



2023

Nassau County, Florida Community Needs Assessment

Released October 2023

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Prepared by the Community Coalition Alliance (CCA)

through Lutheran Florida Services

funded by the Florida Department of Children and Families

www.ccafl.org



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all the **Nassau County Coalition for Community Health** members who helped collect the data compiled in this report, including:

- Florida National Guard
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)
- Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare
- Tobacco Free Nassau
- Nassau County School District
- Nassau County Department of Health
- Health Planning Council
- Project Opioid
- Nassau County Sheriff's Office
- Fernandina Beach Police Department

A special thank you to Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) Health Systems for supporting the efforts of the CCA coalitions and believing in our ability to reduce and prevent alcohol and other drug use in our communities.

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Lastly, thank you to the Florida Department of Children and Families for your support of prevention efforts in the Northeast Region and across the State of Florida.

COMMUNITY COALITION ALLIANCE

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MISSION:

To serve as the collective voice of community coalitions and partners in the State of Florida while valuing the unique identity of each member of the alliance.

VISION:

A state that is transformed community by community that provides all our residents a healthy, safe environment in which they can thrive.

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ABOUT COMMUNITY COALITION ALLIANCE

in the past 12 months, 2022 In Florida, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) program office, allocates funding to sub-state Regions who manage contracts for behavioral health services at the regional level. Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) Health Systems oversees and contracts for behavioral health services across the Northeast Region reaching Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lake, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Sumter, Suwannee, Union, and Volusia.

LSF Health Systems (LSFHS) is one of seven Managing Entities who work in partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families in managing behavioral health care for people facing poverty who do not have health insurance. State-funded behavioral health services help people and families who don't have insurance gain access to much-needed mental health care services. Through this system-wide approach, people at risk for or diagnosed with mental health and/or substance use disorders who do not have the financial resources to seek care are able to find the help they need. Services provided through contracted behavioral health care providers include prevention, intervention, treatment, and care coordination to support optimal recovery.

In 2008, the Community Coalition Alliance (CCA) was developed in response to a request from a Federal Project Officer to meet as a group and provide mentoring to one another. CCA provides a forum for partnerships, community involvement and participation, and interagency cooperation and collaboration by focusing on the issues with data-driven decision-making, evidence-based strategies, and the risk and protective factors of youth. The group is comprised of members of community coalitions, who are made up of parents, teachers, law enforcement, businesses, religious leaders, health providers and other community activists who mobilize at the local level to make their communities safer, healthier, and drug-free.

Recognized locally and nationally as a prevention coalition (consortium), CCA has an established infrastructure using the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) process. This 5-step process, developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), provides CCA with the framework for their method of work. SPF is an on-going process of community assessment (needs and resources), capacity building, planning, implementation, and evaluation, all based on data, while considering cultural differences and sustainability. Florida began implementing the SPF process in 2004, under the Substance Abuse Response Guide (SARG) grant.

For more information on the CCA, please visit the website at www.ccafl.org or contact:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Coalition Alliance (CCA) received funding through a current contract with Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) Health Systems to support and coordinate community level prevention efforts. For Nassau County, this is done through the re-establishment and coordination of Nassau County Coalition for Community Health (NCC) to address substance use patterns and current gaps faced in Nassau County, Florida. The NCC is a community-based organization that aims to collaborate, advocate, and educate the community regarding current community health trends.

Needs Assessment Background

The information included within this report provides a baseline summary for Nassau County to guide the work of the Nassau County Coalition for Community Health. It is the intention of this prevention coalition to use the information provided here to identify data gaps and needs, as well as additional local data to provide the context for why and how the opioid issue is growing in Nassau County.

The information below outlines the activities completed to date and the data gathered by the Nassau County Coalition for Community Health in collaboration with LSF and North Florida HIDTA. The data indicators reviewed were compiled from a variety of health and drug misuse sources including, but not limited to:

- Self-reported prevalence data- middle and high school
- Admissions to drug abuse treatment programs by primary substance of abuse or primary reason for treatment admission reported by clients at admission
- Drug-involved emergency department (ED) reports
- Drug Seizure and related data obtained from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)
- Drug-related deaths reported by medical examiner (ME)
- Surveys of drug use
- Drug arrest data
- Poison control center data

About Nassau County Coalition for Community Health

Before the establishment of the Nassau County Coalition for Community Health (NCC), Nassau County was without a prevention coalition for some time. The development of the prevention coalition primarily served to provide resources for substance use related needs through educational programs, outreach, and advocacy to fill this gap. With the support of the Community Coalition Alliance, the NCC was established in January 2022 to continue prevention efforts throughout Nassau County.

Current efforts included under NCC include the DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which is held bi-annually in partnership with the Nassau County Sherriff's Office and the National

Guard, to provide safe disposal outlets to reduce the risk of medication misuse. We also work in partnership with Project Opioid to host overdose awareness seminars, which provides a platform for community education through subject expert panelists, Narcan and Deterra training/distribution, and community resource tabling. The NCC holds monthly community partner meetings to disseminate real-time local data trends, provide community education, and provide a platform for community organizations to collaborate efforts.

Partnerships

With the current impact of the opioid and fentanyl crisis on our community, we have focused our efforts on community education and substance misuse prevention. To ensure the Nassau County Coalition for Community Health included an array of different perspectives we collaborated with Lutheran Services Florida, Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare, Nassau County School District, Tobacco Free Nassau, and the Nassau Department of Health. This dynamic group of prevention organizations serves to identify additional partners working with substance use treatment, prevention services, community partners and other service agencies.

By collaborating with this smaller group, we were able to focus on community data, strategic planning, current program improvement, and discussions on the implementation of new resources and programming. Additionally, meetings served as a platform to meet with our partner organizations to discuss how we can collaborate and support the community without repeating current efforts.

The following tables highlight key partners involved with the Nassau County Coalition for Community Health.

Table 1: Key Stakeholders in Nassau County

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Opioid • Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare • Nassau County Sheriff's Office • North Florida HIDTA • Nassau County Department of Health • Tobacco Free Nassau • Nassau County School District • Fernandina Beach Police Department • LSF • Florida National Guard • Nassau County Parks and Recreation • Hearts 4 Minds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florida Psychological Associates • Fresh Ministries • Aware Recovery Care • Incubate Debate • Charlie Health • Here Tomorrow • Dayspring Village • Yoga 4 Change • Teen Challenge • Health Planning Council • Groups Recover Together • Inspire to Rise
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For more information on coalition members please see **APPENDIX A: Nassau County Coalition for Community Health Partnerships** for partner visualization and meeting attendance.

REGIONAL SUMMARY

According to the US Census Bureau (2023), Florida is the 3rd most populous state in the nation, with a population of 22.2 million. The state comprises of 50.8% females and 49.2% males, with 54.1% of the residents between the ages of 18-65. Florida is made up of 67 counties, including 23 counties in the Northeast region:

- **Circuit 4:** Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties
- **Circuit 3:** Hamilton, Suwannee, Columbia, Lafayette, and Dixie Counties
- **Circuit 8:** Levy, Gilchrist, Alachua, Baker, Bradford, and Union Counties
- **Circuit 5:** Marion, Citrus, Lake, Sumter, and Hernando Counties
- **Circuit 7:** Volusia, Flagler, Putnam, and St. John’s Counties

As of 2022, the population of Northeast Florida was 4,171,045 residents. Duval County accounts for the largest portion of the region’s population of just under 1 million residents. While Lafayette county has the least number of residents in Northeast Florida, just over 8000 as described in the most recent US Census data.

Figure 1: Northeast Florida Circuits



Figure 1 Source: Lutheran Services Florida

The **Community Coalition Alliance** supports 15 of the 23 county coalitions, as well as 3 counties in Southeast Florida. See map below for counties served.

Figure 2: Counties Served by Community Coalition Alliance in Florida

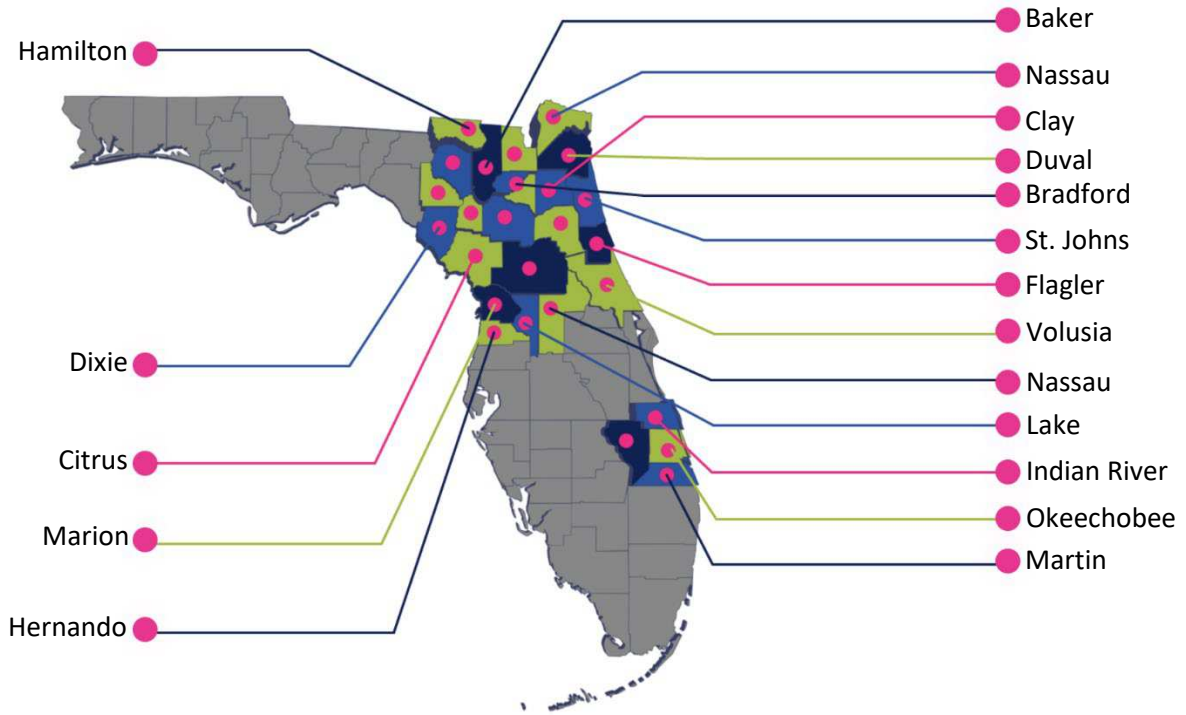


Figure 2 Source: Community Coalition Alliance <https://ccafl.org/>

NASSAU COUNTY SUMMARY

Nassau County is located in the northeast corner of Florida, just north of Duval County and bordering south of Georgia’s Camden and Charlton counties. As of 2020, Nassau County stretches over 648.7 square miles. There is an estimated 45,223 housing units within the county (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022). Some notable geographic areas in Nassau County include Fernandina Beach, Yulee, Callahan, Hilliard, and Bryceville, which are highlighted in map to the right. Urban areas are predominantly on the eastern side of the county, whereas smaller towns and rural areas are on the western side of the county.

Figure 3: Map of Nassau County, Florida



Figure 3 Source: Whereig.com Map of Nassau County, FL

History of Nassau County

Originally inhabited by Native Americans including the Timucua, Mvskoke (Muscogee), and Miccosukee tribes, Nassau County, Florida spans across 726 square miles and is located north of Duval County and south of the state of Georgia. The French first took possession of Nassau County in 1562. Later in the 16th and 17th centuries it was dominated by Spanish influence under the occupation of Menendez ([Tributary, 2020](#)).

In 1763 Florida was given to the British by the Treaty of Paris. During this time the plantation system was developed, and this area became a slave smuggling port. In 1821, the United States took ownership of the area which was at the time a part of Duval County. It wasn't until 1824 that Nassau County was founded and named for the Duchy of Nassau in Germany. During the American Civil War in 1862, the Union invaded Amelia Island and many slaves were released from bondage and relocated to Franklinton on the south end of Amelia Island. Nearby is American Beach, developed by and specifically for African Americans and until the 1964 Civil Rights Act was one of the few beaches in the Southeast available to this population. Nassau County is included within the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor which celebrates and preserves the important contributions made to American culture and history by African Americans known as Gullah Geechee people who settled in the coastal counties of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Their culture and language have roots in a mix of primarily West African ethnic groups. The Gullah/Geechee communities that sprang up around the work camps of the early 20th century continue to be centers of Gullah/Geechee communities today.

During the 20th century many modern industries proliferated including shrimping, timber, and packaging. In fact, during the late 1930s WestRock paperboard mill began production and changed the course of history and economics in Nassau County and Florida. In 1937, the Container Corporation of America established a paperboard mill which now produces 155,000 metric tons of softwood cellulose specialties per year and is ranked among the nation's top 50 exporters. Hilliard is also home to the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control center.

Today, Nassau is also nearby to four different military bases, including Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport, Naval Submarine Base King's Bay, and Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island, making Nassau County a prime location for active and retired military. Along the eastern border of Nassau, Fernandina Beach provides coastal tourism and is a home for the timber industry, with the Port of Fernandina allowing for international business within the county. Amelia Island boasts beachside tourism with an abundance of restaurants, local businesses, and resorts. The central and western region of Nassau County provides a variety of agricultural and retail commerce. Hilliard is also home to the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control center. With such a variety of industries Nassau County provides, it is no surprise that Nassau County is ranked the 65th fastest growing county out of the 3,145 counties in the nation. According to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, it is estimated that by 2035, Nassau County's population will increase by 44.6%.

Demographics

The data provided in this report will include the neighboring metropolitan areas of Duval County and Clay County. Data in these areas are used as a comparison by geographical location, demographics, and population size. Nassau County is one of three counties within Circuit 4 and as of 2022.

According to the most recent US Census data, the current population in Nassau as of 2022 was 97,899, an 8.3% increase since 2020. Nassau County also has a higher veteran population compared to Duval County and the state of Florida. The Figures below contain additional information about population demographics (Table 2) and race (Figure 4).

Table 2: State & County Population Demographics, 2022

	Total Population (N)	Male	Female	Persons under 5 years	Persons under 18 years	Persons above 65 years	Veterans 2017-2021
Florida	22,244,823	49.2%	50.8%	5.0%	19.3%	21.6%	6.2%
Nassau County	97,899	49.5%	50.5%	4.7%	19.2%	24.0%	8.6%
Duval County	1,016,536	48.6%	51.4%	6.3%	22.2%	15.4%	8.3%
Clay County	226,589	49.6%	50.4%	5.1%	22.6%	17.3%	12.1%

Figure 4: 2022 Population Demographics: Race (2022)

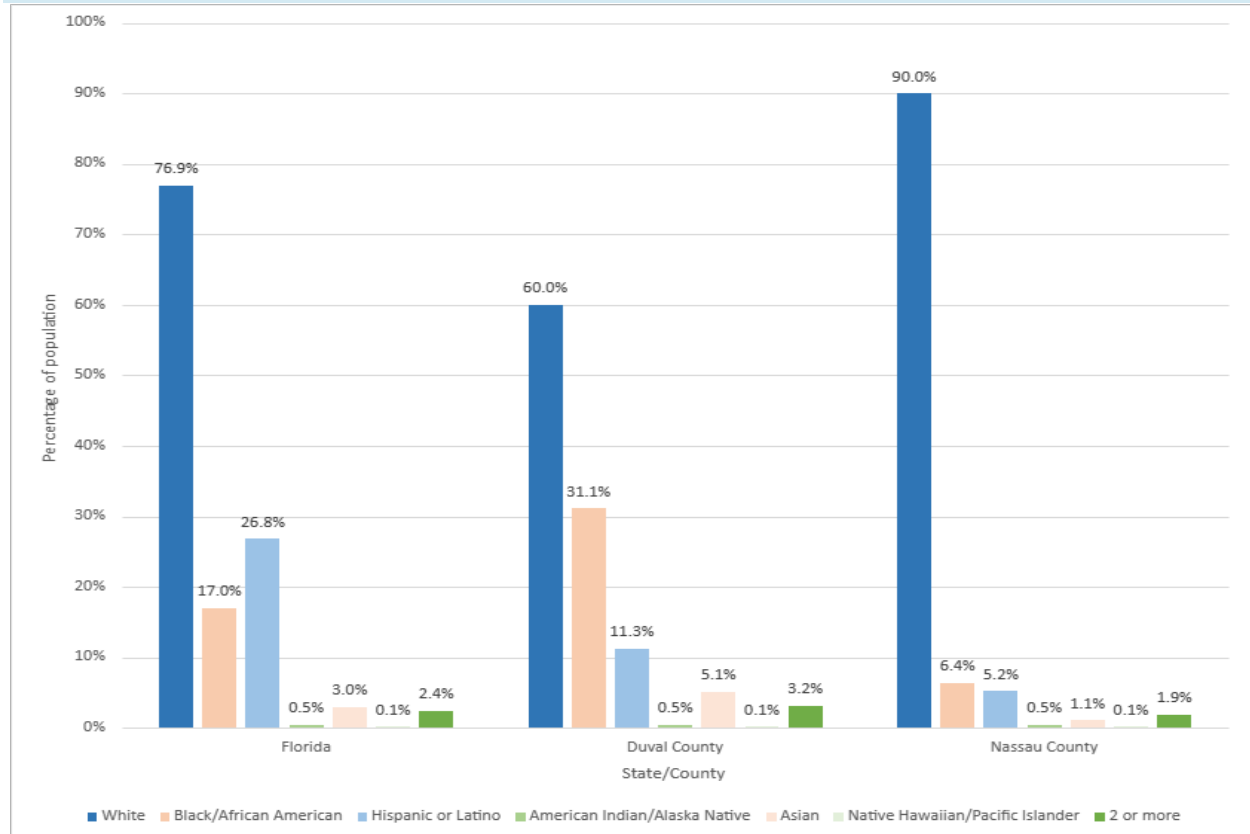


Table 2 & Figure 4 Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2022) QuickFacts [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Florida](#)

Moreover, as shown in Table 2 and Figure 4, the population of Nassau County, Florida is about half of the population in Clay County and ten times smaller than Duval County. Therefore, it is important to note that when it comes to smaller numbers in future tables and figures these may present larger percentages of the population than in Clay and Duval counties.

US Census data release from 2022 also reveals the median household income from 2017-2021 in Nassau County was \$77,504, 22% higher than the state average during this time of \$61,777. Nassau also has less people in poverty when compared to Duval and the state of Florida, however, has a 21.2% higher poverty rate than Clay County. See Table 3 below for more comparisons.

Table 3: National, State & County: Economics, 2021

	United States	Florida	Nassau	Duval	Clay
Median household income	\$69,021	\$61,777	\$77,504	\$59,541	\$74,059
Persons in labor force	63.1%	59.0%	56.8%	63.9%	61.3%
Persons in poverty	11.6%	13.1%	9.9%	14.9%	8.0%
Persons with a disability under age 65	8.7%	8.7%	12.3%	9.3%	10.0%

Table 3 Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2022) QuickFacts [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Florida](#)

According to the above table (Table 3), Nassau County, Florida also has a lower rate of persons in the labor force and persons with disability when compared at the local, state, and national levels. In addition to the above it is important to note there were approximately 8,459 veterans living in Nassau County, Florida between 2017-2021.

The following table (Table 4) examines data from the American Community Survey released in 2021 related to the infrastructure and social info of Nassau County including families with one or more vehicles, broadband or internet access, social associations, and severe housing cost burden percent average from 2017-2021.

Table 4: State, National, and County Level: Infrastructure and Social Info

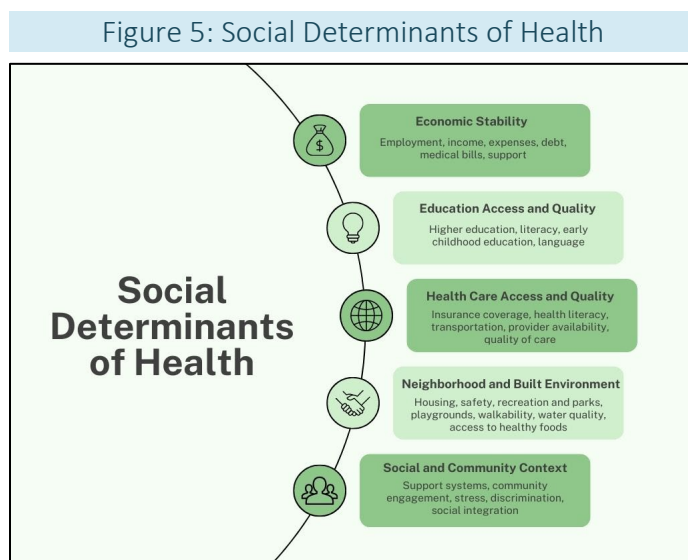
	United States	Florida	Nassau	Duval	Clay
One or more vehicles, percentage (2021)	91.9%	94.1%	97.2%	93.8%	96.5%
Broadband access, count (2021)	113,959,362	7,693,433	38,166	363,391	76,093
Social associations per 10k, rate (2023)	9.1	7.0	9.8	8.8	7.0
Severe housing cost burden, percentage (2017-2021)	14%	17%	11%	16%	10%

Table 4 Source: American Community Survey, 2021 [CENSUS ACS 2021](#);

[County Health Rankings, 2023](#) [Nassau County FL, 2023](#)

Social Determinants of Health

The social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions that people are born, live, work, and age in that influence a community’s health outcomes and quality of life. The social determinants of health are grouped into 5 categories, see Figure 5 to the right. Some studies have found socioeconomic factors such as poverty, unemployment, low education level, and homelessness to be associated with substance overdose ([Harvard, 2021](#)).



According to data from the American Community Survey (2021), Nassau County exhibits *positive* health factors when it comes to socioeconomic factors, such as economic characteristics and educational attainment. Nassau has lower percentages of unemployment and residents with food stamp/SNAP benefits compared to state and national levels. Nassau ranks higher in residents who are high school graduates or higher as well as higher in residents who have a bachelor's degree or higher, as compared to state and national levels. See Table 5 below for additional data points related to educational attainment in Nassau County.

Table 5: Socioeconomic Factors: Educational Attainment by Population on a National, State, and County Level, 2021

	U.S.	Florida	Nassau County
Educational Attainment- Population 18 to 24 years			
Less than high school graduate	11.7%	13.2%	12.7%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	34.8%	33.9%	46.3%
Some college or associate’s degree	40.7%	41.3%	31.7%
Bachelor’s degree or higher	12.8%	11.5%	9.3%
Educational Attainment- Population 25 years and over			
Less than 9 th grade	4.8%	4.4%	0.9%
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	5.9%	5.8%	2.9%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	26.3%	27.7%	25.2%
Some college, no degree	19.3%	18.9%	22.8%
Associate’s degree	8.8%	10.0%	13.3%
Bachelor’s degree	21.2%	20.6%	23.0%
Graduate or professional	13.8%	12.6%	11.9%
High school graduate or higher	89.4%	89.8%	96.3%
Bachelor’s degree or higher	35.0%	33.2%	35.0%

Table 5 Source: American Community Survey, 2021 [CENSUS ACS 2021](#)

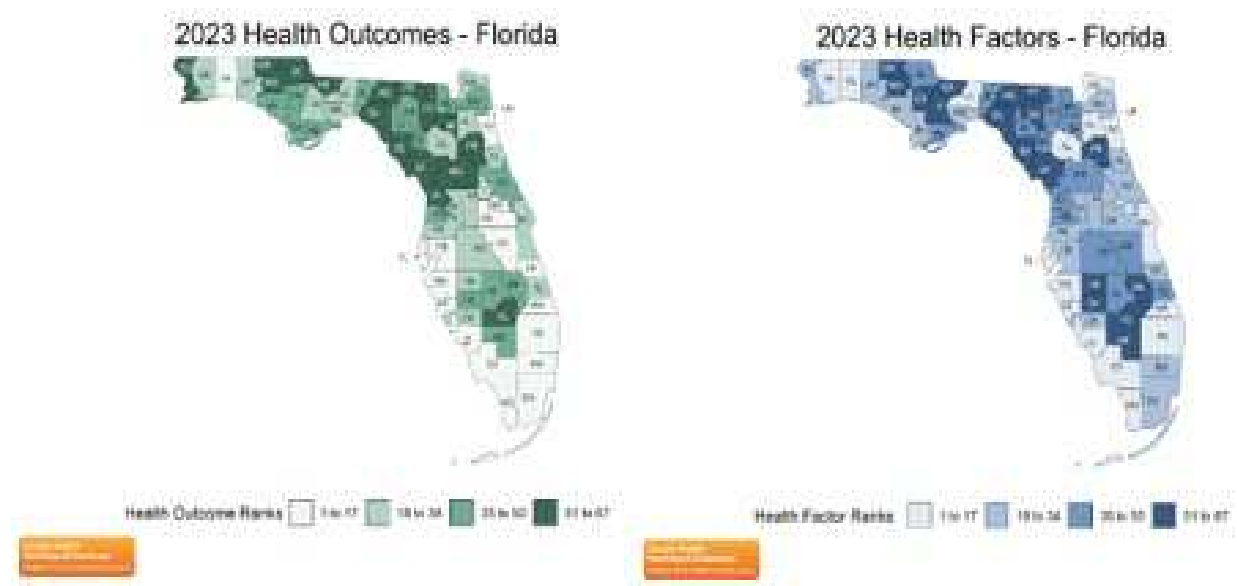
The next section of this report will examine the 2023 National County Health Rankings data release for Nassau County, FL, as well as commonly utilized services of residents.

Community Health & Services Used

The needs of Nassau County are assessed through different data collection tools and methods. County Health Rankings is a data resource that ranks counties and states based on the number of resources and their capability to facilitate a healthy population. Data points for Nassau County indicate higher percentages compared to national and state levels for adult obesity, smoking, drinking, and deaths involving alcohol. Nassau County also has higher rates of suicide compared to the U.S. and Florida.

The following maps (Figure 6) were taken from County Health Rankings, 2023. Nassau County ranks 30th out of the 67 counties for health outcomes, and 8th out of the 67 counties for health factors. Health outcomes are measurements of the effects of health factors. Examples of health outcomes are premature death, life expectancy, infant mortality, etc. Health outcomes are influenced by health factors. Examples of health factors are health behaviors (ex: drug overdose deaths), clinical care (ex: flu vaccinations), socioeconomic factors (ex: median household income), and physical environment.

Figure 6: County Health Rankings Health Outcomes and Factors Maps, 2023



According to CDC Wonder analysis of the county health rankings, the top 5 leading causes of death in Nassau County for those under 75 were malignant neoplasms, diseases of the heart, accidents, chronic lower respiratory diseases, and intentional self-harm. The data also reveals injury deaths in Nassau are 17% higher than the state average, and 30% higher than the national average.

Figure 6 Source: [Nassau, Florida | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

Moreover, Nassau County also had more persons with poor physical and mental health days when compared to the state and nation in 2023. Rankings also revealed 13% of residents are also uninsured which is 26% higher than the national average.

Information Source: National County Health Rankings (2023) [Nassau County, FL](#)

The following table (Table 6) examines the specific health behaviors recorded in Nassau County as they compare to the state and the nation. As was noted at the beginning of this section, adult smoking and obesity rates are higher in Nassau County than in the state. Nassau also has a higher rate of excessive drinking and crashes involving alcohol than the state and nation.

Data in this table also examines clinical care and ratios of patients to providers. Nassau county is underserved in both primary care and mental health with ratios of 2,280 patients to one primary care physician, and 780 patients to 1 mental health provider due to lack of service providers and agencies in the community.

It is important to note that while statistics show that Nassau County ranks to be adequate for certain health outcomes, the expected population growth within the county puts individuals at risk for lack of access to health resources due to population to an increasing gap in provider to patient ratios. This gap will continue to increase as we see the population grow. See further information on this in the Community Substance Use and Mental Health Resources section of this report.

Table 6: Health Behaviors in Nassau County, County Health Rankings

	Nassau County	Florida	United States
HEALTH BEHAVIORS			
Adult smoking in 2020 (%)	18%	16%	16%
Adult obesity in 2020 (%)	31%	28%	32%
Excessive drinking in 2020 (%)	20%	17%	19%
Driving deaths involving alcohol, 2016-2020 (%)	30%	22%	27%
CLINICAL CARE			
Primary Care Physicians (population to primary care ratio)	2,280:1	1,380:1	1,310:1
Mental Health Providers (population to providers ratio)	780:1	510:1	340:1
SOCIAL & ECONOMIC FACTORS			
Injury deaths, 2016-2020 (per 100,000 population)	103	97	76
Unemployment in 2021 (%)	3.4%	4.6%	5.4%
Suicides, 2016-2020 (per 100,000 population)	21	14	14
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT			
Air pollution in 2019 (per cubic meter)	8.4	7.8	7.4
Long Commute – Driving Alone, 2017-2021 (%)	53%	43%	37%

Table 6 Source: [Nassau, Florida | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

Moreover, Northeast Florida 211 counts dashboard examines service requests in the Northeast Region of FL. Data from October 2022-October 2023 reveals that Nassau County, FL ranks in the top 10 for highest rates of requests for housing and shelter, preceded by Duval, Clay, Putnam, and Columbia counties, followed by St. John's, Baker, Suwannee, and Hamilton.

Nassau County also comes in number 2 for highest rates of requests for mental health and addictions, only preceded by Duval County and followed by Clay, Suwannee, and Putnam counties. Of these requests, 46.7% were for mental health facilities, 40% for mental health services, and 6.7% for crisis intervention and suicide prevention services.

Information Source: 2-1-1 Northeast Florida <https://nefl.211counts.org/>

Risk and Protective Factors

Substance misuse affects people of all socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Substance misuse is often related to individual, family, and community *risk factors* that may put an individual at a higher risk for developing substance use disorder. *Protective factors* are characteristics at an individual, family, and community level that lower the risk of developing substance use disorder. Risk and protective factors often differ depending on age group; however, some can overlap ([SAMHSA, 2019](#)). For example, a family history of substance use disorder can be a *shared risk factor* for youth into young adulthood. An example of a *shared protective factor* could be participation in prosocial activities, which can affect youth through adulthood.

According to data from the 2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, in Nassau County 20.6% of high school students report having at least one adverse childhood event before the age of 18, and there are less opportunities for prosocial involvement with school for high school students, and less opportunities for family prosocial involvement for middle school and high school. There are however more opportunities for peer and individual religious organization involvement at the middle and high school levels. Florida and Nassau County both rank lower than the national averages for prosocial involvement for students in all areas, however.

SUBSTANCE USE SNAPSHOTS: NATIONAL, STATE, AND NASSAU COUNTY, FL

Substance Use Trends: National Snapshot

More than 100,000 people died from drug overdoses from April 2020 to 2021, an increase of 28.5% from the prior year, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Opioids are the main cause of drug-related overdose deaths. In 2019, opioids accounted for 70.6% of all drug overdose deaths, and the proportion of overdose deaths caused by opioids has been increasing since (CDC, 2022). There are current increases in synthetic-opioid related deaths due to fentanyl and fentanyl-analogs.

The following figure (Figure 7) was published by the CDC (2023) utilizing the Vital Statistics Rapid Release System on Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts and highlights from January 2015-January 2023 national data trends on the drug or drug class related to drug overdose deaths. The most recent data from January 2023 reported 105,263 counts of drug overdose deaths in the United States. The percent change in reported 12 month-ending count of drug overdose deaths

from January 2022 to January 2023 was -2.3%, indicating a decrease in overall national drug overdose deaths within the past year.

The following Figure (Figure 8) was also taken from CDC and visualizes the drug overdose mortality rate per state, with darker colored states having higher rates. A pattern seems to be that eastern and southern US has higher rates compared to the north and west.

Figure 7: 12-month ending provisional number of drug overdose deaths by drug or drug class, JAN 2015- JAN 2022

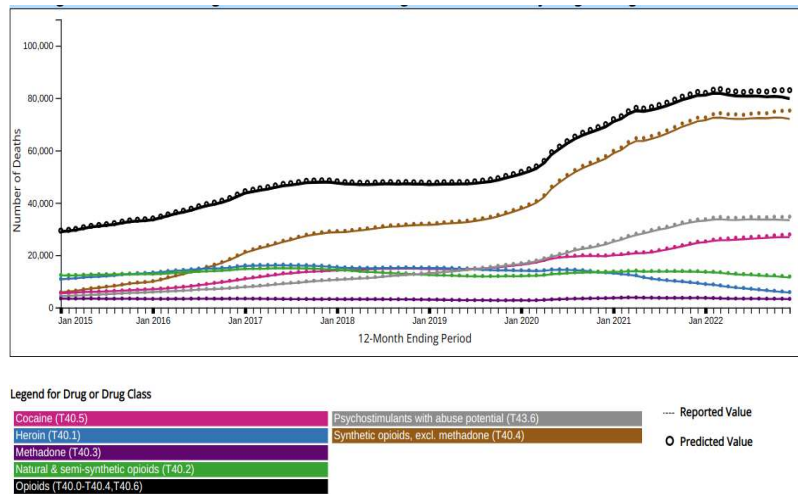
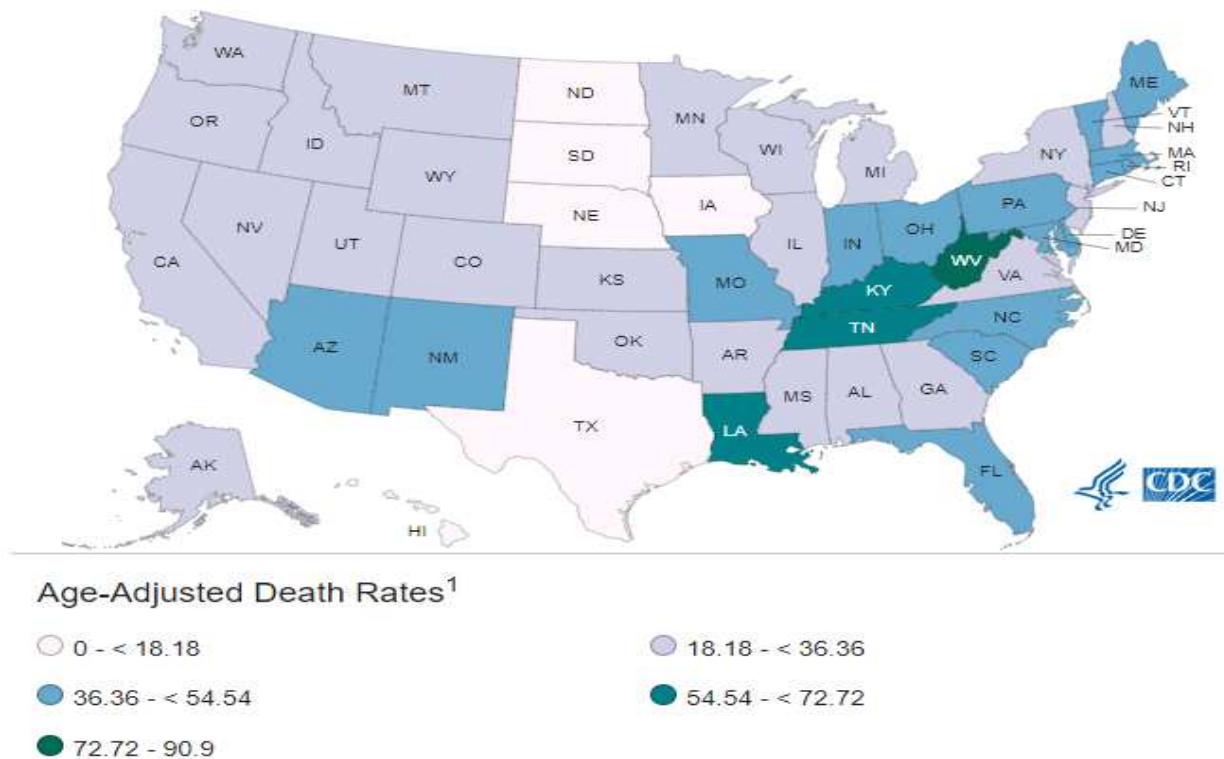


Figure 8: Drug overdose mortality by state, 2021 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)



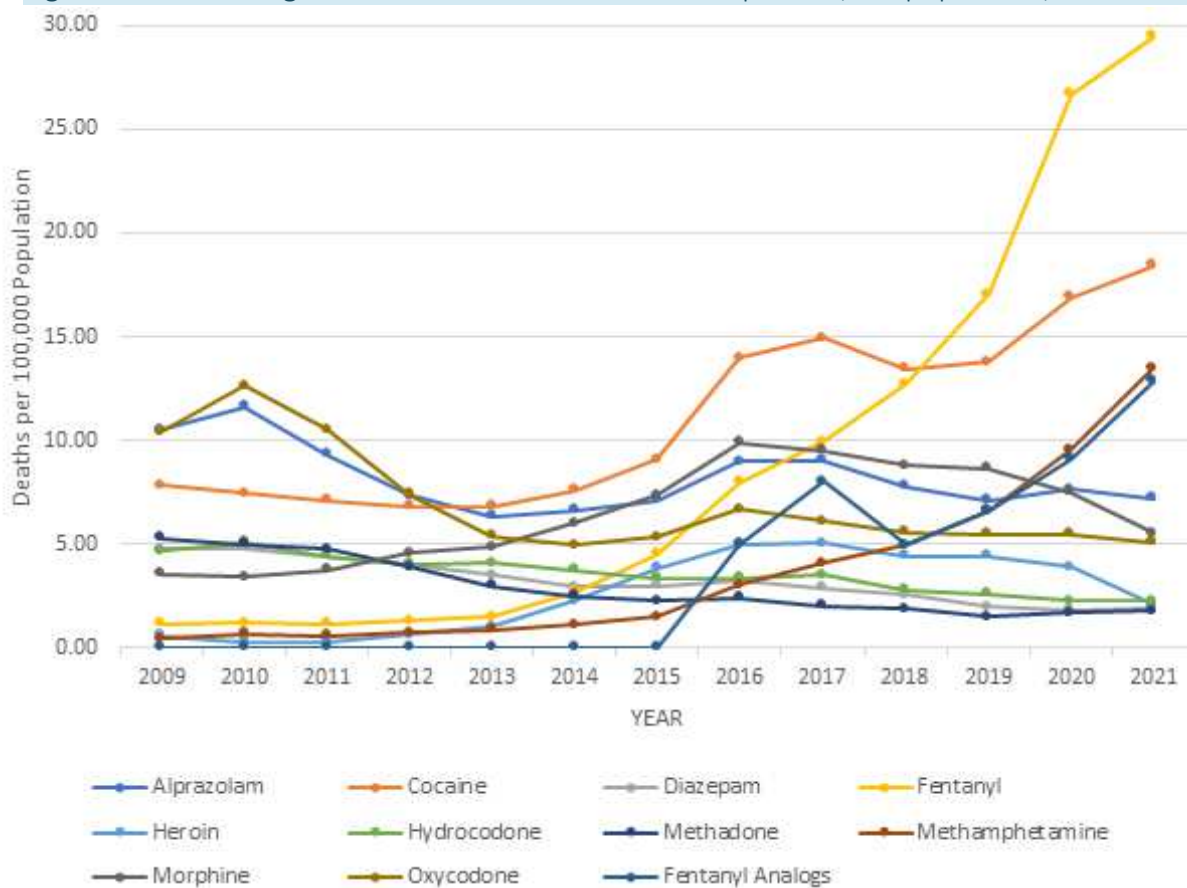
Information Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2023

Substance Use Trends: Florida State Snapshot

The University of Florida’s (UF) Florida Drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance & Tracking (FROST) System is a public data dissemination tool for drug-related outcomes in Florida. The following Figure (Figure 9) shows the trend of drug-caused deaths per 100,000 population from 2009-2021 in Florida, divided by the class of drug.

According to the data, drug-related deaths involving fentanyl has been increasing the most notably over the years, with a sharp increase from 2019 to 2020, going from a death rate of 17.02 to 26.71, respectively. Other drug classes that are increasing in prevalence in drug-related deaths include hydrocodone, methamphetamine, and fentanyl analogs.

Figure 9: Florida drug-caused death trends: Death rates per 100,000 population, 2009-2021



Data Source: [UF Florida Drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance & Tracking System \(2023\)](#)

Substance Use Trends: Nassau Snapshot

Understanding the local impact and condition is key to determining next steps for the community’s consideration of efforts. The following section will provide a brief introduction to Nassau County’s reported consequences such as overdose and arrests before going into a more

in-depth analysis of substance use in Nassau County among youth and adults. We will also look at service availability in future sections of this report.

The table below reveals data from the [Florida Poison Information Network](#) on the number of calls related to opioids. Compared to both state and county levels, Nassau County had a very low number of calls to the poison network. However, this data is not representative of calls made to first responders. See Table 7 for a breakdown of these types of calls.

Table 7: Florida Poison Information Network: Number of calls related to opioids, 2022

	Florida Poison Information Network calls related to opioids (#)
Florida	2,362
Nassau County	3
Duval County	93
Clay County	24

The low number of opioid-related calls to the poison network in 2022 in Nassau County does not indicate less need for opioid intervention, however. According to the table below, in 2022 Nassau County had 358 emergency medical service responses to a suspected drug overdose including opioids. See Table 8 below for opioid-involved emergency department visits, EMS responses, and opioid overdose deaths.

Table 8: State & County: Overdoses involving or including opioids, 2022

	Florida	Nassau	Duval	Clay
Opioid-involved non-fatal overdose emergency department visits	21,277	110	1,759	71
Emergency medical service responses to a suspected opioid-involved overdose	42,380	168	2,901	331
Emergency medical service responses to a suspected drug overdose including opioids	106,891	358	5,321	720
Opioid overdose deaths	6,089	20	480	63

Consequences of Substance Use Nassau County, FL

Substance use consequences can negatively impact both individual and community life. An example of this is the negative consequences of alcohol-impaired driving. Data from [FLHealthCHARTS](#) on alcohol/drug and alcohol confirmed motor vehicle traffic crash fatalities, injuries, and incidences are displayed on the table below (Table 9).

Table 9: Alcohol-related motor vehicle incidents, rate per 100,000 population, 2016-2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Alcohol Confirmed Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Fatalities, Single Year, Rate Per 100,000 Pop.</i>						
Florida	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Nassau County	3.8	2.5	3.6	1.2	1.1	0.0
Duval County	4.3	2.5	2.0	1.5	2.4	3.1

Clay County	1.9	1.4	1.4	0.9	0.9	2.7
<i>Alcohol Confirmed Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Injuries, Single Year, Rate Per 100,000 Pop.</i>						
Florida	15.6	14.8	14.2	14.4	12.0	13.6
Nassau County	23.0	18.8	12.0	27.0	18.3	10.7
Duval County	22.7	17.8	19.9	15.4	10.3	15.3
Clay County	13.1	11.4	14.0	16.6	8.6	10.7
<i>Alcohol Confirmed Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes, Single Year, Rate Per 100,000 Pop.</i>						
Florida	25.8	24.9	24.4	23.4	21.0	23.2
Nassau County	24.3	33.9	30.1	29.4	35.5	15.0
Duval County	40.0	34.4	37.1	29.9	24.7	31.9
Clay County	21.3	24.7	22.9	23.0	22.3	20.0

According to the most recent data in 2021, Nassau County has had the lowest rate of *alcohol* confirmed motor vehicle fatalities, injuries, and crashes compared to Florida, Duval County, and Clay County. However, Nassau had the second highest rates (with Duval County being first) on *drug and alcohol* confirmed motor vehicle traffic crash injuries, fatalities, and counts. The data is shown in Table 10 below.

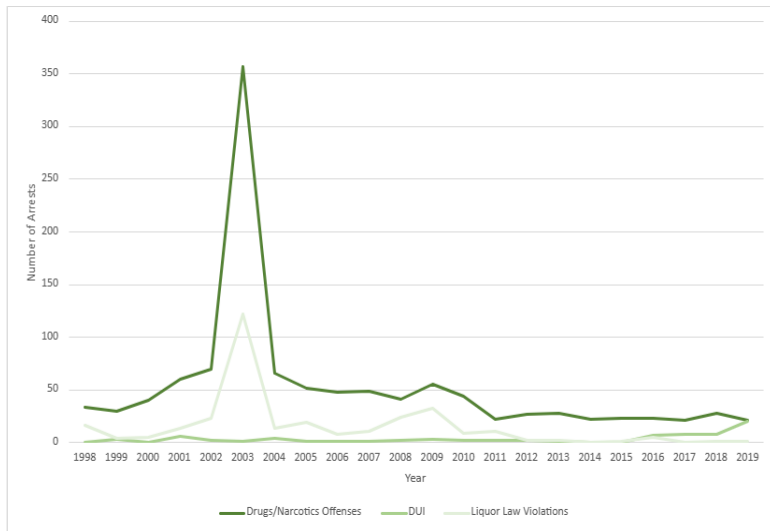
Table 10: Drug and Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Facilities, Rate per 100,000 Population, 2016-2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Drug and Alcohol Confirmed Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Fatalities, Single Year, Rate Per 100,000 Pop.</i>						
Florida	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.7
Nassau County	9.0	3.8	6.0	7.0	1.1	3.2
Duval County	4.0	3.1	3.7	3.1	4.2	4.1
Clay County	4.4	1.9	2.8	1.4	3.6	1.8
<i>Drug and Alcohol Confirmed Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Injuries, Single Year, Rate Per 100,000 Pop.</i>						
Florida	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.4
Nassau County	14.1	5.0	6.0	3.5	0.0	2.1
Duval County	1.4	2.3	4.5	2.9	1.3	3.9
Clay County	6.3	2.4	6.1	3.2	3.2	0.4
<i>Drug and Alcohol Confirmed Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes, Single Year, Rate Per 100,000 Pop.</i>						
Florida	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.9
Nassau County	7.7	5.0	6.0	7.0	1.1	3.2
Duval County	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.5

Data Source: FL Health Charts, 2022 <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/charts/default.aspx>

The following Figures 10 & 11 were retrieved from the [Florida Department of Law Enforcement](#) regarding juvenile and adult offender arrests for ATOD (alcohol, tobacco, and other drug-related) causes. For juvenile offenders in Nassau County, FL, the number of drug/narcotic offenses had the sharpest peak in 2003, and after has sharply decreased and stayed at a low and steady number. For DUI-related arrests, the number has remained low (below 50) each year but has

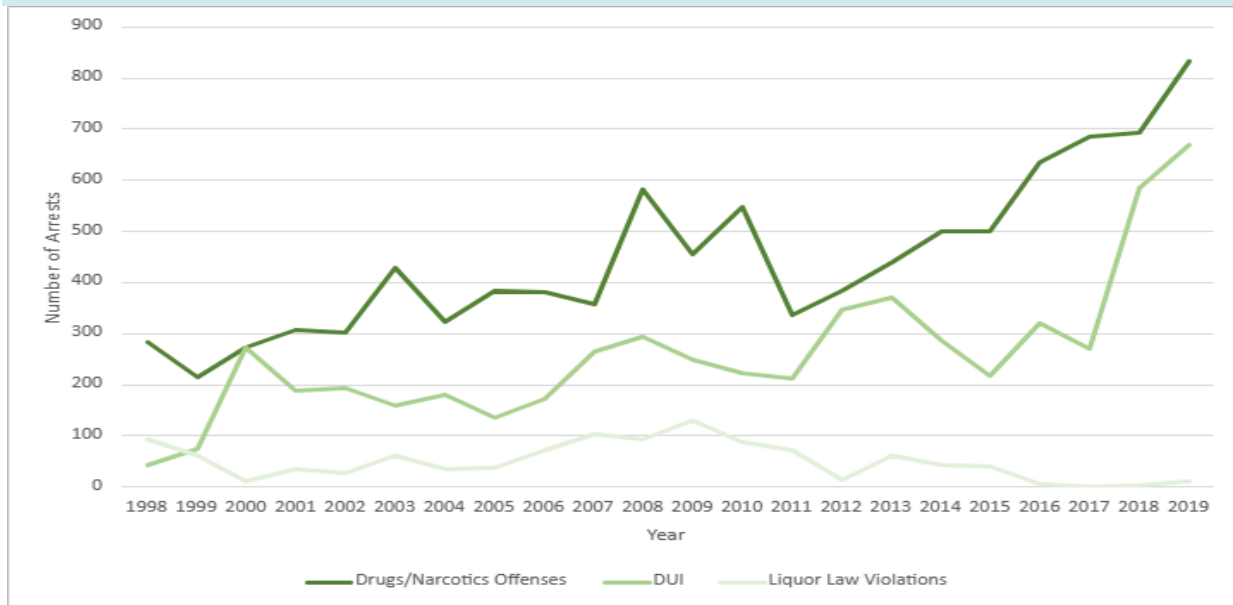
Figure 10: Juvenile Offences (FDLE Data), 1998-2019



seen a small increase in the most recent year. For liquor law violations, there was also a sharp increase in 2003, with another smaller peak in 2009, but since then as stayed at around the same stead number as DUIs for the past couple of years.

Adult offenders tell a different story. The number of drug/narcotic offenses has seen different peaks (mainly in 2003, 2008, and 2010), but the overall trend indicates an increase in numbers since 1998, with 2019 being the highest number on record. For DUI-related offenses, the overall trend also indicates an increase, with 2019 being the highest number on record as well. Liquor law violation offenses have seen a decrease, with the peak around 2009, and current numbers remaining relatively low.

Figure 11: Total Number of Adult Offender Arrests for ATOD Causes, Nassau County, 1998-2019



Data Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement [Nassau \(state.fl.us\)](http://Nassau.state.fl.us)

NASSAU SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

The following sections will review substance use and mental health data and needs in Nassau County, FL. Youth and adult data will be reviewed in designated sections to provide insight for different organizations who may work with either population. This section aims to reveal the overall condition of Nassau County in comparison to the nation, state, and surrounding counties to help address any unmet needs related to substance use and mental health.

YOUTH: SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH DATA

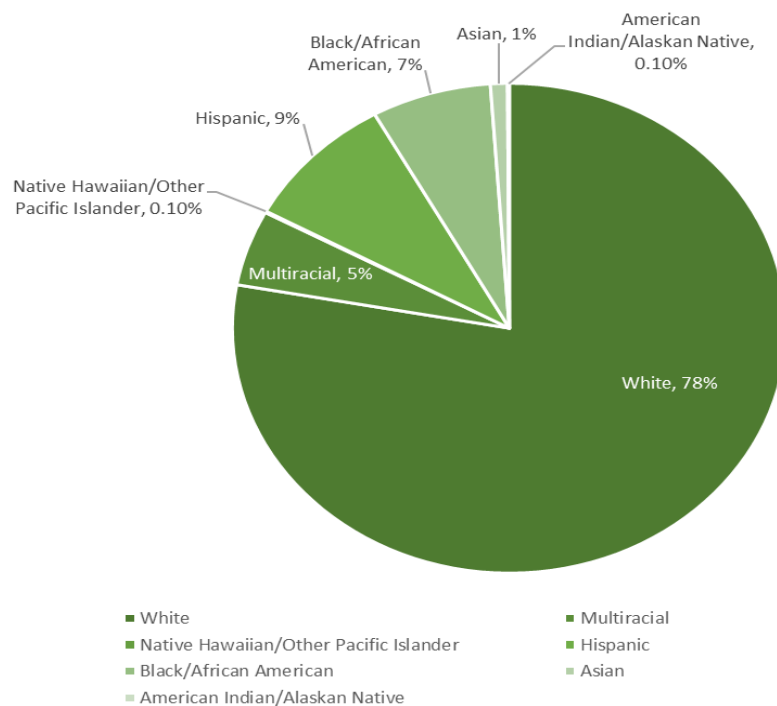
Nassau County: School Data

The Nassau County School District contains 16 accredited schools that serve Bryceville, Callahan, Hilliard, Yulee, and Fernandina. Most of the schools in the Nassau County district rank as ‘A’ schools, with only a couple ranked as ‘B’ schools.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the estimated count for teachers was 794, and the estimated count for students was 12,668. Of those students, males made up 51.8% and females 48.2%. According to the Florida Department of Education: 43.2% of students were economically disadvantaged; 1.9% were homeless; 1.5% were current English language learners, 15.4% were students with disabilities, and 1.8% were military family students.

The following figure (Figure 12) outlines demographic makeup of Nassau County students during the 2022-2023 fall enrollment year.

Figure 12: Race/Ethnicity of Nassau County School District Students, 2022-23



Data Source: Florida Department of Education <https://edudata.fldoe.org/>

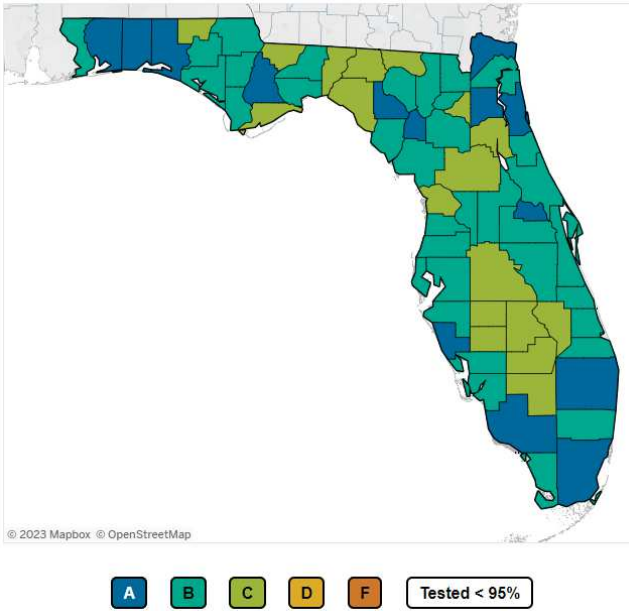


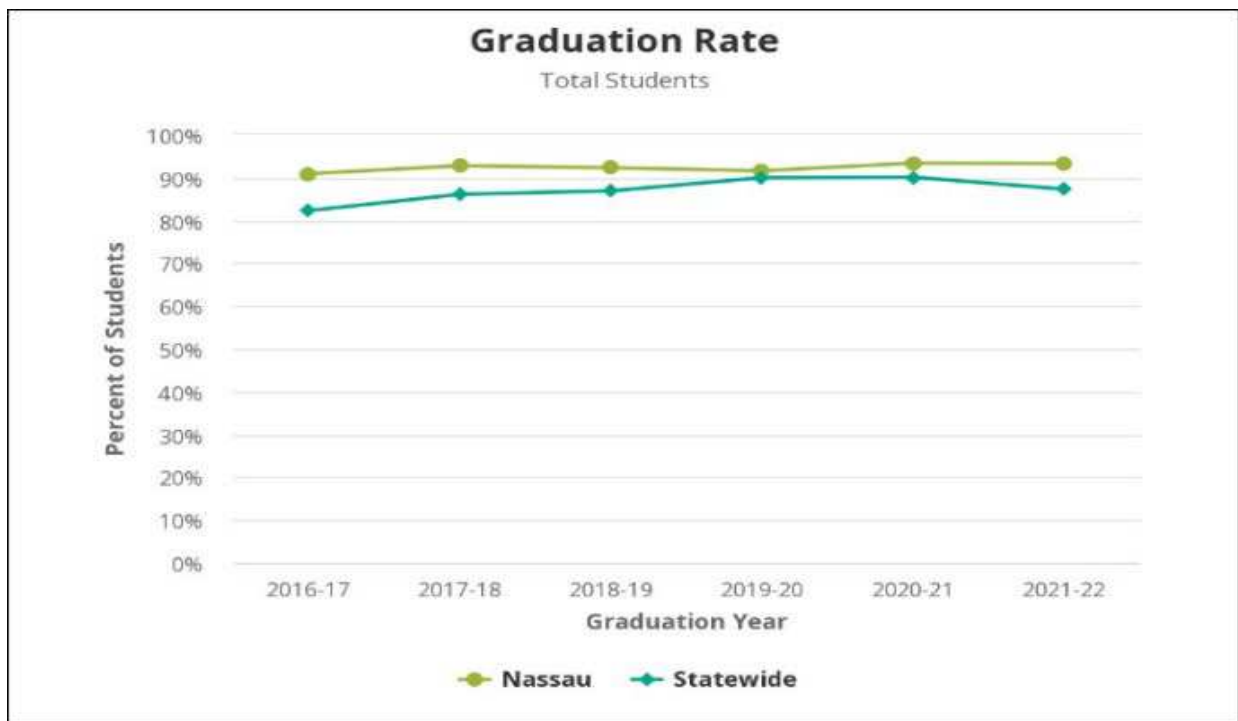
Figure 13: School District Grades Map, 2021-22

Figure 13 to the right depicts District Grades which provide an understandable way to measure the performance of a district. The community can use the school grade to understand how well each school is serving its students.

Florida ranks 3rd in the Nation in Grade 4 Reading and 4th in Grade 4 Mathematics on the Nation’s Report Card. Quality Counts report ranks Florida 3rd in the Nation for k-12 Achievement. Nassau County’s district grade is an “A” which is higher than surrounding counties (Baker and Duval).

In the 2021-22 graduation year, Nassau County had a higher graduation rate (93.3%) compared to Florida overall (87.3%) among students. Nassau County’s graduation rate has positively increased by 2.4% since the 2016-17 graduation year. This can be seen in Figure 14 below.

Figure 14: Graduation Rates, 2021-22



Data Source: Florida Department of Education <https://edudata.fldoe.org/ReportCards/Mapping.html><https://edudata.fldoe.org/ReportCards/Mapping.html>

Table 11 (below) data reveals that in Nassau County English Language Learners have the lowest 4-year graduation rate (50%) compared to other subgroup populations. Hispanic students also have a lower 4-year graduation rate compared to students who identify as Multiracial, Black/African American, or White. This type of data and information can help us to focus our efforts when it comes to making sure our materials are linguistically meeting the needs of the community since lower education levels typically lead to a higher risk of future substance use. In the most recent Community Health Improvement Plan Report for Nassau County, it was mentioned that there is a need for resources for Spanish speaking families.

Table 11: 4-Year Graduation Rate, 2021-22

Nassau School District	
2021-22 Graduation Rate	
Subgroup	Students Who Graduated Within Four Years
Total Students	93.3%
Subgroup	
Military Family Student	100.0%
Students with Disabilities	92.5%
Economically Disadvantaged	89.4%
Homeless	83.3%
English Language Learners	50.0%
Foster	*
Migrant	*
Race	
Multiracial	94.6%
Black/African American	94.4%
White	93.5%
Hispanic	89.4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	*
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	*
Gender	
Female	94.6%
Male	92.1%
Data are suppressed when the total number of students within a subgroup is less than 10 and is noted by an asterisk ().	

Data Source: Florida Department of Education <https://edudata.fldoe.org/>
<https://edudata.fldoe.org/ReportCards/Mapping.html><https://edudata.fldoe.org/ReportCards/Mappin>

It is essential that all students are provided an opportunity to achieve their highest academic, professional and life goals regardless of race/ethnicity, disability, economic status, or native language. Florida is working hard to ensure that each student has this opportunity by improving the performance of all students while also closing the achievement gap through the implementation of system-level strategies and by measuring and tracking key performance metrics. Figures 15-17 below look at specific populations in comparison to graduation rates.

Figure 15: Nassau County has a higher graduation rate for both non-economically disadvantaged groups and economically disadvantaged groups compared to the State.

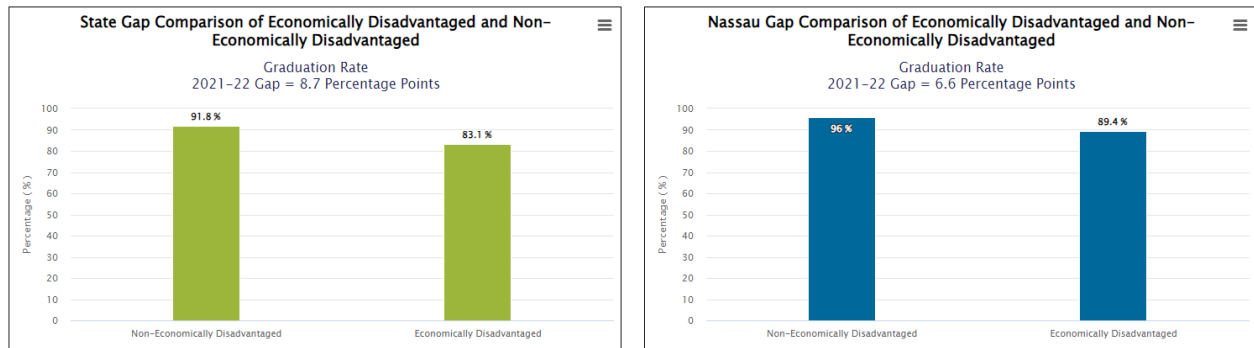


Figure 16: Nassau County has a higher graduation rate for non-English language learners compared to the State but a lower graduation rate for English language learners compared to the State.

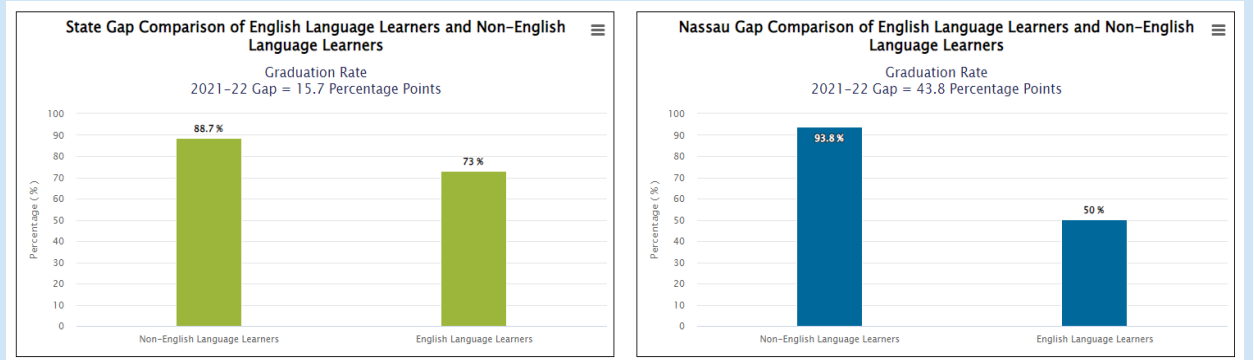
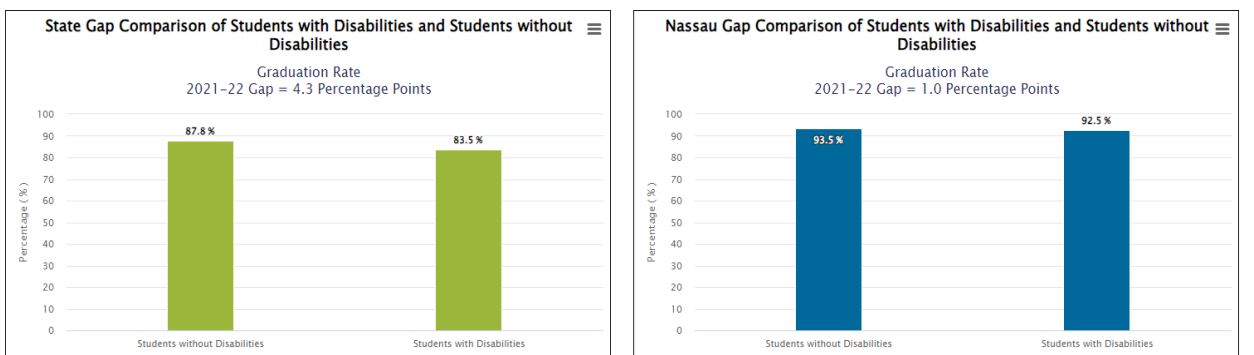


Figure 17: Nassau County has a higher graduation rate for students with and without disabilities compared to the State.



Data Source: Florida Department of Education <https://edudata.fldoe.org/>

Table 12: School Suspension Data 2021 & 2022

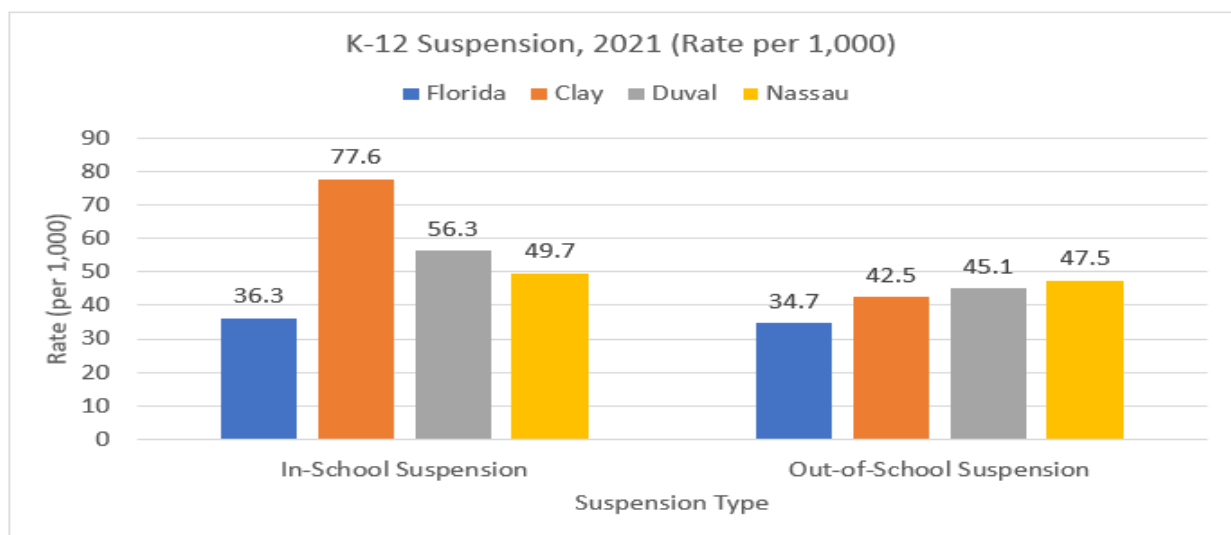
District	In-School Suspension K-12, 2021 (Rate per 1,000)	Out-of-School Suspension K-12, 2021 (Rate per 1,000)	Students Who Have Been Suspended from School in the Past 12 Months (FYSAS), 2022
Florida	36.3	34.7	11.1%
Clay	77.6*	42.5*	10.2%
Duval	56.3*	45.1*	16.5%
Nassau	49.7*	47.5*	10.0%

* - Indicates the county rate is statistically significantly different from the statewide rate.

The above table (Table 12) presents data on school suspension from two different sources FDLE and FYSAS. According to FDLE, Clay, Duval, and Nassau have a statistically significant higher rate of in- and out-of-school suspension compared to Florida. According to the FYSAS survey, Duval County students more frequently report more suspensions from school in the past 12 months compared to Florida and surrounding counties.

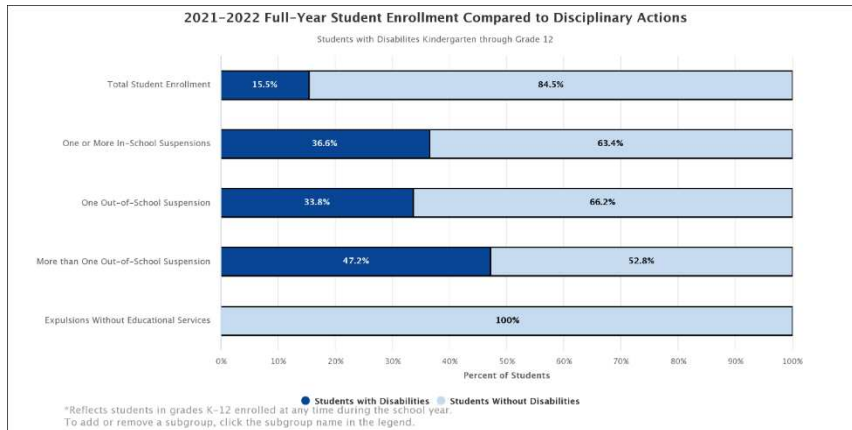
While in the below figure (Figure 18) Clay County has the highest rate of in-school suspension compared to Florida and surrounding counties. Nassau County has the highest rate of out-of-school suspension compared to Florida and nearby areas.

Figure 18: Rate of K-12 Suspension per 1,000 students in 2021



Data Source: Florida Department of Education <https://edudata.fldoe.org/> & Florida Department of Children & Families [Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey \(FYSAS\)](#)

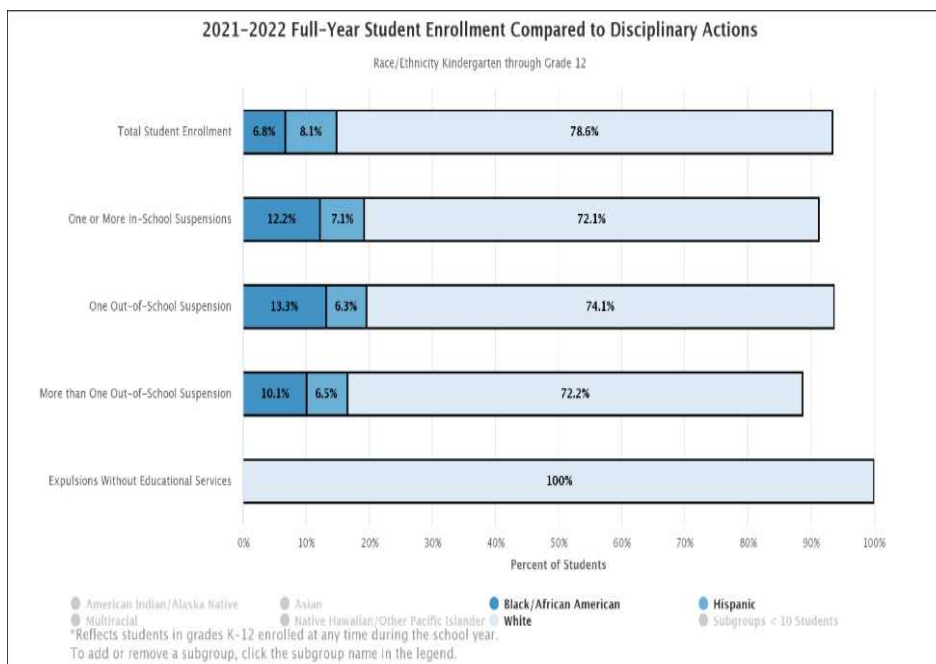
Figure 19: 2021-2022 Nassau County Full-Year Student Enrollment Compared to Disciplinary Actions for K-12 Students with and without Disabilities.



Students with disabilities make up 15.5% of total student enrollment in Nassau County but account for 36.6% of one or more in-school suspensions and 47.2% of more than one out-of-school suspension. This data corresponds with National trends that show children with disabilities,

particularly children of color with disabilities, are disciplined more often than their peers without disabilities. This data should encourage us to assess disciplinary practices and their long-term impact on children with disabilities, and how we can reframe to focus on preventing interfering behaviors rather than relying on disciplinary and exclusionary approaches.

Figure 20: 2021-2022 Nassau County Full-Year Student Enrollment Compared to Disciplinary Actions for K-12 Students by Race.



The figure to the left (Figure 20) reveals that in Nassau County Black or African American students make up 6.8% of total student enrollment but account for 12.2% of one or more in-school suspensions, 13.3% of one out-of-school suspension, and 10.1% more than one out-of-school suspension

Data Source: Florida Department of Education <https://edudata.fldoe.org/>

Table 13 data on the next page comes from the Florida Department of Education’s *School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) System* from 2021-2022. The SESIR collects data on 26 incidents of crime, violence, and disruptive behavior that happens on school property. Of

those 26 incidents, we’ve chosen to focus on *alcohol, drug sale/distribution, drug use/possession,* and *tobacco*. An interesting finding amongst schools that had any of those incidents was that incidents of tobacco were the most common and the highest. Yulee High School had the highest number of tobacco incidents, with 59 incidents between the 2021-2022 school year.

Nassau County: Youth Substance Use Data

Table 13: Number of ATOD-related Incidents in Nassau County Schools, SESIR, 2021-22

Total Incidents				
School Name	Alcohol	Drug Sale/ Distribution	Drug Use/Possession	Tobacco
Fernandina Beach Middle School	0	0	1	17
Love Hardee Elementary School	0	0	0	2
Yulee Elementary School	0	0	0	4
Callahan Middle School	0	0	0	15
Hilliard Middle School	0	0	2	31
West Nassau County High School	0	1	2	22
Yulee Middle School	0	1	2	34
Wildlight Elementary School	0	0	0	4
Fernandina Beach High School	1	0	9	29

Data Source: DJJ Profile: <https://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/delinquency-profile>

Data from the Florida Department of Education (2021-2022) also revealed that tobacco-related incidents make up the largest proportion of substance-related incidents in Florida and in the tri-county region. Drug use/possession accounts for the second largest proportion of incidents. Schools play an essential role in addressing youth substance use and as schools move to modernize their policies it is important to consider evidence-based approaches for addressing student substance use and policy violations.

Truth Initiative is America's largest nonprofit public health organization committed to addressing youth tobacco use. Truth Initiative suggests alternatives to suspension or expulsion for addressing substance use. They recommend students who violate these policies be approached in a supportive way by providing education and linkage to resources for quitting substance use.

Additionally, Table 14 on the next page provides the most recent school reported data for suspension based on alcohol and drug incidents for ages 12 and older in 2021/2022 school year in Nassau compared to Clay, Duval and the State of Florida. Incidents data includes incidents related to alcohol, drug sale/distribution, and drug use/possession, and tobacco.

Table 14: 2021/2022 School Environmental Safety Incident Report:

School Environmental Safety Incident Report (SESIR) 2021-22, Final Survey 5 District/State Totals		
District Name	Incident Description	Total Incidents (Distinct)
Florida	Alcohol	1,100
	Drug Sale/Distribution	677
	Drug Use/Possession	11,110
	Tobacco	29,110
Clay	Alcohol	23
	Drug Sale/Distribution	15
	Drug Use/Possession	120
	Tobacco	780
Duval	Alcohol	20
	Drug Sale/Distribution	15
	Drug Use/Possession	515
	Tobacco	1,397
Nassau	Alcohol	2
	Drug Sale/Distribution	3
	Drug Use/Possession	28
	Tobacco	221

Data Source: Florida Department of Education <https://edudata.fldoe.org/>

Intake is defined by the Department of Juvenile Justice as the screening and assessment of a youth who is alleged to have violated the law or a court order. In Nassau County there were 58 intakes among youth in FY 2021-22. Males make up 78% of intakes, 83% were White, three of these intakes were related to a felony drug offense, three were related to a misdemeanor drug offense, and 2 of these were alcohol offenses. The most common offense was a misdemeanor assault/battery offense followed by felony burglary. See Figure 21 below for a depiction of this data.

Figure 21: Nassau County Intake Among Youth

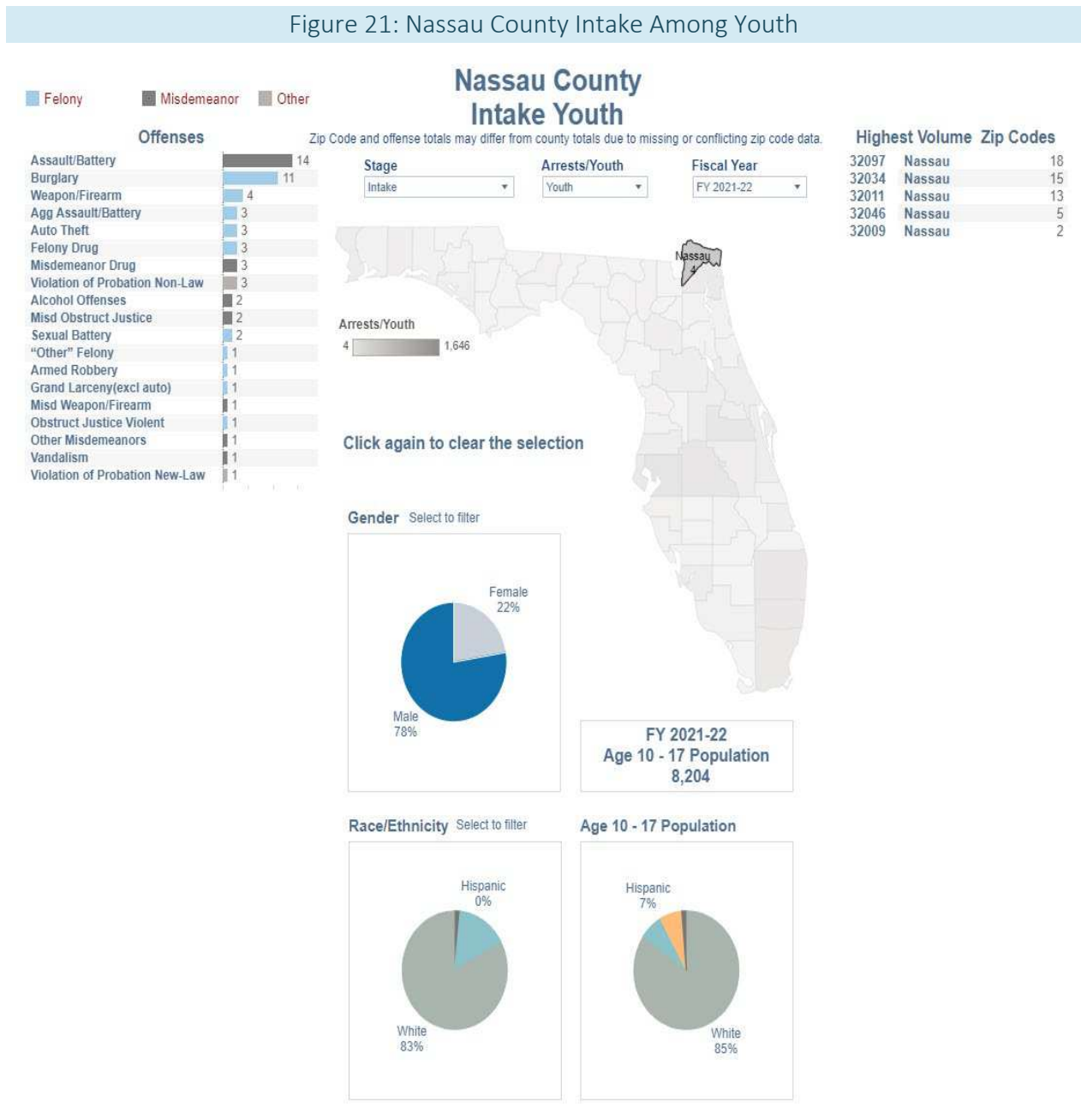


Figure Source: Department of Juvenile Justice <https://www.djj.state.fl.us/>

The following section provides a brief overview of the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) and the reported prevalence rates across several substances. The data presented here represents the findings from the 2022 FYSAS compared to the 2020 and 2021 county reports.

Table 15 below provides a breakdown for prevalence rates from FYSAS for Nassau County compared to the State for middle and high school responders. Values listed in **bold** indicate where the prevalence is **higher** in Nassau County compared to Florida.

Table 15: Nassau County vs. Florida Past 30-Day Use among Middle and High School, 2022

30 Day Youth Consumption	Florida Middle School	Nassau County Middle School	Florida High School	Nassau County High School
Alcohol	6.7%	8.3%	15.5%	20.3%
Vape Nicotine	5.5%	8.2%	12.7%	20.3%
Marijuana or Hashish	3.0%	5.9%	12.2%	17.4%
Vape Marijuana	2.9%	1.7%	9.7%	15.8%
Cigarettes	0.8%	1.8%	1.4%	1.7%
Over-The-Counter Drugs	1.1%	1.8%	1.0%	0.4%
Prescription Depressants	0.5%	0.9%	0.8%	0.5%
LSD, PCP, and Mushrooms	0.4%	1.0%	0.9%	0.6%
Inhalants	2.3%	1.0%	1.1%	0.5%
Prescription Pain Relievers	1.1%	1.4%	0.9%	1.3%
Prescription Amphetamines	0.7%	0.5%	1.1%	1.5%
Synthetic Marijuana	--	--	0.8%	0.2%
Club Drugs	0.3%	1.2%	0.4%	0.2%
Cocaine or Crack	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.6%
Methamphetamines	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Heroin	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%

The Table 16 below provides a breakdown for prevalence rates from FYSAS for Nassau County compared to the State for male and female responders. Values listed in **bold** indicate where the prevalence is **higher** in Nassau County compared to Florida.

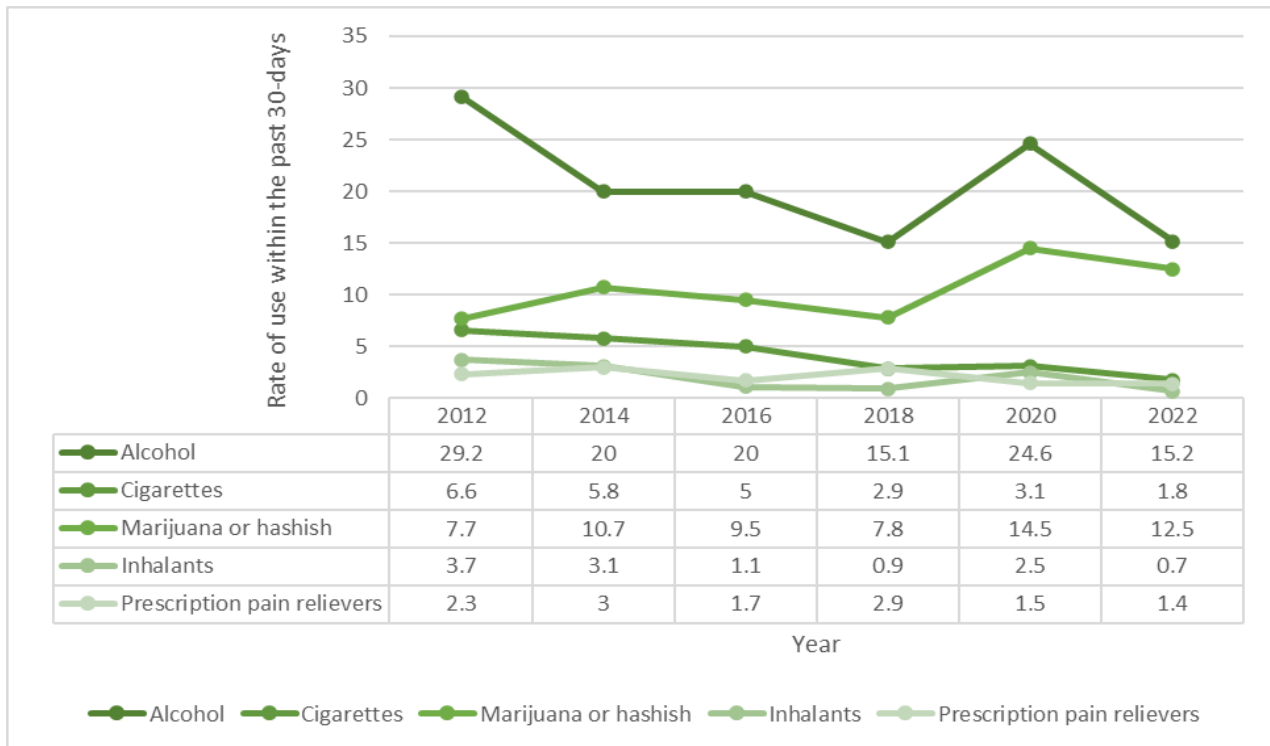
Table 16: Nassau County vs. Florida Past 30-Day Use by Gender, 2022

30 Day Youth Consumption	Florida Male	Nassau County Male	Florida Female	Nassau County Female
Alcohol	10.3%	13.7%	13.3%	17.4%
Vape Nicotine	7.5%	13.9%	11.9%	17.2%
Marijuana or Hashish	7.4%	13.2%	9.1%	12.3%
Vape Marijuana	5.9%	10.1%	7.7%	10.1%
Cigarettes	1.3%	2.5%	1.0%	1.1%

30 Day Youth Consumption	Florida Male	Nassau County Male	Florida Female	Nassau County Female
Over-The-Counter Drugs	1.0%	1.5%	1.1%	0.5%
Prescription Depressants	0.6%	1.0%	0.8%	0.4%
LSD, PCP, and Mushrooms	0.7%	1.2%	0.6%	0.5%
Inhalants	1.2%	1.0%	1.9%	0.5%
Prescription Pain Relievers	0.7%	1.6%	1.3%	1.2%
Prescription Amphetamines	0.8%	1.5%	1.1%	0.6%
Synthetic Marijuana (High School Students Only)	0.7%	0.4%	1.0%	0.0%
Club Drugs	0.4%	1.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Cocaine or Crack	0.3%	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%
Methamphetamines	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Heroin	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%

The following figure (Figure 22) from FYSAS displays the prevalence rates for ATOD use within the past 30-days in both middle and high schoolers in Nassau County in comparison from 2012 to 2022. All substances show a **decline** from 2020 to 2022. The 2022 FYSAS also presented information regarding high and middle school youth attitudes towards substance use. Here we compare the percentages of Nassau County and Florida youth.

Figure 22: Past 30-day trend in ATOD for Nassau County, Grades 6-12, 2012-2022



Data Source: Florida Department of Children and Families (2022). *2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey*

The 2022 FYSAS presented information on middle and high school youth attitudes toward substance use. For this data, it is more desirable to have a higher percentage of youth with attitudes against substance use. Values listed in **bold** indicate where the prevalence is **lower** in Nassau County compared to Florida. Among high school youth, attitudes towards substance use are lower for all categories in Nassau County compared to Florida. See Table 17 below for a breakdown of this data by substance.

Table 17: Nassau County vs. Florida Attitude Towards Substance Use, Middle and High, 2022

Attitude Towards Substance Use	Florida Middle School	Nassau County Middle School	Florida High School	Nassau County High School
Students Who Think It is Wrong for Someone Their Age to Drink Beer, Wine or Hard Liquor Regularly	89.6%	90.9%	73.5%	65.9%
Students Who Think It is Wrong for Someone Their Age to Smoke Cigarettes	96.4%	97.3%	91.6%	89.6%
Students Who Think It is Wrong for Someone Their Age to Smoke Marijuana	91.2%	89.7%	68.7%	61.8%
Students Who Think It is Wrong for Someone Their Age to Use LSD, Cocaine, Amphetamines or Another Illegal Drug	97.9%	97.0%	95.1%	94.3%
Students Who Think It is Wrong for Someone Their Age to Vape Marijuana	92.4%	93.5%	76.2%	69.3%
Students Who Think It is Wrong for Someone Their Age to Vape Nicotine	90.7%	91.7%	80.6%	74.4%
Students Whose Friends Feel It Would Be Wrong for Them to Have One or Two Drinks of an Alcoholic Beverage Nearly Every Day	91.4%	93.0%	85.3%	79.1%
Students Whose Friends Feel It Would Be Wrong for Them to Smoke Marijuana	89.7%	86.1%	68.4%	59.2%
Students Whose Friends Feel It Would Be Wrong for Them to Smoke Tobacco	94.5%	92.0%	89.5%	87.2%
Students Whose Friends Feel It Would Be Wrong for Them to Use Prescription Drugs Not Prescribed to Them	95.1%	96.2%	93.7%	93.4%
Students Whose Friends Feel It Would Be Wrong for Them to Vape Marijuana	90.2%	87.7%	73.6%	64.2%
Students Whose Friends Feel It Would Be Wrong for Them to Vape Nicotine	87.4%	82.2%	75.6%	68.0%

Data Source: Florida Department of Children and Families. (2022). *2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey*

The 2022 FYSAS also presented information regarding the percentages of Nassau County and Florida high school youth who had reported adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). ACEs are traumatic childhood experiences that have been linked to multiple negative health consequences and behavior outcomes.

Examples of negative health and behavior consequences are poor academic performances, high-risk behaviors (such as substance use), limited cognitive ability, difficulty with forming positive social relationships, and higher risk of chronic diseases (Florida Department of Children and Families, 2022). The percentage of students who have experienced ACEs for Nassau and surrounding counties can be seen in Table 18 on the next page. LSF in this table represents regional numbers for the 23 regions in Northeast Florida.

In the most recent data release, Nassau County had similar rates of ACEs in relation to the region and state for emotional, physical, and sexual abuse as well as emotional neglect. Students also

reported similar rates of parents separated or divorced as compared to the region and state. When it came to substance abuse and mental illness in household, students reported higher than the region and the state. Students also reported higher rates of incarcerated household members in Nassau County.

Table 18: Percentages of high school youth who reported ACEs: State and County Levels, 2022

ACE Indicator	Florida	LSF	Nassau County	Duval County	Clay County
Emotional abuse	17.1%	17.9%	16.9%	17.5%	19.5%
Physical abuse	10.7%	11.4%	7.5%	11.8%	11.9%
Sexual abuse	6.6%	7.6%	9.5%	6.8%	5.3%
Parents separated or divorced	39.4%	41.9%	40.2%	42.4%	41.1%
Physical abuse in household	8.5%	8.9%	8.6%	6.5%	11.5%
Substance abuse in household	24.9%	28.7%	31.1%	20.6%	32.6%
Mental illness in household	32.9%	36.4%	42.2%	27.1%	45.5%
Incarcerated household member	23.3%	26.4%	29.3%	22%	29.1%
Emotional neglect	31.2%	32.2%	32.7%	29.3%	36.7%
Physical neglect	6.7%	7.3%	4.7%	5.2%	6.4%

Data Source: Florida Department of Children and Families (2022). *2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey*

Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) tracks indicators of tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke among Florida public middle and high school students and provides data for monitoring and evaluating tobacco use among youth. In Florida, the FYTS data is collected at the state level each year, and it is collected at the county level every other year.

The following tables provide data for tobacco use at the State and county level comparing middle and high school as well as male and female student subgroups followed by key highlights.

Table 19: Percentages of Cigar, Cigarette, and Electronic Vapor Product Use: 2022

Indicator	Florida Middle School	Nassau County Middle School	Florida High School	Nassau County High School	Florida Males	Nassau County Males	Florida Female	Nassau County Female
Cigar Use								
Students Who Have Ever Been Offered Cigars by Their Parents	0.9%	1.4%	1.8%	4.4%	1.7%	5.1%	1.1%	0.9%
Students Who Have Ever Tried Smoking Cigars	3.2%	4.0%	6.5%	7.2%	6.0%	8.4%	4.0%	3.3%
Students Who Have Ever Tried Smoking Flavored Cigars	1.4%	1.9%	3.7%	5.0%	3.3%	5.8%	2.0%	1.3%
Students Who Have Smoked Cigars in the Past 30 Days	0.9%	1.6%	2.1%	4.0%	2.0%	4.7%	1.2%	1.1%
Students Who Have Smoked Flavored Cigars in the Past 30 Days	0.8%	1.5%	1.9%	2.7%	1.7%	3.5%	1.0%	0.7%

Indicator	Florida Middle School	Nassau County Middle School	Florida High School	Nassau County High School	Florida Males	Nassau County Males	Florida Female	Nassau County Female
Cigarette Use								
Students Who Are Current Cigarette Smokers (Smoked in the Past 30 Days)	0.8%	1.4%	1.7%	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%	1.1%	0.9%
Students Who Are Frequent Smokers (Smoked 20 or More Days Out of the Past 30 Days)	0.2%	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	0.8%	0.3%	0.0%
Students Who Began Using Cigarettes Before Age 13	4.7%	9.2%	3.5%	7.0%	4.0%	8.1%	3.7%	6.5%
Students Who Have Ever Been Daily Smokers (Smoked Every Day for 30 or More Days)	0.4%	1.0%	1.3%	2.2%	1.2%	2.8%	0.7%	0.3%
Students Who Have Ever Been Offered Cigarettes by Their Parents	1.3%	0.9%	1.9%	2.4%	1.6%	2.6%	1.6%	0.8%
Students Who Have Ever Tried Smoking Cigarettes	5.8%	8.5%	11.1%	14.9%	8.8%	12.6%	8.8%	11.4%
Students Who Have Ever Tried Smoking Flavored Cigarettes	1.7%	1.9%	3.3%	4.4%	2.8%	4.9%	2.3%	1.2%
Electronic Vapor Product Use								
Student Users of Electronic Vapor Products Who Have Used an Electronic Vapor Product with Marijuana Oil	21.6%	18.9%	42.2%	37.0%	36.3%	38.6%	37.0%	26.4%
Student Users of Electronic Vapor Products Who Have Used an Electronic Vapor Product with Nicotine	48.8%	52.9%	65.4%	76.8%	57.5%	69.7%	63.4%	70.9%
Students Who Have Ever Used an Electronic Vapor Product	13.3%	18.7%	26.9%	37.9%	17.6%	28.8%	24.4%	31.8%
Students Who Have Used a Flavored Electronic Vapor Product in the Past 30 Days	2.9%	7.8%	6.3%	20.8%	4.1%	15.1%	5.4%	15.8%
Students Who Have Used an Electronic Vapor Product in the Past 30 Days	6.6%	10.7%	15.2%	26.7%	8.9%	20.3%	13.9%	19.7%

Data Source: Florida Department of Health (2022). *2022 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey*

Table 19 Key Highlights:

- Cigar use in Nassau County is **higher** for all groups except females.
- “Students who began using cigarettes before age 13” and “students who have ever tried smoking cigarettes” is considerably **higher** in Nassau County compared to the state of Florida.
- Students who have used an electronic vapor product in the past 30 days, including flavored products, are much **higher** in Nassau County than the state of Florida. See [Figure 23](#) on the next page for a depiction of this data.
- “Student users of electronic vapor products who have use an electronic vapor product with marijuana oil” is **higher** for males in Nassau County compared to Florida. For all other subgroups in this category, Nassau County had a **lower** prevalence compared to Florida.

Figure 23: Percentages of Electronic Vapor Product Use: 2022

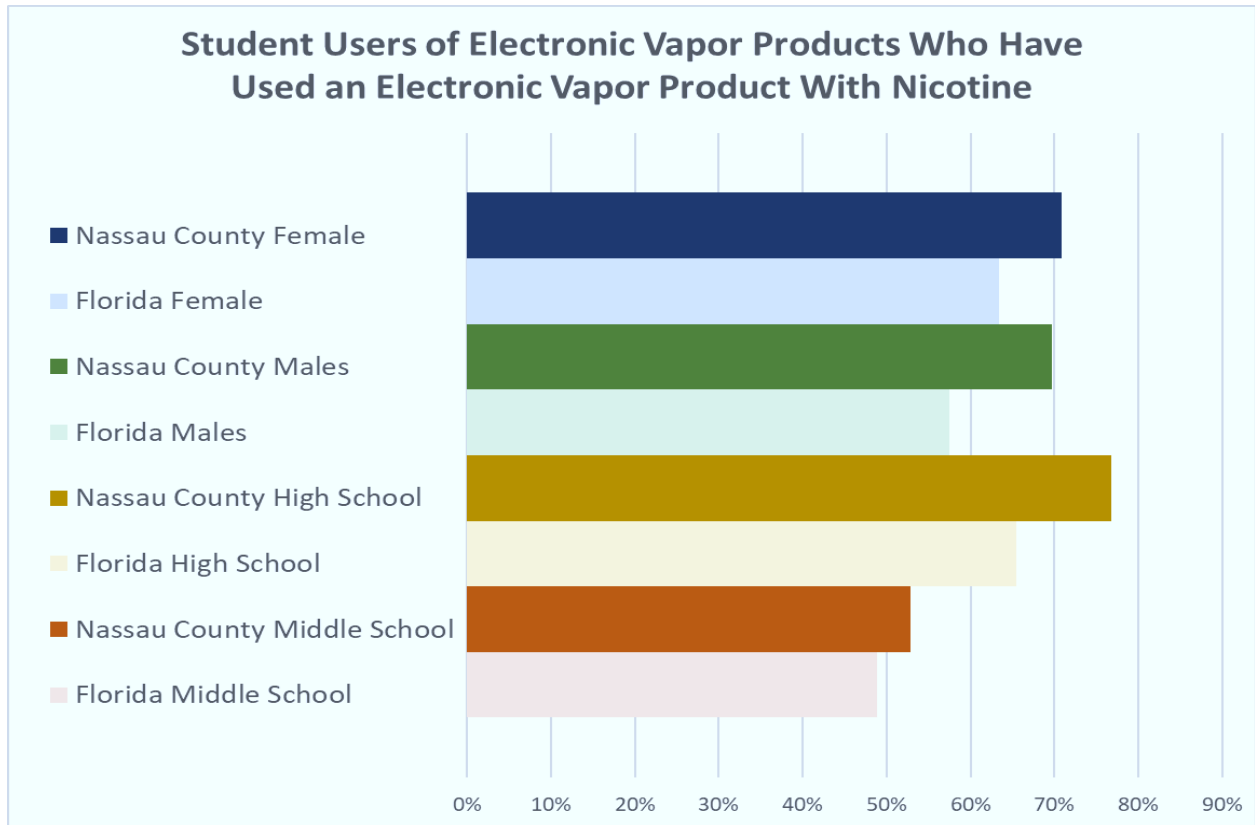


Table 20: Percentages of Hookah, Smokeless Tobacco, and Tobacco Product Use: 2022

Indicator	Florida Middle School	Nassau County Middle School	Florida High School	Nassau County High School	Florida Males	Nassau County Males	Florida Female	Nassau County Female
Hookah Use								
Students Who Have Ever Been Offered Hookah by Their Parents	0.8%	0.3%	1.6%	209.0%	1.3%	2.4%	1.1%	1.0%
Students Who Have Ever Tried Smoking Hookah	2.2%	1.3%	6.1%	2.7%	3.8%	1.8%	5.0%	1.9%
Students Who Have Smoked Hookah in the Past 30 Days	1.1%	1.3%	2.3%	1.5%	1.9%	1.5%	1.6%	0.8%
Smokeless Tobacco Use								
Students Who Have Ever Been Offered Smokeless Tobacco by Their Parents	0.9%	1.7%	1.4%	3.2%	1.3%	3.7%	0.9%	0.9%
Students Who Have Ever Tried Using Flavored Smokeless Tobacco	8.7%	2.8%	15.7%	3.7%	10.9%	3.6%	14.6%	2.7%
Students Who Have Ever Used Smokeless Tobacco (Chewing Tobacco, Snuff or Dip)	2.6%	4.8%	3.7%	9.6%	3.9%	11.0%	2.4%	4.1%
Students Who Have Used Smokeless Tobacco in the Past 30 Days	0.9%	0.8%	1.4%	2.4%	1.6%	3.0%	0.7%	0.3%
Tobacco Produce Use								

Indicator	Florida Middle School	Nassau County Middle School	Florida High School	Nassau County High School	Florida Males	Nassau County Males	Florida Female	Nassau County Female
Student Users of Tobacco Products Whose Parents Do Not Know They Use Tobacco	66.6%	-	58.6%	57.7%	54.5%	66.4%	65.5%	67.3%
Student Users of Tobacco Products Whose Parents Know They Use Tobacco and Don't Like It	18.3%	-	26.9%	31.1%	26.8%	26.6%	23.1%	21.7%
Products Whose Parents Know They Use Tobacco and Don't Mind It	15.1%	-	14.5%	11.2%	18.8%	6.9%	11.4%	11.0%
Students Who Are Committed Never Smokers (Have Never Tried a Cigarette, Will Not Try Tobacco Products Within the Next Year and Would Not Try a Tobacco Product Even if Offered to Them by Their Best Friend)	85.5%	84.7%	84.9%	83.3%	84.7%	80.3%	85.8%	88.1%
Students Who Have Ever Tried Cigarettes, Cigars or Smokeless Tobacco	9.1%	11.3%	15.7%	21.5%	13.5%	19.9%	12.2%	13.9%
Students Who Have Ever Tried Cigarettes, Cigars, Hookah, Electronic Vapor Products, Flavored Cigarettes or Flavored Cigars	18.1%	23.0%	33.8%	44.7%	24.2%	35.6%	29.8%	35.2%
Students Who Have Ever Tried Cigarettes, Cigars, Smokeless Tobacco, Hookah or Electronic Vapor Products	18.4%	22.4%	33.7%	44.0%	24.4%	34.6%	29.8%	35.2%
Students Who Have Used Cigarettes, Cigars, Hookah, Electronic Vapor Products, Flavored Cigarettes or Flavored Cigars in the Past 30 Days	8.3%	13.5%	18.3%	30.2%	11.6%	23.6%	16.0%	22.4%
Students Who Used Cigarettes, Cigars or Smokeless Tobacco in the Past 30 Days	1.9%	2.8%	3.8%	6.4%	3.5%	7.5%	2.4%	2.0%
Students Who Used Cigarettes, Cigars, Electronic Vapor Products or Hookah in the Past 30 Days	7.7%	12.4%	17.5%	29.7%	10.9%	23.2%	15.4%	21.2%
Students Who Used Cigarettes, Cigars, Smokeless Tobacco, Hookah or Electronic Vapor Products in the Past 30 Days	8.0%	12.8%	17.8%	30.1%	11.3%	23.8%	15.5%	21.6%
Students Who, in the Past 30 Days, Have Used Two or More of the Following: Cigarettes, Cigars, Smokeless Tobacco, Hookah or Electronic Vapor Products	1.1%	1.3%	2.8%	3.8%	2.0%	3.9%	2.1%	1.6%

Data Source: Florida Department of Health (2022). *2022 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey*

Table 20 Key Highlights:

- Regarding hookah use, there is a **higher** prevalence of Nassau County high school and male “students who have ever been offered hookah by their parents” compared to other groups.
- Compared to Florida, Nassau County has a **lower** prevalence of “students who have ever tried flavored smokeless tobacco” for all subgroups.
- Compared to Florida, Nassau County has a **higher** prevalence of “students who have ever used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip)” for all subgroups.
- See additional comparisons in [Figure 24](#) on next page.

Figure 24: Percentages of Tobacco Product Use: 2022

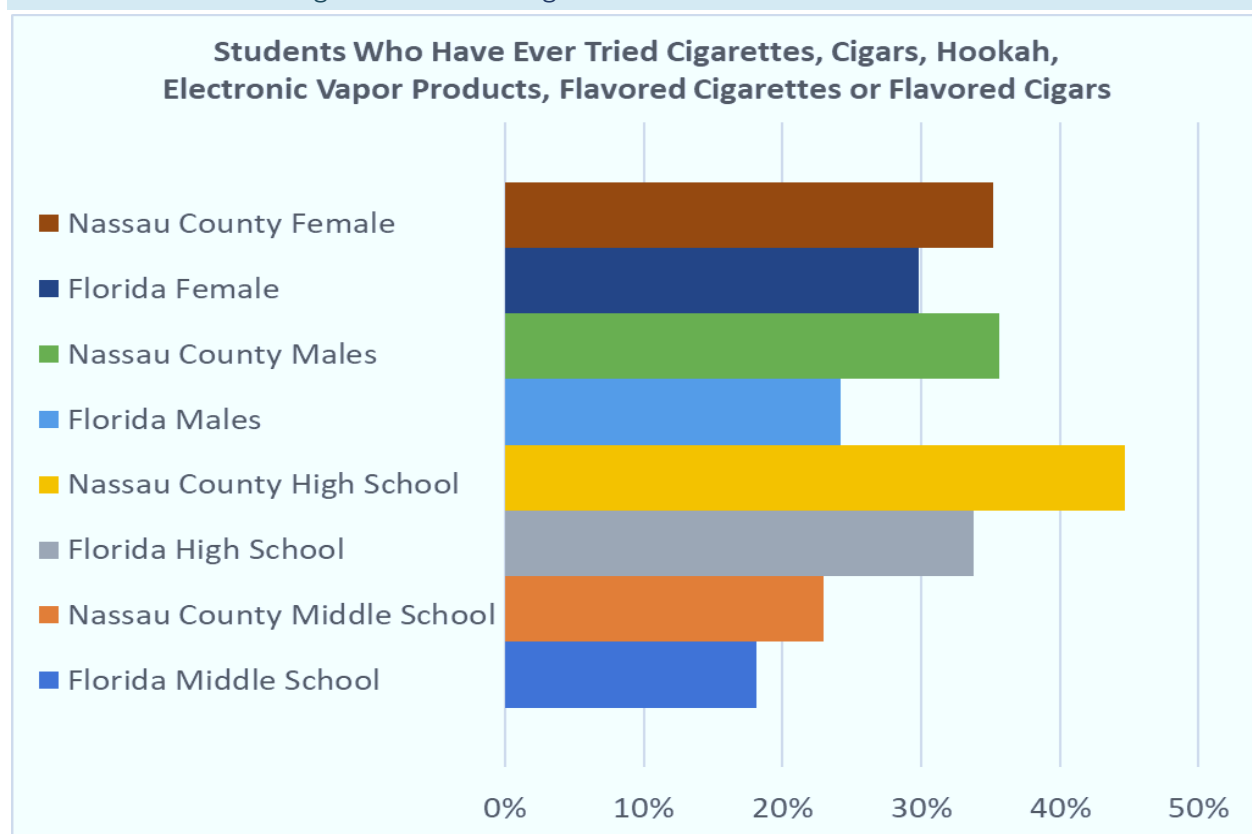


Table 21: Prevalence of Tobacco at School and Tobacco Education: 2022

Indicator	Florida Middle School	Nassau County Middle School	Florida High School	Nassau County High School	Florida Males	Nassau County Males	Florida Female	Nassau County Female
Tobacco at School								
Students Who Have Seen Adults Using Cigarettes on School Property in the Past Year	10.2%	10.2%	10.1%	8.4%	10.8%	10.1%	9.2%	7.5%
Students Who Have Seen Adults Using Electronic Vapor Products on School Property in the Past Year	7.6%	7.7%	8.2%	9.6%	8.6%	9.8%	7.3%	7.9%
Students Who Have Seen Adults Using Smokeless Tobacco on School Property in the Past Year	3.2%	5.8%	5.0%	7.9%	5.4%	9.8%	2.9%	4.3%
Students Who Have Seen Students Using Cigarettes on School Property in the Past Year	10.2%	8.7%	15.3%	13.4%	13.4%	10.7%	12.7%	10.3%
Students Who Have Seen Students Using Electronic Vapor Products on School Property in the Past Year	47.3%	60.0%	67.9%	74.3%	54.1%	64.3%	64.2%	71.1%
Students Who Have Seen Students Using Smokeless Tobacco on School Property in the Past Year	7.4%	7.5%	14.2%	18.4%	11.8%	13.5%	10.7%	12.4%


Indicator	Florida Middle School	Nassau County Middle School	Florida High School	Nassau County High School	Florida Males	Nassau County Males	Florida Female	Nassau County Female
Students Who Have Smoked Cigars on School Property in the Past 30 Days	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	1.3%	0.5%	1.5%	0.2%	0.3%
Students Who Have Used an Electronic Vapor Product on School Property in the Past 30 Days	2.9%	3.3%	5.9%	12.2%	3.7%	9.7%	5.5%	7.5%
Students Who Have Used Smokeless Tobacco on School Property in the Past 30 Days	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%	1.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.3%	0.0%
Students Who Said There is a Rule at Their School That No One is Allowed to Smoke Cigarettes on School Property	84.5%	90.8%	89.3%	92.1%	85.0%	88.3%	89.7%	94.5%
Students Who Said There is a Rule at Their School That No One is Allowed to Use Electronic Vapor Products on School Property	85.0%	90.4%	89.3%	92.0%	84.9%	87.7%	90.1%	94.9%
Tobacco Education								
Students Who Are Active Members of Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) (Among Students Whose School Has a SWAT Group)	6.7%	5.3%	2.4%	2.1%	3.6%	2.0%	4.1%	5.0%
Students Who Have Participated in Community or School Events in the Past Year to Discourage People Their Age from Using Tobacco	18.7%	20.8%	13.6%	12.9%	14.8%	14.0%	16.7%	18.6%
Students Who Were Taught About Tobacco in Their Classes During This School Year	59.7%	58.2%	44.6%	38.7%	49.7%	43.2%	52.3%	51.3%
Students Who, in the Past Year, Had a Dentist or Someone in a Dentist's Office Talk to Them About the Dangers of Tobacco	3.2%	8.5%	3.3%	11.2%	3.4%	10.2%	3.0%	10.1%
Students Who, in the Past Year, Had a Doctor or Someone in a Doctor's Office Talk to Them About the Dangers of Tobacco	7.1%	17.1%	8.3%	17.2%	7.5%	15.1%	7.9%	19.6%
Students Who, in the Past Year, Had a Parent or Guardian Talk to Them About the Dangers of Tobacco	24.8%	68.3%	21.5%	59.6%	22.1%	61.7%	23.4%	67.0%


Data Source: Florida Department of Health (2022). *2022 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey*


Table 21 Key Highlights:


- Compared to Florida, there is a **higher** prevalence of “students who have seen adults using smokeless tobacco on school proper in the past year” in Nassau County for all subgroups. The disparity is most apparent among males.
- The prevalence of “students who have seen students using electronic vapor products on school property in the past year” is **higher** in Nassau County than in Florida for all subgroups.
- While the prevalence of “students who have used an electronic vapor product on school property within the past 30 days” is **higher** in Nassau County than in Florida for all subgroups, the disparities are **highest** among high school and male subgroups.

Nassau County: Youth Mental Health Data

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8.8 million young adults reported having a mental illness.
- 

42% of those with mental illness went untreated.
- 

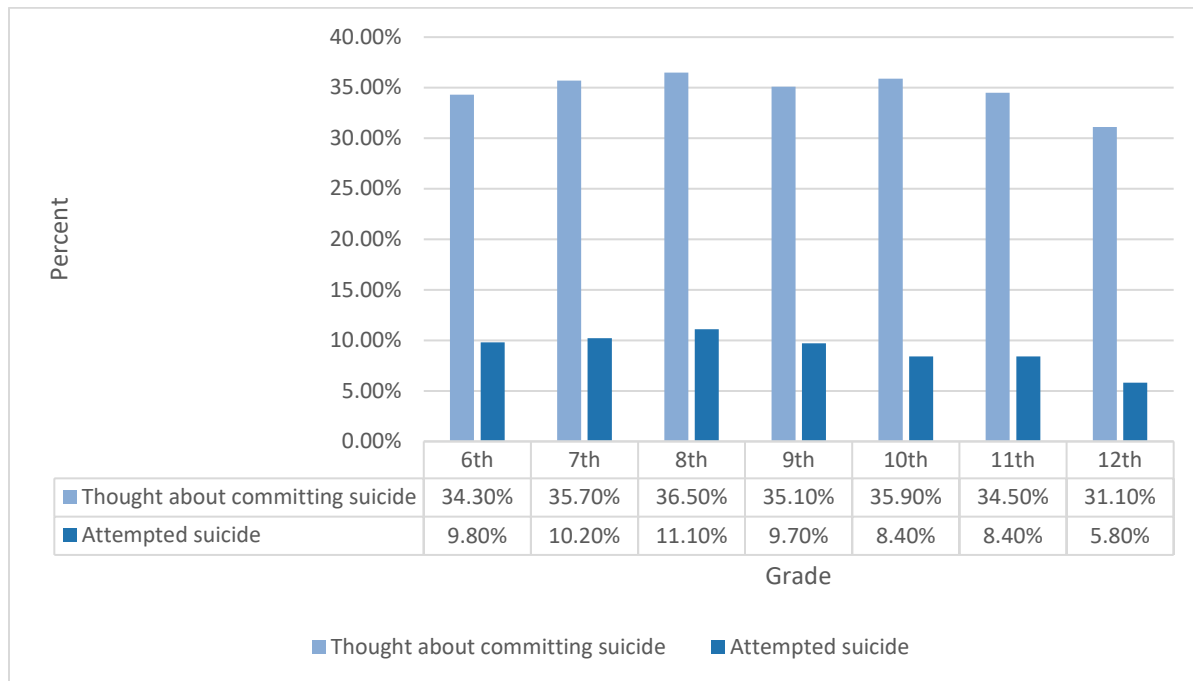
5.1 million young adults reported having a substance use disorder.
- 

8.8 million of those with substance use disorders went untreated.

The following section will discuss youth mental health data in Nassau County. The graphic to the right was made using data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 2022. Youth mental health is one of the leading risk factors for substance use among youth and contributes to the many consequences we have reviewed thus far. According to this approximately 42% of youth with mental illness will go untreated.

The following figure (Figure 25) was taken from the 2022 FYSAS and reflects Florida youth’s mental health. This graph visualizes the percentage of Florida youth who *thought about or attempted suicide in the past 12 months*, divided by grade. The grades with higher risk for thinking about committing suicide (from highest to lowest) were **8th**, **10th**, and **7th**. The grades with higher risk for attempting suicide (from highest to lowest) were **8th**, **7th**, and **6th**.

Figure 25: Percentage of surveyed Florida youth who thought about or attempted suicide in the past 12 months, 2022



Data Source: Florida Department of Children and Families. (2022). *2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey.*

The table below (Table 22) reflects the mental health of both middle and high school students on a state and county basis. The numbers are the percentages of students who agreed with statements displaying symptoms of depression or suicidal ideation and behavior. The data reveals that Nassau County was **higher** than Florida and Clay and Duval County for youth who reported agreeing with the statement “...I am no good at all”, a symptom of depression. Nassau County youth responded **higher** than Florida’s percentage for the depression symptom of ‘not feeling that life is worth it’, ‘feeling depressed or sad most days’, and the suicidal behavior of ‘thinking about committing suicide in the past 12 months’.

Table 22: State and County Percentages of Middle and High Schoolers Who Reported Symptoms of Depression or Suicidal Ideation and Behavior, 2022

State and County Percentages (%)				
	Florida	Nassau County	Clay County	Duval County
Symptoms of Depression				
Sometimes I think that life is not worth it	33.3%	37.3%	38.6%	33.2%
At times I think I am no good at all	46.1%	49.4%	49.3%	47.1%
All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure	30.7%	30.1%	36.1%	29.5%
In the past year, have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you felt OK sometimes?	47.3%	48.4%	50.7%	51%
Suicide				
Thought about committing suicide in the past 12 months	34.8%	39.6%	42%	36.2%
Attempted suicide in the past 12 months	9.1%	7.5%	10.6%	10.5%

Youth mental health was also impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. We are just beginning to see the mental health ramifications that the pandemic has put onto our youth. Within the same 2022 FYSAS survey, the youth were questioned on how their emotional health changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Across state and county percentages, youth emotional health was **about the same** during the pandemic.

Table 23: State vs. County: Changes in middle and high school emotional health (level of stress, anxiety, and depression) during the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022

	Florida	Nassau County	Duval County	Clay County
A lot better	17.8%	15.1%	19.9%	15.5%
A little better	10.5%	6.7%	11.4%	13.8%
About the same	29.9%	31.1%	27.7%	29.2%
A little worse	23.8%	27.8%	25.3%	20.3%
A lot worse	18.0%	19.3%	15.6%	21.2%

Data Source: Florida Department of Children and Families. (2022). *2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey.*

ADULT: SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH DATA

This next section will look at adult substance use and mental health data for Nassau County with comparisons to the state and surrounding counties.

The following table (Table 24) outlines statistics regarding ATOD-use in adults. From the data, we see that Nassau County is higher than both state and other county levels (Duval and Clay County) for percentage of adults engaging in heavy or binge drinking, percentage of adults who are current smokers, and percentage of adults who are former e-cigarette users. Nassau County is higher in the percentage of adults who are former smokers (currently quit smoking) compared to both Duval and Clay County.

	Florida	Nassau	Duval	Clay
Adults who engage in heavy or binge drinking (excessive drinking) (%)	20.0%	23.0%	19%	20.0%
Adults who are current smokers (%)	21.6%	22.4%	16.4%	22.2%
Adult current smokers who tried to quit smoking at least once in the past year (%)	55.8%	51.8%	49.1%	53.5%
Adults who are former smokers (currently quit smoking) (%)	27.5%	26.6%	21.5%	25.9%
Adults who are current e-cigarette users (%)	5.8%	3.7%	5.6%	6.3%
Adults who are former e-cigarette users (%)	18.4%	24.5%	22.3%	18.9%

Data Source: NEFL County Profile FLHealthCHARTS

Florida’s Poison Control Centers provide Floridians with poison prevention and management information through their hotline. The data they collected for the 2022 year indicated that 131,607 incoming calls were made from all of Florida. Nassau County had an exposure count of 44, with an exposure rate per 1,000 of 0.601. Nassau’s exposure rate per 1,000 is lower than both Duval and County, with their rates being 0.796 and 0.864, respectively. The following table (Table 25) outlines the top 15 exposure categories in Nassau County and their respective counts.

Exposure Category	Count
Analgesics	44
Cleaning substances (household)	31
Cosmetics/personal care products	27
Dietary supplements/herbals/homeopathic	23
Pesticides	21
Antihistamines	19
Foreign body/toys/miscellaneous	18
Antidepressants	16
Stimulants and street drugs	16
Cardiovascular drugs	15

Exposure Category	Count
Topical preparations	12
Sedative/hypnotics/antipsychotics	11
Vitamins	11
Alcohols	<10
Cold and cough preparations	<10

Data Source: Poison Control, Nassau County, 2022

Table 26 compares the total number of hospitalizations (related to drug and alcohol-induced mental disorders) by adult age group on a state and county basis. Nassau County has lower counts of hospitalizations compared Duval and Clay County, except for ages 75+, where Nassau County had a higher count than Clay County, but when compared to rates by population size, since Nassau County has such a small population compared to Duval and Clay County, these numbers represent a much higher percentage of the population.

Table 26: State & County: Total # of hospitalizations (drug and alcohol-induced mental disorders) by age group, 2021

Age	State & County Counts			
	Florida	Nassau	Duval	Clay
22-24	1001	10	38	19
25-44	14336	41	774	247
45-64	15563	22	794	158
65-74	3321	16	160	34
75+	796	9	30	<5

Data Source: NEFL County Profiles, 2021

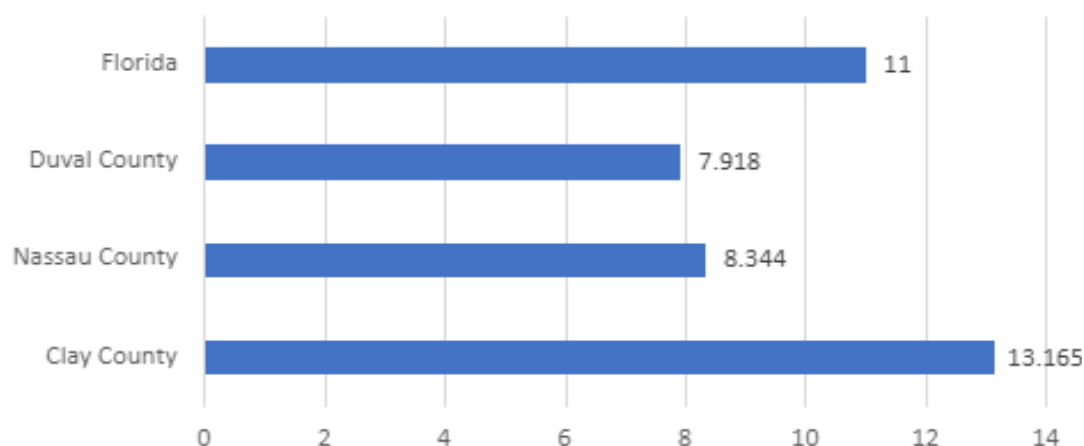
The following table (Table 27) outlines the mental health of adults. Using the Northeast Florida Profile from 2021, we can see that Nassau adults have higher poor mental health on 14 or more days (within the past 30) and a higher percentage of adults who have been told they have a depressive disorder compared to Florida statistics.

Mental Health Indicator	State & County			
	Florida	Nassau	Duval	Clay
Adults who had poor mental health on 14 or more of the past 30-days	12.3%	14.9%	17.2%	14.7%
Adults who have ever been told they had a depressive disorder	14.7%	20.8%	23.9%	19.1%

Data Source: NEFL County Profiles, 2021

When compared to state and surrounding counties, Nassau has a higher rate of people at risk for severe depression than Duval County, but a lower rate than Clay County and the State. The following figure displays the difference in number of people at risk for severe depression between state and county levels per 100,000 of population in 2023. See Figure 26 on next page.

Figure 26: State vs. County: Number per 100,000 at risk for severe depression, 2023



The following section reviews community substance use and mental health resources in Nassau as compared to the state and surrounding counties.

Community Substance Use and Mental Health Resources

The FLHealthCHARTS database, generated through the Florida Department of Health and ongoing national survey data of adults and youth, provides indicators for mental health access and services and calculates both the count and rate of Florida and the circuit 4 counties.

Table 28: Count of mental health access and services in state and county levels, 2021

	Florida	Nassau County	Duval County	Clay County
Licensed Mental Health Counselors	12,397	43	619	127
Licensed Psychologists	5,056	15	206	24
Licensed Clinical Social Workers	10,762	30	490	79
Behavioral/Mental Health Professionals	25,340	85	1,190	217
Adult Psychiatric Beds	6,856	0	244	24
Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Beds	713	0	57	0
Children Receiving Mental Health Treatment Services (Aged 1-5 Years)	2,627	9	4	1

Nassau County exhibits lower counts and rates of majority of the mental health indicators, except for higher rates per 100,000 population for licensed psychologists and children receiving mental health treatment services (ages 1-5). As of 2021, there were no adult, adolescent, or child psychiatric beds in the county. **APPENDIX A** includes a guide of resources in Nassau County by the coalition.

The Table 28 above also shows that there are more children in Nassau County receiving mental health treatment than in Duval and Clay County. Table 29 on the next page compares these

numbers by rates. As described previously, Nassau County has a much smaller population than Duval and Clay counties, and therefore, may have lower numbers but higher rates. These numbers in turn represent a much larger percentage of the population. According to Table 29 Nassau County had less licensed mental health counselors, psychologists, and social workers per 100,000 than does the state and surrounding counties.

Table 29: Rate per 100,000 population of mental health access and services in state and county levels, 2021

	Florida	Nassau County	Duval County	Clay County
Licensed Mental Health Counselors	56.3	46.1	62.2	56.6
Licensed Psychologists	23.0	16.1	20.7	10.7
Licensed Clinical Social Workers	48.9	32.1	49.3	35.2
Behavioral/Mental Health Professionals	115.2	91.0	119.6	96.7
Adult Psychiatric Beds	31.2	0	24.5	10.7
Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Beds	3.2	0	5.7	0
Children Receiving Mental Health Treatment Services (Aged 1-5 Years)	223.1	184.7	6.0	7.8

According to the data from the 2021 FL Health Charts release, in Table 30 below, 173 adults and 8 children were enrolled in a substance abuse program in 2021. Again, we see a lower number, but one that is still comparable when thinking about population sizes. When comparing Nassau and Duval County numbers, Duval has approximately ten times the number of residents which means the rate for adults enrolled in substance abuse programs in Nassau County would be almost the same. Furthermore, Clay County is two times the size of Nassau and had less adults enrolled in substance abuse programs in 2021.

Table 30: State & County: Count of adults & children enrolled in substance abuse programs, 2021

	Florida	Nassau	Duval	Clay
Adults enrolled in substance abuse programs	42,298	173	1,393	100
Children enrolled in substance abuse programs	7,458	8	179	48

Data Source: NEFL County Profile - FLHealthCHARTS

Table 31 below provides data from SAMHSA on substance use services including Buprenorphine and Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT). The closest MAT facility is 10.8 miles from Nassau County. Nassau also has less Buprenorphine providers per 100,000 than Clay and Duval Counties.

Table 31: State & County: Number of buprenorphine providers, 2023

	Duval	Clay	Nassau	Florida
Buprenorphine Providers (Count)	169	25	8	2572

Data Source: SAMHSA. (2023). https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/find-treatment/treatment-practitioner-locator?field_bup_state_value=12

Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare focuses on solving the behavioral health crisis facing Nassau County and Northeast Florida through a dynamic team of professionals. Starting Point has been pivotal in Nassau’s behavioral health for the past 30 years. Their mission is to promote emotional wellness through psychiatric mental health and substance use disorder treatment services and community education and awareness. The following data points related to Mobile Response Teams and Crisis calls were provided by Starting Point for the past year.

Table 32: 2022-2023 Nassau County Mobile Response & Crisis Data

Mobile Response Team Calls	218
Mobile Response Team Baker Acts	92
Crisis Calls	436

Data Source: Starting Point Behavioral Health: <https://www.spbh.org>

Data from previous years was not available at the time of this report, but these numbers are alarming as they show a continuing need as we see Nassau’s population rapidly grow with the rest of Florida. According to the Florida Department of Health (2023) in their most recent [FL Health Charts](#) data release, as of 2022 the ratio of Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHC) to patients in Nassau County was 1:1746 and 1:2,284 for Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) to patients. Psychologists are even more sparse in the county with a provider-patient ratio of 1:4,567. Over the next few years, we may see much larger gaps with the increases in individuals needing services to providers available due to the rapid population increases. As stated earlier in this report, Nassau County is expected to increase its population by 44.6% by 2035.

The Nassau County Coalition is therefore vital in ensuring resources are available to the community to assist with prevention of substance use and poor mental health outcomes for residents of Nassau County, Florida. The coalition currently hosts monthly meetings between community partners and stakeholders. See [APPENDIX B](#) for a map visualization of Nassau County Coalition members and partners. The coalition is also responsible for the implementation of the Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) Drug Take Back Day each October and April where the community can bring unused medications to be properly disposed up so they do not end up being misused or negatively effecting the environment. In the past year the Nassau County Coalition has worked with the National Guard to implement this event in Nassau and collect 173 lbs. of unused medications from the local community.

In the past year the coalition has also distributed over 3,430 bags of Deterra: drug deactivation system pouches to community members for times when Drug Take Back Day and disposal locations are not accessible. [Deterra](#) is a safe and environmentally friendly solution to deactivating and disposing of unwanted medications in a few easy steps.



Through these efforts the coalition has been able to reach over 4,498 Nassau County community members, with 193 of those being considered youth under the age of 18 years, and 544 within the Hispanic populations where we see the greatest need. The below charts also break these numbers served down by age ranges (Figure 27) and race (Figure 28).

Figure 27: Nassau County Coalition Numbers Served by Age Range

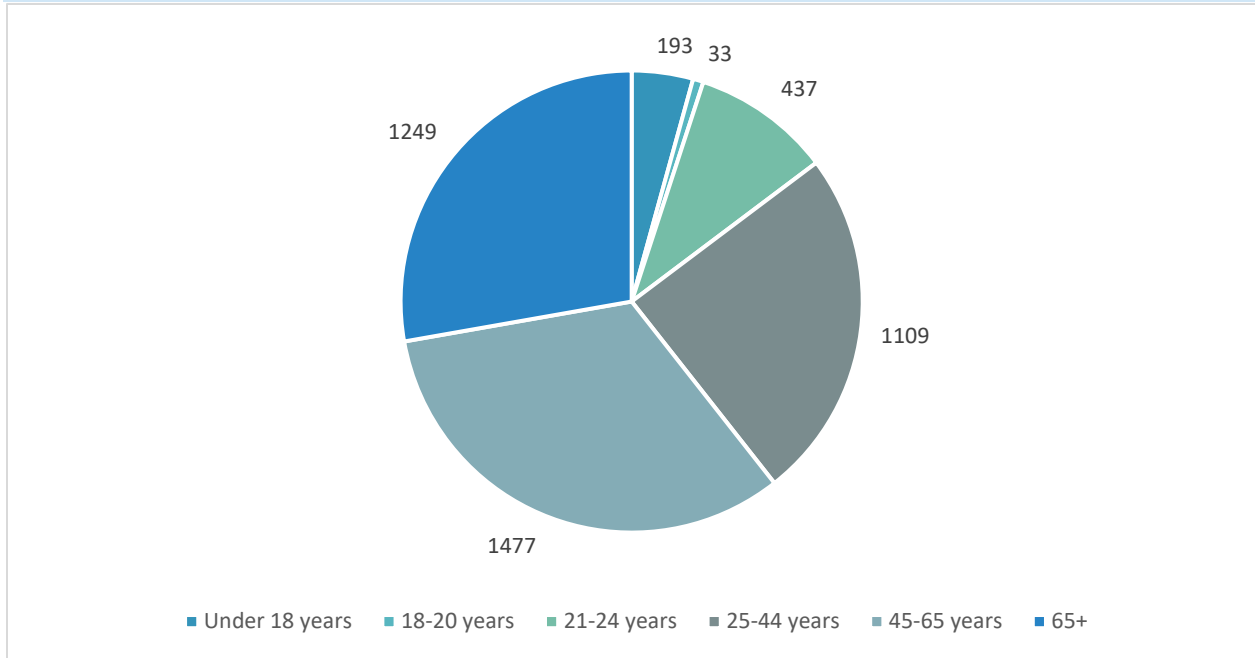
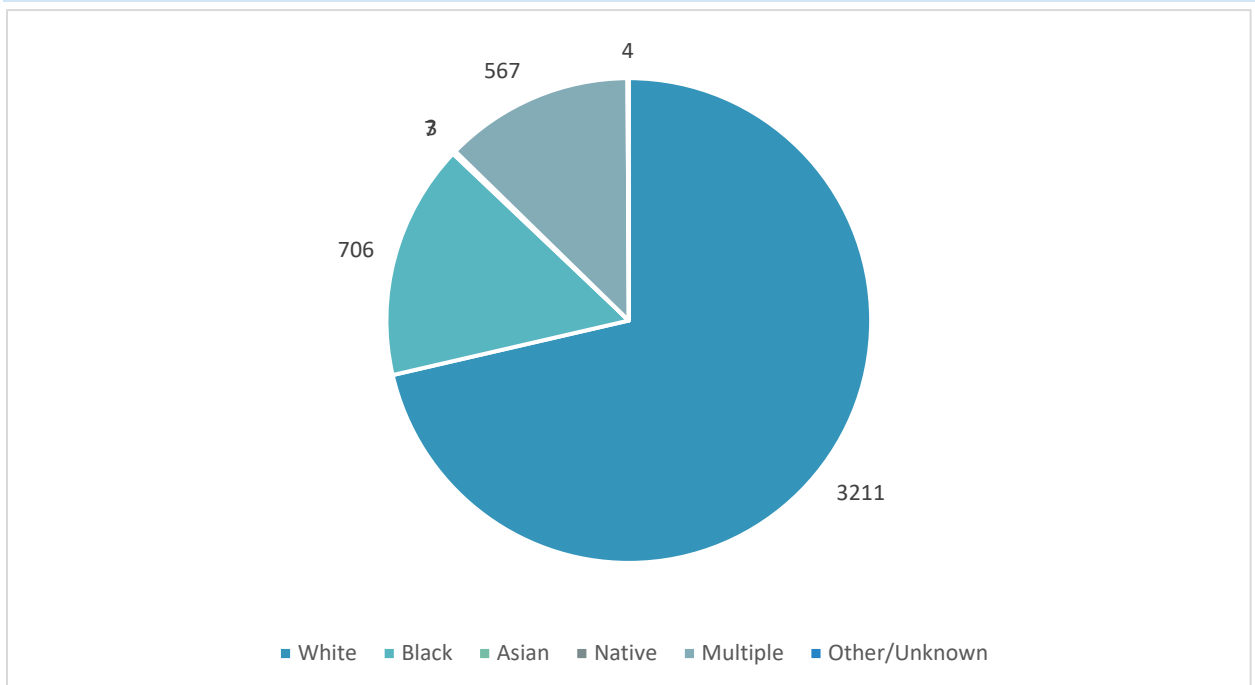


Figure 28: Nassau County Coalition Numbers Served by Race



Data Source: Community Coalition Alliance. (2023). Florida Prevention Systems Data. <https://ccafl.org/>

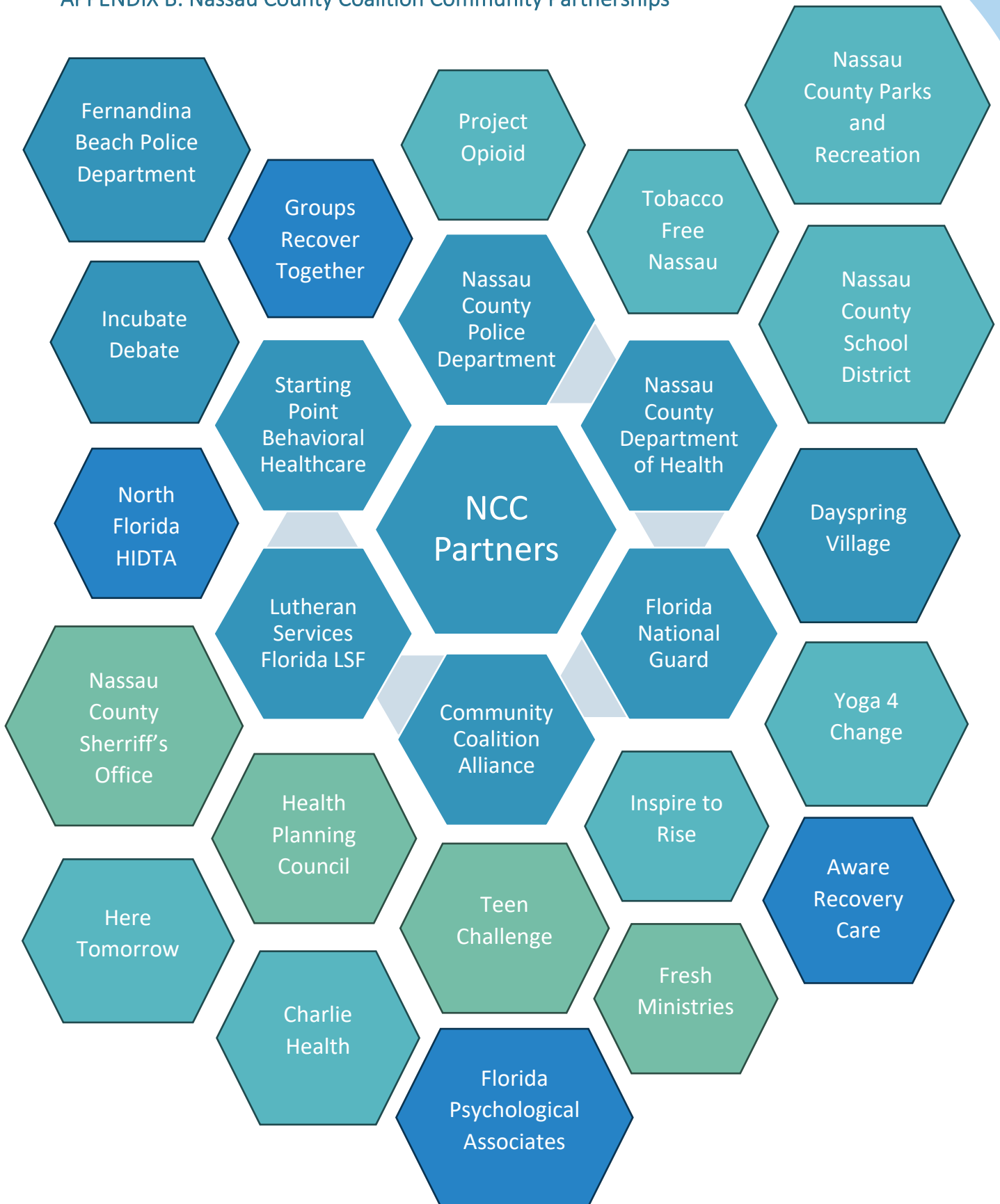
APPENDIX A: NASSAU RESOURCE GUIDE FOR BEHAVIORALS AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Agency	Website	Facebook/ Instagram	City	Service coverage area (geographic area)
AWARE RECOVERY CARE	https://www.awarerecoverycare.com/	FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/awarerecoverycare INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/awarerecoverycare/	Delray Beach	Florida
BARNABAS CENTER	https://barnabasnassau.org/	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BarnabasNassau/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/newtoyou_resale/	Fernandina Beach Callahan Hilliard	Nassau County
BREAKTHROUGHS: COUNSELING & RECOVERY, INC.	https://jaxtherapists.com/	FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/BreakthroughsCounseling	Jacksonville	Nassau County Clay County Duval County St Johns County
CHARLIE HEALTH	https://www.charliehealth.com/	FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/charliehealth INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/charliehealth/	Bozeman	Virtual (available in 23 states - includes Florida)
FLORIDA BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY PROTECTION	https://nassau.floridahealth.gov/locations/fernandina.html		Fernandina Beach	Nassau County
FLORIDA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES	http://www.floridapsy.com/		Fernandina Beach Callahan Kingsland	

Agency	Website	Facebook/ Instagram	City	Service coverage area (geographic area)
FRESH MINISTRIES	https://freshministries.org/	FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/FreshMinistries/ INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/freshministries/	Jacksonville	Nassau County Duval County St Johns County
GATEWAY COMMUNITY	https://gatewaycommunity.com/		Jacksonville	Nassau County Duval County
HERE TOMORROW	https://heretomorrow.org/	FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/HereTomorrowCommunity/ INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/heretomorrowjax/	Neptune Beach	Nassau County Duval County St Johns County
INSPIRE TO RISE	https://www.weinspiretorise.org/	FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/weinspiretorise.org/	Jacksonville Yulee	Nassau County Duval County St. Johns County Clay County Baker County
INTERNAL RENOVATION S THERAPY, LLC	www.internalrenovationstherapy.com ny.site		Hilliard	Hilliard, Callahan, all of Nassau County
LAKEVIEW HEALTH	https://www.lakeviewhealth.com/	FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/LakeviewHealthRecovery/	Jacksonville	
MCPHERSON COUNSELING SERVICES	www.mcphersoncounseling.com	FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/mcphersoncounseling?sk=wall	Yulee	Nassau County
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS	https://www.firstcoastna.org/		DEPEND ING ON MEETIN G LOCATI ON	Nassau County Anyone nearby meeting locations
RIVER REGION HUMAN SERVICES	https://rrhs.org/		Jacksonville	Nassau County

Agency	Website	Facebook/ Instagram	City	Service coverage area (geographic area)
ST. SIMONS BY THE SEA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	https://ssbythesea.com/	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SaintSimonsBehavioral/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/saintsimonsbythesea/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA%3D%3D	St. Simons Island	Nassau County
STARTING POINT BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE	https://www.spbh.org/	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/StartingPointBehavioralHealthcare Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/startingpointfl	Yulee	Nassau County Southern GA (Camden County, GA) Northern FL (Duval County, FL)
TEEN CHALLENGE	https://teenchallengeusa.org/	FACEBOOK: https://teenchallengeusa.org/ INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/teenchallengeusa/	Jacksonville	Nation-wide locations SOUTHEAST LOCATIONS: Columbus, GA; Davie, FL; Fort Meyers, FL; Pensacola, FL; Dixon, KY; Jacksonville, FL; Tallahassee, FL; Columbia, SC; Dublin, GA; Orlando, FL
TOBACCO FREE FLORIDA (TOBACCO FREE NASSAU)	https://tobaccofreeflorida.com/county/nassau/	FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/tobaccofreeflorida/	Fernandina Beach	Nassau County Anyone in Florida
VITAS INNOVATIVE HOSPICE CARE	https://www.vitas.com/	FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/VITASHealthcare INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/vitashospice/	Fernandina Beach	Nassau County (and surrounding counties)

APPENDIX B: Nassau County Coalition Community Partnerships



2023 Nassau County, Florida Community Needs Assessment

Released October 2023



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www.ccafl.org