Canadian Emergency Department Trends, April 1, 2012, to March 31, 2013

Findings at a glance

Top 3 Age Groups That Accounted for the Largest Percentages of ED Visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number of ED Visits*</th>
<th>Percentage of ED Visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–4</td>
<td>875,290</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–24</td>
<td>762,868</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25–29</td>
<td>722,719</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for all age groups</td>
<td>10,042,176</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note
* Data for all age groups is available on CIHI’s website in the NACRS data under Quick Stats.

Top 3 reasons Canadians visited an ED
1. Abdominal/pelvic pain
2. Pain in throat and chest
3. Acute upper respiratory infection

People with serious conditions spent more time in the ED than those who arrived with less urgent conditions

When people arrive at an ED, they are triaged based on the type and severity of their signs and symptoms and are categorized from level 1 (resuscitation) to level 5 (non-urgent). The levels are based on the Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS).
ED visits for less-urgent and -serious conditions that did not require hospital admission were typically shorter than those for more-urgent and -serious conditions. Patients who were admitted to hospital spent the most time in the ED. Time spent in the ED is calculated from the time patients register to the time they are either admitted to hospital or discharged home or elsewhere.

The amount of time a person spent in an ED was influenced by the type of hospital. People who used EDs at large and teaching hospitals typically spent more time in the ED than those who went to EDs at small and medium-sized hospitals. One explanation for this is that large and teaching hospitals tend to provide care to more complex cases.

For more information, please visit our website

Data tables on ED visits for 2012–2013 are available in CIHI’s Quick Stats by selecting Type > Pre-formatted Table (left-hand side) and Topic > Hospital Care (right-hand side), then NACRS statistics.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact us at communications@cihi.ca.