

OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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This summary¹ 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

- Monthly suspect drug-related deaths by public health unit are now being provided to public health by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, for improved surveillance and early warning of trends. The currently available data has been included in this report.

CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ~12 suspected opioid overdose-related calls in December (160 in 2020) (Figure 1)• Non-opioid drug overdose-related calls (n/a for Dec) (82 up to Nov 30, 2020)
Emergency Department Visits³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 opioid overdose-related ED visits by CK residents in December (133 in 2020 or 125 per 100,000) (8 ED visits to CK hospitals (143 in 2020)) (Figure 1)
Deaths⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 suspect drug-related death in December (Figure 1)• 13 confirmed opioid-related deaths between January and September 2020 (12.2 per 100,000; 6 deaths in 2019) (Figure 1).
Naloxone Distribution⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 23 naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health in December (429 in 2020)• 189 naloxone kits distributed through CK pharmacies in August (August 2020 YTD: 1,157; 2019 Total: 1,413)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of opioid-overdose related EMS calls and ED visits in December were similar to the previous months. The rate of ED visits in 2020 was higher for Chatham-Kent compared to Ontario (125 versus 78 per 100,000). In 2020, there were about twice as many EMS calls related to suspect opioid overdose compared to 2019 and there have already been twice as many opioid-related deaths in the first three quarters of 2020 compared to 2019.

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,031 ED visits in December (11,708 in 2020 or 78.7 per 100,000)
Deaths⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,606 deaths between January and September 2020 (10.8 per 100,000; 1,509 deaths in 2019)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of ED visits in December was comparable to previous months. The provincial death rate up to September 2020 has already surpassed the rate for 2019.

Figure 1. Opioid overdose-related ED visits and EMS calls and opioid-related and suspect drug-related deaths in Chatham-Kent, Jan 2019 to Dec 2020

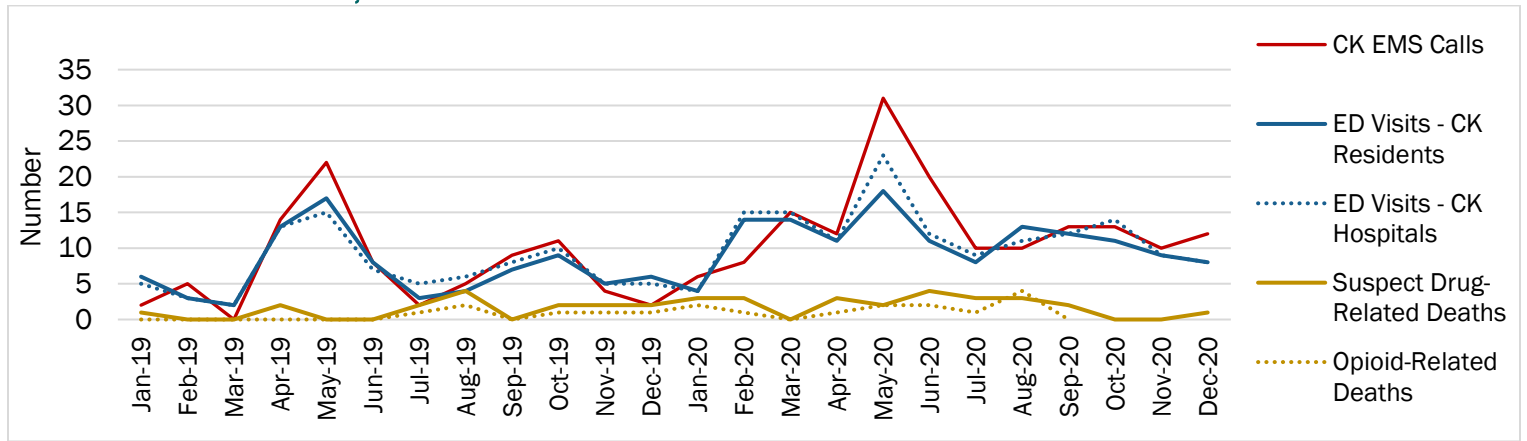
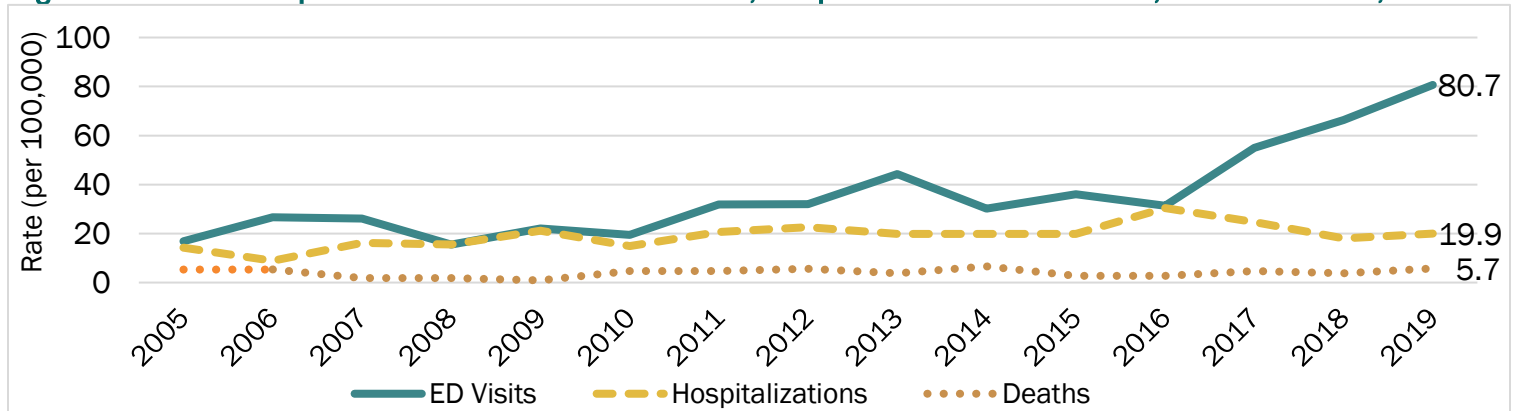


Figure 2. Rates⁴ of opioid overdose-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-19



NOTES

¹Content and format of this information summary has been adapted from Lambton Public Health

²EMS calls for December were based on notifications received by public health and not the actual number of calls by Chatham-Kent EMS

³ Emergency department visits were provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Weekly emergency department visits for opioid overdose Week 42: Jan 11 - 17, 2021). 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.

⁴ 2019 and 2020 suspect drug-related deaths are based on the Monthly Summary table provided by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, Jan 15, 2021. 2020 opioid-related death data are based on the Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, January 2020 to Sept 2020, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, Jan 29, 2021. Opioid-related deaths 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 also include confirmed deaths only and should be considered preliminary as remaining cases are closed by the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario.

⁵ 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 August 2020 through the [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network Prescription Opioid Tool](#).

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