**Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, March 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, March 2021**

**Percent Change* of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Oct - Dec 2020 to Jan 2021 - Mar 2021**

(Compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

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

- **HABERSHAM**: 43.3
- **BARTOW**: 36.9
- **CARROLL**: 35.2
- **RICHMOND**: 34.8
- **BIBB**: 34.4

**Statewide, 1,545 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in March 2021, compared to 1,135 in March 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](https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-surveillance-unit).

*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

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, March 2020 and March 2021

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group

Drug* overdose ED visits in March 2021 were predominantly: Male (53%), White (72.8%), and between 25-34 years of age (26.9%).

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Race

50.7% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among ages 35-44 compared to the same month last year

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

36.4% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among Whites compared to the same month last year

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04/14/2021 https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-surveillance-unit
Opioid-Involved OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2018-2021

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

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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, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Monthly Reports, April 2020 - February 2021

https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-surveillance-unit

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