

OPIOID SURVEILLANCE BULLETIN

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This bulletin¹ 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

- Together We Can... come together as a community to remember those who have died, honour the grief of family and friends left behind, and take action to end the drug poisoning epidemic. Join the Chatham-Kent Drug Awareness Council (CKDAC) on Thursday August 29th in recognition of [International Overdose Awareness Day](#).
- The unregulated drug supply is unpredictable and always changing. Share information with those at risk and sign up for alerts here from [Toronto's Drug Checking Service](#).

CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 22 suspect opioid poisoning calls to CK EMS in July (122 to date in 2024; 75 in 2023) (Fig 1)• 7 non-opioid drug-related calls to CK EMS in July (48 to date in 2024; 119 in 2023)
Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19 opioid poisoning ED visits in July (95 to date in 2024 or 84.8 per 100,000; 120 in 2023 or 108.4 per 100,000 (some missing data Oct 2023 to Feb 2024)) (Fig 1)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 suspect drug-related deaths in July (34 to date in 2024 or 30.3 per 100,000; 27 deaths in 2023 or 24.4 per 100,000) (Fig 1)• 10 confirmed/probable opioid poisoning deaths in CK between Jan and Apr 2024 (16 deaths in 2023 or 14.5 per 100,000; 37 deaths in 2022 or 33.9 per 100,000) (Fig 1)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of opioid-related EMS calls and ED visits remained elevated in July and suspect drug deaths were higher than the previous month. In the first 4 months of 2024, the number of opioid poisoning deaths are trending significantly higher compared to the same timeframe in 2023.

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 743 opioid poisoning ED visits in July (6736 to date in 2024 or 42.0 per 100,000; 13455 in 2023 or 86.3 per 100,000)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 290 suspect drug-related deaths in July (2155 to date in 2024 or 13.5 per 100,000; 3822 in 2023 or 24.5 per 100,000)• 815 confirmed/probable opioid poisoning deaths between Jan and Apr 2024 (2645 deaths in 2023 or 17.0 per 100,000; 2531 deaths in 2022 or 16.8 per 100,000)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspect drug deaths in the past 3 months are increased from the 3 months prior and remain higher compared to the same time period in 2019.

Figure 1. Opioid poisoning ED visits and EMS calls and suspect drug-related and opioid poisoning deaths (confirmed/probable) in Chatham-Kent, January 2020 to July 2024

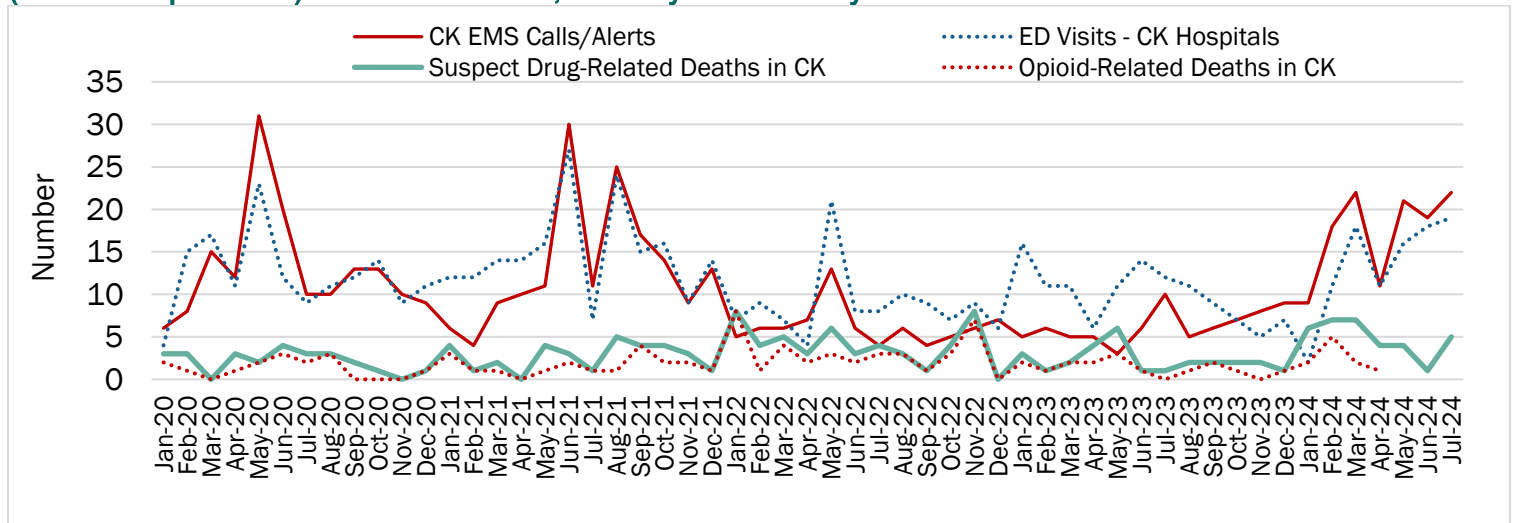
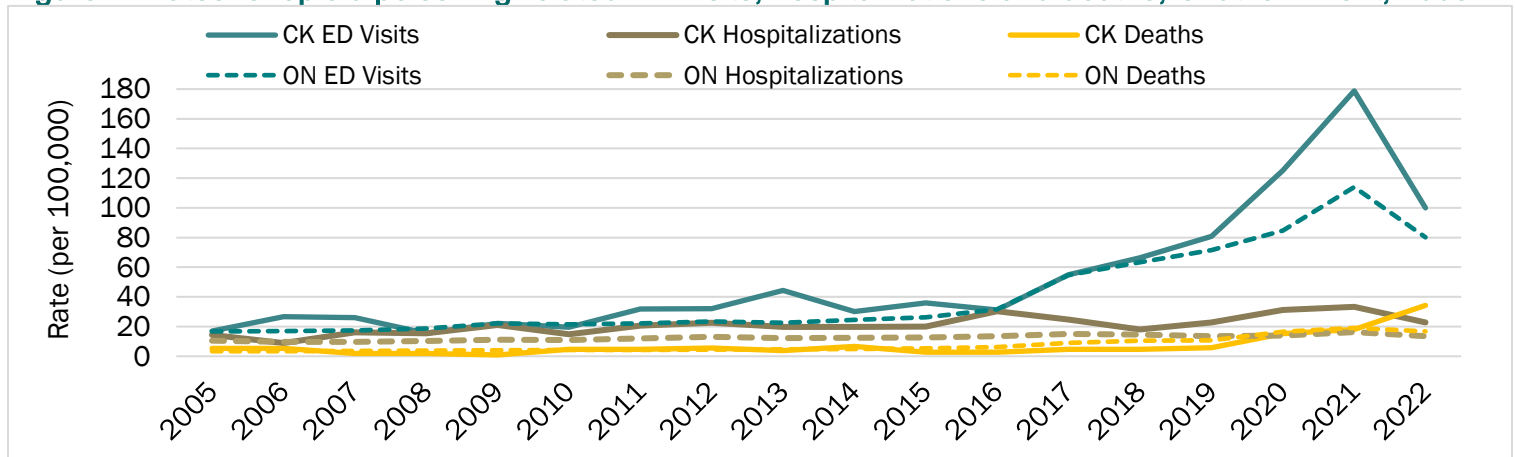


Figure 2. Rates⁴ of opioid poisoning-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2005-22



NOTES

¹Original content and format of this information summary was originally adapted from Lambton Public Health
²EMS calls up to and including July 2024 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 19: Aug 5-11, 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 may still be incomplete 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.
⁴ 2019 to 2024 suspect drug-related deaths and confirmed + probable opioid deaths are based on the Monthly Summary table provided by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, August 9, 2024 (publicly accessible here: [Suspect Drug-Related and Drug Toxicity Deaths in Ontario - ODPRN](#); 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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