

# BROWARD BRIEFINGS

SUBSTANCE ABUSE INFORMATION FOR ACTION



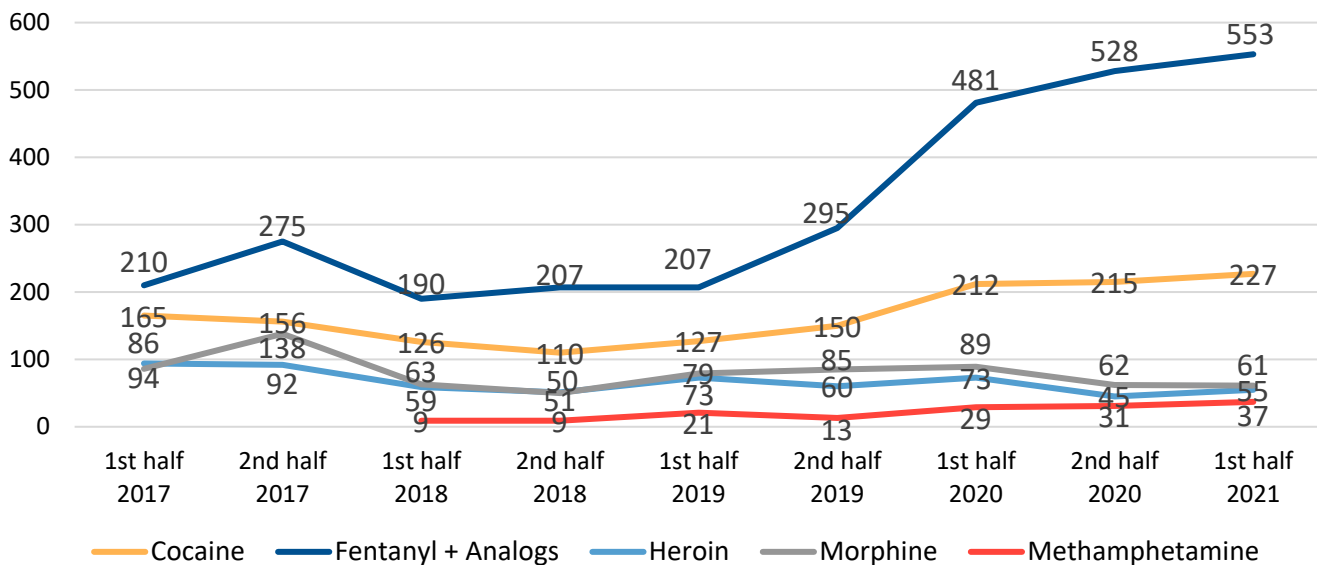
June 2022

## Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons in Broward County

The Florida Medical Examiners Commission recently released their 2021 Interim Report. Some of the most commonly occurring drugs identified among deceased persons are shown below. Fentanyl and analogs remained the most occurring substances, increasing to 553. There were 227 occurrences of cocaine, which represented a slight increase. Methamphetamine occurrences reached 37 in the first half of 2021. Data from the first half of 2021, compared to the first half of 2020, indicate increases in occurrences of fentanyl and analogs (13%), cocaine (7%), and methamphetamine (22%). Occurrences of heroin and morphine have remained relatively flat in recent years, most likely because of the increasing use of illicitly manufactured fentanyl and analogs.

At the state level, opioid-related deaths increased by 5.5% and total drug-related deaths increased by 7%. The drugs that caused the most deaths in the state were fentanyl and analogs (2,920), cocaine (1,305), and methamphetamine (962). Additional year-over-year increases were reported for occurrences of kratom (27%), gabapentin (23%), eutylone (11%), and benzodiazepines (10%).

Drug Occurrences Among Deceased Persons in Broward County, Florida, 2017-2021



Sources: Florida Medical Examiners Commission Interim and Annual Reports, <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/MEC/Publications-and-Forms>

*Broward Briefings may be copied. Please cite United Way of Broward County Commission on Behavioral Health & Drug Prevention.*



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