

2025

PATTERNS OF AND TRENDS IN SUBSTANCE USE IN FLORIDA

Annual Report

The activities described in this document are 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	5
Managing Entities	6
Methodology	8
Population	10
Substance Use.....	11
Opioids	11
Pain Reliever Misuse Among Adults	11
Pain Reliever Misuse Among Youth	12
Heroin Use Among Adults	14
Heroin Use Among Youth	14
Psychostimulant Use	16
Cocaine Use Among Youth	16
Methamphetamine Use Among Adults	18
Methamphetamine Use Among Youth.....	18
Marijuana	20
Marijuana Use Among Adults.....	20
Marijuana Use Among Youth	21
Vaping	24
Vaping Nicotine Among Youth	24
Vaping Marijuana Among Youth.....	26
Alcohol	28
Alcohol Use Among Adults.....	28
Alcohol Use Among Youth	30
Inhalants.....	33
Inhalant Use Among Youth	33
Club Drugs	34
Club Drug Use Among Youth	34
Morbidity	36
Emergency Room Visits	36
Mortality: Fatal Poisoning	37
Role of Opioids	39
Role of Stimulants.....	44

Conclusions	48
Adult Substance Use	48
Youth Substance Use	48
Non-Fatal Poisonings	48
Fatal Poisonings	48
Data Sources	49
References	50

Introduction

The 2025 Annual Report presents updated data and information about substance use in Florida and the U.S. It includes data from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [Florida Department of Health Florida Health Charts](#), and the [Florida Medical Examiners Commission Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners: 2023 Annual Report](#). It also includes data from the 2023 [National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\)](#), the 2024 [Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey](#), and 2025 [Monitoring the Future](#). The COVID-19 pandemic hindered data collection efforts during 2020, particularly for the [National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) (NSDUH) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The 2021-2022 NSDUH state data tables provide estimates for 35 measures of substance use and mental health by age group across 37 tables. Due to methodology changes, they cannot be compared to previous years' estimates. The estimates are based on a small area estimation methodology.

A Note about Age

Prevention and treatment services as well as funding streams differ for youth and adults. Thus, when possible, data is often presented separately for youth and adults. Because some data presented in this report 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 aged 18 years and older.

Managing Entities

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) contracts with seven regional systems of care known as Managing Entities to provide behavioral health services to citizens across the state. Because Florida is a large state with a diverse, geographically disparate population, this model allows each Managing Entity to respond to the specific behavioral health needs of its region within Florida. 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).

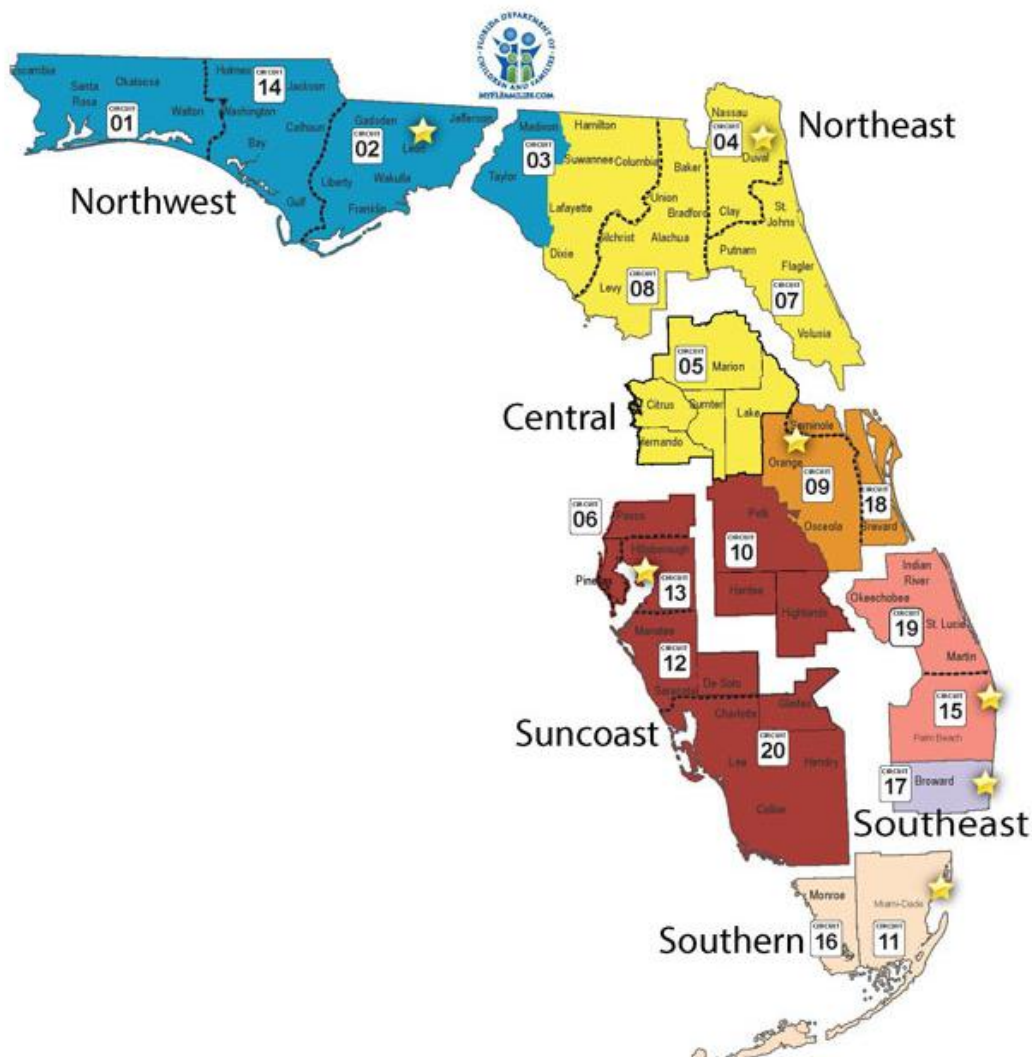


Figure 1. Florida by Department of Children and Families Region, Managing Entity, Circuit, and County. Source: [Managing Entities, Florida Department of Families and Children.](#)

Two counties in the Northeast and the 16 counties located in the Northwest region of Florida are served by Northwest Florida Health Network (NWF Health): Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington. As shown in Figure 1, the region served by NWF Health is represented in graphs throughout this report in turquoise.

Twenty-three counties in the Northeast and North Central regions of Florida are served by Lutheran Services Florida (LSF): 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. As shown in Figure 1, the region served by LSF is represented in graphs throughout this report in yellow.

Four eastern counties in the Central region of Florida are served by Central Florida Cares Health System, Inc. (CFCHS): Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole. As shown in Figure 1, the region served by CFCHS is represented in graphs throughout the report in orange.

Fourteen counties in the Suncoast region and the southwestern portion of the Central region of Florida is served by Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (CFBHN): Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands, Hendry, Hillsborough, Lee Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota. In Figure 1, the region served by CFBHN is represented in graphs throughout the report in rust.

Five counties in the Southeast region of Florida are served by Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN): Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie. As shown in Figure 1, the region served by SEFBHN is represented in graphs throughout the report in salmon.

The remaining county in the Southeast region of Florida, Broward, is the only one-county region, served by Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, Inc. (BBHC). Broward County is represented in graphs throughout the report in lavender shown in Figure 1.

Two counties in the Southern region of Florida are served by Thriving Mind: Monroe and Dade. As shown in Figure 1, the region served by Thriving Mind is represented in graphs throughout the report by the color peach.

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 (i.e., when county-specific data are available to aggregate by region).

Methodology

Data presented in the 2025 Annual Report were obtained from the following sources.

Florida county population data and estimates from 2000 to 2024 [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 2010-2024 was 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 [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 2023.

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; for some substances, data are available starting in 2015. Additional changes were made to NSDUH questionnaires and the data collection process in 2020. It is suggested to use caution when attempting to compare 2020 and prior years.

In 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. NSDUH state estimates are based on two years of combined data. However, preliminary estimates are based on a single year of data. Changes to survey methodology in 2021 mean the data cannot be combined with previous years. Two-year estimates that combine 2021 and 2022 will be available after the 2022 data release. 2021 NSDUH state estimates are based on a single year of data because changes to survey methodology in 2021 means the data cannot be combined to previous years. Due to this, there is a greater variance around the estimates than for the usual two-year estimates.

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 2023 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 by April 2024 was 23,014,551 (Figure 2).

Of the seven Managing Entity regions, the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc., serves the largest population with over 6.4 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.

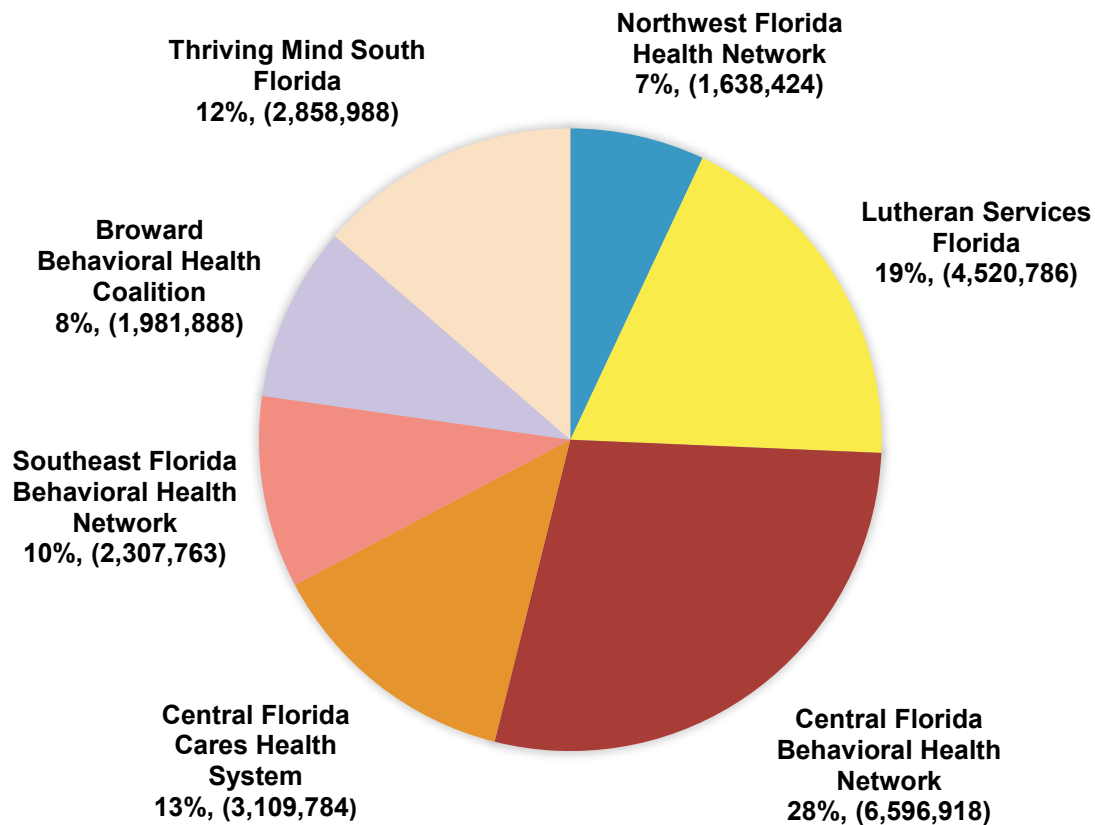


Figure 2. Estimated population by Managing Entity Region, 2024. Total Population = 23,014,551.
Source: [FL BEBR](#).

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 of 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). While the 2021-2022 results show that the prevalence rate of pain reliever misuse was the lowest it has been in Florida at 2.5%, the most recent results show a slight increase from 2.5% to 3%. U.S. adults show steady misuse with just over 3% of pain reliever misuse.

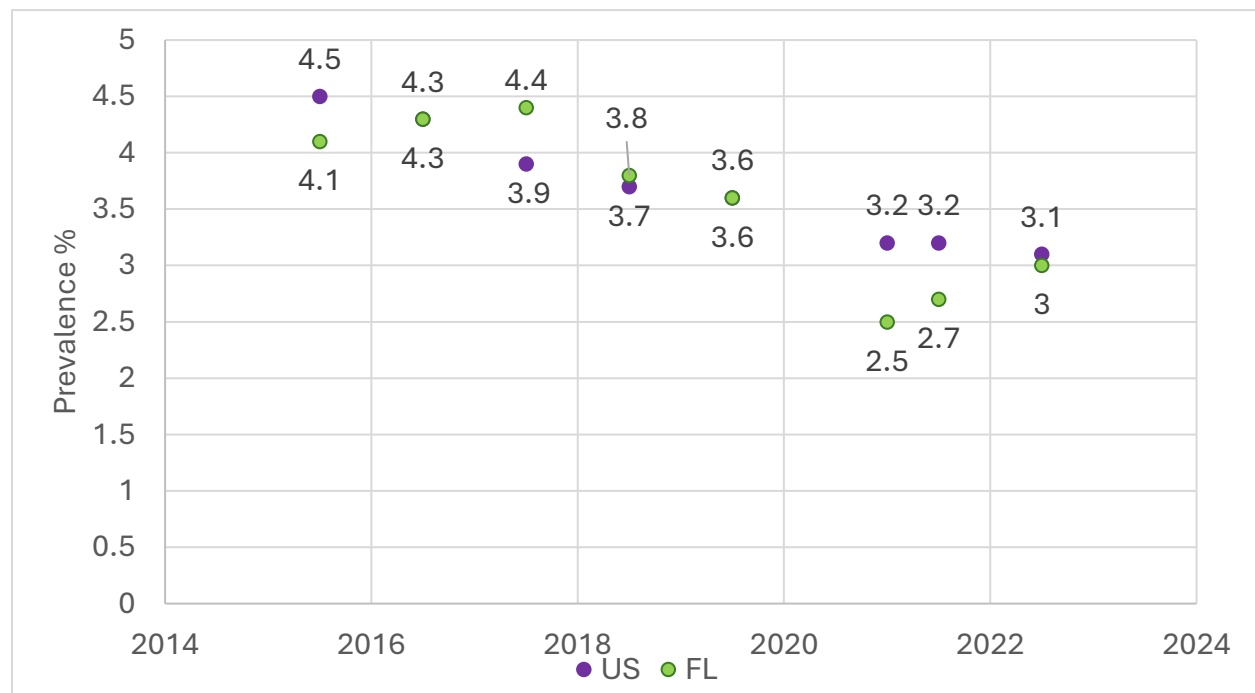


Figure 3. Two-Year Average Past-Year Pain Reliever Misuse Among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2023. Source: [NSDUH](#)

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%.

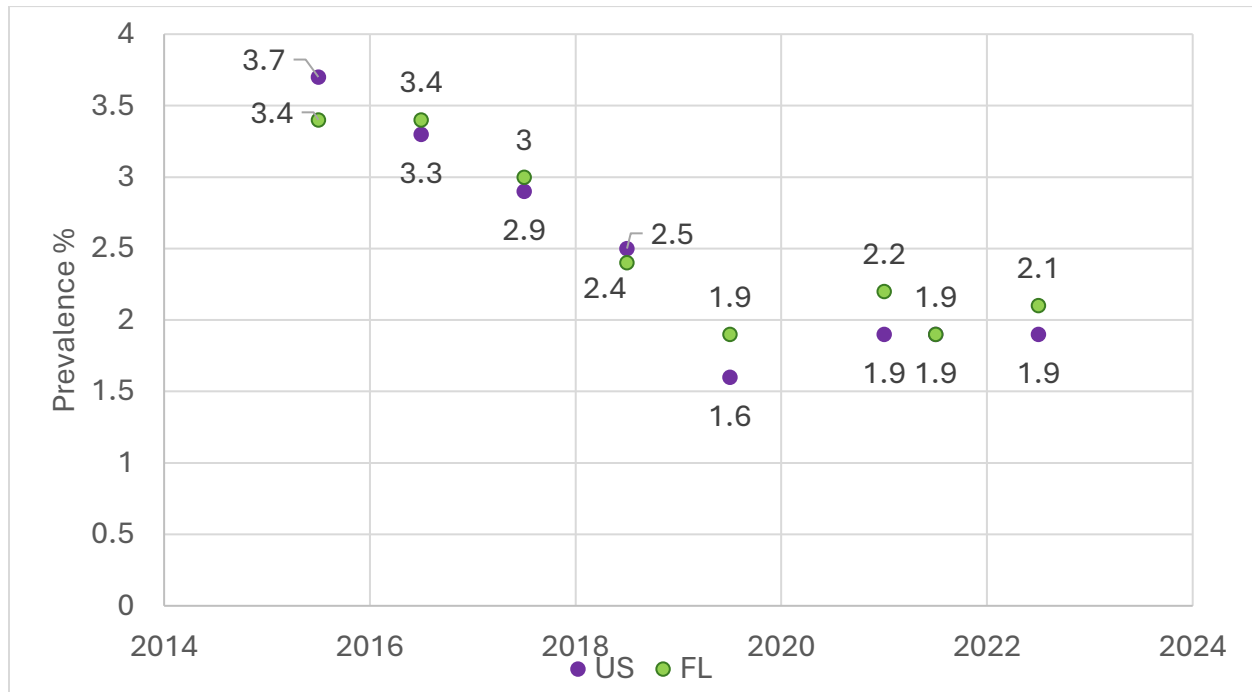


Figure 4. Two-Year Average Past-Year Pain Reliever Misuse Among Youth, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2023. Source: [NSDUH](#)

The [Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey \(FYSAS\)](#) assesses substance misuse prevalence and risk and protective factors for substance abuse. According to 2024 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 1.7% in 2024 (Figure 5).

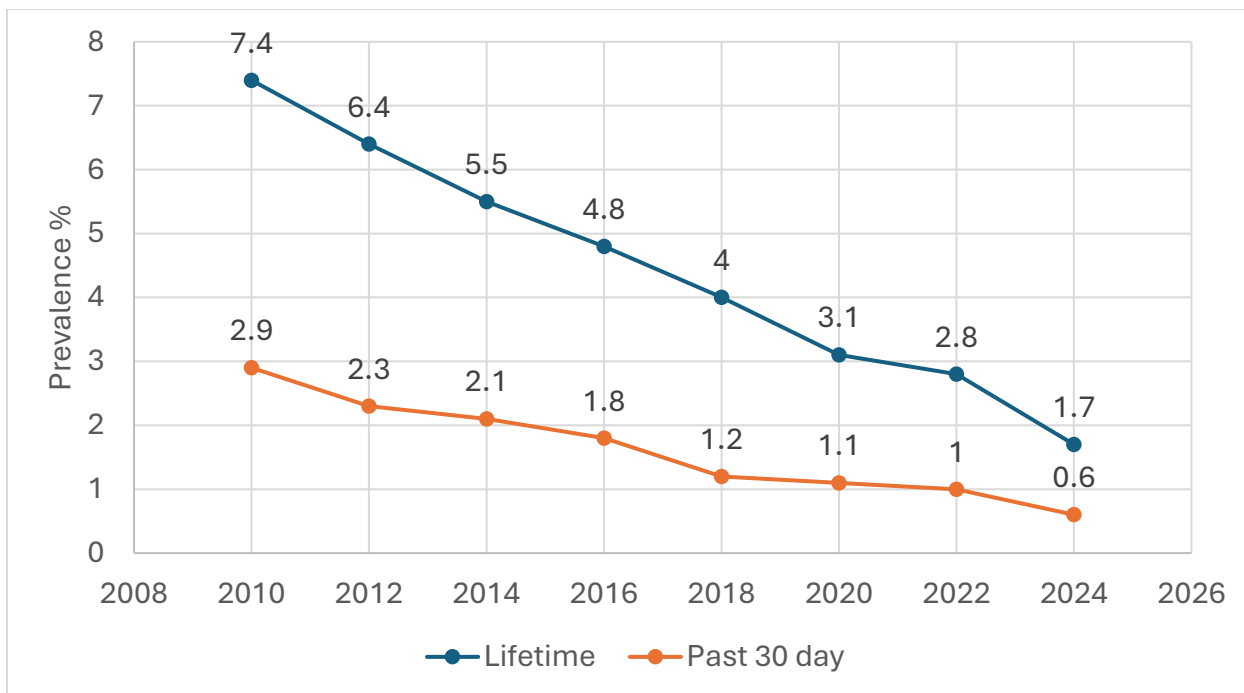


Figure 5. Lifetime and Past 30-day Pain Reliever Misuse Among Youth in Florida, 2010–2024. Source: [FYSAS](#)

The [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 rates of decreased use in 2024, with rates at the lowest observed, at 7.1 and 1.7 for X and Y, respectively.

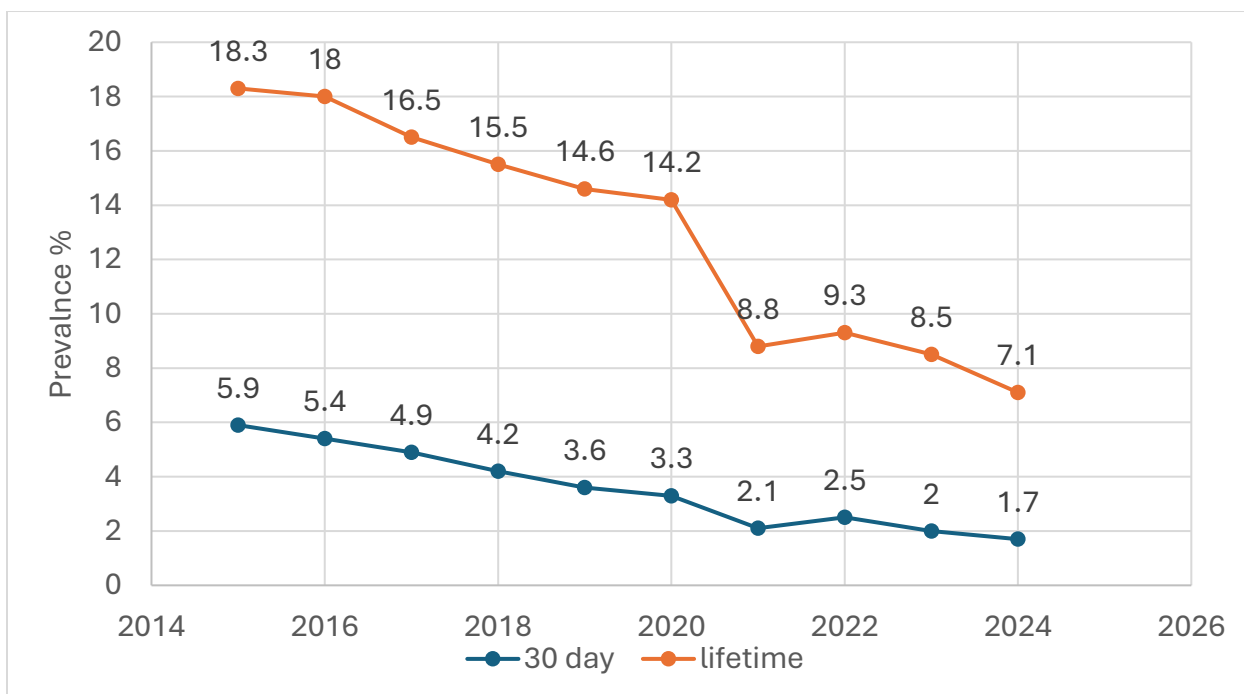


Figure 6 Lifetime and Past 30-day Pain Reliever Misuse Among U.S. Youth, 2015- 2024. Source: [MTF](#).

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 past-year heroin use (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 0.24. The prevalence of heroin use among adults in Florida has been consistently lower than that of the nation. The 2021-2022 NSDUH survey results show Florida rates (0.24) lower than the U.S. (0.42), respectively. U.S. rates plummeted from 0.42 to 0.33 with the most recent 2022-2023 survey results. Florida had a 0.01 increase in heroin misuse.

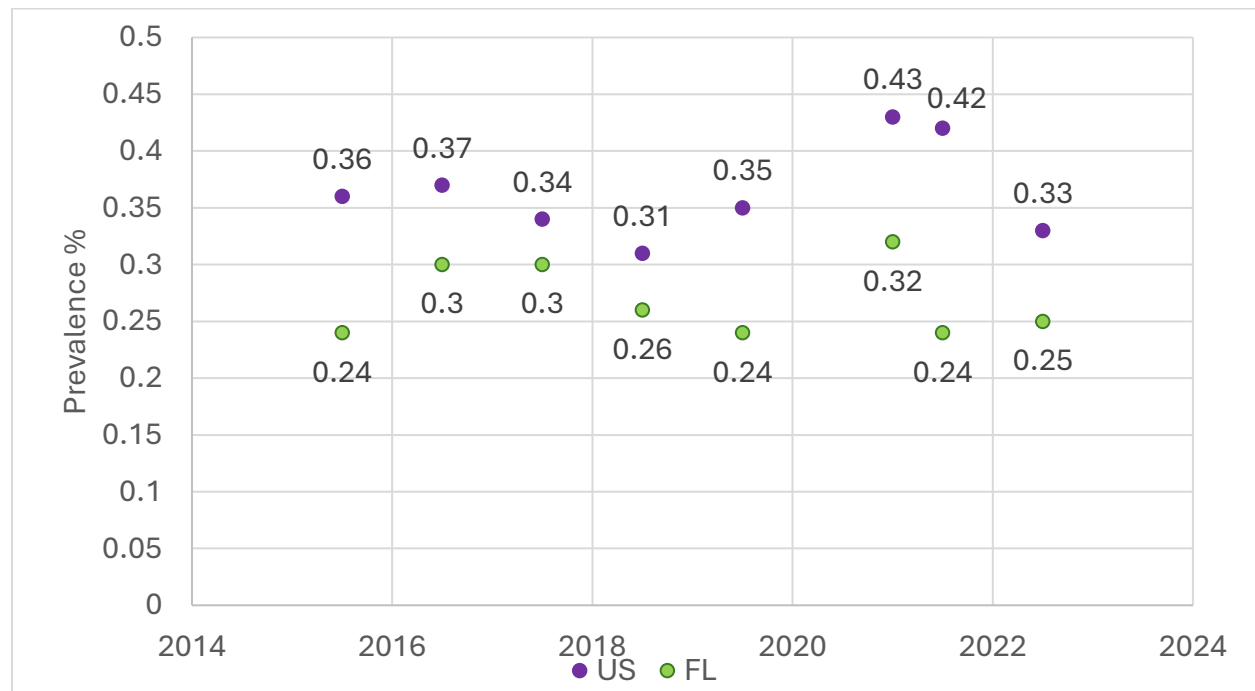


Figure 7. Two-Year Average Past-year Heroin Use Among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015 – 2023.
Source: [NSDUH](#)

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, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 prevalence rate estimates for youth ages 12-17 are not available for heroin use, because no respondents ages 12 -17 reported using heroin in the past year.

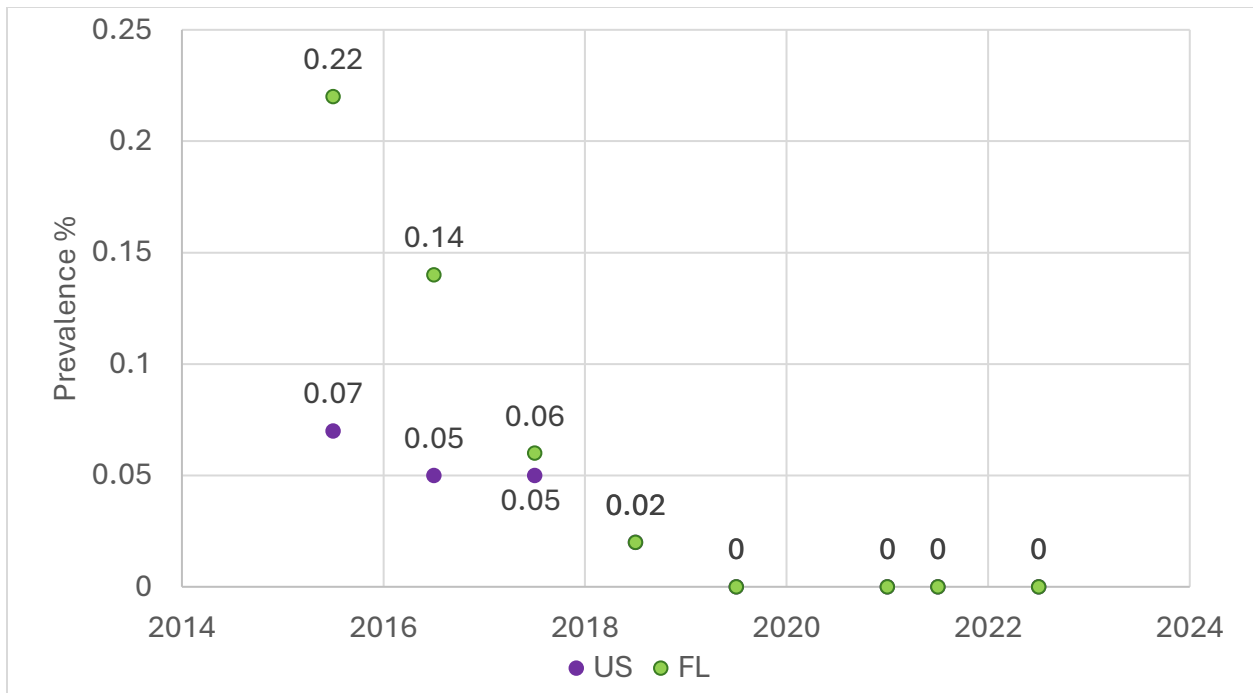


Figure 8. Two-Year Average Past-year Heroin Use Among Youth, U.S. and Florida, 2015 – 2023. Source: [NSDUH](#)

Although lifetime and past 30-day heroin use increased in 2020 among youth, the rates in 2024 have decreased for lifetime use to 0.3 and 0.1 for past 30 day use, according to the [FYSAS](#). (Figure 9).

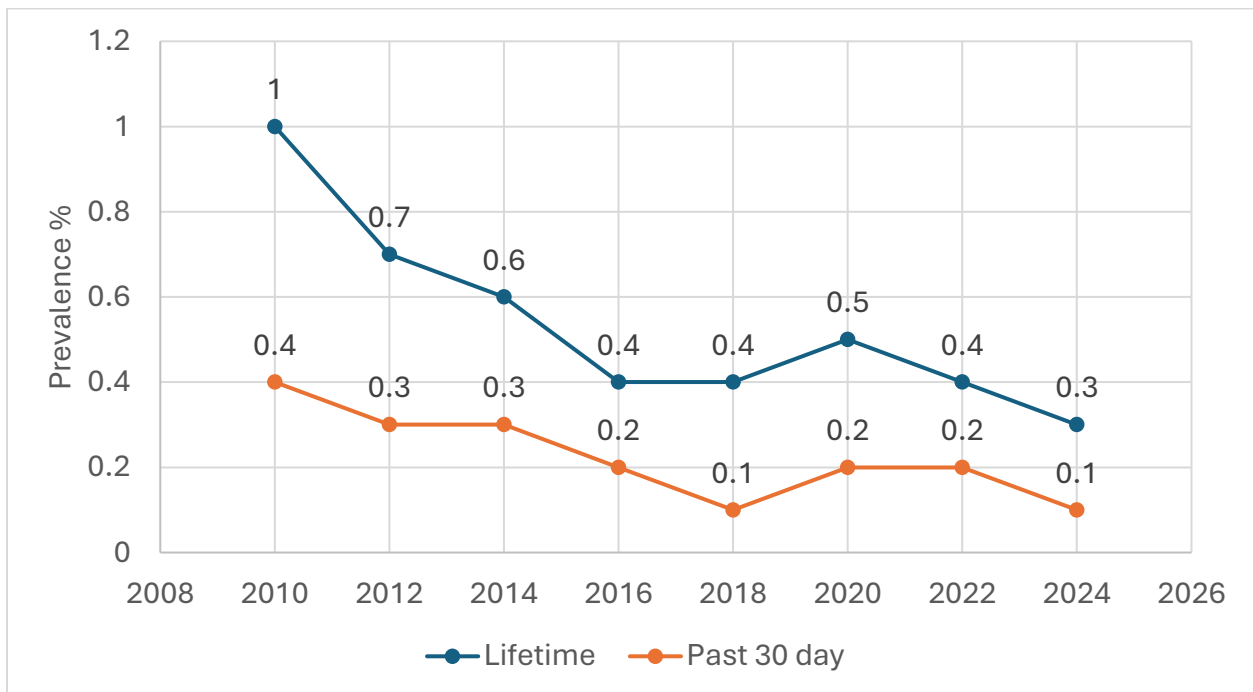


Figure 9. Lifetime and Past 30-day Heroin Use Among Youth in Florida, 2010–2024. Source: [FYSAS](#)

Psychostimulant Use

Cocaine Use Among Adults

Cocaine use is less common than misuse of prescription opioid pain relievers but more common than use of heroin among adults. Two-year averages indicated that 1.4% and 1.8% of adults in Florida and the U.S., respectively, used cocaine in the past year. This represents a continual decrease in cocaine use among adults since 2017-2018 for both the U.S. and Florida (Figure 10). However, in 2021-2022, rates slightly increased to 2.0% and 1.5%, for the U.S. and Florida, respectively. Rates continued to increase in Florida from 1.5% to 1.9% while U.S. rates decreased in 2023.

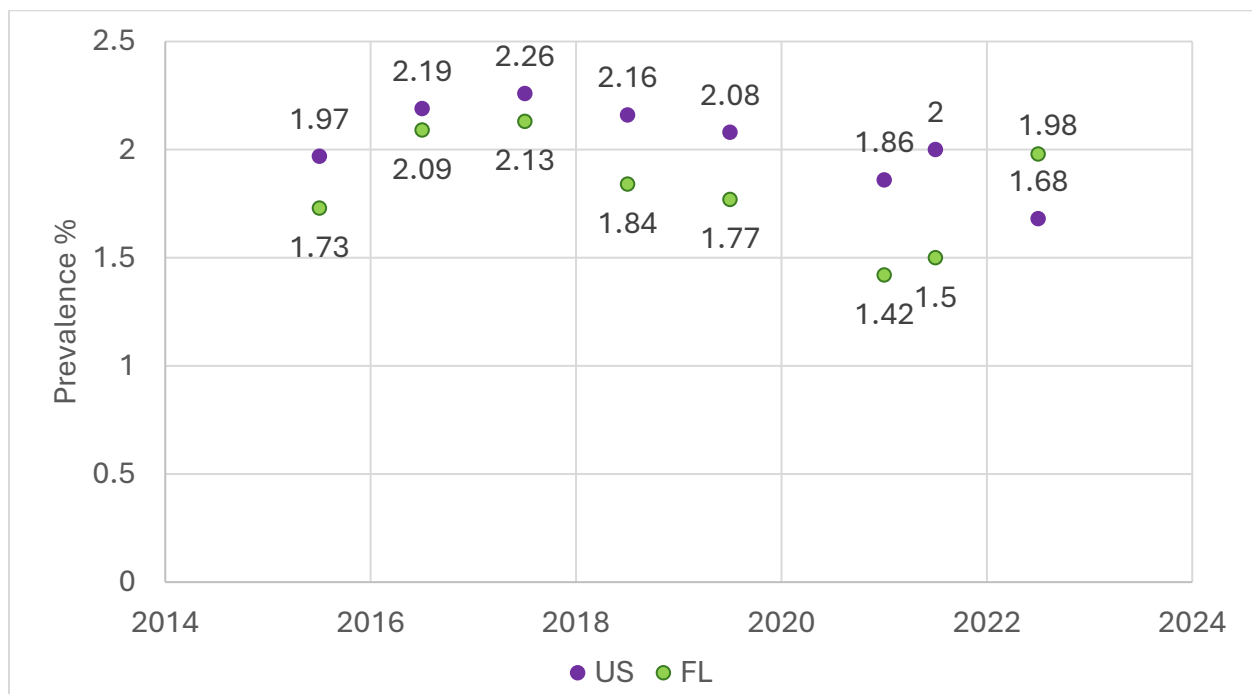


Figure 10. Two-Year Average Past-year Cocaine Use among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015 – 2023.
Source: [NSDUH](#)

Cocaine Use Among Youth

The prevalence of past-year cocaine use among Florida youth was 0.14% in 2021-2022. This represents a significant decrease from 0.36% in 2018-2019. However, rates for Florida youth and U.S. youth increased to 0.18 and 0.2 respectively in 2022 (Figure 11). Lifetime and past 30-day use has also continued to steadily decrease among Florida youth, with lifetime use decreasing from 2.9% to 0.5% since 2010 and past 30-day use rates decreasing from 0.8% to 0.2% during the same time period (Figure 12).

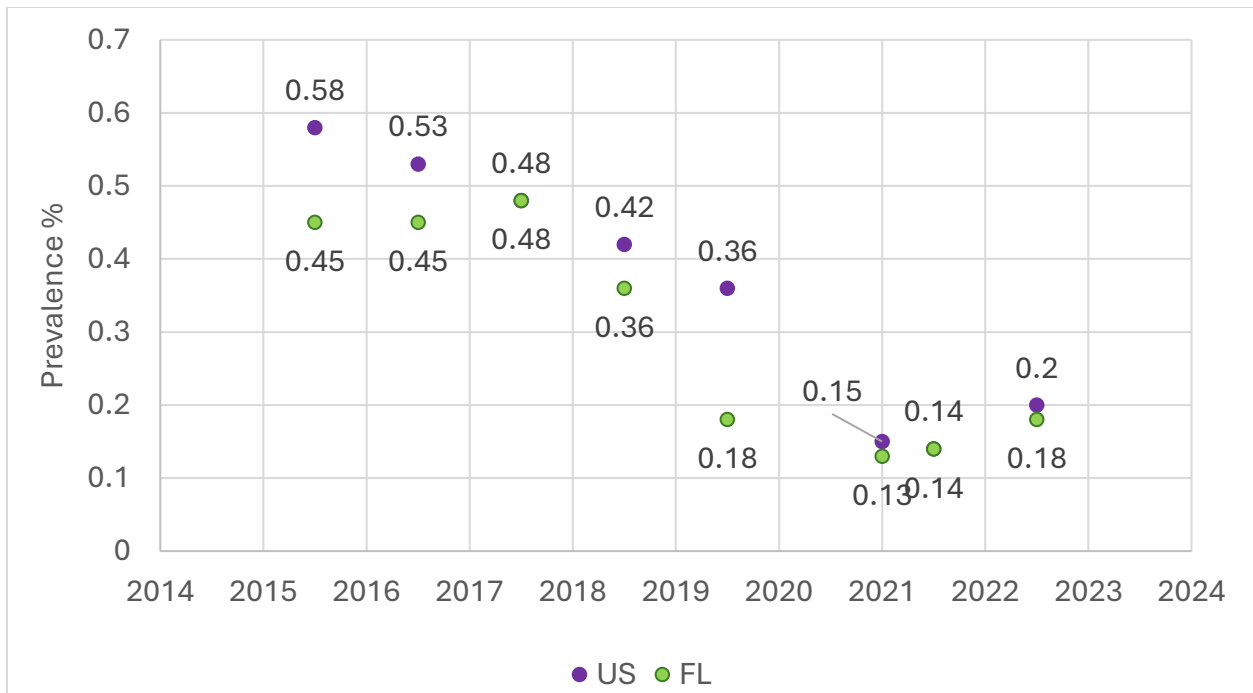


Figure 11. Two-Year Average Past-year Cocaine Use Among Youth, U.S. and Florida, 2015 – 2023. Source: [NSDUH](#)

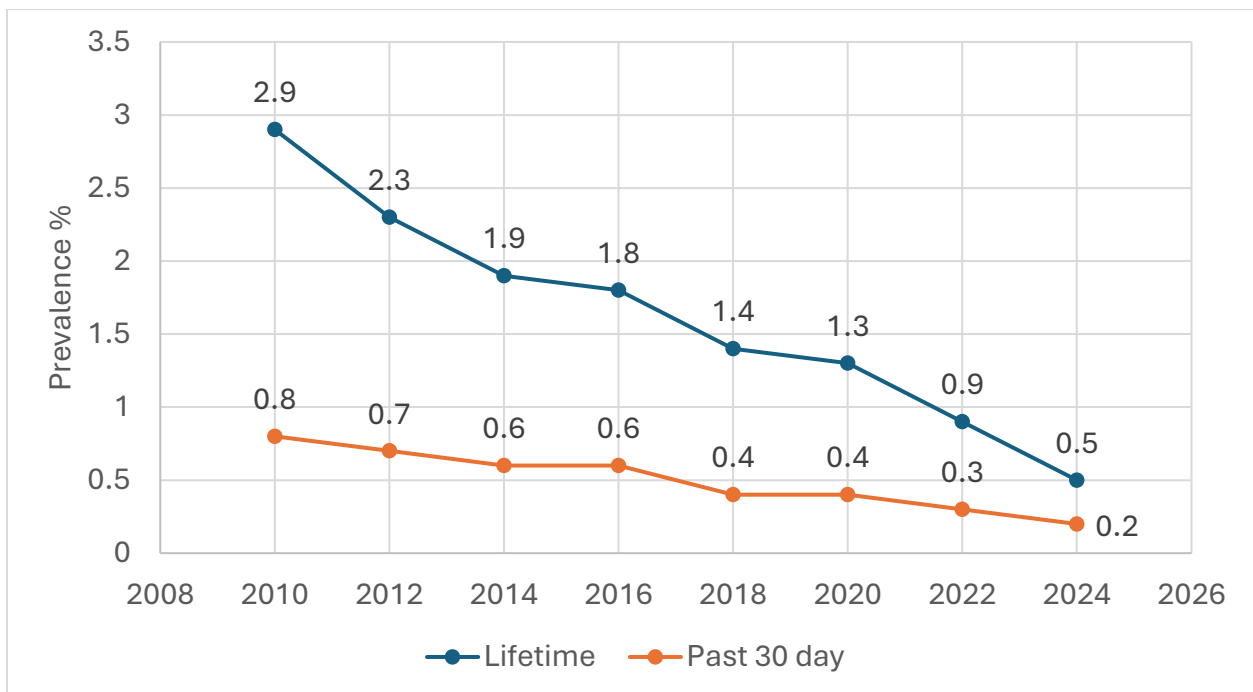


Figure 12. Lifetime and Past 30-day Cocaine Use Among Youth in Florida, 2010–2024. Source: [FYSAS](#).

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% compared to the most recent survey data at 1.3% for U.S. adults (Figure 13). The rate of methamphetamine use among adults in Florida is lower than the U.S.; however, it increased in 2022-2023 with 0.76% of Floridians reporting methamphetamine use.

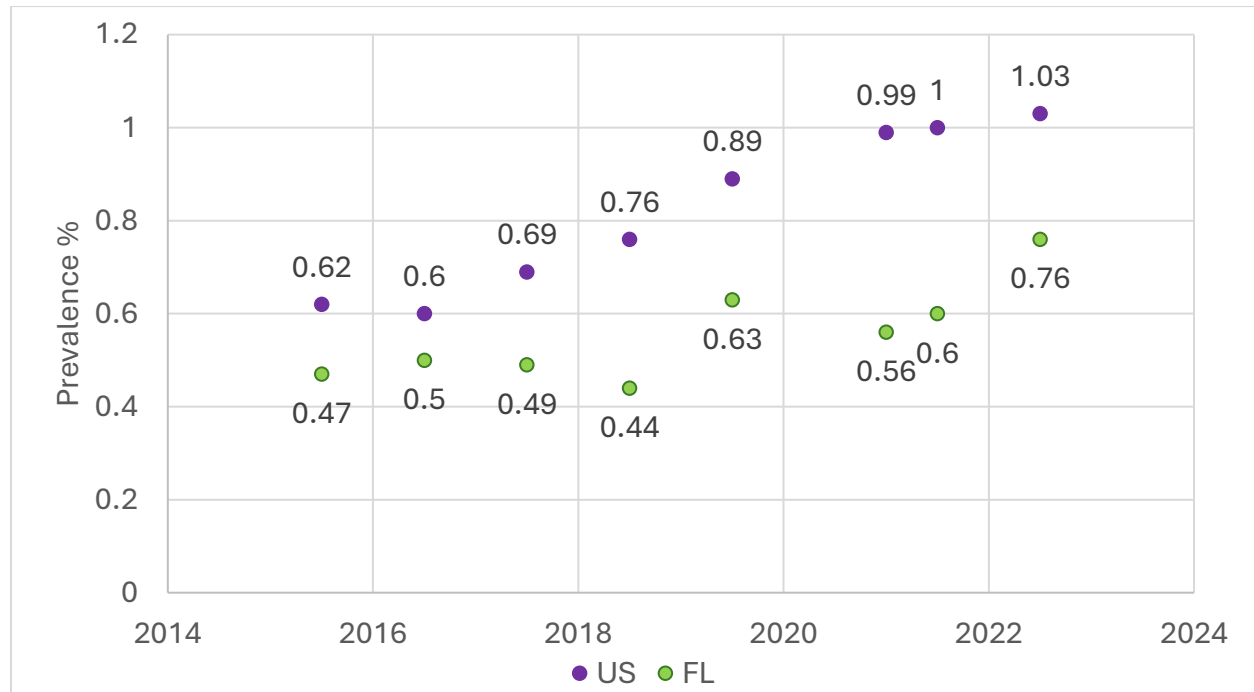


Figure 13. Two-Year Average Past-year Methamphetamine Use Among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015-2023. Source: [NSDUH](#).

Methamphetamine Use Among Youth

Among youth, a different trend has been observed for use of methamphetamine. 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. The most recent data shows an increase for Florida and U.S. youth. Florida rates increase by 0.05 and U.S. rates increased by 0.01 (Figure 14). According to the [FYSAS](#), prevalence of lifetime methamphetamine use among youth in Florida declined from 2010-2018 and then slightly increased in 2020. From 2010 to 2014, past 30-day use among youth stayed the same at 0.5% prevalence. A decrease in 2016 brought the prevalence rate to 0.4% and has continued to stay at the same rate from 2016 to 2020. Lifetime use decreased for methamphetamine while past 30-day use remained the same at 0.3% in 2024 (Figure 15).



Figure 14. Two-Year Average Past-year Methamphetamine Use Among Youth, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2023. Source: [NSDUH](#)

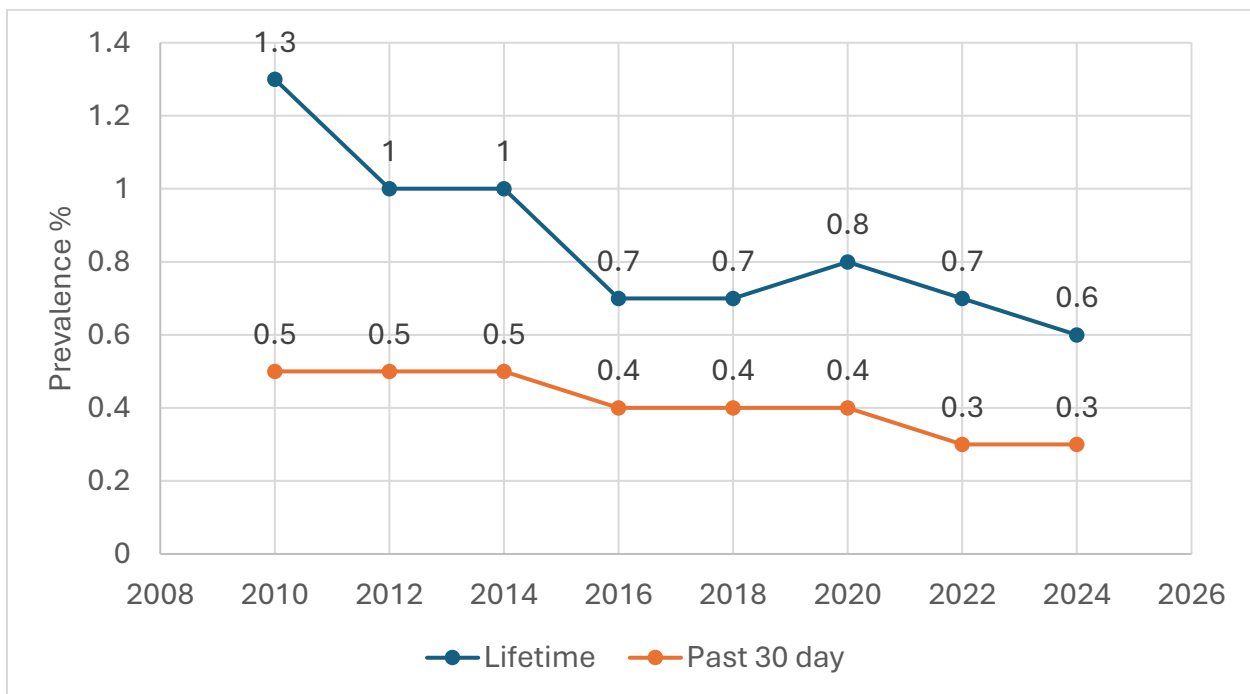


Figure 15. Lifetime and Past 30-day Methamphetamine Use Among Youth in Florida, 2010–2024. Source: [FYSAS](#).

Marijuana

Marijuana Use Among Adults

Marijuana is the only substance to continually increase in past-year and past-30-day use among adults in the US. However, Florida has recently experienced a decline in marijuana use.

Nationally, past-year use of marijuana is at 22% while 20% of Florida adults reported using marijuana in the past year (Figure 16). Second only to alcohol among substances covered in this report, 15% of adults in Florida and 16.1% of adults nationally reported using marijuana in the past month (Figure 17).

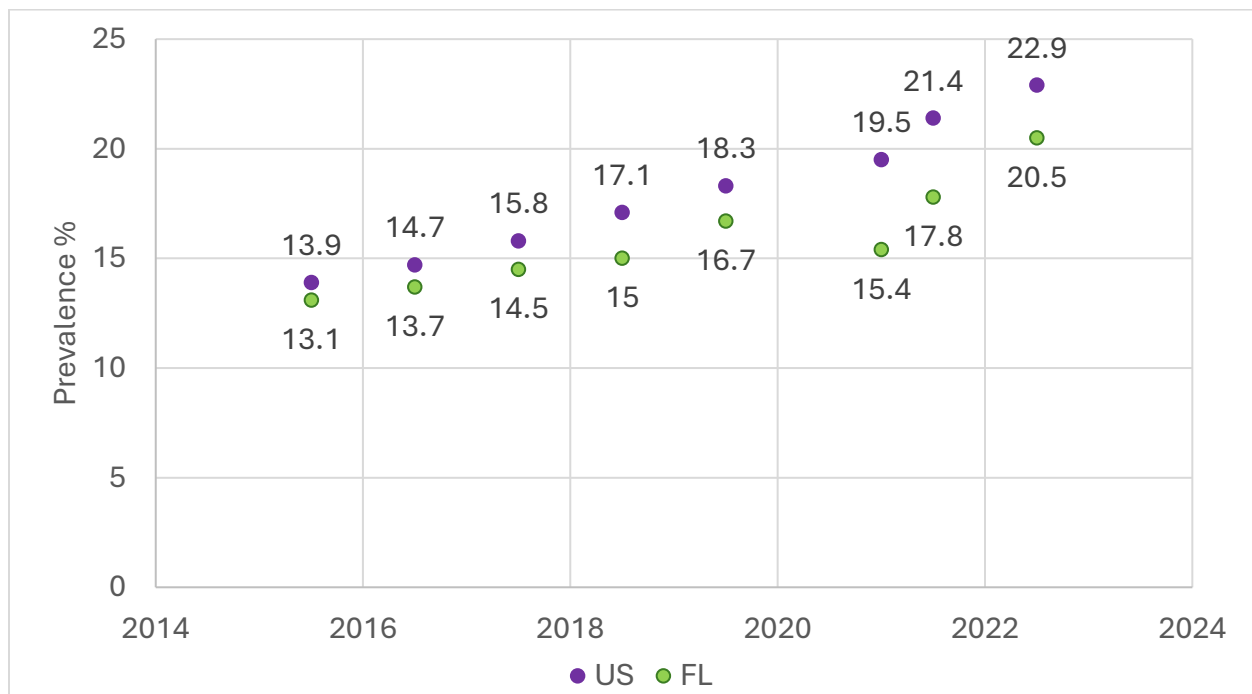


Figure 16. Two-Year Average Marijuana Use Among Adults, Past Year, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2023.
Source: [NSDUH](#).

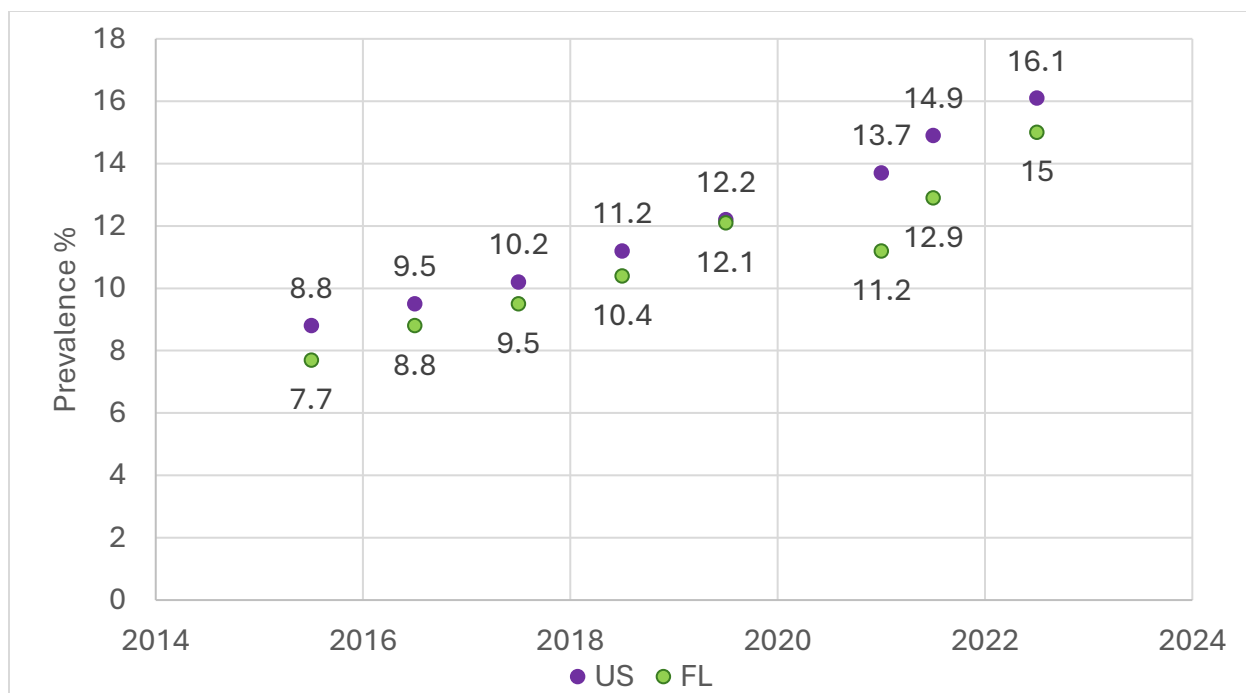


Figure 17. Two-Year Average Marijuana Use Among Adults, Past Month, U.S. and Florida, 2015-2023.
Source: [NSDUH](#)

Marijuana Use Among Youth

Past-year marijuana use among youth continues to increase to 11.9 and 11.3 for Florida and U.S. youth, respectively (Figure 18). Similarly, past 30-day use among Florida and U.S. youth increased to 6.5 and 6.2 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 2024, falling from 23.8 to 13.2 for lifetime use and 13 to 6.3 for past 30-day use. The national [Monitoring the Future](#) survey for eighth, tenth, and twelfth grade students shows that rates decreased in 2024 for all grades (Figure 21). In addition, all youth in the grades surveyed decreased their past 30-day intake of marijuana in 2024 (Figure 22).

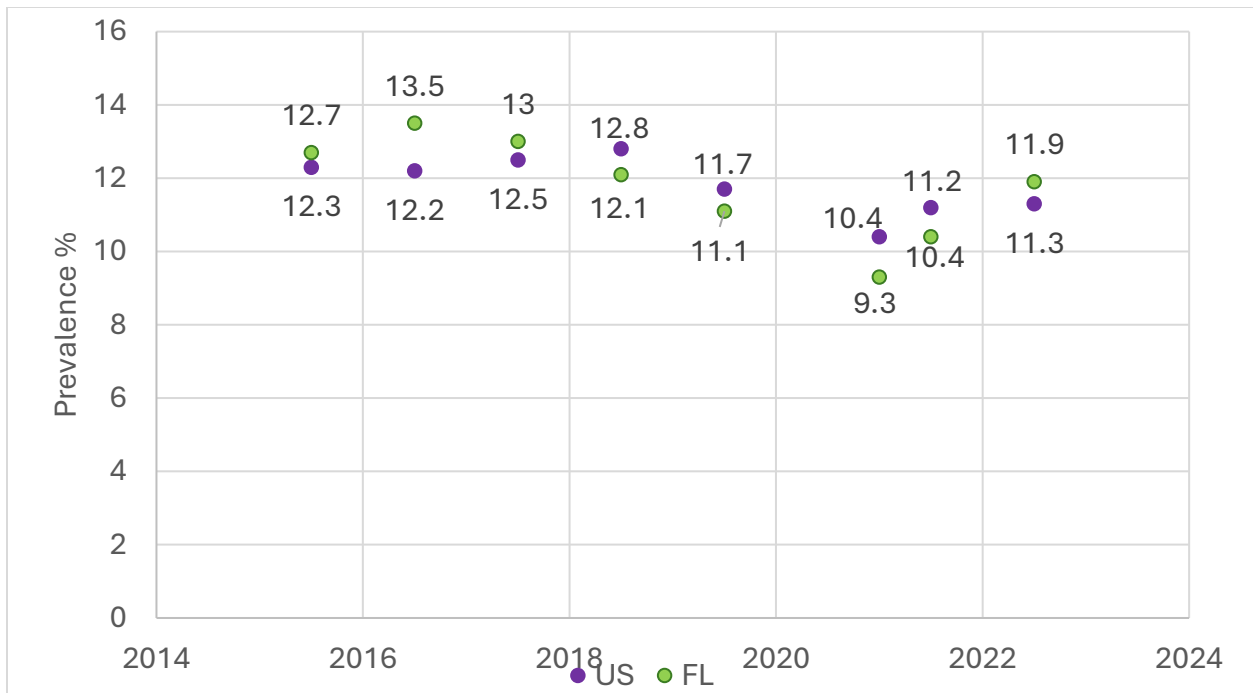


Figure 18. Two-Year Average Marijuana Use Among Youth, Past Year, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2023.
Source: [NSDUH](#).

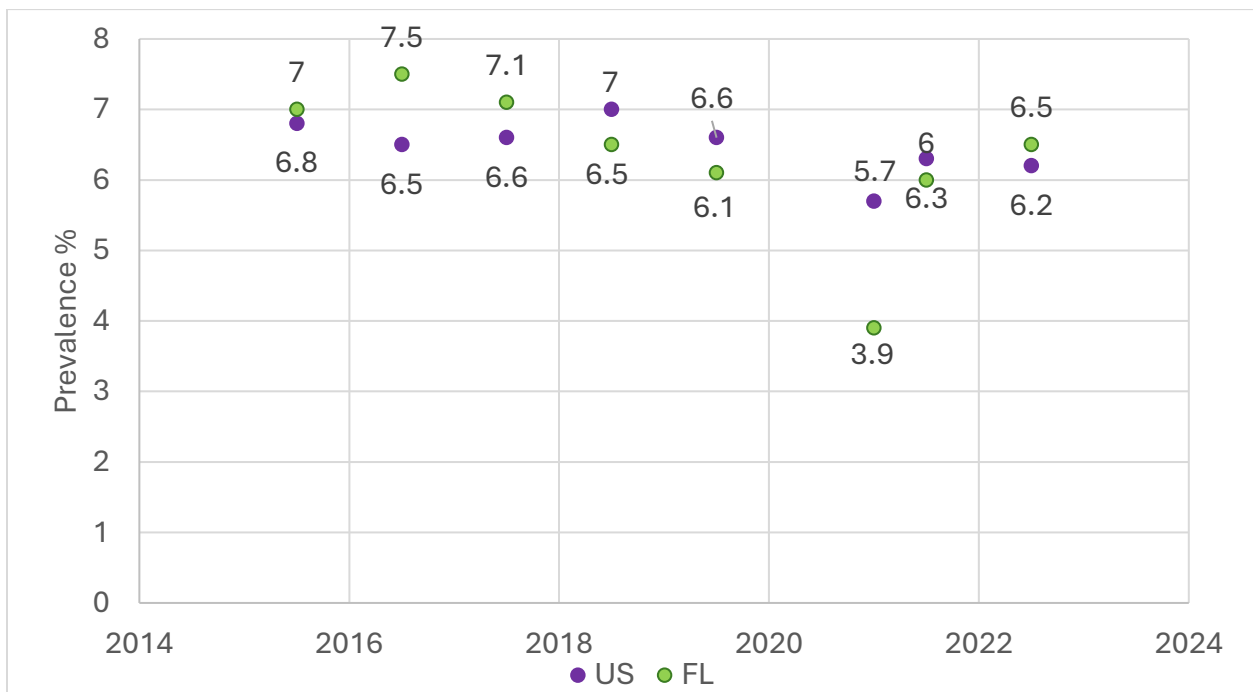


Figure 19. Two-Year Average Marijuana Use Among Youth, Past Month, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2023.
Source: [NSDUH](#)

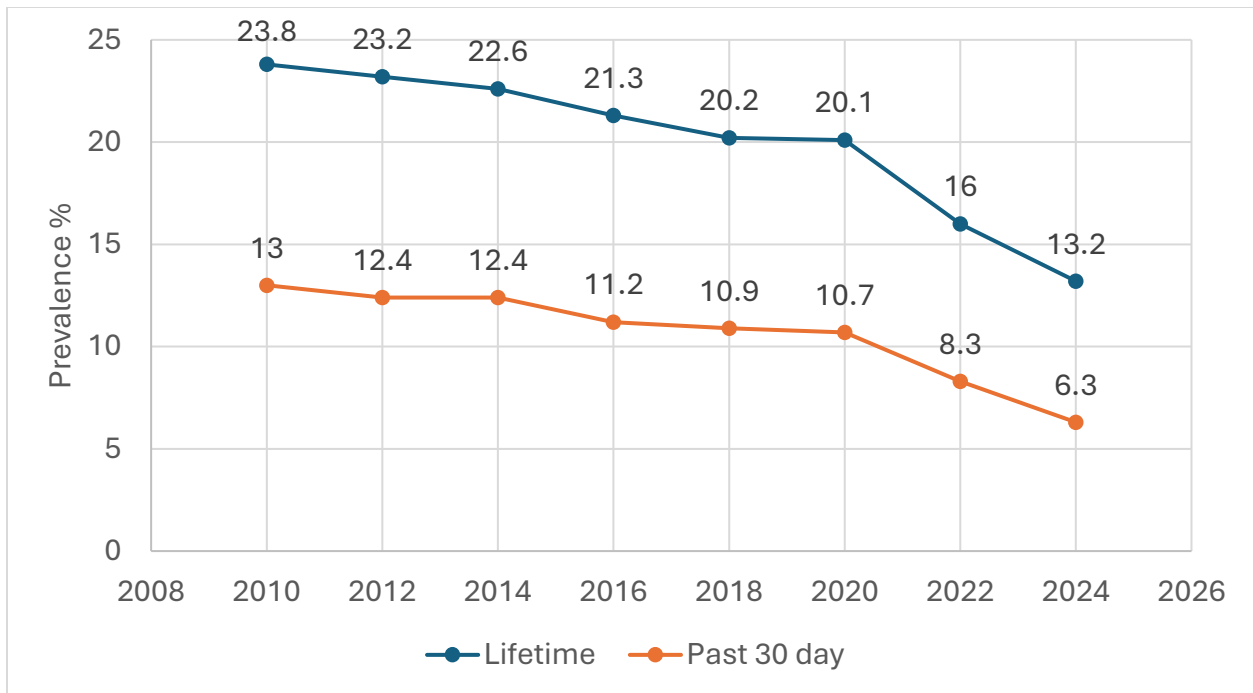


Figure 20. Marijuana Use Among Youth, Lifetime and Past Month, Florida, 2010–2024. Source: [FYSAS](#).

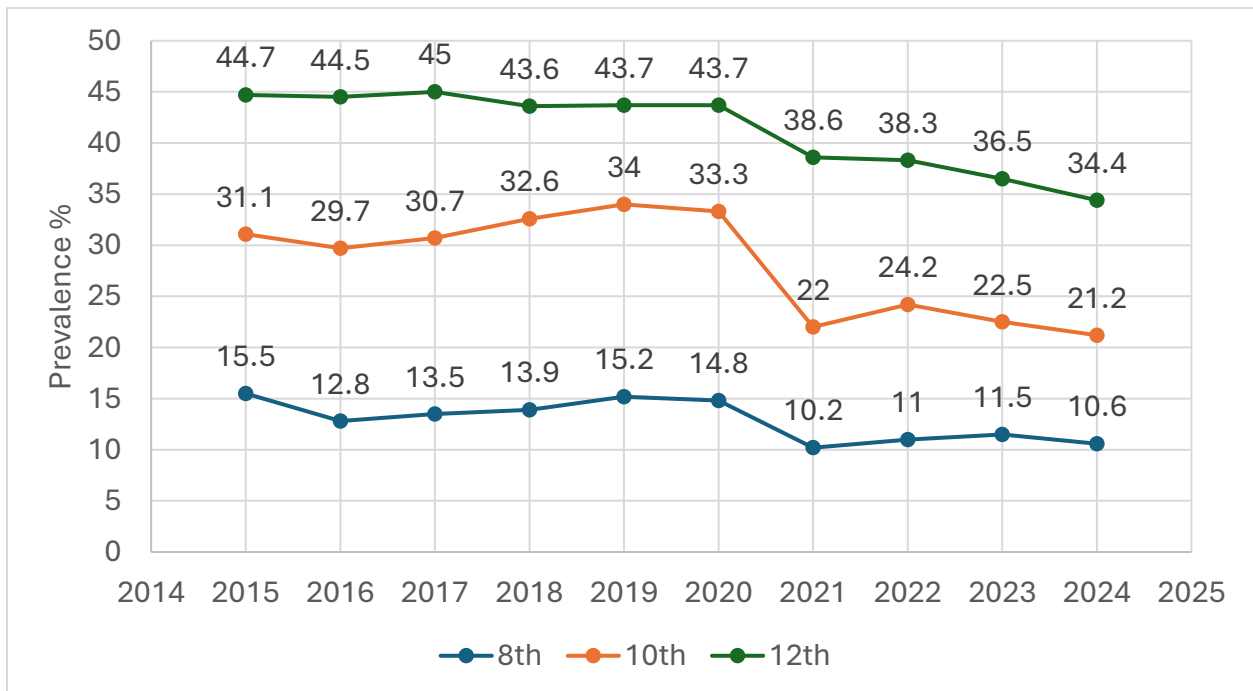


Figure 21. Lifetime Marijuana Use Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., 2015–2024. Source: [MTF](#).

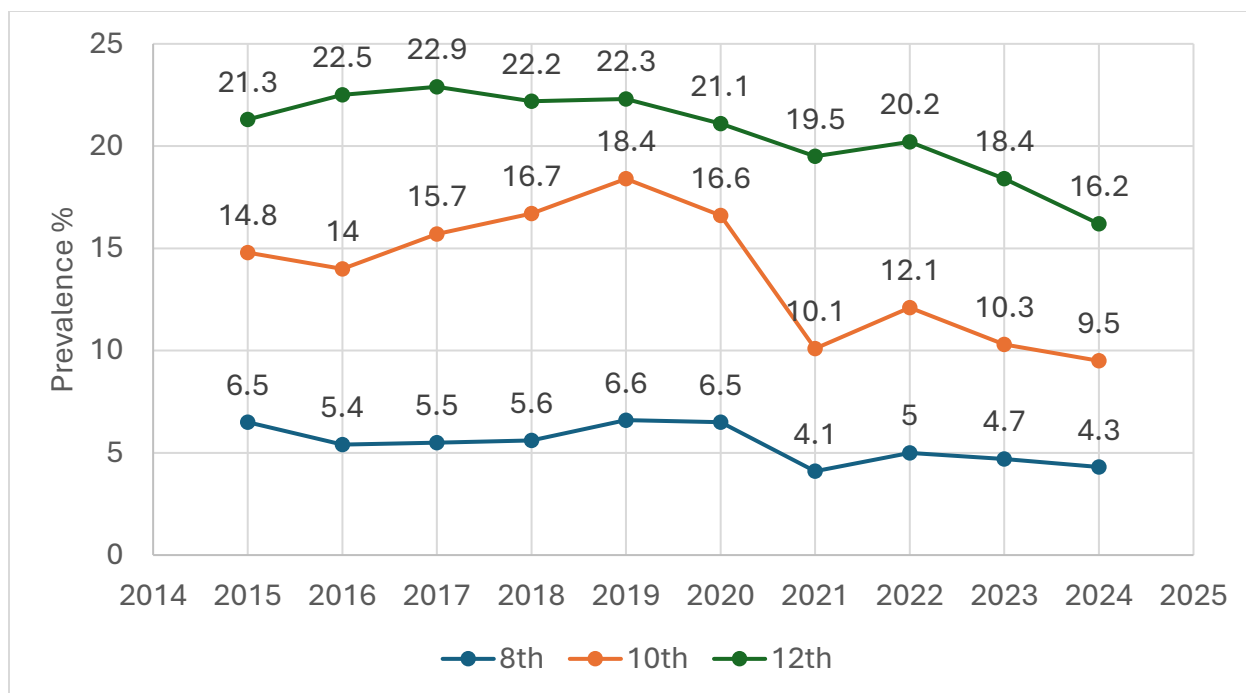


Figure 22. Marijuana Use Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., Past Month 2015-2024. Source: [MTF](#).

Vaping

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 6.6% reported vaping nicotine in 2024 (Figure 23). Lifetime use dropped from 23.5% to 16.2% for ever using an electronic cigarette to vaping nicotine during the same period. According to the Monitoring the Future survey, youth among eighth, tenth, and twelfth grades in the U.S. are decreasing nicotine vaping use in their lifetime and past month in 2024. 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).

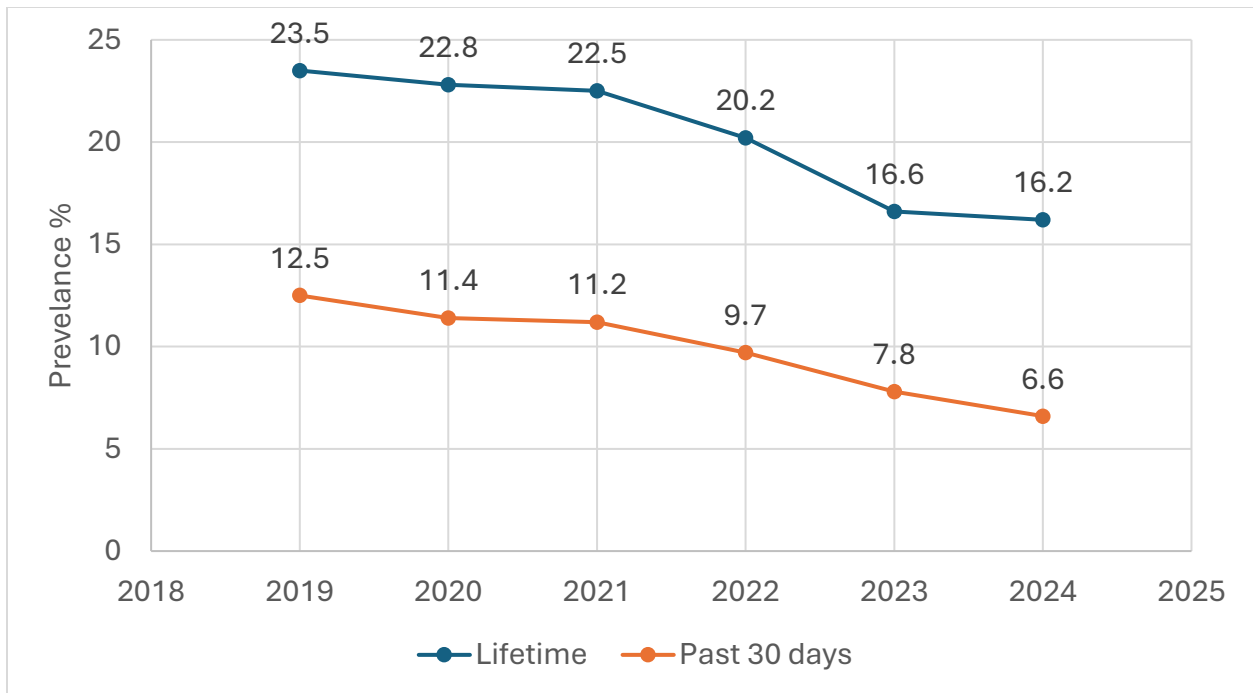


Figure 23. Vaping Nicotine Among Youth, Lifetime and Past Month, Florida, 2019-2024. Source: [FYSAS](#).

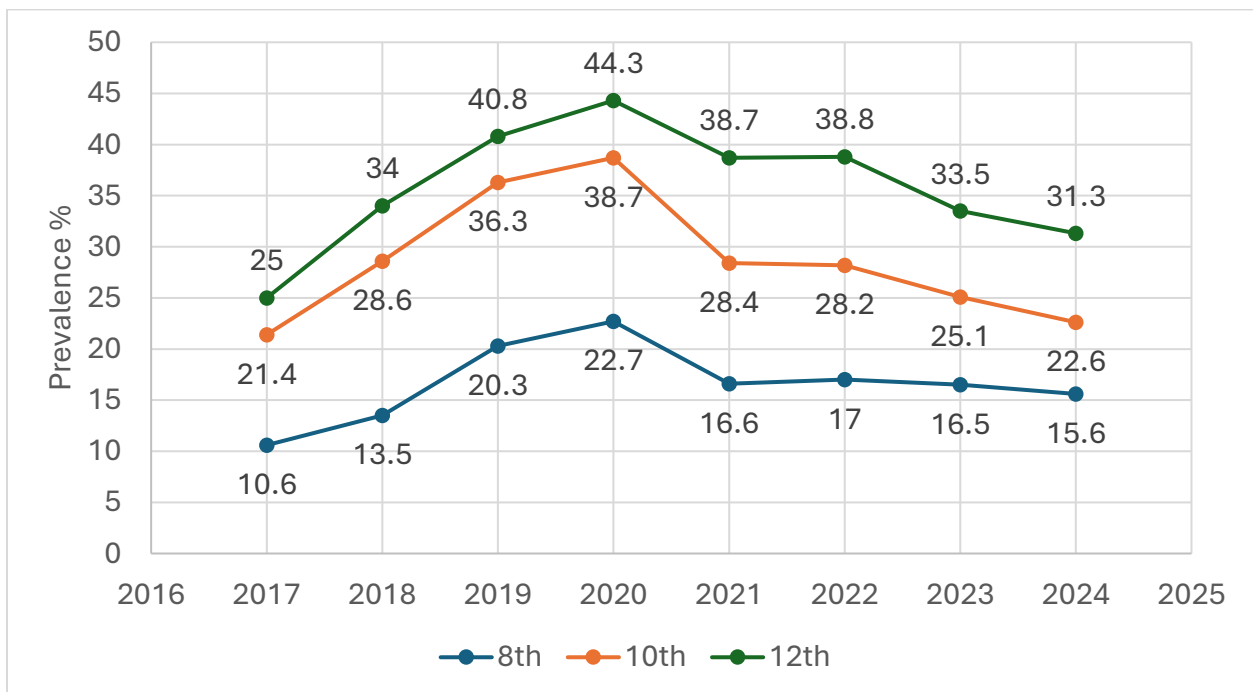


Figure 24. Vaping Nicotine Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., Lifetime, 2017-2024. Source: [MTF](#).

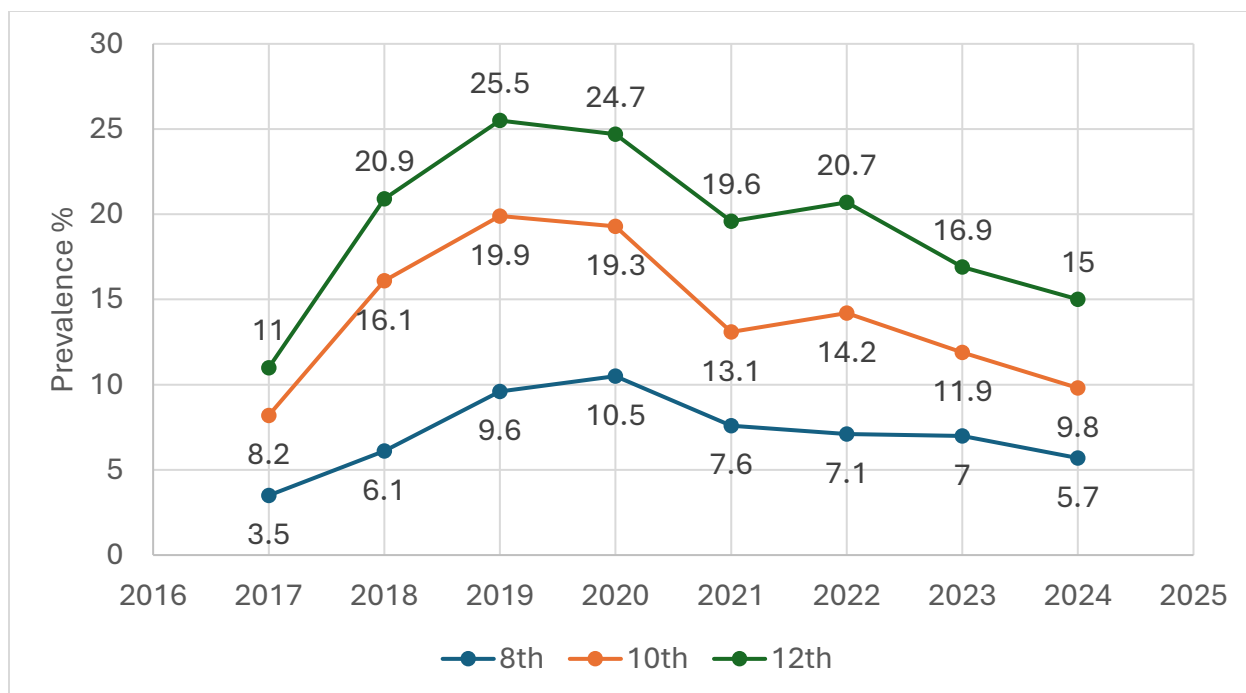


Figure 25. Vaping Nicotine Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., Past Month, 2017- 2024. Source: [MTF](#).

Vaping Marijuana Among Youth

Rates for marijuana use among youth are generally lower for vaping marijuana compared to vaping nicotine with 5.5% of Florida youth vaping marijuana in the past 30 days and lifetime use of vaping marijuana at 11.7% (Figure 26). Nationally, rates decreased for tenth and twelfth grade youth for lifetime use of vaping marijuana, but rates for eighth grade youth increased (Figure 27). In addition, rates for past 30-day use also decreased for all grades with the sharpest decrease among twelfth graders (Figure 28).

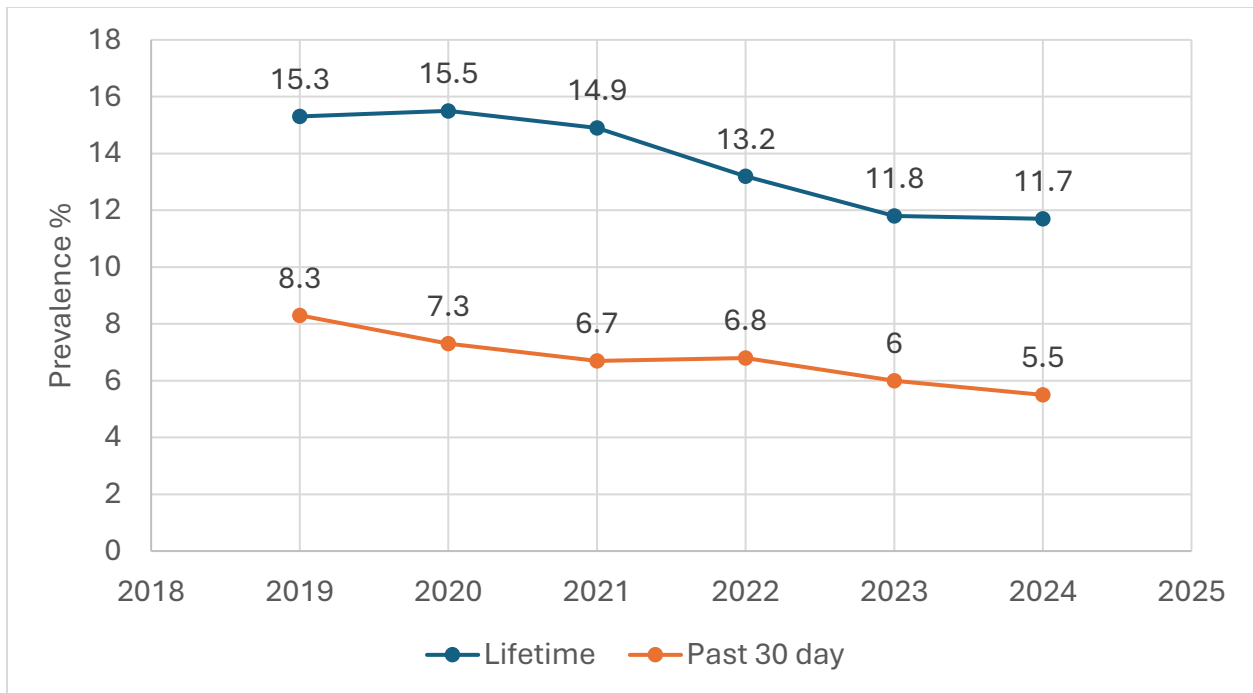


Figure 26. Vaping Marijuana Among Youth, Lifetime and Past Month, Florida, 2019-2024. Source: [FYSAS](#).

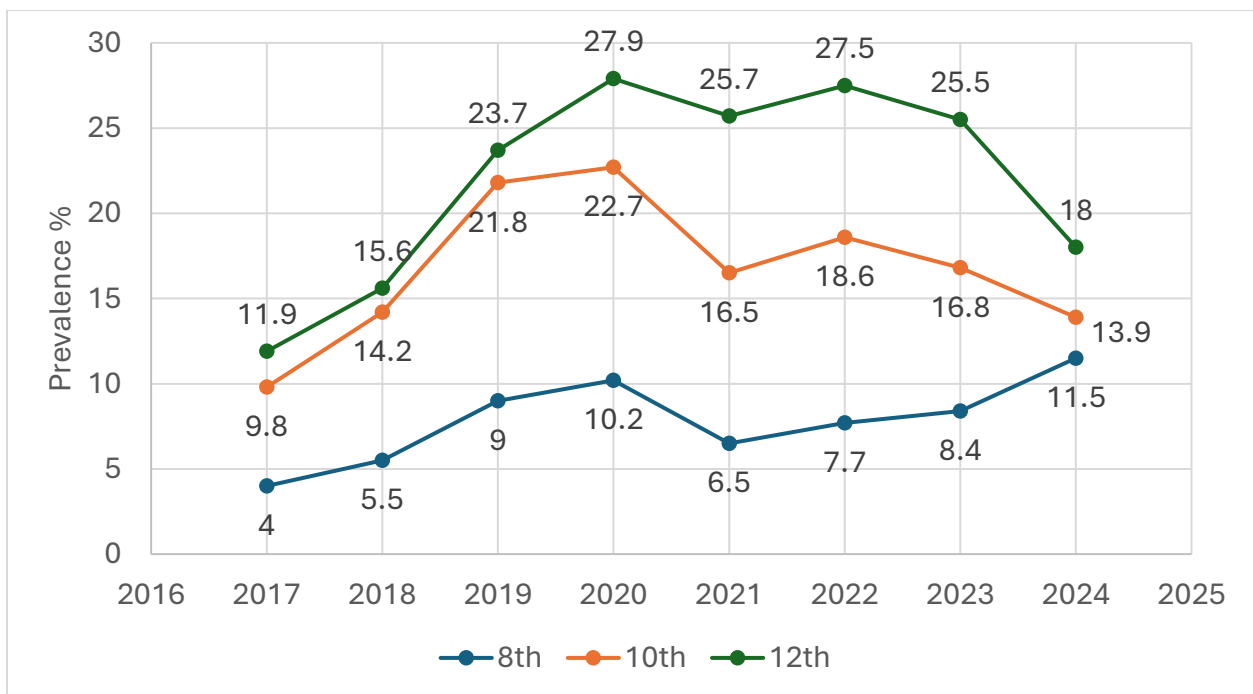


Figure 27. Vaping Marijuana Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., Lifetime, 2017-2024. Source: [MTF](#)

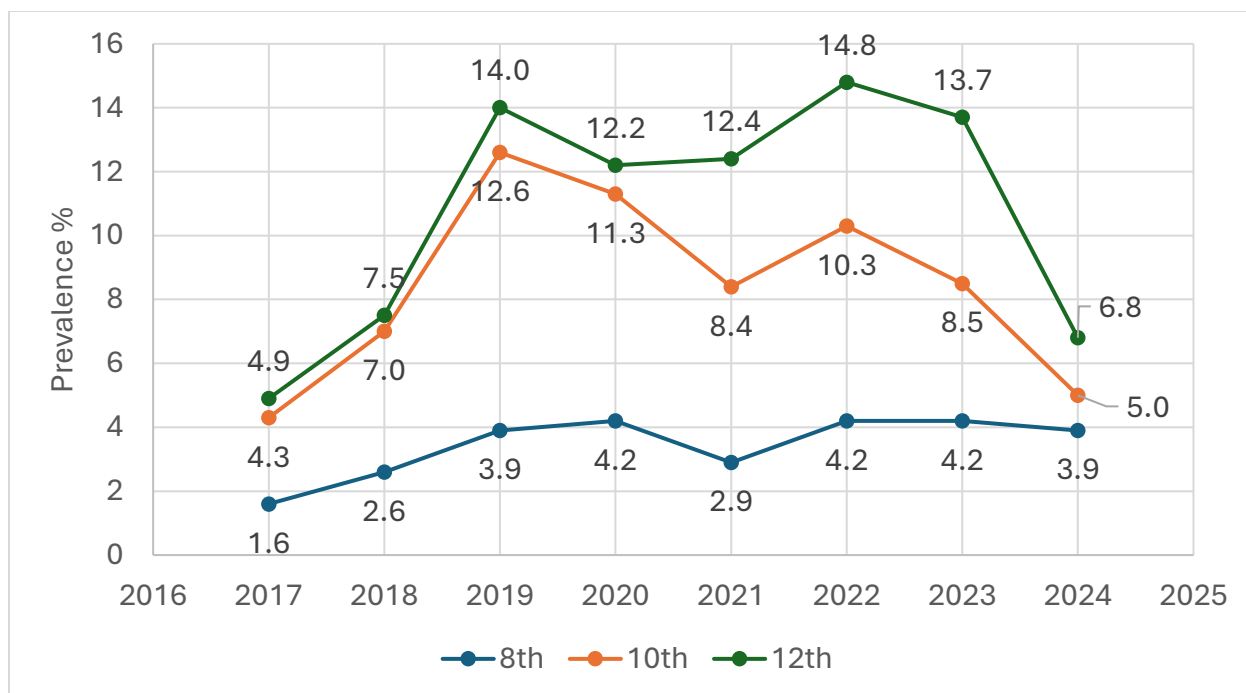


Figure 28. Vaping Marijuana Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., Past Month, 2017- 2024. Source: [MTE](#).

Alcohol

Alcohol use is common in the United States. 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 52.6% in 2022-2023. (Figure 29). Binge drinking among adults slightly increased for U.S. and Florida adults from the previous survey year (Figure 30).

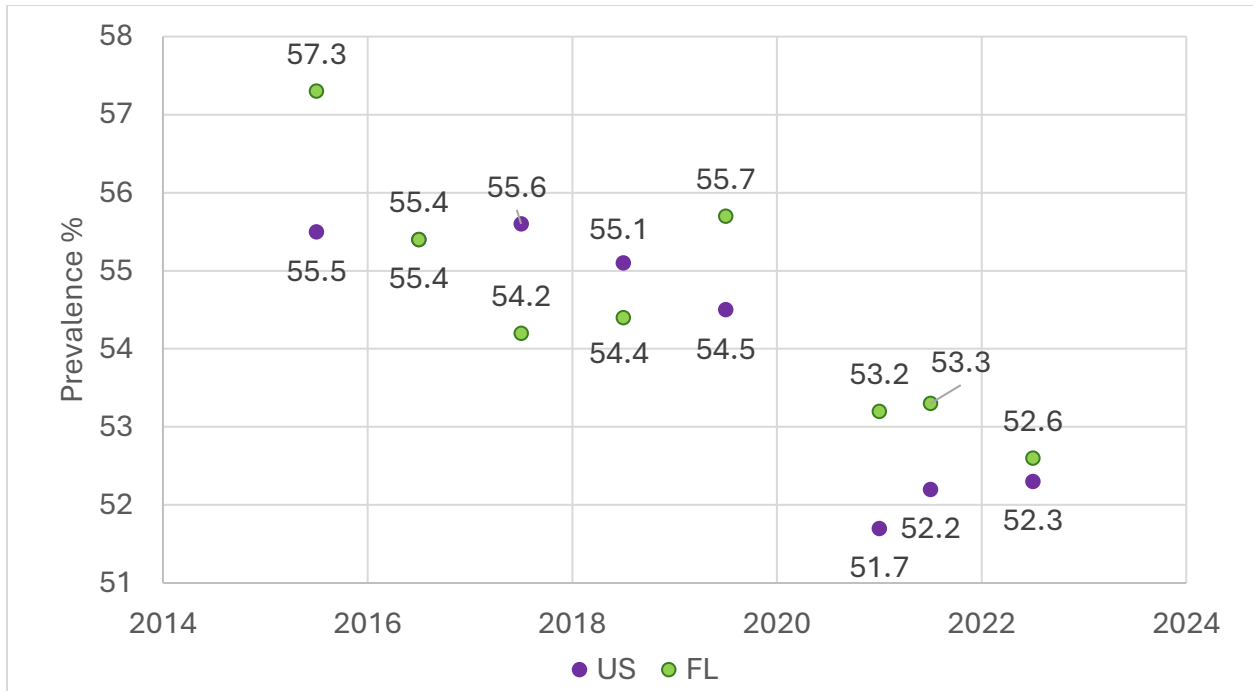


Figure 29. Two-Year Average Past Month Alcohol Use Among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2023. Source: [NSDUH](#).

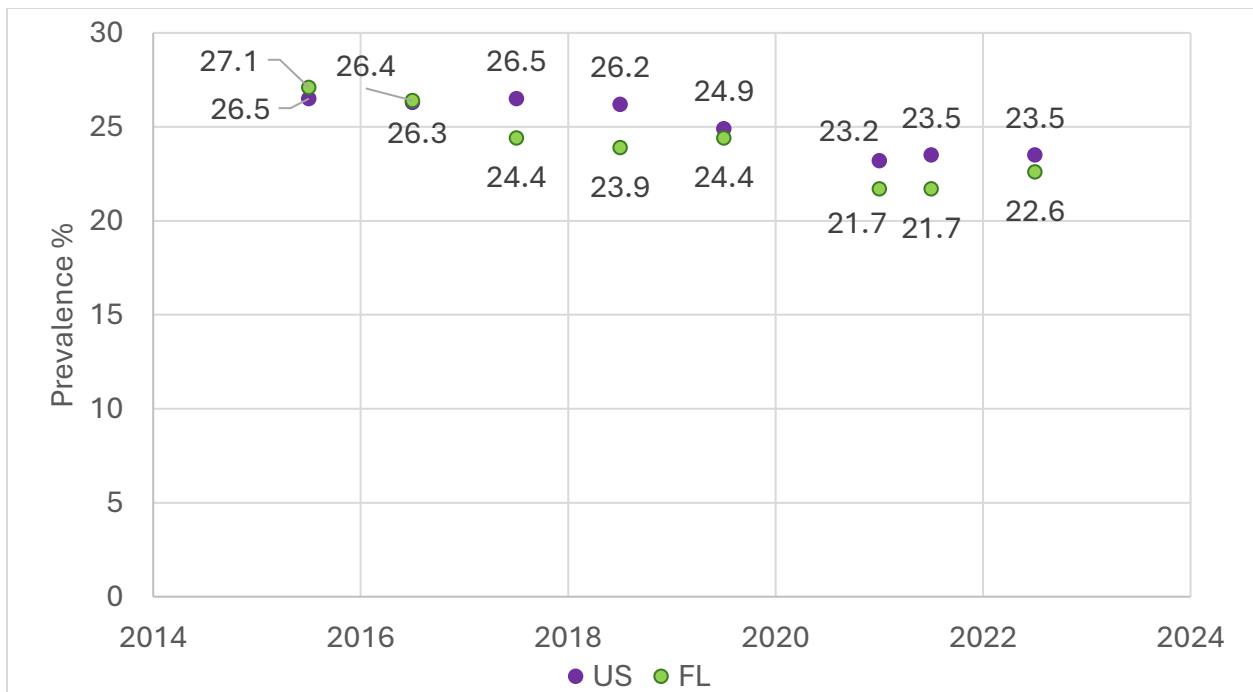


Figure 30. Two-Year Average Past Month Binge Alcohol Use Among Adults, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2023. Source: [NSDUH](#).

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 2022-2023, the rates were at 6.9 for the U.S. and Florida, (Figure 31). Binge drinking for youth increased in Florida and remained the same across the nation (Figure 35). Since 2010, lifetime and past-30-day use of alcohol showed a steady decline among Florida youth (Figure 32). The [Monitoring the Future](#) survey shows that alcohol use in the U.S. decreased for eighth and tenth graders and twelfth graders for lifetime and past 30-day use (Figure 33 and Figure 34).

Similar patterns occurred for binge drinking with declining prevalence rates among Florida youth since 2010. Rates between 2018 and 2021 remained steady around 6.7% but recently decreased from 2020-2024 to 4.4% (Figure 36).

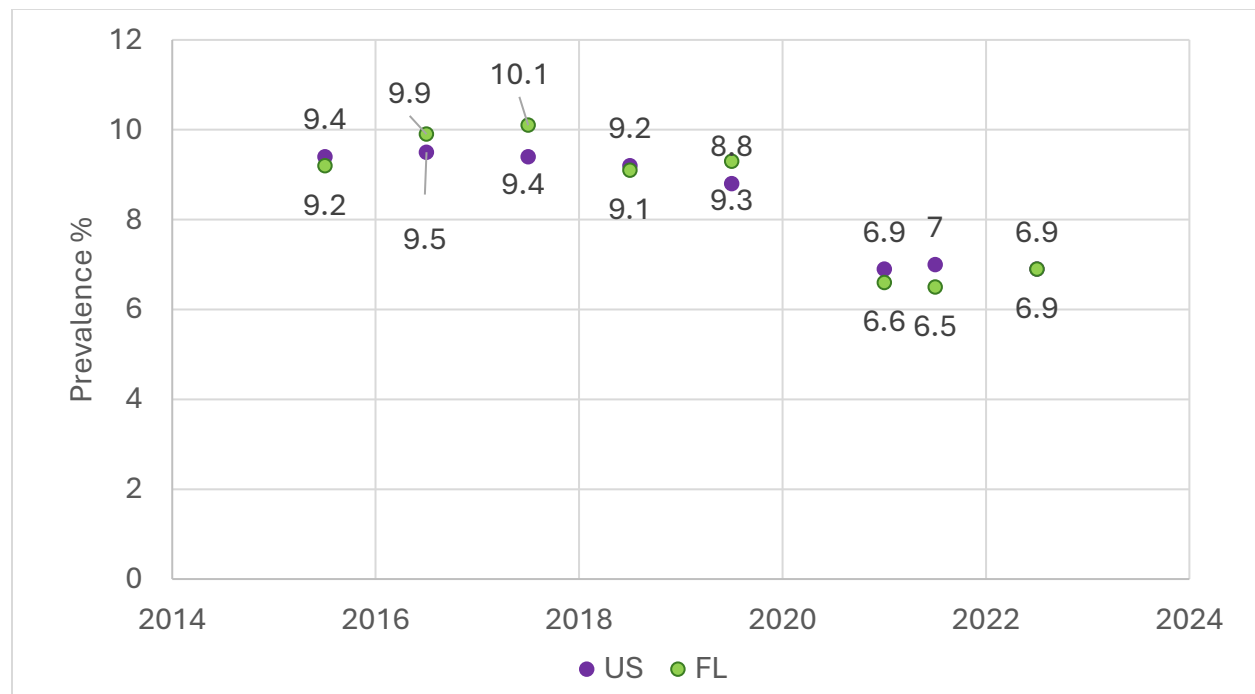


Figure 31. Alcohol Use Among Youth, Past Month, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2023. Source: [NSDUH](#).

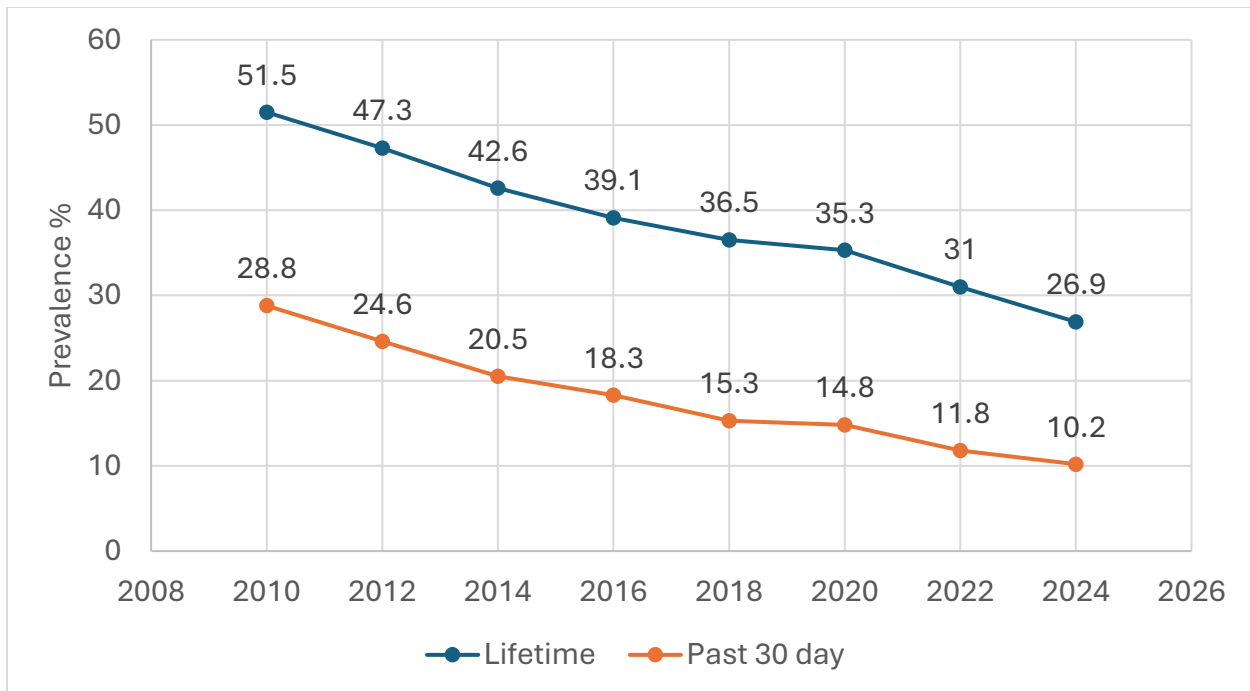


Figure 32. Alcohol Use Among Youth, Lifetime and Past Month, Florida, 2010–2024. Source: [FYSAS](#).

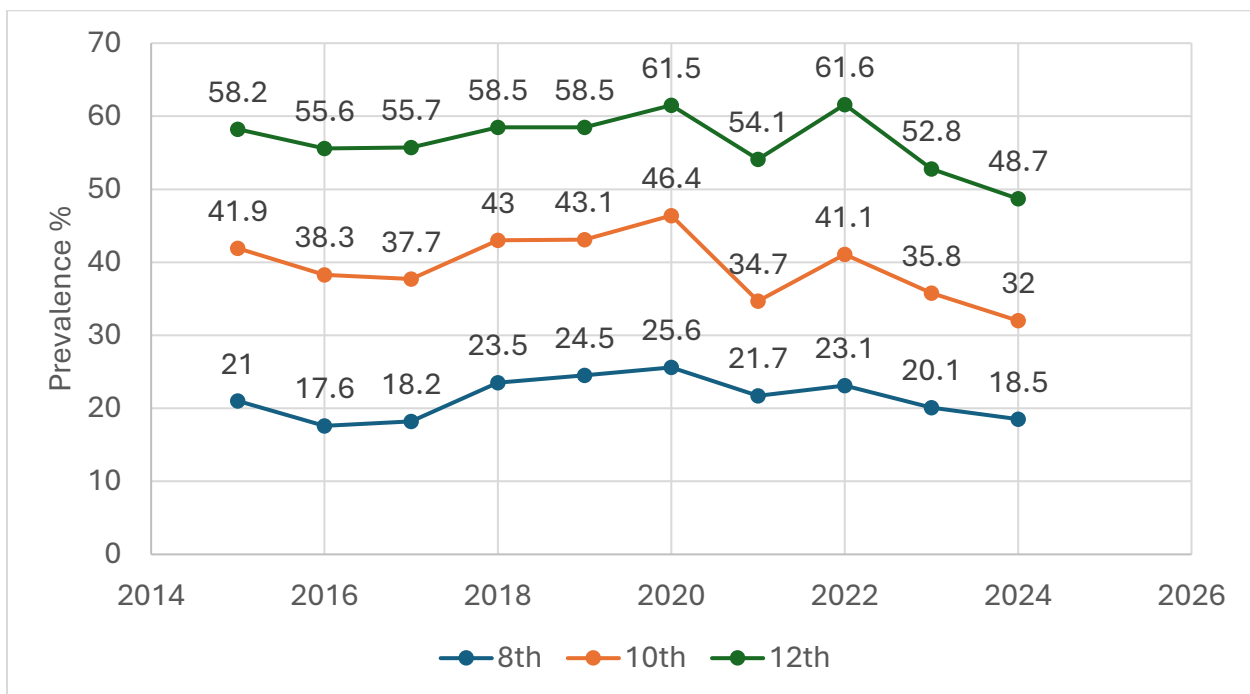


Figure 33. Lifetime Alcohol Use Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., 2015–2024. Source: [MTF](#).

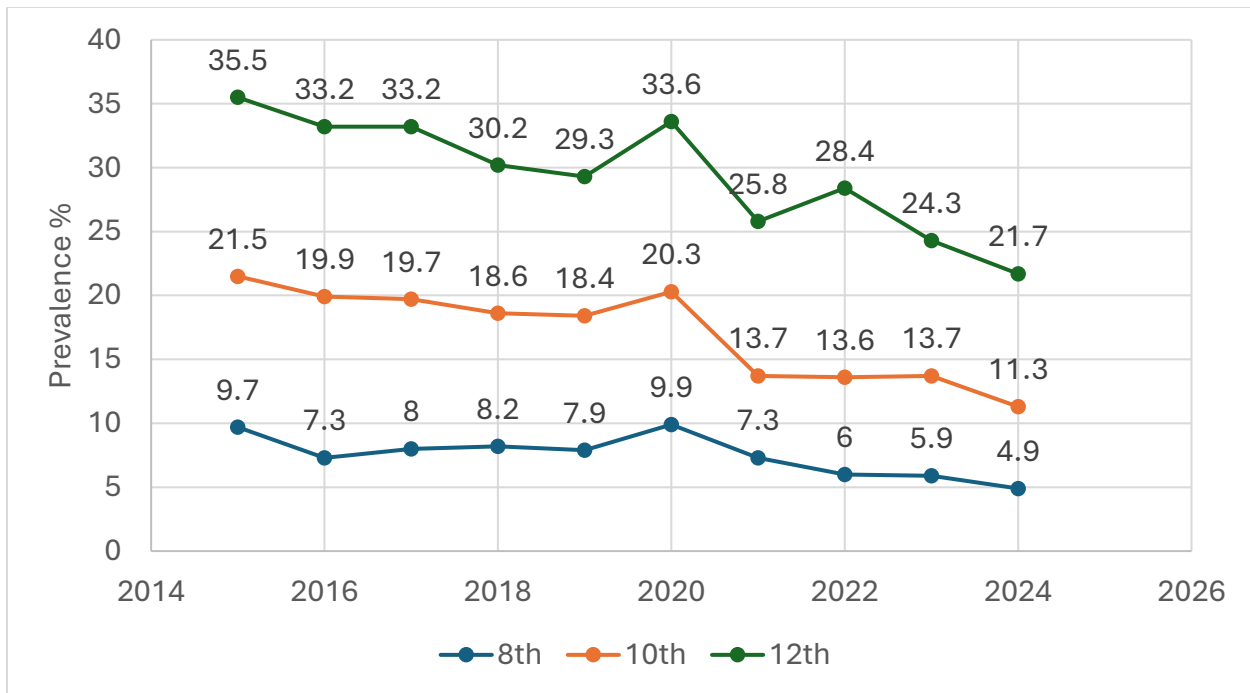


Figure 34. Past Month Alcohol Use Among Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Youth in the U.S., 2015–2024. Source: [MTF](#).

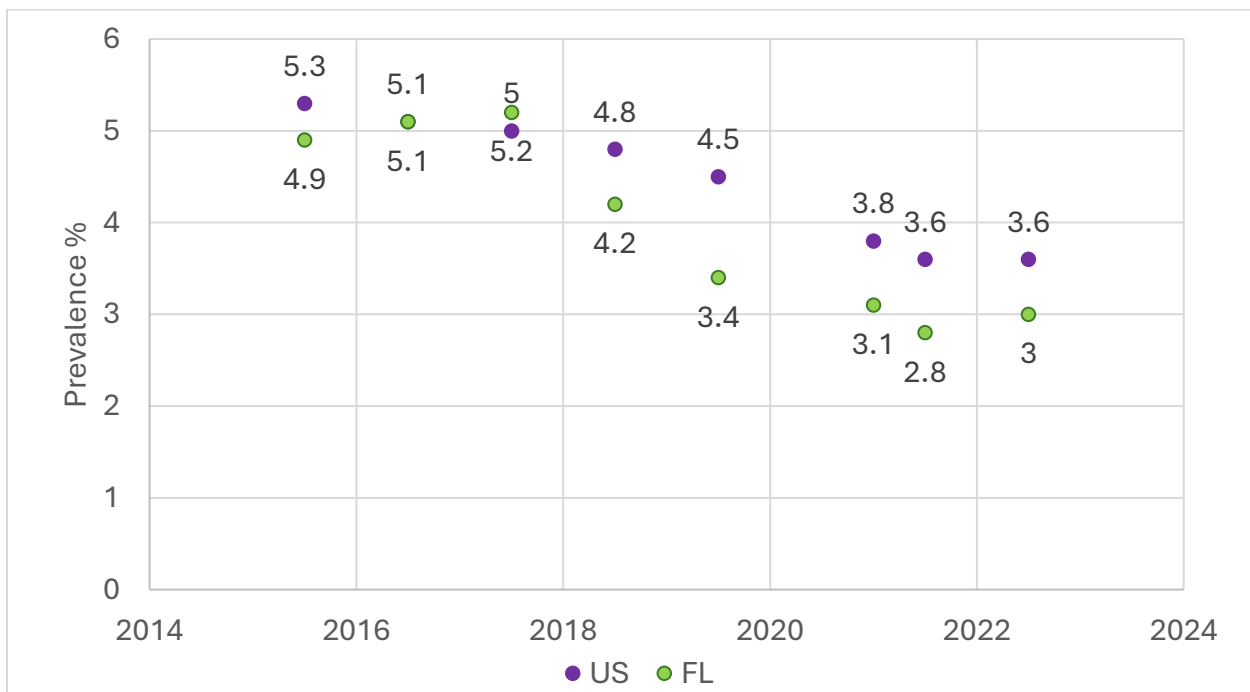


Figure 35. Binge Alcohol Use Among Youth, U.S. and Florida, 2015–2023. Source: [NSDUH](#).

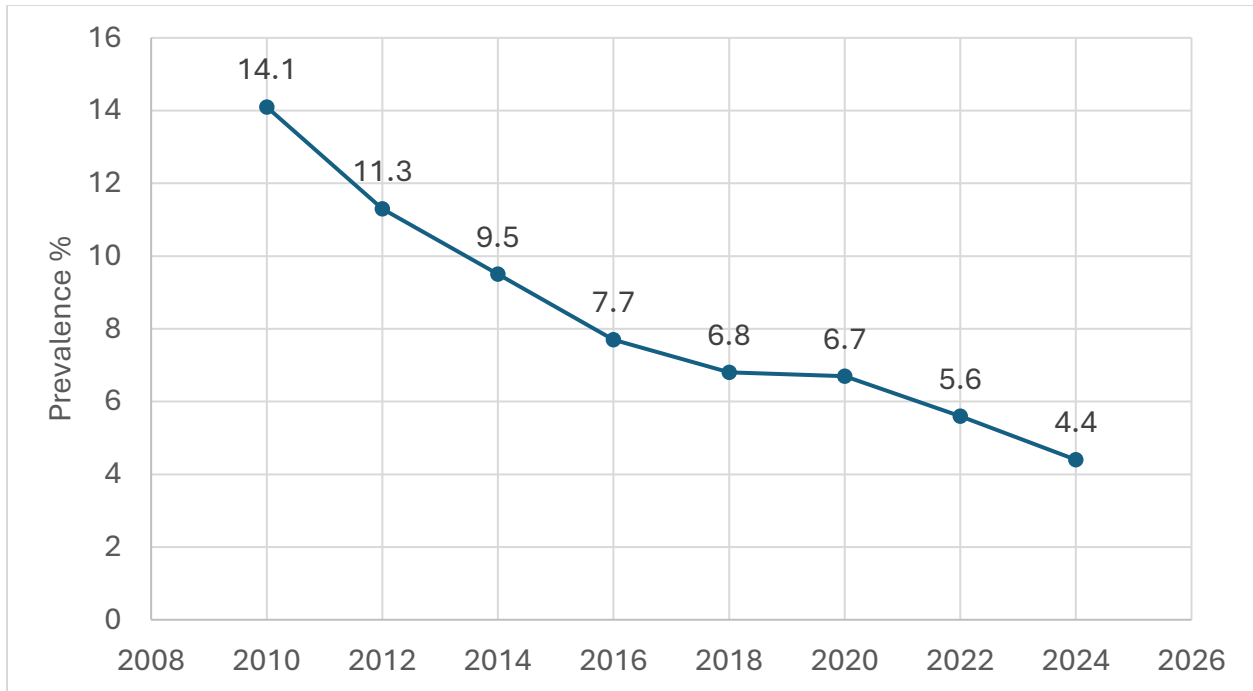


Figure 36. Binge Alcohol Use Among Youth, Florida, 2010–2024. Source: [FYSAS](#).

Inhalants

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 has fluctuated slightly since 2016 but was at its lowest rate in 2024 for lifetime use at 4.9%. Past 30-day use remained the same at 1.6%.

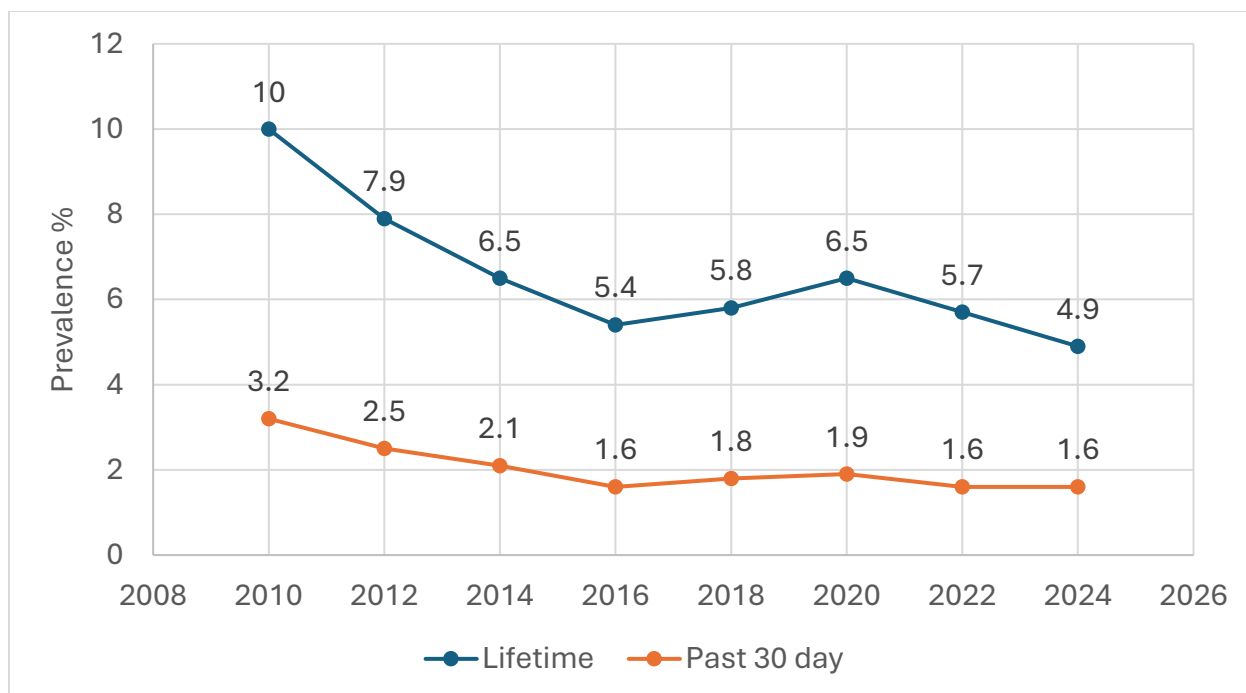


Figure 37. Lifetime and Past 30-day Use of Inhalants Among Youth in Florida, 2010–2024. Source: [FYSAS](#).

Club Drugs

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 decreasing since 2010 for lifetime and past month use (Figure 38). While rates fluctuated slightly for both past-month and lifetime use in 2020, 2024 [FYSAS](#) survey results show that club drug use among youth has decreased to an all-time low since 2010 in Florida.

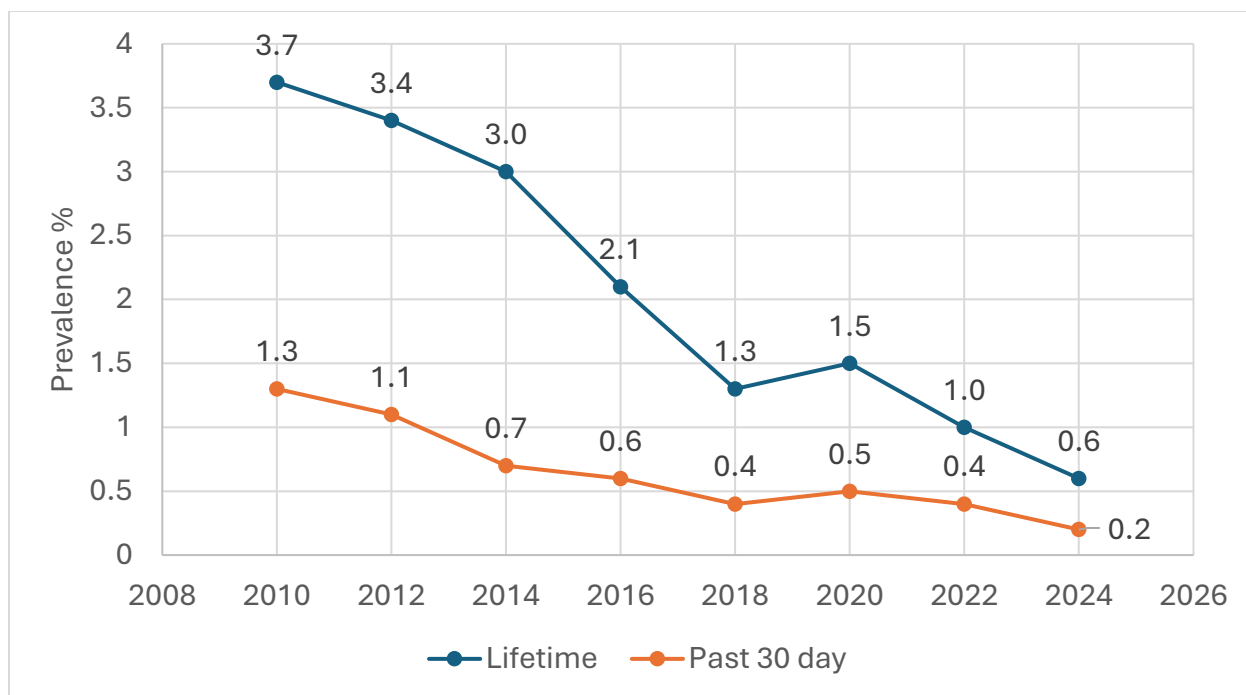


Figure 38. Lifetime and Past 30-day Club Drug Use Among Youth, Florida 2010–2024. Source: [FYSAS](#).

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 2023 to 31,188 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 2023, the number of non-fatal opioid overdose visits decreased to just over 15,000.

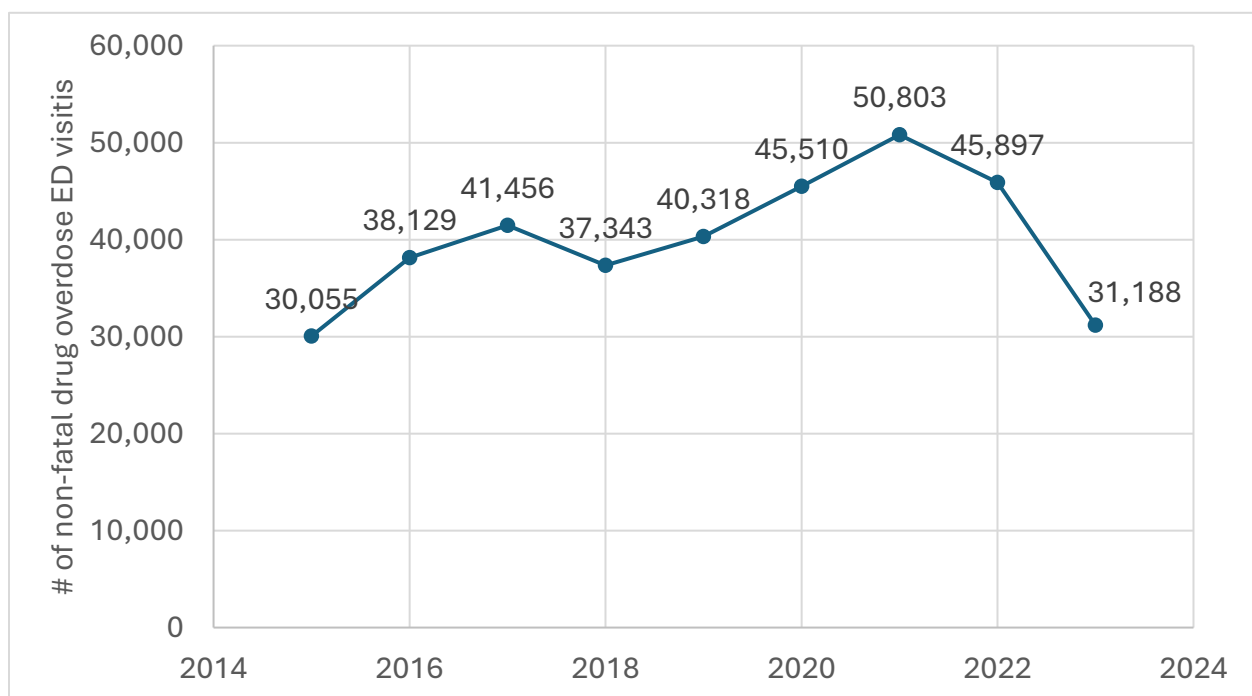


Figure 39. All Drug Non-Fatal Overdose Emergency Department Visits, Florida, 2015- 2023. Source: [FLHealthCharts](#).

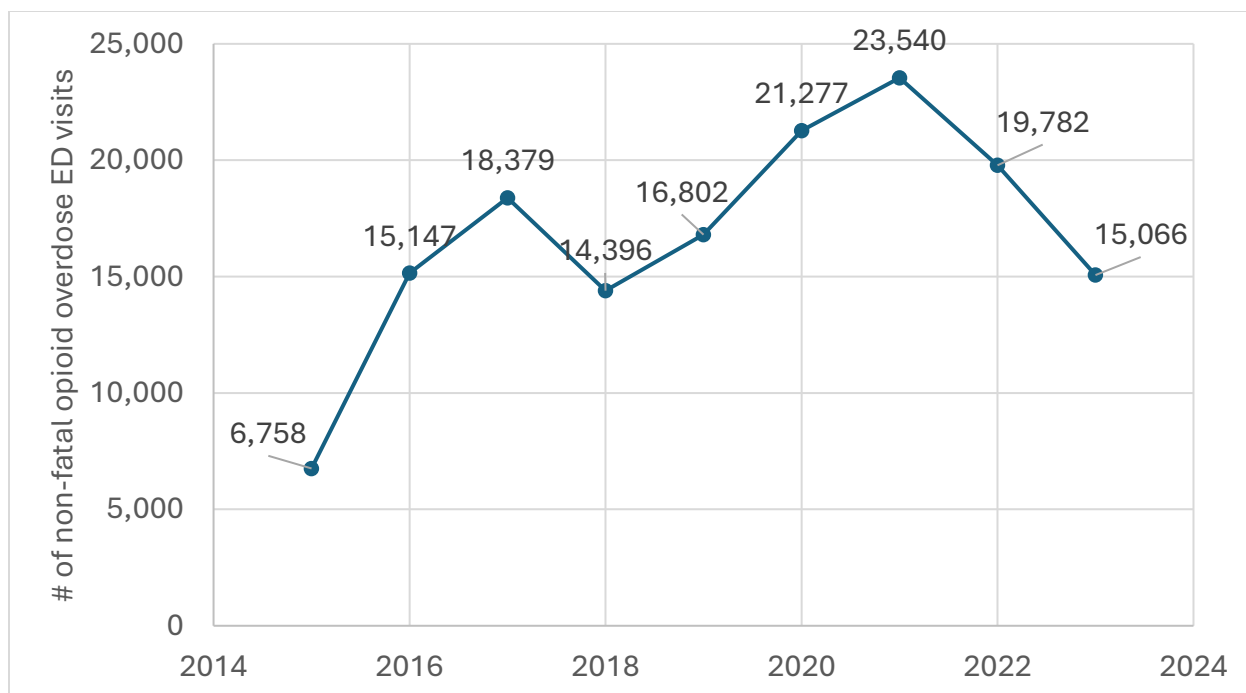


Figure 40. Opioid-involved Non-fatal Overdose Emergency Department Visits, Florida, 2015– 2023.
Source: [FLHealthCharts](#).

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 [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) 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. Provisional data indicates that there was a 3% decrease in overdose deaths in the U.S. This would be the first annual decrease in drug overdose deaths since 2018. Total drug overdose deaths in Florida began increasing in 2015 and continued to increase through 2017 until a decrease was observed in 2018. However, 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 in Florida. There were 7,220 drug overdose deaths recorded in 2023.

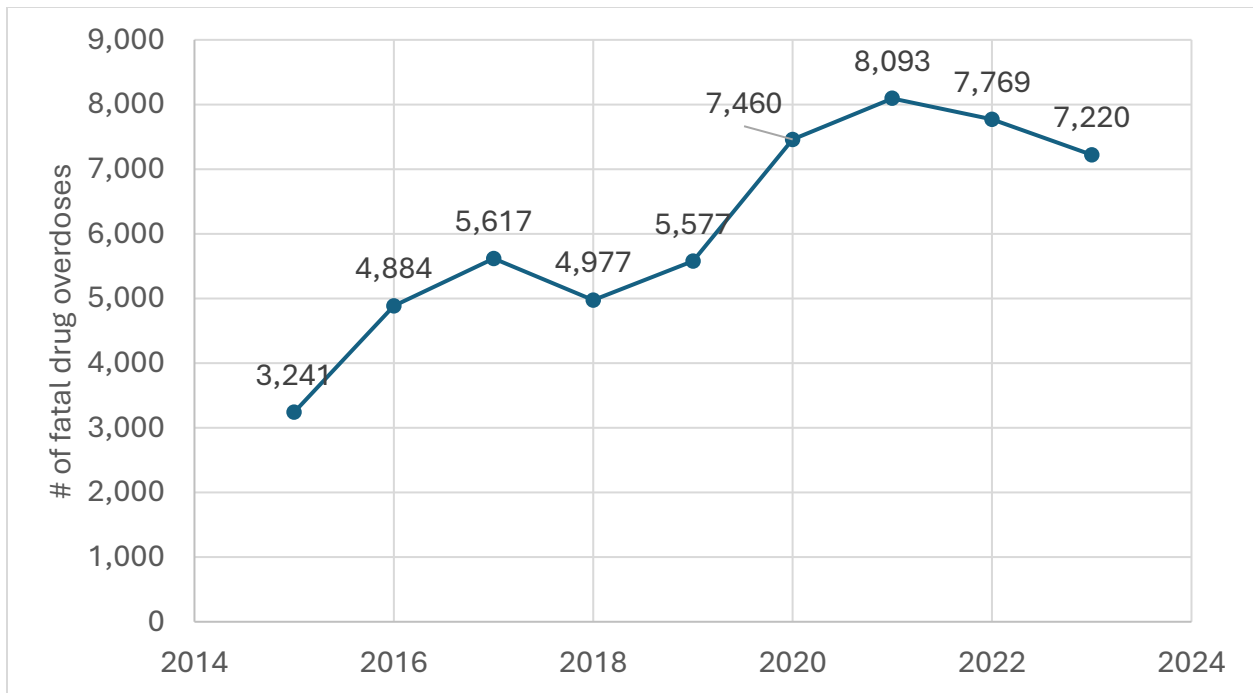


Figure 41. Fatal Drug Overdose Deaths in Florida. 2015–2023. Source: [FLHealthCharts](#).

Drug overdose death rates 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 have declined slightly in the past year to 35.2 in 2022 and continued to decline in 2023. While Florida rates have had a higher death rate than the U.S., in 2023, the death rate in Florida was lower than the U.S. for the first time since 2015 (Figure 42).

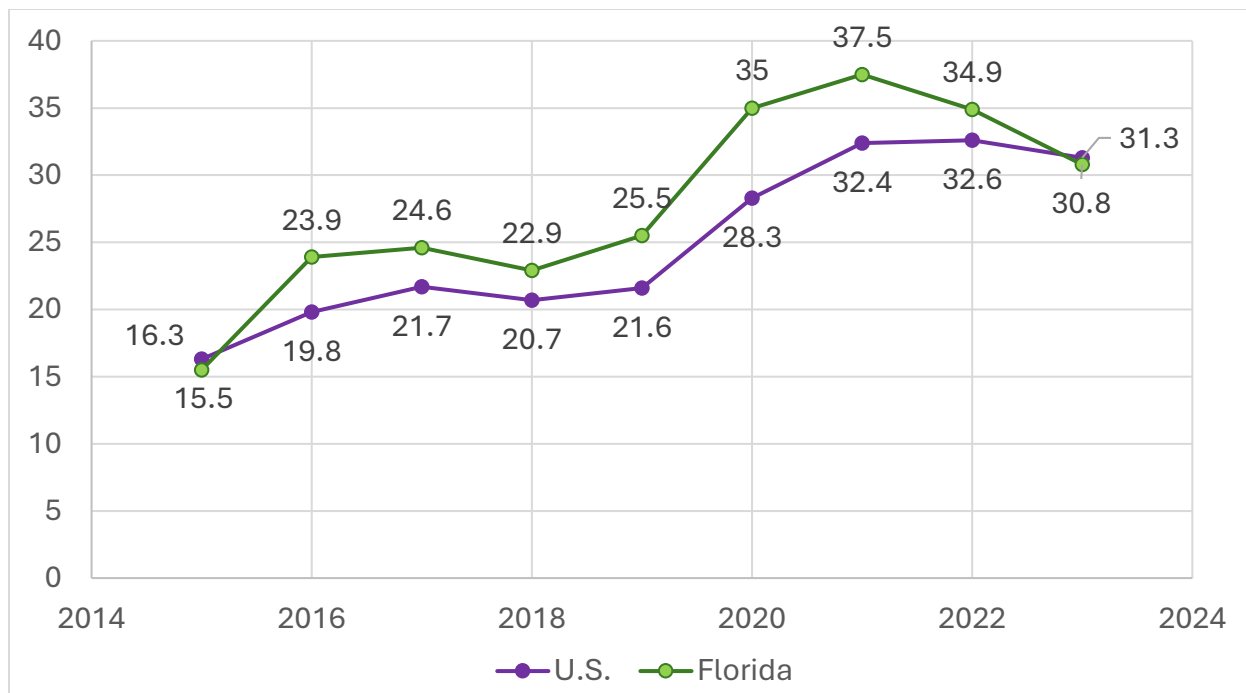


Figure 42. Fatal Drug Overdose Death Rate in the U.S. and Florida. 2015–2023. Source: [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)

[Role of Opioids](#)

Opioids remain the most common cause of death among fatal drug poisonings in Florida and the U.S., and the patterns and 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 to 6,157 in 2022 for the first time since 2018. In Figure 43, 5,476 fatal opioid deaths were recorded for 2023.

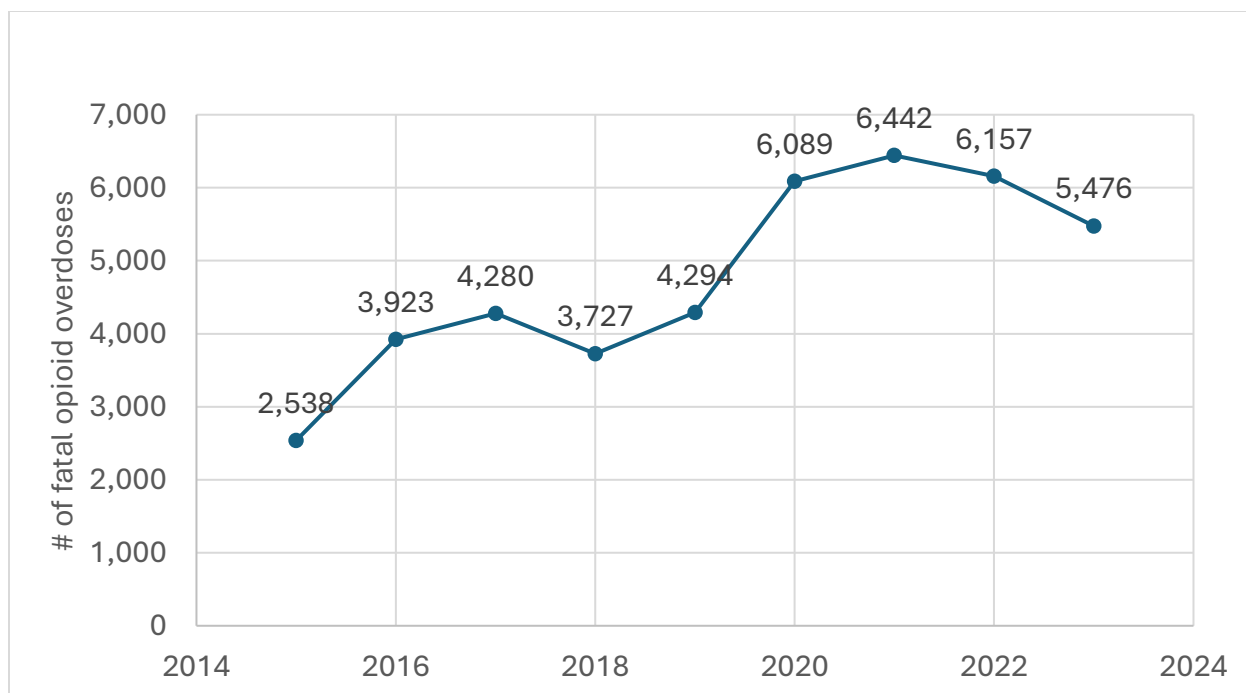


Figure 43. Fatal Opioid Overdose Deaths in Florida. 2015– 2023. Source: [FLHealthCharts](#).

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 occurrences among the Managing Entities is shown below for 2023 (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, the rate per 100,000 population was the highest in the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network region at 8.5 deaths per 100,000 population. Thriving Mind South Florida region had the lowest rate at 4.2.

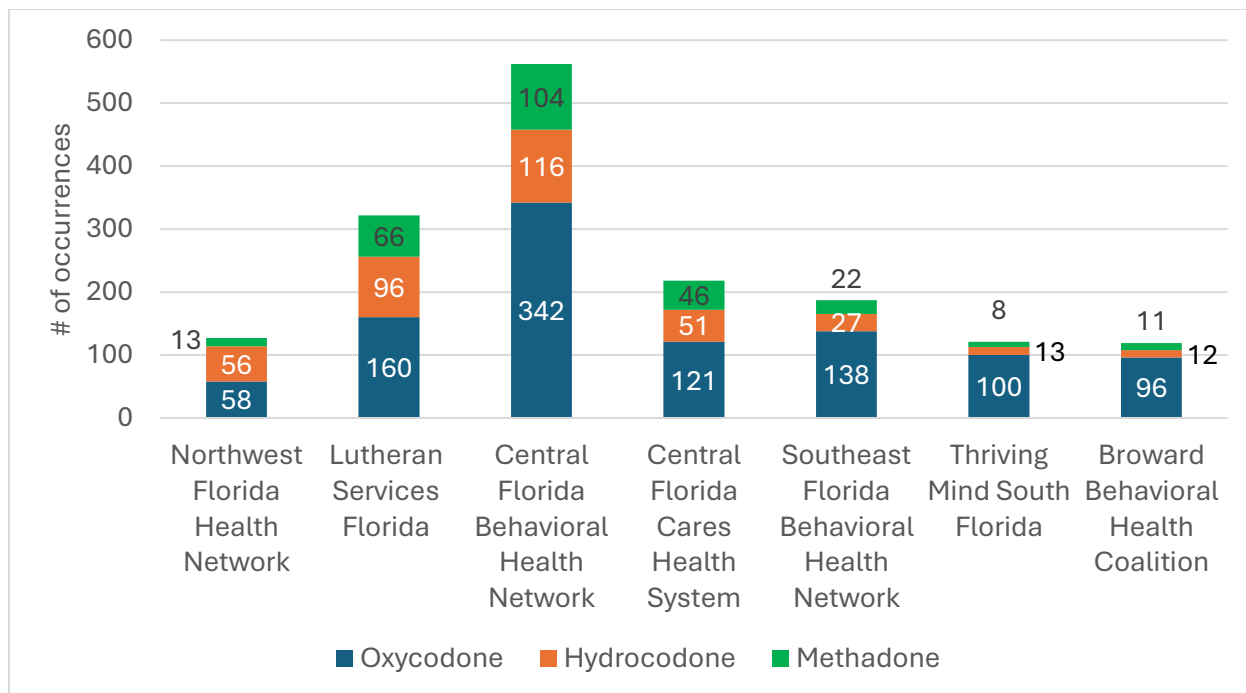


Figure 44. Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, and Methadone Occurrences among Decedents in Florida for Managing Entities, 2023. Source: [FDLE](#).

Heroin contributed to the second wave of the opioid epidemic. Heroin-related deaths in Florida have increased since 2012 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 to 227 in 2022. In 2023, 93 heroin-related deaths were recorded.

Heroin-related deaths by Managing Entity for 2023 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 0.8 per 100,000 population and the lowest in the Central Florida Cares Health System region with a rate of 0.1.

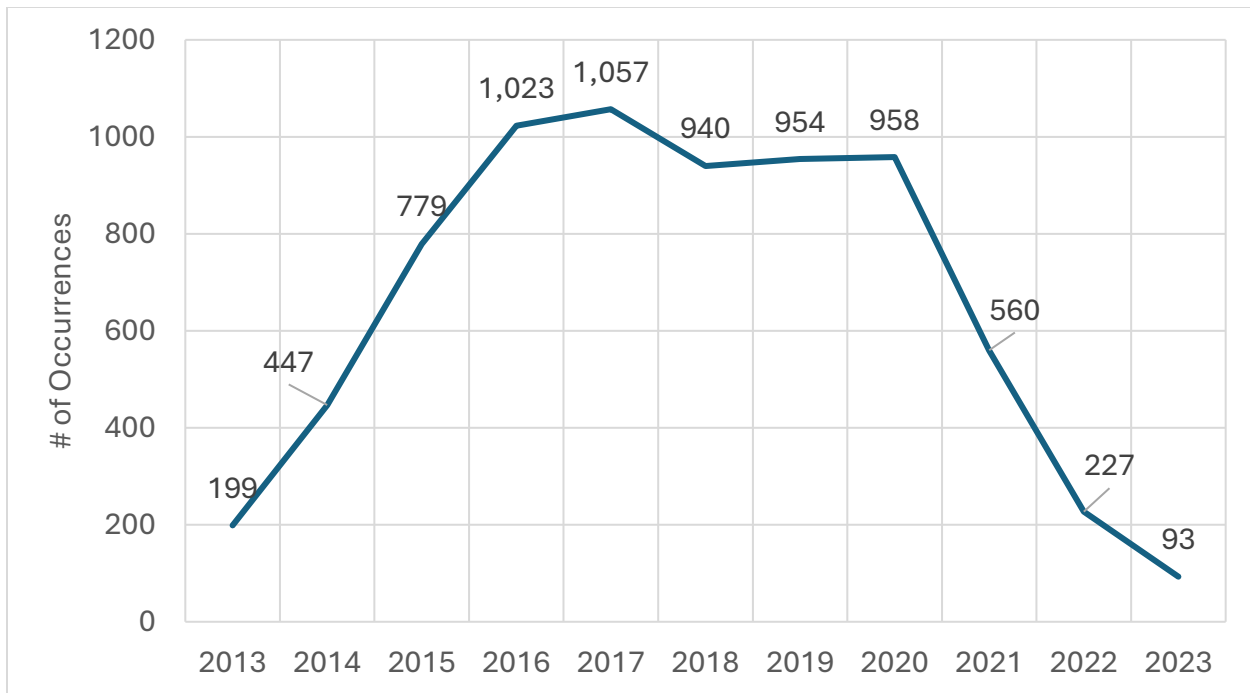


Figure 45. Heroin-related Deaths among Decedents in Florida, 2013- 2023. Source: [FDLE](#).

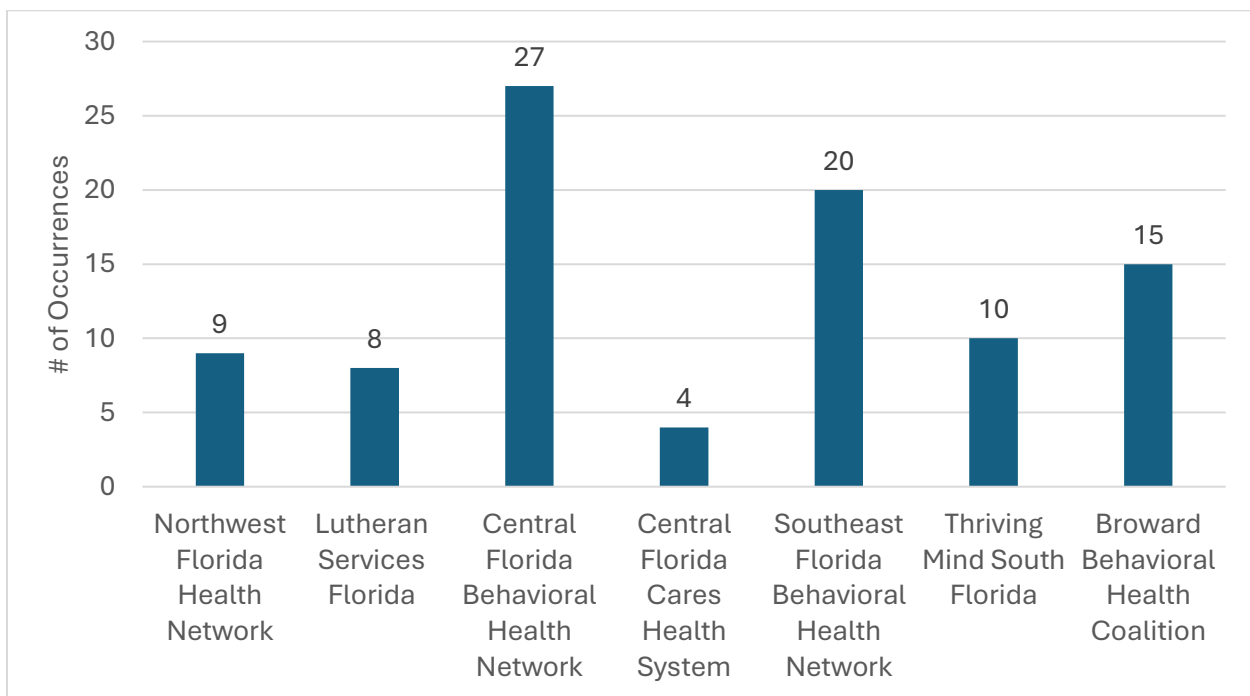


Figure 46. Heroin-related Deaths Among Decedents for Managing Entities, 2023 Source: [FDLE](#).

Increases in deaths due to synthetic opioids (mostly synthetic fentanyl) were responsible for the third wave of the opioid epidemic. Fentanyl and fentanyl analog-related deaths increased dramatically starting in 2015 (Figure 47). The sharpest increase for fentanyl and fentanyl

analog-related deaths in Florida occurred from 2019 to 2020, with 7,785 fentanyl and fentanyl analog-related deaths. Deaths increased in 2021, with 9,218 fentanyl and fentanyl analog-related deaths. In 2022, the total number of fentanyl and fentanyl analog-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 analog-related deaths indicating another decrease in deaths.

Fentanyl and fentanyl analog-related deaths by the Managing Entities are shown in Figure 48. Occurrences of both fentanyl and fentanyl analog-related deaths were highest in the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network region with 1,931 occurrences and the lowest total number of occurrences appearing in the Thriving Mind South Florida region with 430 occurrences. However, the rate per 100,000 population was the highest within the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network region, with a death rate of 35.6. Consistent with the lowest number of deaths, the lowest fentanyl death rate was 15.0 in the Thriving Mind South Florida region.

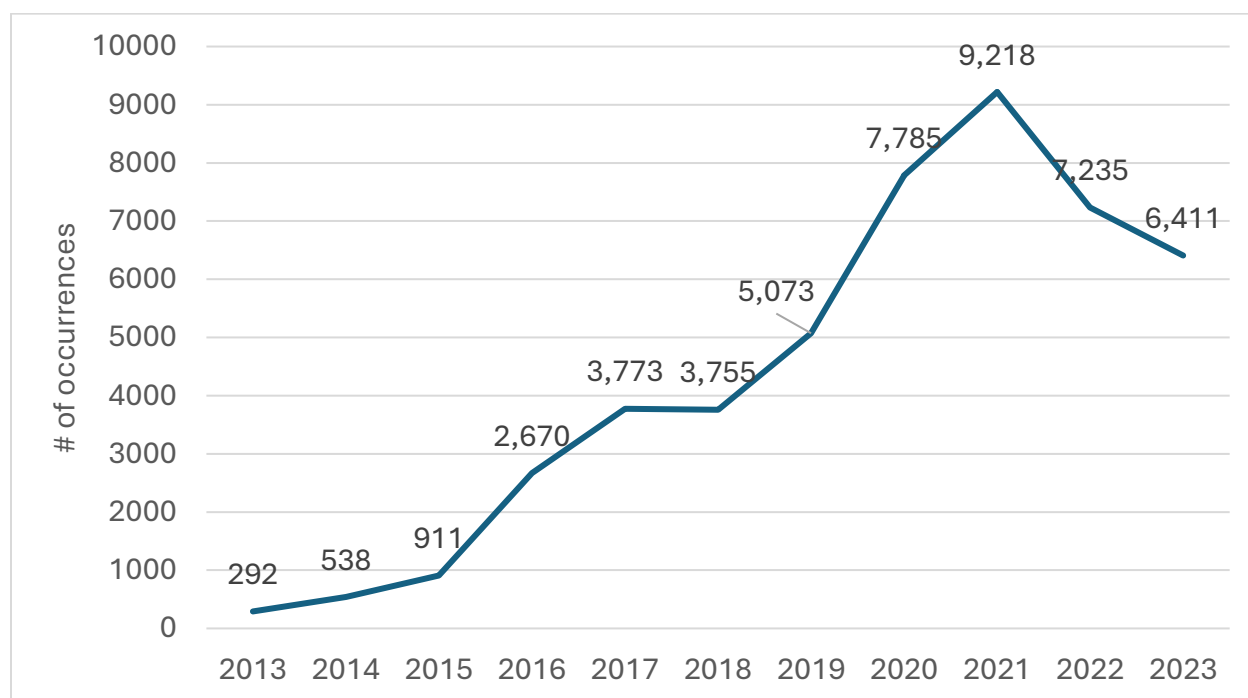


Figure 47. Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analog-related Deaths Among Decedents in Florida, 2013-2023.

Source: [FDLE](#).

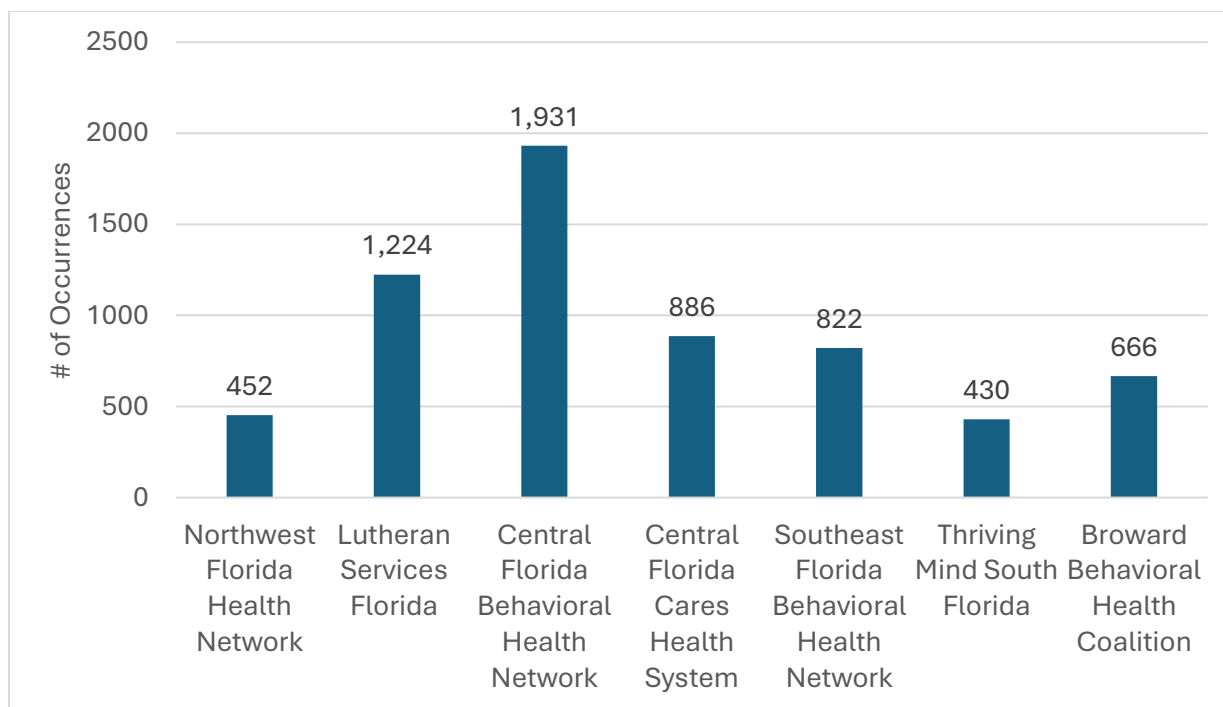


Figure 48. Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analog-related Deaths Among Decedents for Managing Entities, 2023.
Source: [FDLE](#).

Role of Stimulants

Florida is experiencing a nearly parallel rise with the U.S. for both cocaine and psychostimulants (methamphetamine) death rates. However, rates of cocaine-caused deaths in Florida have been consistently higher than in the U.S., although Florida did see a decline in these deaths from 2017 to 2018. Cocaine-related deaths in Florida slightly increased in 2019, followed by a sharp increase in 2020. In addition, another increase in cocaine deaths occurred 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 (Figure 49). In 2023, 3,565 cocaine-related deaths were reported indicating another decrease in deaths.

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 1,028 occurrences. The lowest number of occurrences was reported in the Northwest Florida Health Network region with 158 occurrences. However, the rate per 100,000 population was the highest in the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network region, with a death rate of 19.6. Consistent with the lowest number of deaths, the lowest cocaine-related death rate was in the Northwest Florida Health Network region with 9.6 rate per 100,000 population.

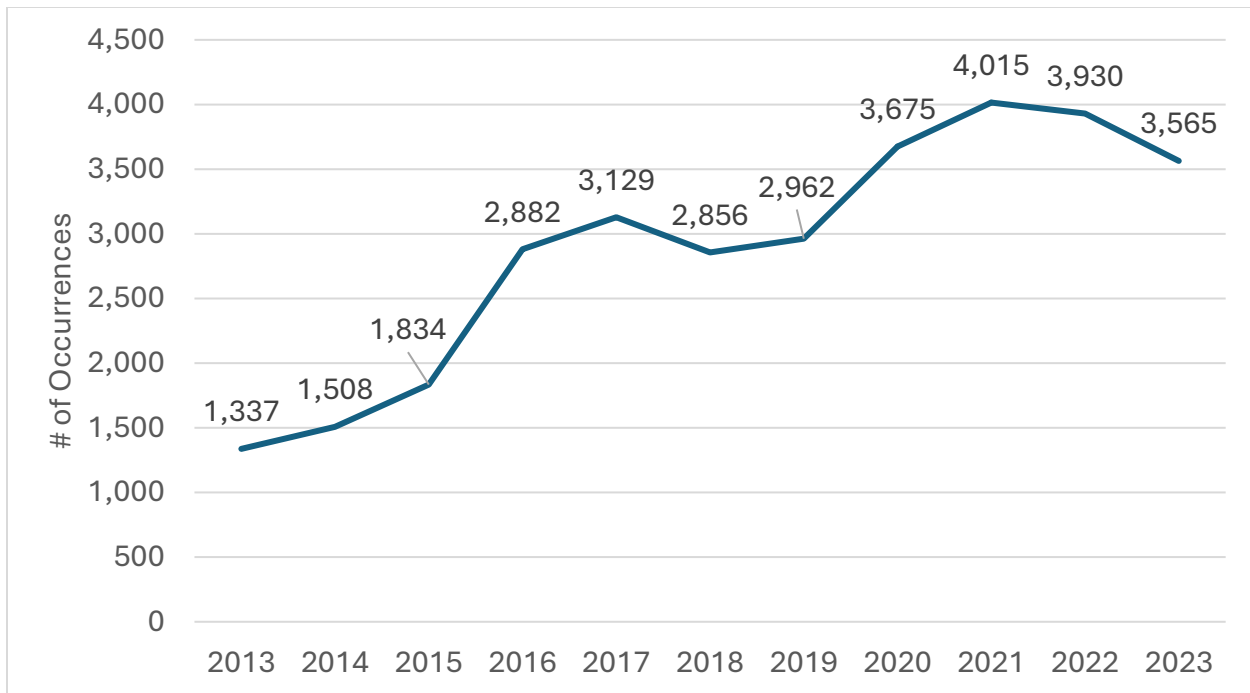


Figure 49. Cocaine-related Deaths Among Decedents in Florida, 2013- 2023. Source: [FDLE](#).

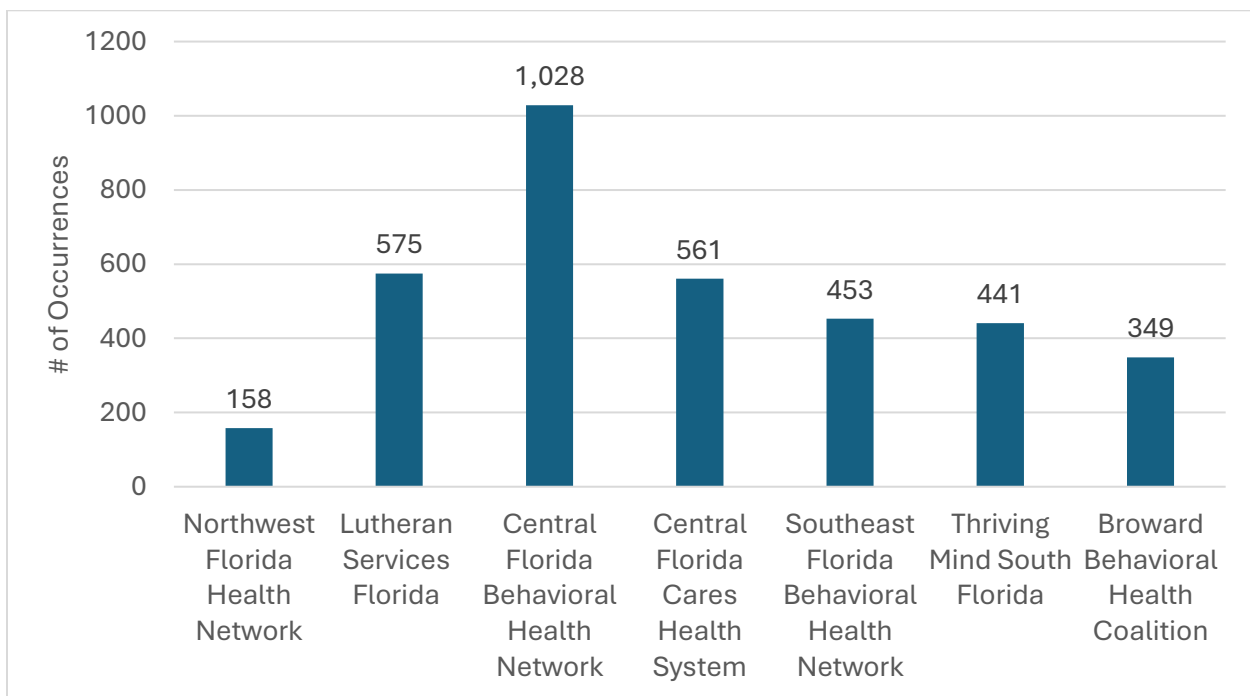


Figure 50. Cocaine-related Deaths Among Decedents for Managing Entities, 2023. Source: [FDLE](#).

Deaths from psychostimulants, like methamphetamine, have also increased in Florida. The number of occurrences has dramatically increased every single year since 2016 with the biggest 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 2,632 occurrences of methamphetamine-related deaths indicating another decrease in deaths.

The number of methamphetamine-related deaths for 2023 by Managing Entity regions is shown in Figure 52. The highest number of methamphetamine-related deaths was 1,030 occurrences in the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network region. The lowest number of occurrences was in the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition region with just 78 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 22.2 per 100,000. In addition, the region managed by Thriving Mind South Florida had the lowest methamphetamine-related death rate, with 3.6 deaths per 100,000 population.

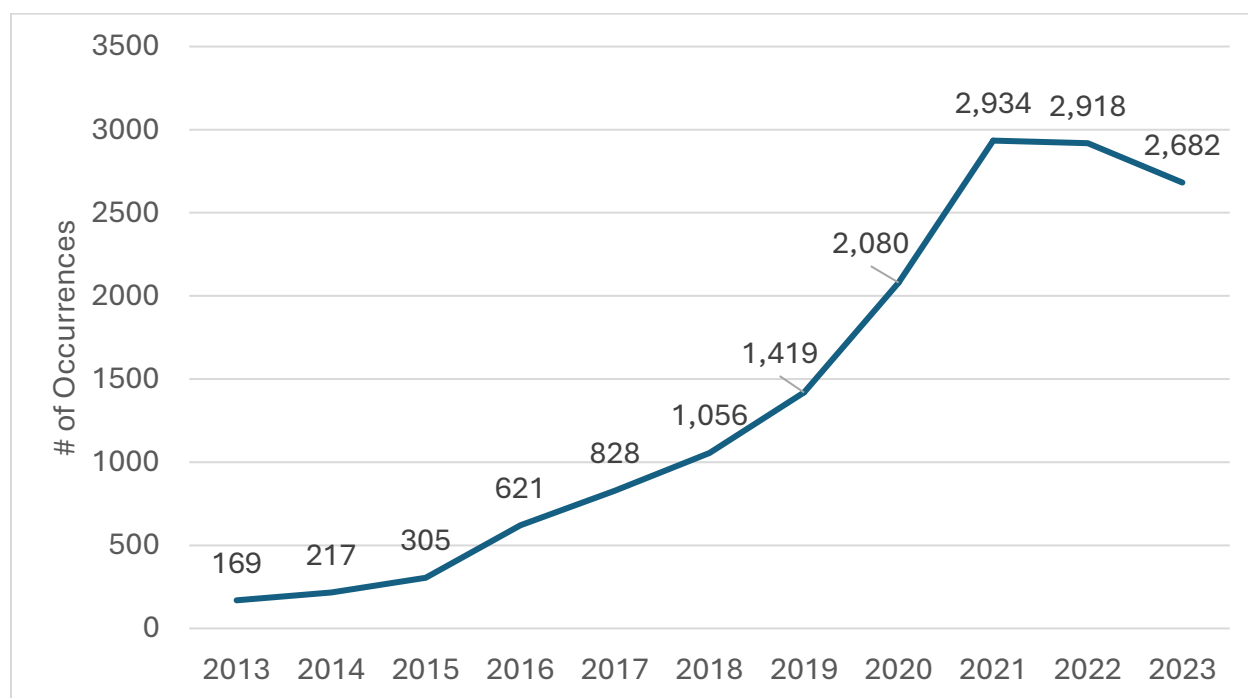


Figure 51. Methamphetamine-related Deaths Among Decedents in Florida, 2013- 2023. Source: [FDLE](#).

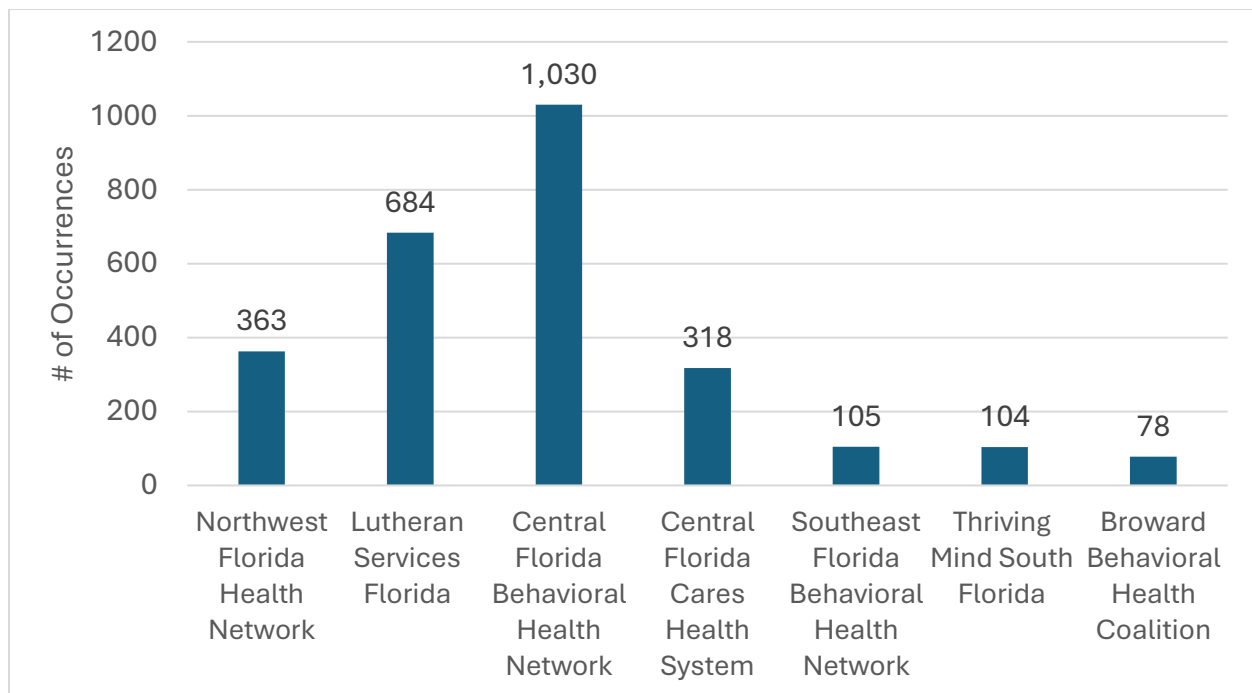


Figure 52. Methamphetamine-related Deaths Among Decedents for Managing Entities, 2023. Source: [FDLE](#).

Conclusions

Adult Substance Use

Misuse of opioids slowly and steadily declined from 2015 to 2021 in the U.S. and Florida. However, there was a slightly increased rate from 2022 to 2023. Small increases in heroin use occurred in 2020 across the U.S. but has decreased in Florida. Rates of alcohol use remained largely unchanged in Florida until 2020 but increased in past year use. 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. In Florida, 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 increased among Florida youth. Heroin use shows a downward trend for Florida youth overall in 2024. Use of psychostimulants by Florida youth has increased according to NSDUH data but lifetime, past-year, and past-month use of cocaine has steadily declined among Florida youth throughout the period of observation from 2015-2024. The trend for methamphetamine use has also been downward. 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. Among Florida youth, lifetime use of alcohol has decreased by 5%, resulting in youth endorsing alcohol at its lowest reporting.

Non-Fatal Poisonings

The number of non-fatal poisonings treated in the emergency department (ED), has decreased again for the first time since 2018.

Fatal Poisonings

Florida fatal drug poisonings continued to decline in 2023. Fatal drug poisonings for all substances highlighted in the Medical Examiner's Annual Report have shown decreases among Floridians.

Data Sources

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