

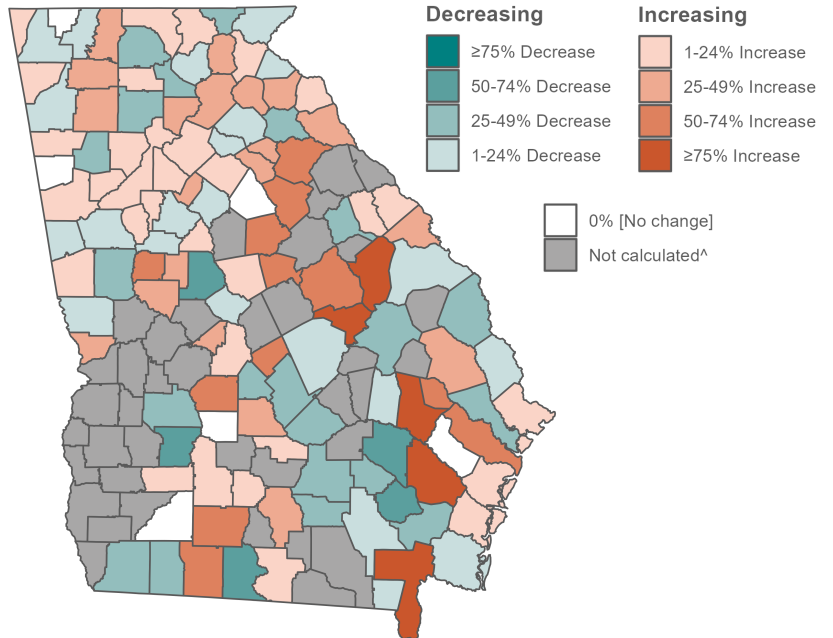
# Emergency Medical Services Drug Overdose Trips: Georgia, May 2023

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.

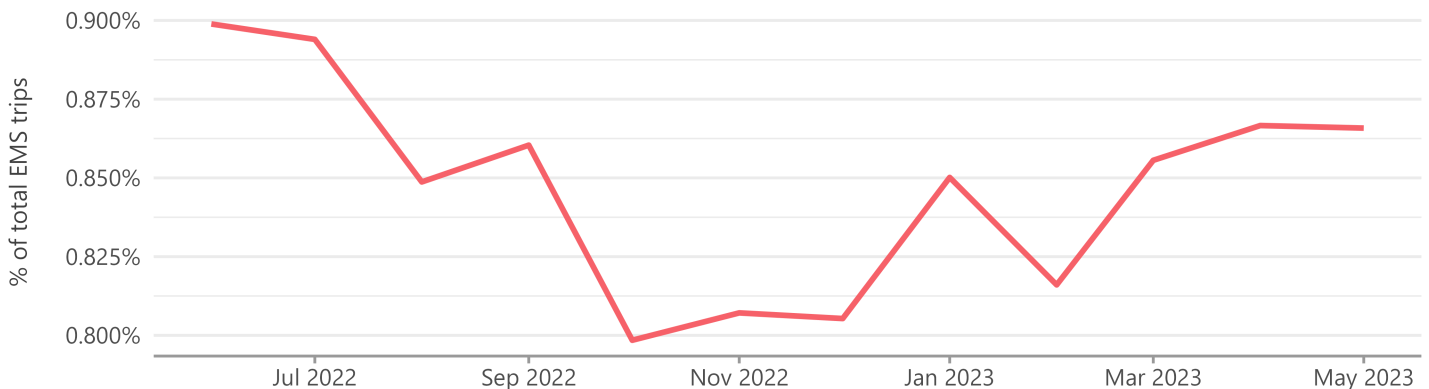
**Percent Change<sup>^</sup> of EMS Drug\* Overdose Trips, Georgia, Dec 2022 - Feb 2023 to Mar 2023 - May 2023**

## Key Findings

- Of counties with 5 or more EMS trips, Jefferson, Tattnall, Charlton, Wayne, and Johnson counties showed increases greater than 75% over the previous 3 month period.
- Total EMS trips increased 7.4% from April (n=1,904) to May 2023 (n=2,045).
- EMS overdose trips as a proportion of total EMS trips remained stable at 0.86% from April to May.



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

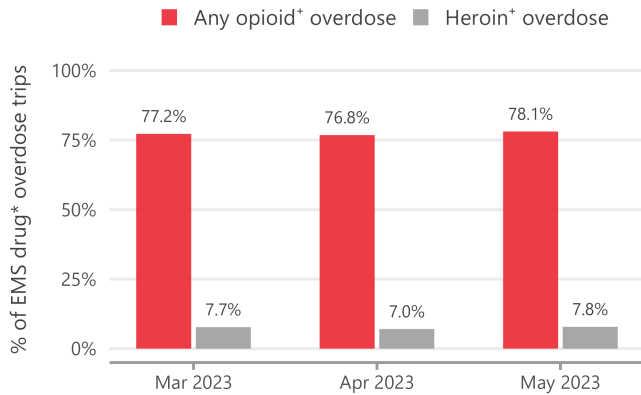
<sup>‡</sup>Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs.

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.

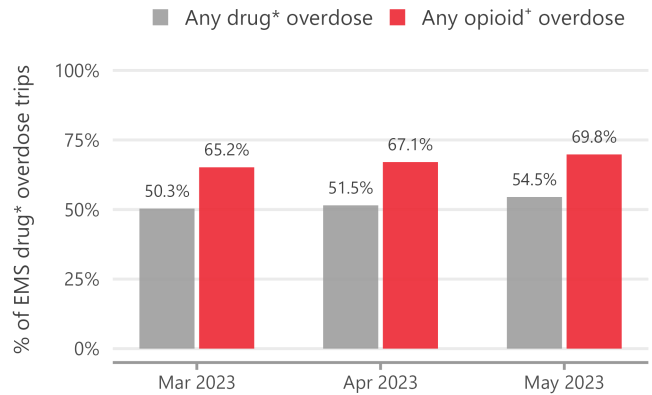
Note: Drug overdose EMS data is limited and based on accuracy of the patient incident report. Data is subject to change due to improvements to data quality. Data shown on this report may not depict the true burden of drug overdose in Georgia.

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

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



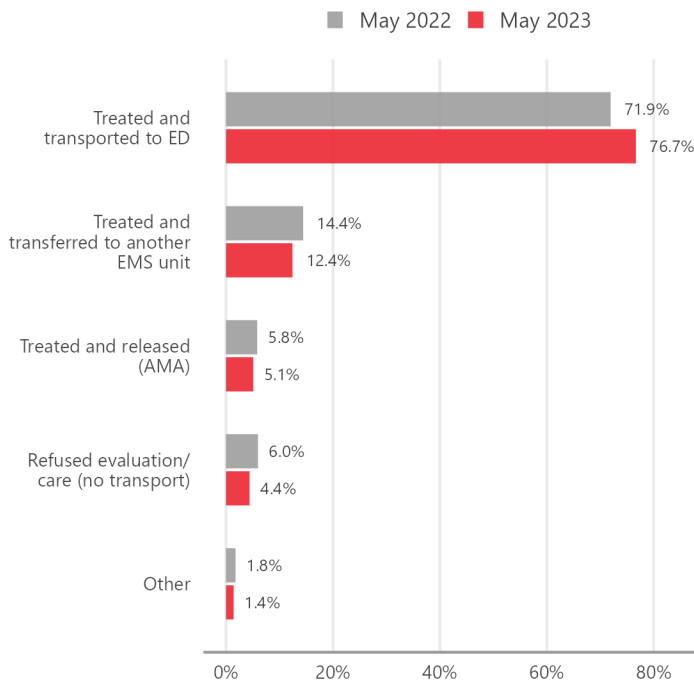
**Proportion of EMS Drug\* Overdose Trips with Naloxone Administered**



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

EMS Trip Details	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
Drug* Overdose	2,071	2,027	2,118	1,992	1,937	1,815	1,768	1,827	1,960	1,678	1,964	1,904	2,045
Opioid-involved*	1,677	1,622	1,689	1,591	1,533	1,442	1,367	1,447	1,508	1,315	1,516	1,462	1,596
Heroin-involved*	279	287	225	242	193	186	185	171	183	155	152	134	160
Naloxone Administered	1,166	1,141	1,213	1,109	1,041	998	922	972	1,020	884	988	981	1,114

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



## Key Findings

- Compared to the previous month, the number of opioid-involved overdose EMS trips increased 9.2% in May 2023.
- Heroin-involved overdose EMS trips increased 19.4% compared to the previous month but remained well below the level seen in May 2022.
- The proportion of trips where a patient was transported directly to the ED increased 4.6% year-over-year and 12.9% month-over-month.

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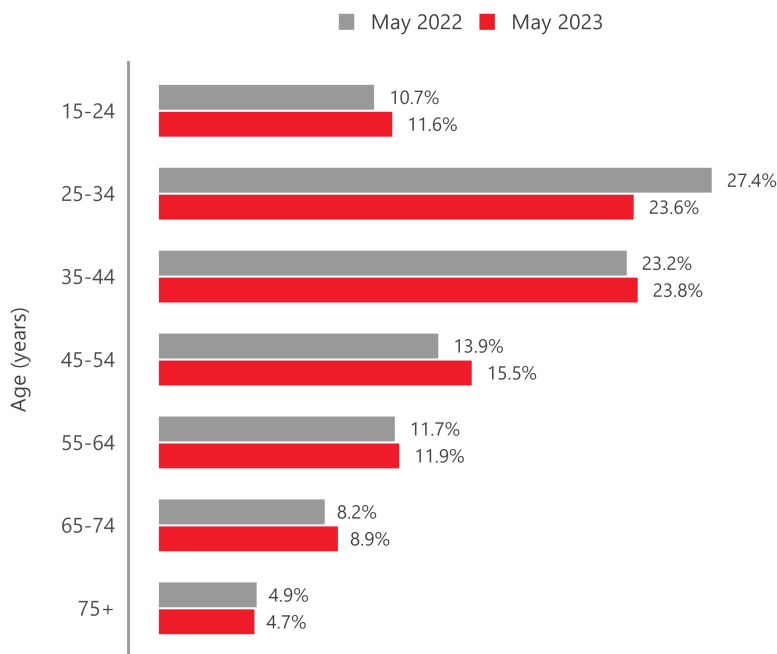
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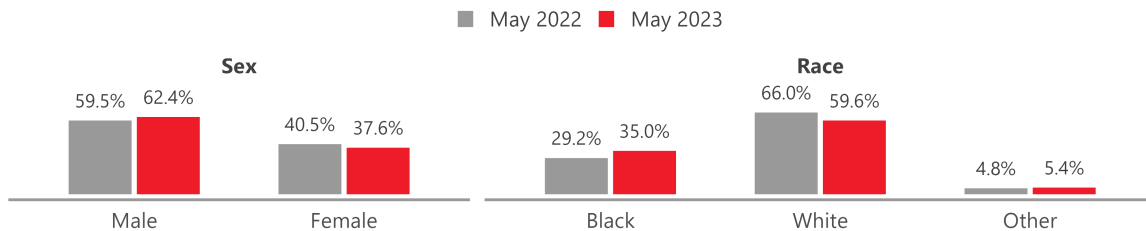
Percent of EMS Drug\* Overdose Trips by Age Group



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

	May 2022 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 population)	May 2023 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 population)
<b>Overall</b>	23.4	22.9
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	18.2	16.7
Male	28.8	29.6
<b>Race</b>		
Black	20.4	23.9
White	24.5	21.7
Other	15.5	17.1
<b>Age Group (years)</b>		
15-24	14.7	15.6
25-34	37.5	31.6
35-44	33.2	33.3
45-54	20.2	22.2
55-64	17.8	17.8
65-74	17.0	18.0
75+	16.6	15.9

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



## Key Findings

- The proportion of overdose EMS trips occurring among people ages 25-34 decreased to 23.6%, with the number of trips falling 15.7% compared to May 2022.
- Compared to the previous year, the number of overdose EMS trips among Blacks increased 17.5%
- The overdose EMS trip rate for males reached 29.6 trips per 100K, the highest level since July 2022.

### Link(s) of interest:

[SAMHSA, Drug Abuse Warning Network: Findings from Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits, 2022](#)

[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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