

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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## JANUARY 2020

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

- Jan 9<sup>th</sup> [CK Police](#) seized a significant quantity of fentanyl and other illicit substances during a bust at a Chatham hotel
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup> [Brant County Health Unit](#) released an opioid alert on the basis of 4 suspected opioid overdose deaths over the weekend in Brant county
- Jan 15<sup>th</sup> [Southwestern Public Health](#) alerted the public about reports of a possible new form of fentanyl in Oxford County

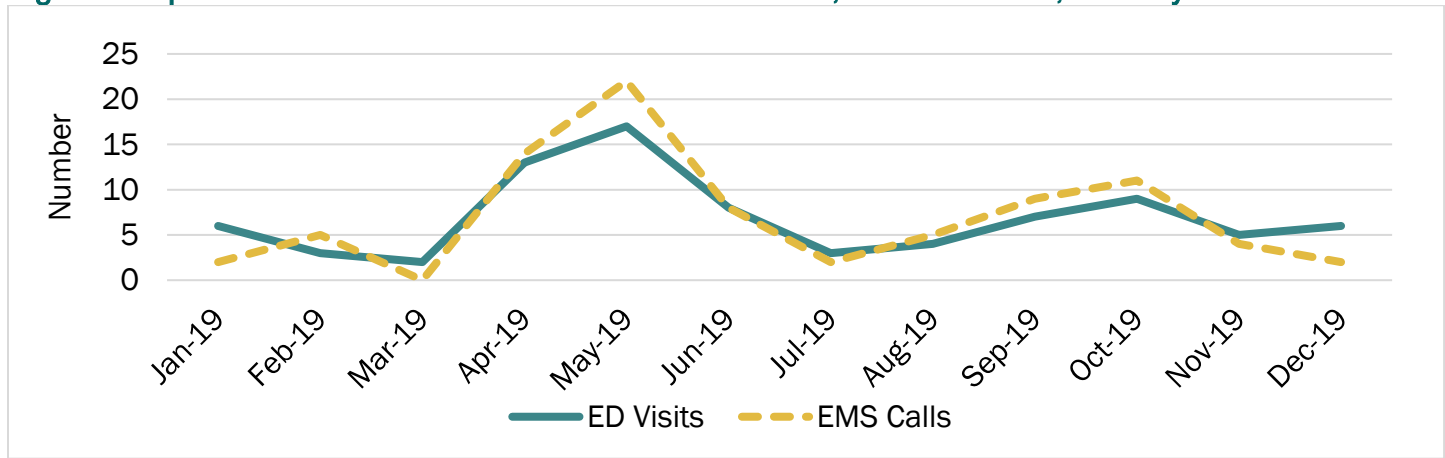
### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• &lt; 5 suspected opioid overdose-related calls in December (84 total in 2019 - 130% increase from 2018 call levels) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 6 suspected non-opioid drug overdose-related calls in December (78 total in 2019)</li></ul>
Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 opioid overdose-related ED visits in December (83 total in 2019 or 78.8 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 death 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>• 31 naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health in December (472 total 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 relatively low in December</li><li>• The year-to-date local rate of ED visits was slightly higher than the provincial rate</li></ul>

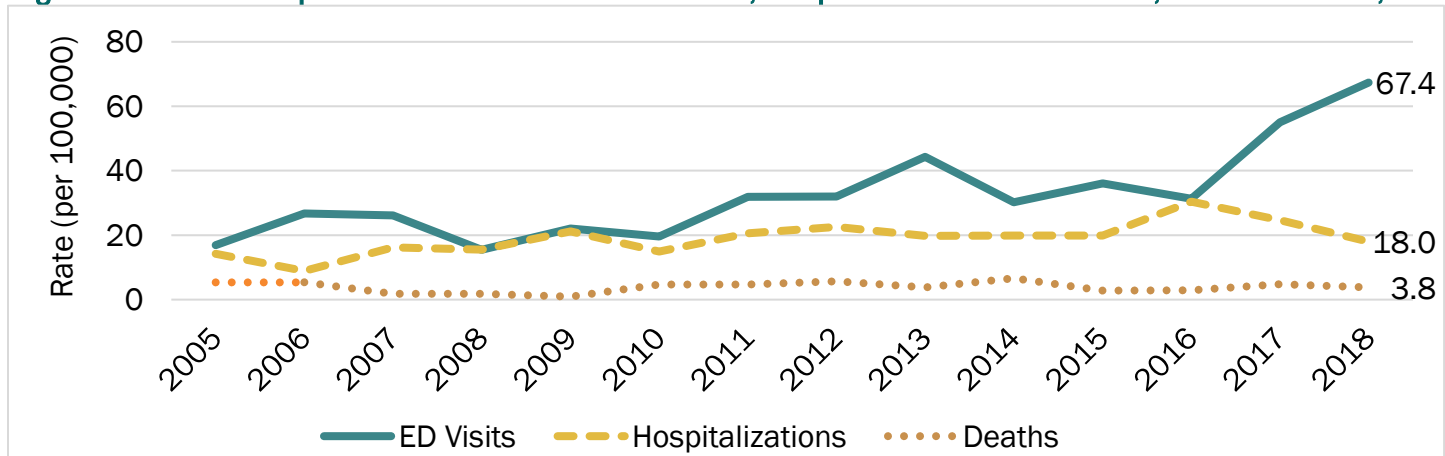
### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 446 ED visits in December (10,049 total in 2019 or 68.7 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 824 deaths between January and June 2019 (5.6 per 100,000; 1,474 deaths in 2018)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of ED visits in December was lower than previous months; 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 December 2019**



**Figure 2. Rates<sup>4</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 (January 6, 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 40: Dec 30 - Jan 5, 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 and 2005 to 2018 ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths were obtained from Public Health Ontario's [Interactive Opioid Tool](#). 2019 death 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 through NEO as part of the Ontario Harm Reduction Database initiative. 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](#).

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