**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, February 2021**

**Percent Change* of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Sep - Nov 2020 to Dec 2020 - Feb 2021**

(Compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

Top 5 Counties^ with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During February 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Monthly Rate^ per 100,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLK</td>
<td>56.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBB</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLOYD</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHMOND</td>
<td>29.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARROLL</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statewide, 1,259 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in February 2021, compared to 1,175 in February 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.

^Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

^Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2019 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 ≤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.
Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2018-2021

9.7% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among males compared to the same month last year

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex*

Male | Feb 2020 | Feb 2021
--- | --- | ---
50.5% | 50.6% | 49.5%
49.4% | 49.5% | 50.6%

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Race*

White | Feb 2020 | Feb 2021
--- | --- | ---
71.2% | 71.5% | 71.2%

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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#Drugs may include any over the counter, prescription, or illicit drug.

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03/11/2021

https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-surveillance-unit
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, January 2021

**Opioid-Involved**† OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2018-2021

**Heroin-Involved OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2018-2021**

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.

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