BROWARD COUNTY HEALTH PLAN

Chapter II: Health Status Profile

2025

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 provides healthcare utilization data. Broward County's seasonal fluctuations in population and various other factors influence utilization.

Chapter V: Benchmarks sets annual community health priorities, identifies community interventions, and measures progress in attaining health improvements.

Chapter VI: Health Data Warehouse analyzes key Health Indicator modules from the Health Data Warehouse, including: (1) Prevention Quality Indicators and avoidable hospital admissions, (2) inpatient chronic conditions 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 2023. The total live birth rate in the County was 10.1 per 1,000 which was slightly higher than Florida's rate. 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 (Table 1).

Among Broward mothers, over 70% initiated prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy in 2023, which was slightly higher than the rate in Florida. Additionally, only 2.8% of mothers had no prenatal care in Broward, which was lower than the state of 3.6%. Broward also had a higher rate of mothers initiating breastfeeding than the state (Table 1).

Table 1: Birth Data Comparison, Broward & Florida 2023

		BROWARD		FLORIDA
Indicator	**Measure**	**# in 2023**	**% or Rate in 2023**	**% or Rate in 2023**
Total Births				
Total Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Population	20,137	10.1	9.8
White Live Births	Per 1,000 White Population	11,126	9.0	9.1
Black Live Births	Per 1,000 Black Population	7,144	11.8	11.7

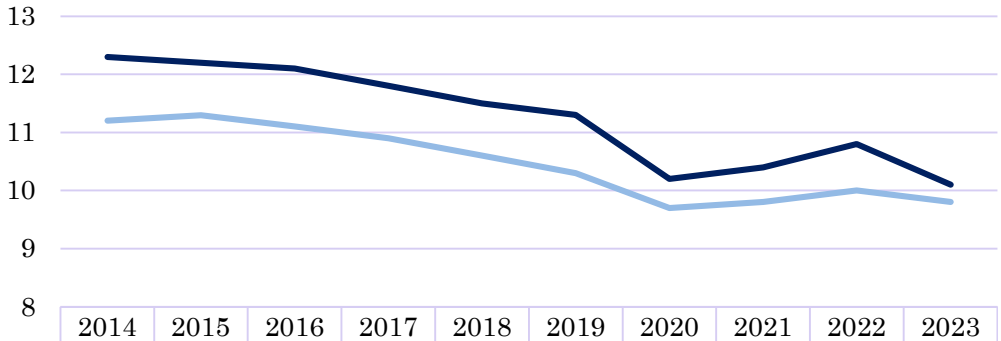
Hispanic Live Births	Per 1,000 Hispanic Population	7,100	11.0	12.3
Births By Age of Mother				
Births to Mothers 10-14	Per 1,000 Females	11	0.1	0.1
Births to Mothers 15-17	Per 1,000 Females	107	1.5	2.8
Births to Mothers 18-24	Per 1,000 Females	2,610	16.7	21.7
Births to Mothers 25-29	Per 1,000 Females	4,696	39.0	43.6
Births to Mothers 30-34	Per 1,000 Females	6,757	49.8	45.5
Births to Mothers 35-39	Per 1,000 Females	4,646	34.2	27.5
Births to Mothers 40-49	Per 1,000 Females	1,297	4.9	3.7
Births to Mothers 50-59	Per 1,000 Females	13	0.0	0.0
Low Birth Weight (Live Births)				
Total < 2500 g	% of Total Births	1,938	9.6%	9.1%
White < 2500 g	% of White Births	730	6.6%	7.4%
Black < 2500 g	% of Black Births	1,023	14.3%	14.7%
Hispanic < 2500 g	% of Hispanic Births	520	7.3%	7.7%
Very Low Birth Weight (Live Births)				
Total< 1500 g	% of Total Births	371	1.8%	1.6%
White < 1500 g	% of White Births	114	1.0%	1.2%
Black < 1500 g	% of Black Births	220	3.1%	3.1%
Hispanic < 1500 g	% of Hispanic Births	92	1.3%	1.3%
Prenatal Care (PNC)				
Births w/ 1st Trimester PNC	% of Births with Known PNC Status	13,840	71.1%	69.8%
Births w/ No PNC	% of Births with no PNC	555	2.8%	3.6%
Maternal Characteristics				
Mothers who initiate breastfeeding	% of total births	17,711	88.0%	85.6%

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2023

Birth Rate

Over the past 10 years, Broward's live birth rate (LBR) decreased by 2.2 points (Figure 1). In 2023, Broward County's LBR reached its low point at 10.1 per 1,000, a slight decrease compared to the prior year. Since 2003, Broward has consistently had a higher proportion of LBR deliveries than Florida. 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.

Figure 1: Live Birth Rate by Year, Broward & Florida, 2014-2023

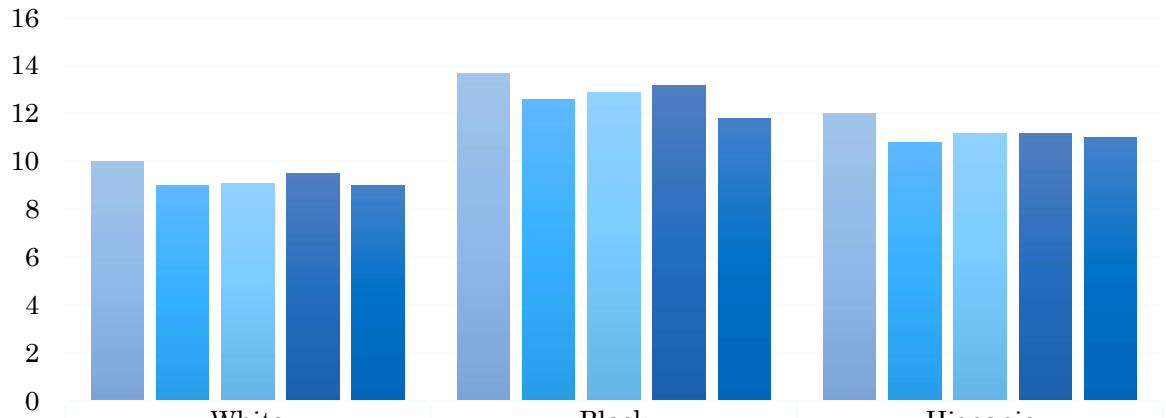


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Broward County	12.3	12.2	12.1	11.8	11.5	11.3	10.2	10.4	10.8	10.1
Florida	11.2	11.3	11.1	10.9	10.6	10.3	9.7	9.8	10	9.8

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

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 each year than White, Non-White, and Hispanic mothers. For each group, the highest LBR occurred in either 2018 or 2019, throughout the 5-year period from 2018 to 2022, (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Live Birth Rate by Race/Ethnicity Group, Broward 2019-2023



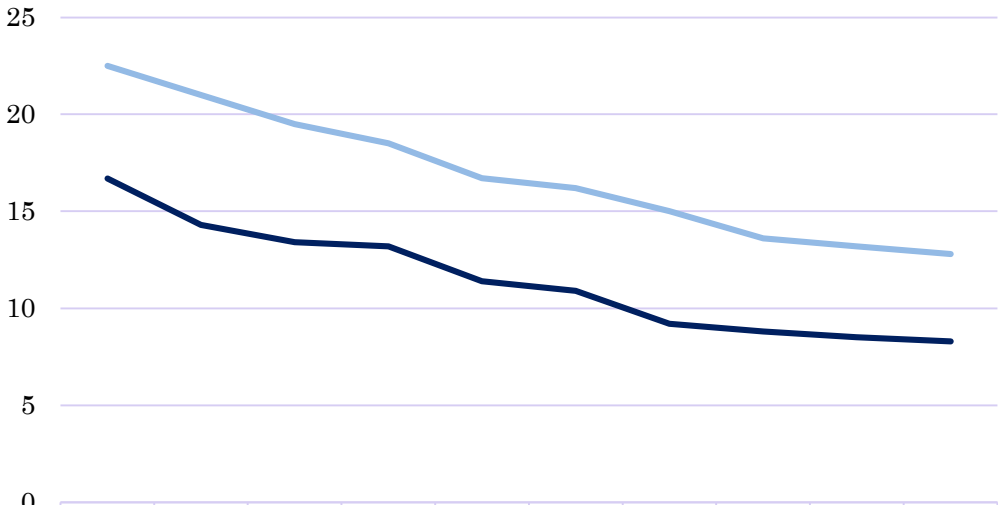
	White	Black	Hispanic
2019	10	13.7	12
2020	9	12.6	10.8
2021	9.1	12.9	11.2
2022	9.5	13.2	11.2
2023	9	11.8	11

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2019-2023

In 2023, the teen birth rate in Broward was 8.3 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 birth rate than Broward County.

Figure 3: Teen Birth Rate (Mothers Aged 15-19), Broward & Florida 2014-2023



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Broward County	16.7	14.3	13.4	13.2	11.4	10.9	9.2	8.8	8.5	8.3
Florida	22.5	21	19.5	18.5	16.7	16.2	15	13.6	13.2	12.8

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

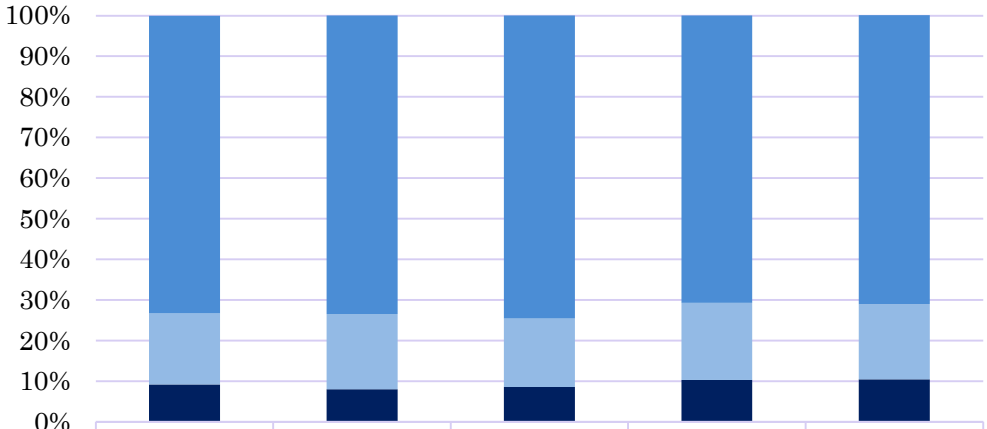
The birth rate among mothers aged 13-19 was 6.0 per 1,000 in Broward, and Florida's rate was 9.3 per 1,000 (Florida Health Charts, 2023).

In 2023, the repeat teen birth rate, among mothers aged 15 to 19, was 12.4 in Broward and 12.8 in Florida, per 1,000 births. The repeat teen birth rate increased in Broward compared to the prior year (10.8 per 1,000 in 2022).

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, with earlier prenatal care being most beneficial. More than 70% of Broward mothers have initiated prenatal care in the first trimester, each of the past 5 years. There has been some fluctuation during this period, with the highest rate of first-trimester prenatal care initiation occurring in 2021, and lowest in 2022 (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Trimester of Prenatal Care Initiation Among Mothers, Broward 2019-2023

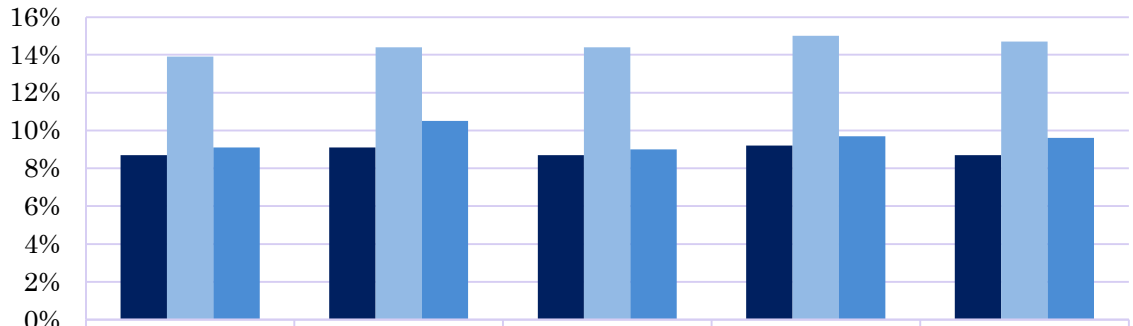


	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
By 1st Trimester	73.2%	73.5%	74.6%	70.7%	71.1%
By 2nd Trimester	17.5%	18.5%	16.8%	19.0%	18.5%
By 3rd Trimester or None	9.2%	8.0%	8.6%	10.3%	10.5%

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2019-2023

Preterm births, also known as premature births, 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). In 2023, the preterm birth rate in Broward County was 11.0%, reflecting a slight increase from the prior year (+0.2%). Since 2013, Broward has consistently reported a higher preterm birth rate than the statewide average. 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.

Figure 5: Preterm Birth Rate by Race/Ethnicity, Broward 2019-2023

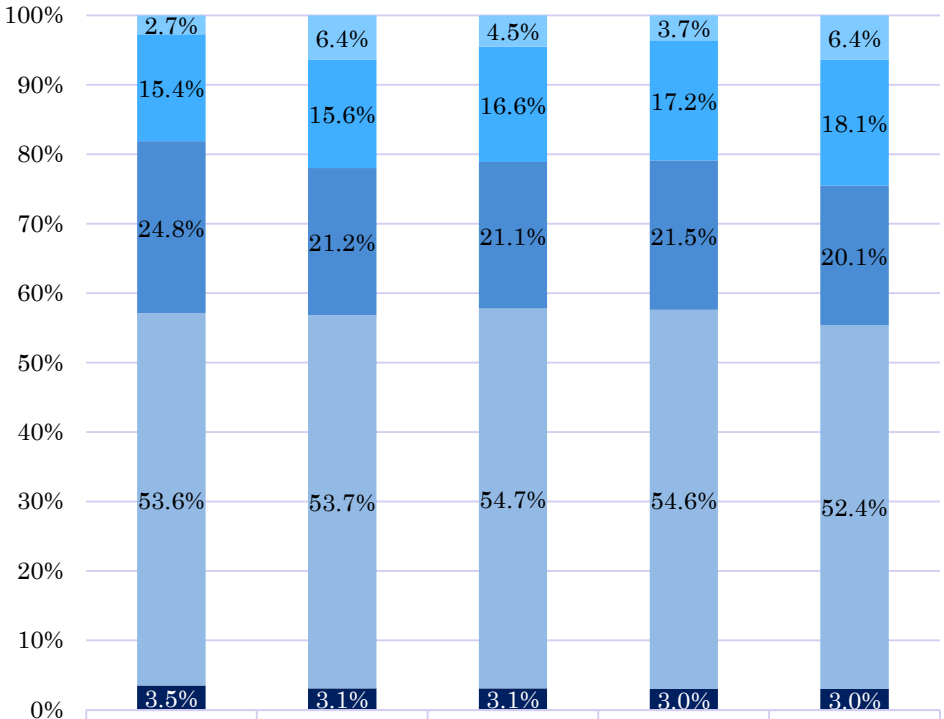


	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
White	8.7%	9.1%	8.7%	9.2%	8.7%
Black	13.9%	14.4%	14.4%	15.0%	14.7%
Hispanic	9.1%	10.5%	9.0%	9.7%	9.6%

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2019-2023

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, highlighting a year-over-year increase in the percentage of mothers with obesity. In Broward County, 18.1% of births in 2023 were to mothers classified as obese at the time of their pregnancy (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Mothers' Weight Category During Pregnancy, Broward 2019-2023

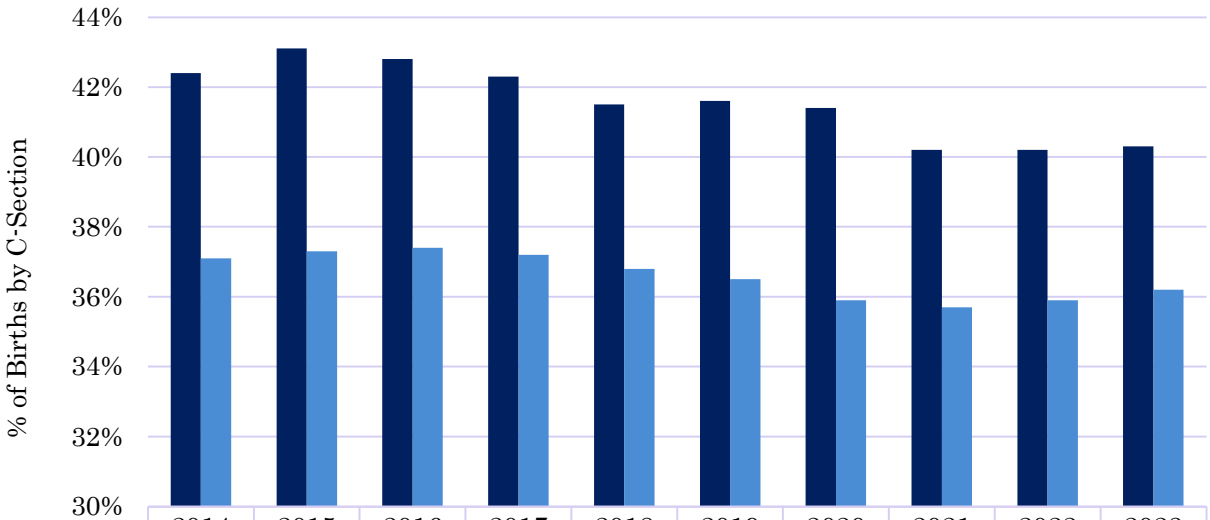


	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Unknown Weight Status	2.7%	6.4%	4.5%	3.7%	6.4%
Obese	15.4%	15.6%	16.6%	17.2%	18.1%
Overweight	24.8%	21.2%	21.1%	21.5%	20.1%
Normal/Healthy Weight	53.6%	53.7%	54.7%	54.6%	52.4%
Underweight	3.5%	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2019-2023

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. In Broward, cesarean sections have consistently accounted for over 40% of deliveries consistently over the past 10 years (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Percentage of Cesarean Deliveries, Broward & Florida, 2014-2023



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Broward	42.4%	43.1%	42.8%	42.3%	41.5%	41.6%	41.4%	40.2%	40.2%	40.3%
Florida	37.1%	37.3%	37.4%	37.2%	36.8%	36.5%	35.9%	35.7%	35.9%	36.2%

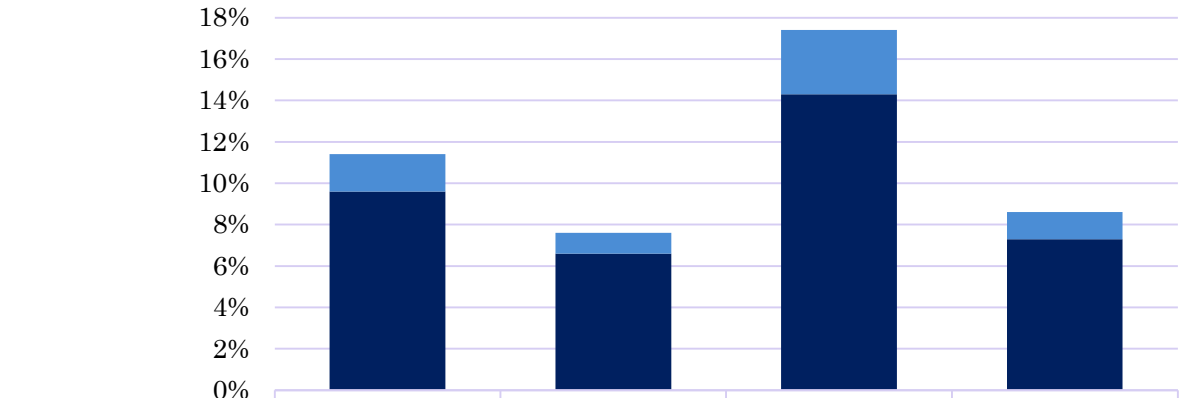
Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

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.

Over the past 10 years in Broward County, just under 10% of births have been classified as LBW and just under 2% as VLBW annually. Compared to statewide rates, Broward has consistently reported higher rates of both LBW and VLBW. In 2023, 1.8% of births in Broward were VLBW (compared to 1.6% in Florida), and 9.6% were LBW (compared to 9.1% in Florida). These rates have shown minimal fluctuation over the past decade, indicating consistent trends.

Figure 8 presents 2023 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 2023



	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
% VLBW (<3.3 lbs)	1.8%	1.0%	3.1%	1.3%
% LBW (<5.5 lbs)	9.6%	6.6%	14.3%	7.3%

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2023

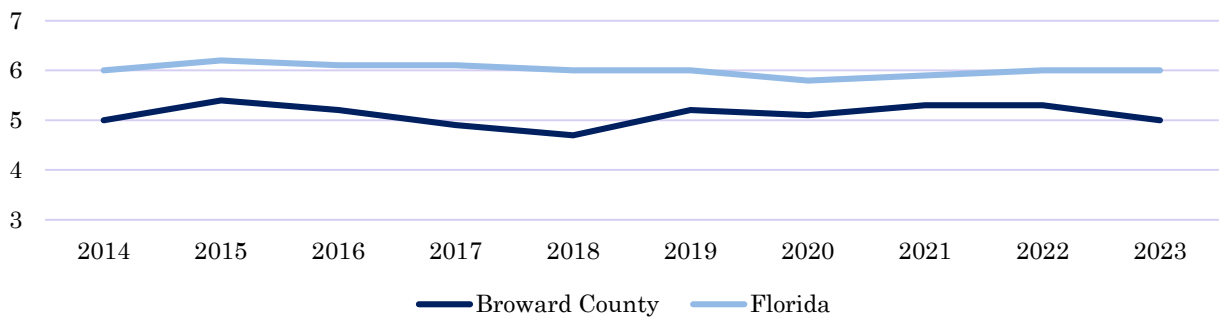
Maternal and Child Mortality

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

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

In Broward County, the infant mortality rate (IMR) has remained consistently lower than the statewide rate since 2004 (Figure 9). In 2023, Broward reported an IMR of 5.0 per 1,000 live births, compared to 6.0 per 1,000 live births in Florida.

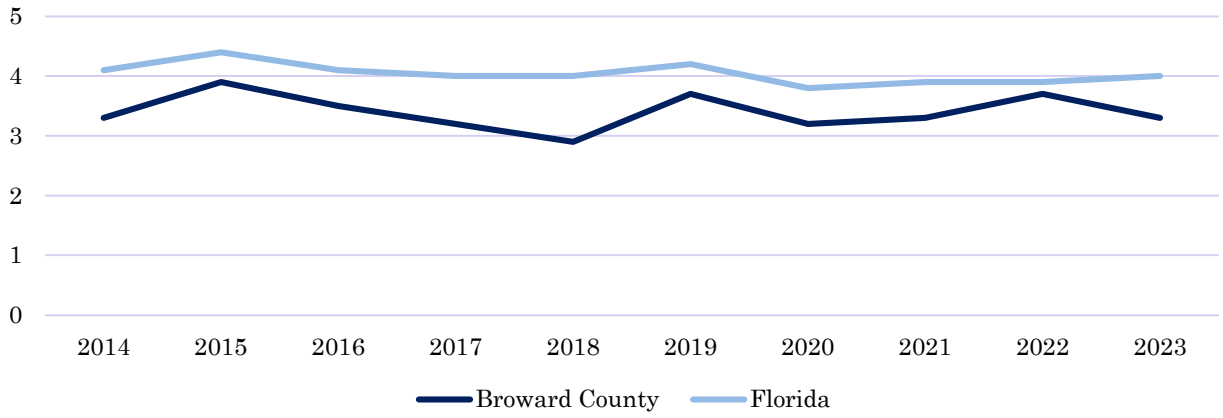
Figure 9: Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births), Broward & Florida 2014-23



Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate in Broward was 3.3 per 1,000 live births in 2023, which was lower than the statewide rate of 4.0 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). Leading causes of neonatal mortality include low birth weight, congenital anomalies, and preterm delivery.

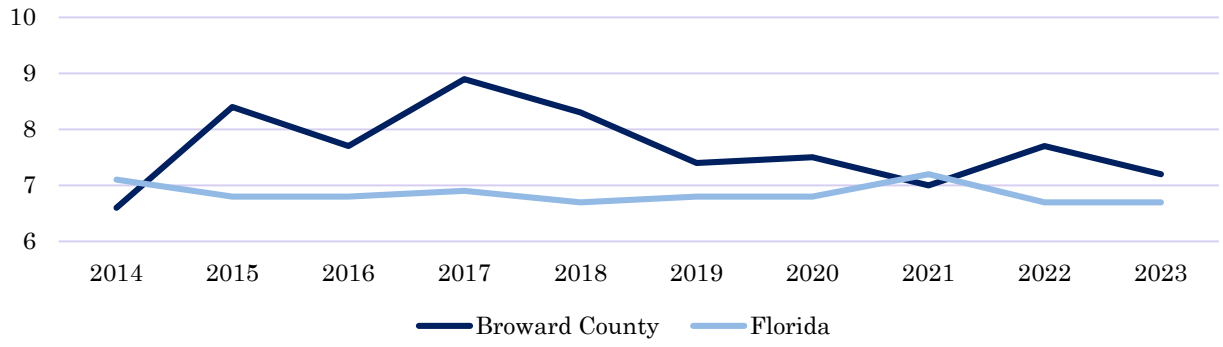
Figure 10: Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births), Broward & Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

The rate of fetal deaths in Broward has fluctuated over the past 10 years, as shown in Figure 11. In most years during this period, Broward has reported a higher rate of fetal deaths compared to Florida's statewide average.

Figure 11: Fetal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 deliveries), Broward & Florida, 2014-2023

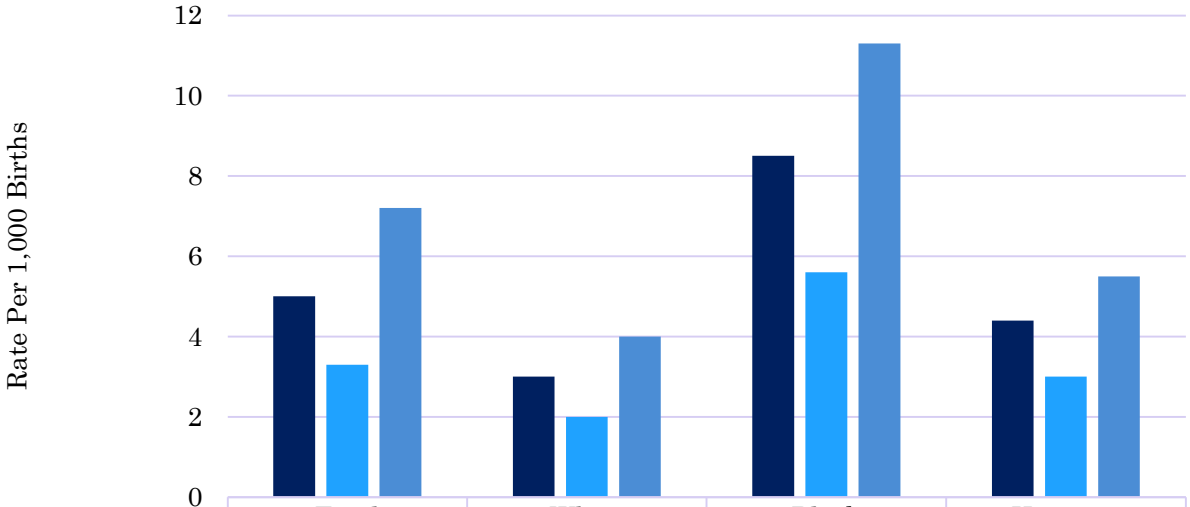


Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

Figure 12 compares child mortality rates by major racial and ethnic groups in Broward. The data indicate that Black children experience the highest mortality rates compared to White and Hispanic children. Additionally, 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 2023

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



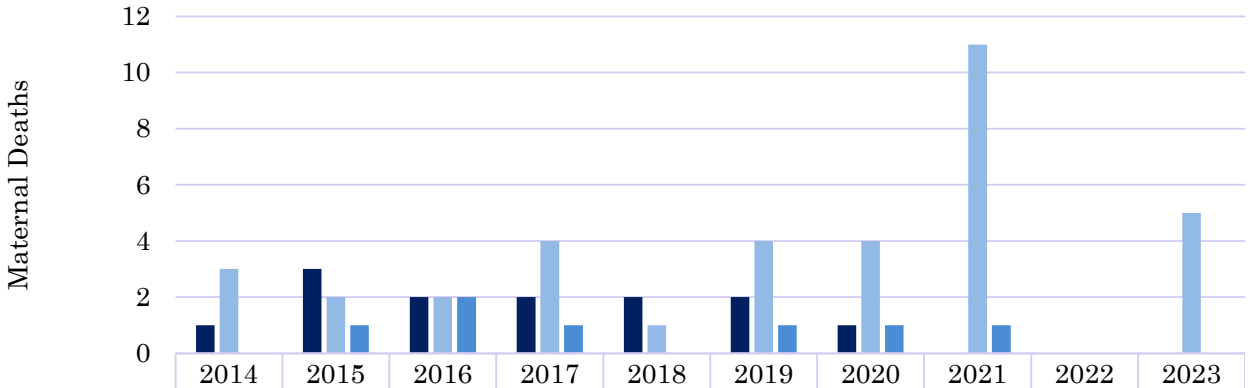
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
Infant Rate	5	3	8.5	4.4
Neonatal Rate	3.3	2	5.6	3
Fetal Rate	7.2	4	11.3	5.5

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2023

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 2023, the maternal mortality rate was higher in Broward (24.8 per 100,000 live births) than the overall State rate (18.4 per 100,000 live births).

Figure 13 displays the maternal death count for large race/ethnic groups in the County over the last 10 years. This data shows that Black mothers face higher rates of maternal death than White or Hispanic mothers. The overall death count by group over the last 10 years was 13 deaths among White mothers, 36 deaths among Black mothers, and 7 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 2014-2023



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
White	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	0
Black	3	2	2	4	1	4	4	11	0	5
Hispanic	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0

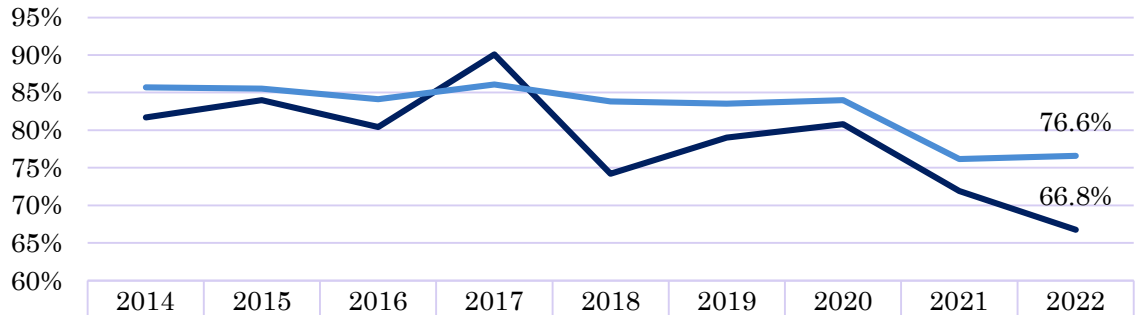
Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

Child Immunization

Childhood immunizations help 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.

Figure 14: Immunization Level Among 2-Year-Old Children, Broward & Florida 2014-2022

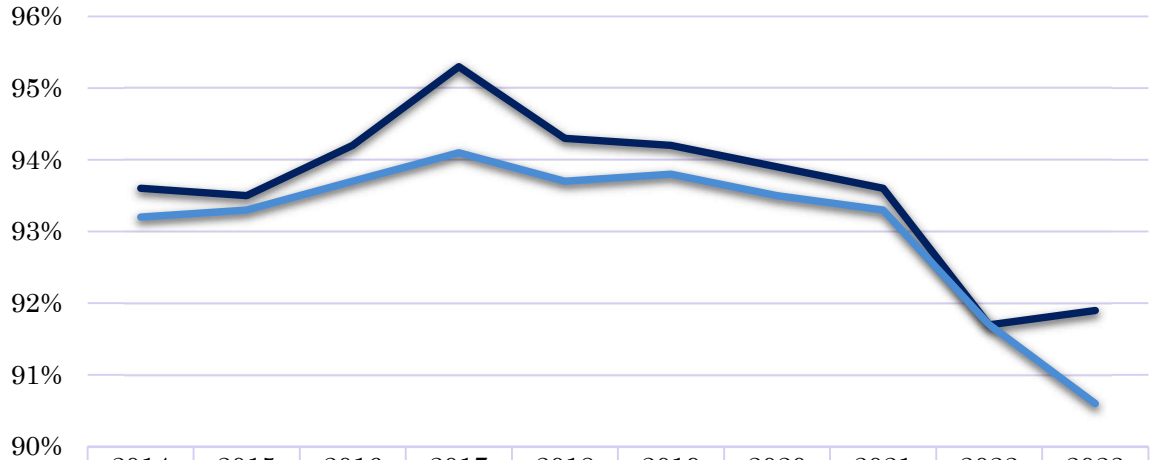


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Broward	81.7%	84.0%	80.4%	90.1%	74.2%	79.0%	80.8%	71.9%	66.8%
Florida	85.7%	85.5%	84.1%	86.1%	83.8%	83.5%	84.0%	76.2%	76.6%

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2022

Figure 15 displays immunization levels among kindergarten students in Broward and Florida over the last 10 years. The kindergarten immunization level has never fallen below 90% in either Broward or Florida. 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 (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Immunization Level Among Kindergarten Students, Broward & Florida, 2014-2023



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Broward	93.6%	93.5%	94.2%	95.3%	94.3%	94.2%	93.9%	93.6%	91.7%	91.9%
Florida	93.2%	93.3%	93.7%	94.1%	93.7%	93.8%	93.5%	93.3%	91.7%	90.6%

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

Behavioral Health

Behavioral health refers to the relationship between behaviors and the overall well-being of the mind, body, and spirit. It encompasses a range of factors that can influence an individual's physical and mental health. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducts the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a state-wide survey that collects information on a variety of factors including health-risk behaviors, preventive health practices, and health care access as related to chronic disease and injury. Similarly, the CDC conducts the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) for U.S. youth and young adults—from middle through high school—collecting data on a variety of behavioral health factors.

This section provides an overview of different behavioral health factors and includes adult population data from BRFSS and high school youth population data from YRBSS.

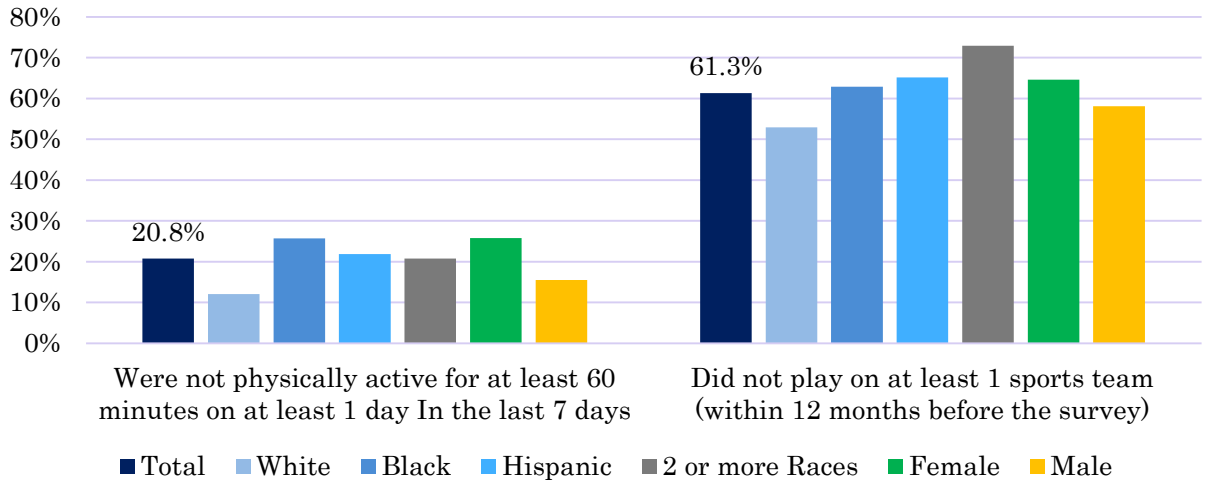
Physical Activity

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 are also a cardiovascular risk factor. In 2022, 25.0% of Broward adults reported they were sedentary, or inactive. Groups in Broward County with higher reported rates of sedentary behavior include adults aged 65 and older (27.9%), women (27.3%), and those with less than a high school education (43.9%) (Florida Health Charts, BRFSS, 2022).

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).

Among Broward County youth surveyed, Figure 16 shows reports on physical activity related questions. Female students, compared to males, reported a lower rate of physical activity and participating in team sports. Over 60% of students reported not participating in any team sports during the year prior to the survey.

Figure 16: High School Youth Responses to Physical Activity Questions, Total & by Gender & Race/Ethnicity, Broward 2021



Source: Youth Behavioral Risks Surveillance System Survey, 2021

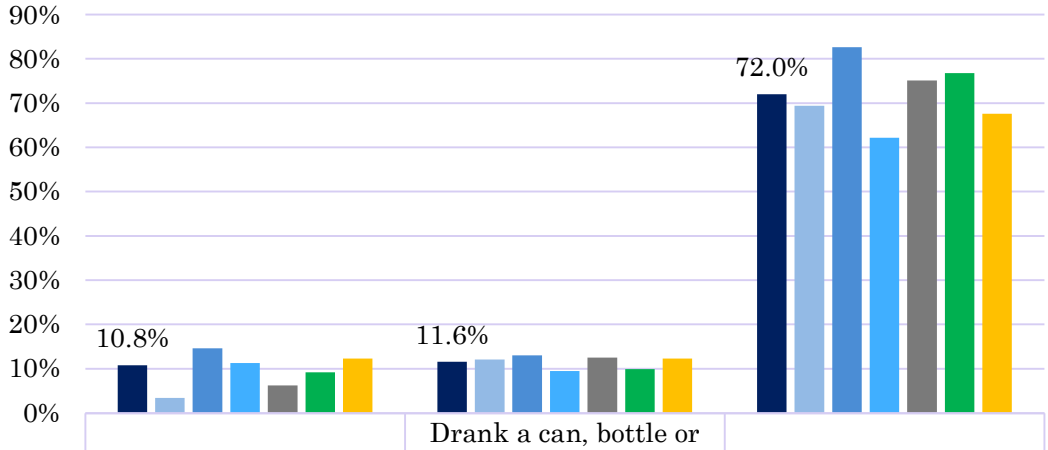
Nutrition

Nutrition is another factor that influences an individual's health. Residents of Broward 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 17 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 poor 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 17: High School Youth Responses to Nutrition Questions, Total & by Gender & Race/Ethnicity, Broward 2021



	Did not eat vegetables	Drank a can, bottle or glass of soda (non-diet) one or more times per day in all 7 days before the survey	Did not eat breakfast on all 7 days prior to the survey
Total	10.8%	11.6%	72.0%
White	3.4%	12.1%	69.4%
Black	14.6%	13.0%	82.6%
Hispanic	11.3%	9.5%	62.2%
2 or more Races	6.2%	12.5%	75.1%
Female	9.2%	9.9%	76.8%
Male	12.3%	12.3%	67.6%

Source: Youth Behavioral Risks Surveillance System Survey, 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. The daily recommended amount of sleep is 7 hours for adults. 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 8 hours per night. Over 88% of Broward high school students reported not getting 8 or more hours of sleep each night. The rate was higher for 11th and 12th grade students, compared to those in 9th or 10th grade. When compared by race/ethnicity, White students reported the highest percentage of insufficient sleep, with 91.8% of White students not getting 8 or more hours of sleep. Hispanic students reported the highest percentage of students meeting the sleep recommendation, with 15.1% getting 8 or more hours. Females (90.6%) had a higher rate of insufficient sleep, compared to males (87.1%) (CDC, YRBSS, 2021).

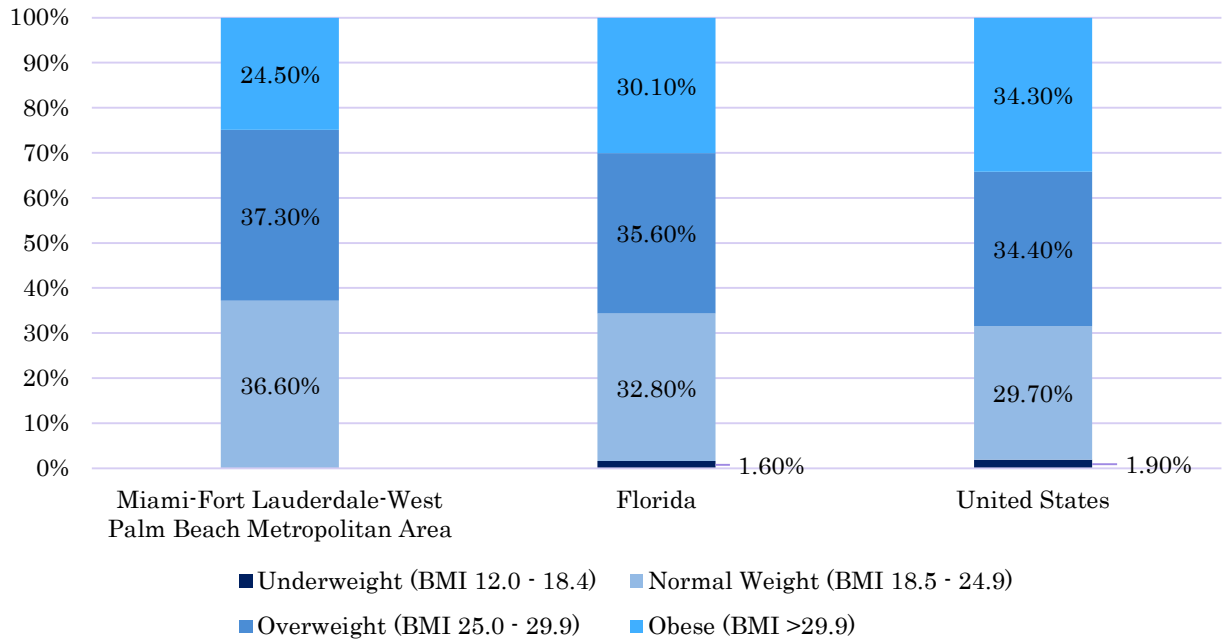
Overweight & Obesity

Body mass index, BMI, calculated using weight and height, classifies individuals by weight status using a numeric score. Those with a BMI over 25 classify as "Overweight" and those with a BMI over 30 classify as "Obese." Obesity is considered a chronic disease by the CDC. Factors that drive obesity include lack of physical activity, poor nutrition and genetics. Being overweight or obese puts an individual at risk for developing many other diseases including heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

In 2022, 60.9% of Broward County residents and 66.1% of Florida residents were considered overweight or obese. 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. Higher rates of overweight and obesity were among men (69.9%) compared to women (51.9%) in 2022 in Broward (FL Health Charts, 2022).

Figure 18 reflects the percentage of residents in each BMI Category across the local metropolitan area, State and National areas. The data shows that the Miami, Fort. Lauderdale and Palm Beach metropolitan area has a higher percentage of healthy./normal weight individuals compared to the State and National levels. Although the state and national levels have a higher percentage of obese individuals, there are a higher proportion of "overweight" individuals in the local metropolitan area (37.3%) compared to the State (35.6%) and National (34.4%) levels.

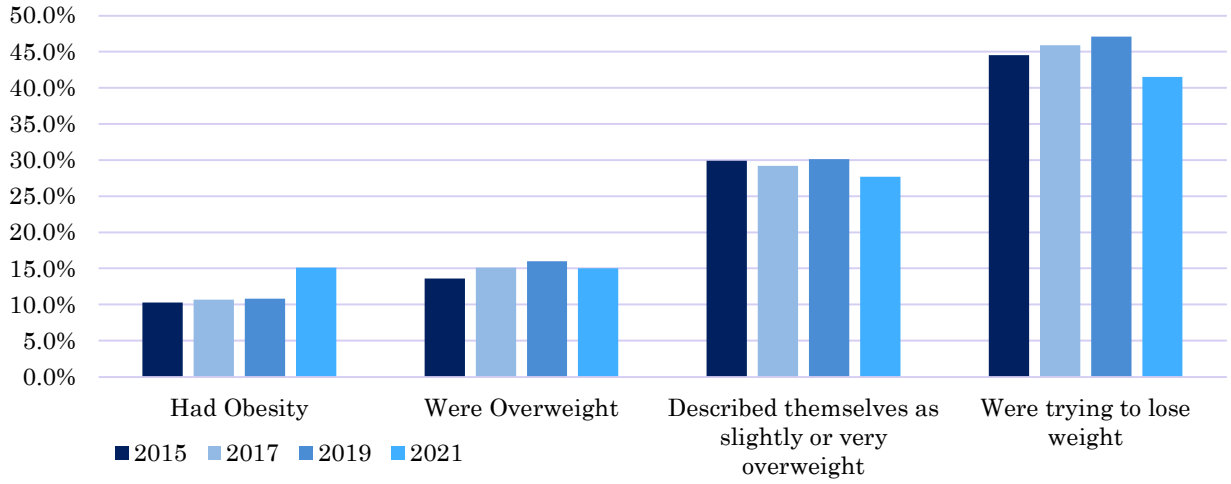
Figure 18: Weight Categories of Residents, Local, State and National Levels 2023



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2023

Figure 19 displays the high school youth results for questions about weight over the last four surveys in Broward. From 2015-2021, each subsequent survey showed a higher rate of students reporting being obese, with a significant increase from 2019 to 2021. Over 40% of youth each year reported trying to lose weight, with this more frequently reported among females (48.4% in 2021) compared to males (34.9% in 2021). In 2021, male students reported higher rates of obesity (18.1%) compared to female students (11.9%).

Figure 19: High School Youth Responses to Weight Questions, Broward 2015-2021



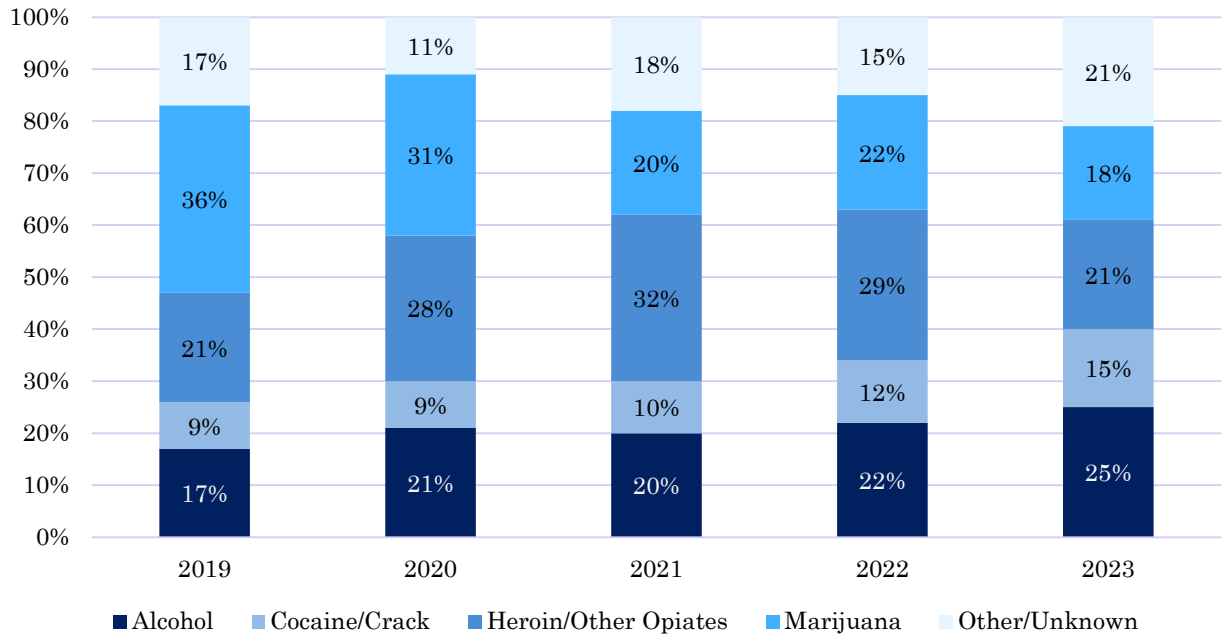
Source: Youth Behavioral Risks Surveillance System Survey, 2021

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 (CDC, 2025).

Figure 20 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 or abuse. From 2019 to 2023 the percentage of admission for alcohol abuse in Broward increased by 8%. During the same period, the number of substance abuse treatment admissions for primary use of marijuana decreased by half (-18%).

Figure 20: 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 2 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 2020 to 2023 there was a steady increase in admissions for substance abuse treatment. In 2023, there were 4,425 admissions 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 2: Total Substance Use/Abuse Admissions by Year, Broward 2019-2023

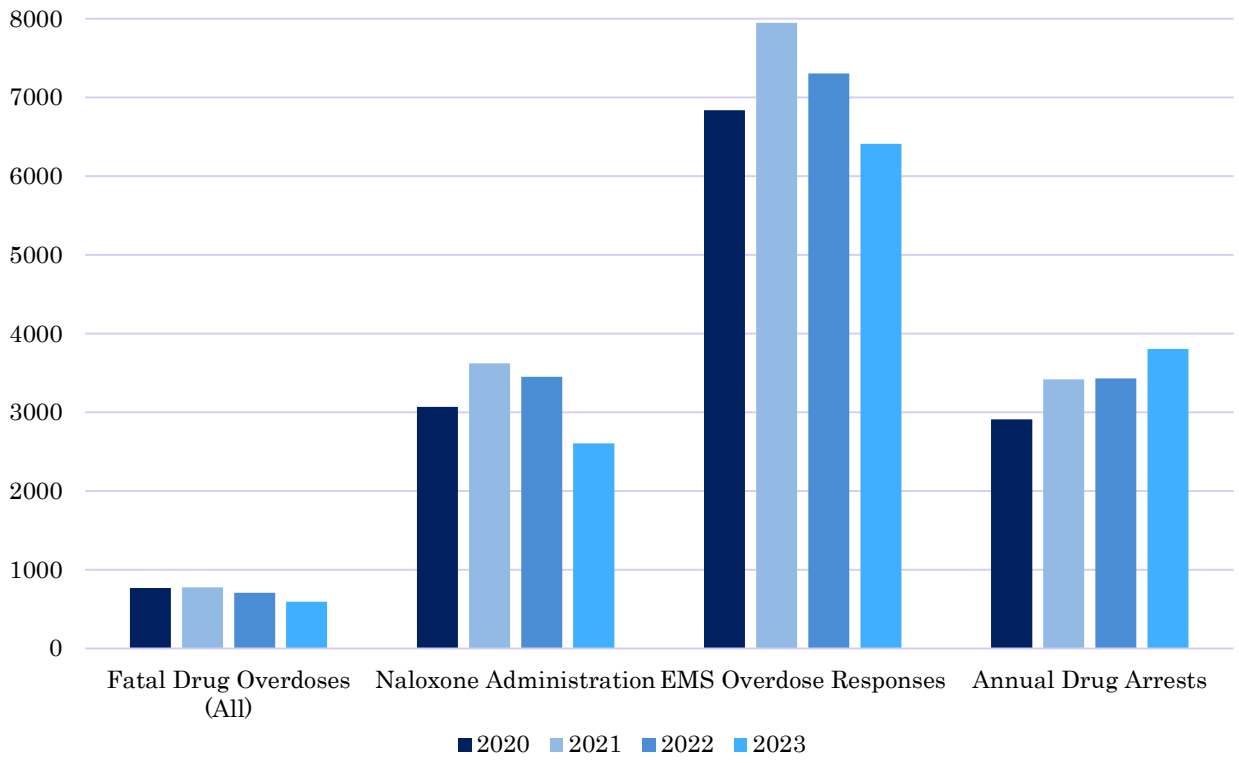
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
6,036	3,799	3,978	3,934	4,425

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 32% decrease in the number of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome cases in Broward.

Figure 21 presents multiple factors of substance use and response efforts in Broward including reports on the number of fatalities, the number of naloxone administrations, the number of EMS (Emergency Medical Service) responses and the number of drug arrests. Naloxone is a life-saving drug used to quickly reverse an opioid overdose in emergency situations. In 2023, Broward County had its lowest number of drug overdose deaths (593), naloxone administrations (2,603), and EMS responses to overdoses (6,409), compared to the 3 prior years. However, despite these declines, the number of drug arrests increased each year from 2020 to 2023 (Figure 21).

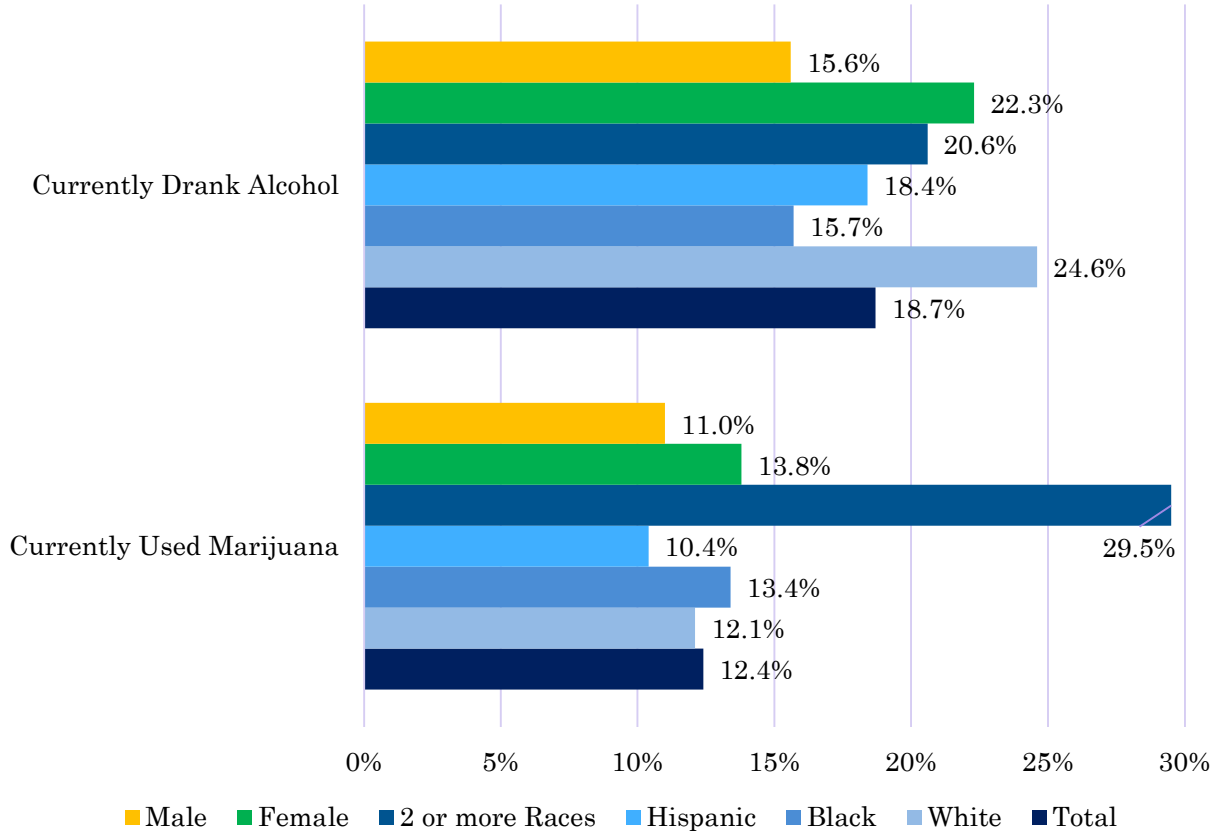
Figure 21: Substance Use and Response Metrics, Broward 2020-2023



Source: Florida Health Charts, 2020-2023

Figure 22 presents data on self-reported alcohol and marijuana use among high school youth, measured by use within 30 days prior to the survey, and stratified by race/ethnicity and gender. Overall, alcohol use was reported more commonly than marijuana use. Additionally, female students reported higher rates of both alcohol and marijuana use compared to male students.

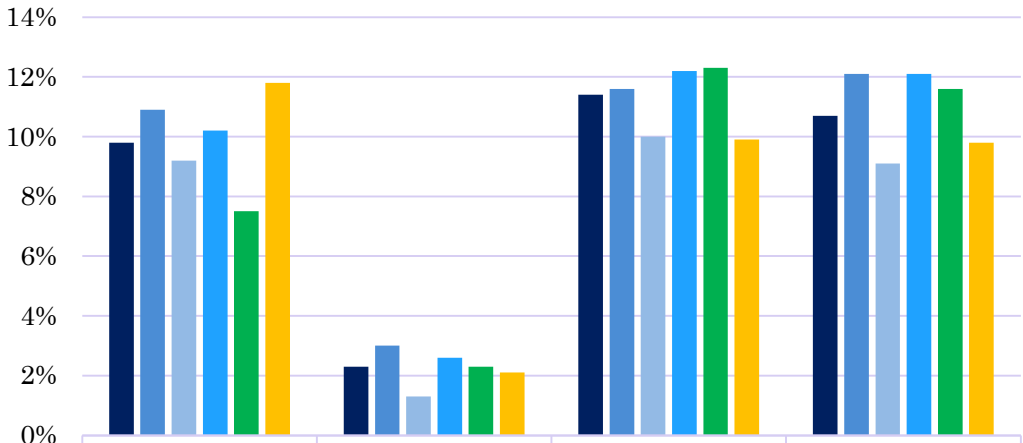
Figure 22: High School Youth Alcohol and Marijuana Use, Total & by Race/Ethnicity & Gender, Broward 2021



Source: Youth Behavioral Risks Surveillance System Survey, 2021

Figure 23 displays stratified data from Broward high school students about cigarette and E-vapor products use, stratified by demographic factors. The data show that E-vapor product use is reported at higher rates than traditional cigarette use. In total, over 10% of students reported the current use of some form of E-vapor, cigarette, or other tobacco product (Figure 23).

Figure 23: High School Youth Cigarette and Vape Use, Total & by Race/Ethnicity & Gender, Broward 2021



	% HS Students Tried Cigarettes	% HS Students Who Currently Smoke Cigarettes	% HS Students Who Currently Smoke Electronic Vapor Products	% HS Students Who Currently Smoke Cigarettes, Cigars, Smokeless Tobacco or E-Vapor Products
Total	9.8%	2.3%	11.4%	10.7%
White	10.9%	3.0%	11.6%	12.1%
Black	9.2%	1.3%	10.0%	9.1%
Hispanic/Latino	10.2%	2.6%	12.2%	12.1%
Female	7.5%	2.3%	12.3%	11.6%
Male	11.8%	2.1%	9.9%	9.8%

Source: Youth Behavioral Risks Surveillance System Survey, 2021

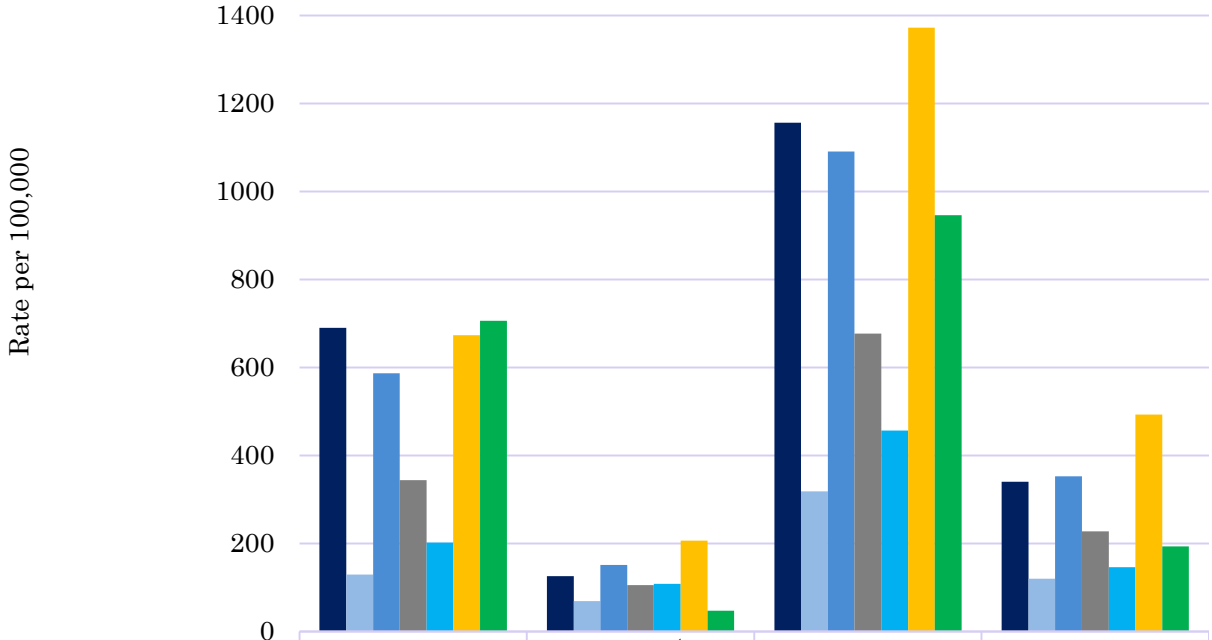
Sexual Behavior

Sexual risk behaviors pose a risk to individuals for potential spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, and 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 24 illustrates the rates for several major sexually transmitted infections (STIs) with the total County rate and rates stratified by race/ethnicity and gender. The highest rates for each STI—chlamydia, gonorrhea, bacterial STIs, and syphilis—were among Black individuals, compared to any other racial or ethnic group. Males had higher rates of gonorrhea, syphilis, and bacterial STI compared to females.

The rates for these four STIs were higher in Broward than in Florida. The bacterial STI rate in Broward (1,156.1 per 100,000) was significantly higher than the state rate (788.2 per 100,000) and increased notably from the prior year's County rate (996.0 per 100,000 in 2022).

Figure 24: Sexually Transmitted Infection Rates (per 100,000) Totals & by Race/Ethnicity & Gender, Broward Adults 2023



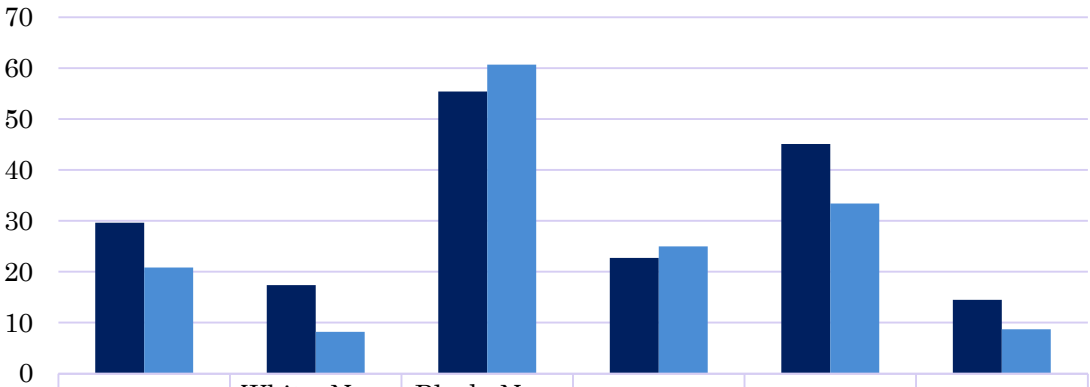
	Chlamydia	Syphyilis (Any Stage)	Bacterial STDs	Gonorrhea
Broward Total	690.1	125.4	1,156.10	340.6
White (Non-Hispanic)	129.7	68.9	318.3	119.8
Black (Non-Hispanic)	586.8	151.0	1090.7	352.9
Non-Hispanic	343.9	105.4	676.8	227.5
Hispanic	202.2	108.1	456.4	146.1
Male	673.1	206.6	1372.3	492.6
Female	705.7	46.9	946.0	193.4

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2023

Only 49.4% of adults in the local metropolitan area (Miami, Fort. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach) reported ever being tested for HIV (BRFSS, 2023). Broward's rate of new HIV diagnoses in 2023 was 29.6 per 100,000. Among all Florida Counties, Broward has the fourth highest rate out of 67 counties for new HIV Diagnoses (2023).

Figure 25 displays new diagnosis rate data for HIV, 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 (Figure 25).

Figure 25: HIV Diagnoses Rates (per 100,000) by Race/Ethnicity & Gender, Broward & Florida 2023

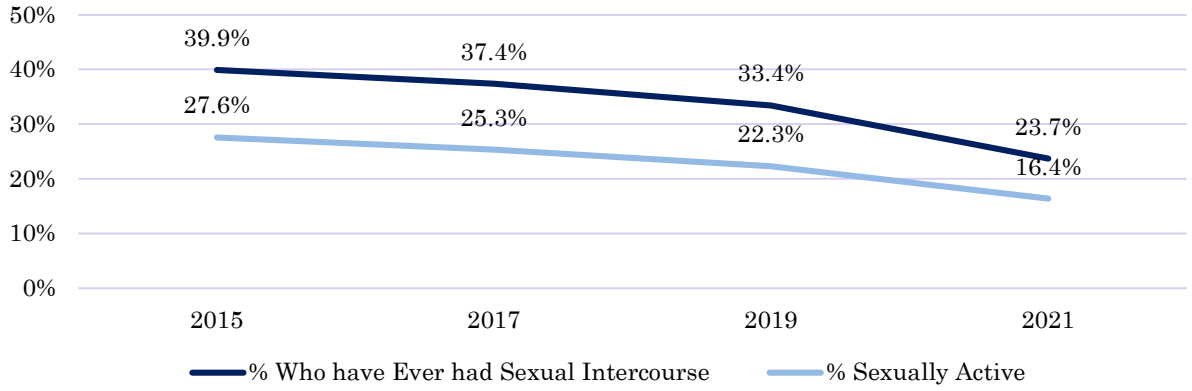


	Total	White, Non-Hispanic	Black, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Male	Female
Broward	29.6	17.4	55.4	22.7	45.1	14.5
Florida	20.8	8.2	60.7	25	33.4	8.7

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2023

The percentage of Broward high schoolers reporting being sexually active has decreased by more than 10% over the past eight years (Figure 26).

Figure 26: Percent of Sexually Active High School Youth, Broward 2015-2021



Source: YRBSS, 2015-2021

Violence & Injury

The violence and injury section explores patterns in crime and injury-related harm, shedding light on key threats to safety and wellbeing in Broward County. Table 3 presents an overview of violence and injury rates in Broward and in Florida in 2023, providing a comparison to the County and state level for this category.

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 3).

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 3).

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. However, when considering total violent crime—which includes murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—Broward's overall rate was lower than Florida's (Table 3). Conversely, firearm-related emergency department visits occurred at a higher rate in Broward than statewide (Table 3).

Florida also reported higher rates than Broward for school environmental safety incidents and child abuse cases (Table 3).

Table 3: Violence And Injury Rates Comparison, Broward & Florida, 2023

Violence/Injury	Broward County	Florida
Aggravated Assault	84.1 per 100,000	103.9 per 100,000
Domestic Violence Offenses	132.1 per 100,000	314.9 per 100,000
Deaths from Homicide (all)	8.2 per 100,000	6.4 per 100,000
Through firearm discharge	7.2 per 100,000	5.1 per 100,000
Robbery	32 per 100,000	28.4 per 100,000
Violent Crime	127.3 per 100,000	150.7 per 100,000
Emergency Department Visits from Firearm Injuries	21.5 per 100,000	17.1 per 100,000
School Environmental Safety Incidents	35.7 per 100,000	42.9 per 100,000
Children Experiencing Child Abuse	227.7 per 100,000	431.5 per 100,000

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2023

Table 4 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 (Table 4).

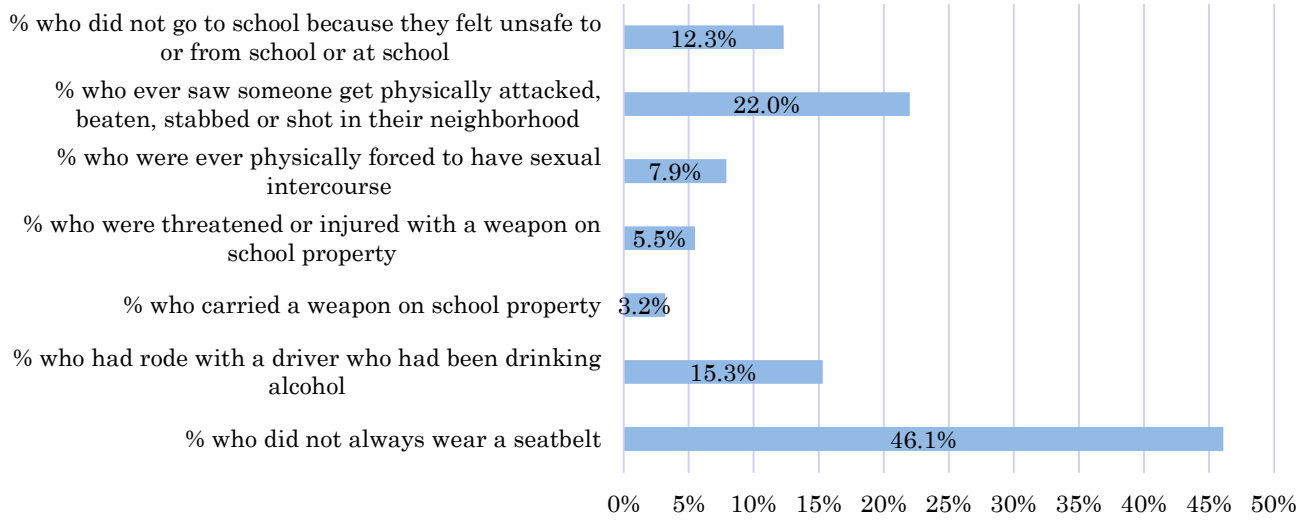
Table 4: Non-Fatal Injury Emergency Department Visits, Total & by Top 10 Mechanisms of Injury, Broward & Florida 2023

Mechanism of Injury	# injury ED visits in Broward	Broward County Age Adjusted Rate	Florida Age Adjusted Rate
All Injuries	**147,584**	**7,504.76**	**8,761.14**
1. Fall	46,358	2,170.50	2,496.24
2. Motor Vehicle Traffic	20,632	1,068.13	1,112.65
3. Struck by/Against	18,361	996.23	1,148.12
4. Overexertion	9,378	494.97	649.67
5. Cut/Pierce	8,319	436.41	556.67
6. Nonvenomous Bites/Stings	5,463	295.60	402.79
7. Poisoning	3,489	184.83	218.36
8. Other Specified, Foreign Body	3,189	177.87	205.06
9. Hot Object/Substance	1,331	72.72	78.44
10. Natural/Environmental	867	42.69	63.48

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2023

The YRBSS survey asks youth many questions related to injury. Figure 27 displays the survey responses from Broward high school students to questions of unintentional injuries, violence and safety. The percentage of students skipping school due to feeling unsafe was 12.3% in 2021, a significant decrease from 37.0% in 2019. More than one-fifth of students reported witnessing physical violence in their own neighborhood. 15.3% of students reported they had been in the car with a driver who had been drinking. 46% of students reported not always wearing their seatbelt.

Figure 27: High School Youth Responses to Violence, Injury and Safety Questions, Broward 2021



Source: YRBSS, 2021

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).

Table 5 compares Countywide and statewide 3-year rates for mental health related hospitalizations. Compared to Florida, Broward County has a higher rate of hospitalizations due to mental disorders. In Broward, the age group with the highest rate of mental health hospitalizations were those aged 22 to 24 (Table 5).

Table 5: Mental Health Hospitalizations, Broward & Florida 2021-2023

Age-Adjusted Rates, per 100,000	Broward County	Florida
Hospitalizations From Mental Disorders	1,047.7	928.0
Ages 0-17	717.0	704.7
Ages 18-21	1,478.6	1,222.9
Ages 22-24	1,606.6	1,199.5
Ages 25-44	1,425.2	1,270.1
Ages 45-64	1,068.0	1,013.8
Ages 65-74	744.6	591.0
Ages 75 & Older	471.8	420.3
Hospitalizations From Mood and Depressive Disorders	466.8	426.5
Hospitalizations From Schizophrenic Disorders	360.8	232.0

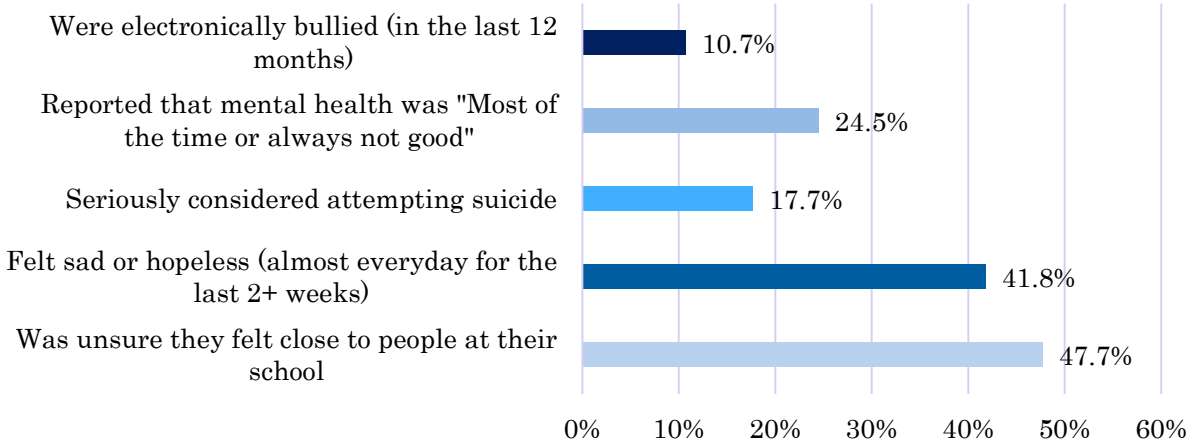
Source: Florida Health Charts, 2021-2023

Although these hospitalization rates are higher in Broward than in Florida, Florida has a higher rate of deaths from suicide—15.4 per 100,000 compared to 11.4 per 100,000 in Broward—during the same period (2021–2023).

There are increasing rates of poor mental health among youth. Young people face different stressors, such as social pressures from social media and major life transitions.

Figure 28 displays Broward high school youth responses to mental health related questions. Nearly half of students reported they don't feel close to their peers. Over 40% of students reported feeling sad or hopeless almost everyday for the two weeks prior to the survey. One in ten students reported experiencing electronic bullying in the past year. Nearly one-fifth of students report seriously considering attempting suicide (Figure 28).

Figure 28: High School Youth Responses to Mental Health Questions, Broward 2021



Source: YRBSS, 2021

Environment & Community Health

This section reviews county-level data related to environmental and community health. It highlights 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. Major air pollutants and their measured levels in Broward and comparable local counties are displayed in Table 6 with reference ranges and additional information.

Table 6: Major Air Pollutant Measures, Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties, 2023

	Relative Range References	Broward County	Miami-Dade County	Palm Beach County
Carbon monoxide				
CO 8-hr (ppm)	Good: 0-50 ppm Moderate: 51-100 ppm	2	1	-
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 blood stream, 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 1-hr (ppb)	Good: 0-50 ppb Moderate: 51-100 ppb	45	53	-
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 (ppm)	Good: <0.15 ppm Smog: >0.5 ppm	0.06	0.066	0.057
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 pollutions. 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: <150 µg/m3	64	65	62
PM2.5 24-hr (µg/m3)	Good: <35 µg/m3	24	17	16
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: 0-50 ppb Moderate: 51-100 ppb	2	1	-
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. Air Quality Statistics by County, 2023 (measures in 2024); U.S. EPA, Air Quality Guides 2025; AirNow.gov, 2025; Ozonesolutions.com, 2025

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's index for reporting air quality information. The AQI is a composite score based on measurements of major air pollutants and can be explored by location at www.airnow.gov. A score between 0–50 is considered "Good," while a score between 51–100 is considered "Moderate." Each daily AQI report also identifies the pollutant

with the highest recorded level among the major pollutants, even on days that fall within the "Good" range.

From April 18th to May 17th, the Daily AQI was greater than 50, or "Moderate" level for six out of 30 days. Four of those days, the primary pollutant was PM2.5, and on the other two days, Ozone was the primary pollutant. The remaining twenty-four days during this period were in a good AQI level, with an index under 50 (AirNow.gov, 2025).

In 2020, 79% of days in Broward were in the "Good" range, 20% in the "Moderate range, and 1% were in the "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" range (*Broward County commission news release*, 2021).

Water quality is another environmental related health factor. The primary water supply for most of Broward, and some 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.

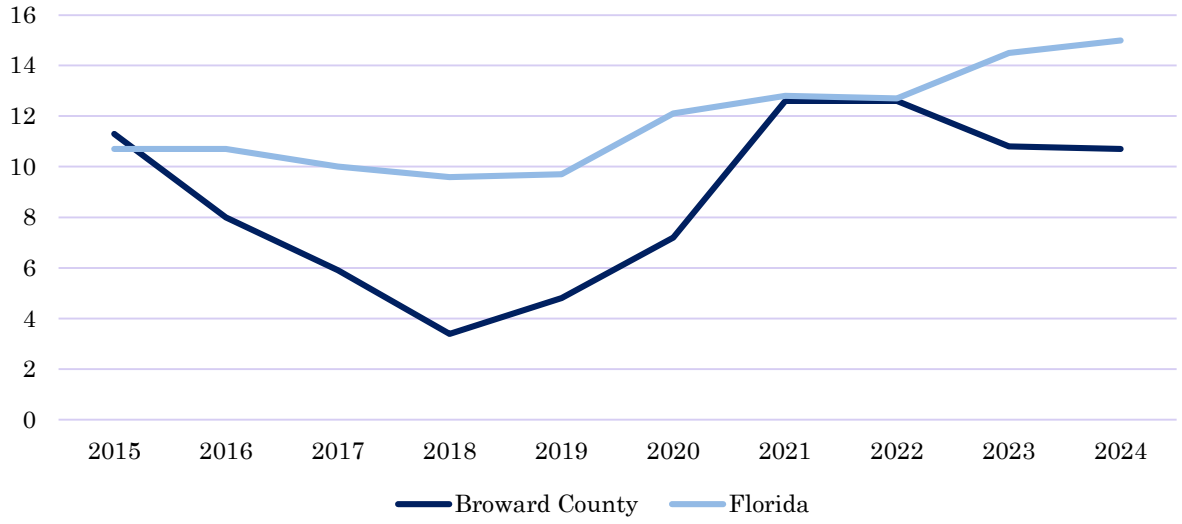
In 2023, an assessment of the water quality was done throughout Broward. The assessment done in Hollywood, Florida showed no maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations for major contaminants like Arsenic, Barium, Nitrate, lead or other contaminants (Broward.org, *Water Quality Report for 2023*, 2023).

Energy use is another important environmental health factor, as energy production and consumption directly impact air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. Florida—and by extension, Broward County—continues to increase its use of renewable energy sources. In recent years, the majority of new energy generation capacity in the state has come from renewable sources. Other emerging energy technologies in Florida include energy storage systems, biogas, and the integration of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure. These developments contribute to reduced reliance on fossil fuels and support long-term improvements in environmental and public health (FDACS, 2023).

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 2023 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. Compared by housing, single-family housing produced 1.1 pounds per square foot, while multifamily housing produced 0.9 pounds per square foot of waste annually. (*Broward County 2023 Waste Generation Study Final Report*, Solid Waste and Recycling Services, 2023).

The proper disposal of biomedical waste is essential to effective waste management and the overall health of the community. Biomedical waste is generated in medical care facilities, which are subject to regular inspections to ensure proper disposal practices and compliance with regulatory guidelines. Figure 29 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 29).

Figure 29: Percent of Unsatisfactory Inspections of Biomedical Waste Facilities, Broward & Florida 2015-2024



Source: Florida Health Charts, 2015-2024

Weather-Related Factors

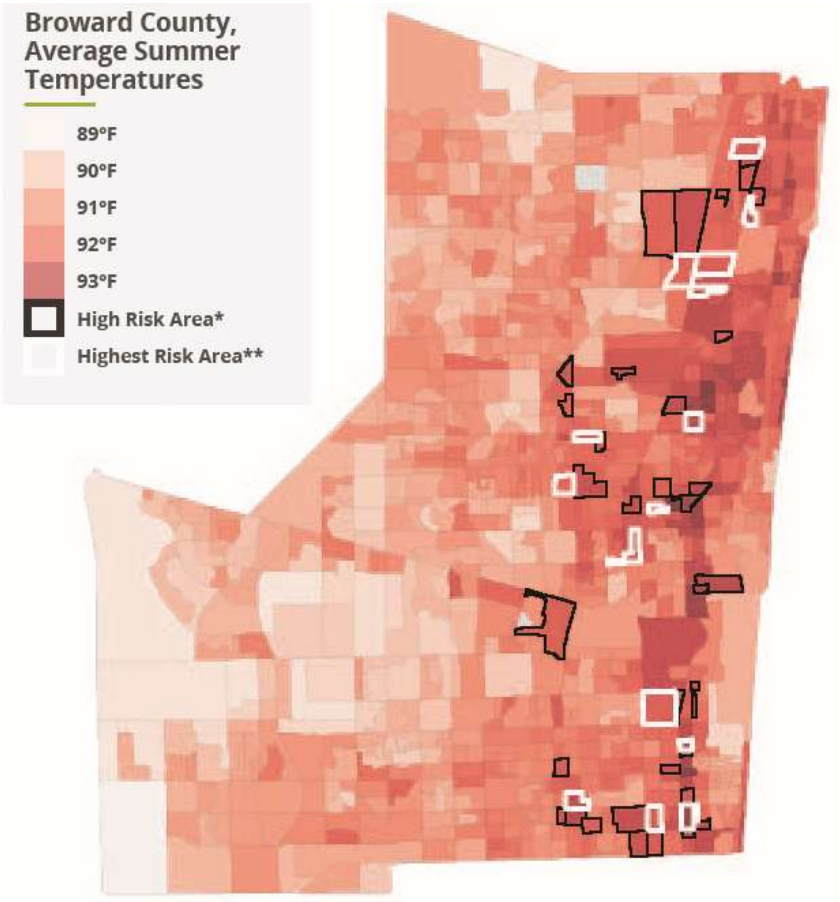
Weather change varies based on many factors, such as the season, pollution, and even geological events. Globally, temperatures are rising, and this is a continuing trend experienced in Broward. Due to coastal location, Broward has a high humidity, which makes hot temperatures feel more intense to individuals. 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 majorly an urban area, 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 impervious concrete or dark structures (like roads) and at night, the heat reradiates, preventing the area from cooling 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 where 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 30 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. These areas also correlate strongly with low-income populations, with over 90,000 Broward residents living in these high-risk zones.

Figure 30: Average Summer Temperatures by Location & High Heat Risk Areas, Broward 2024



Source: Urban Heat Island Analysis, Broward County, Florida, 2020

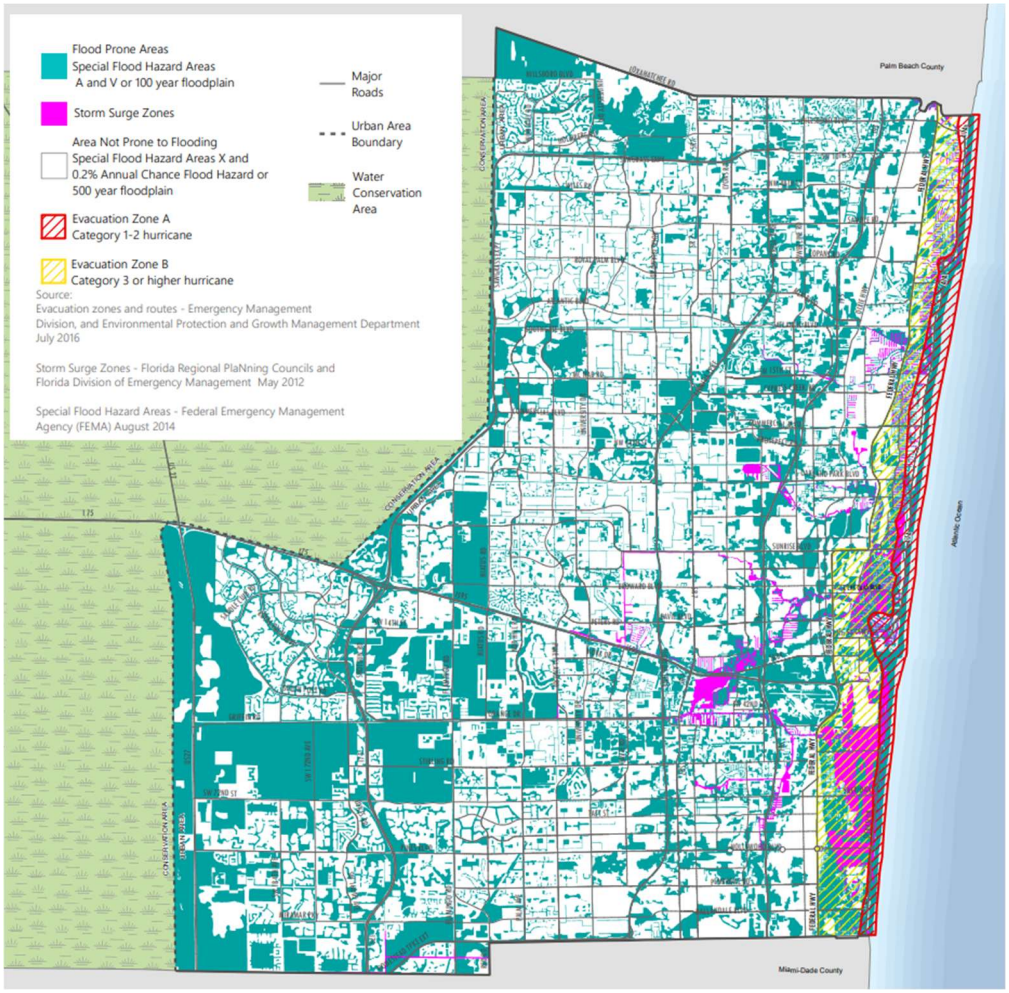
Another environmental concern is the risk of flooding in Broward. **Flooding** in Broward can be caused by large bouts of rain, or storms, such as hurricanes. Although several hurricanes have impacted Florida in recent years, the most recent to directly

affect Broward County was Hurricane Nicole in November 2022. Prior to that, Hurricane Irma struck in September 2017, bringing more severe wind damage and flooding. Each of these storms brought several inches of rain (Broward County Commission News Release: Tropical Storm Nicole, 2022).

The most recent rain event to have caused flooding was on June 13th, 2024, which caused flooding in many areas throughout Broward. In response, the county employed emergency preparedness tactics including deploying pumps to affected areas and providing timely updates on social media channels (Broward.org, *June 13th Rain Event Snapshots*, 2024)

Figure 31 illustrates areas within Broward that are prone to flooding (in teal), and storm surge zones (in pink), which both highlight areas with increased risk of flooding when increased rain occurs. The areas in white are not considered flood-prone.

Figure 31: Flood Prone Zones, Broward County, 2018



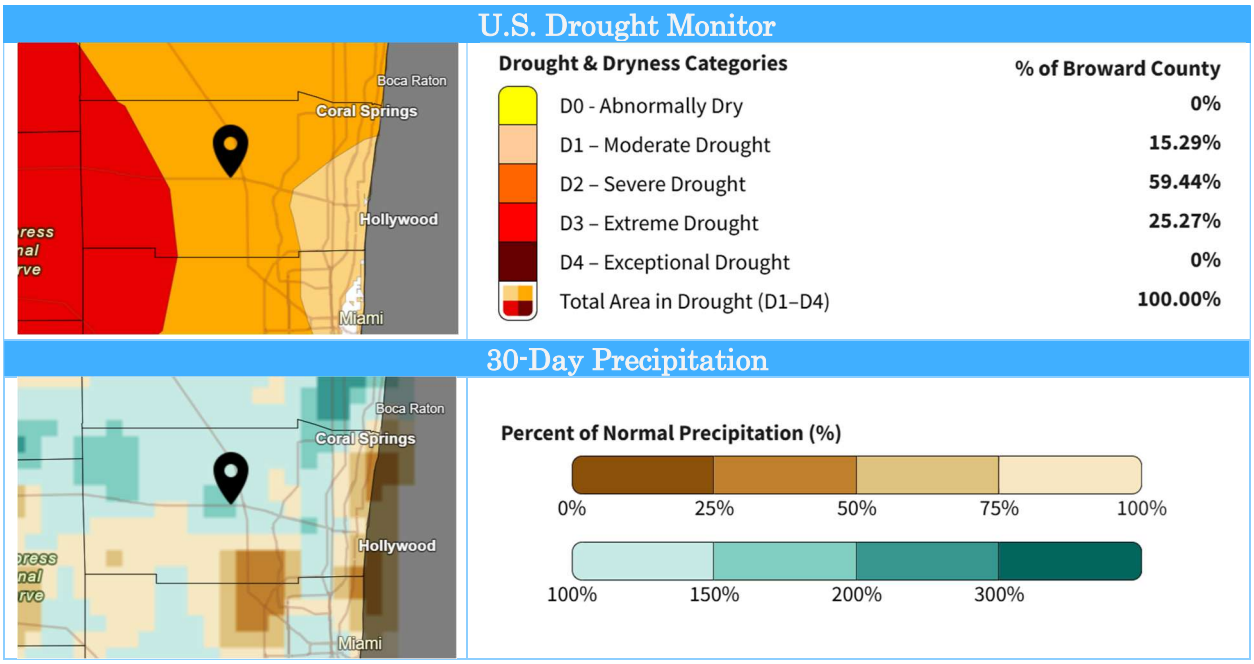
Source: Broward County Planning and Development Management Division, Map of Floodplains, Flood Prone Areas and Evacuation Zones, Environmental Protection & Growth Management Department, 2018

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 32 displays the drought monitor and 30-day precipitation maps for Broward. 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 the May 2025 report, 100% of the County falls into a level of drought compared to average levels, with the majority (59.44%) falling into the "severe" level. At the severe drought level, water shortages are common and there is increased likeliness for loss of crops or other ecological impacts. Nationally, only 29.4% of the total population falls into the severe drought category (Drought.gov, 2025).

In Figure 32, 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 the precipitation has decreased compared to the historical baseline average (1991-2020 average). Coastal areas in Broward have experienced less rainfall, and areas in the middle and north of Broward experienced higher precipitation than the historical average in May 2025 (Drought.gov, 2025).

Figure 32: Drought Monitor & 30-Day Precipitation Level, Broward County 2025



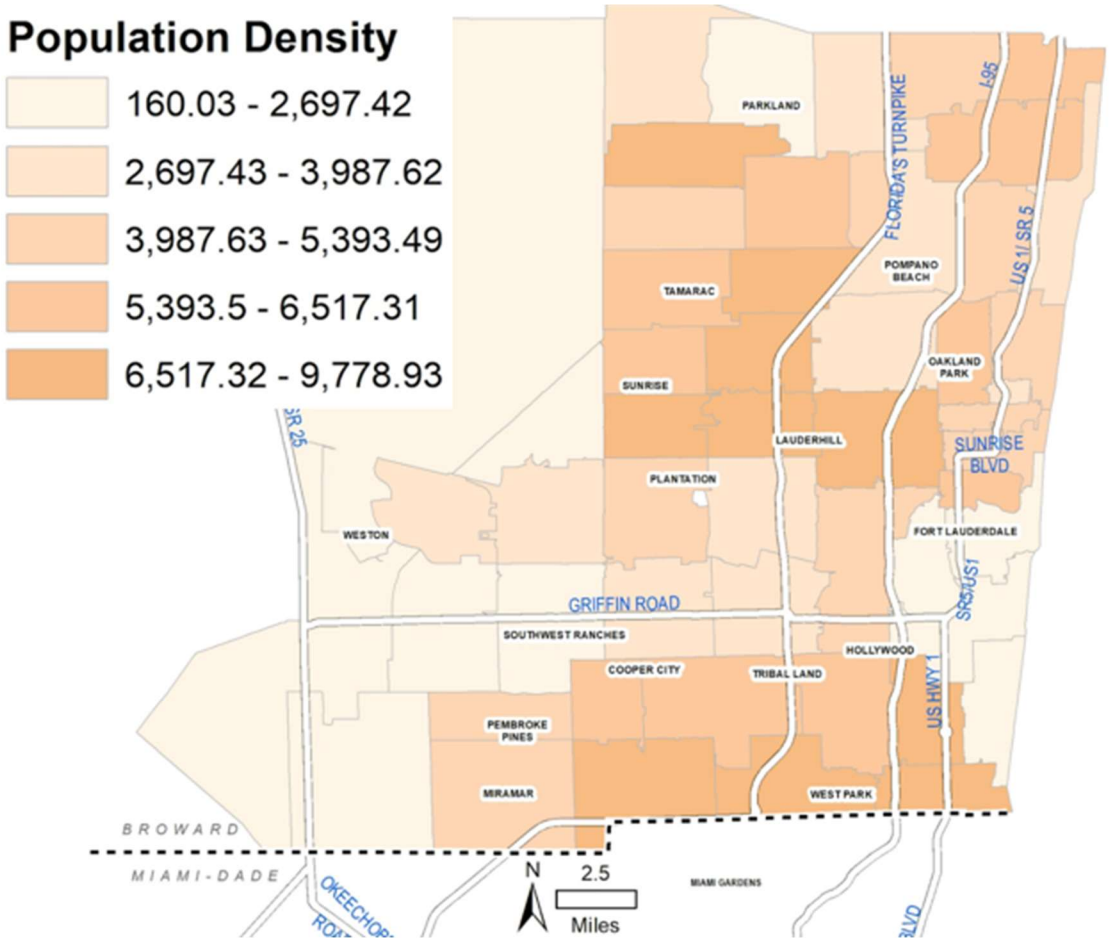
Source: Drought.gov – National Integrated Drought Information System, Broward County May 2025

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. 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 being considered an urban area. 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. The average population density in U.S. cities is approximately 1,600 people per square mile. Broward County has a consistently high population density, with the highest concentrations found in certain areas throughout the county, as illustrated in Figure 33.

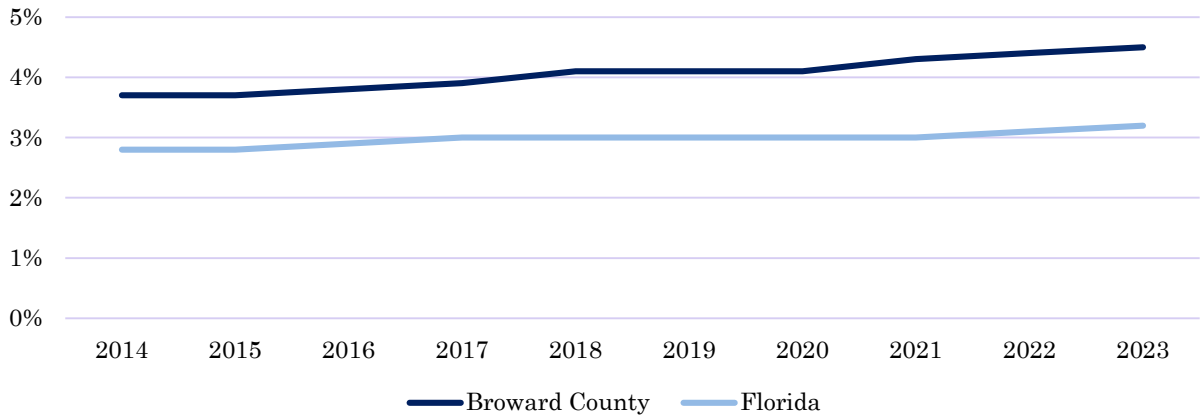
Figure 33: Population Density by Zip Code, Broward 2022



Source: ACS 5-year estimate Population Density by Zip Code Tabulation Area, 2022

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 34 displays the percentage of housing units in Broward and Florida with more than one occupant per room from 2014 to 2023. 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 34).

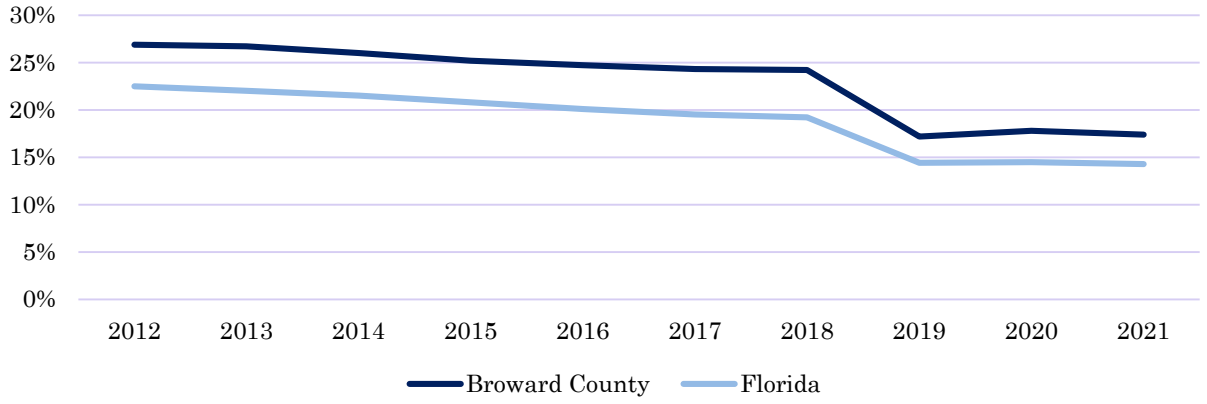
Figure 34: Percent of Occupied Housing Units with More Than One Occupant per Room, Broward & Florida 2014-2023



Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

Figure 35 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 35).

Figure 35: Percentage of Occupied Units with Severe Housing Problems, Broward & Florida, 2012-2021



Source: Florida Health Charts, 2012-2021

Park access enables and encourages individuals to be more physically active. Table 7 presents the percentage of residents in Broward in 2022 that live within one half mile of a park, and comparison percentages to 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 7).

Table 7: 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%	72.07%	48.6%	43.0%

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

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).

Access to Care

This section provides a brief overview of access to care through the lens of physician availability 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 5,117. Broward has a higher rate of physician-to-population ratio compared to the state of Florida. As of 2022, only 79% of Florida residents reported having a personal doctor.

For many specialties, the number of practicing physicians in Broward represented around 8-10% of the total for the state, (*2023 Florida Physician Workforce Annual Report*), (Table 8).

Table 8: Physicians by Specialty Broward & Florida, 2023

Specialty	#Broward	#FL	Specialty	#Broward	#FL
Anesthesiology	330	3,387	**Otolaryngology**	54	723
Dermatology	115	1,129	**Pathology**	80	926
Emergency Medicine	288	3,507	**Pediatrics**	431	4,413
Family Medicine	634	8,191	**Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation**	83	757
Internal Medicine	1,446	15,724	**Preventative Medicine**	25	299
Medical Genetics	5	55	**Proctology**	1	1
Neurology	117	1,418	**Psychiatry**	212	2,420
Nuclear Medicine	4	50	**Radiology**	244	3,145
Obstetrics & Gynecology	282	2,556	**Surgery**	429	4,300
Ophthalmology	111	1,297	**Urology**	51	488
Orthopedic Medicine	110	1,152	**Other/no Specialty listed**	65	831

Source: 2023 Florida Physician Workforce Annual Report, 2023

Health Professional Shortage Areas Primary Care

There are 10 designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) for Primary Care within Broward County, shown in Table 9. These areas were designated based on an HPSA score calculated from three factors: the patient-to-provider ratio of an area, the travel time to 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. All Primary Care HPSAs within Broward were classified as low-income HPSAs. 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 127 FTE to fill the indicated shortage (Table 9).

Table 9: Primary Care Designated HPSAs throughout Broward County, 2024

Primary Care HPSA Name	HPSA Score (0-26)	HPSA FTE Shortage	Update Year
Hallandale/Miramar	13	16.82	2021
Hollywood/Dania Beach	15	13.36	2022
Coral Springs/ Margate	15	17.65	2022
Deerfield Beach	18	9.37	2022
Ft. Lauderdale/Oakland Park	16	26.71	2023
Flamingo Pines	20	2.91	2023
Pompano Beach	18	12.89	2023
Sunrise/Plantation	15	21.41	2023
Eastern Pembroke Pines	15	2.97	2023
Eastern Davie	18	2.59	2023
Total	-	126.68	

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

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 2023, there were over 6,400 emergency department (ED) visits in Broward for dental conditions (among those 5 and older). The rate of dental ED visits in Broward (343.5 per 100,000) is much lower than the rate in Florida (533.5 per 100,000) (Florida Health Charts, 2023). The CDC estimates that nearly $46 billion dollars 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 report 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 year to the 2021 survey; this has been an increase from the prior

survey in 2019 with only 69.2% reporting seeing a dentist. 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

There are 9 designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) for dental health within Broward County, presented in Table 10. These areas were designated based on an HPSA score calculated from three factors: the patient-to-provider ratio of an area, the travel time to nearest source of care, and the percent of the population within that area that fell below 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. All dental HPSAs within Broward were classified as low-income HPSAs. 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 Dental Health HPSAs need 106 FTE to fill the indicated shortage (Table 10).

Table 10: Dental Health Designated HPSAs throughout Broward County, 2024

Dental Health HPSA Name	HPSA Score (0-26)	HPSA FTE Shortage	Update Year
Hallandale/West Park	17	7.94	2023
Hollywood/Dania Beach	15	16.06	2023
Coral Springs/ Margate	15	14.17	2023
Deerfield Beach	17	7.34	2023
Ft. Lauderdale/Oakland Park	17	25.19	2023
Pompano Beach	17	10.31	2023
Sunrise/Plantation	15	18.95	2023
Eastern Pembroke Pines	15	4.10	2024
Eastern Davie	17	1.95	2024
Total	-	**106.01**	

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

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 11 presents the top 12 communicable diseases in Broward in 2023, with a comparison to Florida's 2023 rates and the change compared to the 2022 Broward rate. In 2022 **Salmonellosis** was the most reported communicable disease in Broward and in 2023 it ranked second as the rate decreased, while the rate of chronic **Hepatitis C** increased significantly. Chronic **Hepatitis B** experienced a notable rise in Broward compared to the prior year, increasing by 13.2 per 100,000. Most of these top communicable diseases saw an increase in rates in Broward from 2022 to 2023.

In 2023, Florida reported significantly higher rates of **Campylobacteriosis**, an illness associated with eating raw poultry or campylobacteria contaminated foods, than Broward. Broward had significantly higher rates of **Shigellosis**, an infection caused by Shigella bacteria, than Florida.

Table 11: Top 12 Communicable Diseases, Broward 2023 & Florida Comparison

		Broward Rate per 100,000		Florida Rate per 100,000 in 2023
		2023	+ or - from 2022	
1	Hepatitis C (Chronic)	54.5	+9.3	54.9
2	Salmonellosis	43.4	-2.1	31.4
3	Hepatitis B (Chronic)	40.0	+13.2	25.1
4	Campylobacteriosis	13.7	+1.5	20.8
5	Shigellosis	11.2	+3.6	5.6
6	Streptococcus Pneumonia	5.0	+2.4	5.1
7	STEC (Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli) Infection	3.7	-1.0	5.0

8	Tuberculosis	3.5	+1.3	2.8
9	Varicella/Chickenpox	3.3	+1.4	2.9
10	Haemophilus Influenzae Invasive Disease	2.2	+1.0	2.0
11	Cryptosporidiosis	2.1	-0.4	2.7
12	Legionellosis	2.1	+0.1	2.1

Source: Florida Health Charts, 2022-2023

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 12: Communicable Diseases Categorized by Transmission Route, Number of Cases, Rates and Information

Communicable Diseases by Category of Transmission	
Oral Fecal Route Diseases	
Campylobacteriosis **4th** leading communicable disease Broward 2023 rate: **13.7 per 100,000**	**Campylobacteriosis** is a bacterial infection caused by *Campylobacter*, 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 **11th** leading communicable disease Broward 2023 rate: **2.1 per 100,000**	**Cryptosporidiosis** is an intestinal illness caused by the parasite *Cryptosporidium*, 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 2023 rate: **2.1 per 100,000**	**Cyclosporiasis** is an intestinal illness caused by the parasite *Cyclospora*, 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 **120 cases** in Broward in 2023 (9% of the state total)	**Giardiasis** is a diarrheal illness caused by the microscopic parasite *Giardia intestinalis*. 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 2023 rate: **0.4 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 **2nd** leading communicable disease Broward 2023 rate:	**Salmonellosis** is a bacterial infection caused by *Salmonella*, 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

43.4 per 100,000	begin 12 to 72 hours after infection and last 4 to 7 days. Most people recover without treatment.
Shigellosis **5th** leading communicable disease Broward 2023 rate: **11.2 per 100,000**	**Shigellosis** is a bacterial infection caused by *Shigella*, 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.
Blood-Borne Diseases	
Hepatitis B **3rd** leading communicable disease in Broward 2023 Broward 2023 Rate: **40.0 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 **#1** Leading communicable disease in Broward 2023 Broward 2023 Rate: **40.0 per 100,000**	**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 2023: **29.6 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 2023 Rate: **690.1 per 100,000**	**Chlamydia** is a common sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, 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 2023 Rate: **340.6 per 100,000**	**Gonorrhea** is an STI caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, a bacterium that can grow and multiply easily in the warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract. Transmission occurs through sexual intercourse with 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 2023 Rate: **125.4 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.
Other Reportables	
Rabies **0 cases** of Rabies in Broward in 2023, while Florida had 65 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 racoons 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.
Haemophilus Influenzae **#10** Leading communicable disease in Broward 2023 Broward 2023 Rate: 2.2 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.
Lead Poisoning Broward 2023 Rate: **10.3 per 100,000**	**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 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 **3 cases** identified in Broward in 2023, while Florida had 46	**Listeriosis** is an illness caused by the bacterium, *Listeria monocytogenes*. 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.
Pertussis **8 cases** identified in Broward in 2023, while Florida had 85	**Pertussis (whooping cough)** is a severe respiratory illness caused by a bacterium, *Bordetella pertussis*, 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.
Meningitis **5 cases** identified in Broward in 2023, while Florida had 108	**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.
Streptococcal pneumoniae Invasive Disease	***Streptococcus pneumoniae*** Invasive Disease, or pneumococcal disease, is the most common cause of lobar pneumonia but can also cause

6th leading communicable disease Broward 2023 Rate: **5.0 per 100,000** Florida's Rate in 2023: 5.1 per 100,000	meningitis or other infections. Streptococcus pneumoniae 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.
Tuberculosis **8th** leading communicable disease Broward 2023 Rate: **4.2 per 100,000** Florida's Rate in 2023: 2.9 per 100,000	**Tuberculosis** is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis, 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 2023 Rate: **3.3 per 100,000** Florida's Rate in 2023: 2.9 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.

Sources: CDC, 2025; Florida Health Charts, 2023

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. 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.

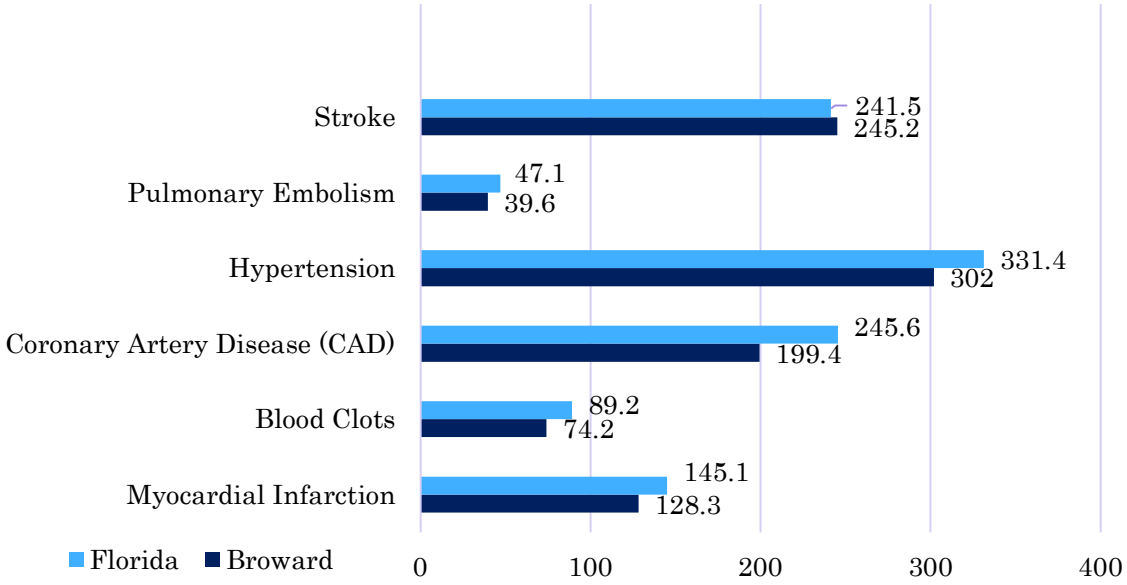
The leading cause of death in Broward is **heart disease (HD)**, a type of cardiovascular disease, which is a term used to encompass several types of heart conditions, including coronary artery disease (CAD), which affects blood flow to the heart. Heart disease is sometimes "silent," meaning a person 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 of 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.

Figure 36 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 36, except for stroke admissions.

Figure 36: Cardiovascular Disease Hospitalizations, Broward & Florida, 2023



Source: Florida Health Charts, 2023

Table 13 displays hospitalizations for **asthma and chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD)** which are among the most prevalent respiratory diseases comparing County and State level rates. Broward County experiences a higher rate of admissions for asthma overall than Florida. Florida has a higher rate of admissions for asthma for age groups 5-11 and 12-18 than Broward. Florida also has a higher rate of admissions for chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) than Broward (Table 13).

Table 13: Respiratory Disease Hospitalization Rates, Broward & Florida, 2023

Rates per 100,000	Broward	Florida
Hospitalizations From or With Asthma As Any Listed Diagnosis	**527.2**	491.5

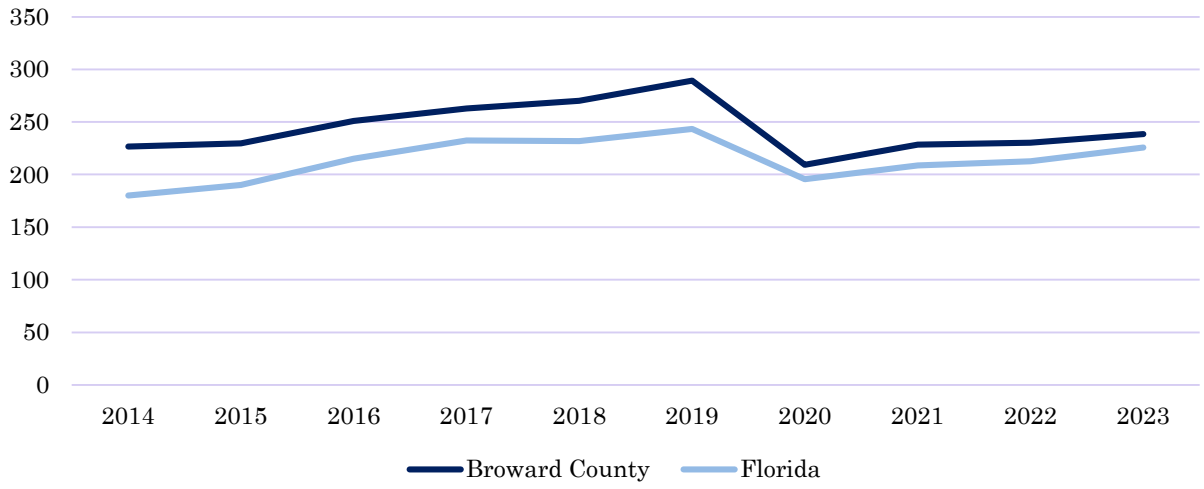
Hospitalizations From Asthma (Any Age)		**53.9**	48.1
Hospitalizations From Asthma by Age	**Under 1 years**	**0.0**	**1.8**
	1-5 years	53.9	48.1
	5-11 years	262.3	**308.4**
	12-18 years	342.7	**431.4**
Hospitalizations From Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD) (Including Asthma)		146.7	**154.6**
Hospitalizations From Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)		92.8	**106.5**

Source: Florida Charts, 2023

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 37 displays the rate of diabetes-related emergency department (ED) visits for Broward and Florida over the last 10 years. Each year, Broward has a higher rate of emergency department use for diabetes-related complications. From 2014 to 2019 and 2020 to 2023, there has been an increasing trend in the rate of Diabetes-related ED visits in both the State and County (Figure 37).

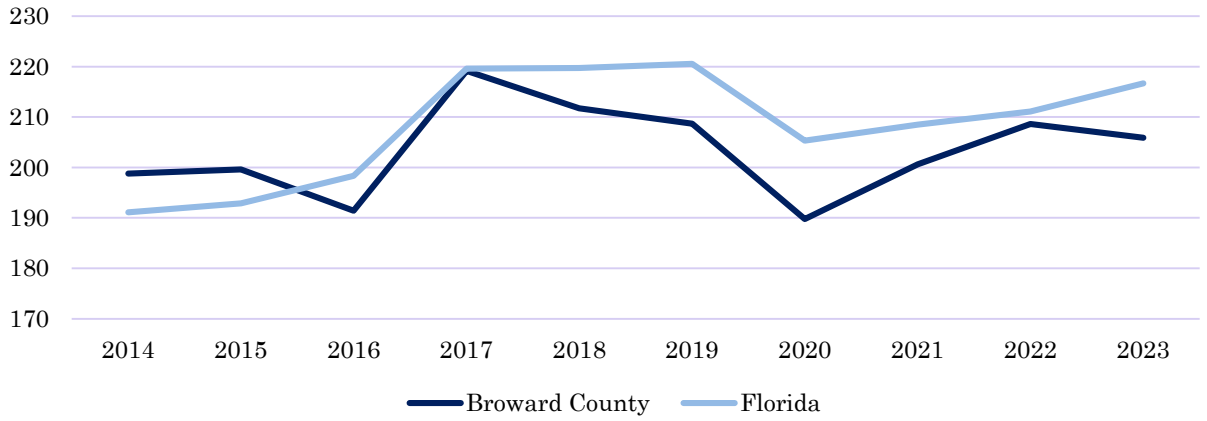
Figure 37: Emergency Department Visits from Diabetes (Rate per 100,000 Population), Broward & Florida 2014-2023



Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

Broward has an inconsistent trend in the rate of diabetes-related hospitalizations, displayed in Figure 38. However, Broward has had a lower rate of hospitalizations than Florida for diabetes from 2016 to 2023 (Figure 38).

Figure 38: Hospitalizations from Diabetes (Rate per 100,000 Population), Broward & Florida 2014-2023

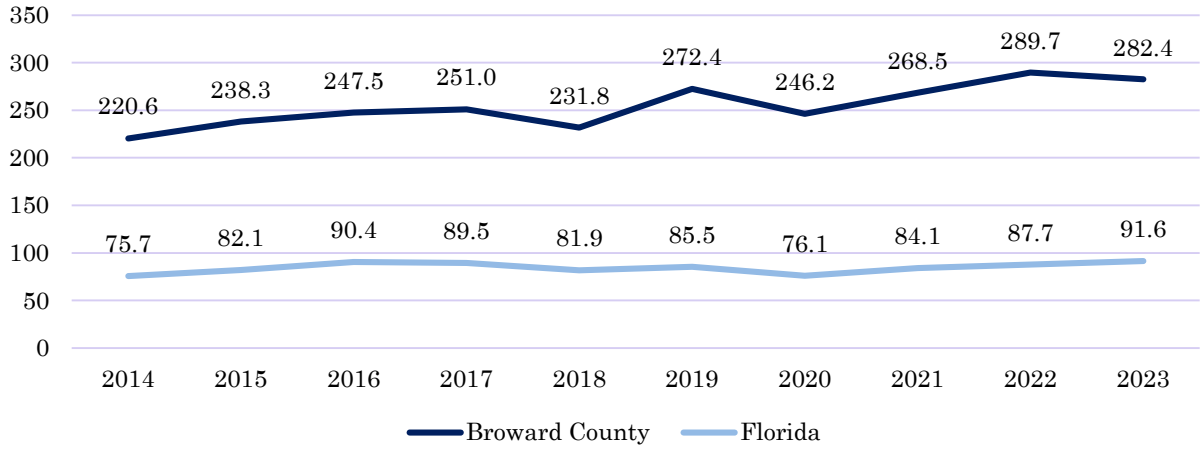


Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

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 39 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 (Figure 39).

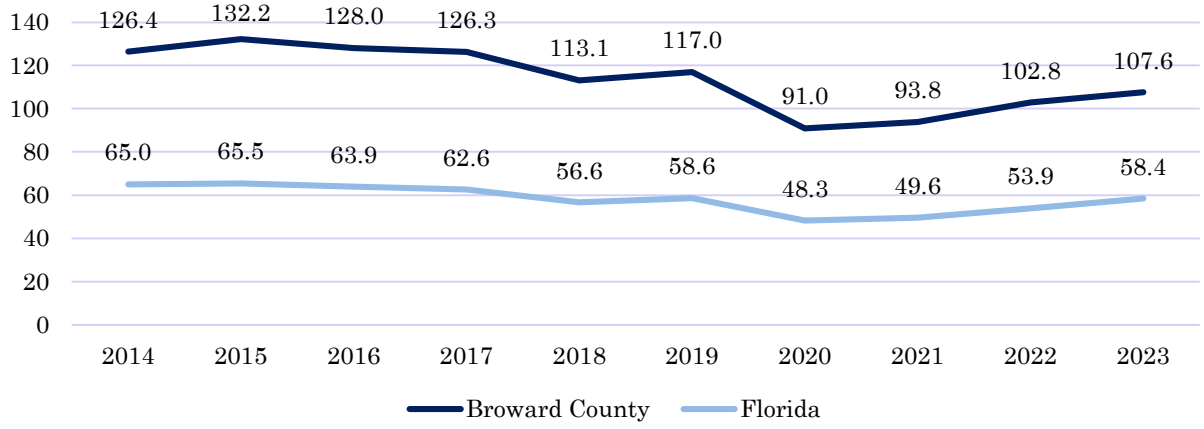
Figure 39: Emergency Department Visits from Sickle Cell Disease (Rate per 100,000 Population), Broward & Florida 2014-2023



Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

Figure 40 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 40).

Figure 40: Hospitalizations from Sickle Cell Disease (Rate per 100,000 Population), Broward & Florida 2014-2023



Source: Florida Health Charts, 2014-2023

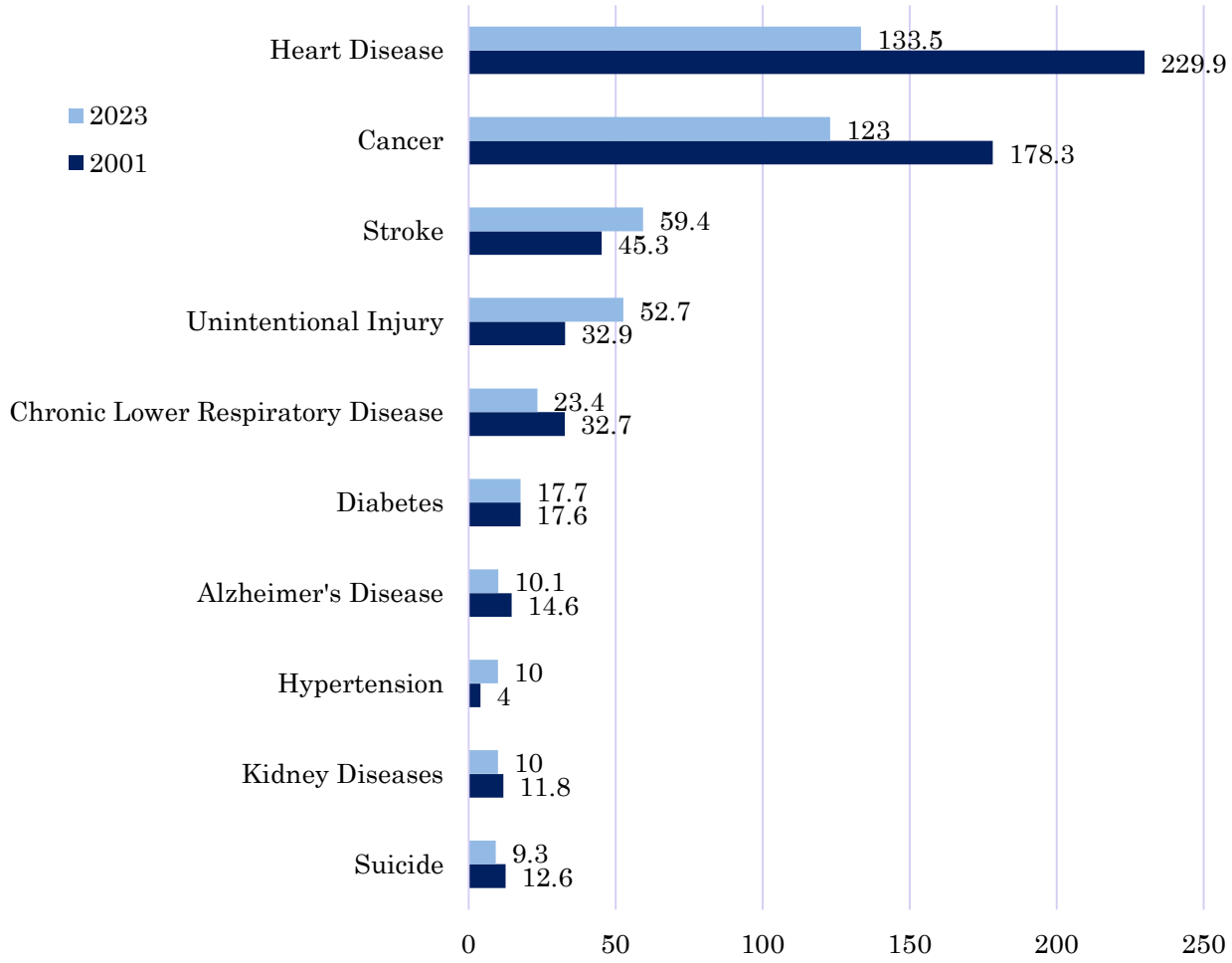
Death: Leading Causes & Rates

In 2023, Broward County had a death rate of 601.7 per 100,000 residents, which was lower than Florida's overall death rate of 671.5 per 100,000. In 2023, the total number of deaths in Broward was 16,098—down from 17,180 in the previous year (Florida Health Charts, 2023).

Over time, advancements in medicine have contributed to a decline in deaths from communicable diseases, while deaths from chronic conditions have risen. Figure 41 highlights the top 10 leading causes of death in Broward County in 2023, 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 41).

The only non-chronic conditions among the top ten were unintentional injury (ranked #4) and suicide (ranked #10). Unintentional injury is the fourth leading cause of death, and its rate has increased by more than 14 points since 2001. The rate of suicide has also increased and is now the 10th leading cause of death in Broward (Figure 41).

Figure 41: Top 10 Leading Causes of Death (by AADR per 100,000), Broward 2023 & 2001



Source: Florida Charts Leading Causes of Death Profile (FDOH), 2001 & 2023

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 14 displays the top five causes of death for each age group in Broward County. Among all age groups—except those under age 1—malignant neoplasm (cancer) ranks within the top five causes of death and is the top cause for those 5-14, and those 55-74. Unintentional injury ranks among the top five leading causes of death for all younger age groups but drops out of the top five beginning with the 55 and older age group.

Heart disease is within the top 5 leading causes of death for all older age groups (25 and older). At the age 55-64 group, and older age groups, cerebrovascular disease (stroke) is within the top 5 leading causes of death. 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 14).

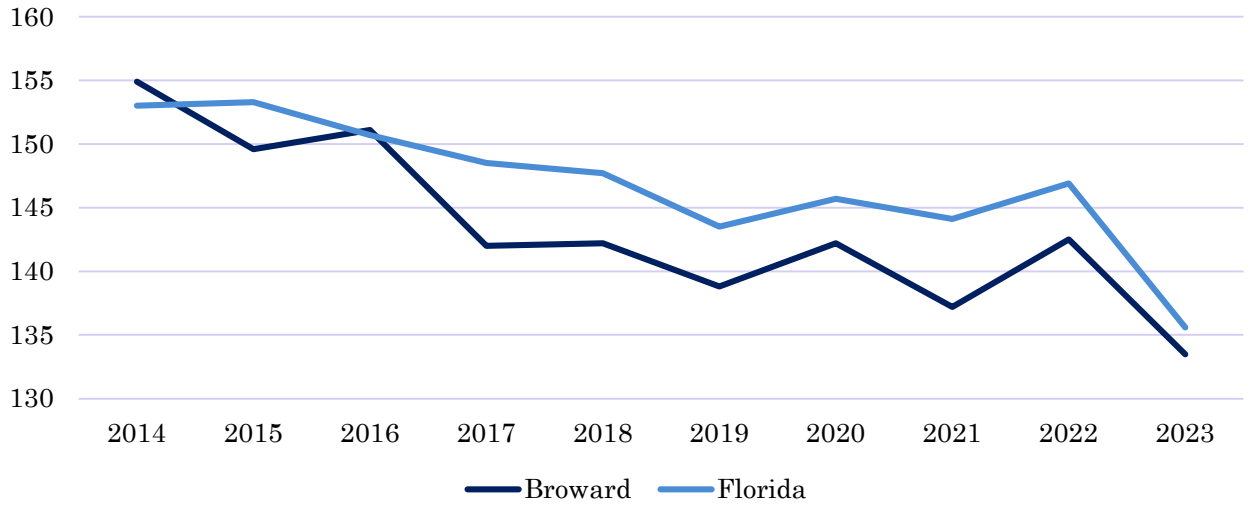
Table 14: Leading 5 Causes of Death by each Age Group, Broward County, 2023

	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	Homicide	Malignant Neoplasm
3	Unintentional Injury	Malignant Neoplasm	Congenital Malformations	Suicide	Suicide	Heart Disease
4	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	Septicemia	Homicide	Malignant Neoplasm	Heart Disease	Homicide
5	Influenza and Pneumonia	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	Heart Disease	Congenital Malformations	Malignant Neoplasm	Suicide
	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All Ages
1	Unintentional Injury	Malignant Neoplasm	Malignant Neoplasm	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
2	Malignant Neoplasm	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Malignant Neoplasm	Cerebrovascular Disease	Malignant Neoplasm
3	Heart Disease	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	Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	Diabetes	Diabetes	Diabetes	Alzheimer's Disease	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Source: Florida Health Charts, Leading Causes of Death Profile, 2023

From 2014 to 2023 **heart disease** mortality rates had a decreasing trend in both Broward County and Florida (Figure 42).

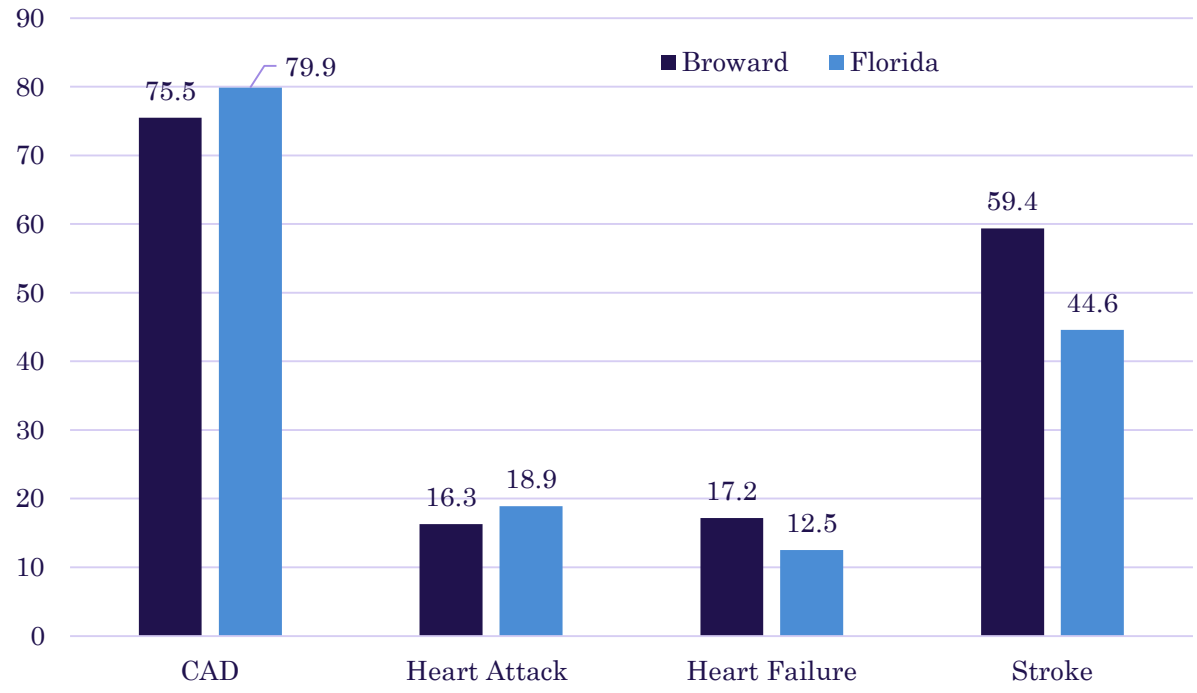
Figure 42: Heart Diseases Death Rate (per 100,000), Broward & Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Charts, 2014-2023

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 43).

Figure 43: Cardiovascular Disease Death Rates (per 100,000), Broward & Florida 2023

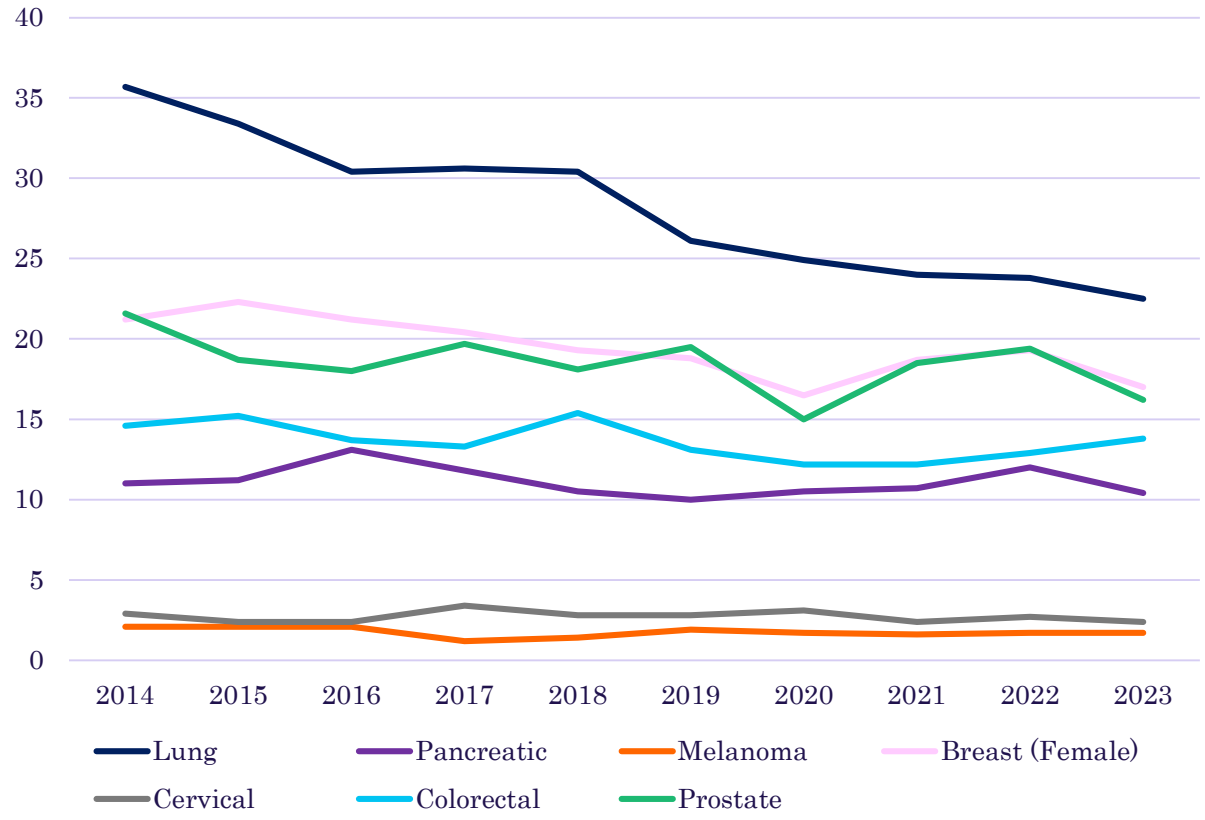


Source: Florida Charts, 2023

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in both Broward and the State. For most cancer types, Florida had a higher death rate than Broward (NCI, Florida and Broward County 2018-2022 5-year death rate; 2023). The overall cancer death rate in Broward was 123.0 per 100,000 which was lower than Florida's rate at 133.4 per 100,000 (Florida Health Charts, 2023).

Figure 44 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 2014 to 2023 (Figure 44).

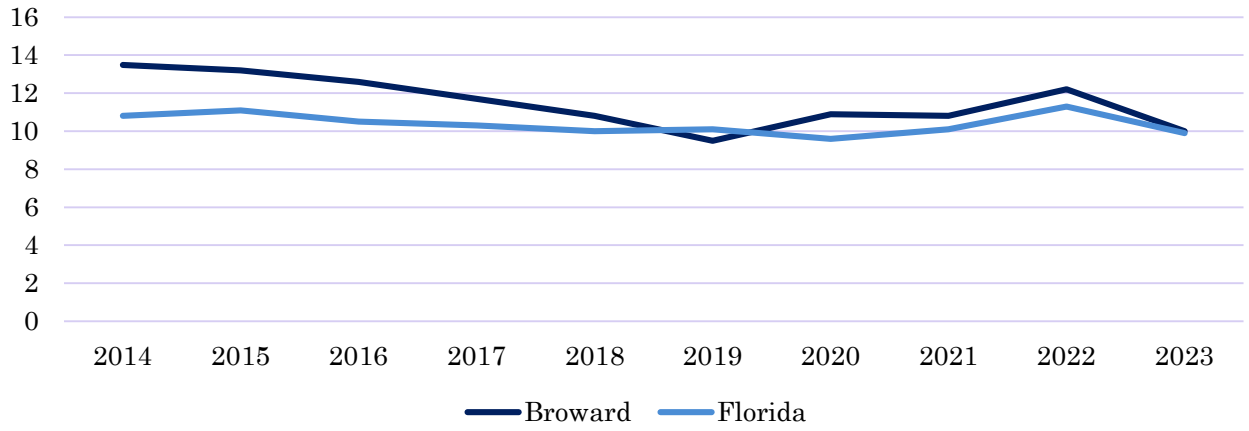
Figure 44: Cancer Death Rate (per 100,000) by Cancer Type, Broward 2014-2023



Source: Florida Charts, 2014- 2023

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 (Figure 45).

Figure 45: Deaths from Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis, Broward & Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Charts, 2014-2023

Table 15 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 and diabetes compared to Broward, while Broward has a higher rate of chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) and hypertension deaths than the State.

The unintentional injury death rate in Florida is higher than in Broward and it is higher ranked as the 3rd leading cause of death in the State, compared to 4th leading cause in Broward. The rate of suicide is lower in Broward than in Florida (Table 15).

Table 15: Death Rate Comparison (per 100,000), Broward & Florida, 2023

Condition/Disease	Broward County	Florida
Diabetes	17.7	**21.0**
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD)	**32.7**	30.2
Alzheimer's Disease	10.1	**15.6**
Hypertension	**10.0**	9.6
Unintentional Injury	52.7	**63.9**
Suicide	9.3	**14.1**

Source: Florida Charts, 2023

Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in Broward and remains a significant indicator of mental health in the community. Table 16 reviews the death count by age group in Broward over the last 5 years and the overall number of suicide deaths each year. In Broward, the highest number of recorded suicide deaths in the last five years occurred in 2019, with 241 recoded suicide deaths. During this same 5-year period, 2019 had the highest rate of deaths from suicide (Table 16).

Table 16: Suicide Deaths (Count) by Age Group, Broward 2019-2023

Age Group	# Suicide Deaths				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
10-14	1	3	1	1	0
15-19	4	4	4	9	6
20-24	12	6	17	15	8
25-34	30	39	38	30	31
35-44	29	32	23	39	22
45-54	55	36	33	34	36
55-64	60	37	52	38	36
65+	50	65	67	60	71
All Ages	**241**	**222**	**235**	**226**	**210**

Source: Florida Charts, 2019-2023

Table 17 displays the rate of suicide deaths by age group over the past 5 years. The age group with the highest rate of suicide deaths 4 out of 5 years are those aged 65 and older. In 2019, the 55- to 64-year-old group experienced a very high suicide death rate, of 23.2 per 100,000, which was the highest rate for any age group during this period of time (Table 17).

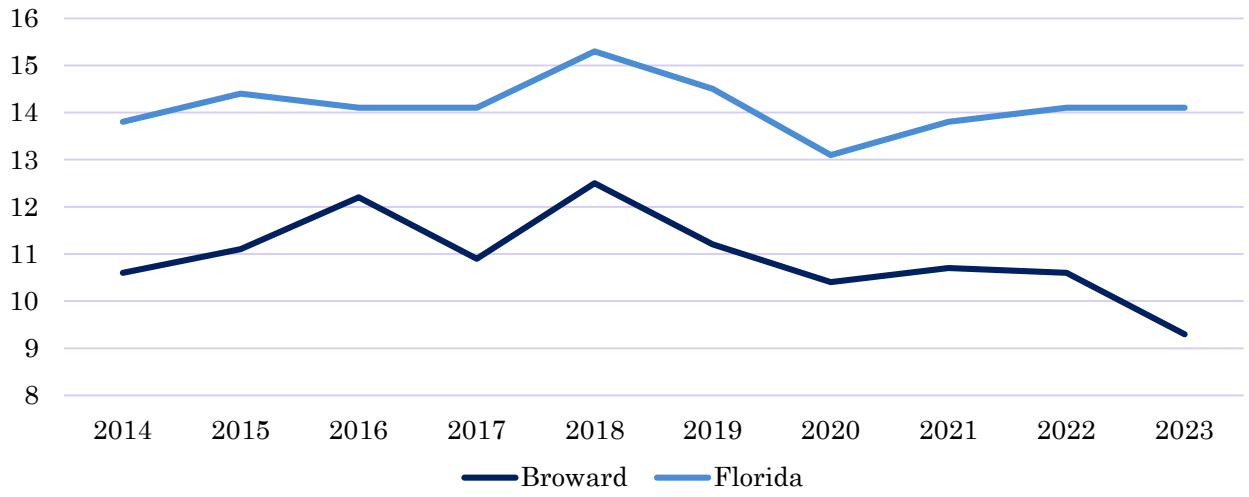
Table 17: Suicide Death Rate (per 100,000) by Age Group, Broward 2019-2023

Age Group	Rate of Suicide Deaths				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
10-14	0.9	2.6	0.9	0.8	0.0
15-19	3.6	3.6	3.7	8.0	5.3
20-24	10.9	5.5	15.7	13.9	7.0
25-34	11.5	14.9	14.7	11.7	12.1
35-44	11.3	12.3	8.8	14.5	8.1
45-54	20.3	13.4	12.5	12.7	13.6
55-64	**23.2**	14.0	19.5	13.8	13.2
65+	15.6	**19.5**	**19.6**	**17.4**	**19.7**
Overall	**12.5**	**11.4**	**12.1**	**11.5**	**10.6**

Source: Florida Charts, 2019-2023

Figure 46 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 (Figure 46).

Figure 46: Suicide Death Rate (per 100,000), Broward & Florida, 2014-2023



Source: Florida Charts, 2014-2023

Unintentional injury is the fourth leading cause of death, and it includes any unintentional fatal injury. Table 18 shows the leading causes of fatal injury in Broward for 2023 by age group and overall. The leading cause of injury death was drug poisoning, accounting for more than twice the number of deaths caused by motor vehicle traffic, the second leading cause of injury death. The age group with the most drug poisoning deaths was 35-44, with 126 deaths (Table 18).

The second leading cause of injury death was motor vehicle traffic, with 257 deaths overall. The age group with the highest number of motor vehicle injury deaths was the 25-34 year old age group with 54 deaths (Table 18).

Younger age groups experienced death from fatal injuries more commonly from causes such as drowning/submersion, and motor vehicle traffic. Except for children under age 1 and those aged 5-9, all other age groups had at least one death from a firearm. The age group with the highest number of deaths from a firearm was 65 and older group, with 50 deaths, followed closely by the 25–34 age group with 49 deaths (Table 18).

Fatal fall injuries were the third leading cause of injury-related death in Broward in 2023. These cases were recorded more commonly among those in older age groups, with the highest number occurring in those 65 and older, who accounted for 213 of the 251 total cases (Table 18).

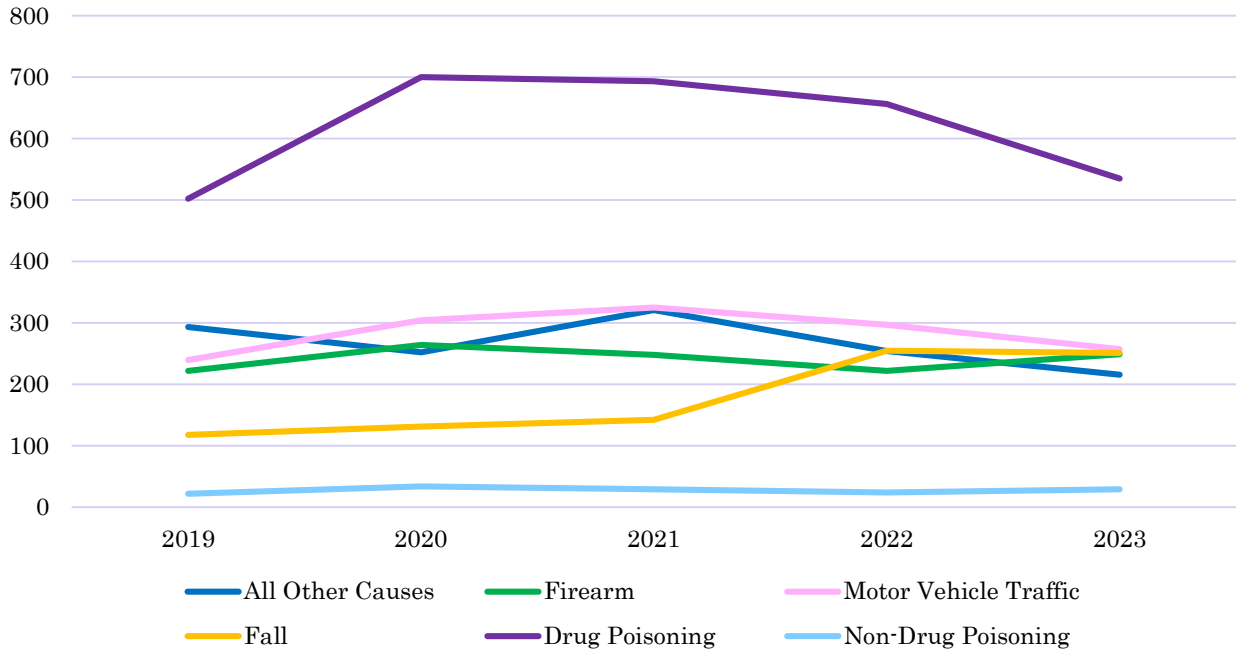
Table 18: Leading Causes of Fatal Injury by Age Group (Count), Broward 2023

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24
1	Suffocation 4	Drowning, Submersion 5	Drowning, Submersion 1	Firearm 3	Firearm 18	Firearm 36
2	Motor Vehicle Traffic 1	Firearm 2	Motor Vehicle Traffic 1	Motor Vehicle Traffic 1	Motor Vehicle Traffic 13	Drug Poisoning 20
3		Motor Vehicle Traffic 1		Pedestrian, Other 1	Drug Poisoning 6	Motor Vehicle Traffic 20
4					Drowning, Submersion 3	Drowning, Submersion 3
5					Transport, Other 2	Fall 2
6					Suffocation 2	Suffocation 2
7					Non-Drug Poisoning 1	Other Specified & Classifiable 1
8					Other Specified & Classifiable 1	Transport, Other 1
	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	All Ages
1	Drug Poisoning 109	Drug Poisoning 126	Drug Poisoning 114	Drug Poisoning 118	Fall 213	Drug Poisoning 535
2	Motor Vehicle Traffic 54	Firearm 41	Motor Vehicle Traffic 40	Motor Vehicle Traffic 44	Firearm 50	Motor Vehicle Traffic 257
3	Firearm 49	Motor Vehicle Traffic 35	Firearm 28	Firearm 22	Motor Vehicle Traffic 47	Fall 251
4	Suffocation 10	Suffocation 12	Suffocation 12	Fall 21	Drug Poisoning 42	Firearm 249
5	Drowning, Submersion 8	Drowning, Submersion 6	Fall 5	Suffocation 11	Suffocation 18	Suffocation 71
6	Other Specified & Classifiable 6	Fall 6	Non-Drug Poisoning 5	Drowning, Submersion 9	Drowning, Submersion 11	Drowning, Submersion 49
7	Cut/Pierce 5	Non-Drug Poisoning 4	Transport, Other 3	Non-Drug Poisoning 7	Other Specified, NEC 9	Non-Drug Poisoning 29
8	Fall 4	Cut/Pierce 4	Drowning, Submersion 3	Unspecified 5	Non-Drug Poisoning 8	Other Specified & Classifiable 19
9	Non-Drug Poisoning 4	Other Specified & Classifiable 2	Other Specified, NEC 3	Other Specified & Classifiable 4	Unspecified 7	Other Specified, NEC 16
10	Transport, Other 3	Transport, Other 2	Other Specified & Classifiable 3	Pedestrian, Other 3	Fire/Flame 4	Cut/Pierce 15

Source: Florida Health Charts, Leading Causes of Fatal Injury Profile, 2023

Figure 47 is a display of the changes in Broward's leading causes of injury death over the last 5 years, by category. Drug poisoning has consistently been the highest cause of fatal injury in Broward.

Figure 47: Leading Causes of Fatal Injury by Count, Broward 2019-2023



Source: Florida Health Charts, Leading Causes of Fatal Injury Profile, 2023