

SELF-HARM AMONG TEENS

VISUAL RESEARCH ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE

To determine outcomes and health care costs over 5 years for adolescents who presented with self-harm to the emergency department (ED).

STUDY POPULATION

5661 adolescents aged 13 to 17 years who visited the ED after self-harm in Ontario, 2011–2013, were matched to 10 731 adolescents who presented for reasons other than self-harm.

TEENS SEEN IN THE ED WHO SELF-HARMED VS. THOSE WHO DID NOT WERE MORE LIKELY TO:



Be female



Be older



Have serious and complex mental illness



Misuse substances



Have had concussion or traumatic brain injury

TEENS SEEN IN THE ED WHO SELF-HARMED VS. THOSE WHO DID NOT HAD:

5x



Repeat visits to the ED

3x



Death from any cause

8x



Death by suicide

\$11 000

greater mean cost per teen who self-harmed

Teens who visit the ED after self-harm have markedly increased rates of mortality, suicide and recurrent self-harm. Effective interventions to address this problem are urgently needed.