



Information Sheet

Emergency department (ED) statistics are provided in the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) Quick Stats, which include ED visits and time spent in the ED by age group, sex, triage level, visit disposition and main problem. These statistics are available according to the fiscal year of patient registration, from 2003–2004 onward.

Emergency Department Highlights in 2013–2014

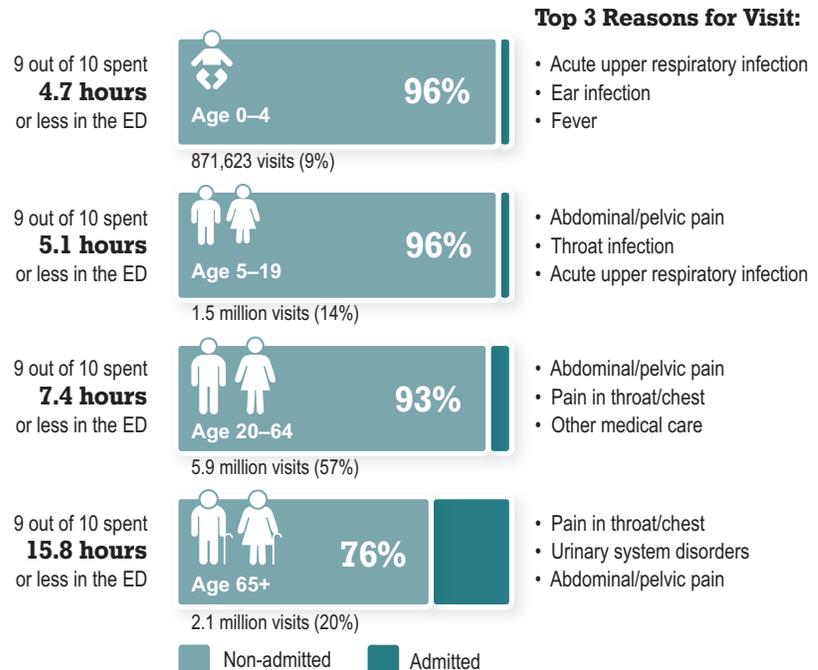
In 2013–2014, more than 10 million emergency department (ED) visits were reported to NACRS, representing approximately 60% of all ED visits in Canada. For 2013–2014, NACRS included data on ED visits from participating facilities in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta,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

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



Note
* After age adjustment.

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



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



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At the heart of data



Canadian Institute for Health Information
Institut canadien d'information sur la santé

Admitted patients spent almost 5 times longer in the ED than non-admitted patients.

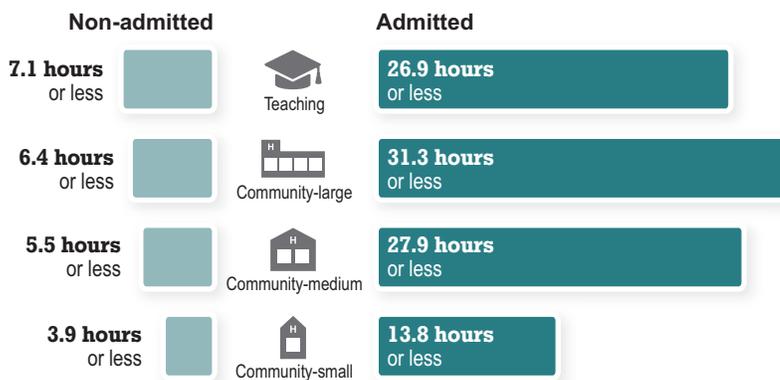
Total Time Spent in ED (in hours for 9 out of 10 patients)



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)



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.**

* 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.

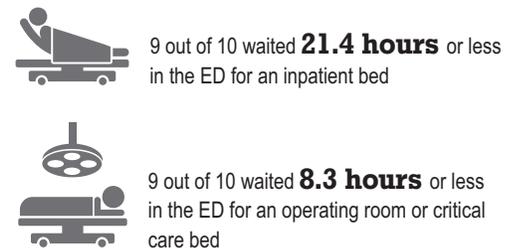
‡ COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

§ 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.

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.