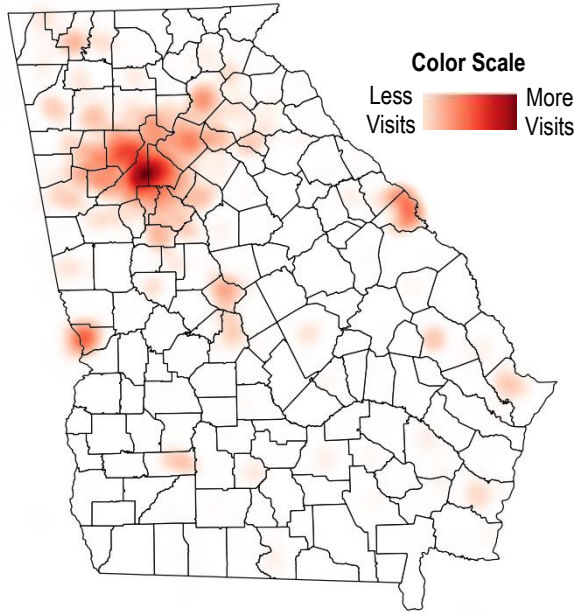


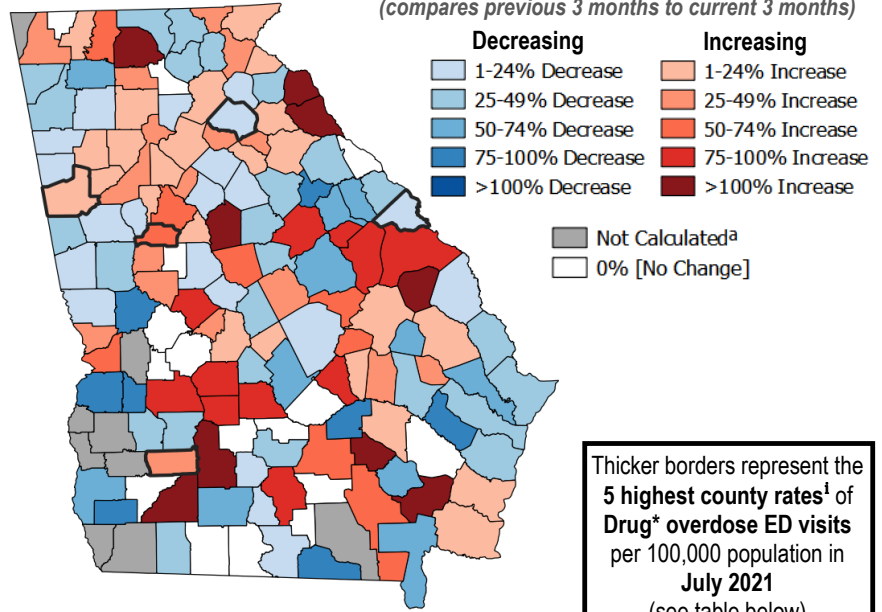
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, July 2021

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[^], Georgia, July 2021



Percent Change^a of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Feb 2021 - Apr 2021 to May 2021 - Jul 2021
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



Thicker borders represent the **5 highest county rates¹** of Drug* overdose ED visits per 100,000 population in **July 2021** (see table below)

Top 5 Counties[^] with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During July 2021

County	Monthly Rate ¹ per 100,000 Population	
	July 2021	Aug 2020 - July 2021
CARROLL	44.5	
SPALDING	35.4	
RICHMOND	35.4	
JACKSON	34.6	
DOUGHERTY	31.2	

Statewide, 1,484 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in July 2021, compared to 1,381 in July 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.

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

^aPercent 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.

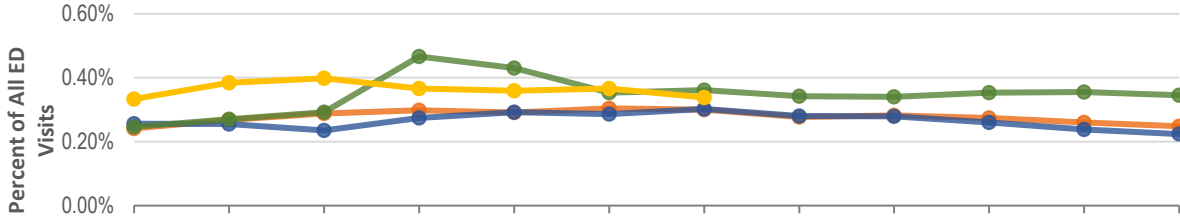
Note: All data excludes patients ≤14 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

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, July 2021

Note: Proportion of ED visits may appear smaller due to increased visits to EDs during COVID-19

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

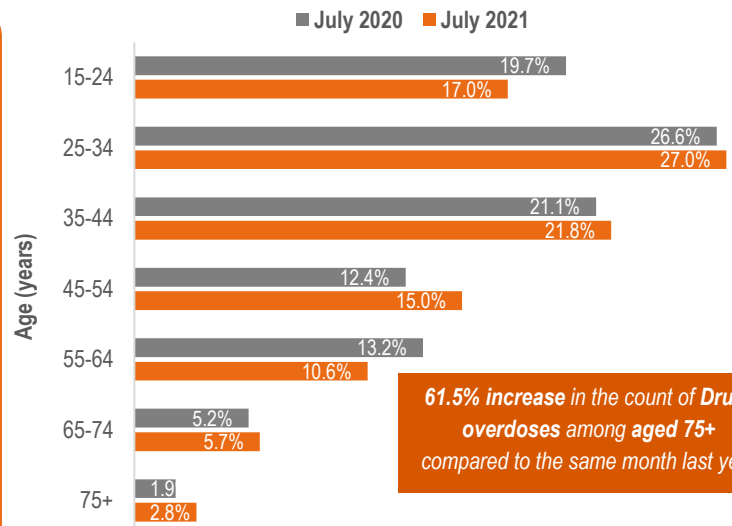


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2018 % of Total ED Visits	0.24%	0.27%	0.29%	0.30%	0.29%	0.30%	0.30%	0.28%	0.28%	0.27%	0.26%	0.25%	0.28%
2019 % of Total ED Visits	0.26%	0.25%	0.24%	0.27%	0.29%	0.29%	0.30%	0.28%	0.28%	0.26%	0.24%	0.22%	0.27%
2018 to 2019 % Change	8.33%	-7.41%	-17.24%	-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%	0.35%
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%	0.36%	0.37%	0.34%						0.36%
2020 to 2021 % Change	32.00%	40.74%	37.93%	-21.28%	-16.28%	5.71%	-5.56%						10.47%

	July 2020 Rate ⁱ (per 100,000 Population)	July 2021 Rate ⁱ (per 100,000 Population)
Overall	16.0	17.2
Sex^o		
Male	16.6	18.9
Female	15.3	15.6
Race^o		
White	17.6	18.7
Black	10.0	10.9
Other	14.5	21.6
Age Group^o (years)		
15-24	18.7	17.4
25-34	24.4	26.6
35-44	20.9	23.2
45-54	12.3	16.0
55-64	13.8	11.9
65-74	7.5	8.9
75+	4.2	6.8

Drug* overdose ED visits in July 2021 were predominantly: Male (52.8%), White (69.7%), and between 25-34 years of age (27.0%).

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group^o

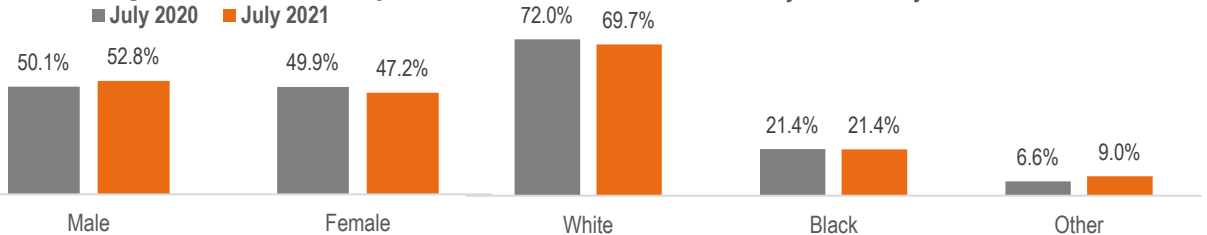


61.5% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among aged 75+ compared to the same month last year

9% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among Blacks compared to the same month last year.

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex^o

13.3% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among Males 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](#).

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ⁱZip 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.

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

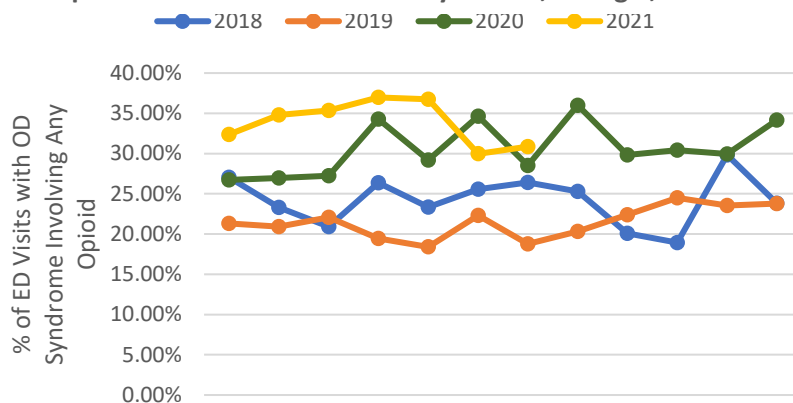
^oDrug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

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Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, July 2021

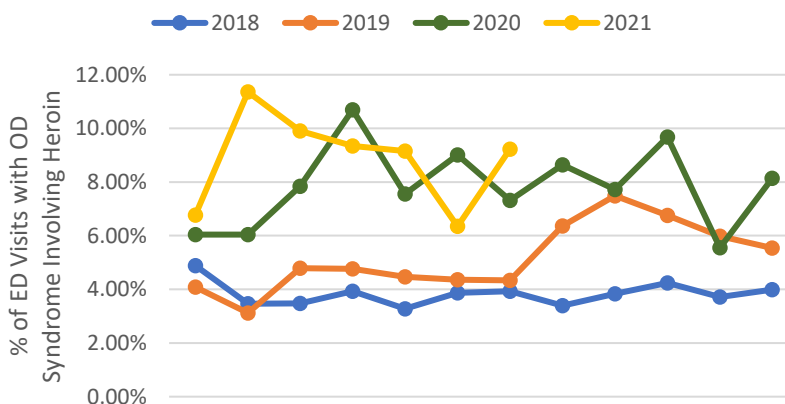
Opioid-Involved[‡] OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2018-2021



% of ED Visits with OD Syndrome Involving Any Opioid

	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%	36.97%	36.72%	29.97%	30.86%						33.86%
% Change from 2020 to 2021	21%	29%	30%	8%	26%	-13%	8%						15%

Heroin-Involved[‡] OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2018-2021



% of ED Visits with OD Syndrome Involving Heroin

	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%	9.15%	6.35%	9.23%						8.87%
% Change from 2020 to 2021	12%	88%	26%	-13%	21%	-30%	26%						19%

Link(s) of interest:

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

[Science Direct, Differences and similarities between emergency department syndromic surveillance and hospital discharge data for nonfatal drug overdose, October 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](#).

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