

Pinellas County

Opioioid

TASK FORCE



STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
PINELLAS COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE	4
OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN PINELLAS COUNTY	5-7
Accidental Drug Overdose Deaths	
Accidental Opioid Overdose Deaths	
9-1-1 Transports Of Suspected Overdoses	
2022 Medical Examiners Commission Interim Drug Report	
TASK FORCE TIMELINE HIGHLIGHTS	8-10
2023 TASK FORCE GAP ANALYSIS	11
Opioid Strategic Planning Committee Gap Analysis Findings	
Opioid Strategic Planning Committee Task Force Survey	
2023-2027 PRIORITY AREAS & STRATEGIES	12-14
Treatment and Recovery	
Maternal and Child Health	
Prevention	
Harm Reduction	
Integrated Data and Research	
FLORIDA OPIOID SETTLEMENT	15
APPENDICES	16-21
REFERENCES	22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pinellas County Opioid Task Force (PCOTF), with facilitation from the Opioid Strategic Planning Committee (OSPC), has implemented a new 5-year Strategic Plan for 2023-27. For this strategic plan cycle, the task force was proactive in collecting information from the community to assess and address local priorities with greatest need. Data is the hard evidence which steers the PCOTF into discovering areas of high overdose risk, immediate community need, and the creation of actionable items to combat the opioid epidemic in Pinellas County. Ongoing data sharing and collaboration between all members of the PCOTF is paramount for successful goal outcomes.

Partners, stakeholders, and community members in Pinellas County have welcomed many accomplishments throughout the duration of the prior 2020-2022 strategic plan. It is only through the strategic plan initiatives and partnering agencies that the PCOTF can coordinate swift action where needed. Successes are due in part through generous funding opportunities which allow for continued success and long-term sustainability of PCOTF goals.

Statewide initiatives surrounding the opioid settlement agreement provided a comprehensive list of strategies that served as a reference tool for the task force. A gap analysis was performed to hone down Pinellas-specific community needs to ensure unique objective creation and to encourage information redundancy. Previous strategic goals identified will remain foundational strategies for the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

Strategic goals identified for the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan will focus on:

1. Treatment and Recovery
2. Maternal and Child Health
3. Prevention
4. Harm Reduction
5. Integrated Data and Research



PINELLAS COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE

COMBAT THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The Pinellas County Opioid Task Force is a collaboration of community partners that started in June 2017 in response to the sharp increase in opioid-related drug abuse and deaths in the county. The purpose of the task force is to convene community members and develop strategies to confront the opioid epidemic (Appendix A). In Pinellas, the issue continues to be a pressing matter, as in 2021 one person died every 14 hours from an opioid-related overdose. Participants recruited for the task force were individuals from key organizations and the community that have a vested interest in the reduction of opioid misuse in the county. This includes, but not limited to community stakeholders, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, law enforcement and elected officials.

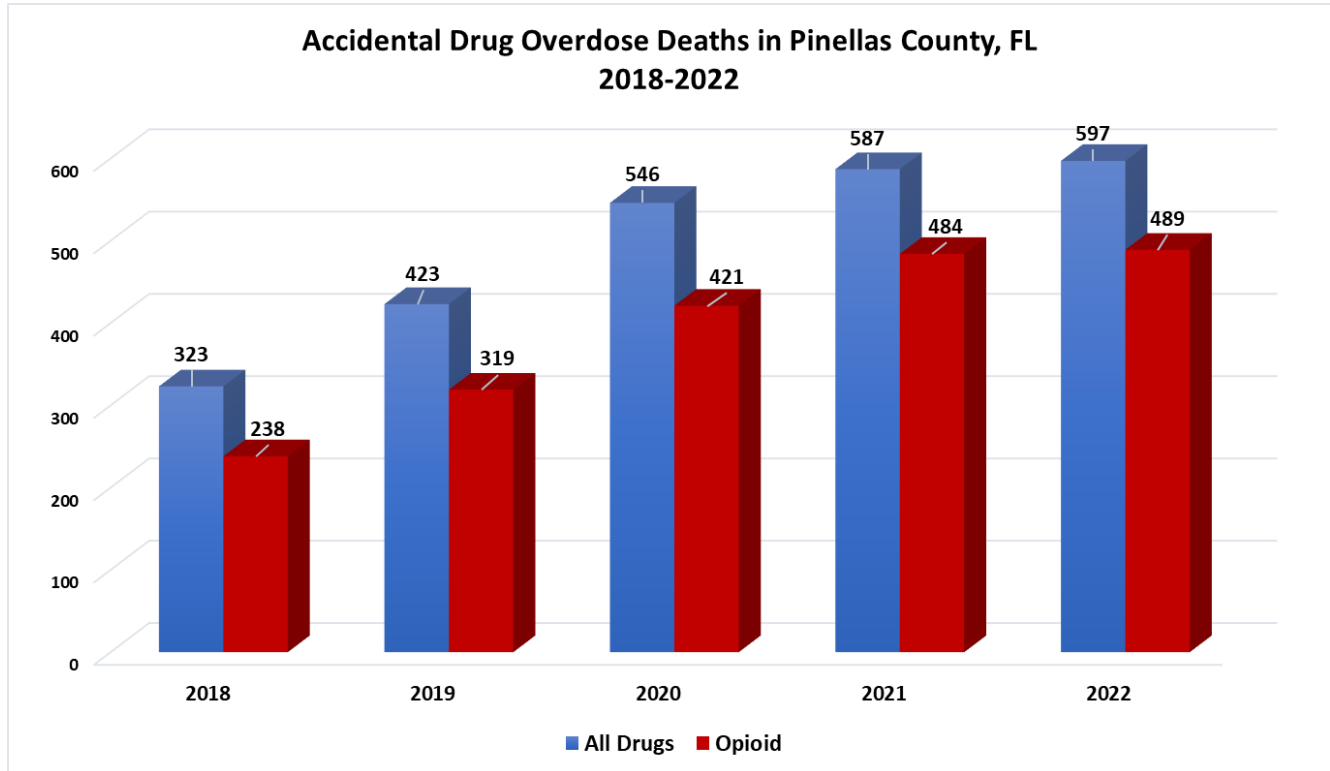
Pinellas County Opioid Task Force:

2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, Inc.	New Season Treatment Center
BayCare	NOPE Task Force - Pinellas County
Boley Centers	Northwestern Medicine / Northwestern Univ.
Boys & Girls Club of the Suncoast	Operation PAR
CareerSource Pinellas	Parents as Teachers Blue Ribbon
Center for Wellness and Clinical Development	Pasco ASAP
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network	People Empowering & Restoring Communities
Chrysalis Health	Phoenix House Florida
City of St. Petersburg	Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
Clearwater Police Department	Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory
Directions for Living	Pinellas County Government
District 6 Medical Examiner	Pinellas County Harm Reduction Initiative, Inc.
Drug Free America Foundation, Inc.	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Emergent BioSolutions	Pinellas County Schools
Evara Health	Recovery Epicenter Foundation
Florida Counterdrug Task Force	Spring Gardens Recovery
Florida Department of Children and Families	St. Petersburg College
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County	St. Petersburg Police
Florida Harm Reduction Collective	Suncoast Center
Florida's Poison Control Centers	Sunstar Paramedics
Foundation for a Drug-Free World	Tampa Police Department
Gulf Coast JFCS	Tampa General Hospital
Healthy Start Coalition - Pinellas County	The Well
Homeless Leadership Alliance	USF College of Behavioral & Community Sciences
IDEA Exchange Pinellas	Live Free!
Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital	USF Family Study Center
Kinship Children's Home Network	USF Health
METRO Inclusive Health	WestCare GulfCoast

OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN PINELLAS COUNTY

ACCIDENTAL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

Pinellas County is experiencing continued increase of accidental all drug overdose fatalities with 587 reported in 2021, and 597 in 2022¹.



Graph 1: Data depicting the rise in accidental drug overdose deaths within Pinellas County from 2018 through 2022¹.

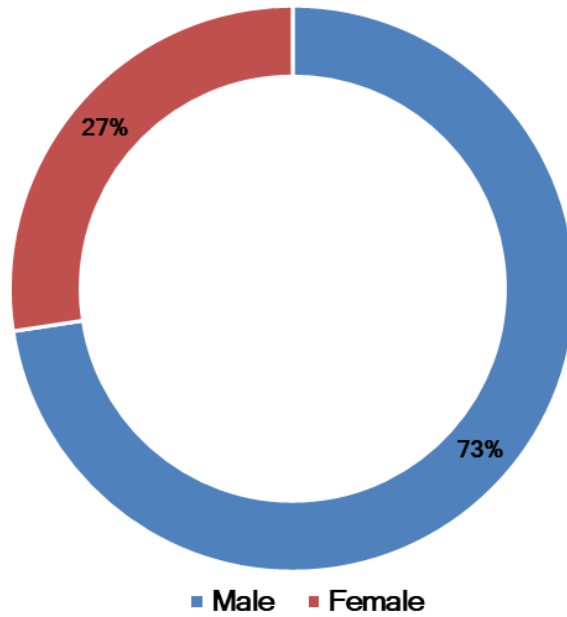
ACCIDENTAL OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS

Since 2018, Pinellas County has witnessed a 105% increase in opioid-related deaths from 238 deaths in 2018 to 489 deaths in 2022^{1,2}. In 2022, males comprised 355 (73%) of the decedents, and individuals who identified as White comprised 446 (91%) of decedents². Age ranges of individuals who died from an accidental opioid overdose has averaged from the early 20's to late 70's and 80's in some cases^{2,3}. 70% of decedents in 2021 fell between 20-54 years of age³ yet tragically, the youngest age of a decedent from opioid-related accidental event was just a newborn child³.

FENTANYL AND OTHER SUBSTANCES OF CONCERN

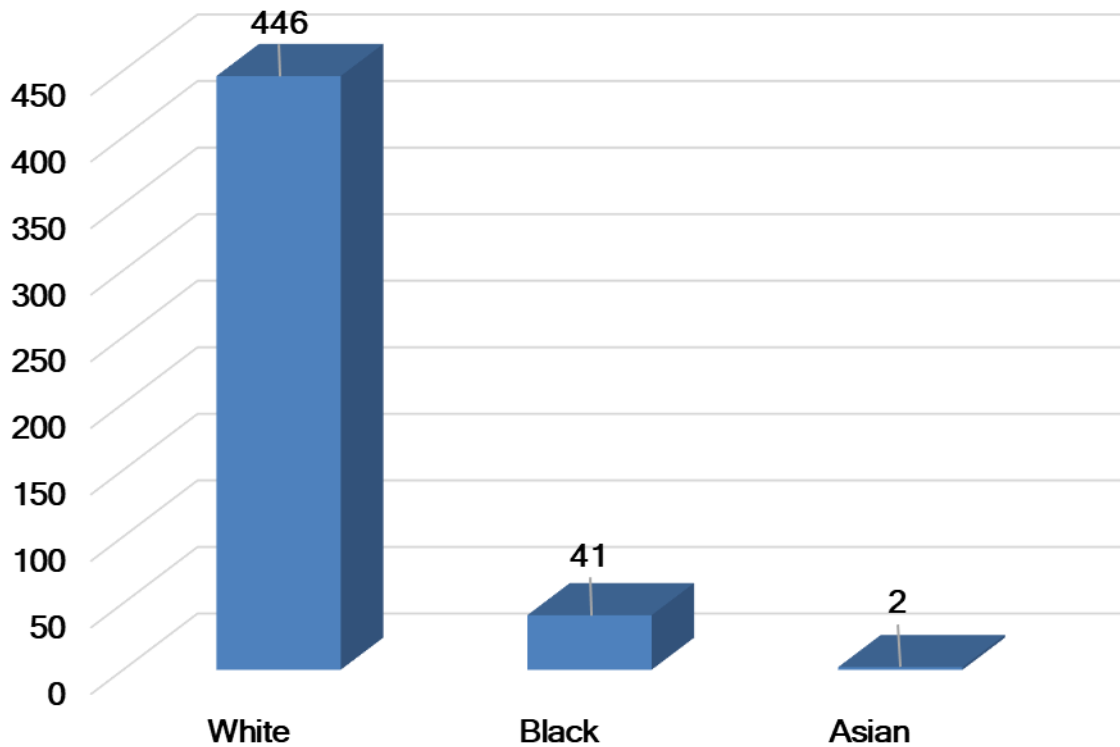
Fentanyl is of growing concern in Pinellas County as it is across the state and nation. New opioid compounds are being found in decedents, such as Nitazenes, that have the potential to be 100-1000 times stronger than morphine, and 10-100 times stronger than fentanyl². Over 100 different analogs for fentanyl have been created or proposed and their potency can surpass 10,000 times the potency of morphine.

Decedent Demographics in Pinellas County - Sex (2022)



Graph 2: Data depicting opioid-related overdose deaths within Pinellas County by Sex².

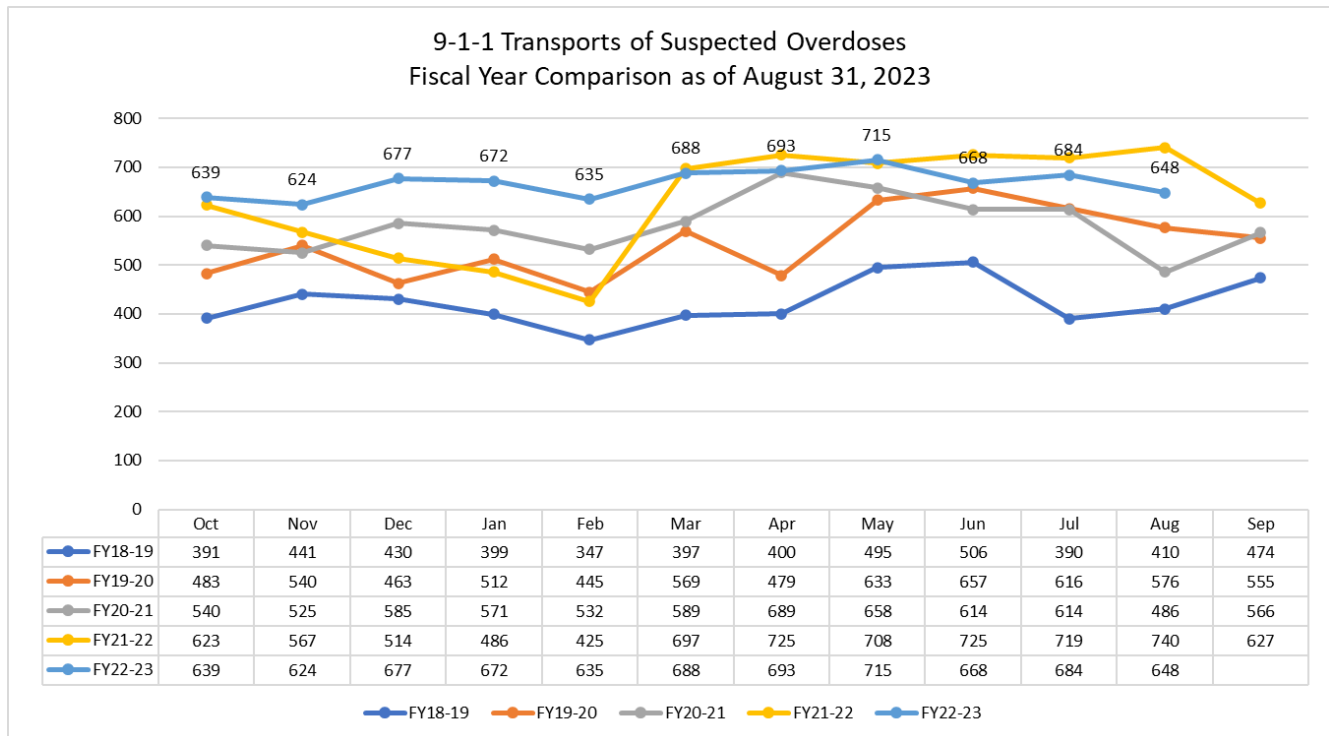
Decedent Demographics in Pinellas County - Race (2022)



Graph 3: Data depicting opioid-related overdose deaths within Pinellas County by Race².

9-1-1 TRANSPORTS OF SUSPECTED OVERDOSES

Emergency transport in Pinellas County is also on the rise from previous years. During fiscal year (FY) 20-21, Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration report 6,969 suspected overdose transports, and during FY21-22 there was a total of 7,556 transports for suspected overdoses reported¹. As of August 31, 2023, there have been 7,343 transports reported for the start of FY22-23 with current projections to surpass the previous fiscal year¹.



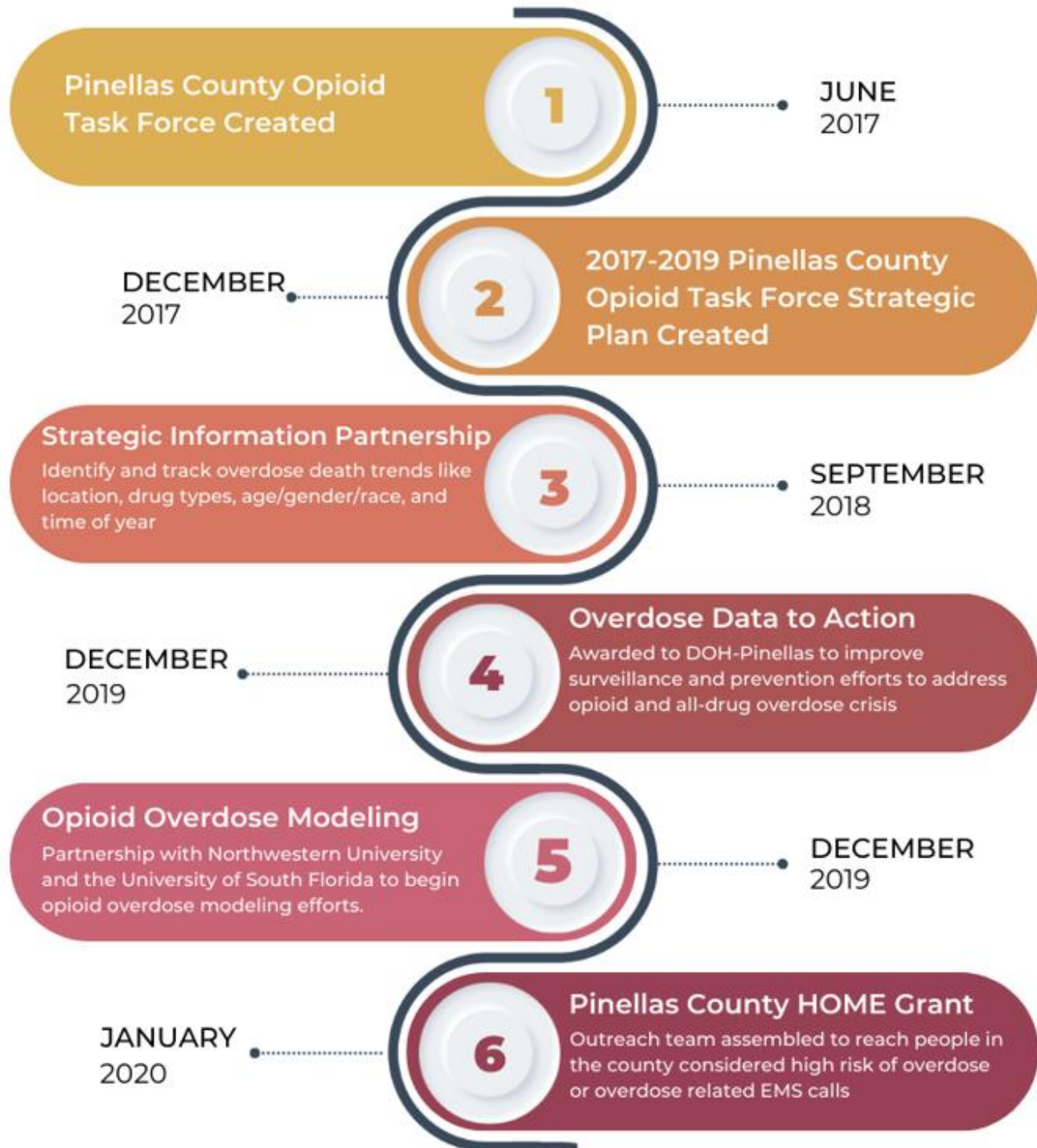
Graph 2: Data depicting the rise in suspected overdose transports within Pinellas County from fiscal year 2018 through mid-2023¹.

2022 MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION INTERIM DRUG REPORT

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement provides support to the Medical Examiner's Commission (MEC) to publish interim and annual workload reports discussing drugs found in deceased persons. Data submitted to the MEC provides drug trend information using decedent data submitted by medical examiners in the state⁴. According to the [2022 interim report](#)⁴ there were 374 total reported fatalities involving fentanyl for District Six. Of the 374 fatalities, 34 were due to fentanyl only, and 340 were attributed to fentanyl in combination with other drugs. District Six had the 3rd highest mortality rate due to fentanyl overdose (23.94 per 100,000 people), trailing close behind District One (25.57 per 100,000) and District Seven (27.36 per 100,000). There were 70 reported fatalities due to use of fentanyl analogs making District Six the 4th leading district in Florida with a fentanyl analog mortality rate of 4.48 per 100,000.

PINELLAS COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE

TIMELINE HIGHLIGHTS



COSSUP

Pinellas County awarded \$1,199,163 in grant funding to enhance current overdose response

7

OCTOBER
2020

JANUARY
2021

8

**2020-2022 Pinellas County
Opioid Task Force Strategic
Plan Creation Starts**

IDEA Ordinance Passes

Ordinance No. 21-02 establishing Ch. 42, Article XV, Pinellas County Code relating to an Infectious Disease Elimination Program

9

JULY
2021

SEPTEMBER
2021

10**Care Team (QRT) Pilot**

Allows for accelerated connection to treatment post-overdose; partnered with Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration

**Strategic Information
Partnership: Extension**

Continuation of 2018 project identifying trends in overdose

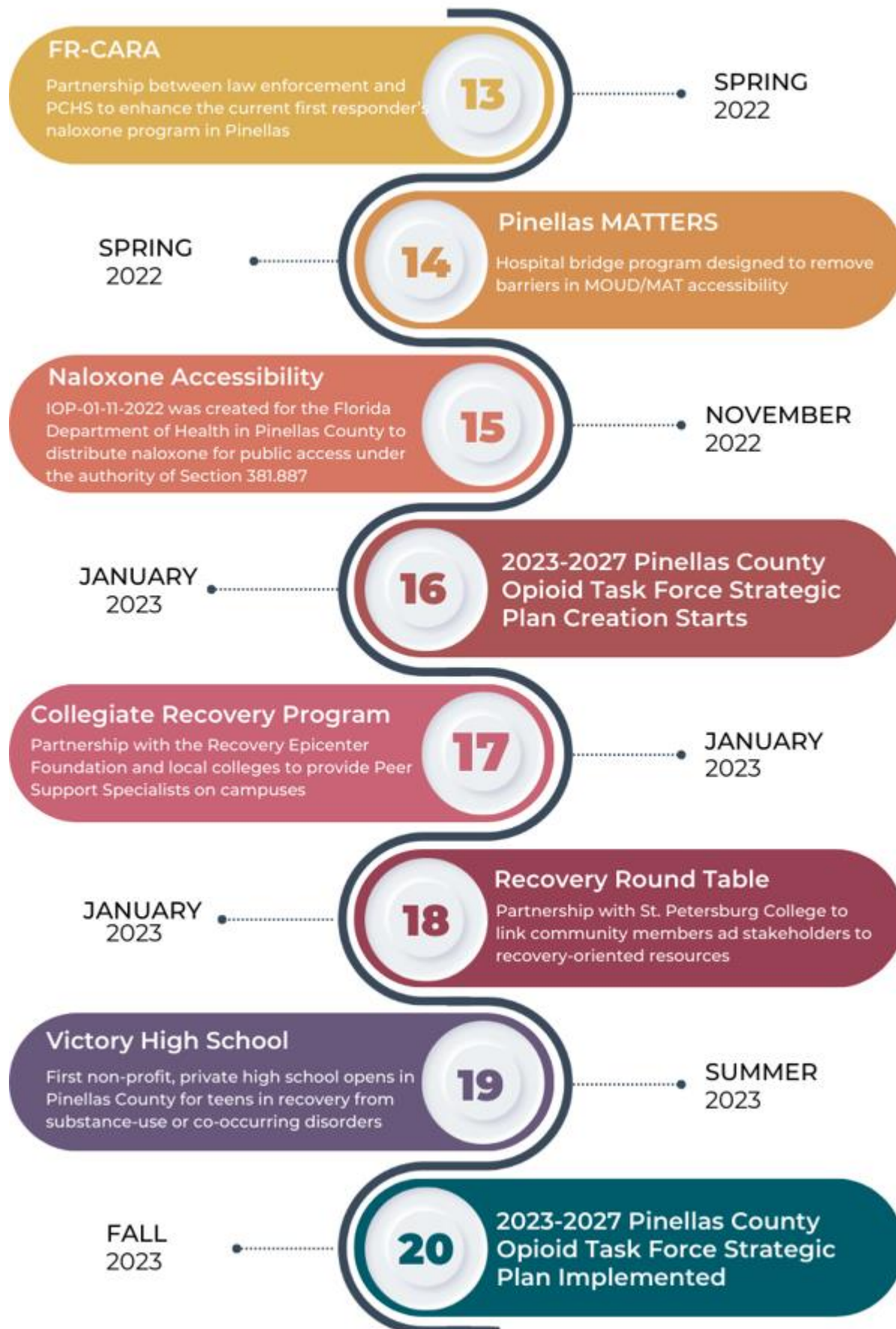
11

SEPTEMBER
2021

OCTOBER
2022

12**Pinellas County Opioid Abatement
Funding Advisory Board (OAFAB)**

First meeting of the OAFAB to discuss items surrounding anticipated Opioid Settlement Regional Funding for Pinellas County



2023 TASK FORCE GAP ANALYSIS

OPIOID STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (OSPC) GAP ANALYSIS

FINDINGS

A gap analysis was performed by a group of task force subject matter champions, known as the OSPC, volunteering their expertise to determine areas of strategic opportunity which the task force could begin focusing collaborative and corroborative efforts. Through comprehensive cross-examination with current built initiatives, projected initiatives, and task force feedback a list of gaps was produced:

- Naloxone Accessibility
- Maternal and Child Health
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Client-Centered Healthcare Transitions
- Recovery for Incarcerated Populations
- Prevention Support
- Research and Data Collection

OPIOID STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE TASK FORCE SURVEY

A survey was created from the list of identified gaps to allow opportunity for the task force to discuss these findings, contribute applicable data, and work towards solutions. The survey was administered to 211 members of the task force in effort to communicate and obtain next steps for the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. The survey was sent out via SurveyMonkey™ in February 2023 and received 60 responses by March 02, 2023.

OPIOID STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE PRIORITY AREA SELECTION PROCESS

An objective overview of the task force survey responses was provided through partners at Northwestern University and the University of South Florida. Once the results were submitted to the OSPC the team reconvened to discuss Northwestern University's analysis and select priorities with the most significant feedback. Identified gaps were reviewed to prioritize community needs and discuss transformative interventions or opportunities. The OSPC was mindful of efforts and strategies in place led by task force partners to limit oversaturation of resources on duplicative goals. The OSPC also identified key areas structured within the opioid abatement schedules A and B where missed opportunities discovered in the gap analysis could leverage transformative projects. Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) 2.0 framework and the 2023 Gap Analysis were used to provide SMART objectives for the new strategic plan (Appendix B). Additionally, objectives within the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan (Appendix C) will remain in place as foundational supports for any overarching goals.

2023-2027 PRIORITY AREAS & OBJECTIVES

Priority	Goal	Strategy	Objective
Treatment & Recovery	Encourage Effective Treatment	Increase medication assisted treatment (MAT) accessibility in recovery	Increase of MAT accessibility in non-traditional spaces by December 31, 2025.
		Increase warm hand-offs to treatment	Increase the number of warm hand-offs from IDEA Exchange Pinellas to treatment facilities from 0 (2022) to 10 by December 31, 2024.
	Advocate For Effective Recovery	Increase recovery community organization (RCO) presence	Increase the number of recovery community organizations from 1 to 5 by 2027.
		Increase capacity of certified peers	Increase number of certified peer supervisors employed within new or established recovery community organizations from 0 to 1 by December 31, 2027.
			Increase number of certified peers employed within new or established recovery community organizations from 0 to 1 by December 31, 2027.
Maternal & Child Health	Support Pregnant & Post-partum women	Increase the number of maternal & child health (MCH) staff trained on naloxone	Increase the number of naloxone trained MCH staff from 10 to 25 by December 31, 2025.
	Support Pregnant & Post-Partum Women	Increase support systems for pregnant & post-partum mothers	Increase number of harm reduction training opportunities for pregnant and post-partum mothers from 0 to 1 by December 31, 2023.
	Reduce Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome	Increase support systems for at-risk infants	Increase the number of pregnant mothers opting-in for treatment services through BayCare partner hospitals by 5% by December 31, 2027.
Prevention	Reduce Community Stigma	Develop anti-stigma training for college students	Increase students trained about stigma from 0 (2022) to 100 by December 31, 2024.
	Increase Mental Health Resources	Expand trauma informed care communities	Expand trauma-informed communities from 1 to 4 by December 31, 2027.

	Improve Youth Prevention	Increase the number of educated youths	Build community youth advocacy group from 0 to 1 by December 31, 2024.
	Introduce Continuing Education Opportunities	Increase training opportunities for SUD/ODU education for first responders	Increase first responder event interventionalist certification from 0 (2022) to 25 by December 31, 2024.
	Expand Multi-Lingual Materials	Increase Spanish-language educational materials	Provide Spanish-language opioid toolkit by December 31, 2025.
Harm Reduction	Improve Naloxone Education	Increase naloxone trainings in the community	Increase organizational naloxone training from 4 (2022) to 20 by December 31, 2023.
	Increase Syringe Exchange Utilization	Increase SSP utilization in substance use & opioid use disorder populations	Increase syringe exchange service utilization from 0 (2022) to 300 by December 31, 2023.
	Increase Syringe Exchange Accessibility	Increase SSP locations in Pinellas	Increase operational syringe exchange sites in Pinellas from 1 (2023) to 2 by December 31, 2025.
	Improve Financial and Economic Stability	Increase job training and referrals for employment	Increase individual referrals to CareerSource job training program from 0 to 100 by December 31, 2025.
Integrated Data & Research	Expand Data Sharing	Increase information and data sharing surrounding substance use & opioid use disorder	Schedule one guest speaker at each quarterly task force meeting, or 4 per year, throughout the life of the strategic plan ending December 31, 2027.
		Develop and launch data dashboard	Develop comprehensive data dashboard to define opioid trends in Pinellas County by December 31, 2024.
	Increase Data-Informed MAT Accessibility	Define barriers of medication assisted treatment (MAT) accessibility through data analysis and modeling	Determine policy barriers to MAT access by December 31, 2027.
			Determine key demographic barriers to MAT access by December 31, 2027.
			Determine geospatial barriers to MAT access by December 31, 2027.



2023-2027 Strategic Plan Priority Areas & Objectives

Treatment & Recovery

➤ Increase opportunities for individualized treatment and recovery through coordination with health care providers, recovery community organizations, and treatment centers.

Maternal & Child Health

➤ Increase the availability of support systems accessible to pregnant and postpartum persons or caretakers.

Prevention

➤ Reduce stigma surrounding harm reduction and addiction by incorporating training programs available to youth groups, college students and first responders.

Harm Reduction

➤ Increase lifesaving opportunities through community naloxone education, training, and accessibility.

Integrated Data & Research

➤ Improve information sharing efforts within Pinellas communities to better examine trends of opioid use.

FLORIDA OPIOID SETTLEMENT

FLORIDA OPIOID ALLOCATION AND STATEWIDE RESPONSE AGREEMENT

Signed by Chief Deputy Attorney General John Guard on November 15, 2021, the 14-page Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement enters the State of Florida and certain Local Governments into litigation with defined entities within the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain (Appendix D). In addition, Exhibits A, B, and C, accompany the statewide agreement. The list of opioid remediation uses in Exhibit A: Schedule A Core Strategies and Exhibit B: Schedule B Approved Uses served as gap analysis guides.

Schedule A: Core Strategies

- Naloxone or Other FDA-Approved Medication to Reverse Opioid Overdoses
- Medication-Assisted Treatment (“MAT”) Distribution and Other Opioid-Related Treatment
- Pregnant & Post-Partum Women
- Expanding Treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Expansion of Warm Hand-off Programs and Recovery Services
- Treatment for Incarcerated Population
- Prevention Programs
- Expanding Syringe Service Programs

Schedule B: Approved Uses

- Treat Opioid Use Disorder
- Support People in Treatment and Recovery
- Connect People Who Need Help to The Help They Need (Connections to Care)
- Address the Needs of Criminal Justice-Involved Persons
- Address the Needs of Pregnant or Parenting Women and Their Families, Including Babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Prevent Over-Prescribing and Ensure Appropriate Prescribing and Dispensing of Opioids
- Prevent Misuse of Opioids
- Prevent Overdose Deaths and Other Harms (Harm Reduction)
- First Responders
- Leadership, Planning and Coordination
- Training & Research

TRANSFORMATIVE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board (OAFAB) utilizes data and projections from the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force and other relevant and reputable sources to recommend how to allocate Regional Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Pinellas County. The OAFAB will strive to fund services and programs that are available to all residents of Pinellas County and allocate funding and services in a manner that equally benefits all residents of Pinellas County. Upcoming publicly accessible meetings and prior meeting minutes, can be found [here](#)⁵.

APPENDIX A

Pinellas County Opioid Task Force prior meeting notes and presentations can be found by visiting:

<https://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/substance-use-prevention/pinellas-county-opioid-task-force/index.html>

PCOTF Planning Meeting Highlights 2020 - 2022			
MEETING DATE	MEETING TOPIC	MEETING DATE	MEETING TOPIC
January 24, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal meeting and presentations Strategic Plan review Funding discussion 	June 16, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue hybrid model formal meeting and presentations Florida Harm Reduction Collective to discuss initiatives IDEA-Pinellas (PERC) to discuss syringe service program
March 3, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Formal meeting <i>cancelled</i> due to COVID-19 	September 15, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal meeting and presentations CareerSource Pinellas to discuss 2nd chance employment
June 25, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal meeting and presentations Introduction of the NW Agent Based Model Identified correlation to overdose and jail stays 	December 15, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal meeting and presentations IDEA-Pinellas to provide updates on syringe service program
September 24, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal meeting and presentations OD2A funding secured by FDOH-Pinellas EIS officer appointed to DOH-Pinellas assist with SIP 	December 20, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pinellas County CORE Implementation Press Conference
December 17, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal meeting and presentations Introduction Marianne Dean OD2A Coordinator Narcan expiry date extended to 36 months 		
March 18, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal meeting and presentations Preliminary Narcan model debuted Florida Drug Demand Reduction Civil Operations introduced 		
June 17, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal meeting and presentations Fentanyl trend discussed Introduction of OD2A Outreach Coordinator 		
September 16, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal meeting and presentations Discuss technical assistance funding approval by ORN ISaveFL Program discussed by DCF 		
December 16, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal meeting and presentations Operation PAR discussion community outreach / PARBots 		
March 17, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First hybrid formal meeting and presentations CareerSource Pinellas discuss 2nd chance employment LIVE Tampa Bay to discuss initiatives 		

APPENDIX B

INTRO TO MAPP 2.0

MAPP 2.0 provides the flexibility to adapt to evolving public health field needs and trends focused on community health improvement processes, including integrating health equity into CHI processes, authentic community engagement, and sustained partner engagement.

Discover more by clicking the image below, or click [HERE](#):

INTRO TO MAPP 2.0



APPENDIX C

INCREASE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

COLLEGIATE RECOVERY PROGRAM: Through partnership with the Recovery Epicenter Foundation (REF) and St. Petersburg College (SPC) plans are in place to provide Peer Support Specialists at all nine (9) SPC campuses by 2024. Beginning in Spring 2023, SPC will be incorporating one (1) peer specialist to operate at the Gibbs Campus in St. Petersburg with intention of expansion throughout 2023.

OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION (OD2A): In 2020, the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) was identified as a recipient of the Overdose Data to Action grant through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as grantee. OD2A funds several positions including a full-time strategic planner to coordinate efforts within Pinellas County.

PINELLAS COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE (PCOTF): Quarterly meetings are conducted to inform and engage the community and stakeholders of Pinellas County regarding the opioid epidemic. Prior meeting materials, including notes and presentations can be found [here](#)⁶.

REDUCE OVERDOSE DEATHS

COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID, STIMULANT, AND SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAM (COSSUP): In 2020, Pinellas County was awarded Grant No. 2020-AR-BX-0055 by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. \$1,199,163 was awarded for Category 1a urban area to “enhance current overdose response by increasing connections and engagements in community substance use treatment services, providing peer support to overdose survivors and families, conducting overdose fatality reviews to identify trends and potential gaps in the system of care, and increasing first responder and community access to naloxone⁷.”

MAIL-ORDER NALOXONE: Through the combined efforts of the Florida Harm Reduction Collective, Inc. and collaborations with local harm reduction groups in Pinellas County mail order naloxone has been made available at zero cost to expand naloxone accessibility to individuals in need of this life-saving medication.

NALOXONE ACCESSIBILITY: In 2022, IOP-01-11-2022 was created for the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County under the authority of Section 381.887, Florida Statutes, “Emergency treatment for suspected opioid overdose”, Section 893.21, Florida Statutes, “Alcohol-related or drug-related overdoses”, and DOHP 395-1-19, “Public Health Pharmacies”, for the purpose of granting county health departments authority to distribute naloxone to individuals at risk of opioid overdose.

OPERATION SPRING BREAK: Through the combined efforts of the Department of Health in Pinellas County, the Florida Harm Reduction Collective, Inc., IDEA Exchange Pinellas, and the Recovery Epicenter Foundation, this initiative was created in response to the population increase in Pinellas County during the spring break months, and in response to the overdose

event involving fentanyl-laced cocaine in five (5) U.S. Military Academy West Point cadets occurring in March 2022 in a Wilton Manors, FL. vacation home⁸.

OPIOID OVERDOSE MODELING: Researchers from Northwestern University and the University of South Florida have partnered with Operation PAR and the PCOTF to develop a decision support tool that uses modeling to identify the most efficient processes and effective strategies to reduce overdose deaths based on Pinellas County's specific needs and resources. The Northwestern University research team presents quarterly updates on their work while simultaneously conducting qualitative interviews of key stakeholders.

CONNECTION TO TREATMENT

ACCESS TO MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE: Suncoast Center was awarded SAMHSA grant #H79SM086671 to plan, develop, and implement a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in Pinellas County, located on the west central coast of the state of Florida. The Wellness Connection was created to provide community members struggling with behavioral health, mental health, or substance use issues a compassionate “no wrong door” approach that efficiently connects them to the high-quality care they need.

CARE TEAM - QUICK RESPONSE PROGRAM: The Quick Response Program, piloted underneath COSSUP Grant Award # 2020-AR-BX-0055, was created allowing for an accelerated connection to treatment post-overdose with assistance from the Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration, Operation PAR, and Pinellas County Human Services. Launched in August 2021, the Quick Response Team has provided recovery support services to over 200 individuals experiencing overdose.

COORDINATED ACCESS MODEL (CAM): In 2023, the Pinellas Integrated Care Alliance (PICA) and its membership organizations (Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, Pinellas County, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, and the Juvenile Welfare Board) will launch a coordinated access model known as “Care About Me” to facilitate access into area-behavioral health services as part of the *“Elevating Behavioral Health for Pinellas County Residents”* initiative. Unite Us is the operator of this program.

COORDINATED OPIOID RESPONSE (CORe): In 2022, the Florida Department of Health, the Florida Department of Children and Families, and the Agency for Health Care Administration, selected Pinellas County to participate alongside 11 other counties in the implementation of a comprehensive addiction care network for individuals experiencing substance use disorder. In Pinellas County, and through the dedication of our community partners including Operation PAR, the funds supplied through CORe allows for counseling and medicated assisted treatment availability during weekend hours for clients entering the hospital bridge program.

FIRST RESPONDERS - COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT (FR-CARA): The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's FR-CARA grant no. H79TI084551 will expand the first responder's naloxone program in Pinellas County through increased training and naloxone distribution. In addition, increase connections to community

substance use treatment services among overdose patients and those at risk for overdose⁹ while expanding the Quick Response Team (QRT) pilot program.

IDEA EXCHANGE PINELLAS - SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAM: Launched in February 2023, IDEA Exchange Pinellas will be the county's first syringe service program. In January 2021, the Board of County Commissioners in Pinellas County passed ordinance No. 21-02 establishing Chapter 42, Article XV, Pinellas County Code relating to an Infectious Disease Elimination Program including syringe exchange¹⁰.

MEDICATION FOR ADDICTION TREATMENT & ELECTRONIC REFERRALS (PINELLAS MATTERS): The Pinellas MATTERS program enables emergency departments in Pinellas County to begin induction of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in an innovative hospital bridge program. Treatment services are facilitated by peer support and engagement with clients from the lens of recovery. Pinellas MATTERS operates in partnership with Operation PAR, WestCare, Evara Health, Bayfront/Orlando Health Systems, and Pinellas County Departments of Human Services and Safety & Emergency Medical Services¹¹.

DECREASE THE SUPPLY OF OPIOIDS IN COMMUNITY

PINELLAS COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE: Law enforcement partners work to seize illicit drugs within the community reducing the supply available on the streets. In addition to local efforts, the United States Army National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Civil Operation (DDRO) hosts annual drug take-back events which include distribution of drug deactivation kits, such as Deterra™ systems, to the community to aid in removal of unwanted prescriptions or other over-the-counter substances. Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs permit authorized parties' insight on prescribing practices within the community, and offer training as needed.

INTEGRATE AND COLLABORATE DATA SOURCES

PINELLAS COUNTY FUSION GROUP: The Pinellas County Fusion Group came together in 2016 to build greater awareness and partnerships to manage drug issues facing the county. Members of the Fusion group include key partners where data is shared, and issues related to community drug trends are discussed. This group continues to meet quarterly to discuss observable trends in data such as spikes in overdose hospitalizations, naloxone administration by law enforcement, drug seizure data, or upticks in EMS observable reported transport data.

STRATEGIC INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP (SIP): The Strategic Information Partnership has reviewed and planned around the current data collaborative to upgrade capacities with real time information and reporting for stakeholder activities. SIP is working with the Medical Examiner's Office to track overdose deaths in the community while simultaneously identifying concerning trends such as death locations, drug types involved, age, gender, race, and time of year. SIP has been cross analyzing the Medical Examiner's Office and jail data to determine individuals' involvement in the jail system before their overdose/death. SIP is working collaboratively with the University of South Florida (USF) to expand upon previous drug-related death data sets and review crisis services utilized by persons in the two years prior to death, and discoveries of potential patterns in drug-related overdose deaths and jail stays¹².

APPENDIX D - OTHER STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

FLORIDA OPIOID SETTLEMENT INFORMATION

To access the 14-page document “FLORIDA OPIOID ALLOCATION AND STATEWIDE RESPONSE AGREEMENT” including:

“EXHIBIT A” - Core Strategies

“EXHIBIT B” - Approved Uses

“EXHIBIT C” - Allocated Abatement Funds per County/City

Go to: <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/states/florida/>

To access document “HB 5013: TRUST FUND/OPIOID SETTLEMENT CLEARING TRUST FUNC/DFS” go to: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/5013>

To access document “Chapter 2022-161” go to: <http://laws.flrules.org/2022/161>

REFERENCES

- 1 - Pinellas County Fusion Meeting Presentation. Updates in Trends. September 2023.
- 2 - Pinellas County Opioid Task Force Q2 Meeting Notes. June 2023. Retrieved from:
<https://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/substance-use-prevention/pinellas-county-opioid-task-force/documents/notes/pinellas-county-opioid-task-force-meeting-notes-06-15-23.pdf>
- 3 - Pinellas County Opioid Task Force Q2 Meeting. June 2022. Retrieved from:
<https://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/substance-use-prevention/resources/documents/opioid-task-force-meeting-06-16-22.pdf>
- 4 - Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners 2022 Interim Report. July 2023. Retrieved from:
<https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/MEC/Publications-and-Forms/Documents/Drugs-in-Deceased-Persons/2022-Interim-Drug-Report-FINAL.aspx>
- 5 - Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board meeting website: <https://pinellas.gov/boards-councils-and-committees/opioid-abatement-funding-advisory-board/>
- 6 - Pinellas County Opioid Task Force. 2023. <https://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/substance-use-prevention/pinellas-county-opioid-task-force/index.html>
- 7 - Bureau of Justice Assistance. 2020. Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program. Retrieved from: <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/awards/2020-ar-bx-0055>
- 8 - Attorney General Ashley Moody Press Release. March 14, 2022. Retrieved from:
<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/C1E03D664B6B5EB1852588050055E237?Open&>
- 9 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
[https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grants-dashboard?f%5B0%5D=by award fy%3A2021&f%5B1%5D=by nofo number%3ATI-21-009#awards-tab](https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grants-dashboard?f%5B0%5D=by+award+fy%3A2021&f%5B1%5D=by+nofo+number%3ATI-21-009#awards-tab)
- 10 - Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. 2021. State filed ordinance 21-02. Retrieved from:
<https://pinellas.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4751039&GUID=89C83DED-1347-4802-B22D-D52C73693EE8>
- 11 - Pinellas County Opioid Task Force. 2022. Retrieved from:
<https://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/substance-use-prevention/resources/documents/opioid-task-force-meeting-09-15-22.pdf>
- 12 - Bureau of Justice Assistance. 2018. Strategic Information Partnership (SIP).
<https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/awards/2018-ar-bx-k019>