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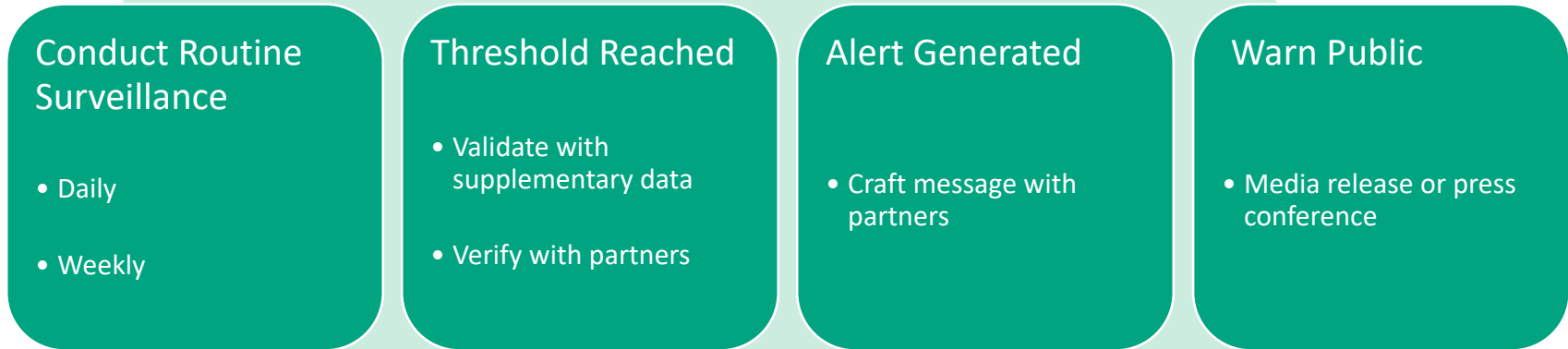
ML MIDDLESEX-LONDON
HEALTH UNIT

Opioids in Middlesex-London

Middlesex-London Health Unit
Board of Health
April 18, 2019

Recent Overdose Situation

- April 2:
 - Spike in overdoses was seen in April 1st ED syndromic surveillance data.
 - Query sent to partners and alert validated by other organizations that saw increased events.
 - MLHU, London Police Service and Middlesex-London Paramedic Service issued press release warning public of potentially toxic substance circulating and urging harm reduction strategies be taken.
- April 5:
 - Press conference with MLHU and London Police Service confirming 5 deaths since March 30. Continued messaging around safety planning and harm reduction.



Public Warnings

Following a spike in suspected overdoses MLHU issues warnings to public through the media with partners

Five issued since August 2017

POTENTIAL INCREASE IN PRESENCE OF FENTANYL CAUSES CONCERN FOR LOCAL AGENCIES
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 5, 2018
London, ON – New figures about the presence of fentanyl in London, including a spike in the number of opioid-related deaths late last year, have caught the attention of local agencies and departments from multiple datasets and the health unit (MLHU) and its partners have arrived in the region, are reported that nine opioid-related deaths.

NUMBER OF POTENTIAL OPIOID POISONINGS OVER LAST FEW DAYS HAS HEALTH AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ON HIGH ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2019
London, ON – Reports of suspected opioid-related poisonings have skyrocketed over the last few days, leaving public health officials, police, emergency services personal and emergency department staff to question whether a new and toxic form of drug has hit the streets. Since the weekend, there has been a substantial increase in the number of suspected opioid overdoses, well above the average.

Suspected drug overdoses claim five lives in six days in London
London police and local health unit warning
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
LONDON, ON (April 5, 2019) – London police are imploring drug users to be diligent in the wake of five suspected overdose deaths in less than a week. "Five men have died since March 30, including two yesterday," said Chief John Pare today. "It is truly alarming so I am pleading with those who use drugs to be careful, and with family and friends of those who may use to talk to them about safety planning." One man died March 30th, two March 31st and two yesterday. While the cause of death in each case is still under investigation by the Coroner's Office, with the support of detectives from the Major Crime Section, they are all suspected drug overdoses. It is believed at least three involved the use of fentanyl. "We don't usually release information about overdose deaths," Chief Pare said "But we are extremely concerned about this series of deaths and want to reinforce that people need to take precautions." The Middlesex-London Health Unit and London Police issued a warning Tuesday about a spike in overdoses. Pare says he is having to keep talking about this ongoing tragedy. There are so many people opening in this community and yet for some families, the social fabric is being torn. "I was someone's son," said Dr. Chris Mackie, Medical Officer of Health for the Middlesex-London Health Unit. "Please seek help for yourself or your loved one. It is no matter where you are in your journey, from the hospital to the local pharmacy, we can help make a difference in the local response. Please do not be afraid to reach out for help. It is not use alone. Make sure you get help immediately." Chief Pare said the private sector is also being encouraged to help.

DEEDS NOT WORDS MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Harm Reduction Program Enhancement

1) Local Opioid Response

- PHUs will implement, maintain and/or expand local opioid-related programming based on an assessment of local data and community needs.

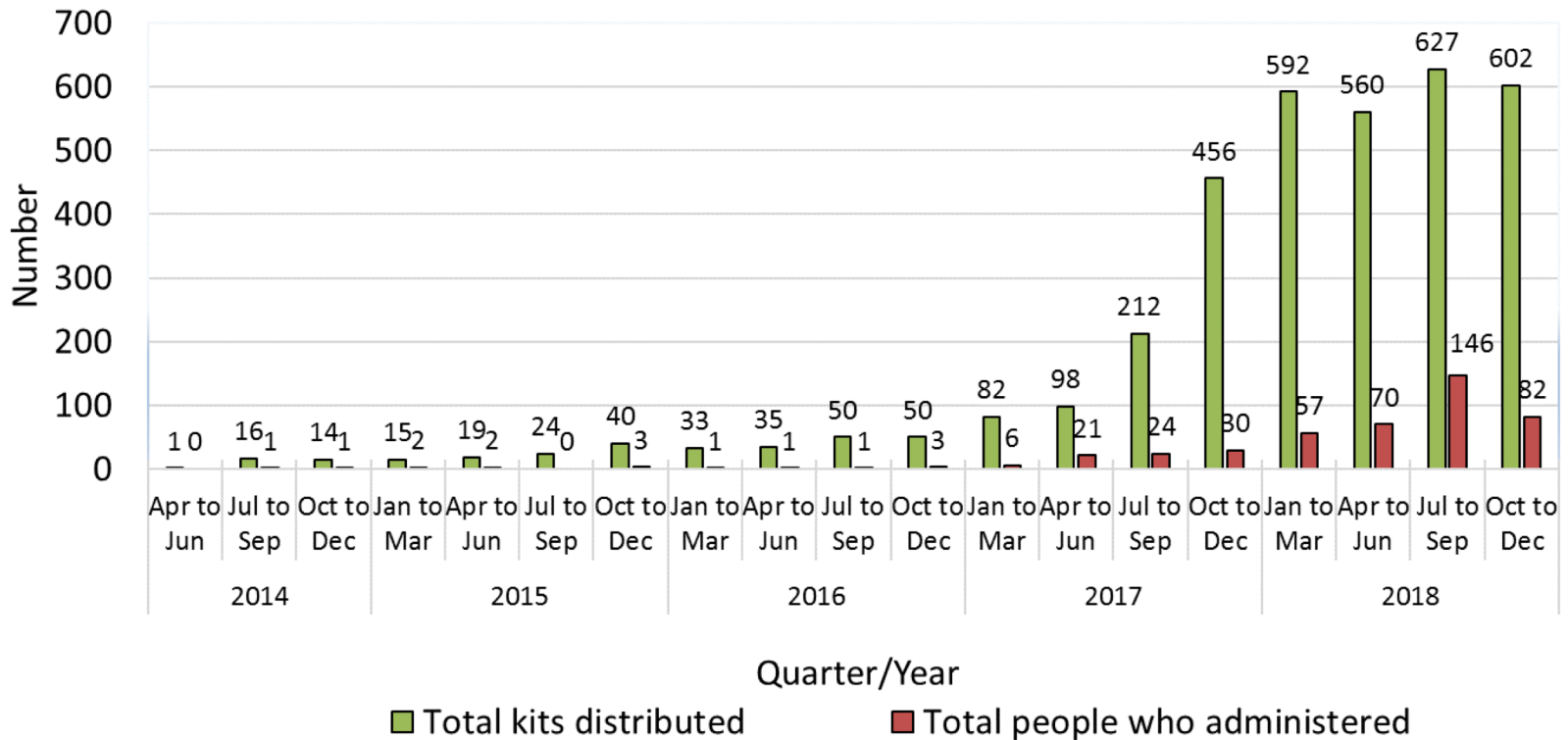
2) Naloxone Distribution and Training

- PHUs, or their designated organization, will act as naloxone distribution leads for community organizations in order to increase dissemination of naloxone kits to priority populations by agencies where individuals are already receiving services.

3) Opioid Overdose Early Warning and Surveillance

- PHUs will support the implementation and/or enhancement of early warning systems in their catchment areas to ensure the timely identification of, and response to, a surge in opioid overdoses.

Total naloxone kits distributed and people who administered, Middlesex-London



Consumption and Treatment Services

CTS numbers for 2019					
Visits					
Jan	Overdose	Peer to Peer		Community referrals to services:	
858	2	101		Treatment	280
				Medical	117
Feb				Housing	84
1125	7	125		Mental Health	30
				Testing	20
March				Women's Specific	20
1236	4	139			
April 1-7				Client's who self-identify as Indigenous	643
336	2	22			
Total visits	Overdose total	Peer-peer total			
3555	15	387			

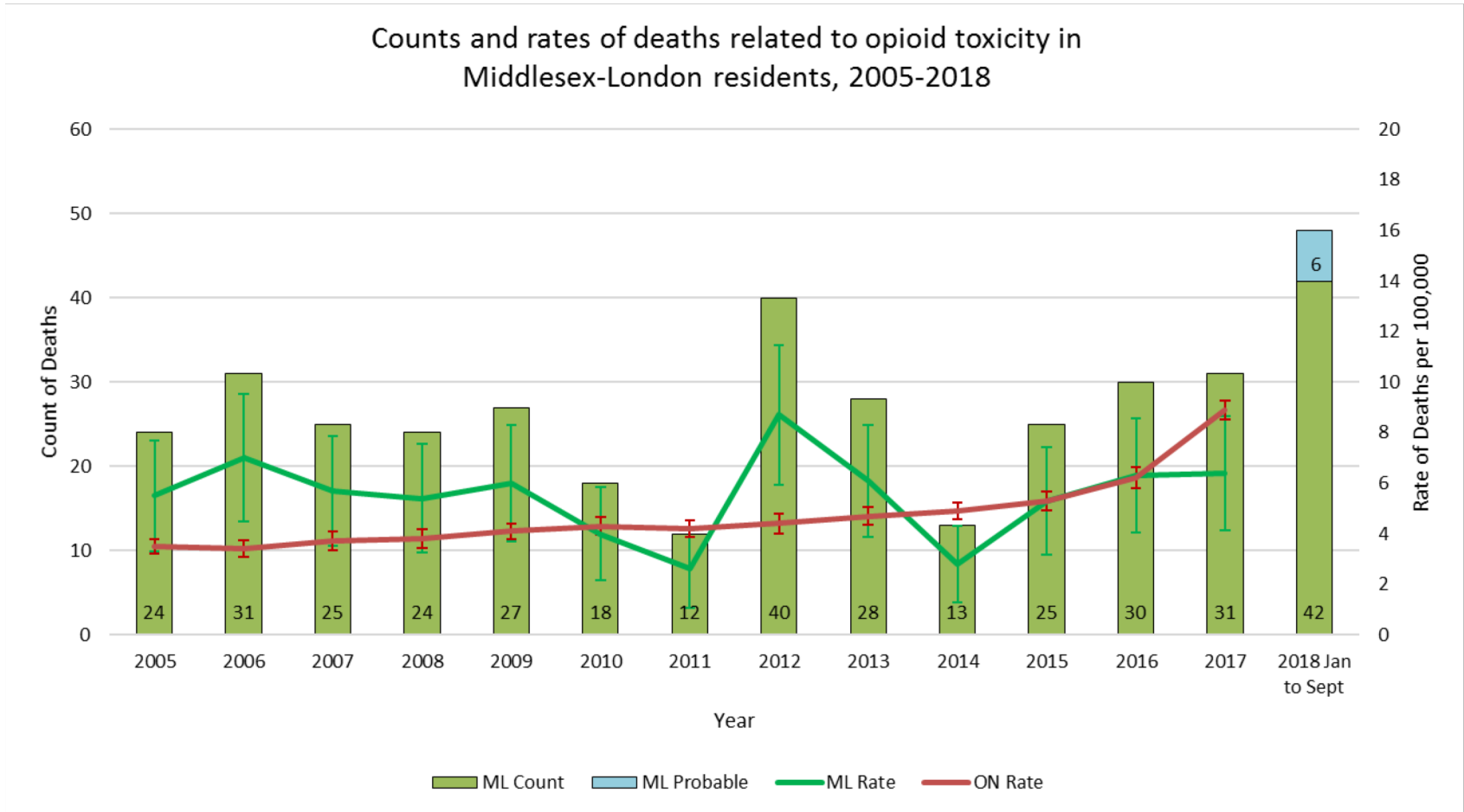
Middlesex-London
**COMMUNITY
DRUG & ALCOHOL
STRATEGY**

A Foundation For Action

September 2018

Deaths

Counts and rates of deaths related to opioid toxicity in Middlesex-London residents, 2005-2018

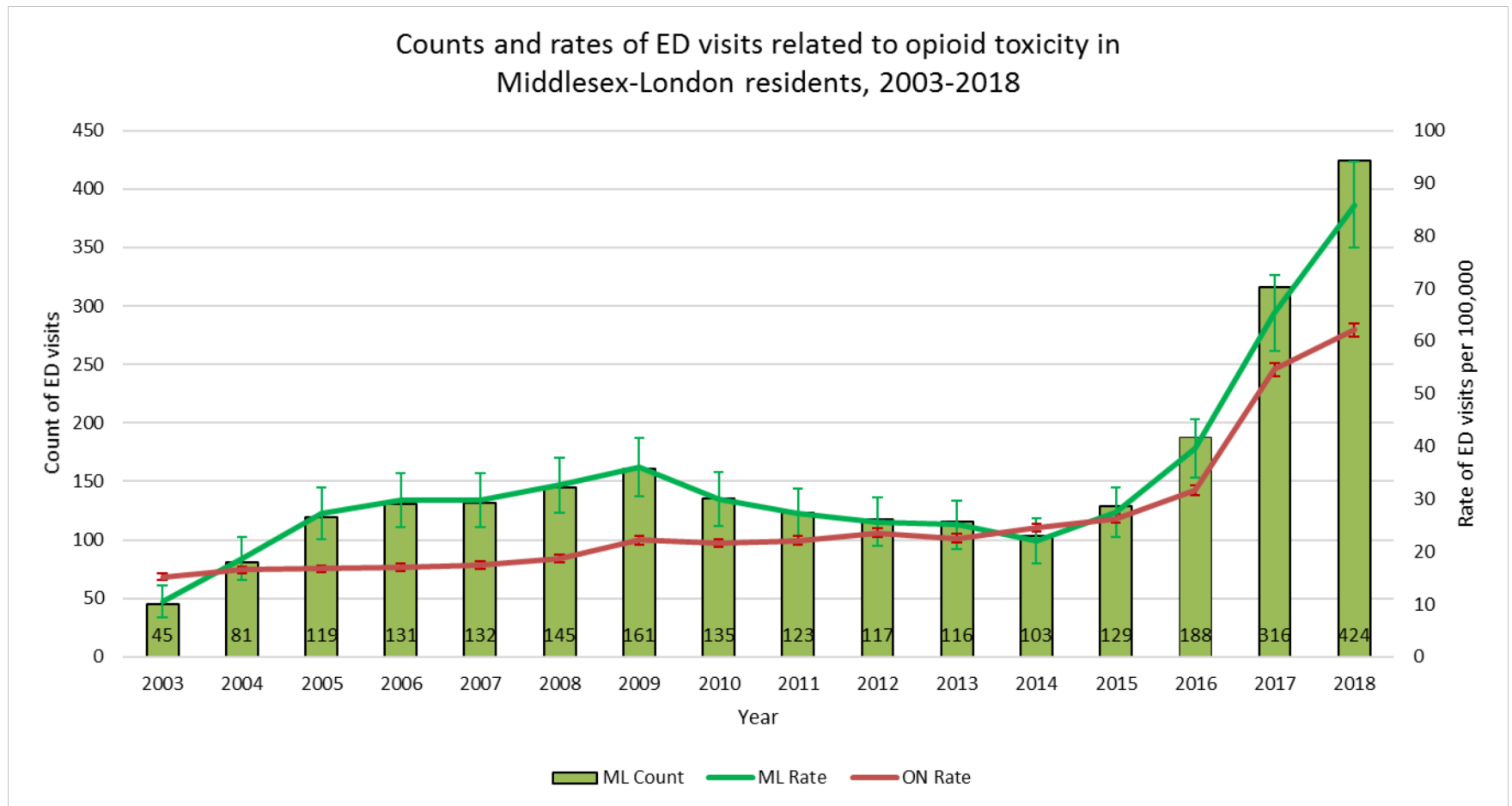


Note: Death data for 2017 and 2018 should be considered as preliminary and is subject to change

Data Source: Ontario Opioid-Related Death database, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario

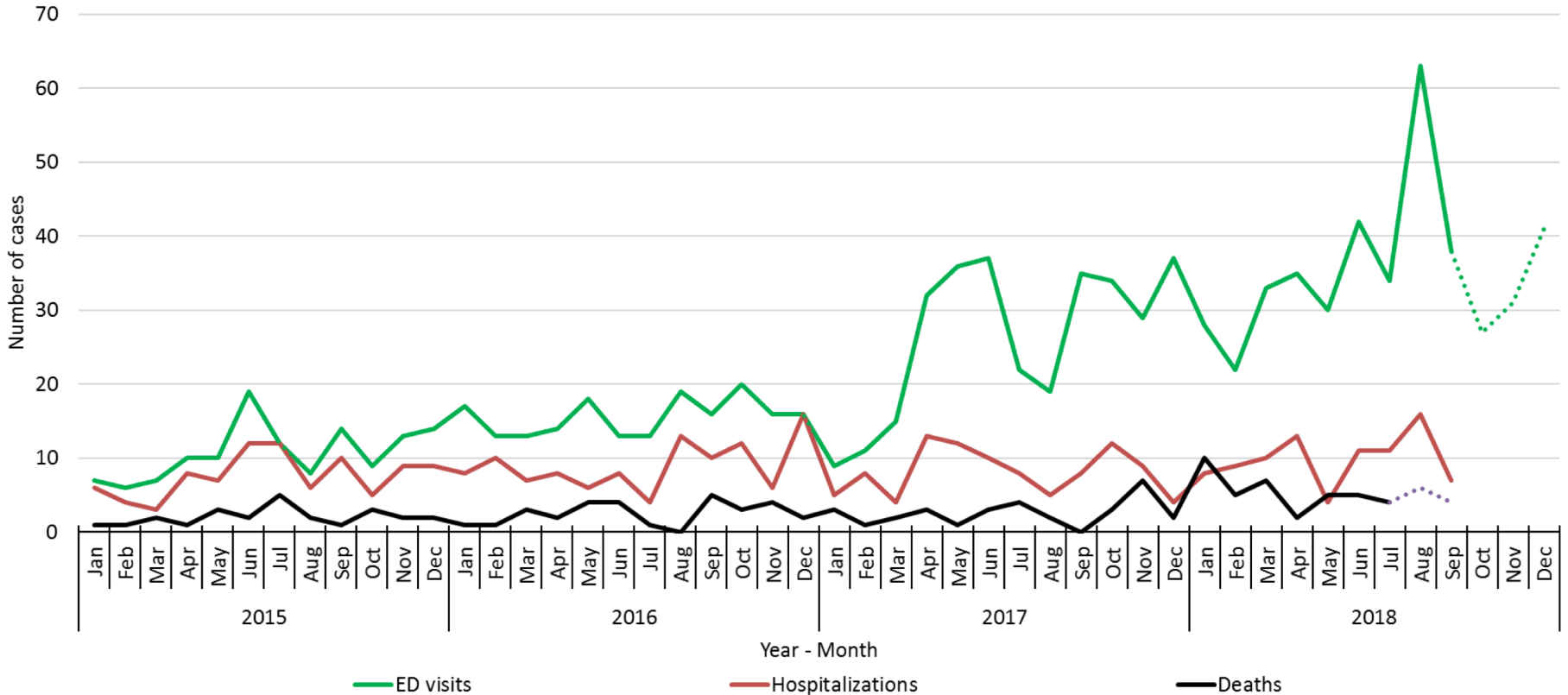
Accessible on the Public Health Ontario Interactive Opioid Tool <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/dataandanalytics/pages/opioid.aspx>

Emergency Department Visits



Data Source: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), 2003–2018, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHealth Ontario
 Accessible on the Public Health Ontario Interactive Opioid Tool <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/dataandanalytics/pages/opioid.aspx>

Diagnosed cases of opioid poisoning in ED visits, hospitalizations, deaths,
Middlesex-London residents, January 2015 to December 2018



Note: Death data for 2017 and 2018 should be considered as preliminary and is subject to change. Dotted lines represent preliminary counts.

Data Sources: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), 2003–2018, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHealth Ontario; Discharge Abstract Database (DAD), 2017, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHealth Ontario; Ontario Opioid-Related Death database, Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario
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Questions