**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).

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**Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code^,**

Georgia, May 2019

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Monthly Rate per 100,000 Population</th>
<th>Monthly Rate per 100,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPALDING</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLOYD</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOWNDES</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHMOND</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Percent Change* of Drug* Overdose ED Visits,**

Georgia, December 2018-February 2019 to March 2019-May 2019

(Compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

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**Statewide,**

1,299 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in May 2019, compared to 1,220 in May 2018

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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.

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

\(^2 \text{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 cases in May 2019 were predominantly: Female (54.4%), White (68.4%), and between 25-34 years of age (24.6%)

17.1% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among ages 35-44 compared to the same month last year

17.4% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among blacks compared to the same month last year