**Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, November 2020**

**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, November 2020**

**Top 5 Counties^ with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During November 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Monthly Rate* per 100,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARROLL</td>
<td>43.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JACKSON</td>
<td>31.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>31.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOWNDES</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHMOND</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percent Changeª of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Jun - Aug 2020 to Sep - Nov 2020**

(Compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

**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.

ⁱRate 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.

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.

[https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-surveillance-unit](https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-surveillance-unit)
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, November 2020

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2016-2020

Drug* overdose ED visits in November 2020 were predominantly: Female (53.0%), White (71.8%), and between 25-34 years of age (28.7%).

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Race

26.7% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among females compared to the same month last year

33.3% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among Blacks compared to the same month last year

Link(s) of interest:
Increase in Fatal Drug Overdoses Across the United States Driven by Synthetic Opioids Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Updated Memo to Statewide Partners Regarding Suspected Drug Overdose Increases in Georgia Amid Covid-19

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.

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

3 Cases with unknown sex, race, and age group were excluded from respective analyses.

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.

12/29/20
https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-surveillance-unit