

United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse

**Drug Abuse Trends
in Broward County, Florida
Annual Report: June 2015**



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Broward County, Florida Drug Epidemiology Network Annual Report - June 2015

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Section I. Highlights

- **Synthetic cathinone** (*e.g.*, ethylone, *alpha*-PVP, and methylone) crime lab cases in Southeastern Florida during 2014 totaled 1,811 representing a 46-percent increase over the previous year and accounting for 16 percent of such reports nationwide and 54 percent of those in Florida.
- **Alpha-PVP** is sold as “Flakka” in the region and is attributed to 27 deaths in Broward County between September 2014 and June 2, 2015 and numerous incidents of excited delirium medical emergencies and bizarre behavior. In the first four months of 2015 Broward County crime lab cases for *alpha*-PVP (n= 400 +) more than double the total for all of 2014 (n=190).
- An **Opiate** epidemic involving **heroin** and the nonmedical misuse of **pharmaceutical opioids** is increasing in Broward County with rising numbers of primary treatment admissions and crime lab cases. Heroin deaths increased between 2013 and 2014 as those for other opiates declined.
- None-the-less the proportion of **heroin** consequences among all substances is lower in Southeastern Florida than in most other areas of the nation.
- **Synthetic Cannabinoid** crime lab cases totaled 228 during 2014 in the three Southeast Florida counties representing a 57-percent increase over the previous year and just 11 percent of the 2014 reports Statewide. There were just 2 Poison Information Center exposure calls for THC-homologs in Broward County during calendar year 2014 but 10 in the first four months of 2015.
- **Cocaine** remains a major drug problem across the region and in Broward County, yet there were stable numbers of cocaine-related deaths and treatment admissions between 2013 and 2014.
- While significantly below the rates and numbers reported in the US West and the Atlanta, Georgia metro area in the East, **methamphetamine** deaths, treatment admissions, and crime lab reports increased in Florida during 2014 continuing a trend in rising consequences since 2011.
- Nearly 60 percent of **marijuana** primary treatment clients in Broward County are below the age of 18 years.
- **MDMA** has dramatically decreased in recent years as the drug detected in “ecstasy” or “Mollys.”
- **Benzodiazepine**-related deaths have decreased 37-percent Statewide since 2010 and a projected 73-percent decline in Broward County based on the first half of 2014.
- **Injecting drug use** (IDU) is the route of administration for 83 percent of heroin treatment clients in Broward County and nearly half of those whose primary drug is a prescription opioid as well as 24 percent of methamphetamine treatment clients.
- Increasingly e-cigarette and other vaporizing devices are reported for use of marijuana, methamphetamine, and new psychoactive synthetic drugs including *alpha*-PVP (“Flakka”).

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Section I. Area Description

The total population of Broward County is 1,784,889. Those age 21 years or older comprise 74 percent of the population and 26 percent are Hispanic or Latino. White, Non-Hispanics make up 42 percent of the County's residents while 26 percent are Black, Non-Hispanic. Asians account for 3.3 percent and 2.3 percent are of other racial/ethnic groups. The median household income is \$51,251.00 and 14.3 percent are people whose income in the past year was below the poverty level. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimates that there are 78,769 current (past 30-days) users of marijuana in the County and 41,692 current users of an illicit drug other than marijuana.

Section IC. Data Sources

Florida Department of Law enforcement: Florida Medical Examiners Commission Interim and Annual reports on Drugs Detected in Deceased Persons in Florida January 2010 - June 2014

Florida Department of Children and Families: Primary Drug Treatment Admissions in Broward County 2010 – 2012

Broward Behavioral Health Coalition: Drug Treatment Admissions in Broward County 2013 – 14

Florida Department of Children and Families: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Surveys 2000 – 14

Florida Agency for Health Care Administration: Opioid Poisoning Hospitalization Cases 2007-13

Florida Poison Information Center exposure calls for calendar year 2014 and January-April 2015

US Drug Enforcement Administration: National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS): Southeastern Florida crime lab cases 2014 data Queried: March 23, 2015

Center for Disease Control and Prevention: 2011 and 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS)

Florida Department of Health: Diagnosis of HIV and Hepatitis B and C for Broward County

U.S. Census Bureau: 2009-2013: Five-Year American Community Survey Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Southeastern Florida Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) comprised of Broward, Palm Beach, and Miami-Dade Counties

US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration: Substate Estimates from the 2010-2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

The United Way of Broward County's Commission on Substance Abuse Surveillance Support Committee and Flakka Community Action Team

Section II. Emerging Drugs and Patterns of Drug Use

This section of the report explores new issues and substances with significant increases in their indicators of abuse between the two most current reporting periods generally 2013 vs. 2014.

Synthetic Cathinones

The most dramatic emerging drug problem in Broward County in 2015 is the second generation synthetic cathinone, *alpha*-PVP, sold using the street name “Flakka” rather than the term “gravel” as found in most other parts of the country. Cathinones are man-made drugs chemically designed to mimic and be more potent than the stimulant in the Khat plant found in Africa and the Middle East. Drugs from the first generation of synthetic cathinones were known as “bath salt” stimulants and are now illegal as is *alpha*-PVP. Flakka is a colloquial Hispanic word referring to a slender, elegant, and beautiful woman who charms all. But this charmer is a killer. There have been 27 confirmed or presumed deaths among *alpha*-PVP users in just Broward County (Ft. Lauderdale area) between September 2014 and June 2, 2015 half of which have occurred since April 24 along with 3 deaths from ethylone, the latest synthetic cathinone to appear. Numerous cases of excited delirium among Flakka users have been broadcast around the world. Broward County hospitals are reporting up to an estimated 20 *alpha*-PVP overdose or excited delirium emergency department cases per day since March 2015.

Excited delirium is a syndrome of seriously elevated body temperature (or hyperthermia) as well as a breakdown of muscle tissue that leads to the release of muscle fiber contents into the blood (or rhabdomyolysis) and kidney failure. It is often linked to violent behavior by paranoid users with super human strength who are convinced that are being chased by imaginary animals, police, or people who are trying to kill them. Excited delirium can also result in death.

Sold in quantities as small as 1/10th of a gram for as little as \$3.00 to \$5.00 it is highly profitable for the dealers whose actual cost is very low. *Alpha*-PVP is sold over the internet from China for about \$1,500 per kilogram and shipped by world-wide express services to local mid-level dealers in packages containing from 1 to 5 kilograms. A single kilogram provides up to 10,000 doses at a 1/10th of a gram which selling for \$5.00 each will yield \$50,000 in sales or a profit of \$48,500. However it also requires high volume in sales. Yet with a retail price of \$5.00, most anyone can afford it and with a highly addictive drug repeat business is assured. Thus younger and poorer populations are targeted as customers. It is being actively sold to and by homeless persons.

There were 132 synthetic cathinone deaths in Florida during 2013 including 31 where the drug was considered to be a cause of death. There were an additional 72 medical examiner occurrences in the first half of 2014 with 19 attributed as being the cause of death. As previously cited, there have been 30 synthetic cathinone deaths (*alpha*-PVP, ethylone) in Broward County between late 2014 and the end of May 2015.

In all of Florida, there were 25 Florida Poison Information Center exposure calls for *alpha*-PVP in the first 4 months of 2015; these included 13 in Broward County, 10 in Palm Beach County, and 2 calls from Miami-Dade County. Exposure calls involve cases usually from a hospital emergency department where a patient is experiencing adverse consequences after smoking or ingesting a substance, but the count of exposure calls are fewer than the actual number of cases.

In Southeastern Florida, there were 1,811 crime lab reports for synthetic cathinones in 2014, up from 1,242 in 2013, 496 in 2012, and 74 in 2011. Among the 2014 crime lab reports there were 659 for ethylone, 576 for *alpha*-PVP, 471 for methylone, 53 for dimethylone (bk-MDDMA), 24 for butylone, 17 for MDPV, 6 for 4-MEC, 3 for dibutylone, 2 for brephedrone (4-BMC).

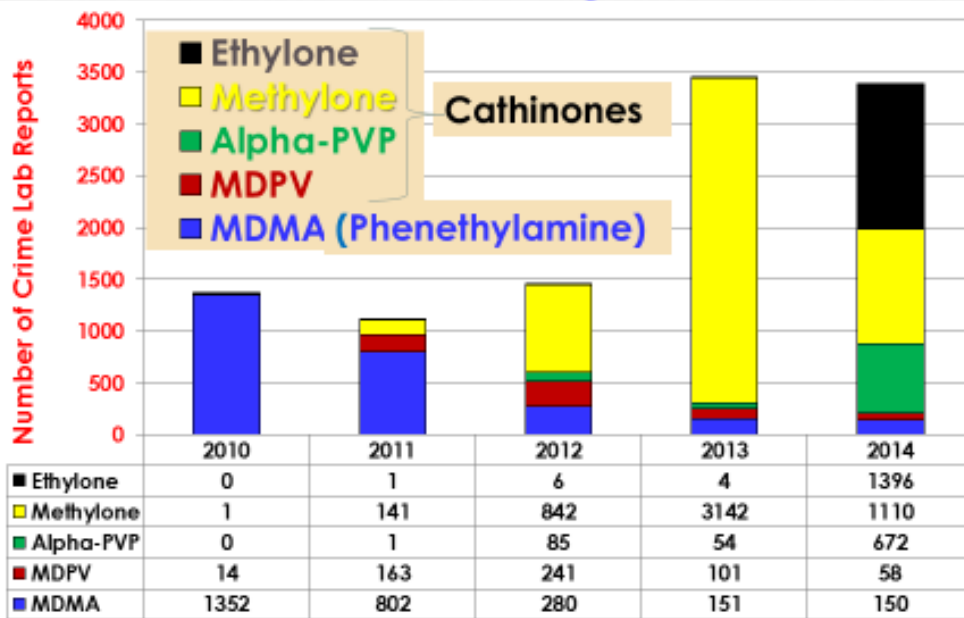
Top 10 Most Frequently Identified Drugs of Total Reports from South Florida Crime Labs Reports CY 2014¹

Drug	2014	% Δ vs. 2013
COCAINE	8,942	Down 12%
Marijuana/CANNABIS	4,587	Down 13%
Synthetic CATHINONES	1,811	Up 46%
Rx OPIOIDS	1,744	Up 87%*
Rx BENZODIAZEPINES	1,521	Up 79%*
HEROIN	1,333	Up 44%
METHAMPHETAMINE	387	Up 83%
AMPHETAMINE	306	Up 410%
Synthetic CANNABINOIDS	228	Up 57%
ACETAMINOPHEN	213	Up 228%
ALL OTHER	5,920	Up 84%
TOTAL	26,992	Up 17%

¹Data are for January–December 2014 and include primary, secondary, and tertiary reports.
SOURCE: US DEA - NFLIS data retrieved March 23, 2015

Ethylone and methylone are mostly sold as “Molly” capsules. There were only 86 crime lab cases for MDMA in 2014 down from 299 in 2011 in Southeastern Florida. Statewide the number declined from 1,352 in 2010 to 150 in 2014.

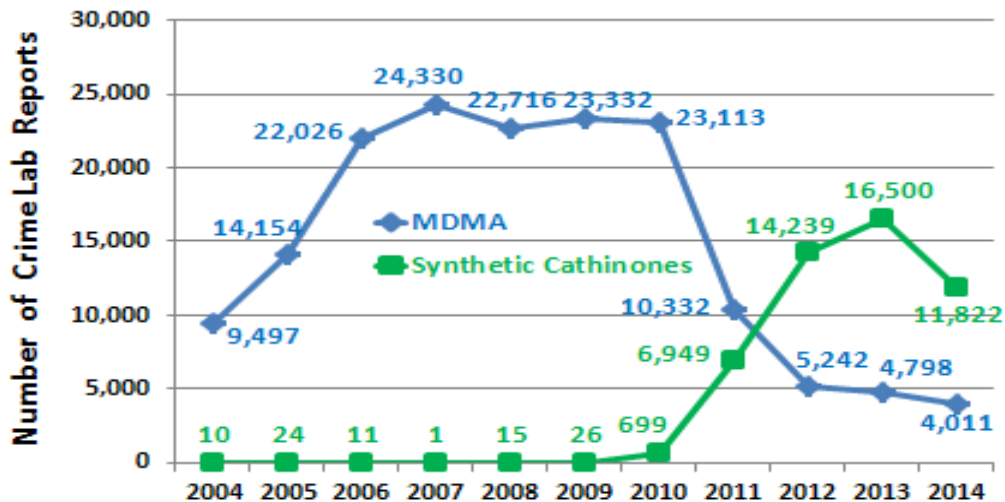
The Changing Face of Ecstasy, Molly, Flakka, et al in Florida Crime Lab Reports 2010-2014



Source: Analysis of US DEA - National Forensic Laboratory System Data

Nationally the number of MDMA crime lab cases declined from over 23,000 in 2010 to 4,000 in 2014 while synthetic cathinone crime lab cases increase from 699 to 11,822.

Number of National Crime Lab Reports for MDMA and Synthetic Cathinones: USA 2004-2013

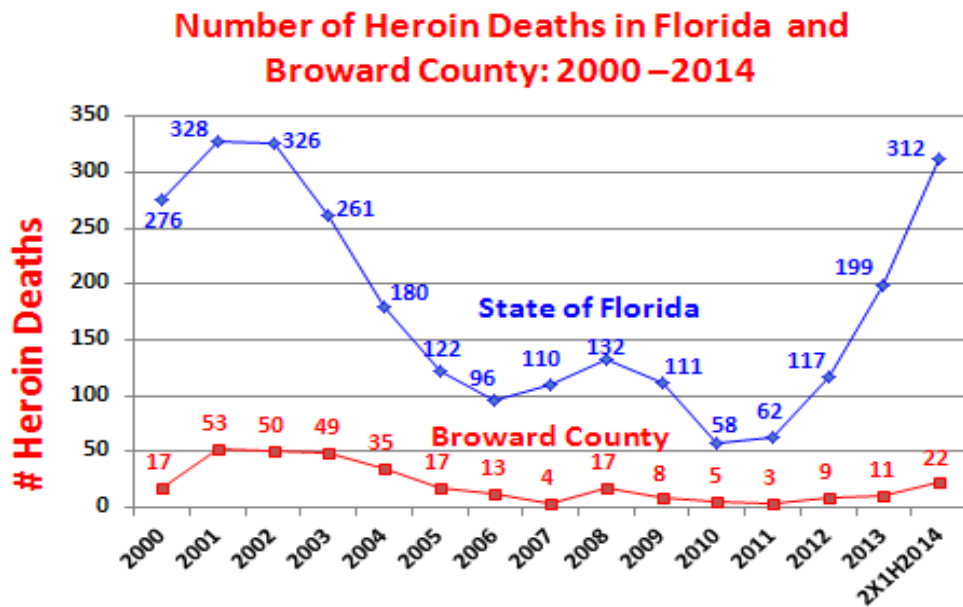


Source: US DEA - National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) 2014 Annual Data

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Heroin and Nonmedical Use of Prescription Opioids

From 2000 to 2010 there was a dramatic increase in the availability of diverted pharmaceutical opioids and deaths linked to their nonmedical misuse as well as primary opioid addiction treatment admissions. The problems were reported Statewide with Broward and Palm Beach Counties having the highest number of consequences. Numerous new laws and regulations took effect beginning in 2010 along with the tamper-resistant reformulation of high dose extended release opioids for which the collective impacts are reflected in declining opioid deaths beginning in 2011. At the same time heroin deaths began to increase sharply from 2012 to 2014 across Florida, rising 403-percent from 62 in 2011 to a projected 312 in 2014 based on reported cases from the first half of that year. In Broward County, heroin deaths increased 633-percent from 3 in 2011 to 22 projected for 2014 based on the first half the year. While heroin consequences are fewer in Florida than in other states and areas of the country, the sharp escalation in its use, treatment admission, and deaths in Florida along with stable and high levels of prescription opioid indicators constitute an opiate epidemic.



SOURCE: Florida Medical Examiners Commission Reports 2000-2014

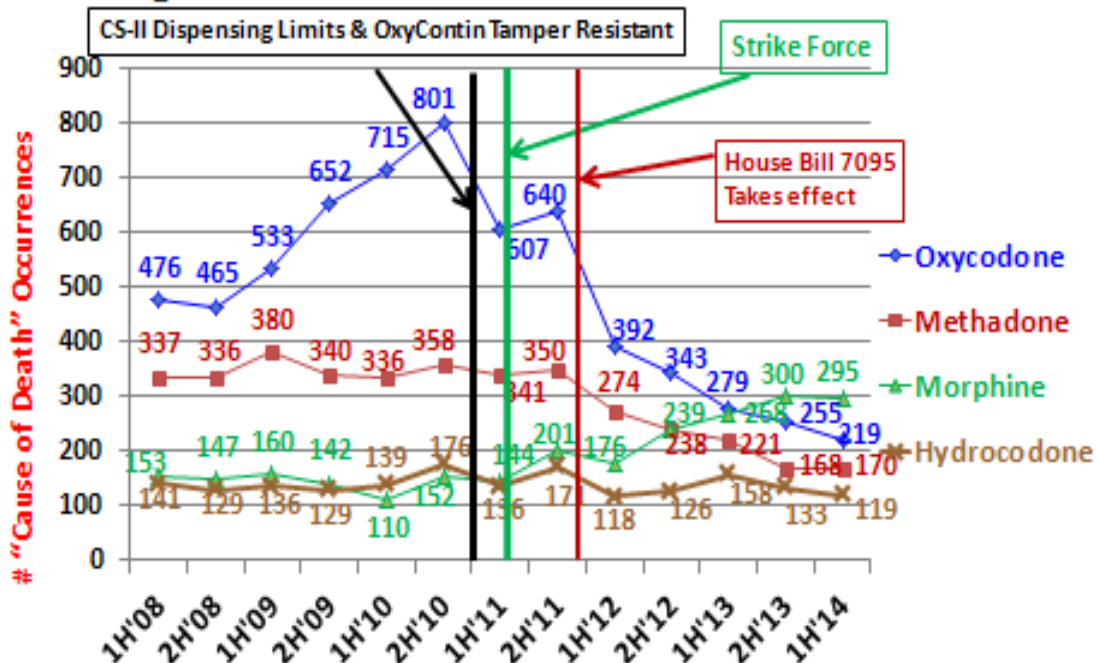
In 2010 there were 6,608 opioids detected in deceased person in Florida. That toll steadily decline 23-percent to 5,085 by 2013 and then stabilized to a projected 5,106 opioid occurrences in 2014 based on the first half of that year. Seventy percent of the 2014 deaths are related to 5 of the 11 opioids tracked by the Florida Medical Examiners Commission. Those 5 are morphine, oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, and fentanyl totaling 1,778 medical examiner occurrences in the first six months of 2014 across Florida and 104 in Broward County. Drug occurrences include reports where the drug was detected in a decedent and considered to be “present” at the time of death plus those cases when the drug was determined to be a “cause of death.”

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Florida's Response to Rx Drug Abuse

- **July 2010** – **Senate Bill 2272** Legal authority to close “Pill Mills” and limited practitioner dispensing of CS Schedule II to 3-day supply
- **August 2010** – **Tamper-resistant OxyContin®**.
- **March 2011** – Law Enforcement Strike Force
- **July 2011** - **House Bill 7095** Comprehensive law bans practitioner dispensing of CS II and new regulations. Permits **PDMP** to operate.

Number of Selected **Lethal** Rx Opioid Occurrences Among Deceased Persons in Florida 2008 to 2014



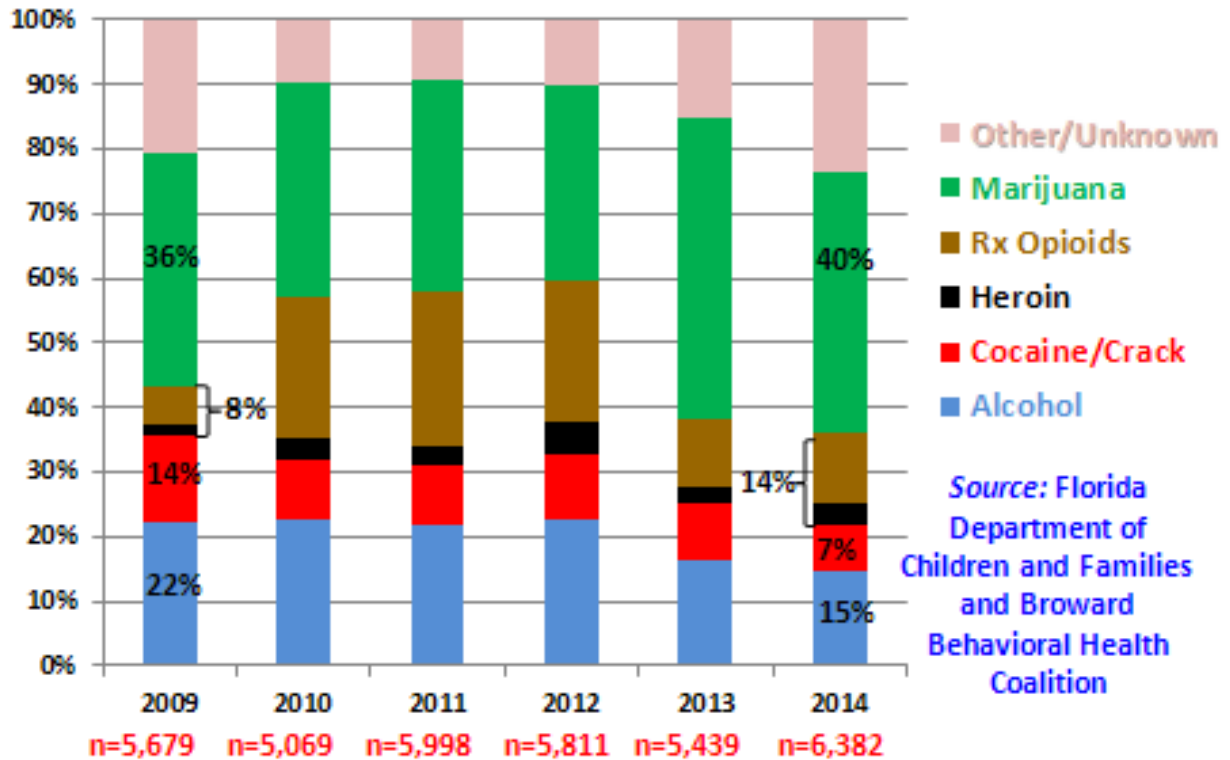
Source: FDLE – Drugs Identified In Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners
Jan 2008 - Jun 2014 Reports

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There were 5,917 hospital admissions for non-fatal opioid poisonings (overdoses) in Florida during 2013, the most current reporting year. Among these patients 88 percent did not have a diagnosis of an opioid dependency and were considered to be legally prescribed users of these medications. There were 401 such hospital admissions in Broward County during 2013 with 83 percent being without an opioid dependency admission. The number of these hospital admissions peaked in 2011 in the State of Florida at 6,464 and in Broward County in 2009 with 561 admissions.

There were 686 admissions for opiates other than heroin reported as primary treatment admissions in Broward County during 2014 up from 586 in 2013 but fewer than 1,260 in 2012 and 1,459 in 2011. The 2014 admissions accounted for 10.7 percent of all addiction treatment primary admissions. Females accounted for 56 percent of the prescription opioid treatment clients and 15 percent were between 18 and 25 years of age, 32 percent were aged 26-34, and 23 percent were 35 and older, yet the age of 30 percent of these clients was not reported. Injecting drug use was the primary route of administration for half of these clients. Heroin accounted for an additional 3.3 percent of the 2014 primary admissions for a combined rate of 14 percent for all opiates (heroin and opioids) down from 27 percent in 2011.

Percent of Treatment Admissions by Primary Drug Broward County: 2009 - 2014



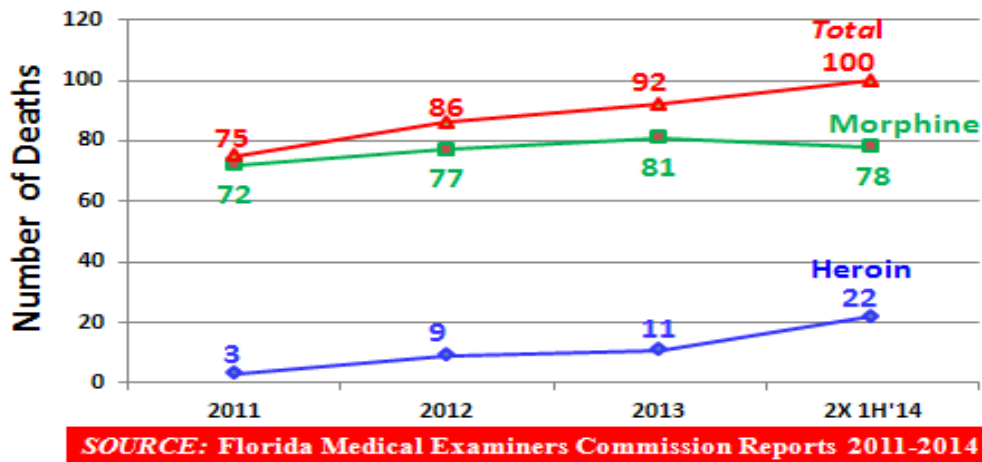
There were 1,774 prescription opioid crime laboratory reports, or 6 percent of the 26,992 total primary, secondary, and tertiary NFLIS reports for Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties combined in 2014. This category of drugs ranked fourth among all substances analyzed in the three counties in 2014. The number of prescription opioid crime laboratory reports increased 87-percent between 2013 and 2014.

In the first six months of 2014 there were 156 heroin-related deaths across Florida including 11 in Broward County. The local heroin decedents included 1 who was aged 18-24, 4 between 25 and 34 years of age, 4 aged 35-50, and 2 more older than 50. There were an additional 39 morphine deaths in Broward County in the first half of 2014. Because heroin rapidly metabolizes to morphine in the body, it is possible that many of the morphine deaths may be related to heroin abuse.

Metabolism of Heroin

- Heroin (diacetylmorphine) is metabolized to morphine.
- Heroin undergoes rapid deacetylation to 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM), which is about 6 times more potent than morphine.
- 6-MAM is further deacetylated to morphine.
- The effects of heroin are attributed to the combined effect of heroin, 6-MAM, and morphine.
- Diacetylmorphine → 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM) → Morphine

Heroin and Morphine Deaths in Broward County Florida: 2010 -2X 1st Half 2014



There were 212 admissions for heroin reported as primary treatment admissions in Broward County during 2014, up from 128 in 2013 but fewer than the 292 in 2012. Males accounted for 57 percent of the local heroin clients in 2014. One patient was under 18 years of age and 19 percent were between 18 and 25 years of age, 46 percent were 26-34, and 34 percent were aged 35 and older. Injecting was the primary route of administration for 83 percent of the heroin clients.

There were 1,333 heroin crime laboratory reports, or 5 percent of the 26,992 total primary, secondary, and tertiary NFLIS reports for Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties combined in 2014. This category of drugs ranked sixth among all substances analyzed in the three counties in 2014. The number of heroin crime laboratory reports increased 44-percent between 2013 and 2014.

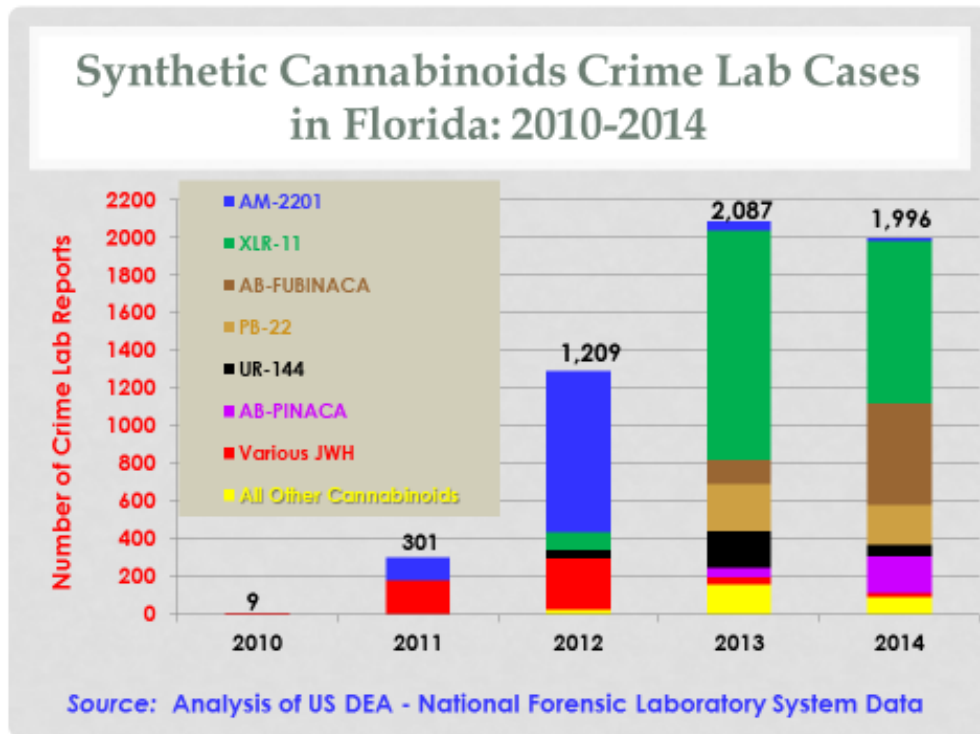
Synthetic Cannabinoids

The availability of unregulated synthetic cannabinoids increased via retail sale throughout 2010 and the first half of 2011. Their use was mostly among those who were subject to frequent drug testing that did not identify these products. However, drug tests are now available for their detection for some but not all of these ever changing substances. Also, the five synthetic cannabinoids that were federally scheduled in 2011 were made illegal by the 2011 Florida Legislature, which also banned other cannabinoids in 2012. There were 175 exposure calls statewide to Florida Poison Information Centers in 2014 for various synthetic cannabinoids (e.g., “K2” or “Spice”), down from 194 in 2013 and 537 in 2012 and 517 calls in 2011. Among the calls in 2014, 25 were from Miami-Dade County, 2 were from Broward County, and 3 were from Palm Beach County. In the first 4 months of 2015, there were 88 poison exposure calls for synthetic cannabinoids in all of Florida as compared to 34 in the first four months of 2014 and 78 in the

same time period during 2013. Of the exposure calls from January through April 2015, 14 were from Miami-Dade, 10 were from Broward, and 1 was from Palm Beach County. Nationally there have been 1,900 Poison Information Center exposure calls for synthetic cathinones between January and April 2015 with high numbers reported in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

There were also 2 Synthetic Cannabinoid deaths in the first half of 2014 across Florida with 1 of the occurrences being considered a cause of death compared to 26 such occurrences in calendar year 2013 of which 13 were considered to be a cause of death,

Across all of Florida the number of crime lab reports for synthetic cannabinoids increase from 9 in 2010 to 1,996 in 2014.



In Southeastern Florida there were 228 crime lab reports for synthetic cannabinoids in 2014, up from 145 in 2013, 190 in 2012, and 19 in 2011. Among the 14 different synthetic cannabinoids reported in 2014 were 88 items for XLR-11, 55 for AB-Fubinaca, 26 for PB-22, 20 for Tetrahydrocannabinols, 17 for AB-Pinaca, 5 for AB-Chminaca, 5 for UR-144, 3 for 5-Fluoro AMB, 3 for THJ 2201, 2 for AM-2201, as well as one each for 5F-PB-22, AKB48 N, JWH-018, and JWH-122.

Methamphetamine/Amphetamines

Indicators of methamphetamine abuse reflect continuing increases in the drug's use in 2014 and 2015, yet remained at low levels relative to other substances and other areas of the nation. Methamphetamine was cited as the primary drug for addiction treatment by 76 clients in

Southeastern Florida during 2014. However private treatment counselors continued to report a resurgence in methamphetamine abuse among men who have sex with men beginning in 2012.

It is suspected that the methamphetamine being used locally is produced in Mexico. Domestic clandestine laboratory production in Florida mostly appears still to be in the north and central parts of the State using the 2-liter soda bottles “shake and bake” method that yields a relatively small amount of methamphetamine for personal use by the “cook” and for sharing with those who may have helped supply the precursor, pseudoephedrine.

Methamphetamine was detected among 109 deceased persons during the first half of 2014 statewide in Florida, compared with 81 in the first half of 2013 and 169 for the full year of 2013. Methamphetamine was considered a cause of death in 40 (37 percent) of the cases during the first half of 2014. There were also 132 reports of amphetamine detected among decedents across Florida in the first 6 months of 2014, compared to 111 such occurrences in the first half of 2013. Amphetamine was considered the cause of death in 28 (or 21 percent) of the cases in the first half of 2014.

There were 37 primary treatment admissions for methamphetamine in Broward County during 2014. Males accounted for 84 percent of the clients. One of the patients was below 18 years of age; 16 percent were between 18 and 25, 38 percent were between 26 and 34 while 43 were age 35 or older. There were also 28 primary treatment admissions for amphetamine in Broward County during 2014.

There were 387 methamphetamine crime laboratory reports, or 1 percent of the 26,992 total primary, secondary, and tertiary NFLIS reports for Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties combined in 2014. Methamphetamine ranked seventh among all substances analyzed in the three counties in 2014. The number of methamphetamine crime laboratory reports increased 83-percent between 2013 and 2014. There were also 306 amphetamine crime laboratory reports, or 1 percent of the 2014 total ranking eighth among all substances and representing a 410-percent increase from the 60 amphetamine crime lab reports in 2013.

Vaping

The Oxford English Dictionary’s word of the year for 2014 was “vape” used to describe inhaling and exhaling vapors produced by an electronic cigarette or similar device. Usage of the word doubled last year. While most use of vaporizing devices are for liquid nicotine, illicit drug use is increasing being vaped including marijuana, methamphetamine, *alpha*-PVP (“Flakka”), crushed and liquefied pharmaceuticals. An even more advanced vaping delivery system for marijuana wax or “budder” is called dabbing and uses a special water pipe with metal that can withstand extreme temperatures from a propane torch.

Marijuana wax is produced by soaking left over marijuana leaves and stems of plants in a solvent such as butane which extracts various components of the plant including any number of cannabinoids which are the active drugs in the marijuana. The gooey residue is then

allowed to dry-out resulting in a sticky paste ranging in color from brown to dark green or yellow. The wax can be smeared onto a marijuana joint or tobacco cigarette, placed in a water pipe, or most often melted in a vaporizer or electronic cigarette device. The inhaled wax vapors have a much higher dose level of not only THC but other cannabis ingredients. Products called marijuana wax could also be made from synthetic marijuana chemicals bought online.

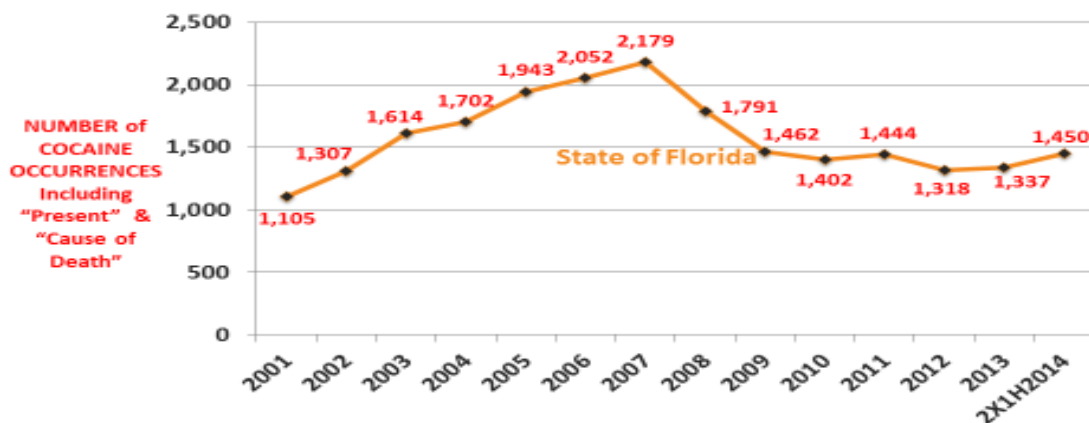
Section III. Update on Continuing Drug Use Problems

This section of the report monitors the most current available data on issues related to major substances with ongoing but generally stable indicators of abuse between the two most current reporting periods 2013 vs. 2014.

Cocaine/Crack

The proportion of indicators for consequences of cocaine use in Southeastern Florida as compared to other drugs continues to be among the highest rates in the Nation. The relatively steady decline in cocaine problems from 2007 to 2010 stabilized through 2013. However the numbers of deaths in which cocaine was detected increased in all of Florida in the first half of 2014 as well as in Broward and Palm Beach Counties while remaining stable in Miami-Dade County. The percent of deaths considered to be caused by cocaine among the total number of cases where the drug was detected also increased across the State and in the region. Both the number and proportion of primary treatment admissions for cocaine among all substances increased in Miami-Dade County between 2013 and 2014 while remaining stable in Broward County. The majority of cocaine-related deaths and addiction treatment admissions were among those older than 35 years. Many of the indicators reflected cocaine use in combination with other drugs, including a significant majority of cocaine-related deaths in Florida and the three Southeastern counties.

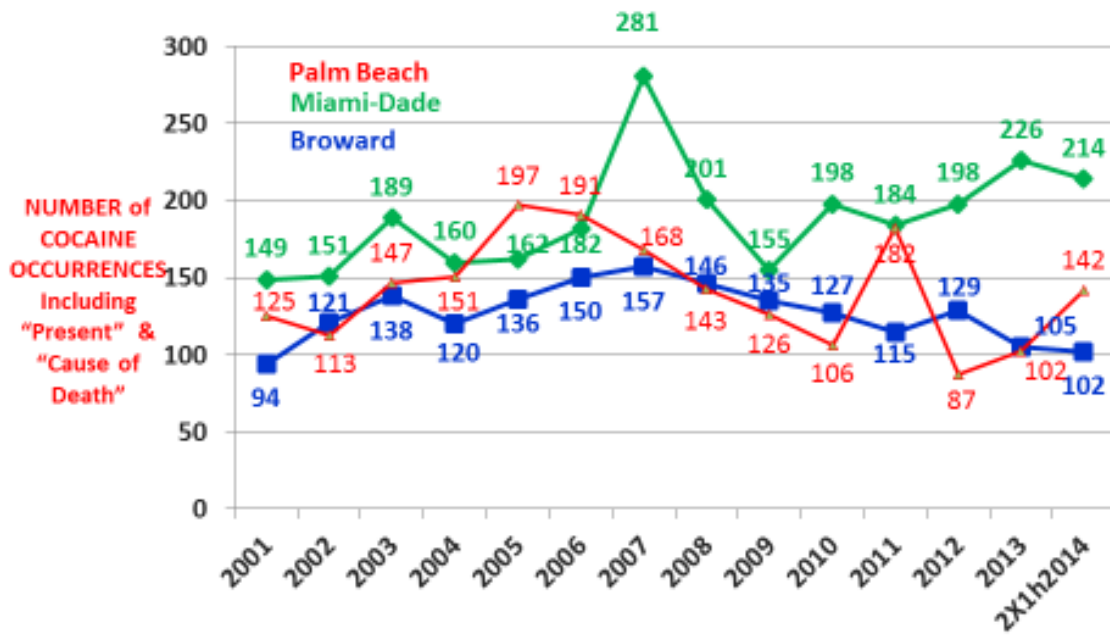
Number of Cocaine Reports Detected Among Decedents in Florida: 2001 - 2014



SOURCE: Florida Medical Examiners Commission Annual Report Jan-Jun 2014

There were 51 deaths related to cocaine abuse in Broward County in the first half of 2014, for an annualized rate of 102 occurrences, similar to the 105 in all of 2013. Cocaine was found in combination with another drug in 80 percent of the 2014 cases. Cocaine was detected at a lethal level in 71 percent of the Broward County cases in the first half of 2014. One of the 2014 cocaine-related fatalities was younger than 18; 12 percent were age 18–25; 25 percent were 26–34; 37 percent were 35–50; and 24 percent were older than 50. Broward County’s number of cocaine-related deaths ranked fifth among the 24 medical examiner districts in the State during the first half of 2014.

Number of Cocaine Reports Detected Among Decedents in Southeastern Florida: 2001 - 2014



SOURCE: Florida Medical Examiners Commission Annual Report Jan-Jun2014

In Broward County, there were 298 primary admissions for cocaine smoking (crack) and an additional 173 for powder cocaine, accounting for a total of 471 (or 7.4 percent) of the 6,382 publicly funded primary treatment admissions programs (including 929 for alcohol) in 2014. These totals represent a modest decrease in the proportion of cocaine primary admissions from 2013 ($n=478$), when cocaine accounted for 8.8 percent of all admissions. Males accounted for 62 percent of the 2014 clients; 61 percent ($n=286$) were age 35 or older; and 4 percent ($n=19$) were age 17 or younger.

Cocaine continued to be the most commonly analyzed substance by local crime laboratories. It accounted for 8,942 NFLIS reports, or 33 percent of the 26,992 total primary, secondary, and tertiary crime laboratory reports for Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties

combined in 2014. This represents a 12-percent decline compared to the 10,147 cocaine crime laboratory reports in 2013.

Projections from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) Substate Data estimate that there were 24,271 users of cocaine in the past year aged 12 and above living in Broward County or 8.5 percent of the estimated 283,287 past year cocaine users Statewide.

Marijuana/Cannabis

Marijuana remains the number one primary substance for addiction treatment in Broward County in 2014 and ranks second after alcohol in Miami-Dade and third in Palm Beach County behind alcohol and prescription opioids. Treatment admissions for marijuana in proportion to other substances declined in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties between 2010 and 2014, a trend observed nationally. Consequences of marijuana use and addiction continued at high levels, particularly among adolescents and young adults.

Cannabinoids were detected in 492 deaths statewide in Florida during the first half of 2014, a 23-percent increase from the 401 occurrences during the first six months of 2013. One of the occurrences was considered to be a cause of death.

In Broward County, there were 2,578 primary admissions for marijuana during 2014 (or 40 percent) of the 6,382 primary treatment admissions. The 2014 proportion of marijuana admissions was below that from 2013, when the drug accounted for 46.4 percent of all admissions. Males accounted for 72 percent of the 2013 clients; 59 percent were younger than 18; 22 percent were age 18–25; 13 percent were 26–34; and 6 percent were 35 or older.

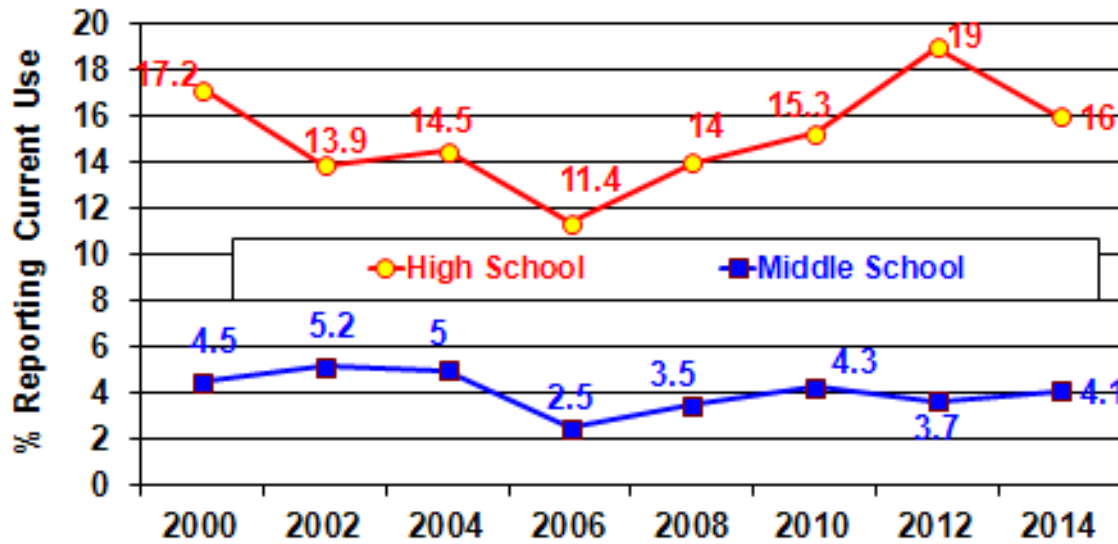
Cannabis/THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) accounted for 4,587 crime laboratory reports, or 17 percent of the 26,992 total primary, secondary, and tertiary NFLIS reports for Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties combined in 2014. This total decreased 13-percent from the number of marijuana crime laboratory cases in 2013. As in previous years, marijuana ranked second among all substances analyzed in the three counties.

Projections from the NSDUH estimate that there were 78,769 current (past 30 day) marijuana users aged 12 and above living in Broward County. The estimate for Miami-Dade and Monroe (The Florida Keys) Counties was 106,346 and an additional 59,321 in Palm Beach County for a total of 244,436 for these four Southeastern Florida counties or 25.8 percent of the 947,386 past month users Statewide. The average annual number of first time marijuana users totaled 59,955 in the four Southeastern Florida counties according to the 2010-2012 NSDUH Substate Data.

There were no significant difference in the current use of marijuana among high school students between 2011 and 2013 in the Southeastern Florida MSA according to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey results. However, the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Surveys revealed the rate of Broward County high school students reporting past 30 day use of marijuana increased from 15.3 percent in 2010 to 19 percent in 2012 and then declined to 16 percent

in 2014. The rate for middle school students remained relatively stable from 2010 to 2014 while going from 4.3 percent in 2010 to 3.7 percent in 2012 and then back up to 4.1 percent in 2014.

Current (past 30-day) Marijuana Use Among Broward County Middle and High School Students 2000-2014



Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Surveys 2000-2014

Nonmedical Use of Prescription Benzodiazepines

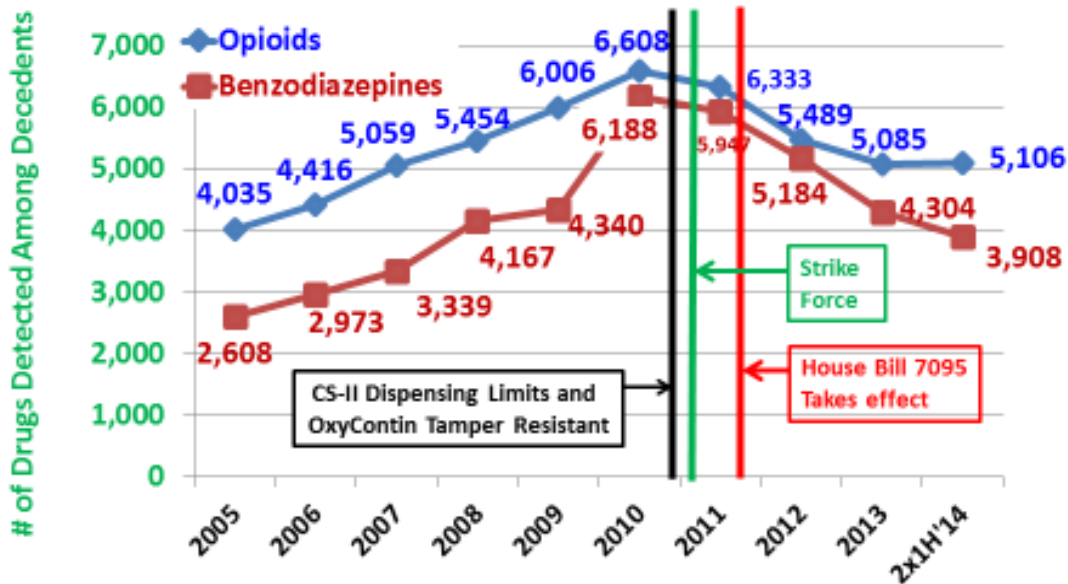
Benzodiazepines in general and specifically alprazolam (Xanax®) continued as a substantial problem in Southeastern Florida, particularly when used non-medically in combination with other pharmaceuticals, alcohol, and illicit drugs. There were 1,954 reports of a benzodiazepine present in deceased persons across Florida in the first half of 2014, representing a 15-percent decrease in the total number ($n=2,287$) of benzodiazepine occurrences compared with the first half of 2013 and a 25-percent decrease since the first half of 2012 ($n=2,622$). The projected 3,908 Florida benzodiazepine deaths for all of 2014 represent a 37-percent decline from the 6,188 total in 2010.

Of the benzodiazepine occurrences in the first half of 2014, 41 percent were considered “a cause of death.” Among the benzodiazepine medical examiner (ME) reports statewide, 577 were attributed to alprazolam, 302 to nordiazepam (Nordaz®), 270 were for diazepam (Valium®); 231

for temazepam (Restoril®, and Normison®), and 574 were attributed to 6 other benzodiazepines.

Across the 3 counties of the Southeastern Florida MSA, there were 125 reports of alprazolam detected in deceased persons during the first half of 2014, of which 52 percent were considered lethal. There were also 62 reports of diazepam detected in deceased persons with 42 percent considered to be the cause of death. Broward County reported 29 alprazolam deaths and 13 for diazepam in the first half of 2014 for a projected total of 84 for the entire year representing a 73-percent decline from the 2010 annual total (n=315).

Number of Nonmedical Rx Opioids and Benzodiazepine Reports Detected among Decedents in Florida 2005 – 2X 1st H 2014



Source: FDLE – Drugs Identified In Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners
Jan 2005 - Jun 2014 Reports

There were 101 admissions for benzodiazepines reported as primary treatment admissions in Broward County, 99 in Miami-Dade County and 143 in Palm Beach County during 2014. Females accounted for 61 percent of the 2014 benzodiazepine clients in Broward County and 56 percent of clients across the region.

Prescription benzodiazepines accounted for 1,521 crime laboratory reports, or 6 percent of the 26,992 total primary, secondary, and tertiary NFLIS reports for Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties combined in 2014. This category of drugs ranked fifth among all substances analyzed in the three counties in 2014. The number of prescription benzodiazepine crime laboratory reports increased 79-percent between 2013 and 2014.

Drug Abuse Trends in Broward County, Florida: June 2015

Appendix

MS EXCEL WORKSHEETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.drugfreebroward.org

- Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics
- Prevalence of Drug Use National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) Substate Data
- Prevalence of Drug Use by Age Groups 2010-2012 NSDUH Substate Data
- Prevalence of Drug Use Broward High School Students Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
- Trends in Treatment Admissions by Primary Drug Broward County 2010-2014
- Profile of 2014 Treatment Admissions by Primary Drug in Broward County
- CDC&P Drug Poisoning Deaths 2009-2012
- Opioid Poisoning Hospitalization with and without a Dependency Diagnosis 2007 -2013
- HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Cases
- HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Cases by Transmission Category
- National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) Crime Lab Cases -2014
- NFLIS Crime Lab Cases for Novel Psychoactive Drugs (NPS) Synthetic Cathinones, Cannabinoids, and Phenethylamines
- Drug-Related Deaths reported by Florida Medical Examiners Commission – January to June 2014
- Florida Poison Information Center Exposure and Information Calls 2014 and January-April 2015

United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse
Annual Drug Trends Report June 2015