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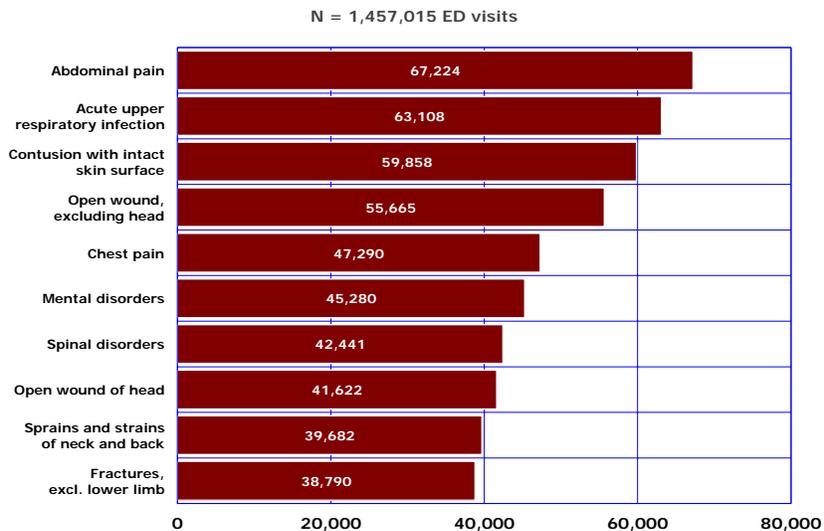
**CHARACTERISTICS OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS BY
DISEASE CATEGORY, DIAGNOSIS GROUP AND AGE GROUP**

The data in this section are focused on ambulatory care visits to emergency departments of non-Federal, short-stay hospitals. The emergency department (ED) and the inpatient hospitalization data are mutually exclusive. The ED data include only those who were not admitted as inpatients.

All emergency department visits are those of the residents of Arizona. Ambulatory care visits to hospital emergency department of out-of-state residents are not included in this report. Diagnostic groupings and code numbers are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM).

*Findings of the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, including data on trends in ED utilization, are available in bound reports of the National Center for Health Statistics and online at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/ahcd/ahcd1.htm>

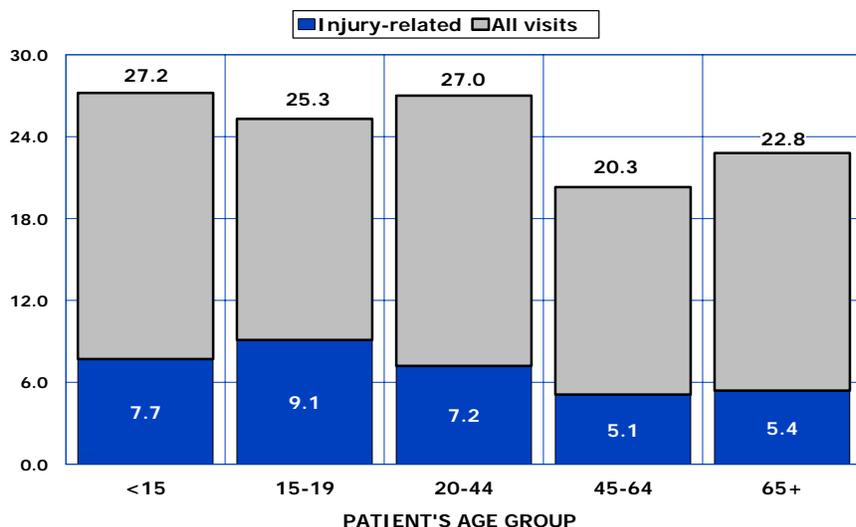
Figure 4C-1
Number of Emergency Department Visits
by Ten Leading Patient's Complaints,
Arizona Residents, 2004



During 2004, almost 1.5 million visits were made by Arizona residents to hospital emergency departments (ED), about 25 visits per 100 persons.

In 2004, *abdominal pain, acute upper respiratory infection, contusion with intact skin surface, open wound, chest pain, mental disorders and spinal disorders* were the leading patient complaints, accounting more than one-fourth (26.1 percent) of all visits (**Figure 4C-1, Table 4C-2**).

Figure 4C-2
Rates* of Emergency Department Visits by
Age Group, Arizona, 2004



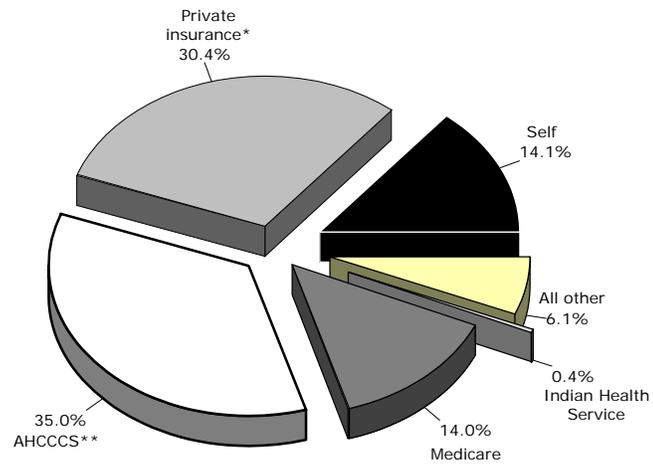
*Number of visits per 100 persons.

In 2004, the ED utilization rates (the number of ED visits per 100 persons) for children under 15 years of age and young adults aged 20-44 years were the highest rates among the age groups (**Figure 4C-2**).

Injury-related ED visits accounted for 35.8 percent of all ED visits by adolescents 15-19 years old. Their annual rate of injury-related ED visits was 9.1 visits per 100 adolescents ages 15-19 years (**Figure 4C-2**).

**Figure 4C-3
Emergency Room Visits by Payer,
Arizona Residents, 2004**

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) was the most frequently recorded expected source of payment, accounting for 35 percent of ED visits (**Figure 4C-3**). Private insurance was the second most frequent payer (30.4 percent of ED visits), followed by Medicare (14 percent).



* Indemnity, HMO, PPO.

**The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System is the State's Medicaid Program.

**Figure 4C-4
Percent Emergency Room Visits by Day of the
Week, Arizona Residents, 2004**

Unlike hospital births (**Figure 1B-14**) and hospital inpatient admissions excluding newborn infants (**Figure 4A-4**), the temporal pattern of emergency department visits showed little variation by day of the week (**Figure 4C-4**). Still, the daily average of ED visits was lower on Saturdays and Sundays compared to weekdays.

