

OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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MAY 2022

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

- CK experienced the same high number of opioid-related deaths in 2021 as in 2020. 65% of these deaths were among those age 25 to 44 and in over 90% of deaths, fentanyl was the opioid directly contributing to the death.

CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9 suspected opioid overdose-related call alerts from CK EMS in April (30 to date in 2022) (Figure 1)
Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3 opioid overdose-related ED visits by CK residents in April (22 to date in 2022 or 20.5 per 100,000) (Figure 1)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 suspect drug-related death in CK in April (16 to date in 2022) (Figure 1)15 confirmed opioid-related deaths in CK between January and December 2021 (15 deaths in 2020 or 14.1 per 100,000) (Figure 1)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The number of opioid-overdose related EMS call alerts in April were similar to previous months. Suspect drug deaths were lower in April than the previous several months. CK's rate of ED visits for 2022 to date is comparable to the province overall. There was a similar high rate of death in 2021 as in 2020.

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">736 ED visits in April (3,472 to date in 2022 or 23.0 per 100,000)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2,549 confirmed opioid-related deaths between January and December 2021 (17.2 per 100,000; 2,413 deaths in 2020 or 16.3 per 100,000)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The number of ED visits in April were comparable to previous months. Since the beginning of 2022, ED visits for the province overall have been lower compared to what was observed for most of the pandemic. There was a higher rate of deaths in 2021 compared to 2020.

Figure 1. Opioid overdose-related ED visits and EMS calls and opioid-related and suspect drug-related deaths in Chatham-Kent, January 2019 to April 2022

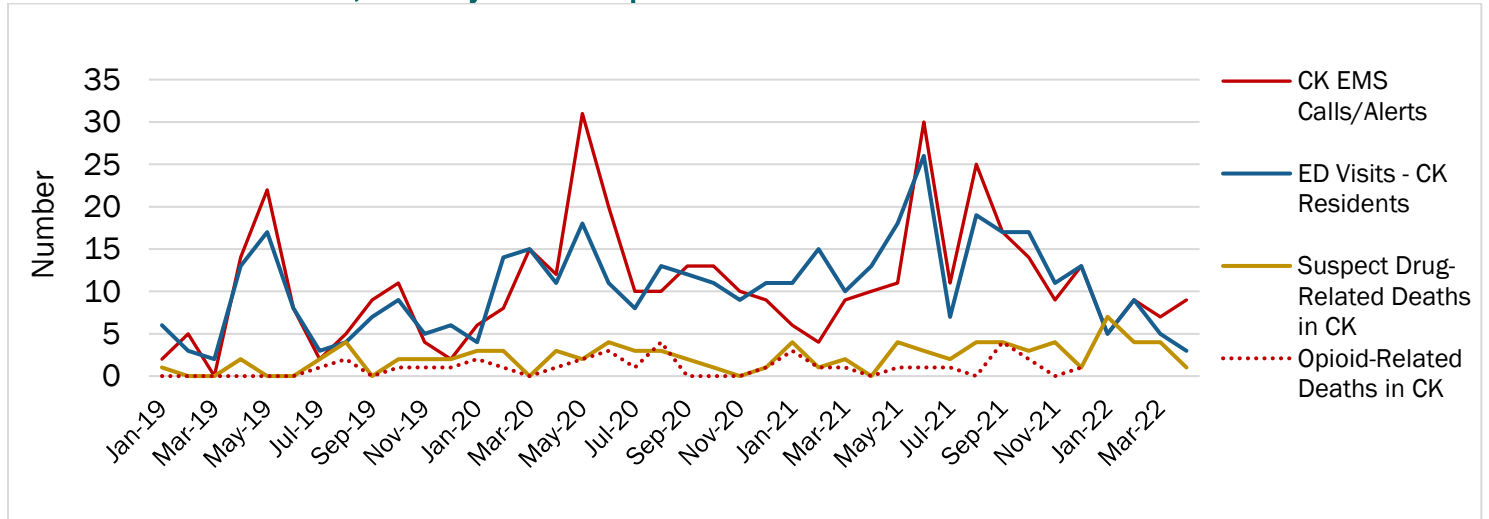
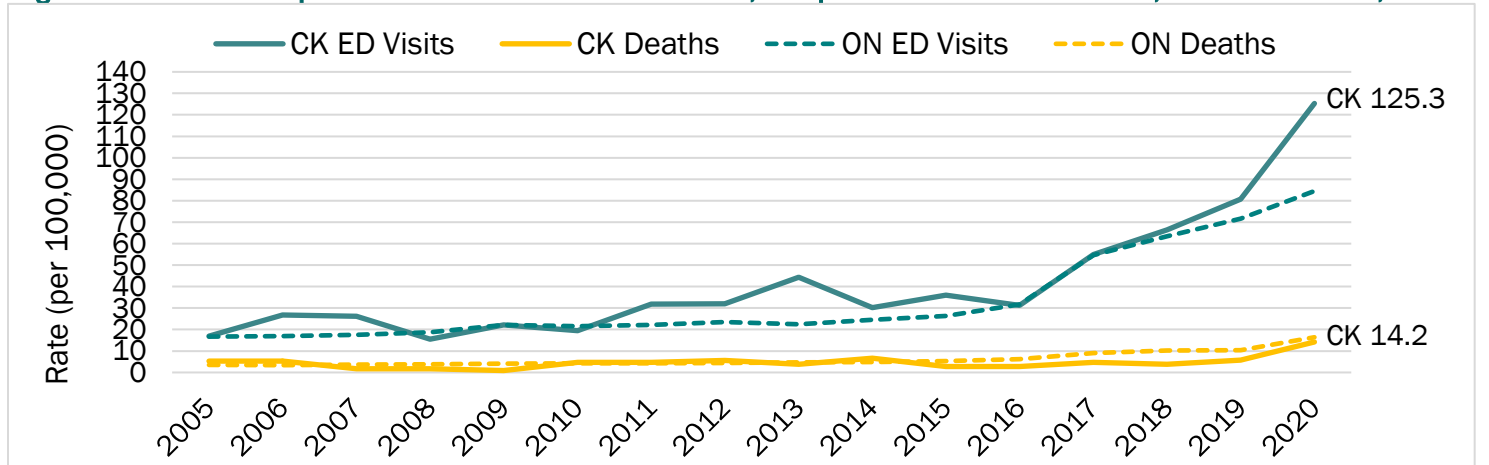


Figure 2. Rates⁴ of opioid overdose-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-20



NOTES

- ¹Content and format of this information summary has been adapted from Lambton Public Health
- ²EMS calls for February to April 2022 were estimated based on total alert emails received from Chatham-Kent EMS in each month. Call data up to Jan 2022 is based on calls for service by month provided by Chatham-Kent EMS.
- ³Emergency department visits were provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Weekly emergency department visits for opioid overdose Week 6: May 2 to 8, 2022). 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 2021 population projections.
- ⁴2019 to 2022 suspect drug-related deaths are based on the Monthly Summary table provided by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, May 13, 2022. 2020 and 2021 opioid-related death data are based on the Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, Oct 2020 to Sept 2021, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, April 18, 2022. 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.

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