

OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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MARCH 2023

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 Opioid Indicator Tool](#).

EMERGING ISSUES & NEW RESOURCES

- A memo from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and Chief Coroner was sent on February 28, 2023, alerting organizations that work with people who use drugs, impacted health care providers, and people who use drugs, that recent evidence shows an increase in xylazine and benzodiazepine presence in Ontario's unregulated drug supply. Xylazine is a very toxic animal tranquilizer, presenting high risk of acute toxicity and Benzodiazepines, when used with opioids, present high risk of toxicity.

CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 suspect opioid poisoning-related calls to CK EMS in February (11 to date in 2023; 75 in 2022) (Figure 1)• 8 non-opioid drug related calls to CK EMS in February (20 to date in 2023)
Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 opioid poisoning-related ED visits <u>by CK residents</u> in February (14 to date in 2023 or 12.9 per 100,000; 87 in 2022) (Figure 1)• 6 opioid poisoning-related ED visits <u>to CK hospitals</u> in February (18 to date in 2023; 101 in 2022)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 suspect drug-related death in CK in February (4 to date in 2023; 44 deaths in 2022) (Figure 1)• 28 confirmed opioid poisoning deaths in CK between January and November 2022 (25.9 per 100,000; 19 deaths in 2021 or 17.6 per 100,000) (Figure 1)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of opioid poisoning-related EMS calls in February were comparable to previous months, and ED visits and suspect drug deaths were lower. CK's rate of ED visits for 2022 was comparable to the province overall and the rate of suspect drug deaths was significantly higher than the province. For the first 11 months of 2022, CK experienced a higher rate of opioid poisoning deaths compared to the province (25.9 versus 12.8 per 100,000).

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 679 opioid poisoning-related ED visits in February (1490 to date in 2023 or 9.7 per 100,000)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 266 suspect drug-related deaths in February (505 to date in 2023 or 3.3 per 100,000; 3432 deaths in 2022)• 1933 confirmed opioid poisoning deaths between January and November 2022 (12.8 per 100,000; 2863 deaths in 2021 or 19.3 per 100,000)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of ED visits and suspect drug deaths were comparable to previous months. Suspect drug and opioid poisoning deaths for 2022 continue to trend lower than the same time in 2021 but still higher than pre-pandemic.

Figure 1. Opioid poisoning-related ED visits and EMS calls and suspect drug-related and confirmed opioid poisoning deaths in Chatham-Kent, January 2019 to February 2023

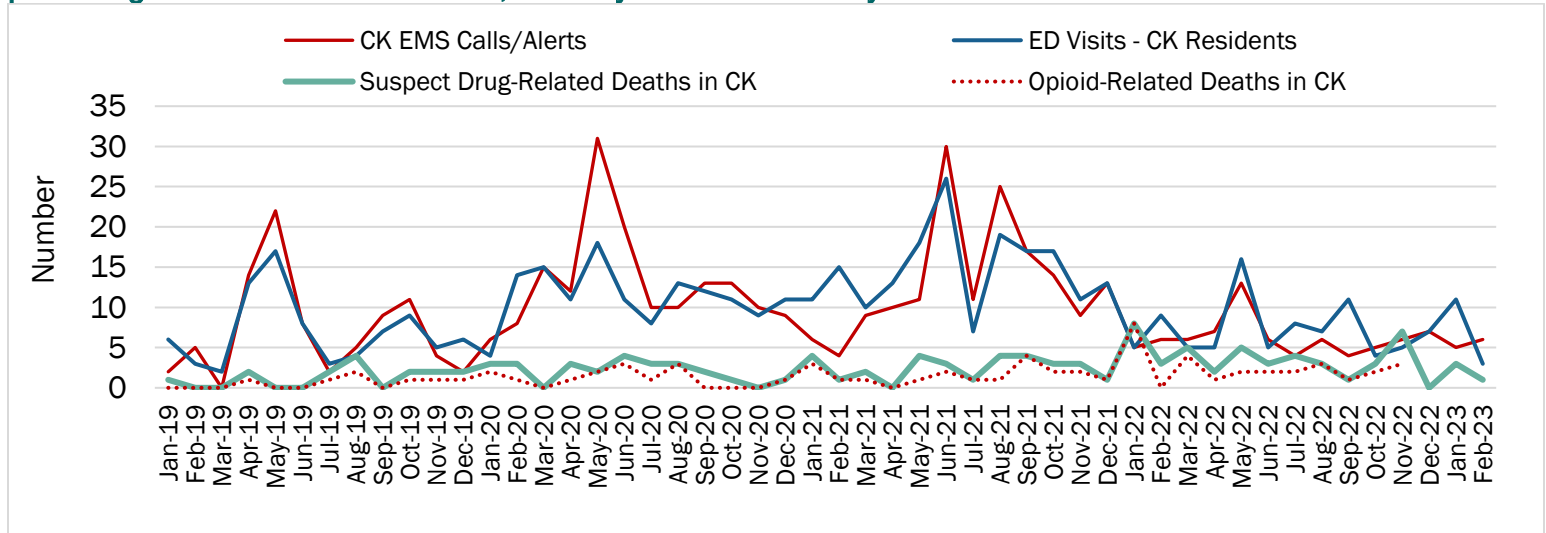
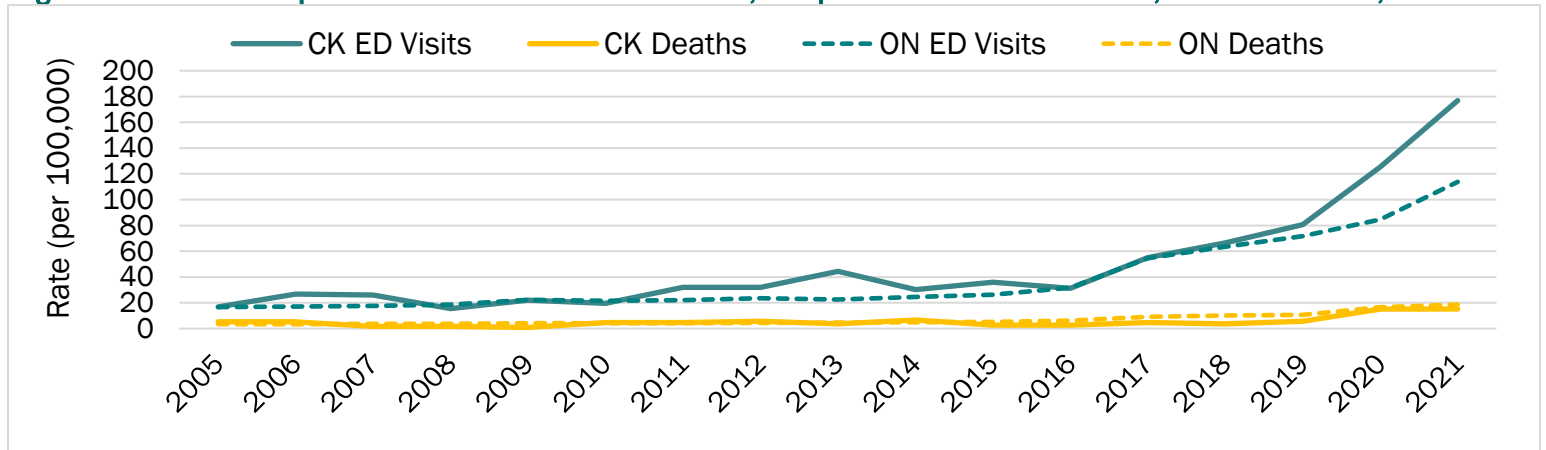


Figure 2. Rates⁴ of opioid overdose-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-21



NOTES

¹Content and format of this information summary has been adapted from Lambton Public Health
²EMS calls up to and including February 2023 are 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 50: Mar 6 to 12, 2023). 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 2022-2023 population projections, and 2019-2021 population estimates.
⁴ 2019 to 2023 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, March 10, 2023. 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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