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Ambulatory Medical Care Utilization Estimates for 2006

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents statistics on ambulatory care visits to physician offices, hospital outpatient departments (OPDs), and hospital emergency departments (EDs) in the United States in 2006. Ambulatory medical care utilization is described in terms of patient, practice, facility, and visit characteristics.

Methods—Data from the 2006 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) were combined to produce annual estimates of ambulatory medical care utilization.

Results—Patients in the United States made an estimated 1.1 billion visits to physician offices and hospital OPDs and EDs, a rate of 381.9 visits per 100 persons annually. The overall visit rate was not significantly different for white and black persons. However, black persons had higher visit rates than white persons to hospital OPDs and EDs and lower visit rates to office-based surgical and medical specialists. Visit distribution by ambulatory care setting differed by poverty level in the patient's ZIP Code of residence, with higher proportions of visits to hospital OPDs and EDs as poverty levels increased. Between 1996 and 2006, visit rates to medical specialty offices climbed overall by 29 percent, with a significant increase noted for white patients but not black patients. The rate of OPD visits jumped from 25.4 visits per 100 persons in 1996 to 34.7 in 2006, whereas ED visits during the same period increased from 34.1 to 40.5 per 100 persons. About 18.3 percent of all ambulatory care visits in 2006 were for nonillness or noninjury conditions, such as routine checkups and pregnancy exams. Seven in ten ambulatory care visits had at least one medication provided, prescribed, or continued in 2006, for a total of 2.6 billion drugs overall. Analgesics were the most common therapeutic category, accounting for 13.6 drugs per 100 drugs prescribed, and they were most often utilized at primary care and ED visits. The percentage of visits at which medication was prescribed increased significantly in most settings between 1996 and 2006.

Keywords: ambulatory care visits • diagnoses • injury • medications

Introduction

This report presents summary information on the utilization of ambulatory medical care across physician offices and hospital emergency departments (EDs) and outpatient departments (OPDs). Physician offices are further classified by the physician specialty: primary care, surgical, and medical. The tables present total visits across all settings as well as percent distributions by setting type. Data are from NAMCS and NHAMCS, which are part of the ambulatory care component of the National Health Care Surveys, a family of provider-based surveys conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics.

Methods

Estimates of ambulatory medical care use are based on national probability provider-based surveys of visits to nonfederal office-based physicians and EDs and OPDs of nonfederal general and short-stay hospitals in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Individual reports are available that contain detailed methods and analyses by setting; physician



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offices (1), OPDs (2), and EDs (3). These reports, issued annually, provide a comprehensive analysis of visits to ambulatory health care settings in the United States. Estimates of visits are made from a sample of medical record abstracts from each sampled provider during defined reporting periods. Sample data are weighted to provide national annual estimates. More information on the sampling design and scope of the surveys can be found at www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/ahcd/ahcd1.htm.

Results

There were 1.1 billion visits to physician offices and hospital EDs and OPDs in the United States during 2006, a rate of 381.9 visits per 100 persons annually. Nearly one-half of ambulatory medical care visits (46.8 percent) were made to primary care physicians in office-based practices. The rest of the visits were to medical specialists (17.7 percent) and surgical specialists (15.8 percent) in office-based practices and to EDs (10.6 percent) and OPDs (9.1 percent) in nonfederal general and short-stay hospitals (Table 1). Visit rates by setting for 2006 were consistent with 2005 (Table 2).

From 1996–2006, the number of ambulatory care visits overall increased by 26 percent (Figure 1), faster than the growth of the U.S. population, which rose by 11 percent. The apparent decline in visits between 2005 and 2006 was not statistically significant. The overall number of ED visits was up 32 percent between 1996 and 2006, whereas the number of OPD visits jumped by 52 percent (data not shown). The disproportionate rise in visits can be linked both to the aging of the population (as older people have higher visit rates than younger persons in general) and to an increase in utilization by older persons. After adjustment for changes in the age distribution between 1996 and 2006, visit rates increased by 11 percent. This was driven by increasing rates of visits to OPDs (up 35 percent), medical specialties (up 23 percent), and EDs (up 19 percent).

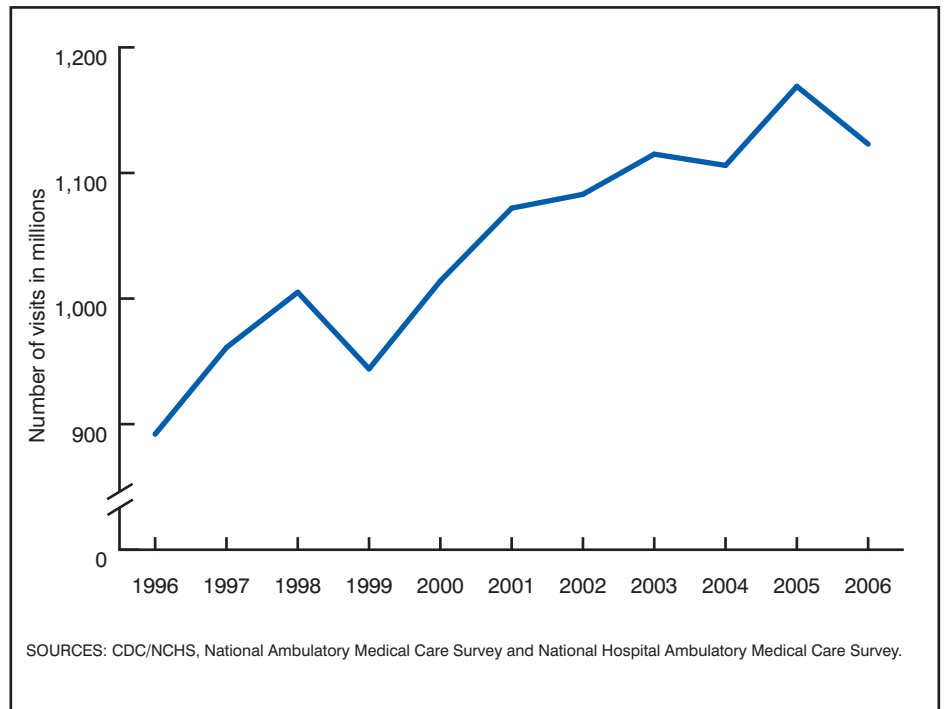


Figure 1. Trends in ambulatory care visits: United States, 1996–2006

Age-adjusted visit rates are shown in Figure 2.

In 2006, the overall visit rate for white persons (391.3 visits per 100

persons) and black persons (378.8) was not significantly different. However, black persons had higher visit rates than white persons to hospital OPDs and EDs

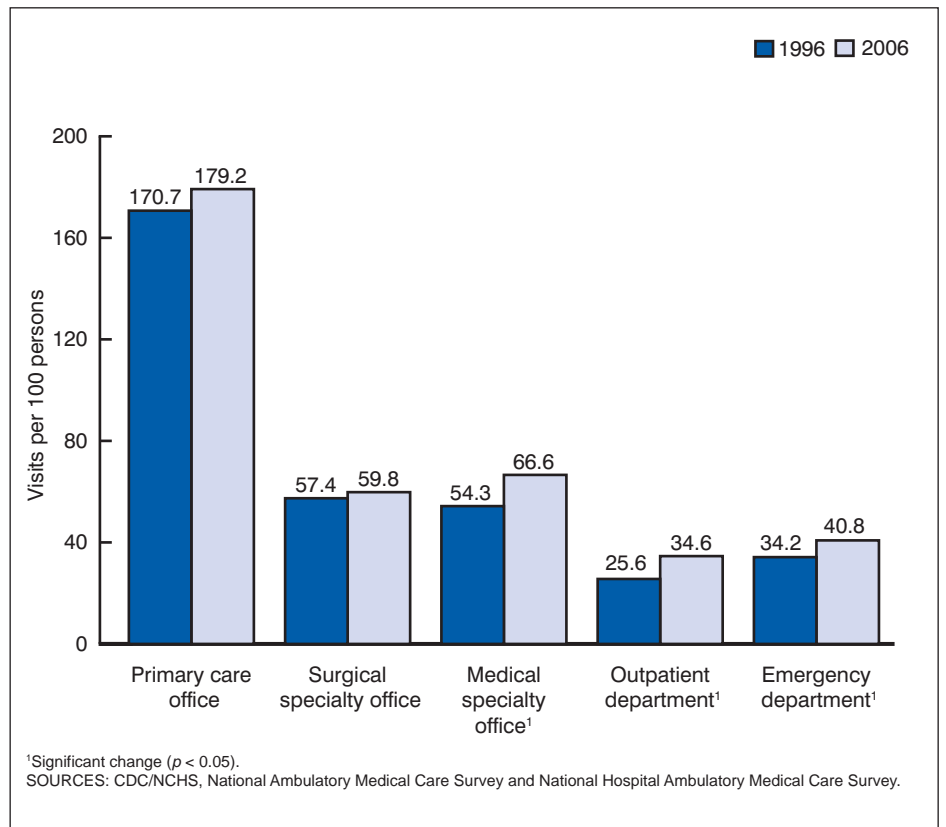


Figure 2. Age-adjusted ambulatory care visit rates by setting: United States, 1996 and 2006

and lower visit rates to office-based surgical and medical specialists (Table 2). The total visit rate for Hispanics (346.5 visits per 100 persons) was not significantly different from that for non-Hispanics (388.0 visits per 100 persons) in 2006, although Hispanics had slightly lower visit rates to nonprimary care physicians than non-Hispanics.

Between 1996 and 2006, the age-adjusted rate of visits by white persons to medical specialists increased by 28 percent (Figure 3). However, the increase was most pronounced between 1996 and 2001, when rates climbed by 45 percent. Age-adjusted rates to hospital OPDs and EDs also increased significantly for white persons, by about 45 percent (OPDs) and 17 percent

(EDs). For black persons, the age-adjusted rate of visits to EDs increased by about 40 percent, from 58 visits per 100 persons in 1996 to 81 visits per 100 persons in 2006, but no significant trend was found in the rates of OPD visits or medical specialty visits. Hospital EDs typically serve as safety-net providers to those without access to other types of health care.

As in 2005, visit rates for persons with no insurance for the care provided (i.e., expected payment from solely self-pay, no charge, or charity) were lowest for all office-based settings compared with visit rates for persons with various kinds of insurance. In contrast, the visit rate to EDs for the uninsured (47.4 visits per 100 persons) was about twice the rate of persons with

private insurance (24.9 visits per 100 persons) (Table 2).

Although NAMCS and NHAMCS do not collect data on the socioeconomic status of the patient, the surveys do collect the patient's ZIP Code of residence. U.S. Census Bureau demographic data for ZIP Codes can be used in conjunction with survey data to examine the relationship between characteristics of the patient's ZIP Code of residence and the choice of ambulatory medical care setting. Table 3 and Figure 4 show data on ambulatory care visits according to demographic characteristics of the patient's ZIP Code of residence. Ambulatory care setting (as shown in Table 3) was significantly associated with poverty level ($X^2 = 70.88$, $df = 12$, and $p < 0.01$), educational level ($X^2 = 59.46$, $df = 12$, and $p < 0.01$) and median household income ($X^2 = 62.39$, $df = 12$, and $p < 0.01$) in the patient's ZIP Code of residence.

For persons living in areas where the poverty level was below 20 percent, 81.7 percent of visits were to physician offices. The proportion of visits to office-based physicians steadily decreased as the percentage of residents living in poverty increased. For example, for patients living in areas with more than 40 percent of the residents living below the poverty level, only 54.2 percent of visits were to office-based physicians. Conversely, the proportion of visits to hospital settings rose steadily with increases in poverty level. For patients in the poorest areas (40 percent poverty level or higher), 45.8 percent of the visits were to hospital settings. Similar patterns were noted for median household income and education, with higher levels of both more likely to be associated with higher percentages of visits to office-based physicians. Additional logistic regression analysis was performed to analyze the effects of race, expected source of payment, and percentage of poverty in the patient's ZIP Code as predictors of ambulatory care setting. Results showed that each of these variables had significant effects and that race remained significant even after

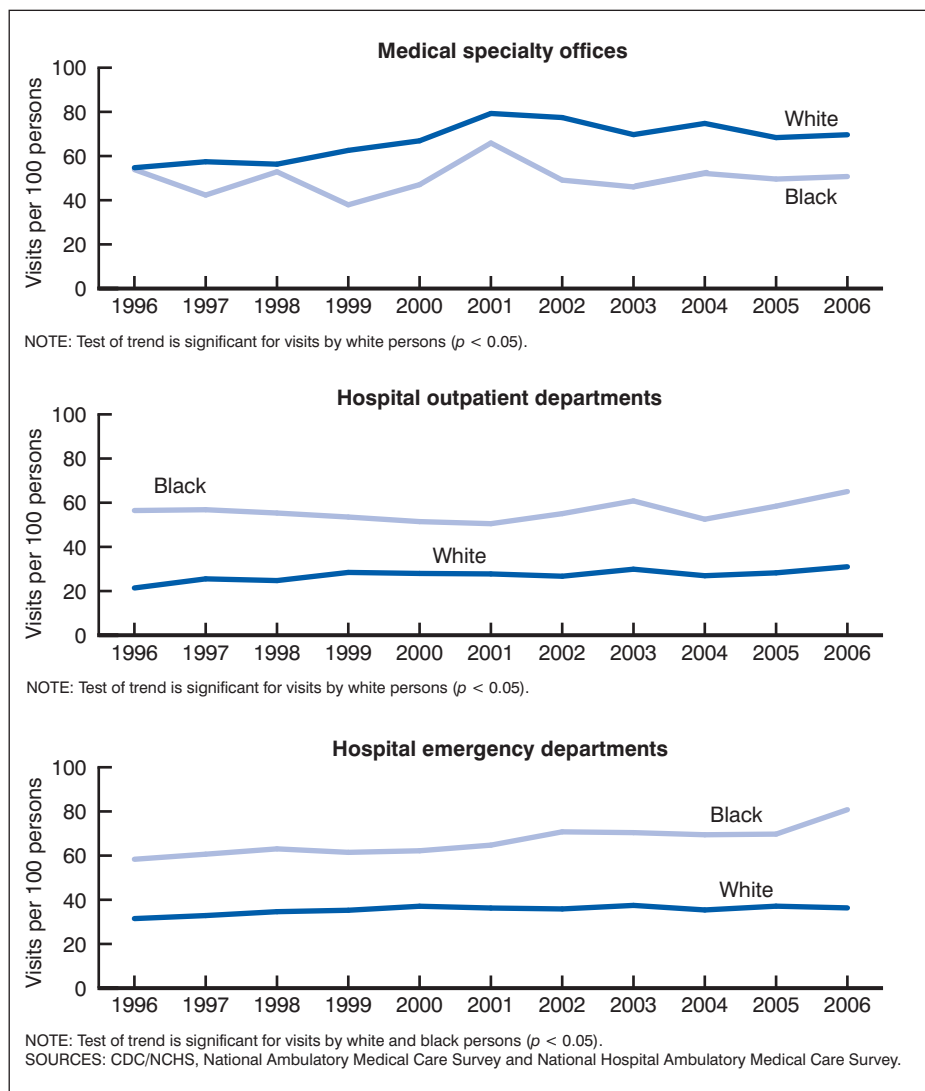


Figure 3. Age-adjusted ambulatory care visit rates by patient race for selected settings: United States, 1996–2006

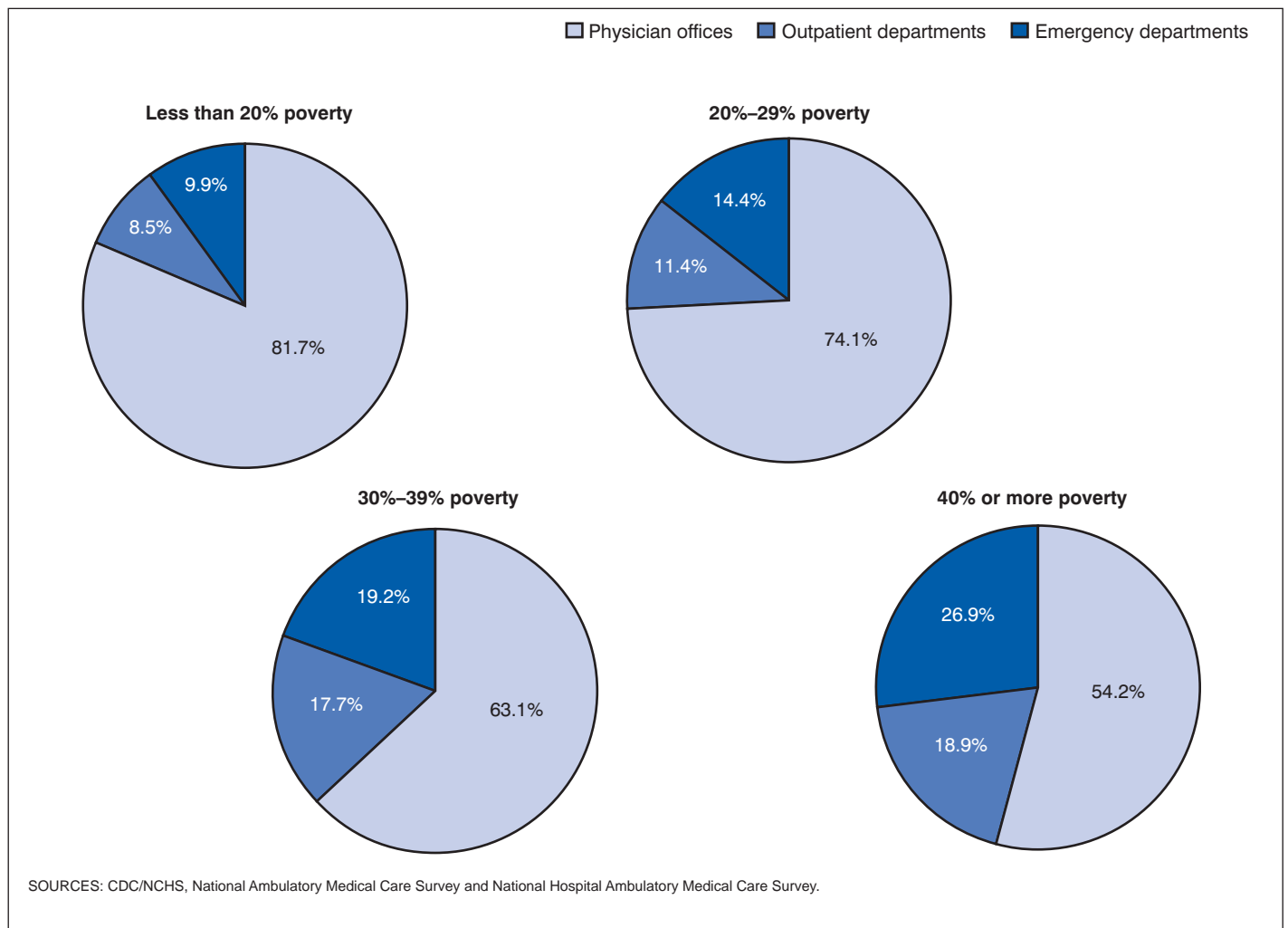


Figure 4. Percent distribution of ambulatory care visits by setting according to poverty level in patient's ZIP Code: United States, 2006

controlling for source of payment and poverty level (data not shown).

Essential hypertension was the primary illness diagnosis recorded most frequently (40.5 million) at ambulatory care visits. About three-fourths (30.7 million) of these occurred in primary care offices, accounting for 5.8 percent of the 525.6 million visits to this setting in 2006. About 18.3 percent of all ambulatory care visits in 2006 had diagnoses of nonillness or noninjury conditions, such as routine checkups and pregnancy exams. No significant differences were noted among the top 35 diagnoses between 2005 and 2006, with the exception of a slight decrease in visits for chest pain, from 0.9 percent to 0.7 percent. [Table 4](#) shows the 35 leading diagnoses by setting, and [Table 5](#) shows the complete classification of primary diagnoses ordered by diagnosis group with

breakdowns across ambulatory care settings. Because of the detail shown in [Table 5](#), estimates from 2005 and 2006 were averaged to improve reliability. The classification scheme used in [Table 5](#) is described in [Table A](#).

In 2006, medication therapy was reported at 71.6 percent of all ambulatory care visits. An estimated 2.6 billion medications, including over-the-counter preparations, immunizations, allergy shots, anesthetics, and dietary supplements, were provided, prescribed, or continued at ambulatory care visits ([Table 6](#)). Each such occurrence is referred to as a “drug mention” in NAMCS and NHAMCS. Central nervous system agents were the most common therapeutic category (22.5 drugs per 100 drug mentions). Within that group, analgesics were most frequently reported, accounting for 13.6 drugs per 100 mentions and were most

often utilized at primary care and ED visits ([Tables 7 and 8](#)). Among the broad therapeutic classes, cardiovascular agents (15.4 mentions per 100 drugs) and respiratory agents (9.6 mentions per 100 drugs) were also prominent. The use of drug therapy increased significantly between 1996 and 2006 at all settings except surgical specialties ([Figure 5](#)).

It should be noted that, starting with the 2006 data release, drugs collected in NAMCS and NHAMCS are being coded in terms of their generic components and therapeutic classifications using Lexicon Plus[®], a proprietary database of Cerner Multum, Inc. The Lexicon Plus is a comprehensive database of all prescription and some nonprescription drug products available in the U.S. drug market. Because of this change, therapeutic class information presented in this report will not be comparable

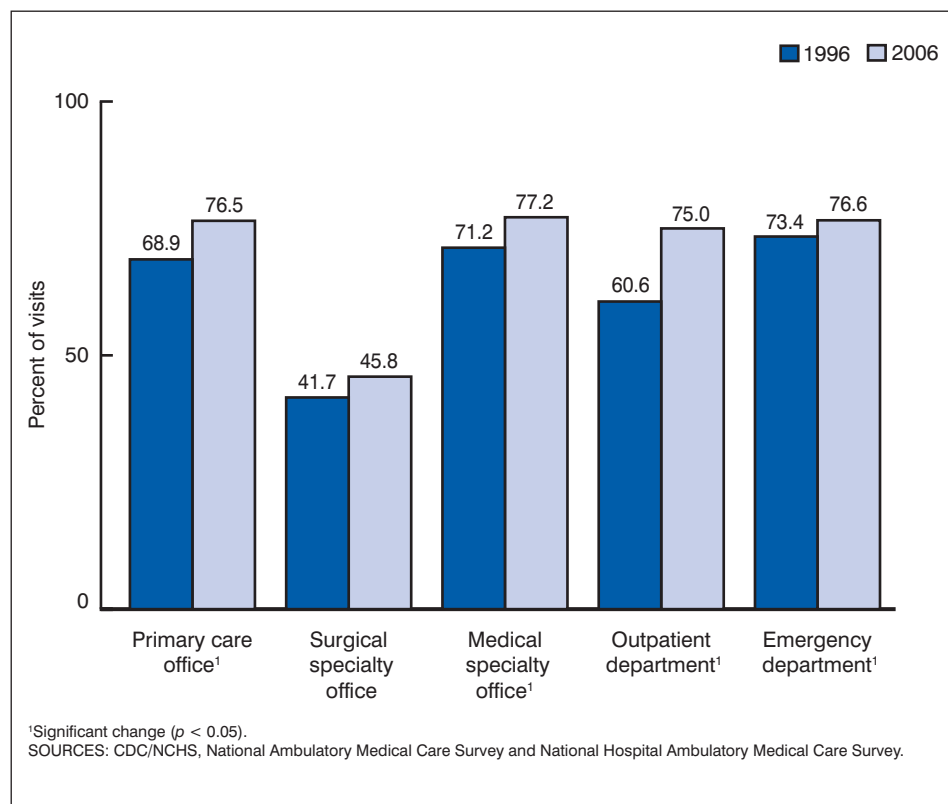


Figure 5. Percentage of visits where medication was prescribed, by ambulatory care setting: United States, 1996 and 2006

with previous years of data, which were coded using the National Drug Code Directory. More information about the Multum Lexicon and how researchers can do drug trend analysis with NAMCS and NHAMCS data is available at www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/ahcd/ahcd1.htm. For additional information on the Multum Lexicon Drug Database, please refer to

the following website:

www.multum.com/Lexicon.htm.

Data on characteristics of physicians and their office-based practices have recently been published (4). Public-use micro-data visit files for 2006 are available for downloading from www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/ahcd/ahcd1.htm. In addition, new information from the 2006 National

Survey of Ambulatory Surgery on ambulatory surgical procedures in both hospital and freestanding centers is currently in press.

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Table A. Reclassification of primary diagnosis codes for use with National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey data: United States, 2005–2006

Primary diagnosis	ICD–9–CM code ¹
Infectious and parasitic diseases	001–139
Streptococcal sore throat	034.0
HIV infection ²	042
Viral warts	078.1
Unspecified viral and chlamydial infections	079.9
Dermatophytosis	110
Candidiasis	112
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	001–033,034.1–041.9,045.0–078.0,078.2–079.8,080–104,111,114–139
Neoplasms	140–239
Malignant neoplasm of colon and rectum	153–154,197.5
Malignant neoplasm of skin	172–173,176.0,198.2
Malignant neoplasm of breast	174–175,198.81
Malignant neoplasm of prostate	185
Malignant neoplasm of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissue	176.5,196,200–208
Other malignant neoplasms	140–152,155–171,176.1–176.4,176.6–184,186–195,197.0–197.4,197.6–198.1, 198.3–198.7,198.82–199,230–234
Benign neoplasm of skin	216
Other benign neoplasm	210–215,217–229
Neoplasm of uncertain behavior and unspecified nature	235–239
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders	240–279
Acquired hypothyroidism	244
Other disorders of the thyroid gland	240–243,245–246
Diabetes mellitus	250
Disorders of lipid metabolism	272
Obesity	278.0
Other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders	251–271,273–277,278.1–279
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	280–289
Anemias	280–285
Other diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	286–289
Mental disorders	290–319
Schizophrenic disorders	295
Major depressive disorder	296.2–296.3
Other psychoses	290–294,296.0–296.1,296.4–299
Anxiety states	300.0
Neurotic depression	300.4
Alcohol dependence syndrome	303
Drug dependence and nondependent use of drugs	304–305
Acute reaction to stress and adjustment reaction	308–309
Depressive disorder, not elsewhere classified	311
Attention deficit disorder	314.0
Other mental disorders	300.1–300.3,300.5–300.9,301–302,306–307,310,312–313,314.1–319
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	320–389
Migraine	346
Other disorders of the central nervous system	320–326,330–337,340–345,347–349
Carpal tunnel syndrome	354.0
Other disorders of the nervous system	350–353,354.1–359
Retinal detachment and other retinal disorders	361–362
Glaucoma	365
Cataract	366
Disorders of refraction and accommodation	367
Conjunctivitis	372.0–372.3
Disorders of eyelids	373–374
Other disorders of the eye and adnexa	360,363–364,368–369, 370–371,372.4–372.9,375–379
Disorders of external ear	380
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders	381–382
Other diseases of the ear and mastoid process	383–389
Diseases of the circulatory system	390–459
Angina pectoris	413
Coronary atherosclerosis	414.0
Other ischemic heart disease	410–412,414.1–414.9
Cardiac dysrhythmias	427

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Reclassification of primary diagnosis codes for use with National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey data: United States, 2005–2006—Con.

Primary diagnosis	ICD–9–CM code ¹
Congestive heart failure	428.0
Other heart disease	391–392.0,393–398,402,404,415–416,420–426,428.1–429
Essential hypertension	401
Cerebrovascular disease	430–438
Diseases of the arteries, arterioles, and capillaries	440–448
Hemorrhoids	455
Other diseases of the circulatory system	390,392.9,403,405,417,451–454,456–459
Diseases of the respiratory system	460–519
Acute sinusitis	461
Acute pharyngitis	462
Acute tonsillitis	463
Acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis	466
Other acute respiratory infections	460,464–465
Chronic sinusitis	473
Allergic rhinitis	477
Pneumonia	480–486
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490–491
Asthma	493
Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and allied conditions	492,494–496
Other diseases of the respiratory system	470–472,474–476,478,487,500–519
Diseases of the digestive system	520–579
Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures	520–525
Gastritis and duodenitis	535
Esophagitis	530.1
Ulcer of stomach and small intestine	531–534
Hernia of abdominal cavity	550–553
Noninfectious enteritis and colitis	555–558
Diverticula of intestine	562
Constipation	564.0
Irritable bowel syndrome	564.1
Anal and rectal diseases	565–566,569.0–569.4
Disorders of the gallbladder and biliary tract	574–576
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	578
Other diseases of the digestive system	526.0–530.0,530.2–530.9,536–543,560,564.2–564.9, 576–568,569.5–573.9,577,579
Diseases of the genitourinary system	580–629
Calculus of kidney and ureter	592
Cystitis and other disorders of the bladder	595–596
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0
Other diseases of the urinary system	580–589,590–591,593–594,597–598,599.1–599.9
Hyperplasia of prostate	600
Other disorders of male genital organs	601–608
Disorders of breast	610–611
Inflammatory disorders of female pelvic organs	614–616
Noninflammatory disorders of female genital organs	620,622–624
Disorders of menstruation and abnormal bleeding	626
Menopausal and postmenopausal disorders	627
Other disorders of the female genital tract	617–619,621,625,628,629
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	630–677
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	680–709
Cellulitis and abscess	681–682
Other infection of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	680,683–686
Contact dermatitis and other eczema	692
Psoriasis and similar disorders	696
Other inflammatory conditions of skin and subcutaneous tissue	690–691,693–695,697–698
Corns, callosities, and other hypertrophic and atrophic skin conditions	700–701
Actinic and seborrheic keratosis	702.0–702.1
Acne	706.0–706.1
Sebaceous cyst	706.2
Urticaria	708
Other disorders of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	702.8,703–705,706.3–707.9,709

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Reclassification of primary diagnosis codes for use with National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey data: United States, 2005–2006—Con.

Primary diagnosis	ICD–9–CM code ¹
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	710–739
Rheumatoid arthritis	714.0
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders	715
Other arthropathies and related disorders	710–713,714.1–714.9,716
Derangements and other and unspecified joint disorders	717–719
Intervertebral disc disorders	722
Lumbago	724.2
Other dorsopathies	720–721,723.0–724.1,724.3–724.9
Peripheral enthesopathies and allied disorders	726
Synovitis and tenosynovitis	727.0
Myalgia and myositis, unspecified	729.1
Other rheumatism, excluding back	725,727.1–727.9,728,729.0,729.2–729.9
Disorders of bone and cartilage	730–733
Other diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	734–739
Congenital anomalies	740–759
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	760–779
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions	780–799
Syncope and collapse	780.2
Convulsions	780.3
Dizziness and giddiness	780.4
Pyrexia of unknown origin	780.6
Symptoms involving skin and other integumentary tissue	782
Headache	784.0
Epistaxis	784.7
Abnormal heart sounds	785.0–785.3
Dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities	786.0
Cough	786.2
Chest pain	786.5
Symptoms involving urinary system	788
Abdominal pain	789.0
Other symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	780.0–780.1,780.5,780.7–780.9,781,783,784.1–784.6,784.8–784.9, 785.4–785.9,786.1,786.3–786.4,786.6–787.9,789.1–799.9
Injury and poisoning	800–999
Fracture of radius and ulna	813
Fracture of hand and fingers	814–817
Fracture of lower limb	820–829
Other fractures	800–812,818–819
Sprains and strains of wrist and hand	842
Sprains and strains of knee and leg	844
Sprains and strains of ankle	845.0
Sprains and strains of neck	847.0
Other sprains and strains of back	846,847.1–847.9
Other sprains and strains	840–841,843,845.1,848
Intracranial injury, excluding those with skull fracture	850–854
Open wound of head	870–873
Open wound of hand and fingers	882–883
Other open wound	874–881,884–897
Superficial injury of cornea	918.1
Other superficial injury	910.0–918.0,918.2,919.9
Contusion with intact skin surface	920–924
Other injuries	830–839,860–869,900–909,925–959
Poisonings	960–989
Other and unspecified effects of external causes	990–995
Complications of surgical and medical care, not elsewhere classified	996–999
Supplementary classification of factors influencing health status and contact with health services	V01–V82
Potential health hazards related to communicable diseases	V01–V09
Potential health hazards related to personal and family history	V10–V19
Routine infant or child health check	V20.2
Normal pregnancy	V22
Postpartum care and examination	V24

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Reclassification of primary diagnosis codes for use with National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey data: United States, 2005–2006—Con.

Primary diagnosis	ICD–9–CM code ¹
Encounter for contraceptive management	V25
Other encounter related to reproduction	V23–V24,V26–V28
Lens replaced by pseudophakos	V43.1
Artificial opening status and other postsurgical states	V44–V45
Attention to surgical dressing and sutures	V58.3
Follow-up examination	V67
General medical examination	V70
Observation and evaluation for suspected conditions not found	V71
Gynecological examination	V72.3
Other factors influencing health status and contact with health services	V20.0–V20.1,V21,V29.0–V43.0,V43.2–V43.8,V46–V66,V68–V69, V72.0–V72.2,V72.4–V82.9

¹Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification* (5).²HIV is human immunodeficiency virus.

Table 1. Number and percent distribution of ambulatory care visits by setting type, according to selected patient and provider characteristics: United States, 2006

Characteristic	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
	Number of visits in thousands					
All visits	1,123,354	525,607	177,693	198,654	102,208	119,191
Patient age						
Under 15 years	199,646	137,997	10,267	9,642	19,864	21,876
Under 1 year	38,735	29,918	*824	*	4,015	3,487
1–4 years	66,218	47,442	2,472	*1,818	6,149	8,338
5–14 years	94,693	60,638	6,972	7,332	9,700	10,052
15–24 years	103,948	53,762	8,212	10,437	12,012	19,525
25–44 years	245,443	113,720	30,466	41,119	25,104	35,034
45–64 years	310,667	125,297	59,803	71,394	28,707	25,466
65 years and over	263,649	94,831	68,945	66,061	16,522	17,290
65–74 years	124,089	47,340	31,429	29,295	8,931	7,095
75 years and over	139,560	47,491	37,516	36,767	7,591	10,195
Patient sex						
Female	660,205	324,961	98,243	110,088	61,952	64,962
Male	463,148	200,646	79,450	88,566	40,256	54,230
Patient race ¹						
White	923,722	436,052	156,439	172,145	73,814	85,273
Black or African American	140,066	57,208	13,453	16,379	23,468	29,558
Asian	43,742	24,583	5,390	8,710	2,673	2,386
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3,935	*1,871	*	*	*468	*449
American Indian or Alaska Native	7,703	4,324	*1,243	606	*399	*1,132
Two or more races reported	4,185	1,571	*	*	1,386	394
Patient ethnicity						
Hispanic or Latino	151,762	78,072	18,949	21,675	17,595	15,472
Not Hispanic or Latino	971,592	447,536	158,744	176,979	84,614	103,719
Primary expected source of payment						
Private insurance	636,239	317,496	109,894	118,354	43,210	47,284
Medicare	251,054	90,285	61,090	61,129	17,878	20,672
Medicare and Medicaid	26,435	8,373	5,018	5,843	3,308	3,893
Medicaid or SCHIP ²	188,531	95,493	12,960	17,940	31,788	30,351
No insurance ³	71,113	23,429	6,971	9,515	10,422	20,777
Self-pay	61,133	21,691	4,870	8,984	6,547	19,041
No charge or charity	11,063	*2,084	*2,260	*585	*3,902	2,232
Worker's compensation	18,324	*2,720	6,381	*6,354	772	2,097
Other	35,069	13,539	4,332	8,434	4,554	4,211
Unknown or blank	60,451	26,703	10,115	*13,652	4,330	5,651
Geographic region of provider						
Northeast	231,459	96,366	28,303	57,119	27,003	22,669
Midwest	240,538	112,580	39,619	29,287	33,316	25,735
South	429,051	211,146	64,442	73,352	29,469	50,642
West	222,306	105,515	45,329	38,896	12,420	20,145
MSA ⁴ status of provider						
MSA	963,672	439,807	154,102	182,700	86,336	100,727
Not MSA	159,681	85,801	23,591	*15,954	15,872	18,464

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Number and percent distribution of ambulatory care visits by setting type, according to selected patient and provider characteristics: United States, 2006—Con.

Characteristic	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
	Percent distribution					
All visits	100.0	46.8	15.8	17.7	9.1	10.6
Patient age						
Under 15 years	100.0	69.1	5.1	4.8	9.9	11.0
Under 1 year	100.0	77.2	*2.1	*1.3	10.4	9.0
1–4 years	100.0	71.6	3.7	*2.7	9.3	12.6
5–14 years	100.0	64.0	7.4	7.7	10.2	10.6
15–24 years	100.0	51.7	7.9	10.0	11.6	18.8
25–44 years	100.0	46.3	12.4	16.8	10.2	14.3
45–64 years	100.0	40.3	19.2	23.0	9.2	8.2
65 years and over	100.0	36.0	26.2	25.1	6.3	6.6
65–74 years	100.0	38.1	25.3	23.6	7.2	5.7
75 years and over	100.0	34.0	26.9	26.3	5.4	7.3
Patient sex						
Female	100.0	49.2	14.9	16.7	9.4	9.8
Male	100.0	43.3	17.2	19.1	8.7	11.7
Patient race ¹						
White	100.0	47.2	16.9	18.6	8.0	9.2
Black or African American	100.0	40.8	9.6	11.7	16.8	21.1
Asian	100.0	56.2	12.3	19.9	6.1	5.5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	100.0	47.5	*19.6	9.6	11.9	*11.4
American Indian or Alaska Native	100.0	56.1	*16.1	*7.9	*5.2	*14.7
Two or more races reported	100.0	37.5	*9.5	10.4	33.1	9.4
Patient ethnicity						
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	51.4	12.5	14.3	11.6	10.2
Not Hispanic or Latino	100.0	46.1	16.3	18.2	8.7	10.7
Primary expected source of payment						
Private insurance	100.0	49.9	17.3	18.6	6.8	7.4
Medicare	100.0	36.0	24.3	24.3	7.1	8.2
Medicare and Medicaid	100.0	31.7	19.0	22.1	12.5	14.7
Medicaid or SCHIP ²	100.0	50.7	6.9	9.5	16.9	16.1
No insurance ³	100.0	32.9	9.8	13.4	14.7	29.2
Self-pay	100.0	35.5	8.0	14.7	10.7	31.1
No charge or charity	100.0	*18.8	*20.4	*5.3	*35.3	20.2
Worker's compensation	100.0	*14.8	34.8	34.7	4.2	11.4
Other	100.0	38.6	12.4	24.0	13.0	12.0
Unknown or blank	100.0	44.2	16.7	*22.6	7.2	9.3
Geographic region of provider						
Northeast	100.0	41.6	12.2	24.7	11.7	9.8
Midwest	100.0	46.8	16.5	12.2	13.9	10.7
South	100.0	49.2	15.0	17.1	6.9	11.8
West	100.0	47.5	20.4	17.5	5.6	9.1
MSA ⁴ status of provider						
MSA	100.0	45.6	16.0	19.0	9.0	10.5
Not MSA	100.0	53.7	14.8	*10.0	9.9	11.6

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹The race groups White, Black or African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and multiple races include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with data year 1999, race-specific estimates have been tabulated according to the 1997 Standards for Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The percentage of visit records with multiple races indicated is small and lower than is typically found for self-reported race in household surveys.²SCHIP is State Children's Health Insurance Program.³No insurance is defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as payment sources.⁴MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

NOTES: The 2006 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey included a sample of community health centers (CHCs) in addition to the traditional sample of office-based physicians. Estimates presented in this table include data from office-based physicians as defined by the American Medical Association as well as data from a sample of physicians working in CHCs.

Table 2. Rate of ambulatory care visits with corresponding standard errors, by setting type and selected patient and provider characteristics: United States, 2006

Characteristic	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
	Number of visits per 100 persons ^{1,2,3}					
All visits	381.9	178.7	60.4	67.5	34.7	40.5
Patient age						
Under 15 years	328.9	227.3	16.9	15.9	32.7	36.0
Under 1 year	938.7	725.0	*20.0	*11.9	97.3	84.5
1–4 years	406.6	291.3	15.2	*11.2	37.8	51.2
5–14 years	235.0	150.5	17.3	18.2	24.1	24.9
15–24 years	250.9	129.8	19.8	25.2	29.0	47.1
25–44 years	299.0	138.6	37.1	50.1	30.6	42.7
45–64 years	417.8	168.5	80.4	96.0	38.6	34.3
65 years and over	740.2	266.2	193.6	185.5	46.4	48.5
65–74 years	664.5	253.5	168.3	156.9	47.8	38.0
75 years and over	823.5	280.2	221.4	217.0	44.8	60.2
Patient sex						
Female	439.6	216.4	65.4	73.3	41.2	43.3
Male	321.6	139.3	55.2	61.5	28.0	37.7
Patient race ⁴						
White	391.3	184.7	66.3	72.9	31.3	36.1
Black or African American	378.8	154.7	36.4	44.3	63.5	79.9
Asian	334.2	187.8	41.2	66.5	20.4	18.2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	756.8	*359.8	*148.1	*72.5	*90.1	*86.3
American Indian or Alaska Native	270.3	151.7	*43.6	21.3	*14.0	*39.7
Two or more races reported	89.7	33.7	*8.5	*9.4	29.7	8.4
Patient ethnicity						
Hispanic or Latino	346.5	178.3	43.3	49.5	40.2	35.3
Not Hispanic or Latino	388.0	178.7	63.4	70.7	33.8	41.4
Primary expected source of payment						
Private insurance	335.4	167.4	57.9	62.4	22.8	24.9
Medicare	647.7	232.9	157.6	157.7	46.1	53.3
Medicaid or SCHIP ⁵	537.3	272.1	36.9	51.1	90.6	86.5
No insurance ⁶	162.4	53.5	15.9	21.7	23.8	47.4
Geographic region of provider						
Northeast	429.2	178.7	52.5	105.9	50.1	42.0
Midwest	368.9	172.7	60.8	44.9	51.1	39.5
South	401.7	197.7	60.3	68.7	27.6	47.4
West	325.7	154.6	66.4	57.0	18.2	29.5
MSA ⁷ status of provider						
MSA	393.7	179.7	63.0	74.6	35.3	41.2
Not MSA	323.2	173.6	47.7	*32.3	32.1	37.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Rate of ambulatory care visits with corresponding standard errors, by setting type and selected patient and provider characteristics: United States, 2006—Con.

Characteristic	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
	Standard error of rate					
All visits	11.9	8.8	4.8	4.7	3.1	1.8
Patient age						
Under 15 years	24.8	22.3	2.3	4.8	3.4	1.9
Under 1 year	83.7	81.4	6.9	5.7	12.3	5.5
1–4 years	34.7	30.9	2.7	7.8	4.3	3.0
5–14 years	17.1	15.2	2.5	3.7	2.5	1.5
15–24 years	12.1	10.4	2.5	2.7	2.9	2.5
25–44 years	11.4	9.0	3.5	4.6	3.0	2.1
45–64 years	13.9	9.8	6.4	8.3	3.7	1.6
65 years and over	31.0	18.7	19.6	16.5	4.9	2.2
65–74 years	30.2	19.1	17.1	14.7	5.1	2.0
75 years and over	36.0	21.3	23.5	20.3	5.1	3.0
Patient sex						
Female	14.1	11.1	5.5	5.1	3.7	2.0
Male	10.8	7.6	4.3	5.0	2.6	1.7
Patient race ⁴						
White	13.6	10.1	5.5	5.2	3.0	1.8
Black or African American	23.2	17.9	4.6	6.5	8.6	6.0
Asian	50.9	36.1	7.7	17.2	4.1	3.7
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	206.8	122.0	56.8	23.4	38.9	46.9
American Indian or Alaska Native	52.1	44.4	14.3	6.1	4.5	14.0
Two or more races reported	13.3	7.3	5.0	2.9	8.3	2.4
Patient ethnicity						
Hispanic or Latino	28.5	22.3	6.8	9.1	5.3	3.2
Not Hispanic or Latino	12.6	9.1	5.1	5.1	3.2	2.0
Primary expected source of payment						
Private insurance	12.0	9.4	4.7	4.9	2.6	1.3
Medicare	28.7	16.5	17.1	14.9	4.3	2.8
Medicaid or SCHIP ⁵	32.3	28.0	6.1	8.8	8.7	4.8
No insurance ⁶	11.8	6.0	4.5	2.9	5.5	3.5
Geographic region of provider						
Northeast	24.3	15.5	8.9	13.7	7.3	2.9
Midwest	20.8	15.6	10.5	6.7	8.9	3.2
South	26.5	17.1	8.2	8.8	4.7	4.4
West	18.8	19.8	10.9	8.3	4.4	2.3
MSA ⁷ status of provider						
MSA	13.3	9.4	5.2	5.2	3.5	2.2
Not MSA	50.4	29.7	13.3	12.1	8.5	6.9

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Visit rates for age, sex, race, and region are based on the July 1, 2006, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²Population estimates of metropolitan statistical area status are based on data from the 2006 National Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, adjusted to the U.S. Census Bureau definition of core-based statistical areas as of December 2006. See www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metrodef.html for more about metropolitan statistical definitions.

³Population estimates for expected source of payment are based on the data from the 2006 National Health Interview Survey.

⁴The race groups White, Black or African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and multiple races include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with data year 1999, race-specific estimates have been tabulated according to the 1997 Standards for Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The percentage of visit records with multiple races indicated is small and lower than is typically found for self-reported race in household surveys.

⁵SCHIP is State Children's Health Insurance Program.

⁶No insurance is defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as payment sources.

⁷MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

NOTES: The 2006 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey included a sample of community health centers (CHCs) in addition to the traditional sample of office-based physicians. Estimates presented in this table include data from office-based physicians as defined by the American Medical Association as well as data from a sample of physicians working in CHCs.

Table 3. Number and percent distribution of ambulatory care visits by setting type, according to characteristics of patient's ZIP Code of residence: United States, 2006

Characteristic	Combined settings		Total	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
	Number of visits in thousands	Percent distribution							Percent distribution
All visits	1,123,354	100.0	100.0	46.8	15.8	17.7	9.1	10.6
Urban-rural classification ¹								
Large central metro	276,915	24.7	100.0	43.2	16.6	18.8	10.5	11.1
Large fringe metro	267,301	23.8	100.0	49.5	11.7	22.1	7.1	9.5
Medium metro	242,797	21.6	100.0	48.3	15.8	15.4	9.5	11.1
Small metro	95,735	8.5	100.0	45.3	19.6	14.1	*7.9	13.2
Nonmetropolitan	178,407	15.9	100.0	48.0	17.9	12.4	10.4	11.3
Micropolitan	101,118	9.0	100.0	44.5	20.8	14.4	7.9	12.5
Noncore (nonmetro)	77,289	6.9	100.0	52.7	14.2	*9.9	*13.6	9.7
Median household income ²	1,123,354	100.0	100.0	46.8	15.8	17.7	9.1	10.6
Quartile 1 (\$0 to \$32,793)	261,409	23.3	100.0	44.4	15.3	13.6	12.2	14.6
Quartile 2 (\$32,794 to \$40,626)	269,249	24.0	100.0	51.7	14.6	13.1	9.3	11.4
Quartile 3 (\$40,627 to \$52,387)	245,227	21.8	100.0	46.1	16.9	18.7	8.5	9.9
Quartile 4 (\$52,388 and over)	264,782	23.6	100.0	45.8	16.2	23.4	6.9	7.8
Percentage with bachelor's degree or higher ³	1,123,354	100.0	100.0	46.8	15.8	17.7	9.1	10.6
Quartile 1 (0–12.83)	282,191	25.1	100.0	49.8	14.3	11.6	11.1	13.2
Quartile 2 (12.84–19.66)	247,363	22.0	100.0	47.7	15.9	15.2	9.1	12.2
Quartile 3 (19.67–31.68)	248,576	22.1	100.0	47.7	16.7	17.1	8.4	10.1
Quartile 4 (31.69 and over)	257,054	22.9	100.0	41.9	16.2	25.4	8.3	8.1
Percentage of poverty ⁴	1,123,354	100.0	100.0	46.8	15.8	17.7	9.1	10.6
Less than 5 percent	202,428	18.0	100.0	47.0	17.3	21.4	7.0	7.4
5.00–9.99 percent	313,522	27.9	100.0	47.1	16.8	19.6	7.1	9.4
10.00–19.99 percent	357,552	31.8	100.0	47.8	15.0	14.8	10.5	11.9
20 percent or more	167,122	14.9	100.0	45.3	13.2	12.3	13.1	16.0
Percentage of poverty (method 2) ⁵	1,123,354	100.0	100.0	46.8	15.8	17.7	9.1	10.6
Less than 20 percent	873,502	77.8	100.0	47.4	16.2	18.1	8.5	9.9
20.00–29.99 percent	124,405	11.1	100.0	47.2	13.6	13.3	11.4	14.4
30.00–39.99 percent	35,049	3.1	100.0	41.3	11.8	10.0	17.7	19.2
40 percent or more	7,668	0.7	100.0	34.4	*13.1	*	18.9	26.9
	Standard error in thousands	Standard error of percent		Standard error of percent				
All visits	34,894	...	...	1.5	1.2	1.2	0.8	0.5
Urban-rural classification ¹								
Large central metro	19,212	1.7	...	2.6	2.0	2.0	1.4	1.1
Large fringe metro	17,507	1.5	...	2.9	1.3	2.4	1.2	1.1
Medium metro	29,785	2.6	...	3.9	2.8	2.4	1.7	1.3
Small metro	18,779	1.6	...	5.9	4.9	3.0	2.7	2.5
Nonmetropolitan	22,821	1.9	...	3.5	2.7	2.4	2.3	1.6
Micropolitan	18,172	1.5	...	4.5	3.3	3.0	1.9	2.7
Noncore (nonmetro)	11,554	1.0	...	6.7	3.1	3.3	4.3	1.7
Median household income ²								
Quartile 1 (\$0 to \$32,793)	18,624	1.5	...	2.7	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.1
Quartile 2 (\$32,794 to \$40,626)	18,034	1.3	...	2.8	1.7	1.6	1.1	0.9
Quartile 3 (\$40,627 to \$52,387)	14,332	1.1	...	2.2	1.5	1.6	1.0	0.8
Quartile 4 (\$52,388 and over)	13,311	1.1	...	2.2	1.4	1.9	1.1	0.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Number and percent distribution of ambulatory care visits by setting type, according to characteristics of patient's ZIP Code of residence: United States, 2006—Con.

Characteristic	Combined settings		Total	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
	Standard error in thousands	Standard error of percent						
Percentage with bachelor's degree or higher ³								
Quartile 1 (0–12.83)	19,666	1.3	...	2.9	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.3
Quartile 2 (12.84–19.66)	16,127	1.2	...	2.5	1.6	1.8	1.0	0.9
Quartile 3 (19.67–31.68)	13,046	1.2	...	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.0	0.7
Quartile 4 (31.69 and over)	12,985	1.1	...	2.3	1.6	2.2	1.2	0.6
Percentage of poverty ⁴								
Less than 5 percent	10,238	0.9	...	2.4	1.5	1.8	1.2	0.6
5.00–9.99 percent	15,833	1.2	...	2.0	1.7	1.6	0.9	0.7
10.00–19.99 percent	19,389	1.2	...	2.4	1.6	1.5	1.1	0.9
20 percent or more	13,532	1.1	...	3.2	2.3	1.7	1.6	1.5
Percentage of poverty (method 2) ⁵								
Less than 20 percent	30,115	1.4	...	1.6	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.5
20.00–29.99 percent	11,590	0.9	...	3.6	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.5
30.00–39.99 percent	4,555	0.4	...	4.3	3.4	1.8	3.2	2.6
40 percent or more	1,333	0.1	...	7.1	*4.7	*	3.7	4.3

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

... Category not applicable.

¹Excludes 5.5 percent of visits for which data were missing. For each record, county of residence was determined using patient ZIP Code and was then matched to the National Center for Health Statistics' Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties described here: www.cdc.gov/nchs/r&d/rdc_urbanrural.htm.²Excludes 7.4 percent of visits for which data were missing. Median household income was based on patient's ZIP Code of residence matched to data from the 2000 census. Population quartiles were estimated using U.S. Census Bureau data aggregated at the ZIP Code level.³Excludes 7.9 percent of visits for which data were missing. Education level was based on patient's ZIP Code of residence matched to data from the 2000 census. Population quartiles were estimated using data aggregated at the ZIP Code level.⁴Excludes 7.9 percent of visits for which data were missing. Poverty groupings were based on cutpoints consistent with the "Public Health Geocoding Disparities Project" (*American Journal of Epidemiology* 156(5):471–82, 2002). Category 4, 20 percent or greater poverty, also corresponds to the federal designation of a high poverty area established in the 1990 census. See "Poverty Areas", Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, June 1995. Available from: www.census.gov/population/socdemo/statbriefs/povarea.html.⁵Excludes 7.9 percent of visits for which data were missing. Poverty groupings were based on cutpoints consistent with the "Public Health Geocoding Disparities Project" (*American Journal of Epidemiology* 156(5):471–82, 2002), but categories were further grouped to identify gradations of poverty within high-poverty areas.

NOTES: The 2006 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey included a sample of community health centers (CHCs) in addition to the traditional sample of office-based physicians. Estimates presented in this table include data from office-based physicians as defined by the American Medical Association as well as data from a sample of physicians working in CHCs.

Table 4. Number and percent distribution of ambulatory care visits with corresponding standard errors, by the 35 leading primary diagnosis groups, with percent distribution by setting type: United States, 2006

Primary diagnosis group ICD-9-CM code(s) ¹	Number of visits in thousands	Percent distribution	Total	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	Percent distribution						
All visits	1,123,354	100.0	100.0	46.8	15.8	17.7	9.1	10.6							
Routine infant or child health check V20.2	43,043	3.8	100.0	90.8	*0.2	*0.3	8.5	*0.2							
Essential hypertension 401	40,542	3.6	100.0	75.6	*0.2	12.4	9.6	2.1							
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis 460-461,463-466	38,414	3.4	100.0	74.7	1.2	*4.5	10.0	9.5							
Arthropathies and related disorders 710-719	32,055	2.9	100.0	32.1	34.9	19.5	8.0	5.5							
Spinal disorders 720-724	29,567	2.6	100.0	38.6	28.4	13.4	7.6	12.0							
Diabetes mellitus 250	28,562	2.5	100.0	60.9	14.5	*7.8	15.2	1.5							
Specific procedures and aftercare V50-V59.9	25,660	2.3	100.0	34.7	19.7	*34.8	6.9	4.0							
Malignant neoplasms 140-208,230-234	24,559	2.2	100.0	7.8	23.5	53.9	14.2	0.6							
Normal pregnancy V22	23,046	2.1	100.0	84.8	-	*0.8	13.2	1.2							
Rheumatism, excluding back 725-729	19,769	1.8	100.0	36.9	31.7	13.5	8.4	9.5							
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders 381-382	17,273	1.5	100.0	67.4	10.9	*1.5	9.0	11.2							
Gynecological examination V72.3	16,879	1.5	100.0	91.8	-	*0.9	7.4	*0.0							
Heart disease, excluding ischemic 391-392.0, 393-398,402,404,415-416,420-429	15,975	1.4	100.0	39.5	*0.8	43.1	7.3	9.3							
General medical examination V70	15,101	1.3	100.0	63.5	*6.7	*19.9	8.4	1.6							
Chronic sinusitis 473	15,018	1.3	100.0	74.5	7.7	*4.2	9.6	4.0							
Follow-up examination V67	14,938	1.3	100.0	27.4	49.2	15.0	7.5	*0.9							
Abdominal pain 789	13,377	1.2	100.0	37.9	2.9	*16.1	5.6	37.4							
Asthma 493	13,274	1.2	100.0	54.6	*0.1	*25.1	8.2	12.0							
Allergic rhinitis 477	13,118	1.2	100.0	48.0	*7.3	*37.3	*6.5	*0.9							
Acute pharyngitis 462	12,503	1.1	100.0	73.9	*0.8	*0.8	10.5	14.1							
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis 490-491	12,496	1.1	100.0	71.2	*0.1	*7.6	8.5	12.6							
Ischemic heart disease 410-414.9	12,152	1.1	100.0	30.4	*0.8	58.1	4.5	6.1							
Potential health hazards related to personal and family history V10-V19	11,244	1.0	100.0	42.4	21.3	23.4	11.1	1.7							
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back 840-844,845.1,848	10,962	1.0	100.0	30.0	25.6	*14.2	6.3	24.0							
Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder 290-295,296.0-296.1,296.4-299	10,932	1.0	100.0	14.6	*0.1	59.6	16.9	8.8							
Cataract 366	10,556	0.9	100.0	*1.0	96.0	-	3.0	*0.0							
Contusion with intact skin surface 920-924	10,153	0.9	100.0	24.0	7.3	*10.1	6.4	52.2							
Disorders of lipid metabolism 272	9,971	0.9	100.0	78.8	*1.6	11.8	7.6	*0.1							
Fractures, excluding lower limb 800-819	9,286	0.8	100.0	12.6	51.0	*1.9	7.7	26.7							
Contact dermatitis and other eczema 692	9,157	0.8	100.0	53.7	*0.8	33.3	6.4	5.8							
Benign neoplasms 210-229,235-239	8,977	0.8	100.0	36.3	15.9	38.0	9.2	*0.6							
Open wound, excluding head 874-897	8,733	0.8	100.0	26.5	8.3	*8.3	9.5	47.5							
Cellulitis and abscess 681-682	8,502	0.8	100.0	51.1	4.7	*5.6	7.6	31.0							
Sprains and strains of neck and back 846,847	8,329	0.7	100.0	38.9	12.4	*20.6	4.5	23.6							
Glaucoma 365	8,093	0.7	100.0	*0.4	96.5	-	*3.1	*0.0							
All other diagnoses	521,137	46.4	100.0	40.7	17.4	19.2	9.3	13.3							
				Standard error of percent											
All visits	34,894	...	...	1.5	1.2	1.2	0.8	0.5						
Routine infant or child health check V20.2	4,429	0.4	...	1.4	0.1	0.2	1.4	0.1							
Essential hypertension 401	3,164	0.3	...	2.3	0.1	2.0	1.1	0.3							
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis 460-461,463-466	2,679	0.2	...	2.4	0.3	1.8	1.6	0.8							
Arthropathies and related disorders 710-719	3,005	0.3	...	3.9	4.6	5.7	1.5	0.8							
Spinal disorders 720-724	2,583	0.2	...	3.6	5.1	3.3	1.2	1.2							
Diabetes mellitus 250	2,866	0.2	...	4.3	4.1	3.0	2.5	0.3							
Specific procedures and aftercare V50-V59.9	5,228	0.5	...	7.3	4.8	12.8	1.6	0.9							
Malignant neoplasms 140-208,230-234	2,203	0.2	...	1.7	2.9	4.9	3.1	0.1							
Normal pregnancy V22	2,623	0.2	...	2.6	...	0.6	2.3	0.2							
Rheumatism, excluding back 725-729	1,624	0.1	...	3.5	4.5	3.2	1.4	1.0							
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders 381-382	1,702	0.1	...	4.0	2.1	1.4	2.0	1.3							
Gynecological examination V72.3	2,155	0.2	...	1.7	...	0.9	1.5	0.0							

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Number and percent distribution of ambulatory care visits with corresponding standard errors, by the 35 leading primary diagnosis groups, with percent distribution by setting type: United States, 2006—Con.

Primary diagnosis group ICD-9-CM code(s) ¹	Number of visits in thousands	Percent distribution	Total	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
Heart disease, excluding ischemic 391-392.0, 393-398,402,404,415-416,420-429	1,239	0.1	...	3.7	0.6	3.8	2.0	0.9
General medical examination V70	2,330	0.2	...	9.5	5.4	10.2	1.9	0.4
Chronic sinusitis 473	1,314	0.1	...	3.5	1.7	1.3	2.3	0.7
Follow-up examination V67	1,662	0.2	...	4.1	5.5	3.2	1.6	0.3
Abdominal pain 789	1,205	0.1	...	4.4	0.8	6.2	1.0	3.7
Asthma 493	1,850	0.2	...	7.0	0.1	8.8	1.5	1.8
Allergic rhinitis 477	3,535	0.3	...	13.6	2.5	16.4	2.5	0.3
Acute pharyngitis 462	1,562	0.1	...	3.7	0.4	0.6	2.4	2.0
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis 490-491	1,103	0.1	...	3.8	0.1	2.8	2.0	1.4
Ischemic heart disease 410-414.9	1,045	0.1	...	4.0	0.6	4.3	1.2	0.8
Potential health hazards related to personal and family history V10-V19	1,007	0.1	...	4.5	3.2	5.0	1.9	0.3
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back 840-844,845.1,848	1,039	0.1	...	4.2	4.2	4.4	1.2	2.7
Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder 290-295,296.0-296.1,296.4-299	1,050	0.1	...	3.3	0.1	4.7	2.9	1.4
Cataract 366	1,904	0.2	...	0.5	1.1	...	0.8	0.0
Contusion with intact skin surface 920-924	650	0.1	...	3.3	1.8	3.2	1.5	3.4
Disorders of lipid metabolism 272	1,159	0.1	...	4.0	1.6	3.2	2.1	0.1
Fractures, excluding lower limb 800-819	1,364	0.1	...	3.6	7.0	1.2	1.8	4.0
Contact dermatitis and other eczema 692	1,049	0.1	...	5.7	0.6	6.6	1.1	0.8
Benign neoplasms 210-229,235-239	879	0.1	...	5.2	2.7	4.8	1.9	0.2
Open wound, excluding head 874-897	642	0.1	...	3.8	2.3	3.8	1.6	3.6
Cellulitis and abscess 681-682	746	0.1	...	4.2	1.1	2.1	1.4	2.9
Sprains and strains of neck and back 846,847	945	0.1	...	5.7	3.3	7.1	1.3	3.0
Glaucoma 365	1,631	0.1	...	0.4	1.1	...	0.9	0.0
All other diagnoses	17,656	0.6	...	1.5	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.6

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

- Quantity zero.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

... Category not applicable.

¹Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification*. However, certain codes have been combined in this table to form larger categories that better describe the utilization of ambulatory care services.

NOTES: The 2006 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey included a sample of community health centers (CHCs) in addition to the traditional sample of office-based physicians. Estimates presented in this table include data from office-based physicians as defined by the American Medical Association as well as data from a sample of physicians working in CHCs.

Table 5. Annual number and percent distribution of ambulatory care visits by setting type, according to diagnosis group: United States, 2005–2006

Diagnosis group	Combined settings		Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
	Number of visits in thousands	Percent distribution	Number of visits in thousands						Percent distribution				
All visits	1,146,343	100.0	549,388	188,955	194,443	96,301	117,257	100.0	47.9	16.5	17.0	8.4	10.2
Infectious and parasitic diseases	31,586	2.8	19,795	1,172	3,499	3,697	3,422	100.0	62.7	3.7	11.1	11.7	10.8
Streptococcal sore throat	4,427	0.4	3,412	*	*	436	406	100.0	77.1	*0.7	*3.2	9.8	9.2
Human immunodeficiency virus syndrome (HIV)	1,354	0.1	*460	—	*	*853	*	100.0	*33.9	...	*1.9	63.0	*1.1
Viral warts	3,150	0.3	1,462	*	1,294	150	*	100.0	46.4	*6.7	41.1	4.7	1.0
Unspecified viral and chlamydial infections	7,555	0.7	5,206	*	*	641	1,473	100.0	68.9	*0.7	*2.4	8.5	19.5
Dermatophytosis	2,438	0.2	1,685	*	414	223	107	100.0	69.1	*0.4	17.0	9.1	4.4
Candidiasis	1,558	0.1	1,165	*	*	149	167	100.0	74.8	*2.7	*2.2	9.6	10.7
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	11,104	1.0	6,406	822	1,408	1,245	1,223	100.0	57.7	7.4	12.7	11.2	11.0
Neoplasms	37,424	3.3	5,575	7,618	20,914	3,106	211	100.0	14.9	20.4	55.9	8.3	0.6
Malignant neoplasms of colon and rectum	1,664	0.1	*	*313	1,137	180	*	100.0	*1.7	*18.8	68.3	10.8	*0.3
Malignant neoplasm of skin	4,872	0.4	*	*1,343	3,038	146	*	100.0	*7.1	27.6	62.3	3.0	*0.1
Malignant neoplasm of breast	6,187	0.5	*	645	*4,429	540	*	100.0	*8.9	10.4	71.6	8.7	*0.3
Malignant neoplasm of prostate	3,034	0.3	*	1,879	690	*175	*	100.0	*9.5	61.9	22.7	*5.8	*0.0
Malignant neoplasm of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissue	3,182	0.3	*	*	2,465	483	*	100.0	*5.1	*1.8	77.5	15.2	*0.4
Other malignant neoplasms	8,439	0.7	972	1,668	4,802	892	105	100.0	11.5	19.8	56.9	10.6	1.2
Benign neoplasm of skin	3,361	0.3	*	*	2,296	99	*	100.0	18.2	*10.4	68.3	2.9	*0.1
Other benign neoplasm	4,701	0.4	2,378	1,049	809	424	42	100.0	50.6	22.3	17.2	9.0	0.9
Neoplasm of uncertain behavior and unspecified nature	1,984	0.2	*	312	1,249	165	*	100.0	*12.1	15.7	62.9	8.3	*0.9
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders	59,145	5.2	36,820	6,518	7,823	6,133	1,851	100.0	62.3	11.0	13.2	10.4	3.1
Acquired hypothyroidism	4,593	0.4	3,481	*	*	407	*	100.0	75.8	*0.2	*14.7	8.9	*0.4
Other disorders of thyroid gland	2,920	0.3	1,328	346	*982	247	*	100.0	45.5	*11.8	*33.6	8.5	*0.6
Diabetes mellitus	28,581	2.5	16,907	4,372	3,336	3,545	422	100.0	59.2	15.3	11.7	12.4	1.5
Disorders of lipid metabolism	11,728	1.0	9,562	*	1,039	795	*	100.0	81.5	*2.8	8.9	6.8	*0.1
Obesity	4,174	0.4	2,445	*893	*	384	*	100.0	58.6	*21.4	*10.6	9.2	*0.2
Other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders	7,149	0.6	3,097	575	1,349	755	1,373	100.0	43.3	8.0	18.9	10.6	19.2
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	8,207	0.7	3,123	*	3,664	664	575	100.0	38.1	*2.2	44.6	8.1	7.0
Anemias	5,463	0.5	2,174	*	2,284	461	410	100.0	39.8	*2.5	41.8	8.4	7.5
Other diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	2,743	0.2	948	*	*1,381	203	165	100.0	34.6	*1.7	50.3	7.4	6.0
Mental disorders	55,690	4.9	17,520	321	26,492	7,216	4,141	100.0	31.5	0.6	47.6	13.0	7.4
Schizophrenic disorders	2,517	0.2	*	—	1,649	534	198	100.0	*5.4	...	65.5	21.2	7.9
Major depressive disorder	8,497	0.7	*	—	6,714	1,070	211	100.0	5.9	...	79.0	12.6	2.5
Other psychoses	8,784	0.8	1,278	*	5,506	1,228	755	100.0	14.6	*0.2	62.7	14.0	8.6
Anxiety states	6,980	0.6	3,452	*	2,290	538	669	100.0	49.5	*0.4	32.8	7.7	9.6
Neurotic depression	3,392	0.3	1,277	*	1,676	342	58	100.0	37.7	*1.1	49.4	10.1	1.7
Alcohol dependence syndrome	530	0.0	*	—	*	245	127	100.0	*22.3	...	*7.5	46.3	23.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Annual number and percent distribution of ambulatory care visits by setting type, according to diagnosis group: United States, 2005–2006—Con.

Diagnosis group	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	
Drug dependence and nondependent abuse of drugs	2,409	0.2	760	*	*	513	1,024	100.0	31.6	*0.2	*4.4	21.3	42.5
Acute reaction to stress and adjustment reaction	3,003	0.3	789	—	1,632	502	80	100.0	26.3	. . .	54.3	16.7	2.7
Depressive disorder, not elsewhere classified	7,716	0.7	4,284	*	1,967	891	548	100.0	55.5	*0.3	25.5	11.5	7.1
Attention deficit disorder.	6,977	0.6	3,529	—	2,630	794	*	100.0	50.6	. . .	37.7	11.4	*0.3
Other mental disorders	4,886	0.4	1,397	*	2,282	557	446	100.0	28.6	4.2	46.7	11.4	9.1
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	97,381	8.5	28,530	48,437	8,452	6,138	5,823	100.0	29.3	49.7	8.7	6.3	6.0
Migraine	6,163	0.5	2,684	*809	1,155	308	1,209	100.0	43.5	*13.1	18.7	5.0	19.6
Other disorders of the central nervous system	6,662	0.6	1,405	611	3,579	752	314	100.0	21.1	9.2	53.7	11.3	4.7
Carpal tunnel syndrome.	2,277	0.2	*	1,065	499	176	*	100.0	22.4	46.8	21.9	7.7	*1.2
Other disorders of the peripheral nervous system	3,753	0.3	1,478	545	1,300	261	168	100.0	39.4	14.5	34.6	7.0	4.5
Retinal detachment and other retinal disorders.	4,564	0.4	*	4,112	*	168	*	100.0	*6.0	90.1	*0.1	*3.7	*0.1
Glaucoma	8,980	0.8	*	8,708	—	252	*	100.0	*0.2	97.0	. . .	2.8	*0.0
Cataract	9,933	0.9	*	9,474	—	260	*	100.0	*2.0	95.4	. . .	2.6	*0.0
Disorders of refraction and accommodation.	4,739	0.4	*	4,226	*	246	*	100.0	*2.2	89.2	*3.3	5.2	*0.1
Conjunctivitis	5,246	0.5	3,084	892	*	443	635	100.0	58.8	17.0	*3.7	8.5	12.1
Disorders of eyelids	3,406	0.3	*	2,185	*	190	155	100.0	19.6	64.2	*6.1	5.6	4.6
Other disorders of the eye and adnexa	12,332	1.1	929	9,554	*722	673	454	100.0	7.5	77.5	*5.9	5.5	3.7
Disorders of external ear	5,067	0.4	2,548	1,483	*	419	422	100.0	50.3	29.3	*3.9	8.3	8.3
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders	17,779	1.6	11,836	2,067	*	1,616	2,072	100.0	66.6	11.6	*1.1	9.1	11.7
Other disorders of the ear and mastoid process	6,480	0.6	2,796	2,706	*	375	353	100.0	43.1	41.8	*3.9	5.8	5.4
Diseases of the circulatory system.	87,884	7.7	47,767	6,729	22,497	6,684	4,207	100.0	54.4	7.7	25.6	7.6	4.8
Angina pectoris	1,060	0.1	*	*	562	*	53	100.0	37.8	*1.5	53.0	*2.7	5.0
Coronary atherosclerosis	8,704	0.8	2,860	*	4,943	395	51	100.0	32.9	*5.2	56.8	4.5	0.6
Other ischemic heart disease	1,607	0.1	*	—	726	93	536	100.0	15.7	. . .	45.2	5.8	33.3
Cardiac dysrhythmias	6,609	0.6	2,525	*	2,646	669	683	100.0	38.2	*1.3	40.0	10.1	10.3
Congestive heart failure	3,390	0.3	1,443	*	1,037	230	658	100.0	42.6	*0.6	30.6	6.8	19.4
Other heart disease	5,234	0.5	1,502	*	3,052	*407	188	100.0	28.7	*1.6	58.3	*7.8	3.6
Essential hypertension.	44,879	3.9	34,421	*	5,638	3,891	761	100.0	76.7	*0.4	12.6	8.7	1.7
Cerebrovascular disease	3,982	0.3	1,101	*1,371	670	211	628	100.0	27.7	*34.4	16.8	5.3	15.8
Diseases of the arteries, arterioles and capillaries.	3,737	0.3	*	*2,015	813	221	93	100.0	*15.9	53.9	*21.8	*5.9	*2.5
Hemorrhoids.	2,704	0.2	802	*930	*	137	139	100.0	29.7	*34.4	*25.7	5.1	5.1
Other diseases of the circulatory system	5,979	0.5	1,865	*1,580	*1,715	400	419	100.0	31.2	26.4	28.7	6.7	7.0
Diseases of the respiratory system	130,428	11.4	86,138	6,342	15,003	10,602	12,342	100.0	66.0	4.9	11.5	8.1	9.5
Acute sinusitis	4,820	0.4	3,379	246	*	539	212	100.0	70.1	5.1	*9.2	11.2	4.4
Acute pharyngitis	13,213	1.2	10,088	*	*	1,289	1,677	100.0	76.3	*0.5	*0.7	9.8	12.7
Acute tonsillitis	2,299	0.2	1,622	*	*	*173	280	100.0	70.5	*7.4	*2.4	*7.5	12.2
Acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis	5,869	0.5	4,123	*	*	455	898	100.0	70.2	*0.2	*6.5	7.7	15.3
Other acute respiratory infections	28,322	2.5	21,734	236	*1,243	2,516	2,594	100.0	76.7	0.8	*4.4	8.9	9.2
Chronic sinusitis	14,718	1.3	10,990	1,170	*	1,327	595	100.0	74.7	8.0	4.3	9.0	4.0
Allergic rhinitis.	12,488	1.1	6,031	*1,625	*3,932	798	101	100.0	48.3	*13.0	*31.5	6.4	0.8
Pneumonia.	4,242	0.4	2,250	—	*	298	1,500	100.0	53.0	. . .	*4.6	7.0	35.4
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	11,619	1.0	8,194	*	732	982	1,615	100.0	70.5	*0.8	6.3	8.4	13.9
Asthma	14,586	1.3	8,115	*	*3,564	1,198	1,681	100.0	55.6	*0.2	24.4	8.2	11.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Annual number and percent distribution of ambulatory care visits by setting type, according to diagnosis group: United States, 2005–2006—Con.

Diagnosis group	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	
Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and allied conditions	7,498	0.7	4,581	*	2,318	325	205	100.0	61.1	*0.9	30.9	4.3	2.7
Other diseases of the respiratory system	10,752	0.9	5,031	2,618	1,417	703	984	100.0	46.8	24.3	13.2	6.5	9.1
Diseases of the digestive system	42,247	3.7	16,990	6,307	8,985	2,870	7,094	100.0	40.2	14.9	21.3	6.8	16.8
Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures	3,183	0.3	1,139	*199	*	254	1,566	100.0	35.8	*6.3	*0.8	8.0	49.2
Gastritis and duodenitis	2,835	0.2	1,172	*	*	192	490	100.0	41.4	*6.3	*28.2	6.8	17.3
Esophagitis	*561	*0.0	*	*	*	*	54	100.0	49.7	*11.4	*25.5	*3.8	*9.5
Ulcer of stomach and small intestine	*741	*0.1	*	*	*	*	66	100.0	*30.6	*3.5	*52.4	*4.6	*8.9
Hernia of abdominal cavity	3,510	0.3	774	2,023	*	270	257	100.0	22.1	57.6	*5.3	7.7	7.3
Noninfectious enteritis and colitis	5,704	0.5	2,943	*	895	352	1,403	100.0	51.6	*1.9	15.7	6.2	24.6
Diverticula of intestine	2,042	0.2	778	360	*	*51	206	100.0	38.1	17.7	31.6	*2.5	10.1
Constipation	2,841	0.2	1,316	*	*	271	481	100.0	46.3	*3.8	23.4	9.5	16.9
Irritable bowel syndrome	995	0.1	*	*	*	82	*	100.0	44.2	*0.5	45.2	*8.3	*1.9
Anal and rectal diseases	2,128	0.2	794	*572	*	107	211	100.0	37.3	26.9	*20.9	5.0	9.9
Disorders of the gallbladder and biliary tract	2,051	0.2	*	1,196	*	114	295	100.0	17.5	58.3	*4.2	5.6	14.4
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	998	0.1	*	*	*	*57	419	100.0	29.1	*3.6	*19.6	*5.7	42.0
Other diseases of the digestive system	14,657	1.3	6,478	1,428	4,062	1,063	1,626	100.0	44.2	9.7	27.7	7.3	11.1
Diseases of the genitourinary system	50,108	4.4	25,744	11,690	2,896	4,228	5,551	100.0	51.4	23.3	5.8	8.4	11.1
Calculus of kidney and ureter	2,431	0.2	*	1,274	*	158	567	100.0	16.9	52.4	*0.9	6.5	23.3
Cystitis and other disorders of the bladder	2,180	0.2	954	891	*	130	188	100.0	43.8	40.9	*0.8	6.0	8.6
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	8,149	0.7	4,276	851	*	816	1,926	100.0	52.5	10.4	*3.4	10.0	23.6
Other diseases of the urinary system	7,234	0.6	2,019	2,011	1,748	586	870	100.0	27.9	27.8	24.2	8.1	12.0
Hyperplasia of prostate	2,904	0.3	*	2,091	*	105	*	100.0	21.8	72.0	*2.1	3.6	*0.4
Other disorders of male genital organs	3,513	0.3	1,055	1,730	*	309	268	100.0	30.0	49.2	*4.3	8.8	7.6
Disorders of the breast	4,889	0.4	1,717	2,333	*	482	138	100.0	35.1	47.7	*4.5	9.9	2.8
Inflammatory disorders of female pelvic organs	3,190	0.3	2,486	*	*	269	410	100.0	77.9	*0.4	*0.4	8.4	12.8
Noninflammatory disorders of female genital organs	3,422	0.3	2,379	*	*	318	520	100.0	69.5	3.8	*2.3	9.3	15.2
Disorders of menstruation and abnormal bleeding	4,080	0.4	3,382	—	*	397	212	100.0	82.9	...	*2.2	9.7	5.2
Menopausal and postmenopausal disorders	2,333	0.2	2,218	*	—	90	*	100.0	95.1	*0.9	...	3.9	*0.1
Other disorders of the female genital tract	5,782	0.5	4,214	345	*	568	436	100.0	72.9	6.0	*3.8	9.8	7.5
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	8,093	0.7	5,241	*	*	1,353	1,407	100.0	64.8	*0.1	*1.0	16.7	17.4
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	48,589	4.2	19,541	3,650	17,748	3,145	4,506	100.0	40.2	7.5	36.5	6.5	9.3
Cellulitis and abscess	8,036	0.7	3,980	374	*	626	2,649	100.0	49.5	4.7	5.1	7.8	33.0
Other infection of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	2,393	0.2	1,283	232	*	217	358	100.0	53.6	9.7	12.7	9.1	15.0
Contact dermatitis and other eczema	9,343	0.8	5,428	*	2,575	597	550	100.0	58.1	*2.1	27.6	6.4	5.9
Psoriasis and similar disorders	1,591	0.1	*	*	1,158	126	*	100.0	*16.5	*0.7	72.8	7.9	*2.1
Other inflammatory conditions of skin and subcutaneous tissue	4,809	0.4	1,657	*	2,377	346	215	100.0	34.5	*4.4	49.4	7.2	4.5
Corns, callosities, and other hypertrophic and atrophic skin conditions	2,098	0.2	679	*629	647	129	*	100.0	32.3	30.0	30.8	6.2	*0.7
Actinic and seborrheic keratosis	4,525	0.4	*	*	3,773	*	*	100.0	12.7	*2.1	83.4	*1.8	*0.0
Acne	4,279	0.4	1,143	*	2,956	*120	*	100.0	26.7	*1.1	69.1	*2.8	*0.3
Sebaceous cyst	2,133	0.2	909	577	450	125	72	100.0	42.6	27.0	21.1	5.9	3.4
Urticaria	1,517	0.1	*	—	*	138	288	100.0	40.5	...	31.4	9.1	19.0
Other disorders of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	7,865	0.7	3,010	1,281	2,626	638	311	100.0	38.3	16.3	33.4	8.1	3.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Annual number and percent distribution of ambulatory care visits by setting type, according to diagnosis group: United States, 2005–2006—Con.

Diagnosis group	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and													
connective tissue	89,953	7.8	35,284	26,398	14,882	6,513	6,876	100.0	39.2	29.3	16.5	7.2	7.6
Rheumatoid arthritis	2,722	0.2	*	*	*2,019	*161	*	100.0	*18.4	*1.2	74.2	*5.9	*0.3
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders	11,661	1.0	3,353	5,189	*2,441	605	73	100.0	28.8	44.5	20.9	5.2	0.6
Other arthropathies and related disorders	6,317	0.6	1,865	1,502	*2,427	364	159	100.0	29.5	23.8	38.4	5.8	2.5
Derangements and other and unspecified disorders													
of joints	14,080	1.2	5,337	5,111	1,238	1,025	1,369	100.0	37.9	36.3	8.8	7.3	9.7
Intervertebral disc disorders	5,058	0.4	1,759	2,497	*346	361	95	100.0	34.8	49.4	*6.8	7.1	1.9
Lumbago	6,576	0.6	3,199	953	*671	614	1,139	100.0	48.6	14.5	*10.2	9.3	17.3
Other dorsopathies	17,026	1.5	7,857	3,447	2,516	1,212	1,994	100.0	46.1	20.2	14.8	7.1	11.7
Peripheral enthesopathies	6,763	0.6	2,362	3,159	*	514	174	100.0	34.9	46.7	*8.2	7.6	2.6
Synovitis and tenosynovitis	2,115	0.2	873	1,007	*	121	86	100.0	41.3	47.6	*1.3	5.7	4.1
Myalgia and myositis, unspecified	2,536	0.2	1,404	*	598	186	281	100.0	55.3	*2.7	23.6	7.4	11.1
Other rheumatism, excluding back	9,423	0.8	4,007	1,897	1,443	755	1,320	100.0	42.5	20.1	15.3	8.0	14.0
Disorders of bone and cartilage	3,895	0.3	2,045	790	*	437	159	100.0	52.5	20.3	*11.9	11.2	4.1
Other diseases of the musculoskeletal system and													
connective tissue	1,781	0.2	723	745	*	159	*	100.0	40.6	41.8	*7.6	8.9	*1.1
Congenital anomalies													
	3,705	0.3	902	1,184	904	664	51	100.0	24.4	31.9	24.4	17.9	1.4
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period													
	1,306	0.1	1,092	—	*	143	67	100.0	83.6	...	*0.4	11.0	5.1
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions													
	87,178	7.6	38,990	5,996	12,781	6,324	23,086	100.0	44.7	6.9	14.7	7.3	26.5
Syncope and collapse	2,165	0.2	*	*	428	93	1,067	100.0	25.2	*1.5	19.7	4.3	49.3
Convulsions	2,607	0.2	735	*	730	296	834	100.0	28.2	*0.4	28.0	11.3	32.0
Dizziness and giddiness	3,543	0.3	1,926	424	241	196	756	100.0	54.3	12.0	6.8	5.5	21.3
Pyrexia of unknown origin	3,723	0.3	1,818	*	*	128	1,694	100.0	48.8	*0.1	*2.1	3.5	45.5
Symptoms involving skin and other integumentary													
tissue	6,709	0.6	3,964	384	926	599	836	100.0	59.1	5.7	13.8	8.9	12.5
Headache	4,956	0.4	2,114	*	634	335	1,606	100.0	42.7	*5.4	12.8	6.8	32.4
Epistaxis	1,133	0.1	*	326	*	44	418	100.0	26.3	28.8	*4.1	3.9	36.9
Abnormal heart sounds	2,153	0.2	767	—	708	205	473	100.0	35.6	...	32.9	9.5	22.0
Dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities	3,772	0.3	1,366	*	1,175	196	936	100.0	36.2	*2.6	31.1	5.2	24.8
Cough	4,352	0.4	3,126	*	*	404	386	100.0	71.8	*2.3	*7.8	9.3	8.9
Chest pain	9,024	0.8	2,540	*	1,729	390	4,340	100.0	28.2	*0.3	19.2	4.3	48.1
Symptoms involving the urinary system	4,853	0.4	2,002	1,629	*	394	775	100.0	41.3	33.6	*1.1	8.1	16.0
Abdominal pain	12,215	1.1	4,766	500	*1,362	771	4,816	100.0	39.0	4.1	*11.2	6.3	39.4
Other symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions	25,972	2.3	13,022	2,194	4,335	2,273	4,148	100.0	50.1	8.4	16.7	8.8	16.0
Injury and poisoning													
	81,386	7.1	23,303	18,293	5,144	5,779	28,868	100.0	28.6	22.5	6.3	7.1	35.5
Fracture of radius and ulna	2,250	0.2	*	1,425	—	194	481	100.0	*6.7	63.3	...	8.6	21.4
Fracture of hand and fingers	3,010	0.3	*	1,511	*	269	813	100.0	*11.4	50.2	*2.4	8.9	27.0
Fracture of lower limb	5,870	0.5	915	3,056	*	556	1,271	100.0	15.6	52.1	*1.2	9.5	21.6
Other fractures	3,429	0.3	*	1,661	*	280	1,096	100.0	10.9	48.4	*0.6	8.2	32.0
Sprains and strains of wrist and hand	1,726	0.2	*	*	*	135	543	100.0	37.2	*10.1	*13.5	7.8	31.5
Sprains and strains of knee and leg	2,474	0.2	824	793	*	187	530	100.0	33.3	32.0	*5.7	7.6	21.4
Sprains and strains of ankle	3,221	0.3	753	780	*	285	1,240	100.0	23.4	24.2	*5.0	8.8	38.5
Sprains and strains of neck	2,786	0.2	937	*	447	*108	977	100.0	33.6	11.4	16.0	*3.9	35.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Annual number and percent distribution of ambulatory care visits by setting type, according to diagnosis group: United States, 2005–2006—Con.

Diagnosis group	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	Combined settings	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	
Other sprains and strains of back	5,509	0.5	2,569	*	*861	265	1,252	100.0	46.6	10.2	*15.6	4.8	22.7
Other sprains and strains	6,139	0.5	1,973	1,741	*	387	1,511	100.0	32.1	28.4	*8.6	6.3	24.6
Intracranial injury, excluding those with skull fracture	623	0.1	*	*	*	*	277	100.0	34.6	*7.8	*11.7	*1.4	44.5
Open wound of head	3,318	0.3	*	*	*	155	2,096	100.0	17.0	13.0	*2.1	4.7	63.2
Open wound of hand and fingers	3,480	0.3	*	*	*	246	1,725	100.0	19.4	14.5	*9.5	7.1	49.6
Other open wound	5,065	0.4	1,636	411	*	530	2,365	100.0	32.3	8.1	*2.4	10.5	46.7
Superficial injury of cornea	854	0.1	*	*	*	*49	331	100.0	*14.8	37.0	*3.6	*5.8	38.7
Other superficial injury	3,498	0.3	1,636	*	*	235	1,196	100.0	46.8	*4.4	*7.8	6.7	34.2
Contusion with intact skin surface	9,920	0.9	2,998	604	*	643	5,091	100.0	30.2	6.1	*5.9	6.5	51.3
Other injuries	10,734	0.9	3,165	2,552	*587	796	3,634	100.0	29.5	23.8	*5.5	7.4	33.9
Poisonings	1,613	0.1	*	*	*	*69	914	100.0	27.9	*1.8	*9.4	*4.3	56.6
Other and unspecified effects of external causes	3,561	0.3	1,695	*	*	227	1,061	100.0	47.6	*8.8	*7.5	6.4	29.8
Complications of surgical and medical care, not elsewhere classified	2,308	0.2	*	907	*	157	464	100.0	*28.7	39.3	*5.1	6.8	20.1
Supplementary classification of factors influencing health status and contact with health services	203,441	17.7	126,168	35,423	18,887	19,702	3,261	100.0	62.0	17.4	9.3	9.7	1.6
Potential health hazards related to communicable diseases	5,791	0.5	3,596	*	*	1,778	122	100.0	62.1	*1.3	*3.8	30.7	2.1
Potential health hazards related to personal and family history	10,890	0.9	4,203	2,359	2,842	1,249	237	100.0	38.6	21.7	26.1	11.5	2.2
Routine infant or child health check	44,265	3.9	40,437	*	*	3,632	77	100.0	91.4	*0.1	*0.2	8.2	0.2
Normal pregnancy	20,723	1.8	17,492	—	*	2,870	234	100.0	84.4	...	*0.6	13.8	1.1
Postpartum care and examination	2,328	0.2	1,958	*	*	273	*	100.0	84.1	*3.5	*0.6	11.7	*0.0
Encounter for contraceptive management	3,240	0.3	2,344	386	*	496	*	100.0	72.3	11.9	*0.0	15.3	*0.4
Other encounter related to reproduction	1,792	0.2	1,091	*	*	543	*	100.0	60.9	*3.7	*3.7	30.3	*1.4
Lens replaced by pseudophakos	*1,579	0.1	—	*1,552	—	*	—	100.0	...	98.3	...	*1.7	...
Artificial opening status and other postsurgical states	8,799	0.8	1,187	6,309	641	593	68	100.0	13.5	71.7	7.3	6.7	0.8
Attention to surgical dressings and sutures	2,220	0.2	832	503	*	215	534	100.0	37.5	22.7	*6.1	9.7	24.1
Follow-up examination	16,027	1.4	4,502	8,482	1,979	954	111	100.0	28.1	52.9	12.3	6.0	0.7
General medical examination	16,594	1.4	12,859	*717	*1,724	1,059	234	100.0	77.5	*4.3	*10.4	6.4	1.4
Observation and evaluation for suspected conditions not found	6,703	0.6	2,840	1,251	1,338	761	512	100.0	42.4	18.7	20.0	11.4	7.6
Gynecological examination	16,592	1.4	15,257	—	*	1,240	*	100.0	92.0	...	*0.6	7.5	*0.0
Other factors influencing health status and contact with health services	45,898	4.0	17,569	13,599	9,630	4,011	1,090	100.0	38.3	29.6	21.0	8.7	2.4
Blank and illegible	22,593	2.0	10,865	2,687	3,783	1,340	3,920	100.0	48.1	11.9	16.7	5.9	17.4

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

— Quantity zero.

... Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

NOTES: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding. Figures are annual averages. The 2006 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey included a sample of community health centers (CHCs) in addition to the traditional sample of office-based physicians. Estimates presented in this table include data from office-based physicians as defined by the American Medical Association as well as data from a sample of physicians working in CHCs.

Table 6. Number and percent distribution of drug visits and drug mentions, and percentage of drug visits and drug mention rates per 100 visits with corresponding standard errors, in ambulatory care visits, by setting type: United States, 2006

Ambulatory care setting	Drug visits ¹				Drug mentions ²				Percentage of drug visits ³		Drug mention rates ⁴	
	Number in thousands	Standard error in thousands	Percent distribution	Standard error of percent	Number in thousands	Standard error in thousands	Percent distribution	Standard error of percent	Percent	Standard error of percent	Number of drug mentions per 100 visits	Standard error of rate
All ambulatory care settings	804,711	25,925	100.0	...	2,356,882	85,864	100.0	...	71.6	0.8	209.8	5.1
Primary care offices	402,039	19,699	50.0	1.6	1,170,067	64,626	49.6	1.8	76.5	1.1	222.6	8.1
Medical specialty offices	153,262	11,570	19.0	1.3	527,018	41,504	22.4	1.5	77.1	2.3	265.3	14.0
Surgical specialty offices	81,407	7,207	10.1	0.9	199,930	18,728	8.5	0.8	45.8	2.2	112.5	7.7
Hospital outpatient departments	76,686	7,474	9.5	0.9	247,727	27,702	10.5	1.1	75.0	1.5	242.4	11.5
Hospital emergency departments	91,317	4,396	11.3	0.6	212,140	11,569	9.0	0.5	76.6	0.6	178.0	3.6

... Category not applicable.

¹Visits at which one or more drugs were provided, prescribed, or continued by the provider. A drug mention is defined as any medication that is provided, prescribed, or continued at the visit including over-the-counter preparations, immunizations, desensitizing agents, and anesthetics. Up to eight mentions are collected per visit.

²Number of drugs provided, prescribed, or continued at visits (up to eight per visit).

³Percentage of visits that included one or more drug mentions (number of drug visits divided by total number of all visits multiplied by 100).

⁴Average number of drugs that were provided, prescribed, or continued per 100 visits (number of drug mentions divided by total number of all visits multiplied by 100).

NOTES: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding. The 2006 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey included a sample of community health centers (CHCs) in addition to the traditional sample of office-based physicians. Estimates presented in this table include data from office-based physicians as defined by the American Medical Association as well as data from a sample of physicians working in CHCs.

Table 7. Number and rate of occurrences of the 20 most frequently prescribed drug therapeutic classes at ambulatory care visits and percent distribution by setting type, with corresponding standard errors: United States, 2006

Therapeutic drug category ¹	Number of occurrences in thousands ²	Number of occurrences per 100 drug mentions ³	Total	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	Percent distribution					
									Percent distribution	Percent distribution	Percent distribution	Percent distribution	Percent distribution	
All occurrences	2,623,427	111.3	100.0	48.9	8.4	22.4	10.5	9.8						
Analgesics	319,598	13.6	100.0	41.9	9.1	14.6	9.9	24.4						
Antihyperlipidemic agents	112,430	4.8	100.0	56.6	7.5	26.3	9.2	0.4						
Antidepressants	97,812	4.2	100.0	45.7	5.6	35.9	11.8	0.9						
Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics	84,627	3.6	100.0	42.8	5.2	31.1	9.6	11.3						
Antidiabetic agents	81,926	3.5	100.0	61.3	5.9	16.7	14.1	2.0						
Bronchodilators	74,696	3.2	100.0	55.1	3.0	22.4	10.1	9.4						
Antiplatelet agents	72,834	3.1	100.0	46.6	7.0	32.2	9.7	4.5						
Beta-adrenergic blocking agents	72,786	3.1	100.0	50.3	7.9	29.0	10.6	2.3						
Proton pump inhibitors	68,591	2.9	100.0	47.4	7.7	31.4	10.5	3.0						
Antihistamines	64,985	2.8	100.0	50.9	4.6	14.1	10.4	20.0						
Dermatological agents	63,972	2.7	100.0	45.2	6.5	31.3	10.9	6.0						
Diuretics	63,658	2.7	100.0	49.8	6.1	29.8	11.0	3.3						
Anticonvulsants	62,664	2.7	100.0	35.4	7.8	36.3	11.6	8.9						
Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors	56,147	2.4	100.0	59.7	5.7	22.4	11.1	1.0						
Adrenal cortical steroids	46,553	2.0	100.0	42.6	12.4	22.9	8.7	13.4						
Ophthalmic preparations	44,234	1.9	100.0	13.1	72.2	5.5	5.5	3.6						
Antiemetic/antivertigo agents	44,187	1.9	100.0	33.9	2.3	12.7	8.2	42.9						
Penicillins	43,611	1.9	100.0	66.8	4.0	2.1	10.7	16.4						
Calcium channel blocking agents	42,051	1.8	100.0	47.5	6.6	32.8	11.2	1.9						
Minerals and electrolytes	41,957	1.8	100.0	43.9	7.9	21.6	9.8	16.8						
	Standard error in thousands	Standard error of rate							Standard error of percent					
All occurrences	96,082	0.2	...	1.8	0.8	1.5	1.1	0.6						
Analgesics	12,492	0.3	...	1.9	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.3						
Antihyperlipidemic agents	6,405	0.2	...	2.7	1.1	2.5	1.3	0.1						
Antidepressants	4,862	0.2	...	2.5	0.8	2.6	1.5	0.2						
Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics	4,799	0.1	...	2.5	0.8	2.4	1.2	1.0						
Antidiabetic agents	5,683	0.2	...	2.8	1.0	2.1	1.9	0.2						
Bronchodilators	6,450	0.2	...	3.5	0.6	4.5	1.4	1.0						
Antiplatelet agents	4,403	0.1	...	3.0	1.1	3.1	1.3	0.4						
Beta-adrenergic blocking agents	3,757	0.1	...	2.6	1.2	2.3	1.5	0.2						
Proton pump inhibitors	4,903	0.2	...	3.2	1.0	3.7	1.7	0.3						
Antihistamines	3,230	0.1	...	2.5	0.7	1.9	1.3	1.3						
Dermatological agents	4,240	0.2	...	2.9	1.0	3.5	1.5	0.6						
Diuretics	3,789	0.1	...	2.9	0.9	3.1	1.3	0.3						
Anticonvulsants	3,573	0.1	...	2.5	1.6	2.5	1.4	0.7						
Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors	3,346	0.1	...	2.7	0.9	2.2	1.5	0.1						
Adrenal cortical steroids	3,184	0.1	...	3.1	2.2	3.4	1.2	1.2						
Ophthalmic preparations	7,289	0.3	...	2.8	5.1	1.5	1.2	0.7						
Antiemetic/antivertigo agents	2,374	0.1	...	2.7	0.6	1.8	1.1	2.3						
Penicillins	3,365	0.1	...	3.1	0.7	0.5	1.8	1.5						
Calcium channel blocking agents	2,842	0.1	...	3.3	1.2	3.8	1.7	0.2						
Minerals and electrolytes	2,235	0.1	...	3.1	1.3	2.6	1.5	1.5						

... Category not applicable.

¹Based on Multum Lexicon second-level therapeutic drug category (see www.multum.com/Lexicon.htm).

²Total of all therapeutic drug categories will exceed total number of drug mentions because up to four categories may be coded for each drug.

³Based on an estimated 2,356,882,000 drug mentions at ambulatory care visits in 2006. A drug mention is defined as any medication that is provided, prescribed, or continued at the visit, including over-the-counter preparations, immunizations, desensitizing agents, and anesthetics.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding. The 2006 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey included a sample of community health centers (CHCs) in addition to the traditional sample of office-based physicians. Estimates presented in this table include data from office-based physicians as defined by the American Medical Association as well as data from a sample of physicians working in CHCs.

Table 8. Annual number and rate of therapeutic categories for drugs provided, prescribed, or continued at ambulatory care visits and percent distribution by setting type: United States, 2006

Therapeutic drug category ¹	Number of occurrences in thousands ²	Number of occurrences per 100 drug mentions ³	Total	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments	Percent distribution					
									Total	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
All occurrences	2,629,571	111.6	100.0	49.0	8.4	22.4	10.5	9.8						
Anti-infectives	203,979	8.7	100.0	55.5	8.2	8.4	11.2	16.7						
Amebicides	4,362	0.2	100.0	58.5	*3.3	*7.0	10.2	20.9						
Antifungals	6,365	0.3	100.0	71.4	*1.6	8.8	14.8	3.4						
Azole antifungals	5,980	0.3	100.0	72.3	*1.3	9.2	14.1	3.1						
Miscellaneous antifungals	337	0.0	100.0	66.4	—	*2.6	*23.1	*7.9						
Antimalarial agents	9,107	0.4	100.0	42.0	6.1	31.8	10.7	9.4						
Antimalarial quinolines	3,607	0.2	100.0	36	*6.7	54.1	*2.8	*0.4						
Miscellaneous antimalarials	3,812	0.2	100.0	66.3	*8.2	24.8	*0.7	—						
Antituberculosis agents	*596	*0.0	100.0	*45.1	—	—	*46.5	*8.4						
Nicotinic acid derivatives	*297	*0.0	100.0	*43.2	—	—	*56.8	—						
Rifamycin derivatives	*227	*0.0	100.0	*46.3	—	—	*32.7	*21.0						
Antiviral agents	12,200	0.5	100.0	47.7	*2.9	12.5	32.6	4.3						
Protease inhibitors	*1,857	*0.1	100.0	*33.4	*0.9	*7.3	57.6	*0.7						
NRTIs	*1,438	*0.1	100.0	*41.2	—	*9.8	*47.7	*1.3						
NNRTIs	*1,047	*0.0	100.0	57.7	—	*5.7	*36.4	*0.2						
Adamantane antivirals	632	0.0	100.0	*41.8	*4.3	*38.6	*10.6	*4.7						
Purine nucleosides	4,153	0.2	100.0	55.2	*5.6	16.0	16.7	6.5						
Neuraminidase inhibitors	857	0.0	100.0	75.4	*1.8	—	*4.2	*18.5						
Antiviral combinations	*1,851	*0.1	100.0	*41.4	*0.4	*11.6	*45.9	*0.7						
Cephalosporins	33,266	1.4	100.0	55.0	5.2	7.6	7.6	24.6						
First generation cephalosporins	16,686	0.7	100.0	48.5	*8.0	10.2	8.5	24.7						
Second generation cephalosporins	2,216	0.1	100.0	72.1	*6.6	*3.4	*4.8	13.0						
Third generation cephalosporins	14,216	0.6	100.0	60.5	*1.7	*5.3	6.7	25.8						
Fourth generation cephalosporins	*133	*0.0	100.0	—	—	—	*43.1	*56.9						
Leprostatics	*374	*0.0	100.0	*29.8	*11.6	*19.2	*36.2	*3.1						
Macrolide derivatives	31,102	1.3	100.0	66.2	2.5	6.2	10.3	14.8						
Macrolides	29,396	1.2	100.0	65.1	2.6	6.3	10.4	15.6						
Ketolides	1,707	0.1	100.0	85.5	*0.6	*3.4	*9.4	*1.1						
Miscellaneous antibiotics	24,780	1.1	100.0	49.9	6.7	8.9	11.2	23.2						
Penicillins	43,611	1.9	100.0	66.8	4.0	2.1	10.7	16.4						
Penicillinase resistant penicillins	*705	*0.0	100.0	*53.1	*7.6	*7.5	*7.4	*24.4						
Aminopenicillins	26,368	1.1	100.0	70.1	2.9	*1.7	11.8	13.5						
Beta-lactamase inhibitors	12,541	0.5	100.0	63.9	6.5	*2.6	9.7	17.3						
Natural penicillins	3,969	0.2	100.0	57.3	*2.3	*1.9	7.9	30.5						
Quinolones	30,583	1.3	100.0	41.4	27.3	7.7	7.0	16.6						
Sulfonamides	13,155	0.6	100.0	55.1	7.2	4.7	12.0	21.0						
Tetracyclines	8,151	0.3	100.0	49.5	*7.9	23.0	9.4	10.3						
Urinary anti-infectives	3,460	0.1	100.0	46.7	12.9	*13.2	11.8	15.4						
Aminoglycosides	713	0.0	100.0	37.2	*18.7	*6.9	*21.1	*16.0						
Lincomycin derivatives	3,361	0.1	100.0	37.1	*9.7	16.0	10.8	26.4						
Antineoplastics	22,771	1.0	100.0	26.4	11.0	46.9	15.2	0.6						
Alkylating agents	1,615	0.1	100.0	*7.9	*15.9	63.6	*12.6	—						
Antibiotics/antineoplastics	464	0.0	100.0	*3.2	*9.5	57.1	*30.3	—						
Antimetabolites	4,931	0.2	100.0	*21.3	8.4	56.9	13.0	*0.4						
Hormones/antineoplastics	9,463	0.4	100.0	43.5	12.4	25.2	18.2	*0.7						
Miscellaneous antineoplastics	*3,408	*0.1	100.0	*8.9	*9.8	72.2	*8.1	*1.1						
Mitotic inhibitors	990	0.0	100.0	*19.2	*3.7	51.9	*25.2	—						
Antineoplastic monoclonal antibodies	1,499	0.1	100.0	*5.6	*16.6	67.0	*10.9	—						
Tyrosine kinase inhibitors	*418	*0.0	100.0	*29.7	—	*50.3	*20.0	—						
Biologicals	*7,536	*0.3	100.0	*5.7	*0.6	85.8	*7.5	*0.3						
Colony stimulating factors	*766	*0.0	100.0	*6.5	*2.2	70.7	*20.0	*0.6						
Recombinant human erythropoietins	*6,522	*0.3	100.0	*3.0	*0.4	90.1	*6.2	*0.3						
Cardiovascular agents	361,946	15.4	100.0	51.3	7.9	27.4	10.1	3.3						
Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors	56,147	2.4	100.0	59.7	5.7	22.4	11.1	1.0						
Antiadrenergic agents, peripherally acting	15,060	0.6	100.0	49.2	21.2	20.7	8.1	0.8						
Antiadrenergic agents, centrally acting	8,067	0.3	100.0	45.6	*3.3	30.7	9.8	10.7						

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Annual number and rate of therapeutic categories for drugs provided, prescribed, or continued at ambulatory care visits and percent distribution by setting type: United States, 2006—Con.

Therapeutic drug category ¹	Number of occurrences in thousands ²	Number of occurrences per 100 drug mentions ³	Total	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
Antianginal agents	9,643	0.4	100.0	31.1	4.3	31.8	7.0	25.9
Antiarrhythmic agents	11,784	0.5	100.0	25.0	25.9	23.3	7.8	17.9
Beta-adrenergic blocking agents	72,786	3.1	100.0	50.3	7.9	29.0	10.6	2.3
Cardioselective beta blockers	56,927	2.4	100.0	52.4	7.1	27.1	11.2	2.3
Noncardioselective beta blockers	15,799	0.7	100.0	42.6	11.0	35.9	8.3	2.4
Calcium channel blocking agents	42,051	1.8	100.0	47.5	6.6	32.8	11.2	1.9
Diuretics	63,658	2.7	100.0	49.8	6.1	29.8	11.0	3.3
Loop diuretics	31,856	1.4	100.0	48.5	4.3	34.0	8.2	5.0
Potassium-sparing diuretics	5,271	0.2	100.0	38.2	10.0	41.9	9.3	*0.5
Thiazide diuretics	25,414	1.1	100.0	54.4	6.7	22.7	14.9	1.4
Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors	471	0.0	100.0	*46.1	*21.9	*13.6	*17.5	*0.9
Inotropic agents	9,081	0.4	100.0	46.7	*4.6	38.4	7.8	2.4
Miscellaneous cardiovascular agents	880	0.0	100.0	*45.7	*6.9	*32.9	*13.6	*0.9
Vasodilators	10,082	0.4	100.0	32.7	4.5	29.9	7.5	25.4
Vasopressors	2,781	0.1	100.0	37.7	*22.4	*5.4	*8.4	26.1
Antihypertensive combinations	32,742	1.4	100.0	65.7	6.8	18.9	8.2	0.4
Angiotensin II inhibitors	32,438	1.4	100.0	51.7	6.8	32.6	8.2	0.7
Agents for pulmonary hypertension	3,431	0.1	100.0	61.0	11.3	*13.9	*13.9	—
Aldosterone receptor antagonists	4,217	0.2	100.0	36.9	*4.2	48.5	9.7	*0.6
Central nervous system agents	530,817	22.5	100.0	41.6	7.8	20.1	9.8	20.6
Analgesics	319,598	13.6	100.0	41.9	9.1	14.6	9.9	24.4
Miscellaneous analgesics	40,667	1.7	100.0	45.2	3.9	8.7	13.3	28.9
Narcotic analgesics	33,741	1.4	100.0	28.1	6.5	14.9	7.7	42.8
Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents	98,006	4.2	100.0	45.0	9.1	9.8	9.6	26.5
Salicylates	57,275	2.4	100.0	47.5	7.0	30.1	10.2	5.3
Analgesic combinations	5,705	0.2	100.0	37.2	*21.2	20.9	10.8	9.9
Narcotic analgesic combinations	67,648	2.9	100.0	35.3	12.7	10.3	9.2	32.5
Antimigraine agents	6,689	0.3	100.0	57.0	*10.2	18.4	12.1	2.2
Cox-2 inhibitors	9,720	0.4	100.0	50.8	21.0	20.8	7.2	*0.2
Anticonvulsants	62,664	2.7	100.0	35.4	7.8	36.3	11.6	8.9
Hydantoin anticonvulsants	3,056	0.1	100.0	34.8	*5.7	25.1	18.2	16.2
Barbiturate anticonvulsants	716	0.0	100.0	66.1	*7.2	*26.7	—	—
Benzodiazepine anticonvulsants	21,085	0.9	100.0	47.0	8.3	44.7	—	—
Miscellaneous anticonvulsants	25,659	1.1	100.0	35.8	10.1	39.4	12.6	2.0
Dibenzazepine anticonvulsants	3,905	0.2	100.0	31.3	*6.0	46.4	12.8	3.5
Antiemetic/antivertigo agents	44,187	1.9	100.0	33.9	2.3	12.7	8.2	42.9
5HT ₃ receptor antagonists	5,556	0.2	100.0	*8.0	*1.0	20.0	*7.8	63.2
Phenothiazine antiemetics	8,749	0.4	100.0	67.9	*3.1	16.1	*3.0	10.0
Anticholinergic antiemetics	10,820	0.5	100.0	64.1	*4.5	19.1	2.7	9.6
Miscellaneous antiemetics	2,964	0.1	100.0	56.2	*7.3	34.4	*1.0	*1.2
Anti-Parkinson agents	16,355	0.7	100.0	39.5	3.3	26.2	12.3	18.7
Anticholinergic anti-Parkinson agents	6,207	0.3	100.0	61.0	*3.0	29.5	*5.3	1.2
Dopaminergic anti-Parkinson agents	5,984	0.3	100.0	44.7	*5.9	40.9	7.9	*0.6
Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics	84,627	3.6	100.0	42.8	5.2	31.1	9.6	11.3
Barbiturates	984	0.0	100.0	48.1	*5.2	*19.4	14.0	13.2
Benzodiazepines	51,577	2.2	100.0	42.5	5.4	33.2	8.7	10.2
Miscellaneous anxiolytics, sedatives and hypnotics	32,057	1.4	100.0	43.0	5.0	28.2	10.7	13.0
CNS stimulants	17,282	0.7	100.0	53.5	*1.6	36.5	8.0	0.4
General anesthetics	*1,546	*0.1	100.0	*1.3	*2.1	*67.0	*12.5	*17.1
Muscle relaxants	25,050	1.1	100.0	49.6	11.0	13.9	9.4	16.1
Neuromuscular blocking agents	211	0.0	100.0	*20.7	—	*5.5	*11.5	62.4
Skeletal muscle relaxants	24,706	1.0	100.0	49.8	11.2	13.9	9.3	15.8
Miscellaneous central nervous system agents	1,647	0.1	100.0	52.0	*2.4	37.7	*7.3	*0.5
Anorexiant	*1,982	*0.1	100.0	83.1	*0.3	*11.4	*4.9	*0.3
Cholinesterase inhibitors	4,221	0.2	100.0	49.9	*9.4	35.8	*4.7	*0.2
Coagulation modifiers	98,226	4.2	100.0	43.9	6.4	34.5	10.0	5.2
Anticoagulants	24,686	1.0	100.0	36.1	4.1	41.8	10.9	7.1
Heparins	*6,495	*0.3	100.0	*3.6	*1.0	*67.0	*4.5	*23.9
Coumarins and indandiones	18,185	0.8	100.0	47.7	5.2	32.8	13.2	1.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Annual number and rate of therapeutic categories for drugs provided, prescribed, or continued at ambulatory care visits and percent distribution by setting type: United States, 2006—Con.

Therapeutic drug category ¹	Number of occurrences in thousands ²	Number of occurrences per 100 drug mentions ³	Total	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
Antiplatelet agents	72,834	3.1	100.0	46.6	7.0	32.2	9.7	4.5
Platelet aggregation inhibitors.	63,991	2.7	100.0	53.0	7.9	36.6	2.0	0.5
Miscellaneous coagulation modifiers	597	0.0	100.0	46.3	*15.2	*22.2	*12.9	*3.4
Gastrointestinal agents.	134,154	5.7	100.0	45.3	7.1	27.3	11.3	9.0
Antacids	7,534	0.3	100.0	39.3	*4.8	25.8	14.2	15.9
Antidiarrheals	4,045	0.2	100.0	59.3	*3.9	16.9	7.4	12.5
Digestive enzymes.	691	0.0	100.0	*23.5	*22.9	*32.6	*14.5	*6.5
Gallstone solubilizing agents.	*341	*0.0	100.0	59.2	—	*19.3	*20.6	*0.9
GI stimulants	5,298	0.2	100.0	31.3	*3.8	16.2	11.5	37.2
H2 antagonists	16,440	0.7	100.0	49.1	5.2	16.4	14.3	15.0
Laxatives.	14,729	0.6	100.0	44.2	7.6	23.6	15.5	9.1
Miscellaneous GI agents	5,584	0.2	100.0	32.1	*4.3	*31.2	7.9	24.5
Proton pump inhibitors	68,591	2.9	100.0	47.4	7.7	31.4	10.5	3.0
5-aminosalicylates	2,319	0.1	100.0	*29.3	*8.8	54.8	*7.0	*0.1
Functional bowel disorder agents	8,462	0.4	100.0	45.0	11.5	*24.6	5.9	13.0
Anticholinergics/antispasmodics	8,462	0.4	100.0	45.0	11.5	*24.6	5.9	13.0
Hormones	147,524	6.3	100.0	54.5	9.2	22.4	9.3	4.6
Adrenal cortical steroids	46,553	2.0	100.0	42.6	12.4	22.9	8.7	13.4
Glucocorticoids.	44,266	1.9	100.0	43.7	12.8	23.0	6.8	13.6
Miscellaneous hormones	4,444	0.2	100.0	53.4	11.8	24.5	7.8	2.5
Sex hormones	41,038	1.7	100.0	66.1	8.1	15.4	9.8	0.6
Contraceptives	16,002	0.7	100.0	79.3	4.9	6.9	8.3	0.6
Androgens and anabolic steroids.	1,539	0.1	100.0	54.6	*12.8	*23.7	*8.9	—
Estrogens	12,306	0.5	100.0	65.9	8.0	18.0	7.7	*0.4
Gonadotropins	*129	*0.0	100.0	*26.8	—	—	*73.0	*0.2
Progestins.	5,868	0.2	100.0	74.5	*4.2	19.1	*1.9	*0.3
Sex hormone combinations	4,122	0.2	100.0	76.4	*7.1	*13.4	*3.0	*0.1
Miscellaneous sex hormones	1,171	0.0	100.0	60.6	*8.1	*17.0	*14.3	—
5-alpha-reductase inhibitors.	3,725	0.2	100.0	41.0	27.0	27.4	*4.4	*0.2
Thyroid drugs	37,077	1.6	100.0	57.7	7.3	24.9	9.5	0.6
Bisphosphonates	18,337	0.8	100.0	52.7	6.7	31.1	9.4	*0.2
Miscellaneous agents	89,884	3.8	100.0	41.1	15.4	26.0	9.9	7.6
Antidotes.	874	0.0	100.0	*0.8	—	*35.7	*12.9	50.5
Chelating agents	*956	*0.0	100.0	*5.7	*10.0	80.6	*3.2	*0.4
Local injectable anesthetics	11,915	0.5	100.0	17.7	36.4	15.7	10.9	19.3
Miscellaneous uncategorized agents	39,941	1.7	100.0	47.4	11.6	24.8	8.6	7.6
Genitourinary tract agents	17,319	0.7	100.0	53.9	17.9	12.9	10.2	5.0
Impotence agents	6,390	0.3	100.0	67.4	13.3	*9.1	*10.1	*0.0
Urinary antispasmodics	8,340	0.4	100.0	52.4	23.2	15.4	8.6	*0.4
Miscellaneous genitourinary tract agents	1,776	0.1	100.0	27.3	9.6	*8.4	15.6	39.1
Antirheumatics	7,234	0.3	100.0	*29.3	6.7	53.7	*9.9	*0.3
Antipsoriatics	*2,609	*0.1	100.0	*31.2	*9.7	*46.0	*13.0	*0.2
Smoking cessation agents	10,687	0.5	100.0	39.3	7.3	38.4	13.5	1.4
Nutritional products	132,284	5.6	100.0	51.1	6.7	23.1	12.7	6.4
Iron products	8,994	0.4	100.0	52.6	2.1	*25.3	18.4	*1.6
Minerals and electrolytes	41,957	1.8	100.0	43.9	7.9	21.6	9.8	16.8
Oral nutritional supplements	243	0.0	100.0	*30.9	*26.3	*5.0	*35.8	*2.1
Vitamins	28,216	1.2	100.0	47.0	7.3	32.5	10.8	2.4
Vitamin and mineral combinations	38,032	1.6	100.0	62.9	6.8	18.8	10.8	0.8
Respiratory agents	226,975	9.6	100.0	56.9	4.6	15.9	10.1	12.4
Antihistamines	64,985	2.8	100.0	50.9	4.6	14.1	10.4	20.0
Antitussives	6,890	0.3	100.0	52.4	10.1	16.1	8.7	12.6
Bronchodilators	74,696	3.2	100.0	55.1	3.0	22.4	10.1	9.4
Adrenergic bronchodilators	43,266	1.8	100.0	58.0	2.4	17.5	11.0	11.0
Bronchodilator combinations	20,680	0.9	100.0	54.8	4.3	28.0	9.6	3.2
Anticholinergic bronchodilators	8,141	0.3	100.0	43.7	*2.9	34.4	7.0	12.1
Decongestants	4,349	0.2	100.0	53.5	*16.5	*4.4	15.0	10.6
Expectorants	7,215	0.3	100.0	68.6	3.8	9.2	11.6	6.8
Miscellaneous respiratory agents	7,675	0.3	100.0	22.6	10.4	*5.8	7.1	54.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Annual number and rate of therapeutic categories for drugs provided, prescribed, or continued at ambulatory care visits and percent distribution by setting type: United States, 2006—Con.

Therapeutic drug category ¹	Number of occurrences in thousands ²	Number of occurrences per 100 drug mentions ³	Total	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
Respiratory inhalant products	9,277	0.4	100.0	53.8	*8.1	26.4	10.2	1.5
Inhaled corticosteroids	8,959	0.4	100.0	53.1	*8.4	27.2	10.0	1.3
Antiasthmatic combinations	2,421	0.1	100.0	76.3	*1.4	*8.8	7.9	5.5
Upper respiratory combinations	36,048	1.5	100.0	76.1	*2.8	*6.3	9.8	5.0
Leukotriene modifiers	13,344	0.6	100.0	60.9	7.6	20.9	9.7	0.9
Topical agents	152,280	6.5	100.0	41.0	26.3	18.4	9.4	4.9
Anorectal preparations	905	0.0	100.0	67.0	*3.8	*7.1	*15.0	*7.1
Antiseptics and germicides	2,843	0.1	100.0	39.5	*23.6	*6.1	*10.2	20.6
Dermatological agents	63,972	2.7	100.0	45.2	6.5	31.3	10.9	6.0
Topical anti-infectives	4,297	0.2	100.0	33.8	*6.1	40.0	10.4	9.7
Topical steroids	22,934	1.0	100.0	47.8	8.9	26.2	10.6	6.5
Topical anesthetics	1,461	0.1	100.0	53.9	*11.4	*0.5	*10.6	23.6
Miscellaneous topical agents	11,147	0.5	100.0	33.5	*6.9	48.4	9.3	1.9
Topical steroids with anti-infectives	1,528	0.1	100.0	66.5	*2.4	*14.6	12.8	*3.7
Topical acne agents	7,263	0.3	100.0	39.7	*1.0	49.1	9.5	*0.7
Topical antipsoriatics	743	0.0	100.0	*36.5	—	53.6	*8.9	*1.0
Topical emollients	2,283	0.1	100.0	53.6	*10.4	22.1	11.7	*2.2
Topical antibiotics	4,366	0.2	100.0	55.8	*7.7	20.8	7.6	8.2
Topical antifungals	6,692	0.3	100.0	65.5	*3.7	18.6	9.0	3.2
Mouth and throat products	1,546	0.1	100.0	67.3	*4.9	*7.2	*12.8	*7.8
Ophthalmic preparations	44,234	1.9	100.0	13.1	72.2	5.5	5.5	3.6
Ophthalmic anti-infectives	3,342	0.1	100.0	37.3	20.4	*4.2	12.1	26.0
Ophthalmic glaucoma agents	14,916	0.6	100.0	10.4	77.0	*6.8	5.5	*0.3
Ophthalmic steroids	6,006	0.3	100.0	*2.8	89.6	*3.2	*4.3	*0.2
Ophthalmic steroids with anti-infectives	1,790	*0.1	100.0	*8.0	64.2	*20.8	*4.3	*2.8
Ophthalmic anti-inflammatory agents	2,801	0.1	100.0	*0.7	90.1	*5.0	*3.9	*0.3
Miscellaneous ophthalmic agents	8,791	0.4	100.0	*12.7	77.4	*3.1	*3.6	*3.2
Ophthalmic antihistamines and decongestants	3,280	0.1	100.0	45.0	36.8	*9.6	5.4	*3.2
Mydriatics	*1,358	*0.1	100.0	—	84.7	—	*12.3	*3.0
Ophthalmic anesthetics	170	0.0	100.0	—	—	—	*30.8	69.2
Ophthalmic diagnostic agents	*1,239	*0.1	100.0	*2.0	91.0	—	*1.1	*5.9
Otic preparations	3,517	0.1	100.0	56.9	*8.6	*0.2	14.5	19.9
Miscellaneous otic agents	3,239	0.1	100.0	55.3	*8.9	*0.2	*14.7	20.9
Vaginal preparations	7,143	0.3	100.0	55.9	*8.9	12.5	14.2	8.5
Vaginal anti-infectives	6,175	0.3	100.0	62.9	*9.9	14.5	10.2	2.5
Nasal preparations	34,477	1.5	100.0	64.4	8.4	14.9	10.5	1.8
Nasal steroids	31,083	1.3	100.0	66.9	7.8	12.7	11.1	1.6
Nasal antihistamines and decongestants	3,223	0.1	100.0	40.1	*14.8	*37.1	*4.5	*3.5
Alternative medicines	13,477	0.6	100.0	50.5	9.4	26.9	12.9	0.3
Nutraceutical products	8,679	0.4	100.0	51.5	9.8	25.8	12.9	*0.1
Herbal products	4,799	0.2	100.0	48.9	*8.8	28.8	13.0	0.5
Psychotherapeutic agents	119,088	5.1	100.0	41.5	5.2	38.5	12.5	2.3
Antidepressants	97,812	4.2	100.0	45.7	5.6	35.9	11.8	0.9
Miscellaneous antidepressants	10,340	0.4	100.0	39.1	7.1	40.0	13.0	*0.8
SSRI antidepressants	54,543	2.3	100.0	48.0	4.9	35.2	11.0	0.9
Tricyclic antidepressants	9,073	0.4	100.0	41.9	11.0	30.8	15.5	*0.8
Phenylpiperazine antidepressants	7,095	0.3	100.0	44.1	*5.9	33.7	14.4	*1.9
Tetracyclic antidepressants	2,284	0.1	100.0	*32.9	*3.0	45.9	16.8	*1.4
SSNRI antidepressants	14,165	0.6	100.0	47.4	3.6	38.8	9.3	*0.9
Antipsychotics	21,276	0.9	100.0	22.3	3.2	50.5	15.5	8.4
Miscellaneous antipsychotic agents	2,975	0.1	100.0	20.3	*4.1	47.2	17.3	11.1
Phenothiazine antipsychotics	1,779	0.1	100.0	43.7	*3.3	45.1	*6.9	*1.0
Atypical antipsychotics	15,154	0.6	100.0	22.1	*3.0	55.4	15.8	3.8
Immunologic agents	78,749	3.3	100.0	73.7	*0.6	*10.0	11.1	4.6
Bacterial vaccines	16,020	0.7	100.0	87.7	*0.3	*0.2	11.7	*0.1
Immune globulins	585	0.0	100.0	62.8	—	*10.9	*15.4	*10.9
Toxoids	18,558	0.8	100.0	71.1	*0.1	*1.4	9.1	18.2
Viral vaccines	33,226	1.4	100.0	83.4	*0.1	*3.5	12.8	0.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Annual number and rate of therapeutic categories for drugs provided, prescribed, or continued at ambulatory care visits and percent distribution by setting type: United States, 2006—Con.

Therapeutic drug category ¹	Number of occurrences in thousands ²	Number of occurrences per 100 drug mentions ³	Total	Primary care offices	Surgical specialty offices	Medical specialty offices	Hospital outpatient departments	Hospital emergency departments
Miscellaneous biologicals	*5,680	*0.2	100.0	*19.4	*1.9	74.1	*3.8	*0.7
Immunosuppressive agents	3,039	0.1	100.0	*31.1	*6.9	48.5	13.3	*0.2
Interferons	585	0.0	100.0	46.9	—	39.3	*10.9	*2.9
Monoclonal antibodies	*1,026	*0.0	100.0	*38.8	*5.7	*43.0	*11.7	*0.8
Radiologic agents	531	0.0	100.0	*20.4	*1.7	*21.8	*25.2	31.0
Radiocontrast agents	489	0.0	100.0	*16.7	*1.8	*23.6	*27.1	30.8
Iodinated contrast media	179	0.0	100.0	—	—	—	*26.0	74.0
Metabolic agents	201,992	8.6	100.0	58.3	6.9	22.5	11.2	1.1
Antihyperlipidemic agents	112,430	4.8	100.0	56.6	7.5	26.3	9.2	0.4
HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors	81,670	3.5	100.0	56.3	7.4	25.9	10.0	0.4
Miscellaneous antihyperlipidemic agents	3,352	0.1	100.0	58.2	*8.1	33.5	*0.1	—
Fibric acid derivatives	7,963	0.3	100.0	61.3	9.9	19.2	9.2	*0.4
Bile acid sequestrants	1,345	0.1	100.0	47.2	*3.0	43.0	*6.7	*0.1
Cholesterol absorption inhibitors	7,142	0.3	100.0	53.6	9.1	30.1	6.9	*0.3
Antihyperlipidemic combinations	10,562	0.4	100.0	59.9	6.3	29.0	4.6	*0.3
Antidiabetic agents	81,926	3.5	100.0	61.3	5.9	16.7	14.1	2.0
Sulfonylureas	17,944	0.8	100.0	57.5	6.7	21.0	13.8	1.0
Nonsulfonylureas	24,086	1.0	100.0	66.6	5.3	12.8	14.4	0.9
Insulin	21,779	0.9	100.0	56.1	4.8	17.4	16.3	5.4
Thiazolidinediones	12,075	0.5	100.0	64.0	7.6	15.5	12.5	*0.5
Meglitinides	1,078	0.0	100.0	43.7	*1.5	42.8	*11.8	*0.2
Miscellaneous antidiabetic agents	1,271	0.1	100.0	83.2	*6.8	*5.8	*3.9	*0.4
Antidiabetic combinations	3,537	0.2	100.0	65.0	*6.8	*17.8	*9.5	*0.9
Antigout agents	7,473	0.3	100.0	52.8	8.4	29.9	8.1	0.8
Antihyperuricemic agents	5,632	0.2	100.0	52.1	10.3	30.4	6.8	*0.3
Glucose elevating agents	162	0.0	100.0	*17.7	*16.8	*2.4	*26.1	*37.0
Pharmaceutical aids	2,864	0.1	100.0	51.7	*2.6	40.0	*4.0	*1.6

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

— Quantity zero.

¹Based on Multum Lexicon first, second, and third level therapeutic drug categories (see www.multum.com/Lexicon.htm).²Total of all therapeutic drug categories will exceed total number of drug mentions because up to four categories may be coded for each drug.³Based on an estimated 2,356,882,000 drug mentions at ambulatory care visits in 2006. A drug mention is defined as any medication that is provided, prescribed, or continued at the visit, including over-the-counter preparations, immunizations, desensitizing agents, and anesthetics. Up to eight mentions are collected per visit.

NOTES: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding. Also, categories with less than 30 unweighted total occurrences were not included in this table. The 2006 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey included a sample of community health centers (CHCs) in addition to the traditional sample of office-based physicians. Estimates presented in this table include data from office-based physicians as defined by the American Medical Association as well as data from a sample of physicians working in CHCs.

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