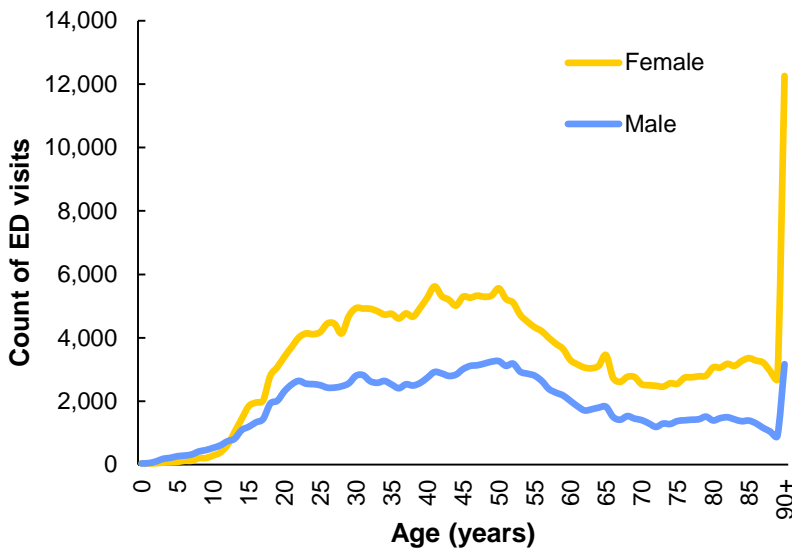


NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS WITH A DIAGNOSIS CODE FOR A MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER (MHD), 2012

The North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection tool (NC DETECT) provides public health officials and hospital users with the capacity for statewide early event detection and timely public health surveillance. Through NC DETECT, users can access near real-time data from North Carolina acute care emergency departments (EDs), the Carolinas Poison Center (CPC), and the Pre-Hospital Medical Information System (PreMIS). NC DETECT is funded by the NC Division of Public Health (NC DPH). This document summarizes 2012 ED visits with an *ICD-9-CM* diagnosis code for a mental health disorder (MHD) in any one of eleven positions. This definition captures ED visits in which the MHD was the primary reason for the visit and visits in which the MHD was an underlying condition. This definition does not include diagnosis codes for substance or alcohol abuse. *†

NC ED visits with a diagnosis of a MHD, 2012



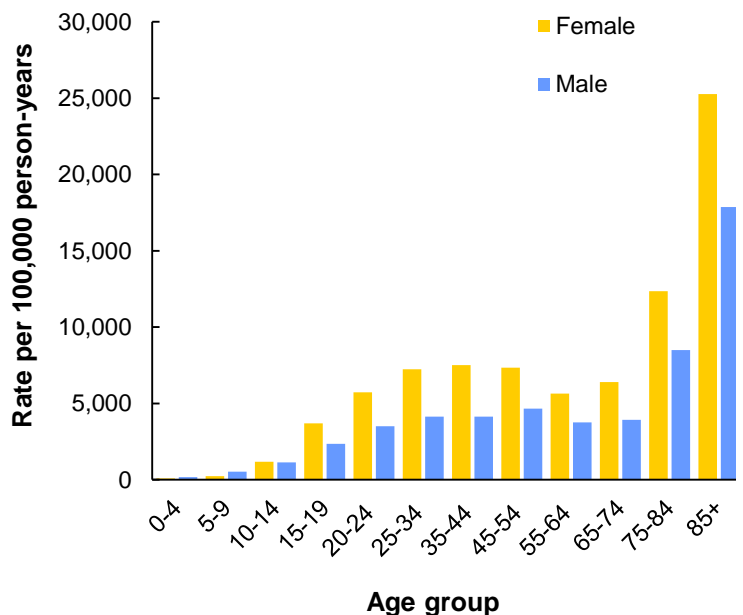
- In 2012, there were 472,426 ED visits with a diagnosis code for a mental health disorder (MHD). The number of ED visits with a diagnosis of a MHD accounted for nearly 10% of the 4.8 million total ED visits for the year.
- The rate of ED visits with a diagnosis of a MHD was 4,846 ED visits per 100,000 person-years for 2012.
- The 2012 rate was higher than the 2011 and 2010 rates (4,507 and 4,281 visits per 100,000 person-years, respectively).
- There were far more ED visits with a diagnosis of a MHD among women (303,572 visits) than among men (168,814 visits).

Rates of NC ED visits with a diagnosis of a MHD, 2012

- Overall, rates of ED visits with a diagnosis of a MHD were nearly doubled among women (6,073 visits per 100,000 person-years) compared to men (3,554 visits per 100,000 person-years).
- Rates of ED visits with a diagnosis of a MHD peaked at 85+ years of age for both women (25,267 visits per 100,000 person-years) and men (17,872 visits per 100,000 person-years).

*For questions about the methods used to generate this fact sheet, please email ncdetect@listserv.med.unc.edu.

†The definitions used to identify and classify MHDs are described in the following CDC *MMWR* article "Emergency department visits by patients with mental health disorders – NC, 2008-2010" reported by AM Hakenewerth, et al. This article is available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6223a4.htm.



Missing: 68 ED visits missing sex and/or age

NC ED visits with a diagnosis for a MHD, categorized by type of MHD, 2012

Type of MHD	Number of visits	Percent of total MHD visits [§]	Percent of visits admitted to hospital
Stress/anxiety/depression	306,129	64.8%	24.0%
Bipolar disorder	90,370	19.1%	30.1%
Dementia	58,474	12.4%	46.7%
Schizophrenia/psychosis	53,138	11.2%	31.8%
Suicidal/homicidal ideation	34,327	7.3%	36.5%
Personality disorder	9,206	1.9%	51.7%
Psychiatric examination	5,150	1.1%	5.8%
Developmental disorders originating in childhood	4,265	0.9%	12.2%
Mental disorders stemming from brain damage	2,899	0.6%	13.5%
Eating disorders	797	0.2%	43.0%
Miscellaneous/other disorder [‡]	6,655	1.4%	20.6%
Total	472,426	--	--

Missing: 21,482 ED visits missing disposition

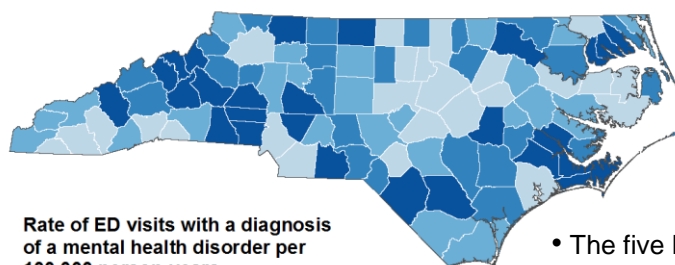
[§]Percentages sum to more than 100% because ED visits may have more than one MHD diagnosis code; 17.2% of visits contained more than one MHD category.

[‡]Includes sexual and gender-identity disorders, personal history of other or unspecified mental disorder, personal history of psychiatric trauma, and special symptoms or syndromes not elsewhere classified.

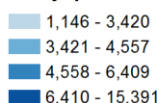
- In 2012, 27.6% of ED visits with a diagnosis of a MHD resulted in hospital admission compared to 12.8% of all NC DETECT ED visits.

- When MHD ED visits were categorized based on their *ICD-9-CM* diagnosis codes, the most common MHD category was stress/anxiety/depressive disorders. The highest admission proportion was for ED visits by patients with personality disorders (51.7%).

Population-based rates of ED visits with a diagnosis of a MHD by NC county, 2012



Rate of ED visits with a diagnosis of a mental health disorder per 100,000 person-years, categorized by quartile



- The five NC counties with the highest rates of ED visits for visits with a diagnosis of a MHD (visits per 100,000 person-years in parentheses) were Cleveland (15,391), McDowell (11,117), Burke (10,581), Lincoln (10,183), and Avery counties (9,942).

For more information in regards to MHDs, please visit the website of the NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas/).



Source: Carolina Center for Health Informatics / <https://cchi.web.unc.edu> / Department of Emergency Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2014.
 NC Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425
 NC Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT) / www.ncdetect.org / 919-843-2361
 State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov
 NC DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.