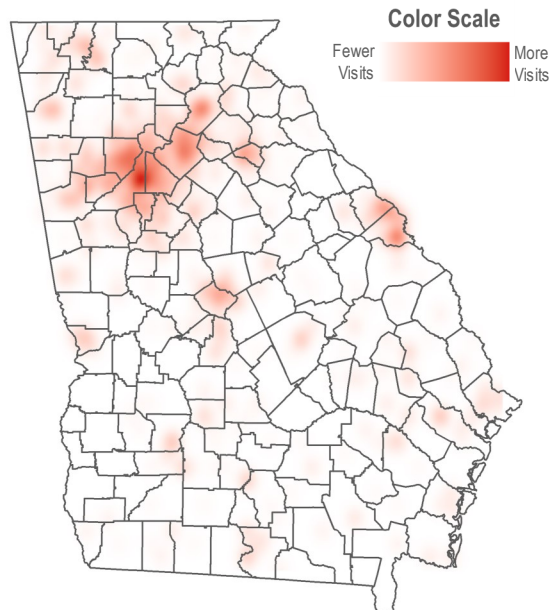


Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, October 2021

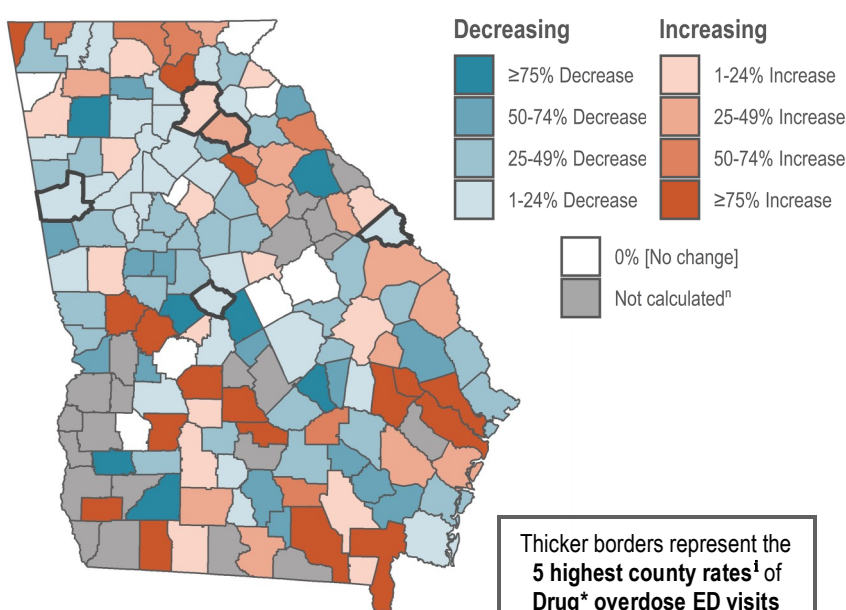
What is Syndromic Surveillance (SS)? SS is used as an early detection method for potential clusters or outbreaks, by tracking suspected drug overdose-involved emergency department (ED) visits based on the patient's chief complaint upon admission and/or discharge diagnosis. Participating Georgia hospitals 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, October 2021



Percent Changeⁿ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, May 2021 - Jul 2021 to Aug 2021 - Oct 2021

(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



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

County	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Oct 2021	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Nov 2020 - Oct 2021
Carroll	42.8	
Bibb	37.7	
Richmond	29.9	
Hall	27.2	
Jackson	24.8	

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

Statewide, 1,482 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in October 2021, compared to 1,375 in October 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.

ⁱRate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2020 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

ⁿPercent 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.

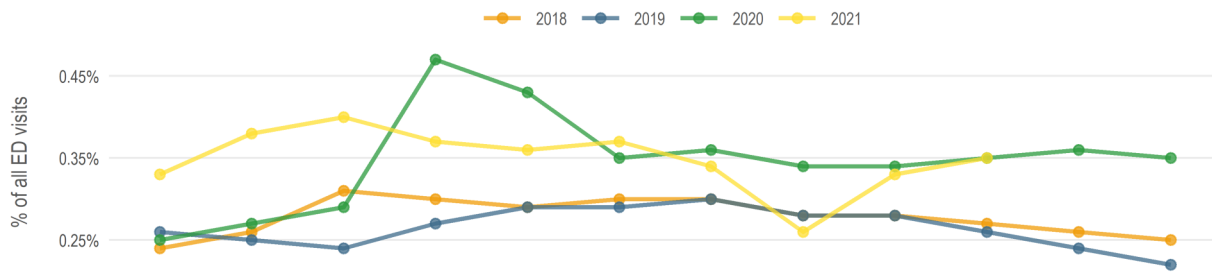
Note: All data excludes patients ≤14 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

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, October 2021

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

Note: Proportion of ED visits may be affected by changes in the number of ED visits during COVID-19



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
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%	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%	0.26%
% change from 2018 to 2019	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%	0.29%	0.47%	0.43%	0.35%	0.36%	0.34%	0.34%	0.35%	0.36%	0.35%	0.35%
% change from 2019 to 2020	-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%	0.26%	0.33%	0.35%			0.35%
% change from 2020 to 2021	32.00%	40.74%	37.93%	-21.28%	-16.28%	5.71%	-5.56%	-23.53%	-2.94%	0.00%			4.68%

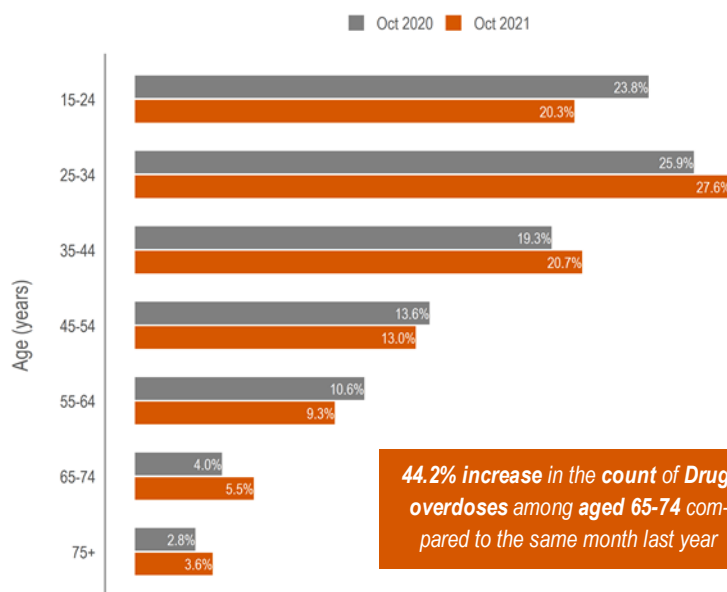
Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, Oct 2020 and Oct 2021

Rate¹ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits

	Oct 2020 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)	Oct 2021 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)
Overall	14.9	15.7
Sex		
Female	14.3	14.3
Male	15.6	17.3
Race		
Black	9.5	10.4
White	15.9	16.8
Other	19.5	20.7
Age Group (years)		
15-24	21.1	19.0
25-34	22.2	25.0
35-44	17.9	20.2
45-54	12.7	12.7
55-64	10.4	9.5
65-74	5.4	7.8
75+	5.8	8.0

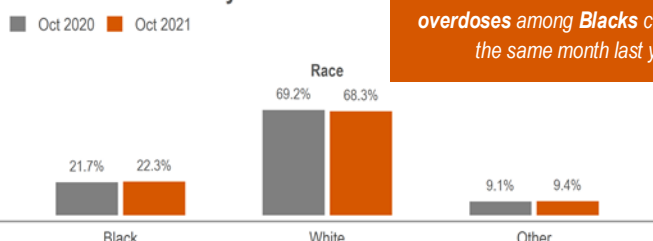
Drug* overdose ED visits in October 2021 were predominantly: Male (52.7%), White (65%), and between 25-34 years of age (27.6%).

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group



44.2% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among aged 65-74 compared to the same month last year

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex and Race



9.9% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among Blacks compared to the same month last year.

11.2% 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](#).

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

¹Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

²Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2020 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

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

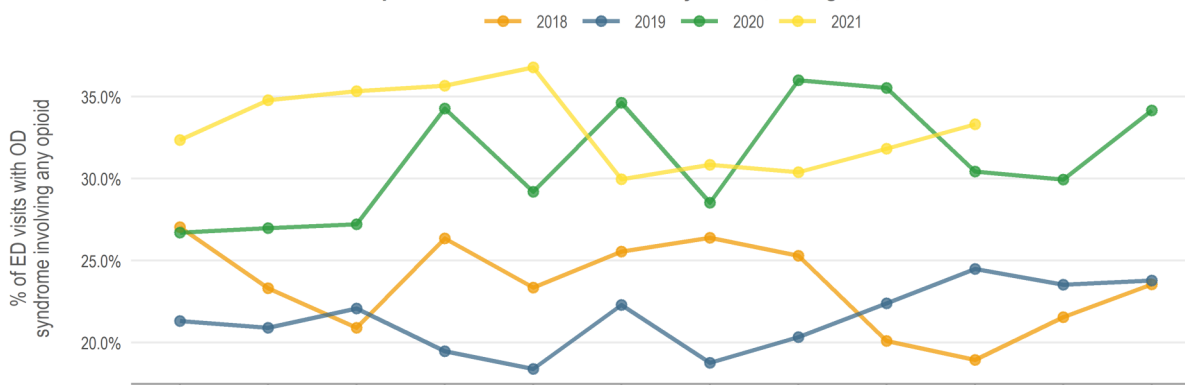
*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

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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.

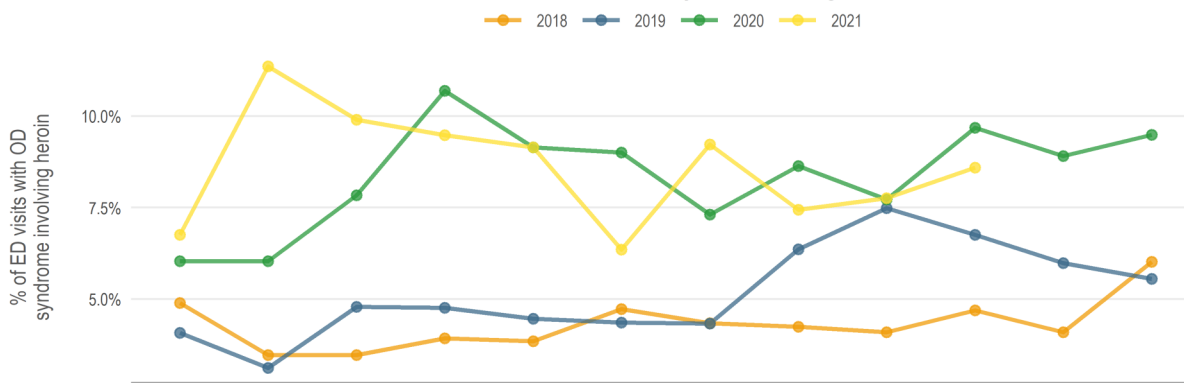
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, October 2021

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



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2018 % of OD ED visits	27.04%	23.31%	20.91%	26.36%	23.36%	25.56%	26.40%	25.30%	20.10%	18.94%	21.56%	23.56%	23.53%
2019 % of OD ED visits	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	-21.15%	-10.30%	5.64%	-26.14%	-21.23%	-12.75%	-28.90%	-19.64%	11.39%	29.36%	9.14%	0.98%	-6.97%
2020 % of OD ED visits	26.72%	26.98%	27.22%	34.29%	29.20%	34.63%	28.53%	36.00%	35.53%	30.44%	29.95%	34.16%	31.14%
% change from 2019 to 2020	25.33%	29.03%	23.22%	76.12%	58.70%	55.29%	52.00%	77.08%	58.69%	24.24%	27.28%	43.59%	45.88%
2021 % of OD ED visits	32.36%	34.79%	35.34%	35.68%	36.79%	29.97%	30.86%	30.40%	31.84%	33.33%			33.14%
% change from 2020 to 2021	21.11%	28.95%	29.83%	4.05%	25.99%	-13.46%	8.17%	-15.56%	-10.39%	9.49%			8.82%

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



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2018 % of OD ED visits	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%
2019 % of OD ED visits	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	-16.56%	-10.09%	38.04%	21.12%	15.84%	-7.82%	-0.23%	50.00%	83.13%	44.14%	46.21%	-7.81%	21.33%
2020 % of OD ED visits	6.04%	6.04%	7.84%	10.69%	9.15%	9.01%	7.31%	8.64%	7.72%	9.68%	8.91%	9.49%	8.38%
% change from 2019 to 2020	48.04%	93.59%	63.67%	124.58%	105.16%	106.65%	68.82%	35.85%	3.07%	43.20%	49.00%	70.99%	67.72%
2021 % of OD ED visits	6.76%	11.36%	9.90%	9.48%	9.15%	6.35%	9.23%	7.44%	7.76%	8.59%			8.60%
% change from 2020 to 2021	11.92%	88.08%	26.28%	-11.32%	0.00%	-29.52%	26.27%	-13.89%	0.52%	-11.26%			8.71%

Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, 2021 Quarterly Drug Overdose Surveillance Reports, Quarter 2](#)

[CDC MMWR, Notes from the Field: Testing for Nonprescribed Fentanyl and Percentage Positive Test Results Among Patients with Opioid Use Disorder— United States, 2019 – 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 2020 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

[‡]Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

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