



Use of Hospital Services for Eating Disorders in Canada

Females have higher hospitalization rates than males

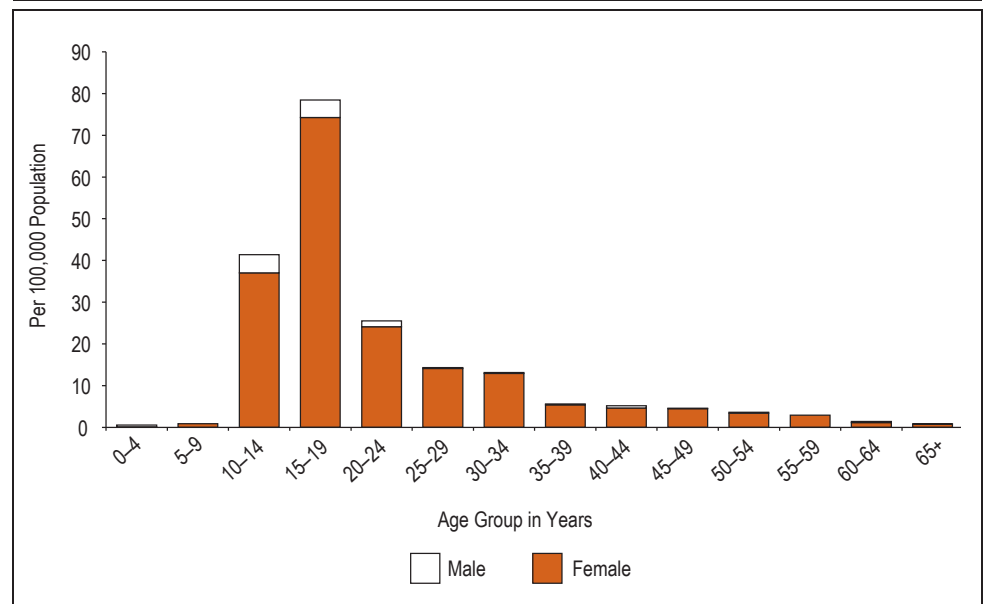
CIHI has several data holdings that can be used to examine health service use for eating disorders across inpatient, emergency department (ED), ambulatory and clinic settings. This document highlights inpatient hospitalizations and ED visits for patients with a primary diagnosis of an eating disorder.

The **Hospital Mental Health Database (HMHDB)** is a pan-Canadian database that contains information on inpatient separations for psychiatric conditions from both general and psychiatric hospitals.

The **National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)** contains data about ED and ambulatory care visits, including visits to day surgery and outpatient clinics.

For more information about the HMHDB or NACRS, please visit the **HMHDB metadata** or **NACRS metadata** web pages.

Figure 1: Hospitalizations per 100,000 Population for Eating Disorders as Primary Diagnosis in Canada,* by Age Group and Sex, 2012–2013

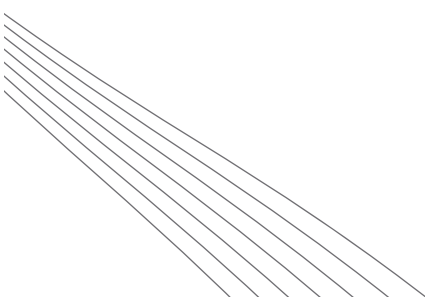


Notes

* Quebec data is excluded from this analysis. The basic units of observation are events, not unique patients.

Sources

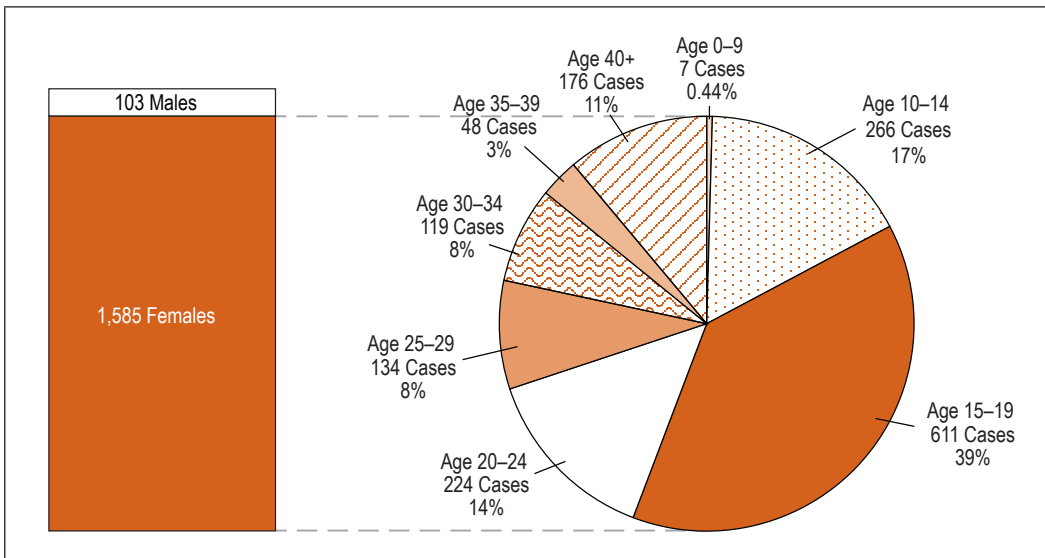
Hospital Mental Health Database, 2012–2013, Canadian Institute for Health Information; Population estimates, Statistics Canada.



In 2012–2013, the hospitalization rate for eating disorders among females (11.7 per 100,000) was 15 times that for males (0.8 per 100,000). Females age 10 to 14 and age 15 to 19 had the highest hospitalization rates at 37.0 and 74.3 hospitalizations per 100,000 females, respectively (Figure 1). More than half of the 1,585 female hospitalizations (55%) were for patients in these 2 age groups (Figure 2). In comparison, there were 103 male hospitalizations for a primary diagnosis of an eating disorder for all age groups combined.

The average length of hospital stay for individuals with a primary diagnosis of an eating disorder in 2012–2013 was 33.3 days for females and 31.6 days for males. The average length of hospital stay for both sexes has remained stable since 2006–2007.

Figure 2: Hospitalizations for Eating Disorders as Primary Diagnosis in Canada,* by Age Group and Sex, 2012–2013



Notes

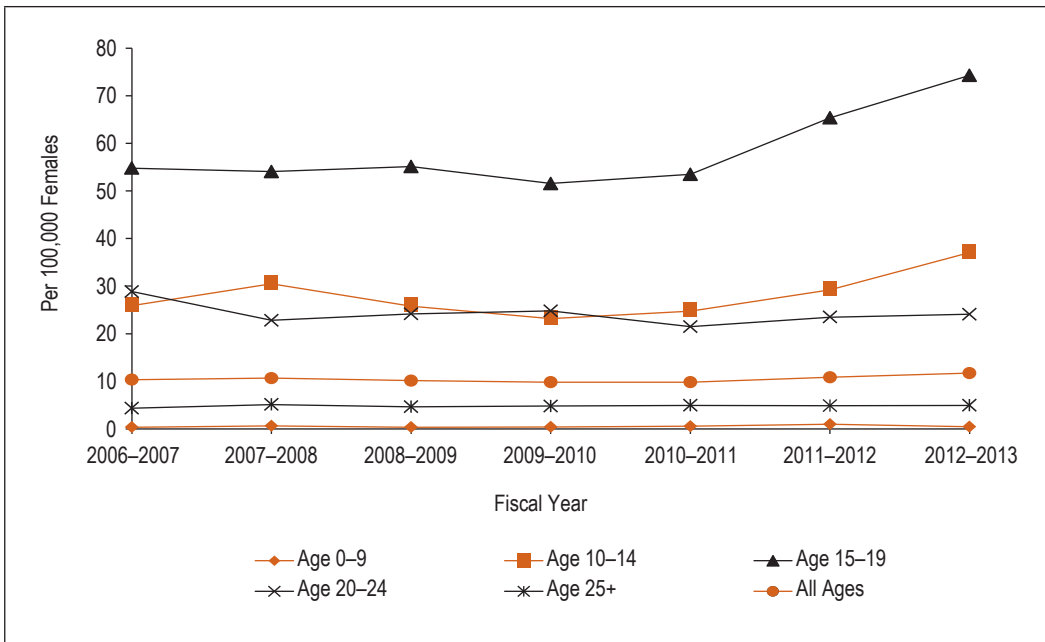
* Quebec data is excluded from this analysis.
The basic units of observation are events, not unique patients.

Source

Hospital Mental Health Database, 2012–2013, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Hospitalization rate for adolescent females has increased in recent years

Figure 3: Female Hospitalizations per 100,000 Female Population for Eating Disorders as Primary Diagnosis in Canada,* by Age Group, 2006–2007 to 2012–2013



Notes

* Quebec data is excluded from this analysis.
The basic units of observation are events, not unique patients.

Sources

Hospital Mental Health Database, 2012–2013, Canadian Institute for Health Information; Population estimates, Statistics Canada.

For most age groups, the female hospitalization rate was stable over the entire period (Figure 3). However, increases were observed in the 2 most recent years for adolescents age 10 to 14 and age 15 to 19.

The number of ED visits for eating disorders in Ontario and Alberta (the jurisdictions for which data is available) also increased for females in these 2 age groups between 2010–2011 and 2012–2013. For example, the rate in Ontario for females age 10 to 19 increased from 28 visits per 100,000 in 2010–2011 to 49 visits per 100,000 in 2012–2013. Approximately 28% of ED visits for eating disorders resulted in a subsequent admission to hospital for inpatient care.

Contact Us

For more information, please send an email to communications@cihi.ca.