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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Monthly Rate‡ per 100,000 Population September 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPALDING</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSTON</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHATHAM</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALTON</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent Changeª of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, April-June 2018 to July-September 2018 (compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

Statewide, 1,174 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in September 2018, compared to 1,325 in September 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.

‡Rate 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.
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**Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2016-2018**

![Graph showing drug overdose ED visits by month in Georgia, 2016-2018.](image)

**2016 Count of ED Visits** | **2017 Count of ED Visits** | **2018 Count of ED Visits**
---|---|---
Jan | 1006 | 1081 | 1182
Feb | 1182 | 1240 | 1225
Mar | 1319 | 1321 | 1292
Apr | 1405 | 1403 | 1315
May | 1405 | 1403 | 1315
Jun | 1405 | 1403 | 1315
Jul | 1405 | 1403 | 1315
Aug | 1405 | 1403 | 1315
Sep | 1405 | 1403 | 1315
Oct | 1405 | 1403 | 1315
Nov | 1405 | 1403 | 1315
Dec | 1405 | 1403 | 1315
**Total** | 14818 | 15410 | 10763

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**Rate** of Drug* Overdose ED Visits

- **Overall**: 12.7 per 100,000 Population (2016), 11.3 per 100,000 Population (2018)
- **Sex**
  - Male: 11.3 per 100,000 Population (2016), 10.5 per 100,000 Population (2018)
  - Female: 14.0 per 100,000 Population (2016), 11.9 per 100,000 Population (2018)
- **Race**
  - White: 14.6 per 100,000 Population (2016), 12.9 per 100,000 Population (2018)
  - Black: 7.5 per 100,000 Population (2016), 6.8 per 100,000 Population (2018)
  - Other: 6.2 per 100,000 Population (2016), 9.0 per 100,000 Population (2018)
- **Age Group**
  - 15-24: 19.8 per 100,000 Population (2016), 17.3 per 100,000 Population (2018)
  - 25-34: 21.4 per 100,000 Population (2016), 19.9 per 100,000 Population (2018)
  - 35-44: 18.6 per 100,000 Population (2016), 16.0 per 100,000 Population (2018)
  - 45-54: 12.5 per 100,000 Population (2016), 13.0 per 100,000 Population (2018)
  - 55-64: 12.0 per 100,000 Population (2016), 10.0 per 100,000 Population (2018)
  - 65-74: 10.3 per 100,000 Population (2016), 7.6 per 100,000 Population (2018)
  - 75+: 10.2 per 100,000 Population (2016), 7.3 per 100,000 Population (2018)

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

- Male: 43.4% (2017), 45.6% (2018)
- Female: 56.6% (2017), 54.4% (2018)

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

- White: 75.6% (2017), 73.5% (2018)
- Black: 20.7% (2017), 20.6% (2018)
- Other: 3.7% (2017), 5.9% (2018)

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**Link(s) of interest:**


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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](https://www.cdc.gov/).  
*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.

11/6/18 (updated)