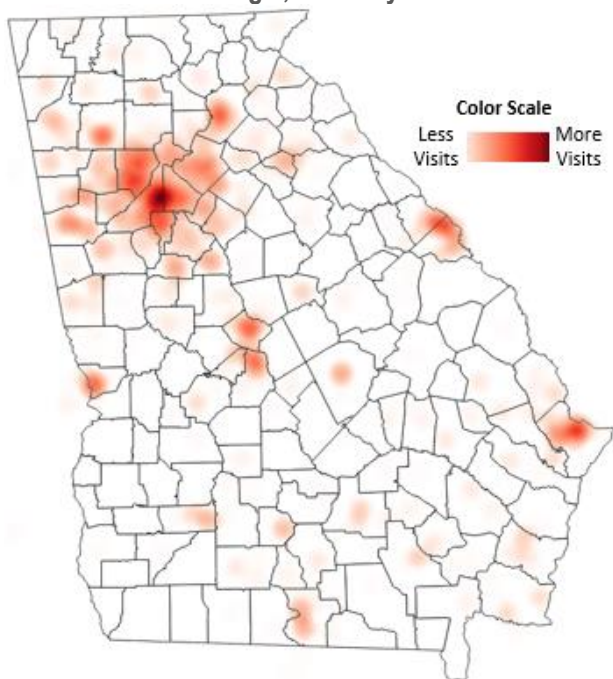


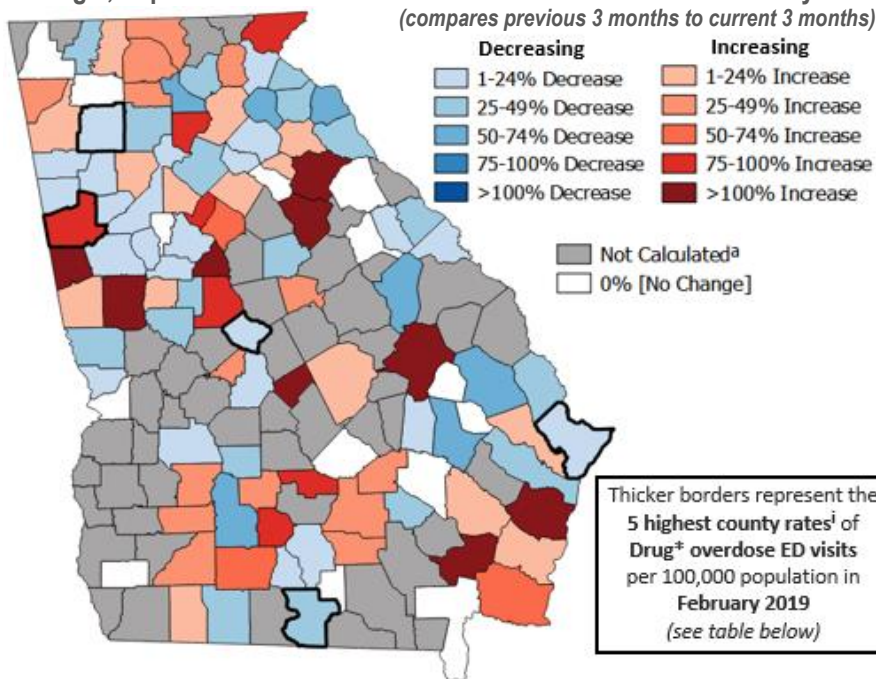
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, February 2019

**What is Syndromic Surveillance (SS)?** SS is used as an early detection method for potential clusters or outbreaks, by tracking drug overdose-related emergency department (ED) visits based on the patient's chief complaint upon admission and/or discharge diagnosis. There are currently 127 Georgia hospitals and urgent care facilities that share these SS data within the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS).

**Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code<sup>^</sup>, Georgia, February 2019**



**Percent Change<sup>a</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, September 2018-November 2018 to December 2018-February 2019**  
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



**Top 5 Counties<sup>^</sup> with 15 or More Drug\* Overdose ED Visits During February 2019**



**Statewide, 1,056 ED visits for Drug\* overdoses occurred in February 2019, compared to 1,154 in February 2018**

Data source: Suspected drug overdose ED/Urgent Care visits by chief complaint upon admission and/or discharge diagnosis reported to DPH Syndromic Surveillance. See data limitations [here](#).

\*Drugs may include any over the counter, prescription, or illicit drug.

<sup>^</sup>Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

<sup>i</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2017 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

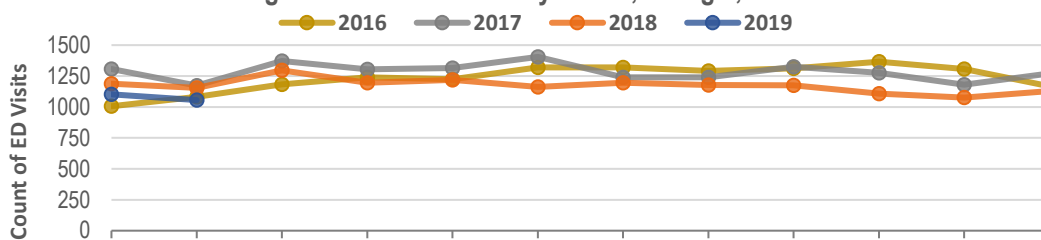
<sup>a</sup>Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

Note: All data excludes patients ≤14 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

Note: SS data is not the same as emergency department discharge data; drug overdose SS data is limited and based on accuracy of chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis and what is reported to DPH SS. Data shown on this report may not depict the true burden of drug overdose in Georgia.

# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, February 2019

## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2016-2019



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>2016 Count of ED Visits</b>	1006	1081	1182	1240	1225	1319	1321	1292	1311	1366	1308	1167	14818
<b>2017 Count of ED Visits</b>	1308	1173	1373	1305	1315	1405	1240	1239	1325	1275	1181	1271	15410
<b>% Change from 2016 to 2017</b>	(+30%)	(+9%)	(+16%)	(+5%)	(+7%)	(+17%)	(-6%)	(-4%)	(+1%)	(-7%)	(-10%)	(+9%)	(+5%)
<b>2018 Count of ED Visits</b>	1187	1154	1296	1195	1220	1162	1197	1178	1174	1109	1076	1129	14077
<b>% Change from 2017 to 2018</b>	(-9%)	(-2%)	(-6%)	(-8%)	(-7%)	(-17%)	(-3%)	(-5%)	(-11%)	(-13%)	(-9%)	(-11%)	(-9%)
<b>2019 Count of ED Visits</b>	1102	1056											2158
<b>% Change from 2018 to 2019</b>	(-7%)	(-8%)											(-8%)

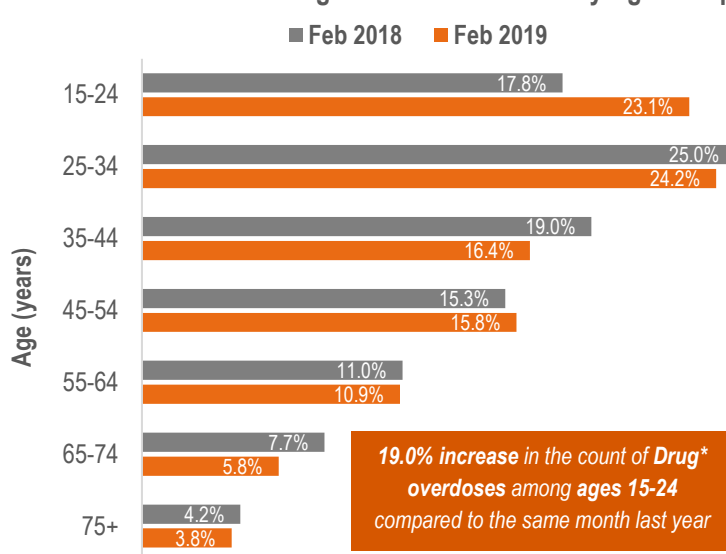
## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, February 2018 and February 2019

### Rate<sup>i</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits

	Feb 2018 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 Population)	Feb 2019 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 Population)
<b>Overall</b>	13.8	12.6
<b>Sex<sup>o</sup></b>		
Male	13.0	12.5
Female	14.6	12.7
<b>Race<sup>o</sup></b>		
White	14.6	13.1
Black	9.1	10.1
Other	9.2	12.6
<b>Age Group<sup>o</sup> (years)</b>		
15-24	14.2	16.9
25-34	19.9	17.6
35-44	16.0	12.7
45-54	12.5	11.8
55-64	10.1	9.1
65-74	10.2	7.0
75+	8.9	7.4

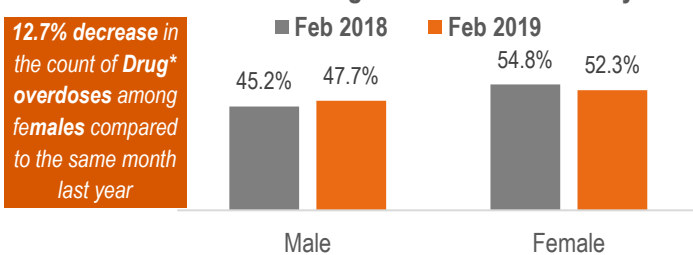
**Drug\* overdose cases in February 2019 were predominantly: Female (52.3%), White (67.1%), and between 25-34 years of age (24.2%)**

### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group<sup>o</sup>



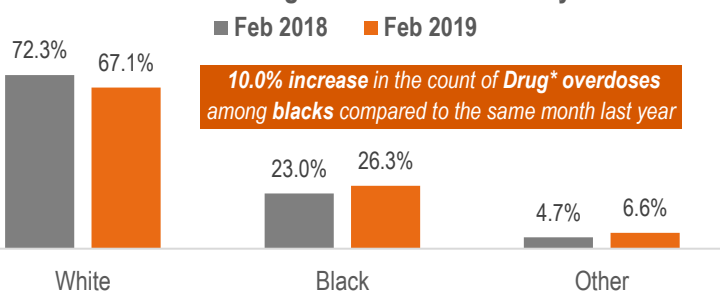
**19.0% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among ages 15-24 compared to the same month last year**

### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex<sup>o</sup>



**12.7% decrease in the count of Drug\* overdoses among females compared to the same month last year**

### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Race<sup>o</sup>



**10.0% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among blacks compared to the same month last year**

### Link(s) of interest:

[Journal of the American Medical Association \(JAMA\) Article: County-level Opioid Prescribing in the United States, 2015 and 2017](#)

[CDC Infographic: A Rise in Opioid Overdoses is Detected. What Now?](#)

Data source: Suspected drug overdose ED/Urgent Care visits by chief complaint upon admission and/or discharge diagnosis reported to DPH Syndromic Surveillance. See data limitations [here](#).

\*Drugs may include any over the counter, prescription, or illicit drug.

<sup>i</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2017 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

<sup>o</sup>Cases with unknown sex, race, and age group were excluded from respective analyses.

Note: All data excludes patients ≤14 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

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