

Department of Health

**Syringe Exchange Program (SEP):
Expansion of the
Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA)**



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Infectious Disease Elimination Act

- **Signed into law in 2016 (381.0038(4), F.S.)**
- **Allowed a 5-year pilot syringe exchange program (SEP) in Miami-Dade County**
- **Intended for the prevention of blood-borne disease transmission**
- **Authorized until July 1, 2021, or until the county commission passes an ordinance**

Successes thus far

- **Between December 1, 2016 and 2018 more than 600 HIV and 500 HCV tests were given (1)**
- **Between March 2017 and January 2020, 2,871 boxes of naloxone were distributed (2)**
- **Opioid-related deaths decreased in Miami-Dade from 305 in 2017 to 213 in 2018 (2)**

1. <https://miamifoundation.org/how-a-needle-exchange-is-saving-lives-in-miami-dade>

2. <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/health-care/article237489144.html>

IDEA Exchange Expansion Bill

- **Signed into law in 2019 (381.0038(4), F.S.)**
- **Allows county commissions to authorize SEPs via ordinance**
- **State, county, or municipal funds may not be used to operate an exchange program- must use grants / donations from private resources**

Responsibility Matrix

County Commission

- County ordinance
- Letter of agreement with the Department
- Contract with exchange program

Syringe Exchange Program

- 1-to-1 exchange
- HIV, viral hepatitis testing
- Counseling/referrals for drug abuse treatment
- Naloxone kits
- Educational materials
- Data

Department of Health

- Letter of agreement with the county commission
- Advice, consultation, recommendations (through CHDs)
- Annual exchange program data report
- Rule

County Commission Responsibilities

Before an exchange program may be established, the county commission must:

- **Authorize the program via county ordinance**
- **Enter into a letter of agreement with the Department of Health**
- **Enlist the county health department (CHD) to provide ongoing operational advice, consultation, and recommendations**

County Commission Responsibilities

County commission must contract with one of the following:

- 1) Hospital**
- 2) Health care clinic**
- 3) Medical school in Florida**
- 4) Licensed addictions receiving facility**
- 5) 501(c)3 HIV/AIDS service organization**

Syringe Exchange Program Responsibilities

- **One-to-one needle-syringe exchange**
- **Oversight and accountability system (approved by county commission)**
- **Site Security**
- **HIV and viral hepatitis screening**

Syringe Exchange Program Responsibilities

- **Drug abuse prevention, education, and treatment**
- **Emergency opioid antagonist kits**
- **Data collection (without specific patient ID)**

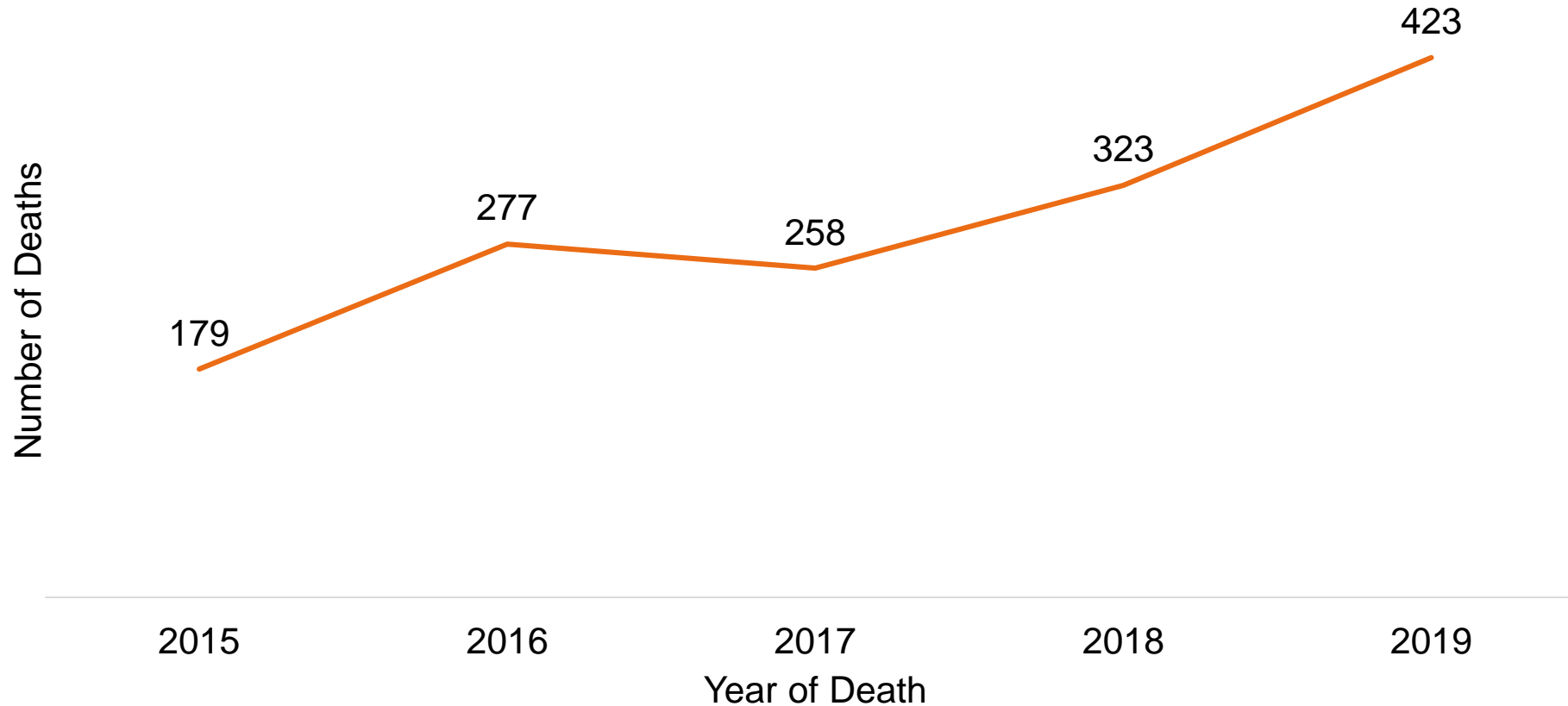
Department of Health Responsibilities

- **Compile SEP data for annual reporting**
- **Submit annual report to the Governor, President of Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives**

The Department may adopt rules, which can include additional data elements, to implement reporting requirements.

Department of Health

Total Accidental Drug Deaths, Pinellas County, 2015-2019



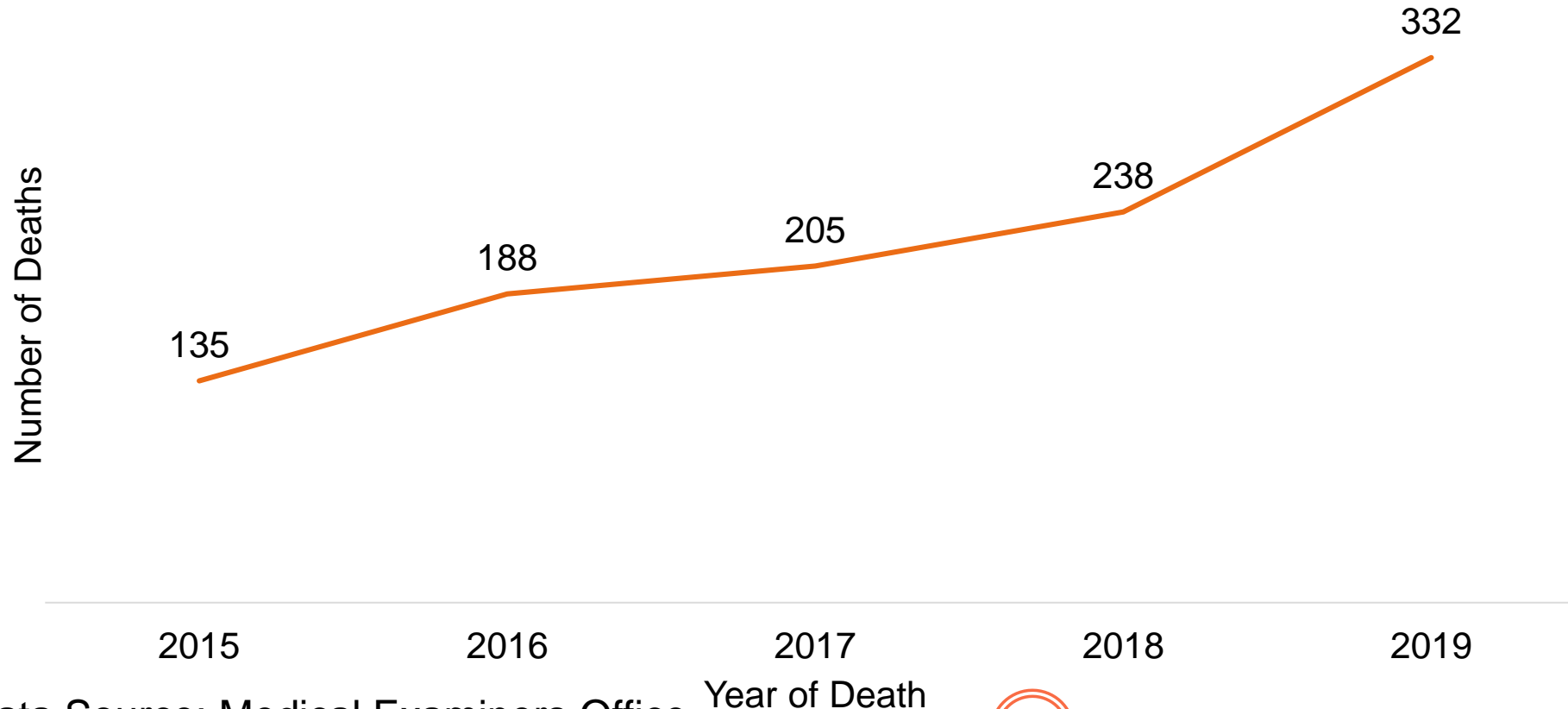
136%

Increase from
2015 to 2019

Data Source: Medical Examiners Office

Department of Health

Total Accidental Opioid-Related Deaths, Pinellas County, 2015-2019



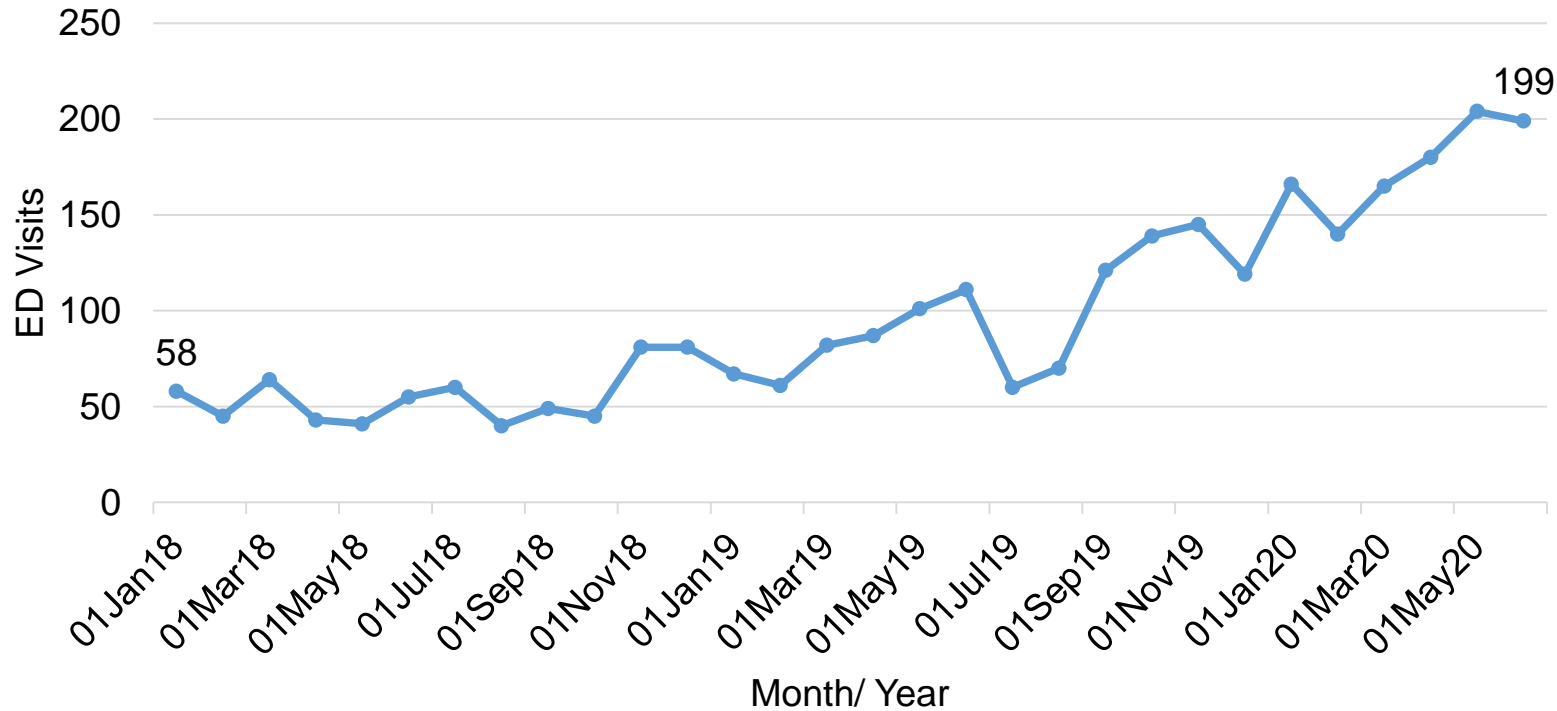
145%

Increase from
2015 to 2019

Data Source: Medical Examiners Office

Department of Health

Opioid-Related Monthly Emergency Department Visits, Pinellas County, Jan '18 – Jun '20



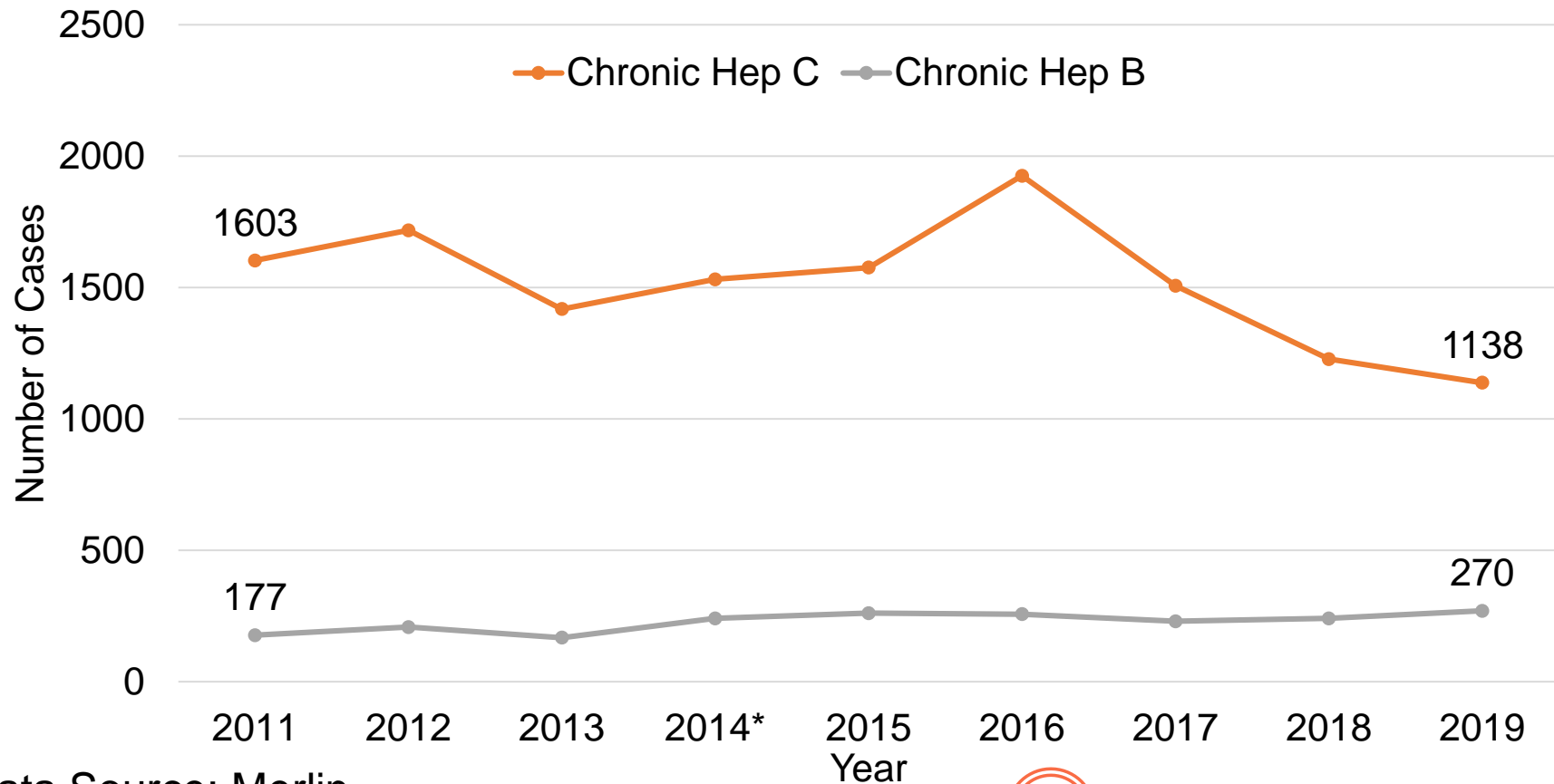
261%

Increase from 2018
to 2020 in average
weekly visits

Data Source: ESSENCE

Department of Health

Chronic Hepatitis in Pinellas County, 2011 - 2019



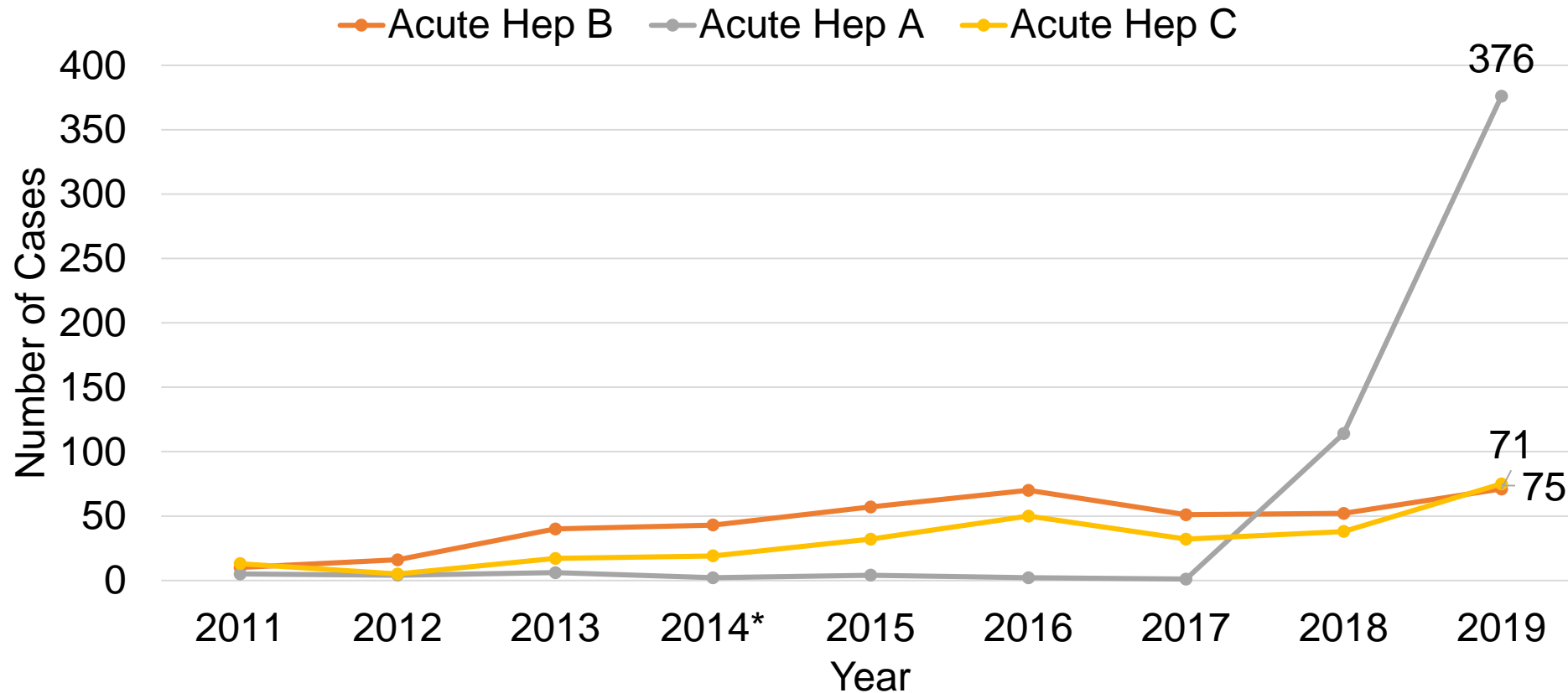
Chronic cases do not include perinatal hepatitis and may not match data in FL Charts.

* Change to Florida Administration Code (F.A.C) 64D-3 reporting requirements for hepatitis.

Data Source: Merlin

Department of Health

Acute Hepatitis in Pinellas County, 2011 - 2018

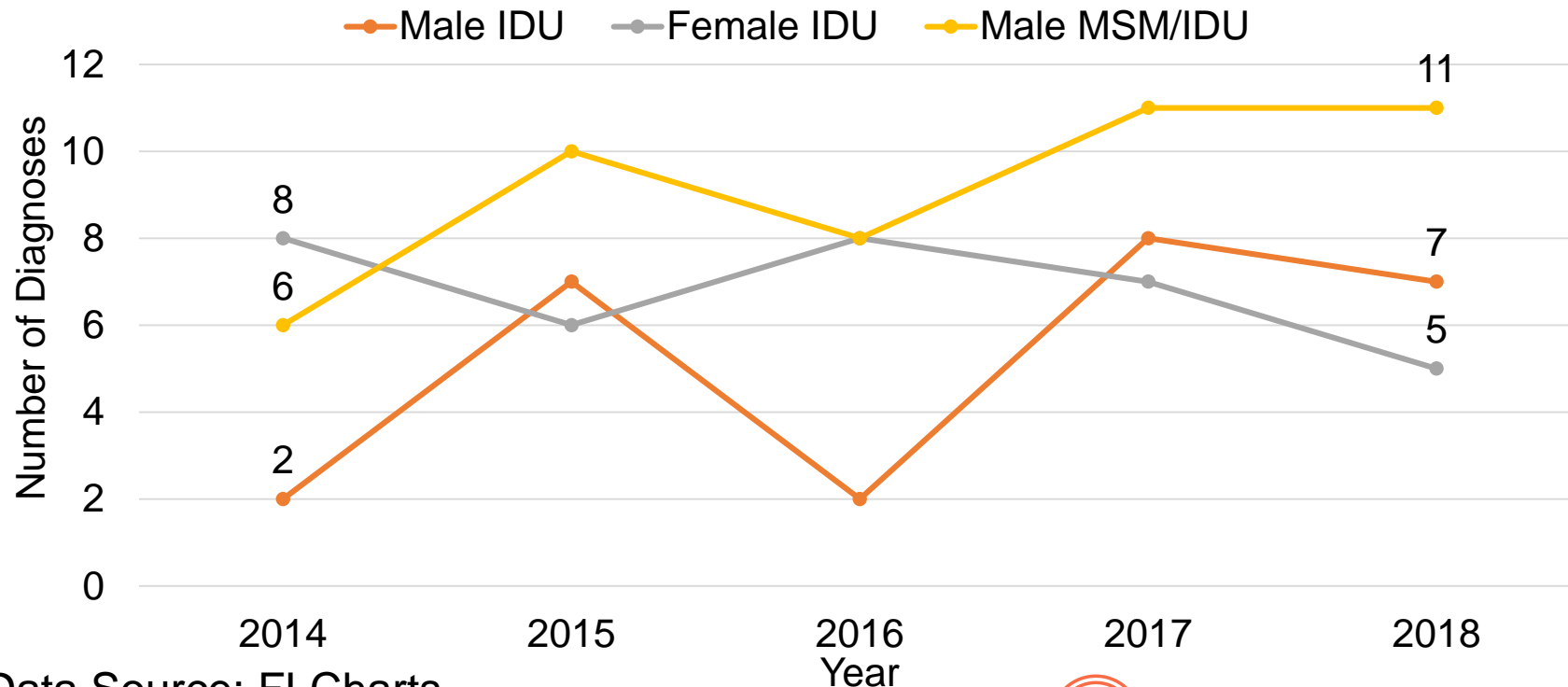


* Change to Florida Administration Code (F.A.C) 64D-3 reporting requirements for hepatitis.

Data Source: Merlin

Department of Health

Adult (Age 13+) HIV Diagnosis with an IDU Exposure, Pinellas County, 2014 - 2018



7%

Of all persons diagnosed with HIV had IDU exposure between 2014 – 2018 in Pinellas County

Data Source: FLCharts

Questions?

*Empowering and educating individuals on harm reduction through training and technical skills needed to reduce the spread of HIV, Hepatitis C, and other blood-borne diseases to achieve a **healthier life**.*

IDEA Exchange FL