

Georgia Board of Public Health

May 10, 2022

Agenda

- Call to order
- Roll Call
- Approval/Adoption of Minutes
- New Business
 - Epidemiology Updates
 - COVID
 - Hepatitis of Unknown Etiology in Children
 - COVID Testing Update
 - Drug Overdoses and the Rise in Fentanyl
 - Commissioner's Closing Remarks
- Board Comments
- Adjournment

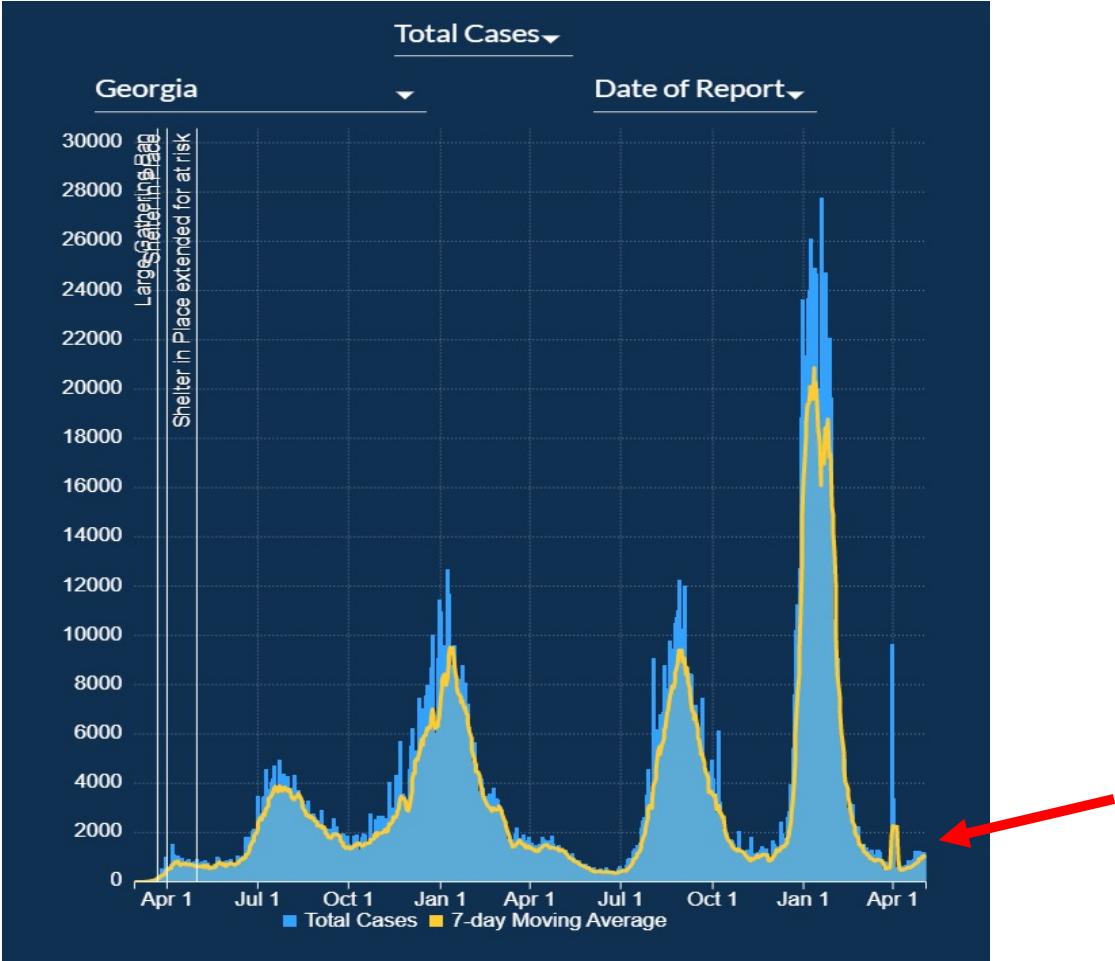
Epidemiology Update

Board of Public Health / Cherie L. Drenzek, DVM, MS, State Epidemiologist / May 10, 2022

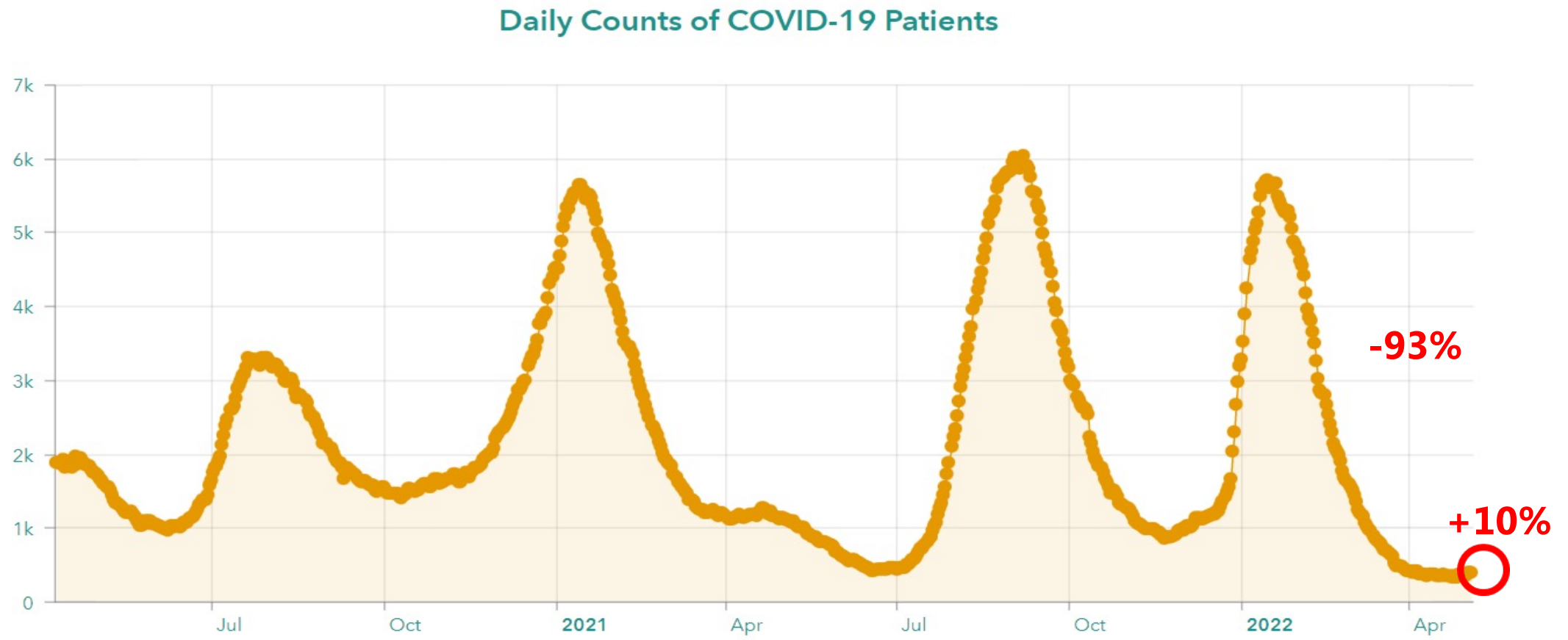
Snapshot of COVID-19 (5/10/22)

- In the US, COVID case numbers have generally **doubled** over the last two weeks as the highly-transmissible BA.2.12.1 subvariant spreads (40% of all circulating virus). We are seeing increases in almost all states (some hot spots include Hawaii, Maine, Rhode Island, Puerto Rico).
- In Georgia, case numbers have **increased by 65%** in the last two weeks. Hospitalization and death numbers are also beginning to increase (by about 10% and 36%, respectively, in the last week).
- 56% of the Georgia population is fully vaccinated and 24% boosted (vaccine numbers still decreasing in GA)
- **Most all COVID deaths and hospitalizations have occurred among those un- or under-vaccinated.**

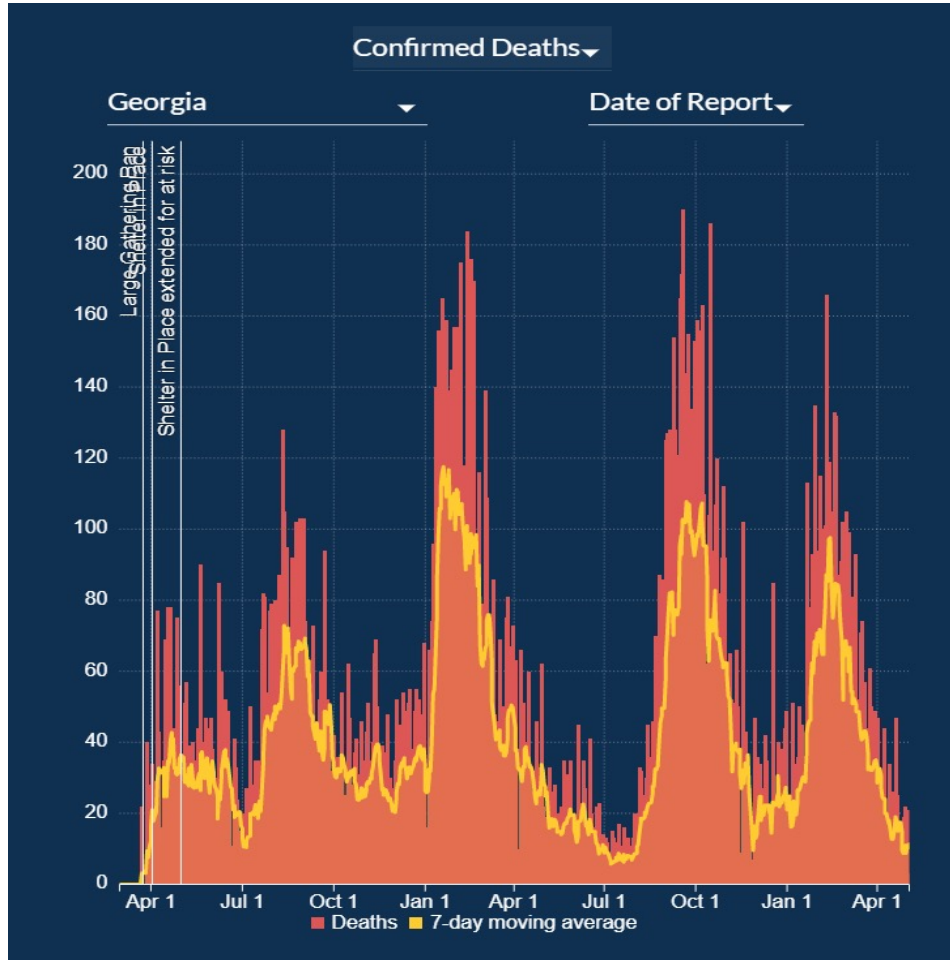
Total COVID-19 Cases



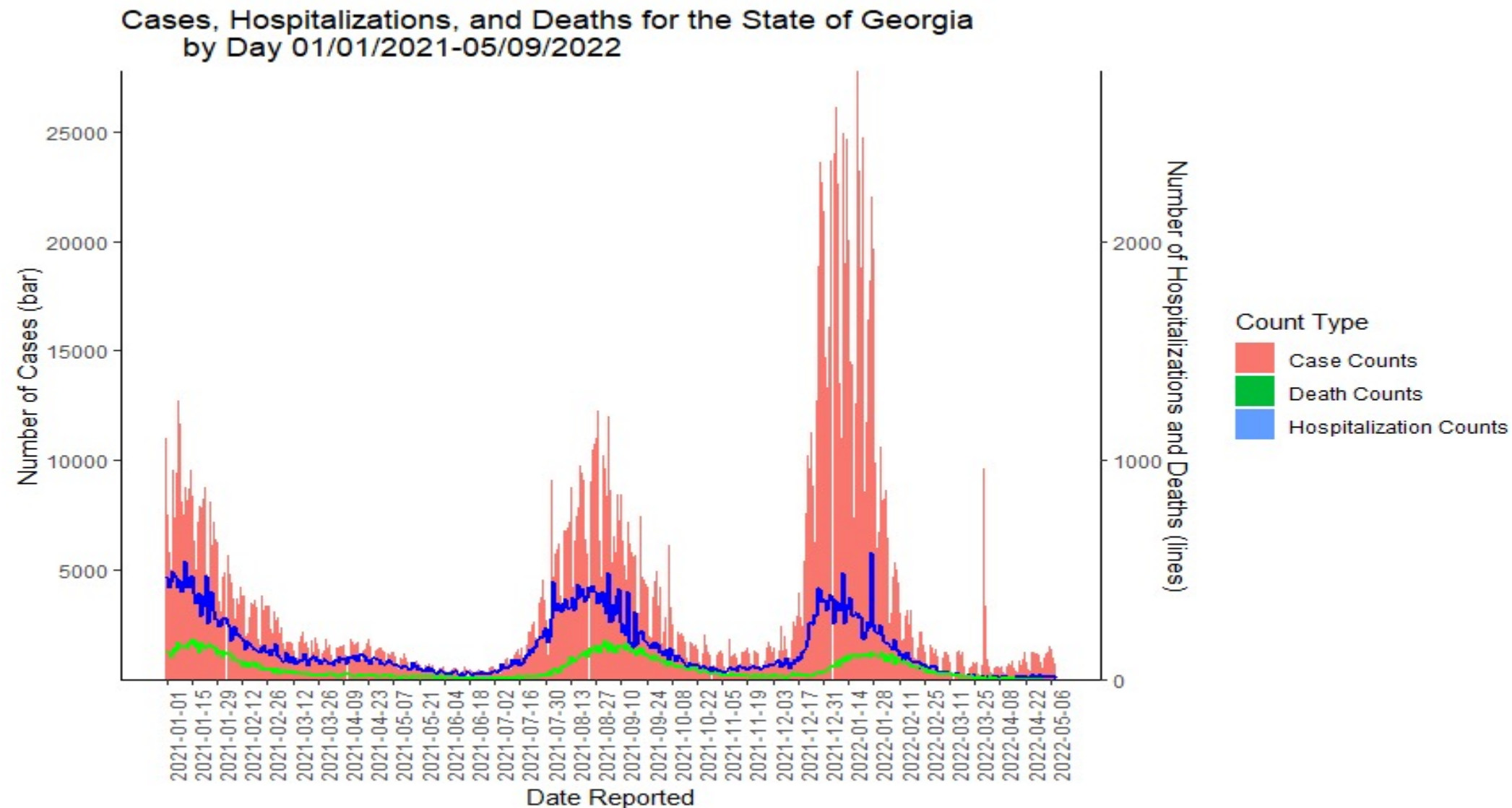
COVID-19 Hospitalizations



COVID-19 Deaths

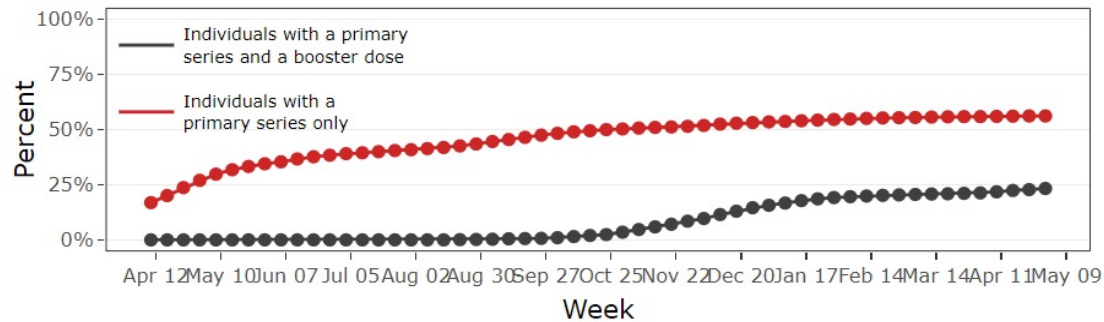


COVID Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, Georgia, 1/1/21-5/9/22

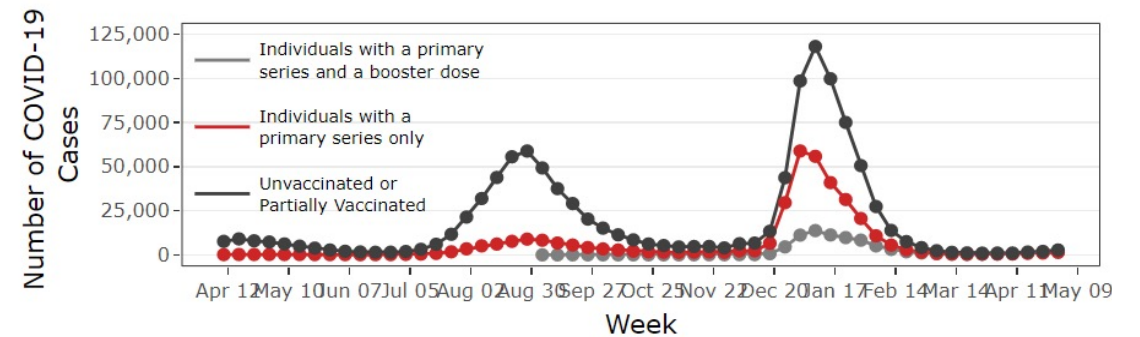


Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by Vaccine Status

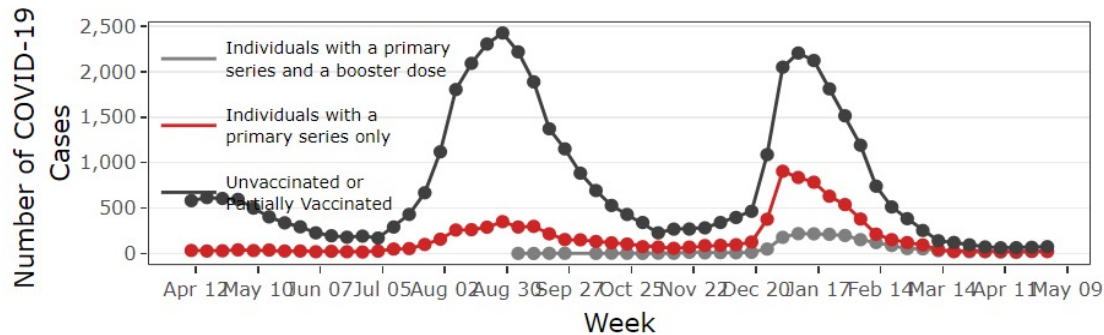
Percent of Georgians with a primary series completed 2021-04-10 to 2022-05-04



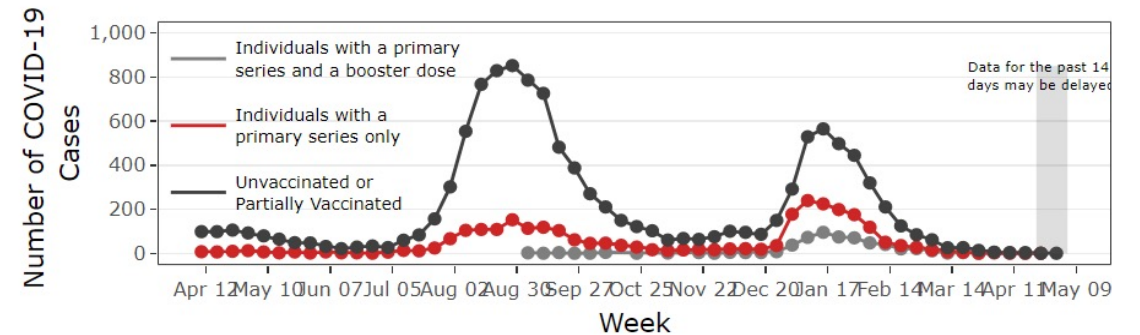
COVID-19 Cases by Date of Positive Test and Vaccination Status 2021-04-10 to 2022-05-04



Any Hospitalization by Date of Positive Test and Vaccination Status 2021-04-10 to 2022-05-04



COVID-19-Related Deaths by Date of Positive Test and Vaccination Status 2021-04-10 to 2022-05-04



COVID-19 Summary

- The highly transmissible Omicron sublineage BA.2.12.1 is increasing in circulation nationally and driving up cases and hospitalizations in most all states (this is the 6th pandemic wave, but much lower than previous ones).
- Last week the US reached the grim milestone of 1,000,000 COVID deaths
- Still no complacency: SARS-CoV-2 is still with us, has proven very adept at changing, and has myriad opportunities with so many unvaccinated and immune-compromised people. We expect additional waves this year.
- Vaccination, boosters, **surveillance**, testing, and traditional mitigation are critical to control this wave and WHEN we face other variants that emerge and result in surges over the next several years.

Hepatitis of Unknown Etiology in Children

- In October 2021, 9 young children in Alabama were diagnosed with severe, acute hepatitis of unknown etiology (several of whom needed liver transplants).
- Additional investigation identified a total of 109 children under investigation in 25 states (including several in Georgia) since October 2021, with 5 deaths.
- 90% of the children were hospitalized, 14% needed transplants, the median age was 2 years. None had hepatitis viruses (A-E). Half of the children had adenovirus type 41 infections, half did not.
- About 300 suspect cases have also been identified in 24 other countries.

Hepatitis of Unknown Etiology in Children

- At this time, the cause of hepatitis in these children is still unknown. While adenovirus has been detected in some children, we do not know if it is the cause of the illness.
- CDC is casting a very wide net to identify affected patients and ask detailed questions about previous infections, other potential exposures, toxins, medications, co-factors, etc.
- Hepatitis remains a very rare illness in young children
- CDC is asking providers to report suspect cases to the state or local health department and consider testing for adenovirus.

Closing Comments

1. Infectious diseases are ever-changing and unpredictable!
2. **Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation** are the cornerstones of prevention and control recommendations.

Questions

For more information, please contact:

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State Epidemiologist & Chief Science Officer

Georgia Department of Public Health

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COVID-19 Testing Update

Board of Public Health / David Newton, Director of Health Protection / May 10, 2022

COVID-19 Testing Landscape

SPOC Sites - April/May 2022

132 SPOC sites

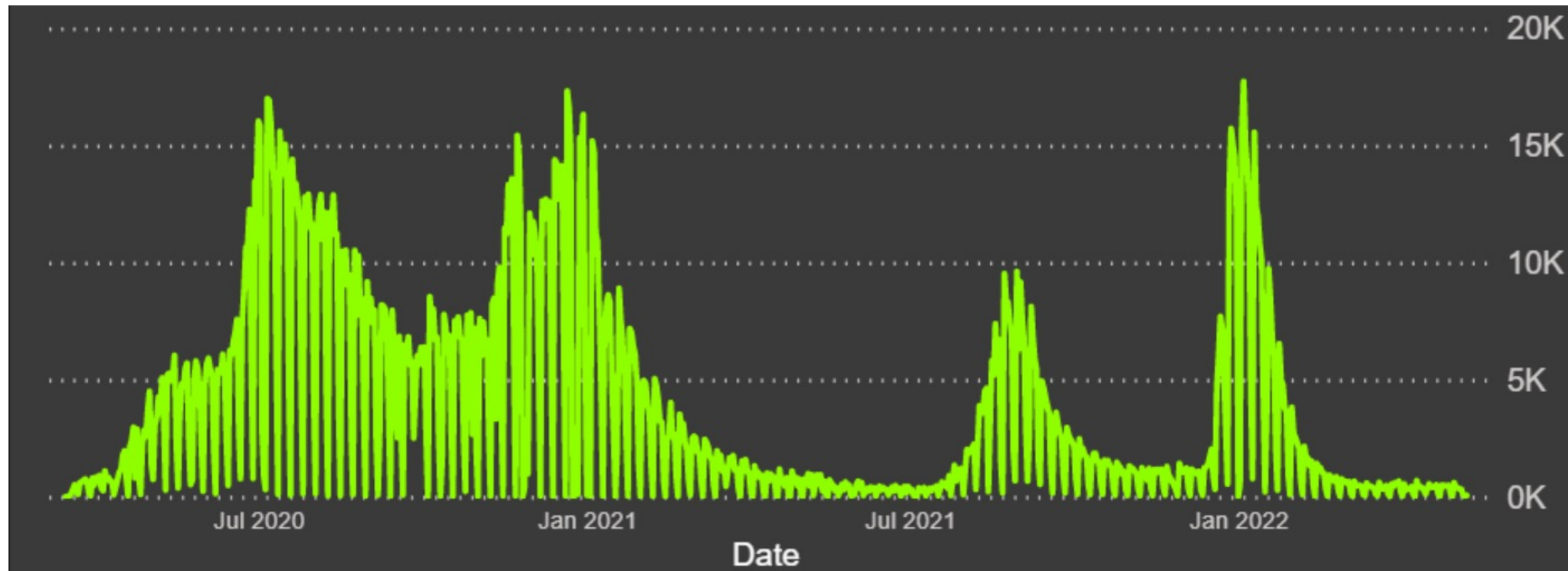
- 47 Health Department Sites
- 85 Contractor run sites

Decreased demand for SPOC sites (see next slides)

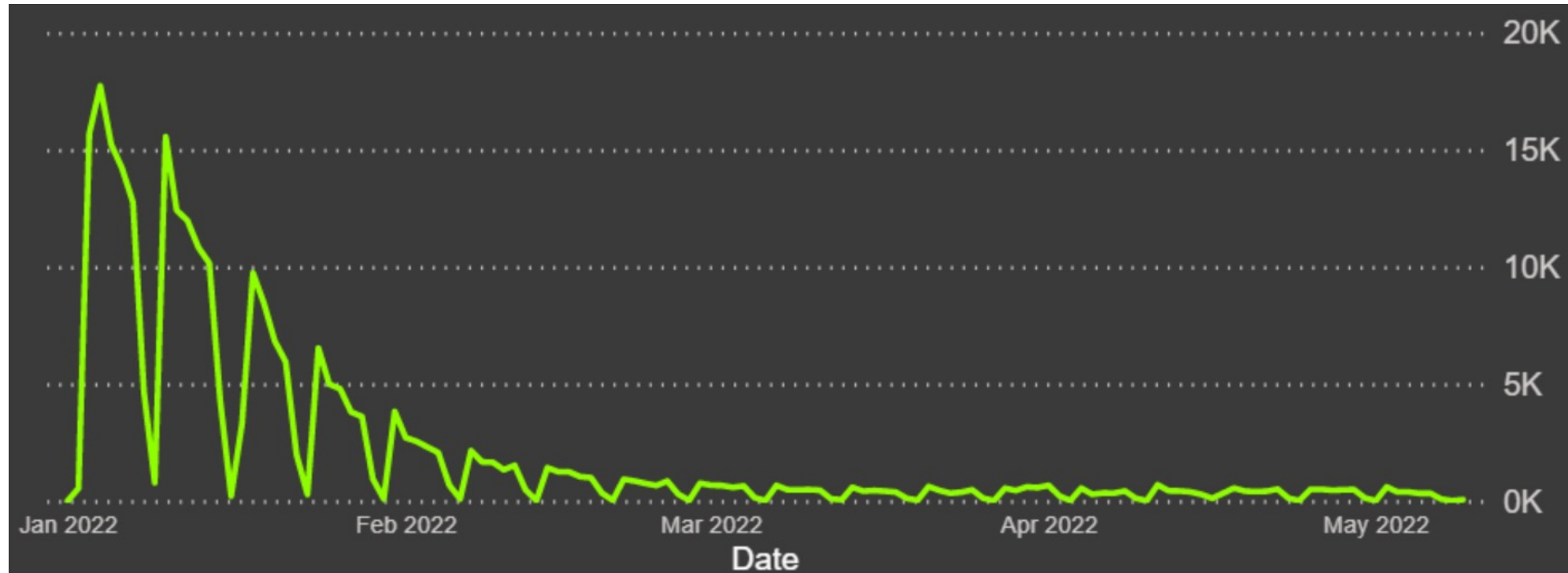
Over-the-Counter Test Kits (OTC)

- 10,368 tests distributed directly from state to 4 County Health Departments (CHDs)
- 48,454 tests distributed to Health Districts
 - Will be used for distribution to CHDs, first responders, vulnerable populations, and other community partners

PCR Tests for DPH SPOCs (March 2020-Present)



PCR Tests for DPH SPOCs (1/1/2022-Present)



Questions

For more information, please contact:

David Newton, DrPH(c), MPH, NRP

Director, Georgia Office of EMS and Trauma

Director, Division of Health Protection

Georgia Department of Public Health

(678) 373-7138

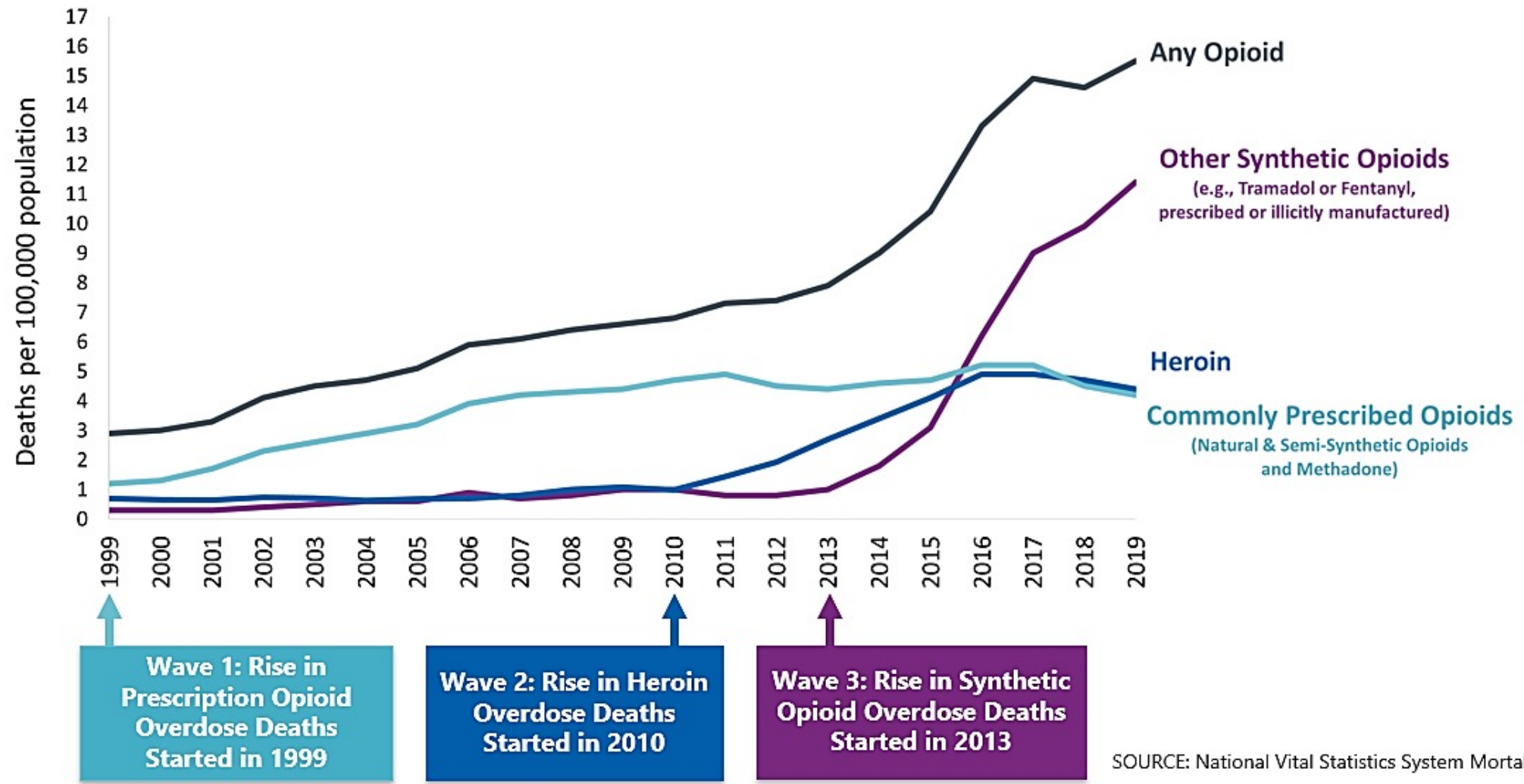
david.newton@dph.ga.gov

Georgia Drug Overdose Surveillance

Drug Overdoses and the Rise of Fentanyl

Board of Public Health / Laura Edison, DVM, MPH / May 10, 2022

Three Waves of the Rise in Overdose Deaths



Rapid Rise of Fentanyl

- Fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses have been increasing nationally and in Georgia in recent years and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic
- Fentanyl is largely driving these increases, 64% of drug overdoses in the U.S. involved a synthetic opioid during 2021
- Fentanyl is 100x more potent than morphine
- From 2019 to 2021 in Georgia:
 - Drug overdose deaths increased by 56% – 2,327 lives lost
 - Fentanyl-involved overdose deaths increased by **218%** – 1,248 lives lost



DEA Warns of Increase in Mass-Overdose Events Involving Deadly Fentanyl

WASHINGTON – Today, the Drug Enforcement Administration sent a [letter](#) to federal, state, and local law enforcement partners warning of a nationwide spike in fentanyl-related mass-overdose events. Administrator Anne Milgram outlined the current threat and offered DEA support to law enforcement officers responding to these tragic incidents.

GBI: 125,000 lethal doses of fentanyl seized in drug bust



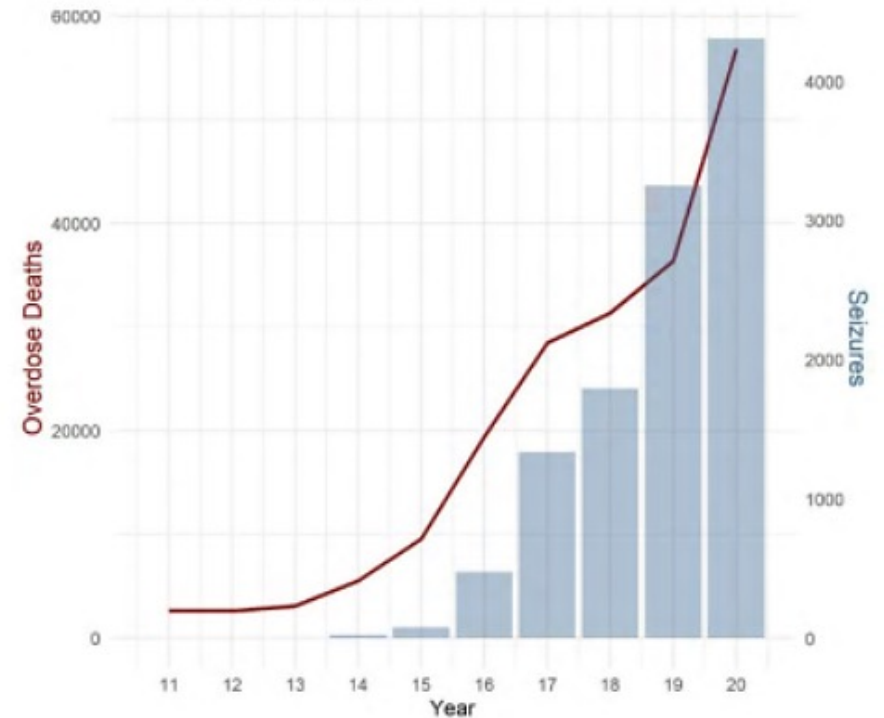
The record quantities of fentanyl that DEA seized in 2021 are enough to **kill every American.**



Fentanyl Seizures and Overdose Deaths

2011 - 2020

$r = .963, p < .05$



Drug Seizures by Atlanta-Carolina HIDTA

AC HIDTA Fentanyl Seizures					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Kilograms	3.63	13.81	22.50	36.29	57.37
Price	\$ 65,054	\$ 64,997	\$ 65,004	\$ 30,000	\$ 32,739
Value	\$ 236,146	\$ 897,609	\$ 1,462,590	\$ 1,088,700	\$ 1,878,208
Dosage Units	-	739	5,326	3,415	70,843
Price	\$ -	\$ 135.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 4.50	\$ 15.00
Value	\$ -	\$ 99,765	\$ 719,010	\$ 15,368	\$ 1,062,645
Total Value	\$ 236,146	\$ 997,374	\$ 2,181,600	\$ 1,104,068	\$ 2,940,853

All Street Drugs Are Dangerous

- Fentanyl is cheap and easy to produce
- It can be and is found in ANY type of street drug
- Commonly found in stimulants, heroin, and counterfeit pills
- Some drug users seek fentanyl for the high and price but often drug users are not aware they are taking fentanyl

Most Common Counterfeit Pills



Oxycontin®



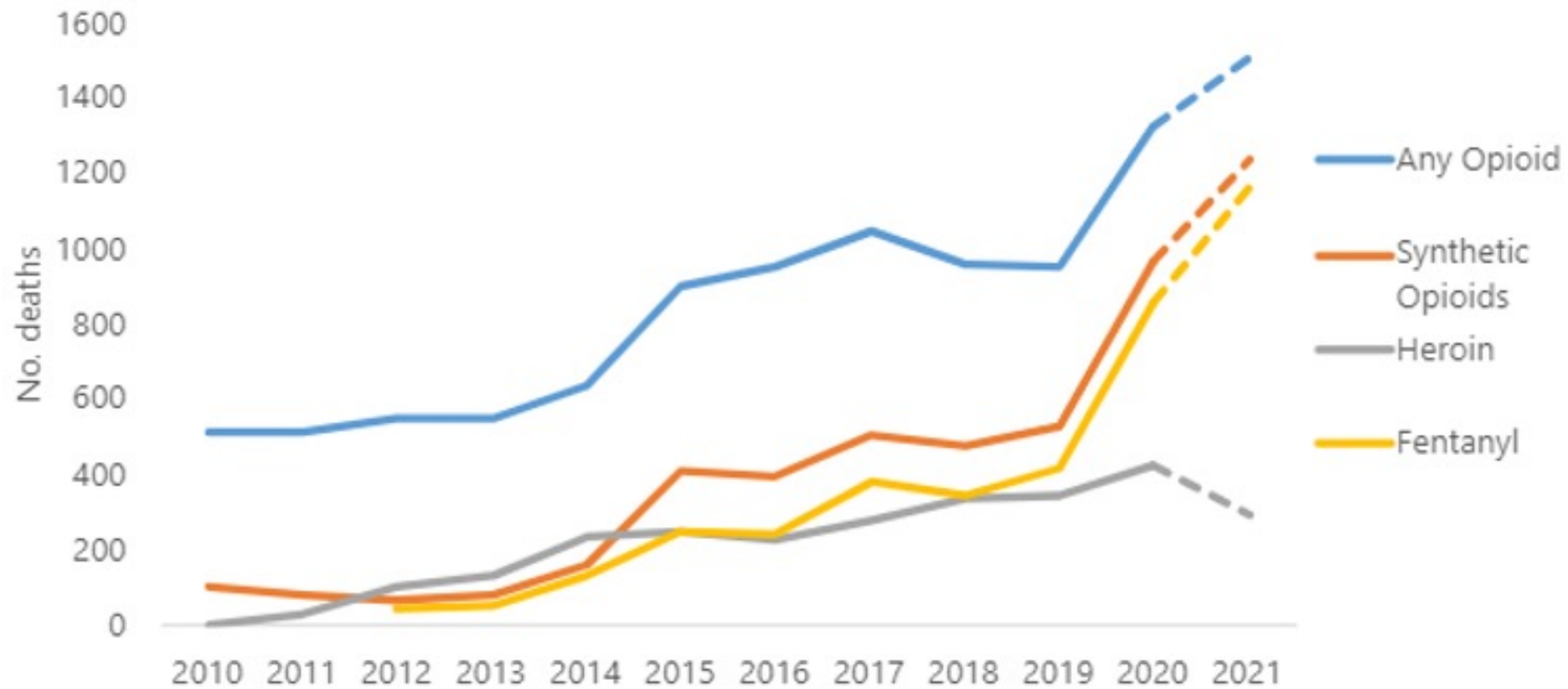
Adderall®



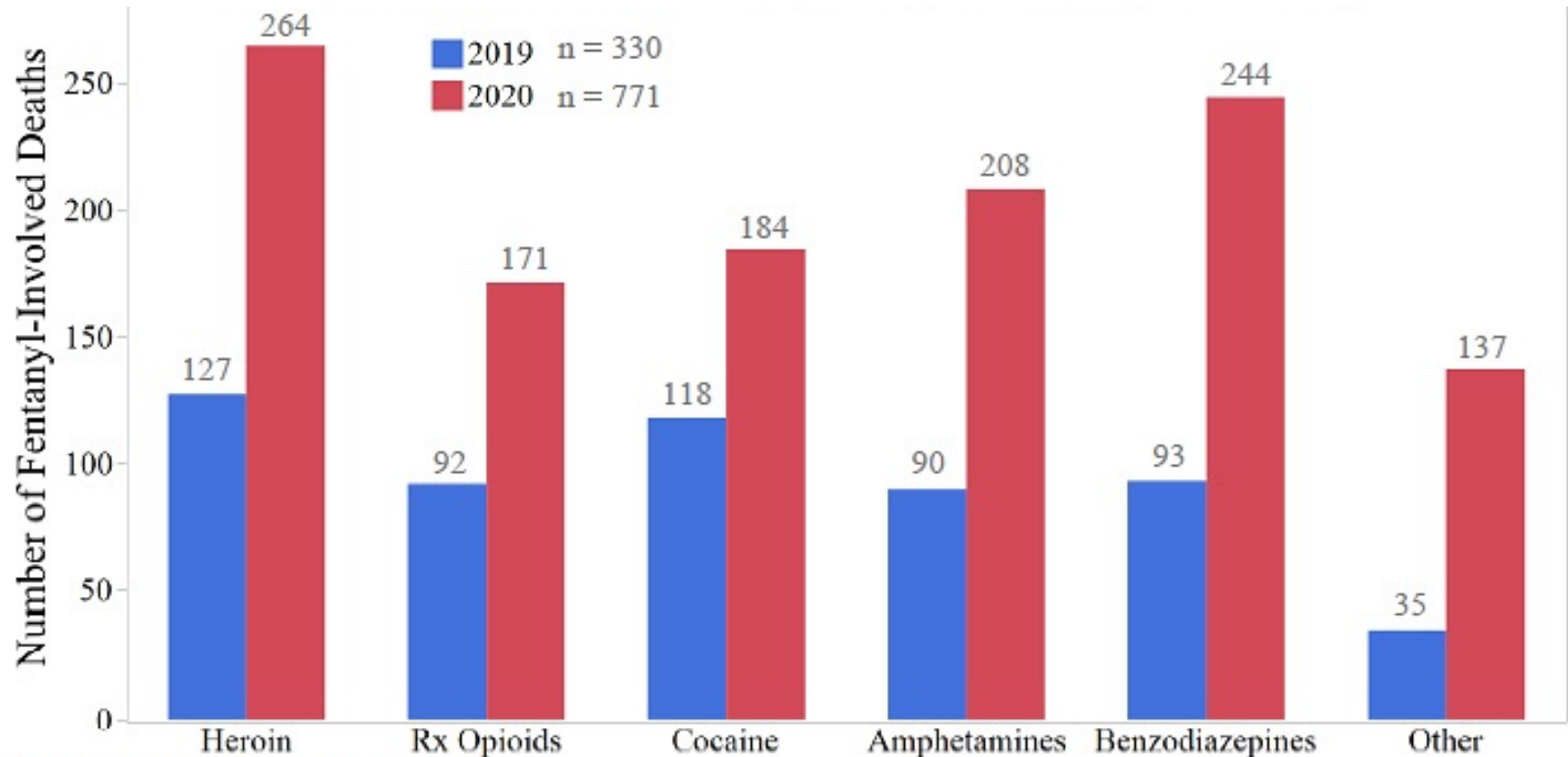
Xanax®



Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths Occurring in Georgia, by Drug Type, 2010-2021

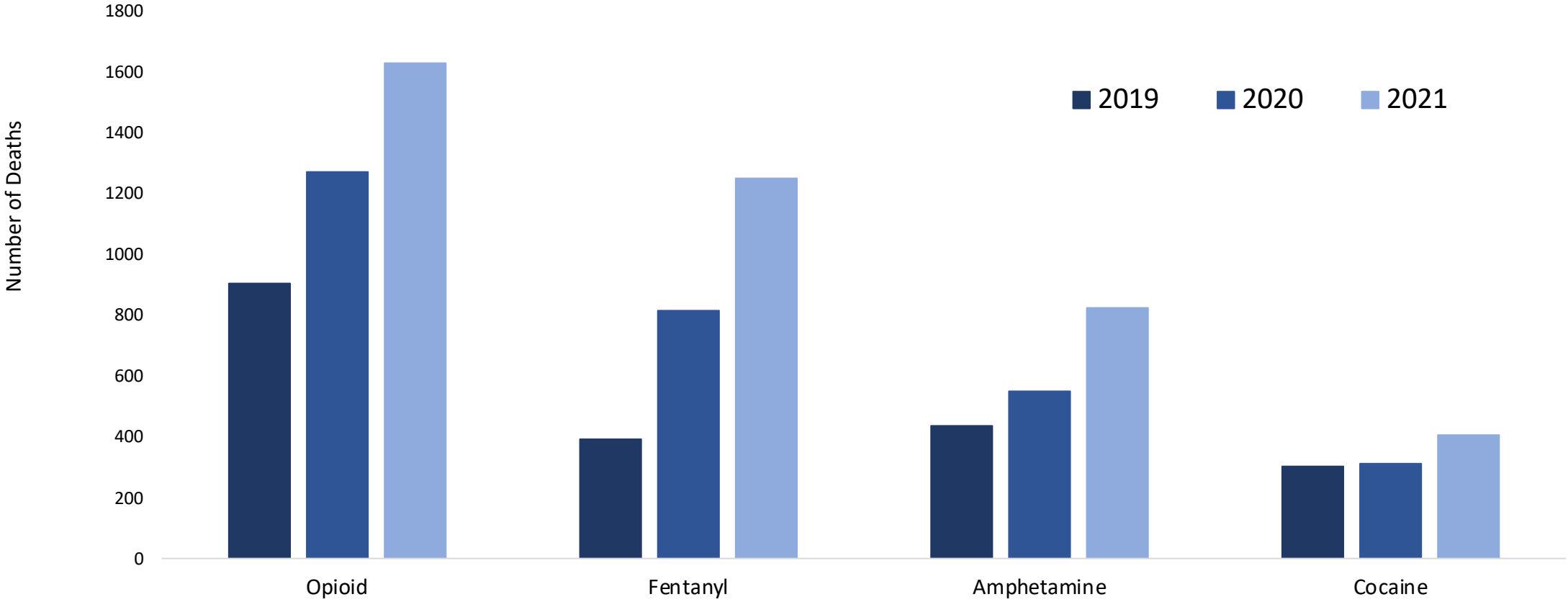


Fentanyl-Involved Overdose Deaths and Opioid/Non-Opioid Pairings



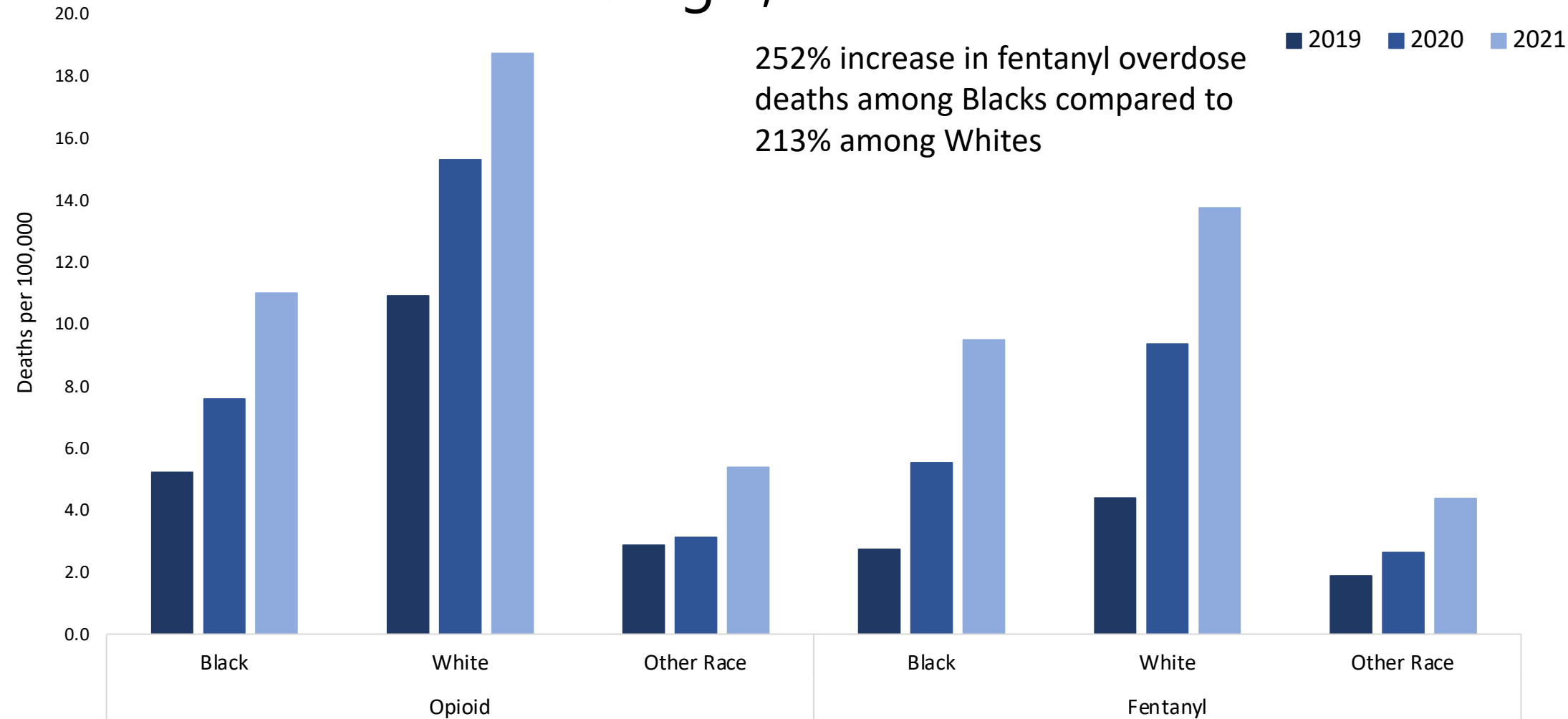
**Categories are not mutually exclusive.*

Drug Overdose Deaths, By Drug Type, Georgia, 2019 - 2021



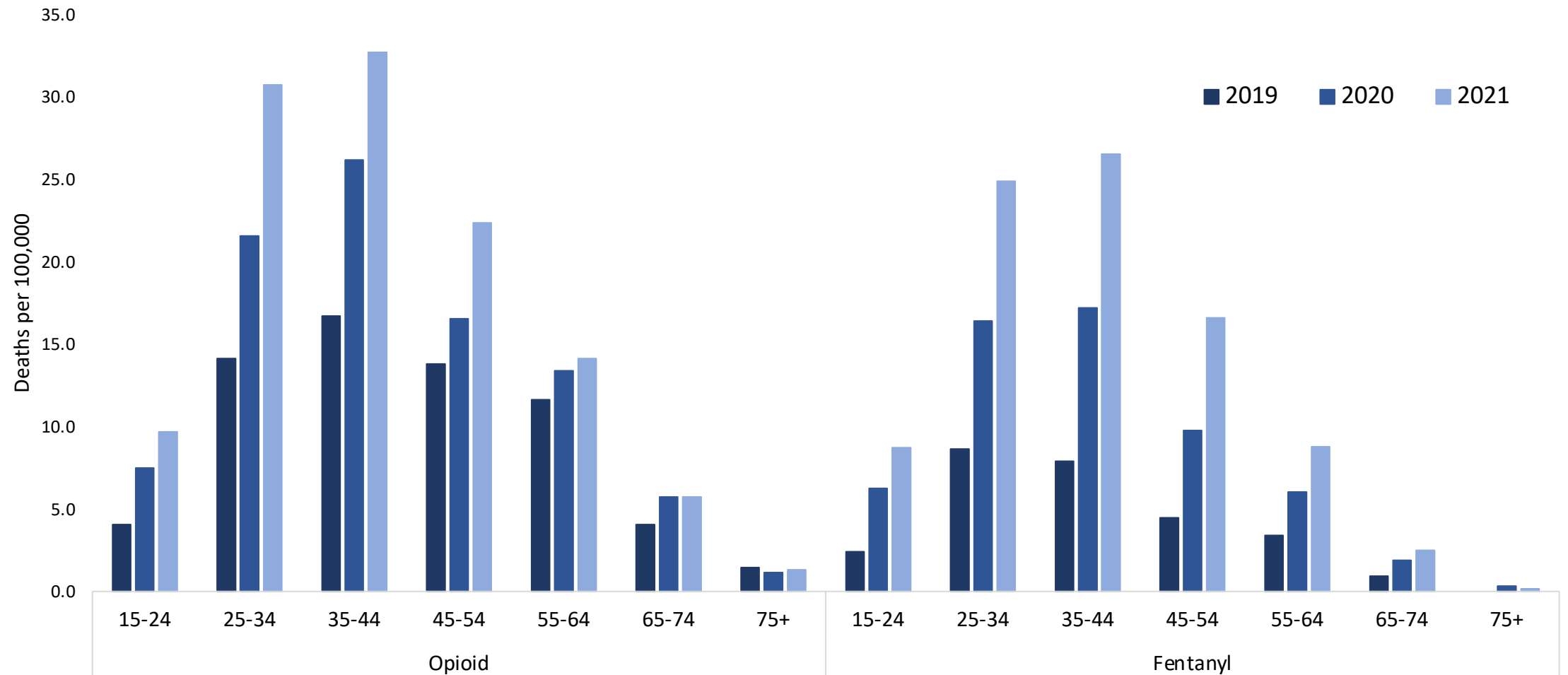
Drug Overdose Deaths, by Drug Type and Race

Georgia, 2019-2021



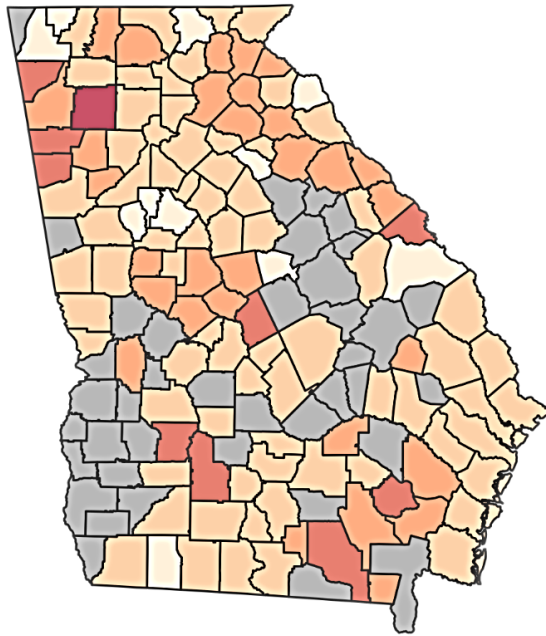
Drug Overdose Deaths, by Drug Type and Age Group

Georgia, 2019 - 2021

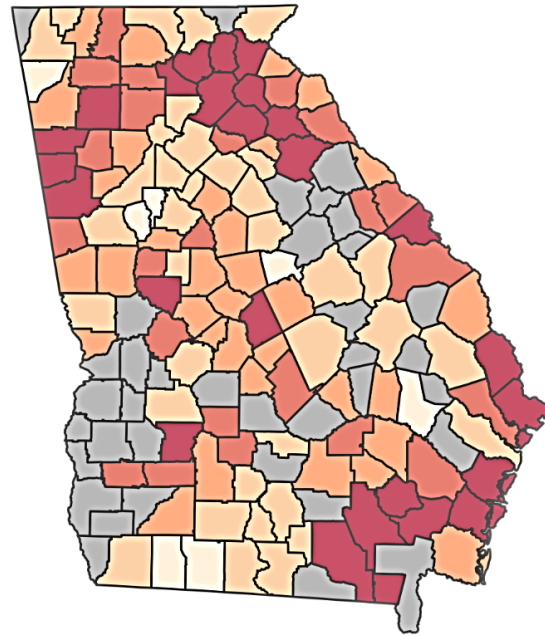


Opioid-Involved Overdose ED Visit Rates by Residence Location

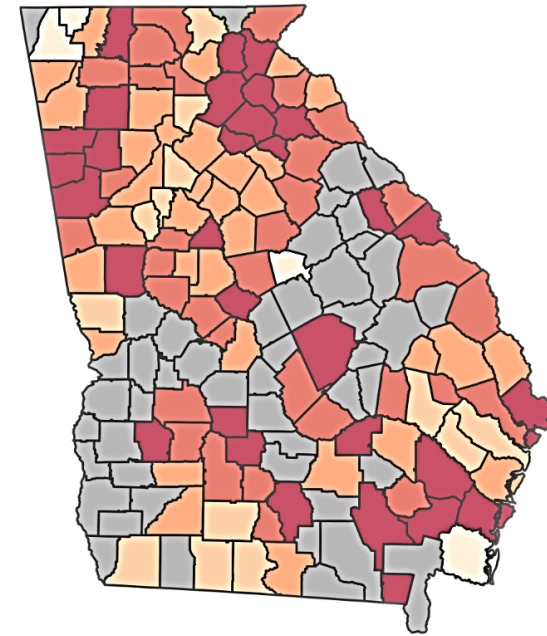
2019



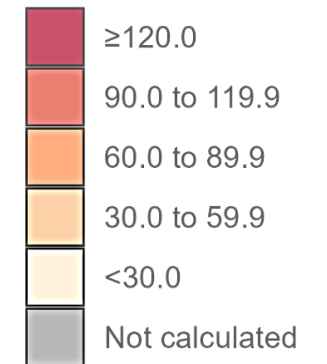
2020



2021

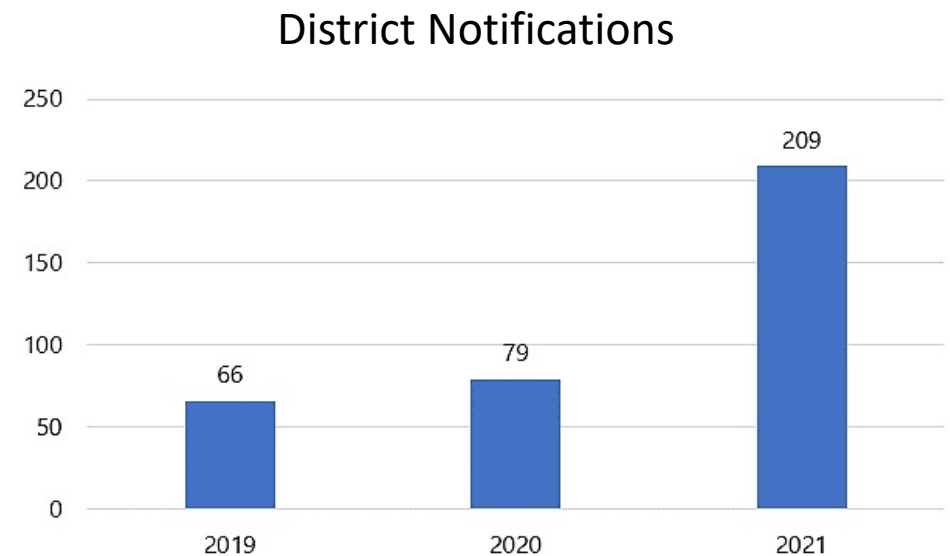


Rate per 100,000



Rapid Surveillance and Response

- DPH Drug Surveillance Unit monitors emergency department visits and EMS trip reports (timely), and death certificates (reporting lag) for clusters of overdoses
- DSU sends weekly notifications to the Opioid Public Health Assistant (PHA) in districts when follow-up is needed
- PHA reviews medical records and determines if further action
- If data is concerning, local partners are notified including law enforcement, the healthcare community, harm reduction, and more
- State and local public messaging when warranted





Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner / Brian Kemp, Governor

2 Peachtree Street, NW, 15th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142

dph.ga.gov

March 28, 2022

Dear Community Partner,

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has received reports of increased overdoses (OD) in various areas of the state over the past month which are caused by drugs mixed with fentanyl, particularly cocaine, methamphetamine, and counterfeit pills. We have reason to suspect these substances and related overdoses will continue to show up across the state of Georgia. In addition, these fentanyl-containing drugs have appeared in and caused overdoses in other states, including Florida. *It is critical that drug users understand that there is a risk of overdose when using stimulants or other drugs that may be mixed with fentanyl.*



Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner / Brian Kemp, Governor

2 Peachtree Street, NW, 15th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142

dph.ga.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 31, 2022

CONTACT:

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Increased Reports of Overdoses Involving Drugs Mixed with Fentanyl

Atlanta – The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) Drug Surveillance Unit has received increased reports of overdoses due to drugs mixed with fentanyl, particularly cocaine, methamphetamine, and counterfeit pills. Overdoses have been [reported in several areas](#) of the state over the past month.

P Patch

Overdoses Involving Drugs Mixed With Fentanyl Up In Georgia: Officials

State health officials said fentanyl-related overdose deaths have been increasing in Georgia since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.



FOX 5 Atlanta

'One pill can kill you': Georgia health officials warn of spike in drug overdoses

ATLANTA, Ga - Georgia health officials are warning about a spike in drug overdoses. They say a major contributor is drugs laced with...



11Alive.com

Georgia sees spike in overdose cases with this drug, DPH says

The DPH recorded suspected drug overdose emergency department visits ... begun to receive those here in Georgia," Fitzgerald told 11Alive.



Current Situation

- From mid-February through mid-March suspect overdose (OD) emergency department (ED) visits increased **364%** compared to the previous 30-day period
- 12 Confirmed Cases in Valdosta (8-1), Cobb (3-1), and Athens (10-0) Districts
 - Only areas with known EDs doing fentanyl tox screens
- 1 confirmed OD death involving a patient who snorted cocaine but tested positive for fentanyl
 - 19 suspect OD deaths involving fentanyl, stimulants, and Xylazine
- Multiple suspect cases of stimulants, heroin and pills laced with fentanyl in the past 2 weeks

Next Steps

- Continue monitoring data, improve action from notifications
- Educate the public about
 - The dangers of fentanyl and street drugs
<https://www.fentanylawarenessday.org>
 - Get naloxone in more hands
 - Medical amnesty
 - Georgia Crisis & Access Line
1-800-715-4225
- Fentanyl test strips
- Prevention, treatment, support recovery, and so much more



Gov. Kemp Signs Major Opioid Legislation to Secure \$636 Million for Treatment and Prevention

MAY 02, 2022

Thank You

Laura Edison

Laura.Edison@dph.ga.gov

For more information, visit:

<https://dph.georgia.gov/epidemiology/drug-surveillance-unit>

<https://dph.georgia.gov/stopopioidaddiction>



Commissioner's Closing Remarks

Board of Public Health / Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H. / May 10, 2022

Next Meeting

The next Board of Public Health meeting will be held June 14, 2022.