

A needs assessment was conducted on substance use disorders (SUD) with a focus on opioid misuse and other substance use. The study gathered data from:



Publicly available data sources



13 focus groups with **78** people with lived experience (PWLE) mostly from outpatient treatment, jails, a shelter, behavioral facility, and some family members



9 focus groups with **32** service providers from mental health, substance treatment, law enforcement, and community support agencies



A community-wide survey with **416** respondents with key ZIP codes being **32960, 32958, 32967, and 32962**

Prevalence and Emerging Trends of Substance Use

Prevalence of Substance Use:



Alcohol, cocaine and **opiates** are the most commonly misused substances according to the community survey.



88% of survey participants reported knowing someone who has engaged in harmful substance use.

20.5%

The adult binge drinking rate in IRC was **20.5%**, higher than the state average of **16.7%**. Additionally, **15.9%** of adults in IRC were current smokers, slightly above the Florida average of **14.8%** (2019).¹

Emerging Trends:



32%

The community survey found that 32% of adults **admitted to harmful marijuana use**.



73.3%

73.3% of youth in IRC **do not perceive trying marijuana as harmful** (2022).²

Underlying Factors Contributing to Substance Use



Trauma and Stress:

The **most common reason** for substance misuse was to cope with **trauma, stress, or pain**, as reported by the community survey.

26.3% of youth in IRC have experienced four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), compared to **21.4%** statewide in Florida (2022).²



Mental Health:

16% of individuals in IRC experienced mental distress, defined as poor mental health for 14 or more days in the past month, compared to **13%** statewide in Florida (2020).³

49.5% of youth in IRC reported feeling depressed or sad most days over the past year, higher than the state average of **47.7%** in Florida.²



Economic Strain:

12.6% of individuals aged 18 to 64 in IRC have incomes below the poverty level, compared to **11.9%** statewide in Florida in 2022.⁴

32% of individuals in IRC fall within the ALICE threshold meaning they earn more than the Federal Poverty Level but less than what is needed to cover basic living expenses (2022).⁵

Impacts of Substance Use

Overdoses in IRC:



IRC's drug overdose rate per 100,000 is **higher than Florida** average. IRC's overdose rate **increased** from 42 to 43.5, whereas Florida's **decreased** from 38.5 to 35.9 over the same period (2022).⁶



IRC EMS responded to **624 calls** related to drug overdose. (data from Florida Charts 2022)⁶

Impact on the Healthcare System:



There were **317** drug overdose-related emergency department (ED) visits in IRC, **138** of those visits were for an opioid overdose (2022).⁶



There were **211** drug overdose hospitalizations in IRC, **55** of those visits were for an opioid overdose (2022).⁶

Impact on Law Enforcement:



There were **528** adult drug arrests in IRC in 2022.⁷



Juvenile drug arrests in IRC more than **doubled**, increasing from **13** in 2021 to **28** in 2022.¹



86 youth received a prearrest citation for a drug-related offense, representing **70%** of the prearrest citations for the year.⁸

Access to Services and Gaps

Naloxone Awareness:

Responses from the survey showed that **71%** know of Naloxone, but only **41%** know how to use it, and **33%** know where to obtain it.



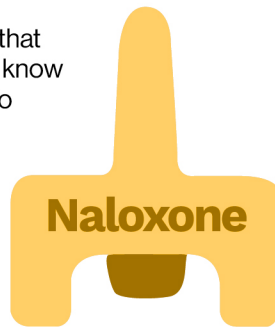
Know of Naloxone



Know how to use



Know where to obtain



Barriers:

Financial constraints and transportation challenges were the most commonly perceived barriers to accessing treatment services, as reported by community survey respondents.



Provider Availability:



IRC has **less mental health and physical health providers per resident compared to Florida**. The ratio in IRC is 1:600 for mental health providers and 1:1,590 for physical health providers, which is less favorable than Florida's ratios of 1:340 and 1:1,390, respectively.³

Perceived Stigmatization:



More than half of the survey respondents who reported substance misuse indicated experiencing unfair or disrespectful treatment related to their substance use in various settings, including workplaces, interactions with law enforcement, the court system, and healthcare environments.

¹Florida Department of Health

²Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, 2022

³Florida County Health Rankings, 2020

⁴US Census Data, 2022

⁵Alice Report, 2022

⁶Florida Department of Health Substance Use Dashboard

⁷Juvenile Justice Information System

⁸Florida Department of Justice Youth Delinquency Dashboard