

BROWARD BRIEFINGS

SUBSTANCE ABUSE INFORMATION FOR ACTION



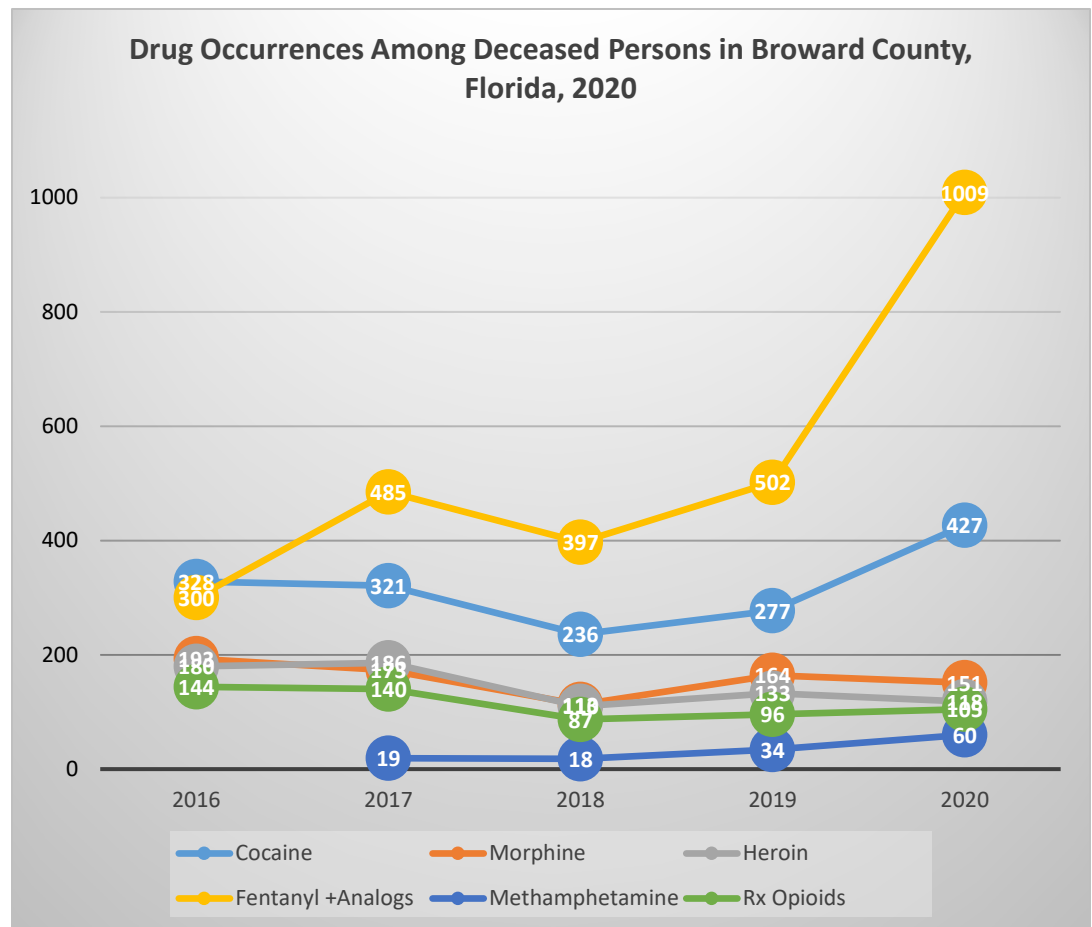
December 2021

Drug Occurrences among Deceased Persons in Broward County, 2020

The latest data from the Florida Medical Examiners Commission documents increasing occurrences of several substances among deceased persons in Broward County during 2020. As shown in the chart, compared to 2019, deaths related to illicitly manufactured fentanyl and analogs increased by 101%. There was also a large increase in stimulant-related deaths; 54% for cocaine and 76% for methamphetamine. Deaths related to prescription opioids (oxycodone, hydrocodone, and methadone) increased by 9%. It should also be

noted that deaths related to heroin (-11%) and morphine (-8%) were lower compared to 2019.

The drastic increase in occurrences of fentanyl and analogs among decedents is concerning and in 98% of these occurrences, another drug was also present. This corroborates additional reports that fentanyl is being found in many substances in the county, including cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and counterfeit pills designed to mimic prescription opioids and benzodiazepines. Cocaine and methamphetamine-related deaths in 2020 also reached new peaks. These figures follow state and national-level trends of increasing stimulant use, including use in combination with opioids. Although methamphetamine-related deaths remain lower than other substances, the rapid increase since 2017 is of concern.



Source: Florida Medical Examiners Commission, 2020 Annual Report; <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/MEC/Publications-and-Forms>

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