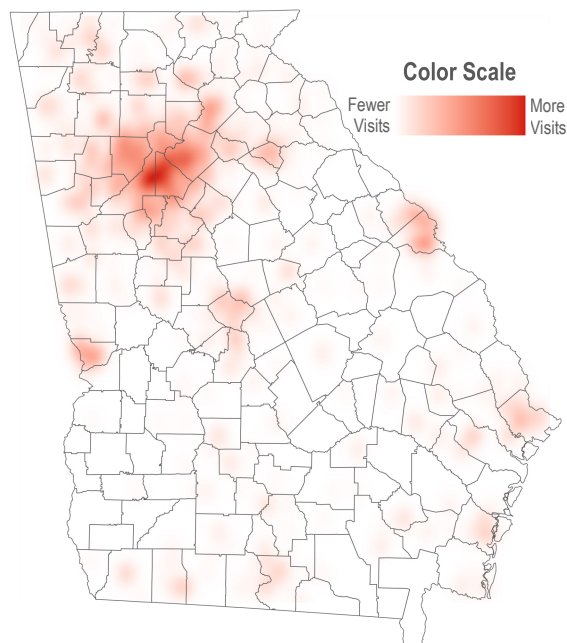


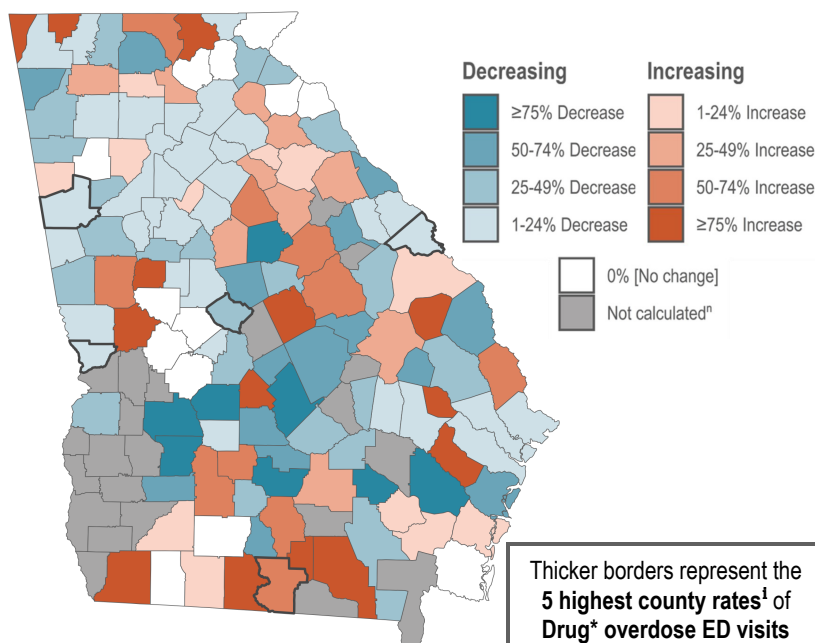
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, March 2025

**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<sup>A</sup>,  
Georgia, March 2025



Percent Change<sup>n</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits,  
Georgia, Oct 2024 - Dec 2024 to Jan 2025 - Mar 2025  
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



## Top 5 Counties<sup>A</sup> with 15 or More Drug\* Overdose ED Visits During March 2025

County	Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population Mar 2025	Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population Apr 2024 - Mar 2025
Bibb	28.7	
Richmond	26.2	
Carroll	26.1	
Muscogee	21.8	
Lowndes	21.1	

Thicker borders represent the  
**5 highest county rates<sup>1</sup> of  
Drug\* overdose ED visits  
per 100,000 population in  
March 2025**  
(see table below)

**Statewide,  
1,395 ED visits for  
Drug\* overdoses  
occurred in  
March 2025,  
compared to 1,766 in  
March 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.

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

<sup>i</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2023 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.

\*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.

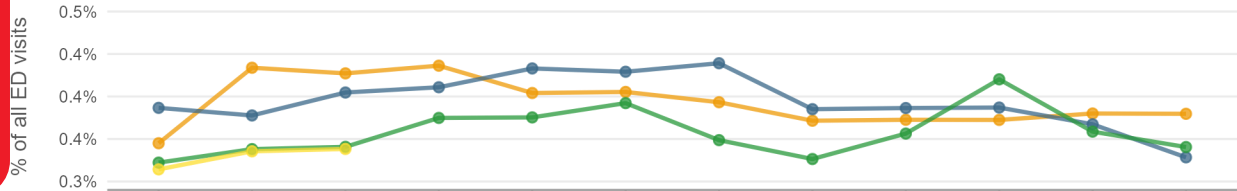
Note: SyS data is not the same as emergency department discharge data; drug overdose SyS data is limited and based on accuracy of chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis and what is reported to DPH SyS. Data is subject to change due to the current number of participating facilities and/or improvements 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 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%										0.3%
% change from 2024 to 2025	-1.8%	-1.3%	-0.5%										-1.2%

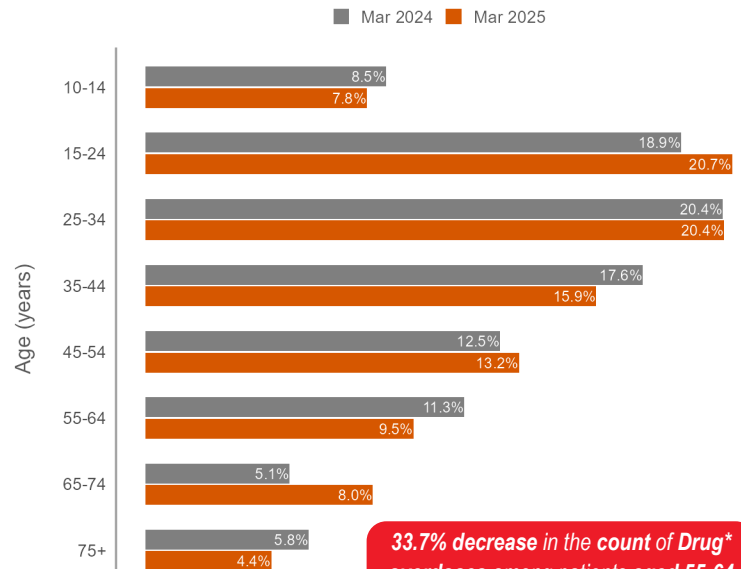
## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, March 2024 and March 2025

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

	Mar 2024 Rate <sup>1</sup> (per 100,000 population)	Mar 2025 Rate <sup>1</sup> (per 100,000 population)
Overall	18.2	14.4
Sex		
Female	18.2	14.9
Male	18.2	13.8
Race		
Black	16.9	13.9
White	16.9	14.0
Other	16.8	9.8
Age Group (years)		
10-14	20.5	14.9
15-24	22.0	19.0
25-34	23.6	18.7
35-44	21.0	15.1
45-54	15.7	13.1
55-64	14.8	9.8
65-74	8.8	11.0
75+	15.1	9.2

Drug\* overdose ED visits in March 2025 were predominantly: Female (53.5%), White (57.7%), and between 15-24 years of age (20.7%).

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

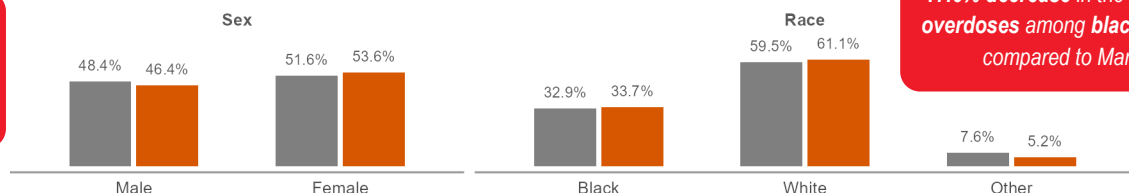


33.7% decrease in the count of Drug\* overdoses among patients aged 55-64 when compared to March 2024.

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

■ Mar 2024 ■ Mar 2025

24.3% decrease in the count of Drug\* overdoses among Males when compared to March 2024.



17.6% decrease in the count of Drug\* overdoses among black patients when compared to March 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.

<sup>1</sup>Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

<sup>1</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2023 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

<sup>1</sup>Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

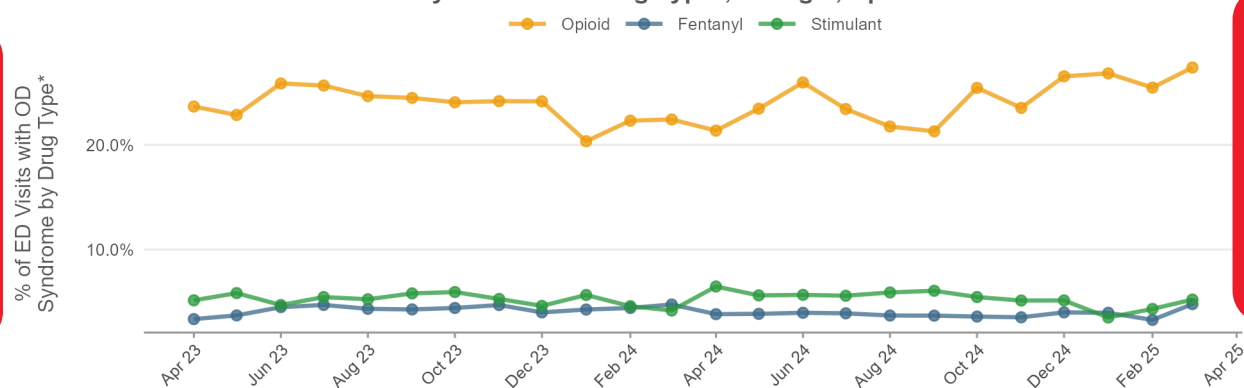
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Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

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 2025

## OD ED Visits by Month and Drug Type\*, Georgia, April 2024 - March 2025



20.2% decrease in the count of drug overdose visits mentioning fentanyl when compared to March 2024.

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
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%	27.4%										26.6%
% change from 2024 to 2025	31.8%	14.1%	22.1%										22.7%

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

	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%	4.8%										4.0%
% change from 2024 to 2025	-7.2%	-25.6%	1.0%										-10.6%

## % 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
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%	5.2%										4.3%
% change from 2024 to 2025	-37.9%	-5.8%	24.9%										-6.3%

### Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, Drug Overdose EMS Monthly Reports, November -December, 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](#).

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