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.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total time spent in the ED</th>
<th>Registration/ triage</th>
<th>Physician initial assessment</th>
<th>Decision to admit or discharge patient and non-admitted patient leaves ED</th>
<th>Admitted patient leaves ED</th>
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Note
* After age adjustment.

Patients 65+ 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
- Acute upper respiratory infection
- Throat infection
- Abdominal/pelvic pain
- Pain in throat/chest
- Dorsalgia (back pain)
- Pain in throat/chest
- Urinary system disorders
- Abdominal/pelvic pain

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.
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.