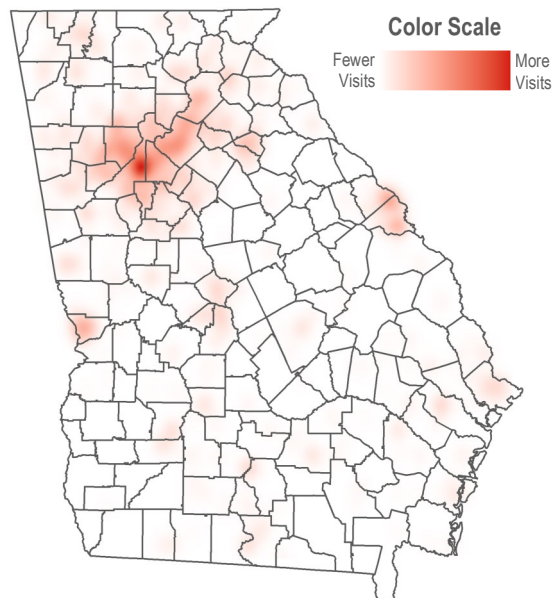


# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, September 2021

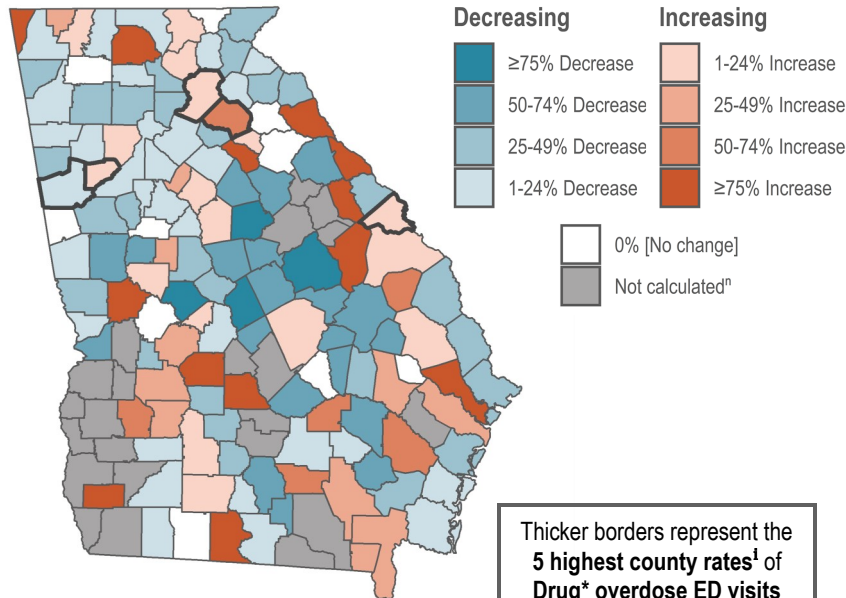
**What is Syndromic Surveillance (SS)?** SS is used as an early detection method for potential clusters or outbreaks, by tracking suspected drug overdose-involved emergency department (ED) visits based on the patient's chief complaint upon admission and/or discharge diagnosis. Participating Georgia hospitals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



## Percent Change<sup>n</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Apr 2021 - Jun 2021 to Jul 2021 - Sep 2021

(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



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

County	Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population Sep 2021	Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population Oct 2020 - Sep 2021
Jackson	36.4	
Carroll	27.5	
Richmond	27.5	
Hall	24.8	
Douglas	24.7	

Thicker borders represent the **5 highest county rates<sup>1</sup> of Drug\* overdose ED visits per 100,000 population in September 2021** (see table below)

**Statewide, 1,341 ED visits for Drug\* overdoses occurred in September 2021, compared to 1,230 in September 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 2020 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

<sup>n</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.

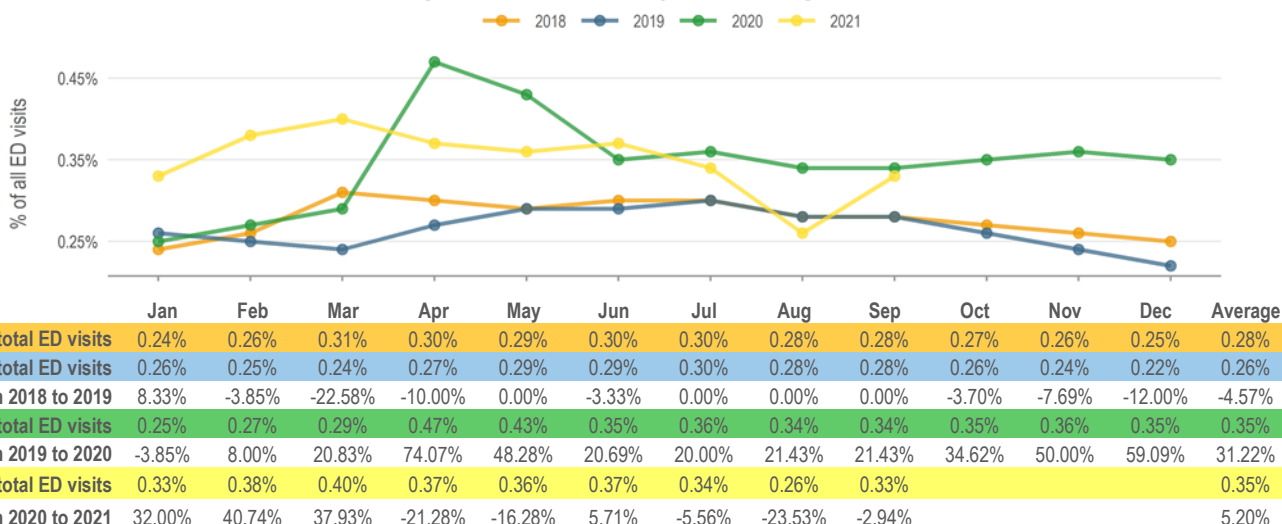
Note: All data excludes patients ≤14 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

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, September 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



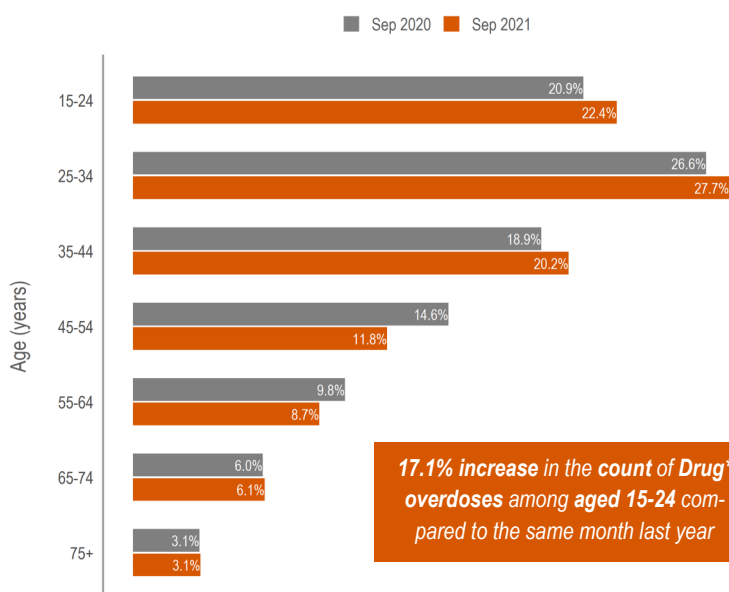
## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, Sep 2020 and Sep 2021

### Rate<sup>1</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits

	Sep 2020 Rate <sup>1</sup> (per 100,000 population)	Sep 2021 Rate <sup>1</sup> (per 100,000 population)
<b>Overall</b>	14.2	15.5
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	15.3	16.7
Female	13.2	14.4
<b>Race</b>		
Black	8.3	9.0
White	15.8	16.4
Other	17.0	26.4
<b>Age Group (years)</b>		
15-24	17.6	20.6
25-34	21.7	24.6
35-44	16.7	19.4
45-54	12.9	11.4
55-64	9.1	8.8
65-74	7.7	8.5
75+	6.2	6.8

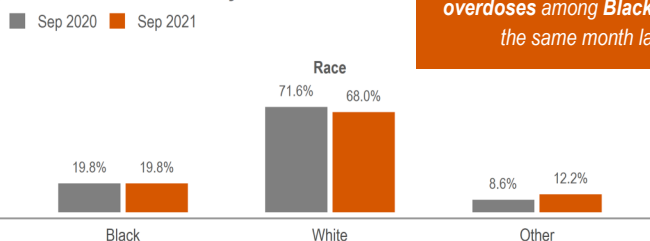
**Drug\* overdose ED visits in September 2021 were predominantly: Male (51.7%), White (68%), and between 25-34 years of age (27.7%).**

### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group



**17.1% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among aged 15-24 compared to the same month last year**

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



**9.1% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among Blacks compared to the same month last year.**

**9.3% 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](#).

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

<sup>1</sup>Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

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

<sup>3</sup>Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

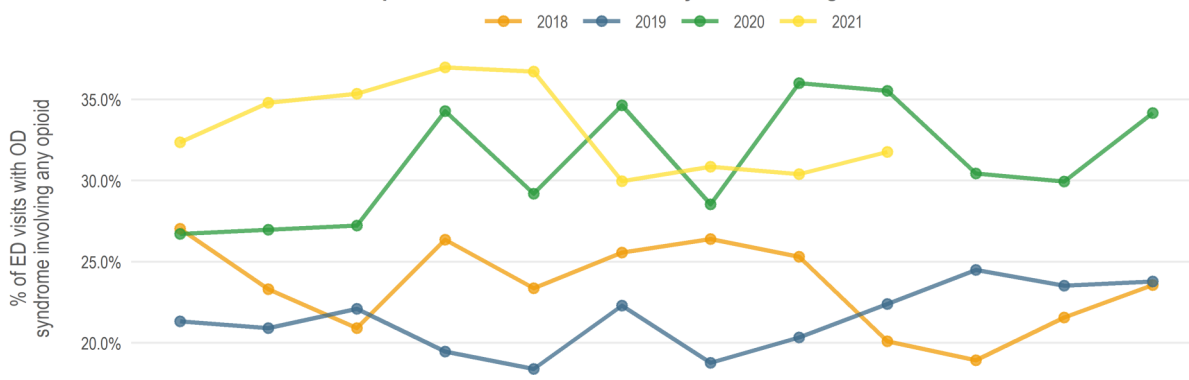
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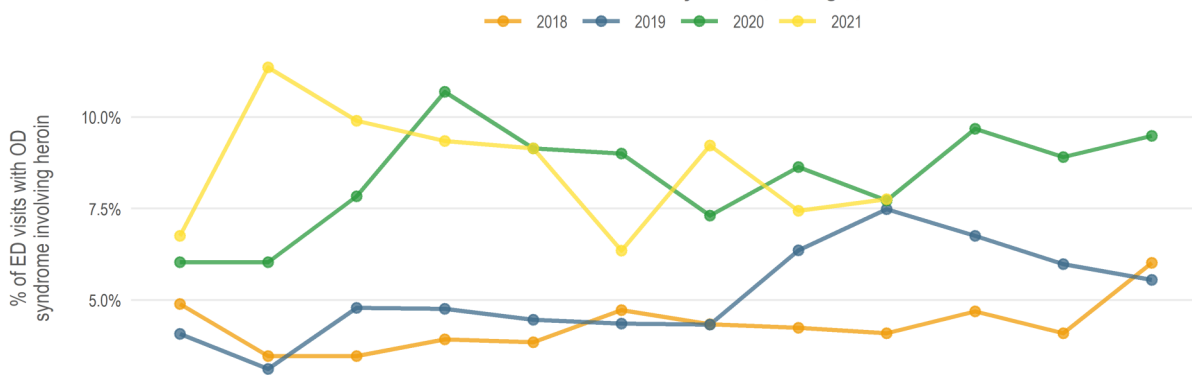
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, September 2021

## 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%	36.97%	36.72%	29.97%	30.86%	30.40%	31.77%				33.24%
% change from 2020 to 2021	21.11%	28.95%	29.83%	7.82%	25.75%	-13.46%	8.17%	-15.56%	-10.58%				9.11%

## 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%	9.35%	9.15%	6.35%	9.23%	7.44%	7.76%				8.59%
% change from 2020 to 2021	11.92%	88.08%	26.28%	-12.54%	0.00%	-29.52%	26.27%	-13.89%	0.52%				10.79%

### Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, 2021 Quarterly Drug Overdose Surveillance Report, Quarter 1](#)

[CDC MMWR, Notes from the Field: Illicit Benzodiazepines Detected in Patients Evaluated in Emergency Departments for Suspected Opioid Overdose — Four States, October 6, 2020–March 9, 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](#).

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

<sup>†</sup>Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

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