

Emergency Department Use for Mental Health Reasons

Colorado All Payer Claims Database Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, 2016-2018

Coloradans living with mental illness don't always have access to comprehensive services or seek timely care to support their needs. Many efforts are underway in Colorado to improve diagnosis and treatment of mental health conditions, reduce stigma related to seeking care, and expand coverage and access to services for those living with mental illness. Despite these efforts, across the state, the Emergency Departments (ED) remain a source of support for many suffering from potentially preventable mental health crises. This data from the Colorado All Payer Claims Database (CO APCD) provides a snapshot of utilization, cost and trends for visits to the ED with mental health as a primary diagnosis.

Overall

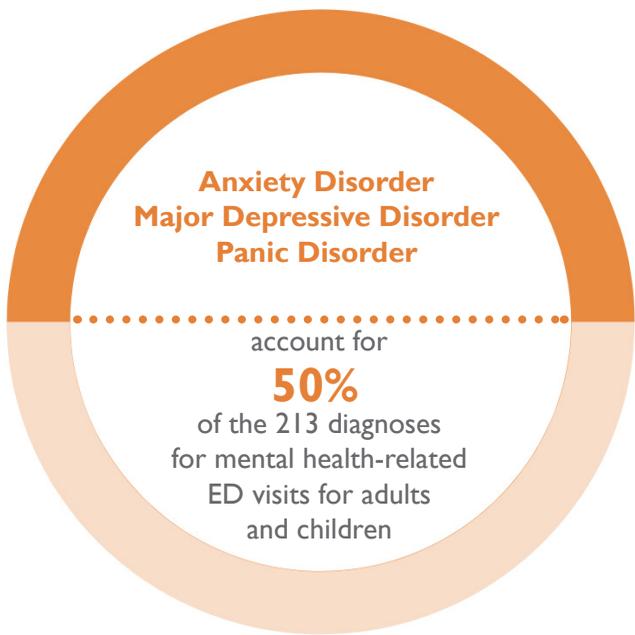
 **1.5%** of all ED visits had a mental health primary diagnosis*

17,000 ED visits in 2018 were mental health-related*

 **7%** of all mental health-related ED visits resulted in a hospital admission*

*This analysis calculates volume of claims related to a primary diagnosis of mental health and may be lower than expected when looking at other data sources that include secondary diagnoses of mental health conditions.

 **\$25.8M** in health care payments were made for mental health-related ED visits in 2018



1 in 4 mental health-related ED visits were children under the age of 18...

...most frequently for:

Major Depressive Disorder

Children

Geography & Payer Type



Across Colorado, ED utilization rates vary up to **three times** between the Division of Insurance (DOI) regions with the lowest and highest rates

From 2016-2018, across all age groups combined, ED utilization rates for...

-  Medicare Advantage **increased**
-  Commercial stayed the same
-  Medicaid **decreased**

Access to the underlying dataset with information by payer, age group, DOI region and more is available at www.civhc.org.



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This analysis is based on claims data submitted by health insurance payers to the Colorado All Payer Claims Database (CO APCD) for care provided from 2016-2018 and paid for through Medicaid, Medicare Advantage and commercial payers in the state. The data does not include Medicare Fee-for-Service claims or ED visits provided through charity care. Volumes represent ED visits (free-standing or hospital-based) where the primary diagnosis was related to mental health as defined by the following ICD-10 codes, and includes ED visits that resulted in an inpatient hospital admission. Please note, these codes do not include diagnoses related to substance use disorder: F03; F20-F29; F30-F39, with exception of F32 and F33; F40-F48, with exception of F41 and F43; F41; F43; F50-F59; F60-F69; F80-F89; F90-F98. Costs include all services provided during the visit and may not be exclusive to the mental health concern identified as primary diagnosis. For detailed methodology, please download the Excel dataset.