

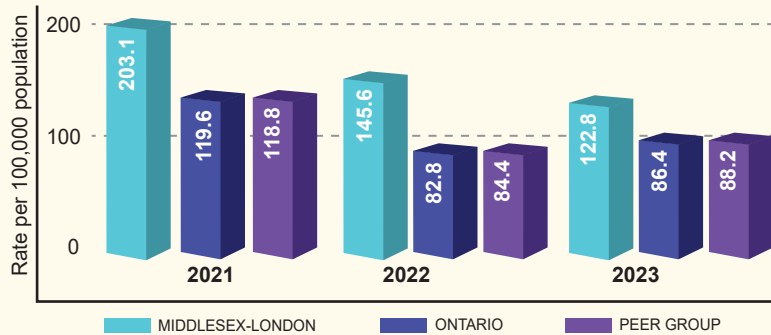
# SUBSTANCE USE IN MIDDLESEX-LONDON: HOW WE COMPARE TO OUR PEER GROUP AND ONTARIO

And where we should focus our gaze as leaders committed to community well-being.

## Opioids Continue to Cause Health Harms



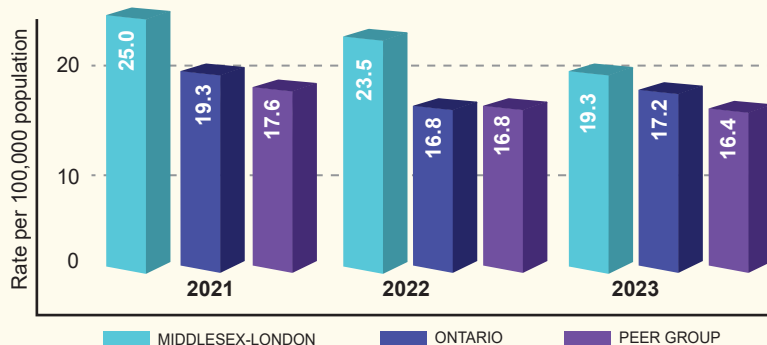
Like other jurisdictions, Middlesex-London is grappling with a significant crisis driven by the misuse of opioids. These substances have led to an alarming rate of emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths.



The rate of **emergency department (ED) visits** for opioid poisonings were significantly higher in Middlesex-London compared to Ontario and the Peer Group\* health units since 2017. However, since peaking at 203.1 per 100,000 population in 2021, **the local rate of ED visits was significantly lower in both 2022 and 2023.**



While the rate of **hospitalizations** for opioid poisonings was significantly higher in Middlesex-London than Ontario and the Peer Group\* in 2021, when it peaked at 25.4 per 100,000 population, since then, **local rates have been comparable to Ontario and our Peers.**



The death rate for opioid poisonings was significantly higher in Middlesex-London than Ontario and the Peer Group in 2021 and 2022, but was once again comparable in 2023.

The highest rates of opioid poisoning ED visits and deaths for those residing in Middlesex-London included males, those 25 to 44 years old, and urban dwellers.



\* **Peer Group** = Middlesex-London Health Unit, Durham Region Health Department, Halton Region Health Department, Hamilton Public Health Services, Ottawa Public Health, Region of Waterloo Public Health, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit.

Want to know more? See our [Substance Use dashboard](#)