

# Access to Psychiatric Inpatient Care: Prolonged Waiting Periods in Medical Emergency Departments



Data Report for 2012-2014



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## DATA REPORT FOR 2012-2014

### Introduction

Declines in mental health resources have contributed to increasing numbers of patients with mental health diagnoses presenting in the local emergency departments looking for treatment. Inadequate outpatient psychiatric services and limited numbers of patient beds in psychiatric facilities can lead to longer than typical waiting times in Emergency Departments (ED), which then reduces the bed capacity for other emergencies. Lingering psychiatric patients can disrupt the flow of patients in the emergency department, taking up space and distracting doctors with the demands of finding inpatient beds.<sup>i</sup> In addition to occupying needed emergency room beds, prolonged ED stays are associated with increased risk of symptom exacerbation or elopement for patients with mental health and/or substance abuse issues.<sup>ii</sup> Several studies have also shown ED overcrowding, which leads to increased patient mortality.<sup>iii-iv</sup>

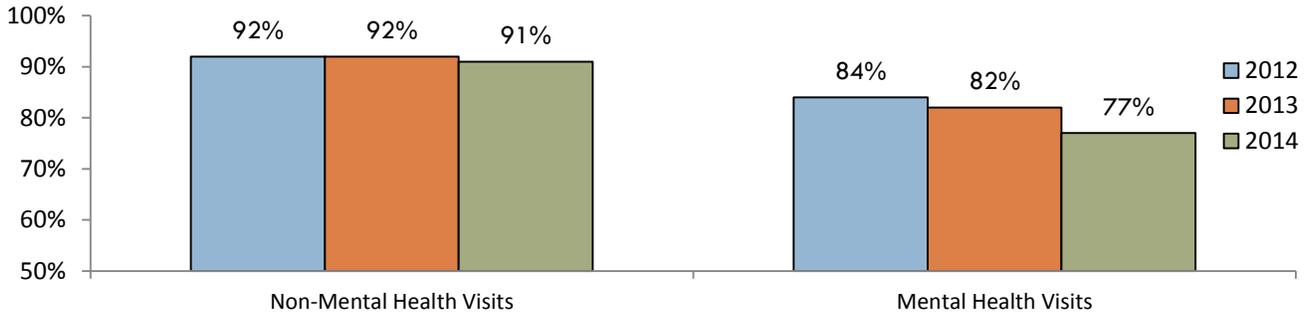
### Purpose

The purpose of this report was to analyze ED waiting times in records with a mental health code in the principal diagnosis field from the Arizona Hospital Discharge Database and to identify trends from 2012 to 2014.

### Summary of Findings

Between 2012 and 2014, approximately 3.5 percent of all the ED records from the Arizona Hospital Discharge Database show that visits were due to mental health conditions. The total percentage of ED visits remained stable from year to year but the percentage of patients discharged or transferred within 24 hours decreased from 95 percent in 2012 to 91 percent in 2014. In addition to more patients waiting longer than 24 hours, their average waiting times increased from 45 hours in 2012 to 57 hours in 2014. Ninety-two percent of all non-mental health related ED visits were discharged or transferred within 12 hours, whereas less than 81 percent of patients with a mental health diagnosis were discharged or transferred within the same period. The percentage of mental health patients waiting longer than 156 hours or 6.5 days increased almost 450 percent from 2012 to 2014, whereas non-mental health patients only increased by 50 percent. These numbers indicate that more mental health patients are waiting longer in Arizona EDs before being discharged or transferred to the appropriate psychiatric facility. Figure 1 compares the percentage of non-mental health visits discharged within 12 hours to the percentage of mental health-related visits discharged within 12 hours.

**Figure 1. Percentage of Total ED Visits Discharged or Transferred within 12 hours by Year, Arizona**



Overall between 2012 and 2014, seven percent of all mental health patients in the ED waited longer than 24 hours before being discharged or transferred to the appropriate facility. Figure 2 illustrates the number of patients with mental health diagnoses and the amount of time spent in the ED broken up into 12 hour segments starting at 24 hours. The number of records increased by 92 percent from 2012 to 2014, from 3,666 to 7,024 visits, indicating that more patients waited longer than 24 hours in ED’s before being transferred to appropriate facilities or discharged home.

**Figure 2. Number of ED Visits by Hours Spent in the ED Before Discharge or Transfer, Arizona 2012-2014**

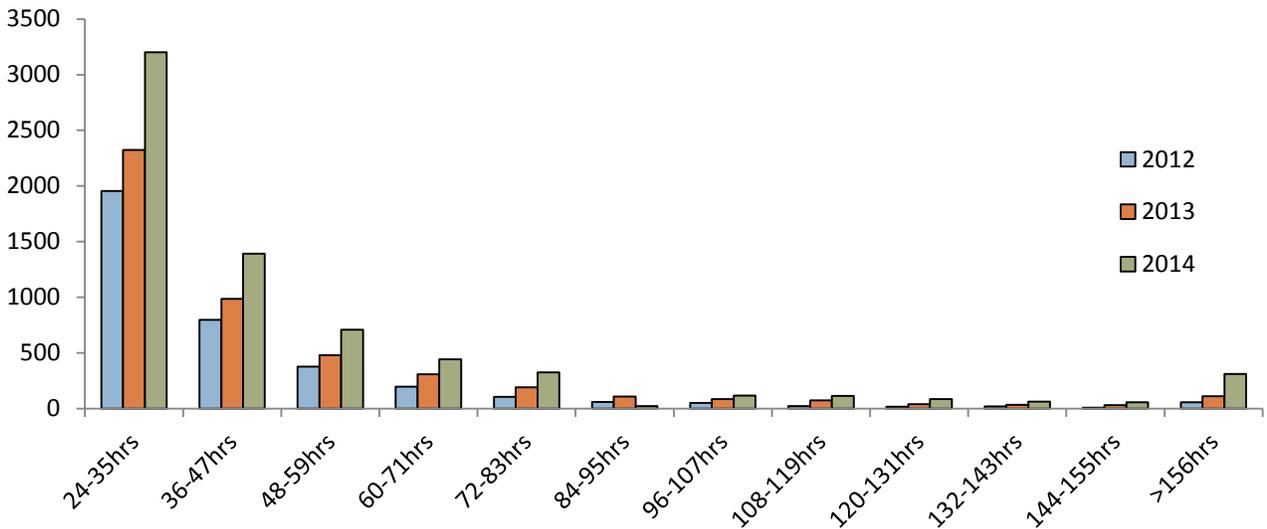
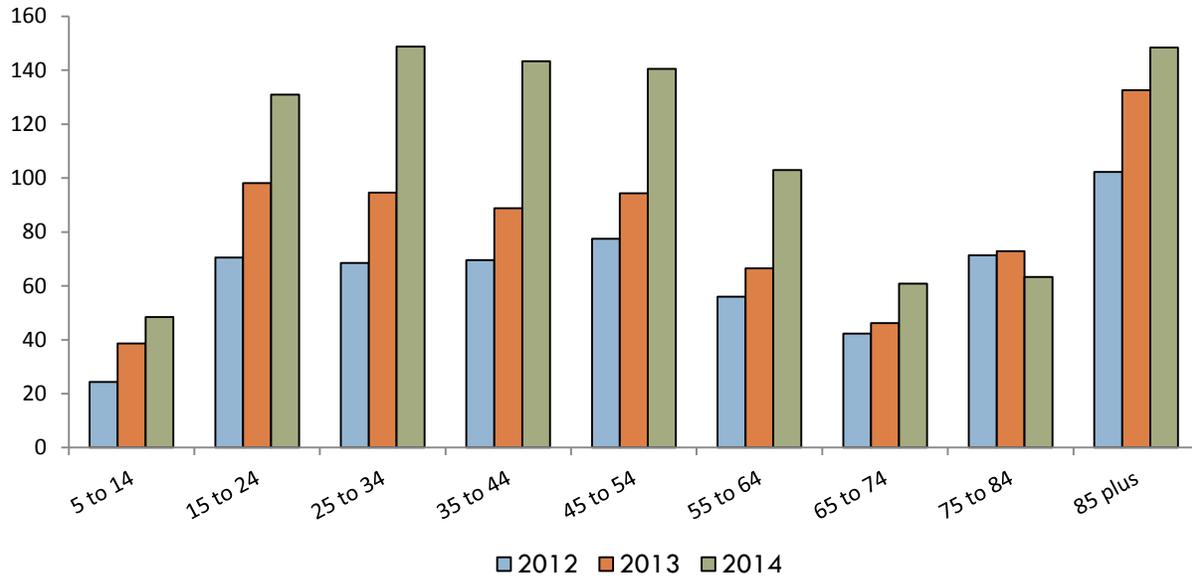


Figure 3 shows the rates of mental health-related ED visits by age group from 2012-2014. As shown in the graph, the rates have increased for all age groups since 2012, but have increased most significantly for those 15 to 54 years of age.

**Figure 3. Age-Specific ED Wait Time Rates >24 Hours, by Age Group, 2012-2014**



**Table 1. Average Waiting Time in Hours by Primary Diagnosis Code Grouping, Arizona 2012-2014**

Primary DX ICD9 Code Grouping	2012	2013	2014
295 Schizophrenic Disorders	10	16	19
296 Episodic Mood Disorders	12	15	22
297 Delusional Disorders	10	15	17
298 Other Non-organic Psychoses	14	17	20
300 Anxiety, Dissociative, Somatoform Disorders	5	6	8
301 Personality Disorders	13	17	28
303 Alcohol Dependence	9	9	11
304 Drug Dependence	7	7	9
305 Non Dependent Abuse of Drugs	7	8	9
290-319 All Mental Health Conditions	8	9	11

Table 1 above shows the average waiting times for nine of the most frequent sets of mental health diagnosis codes and all the codes between 2012 and 2014. Anxiety disorders, alcohol and drug dependence and abuse of drugs had the lowest average ED waiting times and increased gradually by year. Other, more complicated psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, episodic mood disorders and psychoses had the longer average waiting times before discharge or transfer and increased substantially from 2012 to 2014, some by as many as 15 hours (personality disorders).

## 2014 Data

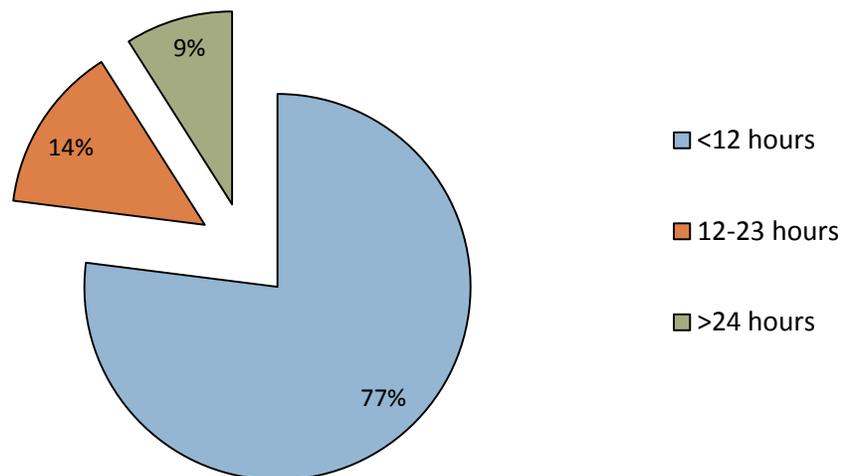
### Overview

In 2014 there were a total of 75,583 mental health-related ED visits totaling more than \$333 million in charges. The average charge per ED visit was just over \$4,400 but more than doubled if the visit was greater than 24 hours (n=\$8,776). Of those over 75,000 visits, 91 percent were discharged within 24 hours. The remaining nine percent (n=7,024) of patients waited an average of 57 hours before being discharged or transferred to the appropriate facility. Anxiety disorders and non-dependent drug abuse patient comprised the majority of the mental health-related ED visits (37 and 35 percent respectively). Patients with anxiety disorders had the shortest average ED wait times (n=8 hours) while those with mood disorders have the longest average ED wait times (n=22 hours).

### Time spent in ED by Hours Summary:

In 2014, 77 percent of the total behavioral health visits were discharged or transferred in less than 12 hours (n=58,364). An additional 14 percent of patients were discharged or transferred between 12 and 23 hours (n=10,195). The remaining nine percent, an increase from six percent in 2013, were discharged or transferred after waiting 24 hours or longer in the ED (n=7,024) with the average time in the ED approximately 57 hours and a maximum wait time of 2,022 hours or 84 days. Figure 4 shows the percentage of time spent in the ED by hours.

**Figure 4. Percentage of Time Spent in the ED by Hours, 2014**



### Insurance Summary:

**Uninsured:** Fourteen percent of patients were self-pay or uninsured (n=14,829), 93 percent of which were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=9,984) and seven percent (n=779) waited longer than 24 hours. Eighty-three percent overall were discharged home (n=8,899) and eight percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=882). Of the 882 uninsured transferred, 35 percent waited greater than 24 hours in the ED (n=306).

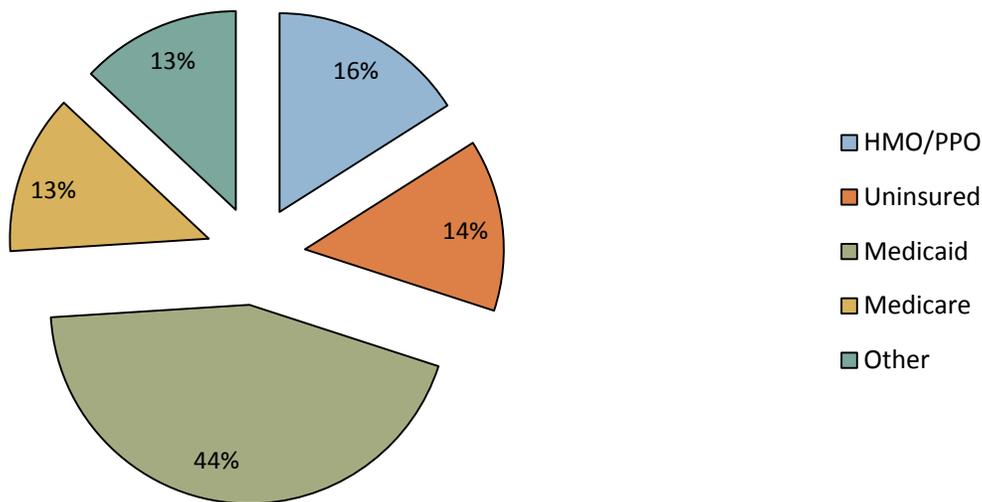
**Medicaid (AHCCCS):** Forty-four percent of the patients had Medicaid (n=33,045), 91 percent of which were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=30,121). Seventy-nine percent overall were discharged home

(n=25,501) and 14 percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=4,757). Of the 4,757 transferred, 30 percent waited greater than 24 hours in the ED (n=1,414).

**Medicare:** Thirteen percent of the patients had Medicare (n=9,822) and 86 percent of these were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=8,481). Seventy-six percent overall were discharged home (n=7,428) and 16 percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=1,528). Of the 1,528 transferred, 38 percent waited greater than 24 hours in the ED (n=581).

The percentage of patients by insurance type for 2014 is illustrated in Figure 5. The other insurance category includes payer types such as Tricare, Worker’s Compensation and Indian Health Services.

**Figure 5. Percentage of Behavioral Health Visits in the ED by Insurance Type, 2014**



**Discharge Status Summary:**

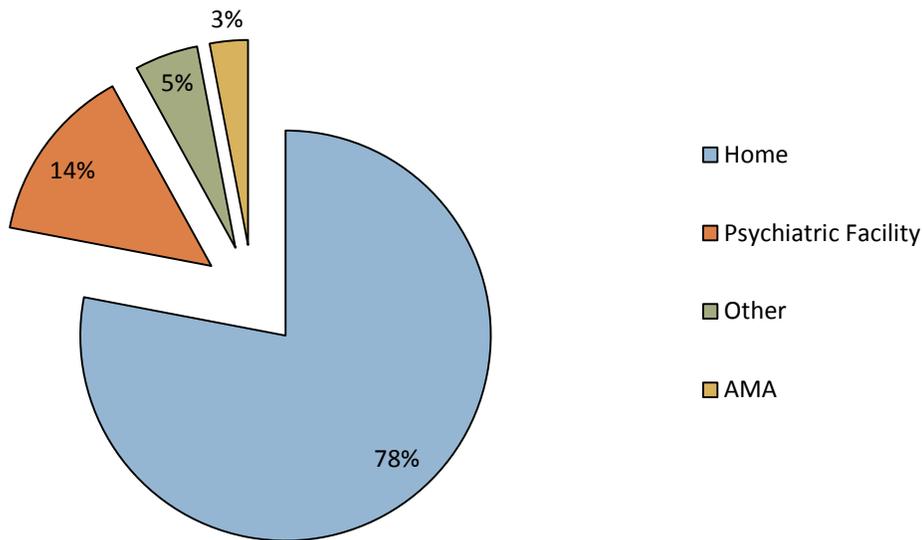
**Home:** Seventy-eight percent were discharged home (n=58,758). Ninety-five percent of which were discharged home in less than 24 hours (n=55,763). The average wait time until discharge for the remaining five percent (n=2,995) was 55 hours with a maximum of 2,022 hours in the ED (84 days).

**Transferred to Psychiatric Hospital:** Fourteen percent were transferred to a psychiatric hospital (n=10,509). Eighty percent of those patients were transferred within 24 hours (n=7,254). The average wait time until transfer for the remaining 31 percent (n=3,255) was 57 hours with a maximum of 602 hours (25 days).

**Left Against Medical Advice (AMA):** Three percent of patients with mental health diagnoses left AMA (n=2,202). Ninety-four percent left within the first 24 hours from admit time (n=2,075). The remaining six percent waited an average of 52 hours before leaving with a maximum wait time of 984 hours (n=41).

The percentage of patients by discharge status for 2014 is illustrated in Figure 6 on the next page. The ‘Other’ category includes discharges to skilled nursing facilities, transfers to Court/Law Enforcement and discharges to Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities or Federal Health Care facilities.

**Figure 6. Percentage of Behavioral Health Patients in the ED by Discharge Status, 2014**



**Primary Diagnosis Summary:**

Anxiety disorders made up the largest percentage of the total behavioral health visits with 28 percent (n=20,779). Ninety-three percent of which were discharged or transferred within the first 24 hours (n=19,360). The remaining seven percent (n=1,419) averaged 54 hours before being discharged or transferred, with a maximum time of 2,022 hours.

Non-Dependent Drug Abuse comprised the next largest percentage of patients with 25 percent (n=18,825). Ninety-five percent of which were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=17,877). For the remaining five percent (n=948) the average wait time was 47 hours with a maximum of 1,278 hours spent in the ED.

Alcohol Abuse-related visits made up an additional seven percent (n=4,980). Ninety-one percent were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=4,550). The remaining nine percent waited an average of 48 hours before being transferred or discharged with a maximum of 1,464 hours spent waiting in the ED.

Table 2 shows the average waiting times in the ED for patients who waited longer than 24 hours by primary diagnosis code grouping for 2014.

**Table 2. Average Waiting Times by Primary Diagnosis > 24 hours, 2014**

Primary ICD9 Code Grouping	Number of patients with >24 hour wait time	Average time in hours	Maximum time in hours spent in ED	Number of patients who waited > 156 hours
295 Schizophrenic Disorders	326	66	977	24
296 Episodic Mood Disorders	748	66	766	56
297 Delusional Disorders	79	63	453	<6
298 Other Non-organic Psychoses	664	63	470	49
300 Anxiety, Dissociative, Somatoform Disorders	1,419	54	2,022	51
301 Personality Disorders	48	94	475	6
303 Alcohol Abuse	430	48	1,464	<6
304 Drug Dependence	73	41	167	<6
305 Non Dependent Drug Abuse	948	47	1,278	19

**Analysis of patients who waited in the ED greater than 24 hours:**

**Demographics:** In 2014, nine percent of the mental health patients waited longer than 24 hours in the ED (n=7,024). Fifty-four percent were male (n=3,794) and 46 percent were female (n=3,131). As shown in figure 7, males had higher waiting time rates in all age groups except those 5 to 14 and 75 years and older.

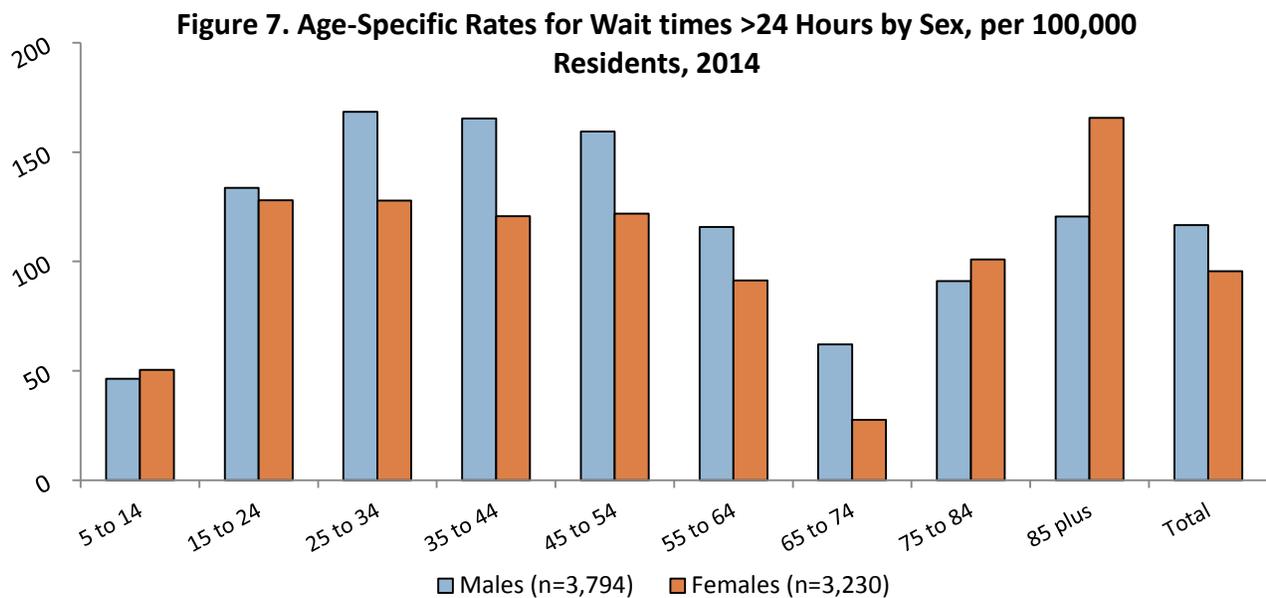
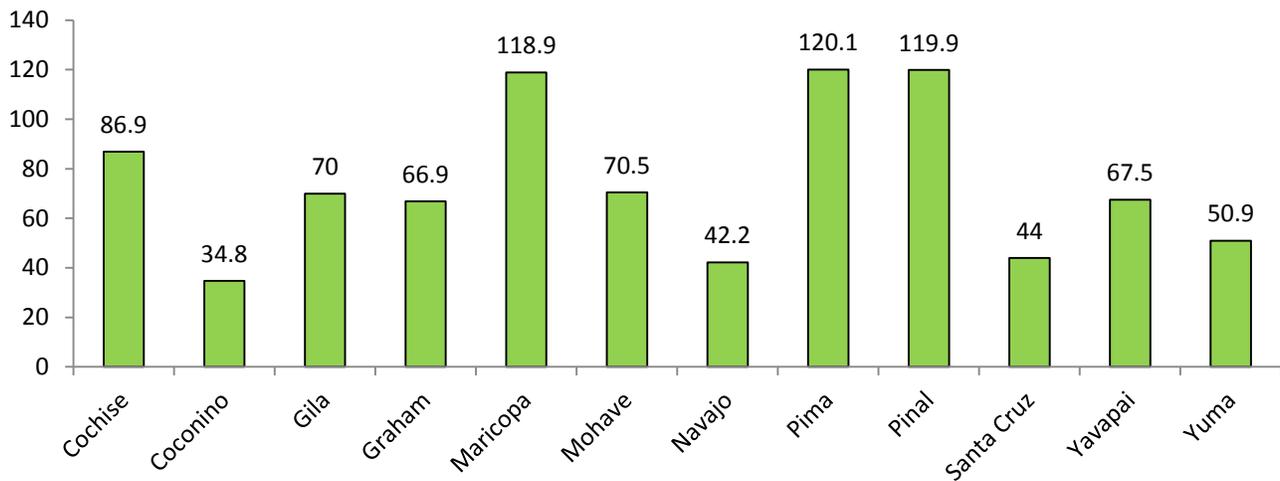


Figure 8 shows the waiting time rates for visits greater than 24 hours by county. Pima County had the highest waiting time rate, followed by Pinal and Maricopa Counties.

Figure 8. Age-Adjusted Rates for ED Wait Times >24 Hours by County, per 100,000 Residents, 2014\*



\*Only Counties with 20 or more records were included in graph

**Discharge Status:** Forty-three percent of patients who waited longer than 24 hours in the ED were discharged home (n=2,995). Forty-six percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=3,255) and the remaining 11 percent indicated transfers to a variety of other facilities including the courts/law enforcement and patients leaving against medical advice.

**Insurance Summary:** Forty-two percent of the patients discharged or transferred after 24 hours in the ED had AHCCCS/Medicaid (n=2,924) and 11 percent were self-pay/uninsured (n=779). An additional 19 percent had Medicare (n=1,341) and 17 percent had private insurance (n=1,184).

2013 Data

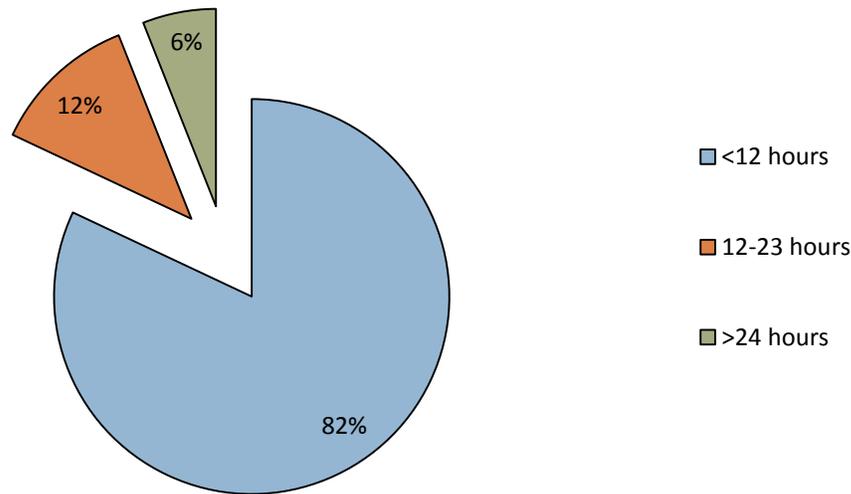
Overview

In 2013 there were a total of 69,594 mental-health related ED visits totaling more than \$283 million in charges. The average charge per visit was \$4,068, but more than doubled for those with wait times greater than 24 hours (n=\$8,766). Of those over 69,000 visits, 94 percent were discharged within 24 hours. The remaining six percent (n=4,772) of patients waited an average of 50 hours before being discharged or transferred to the appropriate facility. Anxiety disorders and non-dependent drug abuse patients comprised the majority of the mental health-related ED visits (27 and 25 percent respectively). Patients with anxiety disorders had the shortest average ED wait times (n=6 hours), while those with personality disorders and non-organic psychoses had the longest average ED wait times (n=17 hours).

Time spent in ED by Hours Summary:

In 2013, 82 percent of the total mental health ED visits were discharged or transferred in less than 12 hours (n=56,785). An additional 12 percent of patients were discharged or transferred between 12 and 23 hours after admission (n=8,037). The remaining six percent, an increase from five percent in 2012, were discharged or transferred after waiting 24 hours or longer in the ED (n=4,772) with the average time in the ED approximately 50 hours and a maximum wait time of 1,471 hours or 62 days. Figure 9 shows the percentage of time spent in the ED by hours.

Figure 9. Percentage of Time Spent in the ED by Hours, 2013



Insurance Summary:

**Uninsured:** Twenty-seven percent of patients were self-pay or uninsured (n=19,028), 94 percent of which were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=17,931). Eighty percent of the total uninsured patients were discharged home (n=15,216) and 12 percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=2,235). Of the 2,235 uninsured transferred patients, 17 percent waited greater than 24 hours in the ED (n=379).

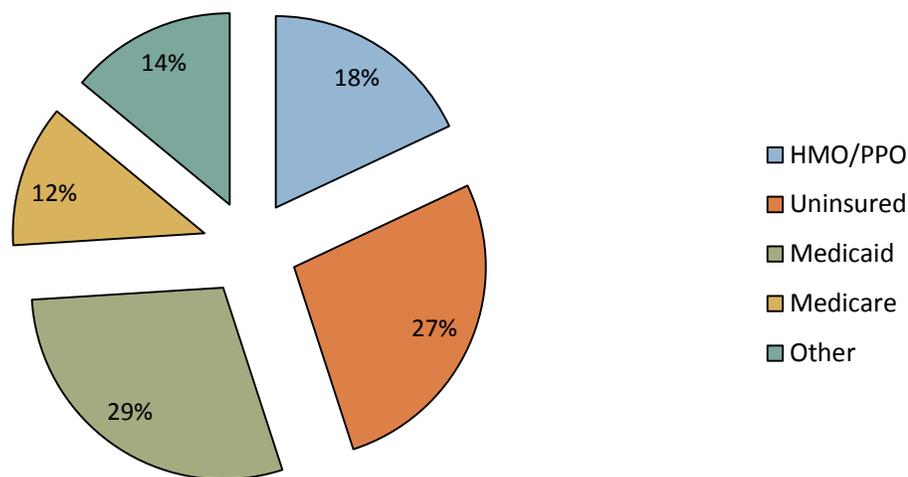
**Medicaid (AHCCCS):** Twenty-nine percent of the patients had AHCCCS/Medicaid (n=19,886), 94 percent of which were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=18,625). Seventy-eight percent overall were discharged home

(n=15,500) and 14 percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=2,852). Of the 2,852 patients transferred, 18 percent waited greater than 24 hours in the ED (n=527).

**Medicare:** Twelve percent of the patients had Medicare (n=8,420) and 90 percent of these were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=7,597). Seventy-five percent of all the Medicare patients were discharged home (n=6,355) and 16 percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=1,389). Of the 1,389 patients transferred, 22 percent waited greater than 24 hours in the ED (n=305).

The percentage of patients by insurance type for 2013 is illustrated in Figure 10. The other insurance category includes payer types such as Tricare, Worker’s Compensation and Indian Health Services.

**Figure 10. Percentage of Behavioral Health Visits in the ED by Insurance Type, 2013**



**Discharge Status Summary:**

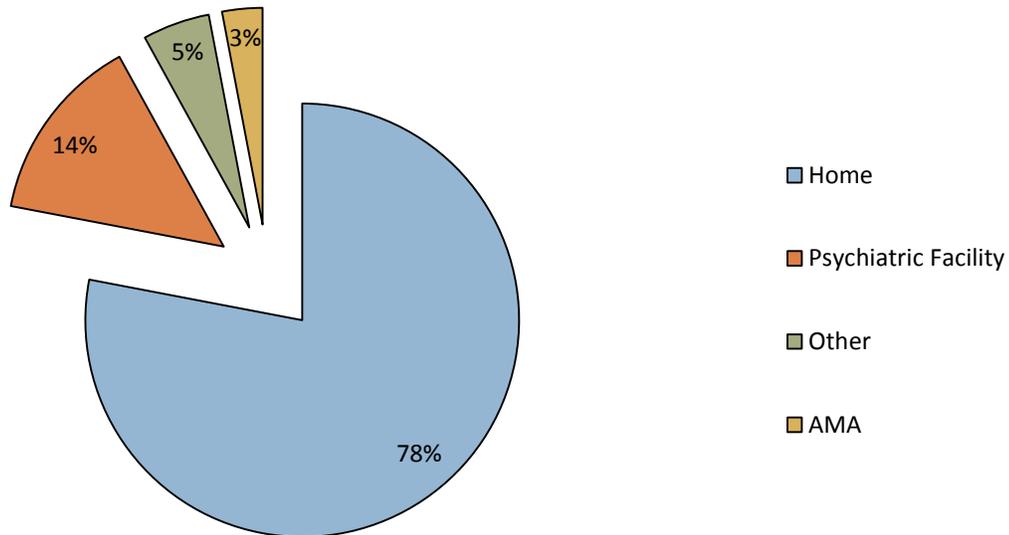
**Home:** Seventy-eight percent were discharged home (n=54,080). Ninety-six percent of which were discharged home in less than 24 hours (n=51,731). The average wait time until discharge for the remaining four percent (n=2,349) was 47 hours with a maximum of 1,011 hours in the ED (42 days).

**Transferred to Psychiatric Hospital:** Fourteen percent were transferred to a psychiatric hospital (n=10,046). Eighty-one percent of those patients were transferred within 24 hours (n=8,124). The average wait time until transfer for the remaining 19 percent (n=1,922) was 53 hours with a maximum of 1471 hours (62 days).

**Left Against Medical Advice (AMA):** Three percent of the patient left AMA (n=1,874). Ninety-seven percent left within the first 24 hours from admit time (n=1,811). The remaining three percent (n=63) waited an average of 38 hours before leaving AMA, with a maximum wait time of 98 hours (n=40).

The percentage of patients by discharge status for 2013 is illustrated in Figure 11. The ‘Other’ category includes discharges to skilled nursing facilities, transfers to Court/Law Enforcement and discharges to Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities or Federal Health Care facilities.

**Figure 11. Percentage of Behavioral Health Patients in the ED by Discharge Status, 2013**



**Primary Diagnosis Summary:**

Anxiety disorders made up the largest percentage of the total mental health ED visits with 27 percent (n=18,836). Ninety-five percent of those patients were discharged or transferred within the first 24 hours (n=17,915). The remaining five percent (n=921) averaged 45 hours before being discharged or transferred, with a maximum time of 266 hours.

Non-Dependent Drug Abuse comprised the next largest percentage of patients with 25 percent (n=17,689). Ninety-six percent of which were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=17,034). For the remaining four percent the average waiting time was 39 hours with a maximum of 458 hours spent in the ED.

Alcohol Abuse made up an additional seven percent of the mental health ED visits (n=5,007). Ninety-four percent were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=4,699), while the remaining six percent waited an average of 42 hours before being transferred or discharged with a maximum of 185 hours spent waiting in the ED.

Table 3 lists the average waiting time in the ED by diagnosis code groupings for 2013.

**Table 3. Average Waiting Times by Primary Diagnosis > 24 hours, 2013**

Primary DX ICD9 Code Group	Number of patients with >24 hour wait time	Average time in hours	Maximum time in hours spent in ED	Number of patients who waited > 156 hours
295 Schizophrenic Disorders	242	61	1471	7
296 Episodic Mood Disorders	502	60	1,049	17
297 Delusional Disorders	50	73	697	<6
298 Other Non-organic psychoses	495	58	1,011	20
300 Anxiety, Dissociative, Somatoform Disorders	921	45	266	14
301 Personality Disorders	29	63	172	<6
303 Alcohol Dependence	308	42	185	<6
304 Drug Dependence	38	37	138	0
305 Non Dependent Abuse of Drugs	655	39	458	<6

**Analysis of patients who waited in the ED greater than 24 hours:**

**Demographics:** In 2013, six percent of the mental health patients waited longer than 24 hours in the ED (n=4,772). Fifty-three percent were male (n=2,532) and 47 percent were female (n=2,240). As shown in figure 12, males had higher rates than females in all age groups except those 5 to 14 and 65 years and older.

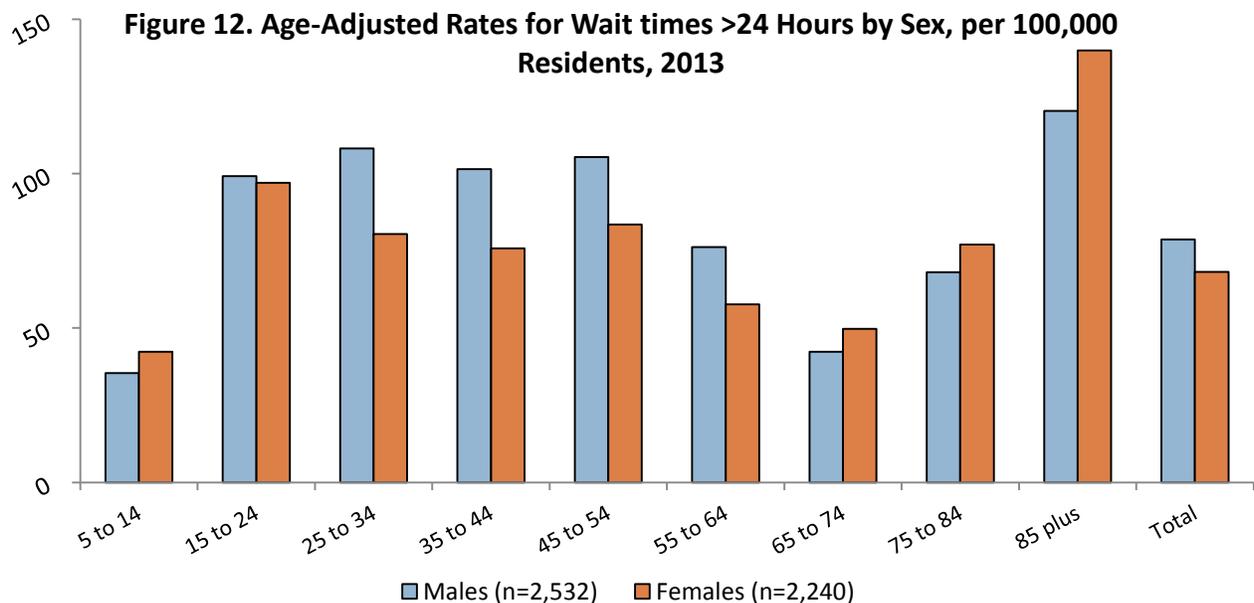
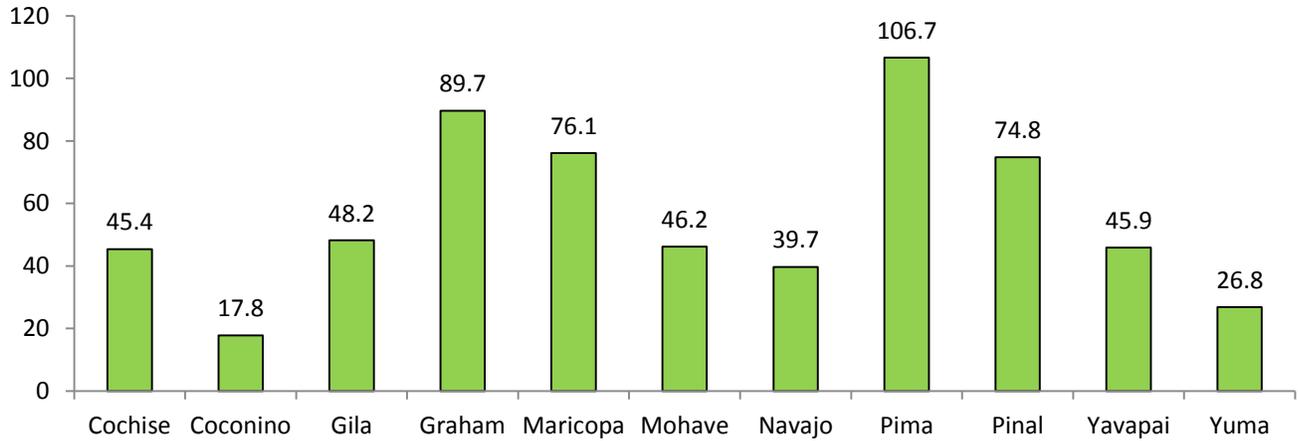


Figure 13 shows the ED waiting time rates for visits greater than 24 hours by county. Pima County had the highest waiting time rate, followed by Graham and Maricopa County.

**Figure 13. Age-Adjusted Rates for ED Wait Times >24 Hours by County, per 100,000 Residents, 2013\***



\*Only Counties with 20 or more records were included in graph

**Discharge Status:** Forty-nine percent of patients who waited longer than 24 hours in the ED were discharged home (n=2,349) and forty percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=1,922). One percent left AMA and the remaining ten percent of patient were transferred to a variety of other facilities including the courts and law enforcement.

**Insurance Summary:** Twenty-six percent of the patients had AHCCCS/Medicaid (n=1,261) and 23 percent were self-pay/uninsured (n=1,097). An additional 19 percent had private insurance (n=911) and 17 percent had Medicare (n=823).

## 2012 Data

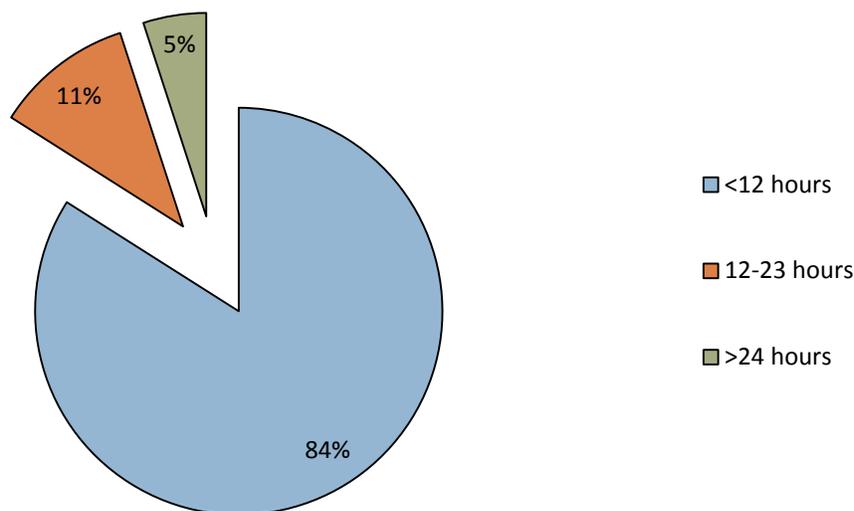
### Overview

In 2012 there were a total of 70,888 mental health-related ED visits totaling more than \$263 million in charges. The average charge per visit was \$3,713 but more than doubled for those with wait times greater than 24 hours (n=\$8,849). Of those over 70,000 visits, 95 percent were discharged within 24 hours. The remaining five percent (n=3,666) of patients waited an average of 45 hours before being discharged or transferred to the appropriate facility. Anxiety disorders and non-dependent drug abuse patient comprised the majority of the mental health-related ED visits (26 percent each). Patients with anxiety disorders had the shortest average ED wait times (n=5 hours) while those with non-organic psychoses had the longest average ED wait times (n=14 hours).

### Time spent in ED by Hours Summary:

In 2012, 84 percent of the total visits were discharged or transferred in less than 12 hours (n=59,806) and an additional 11 percent were discharged or transferred between 12 and 23 hours (n=7,416). The remaining five percent of patients were discharged or transferred after 24 hours with an average wait time of 45 hours and a maximum of 1,925 hours or 80 days (n=3,666). Figure 14 illustrates the percentage of time spent in the ED by hours for 2012.

**Figure 14. Percentage of Time Spent in the ED by Hours, 2012**



### Insurance Summary:

**Uninsured:** Twenty-four percent of all mental health patients in the ED were self-pay or uninsured (n=17,064). Ninety-five percent were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=16,273). Seventy-eight percent of all the uninsured patients were discharged home (n=13,394) and 13 percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=2,243). Of the 2,243 uninsured patients transferred, 13 percent waited longer than 24 hours in the ED (n=294).

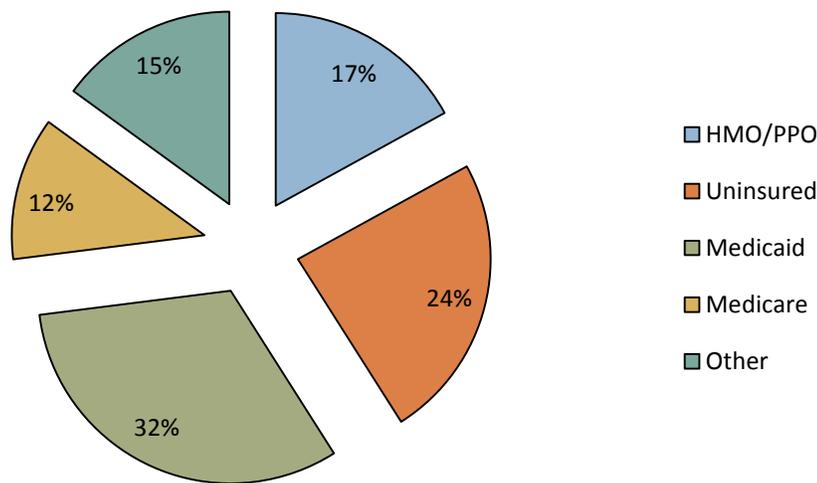
**Medicaid (AHCCCS):** Thirty-two percent of the patients had Medicaid (n=22,764) and ninety-five percent of them were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=21,723). Seventy-seven percent of the Medicaid

patients were discharged home (n=17,515) and 15 percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=3,445). Of the 3,445 patients transferred, 12 percent waited longer than 24 hours in the ED (n=411).

**Medicare:** Twelve percent of the patients had Medicare (n=8,744) and ninety-two percent were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=8,088). Seventy-five percent of all the Medicare patients were discharged home (n=6,516) and 17 percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=1,447). Of the 1,447 patients transferred, 15 percent waited longer than 24 hours in the ED (n=216).

The percentage of patients by insurance type for 2012 is illustrated in Figure 15 below. The other insurance category includes other payer types such as Tricare, Worker’s Compensation and Indian Health Services.

**Figure 15. Percentage of Behavioral Health Patients in the ED by Insurance Type, 2012**



**Discharge Status Summary:**

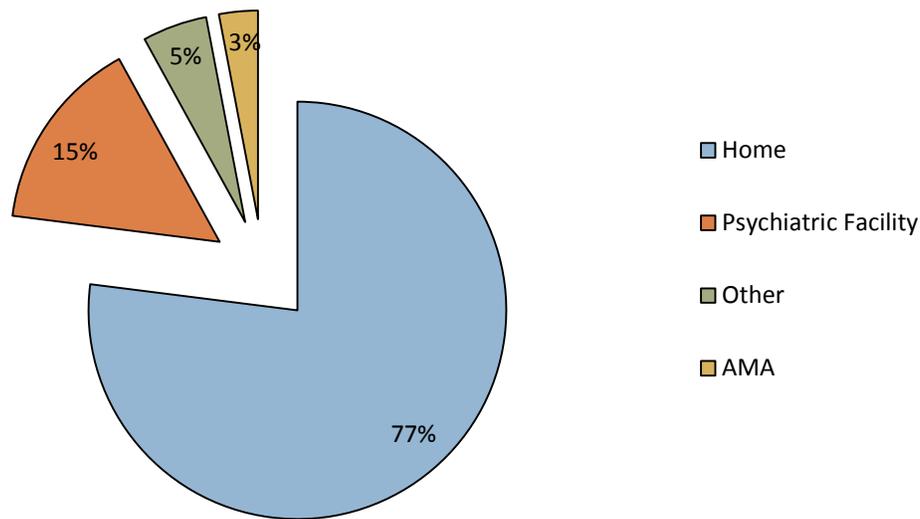
**Discharged Home:** Seventy-seven percent of patients were discharged home (n=54,487). Ninety-seven percent of which were discharged home in less than 24 hours (n=52,632). The average wait time until discharge for the remaining three percent (n=1,855) was 44 hours with a maximum of 1,925 hours in the ED (80 days).

**Transferred to a Psychiatric Hospital:** Fifteen percent of the all the mental health patients in the ED were transferred to a psychiatric hospital (n=10,871). Eighty-seven percent of those patients were transferred within 24 hours (n=9,465). The average wait time until transfer for the remaining 13 percent (n=1,406) was 44 hours with a maximum time of 659 hours (27 days).

**Left Against Medical Advice (AMA):** Approximately three percent of all the mental health patients in 2012 left AMA (n=1,985). Ninety-eight percent left within the first 24 hours upon arrival in the ED (n=1,944) while the remaining three percent (n=41) waited an average of 93 hours before leaving against medical advice with a maximum wait time of 1,680 hours or 70 days.

The percentage of patients by discharge status for 2012 is shown in Figure 16. The ‘Other’ category includes discharges to skilled nursing facilities, transfers to Court/Law Enforcement and discharges to Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities or Federal Health Care facilities.

**Figure 16. Percentage of Behavioral Health Patients in the ED by Discharge Status, 2012**



**Primary Diagnosis Summary:**

Non-Dependent Drug Abuse comprised 26 percent (n=18,487) of the total mental health ED visits. Ninety-seven percent of the patients were discharged or transferred within the first 24 hours (n=17,921). The remaining three percent (n=566) averaged 45 hours in the ED before being discharged or transferred, with a maximum time of 1,925 hours or 80 days.

Anxiety disorders made up an additional 26 percent of the total mental health ED visits (n=18,458). Ninety-seven percent were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=17,882). For the remaining three percent (n=576) the average waiting time was 39 hours with a maximum of 306 hours in the ED.

Alcohol Abuse comprised the third largest number of visits with seven percent (n=4,671). Ninety-five percent of the patients were discharged or transferred within 24 hours (n=4,417). The remaining six percent (n=254) waited an average of 44 hours before being transferred or discharged with a maximum of 699 hours or 29 days.

Table 4 lists the waiting times in the ED by primary diagnosis code group for 2012.

**Table 4. Average Waiting Times by Primary Diagnosis > 24 hours, 2012**

Primary DX ICD9 Code Grouping	Number of patients with >24 hour wait time	Average time in hours	Maximum time in hours spent in ED	Number of patients who waited > 156 hours
295 Schizophrenic Disorders	177	43	298	<6
296 Episodic Mood Disorders	380	49	659	10
297 Delusional Disorders	37	38	84	0
298 Other Non-organic psychoses	384	50	659	8
300 Anxiety, Dissociative, Somatoform Disorders	576	39	306	<6
301 Personality Disorders	22	48	134	0
303 Alcohol Dependence	254	44	699	<6
304 Drug Dependence	33	33	62	0
305 Non Dependent Drug Abuse	566	45	1,925	6

**Analysis of patients who waited in the ED greater than 24 hours:**

**Demographics:** In 2012, five percent of the patients with a primary mental health diagnosis waited in the ED longer than 24 hours (n=3,666). Fifty-four percent were male (n=1,996) and 46 percent were female (n=1,670). As shown in figure 17, males had higher rates than females in all age groups except females 65 and older.

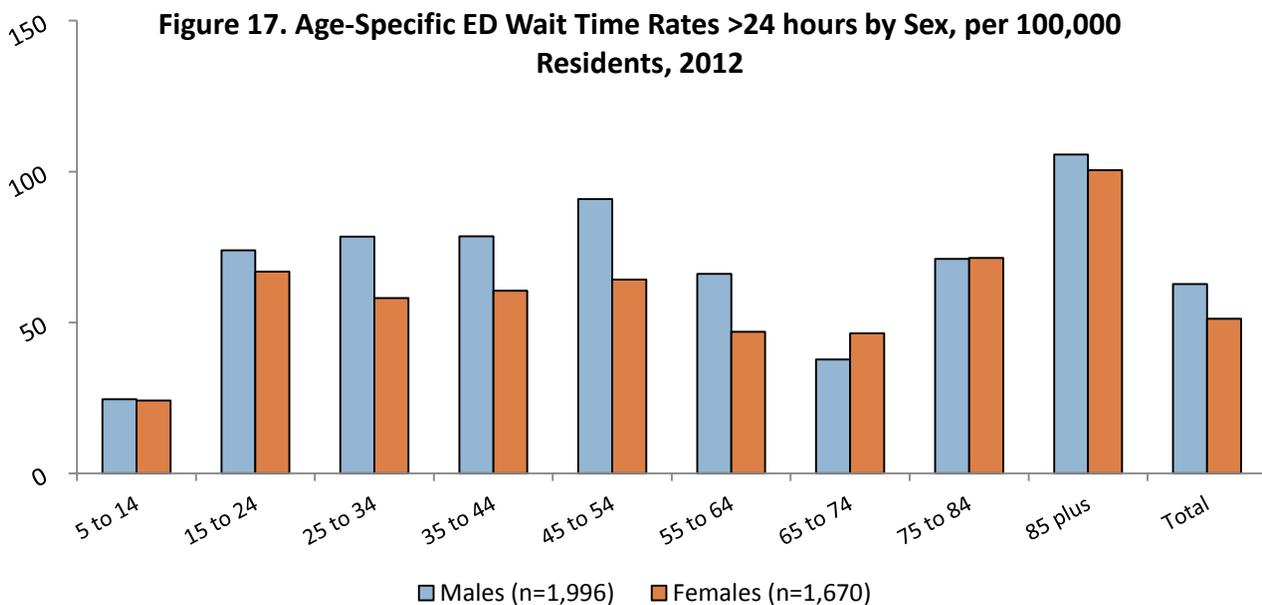
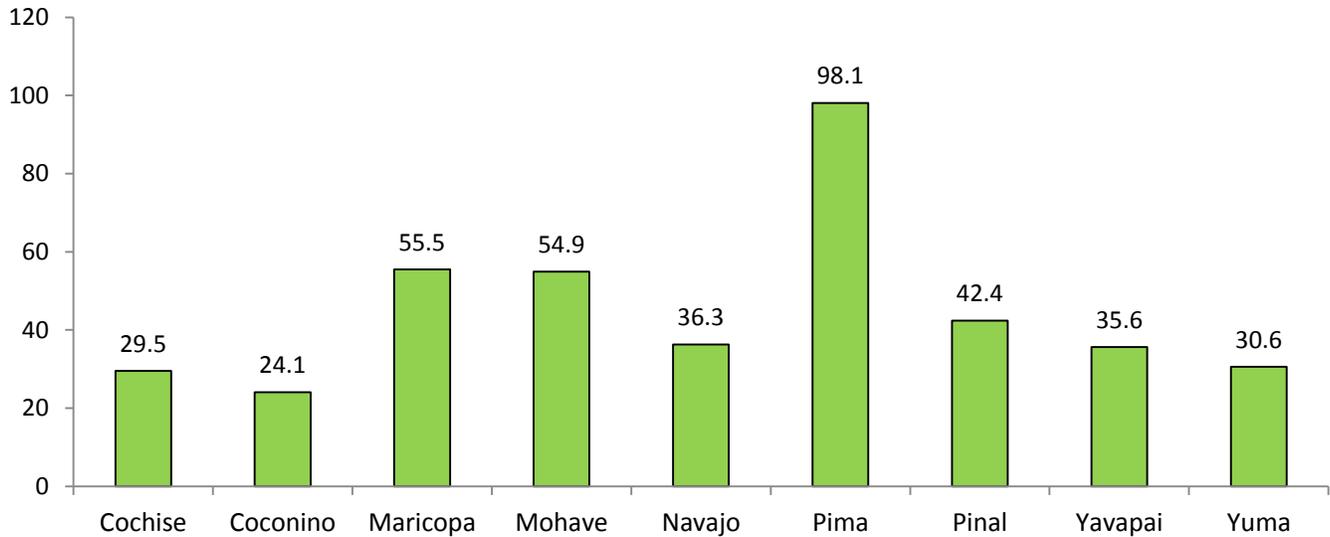


Figure 18 shows ED waiting time rates for patients that waited longer than 24 hours by county. Pima County had the highest waiting time rate, followed by Maricopa and Mohave Counties.

**Figure 18. Age-Adjusted Rates for ED Wait Times >24 hours by County, per 100,000 Residents, 2012\***



\*Only Counties with 20 or more records were included in graph

**Discharge Status:** Fifty-one percent of patients who waited longer than 24 hours in the ED were discharged home (n=1,855) and 38 percent were transferred to a psychiatric facility (n=1,406). One percent of the mental health patients in the ED left AMA (n=41) and the remaining ten percent were transferred to a variety of other facilities including the courts/law enforcement.

**Insurance Summary:** Twenty-eight percent of the mental health patients in the ED had AHCCCS/Medicaid (n=1,041) and 22 percent were self-pay/uninsured (n=791). An additional 18 percent of the patients had Medicare (n=656) and 16 percent had private insurance (n=574).

## Methodology

Records for Arizona residents from the Hospital Discharge Database assigned an International Classification of Diseases, 9<sup>th</sup> Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) primary diagnosis code upon admission to the Emergency Department that included one the nine behavioral health codes listed below were included in this report. Table 5 lists the specific codes utilized in this report.

**Table 5. International Classification of Diseases, 9<sup>th</sup> Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) Codes Used in This Report**

ICD-9-CM Codes	ICD-9-CM Category Description
295.0-295.9	Schizophrenic Disorders
296.0-296.9	Episodic Mood Disorders
297.0-297.9	Delusional Disorders
298.0-298.9	Other Nonorganic psychoses
300.0-300.9	Anxiety, dissociative and somatoform disorders
301.0-301.9	Personality Disorders
303.0-303.9	Alcohol dependence syndrome
304.0-304.9	Drug Dependence
305.0-305.9	Nondependent use of drugs
290-319	Mental Disorders (All Inclusive)

ED discharge data from 2012-2014 were compiled from the Arizona Hospital Discharge Database at the Arizona Department of Health Services. The discharge database contains information from private, acute-care facilities in the state of Arizona, and do not include visits to federal facilities, such as Veterans’ Affairs Hospitals or Indian Health Services facilities. The discharge databases do not contain data from urgent care facilities, private physician practices, or medical clinics. Hospital discharge data include hospital transfers and readmissions. Therefore, a single injured individual may be counted more than once. These data should be interpreted as episodes of medical treatment.

*This report was prepared at the request of the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA).*

## References

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