

Center for the Study and Prevention of Substance Abuse
A Community Partnership with Nova Southeastern University
And



Broward Briefings

Substance Abuse Information for Action

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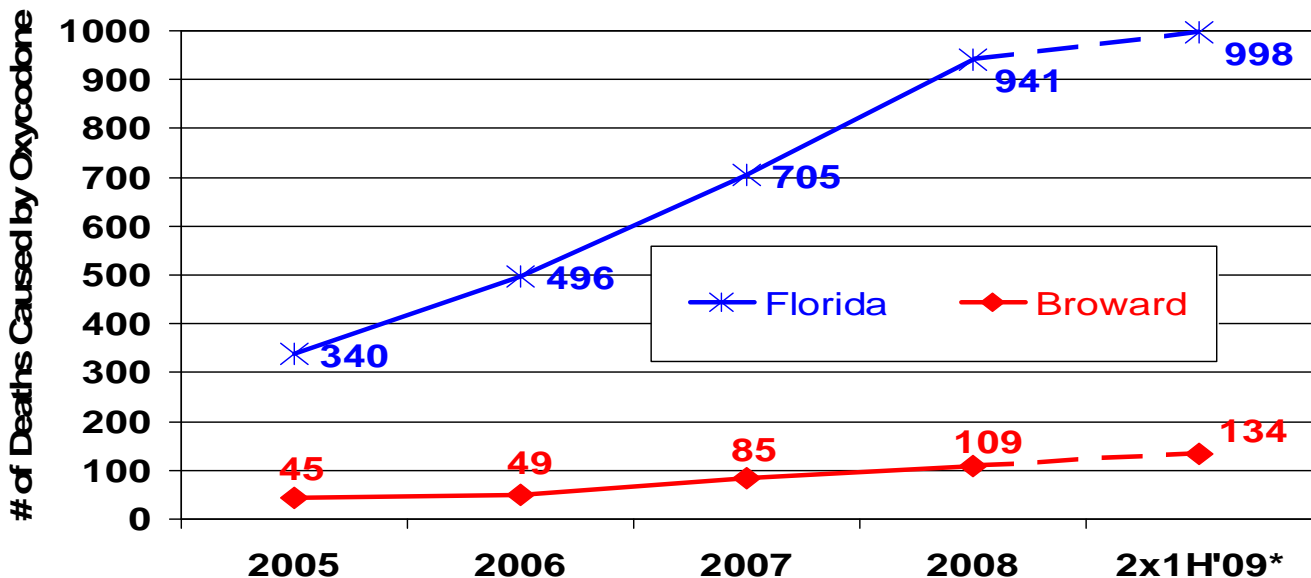
Fall 2009

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Oxycodone # 1 in Drug Deaths

The prescription narcotic pain medicine, oxycodone (e.g. *OxyContin*, *Roxicodone*, *Percocet*), continued to be the drug most likely considered a cause of death among individuals who died in all of Florida as well as Broward County during the first half of 2009. There were 499 deaths statewide in which oxycodone was considered a cause of death, followed by methadone (e.g. *Dolophine*) with 364 deaths, and alprazolam, (e.g. *Xanax*) with 348 deaths. In Broward County during the first half of 2009, there were 67 decedents for whom oxycodone was determined to be a cause of death, followed by alprazolam with 62 lethal reports, then cocaine with 27, and methadone with 12 deaths. In all of 2008, oxycodone also accounted for the most number of drug-induced deaths in Florida with 941 cases up from 340 in 2005 when it ranked fourth behind cocaine, methadone, and alprazolam. In total there were 1,157 deaths in Florida during the first half of 2009 in which one or more prescription drugs were considered to be a cause of death, an average of 6 persons per day.

Number of Deaths Caused by Oxycodone in Florida and Broward County January 2005 – June 2009*



*2009 projections are double the number for the first half of the year

Source: Florida Medical Examiners Commission