

TECHNICAL NOTES

Emergency Department Visits for Oral Health Conditions Snapshot

Updated: February 2026

Introduction

This Snapshot captures emergency department (ED) visits from the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) for those with traumatic and non-traumatic oral health conditions, reported by calendar year of admission for 29 Public Health Units (PHU), and other geographic comparators in Ontario for 2015 to 2024.

Adapted from

- APHEO Core Indicator¹

Specific Indicators

ED Visits for Oral Health Conditions

- ICD Includes ICD-10-CA codes K00–K14, S00.5, S01.4, S01.5, S02.4, S02.5, S02.6, S02.7, S02.8, S02.9, S03.0, S03.1, S03.2, S03.3, S03.4, S03.5 (All Dx)
- Ambulatory case type = EMG (emergency)

ED Visits for Non-Traumatic Oral Health Conditions

- ICD Includes ICD-10-CA codes K00–K14 (All Dx)
- Ambulatory case type = EMG (emergency)

ED Visits for Traumatic Oral Health Conditions

- Includes ICD-10-CA codes S00.5, S01.4, S01.5, S02.4, S02.5, S02.6, S02.7, S02.8, S02.9, S03.0, S03.1, S03.2, S03.3, S03.4, S03.5 (All Dx)
- Ambulatory case type = EMG (emergency)

Measures

Age-standardized Rates

- Age-standardized rate (both sexes)
- Age-standardized rate (males)
- Age-standardized rate (females)

Standardized Morbidity Ratios (SMR)

- Standardized morbidity ratio (both sexes)
- Standardized morbidity ratio (males)
- Standardized morbidity ratio (females)

Crude Rates

- Crude rate (both sexes)
- Crude rate (males)
- Crude rate (females)

Age-specific Rates

- Age-specific rate (age 0 to 5)
- Age-specific rate (age 6 to 17)
- Age-specific rate (age 18 to 24)
- Age-specific rate (age 25 to 44)
- Age-specific rate (age 45 to 64)
- Age-specific rate (age 65 to 74)
- Age-specific rate (age 75+)

Metrics

- Rates (Age-standardized, SMRs, crude, age-specific)
- 95% confidence intervals (CIs for rates calculated using a Poisson approximation of the binomial distribution, CIs for SMRs calculated using Byar's Approximation)
- Statistical significance compared to Ontario (for rates, confidence interval around the difference between the health unit rate and the Ontario rate does not include zero; for SMRs, confidence interval around SMR does not include one)
- Cases (numerator)
- Population (denominator)

Geographic Comparisons

- Ontario
- PHU Region. Table 1 shows the mapping between the PHUs and the PHU regions.

Table 1: Mapping between PHU Regions and PHUs

| Region | PHU |
|------------|--|
| North West | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northwestern Health Unit• Thunder Bay District Health Unit |
| North East | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algoma Public Health• North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit• Northeastern Public Health• Public Health Sudbury & Districts |
| South West | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chatham-Kent Public Health• Grey Bruce Public Health• Huron Perth Public Health• Lambton Public Health• Middlesex-London Health Unit• Southwestern Public Health• Windsor-Essex County Health Unit |

| Region | PHU |
|--------------|---|
| Central West | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Hamilton Public Health Services • Grand Erie Public Health • Halton Region Public Health • Niagara Region Public Health • Region of Waterloo Public Health and Paramedic Services • Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health |
| Toronto | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto Public Health |
| Central East | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Region Health Department • Lakelands Public Health • Peel Public Health • Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit • York Region Public Health |
| East | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ottawa Public Health • Eastern Ontario Health Unit • Renfrew County and District Health Unit • South East Health Unit |

Exclusion Criteria

- Excluded records without a valid age from overall age standardized rates and standardized incidence ratios. Excluded records without a valid sex from sex-specific age standardized rates, standardized incidence ratios and crude rates. Ontario rates include those with missing information for public health unit.

Other Methodological Notes

- Calculated age-standardized rates and associated variances using methodology described on the APHEO website.²

Considerations

- Submission of 2023 and 2024 data by some Ontario hospitals was incomplete at the time of data extraction.
- Please interpret 2020 through 2023 results with caution due to changes in the availability of health care and health seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Data Sources

Numerator

ED Visits

- Original source: Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)
- Distributed by: Ontario Ministry of Health; IntelliHealth Ontario
- National ambulatory care reporting system, 2015-2024 [data file]. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Institute for Health Information [producer]; Toronto, ON: Ontario. Ministry of Health, IntelliHealth Ontario [distributor]; [data extracted 2025 Nov 25].

Denominator

Population Estimates (2015–2024)

- Original source: Statistics Canada
- Distributed by: Statistics Canada
- Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0157-01: estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1st, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions (2023 boundaries) and peer groups [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada; 2025 Feb 19 [extracted 2025 Feb 21]. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710015701-eng>

How to Cite This Snapshot

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References

1. Association for Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO). Core indicators table [Internet]. Toronto, ON: APHEO; c2023 [cited 2023 Jan 25]. Available from: <https://www.apheo.ca/temporary-core-indicators-table>
2. Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO). Standardization of rates [Internet]. Toronto, ON: APHEO; c2024 [cited 2024 Feb 15]. Available from: <https://www.apheo.ca/standardization-of-rates>

Citation

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