Emergency Department Highlights in 2013–2014

In 2013–2014, more than 10 million emergency department (ED) visits were reported to NACRS, representing approximately 60% of all ED visits in Canada. For 2013–2014, NACRS included data on ED visits from participating facilities in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon.

9 out of 10 ED visits were completed in 7.5 hours or less.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Time Spent in the ED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration/ triage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician initial assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision to admit or discharge patient and non-admitted patient leaves ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admitted patient leaves ED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note
* After age adjustment.

Patients 65 and older were more likely to spend more time in the ED and to be admitted.

Top 3 Reasons for Visit:

- Acute upper respiratory infection
- Ear infection
- Fever

- Abdominal/pelvic pain
- Throat infection
- Acute upper respiratory infection

- Abdominal/pelvic pain
- Pain in throat/chest
- Other medical care

- Pain in throat/chest
- Urinary system disorders
- Abdominal/pelvic pain

Source
National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
Admitted patients spent almost 5 times longer in the ED than non-admitted patients.

**Total Time Spent in ED**
(in hours for 9 out of 10 patients)

- 1 in 10 ED patients were admitted to the hospital
- Non-admitted (9.3 million visits) 6.1 hours or less
- Admitted (1.0 million visits) 28.4 hours or less

Source
National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Patients admitted to large community hospitals spent the longest time in the ED.

**Total Time Spent in ED by Hospital Type**
(in hours for 9 out of 10 patients)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital Type</th>
<th>Non-admitted</th>
<th>Admitted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.1 hours or less</td>
<td>26.9 hours or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.4 hours or less</td>
<td>31.3 hours or less</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community-large</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.5 hours or less</td>
<td>27.9 hours or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-medium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.9 hours or less</td>
<td>13.8 hours or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-small</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source
National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Of note, 79% of all patients admitted from EDs received care at a teaching or large community hospital.* The leading conditions† for which patients were admitted from EDs were respiratory disease (COPD),‡ heart failure and pneumonia. The time spent until decision to admit§ for these conditions ranged from 10.7 to 11.6 hours** and the additional time waiting for an inpatient bed ranged from 25.3 to 26.9 hours.**

ED patients waiting for an inpatient bed wait almost 3 times as long as those waiting for an operating room or critical care bed.

For 9 out of 10 patients admitted from the ED, the decision to admit was reached within 11.5 hours. Following the decision to admit, patients wait in the ED before they are moved to an operating room or to an inpatient bed in the critical care or other unit. Of those admitted from EDs, 93% (963,354) were admitted to an inpatient bed and 7% (77,917) were admitted to an operating room or critical care bed.

More Information
For more information, please access additional data via CIHI’s Quick Stats.
Feedback and questions are welcome at cad@cihi.ca.

* Type of hospital is assigned by categorizing facilities with similar characteristics based on the Acute Hospital Peer Groups.
† Based on the most responsible diagnosis in the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) and data submitted by facilities to NACRS in 2013–2014.
‡ COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
§ Time until decision to admit includes registration, triage, assessment and treatment in the ED.
** Hours represent maximum time spent by 9 out of 10 patients in the ED.