



2026

FLORIDA SUBSTANCE USE TRENDS Annual Report

This report is sponsored by FADAA, a subsidiary of the Florida Behavioral Health Association, and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families.

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Managing Entities	2
Report on Development Strategy	4
Population	5
Substance Use	6
Opioids	6
Pain Reliever Misuse Among Adults	6
Pain Reliever Misuse Among Youth.....	6
Heroin Use Among Adults.....	8
Heroin Use Among Youth.....	9
Psychostimulant Use.....	10
Cocaine Use Among Adults	10
Cocaine Use Among Youth	11
Methamphetamine Use Among Adults	12
Methamphetamine Use Among Youth	13
Marijuana Use	14
Marijuana Use Among Adults.....	14
Marijuana Use Among Youth.....	15
Vaping Use	18
Vaping Nicotine Among Youth.....	18
Vaping Marijuana Among Youth.....	20
Alcohol Use.....	21
Alcohol Use Among Adults	22
Alcohol Use Among Youth	23
Inhalant Use.....	26
Inhalant Use Among Youth	26
Club Drug Use	26
Club Drug Use Among Youth.....	26
Morbidity	28
Emergency Room Visits	28

Mortality: Fatal Poisoning.....	29
The Role of Opioids	31
The Role of Stimulants	35
Conclusions	38
Adult Substance Use	38
Youth Substance Use.....	38
Non-Fatal Poisonings.....	38
Fatal Poisonings	38
Data Sources	39

Introduction

The 2026 Florida Substance Use Trends Annual Report presents data and information about substance use in Florida and the U.S. It includes data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [National Center for Health Statistics](#), [Florida Department of Health Florida Health Charts](#), and the [Florida Medical Examiners Commission Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners: 2024 Annual Report](#). It also includes data from the [2023-2024 NSDUH: Model-Based Estimated Prevalence for States](#) based on the 2023-2024 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the [Monitoring The Future Study](#) by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, and the [2025 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey](#) from the Florida's Department of Children and Families.

Managing Entities

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) contracts for behavioral health services through seven regional systems of care called Managing Entities. These entities do not provide direct services; rather, they allow DCF's funding to be tailored to the specific behavioral health needs and providers in the various regions of the State. With the exception of the Managing Entity that serves Broward County, the other six Managing Entities serve regions comprised of a group of geographically contiguous counties (Figure 1).

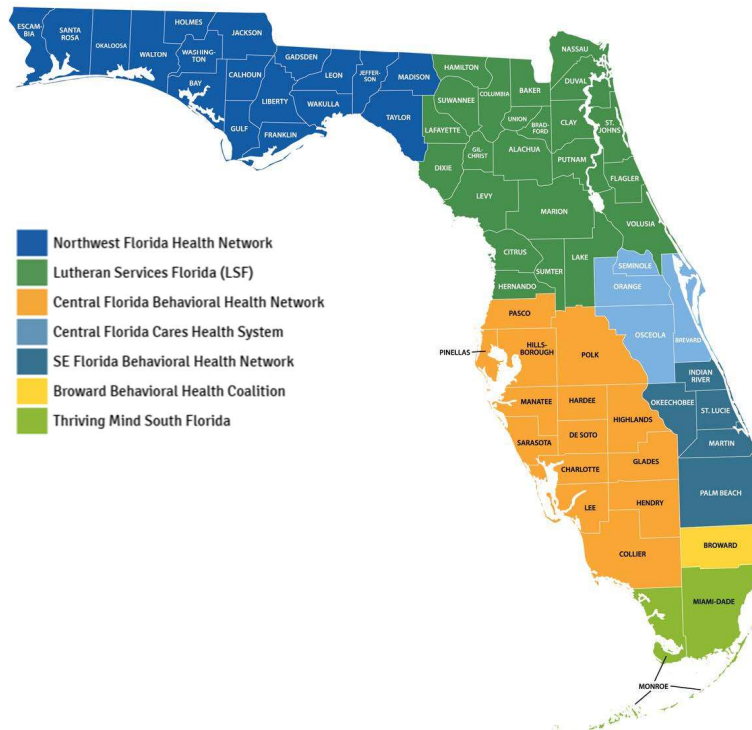


Figure 1. Florida by Department of Children and Families Region, Managing Entity, Circuit, and County.
Source: [Managing Entities, Florida Department of Children and Families](#).

The Northwest Florida Health Network (NWF Health) serves: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington.


Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) serves: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lake, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Sumter, Suwannee, Union, and Volusia.

The Central Florida Cares Health System, Inc. (CFCHS) serves: Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties.

The Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (CFBHN) serves: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands, Hendry, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota.

The Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN) serves: Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties.

 The **Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, Inc.** (BBHC) serves Broward County

 **Thriving Mind South Florida** serves: Monroe and Dade counties.

Because behavioral health services are administered by a different entity in each of these regions, current patterns and trends in substance abuse are reported for regions served by Managing Entities, when possible, that is, when county-specific data are available to aggregate by region.

A note on Age

Prevention and treatment as well as funding streams differ for youth and adults. Thus, when possible, data presented in this report are often provided separately for youth and adults. Because data are collected in school-based surveys conducted at middle and high schools, youth are classified as 12-17 years of age, which is the typical age range for school-age children enrolled at these institutions. Adults are classified as those ages 18 years and older.

Report on Development Strategy

Data presented in the 2026 Annual Report were obtained from the following sources.

Florida county population data and estimates from 2000 to 2025 [FL Health Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set](#) (FLHealthCHARTS).

The [Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey \(FYSAS\)](#) assesses risk and protective factors for substance use and is administered to Florida's middle and high school students. FYSAS data from 2010-2025 are used to calculate prevalence rates for this report.

Data on substance use among adults and youth in the United States and Florida is from the [2023-2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) (NSDUH), sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This source provides the prevalence of substance use based on survey responses. The most current data from NSDUH is from 2024. The estimated prevalence rates using NSDUH data for the United States and Florida are two-year running averages. Throughout the report, two-year running average rates are plotted at the midpoint of the period. For example, the 2017-2018 average prevalence is plotted at 2017.5. In 2015, changes were made to NSDUH questionnaires and the data collection process. For prevalence rates affected by these changes, there are gaps in the figures between 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. Effective 2021, NSDUH state data tables provide estimates for 35 measures of substance use and mental health by age group. Due to methodology changes, they cannot be compared to previous years' estimates. Therefore, it is suggested to use caution when attempting to compare national data from 2020 with prior years.

Morbidity (hospitalizations and emergency department visits) rates for the United States are age-adjusted data. Florida-specific morbidity rates were obtained through the public-facing dashboard [FL Health CHARTS, provided by Florida Department of Health and](#) maintained by Florida's Bureaus of Community Health Assessment and Vital Statistics. Morbidity rates for Florida overall are age-adjusted and obtained directly from [FLHealth CHARTS](#). Morbidity rates for sub-Florida regions are unadjusted and were calculated using counts of hospitalizations and emergency department visits from the [Florida Department of Health, Florida Health Charts](#) and population estimates from the [Florida Estimates of Population, Population Studies Program](#).

Mortality rates for Florida and the United States from 2015 to 2024 are age-adjusted and were obtained from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [National Center for Health Statistics](#).

Population

The estimated total population in Florida in 2025 was 23,379,261 (Figure 2).

Of the seven Managing Entity regions, the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc., serves the largest population with over 6.6 million people and 28% of Florida's population. NWF Health serves the smallest population, 1.6 million people and 7% of the state's population.

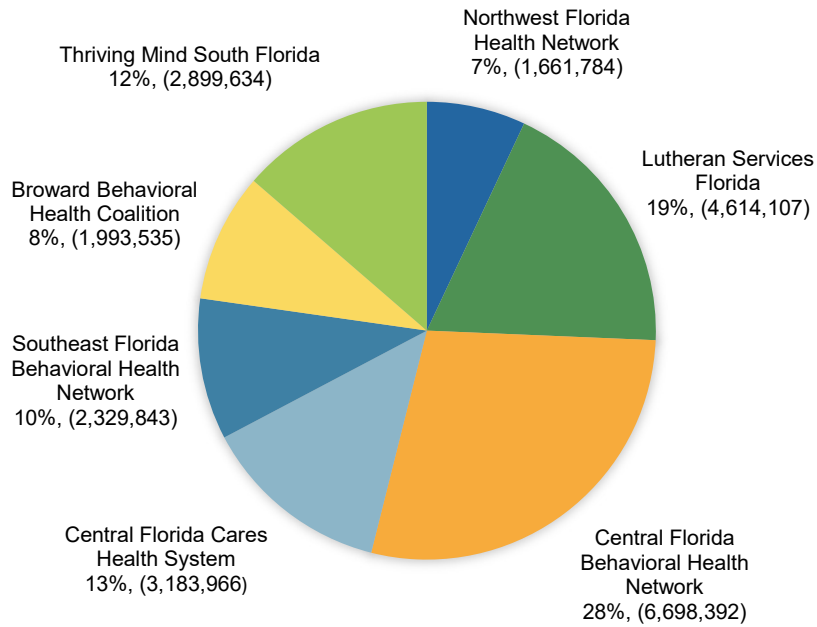


Figure 2. Estimated population by Managing Entity Region, 2025. Total Population = 23,379,261. Source: [FL BEBR](#).

Substance Use

This section of the report presents prevalence rates for drugs that are commonly misused and/or can result in substance use disorder for Florida and the United States (U.S.). Substance use trends are shown for youth, ages 12 – 17 years, and adults, ages 18 years and older. When regional or county data are available, patterns and trends in substance use are presented by Managing Entity.

Opioids

Opioids are a class of drugs that include pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, and morphine. Like its illicit counterparts, prescription opioids can be misused, increasing the risk of adverse consequences, such as overdose and death. Opioids that are produced and sold illicitly include heroin and synthetic fentanyl.

Pain Reliever Misuse Among Adults

Based on data collected through the [National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\)](#), results of two-year averages indicate that past year pain reliever misuse among adults in the U.S. and Florida has decreased to 3.2% and 2.5%, respectively, for 2021 (Figure 3). Since the 2021 report, prevalence rates have decreased among U.S. adults to 2.9%, indicating the lowest rate since 2015. Florida adults reported the misuse of pain relievers at 2.5% in 2021. The 2022-2023 report showed an increase to 3.0% and then a slight decrease to 2.8% in the 2023-2024 report.

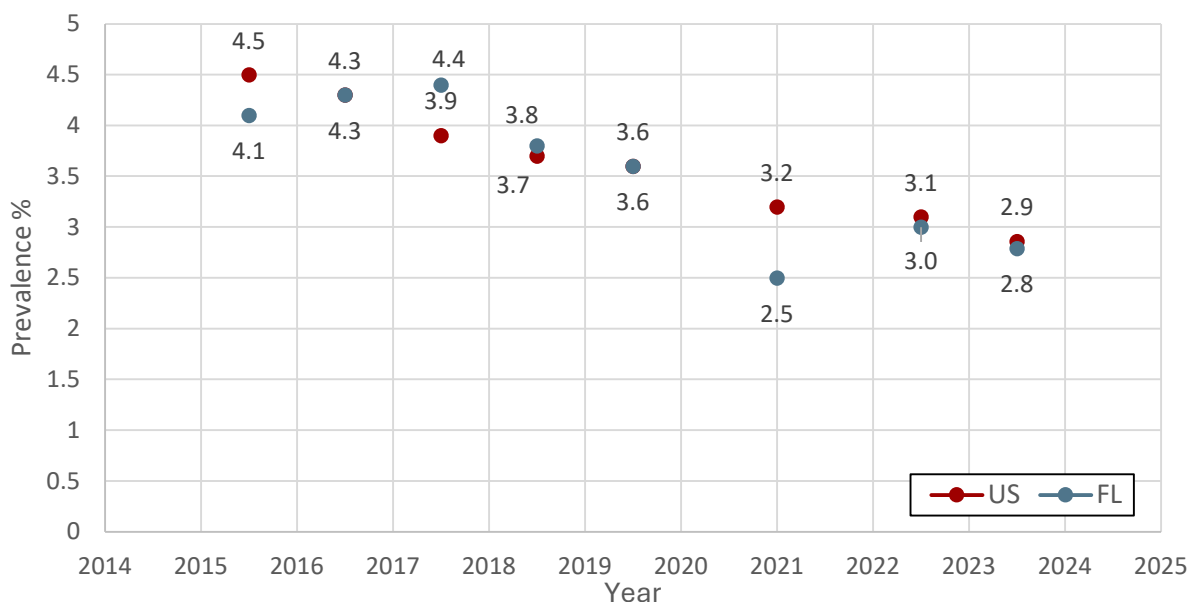


Figure 3. Two-Year Average Past-Year Pain Reliever Misuse Among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#)

Pain Reliever Misuse Among Youth

The misuse of opioid pain relievers among youth differs from adults (Figure 4). With a sharper decline for past year pain reliever misuse, the rate at which youth misuse pain relievers is below the prevalence of misuse among adults. The two-year averages for 2021-2022 are the same for youth in U.S. and Florida at 1.9% (Figure

4). Similar to U.S. adult trends, U.S. youth trends remain stable while Florida youth rates increased to 2.1% in 2022-2023. In the most recent 2023-2024 NSDUH report, both U.S. and Florida youth reported 1.8%, a reduction in past year pain reliever misuse from the previous two-year average reporting years.

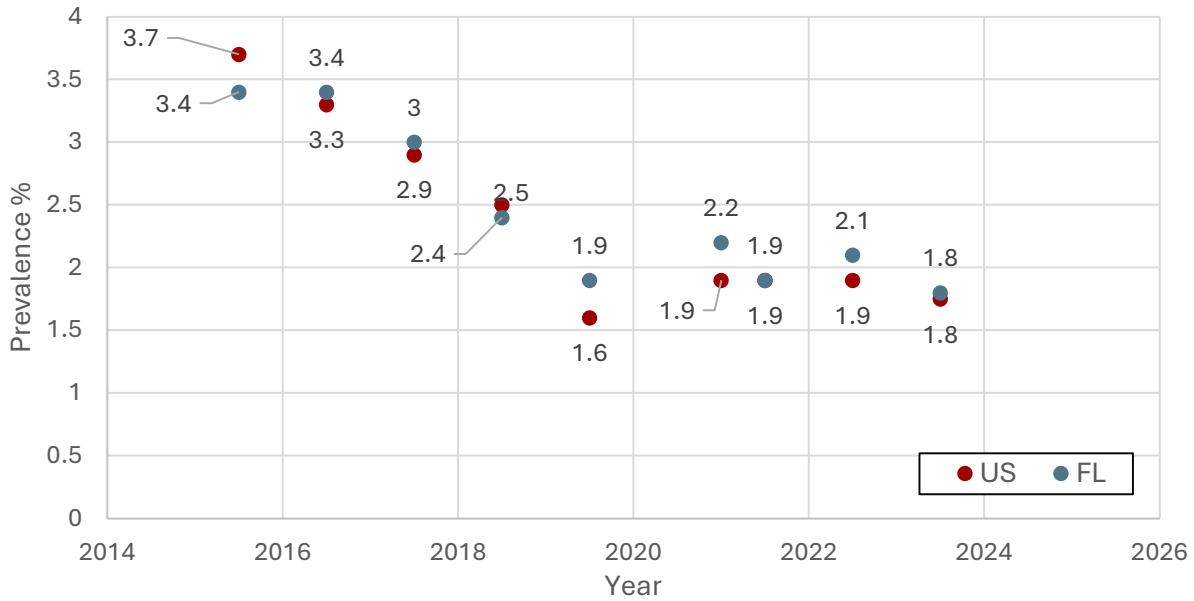


Figure 4. Two-Year Average Past-Year Pain Reliever Misuse Among Youth, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#)

The [Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey \(FYSAS\)](#) assesses substance abuse prevalence and risk and protective factors for substance abuse among Florida youth. According to 2025 FYSAS data, both lifetime and past 30-day pain reliever misuse has decreased among Florida middle and high schoolers since 2010. Past 30-day misuse is less than 1% while lifetime misuse decreased to 1.5% in 2025 (Figure 5).

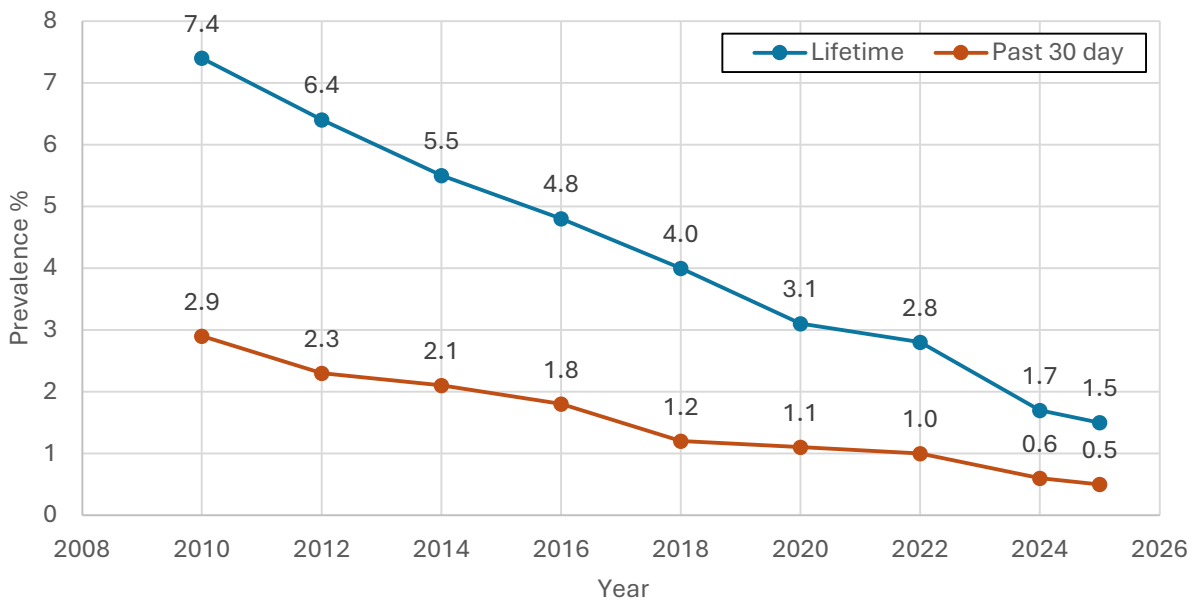


Figure 5. Lifetime and Past 30-day Pain Reliever Misuse Among Youth in Florida, 2010–2025.
Source: [FYSAS](#).

The 2024-2025 [Monitoring the Future](#) survey which asks twelfth grade students about lifetime and past 30-day prescription drug use is shown in Figure 6. It shows sharp increases in use in 2024. This was due to changes to survey questions; prescription sleeping medication and prescription tranquilizers were added. Data from 2024 to 2025 should only be compared. In this case, lifetime and past 30-day use of prescription pain reliever misuse among twelfth grade youth decreased from 2024 to 2025.

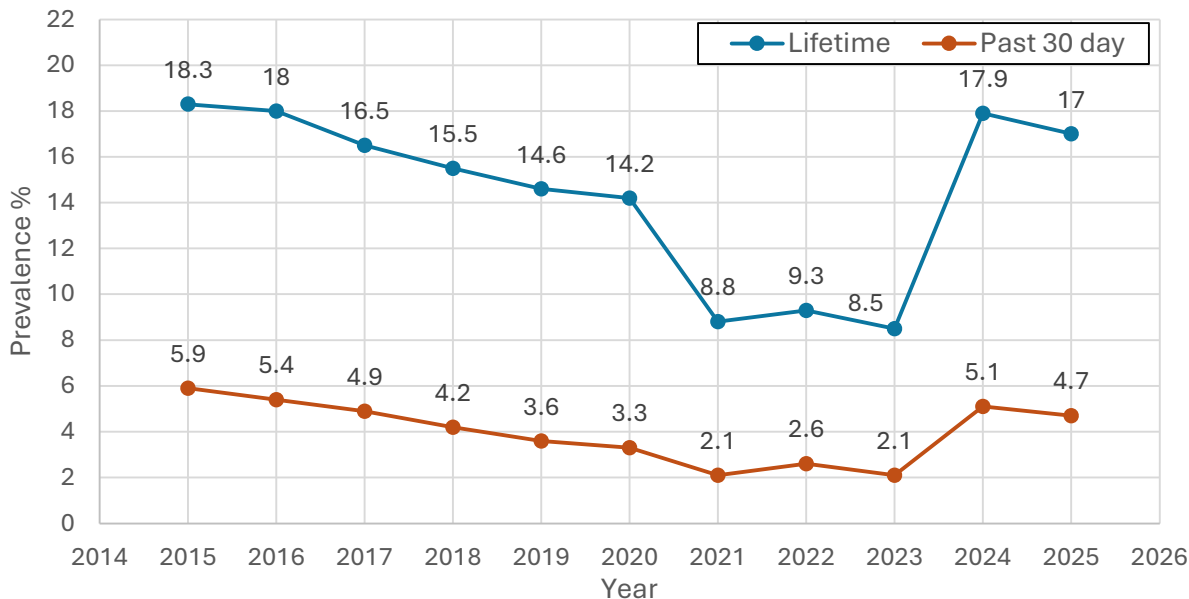


Figure 6. Lifetime and Past 30-day Pain Reliever Misuse Among U.S. Youth, 2015- 2025.
Source: [MTF](#).

Heroin Use Among Adults

Heroin use among adults is far less prevalent compared to prescription opioid pain reliever misuse, with less than half of a percentage of Floridians reporting heroin use in the past year (Figure 7). The heroin use prevalence rate among adults in Florida has slightly fluctuated between 0.24 and 0.32 since 2015-2016, with the most recent data point at 0.20. The prevalence of heroin use among adults in Florida has been consistently lower than that of the nation. The NSDUH 2021-2022 results show Florida rates (0.24) lower than the U.S. (0.42), respectively. U.S. rates plummeted from 0.42 to 0.23 with the most recent NSDUH 2023-2024 survey results.

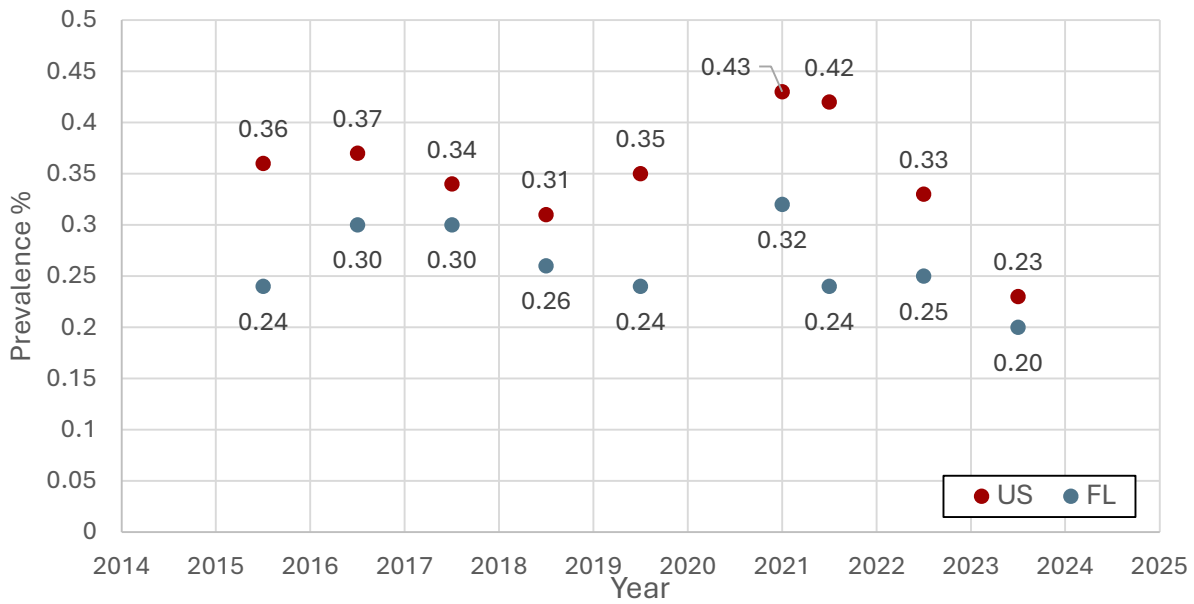


Figure 7. Two-Year Average Past-year Heroin Use Among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015 – 2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#)

Heroin Use Among Youth

According to [NSDUH](#), prevalence rates for heroin use among youth has declined since 2015 with rates in 2018-2019 at 0.02% for both the U.S. and Florida (Figure 8). The 2019-2020, 2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 prevalence rate estimates for youth ages 12-17 are not available for heroin use, because no respondents aged 12 -17 reported using heroin in the past year.

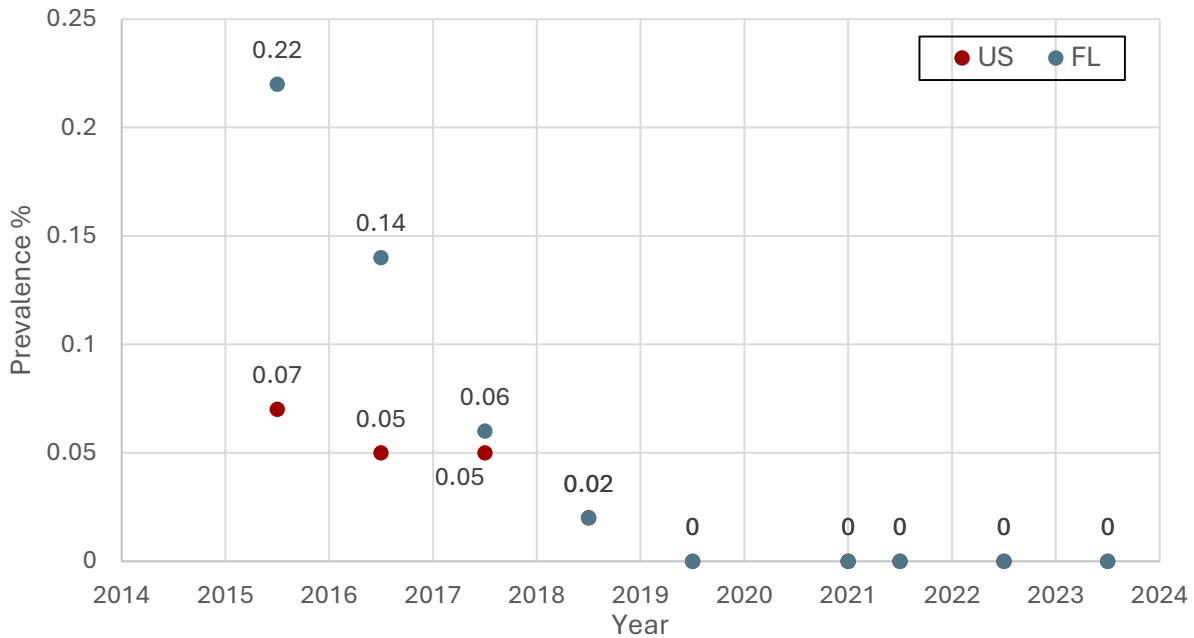


Figure 8. Two-Year Average Past-year Heroin Use Among Youth, U.S. and Florida, 2015 – 2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#)

Although lifetime and past 30-day heroin use increased in 2020, the rates in 2025 have decreased for lifetime use to 0.2 and remained the same for past 30 day use, according to the [FYSAS](#). (Figure 9).

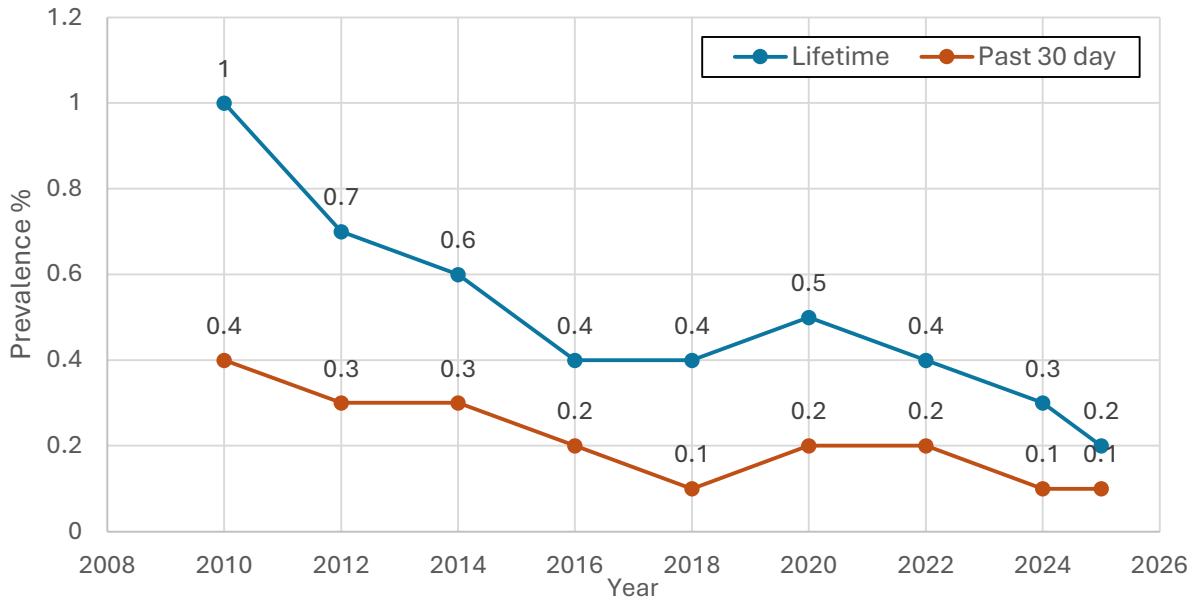


Figure 9. Lifetime and Past 30-day Heroin Use Among Youth in Florida, 2010–2025.
Source: [FYSAS](#).

Psychostimulant Use

Cocaine Use Among Adults

Cocaine is less common than misuse of prescription opioid pain relievers but more common than use of heroin among adults. Two-year averages indicated that the highest rates for adults in the U.S. and Florida were in 2017-2018 with 2.26% and 2.13% respectively (Figure 10). The most recent NSDUH survey data from 2023-2024 indicates a 1.76% and 1.51% rate of cocaine use for U.S. and Florida adults, respectively. Florida adults decreased their cocaine use by 0.47 from 2022-2024.

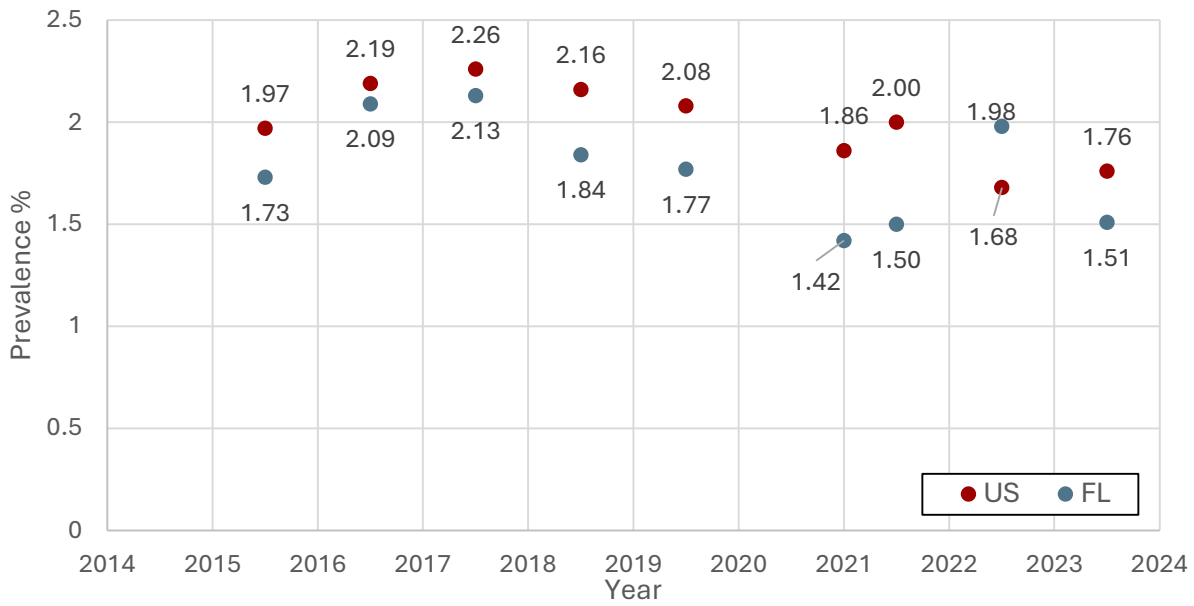


Figure 10. Two-Year Average Past-year Cocaine Use among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015 – 2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#)

Cocaine Use Among Youth

The prevalence of past-year cocaine use among Florida youth has decreased from 2015 to 2021, with its lowest recorded rate of use in 2021. However, past-year use of cocaine has steadily increased for both U.S. and Florida youth since 2021. The most recent survey from 2023-2024, shows U.S. youth reporting use at 0.26% and Florida youth reporting 0.23% (Figure 11).

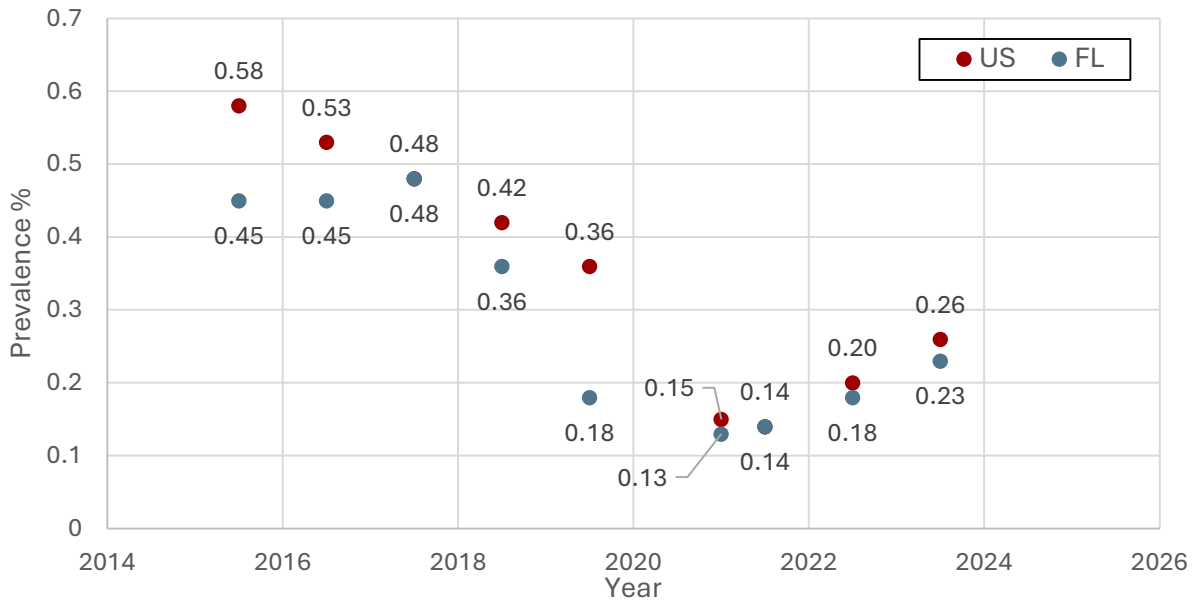


Figure 11. Two-Year Average Past-year Cocaine Use Among Youth, U.S. and Florida, 2015 – 2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#)

According to the FYSAS, lifetime and past 30-day cocaine use continue to steadily decrease among Florida youth, with lifetime use decreasing from 2.9% to 0.4% since 2010 and past 30-day use rates decreasing from 0.8% to 0.2% during the same time period (Figure 12).

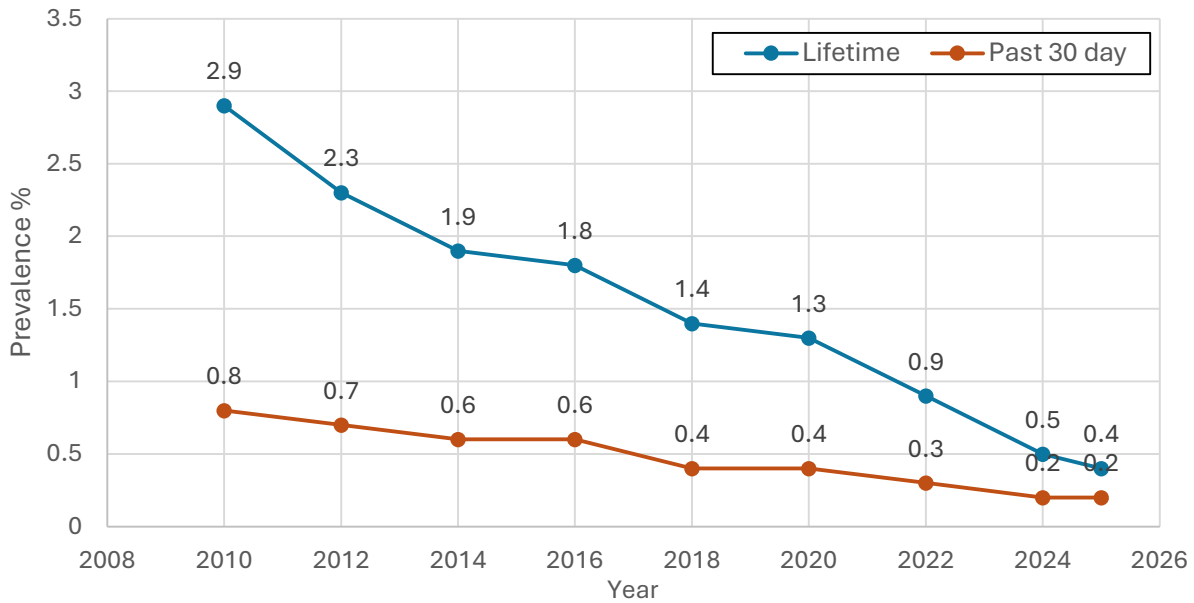


Figure 12. Lifetime and Past 30-day Cocaine Use Among Youth in Florida, 2010–2025.
Source: [FYSAS](#).

Methamphetamine Use Among Adults

Use of methamphetamine among adults across the nation has increased slightly since the 2016-2017 two-year averages of 0.60%. The most recent NSDUH survey data shows a slight decrease for U.S. adults with 0.94% of methamphetamine use. Methamphetamine use among Florida adults has increased since the 2021 survey at 0.56% compared to the most recent 2023-2024 survey data at 0.78% (Figure 13).

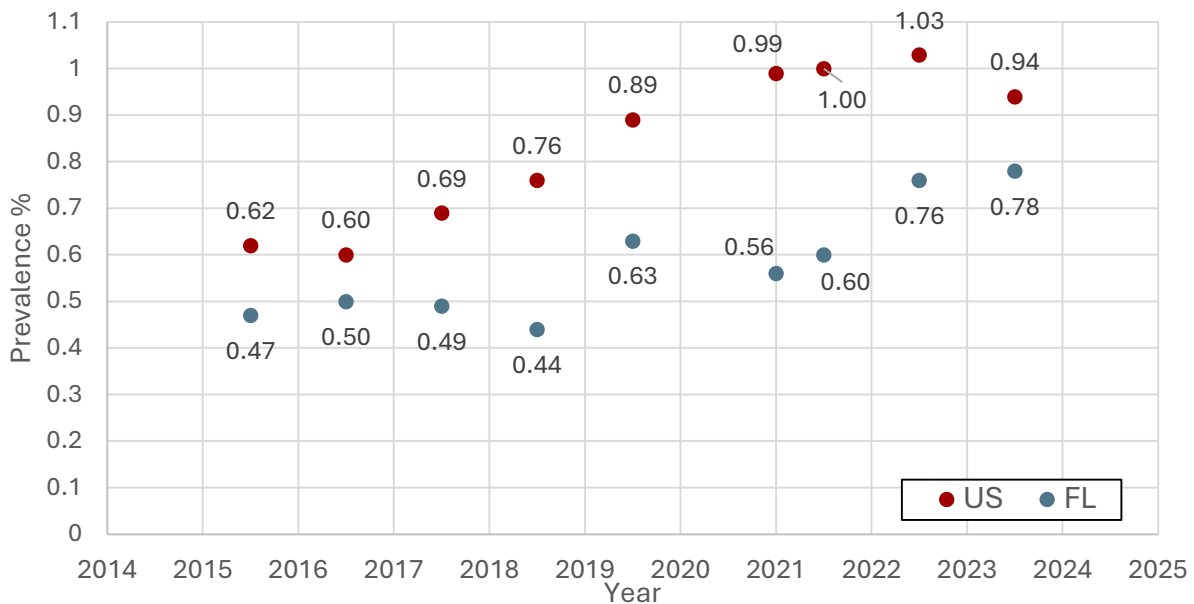


Figure 13. Two-Year Average Past-year Methamphetamine Use Among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#).

Methamphetamine Use Among Youth

An increase in methamphetamine use occurred among youth in Florida and across the nation from 2015-2018. However, after 2017-2018, prevalence decreased for both U.S. and Florida youth. Since 2021, however, the prevalence of methamphetamine use has increased steadily for U.S. and Florida youth (Figure 14). The 2023-2024 NSDUH survey indicates U.S. youth reporting use at 0.19% and Florida youth reporting use at 0.19%.

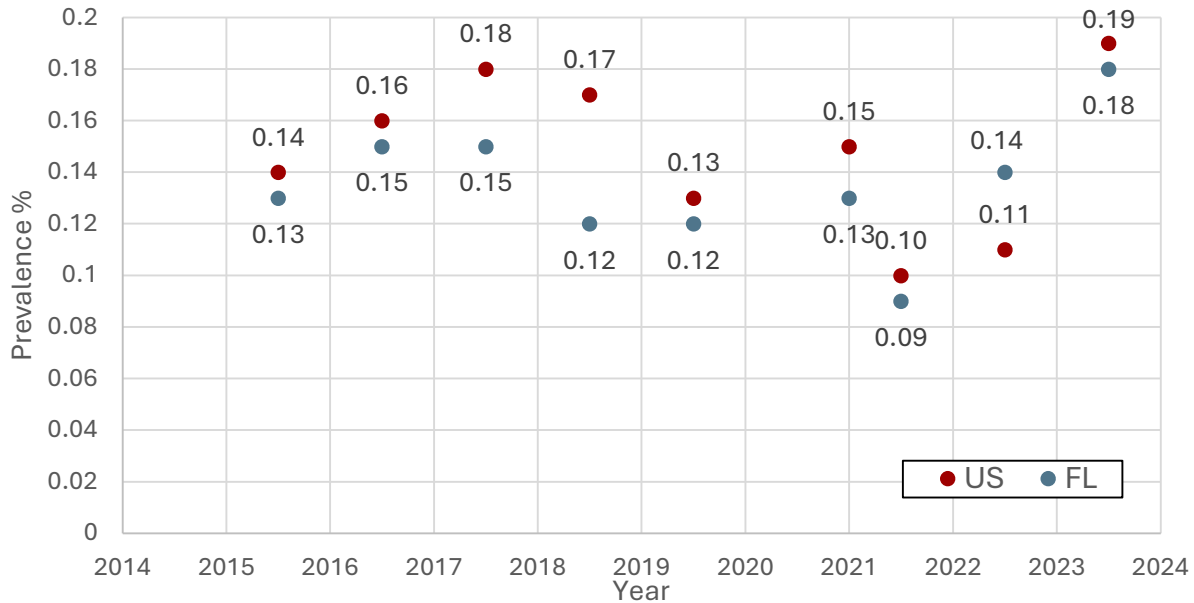


Figure 14. Two-Year Average Past-year Methamphetamine Use Among Youth, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2024.
Source: NSDUH

According to the [FYSAS](#), prevalence of lifetime methamphetamine use among youth in Florida declined from 2010-2018 and with a slight increase in 2020. From 2010 to 2014, past 30-day use of methamphetamine among youth stayed the same at 0.5% prevalence. A decrease in 2016 brought the prevalence rate to 0.4% and remained at the same rate from 2016 to 2020. Lifetime use among youth decreased for methamphetamine while past 30-day use remained the same at 0.3% in 2025 (Figure 15).

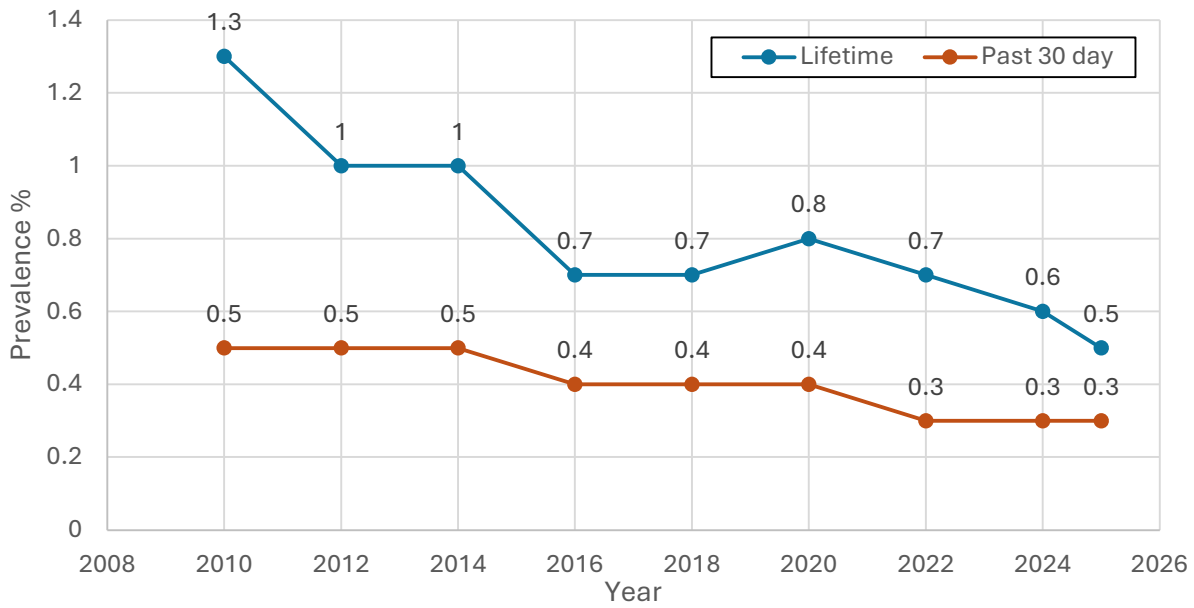


Figure 15. Lifetime and Past 30-day Methamphetamine Use Among Youth in Florida, 2010–2025.
Source: [FYSAS](#)

Marijuana Use

Marijuana Use Among Adults

With the exception of 2021, past-year marijuana use has continuously increased since 2015 for Florida adults. Prevalence rates for both U.S. and Florida adults were 13% for past-year use in 2015 and increased to 23.1% and 20.6% for U.S. and Florida adults in 2024, respectively (Figure 16).

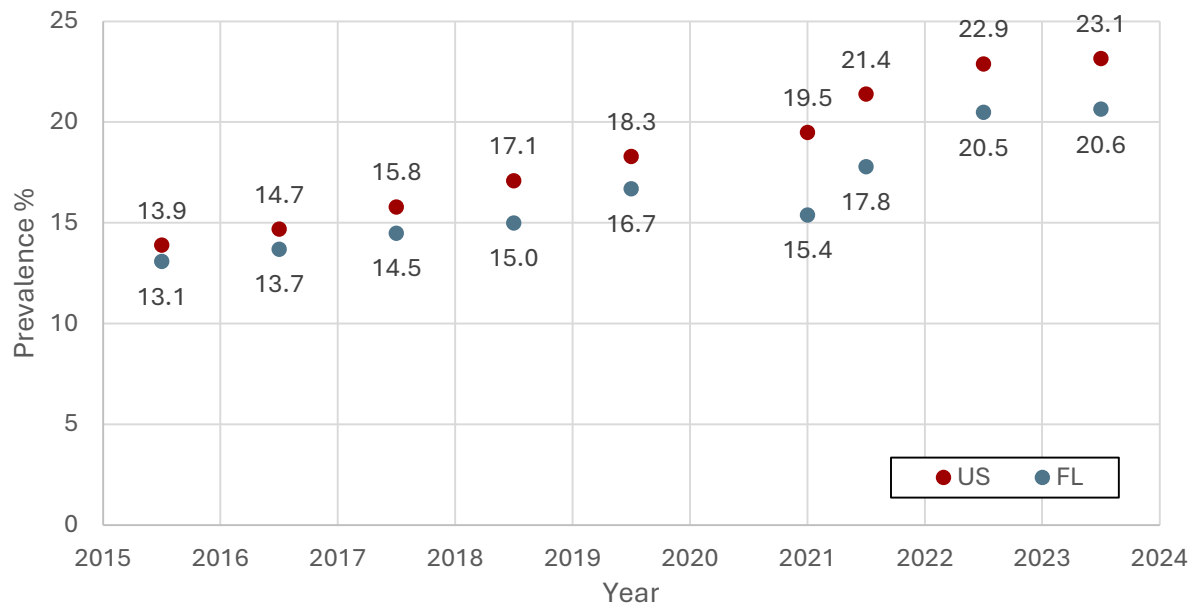


Figure 16. Two-Year Average Marijuana Use Among Adults, Past Year, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#).

Second only to alcohol among substances covered in this report, 14.6% of adults in Florida and 16.3% of adults nationally reported using marijuana in the past month (Figure 17).

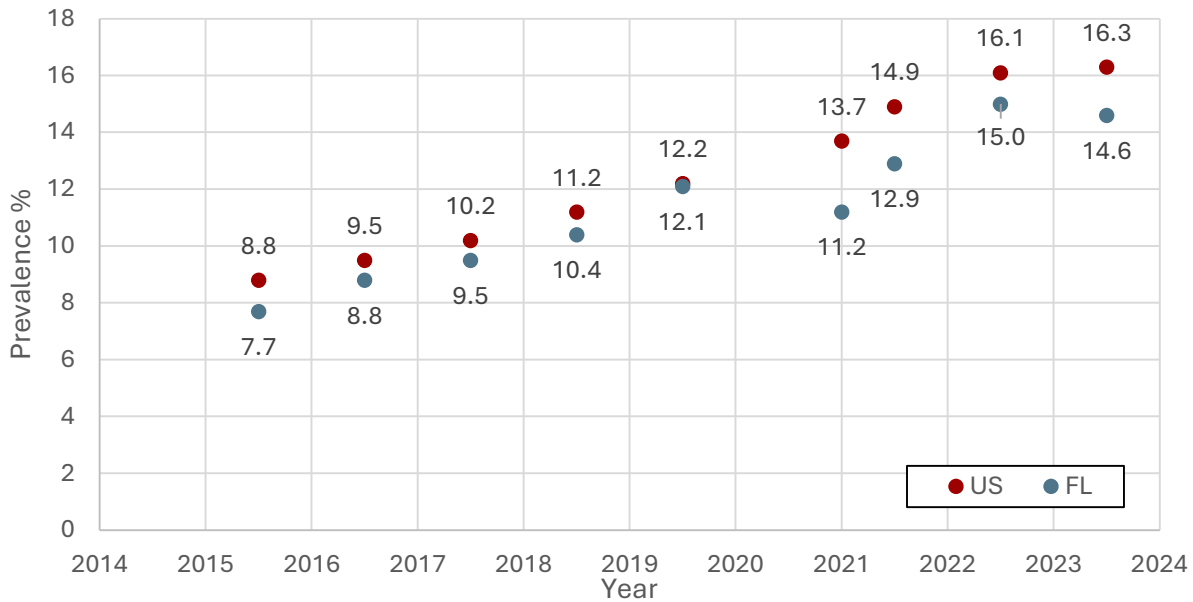


Figure 17. Two-Year Average Marijuana Use Among Adults, Past Month, U.S. and Florida, 2015-2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#)

Marijuana Use Among Youth

Over time, past-year marijuana use among youth continued to increase to 11.9 and 11.3 for Florida and U.S. youth, respectively. However, in the most recent NSDUH survey from 2023-2024, rates decreased to 10.5 for Florida youth and 10.7 for U.S. youth (Figure 18). Similarly, past 30-day use among Florida and U.S. youth decreased to 5.7 and 6.0 respectively (Figure 19). Based on data from the [Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey](#), (Figure 20) the prevalence of both lifetime and past 30-day use among Florida youth has continually decreased from 2010 to 2025, falling from 23.8 to 10.2 for lifetime use and 13 to 4.3 for past 30- day use. The national 2024-2025 [Monitoring the Future](#) survey for eighth, tenth, and twelfth grade students shows that past-year cannabis use rates decreased in 2025 for eighth grade youth and increased for tenth and twelfth grade youth (Figure 21). The survey also indicates that eighth and tenth grade students decreased their past 30-day intake of marijuana in 2025 (Figure 22).

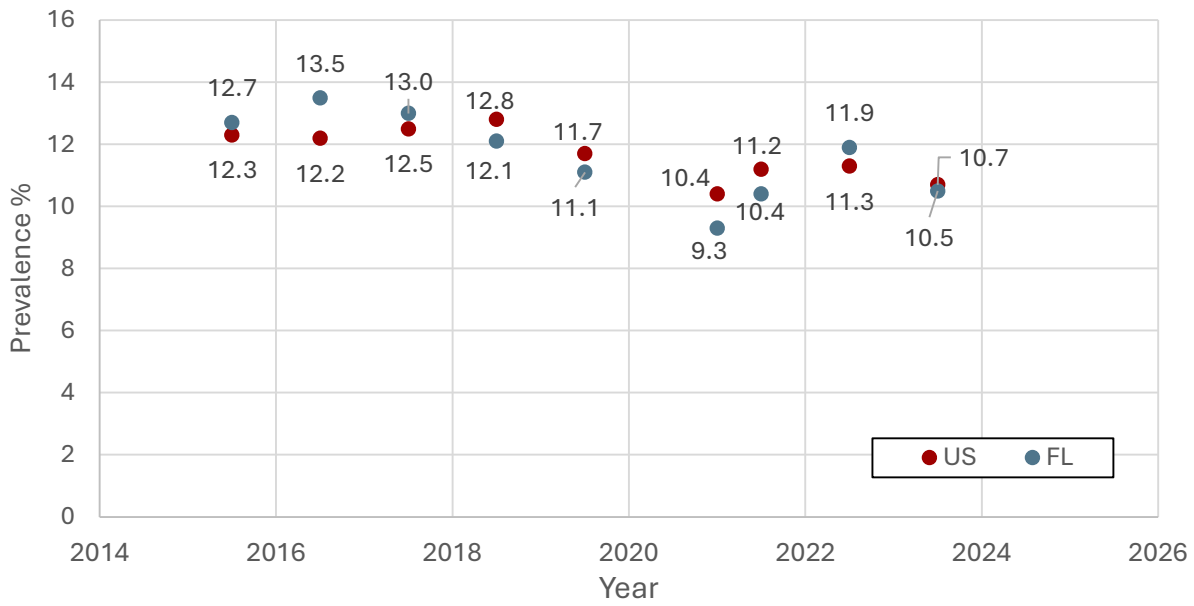


Figure 18. Two-Year Average Marijuana Use Among Youth, Past Year, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#).

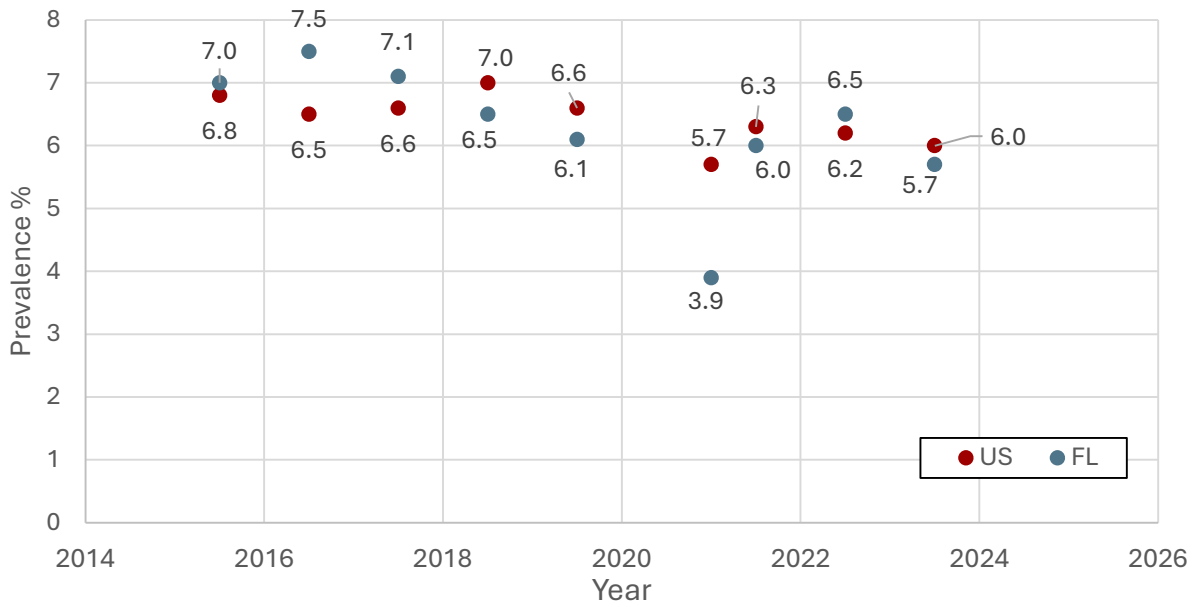


Figure 19. Two-Year Average Marijuana Use Among Youth, Past Month, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#).

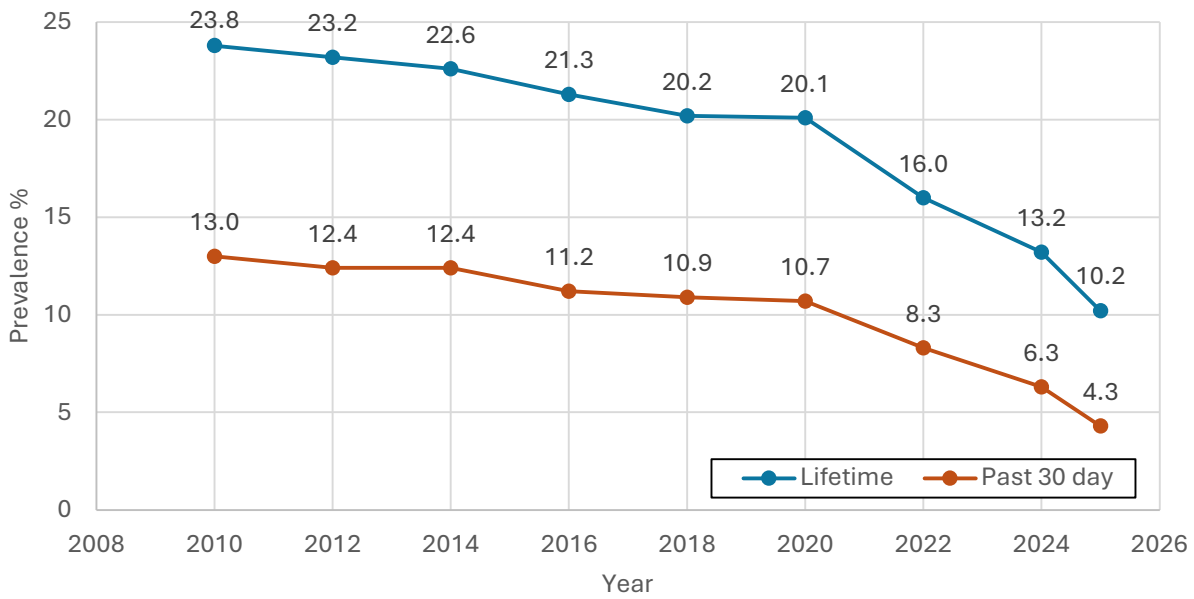


Figure 20. Marijuana Use Among Youth, Lifetime and Past Month, Florida, 2010–2025.
Source: [FYSAS](#).

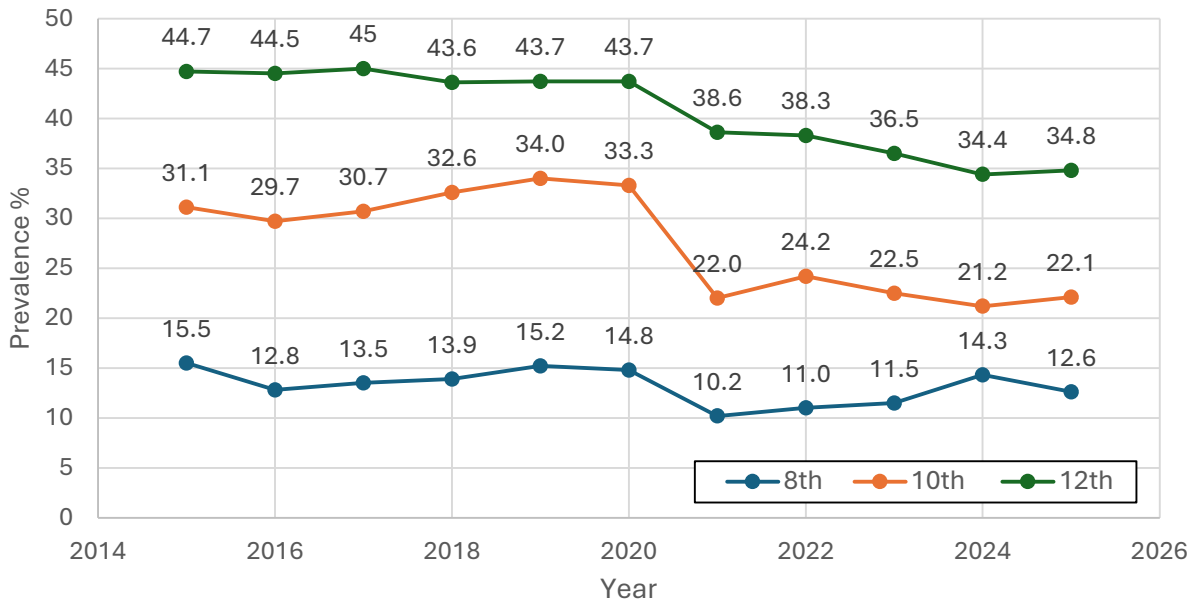


Figure 21. Lifetime Marijuana Use Among Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., 2015- 2025
Source: [MTF](#).

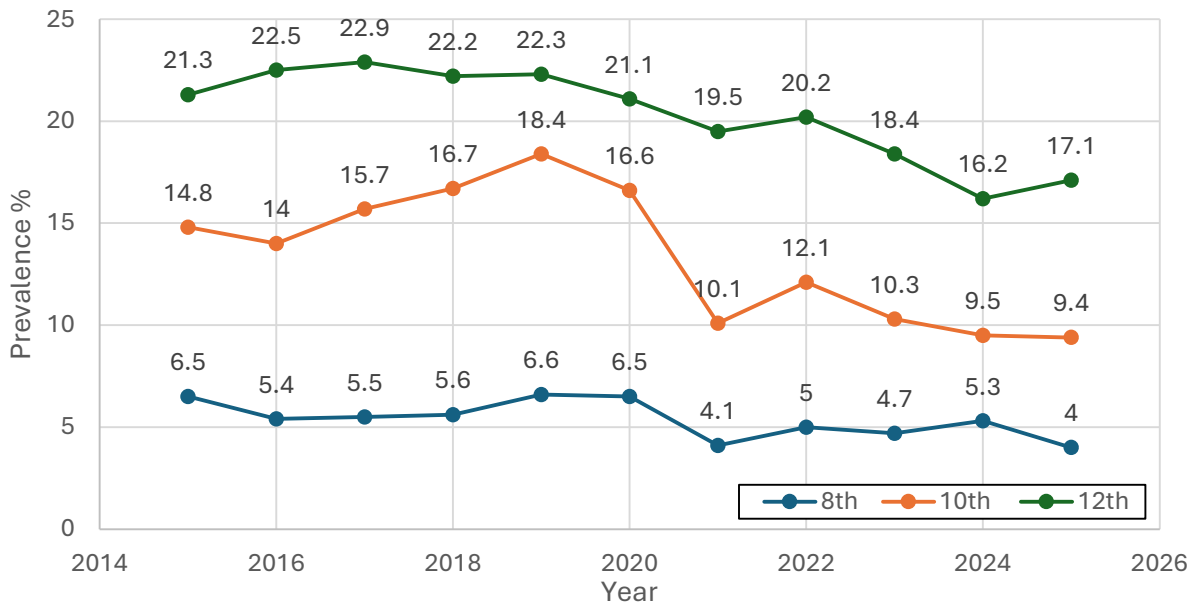


Figure 22. Marijuana Use Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., Past Month 2015-2025. Source: [MTF](#).

Vaping Use

In 2016, the [Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey \(FYSAS\)](#) asked if youth had ever used electronic cigarettes and inquired about their current use of e-cigarettes. However, the survey added new questions for e-cigarettes in 2019. The survey now asks respondents for lifetime and past month use for electronic cigarettes use for nicotine and marijuana separately.

Vaping Nicotine Among Youth

According to the FYSAS, 12.5% of Florida youth reported using an electronic cigarette for nicotine in 2019, and 5.1% reported vaping nicotine in 2025 (Figure 23). Lifetime use dropped from 23.5% to 13.8% during the same period. According to the Monitoring the Future survey, nationally, eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders are decreasing nicotine vaping use in their lifetime. For past month use, rates increased for tenth and twelfth grade youth in 2025; the trends across all three grades are similar for both surveys, with increasing rates from 2010-2020 and then generally decreasing with slight fluctuations since 2020 (Figure 24 and Figure 25).

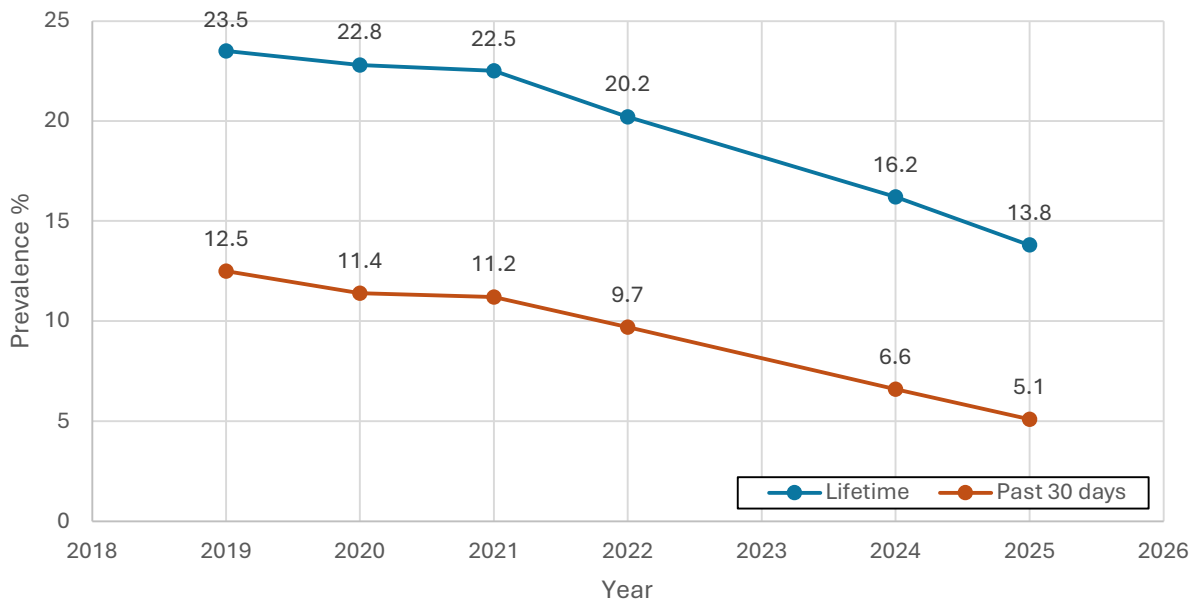


Figure 23. Vaping Nicotine Among Youth, Lifetime and Past Month, Florida, 2019-2025.
Source: [FYSAS](#).

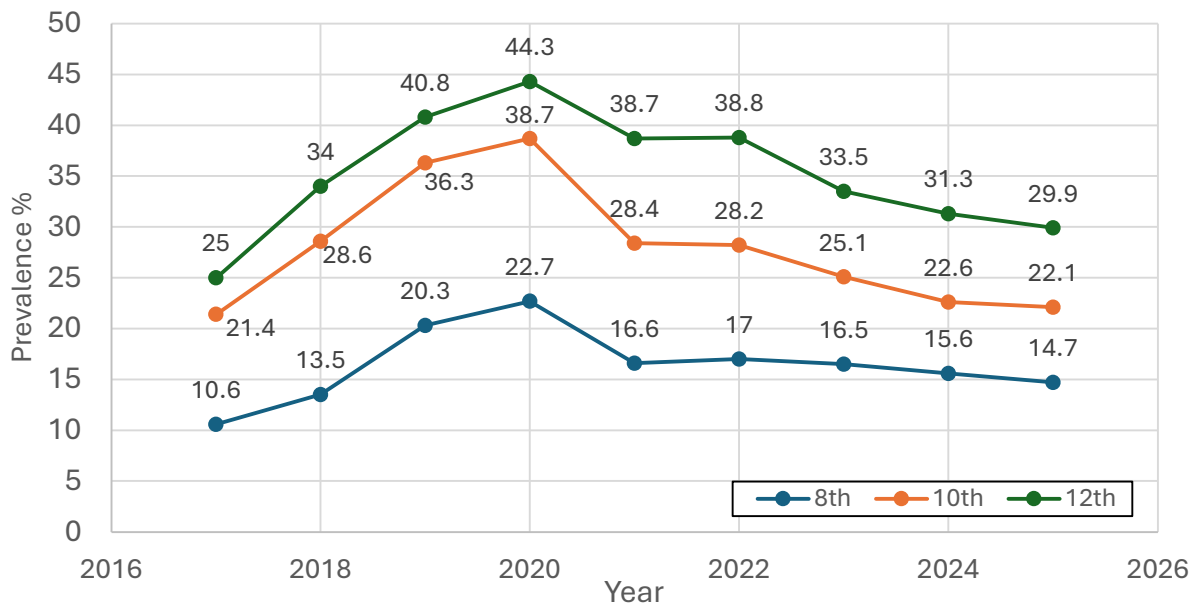


Figure 24. Vaping Nicotine Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., Lifetime, 2017-2025.
Source: [MTF](#).

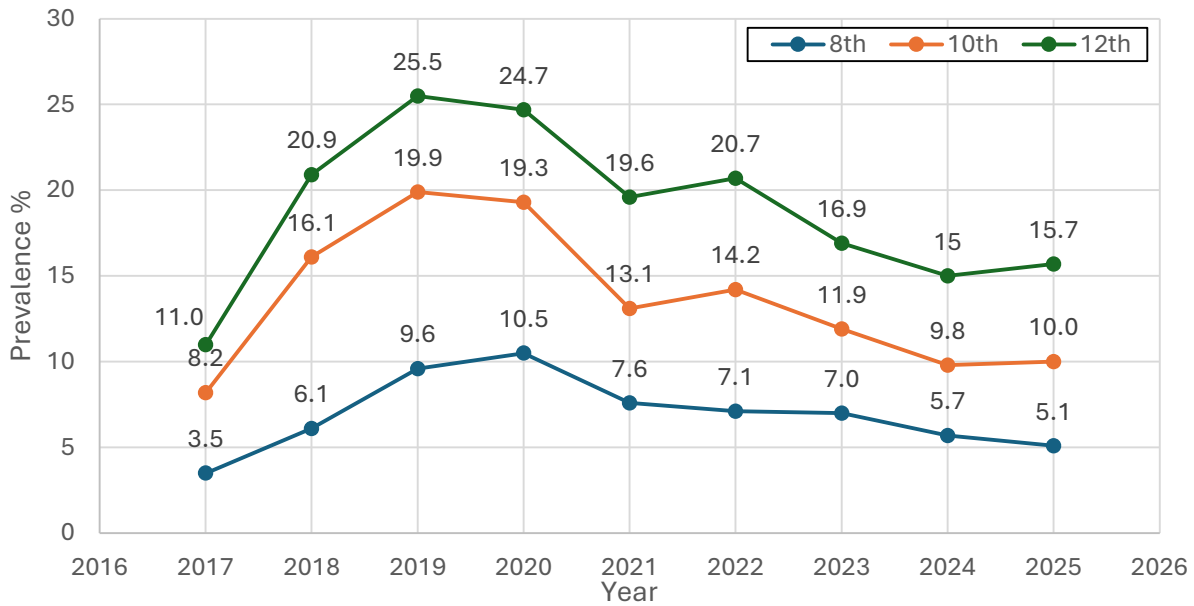


Figure 25. Vaping Nicotine Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., Past Month, 2017- 2025.
Source: [MTF](#).

Vaping Marijuana Among Youth

From 2019 to date, rates for vaping marijuana among Florida youth have continually decreased (FYSAS). Rates are generally lower for vaping marijuana compared to vaping nicotine with 3.7% of Florida youth vaping marijuana in the past 30 days and lifetime use of vaping marijuana at 9.2% (Figure 26). Nationally, rates for vaping marijuana decreased for eighth and twelfth graders with only a 0.1% increase for tenth grade youth (Figure 27). In addition, national rates for past 30-day use also decreased for all grades (Figure 28).

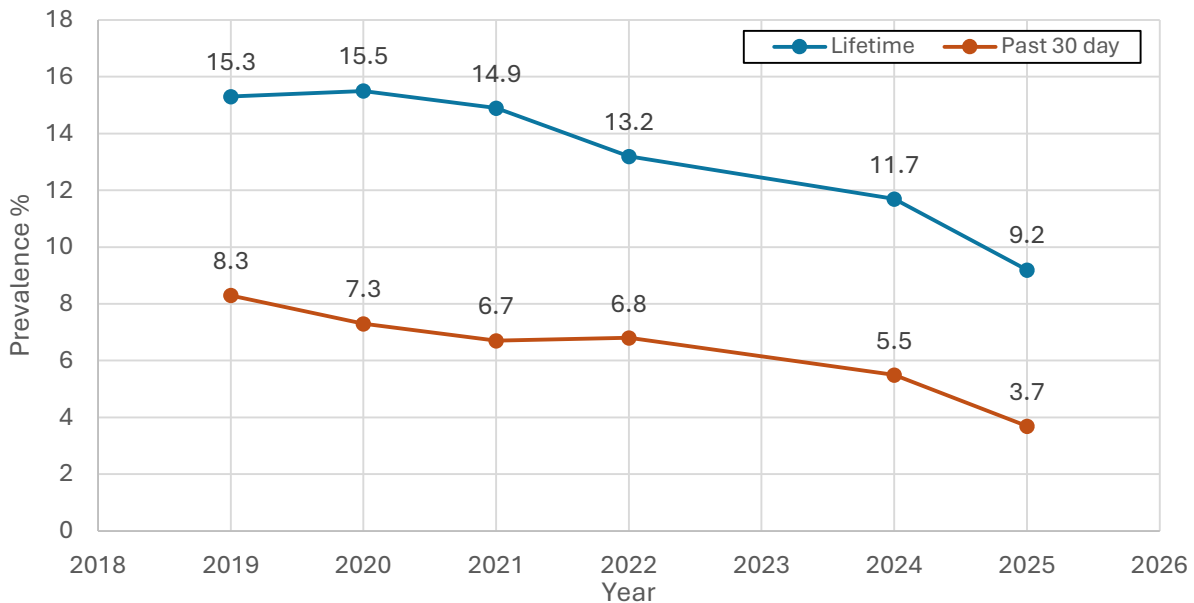


Figure 26. Vaping Marijuana Among Youth, Lifetime and Past Month, Florida, 2019-2025.
Source: [FYSAS](#).

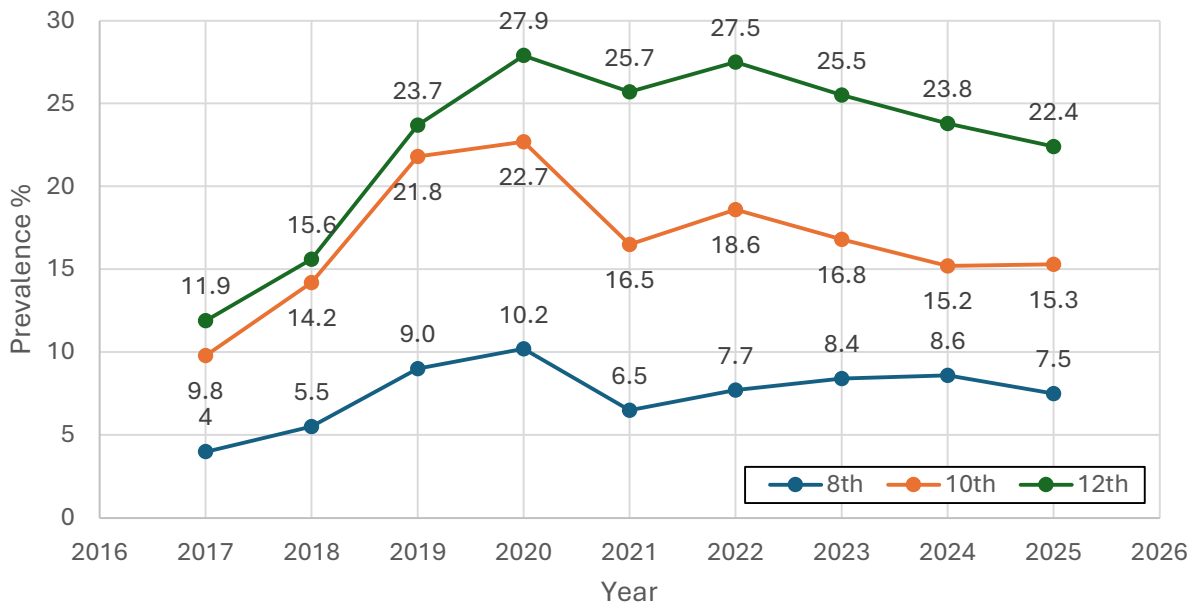


Figure 27. Vaping Marijuana Among Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth Grade Youth in the US, Lifetime, 2017- 2025.
Source: [MTF](#).

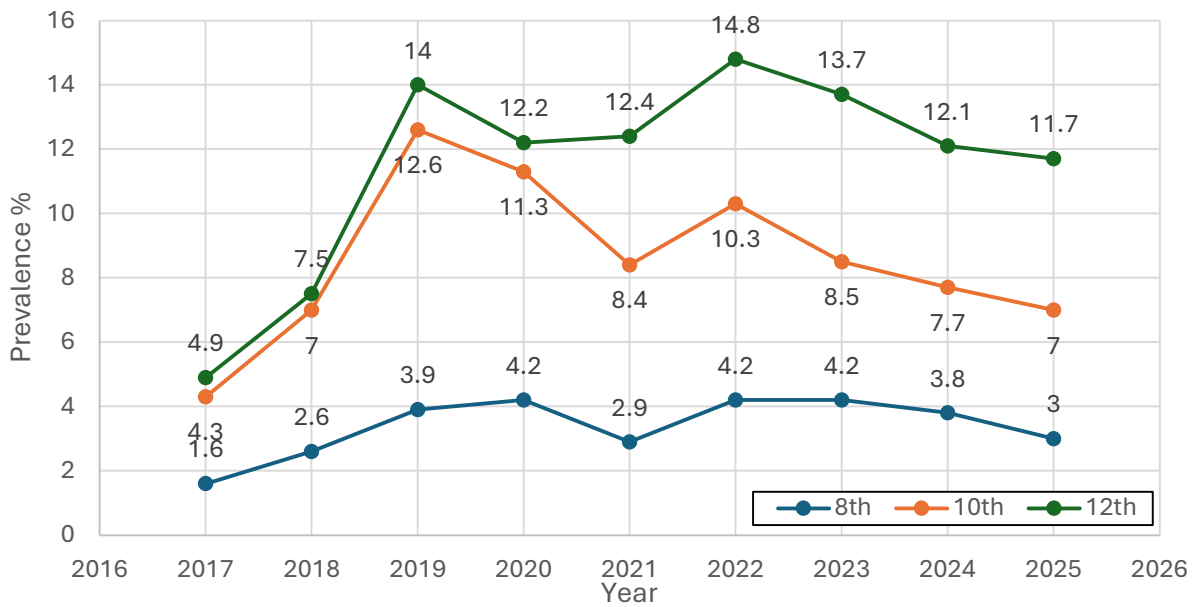


Figure 28. Vaping Marijuana Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., Past Month, 2017- 2025.
Source: [MTF](#).

Alcohol Use

Alcohol use is common in the United States and Florida. However, consuming too much alcohol can result in a range of negative health consequences. Risk of negative health impacts such as engagement in risky and/or violent behaviors can result from misuse of alcohol. Other health consequences with misuse of alcohol may result in alcohol use disorder with the possibility of death.

Alcohol Use Among Adults

The prevalence of past-month alcohol use among adults in Florida declined from 57.3% in 2015-2016 to 51.3% in 2023-2024. (Figure 29). Binge drinking among adults slightly decreased for U.S. and Florida adults from its previous survey year (Figure 30).

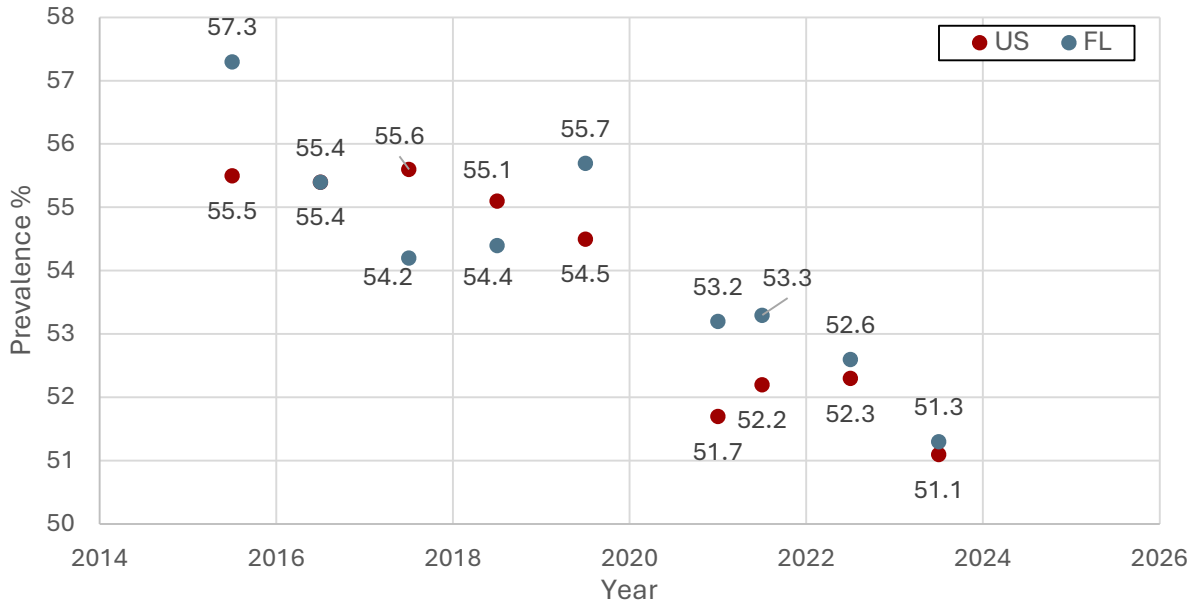


Figure 29. Two-Year Average Past Month Alcohol Use Among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#).

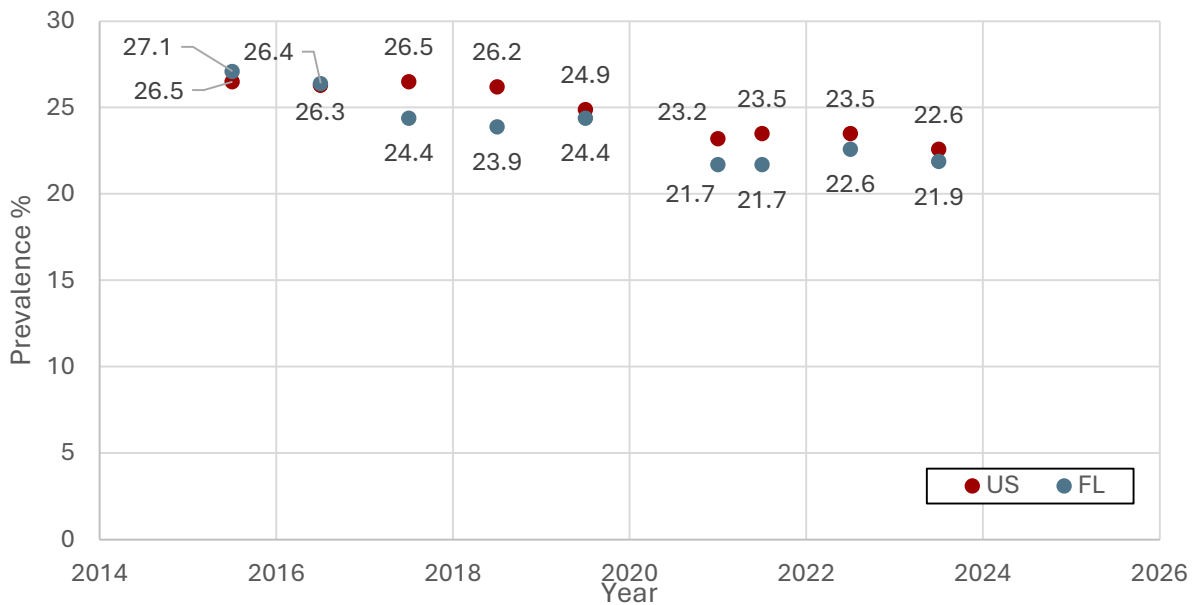


Figure 30. Two-Year Average Past Month Binge Alcohol Use Among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#).

Alcohol Use Among Youth

The highest rates of past-month alcohol use among youth in Florida occurred in 2017-2018 (10.1). Rates then decreased in 2018-2019 with a slight upward trend for the 2019-2020 two-year average for Florida youth. For 2023-2024, the rates were at 6.8 for the U.S. and 6.5 for Florida, (Figure 31). Since 2010, lifetime and past 30-day use of alcohol have significantly declined among Florida youth with the lowest rates at 23.1% for lifetime and 8.3% for past 30-day use (Figure 32). The [Monitoring the Future](#) survey shows that lifetime alcohol use in the U.S. decreased for youth in grades 8, 10, and 12. Past 30-day use also decreased with the exception of twelfth graders (Figure 33 and Figure 34).

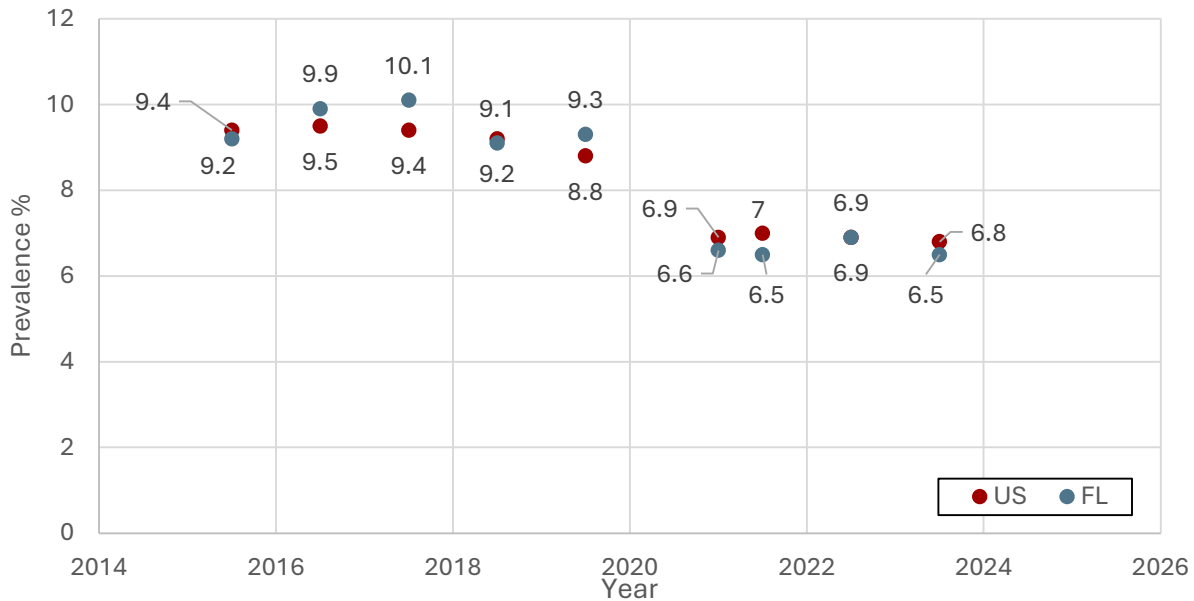


Figure 31. Alcohol Use Among Youth, Past Month, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#).

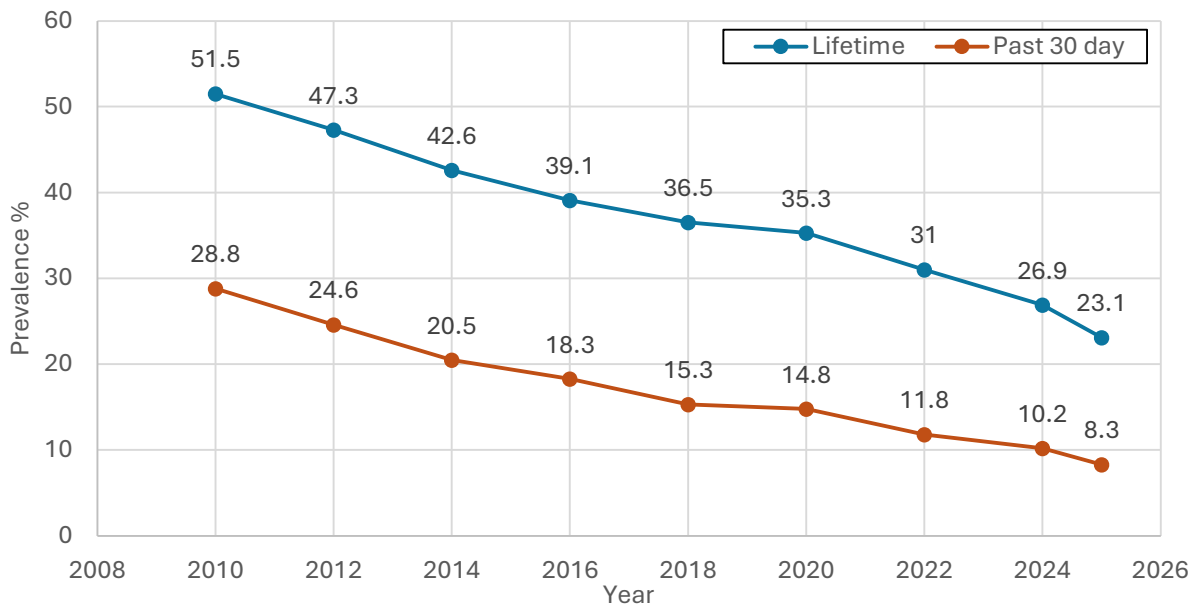


Figure 32. Alcohol Use Among Youth, Lifetime and Past Month, Florida, 2010–2025.
Source: [FYSAS](#).

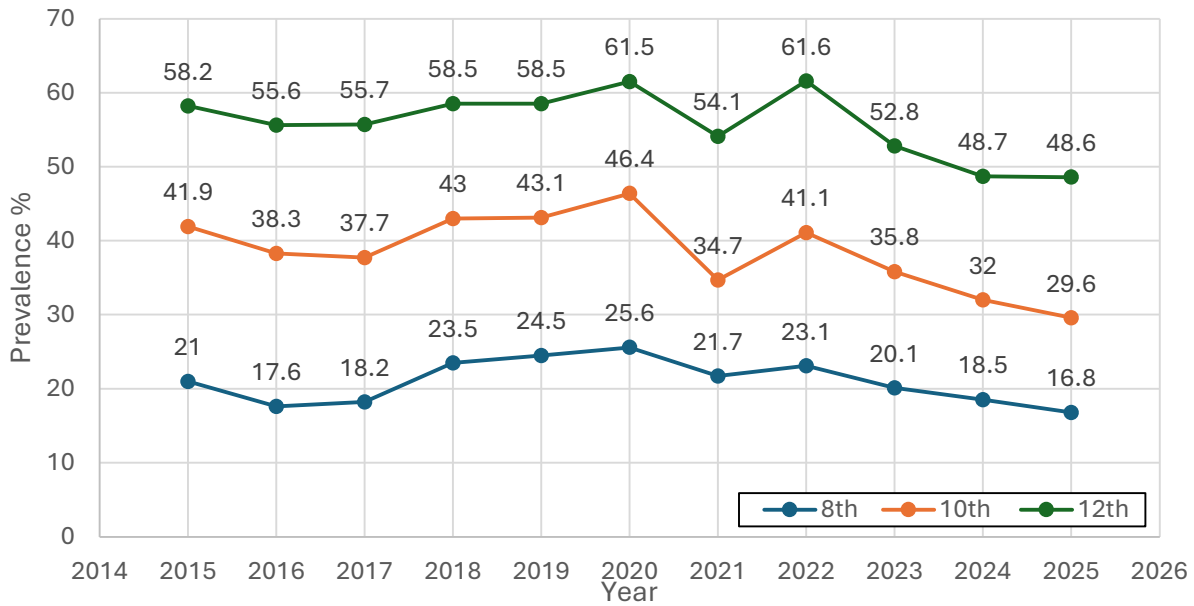


Figure 33. Lifetime Alcohol Use Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., 2015–2025.
Source: [MTF](#).

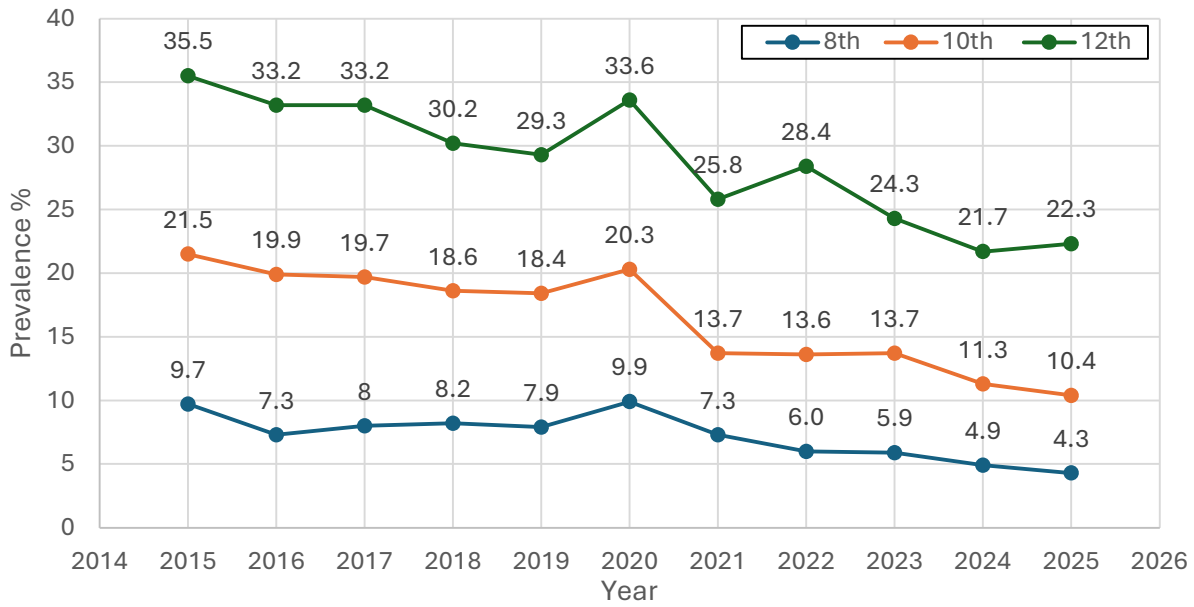


Figure 34. Past Month Alcohol Use Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., 2015–2025.
Source: [MTF](#).

After a decreasing trend from 2015 until 2022, binge drinking for youth is showing an increase year to year both in the U.S. and in Florida. Binge drinking for youth increased in Florida by 0.4% and by 0.1% across the nation (Figure 35) between 2023 and 2024.

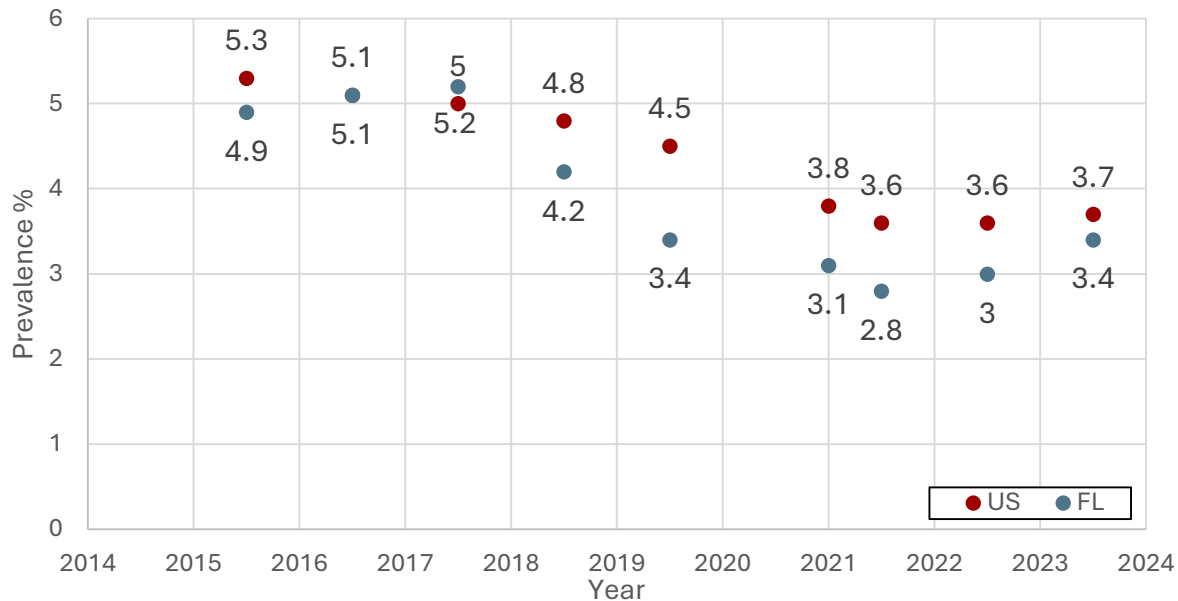


Figure 35. Binge Alcohol Use Among Youth, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2024.
Source: [NSDUH](#).

The Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey found similar patterns for binge drinking with declining prevalence rates among Florida youth since 2010. Rates between 2018 and 2020 remained steady around 6.7% but recently decreased to 3.8% (Figure 36).

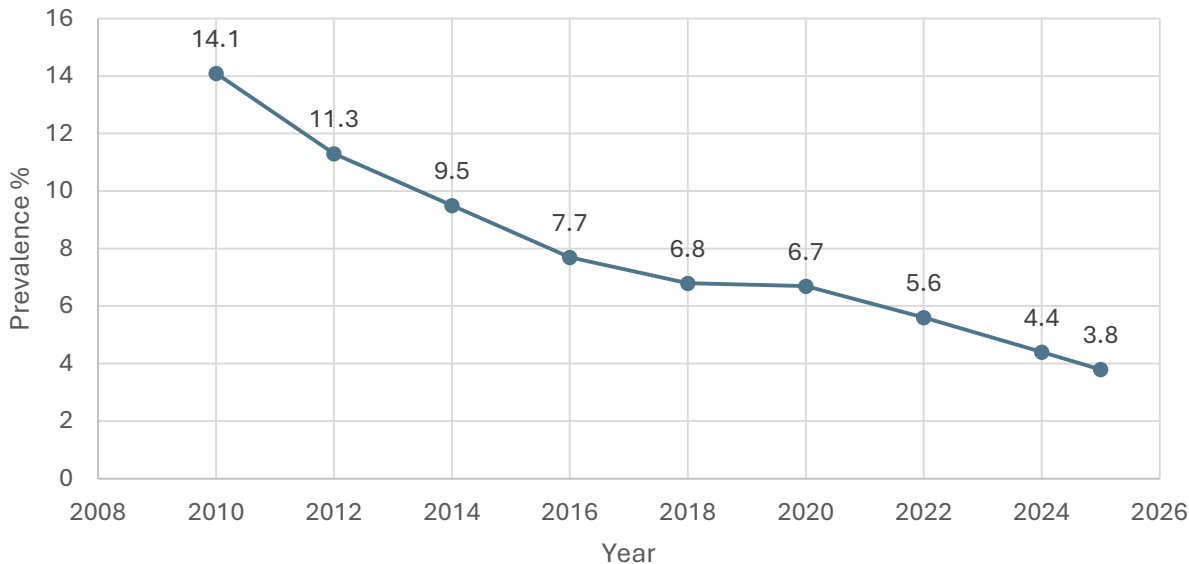


Figure 36. Binge Alcohol Use Among Youth, Florida, 2010–2025.
Source: [FYSAS](#).

Note that differences between these two data tables are likely due to a variety of reasons including how the surveys are conducted. These surveys use somewhat different definitions of binge drinking. The most

significant difference being that the NSDUH uses a time frame of past 30 days while FYSAS uses past two weeks.

Inhalant Use

Inhalants refer to various household products such as solvents and aerosol sprays that are only used through inhalation. Used principally by children and youth, only inhalant use among youth is reported.

Inhalant Use Among Youth

Both lifetime and past-month use of inhalants among Florida youth decreased from 2010-2016 (Figure 37). Both lifetime and past-month use have fluctuated slightly since 2016 but were at their lowest rate in 2025 for lifetime use at 4.5%. Past 30-day use decreased to 1.4%.

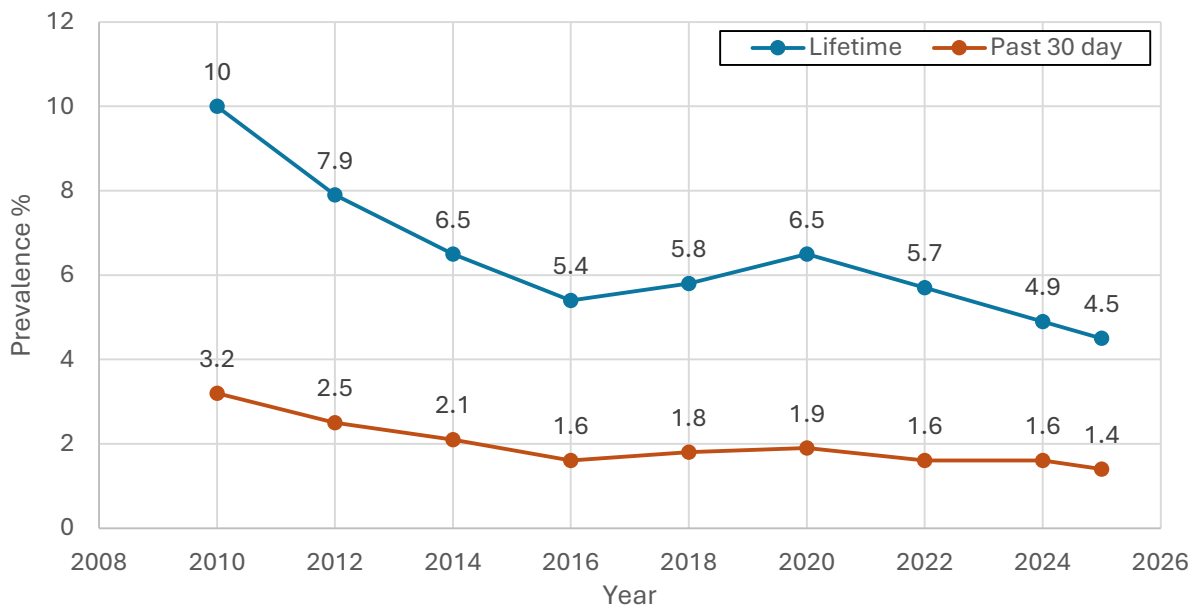


Figure 37. Lifetime and Past 30-day Use of Inhalants Among Youth in Florida, 2010–2025.
Source: FYSAS.

Club Drug Use

Club drugs earned their name for being a group of substances commonly used by youth and young adults at parties and in entertainment venues, such as nightclubs and concert venues. Club drugs are a mix of drugs from various classes, including gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB), ketamine, LSD (also known as acid), MDMA (also known as ecstasy), methamphetamine, and Rohypnol.

Club Drug Use Among Youth

Club drug use among Florida youth has been steadily decreasing since 2010 for lifetime and past month use (Figure 38). While rates fluctuated slightly for both past-month and lifetime use in 2020, 2025 FYSAS survey results show that club drug use among youth decreased to an all-time low since 2010 in Florida for lifetime use at 0.4% and continued 30-day use at 0.2%.

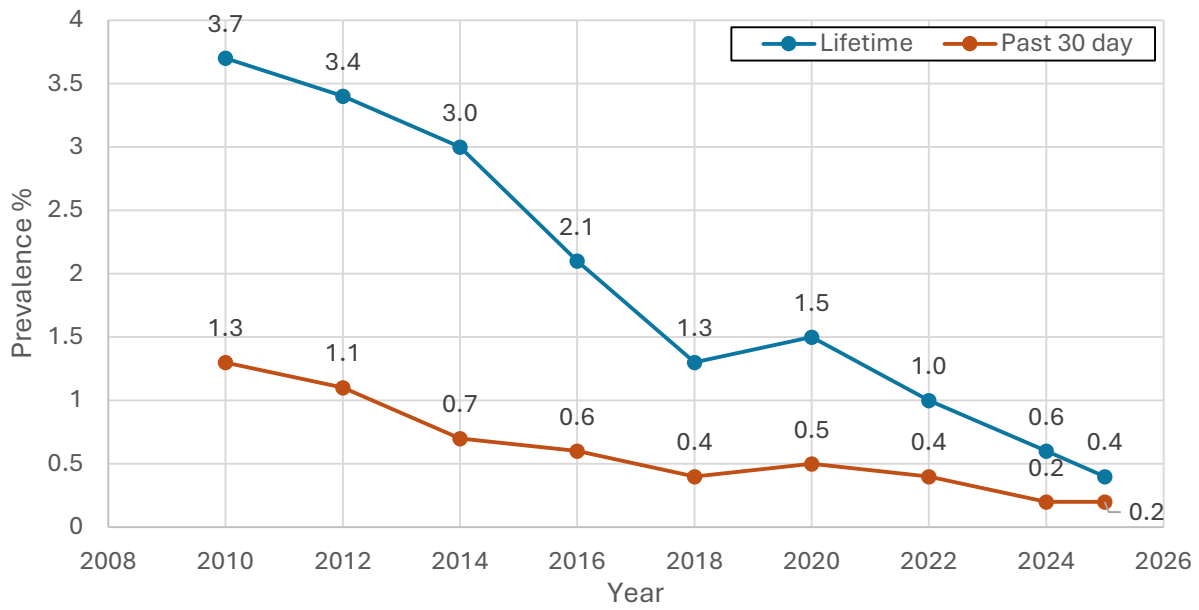


Figure 38. Lifetime and Past 30-day Club Drug Use Among Youth, Florida 2010–2025.

Source: [FYSAS](#).

Morbidity

Although prescribed substances, such as opioids and stimulants, may be used to treat conditions such as acute pain and attention deficit disorder, the illicit use of substances are associated with an increased risk of poor health outcomes or even death. One measure of morbidity that results from substance misuse is emergency department (ED) visits due to a non-fatal overdose.

Emergency Room Visits

From 2015 to 2017 emergency department visits from non-fatal drug poisonings increased. In 2018, emergency department visits due to non-fatal drug poisonings in Florida declined (Figure 39). In 2019, the number of emergency room visits for non-fatal drug poisonings increased to over 40,000 and continued to increase through 2021 surpassing 50,000 visits. In 2022, for the first time since 2018, the number of emergency department visits from non-fatal drug poisonings in Florida decreased. Additionally, non-fatal drug poisonings decreased in 2024 to 31,016 emergency department visits.

About half of the emergency department visits have been due to opioid-involved non-fatal overdoses (Figure 40). The number of non-fatal opioid overdose emergency department visits increased from 14,396 in 2018 to 23,540 visits in 2021 (Figure 40). However, as with the number of drug overdose emergency department visits, the number of non-fatal opioid overdose visits also decreased in 2022, from 23,540 to 19,782. In 2024, the number of non-fatal opioid overdose visits decreased by more than half to 9,375 within two years.

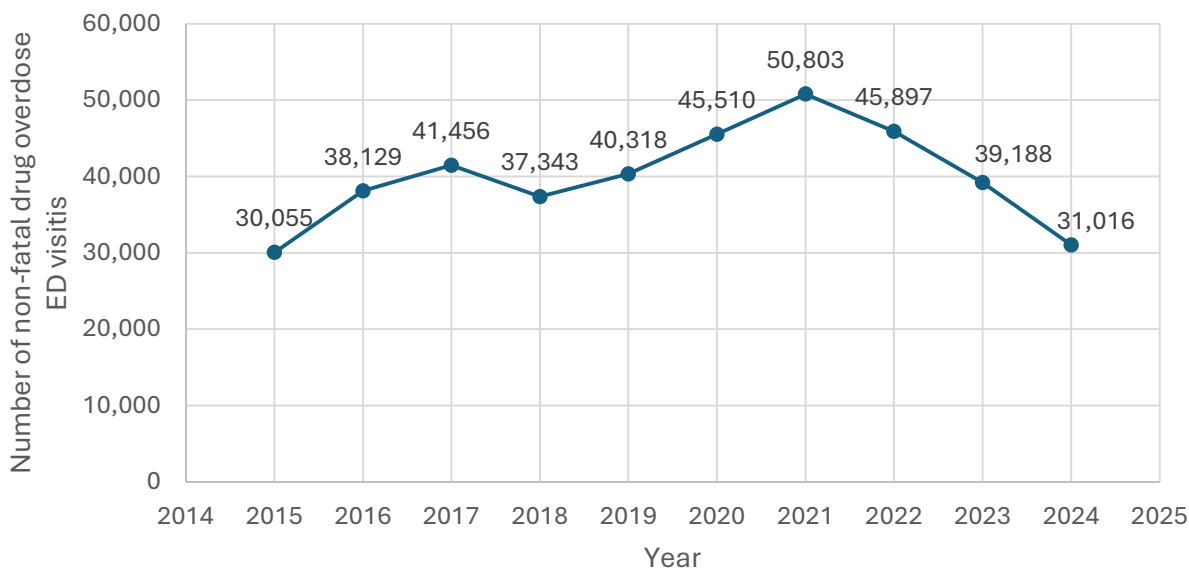


Figure 39. All Drug Non-Fatal Overdose Emergency Department Visits, Florida, 2015- 2024.

Source: [FLHealthCharts](#).

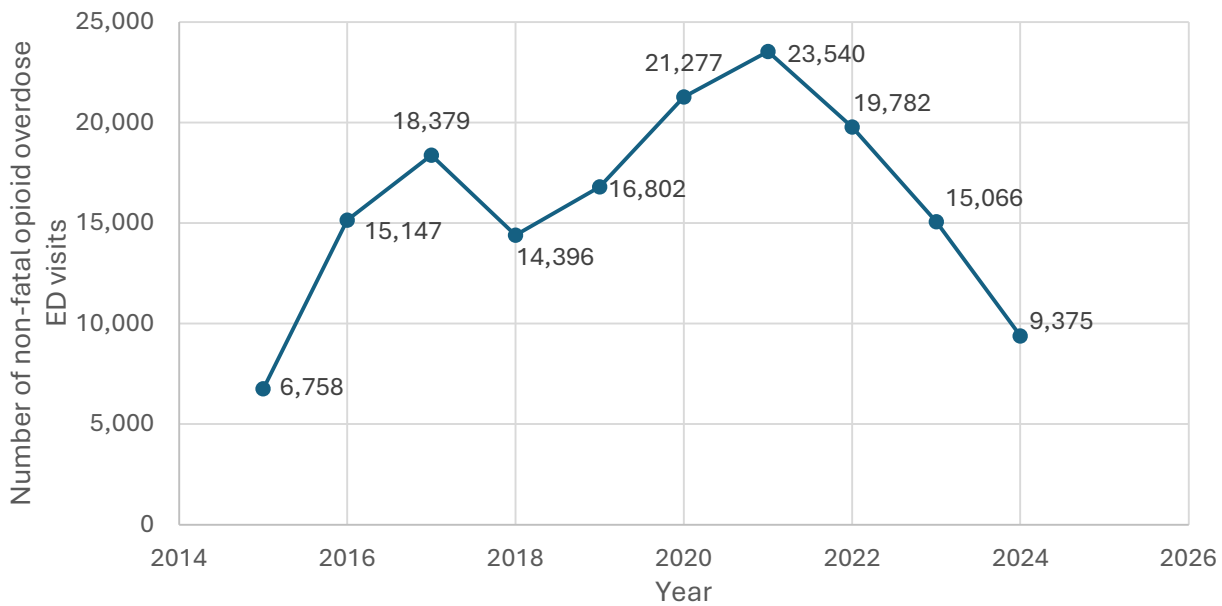


Figure 40. Opioid-involved Non-fatal Overdose Emergency Department Visits, Florida, 2015– 2024.
Source: [FLHealthCharts](https://flhealthcharts.com/).

Mortality: Fatal Poisoning

Fatal drug overdose is the most severe consequence of substance use. In the U.S., drug overdose deaths increased 30% from 2019 to 2020. The [CDC National Center for Health Statistics](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/) indicates that overdose deaths increased by 14% from 2020 to 2021 with 106,699 total deaths. In 2022, the number of overdose deaths slightly increased to 107,941 total deaths. The age-adjusted drug overdose death rate decreased from 2022 to 2024. The largest decrease occurred from 2023 to 2024 with a 26.2% decrease.

The death rate decreased from 31.3 deaths per 100,000 population to 23.1. Total drug overdose deaths in Florida began increasing in 2015 and continued to increase through 2017 until a decrease was observed in 2018. Drug overdose deaths increased in 2019 and continued to increase through 2021 with over 8,000 drug overdose deaths (Figure 41). However, in 2022, total drug overdose deaths decreased for the first time since 2018. There were 7,220 drug overdose deaths recorded in 2023, and 5,501 drug overdoses recorded in 2024, indicating another decrease in total drug deaths.

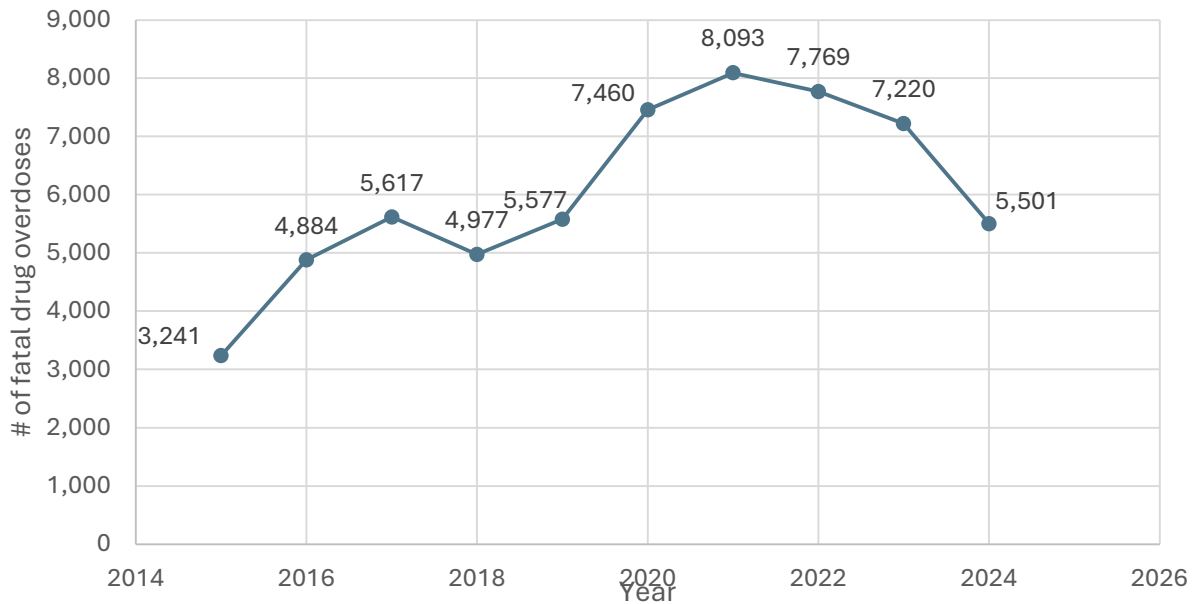


Figure 41. Fatal Drug Overdose Deaths in Florida. 2015–2024.
Source: [FLHealthCharts](#).

The drug overdose death rate per 100,000 population was 15.5 and 16.3 in 2015, for the U.S. and Florida, respectively. While fluctuating slightly, the rate in Florida essentially doubled by 2021 (37.5). Rates declined slightly to 35.2 in 2022 and continued to decline in 2023. As of 2024, death rates significantly decreased to 23.9 in Florida and 23.1 for the U.S. population (Figure 42).

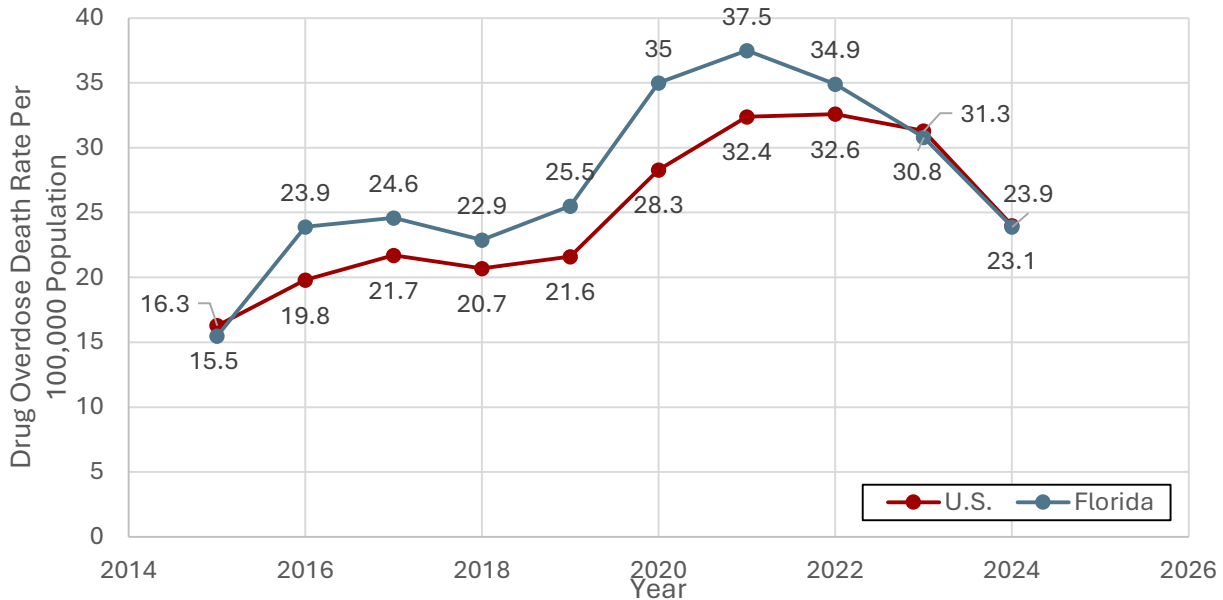


Figure 42. Fatal Drug Overdose Death Rates in the U.S. and Florida. 2015–2024.
Source: [CDC](#) and [FLHealthCharts](#)

The Role of Opioids

Opioids remain the most common cause of death among fatal drug poisonings in Florida and the U.S., and the trends in overall drug poisoning rates are largely driven by opioids. In Florida, the increasing number of fatal opioid overdose deaths mirror all drug overdose death trends. Fatal opioid overdose deaths reached 6,442 in 2021 but decreased in 2022 for the first time since 2018 to 6,157 fatal opioid overdoses. In Figure 43, 3,820 fatal opioid deaths were recorded for 2024.

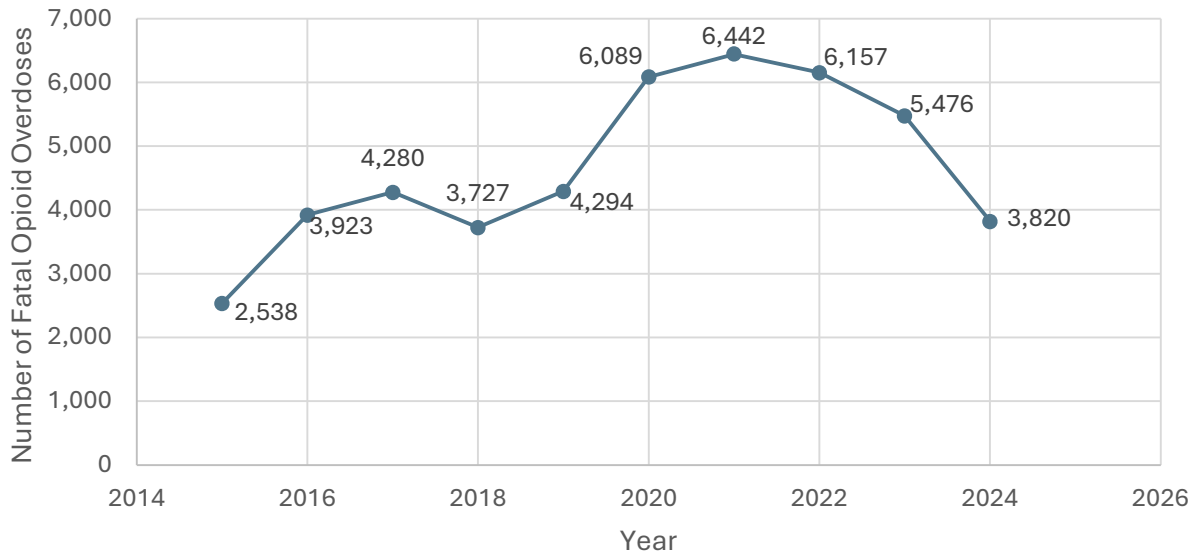


Figure 43. Fatal Opioid Overdose Deaths in Florida. 2015–2024.
Source: [FLHealthCharts](#).

The first wave of the opioid epidemic began with overprescribing, misuse, and, in turn, abuse of prescription opioids. Three prescription opioids (oxycodone, hydrocodone, and methadone) are outlined in the [Florida Medical Examiners Reports](#). Combining the prescription opioids outlined in these Medical Examiners reports, a comparison of the number of death occurrences for these drugs among the Managing Entities is shown below for 2024 (Figure 44). Central Florida Behavioral Health Network had the highest total number of deaths for all three drugs and in total, while Broward Behavioral Health Network had the lowest numbers. However, based on the rate per 100,000 population the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network region experienced 7.7 deaths per 100,000 population. Thriving Mind South Florida region had the lowest rate at 3.4.

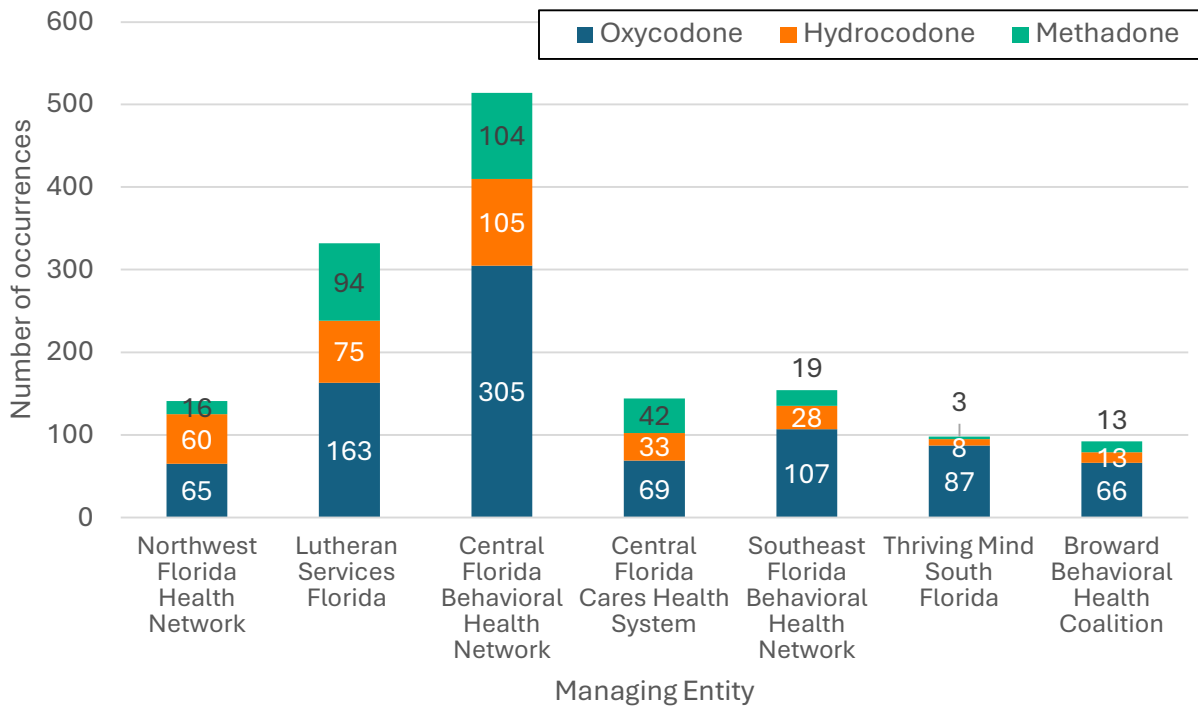


Figure 44. Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, and Methadone Occurrences among Decedents in Florida for Managing Entities, 2024.
Source: [FDLE](#).

Heroin contributed to the second wave of the opioid epidemic. Heroin-related deaths in Florida have increased since 2014 and reached an all-time high in 2017 with 1,057 heroin-related deaths. The first decrease in heroin-related deaths occurred in 2018 and those rates remained stable in 2019. A slight decrease in the number of heroin-related deaths was observed for 2020 followed by a significant decrease in 2021 with 464 heroin-related deaths (Figure 45). Deaths again decreased in 2022, 2023, and in 2024 with 74 heroin-related deaths.

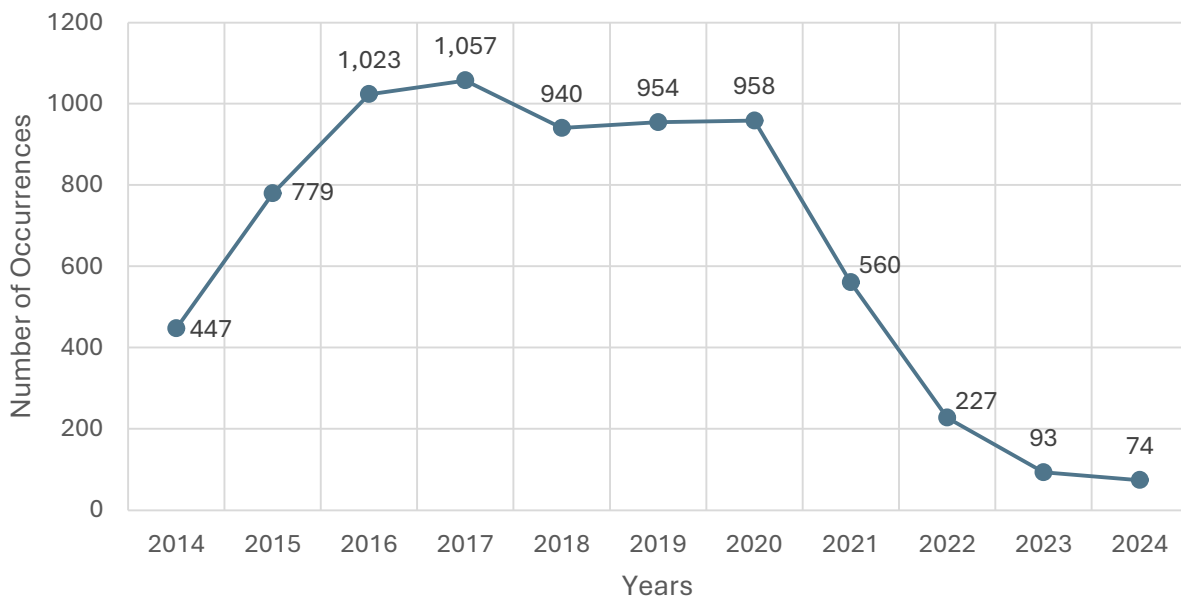


Figure 45. Heroin-related Deaths among Decedents in Florida, 2014- 2024.
Source: [FDLE](#).

Heroin-related deaths by Managing Entity for 2024 are shown in Figure 46. Central Florida Behavioral Health Network had the highest total number of occurrences for heroin-related deaths, while Central Florida Cares Health System had the lowest heroin-related deaths. Consistent with the highest and lowest number of deaths, the rate per 100,000 population was highest in the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition region at 0.5 per 100,000 population and the lowest rate in the Central Florida Cares Health System region with a rate of 0.06.

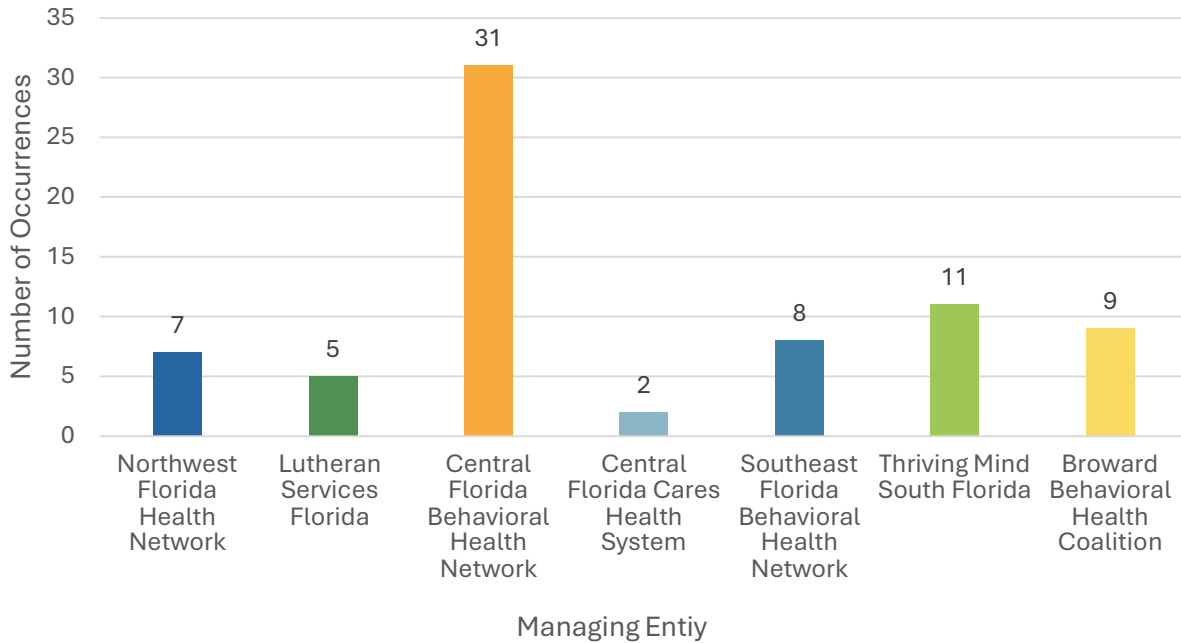


Figure 46. Heroin-related Deaths Among Decedents for Managing Entities, 2024
 Source: [FDLE](#).

Increased death rates due to synthetic opioids (mostly synthetic fentanyl) were responsible for the third wave of the opioid epidemic. Fentanyl and fentanyl analogue-related deaths increased dramatically starting in 2016 (Figure 47). The sharpest increase for fentanyl and fentanyl analogue-related deaths in Florida occurred from 2019 to 2020, with 7,785 fentanyl and fentanyl analogue-related deaths. Deaths increased in 2021, with 9,218 fentanyl and fentanyl analogue-related deaths. In 2022, the total number of fentanyl and fentanyl analogue-related deaths decreased to 7,235 and represented the first-time deaths decreased from the prior year in approximately 10 years. In 2023, data reported 6,411 fentanyl and fentanyl analogue-related deaths with 4,363 in 2024, indicating another decrease in deaths.

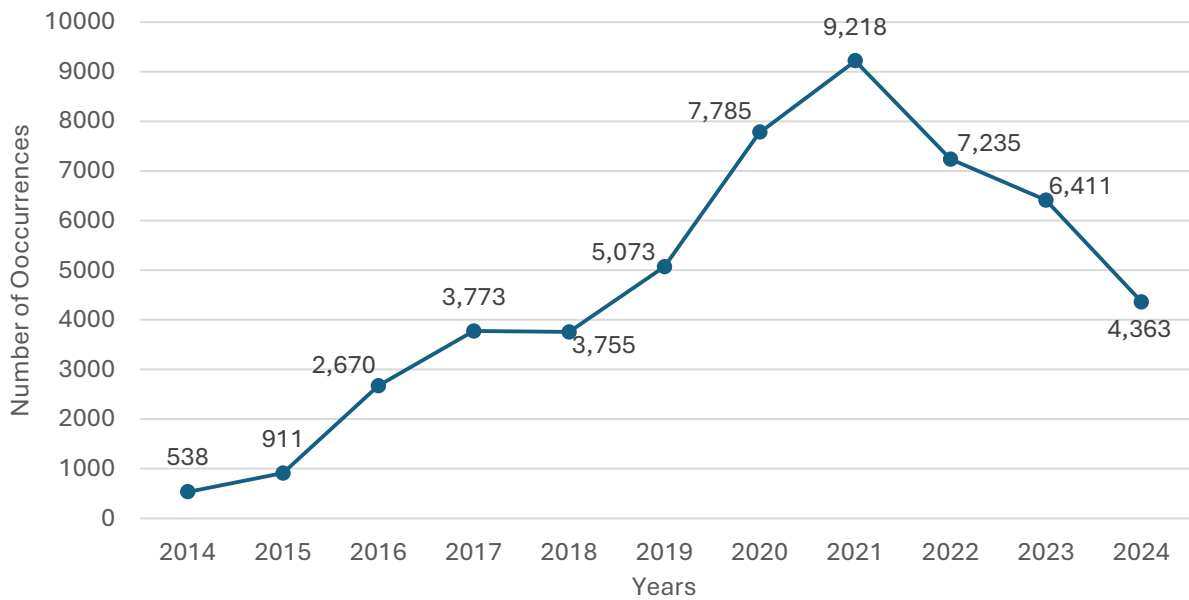


Figure 47. Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogue-related Deaths Among Decedents in Florida, 2014-2024.
Source: [FDLE](#).

Fentanyl and fentanyl analogue-related deaths by the Managing Entities are shown in Figure 48. Occurrences of both fentanyl and fentanyl analogue-related deaths was highest in Central Florida Behavioral Health Network with 1,234 occurrences and the lowest total number of occurrences appearing in the Northwest Florida Health Network region with 277 occurrences. However, the rate per 100,000 population was the highest in the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition region, with a death rate of 22.4. Consistent with the lowest number of deaths, the lowest fentanyl death rate was 12.8 in the Thriving Mind South Florida region.

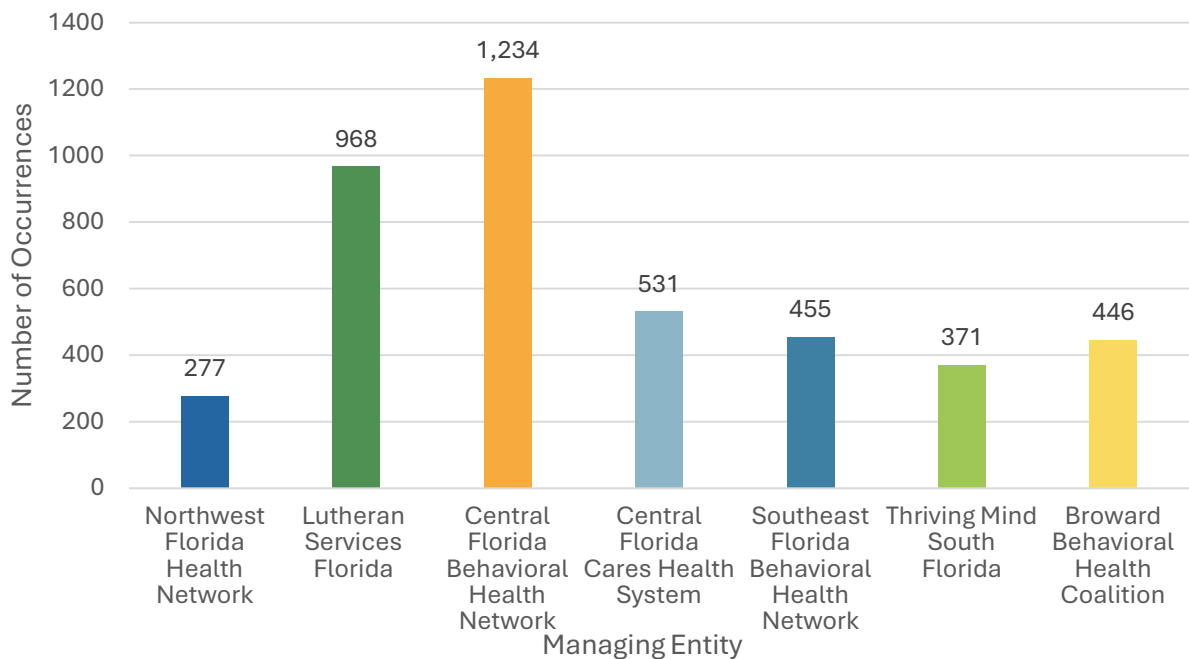


Figure 48. Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogue-related Deaths Among Decedents for Managing Entities, 2024.
Source: [FDLE](#).

The Role of Stimulants

Florida is experiencing a nearly parallel rise with the U.S. for both cocaine and psychostimulant (methamphetamine) death rates, although cocaine-caused deaths in Florida have been consistently higher than in the U.S. Florida did see a decline in these deaths from 2017 to 2018 with a slight increase in 2019. This was followed by a sharp increase in 2020 and another increase in cocaine deaths in 2021 with 4,015 cocaine-related deaths in Florida. The first decrease in cocaine-related deaths in Florida since 2018 occurred in 2022 with 3,930 occurrences and continued to decrease (Figure 49). In 2024, 2,951 cocaine-related deaths were reported, indicating another decrease in deaths from the previous year.

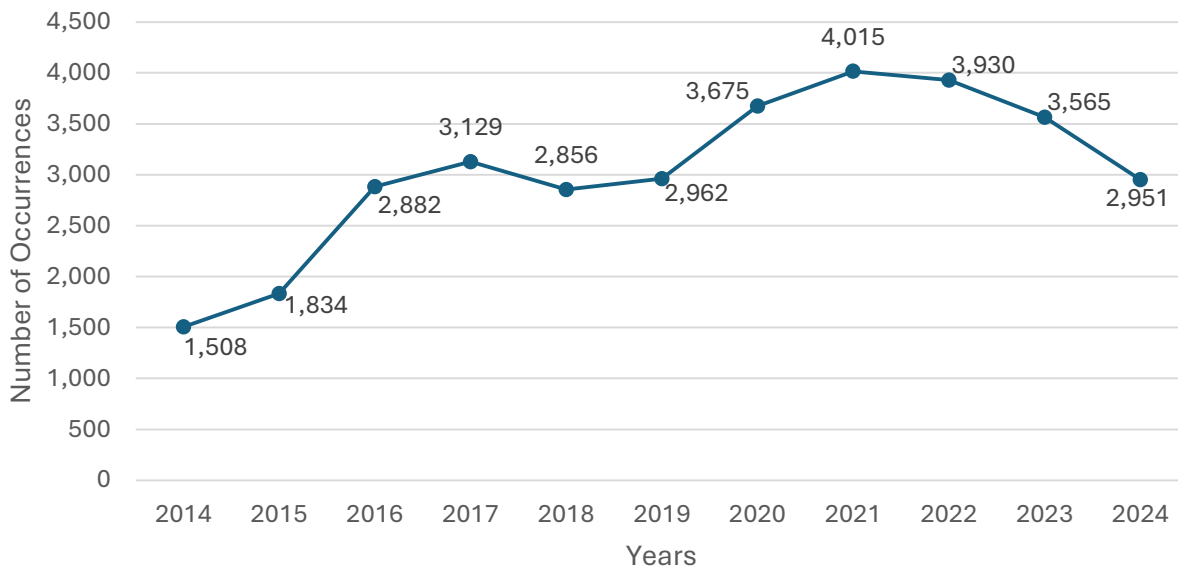


Figure 49. Cocaine-related Deaths Among Decedents in Florida, 2014- 2024.
Source: [FDLE](#).

The total number of occurrences from cocaine-related deaths by Managing Entity region are shown in Figure 50. The highest total number of cocaine-related occurrences that caused and were present at the time of death occurred in the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network region with 857 occurrences. The lowest number of occurrences was reported in the Northwest Florida Health Network region with 134 occurrences. However, the rate per 100,000 population was the highest in the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network region, with a death rate of 14.4. Consistent with the lowest number of deaths, the lowest cocaine-related death rate was in the Northwest Florida Health Network region with 8.1 rate per 100,000 population.

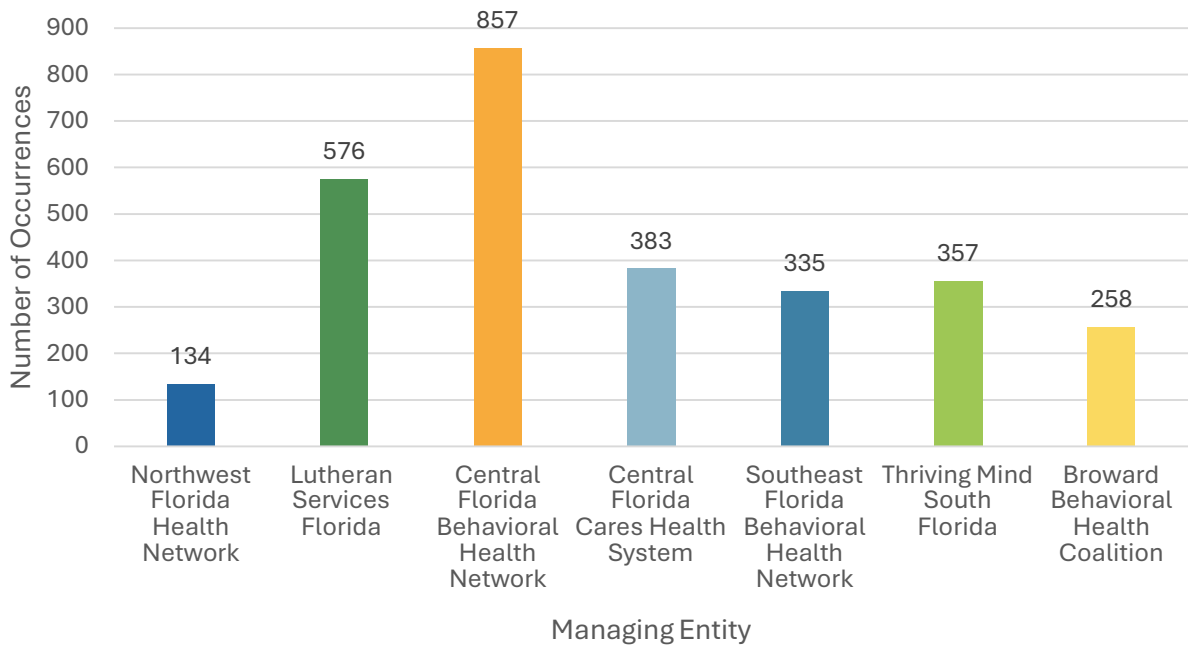


Figure 50. Cocaine-related Deaths Among Decedents for Managing Entities, 2024.
Source: [FDLE](#).

Deaths from psychostimulants, like methamphetamine, have also increased in Florida. The number of occurrences has dramatically increased every single year since 2016 with the highest increase in the number of methamphetamine-related deaths occurring in 2021 (Figure 51). However, for the first time in several years, methamphetamine-related deaths in Florida did not increase from the prior year. In 2022, there were a total of 2,918 occurrences of methamphetamine-related deaths in Florida, a difference of 16 methamphetamine-related deaths compared to 2021. In 2023, there were 2,682 occurrences of methamphetamine-related deaths indicating a continued downward trend to 2,129 deaths in 2024.

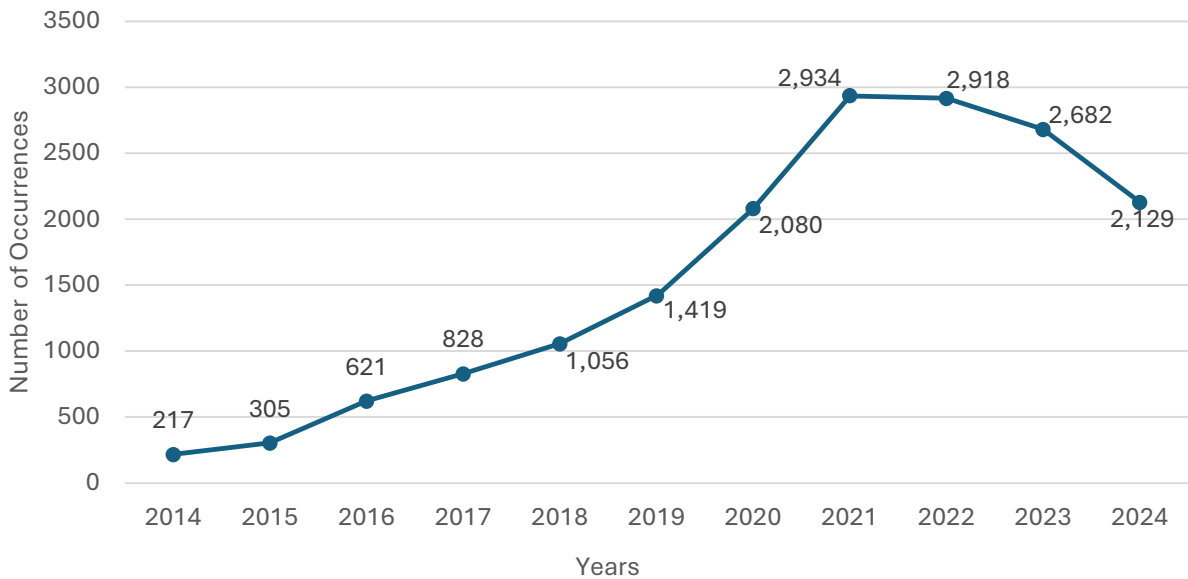


Figure 51. Methamphetamine-related Deaths Among Decedents in Florida, 2014- 2024.
Source: [FDLE](#).

The number of methamphetamine-related deaths for 2024 by Managing Entity regions is shown in Figure 52. The highest number of methamphetamine-related deaths was 760 occurrences in the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network region. The lowest number of occurrences was in the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition region with just 60 occurrences at the time of death. However, the rate per 100,000 population was the highest in the Northwest Florida Health Network region, with a death rate of 16.4 per 100,000. In addition, the region managed by Broward Behavioral Health Coalition had the lowest methamphetamine-related death rate, with 3.0 deaths per 100,000 population.

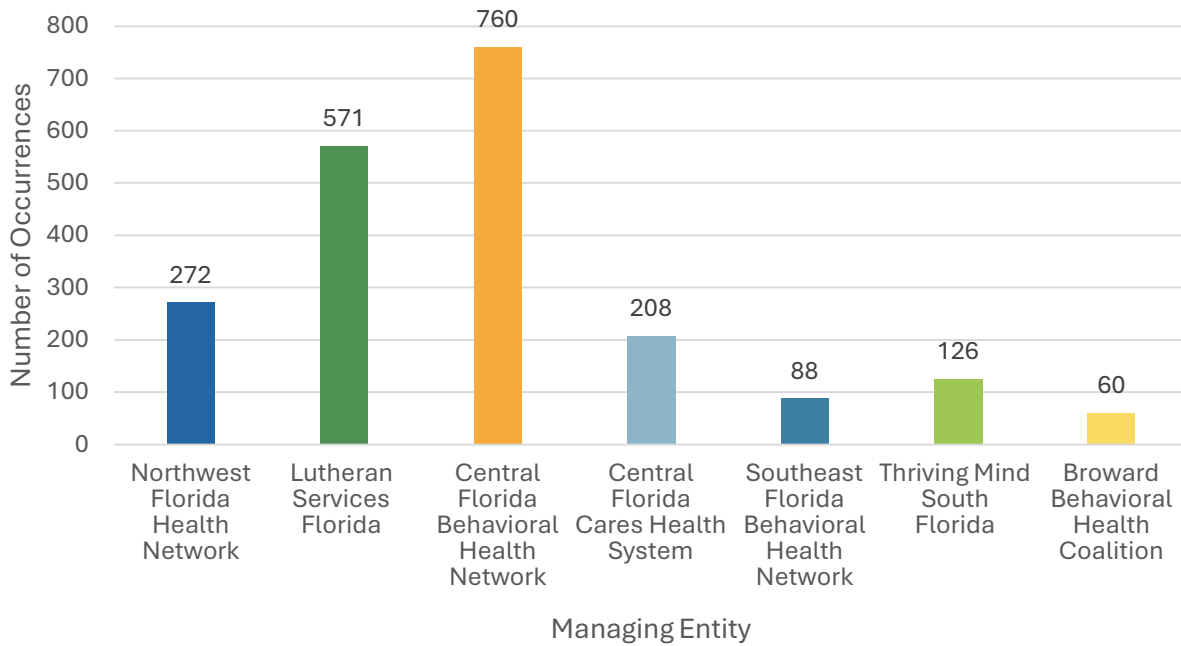


Figure 52. Methamphetamine-related Deaths Among Decedents for Managing Entities, 2024.
 Source: [FDLE](#).

Conclusions

Adult Substance Use

Misuse of prescription opioids is slowly declining along with heroin misuse across the nation and in Florida. Rates of past month alcohol use have steadily declined for adults across the nation and in Florida while binge drinking has remained largely unchanged. Although rates of cocaine use declined from 2015-2020, recent survey data shows an upward trend in misuse in Florida. Methamphetamine-related deaths have also been increasing steadily since 2015. The trend for marijuana stands out as the substance used by adults which has consistently been increasing over time, both past-month and past-year use; this is consistent with trends for marijuana use in the U.S.

Youth Substance Use

Past-year misuse of pain relievers has decreased among Florida youth. Heroin use is also trending downward for Florida youth overall in 2025. Use of psychostimulants by Florida youth has increased according to NSDUH data. In addition, vaping nicotine and marijuana has been decreasing over time, especially past 30-day use among Florida youth. Rates of lifetime, past-year, and past-month use of marijuana among Florida youth have been stable over time, with a continuing downward trend. In the same period, lifetime, past-year, and past-month rates of alcohol use have been declining more quickly among Florida youth compared to marijuana.

Non-Fatal Poisonings

The number of non-fatal poisonings treated in the emergency department (ED), has decreased again to levels before 2016.

Fatal Poisonings

Florida fatal drug poisonings continued to decline in 2024. Fatal drug poisonings for all substances highlighted in the Medical Examiner's Annual Report have shown decreases among Floridians.

Data Sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [National Center for Health Statistics](#). (1999 - 2025)

Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). [Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey \(FYSAS\)](#). (2000 – 2025)

Florida Department of Health. Opioid Use Dashboard. [FL Health Charts](#) (2015 -2025)

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). [Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners Commission \(MEC\)](#). (2003 – 2024)

Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR), [Florida Estimates of Population, Population Studies Program](#) (2026)

Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use (MTF). (1975 - 2025). [Monitoring the Future \(2025\)](#).

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2002 – 2024). [National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\)](#).