

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Child and Youth Data Laboratory (CYDL)

Report for Experiences of Albertan Youth Project

Key findings

This report is an overview of 326,685 visits to emergency rooms by 163,411 Albertan youth (aged 12 to 24) in 2008/09. Reasons for emergency room visits were derived from primary diagnostic codes. Youth not registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan in 2008/09 were excluded.

The relationships between emergency room use and age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement, and mental health status were analyzed, as was the cross-ministry service use of youth who visited emergency rooms.

- 15% of youth had a single emergency room visit and a further 10% had multiple emergency room visits. The most common reason for visit was *injury or poisoning*.
- The number of emergency room visits increased with age to about 19 years, then decreased. Females aged 16 and older were more likely to have multiple emergency room visits than males of those ages. Youth living in rural areas and those living in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods had higher rates of emergency room use than those living in urban areas or in the highest socio-economic status areas. Performing above educational expectations and absence of a mental health condition were associated with lower rates of emergency room use.
- Visits for *injury or poisoning* were most likely for youth aged 12 to 20 while emergency room visits for *other* reasons were most likely for youth aged 21 to 24. Visits for males were most often for *injury or poisoning* whereas visits for females were most likely for *other* reasons. Visits by youth performing below educational expectations were more likely to be for *mental or behavioural* reasons and less likely to be for *injury or poisoning* than visits by youth meeting or above expectations.
- Youth receiving income support were most likely to make multiple emergency room visits and those enrolled in post-secondary education were least likely to do so. Single emergency room visits were most common among youth with offence charges or involved in corrections and least common among post-secondary students.



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Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Context

Emergency rooms are used for a variety of services in Canada. Most patients who visit emergency rooms are classified with neither life-threatening nor potentially life-threatening conditions, though they often require at least semi-urgent care.¹ In general, Canadians with more severe or chronic health problems are more likely to visit emergency rooms than those with fewer health problems,² and those who visit emergency rooms tend to be heavy users of other types of medical services.³ People who have consulted a medical professional about a mental health issue (in particular, mood or anxiety disorders) are more likely to use emergency rooms than those who have not.³

Statistics Canada reports that teenagers and young adults have the highest rates of emergency room visits among Canadians 15 years of age and older, reflecting high injury rates in these groups; male youth have slightly higher rates of use than females.³ Individuals in the lowest income groups are more likely to use emergency rooms than those in the highest income groups.^{3,4} Individuals with less than high school education are also more likely to use emergency rooms than those with high levels of education.⁴

Protective factors against visiting emergency rooms include post-secondary graduation and absence of chronic conditions or unmet health needs.³

In a 2005 study of health service utilization of Albertan children and youth, those who visited emergency rooms in Alberta were found to have an average of two visits.⁴ Among youth under 18 years of age who visited emergency rooms in Alberta between 2002 and 2007, there was an average of 1.5 visits per youth for mental health reasons during that six-year period. Mental health-related emergency room visit rates were lower in urban areas, which may be a function of greater availability of alternative resources in urban areas.⁵ Aboriginal youth and youth in families receiving income support were over-represented among youth visiting emergency rooms for mental health reasons.⁵

The project

The current project, **Experiences of Albertan Youth**, is focused on basic understanding of the experiences of Albertan youth within and across ministries, as they relate to key indicators (age, gender, socio-economic status, educational achievement, and mental health status). It is the first project in a planned series that will link and analyze administrative data on children and youth in Alberta to inform policy, programs, and research.

List of reports for the project

Socio-economic status of Albertan youth
Educational experiences of Albertan youth
Mental health status of Albertan youth
Family Support for Children with Disabilities services received by Albertan youth
Maltreatment-related investigations among Albertan youth
Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth
Physician visits by Albertan youth

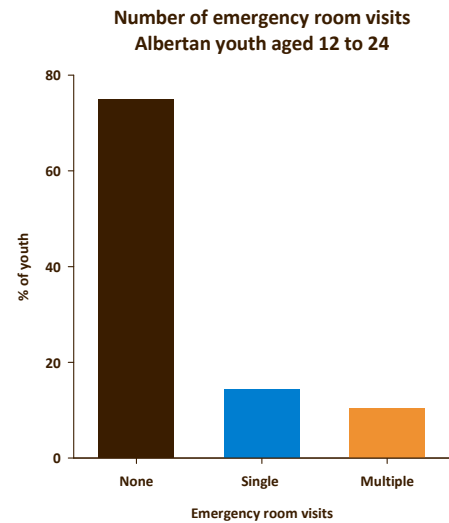
Emergency room visits by Albertan youth
Hospitalizations of Albertan youth
Offence charges among Albertan youth
Corrections involvement among Albertan youth
Post-secondary students in Alberta
Income support among Albertan youth
Educational experiences of Albertan youth with income support activity
Least advantaged and most advantaged Albertan youth

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

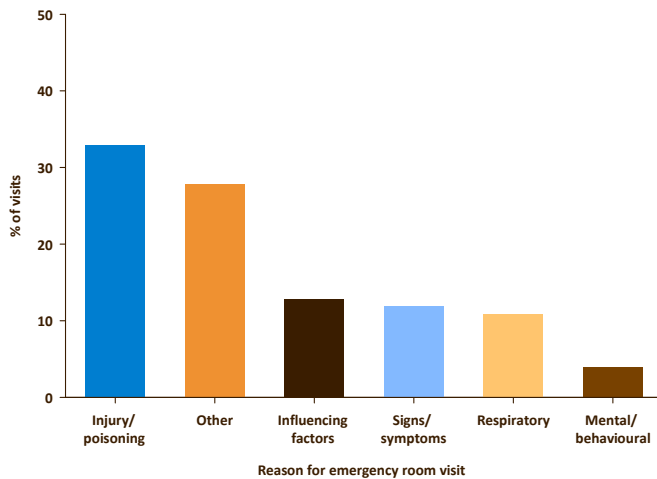
Number of emergency room visits (Table 1)

This and the following analyses consider youth (aged 12 to 24 years, unless otherwise stated) who were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan at any point in 2008/09.

- 75% of youth (492,347 youth) registered with Health did not visit an emergency room in the study year.
- 15% of Alberta youth (95,017 youth) had a single emergency room visit and 10% of youth (68,394 youth) had multiple emergency room visits.



Reason for emergency room visit
Visits made by Albertan youth aged 12 to 24



Reason for emergency room visit (Table 2)

Analyses of reason for emergency room visit are based on all emergency room visits. See table below for examples of each reason and *Definition and Notes* (p. 19) for a description of coding.

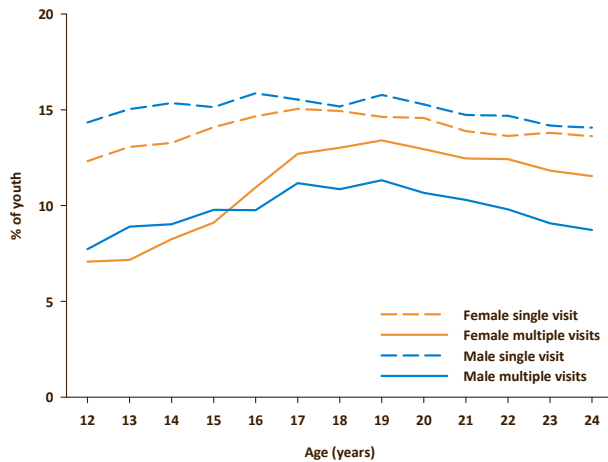
- There were a total of 329,697 emergency room visits made by 163,411 youth.
- The most common reason for visiting an emergency room was for *injury or poisoning* (33%) followed closely by *other* reasons (28%).
- Fewer than 5% of emergency room visits were for mental or behavioural disorders.

Sample reasons for emergency room visits

| Reason for emergency room visit | Examples |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Injury/poisoning | Wound, fracture, sprain, allergy unspecified, etc. |
| Other | Non-infective gastroenteritis (including diarrhoea), urinary tract infections, lower back pain, etc. |
| Influencing factors | Cast removal, attention to surgical dressing and sutures, chemotherapy, etc. |
| Signs/symptoms | Headache, abdominal pain, chest pain, etc. |
| Respiratory | Sore throat, upper respiratory infection, asthma, etc. |
| Mental/behavioural | Depression, anxiety, mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol or other drugs or psychoactive substances, etc. |

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Number of emergency room visits by age and gender
Albertan youth aged 12 to 24



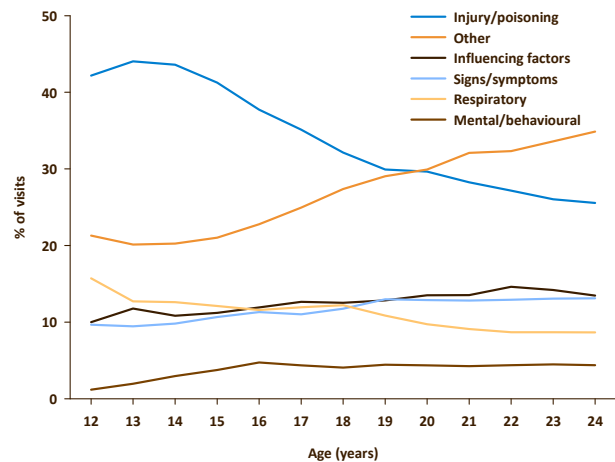
Number of emergency room visits by age and gender (Tables 3 and 4)

- The number of emergency room visits generally increased with age up to age 19 then decreased.
- Males were slightly more likely than females to have a single emergency room visit at each age.
- Females aged 16 and older were more likely to have multiple emergency room visits than males of those ages.

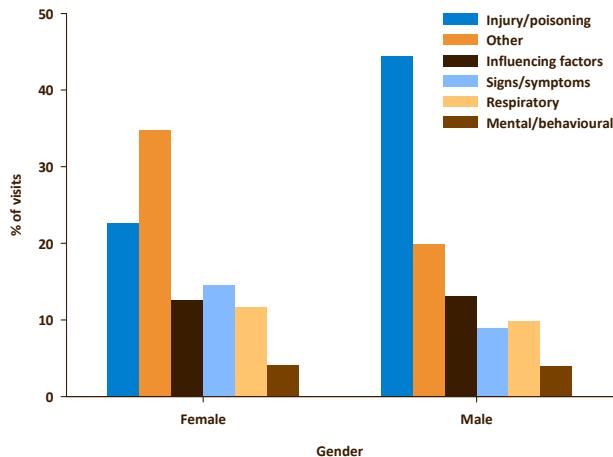
Reason for emergency room visit by age (Table 5)

- Visits for *injury or poisoning* were most likely for youth aged 12 to 20 while emergency room visits for *other* reasons were most likely for youth aged 21 to 24.
- Visits for *respiratory* conditions decreased slightly with age and visits for *influencing factors, signs/symptoms, and mental or behavioural* conditions increased slightly with age.

Reason for emergency room visit by age
Visits made by Albertan youth aged 12 to 24



Reason for emergency room visit by gender
Visits made by Albertan youth aged 12 to 24



Reason for emergency room visit by gender (Table 6)

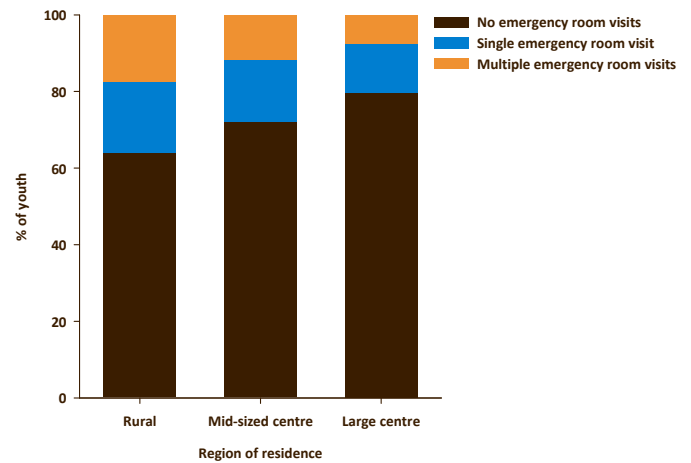
- Visits by males were more likely to be for *injury or poisoning* than visits by females (44% versus 23% of visits respectively).
- Visits for *other* reasons were most common for females (35%)
- Visits for *signs or symptoms* were slightly higher among visits for females (15%) than among visits for males (9%).

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

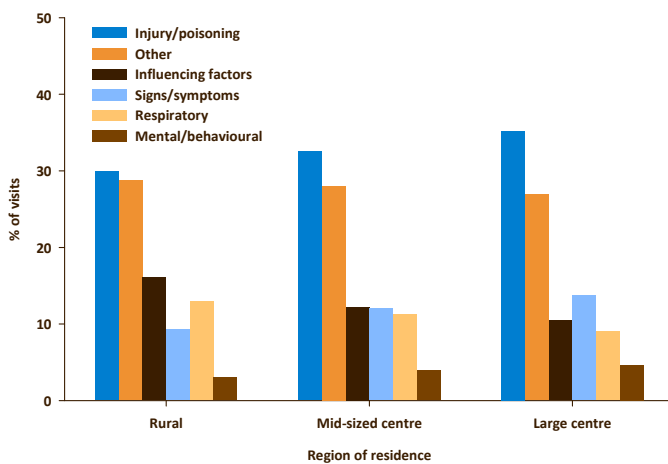
Number of emergency room visits by region of residence (Table 7)

- Youth living in rural regions were more likely to have one or multiple visits to emergency rooms than youth living in mid-sized or large centres.
- 18% of youth living in rural regions had multiple emergency room visits compared to 12% of youth living in mid-sized centres and 8% of youth living in large centres.

Number of emergency room visits by region of residence
Albertan youth aged 12 to 24



Reason for emergency room visit by region of residence
Visits made by Albertan youth aged 12 to 24



Reason for emergency room visit by region of residence (Table 8)

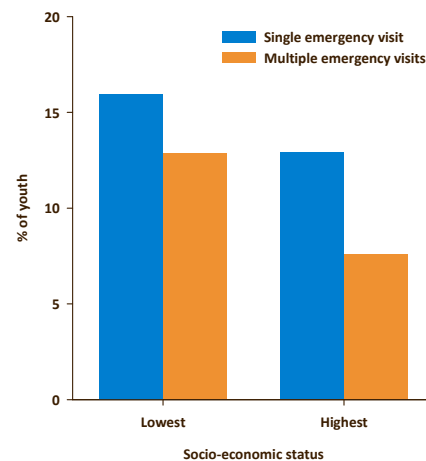
- Visits for *injury or poisoning* were slightly higher in mid-sized centres (33% of visits) and large centres (35%) than in rural regions (30%).
- Visits by youth living in rural regions (16%) were more likely to be for *influencing factors* than visits by those in mid-sized (12%) or large centres (11%).

Number of emergency room visits by socio-economic status (Table 9)

Socio-economic status captures the social and material environments in which youth live. Only the highest and lowest socio-economic status groups are shown in this and the following analysis. See *Definitions and Notes* (p. 18).

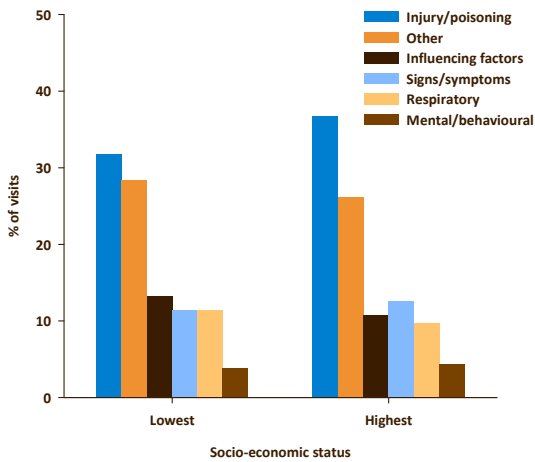
- Youth living in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods visited emergency rooms more frequently (single 16%, multiple 13%) than youth living in the highest socio-economic status areas (single 13%, multiple 8%).

Number of emergency room visits by socio-economic status
Albertan youth aged 12 to 24



Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Reason for emergency room visit by socio-economic status
Visits made by Albertan youth aged 12 to 24



Reason for emergency room visit by socio-economic status (Table 10)

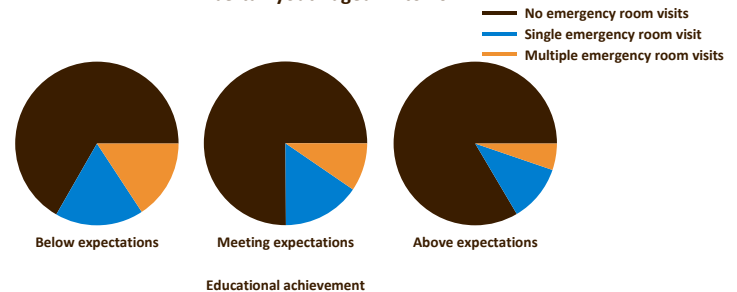
- 37% of emergency room visits for youth living in the highest socio-economic status areas were for *injury or poisoning*, compared to the 32% of visits by youth living in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods.
- Visits for *mental or behavioural* conditions did not vary by socio-economic status.

Number of emergency room visits by educational achievement (Table 11)

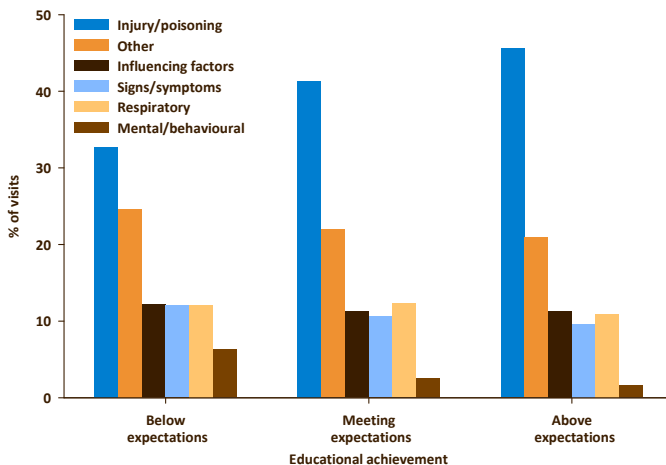
Youth (12 to 20 years) included in this and the following analysis are those who were enrolled in K-12 education system in 2008/09. See *Definitions and Notes* (p. 18).

- Youth who were achieving above educational expectations were less likely to use emergency rooms compared to those who were meeting or performing below expectations.
- 16% of youth performing below educational expectations had multiple emergency room visits compared to 10% of youth meeting expectations and 5% of youth achieving above expectations.

Number of emergency room visits by educational achievement
Albertan youth aged 12 to 20



Reason for emergency room visit by educational achievement
Visits made by Albertan youth aged 12 to 20



Reason for emergency room visit by educational achievement (Table 12)

- The percentage of visits for *injury or poisoning* was higher among visits for youth meeting (41%) or achieving above (46%) expectations than among visits for youth performing below expectations (33%).
- Visits for *mental or behavioural* problems (6%) were higher among visits for youth who were performing below expectations than among visits for youth who were meeting (3%) or achieving above (2%) expectations.

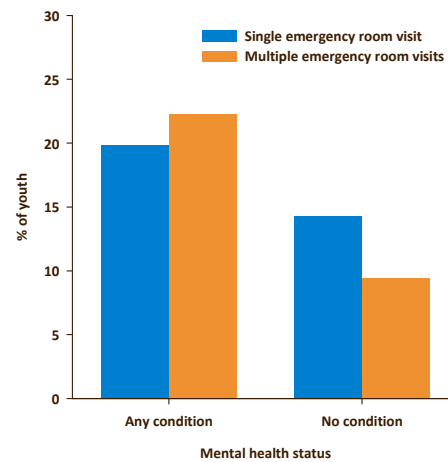
Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Number of emergency room visits by mental health status (Table 13)

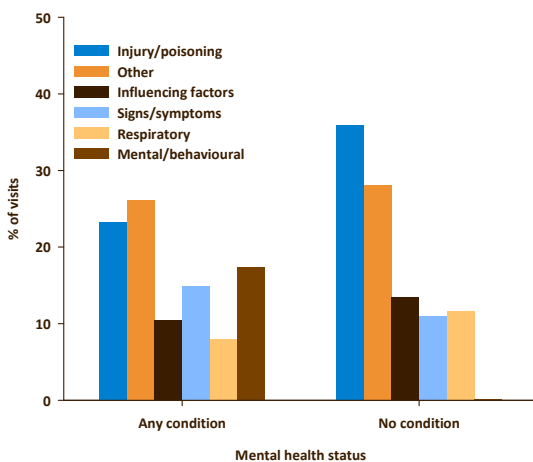
Mental health status refers to presence or absence of a mental health condition. Mental health conditions are defined as receipt of services related to mental health conditions; that is, receipt of services is used here as a proxy for confirmed presence of a mental health condition. See *Definitions and Notes* (p. 19).

- Youth with a mental health condition were more likely to use emergency rooms than those without a mental health condition, which may be partially due to the method of defining mental health status (see *Definitions and Notes* p.19).

Number of emergency room visits by mental health status
Albertan youth aged 12 to 24



Reason for emergency room visit by mental health status
Visits made by Albertan youth aged 12 to 24



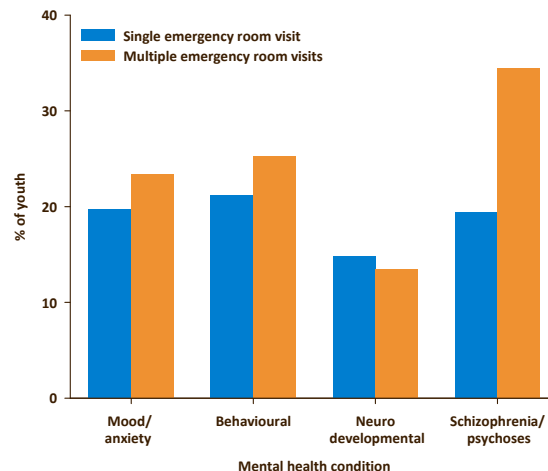
Reason for emergency room visit by mental health status (Table 14)

- Visits for youth with a mental health condition were mostly for *other* reasons, while visits for youth with no mental health conditions were mostly for *injury or poisoning*.
- Visits for *mental or behavioural* conditions were substantially more frequent for youth with a mental health condition (17.3%) than for youth with no condition (0.1%). This result may be partially due to the method of defining mental health status (see *Definitions and Notes* p.19).

Number of emergency room visits by mental health condition (Table 13)

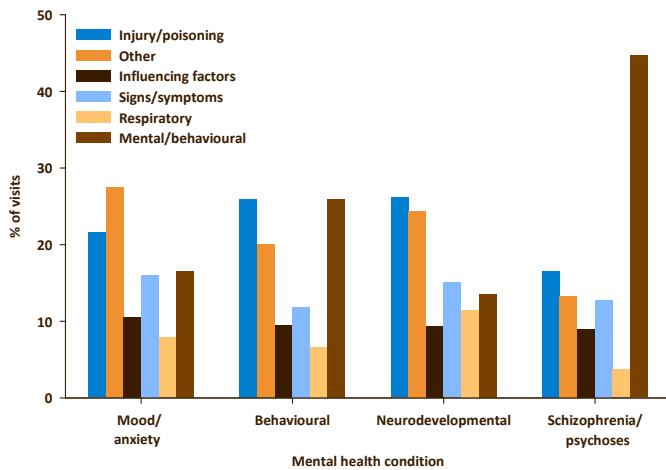
- Single emergency room visits were more common among youth with *mood or anxiety* disorders (20%), with *behavioural* conditions (21%), or with *schizophrenia/psychoses* (19%), than among youth with *neurodevelopmental* conditions (15%).
- Youth with *schizophrenia/psychoses* were most likely to have multiple emergency room visits.

Number of emergency room visits by mental health condition
Albertan youth aged 12 to 24



Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Reason for emergency room visit by mental health condition
Visits made by Albertan youth aged 12 to 24

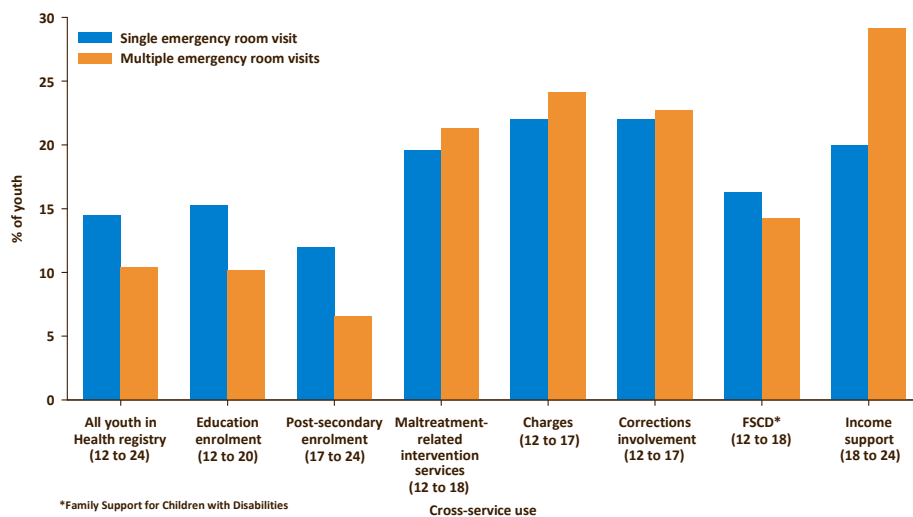


Reason for emergency room visit by mental health condition (Table 14)

- Visits by youth with *schizophrenia or psychoses* were most likely to be for *mental or behavioural* conditions (45%) than for any other reason.
- Visits for youth with *behavioural* mental health conditions were equally likely to be for *injury or poisoning* (26%) or for *mental or behavioural* conditions (26%).
- *Other* reasons for visits were most common among visits by youth with a *mood/anxiety* condition (27%).

Number of emergency room visits by cross-service use (Table 15)

Number of emergency room visits by cross-service use
Albertan youth aged 12 to 24

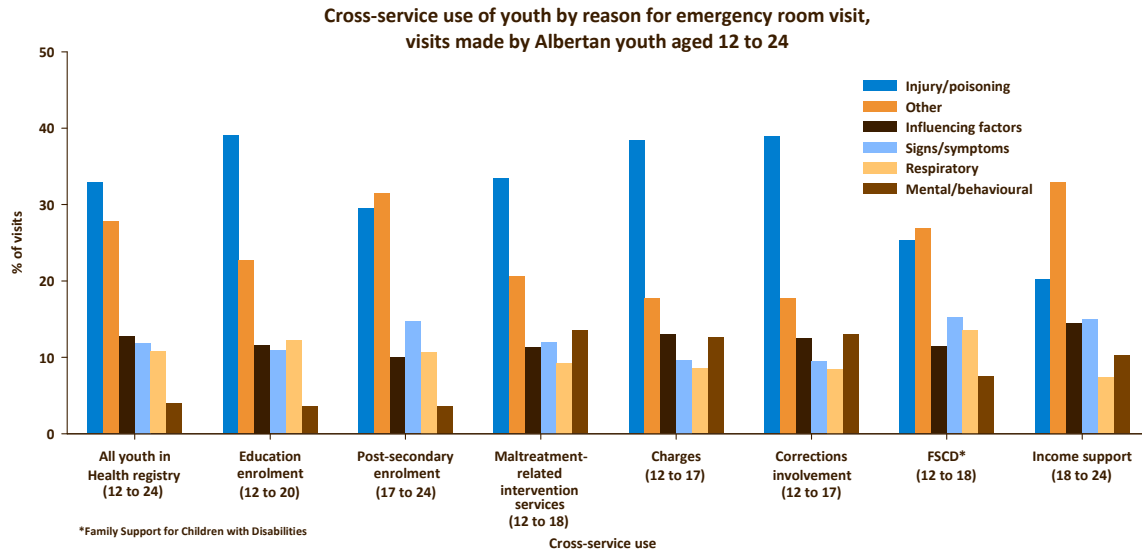


Youth were considered in this and the following analysis if they were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP; see *Definitions and Notes*, p. 19). The effects should be interpreted with caution; they cannot be generalized to youth not registered with AHCIP.

- Youth on income support were most likely to have multiple emergency room visits. Youth enrolled in post-secondary education were the least likely to visit an emergency room.
- Emergency room visits were higher in youth who received maltreatment-related intervention services, or in youth with offence charges or corrections involvement, compared to all youth registered with AHCIP.

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Reason for emergency room visit by cross-service use (Table 16)



- The most common reason for youth visiting an emergency room was for *injury or poisoning* across most types of ministry services.
- Visits by youth receiving income support (33% of visits) were most likely to be for *other* reasons.
- Visits for *injury or poisoning* (30%) or for *other* reasons (32%) were equally common for youth enrolled in post-secondary education, and for youth receiving services from Family Support for Children with Disabilities (25%, 27% respectively).
- Visits for *mental or behavioural* conditions were substantially more likely among visits by youth with charges (13%), with corrections involvement (13%), receiving maltreatment-related intervention services (14%), on income support (10%), or receiving services from Family Support for Children with Disabilities (8%) than for visits by all youth registered in AHCIP (4%).

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Tables

Table 1. Number and percent of youth by number of emergency room (ER) visits and age group, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Number of ER visits | Age group (years) | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | 12 to 17 | 12 to 18 | 12 to 20 | 17 to 24 | 18 to 24 | 12 to 24 |
| Number of youth | Single visit | 41,374 | 48,862 | 64,325 | 61,157 | 53,643 | 95,017 |
| | Multiple visits | 26,617 | 32,541 | 44,930 | 47,631 | 41,777 | 68,394 |
| | No visits | 217,140 | 253,474 | 328,257 | 310,971 | 275,207 | 492,347 |
| | Total | 285,131 | 334,877 | 437,512 | 419,759 | 370,627 | 655,758 |
| Percent of youth | Single visit | 14.5 | 14.6 | 14.7 | 14.6 | 14.5 | 14.5 |
| | Multiple visits | 9.3 | 9.7 | 10.3 | 11.3 | 11.3 | 10.4 |
| | No visits | 76.2 | 75.7 | 75.0 | 74.1 | 74.3 | 75.1 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 2. Number and percentage of emergency room (ER) visits by reason for emergency room visit and age group, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Reason for ER visit | Age group (years) | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | 12 to 17 | 12 to 18 | 12 to 20 | 17 to 24 | 18 to 24 | 12 to 24 |
| Number of visits | Injury/poisoning | 50,105 | 59,114 | 76,724 | 66,883 | 57,268 | 107,373 |
| | Other | 27,477 | 35,152 | 52,568 | 69,991 | 63,161 | 90,638 |
| | Influencing factors | 14,391 | 17,901 | 25,674 | 30,727 | 27,263 | 41,654 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 13,018 | 16,308 | 23,947 | 28,811 | 25,795 | 38,813 |
| | Respiratory | 15,724 | 19,144 | 25,231 | 22,823 | 19,555 | 35,279 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 4,189 | 5,327 | 7,922 | 9,929 | 8,739 | 12,928 |
| | Total | 124,904 | 152,946 | 212,066 | 229,164 | 201,781 | 326,685 |
| Percent of visits | Injury/poisoning | 40.1 | 38.7 | 36.2 | 29.2 | 28.4 | 32.9 |
| | Other | 22.0 | 23.0 | 24.8 | 30.5 | 31.3 | 27.7 |
| | Influencing factors | 11.5 | 11.7 | 12.1 | 13.4 | 13.5 | 12.8 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 10.4 | 10.7 | 11.3 | 12.6 | 12.8 | 11.9 |
| | Respiratory | 12.6 | 12.5 | 11.9 | 10.0 | 9.7 | 10.8 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.0 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 3. Number and percent of female youth by number of emergency room (ER) visits and age, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Number of ER visits | Age (years) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| | | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | |
| Female | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of youth | Single visit | 2,703 | 2,973 | 3,069 | 3,236 | 3,476 | 3,597 | 3,620 | 3,704 | 3,709 | 3,560 | 3,682 | 3,853 | 3,919 | 45,101 |
| | Multiple visits | 1,551 | 1,630 | 1,907 | 2,091 | 2,596 | 3,036 | 3,156 | 3,392 | 3,296 | 3,193 | 3,354 | 3,302 | 3,322 | 35,826 |
| | No visits | 17,689 | 18,173 | 18,155 | 17,634 | 17,644 | 17,270 | 17,473 | 18,227 | 18,465 | 18,889 | 19,971 | 20,770 | 21,544 | 241,904 |
| | Total | 21,943 | 22,776 | 23,131 | 22,961 | 23,716 | 23,903 | 24,249 | 25,323 | 25,470 | 25,642 | 27,007 | 27,925 | 28,785 | 322,831 |
| Percent of youth | Single visit | 12.3 | 13.1 | 13.3 | 14.1 | 14.7 | 15.0 | 14.9 | 14.6 | 14.6 | 13.9 | 13.6 | 13.8 | 13.6 | 14.0 |
| | Multiple visits | 7.1 | 7.2 | 8.2 | 9.1 | 10.9 | 12.7 | 13.0 | 13.4 | 12.9 | 12.5 | 12.4 | 11.8 | 11.5 | 11.1 |
| | No visits | 80.6 | 79.8 | 78.5 | 76.8 | 74.4 | 72.3 | 72.1 | 72.0 | 72.5 | 73.7 | 73.9 | 74.4 | 74.8 | 74.9 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 4. Number and percent of male youth by number of emergency room (ER) visits and age, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Number of ER visits | Age (years) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| | | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | |
| Male | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of youth | Single visit | 3,385 | 3,636 | 3,764 | 3,704 | 3,914 | 3,917 | 3,868 | 4,127 | 3,923 | 3,839 | 3,928 | 3,925 | 3,986 | 49,916 |
| | Multiple visits | 1,822 | 2,152 | 2,214 | 2,392 | 2,408 | 2,818 | 2,768 | 2,963 | 2,738 | 2,684 | 2,622 | 2,514 | 2,473 | 32,568 |
| | No visits | 18,398 | 18,399 | 18,549 | 18,378 | 18,357 | 18,494 | 18,861 | 19,072 | 19,019 | 19,556 | 20,206 | 21,266 | 21,888 | 250,443 |
| | Total | 23,605 | 24,187 | 24,527 | 24,474 | 24,679 | 25,229 | 25,497 | 26,162 | 25,680 | 26,079 | 26,756 | 27,705 | 28,347 | 332,927 |
| Percent of youth | Single visit | 14.3 | 15.0 | 15.3 | 15.1 | 15.9 | 15.5 | 15.2 | 15.8 | 15.3 | 14.7 | 14.7 | 14.2 | 14.1 | 15.0 |
| | Multiple visits | 7.7 | 8.9 | 9.0 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 11.2 | 10.9 | 11.3 | 10.7 | 10.3 | 9.8 | 9.1 | 8.7 | 9.8 |
| | No visits | 77.9 | 76.1 | 75.6 | 75.1 | 74.4 | 73.3 | 74.0 | 72.9 | 74.1 | 75.0 | 75.5 | 76.8 | 77.2 | 75.2 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 5. Number and percent of emergency room (ER) visits by reason for emergency room visit and age, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Reason for ER visit | Age (years) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| | | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | |
| Number of visits | Injury/poisoning | 6,742 | 7,895 | 8,294 | 8,609 | 8,950 | 9,615 | 9,009 | 9,073 | 8,537 | 7,991 | 7,829 | 7,486 | 7,343 | 107,373 |
| | Other | 3,403 | 3,604 | 3,850 | 4,385 | 5,405 | 6,830 | 7,675 | 8,806 | 8,610 | 9,075 | 9,312 | 9,661 | 10,022 | 90,638 |
| | Influencing factors | 1,597 | 2,108 | 2,060 | 2,337 | 2,825 | 3,464 | 3,510 | 3,891 | 3,882 | 3,824 | 4,208 | 4,083 | 3,865 | 41,654 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 1,543 | 1,695 | 1,864 | 2,222 | 2,678 | 3,016 | 3,290 | 3,934 | 3,705 | 3,623 | 3,723 | 3,755 | 3,765 | 38,813 |
| | Respiratory | 2,511 | 2,277 | 2,395 | 2,526 | 2,747 | 3,268 | 3,420 | 3,287 | 2,800 | 2,572 | 2,498 | 2,491 | 2,487 | 35,279 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 187 | 347 | 562 | 782 | 1,121 | 1,190 | 1,138 | 1,343 | 1,252 | 1,203 | 1,258 | 1,285 | 1,260 | 12,928 |
| | Total visits | 15,983 | 17,926 | 19,025 | 20,861 | 23,726 | 27,383 | 28,042 | 30,334 | 28,786 | 28,288 | 28,828 | 28,761 | 28,742 | 326,685 |
| Percent of visits | Injury/poisoning | 42.2 | 44.0 | 43.6 | 41.3 | 37.7 | 35.1 | 32.1 | 29.9 | 29.7 | 28.2 | 27.2 | 26.0 | 25.5 | 32.9 |
| | Other | 21.3 | 20.1 | 20.2 | 21.0 | 22.8 | 24.9 | 27.4 | 29.0 | 29.9 | 32.1 | 32.3 | 33.6 | 34.9 | 27.7 |
| | Influencing factors | 10.0 | 11.8 | 10.8 | 11.2 | 11.9 | 12.7 | 12.5 | 12.8 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 14.6 | 14.2 | 13.4 | 12.8 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 9.7 | 9.5 | 9.8 | 10.7 | 11.3 | 11.0 | 11.7 | 13.0 | 12.9 | 12.8 | 12.9 | 13.1 | 13.1 | 11.9 |
| | Respiratory | 15.7 | 12.7 | 12.6 | 12.1 | 11.6 | 11.9 | 12.2 | 10.8 | 9.7 | 9.1 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 10.8 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 1.2 | 1.9 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.0 |
| | Total visits | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 6. Number and percent of emergency room (ER) visits by reason for emergency room visit and gender, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Reason for ER visit | Gender | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | Female | Male | Total |
| Number of visits | Injury/poisoning | 38,906 | 68,467 | 107,373 |
| | Other | 60,007 | 30,631 | 90,638 |
| | Influencing factors | 21,554 | 20,100 | 41,654 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 25,133 | 13,680 | 38,813 |
| | Respiratory | 20,094 | 15,185 | 35,279 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 6,895 | 6,033 | 12,928 |
| | Total visits | 172,589 | 154,096 | 326,685 |
| Percent of visits | Injury/poisoning | 22.5 | 44.4 | 32.9 |
| | Other | 34.8 | 19.9 | 27.7 |
| | Influencing factors | 12.5 | 13.0 | 12.8 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 14.6 | 8.9 | 11.9 |
| | Respiratory | 11.6 | 9.9 | 10.8 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| | Total visits | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 7. Number and percent of youth by number of emergency room (ER) visits and region of residence, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Number of ER visits | Region of residence | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|---------|
| | | Rural | Mid-sized centre | Large centre | Total |
| Number of youth | Single visit | 25,864 | 16,253 | 52,892 | 95,009 |
| | Multiple visits | 24,477 | 12,107 | 31,800 | 68,384 |
| | No visits | 89,649 | 73,487 | 329,115 | 492,251 |
| | Total | 139,990 | 101,847 | 413,807 | 655,644 |
| Percent of youth | Single visit | 18.5 | 16.0 | 12.8 | 14.5 |
| | Multiple visits | 17.5 | 11.9 | 7.7 | 10.4 |
| | No visits | 64.0 | 72.2 | 79.5 | 75.1 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 8. Number and percentage of emergency room (ER) visits by reason for emergency room visit and region of residence, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Reason for ER visit | Region of residence | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|---------|
| | | Rural | Mid-sized centre | Large centre | Total |
| Number of visits | Injury/poisoning | 34,143 | 18,717 | 54,499 | 107,359 |
| | Other | 32,809 | 16,154 | 41,666 | 90,629 |
| | Influencing factors | 18,400 | 7,050 | 16,197 | 41,647 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 10,652 | 6,958 | 21,199 | 38,809 |
| | Respiratory | 14,789 | 6,485 | 14,001 | 35,275 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 3,459 | 2,248 | 7,221 | 12,928 |
| | Total visits | 114,252 | 57,612 | 154,783 | 326,647 |
| Percent of visits | Injury/poisoning | 29.9 | 32.5 | 35.2 | 32.9 |
| | Other | 28.7 | 28.0 | 26.9 | 27.7 |
| | Influencing factors | 16.1 | 12.2 | 10.5 | 12.7 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 9.3 | 12.1 | 13.7 | 11.9 |
| | Respiratory | 12.9 | 11.3 | 9.0 | 10.8 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 3.0 | 3.9 | 4.7 | 4.0 |
| | Total visits | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 9. Number and percent of youth by number of emergency room (ER) visits and socio-economic status (SES), Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Number of ER visits | Socio-economic status | | | | | Total |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| | | Lowest SES | Low middle | Middle | High middle | Highest SES | |
| Number of youth | Single visit | 23,924 | 15,024 | 21,389 | 15,671 | 16,657 | 92,665 |
| | Multiple visits | 19,263 | 11,996 | 15,051 | 10,259 | 9,767 | 66,336 |
| | No visits | 106,666 | 73,396 | 111,352 | 87,874 | 102,541 | 481,829 |
| | Total | 149,853 | 100,416 | 147,792 | 113,804 | 128,965 | 640,830 |
| Percent of youth | Single visit | 16.0 | 15.0 | 14.5 | 13.8 | 12.9 | 14.5 |
| | Multiple visits | 12.9 | 11.9 | 10.2 | 9.0 | 7.6 | 10.4 |
| | No visits | 71.2 | 73.1 | 75.3 | 77.2 | 79.5 | 75.2 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 10. Number and percentage of emergency room (ER) visits by reason for emergency room visit and socio-economic status (SES), Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Reason for ER visit | Socio-economic status | | | | | Total |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| | | Lowest SES | Low middle | Middle | High middle | Highest SES | |
| Number of visits | Injury/poisoning | 28,696 | 17,413 | 24,185 | 16,913 | 17,397 | 104,604 |
| | Other | 25,647 | 16,672 | 19,632 | 13,377 | 12,402 | 87,730 |
| | Influencing factors | 11,943 | 7,838 | 9,434 | 5,809 | 5,081 | 40,105 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 10,324 | 6,697 | 8,630 | 6,140 | 5,979 | 37,770 |
| | Respiratory | 10,291 | 6,133 | 8,034 | 5,161 | 4,588 | 34,207 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 3,475 | 2,277 | 2,791 | 1,988 | 2,028 | 12,559 |
| | Total visits | 90,376 | 57,030 | 72,706 | 49,388 | 47,475 | 316,975 |
| Percent of visits | Injury/poisoning | 31.8 | 30.5 | 33.3 | 34.2 | 36.6 | 33.0 |
| | Other | 28.4 | 29.2 | 27.0 | 27.1 | 26.1 | 27.7 |
| | Influencing factors | 13.2 | 13.7 | 13.0 | 11.8 | 10.7 | 12.7 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 11.4 | 11.7 | 11.9 | 12.4 | 12.6 | 11.9 |
| | Respiratory | 11.4 | 10.8 | 11.0 | 10.4 | 9.7 | 10.8 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 3.8 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 4.0 |
| | Total visits | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 11. Number and of youth by number of emergency room (ER) visits and educational achievement, Albertan youth aged 12 to 20 years, 2008/09

| | Number of ER visits | Educational achievement | | | Total |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| | | Below expectations | Meeting expectations | Above expectations | |
| Number of youth | Single visit | 7,831 | 25,987 | 3,014 | 36,832 |
| | Multiple visits | 7,023 | 16,131 | 1,411 | 24,565 |
| | No visits | 29,752 | 126,866 | 22,390 | 179,008 |
| | Total | 44,606 | 168,984 | 26,815 | 240,405 |
| Percent of youth | Single visit | 17.6 | 15.4 | 11.2 | 15.3 |
| | Multiple visits | 15.7 | 9.5 | 5.3 | 10.2 |
| | No visits | 66.7 | 75.1 | 83.5 | 74.5 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 12. Number and percentage of emergency room (ER) visits by reason for emergency room visit and educational achievement, Albertan youth aged 12 to 20 years, 2008/09

| | Reason for ER visit | Educational achievement | | | Total |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| | | Below expectations | Meeting expectations | Above expectations | |
| Number of visits | Injury/poisoning | 10,702 | 31,345 | 3,197 | 45,244 |
| | Other | 8,048 | 16,687 | 1,470 | 26,205 |
| | Influencing factors | 3,979 | 8,525 | 795 | 13,299 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 3,943 | 8,024 | 676 | 12,643 |
| | Respiratory | 3,956 | 9,342 | 766 | 14,064 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 2,061 | 1,903 | 114 | 4,078 |
| | Total visits | 32,689 | 75,826 | 7,018 | 115,533 |
| | Percent of visits | Injury/poisoning | 32.7 | 41.3 | 45.6 |
| Other | | 24.6 | 22.0 | 20.9 | 22.7 |
| Influencing factors | | 12.2 | 11.2 | 11.3 | 11.5 |
| Signs/symptoms | | 12.1 | 10.6 | 9.6 | 10.9 |
| Respiratory | | 12.1 | 12.3 | 10.9 | 12.2 |
| Mental/behavioural | | 6.3 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 3.5 |
| Total visits | | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 13. Number and percent of youth by number of emergency room (ER) visits and mental health condition, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Number of ER visits | Mental health condition* | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| | | Mood/ anxiety | Behavioural | Neuro developmental | Schizophrenia/ psychoses | Any condition | No condition | Total |
| Number of youth | Single visit | 9,860 | 4,119 | 619 | 445 | 13,240 | 79,475 | 92,715 |
| | Multiple visits | 11,666 | 4,903 | 561 | 789 | 14,872 | 52,393 | 67,265 |
| | No visits | 28,403 | 10,404 | 2,990 | 1,057 | 38,680 | 425,292 | 463,972 |
| | Total | 49,929 | 19,426 | 4,170 | 2,291 | 66,792 | 557,160 | 623,952 |
| Percent of youth | Single visit | 19.7 | 21.2 | 14.8 | 19.4 | 19.8 | 14.3 | 14.9 |
| | Multiple visits | 23.4 | 25.2 | 13.5 | 34.4 | 22.3 | 9.4 | 10.8 |
| | No visits | 56.9 | 53.6 | 71.7 | 46.1 | 57.9 | 76.3 | 74.4 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

*Mental health condition categories are not mutually exclusive

Table 14. Number and percent of emergency room (ER) visits by reason for emergency room visit and mental health condition, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Reason for ER visit | Mental health condition* | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| | | Mood/ anxiety | Behavioural | Neuro developmental | Schizophrenia/ psychoses | Any condition | No condition | Total |
| Number of visits | Injury/poisoning | 12,416 | 6,381 | 718 | 731 | 16,737 | 89,218 | 105,955 |
| | Other | 15,777 | 4,919 | 669 | 585 | 18,862 | 69,837 | 88,699 |
| | Influencing factors | 6,050 | 2,334 | 258 | 397 | 7,495 | 33,405 | 40,900 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 9,219 | 2,913 | 413 | 562 | 10,783 | 27,208 | 37,991 |
| | Respiratory | 4,529 | 1,633 | 315 | 164 | 5,781 | 28,971 | 34,752 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 9,513 | 6,376 | 371 | 1,971 | 12,498 | 227 | 12,725 |
| | Total visits | 57,504 | 24,556 | 2,744 | 4,410 | 72,156 | 248,866 | 321,022 |
| Percent of visits | Injury/poisoning | 21.6 | 26.0 | 26.2 | 16.6 | 23.2 | 35.8 | 33.0 |
| | Other | 27.4 | 20.0 | 24.4 | 13.3 | 26.1 | 28.1 | 27.6 |
| | Influencing factors | 10.5 | 9.5 | 9.4 | 9.0 | 10.4 | 13.4 | 12.7 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 16.0 | 11.9 | 15.1 | 12.7 | 14.9 | 10.9 | 11.8 |
| | Respiratory | 7.9 | 6.7 | 11.5 | 3.7 | 8.0 | 11.6 | 10.8 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 16.5 | 26.0 | 13.5 | 44.7 | 17.3 | 0.1 | 4.0 |
| | Total visits | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

*Mental health condition categories are not mutually exclusive

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 15. Number and percent of youth by number of emergency (ER) visits and cross-service use, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Number of ER visits | Cross-service use | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| | | All youth in Health registry (12 to 24) | Education enrolment (12 to 20) | Post-secondary enrolment (17 to 24) | Maltreatment intervention (12 to 18) | Charges (12 to 17) | Corrections involvement (12 to 17) | FSCD* (12 to 18) | Income support (18 to 24) |
| Number of youth | Single visit | 95,017 | 37,552 | 10,160 | 1,312 | 1,160 | 978 | 574 | 947 |
| | Multiple visits | 68,394 | 25,039 | 5,602 | 1,428 | 1,272 | 1,010 | 501 | 1,378 |
| | No visits | 492,347 | 183,630 | 69,182 | 3,949 | 2,834 | 2,453 | 2,443 | 2,406 |
| | Total | 655,758 | 246,221 | 84,944 | 6,689 | 5,266 | 4,441 | 3,518 | 4,731 |
| Percent of youth | Single visit | 14.5 | 15.3 | 12.0 | 19.6 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 16.3 | 20.0 |
| | Multiple visits | 10.4 | 10.2 | 6.6 | 21.3 | 24.2 | 22.7 | 14.2 | 29.1 |
| | No visits | 75.1 | 74.6 | 81.4 | 59.0 | 53.8 | 55.2 | 69.4 | 50.9 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

*Family Support for Children with Disabilities

Table 16. Number and percentage of emergency room (ER) visits by reason for emergency room visit and cross-service use, Albertan youth aged 12 to 24 years, 2008/09

| | Reason for ER visit | Cross-service use | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| | | All youth in Health registry (12 to 24) | Education enrolment (12 to 20) | Post-secondary enrolment (17 to 24) | Maltreatment intervention (12 to 18) | Charges (12 to 17) | Corrections involvement (12 to 17) | FSCD* (12 to 18) | Income support (18 to 24) |
| Number of visits | Injury/poisoning | 107,373 | 46,045 | 8,304 | 2,250 | 2,227 | 1,818 | 627 | 1,465 |
| | Other | 90,638 | 26,759 | 8,866 | 1,385 | 1,031 | 830 | 664 | 2,395 |
| | Influencing factors | 41,654 | 13,678 | 2,823 | 760 | 752 | 582 | 283 | 1,048 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 38,813 | 12,854 | 4,142 | 809 | 560 | 443 | 375 | 1,085 |
| | Respiratory | 35,279 | 14,400 | 3,011 | 624 | 497 | 396 | 335 | 531 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 12,928 | 4,162 | 1,019 | 908 | 730 | 606 | 187 | 744 |
| | Total visits | 326,685 | 117,898 | 28,165 | 6,736 | 5,797 | 4,675 | 2,471 | 7,268 |
| Percent of visits | Injury/poisoning | 32.9 | 39.1 | 29.5 | 33.4 | 38.4 | 38.9 | 25.4 | 20.2 |
| | Other | 27.7 | 22.7 | 31.5 | 20.6 | 17.8 | 17.8 | 26.9 | 33.0 |
| | Influencing factors | 12.8 | 11.6 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 13.0 | 12.4 | 11.5 | 14.4 |
| | Signs/symptoms | 11.9 | 10.9 | 14.7 | 12.0 | 9.7 | 9.5 | 15.2 | 14.9 |
| | Respiratory | 10.8 | 12.2 | 10.7 | 9.3 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 13.6 | 7.3 |
| | Mental/behavioural | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 13.5 | 12.6 | 13.0 | 7.6 | 10.2 |
| | Total visits | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

*Family Support for Children with Disabilities

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Definitions and Notes

- The study population for this project consisted of all Albertan youth who were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan in 2008/09 or who received selected services from one or more of the participating ministries in 2008/09. “All Albertan youth” refers to this study population.
- The study year was fiscal year 2008/09. With the exception of Education and Enterprise and Advanced Education data, all data were for services provided between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, with age determined on March 31, 2009.
 - Data for Enterprise and Advanced Education were for services provided between September 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009, with age determined on March 31, 2009.
 - Data for Education were for services provided to youth who were 12 to 19 years old on September 30, 2008. As a result, youth turning 12 between October 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 *were not* included in the Education data but were included in other ministries’ data. This resulted in the number of 12 year olds in the Education data being lower (approximately 50% lower) than that of 13 to 17 year olds.
 - Furthermore, although Education only provides services to youth who are under 20, the provision of services is defined by age at September 30. Youth who turned 20 between October 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 *were* included in the Education data, resulting in the inclusion of 20 year olds in some analyses of Education data.
- **Cross-ministry analyses included only youth that were linked across the relevant ministries.** This means that not all youth in the project were represented in every analysis. As well, only youth with a value for a given indicator were included in analyses involving that indicator (i.e., **missing values** were excluded).
- Age, gender, and postal code (translated into Statistics Canada dissemination areas) were provided for each individual by each participating ministry. In the case of discrepancies between ministries, the most common value for an indicator was chosen. In the event of two or more most common values, the value for the indicator was chosen randomly from the most common values.
- Dissemination areas of residence were used by CYDL to determine **region of residence**. Urban areas included large centres with urban core populations greater than 100,000 (i.e., Edmonton and Calgary metropolitan areas) and mid-sized centres with urban cores greater than 10,000; all other areas were categorized as rural.
- **Socio-economic status (SES)** captures the social and material environments in which youth live. A youth was assigned a socio-economic status via an index based on the Statistics Canada dissemination area in which he or she resided⁶. Six indicators were included in the index: percent without a high school diploma, the employment ratio, average income, percent of single families, percent of persons living alone, and percent of persons separated, divorced, or widowed. Socio-economic status values fell into five quintiles. In this report, “lowest socio-economic status” refers to the lowest quintile of socio-economic status, while “highest” refers to the highest quintile.
- **Educational achievement** was computed by Alberta Education using age, grade, school type, special education codes, provincial achievement test scores, home education status, number of high school credits earned, number of higher level courses taken, average grade in higher level courses, possession of an Alberta Education certificate or diploma, and Alexander Rutherford scholarship eligibility. Educational achievement was categorized as *above, meeting, or below expectations* for a student’s age and grade. An educational achievement rating was not available for 12 to 14 year old youth without scores on provincial achievement tests, for youth in ‘other’ schools (accredited post-secondary institutions offering high school courses for credit to adults; most youth in these schools were between 18 and 20 years), and for home-schooled high school youth with no credits.

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Definitions and Notes (continued)

- **Mental health status** was defined by the presence or absence of mental health diagnosis codes in Health’s databases (Inpatient—Discharge Abstract Database, Ambulatory Care, and Practitioner Payments), or in the Family Support for Children with Disabilities Information System. Only youth who were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan or the full fiscal year were included in the mental health analyses. **Mental health service use is a proxy for presence of a mental health condition:** Some youth with mental health conditions may not have accessed mental health services in Alberta during the year, and some mental health service use may have occurred for youth who did not in fact have mental health conditions.
 - **Mental health conditions** were grouped based on The Johns Hopkins ACG® Case-Mix System (version 8.2)⁷. Mental health conditions were *mood/anxiety* (anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, etc.), *behavioural* (attention-deficit disorder, regulatory disorder, mental or behavioural problems due to substance use, etc.), *neurodevelopmental* (autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, etc.), or *schizophrenia/psychoses* (schizophrenia, psychosis, delusional disorder, etc.). Conditions were not mutually exclusive; a youth could have a diagnosis in more than one category.
- **Emergency room visits** refer to visits to emergency departments for assessment or treatment. **Reason for emergency room visit** was based on the primary diagnostic code given for each visit. Categories of reasons included *injury/poisoning* (ICD-10-CA⁸ Chapter XIX Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes), *respiratory* (Chapter X Diseases of the respiratory system), *influencing factors* (Chapter XXI Factors influencing health status and contact with health services), *symptoms/signs* (Chapter XVIII Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified), and *other* (all other ICD-10-CA chapters).
- New and returning Alberta residents, if they are eligible, must register for **Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan** coverage to receive insured health services. Youth in the “**health registry**” refers to all youth who are insured in Alberta. This includes any eligible youth who is a permanent resident of Alberta, living at least 183 days per year in the province. Members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and federal penitentiary inmates are not eligible (they receive coverage from the federal government), but dependents of these non-eligible residents, who reside in Alberta, are eligible.
- Participation in **education** refers to enrolment in the kindergarten to grade 12 education system in Alberta. No data were available for students who attended schools on First Nations reserves or in Lloydminster.
- Participation in **post-secondary** education refers to enrolment in a post-secondary institution in Alberta. Youth enrolled in apprenticeship programs were not included.
- **Maltreatment-related interventions** occur when the safety or well-being of a youth is threatened.
- Youth with **offence charges** include those charged with criminal offences or administrative offences related to criminal offences (e.g., failure to appear in court, breach of probation, etc.). **Number of offences** in the study year was available, but individual incidents were not available. This means that youth charged with multiple offences may have had multiple charges in a single incident, or they may have been charged in multiple incidents.
- Youth with **corrections involvement** have appeared before the Court or a Justice of the Peace for an offence charge and have been remanded in custody or placed under pre-trial supervision in the community awaiting further court dates, or have been found guilty and sentenced to a community disposition (i.e. Fine, Probation, Community Service Work, Deferred Custody) and/or custody (in which the sentence is served in a young offender facility).

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Definitions and Notes (continued)

- **Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD)** is a ministry of Human Services program that provides a range of supports and services to families that strengthen their ability to support and care for their child with a disability based on their needs.
- **Income support** refers to financial benefits provided to individuals and couples who cannot meet their basic needs.

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Data sources

| Ministry | Database | Use in this report |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Enterprise and Advanced Education | Learner Enrolment Reporting System (LERS) | Post-secondary education enrolment data |
| Education | Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) | Primary and secondary education achievement data |
| Health | Inpatient – Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) | Hospitalization data |
| Health | Ambulatory Care (ACCS) | Emergency room visit data |
| Health | Practitioner Payments (SESE) | Physician visit data |
| Health | Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan Population Registry (AHCIP registry) | Population registry |
| Human Services | Child Youth Information Module (CYIM) | Maltreatment and intervention data |
| Human Services | Family Support for Children with Disabilities Information System (FSCDIS) | Family Supports for Children with Disabilities data |
| Human Services | Central Client Directory (CCD) | Income support data |
| Justice and Solicitor General | Justice Online Information Network (JOIN) | Offence data |
| Justice and Solicitor General | Alberta Community Offender Management System (ACOM) | Corrections data (community) |
| Justice and Solicitor General | Correctional Offender Management Information System (CoMIS) | Corrections data (custody) |

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Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

The Child and Youth Data Laboratory

The **Child and Youth Data Laboratory** (CYDL) links and analyzes administrative data from child- and youth-serving ministries in the Government of Alberta. The ministries participate in research design and provide data elements that contribute to answering research questions.

The CYDL's research provides groundbreaking opportunities to understand relationships between critical factors in the lives of children and youth in Alberta. The research results can be used to inform policy and program development and evaluation, both within and across ministries, and to inspire further research.

The CYDL is managed by the **Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research** (ACCFRCR). The Centre has evolved over its eight year history as a public-sector, innovative resource for evidence. The Centre develops, supports and integrates research across sectors and disciplines to provide a strong, evidence-based foundation for identifying and promoting effective public policy and service delivery to improve the well-being of children, families, and communities in Alberta, Canada, and internationally.

Our partners

This project was carried out on behalf of six ministries of the Government of Alberta. Each ministry collaborated extensively with the CYDL on this project, and their dedication to the project is gratefully acknowledged:

Enterprise and Advanced Education
Education
Health
Human Services
Aboriginal Relations
Justice and Solicitor General

Suggested citation

Child and Youth Data Laboratory (2012). *Emergency room visits by Albertan youth*. Edmonton: Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research.

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Emergency room visits by Albertan youth



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