

Drug Overdose Deaths in Georgia, SUDORS & NVDRS

Amanda Taylor Dinwiddie, MPH, Drug Overdose Surveillance Epidemiologist

National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

Uses information from Death Certificates, Coroner/Medical Examiner reports, EMS and Law Enforcement reports to provide a complete picture of violent deaths in Georgia

Information can be used to:

- Characterize violent deaths in Georgia
- Inform, develop, and guide violence prevention programs

State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Uses the same data as NVDRS, plus PDMP information to provide a complete picture of opioid-involved overdose deaths in Georgia

Information can be used to:

- Characterize opioid overdose deaths in Georgia
- Inform, develop, and guide overdose prevention programs

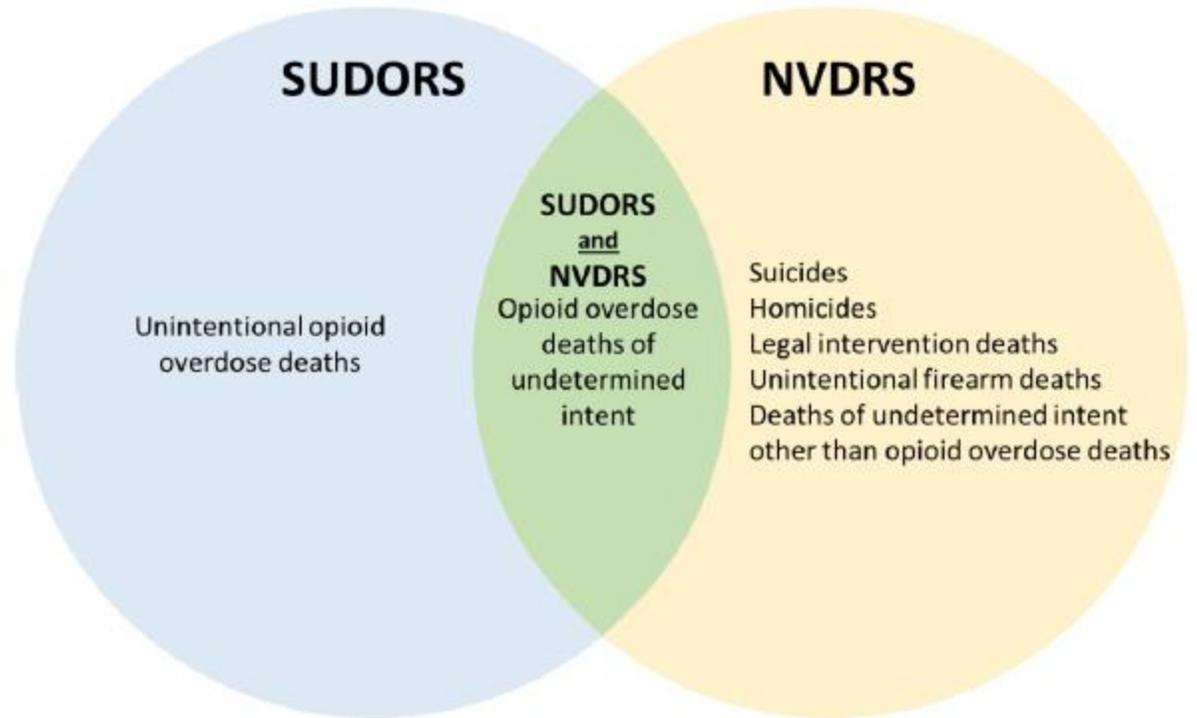
Both NVDRS and SUDORS data collection take place using CDC's NVDRS web-based system

SUDORS is expanding to include ALL drug overdoses with OD2A (new grant) funding

SUDORS Process

- DC data obtained from vital records monthly for import into NVDRS
- Investigation summary, autopsy, and toxicology reports requested from Medical Examiners & Coroners
- EMS and PDMP records pulled manually
- Data abstracted into NVDRS database

Meeting data abstraction deadlines can be challenging!



SUDORS Data Fields

Demographics

- Includes city/county of residence, occupation, education

Injury and Death

- Manner of death, type of location where injury/death occurred, dx codes, cause(s) of death

Circumstances

- Mental health, substance abuse, other addictions at the time of death

Toxicology

- All substances tested with results; including metabolites

Overdose Scene Evidence

- Includes prescription/illicit drugs & equipment at the scene, naloxone administration

The first SUDORS report is coming soon!

SUDORS Deaths by Drug Type

Opioid & Non-Opioid Drug Overdose Deaths by Manner of Death (MoD) & Medical Examiner (ME) Entity^o, Georgia, July 2017 – June 2018*

Drug Overdose Type	ME Entity										Unknown ME Entity		Total	
	Cobb		DeKalb		Fulton		Gwinnett		GBI		#	%	#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Opioid-involved^ Unintentional MoD	98	11.5	91	10.6	118	13.8	54	6.3	492	57.5	2	0.2	855	100.0
Opioid-involved^ Undetermined MoD	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	66.7	0	0.0	3	100.0
Non-Opioid-involved+ Unintentional MoD	28	6.0	46	9.8	66	14.1	12	2.6	274	58.5	42	9.0	468	100.0
Non-Opioid-involved+ Undetermined MoD	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	60.0	1	20.0	5	100.0
Total	128	9.6	137	10.3	184	13.8	66	5.0	771	57.9	45	3.4	1331	100.0

Data source: Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GA-VDRS) and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

* Data includes unintentional and undetermined drug overdose cases that overdosed in Georgia with date of death from July 2017 – June 2018; contains Georgia and non-Georgia residents.

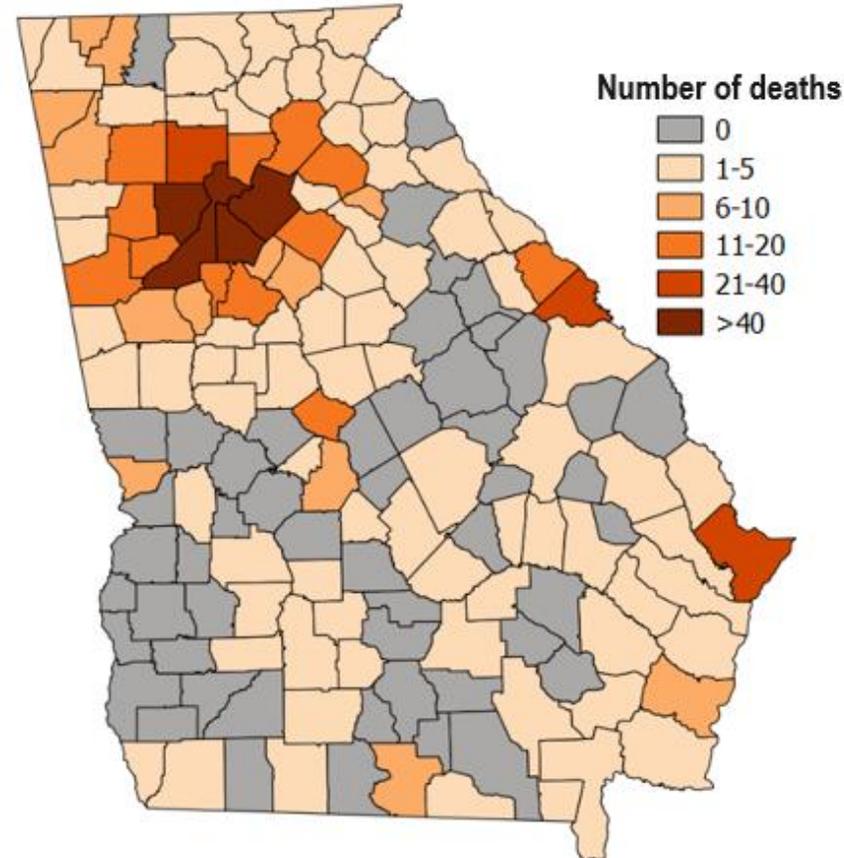
^o ME entity determined by county of injury. DeKalb ME includes DeKalb, Hall, Henry, and Rockdale counties. Data for % shows percentage of row total.

[^] Opioid-involved includes cases with an opioid listed in the cause of death. These cases may have also tested positive for other non-opioid substances.

⁺ Non-Opioid-involved includes cases without an opioid listed in the cause of death. These cases may have also tested positive for an opioid.

Opioid-involved Overdose Deaths by County of Injury

Opioid-involved Drug Overdose Deaths by County of Injury, Georgia, July 2017 – June 2018*

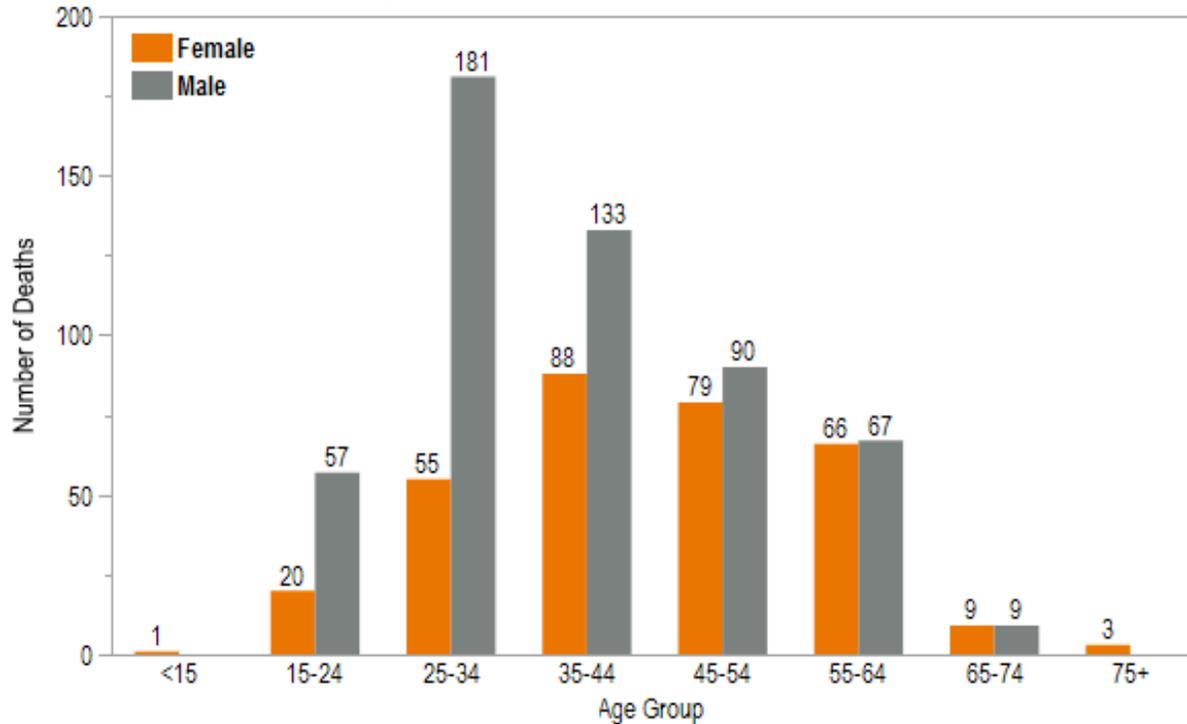


Data source: Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GA-VDRS) and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

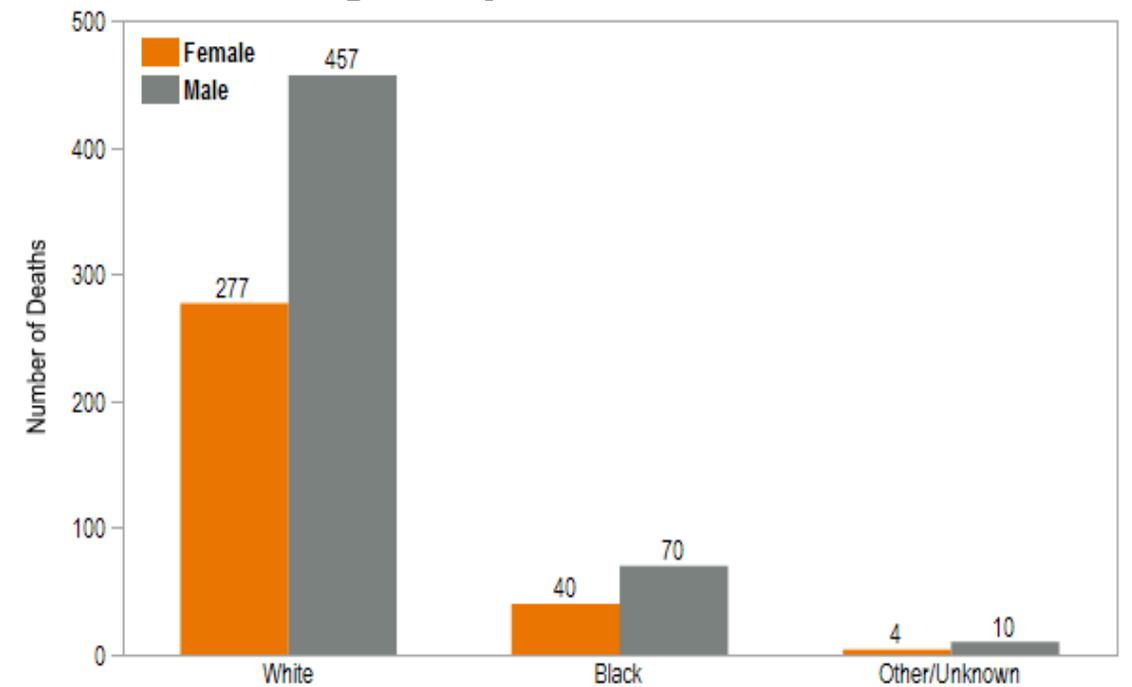
* Data includes unintentional and undetermined drug overdose cases that overdosed in Georgia with date of death from July 2017 – June 2018; contains Georgia and non-Georgia residents.

Opioid-involved Overdose Deaths by Selected Demographics

Opioid-involved Drug Overdose Deaths by Age Group & Sex, Georgia, July 2017 – June 2018*



Opioid-involved Drug Overdose Deaths by Race & Sex, Georgia, July 2017 – June 2018*



Data source: Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GA-VDRS) and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

* Data includes unintentional and undetermined drug overdose cases that overdosed in Georgia with date of death from July 2017 – June 2018; contains Georgia and non-Georgia residents.

Preliminary SUDORS/PDMP Data, 2017 (entire year)

Opioid Prescription Status of Undetermined and Unintentional Drug Overdose Decedents, Georgia, 2017		
Type of Drug Overdose	Filled Opioid Rx within 180 days of death	
	#	% of category total
All Drug Deaths (total=1,392)	560	40.2%
Opioid-involved Deaths (total=997)	434	43.5%
Non-Opioid-involved Deaths (total=395)	126	31.9%

Data source: Georgia Violent Death Reporting System and Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change

Preliminary SUDORS/PDMP Data, 2017 (entire year)

Type of Opioid Prescriptions Filled among Undetermined and Unintentional Drug Overdose Decedents within 180 Days of Death, Georgia, 2017

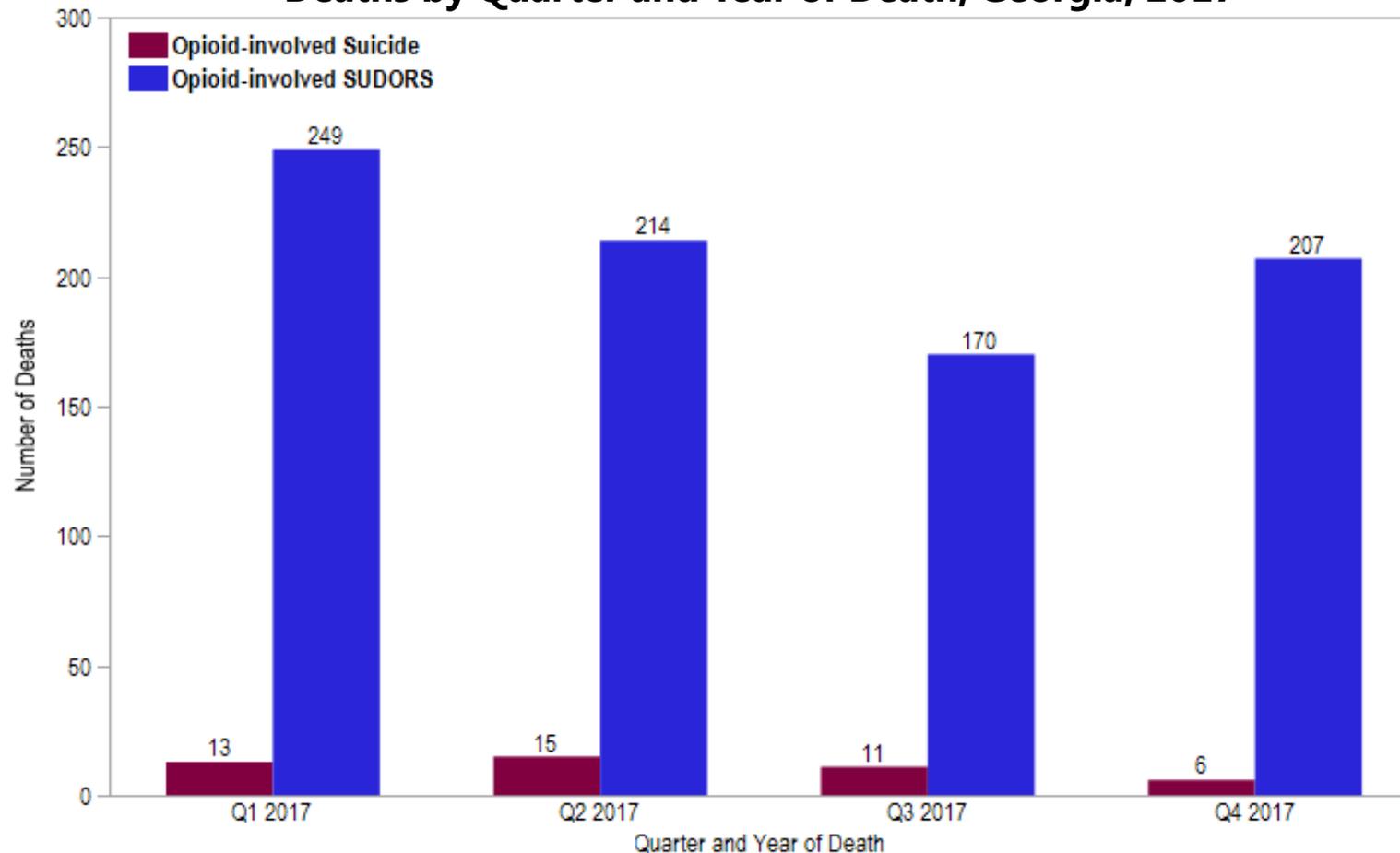
Opioid Prescription	All Drug Deaths (total=560)		Opioid-involved Deaths (total=434)	
	#	%	#	%
Acetaminophen/Hydrocodone	279	49.8%	208	47.9%
Acetaminophen/Oxycodone	204	36.4%	155	35.7%
Oxycodone	116	20.7%	94	21.7%
Tramadol	140	25.0%	109	25.1%

Data source: Georgia Violent Death Reporting System and Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Note: Data is preliminary and subject to change

Opioid-involved SUDORS and Suicide Deaths

Intentional (Suicide) and Unintentional/Undetermined (SUDORS) Deaths by Quarter and Year of Death, Georgia, 2017



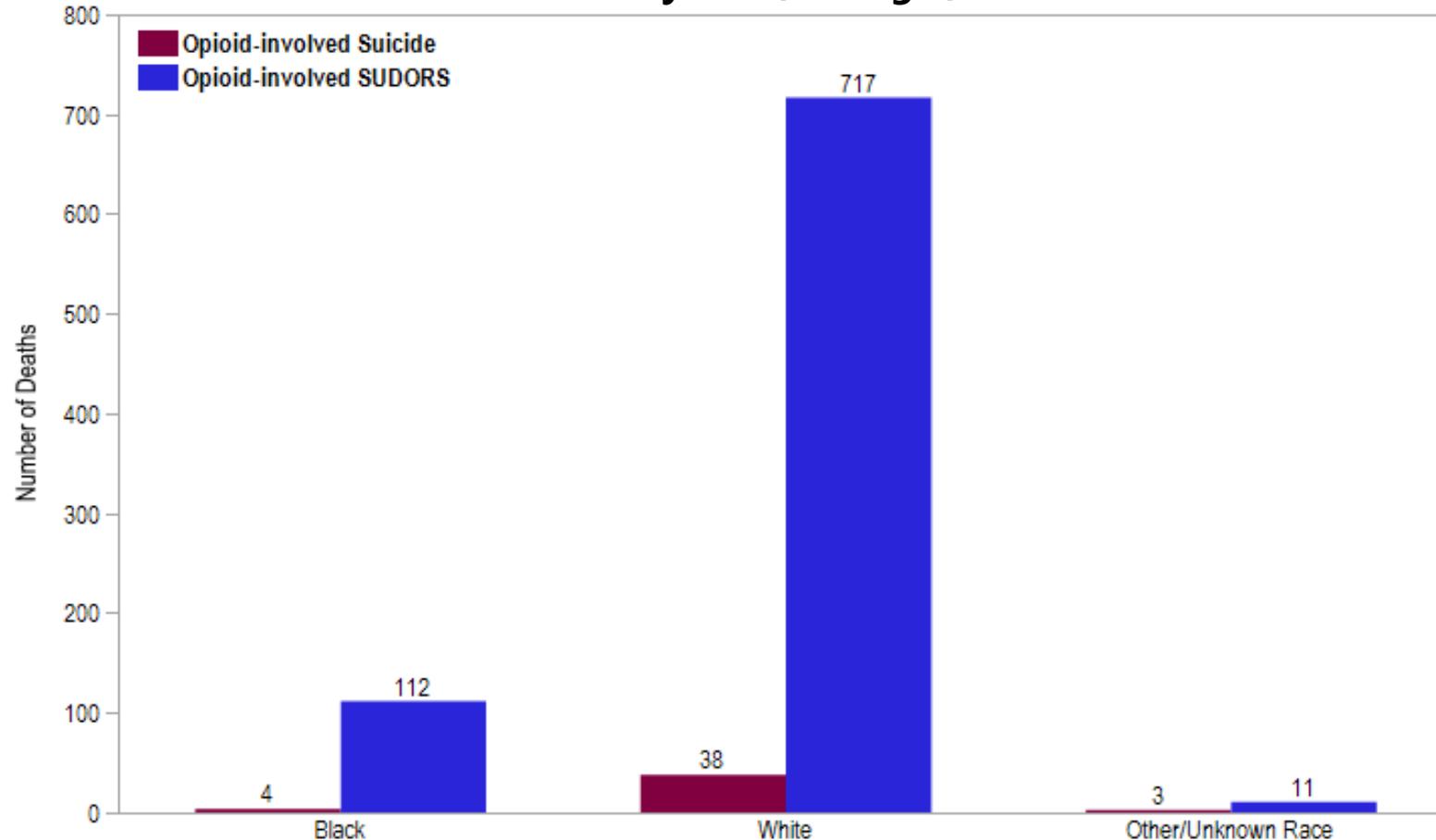
In 2017:

- 99.8% of all SUDORS deaths in GA were unintentional (only 2 cases were deemed undetermined)
- Of the 1,405 total suicides, only 45 (3.2%) had an opioid-involved overdose ICD-10 code listed in the cause of death

Data source: Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GA-VDRS) and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Opioid-involved SUDORS and Suicide Deaths

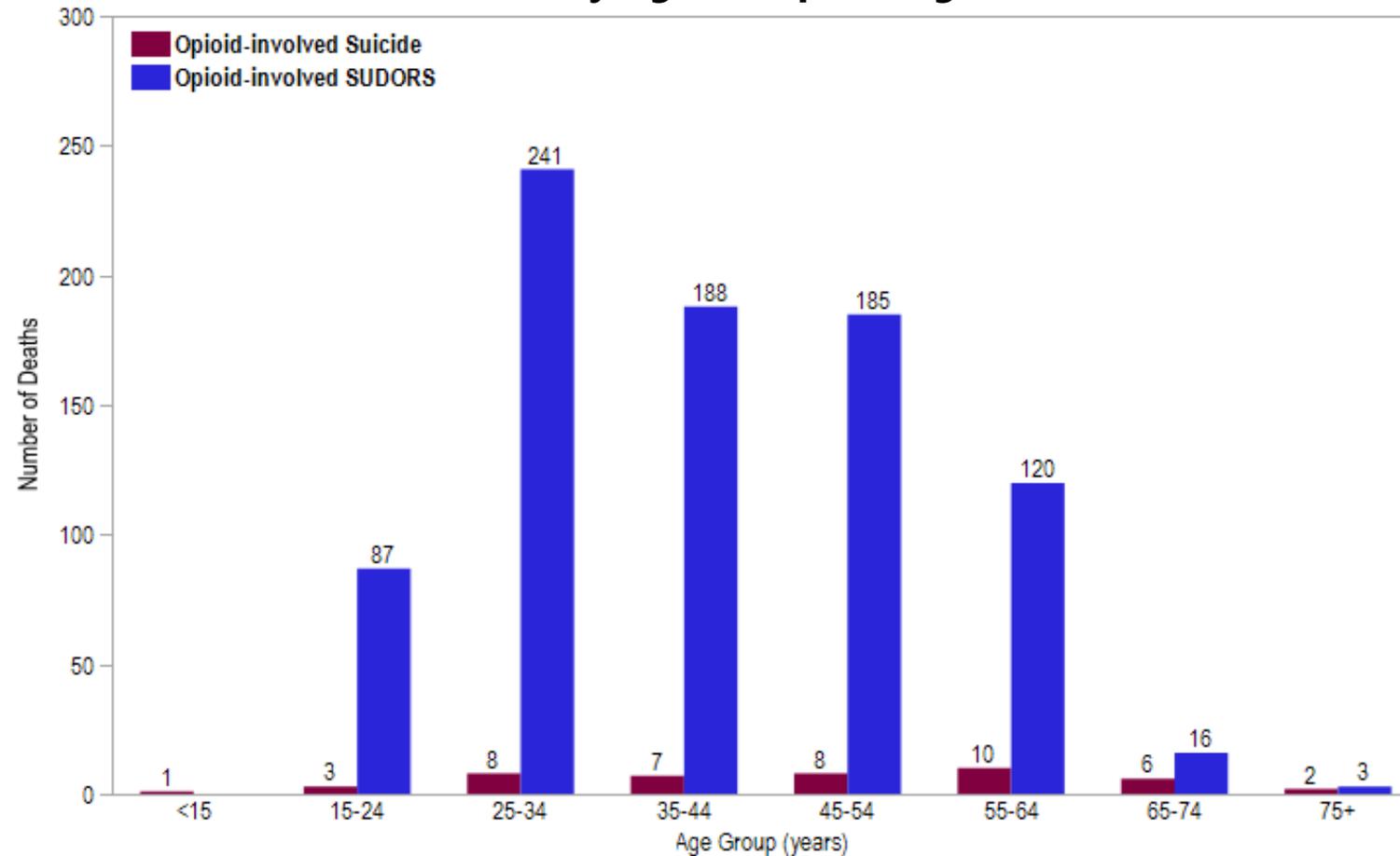
Intentional (Suicide) and Unintentional/Undetermined (SUDORS) Deaths by Race, Georgia, 2017



Data source: Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GA-VDRS) and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Opioid-involved SUDORS and Suicide Deaths

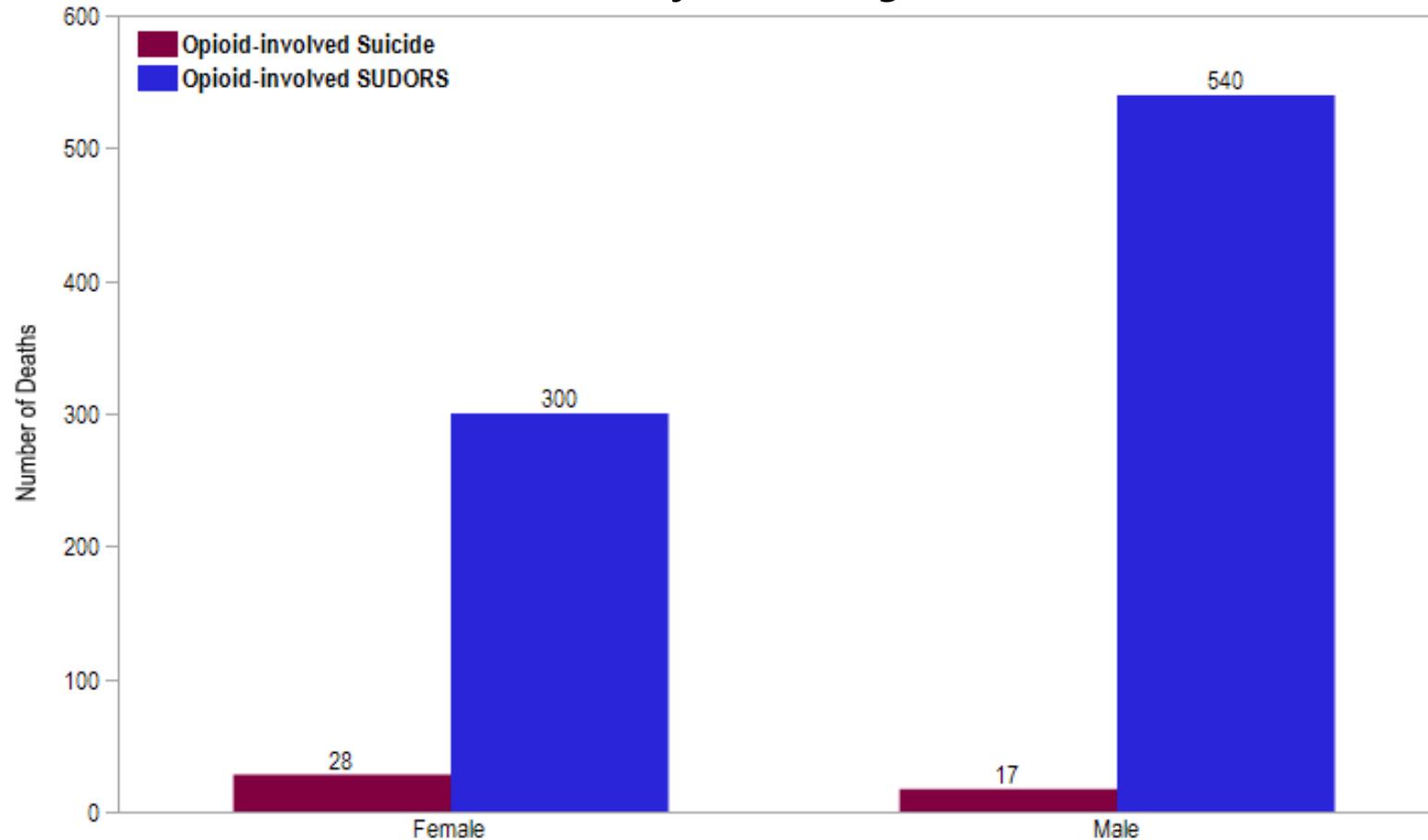
Intentional (Suicide) and Unintentional/Undetermined (SUDORS) Deaths by Age Group, Georgia, 2017



Data source: Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GA-VDRS) and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Opioid-involved SUDORS and Suicide Deaths

Intentional (Suicide) and Unintentional/Undetermined (SUDORS) Deaths by Sex, Georgia, 2017



Data source: Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GA-VDRS) and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Improving Overdose Death Reporting

- Rapid notification of overdose deaths can inform stakeholders working to address this epidemic about the changing trends, and may identify OD death clusters that could indicate a dangerous new drug
 - The average time for OD deaths to be certified in 2017 was 71 days!
 - The lag is often due to long toxicology turnaround times
 - Long lag creates challenges in identifying clusters and changing trends
- Therefore it is critical to identify suspect overdoses before toxicology results are received

Drug Overdose Death Reporting Changes

To assist with timely and accurate tracking of drug overdose (OD) deaths, Vital Records has added a new field to the Georgia Vital Events Registration System (GAVERS) where suspected OD deaths can be indicated. This field will **NOT** print on the death certificate, and can be changed if the cause of death is ultimately determined to be non-OD related.

WITHIN 72 HOURS of a suspected OD death, begin a death certificate in GAVERS and complete the following questions on the *Medical-2* tab in the *Manner of Death* section (see section in red box on next page):

1. *Do you have reason to suspect that this death is due to an unintentional drug overdose?*
 - Choose *yes* if there is a suspicion that the death may have been caused by an unintentional OD
 - This may be determined by evidence of drug use which may include paraphernalia or drugs found at the scene, fresh track marks, naloxone administration for a suspect OD, witness reports, and other relevant evidence
 - Choose *No* if the cause of death was not OD related
 - Choose *Unknown* if there is not enough information at this time to determine if the death may have been OD related
2. *Briefly describe the circumstance:*
 - Text, briefly describe the circumstance/evidence, including drug type if known

The screenshot shows the GAVERS software interface for a death certificate entry. The 'Manner of Death' section is visible, and a red box highlights the question 'Do you have reason to suspect that this death is due to an unintentional drug overdose?' and the 'Briefly describe the circumstance' text area. The interface includes various tabs like 'GLOBAL', 'BIRTH', 'DEATH', 'FETAL DEATH', 'ITOP', 'FEE', 'MARRIAGE', and 'DIVORCE'. The 'Cause of Death - Part I' section is also visible, with fields for 'IMMEDIATE CAUSE', 'DUE TO', and 'CAUSE OF DEATH - PART II'.

Suspect Overdose Death Reporting

- New field added to GAVERS
- Asked to report within 72 hours
- Does NOT print on death certificate
- DPH can monitor these deaths on a daily basis to rapidly identify clusters or changing trends

If you are a death certifier, please use this!

THANK YOU!

Amanda Taylor Dinwiddie, MPH

Drug Overdose Surveillance Epidemiologist

Georgia Department of Public Health

Phone: 404-463-8918

Email: amanda.dinwiddie@dph.ga.gov