

Hospitalizations entirely caused by alcohol

Alternate Name*

Totally Alcohol-Attributable Hospitalizations (AAHs)

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Description*

This indicator measures the rate of hospitalizations with conditions that are wholly (100%) attributable to alcohol per 100,000 population age 10 and older.

HQO Reporting tool/product

Public Reports (annual report, bulletins and theme reports)

Dimension*

Patient-centred

Type*

Outcome

DEFINITION AND SOURCE INFORMATION

Unit of Measurement*

Rate per 100,000 patients

Calculation Methods*

(Total number of hospitalizations with wholly alcohol-attributable conditions among patients age 10 and older ÷ Total mid-year population age 10 and older) × 100,000 (age-adjusted)

Unit of analysis: Single discharge

Numerator (short description i.e. not inclusions/exclusions)*

Total number of hospitalizations with wholly alcohol-attributable conditions among patients age 10 and older

Denominator (short description i.e. not inclusions/exclusions)*

Total mid-year population age 10 and older

Adjustment (risk, age/sex standardization)- generalized

Age standardized

Data Source

Hospital Morbidity Database (HMDB)

National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)

Ontario Mental Health Reporting System (OMHRS)

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Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)

Data provided to HQO by

Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)

Reported Levels of comparability /stratifications (defined)

Province

Time

Income

Region

Sex

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Caveats and Limitations

- The indicator measures hospitalizations due to conditions wholly attributable to alcohol. Conditions partially attributable to alcohol (e.g., cancers, strokes, respiratory diseases) are not directly captured. This should be taken into consideration while interpreting the indicator results. It is estimated that out of all hospitalizations attributable to alcohol, 30% are due to wholly attributable conditions and 70% are due to partially attributable conditions.
- This indicator depends on the documentation of alcohol as the cause of a disease condition (100% attributable) for which care is delivered. Therefore, conditions potentially related to alcohol but not diagnosed and documented as such (e.g., liver disease not linked to alcohol) might not be captured.
- The stigma associated with alcohol influences the documentation of conditions associated with alcohol use. The increasing caution of clinical staff and the sensitivity of patients around documentation of alcohol use may affect the proportion of certain conditions with a documented link to alcohol.
- Accidents and injuries to self or others are major consequences of harmful use of alcohol; however, this indicator's focus is on mental and medical conditions attributable to alcohol. Injuries to others are not captured, but patients admitted because of the conditions attributable to alcohol may have physical injuries as well.
- Since treatment for alcohol-attributable conditions may happen at different levels of the health care system, including clinics, emergency departments, and general and psychiatric hospitals, variations in indicator results are influenced by service delivery and capacity, access to care, and type of delivery and provider

TAGS

TAGS*

Other

Outcome

Other

Patient-centred

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PUBLISH

PUBLISH DATETIME*

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