Emergency Department Use for Mental Health Reasons

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

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

Anxiety Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, Panic Disorder account for 50% of the 213 diagnoses for mental health-related ED visits for adults and children

$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

Overall

Children

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.

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, F10-F29; F30-F39, with exception of F32 and F33; F40-F48, with exception of F41 and F42; F43; F45-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.