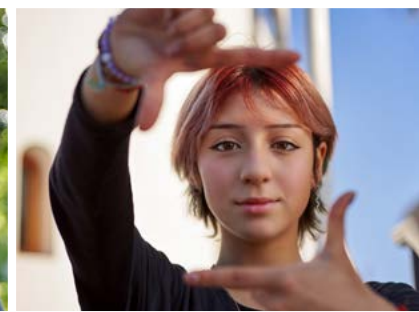




Alliance for
Substance
Addiction
Prevention



2023
2024

Profile of Alcohol & Drug Indicators

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ASAP Active Members 5

ASAP Board of Directors..... 5

Executive Summary 6

Message from Executive Director 7

About Our Coalitions..... 8

Accomplishments and Successes..... 9-13

Data Sources 14

Importance of Monitoring Local Alcohol and Drug Indicators 14

Area Description 15

 Geographic Description of Service Area..... 15

 Transportation..... 16

 Recreation 16

 Demographics of Service Area..... 16

 Culture and Language Among the People We Serve in Our Service Area..... 17

 Prescription Drop Boxes 18

Local Substance Use Data 19

 Youth Substance Use 19

 Adult Substance Use..... 31

Pasco County Community Data..... 34

 Substance Use Treatment Data 34

 Mortality Data..... 35

 Suicide Data 37

 Overdose Data 42

 Unintentional Injuries..... 47

Local Contributing Risk Factors 48

 Mental Health and Substance Use Needs Among the People We Serve 48

 Economic and Social Drivers of Health in Our Service Area Among the People We Serve..... 50

 Poverty and Income 50

 Employment..... 52

 Housing..... 53

 Homelessness 53

 Physical Health and Insurance Coverage..... 54

 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) 54

 Infectious Diseases 55

 Criminal Justice Indicators..... 56

 Juvenile Justice Indicators 57

**Appendix A: Pasco County High School Student Report of Substance Use
by Gender and Number of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)..... 60**

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.	Pasco County City Map	15
Figure 2.	Pasco County Population by Zip Code	15
Figure 2A.	Languages Spoken at Home for Pasco, Florida, and the United States	17
Figure 3.	Language Spoken by Pasco Residents Ages 5 and Over.....	17
Figure 4.	Percent of Students Reporting Past 30-Day Use of Selected Drugs, Pasco and Statewide, 2022.....	19
Figure 5.	Past 30-Day Alcohol Use Pasco County Middle vs. High School, 2014-2022	20
Figure 6.	Pasco County Student Trends in Lifetime Use of Alcohol and Marijuana, 2014-2022	22
Figure 7.	Comparison between Pasco County Middle and High School Reporting Lifetime Use of Selected Drugs, 2022.....	23
Figure 8.	Pasco County High School Student Use of Alcohol, Cigarettes, or Marijuana Before Age 13, 2014-2022.....	24
Figure 9.	Pasco County Student Report of Drug-Related Behavior, 2014-2022.....	25
Figure 10.	Percent of Students Reporting Selling Drugs, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022.....	26
Figure 11.	Percent of Students Reporting Being Drunk or High at School, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022.....	27
Figure 12.	Usual Source of Alcohol within Past 30 Days among High School Drinkers, Pasco and Statewide, 2022	27
Figure 13.	Usual Drinking Location within Past 30 Days among High School Drinkers, Pasco and Statewide, 2022	28
Figure 14.	Pasco County Student Alcohol Trends and Perception Summary, 2014-2022	29
Figure 15.	Pasco County Student Marijuana Trends and Perception Summary, 2014-2022	29
Figure 16.	Percent of Students Reporting Marijuana Use, Peer Perception of Harm, and Riding in a Car or Driving a Car after Driver Uses Marijuana, Pasco and Statewide, 2022	30
Figure 17.	Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Annual Rate, Pasco and Statewide, 2016-2022.....	33
Figure 18.	Pasco County Alcohol-Related Crashes and Injuries, 2018-2022.....	36
Figure 19.	Pasco County Alcohol-Related Fatalities, 2018-2022	36
Figure 20.	Suicide Deaths, Pasco and Statewide, Rate per 100,000 Population, 2012-2022.....	39
Figure 21.	Rates of Suicide by Drug Poisoning, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022	40
Figure 22.	Rates of Suicide by Firearm Discharge, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022	41
Figure 23.	Drug Poisoning Deaths, Single Year Rates, Pasco and Statewide, 2007-2022.....	42
Figure 24.	Pasco Sheriff's Office, Heat Map of 2023 Hot Spot Locations for Overdoses.....	44
Figure 25.	Pasco County Sherriff's Office Data on Overdoses in Pasco, 2019-2023.....	45
Figure 26.	Pasco County Overdoses by Outcome from January 2022 to December 2023	45
Figure 27.	2023 Pasco County Overdoses by Drug	46
Figure 28.	2023 Pasco County Overdoses by Age and Outcome.....	46
Figure 29.	Unintentional Injury Deaths by Drug Poisoning, Single-Year Rates, Pasco and Statewide, 2003-2022.....	47
Figure 30.	2021 Index of Mental Health Needs for Pasco County, by Zip Code	48
Figure 31.	Top 3 Health and Quality of Life Issues Identified in Community Survey	49
Figure 32.	Themes Resulting from Pasco 2022 CHNA Focus Groups.....	49
Figure 33.	Social Determinants of Health	50
Figure 34.	Children Living in Poverty in Pasco, Statewide, and Nationally, 2002-2021	51
Figure 35.	Pasco County Homelessness Count, 2016-2024.....	53
Figure 36.	Pasco County 2022 FYSAS Substance Use Rates for Students with Four or More ACEs.....	54
Figure 37.	2022 FYSAS Pasco and Statewide Data on the Prevalence of Childhood Trauma	55
Figure 38.	Pasco County DUI Arrests by Gender, 2015-2020	56
Figure 39.	Pasco and Statewide Youth Delinquent Behavior in the Past 12 Months, 2022.....	57
Figure 40.	Arrests, by County, for Youth Ages 10-17, Rate per 100,000 of Population Ages 10-17, 2022	58
Figure 41.	Pasco County Involuntary Examinations, FY17/18-22/23	59

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Demographics of Pasco County Service Area, Florida Statewide, and National	16
Table 2.	Location and Affiliation of Medication Drop-Boxes	18
Table 3.	Percent of Students Reporting Past 30-Day Use of Selected Drugs, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022	19
Table 4.	Pasco County Students Reporting Past 30-Day Use of Selected Drugs, Middle and High School, 2014-2022	20
Table 5.	Students Reporting Past 30-Day Use of Vaping/Vaporizer*, Pasco and Statewide, 2020-2022	21
Table 6.	Pasco County Students Reporting Past 30-Day Use of Vaping/Vaporizer*, Middle and High School, 2020-2022	21
Table 7.	Students Reporting Lifetime Use of Selected Drugs, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022	22
Table 8.	Pasco County Students Reporting Lifetime Use of Selected Drugs, Middle and High School, 2020-2022	23
Table 9.	Pasco County and Florida Statewide High School Students Who Started Using Alcohol, Cigarettes, or Marijuana at or Before Age 13, 2014-2022	24
Table 10.	Percent of Pasco County Students Reporting Past 12 Month Drug-Related Behavior, Middle and High School, 2014-2022	25
Table 11.	Percent of Students Reporting Past 12 Month Drug-Related Behavior, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022	26
Table 12.	Middle and High School Student Perception of Harm of Alcohol and Marijuana, Pasco County, 2014-2022	28
Table 13.	FYSAS Prescription Drug Use, by Middle and High School, Pasco and Statewide, 2022	30
Table 14.	Adults who Engage in Heavy or Binge Drinking, Pasco and Statewide, 2002-2019	31
Table 15.	Adults who Engage in Heavy or Binge Drinking, by Gender, Pasco and Statewide, 2002-2019	31
Table 16.	Adult Medical Marijuana Data, November 2024	32
Table 17.	BayCare Behavioral Health Pasco Adult and Youth Treatment Admissions by Primary Drug of Choice, FY21/22-23/24	34
Table 18.	Alcohol-Related Crashes, Injuries, and Fatalities for Pasco and Statewide, 2018-2022	35
Table 19.	Poison Control Calls on Suicide Attempts Using Poisons or Medications in Pasco County by Age Group, 2018-2023	37
Table 20.	Pasco County Deaths by Suicide by Age Group, 2016-2022	38
Table 21.	Suicide Deaths, Pasco and Statewide, Rate per 100,000 Population, 2012-2022	38
Table 22.	Rates of Pasco County Suicides by Drug Poisoning, 2014-2022	39
Table 23.	Rates of Suicide by Firearm Discharge, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022	40
Table 24.	Pasco County Drug-Related Deaths by Lethal and Non-Lethal Levels, 2018-2022	43
Table 25.	Pasco County Median Household Income, 2016-2022	51
Table 26.	Pasco County Percent of Population Below the Poverty Level, 2016-2022	51
Table 27.	Top Pasco County Employers	52
Table 28.	Alcohol- and Drug-Related Offense and Arrest Data, Pasco and Statewide, 2019-2023	56
Table 29.	Percentage of Pasco and Statewide Youth who Reported Involvement in Bullying Behavior, 2014-2022	57
Table 30.	Pasco and Statewide Arrests for Youth Ages 10-17, 2015-2022	57
Table 31.	Pasco County Involuntary Examinations, FY17/18-22/23	59
Table 32.	Pasco County High School Student Report of Alcohol Use by Gender and Number of ACEs	60
Table 33.	Pasco County High School Student Report of Marijuana Use by Gender and Number of ACEs	61
Table 34.	Pasco County High School Student Report of Other Illicit Drug Use by Gender and Number of ACEs	62

ASAP ACTIVE MEMBERS

The Alliance for Substance Addiction Prevention could not fulfill its mission without the dedication and commitment of a talented and diverse group of individuals, representing various sectors in our community. Our coalition is driven by a shared passion for preventing substance use and creating healthier, more resilient communities. Each member brings unique perspectives, skills, and expertise that are vital to our success in addressing addiction and promoting recovery.

Together, we work tirelessly to implement evidence-based strategies, raise awareness, and foster collaboration across sectors, ensuring that our efforts have a lasting impact. It is through the combined strength of our coalition members that we are able to create meaningful change and build a future where individuals and families can thrive free from the harms of substance misuse.

6th Judicial Court	Morton Plant North Bay	Public Defenders Office
ABC Action News	Nar-Anon/Nar-Ateen	Saint Leo University
ACE Opportunities	Narcotics Anonymous	Sequel Care
Al-Anon/Al-Ateen	New Port Richey City Council	STAND Youth
Alcoholics Anonymous	New Port Richey Library	Staywell
April's Spring Cleaning	New Port Richey Police Department	Sunrise
BayCare Behavioral Health	Office of Congressman Bilirakis	Tampa Bay Times
Calvary Chapel	Operation PAR	The Hope Shot
Department of Children and Families	PACE Center for Girls	Trinity Church of Christ
Department of Health, Pasco County	Pasco County Board of County	United Way of Pasco County
Department of Juvenile Justice	Commission	University of South Florida
DUI School	Pasco County Clerk and Comptroller	Vincent House
Groups Recover Together	Pasco County Property Appraiser	West Pasco Chamber of Commerce
Gulf Coast North AHEC	Pasco County Tax Collector	Windmoor Healthcare
HCA Health Systems	Pasco Hernando State College	WTOGTV-CW44
Healthy Families	Pasco Kids First	Youth and Family Alternatives
Healthy Start Pasco	Pasco Sheriff's Office	Spectrum
MADD Pasco	Poison Control	
Metro Ministries	Premier Community Health	

ASAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Alliance for Healthy Communities could not fulfill its mission without the dedication and commitment of a talented and diverse Board of Directors. We are grateful for the steadfast leadership and collaboration with the following individuals.

- Christine Parris, President- BayCare Behavioral Health
- Kelly Mothershead, Vice President – Deputy Mayor of New Port Richey, Realtor/Team Owner of Kelly's Home Team with Keller Williams Realty
- Billy Major, Secretary – Pasco Sheriff's Office
- Colleen Beaudoin, Treasurer – School Board of Pasco County
- Tracey Kaly, Past Chair – BayCare Behavioral Health
- Joseph Resnick – Premier Community Healthcare
- Dr. Eddie Williams – Pasco Hernando State College
- Captain Toni Roach – Pasco Sheriff's office
- Trang Chitakone – Department of Health, Pasco County
- Art Rowand – Faith Community and Retired Law Enforcement
- Cesar Rodriguez- Recovery Community
- Mike Wells, Pasco County Property Appraiser and former County Commissioner
- Elizabeth Statzer – Vincent House
- Melissa Reid - Department of Juvenile Justice

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2023-2024 Indicator Report for Pasco County reflects a journey of growth, resilience, and collaboration within our community. It has been several years since our last Indicator Report, and during this time, we have made significant strides in sustaining substance misuse prevention and supporting recovery efforts. This report is produced in conjunction with researchers from the University of South Florida to identify root causes of substance misuse, drug use trends, and to evaluate our effectiveness as a coalition in Pasco County. This data is the foundation for the Strategic Prevention Framework and serves as a tool to assess community needs, evaluate the coalition's efforts, and showcase the hard work and dedication of our coalition members, partners, and community stakeholders.

The Alliance for Healthy Communities (AHC) was established as a nonprofit organization in 2019 to house both the Alliance for Substance Addiction Prevention (ASAP) Coalition and the STAND Youth Coalition, further cementing our commitment to creating a healthier Pasco County. Over the last five years, through collaboration, vision, and determination of our board of directors and volunteers, we have achieved significant milestones including:

- Securing funding through BayCare, United Way, the County's Opioid Task Force and a federal appropriation through Congressman's Bilirakis' office.
- Being the first in our region to host our first Walk for Recovery to break down stigma and show that Recovery is possible in 2021. These walks continue to build momentum and traction annually.
- Sending youth to Tallahassee for Advocacy Day since 2021 to inform decision makers on current trends and prevention priorities.
- Opening the All Ways Center with the Pasco County Recovery Community Organization (RCO) The Hope Shot in 2024 is one of our crowing achievements. It is the county's first Prevention and Recovery Resource Center in 2024.

In addition, we have grown our team, hiring passionate and skilled staff who have been instrumental in continuing the momentum around making data driven decisions for community level change. While much progress has been made, we remain acutely aware of the work still to be done. This report serves as both a reflection of our accomplishments and a call to action to address the challenges that lie ahead.

Key Findings:

1. Youth Substance Use:

- Alcohol use by Pasco County youth has decreased by 35% over the last 8 years. Binge drinking has decreased by 38%, marijuana use decreased by 38% and prescription pain reliever misuse has decreased by 84%
- While vaping among high school students decreased from 2020 to 2022, middle school students saw a rise in vaping marijuana.

2. Adult Substance Use:

- Widespread use of Narcan has led to a reduction in overdose reporting and deaths.
- Opioid related emergency department visits in Pasco County have decreased since 2021.
- Fentanyl, amphetamines, and methamphetamines rates of overdoses continue to increase.

5. Prevention and Treatment:

- Utilization of medication drop boxes has helped reduce prescription misuse.
- Behavioral health treatment admissions have highlighted the growing need for targeted interventions, especially concerning opioids and alcohol.

A Message of Gratitude and Hope

This report reflects not just data, but the stories of real people and families—our neighbors, friends, and loved ones—who are affected by substance misuse. It highlights the progress we've made together and the challenges we must continue to face with courage and collaboration. At Alliance for Healthy Communities, we are inspired daily by the resilience of our community and the unwavering commitment of our partners. Together, we can continue to make meaningful strides toward a brighter future for Pasco County.



**TO GET
TO
ALCOHOL**

**TEENS
HAVE
TO GET**

**THROUGH
US**



Our Coalitions

www.EmpoweredCommunities.org

Alliance for Healthy Communities (AHC) is a convener, collector, conduit, and catalyst for change. Multi-agency collaboration and coordination is at the heart of AHC. We are a group of community members working toward a common goal; joining skills and resources to address community needs and focus on local issues to produce change. These changes improve overall health and well-being in our rapidly growing county, utilizing evidence-based and data driven environmental strategies, to improve sustainability and outcomes. We aim to improve the relationship between individual members and organizations to reduce barriers, enhance access, and strengthen the community as a whole; thereby creating conditions for all people to enjoy true health and experience physical, mental and social health. For more information and how to get involved, go to www.empoweredcommunities.org



ASAP is our coalition that coordinates efforts to reduce county-wide risk factors for addiction, thereby preventing and decreasing substance misuse in a comprehensive and long-term manner that primarily impacts the youth in the community.



STAND Above the Influence is our youth led coalition that empowers youth to be agents of change by strengthening their voices and educating others to build a healthier community.



Alliance for Healthy Communities (AHC) was built from the successes of our two coalitions, **Alliance for Substance Addiction Prevention (ASAP)** & **STAND Above the Influence**, for sustainability, continued growth, and expansion. AHC's mission is to improve the health in our communities through cross-sector partnerships and programs



SAFE Suicide Awareness: Find Empowerment is Pasco County's Suicide Prevention Coalition. SAFE is focused on educating and connecting the community to the resources they need with the goal of reducing the suicide rate in Pasco County.



OUR APPROACH

Utilizing the Strategic Prevention Framework, we assess the needs of the community and account for community readiness. We aim to reduce barriers and create opportunities for high-risk populations by developing plans and putting them into action, building upon success where possible. We deliver evidence based interventions as needed and examine the process and outcomes of interventions.

- Provide Information
- Reduce Barriers and Enhance Access
- Enhance Skills
- Provide Support
- Change Consequences
- Change Physical Design
- Modify Policy

QUARTER 1 | SUCCESSES

(Jan, Feb, March)

■ Converse with a Nurse

Substance Exposed Newborn (SEN) Committee facilitated the Converse with a Nurse series on Wednesdays for the entire quarter.

■ Overdose Crisis Awareness

ASAP assisted in sharing spike alert messages on social media, ensuring timely and widespread awareness of the overdose crisis in the county.

■ Annual Community Survey

ASAP Participated in the annual community survey.

■ FASAP in the news with media story on Fox 13

ASAP story on Fox 13, highlighting partnership with Pasco Fire and Rescue.

■ CADCA National Summit

ASAP Coalition Members participated in CADCA National Summit to learn preventions strategies to bring back to Pasco County.

■ Community Focus Group with USF

ASAP partnered with University of South Florida and held a Community Focus Group to discuss the strengths, potential gaps, perceptions, attitudes and future opportunities in prevention and treatment across Pasco County.

■ National Prevention Summit

ASAP attended the National Prevention Summit, which focused on strategies and initiatives to combat substance misuse and promote public health. The summit provided a platform for sharing best practices and innovative approaches to prevention efforts nationwide.

■ Youth Night Out at Spin Nations

AHC hosted a free event to the community youth at Spin Nations with the intention to build community connectedness and reduce barriers to prosocial activities for youth. Over 40 youth attended.

■ Enhanced Partnership

AHC joined forces with Pasco Fire and Rescue providing Deterra bags free to the community at every fire station in the county.

■ International Women's Day

ASAP attended the International Women's Day event in Pasco County celebrating the achievements and contributions of women in the community. The event highlighted various initiatives aimed at empowering women and promoting gender equality.

QUARTER 2 | SUCCESSES

(April, May, June)

■ Strategic Prevention Framework Training

AHC hosted a Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) training for community with 25 attendees learning about prevention strategies to bring back to their organizations.

■ National Opioid and RX Summit

AHC attended the National Opioid and RX summit in Atlanta, GA. Several ASAP Coalition members brought back materials to put to practical application in Pasco, including Harm Reduction Vending Machines and fentanyl test strips.

■ Alcohol Awareness Month

ASAP in collaboration with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) received an Alcohol Awareness Proclamation from the City of New Port Richey, declaring April as Alcohol Awareness Month.

QUARTER 2 | SUCCESSES

(April, May, June)

(Continued)

- **4th Annual Opioid Town Hall**

ASAP's Opioid Committee hosted their annual Town Hall Event "Prioritizing Community Voices" at Starkey Ranch Theatre Library.

- **DEA Take Back**

ASAP Participated in the DEA Takeback Event in collaboration with Pasco Sheriff's office, collecting 279 pounds of unused medications.

- **Youth Night Out**

AHC hosted their second family fun Youth Night Out at Main Event in Wesley Chapel Florida, free to the community.

- **Fentanyl Community Awareness**

AHC began dispensing fentanyl test strips to community, working closely with Pasco County Fire Rescue to get harm reduction modalities into the hands of all post-overdose survivors and community members.

- **SEN Committee Honored**

ASAP's Substance Exposed Newborn Committee received a Resolution from Pasco County Board of County Commission honoring National Alcohol and Other Drug-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week In Pasco County.

- **Marjorie's Hope lunch**

ASAP Members attended and supported Marjorie's Hope lunch in New Port Richey.

- **Converse with a Nurse**

Sen Committee facilitated the Converse with a Nurse series on Wednesdays for the entire quarter.

QUARTER 3 | SUCCESSES

July, Aug, Sept

- **Blossom Bags Delivery To Local Hospitals**

SEN committee delivered 150 Blossom Bags to local hospital NICUS in Pasco County, providing essential items and support to families with newborns in intensive care. This initiative aims to offer comfort and resources to parents during a challenging time, enhancing their ability to care for their infants.

- **Bayside Media**

AHC Board Member Kelly Mothershead went on Bayside Media to discuss AHC and its initiatives and upcoming events.

- **Youth Night Out Bowling**

AHC hosted two free family fun Youth Night Out bowling events in Zephyrhills and in Port Richey with 85 in attendance.

- **Strengthening our Communities Conference**

ASAP hosted its Annual Strengthening our Communities Conference with Lamar Odom as Keynote Speaker and over 300 in attendance at Grace Family Church in Lutz, FL. Attendees experienced networking, keynote speakers and break out sessions with information on substance use prevention, mental health and recovery initiatives.

- **Overdose Awareness Month**

August was officially declared Overdose Awareness Month in Pasco County. ASAP worked with Pasco County to receive a Resolution in honor of the day.

QUARTER 3 | SUCCESSES

July, Aug, Sept

(Continued)

- **All Ways Center Opening**

The All Ways Center had their soft opening in New Port Richey. AHC worked with The Hope Shot to open the first ever Prevention and Recovery Resource Center to serve our community on both sides of the treatment system of care. With Prevention and Recovery efforts working together, we can lessen the burden on the treatment system and keep people healthy.

- **National Recovery Month**

ASAP took part in National Recovery Month initiatives and campaigns to alleviate stigma associated with substance use disorder.

- **National Recovery Month Resolution**

ASAP received two Resolutions from both New Port Richey City Council and Pasco County Board of County Commission declaring September as National Recovery Month in Pasco County.

- **4th Annual Stronger Together Recovery Walk**

ASAP Hosted it's Fourth Annual Stronger Together Recovery Walk, our largest yet, with over 1000 in attendance at Sims Park in New Port Richey.

- **Hurricane Assistance**

Hurricane Helene hit our community and AHC worked with The Hope Shot to turn the All Ways Center into a Hurricane Comfort Center, assisting the community with needs after the disaster.

QUARTER 4 | SUCCESSES

Oct, Nov, Dec

- **Hurricane Comfort Center/All Ways Center**

Working together with our local decision makers and community partners, efforts continued with the Hurricane Comfort Center at the All Ways Center. The center distributed more than \$30,000 worth of materials to the community where it was most in need. The All Ways Center is the only hurricane support center in Pasco to also offer mental health, recovery and prevention supports to hurricane survivors.

- **Hurricane Support Group**

A support group for hurricane survivors began at the center, called "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

- **AHC Annual Brunch**

The AHC Annual Brunch took place on December 5th, bringing community partners and others together to celebrate our year!



STAND ABOVE THE INFLUENCE

QUARTER 1 | SUCCESSES

Jan, Feb, March

- “Clear the Air” Vaping Contest**
 STAND Above the Influence recently held a “Clear the Air” Vaping Contest, inviting students to create 30-second Public Service Announcements (PSAs) focused on vaping prevention. This youth-led initiative aims to empower young people to educate their peers about the dangers of vaping and promote a healthier community.
- STAND attended Advocacy Day**
 STAND STAND youth and the advisors participated in Advocacy Day in Tallahassee. The youth met with 4 legislators and their staff.



QUARTER 2 | SUCCESSES

April, May, June

- Night Vision Presentation**
 STAND in collaboration with the Florida National Guard hosted a Night Vision presentation. The interactive session aims to build resilience among youth by addressing the dangers of alcohol, prescription drugs, marijuana, and tobacco.
- Focus Group Participation**
 STAND Youth Participated in Focus Group hosted by USF’s Kathleen Moore.
- Selah Freedom Presentation**
 Selah Freedom provided a presentation geared to teen online safety.
- AHC Support**
 STAND contributed resources to AHC’s Pasco County Youth Night events at Spin Nations, the Main Event, Pin Chasers, and Lane Glo, and promotional materials.



QUARTER 3 | SUCCESSES

July, Aug, Sept

- **Annual Youth Summit**

STAND hosted their Annual Youth Summit at Pasco Hernando State College West Campus with 80 youth attending, learning advocacy and team building skills to better their communities.

- **Youth Panel Participation**

STAND Youth actively participated in a youth panel during the ASAP Strengthening Our Communities Conference. Utilizing their advocacy skills, they addressed critical questions concerning issues that affect young people in the community today.

- **Recovery Walk**

STAND Youth actively participated in the ASAP Recovery Walk event, demonstrating their leadership skills by offering valuable resources at the STAND information table.

- **Engaging In Events**

STAND Advisors have been diligently promoting STAND at various tabling events, including those held at Zephyrhills Park, the Back to School Bash at Hudson Middle School, and Chasco Middle School's Fall Festival.

QUARTER 4 | SUCCESSES

Oct, Nov, Dec

- **Red Ribbon Week**

STAND actively participated in a social media campaign for Red Ribbon Week, spreading awareness about the importance of living a drug-free life.

- **Engaging In Events**

STAND Youth and Advisor have continued to diligently promote STAND at various tabling events throughout the county.

ALL QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Pasco County Schools Involment**

STAND is proud to be highlighted in the Pasco County Schools Post as a valued partner and received an invitation to participate in the Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Additionally, one of the STAND youths was featured in the Pasco County Schools Public Service Announcement.

- **Fundraising Initiatives**

STAND Youth Coalition is engaging in various fundraising initiatives, including the STAND Anti-Vaping T-shirts and an upcoming Pancake Breakfast scheduled for December.

- **Promising Opportunities**

STAND Youth, STAND Coordinator, and STAND Advisors are optimistic about the promising opportunities that await this remarkable coalition of new STAND youth involved this year!



DATA SOURCES

This report describes alcohol and drug trends and trends in risk factors and behaviors that contribute to alcohol and drug use in Pasco County. Data sources from both public and internal sources were utilized to prepare the information contained in this report. Where possible, longitudinal statistics are provided that include the most recent data available.

Much information in this report was extracted from Pasco County's "Community Health Needs Assessment" (CHNA) that was recently completed in 2022. The CHNA was a collaborative effort that integrated numerous data sources from several local hospitals and community partners serving Pasco County.

The data sources below served as the primary resources:

- BayCare Behavioral Health
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)
- District 6 Medical Examiner's Office
- Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)
- Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Florida Department of Health (DOH)
- Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FDHSMV)
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)
- Florida Office of Vital Statistics
- Florida Poison Control
- Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS)
- Pasco County Community Health Needs Assessment, 2022
- Uniform Crime Report (UCR)

IMPORTANCE OF MONITORING LOCAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG INDICATORS

Indicator reports are critical to understanding the scope of alcohol and drug use and their related problems. Not only do these reports assist with outlining key data that aims with program planning and community awareness, but they also help to demonstrate the impact of initiatives and efforts to address issues overtime. Organizations and community leaders can use indicator report data to identify the most prevalence substance use challenges in the region, serve as the catalyst for targeted prevention and treatment strategies, and to evaluate the impact of policies and programs. The information contained in this report outlines adolescent and adult alcohol and drug use indicators and indicators that contribute to alcohol and drug use risk. Where possible, data is compared to state averages and displayed over a period of time to identify trends and emerging issues.

This report is organized by first summarizing direct drug and alcohol indicators that demonstrate the prevalence of alcohol and drug use among adolescents and adults in Pasco County. It is then organized by contributing risk factors that have been found to influence or exacerbate alcohol and drug use, including criminal and juvenile justice, trauma, and other behavioral health indicators. All data is presented through the use of tables, figures and maps with emphasis on key data points summarized under the heading of "Key Considerations" after each section.

AREA DESCRIPTION

Geographic Description of Service Area

Located on the Gulf of Mexico, Pasco comprises 747 square miles of rural and urban land located 35 miles north of Tampa, Florida. The County contains six municipalities: New Port Richey, Port Richey, San Antonio, Dade City, Zephyrhills and St. Leo. Within the County, there are also several unincorporated and census-designated places including Wesley Chapel, Land O' Lakes, Hudson, and Trinity. Pasco County is a transitioning community with no tribal areas or federally targeted areas. Geographic features historically define human habitation processes as well as economic progress. The environment plays a key role in Pasco County's identity. The county is part of a nine-county region referred to as the "Nature Coast," due to its 24 miles of coastline, more than 100 square miles of managed recreational facilities, parks, four artificial reefs, more than 25 golf courses, and three state-designated canoe trails. Half of the county's land areas are for recreation/open space or agricultural and water uses, and only 20% of the land area is used for residential purposes.

The divide between states, counties, municipalities and even neighborhoods can be broad, encompassing varying levels of education, diversity, economic and health prosperity, crime, and more. Such is the case with Pasco County, which is home to many cities and towns with varying socioeconomic statuses including but not limited to New Port Richey, Port Richey, San Antonio, Dade City, Zephyrhills, and St. Leo. **Figure 1** is a map of the county showing the cities within it. Within the county, there are also several unincorporated and census-designated places including Wesley Chapel, Land O' Lakes, Hudson, and Trinity. With many areas to live, the population estimate continues to increase with a current estimated population of 608,794, an 8.3% increase since 2020.¹

Figure 2 shows the population size by each ZIP code, with the darkest blue representing the ZIP codes with the largest population. The most populated ZIP code area within Pasco County is ZIP code 34655 (New Port Richey) with a population of 48,493.

Figure 1. Pasco County City Map

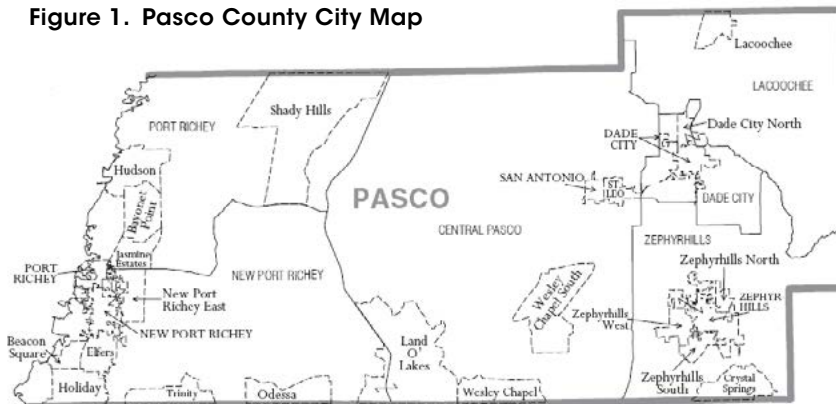
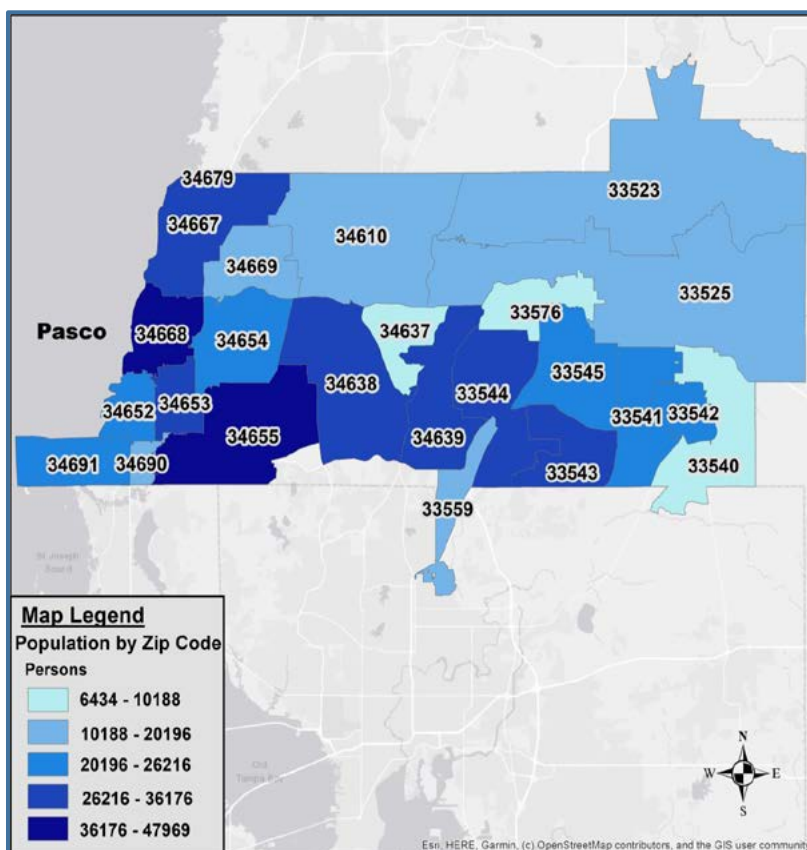


Figure 2. Pasco County Population by ZIP Code



¹U.S. Census Bureau, 2022. Retrieved at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/pascocountyflorida>

Transportation

Pasco County is very large geographically, as it encompasses over 700 square miles of land. Given Pasco’s large size and high rates of extreme poverty and uninsured individuals, there is clearly a great need for a reliable public transportation system to facilitate resident access to local Federally Qualified Health Centers, health department locations, and other social service providers. Pasco County Public Transportation provides bus services in East Pasco that services Dade City (pop. 7,393) and Zephyrhills (pop. 18,154). Pasco County Public Transportation also uses buses to service West Pasco which includes Hudson (pop. 11,243) and Holiday (pop. 21,006), and it serves as a connection to Pinellas County. Although public transportation does exist in Pasco, it does not adequately cover the County’s more than 700 square miles of land. Transportation has consistently been a concern among Pasco residents, especially those traveling from East to West.²

Recreation

Living up to its title as part of Florida’s “Nature Coast,” Pasco County has over 64,000 acres of parks, trails, and recreational activities. Popular parks include Hudson Beach, Green Key Beach, Sun west Park, and Jay Starkey Wilderness Park which covers over 12,000 acres and has a variety of nature trails and camping options. Starkey Park also has a 7.3-mile trail that connects to the Suncoast Trail, which is a 42-mile trail stretching through Pasco and into neighboring counties. Pasco County also has three state-designated canoe trails. The Parks and Recreation Department and the city government host a variety of events and festivals throughout the year, with events and festivals like Scream Acres, Chasco Fiesta, and the Kumquat Festival annually drawing thousands of people from within and outside of Florida to Pasco.

In addition to publicly sponsored activities, several industries are investing in local culture and recreational opportunities. Pasco County has recently opened an ice-skating rink, wakeboarding beach, high ropes course, trampoline parks, and 2020 welcomed Florida’s first and only Alpine Snow Park, Snowcat Ridge, in the northeast section of the county. There is a strong biking, walking, and kayaking culture being promoted by local small businesses and public agencies alike. Both east and west Pasco have shopping malls and plazas. All these recreational opportunities are designed both to serve our community and attract visitors.

Demographics of Service Area

Pasco County is the 11th most populous of Florida’s 67 counties. **Table 1** presents key demographics for Pasco County, Florida Statewide, and the nation overall. Pasco County’s four largest ethnic groups are White (85.42%), Hispanic/Latino (18.9%), Black/African American (7.7%), and Asian (3.5%). Seventeen percent of Pasco residents older than 5 spoke a language other than English at home, and 11% of all residents were foreign-born between 2018 and 2022.³ The County is a slight majority female (51.4%), with a median age of 44.3¹. Pasco County’s youth population is on par with the state average, with approximately 20.1% of the population being under the age of 18.⁴ The senior population, aged 65+, accounts for 22.1% of Pasco County residents. Population growth within Pasco County is 2% per year with a median age of forty-four and a median household income of \$63,187.

Table 1. Demographics of Pasco County Service Area, Florida Statewide, and National

Measure	Pasco County	Florida Statewide	U.S.	Data Source
Race / Ethnicity				
White / Caucasian	85.4%	76.8%	75.5%	US Census QuickFacts
Black / African American	7.7%	17.0%	13.6%	US Census QuickFacts
American Indian / Alaskan Native	0.5%	0.5%	1.3%	US Census QuickFacts
Asian	3.5%	3.1%	6.3%	US Census QuickFacts
Hispanic / Latino	18.9%	27.1%	19.1%	US Census QuickFacts
2 or More Races	2.7%	2.4%	3.0%	US Census QuickFacts
Age				
Children Under 5	4.8%	5.0%	5.6%	US Census QuickFacts
Children Under 18	20.1%	19.3%	21.7%	US Census QuickFacts
Adults 18 and Over	79.9%	79.7%	78.3%	US Census Reporter
Older Adults (65 and Over)	22.1%	21.6%	17.3%	US Census QuickFacts
Gender: Female	51.0%	50.8%	50.4%	US Census QuickFacts
Veteran Status	9.2%	7.4%	6.2%	US Census Reporter

² Pasco County Public Transportation (2023). Routes and Schedules. Retrieved from: https://www.pascocountyfl.net/services/gopasco/bus_routes/index.php

³ US Census Bureau. Retrieved 2024 at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/pascocountyflorida>

⁴ US Census QuickFacts. Retrieved 2024 at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/pascocountyflorida>

The county's education system is comprised of 16 charter schools, 52 elementary schools, 19 middle schools and 19 high schools as well as Pasco e-school for K-12.⁵ While a large majority (89.5%) of people aged 25 and older are high school graduates, less than one quarter (24%) hold their bachelor's degree or higher. Other key local characteristics include: 12% are living in poverty; 13% are under age 65 with no health insurance; 10% of households are female single parent; and 8% are Veterans (US Census, 2021). Local statistics describing sexual orientation and gender identity identified through a review of 2023 BayCare Behavioral Health client records are like those of Florida's statewide rates of individuals over eighteen who reported identifying as LGBT (7.6%) and non-LGBT (85%; Household Pulse Survey US Census, 2021).

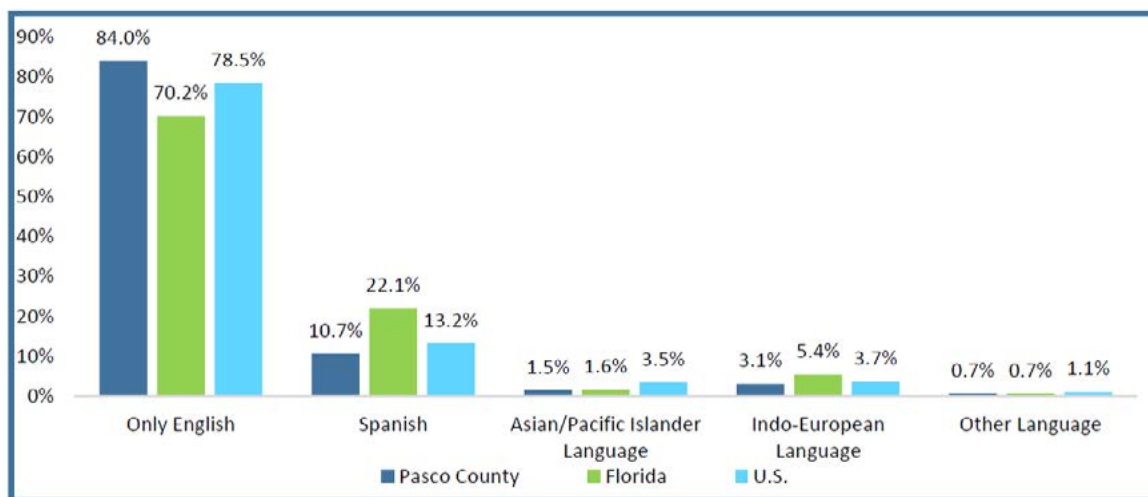
Recent data indicate that Pasco County has disparities regarding age and income of those seeking, but unable to access mental health treatment in the community (Pasco County Community Health Needs Assessment, 2022).

Culture and Language Among the People We Serve in Our Service Area

Understanding countries of origin and language spoken at home can help inform the cultural and linguistic context for the health and public health system. Census estimates from 2023 indicate that 17% of Pasco residents aged 5 and older spoke a language other than English at home, and 11% of all Pasco residents were foreign-born between 2018 and 2022.⁶ Findings from the American Community Survey revealed a similar rate of Pasco County residents are born outside the United States (10.3%), which is slightly lower than the national value of (13.5%).⁷

Figure 2A presents information on the languages spoken at home for Pasco, Florida statewide, and the nation. In Pasco County (84%) of the population age five and older speak only English at home, which is higher than both the state (70.2%) and national (78.5%) values. This data indicates that (10.7%) of the population in Pasco County speak Spanish, lower than the state and national averages.

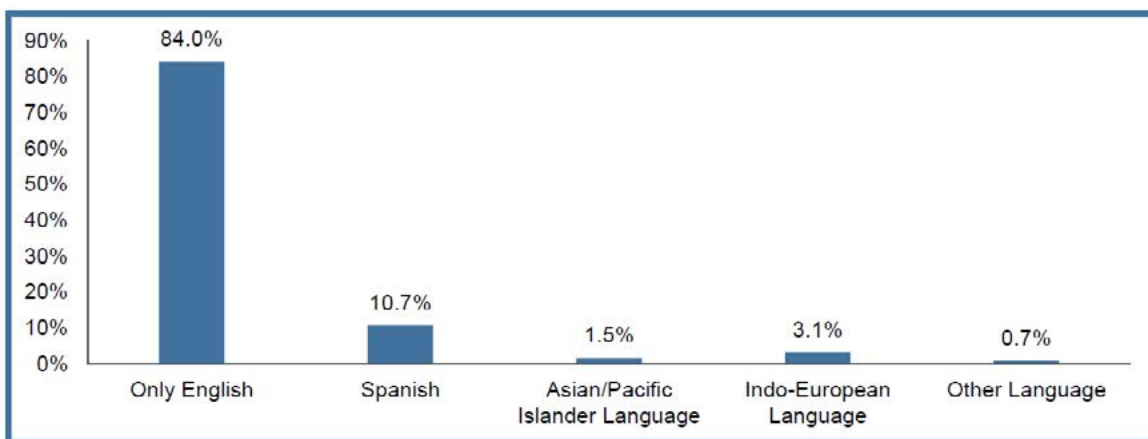
Figure 2A.
Languages Spoken at Home for Pasco, Florida, and the United State



*County and state values- Claritas Pop-Facts® (2022 population estimates), U.S. values taken from American Community Survey five-year (2016-2020) estimates

Figure 3 presents data on the languages most spoken in Pasco County homes. English (84%) is the most common language, followed by Spanish (10.7%) and Indo-European languages (3.1%) such as French, Portuguese, Russian and Dutch.⁸

Figure 3.
Language Spoken by Pasco Residents Ages 5 and Over



*County values- Claritas Pop-Facts® (2022 population estimates)

⁵ Pasco County Schools, 2023. Retrieved at <http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/>

⁶ US Census Bureau. Retrieved 2024 at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/pascocountyflorida>

⁷ American Community Survey, 2016-2020

⁸ United States Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/language-use/about.html>

PRESCRIPTION DROP BOXES

Prescription Drop Boxes are an evidence-based prevention strategy to reduce the misuse of unused medications. Drop box locations are often found affiliated with pharmacies or law enforcement offices and provide opportunities for people to dispose of unused or expired medications. These drop boxes also serve to educate individuals about the risk of prescription medication misuse and promote available resources for individuals seeking help.

Table 2. Location and Affiliation of Medication Drop-Boxes

Organization	Location	Affiliation
Pasco Sheriff's Office	New Port Richey	Law enforcement
New Port Richey Police Department	New Port Richey	Law enforcement
Pasco Sheriff's Office	Trinity	Law enforcement
Pasco Detention Center*	Land O'Lakes	Law enforcement
Pasco Sheriff's Office	Wesley Chapel	Law enforcement
Dade City Police Department	Dade City	Law enforcement

*Currently closed due to COVID 19 restrictions

MEDICATION DISPOSAL PROGRAM DRIVE IN. DROP OFF. DRIVE AWAY. NO QUESTIONS.

Too often, unused prescription drugs find their way into the wrong hands. The 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

PROPER DISPOSAL OF LEFTOVER OR EXPIRED MEDICATIONS HELPS PREVENT ADDICTION

MORE WAYS TO DISPOSE:

Deactivate: Use a drug deactivation packet to safely dispose of medications at home.

Email: asap@empoweredcommunities.org for information on how to get a FREE pouch!

Take Back: Take back to one of the two semi-annual DEA National Take Back Events, every April & October.

ACCEPTED

- Prescription
- Over-the-Counter Medications
- Vitamins
- Veterinary Medications
- Ointments
- Lotions
- Samples

NOT ACCEPTED

- Needles/Sharps
- Liquids
- Bloody or Infectious Waste
- Thermometers
- Hydrogen Peroxide

To find additional locations near you, visit: <https://safe.pharmacy/drug-disposal/>

MEDICATION DISPOSAL PROGRAM DROP BOX LOCATIONS

West Pasco

Pasco Sheriff's Office
Hours: M-F 6am-5pm
(727) 847-5878
7432 Little Rd.
New Port Richey

New Port Richey Police Dept.
Hours: M-F 8am-5pm
(727) 816-1131
6739 Adams St.
New Port Richey

Central Pasco

Pasco Sheriff's Office
Hours: M-F 8am-5pm
(727) 372-5920
11530 Trinity Blvd.
Trinity

East Pasco

Shops at Wiregrass
Pasco Sheriff's Office Substation
Hours: T-F 10:30am-9pm
(813) 994-3845
28081 Paseo Dr.
Wesley Chapel

Pasco Sheriff's Office
Hours: M-F 9am-5pm
(727) 844-7764
36409 State Road 52
Dade City

Dade City Police Dept.
Hours: 24/7
(352) 521-1495
38042 Pasco Ave.
Dade City

SHARPS DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Visit any of the sponsoring hospitals and Institutions to obtain a red "Sharps" container. Once the container is filled, it is sealed and returned to the same location and can be exchanged for a new one.

DROP BOX LOCATIONS

West Pasco

Trinity Medical Center
Emergency Room
Hours: M-F 8am-6pm
9330 SR54
Trinity, FL 34654

Morton Plant Northbay
Medical Arts Bldg/Laboratory
Hours: M-F 7:30am-3:30pm
6600 Madison St.
New Port Richey, FL 34652

Suncoast Eye Center
Surgery Center (back of bldg.)
Hours: M-F 7:30am-3:30pm
14003 Lakeshore Blvd.
Hudson, FL 34667

Regional Medical Center
Bayonet Point - Emergency Room
Hours: M-F 8am-6pm
14100 Fivay Rd.
Hudson, FL 34667

East Pasco

Advent Health - Zephyrhills
Outpatient Information Desk
Hours: M-F 8am-5pm
7050 Gall Blvd.
Zephyrhills, FL 33541

Advent Health - Dade City
Main Entrance Information Desk
Hours: M-F 8am-5pm
13100 Ft. King Rd.
Dade City, FL 33525

LOCAL SUBSTANCE USE DATA

Youth and adult substance misuse is a serious public health challenge. It includes the use of illegal drugs and inappropriate use of legal substances, such as alcohol and tobacco. Substance misuse is linked to increased risk of injury, premature death, involvement with the criminal justice system, and exacerbated mental health conditions. Untreated misuse can lead to substance use disorders and have cross cutting impacts on individuals, families, and communities. Substance use disorder and substance misuse can be prevented with education, early intervention, and access to treatment and other supports when use becomes a problem.

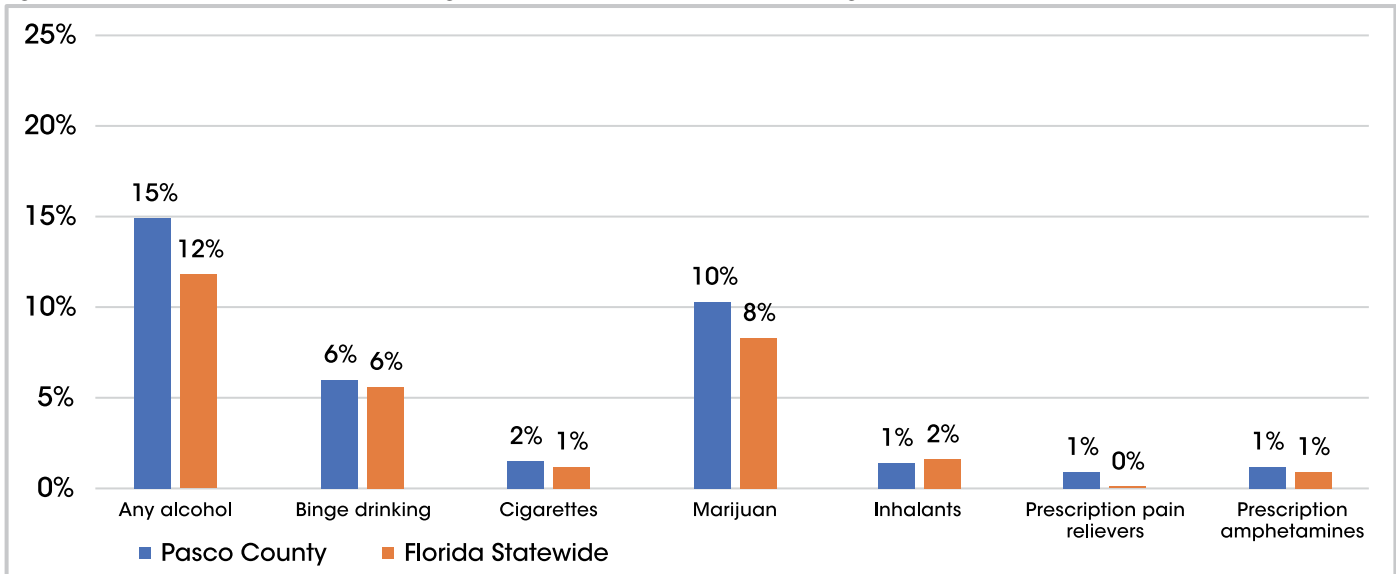
Youth Substance Use Data

The School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) System tracks crime, violence, and disruptive behaviors that occur on school grounds, on school transportation, or during school-sponsored events. According to recent 2022-2023 SESIR data, a significant proportion of Pasco County incidents reported to law enforcement were related to drugs (18%) or alcohol (30%).

Table 3. Percent of Students Reporting Past 30-Day Use of Selected Drugs, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022

Drug Type	Pasco County					Florida Statewide				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Any Alcohol	21.3%	20.2%	16.5%	17.7%	14.9%	20.5%	18.3%	15.3%	14.8%	11.8%
Binge drinking	8.8%	7.3%	6.2%	6.7%	6.0%	9.5%	7.7%	6.8%	6.7%	5.6%
Cigarettes	5.2%	4.8%	2.8%	1.6%	1.5%	4.9%	3.4%	2.5%	1.8%	1.2%
Marijuana	13.6%	12.5%	12.0%	10.9%	10.3%	12.4%	11.2%	10.9%	10.7%	8.3%
Inhalants	2.2%	1.0%	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%	2.1%	1.6%	1.8%	1.9%	1.6%
Prescription pain relievers	2.2%	2.2%	1.1%	0.9%	0.9%	2.1%	1.8%	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%
Prescription amphetamines	0.5%	1.3%	0.8%	1.7%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	0.8%	1.1%	0.9%
Any illicit drug	17.8%	16.3%	15.1%	14.2%	14.3%	16.4%	14.7%	14.3%	14.8%	12.3%
Any illicit except marijuana	7.6%	7.6%	5.6%	4.8%	5.9%	7.5%	6.8%	5.8%	5.5%	4.7%
Alcohol or any illicit drug	28.7%	26.6%	23.0%	24.6%	21.6%	27.0%	24.3%	22.0%	22.3%	18.5%

Figure 4. Percent of Students Reporting Past 30-Day Use of Selected Drugs, Pasco and Statewide, 2022



Key Considerations:

Between 2014 and 2022, the percentage reporting past 30-day alcohol, binge drinking, cigarettes, marijuana, inhalant use, and prescription pain relievers decreased for both Pasco County and Florida Statewide students:

- Alcohol use: 35% decrease (Pasco County) and 54% decrease (Florida Statewide)
- Binge drinking use: 38% decrease (Pasco County) and 52% decrease (Florida Statewide)
- Cigarette use: 110% decrease (Pasco County) and 121% decrease (Florida Statewide)
- Marijuana use: 28% decrease (Pasco County) and 40% decrease (Florida Statewide)
- Inhalant use: 44% decrease (Pasco County) and 27% decrease (Florida Statewide)
- Prescription pain relievers: 84% decrease (Pasco County) and 71% decrease (Florida Statewide)

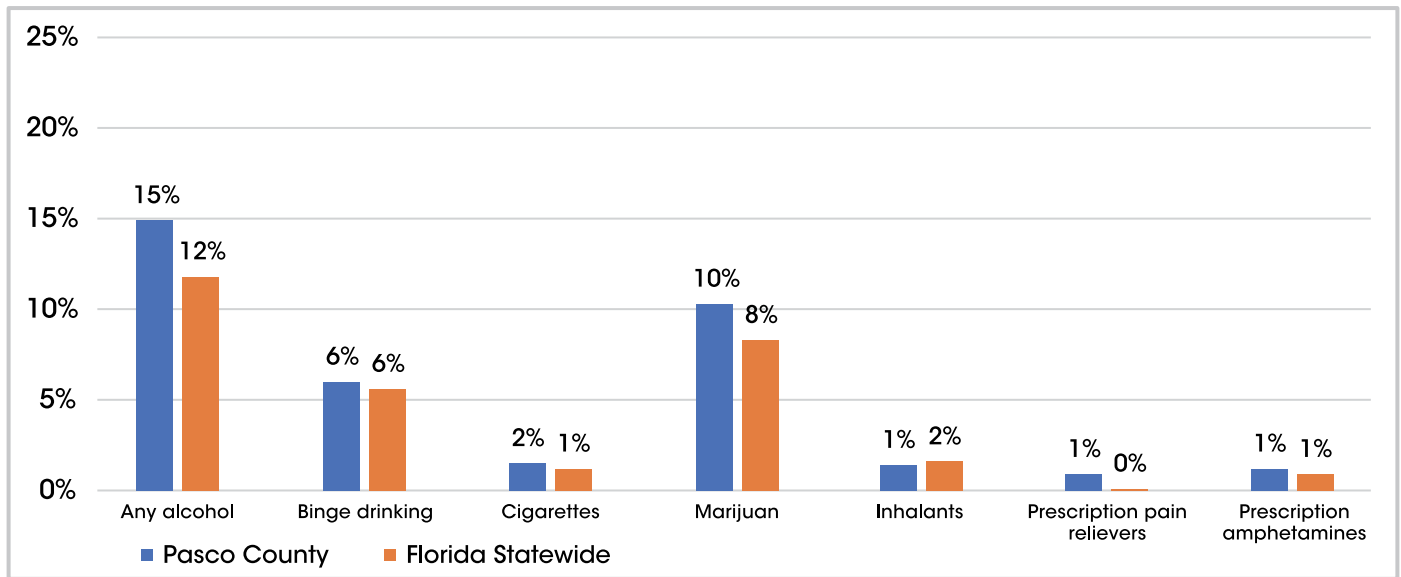
Sources: ¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com)
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Pasco.pdf>

Table 4. Pasco County Students Reporting Past 30-Day Use of Selected Drugs, Middle and High School, 2014-2022

Drug Type	Middle School					High School				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Any Alcohol	11.8%	9.2%	7.4%	8.1%	5.3%	28.8%	28.5%	23.6%	25.4%	22.1%
Binge drinking	4.5%	2.3%	3.0%	2.5%	1.3%	12.2%	11.0%	8.6%	10.1%	9.6%
Cigarettes	2.5%	1.5%	1.8%	1.1%	1.1%	7.3%	7.4%	3.6%	2.0%	1.9%
Marijuana	5.1%	3.2%	5.1%	2.9%	4.5%	20.1%	19.7%	17.4%	17.2%	14.6%
Inhalants	2.8%	1.4%	2.3%	2.0%	2.4%	1.8%	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%	0.6%
Prescription pain relievers	1.1%	2.5%	0.4%	1.2%	0.7%	3.1%	2.0%	1.6%	0.7%	1.1%
Prescription amphetamines	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.9%	0.5%	2.1%	1.5%	2.7%	1.4%
Any illicit drug	9.1%	7.1%	8.6%	6.6%	9.4%	24.4%	23.5%	20.2%	20.3%	18.0%
Any illicit except marijuana	5.6%	5.5%	4.4%	4.3%	5.8%	9.1%	9.2%	6.6%	5.2%	6.0%
Alcohol or any illicit drug	16.7%	13.0%	12.1%	12.0%	12.4%	38.1%	37.1%	31.6%	34.7%	28.7%

Sources: ¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) | Florida DCF (myffamilies.com)
<https://www.myffamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Pasco.pdf>

Figure 5. Past 30-Day Alcohol Use Pasco County Middle vs. High School, 2014-2022



Key Considerations:

Between 2014 and 2022, the percentage reporting past 30-day alcohol, binge drinking, cigarettes, marijuana, inhalant use, and prescription pain relievers decreased for both Pasco County and Florida Statewide students:

- Alcohol use: 35% decrease (Pasco County) and 54% decrease (Florida Statewide)
- Binge drinking use: 38% decrease (Pasco County) and 52% decrease (Florida Statewide)
- Cigarette use: 110% decrease (Pasco County) and 121% decrease (Florida Statewide)
- Marijuana use: 28% decrease (Pasco County) and 40% decrease (Florida Statewide)
- Inhalant use: 44% decrease (Pasco County) and 27% decrease (Florida Statewide)
- Prescription pain relievers: 84% decrease (Pasco County) and 71% decrease (Florida Statewide)

Table 5. Students Reporting Past 30-Day Use of Vaping/Vaporizer*, Pasco and Statewide, 2020-2022

Drug Type	Pasco County					Florida Statewide				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Vaping Nicotine	--	--	--	13.5%	12.3%	--	--	--	11.4%	9.7%
Vaping Marijuana	--	--	--	8.7%	7.9%	--	--	--	7.3%	6.8%
Vaporizer / E-Cigarette	--	11.8%	17.5%	--	--	--	9.6%	13.7%	--	--

Sources: ¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com)
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Pasco.pdf>

*Youth e-cigarette (vaping) use has increased steadily since 2011. Statewide data collection of this measure has only recently been implemented due to its limited history. It is included in this report as a separate indicator due to its rapid increase despite significant declines in youth tobacco use. Many studies have linked vaping to increased rates of youth marijuana use.^{III IV}

Key Considerations:

- Student reports of past 30-day vaping nicotine decreased for both Pasco County and Florida Statewide students, 9.3% and 16% respectively from 2020 to 2022.
- Past 30-day vaping marijuana also decreased for Pasco County and Florida Statewide students, 10% and 7%, respectively from 2020 to 2022.
- Although both Pasco County and Florida Statewide reported lower vaping use, Pasco County remained higher than Florida rates for both vaping nicotine and marijuana.

Table 6. Pasco County Students Reporting Past 30-Day Use of Vaping/Vaporizer*, Middle and High School, 2020-2022

Drug Type	Middle School					High School				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Vaping Nicotine	--	--	--	5.9%	5.8%	--	--	--	19.4%	17.0%
Vaping Marijuana	--	--	--	2.6%	3.8%	--	--	--	13.6%	10.8%
Vaporizer / E-Cigarette	--	5.3%	6.0%	--	--	--	16.9%	26.5%	--	--

Sources: ¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com)
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Pasco.pdf>

*Youth e-cigarette (vaping) use has increased steadily since 2011. Statewide data collection of this measure has only recently been implemented due to its limited history. It is included in this report as a separate indicator due to its rapid increase despite significant declines in youth tobacco use. Many studies have linked vaping to increased rates of youth marijuana use.^{VI}

Key Considerations:

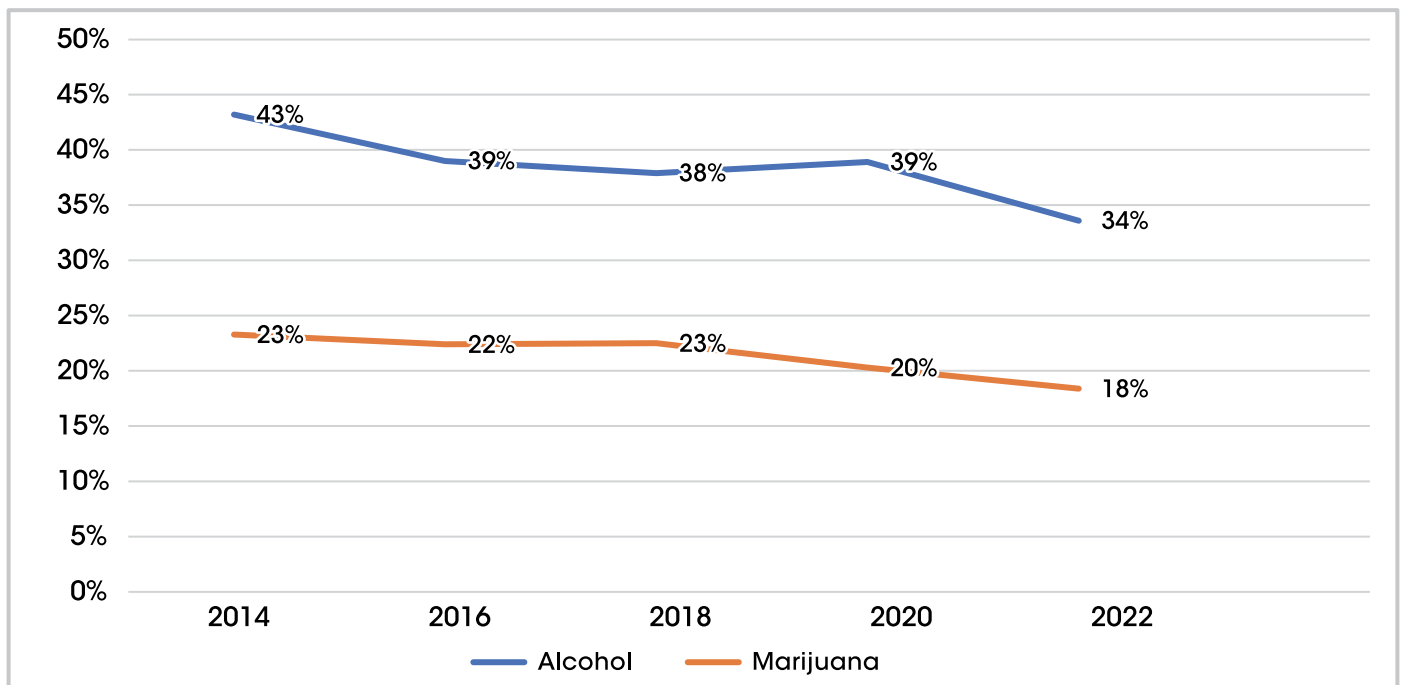
- Student reports of past 30-day vaping nicotine remained stable from 2020 to 2022 for middle school students with a slight decrease for high school students (13%).
- Past 30-day vaping marijuana increased for middle school students (38%) but decreased for high school students (23%).
- Although high school students decreased their vaping use for both nicotine and marijuana, they still reported higher use than middle school students: 98% vaping more nicotine and 96% vaping more marijuana.

Table 7. Students Reporting Lifetime Use of Selected Drugs, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022

Drug Type	Pasco County					Florida Statewide				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Any Alcohol	43.2%	39.0%	37.9%	38.9%	33.6%	42.6%	39.1%	36.5%	35.3%	31.0%
Cigarettes	18.2%	16.0%	12.2%	8.5%	8.0%	17.6%	14.1%	11.3%	9.0%	7.1%
Marijuana	23.3%	22.4%	22.5%	20.3%	18.4%	22.6%	21.3%	20.2%	20.1%	16.0%
Inhalants	7.2%	3.6%	5.9%	6.6%	7.0%	6.5%	5.4%	5.8%	6.5%	5.7%
Any illicit drug	30.2%	28.2%	28.8%	28.9%	24.3%	30.0%	27.7%	26.9%	28.3%	23.9%
Any illicit except marijuana	17.1%	16.2%	14.6%	15.1%	14.1%	17.1%	15.3%	14.6%	14.3%	12.3%
Alcohol or any illicit drug	47.7%	45.2%	43.7%	45.2%	39.6%	48.5%	44.8%	42.9%	42.8%	38.0%

Sources: ¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com)
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Pasco.pdf>

Figure 6. Pasco County Student Trends in Lifetime Use of Alcohol and Marijuana, 2014-2022



Key Considerations:

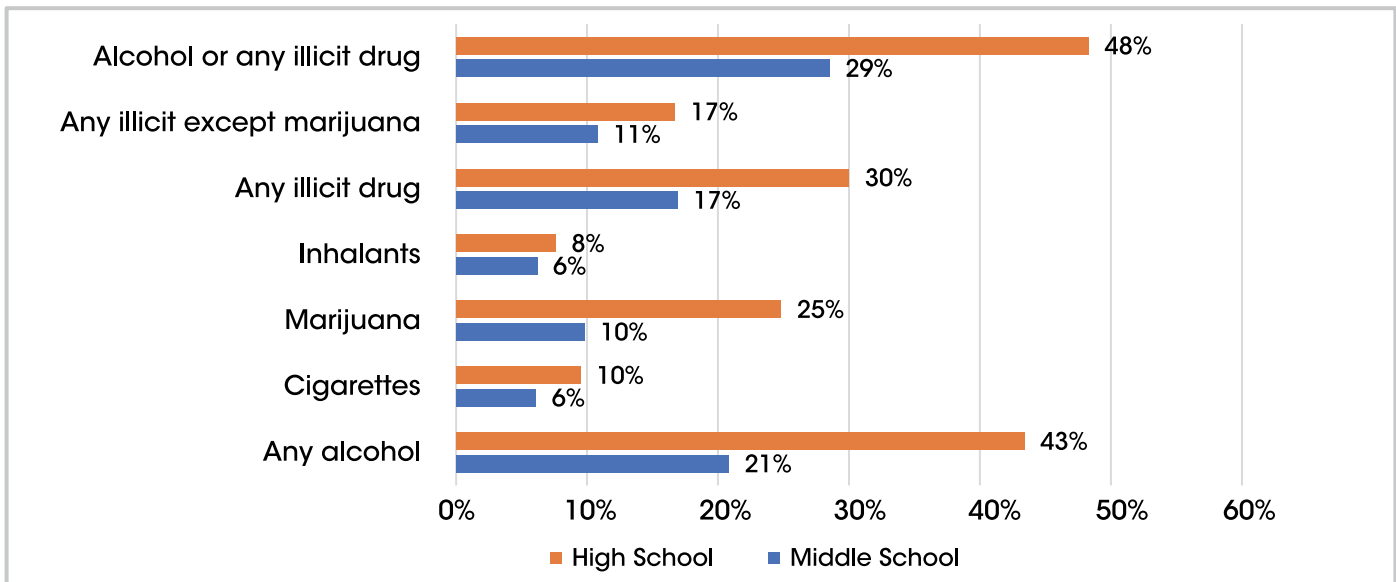
- Between 2014 and 2022, the percentage reporting lifetime alcohol, cigarette and marijuana use decreased for both Pasco County and Florida Statewide students:
 - Alcohol use: 25% decrease (Pasco County) and 32% decrease Florida Statewide)
 - Cigarette use: 78% decrease (Pasco County) and 85% decrease Florida Statewide)
 - Marijuana use: 24% decrease (Pasco County) and 34% decrease Florida Statewide)
- Although lower rates of use, inhalants were on a steady rise since 2016 for Pasco County students. This is also true for Florida Statewide students but with a slight decrease in 2022.

Table 8. Pasco County Students Reporting Lifetime Use of Selected Drugs, Middle and High School, 2020-2022

Drug Type	Middle School					High School				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Any Alcohol	27.3%	21.0%	22.5%	22.1%	20.8%	55.5%	52.5%	49.8%	52.4%	43.4%
Cigarettes	10.4%	6.4%	6.4%	4.6%	6.1%	24.3%	23.4%	16.7%	11.7%	9.5%
Marijuana	8.8%	6.7%	9.0%	5.0%	9.8%	34.5%	34.4%	32.9%	32.2%	24.8%
Inhalants	8.5%	5.1%	7.1%	8.2%	6.2%	6.2%	2.4%	5.0%	5.3%	7.6%
Any illicit drug	17.6%	15.2%	16.2%	15.4%	16.9%	39.9%	38.1%	38.7%	39.7%	30.0%
Any illicit except marijuana	13.3%	11.6%	11.4%	13.0%	10.8%	20.1%	19.8%	17.1%	16.7%	16.7%
Alcohol or any illicit drug	32.1%	27.3%	27.7%	28.2%	28.5%	59.9%	58.9%	56.2%	58.8%	48.3%

Sources: ¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com)
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Pasco.pdf>

Figure 7. Comparison between Pasco County Middle and High School Reporting Lifetime Use of Selected Drugs, 2022



Key Considerations:

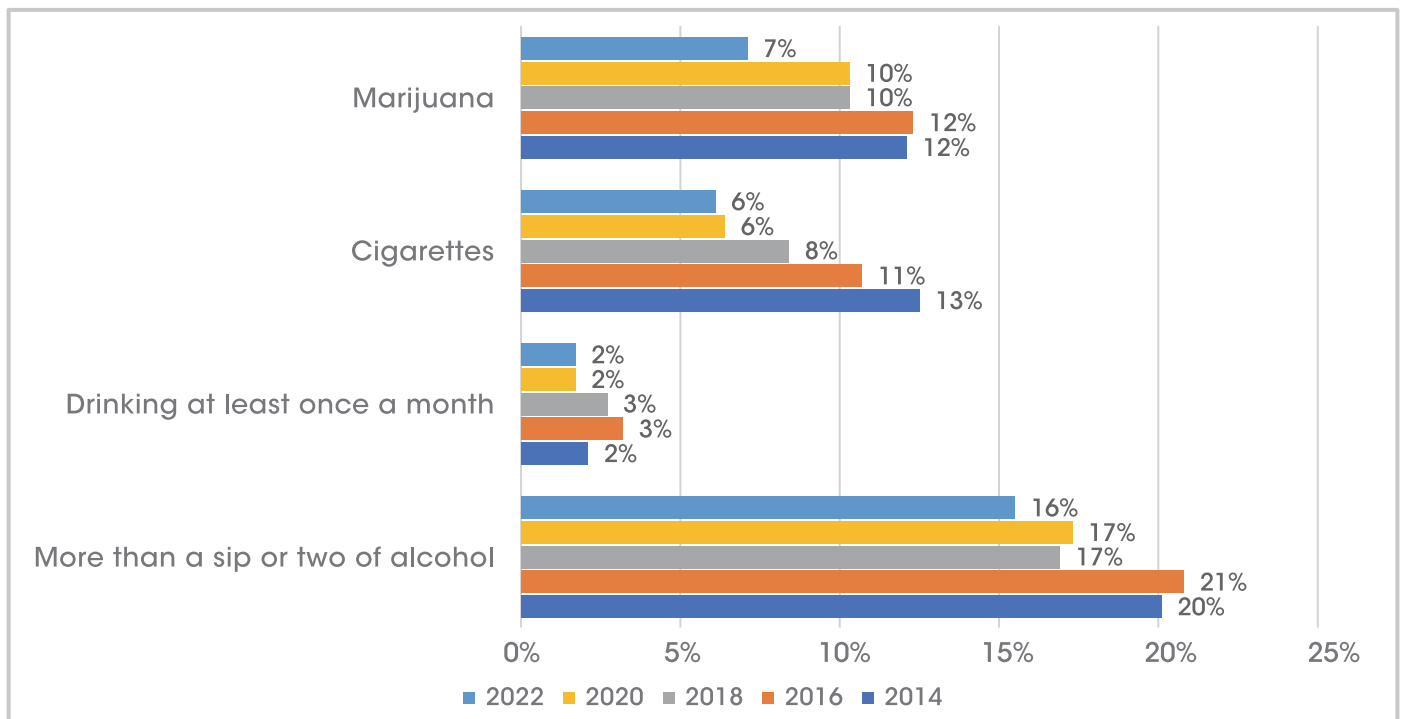
- Student report of lifetime alcohol use doubled between middle and high school. In 2022, 21% of Pasco County middle schoolers reported lifetime use of alcohol, compared to 43% of high schoolers.
- Between 2014 and 2022, the highest reported rate of high school lifetime alcohol use for Pasco County occurred in 2012 with 55% of students reporting any alcohol use.
- Rates of high school lifetime alcohol use steadily declined between 2014 and 2018. There was a slight increase in reported use in 2020 (52%) but decreased by 19% in 2022.
- Use of marijuana increased 65% between 2020 and 2022 for middle students but decreased 26% for high school students during the same period.
- Apart from inhalants, lifetime rates for alcohol, drug and cigarette use are more than double between middle and high school students.

Table 9. Pasco County and Florida Statewide High School Students Who Started Using Alcohol, Cigarettes, or Marijuana at of Before Age 13, 2014-2022

High School Student Measure	Pasco County					Florida Statewide				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
More than a sip or two of alcohol	20.1%	20.8%	16.9%	17.3%	15.5%	21.8%	19.4%	17.6%	15.9%	14.1%
Drinking at least once a month	2.1%	3.2%	2.7%	1.7%	1.7%	3.9%	3.5%	2.5%	2.7%	2.2%
Cigarettes	12.5%	10.7%	8.4%	6.4%	6.1%	11.9%	9.3%	7.4%	5.9%	4.9%
Marijuana	12.1%	12.3%	10.3%	10.3%	7.1%	11.4%	10.6%	9.3%	8.2%	6.5%

Sources: ¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com)
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Pasco.pdf>

Figure 8. Pasco County High School Student Use of Alcohol, Marijuana or Cigarettes Before Age 13, 2014-2022



Key Considerations:

- Both Pasco County and Florida Statewide high school students reported reduced rates of alcohol, cigarette, and marijuana use before age 13 between 2014 and 2022.
- In 2022, the percentage of Pasco County high schoolers reporting marijuana use before age 13 was higher than Florida statewide rate for the same year (7.1% vs. 6.5%).
- Between 2014 and 2022, Pasco County and Florida statewide high school students reported steady declines in cigarette use before age 13 or younger.
- Across all years (2014-2022) for both Pasco County and Florida statewide, more high school students reported more than a sip or two of alcohol at age 13 or younger than using cigarettes or marijuana.

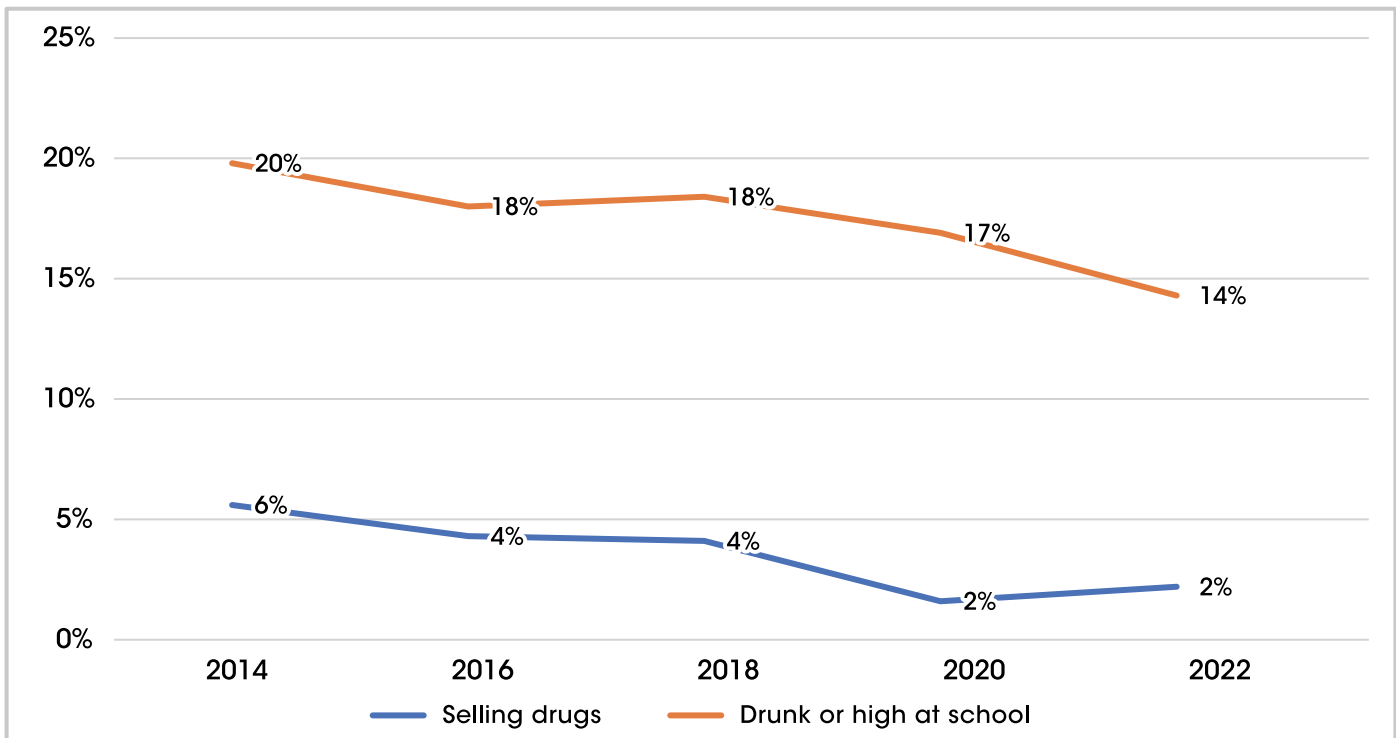
Table 10. Percent of Pasco County Students Reporting Past 12 Month Drug-Related Behavior, Middle and High School, 2014-2022

Drug-Related Behavior	Middle School					High School				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Selling Drugs	2.8%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	1.1%	7.8%	6.3%	5.9%	5.1%	2.9%
Drunk or high at school*	10.7%	8.0%	9.9%	9.1%	12.9%	26.9%	25.5%	24.9%	23.0%	15.2%

Sources: ¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com)
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Pasco.pdf>

*Behavior of drunk or high at school was calculated by the sum total of student report of drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana or using another drug to get high before or during school in the past 12 months.

Figure 9. Pasco County Student Report of Drug-Related Behavior, 2014-2022



Key Considerations:

- Both Pasco County middle and high school students report of selling drug consistently decreased from 2014 to 2022, particularly with high school students (92% decrease)
- From 2020 to 2022, there was a 35% increase for middle school students reported being drunk or high at school vs. a 41% decrease for high school students.

Table 11. Percent of Students Reporting Past 12 Month Drug-Related Behavior, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022

Drug-Related Behavior	Pasco County					Florida Statewide				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Selling Drugs	5.6%	4.3%	4.1%	3.5%	2.2%	7.8%	4.2%	3.9%	3.3%	2.0%
Drunk or high at school*	19.8%	18.0%	18.4%	16.9%	14.3%	18.4%	16.5%	17.3%	18.2%	13.0%

Sources: ¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com)
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Pasco.pdf>

*Behavior of drunk or high at school was calculated by the sum total of student report of drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana or using another drug to get high before or during school in the past 12 months.

Figure 10. Percent of Students Reporting Selling Drugs, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022

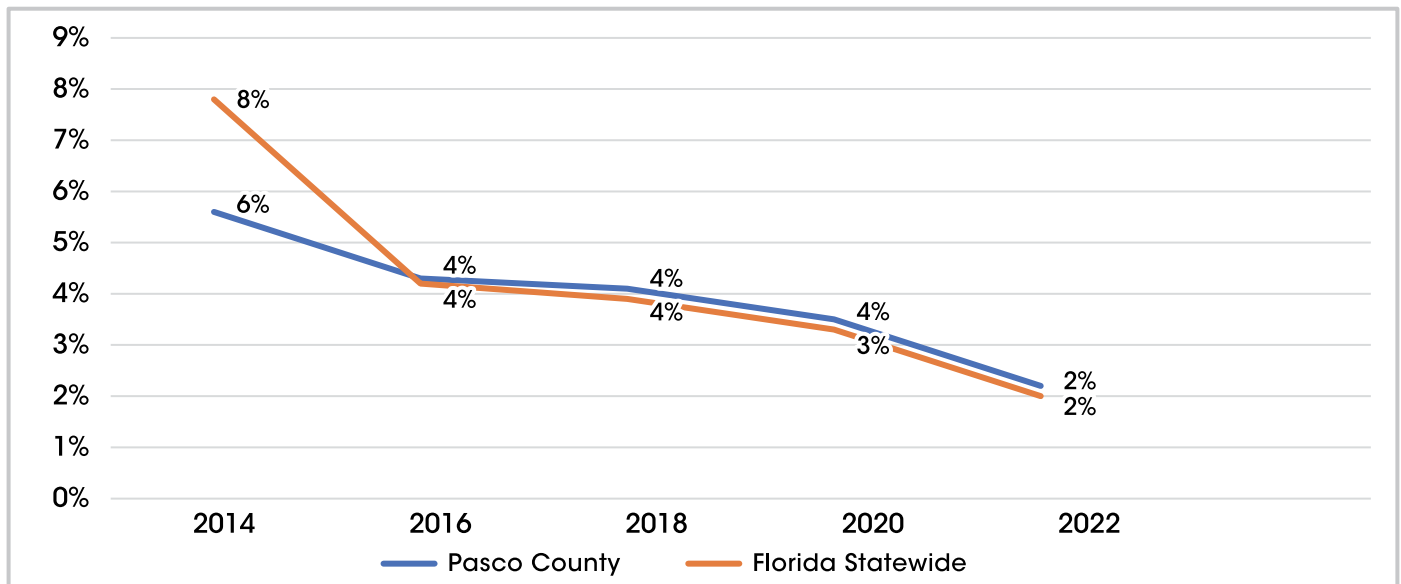
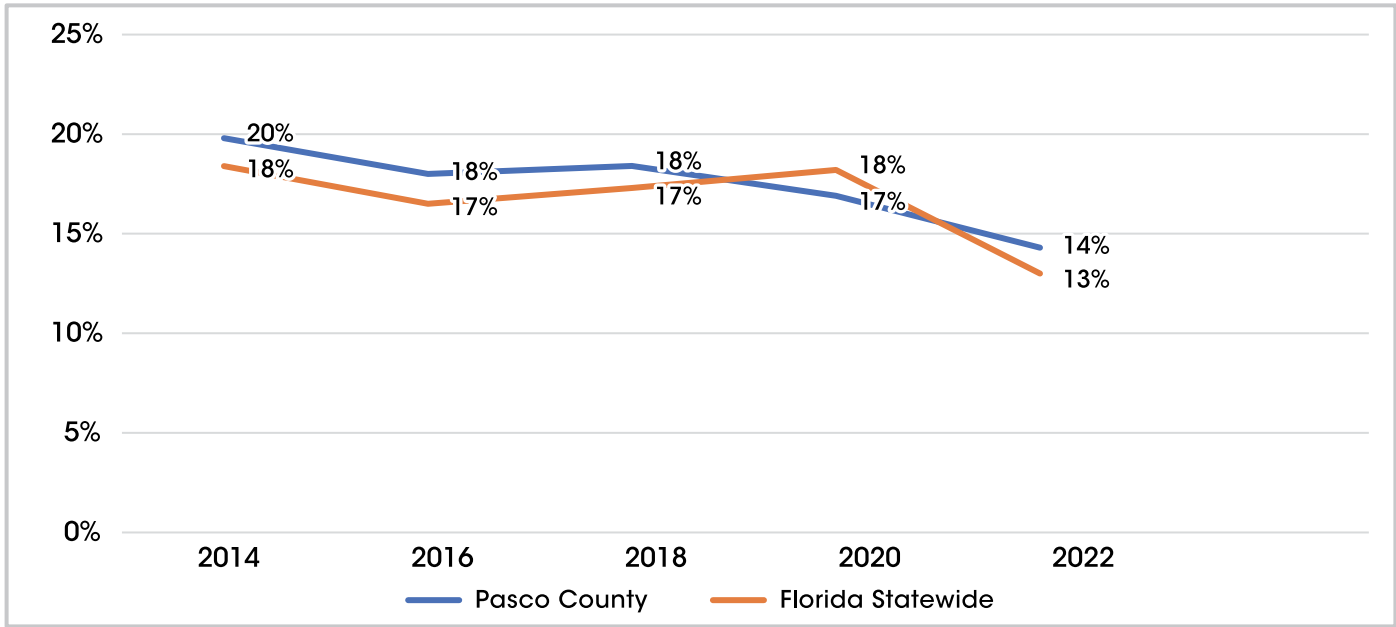


Figure 11. Percent of Students Reporting Being Drunk or High at School, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022



Key Considerations:

- Both Pasco County and Florida Statewide high school students report of selling drug has consistently decreased from 2014 to 2022.
- There was a 32% decrease of being drunk or high at school from 2014 to 2022 consistent with Florida Statewide students which saw a 34% decrease from the same period.

Figure 12. Usual Source of Alcohol within Past 30 Days among High School Drinkers, Pasco and Statewide, 2022

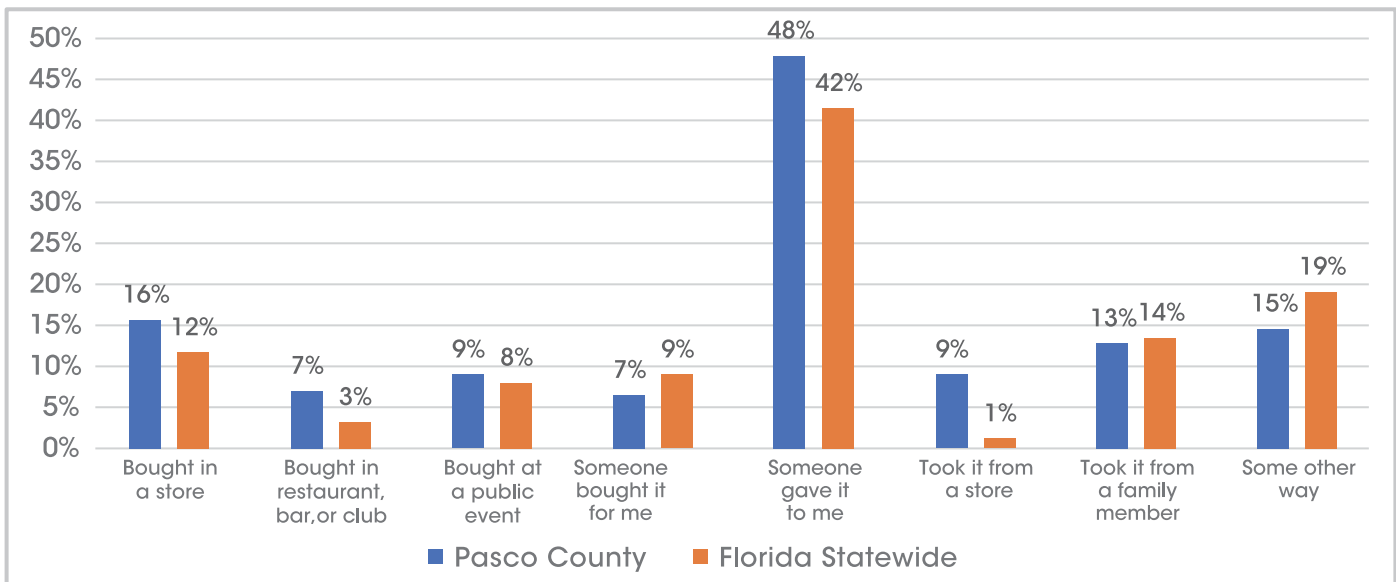


Figure 13. Usual Drinking Location within Past 30 Days among High School Drinkers, Pasco and Statewide, 2022

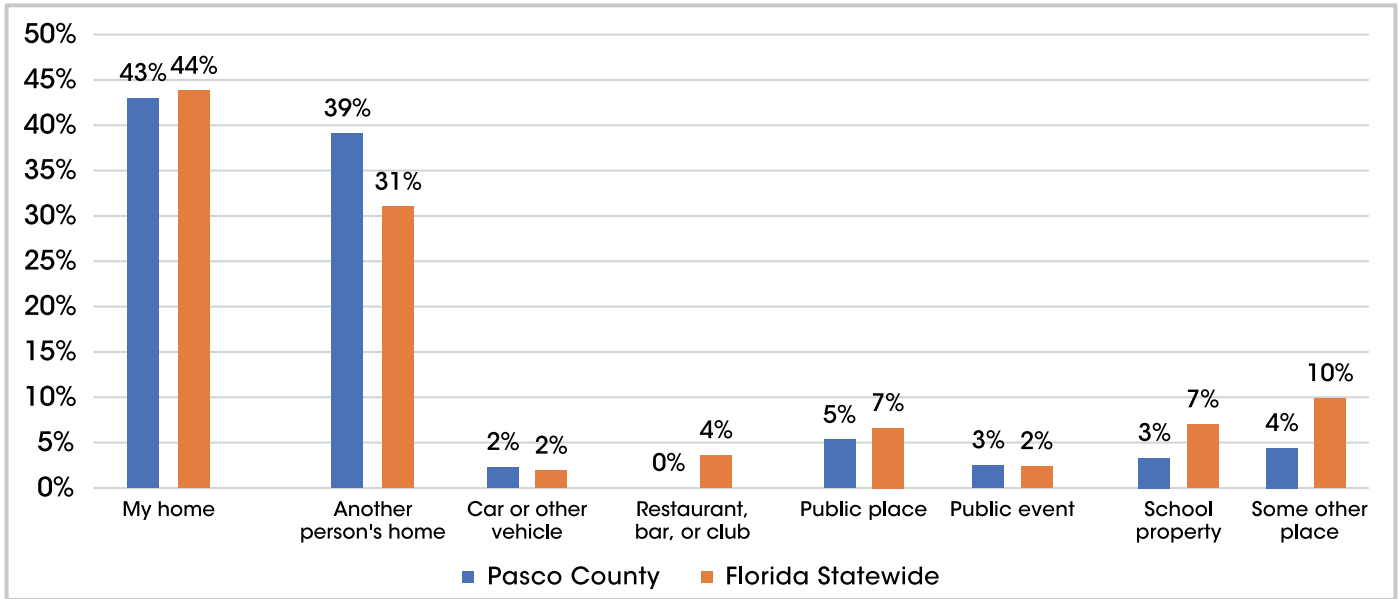


Table 12. Middle and High School Student Perception of Harm of Alcohol and Marijuana, Pasco County, 2014-2022

	Alcohol				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Past 30-day use	21.3%	20.0%	16.5%	17.7%	14.9%
Binge drinking	8.8%	7.3%	6.2%	6.7%	6.0%
Use by age 13	20.1%	20.8%	16.9%	17.6%	15.5%
Great risk of harm	38.2%	39.7%	42.7%	45.9%	40.6%

	Marijuana				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Past 30-day use	13.6%	15.2%	12.0%	10.9%	10.3%
Use by age 13	12.1%	12.3%	10.3%	10.3%	7.1%
Great risk of harm	22.5%	23.4%	21.2%	20.0%	18.6%

Sources: ¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com)
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Pasco.pdf>

Key Considerations:

- Perception of harm for alcohol use reached an 8-year high in 2020, with 45.9 percent of Pasco County students reporting that they believe 1 or 2 drinks/day causes a great deal of harm then decreased in 2022 to 40.6%.
- Consistent with trends nationally, as perception of alcohol harm increases, alcohol use decreases.
- Perception of marijuana causing harm decreased from 23% to 19% between 2014 and 2020.
- As perception of marijuana harm increased, early and past 30-day use of marijuana decreased.
- In 2022, only 18% of Pasco County students believed that trying marijuana poses a great risk of harm, compared to 41% of students believing that daily alcohol use poses a great risk of harm.

Figure 14. Pasco County Student Alcohol Trends and Perception Summary, 2014-2022

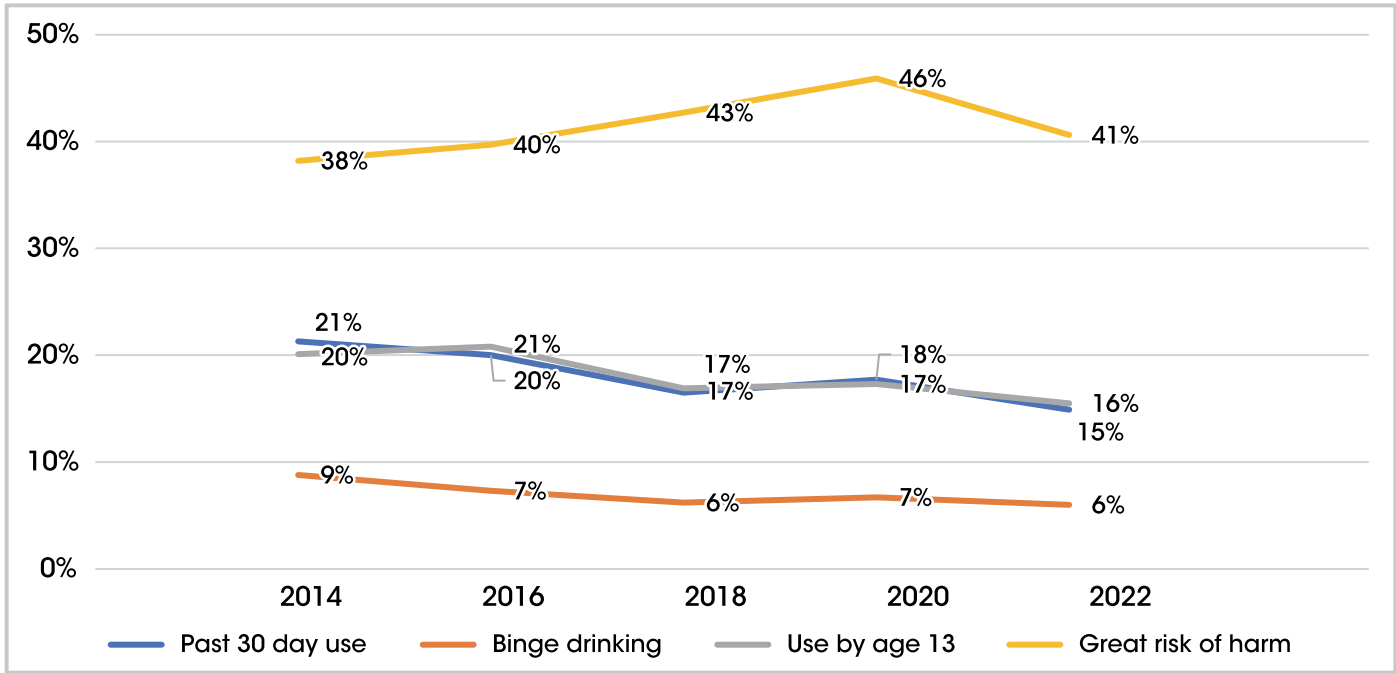


Figure 15. Pasco County Student Marijuana Trends and Perception Summary, 2014-2022

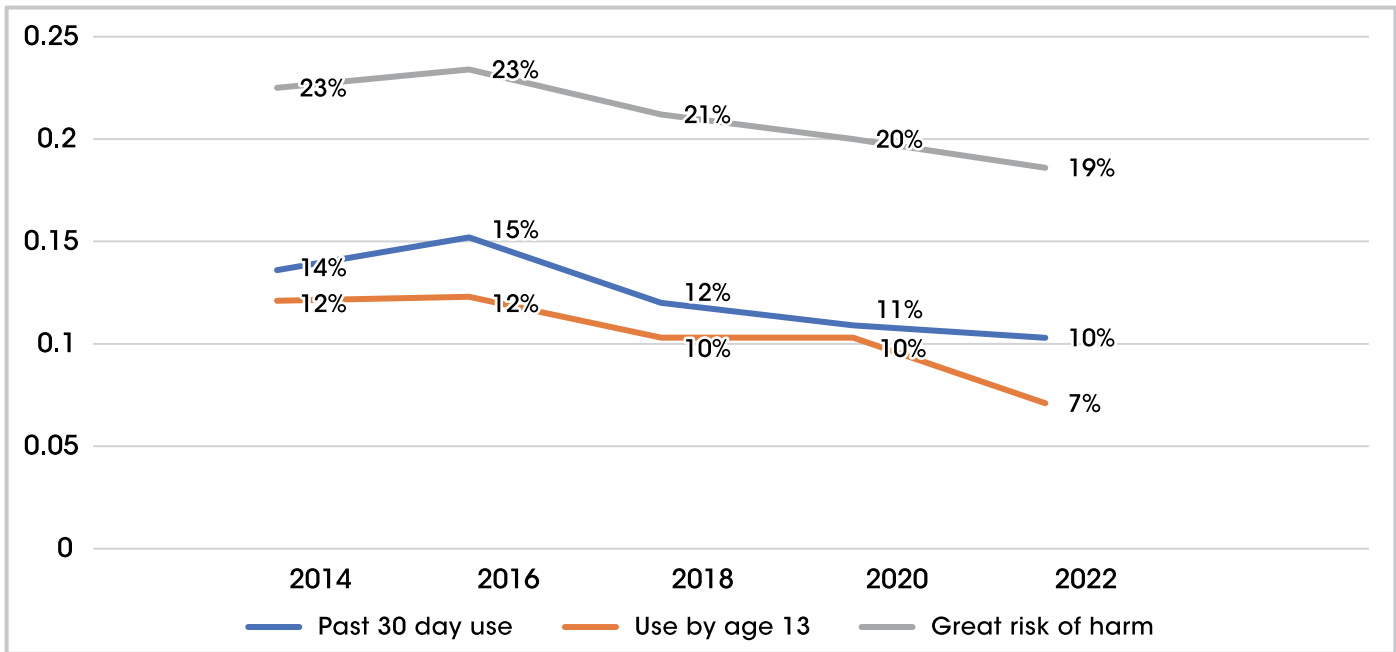
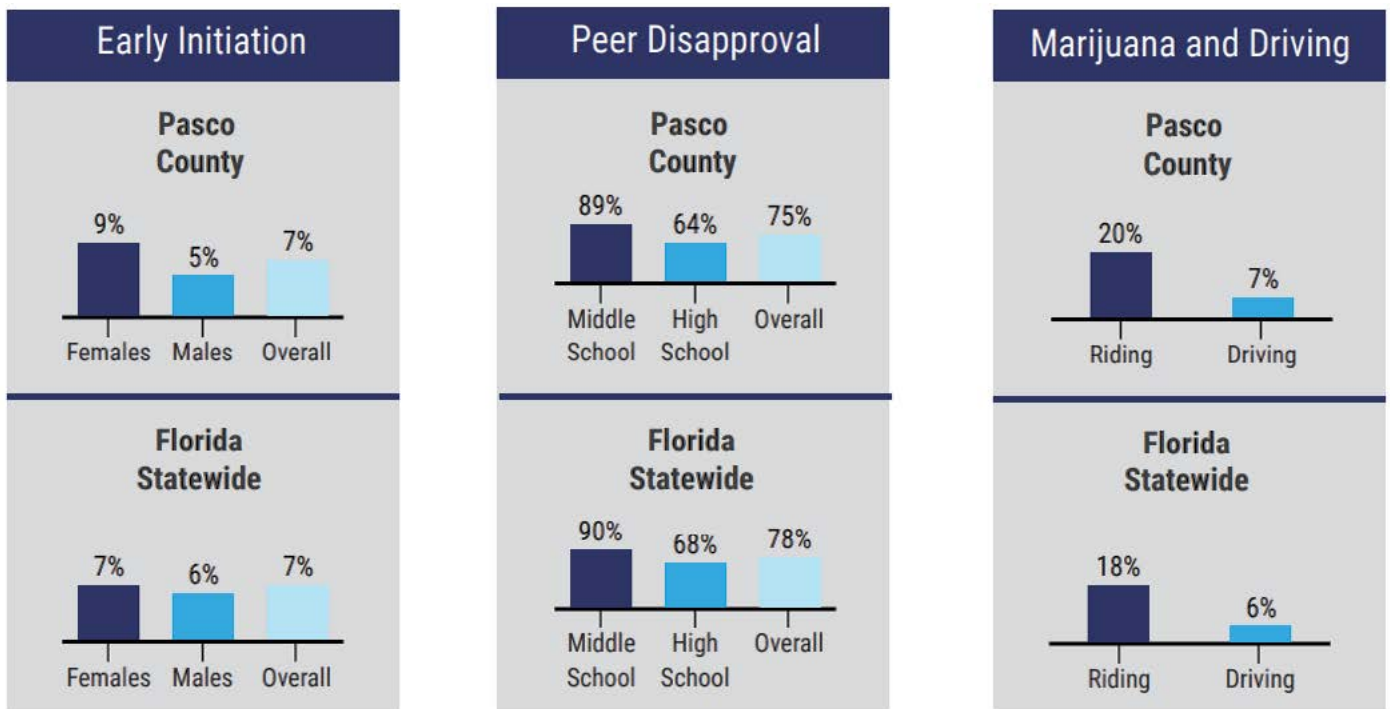


Figure 16. Percent of Students Reporting Marijuana Use, Peer Perception of Harm, and Riding in a Car or Driving a Car after Driver Uses Marijuana, Pasco and Statewide, 2022



Source: <https://nuance.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2024-02/Pasco.pdf>

Table 12. Middle and High School Student Perception of Harm of Alcohol and Marijuana, Pasco County, 2014-2022

Measure	Pasco County 2022		Florida 2022	
	Middle School	High School	Middle School	High School
Prescription pain relievers - lifetime use	2.5%	2.9%	3.0%	2.6%
Prescription amphetamine - lifetime use	1.8%	4.8%	1.9%	3.4%
Prescription depressant - lifetime use	0.3%	3.9%	1.5%	3.1%
Prescription pain relievers - past 30-day use	0.7%	1.1%	1.1%	0.9%
Prescription amphetamines - past 30-day use	0.9%	1.4%	0.7%	1.1%
Prescription depressant - past 30-day use	0.0%	1.6%	0.5%	0.8%
Great risk or harm to use prescription drugs	69.1%	69.5%	67.0%	68.4%
Perception of friends' disapproval of prescription drugs	95.3%	90.7%	95.1%	93.7%

Sources: ¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com) <https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/Pasco.pdf>

Key Considerations:

- Rates of prescription drug use among middle and high schoolers in Pasco County are higher than the state average.
- There are significant increases in use of prescription pain relievers and depressants among high school youth from 2020-2022 and should be monitored in future surveys.

According to the Florida Department of Health's most recent data, drug poisonings were the third leading cause of unintentional injury hospitalizations among youth ages 15-19 and in Pasco.⁹ Focus groups conducted in 2021 with youth under 21 years of age and with those involved in the youth advocacy initiative, STAND, revealed that many participants knew an adult who had overdosed on prescription drugs and about half of the participants knew an adult who had died from prescription drug misuse. The perception of harm of prescription drug use was higher than the perception of harm of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use because of the real-life experiences seen by the participants. Participants did discuss "pill parties" where pills were dumped into a bowl for party goers to take at their own risk which continue to have popularity.

Adult Substance Use Data

Alcohol remains the nation's most widely misused substance. Understanding the prevalence of alcohol misuse in a region helps communities to target interventions in certain geographic areas, identify populations most at-risk of misuse/addiction behaviors (sex, age, other demographics).

Table 14. Adults who Engage in Heavy or Binge Drinking, Pasco and Statewide, 2002-2019

Year	Pasco County	Florida Statewide
2002	19.6%	16.4%
2007	15.7%	16.2%
2010	20.0%	15.0%
2013	20.1%	17.6%
2016	19.2%	17.5%
2019	16.3%	18.0%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention. 2022.

Retrieved at: <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=BrfssCounty.DataViewer&bid=10>

Table 15. Adults who Engage in Heavy or Binge Drinking, by Gender, Pasco and Statewide, 2002-2019

Year	Pasco County		Florida Statewide	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
2002	28.6%	12.0%	22.9%	10.8%
2007	16.7%	14.8%	20.3%	12.4%
2010	27.3%	13.4%	19.8%	10.5%
2013	22.3%	18.1%	23.4%	12.2%
2016	24.1%	15.4%	21.7%	13.7%
2019	23.5%	9.8%	21.2%	15.1%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention. 2022.

Retrieved at: <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=BrfssCounty.DataViewer&bid=10>

Key Considerations:

- The reported number of adults who engage in heavy or binge drinking in Pasco County is slightly lower than the state rate (16.3 percent vs. 18 percent).
- Pasco County men report engaging in heavy or binge drinking more than women. This is consistent with state rates.

⁹ Florida Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention. 2022. Retrieved at:

<https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=ChartsProfiles.NonFatalInjuryHospitalizationsProfileDASHBOARD>

Adult Marijuana Use

As medical marijuana continues to be legal in the state of Florida, it is important to monitor local rates of marijuana use. According to the Florida Office of Medical Marijuana Use statewide data, as of November, 2024 there were 882,524 qualified patients with an active card, 2,748 qualified physicians, and 615 Medical Marijuana Dispensaries throughout the State, including 15 registered dispensaries in Pasco County.

Table 16. Adult Medical Marijuana Data, November 2024

Indicator	Frequency
Qualified patients with an active card	882,524
Qualified physicians	2,405
Medical marijuana dispensaries in Florida	692
Medical marijuana dispensaries in Pasco County	20

Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU).
Retrieved at: <https://knowthefactsmmj.com/>

Adult Non-Medical Prescription Drug Misuse and Implications

Misuse of prescription drugs is a primary contributor to the nation's epidemic rates of opioid misuse. Misuse of prescription drugs means taking a medication in a manner or dose other than prescribed; taking someone else's prescription or taking a medication to get high. The three classes of medication commonly misused are opioids, central nervous system depressants, and stimulants. To address over prescription of these medications and identify individuals in need of treatment interventions and referrals, states and communities have deployed a multitude of interventions that aim to limit access to medications, increase methods for tracking prescribing behaviors, and increase treatment access. Data related to prescription drug misuse can assist communities in planning appropriate interventions for prescriber and consumer education and outreach, developing targeted treatment programs, and understanding the impacts of ongoing campaigns and programs aimed to reduce rates of prescription drug misuse and related fatalities.

As with the rest of the country, Pasco County has been experiencing the cross-cutting impacts of the opioid crisis. Adult opioid use has many indicators, including overdose death rates, unintentional injury hospitalizations and deaths, infectious disease rates, and rates of substance exposed newborns. Each of these metrics are reviewed throughout this report.

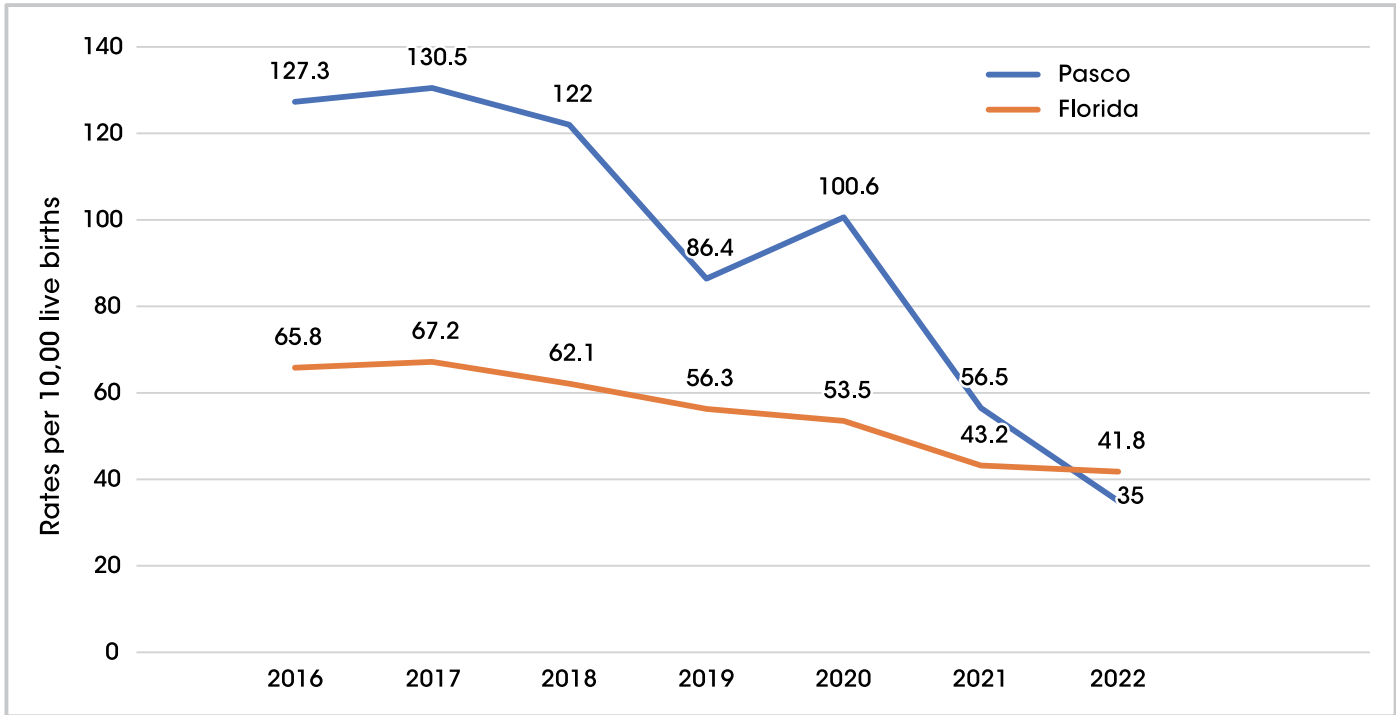
Substance Exposed Newborns

Substance use disorders and substance use during pregnancy contribute to high rates of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), a medical condition that is experienced by newborns exposed to prescription and/or illicit drug(s) in utero. The rate of infants treated for opioid withdrawal symptoms is an important indicator of opioid use rates among women of childbearing age. There are several barriers to widespread collection of data on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) that include inconsistent hospital reporting methods, lack of a centralized repository, and varying tools for identifying this condition. Despite these challenges, we have successfully been able to obtain this local information. The Substance Exposed Newborn committee, a collaboration between ASAP and the Healthy Start Coalition in Pasco County, has seen great success! Pasco's rates of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) decreased from 2016 (127.25) to 2022 (35). 2022 marks the first time that Pasco County rates did not exceed Florida's statewide rate of 41.8.¹⁰

¹⁰ Florida Department of Health Substance Use Dashboard, 2022 Substance Use Dashboard: Report | CHARTS (flhealthcharts.gov)

Recognizing the public health importance of monitoring the prevalence of opioid prescription drug misuse and incidence of NAS, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) added NAS to the List of Reportable Diseases/Conditions in 2014.

Figure 17. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Annual Rate, Pasco and Statewide, 2016-2022



Source: Substance Use Dashboard: Consequences | CHARTS (flhealthcharts.gov)

Key Considerations:

- Pasco’s rates of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) decreased from 2016 (127.25) to 2022 (35).
- 2022 marks the first time that Pasco County rates did not exceed Florida’s statewide rate of 41.8.
- The Substance Exposed Newborn Committee is seeing remarkable success in the data.

PASCO COUNTY COMMUNITY DATA

Substance Use Treatment Data

Table 17. BayCare Behavioral Health Pasco Adult and Youth Treatment Admissions by Primary Drug of Choice, FY21/22-23/24

Primary Drug of Choice	FY21 /22	FY22/23	FY23/24
Other Opiates	423	250	230
Alcohol	340	312	311
Fentanyl	278	212	181
Methamphetamine	205	133	152
Heroin	98	18	21
Marijuana	96	45	46
Crack Cocaine	46	19	32
Oxycodone	37	14	21
Hydromorphone	32	3	6
Other Cocaine	17	15	17
Opium	9	2	5
Other Benzodiazepines	7	5	2
Methadone	7	4	4
Other Stimulants	6	10	9
Alprazolam	6	4	5
Buprenorphine	6	6	1
Morphine	4	2	0
Synthetic Cannabinoids	4	1	0
Other	56	10	34
Total	1677	1101	1077

Source: BayCare Behavioral Health (BCBH)

Key Considerations:

- Primary drug of choice decreased from FY21-22 1677 to FY23-24 1077 treatment admissions which is a 36% decrease overall.
- The top primary drug of choice in FY21-22 was other opiates followed by alcohol and fentanyl. This shifted in the next two fiscal years (FY22-23 and FY23-24) to alcohol being top primary drug of choice followed by other opiates and fentanyl.

Mortality Data

Since alcohol-related morbidity and mortality have consistently been issues in Pasco County over the last decade, our local community coalition (ASAO) has been conducting a Last Drink Survey (LDS) since January 2011. The LDS is a self-reporting measure completed by persons arrested for DUI who are participating in Pasco’s DUI Offender Program. Almost 5,200 completed surveys have been submitted by impaired drivers to date. Results for 2022 indicate that most offenders are male (64.3%), White (71.1%), and between the ages of 30 to 59 years; only 4.6% were under 21. The substances most involved in the DUI were alcohol only (73.4%), followed by drugs only (14.7%), and 5.0% with both alcohol and drugs. Of those arrested, 16% reported using drugs only on the day of their arrest, and 39% reported they consumed five or more alcoholic drinks that day. When asked to identify the last place that they drank alcohol before the DUI, 42% reported last drinking was at a club or a bar, 40% reported at their home or a friend’s house, and 4.9% reported last drinking at a special event or festival.

Table 18. Alcohol-Related Crashes, Injuries, and Fatalities for Pasco and Statewide, 2018-2022

DHSMV Data ¹	Pasco County					Florida Statewide				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crashes	144	163	181	155	177	4,984	5,106	4,554	5,111	5,262
Injuries	135	117	148	121	123	4,737	4,788	4,118	4,737	4,829
Fatalities	14	19	14	11	11	372	378	384	407	423
TOTAL	293	299	337	287	311	10,093	10,272	9,056	10,255	10,514

Source: crash_facts_2022.pdf (flhsmv.gov)

Key Considerations:

- Alcohol-related crashes have fluctuated for both Pasco County (between 144 and 177) and Florida Statewide (between 4,984 and 5,262) from 2018 through 2022.
- Pasco County alcohol-related injuries were highest during 2020 (148) then decreased over the next two years whereas Florida Statewide had the lowest number of alcohol-related injuries during 2020 (4,118).
- Pasco County alcohol-related fatalities decreased from 2020 to 2022 (14 to 11) whereas Florida Statewide alcohol-related fatalities have steadily increased from 2018 to 2022 (372 to 423).

Figure 18. Pasco County Alcohol-Related Crashes and Injuries, 2018-2022

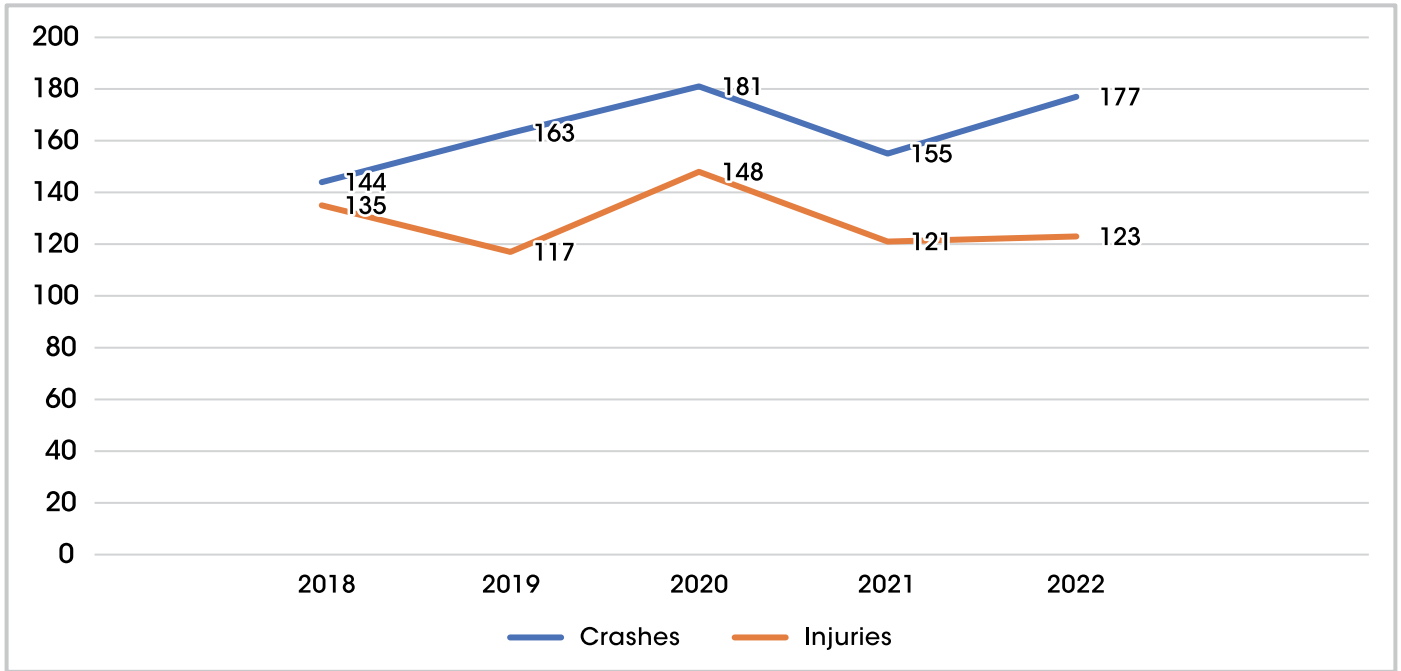
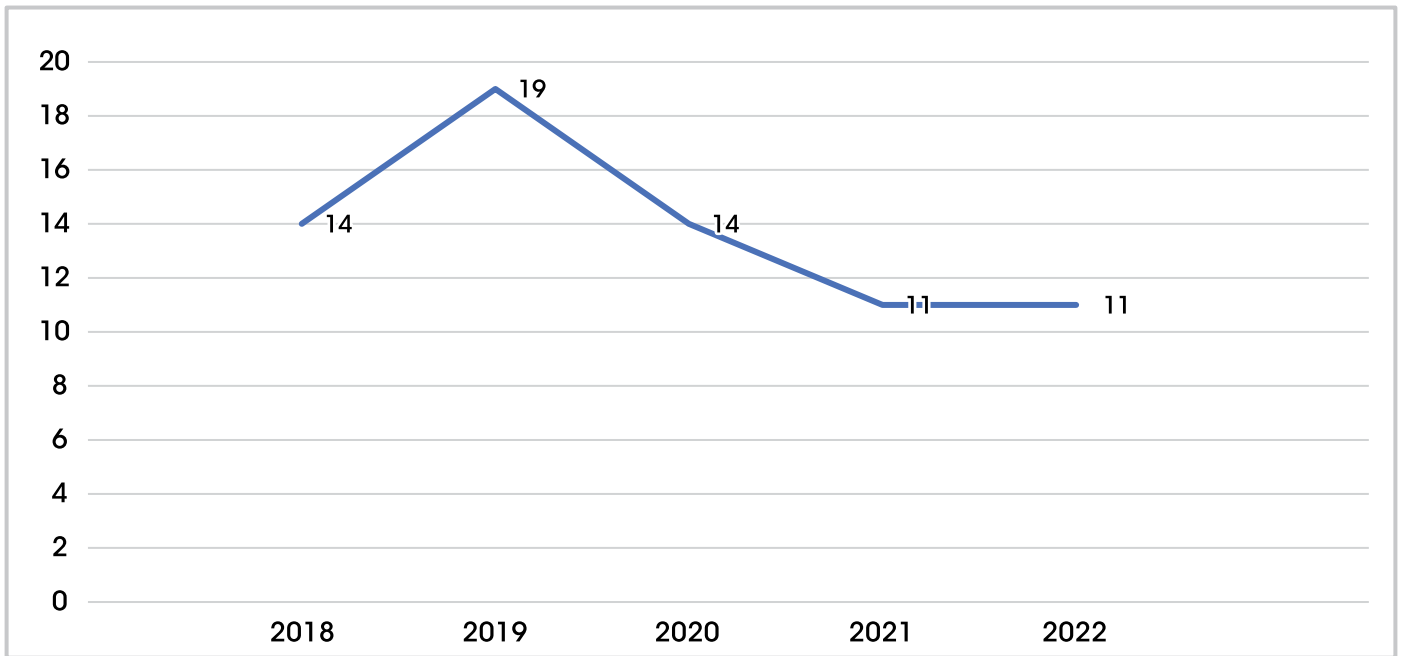


Figure 19. Pasco County Alcohol-Related Fatalities, 2018-2022



Suicide Data

According to Florida CHARTS, Pasco County’s 2022 suicide by drug poisoning rate was 3.4 per 100,000, exceeding the state rate of 2.0 per 100,000. Furthermore, of the 792 Pasco County nonfatal overdose hospitalizations in 2022, 29% were intentional self-harm drug overdose hospitalizations.¹¹ Since 2002 Pasco County has consistently ranked in the top quartile of Florida’s suicide death rates, demonstrating the persistent and chronic nature of this local problem.

The mental health of youth requires particular attention since the pandemic recently disrupted in-person learning and forced isolation upon students in the form of virtual/distance learning. According to the 2022 FYSAS, 40.4% of Pasco County high school students reported they thought about suicide, and 9.4% attempted suicide in the past 12 months; both exceed the state averages of 34.2% and 8.5%, respectively.

Table 19 presents 2023 data on calls to Pasco County Poison Control that were related to suicide attempts using poisons or medications. Of the 422 suicide attempts involving poisons or medications, calls to Poison Control were most commonly from youth aged 15-19 (98 calls); this was the second highest annual number of calls among this age group since 2018. These statistics are cause for great concern, as they demonstrate the need for greater focus on youth mental health and suicide prevention initiatives.

Table 19. Poison Control Calls on Suicide Attempts Using Poisons or Medications in Pasco County by Age Group, 2018-2023

Age Group	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
10-14	44	25	46	49	43	47
15-19	86	84	66	99	81	98
20-24	51	36	45	52	34	42
25-34	84	60	59	63	48	65
35-44	76	65	61	57	45	49
45-54	70	84	66	54	58	56
55-64	77	35	46	47	55	45
65-74	28	24	7	18	27	20
TOTAL	516	413	396	439	391	422

¹¹ Florida Department of Health, Florida CHARTS, Suicide Deaths. 2022. Retrieved at Suicide and Intentional Self-Harm Deaths and Hospitalizations | CHARTS (flhealthcharts.gov)

²⁵ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, County Health Rankings, 2023. Retrieved at <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/florida/pasco?year=2023>

Table 20. Pasco County Deaths by Suicide by Age Group, 2016-2022

Age Group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
10-14	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
15-19	3	5	4	3	4	4	2
20-24	2	7	7	5	7	9	6
25-34	6	14	11	20	17	20	17
35-44	13	2	20	16	8	10	12
45-54	26	22	26	18	19	17	23
55-64	26	19	15	28	15	20	20
65-74	18	11	19	14	14	10	17
75-84	10	10	12	8	12	12	14
85+	0	2	5	6	7	1	4
TOTAL	104	92	119	119	103	104	118

Source: <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Death.Dataviewer>

Table 21. Suicide Deaths, Pasco and Statewide, Rate per 100,000 Population, 2012-2022

Year	Pasco Rate	Florida Rate
2012	16.1	14.1
2013	17.5	13.8
2014	22.4	13.8
2015	18.3	14.4
2016	18.0	14.1
2017	17.2	14.1
2018	21.3	15.3
2019	20.8	14.5
2020	17.3	14.1
2021	17.8	13.8
2022	17.4	14.1

Source: <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Death.Dataviewer>

Figure 20. Suicide Deaths, Pasco and Statewide, Rate per 100,000 Population, 2012-2022

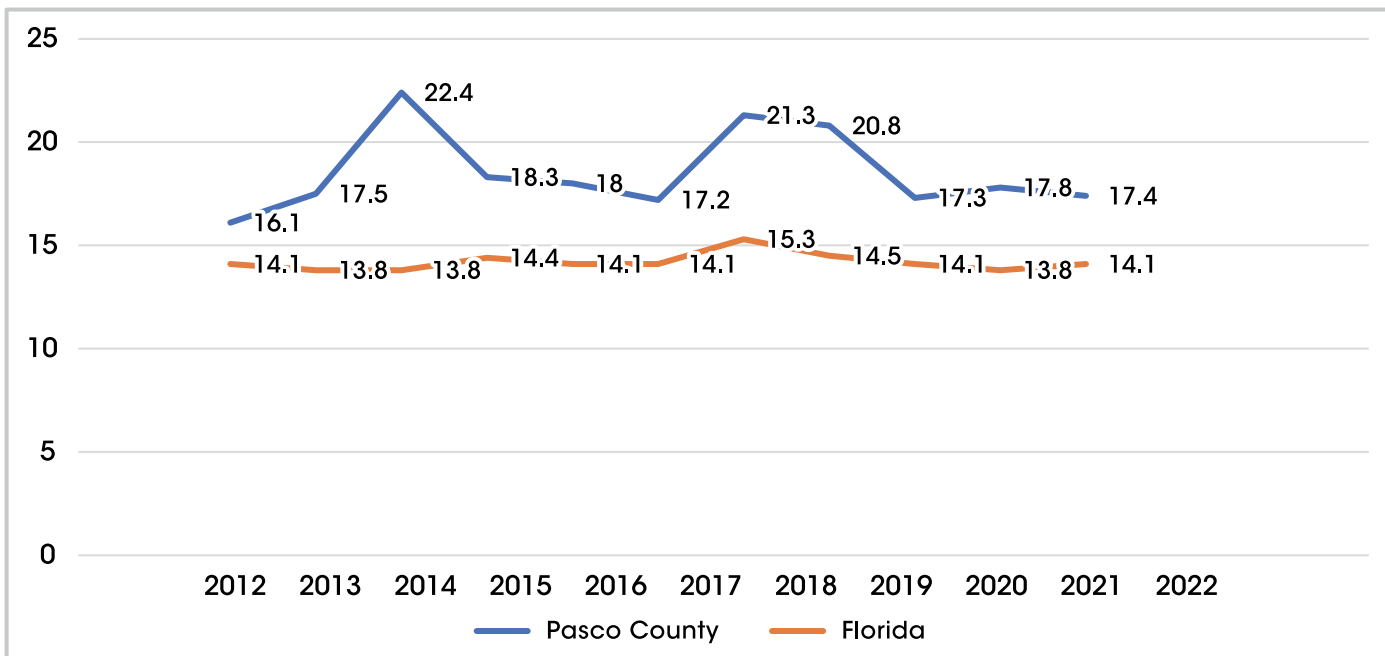


Table 22. Rates of Pasco County Suicides by Drug Poisoning, 2014-2022

Rate of Suicides by Drug Poisoning			
Year	Count	Age-Adjusted Rate (Pasco)	Age-Adjusted Rate (Florida Statewide)
2014	10	1.8	2.0
2015	18	3.2	1.9
2016	17	3.0	1.8
2017	10	1.9	1.6
2018	12	2.2	1.7
2019	9	1.3	1.6
2020	15	2.5	1.4
2021	8	1.3	1.3
2022	18	2.4	1.5

Source: Substance Use Dashboard: Consequences | CHARTS (flhealthcharts.gov)
 Retrieved from: Deaths From Suicides by Drug Poisoning - FL Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health | CHARTS

Figure 21. Rates of Suicide by Drug Poisoning, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022

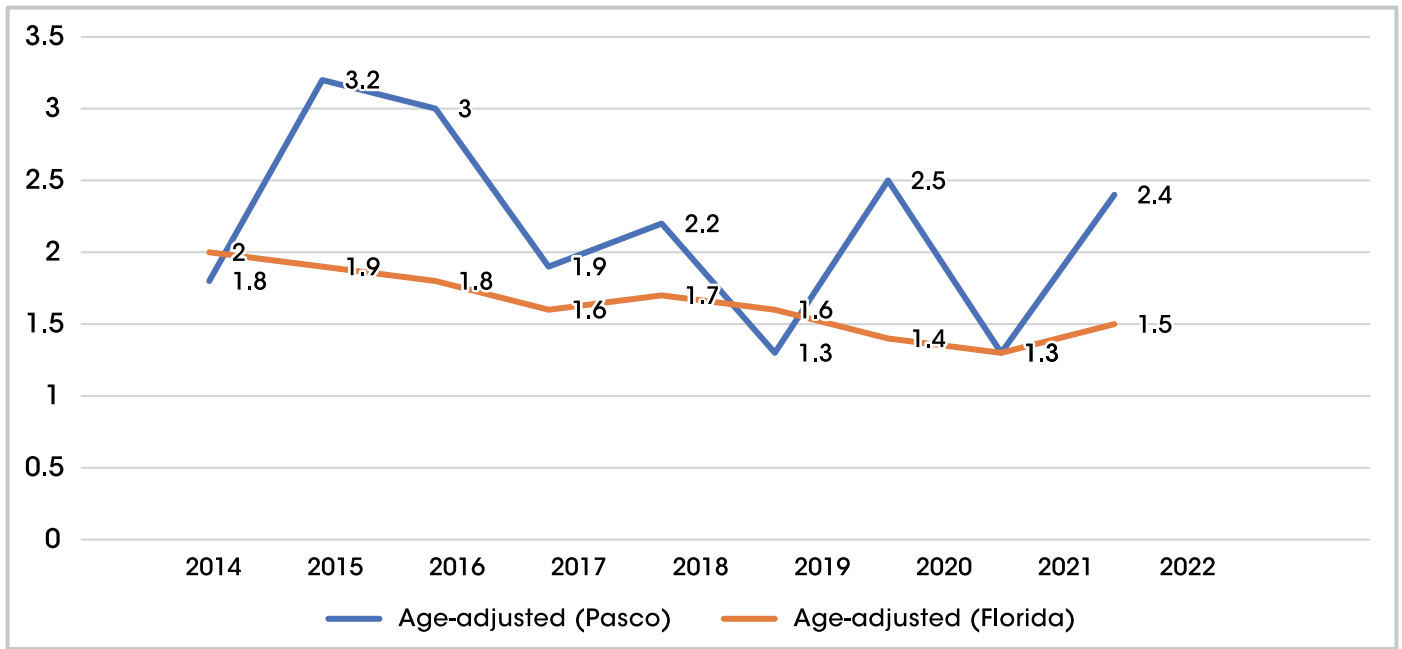
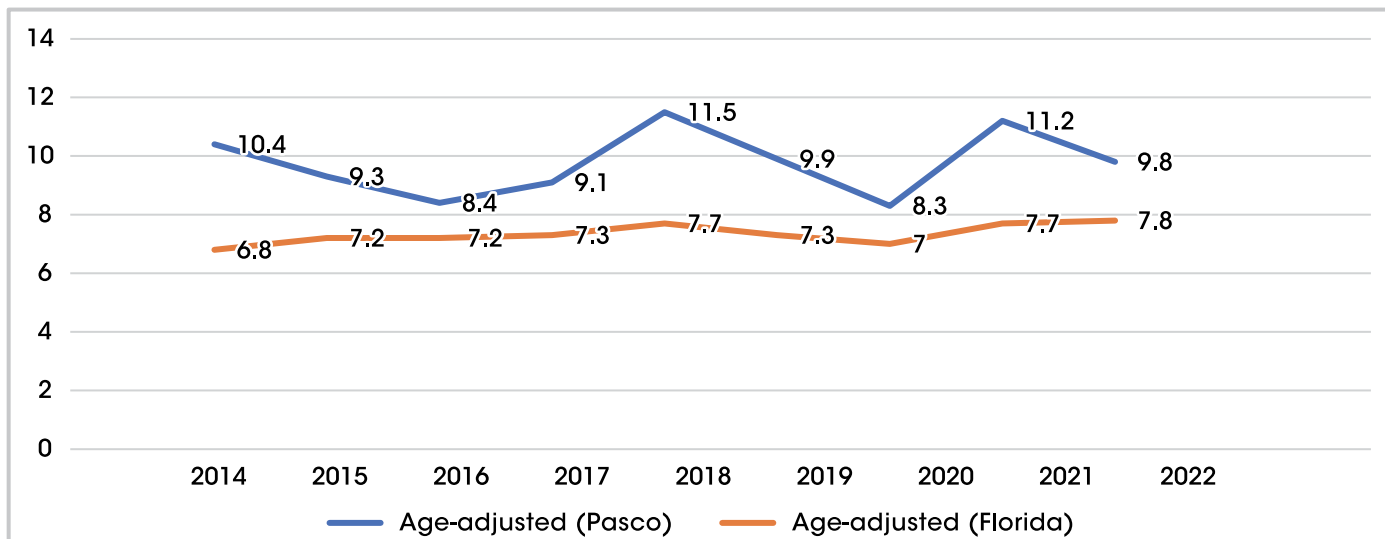


Table 23. Rates of Suicide by Firearm Discharge, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022

Rate of Suicides by Firearm Discharge			
Year	Count	Age-Adjusted Rate (Pasco)	Age-Adjusted Rate (Florida Statewide)
2014	57	10.4	6.8
2015	52	9.3	7.2
2016	53	8.4	7.2
2017	54	9.1	7.3
2018	69	11.5	7.7
2019	60	9.9	7.3
2020	53	8.3	7.0
2021	70	11.2	7.7
2022	66	9.8	7.8

Source: <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Death.Dataviewer&cid=721&drpCounty=51>

Figure 22. Rates of Suicide by Firearm Discharge, Pasco and Statewide, 2014-2022



Key Considerations Related to Suicide:

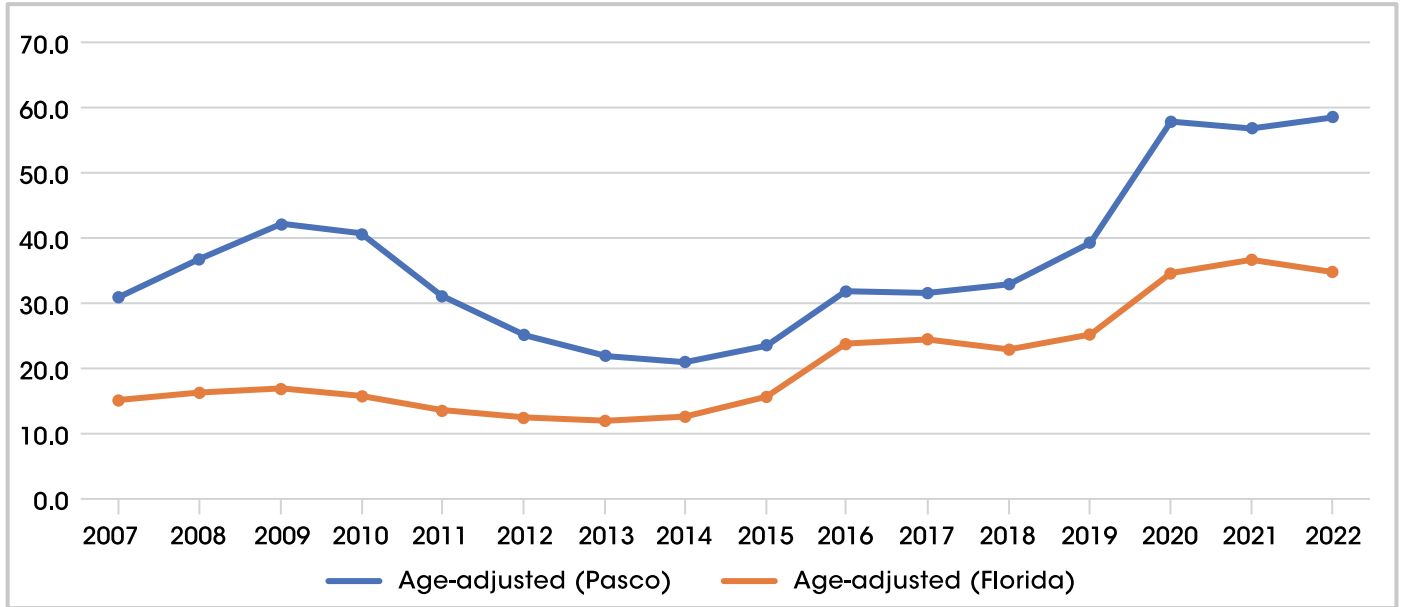
- Pasco County High school students report suicidal ideation and attempts more often than their peers in the state.
- 29% of nonfatal overdose hospitalizations in 2022 were intentional self-harm drug overdose.
- Pasco County Poison Control data indicate that, from 2018 to 2023, there have been over 100 calls to the hotline every year for reasons related to suicide attempts using poisons or medications among youth aged 10-19.
- Pasco County deaths by suicide decreased in 2020 and 2021 then increased to 118 overall in 2022.
- Between 2016 and 2022, the age groups 45-55 (total deaths=151) and 55 to 64 (total deaths=143) are the highest number of deaths by suicide, with a significant spike in cases between 2018 and 2019 (15 vs. 28) for 55-64 age group.
- Since 2012, Pasco County has consistently had higher rates of suicide deaths when compared to the Florida statewide rate.
- Rates of suicide deaths due to drug poisoning have generally been higher in Pasco County compared to the state since 2014. The exception to this is for 2019, when Pasco County's rate was slightly lower than the state rate at 1.3 per 100,000 vs. 1.6 per 100,000.
- Since 2014, Pasco County has had substantially higher rates of suicide deaths from firearms discharge compared to the Florida statewide rate.

Overdose Data

Pasco County had the fifth highest drug overdose mortality rate of Florida’s 67 counties, with an age-adjusted drug poisoning death count of 58.6 per 100,000 people in 2022.¹² As can be seen in Figure 24, Pasco County consistently exceeds Florida’s statewide averages overdose mortality rates.

Figure 23. Drug Poisoning Deaths, Single Year Rates, Pasco and Statewide, 2007-2022

Age-Adjusted Deaths From Drug Poisoning, Single Year



Drug-related deaths have two categories: 1) lethal-level of drug present at time of death, and 2) non-lethal level of drug present at time of death. Drugs reported at non-lethal levels at time of death are those drugs that were present in the individual’s system but not necessarily attributed to the cause of death. Table 23 shows Pasco County data from the Florida Medical Examiner from 2018 to 2022, separated by lethal and non-lethal levels. In 2022, the most frequently reported drugs found at lethal levels were fentanyl (259), amphetamine (162), and methamphetamine (171), whereas alcohol was the most frequently reported drug found at a non-lethal level at time of death.¹³ Fentanyl-caused deaths (lethal levels) have nearly quadrupled since 2018, and deaths caused by amphetamines and methamphetamines have nearly doubled from 2020 to 2022. These statistics underscore the need for additional overdose prevention efforts, especially the use of Narcan to reverse opioid related deaths and amphetamine campaigns to bring awareness to overdose potential.

¹² Florida Dept of Health. Drug Poisoning Deaths, 2022.

Retrieved at <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalInd.Dataviewer&cid=9869>

¹³ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners. 2022 Annual Report. Pasco specific numbers retrieved from the Medical Examiner.

Table 24. Pasco County Drug-Related Deaths by Lethal and Non-Lethal Levels, 2018-2022

Drugs	Lethal Levels Drug Was Cause of Death					Non-Lethal Levels Drug Present at Death				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Alprazolam	33	34	58	40	38	21	21	28	25	25
Diazepam	11	8	12	5	8	12	11	14	8	5
Oxycodone	30	38	37	27	27	26	21	41	20	25
Hydrocodone	4	10	11	4	6	16	9	16	12	9
Methadone	19	12	20	23	16	8	9	9	4	4
Morphine	38	47	41	12	20	18	17	20	24	15
Fentanyl	65	99	199	211	259	8	4	6	9	19
Fentanyl Analog	43	16	4	24	32	2	4	15	14	40
Heroin	14	22	13	3	4	1	1	2	2	0
Cocaine	45	44	52	52	59	27	18	20	25	37
Amphetamine	30	48	87	122	162	--	--	46	26	32
Methamphetamine	--	--	97	135	171	--	--	42	30	29
Ethanol	--	--	31	43	46	--	--	141	143	139

Law enforcement data can be used to provide insight into hot spots within the community for targeted interventions. The Pasco County Sheriff’s Office’s (PCSO) tracks data related to overdoses and crime in their Intelligence Lead Policing reports, and this can be used with GIS to show Hot Spots. **Figure 25** shows Pasco’s Hot Spots that were identified using 2023 data. This analysis reveals that most overdoses occur in Pasco’s west side (Port Richey area) and in the East Pasco communities of Zephyrhills and Angus Valley.

Figure 24. Pasco Sheriff's Office, Heat Map of 2023 Hot Spot Locations for Overdoses

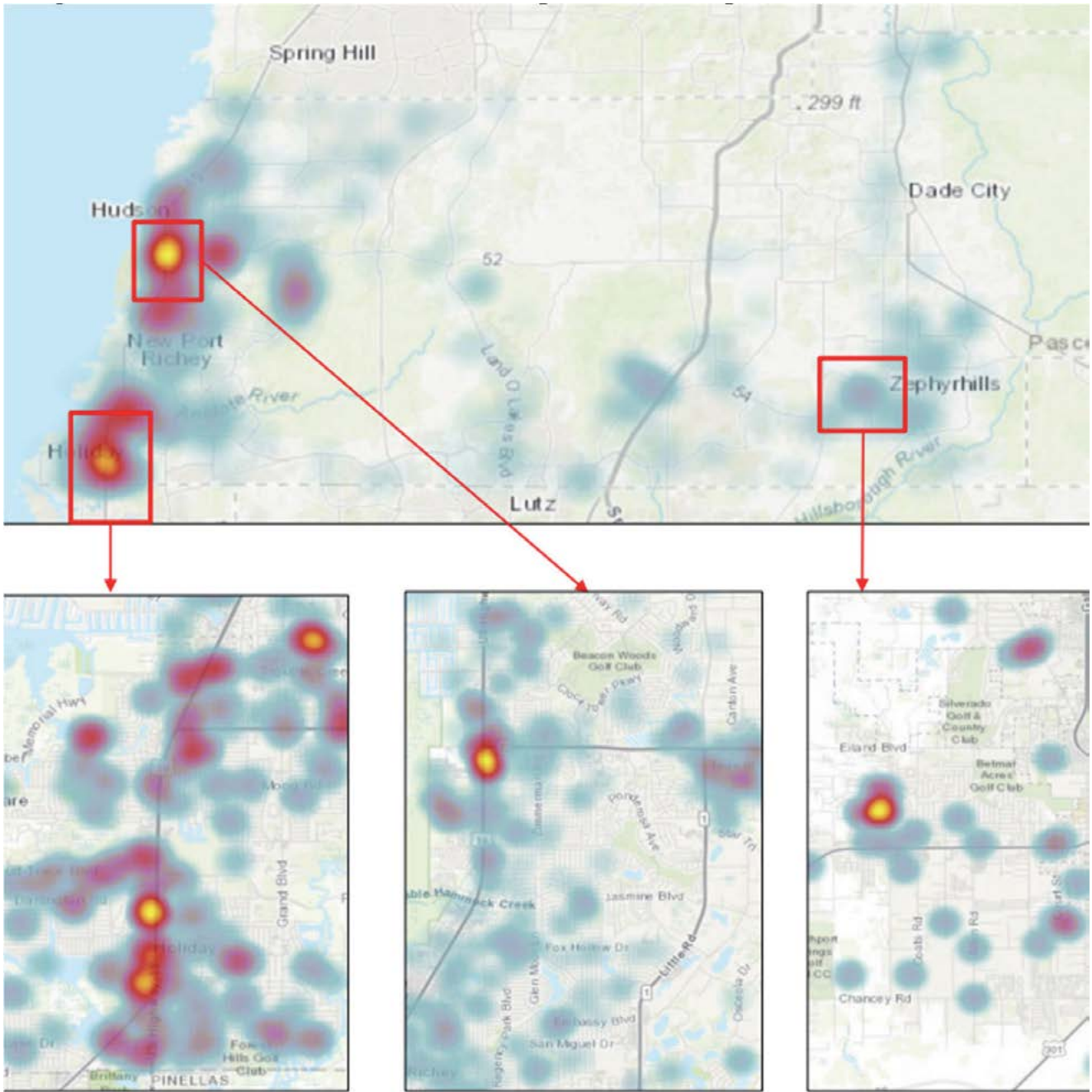


Figure 25 presents Pasco County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) data on the number of overdoses that occurred monthly from 2019 to 2023. In 2023 overdoses peaked in March with 130 overdoses. With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, support groups, drug testing and face-to-face substance use treatment have resumed; this may be a factor in the decrease in overdoses reported in 2023.

Figure 25. Pasco County Sherriff's Office Data on Overdoses in Pasco, 2019-2023

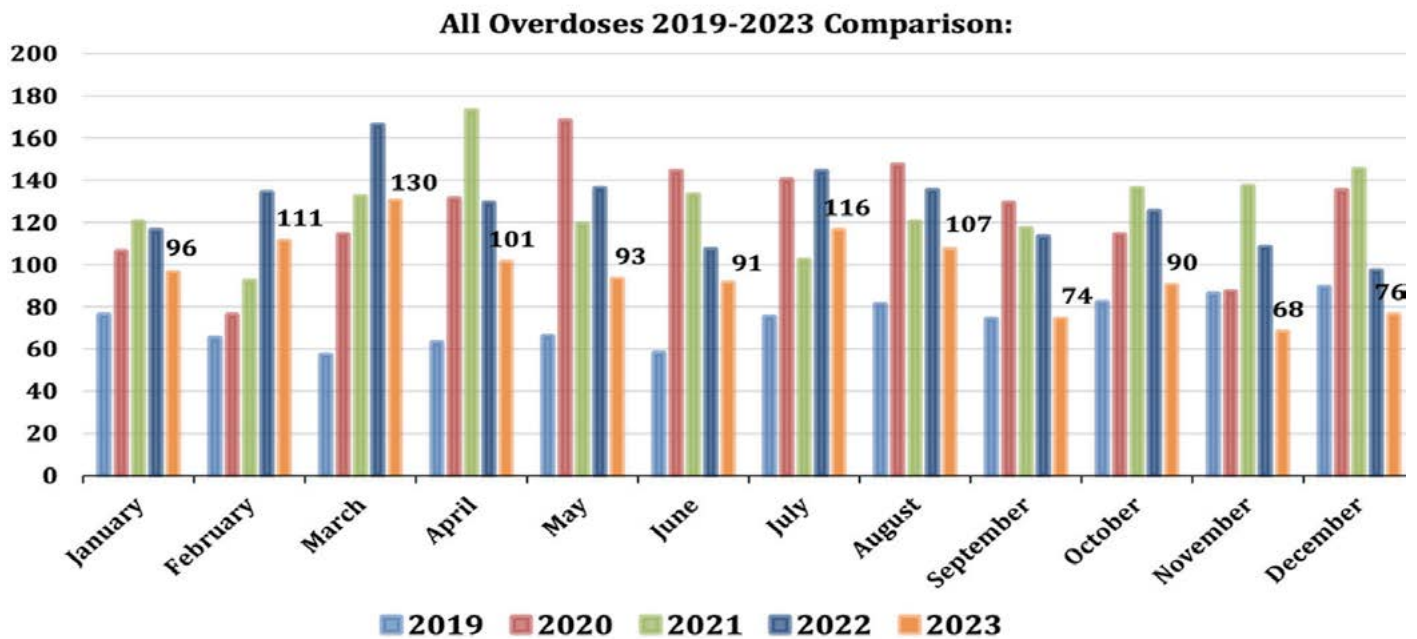


Figure 26 presents PCSO data on the number of monthly overdoses from January 2022 to December 2023 broken down by outcome (death or non-fatal). This information shows that there have consistently been a significant number of overdoses occurring in Pasco County every month. Recent increases in fatal overdoses are partly accounted for by stronger new drugs (Xylazine, etc.) and the potency of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs requiring additional Narcan doses. Tragically, as of December 2023 Xylazine is still not a controlled substance in the United States, even though it is not approved for human use.

Figure 26. Pasco County Overdoses by Outcome from January 2022 to December 2023

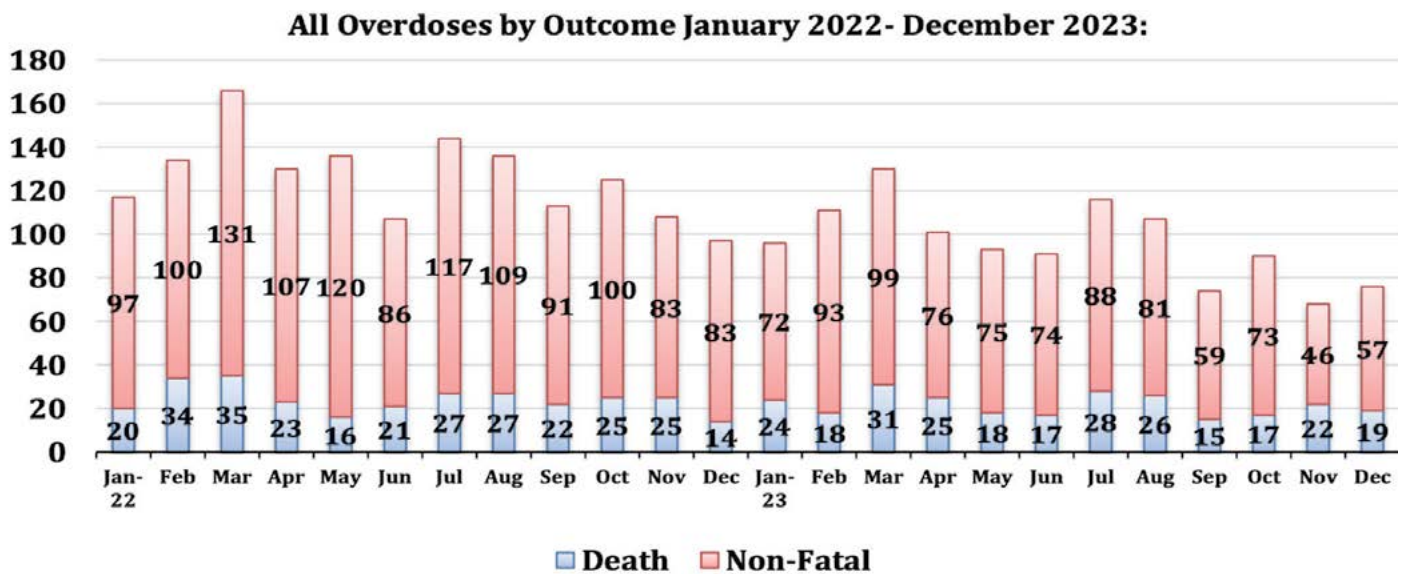


Figure 27 summarizes 2023 PCSO data on overdoses where a substance was disclosed or found at the scene. This information indicates that heroin and fentanyl are the substances most found at the scene or disclosed.

Figure 27. 2023 Pasco County Overdoses by Drug

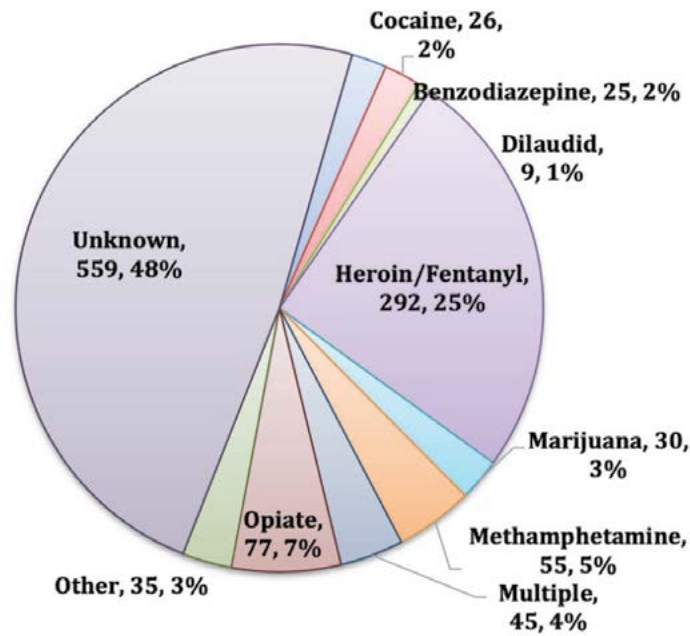
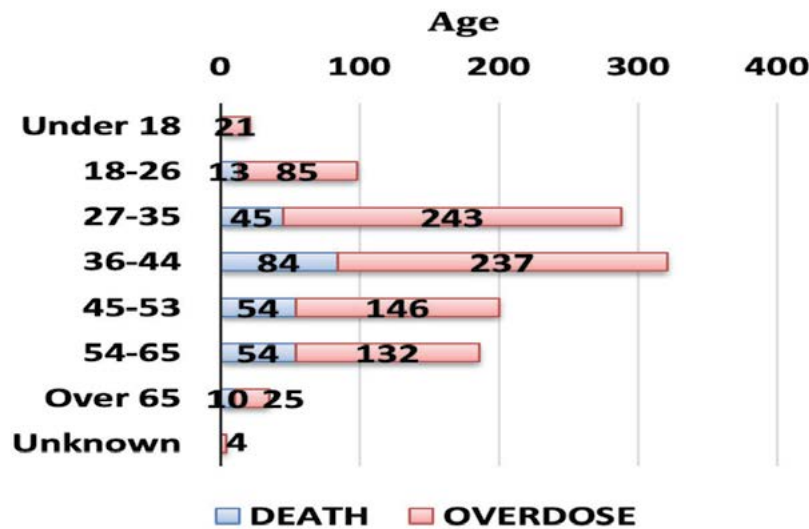


Figure 28 presents information on 2023 Pasco County overdoses by age and outcome (death or non-fatal overdose). This information indicates that overdose victims were most commonly between the ages of 36 and 44, with those over age 40 being more likely to experience a fatal overdose. These statistics show that juveniles experienced 21 overdoses and no fatalities in 2023.

Figure 28. 2023 Pasco County Overdoses by Age and Outcome



Key Considerations Related to Overdose:

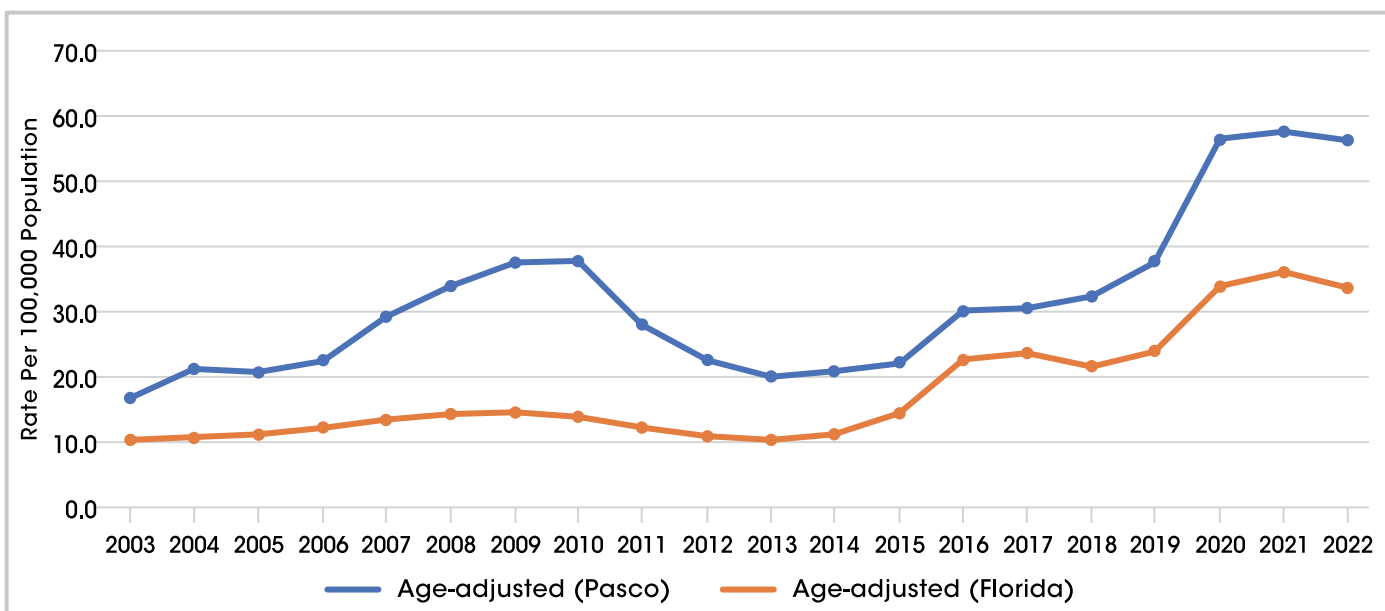
- Rates of overdose deaths involving fentanyl, amphetamine, and methamphetamine are increasing.
- The rate of fatal overdoses is trending up due to strength of fentanyl and other substances mixed with the drugs that are not approved for human consumption, like Xylazine.
- In 2023, there were 21 overdoses by juveniles, though none of these were fatalities.

Unintentional Injuries

The Department of Health Substance Use Dashboard for Pasco County highlights the burden that responding to overdoses places on first responders and our healthcare system. In 2022 there were 3,425 responses for drug overdoses, and 1,193 of these visits were for suspected opioid-involved overdoses. Non-fatal overdoses resulted in 1,526 Pasco County emergency department visits, and almost half (757) involved opiates (757); 345 resulted in hospitalizations, and 101 of the hospitalizations involved stimulants.¹⁴ Of the non-fatal overdose hospitalizations, 71% were unintentional. Drug poisonings were the leading cause of Pasco’s unintentional injury hospitalizations overall, and they were most experienced by youth aged 15-19 and adults ages 25-54.

According to the Opioids Home National Safety Council and Centers for Disease Control, the main cause of unintentional injury deaths is now overdosing deaths. The Florida Charts-Leading Causes of Death Report for 2022 shows that unintended injury-related deaths were the third leading cause of death in Pasco County in 2022.¹⁵ **Figure 29**, generated from Florida Charts data, demonstrates that in 2022, Pasco’s rates of unintentional injury deaths were 98.5 per 100,000. As the figure illustrates, Pasco’s rates are consistently above the state average. In 2022 Pasco County had 320 unintentional injury deaths by drug poisoning; with a rate of 56.5, Pasco County had the fifth highest rate of Florida’s 67 counties.¹⁶ Among Pasco youth aged 15 to 19, the rate of unintentional injury deaths by poisoning was 6.0, the nineteenth highest of all 67 counties in Florida.

Figure 29. Unintentional Injury Deaths by Drug Poisoning, Single-Year Rates, Pasco and Statewide, 2003-2022



Key Considerations Related to Unintentional Injuries:

- Drug poisonings are the leading cause of unintentional injury hospitalizations among Pasco youth ages 15 to 19.
- Pasco County’s rate of death related to unintentional injury is higher than the state average.
- Pasco has the sixth highest rate of unintentional deaths by drug poisoning.

¹⁴ Florida Department of Health, Substance Use Dashboard. 2022. Retrieved at: Substance Use Dashboard: Overview | CHARTS (flhealthcharts.gov)

¹⁵ Florida Department of Health, Leading Causes of Death Report. 2022. Retrieved at: Leading Causes of Death Profile (flhealthcharts.gov)

¹⁶ Florida Department of Health, Unintentional Injury Deaths by Drug Poisoning. 2022. Retrieved at: FLHealthCHARTS Data Viewer

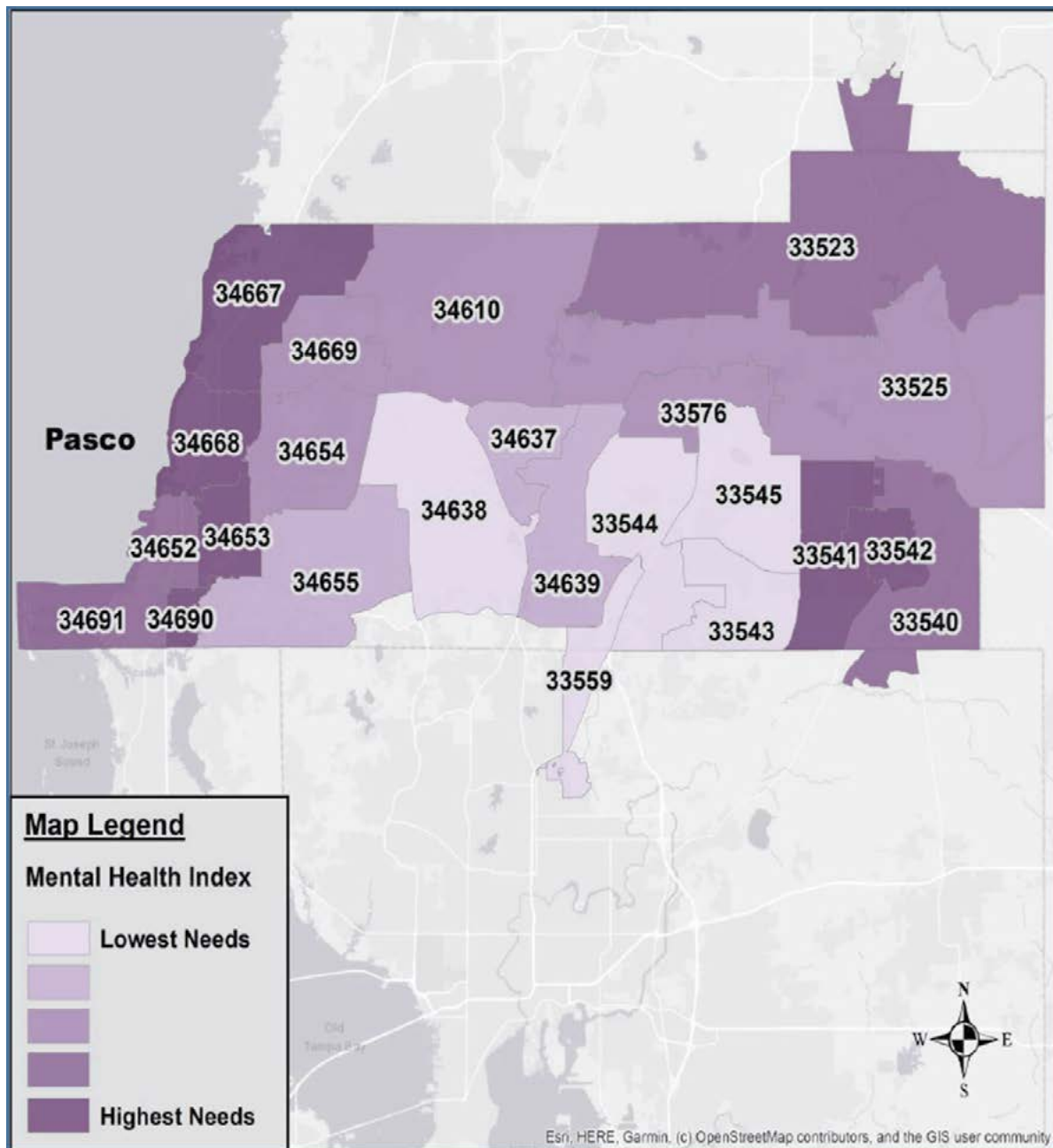
LOCAL CONTRIBUTING RISK FACTORS

Mental Health and Substance Use Needs Among the People We Serve

There is a scarcity of primary and behavioral health care providers in Pasco County. Patient to provider ratios shows that Pasco County’s ratio of patients to primary care physicians is 1,890:1, far worse than Florida’s overall rate of 1,380:1. The situation is worse for mental health. For Pasco residents seeking mental health care, the ratio is 1,020 patients for every one provider, double statewide rate 510:1.

Pasco County’s comprehensive 2022 Community Needs Health Assessment (CMHA) included a Mental Health Index (MHI) that measures socioeconomic and health factors associated with self-reported poor mental health. Pasco County ZIP codes were ranked based on their 2021 MHI index value to identify the relative levels of need as depicted in Figure 30. This information indicates that the two ZIP codes estimated to have the highest mental health need, as indicated by the darkest shades of purple, are 34667 (Hudson, index value 97.8) and 34542 (Zephyrhills, index value of 96.0). Importantly, this shows that the highest areas of need are concentrated in the Easternmost and Westernmost parts of Pasco.

Figure 30. 2021 Index of Mental Health Needs for Pasco County, by Zip Code



Pasco’s 2022 CMHA collected and analyzed secondary data that included over 150 community indicators, spanning at least 24 topics in the areas of health, social determinants of health, and quality of life. Data sources were primarily derived from state and national public secondary data. HCI’s Data Scoring Tool® was used to systematically summarize multiple comparisons to rank indicators based on highest need. For each indicator, the Pasco County value was compared to a distribution of Florida and U.S. counties, state and national values, Healthy People 2030, and significant trends. Indicators were rolled up into the three categories health and quality of life topic areas, then ranked. Results indicated that the topic area “Mental Health and Mental Disorders” was the poorest performing health and quality of life topic for Pasco County, underscoring the County’s dire need for these services.

Pasco’s 2022 CMHA also involved conducting a community survey. The survey consisted of 59 questions related to top health needs in the community, individuals’ perceptions of their overall health, individuals’ access to health care services, as well as social and economic determinants of health. Impressively, 2,304 Pasco residents completed the survey. Figure 31 summarizes the results, indicating that the top two “Health Issues” were related to substance and mental health, and that the top two risky behaviors were prescription drug and alcohol misuse.

Figure 31. Top 3 Health and Quality of Life Issues Identified in Community Survey

Top 3 Health Issues	Top 3 Risky Behaviors	Top 3 Quality of Life Issues
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illegal drug use/abuse or misuse of prescription medications 2. Mental Health problems including suicide 3. Aging Problems 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illegal drug use/abuse or misuse of prescription medications 2. Alcohol abuse/drinking too much alcohol (i.e., beer, wine, spirits, mixed drinks) 3. Distracted driving (texting, eating, talking on the phone) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low crime/safe neighborhoods 2. Access to health care 3. Good schools

Pasco’s 2022 CHNA also gathered data through focus groups with Pasco County residents. **Figure 32** summarizes findings indicating that both “Mental Health” and “Substance Abuse” are among the top three identified health issues. This finding is consistent with other local data sources.

Figure 32. Themes Resulting from Pasco 2022 CHNA Focus Groups

Top Health Issues	Top 3 Risky Behaviors	Top 3 Quality of Life Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Access to Healthcare ■ Mental Health & Mental Disorders ■ Substance abuse (alcohol & drug use) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health Behaviors (fear/stigma, knowledge/navigation) ■ Discrimination/bias ■ Economy/employment ■ Housing ■ Lack of or limited health insurance ■ Language ■ Poverty ■ Social Environment ■ Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adolescents ■ Black/African American ■ Children ■ Hispanic/Latino ■ LGBTQ+ population ■ Migrant/Refugee/Immigrant ■ Older adults

Research has consistently linked mental illness with substance use disorders and vice versa. About half of those who experience a mental illness in their lifetime will also have a co-morbid substance use disorder. Additionally, adolescents with substance use disorders have high rates of co-occurring mental illness. Understanding the mental health of youth and young adults aids in assessing risk of individuals developing substance use disorders later in life. This data also provides opportunities for early intervention programs to disrupt risky behaviors associated with substance use as a means to self-medicate and mask underlying mental illness. Data on measures related to depression and other mental health indicators can be used to target early intervention and treatment programs, provide community education and awareness, and improve school-based services.

Economic and Social Drivers of Health in Our Service Area

Conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. These conditions are known as social determinants of health (SDOH). When considered with genetic and biological factors, SDOH are key indicators of an individual’s future health status and catalog of risk factors. Understanding the interconnectedness between key demographics and SDOH also provides for identification of opportunities for interventions and both environmental and targeted strategies. Figure 33 depicts the different types of SDOH, and the following section reviews key demographics and SDOH within Pasco County as they relate to substance misuse and related behaviors.

Poverty and Income

In 2022, Census data estimated that 10.9% of the population in Pasco County was living below the poverty level.¹⁷ According to County Health Rankings, the percentage of children living below the poverty level in Pasco County (17%) is lower than the current state average (18%). Figure 34 presents Pasco, Florida, and national percentages of children living in poverty from 2002 to 2021. Since 2014, there has been a decline in the percentage of children in poverty in Pasco County. While this is positive, significant disparities still exist between Black (19%), Hispanic (24%), and White (15%) children in poverty. Among older individuals, 14,960 seniors are below 125% of the federal poverty line, accounting for about 9% of seniors in Pasco.¹⁸

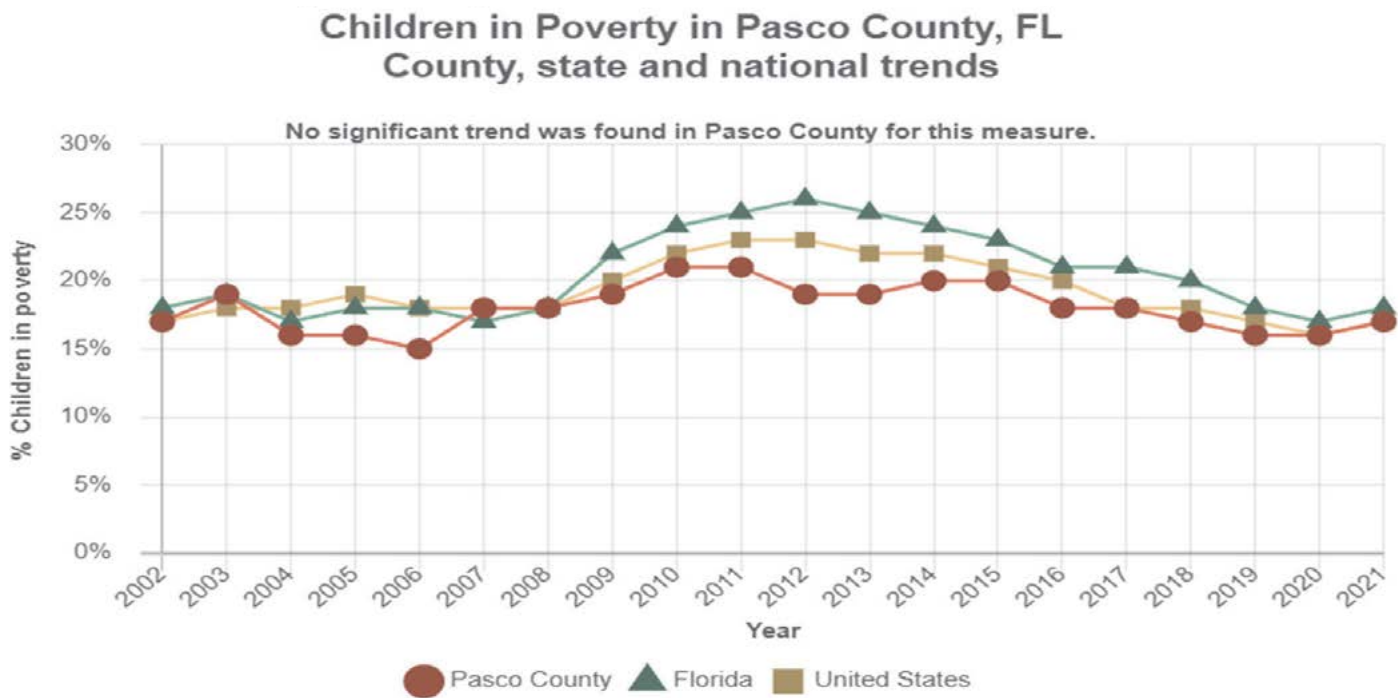
Figure 33. Social Determinants of Health



¹⁷ US Census Bureau. Retrieved 2018 at: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/pascocountyflorida>

¹⁸ United States Department of Elder Affairs, Florida (2020). Profile of Older Floridians, Pasco County, (2021). 2021 Profile of Older Floridians_Pasco (elderaffairs.org)

Figure 34. Children Living in Poverty in Pasco, Statewide, and Nationally, 2002-2021



Notes:
Prior to 2005, Children in poverty was based on the Current Population Survey; beginning in 2005, it was based on the American Community Survey.

Table 25. Pasco County Median Household Income, 2016-2022

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Amount	\$56,274	57,832	58,940	60,658	60,545	62,784	63,187

Source: <https://www.neilsberg.com/insights/pasco-county-fl-median-household-income/#:~:text=The%20median%20household%20income%20in%20Pasco%20County%20was,increase%20of%202%2C239%20%283.70%25%29%20from%20%2460%2C545%20in%202020.>

Table 26. Pasco County Percent of Population Below the Poverty Level

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Percent	13.6	13.6	13.5	12.7	12.3	12.2	11.8

Source: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/S1701ACS012101>

Employment

A community's employment rate is a key indicator of the local economy. An individual's type and level of employment impacts access to health care, work environment, health behaviors, and health outcomes. Stable employment can help provide benefits and conditions for maintaining good health. In contrast, poor or unstable work and working conditions are linked to poor physical and mental health outcomes.¹⁹ Pasco County's 2023 unemployment rate of 3.5% is higher than Florida's 2.9% average.²⁰ **Table 27** presents data on Pasco County's top employers. This information indicates that government and healthcare organizations remain the top employers in the county.²¹

Table 27. Top Pasco County Employers

Rank	Employer Name	Total Employees
1.	Pasco County School District	12,490
2.	Pasco County Government	3,305
3.	HCA Healthcare	*3,084
4.	State of Florida	1,649
5.	AdventHealth Wesley Chapel	1,562
6.	Florida Medical Clinic	1,319
7.	Pasco County Sheriff	1,144
8.	Federal Government	940
9.	Saint Leo University	805
10.	Santander Consumer USA	434
11.	Gulfside Healthcare Services	385
12.	Bayonet Plumbing Heating and A/C	375
13.	Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative	*368
14.	Premier Community HealthCare	297
15.	Pasco Clerk of the Circuit Court	287
16.	SouthEast Personnel Leasing	241
17.	R.J. Kielty Plumbing, Heating Y Cooling	206
18.	Ensurem	*200
19.	Amazon Last Mile Facility	*200
20.	Encompass Health	145

* 2022 total employee count

¹⁹ Community Health Needs Assessment Pasco County 2022 www.All4HealthFL.org

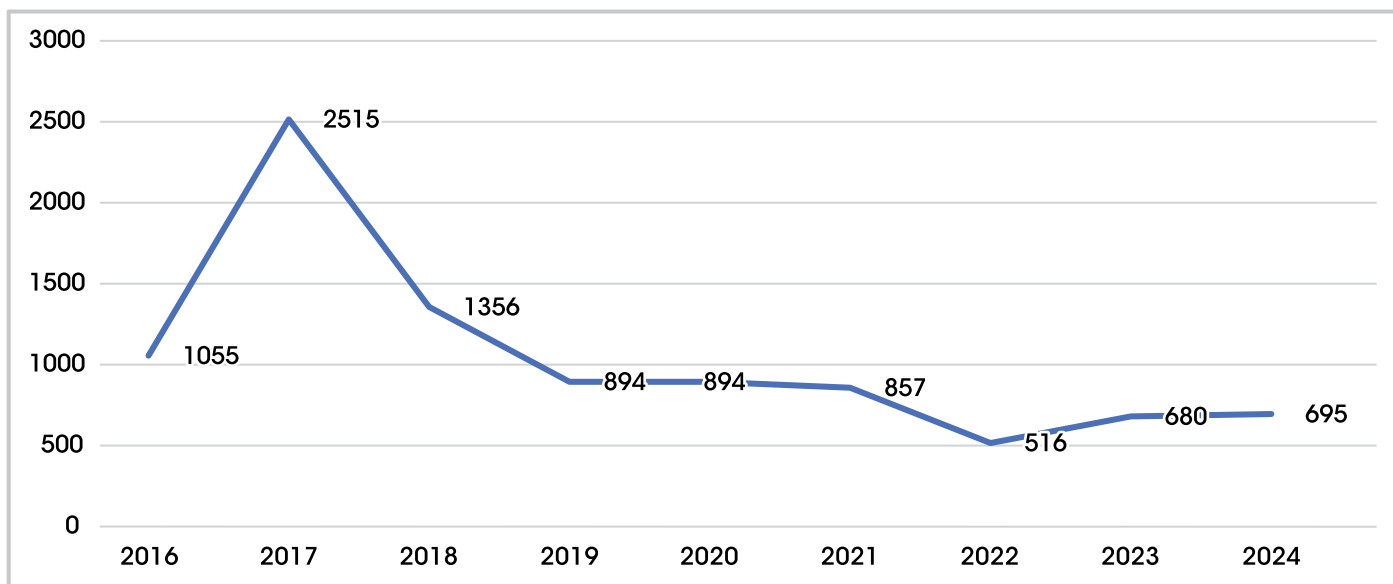
²⁰ United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (2023). Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Retrieved from: https://ycharts.com/indicators/pasco_county_fl_unemployment_rate

²¹ United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (2023). Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Retrieved from: https://ycharts.com/indicators/pasco_county_fl_unemployment_rate

Housing

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. A critical SDOH is housing. Lack of safe or reliable housing can exacerbate substance use and mental illness. When left untreated, these conditions can lead to risky behaviors and situations that perpetuate homelessness. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration estimates that 38 percent of people experiencing homelessness are dependent on alcohol and another 26 percent misuse other drugs. Communities can assess SDOH indicators to better understand contributing factors to risk behaviors and conditions related to drugs and alcohol and can also identify areas of need in the community that must be addressed to ensure that all needs are met.

Figure 35. Pasco County Homelessness Count, 2016-2024



Source. Homeless Estimate - FL Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health | CHARTS

Key Considerations Related to Housing:

- The number of homeless individuals in Pasco County reached a high of 2,515 in 2016. Since 2016, that has been steadily declining with an estimated 695 homeless individuals in 2024.
- Reports from the Department of Housing and Urban Development from 2019 show a relatively stable number of housing inventory for people experiencing homelessness over the last five years (2015-2019).

Homelessness

Homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered, remains a top concern for this continuously growing county. According to the most updated Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR) in 2023, 680 individuals who are homeless live in Pasco County, an increase from 589 in 2022.²² Of the 680, there were 135 (19.8%) in families, 88 (12.9%) under the age of 18, and 28 (4.1%) youth under the age of 18 in emergency shelters. Safe, stable, and affordable housing provides a critical foundation for health and wellbeing. Exposure to health hazards and toxins in the home can cause significant damage to an individual or family’s health.²³

²² The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), (2023). The 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. Retrieved from: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/>

²³ County Health Rankings, Housing and Transit. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-healthrankings/measures-data-sources/county-health-rankings-model/health-factors/physical-environment/housing-andtransit>

Pulled from the Community Health Needs Assessment Pasco County 2022 All4 HealthFL.org

Physical Health and Insurance Coverage

Pasco County ranks 33rd out of Florida’s 67 counties in overall health.²⁴ Although the county has made strides over the last decade to improve the health of residents, there is still much work to be done. According to recent County Health Rankings data, Pasco County residents reported higher than state averages for “poor physical health days” (3.6 vs. 3.0) and “poor mental health days” (5.4 vs. 4.2). Pasco County also fares worse than statewide rates of preventable hospital stays (3,424 vs. 3,186) and premature death (9,200 vs. 7,500). Pasco also has an injury death rate of 112, far exceeding Florida’s statewide average of 87.

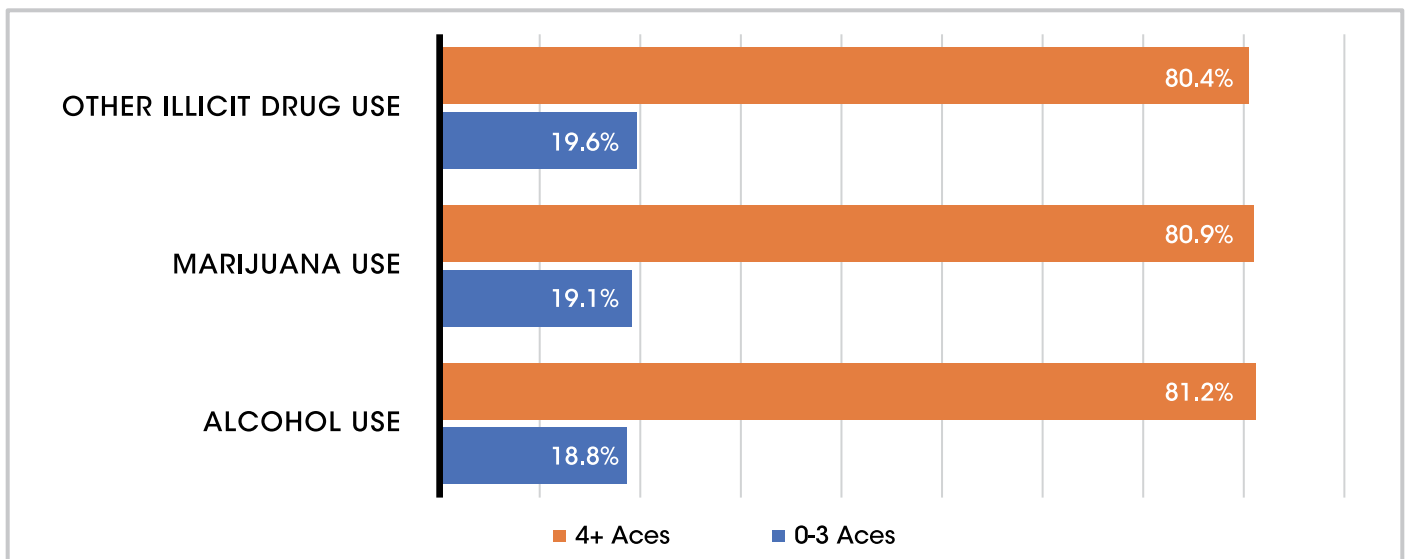
Approximately 16% of adults and 7% of children in Pasco are uninsured.²⁵ Pasco residents seeking healthcare have limited affordable providers to select from. The county’s ratio of patients to primary care physicians is 1,890:1, far worse than Florida’s overall rate of 1,380:1. For those seeking mental health services the ratio is 1,020 patients for every one provider, which is double the statewide rate 510:1.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are a major social determinant of health strongly associated with the development and prevalence of a wide range of health problems throughout a person’s lifespan (Douglas et al., 2010). A large body of research has demonstrated a strong, graded relationship between ACEs and a variety of substance-related behaviors that include early initiation of alcohol use; higher risk of mental and substance use disorders as an older adult (50+ years); continued tobacco use during adulthood; prescription drug use; and lifetime illicit drug use, drug dependency, and self-reported addiction. Neurodevelopment can be disrupted when children are exposed to chronic stressful events, resulting in impairments in cognitive functioning and/or ability to cope with negative or disruptive emotions. During adolescence, the development of maladaptive coping skills, like substance use, contributes to disease, disability, social problems, and even premature mortality (SAMHSA, 2018).

The 2020 FYSAS was one of the first large-scale youth data collection efforts to include a comprehensive set of ACE questions. Exposure to four or more ACEs is considered an elevated level of trauma. Data from 2022 FYSAS shows that 23.8% of Pasco County high school students have been exposed to at least four ACEs, slightly higher than the state average of 22.1%. The connection between traumatic experiences and negative consequences of trauma is illustrated in Figure 36, which shows that Pasco County students with four or more ACEs are more than three as likely to drink alcohol, use marijuana, or use other illicit drugs.

Figure 36. Pasco County 2022 FYSAS Substance Use Rates for Students with Four or more ACEs

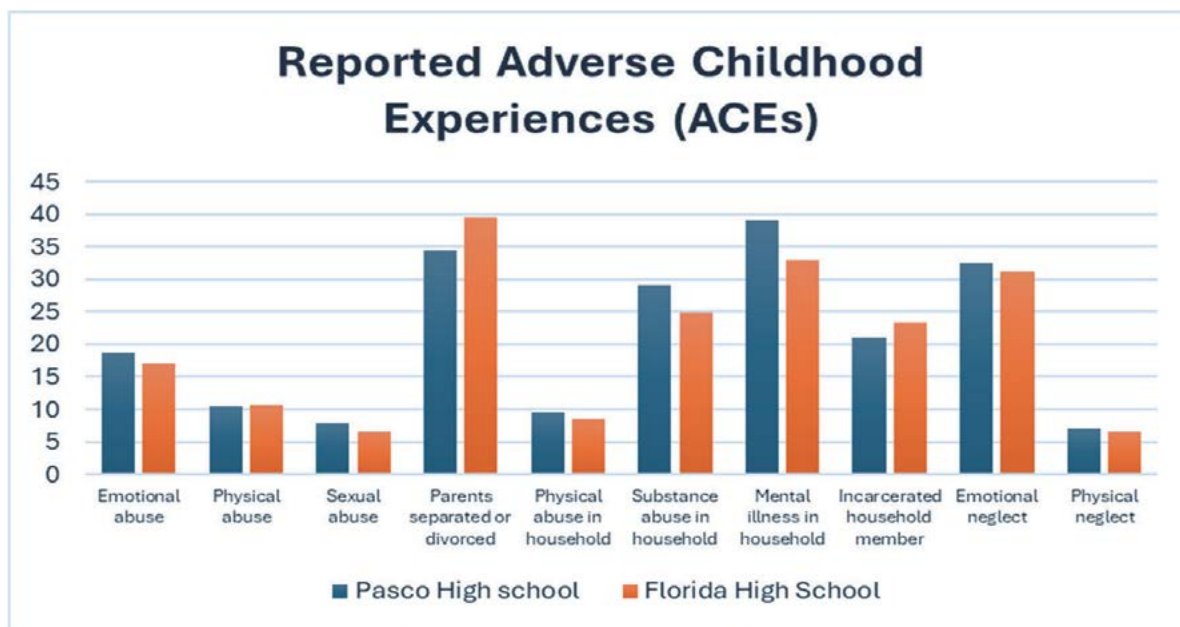


²⁴ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, County Health Rankings, 2023.
Retrieved at: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/florida/pasco?year=2023>

²⁵ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, County Health Rankings, 2023.
Retrieved at: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/florida/pasco?year=2023>

Figure 37 shows the 2022 FYSAS data prevalence of various childhood traumas among high school youth in Pasco County and compares it to statewide rates. These statistics reveal that mental illness and substance abuse in the home are two of the top four ACEs most reported by Pasco high school students, and both measures exceed the statewide rates

Figure 37. 2022 FYSAS Pasco and Statewide Data on the Prevalence of Childhood Trauma



Key Considerations Related to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):

- 23.8% of Pasco County high school students report being exposed to at least 4 ACEs.
- Students with four or more ACEs are more than twice as likely to drink alcohol, smoke marijuana, and use other illicit substances.
- Mental health and substance abuse in the household are among the top reported ACEs and higher than the Florida state average.

Infectious Diseases

Aside from deaths due to acute drug toxicity, opioids are also related to other major causes of death and disease in Pasco County, like chronic liver disease, Hepatitis A, B, and C, and HIV. Chronic liver disease is often caused by untreated Hepatitis B and C, and it has been consistently listed in the top 10 causes of death in Pasco for the last decade.²⁶ According to Florida CHARTS, the rate of persons with chronic Hepatitis C was 74.7 in 2022, well over the state average of 56.1. The prevalence of Hepatitis B and A is closely monitored after a spike within Pasco County from 2019 to 2020. The 2022 rate for chronic Hepatitis B cases (16.2) is lower than the state average of 19.4, whereas Pasco’s rate of Hepatitis A (1.9) is higher than Florida’s average rate of 1.4.²⁷

According to Florida Health CHARTS data, Pasco’s rate of persons with HIV is 12.3, nearly double the County rate of 6.7 in 2020. Following the passage of syringe exchange legislation in 2018, harm reduction programs that address safe injection practices, distribute clean syringes, and provide education about infection risks and proper wound care are emerging as promising practices to address Hepatitis.

Key Considerations Related to Infectious Diseases:

- Opportunities exist to expand and enhance harm reduction programming and policies.

²⁶ Florida Department of Health, Leading Causes of Death Report. 2022. Retrieved at: <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=ChartsProfiles.LeadingCausesOfDeathProfile>

²⁷ Florida Department of Health Infectious Disease Report. 2022. Retrieved at Infectious Diseases | CHARTS (flhealthcharts.gov)

Criminal Justice Indicators

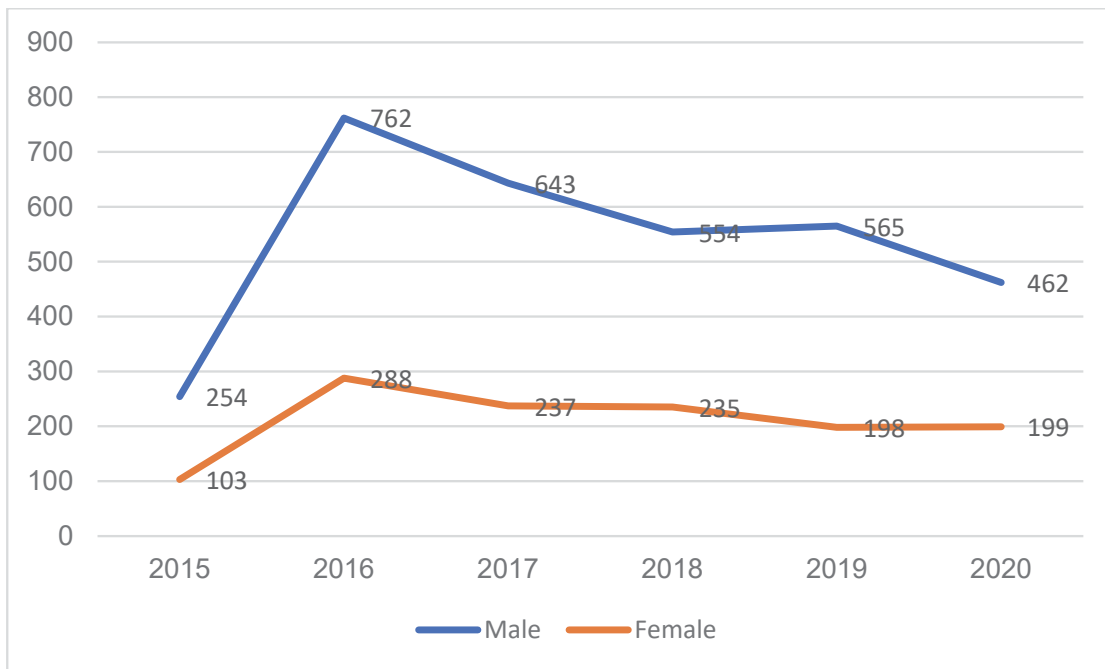
Research consistently shows a correlation between criminal justice involvement and drug and alcohol misuse. Criminal justice involvement also increases exposure to other risky behaviors and left untreated, substance misuse can perpetuate the cycle of recidivism in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Data related to these outcomes assist communities with planning of interventions that target populations at risk of involvement with criminal justice settings and identify areas where interventions may be developed to interrupt continued involvement. Understanding the scope of law violations related to alcohol and other drugs also assists with development of awareness campaigns and key community safety interventions.

Table 28. Alcohol- and Drug-Related Offense and Arrest Data, Pasco and Statewide, 2019-2023

Indicator	Pasco County					Florida Statewide				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DUI Arrests	766	661	906	901	883	33,873	29,114	43,787	44,001	44,185
Drug/Narcotic Arrests	2,666	1,536	1,707	1,544	--	106,500	73,161	80,962	83,197	--

Source: <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/CJAB-Home/Uniform-Crime-Report/Data-Archives/UCR-Arrest-Data>
 *Liquor Law violations are considered violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession or use of intoxicating alcoholic beverages.

Figure 38. Pasco County DUI Arrests by Gender, 2015-2020



Key Considerations Related to Criminal Justice:

- From 2019 to 2023, there has been a slight increase in DUI arrests in Pasco County (15%) and a slightly larger increase in Florida statewide (30%).
- While DUI arrests increased over time, drug/narcotic arrests decreased from 2019 to 2022 in Pasco County (42%) and Florida statewide (22%).
- Between 2015 and 2020, males had consistently higher DUI arrests than females.

Juvenile Justice Indicators

Involvement with the juvenile justice system has a strong correlation with substance misuse among youth and young adults. Studies show that 80 percent of minors in juvenile justice systems were under the influence of drugs or alcohol when committing crimes, test positive for drugs, were arrested for committing an alcohol or drug offense, admitted to having substance use challenges or shared some combination of these characteristics. Understanding behavior that puts youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement is critical to developing early intervention and prevention programming that targets this high-risk population. Data can be used to understand age groups to target interventions and messaging to and help communities quantify impacts of treatment programming for youth with substance use disorder.

Table 29. Percentage of Pasco and Statewide Youth who Reported Involvement in Bullying Behavior, 2014-2022

Indicator	Pasco County					Florida Statewide				
	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Ever physically bullied others	6.3	4.1	15.2*	15.9	13.9	6.1	15.1	16.8	16.8	16.4
Ever verbally bullied others	11.0	9.8	26.6*	27.5	33.1	12.0	27.1	29.1	29.1	29.4
Ever cyber bullied others	4.1	3.5	12.9*	11.8	15.5	3.9	10.9	11.9	11.9	12.8

*In 2018 the measure changed from "in the past 30 days to ever"

Figure 39. Pasco and Statewide Youth Delinquent Behavior in the Past 12 Months, 2022

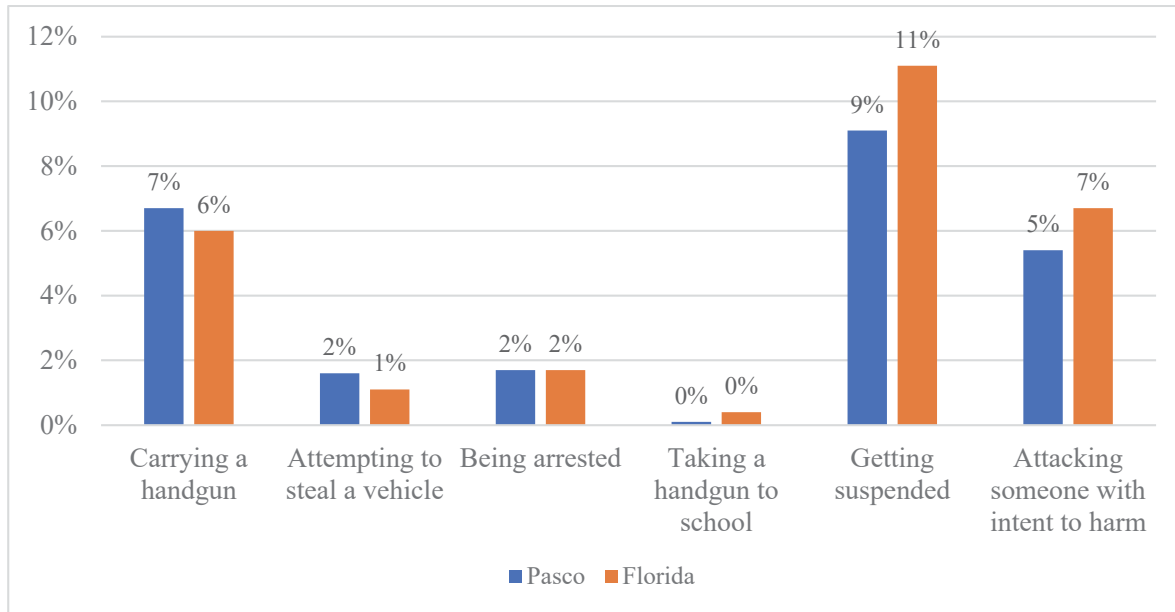
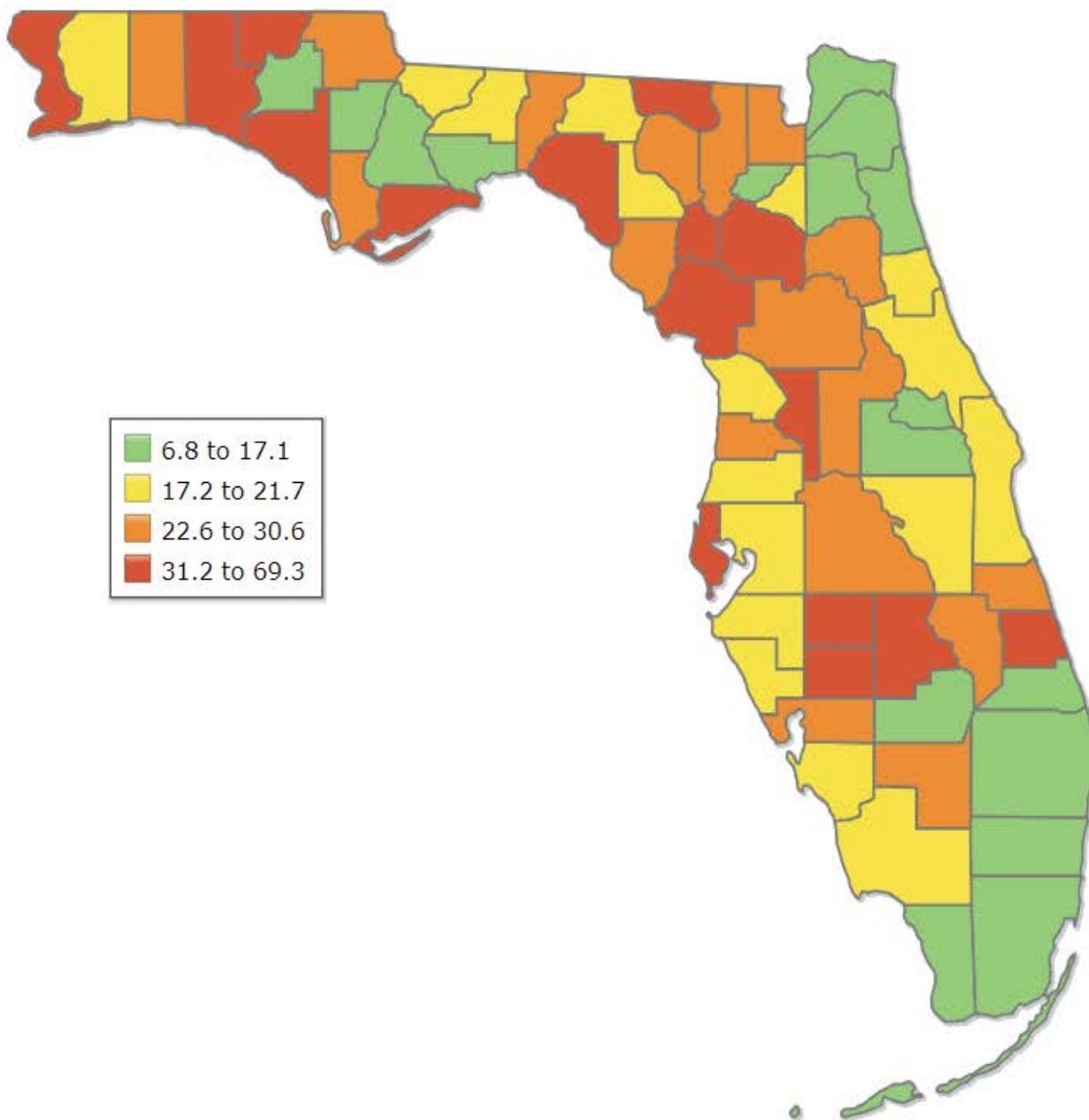


Table 30. Pasco and Statewide Arrests for Youth Ages 10-17, 2015-2022

Year	Pasco County	Statewide
2015	1,846	75,069
2016	1,716	69,869
2017	1,364	64,919
2018	1,311	59,589
2019	1,403	54,878
2020	1,230	45,449
2021	1,087	31,612
2022	1,084	36,996

Source: Arrests, Aged 10-17 Years - FL Health CHARTS - Florida Department of Health | CHARTS

Figure 40. Arrests, by County, for Youth Ages 10-17, Rate per 100,000 of Population Ages 10-17, 2022



Source: <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndNoGrp.Dataviewer>

Key Considerations Related to Juvenile Justice:

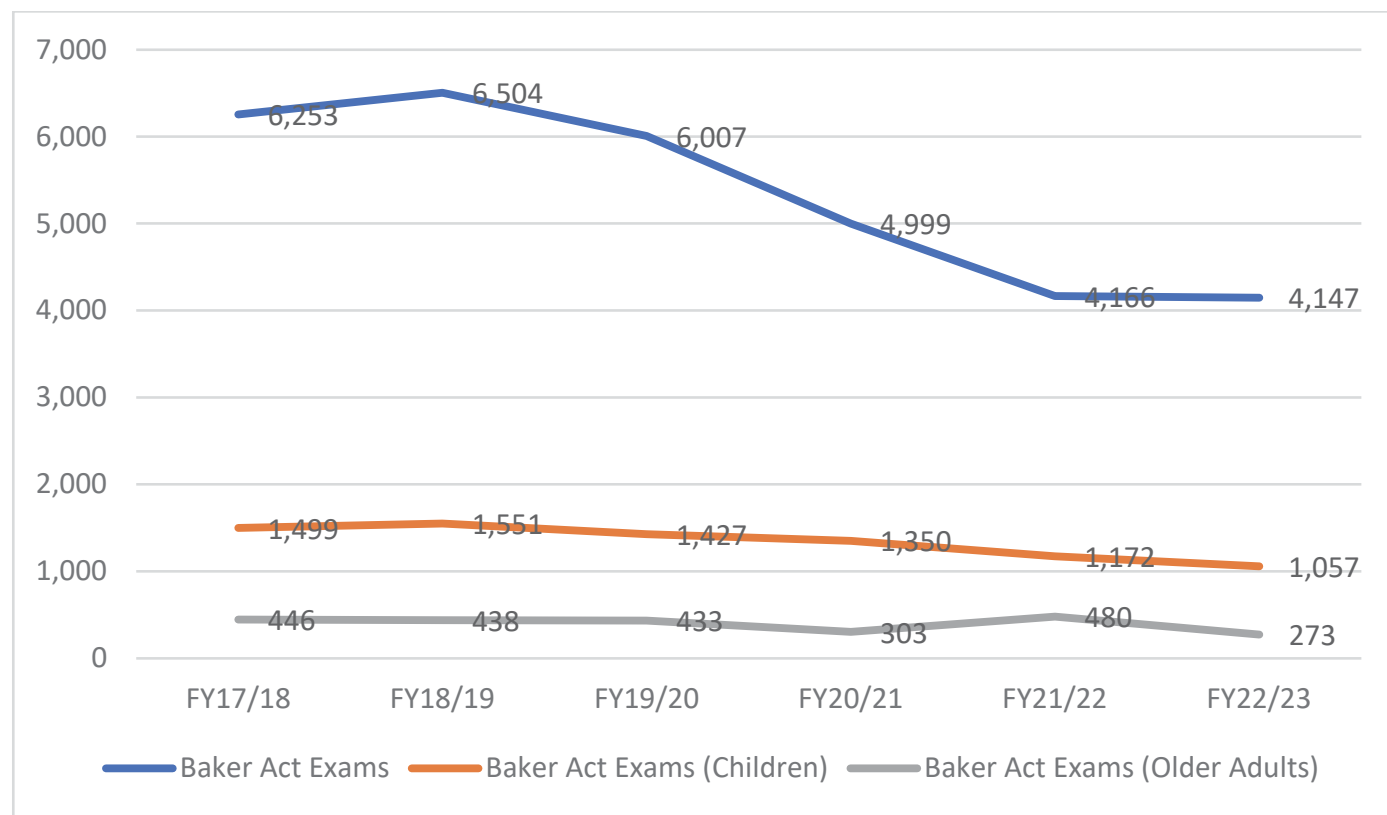
- Relative to other counties in Florida, there are more arrests of youth ages 10-17 in Pasco County than there are in about half of the counties statewide. The map illustrates county data by quartile.
- Rates of involvement in bullying behavior for Pasco County youth are consistent with that of the statewide average.
- Between 2014 and 2022, verbal bullying was the most common type of bullying related behavior.
- About 9% of Pasco County youth report being suspended in the past 12 months.

Table 31. Pasco County Involuntary Examinations, FY17/18-22/23

	FY17/18	FY18/19	FY19/20	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23
Baker Act Exams (All)*	6,253	6,504	6,007	4,999	4,166	4,147
Baker Act Exams (Children)	1,499	1,551	1,427	1,350	1,172	1,057
Baker Act Exams (Older Adults)	446	438	433	303	480	273

* Most Pasco County residents who received an involuntary examination were seen at Morton Plant North Bay Hospital Recovery Center, Medical Center of Trinity - West Pasco Campus, North Tampa Behavioral Health, BayCare Behavioral Health, and Gracepoint.

Figure 41. Pasco County Involuntary Examinations, FY17/18-22/23



Key Considerations:

- Baker Act examinations for all ages decreased substantially from 2017/18 (6,253) to 2022/23 (4,147) with a 41% decrease with the sharpest decrease between 2019/20-2020/21 (18% decrease).
- Consistent with all ages, children (under age 18) have been steadily decreasing from 2017/18 (1,499) to 2002/23 (1,057) with a 35% decrease.
- Older adults had a consistent decrease between 2017/18 (446) and 2020/21 (303) with a 38% decrease. There was a 45% increase from 2020/21 (303) to 2021/22 (480) and then a 55% decrease between 2021/22 (480) to 2022/23 (273).

Appendix A:

Pasco County High School Student Report of Substance Use by Gender and Number of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Table 32. Pasco County High School Student Report of Alcohol Use by Gender and Number of ACEs

	ALCOHOL USE											
	All High School				Female				Male			
	Never Drank Alcohol	Drank, But Not in Past Month	Drank in Past Month, Not Binge	Binge Drank in Past 2 Weeks	Never Drank Alcohol	Drank, But Not in Past Month	Drank in Past Month, Not Binge	Binge Drank in Past 2 Weeks	Never Drank Alcohol	Drank, But Not in Past Month	Drank in Past Month, Not Binge	Binge Drank in Past 2 Weeks
NO ACEs	41.2%	33.3%	27.8%	17.1%	35.3%	24.6%	36.6%	21.8%	45.1%	44.3%	19.4%	13.2%
1 ACE	14.6%	16.6%	12.4%	9.5%	14.6%	13.9%	0.0%	0.0%	15.0%	20.3%	20.9%	17.5%
2 ACEs	14.6%	11.0%	22.5%	3.3%	16.7%	12.8%	10.0%	0.0%	14.0%	6.7%	39.1%	6.0%
3 ACEs	10.8%	12.3%	9.5%	18.8%	8.4%	9.6%	8.6%	4.2%	12.8%	15.8%	11.3%	31.2%
4 ACEs	6.7%	8.4%	17.4%	14.3%	8.3%	9.2%	27.3%	14.9%	5.8%	7.8%	6.9%	13.9%
5 ACEs	7.2%	6.5%	5.3%	3.7%	10.7%	10.7%	8.0%	4.1%	3.6%	1.7%	2.5%	3.4%
6 ACEs	2.3%	2.7%	2.5%	14.6%	2.8%	3.4%	4.8%	14.4%	1.4%	1.9%	0.0%	14.8%
7 ACEs	1.7%	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	9.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%
8 ACEs	0.6%	1.1%	1.4%	16.0%	0.7%	2.1%	2.7%	34.8%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
9 ACEs	0.3%	0.0%	1.1%	2.7%	0.8%	0.0%	2.1%	5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
10 ACEs	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

- Males with no ACEs are more likely to have never drunk alcohol compared to females with no ACEs (45.1% vs. 35.3%).
- Males with higher ACEs also show a significant increase in binge drinking, with 31.2% of those with 3 ACEs binge drinking in the past two weeks.
- The percentage of females who never drank alcohol generally decreases as the number of ACEs increases, from 35.3% with no ACEs to 0.0% with 10 ACEs.
- Females with higher ACEs are more likely to binge drink in the past two weeks, especially those with 8 ACEs (34.8%).
- Students with 8 or more ACEs exhibit the most extreme behaviors, with the majority engaging in binge drinking.

Table 33. Pasco County High School Student Report of Marijuana Use by Gender and Number of ACEs

	MARIJUANA USE								
	All High School			Female			Male		
	Never Used Marijuana	Used, But Not in Past Month	Used in Past Month	Never Used Marijuana	Used, But Not in Past Month	Used in Past Month	Never Used Marijuana	Used, But Not in Past Month	Used in Past Month
NO ACEs	41.8%	26.8%	14.6%	37.1%	23.1%	17.4%	45.3%	31.7%	12.5%
1 ACE	15.4%	15.6%	9.0%	12.9%	15.6%	0.0%	18.3%	15.7%	12.8%
2 ACEs	12.4%	21.7%	11.5%	13.1%	17.8%	5.2%	12.0%	26.7%	20.0%
3 ACEs	11.3%	9.4%	8.6%	9.1%	8.8%	2.5%	13.2%	10.3%	16.7%
4 ACEs	6.7%	10.4%	24.3%	8.8%	16.6%	24.3%	5.2%	2.3%	26.2%
5 ACEs	6.7%	5.3%	7.9%	11.3%	2.2%	10.6%	2.0%	9.3%	5.3%
6 ACEs	2.9%	4.6%	4.5%	3.7%	5.2%	3.0%	1.8%	3.9%	6.6%
7 ACEs	2.2%	0.0%	4.4%	2.9%	0.0%	8.3%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%
8 ACEs	0.5%	6.1%	8.0%	0.5%	10.8%	15.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
9 ACEs	0.3%	0.0%	2.9%	0.6%	0.0%	5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
10 ACEs	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

- Females with no ACEs are less likely to have never used marijuana (37.1%) compared to males (45.3%).
- As the number of ACEs increases, females show a significant drop in abstinence, with only 0.5% of those with 8 ACEs never having used marijuana.
- Females with higher ACEs, especially 8 or more, show an increase in recent marijuana use, with 15.1% reporting use in the past month.
- Males generally have a higher rate of never using marijuana, particularly in the lower ACE categories.
- Males with 2 ACEs are more likely to have used marijuana in the past month (20.0%) compared to females with the same number of ACEs (5.2%).
- Males with 4 ACEs are also more likely to have used marijuana in the past month (26.2%), showing a sharp increase compared to those with no ACEs.
- Students with 4 or more ACEs exhibit more frequent marijuana use, particularly in the past month. For example, students with 4 ACEs have the highest rates of recent marijuana use, with both males and females showing high percentages (24.3% and 26.2%).
- The data suggests a strong correlation between the number of ACEs and marijuana use among high school students. As the number of ACEs increases, students are more likely to have used marijuana, particularly in the past month. This trend is consistent across both genders, though males tend to have higher abstinence rates in the lower ACE categories and higher usage rates in the upper ACE categories.

Table 34. Pasco County High School Student Report of Other Illicit Drug Use by Gender and Number of ACEs

	OTHER ILLICIT DRUG USE								
	All High School			Female			Male		
	Never Used Marijuana	Used, But Not in Past Month	Used in Past Month	Never Used Marijuana	Used, But Not in Past Month	Used in Past Month	Never Used Marijuana	Used, But Not in Past Month	Used in Past Month
NO ACEs	41.2%	13.6%	19.2%	36.1%	21.2%	0.0%	44.6%	6.4%	43.9%
1 ACE	14.7%	20.6%	0.0%	11.3%	17.9%	0.0%	18.1%	17.8%	0.0%
2 ACEs	14.1%	9.3%	8.4%	14.3%	3.0%	7.2%	14.1%	18.9%	11.0%
3 ACEs	10.4%	16.3%	7.4%	8.4%	9.7%	8.8%	12.4%	27.4%	0.0%
4 ACEs	8.7%	11.5%	9.9%	12.5%	9.5%	7.9%	5.5%	15.8%	13.7%
5 ACEs	6.4%	7.0%	8.7%	10.1%	7.7%	12.2%	3.2%	0.0%	6.2%
6 ACEs	1.8%	10.9%	10.5%	2.7%	10.2%	6.8%	1.1%	13.7%	8.2%
7 ACEs	1.3%	6.5%	7.5%	2.2%	12.4%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	17.1%
8 ACEs	1.0%	2.4%	18.5%	1.5%	4.7%	37.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
9 ACEs	0.4%	1.9%	0.0%	0.9%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
10 ACEs	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

- Among females with no ACEs, 36.1% never used illicit drugs. This percentage decreases as the number of ACEs increases.
- Females with higher ACEs (e.g., 8 or more) show higher rates of recent illicit drug use, with 37.1% of those with 8 ACEs reporting recent use.
- The use of illicit drugs becomes more pronounced in females with 6 or more ACEs.
- Males with no ACEs have a higher rate of never using illicit drugs (44.6%) compared to females with no ACEs (36.1%).
- As the number of ACEs increases, the percentage of males who have used illicit drugs in the past also increases, though there are instances where the trend fluctuates, likely due to sample size.
- Males with 8 ACEs report lower drug use rates compared to females, which is a notable deviation from the overall trend.
- For both genders, the data shows a notable increase in the likelihood of recent drug use with a higher number of ACEs, particularly among females with 8 ACEs, where 37.1% reported recent use.

ⁱ <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/97000US1201530-pasco-county-school-district-fl/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/pascocountyflorida/PST045219>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/youth-and-tobacco/youth-tobacco-use-results-national-youth-tobacco-survey>

^{iv} <https://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/content/teens-and-vaping>

^v <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/youth-and-tobacco/youth-tobacco-use-results-national-youth-tobacco-survey>

^{vi} <https://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/content/teens-and-vaping>

^{vii} <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/misuse-prescription-drugs/overview>

^{viii} <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/common-comorbidities-substance-use-disorders/part-1-connection-between-substance-use-disorders-mental-illness>

^{ix} <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>

^x <https://childsafety.losangelescriminallawyer.pro/juvenile-crime-and-substance-abuse.html>

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Profile of Alcohol & Drug Indicators



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