

BROWARD BRIEFINGS

SUBSTANCE ABUSE INFORMATION FOR ACTION



June 2021

Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons in Broward County

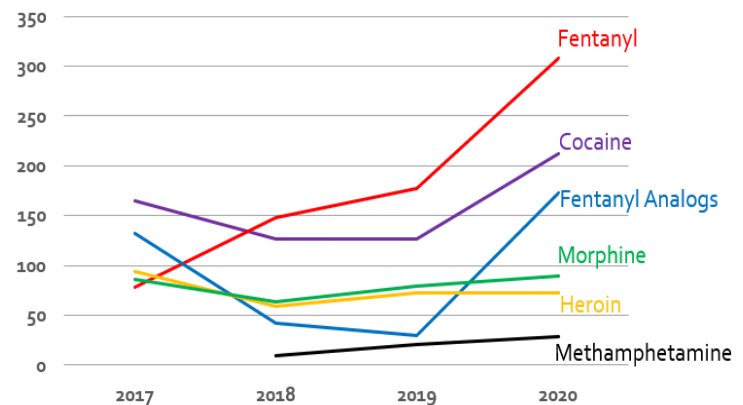
The Florida Medical Examiners Commission released the 2020 Interim Report with updated data on drugs identified in deceased persons in Broward County. These data serve as an important surveillance tool and offer insight into drugs of abuse in the county. These findings indicate that fentanyl and fentanyl analogs were the most frequency occurring drugs found in deceased persons in the county. These categories combined represent more than 130% increase since 2019. For the first time since 2013 in the State of Florida, alcohol was not the most prevalent drug reported in deaths; in the first half of 2020, fentanyl was reported most. This is particularly concerning given that fentanyl and fentanyl analogs are very potent and can be up to 80 times more powerful than morphine. This increases the risk for respiratory depression and overdose among users.

Data from the first half of 2020 also indicate a 67% increase in occurrences of cocaine as compared to 2019. Morphine and heroin represent the fourth and fifth most occurring drugs; among these, the number of heroin occurrences have declined, while morphine occurrences have increased slightly.

At the state-level, fentanyl, cocaine, and alcohol were the top three drugs that caused the most deaths. Another substance in which occurrences of death increased at the state-level is methamphetamine. Locally, occurrences of methamphetamine in deceased persons more than doubled from 9 in the first half of 2018 to 29 in the first half of 2020. Methamphetamine-related deaths in Florida have increased 44% 19, and methamphetamine caused deaths increased by 56% since 2019.

Source: Florida Medical Examiners Commission Reports

Drug Occurrences in Broward County, 1st half 2020



	First half 2017	First half 2018	First half 2019	First half 2020
Fentanyl	78	148	177	308
Cocaine	165	126	127	212
Fentanyl Analogs	132	42	30	173
Morphine	86	63	79	89
Heroin	94	59	73	73
Methamphetamine		9	21	29

Most frequently occurring drugs in decedents in Florida

1. Fentanyl; 2. Alcohol; 3. Benzodiazepines

Drugs that caused the most deaths in Florida

1. Fentanyl; 2. Cocaine; 3. Alcohol

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