

State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) All Drug Overdose Deaths, Georgia, July 2018 – June 2019*

The State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) collects detailed investigative and toxicological information from Coroners/Medical Examiners about unintentional drug overdose deaths, to better understand the changing nature of the opioid epidemic and inform key stakeholders.

Unintentional All Drug Overdose Deaths (AD-OD) and Opioid-Involved[^] Overdose Deaths (OI-OD)

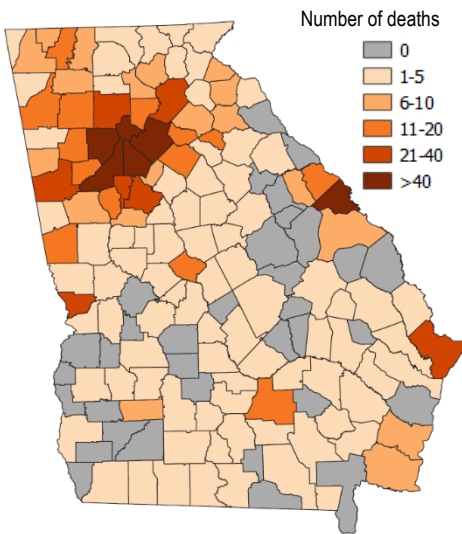
AD-OD and OI-OD by Medical Examiner (ME) Entity^o

Cobb		DeKalb		Fulton		Gwinnett		GBI		Total	
All Drug	Opioid	All Drug	Opioid	All Drug	Opioid	All Drug	Opioid	All Drug	Opioid	All Drug	Opioid
# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)
85 (6.9)	65 (8.2)	195 (15.9)	133 (16.8)	181 (14.8)	101 (12.8)	67 (5.5)	58 (7.3)	699 (57.0)	435 (54.9)	1226 (100.0)	792 (100.0)

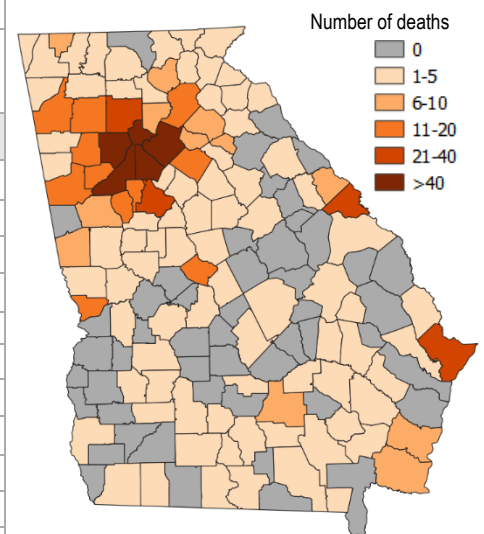
AD-OD and OI-OD by Selected Demographics

	All-Drug (AD-OD)		Opioid (OI-OD)	
	# (%)	Rate [†] (per 100,000 Population)	# (%)	Rate [†] (per 100,000 Population)
Total	1226 (100.0)	11.6	792 (100.0)	7.5
Sex				
Male	799 (65.2)	15.5	511 (64.5)	9.9
Female	427 (34.8)	7.8	281 (35.5)	5.2
Race				
White	907 (74.0)	14.2	632 (80.0)	9.9
Black	291 (23.7)	8.4	140 (17.7)	4.1
Other/Unknown	28 (2.3)	3.7	20 (2.5)	2.6
Age Group (years)				
<15	3 (0.2)	0.1	1 (0.1)	0.1
15-24	69 (5.6)	4.8	54 (6.8)	3.7
25-34	265 (21.6)	17.8	201 (25.4)	13.5
35-44	295 (24.1)	21.4	207 (26.1)	15.0
45-54	264 (21.5)	18.9	155 (19.6)	11.1
55-64	243 (19.8)	18.6	136 (17.2)	10.4
65-74	76 (6.2)	8.2	36 (4.6)	3.9
75+	11 (0.9)	1.9	2 (0.3)	0.3

AD-OD by County of Injury



OI-OD by County of Injury



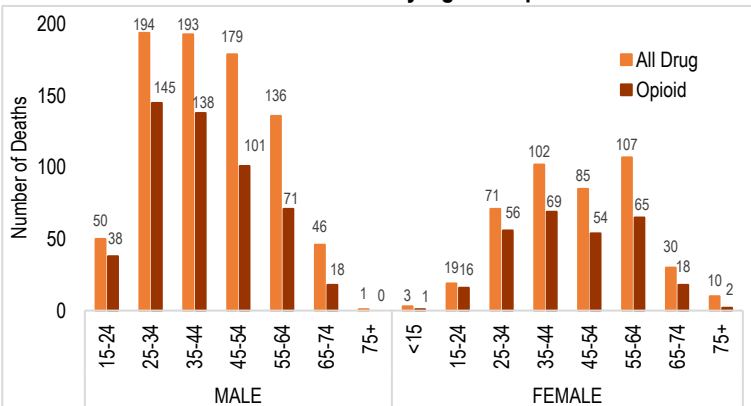
Opioid-involved unintentional drug overdose deaths in Georgia from July 2018 to June 2019 were predominantly:

- Male (64.5%)
- White (80.0%)
- Between 35-44 years of age (26.1%)

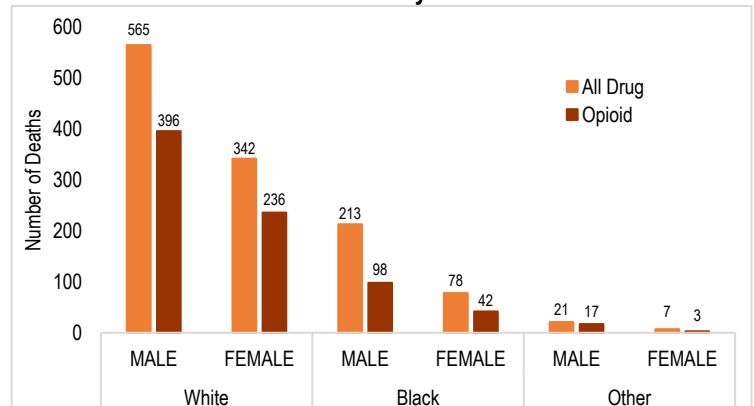
Comparing data from the previous report for OI-OD deaths from July 2017 – June 2018, OI-OD deaths from July 2018 – June 2019 have shown:

- 7.4% decrease
- 12.5% decrease among females
- 28.4% increase among Black persons
- 100% increase among the 65-74 age group

AD-OD and OI-OD by Age Group & Sex



AD-OD and OI-OD by Race & Sex



Data source: Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GA-VDRS) and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

* Data includes all drug overdose cases that overdosed in Georgia with date of death from July 2018 – June 2019; contains Georgia and non-Georgia residents.

^o ME entity determined by certifier county. DeKalb ME includes DeKalb, Hall, Henry, and Rockdale counties. GBI includes all other counties not represented by an ME.

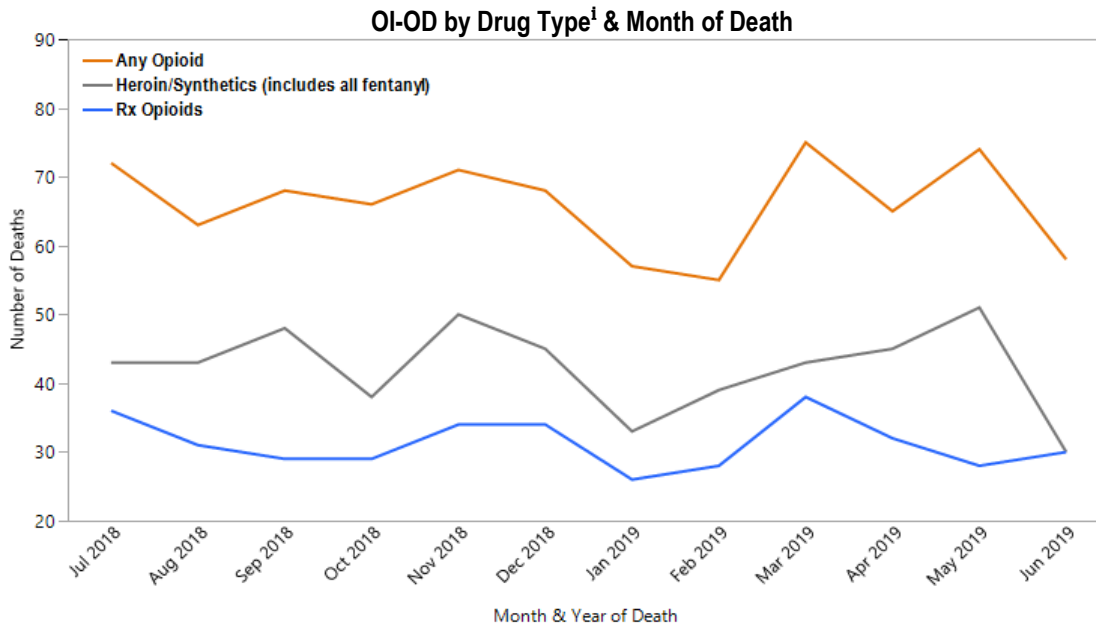
[^] Opioid-involved includes cases with an opioid listed in the cause of death. These cases may have also tested positive for other non-opioid substances.

[†] Rate indicates deaths per 100,000 persons using 2019 Census data as the denominator.

Note: Data is subject to change due to data quality improvements. Data shown on this report may not depict the true burden of opioid overdose deaths in Georgia.

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Unintentional Opioid-involved[^] Overdose Deaths (OI-OD) *Continued*



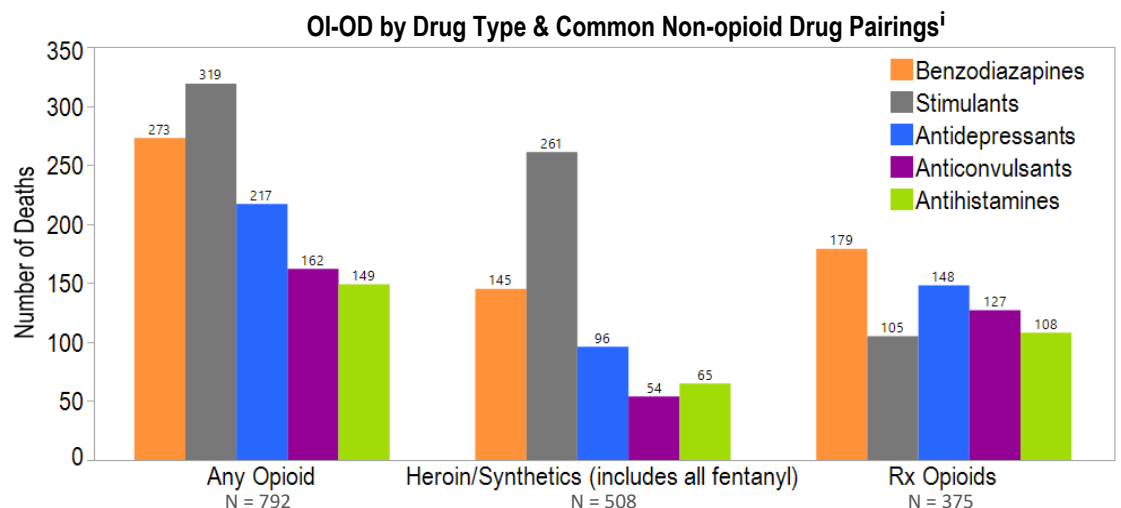
41.8% of heroin-involved deaths tested positive for synthetics, and 20.9% tested positive for Rx opioids

- Of Rx opioid-involved deaths:
- 18.4% also tested positive for heroin
 - 22.7% also tested positive for synthetics
 - 34.4% tested positive for either heroin or synthetics

Compared to heroin-involved deaths from July 2017 – June 2018, heroin-involved deaths from July 2018 – June 2019 increased 29.9%

90% of opioid-involved unintentional drug overdose deaths in Georgia during July 2018 to June 2019 tested positive for more than 2 substances

Median number of substances present was 6



Did you know?

GA DPH uses overdose death reports (i.e. scene investigation, autopsy, toxicology results) from coroners/medical examiners (C/MEs) to abstract pertinent information into a national database developed by CDC.

95.7% of all unintentional opioid-involved overdose deaths from July 2018 – June 2019 had C/ME reports submitted to GA DPH. The average time frame between death and certification of these deaths was **63 days**. Long lag times are often due to pending toxicology results.

For faster reporting, a **suspect overdose field** was added to GAVERS, which does NOT print on the death certificate.

Cause of death (CoD) text is important for drug overdose surveillance. In order to determine what kind of overdoses are trending upward and/or identify the presence of a dangerous new substance, drug-specific terms MUST be included in the CoD text. During this time period, 5.4% of all unintentional drug overdose deaths contained vague CoD text like "mixed drug toxicity" or "drug overdose".

Findings from these data can help inform drug overdose prevention & response efforts!

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¹ Drug-specific categories are not mutually exclusive. Counts were derived from positive toxicology results. Cases may have also tested positive for other substances. Synthetics includes fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, U47700, U48800, U49900, AH7921, and MT45. Rx opioids includes oxycodone, oxymorphone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, tramadol, buprenorphine, methadone, meperidine, tapentadol, dextropropofol, levorphanol, propoxyphene, pentazocine, phenacetin, and morphine or codeine with reported evidence of prescription consumption. Stimulants include cocaine and amphetamines. Antihistamines include diphenhydramine, promethazine, hydroxyzine, and doxylamine.

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