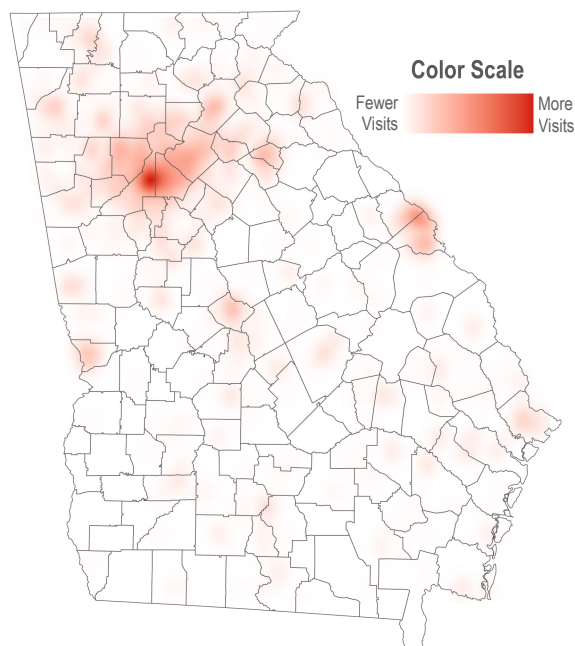


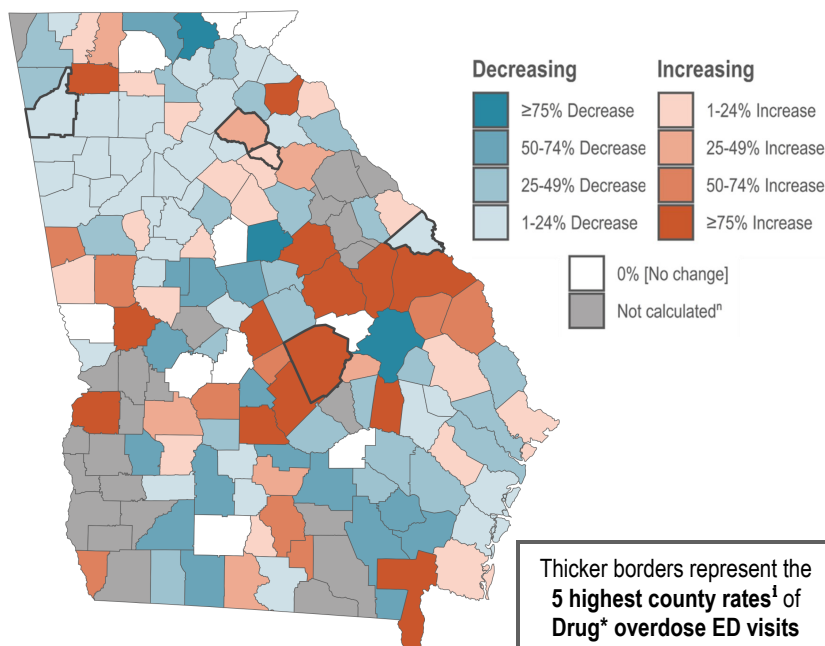
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, March 2024

**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, March 2024



Percent Change\* of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Oct 2023 - Dec 2023 to Jan 2024 - Mar 2024  
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



## Top 5 Counties^ with 15 or More Drug\* Overdose ED Visits During March 2024

County	Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population Mar 2024	Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population Apr 2023 - Mar 2024
Laurens	34.7	
Richmond	31.0	
Floyd	27.3	
Jackson	26.0	
Clarke	24.6	

Thicker borders represent the **5 highest county rates<sup>1</sup> of Drug\* overdose ED visits per 100,000 population in March 2024**  
(see table below)

**Statewide,  
1,369 ED visits for  
Drug\* overdoses  
occurred in  
March 2024,  
compared to 1,460 in  
March 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.

<sup>i</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2022 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.

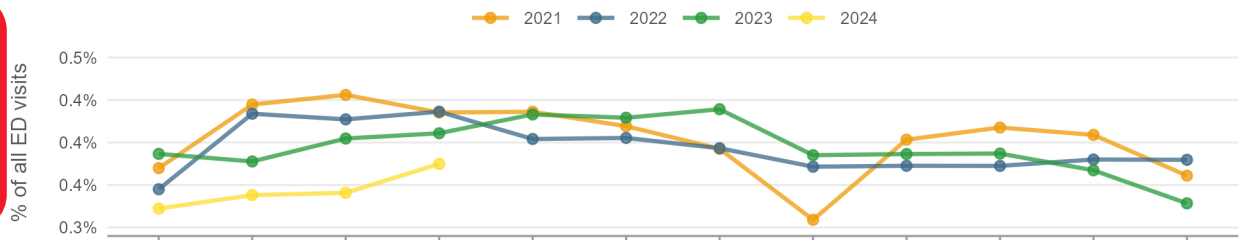
Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

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, March 2024

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

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%										0.3%
% change from 2023 to 2024	-17.4%	-11.0%	-14.8%										-14.4%

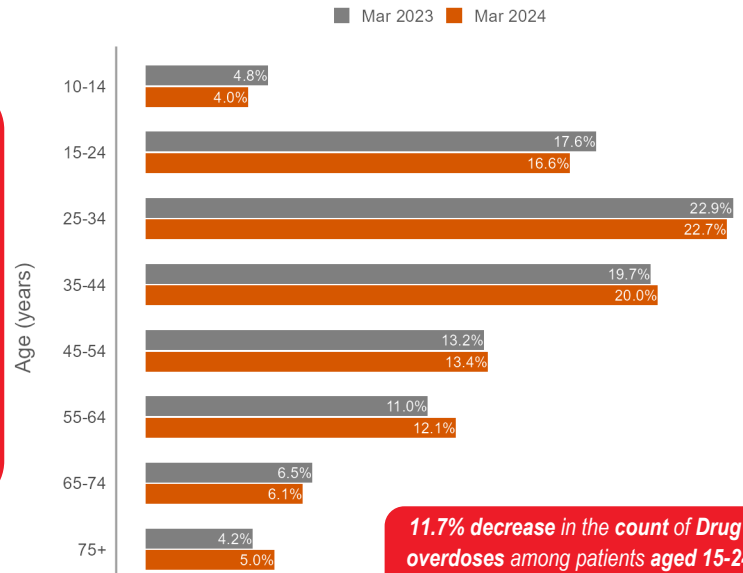
## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, March 2023 and March 2024

### Rate<sup>1</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits

	Mar 2023 Rate <sup>1</sup> (per 100,000 population)	Mar 2024 Rate <sup>1</sup> (per 100,000 population)
Overall	15.2	14.3
Sex		
Female	14.5	14.3
Male	16.0	14.2
Race		
Black	12.7	11.5
White	15.5	14.5
Other	13.4	11.0
Age Group (years)		
10-14	9.6	7.5
15-24	16.8	14.9
25-34	22.2	20.6
35-44	19.9	19.0
45-54	13.8	13.1
55-64	12.0	12.4
65-74	9.6	8.4
75+	9.4	10.6

Drug\* overdose ED visits in March 2024 were predominantly: Female (51.5%), White (60.8%), and between 25-34 years of age (22.7%).

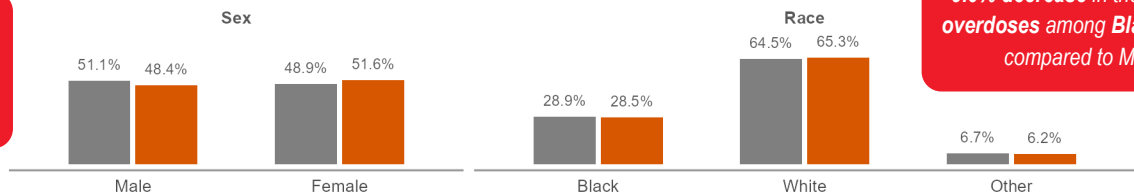
### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group



11.7% decrease in the count of Drug\* overdoses among patients aged 15-24 when compared to March 2023.

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

11.3% decrease in the count of Drug\* overdoses among Males when compared to March 2023.



9.0% decrease in the count of Drug\* overdoses among Black patients when compared to March 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.

<sup>1</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2022 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

<sup>2</sup>Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

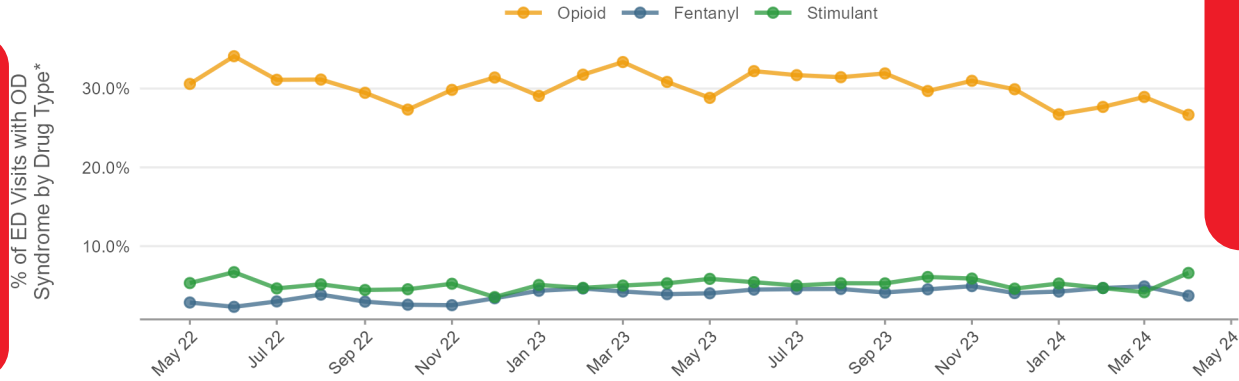
\*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

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, March 2024

## OD ED Visits by Month and Drug Type\*, Georgia, May 2023 - April 2024



8.0% increase in the count of drug overdose visits mentioning Fentanyl when compared to March 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	31.4%	33.4%	34.2%	34.4%	35.3%	29.4%	30.0%	29.6%	30.6%	32.4%	29.2%	33.1%	31.9%
2022 % of OD ED visits	31.9%	28.6%	30.8%	31.1%	30.6%	34.1%	31.1%	31.1%	29.5%	27.3%	29.8%	31.4%	30.6%
% change from 2021 to 2022	1.6%	-14.4%	-10.0%	-9.6%	-13.4%	16.1%	3.8%	5.2%	-3.7%	-15.7%	2.2%	-5.1%	-3.6%
2023 % of OD ED visits	29.1%	31.8%	33.4%	30.8%	28.8%	32.2%	31.7%	31.4%	31.9%	29.7%	31.0%	29.9%	31.0%
% change from 2022 to 2023	-8.8%	11.2%	8.2%	-1.0%	-5.8%	-5.5%	1.9%	1.0%	8.4%	8.6%	3.9%	-4.7%	1.4%
2024 % of OD ED visits	26.7%	27.7%	28.9%										27.8%
% change from 2023 to 2024	-8.0%	-12.9%	-13.3%										-11.4%

## % 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	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.5%	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%	2.0%	1.2%
2022 % of OD ED visits	1.6%	1.3%	2.3%	2.7%	2.8%	2.3%	3.0%	3.9%	3.0%	2.6%	2.5%	3.4%	2.6%
% change from 2021 to 2022	122.5%	66.5%	165.2%	132.6%	144.9%	115.7%	168.7%	164.3%	117.9%	65.1%	78.4%	67.9%	117.5%
2023 % of OD ED visits	4.3%	4.6%	4.2%	3.9%	4.0%	4.5%	4.5%	4.6%	4.1%	4.5%	4.9%	4.1%	4.3%
% change from 2022 to 2023	162.9%	266.0%	83.1%	43.1%	41.1%	95.4%	52.0%	18.7%	39.1%	75.8%	96.7%	19.4%	82.8%
2024 % of OD ED visits	4.2%	4.7%	4.9%										4.6%
% change from 2023 to 2024	-2.3%	1.2%	15.2%										4.7%

## % 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	5.7%	5.4%	5.2%	5.2%	6.4%	4.5%	4.6%	4.2%	4.9%	4.9%	4.3%	5.3%	5.0%
2022 % of OD ED visits	4.3%	5.5%	4.6%	4.7%	5.3%	6.7%	4.6%	5.2%	4.4%	4.5%	5.2%	3.5%	4.9%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-23.8%	2.1%	-11.6%	-10.3%	-17.3%	50.1%	-0.1%	22.3%	-10.0%	-7.2%	21.8%	-32.7%	-1.4%
2023 % of OD ED visits	5.1%	4.7%	5.0%	5.3%	5.9%	5.4%	5.0%	5.3%	5.3%	6.1%	5.9%	4.6%	5.3%
% change from 2022 to 2023	16.9%	-14.5%	7.8%	12.7%	10.0%	-19.0%	7.9%	2.8%	18.9%	34.3%	12.8%	30.4%	10.1%
2024 % of OD ED visits	5.3%	4.7%	4.2%										4.7%
% change from 2023 to 2024	3.5%	-0.5%	-16.7%										-4.6%

### Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, Drug Overdose Emergency Management Service \(EMS\) Monthly Report, November 2023 – March 2024](#)

[CDC MMWR, Routes of Drug Use Among Drug Overdose Deaths – United States, 2020 - 2022](#)

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.

<sup>a</sup>Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

<sup>i</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2022 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

<sup>n</sup>Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

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