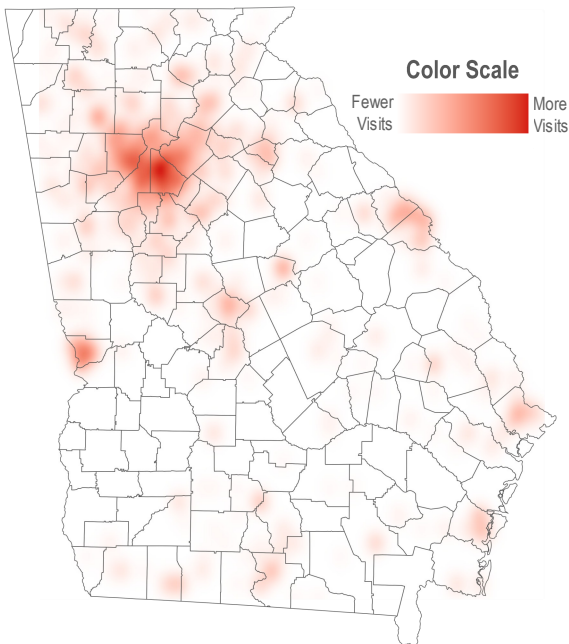


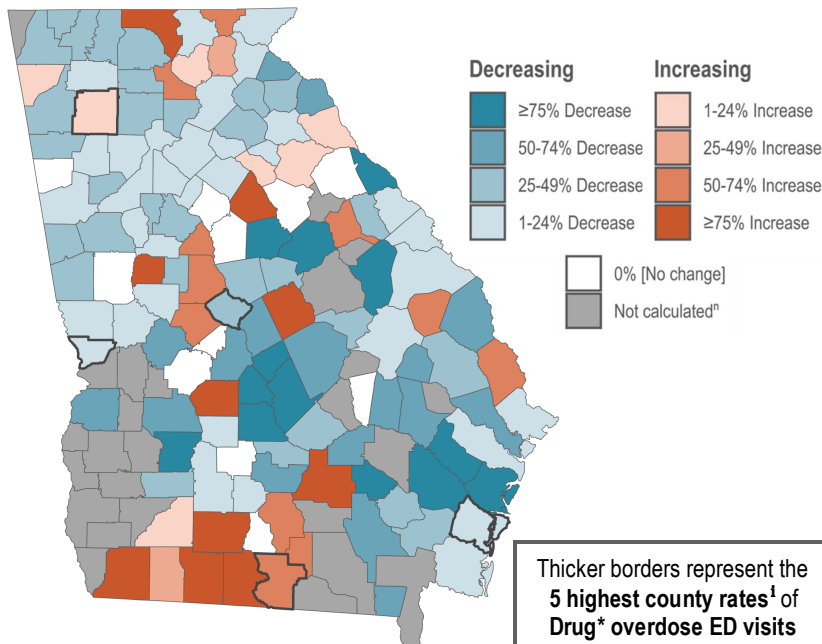
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, February 2025

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, February 2025



Percent Change[^] of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Sep 2024 - Nov 2024 to Dec 2024 - Feb 2025 (compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



Top 5 Counties[^] with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During February 2025

| County | Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Feb 2025 | Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Mar 2024 - Feb 2025 |
|----------|---|--|
| Glynn | 26.0 | |
| Muscogee | 25.8 | |
| Bartow | 23.8 | |
| Bibb | 21.3 | |
| Lowndes | 18.2 | |

Thicker borders represent the **5 highest county ratesⁱ** of Drug* overdose ED visits per 100,000 population in February 2025 (see table below)

Statewide, 1,245 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in February 2025, compared to 1,694 in February 2024.

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.

[^]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.

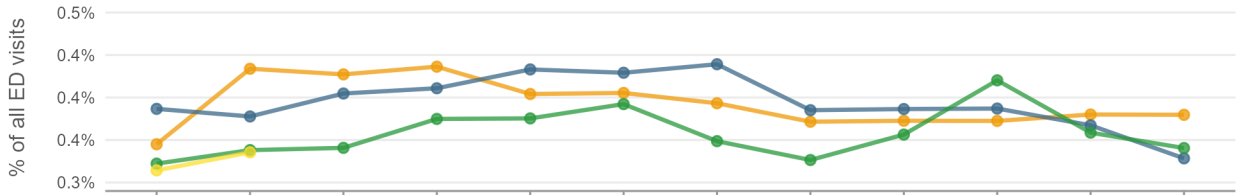
Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

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.

Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, February 2025

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2022-2025

● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025



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

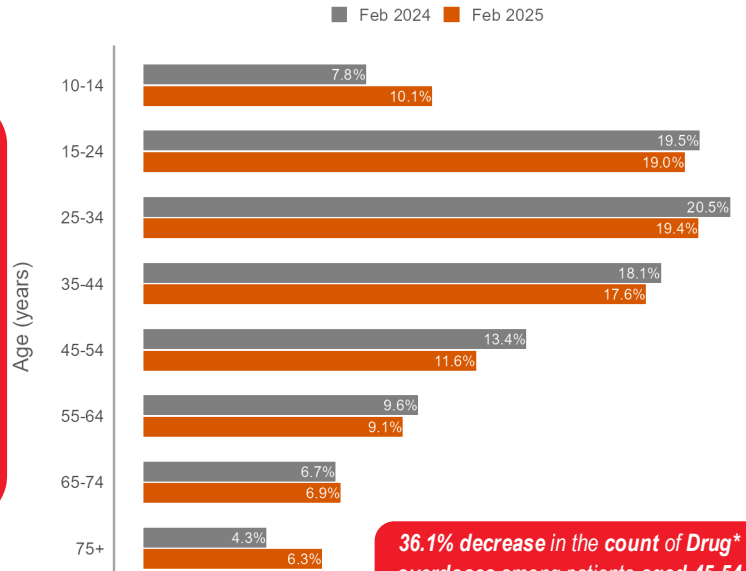
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|------|-------|--------|---------|
| 2022 % of total ED visits | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| 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% |
| 2025 % of total ED visits | 0.3% | 0.3% | | | | | | | | | | | 0.3% |
| % change from 2024 to 2025 | -1.8% | -1.3% | | | | | | | | | | | -1.6% |

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, February 2024 and February 2025

Rate¹ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits

| | Feb 2024 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population) | Feb 2025 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population) |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Overall | 17.5 | 12.8 |
| Sex | | |
| Female | 17.3 | 13.8 |
| Male | 17.6 | 11.8 |
| Race | | |
| Black | 15.3 | 12.4 |
| White | 16.7 | 11.9 |
| Other | 17.1 | 12.1 |
| Age Group (years) | | |
| 10-14 | 18.0 | 17.2 |
| 15-24 | 21.7 | 15.5 |
| 25-34 | 22.8 | 15.9 |
| 35-44 | 20.8 | 14.8 |
| 45-54 | 16.2 | 10.3 |
| 55-64 | 12.1 | 8.4 |
| 65-74 | 11.2 | 8.4 |
| 75+ | 10.8 | 11.5 |

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group

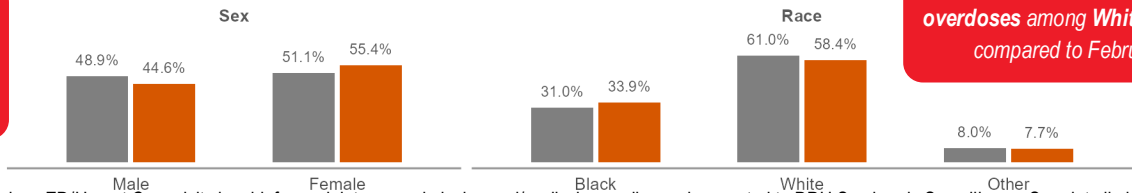


Drug* overdose ED visits in February 2025 were predominantly: Female (55.4%), White (54.9%), and between 25-34 years of age (19.4%).

36.1% decrease in the count of Drug* overdoses among patients aged 45-54 when compared to February 2024.

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

■ Feb 2024 ■ Feb 2025



33.0% decrease in the count of Drug* overdoses among Males when compared to February 2024.

29.1% decrease in the count of Drug* overdoses among White patients when compared to February 2024.

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.

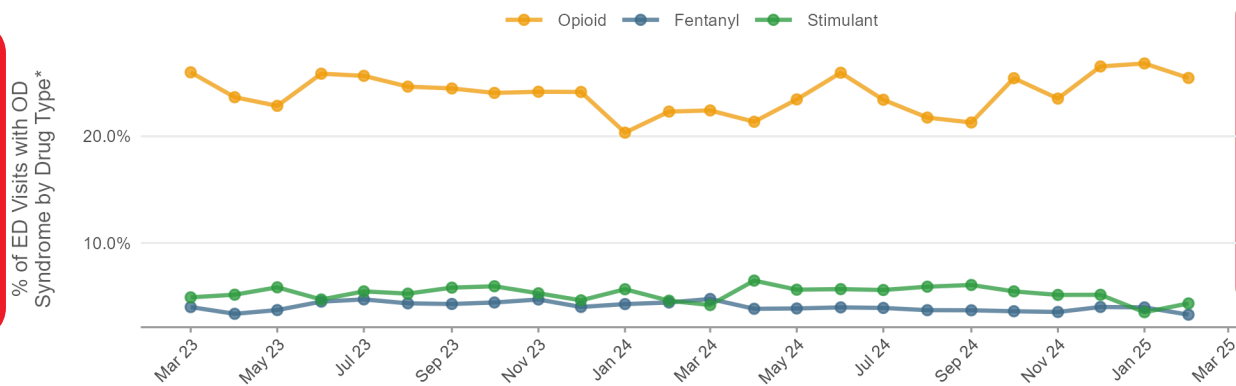
*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

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, February 2025

OD ED Visits by Month and Drug Type*, Georgia, March 2024 - February 2025



14.9% increase in the count of drug overdose visits mentioning any stimulant when compared to January 2025.

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, 2022—2025

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| 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% |
| 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% |
| 2025 % of OD ED visits | 26.8% | 25.5% | | | | | | | | | | | 26.1% |
| % change from 2024 to 2025 | 31.8% | 14.1% | | | | | | | | | | | 23.0% |

% of ED Visits with OD Syndrome Involving Fentanyl, Georgia, 2022—2025

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|---------|
| 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% |
| 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% |
| 2025 % of OD ED visits | 4.0% | 3.3% | | | | | | | | | | | 3.6% |
| % change from 2024 to 2025 | -7.2% | -25.6% | | | | | | | | | | | -16.4% |

% of ED Visits with OD Syndrome Involving a Stimulant, Georgia, 2022—2025

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|---------|
| 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% |
| 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% | 5.2% | 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% | 11.3% | 3.4% |
| 2025 % of OD ED visits | 3.5% | 4.3% | | | | | | | | | | | 3.9% |
| % change from 2024 to 2025 | -37.9% | -5.8% | | | | | | | | | | | -21.8% |

Link(s) of interest:

[CDC MMWR, Notes from the Field: Geo-Temporal Trends in Fentanyl Administration Routes Among Adults Reporting Use of Illegally Manufactured Fentanyl When Assessed for Substance-Use Treatment — 14 U.S. States, 2017–2023](#)

[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](#).

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^Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

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