

59.5 percent of adult ED visits are for patients with chronic conditions

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Almost 60 percent of adult emergency department visits are by patients

with at least one chronic condition associated with severe COVID-19, according to a study published online Sept. 1 in the *National Health Statistics Reports*, a publication from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Loredana Santo, M.D., M.P.H., from the National Center for Health Statistics in Hyattsville, Maryland, and colleagues describe [emergency department](#) visits made by adults with selected [chronic conditions](#) associated with severe COVID-19 illness using data collected in the 2017 to 2019 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

The researchers found that 59.5 percent of emergency department visits made by adults for 2017 to 2019 were among those with one or more chronic conditions. Those aged 45 to 64 years had the highest percentage of emergency department visits made by adults with three or more chronic conditions. Among adults with three or more chronic conditions, Medicare was the most frequently observed expected source of payment. The percentage of emergency department visits that resulted in a hospital admission increased with the number of chronic conditions. The most frequently observed chronic condition was hypertension (33.8 percent of emergency department visits by adults); [hypertension](#) and diabetes was the most frequently observed pair of chronic conditions (33.2 percent of emergency department visits for adults with at least two chronic conditions).

"Monitoring emergency department visits made by adults at highest risk of severe COVID-19-related illness is important for understanding the health burden of COVID-19 and for planning prevention strategies," the authors write.

More information: [National Health Statistics Reports](#)

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