

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

CK Public Health • 435 Grand Avenue West, Chatham, ON N7M 5L8  
Tel: 519.352.7270 • Fax: 519.352.2166 • Email: ckpublichealth@chatham-kent.ca



## MARCH 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

- Over the last several days there has been an **increase in local emergency medical service calls related to opioid overdose and visits to local hospital emergency departments related to substance use**. Please reach out with any information that would indicate a heightened risk in our community around opioid overdoses or related harms at this time.

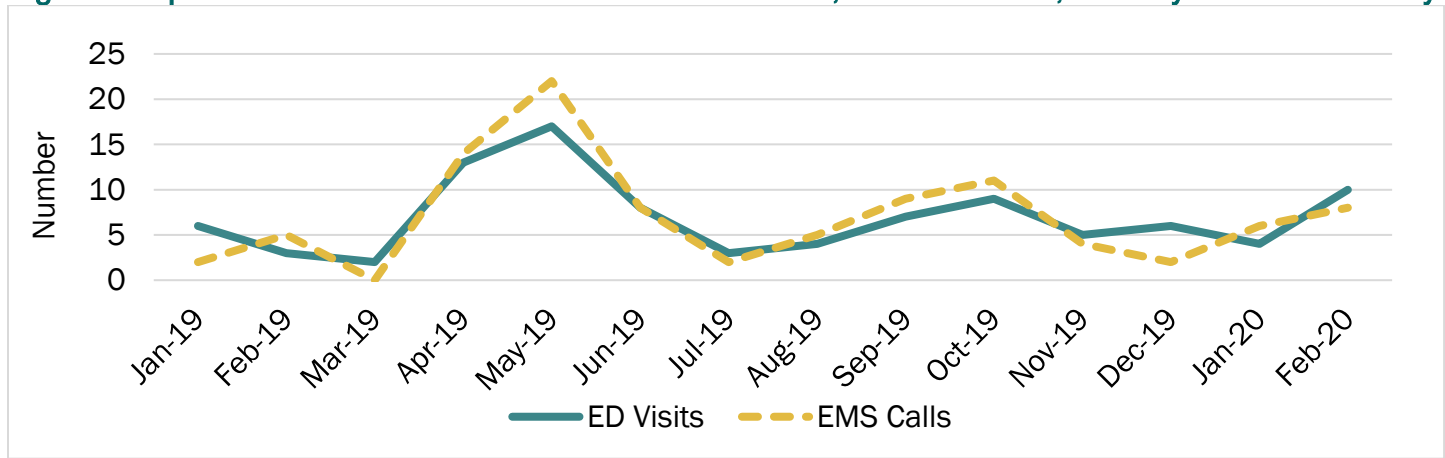
### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 suspected opioid overdose-related calls in February (14 to date in 2020) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 6 suspected non-opioid drug overdose-related calls in February (10 to date in 2020)</li></ul>
Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 opioid overdose-related ED visits in February (14 total in 2020 or 13.2 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 deaths between January and September 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>• 47 naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health in February (87 to date in 2020)</li><li>• 108 naloxone kits distributed through CK pharmacies in November 2019 (November 2019 YTD: 1325; 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 in February were higher compared to previous months.</li></ul>

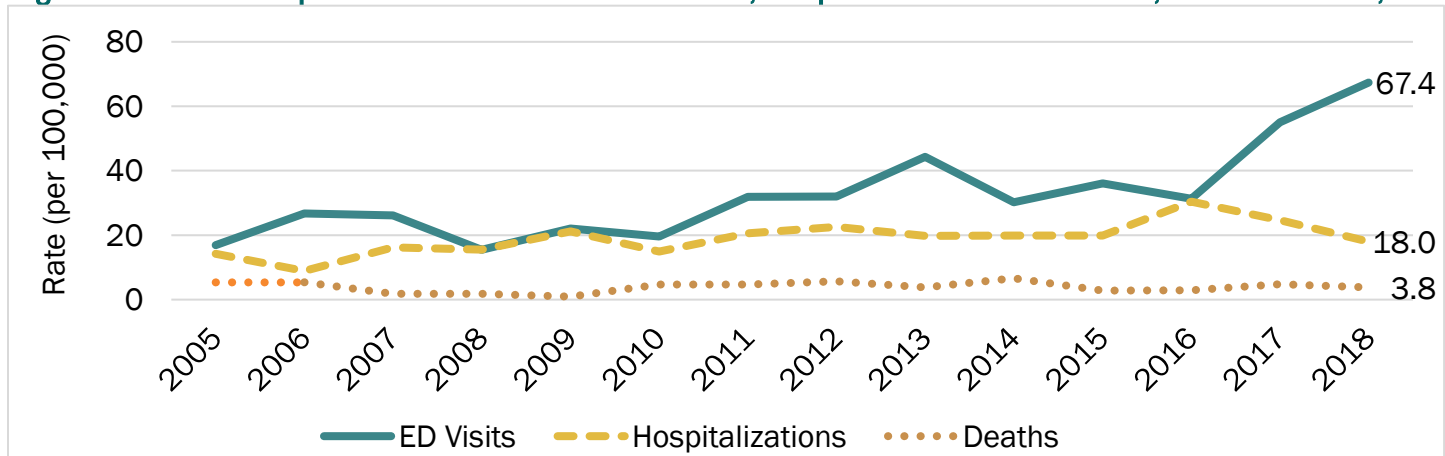
### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 707 ED visits in February (1,787 to date in 2020 or 12.0 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1152 deaths between January and September 2019 (7.9 per 100,000; 1,473 deaths in 2018)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of ED visits in February was comparable to previous months</li></ul>

**Figure 1. Opioid overdose-related ED visits and EMS calls, Chatham-Kent, January 2019 to February 2020**



**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 (March 19, 2020)
- <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 49: Mar 2 - Mar 8, 2020). 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 2020 population projections.
- <sup>4</sup>Preliminary deaths for 2019 and 2005 to 2019 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 includes confirmed and probable cases.
- <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 November 2019 through the [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network Prescription Opioid Tool](#).

**CONTACT:**

Laura Zettler  
 Epidemiologist, CK Public Health  
 Phone: 226.312.2023 ext. 2407  
 Email: [lauraz@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:lauraz@chatham-kent.ca)  
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