Emergency Room Visits
Summary
2014

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Emergency Room Visits in Israel, 2014

Summary

The publication "Emergency Room Visits, 2014" covers different aspects of visits to Emergency Rooms (ER) in the 28 acute care hospitals in Israel in 2014 with comparisons to prior years. The publication presents trends in licensed beds and trends of ER visits in the last decade based on reporting by the hospitals (excluding hospitals in East Jerusalem). The publication includes data on visit and patient characteristics in all ERs.

Licensed Beds

At the end of 2014 there were 1,190 licensed ER beds; of these 1,171 were in acute care hospitals. The number of licensed beds per capita in acute care hospitals fell to 0.144 per 1,000 persons compared from 0.147 in 2010.

Licensed beds in acute care hospitals per 1,000 persons, 2005-2014
Trends in ER Visits

In 2014 there were 2.9 million visits to the ER; 2.5 million excluding maternity visits. The age adjusted rate of visits has decreased between 2005 and 2014, 349 per 1,000 persons in 2014 compared to 362 in 2005. The rate decreased by 16% for those aged 18-21 years, by 13% for babies and children under 5 years, by 9% for those aged 65-74 years compared to an increase of 2% for those aged 22-34 years. The rate of ER visits is high among babies under one year of age, among adults aged 18-34 years and among the elderly aged 65 and over. The lowest rate of visits is found among children and adolescents aged 5-17 years. The rate for non-maternity visits is higher for males than females, 32 per 100 persons compared to 28 respectively in 2014. The rate for males is higher among all ages except for those aged 22-34 years.

Rate of ER visits, 2005-2014
Age adjusted rate per 1,000 persons

Rate of non-maternity ER visits by patient age, 2005-2014
Rate per 1,000 persons
Distribution of non-maternity visits by age and gender, 2014

Rate of total visits by gender, 2010, 2014
Age adjusted rate per 1,000 persons

Percent change in the rate of total visits by age, 2014/2010
Patient Trends

In 2014, 1.7 million people visited the ER at least once. Two-thirds (67%) visited once, a quarter (26%) visited two or three times and 7% visited four or more times (70%, 24% and 5% respectively for non-maternity visits). The average number of non-maternity visits per patient in 2014 was 1.54 visits.

Percent of patients who visited the ER at least twice, 2014
Non-maternity visits

Rate of non-maternity visits by age and number of yearly visits, 2014
Rate per 1,000 persons
Repeat Visits

The rate of repeat visits to the ER has been relatively stable in recent years. In 2014, a fifth (18%) of visits were repeat visits within 30 days; the rate for illness-related visits was 20% and for injury-related visits was 11%. The rate of repeat visits is high among those aged 55 and over and increases with age. The rate is also high among babies under one year and among young adults aged 18-21 years. The lowest rate of repeat visits is among youth aged 5-14. The rate of repeat visits is higher for males than for females except among those aged 15-44 years where the rate is higher for females.
### Length of Stay

In 2014 the average duration of an ER visit was 3.61 hours and the median duration was 2.74 hours; an increase from 3.03 and 2.21 hours respectively in 2010. Visit length is longer during the morning shift than during the evening and night shifts. The median duration for hospitalized patients is higher (3.37) than for patients who were discharged (2.56). A fifth (19%) of ER visits were longer than five hours in 2014 compared to 12% in 2005. Visit length increases with age, the median duration for children aged 0-17 was 2.25 hours in 2014 compared to 3.57 hours for ages 65 and over.

#### Median visit length by discharge type, 2010, 2014

**Non-maternity visits**

![Bar chart showing median visit length by discharge type for 2010 and 2014.]

**Percent of visits longer than 5 hours by shift, 2014**

![Line chart showing the percentage of visits longer than 5 hours by shift from 2005 to 2014.]

- **Morning 7am-3pm**: 18%
- **Evening 3pm-11pm**: 20%
- **Night 11pm-7am**: 22%

- **Total**: 14%
Occupancy Rates

The occupancy rate in all ER departments was 103% in 2014 compared to 91% in 2010. The occupancy rate is highest between 1-4pm and lowest between 4-9am.

Occupancy rates by ER arrival time, 2010, 2014

Occupancy rates by month and year, 2010, 2014
Arrival Time

The number of ER visits is high between 10am-2pm and between 6-9pm, on Fridays and on Saturday evenings with the peak number of visits occurring on Sundays. The number of visits by children and young adults under 25 years is higher in the evening and of adults aged 65 and over is higher in the morning.

Visits by day of week and time of day, 2014

Absolute numbers

Percent of visits by patient age and time of day, 2014

[Diagrams showing the number of visits by day of week and time of day, and the percent of visits by patient age and time of day for 2014.]
Emergenc y Room Vis its, 2014

Referrals to the ER

Two-thirds (68%) of visits to the ER in 2014 were medical referrals, 71% of illness-related visits and 59% of injury-related visits; an increase from 62%, 66% and 52% respectively in 2005.

Percent of visits with medical referral by visit cause, 2004-2013

Visit Cause

Two-thirds of visits (65%) in 2014 were illness-related visits, a quarter (22%) injury-related visits and 13% were maternity visits. The number of illness-related visits of boys aged 14 and under is 1.3 times higher than girls, whereas the number of illness-related visits of females is higher among those aged 15-44 years and 70 years and over. The number of injury-related visits is higher for males younger than 60; among males aged 25-44 years the rate is double that of females and triple among males aged 15-24. Two-thirds (69%) of injury-related visits were injuries or other accidents, a fifth were traffic accidents, a tenth were work accidents and 3% were assaults. Two-thirds of visits due to each of assaults, work accidents, terror attacks and traffic accidents were aged 15-44. More than half of visits due to injuries and two-thirds of visits due to other accidents were boys aged 1-24.

Visits by visit cause, 2014
Hospitalization Rates

Hospitalization rates from the ER have fallen in the last decade; 30% in 2014 compared to 32% in 2005. In 2014, a third (30%) of all ER patients were hospitalized, 27% of non-maternity patients, 33% of illness-related, 11% of injury-related and 48% of maternity patients. The percent of hospitalizations among patients with a medical referral is higher than among self-referrals. The hospitalization rate is high (33%) among babies under a year old and increases further from age 55. Two-thirds (61%) of patients aged 85 and over were hospitalized, half (53%) of patients aged 75-84 and 43% of patients aged 65-74. The lowest rate is among 18-21 year olds.
Hospitalization rate, 2005-2014

Deaths

In 2014 there were 1,731 deaths registered in the ER, 0.06% of all visits, 0.08% of illness-related visits and 0.03% of injury-related visits.
Diagnoses

The top primary discharge diagnoses as measured by the ICD-9-CM code (see diagnoses list starting on page 120) were tabulated separately for each age group. The most common diagnoses recorded in the ER in 2014 were various symptom diagnoses, injuries and infections.

Leading diagnoses, 2014
Additional diagnoses charts and tables can be found as follows:

- Leading diagnoses, (all ages) – page 79
- Leading diagnoses (ages 0-4) – page 80
- Leading diagnoses (ages 0-17) – page 81
- Leading diagnoses (ages 18-21) – page 82
- Leading diagnoses (ages 22-44) – page 83
- Leading diagnoses (ages 45-64) – page 84
- Leading diagnoses (ages 65-74) – page 85
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- Visits by diagnosis and age (absolute numbers) – pages 87-90
- Visits by diagnosis and age (percent) – pages 91-94
- Hospitalization rate by diagnosis – page 96
- Repeat visits by diagnosis within 30 days – page 97
- Repeat visits by diagnosis within 24 hours – page 98
- Medical referral rate by diagnosis – page 99
- Length of stay by diagnosis – page 100
- Length of stay by diagnosis for hospitalized patients – page 101
- Selected outcome measures by diagnosis (outline below) – pages 103-113

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Number of visits</th>
<th>Hospitalization rate</th>
<th>Medical referral rate</th>
<th>Repeat visits</th>
<th>Median length of stay</th>
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(1) 30 day repeat visit rate
(2) 24 hour repeat visit rate
(3) Median length of stay – all visits
(4) Median length of stay – discharges
(5) Median length of stay - hospitalizations

Seasonality of selected diagnoses – pages 116-119