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Sociodemographic and Health Characteristics of Persons by Private Health Insurance Coverage and Type of Plan: United States, 1975¹

During 1975 the Health Interview Survey (HIS) questionnaire included a supplement on health insurance coverage, with special emphasis on whether persons covered by private plans were members of prepaid group practice plans (hereafter "prepaid group"). Members of prepaid group plans were defined as including both those who belonged to plans classified as health maintenance organizations (HMO) and those who belonged to other prepaid group practice plans.

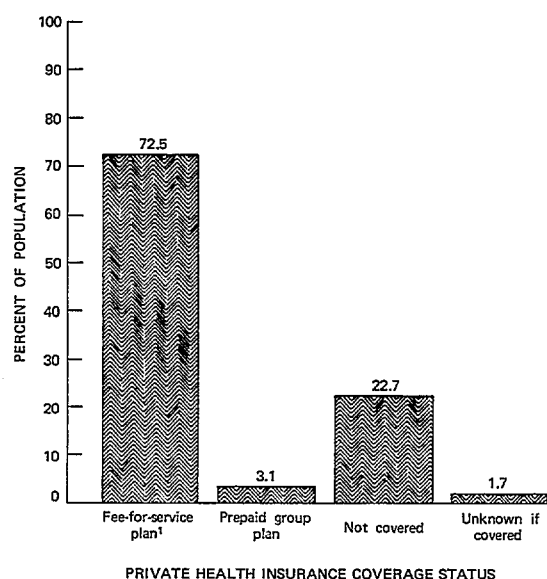
A facsimile of the questionnaire used in this survey may be found in Series 10, Number 115, of *Vital and Health Statistics*.² The estimates produced from these data refer to the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. All estimates presented in this report are shown by private insurance coverage status (covered, not covered, and unknown whether covered), and among those covered, by whether they are covered only by a prepaid group plan, a fee-for-service plan, or by a combination of the two. The descriptive terms refer to the method of reimbursement to the doctor. Thus fee-for-service plans include the Blue-type plans and indemnity plans in which the doctor receives only a payment specific to the service performed. Data presented here do not include Medicare coverage or use of or eligibility for

Medicaid benefits. Also excluded are the following types of plans: those limited to dread diseases, to income maintenance, and to accidents; veterans' benefits and medical care of military dependents; and those covering dental care only.

Health Insurance Coverage Status by Selected Sociodemographic Characteristics

Figure 1 and table 1 show the total civilian noninstitutionalized population by private health insurance coverage status. As may be

Figure 1. PERCENT OF PERSONS BY PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS: UNITED STATES, 1975



¹Excludes the 1,910,000 persons with fee-for-service plans who also belong to prepaid group plans.

¹This report was prepared by Jai Choi and Peter Ries, Division of Health Interview Statistics.

²National 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.

Table 1. Number of persons by private health insurance coverage status 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 shown in the Technical Notes]

Selected characteristic	All persons	Coverage status						
		All types of coverage	Prepaid plan			Fee-for-service only ¹	Not covered	Unknown if covered
			All prepaid	Prepaid only	Prepaid supplemented by fee-for-service			
		Number in thousands						
All persons-----	209,065	158,085	6,532	4,622	1,910	151,552	47,433	3,547
<u>Age</u>								
0-64 years-----	187,777	144,795	6,124	4,351	1,774	138,671	39,792	3,190
Under 17 years-----	61,945	45,090	2,010	1,457	553	43,079	15,647	1,208
17-44 years-----	82,738	64,224	2,664	1,929	735	61,561	17,155	1,358
45-64 years-----	43,094	35,481	1,451	965	486	34,031	6,989	623
65 years and over-----	21,287	13,290	408	271	137	12,882	7,641	357
<u>Sex</u>								
Male-----	100,865	77,231	3,234	2,311	923	73,997	21,925	1,709
Female-----	108,199	80,853	3,298	2,311	987	77,555	25,508	1,838
<u>Race</u>								
White-----	181,874	143,028	5,310	3,771	1,539	137,718	36,058	2,788
Black-----	24,396	13,125	1,047	693	354	12,078	10,557	713
Other-----	2,795	1,932	175	158	*17	1,756	817	46
<u>Place of residence</u>								
SMSA-----	143,654	111,111	5,948	4,181	1,767	105,163	30,015	2,529
Central city-----	61,562	43,646	2,930	2,068	861	40,717	16,710	1,205
Outside central city-----	82,093	67,464	3,018	2,113	905	64,446	13,305	1,324
Outside SMSA-----	65,410	46,974	585	441	144	46,389	17,418	1,018
Nonfarm-----	58,700	42,201	543	405	137	41,659	15,604	895
Farm-----	6,710	4,773	42	35	*6	4,731	1,814	124
<u>Geographic region</u>								
Northeast-----	49,086	38,790	2,148	900	1,247	36,642	9,442	854
North Central-----	55,892	46,148	763	641	122	45,385	9,030	714
South-----	66,854	46,650	359	284	75	46,291	18,880	1,324
West-----	37,233	26,497	3,263	2,796	466	23,234	10,081	655
<u>Education of head of family²</u>								
Elementary school (0-8 years)-----	41,977	24,000	647	497	150	23,353	17,156	821
High school (9-11 years)-----	34,544	23,443	881	592	289	22,562	10,589	512
High school graduate (12 years)-----	68,238	55,126	2,021	1,431	590	53,105	12,091	1,021
College (13-15 years)-----	28,612	23,827	1,241	889	352	22,585	4,339	446
College graduate (16 years or over)-----	32,807	30,015	1,675	1,178	497	28,340	2,370	422
<u>Family income²</u>								
Under \$3,000-----	14,676	5,351	171	144	*27	5,180	9,014	311
\$3,000-\$4,999-----	17,074	7,530	241	200	41	7,289	9,197	348
\$5,000-\$9,999-----	45,273	30,561	962	757	205	29,600	14,014	698
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	47,103	40,470	1,689	1,276	413	38,780	5,960	674
\$15,000-\$24,999-----	48,872	44,290	2,211	1,419	792	42,080	4,015	567
\$25,000 and over-----	20,996	19,395	978	594	384	18,417	1,382	219

¹Excludes the 1,910,000 persons with fee-for-service plans who also belong to prepaid plans.

²Excludes unknown status.

noted, only 3.1 percent of the population (6.5 million persons) were reported to belong to prepaid group plans. About 72.5 percent of the population (151.6 million persons) were covered by fee-for-service type plans only. No private

health insurance coverage of the types included was reported for 22.7 percent of the population (47.4 million persons). No data on coverage status were obtained for 1.7 percent of the population.

Table 2. Percent of persons by private health insurance coverage status 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 shown in the Technical Notes]

Selected characteristic	All persons	Coverage status						
		All types of coverage	Prepaid plan			Fee-for-service only ¹	Not covered	Unknown if covered
			All prepaid	Prepaid only	Prepaid supplemented by fee-for-service			
Percent of persons								
All persons-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<u>Age</u>								
0-64 years-----	89.8	91.6	93.8	94.1	92.9	91.5	83.9	89.9
Under 17 years-----	29.6	28.5	30.8	31.5	29.0	28.4	33.0	34.1
17-44 years-----	39.6	40.6	40.8	41.7	38.5	40.6	36.2	38.3
45-64 years-----	20.6	22.4	22.2	20.9	25.4	22.5	14.7	17.6
65 years and over-----	10.2	8.4	6.2	5.9	7.2	8.5	16.1	10.1
<u>Sex</u>								
Male-----	48.2	48.9	49.5	50.0	48.3	48.8	46.2	48.2
Female-----	51.8	51.1	50.5	50.0	51.7	51.2	53.8	51.8
<u>Race</u>								
White-----	87.0	90.5	81.3	81.6	80.6	90.9	76.0	78.6
Black-----	11.7	8.3	16.0	15.0	18.5	8.0	22.3	20.1
Other-----	1.3	1.2	2.7	3.4	*0.9	1.2	1.7	1.3
<u>Place of residence</u>								
SMSA-----	68.7	70.3	91.1	90.5	92.5	69.4	63.3	71.3
Central city-----	29.4	27.6	44.9	44.7	45.1	26.9	35.2	34.0
Outside central city-----	39.3	42.7	46.2	45.7	47.4	42.5	28.1	37.3
Outside SMSA-----	31.3	29.7	8.9	9.5	7.5	30.6	36.7	28.7
Nonfarm-----	28.1	26.7	8.3	8.8	7.2	27.5	32.9	25.2
Farm-----	3.2	3.0	0.6	0.8	*0.3	3.1	3.8	3.5
<u>Geographic region</u>								
Northeast-----	23.5	24.5	32.9	19.5	65.3	24.2	19.9	24.1
North Central-----	26.7	29.2	11.7	13.9	6.4	29.9	19.0	20.1
South-----	32.0	29.5	5.5	6.1	3.9	30.5	39.8	37.3
West-----	17.8	16.8	50.0	60.5	24.4	15.3	21.3	18.5
<u>Education of head of family²</u>								
Elementary school (0-8 years)-----	20.1	15.2	9.9	10.8	7.9	15.4	36.2	23.1
High school (9-11 years)-----	16.5	14.8	13.5	12.8	15.1	14.9	22.3	14.4
High school graduate (12 years)-----	32.6	34.9	30.9	31.0	30.9	35.0	25.5	28.8
College (13-15 years)-----	13.7	15.1	19.0	19.2	18.4	14.9	9.1	12.6
College graduate (16 years or over)-----	15.7	19.0	25.6	25.5	26.0	18.7	5.0	11.9
<u>Family income²</u>								
Under \$3,000-----	7.0	3.4	2.6	3.1	*1.4	3.4	19.0	8.8
\$3,000-\$4,999-----	8.2	4.8	3.7	4.3	2.1	4.8	19.4	9.8
\$5,000-\$9,999-----	21.7	19.3	14.7	16.4	10.7	19.5	29.5	19.7
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	22.5	25.6	25.9	27.6	21.6	25.6	12.6	19.0
\$15,000-\$24,999-----	23.4	28.0	33.8	30.7	41.5	27.8	8.5	16.0
\$25,000 and over-----	10.0	12.3	15.0	12.9	20.1	12.2	2.9	6.2

¹Excludes the 1,910,000 persons with fee-for-service plans who also belong to prepaid plans.

²Excludes unknown status.

Table 2 shows selected characteristics of persons by health insurance coverage status. Series 10, Numbers 66 and 117, present this type of data in terms of health insurance coverage status

only. This report will emphasize the characteristics of those covered by the two major alternative types of private health insurance.

Focusing on those in prepaid group plans

Table 3. Number and percent distribution of persons by private health insurance coverage 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 shown in the Technical Notes]

Selected characteristic	Coverage status			
	Prepaid plan		Fee-for-service ¹	
	Number in thousands	Percent distribution	Number in thousands	Percent distribution
All persons-----	6,532	100.0	151,552	100.0
<u>Race²</u>				
White-----	5,310	81.3	137,718	90.9
Black-----	1,047	16.0	12,078	8.0
<u>Place of residence</u>				
SMSA:				
Central city-----	2,930	44.9	40,717	26.9
Outside central city-----	3,018	46.2	64,446	42.5
Outside SMSA-----	585	9.0	46,390	30.6
<u>Geographic region</u>				
Northeast-----	2,148	32.9	36,642	24.2
North Central-----	763	11.7	45,385	29.9
South-----	359	5.5	46,291	30.5
West-----	3,263	50.0	23,234	15.3
<u>Education of head of family³</u>				
Less than high school--	1,528	23.4	45,915	30.3
High school-----	2,021	30.9	53,105	35.0
More than high school--	2,916	44.6	50,925	33.6
<u>Family income³</u>				
Under \$10,000-----	1,374	21.0	42,069	27.8
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	1,689	25.9	38,780	25.6
\$15,000 and over-----	3,189	48.8	60,497	39.9

¹Excludes the 1,910,000 persons with fee-for-service plans who also belong to prepaid plans.

²Excludes persons of other races.

³Excludes unknown status.

(including those whose prepaid plans are supplemented with fee-for-service type plans) and those in fee-for-service type plans only, it may be noted that varying levels of differences and similarities are associated with each of the sociodemographic variables (table 3). Thus the patterns of membership are similar by age and sex (table 2). However, there are wide variations in terms of race, place of residence, geographic region, education of head of family, and family income. Data show that the prepaid group membership is proportionately higher among blacks, within central cities, in the Northeast and especially in the West Region of the country, among families where the heads have higher levels of education, and among families with higher incomes.

Health-Related Characteristics by Health Insurance Coverage Status

Table 4 shows the numbers and rates for several selected health-related characteristics by health insurance coverage status. The rates shown are crude rates which have *not* been adjusted to take into account any of the sociodemographic differences among the various coverage-status groups described in the previous section. Since any differences or similarities in rates among the coverage-status groups may merely be a reflection of sociodemographic differences among the group's members, it would not be legitimate, based on these data alone, to attribute the differences or similarities in the rates solely to the type of insurance coverage.

Given this limitation, the rates may be compared in a purely descriptive manner, without any implied inferences regarding causation. As may be noted, the percent of persons with limitation of activity due to chronic conditions is similar in prepaid group and fee-for-service plans (12.2 percent and 12.0 percent, respectively); the rates for restricted-activity and bed-disability days, doctor visits, and hospital discharges associated with surgical treatment are higher for those in prepaid group plans. Among persons in prepaid group plans, the rates are lower for short-stay hospital discharges per 100 persons and days per short-stay hospital discharge.

Ambulatory Care and Hospitalizations by Type of Health Insurance Coverage

A great deal of interest has centered on whether participation in prepaid group plans would tend to lead to a greater use of ambulatory care services and to a reduced use of hospital services. This reduced use might be reflected in a lower rate of hospitalization and/or shorter periods of stay in the hospital. The crude rates for those covered by the two types of plans suggest this pattern of proportionately more doctor visits and less hospitalizations for those covered by prepaid group plans. However, these differences may merely reflect the differing sociodemographic composition of the population covered by these two types of plans. Comparing the specific rates for the various sociodemographic categories serves

Table 4. Number and rate of persons by private health insurance coverage status and selected health 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 shown in the Technical Notes]

Selected health characteristic	All persons	Coverage status						
		All types of coverage	Prepaid plan			Fee-for-service only ¹	Not covered	Unknown if covered
			All prepaid	Prepaid only	Prepaid supplemented by fee-for-service			
Number in thousands								
All persons-----	209,065	158,085	6,532	4,622	1,910	151,552	47,433	3,547
Persons with limitation of activity-----	29,900	18,978	795	579	215	18,183	10,464	458
Restricted-activity days-----	3,733,892	3,444,928	124,184	90,098	34,087	2,320,744	1,231,078	57,886
Bed-disability days-----	1,371,418	885,323	41,015	27,855	13,160	844,308	464,835	21,260
Short-stay hospital days for discharges ² -----	235,607	160,804	4,852	3,570	1,282	155,952	71,815	2,988
Short-stay hospital discharges ² -----	29,474	21,438	733	547	186	20,705	7,641	395
Short-stay hospital discharges with surgical operation ² -----	16,071	12,176	492	354	138	11,684	3,706	189
Doctor visits ² -----	1,056,094	793,985	38,248	26,531	11,717	755,737	245,673	16,436
Rate								
Percent of persons with limitation of activity-----	14.3	12.0	12.2	12.5	11.3	12.0	22.1	12.9
Restricted-activity days per person per year-----	17.9	15.5	19.0	19.5	17.8	15.3	26.0	16.3
Bed-disability days per person per year-----	6.6	5.6	6.3	6.0	6.9	5.6	9.8	6.0
Short-stay hospital days per discharge ² -----	8.0	7.5	6.6	6.5	6.9	7.5	9.4	7.6
Short-stay hospital discharges per 100 persons ² -----	14.1	13.6	11.2	11.8	9.7	13.7	16.1	11.1
Percent of discharges surgically treated ² -----	54.5	56.8	67.1	64.7	74.2	56.4	48.5	47.8
Doctor visits per person per year ² -----	5.1	5.0	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.0	5.2	4.6

¹Excludes the 1,910,000 persons with fee-for-service plans who also belong to prepaid plans.

²Unknown if subscribers of a plan used the facility of that plan.

to minimize the confounding influence of the differences in the composition of the two populations.

Table 5 shows the specific rates for doctor visits, and table 6 shows the specific rates for length of stay per hospital discharge. For doctor visits, the specific rates almost invariably show a pattern of greater use by those in prepaid group plans. Regarding the average length of stay per discharge from a short-stay hospital, the specific rates tend to be lower for those in prepaid group plans. However, this relationship does not hold for all of the subgroupings shown in table 6.

Among families at the intermediate level of income and education, the average length of stay per discharge for those in prepaid group plans is as great as or greater than that for those in fee-for-service plans.

A report containing a more extensive and detailed presentation of these data is in preparation. Copies of tabulations to be used in the forthcoming report are available upon request. To receive these copies, contact the Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

Table 5. Number of doctor visits¹ per person per year by private health insurance coverage status 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 shown in the Technical Notes]

Selected characteristic	All persons	Coverage status						
		All types of coverage	Prepaid plan ¹			Fee-for-service only ²	Not covered	Unknown if covered
			All prepaid	Prepaid only	Prepaid supplemented by fee-for-service			
Number of doctor visits per person								
All persons-----	5.1	5.0	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.0	5.2	4.6
<u>Age</u>								
Under 17 years-----	4.2	4.2	4.7	4.4	5.4	4.2	4.3	3.7
17-64 years-----	5.2	5.1	6.1	6.3	5.7	5.1	5.4	5.0
65 years and over-----	6.6	6.9	9.1	6.9	13.3	6.9	6.1	5.7
<u>Sex</u>								
Male-----	4.3	4.3	5.1	4.8	5.6	4.3	4.2	4.0
Female-----	5.7	5.7	6.6	6.6	6.7	5.6	6.0	5.2
<u>Race</u>								
White-----	5.1	5.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.1	5.2	4.8
All other-----	4.7	4.4	5.3	4.7	6.7	4.3	5.1	4.2
<u>Place of residence</u>								
All SMSA's-----	5.3	5.2	5.9	5.8	6.2	5.2	5.6	5.0
Outside SMSA:								
Nonfarm-----	4.6	4.6	5.0	5.0	*5.1	4.6	4.6	4.1
Farm-----	3.8	3.9	*3.1	*3.7	*	3.9	3.7	*1.1
<u>Geographic region</u>								
Northeast-----	5.3	5.2	5.4	4.1	6.2	5.2	6.0	4.9
North Central-----	4.7	4.7	5.2	5.1	*5.8	4.7	4.9	3.9
South-----	4.6	4.7	7.9	7.4	*9.7	4.7	4.4	5.4
West-----	5.9	5.9	6.2	6.2	5.9	5.9	6.1	3.5
<u>Education of head of family</u>								
Elementary school (0-8 years)-----	4.9	4.7	6.9	6.5	8.3	4.7	5.1	4.3
High school (9-11 years)-----	4.9	4.7	6.1	5.0	8.4	4.7	5.3	5.2
High school graduate (12 years)-----	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.2	4.4	4.9	5.1	5.0
College (13-15 years)-----	5.5	5.4	6.1	6.2	5.9	5.4	6.0	5.7
College graduate (16 years and over)-----	5.4	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.8	4.5
<u>Family income</u>								
Under \$3,000-----	6.4	6.7	9.9	11.1	*3.4	6.6	6.3	4.2
\$3,000-\$4,999-----	5.6	5.5	9.3	8.3	*14.1	5.4	5.7	7.8
\$5,000-\$9,999-----	5.2	5.3	6.1	5.6	7.9	5.3	4.9	4.4
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	4.8	4.8	6.1	6.0	6.6	4.7	4.7	5.5
\$15,000-\$24,999-----	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.9	5.0
\$25,000 and over-----	4.9	5.0	6.0	5.6	6.5	5.0	3.6	*3.1

¹ May include utilization not covered by prepaid plan.

² Excludes the 1,910,000 persons with fee-for-service plans who also belong to prepaid plans.

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)-----	*

Table 6. Number of short-stay hospital days¹ per discharge by private health insurance coverage status 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 shown in the Technical Notes]

Selected characteristic	All persons	Coverage status						
		All types of coverage	Prepaid plan ¹			Fee-for-service only ²	Not covered	Unknown if covered
			All prepaid	Prepaid only	Prepaid supplemented by fee-for-service			
Number of hospital days per discharge								
All persons-----	8.0	7.5	6.6	6.5	6.9	7.5	9.4	7.6
<u>Age</u>								
Under 17 years-----	5.5	4.8	*5.0	*4.4	*8.4	4.8	7.5	*3.2
17-64 years-----	7.4	7.2	6.1	6.0	*6.2	7.2	8.4	6.7
65 years and over-----	12.0	11.4	*11.7	*12.2	*10.9	11.4	13.1	*15.8
<u>Sex</u>								
Male-----	8.9	8.0	6.2	6.0	*7.5	8.1	11.4	8.2
Female-----	7.4	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.2	8.0	7.2
<u>Race</u>								
White-----	7.9	7.4	7.0	6.8	7.5	7.4	9.4	7.9
Black-----	9.2	8.9	*5.5	*5.9	*4.4	9.2	9.6	*6.7
Other-----	5.4	*4.2	*3.5	*3.5	*-	*4.4	*7.4	*-
<u>Place of residence</u>								
SMSA-----	8.2	7.8	6.5	6.4	*6.9	7.8	9.6	7.7
Central city-----	8.9	8.6	7.1	7.1	*7.4	8.7	9.6	7.2
Outside central city-----	7.7	7.2	5.8	5.6	*6.3	7.3	9.7	8.2
Outside SMSA-----	7.6	7.0	*7.3	*7.6	*7.0	7.0	9.0	*7.0
Nonfarm-----	7.6	7.0	*7.3	*7.6	*7.0	7.0	9.1	*7.2
Farm-----	6.9	6.7	*-	*-	*-	6.7	8.0	*2.3
<u>Geographic region</u>								
Northeast-----	9.7	9.1	8.0	*9.9	*6.3	9.1	11.4	*9.4
North Central-----	8.1	7.7	*7.0	*6.8	*8.2	7.7	10.2	*5.3
South-----	7.5	7.0	*8.8	*8.2	*11.8	7.0	8.7	7.8
West-----	6.6	6.0	5.5	5.2	*7.1	6.1	7.7	*7.2
<u>Education of head of family</u>								
Elementary school (0-8 years)-----	9.8	9.1	*5.7	*5.6	*6.1	9.2	10.8	*8.3
High school (9-11 years)-----	8.2	7.9	*7.2	*7.9	*3.8	7.9	8.7	*6.5
High school graduate (12 years)-----	7.1	6.8	7.8	7.3	*9.1	6.8	8.2	*7.1
College (13-15 years)-----	7.3	7.0	*7.3	*6.9	*8.7	7.0	8.6	*10.9
College graduate (16 years and over)-----	6.9	6.9	*5.1	*5.1	*5.1	6.9	7.5	*4.7
<u>Family income</u>								
Under \$3,000-----	10.3	11.5	*6.6	*6.6	*8.0	11.8	9.6	*13.9
\$3,000-\$4,999-----	10.3	10.2	*8.8	*8.7	*12.3	10.3	10.3	*10.0
\$5,000-\$9,999-----	8.0	7.8	8.6	*9.4	*5.0	7.8	8.4	*8.0
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	7.0	6.6	5.5	*4.3	*8.2	6.6	10.1	*6.7
\$15,000-\$24,999-----	6.4	6.3	6.4	*6.6	*5.9	6.2	8.0	*5.9
\$25,000 and over-----	7.4	7.3	*5.9	*5.1	*6.9	7.3	9.3	*3.1

¹May include utilization not covered by prepaid plans.

²Excludes the 1,910,000 persons with fee-for-service plans who also belong to prepaid plans.

TECHNICAL NOTES

The data presented in this report were obtained from household interviews in the Health Interview Survey. These interviews were conducted throughout 1975 in a probability

sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. During that year approximately 116,000 persons living in about 40,000 households were included in the sample.

The health maintenance organization questions were asked of each household member.

Because the estimates shown are based on a sample of the population rather than on the entire population, they are subject to sampling error. Standard errors appropriate for the estimates of the number of persons are shown in table I; standard errors appropriate for percentages are shown in table II.

Table I. Standard errors of estimates of aggregates

Size of estimate in thousands	Standard error in thousands
35.....	11
70.....	15
100.....	18
300.....	31
500.....	40
700.....	48
1,000.....	57
5,000.....	125
10,000.....	174
20,000.....	237
30,000.....	278

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percentages

Base of percentage in thousands	Estimated percentages				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	20 or 80	50
70.....	3.0	4.7	6.5	8.6	10.8
100.....	2.5	3.9	5.4	7.2	9.0
300.....	1.5	2.3	3.1	4.2	5.2
500.....	1.1	1.8	2.4	3.2	4.0
700.....	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.7	3.4
1,000.....	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.3	2.9
5,000.....	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.3
10,000.....	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9
20,000.....	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6
30,000.....	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5

For a more detailed discussion of the limitations and qualifications of data collected in the Health Interview Survey and for the size of sampling errors of the estimates on disability days, physician visits, and other rates, see Series 10, No. 100, of *Vital and Health Statistics*.

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