

Emergency Medical Services Drug Overdose Trips: Georgia, December 2024

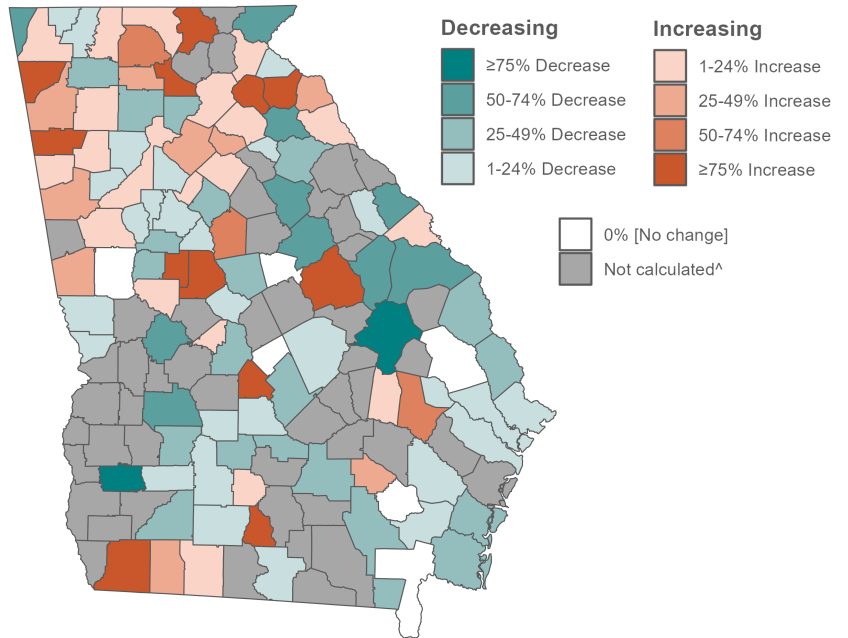
EMS Data Overview: This report was created with data from biospatial, which contains detailed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) trip narratives, patient demographic information, ICD-10 codes, and/or naloxone administration information obtained from various EMS agencies across the state. These data are generally available in biospatial within 24 hours of the patient's EMS trip. This report can be used to monitor trends in drug overdoses and detect overdoses that may not present to the emergency department (ED). Due to EMS data limitations, drug overdose (OD) related EMS trips are considered suspect overdoses.

Note: EMS overdose reports prior to November 2023 should not be compared to reports after November 2023 as the overdose case definitions have changed.

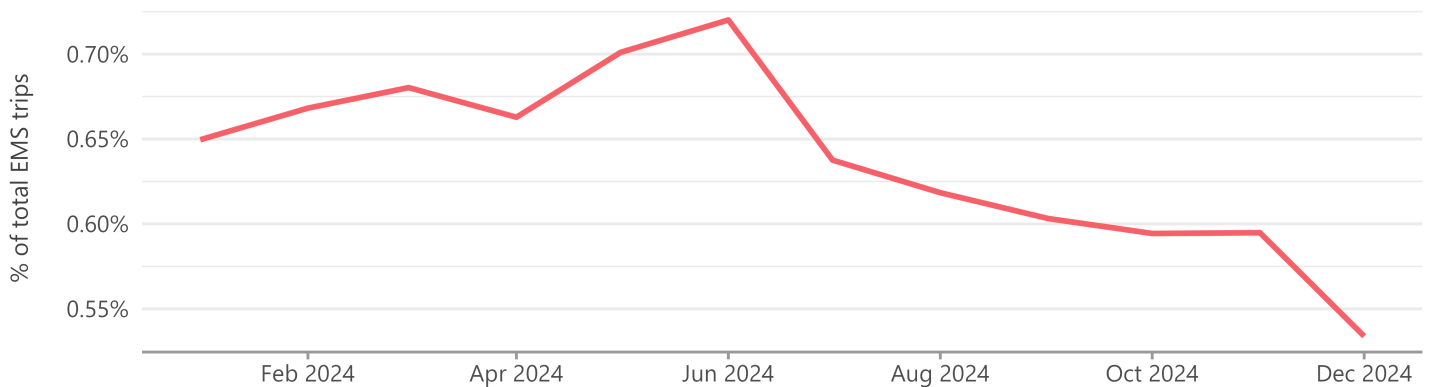
Key Findings

- Total EMS overdose trips decreased by 4.9% from November (n=1,298) to December 2024 (n=1,234).
- Of 110 counties with 5 or more EMS overdose trips, 60 showed decreases between the current and previous 3 month periods.
- North Georgia tended to show trip increases, with counts in Polk, Chattooga, Banks, and Franklin Counties increasing by 100% or more.
- The proportion of EMS trips involving suspect overdoses dropped to 0.53% in December 2024.

Percent Change[^] of EMS Drug* Overdose Trips, Georgia, Jul 2024 - Sep 2024 to Oct 2024 - Dec 2024



EMS Drug* Overdose Trips as a Percent of Total EMS Trips Georgia, Jan 2024 - Dec 2024



Data source: See [case definitions](#) and [data limitations](#) here.

[^]Percent change data by county excludes counties with fewer than 5 incidents.

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

[†]Rate indicates trips per 100,000 persons using 2023 Census data as the denominator.

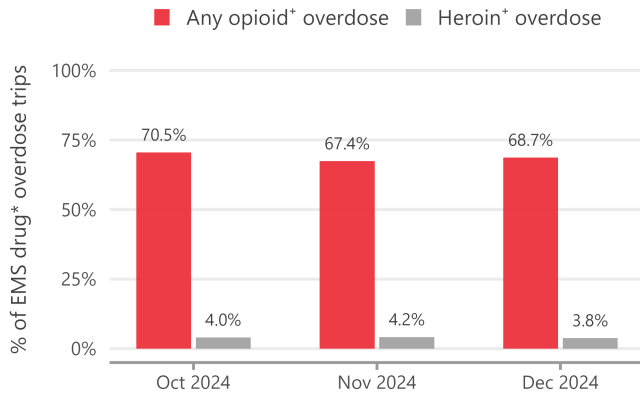
[‡]Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs.

Note: All data excludes patients ≤10 years of age. Counts represent the number of EMS trips instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat trips may have been counted more than once.

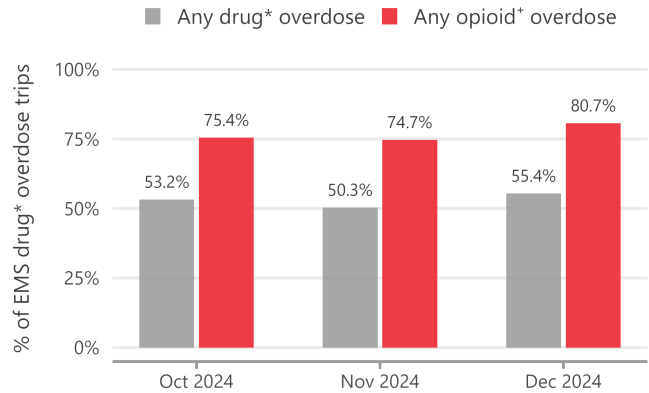
Note: Drug overdose EMS data is limited and based on accuracy of the patient incident report. Data is subject to change due to improvements to data quality. Data shown on this report may not depict the true burden of drug overdose in Georgia.

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Proportion of EMS Drug* Overdose Trips Involving Opioids*



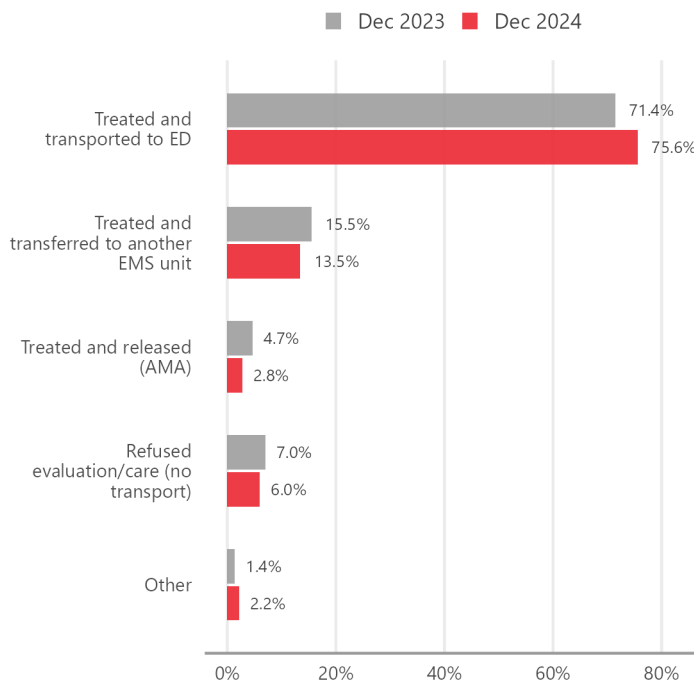
Proportion of EMS Drug* Overdose Trips with Naloxone Administered



Drug* Overdose EMS Trips, Georgia, December 2023—December 2024

| EMS Trip Details | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24 | Jun-24 | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Nov-24 | Dec-24 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Drug* Overdose | 1,569 | 1,489 | 1,427 | 1,515 | 1,450 | 1,610 | 1,556 | 1,392 | 1,447 | 1,335 | 1,363 | 1,298 | 1,234 |
| Opioid-involved* | 1,180 | 1,100 | 1,048 | 1,129 | 1,052 | 1,161 | 1,172 | 1,016 | 1,007 | 936 | 961 | 875 | 848 |
| Heroin-involved* | 96 | 98 | 85 | 80 | 54 | 68 | 69 | 57 | 49 | 51 | 54 | 54 | 47 |
| Naloxone Administered | 867 | 815 | 758 | 831 | 806 | 855 | 846 | 784 | 753 | 700 | 725 | 653 | 684 |

Patient Disposition as a Percentage of Total EMS Drug* Overdose Trips



Key Findings

- The number of opioid-involved overdose EMS trips decreased 3.1% from the previous month.
- The percentage of overdose trips that involved opioids declined from 75.2% in December 2023 to 68.7% in December 2024.
- The proportion of incidents with naloxone administration increased for both overdose trips overall and for opioid-involved trips.
- The proportion of trips involving patients who were treated and transported to the ED directly increased 4.2 percentage points compared to the previous year.

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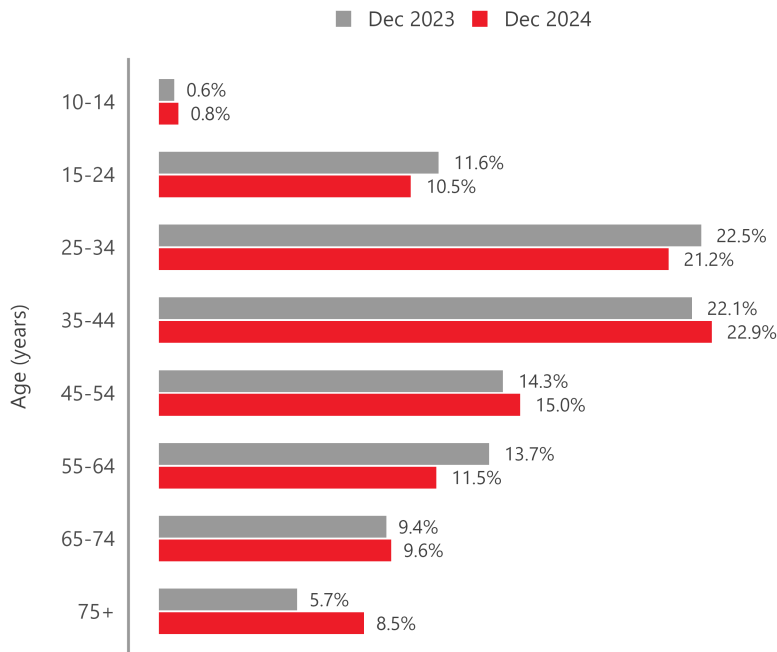
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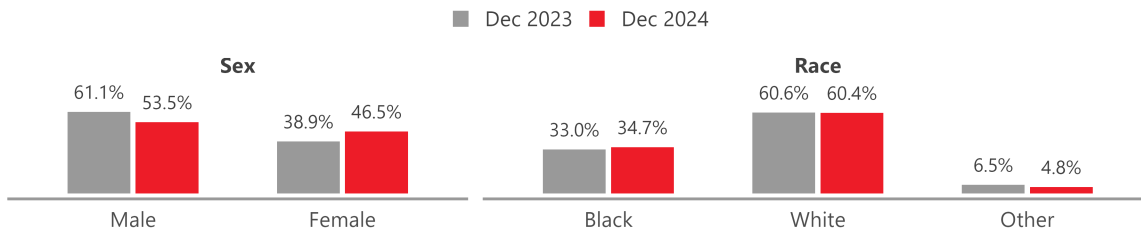
Percent of EMS Drug* Overdose Trips by Age Group



Rateⁱ of EMS Drug* Overdose Trips

| | Dec 2023 Rate ⁱ (per 100,000 population) | Dec 2024 Rate ⁱ (per 100,000 population) |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Overall | 16.2 | 12.7 |
| Sex | | |
| Female | 12.1 | 11.4 |
| Male | 20.3 | 14.0 |
| Race | | |
| Black | 15.7 | 13.3 |
| White | 15.9 | 12.8 |
| Other | 13.2 | 7.9 |
| Age Group (years) | | |
| 10-14 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| 15-24 | 12.0 | 8.5 |
| 25-34 | 23.2 | 17.1 |
| 35-44 | 23.5 | 19.2 |
| 45-54 | 16.0 | 13.2 |
| 55-64 | 16.0 | 10.6 |
| 65-74 | 14.5 | 11.7 |
| 75+ | 13.3 | 15.5 |

Percent of EMS Drug* Overdose Trips by Sex and Race



Key Findings

- Patients aged 75 and older continued to show increases in the number of overdose EMS trips, while other age groups showed declines year over year.
- Female patients represented a greater proportion of overdose trips (46.5%) as the number of trips for male patients decreased 31.1% compared to December 2023.

Link(s) of interest:

[SAMHSA: Preventing Opioid Misuse and Treating Opioid Use Disorders in Older Adults](#)

[NEMSIS: Drug Overdose Surveillance Dashboard](#)

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