



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Mental Health Emergency Department Visit Rates in Durham Region

(2015–2024)



KEY STATISTICS

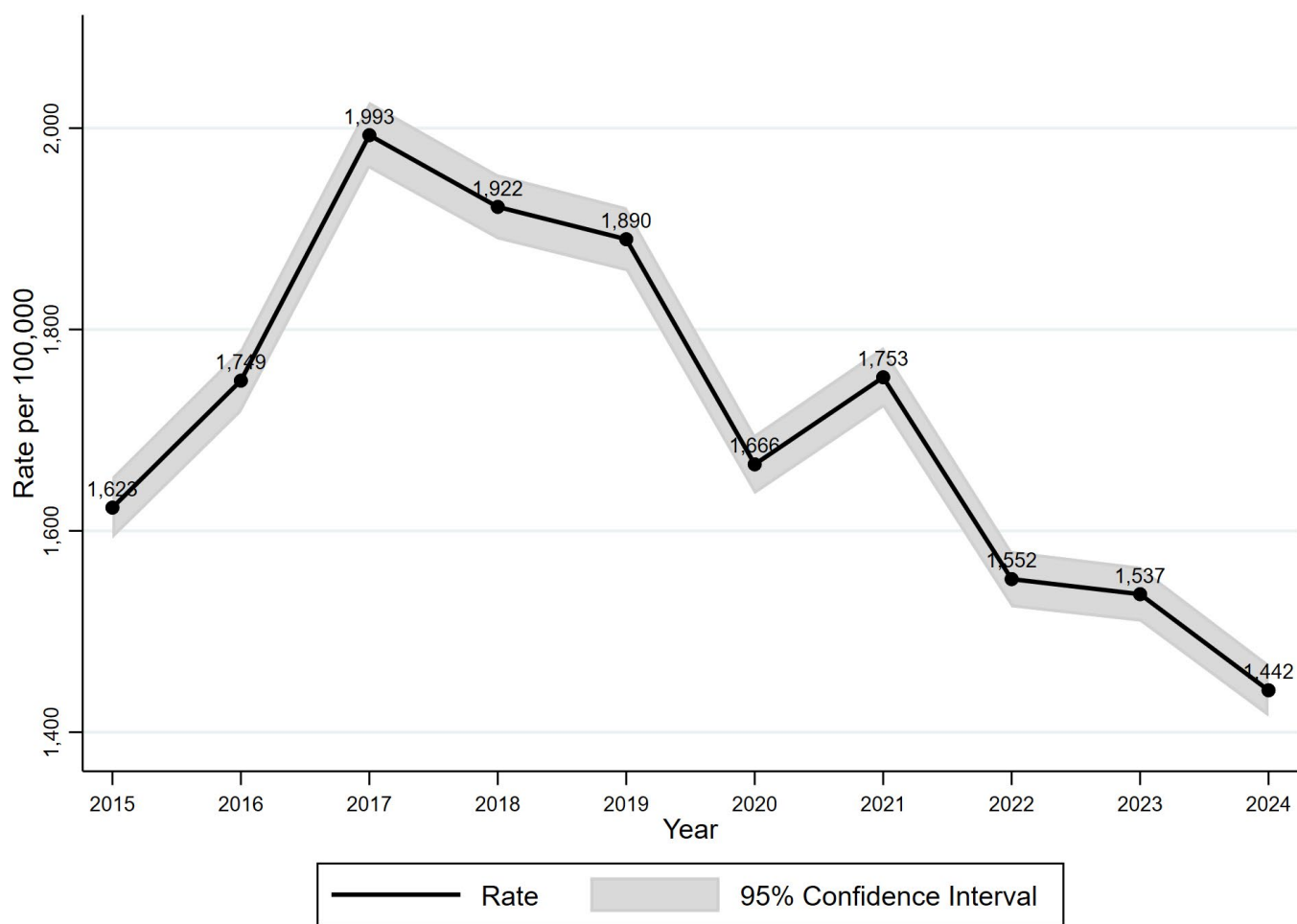
- Mental health-related emergency department visit rates were the highest in 2017 at **1,993** visits per 100,000 people.
- Rates declined to **1,442** per 100,000 people in 2024, the lowest rate observed during the period.
- Following a decline in 2020, rates increased in 2021 before decreasing steadily from 2022 to 2024.
- Between 2017 and 2024, the age-standardized rate decreased by approximately **28%**.



Mental Health Emergency Department Visits

Age-standardized mental health-related ED visit rates increased from 1,623 per 100,000 people in 2015 to a peak of 1,993 per 100,000 people in 2017. Rates remained relatively high through 2019 before declining in 2020. Following a temporary increase in 2021, rates decreased consistently through 2024, reaching 1,442 per 100,000 people. Data from 2020 and 2021 should be interpreted with caution due to changes in the availability of health care and health seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Age-standardized rate of mental health-related emergency department visits, Durham Region, 2015–2024.



Note: Y-axis does not start at zero to better highlight trends in the data

DATA NOTES

Data Source

Emergency department visit data were obtained from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) for Durham Region from 2015 to 2024. ED visit data are collected by CIHI on a fiscal year basis.

Indicator Definitions

Mental health-related emergency department visits were identified using International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Canada (ICD-10-CA) diagnostic codes for mental and behavioural disorders. The primary diagnosis represents the patient's main problem (MP). MP codes of F00-F99 were used to identify mental health related ED visits. Results are reported as counts and rates of ED visits.

Data Processing and Analysis

Population estimates were used to calculate annual rates. Age-standardized rates were calculated using the 2021 Canadian standard population to allow comparisons over time while minimizing the influence of changes in population age structure.

Interpretation Considerations

Rates are expressed per 100,000 people. Age-standardized ED visit rates represent the number of ED visits per 100,000 that would occur if the population had the same age distribution as the 2021 Canadian population. Data represent emergency department visits only and do not capture injuries treated in other healthcare settings or injuries for which care was not sought.



Durham Health Connection Line 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729
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