

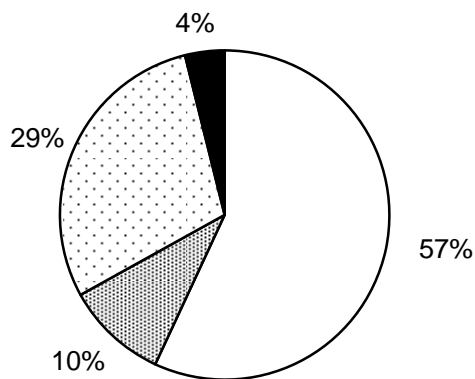


2008 - Mental Health Needs in Rural Hospital Emergency Departments

Ten emergency departments (ED) in rural community hospitals that do not have in-patient psychiatric services collected data between January 1-December 31, 2008 to better understand who needed in-patient psychiatric care in rural communities. The survey found that there were 525 patients who presented in the ED with a primary diagnosis of mental health or substance abuse and who required an in-patient admission for treatment of their problem(s).

Over half (57%) of the patients reported a severe mental health problem (e.g., bipolar, schizophrenia, etc.). General mental health problems (e.g. anxiety, panic disorder, etc.) accounted for 29% of the patients. Ten percent had substance abuse as the primary diagnosis. There was no diagnostic data reported for 4% of the patients.

Primary Diagnosis (n=525)

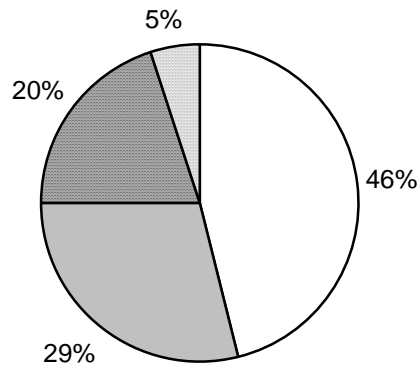


□ Severe Mental Health	▨ Substance Abuse
□ General Mental Health	■ Not Reported

Most patients were adults, age 18 years or older (81%). Almost one in five patients (19%) was a child or an adolescent.

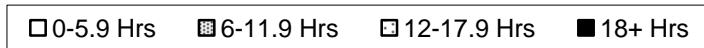
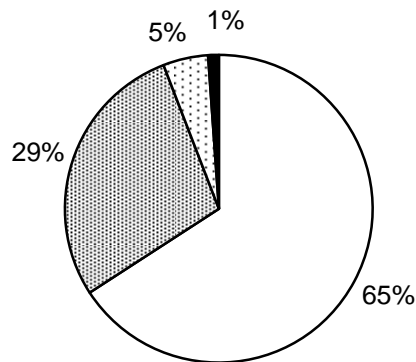
Less than half of the patients presenting in the emergency department in a mental health crisis (46%) had private health insurance or Medicare. The Medicaid program provided coverage for 29% of all the patients. Twenty percent of patients were self pay/no insurance and data was not reported for 5% of the patients.

Insurance Type (n=525)



Most patients (65%) spent less than 6 hours in the hospital ED although more than a quarter (29%) were there for 6-12 hours and 5% spent more than 12 hours in the ED. The local police or the county sheriff transported 37% of the patients to another hospital with in-patient psychiatric services where they could be treated and 26% were transported by ambulance or medical transport. Other patients traveled in a private vehicle.

Total Length of Time in ED (n=525)



Community hospitals located in Colebrook, Woodsville, Berlin, North Conway, Littleton, Lancaster, New London, Claremont, Wolfeboro and Peterborough participated in the study. The Foundation for Healthy Communities is a partnership involving hospitals, physicians, health plans, home care agencies and other organizations. Our mission is to improve health and health care delivery in New Hampshire. Visit our website www.healthynh.com to learn more.

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