

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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## DECEMBER 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 December 5, 2019, increased communication went out to stakeholders based on a higher than normal number of opioid-overdose related EMS calls, with 3 calls for service in a 48 hour period.
- On December 11, 2019, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) released a [statement](#) regarding new data on opioid-related harms. A new [report](#) provides key findings, interactive maps and details on observed trends at the national-level.
- On December 13, 2019, the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network (ODPRN) released new data through the [Ontario Prescription Opioid tool](#), including updated pharmacy naloxone distribution to July 2019, and prescription data up to June 2019. General trends noted for Chatham-Kent include: a slight decline in the rate of overall individuals using opioids for pain; a relatively stable rate of new individuals using opioids for pain; and relatively stable rates of overall individuals using opioid agonist therapy (with rates of methadone therapy use slightly decreasing and rates of buprenorphine/naloxone therapy use slightly increasing).

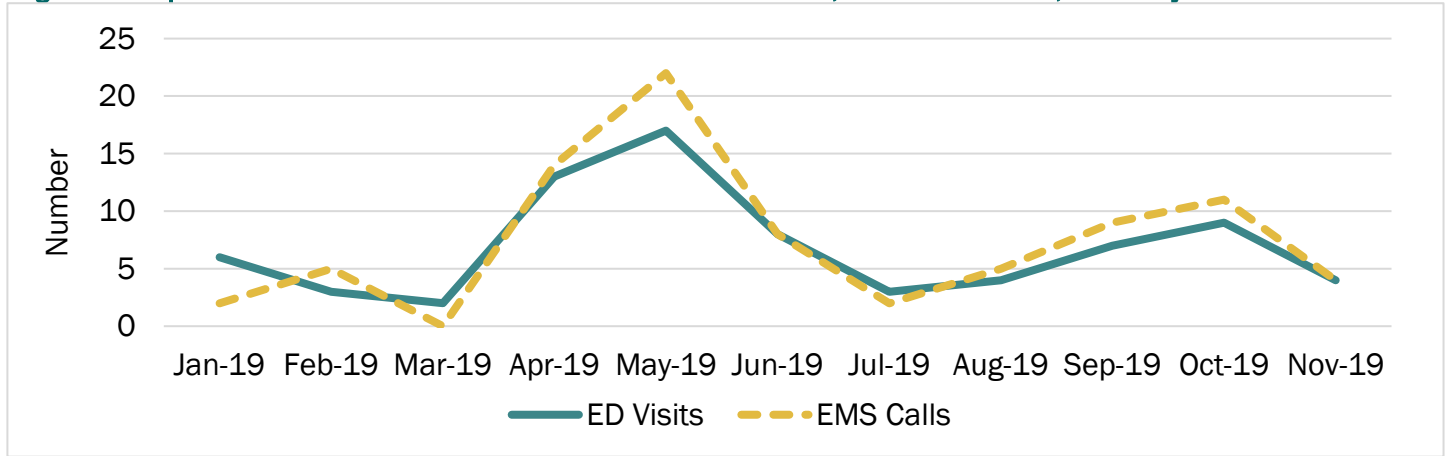
### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

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| EMS Calls <sup>2</sup>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 suspected opioid overdose-related calls in November (82 to date in 2019) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 4 suspected non-opioid drug overdose-related calls in November (72 to date in 2019)</li></ul>  |
| Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• &lt;5 opioid overdose-related ED visits in November (76 to date in 2019 or 72.1 per 100,000)</li></ul>   |
| Deaths <sup>4</sup>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No confirmed deaths between January and June 2019 (4 deaths in 2018 or 3.8 per 100,000)</li></ul>  |
| Naloxone Distribution <sup>5</sup>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 29 naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health in November (441 to date in 2019; 184 in 2018)</li><li>• 82 naloxone kits distributed through CK pharmacies in July 2019 which was a decrease from April 2019 (July 2019 YTD: 808; 2018 Total: 1,420)</li></ul> |
| OVERALL                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of opioid-overdose related EMS calls and ED visits was lower in November compared to previous months</li><li>• The year-to-date local rate of ED visits was slightly higher than the provincial rate</li></ul>  |

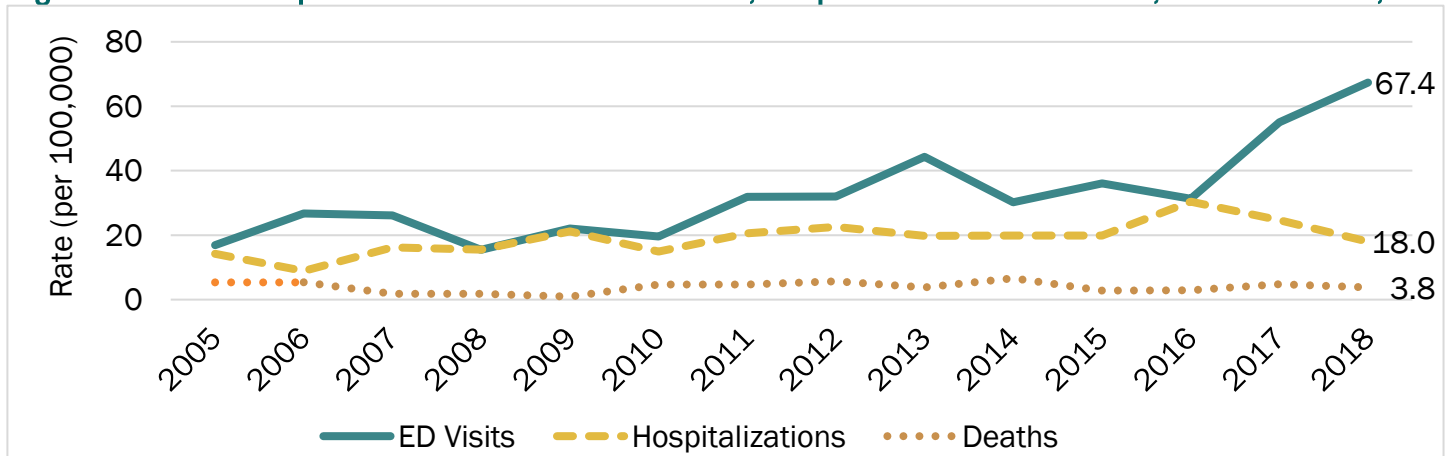
### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

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| Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 486 ED visits in November (9,450 to date in 2019 or 64.6 per 100,000)</li></ul>  |
| Deaths <sup>4</sup>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 780 deaths between January and June 2019 (5.3 per 100,000; 1,474 deaths in 2018)</li></ul>   |
| OVERALL                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of ED visits in November was lower than previous months; monthly visit totals have been decreasing since May 2019; however most recent reporting months may not be complete due to a lag time in reporting.</li></ul> |

**Figure 1. Opioid overdose-related ED visits and EMS calls, Chatham-Kent, January to November 2019**



**Figure 2. Rates<sup>6</sup> of opioid overdose-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-18**



**NOTES**

<sup>1</sup>Content and format of this information summary has been adapted from Lambton Public Health  
<sup>2</sup>EMS calls were provided by Chatham-Kent EMS (December 16, 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 36: Dec 2 - Dec 8, 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>Preliminary deaths for 2019 were obtained from the Quarterly Public Health Unit Opioid-related Deaths Report (November 15, 2019). Data 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 confirmed cases for which death investigation results have indicated opioid directly contributed to the cause of death.  
<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 July 2019 through the [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network Prescription Opioid Tool](#).  
<sup>6</sup>2005 to 2018 ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths obtained from [Public Health Ontario's Interactive Opioid Tool](#).

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