Updated Suspected Drug Overdose Increases in Georgia Amid COVID-19

Compared to the same period in 2019, during March 14, 2020* – August 31, 2020:
- Opioid overdose deaths increased 58.3%
- Fentanyl overdose deaths increased 160.9%

Data Source: Georgia Department of Public Health Vital Records death certificates. Includes deaths that occurred in Georgia among Georgia residents and deaths that occurred outside of Georgia among Georgia residents. Opioids may include prescription or illicit opioids. Categories are not mutually exclusive. Please see the case definition for overdose-involved deaths.

*Date Georgia’s State of Emergency for COVID-19 was declared.

Note: 2020 death data are still considered preliminary and are likely underreported.

Compared to the same period in 2019, during March 14, 2020* – February 29, 2021:
- ED visits with OD syndrome increased 7.29%
- Opioid-involved ED visits increased 54.7%
- Heroin-involved ED visits increased 69.3%

Data Source: Georgia Department of Public Health State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System. Counts represent total number of ED visits and may include multiple visits for the same patient. Drug categories are not mutually exclusive. Additional Surveillance reports and case definitions can be found here and data limitations can be found here.

*Includes illicit and prescription opioids.

**Includes illicit, prescription, and over the counter drugs.

*Date Georgia’s State of Emergency for COVID-19 was declared.