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

Percent Changeª of Drug* Overdose ED Visits, Georgia, Dec 2017-Feb 2018 to March 2018-May 2018
(compares previous 3 months to current 3 months)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Monthly Rate¹ per 100,000 Population</th>
<th>Monthly Rate¹ per 100,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HARALSON</td>
<td>54.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARROLL</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBB</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOUGHERTY</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statewide, 1,204 ED visits for Drug* overdoses occurred in May 2018, compared to 1,315 in May 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.

¹Rate 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.

7/16/18 https://dph.georgia.gov/epidemiology
Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Month, Georgia, 2016-2018

Percent of Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Age Group

Percent of Drug* Overdose ED Visits by Sex

Link(s) of interest this month:
- CDC Vital Signs: Trends in Emergency Department Visits for Suspected Opioid Overdoses — United States, July 2016–September 2017
- Annals of Emergency Medicine Article – Opportunities for Prevention and Intervention of Opioid Overdose in the Emergency Department

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.

1Rate indicates visits per 100,000 persons using 2017 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 shown on this report may not depict the true burden of drug overdose in Georgia.