

## **Access to Primary Care Among Emergency Department Patients**

### **Abstract**

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### **Introduction**

Primary care is an essential component of a robust healthcare system by promoting preventative medicine and health education. This study assessed the percentage of Emergency Department (ED) patients with access to primary care and barriers to primary care.

### **Methods**

This cross-sectional survey was conducted at Miami Valley Hospital, an urban hospital ED. Eligible subjects included ED patients aged 18 years and older who presented to the ED between September 2020 and January 2021.

### **Results**

Among 301 participants, most participants (74.8%) reported having a primary care provider (PCP). Of those who had a PCP, a minority had a scheduled appointment (44%), and a minority had visited their PCP within the last year (42%). The odds of having a PCP were higher among ED patients with an annual income greater than \$60,000 (OR 9.0), Triage level 2 (OR 5.6), college or postgraduate education (OR 4.2), access to transportation (OR 2.1), ambulance arrival (OR 2.0), private insurance (OR 1.9) and increasing age (OR 1.05).

### **Conclusions**

The majority of ED patients at this institution had access to primary care. Of those that did, a minority attempted to contact their PCP the day of the ED visit. The odds of having a PCP were higher among ED patients with an annual income greater than \$60,000, Triage level 2, college or postgraduate education, access to transportation, ambulance arrival, private insurance, and increasing age.