OPPIOID POISONING IN VOLUSIA COUNTY

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) define opioids as natural or synthetic chemicals that bind to receptors in your brain or body reducing feelings of pain. People using prescription opioids or heroin are at risk for unintentional overdose or death and can become addicted. CDC groups opioids into four categories: natural & semi-synthetic opioid analgesics, methadone, synthetic opioid analgesics, and heroin. Natural, synthetic (including opium), and semi-synthetic opioids will be combined due to coding limitations to represent prescription opioid usage in this brief.

CDC reports that since 2000, more than 300,000 people have lost their lives to an opioid overdose in the United States. The Florida Law Enforcement, 2015 Medical Examiners Commission Drug Report indicates that opioids abuse was the cause of death of 3,896 Floridians in 2015. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps ranked Volusia County 15th overall in Florida with a drug poisoning mortality rate of 19 deaths per 100,000 population in 2015. Volusia County residents who died from opioid poisoning were 8.6 times more likely to be white than any other race.

- Heroin poisoning deaths in Volusia County were lower than Florida by 9% percent in 2015
- Methadone poisoning deaths in Volusia County were higher than Florida by 8.4%
- Volusia County (50.7%) was slightly higher than Florida (50.2%) in the percent of deaths caused by other prescription opioids (excluding Methadone) in 2015

Data Sources: Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Hospital and Emergency Department Datasets, 2015; Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics 2015

- Opioid poisoning deaths were four times higher among white residents than among black and Hispanic residents.
Residents Ages 25 to 54 accounted for almost 75% of deaths caused by opioid poisoning in Volusia County in 2015.

The highest percent of deaths (25.4%) caused by opioid poisoning occurred between the ages of 25 through 34.

The lowest percent of deaths (4.5%) caused by opioid poisoning occurred between the ages of 65 through 74.

Poisoning by prescription opioids (excluding methadone) was the most common diagnosis for ED visits and hospitalizations in Volusia County in 2015.

The age-adjusted rate for hospitalizations due to heroin poisoning in Volusia County increased by 350% from 2011 to 2015.

The rate for hospitalizations due to poisoning of prescription opioids (excluding methadone) decreased by 52.8% from 2011 to 2015.