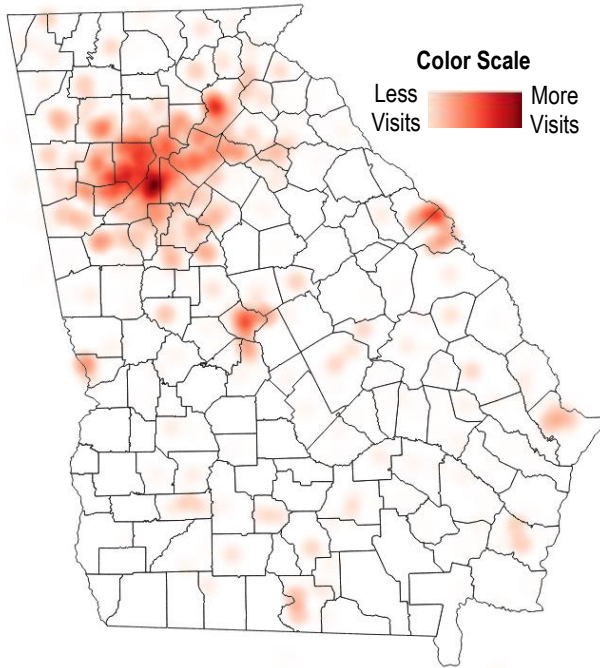


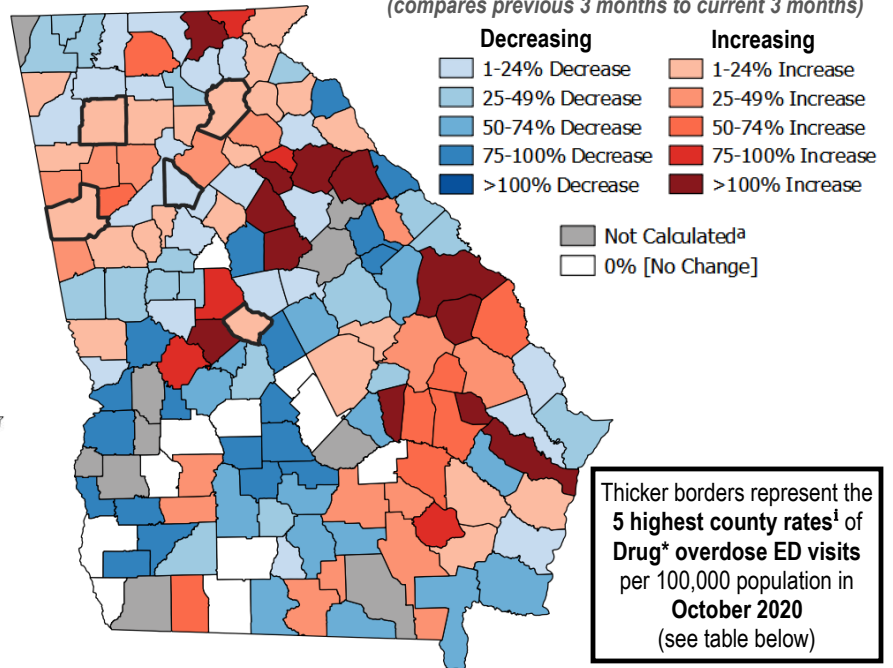
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, October 2020

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

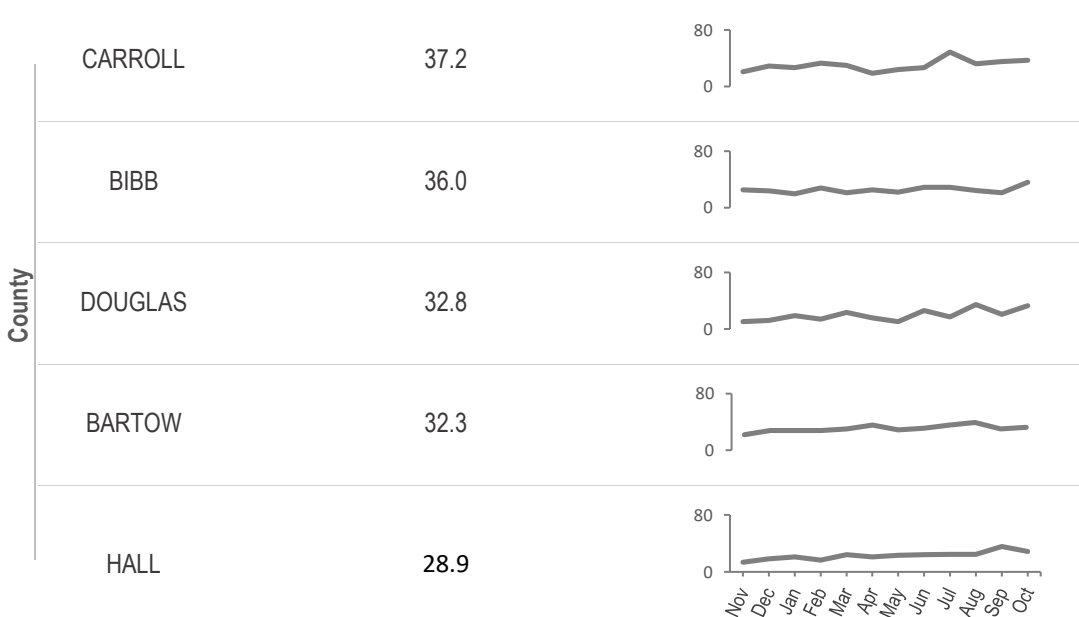
**Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code<sup>^</sup>, Georgia, October 2020**



**Percent Change<sup>a</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, May - July 2020 to Aug - Oct 2020**  
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



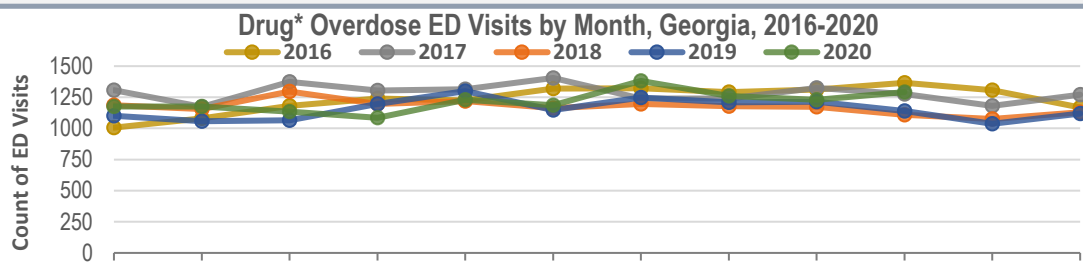
**Top 5 Counties<sup>^</sup> with 15 or More Drug\* Overdose ED Visits During October 2020**



**Statewide, 1,291 ED visits for Drug\* overdoses occurred in October 2020, compared to 1,139 in October 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 2019 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, October 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	14818
<b>2017 Count of ED Visits</b>	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%)
<b>2018 Count of ED Visits</b>	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%)
<b>2019 Count of ED Visits</b>	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%)
<b>2020 Count of ED Visits</b>	1175	1175	1135	1085	1230	1187	1381	1261	1230	1291			12150
% Change from 2019 to 2020	(+7%)	(+11%)	(+7%)	(-9%)	(-5%)	(+3%)	(+11%)	(-4%)	(+1%)	(+13%)			(+4%)

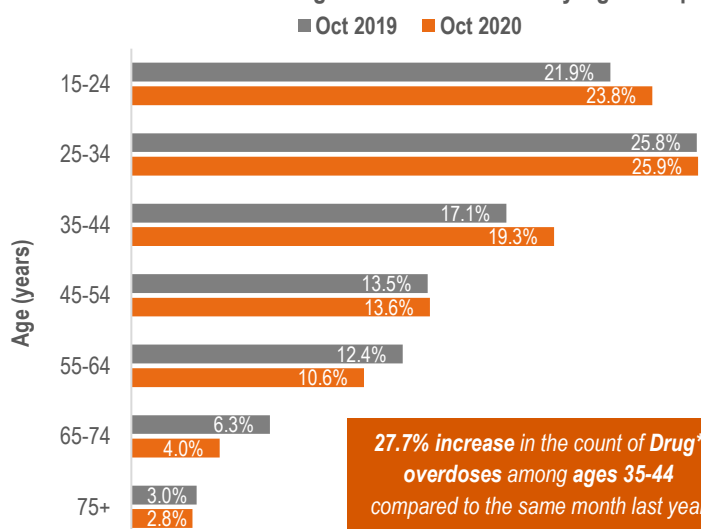
## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, October 2019 and October 2020

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

	Oct 2019 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 Population)	Oct 2020 Rate <sup>i</sup> (per 100,000 Population)
<b>Overall</b>	13.3	15.1
<b>Sex<sup>*</sup></b>		
Male	12.9	15.7
Female	13.7	14.5
<b>Race<sup>*</sup></b>		
White	15.0	16.0
Black	7.4	9.6
Other	15.6	19.3
<b>Age Group<sup>*</sup> (years)</b>		
15-24	17.2	21.2
25-34	19.7	22.4
35-44	14.1	18.0
45-54	11.0	12.6
55-64	10.8	10.5
65-74	7.8	5.6
75+	5.8	6.1

**Drug\* overdose ED visits in October 2020 were predominantly: White (69.2%), and between 25-34 years of age (25.9%). Males and Females were evenly distributed at 50.0% each.**

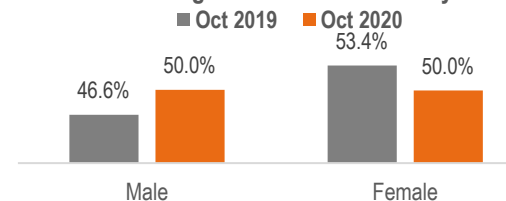
### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group<sup>\*</sup>



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

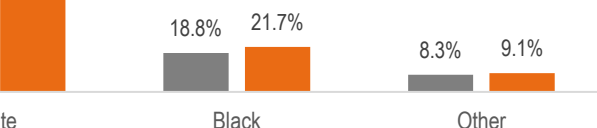
■ Oct 2019 ■ Oct 2020

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



**21.7% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among males compared to the same month last year**

**29.6% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among Blacks compared to the same month last year**



### Link(s) of interest:

[Updated Memo to Statewide Partners Regarding Suspected Drug Overdose Increases in Georgia Amid Covid-19](#)

[Georgia Department of Public Health, 2019 Opioid Overdose Surveillance Preliminary County Level Data Tables](#)

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 2019 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.