

OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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OCTOBER 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 suspect opioid overdose, although lower than earlier this summer, continued to be relatively high through September and similar trends so far for October.

CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 17 suspected opioid overdose-related calls to CK EMS in September (123 to date in 2021) (Figure 1)• 6 non-opioid drug overdose-related calls to CK EMS in September (112 to date in 2021)
Emergency Department Visits³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 opioid overdose-related ED visits by CK residents in September (125 to date in 2021 or 117 per 100,000) (Figure 1)
Deaths⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 suspect drug-related deaths in CK in September (22 to date in 2021) (Figure 1)• 6 confirmed opioid-related deaths in CK between January and May 2021 (15 deaths in 2020 or 14.1 per 100,000) (Figure 1)
Naloxone Distribution⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 27 naloxone kits distributed by CK Public Health in September (303 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, EMS calls and suspect drug deaths remained elevated in September. CK's rate of ED visits exceeds provincial levels (117 versus 80 per 100,000).

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,171 ED visits in September (11,924 to date in 2021 or 80 per 100,000)
Deaths⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,025 deaths between January and May 2021 (2,403 deaths in 2020 or 16.2 per 100,000)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of ED visits in September was lower than 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 September 2021

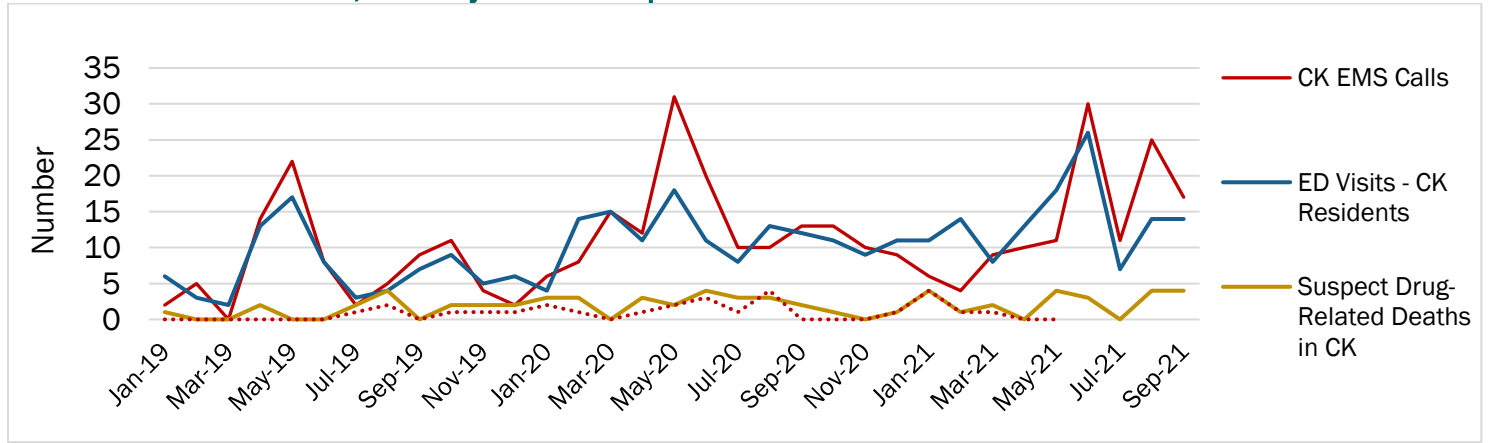
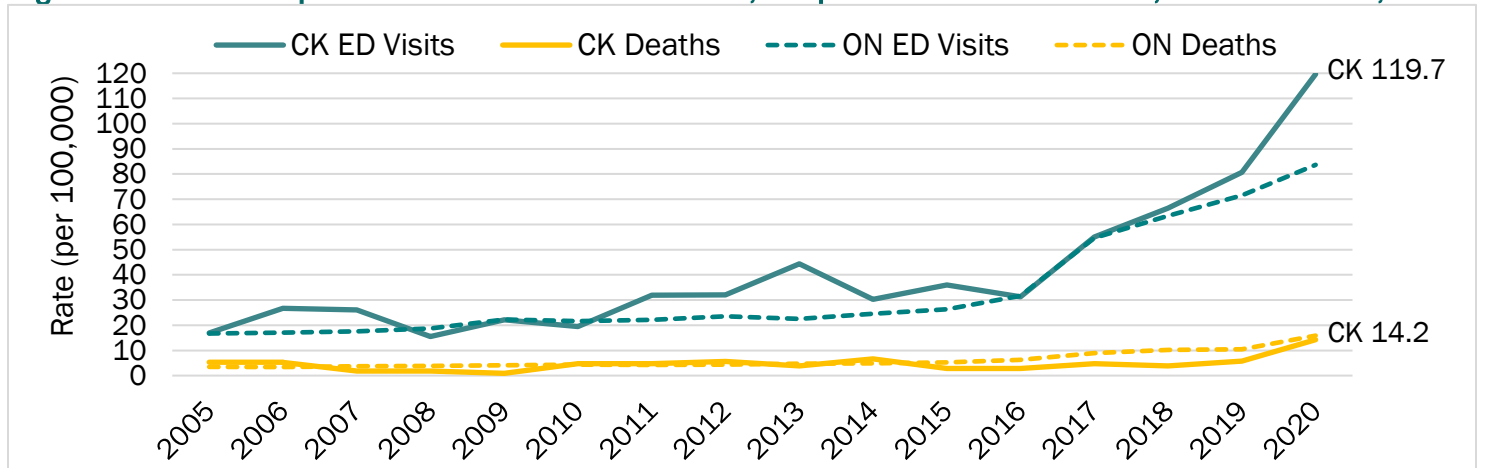


Figure 2. Rates⁴ of opioid overdose-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-20



NOTES

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

²EMS calls were provided by Chatham-Kent EMS, October 29, 2021

³Emergency department visits were provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Weekly emergency department visits for opioid overdose Week 29: Oct 11 to 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 to 2021 suspect drug-related deaths are based on the Monthly Summary table provided by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, Oct 21, 2021. 2020 and 2021 opioid-related death data are based on the Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, Apr 2020 to May 2021, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, Sept 22, 2021. Opioid-related deaths include confirmed deaths only, are considered preliminary and are subject to change. 2005 to 2020 ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths were obtained from Public Health Ontario's [Interactive Opioid Tool](#). 2020 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 March 2021 through the [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network Prescription Opioid Tool](#).

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