

OPIOID SURVEILLANCE REPORT

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This report¹ 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

- Local families share their stories in a [Chatham Daily News feature piece on substance use in CK](#)
- Upcoming Webinars on Feb 10: [What We Heard at the Community Substance Use Forum](#) and Feb 13: [Back to Basics in Harm Reduction](#)
- 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

EMS Calls ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 suspect opioid poisoning calls to CK EMS in Dec (185 in 2024; 75 in 2023) (Fig1)• 8 non-opioid drug overdose calls to CK EMS in Dec (80 in 2024; 119 in 2023)
Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 opioid poisoning ED visits in Dec (175 in 2024 or 156.1 per 100,000; 120 in 2023 or 108.4 per 100,000 (some missing data Oct 2023 to Feb 2024)) (Fig1)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 suspect drug-related deaths in past 3 months (Oct-Dec) (47 in 2024 or 41.9 per 100,000; 27 deaths in 2023 or 24.4 per 100,000) (Fig1)• 20 confirmed/probable opioid poisoning deaths in CK from Jan-Sept 2024 (17.8 per 100,000; 16 deaths in 2023 or 14.5 per 100,000) (Fig1)
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of opioid-related EMS calls and ED visits and suspect drug deaths over the last 3 months were lower than the 3 months prior. In 2024, opioid poisoning EMS calls, ED visits, suspect drug deaths overall and opioid-related deaths in CK trended higher compared to 2023 and compared to the province. In the first half of 2024 the majority of opioid poisoning deaths have been among males age 25 to 44, with fentanyl directly contributing to all deaths.

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 418 opioid poisoning ED visits in Dec (12,060 in 2024 or 75.3 per 100,000; 13543 in 2023 or 86.9 per 100,000)
Deaths ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 230 suspect drug-related deaths in Dec (3524 in 2024 or 22.0 per 100,000; 3862 in 2023 or 24.8 per 100,000)• 1841 confirmed/probable opioid poisoning deaths from Jan-Sept 2024 (11.5 per 100,000; 2648 deaths in 2023 or 17.0 per 100,000)• 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

Figure 1. Monthly opioid poisoning ED visits and EMS calls and suspect drug-related and opioid poisoning deaths (confirmed/probable) in Chatham-Kent, 3-month moving average, January 2020 to December 2024

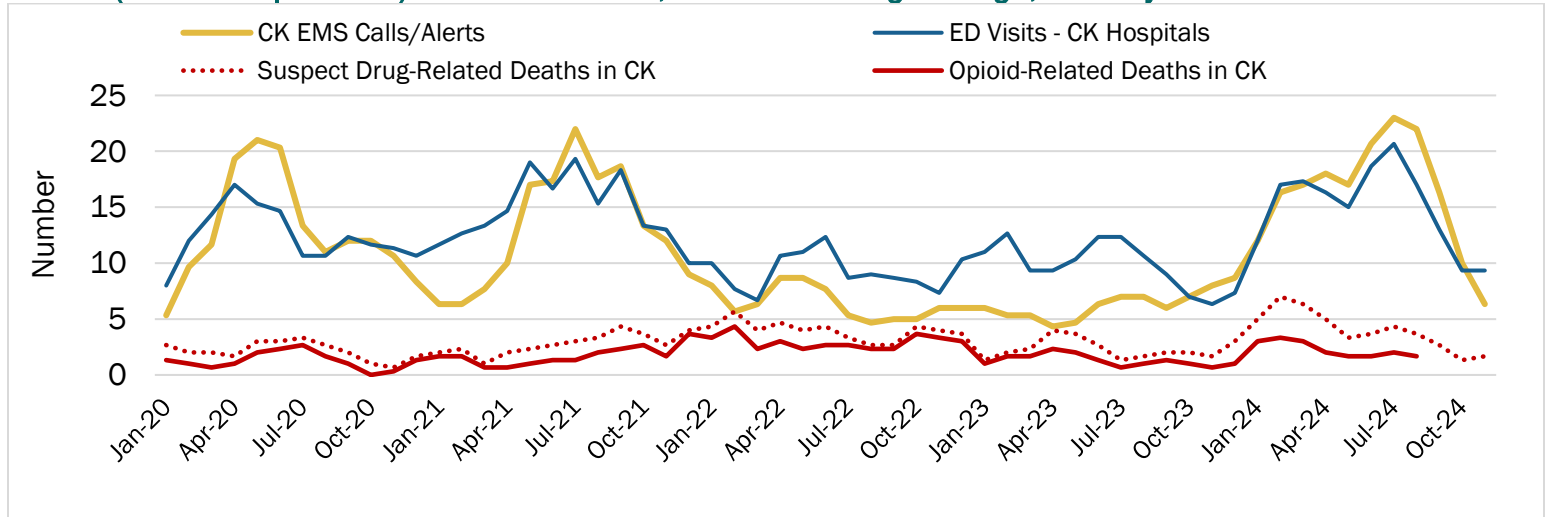
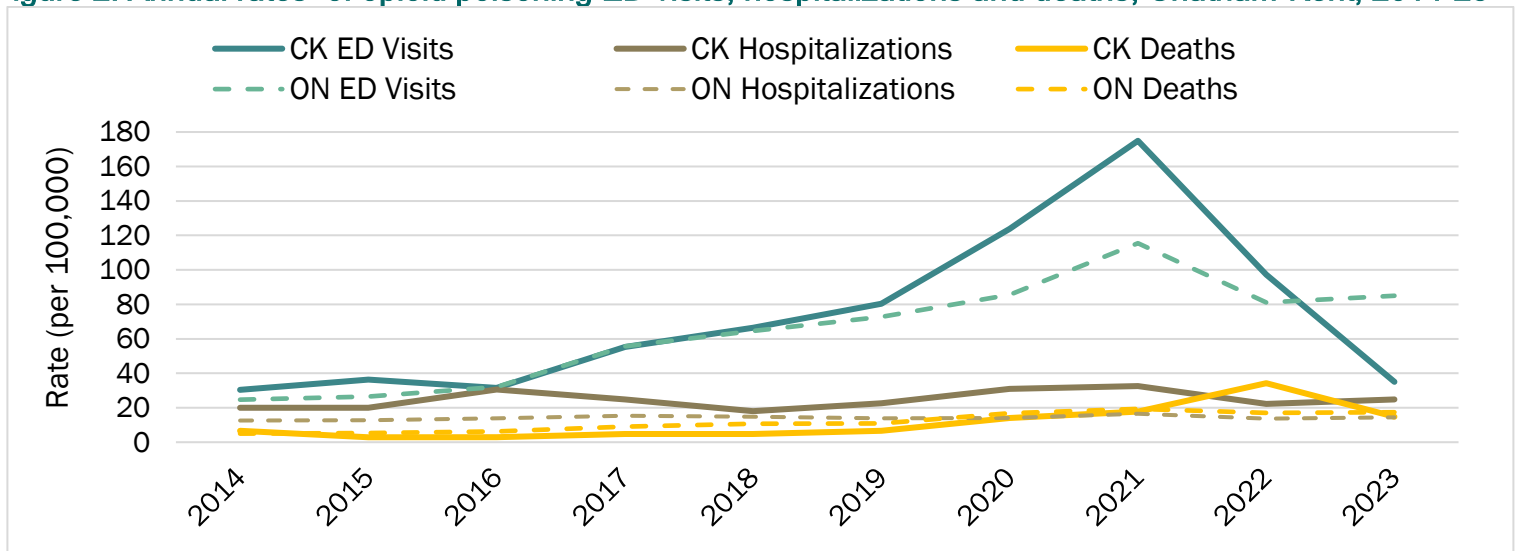


Figure 2. Annual rates⁴ of opioid poisoning ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2014-23



NOTES

¹Original content and format of this information summary was originally adapted from Lambton Public Health
²EMS calls up to and including December 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 42: Jan 13-19, 2025). 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.
⁴2019 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, Jan 10, 2025 (publicly accessible here: [Suspect Drug-Related and Drug Toxicity Deaths in Ontario - ODPN](#)); 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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