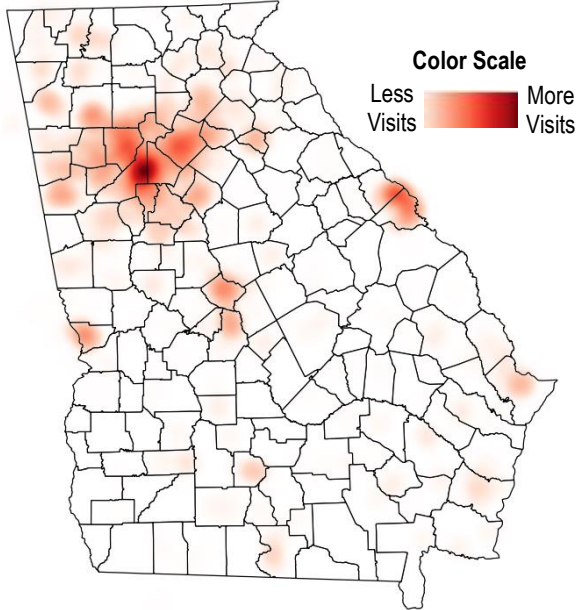


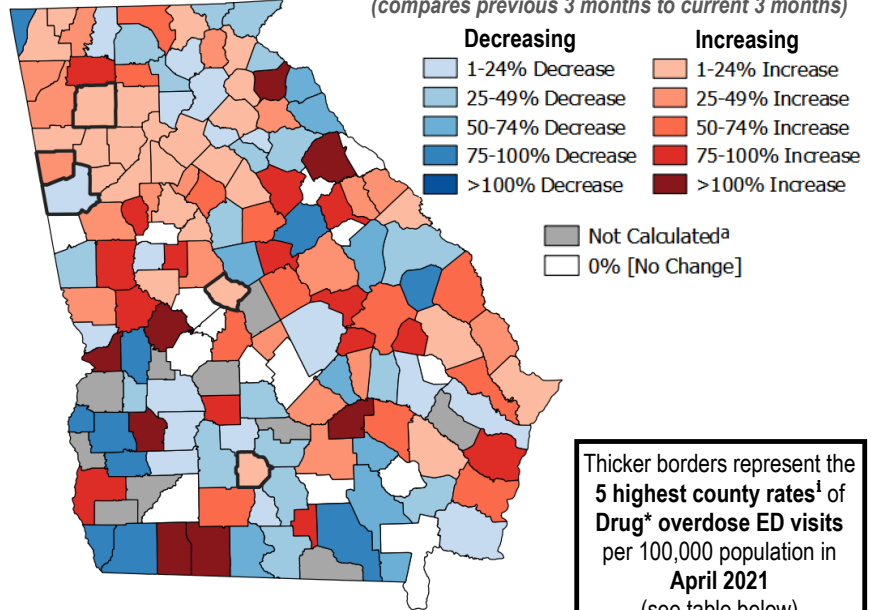
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, April 2021

**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, April 2021**



**Percent Change<sup>a</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Nov 2020 - Jan 2021 to Feb 2021 - Apr 2021**  
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



Thicker borders represent the **5 highest county rates<sup>1</sup>** of Drug\* overdose ED visits per 100,000 population in April 2021 (see table below)

**Top 5 Counties<sup>^</sup> with 15 or More Drug\* Overdose ED Visits During April 2021**

County	Monthly Rate <sup>1</sup> per 100,000 Population	
	April 2021	May 2020 - April 2021
HARALSON	71.1	
TIFT	46.5	
CARROLL	43.4	
BIBB	37.7	
BARTOW	33.5	

**Statewide, 1,466 ED visits for Drug\* overdoses occurred in April 2021, compared to 1,085 in April 2020**

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>1</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2019 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

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

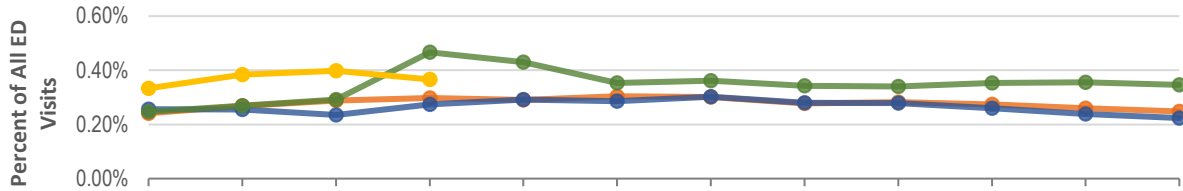
<sup>‡</sup>Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

*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, April 2021

## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2018-2021



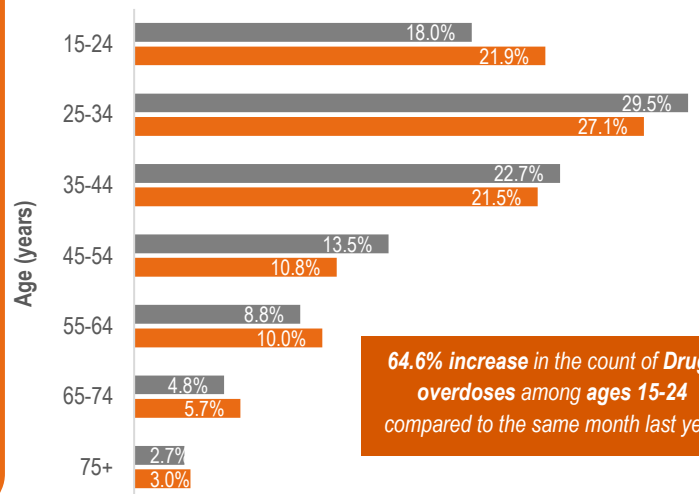
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2018 % of Total ED Visits	0.24%	0.27%	0.29%	0.30%	0.29%	0.30%	0.30%	0.28%	0.28%	0.27%	0.26%	0.25%	3.33%
2019 % of Total ED Visits	0.26%	0.25%	0.24%	0.27%	0.29%	0.29%	0.30%	0.28%	0.28%	0.26%	0.24%	0.22%	3.18%
2018 to 2019 % Change	8.33%	-7.41%	-17.24%	-10.00%	0.00%	-3.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-3.70%	-7.69%	-12.00%	-4.42%
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%	4.16%
2019 to 2020 % Change	-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%									1.48%
2020 to 2021 % Change	32.00%	40.74%	37.93%	-21.28%									22.35%

## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, April 2020 and April 2021

	Apr 2020 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 Population)	Apr 2021 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 Population)
<b>Overall</b>	12.7	17.2
<b>Sex<sup>o</sup></b>		
Male	15.0	19.9
Female	10.6	16.3
<b>Race<sup>o</sup></b>		
White	14.1	20.3
Black	7.8	10.0
Other	12.6	21.8
<b>Age Group<sup>o</sup> (years)</b>		
15-24	13.5	22.1
25-34	21.4	26.7
35-44	17.8	22.8
45-54	10.5	11.3
55-64	7.3	11.2
65-74	5.6	9.0
75+	4.9	7.4

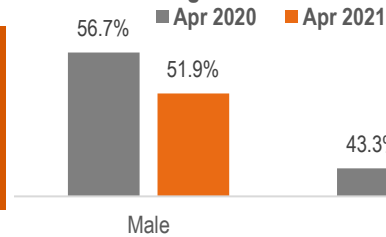
**Drug\* overdose ED visits in April 2021 were predominantly: Male (51.9%), White (69.9%), and between 25-34 years of age (27.1%).**

### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group<sup>o</sup>



**64.6% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among ages 15-24 compared to the same month last year**

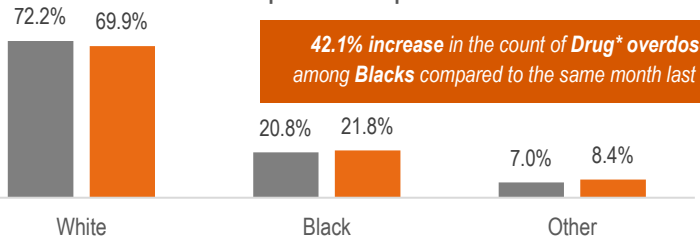
### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex<sup>o</sup>



**49.9% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among females compared to the same month last**

### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Race<sup>o</sup>

■ Apr 2020 ■ Apr 2021



**42.1% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among Blacks compared to the same month last year**

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

<sup>i</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2019 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

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

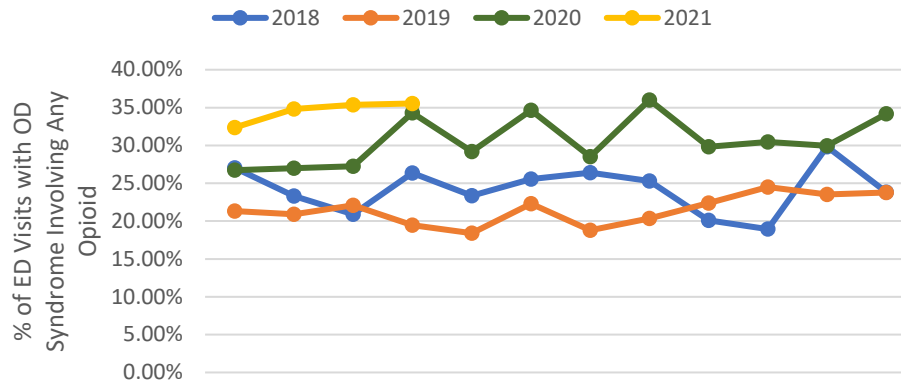
<sup>o</sup>Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

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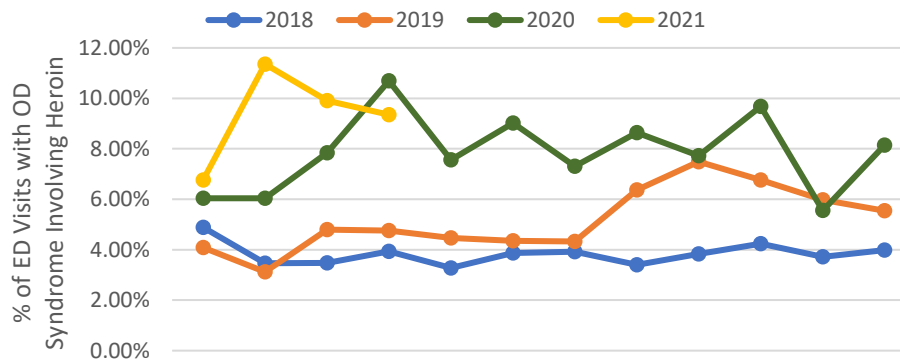
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, April 2021

## Opioid-Involved<sup>‡</sup> OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2018-2021



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2018	27.04%	23.31%	20.91%	26.36%	23.36%	25.56%	26.40%	25.30%	20.10%	18.94%	29.83%	23.83%	24.24%
2019	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%
% Change from 2018 to 2019	-21%	-10%	6%	-26%	-21%	-13%	-29%	-20%	11%	29%	-21%	0%	-10%
2020	26.72%	26.98%	27.22%	34.29%	29.20%	34.63%	28.53%	36.00%	29.84%	30.44%	29.95%	34.16%	30.66%
% Change from 2019 to 2020	25%	29%	23%	76%	59%	55%	52%	77%	33%	24%	27%	44%	44%
2021	32.36%	34.79%	35.34%	35.54%									34.51%
% Change from 2020 to 2021	21%	29%	30%	4%									21%

## Heroin-Involved<sup>‡</sup> OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2018-2021



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2018	4.89%	3.47%	3.47%	3.93%	3.28%	3.87%	3.93%	3.40%	3.83%	4.24%	3.72%	3.99%	3.83%
2019	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%
% Change from 2018 to 2019	-16%	-10%	38%	21%	36%	12%	10%	87%	95%	60%	61%	39%	36%
2020	6.04%	6.04%	7.84%	10.69%	7.56%	9.01%	7.31%	8.64%	7.72%	9.68%	5.55%	8.15%	7.85%
% Change from 2019 to 2020	48%	94%	64%	125%	69%	107%	69%	36%	3%	43%	-7%	47%	58%
2021	6.76%	11.36%	9.90%	9.35%									9.34%
% Change from 2020 to 2021	12%	88%	26%	-13%									28%

### Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, Updated Suspect Drug Overdose Increases in Georgia Amid COVID-19 – April 2021](#)

[Georgia Department of Public Health, 2020 Quarterly Drug Surveillance Reports, Quarter 1 - Quarter 4](#)

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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