Emergency Department Visits for Dental Conditions – A Snapshot

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS FOR DENTAL CONDITIONS
BY AGE GROUP

How often, on average, someone visits a hospital emergency department for dental conditions in the United States.

EVERY 15 SECONDS

2.1 MILLION
Total number of hospital emergency department visits for dental conditions in the United States in 2017.

70%
Percentage of hospital emergency department visits for dental conditions occurring outside of normal business hours.1

$2.7 BILLION
Total amount of dollars spent on hospital emergency department visits in the United States in 2017.

40%
of hospital emergency department visits for dental conditions among adults in the United States that are paid for by Medicaid.

69%
of hospital emergency department visits for dental conditions among children in the United States that are paid for by Medicaid.

Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act led to increased dental coverage and dental care use among Medicaid-enrolled adults, some of which occurred in hospital emergency departments.2

Source: HPI analysis of the 2017 Nationwide Emergency Department Sample, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, except for:

For more information, visit ADA.org/HPI or contact the Health Policy Institute at hpi@ada.org.