



4C.

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

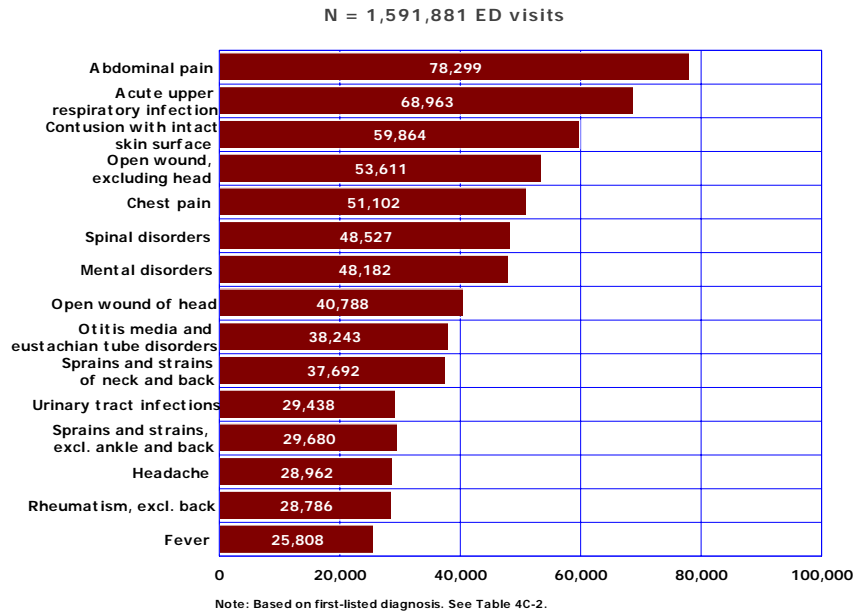
The data in this section are focused on ambulatory care visits to emergency rooms of non-Federal, short-stay hospitals. The emergency room (ER) and the inpatient hospitalization data are mutually exclusive. The ER data include only those who were not admitted as inpatients.

All emergency room visits are those of the residents of Arizona. Ambulatory care visits to hospital emergency rooms 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 ER utilization, are available in bound reports of the National Center for Health Statistics and online at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad372.pdf>

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Figure 4C-1
Number of Emergency Room Visits by Fifteen Leading Patient's Complaints, Arizona Residents, 2006



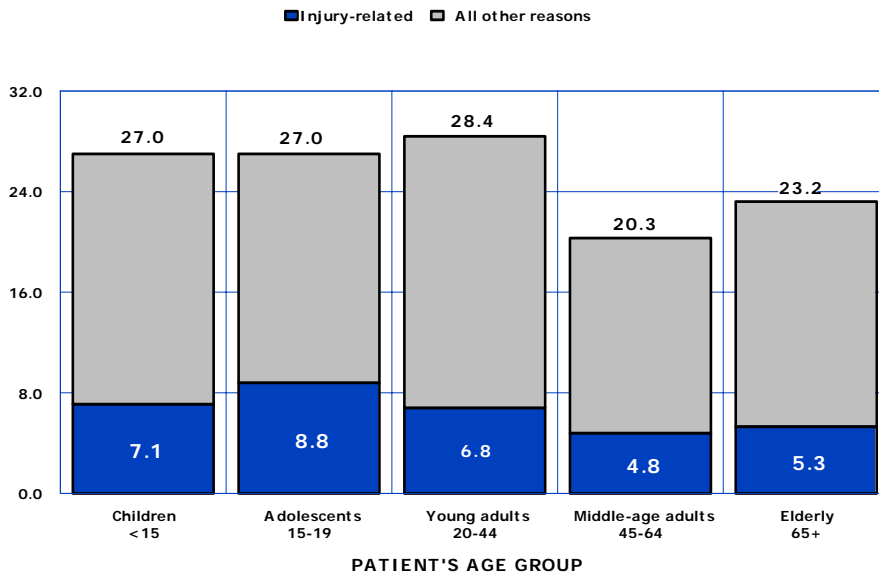
During 2006, close to 1.6 million visits were made by Arizona residents to hospital emergency rooms (ER), about 26 visits per 100 persons.

The number of ER visits decreased by 18,179 from 1,610,060 in 2005.

In 2006, *abdominal pain, acute upper respiratory infection, contusion with intact skin surface, open wound, chest pain, spinal disorders and mental disorders* were the leading diagnostic categories, accounting for one-fourth (25.0 percent) of all visits (**Figure 4C-1, Table 4C-2**).

Both *fever* (25,808 visits) and *headache* (28,962) were among the top fifteen complaints, symptoms or reasons for a visit to the emergency room.

Figure 4C-2
Rates* of Emergency Room Visits by Age Group, Arizona, 2006



In 2006, the ER utilization rates (the number of ER visits per 100 persons) for young adults aged 20-44 years were the highest rates among the age groups (**Figure 4C-2**).

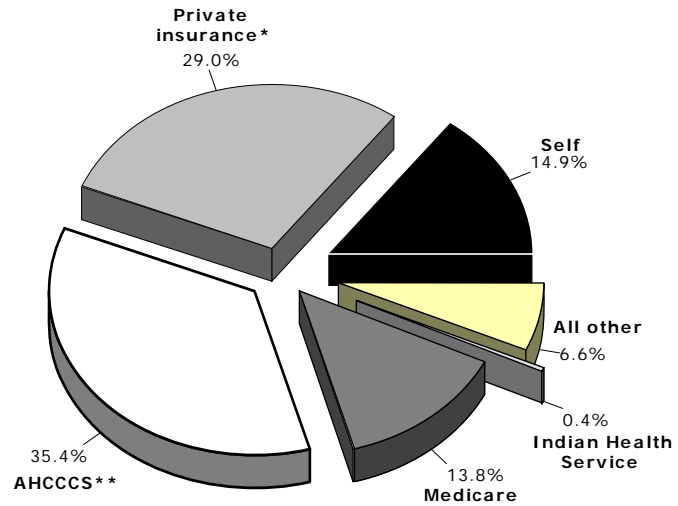
Injury-related ER visits accounted for 33 percent of all ER visits by adolescents 15-19 years old. Their annual rate of injury-related ER visits was 8.8 visits per 100 adolescents ages 15-19 years (**Figure 4C-2**).

* Number of visits per 100 persons.

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Figure 4C-3
Emergency Room Visits by Payer,
Arizona Residents, 2006

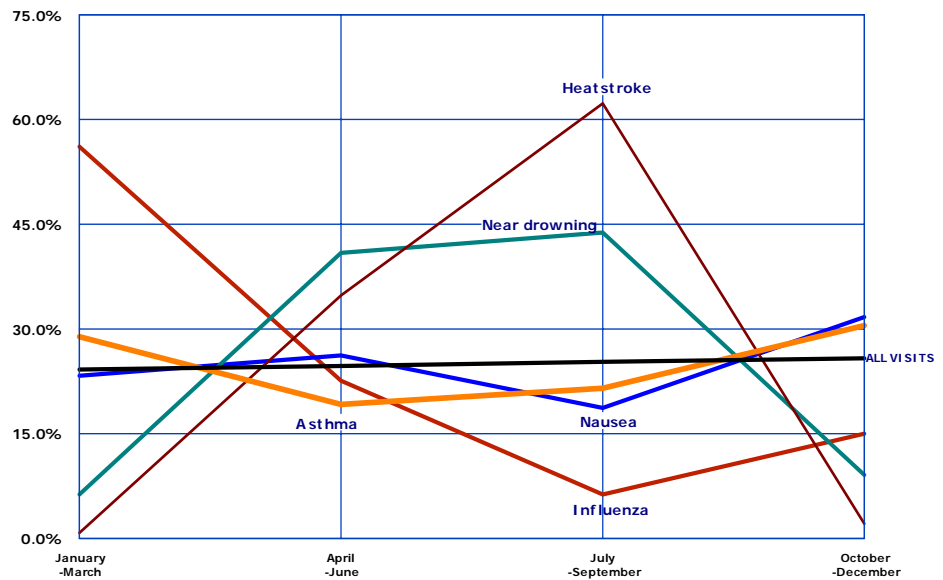
The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS, the State's Medicaid program) was the most frequently recorded expected source of payment, accounting for 35.4 percent of ER visits (**Figure 4C-3**). Private insurance was the second most frequent payer (29 percent of ER visits), followed by Medicare (13.8 percent).



*Indemnity, HMO, PPO.
**The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is the State's Medicaid Program.

Figure 4C-4
Seasonal Variation in Selected Reasons for Visits to the
Emergency Room, Arizona Residents, 2006

Unlike hospital births (**Figure 1B-14**) and hospital inpatient admissions excluding newborn infants (**Figure 4A-4**), the temporal pattern of emergency room visits showed little variation by day of the week, month of the year or calendar quarter. However, seasonal variation was evident in the quarterly volume of visits due to certain patient complaints such as *heatstroke* (62.3 percent of all visits were made in the 3rd quarter), *near drowning* (2nd and 3rd quarter accounted for 84.7 percent of annual visits), *asthma* (visits were lowest in the 2nd quarter), *nausea* (the volume of visits was highest in the second and fourth quarter), and *influenza* (visits were highest in the first quarter; **Figure 4C-4**).



Note: percent distribution of visits to the emergency department during 2006 by calendar quarter.