

About the Data: Emergency Department Care

Last Updated: March 29, 2016

Emergency Department (ED) Care: 2014/15

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, 2014/15

2014/15 (April 1st, 2014 – March 31st, 2015)

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 2014. 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 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), Sub-LHINs in LHIN 7 and LHIN 8, Health Links, and Neighbourhoods in LHIN 8): All unscheduled visits to emergency departments in Ontario by Ontario LHINs, Sub-LHINs in LHIN 7 and LHIN 8, Health Links, and Neighbourhoods in LHIN 8 residents in 2014. Individuals were included if they had a province of Ontario postal code 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: Neighbourhoods in LHIN 8, Ontario Health Links, Sub-LHINs in LHIN 7 and LHIN 8, and Ontario LHINs (Local Health Integration Networks)

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 Neighbourhoods in LHIN 8, Ontario Health Links, Sub-LHINs in LHIN 7 and LHIN 8, and Ontario 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 Neighbourhoods,
- Neighbourhoods in Central LHIN (LHIN 8),
- Ontario Health Links,
- Ontario Sub-LHINs in LHIN 7 and LHIN 8,
- Ontario Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)

Additional stratifications:

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