**What is Syndromic Surveillance (SS)?** SS is used as an early detection method for potential clusters or outbreaks, by tracking drug overdose-related 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, December 2019**

**Percent Changeª of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, July-September 2019 to October-December 2019**

(Compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Monthly Rate¹ per 100,000 Population December 2019</th>
<th>Monthly Rate¹ per 100,000 Population January 2019 - December 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARROLL</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPALDING</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHMOND</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBB</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

¹Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2018 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.
Drug * overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2016-2019

- **Drug* overdose cases in December 2019 were predominantly: Female (50.4%), White (67.9%), and between 25-34 years of age (24.5%)**

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group

- **5.4% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among ages 25-34 compared to the same month last year**

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex

- **9.3% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among males compared to the same month last year**

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Race

- **9.9% decrease in the count of Drug* overdoses among blacks compared to the same month last year**

Link(s) of interest:

- **Georgia Department of Public Health (GA DPH), Opioid-involved Overdose Deaths, July 2017-June 2018**

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.

²Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2018 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

³Cases 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.