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. Participating Georgia hospitals and urgent care facilities share these SS data within the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS).

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code^, Georgia, June 2019

Percent Change* of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, January-March 2019 to April-June 2019 (compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

Top 5 Counties^ with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During June 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>June 2019</th>
<th>July 2018 - June 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARROLL</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPALDING</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHATHAM</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSTON</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

^Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

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

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 is subject to change due to the current number of participating facilities and/or improvements to data quality. Data shown on this report may not depict the true burden of drug overdose in Georgia.
Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2016-2019

Drug* overdose cases in June 2019 were predominantly: Female (54.1%), White (71.1%), and between 25-34 years of age (22.4%)

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group*

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Race*

6.3% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among males compared to the same month last year

6.8% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among whites compared to the same month last year

Link(s) of interest:
NIOSH Video - Illicit Drugs, Including Fentanyl: Preventing Occupational Exposure to Emergency Responders
Georgia Opioid Overdose 2017 County Level Data

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](https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-overdose-surveillance-unit).

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

1Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2017 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

*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.

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 is subject to change due to the current number of participating facilities and/or improvements to data quality. Data shown on this report may not depict the true burden of drug overdose in Georgia.