



Data Interpretation and Limitations

1. When mental health acute care visits are broken down into age groups or diagnoses, monthly rates may be based on a small number of individuals. When monthly rates reflect few individuals, there can be high monthly variability that is difficult to interpret.
2. Many mental health performance measures show strong seasonality, i.e. they follow patterns that occur seasonally. Since the data presented do not take seasonality into account, it can be difficult to understand whether trends are due to seasonality or a true change in mental health service use.
3. The data represent use of physician- and hospital-based services only. The data used for this dashboard does not capture individuals who received mental health care through community agencies or other non-OHIP funded services.
4. These data reflect when people use services. Only a subset of individuals with mental health needs access services. These data in this dashboard should not be interpreted as a reflection of the need for mental health services in Ontario.
5. Other general limitations of health administrative data include potential coding errors and lack of clinical detail.