

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE BULLETIN

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## DECEMBER 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 Substance Use & Harms Tool](#) and the [Ontario Opioid Indicator Tool](#).

### EMERGING ISSUES & NEW RESOURCES

- Harm Reduction service providers are encouraged to share changes to hours of operation over the holidays:
  - **Wallaceburg CHC** - Dec 24 open 9-3, Dec 25 closed, Dec 26 closed, Dec 31 open 9-3, Jan 1 closed
  - **Blenheim IDA** - Dec 24 open 9-3 Dec. 25 closed Dec. 26 closed, Jan 1 closed
  - **CK Public Health** - Dec 24 open 8:30-12:00, Dec 25 closed, Dec 26 closed, Dec 31 open 8:30-12:00, Jan 1 closed
- Learn more about [Supporting People Who Use Substances During Extreme Cold Events](#)
- 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](#).

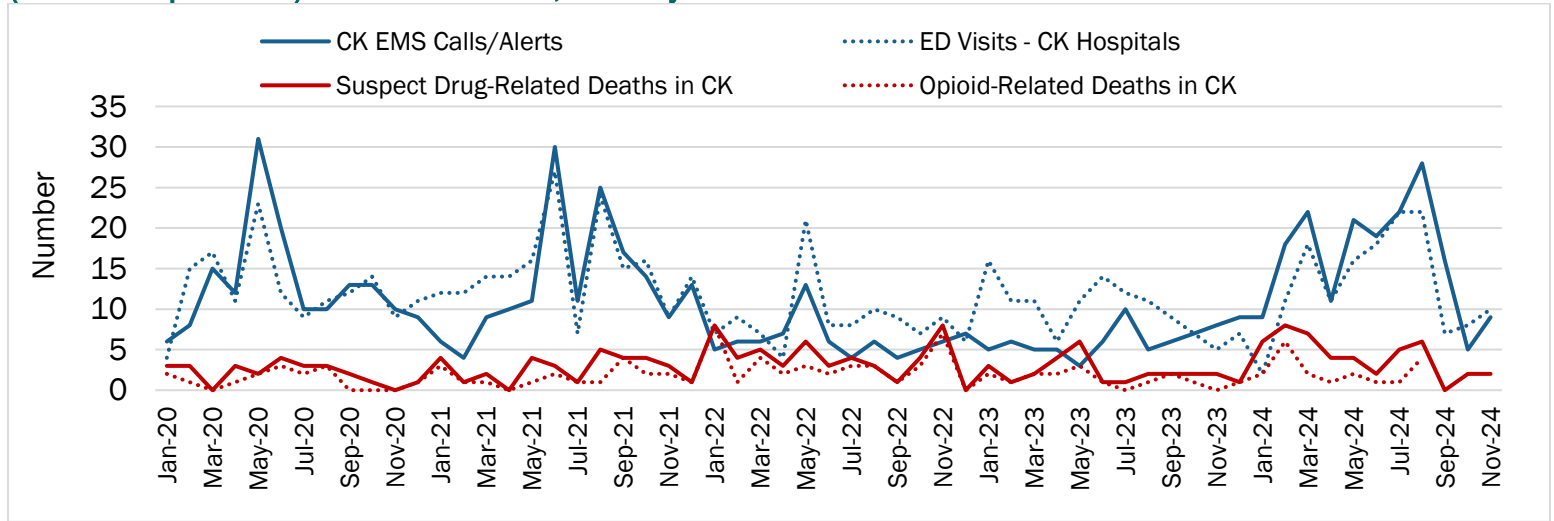
### CHATHAM-KENT ACTIVITY

<b>EMS Calls<sup>2</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9 suspect opioid poisoning calls to CK EMS in November (180 to date in 2024; 75 in 2023) (Fig1)</li><li>• 12 non-opioid drug overdose calls to CK EMS in November (72 to date in 2024; 119 in 2023)</li></ul>
<b>Emergency Department Visits<sup>3</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 opioid poisoning ED visits in November (145 to date in 2024 or 129.4 per 100,000; 120 in 2023 or 108.4 per 100,000 (some missing data Oct 2023 to Feb 2024)) (Fig1)</li></ul>
<b>Deaths<sup>4</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 suspect drug-related deaths in November (46 to date in 2024 or 41.0 per 100,000; 27 deaths in 2023 or 24.4 per 100,000) (Fig1)</li><li>• 19 confirmed/probable opioid poisoning deaths in CK between January and August 2024 (17.0 per 100,000; 16 deaths in 2023 or 14.5 per 100,000) (Fig1)</li></ul>
<b>OVERALL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of opioid-related EMS calls and ED visits and suspect drug deaths over the fall months have been lower compared to summer months. In 2024 to date, opioid poisoning EMS calls, ED visits, suspect drug deaths overall and opioid-related deaths in CK are trending higher compared to 2023 and compared to the province. In the first half of 2024 the majority of deaths have been among males age 25 to 44, with fentanyl directly contributing to all deaths.</li></ul>

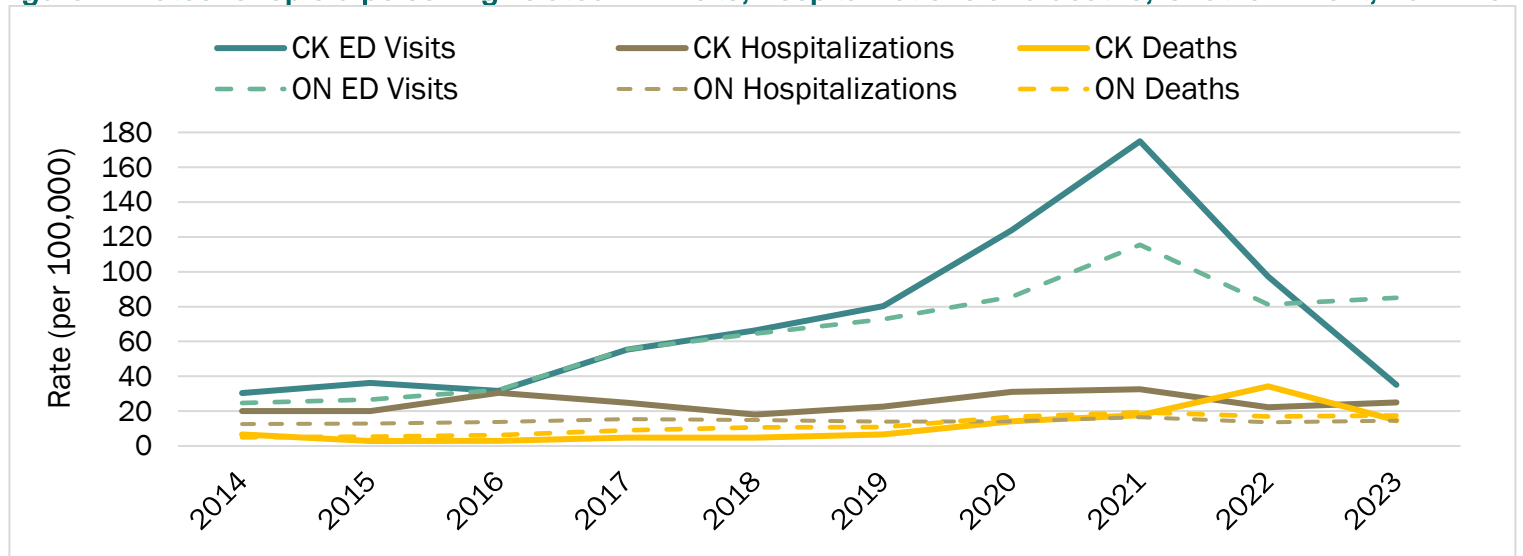
### PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

<b>Emergency Department Visits<sup>3</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 424 opioid poisoning ED visits in November (10,727 to date in 2024 or 67.0 per 100,000; 13455 in 2023 or 86.3 per 100,000)</li></ul>
<b>Deaths<sup>4</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 195 suspect drug-related deaths in November (3271 to date in 2024 or 20.4 per 100,000; 3859 in 2023 or 24.7 per 100,000)</li><li>• 1658 confirmed/probable opioid poisoning deaths between Jan and August 2024 (10.3 per 100,000; 2652 deaths in 2023 or 17.0 per 100,000)</li><li>• Suspect drug deaths over the past 3 months were lower than the 3 months prior but still higher than the same time period five years ago</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 November 2024**



**Figure 2. Rates<sup>4</sup> of opioid poisoning-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2014-23**



**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 November 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 36: Dec 2-8, 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, December 13, 2024 (publicly accessible here: [Suspect Drug-Related and Drug Toxicity Deaths in Ontario - ODPRN](#); 2014 to 2023 ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths were obtained from Public Health Ontario's [Substance Use and Harms 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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