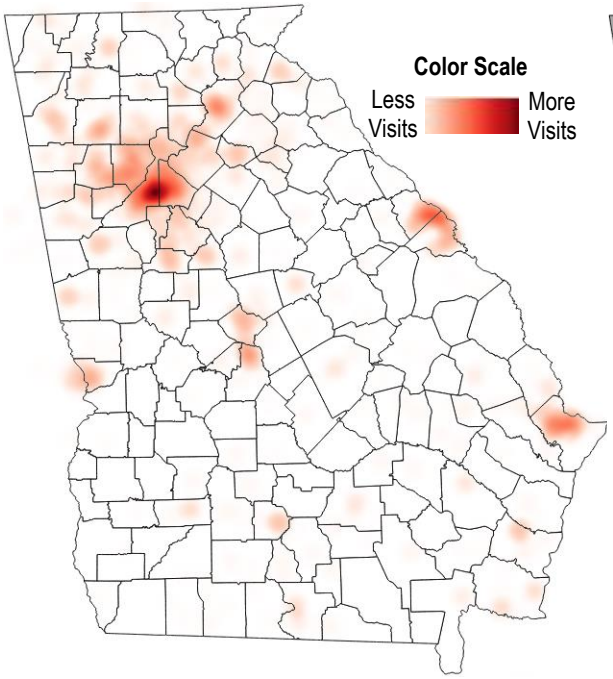
Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, May 2020

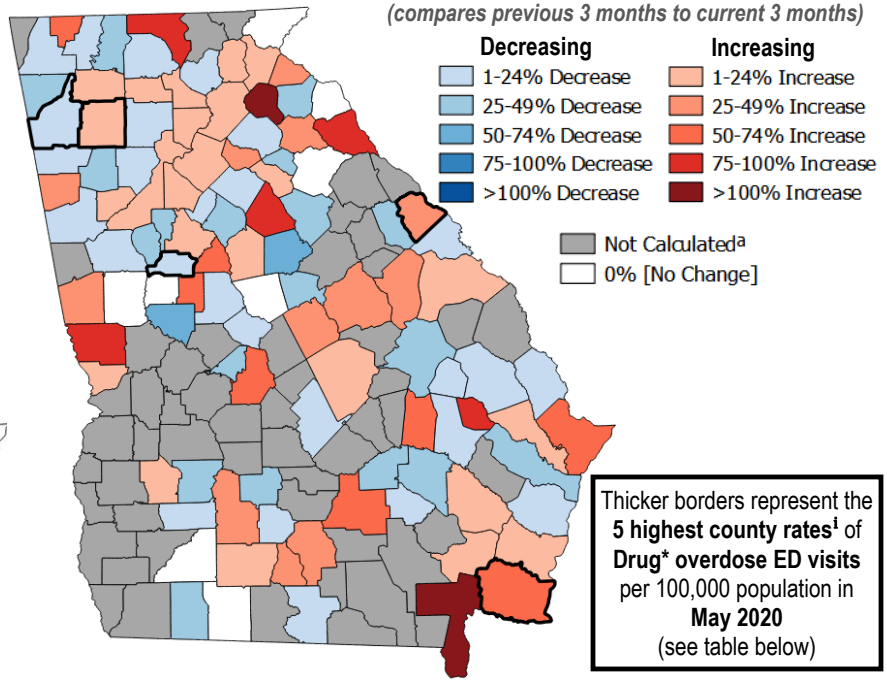
What is Syndromic Surveillance (SS)? SS is used as an early detection method for potential clusters or outbreaks, by tracking drug overdose-involved emergency department (ED) visits based on the patient's chief complaint upon admission and/or discharge diagnosis. Participating Georgia hospitals and urgent care facilities share these SS data within the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS).

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code^, Georgia, May 2020



Percent Change[a] of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, December 2019-February 2020 to March-May 2020

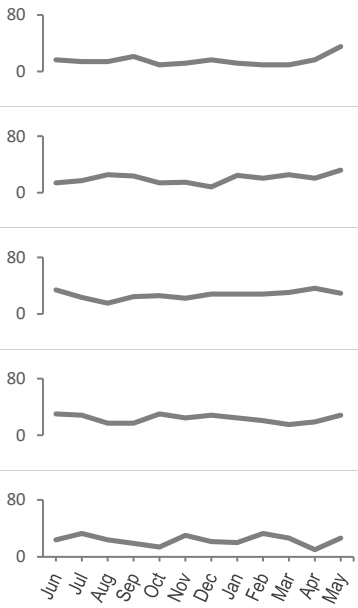
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



Thicker borders represent the **5 highest county rates[i]** of **Drug* overdose ED visits** per 100,000 population in **May 2020** (see table below)

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

County	Monthly Rate[i] per 100,000 Population May 2020	Monthly Rate[i] per 100,000 Population June 2019 - May 2020
CAMDEN	35.3	
COLUMBIA	32.0	
BARTOW	29.3	
SPALDING	28.2	
FLOYD	26.5	



Statewide, *1,257* ED visits for *Drug overdoses occurred in *May 2020,* compared to *1,299* in *May 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.

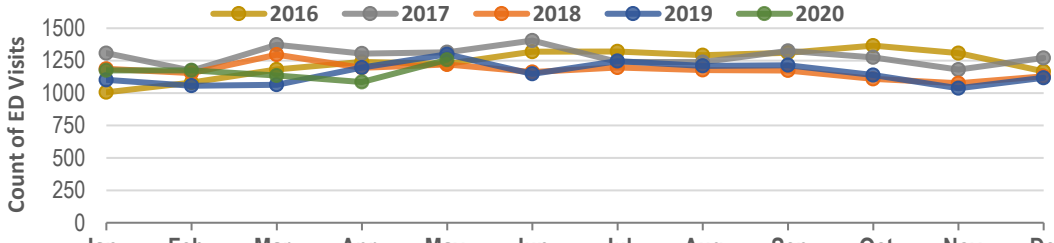
[a]Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

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, May 2020

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



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2016 Count of ED Visits	1006	1081	1182	1240	1225	1319	1321	1292	1311	1366	1308	1167	14818
2017 Count of ED Visits	1308	1173	1373	1305	1315	1405	1240	1239	1325	1275	1181	1271	15410
% Change from 2016 to 2017	(+)30%	(+)9%	(+)16%	(+)5%	(+)7%	(+)7%	(-)6%	(-)4%	(+)1%	(-)7%	(-)10%	(+)9%	(+)5%
2018 Count of ED Visits	1187	1154	1296	1195	1220	1162	1197	1178	1174	1109	1076	1129	14077
% Change from 2017 to 2018	(-)9%	(-)2%	(-)6%	(-)8%	(-)7%	(-)17%	(-)3%	(-)5%	(-)11%	(-)13%	(-)9%	(-)11%	(-)9%
2019 Count of ED Visits	1102	1057	1064	1197	1299	1148	1247	1210	1215	1139	1037	1118	13833
% Change from 2018 to 2019	(-)7%	(-)8%	(-)18%	0%	(+)6%	(-)1%	(+)4%	(+)3%	(+)3%	(+)3%	(-)4%	(-)1%	(-)2%
2020 Count of ED Visits	1175	1175	1135	1085	1257								5827
% Change from 2019 to 2020	(+)7%	(+)11%	(+)7%	(-)9%	(-)3%								(+)2%

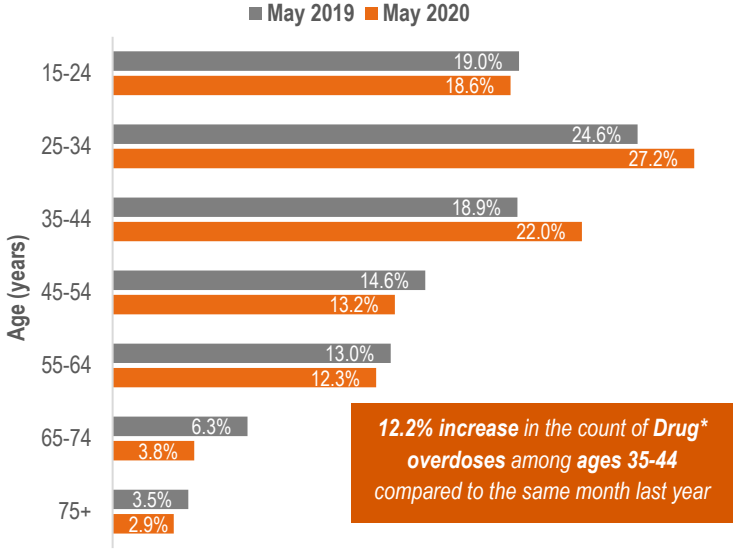
Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, May 2019 and May 2020

Rate[i] of Drug* Overdose ED Visits

	May 2019 Rate[i] (per 100,000 Population)	May 2020 Rate[i] (per 100,000 Population)
Overall	12.3	11.9
Sex°		
Male	11.6	12.6
Female	13.1	11.3
Race°		
White	13.4	13.6
Black	8.9	6.9
Other	11.9	11.1
Age Group° (years)		
15-24	17.1	16.2
25-34	21.7	23.2
35-44	17.9	20.1
45-54	13.5	11.8
55-64	13.1	12.1
65-74	9.2	5.4
75+	8.1	6.4

Drug* overdose** ED visits in **May 2020** were predominantly: **Male (51.2%)**, **White (73.0%)**, and between **25-34 years of age (27.2%)

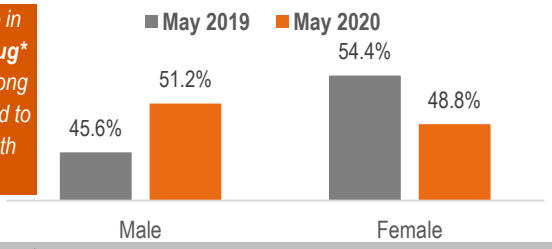
Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group°



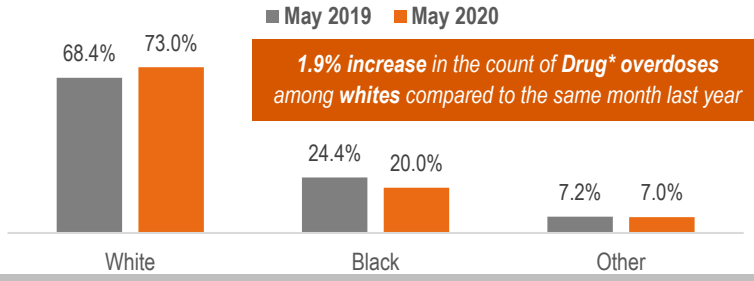
***12.2% increase** in the count of **Drug* overdoses** among **ages 35-44** compared to the same month last year*

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex°

***8.4% 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°



***1.9% increase** in the count of **Drug* overdoses** among **whites** compared to the same month last year*

Link(s) of interest:

CDC Vital Signs, Life-Saving Naloxone for Pharmacies, 2019

CDC Journal Article, Indication-Specific Opioid Prescribing for US Patients with Medicaid or Private Insurance, 2017. JAMA. 2020;3(5):e204514.

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.

[i]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.