

Adult Substance Abuse

The Cost of Illegal Drugs in Florida

In Florida, approximately \$43,000 is spent every minute due to drug use – equating more than \$22 billion annually. The total costs are about \$1,400 per person over the age of 12 every year according to the *2009 Annual Economic Impact of Alcohol and Drug Use in Florida*.

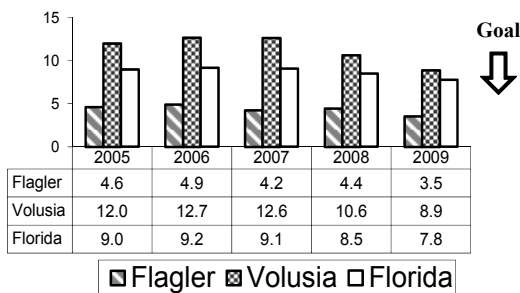
Drug use hospitalizations occur an average of 46 times every day at a daily cost of \$283,362 or over \$103 billion annually. Data obtained via the 2007 Medical Examiner’s Report indicated that 56% of drug-related deaths occur as a result of opioid use and another 20% are consequent to benzodiazepine.

The annual cost of crime caused by drug abuse is more than \$2.3 billion. These costs include costs of incarceration in Florida’s state prisons and victim costs related to lost wages, lost productivity, medical care, and impacts upon the quality of life. Victim costs were slightly more than half the total costs. These costs are the result of an average of 18 crime incidents per hour because of drugs or 161,957 crimes per year.

In today’s economic climate, it is troubling that over 3% of the state’s gross domestic product is spent in adverse outcomes due to drug use. Although these costs are high, the true costs are probably higher. Due to the illegality of drug use, exact data is difficult to obtain. There are significant limitations on available data and these costs do not include research or prevention and treatment programs.

Arrests for Drugs

Rate of Arrests for Drugs/Narcotics, Per 1,000 Population



This Indicator Measures...the total rate of arrests for drugs/narcotics per 1,000 population in Flagler and Volusia Counties.

This is Serious Because... while drug-related arrests can mean that efforts are in place to interdict illegal drugs and prosecute those who use them, it may indicate that drugs and narcotics are more prevalent than ever before.

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

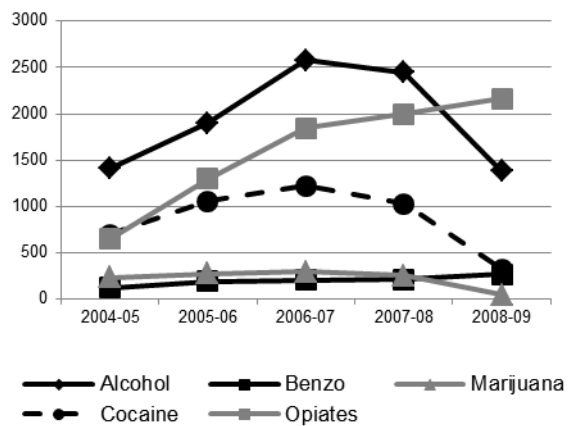
Note: The rate has decreased over the reporting period in Flagler County. After three years of slight fluctuation, Volusia has seen a decrease in 2008 and 2009.

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An Agency Perspective

Helpline Calls: Over the last five years, Stewart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Healthcare has tracked calls to their Information and Referral help line. The number of calls regarding the five major substances is shown on the chart below.

The data shows that opiates have surpassed alcohol as the “drug of choice” as represented by calls for assistance. Calls regarding alcohol, cocaine and, to a lesser extent, marijuana have decreased in recent years while calls regarding benzodiazepines have increased slightly.



Flagler and Volusia Services

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) offices of the Department of Children and Families is the public funder for substance abuse services. SAMH contracts with community-based organizations to provide services. Data collected from the local service providers helps to illustrate a snapshot of people in our community receiving services.

For adults receiving substance abuse services:

Number of dependent children under age 17 whose parents/guardians are receiving services.

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1,202	1,712	3,529

Percent of adults who responded that they are involved with the child welfare system

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
8.9%	7.9%	7.6%

Primary source of income (top two by percent)

Source	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
None	50.9%	47.5%	54.2%
Salary	35.8%	36.2%	27.3%

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