

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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## AUGUST 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

- A recent provincial analysis of emergency department visits for opioid overdose during COVID-19, has shown that Chatham-Kent was one of 3 health units experiencing the highest rates of ED visits for suspected opioid overdose since the start of the pandemic. While ED visits have decreased for the province overall since the state of emergency was declared, the number of opioid-related deaths are increasing.

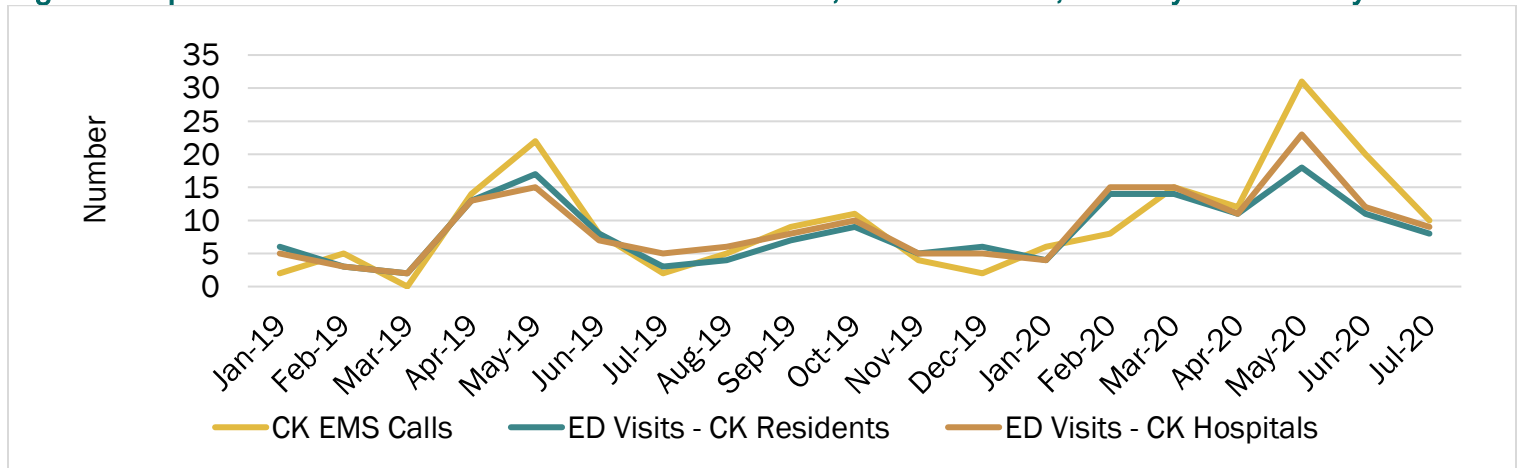
### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 suspected opioid overdose-related calls in July (102 to date in 2020) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 9 suspected non-opioid drug overdose-related calls in June (57 to date in 2020)</li></ul>
Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 opioid overdose-related ED visits by CK residents in July (80 to date in 2020 or 75.2 per 100,000) (Figure 1)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 deaths between January and May 2020 (4.7 per 100,000; 6 deaths in 2019)</li></ul>
Naloxone Distribution <sup>5</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 37 naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health in July (298 to date in 2020)</li><li>• 141 naloxone kits distributed through CK pharmacies in May 2020 (May 2020 YTD: 591; 2018 Total: 1,413)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of opioid-overdose related EMS calls and ED visits in July were lower than previous months. The year to date rate of ED visits was higher in Chatham-Kent compared to Ontario (75.2 versus 40.8 per 100,000)</li></ul>

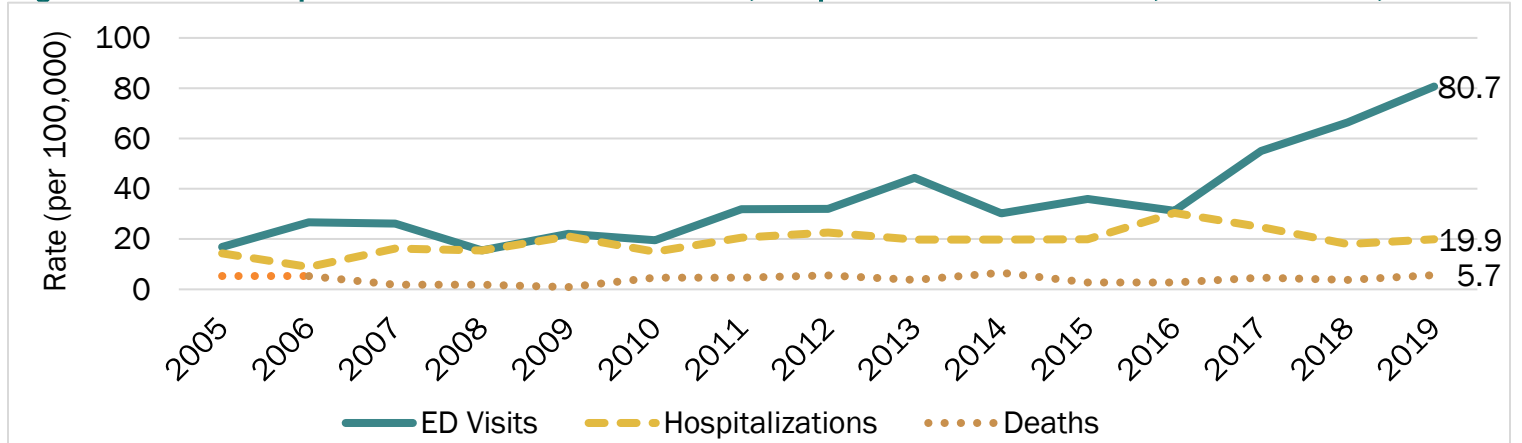
### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 875 ED visits in July (6,072 to date in 2020 or 40.8 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 771 deaths between January and May 2020 (5.2 per 100,000; 1,509 deaths in 2019)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of ED visits in July was comparable to previous months.</li></ul>

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



**Figure 2. Rates<sup>4</sup> of opioid overdose-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-19**



**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 (Aug 4, 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 20: Aug 10 - Aug 16, 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> 2020 death data are based on the Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, January 2019 to May 2020, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, extracted Aug 17, 2020. Data include confirmed deaths only, are considered preliminary and are subject to change. 2005 to 2019 ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths were obtained from Public Health Ontario's [Interactive Opioid Tool](#). 2019 death data are also 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 deaths only.
- <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 2020 by Chatham-Kent pharmacies was available up to May 2020 through the [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network Prescription Opioid Tool](#).

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