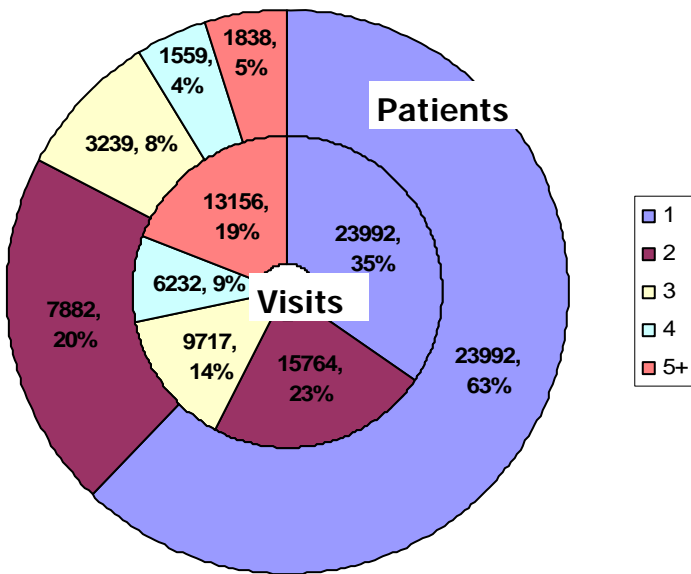


Camden Hospital and Emergency Room Health Data 2003

Recently acquired ER data from all three city hospitals has confirmed the overuse of emergency facilities for primary care related health conditions. Analysis has found:

- 68,911 total visits to Camden ERs (2003)
- 38,519 Camden residents had at least 1 visit (roughly 1 in 2 residents). This rate of utilization far exceeded that in studies of other locations in the United States.
- The most frequent utilizers of ERs tend to be insured.
- Many of the conditions are treatable in a primary care setting.
- Over-utilization is occurring in every category of patients: 1 or more visits, 3 or less visits, 4 or more visits.

Patients Compared to Visits

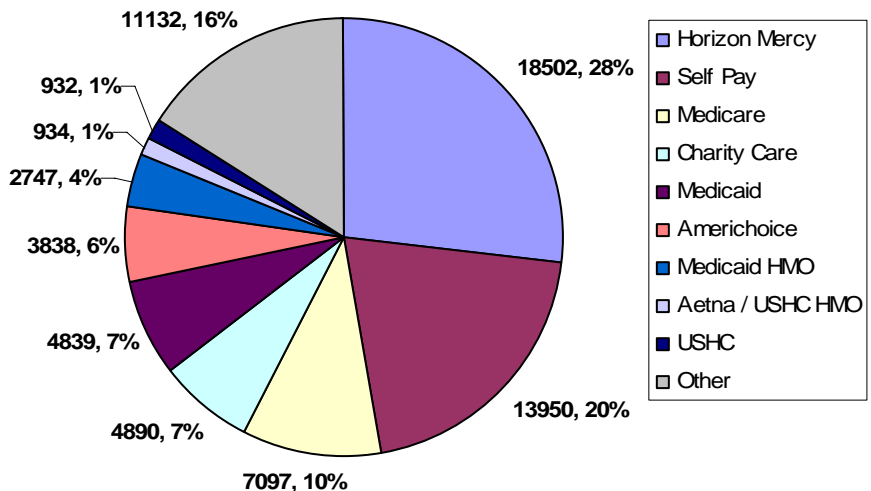


This chart compares the total number of patients visiting the ER versus the total number of visits. In 2003, on average there were about 1.75 visits per patient in Camden, which was similar to national averages in other studies.

63% of patients visited the ER one time only, accounting for 35% of the total visits. The 9% of patients who visited the ER 4 or more times (classified as frequent users) accounted for 28% of the visits.

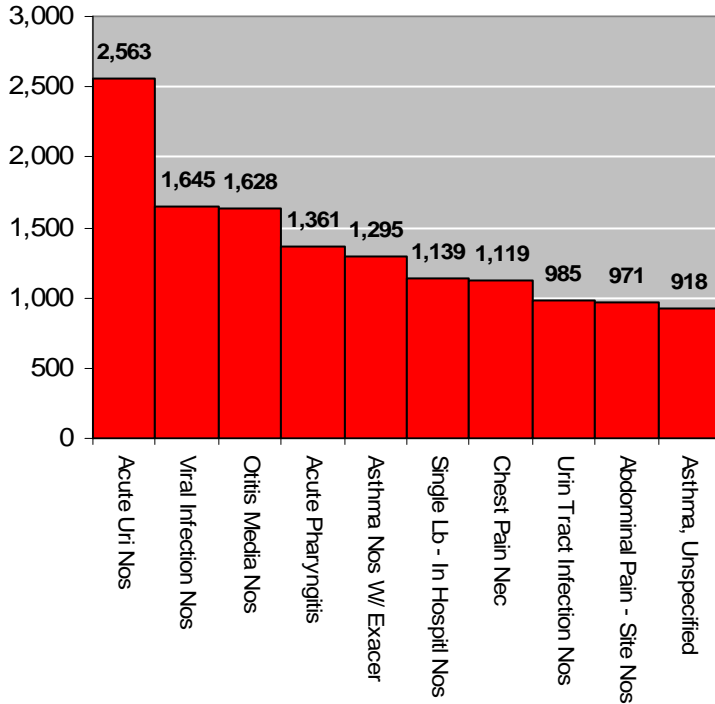
Payment Method / Insurance Status

Horizon Mercy and Self Pay are the two most common forms of payment at Camden hospitals. Patients who are uninsured (Self Pay and Charity Care) account for more than 1/4 of all visits.



Camden Hospital and Emergency Room Health Data 2003

Top 10 Codes as Primary Reason for Visits



Acute upper respiratory infections (URI) are the most common primary diagnosis for ER visits in Camden (and elsewhere in New Jersey as well). Other infections and asthma are also common diagnoses.

Possible Causes for Excess Utilization

1. Lack of insurance
2. Primary care
 - access
 - quality
3. Mental health care
 - access
 - quality
4. Dangerous living conditions
 - violence
 - accidents

For More Information

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CAMConnect is devoted to creating a learning partnership in Camden, New Jersey, with the belief that sharing and using data will lead to informed decisions and better policy making to improve the quality of life for all Camden citizens. The purpose of CAMConnect is to expand and democratize access to information for residents and organizations that live and work in the City of Camden.

The **Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers** is a strategic initiative aimed at improving disease management in Camden City by increasing the capacity and accessibility of care at community-based primary care practices and the exploration of sustainable strategies of community health planning through dialogues and forging collaborative initiatives among key health stakeholders in the city.