



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



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Epi Watch is a monthly newsletter from the Pinellas County Health Department. For more information, or to add your e-mail address to the distribution list, please contact the Editor.

According to the Pinellas County Sherriff's Office, Pinellas ranks fourth in the state in the amount of prescriptions issued , behind the south Florida counties of Broward, Palm Beach, and Miami-Dade.

To report diseases by phone call:
 (727) 824-6932

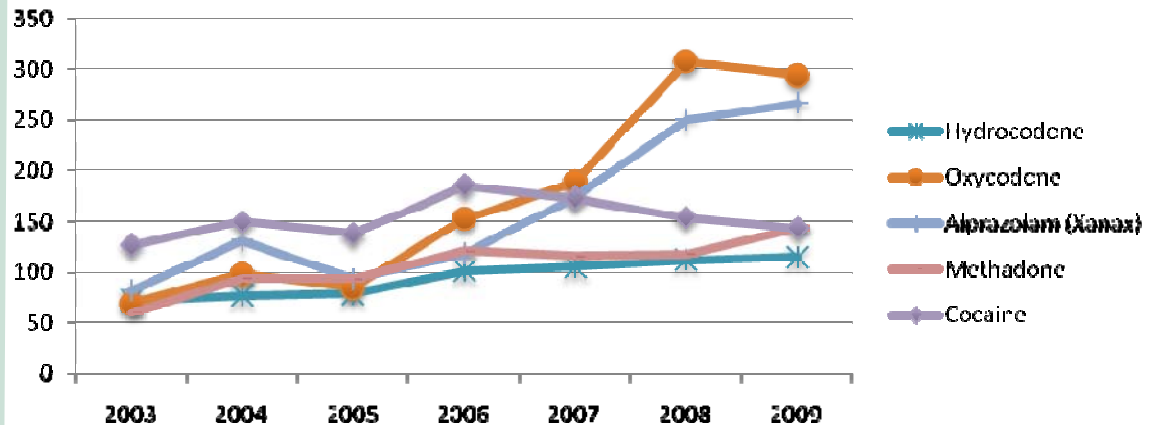
To report diseases by fax (other than HIV/AIDS) use:
 (727) 820-4270

Prescription Drug Misuse in Pinellas County

The misuse and abuse of prescription drugs is an increasing concern in Pinellas County. Because prescription drugs are legal, they are more easily accessible than illicit drugs. In addition, many individuals who abuse these medications perceive them to be safe since they are available at pharmacies by prescription.

- According to the Substance Use, Health, and Safety Survey, non-medical use of prescription drugs in Pinellas County middle and high school students increased from 2006 to 2008: an overall 22.2% in 6th, 9.8% in 8th, 16.7% in 10th and **70.6% in 12th grade**.
- The 2008 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey reports that **15.7% of Pinellas County high school students** reported using prescription pain relievers on at least one occasion in their lifetime compared to 10.4% of high school students statewide.
- From 2008 to 2009, the Juvenile Addiction Receiving Facility, which serves Pinellas and Pasco, reports an overall **increase** of 200.0% of youth admitted with Xanax as their primary drug and an overall **increase** of 128.6% for youth admitted with Oxycodone as their primary drug.
- In 2008, poisonings, which include prescription drug overdose, was the **leading cause of unintentional injury deaths** in Pinellas County followed by falls and motor vehicle traffic. (Source: Office of Injury Prevention, Florida Department of Health)
- In 2008, District 6, which consists of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, had the **highest amount of the total deaths** for Alprazolam, Diazepam (a Benzodiazepine), Oxycodone, Methadone and Propoxyphene in Florida .
- Data from the 2008 Medical Examiners Commission Drug Report indicates that Oxycodone caused more drug-related deaths in District 6 (Pinellas and Pasco) than any other drug in the total population, young adult population and adolescent population.

2009 District 6 (Pinellas and Pasco Counties) Medical Examiner Data for Substances Found at Time of Death in Toxicology Reports



From 2001 to 2009, the cases with Hydrocodone found in toxicology reports rose from 54 to 115, Oxycodone rose from 61 to 294, and Methadone rose from 37 to 143.

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2010 September	2010 Year to date	2009 Year to date	2009 Total
AIDS	11	98	116	153
Animal Rabies			1	1
Arboviral Illness (Human):		1		
Dengue				
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				
CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis	3	30	23	30
Chlamydia	358	2971	3060	3974
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)			1	1
Cryptosporidiosis	1	21	17	23
Cyclosporiasis		3	2	2
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)				
Giardiasis	5	28	27	34
Gonorrhea	126	1003	1186	1509
<i>H. influenzae</i> : Invasive Disease		10	6	8
Hansen's Disease		1	1	1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:			6	6
A				
B		4	23	28
C	3	8	2	3
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	2	21	20	24
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				
B	14	187	126	187
C	148	1175	972	1383
HIV	34	169	138	178
Lead Poisoning: Children < 6 years:		1	5	5
Legionellosis	2	10	7	10
Listeriosis				
Lyme Disease	2	7	4	6
Malaria		1	2	3
Meningitis: Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic	1	9	6	7
Meningococcal Disease		4	2	3
Mercury Poisoning	1	2		
Mumps			1	2
Pertussis		6	4	4
Rabies, possible exposure	7	74	55	75
Salmonellosis	40	174	197	289
Shigellosis		7	2	5
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A		5	11	14
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	1	12	23	35
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)	1	12	24	28
Syphilis: Total	8	81	143	183
Infectious (P and S)	5	34	51	68
Early Latent	2	21	65	81
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	1	26	27	34
Tuberculosis	1	29	16	18
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections	1	8	5	8

Provisional cases reported by the Pinellas County Health Department. Blank cells indicate no cases reported. For a complete list of reportable diseases and guidelines for reporting, please visit: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/index.html