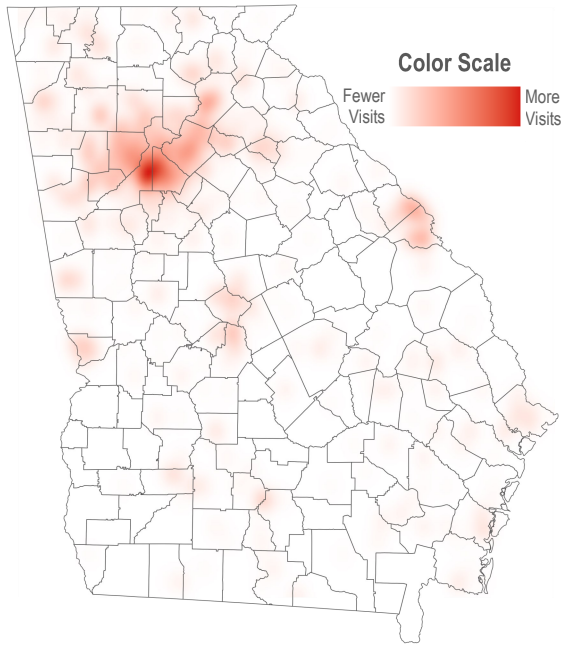


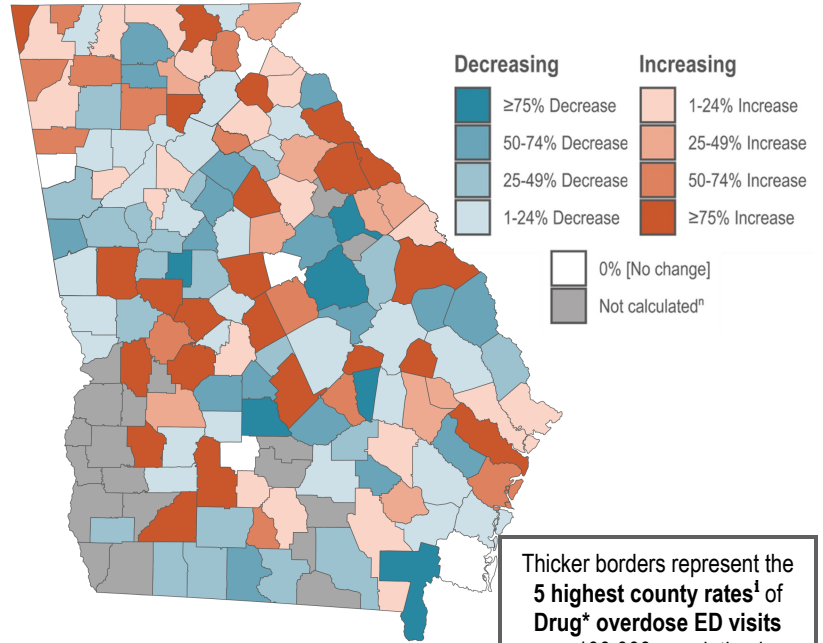
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, March 2023

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[^], Georgia, March 2023



Percent Changeⁿ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Oct 2022 - Dec 2022 to Jan 2023 - Mar 2023
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



Thicker borders represent the **5 highest county rates¹** of Drug* overdose ED visits per 100,000 population in **March 2023** (see table below)

Top 5 Counties[^] with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During March 2023

County	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Mar 2023	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Apr 2022 - Mar 2023
Barrow	34.7	
Carroll	30.0	
Richmond	29.7	
Troup	28.6	
Hall	27.0	

Statewide, 1,460 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in March 2023, compared to 1177 in March 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.

ⁱRate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2021 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.

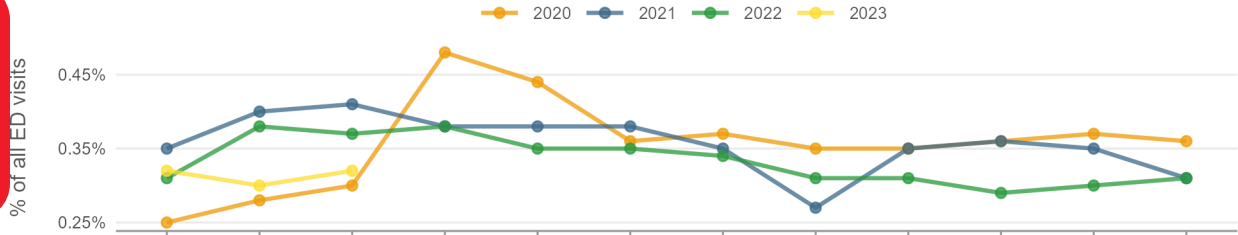
Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

Note: 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, March 2023

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2020-2023

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
2020 % of total ED visits	0.25%	0.28%	0.30%	0.48%	0.44%	0.36%	0.37%	0.35%	0.35%	0.36%	0.37%	0.36%	0.36%
2021 % of total ED visits	0.35%	0.40%	0.41%	0.38%	0.38%	0.38%	0.35%	0.27%	0.35%	0.36%	0.35%	0.31%	0.36%
% change from 2020 to 2021	40.00%	42.86%	36.67%	-20.83%	-13.64%	5.56%	-5.41%	-22.86%	0.00%	0.00%	-5.41%	-13.89%	3.59%
2022 % of total ED visits	0.31%	0.38%	0.37%	0.38%	0.35%	0.35%	0.34%	0.31%	0.31%	0.29%	0.30%	0.31%	0.33%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-11.43%	-5.00%	-9.76%	0.00%	-7.89%	-7.89%	-2.86%	14.81%	-11.43%	-19.44%	-14.29%	0.00%	-6.26%
2023 % of total ED visits	0.32%	0.30%	0.32%										0.31%
% change from 2022 to 2023	3.23%	-21.05%	-13.51%										-10.44%

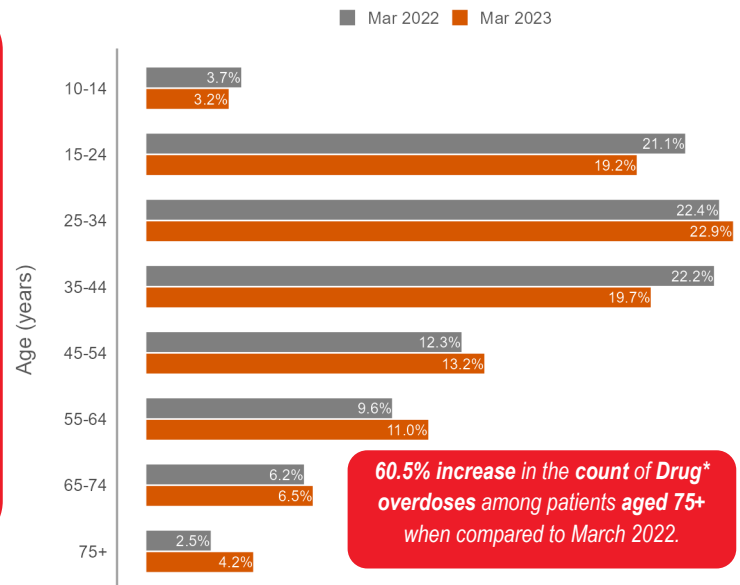
Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, March 2022 and March 2023

Rate¹ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits

	Mar 2022 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)	Mar 2023 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)
Overall	17.3	16.7
Sex		
Female	17.0	15.8
Male	17.7	17.7
Race		
Black	11.4	14.1
White	18.7	16.9
Other	22.2	15.6
Age Group (years)		
10-14	7.5	6.3
15-24	43.6	38.4
25-34	22.6	22.4
35-44	23.4	20.2
45-54	13.3	13.8
55-64	10.8	12.0
65-74	9.4	9.6
75+	6.4	10.2

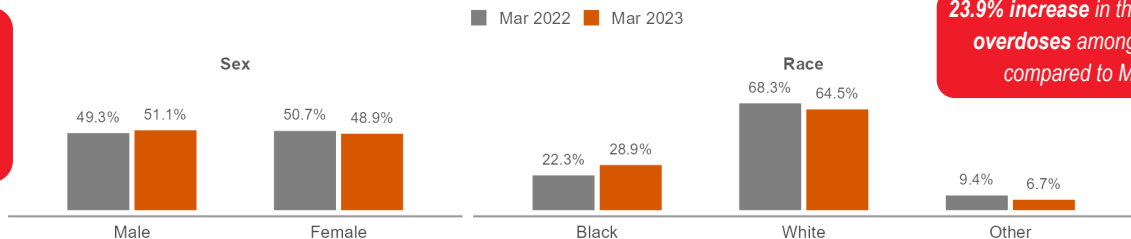
Drug* overdose ED visits in March 2023 were predominantly: Male (51%), White (61%), and between 25-34 years of age (22.9%).

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group



60.5% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among patients aged 75+ when compared to March 2022.

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



6.6% decrease in the count of Drug* overdoses among females when compared to March 2022.

23.9% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among Blacks when compared to March 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.

¹Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

²Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2021 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

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

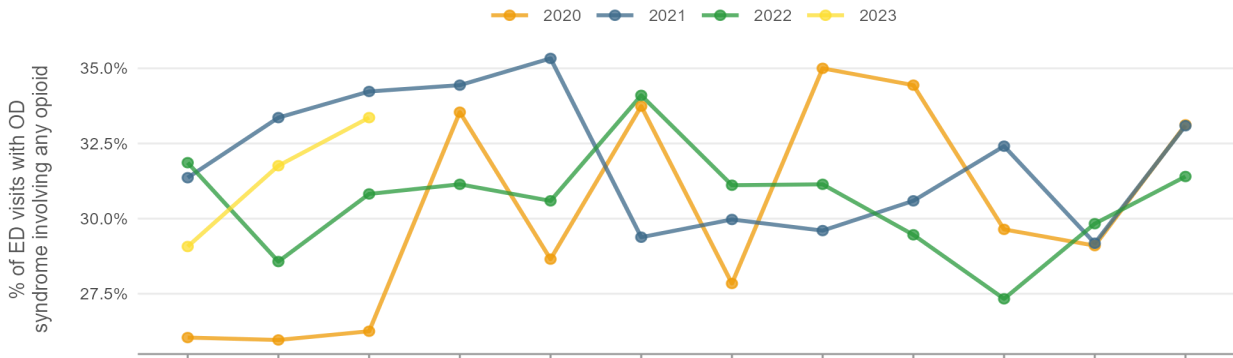
*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

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: 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.

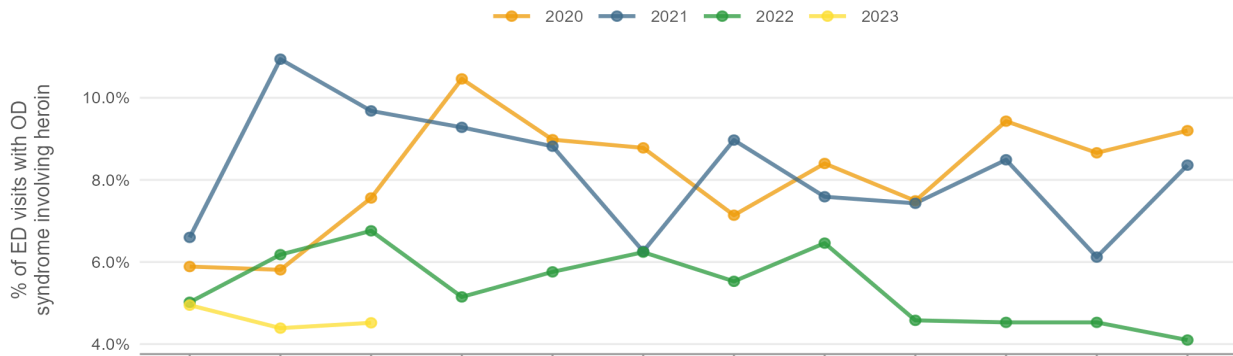
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, March 2023

Opioid-Involved+ OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2020-2023



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2020 % of total ED visits	0.25%	0.28%	0.30%	0.48%	0.44%	0.36%	0.37%	0.35%	0.35%	0.36%	0.37%	0.36%	0.36%
2021 % of total ED visits	0.35%	0.40%	0.41%	0.38%	0.38%	0.38%	0.35%	0.27%	0.35%	0.36%	0.35%	0.31%	0.36%
% change from 2020 to 2021	40.00%	42.86%	36.67%	-20.83%	-13.64%	5.56%	-5.41%	-22.86%	0.00%	0.00%	-5.41%	-13.89%	3.59%
2022 % of total ED visits	0.31%	0.38%	0.37%	0.38%	0.35%	0.35%	0.34%	0.31%	0.31%	0.29%	0.30%	0.31%	0.33%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-11.43%	-5.00%	-9.76%	0.00%	-7.89%	-7.89%	-2.86%	14.81%	-11.43%	-19.44%	-14.29%	0.00%	-6.26%
2023 % of total ED visits	0.32%	0.30%	0.32%										0.31%
% change from 2022 to 2023	3.23%	-21.05%	-13.51%										-10.44%

Heroin-Involved+ OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2020-2023



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2020 % of OD ED visits	5.89%	5.81%	7.56%	10.46%	8.98%	8.78%	7.14%	8.40%	7.49%	9.43%	8.66%	9.20%	8.15%
2021 % of OD ED visits	6.60%	10.94%	9.68%	9.28%	8.82%	6.26%	8.97%	7.59%	7.43%	8.49%	6.12%	8.36%	8.21%
% change from 2020 to 2021	12.05%	88.30%	28.04%	-11.28%	-1.78%	-28.70%	25.63%	-9.64%	-0.80%	-9.97%	-29.33%	-9.13%	4.45%
2022 % of OD ED visits	5.02%	6.18%	6.76%	5.15%	5.76%	6.24%	5.53%	6.46%	4.58%	4.53%	4.53%	4.10%	5.40%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-23.94%	-43.51%	-30.17%	-44.50%	-34.69%	-0.32%	-38.35%	-14.89%	-38.36%	-46.64%	-25.98%	-50.96%	-32.69%
2023 % of OD ED visits	4.95%	4.39%	4.52%										4.62%
% change from 2022 to 2023	-1.39%	-28.96%	-33.14%										-21.16%

Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, Xylazine-Involved Overdose Deaths, Georgia, 2020-2022](#)

[Georgia Department of Public Health, Drug Overdose Emergency Medical Service \(EMS\) Monthly Reports, Jan – Mar 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](#).

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^Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

†Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2021 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.

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