Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, October 2018

What is Syndromic Surveillance (SS)? SS is used as an early detection method for potential clusters or outbreaks, by tracking drug overdose-related emergency department (ED) visits based on the patient’s chief complaint upon admission and/or discharge diagnosis. There are currently 127 Georgia hospitals and urgent care facilities that share these SS data within the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS).

Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code^, Georgia, October 2018

Percent Changeª of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, May-July 2018 to August-October 2018 (compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

Top 5 Counties^ with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During October 2018

- **BARTOW**: Monthly Rate² per 100,000 Population
  - October 2018: 22.8

- **CHATHAM**: Monthly Rate² per 100,000 Population
  - October 2018: 21.0

- **BIBB**: Monthly Rate² per 100,000 Population
  - October 2018: 20.3

- **COLUMBIA**: Monthly Rate² per 100,000 Population
  - October 2018: 18.5

- **MUSCOGEE**: Monthly Rate² per 100,000 Population
  - October 2018: 17.0

Statewide, 1,108 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in October 2018, compared to 1,275 in October 2017.

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.  
²Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2017 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.  
ªPercent 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 shown on this report may not depict the true burden of drug overdose in Georgia.

https://dph.georgia.gov/epidemiology
Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2016-2018

**Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, October 2017 and October 2018**

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

- **15-24**: 25.4% (Oct 2017), 22.4% (Oct 2018)
- **25-34**: 25.2% (Oct 2017), 24.9% (Oct 2018)
- **35-44**: 16.6% (Oct 2017), 17.4% (Oct 2018)
- **45-54**: 12.8% (Oct 2017), 15.1% (Oct 2018)
- **55-64**: 10.0% (Oct 2017), 11.2% (Oct 2018)
- **65-74**: 6.4% (Oct 2017), 5.7% (Oct 2018)
- **75+**: 3.8% (Oct 2017), 3.3% (Oct 2018)

**Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Race**

- **White**: 73.5% (Oct 2017), 70.6% (Oct 2018)
- **Black**: 23.2% (Oct 2017), 22.8% (Oct 2018)
- **Other**: 3.3% (Oct 2017), 6.6% (Oct 2018)

**Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex**

- **Male**: 46.0% (Oct 2017), 43.8% (Oct 2018)
- **Female**: 54.0% (Oct 2017), 56.2% (Oct 2018)

**17.4% decrease in Drug* overdoses among males compared to the same month last year**

**14.7% decrease in Drug* overdoses among whites compared to the same month last year**

**Link(s) of interest:**

- Evidence-Based Strategies for Preventing Opioid Overdose: What’s Working in the United States

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

1Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2017 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

2Cases 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 shown on this report may not depict the true burden of drug overdose in Georgia.