

# BROWARD BRIEFINGS

SUBSTANCE ABUSE INFORMATION FOR ACTION

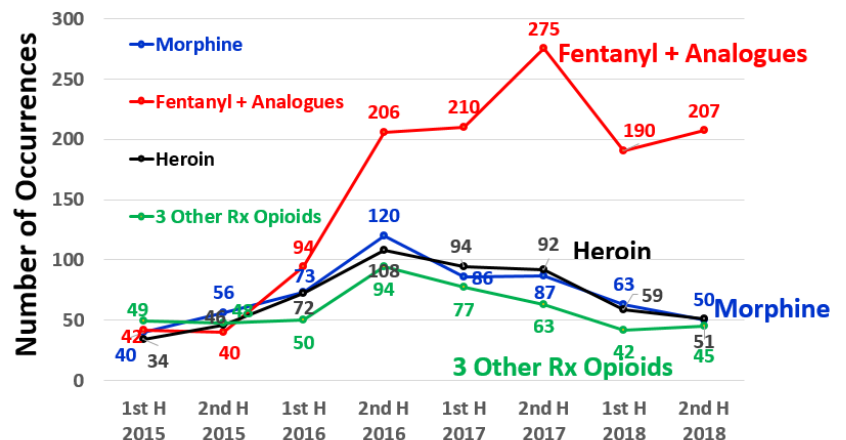


November 2019

## Florida Medical Examiners 2018 Annual Report

The Florida Medical Examiners 2018 Annual Report has recently been released. The report provides a summary of drug occurrences in decedents for 2018 calendar year. Heroin, morphine, fentanyl and prescription opioid occurrences were identified in deceased persons (top left). There were 207 occurrences of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues in the second half of 2018, meaning there was a 9% increase from the first half of 2018. However, when compared to calendar year 2017, there was an 18% decrease in fentanyl and its analogues for calendar year 2018. Fentanyl was the leading cause of drug-related deaths in Broward County with 287 deaths attributed to fentanyl for 2018.

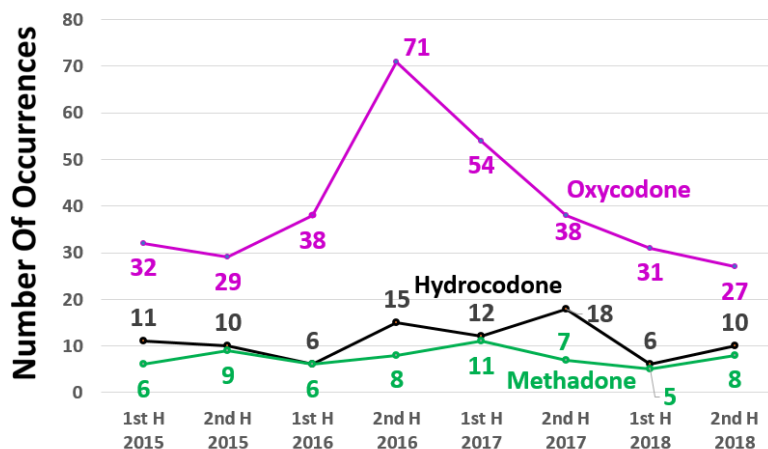
Heroin, Morphine, Fentanyl, and 3 Other Rx Opioid Occurrences Among Deceased Persons in Broward County FL: Jan 2015- Dec 2018



Source: FDLE - Florida Medical Examiners Commission

There were 113 occurrences of morphine and 110 occurrences of heroin among deceased persons for 2018. Since heroin is rapidly metabolized to morphine, this may lead to a substantial over reporting of morphine-related deaths as well as significant under reporting of heroin-related deaths. Either way, heroin and morphine occurrences among deceased persons decreased from 2017 to 2018 by 40% and 34% respectively. Three prescription opioids tested by medical examiners decreased by 37% from 2017 to 2018. An in-depth look at the three prescription opioids, oxycodone, hydrocodone, and methadone is shown in the next graph (bottom right). Although 2018 has shown to have

Occurrences of 3 Selected Rx Opioids among Deceased Persons in Broward County: Jan 2015 – Dec 2018



Source: FDLE - Florida Medical Examiners Commission

a decrease in the number of opioid occurrences from 2017, the number occurrences in deceased persons is still at an alarming rate for Broward County.

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

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