

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

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## APRIL 2024

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

- The last months have observed **higher** levels of opioid-poisoning related activity in CK. The unregulated drug supply is unpredictable and always changing. Share this information with those at risk.
- The CK Community Drug Strategy and recommendations were passed by Municipal Council on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Check out [Chatham-Kent Community Drug Strategy](#) | [Let's Talk Chatham-Kent \(letstalkchatham-kent.ca\)](#) for more information.

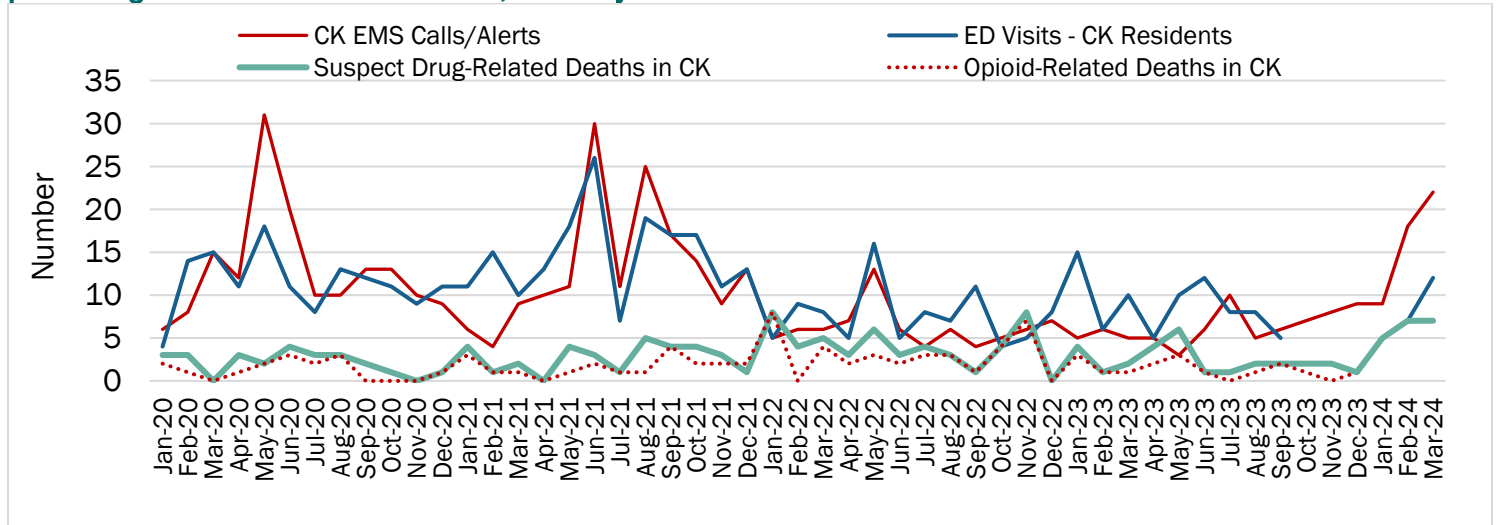
### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 22 suspect opioid poisoning-related calls to CK EMS in March (49 to date in 2024; 75 in 2023) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 10 non-opioid drug related calls to CK EMS in March (25 to date in 2024; 119 in 2023)</li></ul>
Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12 opioid poisoning-related ED visits in March (19 to date in 2024 or 17.0 per 100,000; 79 in 2023 or 71.4 per 100,000 (missing Oct 2023 to Feb 2024))</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7 suspect drug-related deaths in CK in March (19 to date in 2024 or 17.0 per 100,000; 28 deaths in 2023 or 25.3 per 100,000) (Figure 1)</li><li>• 16 confirmed opioid poisoning deaths in CK between January and December 2023 (or 14.5 per 100,000; 37 deaths in 2022 or 33.9 per 100,000) (Figure 1)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of opioid-related EMS calls and ED visits and suspect drug deaths remained high in March, and the rate of suspect drug deaths so far for 2024 exceeds the provincial average. Most recent year of data up to Sept 2023 shows CK males experienced over twice the number of opioid-related deaths compared to females, and nearly all deaths were among those aged 25 to 64 years. Fentanyl continues to directly contribute to over 90% of accidental opioid-related deaths.</li></ul>

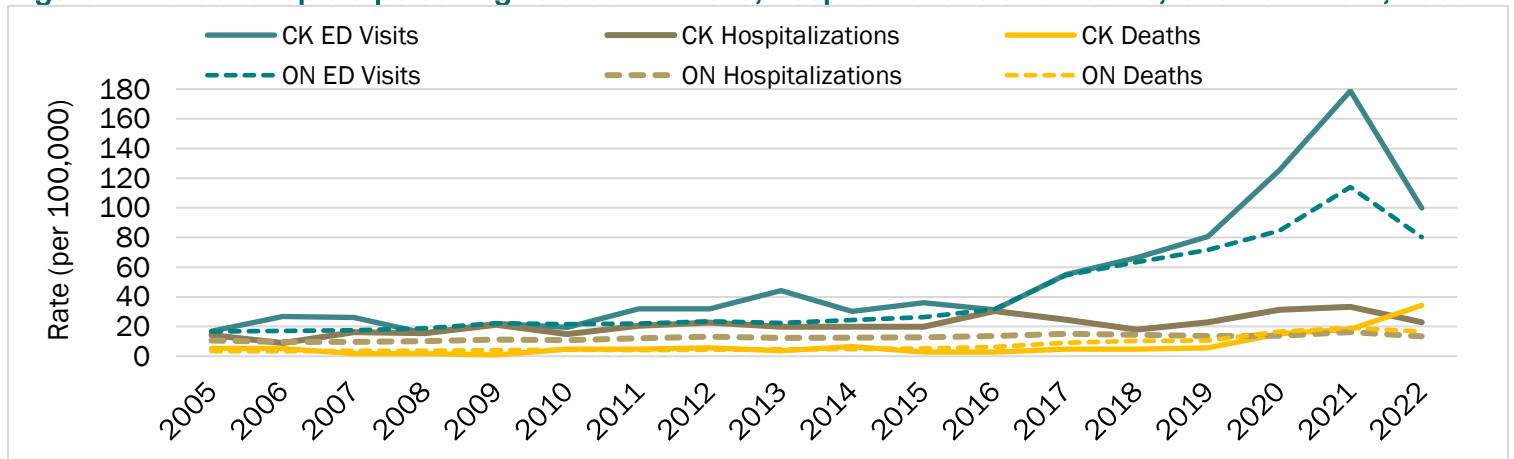
### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 824 opioid poisoning-related ED visits in March (2815 to date in 2024 or 17.6 per 100,000; 13435 in 2023 or 86.2 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 296 suspect drug-related deaths in March (851 to date in 2024 or 5.3 per 100,000; 3755 in 2023 or 24.1 per 100,000)</li><li>• 2230 confirmed opioid poisoning deaths between January and December 2023 (or 14.3 per 100,000; 2504 deaths in 2022 or 16.6 per 100,000)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suspect drug deaths in the past 3 months are decreased slightly from the 3 months prior and remain higher compared to the same time period pre-pandemic (early 2020).</li></ul>

**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 March 2024**



**Figure 2. Rates<sup>4</sup> of opioid poisoning-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-22**



**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 March 2024 are based on calls for service by month provided by Chatham-Kent EMS for suspected opioid-related calls.
- <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 2: Apr 8-14, 2024). 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 for October 2023 through January 2024 are not available due to the regional hospital cyber-attack in October 2023. Results are considered preliminary and subject to change as emergency departments continue to submit data. Rates are based on 2023-2024 population projections, and 2019-2022 population estimates.
- <sup>4</sup>2019 to 2024 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, April 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.

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