

OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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JUNE 2021

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

- Local EMS calls and ED visits related to suspected opioid overdose have been elevated in the month of June. As of June 27th, there were over 3 times the number of calls compared to the previous monthly average. An alert went out to partners to share this trend. **Please continue to be aware and notify others of elevated local risk of overdose.**
- A recently released report describes the Changing Circumstances Surrounding Opioid-Related Deaths in Ontario during the COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://odprn.ca/research/publications/opioid-related-deaths-in-ontario-during-covid/>

CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 suspected opioid overdose-related calls to CK EMS in May (40 to date in 2021) (Figure 1)• 22 non-opioid drug overdose-related calls to CK EMS in May (67 to date in 2021)
Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 opioid overdose-related ED visits by CK residents in May (54 to date in 2021 or 50.8 per 100,000) (Figure 1)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 suspect drug-related deaths in CK in May (Figure 1)• 4 opioid-related deaths in CK between January and February 2021 (15 deaths in 2020 or 14.1 per 100,000) (Figure 1)
Naloxone Distribution ⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 29 naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health in May (148 to date in 2021; 429 in 2020)• 92 naloxone kits distributed through CK pharmacies in March (2021 YTD: 345; 2020 Total: 1,712)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of opioid-overdose related ED visits and EMS calls in May have increased slightly in recent months, however trends are showing a steep incline in June. Death rates are still elevated in 2021 with the information known so far.

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,267 ED visits in May (5,870 to date in 2021 or 39.5 per 100,000)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 386 deaths between January and February 2021 (2,388 deaths in 2020 or 16.1 per 100,000)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of ED visits in May was comparable to previous months.

Figure 1. Opioid overdose-related ED visits and EMS calls and opioid-related and suspect drug-related deaths in Chatham-Kent, January 2019 to May 2021

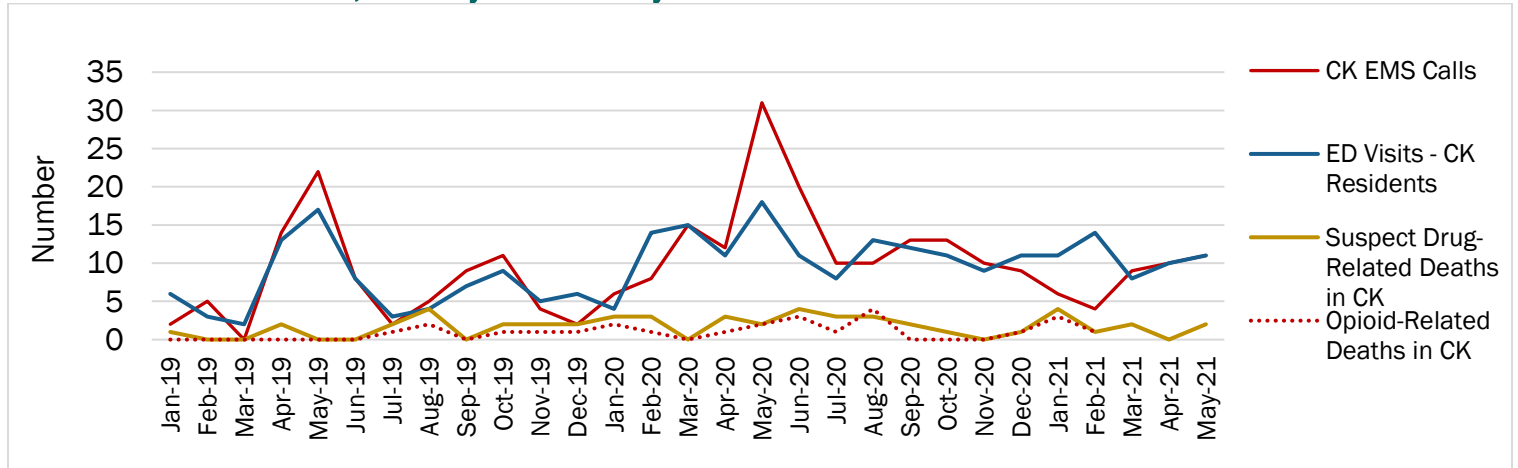
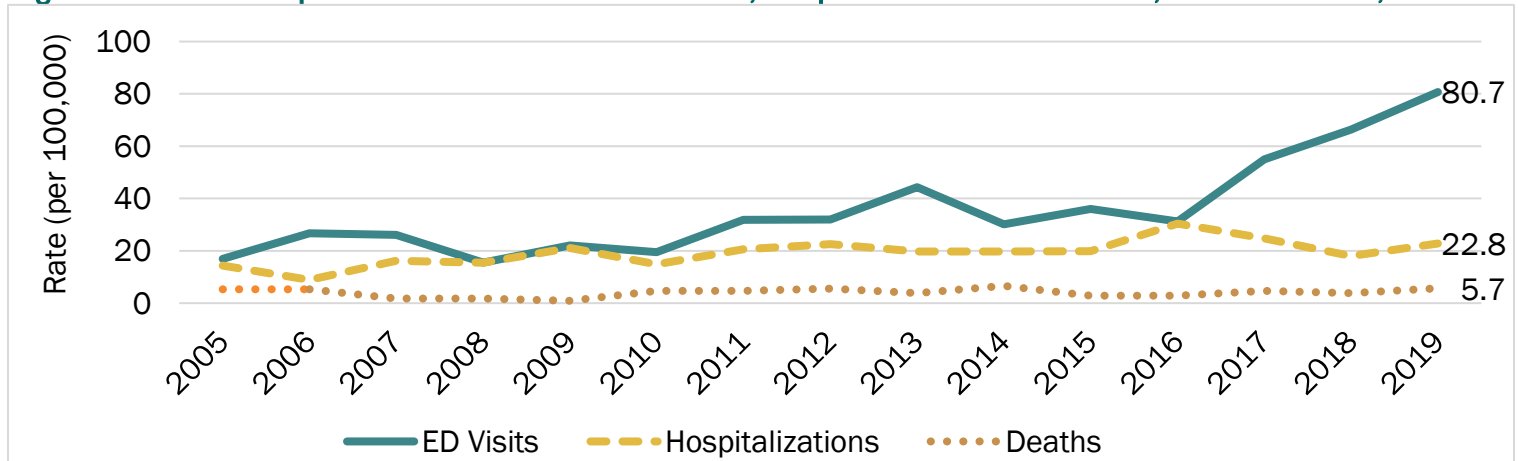


Figure 2. Rates⁴ of opioid overdose-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-19



NOTES

- ¹Content and format of this information summary has been adapted from Lambton Public Health
- ²EMS calls for March and April were provided by Chatham-Kent EMS, June 27, 2021
- ³Emergency department visits were provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Weekly emergency department visits for opioid overdose Week 12: Jun 14 to 20, 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.
- ⁴2019 and 2020 suspect drug-related deaths are based on the Monthly Summary table provided by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, June 11, 2021. 2020 and 2021 opioid-related death data are based on the Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, March 2020 to Feb 2021, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, Jun 17, 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.
- ⁵Naloxone 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 March 2021 through the [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network Prescription Opioid Tool](#).

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