



4C.

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

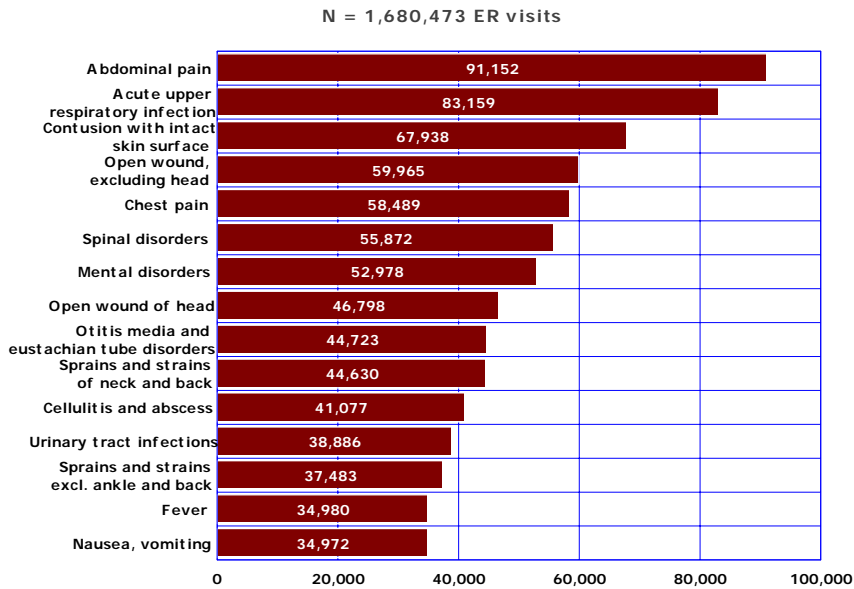
The data in this section are focused on ambulatory care visits to emergency rooms of non-Federal, short-stay hospitals. The emergency room (ER) and the inpatient hospitalization data are mutually exclusive. The ER data include only those who were not admitted as inpatients.

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/ad386.pdf>

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Figure 4C-1
Number of Emergency Room Visits by the Fifteen Leading Patient's Complaints, Arizona Residents, 2007



During 2007, close to 1.7 million visits were made by Arizona residents to hospital emergency rooms (ER), about 26 visits per 100 persons. Nationally, the ER utilization rate was 40.5 visits per 100 persons. The utilization rates vary by geographic region, with the West having the lowest ER visit rate (29.4/100 in 2006).*

In Arizona, the number of ER visits increased by 88,592 from 1,591,881 in 2006.

In 2007, *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 more than one-fourth (27.9 percent) of all visits (**Figure 4C-1, Table 4C-2**).

Both *fever* (34,980 visits) and *nausea-vomiting* (34,972) were among the top fifteen complaints, symptoms or reasons for a visit to the emergency room.

Note: Based on first-listed diagnosis. See Table 4C-2.

[*www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr007.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr007.pdf)

Figure 4C-2
Rates* of Emergency Room Visits by Age Group, Arizona, 2007

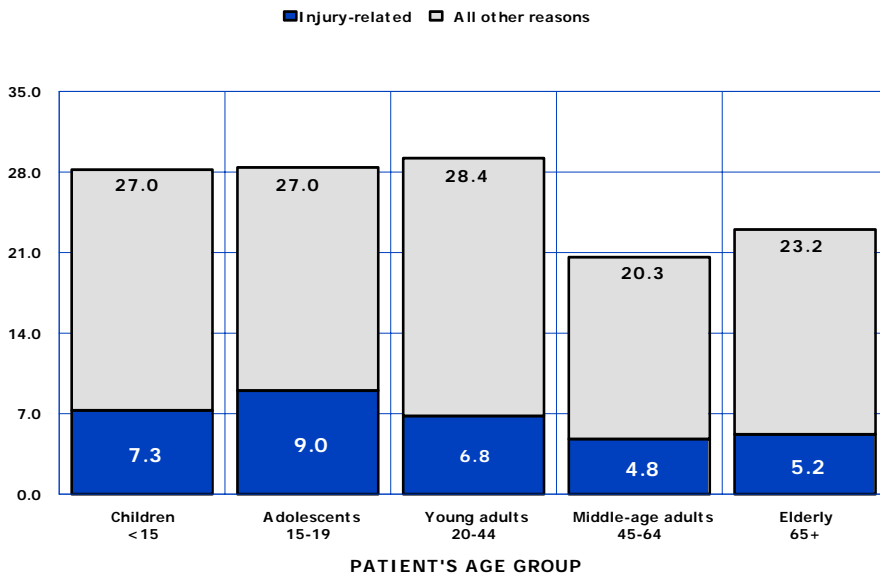


Figure 4C-2 represents the percentage of each age group that had an ER visit (i.e., 27 percent of all children <15 had an ER visit in 2007) and 7.3 percent of children <15 visited the ER for an injury-related reason.

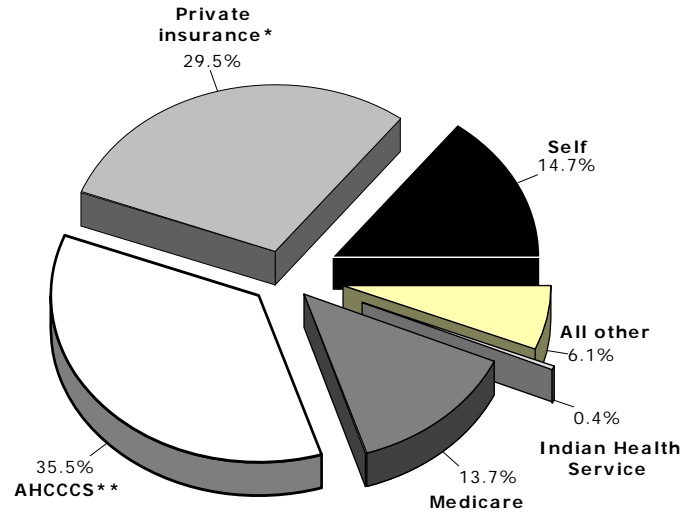
In 2007, the ER utilization rates (the number of ER visits per 100 persons) for young adults aged 20-44 years were the highest rates among the age groups (**Figure 4C-2**).

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 9 visits per 100 adolescents ages 15-19 years (**Figure 4C-2**).

*Number of visits per 100 persons.

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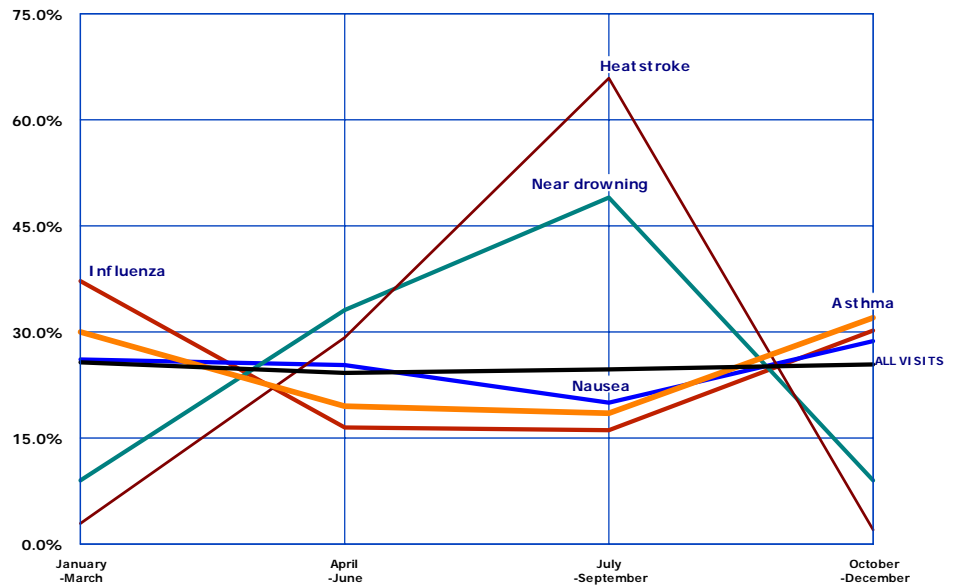
Figure 4C-3
Emergency Room Visits by Payer, Arizona Residents, 2007



The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS, the State's Medicaid program) was the most frequently recorded expected source of payment, accounting for 35.5 percent of ER visits (Figure 4C-3). Private insurance was the second most frequent payer (29.5 percent of ER visits), followed by Medicare (13.7 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 Emergency Room Visits, Arizona Residents, 2007



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* (65.9 percent of all visits were made in the 3rd quarter), *near drowning* (2nd and 3rd quarter accounted for 82.1 percent of annual visits), *asthma* (visits were lowest in the 3rd 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 room during 2007 by calendar quarter.