

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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## DECEMBER 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 Opioid Indicator Tool](#).

### EMERGING ISSUES & NEW RESOURCES

- On December 6, CK Public Health notified partners of recent community drug alerts that were issued from [Waterloo Region](#) and [Sarnia Police Service](#).
- As we enter the holiday season, please continue to share harm reduction messaging and any information about increased local harms with those at risk of opioid poisoning. The unregulated drug supply is unpredictable and always changing.

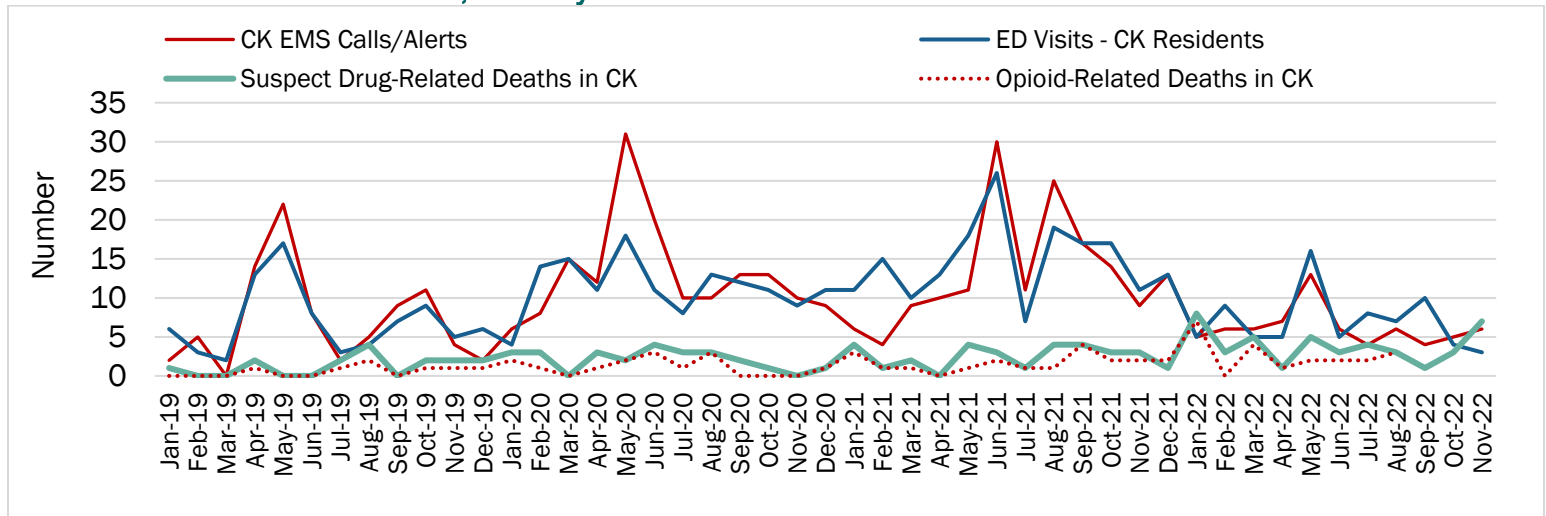
### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 suspect opioid overdose-related calls to CK EMS in November (68 to date in 2022) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 8 non-opioid drug overdose-related calls to CK EMS in November (104 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 <u>by CK residents</u> in November (77 to date in 2022 or 71.9 per 100,000) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 6 opioid overdose-related ED visits <u>to CK hospitals</u> in November (94 to date in 2022)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7 suspect drug-related deaths in CK in November (43 to date in 2022 or 40.1 per 100,000) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 21 confirmed opioid poisoning deaths in CK between January and August 2022 (19.6 per 100,000; 20 deaths in 2021 or 18.8 per 100,000) (Figure 1)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of opioid-overdose related EMS calls in November were comparable to previous months. ED visits were lower and suspect drug deaths were higher. CK's rate of ED visits for 2022 to date is slightly higher than the province overall and the rate of monthly suspect drug deaths continues to be significantly higher than the province. For the first 8 months of 2022, CK experienced a higher rate of opioid poisoning deaths compared to the province (19.6 versus 8.9 per 100,000).</li></ul>

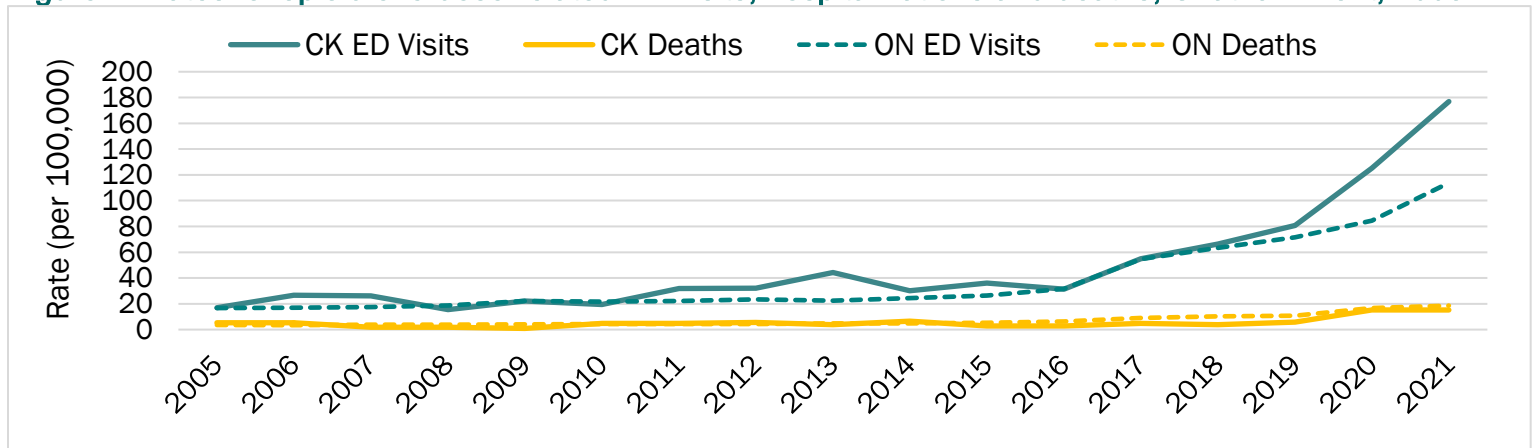
### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 579 ED visits in November (10363 to date in 2022 or 68.5 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 231 suspect drug-related deaths in November (2990 to date in 2022 or 19.8 per 100,000)</li><li>• 1351 confirmed opioid poisoning deaths between January and August 2022 (8.9 per 100,000; 2836 deaths in 2021 or 19.1 per 100,000)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of ED visits and suspect drug deaths were lower compared to the previous month. Suspect drug and opioid-related deaths for 2022 so far are trending lower than the same time in 2021 but still higher than pre-pandemic.</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 November 2022**



**Figure 2. Rates<sup>4</sup> of opioid overdose-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-21**



**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 November 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 37: Dec 5 to 11, 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 and 2022 population projections, and 2020 population estimates.
- <sup>4</sup>2019 to 2022 suspect drug-related deaths and confirmed opioid deaths are based on the Monthly Summary table provided by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, December 14, 2022. 2005 to 2021 ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths were obtained from Public Health Ontario's [Interactive Opioid Tool](#). Opioid-related deaths include confirmed deaths only, are considered preliminary and are subject to change as remaining cases are closed by the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario.

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