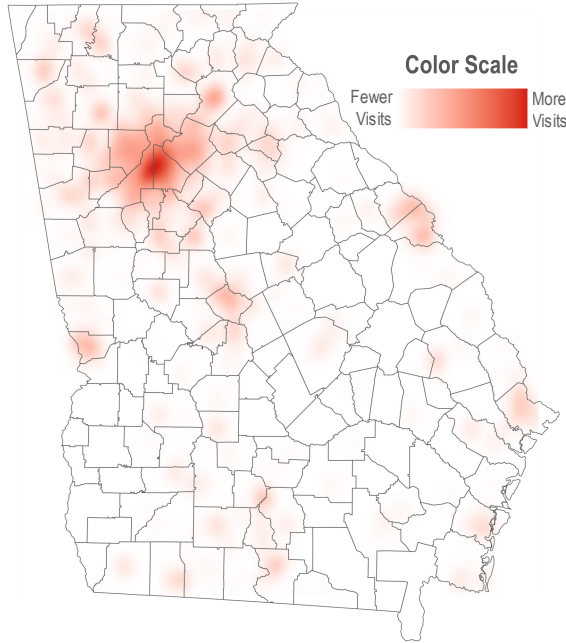


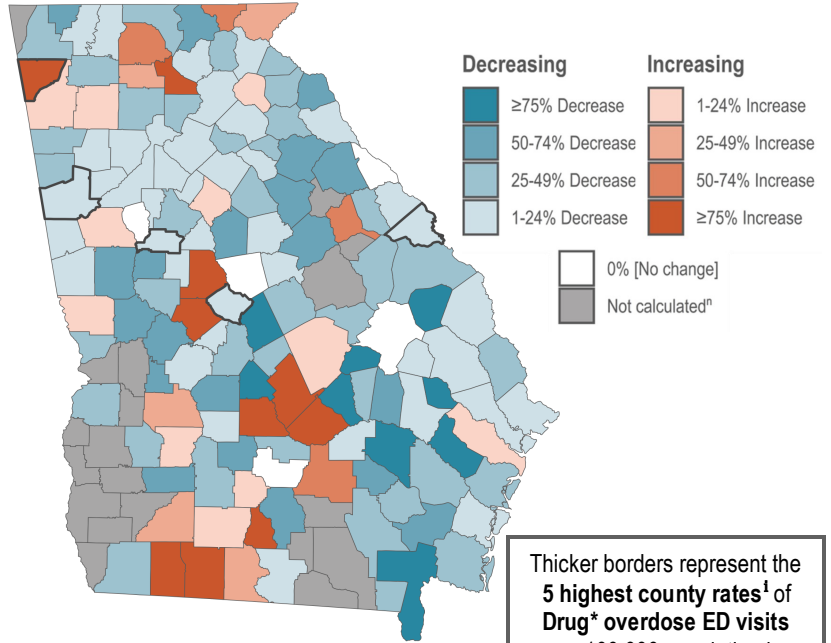
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, December 2024

What is Syndromic Surveillance (SyS)? SyS is used as an early detection method for potential clusters or outbreaks, by tracking suspected drug overdose-involved 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 SyS data within the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS).

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code[^], Georgia, December 2024



Percent Changeⁿ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Jul 2024 - Sep 2024 to Oct 2024 - Dec 2024 (compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



Thicker borders represent the **5 highest county rates¹** of Drug* overdose ED visits per 100,000 population in December 2024 (see table below)

Top 5 Counties[^] with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During December 2024

County	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Dec 2024	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Jan 2024 - Dec 2024
Chattooga	67.2	
Bibb	29.4	
Spalding	27.8	
Carroll	25.2	
Richmond	20.6	

Statewide, 1,398 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in December 2024, compared to 1,772 in December 2023.

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.

ⁱRate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2023 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

ⁿPercent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

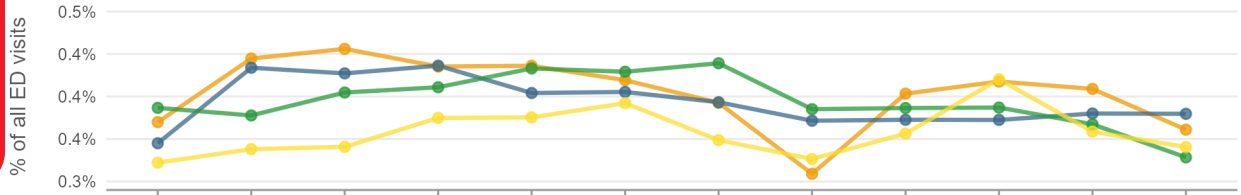
Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

Note: SyS data is not the same as emergency department discharge data; drug overdose SyS data is limited and based on accuracy of chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis and what is reported to DPH SyS. 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.

Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, December 2024

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2021-2024

— 2021 — 2022 — 2023 — 2024



Note: Proportion of ED visits may be affected by changes in the number of ED visits during COVID-19.

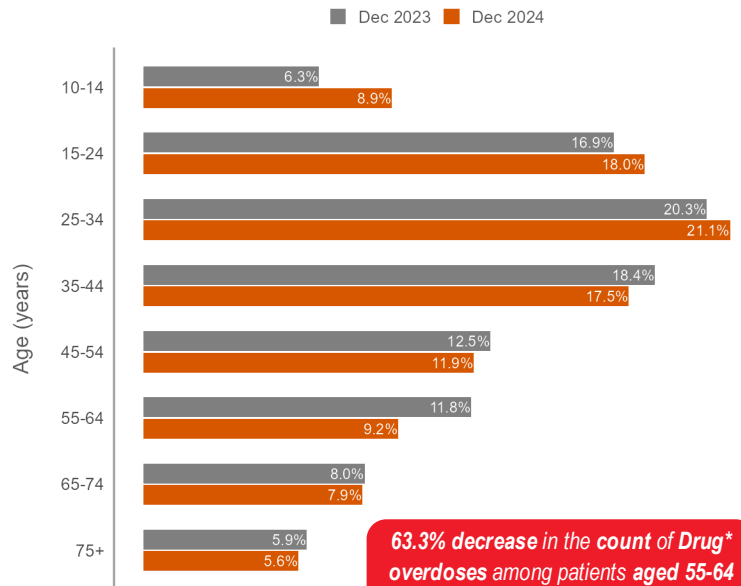
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2021 % of total ED visits	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
2022 % of total ED visits	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-6.8%	-1.4%	-7.1%	-0.8%	-8.2%	-3.5%	0.8%	19.8%	-6.8%	-11.3%	-7.3%	5.5%	-2.3%
2023 % of total ED visits	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
% change from 2022 to 2023	10.5%	-12.2%	-5.9%	-6.6%	8.2%	4.7%	12.6%	4.1%	4.4%	4.6%	-3.3%	-13.6%	0.6%
2024 % of total ED visits	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
% change from 2023 to 2024	-17.4%	-11.0%	-14.8%	-8.6%	-12.7%	-8.8%	-20.8%	-16.3%	-8.6%	7.7%	-3.1%	3.2%	-9.3%

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, December 2023 and December 2024

Rate¹ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits

	Dec 2023 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)	Dec 2024 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)
Overall	18.3	14.4
Sex		
Female	18.3	14.9
Male	18.2	13.8
Race		
Black	16.7	13.6
White	17.5	13.7
Other	13.6	11.5
Age Group (years)		
10-14	15.3	17.1
15-24	19.7	16.6
25-34	23.5	19.3
35-44	22.1	16.5
45-54	15.7	11.8
55-64	15.5	9.5
65-74	13.8	10.8
75+	15.4	11.5

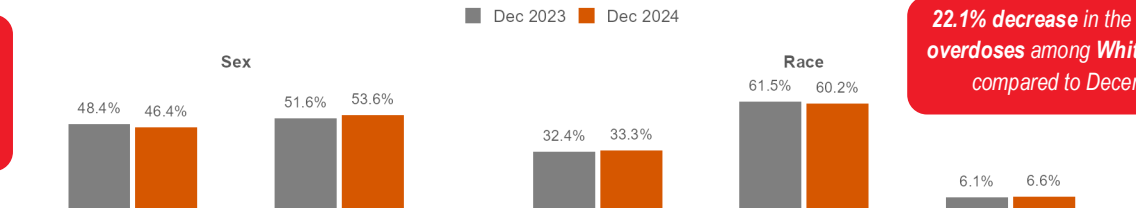
Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group



Drug* overdose ED visits in December 2024 were predominantly: Female (53.4%), White (56.3%), and between 25-34 years of age (21.7%).

63.3% decrease in the count of Drug* overdoses among patients aged 55-64 when compared to December 2023.

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex and Race



29.1% decrease in the count of Drug* overdoses among Males when compared to December 2023.

22.1% decrease in the count of Drug* overdoses among White patients when compared to December 2023.

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.

¹Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

²Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2023 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

³Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

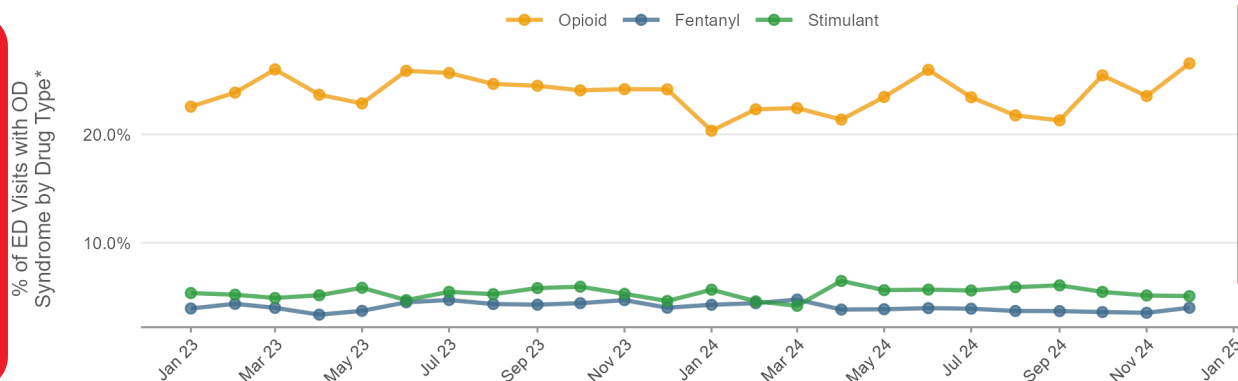
*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 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: SyS data is not the same as emergency department discharge data; drug overdose SyS data is limited and based on accuracy of chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis and what is reported to DPH SyS. 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.

Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, December 2024

OD ED Visits by Month and Drug Type*, Georgia, January 2024 - December 2024



21.1% decrease in the count of drug overdose visits mentioning Fentanyl when compared to December 2023.

Note: Due to limitations with drug testing in EDs, Fentanyl and Stimulant categories are likely under-represented.

% of ED Visits with OD Syndrome Involving Any Opioid, Georgia, 2021—2024

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2021 % of OD ED visits	24.0%	25.6%	25.8%	25.3%	26.1%	22.9%	24.0%	23.0%	23.6%	24.4%	22.9%	25.4%	24.4%
2022 % of OD ED visits	23.8%	21.4%	23.0%	24.3%	23.1%	26.1%	23.7%	24.0%	21.5%	20.9%	22.7%	24.0%	23.2%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-0.9%	-16.3%	-11.0%	-3.8%	-11.5%	14.0%	-1.2%	4.4%	-9.1%	-14.3%	-0.5%	-5.4%	-4.6%
2023 % of OD ED visits	22.6%	23.8%	26.0%	23.7%	22.9%	25.9%	25.7%	24.7%	24.5%	24.1%	24.2%	24.2%	24.4%
% change from 2022 to 2023	-5.4%	11.2%	13.2%	-2.7%	-1.2%	-1.1%	8.2%	2.8%	14.0%	15.0%	6.3%	0.6%	5.1%
2024 % of OD ED visits	20.3%	22.3%	22.4%	21.4%	23.5%	26.0%	23.4%	21.8%	21.3%	25.4%	23.5%	26.5%	23.1%
% change from 2023 to 2024	-9.8%	-6.4%	-13.7%	-9.7%	2.6%	0.3%	-8.7%	-11.8%	-13.0%	5.7%	-2.7%	9.9%	-4.8%

% of ED Visits with OD Syndrome Involving Fentanyl, Georgia, 2021—2024

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2021 % of OD ED visits	0.9%	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	1.2%	1.1%	0.8%	1.1%	1.3%	1.4%	1.3%	1.8%	1.1%
2022 % of OD ED visits	1.3%	1.2%	2.3%	2.7%	2.7%	2.3%	2.7%	3.2%	2.5%	2.6%	2.4%	3.2%	2.4%
% change from 2021 to 2022	48.0%	82.7%	168.2%	196.0%	119.2%	107.5%	224.0%	184.5%	90.1%	86.9%	80.8%	76.3%	122.0%
2023 % of OD ED visits	3.9%	4.4%	4.0%	3.4%	3.7%	4.5%	4.7%	4.3%	4.3%	4.4%	4.7%	4.0%	4.2%
% change from 2022 to 2023	192.9%	273.0%	76.2%	25.1%	38.8%	99.0%	73.6%	35.1%	70.6%	70.9%	96.9%	25.6%	89.8%
2024 % of OD ED visits	4.3%	4.4%	4.8%	3.8%	3.9%	4.0%	3.9%	3.7%	3.7%	3.6%	3.5%	4.0%	4.0%
% change from 2023 to 2024	8.5%	1.2%	18.8%	14.0%	4.1%	-12.0%	-16.9%	-14.8%	-13.9%	-18.4%	-24.8%	-0.0%	-4.5%

% of ED Visits with OD Syndrome Involving a Stimulant, Georgia, 2021—2024

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2021 % of OD ED visits	6.9%	5.3%	5.7%	5.5%	6.2%	4.9%	5.0%	4.2%	5.2%	5.3%	4.4%	5.3%	5.3%
2022 % of OD ED visits	5.0%	5.4%	5.5%	5.6%	5.6%	6.6%	5.3%	5.4%	5.0%	4.3%	5.9%	4.3%	5.3%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-28.0%	2.0%	-3.7%	2.4%	-9.8%	36.0%	6.1%	27.3%	-2.9%	-18.5%	33.8%	-19.8%	2.1%
2023 % of OD ED visits	5.4%	5.2%	4.9%	5.2%	5.8%	4.7%	5.5%	5.3%	5.8%	6.0%	5.3%	4.6%	5.3%
% change from 2022 to 2023	7.4%	-3.8%	-10.4%	-8.5%	5.3%	-29.1%	2.5%	-2.3%	15.7%	38.5%	-10.2%	8.3%	1.1%
2024 % of OD ED visits	5.7%	4.6%	4.2%	6.5%	5.6%	5.7%	5.6%	5.9%	6.1%	5.5%	5.1%	5.1%	5.5%
% change from 2023 to 2024	5.7%	-11.7%	-14.6%	25.5%	-3.7%	20.6%	2.4%	12.4%	4.2%	-8.1%	-3.0%	9.7%	3.3%

Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Quarterly Surveillance Reports, Quarter 3 2024](#)

[Injury Prevention, Non-fatal Drug Overdose Surveillance Using Hospital Discharge Data: a Comparison Between the Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology \(DOSE\) system and the Healthcare Cost and Utilisation Project, 18 states, 2018 - 2020](#)

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 2023 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

[‡]Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 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: SyS data is not the same as emergency department discharge data; drug overdose SyS data is limited and based on accuracy of chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis and what is reported to DPH SyS. 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.