

September 2022

Trends in Treatment Admissions by Primary Drug in Broward County

Recently released data document changing trends among patients entering treatment for substance use disorder in Broward County. New treatment patients reporting their primary drug at treatment entry included men (68.1%) and women (31.9%). Ages included <18 (19.5%), 18-25 (10.3%), 26-34 (25.0%), and 35 and older (45.2%).

In 2021, a total of 32% of patients reported heroin or

other opioids as their primary drug. This is an increase from 28% reported in 2020 and 21% reported in 2019. Although it is lower than the high of 36% seen in 2016, the increase is still a cause for concern. Individuals reported marijuana as their primary drug (20%), which is down 11% from 2020. One of the trends seen in the chart is that in general, as treatment admissions for opioids as a primary drug increases, the treatment admissions for marijuana decrease. This was the case in 2016 and 2017, 2020 and 2021.

Treatment admissions for alcohol as a primary drug (20%) are relatively flat since 2020, but remain lower than the peak of 29% in 2017. Cocaine, including powder and crack, was reported as a primary drug by 10% of new treatment patients and this figure has remained relatively stable for the past 10 years.

The new data also include figures on route of administration. A total of 17.4% of patients reported injection, an increase 4%. Of those, 93.7% reported injecting an opioid. Other routes of administration include smoking (31.3%), sniffing (13.1%), and oral (28.6%).

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families - SAMH

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

Percent of Treatment Admissions by Primary Drug
Broward County: 2009-2021

