OPPIOID POISONINGS 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 denote 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, 2016 Medical Examiners Commission Drug Report indicates that 5,725 deaths in Florida were opioid-related. This was a 35 percent increase (1,483 more) from 2015. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps ranked Volusia County 18th overall in Florida with a drug poisoning mortality rate of 18 deaths per 100,000 population from 2014 to 2016. White Volusia County residents accounted for 91 percent of opioid-related deaths in 2017.

- Prescription opioids (excluding methadone) accounted for more than half of all opioid poisoning deaths for each year within the study period.
- Prescription opioid poisonings in 2017 accounted for 11.4 percent more of all opioid poisonings than they did in 2015.

A greater percent of males died from opioid poisonings than females.

The opioid poisoning death rate was over 20 points higher among white residents than among black and Hispanic residents.

The opioid poisoning death rate increased by 55.6 percent from 2015 (15.51) to 2017 (24.13).

Data Sources: Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Hospital and Emergency Department Datasets, 2012-2016; Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics 2013-2017
Residents Ages 25 to 54 accounted for almost 75 percent of deaths caused by opioid poisoning in Volusia County in 2017.

The highest percent of opioid poisoning deaths (26%) occurred between the ages of 25 and 34.

The lowest percent of opioid poisoning deaths (2%) occurred between the ages of 15 and 24.

Heroin poisonings accounted for the highest percentage of opioid poisoning emergency department diagnosis in Volusia County (61%) and in Florida (77%) in 2016.

Prescription opioids accounted for the highest percentage of opioid poisoning hospitalization diagnosis in Volusia County (65%) and in Florida (55%) in 2016.

The age-adjusted rate for heroin poisoning hospitalization diagnosis in Volusia County increased by 950 percent from 2012 (.6) to 2016 (6.3).

The rate for prescription opioid poisoning hospitalization diagnosis (excluding methadone) increased by 23.5 percent from 2012 (31.0) to 2016 (38.3).