Data from the
NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

Series 10
Number 128

Physician Visits

Volume and Interval Since Last Visit

United States-1975

Statistics on the time interval since last physician visit, volume of physician visits, and number of visits per person per year by selected demographic characteristics. Statistics on number of physician visits by place of visit, type of service, and condition causing visit for diagnosis and treatment. Percent distribution of persons by frequency of visits in a year. Based on data collected in health interviews during 1975.

DHEW Publication No. (PHS) 79-1556

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service
Office of Health Research, Statistics, and Technology
National Center for Health Statistics
Hyattsville, Md. April 1979

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Gentile, Augustine

Physician visits, volume and interval since last visit, United States, 1975.

(Vital and health statistics : Series 10, Data from the National Health Survey ; no. 128) (DHEW publication ; no. (PHS) 79-1556)

Includes bibliographical references.

1. Physician services utilization—United States—Statistics. 2. United States—Statistics, Medical. 3. Health surveys—United States. I. Title. II. Series: II. Series: United States. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital and health statistics : Series 10, Data from the National Health Survey, Data from the health interview survey ; no. 128. III. Series: United States. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare DHEW publication ; no. (PHS) 79-1556. [DNLM: 1. Ambulatory care—U.S.—Statistics. 2. Physicians—Utilization—U.S. W2 A N148vj no. 128]

RA407.3A346 No. 128 [RA410.7] 312'.0973s
[362.1] 78-23553

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

DIVISION OF HEALTH INTERVIEW STATISTICS

COOPERATION OF THE U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Under the legislation establishing the National Health Survey, the Public Health Service is authorized to use, insofar as possible, the services or facilities of other Federal, State, or private agencies.

In accordance with specifications established by the Division of Health Interview Statistics, the Bureau of the Census, under a contractual arrangement, participated in planning the survey and collecting the data.

Vital and Health Statistics-Series 10-No. 128

DHEW Publication No. (PHS) 79-1556
Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 78-23553

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TEXT TABLES

SYMBOLS

Data not available	- - -
Category not applicable	. . .
Quantity zero	-
Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05	0.0
Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (more than 30 percent relative standard error)	*

PHYSICIAN VISITS
VOLUME AND INTERVAL SINCE LAST VISIT

Augustine Gentile[a]

INTRODUCTION

Data are presented in this report on the number of visits and the interval since the last visit to physicians reported by the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States in the Health Interview Survey conducted in 1975. These estimates of the utilization of the services of doctors of medicine and osteopathy are presented by selected characteristics of the population. The data also provide information on the type of physician visited, place of visit, type of service rendered, and the condition causing the visit.

Comparisons with similar data collected in the Health Interview Survey during earlier time periods also are presented.

The following statements briefly summarize the data contained in this report:

During the 1975 survey year, about 75.2 percent of the population reported that they had seen or talked to a physician during the 12-month period prior to the week that the interview was conducted.

These data also show that although about 25 percent of the population had not seen a physician during the year prior to the interview, about 22 percent of the population had seen a physician five or more times.

During 1975, the number of physician visits, excluding visits to hospital inpatients, was about 1.1 billion; this amounts to an annual rate of 5.1 visits per person per year.

About 68 percent of all physician visits took place in a doctor's office; 13 percent took place in a hospital clinic or emergency room; and 13 percent were consultations by telephone.

The proportion of all visits that took place in a hospital clinic or emergency room has increased from about 9 percent in 1959 to about 13 percent in 1975; the proportion of visits to a patient's home has decreased from about 9 percent to about 1 percent during the same time period.

Black persons and persons in the lower income groups have on the average fewer visits to a doctor's office and more visits to hospital clinics or emergency rooms than white persons and persons in the higher income groups have.

These data show that between 1967 and 1975 there was a decrease of about 20 percent in the proportion of visits made to general practitioners and a corresponding overall increase of 20 percent in the proportion of visits made to medical specialists.

These estimates show that about 43 percent of the population had a general checkup during the 12-month period prior to the interview week.

[a]Mr. Gentile was Chief of Survey Methods Branch of the Division of Health Interview Survey and later Director of the Office of Demographic Studies at Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C., and is now retired.

For all visits, chronic conditions account for 50.6 percent and acute conditions account for 44.0 percent of the reasons given for the visits to a physician.

SOURCE OF THE DATA

The information in this report is based on data collected in household interviews during the Health Interview Survey of the National Center for Health Statistics. Interviews were obtained from a probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Trained interviewers of the U.S. Bureau of the Census conducted the interviews each week in a representative sample of the Nation's households. During 1975, interviews were conducted in about 40,000 households that included about 116,000 persons.

A further description of the statistical design of the survey, the method of estimation, and general qualifications of data obtained from surveys is presented in appendix I. Since all the data included in this report are estimates based on a sample of the population rather than on the entire population, they are subject to sampling error. Although the sampling errors for most of the estimates are of relatively low magnitude, where an estimated number or the numerator or denominator of a rate or percentage is small, the sampling error may be high. Charts from which approximate sampling errors can be estimated and instructions for their use are shown in the section "Reliability of Estimates" in appendix I.

Another source of error in interview data is response error. Response error occurs when household respondents do not know the requested information, fail to recall accurately events occurring during the reference period, report events that actually happened outside the reference period as having occurred during it, or withhold information. Studies mentioned in a previous report on physician visits[1] suggest that reporting of physician visits is subject to substantial underreporting as well as overreporting, which to an undetermined extent, tend to compensate for each other. For this reason as well as because the two surveys utilize different methods and reporting sources, the estimates shown in this report may differ from those reported by the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.[2]

Definitions of certain terms used in this report are explained in appendix II. It is suggested that the reader become familiar with these definitions, as some of these terms have a specialized meaning for the purpose of the survey.

The entire questionnaire used during 1975 is illustrated in the Current Estimates report for this period.[3] The probe questions and recording form used to obtain information about physician visits are illustrated in appendix III of this report.

COMMENTS ON THE DATA

For the purposes of the Health Interview Survey, a physician visit is defined as a consultation with a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, either in person or by telephone for examination, diagnosis, treatment, or advice. The service may be rendered by the physician himself or by a nurse or other aide acting under the physician's supervision. The data on the interval since a person last saw a physician (tables A, 1, and 2) include visits as a hospital inpatient.

In addition, data given in tables 3, B, and C (the number or frequency of visits to a physician in the past year) are for persons whose only visit to a physician occurred when they were inpatients in a hospital. For the purpose of this report, these persons are counted as having had only one visit with a physician, regardless of the actual number of times that a physician may have seen the individual in a hospital. All of the other tables in this report (tables 4-22 and D-G) contain estimates of the volume of physician visits and exclude all visits for hospital inpatients.

INTERVAL SINCE LAST PHYSICIAN VISIT

Data about the interval since last physician visit are based on responses to the question, "About how long has it been since you last saw or talked to a medical doctor?"

In 1975, an estimated 75.2 percent of the population reported that they had made one or more physician visits during the 12-month period prior to the week that the interview was conducted. An additional 10.8 percent of the population reported that it had been over a year but less than 2 years since they had last visited a physician, and 13.1 percent reported that it had been 2 years or more since their last physician visit. The data on interval since last physician visit by selected demographic characteristics are presented in tables 1, 2, and A.

Of the 75.2 percent of persons who had seen a physician within 1 year, 59.4 percent reported that the visit had occurred less than 6 months prior to the week of interview and 15.8 percent reported that the last visit had occurred between 6 months and 1 year prior to the week of interview.

When these data are examined by demographic characteristics (table A), it may be seen that differences between categories for a given characteristic are generally not very great. Some notable exceptions are the differences between the percents of males (70.5) and females (79.6) who had seen a doctor within a year. Also the percent of children under 5 years of age (88.9 percent) who had seen a physician within a year was greater than any of the other age groups shown in the table, and children aged 5-14 years had the lowest percent (68.7). As might be expected, persons with limitation of activity had a higher percent of persons who had a physician visit within a year than persons had who were not limited in activity.

FREQUENCY OF VISITS IN PAST YEAR

Tables 3 and B contain data showing the number (or frequency) of visits to a physician within the past year according to selected demographic characteristics of the population.

It may be seen from the data in table B, that in round numbers 25 percent of the population did not see a physician during the 12 months prior to interview; 22 percent saw a physician only once; 30 percent saw a physician from two to four times; and 22 percent of the population saw a physician five times or more. In examining the data for persons who had five or more physician visits during the year by demographic characteristics, the following items were noted:

About 26 percent of the females compared with 18 percent of the males had seen a physician five or more times.

Children under 5 years of age (32 percent) and persons 65 years of age and over (over 33 percent) had the highest relative proportion of persons who had seen a physician five or more times.

Children from 5 through 14 years of age had the lowest proportion of persons who had seen a physician this frequently.

The data on family income show that the proportion of persons who had seen a physician five or more times decreases as family income increases. It may also be seen that persons with some degree of activity limitation have a higher proportion of persons with five or more physician visits than persons with no activity limitation have.

It is also of interest to note that the 22.4 percent of the population (table B) that had five or more physician visits accounted for about 72 percent of all physician visits during the year.[b]

VOLUME OF PHYSICIAN VISITS

For 1975, the estimated annual number of physician visits, excluding visits to hospital inpatients, was about 1.1 billion. This estimate amounts to an annual rate of 5.1 visits per person per year (table 4). (Comparisons of data on the volume of physician visits for earlier time periods may be found in Series 10-No. 97.)[4]

The number and rate of physician visits for various characteristics of the population are presented in tables 4 through 15. Because age affects to a large extent the rates of physician

[b]This statistic was derived from a tabulation of data that was not included in the detailed tables in this report.

Table A. Percent distribution of persons by time interval since last physician visit, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

Characteristic	Total population[1]	Time interval since last visit				
		Less than 1 year			1 year-less than 2 years	2 years or more
		Total	Less than 6 months	6-11 months		
	Percent distribution					
All persons[2]	100.0	75.2	59.4	15.8	10.8	13.1
Sex						
Male	100.0	70.5	53.9	16.6	12.3	16.1
Female	100.0	79.6	64.6	15.0	9.4	10.3
Age						
Under 5 years	100.0	88.9	77.1	11.8	7.2	2.3
5-14 years	100.0	68.7	49.3	19.4	16.5	13.7
15-24 years	100.0	74.1	57.4	16.7	12.3	12.7
25-44 years	100.0	75.9	58.5	17.4	10.3	13.0
45-64 years	100.0	74.1	60.1	14.0	8.9	16.3
65 years and over	100.0	78.7	68.6	10.1	6.1	14.7
Color						
White	100.0	75.7	59.8	15.9	10.7	12.9
Black	100.0	71.5	56.7	14.8	12.3	14.7
Family income						
Less than $5,000	100.0	75.5	62.9	12.6	9.3	14.3
$5,000-$9,999	100.0	73.6	58.9	14.7	11.4	14.3
$10,000-$14,999	100.0	75.1	58.3	16.8	11.4	13.0
$15,000 or more	100.0	77.5	60.0	17.5	10.6	11.3
Education of head of family						
Less than 9 years	100.0	69.1	56.4	12.7	11.2	18.4
9-11 years	100.0	72.0	57.3	14.7	12.0	15.3
12 years	100.0	75.8	59.2	16.6	11.4	12.2
13 years or more	100.0	80.9	63.3	17.6	9.3	9.2
Activity limitation						
Unable to carry on major activity[3]	100.0	89.2	82.6	6.6	4.0	6.4
Limited in amount or kind of activity	100.0	86.4	75.7	10.7	5.6	7.7
Not limited in activity	100.0	73.2	56.4	16.8	11.8	14.0
Place of residence						
SMSA	100.0	76.0	60.4	15.6	10.5	12.5
Outside SMSA						
Nonfarm	100.0	73.9	57.9	16.0	11.6	13.8
Farm	100.0	68.5	51.9	16.6	11.7	18.8
Geographic region						
Northeast	100.0	76.2	61.1	15.1	10.8	12.3
North Central	100.0	75.4	58.9	16.5	10.5	13.4
South	100.0	73.8	58.2	15.6	11.6	13.6
West	100.0	75.7	60.0	15.7	10.0	13.0

[1]Includes never and unknown.
[2]Includes color other than white and black and unknown family income and education.
[3]Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table B. Percent distribution of persons by number of physician visits in past year, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

Characteristic	Number of visits in past year					
	Total[1]	None	1	2-4	5-12	13 or more
	Percent distribution					
All persons[2]	100.0	24.8	21.9	29.8	17.4	5.0
Sex						
Male	100.0	29.5	23.1	28.2	14.4	3.5
Female	100.0	20.5	20.8	31.3	20.2	6.2
Age						
Under 5 years	100.0	11.1	17.5	37.6	28.0	4.1
5-14 years	100.0	31.3	27.4	28.2	9.9	2.3
15-24 years	100.0	26.0	24.1	29.5	15.1	4.1
25-34 years	100.0	22.4	22.6	31.2	17.5	5.5
35-44 years	100.0	26.4	23.5	29.1	14.9	5.2
45-54 years	100.0	26.5	20.9	28.5	17.1	5.7
55-64 years	100.0	25.2	17.5	28.4	20.6	7.1
65-74 years	100.0	22.8	14.2	29.1	24.8	7.8
75 years and over	100.0	18.5	13.0	28.9	29.1	8.0
Color						
White	100.0	24.3	22.0	30.2	17.5	4.9
Black	100.0	28.6	20.6	27.3	16.5	5.2
Family income						
Less than $3,000	100.0	23.4	17.7	27.9	21.1	7.9
$3,000-$4,999	100.0	25.5	18.2	27.8	20.5	6.5
$5,000-$6,999	100.0	27.0	18.9	27.3	19.5	6.0
$7,000-$9,999	100.0	26.0	20.9	29.0	18.0	5.1
$10,000-$14,999	100.0	25.0	22.8	30.3	16.5	4.4
$15,000-$24,999	100.0	22.9	24.2	31.5	16.5	3.9
$25,000 or more	100.0	21.3	25.1	33.2	15.5	4.2
Education of head of family						
Less than 5 years	100.0	31.3	16.4	23.5	19.8	7.0
5-8 years	100.0	30.9	18.3	25.4	18.1	5.6
9-11 years	100.0	28.0	21.1	27.7	16.9	5.1
12 years	100.0	24.2	23.1	30.5	16.7	4.5
13 years or more	100.0	19.1	23.8	33.8	17.8	4.7
Activity limitation						
Unable to carry on major activity[3]	100.0	10.8	7.3	22.1	35.1	21.7
Limited in amount or kind of major activity[3]	100.0	12.4	10.3	27.4	32.1	16.1
Limited, but not in major activity[3]	100.0	16.1	14.6	31.9	26.4	9.8
Not limited in activity	100.0	26.8	23.8	30.2	15.0	3.1
Place of residence						
SMSA	100.0	24.0	21.8	30.2	17.6	5.3
Outside SMSA						
Nonfarm	100.0	26.2	22.1	29.2	17.1	4.3
Farm	100.0	31.5	22.3	27.0	14.4	3.6
Geographic region						
Northeast	100.0	23.8	22.2	29.7	18.1	5.2
North Central	100.0	24.6	22.8	29.9	17.2	4.5
South	100.0	26.1	21.8	29.6	16.4	4.8
West	100.0	24.2	20.3	30.3	18.4	5.7

[1] Includes unknown number of visits.
[2] Includes color other than white and black and unknown family income and education.
[3] Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

visits and other health characteristics and because the age distribution for a particular characteristic can vary considerably, it is advisable to make comparisons of age-specific rates for subgroups of the population rather than of rates for persons of all ages.

Comparisons of the age-specific rates for each of the sexes are shown in figure 1. It may be seen that the rates for males and females do not differ much for the youngest and oldest age groups shown. However, during the age span from about 15 years of age to about 64 years of age, females had a higher rate of physician visits than males had. Clearly, a part of this difference is related to visits concerning pregnancy and childbirth.

The number and rate of physician visits by place of residence are shown in table 4 and figure 2. The rates for physician visits are higher, generally, for persons living in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's). This is especially true for persons from about 25 to 54 years of age. For persons under 35 years of age, the annual number of physician visits per person per year was lowest for residents of farm areas.

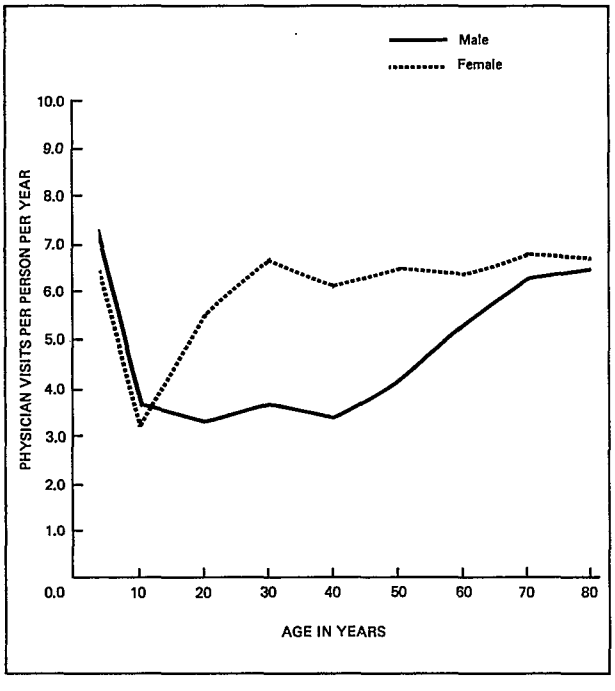


Figure 1. Number of physician visits per person per year, by sex and age

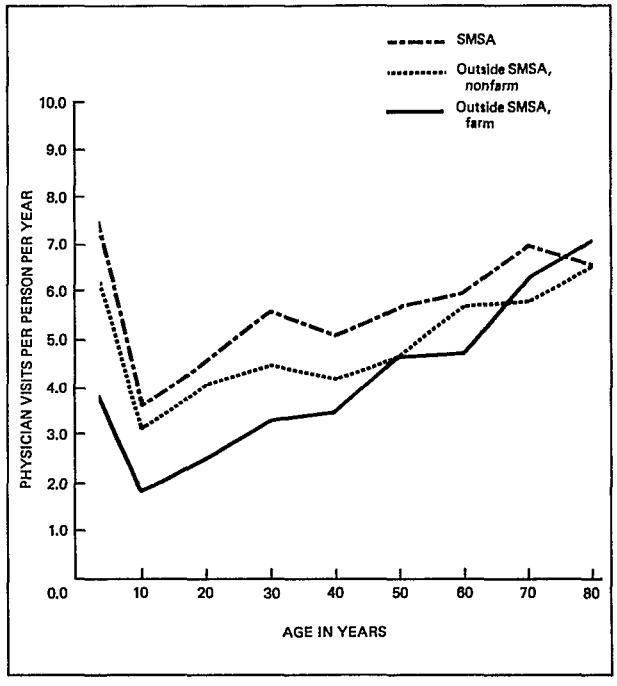


Figure 2. Number of physician visits per person per year, by place of residence and age

Table 5 gives the number and annual rate of physician visits by geographic region, sex, and age. Some of these data are summarized in figure 3. On the average, persons living in the West Region reported more physician visits than persons living in the other three geographic regions of the country did. The difference in the annual rate of physician visits between the West and other regions occurred mainly among persons from about 25 to 64 years of age.

Estimates of the number and rate of physician visits by family income, sex, and age are presented in tables 6 and 7. The rates for selected family income groups are illustrated in figure 4. It is apparent that the highest rates of physician visits are for persons between the ages of 25 and 54 years with annual family incomes of less than $3,000. It may also be seen that the rates for physician visits are relatively high for persons under 5 years of age and for persons 65 years of age and over, regardless of income level.

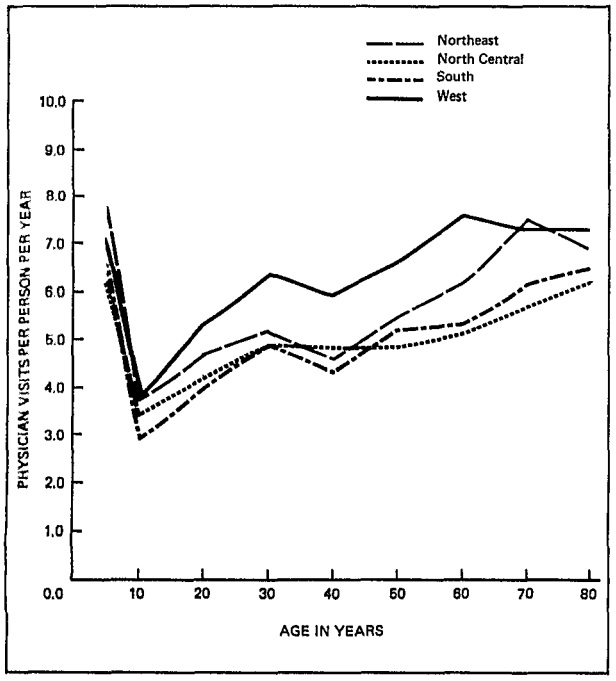


Figure 3. Number of physician visits per person per year, by geographic region and age

It may be well to note here that the rates of physicians visits in the 1975 data for the socioeconomic-related variables—family income, color, and education of head of family—do not show the differences that appear in the data collected in earlier survey years (p. 7[4]). To some extent this may be due to the impact of Federal aid to economically disadvantaged persons.

The data in tables 8 and 9 show the number of physician visits and the average annual number of physician visits per person per year by color, family income, sex, and age. These data indicate that in 1975 there was in general very little difference in the utilization of physician services between white and black persons. Some of the apparent differences in rates for a specific age group or age-sex group (table 8) and for a specific age-sex-income group (table 9) may be due to sampling variability. This statement also applies to the differences that appear in the data illustrated in figure 5. As previously noted, earlier studies from the Health Interview Survey

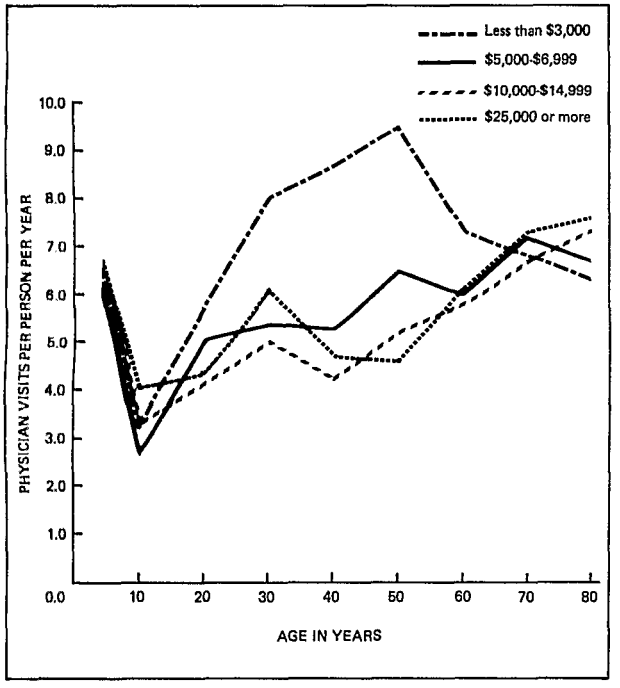


Figure 4. Number of physician visits per person per year, by family income and age

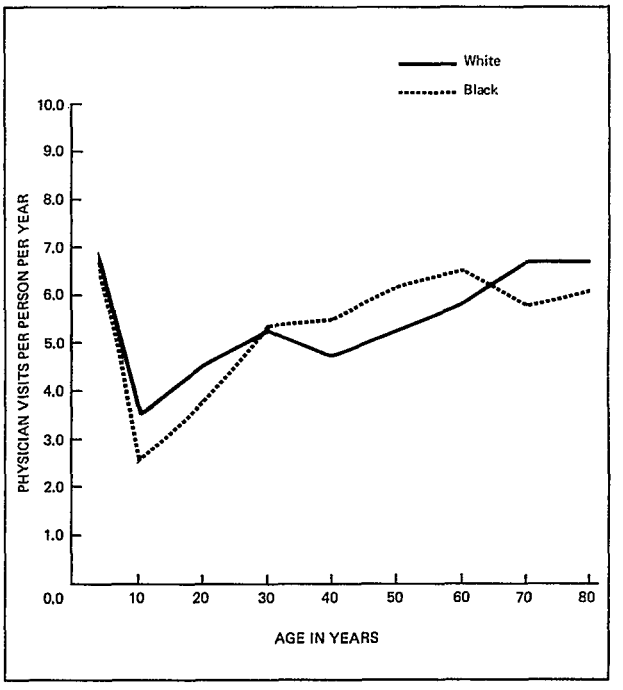


Figure 5. Number of physician visits per person per year, by color and age

reported larger differences in the rates of physician visits between white and black persons.

The number and annual rate of physician visits by education of head of family, sex, and age are shown in tables 10 and 11 and figure 6. These data show that with one exception there are not many large differences in the rate of physician visits between persons when classified by the education of the head of family. The only notable exception is the difference in rates for persons classified as living in families where the head of the family had 13 years or more of education compared with persons living in families whose head had only between 5 and 8 years of education; the difference only occurs, however, for persons under 25 years of age.

Data on the volume and rate of physician visits are presented for the combined variables of education of head of family, family income, and age in tables 12 and 13. These data show that for each of the levels of education categories the rate of physician visits was greatest for persons in the lowest family income group (less than $5,000). Most of the apparent differences that appear in table 13 in the age-specific rates

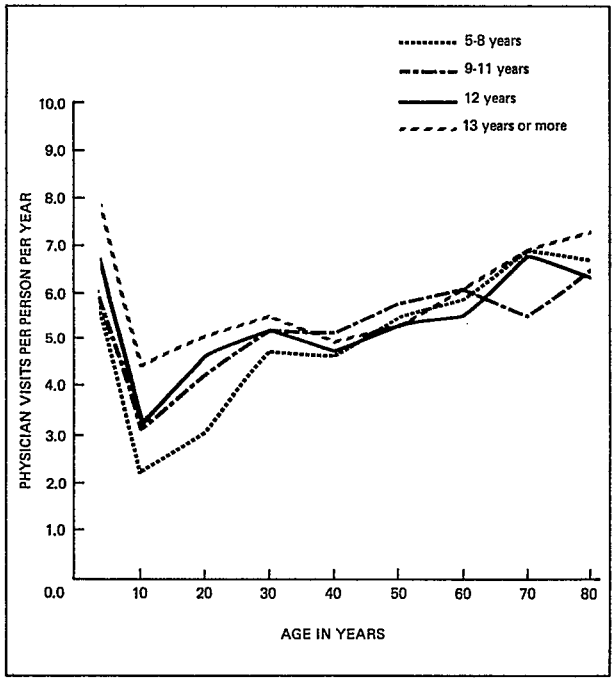


Figure 6. Number of physician visits per person per year, by education of head of family and age

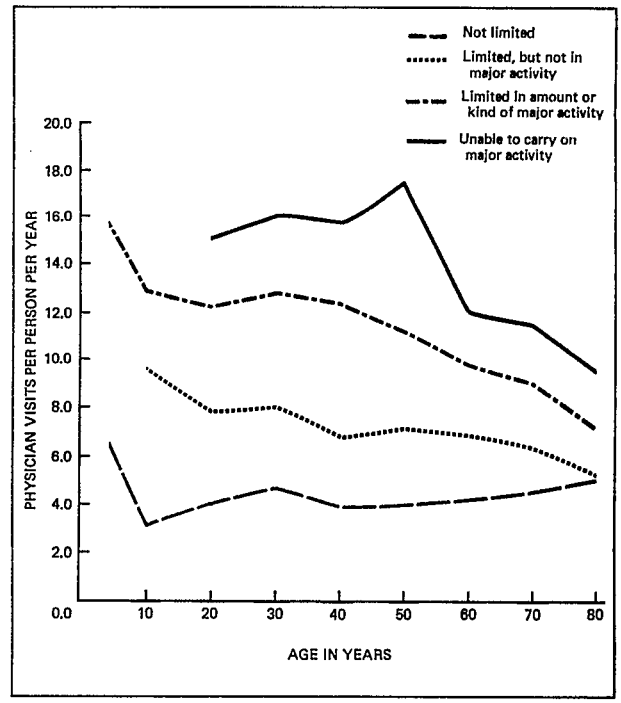


Figure 7. Number of physician visits per person per year, by degree of limitation of activity due to chronic conditions and age

by education and family income may be due to sampling variability.

The rates of physician visits for persons with limitation of activity due to chronic disease or impairment was higher, as might be expected, than the rates for persons who were not limited in activity (tables 14 and 15). It also appears that the rates of physician visits increase as the severity of the limitation increases (figure 7). The rates for persons of all ages for the categories of activity limitation during 1975 were as follows:

Activity limitation	*Number of physician visits per person per year*
Not limited in activity	4.2
Limited, but not in major activity	7.4
Limited in amount or kind of major activity	10.5
Unable to carry on major activity	12.5

PLACE OF VISIT AND TYPE OF PHYSICIAN

In the Health Interview Survey, information is obtained about the place of visit, the type of physician visited, and the reason for each physician visit. Estimates of the number and a percent distribution of the number of physician visits by place of visit for selected population characteristics are presented in tables 16 and 17. A summary of these data is shown in table C. It may be seen that about two-thirds of all physician visits took place in a doctor's office (68.0 percent), about 13 percent took place in a hospital clinic or emergency room, and about 13 percent were consultations by telephone. Together these three "places of visit" account for 94 percent of all physician visits.

On the basis of a review of health survey data from previous years, it appears that the proportion of visits that take place in a doctor's office has remained at about the same level since 1959, and the number of visits that take place in a hospital clinic or emergency room has increased from about 9 percent in 1959 to about 13 percent in 1975. It may also be observed that the proportion of physician visits to a patient's home has gradually declined from about 9 percent of all visits in 1959 to less than 1 percent in 1975. Since 1959 there has also been an increase in the proportion of telephone consultations for medical purposes (table D).

Table C. Number and percent distribution of physician visits, by place of visit: United States, 1975

Place of visit	Number of visits in thousands	Percent distribution
Total	1,056,094	100.0
Office (including prepaid group)	717,746	68.0
Home	8,217	0.8
Hospital clinic or emergency room	136,585	12.9
Company or industry health unit	9,175	0.9
Telephone[1]	131,911	12.5
Other and unknown	52,461	5.0

[1]Does not include calls for appointments and other nonmedical purposes.

Many variations in the distribution of place of visit according to selected demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the population may be seen in table 17. For example, females, proportionately, had more office and telephone visits than males had, and males had more visits to a hospital clinic or emergency room than females had. White persons had a much higher proportion of office and telephone visits than black persons had, and black persons had almost twice as many visits as white persons had to a hospital clinic or emergency room. It also may be seen that persons in the lower family income groups had, on the average, fewer

Table D. Percent distribution of physician visits, by place of visit: United States, selected years

Place of visit	July 1958-June 1959	July 1963-June 1964	July 1966-June 1967	1971	1975
	Percent distribution				
All visits	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Office (including prepaid group)	66.6	69.8	71.8	69.6	68.0
Home	9.2	5.4	3.3	1.7	0.8
Hospital clinic or emergency room	8.8	11.9	9.3	10.2	12.9
Company or industry health unit	1.0	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.9
Telephone[1]	10.4	10.6	11.3	13.3	12.5
Other and unknown	4.0	1.6	3.4	4.2	5.0

[1]Does not include calls for appointments and other nonmedical purposes.

office and telephone visits and more visits to hospital clinics and emergency rooms than persons in the higher family income groups had.

The number and percent distribution of physician visits by place of visit and type of physician visited are shown in table 18. In 1975, about one-half of all physician visits were made to general practitioners and almost all of the remaining half were made to some type of medical specialist. Visits to internists (10.0 percent), pediatricians (9.7 percent), and obstetricians/gynecologists (7.1 percent) accounted for more than half of the visits made to medical specialists (see table E).

Table E shows the percent distribution of physician visits for selected survey years. These data indicate that between 1967 (62.9 percent) and 1975 (50.4 percent) there was a decrease of about 20 percent in the proportion of visits made to a general practitioner and a corresponding increase of about 20 percent in the proportion of visits made to medical specialists. The greatest increase between 1967 (5.4 percent) and 1975 (10.0 percent) was in the proportion of visits to internists.

Table E. Percent distribution of physician visits, by type of physician: United States, selected years

Type of physician	July 1966-June 1967	1971	1975
	Percent distribution		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
General practitioner	62.9	56.0	50.4
Internist	5.4	8.0	10.0
Pediatrician	9.0	9.8	9.7
Obstetrician/gynecologist	5.2	5.7	7.1
Orthopedist	2.2	2.7	3.4
Opthalmologist	2.1	2.0	2.1
Otolaryngologist	1.3	1.9	1.7
Dermatologist	1.4	1.4	1.7
Psychiatrist	0.9	1.1	1.3
Urologist	1.0	1.0	1.2
Radiologist	0.4	0.8	1.0
Osteopath	0.9	0.8	0.3
Surgeon, not elsewhere classified	2.7	3.5	3.2
Other medical specialists	2.4	2.0	3.1
Unknown	2.0	3.2	3.7

TYPE OF SERVICE

In the health survey, respondents who reported physician visits were asked the reason for each visit. The answers given by the respondents were then classified into one of the following type of service categories:

Diagnosis and treatment

Pre- and postnatal care

General checkup

Immunization and vaccination

Other

Because more than one type of service may be rendered during a physician visit, the sum of types of service (1,069.4 million) exceeds the number of physician visits (1,056.1 million) shown in table 19.

In 1975, the proportion of visits that were made for each of the type of service categories was as follows:

Service category	*Percent of visits*
Diagnosis and treatment	84.9
Pre- and postnatal care	3.1
General checkup	8.4
Immunization and vaccination	2.1
Other	2.8

Table 20 gives the percent distribution of physician visits by type of service for selected characteristics of the population. These data show that older persons, persons with lower incomes, persons with less education, and persons limited in activity visit a physician relatively more frequently for diagnosis and treatment. It is also apparent that children under 5 years of age, persons with family incomes of $25,000 or more, persons with more education, and persons with no activity limitation have relatively more visits for a general checkup.

Table F has been constructed to provide another view of the population characteristics

Table F. Percent of population who had a general checkup within a year, by selected characteristics: United States, 1975

Characteristic	Total population	Percent who had a general checkup
All persons[1]	100.0	42.6
Sex		
Male	100.0	38.4
Female	100.0	46.6
Color		
White	100.0	43.3
Black	100.0	37.9
Family income		
Less than $5,000	100.0	37.4
$5,000-$9,999	100.0	38.4
$10,000-$14,999	100.0	38.9
$15,000 or more	100.0	50.5
Education of head of family		
Less than 9 years	100.0	23.0
9-11 years	100.0	34.4
12 years	100.0	46.6
13 years or more	100.0	56.9

[1]Includes color other than white and black and unknown family income and education.

of persons who visited a physician for a general checkup. For the purpose of this table, it was assumed that a person had only one general checkup during the year. Thus the number of visits for a general checkup can be expressed as a percent of the population with a general checkup. According to the estimates in table F, about 43 percent of the population had a general checkup within a year of the interviews. A higher percent of females (46.6 percent) than of males (38.4 percent) had general checkups, and a higher proportion of white persons (43.3 percent) than of black (37.9 percent) had checkups. Persons with family incomes of $15,000 or more (50.5 percent) had a higher percent of persons who had checkups than persons in the other family income groups had. It also may be seen that the proportion of persons who had a general checkup was directly related to the education of the head of the family. The percent ranged from 23 percent for persons with less than 9 years of education to about 57 percent for persons with at least 1 year of college attendance.

Persons who reported a type of service classified as diagnosis or treatment were asked to name the illness or injury for which the visit to the physician was made. Table 21 gives the estimates of the number and a percent distribution of the reported conditions, and table 22 shows the percent distributions of the reported conditions by place of visit. More than one condition may have been reported for a given visit, but the data in tables 21 and 22 are based on the first-reported condition. A summary of these data is provided in table G.

The data in table G show that for all places of visit chronic conditions account for 50.6 percent and acute conditions account for 44.0 percent of the reasons given for the visit to a physician. For office visits, chronic conditions were reported as the reason 55.5 percent of the time and acute conditions were reported 38.9 percent of the time; for hospital clinic or emergency room visits, these percents were 43.9 for chronic conditions and 51.5 for acute conditions; and for telephone visits they were 34.2 for chronic conditions and 61.3 for acute conditions.

Diseases of the circulatory system (10 percent) were the leading cause among the chronic conditions for all visits for diagnosis and treatment. This group of diseases accounted for 11.8 percent of the office visits, but for only 6.4 percent of hospital clinic or emergency room visits and for only 4.7 percent of telephone consultations. Respiratory diseases were the next leading cause among the chronic conditions, accounting for 7.1 percent of the diagnostic and treatment visits. This disease group was the cause of 8.1 percent of office visits, 4.9 percent of hospital clinic or emergency room visits, and 5.8 percent of the telephone consultations. Among the chronic conditions it was the leading cause for telephone consultations.

In the acute condition categories, acute respiratory infections were the leading cause for diagnostic and treatment visits. They ac-

Table G. Percent distribution of physician visits for diagnosis and treatment according to place of visit, by condition causing visit: United States, 1975

Condition group	Place of visit			
	Total[1]	Office (including prepaid group)	Hospital clinic or emergency room	Telephone
	Percent distribution			
All conditions	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All chronic conditions	50.6	55.5	43.9	34.2
Mental and nervous	3.1	3.2	2.6	2.5
Circulatory system	10.0	11.8	6.4	4.7
Respiratory system	7.1	8.1	4.9	5.8
Digestive system	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.3
Skin diseases	3.3	3.9	1.7	2.3
Arthritis and rheumatism	2.7	3.2	1.6	1.5
Impairments	3.8	4.0	4.4	1.9
Other	17.5	18.3	19.3	12.2
All acute conditions	44.0	38.9	51.5	61.3
Infective and parasitic	4.7	4.0	3.9	9.4
Acute respiratory	15.1	13.5	10.4	28.8
Injuries	11.9	9.4	25.9	8.8
Diseases of the ear	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.3
Genitourinary disorders	2.2	2.2	2.2	3.1
Other	7.7	7.4	6.9	8.9
No condition reported	5.4	5.5	4.6	4.5

[1]Includes other places of visit.

counted for 15.1 percent of all visits, 13.5 percent of office visits, 10.4 percent of hospital clinic or emergency room visits, and 28.8 percent of telephone consultations. Injuries were reported next in frequency as a cause for a visit to a physician. They accounted for 11.9 percent of all visits, 9.4 percent of office visits, 25.9 percent of hospital clinic or emergency room visits, and 8.8 percent of the telephone consultations.

REFERENCES

[1]National Center for Health Statistics: Volume of physician visits by place of visit and type of service, United States, July 1963-June 1964. *Vital and Health Statistics.* PHS Pub. No. 1000-Series 10-No. 18. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, June 1965.

[2]National Center for Health Statistics: National Ambulatory Medical Care statistics: Background and methodology, United States. *Vital and Health Statistics.* Series 2-No. 61. DHEW Pub. No. (HRA) 74-1335. Health Resources Administration. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Mar. 1974.

[3]National Center for Health Statistics: Current estimates from the Health Interview Survey, United States, 1975. *Vital and Health Statistics.* Series 10-No. 115. DHEW Pub. No. (HRA) 77-1543. Health Resources Administration. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Mar. 1977.

[4]National Center for Health Statistics: Physician visits, volume and interval since last visit, United States, 1971. *Vital and Health Statistics.* Series 10-No. 97. DHEW Pub. No. (HRA) 75-1524. Health Resources Administration. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Mar. 1975.

[5]National Center for Health Statistics: Health survey procedure: concepts, questionnaire development and definitions in the Health Interview Survey. *Vital and Health Statistics.* PHS Pub. No. 1000-Series 1-No. 2. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, May 1964.

[6]U.S. National Health Survey: The statistical design of the health household interview survey. *Health Statistics.* PHS Pub. No. 584-A2. Public Health Service. Washington, D.C., July 1958.

[7]National Center for Health Statistics: Estimation and sampling variance in the Health Interview Survey. *Vital and Health Statistics.* PHS Pub. No. 1000-Series 2-No. 38. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, June 1970.

[8]National Center for Health Statistics: Quality control and measurement of nonsampling error in the Health Interview Survey. *Vital and Health Statistics.* Series 2-No. 54. DHEW Pub. No. (HSM) 73-1328. Health Services and Mental Health Administration. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Mar. 1973.

[9]National Center for Health Statistics: Health interview responses compared with medical records. *Vital and Health Statistics.* PHS Pub. No. 1000-Series 2-No. 7. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, July 1965.

[10]National Center for Health Statistics: Comparison of hospitalization reporting in three survey procedures. *Vital and Health Statistics.* PHS Pub. No. 1000-Series 2-No. 8. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, July 1965.

[11]National Center for Health Statistics: Interview data on chronic conditions compared with information derived from medical records. *Vital and Health Statistics.* PHS Pub. No. 1000-Series 2-No. 23. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, May 1967.

[12]National Center for Health Statistics: The influence of interviewer and respondent psychological and behavioral variables on the reporting in household interviews. *Vital and Health Statistics.* PHS Pub. No. 1000-Series 2-No. 26. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Mar. 1968.

[13]National Center for Health Statistics: *Eighth Revision International Classification of Diseases, Adapted for Use in the United States.* PHS Pub. No. 1693. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1967.

LIST OF DETAILED TABLES

Table 1. Number of persons, by time interval since last physician visit and selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Characteristic	Time interval since last visit							
	Total population	Less than 6 months	6-11 months	1 year	2-4 years	5 years or more	Never	Unknown
	Number of persons in thousands							
All persons[1]	209,065	124,211	32,946	22,639	19,859	7,569	463	1,377
Sex								
Male	100,865	54,366	16,752	12,446	11,813	4,427	256	805
Female	108,199	69,845	16,194	10,193	8,046	3,142	207	572
Age								
Under 5 years	15,933	12,292	1,880	1,150	363	. . .	87	162
5-14 years	37,654	18,576	7,293	6,214	4,158	1,015	142	255
15-24 years	38,679	22,184	6,453	4,740	3,879	1,030	125	268
25-34 years	30,027	17,959	5,349	2,921	2,761	800	*27	210
35-44 years	22,390	12,708	3,776	2,489	2,412	860	*16	129
45-54 years	23,531	13,798	3,497	2,255	2,466	1,320	*14	180
55-64 years	19,563	12,085	2,541	1,578	2,072	1,169	*21	96
65-74 years	13,519	9,011	1,421	864	1,194	967	*16	45
75 years and over	7,768	5,598	736	428	554	407	*14	*32
Color								
White	181,874	108,845	28,884	19,372	17,021	6,334	310	1,108
Black	24,396	13,822	3,608	2,998	2,499	1,103	134	233
Family income								
Less than $3,000	14,676	9,435	1,811	1,245	1,303	732	52	96
$3,000-$4,999	17,074	10,532	2,193	1,694	1,607	897	49	103
$5,000-$6,999	19,602	11,629	2,678	2,190	1,953	973	95	84
$7,000-$9,999	25,671	15,041	3,961	2,959	2,504	1,025	69	112
$10,000-$14,999	47,103	27,442	7,901	5,367	4,668	1,450	82	194
$15,000 or more	69,868	41,945	12,243	7,389	6,203	1,694	65	328
Education of head of family								
Less than 9 years	41,977	23,659	5,317	4,690	4,993	2,737	238	342
9-11 years	34,544	19,779	5,082	4,134	3,814	1,471	75	188
12 years	68,238	40,413	11,321	7,753	6,340	1,993	70	350
13-15 years	28,612	17,938	4,856	2,770	2,243	635	*24	147
16 years or more	32,807	20,934	5,958	2,964	2,172	571	*32	176
Activity limitation								
Unable to carry on major activity[2]	7,140	5,895	474	286	310	147	*4	*22
Limited in amount or kind of major activity[2]	15,380	12,047	1,422	766	776	324	*7	37
Limited, but not in major activity[2]	7,380	5,183	1,008	516	449	204	*4	*16
Not limited in activity	179,165	101,085	30,042	21,071	18,324	6,893	448	1,302
Place of residence								
SMSA	143,654	86,767	22,458	15,054	13,122	4,909	323	1,022
Outside SMSA								
Nonfarm	58,700	33,963	9,372	6,800	5,816	2,314	127	307
Farm	6,710	3,481	1,117	785	921	345	*12	48
Geographic region								
Northeast	49,086	30,016	7,398	5,316	4,234	1,804	52	265
North Central	55,892	32,929	9,234	5,864	5,620	1,864	80	301
South	66,854	38,917	10,457	7,737	6,471	2,601	188	483
West	37,233	22,349	5,858	3,723	3,534	1,299	143	327

[1] Includes color other than white and black and unknown family income and education.
[2] Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 2. Percent distribution of persons by time interval since last physician visit, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Characteristic	Time interval since last visit							
	Total population	Less than 6 months	6-11 months	1 year	2-4 years	5 years or more	Never	Unknown
	Percent distribution							
All persons[1]	100.0	59.4	15.8	10.8	9.5	3.6	0.2	0.7
Sex								
Male	100.0	53.9	16.6	12.3	11.7	4.4	0.3	0.8
Female	100.0	64.6	15.0	9.4	7.4	2.9	0.2	0.5
Age								
Under 5 years	100.0	77.1	11.8	7.2	2.3	...	0.5	1.0
5-14 years	100.0	49.3	19.4	16.5	11.0	2.7	0.4	0.7
15-24 years	100.0	57.4	16.7	12.3	10.0	2.7	0.3	0.7
25-34 years	100.0	59.8	17.8	9.7	9.2	2.7	*0.1	0.7
35-44 years	100.0	56.8	16.9	11.1	10.8	3.8	*0.1	0.6
45-54 years	100.0	58.6	14.9	9.6	10.5	5.6	*0.1	0.8
55-64 years	100.0	61.8	13.0	8.1	10.6	6.0	*0.1	0.5
65-74 years	100.0	66.7	10.5	6.4	8.8	7.2	*0.1	0.3
75 years and over	100.0	72.1	9.5	5.5	7.1	5.2	*0.2	*0.4
Color								
White	100.0	59.8	15.9	10.7	9.4	3.5	0.2	0.6
Black	100.0	56.7	14.8	12.3	10.2	4.5	0.5	1.0
Family income								
Less than $3,000	100.0	64.3	12.3	8.5	8.9	5.0	0.4	0.7
$3,000-$4,999	100.0	61.7	12.8	9.9	9.4	5.3	0.3	0.6
$5,000-$6,999	100.0	59.3	13.7	11.2	10.0	5.0	0.5	0.4
$7,000-$9,999	100.0	58.6	15.4	11.5	9.8	4.0	0.3	0.4
$10,000-$14,999	100.0	58.3	16.8	11.4	9.9	3.1	0.2	0.4
$15,000 or more	100.0	60.0	17.5	10.6	8.9	2.4	0.1	0.5
Education of head of family								
Less than 9 years	100.0	56.4	12.7	11.2	11.9	6.5	0.6	0.8
9-11 years	100.0	57.3	14.7	12.0	11.0	4.3	0.2	0.5
12 years	100.0	59.2	16.6	11.4	9.3	2.9	0.1	0.5
13-15 years	100.0	62.7	17.0	9.7	7.8	2.2	*0.1	0.5
16 years or more	100.0	63.8	18.2	9.0	6.6	1.7	*0.1	0.5
Activity limitation								
Unable to carry on major activity[2]	100.0	82.6	6.6	4.0	4.3	2.1	*0.1	*0.3
Limited in amount or kind of major activity[2]	100.0	78.3	9.2	5.0	5.0	2.1	*0.0	0.2
Limited, but not in major activity[2]	100.0	70.2	13.7	7.0	6.1	2.8	*0.1	*0.2
Not limited in activity	100.0	56.4	16.8	11.8	10.2	3.8	0.3	0.7
Place of residence								
SMSA	100.0	60.4	15.6	10.5	9.1	3.4	0.2	0.7
Outside SMSA								
Nonfarm	100.0	57.9	16.0	11.6	9.9	3.9	0.2	0.5
Farm	100.0	51.9	16.6	11.7	13.7	5.1	*0.2	0.7
Geographic region								
Northeast	100.0	61.1	15.1	10.8	8.6	3.7	0.1	0.5
North Central	100.0	58.9	16.5	10.5	10.1	3.3	0.1	0.5
South	100.0	58.2	15.6	11.6	9.7	3.9	0.3	0.7
West	100.0	60.0	15.7	10.0	9.5	3.5	0.4	0.9

[1] Includes color other than white and black and unknown family income and education.
[2] Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 3. Number of persons in population and percent distribution of persons by number of physician visits in past year, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Characteristic	Population in thousands	Number of visits in past year								
		Total	None	1	2-4	5-12	13-24	25-52	53 or more	Unknown
		Percent distribution								
All persons[1]	209,065	100.0	24.8	21.9	29.8	17.4	3.3	1.4	0.3	1.2
Sex										
Male	100,865	100.0	29.5	23.1	28.2	14.4	2.3	1.0	0.2	1.2
Female	108,199	100.0	20.5	20.8	31.3	20.2	4.2	1.7	0.3	1.1
Age										
Under 5 years	15,933	100.0	11.1	17.5	37.6	28.0	3.1	*0.9	0.1	1.7
5-14 years	37,654	100.0	31.3	27.4	28.2	9.9	1.4	0.7	0.2	0.9
15-24 years	38,679	100.0	26.0	24.1	29.5	15.1	2.9	1.0	0.2	1.2
25-34 years	30,027	100.0	22.4	22.6	31.2	17.5	3.9	1.3	0.3	0.9
35-44 years	22,390	100.0	26.4	23.5	29.1	14.9	3.2	1.6	0.4	0.9
45-54 years	23,531	100.0	26.5	20.9	28.5	17.1	3.6	1.7	0.4	1.2
55-64 years	19,563	100.0	25.2	17.5	28.4	20.6	4.6	2.1	0.4	1.2
65-74 years	13,519	100.0	22.8	14.2	29.1	24.8	5.3	2.2	0.3	1.2
75 years and over	7,768	100.0	18.5	13.0	28.9	29.1	5.3	*2.4	0.3	2.5
Color										
White	181,874	100.0	24.3	22.0	30.2	17.5	3.3	1.3	0.3	1.1
Black	24,396	100.0	28.6	20.6	27.3	16.5	3.3	1.6	0.3	1.8
Family income										
Less than $3,000	14,676	100.0	23.4	17.7	27.9	21.1	5.3	2.3	0.3	2.0
$3,000-$4,999	17,074	100.0	25.5	18.2	27.8	20.5	4.2	1.9	0.4	1.5
$5,000-$6,999	19,602	100.0	27.0	18.9	27.3	19.5	4.0	1.7	0.3	1.4
$7,000-$9,999	25,671	100.0	26.0	20.9	29.0	18.0	3.4	1.4	0.3	1.1
$10,000-$14,999	47,103	100.0	25.0	22.8	30.3	16.5	3.0	1.1	0.3	0.9
$15,000-$24,999	48,872	100.0	22.9	24.2	31.5	16.5	2.6	1.1	0.2	0.8
$25,000 or more	20,996	100.0	21.3	25.1	33.2	15.5	2.7	1.1	0.4	0.7
Education of head of family										
Less than 5 years	8,007	100.0	31.3	16.4	23.5	19.8	4.4	*2.3	0.3	2.0
5-8 years	33,970	100.0	30.9	18.3	25.4	18.1	3.6	1.7	0.3	1.7
9-11 years	34,544	100.0	28.0	21.1	27.7	16.9	3.4	1.4	0.3	1.1
12 years	68,238	100.0	24.2	23.1	30.5	16.7	3.0	1.2	0.3	1.1
13 years or more	61,419	100.0	19.1	23.8	33.8	17.8	3.2	1.2	0.3	0.8
Activity limitation										
Unable to carry on major activity[2]	7,140	100.0	10.8	7.3	22.1	35.1	12.2	7.6	1.9	3.1
Limited in amount or kind of major activity[2]	15,380	100.0	12.4	10.3	27.4	32.1	9.8	5.1	1.2	1.7
Limited, but not in major activity[2]	7,380	100.0	16.1	14.6	31.9	26.4	5.6	3.4	0.8	1.1
Not limited in activity	179,165	100.0	26.8	23.8	30.2	15.0	2.3	0.7	0.1	1.0
Place of residence										
SMSA	143,654	100.0	24.0	21.8	30.2	17.6	3.5	1.5	0.3	1.1
Outside SMSA										
Nonfarm	58,700	100.0	26.2	22.1	29.2	17.1	3.0	1.1	0.2	1.2
Farm	6,710	100.0	31.5	22.3	27.0	14.4	2.6	*0.8	0.2	1.3
Geographic region										
Northeast	49,086	100.0	23.8	22.2	29.7	18.1	3.4	1.5	0.3	1.0
North Central	55,892	100.0	24.6	22.8	29.9	17.2	3.0	1.2	0.3	1.0
South	66,854	100.0	26.1	21.8	29.6	16.4	3.2	1.3	0.3	1.4
West	37,233	100.0	24.2	20.3	30.3	18.4	3.7	1.6	0.4	1.1

[1] Includes color other than white and black and unknown family income and education.
[2] Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 4. Number of physician visits and number of physician visits per person per year, by place of residence, sex, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Sex and age	Place of residence							
	All areas	SMSA	Outside SMSA		All areas	SMSA	Outside SMSA	
			Non-farm	Farm			Non-farm	Farm
	Number of visits in thousands				Number of visits per person per year			
Both sexes								
All ages	1,056,094	761,195	269,704	25,195	5.1	5.3	4.6	3.8
Under 5 years	109,191	78,382	29,518	1,291	6.9	7.2	6.2	3.8
5-14 years	127,372	92,032	33,191	2,149	3.4	3.6	3.1	1.8
15-24 years	171,216	124,478	43,881	2,857	4.4	4.6	4.1	2.5
25-34 years	157,583	119,793	35,689	2,101	5.2	5.6	4.5	3.3
35-44 years	107,455	79,604	25,214	2,636	4.8	5.1	4.2	3.5
45-54 years	127,385	94,360	28,789	4,235	5.4	5.7	4.7	4.7
55-64 years	115,233	79,634	31,318	4,281	5.9	6.0	5.7	4.8
65-74 years	89,171	60,249	25,120	3,802	6.6	7.0	5.8	6.3
75 years and over	51,487	32,663	16,982	1,843	6.6	6.6	6.6	7.1
Male								
All ages	435,256	315,192	110,616	9,448	4.3	4.6	3.9	2.7
Under 5 years	59,559	41,522	17,298	*740	7.3	7.6	6.9	*4.4
5-14 years	68,834	49,450	18,534	*850	3.6	3.8	3.3	*1.4
15-24 years	63,218	47,308	14,945	965	3.3	3.6	2.8	1.5
25-34 years	53,696	42,782	10,331	*583	3.7	4.1	2.7	*1.7
35-44 years	36,934	26,708	9,254	972	3.4	3.6	3.2	2.7
45-54 years	48,057	35,357	11,587	1,113	4.2	4.4	4.0	2.6
55-64 years	49,039	33,516	13,655	1,869	5.3	5.4	5.4	3.9
65-74 years	37,038	25,977	9,441	1,619	6.3	7.2	4.9	5.1
75 years and over	18,880	12,573	5,570	*737	6.5	6.8	6.0	*5.5
Female								
All ages	620,838	446,003	159,088	15,747	5.7	6.0	5.3	4.8
Under 5 years	49,632	36,861	12,221	*551	6.4	6.9	5.5	*3.2
5-14 years	58,538	42,582	14,657	1,299	3.2	3.3	2.9	2.2
15-24 years	107,999	77,170	28,936	1,892	5.5	5.6	5.4	3.8
25-34 years	103,888	77,011	25,359	1,518	6.7	6.9	6.2	5.0
35-44 years	70,521	52,896	15,960	1,664	6.1	6.5	5.1	4.3
45-54 years	79,328	59,003	17,202	3,123	6.5	6.9	5.4	6.7
55-64 years	66,194	46,118	17,663	2,412	6.4	6.6	6.0	5.7
65-74 years	52,133	34,271	15,679	2,182	6.8	7.0	6.4	7.7
75 years and over	32,607	20,090	11,411	1,105	6.7	6.5	7.0	9.0

Table 5. Number of physician visits and number of physician visits per person per year, by geographic region, sex, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Sex and age	Geographic region									
	All regions	North-east	North Central	South	West	All regions	North-east	North Central	South	West
Both sexes	Number of visits in thousands					Number of visits per person per year				
All ages	1,056,094	261,666	262,720	310,848	220,860	5.1	5.3	4.7	4.6	5.9
Under 5 years	109,191	26,954	26,532	34,908	20,798	6.9	7.8	6.2	6.6	7.1
5-14 years	127,372	32,079	33,962	36,000	25,331	3.4	3.7	3.4	2.9	3.8
15-24 years	171,216	41,279	45,001	48,648	36,289	4.4	4.7	4.2	4.0	5.3
25-34 years	157,583	35,544	39,077	46,722	36,240	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.9	6.4
35-44 years	107,455	23,445	28,421	31,454	24,135	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.3	5.9
45-54 years	127,385	32,789	29,118	38,940	26,538	5.4	5.5	4.8	5.2	6.6
55-64 years	115,233	30,372	25,831	31,952	27,077	5.9	6.2	5.1	5.3	7.6
65-74 years	89,171	25,579	21,048	26,828	15,716	6.6	7.5	5.7	6.2	7.3
75 years and over	51,487	13,625	13,729	15,396	8,737	6.6	6.9	6.2	6.5	7.3
Male										
All ages	435,256	107,571	108,211	128,532	90,942	4.3	4.6	4.0	4.0	5.0
Under 5 years	59,559	13,885	15,339	19,998	10,337	7.3	7.9	7.0	7.4	7.1
5-14 years	68,834	17,743	17,989	19,694	13,409	3.6	4.0	3.5	3.1	4.0
15-24 years	63,218	16,220	15,698	16,984	14,315	3.3	3.8	2.9	2.9	4.2
25-34 years	53,696	11,933	12,537	15,392	13,832	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.4	5.1
35-44 years	36,934	8,035	10,865	10,226	7,809	3.4	3.2	3.8	3.0	4.0
45-54 years	48,057	12,260	10,341	15,286	10,169	4.2	4.3	3.5	4.3	5.1
55-64 years	49,039	12,347	11,451	14,298	10,943	5.3	5.4	4.8	5.1	6.3
65-74 years	37,038	10,055	9,098	10,756	7,130	6.3	7.0	5.8	5.7	7.3
75 years or more	18,880	5,092	4,894	5,897	2,998	6.5	6.8	6.1	6.4	6.8
Female										
All ages	620,838	154,095	154,509	182,316	129,918	5.7	6.0	5.4	5.3	6.8
Under 5 years	49,632	13,069	11,193	14,910	10,460	6.4	7.6	5.4	5.8	7.2
5-14 years	58,538	14,336	15,974	16,306	11,922	3.2	3.4	3.3	2.7	3.5
15-24 years	107,999	25,059	29,302	31,663	21,974	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.0	6.3
25-34 years	103,888	23,611	26,540	31,329	22,407	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	7.5
35-44 years	70,521	15,410	17,557	21,228	16,326	6.1	6.0	5.7	5.5	7.6
45-54 years	79,328	20,528	18,777	23,654	16,369	6.5	6.6	6.0	6.1	8.0
55-64 years	66,194	18,025	14,381	17,654	16,134	6.4	6.9	5.4	5.4	8.9
65-74 years	52,133	15,524	11,950	16,072	8,586	6.8	7.9	5.7	6.6	7.4
75 years and over	32,607	8,533	8,835	9,499	5,739	6.7	6.9	6.3	6.5	7.5

Table 6. Number of physician visits, by family income, sex, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Sex and age	Family income							
	All incomes[1]	Less than $3,000	$3,000-$4,999	$5,000-$6,999	$7,000-$9,999	$10,000-$14,999	$15,000-$24,999	$25,000 or more
	Number of visits in thousands							
Both sexes								
All ages	1,056,094	94,290	96,187	105,088	128,209	224,585	240,082	103,609
Under 5 years	109,191	7,145	10,353	10,639	15,893	29,488	25,358	5,584
5-14 years	127,372	6,045	9,697	9,060	12,244	29,676	38,065	15,798
15-24 years	171,216	20,057	12,848	18,482	23,759	34,549	35,240	17,936
25-34 years	157,583	10,243	8,160	12,890	18,150	43,391	45,178	14,241
35-44 years	107,455	5,785	6,422	7,392	11,572	22,598	31,153	15,542
45-54 years	127,385	8,718	8,313	10,020	13,371	26,472	33,954	17,334
55-64 years	115,233	10,818	11,264	12,471	14,869	23,725	21,773	10,961
65-74 years	89,171	14,021	17,911	16,837	13,396	9,477	6,163	3,967
75 years and over	51,487	11,468	11,218	7,298	4,956	5,209	3,198	2,246
Male								
All ages	435,256	30,206	35,252	39,640	52,710	94,683	107,642	47,934
Under 5 years	59,559	3,935	5,140	5,364	9,067	16,056	13,969	3,177
5-14 years	68,834	2,750	5,070	4,818	5,802	16,497	21,840	8,815
15-24 years	63,218	6,075	4,125	6,695	8,051	11,481	14,522	8,272
25-34 years	53,696	4,590	2,615	3,374	5,832	15,139	15,660	4,601
35-44 years	36,934	2,135	1,610	1,723	2,460	8,179	12,638	5,473
45-54 years	48,057	1,624	1,847	2,835	5,179	10,876	13,983	8,317
55-64 years	49,039	3,621	3,425	4,571	6,694	9,990	11,034	5,642
65-74 years	37,038	3,348	6,783	6,861	7,552	4,061	2,917	2,754
75 years and over	18,880	2,128	4,638	3,398	2,072	2,404	1,079	*883
Female								
All ages	620,838	64,085	60,934	65,448	75,499	129,902	132,440	55,674
Under 5 years	49,632	3,210	5,212	5,274	6,826	13,432	11,389	2,407
5-14 years	58,538	3,295	4,627	4,242	6,442	13,179	16,225	6,984
15-24 years	107,999	13,982	8,724	11,787	15,708	23,068	20,718	9,664
25-34 years	103,888	5,654	5,545	9,516	12,318	28,252	29,518	9,640
35-44 years	70,521	3,650	4,812	5,669	9,112	14,420	18,515	10,069
45-54 years	79,328	7,094	6,466	7,185	8,193	15,596	19,971	9,016
55-64 years	66,194	7,197	7,839	7,900	8,175	13,735	10,739	5,319
65-74 years	52,133	10,663	11,129	9,976	5,844	5,416	3,246	1,213
75 years and over	32,607	9,340	6,580	3,900	2,884	2,805	2,119	1,363

[1]Includes unknown income.

Table 7. Number of physician visits per person per year, by family income, sex, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Sex and age	Family income							
	All incomes[1]	Less than $3,000	$3,000-$4,999	$5,000-$6,999	$7,000-$9,999	$10,000-$14,999	$15,000-$24,999	$25,000 or more
	Number of visits per person per year							
Both sexes								
All ages	5.1	6.4	5.6	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.9
Under 5 years	6.9	6.6	7.5	6.2	6.7	6.7	7.6	6.7
5-14 years	3.4	3.2	3.6	2.7	2.7	3.3	3.9	4.0
15-24 years	4.4	5.7	4.2	5.0	4.9	4.1	4.1	4.3
25-34 years	5.2	8.0	5.2	5.4	4.5	5.0	5.4	6.1
35-44 years	4.8	8.6	6.5	5.3	5.2	4.2	4.5	4.7
45-54 years	5.4	9.5	7.4	6.5	5.3	5.2	5.3	4.6
55-64 years	5.9	7.3	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.7	6.1
65-74 years	6.6	6.8	6.6	7.2	7.3	6.7	5.5	7.3
75 years and over	6.6	6.3	6.4	6.7	7.6	7.3	6.6	7.6
Male								
All ages	4.3	5.3	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.4
Under 5 years	7.3	7.4	6.8	6.4	7.8	7.1	8.4	7.0
5-14 years	3.6	2.9	3.8	2.8	2.5	3.6	4.3	4.4
15-24 years	3.3	4.0	2.8	3.9	3.5	2.8	3.3	3.7
25-34 years	3.7	8.5	4.2	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.3
35-44 years	3.4	7.7	4.3	3.0	2.4	3.1	3.6	3.4
45-54 years	4.2	5.3	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.2	4.1
55-64 years	5.3	7.1	6.0	5.6	5.5	4.8	5.3	5.4
65-74 years	6.3	5.4	5.9	6.4	8.3	5.7	5.4	9.4
75 years and over	6.5	4.7	6.2	6.5	7.4	8.0	6.5	8.0
Female								
All ages	5.7	7.1	6.4	6.1	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5
Under 5 years	6.4	5.9	8.4	6.0	5.7	6.3	6.9	6.3
5-14 years	3.2	3.6	3.5	2.6	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.6
15-24 years	5.5	7.1	5.5	5.9	6.0	5.4	4.9	5.1
25-34 years	6.7	7.5	5.9	7.2	6.0	6.7	7.0	7.6
35-44 years	6.1	9.2	7.8	6.9	7.6	5.4	5.4	5.9
45-54 years	6.5	11.5	9.3	7.8	5.8	6.0	6.4	5.2
55-64 years	6.4	7.4	6.4	6.3	5.8	7.0	6.3	6.9
65-74 years	6.8	7.4	7.0	7.9	6.4	7.6	5.5	4.8
75 years and over	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.8	7.8	6.8	6.7	7.4

[1]Includes unknown income.

Table 8. Number of physician visits and number of physician visits per person per year, by color, sex, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Sex and age	Total[1]	White	Black	Total[1]	White	Black
	Number of visits in thousands			Number of visits per person per year		
Both sexes						
All ages	1,056,094	928,878	115,797	5.1	5.1	4.7
Under 5 years	109,191	90,744	15,943	6.9	6.9	6.7
5-14 years	127,372	112,155	13,963	3.4	3.5	2.5
15-24 years	171,216	150,443	19,201	4.4	4.5	3.8
25-34 years	157,583	138,279	17,136	5.2	5.3	5.4
35-44 years	107,455	93,005	13,334	4.8	4.7	5.5
45-54 years	127,385	111,820	14,292	5.4	5.3	6.2
55-64 years	115,233	103,242	11,190	5.9	5.8	6.5
65-74 years	89,171	81,912	6,901	6.6	6.7	5.8
75 years and over	51,487	47,277	3,837	6.6	6.7	6.1
Male						
All ages	435,256	387,546	43,568	4.3	4.4	3.8
Under 5 years	59,559	49,612	8,913	7.3	7.3	7.4
5-14 years	68,834	60,632	7,530	3.6	3.8	2.7
15-24 years	63,218	56,921	6,026	3.3	3.5	2.6
25-34 years	53,696	48,527	4,571	3.7	3.8	3.3
35-44 years	36,934	32,338	4,099	3.4	3.4	4.0
45-54 years	48,057	43,171	4,429	4.2	4.3	4.2
55-64 years	49,039	44,439	4,180	5.3	5.3	5.4
65-74 years	37,038	34,608	2,240	6.3	6.5	4.3
75 years and over	18,880	17,300	1,580	6.5	6.6	6.1
Female						
All ages	620,838	541,331	72,229	5.7	5.8	5.5
Under 5 years	49,632	41,132	7,030	6.4	6.4	6.0
5-14 years	58,538	51,524	6,433	3.2	3.3	2.3
15-24 years	107,999	93,522	13,175	5.5	5.6	5.0
25-34 years	103,888	89,751	12,565	6.7	6.7	7.1
35-44 years	70,521	60,668	9,235	6.1	6.0	6.6
45-54 years	79,328	68,649	9,863	6.5	6.3	7.9
55-64 years	66,194	58,803	7,010	6.4	6.3	7.4
65-74 years	52,133	47,305	4,661	6.8	6.8	7.0
75 years and over	32,607	29,977	2,257	6.7	6.7	6.1

[1]Includes color other than white and black.

Table 9. Number of physician visits and number of physician visits per person per year, by color, family income, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Family income and age	Total[1]	White	Black	Total[1]	White	Black
	Number of visits in thousands			Number of visits per person per year		
All incomes[2]						
All ages	1,056,094	928,878	115,797	5.1	5.1	4.7
Under 15 years	236,563	202,899	29,906	4.4	4.5	3.7
15-44 years	436,255	381,727	49,671	4.8	4.8	4.7
45-64 years	242,618	215,062	25,483	5.6	5.6	6.4
65 years and over	140,658	129,190	10,738	6.6	6.7	5.9
Less than $5,000						
All ages	190,477	144,155	44,525	6.0	6.1	5.7
Under 15 years	33,240	20,788	12,106	4.7	4.9	4.6
15-44 years	63,515	47,323	15,471	5.7	5.9	5.5
45-64 years	39,113	28,896	9,820	7.4	7.2	7.8
65 years and over	54,610	47,147	7,128	6.5	6.5	6.4
$5,000-$9,999						
All ages	233,297	198,450	32,842	5.2	5.2	4.9
Under 15 years	47,836	38,101	8,842	4.0	4.0	3.6
15-44 years	92,245	76,099	15,231	5.0	4.9	5.3
45-64 years	50,731	43,867	6,713	5.8	5.7	6.6
65 years and over	42,486	40,384	2,056	7.2	7.3	5.7
$10,000 or more						
All ages	568,276	533,491	27,564	4.9	4.9	3.7
Under 15 years	143,969	134,895	6,697	4.6	4.7	3.0
15-44 years	259,827	242,386	14,426	4.6	4.7	3.8
45-64 years	134,219	127,087	5,652	5.4	5.4	4.6
65 years and over	30,260	29,123	*789	6.6	6.6	*5.4

[1]Includes color other than white and black.
[2]Includes unknown income.

Table 10. Number of physician visits, by education of head of family, sex, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Sex and age	Education of head of family					
	All educational levels[1]	Less than 5 years	5-8 years	9-11 years	12 years	13 years or more
	Number of visits in thousands					
Both sexes						
All ages	1,056,094	38,664	166,286	169,061	334,252	335,496
Under 5 years	109,191	1,617	9,500	16,855	39,772	40,270
5-14 years	127,372	2,863	11,495	21,597	42,487	47,893
15-24 years	171,216	3,043	15,673	27,601	64,066	58,409
25-34 years	157,583	2,404	11,155	20,415	54,319	68,524
35-44 years	107,455	2,537	12,840	17,881	36,843	36,267
45-54 years	127,385	4,982	22,802	24,086	40,036	33,928
55-64 years	115,233	6,792	29,773	21,526	29,744	25,299
65-74 years	89,171	8,193	33,084	12,482	18,432	15,953
75 years and over	51,487	6,233	19,964	6,618	8,553	8,952
Male						
All ages	435,256	14,888	66,546	67,336	135,659	146,831
Under 5 years	59,559	*758	5,237	10,092	21,433	21,530
5-14 years	68,834	1,238	6,234	10,741	23,222	27,142
15-24 years	63,218	951	6,529	10,244	22,479	22,509
25-34 years	53,696	*787	3,560	6,182	18,088	24,892
35-44 years	36,934	*550	4,261	4,610	13,447	13,771
45-54 years	48,057	1,604	8,006	8,743	14,446	14,900
55-64 years	49,039	3,407	11,715	8,433	12,699	11,896
65-74 years	37,038	2,952	13,494	6,106	7,171	6,937
75 years and over	18,880	2,642	7,510	2,185	2,674	3,255
Female						
All ages	620,838	23,776	99,740	101,725	198,593	188,665
Under 5 years	49,632	*859	4,263	6,763	18,339	18,741
5-14 years	58,538	1,625	5,261	10,856	19,265	20,751
15-24 years	107,999	2,092	9,144	17,357	41,587	35,900
25-34 years	103,888	1,617	7,594	14,233	36,230	43,632
35-44 years	70,521	1,987	8,579	13,270	23,397	22,497
45-54 years	79,328	3,378	14,797	15,343	25,590	19,028
55-64 years	66,194	3,385	18,058	13,092	17,045	13,402
65-74 years	52,133	5,241	19,590	6,376	11,261	9,016
75 years and over	32,607	3,592	12,454	4,434	5,878	5,698

[1]Includes unknown education.

Table 11. Number of physician visits per person per year, by education of head of family, sex, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Sex and age	Education of head of family					
	All educational levels[1]	Less than 5 years	5-8 years	9-11 years	12 years	13 years or more
	Number of visits per person per year					
Both sexes						
All ages	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.5
Under 5 years	6.9	4.0	5.8	6.1	6.7	7.9
5-14 years	3.4	2.4	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.4
15-24 years	4.4	2.6	3.1	4.2	4.6	5.0
25-34 years	5.2	4.9	4.7	5.2	5.2	5.5
35-44 years	4.8	4.1	4.6	5.1	4.7	4.9
45-54 years	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.8	5.3	5.3
55-64 years	5.9	6.3	5.9	6.1	5.5	6.1
65-74 years	6.6	6.9	6.9	5.5	6.8	6.9
75 years and over	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.4	7.3
Male						
All ages	4.3	3.8	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.8
Under 5 years	7.3	*3.7	6.5	7.0	7.1	8.3
5-14 years	3.6	2.0	2.4	3.1	3.5	4.9
15-24 years	3.3	1.5	2.5	3.2	3.4	4.0
25-34 years	3.7	*3.1	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.9
35-44 years	3.4	*2.0	3.3	2.9	3.6	3.7
45-54 years	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.0	4.5
55-64 years	5.3	6.7	5.1	5.2	4.9	6.0
65-74 years	6.3	5.6	6.2	5.9	6.8	7.2
75 years and over	6.5	6.0	6.3	6.5	6.3	7.9
Female						
All ages	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.6	6.1
Under 5 years	6.4	*4.3	5.1	5.2	6.3	7.5
5-14 years	3.2	2.8	2.0	3.2	3.0	3.8
15-24 years	5.5	4.0	3.8	5.2	5.7	6.0
25-34 years	6.7	6.8	5.8	6.6	6.5	7.2
35-44 years	6.1	5.9	5.7	7.0	5.8	6.1
45-54 years	6.5	6.8	6.6	6.9	6.4	6.3
55-64 years	6.4	6.0	6.6	6.9	6.1	6.3
65-74 years	6.8	7.9	7.5	5.2	6.9	6.7
75 years and over	6.7	7.2	6.9	6.5	6.4	6.9

[1]Includes unknown education.

Table 12. Number of physician visits, by education of head of family, family income, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Family income and age	Education of head of family					
	All educational levels[1]	Less than 5 years	5-8 years	9-11 years	12 years	13 years or more
	Number of visits in thousands					
All incomes[2]						
All ages	1,056,094	38,664	166,286	169,061	334,252	335,496
Under 15 years	236,563	4,481	20,995	38,452	82,259	88,163
15-44 years	436,255	7,983	39,668	65,896	155,228	163,200
45-64 years	242,618	11,773	52,575	45,612	69,780	59,227
65 years and over	140,658	14,427	53,047	19,101	26,985	24,906
Less than $5,000						
All ages	190,477	20,043	59,521	43,203	40,038	25,062
Under 15 years	33,240	1,868	7,995	11,945	8,053	3,050
15-44 years	63,515	2,893	10,044	15,622	17,609	16,436
45-64 years	39,113	6,233	13,494	8,493	8,034	2,480
65 years and over	54,610	9,050	27,987	7,143	6,342	3,096
$5,000-$9,999						
All ages	233,297	9,728	50,883	46,328	78,785	45,476
Under 15 years	47,836	1,518	5,880	10,186	21,238	8,532
15-44 years	92,245	2,540	11,443	17,207	36,252	23,970
45-64 years	50,731	2,646	17,412	12,248	11,977	6,085
65 years and over	42,486	3,025	16,148	6,687	9,318	6,889
$10,000 or more						
All ages	568,276	5,514	43,705	68,088	197,028	250,155
Under 15 years	143,969	*910	5,632	13,719	50,251	72,637
15-44 years	259,827	1,978	15,235	29,526	94,719	117,139
45-64 years	134,219	1,843	18,288	21,462	43,817	47,426
65 years and over	30,260	*783	4,550	3,382	8,241	12,953

[1]Includes unknown education.
[2]Includes unknown family income.

Table 13. Number of physician visits per person per year, by education of head of family, family income, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Family income and age	Education of head of family					
	All educational levels[1]	Less than 5 years	5-8 years	9-11 years	12 years	13 years or more
	Number of visits per person per year					
All incomes[2]						
All ages	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.5
Under 15 years	4.4	2.8	3.1	4.0	4.3	5.5
15-44 years	4.8	3.5	3.9	4.7	4.8	5.2
45-64 years	5.6	5.9	5.7	5.9	5.4	5.7
65 years and over	6.6	6.7	6.8	5.8	6.7	7.0
Less than $5,000						
All ages	6.0	5.7	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.2
Under 15 years	4.7	3.0	4.5	5.2	4.6	6.1
15-44 years	5.7	4.0	5.2	6.3	5.6	6.2
45-64 years	7.4	7.7	6.8	7.5	8.8	6.8
65 years and over	6.5	6.5	7.0	5.9	6.4	5.6
$5,000-$9,999						
All ages	5.2	4.4	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.9
Under 15 years	4.0	3.0	2.5	3.5	4.7	5.2
15-44 years	5.0	3.8	3.8	4.7	5.2	5.8
45-64 years	5.8	4.4	6.1	6.7	5.2	5.9
65 years and over	7.2	7.3	7.5	5.9	7.6	7.6
$10,000 or more						
All ages	4.9	3.9	4.0	4.4	4.7	5.4
Under 15 years	4.6	*2.7	2.6	3.5	4.3	5.6
15-44 years	4.6	3.1	3.5	4.2	4.6	5.1
45-64 years	5.4	5.8	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.7
65 years and over	6.6	*6.6	5.4	5.4	6.3	7.8

[1]Includes unknown education.
[2]Includes unknown family income.

Table 14. Number of physician visits, by activity limitation, sex, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Sex and age	Activity limitation				
	Total population	Not limited in activity	Limited, but not in major activity[1]	Limited in amount or kind of major activity[1]	Unable to carry on major activity[1]
	Number of visits in thousands				
Both sexes					
All ages	1,056,094	751,857	54,276	161,064	88,897
Under 5 years	109,191	103,481	*	4,208	1,502
5-14 years	127,372	110,692	8,258	8,279	*143
15-24 years	171,216	146,747	8,933	11,895	3,642
25-34 years	157,583	127,482	8,329	16,620	5,153
35-44 years	107,455	75,338	5,682	20,024	6,412
45-54 years	127,385	76,795	8,021	28,696	13,873
55-64 years	115,233	58,400	7,222	30,245	19,367
65-74 years	89,171	35,581	4,917	26,803	21,870
75 years and over	51,487	17,340	2,915	14,296	16,936
Male					
All ages	435,256	310,930	21,894	44,055	58,377
Under 5 years	59,559	56,443	-	2,389	*726
5-14 years	68,834	60,175	4,085	4,431	*143
15-24 years	63,218	54,008	3,287	3,531	2,391
25-34 years	53,696	40,796	3,577	5,715	3,607
35-44 years	36,934	26,697	2,642	4,522	3,073
45-54 years	48,057	30,489	3,198	5,799	8,571
55-64 years	49,039	23,529	3,239	8,079	14,192
65-74 years	37,038	13,730	1,112	6,615	15,582
75 years and over	18,880	5,062	*754	2,973	10,091
Female					
All ages	620,838	440,927	32,382	117,009	30,520
Under 5 years	49,632	47,038	-	1,818	*776
5-14 years	58,538	50,517	4,172	3,848	-
15-24 years	107,999	92,739	5,646	8,364	1,250
25-34 years	103,888	86,686	4,752	10,904	1,545
35-44 years	70,521	48,641	3,040	15,501	3,339
45-54 years	79,328	46,306	4,823	22,897	5,302
55-64 years	66,194	34,871	3,982	22,166	5,174
65-74 years	52,133	21,852	3,805	20,188	6,288
75 years and over	32,607	12,278	2,162	11,322	6,845

[1]Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 15. Number of physician visits per person per year, by activity limitation, sex, and age: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Sex and age	Activity limitation				
	Total population	Not limited in activity	Limited, but not in major activity[1]	Limited in amount or kind of major activity[1]	Unable to carry on major activity[1]
	Number of visits per person per year				
Both sexes					
All ages	5.1	4.2	7.4	10.5	12.5
Under 5 years	6.9	6.6	*	15.8	20.6
5-14 years	3.4	3.1	9.6	12.8	*6.8
15-24 years	4.4	4.0	7.8	12.3	15.1
25-34 years	5.2	4.7	8.0	12.9	16.1
35-44 years	4.8	3.9	6.8	12.5	15.8
45-54 years	5.4	4.0	7.2	11.2	17.5
55-64 years	5.9	4.2	6.9	9.8	12.0
65-74 years	6.6	4.5	6.4	9.0	11.6
75 years and over	6.6	5.0	5.3	7.2	9.5
Male					
All ages	4.3	3.6	6.2	7.9	11.1
Under 5 years	7.3	7.1	-	15.3	*17.7
5-14 years	3.6	3.3	8.5	11.4	*8.9
15-24 years	3.3	3.1	5.2	7.7	14.2
25-34 years	3.7	3.1	6.2	9.2	15.2
35-44 years	3.4	2.8	5.9	7.7	9.8
45-54 years	4.2	3.3	6.4	6.4	13.8
55-64 years	5.3	3.7	7.0	7.5	10.8
65-74 years	6.3	4.3	4.5	7.1	10.4
75 years and over	6.5	4.2	*4.4	6.3	9.4
Female					
All ages	5.7	4.8	8.4	12.0	16.3
Under 5 years	6.4	6.1	-	16.4	*24.3
5-14 years	3.2	2.8	10.9	14.7	-
15-24 years	5.5	5.0	10.9	16.5	17.1
25-34 years	6.7	6.1	10.2	16.4	18.4
35-44 years	6.1	4.8	7.7	15.2	35.5
45-54 years	6.5	4.7	7.9	13.8	30.5
55-64 years	6.4	4.7	6.8	11.0	17.0
65-74 years	6.8	4.7	7.2	9.9	15.8
75 years and over	6.7	5.5	5.6	7.5	9.7

[1]Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 16. Number of physician visits, by place of visit and selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Characteristic	Place of visit						
	Total	Office (including prepaid group)	Home	Hospital clinic or emergency room	Company or industry health unit	Telephone[1]	Other and unknown
	Number of visits in thousands						
All persons[2]	1,056,094	717,746	8,217	136,585	9,175	131,911	52,461
Sex							
Male	435,256	287,032	2,666	64,846	7,620	49,305	23,787
Female	620,838	430,714	5,550	71,739	1,555	82,606	28,674
Age							
Under 5 years	109,191	62,690	*386	15,386	*-	24,240	6,491
5-14 years	127,372	82,783	*740	18,497	*-	19,802	5,550
15-24 years	171,216	109,269	*781	25,610	1,989	20,115	13,451
25-34 years	157,583	105,738	*146	20,881	3,217	19,893	7,709
35-44 years	107,455	74,023	*270	14,247	1,732	12,407	4,777
45-54 years	127,385	90,966	979	15,794	1,209	12,685	5,751
55-64 years	115,233	85,074	*806	13,477	*935	10,774	4,166
65-74 years	89,171	67,757	*912	9,442	*93	7,440	3,527
75 years and over	51,487	39,447	3,196	3,250	*-	4,555	1,040
Color							
White	928,878	640,591	7,762	108,543	7,867	123,148	40,967
Black	115,797	68,220	*454	26,907	1,308	7,919	10,989
Family income							
Less than $3,000	94,290	59,444	*905	16,705	*193	8,179	8,865
$3,000-$4,999	96,187	62,979	1,275	15,632	*450	9,222	6,627
$5,000-$6,999	105,088	69,993	1,392	17,018	*666	9,723	6,296
$7,000-$9,999	128,209	84,501	*709	19,761	1,214	15,737	6,288
$10,000-$14,999	224,585	154,119	980	28,079	2,919	30,221	8,268
$15,000 or more	343,691	241,569	2,170	30,746	3,495	52,918	12,793
Education of head of family							
Less than 9 years	204,950	146,087	2,390	29,246	1,157	15,942	10,128
9-11 years	169,061	111,483	*716	28,212	1,844	17,776	9,029
12 years	334,252	227,484	2,379	43,912	3,500	42,104	14,873
13-15 years	157,723	104,404	*724	16,610	1,032	25,399	9,554
16 years or more	177,773	120,279	1,781	16,441	1,595	29,500	8,177
Activity limitation							
Unable to carry on major activity[3]	88,897	54,347	1,713	17,073	*48	10,306	5,411
Limited in amount or kind of major activity[3]	161,064	108,495	1,893	21,723	1,459	20,368	7,125
Limited, but not in major activity[3]	54,276	37,367	*532	6,262	*279	7,024	2,812
Not limited in activity	751,857	517,537	4,078	91,527	7,389	94,212	37,113
Place of residence							
SMSA	761,195	504,104	5,610	104,425	7,907	99,243	39,906
Outside SMSA							
Nonfarm	269,704	193,296	2,279	30,629	1,129	30,567	11,804
Farm	25,195	20,346	*328	1,530	*138	2,101	*751
Geographic region							
Northeast	261,666	168,524	3,630	38,838	2,568	34,365	13,742
North Central	262,720	180,934	2,073	30,907	2,928	36,837	9,041
South	310,848	213,882	2,220	39,457	2,301	33,112	19,875
West	220,860	154,406	*294	27,383	1,378	27,596	9,803

[1]Does not include calls for appointments and other nonmedical purposes.
[2]Includes color other than white and black and unknown income and education.
[3]Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 17. Percent distribution of physician visits by place of visit, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Characteristic	Place of visit						
	Total	Office (including prepaid group)	Home	Hospital clinic or emergency room	Company or industry health unit	Telephone[1]	Other and unknown
	Percent distribution						
All persons[2]	100.0	68.0	0.8	12.9	0.9	12.5	5.0
Sex							
Male	100.0	65.9	0.6	14.9	1.8	11.3	5.5
Female	100.0	69.4	0.9	11.6	0.3	13.3	4.6
Age							
Under 5 years	100.0	57.4	*0.4	14.1	*-	22.2	5.9
5-14 years	100.0	65.0	*0.6	14.5	*-	15.5	4.4
15-24 years	100.0	63.8	*0.5	15.0	1.2	11.7	7.9
25-34 years	100.0	67.1	*0.1	13.3	2.0	12.6	4.9
35-44 years	100.0	68.9	*0.3	13.3	1.6	11.5	4.4
45-54 years	100.0	71.4	0.8	12.4	0.9	10.0	4.5
55-64 years	100.0	73.8	*0.7	11.7	*0.8	9.3	3.6
65-74 years	100.0	76.0	*1.0	10.6	*0.1	8.3	4.0
75 years and over	100.0	76.6	6.2	6.3	*-	8.8	2.0
Color							
White	100.0	69.0	0.8	11.7	0.8	13.3	4.4
Black	100.0	58.9	*0.4	23.2	1.1	6.8	9.5
Family income							
Less than $3,000	100.0	63.0	*1.0	17.7	*0.2	8.7	9.4
$3,000-$4,999	100.0	65.5	1.3	16.3	*0.5	9.6	6.9
$5,000-$6,999	100.0	66.6	1.3	16.2	*0.6	9.3	6.0
$7,000-$9,999	100.0	65.9	*0.6	15.4	0.9	12.3	4.9
$10,000-$14,999	100.0	68.6	0.4	12.5	1.3	13.5	3.7
$15,000 or more	100.0	70.3	0.6	8.9	1.0	15.4	3.7
Education of head of family							
Less than 9 years	100.0	71.3	1.2	14.3	0.6	7.8	4.9
9-11 years	100.0	65.9	*0.4	16.7	1.1	10.5	5.3
12 years	100.0	68.1	0.7	13.1	1.0	12.6	4.4
13-15 years	100.0	66.2	*0.5	10.5	0.7	16.1	6.1
16 years or more	100.0	67.7	1.0	9.2	0.9	16.6	4.6
Activity limitation							
Unable to carry on major activity[3]	100.0	61.1	1.9	19.2	*0.1	11.6	6.1
Limited in amount or kind of major activity[3]	100.0	67.4	1.2	13.5	0.9	12.6	4.4
Limited, but not in major activity[3]	100.0	68.8	*1.0	11.5	*0.5	12.9	5.2
Not limited in activity	100.0	68.8	0.5	12.2	1.0	12.5	4.9
Place of residence							
SMSA	100.0	66.2	0.7	13.7	1.0	13.0	5.2
Outside SMSA							
Nonfarm	100.0	71.7	0.8	11.4	0.4	11.3	4.4
Farm	100.0	80.8	*1.3	6.1	*0.5	8.3	*3.0
Geographic region							
Northeast	100.0	64.4	1.4	14.8	1.0	13.1	5.3
North Central	100.0	68.9	0.8	11.8	1.1	14.0	3.4
South	100.0	68.8	0.7	12.7	0.7	10.7	6.4
West	100.0	69.9	*0.1	12.4	0.6	12.5	4.4

[1]Does not include calls for appointments and other nonmedical purposes.
[2]Includes color other than white and black and unknown income and education.
[3]Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 18. Number and percent distribution of physician visits by place of visit, according to type of physician: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Type of physician	Place of visit						
	Total	Office (including prepaid group)	Home	Hospital clinic or emergency room	Company or industry health unit	Telephone[1]	Other and unknown
	Number of visits in thousands						
Total	1,056,094	717,746	8,217	136,585	9,175	131,911	52,461
General practitioner	532,110	374,871	4,959	60,355	7,053	62,939	21,932
Osteopath	3,327	2,922	*61	*82	-	*127	*136
Dermatologist	18,273	16,112	-	1,055	*59	*916	*131
Internist	105,428	74,793	*679	9,414	*240	16,641	3,659
Obstetrician/gynecologist	75,090	55,715	*46	4,986	*89	11,857	2,398
Ophthalmologist	22,638	19,542	*198	1,814	*93	*388	*604
Orthopedist	35,863	24,574	*29	7,256	*56	2,306	1,643
Otolaryngologist	18,379	15,128	-	2,182	-	*748	*321
Pediatrician	102,223	64,597	*535	7,813	-	25,797	3,482
Psychiatrist	13,410	8,947	*44	1,785	-	*817	1,817
Radiologist	10,536	2,665	*46	6,738	*44	*410	*633
Surgeon, not elsewhere classified	33,946	26,117	*279	4,524	*47	2,478	*501
Urologist	13,187	8,363	-	2,200	-	1,487	1,137
Other medical specialists	32,251	14,508	*434	9,617	*498	3,318	3,876
Unknown	39,434	8,892	*908	16,765	996	1,681	10,192
	Percent distribution						
Total	100.0	68.0	0.8	12.9	0.9	12.5	5.0
General practitioner	100.0	70.4	0.9	11.3	1.3	11.8	4.1
Osteopath	100.0	87.8	*1.8	*2.5	0.0	*3.8	*4.1
Dermatologist	100.0	88.2	0.0	5.8	*0.3	*5.0	*0.7
Internist	100.0	70.9	*0.6	8.9	*0.2	15.8	3.5
Obstetrician/gynecologist	100.0	74.2	*0.1	6.6	*0.1	15.8	3.2
Ophthalmologist	100.0	86.3	*0.9	8.0	*0.4	*1.7	*2.7
Orthopedist	100.0	68.5	*0.1	20.2	*0.2	6.4	4.6
Otolaryngologist	100.0	82.3	0.0	11.9	0.0	*4.1	*1.7
Pediatrician	100.0	63.2	*0.5	7.6	0.0	25.2	3.4
Psychiatrist	100.0	66.7	*0.3	13.3	0.0	*6.1	13.5
Radiologist	100.0	25.3	*0.4	64.0	*0.4	*3.9	*6.0
Surgeon, not elsewhere classified	100.0	76.9	*0.8	13.3	*0.1	7.3	*1.5
Urologist	100.0	63.4	0.0	16.7	0.0	11.3	8.6
Other medical specialists	100.0	45.0	*1.3	29.8	*1.5	10.3	12.0
Unknown	100.0	22.5	*2.3	42.5	2.5	4.3	25.8

[1]Does not include calls for appointments and other nonmedical purposes.

Table 19. Number of physician visits, by type of service and selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Characteristic	Type of service					
	All visits[1]	Diagnosis and treatment	Pre- and post-natal care	General checkup	Immunization and vaccination	Other
	Number of visits in thousands					
All persons[2]	1,056,094	896,706	32,221	89,133	22,207	29,095
Sex						
Male	435,256	378,856	...	38,730	11,076	11,220
Female	620,838	517,849	32,221	50,403	11,132	17,875
Age						
Under 5 years	109,191	86,929	...	13,957	9,799	2,328
5-14 years	127,372	110,464	...	10,975	4,578	2,835
15-24 years	171,216	132,624	17,876	15,571	1,671	5,508
25-34 years	157,583	126,679	12,966	13,792	1,301	4,427
35-44 years	107,455	93,200	1,379	9,039	*594	3,752
45-54 years	127,385	113,145	...	9,731	1,590	3,820
55-64 years	115,233	105,401	...	6,597	*907	3,424
65-74 years	89,171	81,258	...	5,560	1,052	2,502
75 years and over	51,487	47,007	...	3,910	*716	*500
Color						
White	928,878	788,856	27,369	78,681	18,894	26,226
Black	115,797	98,590	4,597	9,256	2,781	2,395
Family income						
Less than $3,000	94,290	83,838	2,433	5,412	1,428	1,820
$3,000-$4,999	96,187	85,458	1,668	6,464	1,678	2,172
$5,000-$6,999	105,088	91,393	3,371	7,534	1,620	2,915
$7,000-$9,999	128,209	107,810	5,789	9,832	3,276	3,018
$10,000-$14,999	224,585	188,267	9,130	18,312	5,906	6,587
$15,000-$24,999	240,082	200,134	6,369	23,658	5,022	7,754
$25,000 or more	103,609	85,961	1,858	11,610	1,996	3,382
Education of head of family						
Less than 5 years	38,664	35,939	*631	1,427	*163	*762
5-8 years	166,286	151,513	2,170	8,225	2,441	3,274
9-11 years	169,061	147,765	4,426	11,869	3,134	3,367
12 years	334,252	276,113	13,249	31,816	7,742	10,557
13 years or more	335,496	274,557	11,377	34,941	8,462	11,001
Activity limitation						
Unable to carry on major activity[3]	88,897	84,127	*276	1,934	*530	2,599
Limited in amount or kind of major activity[3]	161,064	151,563	1,481	4,555	1,510	3,341
Limited, but not in major activity[3]	54,276	49,515	*526	2,825	*620	1,455
Not limited in activity	751,857	611,500	29,937	79,818	19,546	21,700
Place of residence						
SMSA	761,195	646,503	22,564	66,381	15,048	21,290
Outside SMSA						
Nonfarm	269,704	228,823	9,001	21,256	6,480	6,729
Farm	25,195	21,380	*656	1,496	*679	1,076
Geographic region						
Northeast	261,666	223,006	6,048	24,135	5,140	7,367
North Central	262,720	222,468	8,324	21,859	5,876	6,951
South	310,848	260,590	11,417	26,740	7,141	7,939
West	220,860	190,641	6,432	16,399	4,050	6,837

[1]This total may be less than the sum of visits by type of service because 1 visit may involve more than 1 type of service.
[2]Includes color other than white and black and unknown family income and education.
[3]Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 20. Percent distribution of physician visits by type of service, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Characteristic	Type of service					
	All visits[1]	Diagnosis and treatment	Pre- and postnatal care	General checkup	Immunization and vaccination	Other
	Percent distribution					
All persons[2]	100.0	84.9	3.1	8.4	2.1	2.8
Sex						
Male	100.0	87.0	...	8.9	2.5	2.6
Female	100.0	83.4	5.2	8.1	1.8	2.9
Age						
Under 5 years	100.0	79.6	...	12.8	9.0	2.1
5-14 years	100.0	86.7	...	8.6	3.6	2.2
15-24 years	100.0	77.5	10.4	9.1	1.0	3.2
25-34 years	100.0	80.4	8.2	8.8	0.8	2.8
35-44 years	100.0	86.7	1.3	8.4	*0.6	3.5
45-54 years	100.0	88.8	...	7.6	1.2	3.0
55-64 years	100.0	91.5	...	5.7	*0.8	3.0
65-74 years	100.0	91.1	...	6.2	1.2	2.8
75 years and over	100.0	91.3	...	7.6	*1.4	*1.0
Color						
White	100.0	84.9	2.9	8.5	2.0	2.8
Black	100.0	85.1	4.0	8.0	2.4	2.1
Family income						
Less than $3,000	100.0	88.9	2.6	5.7	1.5	1.9
$3,000-$4,999	100.0	88.8	1.7	6.7	1.7	2.3
$5,000-$6,999	100.0	87.0	3.2	7.2	1.5	2.8
$7,000-$9,999	100.0	84.1	4.5	7.7	2.6	2.4
$10,000-$14,999	100.0	83.8	4.1	8.2	2.6	2.9
$15,000-$24,999	100.0	83.4	2.7	9.9	2.1	3.2
$25,000 or more	100.0	83.0	1.8	11.2	1.9	3.3
Education of head of family						
Less than 5 years	100.0	93.0	*1.6	3.7	*0.4	*2.0
5-8 years	100.0	91.1	1.3	4.9	1.5	2.0
9-11 years	100.0	87.4	2.6	7.0	1.9	2.0
12 years	100.0	82.6	4.0	9.5	2.3	3.2
13 years or more	100.0	81.8	3.4	10.4	2.5	3.3
Activity limitation						
Unable to carry on major activity[3]	100.0	94.6	*0.3	2.2	*0.6	2.9
Limited in amount or kind of major activity[3]	100.0	94.1	0.9	2.8	0.9	2.1
Limited, but not in major activity[3]	100.0	91.2	*1.0	5.2	*1.1	2.7
Not limited in activity	100.0	81.3	4.0	10.6	2.6	2.9
Place of residence						
SMSA	100.0	84.9	3.0	8.7	2.0	2.8
Outside SMSA						
Nonfarm	100.0	84.8	3.3	7.9	2.4	2.5
Farm	100.0	84.9	*2.6	5.9	*2.7	4.3
Geographic region						
Northeast	100.0	85.2	2.3	9.2	2.0	2.8
North Central	100.0	84.7	3.2	8.3	2.2	2.6
South	100.0	83.8	3.7	8.6	2.3	2.6
West	100.0	86.3	2.9	7.4	1.8	3.1

[1]The sum of percentages by type of service may be greater than 100.0 because 1 visit may involve more than 1 type of service.
[2]Includes color other than white and black and unknown family income and education.
[3]Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 21. Number and percent distribution of physician visits for diagnosis and treatment, by condition causing visit: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Condition group and ICDA, 8th revision, code numbers	Number of visits in thousands	Percent distribution
All visits for diagnosis and treatment	896,706	100.0
All chronic conditions	453,920	50.6
Infective and parasitic diseases 000-136	6,119	0.7
Malignant neoplasms 140-209	17,569	2.0
Benign and unspecified neoplasms 210-239	9,849	1.1
Diseases of thyroid gland 240-246	4,294	0.5
Diabetes 250	19,407	2.2
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs 280-289	6,398	0.7
Mental and nervous conditions 290-309, 780.6, 781.5, 785.6, 786.2, 790.0, 790.2	27,790	3.1
Heart conditions 390-398, 402, 404, 410-429, 782.1, 782.2, 782.4	33,953	3.8
Hypertensive disease (without heart involvement) 400, 401, 403	39,331	4.4
Other conditions of circulatory system 430-458, 782.0, 782.3, 782.5-782.9	15,694	1.8
Chronic bronchitis 490, 491	2,098	0.2
Emphysema 492	3,709	0.4
Asthma (with or without hay fever) 493	28,199	3.1
Hay fever 507	17,981	2.0
Chronic sinusitis 503	5,077	0.6
Other conditions of respiratory system 470-486, 500-502, 504-506, 508-519, 783	7,588	0.8
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum 531-534	5,596	0.6
Hernia of abdominal cavity 550-553	4,280	0.5
Other diseases of digestive system 520-530, 535-543, 560-577, 784, 785	17,507	2.0
Diseases of kidney and ureter 581-584, 590-593	6,977	0.8
Other diseases of urinary system 594-599, 786.0, 786.1, 786.3-786.7, 789	4,871	0.5
Diseases of genital organs 600-629	14,223	1.6
Chronic and allergic skin diseases 680-709	29,729	3.3
Arthritis and chronic rheumatism 710-718	24,022	2.7
Other musculoskeletal disorders 720-723, 725-734	10,969	1.2
Orthopedic impairments (excluding paralysis and absence)[1]	22,461	2.5
Other impairments[1]	11,528	1.3
Other chronic conditions ..... All other codes which may be chronic	56,699	6.3
All acute conditions	394,479	44.0
Common childhood diseases 033, 052, 055, 056, 072	3,728	0.4
The virus, not otherwise specified 079.9	12,070	1.3
Other infective and parasitic diseases 000-032, 034-051, 053, 054, 057-071, 073-136	26,643	3.0
Common cold 460	41,917	4.7
Other acute upper respiratory conditions 461-465, 501, 508	25,244	2.8
Influenza-like illness 470-474	47,736	5.3
Other acute respiratory conditions 466, 480-486, 510-516, 519, 783	20,487	2.3
Digestive system conditions 520.6-521.5, 521.7-523.9, 525-530, 535-543, 560, 561, 564-577, 784, 785	13,256	1.5
Fractures and dislocations N800-N839	22,146	2.5
Sprains and strains N840-N848	21,304	2.4
Open wounds and lacerations N870, N872-N884, N890-N894, N900-N907	25,977	2.9
Contusions and superficial injuries N910-N929	13,960	1.6
Other current injuries N850-N869, N930-N994, N996-N999	22,564	2.5
Diseases of the ear 380-387, 745.0-745.3, 781.3	21,080	2.4
Genitourinary disorders 580-629, 786, 789	20,114	2.2
Diseases of the skin 680-709	8,601	1.0
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system 717-733, 787	11,339	1.3
Other acute conditions ..... Other acute rubrics	36,313	4.0
No condition reported	48,307	5.4

[1] Impairments are not classified by type in the ICDA.

Table 22. Number and percent distribution of physician visits for diagnosis and treatment by condition causing visit, according to place of visit: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in appendix I. Definitions of terms are given in appendix II]

Condition group[1]	Place of visit			
	Total[2]	Office (including prepaid group)	Hospital clinic or emergency room	Telephone[3]
	Number			
Number of visits for diagnosis and treatment	896,706	595,217	123,161	125,174
	Percent distribution			
All visits for diagnosis and treatment	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All chronic conditions	50.6	55.5	43.9	34.2
Infective and parasitic diseases	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.5
Malignant neoplasms	2.0	1.5	5.7	1.0
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.6
Diseases of thyroid gland	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3
Diabetes	2.2	2.4	1.9	1.7
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.5
Mental and nervous conditions	3.1	3.2	2.6	2.5
Heart conditions	3.8	4.4	2.4	2.4
Hypertensive disease (without heart involvement)	4.4	5.5	2.5	1.1
Other conditions of circulatory system	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.2
Chronic bronchitis	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3
Emphysema	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4
Asthma (with or without hay fever)	3.1	3.5	2.4	2.6
Hay fever	2.0	2.4	0.8	1.4
Chronic sinusitis	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.5
Other conditions of respiratory system	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6
Hernia of abdominal cavity	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.2
Other diseases of digestive system	2.0	1.9	1.6	2.5
Diseases of kidney and ureter	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.9
Other diseases of urinary system	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.4
Diseases of genital organs	1.6	1.8	0.7	1.6
Chronic and allergic skin diseases	3.3	3.9	1.7	2.3
Arthritis and chronic rheumatism	2.7	3.2	1.6	1.5
Other musculoskeletal disorders	1.2	1.3	1.4	0.6
Orthopedic impairments (excluding paralysis and absence)	2.5	2.7	2.5	1.4
Other impairments	1.3	1.3	1.9	0.5
Other chronic conditions	6.3	6.7	5.9	4.4
All acute conditions	44.0	38.9	51.5	61.3
Common childhood diseases	0.4	0.3	0.2	1.4
The virus, not otherwise specified	1.3	1.1	1.0	3.0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	3.0	2.6	2.7	5.0
Common cold	4.7	4.0	3.0	9.7
Other acute upper respiratory conditions	2.8	2.8	1.9	4.2
Influenza-like illness	5.3	4.5	2.9	12.2
Other acute respiratory conditions	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.7
Digestive system conditions	1.5	1.2	2.1	2.2
Fractures and dislocations	2.5	2.3	5.4	0.9
Sprains and strains	2.4	2.0	5.0	1.1
Open wounds and lacerations	2.9	2.0	8.7	1.5
Contusions and superficial injuries	1.6	1.2	3.2	1.8
Other current injuries	2.5	1.9	3.6	3.5
Diseases of the ear	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.3
Genitourinary disorders	2.2	2.2	2.2	3.1
Diseases of the skin	1.0	1.0	1.4	0.5
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system	1.3	1.5	0.7	1.0
Other acute conditions	4.0	4.0	2.9	5.3
No condition reported	5.4	5.5	4.6	4.5

[1]See table 21 for list of ICDA, 8th revision, code numbers included in each condition group.
[2]Includes other places of visit.
[3]Does not include calls for appointments and other nonmedical purposes.

APPENDIXES

CONTENTS

LIST OF APPENDIX FIGURES

APPENDIX I

TECHNICAL NOTES ON METHODS

Background of This Report

This report is one of a series of statistical reports prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). It is based on information collected in a continuing nationwide sample of households in the Health Interview Survey (HIS).

The Health Interview Survey utilizes a questionnaire that obtains information on personal and demographic characteristics, illnesses, injuries, impairments, chronic conditions, and other health topics. As data relating to each of these various broad topics are tabulated and analyzed, separate reports are issued which cover one or more of the specific topics.

The population covered by the sample for the Health Interview Survey is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States living at the time of the interview. The sample does not include members of the Armed Forces or U.S. nationals living in foreign countries. It should also be noted that the estimates shown do not represent a complete measure of any given topic during the specified calendar period because data are not collected in the interview for persons who died during the reference period. For many types of statistics collected in the survey, the reference period covers the 2 weeks prior to the interview week. For such a short period, the contribution by decedents to a total inventory of conditions or services should be very small. However, the contribution by decedents during a long reference period (e.g., 1 year) might be sizable, especially for older persons.

Statistical Design of the Health Interview Survey

General plan.—The sampling plan of the survey follows a multistage probability design that permits a continuous sampling of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. The sample is designed in such a way that the sample of households interviewed each week is representative of the target population and that weekly samples are additive over time. This feature of the design permits both continuous measurement of characteristics of samples and more detailed analysis of less common characteristics and smaller categories of health-related items. The continuous collection has administrative and operational advantages as well as technical assets because it permits fieldwork to be handled with an experienced, stable staff.

The overall sample was designed so that tabulations can be provided for each of the four major geographic regions and for selected places of residence in the United States.

The first stage of the sample design consists of drawing a sample of 376 primary sampling units (PSU's) from approximately 1,900 geographically defined PSU's. A PSU consists of a county, a small group of contiguous counties, or a standard metropolitan statistical area. The PSU's collectively cover the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

With no loss in general understanding, the remaining stages can be combined and treated in this discussion as an ultimate stage. Within PSU's, then, ultimate stage units called segments are defined in such a manner that each segment

contains an expected six households. Three general types of segments are used.

Area segments which are defined geographically.

List segments, using 1970 census registers as the frame.

Permit segments, using updated lists of building permits issued in sample PSU's since 1970.

Census address listings were used for all areas of the country where addresses were well defined and could be used to locate housing units. In general the list frame included the larger urban areas of the United States from which about two-thirds of the HIS sample was selected.

The usual HIS sample consists of approximately 12,000 segments containing about 50,000 assigned households, of which 9,000 were vacant, demolished, or occupied by persons not in the scope of the survey. The 41,000 eligible occupied households yield a probability sample of about 120,000 persons.

Descriptive material on data collection, field procedures, and questionnaire development in the HIS has been published[5] as well as a detailed description of the sample design[6] and a report on the estimation procedure and the method used to calculate sampling errors of estimates derived from the survey.[7]

Collection of data.—Field operations for the survey are performed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census under specifications established by the National Center for Health Statistics. In accordance with these specifications the Bureau of the Census participates in survey planning, selects the sample, and conducts the field interviewing as an agent of NCHS. The data are coded, edited, and tabulated by NCHS.

Estimating procedures.—Since the design of the HIS is a complex multistage probability sample, it is necessary to use complex procedures in the derivation of estimates. Four basic operations are involved.

1. *Inflation by the reciprocal of the probability of selection.*—The probability of selection is the product of the probabilities of selection from each step of selection in the design (PSU, segment, and household).
2. *Nonresponse adjustment.*—The estimates are inflated by a multiplication factor that has as its numerator the number of sample households in a given segment and as its denominator the number of households interviewed in that segment.
3. *First-stage ratio adjustment.*—Sampling theory indicates that the use of auxiliary information that is highly correlated with the variables being estimated improves the reliability of the estimates. To reduce the variability between PSU's within a region, the estimates are ratio adjusted to the 1970 populations within 12 color-residence classes.
4. *Poststratification by age-sex-color.*—The estimates are ratio adjusted within each of 60 age-sex-color cells to an independent estimate of the population of each cell for the survey period. These independent estimates are prepared by the Bureau of the Census. Both the first-stage and poststratified ratio adjustments take the form of multiplication factors applied to the weight of each elementary unit (person, household, condition, and hospitalization).

The effect of the ratio-estimating process is to make the sample more closely representative of the civilian noninstitutionalized population by age, sex, color, and residence, which thereby reduces sampling variance.

As noted, each week's sample represents the population living during that week and characteristics of the population. Consolidation of samples over a time period, e.g., a calendar quarter, produces estimates of average characteristics of the U.S. population for the calendar quarter. Similarly, population data for a year are averages of the four quarterly figures.

For prevalence statistics, such as number of persons with speech impairments or number of persons classified by time interval since last physician visit, figures are first calculated for each calendar quarter by averaging estimates for all weeks of interviewing in the quarter. Prevalence data for a year are then obtained by averaging the four quarterly figures

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

For other types of statistics—namely those measuring the number of occurrences during a specified time period—such as incidence of acute conditions, number of disability days, or number of visits to a doctor or dentist, a similar computational procedure is used, but the statistics are interpreted differently. For these items, the questionnaire asks for the respondent's experience over the 2 calendar weeks prior to the week of interview. In such instances the estimated quarterly total for the statistic is 6.5 times the average 2-week estimate produced by the 13 successive samples taken during the period. The annual total is the sum of the four quarters. Thus the experience of persons *interviewed during a year*—experience that actually occurred for each person in a 2-calendar-week interval prior to week of interview—is treated as though it measured the total of such experience *during the year.* Such interpretation leads to no significant bias.

Explanation of hospital recall.—The survey questionnaire uses a 12-month-recall period for hospitalizations. That is, the respondent is asked to report hospitalizations that occurred during the 12 months prior to the week of interview. Information is also obtained as to the date of entry into the hospital and duration of stay. Analysis of this information, and also the results of special studies, has shown that there is an increase in underreporting of hospitalizations with increase in time interval between the discharge and the interview. Exclusive of the hospital experience of decedents, the net underreporting with a 12-month recall is in the neighborhood of 10 percent, but underreporting of discharges within 6 months of the week of interview is estimated to be less than 5 percent. For this reason hospital discharge data in this report are based on hospital discharges reported to have occurred within 6 months of the week of interview. Since the interviews were evenly distributed according to weekly probability samples throughout any interviewing year, no seasonal bias was introduced by doubling the 6-month-recall data to produce an annual estimate for that year of interviewing. Doubling the 6-month data in effect imputes to the entire year preceding the interview the rate of hospital discharges actually observed during the 6 months prior to interview. However, estimates of the number of persons with hospital episodes (as opposed to estimates of the number of hospital discharges) are based on 12-month-recall data because a person's 12-month experiences cannot be obtained by doubling his most recent 6-month experience.

General Qualifications

Nonresponse.—Data were adjusted for nonresponse by a procedure that imputes to persons in a household who were not interviewed the characteristics of persons in households in the same segment who were interviewed.

The interview process.—The statistics presented in this report are based on replies obtained in interviews with persons in the sample households. Each person 19 years of age and over present at the time of interview was interviewed individually. For children and for adults not present in the home at the time of the interview, the information was obtained from a related household member such as a spouse or the mother of a child.

There are limitations to the accuracy of diagnostic and other information collected in household interviews. For diagnostic information, the household respondent can usually pass on to the interviewer only the information the physician has given to the family. For conditions not medically attended, diagnostic information is often no more than a description of symptoms. However, other facts, such as the number of disability days caused by the condition, can be obtained more accurately from household members than from any other source because only the persons concerned are in a position to report this information.

Rounding of numbers.—The original tabulations on which the data in this report are based show all estimates to the nearest whole unit. All consolidations were made from the original tabulations using the estimates to the nearest unit. In the final published tables, the figures are rounded to the nearest thousand, although these are not necessarily accurate to that detail. Devised statistics such as rates and percent distributions are computed after the estimates on which these are based have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Population figures.—Some of the published tables include population figures for specified categories. Except for certain overall totals by age, sex, and color, which are adjusted to independent estimates, these figures are based on the sample of households in the HIS. These are given primarily to provide denominators for rate computation, and for this purpose are more appropriate for use with the accompanying measures of health characteristics than other population data that may be available. With the exception of the overall totals by age, sex, and color mentioned above, the population figures differ from figures (which are derived from different sources) published in reports of the Bureau of the Census. Official population estimates are presented in Bureau of the Census reports in Series P-20, P-25, and P-60.

Reliability of Estimates

Since the statistics presented in this report are based on a sample, they will differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and interviewing personnel and procedures.

As in any survey, the results are also subject to reporting and processing errors and errors due to nonresponse. To the extent possible, these types of errors were kept to a minimum by methods built into survey procedures.[8] Although it is very difficult to measure the extent of bias in the Health Interview Survey, a number of studies have been conducted to study this problem. The results have been published in several reports.[9-12]

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, the variations that might occur by chance because only a sample of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also reflects part of the variation that arises in the measurement process. It does not include estimates of any biases that might be in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error and about 99 out of 100 that it would be less than 2½ times as large.

Standard error charts.—The relative standard error of an estimate is obtained by dividing the standard error of the estimate by the estimate itself and is expressed as a percentage of the estimate. For this report, asterisks are shown for any cell with more than a 30-percent relative standard error. Included in this appendix are charts from which the relative standard errors can be determined for estimates shown in the report. In order to derive relative errors that would be applicable to a wide variety of health statistics and that could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the charts provide an estimate of the approximate relative standard error rather than the precise error for any specific aggregate or percentage.

Three classes of statistics for the health survey are identified for purposes of estimating variances.

1. *Narrow range.*—This class consists of (1) statistics that estimate a population attribute, e.g., the number of persons in a particular income group, and (2) statistics for which the measure for a single individual during the reference period used in data collection is usually either 0 or 1 or on occasion may take on the value 2 or very rarely 3.
2. *Medium range.*—This class consists of other statistics for which the measure for a single individual during the reference period used in data collection will rarely lie outside the range 0 to 5.
3. *Wide range.*—This class consists of statistics for which the measure for a single individual during the reference period used in data collection can range from 0 to a number in excess of 5, e.g., the number of days of bed disability.

In addition to classifying variables according to whether they are narrow-, medium-, or wide-range, statistics in the survey are further classified as to whether they are based on a reference period of 2 weeks, 6 months, or 12 months.

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

General rules for determining relative standard errors.—The following rules will enable the reader to determine approximate relative standard errors from the charts for estimates presented in this report. These charts represent standard errors of HIS data. They should be used in preference to the charts that have appeared in all previous Series 10 publications.

Rule 1. *Estimates of aggregates:* Approximate relative standard errors for estimates of aggregates such as the number of persons with a given characteristic are obtained from appropriate curves, figure I. The number of persons in the total U.S. population or in an age-sex-color class of the total population is adjusted to official Bureau of the Census figures and is not subject to sampling error.

Rule 2. *Estimates of percentages in a percent distribution:* Relative standard errors for percentages in a percent distribution of a total are obtained from appropriate curves, figure II. For values that do not fall on one of the curves presented in the chart, visual interpolation will provide a satisfactory approximation.

Rule 3. *Estimates of rates where the numerator is a subclass of the denominator:* This rule applies for prevalence rates or where a unit of the numerator occurs, with few exceptions, only once in the year for any one unit in the denominator. For example, in computing the rate of visual impairments per 1,000 population, the numerator consisting of persons with the impairment is a subclass of the denominator, which includes all persons in the population. Such rates if converted to rates per 100 may be treated as though they were percentages and the relative standard errors obtained from the percentage charts for population estimates. Rates per 1,000, or on any other base, must first be converted to rates per 100; then the percentage chart will provide the relative standard error per 100.

Rule 4. *Estimates of rates where the numerator is not a subclass of the denominator:* This rule applies where a unit of the numerator often occurs more than once for any one unit in the denominator. For example, in the computation of the number of persons injured per 100 currently employed persons per year, it is possible that a person in the denominator could have sustained more than one of the injuries included in the numerator. Approximate relative standard errors for rates of this kind may be computed as follows:

(a) Where the denominator is the total U.S. population or includes all persons in one or more of the age-sex-color groups of the total population, the relative error of the rate is equivalent to the relative error of the numerator, which can be obtained directly from the appropriate chart.

(b) In other cases the relative standard error of the numerator and of the denominator can be obtained from the appropriate curve. Square each of these relative errors, add the resulting values, and extract the square root of the sum. This procedure will result in an upper bound on the standard error and often will overstate the error.

Rule 5. *Estimates of difference between two statistics (mean, rate, total, etc.):* The standard error of a difference is approximately the square root of the sum of the squares of each standard error considered separately. A formula for the standard error of a difference

$$d = X_1 - X_2$$

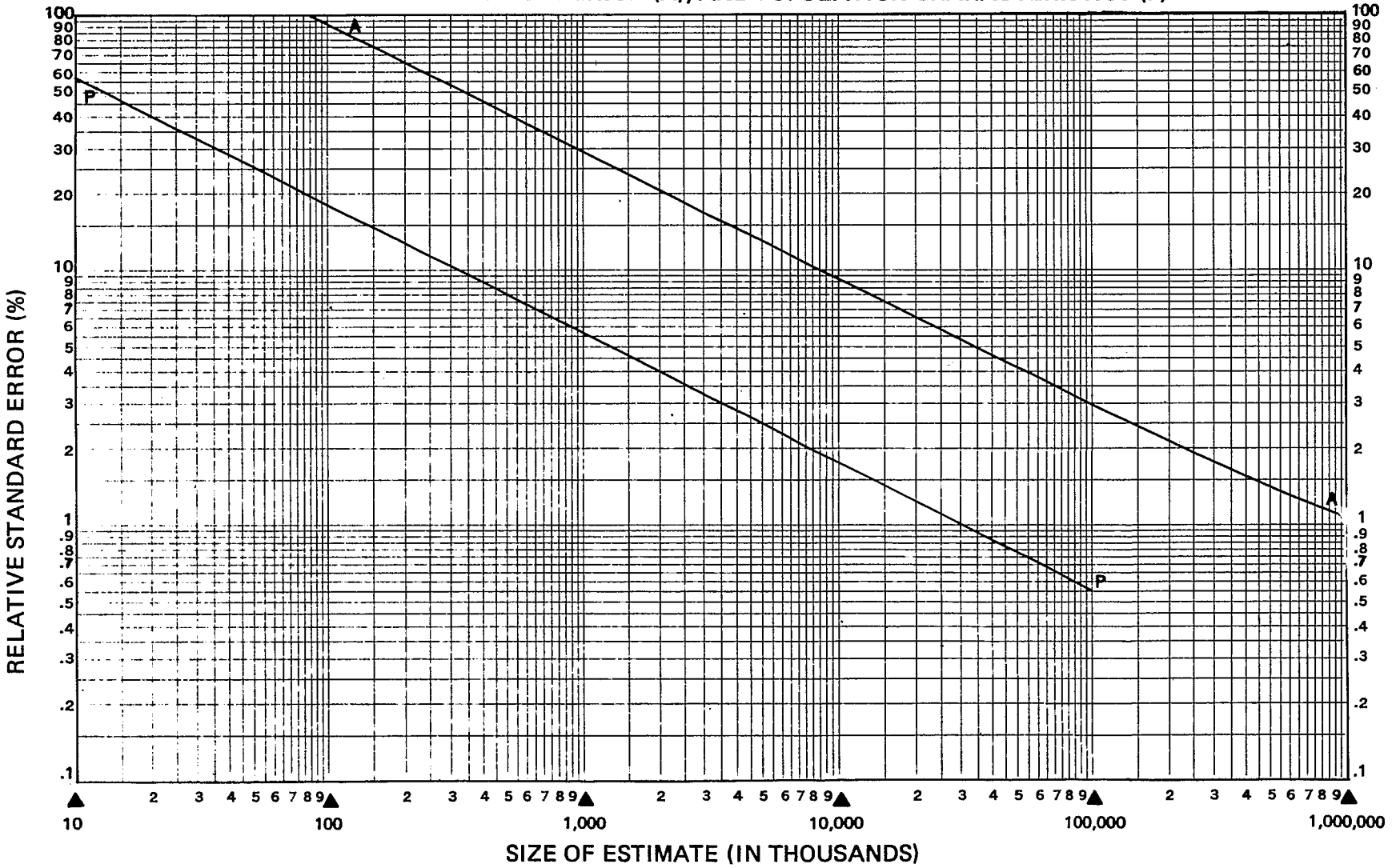
is

$$\sigma_d = \sqrt{(X_1\ V_{x1})^2 + (X_2\ V_{x2})^2}$$

where X_1 is the estimate for class 1, X_2

is the estimate for class 2, and V_{x1} and V_{x2} are the relative errors of X_1 and X_2, respectively. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics although it is only a rough approximation in most other cases. The relative standard error of each estimate involved in such a difference can be determined by one of the four rules just stated, whichever is appropriate.

Figure I. RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS FOR NUMBER OF PHYSICIAN OR DENTAL VISITS BASED ON A 2-WEEK REFERENCE PERIOD (A), AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS (P)[1]

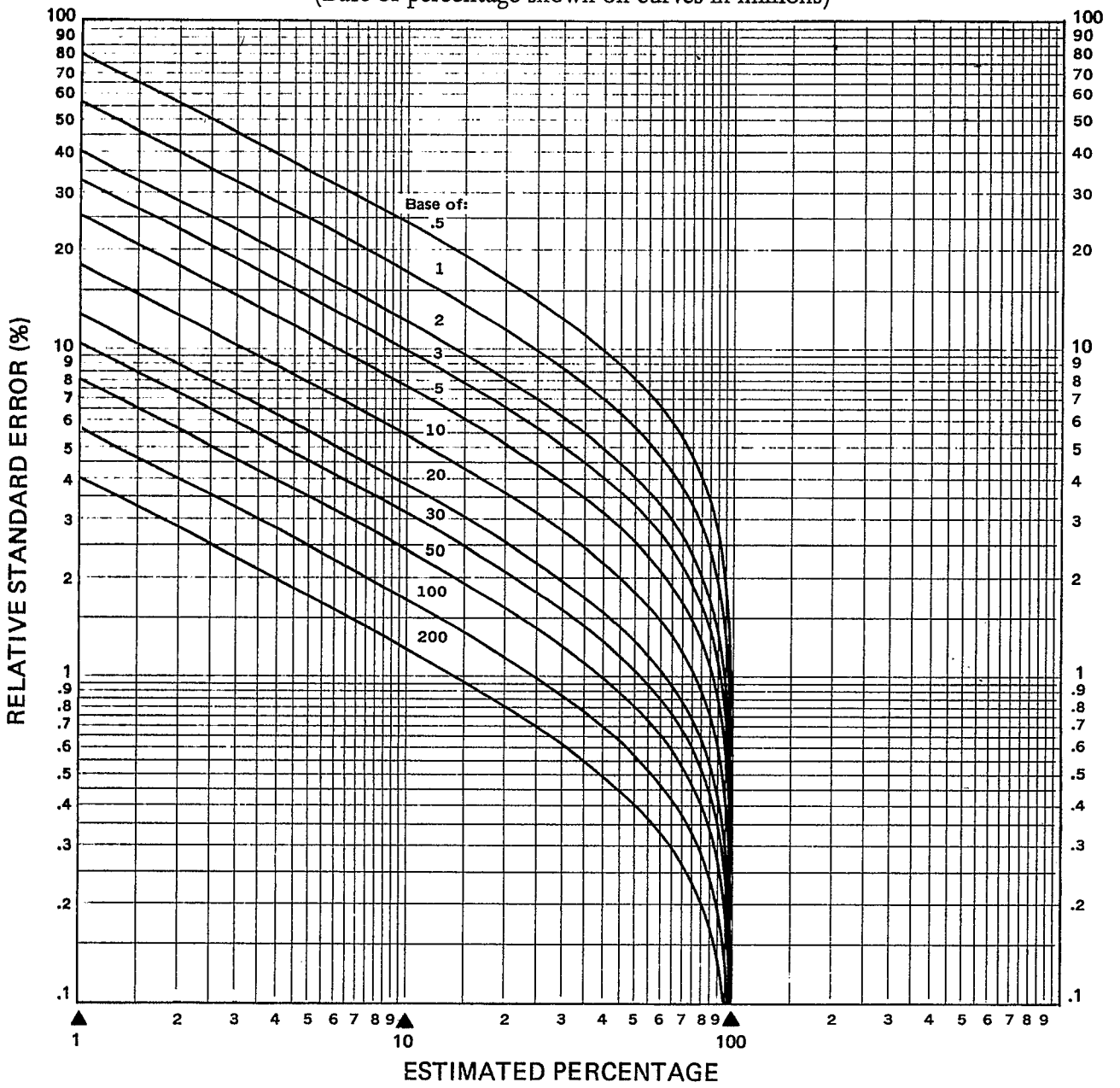


[1]The curve related to physician or dental visits is based on 1-4 quarters of data collection for medium-range estimates of aggregates using a 2-week reference period; the curve for population characteristics is based on 4 quarters of data collection for narrow-range estimate of aggregates.

Example of use of chart: An estimate of 10,000,000 physician or dental visits (on scale at bottom of chart) has a relative standard error of 9.2 percent (read from curve A on scale at left side of chart), or a standard error of 920,000 (9.2 percent of 10,000,000). An estimate of 1,000,000 persons in the Northeast Region (curve P) has a relative standard error of 5.7 percent.

Figure II. RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF PERCENTAGES OF POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS[1]

(Base of percentage shown on curves in millions)



[1]These curves represent estimates of relative standard errors of percentages of population characteristics based on 4 quarters of data collection for narrow-range estimates.

Example of use of chart: An estimate of 20 percent (on scale at bottom of chart) based on an estimate of 10,000,000 has a relative standard error of 3.6 percent (read from the scale at the left side of chart), the point at which the curve for a base of 10,000,000 intersects the vertical line for 20 percent. The standard error in percentage points is equal to 20 percent X 3.6 percent or 0.72 percentage points.

APPENDIX II

DEFINITIONS OF CERTAIN TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

Terms Relating to Physician Visits

Physician visit.—A physician visit is defined as consultation with a physician, in person or by telephone, for examination, diagnosis, treatment, or advice. The visit is considered to be a physician visit if the service is provided directly by the physician or by a nurse or other person acting under a physician's supervision. For the purpose of this definition "physician" includes doctors of medicine and osteopathic physicians. The term "doctor" is used in the interview rather than "physician" because of popular usage. However, the concept toward which all instructions are directed is that which is described here.

Physician visits for services provided on a mass basis are not included in the tabulations. A service received on a mass basis is defined as any service involving only a single test (e.g., test for diabetes) or a single procedure (e.g., smallpox vaccination) when this single service was administered identically to all persons who were at the place for this purpose. Hence obtaining a chest X-ray in a tuberculosis chest X-ray trailer is not included as a physician visit. However, a special chest X-ray given in a physician's office or in an outpatient clinic is considered a physician visit.

Physician visits to hospital inpatients are not included.

If a physician is called to a house to see more than one person, the call is considered a separate physician visit for each person about whom the physician was consulted.

A physician visit is associated with the person about whom the advice was sought, even if that person did not actually see or consult the physician. For example, if a mother consults a physician about one of her children, the physician visit is ascribed to the child.

Interval since last physician visit.—The interval since the last physician visit is the length of time prior to the week of interview since a physician was last consulted in person or by telephone for treatment or advice of any type whatever. A physician visit to a hospital inpatient may be counted as the last time a physician was seen.

Place of visit.—The place of visit is a classification of the types of places at which a physician visit occurs. Definitions of the various categories are as follows:

Home is defined as any place in which the person was staying at the time of the physician's visit. It may be his own home, the home of a friend, a hotel, or any other place the person may have been staying (except as an overnight patient in a hospital).

Office is defined as the office of a physician in private practice only. This may be an office in the physician's home, an individual office in an office building, or a suite of offices occupied by several physicians. For purposes of this survey, physicians connected with prepayment-group-practice plans are considered to be in private practice.

Hospital clinic is defined as an outpatient clinic or emergency room in any hospital.

> *Hospital outpatient clinic.*—A unit of a hospital where a person may go for medical care without being admitted as an inpatient.

Hospital emergency room.—A unit of a hospital where a person may receive medical care, usually of an urgent nature, without or before being admitted as an inpatient.

Company or industry health unit refers to treatment received from a physician or under a physician's supervision at a place of business (e.g., factory, store, office building). This includes emergency or first-aid rooms located in such places if treatment was received there from a physician or trained nurse.

Telephone contact refers to advice given in a telephone call by the physician directly or through a nurse. (Calls for appointments are excluded.)

Other refers to advice or treatment received from a physician or under a physician's general supervision at a school, at an insurance office, at a health department clinic, or any other place at which a physician consultation might take place.

The place of visit was assigned on the basis of the response to the question "Where did he see the doctor on the (date), at a clinic, hospital, doctor's office, or some other place?" If the response was, for example, doctor's office, the visit was so classified. If the reply included the volunteered comment that the doctor's office was located in a prepaid insurance group clinic, prepaid insurance group (a subclass of doctor's office) was the assigned place of visit.

Type of medical service.—A medical service is a service received when a physician is consulted. For the purposes of this survey, medical services have been categorized into several broad types. A single physician visit may result in the recording of more than one type of medical service (though a particular type is not recorded more than once for any one physician visit). Tables showing physician visits classified by type of medical service therefore add to more than the total number of visits. Definitions of the types of medical service are as follows:

Diagnosis and treatment include (a) examinations and tests in order to diagnose an illness regardless of whether the examinations and tests resulted in a diagnosis and (b) treatment or advice given by the physician or under the physician's supervision. The category includes diagnosis alone, treatment alone, and both combined. X-rays either for diagnostic purposes or for treatment are included in this class.

Prenatal and postnatal care include consultations concerning the care of the mother during pregnancy and in the postpartum period. It excludes consultations for illnesses not related to pregnancy or delivery.

General checkup includes checkups for general purposes and also those for a specific purpose such as employment or insurance. If a diagnosis or diagnoses are made in the course of a general checkup, the physician visit is classified under "diagnosis and treatment" as well as under "general checkup." If the consultation is for checking up on a specific condition, as, for example, when a person goes at regular intervals for a check on a tuberculous or heart condition, this is classified under "diagnosis and treatment" and not under "general checkup."

Immunization includes this preventive service when provided by a physician or under a physician's supervision. A physician service that is for the sole purpose of receiving immunization against a particular disease given at the same time and place that many other persons are receiving the identical immunization is excluded because of the rule for exclusion of such services in the definition of a physician visit.

Eye examination refers only to the examination of the eye by a doctor of medicine or an osteopathic physician for the purpose of establishing a need for glasses or a change in the type of glasses. Other diagnosis or treatment of eye conditions is classified under "diagnosis and treatment."

Other includes eye refractions and specific preventive-care services (such as vitamin injections) not embraced by the above type of service categories. Also included are all visits where an unknown type of service was reported.

Terms Relating to Conditions

Condition.—A morbidity condition, or simply a condition, is any entry on the questionnaire that describes a departure from a state of physical or mental well-being. It results from a positive response to one of a series of "medical-disability impact" or "illness-recall" questions. In the coding and tabulating process conditions are selected or classified according to a number of different criteria such as whether they were medically attended, whether they resulted in disability, or whether they were acute or chronic; or according to the type of disease, injury, impairment, or symptom reported. For the purposes of each published report or set of tables, only those conditions recorded on the questionnaire that satisfy certain stated criteria are included.

Conditions except impairments are classified by type according to the *Eighth Revision International Classification of Diseases, Adapted for Use in the United States,*[13] with certain modifications adopted to make the code more suitable for a household interview survey.

Acute condition.—An acute condition is defined as a condition that has lasted less than 3 months and that has involved either medical attention or restricted activity. Because of the procedures used to estimate incidence, the acute conditions included in this report are the conditions that had their onset during the 2 weeks prior to the interview week and that involved either medical attention or restricted activity during the 2-week period. However, excluded are the following conditions which are always classified as chronic even though the onset occurred within 3 months prior to week of interview:

Allergy, any
Arthritis or rheumatism
Asthma
Cancer
Cleft palate
Club foot
Condition present since birth
Deafness or serious trouble with hearing
Diabetes
Epilepsy
Hardening of the arteries
Hay fever
Heart trouble
Hemorrhoids or piles
Hernia or rupture
High blood pressure
Kidney stones
Mental illness
Missing fingers, hand, or arm—toes, foot, or leg
Palsy
Paralysis of any kind
Permanent stiffness or deformity of the foot, leg, fingers, arm, or back
Prostate trouble
Repeated trouble with back or spine
Rheumatic fever
Serious trouble with seeing, even when wearing glasses
Sinus trouble, repeated attacks of
Speech defect, any
Stomach ulcer
Stroke
Thyroid trouble or goiter
Tuberculosis
Tumor, cyst, or growth
Varicose veins, trouble with

Chronic condition.—A condition is considered chronic if (1) the condition is described by the respondent as having been first noticed more than 3 months before the week of the interview or (2) it is one of the conditions always classified as chronic regardless of the onset (see list under the definition of acute condition).

Impairment.—Impairments are chronic or permanent defects, usually static in nature, resulting from disease, injury, or congenital malformation. They represent decrease or loss of ability to perform various functions, particularly those of the musculoskeletal system and the sense organs. All impairments are classified by means of a special supplementary code for impairments. Hence code numbers for impairments in the International Classification of Diseases are not used. In the Supplementary Code, impairments are grouped according to type of functional impairment and etiology. The impairment classification is shown in *Vital and Health Statistics,* Series 10, No. 48.

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

Terms Relating to Disability

Chronic activity limitation.—Persons are classified into four categories according to the extent to which their activities are limited at present as a result of chronic conditions. Since the usual activities of preschool children, school-age children, housewives, and workers and other persons differ, a different set of criteria is used for each group. There is a general similarity between them, however, as will be seen in the following descriptions of the four categories:

1. *Persons unable to carry on major activity for their group* (major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities)

   Preschool children:
   Inability to take part in ordinary play with other children.

   School-age children:
   Inability to go to school.

   Housewives:
   Inability to do any housework.

   Workers and all other persons:
   Inability to work at a job or business.

2. *Persons limited in amount or kind of major activity performed* (major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities)

   Preschool children:
   Limited in amount or kind of play with other children, e.g., need special rest periods, cannot play strenuous games, or cannot play for long periods at a time.

   School-age children:
   Limited to certain types of schools or in school attendance, e.g., need special schools or special teaching or cannot go to school full time or for long periods at a time.

   Housewives:
   Limited in amount or kind of housework, e.g., cannot lift children, wash or iron, or do housework for long periods at a time.

   Workers and all other persons:
   Limited in amount or kind of work, e.g., need special working aids or special rest periods at work, cannot work full time or for long periods at a time, or cannot do strenuous work.

3. *Persons not limited in major activity but otherwise limited* (major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities)

   Preschool children:
   Not classified in this category.

   School-age children:
   Not limited in going to school but limited in participation in athletics or other extracurricular activities.

   Housewives:
   Not limited in housework but limited in other activities such as church, clubs, hobbies, civic projects, or shopping.

   Workers and all other persons:
   Not limited in regular work activities but limited in other activities such as church, clubs, hobbies, civic projects, sports, or games.

4. *Persons not limited in activities* (includes persons whose activities are not limited in any of the ways described above)

Demographic Terms

Age.—The age recorded for each person is the age at last birthday. Age is recorded in single years and grouped in a variety of distributions depending on the purpose of the table.

Color.—The population is divided into two color groups, "white" and "all other." "All other" includes Negro, American Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and any other race. Mexican persons are included with "white" unless definitely known to be Indian or of another race.

Income of family or of unrelated individuals.—Each member of a family is classified according to the total income of the family

of which he is a member. Within the household all persons related to each other by blood, marriage, or adoption constitute a family. Unrelated individuals are classified according to their own income.

The income recorded is the total of all income received by members of the family (or by an unrelated individual) in the 12-month period preceding the week of interview. Income from all sources is included, e.g., wages, salaries, rents from property, pensions, and help from relatives.

Education of head of family or of unrelated individuals.—Each member of a family is classified according to the education of the head of the family of which he is a member. Within the household all persons related to each other by blood, marriage, or adoption constitute a family. Unrelated individuals are classified according to their own education.

The categories of education status show the years of school completed. Only years completed in regular schools, where persons are given a formal education, are included. A "regular" school is one which advances a person toward an elementary or high school diploma or a college, university, or professional school degree. Thus education in vocational, trade, or business schools outside the regular school system is not counted in determining the highest grade of school completed.

Geographic region.—For the purpose of classifying the population by geographic area, the States are grouped into four regions. These regions, which correspond to those used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, are shown in figure III.

Place of residence.—The place of residence of a member of the civilian noninstitutionalized population is classified as inside a standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA) or outside an SMSA and either farm or nonfarm.

Standard metropolitan statistical areas.—The definitions and titles of SMSA's are established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget with the advice of the Federal Committee on Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas. There were 212 SMSA's defined for the 1960 Decennial Census.

Region	*States Included*
Northeast	Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
North Central . .	Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska
South	Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Texas, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma
West	Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, California, Hawaii

Figure III. Four geographic regions of the United States

The definition of an individual SMSA involves two considerations: first, a city or cities of specified population that constitute the central city and identify the county in which it is located as the central county; second, economic and social relationships with contiguous counties (except in New England) that are metropolitan in character so that the periphery of the specific metropolitan area may be determined. SMSA's are not limited by State boundaries. In New England SMSA's consist of towns and cities, rather than counties. The metropolitan population in this report is based on SMSA's as defined in the 1960 census and does not include any subsequent additions or changes.

Farm and nonfarm residence.—The population residing outside SMSA's is subdivided into the farm population, which comprises all non-SMSA residents living on farms, and the nonfarm population, which comprises the remaining outside-SMSA population. The farm population includes persons living on places of 10 acres or more from which sales of farm products amounted to $50 or more during the previous 12 months or on places of less than 10 acres from which sales of farm products amounted to $250 or more during the preceding 12 months. Other persons living outside an SMSA were classified as nonfarm if their household paid rent for the house but their rent did not include any land used for farming.

Sales of farm products refer to the gross receipts from the sale of field crops, vegetables, fruits, nuts, livestock and livestock products (milk, wool, etc.), poultry and poultry products, and nursery and forest products produced on the place and sold at any time during the preceding 12 months.

———o o o———

APPENDIX III

DOCTOR VISIT QUESTIONS AND RECORDING FORM, 1975

2-WEEKS DOCTOR VISITS PAGE		1. Person number _____
Earlier, you told me that -- had seen or talked to a doctor during the past 2 weeks. 2a. On what (other) dates during that 2-week period did -- visit or talk to a doctor?	2a.	OR { 7777 ☐ Last week 8888 ☐ Week before Month ____ Date ____
b. Were there any other doctor visits for him during that period?	b.	Y *(Reask 2a and b)* N *(Ask 3–6 for each visit)*
3. Where did he see the doctor on the (date), at a clinic, hospital, doctor's office, or some other place? If Hospital: Was it the outpatient clinic or the emergency room? If Clinic: Was it a hospital outpatient clinic, a company clinic, or some other kind of clinic?	3.	0 ☐ While inpatient in hospital *(Next DV)* 1 ☐ Doctor's office (group practice or doctor's clinic) 2 ☐ Telephone 3 ☐ Hospital Outpatient Clinic 4 ☐ Home 5 ☐ Hospital Emergency Room 6 ☐ Company or Industry Clinic 7 ☐ Other *(Specify)* ____
4. Is the doctor a general practitioner or a specialist?	4.	01 ☐ General practitioner ☐ Specialist – What kind of specialist is he? ____
5. During this visit (call) did -- actually see (talk to) the doctor?	5.	1 Y 2 N
6a. Why did he visit (call) the doctor on (date)? Write in reason Mark appropriate box(es)	6a.	1 ☐ Diag. or treatment *(6c)* 3 ☐ General checkup *(6b)* 2 ☐ Pre or Postnatal care 4 ☐ Eye exam. (glasses) 5 ☐ Immunization 6 ☐ Other ____ *(P1)*
b. Was this for any specific condition?	b.	Y *(Enter condition in 6a and change to "Diag. or treatment")* N *(P1)*
Mark box or ask: c. For what condition did -- visit (call) the doctor on (date)?	c.	☐ Condition reported in 6a ____

P I If the condition in question 6 is first reported on the DV page, a Condition page is required. If there is no Condition page, enter condition in item C and fill a page for it after completing columns for all required doctor visits.

FOOTNOTES

13. During the past 2 weeks (the 2 weeks outlined in red on that calendar) how many times did -- see a medical doctor? Do not count doctors seen while a patient in a hospital.	13.	00 ☐ None ____ Number of visits } NP
(Besides those visits)		
14a. During that 2-week period did anyone in the family go to a doctor's office or clinic for shots, X-rays, tests, or examinations?		Y N (15)
b. Who was this? – Mark "Doctor visit" box in person's column.	14b.	☐ Doctor visit
c. Anyone else?		Y (Reask 14b and c) N
If "Doctor visit," ask:		
d. How many times did -- visit the doctor during that period?	d.	____ Number of visits (NP)
15a. During that period, did anyone in the family get any medical advice from a doctor over the telephone?		Y N (16)
b. Who was the phone call about? – Mark "Phone call" box in person's column.	15b.	☐ Phone call
c. Any calls about anyone else?		Y (Reask 15b and c) N
If "Phone call," ask:		
d. How many telephone calls were made to get medical advice about -- ?	d.	____ Number of calls (NP)
Fill item C, (DOCTOR), from 13–15 for all persons. Ask 16a for each person with visits in DOCTOR box.		☐ Condition (Item C THEN 16d) ☐ Pregnancy (16e)
16a. For what condition did -- see or talk to a doctor during the past 2 weeks?	16a.	☐ No condition
b. Did -- see or talk to a doctor about any specific condition?	b.	Y N (NP)
c. What condition?	c.	Enter condition in item C Ask 16d
d. During that period, did -- see or talk to a doctor about any other condition?	d.	Y (16c) N (NP)
e. During the past 2 weeks was -- sick because of her pregnancy?	e.	Y N (16d)
f. What was the matter?	f.	Enter condition in item C (16d)
17a. During the past 12 months, (that is since (date) a year ago), about how many times did -- see or talk to a medical doctor? (Do not count doctors seen while a patient in a hospital.) (Include the -- visits you already told me about.)	17a.	000 ☐ Only when in hospital 000 ☐ None ____ Number of visits
b. ABOUT how long has it been since -- LAST saw or talked to a medical doctor? Include doctors seen while a patient in a hospital.	b.	1 ☐ 2-week DV 2 ☐ Past 2 weeks not reported (13 and 16) 3 ☐ 2 wks.–6 mos. 4 ☐ Over 6–12 mos. 5 ☐ 1 year 6 ☐ 2–4 years 7 ☐ 5+ years 8 ☐ Never

*U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1979 0-281-259/12

VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS Series

Series 1. Programs and Collection Procedures.—Reports which describe the general programs of the National Center for Health Statistics and its offices and divisions and data collection methods used and include definitions and other material necessary for understanding the data.

Series 2. Data Evaluation and Methods Research.—Studies of new statistical methodology including experimental tests of new survey methods, studies of vital statistics collection methods, new analytical techniques, objective evaluations of reliability of collected data, and contributions to statistical theory.

Series 3. Analytical Studies.—Reports presenting analytical or interpretive studies based on vital and health statistics, carrying the analysis further than the expository types of reports in the other series.

Series 4. Documents and Committee Reports.—Final reports of major committees concerned with vital and health statistics and documents such as recommended model vital registration laws and revised birth and death certificates.

Series 10. Data From the Health Interview Survey.—Statistics on illness, accidental injuries, disability, use of hospital, medical, dental, and other services, and other health-related topics, all based on data collected in a continuing national household interview survey.

Series 11. Data From the Health Examination Survey and the Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.—Data from direct examination, testing, and measurement of national samples of the civilian noninstitutionalized population provide the basis for two types of reports: (1) estimates of the medically defined prevalence of specific diseases in the United States and the distributions of the population with respect to physical, physiological, and psychological characteristics and (2) analysis of relationships among the various measurements without reference to an explicit finite universe of persons.

Series 12. Data From the Institutionalized Population Surveys.—Discontinued effective 1975. Future reports from these surveys will be in Series 13.

Series 13. Data on Health Resources Utilization.—Statistics on the utilization of health manpower and facilities providing long-term care, ambulatory care, hospital care, and family planning services.

Series 14. Data on Health Resources: Manpower and Facilities.—Statistics on the numbers, geographic distribution, and characteristics of health resources including physicians, dentists, nurses, other health occupations, hospitals, nursing homes, and outpatient facilities.

Series 20. Data on Mortality.—Various statistics on mortality other than as included in regular annual or monthly reports. Special analyses by cause of death, age, and other demographic variables; geographic and time series analyses; and statistics on characteristics of deaths not available from the vital records based on sample surveys of those records.

Series 21. Data on Natality, Marriage, and Divorce.—Various statistics on natality, marriage, and divorce other than as included in regular annual or monthly reports. Special analyses by demographic variables; geographic and time series analyses; studies of fertility; and statistics on characteristics of births not available from the vital records based on sample surveys of those records.

Series 22. Data From the National Mortality and Natality Surveys.—Discontinued effective 1975. Future reports from these sample surveys based on vital records will be included in Series 20 and 21, respectively.

Series 23. Data From the National Survey of Family Growth.—Statistics on fertility, family formation and dissolution, family planning, and related maternal and infant health topics derived from a biennial survey of a nationwide probability sample of ever-married women 15-44 years of age.

For a list of titles of reports published in these series, write to:

Scientific and Technical Information Branch
National Center for Health Statistics
Public Health Service
Hyattsville, Md. 20782

DHEW Publication No. (PHS) 79-1556
Series 10-No. 128

NCHS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service
Office of Health Research, Statistics, and Technology
National Center for Health Statistics
3700 East-West Highway
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEW
HEW 396

THIRD CLASS

For publications in the *Vital and Health Statistics* Series call 301-436-NCHS.