

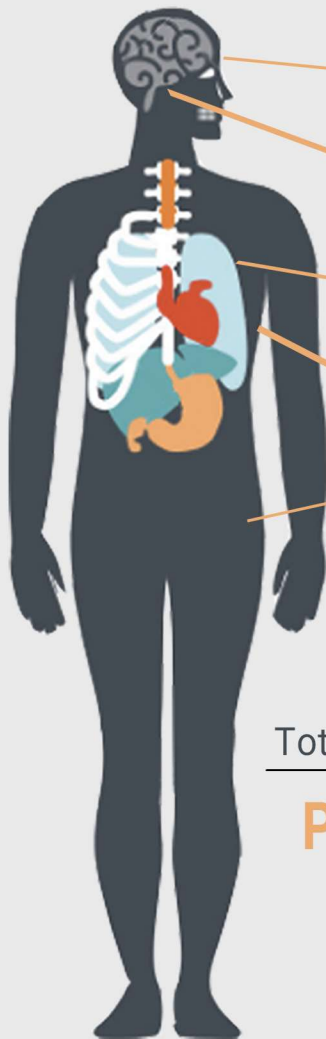
# POTENTIALLY AVOIDABLE ED VISITS IN 2019



An emergency department (ED) visit is considered **potentially avoidable**<sup>1</sup> when the care provided may have been more appropriately managed by a primary care practitioner (PCP) in a lower cost setting, such as a physician's office.

## COMMON AVOIDABLE VISITS ACROSS VIRGINIA

Of the 184,119 potentially avoidable ED visits, **81%** were for:



Headache; including migraine **11% of visits**  
\$1,291 per ED visit | \$86 per PCP visit

Inner ear infections **8% of visits**  
\$298 per ED visit | \$81 per PCP visit

Upper respiratory infections **29% of visits**  
\$427 per ED visit | \$80 per PCP visit

Back problems **11% of visits**  
\$879 per ED visit | \$85 per PCP visit

Urinary tract infections **21% of visits**  
\$999 per ED visit | \$83 per PCP visit

Total Cost for Avoidable ED visits in 2019 **\$112,246,003**  
Total Cost for Similar Care by a PCP in 2019 **\$12,327,286**

## POTENTIAL SAVINGS OF \$99,918,717

These visits have a large impact on the cost of healthcare for all Virginians.

Using data from the Virginia All Payer Claims Database (APCD), Virginia Health Information identified that **about 12%** of the 1.5 million ED visits in 2019 may have potentially been avoided and treated with lower cost care in a PCP's office.

<sup>1</sup>Potentially avoidable ED visits were defined using the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) methodology. Other methodologies for potentially avoidable ED visits exist, which could produce different results.

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