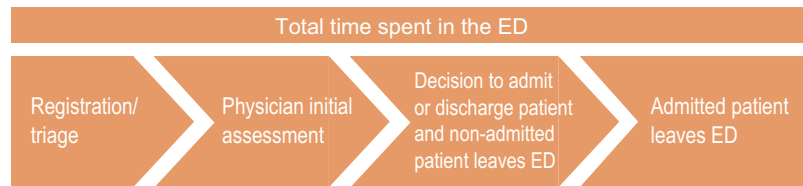




Emergency Department Visits in 2014–2015

In 2014–2015, more than 10 million emergency department (ED) visits were reported to NACRS, representing approximately 63% of all ED visits in Canada. All facilities in Alberta and Ontario, and participating facilities in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Yukon, are included.

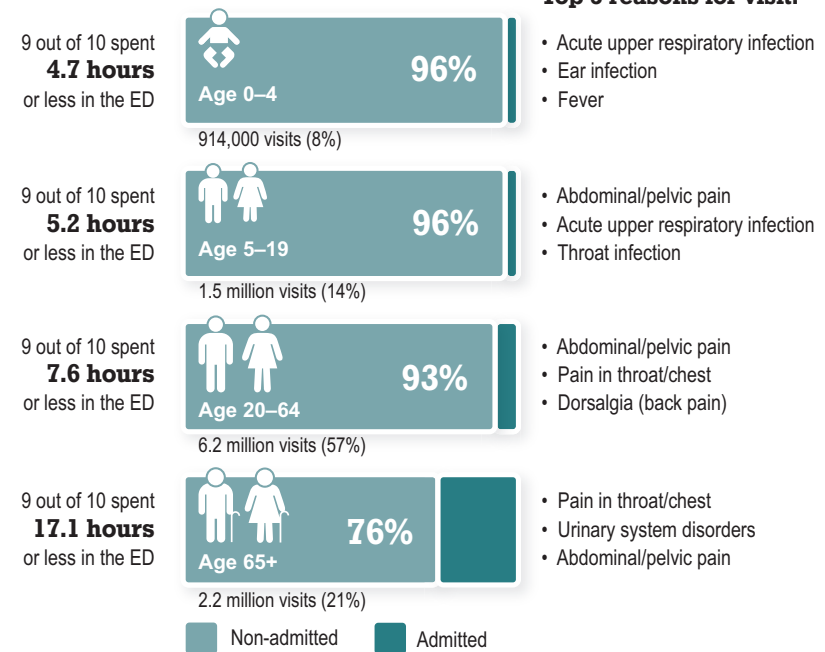
9 out of 10 ED visits were completed in 7.6 hours or less.*



Note
* After age adjustment.

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.

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

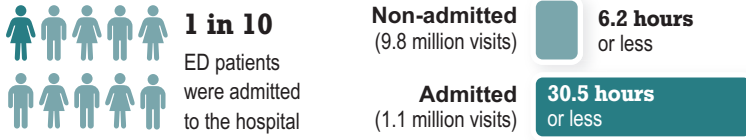


Overall, 9 out of 10 patients spent **7.6 hours** or less in the ED

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)

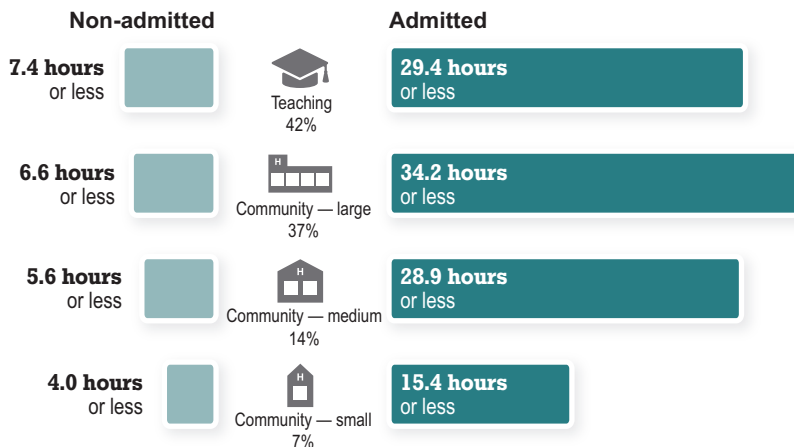


Source
National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

For 9 out of 10 patients admitted to hospital from the ED, the decision to admit[§] was reached within 11.9 hours. The remaining time in the ED for admitted patients was spent waiting for an appropriate inpatient bed to become available.

Patients admitted to larger hospitals spent longer time in the ED than those in small hospitals.

Total time spent in ED by hospital type (in hours for 9 out of 10 patients)



Note
Percentage of all admitted patients by hospital type.

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

The leading conditions[†] for which patients were admitted from EDs were COPD,[‡] heart failure and pneumonia. The time spent until decision to admit[§] for these conditions ranged from 11.2 to 11.7 hours** and the additional time waiting for an inpatient bed ranged from 27.5 to 30.2 hours.**

† Based on the most responsible diagnosis in the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) and data submitted by facilities to NACRS in 2014–2015.

‡ COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

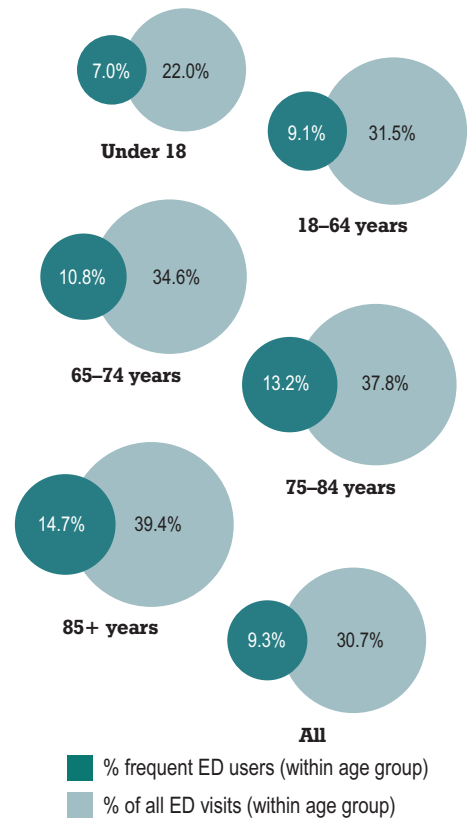
§ Time until decision to admit includes registration, triage, assessment and treatment in the ED.

** Hours represent maximum time spent by 9 out of 10 patients in the ED.

Frequent ED users accounted for over 30% of all ED visits.

Nearly 1 in 10 patients were frequent ED users, meaning they visited the ED 4 or more times over the year. These patients accounted for over 30% of all ED visits.

The percentage of ED visits made by frequent users increased with age of patients. For patients under 18 years of age, the 7% who were frequent users accounted for 22% of visits in that age group, while for patients 85 and over, the 15% who were frequent users accounted for 39% of visits.



More information

For more information, please access additional data via CIHI's [Quick Stats](#).

Feedback and questions are welcome at cad@cihi.ca.