
BROWARD COUNTY HEALTH PLAN

Chapter II: Health Status Profile



2026

BROWARD REGIONAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL (BRHPC)
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The Broward County Health Plan is a living document, regularly updated to provide the most current and relevant information. It encompasses a wide range of topics—from labor force statistics to immunization rates—capturing the range of factors that influence public health. The Plan also emphasizes the critical connection between socioeconomic conditions and community health outcomes. To reflect the complexity of Broward County’s healthcare landscape, the Health Plan is organized into six chapters, each addressing a key aspect of the local health system:

Chapter I: Regional Profile provides demographic and socioeconomic indicators that shape health status and impact the distribution of health resources—factors that contribute to service utilization and the availability of healthcare financing.

Chapter II: Health Status outlines community health status through six health categories: Maternal and Child Health, Behavioral Health, Environmental and Community Health, Access to Care, Oral Health, and Morbidity and Mortality.

Chapter III: Health Resources provides an overview of the health resources currently available in Broward County, emphasizing the range and accessibility of services that support the community’s healthcare needs.

Chapter IV: Healthcare Utilization reviews data on healthcare utilization throughout Broward County’s hospital systems. Broward County’s seasonal fluctuations and yearly totals are analyzed.

Chapter V: Benchmarks measures progress toward achieving the health improvement goals outlined in Healthy People 2030 and compares Broward County’s performance to state and national trends. Additional indicator data trends are reviewed, and community interventions implemented across each health sector are highlighted.

Chapter VI: Health Data Warehouse analyzes key Health Indicator modules from the Health Data Warehouse, including: (1) Prevention Quality Indicators which indicate potentially avoidable hospital admissions, (2) inpatient chronic conditions cases categorized by ICD-9 codes, (3) incidence of suicide, (4) emergency department acuity stratification based on CPT codes, and (5) the NYU Algorithm for identifying preventable or avoidable emergency department admissions.

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Introduction

The Broward Regional Profile, Chapter II, presents a detailed report of health indicators analyzed. This chapter outlines six broad health categories: Maternal and Child Health, Behavioral Health, Environmental and Community Health, Access to Care, Oral Health, and Morbidity and Mortality. The data and trends examined in this chapter offer a comprehensive overview of the health status of Broward County residents, and the broader community health landscape.

Maternal and Child Health

County-wide, maternal and child health data fluctuates by factors such as age of the mother, and race/ethnicity of the mother. Table 1 displays a variety of factors related to birth data in Broward, compared to Florida data for 2024. The total live birth rate in the County was 10.1 per 1,000 which was slightly higher than Florida’s rate (9.7). Proportionately, Broward Mothers are older compared to Statewide. Broward had an overall higher rate of births among mothers 30 or older, whereas Florida had a higher rate among mothers 29 or younger (including a higher teen birth rate) (Table 1).

When comparing birth weight between the County and State, Broward reported a higher rate of low and very low birth weight deliveries than Florida. In the State and County, these low-birth-weight deliveries were more prevalent among Black mothers

Among Broward mothers, 69% initiated prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy in 2024, which was slightly higher than the rate in Florida. However, this rate is lower than the year prior in Broward (70%). Additionally, 5% of mothers had no prenatal care in Broward, which was higher than last’ years rate in Broward (2.8%) and the state at 4.3%. Broward also had a higher rate of mothers initiating breastfeeding than the state (Table 1).

Table 1: Birth Data Comparison, Broward & Florida 2024

BROWARD			FLORIDA	
Indicator	Measure	# in 2024	% or Rate in 2024	% or Rate in 2024
Total Births				
Total Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Population	20,121	10.1	9.7
White Live Births	Per 1,000 White Population	11,656	9.4	9.1
Black Live Births	Per 1,000 Black Population	6,567	10.8	11.1

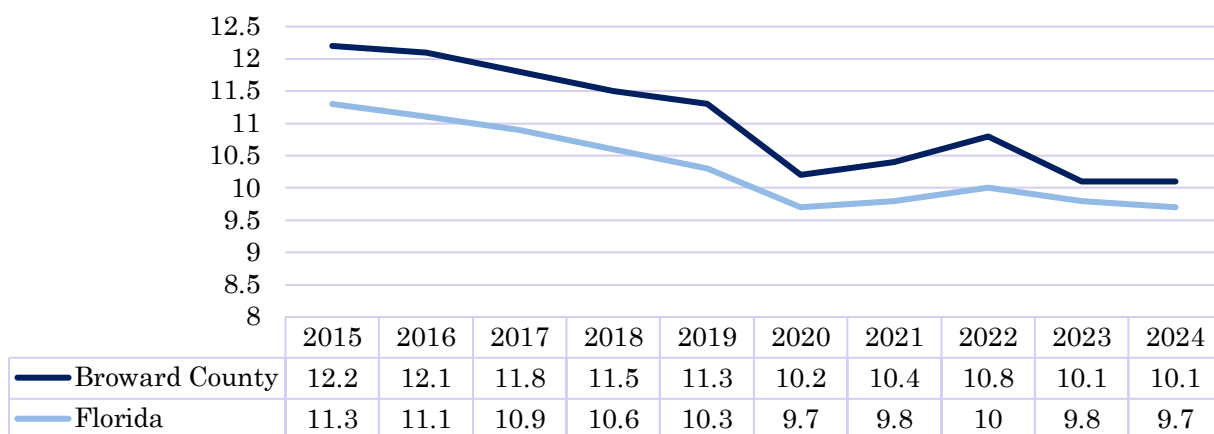
Hispanic Live Births	Per 1,000 Hispanic Population	7,366	11.2	12.4
Births By Age of Mother				
Births to Mothers 10-14	Per 1,000 Females 10-14	5	0.0	0.1
Births to Mothers 15-17	Per 1,000 Females 15-17	84	1.2	2.5
Births to Mothers 18-24	Per 1,000 Females 18-24	2,518	16.7	21.8
Births to Mothers 25-29	Per 1,000 Females 25-29	4,709	39.7	44.0
Births to Mothers 30-34	Per 1,000 Females 30-34	6,714	49.7	45.5
Births to Mothers 35-39	Per 1,000 Females 35-39	4,683	34.1	27.4
Births to Mothers 40-49	Per 1,000 Females 40-49	1,392	5.2	3.8
Births to Mothers 50-59	Per 1,000 Females 50-59	11	0.0	0.0
Low Birth Weight (Live Births)				
Total < 2500 g	% of Total Births	2,013	10.0%	9.0%
White < 2500 g	% of White Births	863	7.4%	7.4%
Black < 2500 g	% of Black Births	960	14.6%	15.2%
Hispanic < 2500 g	% of Hispanic Births	580	7.9%	7.7%
Very Low Birth Weight (Live Births)				
Total < 1500 g	% of Total Births	376	1.9%	1.6%
White < 1500 g	% of White Births	143	1.2%	1.1%
Black < 1500 g	% of Black Births	208	3.2%	3.3%
Hispanic < 1500 g	% of Hispanic Births	88	1.2%	1.3%
Prenatal Care (PNC)				
Births w/ 1st Trimester PNC	% of Births with Known PNC Status	12,939	69.0%	68.9%
Births w/ 2nd Trimester PNC	% of Births with Known PNC Status	3,510	18.7%	20.4%
Births w/ 3rd Trimester PNC	% of Births with Known PNC Status	1,363	7.3%	6.4%
Births w/ No PNC	% of Births with no PNC	943	5.0%	4.3%
Maternal Characteristics				
Mothers who initiate breastfeeding	% of total births	17,505	87.0%	84.9%

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2024

Birth Rate

In 2024, Broward County's Live Birth Rate (LBR) was at 10.1 per 1,000, the same rate as last year and this is the lowest rate seen in the last 10 years in Broward. Figure 1 displays Live Birth Rate over the past 10 years, comparing Florida and Broward, and shows that Broward has maintained a higher birth rate each year. Since 2003, Broward has consistently had a higher proportion of LBR deliveries than Florida.

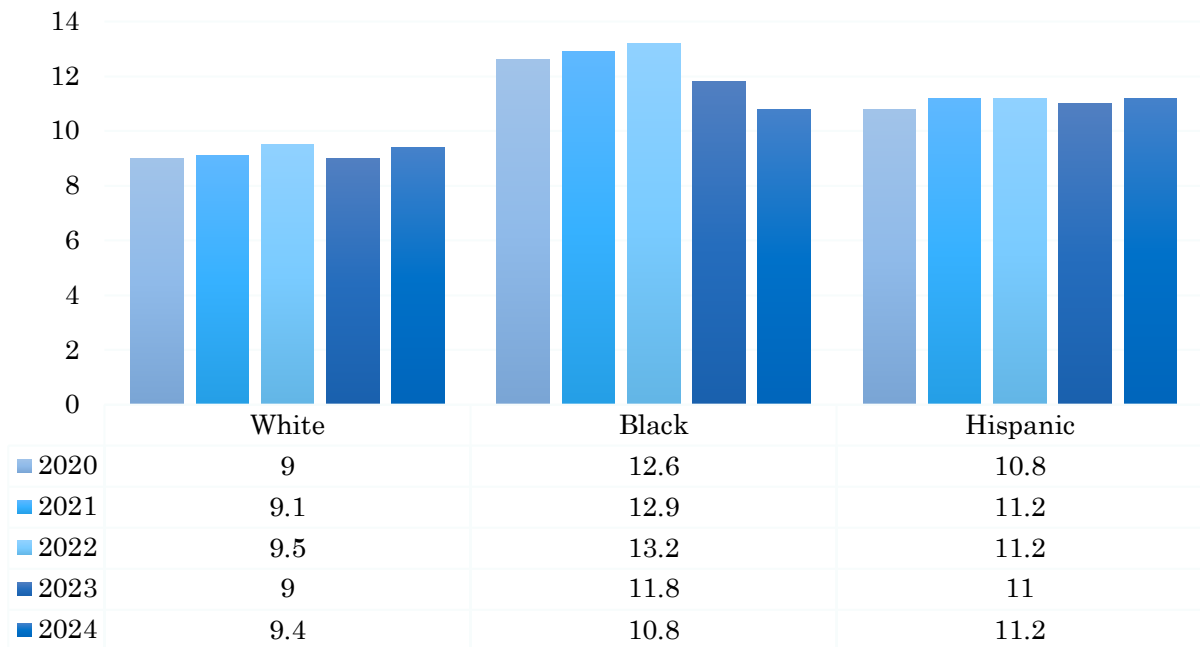
Figure 1: Live Birth Rate by Year, Broward & Florida, 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Resident Live Births, 2015-2024

Figure 2 illustrates a comparison of LBR variation over 5 years, stratified by major racial/ethnic groups of the mother in Broward. Broward's Black mothers have consistently had a higher birth rate nearly every year than White, Non-White, and Hispanic mothers. In 2024, Hispanic mothers had a higher live birth rate compared to Black mothers, the first time in this 5-year period. For each group, the highest LBR occurred in 2022, throughout the 5-year period from 2020 to 2024, (Figure 2).

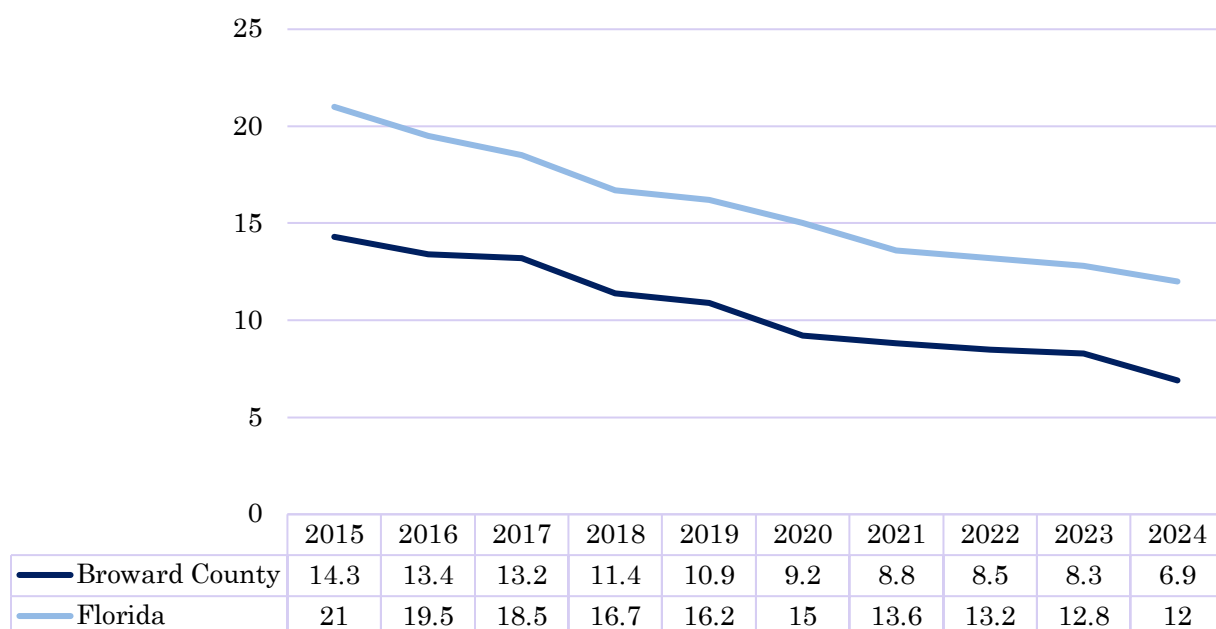
Figure 2: Live Birth Rate by Race/Ethnicity Group, Broward 2020-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Resident Live Births, 2020-2024

In 2024, the teen birth rate in Broward was 6.9 per 1,000 births. The standardized teen birth rate reflects births among mothers aged 15 to 19 years old. Among this age group, the teen birth rate has decreased each year since the last high point in 2007 for both Broward and Florida. Figure 3 shows the teen birth rate over the last 10 years compared to Florida's rate for mothers aged 15 to 19. Florida has consistently had a higher Teen birth rate than Broward County.

Figure 3: Teen Birth Rate (Mothers Aged 15-19), Broward & Florida 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Births by Mother's Age, 2015-2024

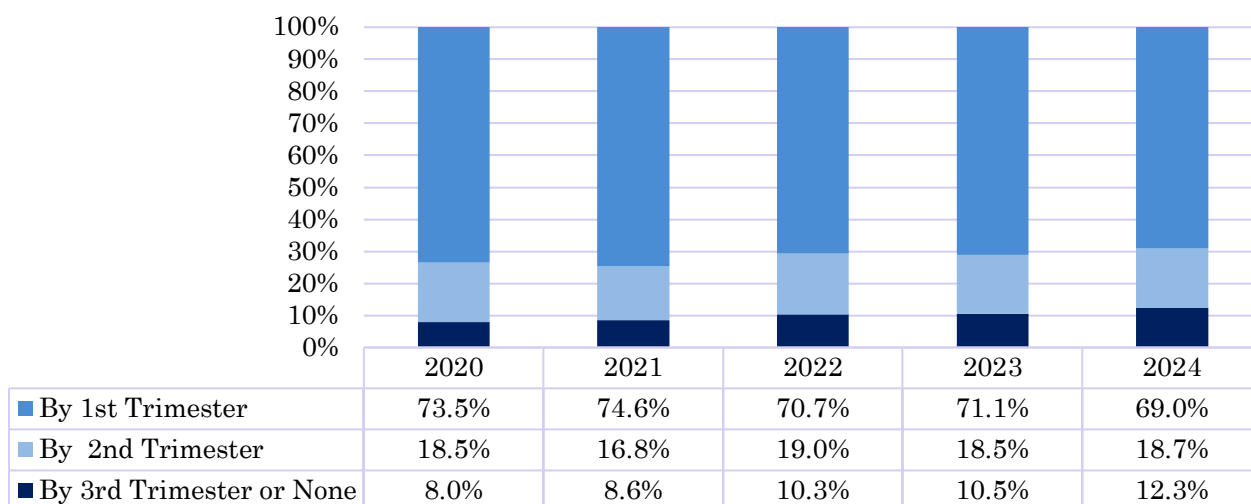
The birth rate among mothers aged 13-19 was 5.0 per 1,000 in Broward, and Florida's rate was 8.8 per 1,000 (Florida Health Charts, Births by Mothers Age, 2024).

In 2024, the repeat teen birth rate, among mothers aged 15 to 19, was 9.9 in Broward and 11.2 in Florida, per 1,000 births. The repeat teen birth rate decreased in Broward compared to the prior year (12.4 per 1,000 in 2023) (Florida Health Charts, Repeat Births to Mothers (Aged 15-19 Years), 2024).

Maternal & Infant Health Indicators

Prenatal care encompasses regular checkups to monitor pregnancy and identify any health problems for both the mother and the baby at each stage. Due to this monitoring, mothers who receive prenatal care have healthier pregnancies and lower risk of complications at birth. The trimester when prenatal care begins can also impact pregnancy health, with earlier prenatal care being most beneficial. Figure 4 displays the Trimester of prenatal care initiation among mothers in Broward. There has been some fluctuation during this period, with the highest rate of first-trimester prenatal care initiation occurring in 2021, and lowest in 2024 at 69% (Figure 4).

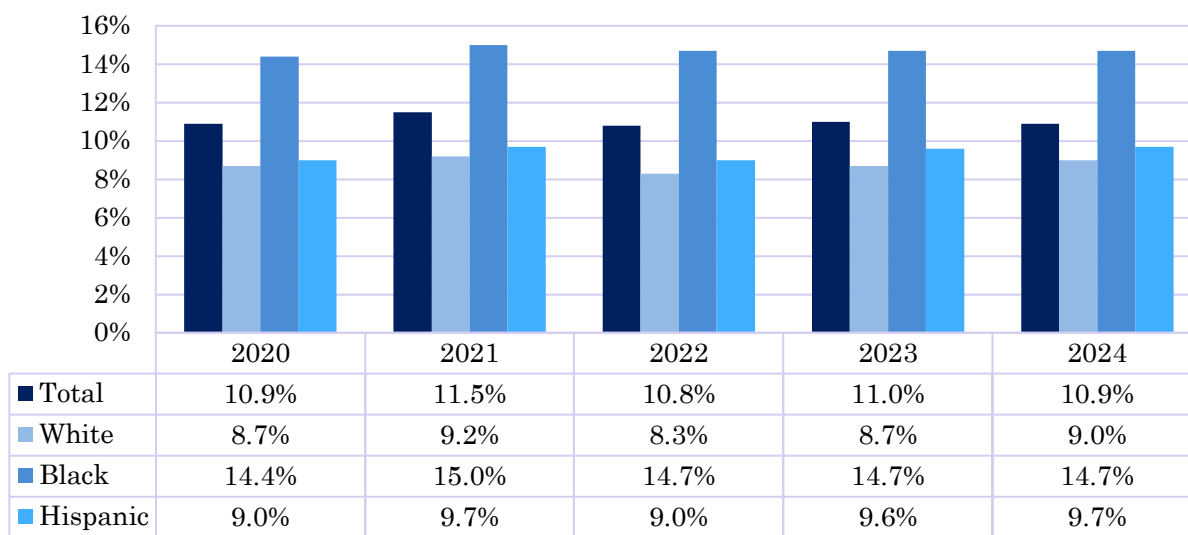
Figure 4: Trimester of Prenatal Care Initiation Among Mothers, Broward 2020-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Births to Mothers Initiating Prenatal Care in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd or no Trimester, 2020-2024

Preterm births, also known as premature births, are births which occur before 37 weeks gestation, meaning the infant has not had the usual amount of time to develop in the womb. Babies born too early are at greater risk of complications, long-term disability, and mortality (CDC, 2025). Figure 5 presents preterm birth rate by maternal race/ethnicity over the last 5 years, showing that rates are significantly higher among Black mothers compared to White and Hispanic mothers. In 2024, the preterm birth rate for all mothers in Broward County was 10.9%, which is relatively similar this rate over the past 5 years. Since 2013, Broward has consistently reported a higher preterm birth rate than the statewide average

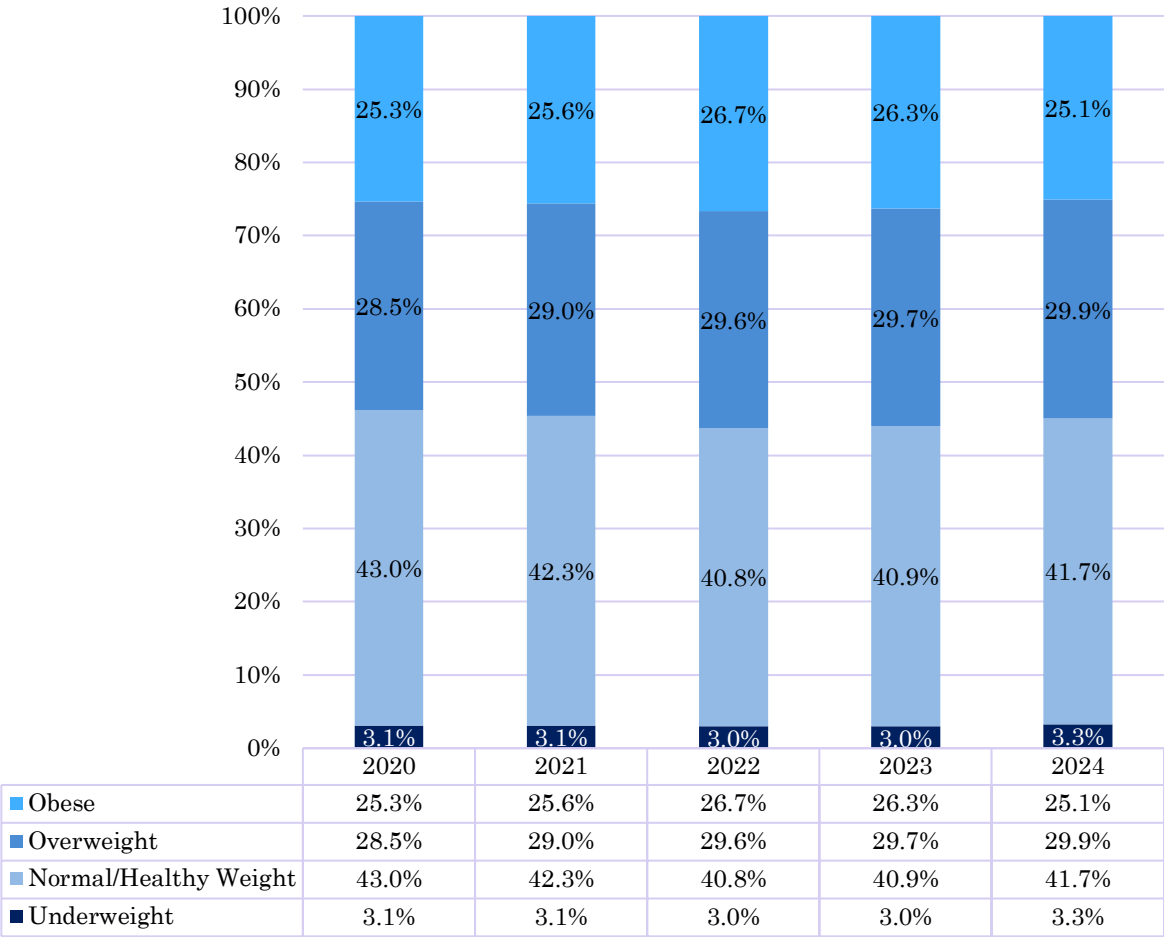
Figure 5: Preterm Birth Rate by Race/Ethnicity, Broward 2020-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Preterm Births (<37 Weeks Gestation), 2020-2024

Maternal weight at the time of pregnancy plays a significant role in birth outcomes. Being overweight or obese during pregnancy increases the risk of preterm birth and other complications, including long-term health risks for the child, such as a greater likelihood of developing chronic diseases later in life. Figure 6 illustrates the distribution of births by maternal weight category over the past five years. From 2020 to 2022 there were decreases in healthy weight mothers compared to overweight or obese mothers. Since 2022, there have been increases in mothers with a healthy/normal weight. In Broward County, 25.1% of births in 2024 were to mothers classified as obese at the time of their pregnancy (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Mothers' Weight Category During Pregnancy, Broward 2020-2024

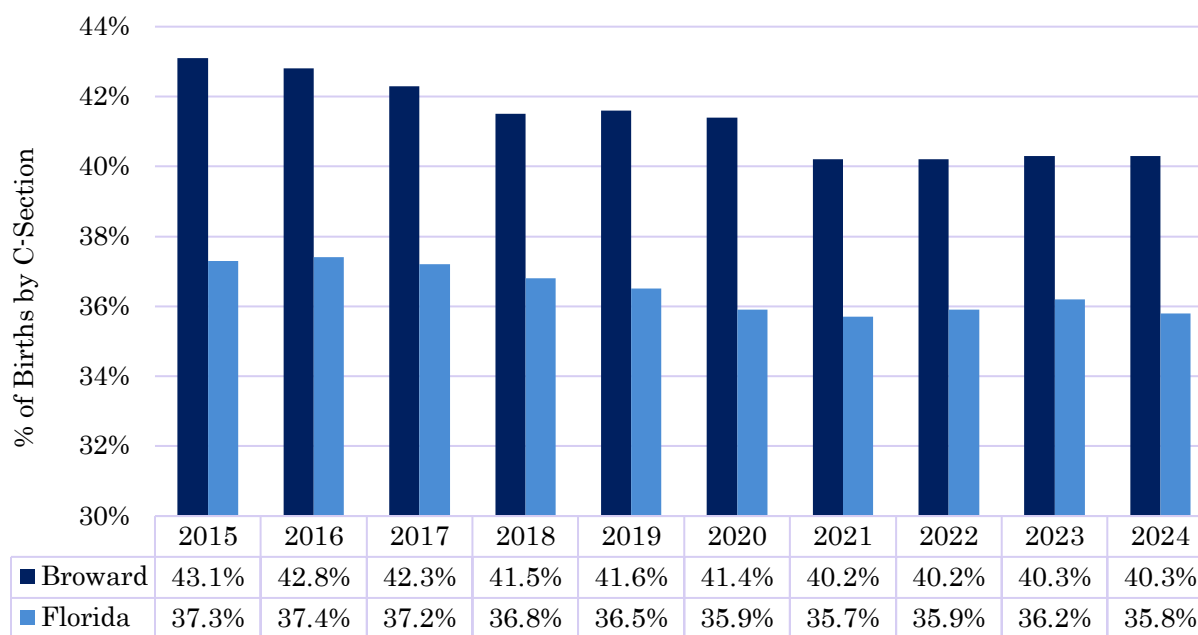


Source: Florida Health Charts, Births to Mothers Who Were Underweight, Healthy Weight, Overweight and Obese at Time Pregnancy Occurred, 2020-2024

Cesarean delivery is a surgical method used to deliver a baby when vaginal delivery poses a risk to the mother or infant. Common reasons for a cesarean section include maternal high blood pressure, obstructed labor, breech presentation, multiple gestation (e.g., twins) or complications involving the placenta or umbilical cord.

Figure 7 shows the proportion of cesarean deliveries over the last 10 years at the state and county level. In Broward, cesarean sections have consistently accounted for over 40% of deliveries consistently over the past 10 years. Florida’s rate of cesarean delivery has been significantly lower than Broward’s each year (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Percentage of Cesarean Deliveries, Broward & Florida, 2015-2024



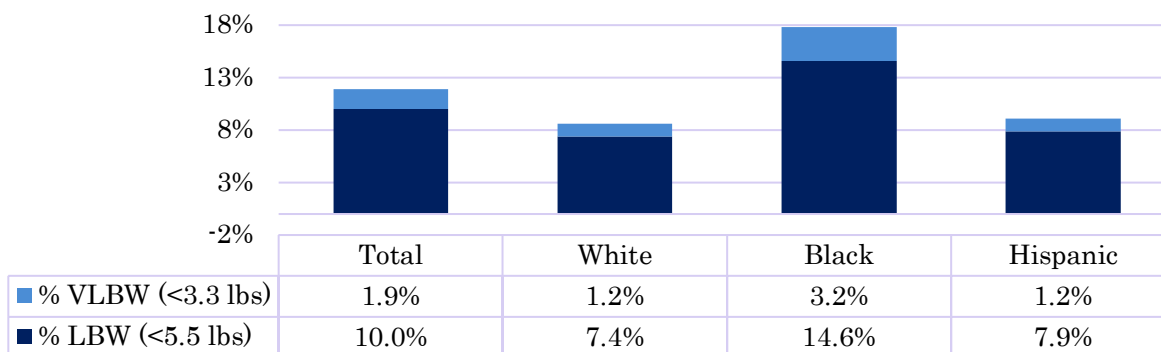
Source: Florida Health Charts, Cesarean Section Deliveries, 2015-2024

Birth weight is a key indicator that predicts the health and survival of an infant. Low birth weight (LBW) is defined as a birth weight of less than 5.5 pounds (< 2,500 grams), and very low birth weight (VLBW) is defined as a birth weight of less than 3.3 pounds (< 1,500 grams). One of the primary causes of low birth weight is preterm birth. LBW is strongly associated with increased risk of neonatal and infant mortality, as well as long-term health complications. High-quality prenatal care helps to reduce the risk of LBW through interventions such as nutritional support, regular monitoring, and stress management.

From 2014-2023 in Broward County, just under 10% of births have been classified as LBW in 2024 the rate is now at 10.0%. Additionally, over the last 10 years VLBW has been under 2%. Compared to statewide rates, Broward has consistently reported higher rates of both LBW and VLBW. In 2024, 1.9% of births in Broward were VLBW (compared to 1.6% in Florida), and 10.0% were LBW (compared to 9.0% in Florida). These rates have shown minimal fluctuation over the past decade, indicating consistent trends.

Figure 8 presents 2024 data on LBW and VLBW births in Broward overall, as well as by major racial and ethnic groups. The data show that Black mothers experience significantly higher rates of LBW and VLBW births compared to White and Hispanic mothers (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Very Low and Low Birth Weight, by Race/Ethnicity, Broward 2024



Source: Florida Health Charts Live Births Under 2500 Grams (Low Birth Weight) & Live Births Under 1500 Grams (Very Low Birth Weight), 2024

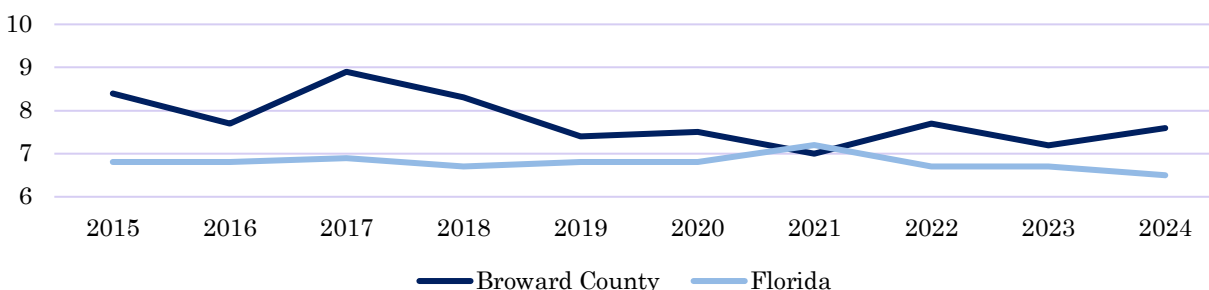
Maternal and Child Mortality

Maternal and child mortality rates are critical indicators of the quality and accessibility of healthcare services in a community. For children, key measures include:

- **Fetal Mortality:** death in the womb before birth at 20+ weeks gestation
- **Neonatal mortality** – death within the first 28 days of life
- **Infant Mortality** – death during the first year of life

Figure 9 shows the rate of fetal deaths in Broward and Florida. The rate of fetal deaths in Broward has fluctuated over the past 10 years. In most years during this period, Broward has reported a higher rate of fetal deaths compared to Florida's statewide average (Figure 9).

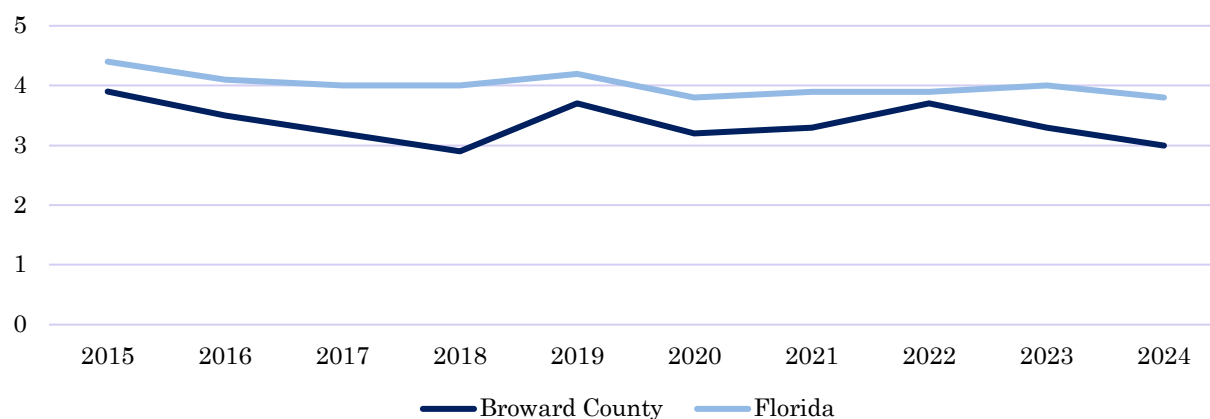
Figure 9: Fetal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 deliveries), Broward & Florida, 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Fetal Deaths (Stillbirths), 2015-2024

Leading causes of neonatal mortality include low birth weight, congenital anomalies, and preterm delivery. Figure 10 displays neonatal mortality rates from 2015-2024 in Broward and Florida. The neonatal mortality rate in Broward was 3.0 per 1,000 live births in 2024, which was lower than the statewide rate of 3.8 per 1,000 live births. This trend has remained consistent over the past 10 years, with Broward reporting lower neonatal mortality rates than Florida (Figure 10).

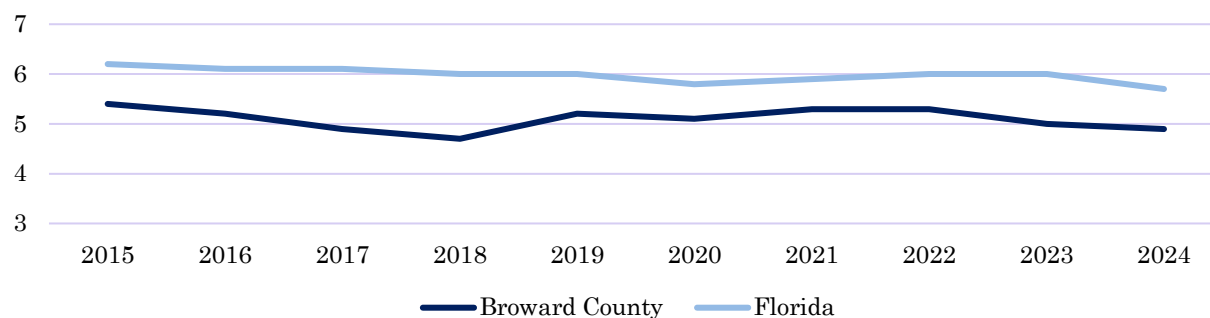
Figure 10: Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births), Broward & Florida, 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Neonatal Mortality (Aged 0-27 Days), 2015-2024

In Broward County, the infant mortality rate (IMR) has remained consistently lower than the statewide rate since 2004. In 2024, Broward reported an IMR of 4.9 per 1,000 live births, compared to 5.7 per 1,000 live births in Florida (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births), Broward & Florida 2015-24



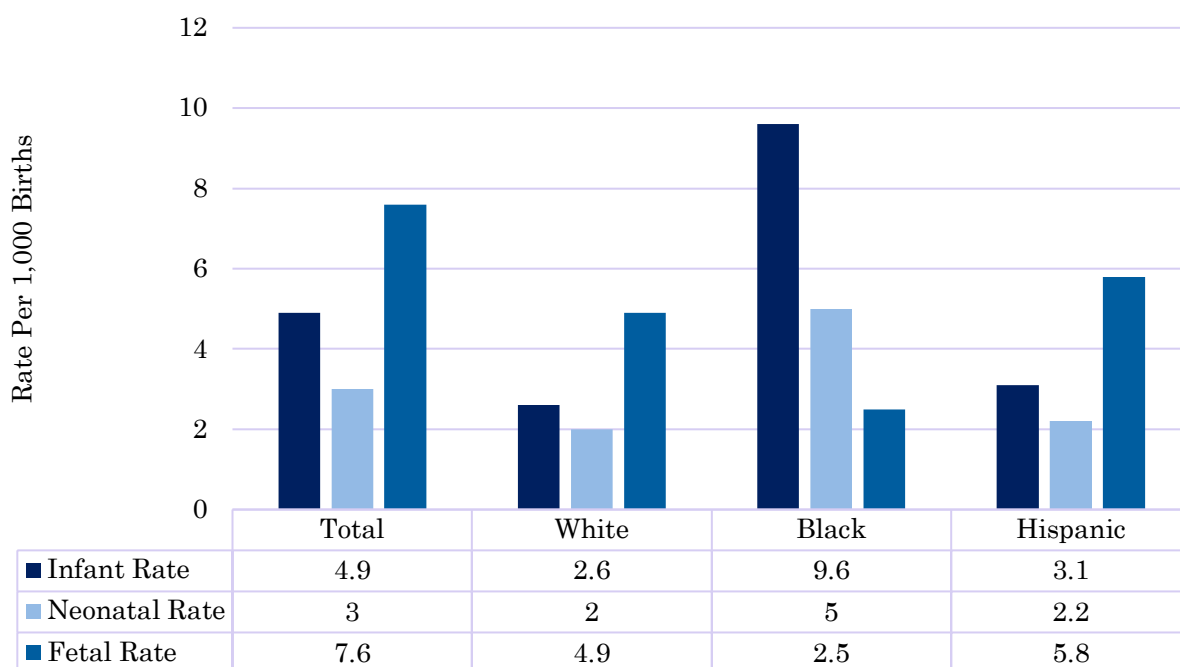
Source: Florida Health Charts, Infant Mortality (Aged 0-364 Days), 2015-2024

Figure 12 compares child mortality rates by major racial and ethnic groups in Broward. The data indicate that Black children experience the highest infant and neonatal mortality rates compared to White and Hispanic children. In 2024, fetal mortality rate was highest among Hispanic mothers, and lowest among black

mothers. Overall, fetal mortality rates exceed both infant and neonatal mortality rates in Broward (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Infant, Neonatal, and Fetal Mortality Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Broward 2024

Rates per 1,000: Infant and Neonatal (per live births); Fetal (per deliveries)

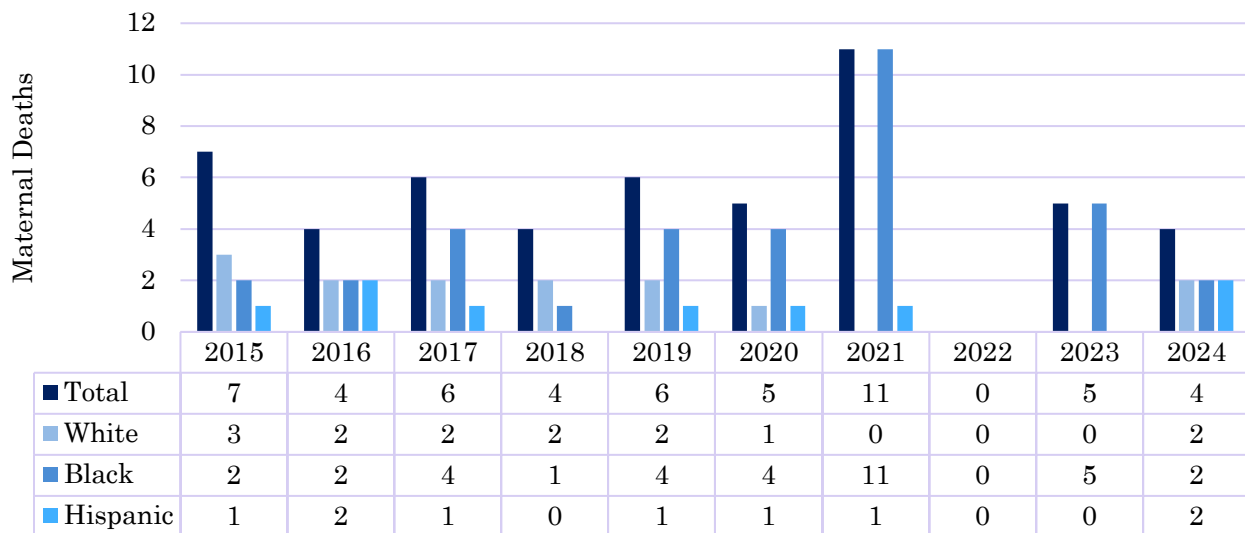


Source: Florida Health Charts, Infant Mortality, Neonatal Mortality, Fetal Deaths, 2024

Maternal mortality is defined as death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of pregnancy termination (WHO). In developing countries, maternal death is one of the leading causes of death in reproductive age women. Maternal mortality rate represents the risk of maternal death associated with each pregnancy. In 2024, the maternal mortality rate was higher in Broward (19.9 per 100,000 live births) than the overall State rate (18.7 per 100,000 live births).

Figure 13 displays the maternal death count overall and by the mother's race/ethnic identity group in the County over the last 10 years. This data reveal that Black mothers face higher rates of maternal death than White or Hispanic mothers in Broward. There were 52 maternal deaths in Broward from 2015-2024. The death count by group over the last 10 years was 14 deaths among White mothers, 35 deaths among Black mothers, and 9 deaths among Hispanic mothers. In 2021, there was a significantly elevated number of maternal deaths, with a majority among Black mothers (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Maternal Death Count by Race/Ethnicity, Broward 2015-2024



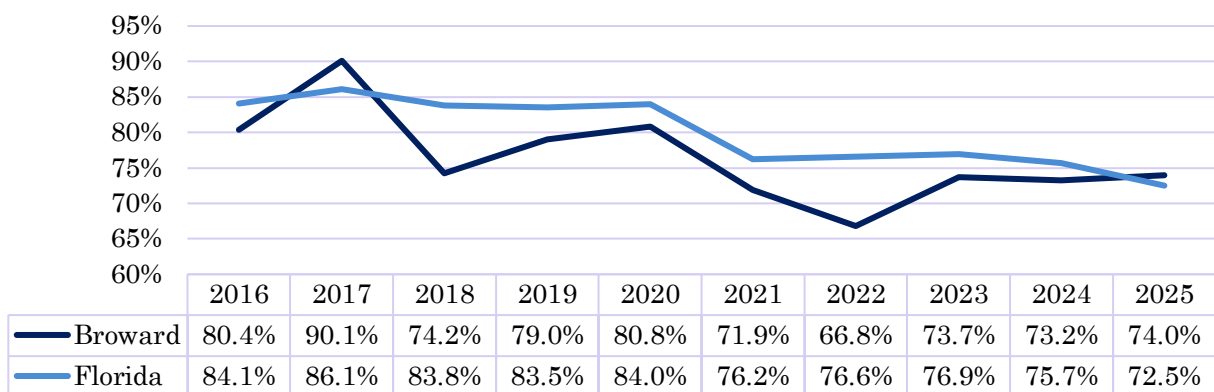
Source: Florida Health Charts, Maternal Deaths, 2015-2024

Child Immunization

Childhood immunizations reduce the prevalence of deadly and dangerous vaccine-preventable disease. Childhood immunization rates data show how many parents are keeping up with the vaccine schedule at the 2-year mark and at the kindergarten level.

Figure 14 displays the immunization level among 2-year-old children in Broward and in Florida over the past 10 years. There was a peak in Broward in 2017 at 90.1% immunization level Countywide, followed by a decreasing trend, with a low point of 66.8% immunization coverage in 2023. The 2025 2-year vaccine rate was 74.0% in Broward, which was higher than Florida's rate.

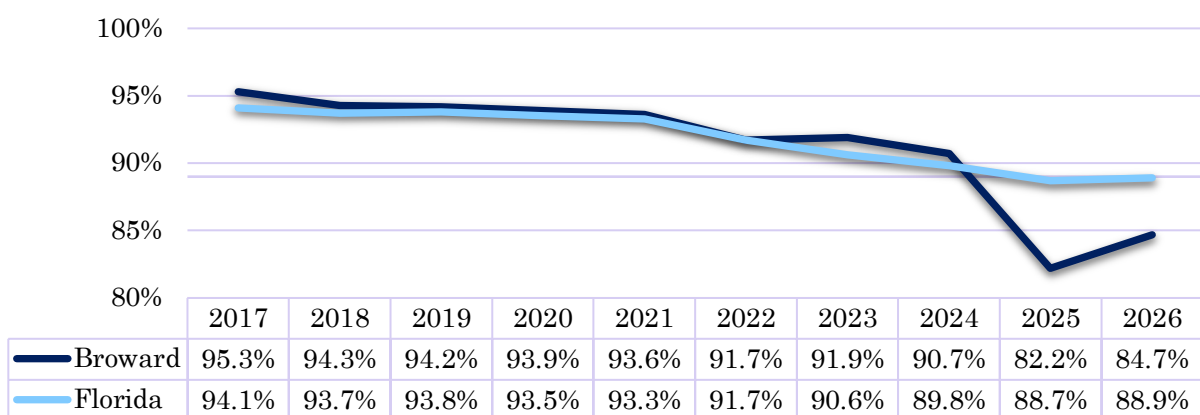
Figure 14: Immunization Level Among 2-Year-Old Children, Broward & Florida 2016-2025



Source: Florida Health Charts (Children Fully Immunized: Basic Immunization Series (Aged 2 Years), 2016-25

Figure 15 displays immunization levels among kindergarten students in Broward and Florida over the last 10 years. The data show a declining trend in immunization rates since 2017 in both Florida and Broward, although Broward did experience a slight increase from 2022 to 2023. The kindergarten immunization level in Broward has recently fallen below the 90% mark in 2025 to 82.2%, and a slight increase from there in 2026 to 84.7%. Most years Broward had a slightly higher rate for kindergarten vaccinations than Florida (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Immunization Level Among Kindergarten Students, Broward & Florida, 2017-2026



Source: Florida Health Charts, Immunization Levels in Kindergarten, 2017-2026

Morbidity & Mortality

The Morbidity and Mortality section provides detailed data on health outcomes related to acute and chronic conditions which create a picture of the overall disease burden in the County. Understanding trends in illness (morbidity) and death (mortality) is critical for identifying high-risk populations, assessing intervention effectiveness, and informing clinical and public health decision-making.

This section explores current data on incidence, prevalence, and case fatality rates. By examining both immediate and long-term health impacts, it highlights the importance of early detection, effective treatment, and preventive strategies in reducing the burden of disease and improving outcomes.

Communicable Diseases

Communicable diseases are illnesses caused by infectious agents such as bacteria, viruses, or parasites that can be transmitted from person to person, animal to person,

or through environmental exposure. Table 2 presents the top 12 communicable diseases in Broward in 2024, with a comparison to Florida's 2024 rates and the change compared to the 2023 Broward rate. In 2024 **Salmonellosis** was the most reported communicable disease in Broward. Chronic **Hepatitis C** and **Hepatitis B** both experienced a notable decline in Broward compared to the prior year. The 5th through 12th leading communicable diseases saw slight changes in rates in Broward from 2023 to 2024. In 2024, Florida reported significantly lower rates of Salmonellosis, Hepatitis B and shigellosis, than Broward (Table 2).

Table 2: Top 12 Communicable Diseases, Broward 2024 & Florida Comparison

		Broward Rate per 100,000		Florida Rate per 100,000 in 2024
		2024	+ or - from 2023	
1	Salmonellosis	54.3	+10.9	36.5
2	Hepatitis C (Chronic)	42.0	-12.5	42.6
3	Hepatitis B (Chronic)	33.4	-6.6	18.4
4	Campylobacteriosis	19.1	+5.4	23.6
5	Shigellosis	9.4	-1.8	5.3
6	Streptococcus Pneumonia	5.6	+0.6	5.1
7	Tuberculosis	4.2	+0.7	2.9
8	STEC (Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli) Infection	4.0	+0.3	4.6
9	Varicella/Chickenpox	3.8	+0.5	3.1
10	Haemophilus Influenzae Invasive Disease	2.1	-0.1	1.7
11	Legionellosis	1.6	-0.5	2.7
12	Cryptosporidiosis	1.5	-0.6	2.4

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2023-2024

Sexually transmitted infections are related to both communicable disease and behavioral health. More detailed STI data is reviewed on pages 22-24, under the sexual health section, of the behavioral health section.

Table 3 presents data for the top 12 communicable diseases (also reviewed above), as well as other less common infectious diseases. The table includes a brief description of each disease and categorizes them by mode of transmission.

Table 3: Communicable Diseases Categorized by Transmission Route, Number of Cases, Rates and Information 2024

Communicable Diseases by Category of Transmission	
Oral Fecal Route Diseases	
Campylobacteriosis 4 th leading communicable disease Broward 2024 rate: 19.1 per 100,000	Campylobacteriosis is a bacterial infection caused by <i>Campylobacter</i> , leading to diarrhea, cramping, abdominal pain, and fever 2 to 5 days after exposure. Illness typically lasts about a week. Most cases are linked to handling or consuming raw or undercooked poultry.
Cryptosporidiosis 12 th leading communicable disease Broward 2024 rate: 1.5 per 100,000	Cryptosporidiosis is an intestinal illness caused by the parasite <i>Cryptosporidium</i> , found in the intestines of infected people or animals. It spreads through contaminated food or water. Symptoms—such as watery diarrhea, dehydration, stomach cramps, fever, nausea, and vomiting—begin 2 to 10 days after exposure and typically last about one week.
Cyclosporiasis Broward 2024 rate: 0.6 per 100,000	Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by the parasite <i>Cyclospora</i> , spread through contaminated food or water. Symptoms—such as watery diarrhea, explosive bowel movements, bloating, and loss of appetite—typically begin about 7 days after exposure and can last from days to months without treatment.
Giardiasis 106 cases in Broward in 2024 (8.4% of the state total)	Giardiasis is a diarrheal illness caused by the microscopic parasite <i>Giardia intestinalis</i> . Infection occurs through contaminated food, water, or contact with an infected person. Symptoms—such as diarrhea, greasy floating stools, gas, and stomach cramps—typically begin about 7 days after exposure and can last up to 4 weeks.
Hepatitis A Broward 2024 rate: 0.9 per 100,000	Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis A virus, typically spread through contaminated food, water, or contact with an infected person. The virus is present in the stool of infected individuals. Symptoms—such as jaundice, fatigue, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and fever—usually appear about 30 days after exposure and last around two weeks. Most individuals recover completely. A vaccine is available for prevention.
Salmonellosis 1 st leading communicable disease Broward 2024 rate: 54.3 per 100,000	Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection caused by <i>Salmonella</i> , typically spread through food contaminated with animal feces. Common sources include meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, and occasionally vegetables. Symptoms—such as diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps—usually begin 12 to 72 hours after infection and last 4 to 7 days. Most people recover without treatment.
Shigellosis 5 th leading communicable disease Broward 2024 rate: 9.4 per 100,000	Shigellosis is a bacterial infection caused by <i>Shigella</i> , typically spread through contact with contaminated stool due to poor hygiene and handwashing. Symptoms—such as diarrhea (often bloody), fever, and stomach cramps—begin 1–2 days after exposure and usually last 5 to 7 days. Most cases resolve without treatment, though severe infections, especially in young children and the older adult population, may require antibiotics or hospitalization.
STEC Infection 8 th leading communicable disease Broward 2024 rate: 4.0 per 100,000	Escherichia coli (E. coli) are bacteria that normally live in the intestines of humans and animals, with most strains being harmless; however, some strains can cause gastrointestinal and other infections. Illness-causing strains are primarily transmitted through contaminated food or water or by contact with infected people or animals. Symptoms commonly include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea, and vomiting,

	with some infections causing bloody diarrhea. Certain strains, such as Shiga toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> (STEC), can lead to more severe illness and, in rare cases, serious complications such as hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS).
Blood-Borne Diseases	
Hepatitis B 3 rd leading communicable disease in Broward 2024 Broward 2024 Rate: Acute Hepatitis B 4.3 per 100,000 Chronic Hepatitis B 33.4 per 100,000	Acute Hepatitis B is a serious viral infection that affects the liver. Symptoms—such as jaundice, fatigue, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and joint pain—typically appear about 90 days after exposure. Transmission occurs through contact with infected bodily fluids, especially blood, and can include sexual contact. Most infected adults recover fully. Chronic Hepatitis B occurs when the body fails to produce antibodies to clear the virus, resulting in a lifelong infection. This increases the risk of liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer, and death. Infected individuals can transmit the virus indefinitely. A vaccine is available for prevention. Hepatitis B in Pregnancy (+HBsAg): All pregnant women are tested for the hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) during prenatal care. A positive result means the mother can pass the virus to her infant. Newborns receive immediate treatment at birth to reduce the risk of developing chronic Hepatitis B. Perinatal Hepatitis B refers to chronic infection in infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers. Despite preventive treatment, some infants may still become chronically infected. Follow-up testing occurs several months after treatment to confirm infection status.
Hepatitis C 2 nd Leading communicable disease in Broward 2024 Broward 2024 Rate: Acute Hepatitis B 8.4 per 100,000 Chronic Hepatitis B 42.0 per 100,000	Acute Hepatitis C is the initial stage of liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). It is transmitted through contact with infected blood, most commonly by sharing needles or other drug injection equipment. Many people have no symptoms during the acute phase, but those who do may experience fatigue, fever, nausea, abdominal pain, dark urine, or jaundice. Acute infection occurs within the first six months after exposure, and while some individuals clear the virus naturally, others progress to chronic hepatitis C infection (75-85% of those infected) Chronic Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV), transmitted through contact with infected blood. Hepatitis C can be sexually transmitted. Symptoms may appear around 9 weeks after exposure, but many cases are mild or asymptomatic. Unfortunately, 50–80% of infections become chronic. There is no vaccine for prevention.
HIV/AIDS New Diagnosis Rate in Broward 2024: 28.2 per 100,000	HIV/AIDS is transmitted through sexual contact with an infected person or by sharing needles or syringes, primarily from drug injection, with someone infected with the HIV virus. HIV infection gradually weakens the immune system, and when significant immune compromise occurs, it is classified as AIDS. While treatment can manage disease and prolong life, there is currently no cure.
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	
Chlamydia Broward 2024 Rate: 644.8 per 100,000	Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted disease (STI) caused by the bacterium, <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> , which can harm a woman's reproductive organs. Chlamydia is known as a "silent" disease because about three quarters of infected women and about half of infected men have no symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they usually appear within 1 to 3 weeks after exposure.
Gonorrhea Broward 2024 Rate:	Gonorrhea is an STI caused by <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> , a bacterium that can grow and multiply easily in the warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract. Transmission occurs through sexual intercourse with

312.8 per 100,000	an infected person. Most women show no sign of the disease. Although many men with gonorrhea may have no symptoms at all, some men have some signs or symptoms that appear two to five days after infection.
Syphilis Broward 2024 Rate: 118.9 per 100,000	Syphilis is an STI caused by spirochete bacterium. Syphilis spreads through direct contact with a syphilis sore during sex. Sores occur mainly on the external genitals, vagina, anus, or in the rectum. Sores also can occur on the lips and in the mouth. Pregnant women with the disease can pass the infection to their unborn babies. Symptoms usually begin around 21 days after exposure. The sore (called a chancre) is usually firm, round, small, and painless. Treatment during the first stage of infection is necessary to prevent progression to secondary or tertiary stages where the disease is more life threatening.
Respiratory Droplets	
Haemophilus Influenzae 10 th Leading communicable disease in Broward 2024 Broward 2024 Rate: 2.1 per 100,000	Haemophilus influenzae are common, small bacteria that cause a wide variety of infections in children including otitis media (middle ear infection), sinusitis, and meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cords). The organism often uses the bloodstream as transport to various organs. When it is found in the blood, the term bacteremia is used. This disease is vaccine preventable.
Pertussis 48 cases identified in Broward in 2024, while Florida had 708 This is the highest reported number of cases in a year in Broward compared to the last 20 years	Pertussis (whooping cough) is a severe respiratory illness caused by a bacterium, <i>Bordetella pertussis</i> , which causes prolonged coughing. Pertussis is highly contagious and is spread through droplets spread through coughing or sneezing of an infected individual. It is most serious in infants and young children but can cause persistent cough in older children and adults. A vaccine can prevent this illness.
Streptococcal pneumoniae Invasive Disease 6 th leading communicable disease Broward 2024 Rate: 5.6 per 100,000 Florida's Rate in 2024: 5.1 per 100,000	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> Invasive Disease, or pneumococcal disease, is the most common cause of lobar pneumonia but can also cause meningitis or other infections. <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> strains are classified based on their resistance to antibiotics such as penicillin. Streptococcal Diseases are a group of illnesses caused by a closely related group of bacteria. Streptococcal Invasive Group A is an infection of the blood or other tissues that can lead to severe illness or death if not properly diagnosed and treated.
Other Reportables	
Rabies 0 cases of Rabies in Broward in 2024, while Florida had 113 cases	Rabies is a fatal, but preventable viral disease. Rabies can spread from animal bites or scratches from rabies-infected animals, most often from wild animals such as raccoons or bats. Infection can also be caused by unvaccinated cats or dogs. Once a person is suspected of a potential infection, prophylaxis is the treatment which is an intensive vaccination series recommended for persons who potentially have been exposed to this fatal illness.
Lead Poisoning Broward 2024 Rate:	Lead Poisoning occurs when the blood lead level reaches over 3.5 micrograms per deciliter of blood. Main sources of exposure include lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust. Lead poisoning can affect

13.4 per 100,000	nearly every system of body. Often, lead poisoning is asymptomatic. Young children are more vulnerable to the effects of lead poisoning and experience more obvious symptoms including impaired neurobehavioral development, low IQ, slow nerve impulses and encephalopathy (diseased brain tissue).
Listeriosis 6 cases identified in Broward in 2024, while Florida had 41	Listeriosis is an illness caused by the bacterium, <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> . Listeriosis is usually caused by eating food contaminated with the bacterium. The infection is more severe for infants and older adults with weakened immune systems. Infection can cause flu-like symptoms.
Meningitis 1 case identified in Broward in 2024, while Florida had 140	Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis can be caused by bacteria, viruses, or even other injuries. Cases caused by bacterial infection are usually more serious. Symptoms include fever, headache, stiff neck, disorientation, seizures, coma, and death. Symptoms due to meningitis are all similar, no matter what infectious organism is causing it.
Tuberculosis 7th leading communicable disease in 2024 Broward 2025 Rate: 4.3 per 100,000 Florida's Rate in 2025: 2.9 per 100,000	Tuberculosis is caused by <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> , a bacterium that usually attacks the lungs but can also attack other parts of the body. Primarily the disease is spread via respiratory secretions of those whose lungs are infected. It's estimated that one-third of the world is infected with this disease. Of those who are infected with this bacterium, only 5% get active disease. Active pulmonary disease occurs 2-10 weeks after exposure/ infection, but active TB disease may not develop for months or years, especially if latent TB is not treated. Symptoms from active TB include fever, night sweats, cough, and weight loss. Most tuberculosis cases in Broward are imported from other countries.
Varicella 9th leading communicable disease Broward 2024 Rate: 3.8 per 100,000 Florida's Rate in 2024: 3.1 per 100,000	Varicella (Chickenpox) is an acute, generalized viral illness caused by the varicella-zoster virus. Symptoms include the sudden onset of a mild fever, general discomfort, and an itchy skin rash that spreads across the body, typically resulting in 250–500 fluid-filled blisters. These blisters usually scab over within approximately one week. A vaccine is available to prevent varicella. While vaccinated individuals may still contract the disease, symptoms are generally milder. After recovery, the virus remains dormant in the body and can later reactivate as shingles. The varicella-zoster virus can spread through direct contact with shingles lesions or chickenpox, or by inhaling airborne particles released from chickenpox or shingles blisters.
Legionellosis 11th leading communicable disease Broward 2024 Rate: 1.6 per 100,000 Florida's Rate in 2024: 2.7 per 100,000	Legionnaires' disease is a severe form of pneumonia caused by <i>Legionella</i> bacteria. It is transmitted when people inhale contaminated water droplets or accidentally aspirate water containing the bacteria into the lungs. Common symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, fever, muscle aches, and headaches. The disease is not spread from person to person in most cases. Prevention focuses on proper maintenance of building water systems to reduce the growth and spread of <i>Legionella</i> bacteria, as no vaccine is currently available.

Sources: CDC, 2025; Florida Health Charts, 2024

Chronic Diseases

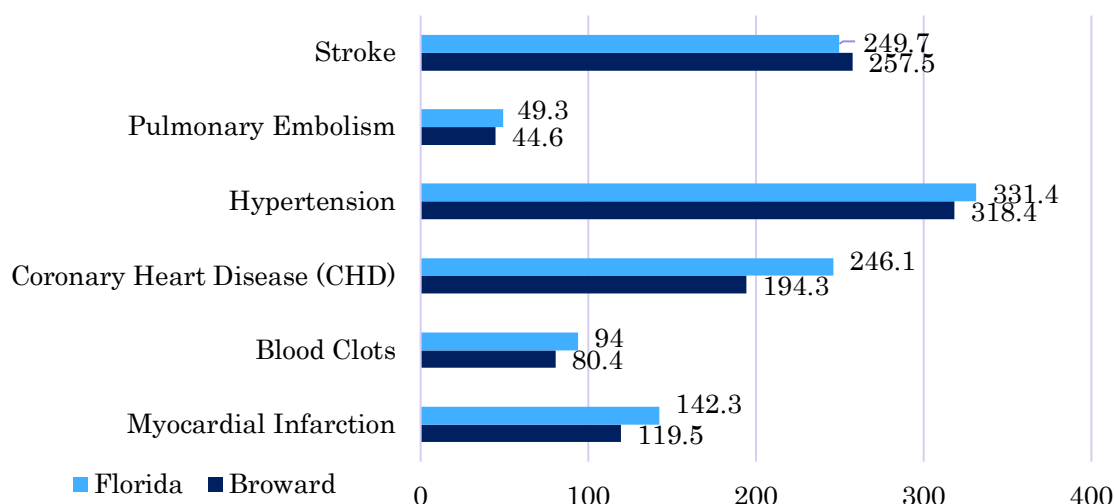
Chronic diseases are long-lasting conditions that often progress slowly and can significantly impact an individual's quality of life. Eight of the top 10 leading causes of death in Broward are from Chronic Diseases (Figure 21). Common examples include heart disease, diabetes, and cancer, which are among the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. Reviewed in this section is data on the number of emergency department (ED) visits and hospitalizations for chronic conditions.

The leading cause of death in Broward is **heart disease (HD)**, a type of cardiovascular disease, which is a term used to encompass several types of heart conditions, including coronary artery disease (CAD), which affects blood flow to the heart. Heart disease is sometimes “silent,” meaning a person may not know they have it until they experience a heart attack, arrhythmia, or heart failure, which can be caused by HD. Risk factors for HD include smoking, high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure, overweight/obesity, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and excessive alcohol use (CDC, 2025).

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) is a big umbrella term for all types of diseases that affect the heart or blood vessels. CVD includes **heart disease, stroke**, heart failure, arrhythmia, and heart valve problems. This category encompasses three of the ten leading causes of death in Broward (NIH, 2025).

Figure 16 displays the rate of cardiovascular disease hospitalizations in Broward County and Florida. Florida has a higher rate of hospitalizations for all cardiovascular conditions in Figure 16, except for stroke admissions.

Figure 16: Cardiovascular Disease Hospitalizations, Broward & Florida, 2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Hospitalizations, 2024

Table 4 displays hospitalizations for **Asthma, Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD)** and **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)** which are among the most prevalent respiratory diseases comparing County and State level rates. In 2024 Broward County experienced a lower rate of admissions for asthma overall than Florida. Florida also has a higher rate of admissions for CLRD and COPD than Broward (Table 4).

Table 4: Respiratory Disease Hospitalization Rates, Broward & Florida, 2024

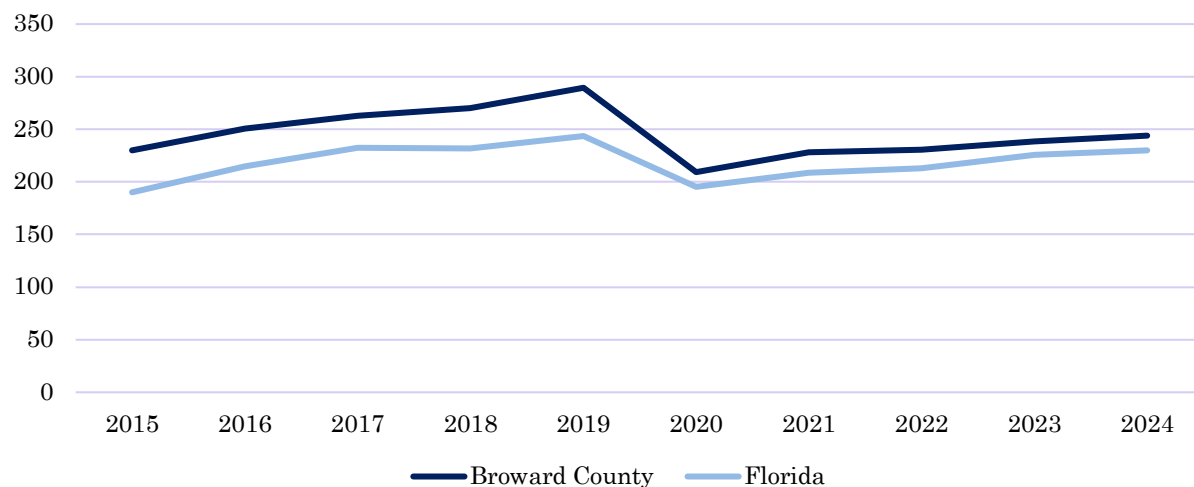
Rates per 100,000		Broward	Florida
Hospitalizations From Asthma (Any Age)		58.6	52.9
Hospitalizations From or With Asthma as Any Listed Diagnosis		629	705.4
Hospitalizations With Asthma as Any Listed Diagnosis by Age	Under 1 years	208.9	276.8
	1-5 years	517.7	547.4
	5-11 years	355.9	356.6
	12-18 years	416.5	426.5
Hospitalizations From Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD) (Including Asthma)		160.3	164.1
Hospitalizations From Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)		101.7	111.2

Source: Florida Charts, Hospitalizations From Asthma, CLRD, and COPD, 2024

Diabetes is a major chronic disease in the United States, and it is the sixth leading cause of death in Broward County. Diabetes and its complications are often preventable with proper disease management. If diabetes is not well managed, it can lead to the use of the emergency department for emergency complications such as uncontrolled high blood sugar. Yearly, uncontrolled diabetes and emergency medical management of diabetes lead to loss of productivity and high medical costs.

Figure 17 displays the rate of diabetes-related emergency department (ED) visits within Broward and Florida over the last 10 years. Each year, Broward has a higher rate of emergency department use for diabetes-related complications. From 2015 to 2019 and 2020 to 2024, there has been an increasing trend in the rate of Diabetes-related ED visits in both the State and County (Figure 17).

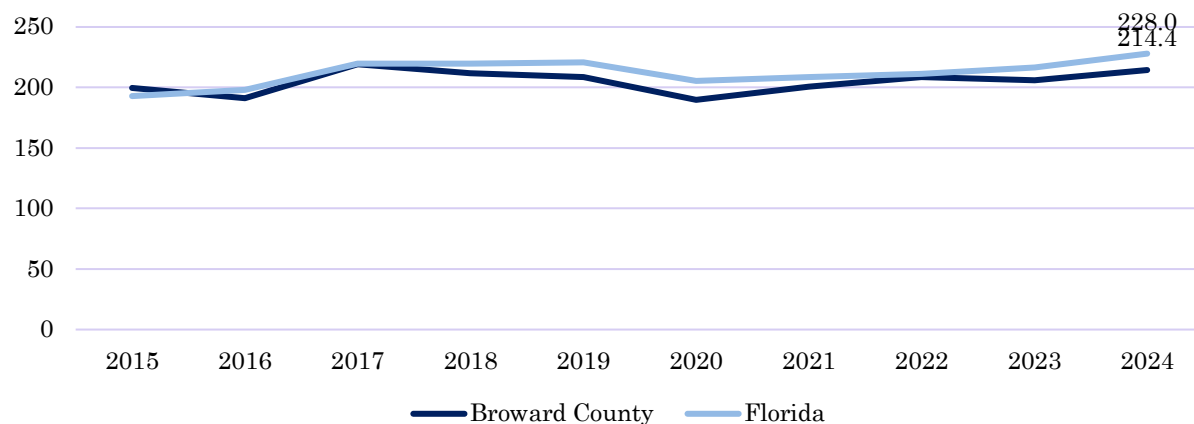
Figure 17: Emergency Department Visits from Diabetes (Rate per 100,000 Population), Broward & Florida 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Emergency Department Visits from Diabetes, 2015-2024

Broward has an inconsistent trend in the rate of diabetes-related hospitalizations with an increase over the 10-year period, displayed in Figure 18. However, Broward has had a lower rate of hospitalizations than Florida for diabetes from 2016 to 2023 (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Hospitalizations from Diabetes (Rate per 100,000 Population), Broward & Florida 2015-2024



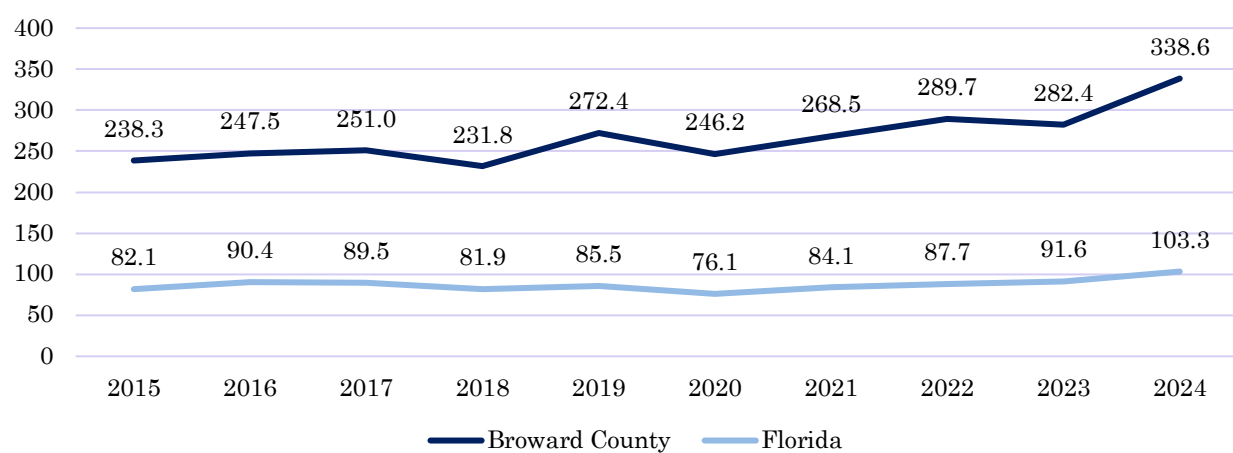
Source: Florida Health Charts, Hospitalizations from Diabetes, 2015-2024

Sickle cell disease, (SCD), sometimes called sickle cell anemia, refers to a group of inherited red blood cell disorders. When someone has SCD, their hemoglobin (the protein of the red blood cell which carries oxygen throughout the body) is abnormal, causing red blood cells to take on a different shape, and to carry less oxygen. Individuals with SCD are more likely to have health complications such as stroke or

infection. SCD is a genetically inherited disease and more than 90% of those with SCD in the U.S. identify as non-Hispanic and Black (CDC, 2025).

Figure 19 displays the number of emergency department (ED) visits for SCD in Broward and Florida over the past 10 years. Broward has more than twice the rate of ED visits than the state of Florida overall for SCD ED visits. In recent years, the rate of ED use related to SCD has increased significantly (Figure 19).

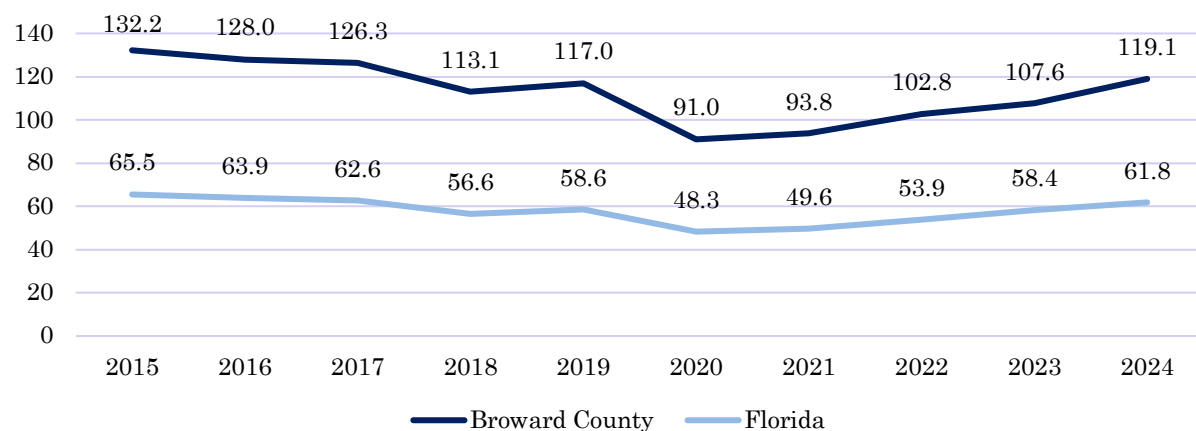
Figure 19: Emergency Department Visits from Sickle Cell Disease (Rate per 100,000 Population), Broward & Florida 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Emergency Department Visits from Sickle Cell, 2015-2024

Figure 20 shows the rate of SCD hospitalizations in Broward and the State for the past 10 years. Broward has nearly twice the hospitalization rate than Florida each year (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Hospitalizations from Sickle Cell Disease (Rate per 100,000 Population), Broward & Florida 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Hospitalizations from Sickle Cell, 2015-2024

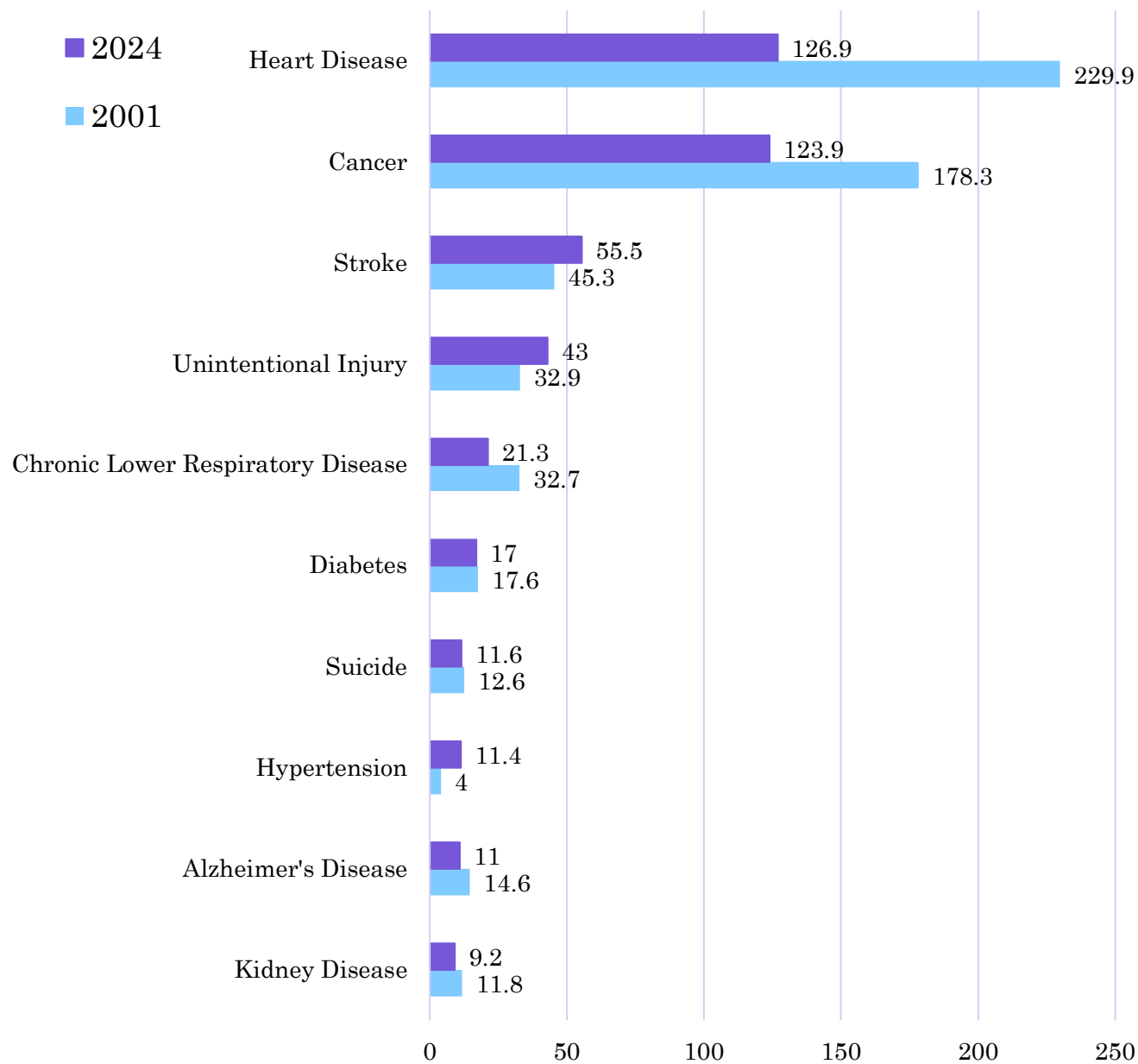
Death: Leading Causes & Rates

In 2024, Broward County had a death rate of 580.1 per 100,000 residents which is a decrease from the rate last year (601.7 per 100,000). Florida's 2024 rate of death from all causes was 656.6 per 100,000. In 2023, the total number of deaths in Broward was 15,602—down from 16,098 in the previous year; this continues a downward trend in number of deaths seen in Broward since 2021 (Florida Health Charts, 2024).

Over time, advancements in medicine have contributed to a decline in deaths from communicable diseases, while deaths from chronic conditions have risen. Figure 21 highlights the top 10 leading causes of death in Broward County in 2024, with a comparison to 2001 Broward rates. Eight of the top ten causes were from chronic diseases, with heart disease ranking as the leading cause. While the rate of heart disease and cancer have decreased since 2001, they remain the top two leading causes of death in Broward. In contrast, the rate of stroke and hypertension-related deaths have increased compared to 2001 (Figure 21).

The only non-chronic conditions among the top ten were unintentional injury (ranked #4) and suicide (ranked #7). Unintentional injury is the fourth leading cause of death, and its rate has increased by more than 10 points compared to 2001. The suicide rate has increased in Broward County, making suicide the 7th leading cause of death in 2024, compared with the 10th leading cause of death in 2023 (Figure 21). Unintentional Injury and suicide death are reviewed further in Table 7, Table 8 and Figure 27.

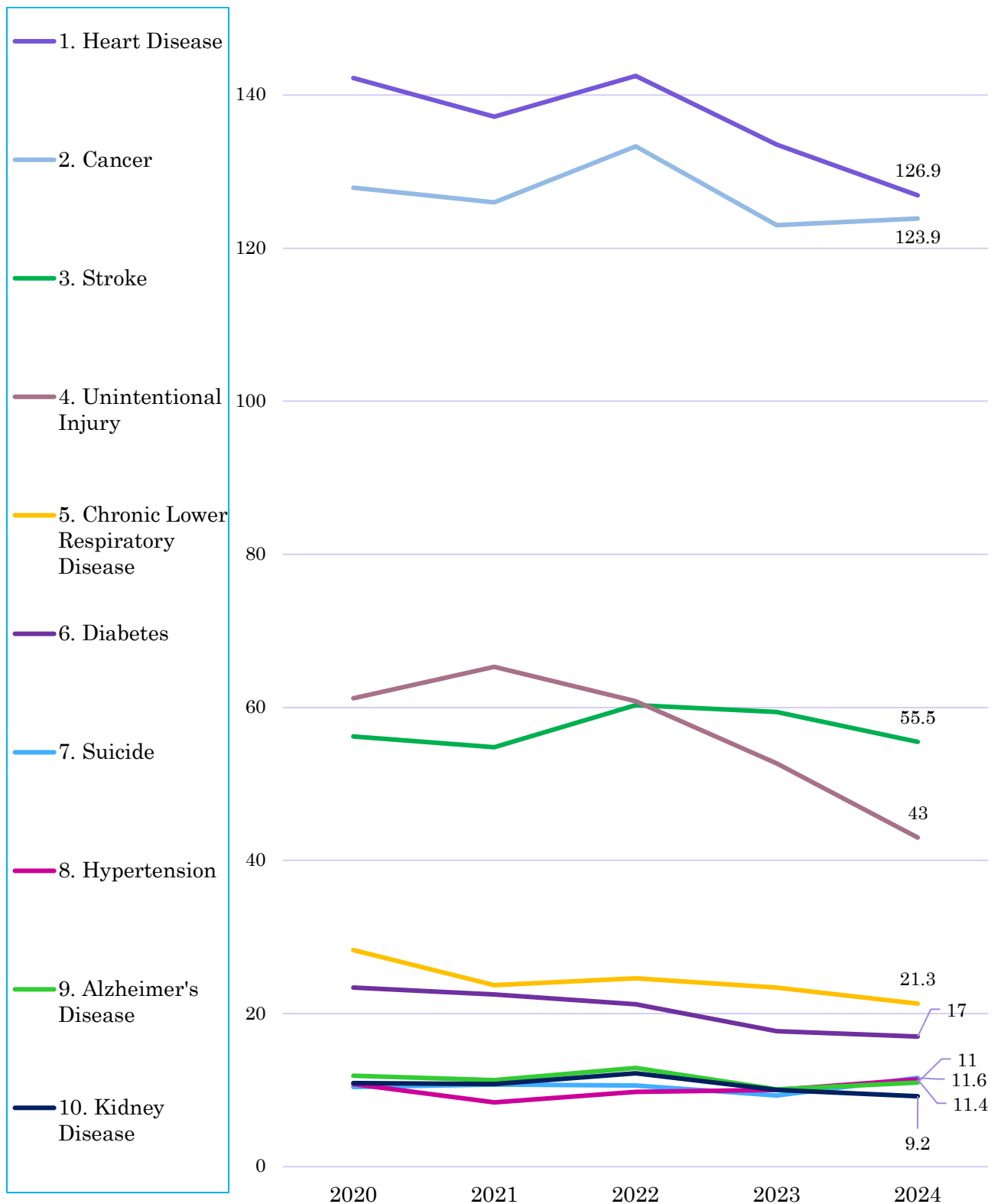
Figure 21: Top 10 Leading Causes of Death (by AADR per 100,000), Broward 2024 & 2001



Source: Florida Health Charts Mortality Dashboard, 2001 & 2024

Figure 22 shows the changes in the last 5 years for the 2024 top 10 leading causes of death and their rates in Broward from 2020 to 2024. Over the period there have been decreases in Heart Disease, Cancer, Stroke and Unintentional Injury rates of death (Figure 22).

Figure 22: Top 10 Leading Causes of Death (by AADR per 100,000), Broward 2020-2024



Source: Florida Charts Leading Causes of Death Profile (FDOH), 2020-2024

Breaking down the leading causes of death by age group provides a clearer understanding of the specific health risks affecting different stages of life. Table 5 displays the top five causes of death for each age group in Broward County. Among all age groups—except those under age 1 & Ages 1-4—malignant neoplasm (cancer) ranks within the top five causes of death and is the top cause for those 5-14, and those from 45-54 through 75-84. Unintentional injury ranks among the top five leading causes of death for all age groups except the last 2: 75-84 & 85+ (Table 5).

Heart disease is within the top 5 leading causes of death for all older age groups starting at the 25-34 age group. At the age 55-64 group and older, cerebrovascular disease (stroke) is within the top 5 leading causes of death and overall it is the 3rd leading cause of death in Broward in 2024. Chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) is a top 5 leading cause of death for age groups 65 and older and is the 5th leading cause of death among all age groups (Table 5).

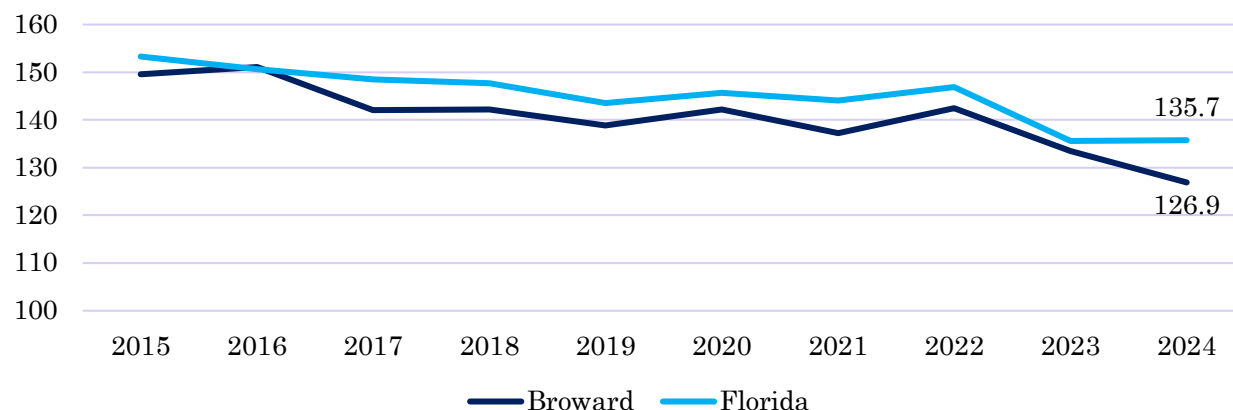
Table 5: Leading 5 Causes of Death by each Age Group, Broward County, 2024

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44
1	Perinatal Period Conditions	Unintentional Injury	Malignant Neoplasm	Unintentional Injury	Unintentional Injury	Unintentional Injury
2	Congenital Malformations	Congenital Malformations	Unintentional Injury	Homicide	Suicide	Malignant Neoplasm
3	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	Homicide	Heart Disease	Suicide	Homicide	Heart Disease
4	Unintentional Injury	Cerebrovascular Disease	Congenital Malformations	Malignant Neoplasm	Malignant Neoplasm	Suicide
5	Heart Disease	Septicemia	Influenza & Pneumonia	Congenital Malformations	Heart Disease	Homicide
	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All Ages
1	Malignant Neoplasm	Malignant Neoplasm	Malignant Neoplasm	Malignant Neoplasm	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
2	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Cerebrovascular Disease	Malignant Neoplasm
3	Unintentional Injury	Unintentional Injury	Cerebrovascular Disease	Cerebrovascular Disease	Malignant Neoplasm	Cerebrovascular Disease
4	Suicide	Cerebrovascular Disease	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	Unintentional Injury
5	Diabetes	Diabetes	Unintentional Injury	Diabetes	Alzheimer's Disease	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Source: Florida Health Charts, Mortality Dashboard, Leading Causes of Death, 2024

From 2015 to 2024 heart disease mortality rates had a decreasing trend in both Broward County and Florida. Over this 10-year period, Broward has had lower rates than Florida for 9 of these years (Figure 23).

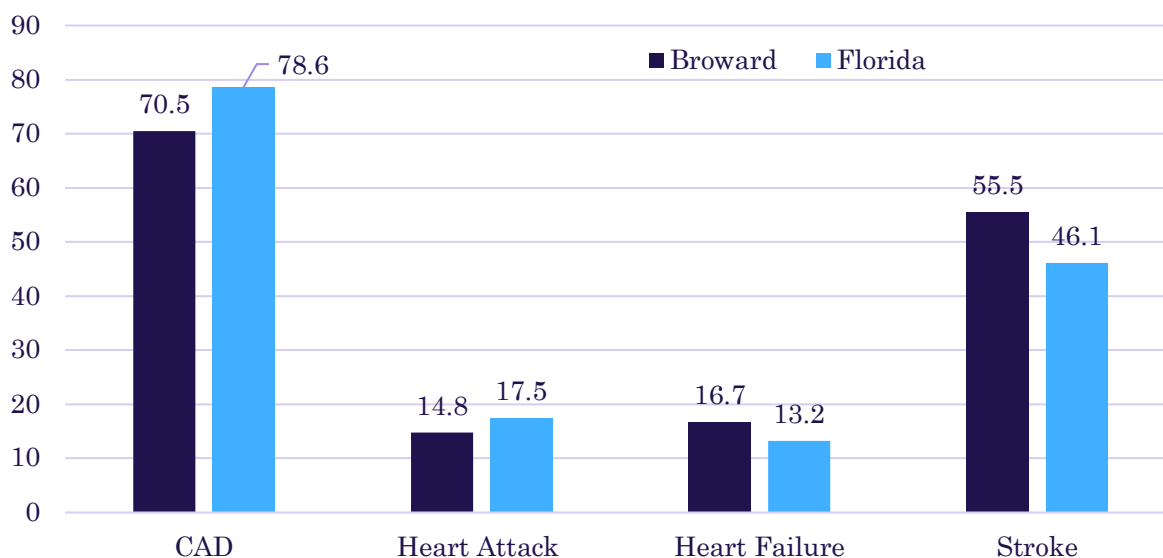
Figure 23: Heart Diseases Death Rate (per 100,000), Broward & Florida, 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Deaths from Heart Diseases, 2015-2024

When comparing **cardiovascular disease** (CVD) death rates, Florida reported higher mortality rates from coronary artery disease (CAD) and heart attacks than Broward County. In contrast, Broward County experienced higher death rates from heart failure and stroke. Notably, stroke ranks as the third leading cause of death in Broward County (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Cardiovascular Disease Death Rates (per 100,000), Broward & Florida 2024

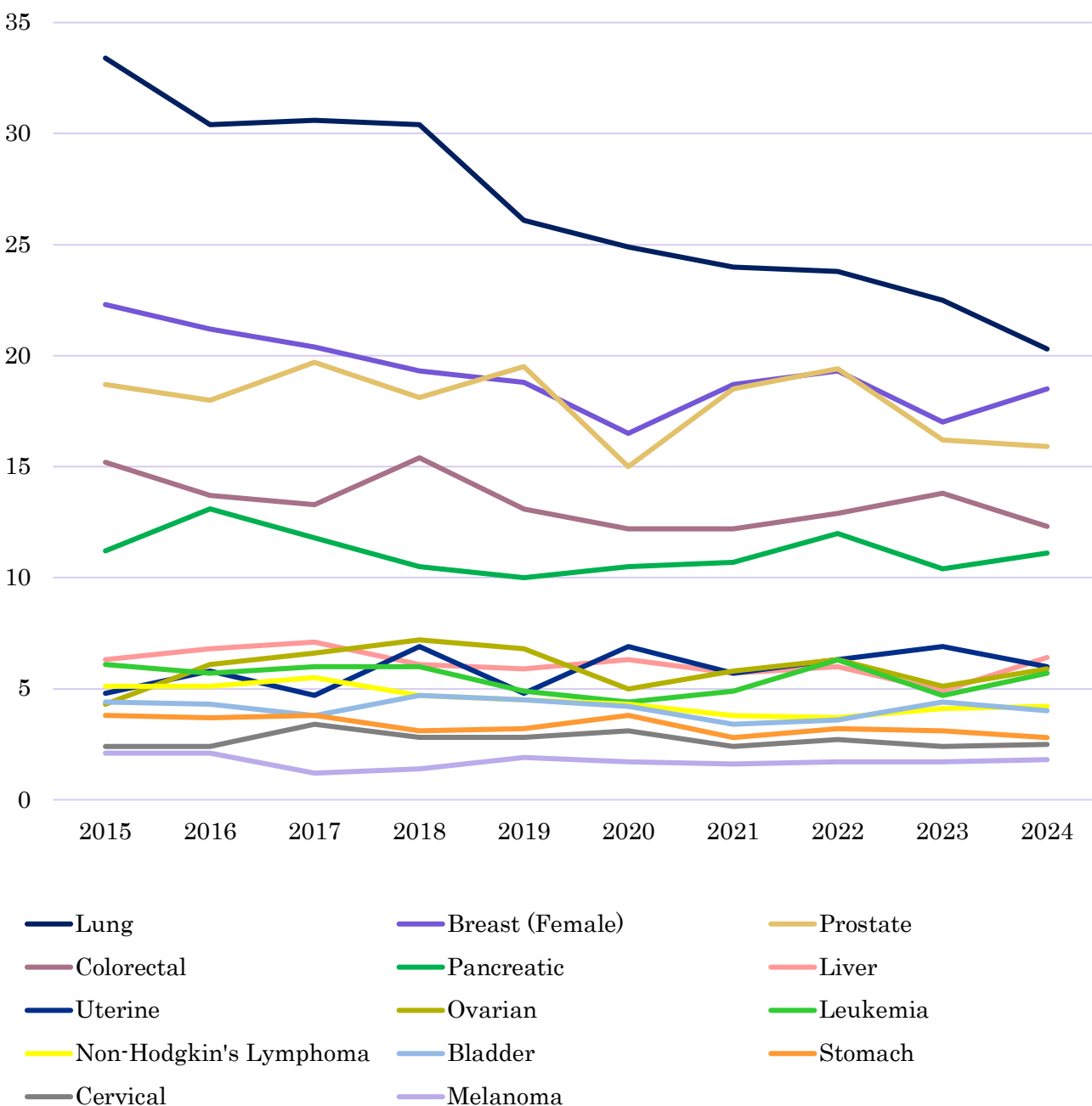


Source: Florida Health Charts, Deaths from Heart Diseases, 2024

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in both Broward and the State in 2024. The overall cancer death rate in Broward was 123.9 per 100,000 which was lower than Florida's rate at 133.3 per 100,000 (Florida Health Charts, 2024).

Figure 25 displays the death rate for various cancer types over the past 10 years in Broward. Most cancer types had fluctuating death rates from this period. Notably, lung cancer deaths decreased from 2015 to 2024 (Figure 25).

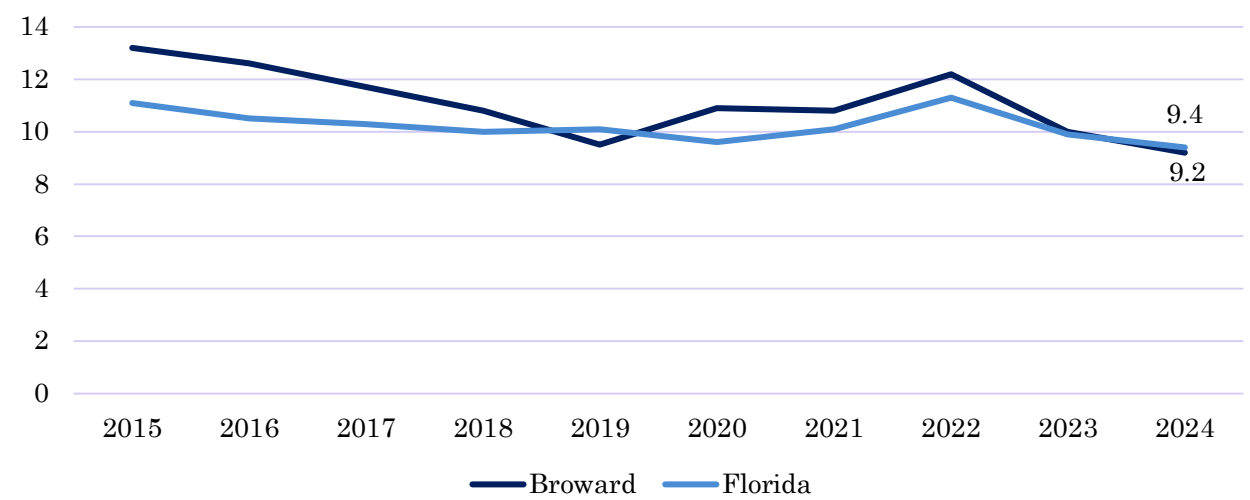
Figure 25: Cancer Death Rate (per 100,000) by Cancer Type, Broward 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Cancer Death Rate 2015- 2024

Kidney disease encompasses nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis, and these conditions occur when the kidneys cannot filter the blood as well as they should. Kidney disease can cause additional problems such as heart disease and stroke. It's estimated that one in seven adults have kidney disease, and that about half of those with severely reduced kidney function are unaware they have the condition (CDC, 2025). For most of the past 10 years, Broward has had a higher death rate for kidney disease than the State. Both the State and County saw a decline in the most recent year to the lowest rate seen in this 10-year period in 2024 (Figure 26).

Figure 26: Deaths from Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis, Broward & Florida, 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Deaths from Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome and Nephrosis, 2015-2024

Table 6 presents a comparison between the County and State death rates for several conditions and diseases. Florida has a higher death rate of Alzheimer’s disease, CLRD, Unintentional Injury, and Diabetes compared to Broward, while Broward has a higher rate of Hypertension deaths than the State (Table 6).

Table 6: Death Rate Comparison (per 100,000), Broward & Florida, 2024

Condition/Disease	Broward County	Florida
Diabetes	17.0	20.6
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD)	21.3	29.7
Alzheimer’s Disease	11.0	15.9
Hypertension	11.4	9.4
Unintentional Injury	43.0	52.9

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2024

Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in Broward and remains a significant indicator of mental health in the community. Table 7 reviews the death count by age group in Broward over the last 5 years and the overall number of suicide deaths each

year, with a comparison to the Florida rate for these age groups. The data show that the 65+ age group had the highest rates of death compared to all others. For most age groups, the rate was higher in Florida than Broward except for the 20–24-year age group. For most age groups suicide death increased compared to 2023 in Broward (Table 7).

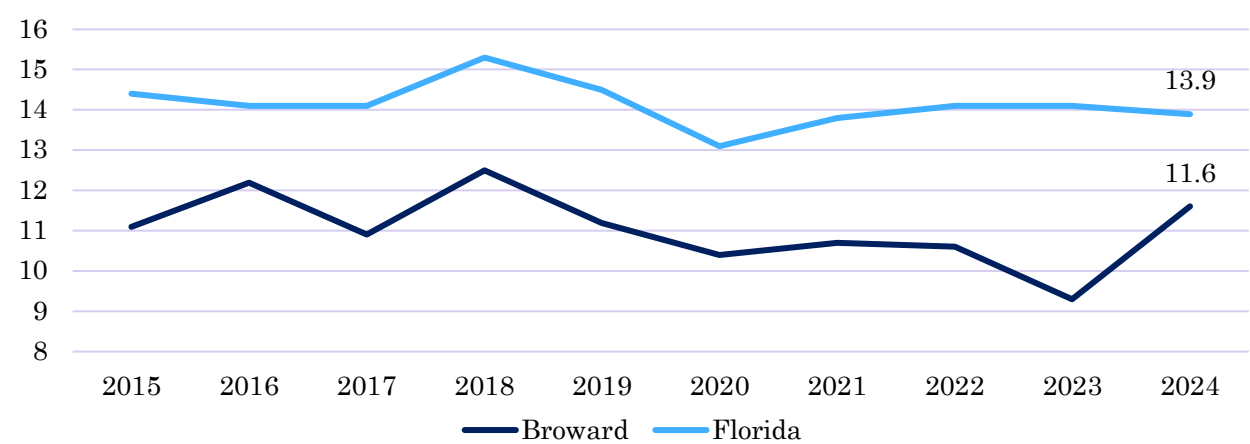
Table 7: Suicide Deaths Count and Rate by Age Group, Broward 2024

Age Group		Broward #	Broward Rate per 100,000		Florida Rate
		Suicide Deaths 2024	2024	+ or - from 2023 (2023 rate)	per 100,000 in 2024
Crude Rate	10-14	1	0.9	+0.9 (0.0)	2.4
	15-19	4	3.5	-1.8 (5.3)	7.8
	20-24	17	15.8	+8.7 (7.0)	14.6
	25-34	38	15.0	+2.9 (12.1)	15.7
	35-44	33	12.0	+3.9 (8.1)	17.1
	45-54	42	15.8	+2.2 (13.6)	19.3
	55-64	52	19.0	+5.8 (13.2)	20.9
	65+	72	19.6	-0.1 (19.7)	22.4
All Ages (age Adjusted Rate)		259	11.6	+1.0 (10.6)	13.9

Source: Florida Health Charts, Deaths from Suicide, 2024

Figure 27 displays the suicide death rate in comparison to the rate in Florida over the past 10 years. Consistently, Broward has had a lower death rate from suicide than Florida. The overall rate of suicide increased in Broward 2024 compared to 2023; however, Florida’s rate of suicide was still higher in 2024 (Figure 27).

Figure 27: Suicide Death Rate (per 100,000), Broward & Florida, 2015-2024



Source: Florida Charts, Deaths from Suicide, 2015-2024

Unintentional injury is the fourth leading cause of death, and it includes any unintentional fatal injury. Table 8 shows the leading causes of fatal injury in Broward for 2024 by age group and overall. The leading cause of unintentional injury death was poisoning by drug or another poison. The second leading cause overall was Motor Vehicle Traffic (MVT) by any method of MVT injury. The age group with the most drug poisoning deaths was 35-44, with 95 deaths (Table 8).

The second leading cause of unintentional injury death was Motor Vehicle Traffic (MVT), with 242 deaths overall. The age group with the highest number of motor vehicle injury deaths was the 55–64-year-old age group with 49 deaths (Table 8).

Younger age groups experienced death from fatal injuries more commonly from causes such as drowning/submersion, and MVT.

Fatal fall injuries were the third leading cause of injury-related death in Broward in 2024. These cases were recorded more commonly among those in older age groups, with the highest number occurring in those 85 and older, who accounted for 102 of the 211 total cases (Table 8).

Table 8: Leading Causes of Unintentional Fatal Injury by Mechanism & Age Group (Count), Broward 2024

	Under 1 (3 Deaths)	1-4 (9 Deaths)	5-9 (4 Deaths)	10-14 (3 Deaths)	15-19 (24 Deaths)	20-24 (40 Deaths)	25-34 (132 Deaths)
1	Suffocation 3	Drowning, Submersion 8	Motor Vehicle Traffic 2	Motor Vehicle Traffic 2	Motor Vehicle Traffic 19	Motor Vehicle Traffic 23	Poisoning 75
2		Motor Vehicle Traffic - Occupant 1	Drowning, Submersion 2	Drowning Submersion 1	Natural, Environmental 2	Poisoning 11	Motor Vehicle Traffic 43
3					Drowning, Submersion 1	Drowning, Submersion 3	Drowning, Submersion 6
4					Pedalcyclist, Other 1	Natural, Environmental 1	Pedestrian, Other 2
5					Pedestrian, Other 1	Pedestrian, Other 1	Fall 1
6						Transport, Other 1	Struck by/Against 1
	35-44 (144 Deaths)	45-54 (103 Deaths)	55-64 (149 Deaths)	65-74 (133 Deaths)	75-84 (94 Deaths)	85+ (126 Deaths)	All Ages (964 Deaths)
1	Poisoning 95	Poisoning 63	Poisoning 68	Poisoning 38	Fall 54	Fall 102	Poisoning 351
2	Motor Vehicle Traffic 31	Motor Vehicle Traffic 22	Motor Vehicle Traffic 49	Fall 29	Motor Vehicle Traffic 20	Motor Vehicle Traffic 9	Motor Vehicle Traffic 242

3	Drowning, Submersion 9	Fall 7	Fall 13	Motor Vehicle Traffic 26	Drowning, Submersion 7	Suffocation 8	Fall 211
4	Fall 5	Drowning, Submersion 2	Suffocation 5	Drowning, Submersion 10	Suffocation 6	Transport, Other 2	Drowning, Submersion 54
5		Natural, Environmental 2	Drowning, Submersion 4	Suffocation 9	Poisoning 1	Drowning, Submersion 1	Suffocation 33
6		Suffocation 2	Fire/Flame 3	Natural, Environmental 4	Natural, Environmental 1		Natural, Environmental 12
7		Pedestrian Other 1	Natural, Environmental 2	Pedestrian Other 3	Fire/Flame 1		Pedestrian, Other 10
8		Struck by/Against 1	Pedestrian Other 1	Transport, Other 2			Transport, Other 7
9		Transport, Other 1	Transport, Other 1	Firearm 2			Fire/Flame 5

Source: Florida Health Charts, Fatal Injuries Profile, 2024 (*any number not in the total for the age group was unspecified mechanism of fatal injury)

Table 9 reviews the count of Fatal Injuries by Mechanism of injury, identifying the 10 leading mechanisms for each age group; these totals are counted regardless of intentional or unintentional for 2024 throughout Broward. This data adds on to Table 8's review of unintentional injury cases, adding intentional injury as well.

Compared to Table 8 there are more counts of firearm death (which usually falls into an intentional cause of fatal injury). This is the 3rd leading cause of all fatal injury death (Table 9).

In addition, there are 40 more deaths from Poisoning, 18 more deaths from Fall, 55 more deaths from Suffocation, and 12 more deaths from Drowning/Submersion comparing Table 8 (Unintentional Injury death alone) in Table 9 (Fatal Injury death regardless of intention).

Table 9: Leading Causes of Fatal Injury by Mechanism & Age Group (Count), Broward 2024

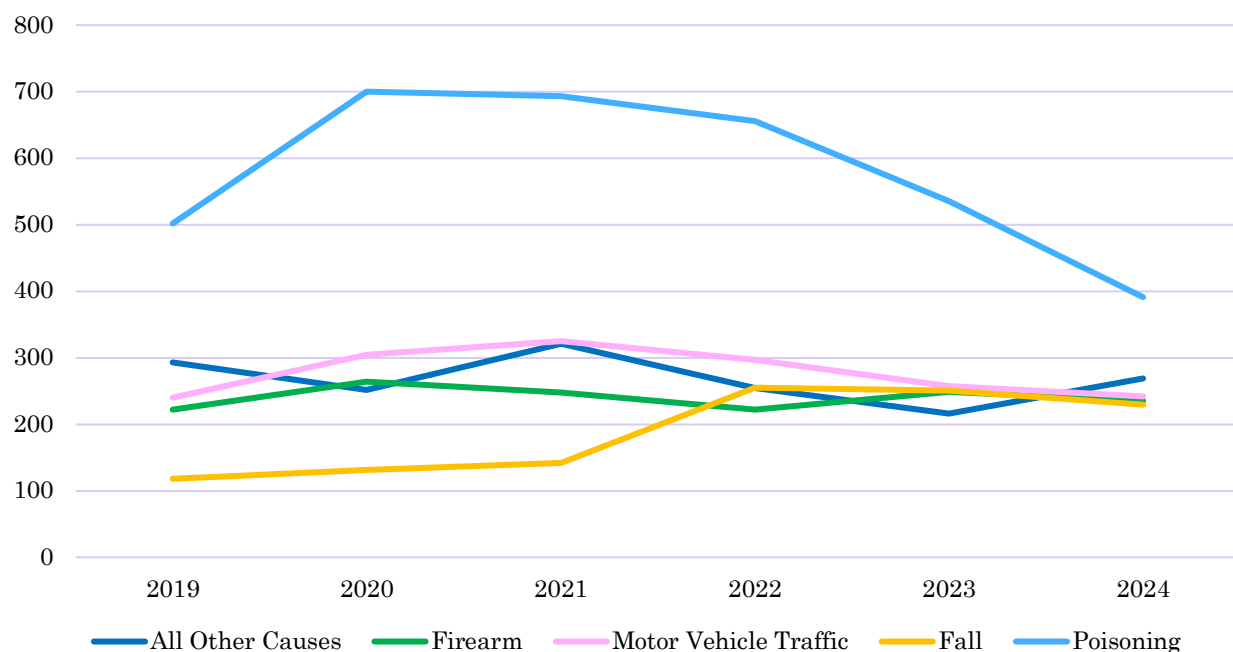
	Under 1 (4 Deaths)	1-4 (12 Deaths)	5-9 (4 Deaths)	10-14 (4 Deaths)	15-19 (44 Deaths)	20-24 (78 Deaths)	25-34 (203 Deaths)
1	Suffocation 3	Drowning, Submersion 5	Drowning, Submersion 2	Motor Vehicle Traffic 2	Motor Vehicle Traffic 19	Firearm 27	Poisoning 78
2	Firearm 1	Firearm 1	Motor Vehicle Traffic 2	Drowning Submersion 1	Firearm 18	Motor Vehicle Traffic 23	Motor Vehicle Traffic 43

3		Motor Vehicle Traffic 1		Firearm 1	Natural, Environmental 2	Poisoning 14	Firearm 40
4					Drowning, Submersion 1	Drowning, Submersion 4	Suffocation 10
5					Poisoning 1	Transport, Other 3	Drowning, Submersion 8
6					Pedestrian, Other 1	Fall 1	Fall 6
7					Pedalcyclist, other 1	Natural, Environmental 1	Cut/Pierce 4
8						Pedestrian, Other 1	Pedestrian, Other 2
9						Suffocation 1	Fire/Flame 1
	35-44 (200 Deaths)	45-54 (167 Deaths)	55-64 (210 Deaths)	65-74 (175 Deaths)	75-84 (124 Deaths)	85+ (141 Deaths)	All Ages (1,366 Deaths)
1	Poisoning 100	Poisoning 68	Poisoning 77	Poisoning 45	Fall 55	Fall 102	Poisoning 391
2	Firearm 40	Firearm 35	Motor Vehicle Traffic 44	Fall 32	Motor Vehicle Traffic 20	Motor Vehicle Traffic 9	Motor Vehicle Traffic 242
3	Motor Vehicle Traffic 31	Motor Vehicle Traffic 24	Firearm 28	Motor Vehicle Traffic 26	Firearm 18	Firearm 8	Firearm 235
4	Suffocation 9	Suffocation 13	Suffocation 19	Firearm 25	Suffocation 9	Suffocation 9	Fall 229
5	Drowning, Submersion 9	Fall 10	Fall 15	Suffocation 15	Drowning, Submersion 8	Drowning, Submersion 3	Suffocation 88
6	Fall 8	Drowning, Submersion 3	Drowning, Submersion 7	Drowning, Submersion 11	Poisoning 6	Poisoning 2	Drowning, Submersion 66
7	Cut/Pierce 2	Natural, Environmental 2	Fire/Flame 3	Natural, Environmental 4	Natural, Environmental 1	Transport, Other 2	Natural, Environmental 12
8	Pedestrian Other 1	Cut/Pierce 2	Natural, Environmental 2	Pedestrian, Other 3	Fire/Flame 1		Cut/Pierce 11
9		Struck by/Against 2	Cut/Pierce 1	Transport, Other 2	Struck by/Against 1		Pedestrian, Other 10
10		Fire/Flame 2	Pedestrian, Other 1	Fire/Flame 1			Transport, Other 9

Source: Florida Health Charts, *Fatal Injuries Profile*, 2024 (*any number not in the total for the age group was unspecified mechanism of fatal injury or did not fall into the top 10 for that age group)

Figure 28 is a display of the changes in Broward’s leading causes of injury death over the last 5 years, by category. Poisoning has consistently been the highest cause of fatal injury in Broward, however, the number of poisoning deaths has been decreasing over the period (Figure 28).

Figure 28: Leading Causes of Fatal Injury by Count, Broward 2020-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Leading Causes of Fatal Injury Profile, 2024

Behavioral Health

Behavioral health refers to the relationship between individual behaviors and overall well-being, encompassing factors that can influence both physical and mental health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes behavioral health as encompassing mental, emotional, and social well-being, as well as behaviors and actions that affect overall wellness. This section examines key behavioral health domains that may influence health outcomes, including physical activity and sedentary behaviors, nutrition and dietary behaviors, sleep, weight and obesity, substance use, sexual health and risk behaviors, violence and injury, and mental health.

The data presented in this section include both adult and youth indicators across the behavioral health domains reviewed. Data within this section are primarily drawn from behavioral health and other population-based survey sources, including the

CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), CDC Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS), and Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS).

To monitor behavioral health among the U.S. adult population, the CDC conducts the BRFSS, a state-based survey that collects information on health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, preventive health practices, and health care access. Similarly, the CDC conducts the YRBSS to monitor health-related behaviors and experiences among youth, including middle and high school students.

The FYSAS and FYTS are conducted through collaboration among several Florida governmental agencies, including the Florida Departments of Health and Children and Families and the Office of Drug Control. FYSAS assesses substance use and associated risk and protective factors among Florida youth, providing additional state and local insight into youth behavioral health. The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) provides information on tobacco use and related behaviors among Florida youth.

Together, these surveys provide state and local insight into behavioral health behaviors and risk factors affecting Florida's adult and youth populations. Florida Health Charts, maintained by the Florida Department of Health, hosts data from several of these surveys and serves as an additional source for select indicators presented throughout this section.

Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviors

Physical activity plays a key role in one's own physical and mental health. Increased physical activity is associated with reduced anxiety, improved sleep, reduced risk of disease and healthy weight maintenance. Low levels of physical activity, or sedentary behavior, are also a cardiovascular risk factor.

According to the BRFSS survey in 2023, 28.7% of those living within the Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach metropolitan area responded "No," to participating in physical activity in the month prior to the survey. This was higher than the State's average of 25.4% and the Nation's average of 24.2% (BRFSS, 2023).

Table 10 presents a measure of sedentary behavior among adults, comparing rates in Broward County and Florida. These data are from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which reports county-level data every three years. Table 10 also provides a comparison with 2019, the most recent prior year for which county-level data are available. The data reveal the proportion of adults who reported no leisure-time physical activity in the 30 days prior to the survey.

In 2022, 25.0% of adults in Broward County reported being sedentary or inactive. This rate was 0.5 percentage points higher than Florida’s overall rate; however, Broward County’s sedentary behavior rate was lower than that of 46 of Florida’s 67 counties. Among demographic groups in Broward County, higher rates of sedentary behavior were reported among adults aged 65 years and older (27.9%), women (27.3%), and adults with less than a high school education (43.9%) (Table 10).

Table 10: Adults Who Are Sedentary, Broward 2022

Group		Broward’s %		Florida %
		+ or - from 2019 %	2022	in 2022
Overall (Adults 18+)		+0.9%	25.0%	24.5%
Gender	Men	-1.1%	22.5%	22.2%
	Women	+2.8%	27.3%	26.6%
Age	18-44	+0.2%	20.9%	19.7%
	45-64	+0.4%	25.6%	26.8%
	Ages 65+	+0.6%	27.9%	29.2%
Education Status	High School/GED	+7.1%	33.2%	28.2%
	Less Than High School	+11.8%	43.9%	43.4%
	More Than High School	-3.1%	18.4%	18.9%

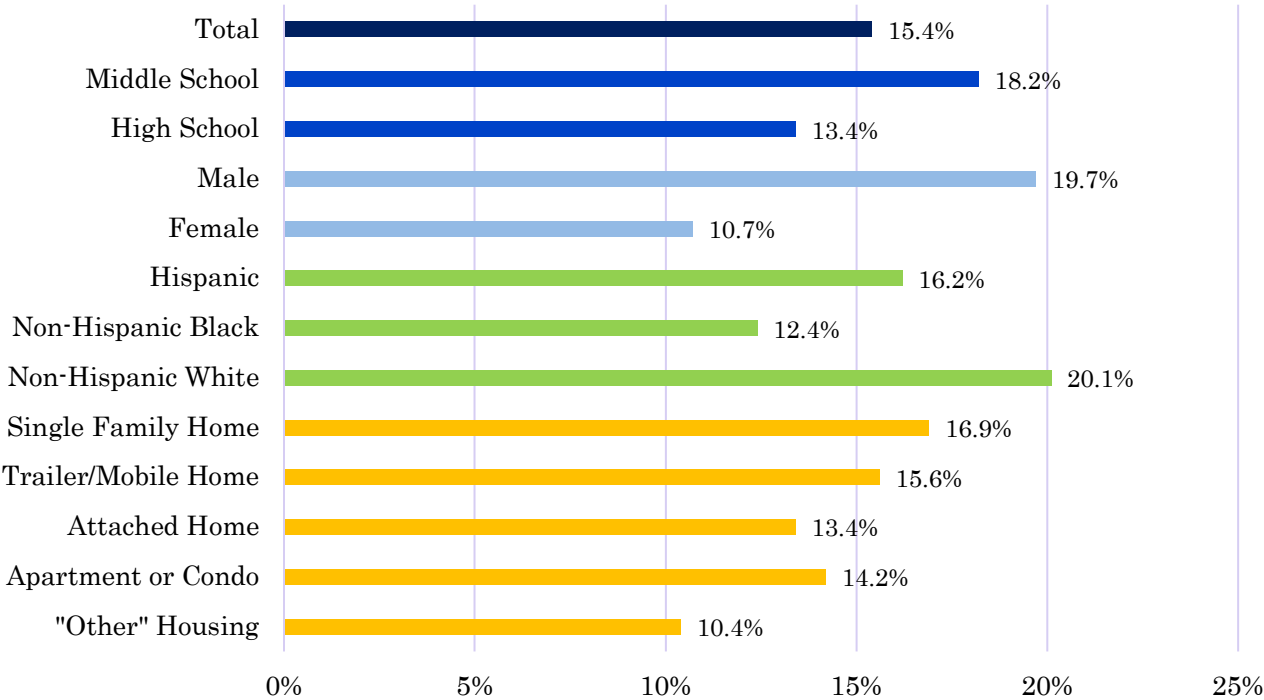
Source: Florida Health Charts, Adults Who Are Sedentary, BRFSS, 2022, 2019

Among Broward County youth surveyed in the FYTS, Figure 29 shows reports on the proportion of students surveyed who were physically active for an hour in the last seven days prior to the survey, with stratifications by group. Among Broward Students, just over 15% are active daily. Compared to the state, Broward students report proportionately lower rates than students across the state (19.2%) (Figure 29).

When stratified by different factors, it is revealed that White, Non-Hispanic students have the highest rate (20.1%) of daily physical activity compared to students of any other group. Comparing by gender, male students had a higher rate of physical activity compared to female students. Additionally, reports for daily physical activity are proportionately higher among middle school students compared to high school students (Figure 29).

The data show that housing situation does influence students’ level of daily physical activity. Students who live in a single-family home have a higher rate of daily physical activity (16.9%) compared to any other housing situation (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Students Who Were Physically Active for at Least 60 Minutes on All Seven of the Past Seven Days Prior to Survey (FYTS), Broward 2024



Source: Florida Health Charts. Students Who Were Physically Active for at Least 60 Minutes on All Seven of the Past Seven Days, FYTS, 2024

Screen time is an influencing factor for sedentary behavior among youth. According to the YRBSS, Florida students who reported three or more hours of screen time per day included 71.2% of middle school students, and 75.1% of high school students (Fl Health Charts: Students Who Spent Three or More Hours per Day on Screen Time, YRBSS 2021).

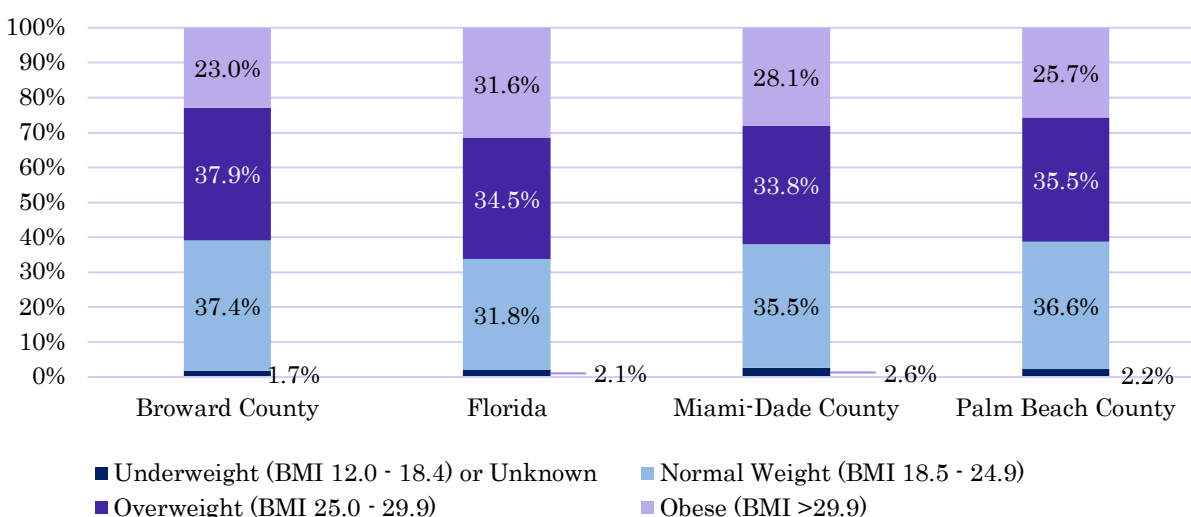
Overweight & Obesity

Body mass index (BMI), calculated using weight and height, is used to classify individuals by weight status using a numeric score. A BMI below 18.5 is classified as underweight, 18.5 to 24.9 as normal or healthy weight, 25.0 to 29.9 as overweight, and 30.0 or greater as obese. Obesity is recognized as a chronic disease by the CDC. Factors associated with obesity include physical inactivity, poor nutrition, genetics, and other individual and environmental factors. Being overweight or obese can increase an individual’s risk of developing several chronic diseases, including heart disease, certain cancers, and diabetes.

In 2022, 60.9% of Broward County adults were considered overweight or obese, slightly lower than Florida’s proportion of 66.1% in the same year. Figure 30 displays

the percentage of residents within each BMI category across Broward County, neighboring counties, and Florida. Among the areas displayed, Broward had the highest proportion of residents at a healthy weight. Broward also had the highest proportion of residents in the overweight category but the lowest proportion in the obese category. Overall, Florida had the highest proportion of residents classified as either overweight or obese among the areas shown in Figure 30.

Figure 30: BMI Categories of Adult (18+) Residents, Florida and Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties 2022

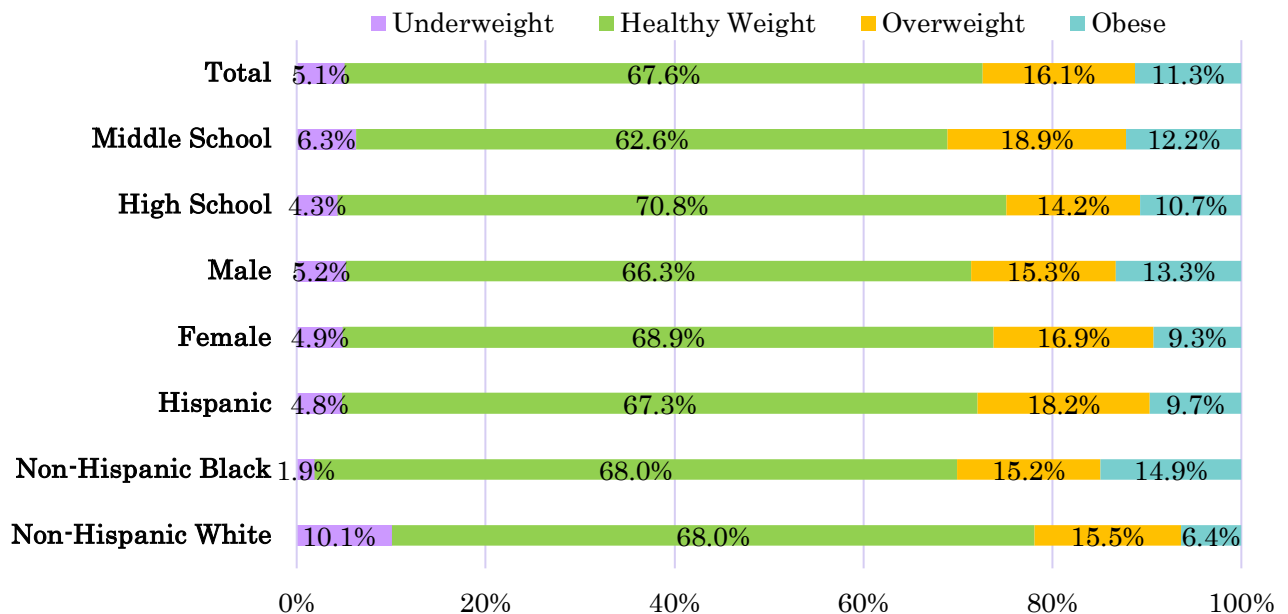


Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Adults Who Are Obese, Overweight, and Healthy Weight, 2022

Over 70% of Broward residents who are 45 to 64 years old were overweight or obese. Residents aged 65 or older, and those aged 18-44 had lower rates for being overweight or obese (less than 60%). Higher rates of overweight and obesity were among men (69.9%) compared to women (51.9%) in 2022 in Broward (FL Health Charts: Adults Who Are Overweight or Obese, BRFSS 2022).

Figure 31 shows the proportion of Broward County students within each BMI weight category, both overall and stratified by several demographic factors. Overall, 67.6% of students are at a healthy weight, and 27.4% are overweight or obese. The rate of overweight or obesity is higher among middle school students, compared to high school students. Female students compared to male have higher rates of overweight or obese. By major race or ethnic group, Non-Hispanic Black students reported the lowest rate of underweight, and also the highest proportion of obesity compared to Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic students (Figure 31).

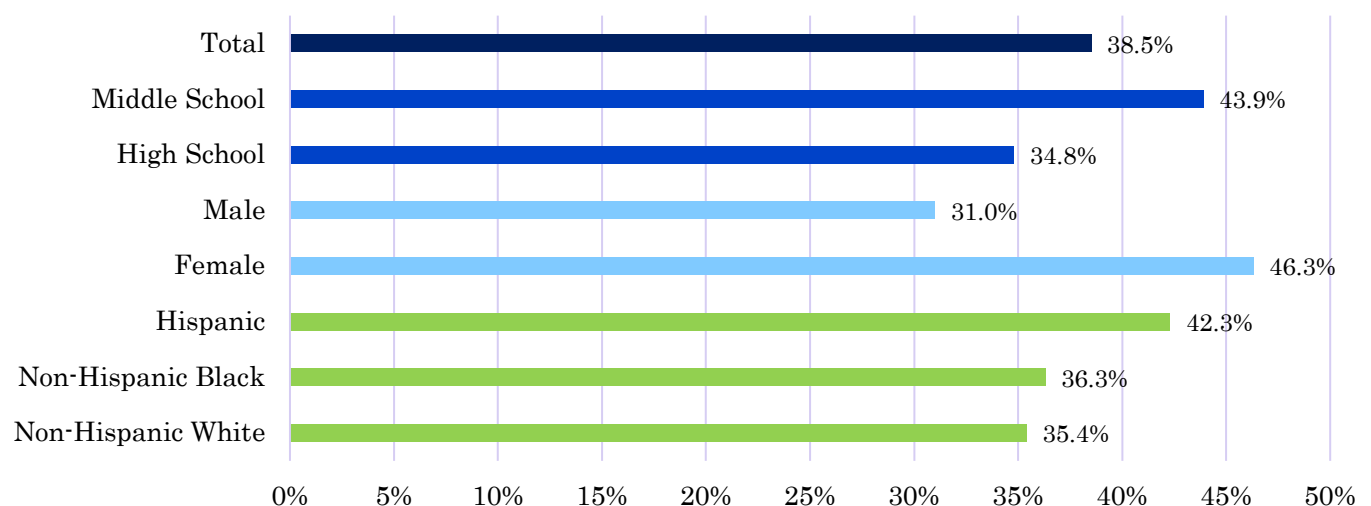
Figure 31: Students Weight Category by BMI (FYTS), Broward 2024



Source: Florida Health Charts: Students Who Are Obese, Overweight, Healthy Weight, and Underweight, FYTS, 2024

Figure 32 shows 2024 FYTS data on the proportion of Broward students who reported trying to lose weight, overall and by group. Rates were higher among middle school than high school students (9.1 percentage-point difference), females than males (15.3 percentage-point difference), and Hispanic students compared to White and Black non-Hispanic students (Figure 32).

Figure 32: Students Who are Trying to Lose Weight (FYTS), Broward 2024



Source: Florida Health Charts. Students Who are Trying to Lose Weight FYTS, 2024

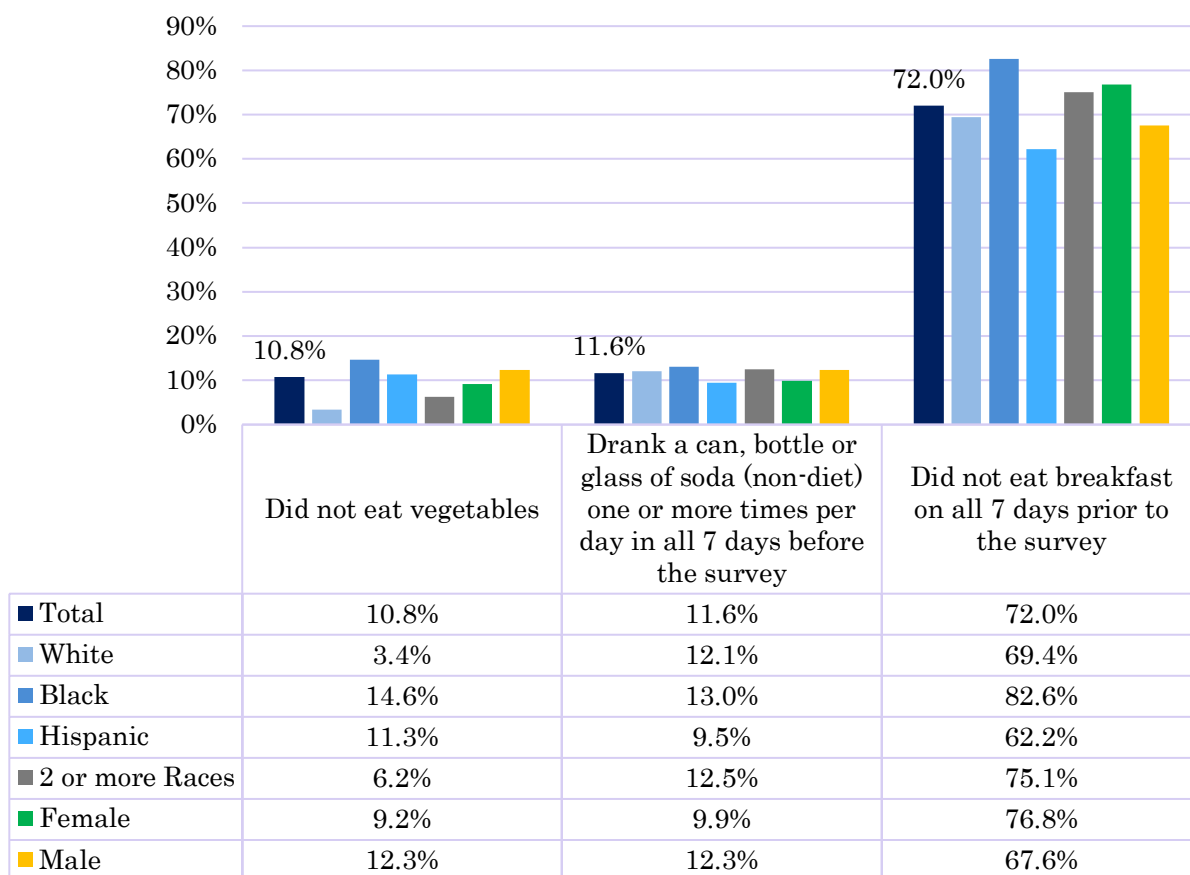
Nutrition

Nutrition is another factor that influences an individual's health and plays an important role in physical wellbeing, disease prevention/immunity, and quality of life. Nutrition is maintained through dietary patterns which include eating a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and other nutrient-dense foods. Balanced nutrition supports the prevention of chronic disease and supports development. Malnutrition is defined by WHO as the “cellular imbalance between supply of nutrients and energy and the body's demand for them to ensure growth, maintenance, and specific functions.” Broward deaths from nutritional deficiencies have been increasing since 2020, accounting for 36 deaths in 2024 – the highest reported number in the last 20 years (Florida Health Charts, Deaths from Nutritional Deficiencies, 2024).

Throughout the County, residents have a higher chance of living within a half mile of a fast-food restaurant (53.7%) than living within a half mile of a healthy food source (47.4%) (Florida Health Charts, 2022). In 2019, only 34.6% of Broward adults consumed two or more servings of vegetables per day, which was lower than the state average in the same year (36.7%) (Florida Health Charts, BRFSS, 2019).

Figure 33 shows nutritional data from Broward high school youth. 72% of all high schoolers in Broward report that they did not eat breakfast on all 7 days prior to the survey. 11.6% of all students reported drinking at least one non-diet soda daily, and 10.8% reported not eating any vegetables. Higher rates of these poorer nutritional behaviors were reported among students who identified as Black, compared to other racial or ethnic groups. Female students reported higher rates of not eating breakfast than male students, while male students reported higher rates of not eating vegetables and drinking a daily soda than females (Figure 33).

Figure 33: High School Youth Responses to Nutrition Questions, Total & by Gender & Race/Ethnicity, Broward 2021



Source: Youth Behavioral Risks Surveillance System Survey, Students Who Did Not Eat Vegetables, 2021

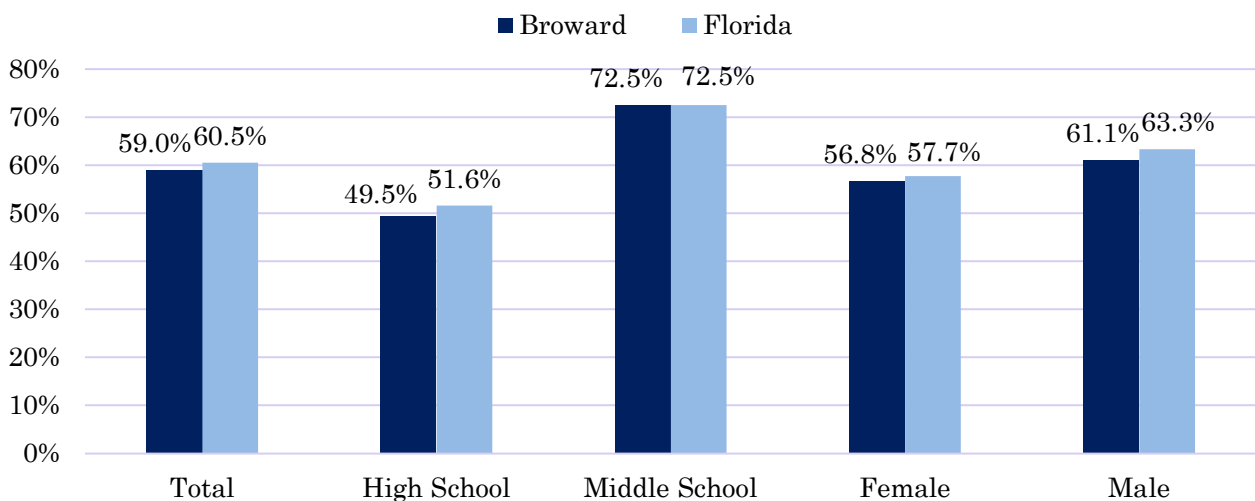
Food insecurity is closely linked to nutrition. Refer to Health Plan Chapter I for more information on food insecurity.

Sleep

Sleep is another factor related to health. Adequate sleep promotes physical and mental well-being, playing an important role in immune function, metabolism, cognitive function, and emotional regulation. Poor-quality or insufficient sleep is associated with an increased risk of chronic diseases, such as diabetes and obesity, and can negatively affect daily functioning, including mood and concentration. The recommended amount of sleep for adults is at least seven hours per night. Adults who do not reach an average of 7 hours of sleep per night are considered to have insufficient sleep. In 2020, **37.8%** of adults in Broward were reported to get insufficient sleep (CDC BRFSS, ACS (2016-2020), 2020).

The recommended amount of sleep for high school students is at least 8 hours per night. The FYSAS assesses sufficient sleep in their survey among youth in high school and middle school in the state and county; this data is shown in Figure 34 for 2024. Overall, Florida Youth report a higher rate of sufficient sleep among adolescents compared to Broward County youth. Middle school students have significantly higher rates of at least 8 hours of sleep than high school students, with a difference of more than 20 percentage points. When stratified by gender, female youth have a lower rate of regular 8-hour sleep compared to male youth in the state and county (Figure 34).

Figure 34: Students Who Got Eight or More Hours of Sleep (FYSAS), Broward & Florida 2024



Source: Florida Health Charts. Students Who are Trying to Lose Weight FYSAS, 2024

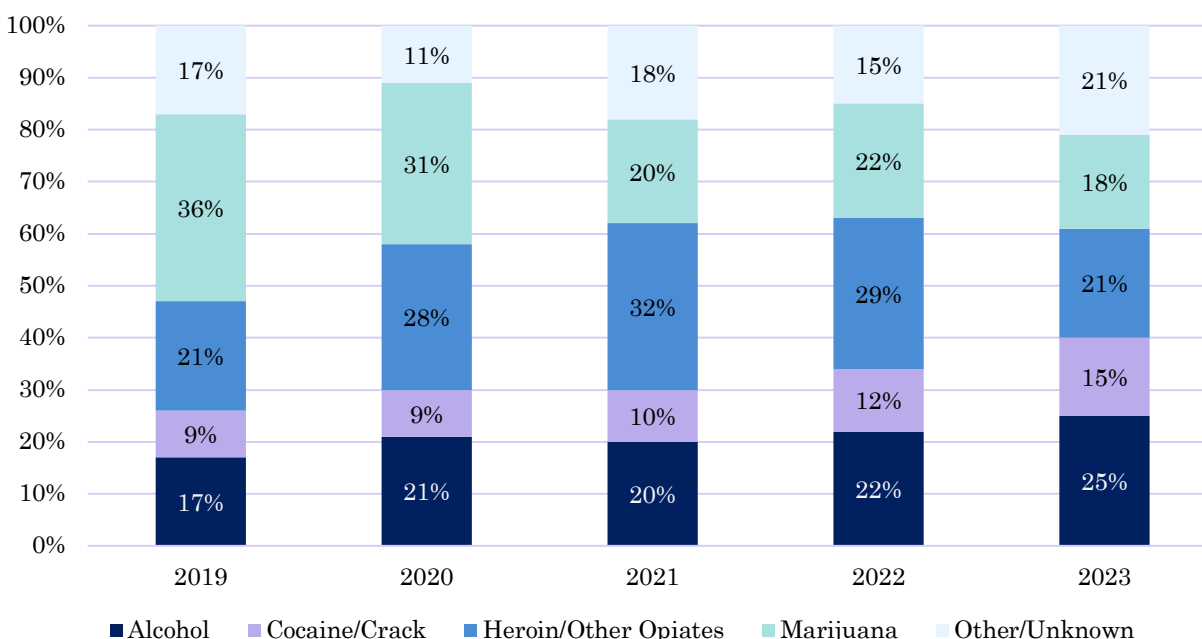
Substance Use & Abuse

Substance use is a broad term that refers to the use of various substances, including alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, illicit drugs, inhalants or any other substances that can be consumed, injected, or absorbed into the body with possible dependence or other detrimental effects. Substance abuse can negatively affect physical and mental health, and effects vary based on the type of substance, frequency and duration of use. Potential health effects include infectious disease, cancer, impaired cognition, cardiovascular disease, overdose, substance use disorders, injury and premature death (CDC, 2025).

Figure 35 illustrates the number of admissions among patients entering treatment for substance use disorder and the percentage of admissions under each category of primary substance use/abuse. From 2019 to 2023 the percentage of admissions for alcohol abuse in Broward increased by 8%, and alcohol was the substance most

commonly associated with treatment admissions in 2023. During the same period, the number of substance abuse treatment admissions for primary use of marijuana decreased by half (-18%), and the cocaine/crack admissions increased each year over the period (Figure 35).

Figure 35: Substance Use Treatment Admissions by Primary Drug, Broward 2019-2023



Source: Broward Briefings, Substance Abuse Information for Action, Admissions to Treatment for Substance Use in Broward County, October 2024

Table 11 shows the number of substance abuse treatment admissions each year from 2019 to 2023 in Broward. The highest number of admissions occurred in 2019, followed by a decline of over 2,500 admissions in 2020. From there until 2023, there have been steady increases in the number of admissions for substance abuse treatment. There were 4,425 admissions in 2023 for substance abuse treatment, a 12% increase from the prior year. Most new patients coming in for treatment were men (74%) and 55.9% of admissions were among individuals aged 35 or older (*Broward Briefings*, October 2024).

Table 11: Total Substance Use/Abuse Admissions by Year, Broward 2019-2023

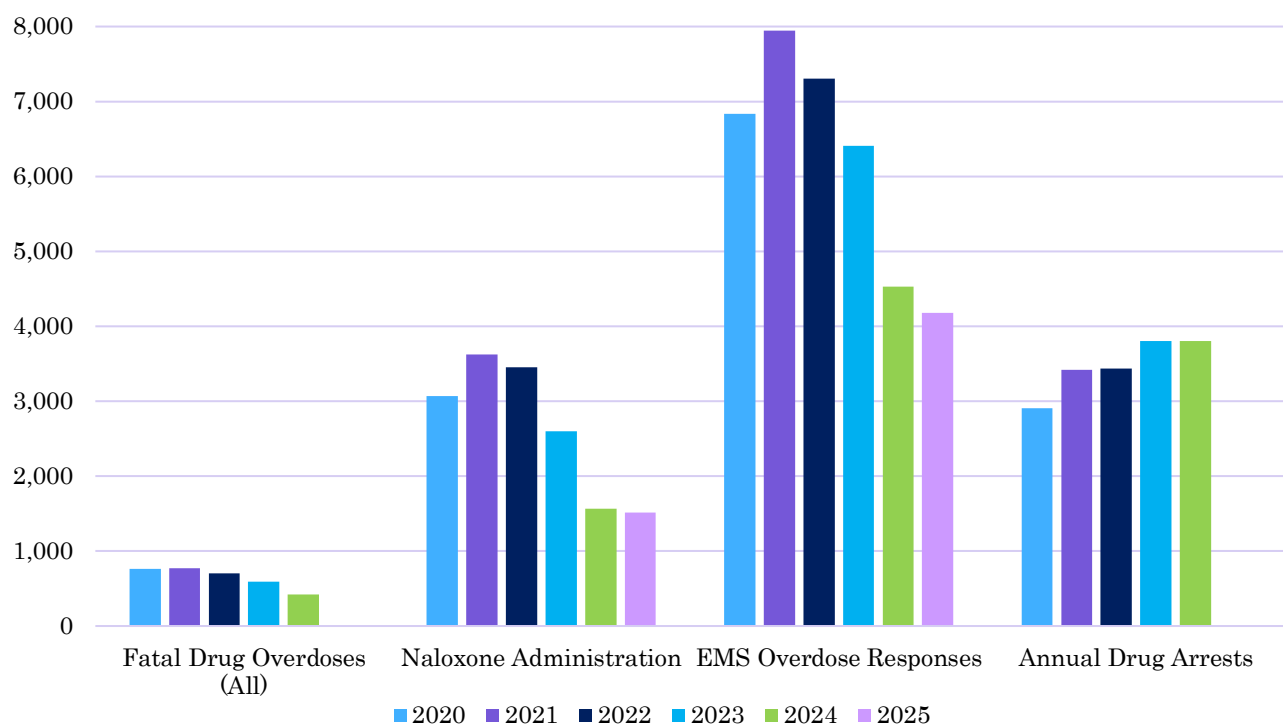
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
6,036	3,799	3,978	3,934	4,425

Source: Broward Briefings, Substance Abuse Information for Action, Admissions to Treatment for Substance Use in Broward County, October 2024

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is a condition that occurs when a newborn is exposed to opiate drugs during the prenatal period. After birth, children with NAS can experience withdrawals. From 2020 to 2022, there was a 36.5% decrease in the number of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome cases in Broward (FL Health Charts, 2022).

Figure 36 presents multiple indicators of substance use and response efforts in Broward County from 2020-2025, including the number of overdose deaths, naloxone administrations, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses to overdoses, and drug arrests. Naloxone is a life-saving medication used to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose in emergency situations. In 2024, Broward County reported its lowest number of overdose deaths (422), naloxone administrations (1,562), and EMS responses to overdoses (4,525) compared to the previous four years, continuing a declining trend across each indicator. In 2025, declines in naloxone administrations and EMS overdose responses continued. Despite these improvements in overdose-related outcomes, drug arrests increased each year over the five-year period, indicating a contrasting trend in drug-related law enforcement activity (Figure 36).

Figure 36: Substance Use and Response Metrics, Broward 2020-2025



Source: Florida Health Charts, Substance Use Dashboard, 2020-2025

Table 12 presents high school youth substance use risk indicators from the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) Substance Use Risk Dashboard. In 2024,

Broward County high school students reported lower rates than Florida overall across nearly all substance use indicators. The only exception was crack cocaine use, which was slightly higher in Broward than the state. Compared to 2022, the most recent prior survey year, most indicators in Broward decreased. However, increases were observed in crack cocaine use, vaping marijuana, marijuana use at age 13 or younger, having a first sip of alcohol at age 13 or younger, and use of LSD, PCP, or hallucinogenic mushrooms. The indicator for ever using Delta-8 THC or Delta-10 THC was only available for 2024 and therefore could not be compared with 2022. Overall, the data indicate that most measured substance use behaviors among Broward high school students remained below statewide levels and declined between 2022 and 2024, although several specific behaviors increased (Table 12).

Table 12: High School Youth Substance Use Risk Indicator (FYSAS), Broward & Florida 2024

Youth Substance Use Risk Behavior <i>High School Students only</i>	Broward's Trend in Recent Years	Percent of Students 2024	
		Broward	Florida
Who Have Ever Drank Alcohol	Decrease from 2022 (26.7%)	24.5%	32.5%
Who First Had More Than Sip or Two of Beer, Wine, or Hard Liquor at Age 13 or Younger	Increase from 2022 (10%)	11.1%	13.2%
Who Have Ever Blacked Out (alcohol related)	Decrease from 2022 (6.9%)	5.9%	9.1%
Who Have Ever Used Marijuana or Hashish	Decrease from 2022 (15.1%)	12.6%	18.6%
Who First Smoked Marijuana at Age 13 or Younger	Increase from 2022 (1.8%)	2.6%	5.1%
Who Have Ever Vaped Marijuana	Increase from 2022 (10.1%)	11.2%	16.3%
Who Have Ever Used Delta-8 THC or Delta-10 THC	N/A	5.1%	8.7%
Who Have Ever Used a Needle to Inject Any Illegal Drug into Their Body	Decrease from 2022 (0.3%)	0%	0.6%
Who Have Ever Used Cocaine or Crack Cocaine	Increase from 2022 (0.1%)	0.7%	0.6%
Who Have Ever Used Heroin	Decrease from 2022 (0.4%)	0.1%	0.3%
Who Have Ever Used Methamphetamine	Decrease from 2022 (1.0%)	0.3%	0.5%
Who Have Ever Used Over-the-Counter Drugs to Get High	Decrease from 2022 (2.6%)	1.6%	2.0%
Who Have Ever Used Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD), Phencyclidine (PCP), or Hallucinogenic Mushrooms	Increase from 2022 (1.1%)	1.8%	3.0%

Source: Florida Health Charts: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) Data, 2024

Table 13 presents similar data to Table 12; however, the data are derived from the Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS), which focuses on tobacco use and related inhalation and smoking behaviors among youth. In 2024, Broward County reported lower rates than Florida across all indicators presented in Table 13. Electronic vapor product use decreased slightly from 2022 but remained above 15% among Broward high school students, compared to over 20% statewide. Despite the overall decline in electronic vapor product use, increases were observed in the proportion of electronic vapor product users reporting products containing marijuana oil and nicotine. The proportion of students who had ever tried cigarette smoking increased by approximately four percentage points from 2022, and cigarette use before age 13 also increased slightly; however, frequent cigarette smoking decreased. The proportion of students who had tried hookah also decreased. Secondhand exposure among students who lived with someone who smoked cigarettes or used electronic vapor products increased slightly from 2022, although rates for both measures remained notably lower in Broward County than statewide (Table 13).

Table 13: High School Youth Substance Use Risk Indicator (FYTS), Broward & Florida 2024

Youth Substance Use Risk Behavior <i>High School Students only</i>	Broward's Trend in Recent Years	Percent of Students 2024	
		Broward	Florida
Who Have Ever Used an Electronic Vapor Product	Decrease from 2022 (15.9%)	15.2%	20.7%
<u>Users</u> of Electronic Vapor Products Who Have Used an Electronic Vapor Product with Marijuana Oil	Increase from 2022 (27.3%)	39.7%	44.3%
<u>Users</u> of Electronic Vapor Products Who Have Used an Electronic Vapor Product with Nicotine	Increase from 2022 (45.0%)	50.2%	56.4%
Who Have Ever Tried Smoking Cigarettes	Increase from 2022 (3.5%)	7.3%	9.2%
Who Began Using Cigarettes Before Age 13	Increase from 2022 (1.2%)	2.1%	2.8%
Who Are Frequent Smokers (Smoked 20 or More Days Out of the Past 30 Days)	Decrease from 2022 (0.2%)	0.1%	0.6%
Who Have Ever Tried Smoking Hookah	Decrease from 2022 (4.9%)	3.5%	4.3%
Secondhand Smoke Exposure: Who Live With Someone Who Smokes Cigarettes	Increase from 2022 (5.5%)	8.4%	14.1%
Secondhand Smoke Exposure: Who Live With Someone Who Uses Electronic Vapor Products	Increase from 2022 (7.3%)	7.6%	14.4%

Source: Florida Health Charts: Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) Data, 2024

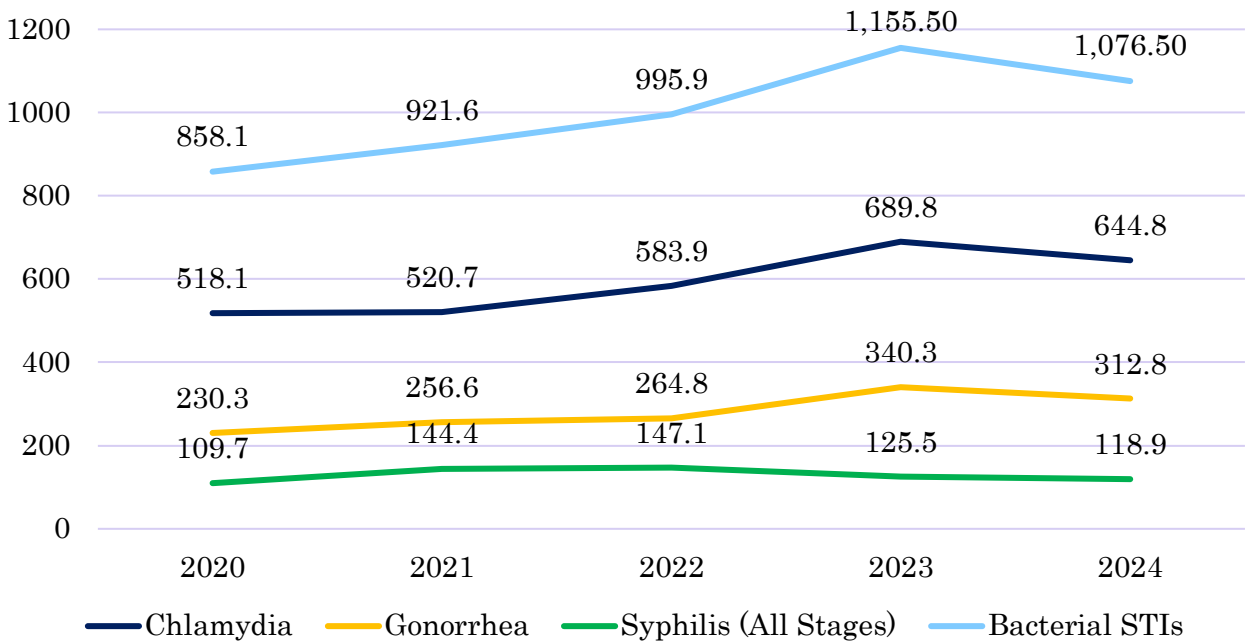
Sexual Behavior

Sexual risk behaviors pose a risk to individuals for potential spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, and risk of unintended pregnancy. Monitoring STI rates can provide insight into how a population is engaging in sexual risk behaviors, testing practices, or where there may be gaps in sexual health education or healthcare access.

Figure 37 illustrates the rates of major sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Broward County from 2020–2024. The bacterial STI category includes chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis (all stages), with the overall bacterial STI rate representing the combined burden of these infections. Among the Broward population, the bacterial STI rate in Broward County (1,076.5 per 100,000) was substantially higher than the Florida rate in 2024 (724.5 per 100,000) (Figure 37).

Overall, chlamydia and gonorrhea rates increased from 2020 through 2023, followed by a slight decline in 2024. In contrast, the rate of syphilis (all stages) peaked in 2022 and has steadily decreased since then. Collectively, these trends contributed to the bacterial STI rate reaching its highest level in 2023 before declining overall in 2024, suggesting a modest improvement following several years of increasing incidence (Figure 37).

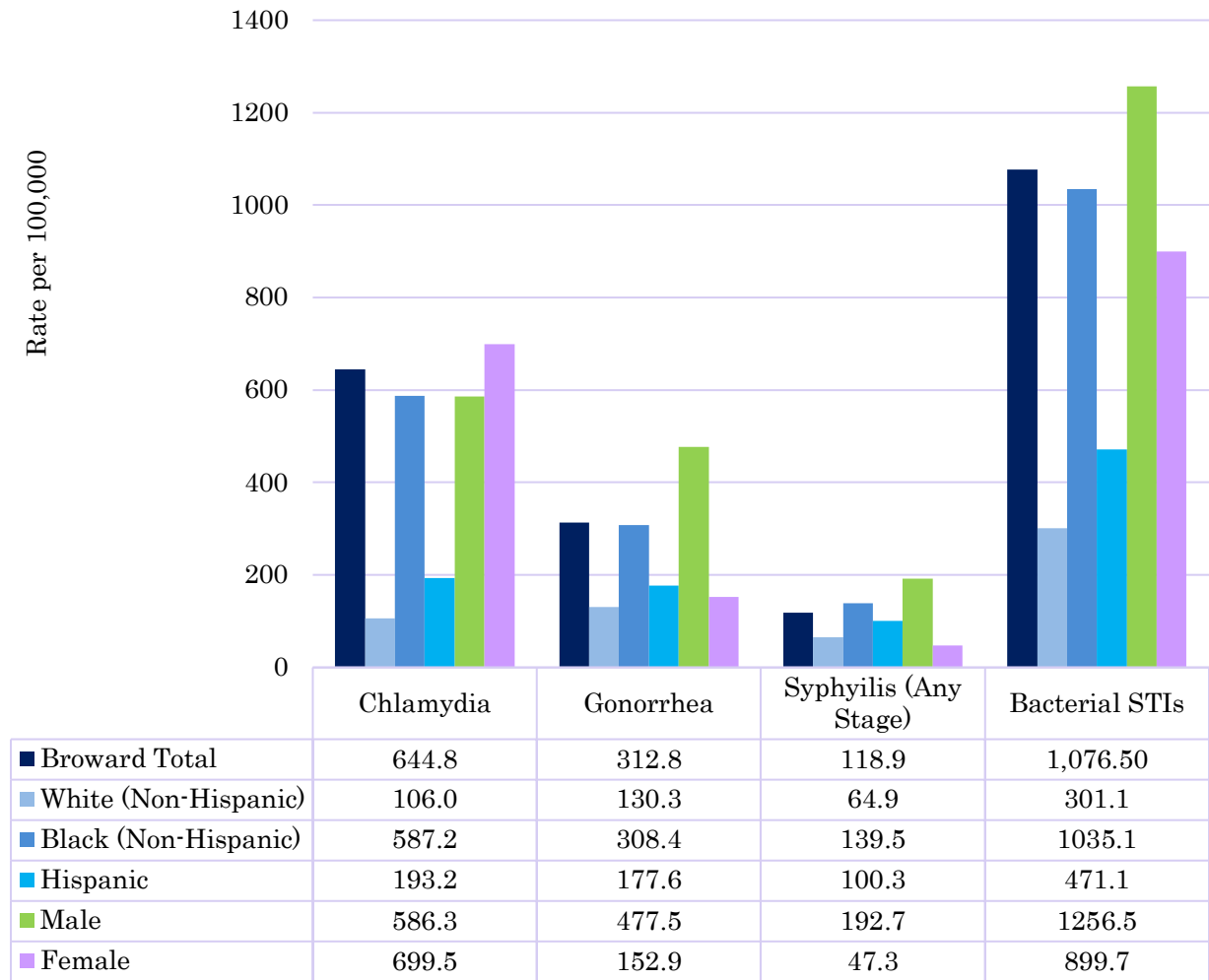
Figure 37: Sexually Transmitted Infection Rates (per 100,000), Broward 2020-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Syphilis (All Stages), Chlamydia, Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STIs), Gonorrhea 2024

Figure 38 illustrates the rates of major sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including countywide rates and rates stratified by race/ethnicity and gender in 2024. Among all racial and ethnic groups, Black individuals had the highest rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and overall bacterial STIs, compared to individuals who are White or Hispanic. Males had higher rates of gonorrhea, syphilis, and overall bacterial STIs than females, while females had higher reported rates of chlamydia.

Figure 38: Sexually Transmitted Infection Rates (per 100,000) Totals & by Race/Ethnicity & Gender, Broward 2024

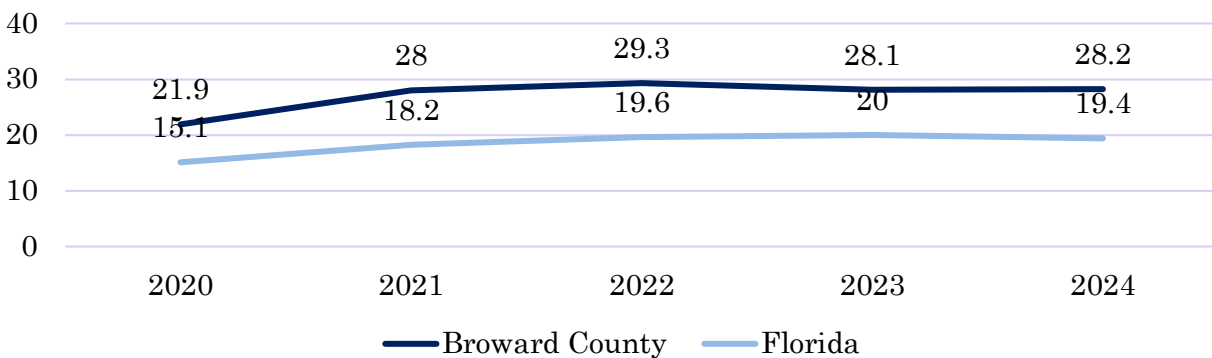


Source: Florida Health Charts, Syphilis (All Stages), Chlamydia, Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STIs), Gonorrhea 2024

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) remains a significant public health concern due to its impact on morbidity, mortality, and ongoing transmission. 54.1% of Broward adults reported ever being tested for HIV, which was higher than Florida’s rate the same year at 44.1% (Florida Health Charts: Adults Who Have Ever Been Tested for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) BRFSS, 2022).

Broward has the second-highest rate among Florida counties for new HIV diagnoses with a rate of 28.2 per 100,000; the county with the highest rate is Miami-Dade at 36.7 new diagnoses per 100,000 in the population (2024). Florida’s overall rate in 2024 was 19.4 per 100,000. Figure 39 displays the new diagnosis of HIV rate in Broward and Florida from 2020 to 2024. The data show Broward has consistently had higher rates of new HIV diagnoses than Florida over this period. Broward’s highest rate during this time was in 2022 (Figure 39).

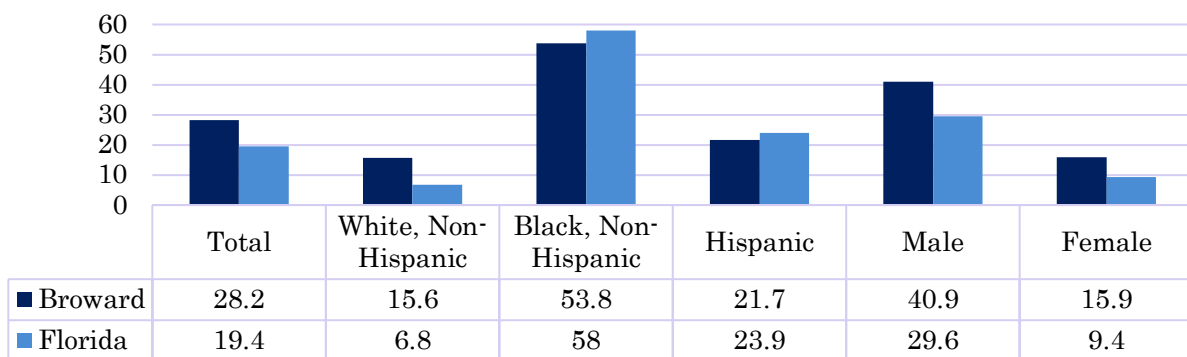
Figure 39: HIV Diagnoses Rates (per 100,000), Broward & Florida 2020-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Diagnoses, 2020-2024

Figure 40 displays new HIV diagnosis rate data, comparing the County and State data stratified by race/ethnicity and gender. Florida had a higher rate overall of HIV diagnoses for Black Non-Hispanic individuals than Broward. All other rates were higher in Broward than in Florida. Males had a higher rate than females in both Broward and Florida (Figure 40).

Figure 40: HIV Diagnoses Rates (per 100,000) by Race/Ethnicity & Gender, Broward & Florida 2024

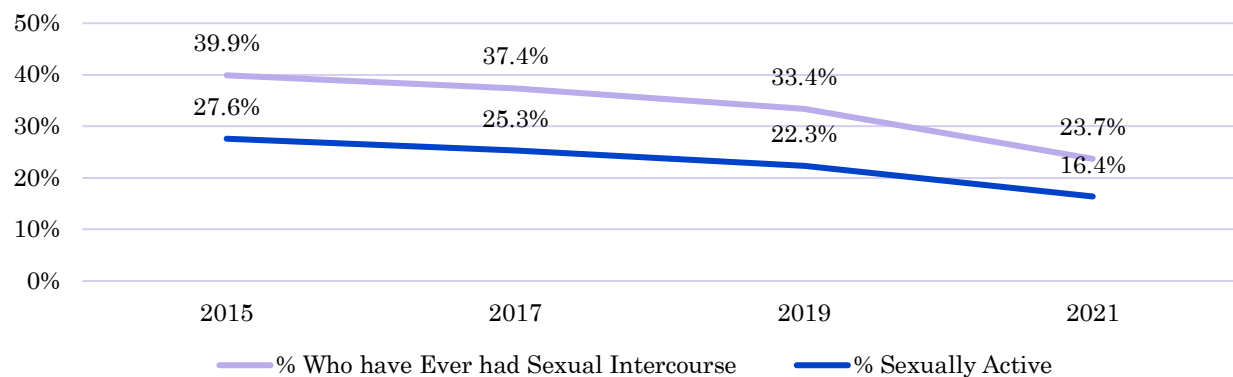


Source: Florida Health Charts, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Diagnoses, 2024

The percentage of Broward high school students reporting being sexually active has decreased by more than 10 percentage points over the past eight years (Figure 41).

This decline may be influenced, in part, by sexual health education provided in schools to increase awareness of the potential risks associated with sexual activity. Increased education can provide youth with knowledge about healthy decision-making, pregnancy and STI prevention, and protective behaviors. However, changes in sexual activity may also reflect broader social, behavioral, and cultural factors affecting youth over time.

Figure 41: Percent of Sexually Active High School Youth, Broward 2015-2021



Source: YRBSS, 2015-2021

Table 14 presents additional sexual risk behavior indicators among Broward and Florida high school students from YRBSS survey. Between 2019 and 2021, the proportion of students who reported ever having sexual intercourse decreased, as did the proportion who reported having sexual intercourse before age 13. However, some protective behaviors also declined, including condom use at last sexual intercourse and STD testing. At the same time, the proportion of students who reported drinking alcohol or using drugs before their last sexual intercourse increased. In 2021, Florida also had a higher proportion of high school students reporting ever having sexual intercourse compared to Broward County. Overall, while fewer Broward students reported engaging in sexual activity, the data indicate some concerning changes in protective and risk behaviors among those who were sexually active (Table 14).

Table 14: High School Youth Sexual Risk Behavior, Broward & Florida 2021

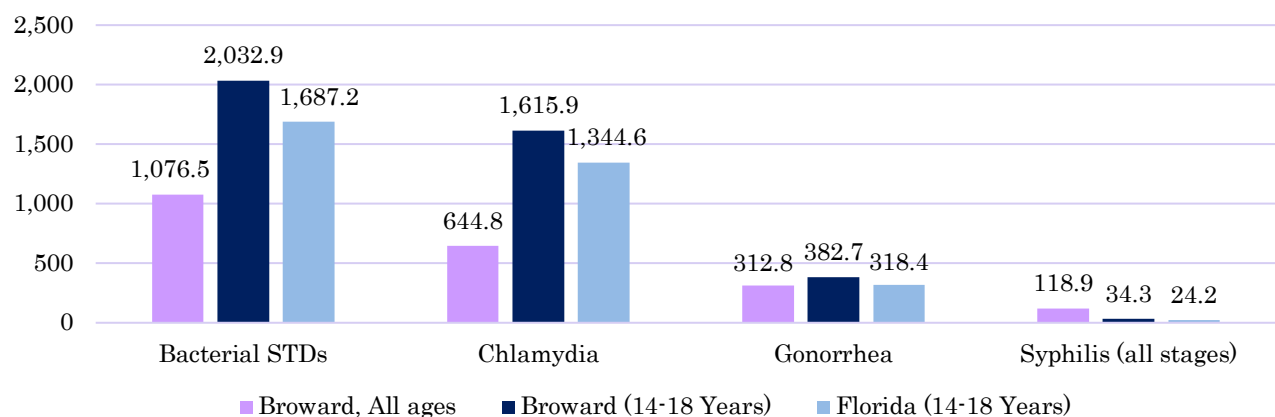
Youth Sexual Risk Behavior <i>High School Students only</i>	Broward's Trend in Recent Years	Percent of Students 2021	
		Broward	Florida
Who Ever Had Sexual Intercourse	Decrease from 2019 (33.4%)	23.7%	36.1%
Who Are Currently Sexually Active	Decrease from 2019 (22.3%)	16.4%	24.5%
Who Had Sexual Intercourse for the First Time Before Age 13 Years	Decrease from 2019 (2.7%)	2.4%	3.3%

Who Used a Condom During Last Sexual Intercourse	Decrease from 2019 (57.8%)	52.9%	50.9%
Who Drank Alcohol or Used Drugs Before Last Sexual Intercourse	Increase from 2019 (17.5%)	21.5%	20.0%
Who Were Tested for a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Other Than HIV	Decrease from 2019 (14.4%)	7.4%	N/A
Who Were Ever Tested for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	Decrease from 2019 (19.3%)	8.9%	8.2%

Source: YRBSS, 2019 & 2021

Broward youth data for STD diagnoses are presented in Figure 42, with 2024 rates among youth aged 14–18 compared to both Florida youth of the same age group and Broward residents of all ages. Sexually transmitted disease (STD) rates among Broward youth aged 14–18 varied considerably by disease. The overall bacterial STD rate among Broward youth was 2,032.9 per 100,000, nearly twice the rate observed among Broward residents of all ages (1,076.5 per 100,000) and higher than the rate among Florida youth aged 14–18 (1,687.2 per 100,000). This difference was largely reflected in chlamydia, for which Broward youth had a rate of 1,615.9 per 100,000, compared to 644.8 among Broward residents overall and 1,344.6 among Florida youth. Gonorrhea rates were also higher among Broward youth than both comparison populations. In contrast, syphilis followed a different pattern, with a substantially lower rate among Broward youth aged 14–18 (34.3 per 100,000) than among Broward residents of all ages (118.9 per 100,000). These findings demonstrate differences in the burden of specific STDs by age and highlight chlamydia as a particularly prominent concern among Broward youth (Figure 42).

Figure 42: High School Youth STI Rates, per 100,000, Broward & Florida 2024



Source: Florida Health Charts (STIs), 2024

Violence, Injury & Safety

This section explores patterns in crime, injury-related harm, and safety behaviors, highlighting key threats to the safety and well-being of Broward County residents. These indicators help assess the burden of violence and injury and identify areas for targeted prevention and intervention efforts. Table 15 presents an overview of violence and injury rates in Broward County and Florida in 2023, allowing for comparison between county and statewide patterns.

Aggravated assault is a violent crime involving an attack or threat of attack with a weapon or object capable of causing serious bodily harm. In Florida, the rate of aggravated assault was higher than in Broward County (Table 15).

Domestic violence encompasses a range of violent acts or threats committed between family or household members, including current or former spouses. These offenses include assault, stalking, rape, and other related crimes. In 2023, the domestic violence rate was significantly lower than the statewide rate (Table 15).

In contrast, Broward County reported higher rates of homicide and firearm-related homicides compared to Florida overall. The robbery rate was also slightly higher in Broward. Broward’s total violent crime rate, which includes cases of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, was lower than Florida’s rate. Conversely, non-fatal firearm-related emergency department visits occurred at a higher rate in Broward than statewide (Table 15).

The School Environmental Safety Incidents rate reflects the rate of incidents which are severe enough to require the involvement of a school resource officer or law enforcement. The data are based on incidents reported through Florida's School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) System. Florida also reported higher rates than Broward for school environmental safety incidents. Florida also had a significantly higher rate of child abuse cases compared to Broward (Table 15).

Table 15: Violence & Injury Rates Comparison, Broward & Florida, 2024

Violence/Injury	Broward County	Florida
Aggravated Assault	86.8 per 100,000	99.4 per 100,000
Domestic Violence Offenses	130.4 per 100,000	308.5 per 100,000
Deaths from Homicide (all; age adjusted)	6.9 per 100,000	5.5 per 100,000
Through firearm discharge	5.7 per 100,000	4.2 per 100,000
Robbery	33.8 per 100,000	27.8 per 100,000
Violent Crime	135.1 per 100,000	145.7 per 100,000
Emergency Department Visits from Non-Fatal Firearm Injuries	14.5 per 100,000	13.7 per 100,000

School Environmental Safety Incidents (*2025 Data)	*28.0 per 1,000	*37.1 per 1,000
Children Experiencing Child Abuse (Aged 5-11 Years)	147.1 per 100,000	346.7 per 100,000

Source: Florida Health Charts, (Aggravated Assault; Domestic Violence Offenses; Deaths from Homicide (age-adjusted); Deaths from Homicide by Firearms Discharge (Emergency Department Visits from Non-Fatal Firearm Injuries (Age Adjusted); Robbery; Violent Crime; Children Experiencing Child Abuse (Aged 5-11 Years)) 2024

Table 16 presents a comparison of the rates and numbers of non-fatal injury emergency department (ED) visits in Broward County and Florida overall, categorized by the top 10 mechanisms of injury. Florida had a higher overall rate of non-fatal injury ED visits. The three most common mechanisms of injury prior to ED visits in Broward were fall injuries, motor vehicle crashes/traffic injuries and injuries caused by being struck by or against something. Florida had higher rates than Broward for all 10 leading mechanisms of non-fatal injury ED visits except for falls, the #1 leading cause of non-fatal injury in both Broward and Florida (Table 16).

Table 16: Non-Fatal Injury Emergency Department Visits, Total & by Top 10 Mechanisms of Injury Count & Rate (age adjusted per 100,000), Broward & FL 2024

Mechanism of Injury	# injury ED visits in Broward	Broward County Age Adjusted Rate	Florida Age Adjusted Rate
All Injuries	148,364	7,534.6	8,875.6
1. Fall	47,583	2,227.7	2,571.0
2. Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes – All	20,604	1,065.9	1,125.1
3. Struck by/Against	19,804	1,040.1	1,170.1
4. Overexertion	10,131	534.0	676.8
5. Cut/Pierce	8,203	429.8	574.5
6. Bites/Stings - All	5,419	293.0	432.2
7. Foreign Body	3,166	176.2	202.5
8. Poisoning – All (drug, etc.)	2,911 (Drug 2,190)	155.0 (Drug 116.1)	182.6 (Drug 142.9)
9. Hot Object/Substance	1,348	72.7	83.3
10. Pedalcyclist	1,036	53.3	67.8

Source: Florida Health Charts: Non-Fatal Injury Dashboard, 2024

Table 17 presents 2024 youth responses to several violence, injury, and safety risk behaviors in Broward County compared to Florida. Overall, Broward high school students reported lower rates than Florida for impaired driving and riding with an impaired driver. Broward also had a lower proportion of high school students reporting physical abuse in the household (4.7% vs. 6.9%) and experiencing physical harm or having belongings taken (23.6% vs. 27.4%). Middle school students reported

substantially higher rates of experiencing and engaging in physical harm-related behaviors than high school students in both Broward and Florida. One notable exception to Broward’s generally lower rates was school safety: 24.8% of Broward students reported missing school because they felt unsafe at school or on the way to school, compared with 11.0% statewide (Table 17).

Table 17: High School Youth Responses to Violence, Injury and Safety Questions (FYSAS & FTYTS), Broward & Florida 2024

Violence, Injury and Safety Risk Behavior <i>High School Students (unless otherwise stated)</i> <i>FYSAS</i>		Percent of Students 2024	
		Broward	Florida
Who Have Driven a Car or Other Vehicle When They Had Been Drinking Alcohol in the Past 30 Days		1.2%	2.4%
Who Have Driven a Car or Other Vehicle When They Had Been Using Marijuana		3.1%	4.4%
Who Have Ridden in a Car or Other Vehicle by Someone Who Had Been Using Marijuana		12.5%	14.8%
Who Have Ridden in a Car or Vehicle Driven by Someone Who Had Been Drinking Alcohol in the Past 30 Days		7.8%	12.4%
Who Experienced Physical Abuse in Their Household		4.7%	6.9%
Who Had Someone Hit, Kick, Shove Them, Cause Them Physical Harm/Injury or Taken Their Money or Belongings	High School	23.6%	27.4%
	Middle School	46.6%	46.6%
Who Have Repeatedly Hit, Kicked, or Shoved Someone, Caused Someone Physical Harm/Injury or Taken Someone's Money or Belongings Without Their Permission	High School	10.6%	12.6%
	Middle School	25.1%	24.1
<i>FYTS Data</i>		Broward	Florida
Who Did Not Go to School Because They Felt They Would Be Unsafe at School or on Their Way to School in the Past 30 Days		24.8%	11.0%

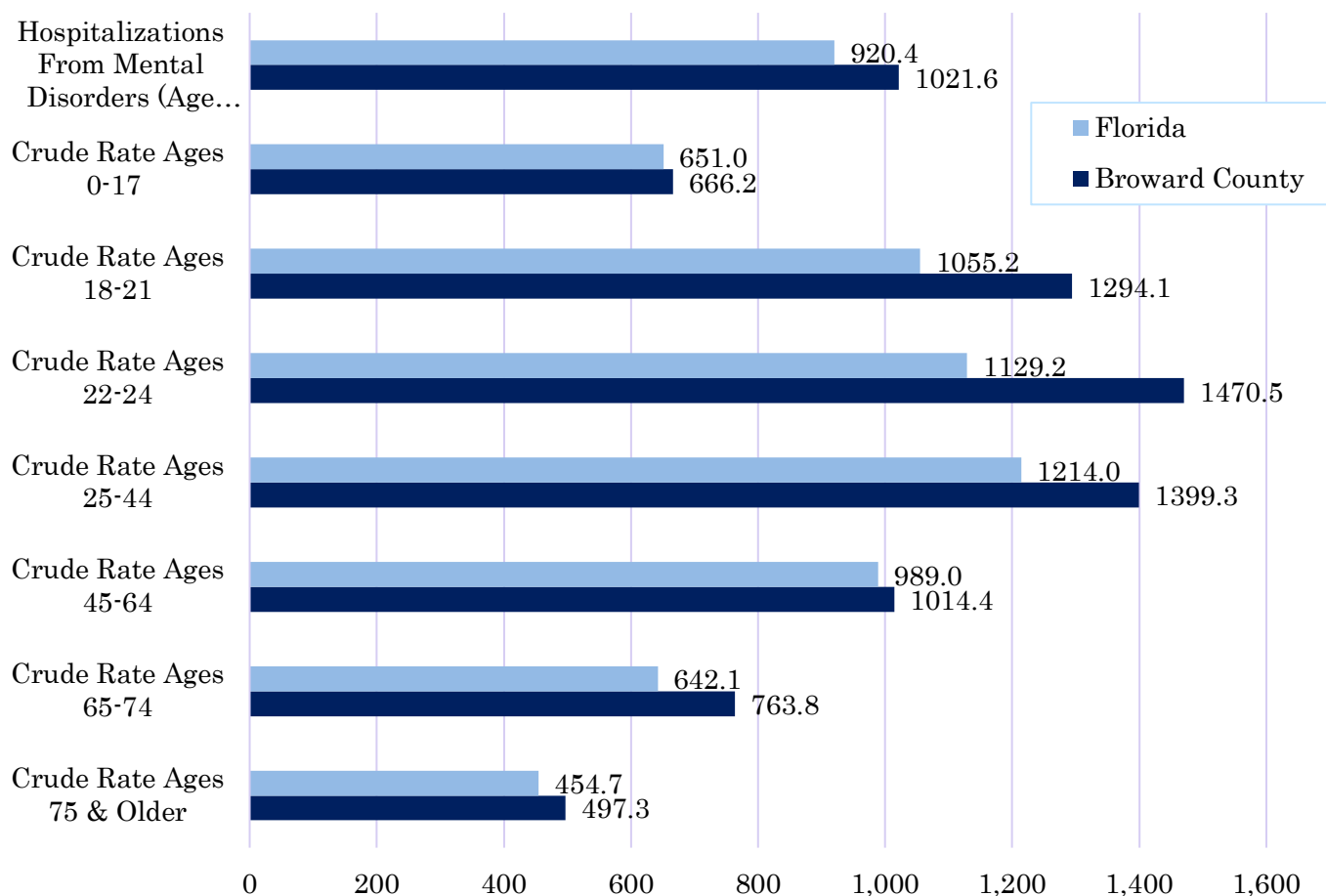
Source: Florida Health Charts: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) Data; Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) Data, 2024

Mental Health

Mental health is a component of behavioral health which encompasses an individual’s emotional, psychological, and social well-being. Mental health can be influenced by many factors such as lack of access to basic needs, or increased stress, and is closely linked to one’s physical health. Approximately 25% of the U.S. adult population lives with a mental health condition (CDC, 2025).

Figure 43 compares countywide and statewide rates for mental health related hospitalizations in 2024 overall (age-adjusted) and by age group (crude) rates per 100,000 population. Compared to Florida, Broward County has a higher rate of hospitalizations due to mental disorders for the overall county, and all age groups. In Broward, the age group with the highest rate of mental health hospitalizations was the age group 22-24 closely followed by 25-44 then 18-21 age groups, indicating that younger populations are impacted more heavily by poorer mental health (Figure 43).

Figure 43: Mental Health Hospitalizations, Broward & Florida 2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Mental Health Hospitalizations, 2024

Table 18 displays hospitalization rate data for mental health overall and by mental health condition in Broward and Florida 2024, and changes from the prior year in Broward. In 2024, 84.8% of mental health hospitalizations in Broward County were for mental health disorders not related to drug- or alcohol-induced mental disorders, compared with 77.2% in Florida, indicating that Florida had a relatively higher proportion of mental health hospitalizations associated with drug- and alcohol-

induced mental disorders. Broward County had higher hospitalization rates overall and across each mental health hospitalization type in 2024 (Table 18).

Table 18: Mental Health Hospitalizations, Broward & Florida 2024

Age-Adjusted Rates, per 100,000	Broward County		Florida 2024 rate
	Rate 2024	+ or – from 2023 rate	
Hospitalizations from Mental Disorders	1,021.6	-18.0	920.4
Hospitalizations From Mental Disorders, Except Drug and Alcohol-Induced Mental Disorders	866.7	+5.6	710.3
Hospitalizations From Mood and Depressive Disorders	467.2	+9.2	418.8
Hospitalizations From Schizophrenic Disorders	366.4	-2.3	229.2

Source: Florida Health Charts, Mental Health Hospitalizations, 2024

Although these hospitalization rates are higher in Broward than in Florida, Florida has a higher rate of deaths from suicide—13.9 per 100,000 compared to 11.6 per 100,000 in Broward—during the same year (Florida Health Charts, Deaths from Suicide, 2024).

Table 19 presents 2024 mental health indicators among Broward youth compared to Florida. Broward high school and middle school students generally reported lower rates of feeling depressed or sad than students statewide. The proportion of Broward high school students who seriously considered attempting suicide was also notably lower than Florida (6.9% vs. 12.4%), while rates among middle school students were similar and higher at over 14%. More than half of Broward students reported that they would call 988 if feeling overwhelmed, upset, or suicidal, with rates slightly higher than Florida for both high school and middle school students. Cyberbullying and emotional abuse rates were similar between Broward and Florida. Additionally, Broward students reported lower rates of purposely hurting themselves without intending to die, particularly among high school students (5.5% vs. 10.3% statewide) (Table 19).

Table 19: Youth Responses to Mental Health Questions (FYSAS & FTYS) Broward & Florida 2024

Violence, Injury and Safety Risk Behavior <i>FYSAS Data</i>		Percent of Students 2024	
		Broward	Florida
	High School	33.9%	39.3%

Who Have Felt Depressed or Sad on Most Days	Middle School	40.5%	42.6%
Who Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide	High School	6.9%	12.4%
	Middle School	14.9%	14.8%
Who Would Call 988 if Feeling Overwhelmed, Upset, or Suicidal	High School	59.9%	58.8%
	Middle School	54.8%	51.4%
Who Have Ever Been the Victim of Cyber-Bullying	High & Middle School	27.6%	27.4%
Who Experienced Emotional Abuse	High School	13.9%	13.3%
<i>FYTS Data</i>		Broward	Florida
Who, in the Past Year, Did Something to Purposely Hurt Themselves Without Wanting to Die	High School	5.5%	10.3%
	Middle School	10.5%	13.8%

Source: Florida Health Charts: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) Data; Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) Data, 2024

Access to Care

The availability and accessibility of a sufficient healthcare workforce can influence timely access to care, management of chronic conditions, disease prevention, and overall health outcomes. Examining the supply and distribution of healthcare can help identify potential gaps in healthcare access and areas of workforce need.

The Florida Physician Workforce Annual Report includes an annual survey of Florida physicians. This report shows that in 2025, 69% of Florida physicians see up to 100 patients per week. 28% of physicians see 100 or more patients within a regular week, indicating that there is heavy workload on a over a quarter of Florida providers. 95% of physicians surveyed report accepting new Medicare patients, whereas 89% accept new Medicaid patients. The most cited reasons for not accepting new Medicare or Medicaid patients were the practice being at full capacity or low compensation. According to the report, Broward County has 26.07 physicians per 10,000 residents. This is lower than Miami-Dade's rate of 28.0 per 10,000 residents, but higher than Florida's overall rate of 25 physicians per 10,000 residents (2025).

Table 20 reviews access to care through the lens of physician supply across the County. From 2014 to 2023, the number of physicians (MD/DO) providing direct, face-to-face patient care in Broward County grew by 22%, rising from 4,209 to 5,124. For

many specialties, the number of practicing physicians in Broward represented around 8-10% of the total for the state, (Table 20).

Table 20: Physicians by Specialty Broward & Florida, 2025

Specialty	#Broward	#FL	Specialty	#Broward	#FL
Anesthesiology	350	3,798	Otolaryngology	55	749
Dermatology	99	1,249	Pathology	81	991
Emergency Medicine	284	4,026	Pediatrics	452	4,777
Family Medicine	575	8,926	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	76	840
Internal Medicine	1,478	17,261	Preventative Medicine	18	371
Medical Genetics	4	50	Proctology	1	5
Neurology	115	1,627	Psychiatry	217	2,716
Nuclear Medicine	2	45	Radiology	314	3,376
Obstetrics & Gynecology	289	2,699	Surgery	457	4,587
Ophthalmology	128	1,377	Urology	47	504
Orthopedic Medicine	82	1,059	TOTAL	5,124	61,033

Source: *Florida Physician Workforce Annual Report, 2025*

Health Professional Shortage Areas Primary Care

Health professionals play an essential role in promoting and maintaining community health by providing preventive, diagnostic, treatment, and supportive services. The availability and distribution of these professionals can influence access to timely and appropriate healthcare. Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are geographic areas, populations, or healthcare facilities designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as having shortages of healthcare providers. HPSA designations are used to identify areas with limited access to primary care, dental health, or mental health professionals and can help guide resources and programs aimed at improving access to care in underserved communities.

There is one designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for Primary Care within Broward County, shown in Table 21. Compared to 2023, this is an improvement, as there were 10 locations throughout Broward with this HPSA designation. HPSAs are identified and designated with a score calculated from three factors: the patient-to-provider ratio of an area, the travel time to the nearest source of care, and the percentage of the population within that area that live below the federal poverty level (FPL). An HPSA score from 0-26 is generated based on these factors with a higher score indicating a higher need for that area. The Primary Care HPSA in Hollywood/Dania Beach within Broward were classified as low-income HPSA. A HPSA FTE (Full Time Employee) shortage indicated the number of full-

time practitioners needed in the HPSA area so that the area will achieve its target population-to-provider ratio. Based on these designations, Broward’s Primary Care HPSAs need 11.75 FTE to fill the indicated shortage (Table 21). This is an improvement from the 127 FTE needed to address the shortage in the 10 designated HPSAs in 2023 throughout Broward (Table 21).

Table 21: Primary Care Designated HPSAs throughout Broward County, 2026

Primary Care HPSA Name	HPSA Score (0-26)	HPSA FTE Shortage	Update Year
Hollywood/Dania Beach	15	11.75	2026

Sources: FloridaHealth.gov, 2024; Data.HRSA.gov, 2026

Oral Health

Oral health refers to the health of one’s teeth, gums and oral-facial system, and it is connected to other aspects of overall health. Commonly, many children and adults have cavities and gum disease. More than 90% of U.S. adults, and over 57% of U.S. children (aged 12-19) have had cavities in their permanent teeth (CDC, 2025).

In 2024, there were over 6,700 emergency department (ED) visits in Broward for dental conditions (among those 5 and older). The rate of dental ED visits in Broward (356.8 per 100,000) is much lower than the rate in Florida (550.1 per 100,000) (Florida Health Charts, 2024). The CDC estimates that nearly \$46 billion are lost in productivity due to untreated oral diseases (2025).

In 2022, 64.7% of residents in the local metropolitan area (Miami-Dade, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach) saw their dentist within the last year (prior to BRFSS survey). Over 46% of residents in the local metropolitan area reported having had one of their permanent teeth removed and 13.3% of residents in this area, over 65 years old, have had all their teeth removed (BRFSS, 2022).

Dental health is especially important during youth as it lays the foundation for oral health throughout life. In Broward, 72% of high school students reported seeing a dentist in the prior 12 months (2022); this has been an increase from the prior survey when only 69.2% reported seeing a dentist (2019). This rate is higher than Florida’s overall student rate in 2021 (63.7%), but lower than the U.S. national average in 2023 with 75.9% of high school youth seeing a dentist in the past year (prior to survey) (YRBSS, 2019-2021).

Health Professional Shortage Areas Dental Health

In 2025, there were no designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) for dental health within Broward County. This is an improvement since 2023, when there were 9 HPSAs for dental health and 106 FTE (Full-Time Employees) were needed to remove the shortage in these 9 designated areas throughout the county (FloridaHealth.gov, 2024; Data.HRSA.gov, 2026)

Environment & Community Health

This section reviews county-level data related to environmental and community health. The data in this section highlight local conditions, exposures, and social factors that influence the well-being of residents.

Environmental Health Factors

The environment, including the physical setting, the people within it, their by-products, and natural events, can greatly impact the health of a community.

Air quality is a major environmental health factor that affects respiratory, cardiovascular, and overall health. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a standardized measure of outdoor air quality based on the concentrations of major pollutants. For the Air Quality Index (AQI):

- **AQI 0–50 (Good):** Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk to the general population.
- **AQI 51–100 (Moderate):** Air quality is acceptable; however, there may be a small health concern for unusually sensitive populations such as children, older adults and those with asthma or other respiratory conditions.
- **AQI above 100:** Air quality becomes increasingly unhealthy, first for sensitive groups and then for the general population as AQI values continue to rise.

The 2025 AQI report shows that Broward experienced 268 days of good air quality (73.4%), 97 days of moderate air quality (26.6%), and 0 days with an AQI above 100 (Environmental Protection Agency: [Air Quality Index Report](#), 2025).

Major air pollutants measured to determine the AQI include ground-level ozone, particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide; these pollutants and their measured levels in Broward and comparable local counties are displayed in Table 22 with reference ranges and additional information.

Table 22: Major Air Pollutant Measures, Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties, 2024

Pollutant	Relative Range References	Broward County	Miami-Dade County	Palm Beach County
Carbon monoxide				
CO 8-hr (ppm)	Good AQI: 0-4.4 ppm Moderate AQI: 4.5-9.4 ppm Unhealthy for Sensitive: 9.5-12.4 Unhealthy AQI: 12.5-15.4 ppm	1.3	1.3	No Data
Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless pollutant gas that is released when something is burned. CO is released by burning fossil fuels and is used to power gas stoves and gas space heaters in some homes. Breathing in air with high CO concentration can reduce the amount of oxygen transported in the bloodstream, affecting critical organs that require high oxygen levels, particularly the heart and brain. High CO levels can cause confusion, dizziness, unconsciousness, and death in some cases. High CO is unlikely to occur outdoors.				
Nitrogen Dioxide				
NO2 AM (ppb) <i>(1-hr Test)</i>	Good AQI: 0-53 ppb Moderate AQI: 54-100 ppb Unhealthy for Sensitive: 101-360 Unhealthy AQI: 361-649 ppb	14.6	13.7	No Data
Nitrogen dioxide is an air pollutant produced by the burning of fossil fuels and originates from various sources, such as vehicles and construction sites. People who live or work near roadways can experience higher exposures. Short-term exposures are linked to adverse respiratory effects, and increased asthma exacerbations.				
Ozone				
O3 8-hr (ppb)	Good AQI: 0-54 ppb Moderate AQI: 55-70 ppb Unhealthy for Sensitive: 71-85 Unhealthy AQI: 86-105 ppb	62	62	60
Ozone (O3) is a gas, composed of 3 oxygen atoms, and exists in both good and bad forms. • Good ozone occurs naturally in the upper atmosphere where it forms a protective layer to shield lower layers from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. • Bad ozone, or ground-level ozone, is manmade and is created from chemical reactions between nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight. Primarily, bad ozone is the main ingredient in smog – intense visible air pollution – and is most often associated with industrial plant pollution. Ozone can affect the respiratory system and have higher adverse health effects for those with asthma. Bad ozone occurs more often on hotter days.				
Particulate Matter (PM)				
PM10 24-hr (µg/m3)	Good AQI: 0-54 µg/m3 Moderate AQI: 55-154 µg/m3 Unhealthy for Sensitive: 155-254 Unhealthy AQI: 255-354 µg/m3	49	63	53
PM2.5 24-hr (µg/m3)	Good AQI: 0-9 µg/m3 Moderate AQI: 9.1-35.4 µg/m3	16.4	16.5	15

	Unhealthy for Sensitive: 35.5-55.4 Unhealthy AQI: 55.5-125.4 µg/m3			
Particulate Matter 10 (PM10) refers to inhalable particles with diameters of 10 micrometers or less. Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5) refers to fine inhalable particles with diameters of 2.5 micrometers or less. PM particles are composed of various substances or chemicals and can be emitted from different sources, such as construction sites and fires. PM10 particles can get deep into the lungs and sometimes even into the bloodstream. PM2.5 particles are generally more harmful than PM10, as they are smaller and more likely to be inhaled.				
Sulfur Dioxide				
SO2 1-hr (ppb)	Good AQI: 0-35 ppb Moderate AQI: 36-75 ppb Unhealthy for Sensitive: 76-185 Unhealthy AQI: 186-304 ppb	1.5	Insufficient Data	No Data
Sulfur dioxide (SO2) is a gas produced by the burning of fossil fuels primarily at industrial facilities and power plants. SO2 can be harmful to the respiratory system and can react with other particulate matter to form small particles, contributing to PM pollution.				

Sources: U.S. EPA, *Air Quality Guides 2026*; U.S. EPA, *AQI Breakpoints, 2026*; U.S. EPA, *Air Quality Statistics by County, 2025*; AirNow.gov, 2025; FDEP, *Air Quality 101, 2026*

Water quality is another environmental health factor. The primary water supply for most of Broward and parts of Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties is the Biscayne water aquifer. The length of time water is in the aquifer before being withdrawn, along with its natural filtration process, protects the water from microbial pathogens that are common in surface water supplies.

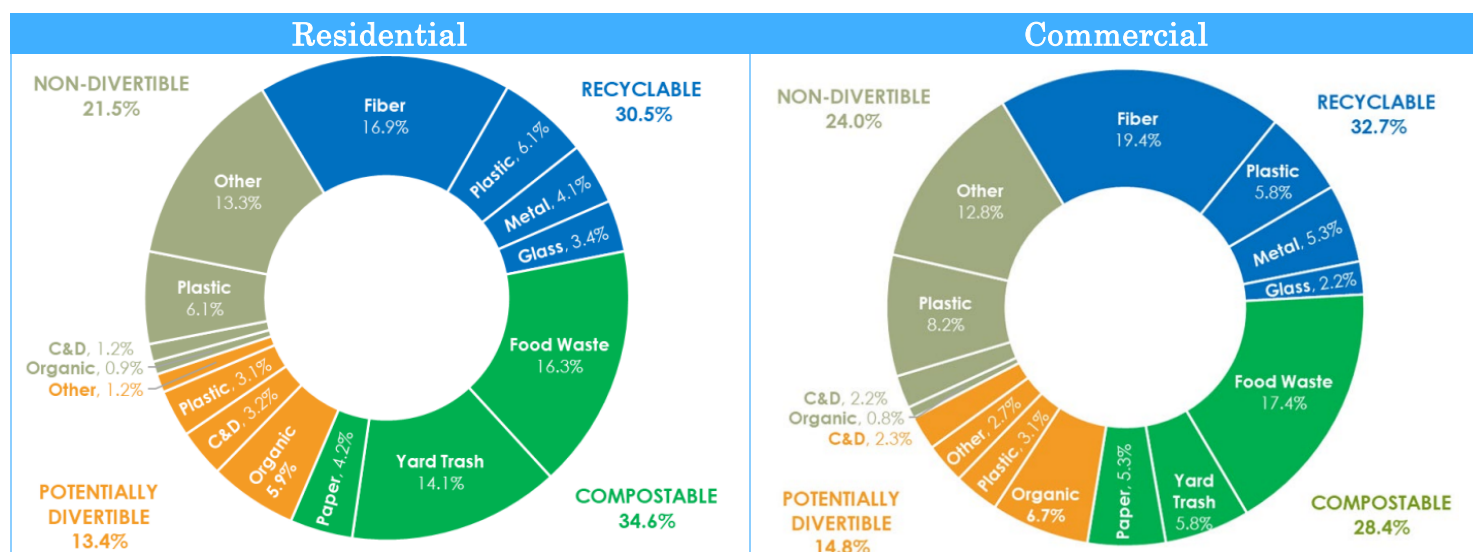
In 2025, a water quality assessment was conducted throughout Broward. The assessment done in Hollywood, Florida showed no maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations for major contaminants like arsenic, barium, nitrate, lead or other contaminants (Broward.org, *Water Quality Report for 2025*, 2025).

Energy use is another important environmental health factor, as energy production and consumption directly influence air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. Florida—and by extension, Broward County—continues to increase its use of renewable energy sources, with much of the state's recent additions to electricity generation capacity coming from renewable energy. Although Florida remains one of the nation's largest energy consumers due to its growing population, continued investment in cleaner energy technologies, such as electric vehicles, can help reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO2), particulate matter, and greenhouse gases associated with fossil fuel combustion. Lower emissions contribute to improved air quality, reducing the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular disease while supporting long-term environmental and public health (FDEP, *Air Quality 101, 2026*; *Office of Energy Annual Report*, 2024)

Waste management is a key societal and environmental factor, as it helps assess how much waste is being produced and by which sectors. According to a 2024 waste generation study for Broward County, the agricultural sector had the highest waste production, generating 14.0 pounds per square foot annually. The second highest was the commercial eating and drinking industry, with 6.4 pounds per square foot of waste generated each year (Broward County Waste Composition Study, 2024).

Figure 44 illustrates the composition of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) generated from residential and commercial sources in Broward County during 2024. In both sectors, compostable and recyclable materials made up the largest portions of the waste stream, while approximately one-quarter was classified as non-divertible (must go to landfill disposal). These findings indicate that a substantial proportion of municipal solid waste has the potential to be diverted from landfills through recycling and composting programs (Figure 44).

Figure 44: Municipal Solid Waste, Residential & Commercial, 2024

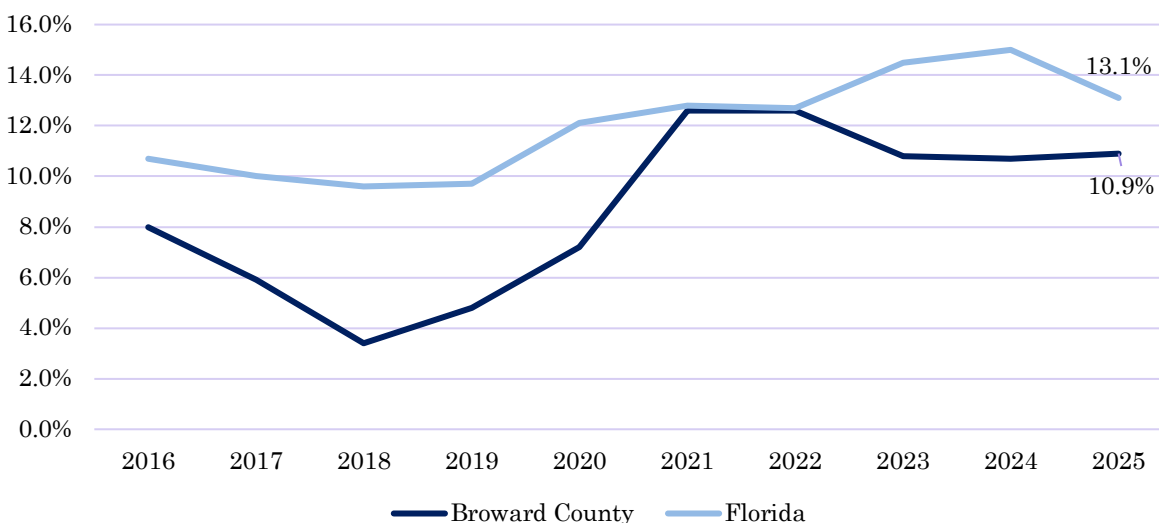


Source: Broward County Waste Composition Study, 2024

The proper disposal of **biomedical waste** is essential to effective waste management and the overall health of the community. Improper management of biomedical waste can expose health care workers, waste handlers, and the public to infectious diseases. Florida has approximately 30,000 biomedical waste facilities, including hospitals, clinics, laboratories, nursing homes, funeral homes, and medical practices. Routine inspections help ensure safe handling and disposal of biomedical waste, reducing the risk of disease transmission and protecting public health. Figure 45 displays data from the past 10 years, showing the percentage of unsatisfactory inspections related to biomedical hazardous waste disposal in Broward and Florida. While rates in

Broward have varied over time, they have generally been lower than the statewide average, indicating stronger compliance in the county (Figure 45).

Figure 45: Percent of Unsatisfactory Inspections of Biomedical Waste Facilities, Broward & Florida 2016-2025



Source: Florida Health Charts, 2016-2025

Weather-Related Factors

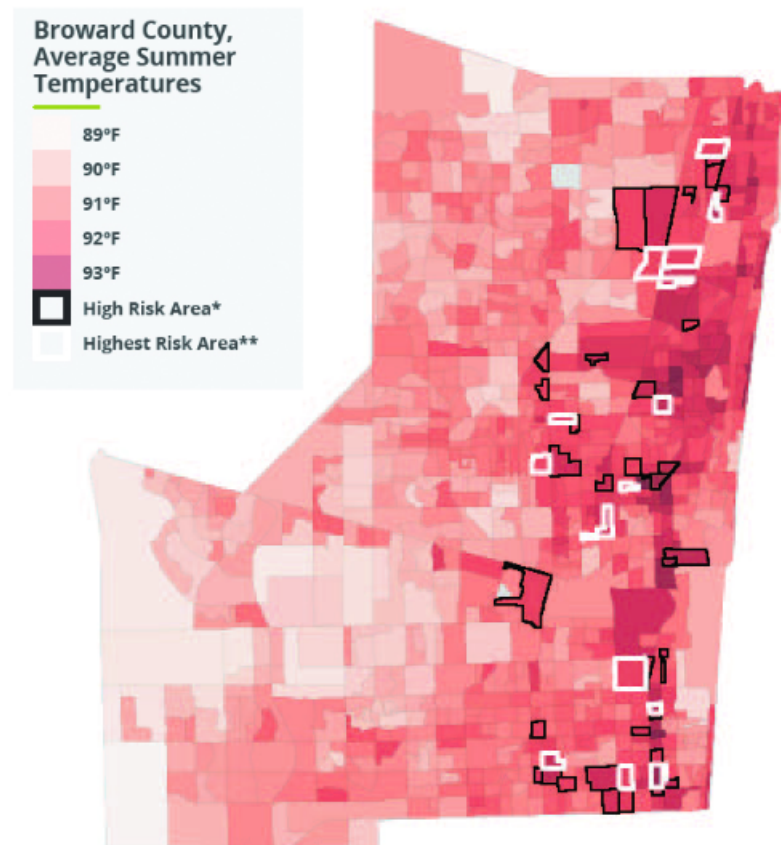
Weather change varies based on many factors, such as the season, pollution, and even geological events. Globally, temperatures are rising, and this is a continuing trend experienced in Broward. Due to coastal location, Broward has high humidity, which makes hot temperatures feel more intense to individuals. On particularly hot days, prolonged sun exposure can lead to health risks such as heat stroke.

Importantly, the built environment influences the experience of heat for individuals. Broward County is predominantly urban. Urban areas are characterized by an extensive built infrastructure, and less vegetation or tree canopy. In areas with less vegetation and more concrete structures, heat is less diffused and absorbed into concrete or dark structures (like roads). At night, the heat reradiates, preventing the area from cooling down after the sun is down. This phenomenon is known as the **urban heat island effect**, and it results in consistently higher temperatures, especially during the summer months—in densely built urban areas.

On average, Broward County experiences 74 days per year when the temperature exceeds 88 degrees Fahrenheit. It's estimated that due to the urban heat island effect in Broward, about 13-44 lives are lost each year in the county. Figure 46 illustrates

where the effects of the urban heat island are most felt throughout Broward County, indicated in black and white outlines. These high-risk areas experience temperatures at least 2 degrees Fahrenheit higher than surrounding areas and are primarily located along major highways. Over 90,000 Broward residents live in these high-risk zones which have a higher concentration of lower-income residents.

Figure 46: Average Summer Temperatures by Location & High Heat Risk Areas, Broward 2020



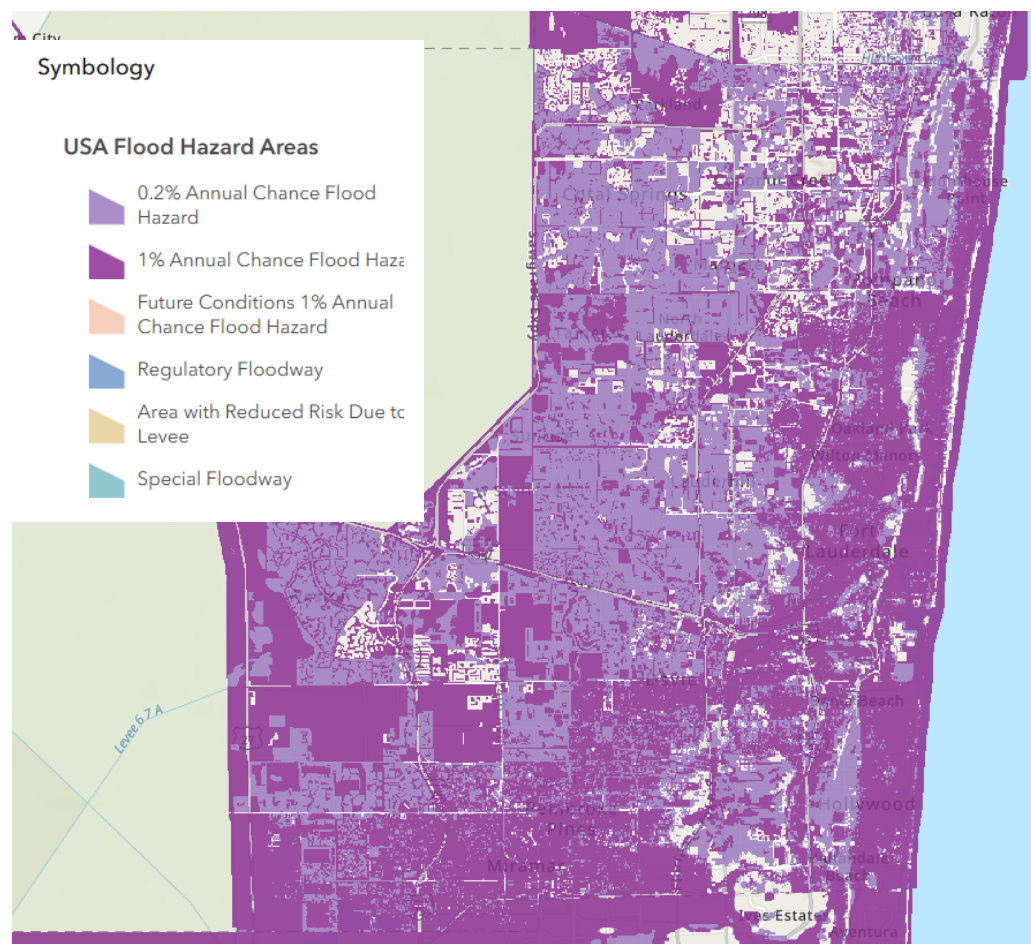
Source: *Broward County Urban Heat Islands*, Broward.org 2020

Another environmental concern is the risk of flooding in Broward. **Flooding** in Broward can be caused by large bouts of rain or storms, such as hurricanes. Although several hurricanes have impacted Florida in recent years, the most recent to directly affect Broward County was Hurricane Milton in October 2024 which caused parts of Broward to flood ([Miami 7 News](#), Oct. 2024).

Figure 47 displays FEMA-designated flood hazard areas in Broward County. The dark purple areas represent the 1% annual chance flood hazard (commonly referred to as the 100-year floodplain), meaning these areas have a 1 in 100 chance of flooding in any given year and are subject to mandatory flood insurance requirements for

many federally backed mortgages. The light purple areas represent the 0.2% annual chance flood hazard (500-year floodplain), which have a lower, but still notable, flood risk. Because Broward County is a low-lying coastal county with an extensive canal system, much of the county is mapped within these FEMA flood hazard areas, resulting in the map appearing predominantly purple (Figure 47).

Figure 47: Flood Prone Zones, Broward County, 2026



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL), March 3, 2026; Accessed via [Esri Living Atlas through ArcGIS](#), 2026

Although Broward County faces an increased risk of flooding, it also experiences an increased risk of **drought**—defined as a decrease in the amount, or absence, of precipitation over a prolonged period. During drought conditions, the effects of heat waves can be more intense and last longer.

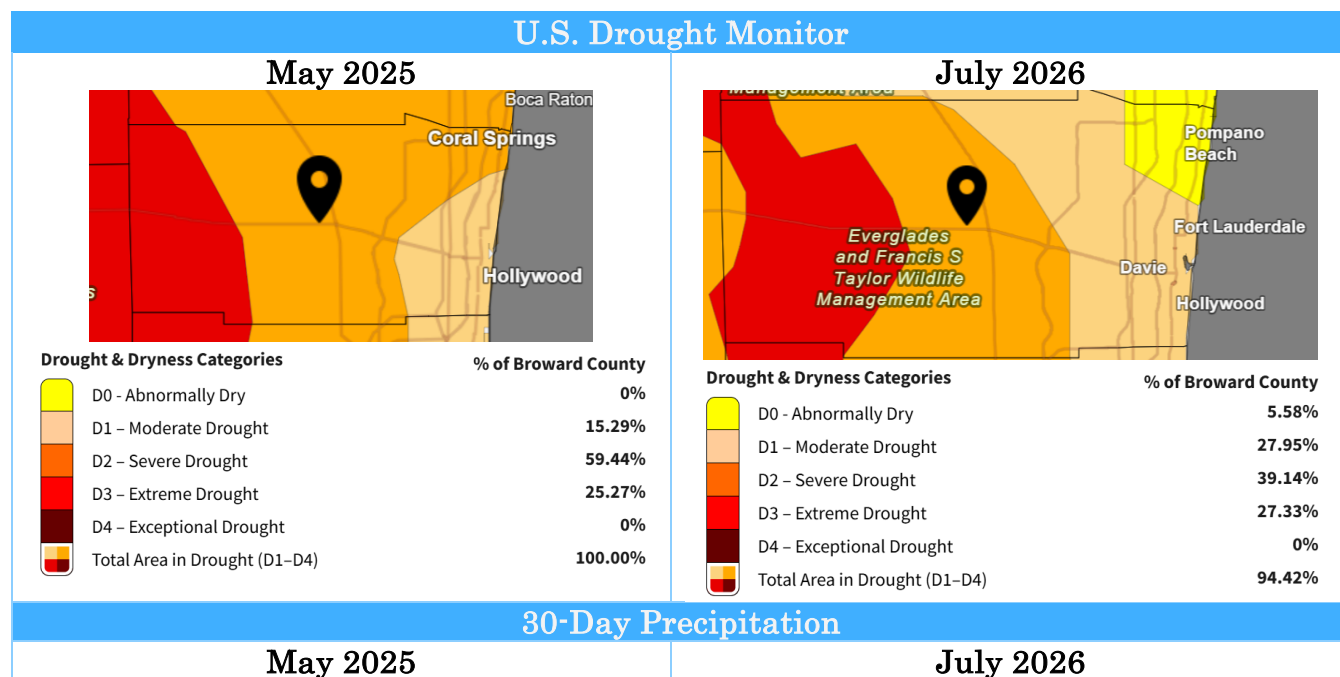
Figure 48 displays the drought monitor and 30-day precipitation maps for Broward in May 2025 and July 2026. The drought monitor is updated weekly to show a comparison to how the current rainfall level compares to yearly averages around the same time. As of both the May 2025 and July 2026 reports, 100% of the County was

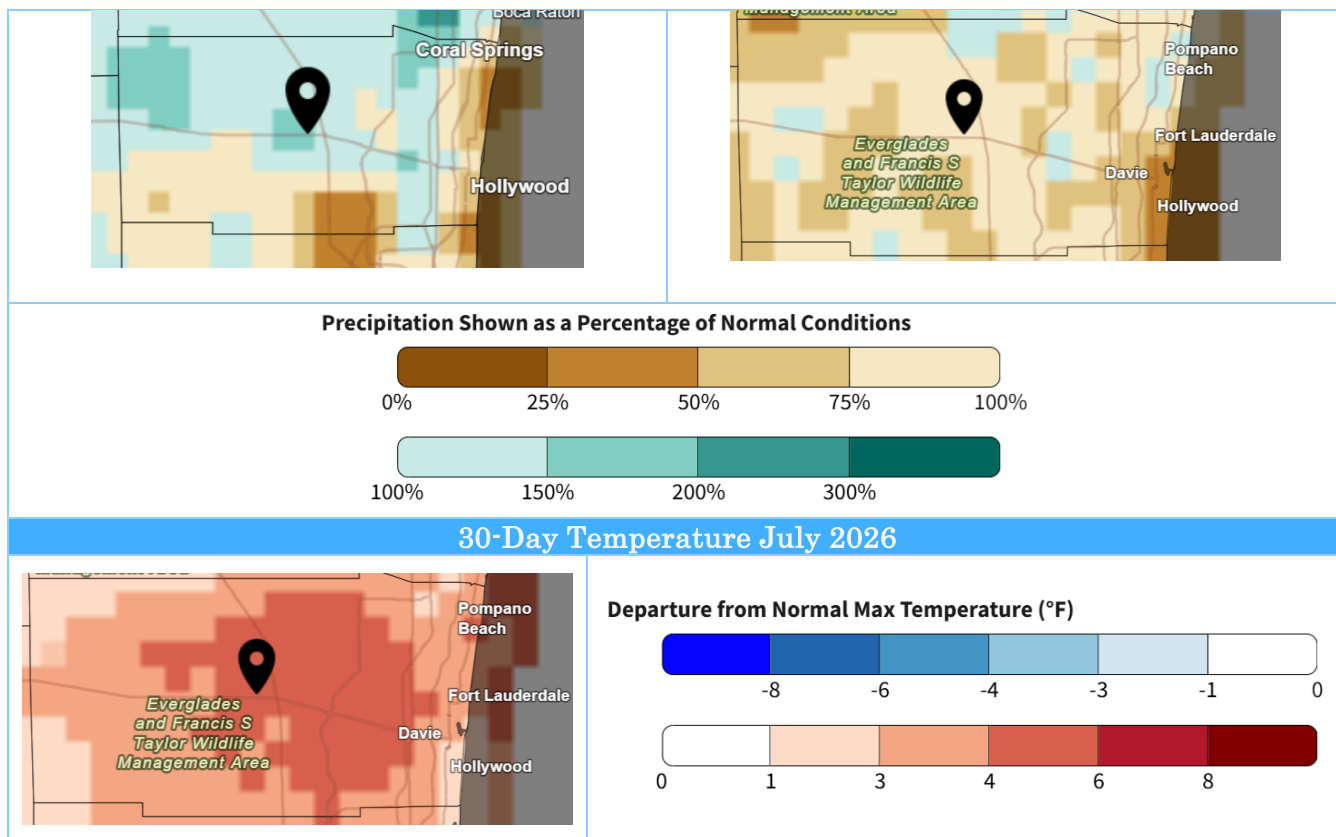
experiencing some level of drought compared to average levels, with the majority (39.1%) falling into the “severe” level. At the severe drought level, water shortages are common and there is increased likelihood for loss of crops or other ecological impacts. Broward experienced less severe drought conditions in July 2026 (39.1%) compared to May 2025 (59.44%) (Figure 48). Nationally, only 29.4% of the total population falls into the severe drought category (Drought.gov, 2025).

In Figure 48, the 30-Day Precipitation map shows areas in blue where the precipitation has increased compared to the historical average and areas in brown show where precipitation has decreased compared to the historical baseline average (1991-2020 average) in Broward in May 2025 and July 2026. Coastal areas in Broward have experienced less rainfall, and areas in the central and northern parts of Broward experienced higher precipitation than the historical average in May 2025 and even more so in July 2026 (Drought.gov, 2025).

At the bottom of Figure 48, the 30-day temperature comparison for July 2026 to historical averages in July is illustrated. The data map shows the entire county has had higher temperatures this July compared to the average, and the majority of the county was over 3 to 4 degrees higher overall (Figure 48).

Figure 48: Drought Monitor & 30-Day Precipitation Level, Broward County 2025 & 2026





Source: Drought.gov – National Integrated Drought Information System, Broward County, May 2025 & July 2026

Built Environment

The built environment refers to the human-made surroundings that provide the setting for daily life, including buildings, roads, and other infrastructure, as well as how people interact with these spaces. The built environment shapes opportunities for physical activity, access to healthy food and healthcare, transportation, social interaction, and exposure to environmental hazards. Broward County covers an estimated 1,224.7 square miles, of which 796.9 square miles are a designated conservation area, and 427.8 square miles are considered urban. Of the urban land, 11.3 square miles are recognized as Tribal land (Broward.org, 2025).

The built environment is a key determinant of whether an area is categorized as urban, suburban, or rural. Broward County is considered predominantly urban in its non-conservation land areas. Another factor influencing an area's classification as urban is population density. Broward County has a consistently high population density, with the highest concentrations found in certain areas throughout the county, as illustrated in Figure 49.

Population Density

160.03 - 2,697.42

2,697.43 - 3,987.62

3,987.63 - 5,393.49

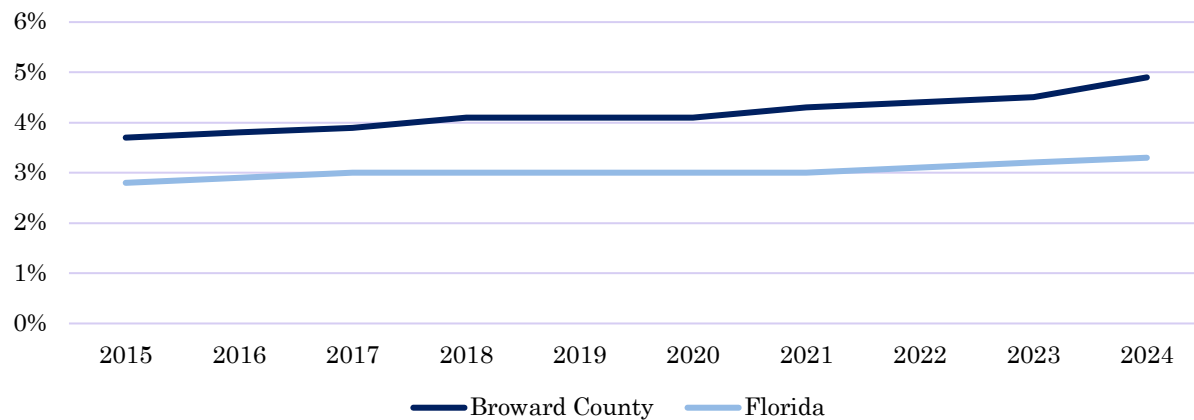
5,393.5 - 6,517.31

6,517.32 - 9,778.93

Map labels include: PARKLAND, TAMARAC, SUNRISE, PLANTATION, WESTON, GRIFIN ROAD, SOUTHWEST RANCHES, COOPER CITY, TRIBAL LAND, HOLLYWOOD, PEMBROKE PINES, MIRAMAR, WEST PARK, MIAMI GARDENS, BROWARD, MIAMI-DADE, OKEECHOBEE ROAD, SR 25, FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE, I-95, SR 1, SR 5, SR 11, SR 12, SR 13, SR 14, SR 15, SR 16, SR 17, SR 18, SR 19, SR 20, SR 21, SR 22, SR 23, SR 24, SR 25, SR 26, SR 27, SR 28, SR 29, SR 30, SR 31, SR 32, SR 33, SR 34, SR 35, SR 36, SR 37, SR 38, SR 39, SR 40, SR 41, SR 42, SR 43, SR 44, SR 45, SR 46, SR 47, SR 48, SR 49, SR 50, SR 51, SR 52, SR 53, SR 54, SR 55, SR 56, SR 57, SR 58, SR 59, SR 60, SR 61, SR 62, SR 63, SR 64, SR 65, SR 66, SR 67, SR 68, SR 69, SR 70, SR 71, SR 72, SR 73, SR 74, SR 75, SR 76, SR 77, SR 78, SR 79, SR 80, SR 81, SR 82, SR 83, SR 84, SR 85, SR 86, SR 87, SR 88, SR 89, SR 90, SR 91, SR 92, SR 93, SR 94, SR 95, SR 96, SR 97, SR 98, SR 99, SR 100.

Correlated with high population density is the percentage of occupied housing units with an average of more than one occupant per room. For communities with overcrowding and inadequate shelter, diseases are more likely to be spread. Figure 50 displays the percentage of housing units in Broward and Florida with more than one occupant per room from 2015 to 2024. Broward has consistently had a higher percentage of units with more than one occupant per room than Florida. For both the State and County, the percentage has shown an increasing trend over the past 10 years (Figure 50).

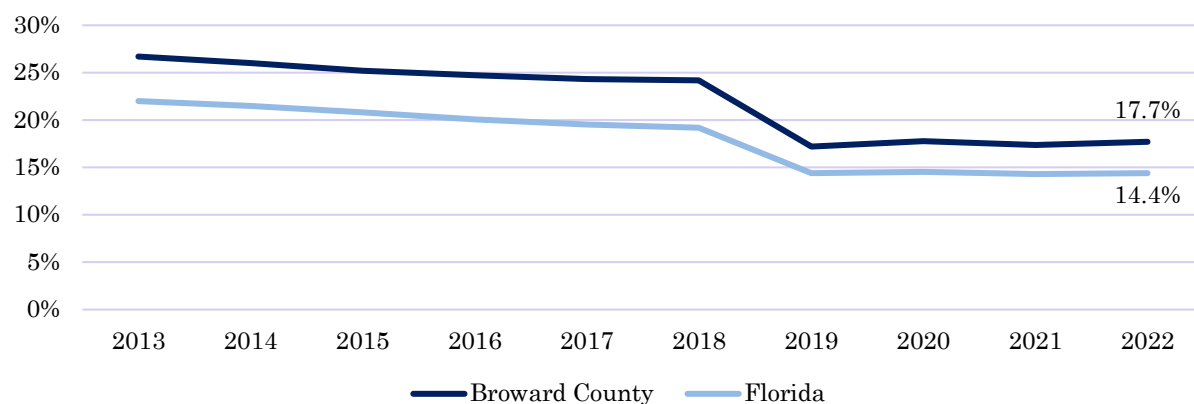
Figure 50: Percent of Occupied Housing Units with More Than One Occupant per Room, Broward & Florida 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, Occupied Housing Units with More Than One Occupant per Room (Census ACS), 2015-2024

Figure 51 displays the percentage of occupied housing units in Broward and Florida over the past 10 years with severe housing problems, defined as having one or more of the following conditions: lack of plumbing facilities, lack of kitchen facilities, more than 1.5 persons per room, or a severe cost burden (monthly housing costs exceeding 50% of household income). Each year, Broward has had a higher percentage of housing units with severe housing problems compared to the state overall. In both Broward and Florida, the overall percentages have shown a consistent downward trend over the past 10 years (Figure 51).

Figure 51: Percentage of Occupied Units with Severe Housing Problems, Broward & Florida, 2013-2022



Source: Florida Health Charts, Population with Severe Housing Problems, 2013-2022

Park access enables and encourages individuals to be more physically active. Table 23 presents the percentage of residents in Broward in 2022 that lived within one half

mile of a park, and comparison percentages for the State and nearby counties. Broward County has the highest percentage of residents with access to a park within one half mile from where they live compared to the state and all Florida counties. Miami-Dade County ranked second for residents with nearby park access (Table 23).

Table 23: Percentage of the Population Living Within One-Half Mile of a Park, Broward County, Miami-Dade County, Palm-Beach County & Florida, 2022

Broward County	Miami-Dade County	Palm-Beach County	Florida
74.3%	72.1%	48.6%	43.0%

Source: Florida Health Charts, Population Living Within One-Half Mile of a Park, 2022

In addition to park access, tree coverage plays a vital role in enhancing urban environments. A healthy tree canopy helps increase property values, reduce air pollution, lower electricity bills by decreasing air conditioning use, protect water quality, reduce noise pollution, increase floodwater absorption, and prevent soil erosion. Since 2018, Broward County has been working to increase tree canopy coverage from just under 20% to over 40% as part of a long-term urban forestry initiative (Broward.org, [Tree Canopy](#), 2020). This goal has been reaffirmed in the 2025 Broward County Action Plan. The goal to increase tree canopy coverage to 40% is intended to protect walkers, pedestrians, and bikers from heat and pollution, and to further reduce the urban heat island effect. This is in coordination with other goals to improve community health ([2025 Broward County Climate Change Action Plan](#), 2025).