

# Emergency Room Usage among First Nations, Inuit & Métis Adults in Toronto:

## Results from OHC Toronto-ICES data linkage

### OUR HEALTH COUNTS TORONTO



There are high rates of emergency room (ER) use among First Nations, Inuit and Métis living in urban and related homelands.<sup>1-2</sup> These high rates of ER use are likely linked to:

- Limited access to primary care providers and other non-emergent health services<sup>1,3</sup>
- High prevalence of chronic disease, multimorbidity<sup>4</sup> and mental health challenges<sup>5</sup>
- Baseline rates of unmet health needs that are 2.5X times higher than general population<sup>3</sup>
- High prevalence of experiences of racism while accessing health services, with linked delays and/or avoidance of access<sup>3, 6-8</sup>

#### About Our Health Counts Toronto

- The OHC Toronto study is co-led by Well Living House and Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto, with the support of the OHC Toronto reference group
- Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto are the data owners and custodians
- 97% of OHC Toronto participants consented to have their data linked to administrative health data at the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences (ICES).

### ER Usage (Between 2016-2018)

**64.2%**

of FNIM adults in Toronto accessed an ER at least one time. This is **2X** greater than the general Toronto population.

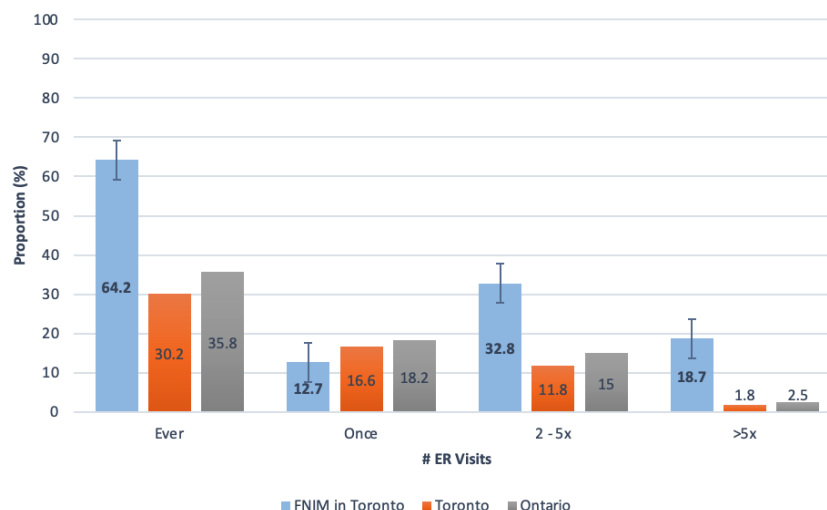
**18.7%**

of FNIM visited the ER six or more times. This is **10X** and **7X** greater than general Toronto and Ontario ER use rates, respectively.

**157,000**

On average, FNIM living in Toronto visit the ER **7.2X** over two years. This represents **157,000** ER visits among the FNIM population in Toronto per year.

Proportion of emergency room use among FNIM in Toronto in comparison to general Toronto and Ontario proportions



ER visits are much more frequent among FNIM in Toronto compared to the general Toronto and Ontario population.

**Recommended Citation:** McConkey, S., Fung, K., Rotondi, M., Brant, E., Yates, E., Tusevliak, N., Bourgeois, C., Smylie, J. (2022). Emergency Room Usage among First Nations, Inuit & Métis Adults in Toronto: Results from OHC Toronto-ICES data linkage.

**References:** 1) Smylie et al. (2011); 2) Smylie et al. (2012); 3) Xavier et al. (2018); 4) Kitching (2017); 5) O'Brien et al. (2018); 6) Browne et al. (2011); 7) Kurtz et al. (2008); 8) Tang & Browne (2008).



ICES LINKAGE INDICATOR	FNIM IN TORONTO RDS ESTIMATE (95% CI)*	TORONTO CRUDE ESTIMATE (95% CI)	ONTARIO (10%)** CRUDE ESTIMATE (95% CI)
# ER VISITS IN PAST 2 YEARS			
NONE	35.8% (30.5, 41.2)	69.8%	64.2% (64.2, 64.3)
ONCE	12.7% (8.7, 16.6)	16.6%	18.2% (18.1, 18.3)
2-5X	32.8% (27.8, 37.9)	11.8%	15.0% (14.9, 15.1)
>5X	18.7% (14.1, 23.2)	1.8%	2.5% (2.5, 2.5)
AVERAGE # ER VISITS IN PAST 2 YEARS	7.2 (4.6, 9.7)	2.3	2.4 (2.3, 2.4)

RDS: Respondent-Driven Sampling; CI: Confidence Interval

\*Adjusted for RDS-II weights.

\*\*Toronto estimates include the entire city of Toronto as obtained from ICES.

\*\*\*A 10% sample of the Ontario population was included in the analysis for reference.

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