

OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

CK Public Health • 435 Grand Avenue West, Chatham, ON N7M 5L8
Tel: 519.352.7270 • Fax: 519.352.2166 • Email: ckpublichealth@chatham-kent.ca



JANUARY 2024

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

- No emerging issues at this time.

CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 suspect opioid poisoning-related calls to CK EMS in December (75 in 2023) (Figure 1)• 6 non-opioid drug related calls to CK EMS in December (119 in 2023)
Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due to the recent regional hospital cyber-attack, opioid poisoning-related ED visits for the month of December are not readily available.
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 suspect drug-related deaths in CK in last 3 months (28 in 2023 or 25.8 per 100,000; 49 deaths in 2022) (Figure 1)• 10 confirmed opioid poisoning deaths in CK between January and September 2023 (37 deaths in 2022 or 34.2 per 100,000) (Figure 1)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of opioid poisoning-related EMS calls and suspect drug deaths were similar to previous months. Data for 2022 shows CK experienced higher rates of opioid poisoning ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, compared to the province. For the first 6 months of 2023, local opioid deaths have largely impacted males, age 45 to 64, and 90% of deaths are attributed to fentanyl.

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 834 opioid poisoning-related ED visits in December (12,842 in 2023 or 83.6 per 100,000)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 268 suspect drug-related deaths in December (3628 in 2023 or 23.6 per 100,000; 3688 deaths in 2022)• 1511 confirmed opioid poisoning deaths between January and September 2023 (2495 deaths in 2022 or 16.5 per 100,000)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspect drug deaths in the past 3 months have decreased from the 3 months prior but remain higher compared to the same time period pre-pandemic (2019).

Figure 1. Opioid poisoning-related ED visits and EMS calls and suspect drug-related and confirmed opioid poisoning deaths in Chatham-Kent, January 2020 to December 2023

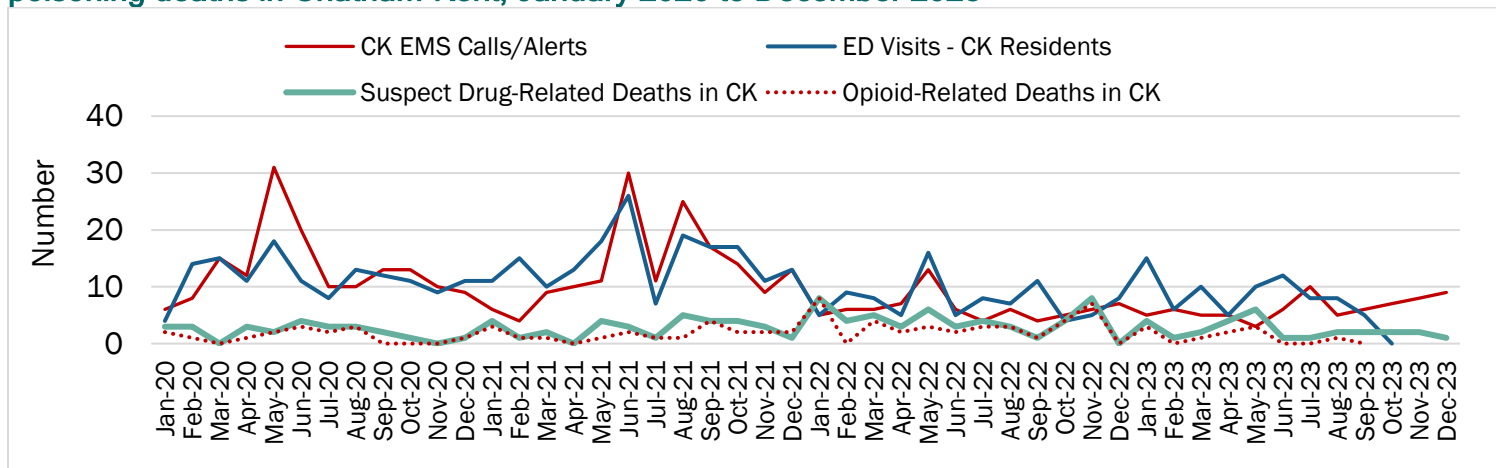
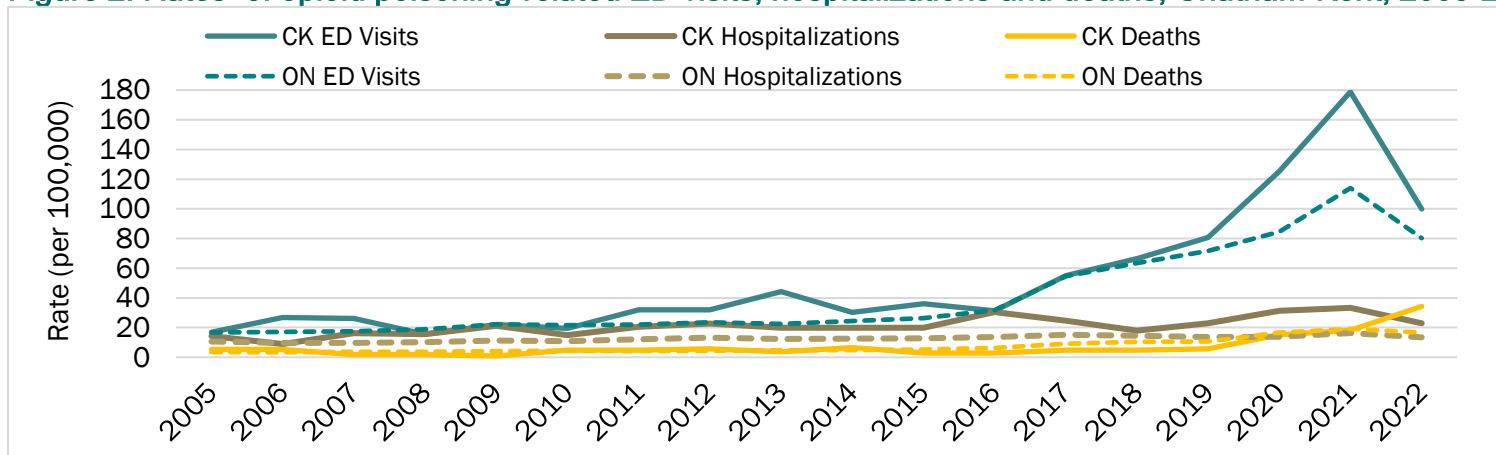


Figure 2. Rates⁴ of opioid poisoning-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-22



NOTES

- ¹Content and format of this information summary has been adapted from Lambton Public Health
- ²EMS calls up to and including December 2023 are based on calls for service by month provided by Chatham-Kent EMS for suspected opioid-related calls.
- ³Emergency department visits were provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Weekly emergency department visits for opioid overdose Week 41: January 8-14, 2023). Ontario hospitals are required to report cases of opioid overdose presenting in their EDs to the Canadian Institute for Health Information. CK hospital visit data is unavailable since October 2023 and is expected to be unavailable for the short-term due to the regional hospital cyber attack. 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, January 12, 2024. 2005 to 2022 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.

CONTACT:

Laura Zettler, Epidemiologist, CK Public Health
 Phone: 226.312.2023 ext. 2407; Email: lauraz@chatham-kent.ca
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