

The Health of Canada's Children and Youth: A CICH Profile Contextual Module

Section 3 - Health Outcomes

3.1.3 Hospitalizations

Fig. 3.1.3 Hospitalization rates for all causes, children 0 to 19 years. for Canada, the provinces and territories, 2010/11 7000 Canada 6000 3,487 Rate per 100,000 5000 4000 3000 2000 1000 0 NL PE NS NB QC ON **MB** SK AB BC YT NT NU **Province / Territory** NS QC ON MB SK NL PE NB AB BC NT NU 3,804 | 2,980 | 3,784 | 5,958 | 3,720 | 3,077 4.296 4.276 4.056 | 4.534 3.500 6.297 3.171

Adapted from the Canadian Institute for Health Information Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/internet/EN/Home/home/cihi000001. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

In 2010/11, hospitalization rates for children and youth 0 to 19 years of age were highest in the Northwest Territories (6,297/100,000) and Saskatchewan (5,958/100,000) and lowest in Ontario (2,980/100,000) and British Columbia (3,077/100,000).

Note: The figure presented here excludes all newborns born in the reporting facility and some newborns born outside the reporting facility but admitted to that facility within 24 hours of birth.

Implications

Differences in hospitalization rates in Canada may be attributable, in part, to the varying proportions of rural and remote communities, the socioeconomic status, and the number of Aboriginal children living in each province and territory. The rates of injury are higher in rural and remote communities, for Aboriginal children, and for those with a lower socioeconomic status. Further people in these situations often have to travel longer distances to reach medical services, thus increasing the likelihood of an overnight stay. The variation in hospitalization rates may also reflect differences in the management of care across jurisdictions.¹

¹ Rural and Northern Healthcare Framework/Plan (2010). Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Accessed on May 28, 2012 at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/ruralnorthern/docs/report_rural_northern_EN.pdf.

