

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE BULLETIN

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



## SEPTEMBER 2024

This bulletin<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 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](#).
- Recent [alert](#) issued for Waterloo region based on increase in overdoses and deaths between Sept. 17 and Sept. 23.

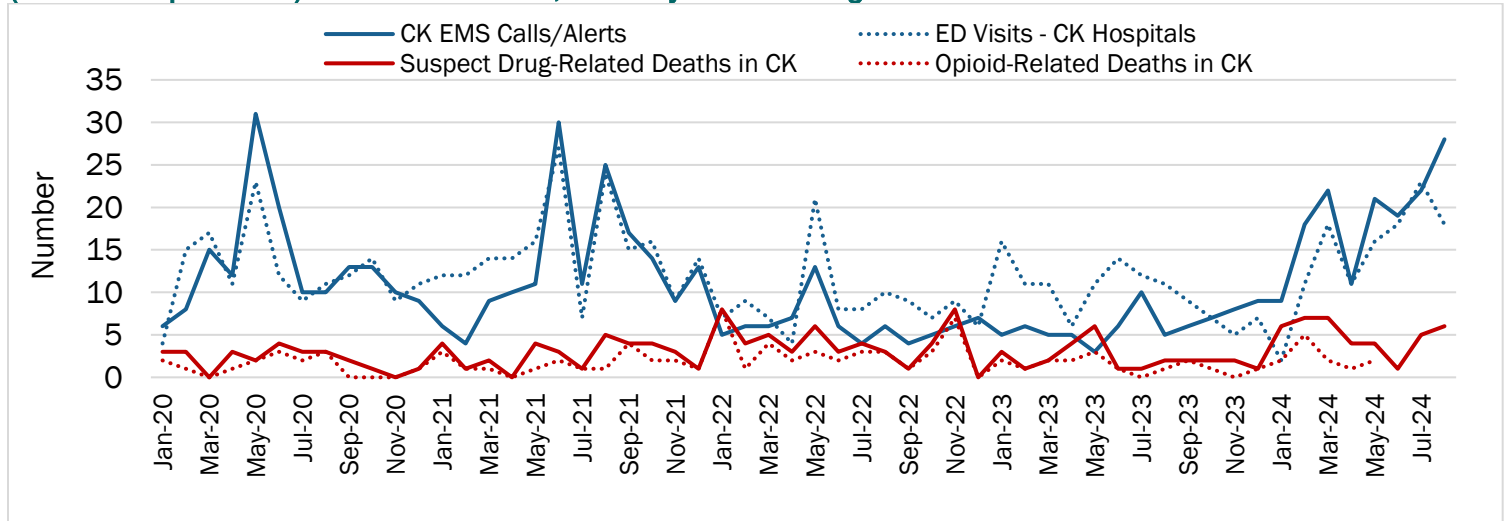
### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

EMS Calls <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 28 suspect opioid poisoning calls to CK EMS in August (150 to date in 2024; 75 in 2023) (Fig 1)</li></ul>
Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 18 opioid poisoning ED visits in August (117 to date in 2024 or 104.4 per 100,000; 120 in 2023 or 108.4 per 100,000 (some missing data Oct 2023 to Feb 2024)) (Fig 1)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 suspect drug-related deaths in August (40 to date in 2024 or 35.7 per 100,000; 27 deaths in 2023 or 24.4 per 100,000) (Fig 1)</li><li>• 12 confirmed/probable opioid poisoning deaths in CK between January and May 2024 (10.7 per 100,000; 16 deaths in 2023 or 14.5 per 100,000) (Fig 1)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of opioid-related EMS calls were higher than the previous month and ED visits and suspect drug deaths remained elevated in August. In the first 5 months of 2024, the number of opioid poisoning deaths are trending higher compared to the same timeframe in 2023.</li></ul>

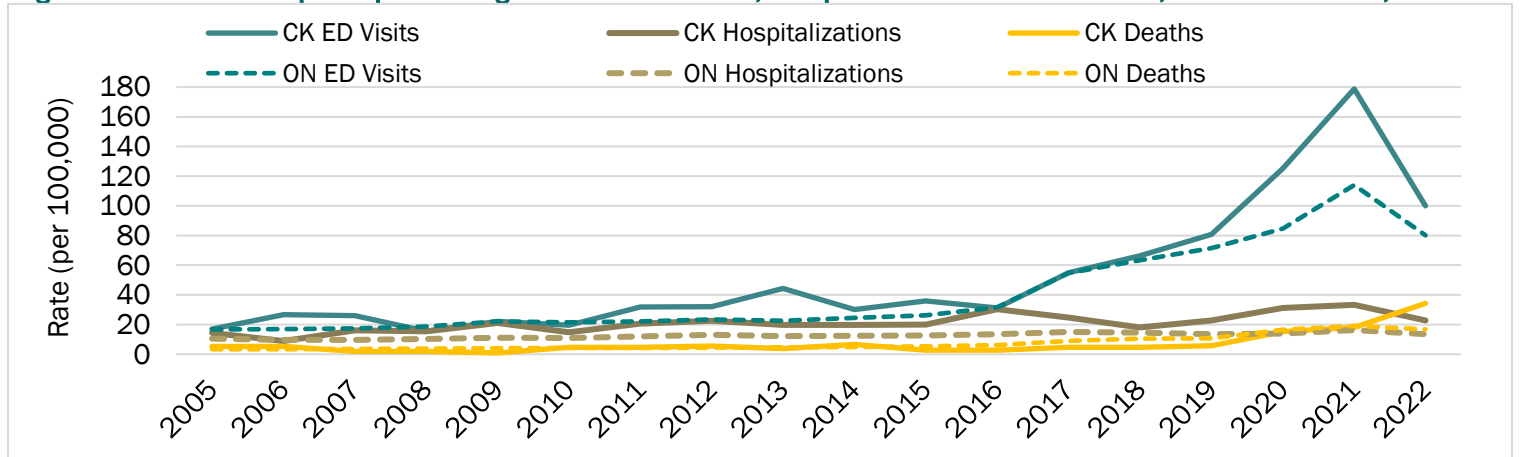
### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 775 opioid poisoning ED visits in August (7870 to date in 2024 or 49.1 per 100,000; 13455 in 2023 or 86.3 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 288 suspect drug-related deaths in August (2469 to date in 2024 or 15.4 per 100,000; 3839 in 2023 or 24.4 per 100,000)</li><li>• 1043 confirmed/probable opioid poisoning deaths between Jan and May 2024 (6.5 per 100,000; 2647 deaths in 2023 or 17.0 per 100,000)</li></ul>

**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 August 2024**



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



**NOTES**

<sup>1</sup>Original content and format of this information summary was originally adapted from Lambton Public Health  
<sup>2</sup>EMS calls up to and including August 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 24: Sep 9-15, 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.  
<sup>4</sup> 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, September 13, 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).

**CONTACT:**  
 Laura Zettler, Epidemiologist, CK Public Health  
 Phone: 226.312.2023 ext. 2407; Email: [lauraz@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:lauraz@chatham-kent.ca)