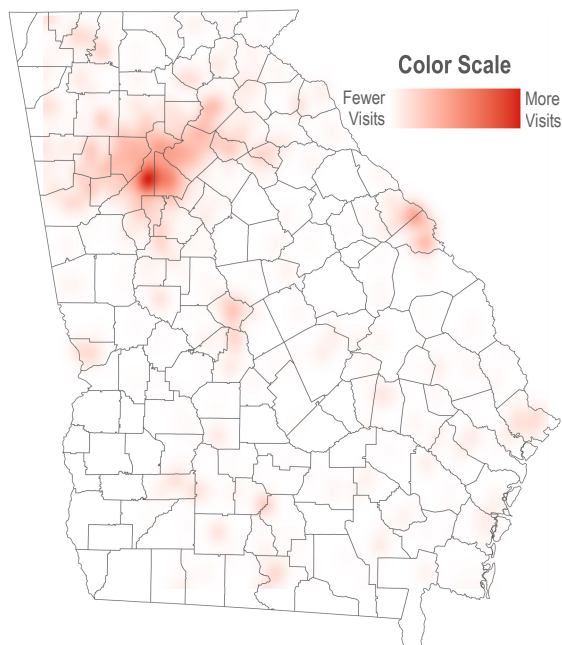


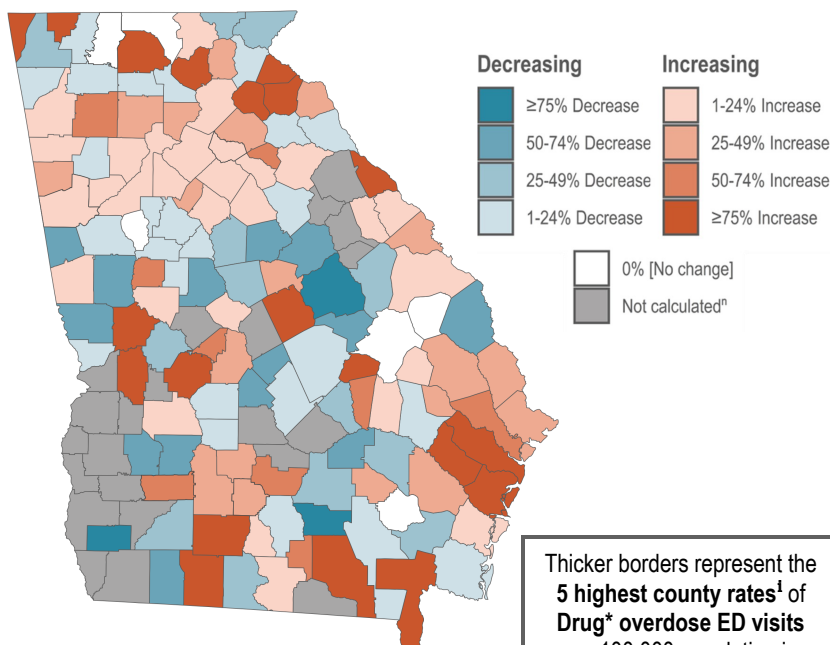
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, May 2023

**What is Syndromic Surveillance (SyS)?** SyS is used as an early detection method for potential clusters or outbreaks, by tracking suspected drug overdose-involved 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 SyS data within the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS).

Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Patient Zip Code<sup>^</sup>,  
Georgia, May 2023



Percent Change<sup>a</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits,  
Georgia, Dec 2022 - Feb 2023 to Mar 2023 - May 2023  
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)



## Top 5 Counties<sup>^</sup> with 15 or More Drug\* Overdose ED Visits During May 2023

County	Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population May 2023	Monthly Rate <sup>i</sup> per 100,000 Population Jun 2022 - May 2023
Tift	58.7	
Carroll	47.6	
Murray	46.6	
Barrow	39.0	
Dougherty	34.2	

Thicker borders represent the  
**5 highest county rates<sup>i</sup> of  
Drug\* overdose ED visits  
per 100,000 population in  
May 2023**  
(see table below)

**Statewide,  
1,641 ED visits for  
Drug\* overdoses  
occurred in  
May 2023,  
compared to 1522 in  
May 2022.**

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.

<sup>^</sup>Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

<sup>i</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2021 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

<sup>a</sup>Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

\*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

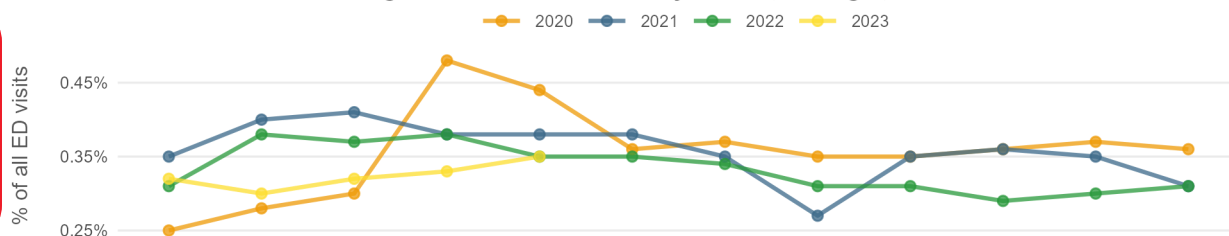
Note: All data excludes patients ≤9 years of age. Counts represent the number of ED visits instead of the number of patients, therefore, patients with repeat visits may have been counted more than once.

Note: SyS data is not the same as emergency department discharge data; drug overdose SyS data is limited and based on accuracy of chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis and what is reported to DPH SyS. 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.

# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, May 2023

## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2020-2023

Note: Proportion of ED visits may be affected by changes in the number of ED visits during COVID-19.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2020 % of total ED visits	0.25%	0.28%	0.30%	0.48%	0.44%	0.36%	0.37%	0.35%	0.35%	0.36%	0.37%	0.36%	0.36%
2021 % of total ED visits	0.35%	0.40%	0.41%	0.38%	0.38%	0.38%	0.35%	0.27%	0.35%	0.36%	0.35%	0.31%	0.36%
% change from 2020 to 2021	40.00%	42.86%	36.67%	-20.83%	-13.64%	5.56%	-5.41%	-22.86%	0.00%	0.00%	-5.41%	-13.89%	3.59%
2022 % of total ED visits	0.31%	0.38%	0.37%	0.38%	0.35%	0.35%	0.34%	0.31%	0.31%	0.29%	0.30%	0.31%	0.33%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-11.43%	-5.00%	-9.76%	0.00%	-7.89%	-7.89%	-2.86%	14.81%	-11.43%	-19.44%	-14.29%	0.00%	-6.26%
2023 % of total ED visits	0.32%	0.30%	0.32%	0.33%	0.35%								0.32%
% change from 2022 to 2023	3.23%	-21.05%	-13.51%	-13.16%	0.00%								-8.90%

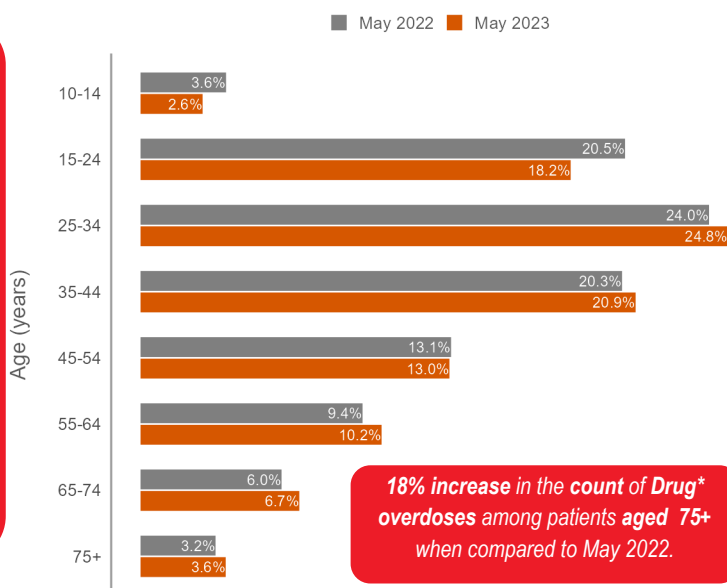
## Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex, Race, and Age Group, Georgia, May 2022 and May 2023

### Rate<sup>1</sup> of Drug\* Overdose ED Visits

	May 2022 Rate <sup>1</sup> (per 100,000 population)	May 2023 Rate <sup>1</sup> (per 100,000 population)
Overall	18.1	18.8
Sex		
Female	18.0	17.6
Male	18.2	20.0
Race		
Black	12.1	15.7
White	18.9	18.3
Other	26.7	18.1
Age Group (years)		
10-14	7.6	5.8
15-24	44.3	40.8
25-34	25.4	27.2
35-44	22.5	24.0
45-54	14.8	15.3
55-64	11.0	12.4
65-74	9.5	11.1
75+	8.4	9.9

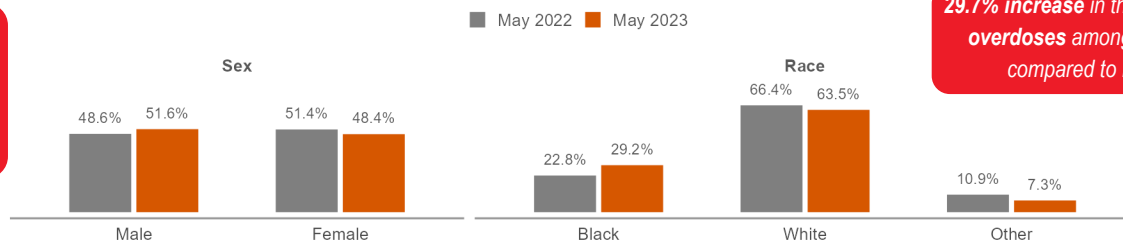
Drug\* overdose ED visits in May 2023 were predominantly: Male (59%), White (59.2%), and between 25-34 years of age (24.8%).

### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group



18% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among patients aged 75+ when compared to May 2022.

### Percent of All Drug\* Overdose ED Visits by Sex and Race



10% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among males when compared to May 2022.

29.7% increase in the count of Drug\* overdoses among Blacks when compared to May 2022.

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.

<sup>1</sup>Zip code and county are based on patient residence.

<sup>1</sup>Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2021 Census data as the denominator. Excluded rates for counties with <15 visits.

<sup>2</sup>Percent change data by county excludes counties with less than 3 visits.

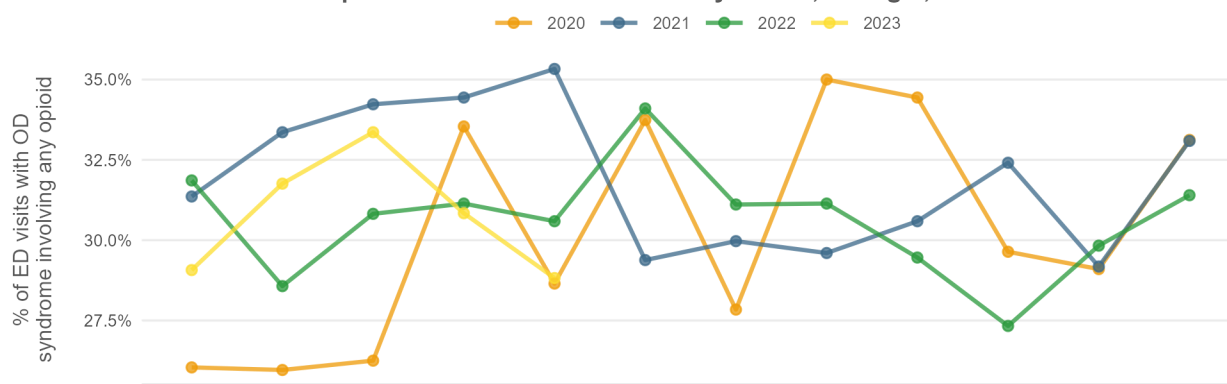
\*Drug Specific Categories are not mutually exclusive and include illicit and prescription drugs. Specific drugs identified using the chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis fields and are not meant to be comprehensive.

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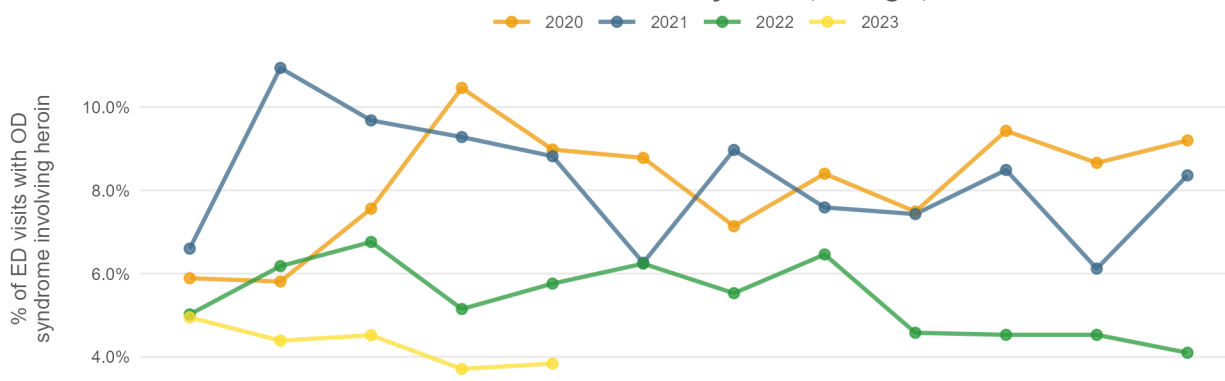
# Syndromic Surveillance Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Georgia, May 2023

Opioid-Involved+ OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2020-2023



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2020 % of OD ED visits	26.04%	25.96%	26.25%	33.54%	28.65%	33.74%	27.84%	35.00%	34.44%	29.64%	29.10%	33.12%	30.28%
2021 % of OD ED visits	31.36%	33.36%	34.23%	34.44%	35.33%	29.38%	29.97%	29.60%	30.59%	32.41%	29.18%	33.09%	31.91%
% change from 2020 to 2021	20.43%	28.51%	30.40%	2.68%	23.32%	-12.92%	7.65%	-15.43%	-11.18%	9.35%	0.27%	-0.09%	6.92%
2022 % of OD ED visits	31.86%	28.57%	30.82%	31.14%	30.59%	34.10%	31.11%	31.14%	29.46%	27.33%	29.83%	31.40%	30.61%
% change from 2021 to 2022	1.59%	-14.36%	-9.96%	-9.58%	-13.42%	16.07%	3.80%	5.20%	-3.69%	-15.67%	2.23%	-5.11%	-3.58%
2023 % of OD ED visits	29.07%	31.76%	33.36%	30.84%	28.82%								30.77%
% change from 2022 to 2023	-8.76%	11.17%	8.24%	-9.96%	-5.79%								0.78%

Heroin-Involved+ OD ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2020-2023



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
2020 % of OD ED visits	5.89%	5.81%	7.56%	10.46%	8.98%	8.78%	7.14%	8.40%	7.49%	9.43%	8.66%	9.20%	8.15%
2021 % of OD ED visits	6.60%	10.94%	9.68%	9.28%	8.82%	6.26%	8.97%	7.59%	7.43%	8.49%	6.12%	8.36%	8.21%
% change from 2020 to 2021	12.05%	88.30%	28.04%	-11.28%	-1.78%	-28.70%	25.63%	-9.64%	-0.80%	-9.97%	-29.33%	-9.13%	4.45%
2022 % of OD ED visits	5.02%	6.18%	6.76%	5.15%	5.76%	6.24%	5.53%	6.46%	4.58%	4.53%	4.53%	4.10%	5.40%
% change from 2021 to 2022	-23.94%	-43.51%	-30.17%	-44.50%	-34.69%	-0.32%	-38.35%	-14.89%	-38.36%	-46.64%	-25.98%	-50.96%	-32.69%
2023 % of OD ED visits	4.95%	4.39%	4.52%	3.71%	3.84%								4.28%
% change from 2022 to 2023	-1.39%	-28.96%	-33.14%	-27.96%	-33.33%								-24.96%

## Link(s) of interest:

[CDC MMWR, Rapid Analysis of Drugs: A Pilot Surveillance System To Detect Changes in the Illicit Drug Supply To Guide Timely Harm Reduction Responses – Eight Syringe Services Programs, Maryland, November 2021 – August 2022](#)

[Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports, Associations between prescription stimulant use as prescribed, nonmedical use, and illicit stimulant use among adults evaluated for substance use treatment, 2017-2021](#)

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](#).

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