

September 2021

Opioid-Related Emergency Department Visits and Emergency Management Service Calls in Broward County

Data on the use of emergency departments and emergency management service calls for opioid-related incidents provide insight into opioid use during the COVID-19 pandemic. Suspected non-fatal opioid-involved emergency department visits in Florida and Broward county during 2020 through the first half of 2021 are shown in the table below. Counter to state-wide trends, non-fatal opioid-involved emergency department visits in the county declined each quarter of 2020 from 615 during the first quarter to 479 at the end of the year. Although the numbers increased during the first two quarters of 2021, they remained lower than what was recorded during the same time period the previous year. COVID-19 may have impacted emergency department utilization, yet the trend of fewer opioid-involved visits is encouraging.

| Suspected non-fatal opioid-involved emergency department visits by quarter | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1Q2020 | 2Q2020 | 3Q2020 | 4Q2020 | 1Q2021 | 2Q2021 |
| Florida | 8,297 | 9,769 | 10,039 | 9,390 | 9,951 | 9,843 |
| Broward County | 615 | 581 | 543 | 479 | 502 | 511 |

Emergency management service, or 911 calls for opioid-related overdoses are shown in the table below. Broward County recorded 3,208 calls during 2020 and 1,816 administrations of naloxone. Data from the first half of 2021 are just about half of the totals recorded in 2020. This would suggest that these figures will remain at levels similar to or slightly higher than those in 2020. Recent local increases in naloxone administration has reduced overdose deaths. Continued use of naloxone during emergency management service calls will likely continue to reduce opioid-related fatalities.

| Emergency management service calls for opioid-related overdoses and naloxone administration | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| | 2020 EMS calls | Naloxone administered 2020 | 1 st Half 2021 EMS calls | Naloxone administered 1 st half 2021 |
| Florida | 36,622 | 19,930 | 18,822 | 10,184 |
| Broward County | 3,208 | 1,816 | 1,640 | 964 |

Source: Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE-FL) surveillance system

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