

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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## MARCH 2021

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

- Although EMS calls have been slightly lower into the start of 2021 - calls have increased so far over the month of March - in previous years, there have been notable increases in overdoses in early spring.
- Police have seen a higher number of drug-impaired driving offences since the beginning of 2021, compared to what would normally be expected by this time of year. Incidents have been most common among young male adults, and opioids such as fentanyl, are a common drug identified.

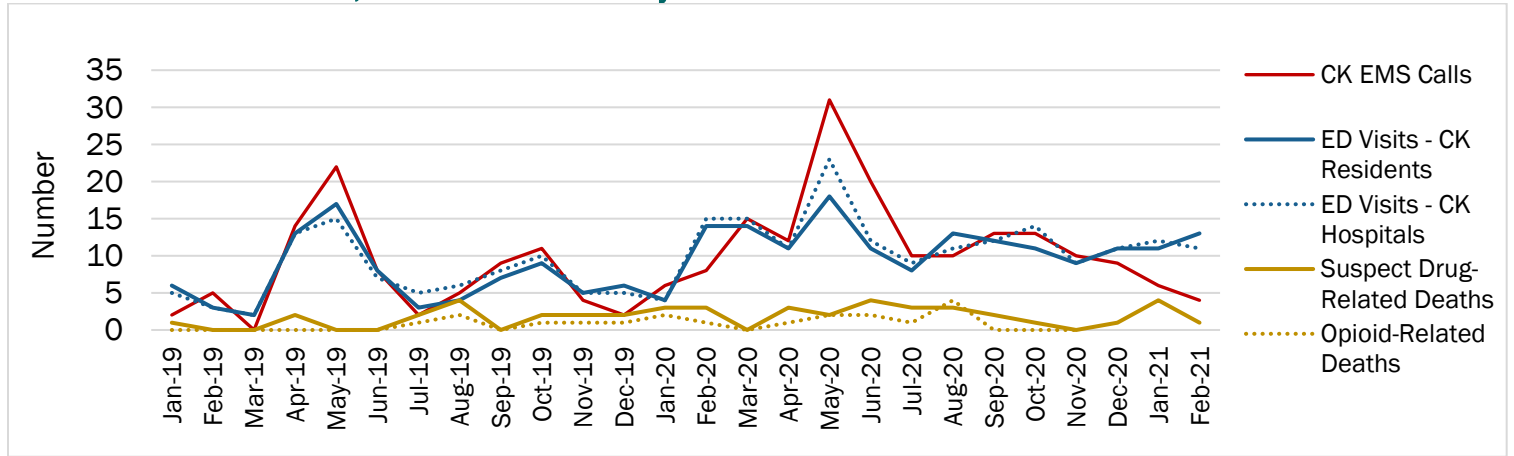
### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 suspected opioid overdose-related calls in February (10 to date in 2021) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 14 non-opioid drug overdose-related calls In February (27 to date in 2021)</li></ul>
Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 13 opioid overdose-related ED visits by CK residents in February (24 to date in 2021 or 22.6 per 100,000) (11 ED visits to CK hospitals (23 to date in 2021)) (Figure 1)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• &lt;5 suspect drug-related deaths in February (Figure 1)</li><li>• 13 confirmed opioid-related deaths between January and November 2020 (12.2 per 100,000; 6 deaths in 2019) (Figure 1).</li></ul>
Naloxone Distribution <sup>5</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 29 naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health in February (61 to date in 2021; 429 in 2020)</li><li>• 161 naloxone kits distributed through CK pharmacies in January (2020 Total: 1,712)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of opioid-overdose related ED visits in February were similar to the previous months; EMS calls have gradually declined over several months.</li></ul>

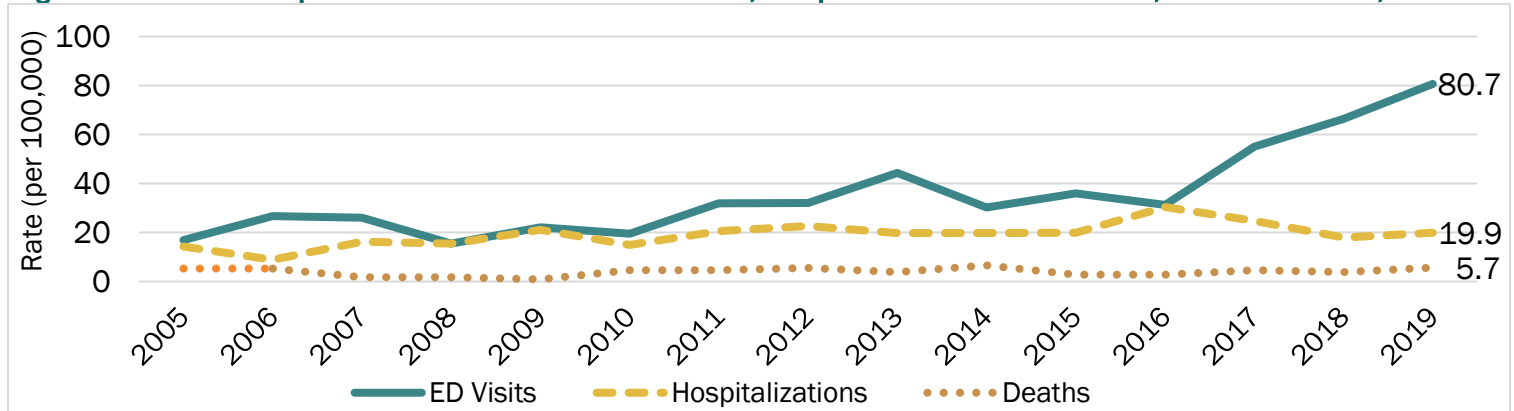
### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1,025 ED visits in February (2,207 to date in 2021 or 14.8 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2,081 deaths between January and November 2020 (14.0 per 100,000; 1,509 deaths in 2019)</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 and opioid-related and suspect drug-related deaths in Chatham-Kent, Jan 2019 to February 2021**



**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 for February were provided by Chatham-Kent EMS, March 25, 2021
- <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 51: Mar 15 - 21, 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.
- <sup>4</sup>2019 and 2020 suspect drug-related deaths are based on the Monthly Summary table provided by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, Mar 12, 2021. 2020 opioid-related death data are based on the Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, January 2020 to Nov 2020, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, Mar 10, 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.
- <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 January 2021 through the [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network Prescription Opioid Tool](#).

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