

Geographic inequalities in paediatric emergency department visits in Ontario and Alberta: a multilevel analysis of 2.5 million visits

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BACKGROUND

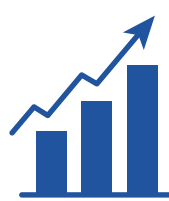
- There is little information about geographic inequalities in paediatric emergency department (PED) visits in Canada's urban areas and how social and environmental factors influence these inequalities
- This study aimed to explore the geographic inequalities in PED in and across large urban areas in Ontario and Alberta
- Researchers also wanted to assess if factors related to material and social deprivation, proximity to healthcare facilities, and supply of family physicians led to any of the geographic variation
- This study included data about ED visits among children (<18 years old) recorded between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2017



STUDY FINDINGS



- Geographic inequalities in the rates of PED visits were substantial
- Across both provinces, the rate of PED visits was highest in Thunder Bay, Ontario and lowest in Windsor, Ontario



- Areas that were more socially deprived, those that were further from healthcare settings, and those with a higher rate of family physicians per 1,000 children had higher rates of PED visits

NEXT STEPS

- There are geographic inequalities in the rates of PED visits across Canada's large urban centers
- Some urban areas have higher rates of PED visits and there is a need to further explore the role of contextual factors to address health inequalities in these regions



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