



# **Emergency Medical Services Controlled Substance Overdose Report**

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**Fourth Quarter 2019  
October – December**

**Ron DeSantis  
Governor**

**Scott A. Rivkees, MD  
State Surgeon General**

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## Report Overview

In response to the national opioid epidemic, Governor Scott signed HB 249 into law in 2017. This requires the Florida Department of Health (Department) to create a quarterly report that summarizes overdose data received by the Department from licensed emergency medical service (EMS) providers. The report is to be provided to the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council, the Department of Children and Families, and the Florida Fusion Center. In addition to this quarterly report, the data are immediately made available to county level first responder and public health agencies.

This report is based on information received through the Florida Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS) and represents a summary of EMS overdose responses reported into EMSTARS. EMSTARS is a voluntary program and records received by the Department represent 90 percent of the EMS responses throughout Florida.

Although the system is capable of capturing detailed information on the suspected cause of an overdose (i.e., heroin, fentanyl), in most cases this information is not included in the EMS record and therefore not included in the EMSTARS reporting. This is primarily due to the limited ability for EMS to make or to record a specific determination as to the cause of a suspected overdose during an emergency medical response. Differences between data standards, software vendors, and agency configuration may also affect the level of detail provided in EMSTARS records.

The EMSTARS data are characterized as responses because a single patient encounter may involve more than one agency. For example, a patient can receive initial treatment from a non-transport agency and be transported to a hospital by a different agency. When examining the overdose burden on the state EMS system, reviewing the total number of responses helps inform stakeholders on the resources devoted to the opioid epidemic.

Records included in EMSTARS are for patient-incidents where the 9-1-1 response involved an evaluation, treatment, and/or transport of a patient for extreme physical illness, decreased level of consciousness, respiratory depression, coma, or death resulting from the consumption or use of any substance that requires medical attention, assistance or treatment, and clinical suspicion for drug overdose, such as respiratory depression, unconsciousness, or altered mental status, without other conditions to explain the clinical condition. EMS personnel issue impressions to describe a patient's condition in the EMS record. Impressions are encoded in International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10 CM) diagnostic categories as listed in the Data Definitions section on the following page. Information on the patient outcome is limited to the information available in the EMS record. The actual number of overdose deaths occurring in Florida is not represented in this report. Patients may expire after care is transferred from EMS to hospitals or be obviously dead and not require an EMS response. Actual diagnoses are issued by a licensed physician in a medical setting, including pronouncement of death. Official cause of death is determined by medical examiners.

Any questions about this report can be directed to:

Florida Department of Health  
Division of Emergency Preparedness & Community Support  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A22 • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1722  
Phone: (850) 245-4440 • Fax: (850) 488-9408 • [EMS@flhealth.gov](mailto:EMS@flhealth.gov)

## Data Definitions

### **Suspected drug overdose:**

**Fatal:** Primary/Secondary Impression of “T36 - T50, F11 - F16, F18 - F19” and patient death reported

**Non-fatal:** Primary/Secondary Impression of “T36 - T50, F11 - F16, F18 - F19” and no indication of death

### **Suspected opioid overdose:**

**Fatal:** Primary/Secondary Impression of “T40.1 - T40.4, T40.60, T40.69, F11” and patient death reported

**Non-fatal:** Primary/Secondary Impression of “T40.1 - T40.4, T40.60, T40.69, F11” and no indication of death

### **Administration of opioid-antagonist:**

**Fatal:** Primary/Secondary Impression of “T36 - T50, F11 - F16, F18 - F19” and administration of naloxone and patient death reported

**Non-fatal:** Primary/Secondary Impression of “T36 - T50, F11 - F16, F18 - F19” and administration of naloxone and no indication of death

### **Inclusion Criteria**

1. Type of Service Requested = 911 Response
2. Incident/Patient Disposition indicates that the patient was evaluated, treated, and/or transported
3. Incident location must be within Florida

# Florida Overview (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019)

	Non-fatal	Rate	Fatal	Rate
Total number of suspected drug overdose EMS responses	10,458	4.91	45	0.02
Total number of suspected opioid overdose EMS responses	4,203	1.98	21	0.01
EMS responses including administration of an opioid-antagonist	7,972	3.75	209	0.10

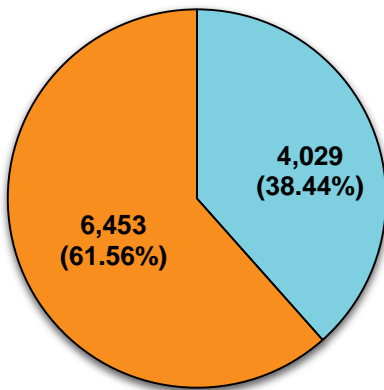
Note: Population rate per 10,000 people.

## Suspected drug overdose (including both fatal and non-fatal):

Age group	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Frequency	15	82	10	102	1,336	3,008	2,437	1,482	1,180	829
Rate	0.65	0.89	0.09	0.85	5.32	10.80	9.53	5.28	4.16	1.95

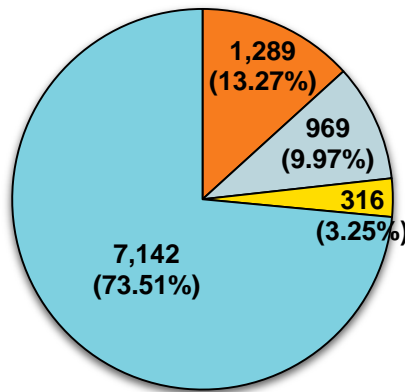
Note: Population rate per 10,000 people.

**Gender**



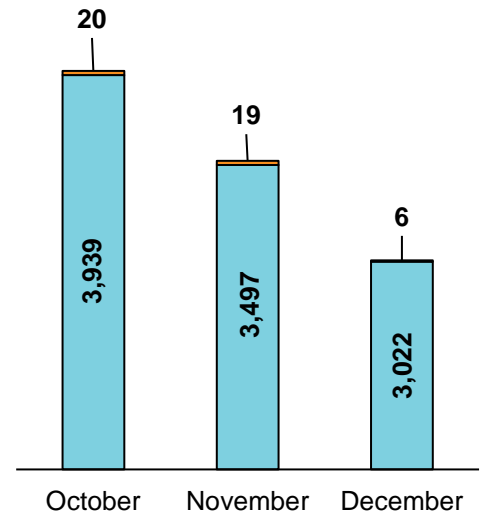
Female Male

**Race/Ethnicity**



Black Hispanic Other White

**Trend (by Month)**

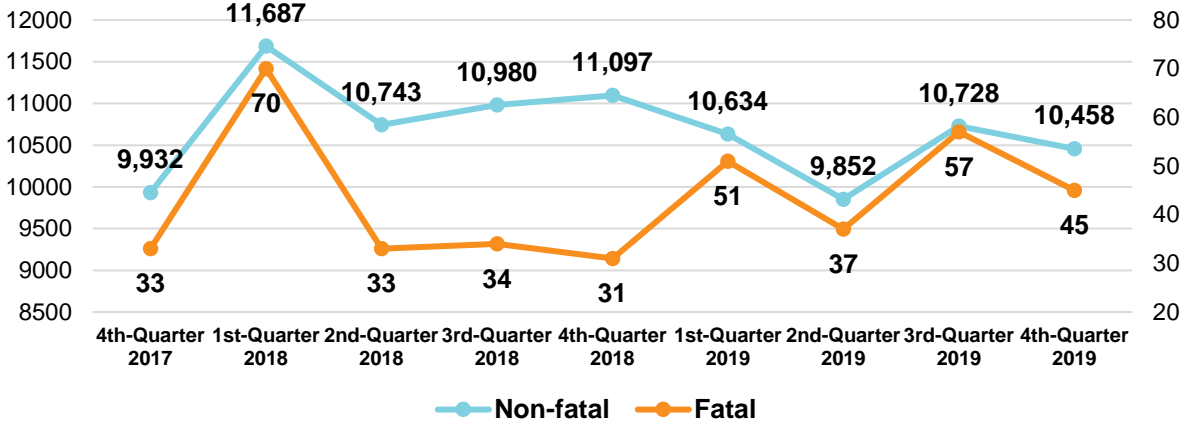


Fatal drug overdose  
Non-fatal drug overdose

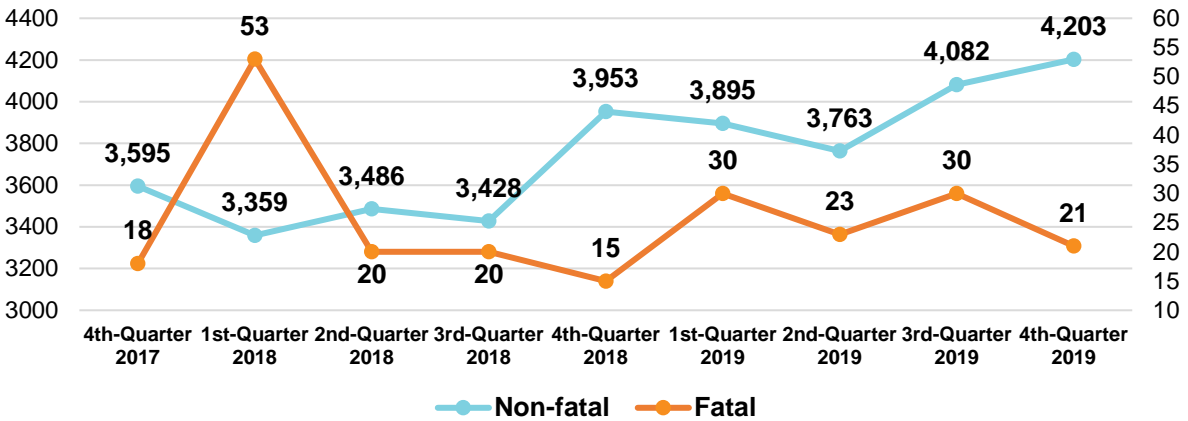
Note: Counts for gender and race/ethnicity are for only the total number of records that include that information; for gender, 99.80% of the total records are presented in the chart; for race/ethnicity, 92.51% of the total records are presented in the chart.

# Florida Trend (by Quarter)

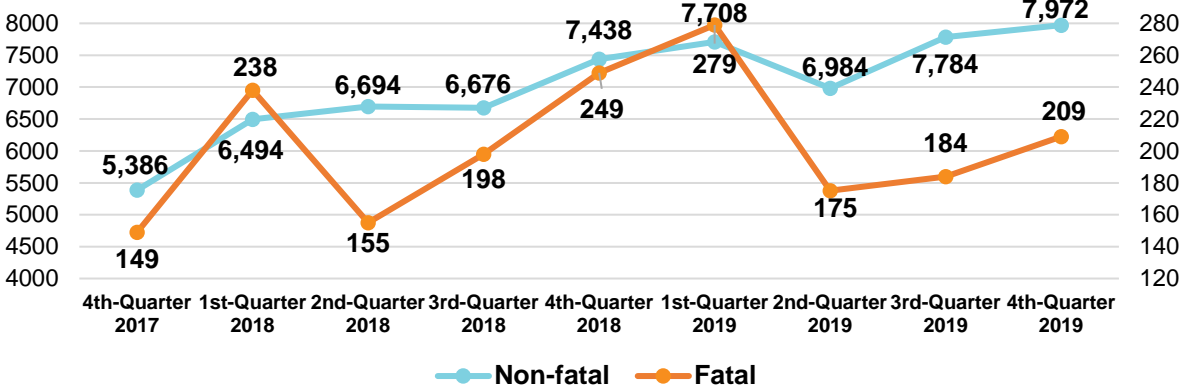
## Total number of suspected drug overdose EMS responses



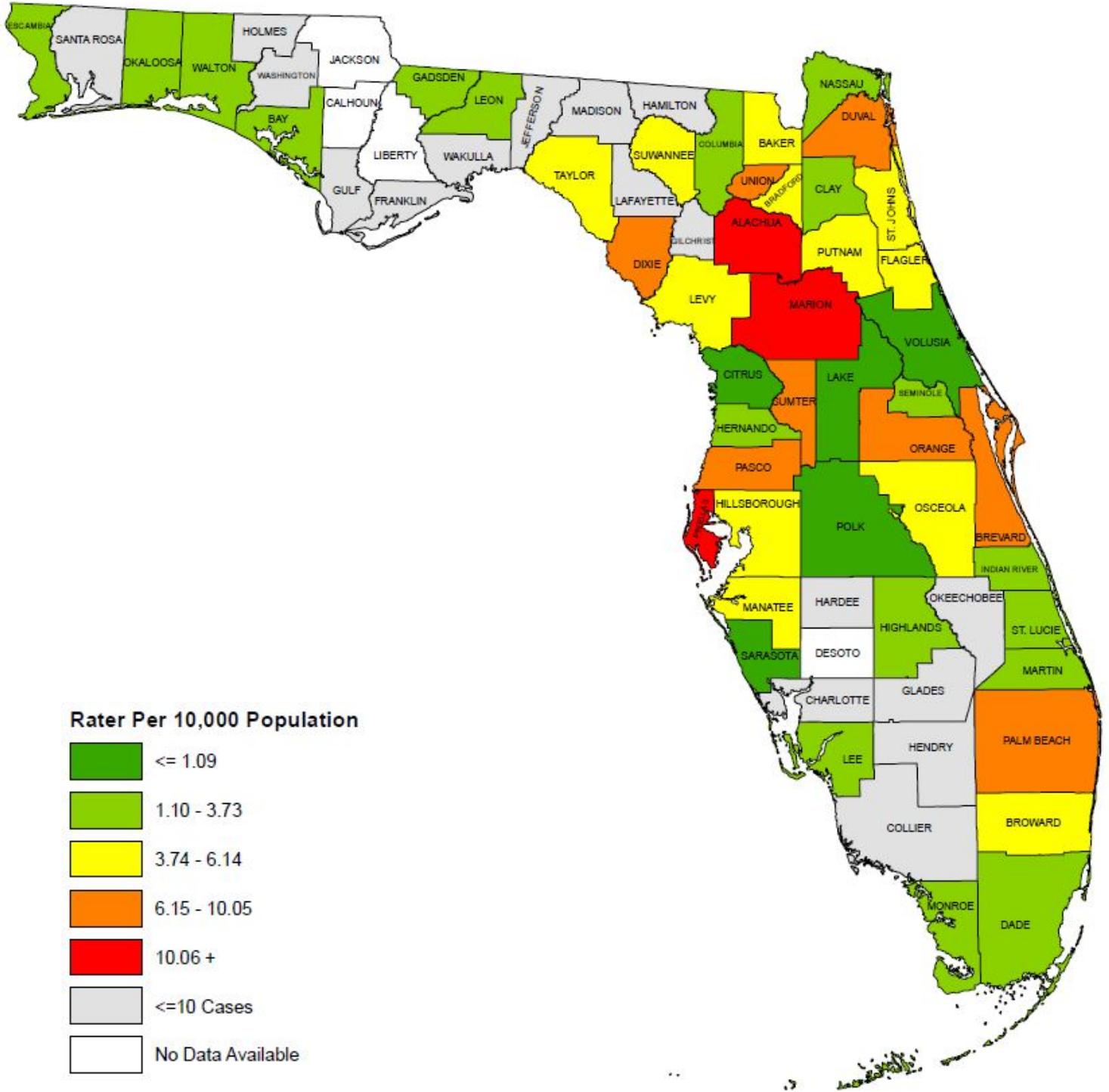
## Total number of suspected opioid overdose EMS responses



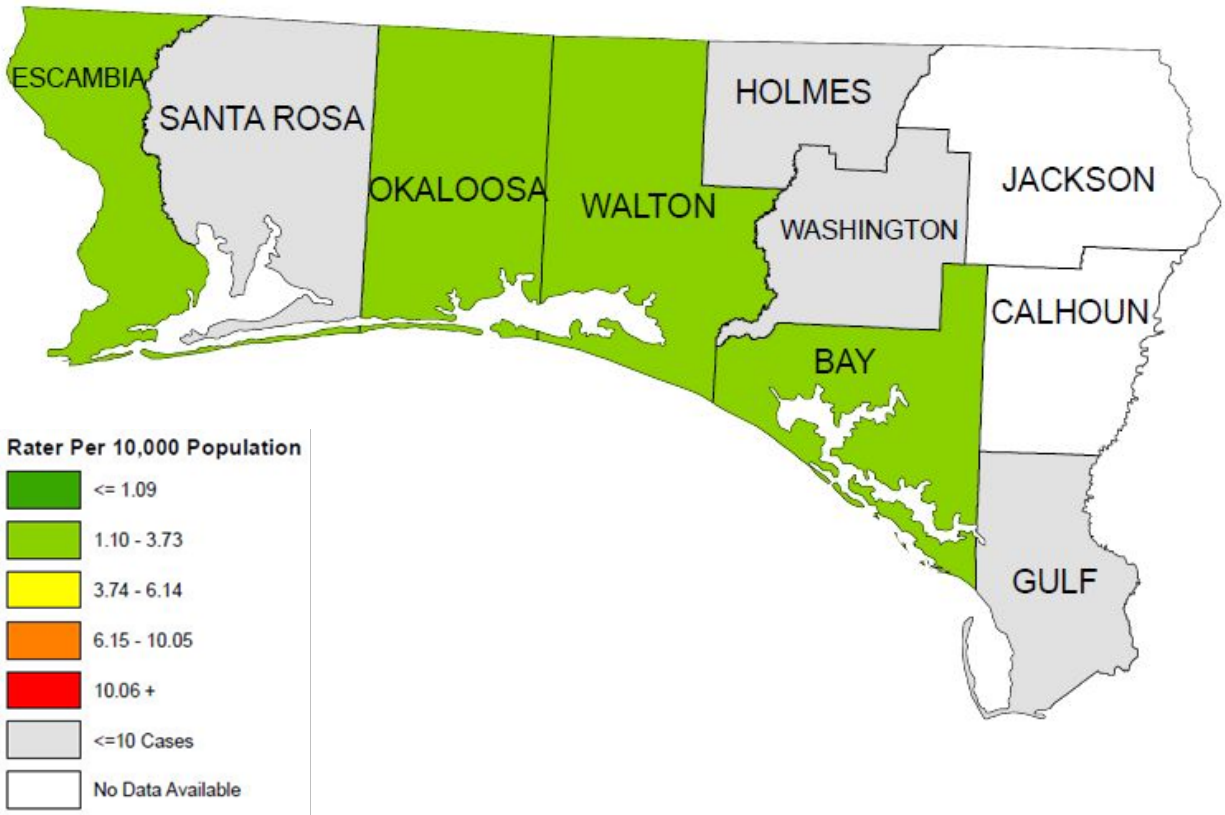
## EMS responses including administration of an opioid-antagonist



## Total Drug Overdose (Fatal and Non-Fatal) 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019



## Region 1 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019)

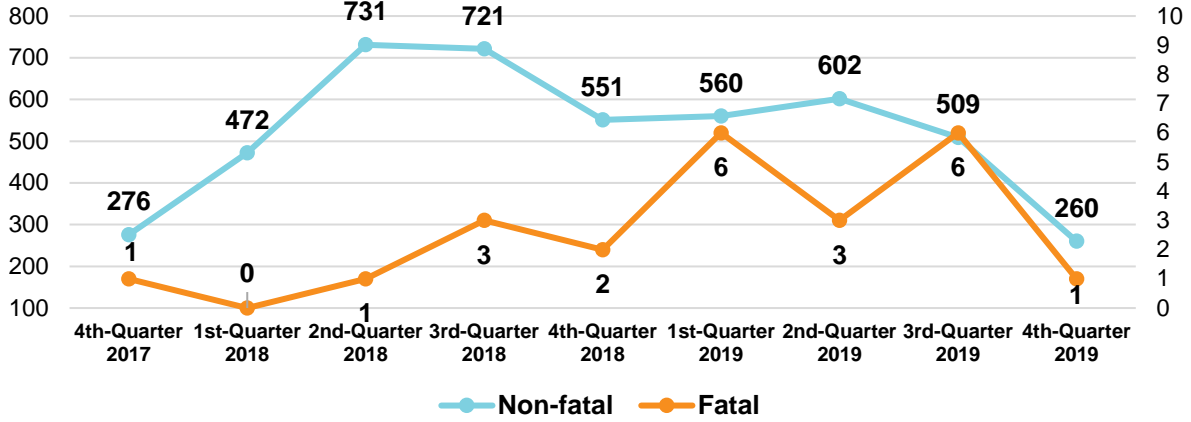


Geographic Area	Drug Overdose			Opioid Overdose			Opioid-antagonist		
	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal
Bay	49	2.66	.	23	1.25	.	67	3.63	1
Escambia	118	3.70	1	49	1.54	.	39	1.22	.
Gulf	1	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.
Holmes	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Okaloosa	62	3.10	.	34	1.70	.	63	3.15	2
Santa Rosa	4	.	.	1	.	.	2	.	.
Walton	24	3.44	.	3	.	.	13	1.86	.
Washington	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>1.77</b>	<b>3</b>

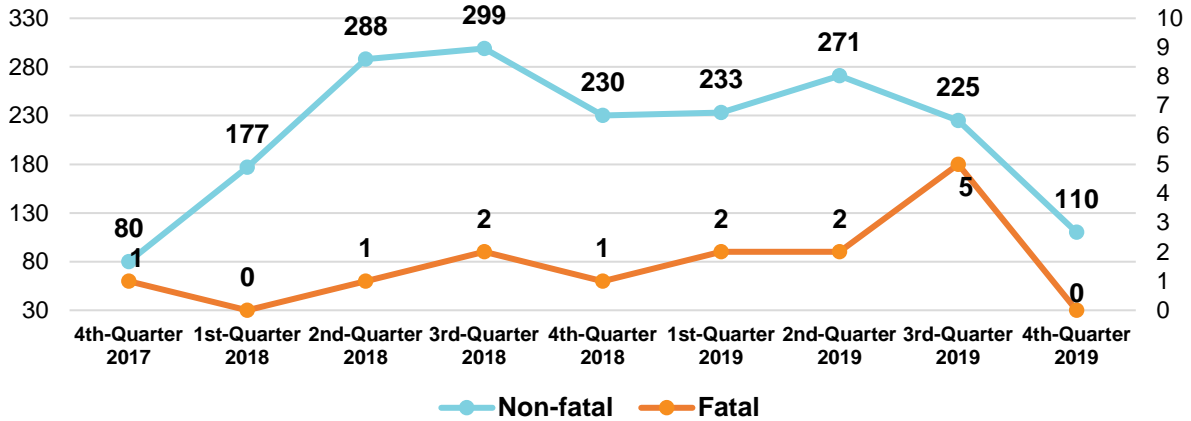
Note: 1. Population rate per 10,000 people.  
 2. Rate is not presented when frequency is less than or equal to 10.

# Region 1 Trend (by Quarter)

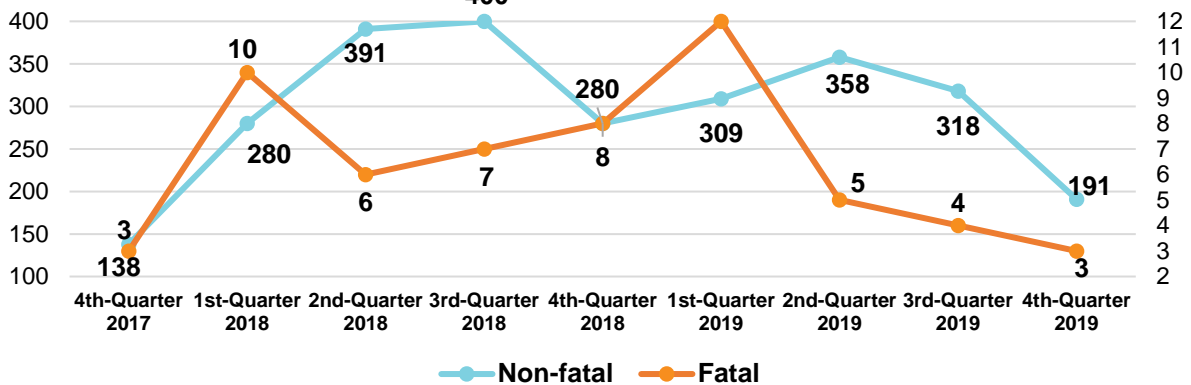
## Total number of suspected drug overdose EMS responses



## Total number of suspected opioid overdose EMS responses

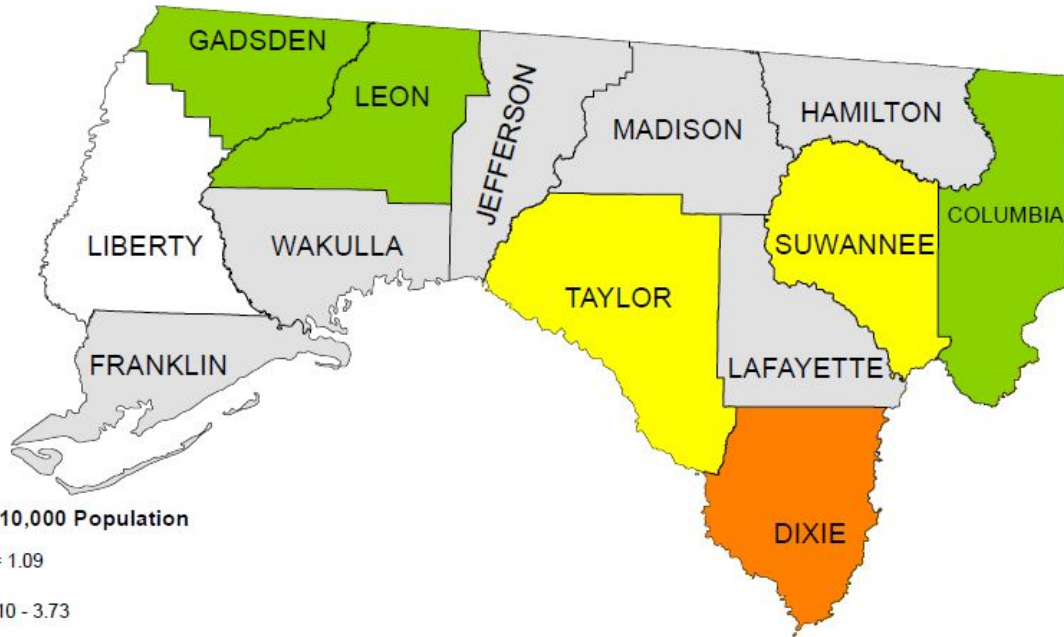


## EMS responses including administration of an opioid-antagonist

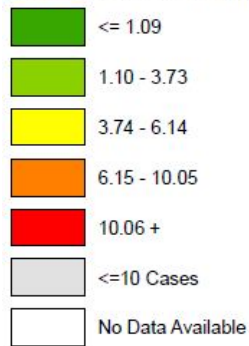




## Region 2 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019)



**Rate Per 10,000 Population**

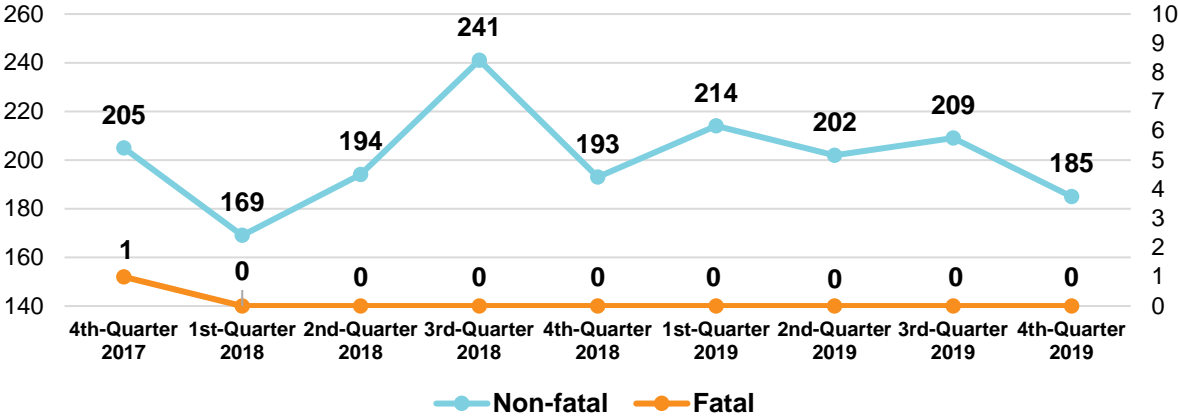


Geographic Area	Drug Overdose			Opioid Overdose			Opioid-antagonist		
	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal
Columbia	20	2.85	.	14	2.00	.	32	4.56	.
Dixie	13	7.69	.	2	.	.	10	.	1
Franklin	2	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
Gadsden	14	2.90	.	1	.	.	4	.	.
Hamilton	6	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
Jefferson	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Lafayette	3	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.
Leon	83	2.83	.	14	0.48	.	20	0.68	.
Liberty	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
Madison	6	.	.	2	.	.	9	.	.
Suwannee	18	3.97	.	1	.	.	12	2.65	.
Taylor	12	5.38	.	5	.	.	11	4.93	.
Wakulla	6	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>3.04</b>	.	<b>39</b>	<b>0.64</b>	.	<b>113</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>2</b>

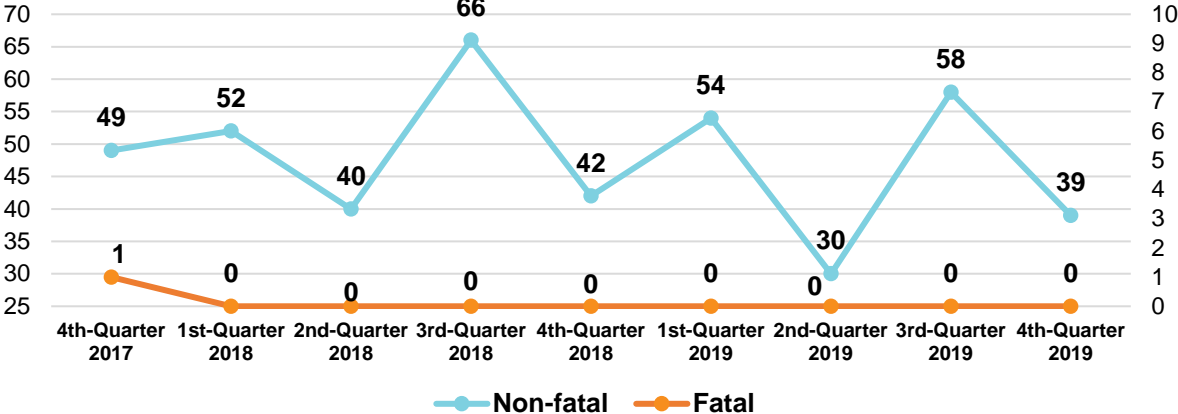
Note: 1. Population rate per 10,000 people.  
 2. Rate is not presented when frequency is less than or equal to 10.

# Region 2 Trend (by Quarter)

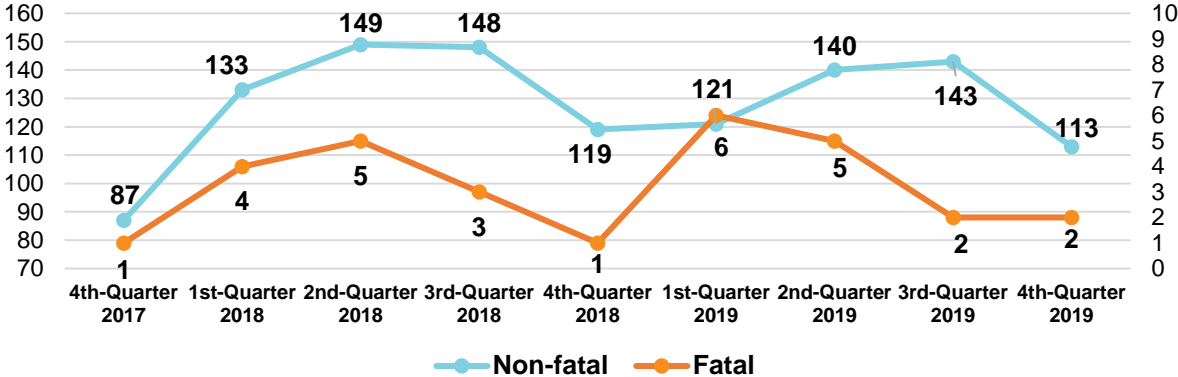
Total number of suspected drug overdose EMS responses



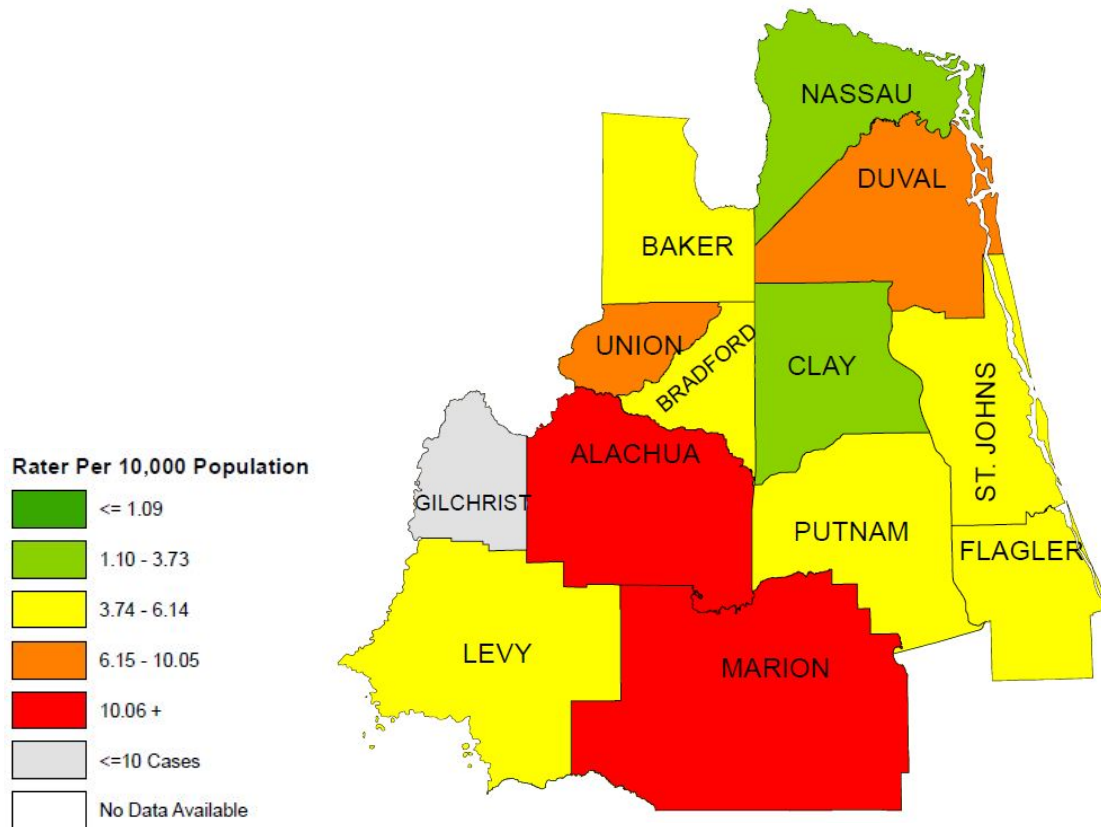
Total number of suspected opioid overdose EMS responses



EMS responses including administration of an opioid-antagonist



## Region 3 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019)

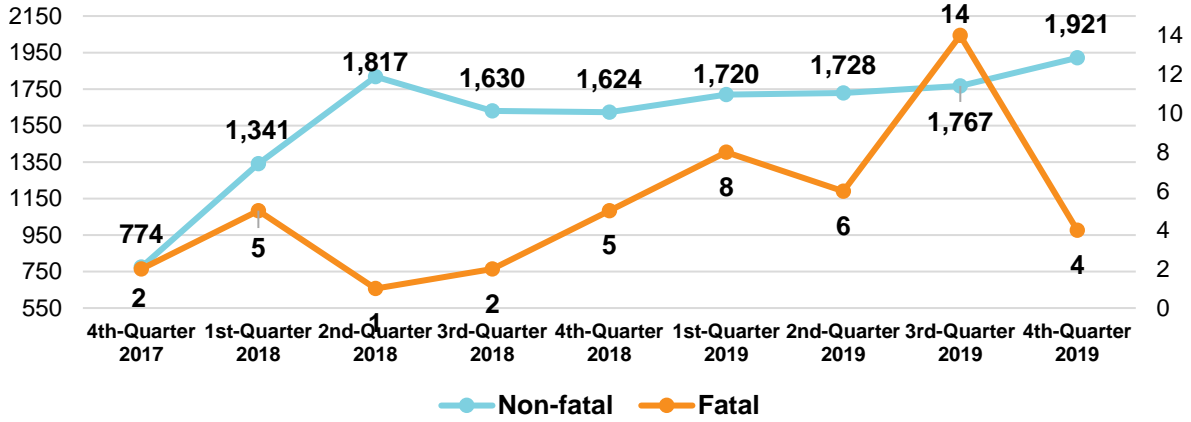


Geographic Area	Drug Overdose			Opioid Overdose			Opioid-antagonist		
	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal
Alachua	400	15.03	.	39	1.47	.	86	3.23	1
Baker	17	6.14	.	5	.	.	21	7.59	.
Bradford	13	4.56	.	2	.	.	3	.	1
Clay	67	3.08	.	39	1.79	.	115	5.28	6
Duval	778	8.03	3	507	5.23	2	716	7.39	1
Flagler	57	5.12	.	24	2.16	.	55	4.94	6
Gilchrist	6	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	1
Levy	19	4.55	.	2	.	.	14	3.35	1
Marion	386	10.71	.	129	3.58	.	181	5.02	.
Nassau	22	2.60	.	11	1.30	.	52	6.14	2
Putnam	31	4.22	.	13	1.77	.	32	4.35	1
St. Johns	109	4.37	1	.	.	.	57	2.28	3
Union	16	10.05	.	3	.	.	4	.	.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>7.80</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>3.14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,341</b>	<b>5.44</b>	<b>23</b>

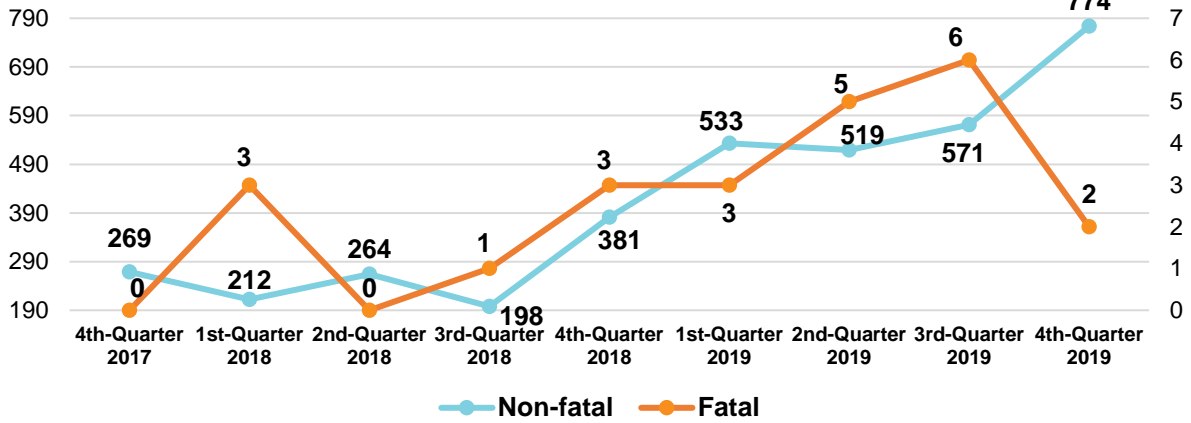
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# Region 3 Trend (by Quarter)

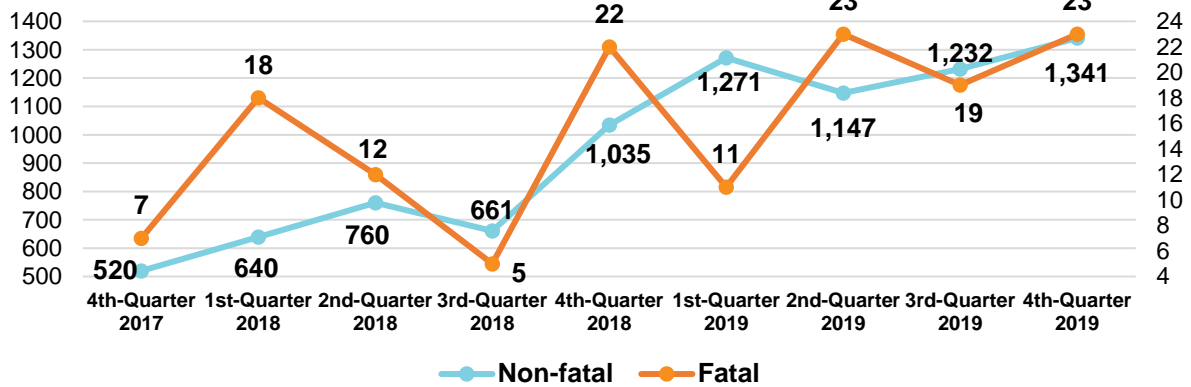
## Total number of suspected drug overdose EMS responses



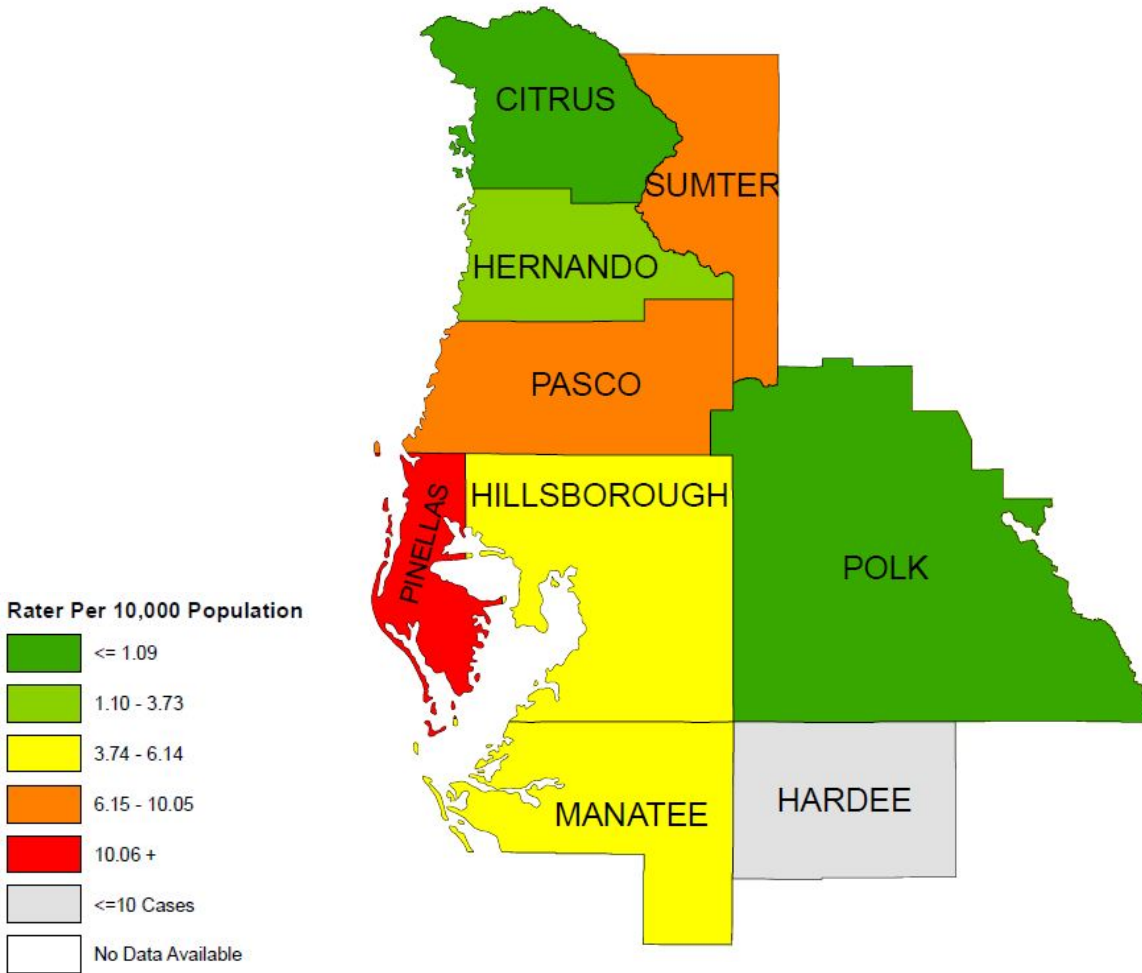
## Total number of suspected opioid overdose EMS responses



## EMS responses including administration of an opioid-antagonist



## Region 4 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019)

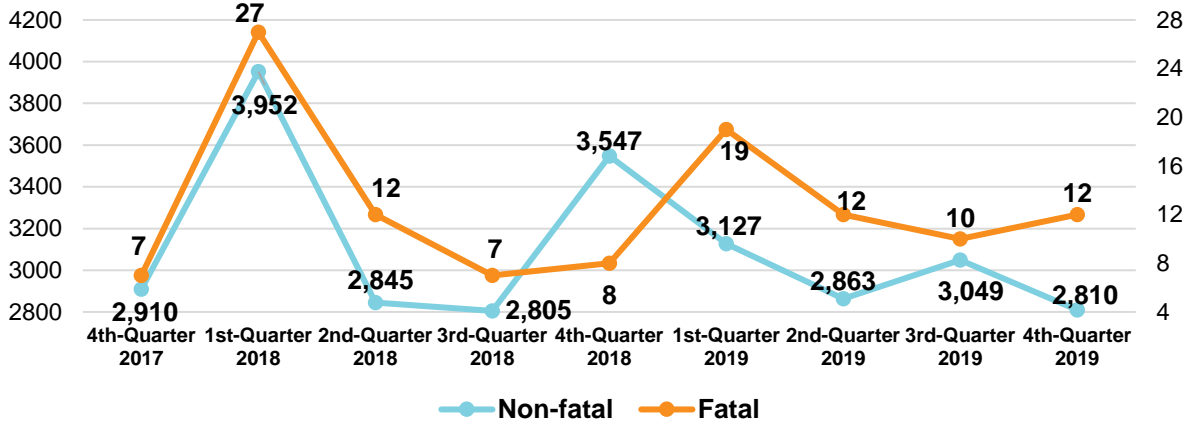


Geographic Area	Drug Overdose			Opioid Overdose			Opioid-antagonist		
	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal
Citrus	16	1.09	.	1	.	.	13	0.89	.
Hardee	8	.	.	2	.	.	4	.	.
Hernando	34	1.81	.	14	0.74	.	54	2.87	.
Hillsborough	799	5.52	.	281	1.94	.	736	5.08	19
Manatee	231	5.94	.	113	2.91	.	133	3.42	7
Pasco	368	6.97	1	38	0.72	.	272	5.15	1
Pinellas	1,216	12.45	10	1,014	10.39	7	1,347	13.80	84
Polk	40	0.58	.	2	.	.	314	4.52	2
Sumter	98	7.48	1	12	0.92	.	56	4.27	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>6.20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>3.26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>6.47</b>	<b>114</b>

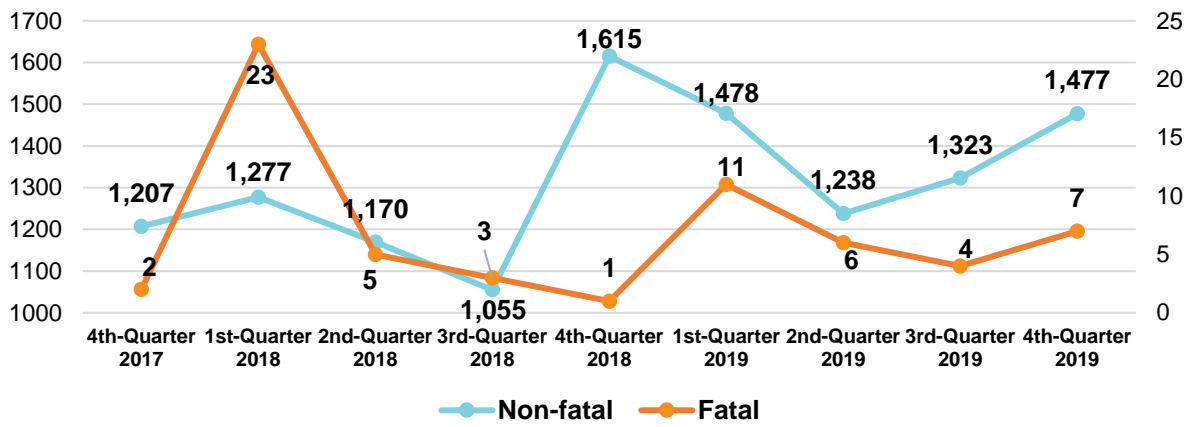
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# Region 4 Trend (by Quarter)

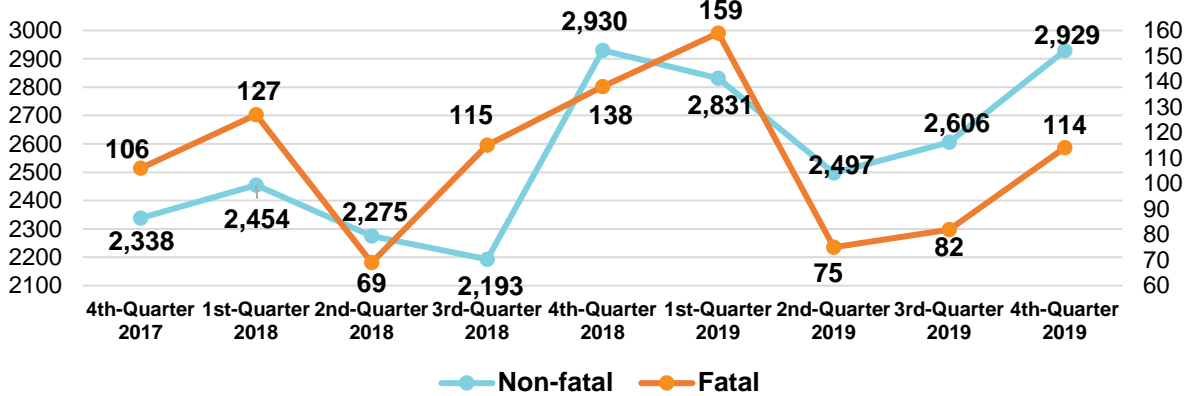
## Total number of suspected drug overdose EMS responses



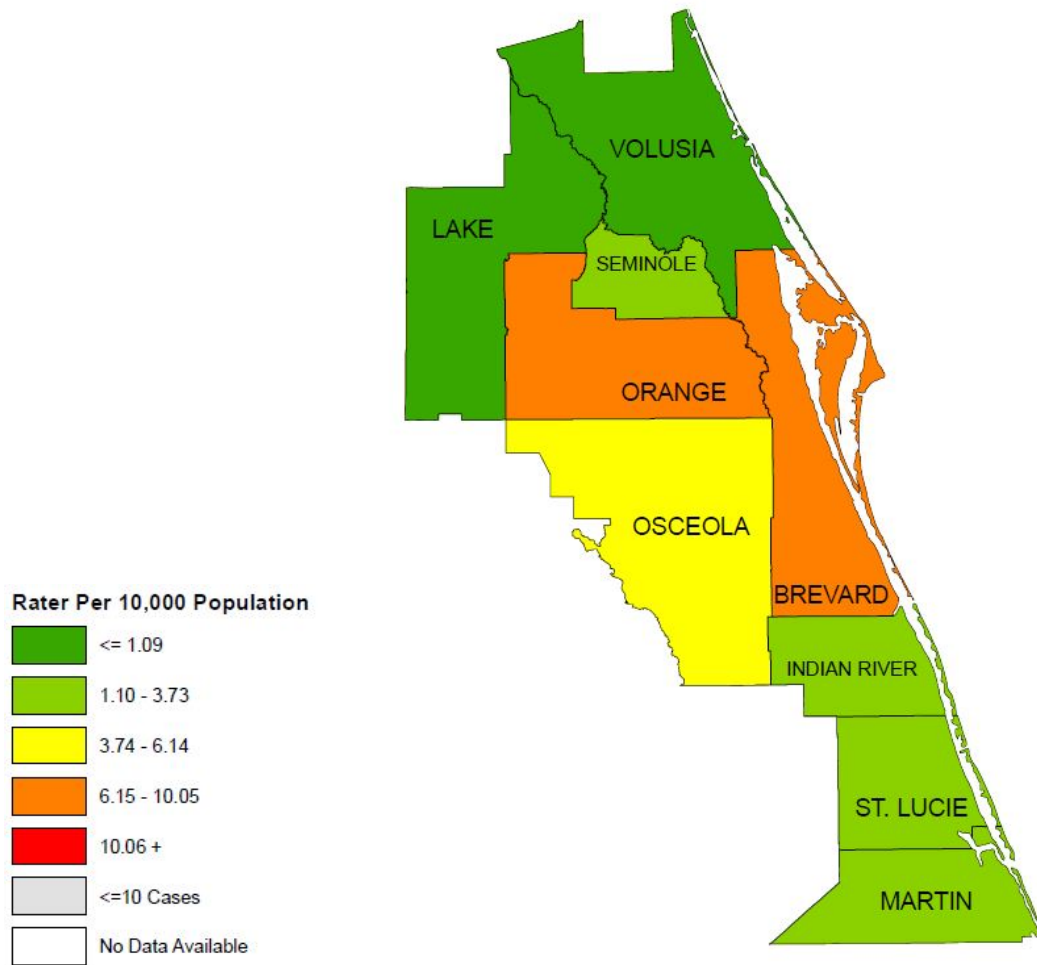
## Total number of suspected opioid overdose EMS responses



## EMS responses including administration of an opioid-antagonist



## Region 5 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019)

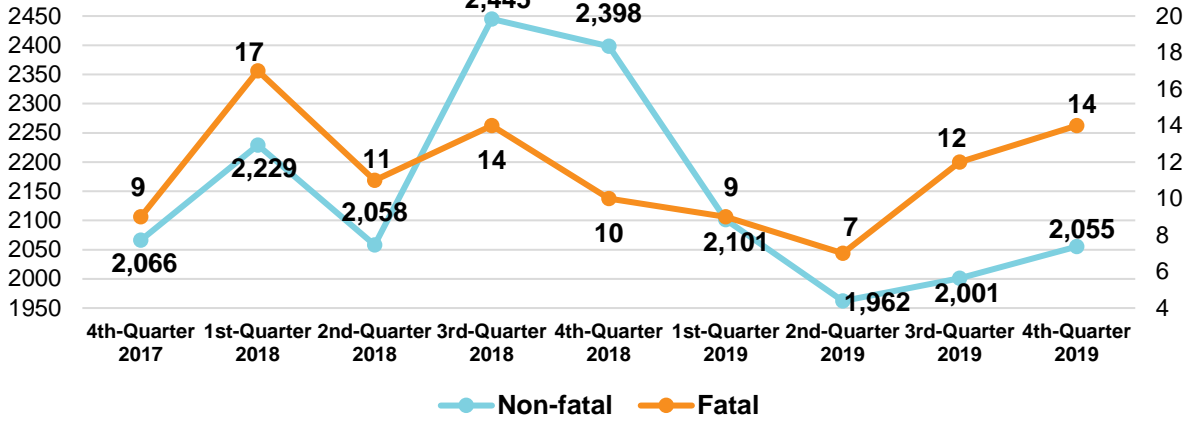


Geographic Area	Drug Overdose			Opioid Overdose			Opioid-antagonist		
	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal
Brevard	539	9.12	4	257	4.35	1	401	6.79	12
Indian River	51	3.30	.	23	1.49	.	48	3.10	.
Lake	24	0.69	1	7	.	1	16	0.46	.
Martin	56	3.56	.	25	1.59	.	44	2.80	.
Orange	944	6.73	8	228	1.63	1	663	4.73	22
Osceola	205	5.48	1	62	1.66	.	109	2.91	1
Seminole	80	1.70	.	35	0.74	.	126	2.68	5
St. Lucie	109	3.51	.	12	0.39	.	63	2.03	.
Volusia	47	0.87	.	9	.	.	14	0.26	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>4.73</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>1.51</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>3.41</b>	<b>41</b>

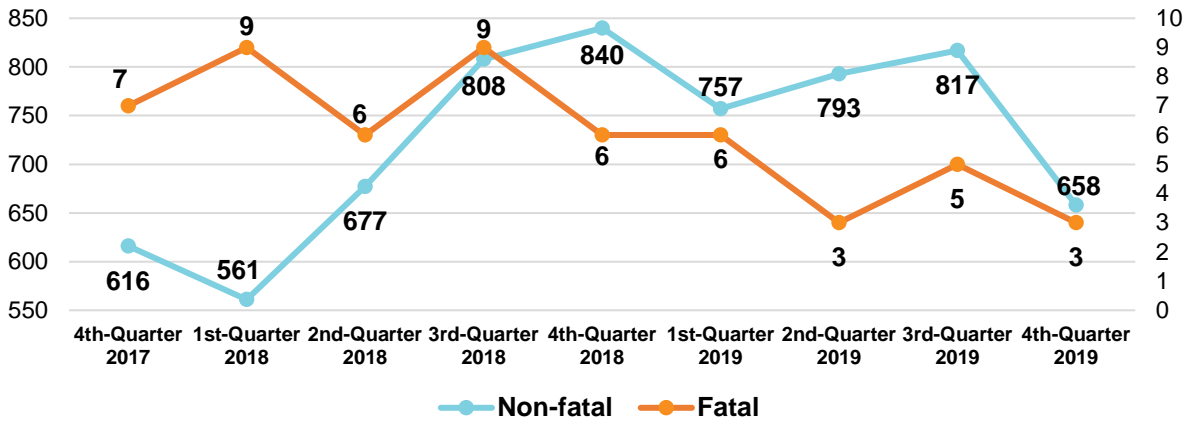
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# Region 5 Trend (by Quarter)

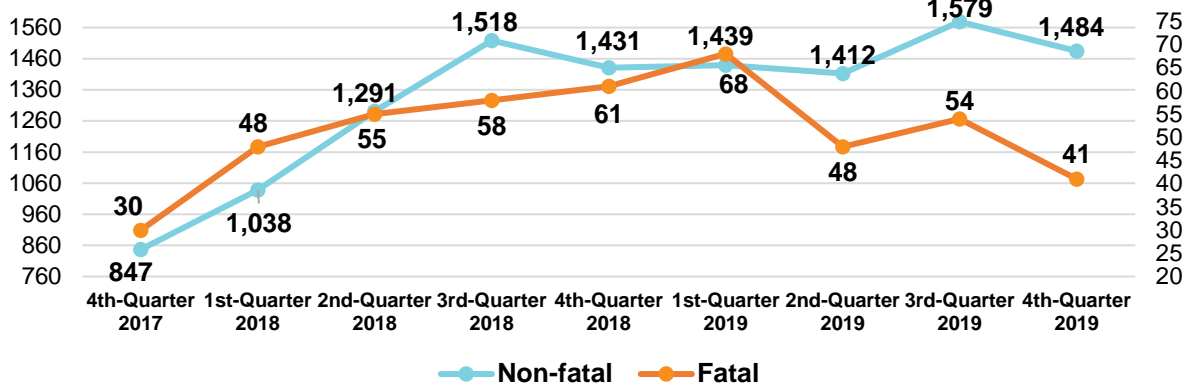
## Total number of suspected drug overdose EMS responses



## Total number of suspected opioid overdose EMS responses

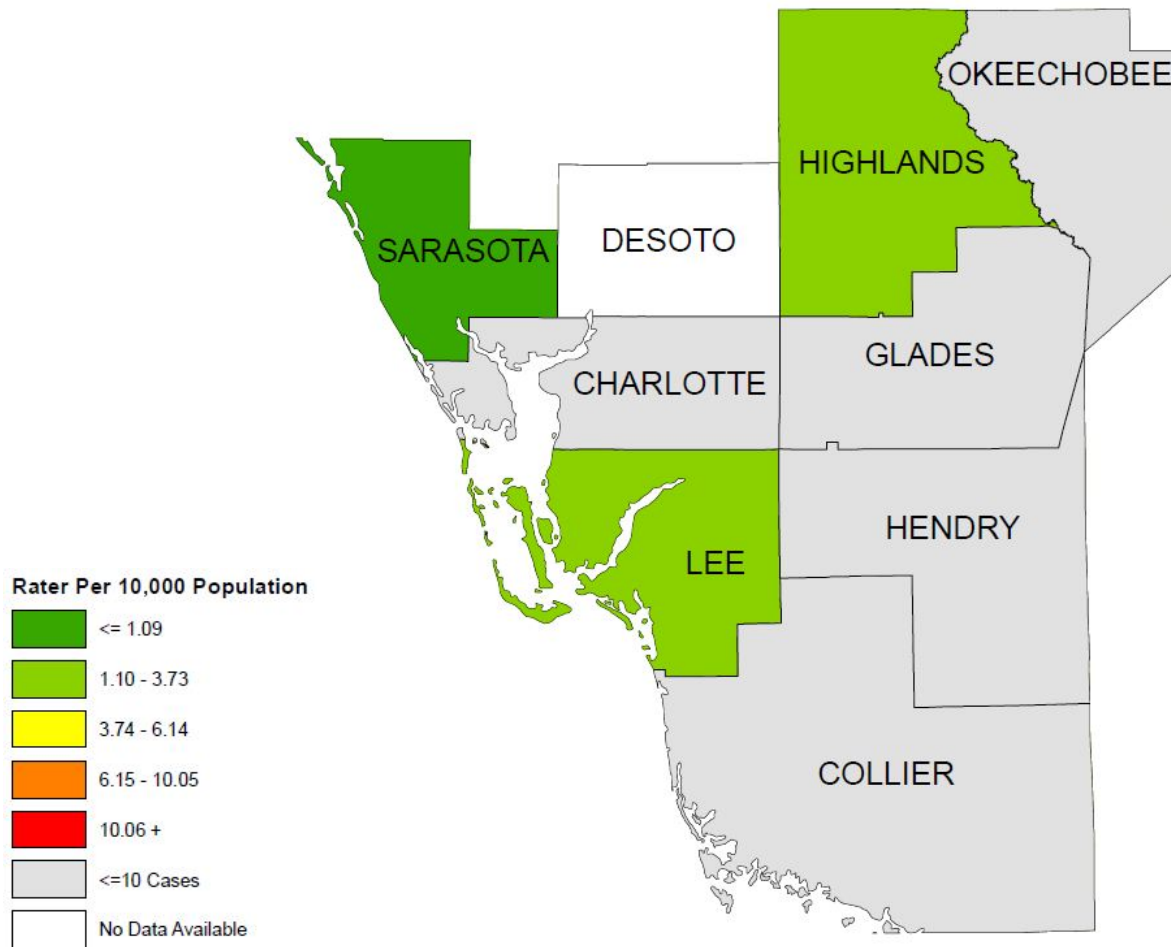


## EMS responses including administration of an opioid-antagonist





## Region 6 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019)

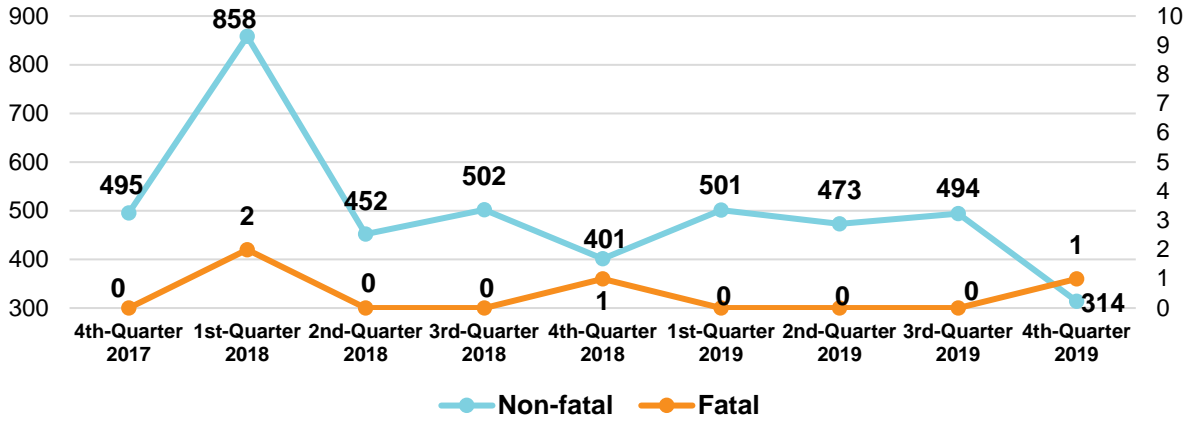


Geographic Area	Drug Overdose			Opioid Overdose			Opioid-antagonist		
	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal
Charlotte	5	.	.	.	.	.	42	2.36	2
Collier	9	.	.	5	.	.	12	0.32	1
Desoto	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	1
Glades	3	.	.	1	.	.	3	.	.
Hendry	5	.	.	3	.	.	8	.	4
Highlands	26	2.50	.	3	.	.	21	2.02	2
Lee	213	2.89	1	13	0.18	1	112	1.52	1
Okeechobee	10	.	.	7	.	.	1	.	.
Sarasota	43	1.02	.	9	.	.	66	1.56	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>14</b>

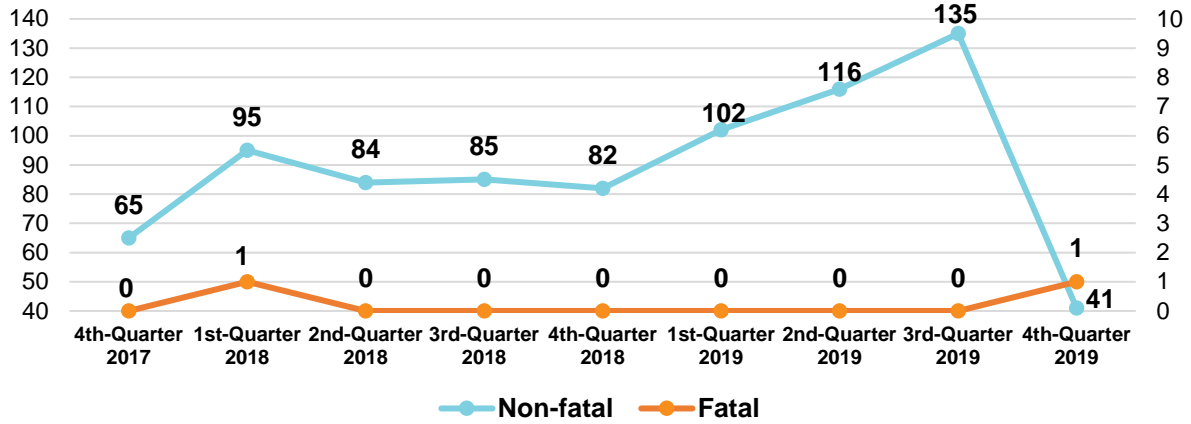
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# Region 6 Trend (by Quarter)

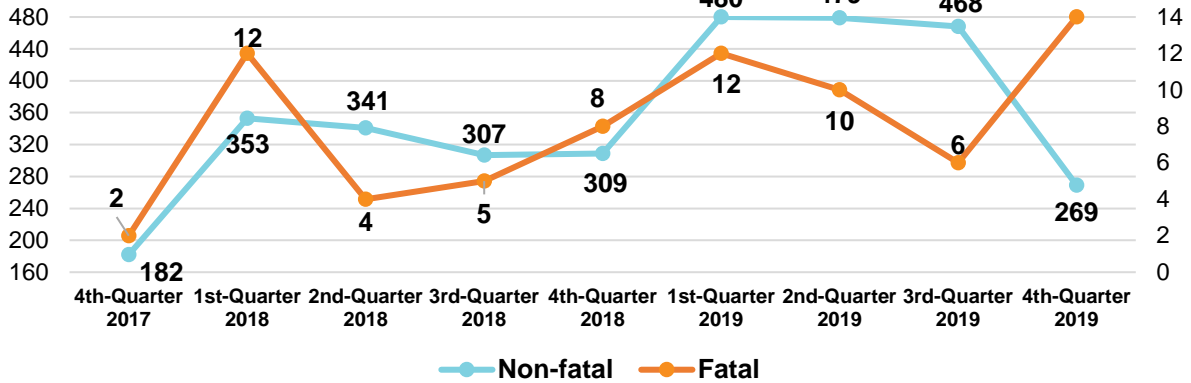
## Total number of suspected drug overdose EMS responses



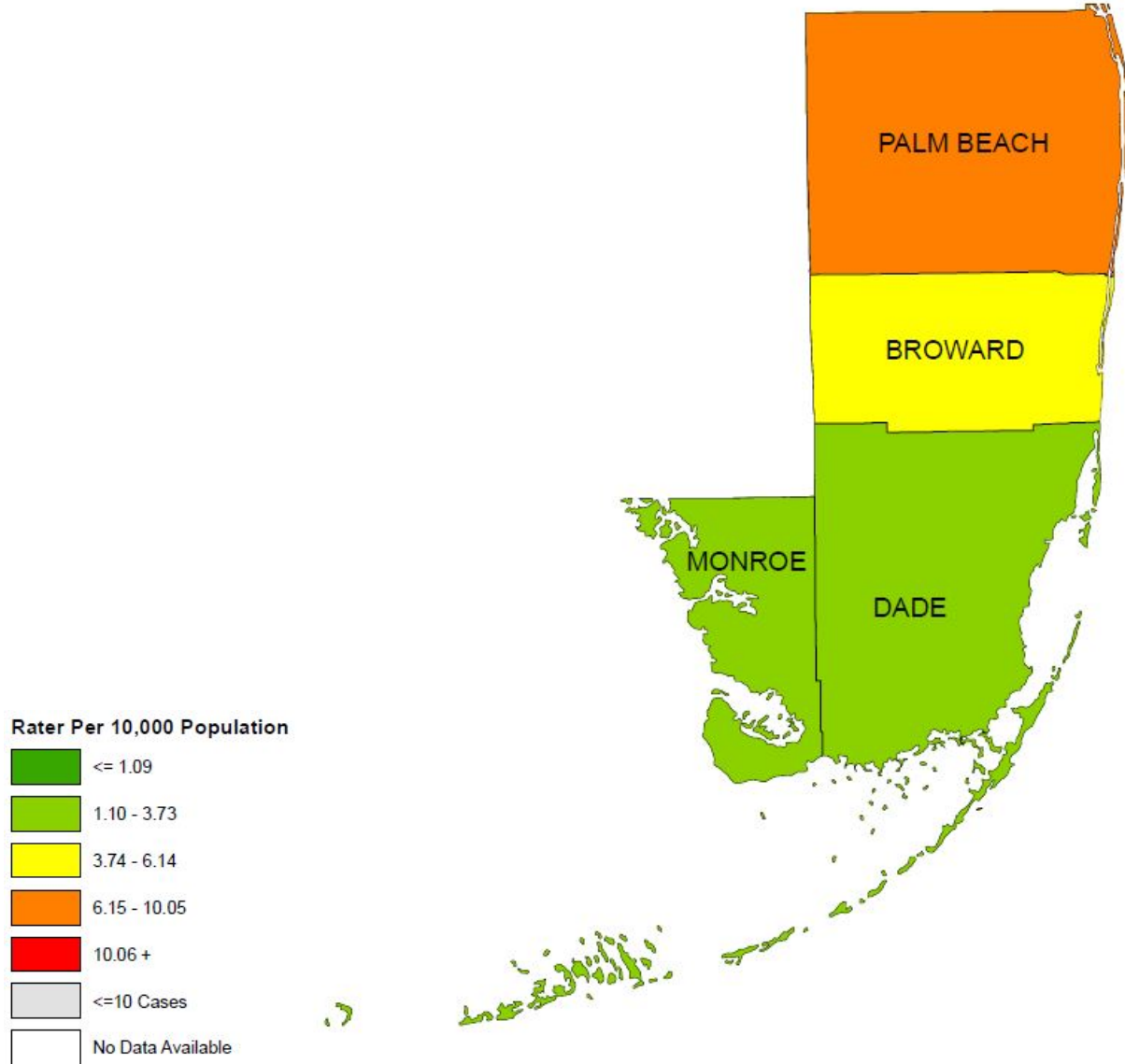
## Total number of suspected opioid overdose EMS responses



## EMS responses including administration of an opioid-antagonist



## Region 7 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019)

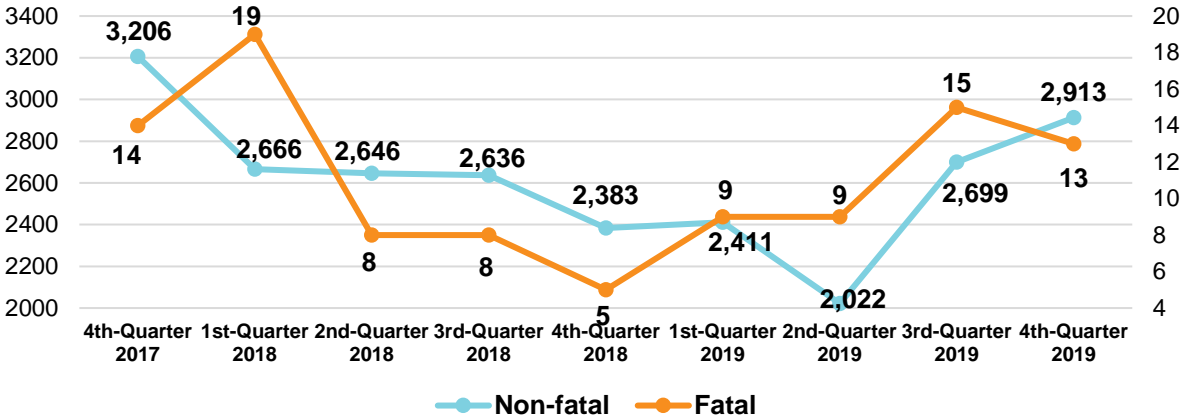


Geographic Area	Drug Overdose			Opioid Overdose			Opioid-antagonist		
	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Rate	Fatal
Broward	760	3.95	2	228	1.18	.	416	2.16	.
Miami-Dade	1,031	3.63	2	94	0.33	1	637	2.24	8
Monroe	15	1.98	.	2	.	.	22	2.90	.
Palm Beach	1,107	7.58	9	780	5.34	7	570	3.90	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,913</b>	<b>4.62</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>12</b>

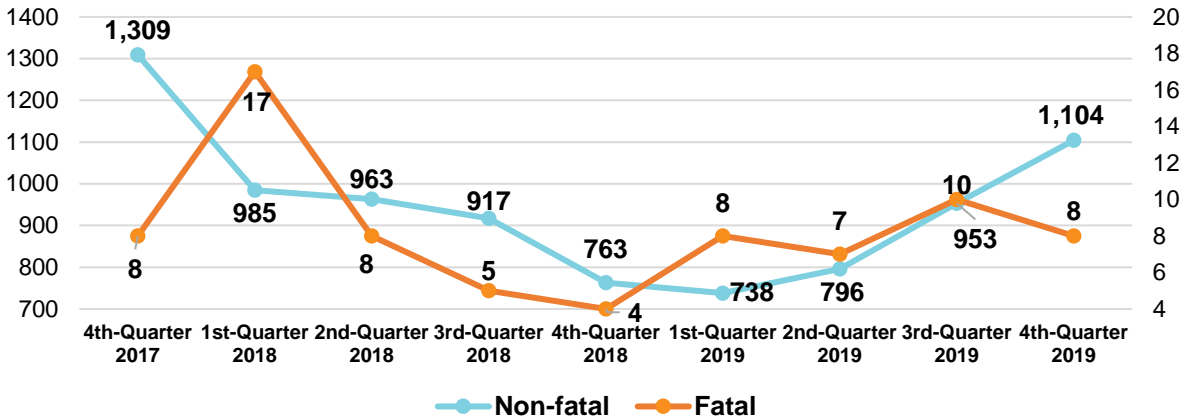
Note: 1. Population rate per 10,000 people.  
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# Region 7 Trend (by Quarter)

## Total number of suspected drug overdose EMS responses



## Total number of suspected opioid overdose EMS responses



## EMS responses including administration of an opioid-antagonist

