

# Opioid Fatal Drug Overdoses (Mortality), Georgia

## Data Source

Overdose-involved deaths were derived from DPH Vital Records death certificates. The following data include all deaths that occurred in Georgia among Georgia residents and deaths that occurred outside of Georgia among Georgia residents, unless otherwise specified.

## Case Definitions

**(Note: categories are not mutually exclusive, includes only drug overdose deaths caused by acute poisoning)**

### Any drug overdose death

May involve any over-the-counter, prescription, or illicit drug

- Deaths with any of the following ICD-10 codes as any underlying cause of death: X40-44, X60-64, X85, Y10-14

### Drug overdose death involving any opioid

Involves both prescription opioid pain relievers (e.g., hydrocodone, oxycodone, and morphine), opioids used to treat addiction (e.g., methadone), as well as heroin, opium, and synthetic opioids (e.g., tramadol and fentanyl that may be prescription or illicitly manufactured)

- Deaths with any of the following ICD-10 codes as any underlying cause of death: X40-44, X60-64, X85, Y10-14

AND one of the following:

- Any of the following ICD-10 codes as any other listed cause of death: T40.0, T40.1, T40.2, T40.3, T40.4, T40.6
- Any cause of death text field contains one of the following terms (or common misspelling): heroin, fentanyl (and fentanyl analogs), methadone, buprenorphine, butalbital, codeine, eddp, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, levorphanol, meperidine, norbuprenorphine, oxycodone, oxymorphone, tapentadol, tramadol

OR (for cases without an X or Y code in the underlying cause of death):

- Any cause of death text field contains the word "TOXIC" AND at least one of the following terms (or common misspelling): heroin, fentanyl (and fentanyl analogs), methadone, buprenorphine, butalbital, codeine, eddp, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, levorphanol, meperidine, norbuprenorphine, oxycodone, oxymorphone, tapentadol, tramadol

### Drug overdose death involving synthetic opioids other than methadone

Involves synthetic opioids other than methadone (e.g., tramadol and fentanyl that may be prescription or illicitly manufactured). Note: polysubstance abuse deaths may also involve methadone or other opioids

- Deaths with any of the following ICD-10 codes as any underlying cause of death: X40-44, X60-64, X85, Y10-14

AND one of the following:

- The following ICD-10 code as any other listed cause of death: T40.4
- Any cause of death text field contains the following keywords and common misspellings: fentanyl (and fentanyl analogs), tramadol

OR (for cases without an X or Y code in the underlying cause of death):

- Any cause of death text field contains the word "TOXIC" AND at least one of the following terms (or common misspelling): fentanyl (and fentanyl analogs), tramadol

### Drug overdose death involving heroin

Involves heroin. Note: polysubstance abuse deaths may also involve other opioids

- Deaths with any of the following ICD-10 codes as any underlying cause of death: X40-44, X60-64, X85, Y10-14

AND one of the following:

- The following ICD-10 code as any other listed cause of death: T40.1
- Any cause of death text field contains the following keywords and common misspellings: heroin, morphine

OR (for cases without an X or Y code in the underlying cause of death):

- Any cause of death text field contains the word "TOXIC" AND at least one of the following terms (or common misspelling): heroin, morphine

### Drug overdose death involving fentanyl

Note: polysubstance abuse deaths may also involve other opioids

Any cause of death text field contains the word "TOXIC" AND at least one of the following terms (or common misspelling): fentanyl (and fentanyl analogs)

## Other Definitions or Limitations

Deaths represent individual people who died in Georgia and deaths among Georgia residents outside of Georgia.

Overdose death county represents the county of residence, or the place of injury (where the overdose occurred) as specified; when the place of injury field or the county of residence field was blank the county of the death certifier was used.

Rate indicates the number of deaths among Georgia residents per 100,000 population using appropriate year Census data as the denominator, and all rates are age- adjusted unless age category is presented.

Rates for categories with fewer than 5 deaths may not be accurate and are not presented in this report.

### ICD-10 Code Description

X40-X44 (accidental poisonings by drugs), X60-X64 (intentional self-poisoning by drugs), X85 (assault by drug poisoning), Y10-Y14 (drug poisoning of undetermined intent), T40.0 (opium), T40.1 (heroin), T40.2 (natural and semisynthetic opioids), T40.3 (methadone), T40.4 (synthetic opioids, other than methadone, T40.6 (other and unspecified narcotics)

## Opioid Nonfatal Overdoses (Morbidity), Georgia

### Data Source

Nonfatal overdose counts were derived from Georgia hospitalization and emergency department (ED) visit discharge data, and included all ED visits or hospitalizations occurring in a non-Federal acute care hospital in Georgia, among Georgia residents, with a discharge diagnosis indicating acute drug overdose during appropriate year.

### Case Definitions (categories are not mutually exclusive)

#### **ED visit or hospitalization involving any drug overdose**

*May include any over-the-counter, prescription, or illicit drug*

- Any mention of ICD-10CM codes: T36-T50

AND

- 6<sup>th</sup> character: 1-4, and a 7<sup>th</sup> character of A or missing

#### **ED visit or hospitalization involving any opioid overdose**

*Includes prescription opioid pain relievers (e.g., hydrocodone, oxycodone, and morphine), opioids used to treat addiction (e.g., methadone), as well as heroin, opium, and synthetic opioids (e.g., tramadol and fentanyl that may be prescription or illicitly-manufactured)*

- Any mention of ICD-10CM codes: T40.0X, T40.1X, T40.2X, T40.3X, T40.4X, T40.60, T40.69

AND

- 6<sup>th</sup> character: 1-4, and a 7<sup>th</sup> character of A or missing

#### **ED visit or hospitalization involving a heroin overdose**

- Any mention of ICD-10CM code: T40.1X

AND

- 6<sup>th</sup> character: 1-4, and a 7<sup>th</sup> character of A or missing

### Other Definitions or Limitations

Please Note: The case definition has changed and cannot be compared to previous reports.

Any opioid may include prescription or illicit opioids.

ED Visits and Hospitalization categories are not mutually exclusive. Hospitalizations may also appear in the ED Visits category if they were admitted to the hospital through the ED.

ED visits and hospitalizations may represent multiple visits by individuals in Georgia.

County indicates the patient's county of residence.

Only Black and White are indicated for race because of incomplete or sparse data on other races and ethnicities.

Rate indicates the number of ED visits or hospitalizations among Georgia residents per 100,000 population using appropriate year Census data as the denominator, and all rates are age-adjusted unless age category is presented.

Rates for categories with fewer than 5 ED visits or hospitalizations may not be accurate and are not presented in this report.

### ICD-10 CM Code Description

Poisoning by: T36-T50 (range includes all drugs), T40.0X (opium), T40.1X (heroin), T40.2X (other opioids), T40.3X (methadone), T40.4X (synthetic narcotics), T40.60 (unspecified narcotics), T40.69 (other narcotics)

6<sup>th</sup> Character: 1 (accidental, unintentional), 2 (intentional self-harm), 3 (assault), 4 (undetermined intent)

7<sup>th</sup> Character: A (initial encounter) or missing

For more information:

- County level data and other Georgia drug surveillance reports:  
<https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-surveillance-unit>
- Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) Main Opioid Page:  
<https://dph.georgia.gov/stopopioidaddiction>
- Georgia drug overdose mortality interactive maps and statistics:  
<https://oasis.state.ga.us/PageDirect.aspx?referer=MortalityDrugOverdoses>
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) information: GA PDMP Overview and FAQs  
<https://dph.georgia.gov/pdmp>