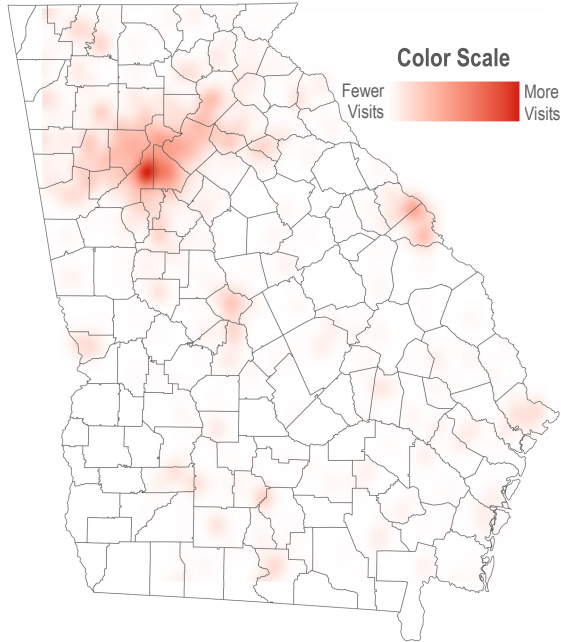


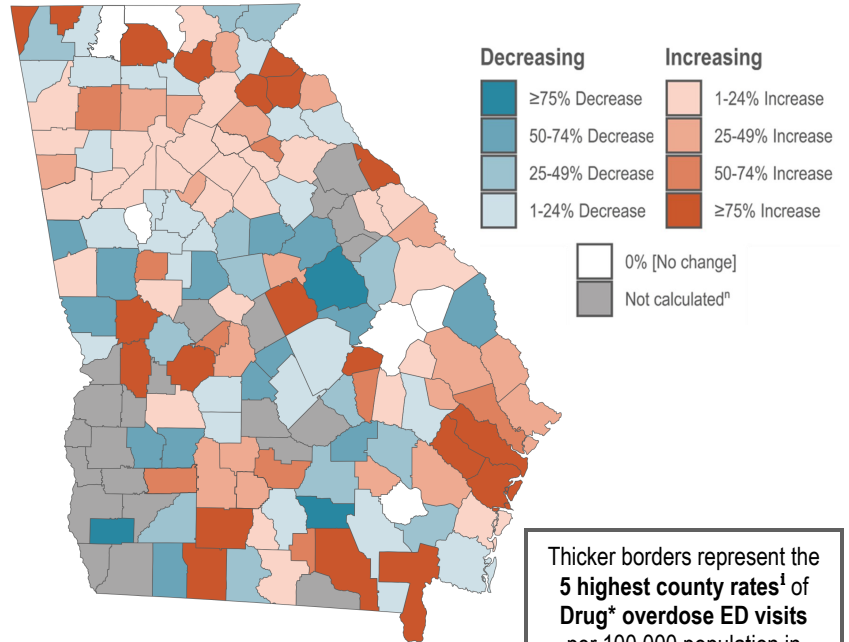
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, May 2023

**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<sup>^</sup>, Georgia, May 2023



Percent Change<sup>^</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Dec 2022 - Feb 2023 to Mar 2023 - May 2023  
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



## Top 5 Counties<sup>^</sup> with 15 or More Drug\* Overdose ED Visits During May 2023

| County    | Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population May 2023 | Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population Jun 2022 - May 2023 |
|-----------|---|--|
| Tift      | 58.7  |  |
| Carroll   | 47.6  |  |
| Murray    | 46.6  |  |
| Barrow    | 39.0  |  |
| Dougherty | 34.2  |  |

Thicker borders represent the **5 highest county rates<sup>i</sup> of Drug\* overdose ED visits per 100,000 population in May 2023** (see table below)

**Statewide, 1,641 ED visits for Drug\* overdoses occurred in May 2023, compared to 1522 in May 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>^</sup>Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

<sup>i</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2021 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.

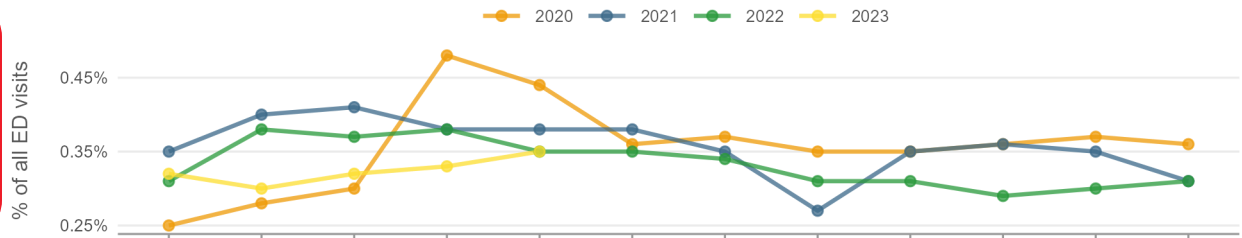
Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

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, May 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%   | 0.33%   | 0.35%   |        |        |         |         |         |         |         | 0.32%   |
| % change from 2022 to 2023 | 3.23%   | -21.05% | -13.51% | -13.16% | 0.00%   |        |        |         |         |         |         |         | -8.90%  |

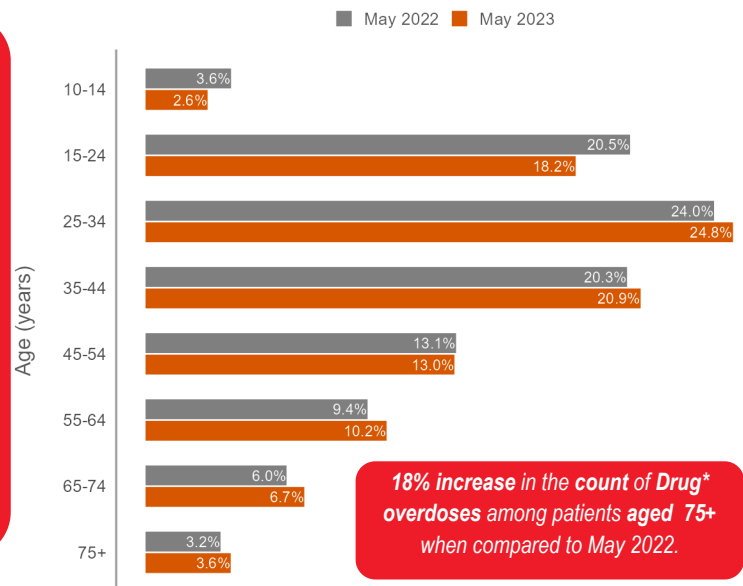
## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, May 2022 and May 2023

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

|                   | May 2022 Rate <sup>1</sup><br>(per 100,000 population) | May 2023 Rate <sup>1</sup><br>(per 100,000 population) |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Overall           | 18.1   | 18.8   |
| Sex               |  |  |
| Female            | 18.0   | 17.6   |
| Male              | 18.2   | 20.0   |
| Race              |  |  |
| Black             | 12.1   | 15.7   |
| White             | 18.9   | 18.3   |
| Other             | 26.7   | 18.1   |
| Age Group (years) |  |  |
| 10-14             | 7.6  | 5.8  |
| 15-24             | 44.3   | 40.8   |
| 25-34             | 25.4   | 27.2   |
| 35-44             | 22.5   | 24.0   |
| 45-54             | 14.8   | 15.3   |
| 55-64             | 11.0   | 12.4   |
| 65-74             | 9.5  | 11.1   |
| 75+               | 8.4  | 9.9  |

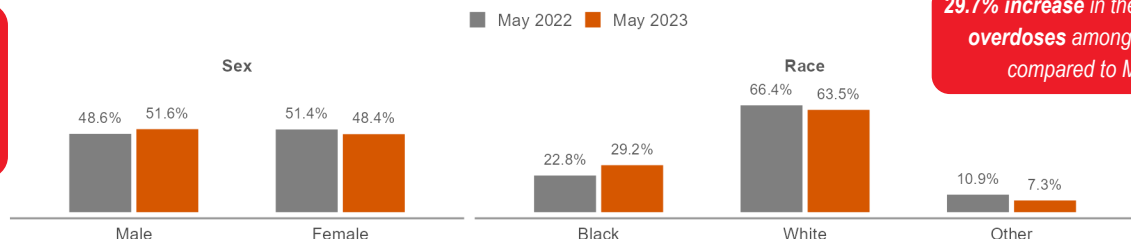
Drug\* overdose ED visits in May 2023 were predominantly: Male (59%), White (59.2%), and between 25-34 years of age (24.8%).

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



18% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among patients aged 75+ when compared to May 2022.

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



10% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among males when compared to May 2022.

29.7% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among Blacks when compared to May 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>1</sup>Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

<sup>2</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2021 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.

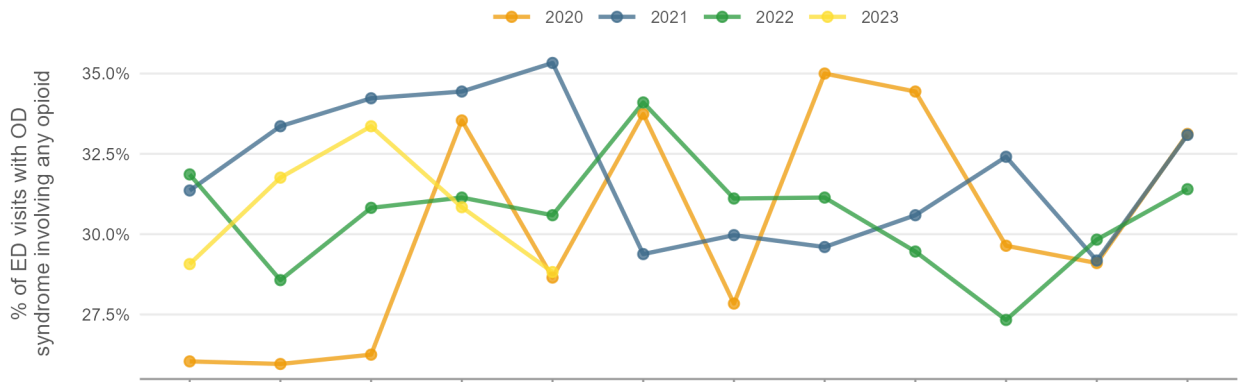
\*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

Note: All data excludes patients ≤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.

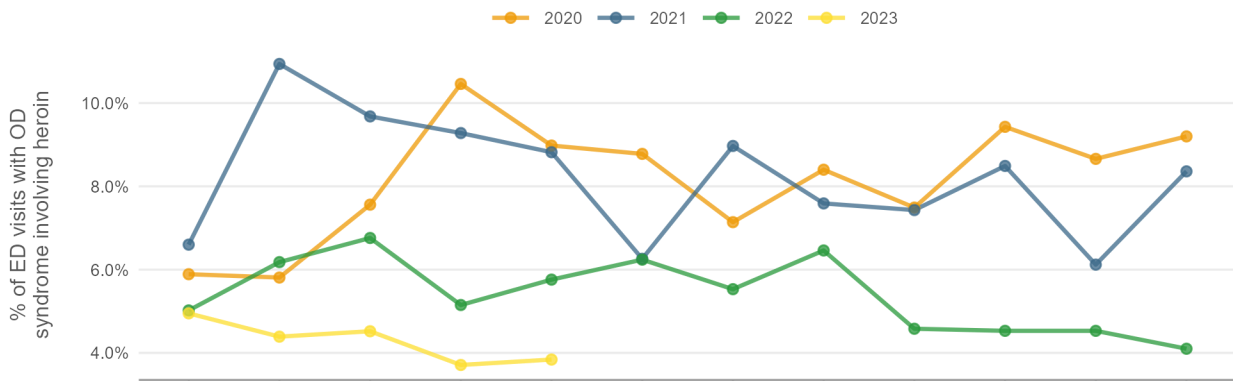
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, May 2023

## 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 OD ED visits     | 26.04% | 25.96%  | 26.25% | 33.54% | 28.65%  | 33.74%  | 27.84% | 35.00%  | 34.44%  | 29.64%  | 29.10% | 33.12% | 30.28%  |
| 2021 % of OD ED visits     | 31.36% | 33.36%  | 34.23% | 34.44% | 35.33%  | 29.38%  | 29.97% | 29.60%  | 30.59%  | 32.41%  | 29.18% | 33.09% | 31.91%  |
| % change from 2020 to 2021 | 20.43% | 28.51%  | 30.40% | 2.68%  | 23.32%  | -12.92% | 7.65%  | -15.43% | -11.18% | 9.35%   | 0.27%  | -0.09% | 6.92%   |
| 2022 % of OD ED visits     | 31.86% | 28.57%  | 30.82% | 31.14% | 30.59%  | 34.10%  | 31.11% | 31.14%  | 29.46%  | 27.33%  | 29.83% | 31.40% | 30.61%  |
| % change from 2021 to 2022 | 1.59%  | -14.36% | -9.96% | -9.58% | -13.42% | 16.07%  | 3.80%  | 5.20%   | -3.69%  | -15.67% | 2.23%  | -5.11% | -3.58%  |
| 2023 % of OD ED visits     | 29.07% | 31.76%  | 33.36% | 30.84% | 28.82%  |         |        |         |         |         |        |        | 30.77%  |
| % change from 2022 to 2023 | -8.76% | 11.17%  | 8.24%  | -0.96% | -5.79%  |         |        |         |         |         |        |        | 0.78%   |

## 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%   | 3.71%   | 3.84%   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | 4.28%   |
| % change from 2022 to 2023 | -1.39%  | -28.96% | -33.14% | -27.96% | -33.33% |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | -24.96% |

### Link(s) of interest:

[CDC MMWR, Rapid Analysis of Drugs: A Pilot Surveillance System To Detect Changes in the Illicit Drug Supply To Guide Timely Harm Reduction Responses – Eight Syringe Services Programs, Maryland, November 2021 – August 2022](#)

[Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports, Associations between prescription stimulant use as prescribed, nonmedical use, and illicit stimulant use among adults evaluated for substance use treatment, 2017-2021](#)

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.

^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.

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.