

Overall Utilization Snapshot

Total ED Visits: **35,697**

Avg ED Visits/Year: **7,139**

Avg Revisits/Year: **875**

Trend: The decline in visits from **2016** to **2023** suggests impact of:

- ED diversion programs like the one at Creighton University School of Dentistry
- Community nonprofit clinics offering free/sliding-scale care

EDs are not designed to deliver definitive dental care. These visits represent preventable, high-cost care that could be redirected to community-based dental homes.

Rural Impact

Rural Patients (2019–2023)

- **49.8%** of total NTDC visits overall
- **3,522 average visits/year**



Pandemic Spike: Rural patients accounted for **65%** of all NTDC ED visits in 2020

Access challenges to adequate oral health personnel in rural health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) in Nebraska remain a serious barrier.

Financial Impact

Total ED Costs: **\$105 Million**

2023 Alone: **Over \$20 Million**

Double the \$10 million reported in 2016¹

\$105 Million spent on preventable dental ED visits for NTDC in 5 years.



Together, **Medicare** and **Medicaid** covered **over 50%** of the costs for ED visits for NTDC.

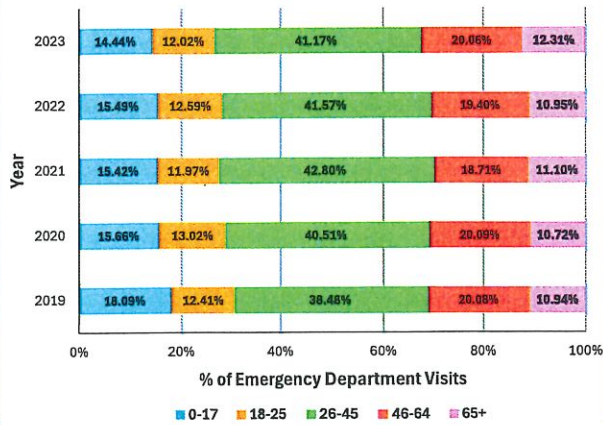
| Year | Avg Cost per ED Visit |
|------|-----------------------|
| 2016 | \$1,375 |
| 2023 | \$3,198 |



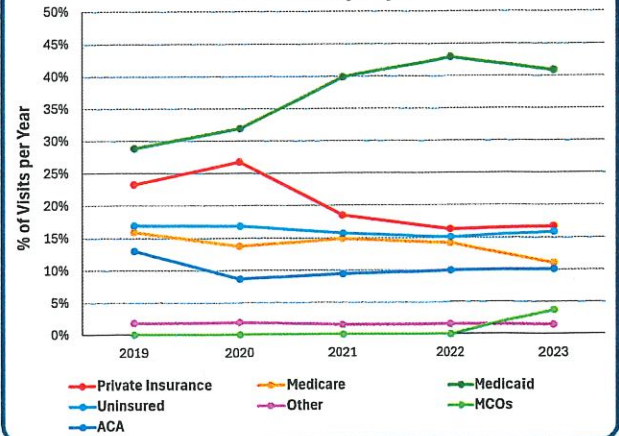
132% Increase in Cost per Visit

Even with slightly declining visits, the financial burden continues to escalate.

Emergency Department Visits for Dental Conditions by Age



Emergency Department Visits for Dental Conditions by Payer



54% Visits were Females



36% Visits were Young Adults aged 26–45



14% Visits were Children (0–17)



Estimates based on the latest Healthy People 2030 data² indicate only **45.5%** of U.S. children, adolescents, & adults used the oral healthcare system in 2022.

Sources:

1. Wani R.J., Craft C.F. (2019) Nebraska State of Oral Health: Hospital Emergency Department Use for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions Report, 2009 – 2016.
2. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (n.d.) *Social determinants of health*. Healthy People 2030. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>.