

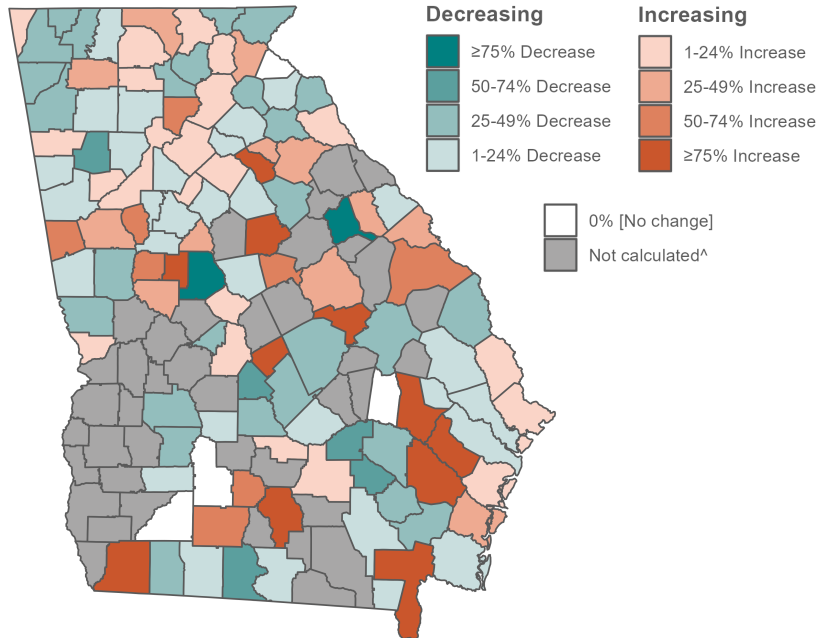
# Emergency Medical Services Drug Overdose Trips: Georgia, April 2023

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.

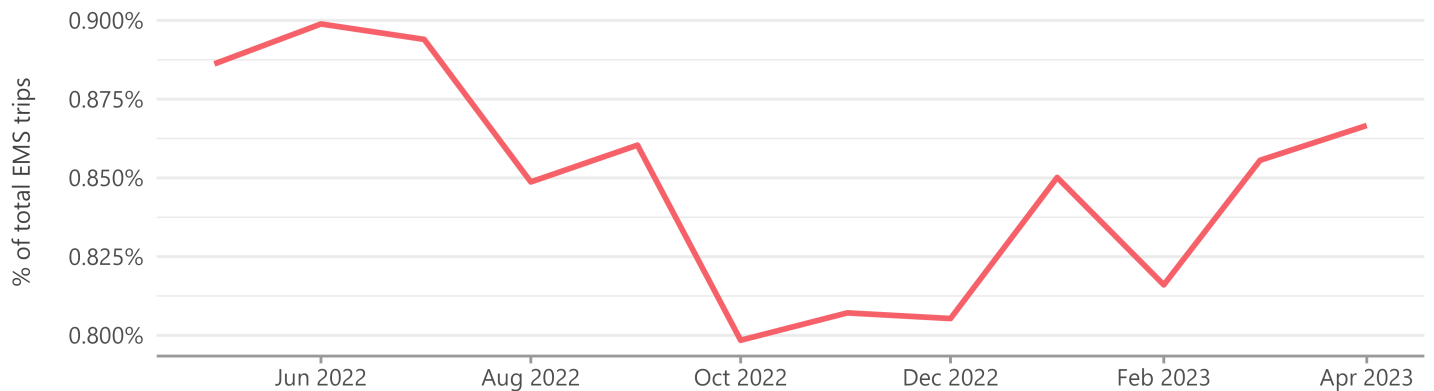
**Percent Change<sup>^</sup> of EMS Drug\* Overdose Trips, Georgia, Nov 2022 - Jan 2023 to Feb 2023 - Apr 2023**

## Key Findings

- Of counties with 5 or more EMS trips, the majority (n=63) showed a decrease in trips between the previous and current 3 month periods.
- Total EMS trips decreased by 3.2% from March (n=1,966) to April 2023 (n=1,903).
- In April 2023, EMS overdose trips as a proportion of total EMS trips increased by 1.3%.



**EMS Drug\* Overdose Trips as a Percent of Total EMS Trips Georgia, May 2022 - Apr 2023**



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

<sup>^</sup>Percent change data by county excludes counties with fewer than 5 incidents.

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

<sup>†</sup>Rate indicates trips per 100,000 persons using 2021 Census data as the denominator.

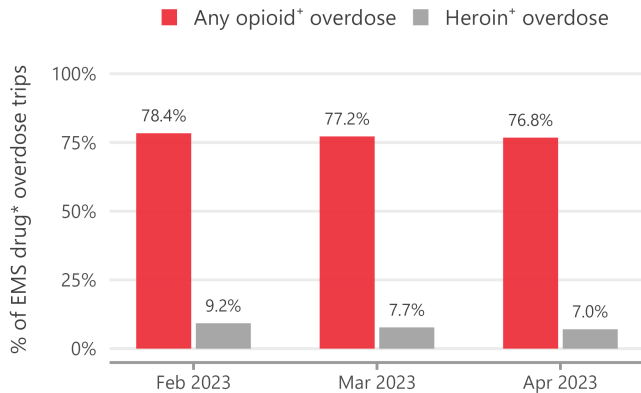
<sup>‡</sup>Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs.

Note: All data excludes patients ≤15 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.

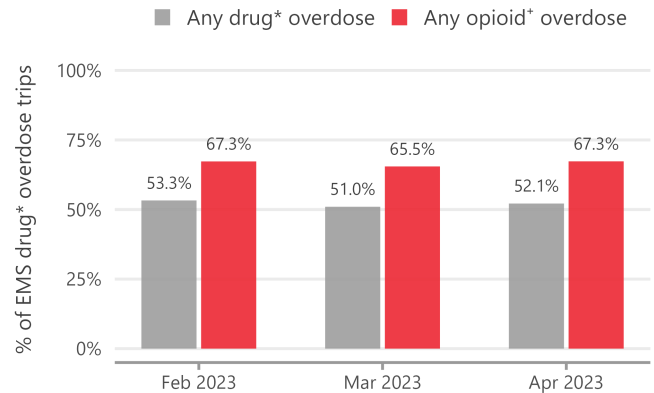
Note: Drug overdose EMS data is limited and based on accuracy of the patient incident report. Data is subject to change due to improvements to data quality. Data shown on this report may not depict the true burden of drug overdose in Georgia.

# Emergency Medical Services Drug Overdose Trips: Georgia, April 2023

**Proportion of EMS Drug\* Overdose Trips Involving Opioids\***



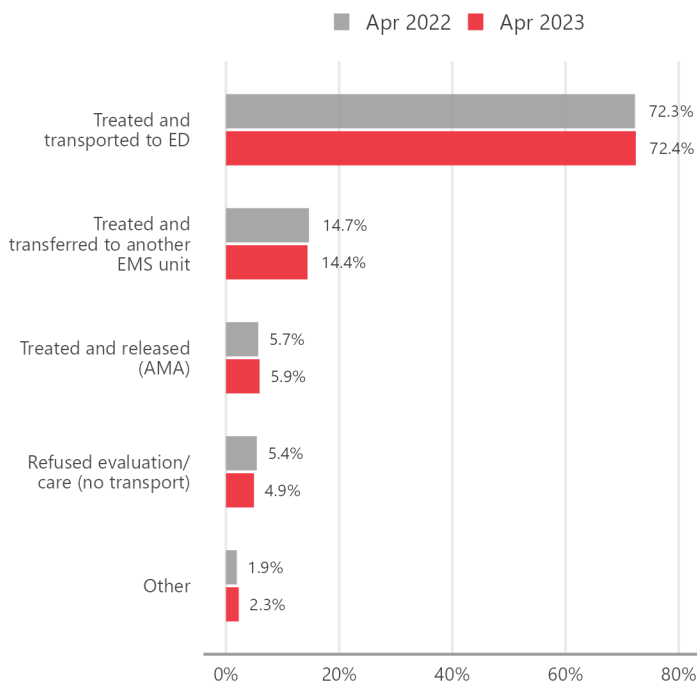
**Proportion of EMS Drug\* Overdose Trips with Naloxone Administered**



**Drug\* Overdose EMS Trips, Georgia, April 2022—April 2023**

EMS Trip Details	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23
Drug* Overdose	1,984	2,072	2,028	2,119	1,992	1,937	1,819	1,771	1,829	1,961	1,678	1,966	1,903
Opioid-involved*	1,551	1,678	1,623	1,690	1,591	1,533	1,446	1,370	1,449	1,509	1,315	1,518	1,461
Heroin-involved*	255	279	287	225	242	193	186	185	171	183	155	152	134
Naloxone Administered	1,067	1,166	1,141	1,213	1,109	1,041	998	922	971	1,020	883	987	980

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



## Key Findings

- Compared to April 2022, the number of opioid-involved overdose EMS trips decreased by 5.8% in April 2023.
- Heroin-involved overdose EMS trips continued declining steadily and represented 7% of all overdose EMS trips, down from 12.9% a year prior.
- The proportion of opioid-involved overdose EMS trips where naloxone was administered increased to 67.3%, the same level seen in February 2023.
- The proportion of trips where a patient was transported directly to the ED remained stable.

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

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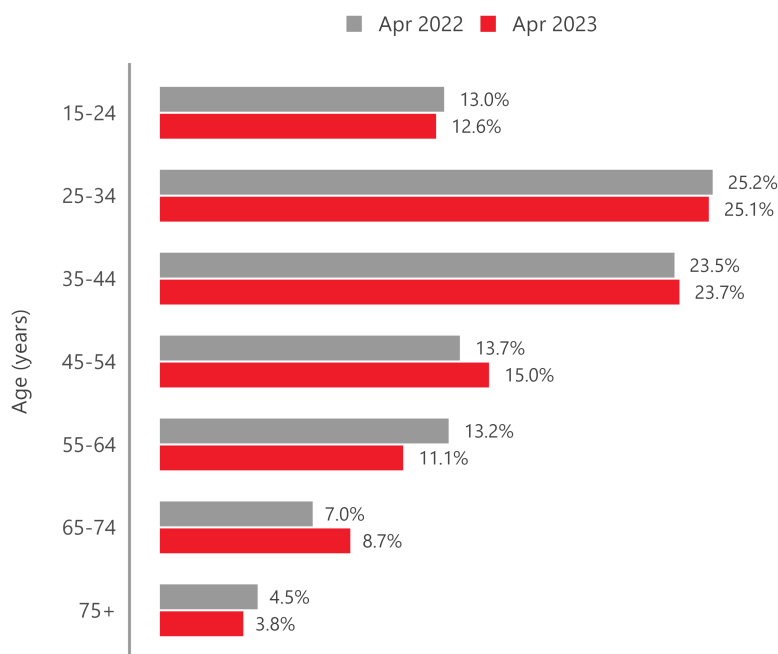
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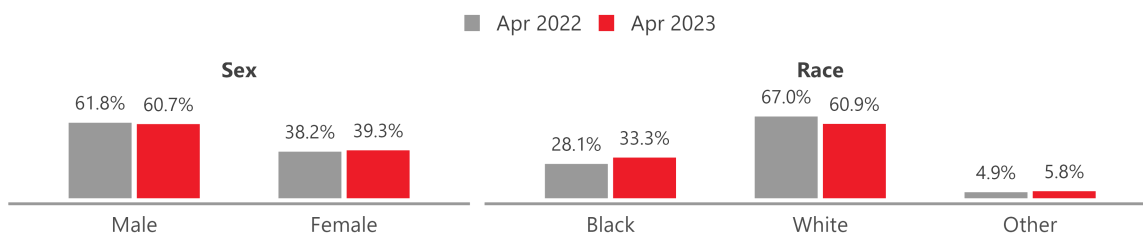
Percent of EMS Drug\* Overdose Trips by Age Group



Rate<sup>i</sup> of EMS Drug\* Overdose Trips

	Apr 2022 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 population)	Apr 2023 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 population)
<b>Overall</b>	22.3	21.3
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	16.5	16.2
Male	28.6	26.8
<b>Race</b>		
Black	18.7	21.2
White	23.7	20.7
Other	15.3	17.1
<b>Age Group (years)</b>		
15-24	17.1	15.9
25-34	32.9	31.3
35-44	32.1	30.9
45-54	19.1	20.0
55-64	19.1	15.4
65-74	13.8	16.4
75+	14.6	11.9

Percent of EMS Drug\* Overdose Trips by Sex and Race



## Key Findings

- Compared to the previous year, the number of overdose EMS trips among Blacks increased 13.9%, representing one-third of total overdose-related trips.
- Only two age groups showed increases in the number of overdose EMS trips year-over-year: trips among people ages 45-54 increased 6%, while trips among ages 65-74 increased 16.3%.
- The overall rate of drug overdose EMS trips dropped by 1 percentage point from 2022 to 2023.

### Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, Xylazine-Involved Drug Overdose Deaths](#)

[CDC MMWR: Rapid Analysis of Drugs: A Pilot Surveillance System to Detect Changes in the Illicit Drug Supply to Guide Timely Harm Reduction Responses - Eight Syringe Services Programs, Maryland, November 2021 - August 2022](#)

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