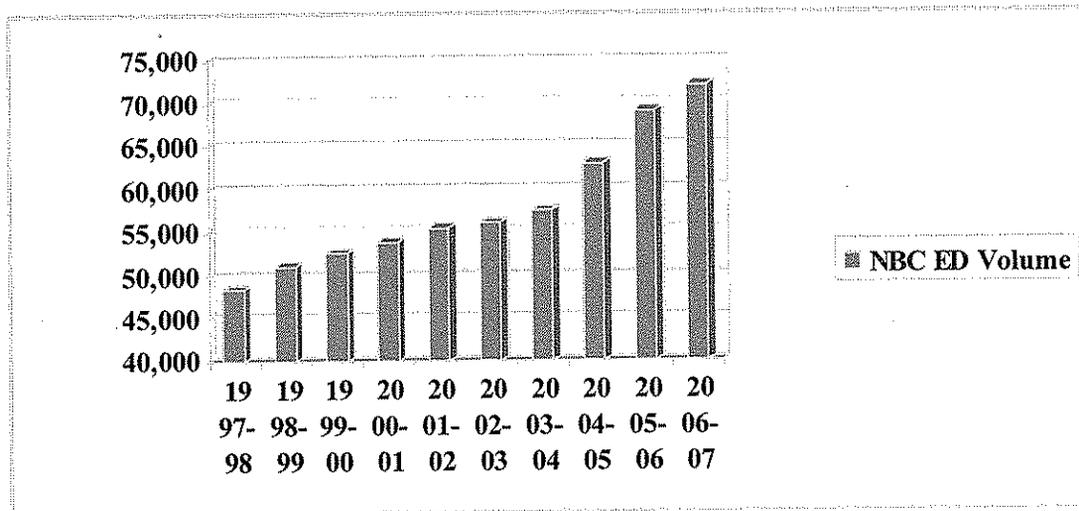


**THE HOSPITAL OF CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT EXPANSION**

My name is Jeff Finkelstein and I am the Chief of Emergency Medicine at The Hospital of Central Connecticut at New Britain General and Bradley Memorial. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to give testimony in regard to the expansion of the New Britain General Campus Emergency Department.

Currently, the ED has exceeded its designed capacity. Patient care is being negatively affected by unavailability of treatment rooms, current floor plans not designed for the today's high turnover, lack of privacy and lack of a secure area for those patients who need it.

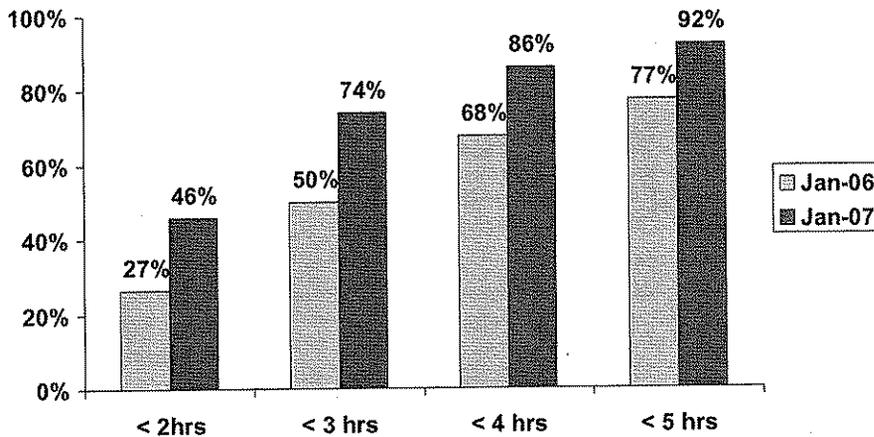


ED Volume has been growing for years but growth has been exponential over the last three years. Visits for the current fiscal year will top 72,000 visits. Our current ED was built for 45,000 visits per year and has 34 treatment spaces. Emergency rooms are supposed to service 1500 visits per bed per year. We are currently experiencing greater than 2000 visits per bed per year. The expansion will increase our number of treatment spaces to 46, expand triage and give us a secure area to treat behavioral health and substance abuse patients.

Many people ask why our ED volume is growing so fast. There are many possible reasons including: great service and care, aging of the population; lack of access for both insured and underinsured patients; shorter inpatient stays; and erosion of mental health and substance abuse community resources. In my opinion, the one thing that all these types of patients have in common is that they are sick and need care. Our ED and our colleagues around the country are there for them, 24/7. We will not shirk from that responsibility.

We have focused on improving processes and turn around times before we concluded that we need more space. Building with bricks and mortar is always easier than solving and improving complex flow issues. We have improved our patient flow patterns significantly by getting admitted patients out of the ED and onto the patient floors quicker; therefore, freeing up ED beds for other patients. This has allowed us to decrease our door to doctor time to the point that approximately 80% of our patients are seen by a doctor or physician assistant within 60 minutes of arrival.

Time from ER Admit Decision until Transfer to Floor



January 06 – January 07 Boarding Times by Percentile

In order to satisfy the needs of our community and patients, we believe that an expansion and renovation of the ED at The Hospital of Central CT, New Britain Campus is critical. The construction is underway, with phase one due for completion June first, and we ask that you approve the bonding.