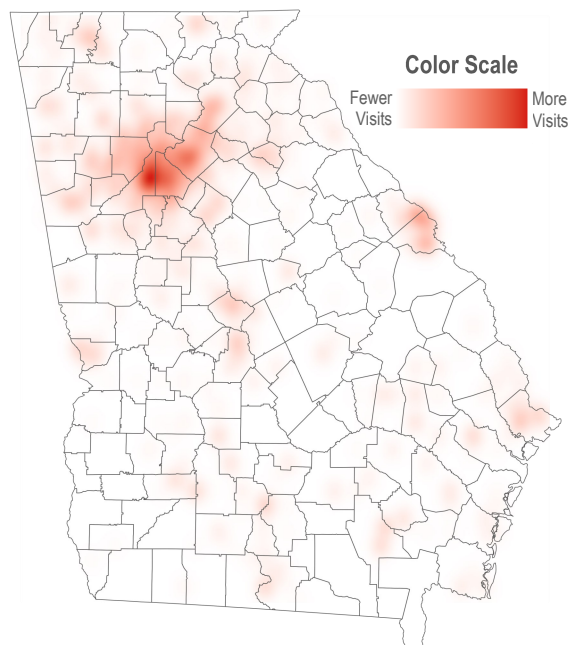


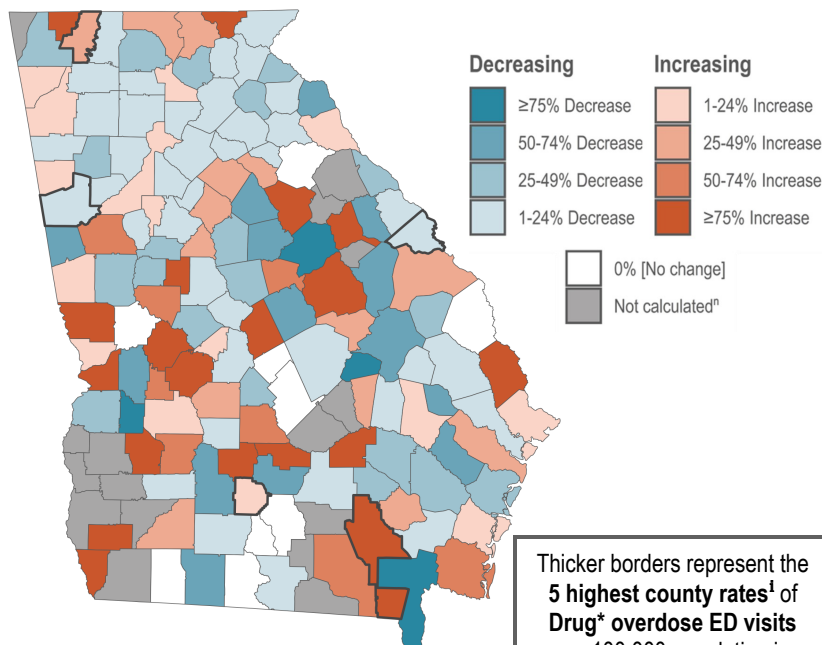
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, October 2023

What is Syndromic Surveillance (SyS)? SyS 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 SyS data within the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS).

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code[^],
Georgia, October 2023



Percent Change^a of Drug* Overdose ED Visits,
Georgia, May 2023 - Jul 2023 to Aug 2023 - Oct 2023
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



Top 5 Counties[^] with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During October 2023

County	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Oct 2023	Monthly Rate ⁱ per 100,000 Population Nov 2022 - Oct 2023
Ware	59.9	
Tift	45.7	
Carroll	33.3	
Richmond	31.9	
Whitfield	26.7	

Thicker borders represent the
**5 highest county ratesⁱ of
Drug* overdose ED visits
per 100,000 population in
October 2023**
(see table below)

**Statewide,
1,593 ED visits for
Drug* overdoses
occurred in
October 2023,
compared to 1,478 in
October 2022.**

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 2022 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.

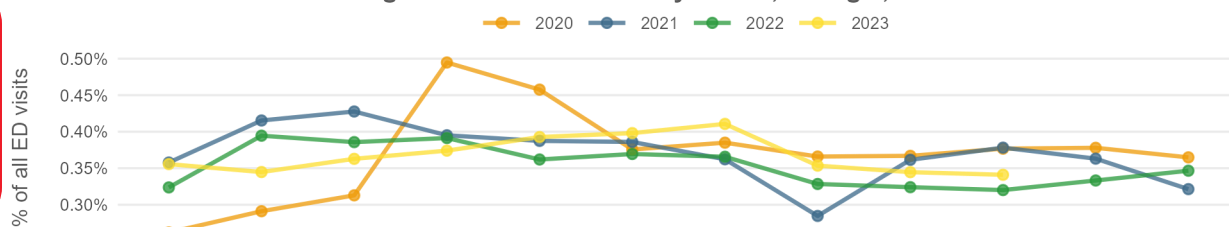
Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

Note: SyS data is not the same as emergency department discharge data; drug overdose SyS data is limited and based on accuracy of chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis and what is reported to DPH SyS. 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 2023

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2020-2023

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
2020 % of total ED visits	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
2021 % of total ED visits	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
% change from 2020 to 2021	36.6%	42.7%	36.7%	-20.1%	-15.3%	2.7%	-5.9%	-22.2%	-1.5%	0.4%	-3.9%	-11.9%	3.2%
2022 % of total ED visits	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-9.5%	-5.0%	-9.8%	-1.0%	-6.6%	-4.3%	1.0%	15.4%	-10.4%	-15.4%	-8.2%	7.9%	-3.8%
2023 % of total ED visits	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%			0.4%
% change from 2022 to 2023	9.9%	-12.6%	-5.9%	-4.4%	8.5%	7.7%	12.3%	7.7%	6.4%	6.5%			3.6%

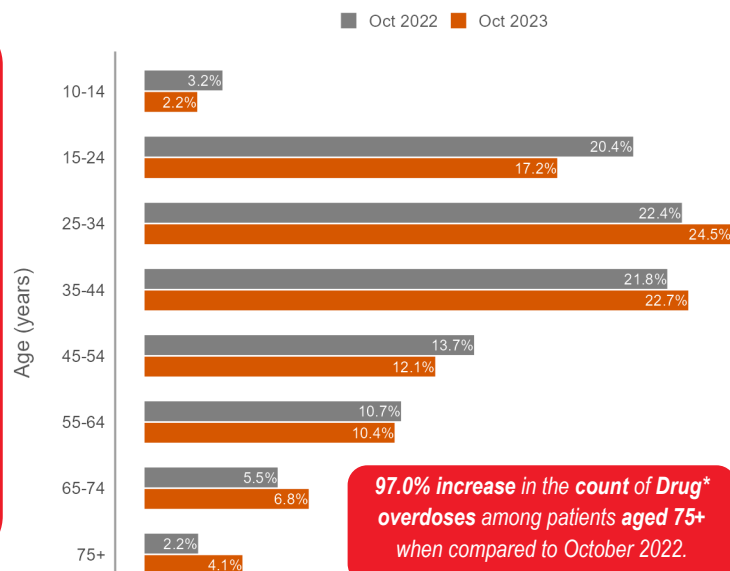
Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, October 2022 and October 2023

Rate¹ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits

	Oct 2022 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)	Oct 2023 Rate ¹ (per 100,000 population)
Overall	16.7	18.0
Sex		
Female	16.3	16.6
Male	17.1	19.5
Race		
Black	12.6	14.3
White	17.4	18.7
Other	16.5	14.0
Age Group (years)		
10-14	6.6	4.8
15-24	38.9	35.4
25-34	21.9	25.8
35-44	22.3	25.0
45-54	14.5	13.8
55-64	11.8	12.4
65-74	8.2	11.0
75+	5.1	10.0

Drug* overdose ED visits in October 2023 were predominantly: **Male (52.4%), White (62.4%), and between 25-34 years of age (24.5%).**

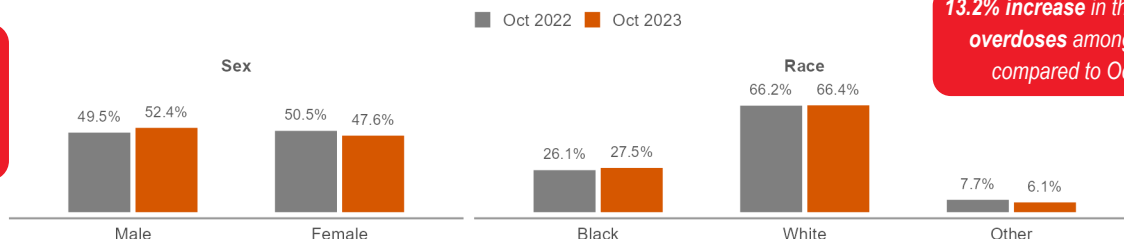
Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group



97.0% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among patients aged 75+ when compared to October 2022.

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

14.2% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among Males when compared to October 2022.



13.2% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among Blacks when compared to October 2022.

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.

¹Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2022 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

¹Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

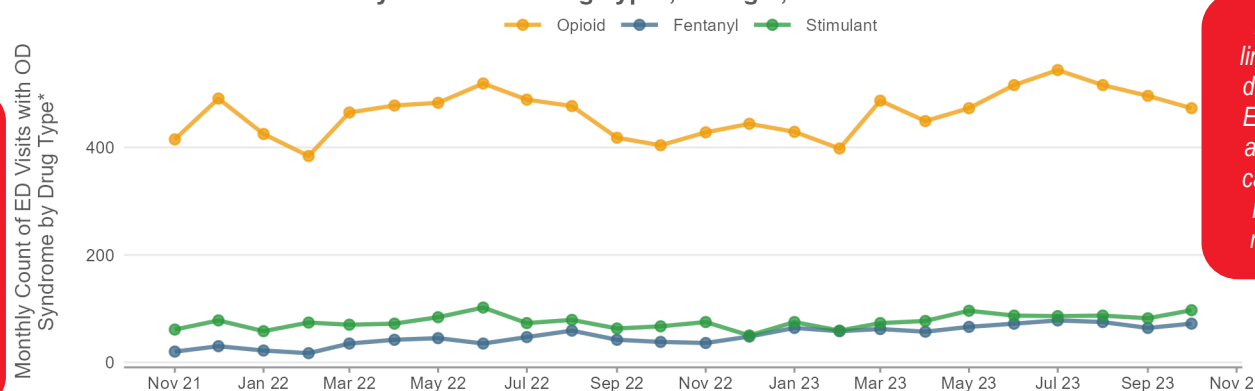
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Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

Note: SyS data is not the same as emergency department discharge data; drug overdose SyS data is limited and based on accuracy of chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis and what is reported to DPH SyS. 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 2023

OD ED Visits by Month and Drug Type*, Georgia, November 2022 - October 2023



89% increase in the count of drug overdose visits mentioning Fentanyl when compared to October 2022.

Note: Due to limitations with drug testing in EDs, Fentanyl and Stimulant categories are likely under-represented.

% of ED Visits with OD Syndrome Involving Any Opioid, Georgia, 2020—2023

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2020 % of OD ED visits	26.0%	26.0%	26.3%	33.5%	28.6%	33.7%	27.8%	35.0%	34.4%	29.6%	29.1%	33.1%	30.3%
2021 % of OD ED visits	31.4%	33.4%	34.2%	34.4%	35.3%	29.4%	30.0%	29.6%	30.6%	32.4%	29.2%	33.1%	31.9%
% change from 2020 to 2021	20.4%	28.5%	30.4%	2.7%	23.3%	-12.9%	7.6%	-15.4%	-11.2%	9.4%	0.3%	-0.1%	6.9%
2022 % of OD ED visits	31.9%	28.6%	30.8%	31.1%	30.6%	34.1%	31.1%	31.1%	29.5%	27.3%	29.8%	31.4%	30.6%
% change from 2021 to 2022	1.6%	-14.4%	-10.0%	-9.6%	-13.4%	16.1%	3.8%	5.2%	-3.7%	-15.7%	2.2%	-5.1%	-3.6%
2023 % of OD ED visits	29.1%	31.8%	33.4%	30.8%	28.8%	32.2%	31.7%	31.4%	31.9%	29.7%			31.1%
% change from 2022 to 2023	-8.8%	11.2%	8.2%	-1.0%	-5.8%	-5.5%	1.9%	1.0%	8.4%	8.6%			1.8%

% of ED Visits with OD Syndrome Involving Fentanyl, Georgia, 2020—2023

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2020 % of OD ED visits	0.3%	0.2%		0.1%		0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	0.5%
2021 % of OD ED visits	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.5%	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%	2.0%	1.2%
% change from 2020 to 2021	123.5%	363.9%		1204.7%		159.7%	214.9%	136.2%	115.4%	244.1%	105.7%	114.6%	278.3%
2022 % of OD ED visits	1.6%	1.3%	2.3%	2.7%	2.8%	2.3%	3.0%	3.9%	3.0%	2.6%	2.5%	3.4%	2.6%
% change from 2021 to 2022	122.5%	66.5%	165.2%	132.6%	144.9%	115.7%	168.7%	164.3%	117.9%	65.1%	78.4%	67.9%	117.5%
2023 % of OD ED visits	4.3%	4.6%	4.2%	3.9%	4.0%	4.5%	4.5%	4.6%	4.1%	4.5%			4.3%
% change from 2022 to 2023	162.9%	266.0%	83.1%	43.1%	41.1%	95.4%	52.0%	18.7%	39.1%	75.8%			87.7%

% of ED Visits with OD Syndrome Involving a Stimulant, Georgia, 2020—2023

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2020 % of OD ED visits	4.7%	4.3%	5.7%	5.0%	5.5%	5.4%	4.2%	5.3%	5.2%	5.6%	4.7%	4.9%	5.0%
2021 % of OD ED visits	5.7%	5.4%	5.2%	5.2%	6.4%	4.5%	4.6%	4.2%	4.9%	4.9%	4.3%	5.3%	5.0%
% change from 2020 to 2021	20.8%	26.7%	-7.8%	3.5%	16.0%	-17.6%	11.4%	-20.7%	-5.2%	-12.5%	-8.9%	6.7%	1.0%
2022 % of OD ED visits	4.3%	5.5%	4.6%	4.7%	5.3%	6.7%	4.6%	5.2%	4.4%	4.5%	5.2%	3.5%	4.9%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-23.8%	2.1%	-11.6%	-10.3%	-17.3%	50.1%	-0.1%	22.3%	-10.0%	-7.2%	21.8%	-32.7%	-1.4%
2023 % of OD ED visits	5.1%	4.7%	5.0%	5.3%	5.9%	5.4%	5.0%	5.3%	5.3%	6.1%			5.3%
% change from 2022 to 2023	16.9%	-14.5%	7.8%	12.7%	10.0%	-19.0%	7.9%	2.8%	18.9%	34.3%			7.8%

Link(s) of interest:

[Georgia Department of Public Health, Drug Overdose Emergency Medical Service \(EMS\) Monthly Report, September - October 2023](#)

[CDC MMWR, Drug Overdose Deaths with Evidence of Counterfeit Pill Use – United States, July 2019 – December 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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