

### Definition/Description:

Acute care hospitalization rate for conditions where appropriate ambulatory care could prevent or reduce the need for admission to Winnipeg acute care hospitals, per 1000 population.

ACSC is a measure of access to appropriate medical care. While not all admissions for ambulatory care sensitive conditions are avoidable, it is assumed that appropriate prior ambulatory care could prevent the onset of this type of illness or condition, control acute episodes or help manage chronic diseases. A higher rate is presumed to reflect problems in obtaining access to primary care.

The list of diagnosis related to ambulatory care sensitive conditions was developed by Alberta Health and includes the following list of diagnosis coded as most responsible on the hospital abstract:

- Diabetes Mellitus (250)
- Alcoholic Psychoses (291)
- Drug Psychoses (292)
- Neurotic Disorders (300)
- Alcohol Dependence Syndr (303)
- Drug Dependence (304)
- Nondependent Drug Abuse (305)
- Depressive Disorder Nec (311)
- Essential Hypertension (401)
- Hypertensive Heart Dis (402)
- Hypertensive Renal Dis (403)
- Hyperten Heart/Renal Dis (404)
- Secondary Hypertension (405)
- Asthma (493)

**Numerator:** Total number of hospital admissions for Winnipeg residents for ambulatory care sensitive conditions (ACSC)

**Denominator:** Total mid-year population

### Source:

Manitoba Health Hospital Abstract file  
Manitoba Health Registry Population file

### Findings:

| Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions<br>Crude Rate per 1000<br>Population |      |
|---|------|
| <b>1998/1999</b>  | 3.44 |
| <b>1999/2000</b>  | 3.34 |
| <b>2000/2001</b>  | 3.17 |
| <b>2001/2002</b>  | 3.04 |
| <b>2002/2003</b>  | 3.37 |

**Regional Comparison:****Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions Rate<sup>(1)</sup> Per 100,000**

| <b>Fiscal Year</b>       | <b>Canadian</b> | <b>Manitoba</b> | <b>Winnipeg</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1999/2000                | 401             | 495             | 319             |
| 2000/2001                | 370             | 462             | 305             |
| 2001/2002 <sup>(2)</sup> | 346             | 440             | 292             |

(1) Age Standardized to 1991 Canadian population.

Source: CIHI Health Indicators Report, 2002, 2003, 2004

**Highlights:**

- Across the five years shown, there has been a slight decrease in the rate of ACSC in for Winnipeg residents in acute care facilities.
- From 1998/1999 to 2002/2003 the rate decreased from 3.44 to 3.37 per 1000 Winnipeg population.
- Winnipeg typically has shown lower adjusted rates when compared to Manitoba and Canada as a whole.

**Standards/Benchmarks:**

The "right" level of utilization is not known and large regional variations in the rate of hospitalization for these conditions exists – CIHI Health Indicators