided by the Florida Department of Children and Families.
- More than one-third of the 15,605 statewide marijuana admissions were in the SFLHIDTA.
- Treatment for marijuana addiction outranked all admissions to publically-funded treatment programs in the SFLHIDTA in CY 2019, followed by alcohol, cocaine, and heroin.
- Over two-thirds of regional admissions are male.
- Miami-Dade represents the largest number of marijuana treatment admissions, with 2,957 admissions, followed by Broward with 2,168, and Palm Beach with 1,078.

CONTROLLED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

“Until the powerful drug companies’ corruption is exposed, and they are stopped dead in their tracks, we will not see an end to the deaths from prescribed drugs.”

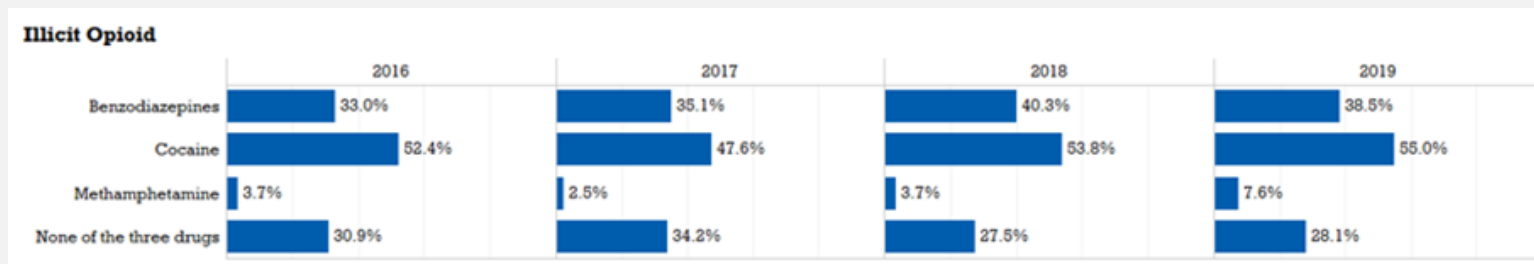
Janet Colbert, Founder STOPPNow

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CONTROLLED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

CPD DETECTED DEATHS IN THE SFLHIDTA

- There were 313 oxycodone detected deaths during 2018, compared with 349 in 2017.
- There were 560 alprazolam detected deaths during 2018, compared with 692 in 2017.
- Cocaine has been present in approximately half all prescription opioid-caused deaths since 2016.



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NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS)

“The novelty of NPS, their ambiguous legal status, ability to evade toxicological tests, swift adaptation to legal restrictions, global Internet marketing, and scant public knowledge of their adverse effects are among the key drivers of this twenty-first century phenomenon.”

Dr. Bertha Madras
The Growing Problem of New Psychoactive Substances

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NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS)

- Members of South Florida's club-drug subculture typically abuse NPS such as MDMA, and other variants labeled as ecstasy and molly. South Florida is home to the internationally acclaimed Ultra Musical Festival held each year. Over the years, the public venue has become a type of club-drug "symposium," where street-dealers converge to peddle an assortment of NPS to members of this select drug market. The event was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19.
- The use of NPS is also associated with poly-substance abuse patterns, as forensic crime labs and law enforcement investigators report more and more NPS cathinones, also containing fentanyl and its related substances. Since NPS distributors use the monikers, ecstasy and molly, to market an array of substances, the user often does not know what they are purchasing.

QUESTIONS?

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