

# OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY

PUBLIC HEALTH | PUBLIC SAFETY | PARTNERSHIP



March 2025  
Issue One

## North Florida Public Health and Safety Quarterly Bulletin

### About

Welcome to the first North Florida Public Health and Safety Quarterly Bulletin! This bulletin is a combined effort between the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) and the North Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). The purpose of this bulletin is to provide a continuum of resources for substance use and overdose. Throughout this bulletin, you will find resources for treatment, prevention, recovery, naloxone distribution, harm reduction resources, public health and public safety data and other helpful links.

The contents in this bulletin are for informational purposes only.

This publication is supported *in part* by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$11,000,000 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS, U.S. Government or the CDC Foundation.

**Have a question or need help finding a resource?** Connect with Deborah Babin at [dbabin@nfhidta.org](mailto:dbabin@nfhidta.org) or Scott Delano at [sdelano@nfhidta.org](mailto:sdelano@nfhidta.org).

### In this newsletter you can expect:

Public Health News

Public Safety News

ORS Current Events

Emerging Novel Substance Alerts

Toolkits and Research

Quick Links

Data and Surveillance Updates



## The Overdose Response Strategy

The Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) is an unprecedented and unique public health-public safety partnership between the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through their support of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program and the CDC Foundation. At its core, the ORS is an example of a cross-agency, interdisciplinary collaboration with a single mission of reducing overdose deaths and saving lives across the United States. For more information, visit the [ORS Program Website](#).

## The North Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NFHIDTA)

The North Florida HIDTA (NFHIDTA) program is a part of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) created by Congress with The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. It provides assistance to federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States.

The purpose of the program is to reduce drug trafficking and production in the United States. For more information on the NFHIDTA, please visit (NFHIDTA Website)  
For more information on the National HIDTA program, please visit the [HIDTA Program Website](#).

# Public Health and Safety News: Current Drug Trends

The **Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE)** has released a Colombo Plan Health Alert regarding an “emerging global synthetic opioid threat: “Increasing Reports of Nitazene Toxicity.” Benzimidazoles, also known as nitazenes, are a potent class of synthetic opioids estimated to be 1.5x-20x more potent than fentanyl compounds. Nitazenes are distributed in powder or tablet form and are often mixed with other synthetic and traditional drugs and adulterants. Read the full alert here: [Nitazine Public Alert](#)



In 2023, the **Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)** issued a public safety alert. According to the latest DEA laboratory findings, five out of ten pills tested in 2024 contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl. This is down from seven out of ten pills in 2023 and six out of ten pills in 2022. Two grams of powdered fentanyl, which can fit on the tip of a pencil, can be enough to kill an average American.

The DEA has also released *Drugs of Abuse: A DEA Resource Guide, 2024 Edition*, which was designed to be a reliable resource on the most commonly used and misused drugs in the United States. You can review this resource here: [Get Smart About Drugs](#)

# NFHIDTA ORS Team Current Events/Highlights:

The Central and North Florida ORS teams attend the DEA Florida Family Summit on Fentanyl at the Westgate Lakes Resort in June 2024. The summit discussed the fentanyl epidemic and how communities can collaborate in preventative work.

*(Pictured: CFHIDTA DIO - Paul Maxwell, CFHIDTA PHA – Brittany Brown, NFHIDTA PHA – Deborah Babin, NFHIDTA DIO – Scott Delano)*



In June of 2024, the North Florida ORS team was asked by Duval County prevention coalition, Drug Free Duval (DFD), to partner in a county-wide initiative in collaboration with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) and the Community Coalition Alliance (CCA). This mobile initiative, Safety on the Move, addresses the *urgent* need to combat the opioid crisis in Duval County, Florida, through targeted interventions, lifesaving training and strategic collaboration. Safety on the Move offers free overdose prevention and response training, along with naloxone kits, Detera bags and community resources to at-risk communities. The North Florida ORS team utilizes ODMAP to identify zip codes with the highest overdose rates or recent spikes to strategically locate the bus, give onsite support and promote upcoming locations.



## NFHIDTA ORS Team Current Events/Highlights:



Members of the Central, North and South Florida ORS teams along with NFHIDTA Director Bob Peryam presented at the Community Coalition Alliance Awards Ceremony – Power of Prevention. Hosted in Marion County, FL in December 2024.

The North Florida ORS team received an award for “Collaborative Excellence for Engagement, Support, and Partnership.”



# News and Resources:

In January 2025, the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** released an Issue Brief on supporting and financing Peer Services. The brief explores “financing strategies such as federal (including block and discretionary) and state grants, private and local community foundations, private fundraising, and billing third parties such as private insurance, Medicaid, and managed care organizations (MCOs).”

Read the brief here: [Supporting and Financing Peer Services](#)

The **Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE)** has also released their NPS Discovery (Novel Psychoactive Substance) Q4 2024 Trend Reports. The four reports include trends on NPS Benzodiazepines, NPS Opioids, NPS Stimulants and Hallucinogens and Synthetic Cannabinoids in the U.S.

Novel psychoactive substances (NPS), including NPS opioids, continue to pose great challenges for forensic scientists, clinicians and public health and safety personnel. NPS opioids have been implicated in an increasing number of emergency room admissions, death investigations and mass intoxication events, and often appear in combination with other illicit opioids (e.g., fentanyl, heroin). Visit [Q4 2024 Trend Reports](#) for more information.

## Quick Links

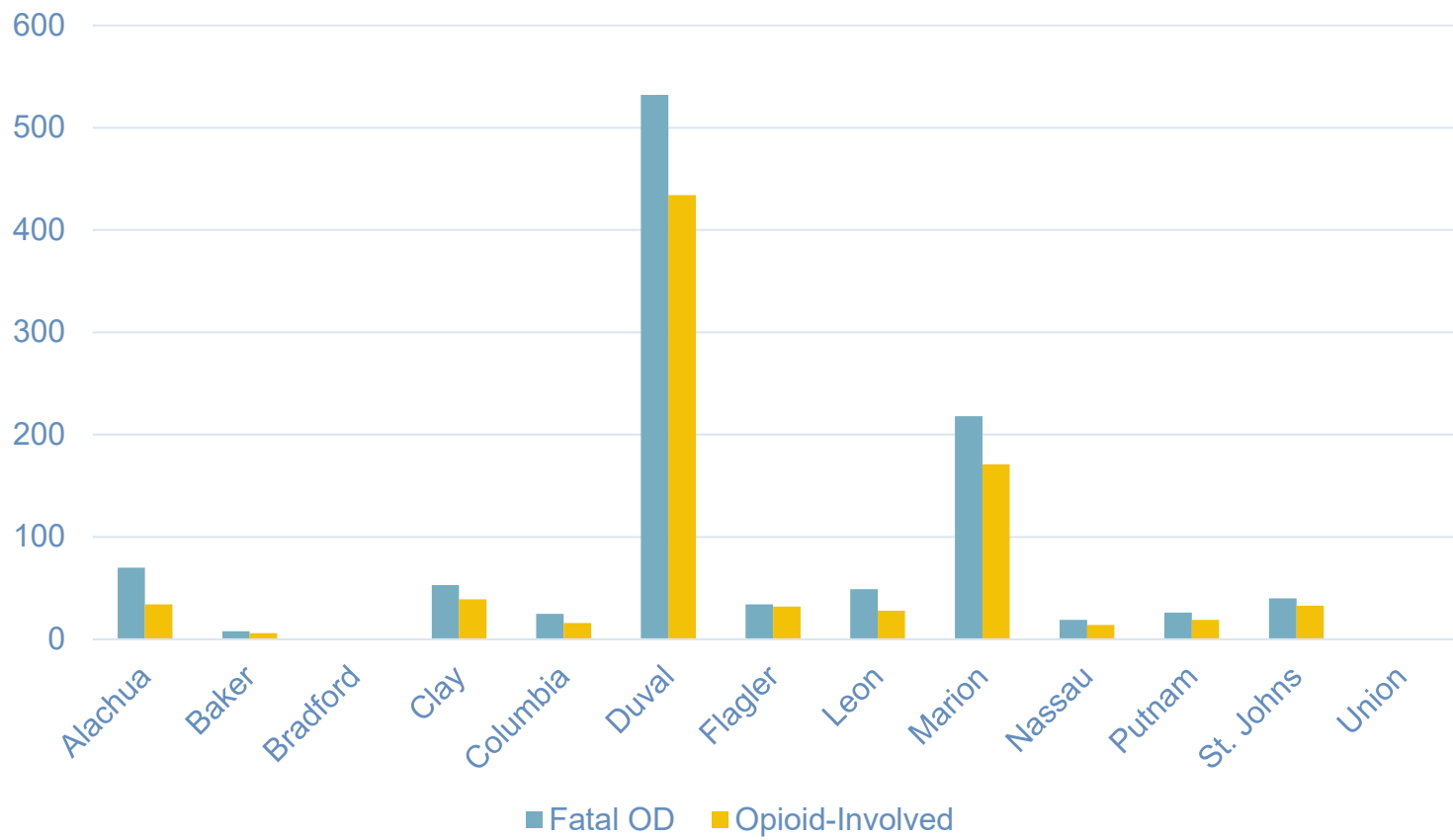
- [Find Substance Use Treatment](#)
- [Veterans Crisis Line](#)
- [SAMHSA Treatment Search](#)
- [Find Local Services through DCF](#)
- [Prevention](#)
- [Floridians for Recovery](#)
- [FL Health Charts](#)
- [DEA Drug Information](#)

Specific Links for First Responders  
[American Addiction Centers for First Responders](#)

# Data Trends – NFHIDTA Counties

The summary data that is presented below is provided by the Florida Department of Health on a quarterly basis. The NFHIDTA ORS team is not able to provide on-demand data or respond to any data requests.

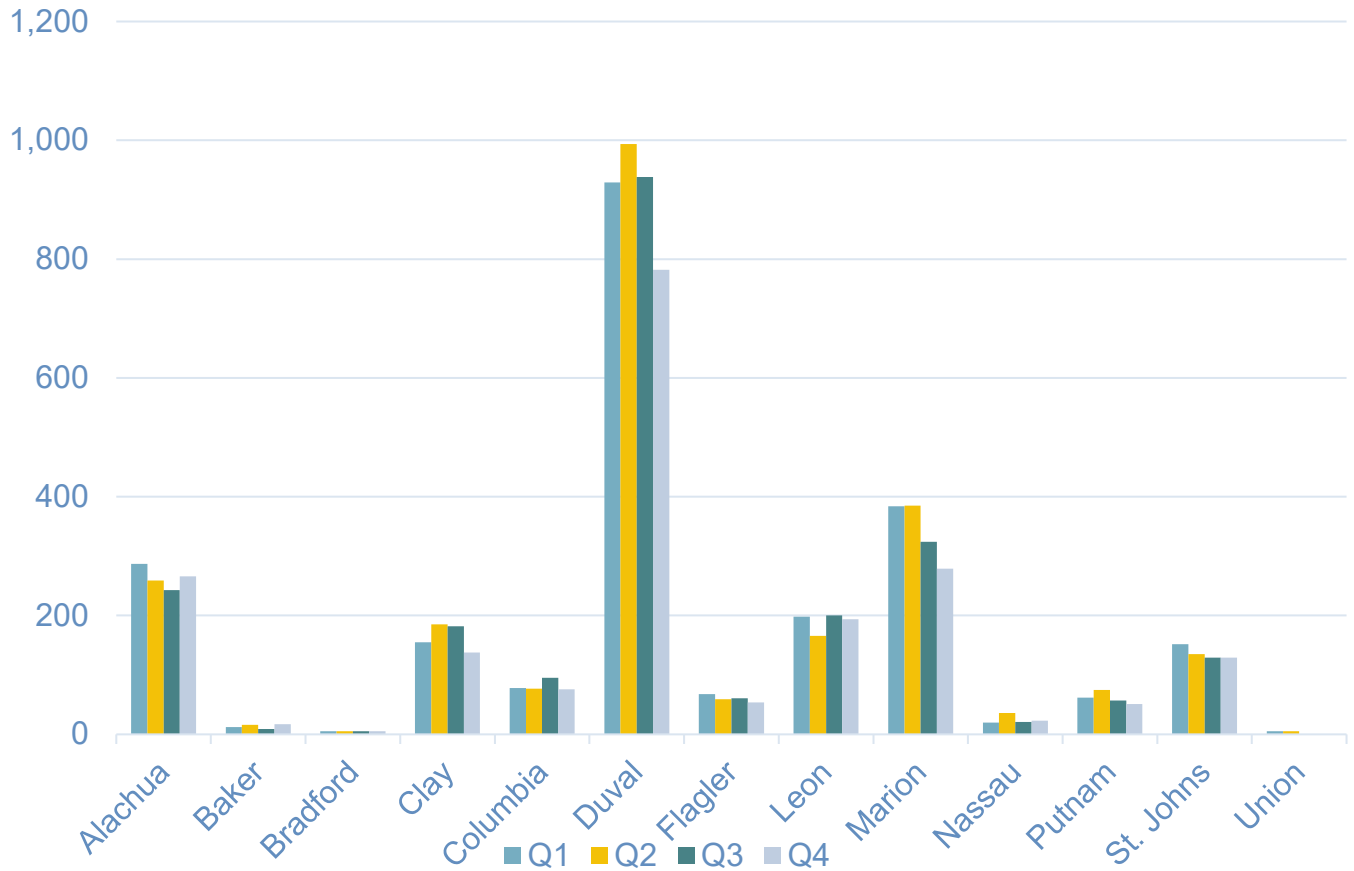
## 2023 Vital Statistics – Fatal Overdoses



Data provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024)

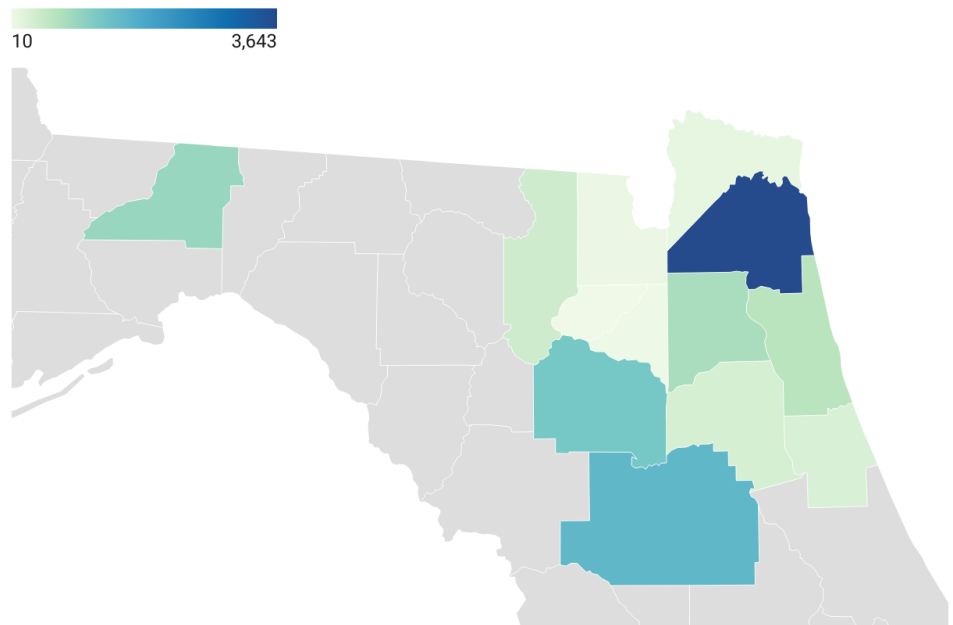
# Data Trends – NFHIDTA Counties

## All Drug-Involved Emergency Department Visits



County	Count
Alachua	1,229
Baker	60
Bradford	27
Clay	744
Columbia	369
Duval	4,246
Flagler	263
Leon	900
Marion	1,546
Nassau	100
Putnam	293
St. Johns	576
Union	0

## All Drug-Involved Emergency Department Visits



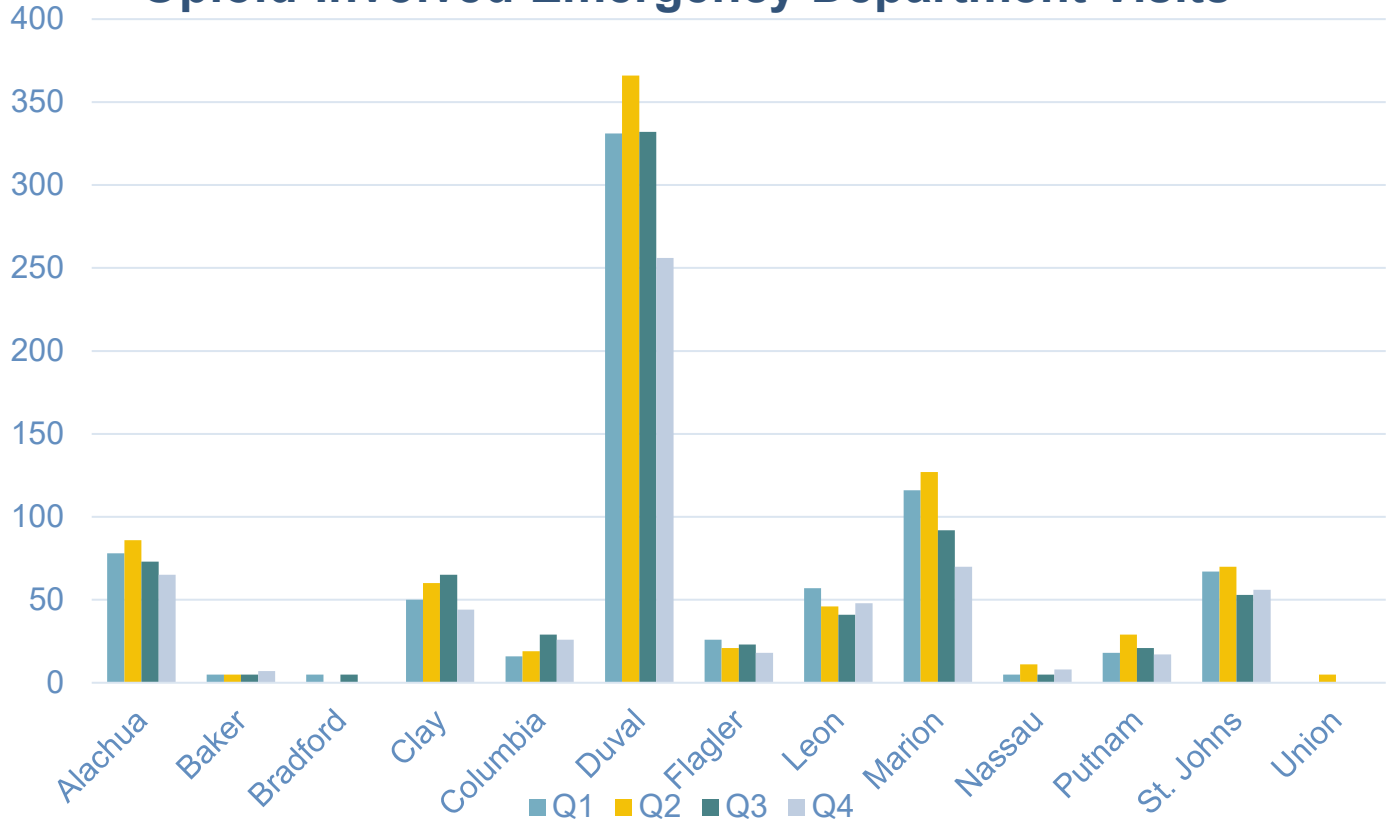
Source: Florida Department of Health 2024 • Created with Datawrapper

Data provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024)



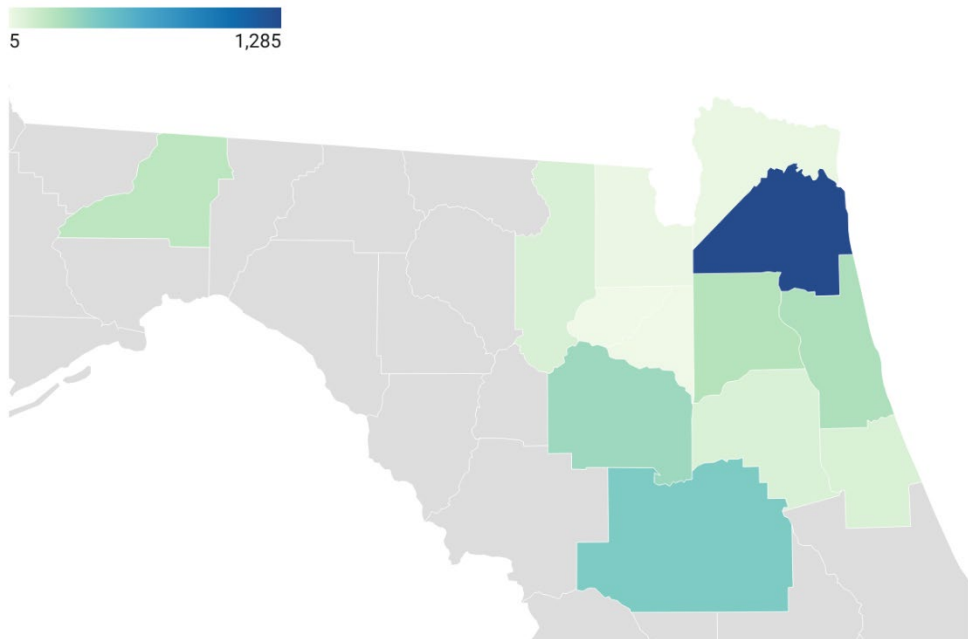
# Data Trends – NFHIDTA Counties

## Opioid-Involved Emergency Department Visits



## Opioid-Involved Emergency Department Visits

County	Count
Alachua	302
Baker	22
Bradford	10
Clay	219
Columbia	90
Duval	1,285
Flagler	88
Leon	192
Marion	405
Nassau	29
Putnam	85
St. Johns	246
Union	5

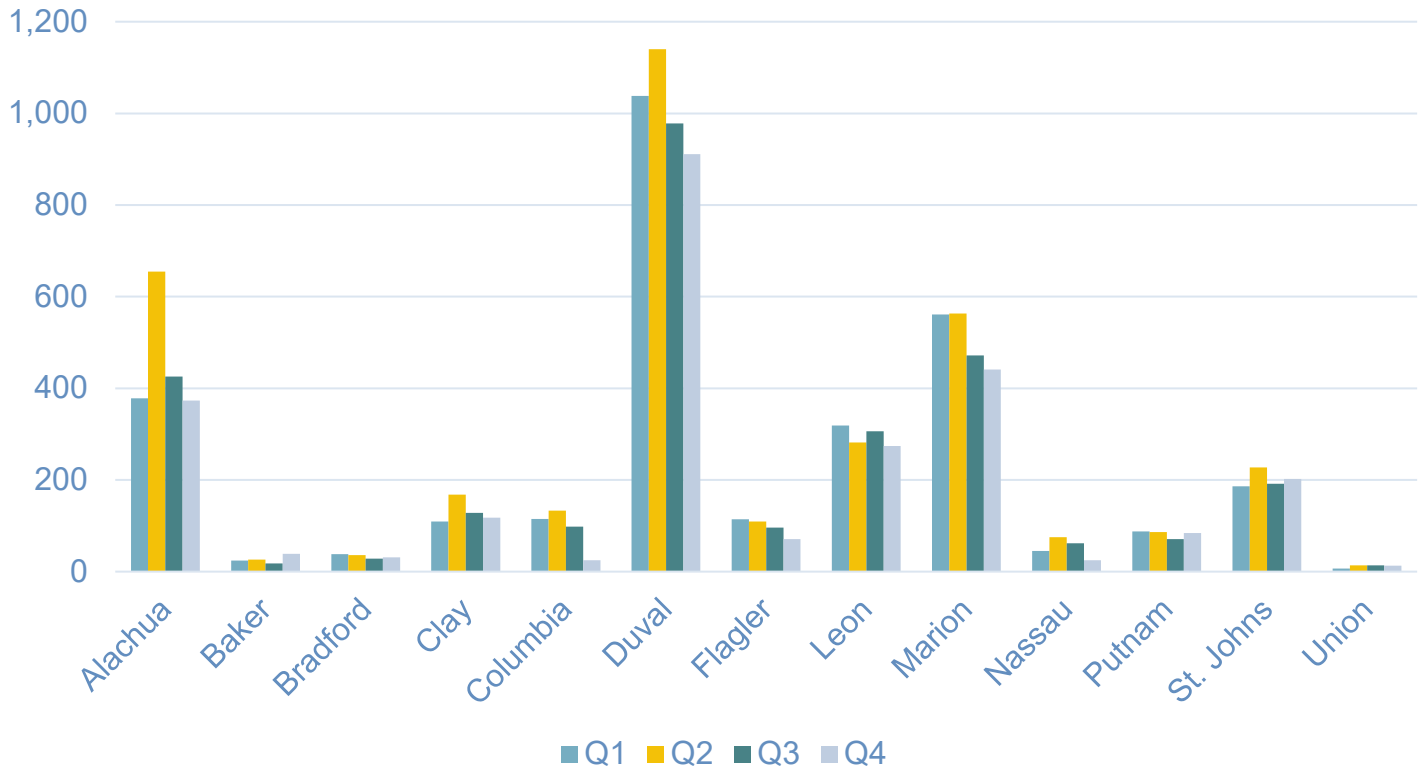


Source: Florida DOH 2024 • Created with Datawrapper

Data provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024)

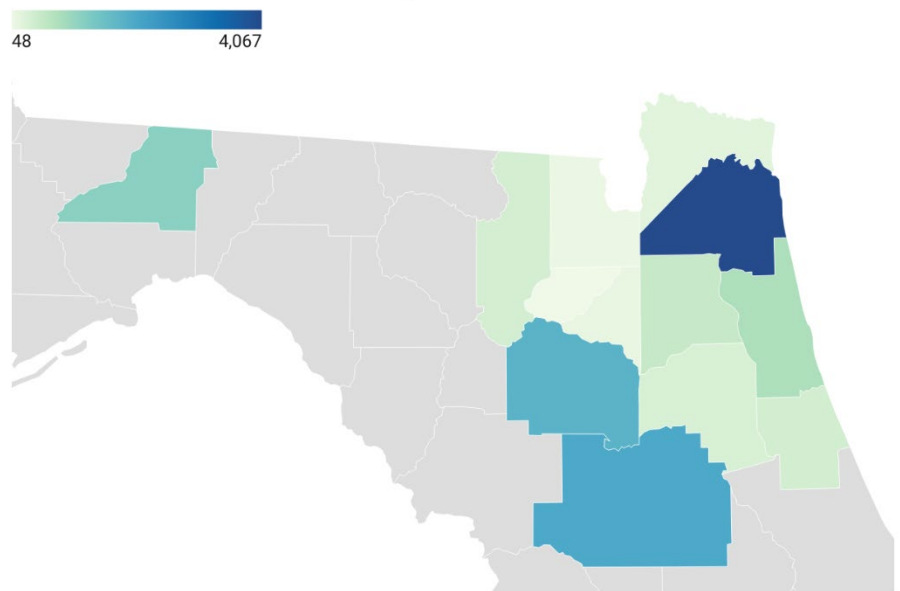
# Data Trends – NFHIDTA Counties

## EMS Responses for Suspected Overdoses



County	Count
Alachua	1,832
Baker	107
Bradford	133
Clay	523
Columbia	371
Duval	4,067
Flagler	390
Leon	1,181
Marion	2,037
Nassau	207
Putnam	329
St. Johns	807
Union	48

## EMS Responses for Suspected Overdoses

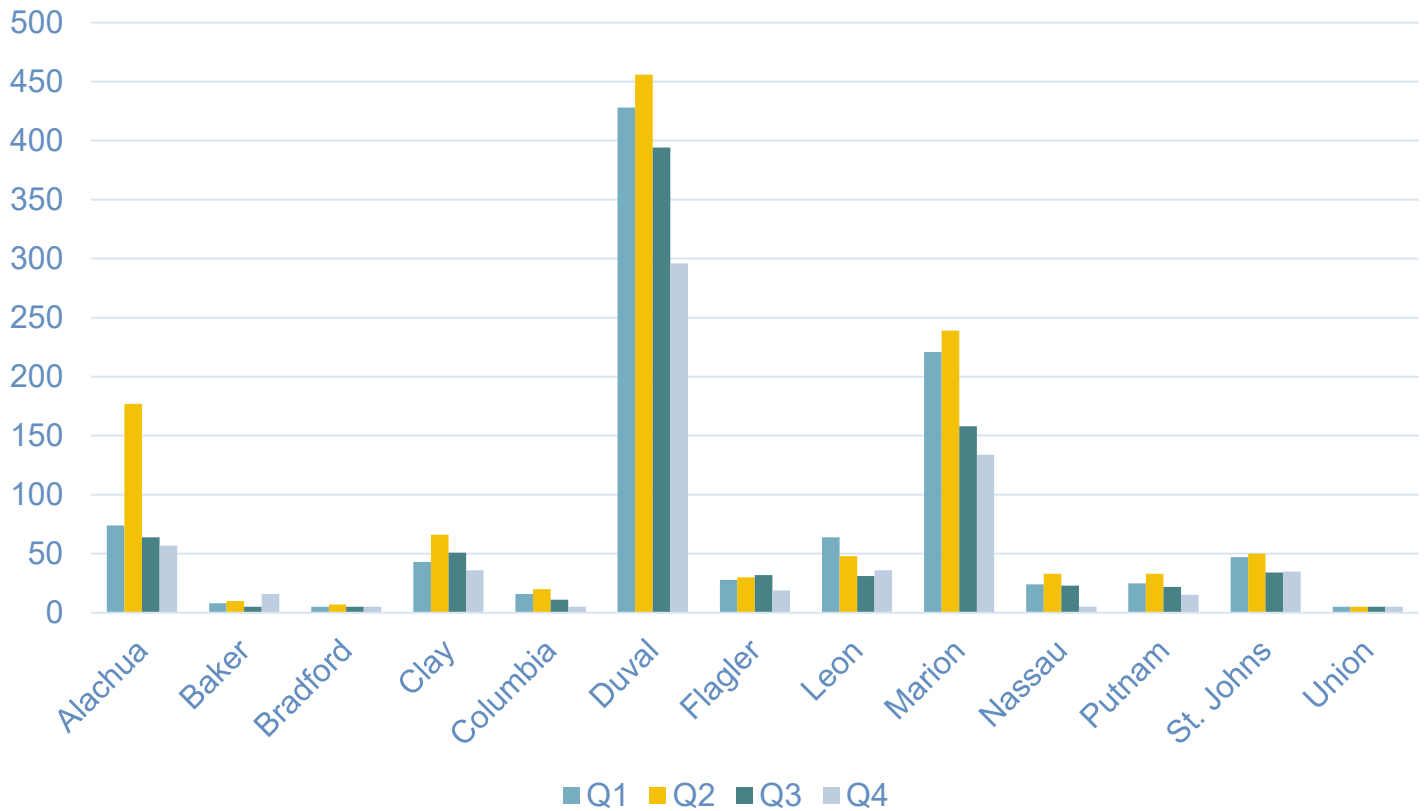


Source: Florida DOH 2024 • Created with Datawrapper

Data provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024)

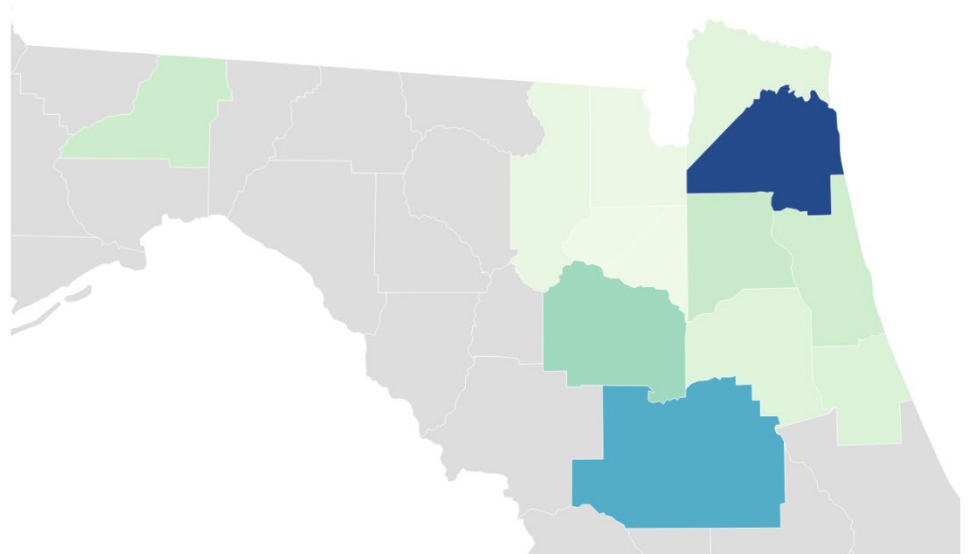
# Data Trends – NFHIDTA Counties

## EMS Responses for Suspected Overdoses – Opioids



## EMS Responses for Suspected Overdoses - Opioids

20 1,574

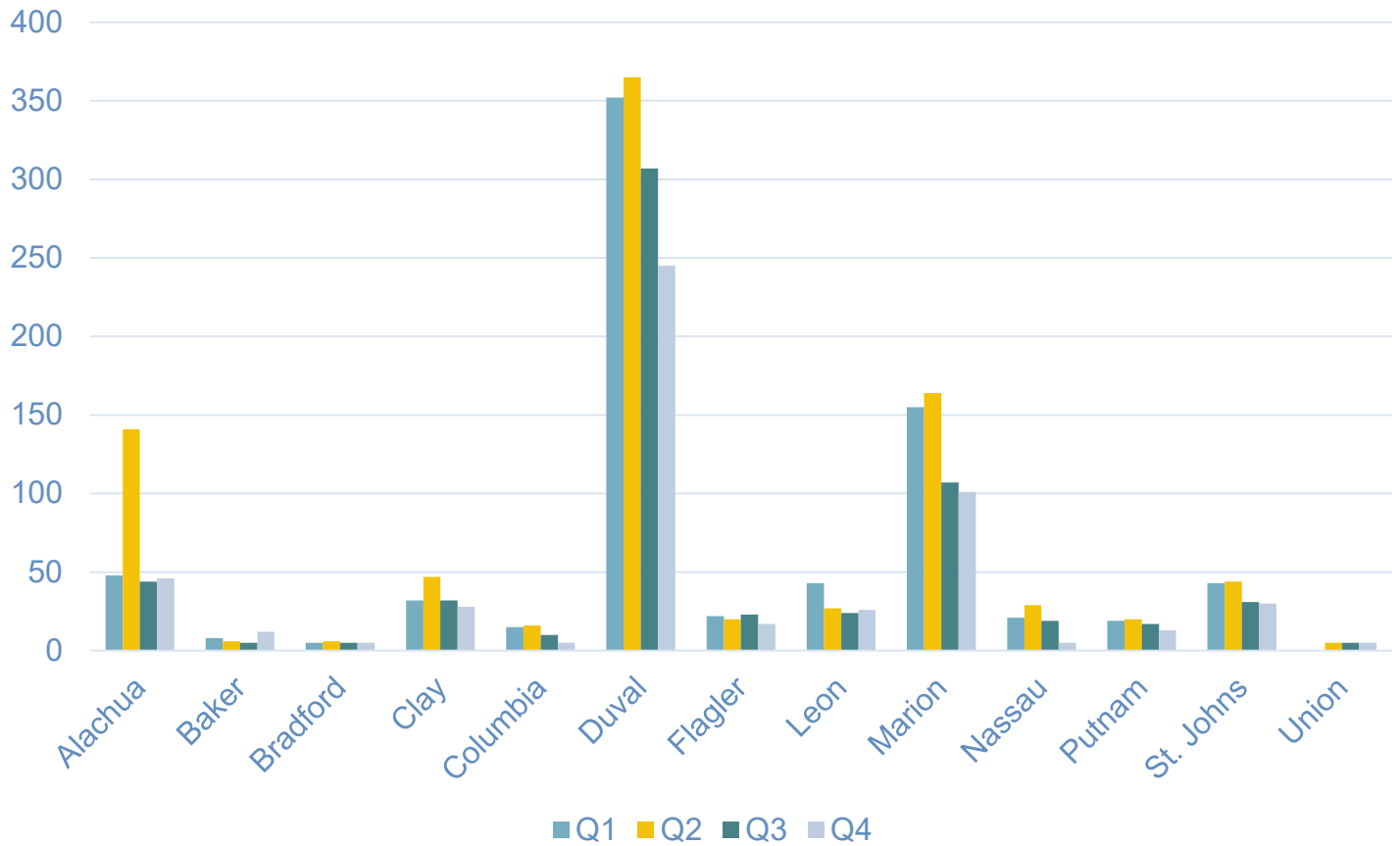


Source: Florida DOH 2024 • Created with Datawrapper

Data provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024)

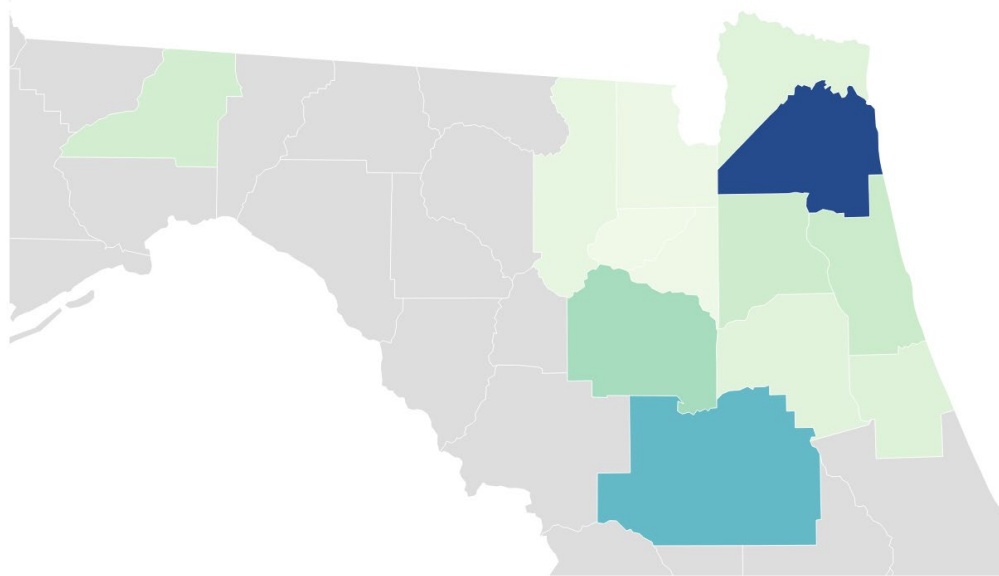
# Data Trends – NFHIDTA Counties

## EMS Responses – Naloxone Administration



## EMS Responses - Naloxone Administrations

County	Count
Alachua	279
Baker	31
Bradford	21
Clay	139
Columbia	46
Duval	1,269
Flagler	82
Leon	120
Marion	527
Nassau	74
Putnam	69
St. Johns	148
Union	15



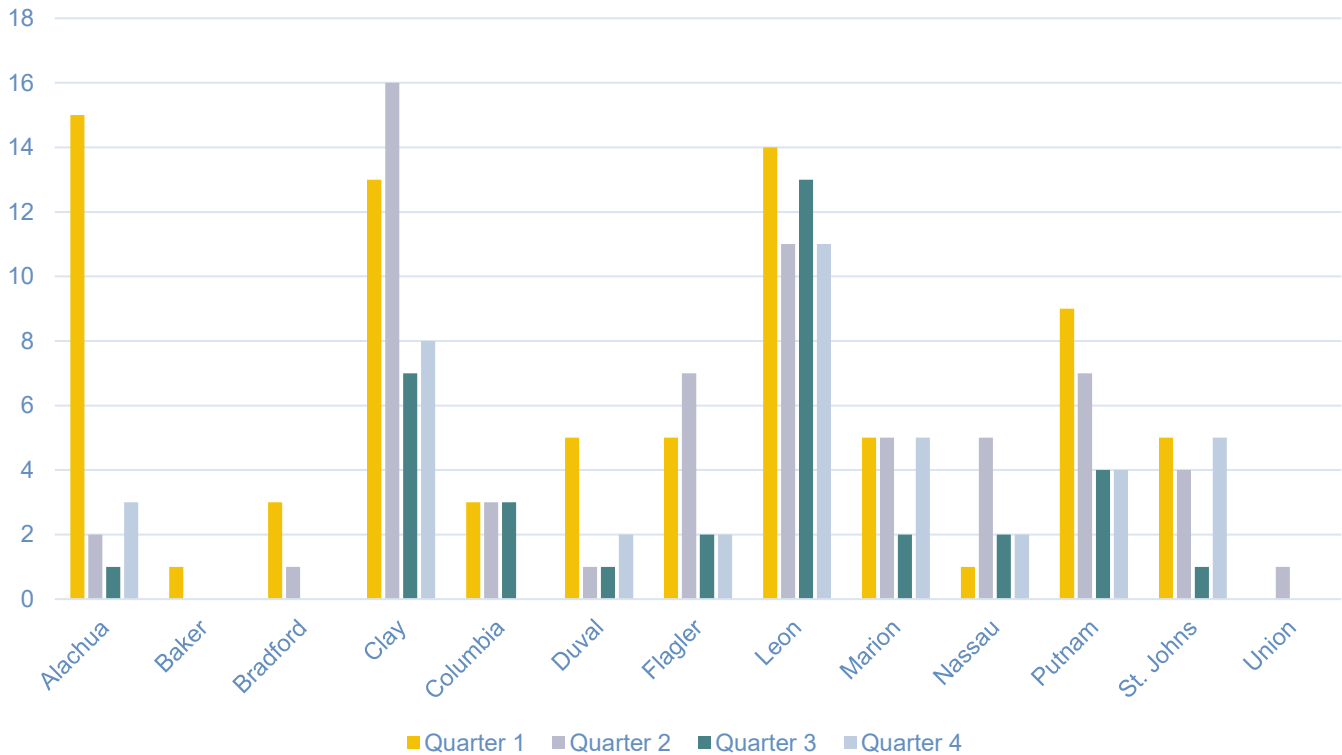
Source: Florida DOH 2024 • Created with Datawrapper

Data provided by the Florida Department of Health (2024)

# Data Trends – NFHIDTA Counties

ODMAP Spike Alerts 2024					
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Totals
<b>Alachua</b>	15	2	1	3	<b>21</b>
<b>Baker</b>	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Bradford</b>	3	1	0	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Clay</b>	13	16	7	8	<b>44</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	3	3	3	0	<b>9</b>
<b>Duval</b>	5	1	1	2	<b>9</b>
<b>Flagler</b>	5	7	2	2	<b>16</b>
<b>Leon</b>	14	11	13	11	<b>49</b>
<b>Marion</b>	5	5	2	5	<b>17</b>
<b>Nassau</b>	1	5	2	2	<b>10</b>
<b>Putnam</b>	9	7	4	4	<b>24</b>
<b>St. Johns</b>	5	4	1	5	<b>15</b>
<b>Union</b>	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>NFHIDTA AOR</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>220</b>

## ODMAP Spike Alerts



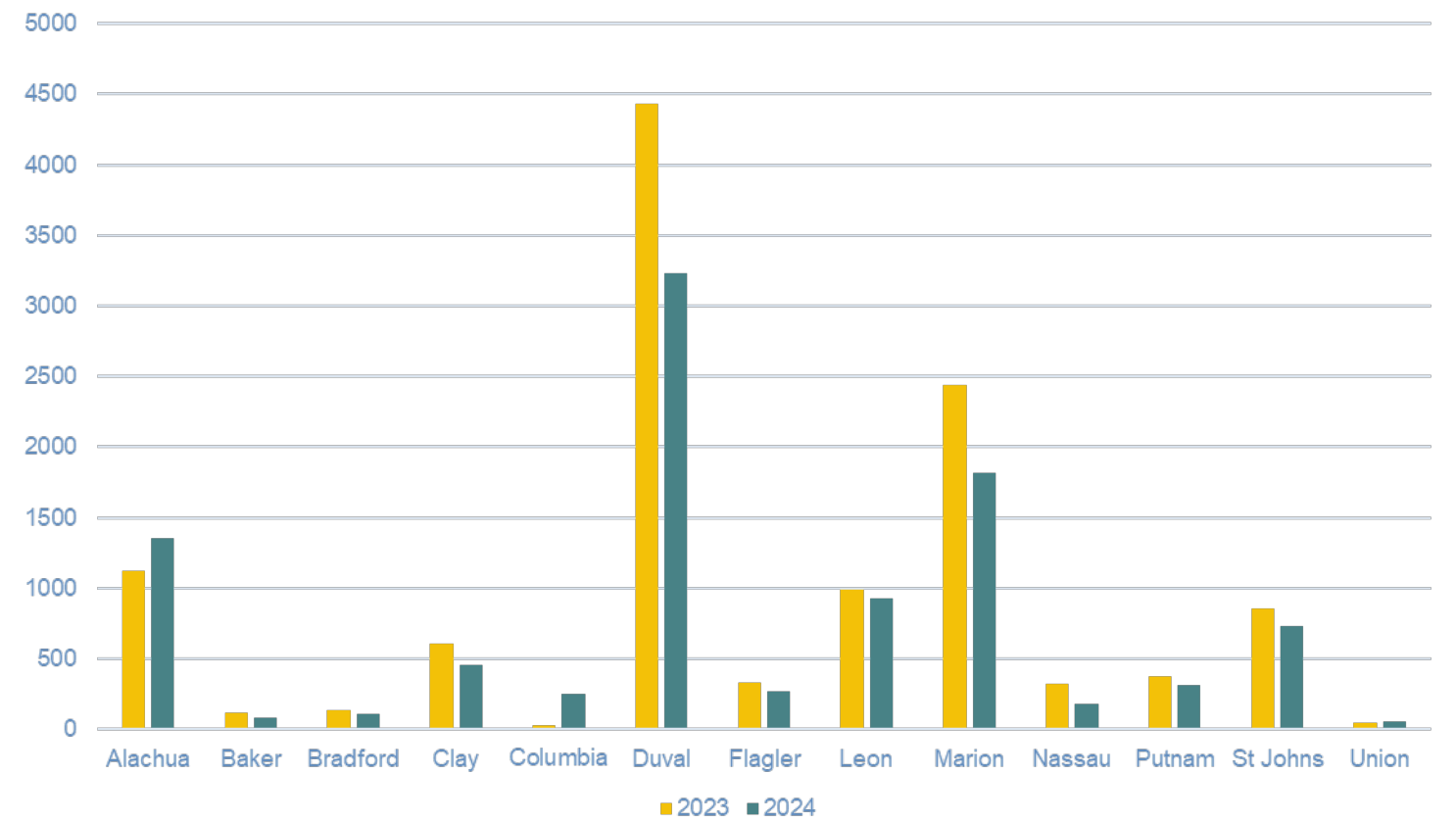
Data provided by ODMAP (2024)



# Data Trends – NFHIDTA Counties

ODMAP Suspected Overdoses			
	2023	2024	Percent Change
Alachua	1124	1358	+20.8%
Baker	117	84	-28.2%
Bradford	140	112	-20.0%
Clay	607	458	-24.5%
Columbia	28	252	+800.0%
Duval	4433	3229	-27.2%
Flagler	329	273	-17.0%
Leon	992	927	-6.6%
Marion	2440	1818	-25.5%
Nassau	326	181	-44.5%
Putnam	372	316	-15.1%
St Johns	855	735	-14.0%
Union	48	52	+8.3%
NFHIDTA AOR	11,783	9,543	-19.0%

ODMAP Suspected Overdoses



Data provided by ODMAP (2024)

# Data Trends – NFHIDTA Counties

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## Please Note:

The Florida Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) teams presents the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) suspected spike alerts weekly. *A spike alert is triggered in ODMAP when the total number of overdoses in an area exceeds a pre-determined threshold within 24 hours.* Visit [Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program - \(odmap.org\)](https://odmap.org) for more information. *These numbers are only indicative of overdoses that were reported to and responded by EMS and met the ODMAP threshold level for a spike in a 24-hour period, and do not represent all overdoses in every listed county for these dates and times.*

*“The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) is a tool for collecting and mapping suspected overdose events. ODMAP is not intended to serve as an official system of record, an intelligence sharing database, or an index-pointer records system.” – Washington/Baltimore HIDTA*

- Data may include overdose incidents that are not directly related to illicit drugs.

Thank you for reading!

DEBORAH BABIN	DBABIN@NFHIDTA.ORG
SCOTT DELANO	SDELANO@NFHIDTA.ORG