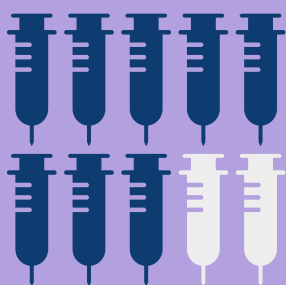


UNDERSTANDING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC: GEORGIA

An urgent public health crisis impacting communities across the state

76%
of U.S. overdose deaths in 2022 involved opioids



GEORGIA OVERDOSE TRENDS

Opioid-involved overdose deaths in Georgia increased by **302% between 2010 and 2022**. The COVID-19 pandemic further intensified this growing crisis.

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Opioid deaths are rising in both urban and rural areas across Georgia.

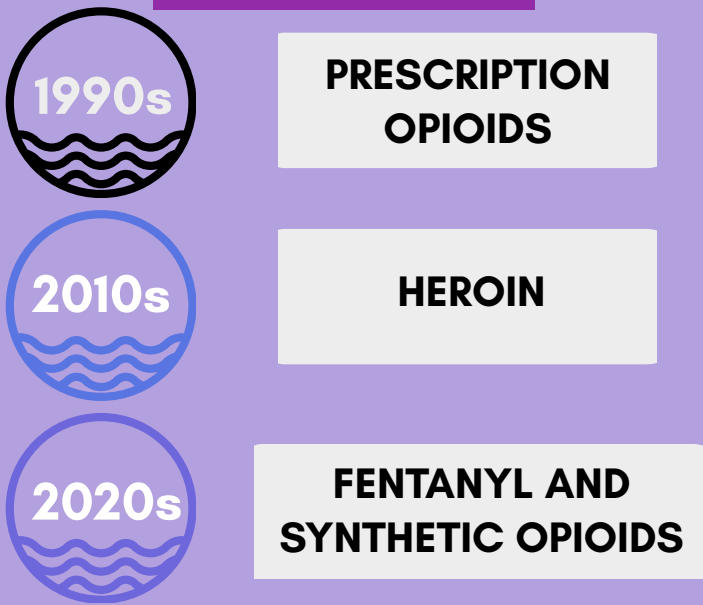
Urban centers see higher total deaths.

Rural counties have higher overdose death rates and limited access to treatment.



In 2020, **drug overdose was the leading cause of premature death** in Georgia.

DRIVING FORCES



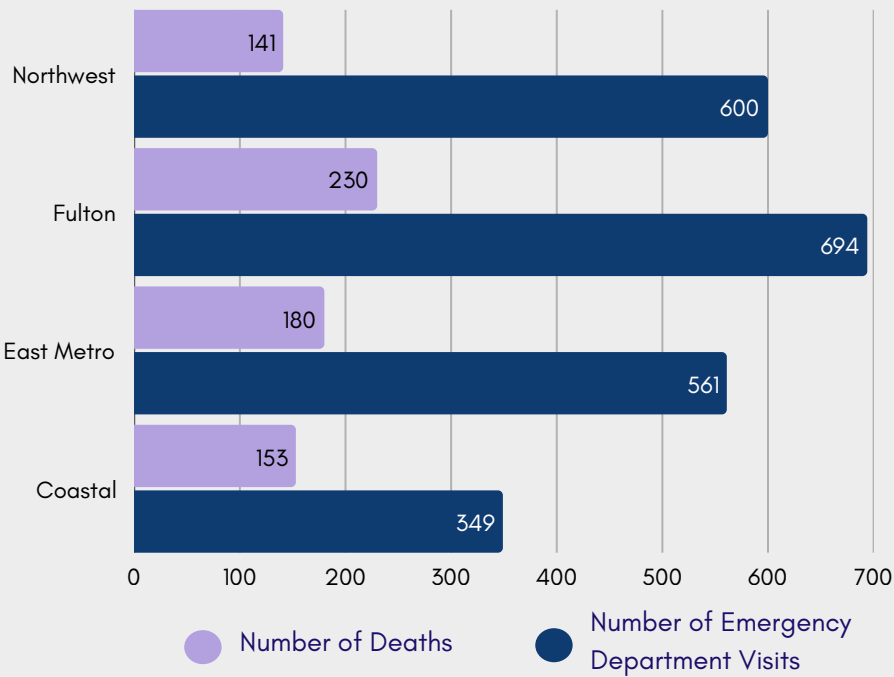
FENTANYL'S ROLE



In Georgia, fentanyl is often mixed with drugs like cocaine and meth, contributing to a **308%** rise in deaths since 2019.

OPIOID-INVOLVED OVERDOSE SURVEILLANCE ACROSS GEORGIA HEALTH DISTRICTS IN 2023

In 2023, both fatal and nonfatal opioid overdoses occurred across Georgia's health districts, with Fulton reporting 230 deaths and Coastal, Northwest, and East Metro also heavily impacted.



BEYOND DEATHS: THE TOLL OF OPIOID USE

Hospitalizations for opioid-related harm have more than doubled in 20 years. Thousands of Georgians experience non-fatal overdoses annually, straining the healthcare system.

THE GROWING IMPACT ON GEORGIA'S YOUTH

Among Georgia Adolescents aged 10-19 (2019-2021) :

Total overdose deaths increased **127%**

Deaths involving any opioid increased **236%**

Deaths involving fentanyl increased **800%**

Fatal fentanyl overdoses among adolescents are rising, but many lack crucial risk awareness.



In 2021, only **27%** of teens knew fentanyl was in counterfeit pills vs **50%** of young adults, and just **27%** saw fentanyl as extremely dangerous vs **44%** of young adults .