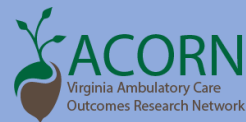




Observations on pediatric mental health-related emergency room (ER) visits in Virginia



Pediatric mental health ER visits spiked during the pandemic

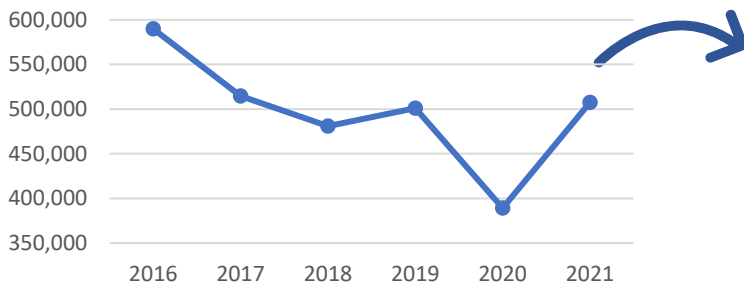


While ER visits overall dropped in 2020 at the start of the pandemic, pediatric mental health ER visits increased from **5.4%** of every ER visit in 2018 to **8.0%** in 2020.

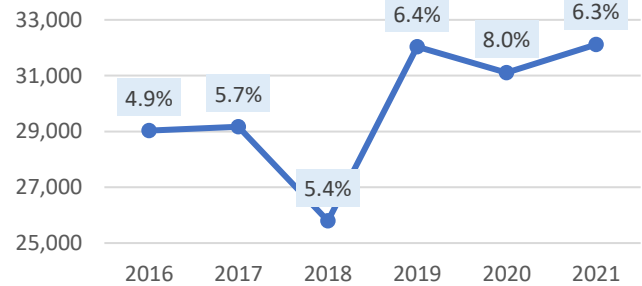


The proportion of pediatric mental health ER visits only decreased **1.7%** from 2020-2021.

All pediatric ER visits



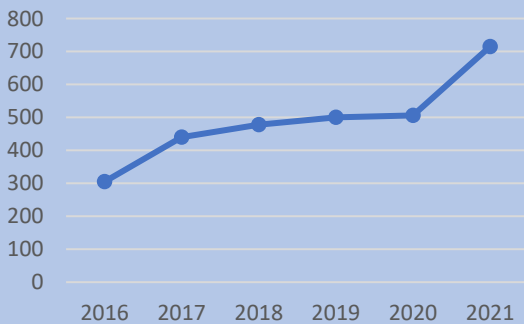
Pediatric mental health ER visits



Data labels show percentage of all pediatric ER visits per year.

Pediatric ER visits for suicidality have more than doubled over the last five years

Number of pediatric ER visits with a suicidality code by year



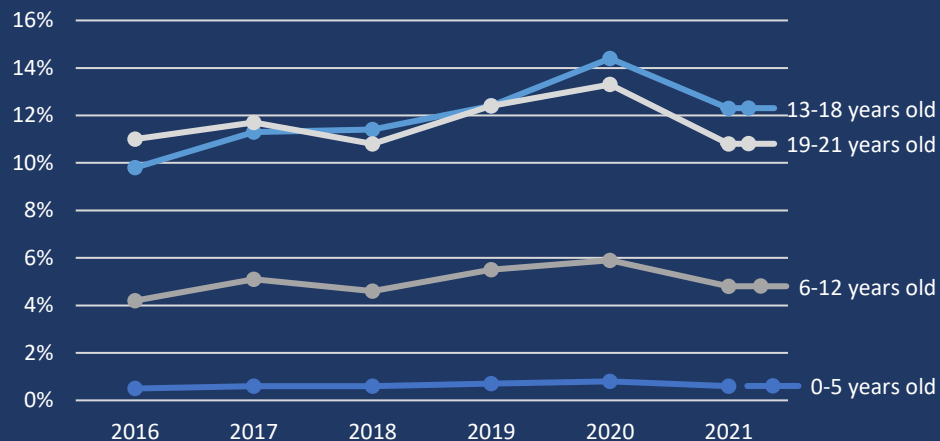
Within **7 days** of an ER visit for suicidality, only **5%** of children had a primary care visit and only **18%** had a behavioral health visit.

Almost 12% of ER visits for patients age 13-21 were for mental health

11.7% of ER visits for ages 13-21 were for mental health conditions from 2016-2021.

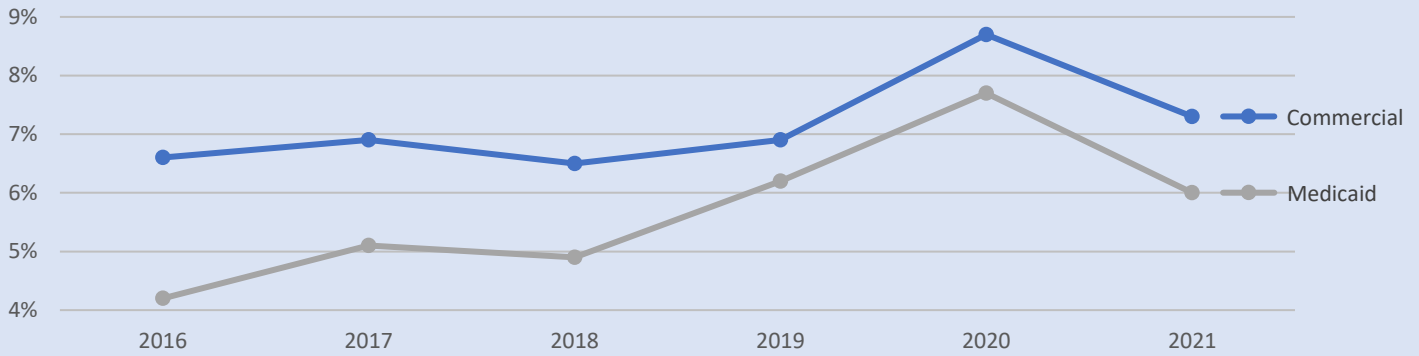
2.3% of ER visits for ages 0-12 were for mental health conditions from 2016-2021.

Percent of pediatric ER visits that were for mental health, by age



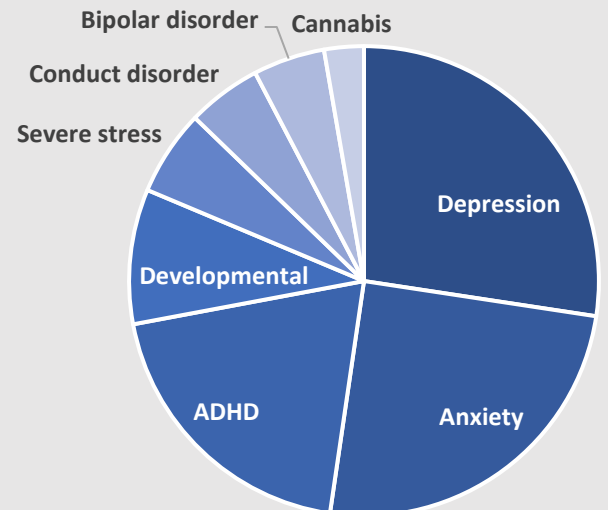
Mental health visits by pediatric patients with Medicaid increased

Percent of pediatric ER visits that were for mental health, by insurance



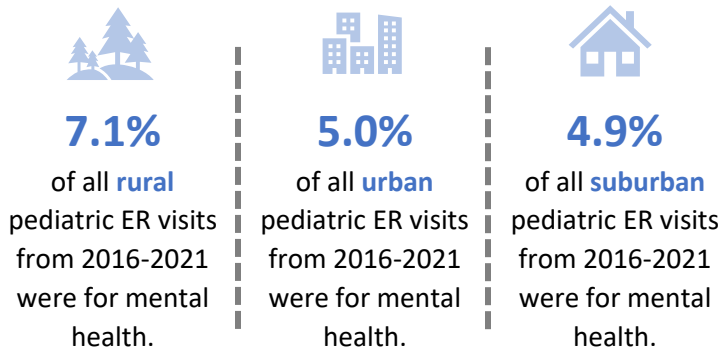
After Medicaid expansion on January 1, 2019 enhanced access and services available for beneficiaries, the proportion of mental health visits by pediatric patients with Medicaid increased from **4.9%** in 2018 to **6.2%** in 2019.

Depression and anxiety were more than half of pediatric mental health ER diagnoses



Includes diagnoses from 2016-2021.

Rural ERs had higher proportion of pediatric mental health visits



Percent of pediatric ER visits that were for mental health, by rurality

