Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, October 2019

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. 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, October 2019

Top 5 Counties^ with 15 or More Drug* Overdose ED Visits During October 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Monthly Rate¹ per 100,000 Population October 2019</th>
<th>Monthly Rate¹ per 100,000 Population November 2018 - October 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPALDING</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARROLL</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOUGHERTY</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHMOND</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent Changeª of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, May-July 2019 to August-October 2019

(Compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

Statewide, 1,139 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in October 2019, compared to 1,109 in October 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.
^Zip code and county are based on patient residence.
¹Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2018 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 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.

https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-surveillance-unit
Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2016-2019

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Race

Link(s) of interest:
Georgia Department of Public Health Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Monthly Reports
CDC Annual Surveillance Report of Drug-Related Deaths and Outcomes – United States, 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.

*Rates indicate visits per 100,000 persons using 2010 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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