

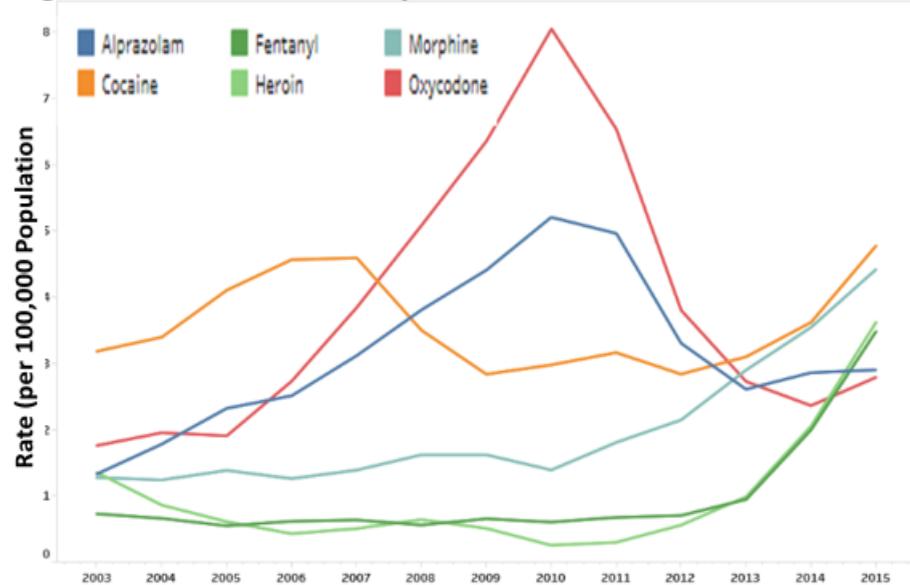
Substance Abuse Trends Alert!

June 2017

University of Florida FROST Surveillance System Provides Data for Developing Drug Policy

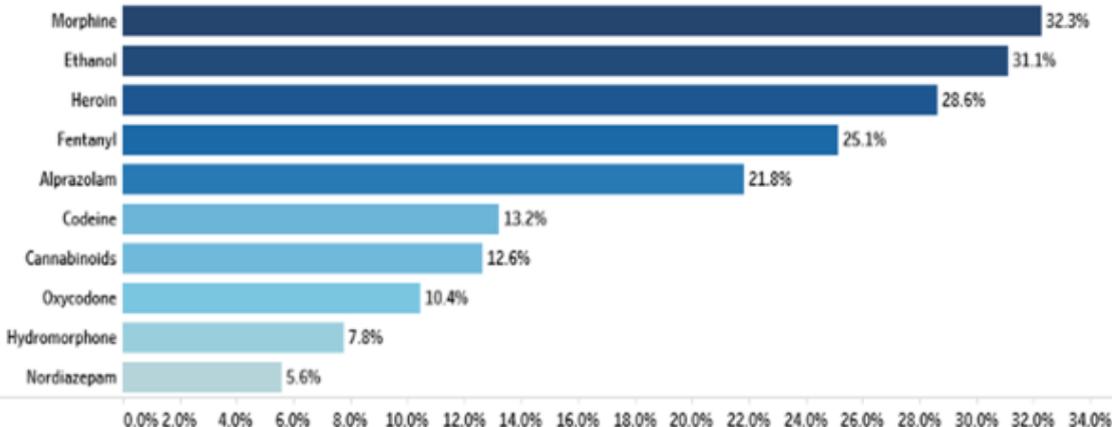
The Florida drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance and Tracking (FROST) System is an online tool developed by the University of Florida College of Medicine and funded by the United States Bureau of Justice Assistance. It is an interactive website for researchers, public health professions, community coalitions, and the general public. FROST provides a user-friendly data source to explore Florida and national drug-related indicators. The FROST system centralizes several key data sources to facilitate the development of drug policy and strategies at both the State and county-levels for Florida. It can also identify emerging issues and patterns of substance use to promote the development of research hypotheses for addressing prescription drug misuse and the opioid epidemic.

Drug-Caused Deaths Rates per 100,000 in Florida 2003 -2015



Sources: Florida Medical Examiners Commission 2015 Report and Florida drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance and Tracking (FROST) System

Top 10 Co-Occurring Substances Among Florida Cocaine-Caused Deaths in 2015

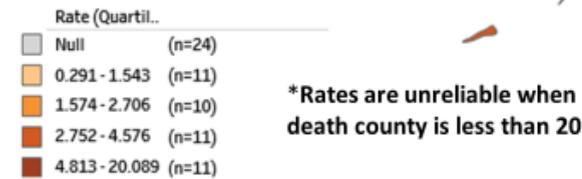


Sources: Florida Medical Examiners Commission 2015 Report and Florida drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance and Tracking (FROST) System

The graphs on this page are from the FROST website with Florida Medical Examiners Commission data not previously available. The red and blue lines in the graph above track the rise and decline of prescription oxycodone and alprazolam drug deaths before and after the establishment of the State's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in 2011. The graph on the left reveals opioids role as polysubstance abuse patterns in deaths caused by cocaine

Fentanyl caused deaths in 2015 per 100,000 Population

Sources: Florida Medical Examiners Commission 2015 Report and Florida drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance and Tracking (FROST) System



FROST data provide county-level information on drug-related and drug-caused deaths in Florida. Previously these data were only available to the public based on the 25 Medical Examiner Districts across the State. On the FROST website as the users moves the cursor across each county, the actual number of deaths either caused by a specific substance or in an accompanying map as found present in a decedent is revealed along with the per capita rate per 100,000 population. Having both the number and rate are particularly important when comparing densely populated urban counties with rural counties. Thus some small counties with only one death may have the highest per capita rate while large metropolitan areas with hundreds of death show a lower rate category.

Other Medical Examiner Commission data in the FROST system are provided in tables by age groups, as well as bar graphs showing other drugs detected in deaths previously only reporting one substance, and graphs with the manner of deaths as illustrated in the two examples below.

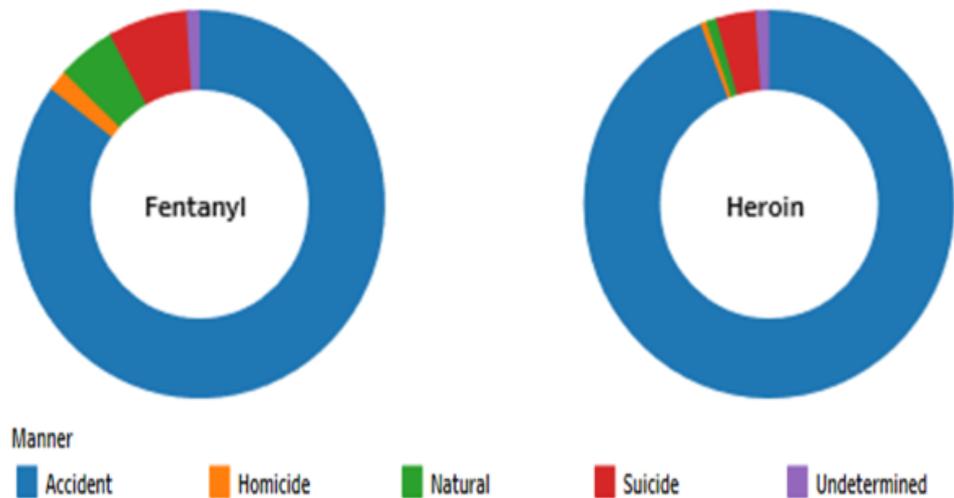
The manner of death for most drug-related fatalities is considered accidental and unintentional. Other manners of death include homicide, natural causes, suicide, and undetermined. The FROST system provides for the first time, a look at the number of drug-fatalities ruled as a suicide by the local medical examiner. These data are available for drug-caused deaths as well as those found to be present in a decedent on a yearly bases from 2003 to 2015 for 12 different substances.

The graph to the right provides the manner of death for all fentanyl and heroin-related deaths in Florida during 2015. Among the 902 fentanyl-related deaths that year, 63 or 7% were considered suicides. Among the 771 heroin-related deaths, 27 or 3.5% were ruled suicides. The three drugs with the highest number of suicide deaths were alprazolam (n=299), oxycodone (n=218), and hydrocodone (n=207).

The FROST system also includes data from Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program as well as those for other states including prescription rates and the Florida program's registration and utilization rates.

The FROST system is available online at www.frost.med.ufl.edu.

Fentanyl and Heroin-Related Deaths by Manner of Death in Florida: 2015



Sources: Florida Medical Examiners Commission 2015 Report and Florida drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance and Tracking (FROST) System



This product is supported by the Florida Department of Children and Families Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office funding.