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^, Georgia, March 2020

Percent Change^ of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, October-December 2019 to January-March 2020 (compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

Top 5 Counties^ with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During March 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Monthly Rate(^i) per 100,000 Population March 2020</th>
<th>Monthly Rate(^i) per 100,000 Population April 2019 - March 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARROLL</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOUGHERTY</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOWNDES</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLOYD</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

5.5% decrease in the count of Drug* overdoses among females compared to the same month last year

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.

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

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.