

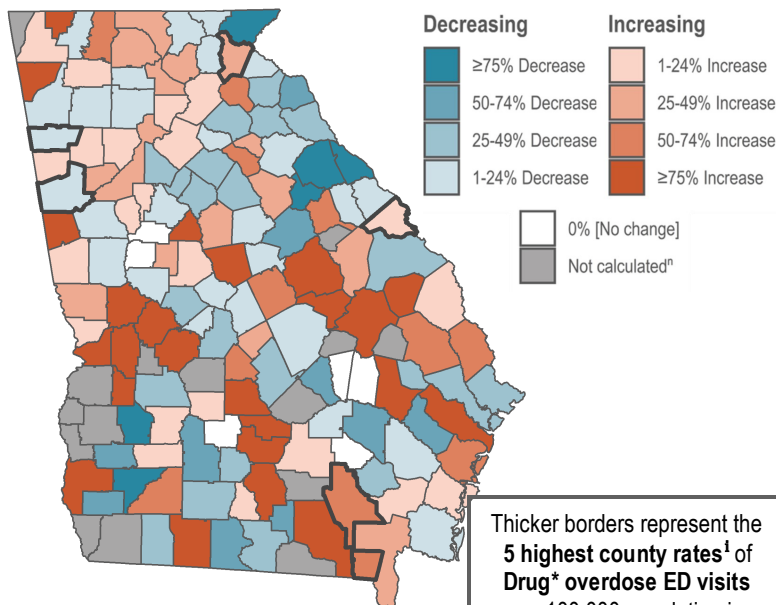
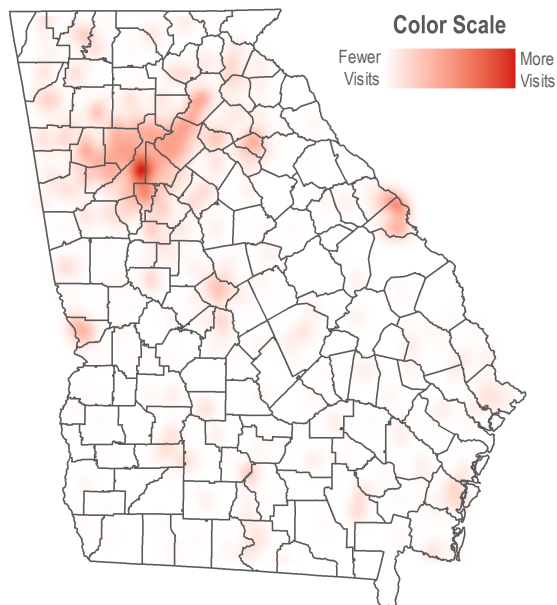
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, August 2022

**What is Syndromic Surveillance (SS)?** SS 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 SS data within the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS).

## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code<sup>^</sup>, Georgia, August 2022

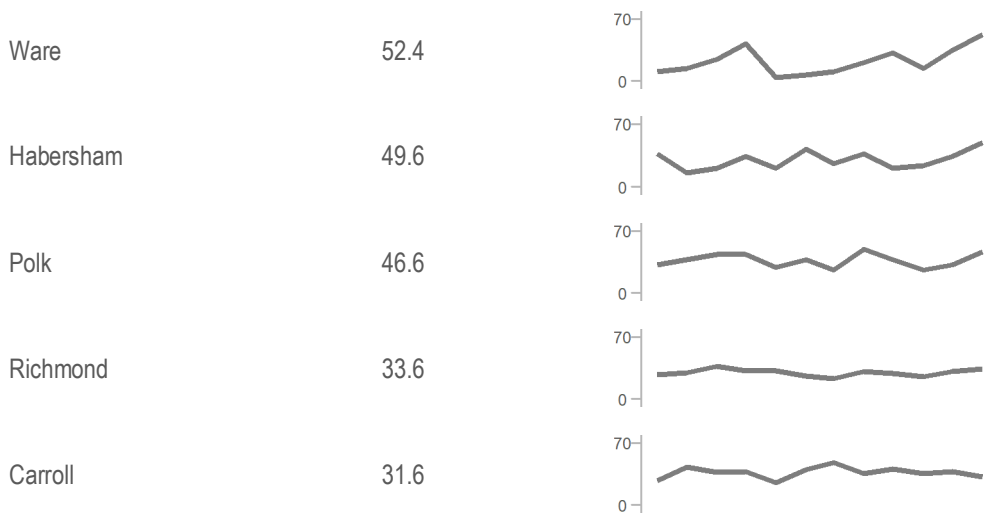
## Percent Change<sup>n</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Mar 2022 - May 2022 to Jun 2022 - Aug 2022

(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



### Top 5 Counties<sup>^</sup> with 15 or More Drug\* Overdose ED Visits During August 2022

| County | Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population Aug 2022 | Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population Sep 2021 - Aug 2022 |
|--------|---|--|
|--------|---|--|



**Statewide, 1,493 ED visits for Drug\* overdoses occurred in August 2022, compared to 1,250 in August 2021.**

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

<sup>i</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2020 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.

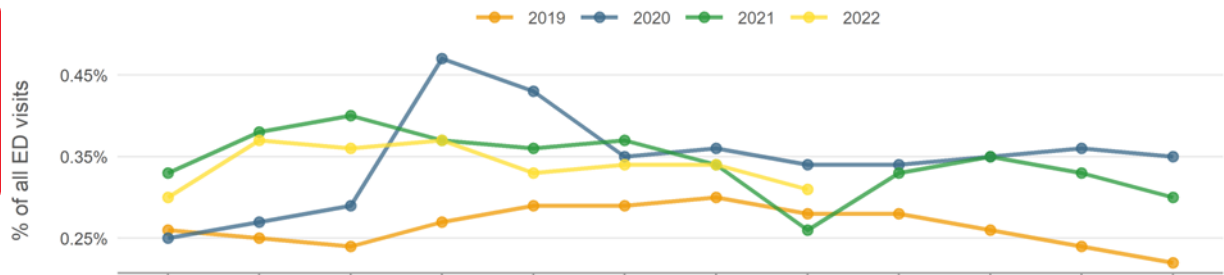
Note: All data excludes patients ≤14 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

Note: SS data is not the same as emergency department discharge data; drug overdose SS data is limited and based on accuracy of chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis and what is reported to DPH SS. 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, August 2022

## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2019-2022

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 |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| 2019 % of total ED visits  | 0.26%  | 0.25%  | 0.24%   | 0.27%   | 0.29%   | 0.29%  | 0.30%  | 0.28%   | 0.28%  | 0.26%  | 0.24%  | 0.22%   | 0.26%   |
| 2020 % of total ED visits  | 0.25%  | 0.27%  | 0.29%   | 0.47%   | 0.43%   | 0.35%  | 0.36%  | 0.34%   | 0.34%  | 0.35%  | 0.36%  | 0.35%   | 0.35%   |
| % change from 2019 to 2020 | -3.85% | 8.00%  | 20.83%  | 74.07%  | 48.28%  | 20.69% | 20.00% | 21.43%  | 21.43% | 34.62% | 50.00% | 59.09%  | 31.22%  |
| 2021 % of total ED visits  | 0.33%  | 0.38%  | 0.40%   | 0.37%   | 0.36%   | 0.37%  | 0.34%  | 0.26%   | 0.33%  | 0.35%  | 0.33%  | 0.30%   | 0.34%   |
| % change from 2020 to 2021 | 32.00% | 40.74% | 37.93%  | -21.28% | -16.28% | 5.71%  | -5.56% | -23.53% | -2.94% | 0.00%  | -8.33% | -14.29% | 2.01%   |
| 2022 % of total ED visits  | 0.30%  | 0.37%  | 0.36%   | 0.37%   | 0.33%   | 0.34%  | 0.34%  | 0.31%   |        |        |        |         | 0.34%   |
| % change from 2021 to 2022 | -9.09% | -2.63% | -10.00% | 0.00%   | -8.33%  | -8.11% | 0.00%  | 19.23%  |        |        |        |         | -2.37%  |

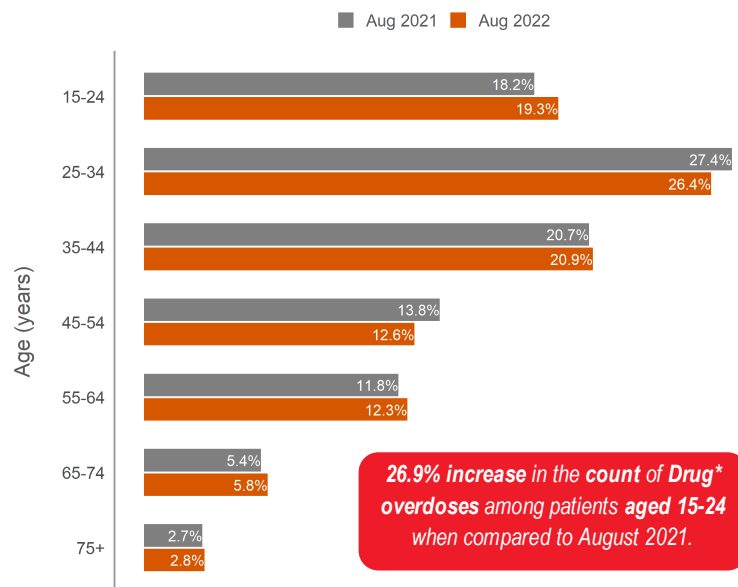
## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, August 2021 and August 2022

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

|                          | Aug 2021 Rate <sup>1</sup><br>(per 100,000 population) | Aug 2022 Rate <sup>1</sup><br>(per 100,000 population) |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Overall</b>           | 14.3   | 17.1   |
| <b>Sex</b>               |  |  |
| Female                   | 12.8   | 15.6   |
| Male                     | 15.9   | 18.7   |
| <b>Race</b>              |  |  |
| Black                    | 8.4  | 12.9   |
| White                    | 15.4   | 18.0   |
| Other                    | 19.9   | 18.2   |
| <b>Age Group (years)</b> |  |  |
| 15-24                    | 15.3   | 19.4   |
| 25-34                    | 22.9   | 26.4   |
| 35-44                    | 18.1   | 21.8   |
| 45-54                    | 12.3   | 13.4   |
| 55-64                    | 11.0   | 13.6   |
| 65-74                    | 6.9  | 8.7  |
| 75+                      | 5.7  | 7.0  |

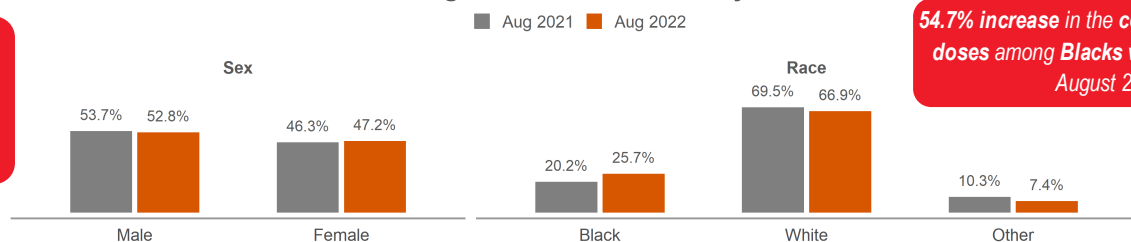
Drug\* overdose ED visits in August 2022 were predominantly: **Male (52.8%) White (63.8%), and between 25-34 years of age (26.4%).**

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



26.9% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among patients aged 15-24 when compared to August 2021.

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



21.8% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among Females when compared to August 2021.

54.7% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among Blacks when compared to August 2021.

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>2</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2020 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

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

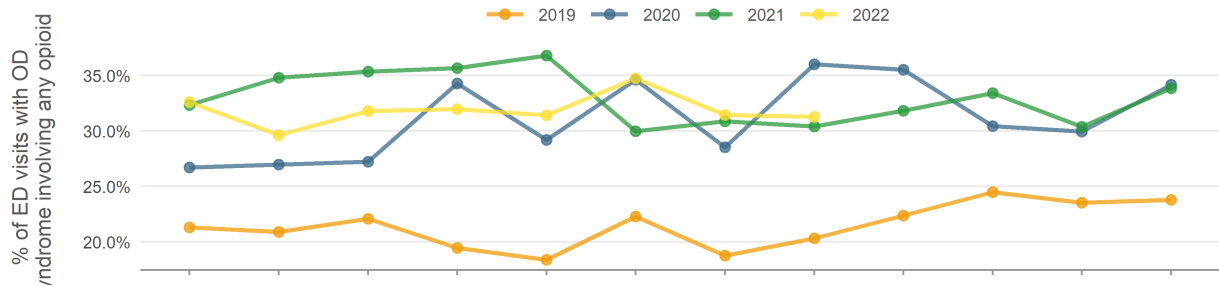
\*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

Note: All data excludes patients ≤14 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: SS data is not the same as emergency department discharge data; drug overdose SS data is limited and based on accuracy of chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis and what is reported to DPH SS. 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.

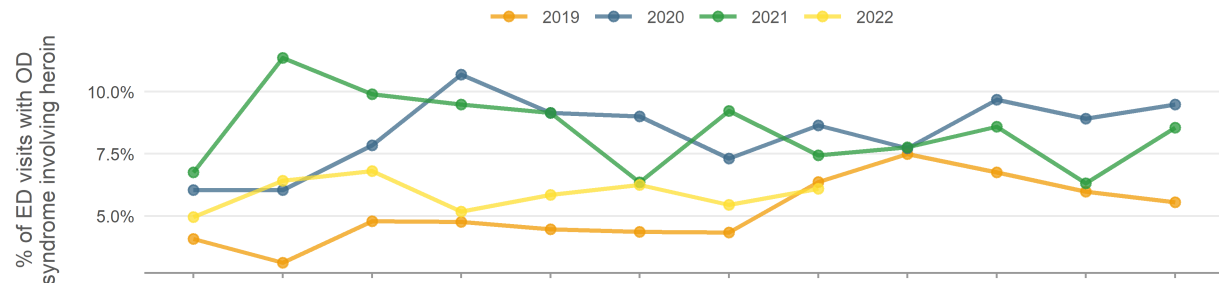
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, August 2022

## Opioid-Involved\* OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2019-2022



|                            | Jan    | Feb     | Mar     | Apr     | May     | Jun     | Jul    | Aug     | Sep     | Oct    | Nov    | Dec    | Average |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 2019 % of OD ED visits     | 21.32% | 20.91%  | 22.09%  | 19.47%  | 18.40%  | 22.30%  | 18.77% | 20.33%  | 22.39%  | 24.50% | 23.53% | 23.79% | 21.48%  |
| 2020 % of OD ED visits     | 26.72% | 26.98%  | 27.22%  | 34.29%  | 29.20%  | 34.63%  | 28.53% | 36.00%  | 35.53%  | 30.44% | 29.95% | 34.16% | 31.14%  |
| % change from 2019 to 2020 | 25.33% | 29.03%  | 23.22%  | 76.12%  | 58.70%  | 55.29%  | 52.00% | 77.08%  | 58.69%  | 24.24% | 27.28% | 43.59% | 45.88%  |
| 2021 % of OD ED visits     | 32.36% | 34.79%  | 35.34%  | 35.68%  | 36.79%  | 29.97%  | 30.86% | 30.40%  | 31.84%  | 33.41% | 30.37% | 33.84% | 32.97%  |
| % change from 2020 to 2021 | 21.11% | 28.95%  | 29.83%  | 4.05%   | 25.99%  | -13.46% | 8.17%  | -15.56% | -10.39% | 9.76%  | 1.40%  | -0.94% | 7.41%   |
| 2022 % of OD ED visits     | 32.61% | 29.64%  | 31.80%  | 31.97%  | 31.41%  | 34.74%  | 31.45% | 31.28%  |         |        |        |        | 31.86%  |
| % change from 2021 to 2022 | 0.77%  | -14.80% | -10.02% | -10.40% | -14.62% | 15.92%  | 1.91%  | 2.89%   |         |        |        |        | -3.54%  |

## Heroin-Involved\* OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2019-2022



|                            | Jan     | Feb     | Mar     | Apr     | May     | Jun     | Jul     | Aug     | Sep   | Oct     | Nov     | Dec    | Average |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| 2019 % of OD ED visits     | 4.08%   | 3.12%   | 4.79%   | 4.76%   | 4.46%   | 4.36%   | 4.33%   | 6.36%   | 7.49% | 6.76%   | 5.98%   | 5.55%  | 5.17%   |
| 2020 % of OD ED visits     | 6.04%   | 6.04%   | 7.84%   | 10.69%  | 9.15%   | 9.01%   | 7.31%   | 8.64%   | 7.72% | 9.68%   | 8.91%   | 9.49%  | 8.38%   |
| % change from 2019 to 2020 | 48.04%  | 93.59%  | 63.67%  | 124.58% | 105.16% | 106.65% | 68.82%  | 35.85%  | 3.07% | 43.20%  | 49.00%  | 70.99% | 67.72%  |
| 2021 % of OD ED visits     | 6.76%   | 11.36%  | 9.90%   | 9.48%   | 9.15%   | 6.35%   | 9.23%   | 7.44%   | 7.76% | 8.59%   | 6.32%   | 8.56%  | 8.41%   |
| % change from 2020 to 2021 | 11.92%  | 88.08%  | 26.28%  | -11.32% | 0.00%   | -29.52% | 26.27%  | -13.89% | 0.52% | -11.26% | -29.07% | -9.80% | 4.02%   |
| 2022 % of OD ED visits     | 4.96%   | 6.42%   | 6.81%   | 5.18%   | 5.85%   | 6.25%   | 5.45%   | 6.10%   |       |         |         |        | 5.88%   |
| % change from 2021 to 2022 | -26.63% | -43.49% | -31.21% | -45.36% | -36.07% | -1.57%  | -40.95% | -18.01% |       |         |         |        | -30.41% |

### Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, 2022 Quarterly Drug Overdose Surveillance Reports, Quarter 1](#)

[CDC DOSE Dashboard: Nonfatal Overdose Data](#)

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

<sup>†</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2020 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

<sup>‡</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 ≤14 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: SS data is not the same as emergency department discharge data; drug overdose SS data is limited and based on accuracy of chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis and what is reported to DPH SS. 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.