


# Collaborative approach to addressing substance use and addictions



Region of Waterloo  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
PARAMEDIC SERVICES

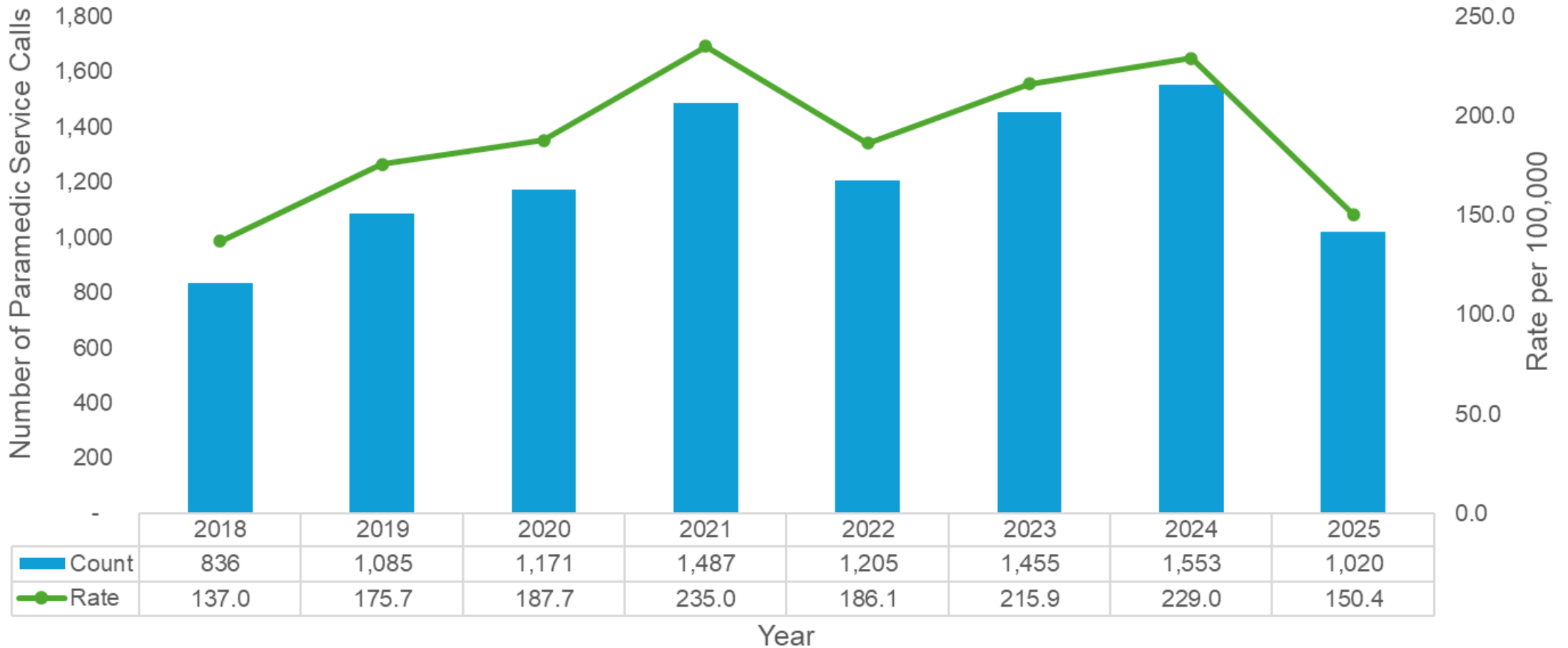
# Purpose

Provide an update on substance use in Waterloo Region including:

- Overdose and substance-use related data trends.
  - Programs, strategies, and community partnerships that support prevention, harm reduction, addictions treatment, and community safety.
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# Suspected Overdose / Drug Toxicity Paramedic Service Calls

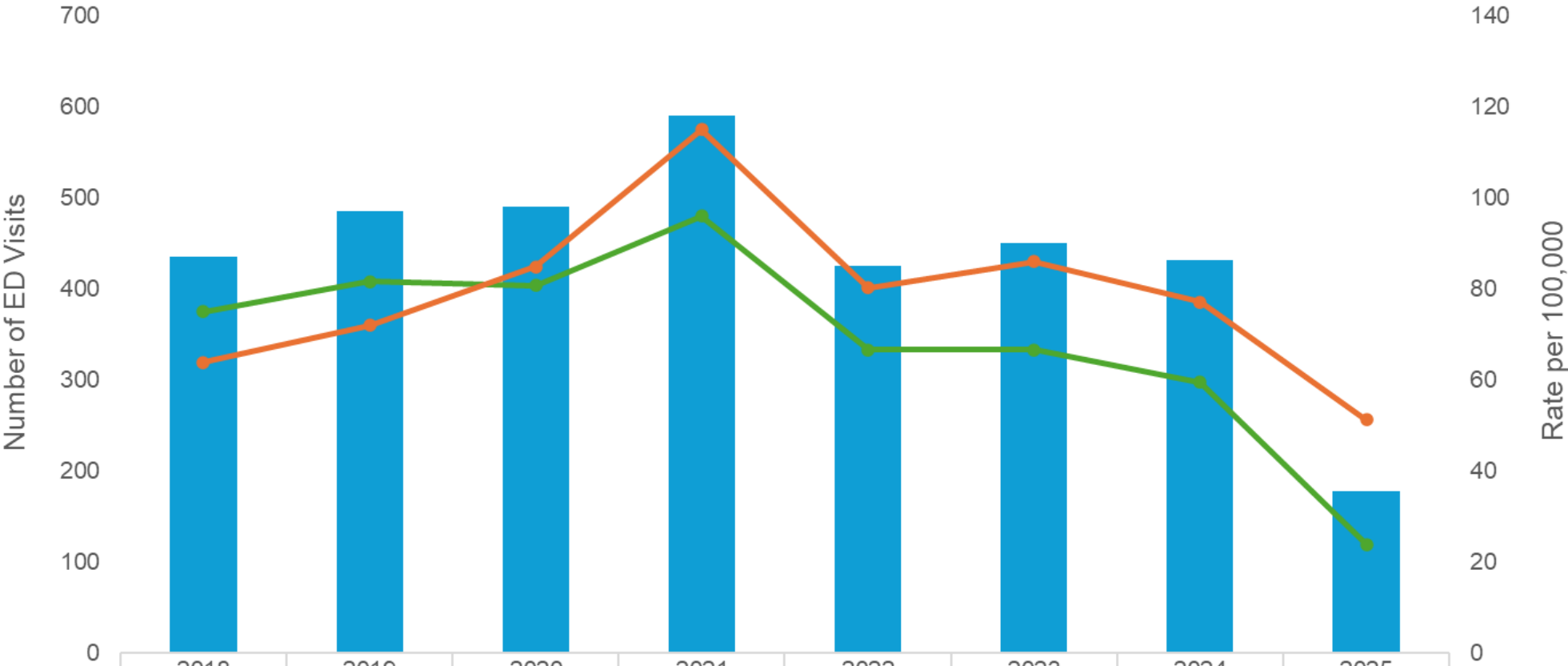
Number and Rate of Suspected Overdose/Drug Toxicity Calls by Year in Waterloo Region, 2018–2025



Count Rate

# Emergency Department Visits for Opioid-Related Poisoning

Number and Rate of Emergency Department Visits Due to Opioid-Related Poisonings by Year in Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2018–2025

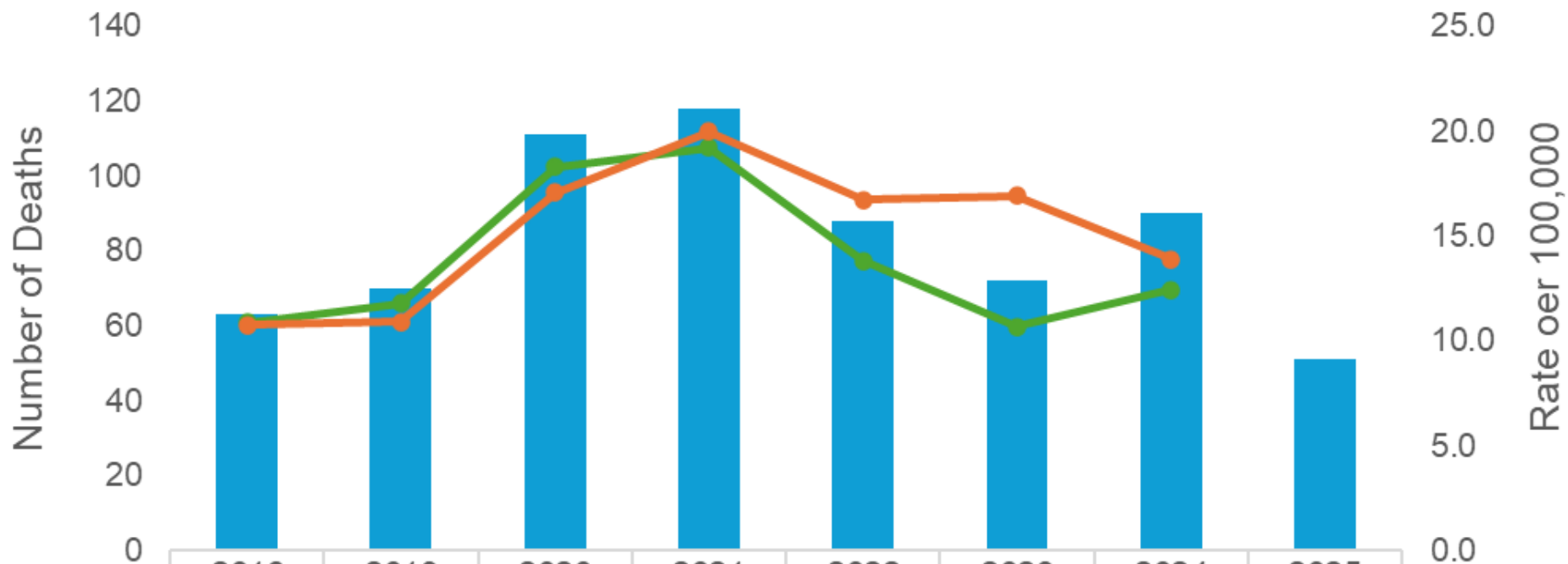


	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Waterloo Region Count	435	485	490	590	425	450	431	178
Waterloo Region Rate	75	81.6	80.7	96	66.6	66.6	59.5	23.9
Ontario Rate	63.9	72	84.9	115	80.2	86	77.1	51.3

Year

# Opioid Toxicity Deaths

Number and Rate of Deaths Due to Opioid Toxicity by Year in Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2018–2025




Waterloo Region Count	63	70	111	118	88	72	90	51
Waterloo Region Rate	10.9	11.8	18.3	19.2	13.8	10.7	12.4	
Ontario Rate	10.7	10.9	17.1	19.9	16.7	16.9	13.9	

Year


# Programs, services, and partnerships to address substance use

- Public Health works in partnership with local agencies and community collaboratives to support coordinated efforts related to:
  - Prevention
  - Treatment and recovery
  - Harm reduction
  - Community safety


# Treatment and Recovery: HART Hub

- Continues to expand integrated health, social, and addictions supports across the region
  - All seven funded partners are now operational
  - The transitional housing program will open early Spring
  - Next steps
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# Harm Reduction: Harm Reduction Work Group

- Formed through community engagement
  - Provides strategic leadership and coordination
  - Successes in 2025:
    - ✓ expanded naloxone training
    - ✓ improved harm reduction supply distribution and communication
    - ✓ supporting wrap around services for people who use drugs
  - Next steps
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# Enforcement and Community Safety

- Sharps disposal strategy
  - Waterloo Region Police Services Drug Strategy is focused on being an active participant in
    - Harm Reduction and Education
    - Justice and Enforcement and
    - Community Partnerships
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# Next Steps

- Public Health will continue to:
  - Collect, monitor, and report data related to drug use and overdoses.
  - Provide mandated substance use services as per the Ontario Public Health Standards.
  - Work with community partners to support a multi-sector approach to addressing addictions and substance use in Waterloo Region.