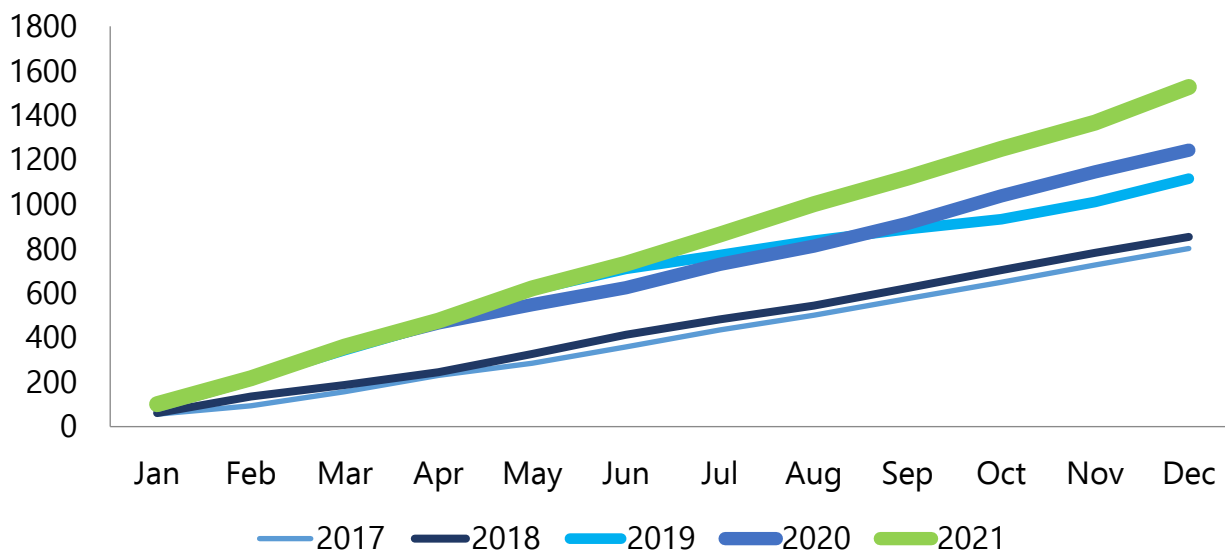


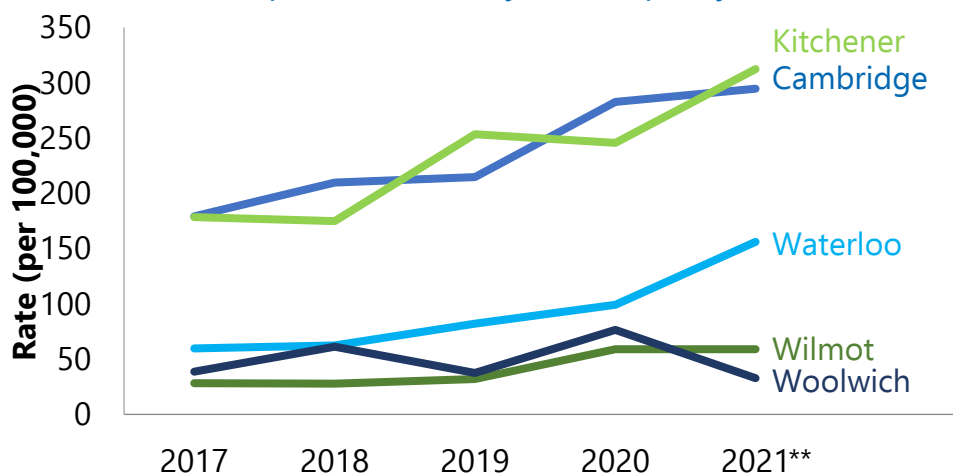
The opioid crisis is a national, provincial and local issue. The burden of opioid use is felt throughout our community, by its residents, first responders and service providers. In Waterloo Region, local statistics on opioid overdose highlight the severity of the issue.

Opioid Overdose Paramedic Service Calls

Calls by Month and Year (January 2017 to December 2021)



Calls and Rates (per 100,000) by Municipality (2017 to 2021)*

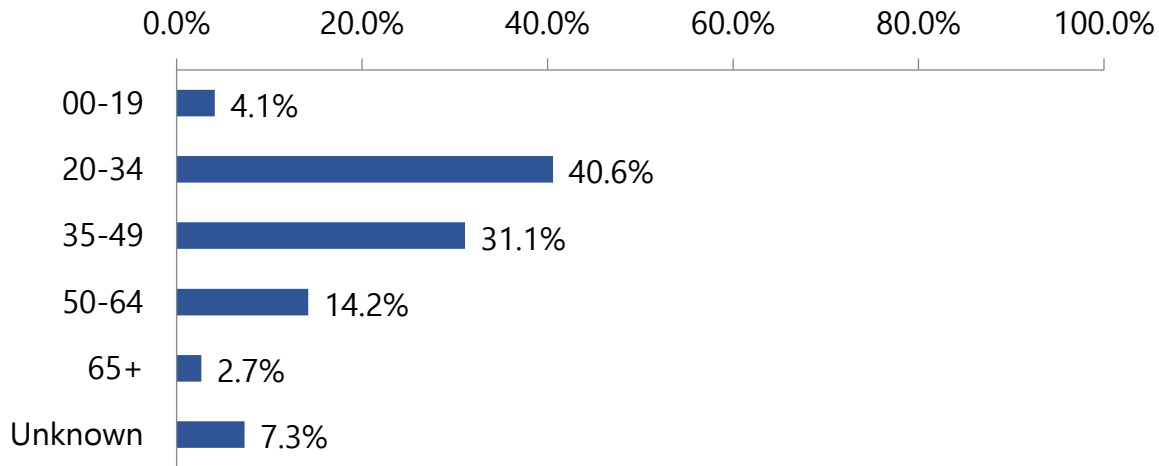


Number of Calls Jan to Dec 2021	
Kitchener	824
Cambridge	415
Waterloo	230
Wilmot	13
North Dumfries	11
Woolwich	9
Wellesley	6

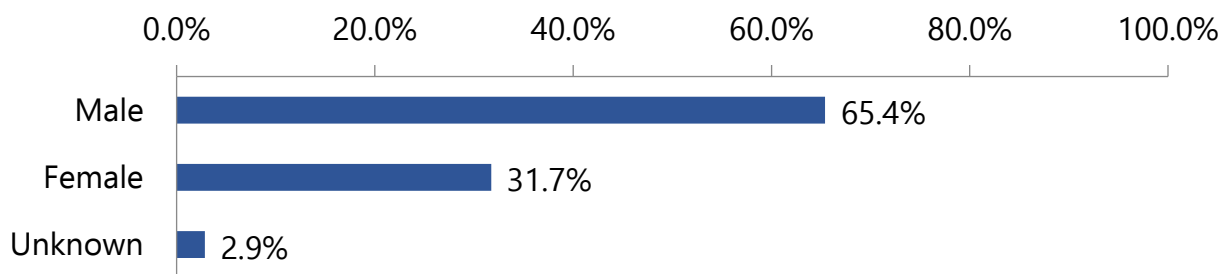
*Rates of paramedic services opioid overdose calls based on numbers five or less have been suppressed for privacy and confidentiality reasons (rates for all years for Wellesley and North Dumfries are suppressed).

**The estimation of 2021 population by municipality is not available yet so the 2020 population estimate is used for the rate calculation.

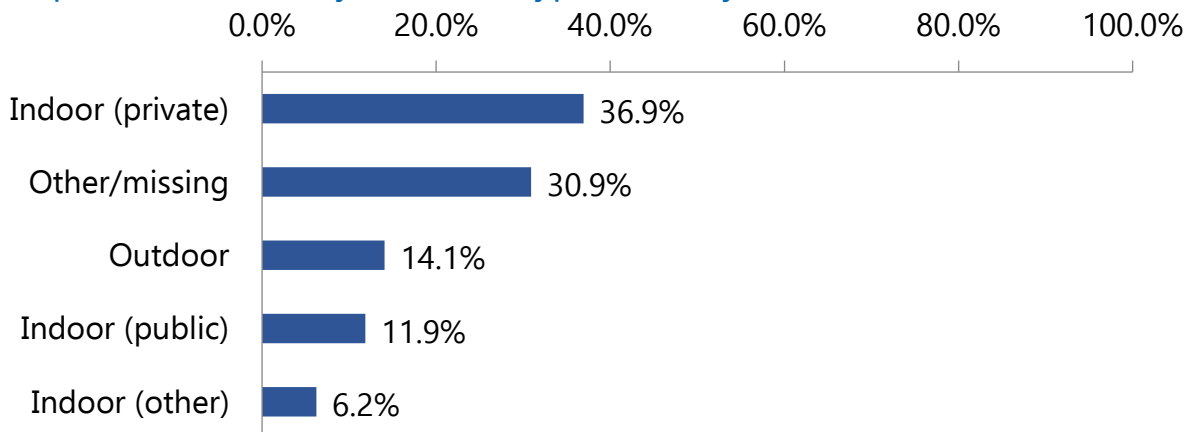
Proportion of Calls by Age Group (January to December 2021)



Proportion of Calls by Sex (January to December 2021)

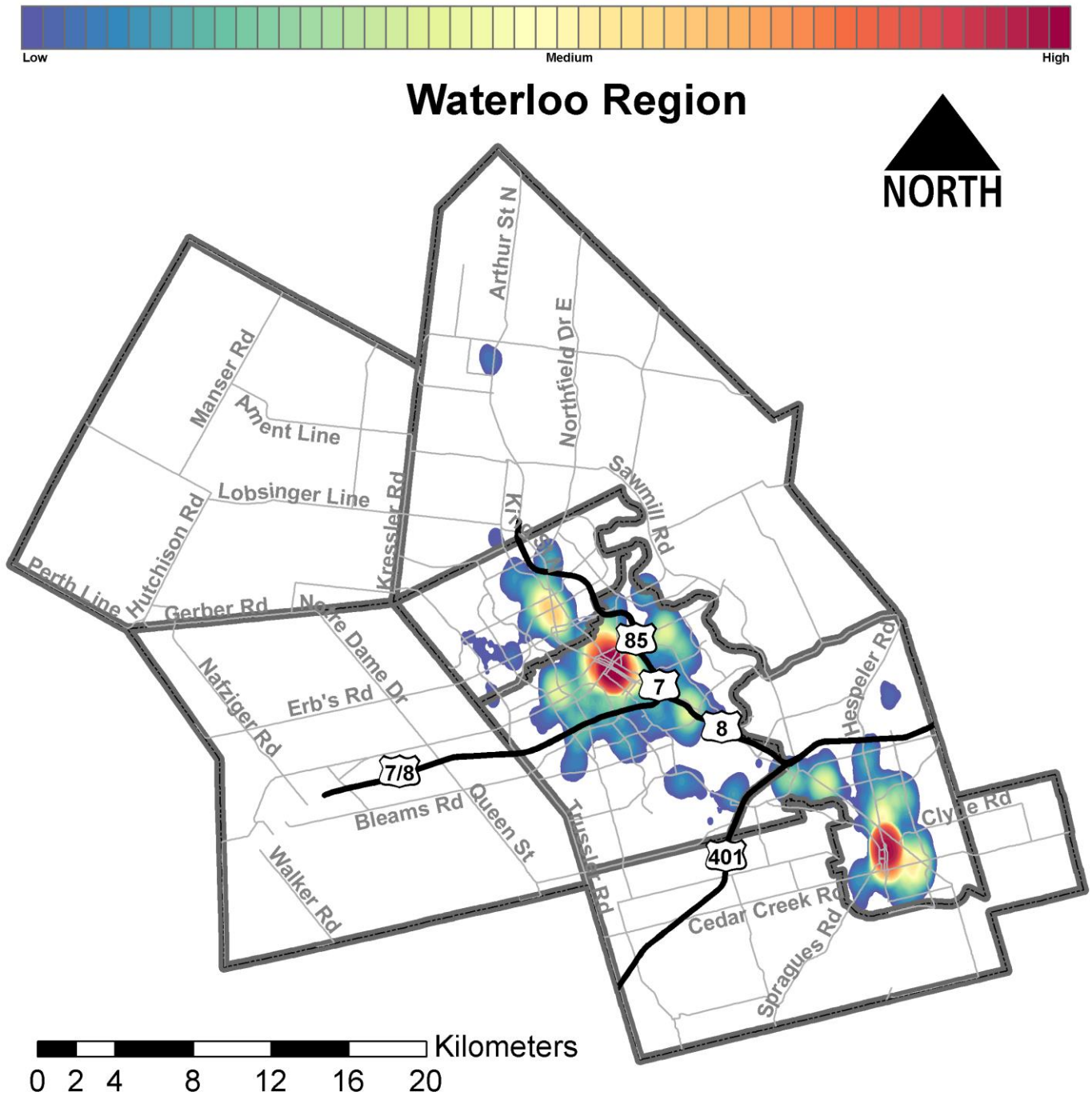


Proportion of Calls by Location Type (January to December 2021)*

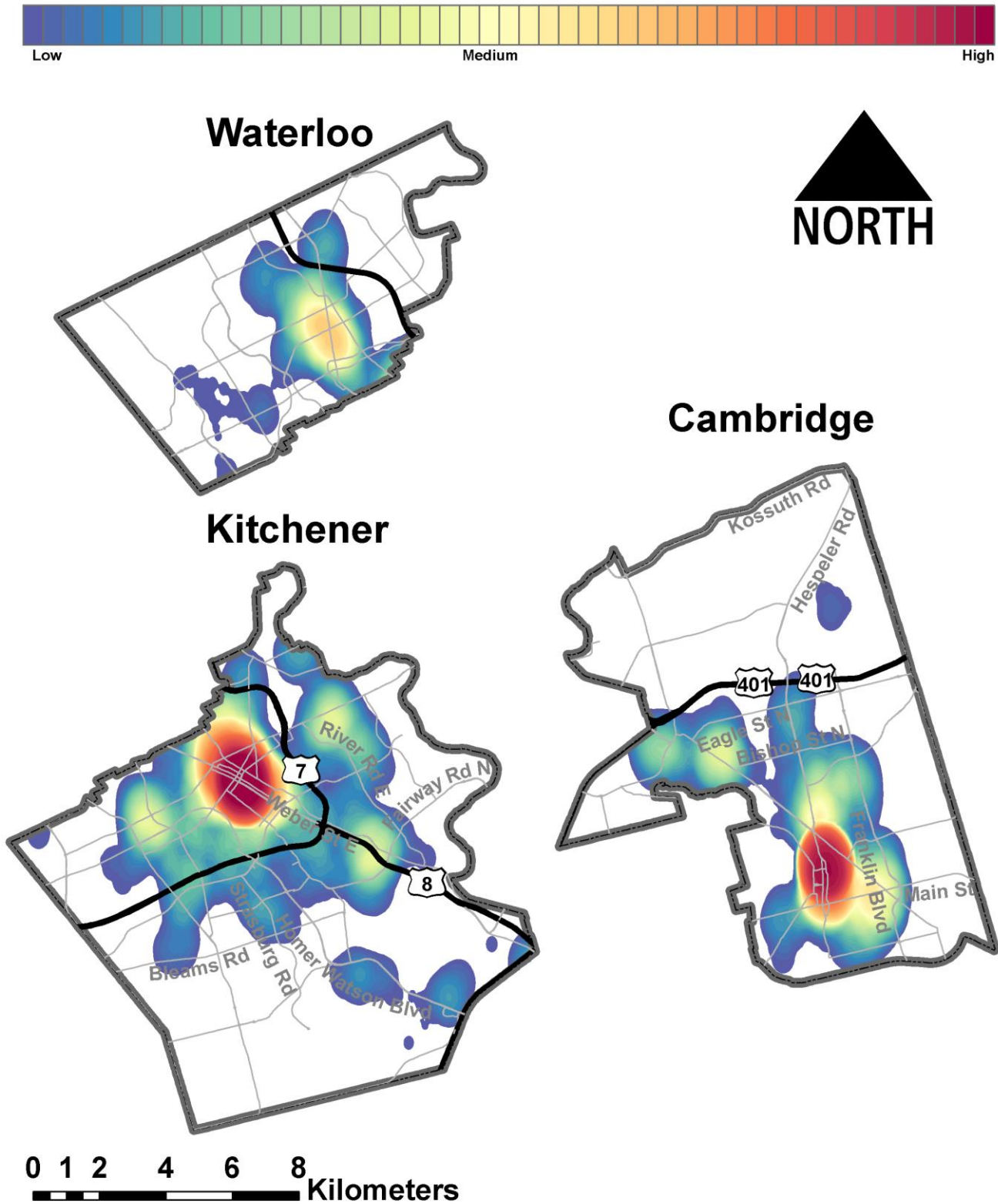


*Indoors (private residence) includes apartments, houses, condos, townhouses; indoors (public) includes airports, restaurants, commercial/retail buildings, recreational buildings and other public buildings; indoors (other) includes hotels, hospitals, correctional facilities, schools/colleges/universities, nursing homes and retirement homes. Note that a large percentage of location types are missing or not specified and the information should be interpreted with caution. Shelters are not identified as a specific location in Paramedic Services data and are therefore captured in the missing/other category.

Heat Map of Total Number of Opioid Overdose Calls (January to December 2021)



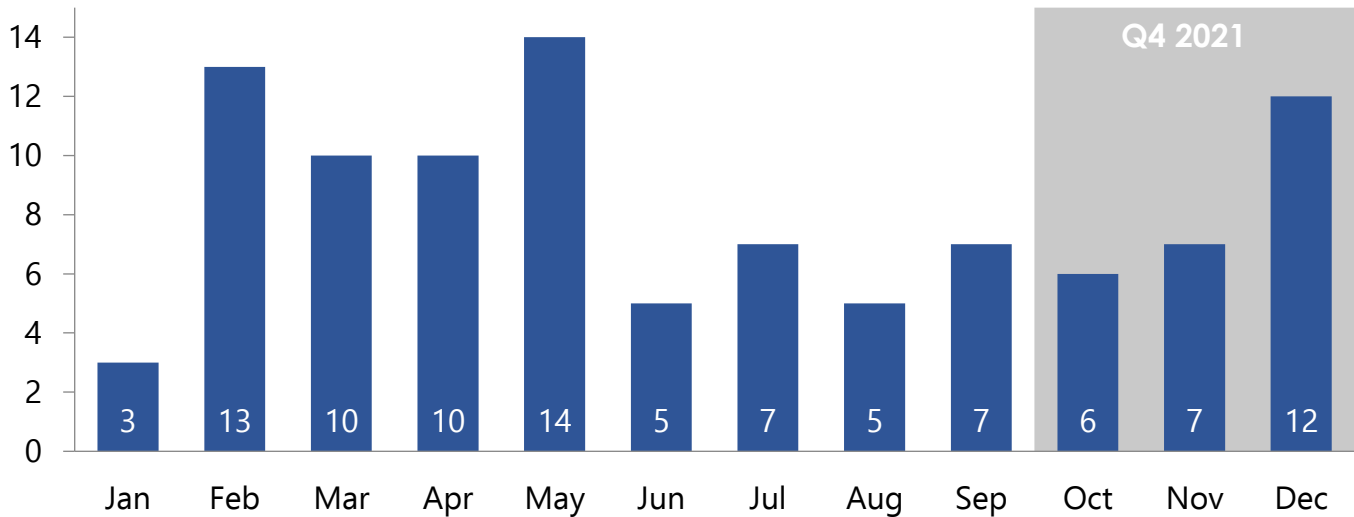
Heat Map of Total Number of Opioid Overdose Calls (January to December 2021) for the Cities of Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo



Opioid Overdose Deaths

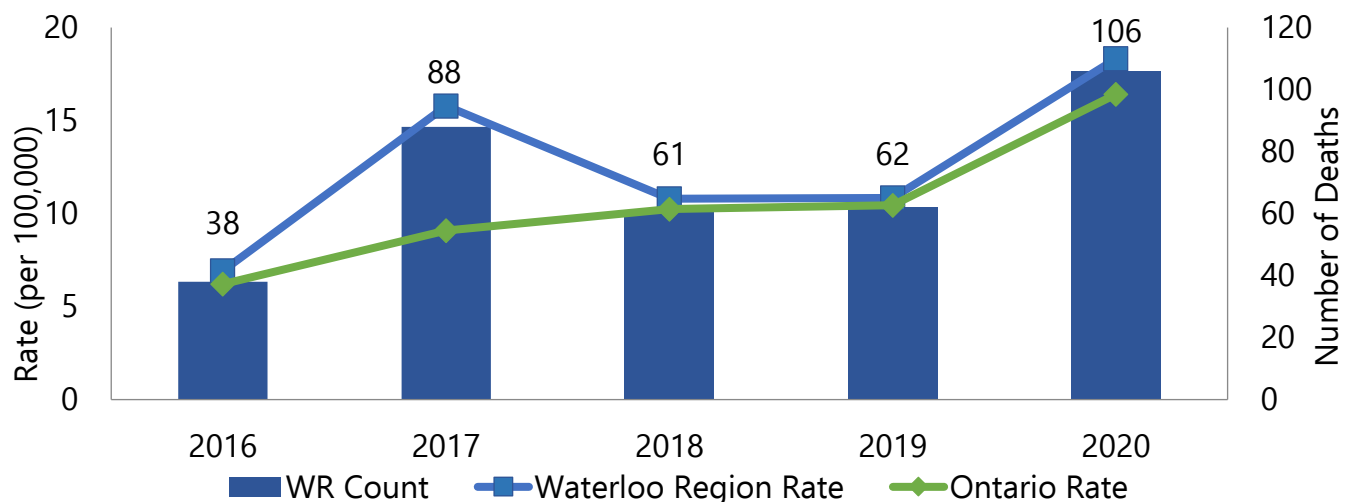
This section includes data on counts and rates of unintentional overdose deaths in Waterloo Region. Due to the delay in death data being released from the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, suspected overdose deaths from the Waterloo Region Police Services are presented to provide more timely data.

Suspected Overdose Deaths (January 2021 to September 2021) – Waterloo Region Police Services*



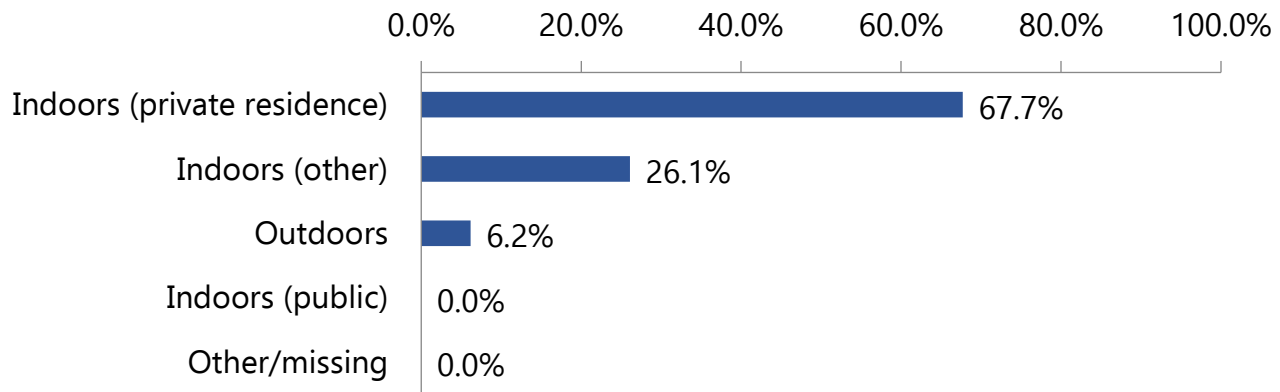
*WRPS overdose deaths are suspected and not confirmed by the Office of the Chief Coroner; counts represent all drug overdoses and are not limited to opioids.

Confirmed Death Rate, Waterloo Region and Ontario (2016 to 2020) – Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario*



*Confirmed death data from the Office of the Chief Coroner is not yet available for all of 2021.

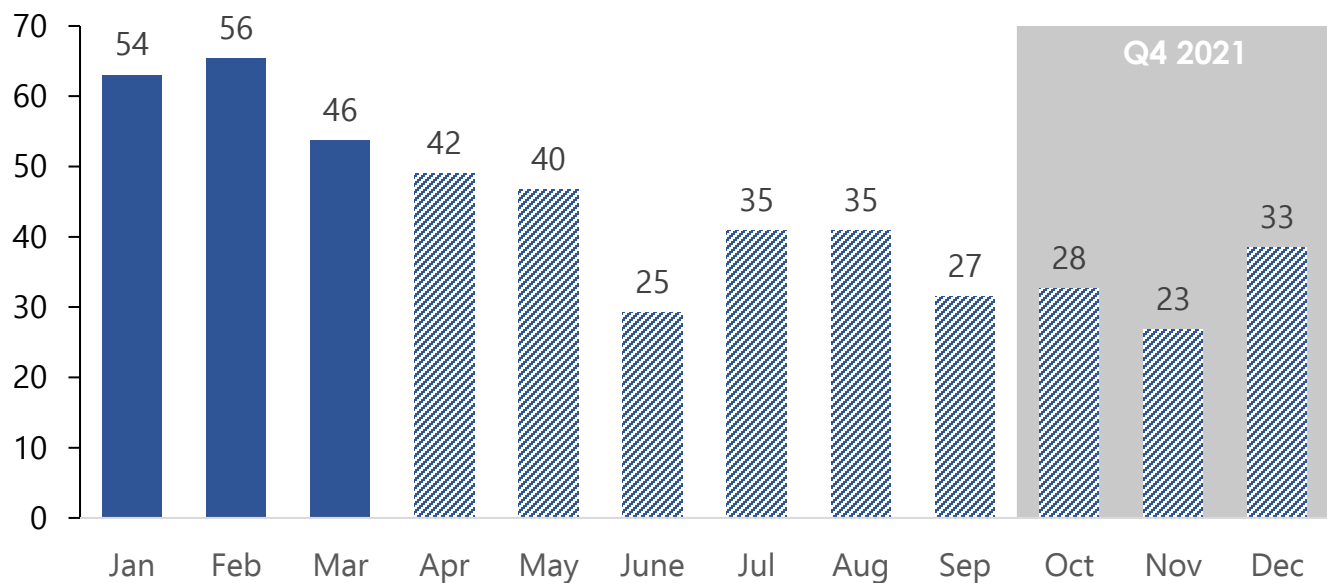
Confirmed Opioid Deaths by Location of Death* (January 2021 to September 2021) – Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario



*Detailed death information from the Office of the Chief Coroner is only available for a portion of confirmed deaths and this varies from quarter to quarter. Indoors (private residence) includes apartments, houses, condos, townhouses, farms; indoors (public) includes airports, restaurants, commercial/retail buildings, recreational buildings and other public buildings; indoors (other) includes hotels, hospitals, correctional facilities, schools/colleges/universities, nursing homes, retirement homes and shelters.

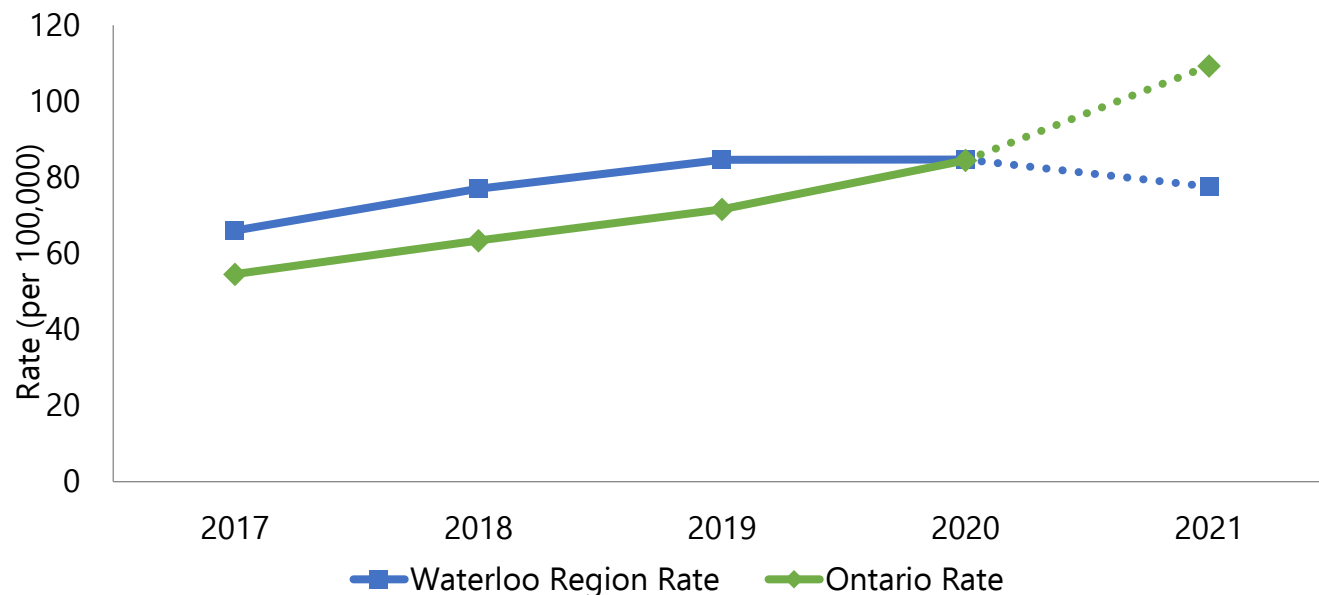
Opioid-Related Emergency Department Visits

Count of Emergency Department Visits in Waterloo Region (January 2021 to December 2021)*



*Emergency Department visit data comes from the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Data for April 2021 to December 2021 is preliminary and subject to change.

Rate of Emergency Department Visits (per 100,000), Waterloo Region and Ontario (2017-2021)*



*Emergency Department visit data comes from the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Data for 2021 is preliminary and subject to change.

Key Messages

Know the signs of an opioid overdose. Signs include: soft or no breath or snoring; pinpoint pupils; blue lips, nails or skin; cold and clammy skin; limp body; no response to shouting.

Carry a Naloxone Kit. Don't use alone! Remember, if you overdose alone, no one will be able to help you.

An overdose is a medical emergency. Call 911 and wait for help.

For information about harm reduction programs, treatment services and supports visit:

www.waterlooregiondrugstrategy.ca
regionofwaterloo.ca/harmreduction