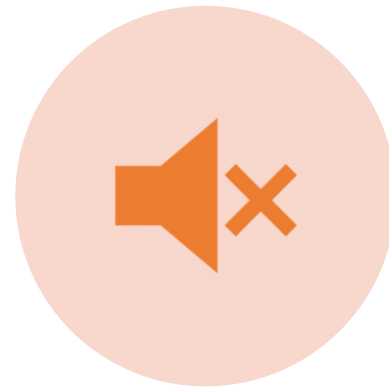


Please



**TYPE QUESTIONS IN THE
CHAT BOX**



MUTE YOUR LINES

Note



This operational WebEx/call is for EMS agencies and EMS educational programs only.



If you are a member of the media or the general public, you are asked to disconnect from this WebEx/call immediately.

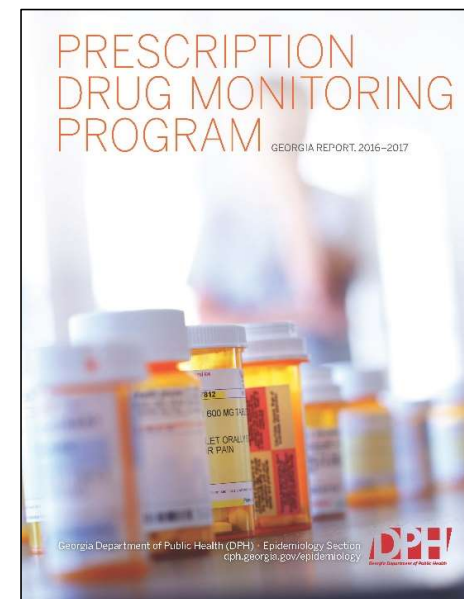
DPH Drug Surveillance Unit

Drug Overdose Surveillance in Georgia

Laura Edison, DVM, MPH / November 17, 2023

Drug Surveillance Unit

- Team of epidemiologists, biostatisticians, data abstractors and information technologists
- Goals
 - Identify and respond to overdose trends and clusters
 - Produce data reports to inform partners addressing the epidemic
 - Fulfill data requests and data access

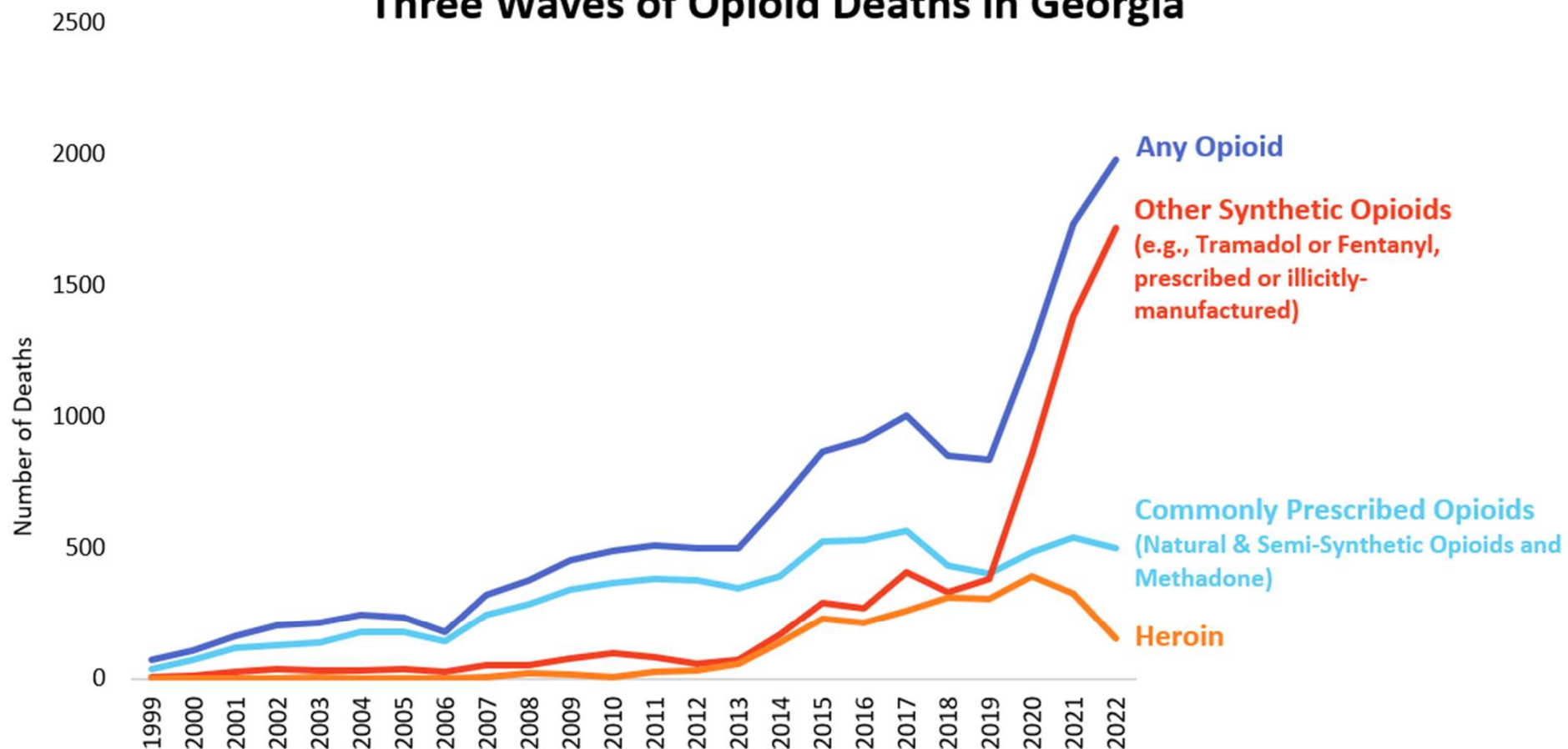


Website: dph.georgia.gov/epidemiology/drug-surveillance-unit

Current Data Sources and Reports

- Data Sources
 - Syndromic Surveillance
 - EMS Data
 - Hospital Discharge Data
 - Death Certificates, Coroner/Medical Examiner, Autopsy, and Toxicology Reports
 - Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)
- Data Reports
 - Annual Surveillance Reports (Opioid, Stimulant, PDMP, County/District-level profiles)
 - Quarterly Reports (Morbidity and Mortality Data)
 - Monthly Reports (Syndromic Surveillance, EMS and PDMP)

Three Waves of Opioid Deaths in Georgia



Wave 1: Rise in Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths

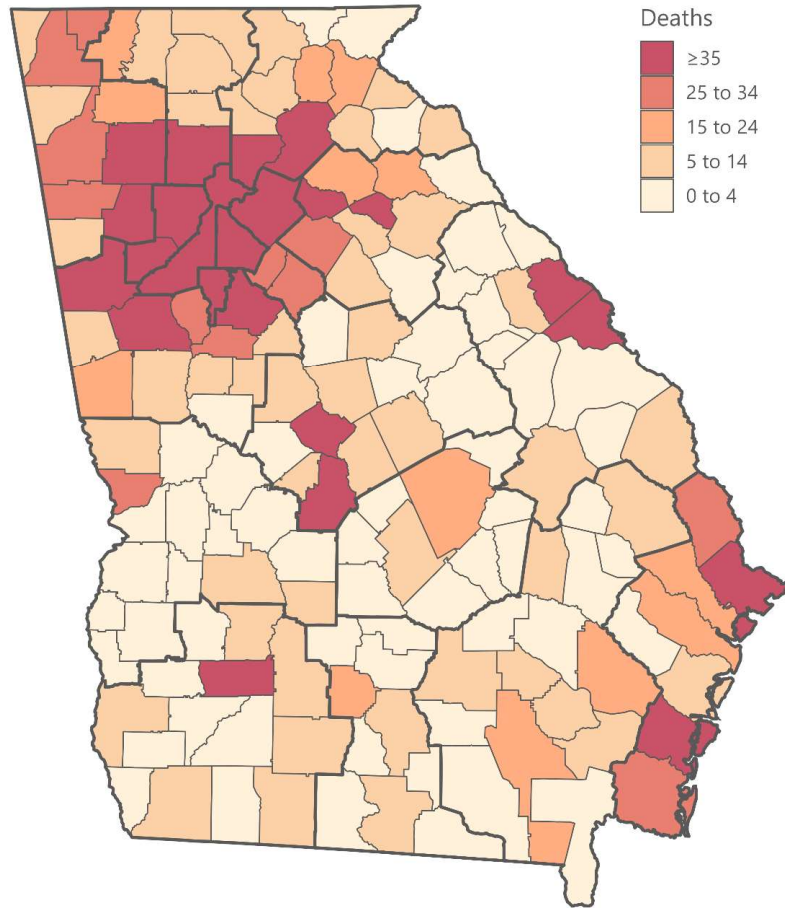
Wave 2: Rise in Heroin Overdose Deaths Started in 2011

Wave 3: Rise in Synthetic Opioid Overdose Deaths Started in 2013

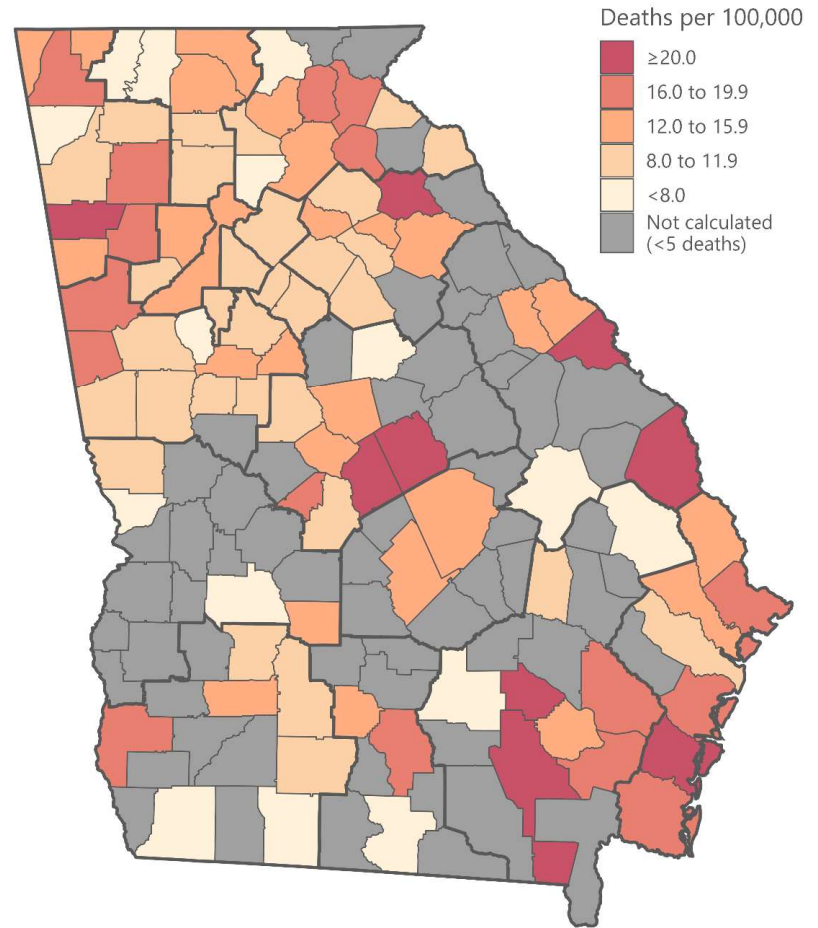
SOURCE: Georgia Department of Public Health, Office of Health Indicators for Planning (OHIP)

Fentanyl-Involved Overdose Deaths, by County of Residence, Georgia, 2020-2022

Fentanyl-Involved Overdose Deaths



Fentanyl-Involved Overdose Death Rates



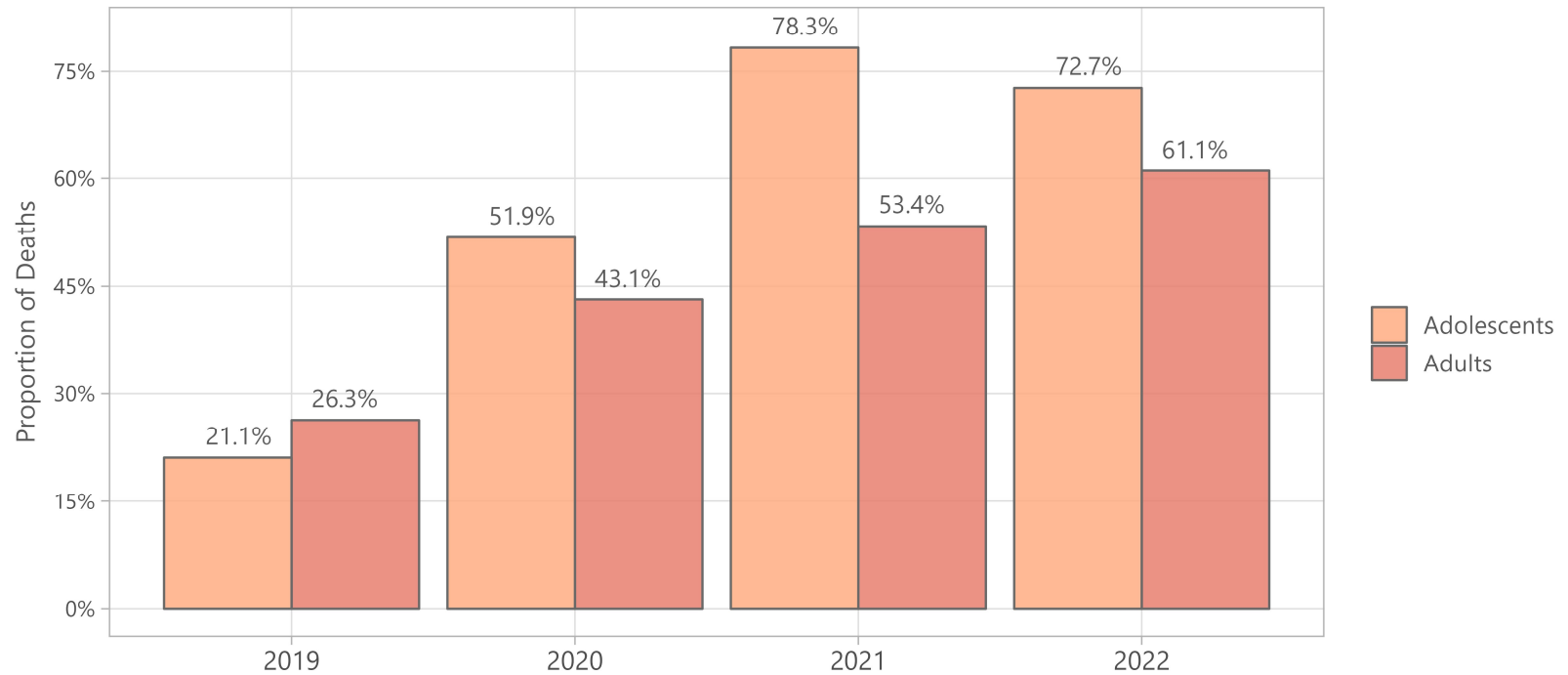
Overdose Deaths among Adolescents

Drug Overdose Deaths Among Adolescents Aged 10-19 Years by Drug Type^a, Georgia, 2019 – 2022					
Drug Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2019-2022
Any Drug	19	27	46	44	132%
Opioid	11	19	37	32	191%
Fentanyl	4	14	36	32	700%

^a Categories are not mutually exclusive

Fentanyl-Involved Adolescent Overdose Deaths in Georgia

**Proportion of Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl,
Georgia, 2019-2022**



Circumstances Surrounding Adolescent Overdose Deaths

Substance Use

- 72% of the decedents had a known substance abuse problem
- 13% had experienced a previous overdose
- 19% had been treated for a substance abuse problem
- 10% had recently been released from a treatment facility

Mental Health

- 29% had a known mental health problem
- 16% had a depression diagnosis

Response to Fatal Overdose

- 62% had a bystander present
- 26% had a witness to the drug use that led to the fatal overdose
- 20% had naloxone administered

Emerging Threat: Xylazine



- Non-opioid tranquilizer used in veterinary medicine and not approved for use in humans
- Increasingly detected in the illicit drug supply (commonly paired with fentanyl, sometimes with cocaine or amphetamines)
- Overdose may mimic symptoms of an opioid overdose, but **naloxone is not effective!**
- Repeated injection use associated with severe, necrotic skin ulcerations
- 9% of overdose deaths in Georgia involved xylazine in 2022

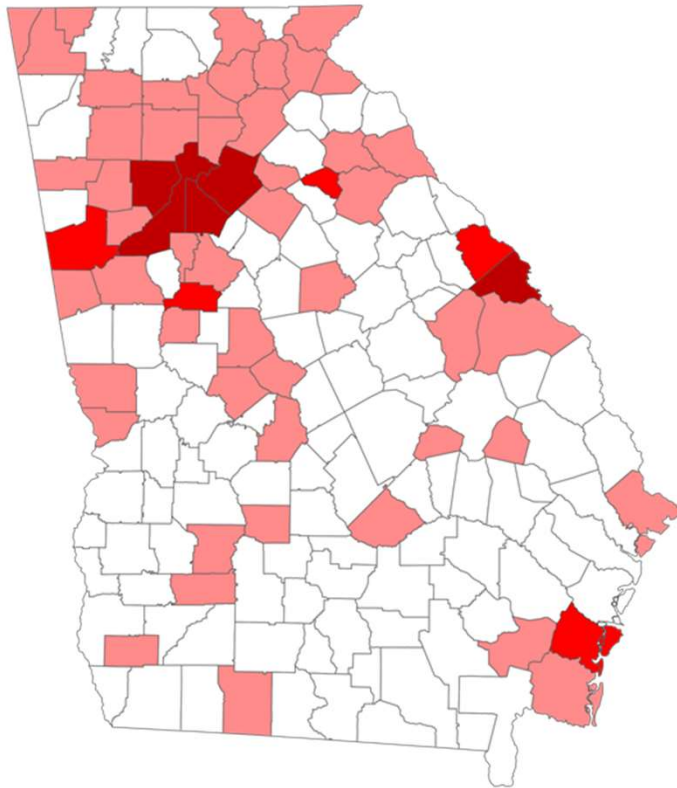
Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Type, Georgia, 2019 – 2022

Drug Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2019-2022
	N	N	N	N	
Any Drug	1494	1888	2417	2591	42%
Xylazine	4	15	116	222	5450%

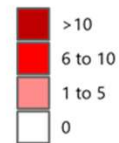
All xylazine-involved deaths involved at least one other drug.
In 2022 in Georgia xylazine-involved deaths also involved:

- Fentanyl (100%)
- Cocaine (20%)
- Amphetamines (43%)

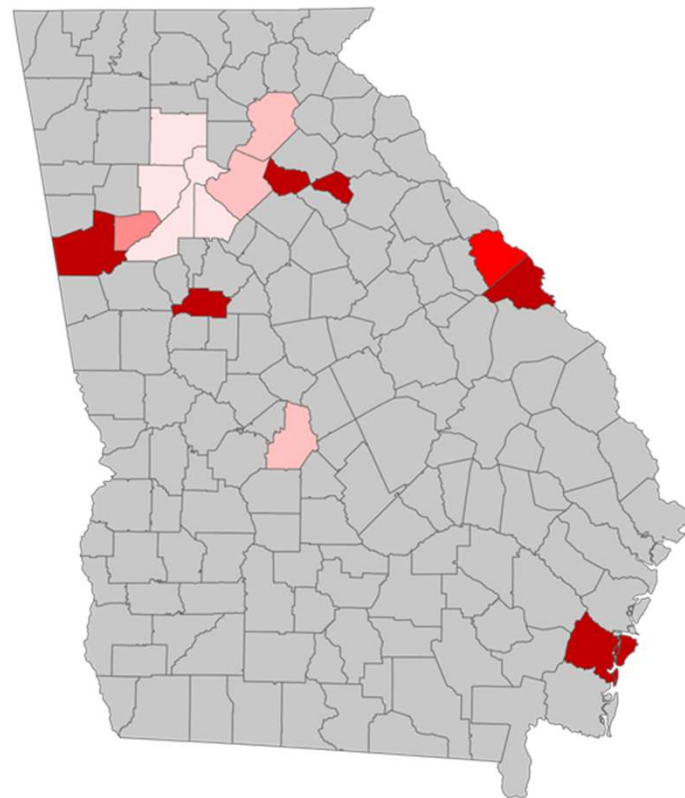
**Xylazine-Involved Overdose Deaths
by Decedent Residence Location, Georgia, 2022**



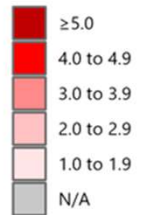
Number of Deaths



**Xylazine-Involved Overdose Death Rates
by Decedent Residence Location, Georgia, 2022**



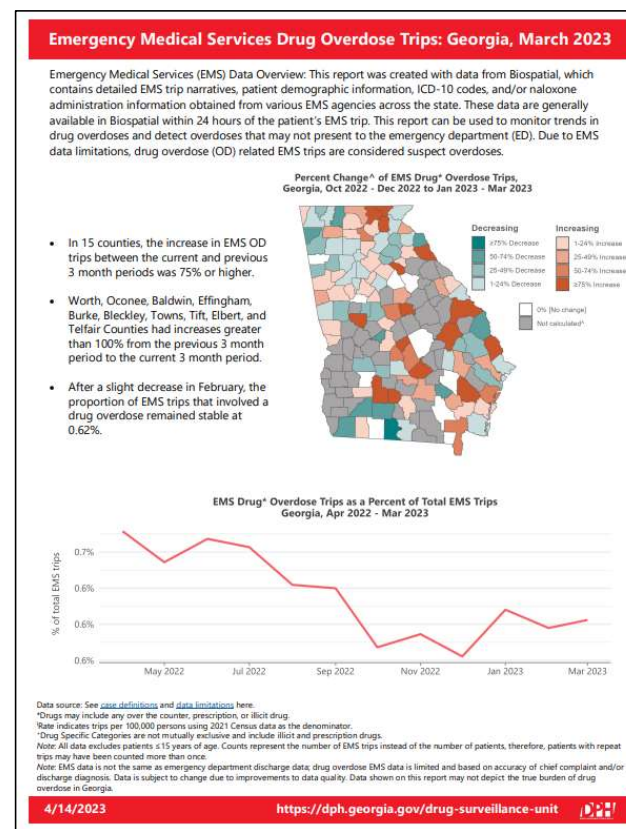
Deaths per 100,000



Overdose Data Source: EMS Trip Reports

- Reports for suspected drug overdose trips and naloxone administration by EMS providers
- Data is generally complete within 24 hours of the trip
- Use:
 - Monitoring recent trends and detecting clusters
 - Corroborate and supplement other timely data
 - Especially useful for Naloxone and ODs outside facilities
 - Enhancing death investigations
 - Not intended to characterize true burden of overdoses
- Monthly reports available at:

<https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-overdose-emergency-medical-service-ems-monthly-reports>



The Importance of Documentation

- Allows identification of OD trips and lends context to OD deaths
- Use appropriate T and F codes in the primary and secondary impression field
- Include as much detail as possible about scene evidence (drugs and drug paraphernalia present, witness reports of drug use, etc.)

NEMSIS v3: Labeled as general drug overdose if:

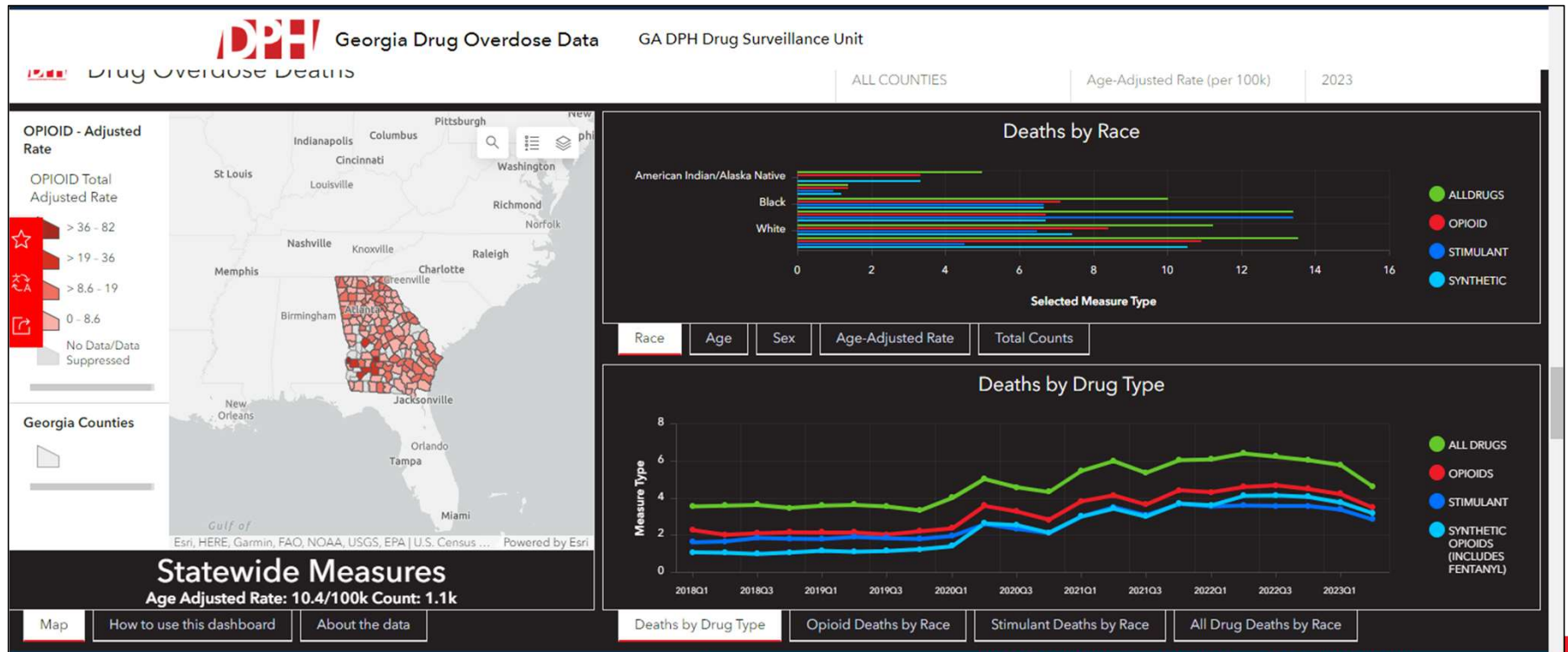
1. **Any one** of the following is true:
 - a. Naloxone (or brand names (Narcan, Naloxo, 7242, or Evzio)) listed as Medication Administered (eMedications.03) **AND** the medication response (eMediations.07) indicates that the patient "Improved" (9916001)
 - b. Primary impression (eSituation.11) **OR** secondary impression (eSituation.12) starts with {F11, F13-F16, F18-F19, T50.9}, or is one of {T40.1X4, T40.2X1, T40.691, T43.291, T43.621};
 - c. Cause of Injury (eInjury.01) is T50.9 including subcodes.
2. **Two or more** of the following are true:
 - a. eDispatch.01 is 2301053 Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion
 - b. eSituation.11 or eSituation.12 is {R41.8, R46.4}
 - c. GCS (eVitals.23) < 13
 - d. Naloxone (or brand names (Narcan, Naloxo, 7242, or Evzio.)) listed as Medication Administered (eMedications.03)
 - e. Narrative or chief complaint (eNarrative.01) contains "[ao]verdo[se][se]", "bath salt", "buprenorphine", "Cocaine", "codein", "codene", "crack/ crack cocaine", "dilaud", "dope", "Drug paraphernalia", "fentan", "Fentanyl", "fentanyl", "Herion", "Heroin", "Heroine", "heroin", "herion", "Hod", "hod", "hydrocod", "Hydrocodone", "hydromor", "illicit", "ingest", "inject", "Meth", "Methadone", "methadone", "morphin", naloxone (or brand names (Narcan,

<https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-overdose-emergency-medical-service-ems-monthly-reports>

Overdose Data Hub (not for public use)

<https://opioid-statistics-georgiadph.hub.arcgis.com>

Updated quarterly (currently through June 2023)



Thank you

Please email any questions or concerns to:

ga.opioidprogram@dph.ga.gov

laura.edison@dph.ga.gov

<https://dph.georgia.gov/epidemiology/drug-surveillance-unit>

Georgia OEMST Update – Operations Update

November 17, 2023

Workforce Numbers

Kelly Joiner

Number of Licensees as of 11/14/2023

Level	As of 01/01/2023	As of 04/01/2023	As of 11/14/2023
EMT-Responder	311	357	446
EMT	6,391	5,819	6,704
EMT-Intermediate	4,804	4,126	4,248
Advanced EMT	5,221	4,997	5,533
Cardiac Technician	27	23	24
Paramedic	9,102	8,502	9,027
TOTAL	25,856	23,824	25,942

EMS Personnel License Renewal

Personnel License Renewal

Georgia Medic Renewal application available until **March 31, 2024**.

- Continuing Education (CE) must be entered into Education Report into LMS
- Must upload BCLS and ACLS (if applicable) cards inside the renewal application
- License renewal fee, \$75.00 (Credit Card fee \$2.75)

Applications

Action

Georgia Medic Renewal

This is the medic renewal license for all medics (EMT, EMT-I, AEMT, CT, Paramedic) in Georgia. The renewal period opens six (6) months prior to the expiration date of medic license. Georgia Medic Renewal License application will close on March 31, 2024.

[Apply Now](#)

Instructions for Entering CE hours into Education Report

How to Submit Continuing Education Hours During the Renewal Cycle

Please note - if you attend an OEMS course - before you add training yourself, please check to see if the instructor has already added you to the course.

If you have

1. Go to <https://www.mygemsis.org/lms/public/> and log in (click [HERE](#) for instructions on how to obtain access)
2. Click on **Education** on the left
3. Click on **My Report** under the Education link
4. On this tab, you will see any courses that you have already added (or have been added by you attending an OEMS approved course)
 - a. Click on the (>) next to each topic to see the list of courses that have been already put on your training record and verify that is not already been added.
5. For each training course/date that you are wanting to add, do the following:
 - a. Click on the green (+) button to the right of one of the topics that the training you are adding is included
 - b. Enter the **Course Name** of the training (you do not need to enter the course number)
 - c. Enter the **Completed Date** of the course (if the course was multiple dates, enter the last date of the course)
 - d. You do not need to enter the Location
 - e. Upload a scanned copy of your course certificate by clicking the **Choose File** button, and selecting the file on your computer for your certificate.
 - f. Based on which green (+) button you click, the first topic has been selected for you - (enter the number of hours)
 - g. To add additional topics, Click **Add Topic**, Select the Topic, and Enter the number of hours of credit (remember that you must have 40 hours - with at least 4 in Trauma, 4 in Cardiac, and 8 in Pediatrics)
 - To enter additional topics covered for this training course/day, click **Add Topic**
 - When you are done adding topics, click the blue **Add** button
6. Your hours have been added!

<https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/ems-education/continuing-education>

EMS Instructor License Renewal

EMS Instructor and Instructor/Coordinator Renewal

Instructors or Instructor/Coordinators with 12/31/2023 expiration date -**94**

Renewal period is now open until **December 31st, 2023**

CE and Active Teaching will be accepted from day after license issue date – 12/31/2023

License renewal fee, \$25.00 (Credit Card fee \$2.75)

Agency Pay for Medic Renewal (New Process)

Voucher Codes

- Voucher codes for Medic renewal is now available in LMS.
- Current voucher amounts: \$75.00 and \$25.00
- Purchased voucher codes:
 - Should be treated like a credit card/cash
 - Can be used for partial payment of license fee.
 - Can be applied for a license fee, any balance left on the voucher is not transferable. (The voucher code can only be used once).
 - No expiration date
 - Non-refundable
 - Can be used on any personnel (Medic/Instructor) license application
 - Non-transferrable by OEMST

Agency Pay for Medic Renewal (Voucher Codes)

- All Agency pay for Medic/Instructor licensure (Initial and Renewal) will be done by voucher codes.
 - This will be a phased in process of the new voucher code system starting with Medic Renewals.
 - No new voucher codes will be issued for initial license applications until Phase 2 of this transition.
- LMS can now internally generate and recognize voucher codes for medic license payments.
 - LMS generated voucher code process will be a phased in approach
 - Phase 1 – Medic Renewals
 - Phase 2 – Initial Medic/Instructor Licensure
 - Phase 3 – Instructor Renewal

Agency Pay – Voucher Codes

- Application to use for Medic License Renewal voucher codes:
 - **Order Voucher Codes application**
- Voucher Code Process
 - Agency submits application to order voucher codes
 - Invoice will be emailed to Agency
 - Once payment by check is received in the Department
 - Voucher codes will be emailed to Agency
 - Agency will distribute voucher code to personnel
 - Medic will complete **Georgia Medic Renewal** application
 - Payment tab: Select Voucher Code
 - Once application submitted, Medic will enter voucher code in payment screen

Georgia Medic Renewal application

Medic will complete **Georgia Medic Renewal** application

- Payment tab: Select Voucher Code
- Once application submitted, Medic will enter voucher code in payment screen

Form 4 - Renewal Information Preview

Instructions Demographics Application Level CPR Other EMS License Other HCP License Scope of Practice **Payment** Rules and Regulations Sign and Submit

▼ Payment

***How are you paying for your license application? (application fees are non-refundable)**

Credit/Debit Card

Money Order/Cashier's Check

Voucher Code

Your application will NOT be processed until you complete the payment.

Once you submit this renewal application, you will need to proceed to the **Checkout button** under Applications on the left side of the screen to pay for your application using the voucher code assigned by your EMS Agency.

Once a completed application AND payment is received, your EMS license Renewal will be processed.

Georgia Medic Renewal application

- Once application submitted, Medic will enter voucher code in payment screen

My Account

Applications

Continue 2

Checkout

Transaction

Review 3

Education

Agencies

Inspections

Dipti Test9 | Logout

Checkout

Select the license(s) you want to pay fees for and click *Pay Now* to continue to checkout.

License	Agencies	Application Date	Total Amount	Balance Due
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Georgia Medic Renewal		10/13/2023	\$75.00	\$75.00

Voucher Code	Agencies	Date Assigned	Amount	Balance
No Records				

Totals: \$75.00 \$75.00 2

1 Voucher Code: 2023-EMS2019006-75-qoi1xAQW7L Apply Code

3 Pay Now

The voucher code you entered is not valid. Please review the number and try again.

Agency Pay – Voucher Codes

Once the voucher code payment process is working appropriately for Medic Renewals, we will begin Phase 2 for voucher codes for Initial Medic/Instructor license applications.

The Department will make contact with any Agency that has been previously given voucher codes to transition those voucher codes to the new process.

Agency – Indicate Medics for Renewal Payments application is no longer available, must utilize **Order Voucher Codes application**.

Other Updates/Information

Naloxone for EMS Agencies

- 2024-Q1 EMS Naloxone Distribution
 - Request Application will open on November 20th
 - Application will close on December 8th

EMS Agency License Fees

- Beginning January 1, 2024, there will no longer be EMS **agency** license fees.
- The vehicle **re-inspection fee** will continue.
 - 1st re-inspection due to failed inspection - \$150.00
 - Any 2nd or subsequent re-inspections due to failed inspections - \$250.00
- Any license fees due in 2023 will still need to be paid.
- EMS Agency license renewal application will still be required.
 - Agencies will no longer receive annual (Anniversary) payment notifications beginning 2024

Reminder: EMS Agency License Information

EMS Agencies are required to keep the EMS agency license information current in LMS:

- Vehicle Insurance
- Medical Director(s)
- Pharmacy(s)
- Personnel
- Vehicles
- Locations
- Key Personnel

Georgia's v3.5 Transition

Dipti Patel

GEMISIS Elite v3.5 Transition - Update

- Currently transitioning all licensed EMS Agencies.
- Total of 310 EMS Agencies transitioned to v3.5 data collection.
 - Thank you for working hard and transition on time!
- 61 EMS Agencies are still left to be transitioned. **FINAL DEADLINE is November 30th.**
 - EMS Agencies will need to continue to work with their ePCR vendor to complete the transition.



Data Maintenance in GEMSIS Elite

- Data Managers and/or EMS Agency Administrators for **ALL** licensed EMS Agencies are required to login to GEMSIS Elite on daily and/or weekly basis to review the data submitted to the State as listed in your Agency's Data Management Policy.
- 5.8.8 Must describe the Agency Data Manager's responsibilities for:
 - 5.8.8.1 Monitoring ePCR validity scores. Any ePCR with a validity score less than 95 must be corrected and resubmitted to GEMSIS Elite.
 - 5.8.8.2 Monitoring the thoroughness of narratives.
 - 5.8.8.3 Validating call volume in GEMSIS Elite matches call volume in the agency's dispatch log.
 - 5.8.8.4 Monitoring failed imports. Any failed imports must be corrected and re-submitted to GEMSIS Elite within 72 hours.
- ePCR data must be submitted to GEMSIS Elite within 24 hours of call completion, based on eTimes.13.

EMS Incident List

Navigation: Incidents tab > View Existing > EMS

The screenshot shows the 'EMS Incident List' interface. At the top, the 'Incidents' menu is highlighted. Below it, search filters for 'Unit Notified by Dispatch Date/Time', 'Created By', 'Status', 'Validity', and 'NEMSIS Version' are visible. The main table lists incidents with columns for 'Validity', 'Status', 'Unit Notified by Dispatch Date/Time', 'Incident Number', 'Response Number', 'Created By', and 'NEMSIS Version'. The 'Validity' column contains values like 100, 48, and -55. The 'Unit Notified by Dispatch Date/Time' column shows dates such as 10/30/2023 09:24:36. The 'NEMSIS Version' column consistently shows 3.5. Action icons (edit, delete, etc.) are present at the end of each row.

Validity	Status	Unit Notified by Dispatch Date/Time	Incident Number	Response Number	Created By	NEMSIS Version
100	In Progress	10/30/2023 09:24:36	Standby call example	Standby call example	Tina Wright (OEMST)	3.5
100	In Progress	10/03/2023 11:53:33	Lift Assist Call Sample	Lift Assist Call Sample	Dipti Patel (OEMST)	3.5
48	In Progress	08/06/2023 11:12:44	Neonatal v3.5 Test	Neonatal v3.5 Test	Dipti Patel (OEMST)	3.5
-55	In Progress	05/09/2023 08:49:15	Armband and MRN # Test	Armband and MRN # Test	Dipti Patel (OEMST)	3.5
100	In Progress	05/01/2023 12:26:38	Non-Transport (DOA) Test	Test Case 7	Dipti Patel (OEMST)	3.5
100	In Progress	04/26/2023 16:51:36	Medical Call - Test	Test Case 5	Dipti Patel (OEMST)	3.5
100	In Progress	04/26/2023 14:24:50	Medical Transport - Dialysis Test	Test Case 6-B	Dipti Patel (OEMST)	3.5
100	In Progress	04/17/2023 11:04:20	Cardiac Arrest with ROSC Test	Test Case 1	Test User 1	3.5
100	In Progress	04/17/2023 09:04:30	STEMI/MI - Test	Test Case 2	Test User 1	3.5
100	In Progress	04/17/2023 08:05:30	Stroke with Positive Stroke Screen Test	Test Case 3	Test User 1	3.5

We are Here to Help!

- If you are a new Data Manager and/or EMS Agency Administrator for an agency and do not have access to GEMSIS Elite. Please contact us!
- We can provide you with resources that will assist with your data maintenance and abide by the Data Management Policy.
- Please contact us with any questions!
 - Dipti Patel – dipti.patel@dph.ga.gov
 - Tina Wright – tina.wright@dph.ga.gov



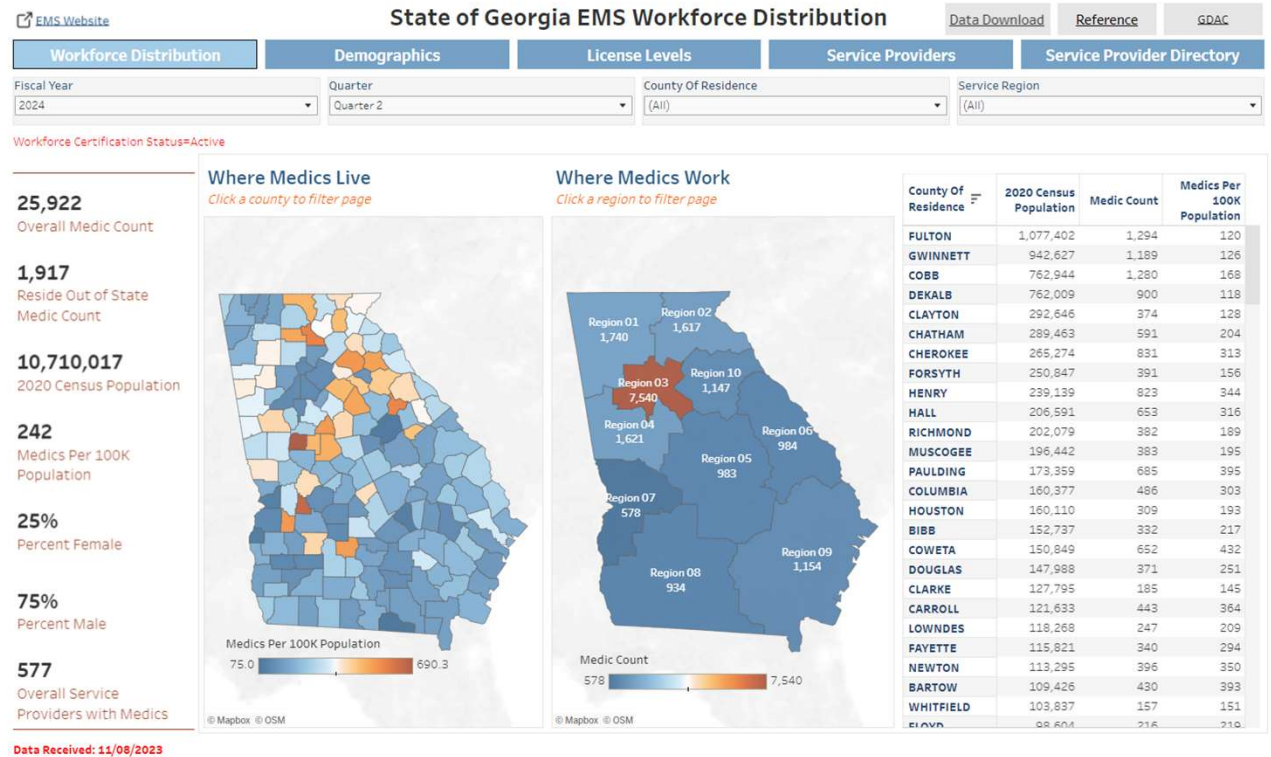
EMS Workforce Dashboard

Kelly Joiner

EMS Workforce Dashboard



Georgia EMS Workforce Distribution dashboard hosted by GDAC



<https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS>

EMS Agency Demographic Information

To update EMS Agency Demographic information:

- Agency email
- Phone
- Website
- Address of Base Location

Utilize **Update Agency Demographics** application

Education Updates

Richard Rhodes

Reminder



Candidate Scenarios

Scenarios	Examination Requirement
Candidates who have passed the cognitive and psychomotor examination prior to June 30, 2024.	These candidates are certified, and no additional testing is required.
Candidates who have passed the cognitive examination before June 30, 2024, but not completed the psychomotor examination.	These candidates must take AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examinations.
Candidates who have passed the psychomotor examination prior to June 30, 2024, but have not completed the cognitive examination.	These candidates must take AEMT or Paramedic Certification Examinations.

Bottom Line

- All candidates MUST successfully complete the cognitive and psychomotor exams by June 30, 2024 or they will have to take the certification exam
- We will work with all programs to conduct psychomotor exams as needed in the months leading up to the change

TRAIN Georgia Classes

TRAIN Georgia



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Georgia EMS CE Training

Topic Areas	Total Hours Available
General	10.25
Trauma	5.25
Medical	0.5
Operations	1.5
Cardiac/Stroke	15.25
Pediatric	8.5
Airway	2.25
Instructor	1.0
Approved for PLS (TVP, ECMO)	3.75

Pediatric Transport

TRAIN Georgia



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Improving Occupant Protection: Non-Critical Pediatric Patients in Ambulances

[← Back](#)

Register User

[> Launch](#)

Save For Later



Web-based Training - Self-study

ID 1114247

Skill level: Introductory

0.5h

Publish date Apr 12, 2023 12:00 AM EDT

★★★★☆ (11)

Non-Critical Transport of Pediatric Patients

presented by Georgia EMS for Children

Child Occupant Safety Project

Approved for 0.5 Operations EMS CE

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

Upcoming Meetings

- EMSAC Quarterly Meeting – November 21st, at 10:00am
 - Virtual & In Person, OEMST, 1680 Phoenix Blvd, Atlanta, GA
- EMS Education Consortium – December 1st, 2023, at 10:00 AM
 - In Person, Northeast Georgia Health Systems, Gainesville, GA
- EMSMDAC Quarterly Meeting – January 2nd, at 11:00am
 - Virtual & In Person, OEMST, 1680 Phoenix Blvd, Atlanta, GA

<https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/public-notice-regional-and-statewide-meetings>

Questions? And Open Discussion



Thank you for all that you do!

- Be Safe

*May you be proud
of the work you do,
the person you are,
and the difference
you make.*

Thank You!