

## Appendix B – Key Data Findings

Some of the key findings from the data included on the dashboard have been detailed below:

- Harm Reduction Service Utilization
  - At Carepoint (consumption and treatment services in London), both the number of visits where methamphetamine was identified as the drug being used and the overall number of visits increased in mid-2019 to early 2020. A decline in both identified methamphetamine use and overall number of visits began in March 2020, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health restrictions.
- Healthcare Utilization
  - Rates of emergency department (ED) visits in Middlesex-London associated with stimulant use including methamphetamine increased each year from 2016 to 2019. Additionally, there was a decrease in the rate of ED visits in Middlesex-London associated with stimulant use including methamphetamine from 2019 to 2020, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From 2016 to 2020 rates of ED visits associated with stimulant use including methamphetamine were significantly higher in Middlesex-London compared to the rest of Ontario.
  - Rates of hospitalizations in Middlesex-London associated with stimulant use including methamphetamine increased each year from 2016 to 2020. From 2016 to 2020 rates of hospitalizations associated with stimulant use including methamphetamine were significantly higher in Middlesex-London compared to the rest of Ontario.
- Treatment Service Utilization
  - Data from the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Information System shows the number of clients who identify using methamphetamine in the previous 12 months is consistently higher than the number of clients who indicate methamphetamine use was problematic and led them to substance treatment. Therefore, some people who use crystal methamphetamine seek out treatment for other substances, or do not feel their methamphetamine use is problematic.
- Outcomes and Fatalities
  - The rate of methamphetamine toxicity deaths in Middlesex-London has been increasing each year from 2018 to 2020 and has been higher than the rate across the rest of Ontario each of those years. The rate of methamphetamine toxicity deaths in Middlesex-London was higher than the rest of the peer group in both 2019 and 2020.
- Crimination Related to Methamphetamine
  - The rates of methamphetamine-related crimes in the London CMA remained stable from 2015 to 2019. However, the rate of possession incidents had a slight decline in both 2019 and 2020. Decreases in methamphetamine-related crimes observed in Middlesex-London in 2020 are consistent with the rest of Ontario.