

# About the Data: Emergency Department Care

Last Updated: September 11, 2015

## Emergency Department (ED) Care: 2013, 2008-2010, 2009

### Introduction

The following information was derived from documentation available from the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES): <http://www.ices.on.ca/>

Emergency Department (ED) utilization data was abstracted from The National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), produced by Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and maintained by ICES. NACRS contains information on outpatient visits to hospital and community based ambulatory care, including emergency departments.

Rates are Age-Standardized using the direct method and the 1991 Canada population as the standard population

### **Emergency Department (ED) Care, 2013** (April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014)

#### Numerator

Data source: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

All unscheduled ED visits (Toronto Neighbourhoods): All unscheduled visits to emergency departments in Ontario by Toronto residents in 2013. Individuals were included if they had a City of Toronto postal code at the time of admission and if they had a valid health number.

All unscheduled ED visits (Ontario Health Links and LHINs): All unscheduled visits to emergency departments in Ontario by Ontario Health Links and Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) residents in 2013. Individuals were included if they had a province of Ontario postal at the time of admission and if they had a valid health number.

High Urgency visits: Number of all unscheduled ED visits to emergency departments that are High Urgency. High Urgency was defined as Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) levels 1, 2 and 3 excluding those who were subsequently admitted to hospital

Low Urgency visits: Number of all unscheduled ED visits to emergency departments that are Low Urgency. Low Urgency was defined as Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) levels 4 and 5 excluding those who were subsequently admitted to hospital.

## Denominator

Data source: Based on 2011 Census population estimates, Statistics Canada.

### 2011 Census-based population denominators: Toronto Neighbourhoods

The data sets we used to calculate population denominators were derived from the Statistics Canada from the “2011 Census of Canada: Topic-based tabulations” section and contain 1-, 5- and 10- year age and sex specific population counts by Census Tract (CT), as well as totals for males, females and total population.

When calculating custom age/sex groups for specific indicators we used sums of the largest possible census age groups in order to minimize rounding errors. When showing total populations for males, females and total population we used relevant total variables from the census data. Males plus females does not equal the total due to rounding at the census tract level.

When generating population counts for Toronto Neighbourhoods, we used CT-level data to minimize the effects of suppression and rounding.

### 2011 Census-based population denominators: Ontario Health Links and Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)

The data sets we used to calculate population denominators were derived from the Statistics Canada from the “2011 Census of Canada: Topic-based tabulations” section and contain 1-, 5- and 10- year age and sex specific population counts by Dissemination Area (DA), as well as totals for males, females and total population.

When calculating custom age/sex groups for specific indicators we used sums of the largest possible census age groups in order to minimize rounding errors. When showing total populations for males, females and total population we used relevant total variables from the census data. Males plus females does not equal the total due to rounding at the dissemination area level.

When generating population counts for Ontario Health Links and Ontario Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), we used DA-level data to minimize the effects of suppression and rounding.

### **The data are provided at the following levels of geography:**

- City of Toronto Neighbourhood
- Ontario Health Link (HL)
- Ontario Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

### **Additional stratifications:**

- Males/Females
- Age-Groups: 0-4, 5-19, 20-44, 45-64, 65-74, 75+, Total Population (All Ages 0+)

## **Emergency Department (ED) Care, 2008-2010**

### **Denominator**

Data source: Based on 2006 Census population estimates, Statistics Canada

### **Numerator**

Data source: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

All unscheduled ED visits: All unscheduled visits to emergency departments in Ontario by Toronto residents in 2008-2010. Individuals were included if they had a City of Toronto postal code at the time of admission and if they had a valid health number.

High Triage visits: High triage was defined as Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) levels 1, 2 and 3 excluding those who were subsequently admitted to hospital.

Low Triage visits: Low triage was defined as Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) levels 4 and 5 excluding those who were subsequently admitted to hospital.

### **The data are provided at the following level of geography:**

- Health Links (HL) in Toronto Central LHIN

### **Additional stratifications:**

- Males/Females
- Rate of ED visits per 1,000 population per year
  - o Age Groups: 0-64, Seniors 65+, All Ages 0+
- Rate of ED visits per 100 population per year
  - o Age Groups: 0-9, 10-19, 20-44, 45-64, 65-84, 85+, All Ages 0+
- All ED Repeated Visits to Emergency Department in TC LHIN by Health Link
  - o Repeated Visits to ED, 1 Visit
  - o Repeated Visits to ED, 2 Visits
  - o Repeated Visits to ED, 3 to 5 Visits
  - o Repeated Visits to ED, 6 to 9 Visits
  - o Repeated Visits to ED, 10 or more Visits
- Visits to ED by Triage Level for Health Links in TC LHIN
  - o Triage Level 1
  - o Triage Level 2
  - o Triage Level 3
  - o Triage Level 4
  - o Triage Level 5

## **Emergency Department (ED) Care, 2009**

### **Denominator**

Data source: Based on 2006 Census population estimates, Statistics Canada.

### **Numerator**

Data source: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

All unscheduled ED visits: The current data reflect all unscheduled visits to emergency departments in Ontario by Toronto residents in 2009. Individuals were included if they had a City of Toronto postal code at the time of admission and if they had a valid health number.

High Triage visits: High triage was defined as Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) levels 1, 2 and 3 excluding those who were subsequently admitted to hospital.

Low Triage visits: Low triage was defined as Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) levels 4 and 5 excluding those who were subsequently admitted to hospital.

### **The data are provided at the following level of geography:**

- City of Toronto Neighbourhood

### **Additional stratifications:**

- Males/Females
- Age-Groups: 0-4, 5-19, 20-44, 45-64, 65-74, 75+, Total Population (All Ages 0+)