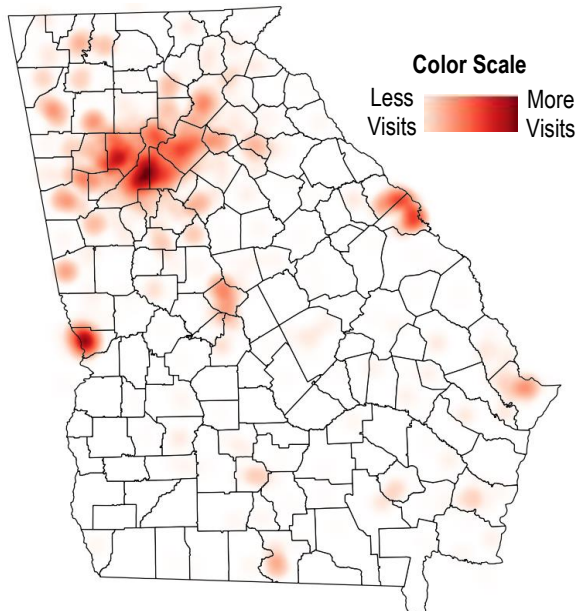


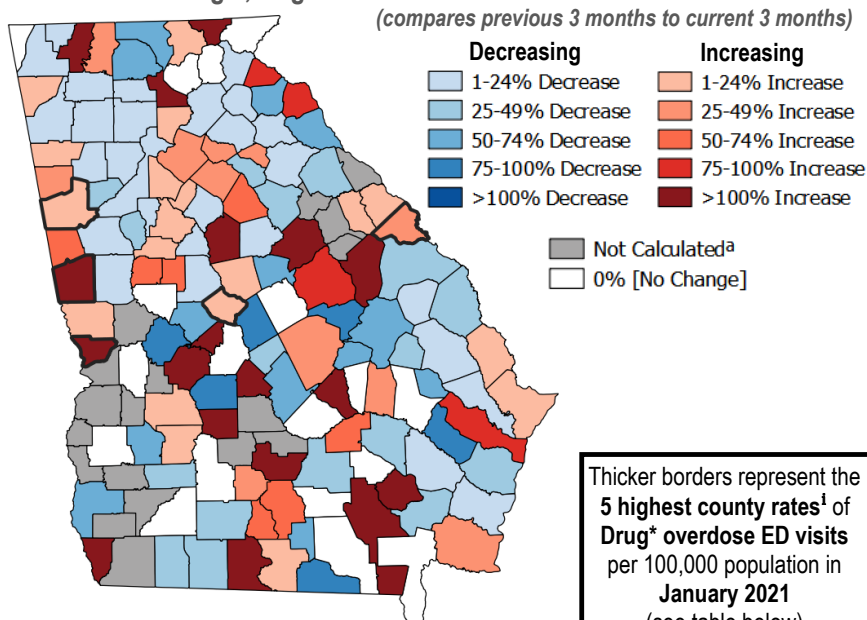
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, January 2021

**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).

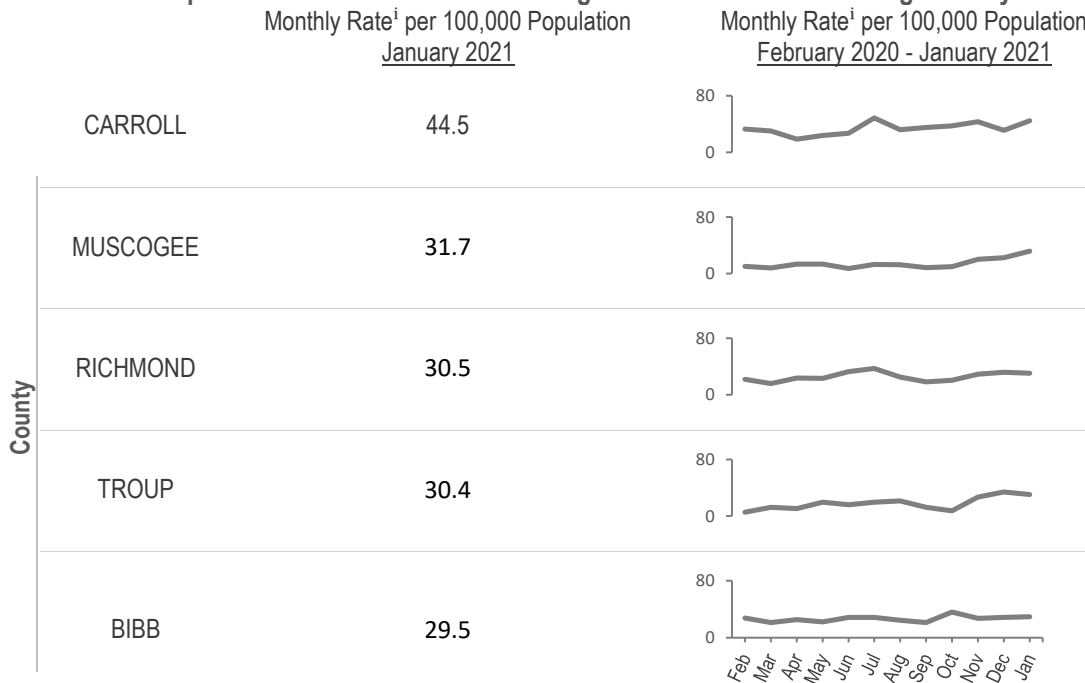
**Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code<sup>^</sup>, Georgia, January 2021**



**Percent Change<sup>a</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Aug - Oct 2020 to Nov 2020 - Jan 2021**



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



**Statewide, 1,301 ED visits for Drug\* overdoses occurred in January 2021, compared to 1,175 in January 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>i</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.

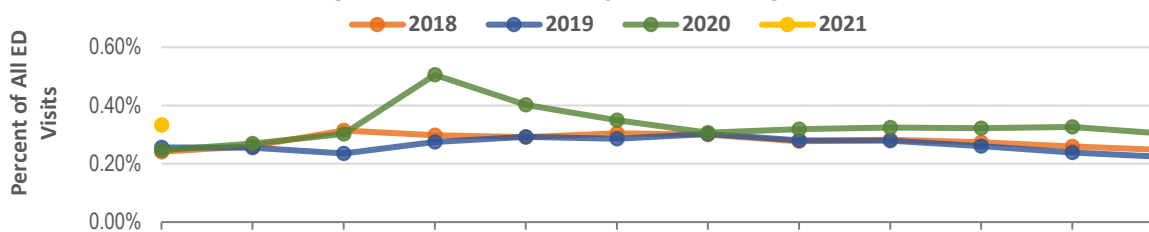
<sup>‡</sup>Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

*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, January 2021

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



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2018 % of Total ED Visits	0.24%	0.26%	0.31%	0.30%	0.29%	0.30%	0.30%	0.28%	0.28%	0.27%	0.26%	0.25%	3.34%
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%	-3.85%	-22.58%	-10.00%	0.00%	-3.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-3.70%	-7.69%	-12.00%	-4.57%
2020 % of Total ED Visits	0.25%	0.27%	0.30%	0.51%	0.40%	0.35%	0.31%	0.32%	0.32%	0.32%	0.33%	0.30%	3.98%
2019 to 2020 % Change	-3.85%	8.00%	25.00%	88.89%	37.93%	20.69%	3.33%	14.29%	14.29%	23.08%	37.50%	36.36%	25.46%
2021 % of Total ED Visits	0.33%												0.33%
2020 to 2021 % Change	32.00%												32.00%

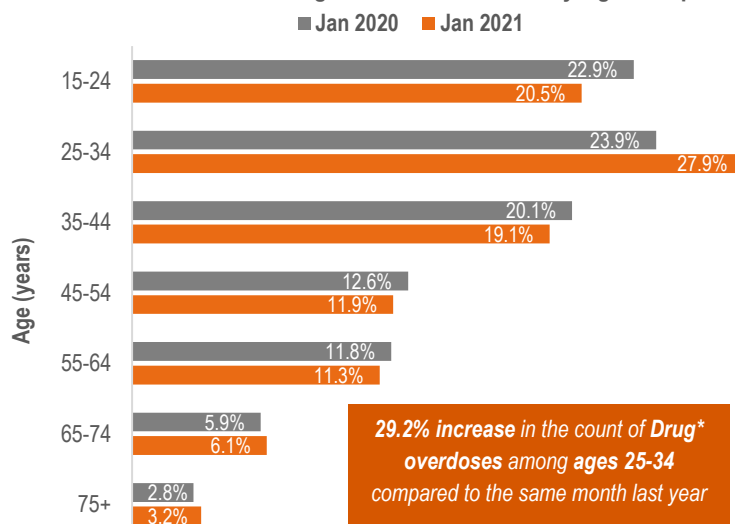
## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, January 2020 and January 2021

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

	Jan 2020 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 Population)	Jan 2021 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 Population)
<b>Overall</b>	13.7	15.2
<b>Sex<sup>o</sup></b>		
Male	13.7	16.3
Female	13.8	14.2
<b>Race<sup>o</sup></b>		
White	14.8	16.8
Black	8.7	8.8
Other	16.5	18.1
<b>Age Group<sup>o</sup> (years)</b>		
15-24	18.6	18.4
25-34	18.8	24.3
35-44	17.1	18.0
45-54	10.6	11.1
55-64	10.6	11.2
65-74	7.5	8.6
75+	5.6	6.9

**Drug\* overdose ED visits in January 2021 were predominantly: Male (51.6%), White (72.0%), and between 25-34 years of age (27.9%).**

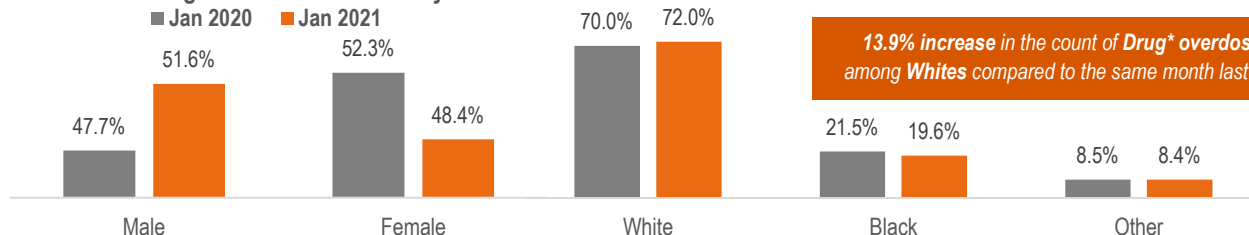
### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group<sup>o</sup>



**29.2% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among ages 25-34 compared to the same month last year**

**19.6% 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<sup>o</sup>



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

**13.9% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among Whites 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.

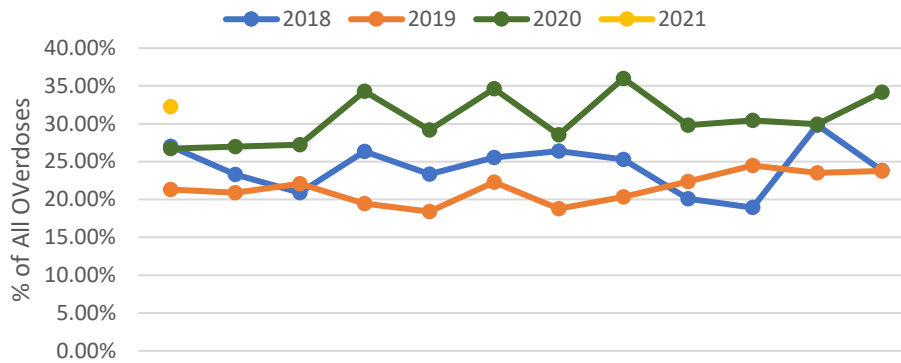
#Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

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, December 2020

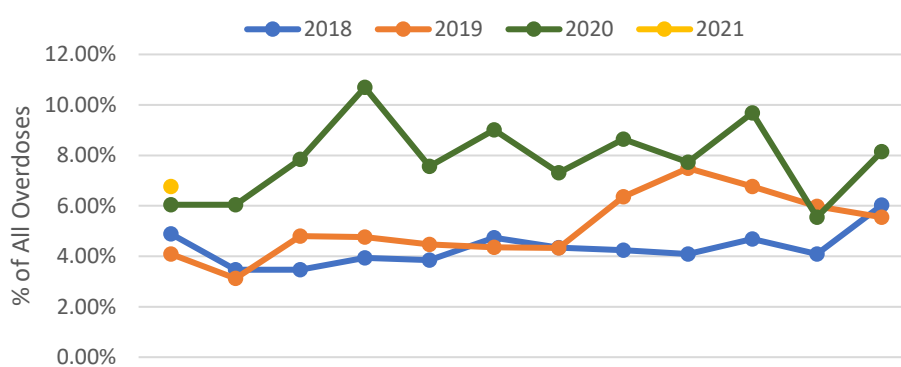
### Opioid-Involved<sup>‡</sup> OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2018-2021



### % of Opioid-involved Overdose ED Visits

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>2018</b>	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%
<b>2019</b>	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%
<b>% Change from 2018 to 2019</b>	-21%	-10%	6%	-26%	-21%	-13%	-29%	-20%	11%	29%	-21%	0%	-10%
<b>2020</b>	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%
<b>% Change from 2019 to 2020</b>	25%	29%	23%	76%	59%	55%	52%	77%	33%	24%	27%	44%	44%
<b>2021</b>	32.28%												32.28%
<b>% Change from 2020 to 2021</b>	21%												21%

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



### % of Heroin-Involved Overdose ED Visits

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
<b>2018</b>	4.89%	3.47%	3.47%	3.93%	3.85%	4.73%	4.34%	4.24%	4.09%	4.69%	4.09%	6.02%	4.32%
<b>2019</b>	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%
<b>% Change from 2018 to 2019</b>	-16%	-10%	38%	21%	16%	-8%	0%	50%	83%	44%	46%	-8%	21%
<b>2020</b>	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%
<b>% Change from 2019 to 2020</b>	48%	94%	64%	125%	69%	107%	69%	36%	3%	43%	-7%	47%	58%
<b>2021</b>	6.76%												6.76%
<b>% Change from 2020 to 2021</b>	12%												12%

#### Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Monthly Reports, March - June 2020](#)

[CDC MMWR, Trends and Geographic Patterns in Drug and Synthetic Opioid Overdose Deaths - United States 2013 - 2019](#)

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

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