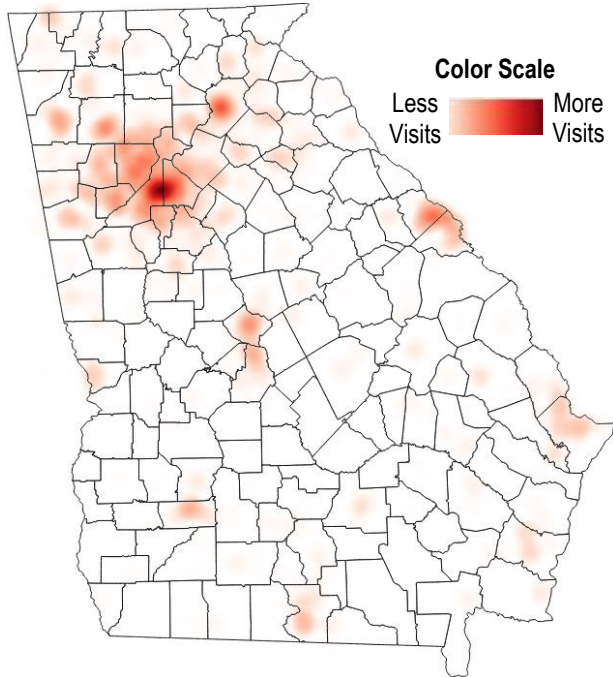


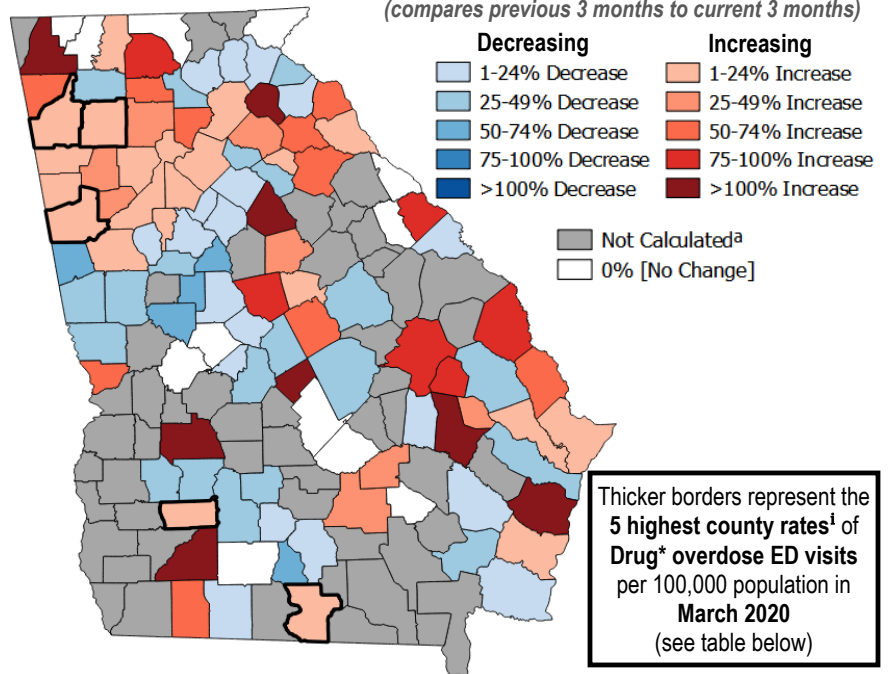
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, March 2020

**What is Syndromic Surveillance (SS)?** SS is used as an early detection method for potential clusters or outbreaks, by tracking 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).

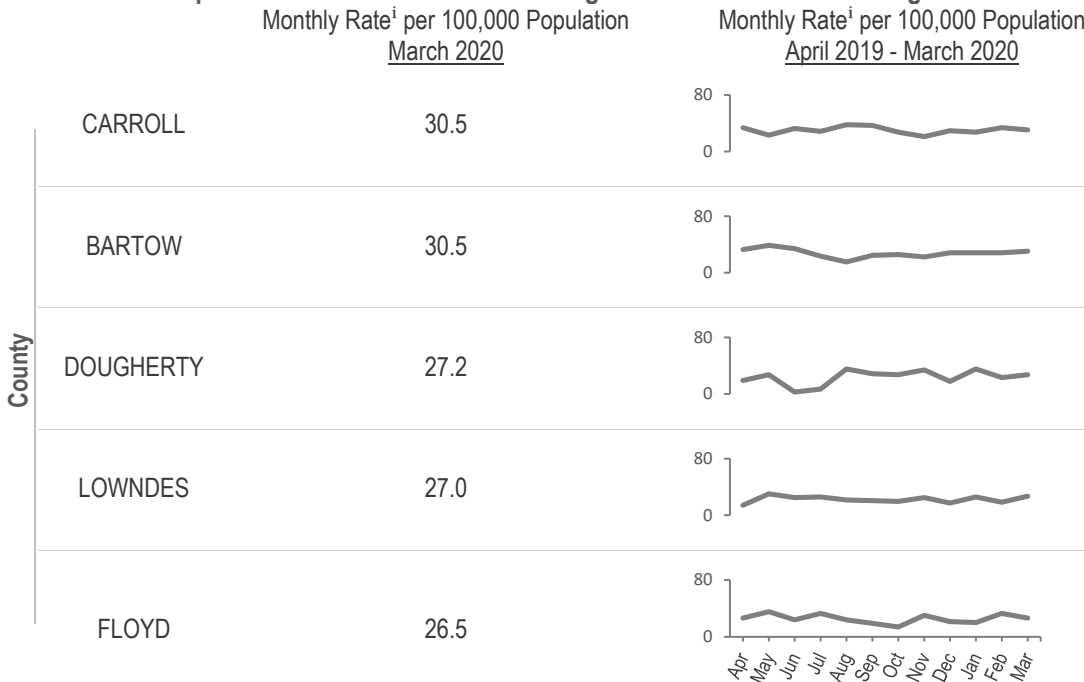
**Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code<sup>^</sup>, Georgia, March 2020**



**Percent Change<sup>a</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, October-December 2019 to January-March 2020**  
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



**Top 5 Counties<sup>^</sup> with 15 or More Drug\* Overdose ED Visits During March 2020**

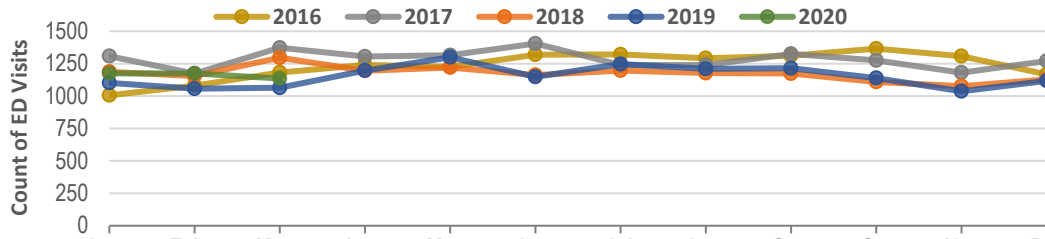


**Statewide, 1,135 ED visits for Drug\* overdoses occurred in March 2020, compared to 1,064 in March 2019**

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](#).  
<sup>\*</sup>Drugs may include any over the counter, prescription, or illicit drug.  
<sup>^</sup>Zip code and county are based on patient residence.  
<sup>1</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2018 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.  
<sup>a</sup>Percent 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.

# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, March 2020

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



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>2016 Count of ED Visits</b>	1006	1081	1182	1240	1225	1319	1321	1292	1311	1366	1308	1167	<b>14818</b>
<b>2017 Count of ED Visits</b>	1308	1173	1373	1305	1315	1405	1240	1239	1325	1275	1181	1271	<b>15410</b>
<b>% Change from 2016 to 2017</b>	(+30%)	(+9%)	(+16%)	(+5%)	(+7%)	(+7%)	(-6%)	(-4%)	(+1%)	(-7%)	(-10%)	(+9%)	<b>(+5%)</b>
<b>2018 Count of ED Visits</b>	1187	1154	1296	1195	1220	1162	1197	1178	1174	1109	1076	1129	<b>14077</b>
<b>% Change from 2017 to 2018</b>	(-9%)	(-2%)	(-6%)	(-8%)	(-7%)	(-17%)	(-3%)	(-5%)	(-11%)	(-13%)	(-9%)	(-11%)	<b>(-9%)</b>
<b>2019 Count of ED Visits</b>	1102	1057	1064	1197	1299	1148	1247	1210	1215	1139	1037	1118	<b>13833</b>
<b>% Change from 2018 to 2019</b>	(-7%)	(-8%)	(-18%)	0%	(+6%)	(-1%)	(+4%)	(+3%)	(+3%)	(+3%)	(-4%)	(-1%)	<b>(-2%)</b>
<b>2020 Count of ED Visits</b>	1175	1175	1135										<b>3485</b>
<b>% Change from 2019 to 2020</b>	(+7%)	(+11%)	(+7%)										<b>(+8%)</b>

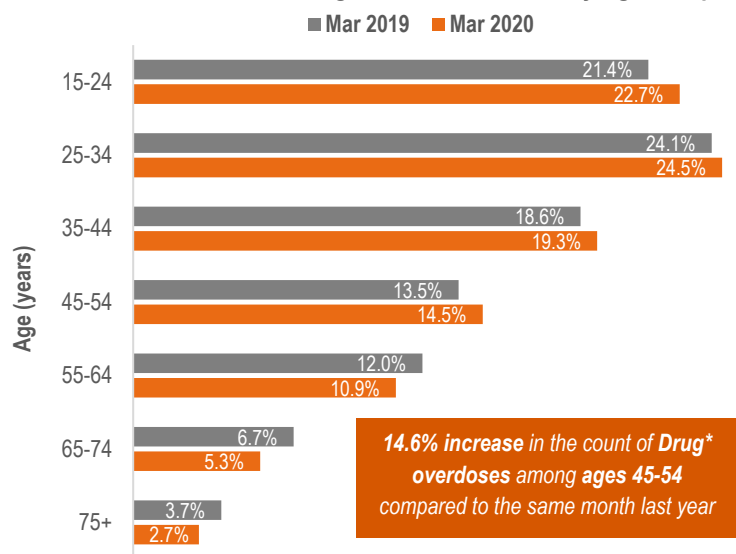
### Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, March 2019 and March 2020

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

	Mar 2019 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 Population)	Mar 2020 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 Population)
<b>Overall</b>	10.1	10.8
<b>Sex<sup>o</sup></b>		
Male	9.4	11.6
Female	10.8	10.1
<b>Race<sup>o</sup></b>		
White	11.3	12.3
Black	7.6	6.0
Other	7.8	12.0
<b>Age Group<sup>o</sup> (years)</b>		
15-24	15.8	17.9
25-34	17.4	18.9
35-44	14.4	16.0
45-54	10.2	11.7
55-64	10.0	9.6
65-74	7.9	6.7
75+	6.9	5.5

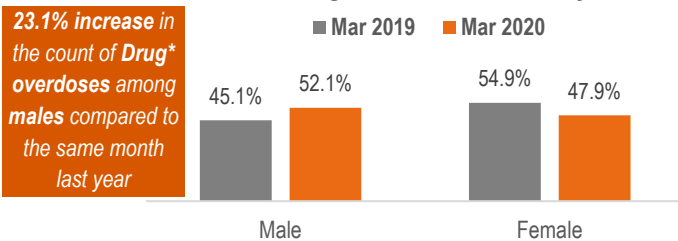
**Drug\* overdose cases in March 2020 were predominantly: Male (52.1%), White (72.6%), and between 25-34 years of age (24.5%)**

#### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group<sup>o</sup>



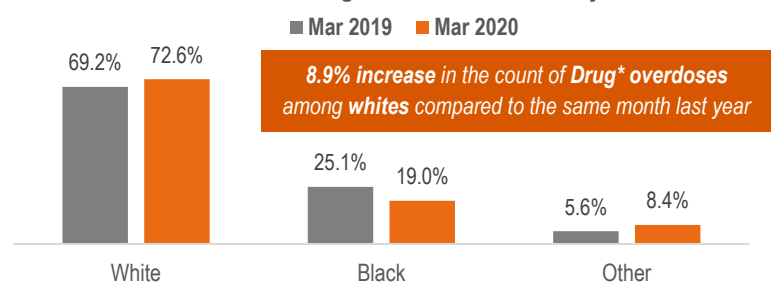
**14.6% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among ages 45-54 compared to the same month last year**

#### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex<sup>o</sup>



**23.1% 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<sup>o</sup>



**8.9% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among whites compared to the same month last year**

#### Link(s) of interest:

[CDC MMWR, Variation in Adult Outpatient Opioid Prescription Dispensing by Age and Sex — United States, 2008–2018](#)

[CDC MMWR, Patterns and Characteristics of Methamphetamine Use Among Adults — United States, 2015–2018](#)

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](#).

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

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

<sup>o</sup>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.