

# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE REPORT

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



APRIL 2025

This report<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

- 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 <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>13 suspect opioid poisoning calls to CK EMS in March (27 in 2025; 185 in 2024) (Fig1)</li><li>7 non-opioid drug overdose calls to CK EMS in March (27 in 2025; 80 in 2024)</li></ul>
Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5 opioid poisoning ED visits in March (22 in 2025 or 19.6 per 100,000; 175 in 2024 or 156.1 per 100,000) (Fig1)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 suspect drug-related death in past 3 months (Jan-Mar) (48 deaths in 2024 or 42.8 per 100,000) (Fig1)</li><li>23 confirmed/probable opioid poisoning deaths in CK from Jan-Dec 2024 (20.5 per 100,000; 16 deaths in 2023 or 14.5 per 100,000) (Fig1)</li></ul>
OVERALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Over the past 3 months, the number of opioid-related EMS calls were higher, ED visits were similar and suspect drug deaths were lower on average compared to 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. Based on the most current coroner's data, the majority of opioid poisoning deaths have been among males age 25 to 44, with fentanyl directly contributing to over 95% of deaths. Provincially about 1 in 5 opioid deaths occurs amongst people experiencing homelessness - this proportion is higher in CK.</li></ul>

## PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY

Emergency Department Visits <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>409 opioid poisoning ED visits in March (1502 in 2025 or 9.4 per 100,000; 12,503 in 2024 or 78.0 per 100,000)</li></ul>
Deaths <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>220 suspect drug-related deaths in March (3611 deaths in 2024 or 22.5 per 100,000)</li><li>2228 confirmed/probable opioid poisoning deaths from Jan-Dec 2024 (13.9 per 100,000; 2637 deaths in 2023 or 16.9 per 100,000)</li><li>Suspect drug deaths over the past 3 months were lower than the 3 months prior and lower compared to the same time period five years ago (Jan-Mar 2020)</li></ul>

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 March 2025

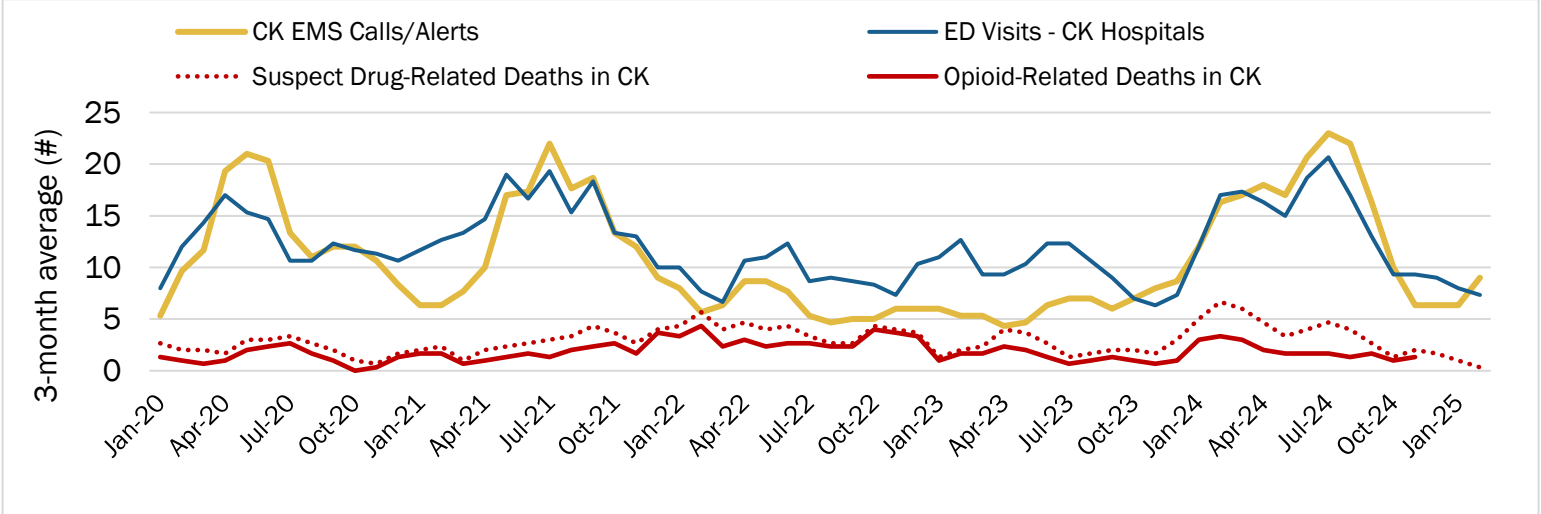
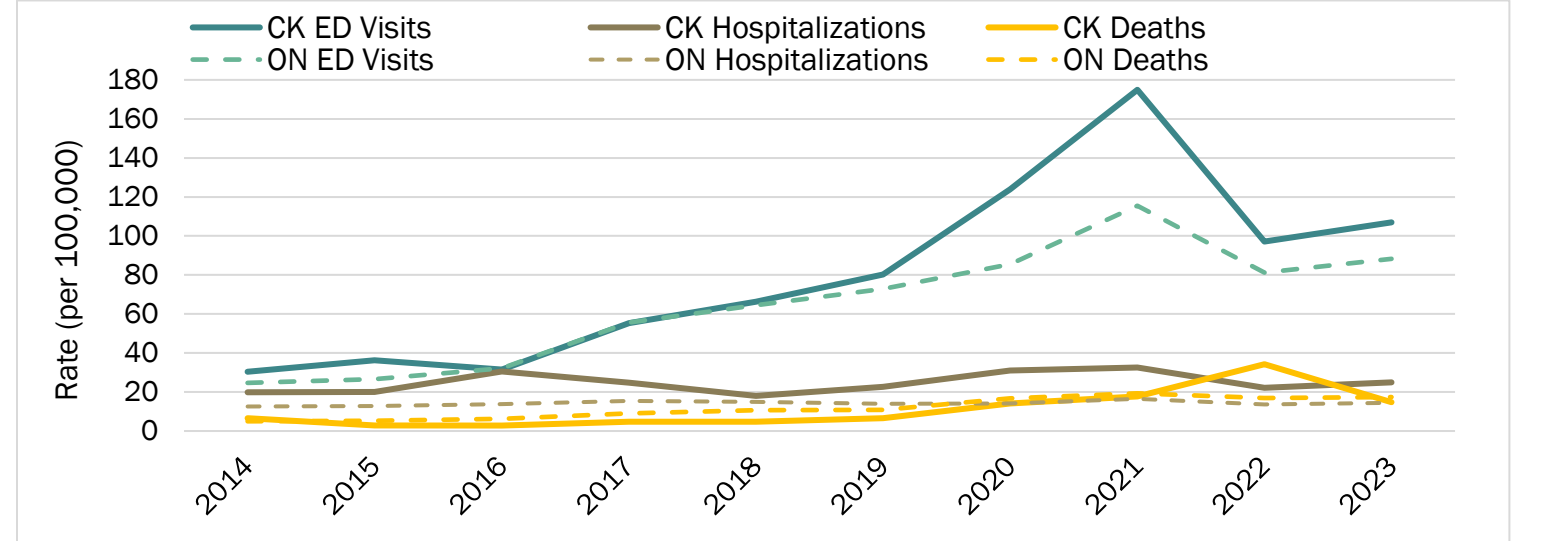


Figure 2. Annual rates<sup>4</sup> of opioid poisoning ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths, Chatham-Kent, 2014-23



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 March 2025 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 14-20, 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.

<sup>4</sup>2019 to 2025 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, Apr 11, 2025 (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).

CONTACT:

Laura Zettler, Epidemiologist, CK Public Health, Email: [ckphucommunications@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:ckphucommunications@chatham-kent.ca)