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, September 2019

Percent Change of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, April-June 2019 to July-September 2019 (compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Monthly Rate per 100,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARROLL</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBB</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOUGHERTY</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHATHAM</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2018 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.
Percent 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.

Statewide, 1,215 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in September 2019, compared to 1,174 in September 2018.

10/15/19 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 Sex*

Percent of All Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Race*

Drug* overdose cases in September 2019 were predominantly: Female (52.0%), White (71.1%), and between 25-34 years of age (25.6%)

5.0% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among males compared to the same month last year

14.4% increase in the count of Drug* overdoses among blacks compared to the same month last year

Link(s) of interest:
Georgia Department of Public Health Website: Severe Pulmonary Disease Among People Who Reported Vaping
Georgia Opioid Overdose Surveillance 2018 Preliminary Report

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.

Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2016 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.

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.