**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* of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, December 2019-February 2020 to March-May 2020**

(Compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Monthly Rate 1 per 100,000 Population</th>
<th>Monthly Rate 1 per 100,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAMDEN</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLUMBIA</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPALDING</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLOYD</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td></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](https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-surveillance-unit).

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

*Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

*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.

Statewide, 1,257 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in May 2020, compared to 1,299 in May 2019.
Drug* overdose ED visits in May 2020 were predominantly: Male (51.2%), White (73.0%), and between 25-34 years of age (27.2%)

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 Age Group

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

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

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*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.

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