

Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

June 2019 Vol 20, Issue 6

## This Month in Public Health

- June marks National Safety Month. Safety can be related to all aspects of everyday life and therefore, National Safety Month aims to provide awareness about best safe practices to reduce injuries and deaths that occur at places such as the workplace, roadways and in our own homes and communities. <u>The National</u> <u>Safety Council</u> has an array of services, tools and resources to educate the community and promote safety.
- The <u>Alzheimer's Association</u> recognizes Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month in June. The organization aims to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through research, provide support to those affected by the disease and promote brain health. Alzheimer's disease is one of the most common causes of dementia and it is estimated that 5.8 million Americans are living with the debilitating disease. Within the state of Florida, Miami-Dade has one of the highest percentages of probable cases of Alzheimer's disease for individuals 65+ at 13.9% in 2017. For more information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Alzheimer's disease.
- National HIV Testing Day is observed annually on June 27th to raise awareness, encourage early diagnosis
  and reduce the transmission of HIV. Historically, Miami-Dade County has consistently been among the top
  incidence counties for HIV infections every year. The theme for National HIV Testing Day 2019 is "Doing It
  My Way," a message to empower individuals to get tested for HIV in the way that is most comfortable for
  them to learn their HIV status. For more information about HIV testing in Miami-Dade County, please visit
  <u>Test Miami</u>.

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#### Wildlife Rabies Vaccination Effort: A Miami-Dade County Rabies Initiative

By: Tatiana Mappe

Rabies is a fatal but vital preventative disease. The disease can be transmitted to people and pets if they are bitten or scratched by an infected animal. In the United States, rabies is commonly found in raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes.<sup>1</sup> In 2018, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, in conjunction with the county's Animal Services department, investigated 10 confirmed cases of rabies in animals, including in raccoons, cats, and an otter.<sup>2</sup> Currently, a new initiative, launched in June 2019, is underway to fight wildlife rabies in Miami-Dade County (Figure 1).

Throughout the month of June, county workers wearing shirts that read "Wildlife Rabies Prevention," have been placing bite-sized packets containing an oral rabies vaccine (ORV) called Raboral V-RG (Figures 2 and 3).<sup>3</sup> The ORV is an attenuated recombinant vaccinia virus vector vaccine expressing the rabies virus glycoprotein gene, (V-RG). These small ORV, which resemble a ketchup packet, are coated with fishmeal that are meant to attract wildlife to approach them. The wildlife animals will then puncture the ORV and they will then be vaccinated with the liquid inside. These county workers have been placing 150 units per square kilometer in emergent land and 75 units per square kilometer in inhabited areas. Target areas for bait distribution include: storm drains, lake banks, dumpsters, alleys, canal banks, and woodlines. This initiative will be taking place twice a year for the next three years with the next distribution scheduled for December 2019.

This initiative is not unique to Miami-Dade County, however, having been previously introduced globally including in other states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania.<sup>4</sup> According to the manufacturer, the vaccine is safe and effective and will not threaten the well-being of people nor pets.<sup>5</sup> Since 1987, approximately 250 million doses have been distributed without any reports of adverse reactions in wildlife or domestic animals.6

Should you find a vaccine, it is best to leave the bait where you found it. Should you have to move a punctured or intact vaccine packet, wear gloves or use protective coverage gear to protect yourself and dispose it in the trash.

To learn more about rabies, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/ rabies/ or go to the Florida Department of Health website, call them in Miami-Dade County at 305-324-2400 or call Animal Services at 311.

#### References

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Figure 1. Example of public awareness messaging implemented throughout the county to raise awareness regarding the wildlife rabies vaccination effort.



Source: Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

Figure 2. Raboral V-RG Oral Rabies Vaccine.



Source: Raboral V-RG

Figure 3. Miami-Dade County works prepare for distribution of wildlife rabies vaccination kits.



3,382 views

adoptmiamipets Rabies prevention is a county-wide effort! Miami-Dade workers lined up this morni... more

Source: Miami-Dade County Animal Services

# Drug Overdose-related Deaths and Emerging Hotspot Analysis—Miami-Dade County, 2008-2017

By: Guoyan Zhang, Vanessa Villamil, Danielle Fernandez, Reynald Jean

#### Background

Florida is ranked among states with the highest opioid overdose-related deaths in the United States. Miami-Dade County, often referred to as the "Gateway to the Americas," is one of the largest and most culturally diverse counties in the state with nearly 2.8 million residents and 13 million visitors annually .<sup>1</sup> While Miami-Dade County does not have the highest rate of drug overdose-related deaths in Florida, it boasts the largest population density, thus accounting for a large overall proportion of drug overdose-related deaths in the state.<sup>2</sup> This study explores drug overdose-related deaths and opioid usage with regards to demographic characteristics, geographic location, and hotspot identification in Miami-Dade County.

#### Methods

Death certificate data between 2008 and 2017 were used to identify drug overdose-related deaths among residents aged 12 years and older. Drug overdose-related deaths were classified using the International Classification of Disease, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) with all cause-of-death. SAS 9.4 was used to perform data analysis. ArcGIS 10.3.1 and ArcGIS Proc 2.24 were used to examine geographic location with density analysis, perform emerging hotspot analysis and visualize space time cube in 3D.

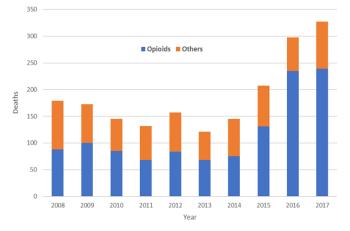
#### Results

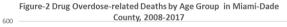
The number of drug overdose-related deaths increased 83%, from 179 in 2008 to 327 in 2017, with large increases beginning in 2015 as opioid use increased (Figure 1). Among all overdose deaths, 62% were caused by opioids, and the proportion increased from 49% in 2008 to 73% in 2017. Most deaths occurred among adults between the ages of 25 and 64 with median age of 45 years and range of 13 to 95 (45.4±13.2) (Figure 2). Compared to adults 55 and older, young adults were more likely to be linked to opioid overdose deaths. Males accounted for 67% of deaths. Thirteen percent of the non-Hispanic White population accounted for 33% of drug overdose-related deaths, 68% of the Hispanic population and 18% of the non-Hispanic Black population accounted for 48% and 15% of drug overdose deaths, respectively (Figure 3). Among decedents, synthetic opioids (30%) were used most often, followed by natural and semisynthetic opioids (27%), heroin (20%) and methadone (4%). Synthetic opioid overdose-related deaths increased from 20 in 2014 to 201 and 187 in 2016 and 2017, respectively (Figure 4). Emerging hotspot analysis showed persistent, consecutive, sporadic and new hotspots around the Downtown Miami and South Beach areas; additional hotspots were detected when opioid-related deaths were analyzed independently.

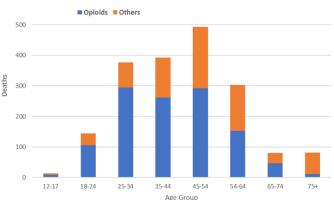
#### Conclusion

These findings indicate that, although the non-Hispanic White population comprises a small proportion of the overall population in Miami-Dade County, this population accounted for one-third of all drug overdose-related deaths. Among the Hispanic population, overdose deaths increased two times greater than any other race/

Figure-1 Drug Overdose-related Deaths in Miami-Dade County, 2008-2017







ethnicity, with 80 deaths in 2008 and 165 in 2017. Drug overdose-related deaths are geographically clustered and continue to expand in both residential and tourist areas of the county. Miami-Dade County has also seen a rise in synthetic opioid poisoning deaths beginning in 2013, reflecting nationwide trends of drug abuse. Synthetic opioids include drugs such as Fentanyl and Tramadol. Most recent cases of fentanyl-related injury in the U.S. are linked to illegally made fentanyl.<sup>3</sup>

#### Prevention

Opioid poisoning deaths are highly preventable. Collaboration is needed between health agencies, healthcare providers, medical examiners, and law enforcement to help mitigate this public health issue. Overdose prevention recommendations include: reducing exposure and preventing addiction by improving opioid prescribing practices, following the CDC guidelines for prescribing opioids, expanding evidence-based to substance access abuse treatments such as Medication-Assisted Treatments, expanding access to naloxone an effective drug that can help reverse overdoses, promoting use of the state prescription drug monitoring program, and increasing community education on opioid use and overdose prevention.

Recognizing the signs of an overdose can save lives. Signs may include:

# Pinpoint pupils Slow, shallow breathing Falling asleep or loss of consciousness

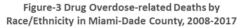
If you notice any signs or suspect an overdose, call 911 or seek medical care immediately.

For more information on how to prevent overdoses, please visit:

https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prevention/ index.html

#### References

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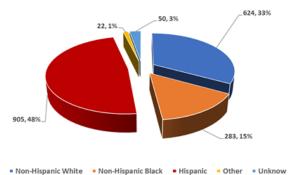
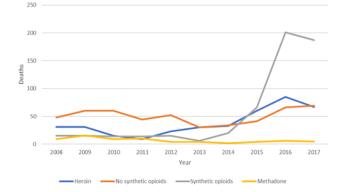


Figure-4 Opioid Poisoning Deaths by Opioid Type Miami-Dade County Residents, 2008 - 2017



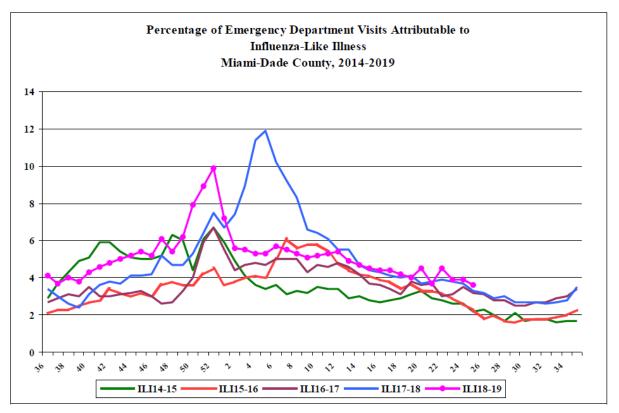


#### Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Epidemiology, Disease Control and Immunization Services

#### Influenza Like Illness Surveillance Report

On a daily basis, all of Miami-Dade County's emergency department (ED) hospitals electronically transmit ED data to the Florida Department of Health. This data is then categorized into 11 distinct syndromes. The influenza-like illness (ILI) syndrome consists of fever with either cough or sore throat. It can also include a chief complaint of "flu" or "ILI". This season's 2017-2018 data is compared to the previous 4 influenza seasons (2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017).

#### Influenza-Like-Illness, All Age



Across all ages, there were 32,426 ED visits; among them 1,154 (3.6%) were ILI. At the same week of last year, 3.3% of ED visits were ILI.

#### PARTICIPATE IN INFLUENZA SENTINEL PROVIDER SURVEILLANCE

#### Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County NEEDS Influenza Sentinel Providers!

Sentinel providers are key to the success of the Florida Department of Health's Influenza Surveillance System. Data reported by sentinel providers gives a picture of the influenza virus and ILI activity in the U.S. and Florida which can be used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care.

- Providers of any specialty, in any type of practice, are eligible to be sentinel providers.
- Most providers report that it takes **less than 30 minutes a week** to compile and report data on the total number of patients seen and the number of patients seen with influenza-like illness.
- Sentinel providers can submit specimens from a subset of patients to the state laboratory for virus isolation **free of charge**.

For more information, please contact **Stephanie Calle** at 305-470-5660.



## Miami-Dade County Monthly Report Select Reportable Disease/Conditions

## May **201**9

HIV       128       666       616       51         Infectious Syphilis*       32       191       182       11         Infectious Syphilis*       32       191       182       11         Chlamydia*       1244       6131       5484       52         Gonorrhea*       379       1882       1695       12         Tuberculosis**       0       0       0       0       0         Epidemiology, Disease Control & Immunization Services       85       356       337       24         Campylobacteriosis       85       356       337       24         Chikungunya Fever       0       0       0       0         Ciguatera Poisoning       2       20       8       37         Cryptosporidiosis       5       24       9       1         Cyclosporiasis       0       1       0       0         Dengue Fever       5       22       1       38       22         Escherichia coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing       17       51       58       22       1       35         Encephalitis, West Nile Virus       0       0       0       0       0       0       55       56	99
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Vibriosis 5 9 3	1
West Nile Fever 0 0 0	0
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Varicella 13 53 33 1	9
Hepatitis	
	5
Healthy Homes	5
Lead Poisoning 12 60 70 4	5

\*Data is provisional at the county level and is subject to edit checks by state and federal agencies.

\*\* Data on tuberculosis are provisional at the county level.

Data on EDC-IS includes Confirmed and Probable cases.

## What's New at DOH Miami-Dade

- Earlier this month, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (DOH Miami-Dade) partner, the Miami-Dade County Mosquito Control Division, issued a <u>news release</u> regarding the expansion of mosquito larvaciding missions during peak mosquito season.
- DOH Miami-Dade, in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade County, and various other agencies, endorses the <u>Alert Today, Arrive Tomorrow Campaign</u>, a countywide initiative to promote pedestrian safety. Bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers all have a part to play in safety on the roadways. Remember, safety is a two-way street!
- DOH Miami-Dade is pleased to announce it will be hosting the Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan Community Meeting to share the assessment results. The purpose of the Community Meeting is to gather a diverse mix of public health professionals, community members, state and local health officials and community organizations so they can take a collaborative approach to discussing the needs of the community and to develop strategies and interventions. The Community Meeting will take place at the Fire Fighter Memorial Hall at 8000 NW 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 222, Miami, FL 33126 on Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM. Attendance is free and open to the public but <u>registration</u> is necessary.
- DOH Miami-Dade will be closed Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.



NATIONAL**SAFETY**MONTH**2019** 

# **Did You Know?**



Early diagnosis and treatment of HIV can result in better health outcomes; that is why getting tested and knowing your status is an important part of caring for your overall health. There are various settings in which testing is offered, including at home, with free at-home HIV testing kits that are mailed directly to your address of choice. For more information visit KnowYourHIVStatus.com.

#### THE FLORIDA HIV/AIDS HOTLINE Florida's source for HIV/AIDS-related information, community referrals, and supportive telephone counseling. CALL 1.800.FLA.AIDS

## To report diseases and for information, call EDC-IS at:

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	305-470-6877
Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance	305-470-5660
Hepatitis Program	305-470-5536
HIV/AIDS Program	305-470-6999
Immunization Services	305-470-5660
STD Program	305-575-5430
Tuberculosis Program	305-575-5415
Appointment Line	786-845-0550

#### About the Epi Monthly Report

The Epi Monthly Report is a publication of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County: Epidemiology, Disease Control & Immunization Services. The publication serves a primary audience of physicians, nurses, and public health professionals. Articles published in the Epi Monthly Report may focus on quantitative research and analysis, program updates, field investigations, or provider education. For more information or to submit an article, please contact Danielle Fernandez at 305-470-6980 or danielle.fernandez@flhealth.gov.

