

# Adult Behavioral Health

## Prescription Drug Abuse

Since the 1990's the legal use of prescription drugs has increased dramatically in Florida and around the nation. Community Partnership for Children reports that approximately 70% of children entering the foster care system since January 2011 came in due to parental prescription abuse.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports:

- In 2009, more people initiated drug use with prescription drugs than with marijuana.
- The number of emergency room visits due to pharmaceuticals alone was up 97% from 2004 to 2008.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control, prescription drugs are responsible for more overdose deaths than "street drugs" such as cocaine, heroin and amphetamines.

According to the DEA, Florida residents represented 5.4% of the nation's population. For the same year:

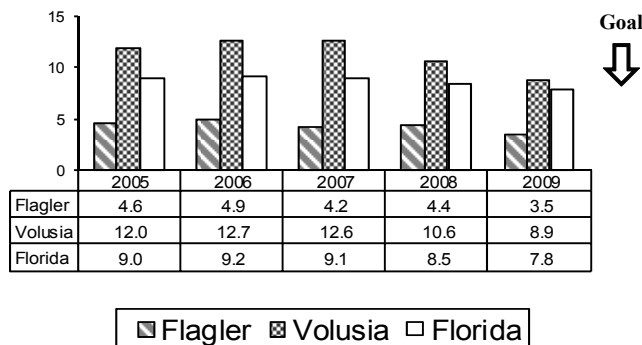
- Florida had 11% of the nation's practitioners authorized to dispense oxycodone who sold 85.3% (in grams) of the oxycodone sold nationwide.
- Florida had 49.5% of the nation's practitioners authorized to dispense methadone who sold 93.1% (in grams) of the methadone sold nationwide.

In 2009, of the top 100 dispensing practitioners in the United States for oxycodone, 97 practitioners were in Florida.

Source: Broward County Florida Sheriff's Office Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion Unit & ARCOS

## 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

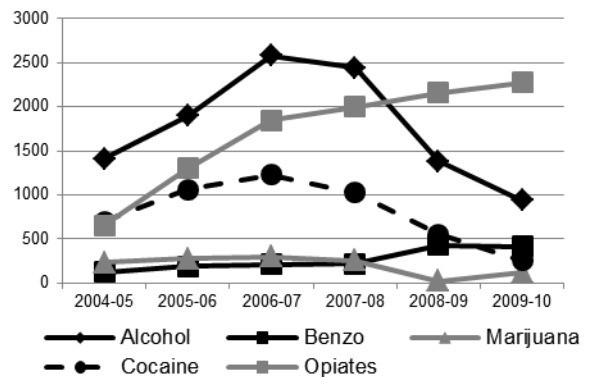
Note: The rate has decreased over the reporting period in Flagler County. After three years of slight fluctuation, Volusia has seen a decrease in 2008 and 2009.

## Adult Substance Abuse

### An Agency Perspective

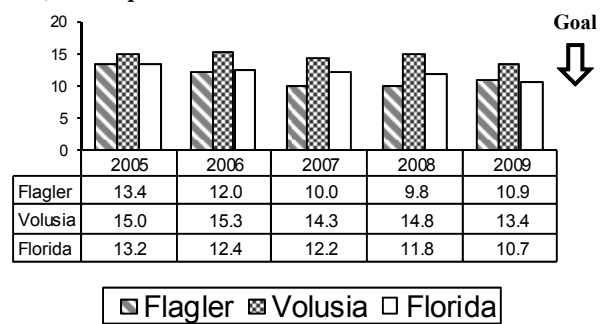
**Helpline Calls:** Over the last six years, Stewart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Healthcare has tracked calls to their Information and Referral help line. The number of calls regarding the five major substances is shown on the chart below.

Opiates are now the number one reason for 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.



## Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle Crashes

Rate of Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle Crashes Per 10,000 Population



**This Indicator Measures...** the total annual rate of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes per 10,000 population in Flagler and Volusia Counties.

**This is Important Because...** according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Web site, approximately 39% of the total deaths in motor vehicle crashes are alcohol-related.

Source: Florida CHARTS

Note: After decreasing for four years, the Flagler rate increased in 2009. The Volusia rate has decreased over the reporting period.