

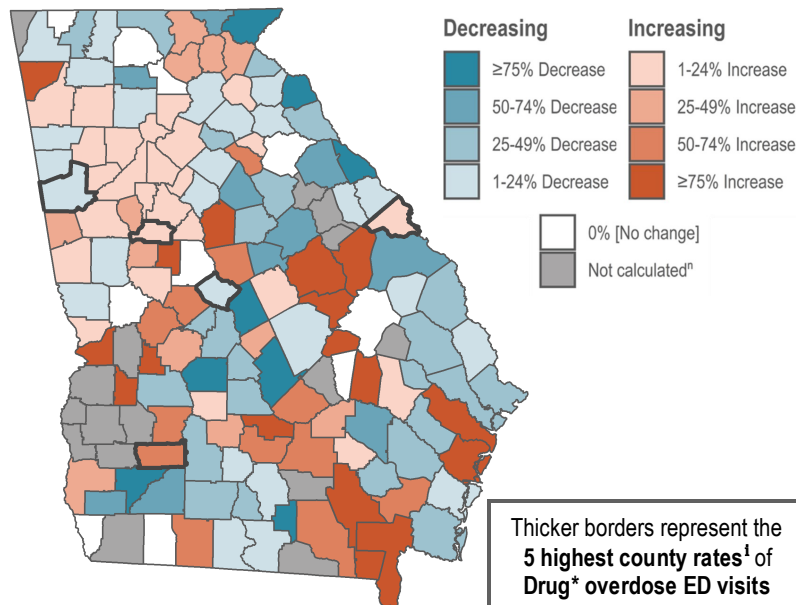
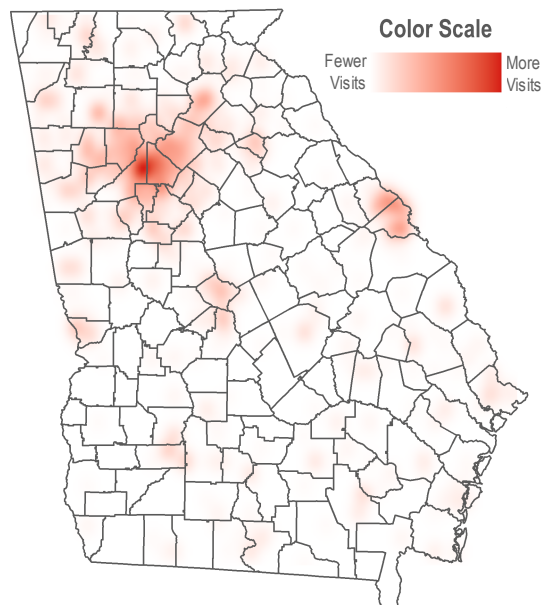
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, September 2022

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[^], Georgia, September 2022

Percent Changeⁿ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Apr 2022 - Jun 2022 to Jul 2022 - Sep 2022

(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



Top 5 Counties[^] with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During September 2022

County	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Sep 2022	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Oct 2021 - Sep 2022
Richmond	36.6	
Spalding	32.9	
Carroll	31.6	
Dougherty	29.4	
Bibb	27.1	

Thicker borders represent the **5 highest county rates¹** of Drug* overdose ED visits per 100,000 population in **September 2022** (see table below)

Statewide, 1,373 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in September 2022, compared to 1,341 in September 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.

ⁱRate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2020 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.

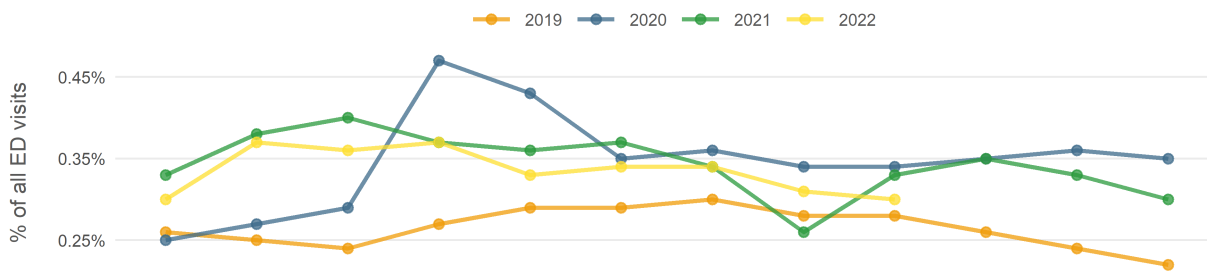
Note: All data excludes patients ≤14 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

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Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, September 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%	0.30%				0.34%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-9.09%	-2.63%	-10.00%	0.00%	-8.33%	-8.11%	0.00%	19.23%	-9.09%				-3.11%

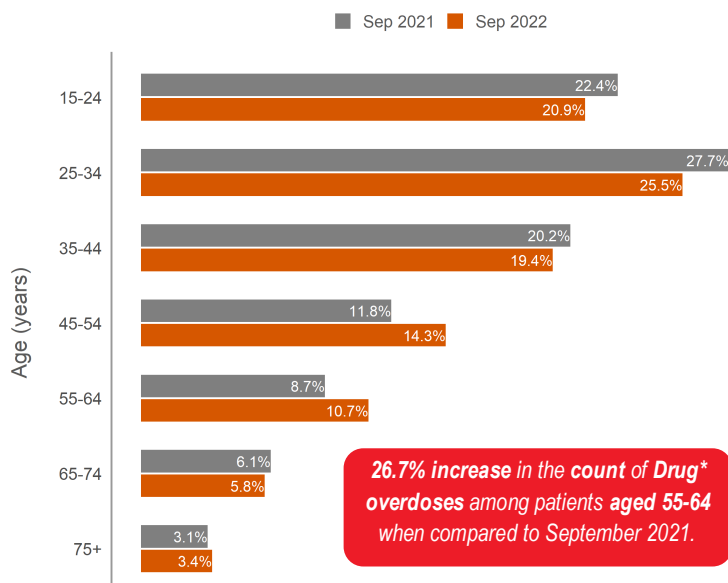
Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, September 2021 and September 2022

Rate¹ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits

	Sep 2021 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)	Sep 2022 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)
Overall	15.4	15.7
Sex		
Female	14.3	14.2
Male	16.4	17.4
Race		
Black	8.9	12.6
White	16.3	16.0
Other	25.5	16.3
Age Group (years)		
15-24	20.3	19.4
25-34	24.8	23.4
35-44	19.0	18.6
45-54	11.3	14.1
55-64	8.6	10.9
65-74	8.3	8.1
75+	7.0	7.7

Drug* overdose ED visits in September 2022 were predominantly: **Male (53.3%) White (61.6%), and between 25-34 years of age (25.5%).**

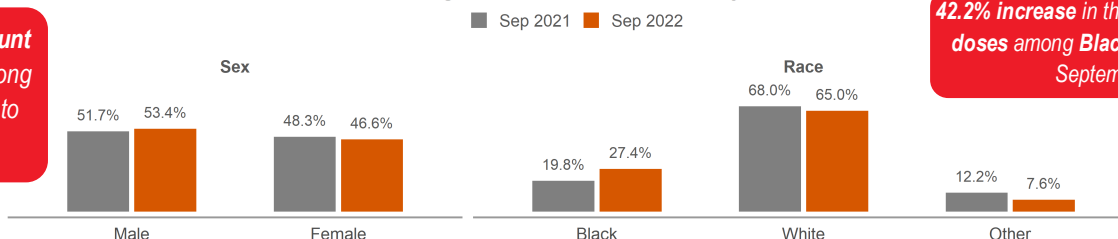
Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group



26.7% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among patients aged 55-64 when compared to September 2021.

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

5.6% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among males when compared to September 2021.



42.2% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among Blacks when compared to September 2021.

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

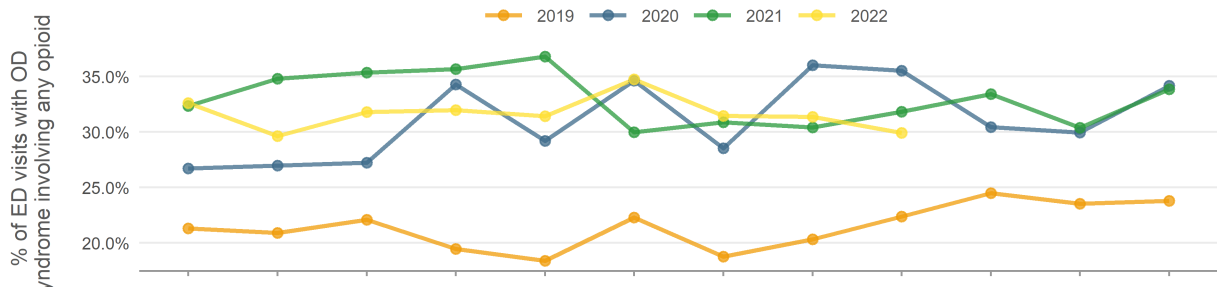
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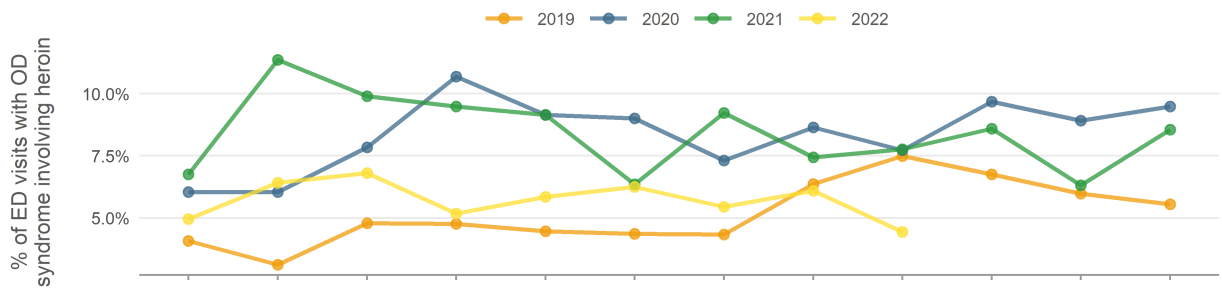
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, September 2022

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%	31.35%	29.93%				31.66%
% change from 2021 to 2022	0.77%	-14.80%	-10.02%	-10.40%	-14.62%	15.92%	1.91%	3.13%	-6.00%				-3.79%

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%	4.44%				5.72%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-26.63%	-43.49%	-31.21%	-45.36%	-36.07%	-1.57%	-40.95%	-18.01%	-42.78%				-31.79%

Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, Adolescent Opioid Surveillance Report, 2019 - 2021](#)

[CDC Clinical Practice Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Pain – United States, 2022](#)

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