

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY



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## JULY 2019

This summary<sup>1</sup> provides local and provincial surveillance information. For some indicators, there is a lag time to receive data, so data are shown for the most recent complete month available. For more detailed provincial and local data visit [Public Health Ontario's Interactive Opioid Tool](#) and the [Ontario Prescription Opioid Tool](#)

### EMERGING ISSUES

- On July 17<sup>th</sup>, officials in [Guelph](#) warned residents about the circulation of “extremely potent” white fentanyl, causing multiple overdoses in one day.
- On July 16, The Ontario Drug Policy and Research Network issued a quarterly update to the [Ontario Prescription Opioid Tool](#) containing new and updated indicators for opioid prescribing across the province.
- On June 26, the Chief Medical Officer of Health in Ontario communicated to public health units about recent toxicology data suggesting an increase in carfentanil presence in Ontario in the past few months.

### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 suspected opioid overdose-related calls in June (51 to date in 2019; 36 in 2018)</li></ul>
Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 opioid overdose-related ED visits in June (47 to date in 2019; 67 in 2018)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 deaths between January and December 2018 (5 in 2017)</li></ul>
Naloxone Distribution <sup>5</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 36 naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health in June (242 to date in 2019; 184 in 2018)</li><li>• 179 naloxone kits distributed through CK pharmacies in April 2019 (increasing from Feb 2019)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of opioid-overdose related EMS calls and ED visits was lower in June compared to April and May</li><li>• The year-to-date local rate of ED visits (44.6 per 100,000) is slightly higher than the provincial rate (40.0 per 100,000)</li></ul>

### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 637 ED visits in June (5,858 to date in 2019; 9,221 in 2018)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1,469 deaths in 2018 (1,265 in 2017)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of ED visits was lower in June compared to previous months</li></ul>

Figure 1. Opioid overdose-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths in Chatham-Kent, 2003-2017

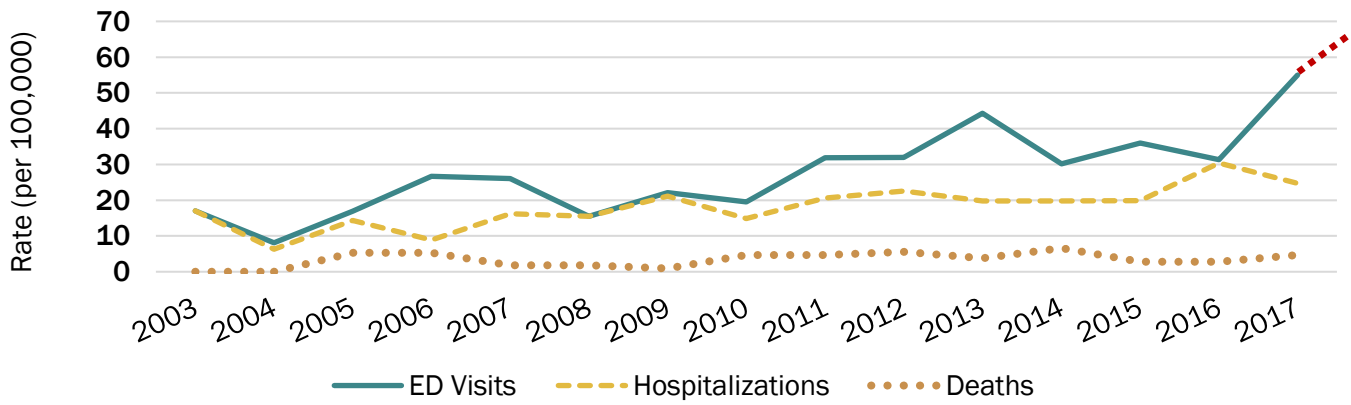
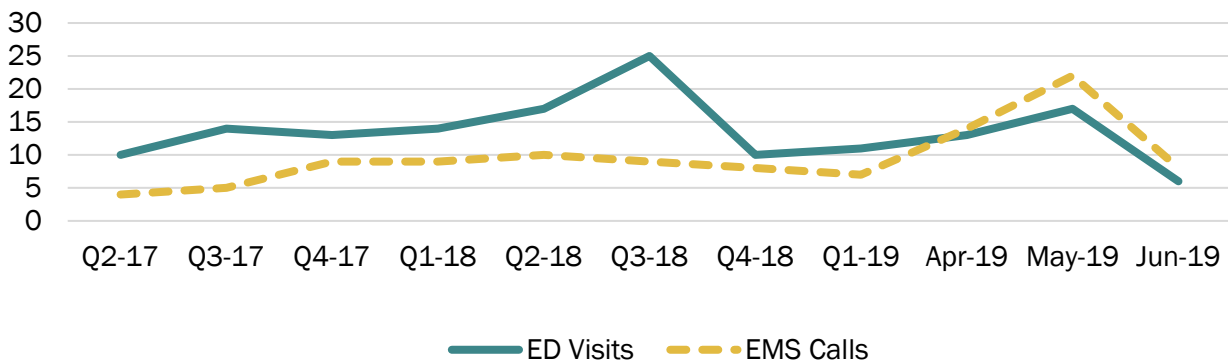


Figure 2. Opioid overdose-related ED visits and EMS calls, Chatham-Kent, Apr 2017- June 2019



## NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Content and format of this information bulletin has been adapted from Lambton Public Health

<sup>2</sup>EMS calls were provided by Chatham-Kent EMS (Jul 7, 2019)

<sup>3</sup>Emergency department visits were provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Weekly emergency department visits for opioid overdose Week 14: July 1-July 7, 2019). All Ontario hospitals are required to report cases of opioid overdose presenting in their EDs to the Canadian Institute for Health Information. Results are considered preliminary and subject to change as emergency departments continue to submit data. Rates are based on 2019 population projections.

<sup>4</sup>Deaths were obtained from [Public Health Ontario's Interactive Opioid Tool](#). Data for 2018 are considered preliminary and are subject to change as remaining cases are closed by the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario. The data include both confirmed and probable cases.

<sup>5</sup>Naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health are tracked internally. The number of kits distributed in 2019 by Chatham-Kent pharmacies was available up to April 2019 through the [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network Prescription Opioid Tool](#).

## CONTACT:

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