

Emergency Department Wait Times

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Overview

- CIHI: Taking health information further
- ED utilization in Canada
- ED visits and wait times
- Waiting in the ED for an inpatient bed
- Summary of findings



Taking Health Information Further

*CIHI works to improve the health of
Canadians and the health care system by
providing quality health information.*

Who we are

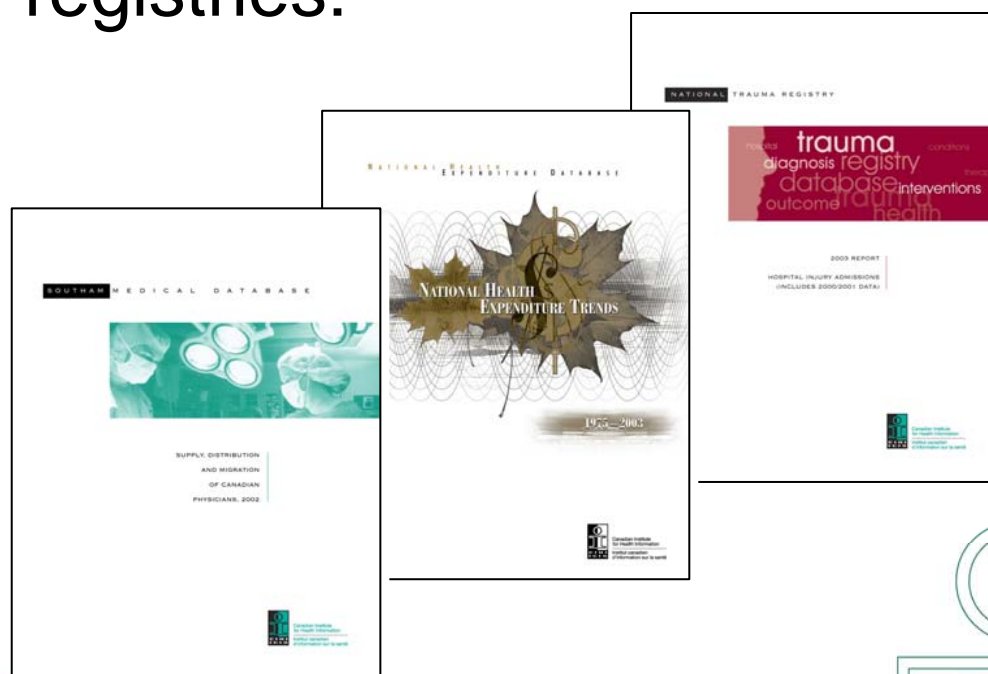
- A national, independent, non-profit agency
- Mandate:
 - national coordination mechanism for health information in Canada
 - provide accurate and timely information for:
 - sound health policy
 - effective management of the health system
 - public awareness of health determinants



What we do

Data Holdings

- Collect, process and maintain data for a growing number of national and provincial health databases and registries:
 - Health Services
 - Health Professionals
 - Health Expenditures



What we do

Data Standards

- Coordinate/promote development and maintenance of health information standards, including:
 - Financial and Managerial Standards
 - Minimum Data Sets
 - Grouping Methodologies
 - Disease/Intervention Classifications
 - ICD-10-CA/CCI
 - International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health



What we do

Analytic Products

- Produce a variety of reports, special studies and analytic products to address questions of interest to stakeholders
 - Health Care in Canada
 - Health Indicators
 - Medical Imaging
 - Health Expenditures (NHEX)
 - Many others ...



ED Wait Times

Are they important?

EDs in the News and Policy

Emergency room waits to shorten, government pledges

Out of the ER: Finding the 'right' setting for elderly patients

JUDITH MAXWELL - Emergency departments are health care's "canary in the coal mine."

ER backlog means ambulance delays: CTV report

ALYSSA SCHWARTZ

CTV News Staff, Oct. 18, 2002



ED Utilization in Canada

- Over 14 million ED visits each year in Canada
- Over 4.5 million ED visits in Ontario each year
- Approximately 11% of ED visits require hospitalization
- Over 1 million patients admitted to hospital through EDs each year (60% of admitted patients, excluding births and newborns))

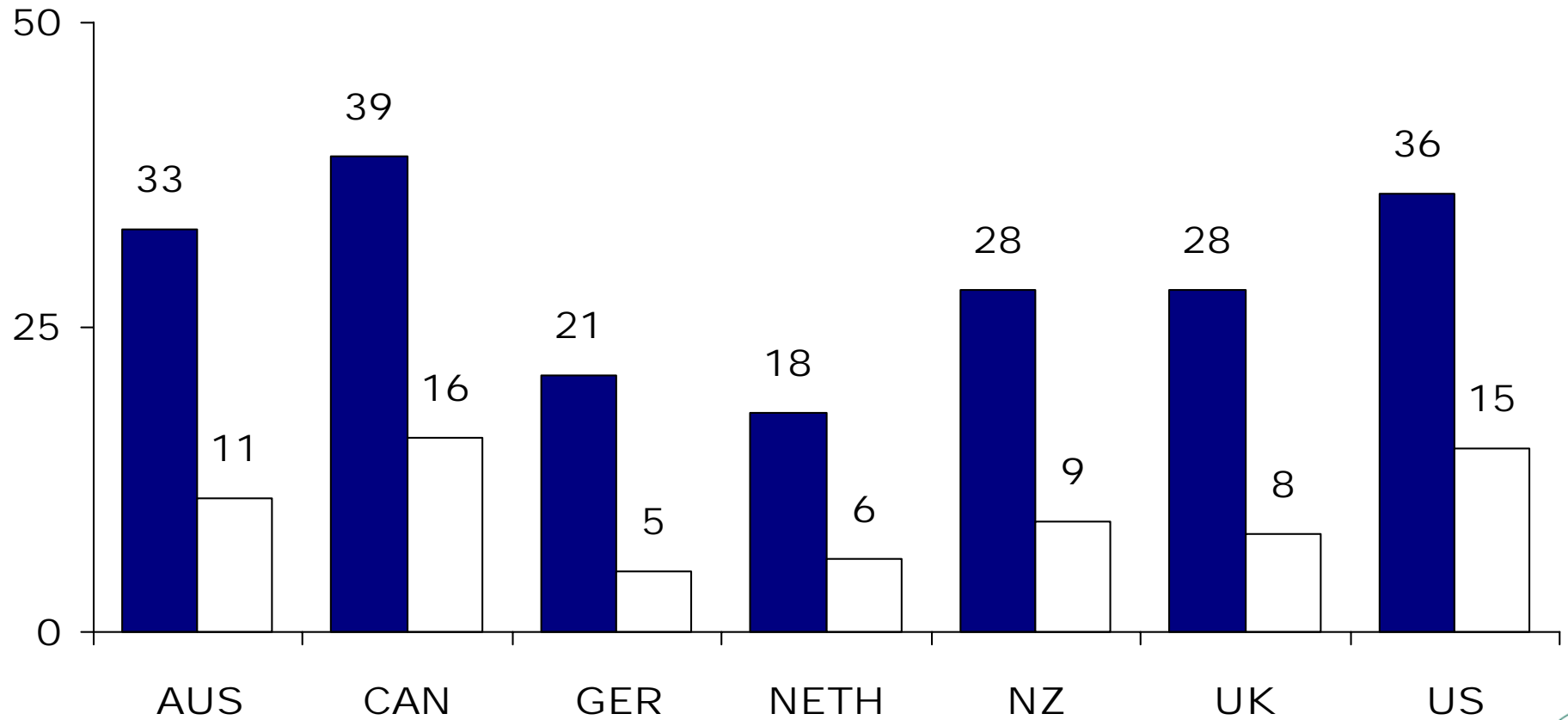


ED Use in the Past Two Years

Percent

■ Any visits

□ Visited ER for condition doctor could have treated if available



Source: 2007 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey.
Data collection: Harris Interactive, Inc.

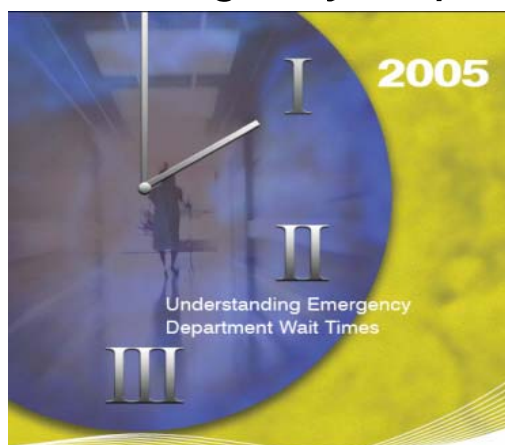


CIHI's ED Report Series

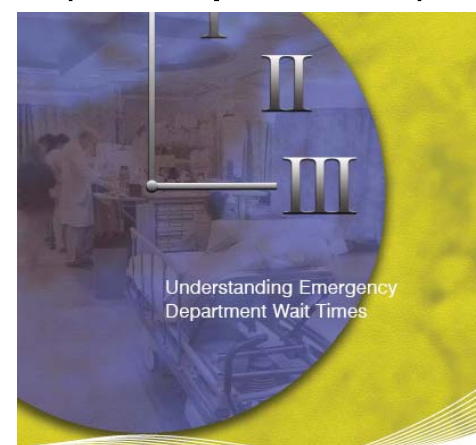
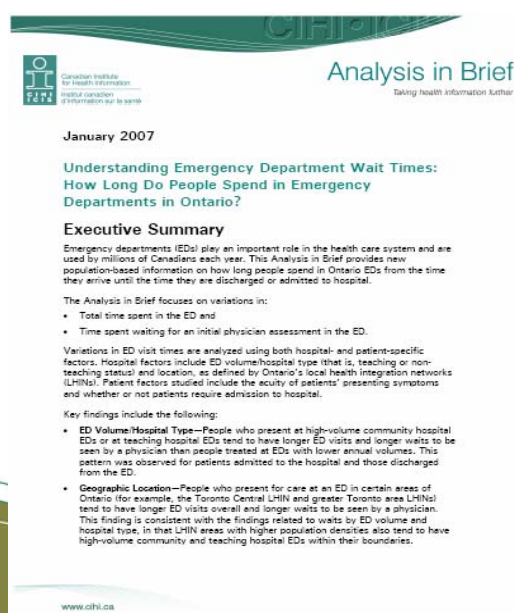
Overview and Highlights

Understanding Emergency Department Wait Times - 3 Report Series

- *Who Is Using Emergency Departments and How Long Are They Waiting? (Released 2005)*
- *How Long Do People Spend in Emergency Departments in Ontario? (Released 2007)*
- *Access to Inpatients Beds and Patient Flow (Released 2007)*
- *Emergency Departments and Children in Ontario (late April 2008)*



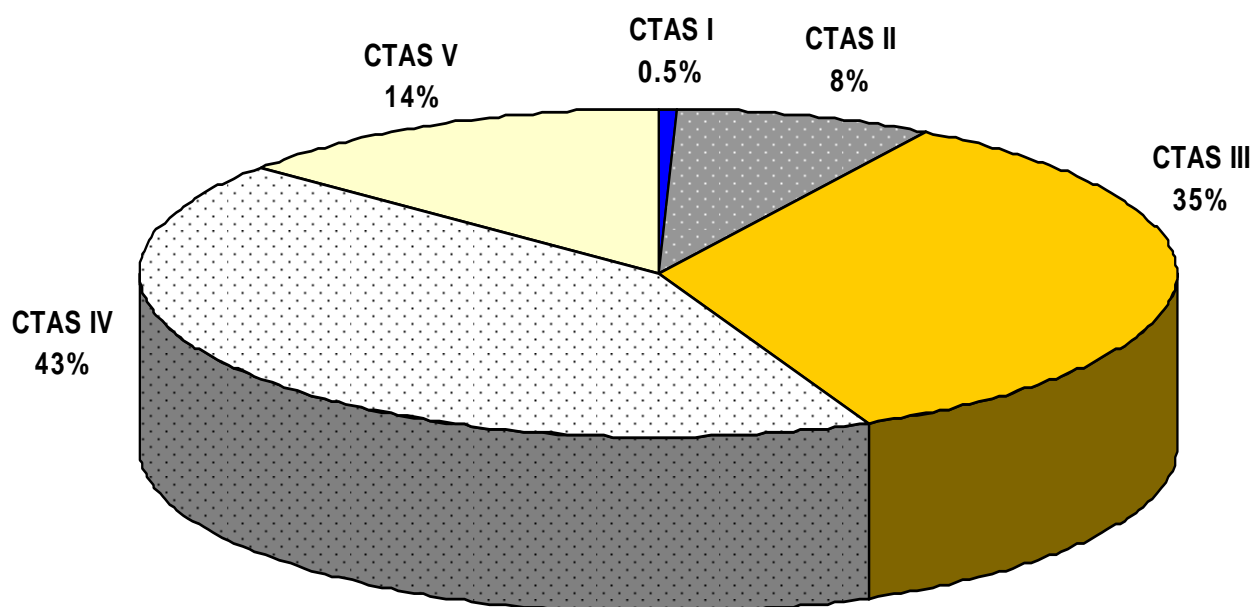
Who Is Using Emergency Departments and How Long Are They Waiting?



Access to Inpatient Beds and Patient Flow



Who is coming to the ED?



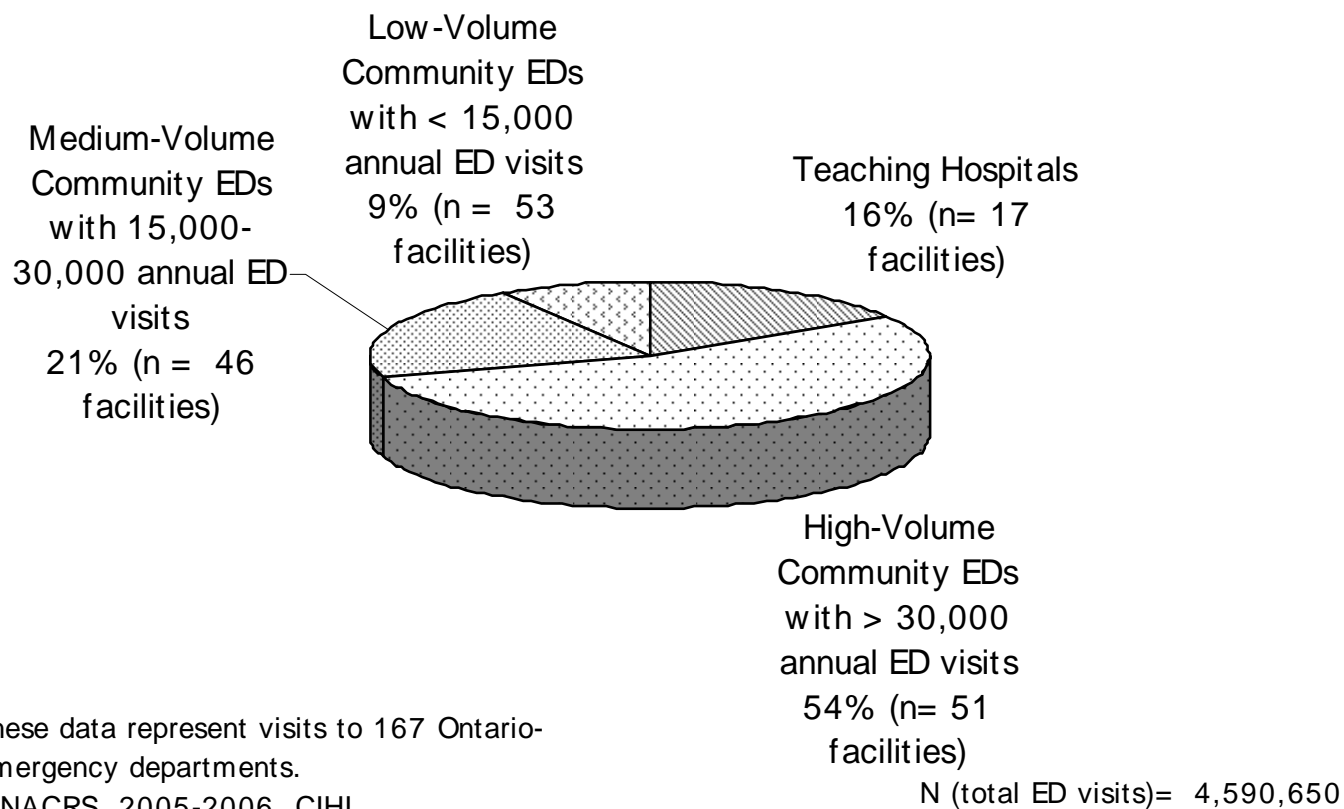
CTAS I – resuscitation CTAS V – non-urgent care

CTAS II – emergent care CTAS IV – less-urgent care

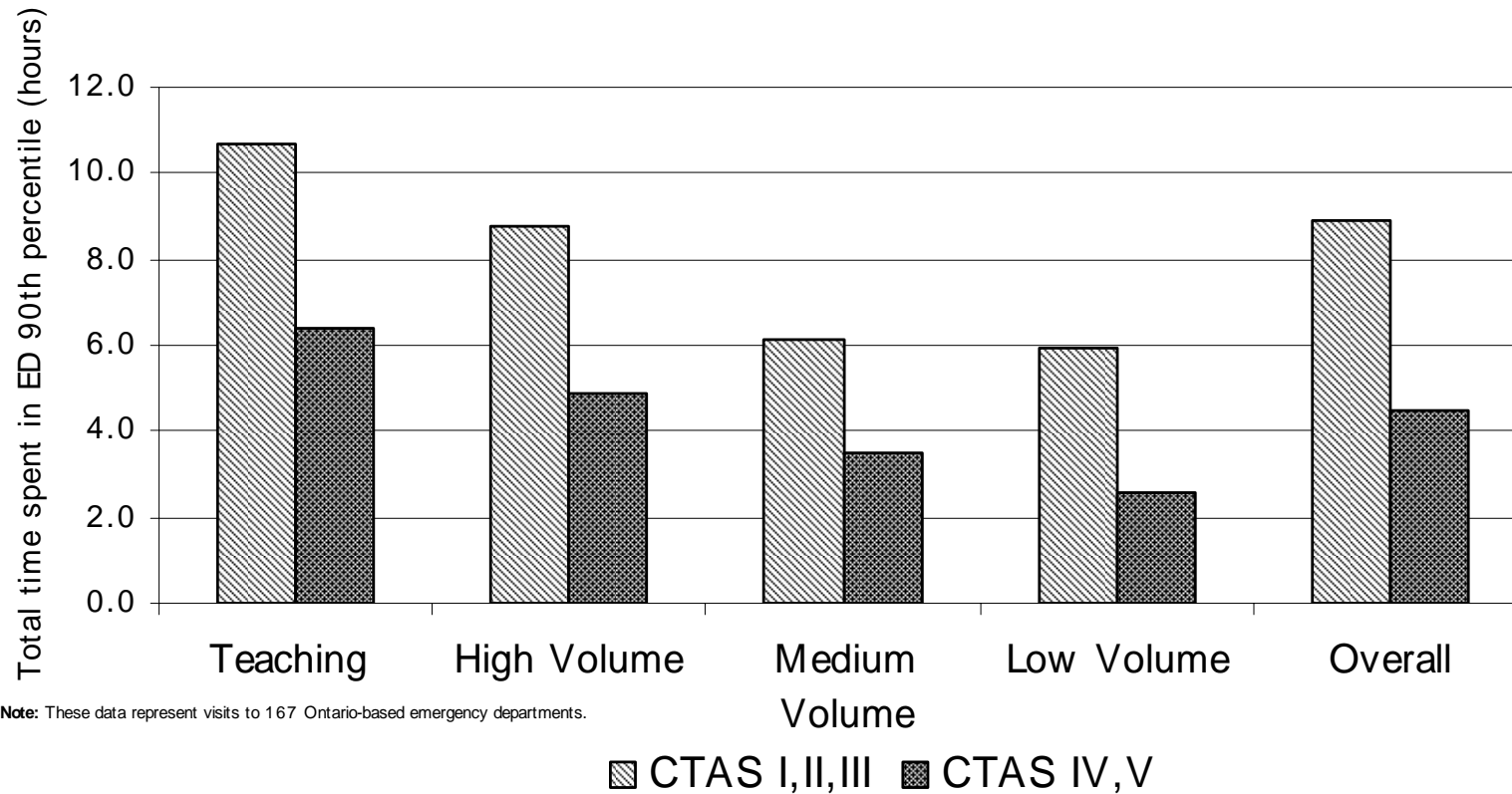
CTAS III – urgent care



Distribution of ED Visits by ED Volume/Hospital Type, Ontario, 2005–2006



ED visit times by CTAS score



Source: NACRS, 2005-2006, CIHI

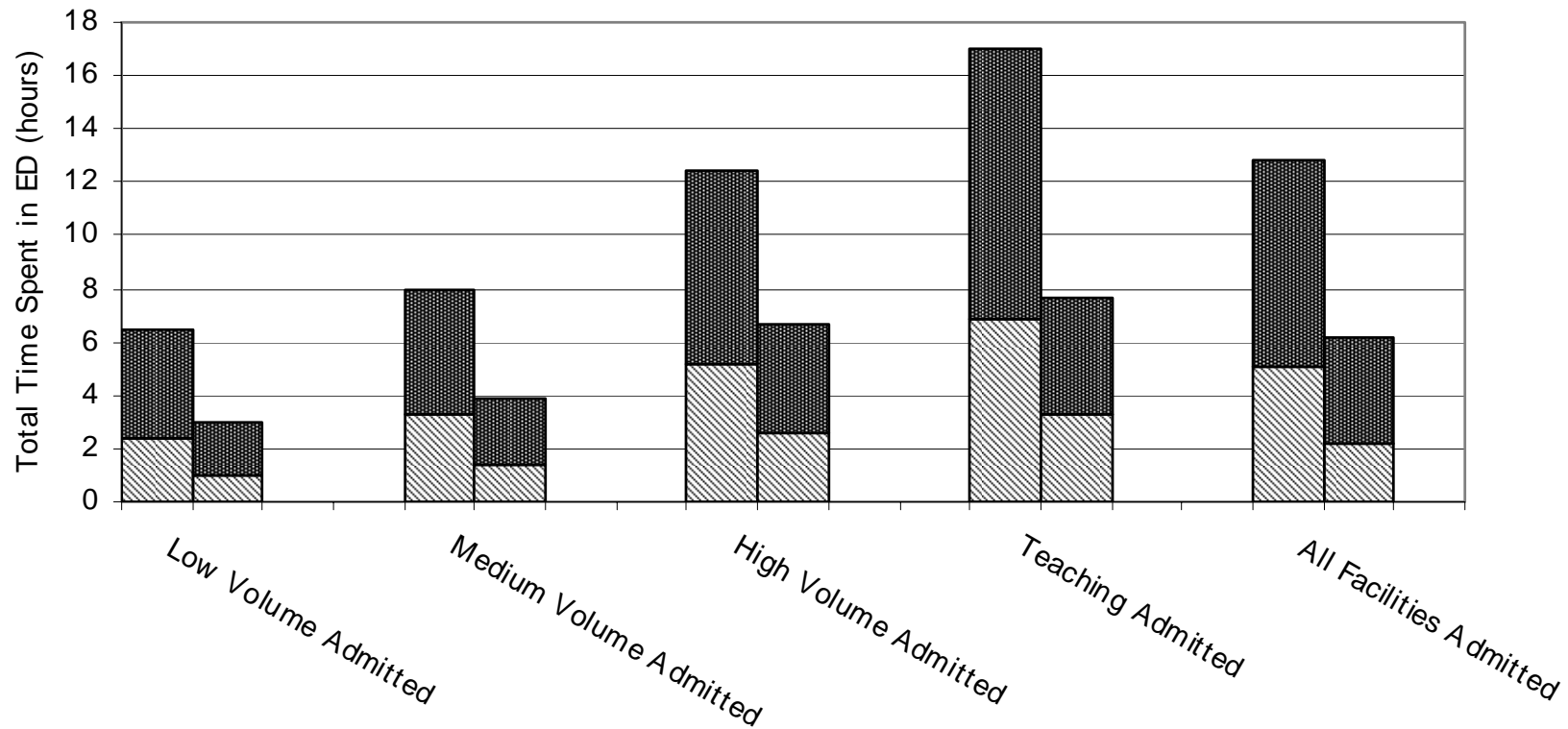


The most urgent cases are treated first

CTAS	Time to initial physician assessment (minutes)	
	Median	90 th pecentile
I	5	45
II	36	129
III	60	186
IV	54	163
V	40	135



ED visit times for admitted and non-admitted ED patients



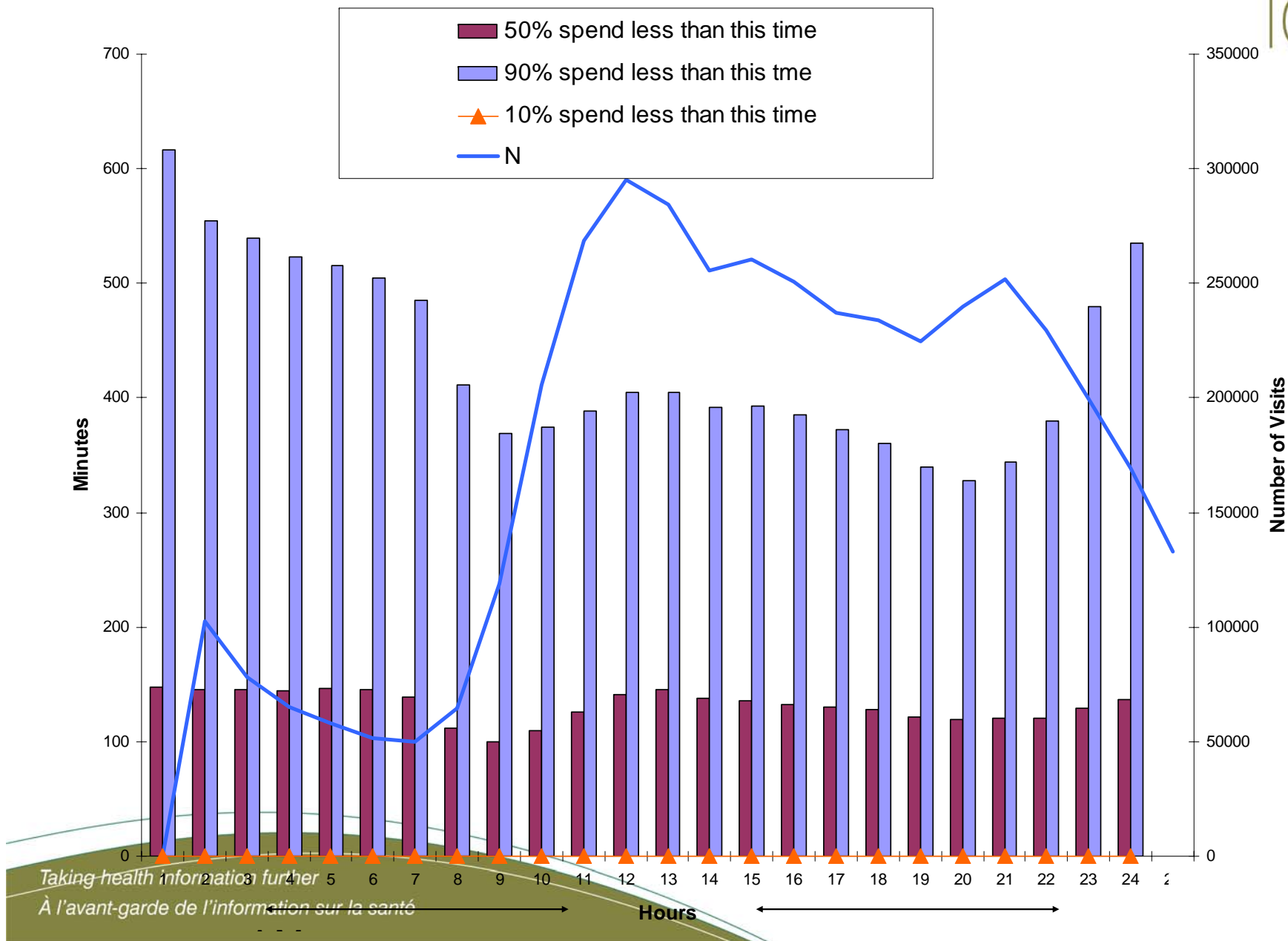
Note: These data represent visits to 167 Ontario-based emergency departments.

Source: NACRS, 2005-2006, CIHI

▨ Median ■ 90th Percentile



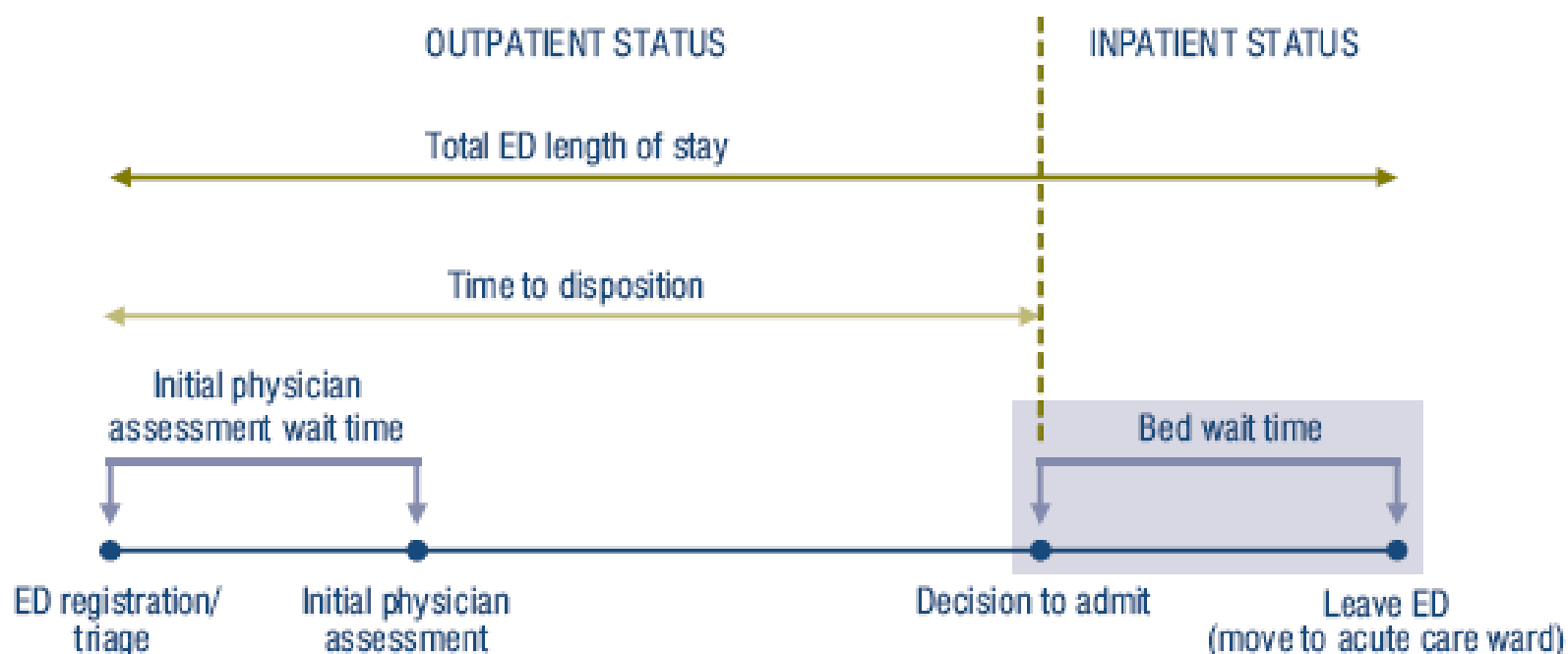
ED Visit Length by Time of Day



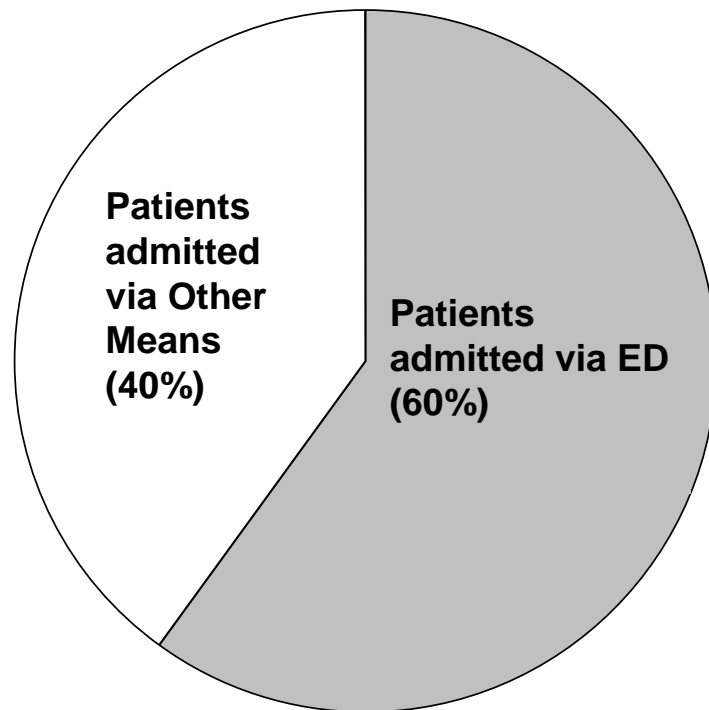
Waiting in the ED for an inpatient bed

5 Waiting Times in the Emergency Department

In this report, the bed wait time is calculated as the time a patient spends waiting in the ED from the physician's decision to admit them to an inpatient bed to the time that the patient leaves the ED. More details about the bed wait time calculation can be found in the Technical Notes in Appendix A.



Acute care hospitalizations in Canada (excluding Quebec) by Mode of Admission, 2005-2006



The majority (60%) of patients admitted to hospital in 2005-2006, were admitted via the ED. These patients accounted for 65%, or 9,216,220 inpatient days in Canada (excluding Quebec).



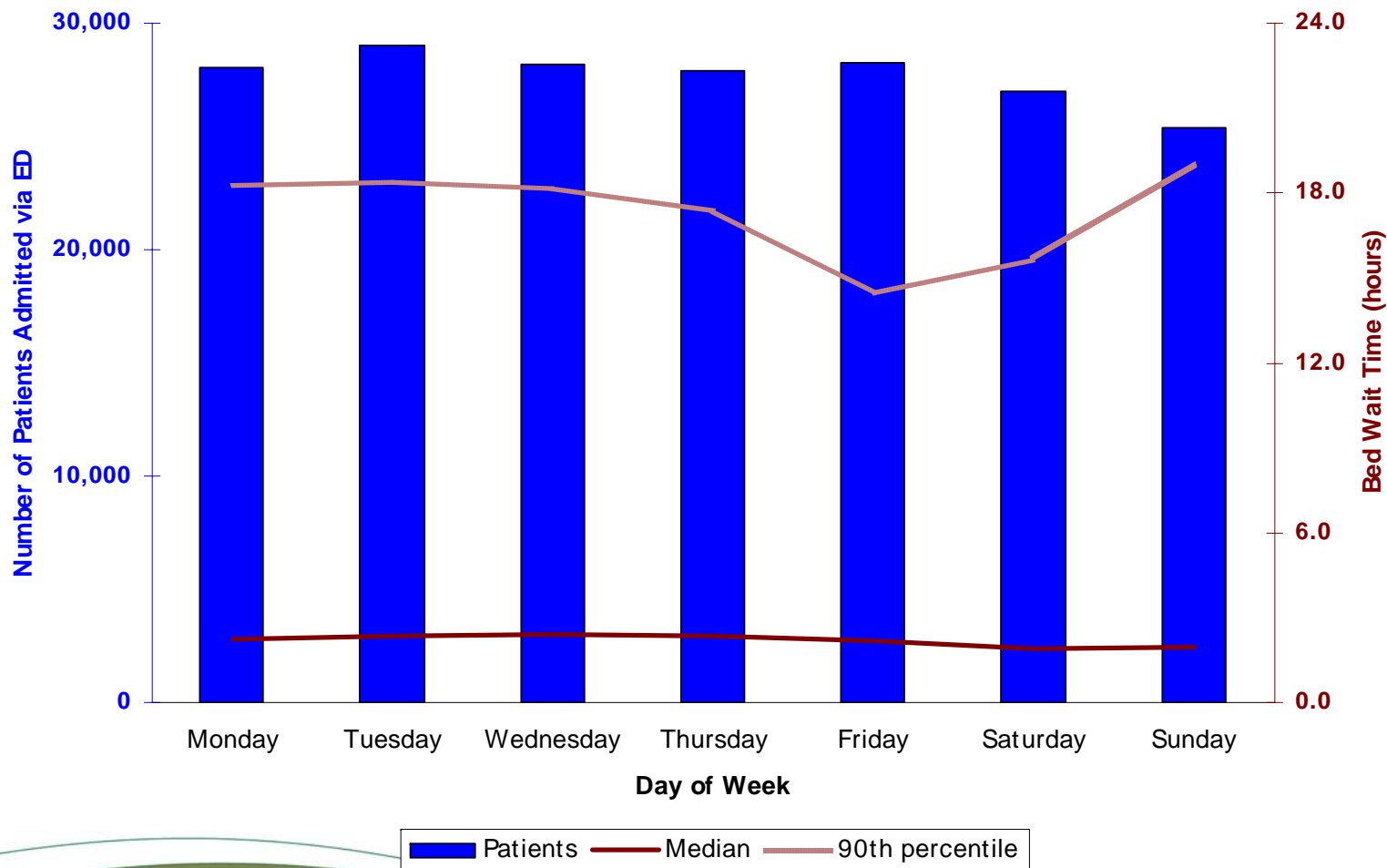
Distribution of Bed Wait Times in EDs by Hospital Type, 2005

	Hospital Type		
	Large Community	Teaching	Overall
Number of Hospitals	34	24	58
Number of Patients (%)	248,594 (56)	193,816 (44)	442, 410 (100)
Bed Wait Time in the ED (hours)			
10 th percentile	0.1	0.3	0.2
25 th percentile	0.8	1.0	0.9
Median	2.1	2.3	2.2
75 th percentile	5.7	6.3	6.0
90 th percentile	17.7	17.3	17.5
Patients in Bed Wait Time Intervals (percent)			
0 to 2 hours	49	45	47
over 2 to 6 hours	27	29	28
over 6-12 hours	9	10	9
over 12-24 hours	10	10	10
over 24 hours	5	5	5



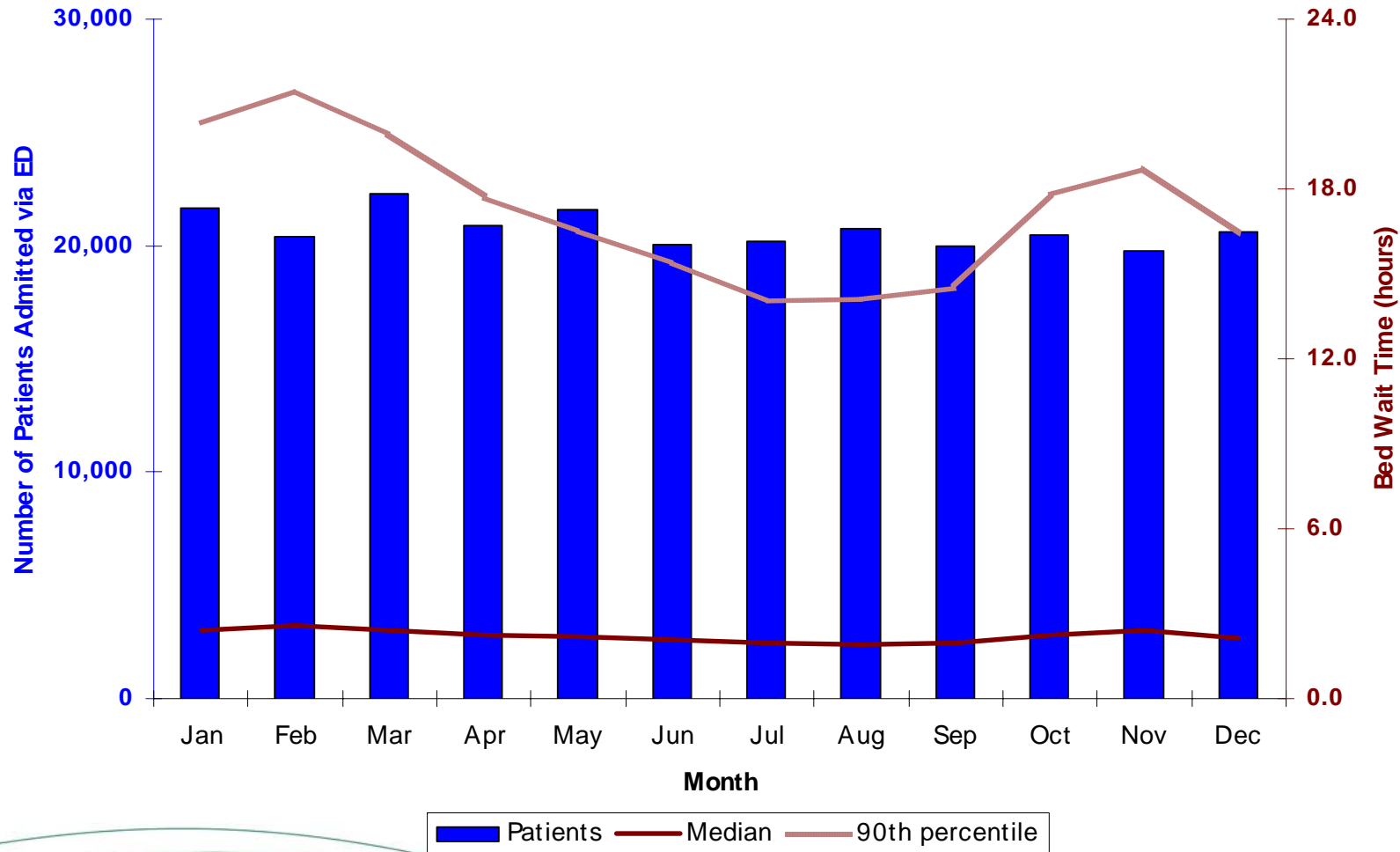
Number of Patients, Median and 90th Percentile Bed Wait Time in the ED in Large Community and Teaching Hospitals, by Day of Week, 2005

Large Community and Teaching Hospitals (n= 58)

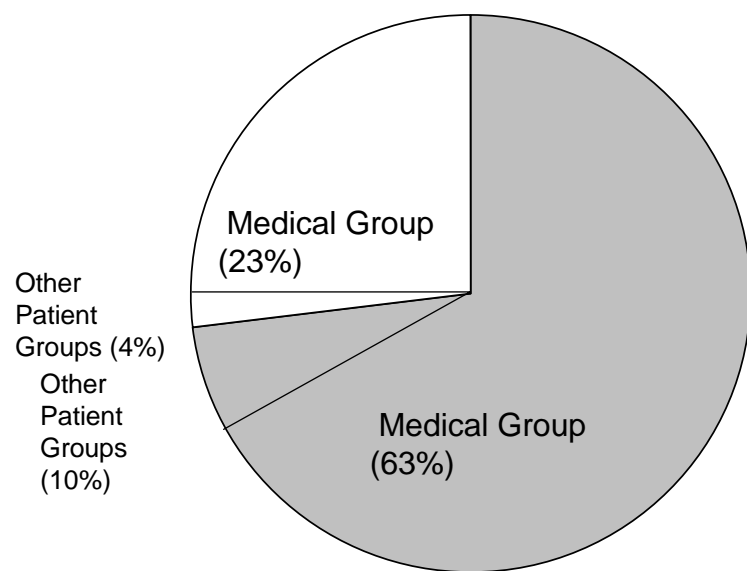


Number of Patients, Median and 90th Percentile Bed Wait Time in the ED in Large Community and Teaching Hospitals, by Month, 2005

Large Community and Teaching Hospitals (n= 58)



Proportion of Alternate Level of Care Beds in Canada (excluding Quebec) by Mode of Admission, 2005-2006



The majority of alternate level of care patients (73%) were originally admitted to hospital via ED. Most of these patients are in the medical patient group. ALC patients admitted via the ED accounted for 1,001,903 of ALC bed days in Canada (excluding Quebec) in 2005-2006.

- Admitted via ED (73%)
- Admitted via Other Means (27%)



Summary of Findings

- **The most urgent cases tend to be treated fastest**
- **Higher volume EDs tend to have longer ED visits**
 - Large and teaching hospitals : ~ 70% of ED visits
- **High volume times during the day are associated with shorter ED visits**
 - Many factors contribute to ED visit times
 - Volume, capacity and operations management
- **Approximately 11% of ED visits require admission to hospital**
 - 60% of patients admitted through the ED
 - These patients account for a large proportion of ALC patients



The Road Ahead . . .

CIHI
ICIS



Taking health information further
À l'avant-garde de l'information sur la santé



To learn more,
visit the CIHI website:

www.cihi.ca

