



OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY

PUBLIC HEALTH | PUBLIC SAFETY | PARTNERSHIP



♦ Jan 2025

Central Florida Public Health and Safety Quarterly Digest

About

Welcome to the first Central Florida Public Health and Safety Quarterly Digest! This digest is a combined effort between the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) and the Central Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). The purpose of this digest is to provide a continuum of resources for substance use & overdose issues. Throughout this digest, you'll find resources for treatment, prevention, recovery, naloxone distribution, harm reduction resources, public health and public safety data and other helpful links.

The contents of this digest are for informational purposes only.

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Have a question or need help finding a resource? Connect with Brittany Brown at bbrown@cfhidta.org or Paul Maxwell at pmaxwell@cfhidta.org.

In this digest you can expect:

Public Health News

Public Safety News

Emerging Novel
Substance Alerts

Toolkits and Research

Quick Links

Data and Surveillance
Updates



The Overdose Response Strategy

The Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) is an unprecedented and unique public health-public safety partnership between the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through their support of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program and the CDC Foundation. At its core, the ORS is an example of a cross-agency, interdisciplinary collaboration with a single mission of reducing overdose deaths and saving lives across the United States. For more information, visit [ORS Program](#)

The Central Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

The Central Florida HIDTA (CFHIDTA) program is a part of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) created by Congress with The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. It provides assistance to Federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States.

The purpose of the program is to reduce drug trafficking and production in the United States. For more information on the CFHIDTA, please visit [Central FL HIDTA](#). For more information on the National HIDTA program, please visit [HIDTA Program](#)

Public Health and Safety News

The Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE) has released a Colombo Plan Health Alert regarding an *Emerging Global Synthetic Opioid Threat: Increasing Reports of Nitazene Toxicity*. Benzimidazoles, also known as “nitazenes” are a potent class of synthetic opioids estimated to be 1.5x-20x more potent than fentanyl compounds. Nitazenes are distributed in powder or tablet form and are often mixed with other synthetic and traditional drugs and adulterants. Read the full alert here: [Nitazine Public Alert](#).

In 2023, the **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)** has issued a public safety alert. According to the latest DEA laboratory findings, five out of 10 pills tested in 2024 contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl. This is down from seven out of 10 pills in 2023 and six out of 10 pills in 2022. Two grams of powdered fentanyl, which can fit on the tip of a pencil, can be enough to kill an average American. [Review the Department of Justice/ DEA Drug Fact Sheet on Fentanyl](#).

The DEA has also released *Drugs of Abuse: A DEA Resource Guide, 2024 Edition*, which was designed to be a reliable resource on the most commonly used and misused drugs in the United States. You can review this resource here: [Get Smart About Drugs of Abuse](#).

Resources and Toolkits

In January, 2025, the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** released an issue brief on supporting and financing peer services. The brief explores “financing strategies such as federal (including block and discretionary) and state grants, private and local community foundations, private fundraising, and billing third parties such as private insurance, Medicaid, and managed care organizations (MCOs).” Read the brief here: [Supporting and Financing Peer Services](#).

The **Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE)** “has also released their NPS (Novel Psychoactive Substance) Discovery Q4 2024 Trend Reports. The four reports include trends on NPS benzodiazepines, NPS opioids, NPS stimulants and hallucinogens, and synthetic cannabinoids in the U.S.”

Novel psychoactive substances, including NPS opioids, continue to pose great challenges for forensic scientists, clinicians, and public health and safety personnel. NPS opioids have been implicated in an increasing number of emergency room admissions, death investigations, and mass intoxication events, and often appear in combination with other illicit opioids (e.g. fentanyl, heroin). Visit [Q4 2024 Trend Reports](#) more information.

Quick Links

- [Find Substance Use Treatment](#)
- [Veterans Crisis Line](#)
- [SAMHSA Treatment Search](#)
- [Find Local Services through DCF](#)
- [Prevention](#)
- [Floridians for Recovery](#)
- [FL Health Charts](#)
- [DEA Drug Information](#)

Specific Links for First Responders

- [American Addiction Centers for First Responders](#)

Central Florida ORS Team Highlights

The Central and North Florida ORS Teams attended the DEA Florida Family Summit on Fentanyl at the Westgate Lakes Resort in June 2024. The summit discussed the fentanyl epidemic and how communities can collaborate in preventative work.



From left to right: Paul Maxwell, Central Florida HIDTA Drug Intelligence Officer; Brittany Brown, Central Florida Public Health Analyst; Deborah Babin, North Florida Public Health Analyst; Scott Delano, North Florida HIDTA Drug Intelligence Officer

Members from the North, Central, and South Florida ORS Teams attended the Community Coalition Alliance's Power of Prevention Awards Ceremony.



From left to right: Scott Delano, North Florida HIDTA Drug Intelligence Officer; Jasmin Sibai, South Florida Public Health Analyst; Robert Peryam, North Florida HIDTA Director; Brittany Brown, Central Florida Public Health Analyst; Paul Maxwell, Central Florida HIDTA Drug Intelligence Officer

Data Trends for Central Florida Counties

Figure 1.1 All Drug-Involved Emergency Department Visits for Central Florida Counties by Quarter for 2024, Rate per 100,000, Adults (18 years and older)

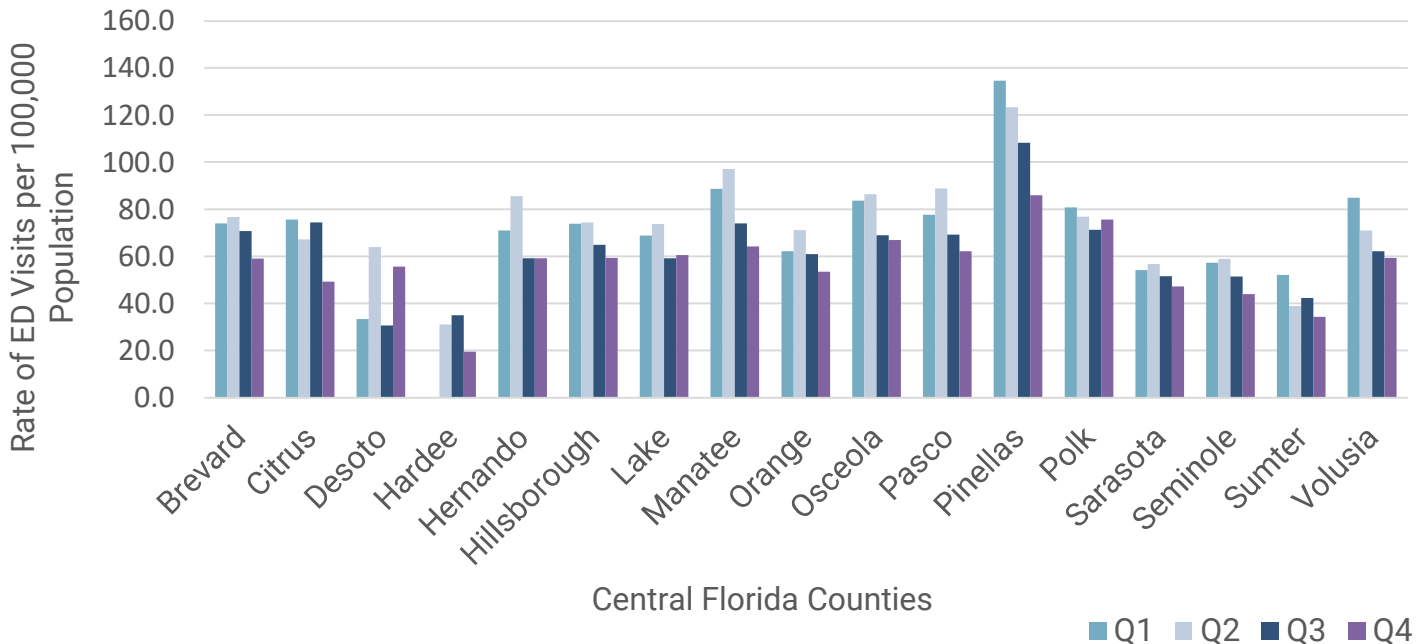
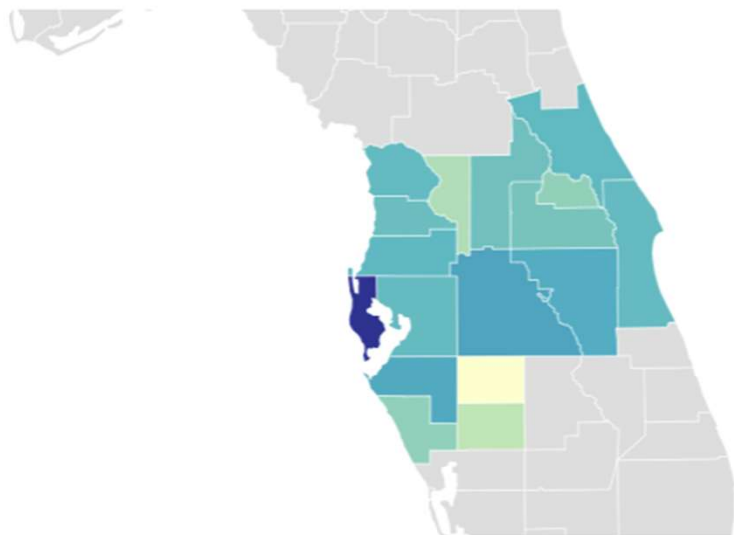


Table 1.1, Figure 1.2 All Drug-Involved Emergency Department Visits for Central Florida Counties for 2024, Rate per 100,000, Adults (18 years and older)

County	Count	Rate
Brevard	1349	209.5
Citrus	351	210.6
DeSoto	43	119.5
Hardee	14	54.3
Hernando	430	202.1
Hillsborough	3201	208.5
Lake	833	196.2
Manatee	1039	235.6
Orange	2757	187.4
Osceola	1012	231.2
Pasco	1359	214.7
Pinellas	3250	338.0
Polk	1980	242.0
Sarasota	751	160.1
Seminole	771	159.2
Sumter	201	132.6
Volusia	1261	213.6



Source: Florida Department of Health (2024) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Data provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024)

Data Trends for Central Florida Counties

Figure 2.1 Opioid-Involved Emergency Department Visits for Central Florida Counties by Quarter for 2024, Rate per 100,000, Adults (18 years and older)

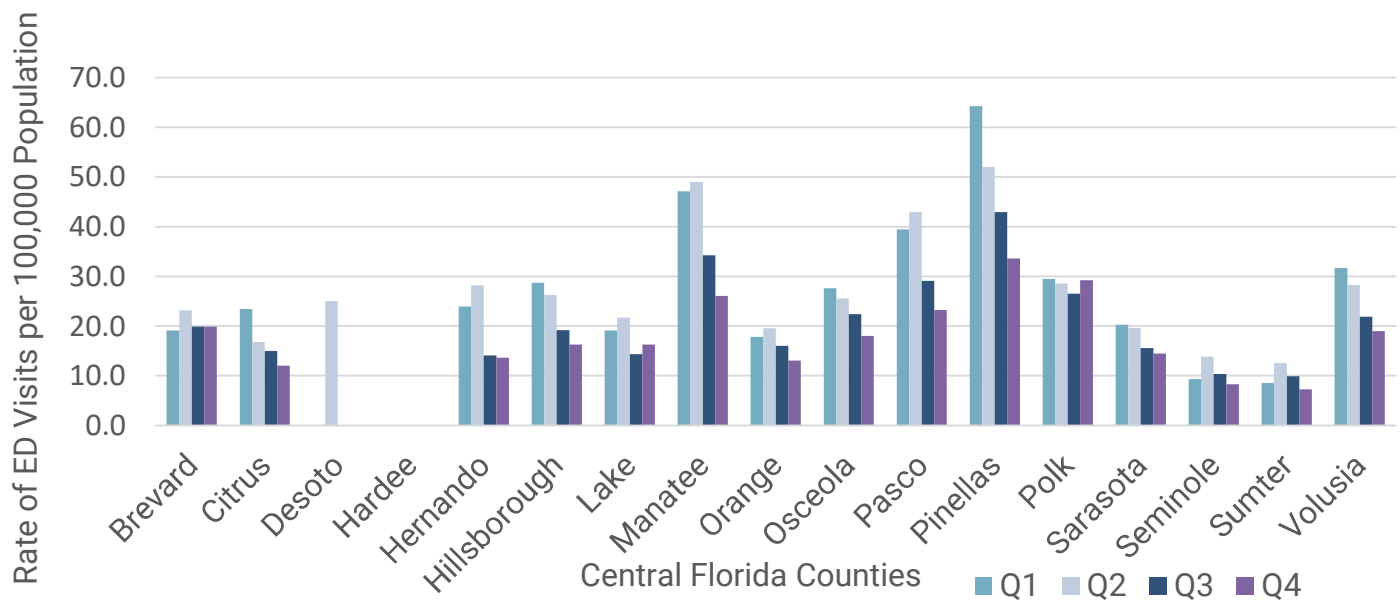
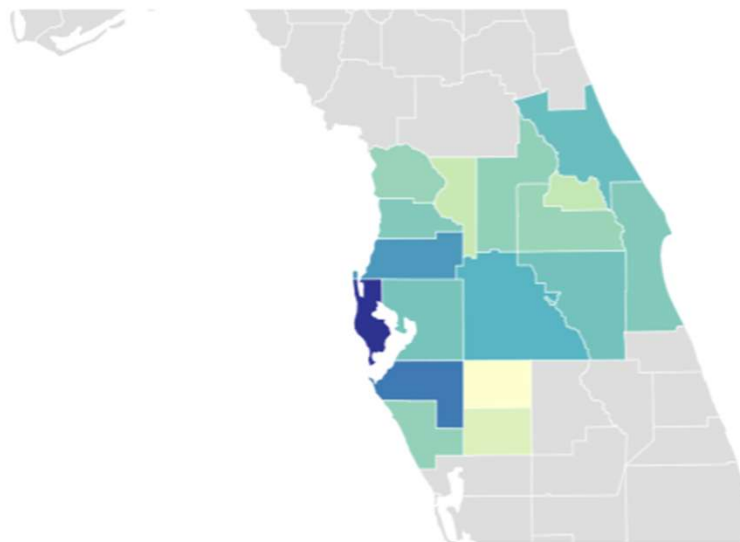


Table 2.1, Figure 2.2 Opioid-Involved Emergency Department Visits for Central Florida Counties for 2024, Rate per 100,000, Adults (18 years and older)

County	Count	Rate
Brevard	528	82.0
Citrus	112	67.2
DeSoto	9	25.0
Hardee	0	0.0
Hernando	170	79.9
Hillsborough	1388	90.4
Lake	303	71.4
Manatee	690	156.4
Orange	978	66.5
Osceola	410	93.7
Pasco	853	134.8
Pinellas	1854	192.8
Polk	931	113.8
Sarasota	328	69.9
Seminole	202	41.7
Sumter	58	38.3
Volusia	595	100.8



Source: Florida Department of Health (2024) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Data provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024)

Data Trends for Central Florida Counties

Figure 3.1 All Drug-Involved Emergency Services Responses for Central Florida Counties by Quarter for 2024, Rate per 100,000, Adults (18 years and older)

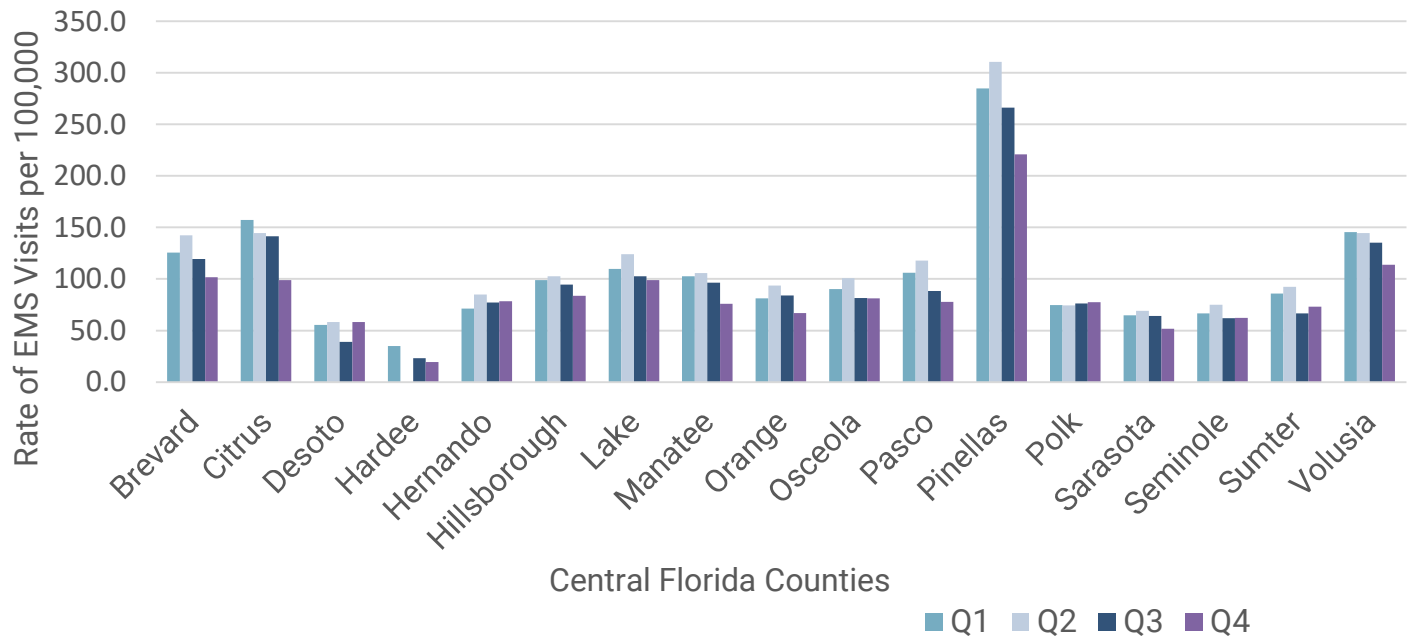
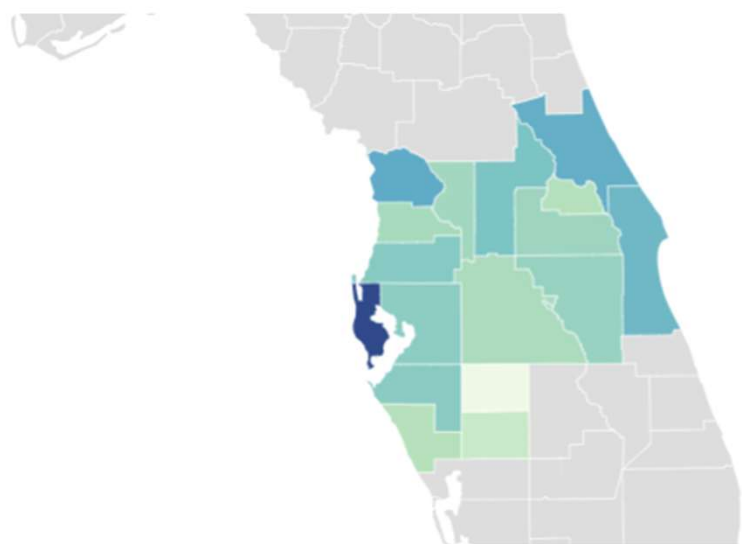


Table 3.1, Figure 3.2 All Drug-Involved Emergency Services Responses for Central Florida Counties for 2024, Rate per 100,000, Adults (18 years and older)

County	Count	Rate*
Brevard	3146	488.5
Citrus	904	542.3
DeSoto	76	211.2
Hardee	20	77.6
Hernando	664	312.0
Hillsborough	5831	379.7
Lake	1848	435.4
Manatee	1680	380.9
Orange	4793	325.7
Osceola	1548	353.6
Pasco	2469	390.0
Pinellas	10412	1082.8
Polk	2479	302.9
Sarasota	1172	249.9
Seminole	1287	265.8
Sumter	482	318.0
Volusia	3181	538.8

58.2 861.8



Source: Florida Department of Health (2024) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Data provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024)

Data Trends for Central Florida Counties

Figure 4.1 Opioid-Involved Emergency Services Responses for Central Florida Counties by Quarter for 2024, Rate per 100,000, Adults (18 years and older)

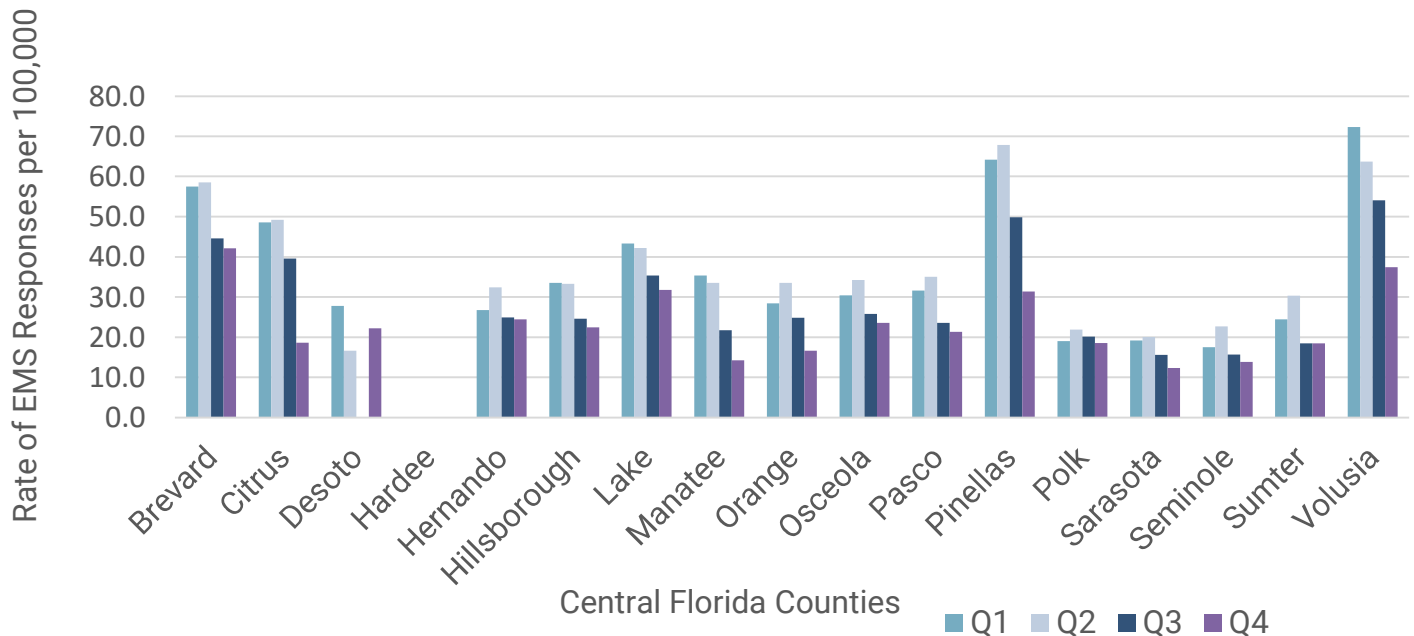
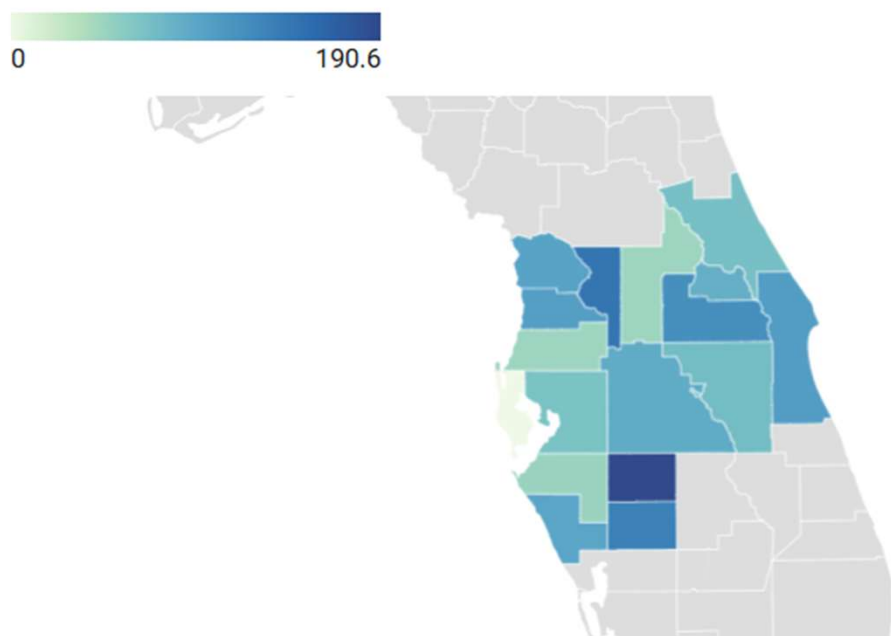


Table 4.1, Figure 4.2 Opioid-Involved Emergency Services Responses for Central Florida Counties by Quarter for 2024, Rate per 100,000, Adults (18 years and older)

County	Count	Rate*
Brevard	671	104.2
Citrus	123	73.8
DeSoto	17	47.2
Hardee	0	0.0
Hernando	193	90.7
Hillsborough	1483	96.6
Lake	369	86.9
Manatee	638	144.6
Orange	1031	70.1
Osceola	434	99.1
Pasco	841	132.9
Pinellas	1833	190.6
Polk	844	103.1
Sarasota	318	67.8
Seminole	229	47.3
Sumter	75	49.5
Volusia	704	119.2



Source: Florida Department of Health (2024) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Data provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024)

Data Trends for Central Florida Counties

Figure 5.1 All Drug-Involved Fatal Overdoses by Central Florida HIDTA County of Occurrence for 2023, by Count, Adults (18 years and older)

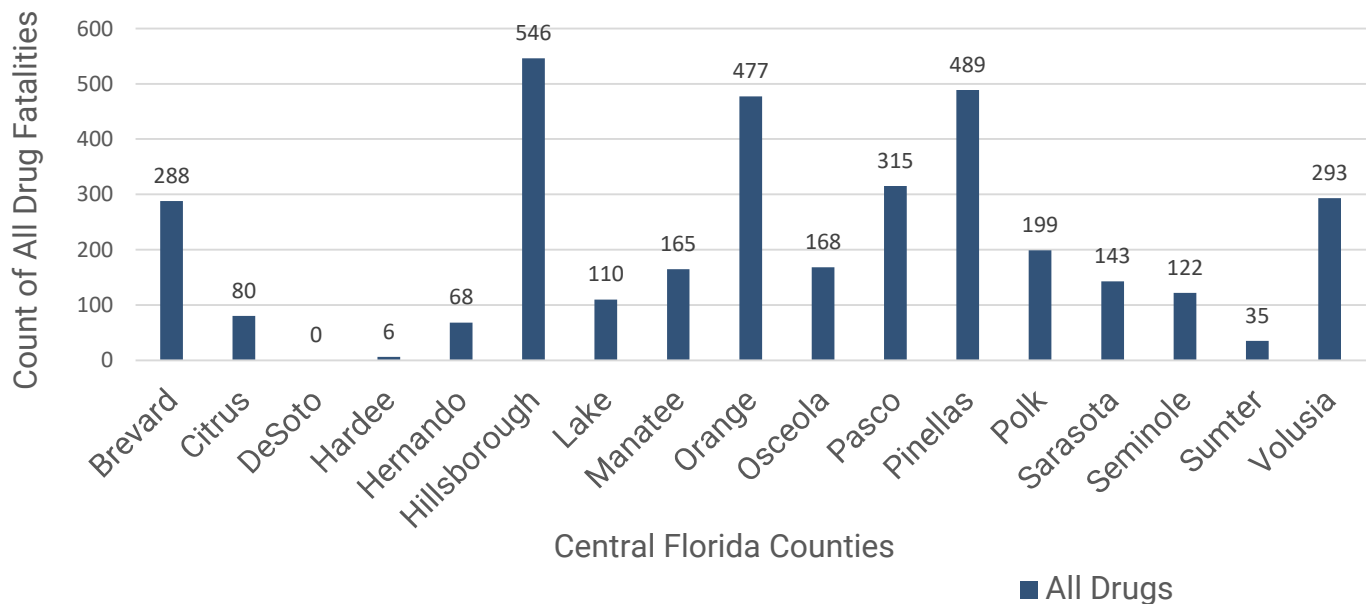
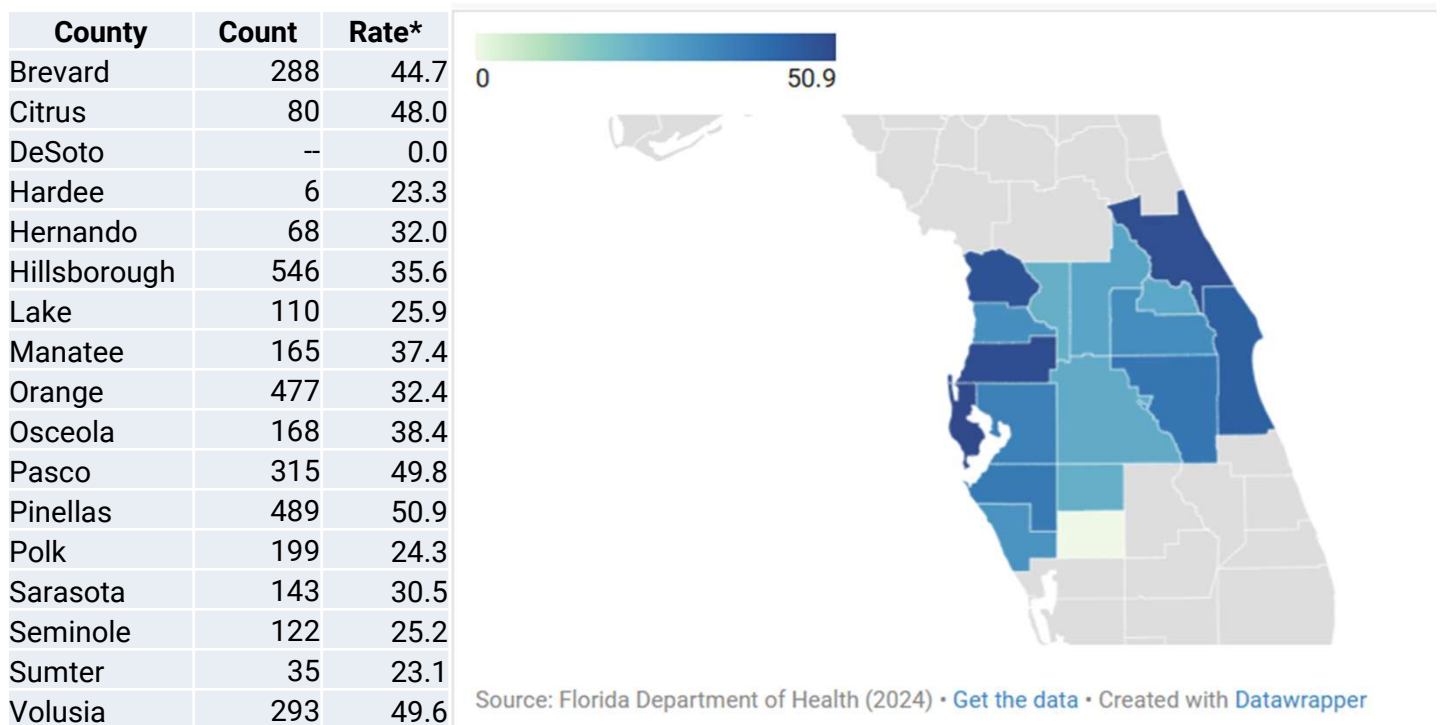


Table 5.1, Figure 5.2 All Drug-Involved Fatal Overdoses by Central Florida HIDTA County of Occurrence for 2023, by Count, Adults (18 years and older)



Data provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024)

Data Trends for Central Florida Counties

Figure 6.1 Opioid-Involved Fatal Overdoses by Central Florida HIDTA County of Occurrence for 2023, by Count, Adults (18 years and older)

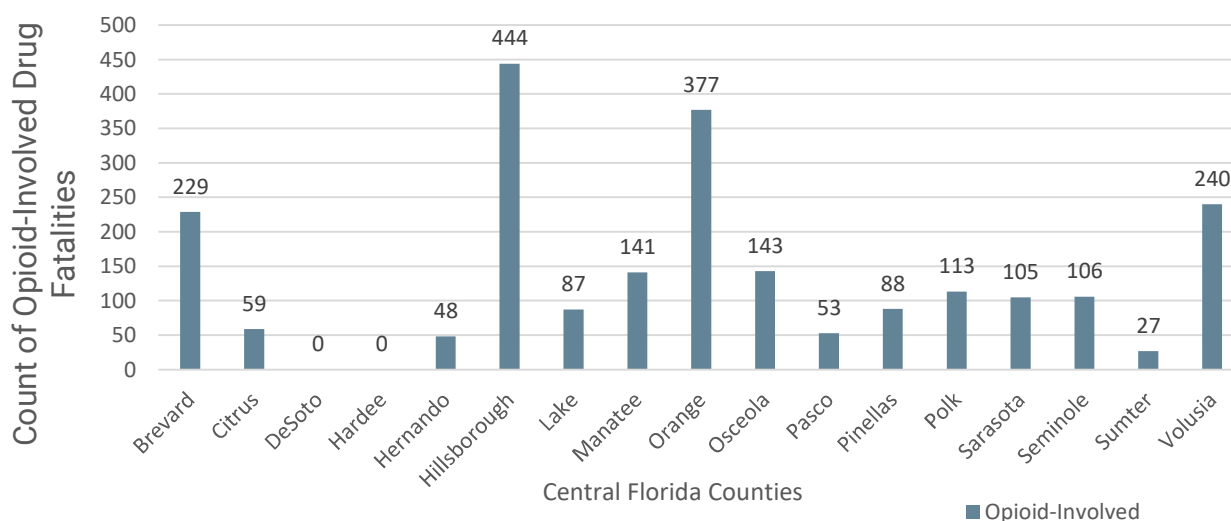
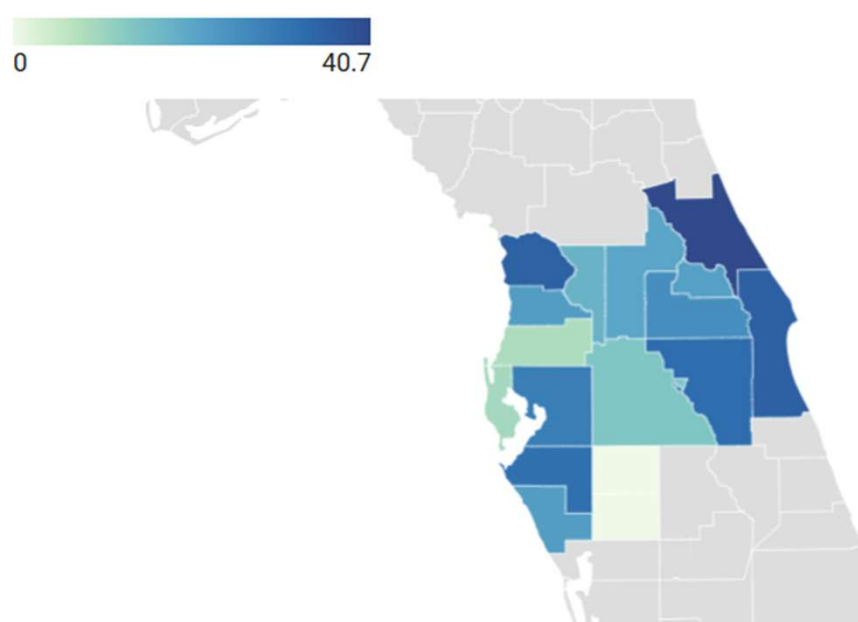


Figure 6.1, Figure 6.2 Opioid-Involved Fatal Overdoses by Central Florida HIDTA County of Occurrence for 2023, by Count, Adults (18 years and older)

County	Count	Rate*
Brevard	229	35.6
Citrus	59	35.4
DeSoto	0	0.0
Hardee	0	0.0
Hernando	48	22.6
Hillsborough	444	28.9
Lake	87	20.5
Manatee	141	32.0
Orange	377	25.6
Osceola	143	32.7
Pasco	53	8.4
Pinellas	88	9.2
Polk	113	13.8
Sarasota	105	22.4
Seminole	106	21.9
Sumter	27	17.8
Volusia	240	40.7



Source: Florida Department of Health (2024) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

The summary data that is presented above is provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024) on a quarterly basis. Unfortunately, I am not able to provide on-demand data or respond to any data requests.

Data Trends for Central Florida Counties

Table 7.1, Overdose Data Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) All Drug-Involved Suspected Overdose Spike Alerts for 2024, by Count, Adults (18 years and older)

ODMAP Suspected Overdose Spike Alert (by count) 2025						
County	12/30/24-1/5/25	1/6/25-1/12/25	1/13/25-1/19/25	1/20/25-1/26/25	1/27/25-2/2/25	Jan 2025 Totals
Brevard						0
Citrus		3	1		2	6
DeSoto						0
Hardee						0
Hernando	1			1	4	6
Hillsborough		1		1		2
Lake					1	1
Manatee	1			1	1	3
Orange						0
Osceola	3					3
Pasco				1		1
Pinellas	1		2		1	4
Polk	1					1
Sarasota				1		1
Seminole						1
Sumter		1			1	2
Volusia					2	2
CFL Total	7	5	3	5	12	33

Please Note:

The Florida Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) presents the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) suspected spike alerts weekly. A *spike alert* is triggered in ODMAP when the total number of overdoses in an area exceeds a pre-determined threshold within 24 hours. Visit [Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program - \(odmap.org\)](https://odmap.org) for more information. These numbers are only indicative of overdoses that were reported to and responded by EMS and met the ODMAP threshold level for a spike in a 24 hour period, and do not represent all overdoses in every listed county for these dates and times.

“The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) is a tool for collecting and mapping suspected overdose events. ODMAP is not intended to serve as an official system of record, an intelligence sharing database, or an index-pointer records system.” – Washington/Baltimore HIDTA

* Data may include overdose incidents that are not directly related to illicit drugs.

Data Trends

Table 8.1, Overdose Data Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) All Drug-Involved Suspected Overdoses, Comparison of 2023 and 2024, by Count and Rate with Percent Change, Adults (18 years and older)

ODMAP Suspected Overdose					
	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2023		Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2024		
County	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Percent Change
Brevard	3,441	534.3	2,235	347.1	-35.0
Citrus	911	546.5	704	422.3	-22.7
DeSoto	75	208.5	76	211.2	1.3
Hardee	49	190.2	29	112.6	-40.8
Hernando	918	431.4	718	337.4	-21.8
Hillsborough	5,946	387.2	4,552	296.4	-23.4
Lake	1,781	419.6	1,462	344.4	-17.9
Manatee	2,067	468.6	1,598	362.3	-22.7
Orange	5,310	360.9	3,751	254.9	-29.4
Osceola	1,650	376.9	1,234	281.9	-25.2
Pasco	3,108	491.0	2,524	398.7	-18.8
Pinellas	8,361	869.5	6,440	669.7	-23.0
Polk	2,603	318.1	2,293	280.2	-11.9
Sarasota	1,419	302.6	1,036	220.9	-27.0
Seminole	1,253	258.7	1,017	210.0	-18.8
Sumter	459	302.8	400	263.9	-12.9
Volusia	3,278	555.3	2,396	405.9	-26.9
CFL Total	42,629	448.6	9503670	341.6	-23.8

Thank you for reading!

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