PATTERNS AND TRENDS OF SUBSTANCE USE
WITHIN AND ACROSS THE REGIONS OF FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 2019

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Patterns and Trends of Substance Use
Within and Across the Managing Entity Regions of Florida

Update November 2019

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SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

This report provides a brief update to the 2019 Annual Report, Patterns and Trends of Substance Use Within and Across the Regions of Florida. The update is based on data released since the dissemination of the April 2019 Annual Report. Only two sources had updated information at the time data were compiled for inclusion in this report (September 30, 2019), namely national data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and data from the 2018 interim report, Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners, prepared by the Florida Medical Examiners Commission, Florida Department of Law Enforcement and published July 2019. Though national data have been reported from the 2018 NSDUH, state-specific data have not been updated since 2016. Population estimates were obtained from the Florida Estimates of Population, 2018 report published by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida.

When possible, trends and patterns are also reported by the Managing Entity Region, the seven regional systems of care with which the Department of Children and Families contracts for the provision of behavioral health services.

Report Highlights

The key points of this report are highlighted below:

- Based on updates to national data from the 2018 NSDUH, the current trends of declines in the prevalence of current alcohol use and binge drinking among adolescents and little to no changes in the prevalence of binge drinking among adults remain unchanged.

- Based on NSDUH data, the most recent year of data suggest that rates of cigarette smoking among adolescents is leveling off, though no new data were available for vaping in this age group. Among adults, vaping is on the decline, according to the 2018 BRFSS data.
Though new Florida-specific data from NSDUH are yet to be released, marijuana use increased among both adolescents and adults in the US overall, and the rate of increase is accelerating. These increases may be a harbinger of similar increases occurring in Florida, since its most recent rise in advance of the nation as a whole.

The number of deaths involving several types of opioids declined in the first half of 2018 compared to the first half of 2017, with the notable exception of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs.

After four years of increases in the number of deaths involving cocaine, fewer of these deaths occurred in the first half of 2018 compared to the first half of 2017, while deaths involving methamphetamines continued to rise again in the first half of 2018.

Fewer deaths occurred in the first half of 2018 in Florida involving prescription benzodiazepines compared to the first half of 2017, but these declines were not observed uniformly across the Managing Entity regions.

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Population of Florida, Overall and by Managing Entity Region

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) provides behavioral health services to the large, diverse population of Florida through contracts with seven Managing Entities (Figure 1). Geographically, some Managing Entity Regions overlap and differ from the six geographic regions commonly used in Florida, i.e., the Northwest, Northeast, Central, Suncoast, Southeast, and Southern regions (Figure 1).

Each of the regions that are served by a Managing Entity is comprised of 1 to 23 of the 67 counties in Florida. The counties to which each Managing Entity provides services are listed below.

1. **Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc. (BBCBC)** (18 counties, including 16 counties in the Northwest and 2 in Northeast Florida): Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington;


3. **Central Florida Cares Health System, Inc. (CFCHS)** (4 counties Central Florida): Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole;
4. **Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (CFBHN)** (14 counties, including three from Central Florida and 11 from Suncoast Florida): Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota;

5. **Southeast Florida Behavioral Network, Inc. (SEFBHN)** (5 counties): Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie;

6. **Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, Inc. (BBHC)** (1 county from Southeast Florida): Broward; and


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Figure 1. The Managing Entity Regions of Florida.
Population estimates for the seven Managing Entity (ME) regions using the same color-coding, as depicted in Figure 1 are shown in Figure 2 (Bureau of Economic and Business Research). The estimated total population in Florida by April 2018 was 20,840,568, excluding inmates. Of the seven regions, the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc., serves the largest population of over 5.8 million, 28% of Florida’s population. Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc. serves the smallest population, just under 1.5 million, 7% of the state’s population, dispersed throughout a larger geographic area.

Figure 2. Estimated population (excluding inmates) by Managing Entity Regions of Florida, April 2018.
SECTION II. PATTERNS OF AND TRENDS IN ALCOHOL USE

To assess substance use patterns and trends in Florida in the context of overall trends in the nation, data from national surveys that report state-level data are utilized to describe the epidemiology of substance use in Florida. These data sources include the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH, conducted annually), the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS, conducted every other year), and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS, conducted annually). In addition, state-based data sources are also utilized. State data such as toxicology results from death investigations and state-based surveys afford the opportunity to describe the epidemiology of substance use by the regions that the Managing Entities serve. Data from Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners interim reports and data collected during the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) are also used. Finally, data from the Florida Uniform Crime Report are reported. However, new data from all of these sources had not been released at the time data were compiled for this update. Sources from which new data are characterized for this update are detailed in each section.

Underage Alcohol Use

Underage Alcohol Use in General

Relatively little new data related to underage drinking have become available since the publication of the 2019 Annual Report. The National Survey on Drug Use in Households has released 2018 data for the nation, and figures related to underage alcohol use are updated below. However, state-specific reports have not been released since those corresponding to the 2015-2016 data. The Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey is conducted in the spring, and these data had not yet been released at the time data were compiled for this update.

The prevalence of alcohol use in the past 30 days is used to monitor trends in alcohol use over time. Though NSDUH data are utilized to report underage drinking, only new data for the nation as a whole has become available since the 2019 Annual Report. Based on the 2019 estimate for the prevalence of current alcohol use among 12 – 17-year-olds, the trend in a decline in underage drinking appears to be continuing (Figure 3). Based on the data available, underage drinking in Florida tracks closely with the national rate.

Though a slight increase in alcohol use among adolescents in Florida was observed for 2016-17, it mimicked that of the nation as a whole in 2017. Without the latest data, it is unknown whether Florida youth experienced the same decline in current underage drinking as American youth overall.
Figure 3. Prevalence of Past 30-day Alcohol Use Among Adolescents Aged 12-17 Years in Florida and the United States for 2006 - 2018. Data source: NSDUH. Note: To increase the precision of small area estimates and smooth these estimates over time, prevalence rates for Florida are two-year moving averages.

Underage Binge Drinking

Binge drinking is one of the most commonly used indicators for problematic drinking among adolescents. Like any current underage drinking, the prevalence of binge drinking among youth has been generally declining overtime for over a decade, with rates in Florida generally at or slightly below those for the nation (Figure 4). The updated data for the U.S. in 2018 continues this trend following a slight increase in 2017. Florida experienced a slight increase in 2016-2017, but data for the most recent year (2017-2018) are not yet available to determine if Florida youth experienced the same decline seen for the nation overall.
Figure 4. Prevalence Rate of Binge Drinking Among Adolescents Aged 12-17 Years, Florida and United States, 2006-17. Source: NSDUH. Note: To increase the precision of small-area estimates and smooth these estimates over time, prevalence rates for Florida are two-year moving averages.

Underage Drinking by Managing Entity Region

Since the release of the 2019 Annual Report, no new county-specific data related to under-age drinking have been released; thus, there are no updates to report.

Alcohol Use among Adults

As in the 2019 Annual Report, data collected through BRFSS are used to quantify the prevalence of alcohol use among adults in Florida and the United States overall. The prevalence of any alcohol use in the 30 days prior to and including the survey day among U.S. adults has changed little over the last decade, with rates dipping as low as 51.9% and peaking in 2017 at 54.0% (Figure 5). The prevalence of current alcohol use among adults in Florida was similar over the same time period, with a low of 51.3% and a peak of 55.3% in both 2010 and 2012. Little has changed with the addition of 2017 data, though
the prevalence in Florida dipped below that of the nation (52.4% versus 54.0, respectively).

![Figure 5. Prevalence of Past 30-day Alcohol Use Among Adults, Florida, and the United States, 2006-2017. Data source: BRFSS.](image)

Binge drinking is often used as an indicator of problematic drinking, as it poses not only risks to personal health such as the increased risk of alcohol use disorder and cancer, but also public health threats such as increases in unintentional injury and motor vehicle crashes. Throughout the period of observation, the prevalence of binge drinking among adults in Florida was lower than that of the nation (Figure 6). Increases and decreases over time in the prevalence nationally were reflected in the Florida prevalence as well. Though, in the last year for which data are available, the rates nearly converge.
Among the 5,922 deaths occurring in the first half of 2018 in Florida; ethanol was detected in nearly half of decedents (42%, n =2,463). The total number of deaths involving alcohol declined from 2017 when 2,648 decedents were identified to have alcohol present at death. Of the total number of decedents for whom ethanol was detected in the first six months of 2018, only about a fifth (18 %, n = 442) were caused by alcohol. This is fewer than the number of deaths caused by ethyl alcohol in the first and second half of 2017 (496 and 479, respectively).

According to the 2018 Florida Uniform Crime Reports, the number of arrests due to driving under the influence (DUI) of substances in Florida in 2018 was 32,177, a slight reduction (1.6%) from the 32,684 occurring in 2017. Though no substance is specified in reported arrests, most are due to alcohol intoxication. The majority of arrests for DUI among adults were males. Among all 20 Judicial Circuits, Judicial Circuit 13 (Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties) served by CFBHN, had the most DUI arrests (n = 3,462), while Judicial Circuit 3 (Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties), served by BBCBC, experienced the fewest number of DUI arrests (n = 378).
SECTION III. PATTERNS OF AND TRENDS IN TOBACCO USE

Tobacco use is a preventable cause of many diseases and premature death. Data from diverse sources at the national and state level indicate that fewer and fewer people use conventional tobacco products such as cigarettes, while more and more people are now using new nicotine-containing products such as electronic cigarettes. To inform Florida's tobacco use prevention efforts, data on the use of conventional cigarettes and electronic cigarettes by adolescents were reported in the 2019 Annual Report. Reporting included national and Florida data for adolescents from the 2017 YRBSS as well as Florida youth data by the Managing Entity region from the 2018 FYSAS, both of which were not updated at the time data were compiled for this report. Updates to data reported for tobacco use among adults from NSDUH and BRFSS in the 2019 Annual Report are shown in the subsequent sub-sections.

Cigarette Smoking among Adolescents

Since the release of the 2019 Annual Report, no additional years of data used to characterize tobacco use among adolescents has been released; thus, there are no updates to this to report.

Cigarette Smoking among Adults

Compared to adolescents, cigarette smoking is more prevalent among adults in the United States and Florida. While the prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults in the U.S. continued to decline in 2017, the prevalence in Florida increased from 2016, though it continues to remain below the national rate (Figure 7). Though Florida is a large state with a population of more than 20 million, state rates are less stable than national rates. The release of additional data will provide more information to determine if the increase is a result of a similar pattern from past years where a slight increase is observed after several years of decline in the prevalence, followed by more decline, resulting in a downward trend overall.
Vaping among Adolescents

Since the release of the 2019 Annual Report, no additional years of data used to characterize the use of devices to vaporize nicotine among adolescents have been released; thus, there are no updates to this section to report.

Vaping among Adults

Compared to young people, vaping is less prevalent among adults. In 2017, a lower proportion of adults reported any or current vaping compared to 2016. This was observed for both the US as a whole and Florida, though the rates were similar (Figure 8).
Figure 8. Prevalence of Vaping Among Adults 18 Years of Age and Older, Florida and the United States, 2016-2017. Data source: BRFSS.
Marijuana is one of the most commonly used substances in the United States, including Florida, and its use has been increasing among both youth and adults over time. Though it is a Schedule 1 drug under federal law, two-thirds of the states have legalized marijuana use for medical and/or recreational purposes. For these reasons, it is especially important to conduct ongoing surveillance of marijuana use in both these subsets of the population. Thus, data on the use of marijuana were reported in the 2019 Annual Report.

Reporting included 2017 national and Florida-level data for adolescents obtained through YRBSS. Moreover, marijuana use among adolescents in Florida was reported overall and by Managing Entity (ME) Region using data obtained during the FYSAS conducted in 2018. Data from the most recent year for neither of these data sources were available at the time data were compiled for this report and were not updated. Updates to data for marijuana use among adolescents and adults, however, were available from NSDUH and are shown below. In addition, the data reported for adults from BRFSS are updated.

### Marijuana Use among Adolescents

Since the release of the 2019 Annual Report, NSDUH has updated estimates of past 30-day use of marijuana among adolescents aged 12 – 17 years. These new data demonstrate a continuation in the increase in the current use of marijuana among American youth (Figure 9). This increase may be a harbinger for such an increase occurring in Florida, given that the prevalence in Florida began its most recent rise in advance of the nation as a whole.
Figure 9. Prevalence of Past 30-day Marijuana Use Among Adolescents Aged 12-17 Years, Florida and the United States, 2006-2018. Data source: NSDUH. Note: To increase the precision of small-area estimates and smooth these estimates over time, prevalence rates for Florida are two-year moving averages.

Marijuana Use among Adults

Like the trend observed among adolescents, the latest NSDUH data suggest that American adults are also increasingly using marijuana (Figure 10). Though adult Floridians lag just behind the nation with regard to the prevalence of current use of marijuana, increases in Florida appeared to begin accelerating in 2016-2017, perhaps in response to legislation passed in 2016 and enacted in 2017 that legalized marijuana for medical use in the state. Examination of state-specific data, once released, will be essential to track the Florida experience and compare it to that of the nation as a whole.
Figure 10. Prevalence of Past 30-day Marijuana Use Among Adults Aged 18 Years or Older, Florida and the United States. Data source: NSDUH. Note: To increase the precision of small-area estimates and smooth these estimates over time, prevalence rates for Florida are two-year moving averages.

Data from the 2018 Interim Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners are also an important source of information related to marijuana use. This data quantify the extent to which decedents had marijuana exposure prior to or at the time of death by conducting postmortem toxicology tests aimed at detecting cannabinoids (an active component of marijuana). Data from the 2018 interim report indicate that cannabinoids were detected in about a fifth (21.7%, n=1,288) decedents among the total 5,922 decedents who underwent toxicology testing in Florida in the first six months of 2018; marijuana was the fourth most frequently detected substance among Florida decedents during this time period. Compared to the 1,124 cases in the first six months of 2017, there was a 15% relative increase in marijuana exposure in 2018.

In addition to naturally occurring cannabinoids, synthetic cannabinoids were detected in 62 (1%) decedents; 57 (92%) of these deaths were caused by synthetic cannabinoids. In the first six months of 2017, synthetic cannabinoids were detected in only 30 decedents, resulting in a 107% relative increase in 2018. Furthermore, deaths caused by synthetic cannabinoids increased from 25 in 2017 to 57 in 2018, an absolute increase of 22 cases, or 88% relative increase.
The rapid increase in synthetic marijuana exposure among decedents in Florida could be a result of surveillance, as testing increased in 2017 (2017 Annual Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners). In addition to increases in testing, other factors should be considered as these substances are accounting for an increasing number of deaths annually.
The proliferation of new synthetic drugs, collectively known as novel psychoactive substances, pose a particular public health challenge. They include a large group of new drugs that have been designed to mimic illicit drugs, and these drugs are being developed at an unprecedented rate, with 643 new substances registered in December 2015 in the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime Early Warning Advisory. In this section, we examine the use of four synthetic drugs (tryptamines, piperazines, synthetic cathinones, and phenethylamines; synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic fentanyl analogs are reported in Section III on marijuana and Section VI on opioids, respectively). Since the 2019 Annual Report, new data were available only from Florida Medical Examiners.

### Tryptamines

Since the release of the 2019 Annual Report, no new data related to tryptamines have been released; thus, there are no updates to report.

### Phenethylamines and Piperazines

Phenethylamines are a class of substances with both stimulant and hallucinogenic effects, whose abuse has been increasing over time. Often produced in clandestine labs and sold over the internet, examples of newer phenethylamines are Bromo-dragonFLY and 6-APB, also known as Benzo Fury. Piperazines are often used as industrial chemicals. Given their stimulant and hallucinogenic effects, they have, likewise, become substances of abuse. New data related to deaths involving novel phenethylamines and piperazines have been released since the 2019 Annual Report was published. The 2018 Interim Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners indicates phenethylamines/piperazines were detected in 19 decedents whose deaths occurred in Florida January to June 2018, a decrease compared to the same period in 2017 when phenethylamines/piperazines were detected in 22 decedents. Of these deaths occurring in the first half of 2018, six were caused by the use of phenethylamines/piperazines.

### Synthetic Cathinones

Synthetic cathinones are human-made stimulants chemically related to cathinones, commonly known as bath salts. New data related to deaths involving synthetic cathinones have been released since the 2019 Annual Report was published. Among the 5,922 deaths occurring January through June 2018 in Florida, cathinones were detected in a small portion (2.1%, n = 122) (2018 Interim Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners). Among the 122 deaths with cathinone exposure, nearly 3 of every 5 (n=73) were caused by these substances. Cathinones were detected in only 65 deaths during the same period in 2017.
SECTION VI. PATTERNS OF AND TRENDS IN OPIOID USE

Opioids are a class of drugs that include heroin, fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, and morphine. Like their illicit counterparts, prescription opioids can be misused, increasing the risk of adverse consequences such as overdose and death. Though no new data were available regarding the use of opioids in Florida, data from the 2018 Interim Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners are reported as they were released following publication and release of the 2019 Annual Report.

A total of 5,452 opioid-related deaths occurred January through June 2018, compared to 5,654 opioid-related deaths during the same period in 2017, a relative decrease of 4% in one year. In addition, the number of deaths attributed to opioids was only 3,225 in the first half of 2018 compared to 3,494 in the first half of 2017, a relative decrease of 8%.

**Prescription Opioid Use**

The first half of 2018 saw another subsequent year of an increase in fatal prescription opioid overdoses, with 216 more cases occurring in the first half of 2018 compared to the first half of 2017 (Figure 11). From 2017 to 2018, there was an increase of 216 cases, a 5.1% relative increase.

![Figure 11. Number and Percent of Deaths Involving Prescription Opioids Among All Deaths Involving Substances in Florida, January-June 2013-2018. Data source: 2013-2018 Interim Reports of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners.](image-url)
Though fentanyl is available by prescription, it is likely that many cases involving fentanyl are due to illicit fentanyl, rather than misuse of prescription fentanyl. The increase in fatal prescription opioids is driven nearly entirely by the fentanyl-caused deaths. The number of cases involving nearly every other prescription opioid declined or remained about the same from 2017 to 2018, most notably for both oxycodone and morphine (Figure 12).


Heroin Use

Heroin is an opioid made from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from opium poppy plants.

Heroin Use Among Adolescents

No new data for the Florida-specific prevalence of heroin use among adolescents were available at the time data were compiled for this report; however, new data for 2018 from NSDUH show that heroin use among adolescents declined further to less than 0.05%.
Heroin Use Among Adults

From 2013 to 2017, the number of deaths with heroin detected from January to June increased from 70 in 2013 to 548 in 2017, with an average annual increase of 120, while the number decreased by 96 with heroin detected from 2017 to 2018.


Though the number of deaths attributed to heroin rose precipitously between 2013 and 2017, a decrease in the number of these deaths was observed in 2018. In addition, a smaller percentage of deaths were caused by heroin in 2018 (88%) compared to 2017 (93%).

Fentanyl Analogs

Fentanyl analogs are synthetic opioids that are structurally similar to fentanyl. Fentanyl analogs were the most frequently detected drugs among decedents dying in the first half of 2018 in Florida (Figure 15). Fentanyl analogs were detected in 520 (9%) decedents among the 5,922 death investigations that included toxicology testing. Of the 520 decedents positive for fentanyl analogs, the majority of deaths (84% n = 437) were caused
by the drug. Compared to the same period in 2017, deaths positive for fentanyl analogs declined by 41%, and the number of deaths caused by the drug declined by 48%.

Cocaine is a highly-addictive stimulant that is associated with adverse health effects such as overdose and death.

**Cocaine Use among Adolescents**

Since the release of the [2019 Annual Report](#), no new state-specific data related to cocaine use among adolescents had been released when the update data were compiled; thus, there are no updates to report. However, national data generated through [NSDUH](#) have been released, and fewer adolescents reported cocaine use in the past 30 days in 2018 than in 2017, continuing a trend observed for several years ([Figure 16](#)).

![Figure 16](image)

**Figure 16. Prevalence of Past-Year Cocaine Use Among Adolescents 12-17 Years of Age in Florida and the United States, 2007 - 2018.** Data source: NSDUH. Note: To increase the precision of small-area estimates and smooth these estimates over time, prevalence rates for Florida are two-year moving averages.
Cocaine Use among Adults

Following at least four years of increasing numbers of deaths involving cocaine, there was a 7% decline in the number of these deaths in 2018 (Figure 17) (2018 Interim Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners). Likewise, the number of deaths caused by cocaine also declined in the first half of 2018 to 844.

Methamphetamine is a stimulant, which is chemically similar to amphetamine and metabolizes to amphetamine. An overdose of methamphetamine can result in stroke, heart attack, organ problems such as kidney failure, and death.

Methamphetamine Use among Adolescents

Since the release of the 2019 Annual Report, no additional years of data used to characterize the use of methamphetamines among adolescents had been released at the time update data were compiled; thus, there are no updates to this section.

Methamphetamine Use among Adults

The recent increases in the involvement of methamphetamine in Florida deaths slowed between 2017 and 2018 (Figure 19) (2018 Interim Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners). From January to June 2018, a total of 468 decedents tested positive for methamphetamine during postmortem toxicology testing, and of those, methamphetamine was ruled to have caused 274 deaths, accounting for 59%.

SECTION IX. MEDICAL USE OF PRESCRIPTION BENZODIAZEPINES

Benzodiazepines are a group of prescription sedative-hypnotic drugs that are commonly prescribed for stress, anxiety, seizures, alcohol withdrawal, or insomnia.

Time Trends in Use

The number of deaths for which benzodiazepines were detected declined from 2,506 in the first half of 2017 to 2,333 in the first half of 2018, as did the number of deaths deemed to be caused by benzodiazepines (from 658 in 2017 to 559 in 2018) (Figure 20) (2018 Interim Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners). Fewer of the deaths that involved benzodiazepines were ruled to be caused by the benzodiazepine compared to other drugs (26% in 2017 and 24% in 2018).

Use of Different Types of Benzodiazepines

The most common benzodiazepine present in decedents who died in the first half of 2018 was alprazolam (Figure 21) (2018 Interim Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners), accounting for 35% of the total.

Changes in Alprazolam and Diazepam Use in 2017-18

Since alprazolam and diazepam were two of the most commonly prescribed benzodiazepines in 2018, the frequency of deaths involving these substances is shown in Table 1.
Table 1. Number of occurrences and percent change of alprazolam and diazepam in decedents in Florida and by the Managing Entity region, January – June 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ME Regions</th>
<th>Alprazolam</th>
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<th>Diazepam</th>
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<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
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Both of these drugs were involved in fewer deaths during the first half of 2018 compared to the first half of 2017. However, these declines were not observed uniformly across the Managing Entities. These changes may be a result of concerted efforts to decrease the co-prescribing of benzodiazepines with opioids and education campaigns about the risk of combining these substances. Interventions such as these may have not been delivered similarly, or other factors may be playing a role in the regions that observed an increased role of benzodiazepines in substance-involved deaths.
SECTION X. DATA SOURCES


Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Annual Uniform Crime Reports.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).