

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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## JUNE 2022

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

- CK experienced a high number of opioid-related EMS calls for service and a high number of suspect drug-related deaths in the month of May. This increasing trend as we enter warmer months has been observed in previous years as well.
- An alert went out to partners about potential increased local risk on May 24<sup>th</sup> based on a high number of calls attended by CK-EMS.
- Although EMS calls appear to have declined in the first week of June, information received recently from the Coroner's Office has revealed a higher than normal number of suspect drug-related deaths in the first week of June for the Chatham-Kent area.

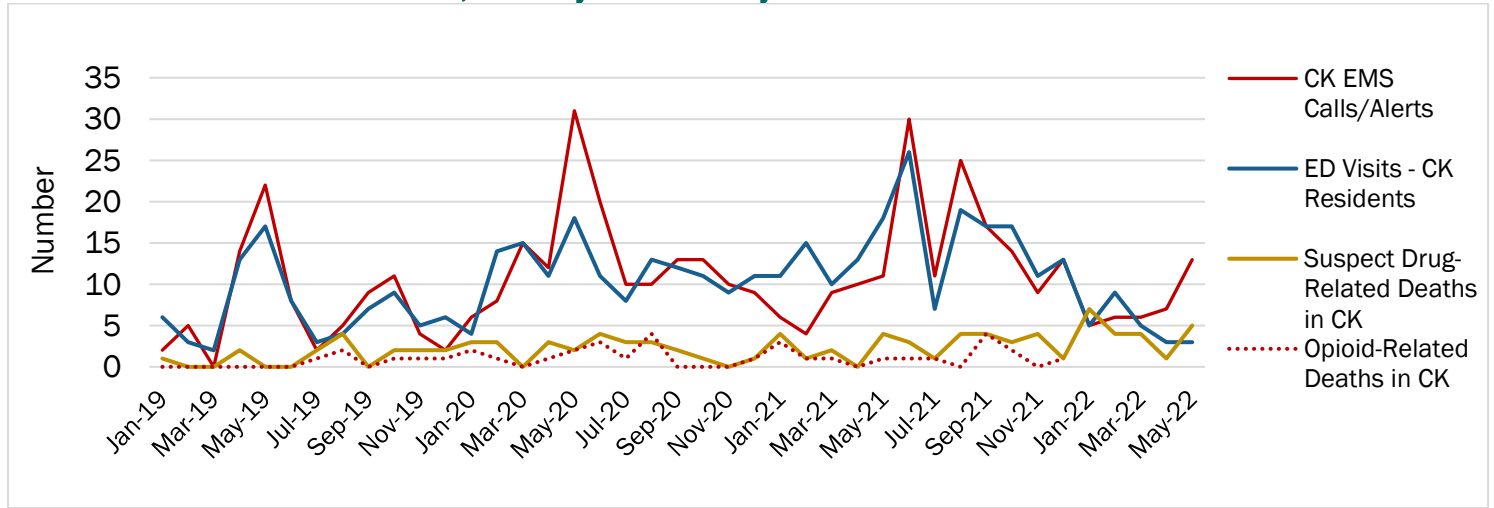
### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 13 suspected opioid overdose-related calls to CK EMS in May (37 to date in 2022) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 17 non-opioid drug overdose-related calls to CK EMS in May (50 to date in 2022)</li></ul>
Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 opioid overdose-related ED visits by CK residents in May (25 to date in 2022 or 23.3 per 100,000) (Figure 1)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 suspect drug-related deaths in CK in May (21 to date in 2022) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 15 confirmed opioid-related deaths in CK between January and December 2021 (15 deaths in 2020 or 14.1 per 100,000) (Figure 1)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of opioid-overdose related EMS calls and suspect drug deaths in May were higher than previous months. CK's rate of ED visits for 2022 to date is comparable to the province overall. CK experienced a similar high rate of death in 2021 as in 2020.</li></ul>

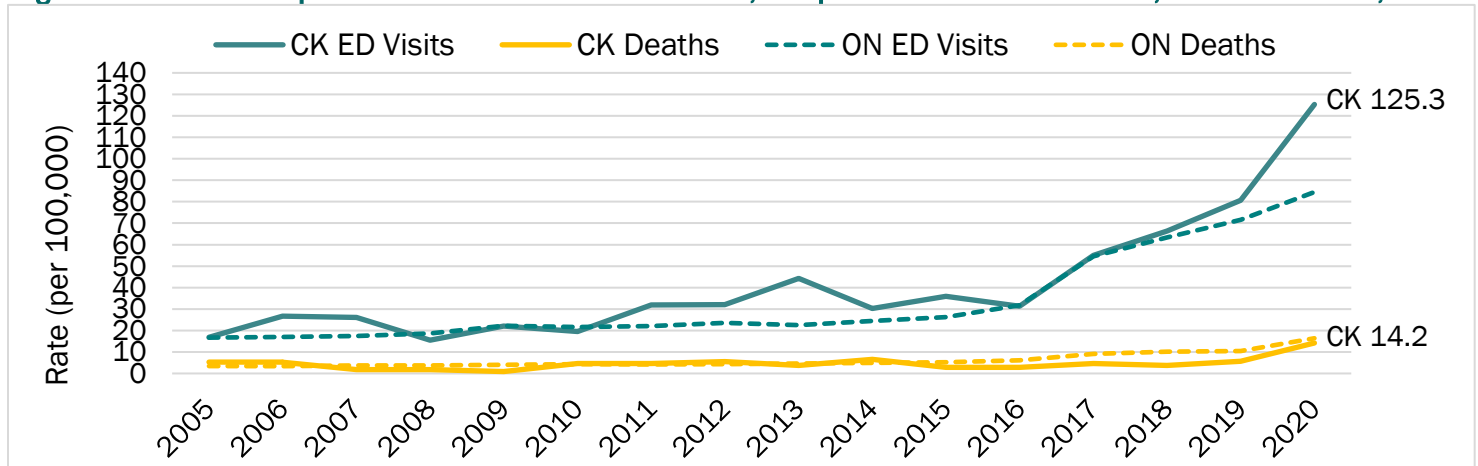
### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 735 ED visits in May (4,327 to date in 2022 or 28.6 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of ED visits in May was 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.</li></ul>

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



**Figure 2. Rates<sup>4</sup> of opioid overdose-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-20**



**NOTES**

- <sup>1</sup>Content and format of this information summary has been adapted from Lambton Public Health
- <sup>2</sup>EMS calls up to and including May 2022 are based on calls for service by month provided by Chatham-Kent EMS.
- <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 10: May 30 to June 6, 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.
- <sup>4</sup> 2019 to 2022 suspect drug-related deaths are based on the Monthly Summary table provided by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, June 10, 2022. 2020 and 2021 opioid-related death data are based on the Coroner's Opioid Investigative Aid, Oct 2020 to Dec 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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