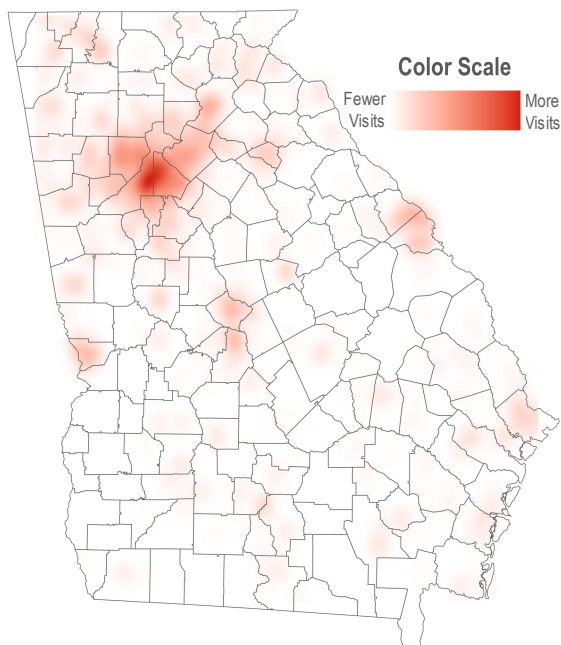


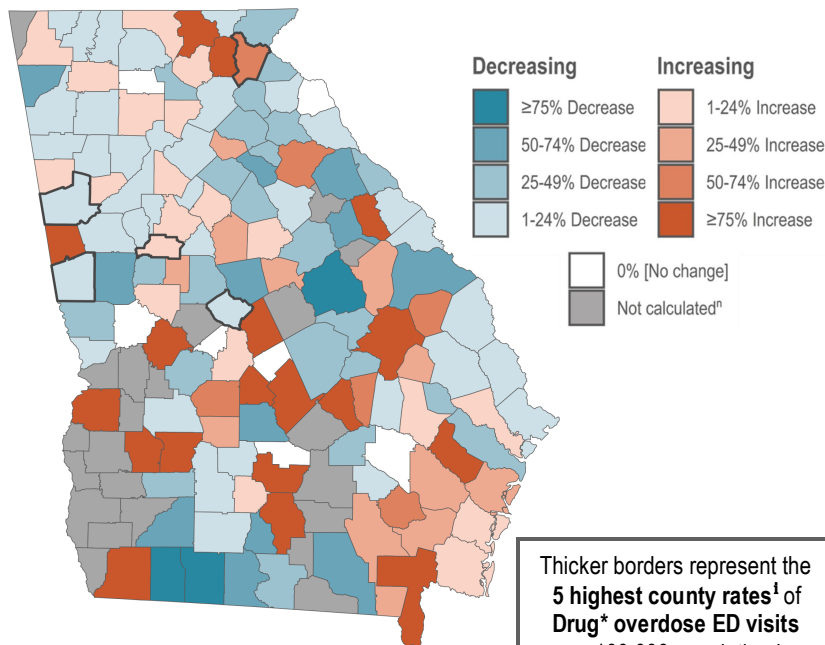
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, September 2024

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, September 2024



Percent Change^a of Drug* Overdose ED Visits,
Georgia, Apr 2024 - Jun 2024 to Jul 2024 - Sep 2024
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



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

County	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Sep 2024	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Oct 2023 - Sep 2024
Habersham	34.7	
Carroll	26.1	
Troup	26.0	
Bibb	25.8	
Spalding	24.5	

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

**Statewide,
1,379 ED visits for
Drug* overdoses
occurred in
September 2024,
compared to 1,554 in
September 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.

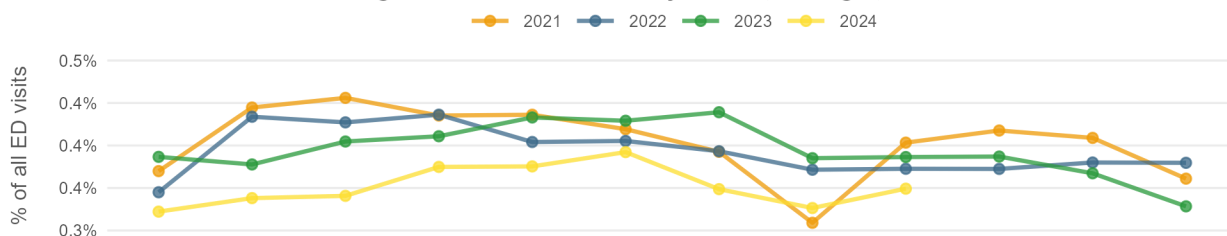
Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

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, September 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.



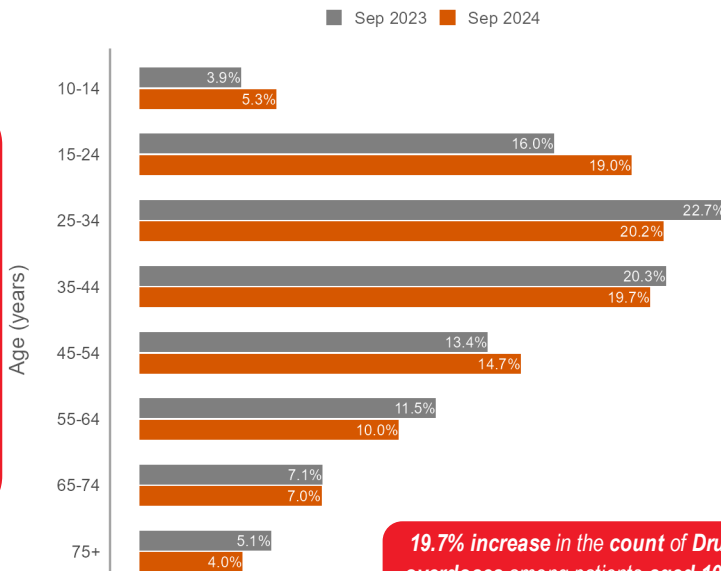
Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, September 2023 and September 2024

Rate¹ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits

	Sep 2023 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)	Sep 2024 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)
Overall	16.0	14.2
Sex		
Female	15.7	14.5
Male	16.3	13.9
Race		
Black	13.9	13.4
White	16.2	13.7
Other	11.7	11.5
Age Group (years)		
10-14	8.3	10.0
15-24	16.4	17.2
25-34	23.1	18.3
35-44	21.4	18.4
45-54	14.9	14.5
55-64	13.2	10.3
65-74	10.8	9.5
75+	11.7	8.1

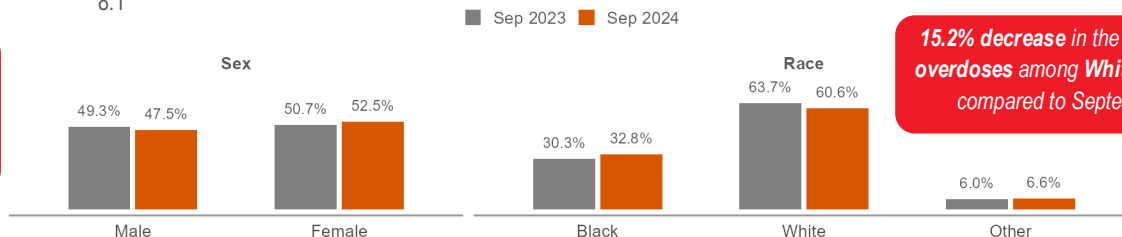
Drug* overdose ED visits in September 2024 were predominantly: Female (52.5%), White (57.3%), and between 25-34 years of age (20.2%).

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group



19.7% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among patients aged 10-14 when compared to September 2023.

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



14.5% decrease in the count of Drug* overdoses among Males when compared to September 2023.

15.2% decrease in the count of Drug* overdoses among White patients when compared to September 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.

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

²Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

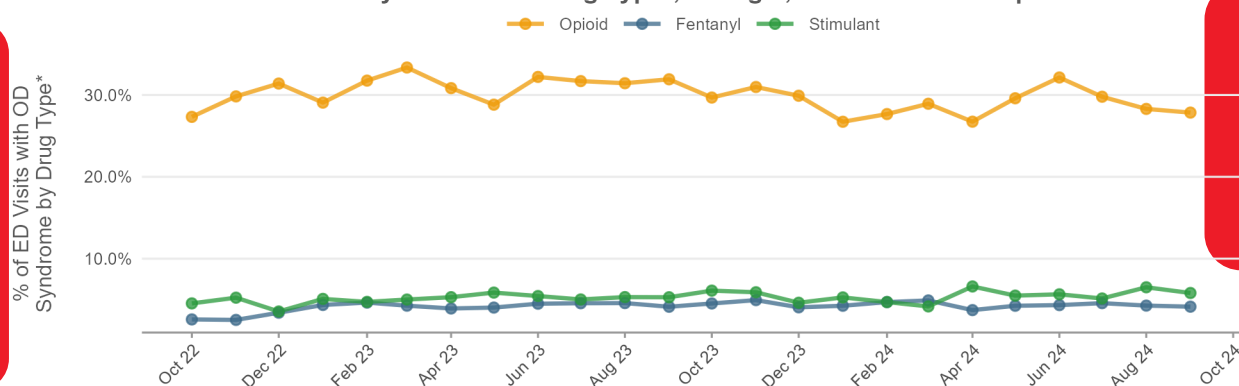
*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

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, September 2024

OD ED Visits by Month and Drug Type*, Georgia, October 2023 - September 2024



10.9% decrease in the count of drug overdose visits mentioning Fentanyl when compared to September 2023.

Note: Due to limitations with drug testing in EDs, Fentanyl and Stimulant categories

% 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%	26.7%	29.6%	32.1%	29.8%	28.3%	27.8%				28.6%
% change from 2023 to 2024	-8.0%	-12.9%	-13.3%	-13.3%	2.7%	-0.2%	-6.0%	-10.0%	-12.8%				-8.2%

% 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%	3.7%	4.2%	4.3%	4.6%	4.3%	4.1%				4.3%
% change from 2023 to 2024	-2.3%	1.2%	15.2%	-5.2%	5.4%	-4.0%	0.4%	-6.7%	0.4%				0.5%

% 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	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%	6.6%	5.5%	5.6%	5.1%	6.5%	5.8%				5.5%
% change from 2023 to 2024	3.5%	-0.5%	-16.7%	24.8%	-6.4%	3.9%	2.4%	22.6%	9.9%				4.8%

Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health Drug Surveillance Unit, Georgia Drug Overdose Data Dashboard](#)

[Journal of Public Health Management & Practice, Development of a Definition to Identify Severe Opioid Overdoses Treated in Emergency Departments, 2019 - 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.

[^]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.