

County of San Diego  
Hospital Association of San Diego County  
Emergency Department Discharge Patient Summary  
January 1, 2005 – March 31, 2005

The Emergency Department Discharge Patient Summary is an aggregate report describing all patients who are treated and discharged from the emergency department. Emergency department (ED) data, however, does not represent all patients who present to the ED. The information contained in this database is collected from billing data, so if a patient presents to the ED and is admitted to that same hospital, all of their information is transferred to the inpatient record. Typically, between 12 percent and 20 percent of all patients who present to the ED are admitted to the hospital.

Emergency department data that is reported to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) does not contain unique identifiers, such as social security number. Each record represents a visit to the ED; multiple visits for the same person cannot be identified and accounted for. Therefore, this report represents the number of *encounters* (visits), not the number of *people* who use the ED. The term *patient* will be used to refer to all discharges from the ED.

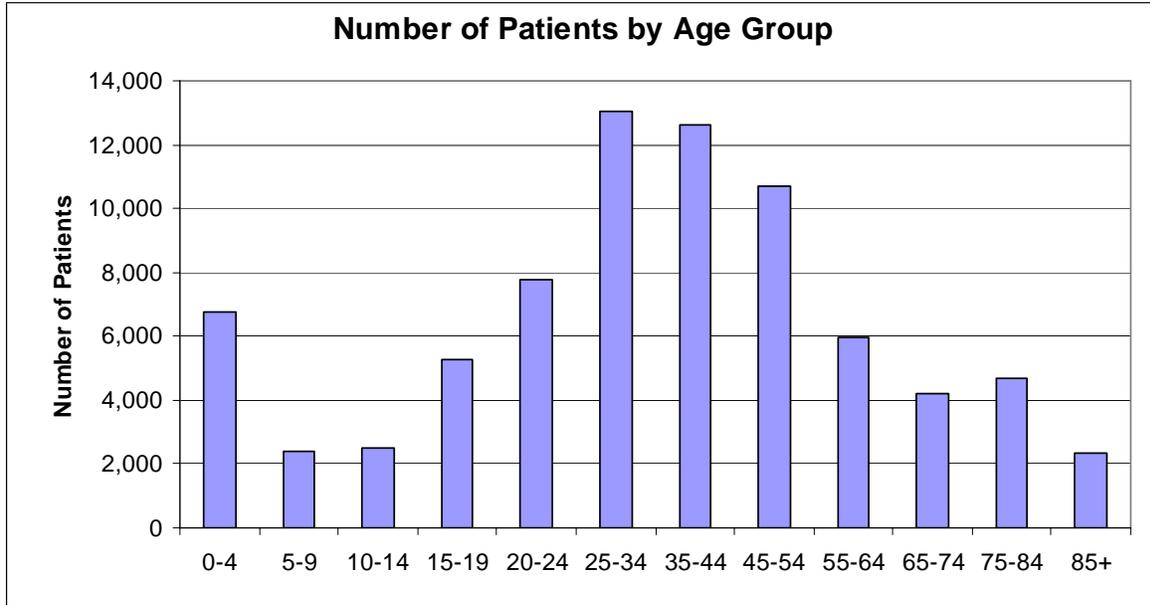
The following data elements are reported to the hospital association:

Facility ID Number	Expected Source of Payment
Patient ZIP code	Principal Diagnosis
Date of Birth	Other Diagnoses
Sex	Principal E-Code
Race	Other E-Codes
Ethnicity	Principal Procedure (CPT-4)
Service Date	Other Procedures (CPT-4)
Disposition of Patient	

Nine hospitals reported emergency department data for this report.

## Patient Demographics

There were 78,232 patients who were treated and discharged from the nine emergency departments (EDs) represented by this report. Nearly half of all patients were between the ages of 25 and 54 years, with a high percentage (9%) falling between 0 and 4 years of age.



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

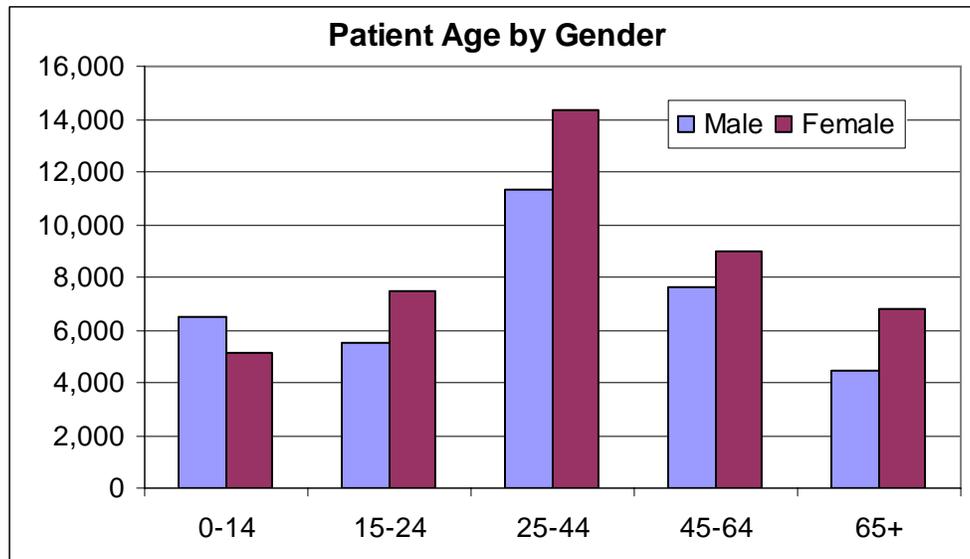
### Number and Percent of ED Patients by Age Group

Age Group	Frequency	Percent
0-4	6,746	8.6
5-9	2,410	3.1
10-14	2,480	3.2
15-19	5,277	6.7
20-24	7,768	9.9
25-34	13,018	16.6
35-44	12,638	16.2
45-54	10,709	13.7
55-64	5,947	7.6
65-74	4,231	5.4
75-84	4,689	6.0
85+	2,318	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,231</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\*Total includes one case with missing Age Group

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

Overall, 55 percent of ED patients were female. However, patients in the 0 to 14 year age group were more often male (56%).



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Total	
	Number	Percent										
Male	6,493	55.8	5,537	42.4	11,303	44.1	7,646	45.9	4,426	39.4	35,405	45.3
Female	5,130	44.1	7,502	57.5	14,345	55.9	9,001	54.0	6,808	60.6	42,786	54.7
Total	11,636	100.0	13,045	100.0	25,656	100.0	16,656	100.0	11,237	100.0	78,232	100.0

\*Totals include 39 patients with missing gender and 2 patient with missing age.

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

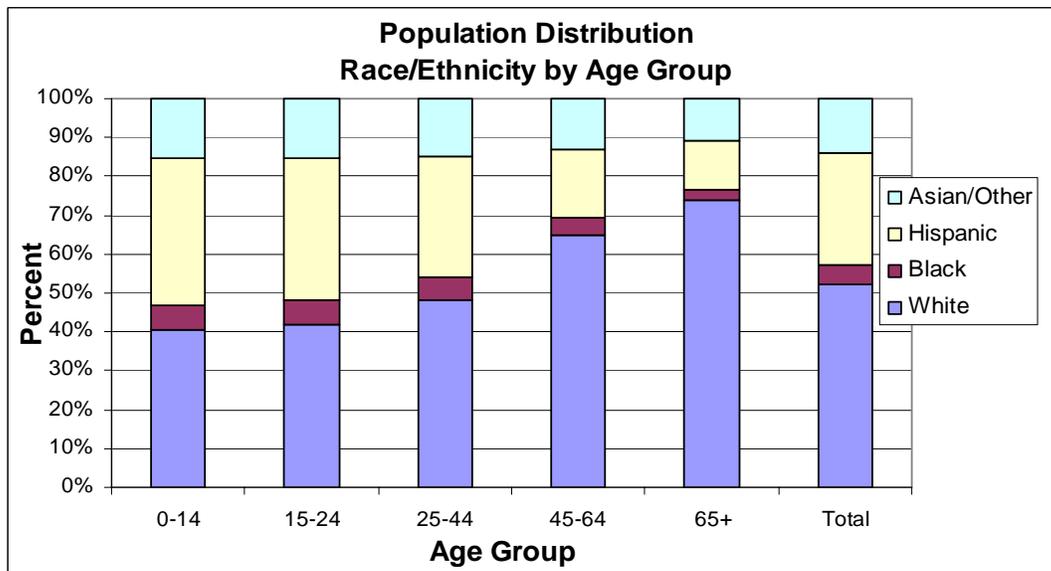
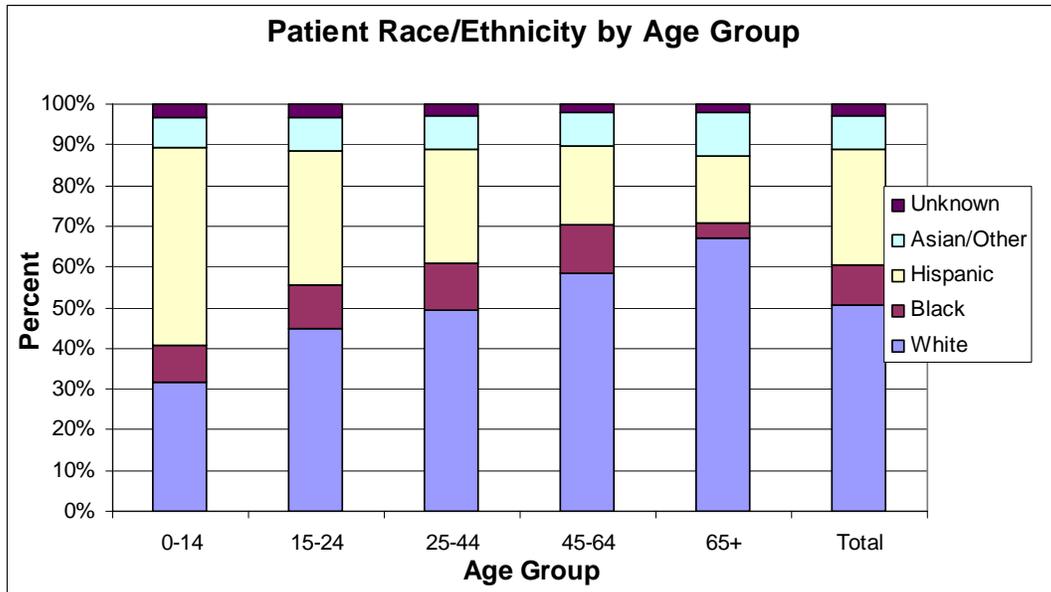
The distribution of patients varied by age within each region. Patients residing in the North Central region were older than patients residing in each of the other regions.

	North Coastal		North Central		Central		South		East		North Inland		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
0-14	2,159	19.9	496	5.7	1,553	11.5	2,002	19.1	1,656	13.2	2,999	20.0	11,636	14.9
15-24	1,672	15.4	1,592	18.3	2,102	15.6	1,650	15.7	2,277	18.2	2,307	15.4	13,045	16.7
25-44	3,142	29.0	3,217	37.1	5,042	37.3	3,168	30.2	4,318	34.5	4,363	29.1	25,656	32.8
45-64	2,127	19.6	1,870	21.5	3,548	26.3	1,988	19.0	2,639	21.1	2,857	19.1	16,656	21.3
65+	1,736	16.0	1,505	17.3	1,261	9.3	1,682	16.0	1,643	13.1	2,469	16.5	11,238	14.4
Total	10,836	100.0	8,680	100.0	13,506	100.0	10,490	100.0	12,533	100.0	14,995	100.0	78,231	100.0

\*Totals include 7,191 patients with missing region of residence.

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

Nearly half of all ED patients 0 to 14 years of age were Hispanic, compared to 38 percent of the San Diego County population. Overall, the proportion of black patients using the ED was higher than the proportion of blacks in the population.



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.  
 Population Data: SANDAG, 2004 population estimates.

Among 0 to 14 year old patients, almost half were Hispanic, compared to only 38 percent of the population. A higher proportion of ED patients were black across all age groups when compared to the proportion of the San Diego County population as a whole.

**Patient Race/Ethnicity by Age Group**

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Total	
	Number	Percent										
White	3,674	31.6	5,851	44.9	12,703	49.5	9,737	58.5	7,526	67.0	39,491	50.5
Black	1,075	9.2	1,366	10.5	2,892	11.3	1,972	11.8	449	4.0	7,754	9.9
Hispanic	5,651	48.6	4,292	32.9	7,197	28.1	3,206	19.2	1,828	16.3	22,174	28.3
Asian/Other	842	7.2	1,119	8.6	2,125	8.3	1,366	8.2	1,226	10.9	6,678	8.5
Unknown	391	3.4	409	3.1	737	2.9	374	2.2	209	1.9	2,120	2.7
Total	11,636	100.0	13,045	100.0	25,656	100.0	16,656	100.0	11,237	100.0	78,232	100.0

\*Totals include patients with missing race/ethnicity and age.

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

**Population Distribution by Race/Ethnicity and Age Group**

	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total
White	40.8%	42.1%	48.3%	64.8%	73.7%	52.1%
Black	6.2%	6.2%	5.7%	4.6%	3.0%	5.3%
Hispanic	37.9%	36.7%	31.2%	17.5%	12.3%	28.4%
Asian/Other	15.1%	15.1%	14.8%	13.1%	10.9%	14.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Population Data: SANDAG, 2004 population estimates.

Twenty-eight percent of patients residing in the Central region were black, compared to only 10 percent of all ED patients. In the South region, 55 percent of ED patients were Hispanic.

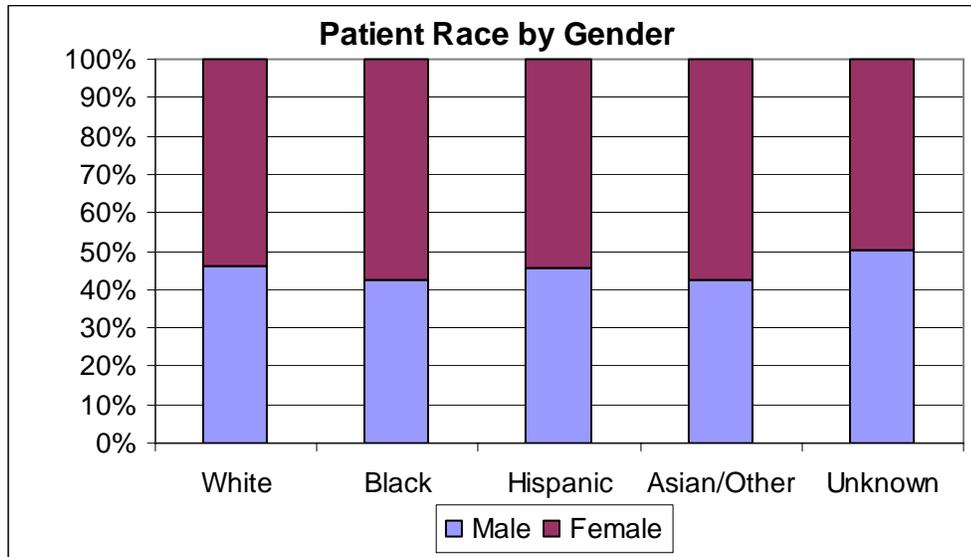
**Patient Race/Ethnicity by Region**

	North Coastal		North Central		Central		South		East		North Inland		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
White	5,844	53.9	5,498	63.3	4,370	32.4	2,547	24.3	8,192	65.4	8,796	58.7	39,491	50.5
Black	699	6.5	496	5.7	3,720	27.5	621	5.9	1,225	9.8	475	3.2	7,754	9.9
Hispanic	3,315	30.6	1,132	13.0	4,063	30.1	5,756	54.9	2,272	18.1	4,141	27.6	22,174	28.3
Asian/Other	861	7.9	1,375	15.8	1,089	8.1	1,030	9.8	569	4.5	1,156	7.7	6,678	8.5
Unknown	117	1.1	179	2.1	264	2.0	536	5.1	275	2.2	427	2.8	2,135	2.7
Total	10,836	100.0	8,680	100.0	13,506	100.0	10,490	100.0	12,533	100.0	14,995	100.0	78,232	100.0

\*Totals include 7,191 patients with missing region of residence.

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

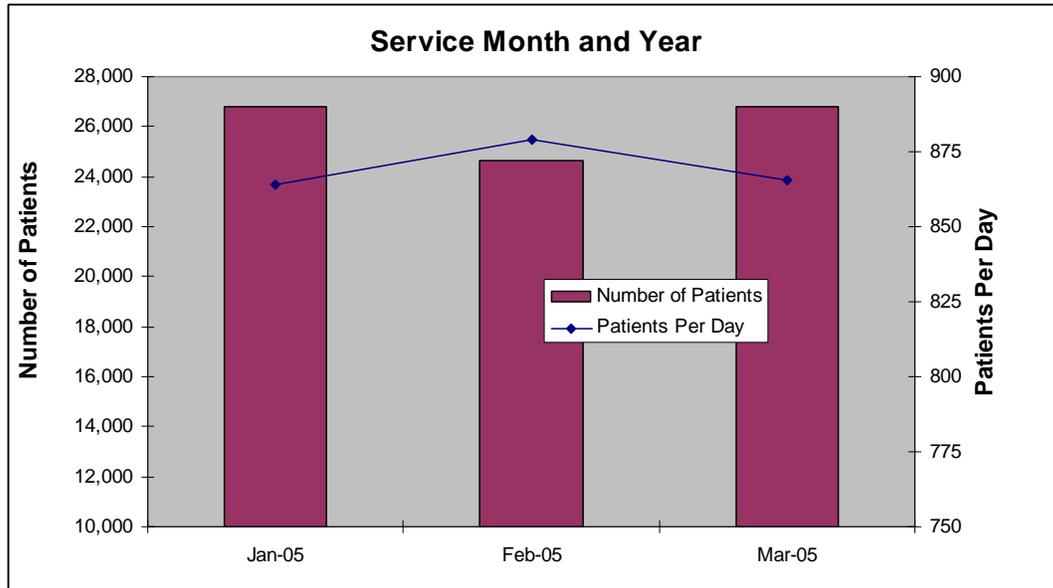
Across all racial/ethnic categories, a higher proportion of females were treated and discharged from the emergency department than males.



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

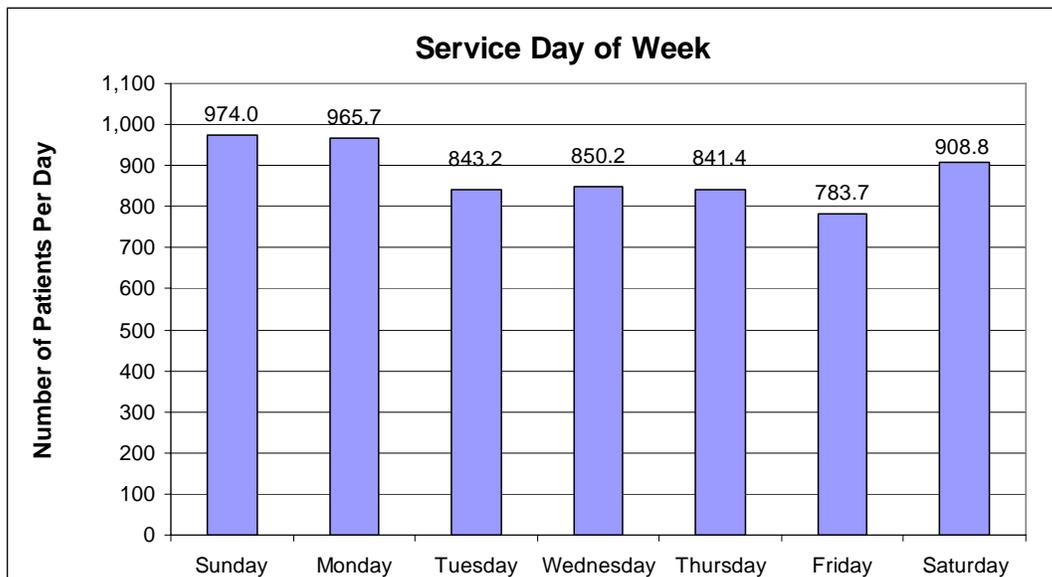
## Month and Day of Week

Although there were fewer total patients treated and discharged from the emergency department in February, there were more patients discharged per day in February (n=879) than in January (n=864) or March (n=865).



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

There were more patients discharged per day on Sundays (n = 974) and Mondays (n = 966) than any other day of the week. The fewest number of patients discharged per day occurred on Fridays (n = 784).

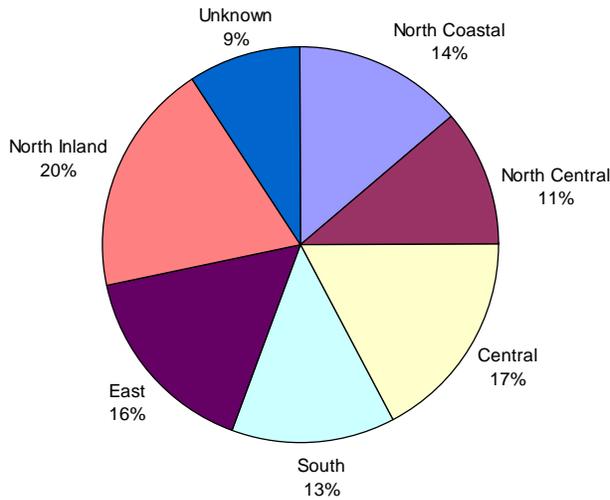


Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

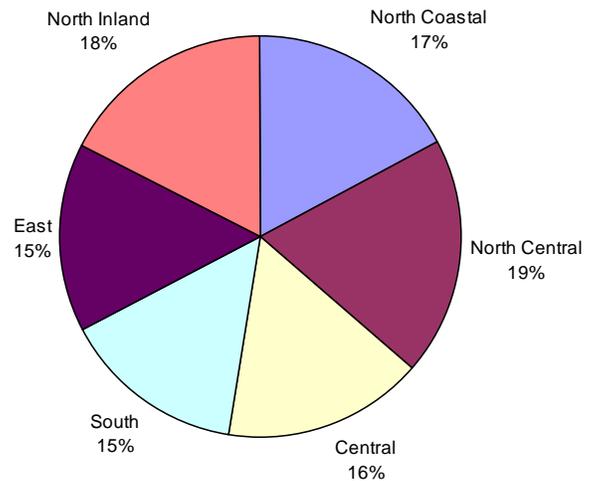
## Patient Residence

Patients discharged from the nine emergency departments represented in this report were fairly evenly distributed between the health and human services regions, and comparable to the population distribution by region. However, the North Central Region did appear to be slightly underrepresented among ED patients.

### Patient Residence by Region



### Population by Region



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.  
Population: SANDAG, 2004 Estimates

### Patient Region of Residence

	Frequency	Percent
North Coastal	10,836	13.9
North Central	8,680	11.1
Central	13,506	17.3
South	10,490	13.4
East	12,533	16.0
North Inland	14,995	19.2
Unknown	7,192	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,232</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Population by Region

	Frequency	Percent
North Coastal	515,999	17.1
North Central	581,158	19.3
Central	489,811	16.2
South	439,059	14.6
East	461,872	15.3
North Inland	529,305	17.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,017,204</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.  
Population: SANDAG, 2004 Estimates

The distribution of ED patients by subregional area (SRA) compared to the distribution of the population by SRA is presented below.

**Patient Residence by SRA**

	Frequency	Percent of Patients	Percent of Population
Central San Diego	4,899	6.3	5.4
Peninsula	629	0.8	2.1
Coronado	84	0.1	0.9
National City	2,370	3.0	1.9
Southeast San Diego	5,540	7.1	5.4
Mid-City	3,067	3.9	5.8
Kearny Mesa	3,280	4.2	5.0
Coastal	1,055	1.3	2.6
University	744	1.0	1.7
Del Mar-Mira Mesa	1,527	2.0	4.9
North San Diego	2,611	3.3	3.0
Poway	1,831	2.3	2.9
Miramar	7	0.0	0.2
Elliott-Navajo	1,111	1.4	3.0
Sweetwater	1,296	1.7	3.4
Chula Vista	3,804	4.9	3.8
South Bay	2,760	3.5	4.4
Jamul	591	0.8	0.5
Spring Valley	1,702	2.2	2.7
Lemon Grove	783	1.0	1.0
La Mesa	1,668	2.1	1.9
El Cajon	2,949	3.8	4.1
Santee	1,161	1.5	1.7
Lakeside	1,117	1.4	1.9
Harbison Crest	2,182	2.8	0.5
Alpine	329	0.4	0.5
Ramona	1,084	1.4	1.2
San Dieguito	360	0.5	3.0
Carlsbad	1,164	1.5	3.5
Oceanside	5,891	7.5	5.4
Pendleton	25	0.0	1.3
Escondido	6,805	8.7	5.1
San Marcos	2,175	2.8	2.7
Vista	3,287	4.2	3.3
Valley Center	507	0.6	0.7
Pauma	158	0.2	0.2
Fallbrook	531	0.7	1.6
Palomar-Julian	87	0.1	0.2
Laguna-Pine Valley	58	0.1	0.2
Mountain Empire	209	0.3	0.2
Anza-Borrego Springs	85	0.1	0.1
Out of County	2	0.0	
Unknown	6,707	8.6	
Total	78,232	100.0	100.0

\**Percent of Patients* refers to the percentage of ED patients residing in each SRA.

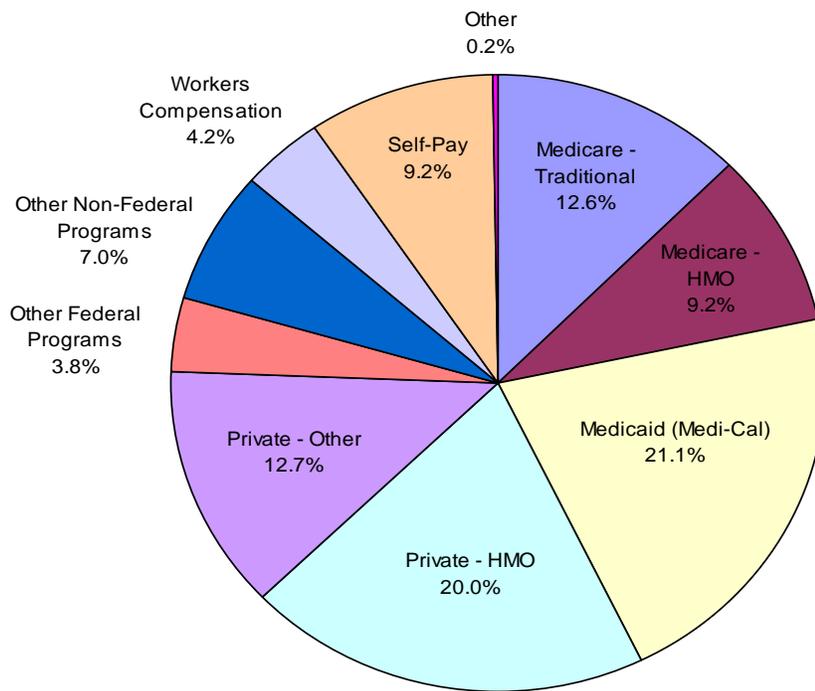
\**Percent of Population* refers to the percentage of the total population residing in each SRA.

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.  
Population Data: SANDAG, 2004 population estimates.

## Source of Payment

Among all patients discharged from the nine EDs represented in this report, 92 percent reported an expected source of payment. Of those with a known payment source, 22 percent were covered by Medicare and 21 percent by Medi-Cal. The source of payment for 20 percent of all patients was a private health maintenance organization (HMO). The distribution of payment source is shown below.

### Source of Payment – When Known



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

### Aggregation of Payment Categories

Payment Category	Expected Source of Payment
Medicare - Traditional	Medicare part A, part B
Medicare - HMO	HMO Medicare Risk
Medicaid (Medi-Cal)	Medicaid (Medi-Cal)
Private - HMO	HMO
Private - Other	PPO, EPO, POS, Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Other Federal Programs	CHAMPUS (TRICARE), Title V, Veterans Affairs Plan, Other federal program
Other Non-Federal Programs	Other non-federal program
Workers Compensation	Workers compensation health claim
Self-Pay	Self-pay
Other	Automobile medical, other

**Source of Payment by Age Group**

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Total	
	Frequency	Percent										
Self-Pay	1013	9.2	1820	15.7	2684	11.7	1022	6.5	82	0.7	6621	9.2
Other non-federal programs	62	0.6	773	6.7	2,554	11.1	1,663	10.7	23	0.2	5,075	7.0
PPO	1,052	9.5	1,747	15.1	2,976	13.0	1,851	11.9	136	1.2	7,762	10.7
EPO	26	0.2	29	0.3	75	0.3	55	0.4	3	0.0	188	0.3
HMO Medicare Risk	561	5.1	453	3.9	966	4.2	909	5.8	3,739	33.7	6,628	9.2
Automobile Medical	4	0.0	8	0.1	16	0.1	15	0.1	28	0.3	71	0.1
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	231	2.1	192	1.7	400	1.7	354	2.3	27	0.2	1,204	1.7
CHAMPUS (TRICARE)	425	3.9	636	5.5	715	3.1	489	3.1	56	0.5	2,321	3.2
HMO	3,474	31.5	2,332	20.1	4,841	21.1	3,244	20.8	542	4.9	14,433	20.0
Medicare Part A	0	0.0	41	0.4	695	3.0	1,073	6.9	3,712	33.4	5,521	7.6
Medicare Part B	0	0.0	11	0.1	453	2.0	720	4.6	2,397	21.6	3,581	5.0
Medicaid (Medi-Cal)	4,168	37.8	2,882	24.9	4,733	20.6	3,220	20.6	280	2.5	15,283	21.1
Other federal program	0	0.0	41	0.4	176	0.8	143	0.9	9	0.1	369	0.5
Title V	0	0.0	1	0.0	9	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	11	0.0
Veterans Affairs Plan	0	0.0	3	0.0	14	0.1	51	0.3	8	0.1	76	0.1
Workers Compensation	0	0.0	597	0.1	1,638	0.1	781	0.1	56	0.1	3,072	0.1
Other	21	0.2	16	0.1	23	0.1	19	0.1	7	0.1	86	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,037</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,582</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22,968</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15,610</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,105</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72,302</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing Payor Source	599		1,463		2,688		1,046		132		5,930	
<b>Age Group Totals</b>	<b>11,636</b>		<b>13,045</b>		<b>25,656</b>		<b>16,656</b>		<b>11,237</b>		<b>78,232</b>	

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

- Nearly 40 percent of children (0 to 14 years) were covered by Medi-Cal; 9 percent were self-pay.
- The highest proportion of self-pay patients were between 25 and 44 years of age (41%).
- Medicare covered 89 percent of persons aged 65 years and older. Over 6 percent of these patients were covered by private insurance.

**Source of Payment by Race/Ethnicity**

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other		Unknown		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Self-Pay	2,622	7.1	738	10.2	2,630	13.0	412	6.6	217	12.9	6,619	9.2
Other non-federal programs	2,692	7.3	931	12.8	1,076	5.3	258	4.1	118	7.0	5,075	7.0
PPO	4,681	12.7	375	5.2	1,418	7.0	1,016	16.2	269	16.0	7,759	10.7
EPO	84	0.2	17	0.2	49	0.2	29	0.5	9	0.5	188	0.3
HMO Medicare Risk	4,912	13.3	178	2.4	1,026	5.1	419	6.7	92	5.5	6,627	9.2
Automobile Medical	23	0.1	16	0.2	19	0.1	13	0.2	0	0.0	71	0.1
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	902	2.4	40	0.6	149	0.7	95	1.5	18	1.1	1,204	1.7
CHAMPUS (TRICARE)	1,236	3.4	275	3.8	421	2.1	310	5.0	79	4.7	2,321	3.2
HMO	7,273	19.7	1,013	13.9	4,326	21.4	1,372	21.9	442	26.3	14,426	20.0
Medicare Part A	3,282	8.9	520	7.2	1,041	5.1	603	9.6	75	4.5	5,521	7.6
Medicare Part B	2,427	6.6	244	3.4	457	2.3	405	6.5	48	2.9	3,581	5.0
Medicaid (Medi-Cal)	5,162	14.0	2,665	36.7	6,280	31.1	995	15.9	180	10.7	15,282	21.1
Other federal program	256	0.7	34	0.5	58	0.3	19	0.3	2	0.1	369	0.5
Title V	3	0.0	7	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	0.0
Veterans Affairs Plan	47	0.1	13	0.2	7	0.0	6	0.1	3	0.2	76	0.1
Workers compensation health	1,245	3.4	200	2.8	1,245	6.2	293	4.7	89	5.3	3,072	4.2
Other	19	0.1	3	0.0	19	0.1	8	0.1	37	2.2	86	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,866</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7,269</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20,222</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,253</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72,288</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing Payor Source	2,625		485		1,952		425		442		5,944	
Race/Ethnicity Totals	39,491		7,754		22,174		6,678		2,120		78,232	

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

- 37 percent of black patients and 31 percent of Hispanic patients were covered by Medi-Cal, compared to only 16 percent of Asian/other patients and 14 percent of white patients.
- Only 19 percent of black patients were covered by private insurance, compared to 43 percent of white patients and 40 percent of Asian/other patients.
- 40 percent of all self-pay patients were Hispanic; only 28 percent of all patients discharged from the ED were Hispanic.

### Source of Payment by Gender

	Male		Female		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Self-Pay	3,447	10.7	3,173	7.9	6,621	9.2
Other non-federal programs	3,041	9.4	2,034	5.1	5,075	7.0
PPO	3,664	11.3	4,095	10.3	7,762	10.7
EPO	76	0.2	112	0.3	188	0.3
HMO Medicare Risk	2,718	8.4	3,904	9.8	6,627	9.2
Automobile Medical	32	0.1	39	0.1	71	0.1
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	601	1.9	599	1.5	1,204	1.7
CHAMPUS (TRICARE)	950	2.9	1,371	3.4	2,321	3.2
HMO	6,190	19.1	8,241	20.6	14,433	20.0
Medicare Part A	2,335	7.2	3,186	8.0	5,521	7.6
Medicare Part B	1,571	4.9	2,007	5.0	3,581	5.0
Medicaid (Medi-Cal)	5,450	16.8	9,832	24.6	15,283	21.1
Other federal program	189	0.6	180	0.5	369	0.5
Title V	9	0.0	2	0.0	11	0.0
Veterans Affairs Plan	63	0.2	13	0.0	76	0.1
Workers Compensation	1,972	6.1	1,099	2.8	3,072	4.2
Other	45	0.1	41	0.1	86	0.1
Total	32,353	100.0	39,928	100.0	72,301	100.0
Missing Payor Source	3,052		2,858		5,931	
Gender Totals	35,405		42,786		78,232	

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

- 65 percent of Medi-Cal patients were female.
- Only 17 percent of male patients were covered by Medi-Cal, compared to 25 percent of females.
- 11 percent of male patients were self-pay.

**Source of Payment by Region**

	North Coastal		North Central		Central		South		East		North Inland	
	Count	Percent										
Self-Pay	1,679	15.9	147	1.9	965	7.9	1,037	10.1	1,434	11.7	248	2.0
Other non-federal programs	48	0.5	558	7.1	2,033	16.6	698	6.8	1,163	9.5	223	1.8
PPO	791	7.5	1,587	20.3	734	6.0	1,007	9.8	1,238	10.1	1,218	9.6
EPO	1	0.0	15	0.2	24	0.2	37	0.4	89	0.7	7	0.1
HMO Medicare Risk	918	8.7	643	8.2	340	2.8	526	5.1	694	5.6	2,962	23.4
Automobile Medical	0	-	8	0.1	26	0.2	21	0.2	9	0.1	0	-
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	38	0.4	124	1.6	32	0.3	11	0.1	7	0.1	804	6.3
CHAMPUS (TRICARE)	591	5.6	248	3.2	198	1.6	267	2.6	263	2.1	392	3.1
HMO	2,184	20.7	2,076	26.5	1,586	13.0	2,363	23.0	2,554	20.8	2,761	21.8
Medicare Part A	1,016	9.6	605	7.7	822	6.7	1,153	11.2	1,284	10.4	192	1.5
Medicare Part B	111	1.1	515	6.6	762	6.2	233	2.3	167	1.4	1,515	12.0
Medicaid (Medi-Cal)	2,178	20.6	944	12.1	4,329	35.4	2,493	24.2	3,086	25.1	1,585	12.5
Other federal program	30	0.3	18	0.2	12	0.1	7	0.1	6	0.0	277	2.2
Title V	0	-	3	0.0	8	0.1	0	-	0	-	0	-
Veterans Affairs Plan	0	-	10	0.1	13	0.1	11	0.1	21	0.2	5	0.0
Workers Compensation	942	8.9	321	4.1	344	2.8	421	4.1	287	2.3	479	3.8
Other	38	0.4	0	-	0	-	2	0.0	0	-	7	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,565</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7,822</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,228</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,287</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,302</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,675</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Missing Payor Source	271		858		1,278		203		231		2,320	
<b>Region Total</b>	<b>10,836</b>		<b>8,680</b>		<b>13,506</b>		<b>10,490</b>		<b>12,533</b>		<b>14,995</b>	

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

\*Excludes 7,192 patients with an unknown region of residence.

- 60 percent of ED patients residing in the Central region were underinsured: 35 percent were covered by Medi-Cal, 17 percent by non-federal programs, and 8 percent were self-pay.
- Less than 20 percent of ED patients from the Central region were covered by private insurance, compared to nearly half of patients from the North Central region and 33 percent overall.
- 16 percent of ED patients from the North Coastal region were self-pay. Only 2 percent from the North Central and North Inland regions were self-pay.
- In the North Inland Region, 23 percent of patients belonged to a Medicare HMO, while 12 percent were covered by Medicare part B, and less than 2 percent by Medicare part A.

## Patient Disposition

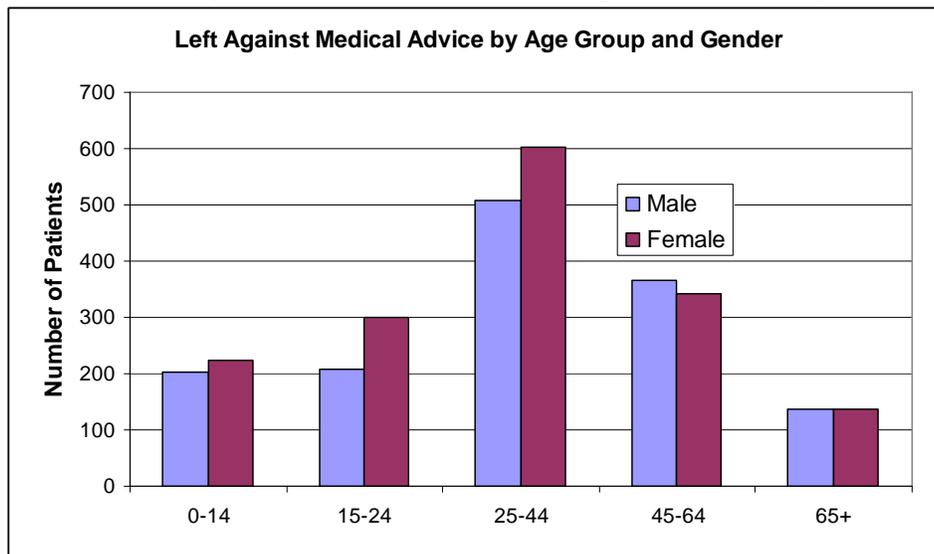
Nearly all (92%) patients who were treated and discharged from the emergency department were sent home for self care. Note: ED data does not include patients who were admitted to the hospital from the emergency department. Typically, between 12 percent and 20 percent of all patients who present to the ED are admitted to the hospital.

**Patient Disposition**

	Frequency	Percent
Home for Self Care	71,807	91.8
Left Facility Against Medical Advice	3,036	3.9
Transfer to Another Hospital	1,603	2.0
Discharged to Skilled Nursing Facility	534	0.7
Discharged to Psychiatric Hospital or Unit	401	0.5
Discharged to Intermediate Care Facility	264	0.3
Expired	217	0.3
Other	124	0.2
Home Under Care of Home Intravenous Provider	89	0.1
Transfer to Other Inpatient Facility	50	0.1
Home under care of organized home health service organization	42	0.1
Unknown	39	0.0
Home With Hospice Care	7	0.0
Discharged to Other Rehab Facility	7	0.0
Discharged to Long Term Care	5	0.0
Discharged to a Federal Hospital	4	0.0
Discharged to a Medical Facility With Hospice Care	2	0.0
Discharged to Nursing Facility under MediCal, not Medicare	1	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,232</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

Almost 4 percent of patients left the facility against medical advice (AMA). More females under the age of 45 years left AMA, but the highest proportion of patients leaving AMA were females between the ages of 0 and 14 years and males between the ages of 25 and 64 years.



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

**Percentage of Patients Leaving AMA**

	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total
Male	3.1	3.8	4.5	4.8	3.1	4.0
Female	4.4	4.0	4.2	3.8	2.0	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.9</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

A higher percentage of black patients presenting to the ED left AMA than any other race/ethnicity (5.3%).

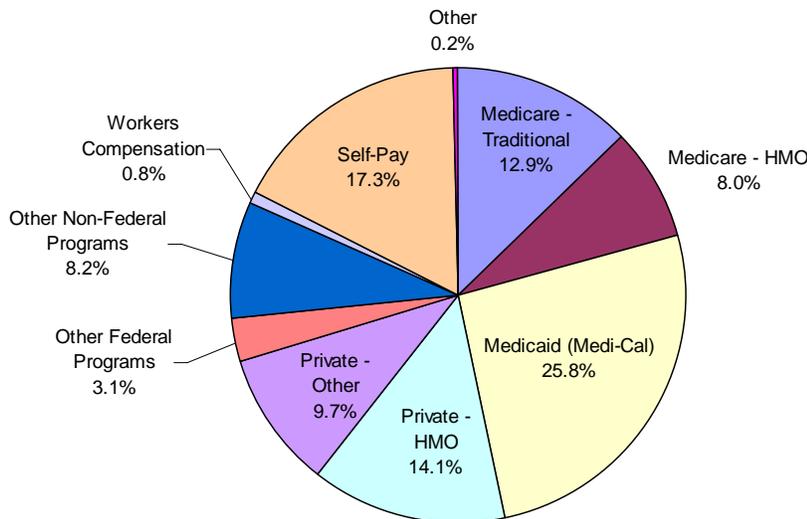
**Patients Leaving AMA by Race/Ethnicity**

	Total	AMA	%AMA
White	39,491	1,461	3.7
Black	7,754	414	5.3
Hispanic	22,174	795	3.6
Asian/Other	6,678	193	2.9
Unknown	2,120	173	8.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,232</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>3.9</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

Expected Source of Payment was known for 81.5% of patients who left AMA (n = 2,475). The distribution of payment type is shown below. A higher percentage of self-pay, Medi-Cal, and patients covered by other non-federal programs left AMA than in the overall patient population.

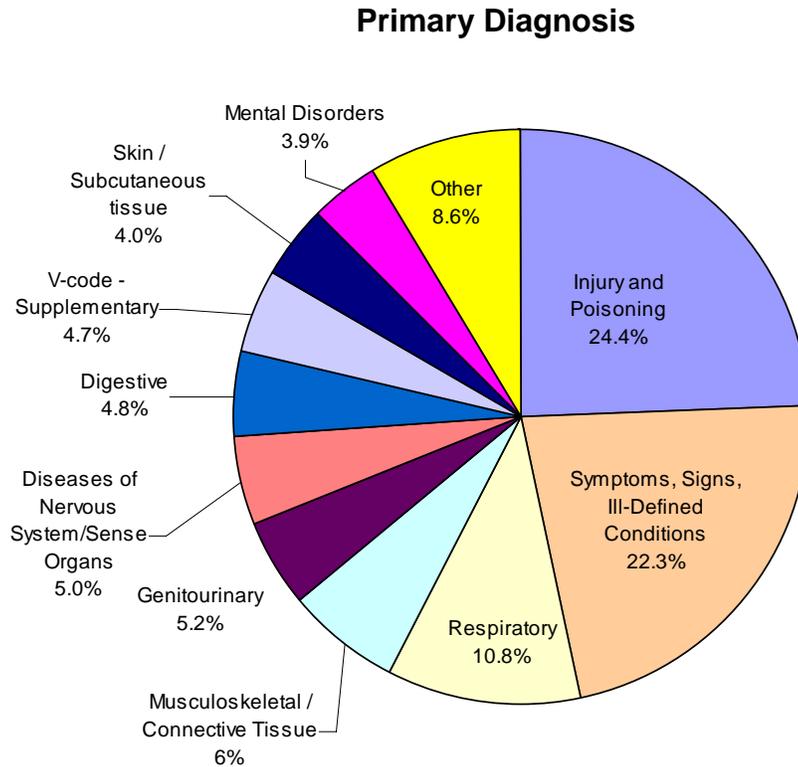
**Payment Source – When Known  
Patients Leaving AMA**



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

## Primary Diagnosis

Primary diagnosis was reported for 99 percent of all patients. Among the diagnoses that were reported, ED patients were treated and discharged for a diagnosis represented by the following categories.



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

Each category represents the following diagnoses:

**Mental Disorders** – includes psychoses, neurotic disorders, personality disorders, and other nonpsychotic mental disorders.

**Skin/Subcutaneous Tissue** – includes infections of skin and subcutaneous tissue, and inflammatory conditions of skin and subcutaneous tissue.

**V-Code Supplementary** – Circumstances other than a disease or injury, such as a person who is not currently sick donating an organ or blood, a person with a known disease encountering the system for specific treatment (dialysis, chemotherapy, cast change), or when a problem is present which influences the person's health status but is not in itself a current illness or injury.

**Digestive** – includes diseases of the oral cavity, salivary glands, and jaws, diseases of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum, appendicitis, hernia of the abdominal cavity, noninfectious enteritis and colitis, and other diseases of the intestines, peritoneum, and digestive system.

**Diseases of Nervous System, Sense Organs** – includes inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system (CNS), hereditary and degenerative diseases of the CNS, disorders of the peripheral nervous system, and disorders of the eye and ear.

**Genitourinary** – includes nephritis, nephritic syndrome, and nephrosis, other diseases of the urinary system, diseases of male genital organs and female pelvic organs, disorders of the breast, and disorders of the female genital tract.

**Musculoskeletal/Connective Tissue** – Includes arthropathies (arthritis) and related disorders, dorsopathies (back), rheumatism (excluding the back), osteopathies, chondropathies, and acquired musculoskeletal deformities.

**Respiratory** – includes acute respiratory infections, diseases of the upper respiratory tract, pneumonia and influenza, COPD, lung disease due to external agents, and other diseases of the respiratory system.

**Symptoms, signs, ill-defined conditions** – includes symptoms, signs, abnormal results of laboratory or other investigative procedures, and ill-defined conditions with no diagnosis classifiable elsewhere.

**Injury and Poisoning** – includes fractures, dislocation, sprains and strains, intracranial injury, internal injury, open wounds, hematoma, lacerations, late effects of injury and poisoning, superficial injury, contusions, crushing injury, foreign bodies, traumatic complications of injury, poisoning, and complications of surgical or medical care.

**Other** – Includes infectious and parasitic diseases; neoplasms; endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases; diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs; diseases of the circulatory system; complications of pregnancy; and congenital anomalies.

The fifteen most common diagnoses among patients treated and discharged from the ED are listed below. Acute respiratory infections were diagnosed for 5.5% of all patients. These include the common cold, sore throat, tonsillitis, laryngitis, and acute bronchitis. Respiratory symptoms (5.1%) represent undiagnosed respiratory abnormalities, including hyperventilation, apnea, shortness of breath, wheezing, cough, painful respiration, and other discomfort in the chest. Asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and other chronic obstructive lung diseases are classified under COPD and allied conditions (3.2%).

General symptoms (4.9%) include altered consciousness, hallucinations, syncope, convulsions, dizziness, sleep disturbances, fever, and general malaise and fatigue. Abdominal symptoms (4.7%) refer to abdominal tenderness or pain, which is otherwise unclassifiable. Head and neck symptoms (2.3%) are diagnosed for general headache, neck pain, swelling, or voice and speech disturbances.

ED diagnoses of other diseases of the urinary system (3.4%) were mainly kidney stones, kidney infections, urinary tract infections and cystitis. Dorsopathies (3.1%) refer to disorders of the back and cervical region. Neurotic, personality and other nonpsychotic mental disorders included neurotic disorders, non-dependent abuse of drugs, and other depressive disorders. Diseases of the ear and mastoid process were diagnosed primarily for otitis media, vertigo, and other disorders of the ear.

**Primary Diagnosis  
15 Most Common Diagnoses**

Primary Diagnosis	Frequency	Percent
460-466 ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	4,272	5.5
840-848 SPRAINS AND STRAINS OF JOINTS AND MUSCLES	4,093	5.2
786 RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS*	3,975	5.1
780 GENERAL SYMPTOMS*	3,844	4.9
789 ABDOMINAL SYMPTOMS*	3,689	4.7
920-924 CONTUSION WITH INTACT SKIN SURFACE	2,748	3.5
590-599 OTHER DISEASES OF URINARY SYSTEM	2,647	3.4
490-496 COPD AND ALLIED CONDITIONS	2,484	3.2
720-724 DORSOPATHIES	2,436	3.1
870-879 OPEN WOUND OF HEAD, NECK, TRUNK	2,123	2.7
300-316 NEUROTIC, PERSONALITY, OTHER NONPSYCHOTIC	2,114	2.7
880-887 OPEN WOUND OF UPPER LIMB	2,044	2.6
680-686 INFECTIONS OF SKIN AND SUBCUTANEOUS TISSUE	2,018	2.6
784 HEAD AND NECK SYMPTOMS*	1,810	2.3
380-389 DISEASES OF EAR AND MASTOID PROCESS	1,766	2.3

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

\*Refers to diagnoses classifiable under symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions.

### Primary Diagnosis by Age Group

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Total	
	Freq.	Percent										
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	396	3.5	141	1.1	224	0.9	105	0.6	69	0.6	935	1.2
Neoplasms	4	0.0	7	0.1	33	0.1	45	0.3	30	0.3	119	0.2
Endocrine, Nutrition, Metabolic	92	0.8	102	0.8	323	1.3	349	2.1	383	3.4	1,249	1.6
Disease of blood & blood forming organs	20	0.2	13	0.1	37	0.1	32	0.2	45	0.4	147	0.2
Mental disorders	75	0.7	610	4.7	1,238	4.9	853	5.2	247	2.2	3,023	3.9
Diseases of Nervous System/Sense Org	1,112	9.7	466	3.6	1,269	5.0	731	4.4	269	2.4	3,847	5.0
Circulatory	18	0.2	68	0.5	296	1.2	564	3.4	986	8.8	1,932	2.5
Respiratory	2,622	22.9	1,115	8.6	2,237	8.8	1,420	8.6	1,000	9.0	8,394	10.8
Digestive	442	3.9	576	4.5	1,231	4.8	835	5.1	614	5.5	3,698	4.8
Genitourinary	220	1.9	880	6.8	1,551	6.1	788	4.8	566	5.1	4,005	5.2
Comps of preg, childbirth, puerperi	2	0.0	982	7.6	1,211	4.8	6	0.0	0	0.0	2,201	2.8
Skin/Subcutaneous tissue	305	2.7	569	4.4	1,227	4.8	736	4.5	269	2.4	3,106	4.0
Musculoskeletal/Connective tissue	136	1.2	475	3.7	1,827	7.2	1,618	9.8	780	7.0	4,836	6.2
Congenital Anomalies	9	0.1	13	0.1	10	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	33	0.0
Perinatal conditions	58	0.5	3	0.0	2	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	63	0.1
Symptoms, signs, ill-defined conditions	2,319	20.2	2,214	17.2	5,438	21.4	4,088	24.8	3,232	28.9	17,291	22.3
Injury and poisoning	3,230	28.2	3,979	30.8	5,841	23.0	3,497	21.2	2,349	21.0	18,896	24.4
V-code - supplementary	401	3.5	693	5.4	1,406	5.5	840	5.1	329	2.9	3,669	4.7
Group Total	11,461	100.0	12,906	100.0	25,401	100.0	16,508	100.0	11,168	100.0	77,444	100.0

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

\*Total includes 1 case with missing age. Excludes 788 patients with missing primary diagnosis.

- 23 percent of children aged 0 to 14 years who were discharged from the ED were diagnosed with a respiratory condition. Almost 4 percent were diagnosed with an infectious or parasitic disease.
- 31 percent of 15 to 24 year olds were diagnosed with an injury or poisoning.
- Most patients 65 years and older were diagnosed with symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions (29%), followed by injury and poisoning (21%). Nine percent of individuals aged 65 years and older were diagnosed with a circulatory condition and 9 percent were diagnosed with a respiratory condition.

### Primary Diagnosis by Race/Ethnicity

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other		Unknown		Total	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	306	0.8	134	1.7	392	1.8	78	1.2	25	1.4	935	1.2
Neoplasms	60	0.2	10	0.1	32	0.1	17	0.3	0	0.0	119	0.2
Endocrine, Nutrition, Metabolic	633	1.6	121	1.6	341	1.6	133	2.0	21	1.1	1,249	1.6
Disease of blood and blood forming orga	62	0.2	31	0.4	42	0.2	9	0.1	3	0.2	147	0.2
Mental disorders	1,907	4.9	252	3.3	624	2.8	179	2.7	61	3.3	3,023	3.9
Diseases of Nervous System/Sense Org	1,890	4.8	393	5.1	1,186	5.4	299	4.5	79	4.3	3,847	5.0
Circulatory	1,164	3.0	187	2.4	349	1.6	192	2.9	40	2.2	1,932	2.5
Respiratory	3,867	9.9	946	12.2	2,654	12.1	748	11.3	179	9.7	8,394	10.8
Digestive	1,697	4.3	357	4.6	1,191	5.4	356	5.4	97	5.3	3,698	4.8
Genitourinary	2,014	5.1	395	5.1	1,126	5.1	379	5.7	91	4.9	4,005	5.2
Comps of preg, childbirth, puerperi	643	1.6	244	3.2	1,067	4.9	192	2.9	55	3.0	2,201	2.8
Skin/Subcutaneous tissue	1,705	4.3	303	3.9	782	3.6	255	3.8	61	3.3	3,106	4.0
Musculoskeletal/Connective tissue	2,783	7.1	629	8.1	1,009	4.6	324	4.9	91	4.9	4,836	6.2
Congenital Anomalies	18	0.0	1	0.0	11	0.1	3	0.0	0	0.0	33	0.0
Perinatal conditions	17	0.0	2	0.0	40	0.2	2	0.0	2	0.1	63	0.1
Symptoms, signs, ill-defined conditions	8,721	22.2	1,762	22.8	4,757	21.6	1,710	25.8	341	18.5	17,291	22.3
Injury and poisoning	10,125	25.8	1,500	19.4	5,236	23.8	1,495	22.5	540	29.3	18,896	24.4
V-code - supplementary	1,642	4.2	463	6.0	1,139	5.2	269	4.1	156	8.5	3,669	4.7
Group Total	39,254	100.0	7,730	100.0	21,978	100.0	6,640	100.0	1,842	100.0	77,444	100.0

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

\*Excludes 788 patients with missing diagnosis.

- Among all white patients, 26 percent were diagnosed with an injury or poisoning.
- Twelve percent of all black patients were diagnosed with a respiratory condition.
- More Hispanic patients were diagnosed with an infectious or parasitic disease than any other racial/ethnic group.
- Patients identified as Asian/other were most often diagnosed with symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions (26%).

### Primary Diagnosis by Gender

	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	431	1.2	504	1.2	935	1.2
Neoplasms	51	0.1	68	0.2	119	0.2
Endocrine, Nutrition, Metabolic	596	1.7	652	1.5	1,249	1.6
Disease of blood and blood forming orga	79	0.2	68	0.2	147	0.2
Mental disorders	1,575	4.5	1,447	3.4	3,023	3.9
Diseases of Nervous System/Sense Org	1,583	4.5	2,264	5.3	3,847	5.0
Circulatory	927	2.6	1,003	2.4	1,932	2.5
Respiratory	3,850	11.0	4,540	10.7	8,394	10.8
Digestive	1,593	4.5	2,102	5.0	3,698	4.8
Genitourinary	1,125	3.2	2,880	6.8	4,005	5.2
Comps of preg, childbirth, puerperi	0	0.0	2,201	5.2	2,201	2.8
Skin/Subcutaneous tissue	1,635	4.7	1,470	3.5	3,106	4.0
Musculoskeletal/Connective tissue	2,110	6.0	2,723	6.4	4,836	6.2
Congenital Anomalies	16	0.0	17	0.0	33	0.0
Perinatal conditions	29	0.1	34	0.1	63	0.1
Symptoms, signs, ill-defined conditions	7,201	20.5	10,085	23.8	17,291	22.3
Injury and poisoning	10,273	29.3	8,616	20.3	18,896	24.4
V-code - supplementary	1,985	5.7	1,684	4.0	3,669	4.7
Group Total	35,059	100.0	42,358	100.0	77,444	100.0

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.  
 \*Total includes 39 cases with missing gender. Excludes 788 patients with missing diagnosis.

- Among males, nearly 30 percent of patients were diagnosed with an injury or poisoning.
- Females were most often diagnosed with symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions (24%).
- Five percent of female patients were diagnosed with complications of pregnancy, childbirth, or the puerperium. Seven percent were diagnosed with genitourinary conditions.

### Diagnosis Category by Region

	North Coastal		North Central		Central		South		East		North Inland	
	Freq.	Percent										
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	188	1.8	25	0.3	227	1.7	230	2.2	136	1.1	48	0.3
Neoplasms	21	0.2	15	0.2	17	0.1	13	0.1	15	0.1	30	0.2
Endocrine, Nutrition, Metabolic	160	1.5	153	1.8	238	1.8	186	1.8	146	1.2	286	2.0
Disease of blood	17	0.2	10	0.1	31	0.2	32	0.3	24	0.2	21	0.1
Mental disorders	462	4.3	227	2.6	488	3.6	326	3.1	579	4.6	569	3.9
Diseases of Nervous/Sense Organs	508	4.7	442	5.1	666	4.9	548	5.2	606	4.8	725	5.0
Circulatory	329	3.1	231	2.7	278	2.1	280	2.7	278	2.2	360	2.5
Respiratory	1,174	11.0	856	9.9	1,364	10.1	1,187	11.4	1,350	10.8	1,687	11.6
Digestive	549	5.1	385	4.4	615	4.6	674	6.4	494	3.9	695	4.8
Genitourinary	483	4.5	510	5.9	680	5.0	619	5.9	642	5.1	715	4.9
Comps of preg, childbirth, puerperi	282	2.6	217	2.5	436	3.2	353	3.4	369	2.9	386	2.7
Skin/Subcutaneous tissue	357	3.3	390	4.5	712	5.3	385	3.7	526	4.2	440	3.0
Musculoskeletal/Connective tissue	550	5.1	565	6.5	1,013	7.5	553	5.3	832	6.6	900	6.2
Congenital Anomalies	5	0.0	9	0.1	5	0.0	2	0.0	2	0.0	8	0.1
Perinatal conditions	20	0.2	2	0.0	6	0.0	6	0.1	7	0.1	16	0.1
Symptoms, signs, ill-defined conditions	2,095	19.6	2,068	23.9	2,966	22.0	2,283	21.8	3,045	24.3	3,307	22.8
Injury and poisoning	3,022	28.2	2,160	24.9	2,691	20.0	2,310	22.1	3,079	24.6	3,779	26.0
V-code - supplementary	492	4.6	404	4.7	1,048	7.8	464	4.4	393	3.1	538	3.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,714</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,669</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13,481</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,451</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,523</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14,510</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

\*Total excludes 788 cases with missing diagnosis and 7,192 cases with missing region of residence.

- Infectious and parasitic diseases were diagnosed most often among patients living in the North Coastal (1.8%), Central (1.7%), and South regions (2.2%).
- Patients living in the east region were diagnosed with the highest percentage of mental disorders (4.6%), followed by patients in the North Coastal region (4.3%).
- The highest proportion of injury and poisoning diagnoses occurred in the North Coastal (28%) and North Inland (26%) regions.

## Primary Injury

A primary external cause of injury code (E-code) was reported for 19,986 patients (26%). The fifteen most common E-codes are listed below.

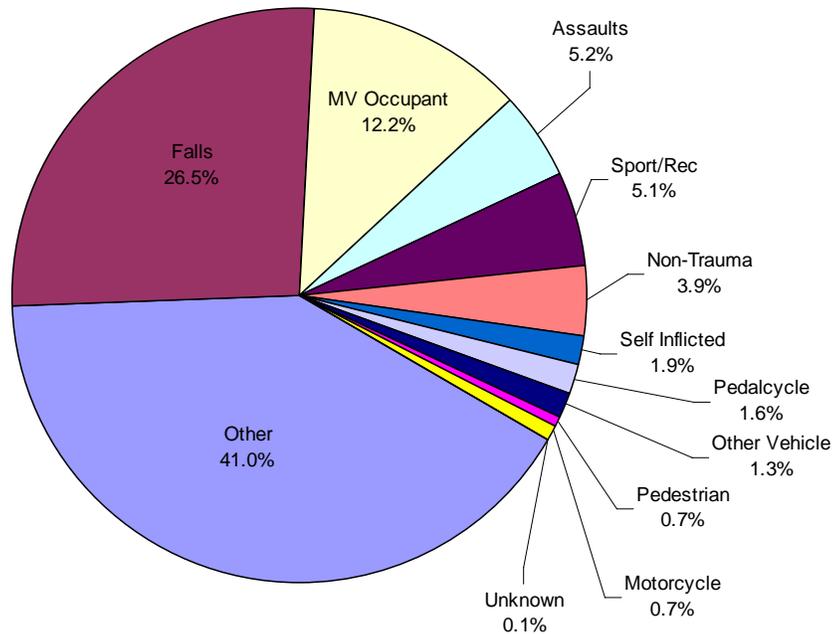
### Primary Mechanism of Injury 15 Most Common E-Codes

Principal E-Code	Frequency	Percent
FALL OTH TRIP STUMBLE	1,882	9.5
ACCID FROM OVEREXERTION*	1,717	8.6
MVA COLLISION UNSP DRIVER	1,252	6.3
UNSPEC FALL	1,231	6.2
STRUCK BY OBJ/PERSON OT	1,067	5.4
ACCID CUTTING INSTRUM OT	892	4.5
ACCIDENT UNSPEC	671	3.4
MVA COLLISION UNSP PASNGR	596	3.0
UNARMED FIGHT OR BRAWL	491	2.5
FALL AGAINST OTH OBJECT	489	2.5
STRUCK IN SPORTS W/O FALL	488	2.5
KNIFE/SWORD/DAGGER ACC	390	2.0
FALL ON STAIR/STEP OT	359	1.8
FALL ONE LEVEL TO ANOTH	305	1.5
CAUGHT BETWEEN OBJECTS	301	1.5

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

Overall, falls accounted for 27 percent of all reported injuries. The “Other” category includes unintentional cut/pierce injuries, struck by object, environmental, etc..

### Primary Mechanism of Injury



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

**Primary Injury by Age Group**

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Total	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent								
Railway Incidents	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.0
MV Traffic Incidents	235	7.1	839	20.1	1,028	16.7	585	15.7	157	6.2	2,844	14.3
MV Non-Traffic Incidents	30	0.9	68	1.6	81	1.3	26	0.7	16	0.6	221	1.1
Other Road Vehicle Incidents	116	3.5	69	1.6	88	1.4	43	1.2	4	0.2	320	1.6
Water Transport Incidents	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0	2	0.1	2	0.1	7	0.0
Air and Space Transport Incidents	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Vehicle Incidents NEC	0	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1	7	0.0
Poisoning by Drugs/Medicinal Substances/Biologicals	41	1.2	72	1.7	70	1.1	58	1.6	21	0.8	262	1.3
Poisoning by Otr Solid/Liquid/Gases/Vapors	16	0.5	18	0.4	29	0.5	12	0.3	3	0.1	78	0.4
Abnormal Surgical/Medical Procedures	3	0.1	8	0.2	8	0.1	10	0.3	11	0.4	40	0.2
Fall Incidents	1,271	38.2	616	14.7	1,099	17.9	1,111	29.8	1,546	61.4	5,643	28.4
Incidents Caused by Fire/Flames	4	0.1	7	0.2	20	0.3	13	0.3	3	0.1	47	0.2
Natural/Environmental Factors	100	3.0	97	2.3	158	2.6	105	2.8	33	1.3	493	2.5
Submersion/Suffocation/Foreign Bodies	116	3.5	52	1.2	137	2.2	67	1.8	31	1.2	403	2.0
Other Incidents	1,286	38.7	1,662	39.7	2,598	42.3	1,276	34.2	487	19.4	7,309	36.7
Late Effects of Unintentional Injury	2	0.1	11	0.3	19	0.3	10	0.3	3	0.1	45	0.2
Adverse Effects of Drugs, Medicinal, & Biologic Substances	27	0.8	71	1.7	177	2.9	146	3.9	176	7.0	597	3.0
Suicide/Self-Inflicted Injury	24	0.7	150	3.6	133	2.2	59	1.6	4	0.2	370	1.9
Homicide/Injury Purposely Inflicted by Otr Persons	43	1.3	395	9.4	408	6.6	168	4.5	13	0.5	1,027	5.2
Legal Intervention	0	0.0	21	0.5	60	1.0	18	0.5	2	0.1	101	0.5
Undetermined Intent	11	0.3	22	0.5	18	0.3	25	0.7	1	0.0	77	0.4
Injury Resulting from Operations of War	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
<b>Group Total</b>	<b>3,325</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,182</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,138</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,734</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,516</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19,896</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

\*Total includes 1 patient with missing age group.

- Most fall injuries occurred among patients 65 years and older.
- Falls accounted for 61 percent of all injuries in the 65+ age group, and 38 percent of injuries in the 0 to 14 year age group.
- The highest proportion of motor vehicle traffic accident injuries occurred among 15 to 24 year olds.
- Nearly 4 percent of injuries among 0 to 14 year olds were due to submersion, suffocation or foreign bodies.
- Over 9 percent of injuries among 15 to 24 year olds were intentionally inflicted by another person. Almost 4 percent of injuries were self-inflicted.

**Primary Injury by Race/Ethnicity**

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other		Unknown		Total	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Railway Incidents	2	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
MV Traffic Incidents	1,304	12.1	298	18.7	799	14.8	350	22.2	93	16.2	2,844	14.3
MV Non-Traffic Incidents	139	1.3	6	0.4	52	1.0	17	1.1	7	1.2	221	1.1
Other Road Vehicle Incidents	190	1.8	15	0.9	93	1.7	12	0.8	10	1.7	320	1.6
Water Transport Incidents	3	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0	7	0.0
Air and Space Transport Incidents	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Vehicle Incidents NEC	4	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	0.0
Poisoning by Drugs/Medicinal Substances/Biologicals	154	1.4	21	1.3	61	1.1	17	1.1	9	1.6	262	1.3
Poisoning by Otr Solid/Liquid/Gases/Vapors	44	0.4	8	0.5	19	0.4	5	0.3	2	0.3	78	0.4
Abnormal Surgical/Medical Procedures	21	0.2	2	0.1	14	0.3	3	0.2	0	0.0	40	0.2
Fall Incidents	3,322	30.9	351	22.1	1,440	26.7	390	24.8	140	24.4	5,643	28.4
Incidents Caused by Fire/Flames	37	0.3	2	0.1	5	0.1	2	0.1	1	0.2	47	0.2
Natural/Environmental Factors	333	3.1	23	1.4	89	1.6	35	2.2	13	2.3	493	2.5
Submersion/Suffocation/Foreign Bodies	206	1.9	30	1.9	128	2.4	29	1.8	10	1.7	403	2.0
Other Incidents	3,852	35.8	619	38.9	2,068	38.3	542	34.4	228	39.7	7,309	36.7
Late Effects of Unintentional Injury	25	0.2	5	0.3	12	0.2	3	0.2	0	0.0	45	0.2
Adverse Effects of Drugs, Medicinal, & Biologic Substances	344	3.2	42	2.6	135	2.5	66	4.2	10	1.7	597	3.0
Suicide/Self-Inflicted Injury	233	2.2	24	1.5	81	1.5	21	1.3	11	1.9	370	1.9
Homicide/Injury Purposely Inflicted by Otr Persons	470	4.4	122	7.7	339	6.3	64	4.1	32	5.6	1,027	5.2
Legal Intervention	40	0.4	12	0.8	35	0.6	9	0.6	5	0.9	101	0.5
Undetermined Intent	40	0.4	9	0.6	20	0.4	7	0.4	1	0.2	77	0.4
Injury Resulting from Operations of War	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.0
Group Total	10,763	100.0	1,591	100.0	5,394	100.0	1,574	100.0	574	100.0	19,896	100.0

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

- 31 percent of injuries among white patients were due to falls.
- Among black patients, 8 percent of all injuries were intentionally inflicted by another person.
- The highest proportion of injuries among patients identified as Asian/other were due to motor vehicle traffic incidents (22%).
- 63 percent of all self-inflicted injuries occurred among white patients.

### Primary Injury by Gender

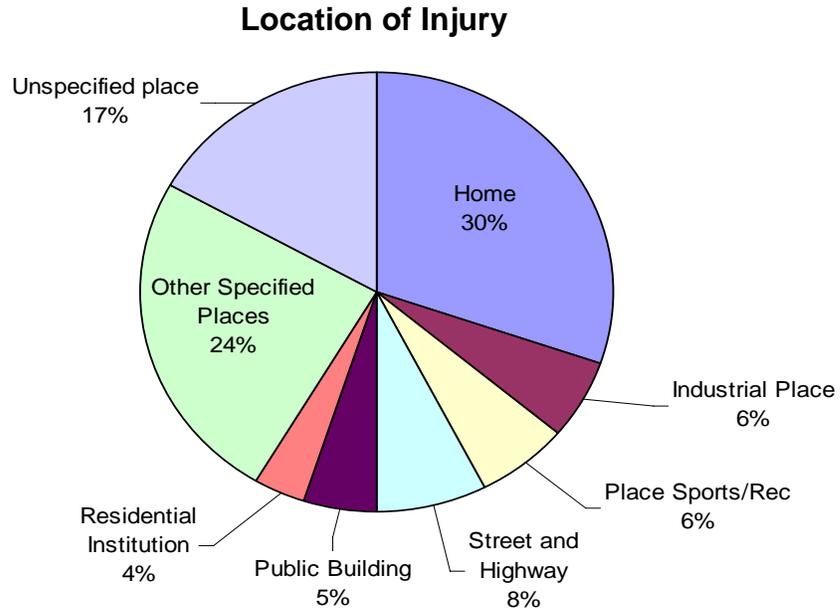
	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Railway Incidents	1	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.0
MV Traffic Incidents	1,327	12.6	1,516	16.3	2,844	14.3
MV Non-Traffic Incidents	152	1.4	68	0.7	221	1.1
Other Road Vehicle Incidents	224	2.1	96	1.0	320	1.6
Water Transport Incidents	4	0.0	3	0.0	7	0.0
Air and Space Transport Incidents	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Vehicle Incidents NEC	4	0.0	3	0.0	7	0.0
Poisoning by Drugs/Medicinal Substances/Biologicals	132	1.3	130	1.4	262	1.3
Poisoning by Otr Solid/Liquid/Gases/Vapors	44	0.4	34	0.4	78	0.4
Abnormal Surgical/Medical Procedures	21	0.2	19	0.2	40	0.2
Fall Incidents	2,520	23.9	3,122	33.5	5,643	28.4
Incidents Caused by Fire/Flames	33	0.3	14	0.2	47	0.2
Natural/Environmental Factors	257	2.4	236	2.5	493	2.5
Submersion/Suffocation/Foreign Bodies	245	2.3	158	1.7	403	2.0
Other Incidents	4,336	41.1	2,965	31.8	7,309	36.7
Late Effects of Unintentional Injury	28	0.3	17	0.2	45	0.2
Adverse Effects of Drugs, Medicinal, & Biologic Substances	227	2.1	370	4.0	597	3.0
Suicide/Self-Inflicted Injury	163	1.5	207	2.2	370	1.9
Homicide/Injury Purposely Inflicted by Otr Persons	710	6.7	317	3.4	1,027	5.2
Legal Intervention	92	0.9	9	0.1	101	0.5
Undetermined Intent	37	0.4	40	0.4	77	0.4
Injury Resulting from Operations of War	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
<b>Group Total</b>	<b>10,559</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,329</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19,896</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

\*Total includes 7 patients with missing gender.

- Falls were the most common mechanism of injury among females (34%).
- Males were more often injured in other incidents, such as cut-pierce, and struck by object (41%).
- Approximately 70 percent of intentional injuries inflicted by another person were among males.

The location of injury was reported for 17,972 patients. Nearly one-third of all injuries occurred in the home.



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

Falls were the single most common mechanism of injury among ED patients. Most falls occurred among adults 65 years and older (27.4%), followed by children 0 to 14 years of age (22.5%). When specified, 35 percent of falls occurred at home.

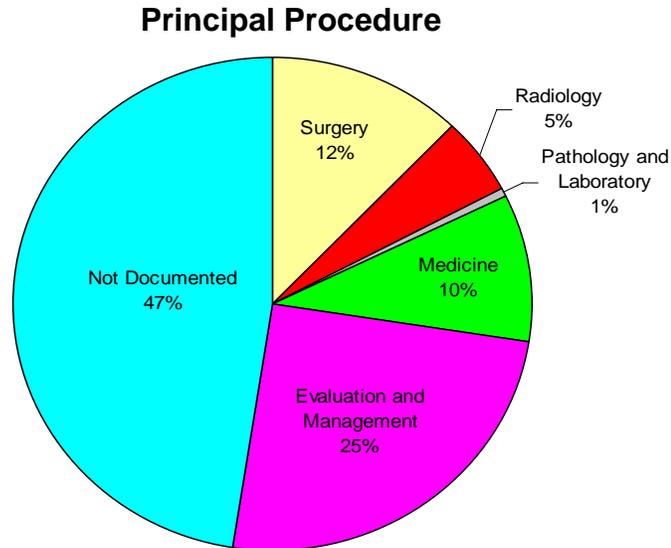
**Fall Injuries by Age Group**

	Frequency	Percent
0-14	1,271	22.5
15-24	616	10.9
25-44	1,099	19.5
45-64	1,111	19.7
65+	1,546	27.4
Total	5,643	100.0

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

## Principal Procedures

Fifty-three percent (n=41,109) of patients represented in this report had at least one documented procedure.



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

The top ten most common procedures performed, when known, are listed below.

### Most Common Primary Procedures, When Documented

Procedure	Frequency	Percent
EMERGENCY DEPT VISIT	19,489	47.4
DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY	3,569	8.7
SURGERY INTEGUMENTARY	3,453	8.4
CARDIOVASCULAR	2,870	7.0
SURGERY CARDIOVASCULAR	2,646	6.4
THERAP PROPHY OR DIAG INJECTIONS	2,632	6.4
SURGERY MUSCULOSKELETAL	2,454	6.0
PULMONARY	1,343	3.3
TRANSFUSION MEDICINE	520	1.3
VACCINES TOXOIDS	410	1.0

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

The most common primary procedure is “Emergency Department Visit,” which refers to evaluation and management services performed in the emergency department. The distribution of the level of emergency care for procedures listed as “Emergency Department Visit” is displayed below.

Emergency Department Visit

	Frequency	Percent
Self-limited, minor problems	1,457	7.48
Low to moderate severity	1,372	7.04
Moderate severity	6,868	35.24
High severity, but no immediate threat to life or function.	7,840	40.23
High severity and immediate threat to life or function	697	3.58
Physician direction of EMS care, advanced life support	1,255	6.44
Total	19,489	100.00

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

Other common procedures include the following:

**Diagnostic Radiology** - any x-ray, computed tomography (CT) scan, diagnostic ultrasound, or other diagnostic nuclear medicine tool.

**Surgery Integumentary** - any repair of superficial wounds or drainage of an abscess.

**Cardiovascular** - refers primarily to routine electrocardiogram (n=2776), but also includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (n=58).

**Surgery Cardiovascular** - is used to describe either the introduction of a needle or intracatheter to the vein, or the collection of venous blood by venipuncture.

**Therap Prophy or Diag Injections** - includes any therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic injection either subcutaneous, intramuscular, or intravenous.

**Surgery Musculoskeletal** - not limited to surgical procedures, includes the application of splints or casts.

**Pulmonary** - includes treatments for pulmonary emergencies, such as inhalation treatment for asthma or airway obstructions.

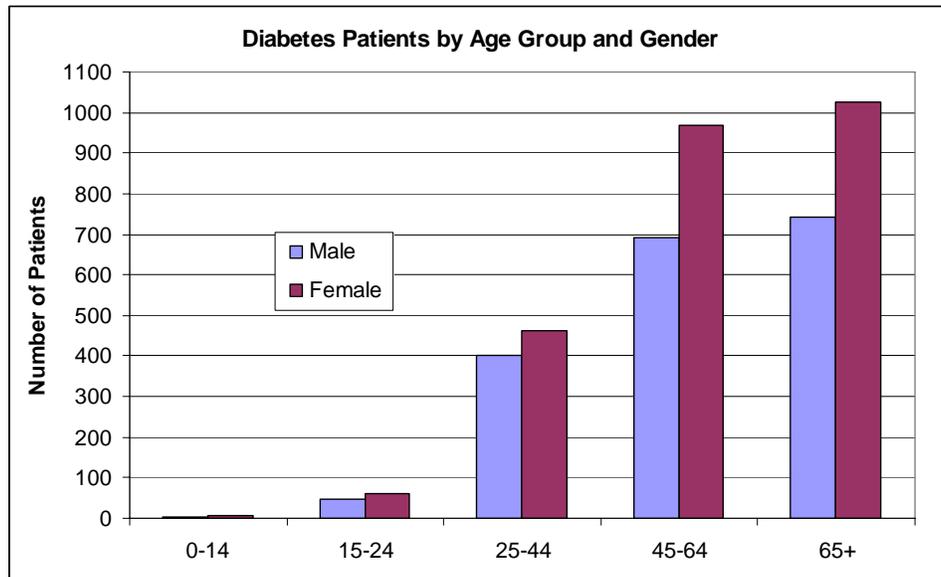
**Transfusion Medicine** - refers to pathology and laboratory procedures, such as blood typing.

**Vaccine Toxoids** - refers primarily to tetanus and diphtheria toxoids administered intramuscularly.

## Diabetes Mellitus

Of the 78,232 patients who presented to the EDs represented by this report, 4,408 were identified as diabetic. Eighty-seven percent were identified with controlled type II diabetes and 12 percent were identified with controlled type I diabetes. Most diabetics don't present to the ED with a primary diagnosis of diabetes, but instead present with other conditions that may be or are complicated by the disease. Of the 4,408 patients who were identified as diabetic, 539 had a primary diagnosis of diabetes. Nearly half (49%) of patients with a primary diagnosis of diabetes presented to the ED with diabetic hypoglycemia or hypoglycemic shock. Another 37.1% were diagnosed with uncomplicated diabetes, with no mention of the presenting symptoms.

Fifty-seven percent of diabetic ED patients were female, and the number of diabetic patients increased with increasing age.



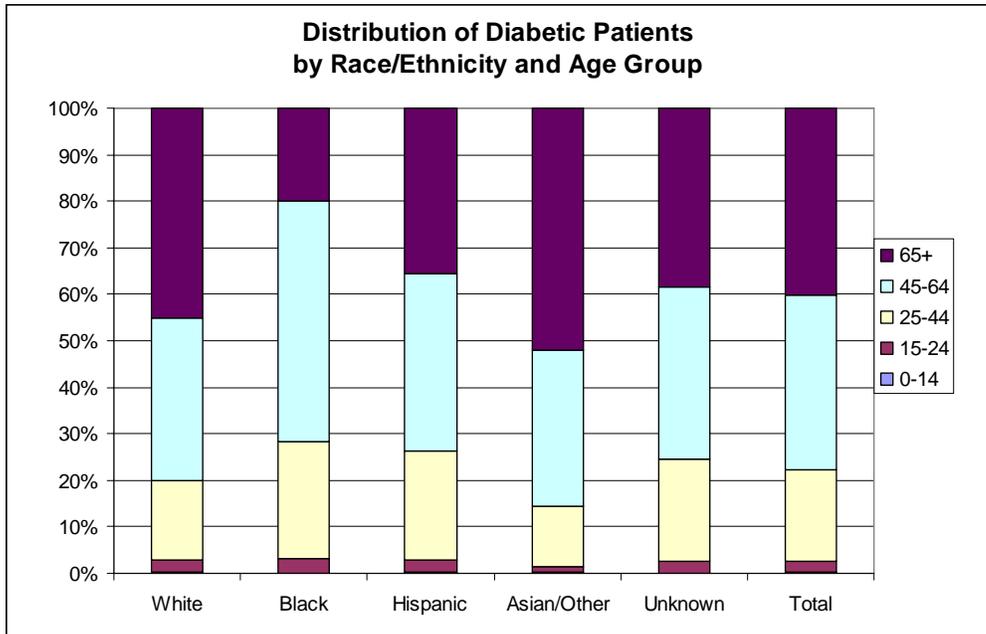
Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

The percent of all patients with an ED visit who were diagnosed with diabetes as a primary or comorbid condition increased with increasing age group. Although there were more females over the age of 65 years diagnosed with diabetes, a higher percentage of elderly males who visited the ED had diabetes.

	Male	Female	Total
0-14	0.0	0.2	0.1
15-24	0.8	0.8	0.8
25-44	3.6	3.2	3.4
45-64	9.1	10.8	10.0
65+	16.7	15.1	15.7
Total	5.3	5.9	5.6

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

The distribution of diabetes patients within each racial/ethnic category varied noticeably by age group. In the white and Asian/other categories, the highest percentages of diabetic patients were over the age of 65 years.



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

**Distribution of Diabetic Patients by Race/Ethnicity and Age Group**

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other		Unknown		Total	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
0-14	7	0.3	0	0.0	3	0.2	1	0.2	0	0.0	11	0.2
15-24	48	2.4	14	3.1	38	2.7	6	1.2	2	2.7	108	2.5
25-44	345	17.2	115	25.3	323	23.3	65	13.1	16	21.9	864	19.6
45-64	701	35.0	235	51.8	530	38.3	166	33.5	27	37.0	1,659	37.6
65+	900	45.0	90	19.8	490	35.4	258	52.0	28	38.4	1,766	40.1
Total	2,001	100.0	454	100.0	1,384	100.0	496	100.0	73	100.0	4,408	100.0

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

Patients with a race/ethnicity of Asian/other had the highest proportion of diabetics (7.4%).

**Percent of All ED Patients With Diabetes**

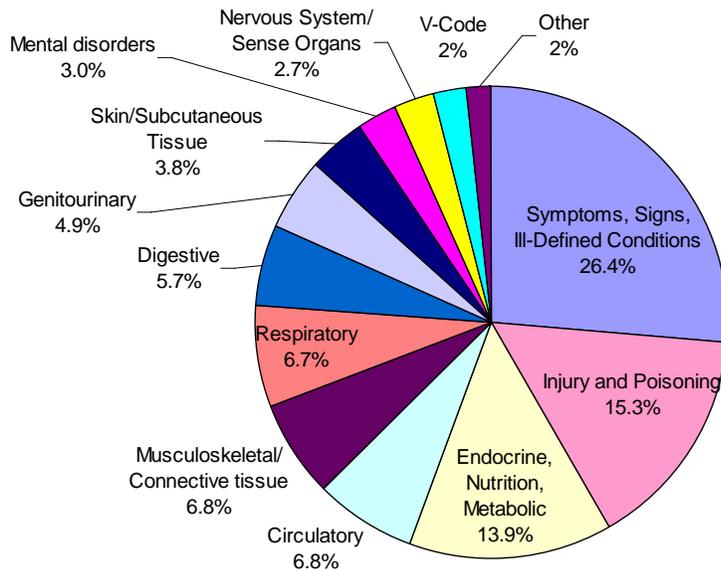
	Total ED	Total Diabetes	% Diabetes
White	39,491	2,001	5.1
Black	7,754	454	5.9
Hispanic	22,174	1,384	6.2
Asian/Other	6,678	496	7.4
Unknown	2,119	73	3.4
Total	78,232	4,408	5.6

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

The primary diagnoses for diabetic ED patients were symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions, injury and poisoning, and endocrine, nutrition and metabolic diseases. Patients diagnosed with symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions most often presented with respiratory, abdominal, or general symptoms.

There were 791 diabetic patients who were assigned an E-code for an injury or poisoning. Of these patients, 42% reported a fall, and 14% reported adverse effects of drugs, medicinal, and biological substances.

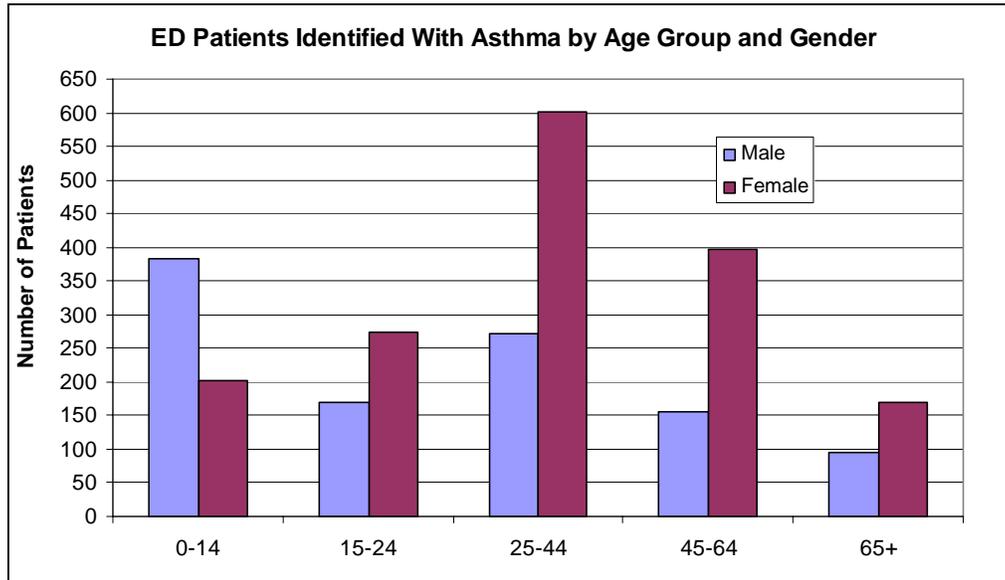
### Primary Diagnoses of Diabetic ED Patients



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

## Asthma

A total of 2,718 ED patients (3.5%) were identified as asthmatic during this quarter. Most asthma patients were females aged 25 to 44 years (n=602) and 45 to 64 years (n=398). However, the largest proportion of asthma diagnoses in ED patients occurred among males 0 to 14 years of age (5.9%). Females over the age of 14 years were diagnosed with asthma more often than males of the same age.



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

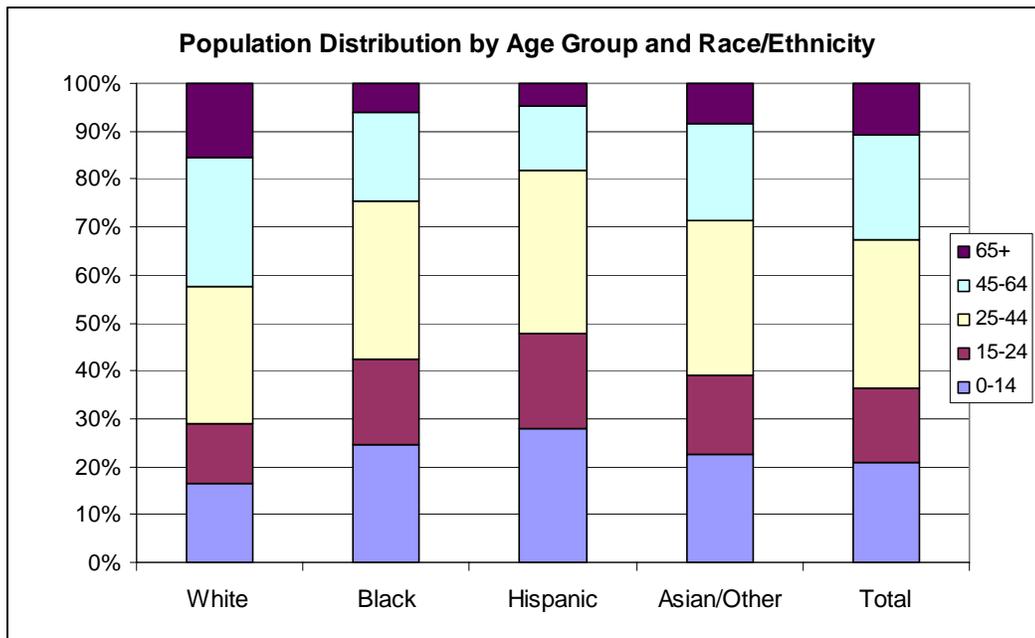
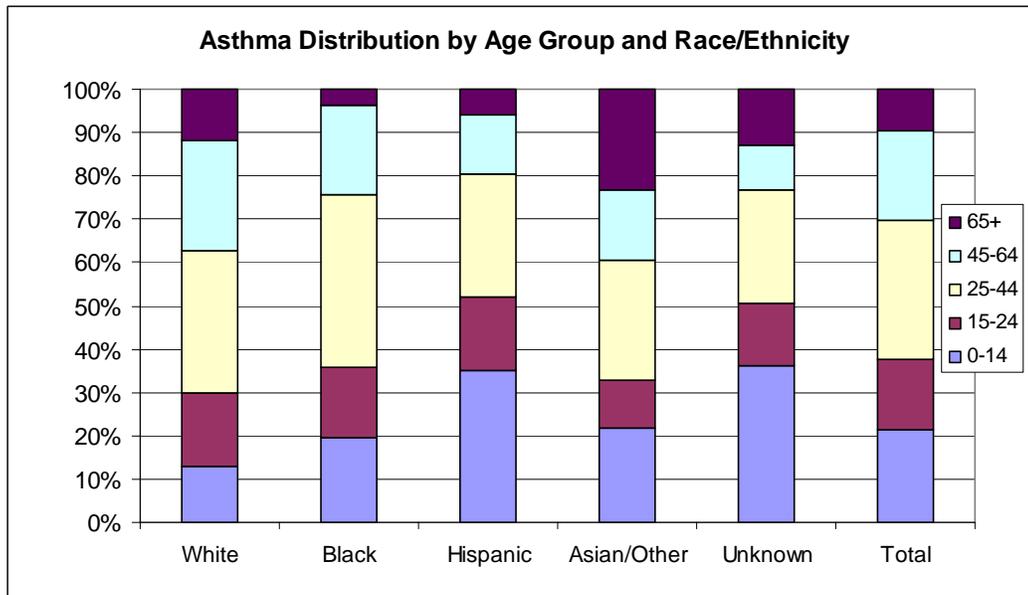
### Percent of All ED Patients With Asthma

	Male	Female	Total
0-14	5.9	3.9	5.0
15-24	3.1	3.6	3.4
25-44	2.4	4.2	3.4
45-64	2.0	4.4	3.3
65+	2.1	2.5	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>

\*Excludes one patient with unknown gender.

Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

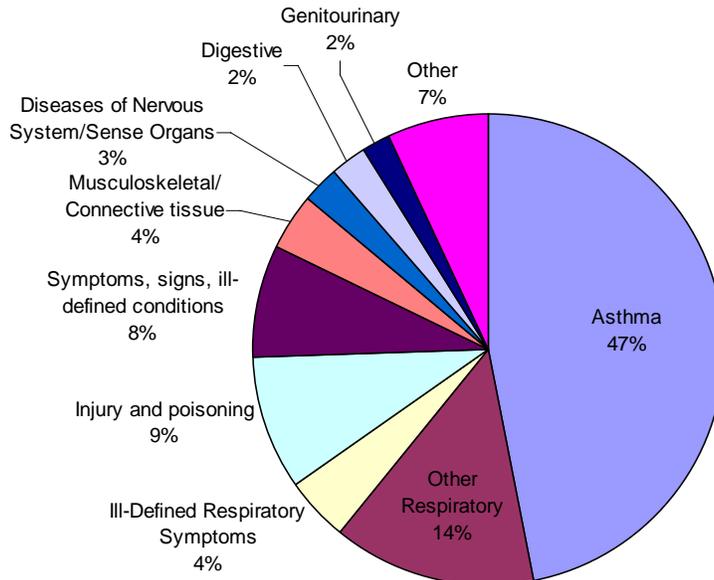
The distribution of asthma by age group within each of the major categories of race/ethnicity was similar to the distribution of the population overall.



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.  
 Population Data: SANDAG, 2004 population estimates.

Out of all patients identified as asthmatic, 1,275 (47%) presented to the ED with an acute onset of asthma. Fourteen percent presented with other respiratory conditions, such as bronchitis, upper respiratory infection and pneumonia, or with ill-defined respiratory symptoms (4%), such as wheezing, cough or chest pain, not identified as asthma.

### Primary Diagnosis of Asthmatic ED Patients



Source: County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Database, 1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005.

For those patients who presented with an acute onset of asthma, 577 had a documented procedure (45%). Of those with a documented procedure, 298 (52%) received a pressurized or nonpressurized inhalation treatment for diagnostic purposes. Other services included detailed evaluation of problems with moderate to high severity (25%), radiologic examination of the chest (7%), demonstration or evaluation of patient utilization of an inhaler or nebulizer (6%), or pulse oximetry for oxygen saturation (5%).

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