

# CONGESTION IN OUR HOSPITALS

A complex health care issue involving hospitals, community care and nursing homes  
Here's what you need to know and how you can help.



Horizon serves a population of  
**522,036 people**



There were **357,464 visits** to an  
Emergency Department last year



There are **1,650 beds** in our hospitals

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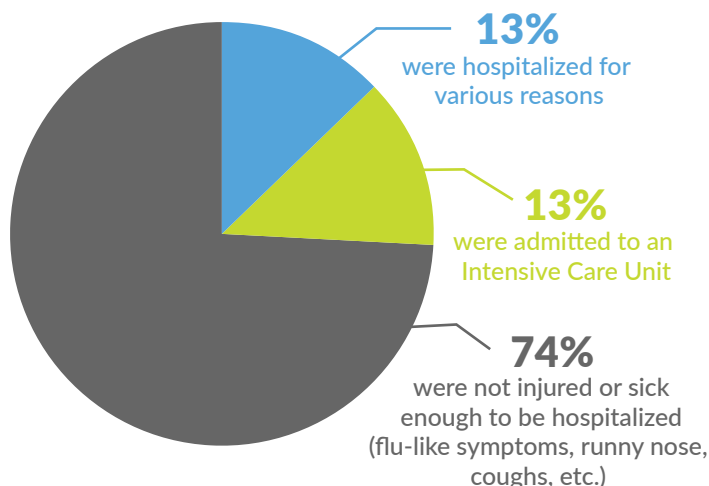


**217 visits: 1 Bed**

**1 in 4 beds**

are occupied by Alternate Level of Care (ALC)  
patients who are waiting to be placed in  
nursing homes or other forms of  
community care.

Last winter, of the people who came  
to our Emergency Departments



**All of these factors contribute to our hospitals experiencing overcapacity.**

This affects other areas of care in our hospitals.



**Last winter, our hospitals were at overcapacity most of the time**  
(more patients admitted and not enough beds)

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**Crowded wait rooms in Emergency Departments**

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**Longer wait times to find a bed**

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**Cancelled elective surgeries**

When our facilities are faced with such a situation, our staff work together to implement various initiatives to ensure patients and clients receive safe and quality care. We have embarked on a Horizon-wide improvement project to reduce wait times in our Emergency Departments.

You can help, too. Before visiting an Emergency Department, consider all available health care options such as Tele-Care 811, family doctors, after-hour clinics, and pharmacists to name a few.

To learn more about these options, visit [SoWhyWait.ca](http://SoWhyWait.ca).