

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

CK Public Health • 435 Grand Avenue West Chatham ON N7M 5L8  
Tel: 519.352.7270 • Fax: 519.352.2166 • Email [ckpublichealth@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:ckpublichealth@chatham-kent.ca)



## JULY 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

- Local EMS calls and ED visits related to suspected opioid overdose were elevated in the month of June and in early July. Calls for service have declined in most recent weeks. **Should there be evidence of changing local risk, continue to share information with those who need to know.**

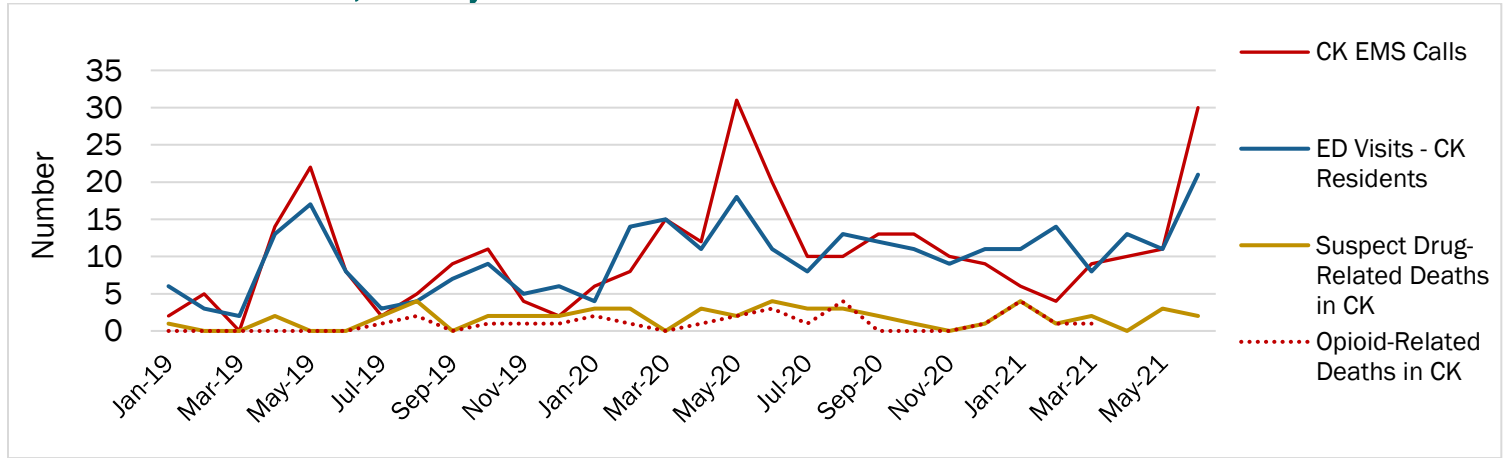
### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 30 suspected opioid overdose-related calls to CK EMS in June (70 to date in 2021) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 17 non-opioid drug overdose-related calls to CK EMS in June (84 to date in 2021)</li></ul>
Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 21 opioid overdose-related ED visits by CK residents in June (78 to date in 2021 or 73.4 per 100,000) (Figure 1)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 suspect drug-related deaths in CK in June (Figure 1)</li><li>• 6 opioid-related deaths in CK between January and March 2021 (15 deaths in 2020 or 14.1 per 100,000) (Figure 1)</li></ul>
Naloxone Distribution <sup>5</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 46 naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health in June (194 to date in 2021; 429 in 2020)</li><li>• 92 naloxone kits distributed through CK pharmacies in March (2021 YTD: 345; 2020 Total: 1,712)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of opioid-overdose related ED visits and EMS calls in June increased significantly compared to the previous months. Death rates remain elevated in 2021 and the rate of ED visits locally exceeds provincial levels (73.4 versus 49.5 per 100,000). The rate of death from April 2020 to March 2021 is more than double the rate from April 2019 to March 2020 (17 versus 9 per 100,000).</li></ul>

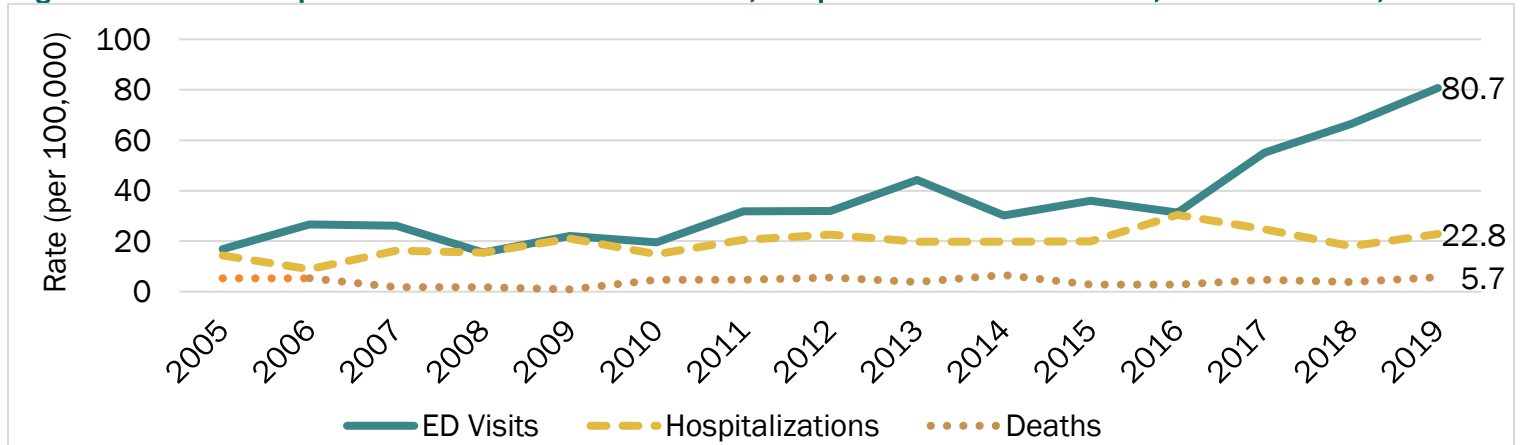
### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1,248 ED visits in June (7,360 to date in 2021 or 49.5 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 636 deaths between January and March 2021 (2,403 deaths in 2020 or 16.2 per 100,000)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of ED visits in June was comparable to previous months. Preliminary analyses from the Office of the Chief Coroner is showing a 76% increase in deaths in Ontario from April 2020 to March 2021 compared to April 2019 to March 2020.</li></ul>

**Figure 1. Opioid overdose-related ED visits and EMS calls and opioid-related and suspect drug-related deaths in Chatham-Kent, January 2019 to June 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 June were provided by Chatham-Kent EMS, July 20, 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 16: Jul 12 to 18, 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 to 2021 suspect drug-related deaths are based on the Monthly Summary table provided by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, July 16, 2021. 2020 and 2021 opioid-related death data are based on the Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, Apr 2020 to Mar 2021, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, Jul 28, 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 March 2021 through the [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network Prescription Opioid Tool](#).

**CONTACT:**

Laura Zettler, Epidemiologist, CK Public Health  
 Phone: 226.312.2023 ext. 2407; Email: [lauraz@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:lauraz@chatham-kent.ca)  
**#WeAreCKPublicHealth**