



St. Johns River Rural Health Network

[CDC: Rate of Drug Overdose Death Higher in Rural Areas Than Urban](#)

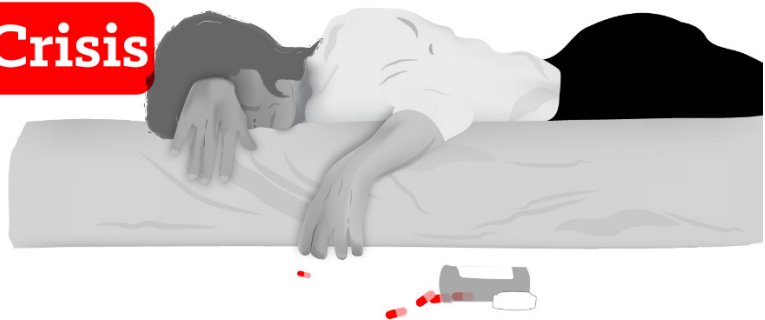
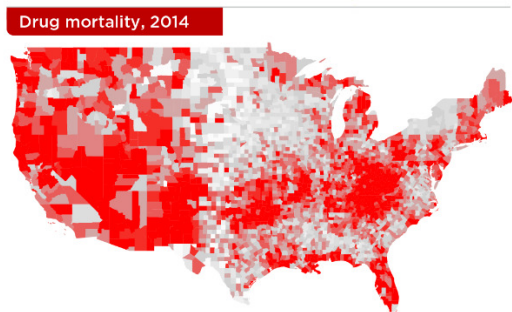
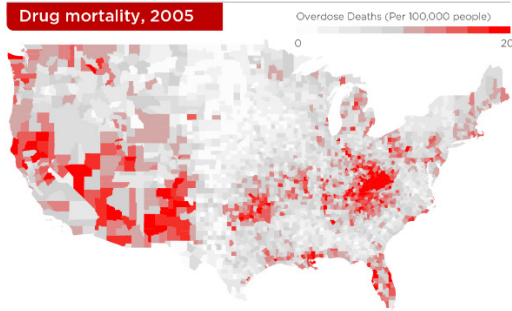
October 19, 2017 Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

While the number of people dying from drug overdose has been consistently higher in metropolitan areas, the *rate* of death in rural areas – that is, the number of deaths per 100,000 people – surpassed urban areas in 2015. In the latest release from its [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\) Rural Health Series](#), researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) find encouraging data showing a decline in illicit drug use by youth and a lower prevalence of illicit drug use disorders in rural areas from 2012-2014. But they also call the rate of death from illicit drug use “a critical and complicated public health challenge” and prompt greater understanding of the differences between rural and urban areas in order to identify, monitor, and prioritize responses. “Consideration of where persons live and where they die from overdose could enhance specific interventions, such as training on naloxone administration or rescue breathing...and facilitating better access to medication-assisted treatment with methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone could benefit communities with high opioid use disorder rates.”

Learn about [the unique rural challenges to combating substance use disorder](#) on the Rural Health Information hub. More [data about the impact of substance use on rural communities](#) can be found at the Rural Health Research Gateway.

America's Opioid Crisis

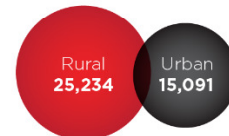
The stunning spread of the opioid painkiller and heroin epidemic in two maps over 10 years.



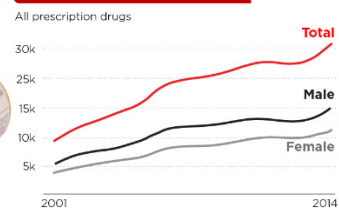
A challenge for cities, counties and states

The rise in prescription opioid and heroin addiction is causing an increase in overdoses as well as more cases of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C.

Deaths from opioids



National overdose deaths



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health



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Rural Health News

in

the Net



Baker

Participate in Healthy Baker.
Meets 2nd Monday of the month at 11:30am at DOH-Baker.

Clay

The Clay SafetyNet Alliance meets the third Thursday of each month at the Middleburg Salvation Army at 8:30am.

Flagler

Join Flagler Cares. They meet quarterly. Contact: carrie@flaglercares.org

Nassau

Farmers Market Nutrition Program connects WIC participants with no-cost fresh, locally grown Florida produce.

Putnam

Melrose Community Farmers Market
Fridays 4pm - 7pm
301 SR 26
Melrose, FL 32666

St. Johns

The St. Johns County Behavioral Health Consortia meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 12:00pm at the Health and Human Services Building – Muscovy Room.

Volusia

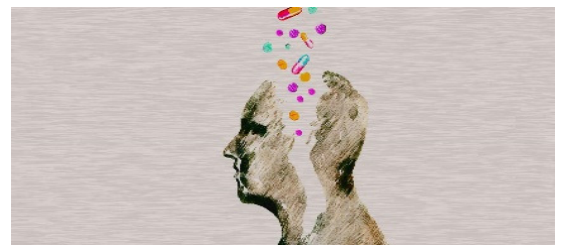
Halifax Health has Safe Kids Programs
Call 877-842-5432 for more information.

Don't Miss the Next Meeting!

January 11, 2018

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Educational Series Topic:
The Opioid Crisis - The Threat to Our Rural Community



Presented by

Dr. Christine Cauffield
Lutheran Services Florida
Kahlilah Escalera
US Attorney's Office