

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

- This week is National Addictions Awareness Week (NAAW) and the theme is *Change Begins With Me* (see CK Public Health news post: <https://ckphu.com/2020/11/national-addictions-awareness-week/>)
- On November 23rd, Southwestern Public Health issued a public health opioid advisory to Oxford and Elgin Counties about a potent strain of yellow fentanyl leading to overdoses requiring as many as four doses of naloxone; other emerging reports of orange fentanyl circulating as well.

CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 13 suspected opioid overdose-related calls in October (138 to date in 2020) (Figure 1)• 0 suspected non-opioid drug overdose-related calls in October (72 to date in 2020)
Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 opioid overdose-related ED visits by CK residents in October (111 to date in 2020 or 104.4 per 100,000) (Figure 1)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 confirmed deaths between January and July 2020 (5.6 per 100,000; 6 deaths in 2019).
Naloxone Distribution ⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 29 naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health in October (388 to date 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 October were similar to the previous month. The year to date rate of ED visits was higher in Chatham-Kent compared to Ontario (104.4 versus 62.5 per 100,000)

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 901 ED visits in October (9,294 to date in 2020 or 62.5 per 100,000)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,188 deaths between January and July 2020 (8.0 per 100,000; 1,509 deaths in 2019)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of ED visits in October was comparable to previous months. Death rate has increased provincially over the pandemic period.

Figure 1. Opioid overdose-related ED visits and EMS calls, Chatham-Kent, Jan 2019 to Oct 2020

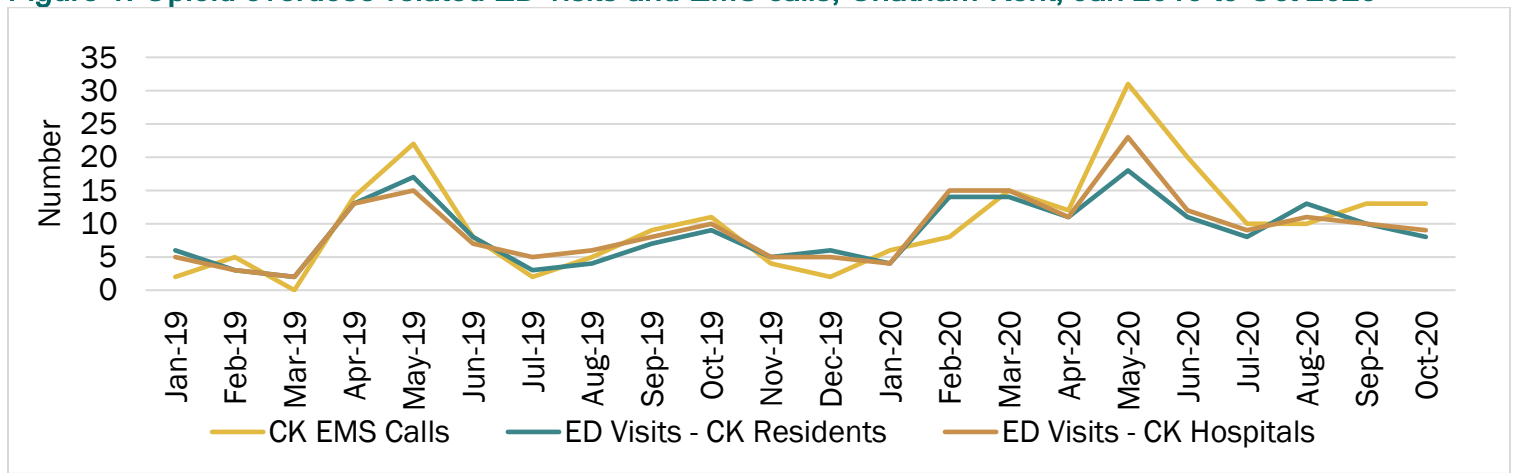
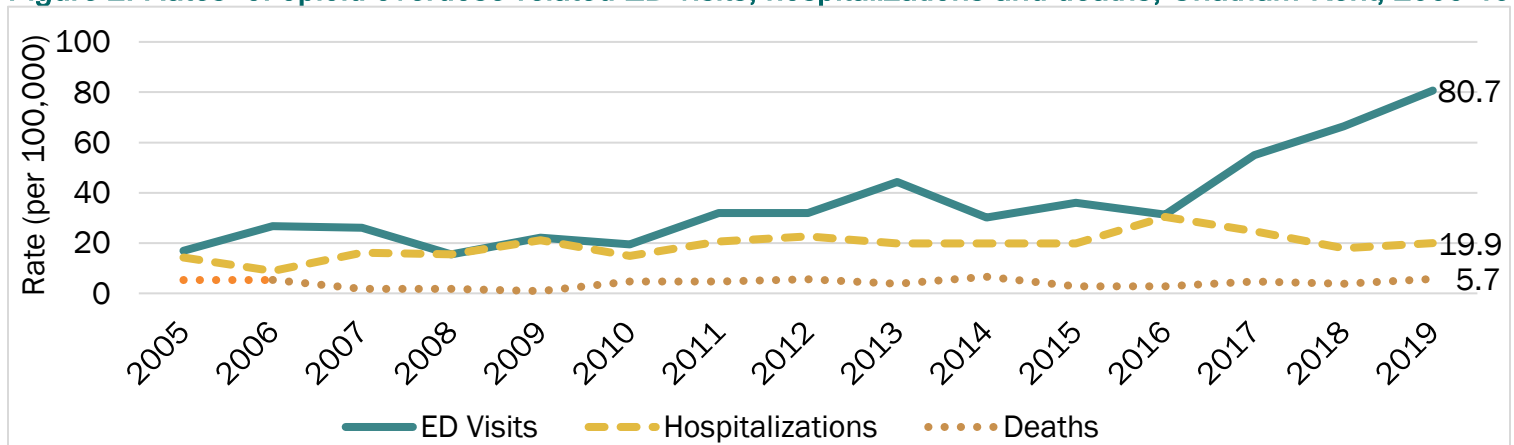


Figure 2. Rates⁴ of opioid overdose-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-19



NOTES

- ¹Content and format of this information summary has been adapted from Lambton Public Health
- ²EMS calls were provided by Chatham-Kent EMS (November 26, 2020)
- ³Emergency department visits were provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Weekly emergency department visits for opioid overdose Week 33: Nov 9 - 15, 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.
- ⁴2020 death data are based on the Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, January 2020 to July 2020, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, Nov 18, 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.
- 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 August 2020 through the [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network Prescription Opioid Tool](#).

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