

# Sources of Potentially Avoidable Emergency Department Visits

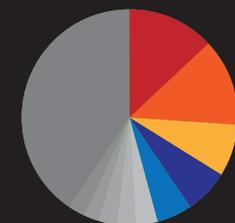
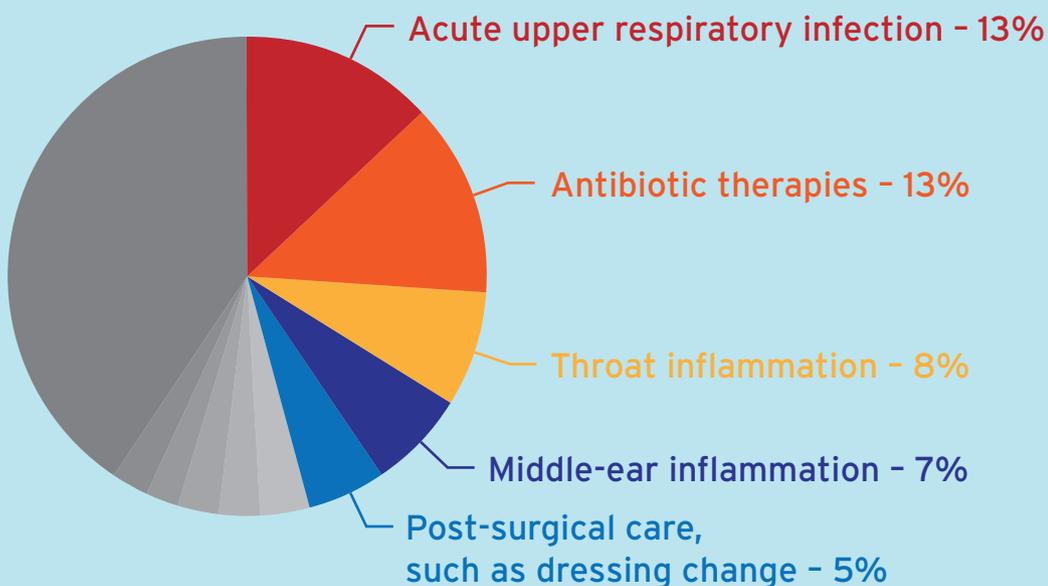
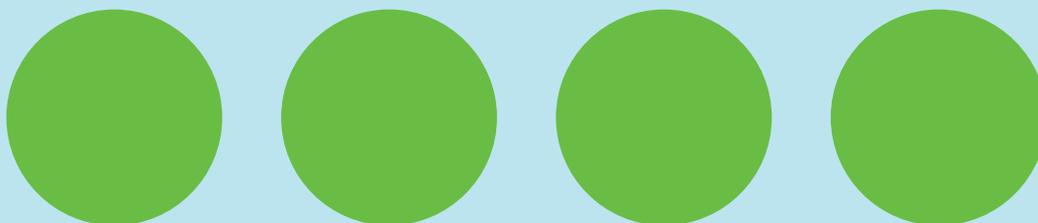
Emergency departments (EDs) give priority to those patients with critical or emergency needs who require timely and highly skilled care. Despite this, many Canadians visit the ED for conditions that might be better dealt with in a different care setting.

This study looks at **two groups** of patients whose visits to the ED could potentially be avoided or addressed in other settings:

**1** Those who visited the ED for minor medical complaints and were not admitted to hospital

**2** Seniors in long-term care residences who visited the ED for conditions that were identified as potentially preventable or for less urgent reasons where they were not admitted to a hospital bed.

More than **1.4 million** visits to Canadian EDs were potentially avoidable.



**1 in 5** patients who presented themselves to the ED had minor medical conditions that did not require admission.

Nearly half of these patients came with the following reasons: