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# Vital and Health Statistics

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## National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 1991 Summary

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No. 116

Based on data collected from a national sample of office-based physicians, statistics are presented on the provision and utilization of ambulatory medical care services in physicians' offices during 1991. Ambulatory medical care services are described in terms of patient characteristics, physician practice characteristics, and visit characteristics.

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In accordance with specifications established by the National Center for Health Statistics, the U.S. Bureau of the Census, under a contractual arrangement, participated in planning the survey and collecting the data.

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#### Symbols

---	Data not available
...	Category not applicable
-	Quantity zero
0.0	Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
Z	Quantity more than zero but less than 500 where numbers are rounded to thousands
*	Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision

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# National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 1991 Summary

Susan M. Schappert, M.A.,  
Division of Health Care Statistics

## Introduction

This report presents national estimates of the utilization of ambulatory medical care services provided by office-based physicians in the United States during 1991. The estimates are based on data from the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, a probability sample survey conducted by the Division of Health Care Statistics of the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) began in 1973 and was conducted annually through 1981. It was next conducted in 1985 and resumed an annual schedule with the 1989 implementation. Summary reports for previous data years are available (1–10), as are supplemental reports on special topics (11).

This report is divided into four parts. The utilization of ambulatory medical care services is discussed in terms of 1) patient characteristics, 2) physician practice characteristics, 3) patient's reason for visit, and 4) physician's diagnosis and treatment. The report concludes with a series of appendixes that contain technical information pertaining to the 1991 survey. The appendixes include a description of the statistical design of the survey, guidelines for judging the precision of the estimates, definitions of terms used in the survey, and copies of the survey instruments. A complete description of the background and methodology of the survey is available in a previously published document (12). Because the estimates in this report are based on a sample of office visits rather than on the entire universe of such visits, they are subject to sampling variability. For this reason, the reader is urged to consult the technical notes in Appendix I on reliability of the estimates and the accompanying charts of relative standard errors.

## Scope of the survey

The basic sampling unit for the NAMCS is the physician-patient encounter or visit. Only visits to the offices of nonfederally employed physicians who were classified by the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association as "office-based, patient care" were included. Visits to private, nonhospital-based clinics and health maintenance organizations were considered to be within the scope of the survey, but those that took place in government-operated facilities were not. Physicians specializing in anesthesiology, pathology, or radiology were not included in the sample, nor

were visits to hospital-based physicians or physicians primarily engaged in training, research, or administration. Telephone contacts and visits made outside the physician's office were also excluded.

It has been estimated that about 66 percent of all ambulatory medical care contacts (excluding telephone contacts) occur in physicians' offices, and an additional 18 percent occur in nonhospital-based clinics and health maintenance organizations (13). Therefore, the current NAMCS design provides data on the majority of visits for ambulatory medical care services in the United States. However, in 1992 the scope of the ambulatory medical care program was expanded with the implementation of the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS). This new annual survey encompasses hospital outpatient and emergency departments to provide a more complete picture of ambulatory medical care utilization. Results from the NHAMCS as well as a detailed description of the survey design and methodology will be published in later reports in this series and in the *Advance Data from Vital and Health Statistics* series.

## New data items

The Patient Record is the survey instrument used by physicians participating in the NAMCS to record information about their patients' office visits. The content and format of the Patient Record is periodically reviewed and revised to reflect the changing needs of health data users, the recommendations of advisors, and anticipated future health data needs.

The 1991 Patient Record included several questions that were new to the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. Through these items, data were collected on injury-related office visits, the patient's current cigarette-smoking status, and whether the patient had any of four specific chronic conditions—depression, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, and obesity—at the time of the visit. Also, physicians were able to record up to two ambulatory surgical procedures scheduled or performed at the visit, if any, and the type of anesthesia used.

Revisions were made to existing data items on diagnostic, screening, and therapeutic services. The lists for these services were expanded to permit greater specificity of physicians' responses on the Patient Record. All of the changes on the 1991 NAMCS are described in detail in later sections of this report.

# Data highlights

- There were an estimated 669.7 million visits made to nonfederally employed, office-based physicians in 1991, or 2.7 visits per person.
- About half (48.9 percent) of all office visits were made by persons 25–64 years of age; 59.8 percent of all visits were made by females. Persons 65 years and over accounted for 23.3 percent of all office visits.
- About 313 office visits were made for every 100 females in 1991, significantly higher than the rate of 223 visits for every 100 males.
- The largest share of office visits was made to physicians specializing in general and family practice (24.6 percent of the total). However, this percent is significantly smaller than those reported in 1989 and 1990. The visit rate to general and family practitioners decreased from 85.2 visits per 100 persons in 1990 to 66.3 visits per 100 persons in 1991.
- The percent of office visits made as the result of a referral from another physician increased from 5.5 percent in 1990 to 6.2 percent in 1991.
- Most office visits (83.3 percent) were made by patients who had seen the physician on a prior occasion; 61.8 percent were returning for care of a previously treated condition.
- Expected sources of payment at office visits were most often private/commercial insurance (35.8 percent) and payment by the patient (23.6 percent). Medicare was cited at 21.2 percent of visits, while HMO/other prepaid was mentioned at 15.1 percent. Physicians could report more than one expected pay source per visit.
- About 66 million office visits were injury related, or 9.9 percent of all office visits. The majority of injury-related visits (55.3 percent) were made by males, and 41.1 percent were made by persons 25–44 years of age.
- Of all office visits, 10.1 percent or 67.7 million were made by persons who currently smoke cigarettes. The patient's smoking status was unknown for 27.7 percent of visits.
- More than half of all office visits were made for reasons classified as symptoms (57.6 percent). The most frequently mentioned symptoms were those related to the respiratory system (11.5 percent) and the musculoskeletal system (11.4 percent).
- General medical examination was the reason most frequently given by patients for the current office visit (4.4 percent of the total), while cough was the most frequently mentioned reason having to do with illness or injury (3.6 percent).
- More than half (64.8 percent) of all office visits included one or more diagnostic or screening service. The most frequently reported service was blood pressure check (43.2 percent of visits).
- Ambulatory surgery was scheduled or performed at 6.1 percent of office visits, with 43.3 million procedures reported. Physicians were asked to code up to 2 diagnostic or therapeutic procedures per office visit.
- The most common diagnosis rendered by physicians in 1991 was essential hypertension (3.5 percent of visits). Essential hypertension has been the most frequently reported diagnosis related to illness or injury in every survey year since the NAMCS began in 1973. However, in a survey item added for the first time in 1991, physicians were asked specifically whether the patient currently suffered from hypertension. Results indicated that 12.7 percent of all visits, or 85.3 million, were made by patients with hypertension. This suggests that chronic conditions may be underreported in the NAMCS.
- The most commonly reported therapeutic service was medication therapy (63.3 percent of all visits). There were an estimated 804.6 million drug mentions, yielding an average of 1.2 drug mentions per office visit, or 1.9 drug mentions per drug visit (that is, visits at which one or more medications were prescribed).
- About two-thirds (66.7 percent) of all office visits included a scheduled followup visit or telephone call, while another 21.6 percent included instructions to return if needed.
- About two-thirds (68.4 percent) of office visits had a duration of 15 minutes or less. The mean duration time for all visits was 17.0 minutes.

# Office-based care as related to patient characteristics

During the 12-month period from January 1991–December 1991 there were an estimated 669.7 million office visits made to nonfederally employed, office-based physicians in the United States. The annual visit rate (number of office visits per person per year) was 2.7 in 1991 and has not changed significantly since 1975.

In this section, visits are first described in terms of the patient's age, sex, and race. Next, characteristics of the office visit—physician specialty, patient's referral status and prior-visit status, expected source(s) of payment, patient's reason for visiting the physician, diagnostic services ordered or provided at the visit, physician's principal diagnosis, therapeutic services ordered or provided at the visit, and disposition and duration of the visit—are discussed in terms of patient characteristics. References are made frequently in the text to the tables that can be found following the narrative sections of this report.

## Patient's age, sex, and race

Data on office visits by patient's age, sex, and race are shown in table 1. Females made 59.8 percent of all office visits during 1991. They also accounted for a higher percent of visits than males did in each age category except the youngest (under 15 years).

Correspondingly, the annual visit rate was higher for females (3.1 visits per person) than for males (2.2 visits per person) (figure 1). Females had significantly higher visit rates than males did in the age groups 15–24 years, 25–44 years, and 45–64 years. Visit rates were not significantly different for males and females in the age groups under 15 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over. These patterns were also found in the 1990 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Visit rates tended to increase with age after the age of 24. Persons 75 years of age and over had the highest visit rate of the six age categories analyzed, at 6.0 visits per person. The pattern, however, was slightly different for males than for females. Among males, visit rates increased significantly with each age group after the age of 24, with males 75 years and over having the highest rate of 6.1 visits per person. Females, despite a general trend toward increasing visit rates with age after the age of 24, showed no statistical differences in the rates for those 25–44 years compared with those 45–64 years, or in the rates for those 65–74 years compared with those 75 years and over.

Males and females 65 years of age and over accounted for 23.3 percent of all patient visits in 1991, with an annual rate of

5.1 office visits per person. As noted earlier, there was no statistical difference between the rate of visits by females in this age group (5.3 visits) compared with males (4.9 visits). The visit rate for persons under the age of 65 years was 2.4 visits per person, with a visit rate for females in this age group (2.8 visits) that was significantly higher than that for males (1.9 visits).

White persons made 87.8 percent of all office visits in 1991, with black persons and Asian/Pacific Islanders accounting for 8.7 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively. The percent of visits made by white persons was higher than that reported in 1989 and 1990, but this is mainly due to a change in the survey coding procedure. For survey years before 1989, unspecified responses to the race item were randomly imputed a race designation. The 1989 and 1990 NAMCS included an "unspecified" category in the race item, which resulted in a significantly smaller proportion of visits by white persons than in previous survey years. The 1991 NAMCS reverted to the previous method of imputation of unspecified responses in order to maximize comparability across years of survey data. This method yielded a slightly higher proportion of visits by white persons compared with 1989 and 1990 data.

In general, white persons had a higher visit rate (2.8 visits per person) in 1991 than black persons had (1.9 visits per person). These rates are not statistically different than those reported for 1990. Visit rates were higher for white persons than for black persons in each age group except the youngest (under 15 years).

Among white persons, visit rates were not statistically different for the age groups under 15 years and 15–24 years, but increased for each subsequent age group, with white persons 75 years of age and over having the highest visit rate of 6.2 visits per person. Among black persons, those in the age group 15–24 years showed the lowest visit rate of any age group (1.0 visit per person), but the visit rate increased significantly among persons 25–44 years of age and again among persons 45–64 years of age. However, the visit rates for black persons 45–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over did not differ from each other statistically in 1991, unlike the pattern seen within the white population (figure 2).

## Geographic region of visit

Office visits by geographic region—Northeast, Midwest, South, and West—are shown in tables 1 and 2. Overall visit



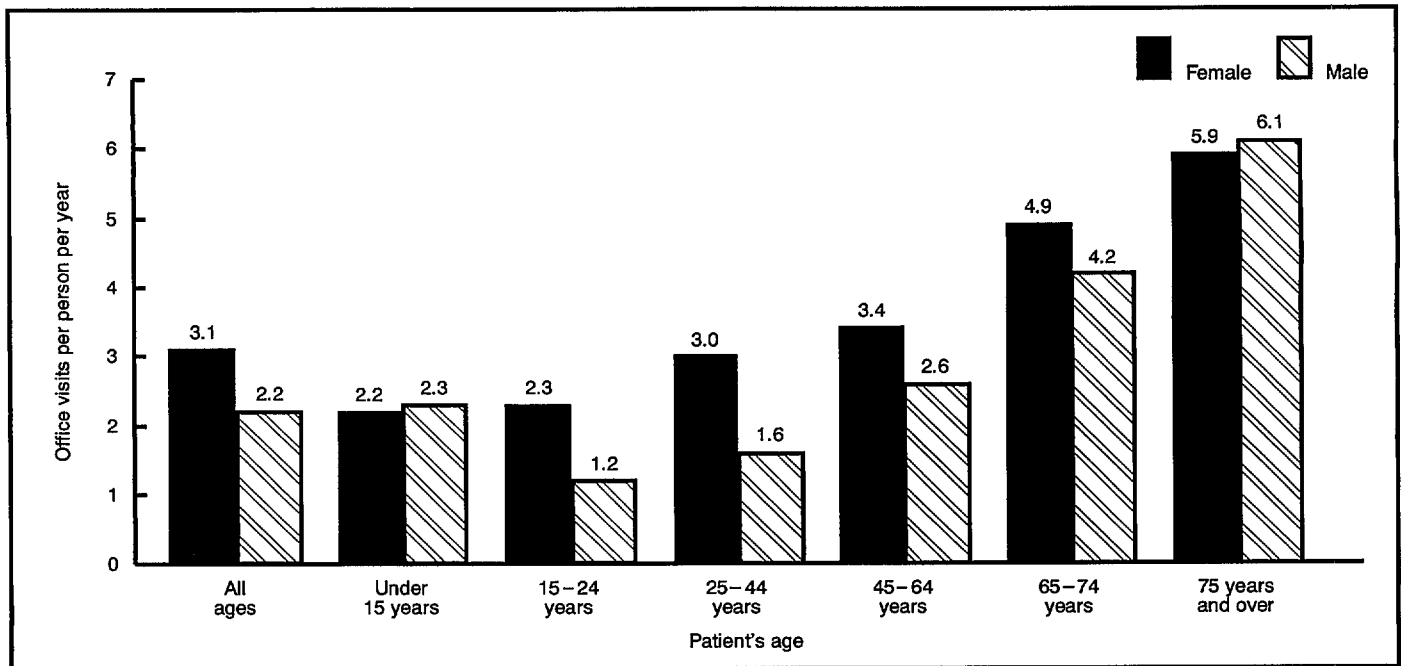


Figure 1. Annual rate of visits to office-based physicians by patient's age and sex: United States, 1991

rates did not differ significantly between the Northeast, Midwest, and West for 1991. The overall visit rate for the Southern region was significantly lower, however, than those in the other three regions.

### Physician specialty and professional status

Visits by physician specialty according to patient's age and sex are displayed in table 3. Visits made to general and family practitioners accounted for the largest proportion of office visits by physician specialty (24.6 percent). However, this was a significant decrease from their 29.8 percent share in 1989 and 1990. Between 1990 and 1991, slight but significant increases occurred in the proportions of visits made to internists, orthopedic surgeons, dermatologists, otolaryngologists, and urologists, while a slight decrease was seen in the proportion of visits made to psychiatrists. There were no significant differences in the percents of visits made to pediatricians, obstetricians and gynecologists, ophthalmologists, general surgeons, and neurologists.

Office visit rates by physician specialty are shown in figure 3. The rate of visits to general and family practitioners was 66.3 visits per 100 persons in 1991, a significant decrease from the 1990 visit rate of 85.2 visits per 100 persons. Visit rates to each of the other major specialties listed above were not significantly different from 1990 figures.

Visit rates for males and females to selected physician specialties are shown in figure 4. Females had a higher rate of visits to general and family practitioners and to obstetricians and gynecologists, while males had a higher rate of visits to urologists. No significant differences were found between visit rates for males and females to any of the other physician specialties listed above.

An estimated 623.0 million office visits were made to doctors of medicine (93.0 percent) and 46.7 million visits were made to doctors of osteopathy (7.0 percent) in 1991. For doctors of osteopathy, this is a slight increase over the 1990 figure of 5.6 percent. Osteopathic physicians received 18.8 visits per 100 persons during 1991, compared with 250.5 visits per 100 persons to all other physicians.

### Patient's referral status and prior-visit status

Office visits by patient's referral status (whether the current visit was the result of a referral by another physician), prior-visit status (whether the patient had been seen before by the physician and, if so, for the same problem), and patient's expected source(s) of payment are displayed in table 4.

In general, 6 of every 100 office visits (6.2 percent of the total) were the result of a referral by another physician, and 81.3 percent of referred visits were made by patients who had never seen the physician previously. The remainder were made by patients who had seen the physician previously but were currently seeking treatment for a new problem. The proportion of referrals did not differ significantly according to the patient's sex. However, visits made by persons in the 25-44 years and 45-64 years age groups were more likely to be the result of a referral than were visits made by the youngest (under 15 years) and the oldest (75 years and over) age groups.

The majority of office visits (83.3 percent) were made by patients who had seen the physician on a prior occasion, and 61.8 percent were made by patients returning for care of a previously treated problem. Among visits made by persons under 15 years of age, 53.1 percent were of the latter type, compared with 76.7 percent of visits made by persons 75 years and over.

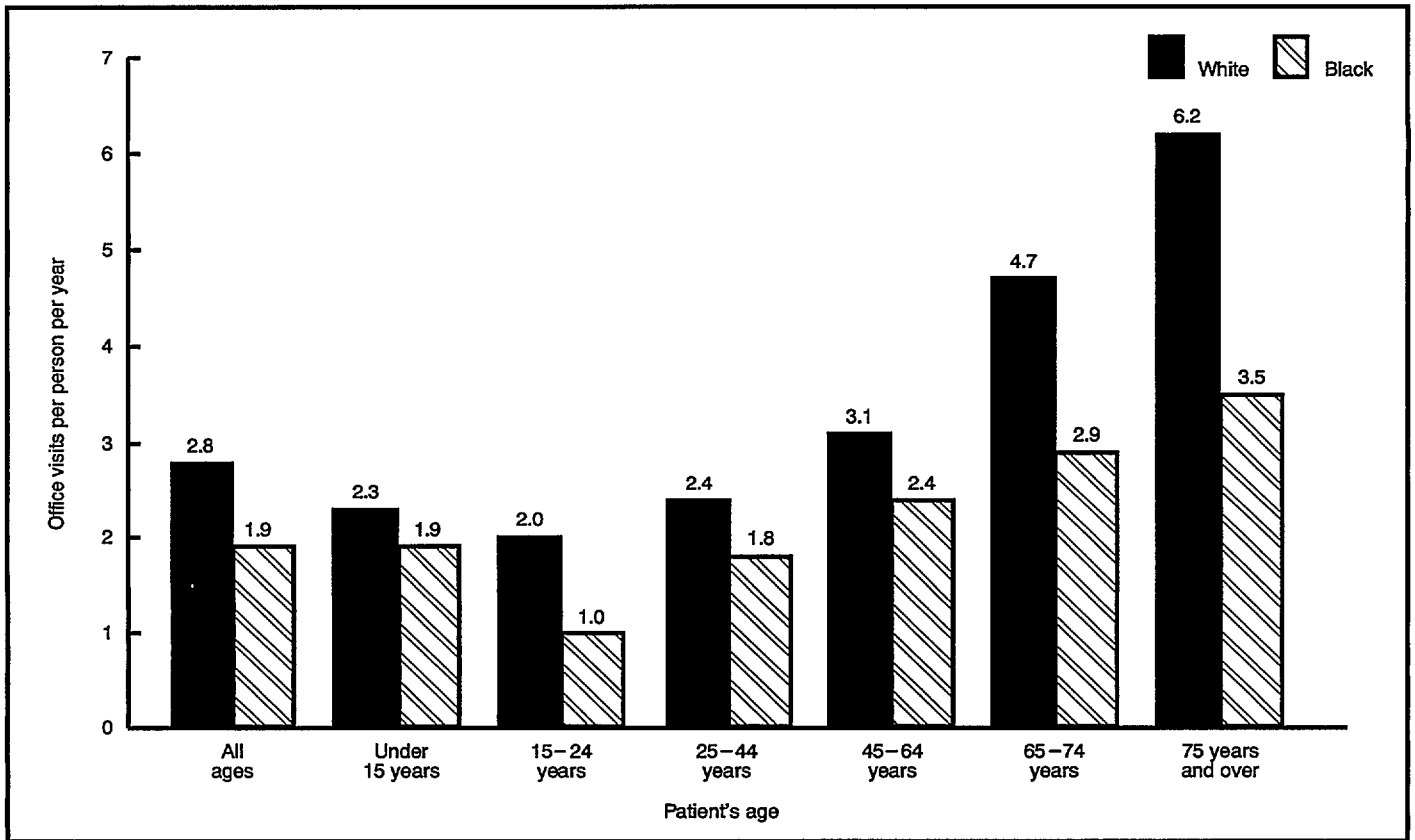


Figure 2. Annual rate of visits to office-based physicians by patient's age and race: United States, 1991

While 16.7 percent of all office visits were made by new patients, males (18.6 percent) were more likely than females (15.4 percent) to make such visits. Conversely, a greater proportion of visits by females were return visits to the physician for the care of a previously treated problem.

Data on expected sources of payment at visits to office-based physicians were collected in 1991 using a format that was slightly different than that used in 1990. For the 1991 NAMCS, "private/commercial" and "other government" payment categories were added, with "private/commercial" replacing the former categories of commercial insurance and Blue Cross/Blue Shield on the 1990 NAMCS. Physicians were asked to check all applicable payment categories for this item so that multiple payment sources could be coded for each visit.

Expected sources of payment were most often private/commercial insurance (35.8 percent of visits) and "patient-paid" (23.6 percent). The patient-paid category includes the patient's contribution toward "co-payments" and "deductibles." Private/commercial insurance and patient-paid were the most frequently recorded expected sources of payment at visits by all age groups with the exception of the two oldest—65-74 years and 75 years and over. For visits by persons 65 years and over, Medicare, as expected, was the most frequently expected source of payment (80.6 percent).

"HMO/other prepaid" was mentioned at 15.1 percent of visits, which was not significantly different from the 1990 level of 14.5 percent. An increase was noted in the percent of

visits listing Medicaid as an expected source of payment, from 8.5 percent in 1990 to 9.5 percent in 1991.

### Is this visit injury related?

The 1991 NAMCS included a new item on the Patient Record form in which the physician recorded whether the visit was injury related. About 66.1 million visits, or 9.9 percent of all office visits, were injury related; more than half of these visits (55.3 percent) were made by males, and 41.1 percent were made by persons 25-44 years old. Males had a higher injury-visit rate than females did overall (30.3 visits per 100 males compared with 23.1 visits per 100 females), but these differences were evidenced only in the age groups 15-24 years and 25-44 years. Injury-visit rates for males and females in the under 15, 45-64, 65-74, and 75 years and over groups did not differ significantly.

Among females, injury-visit rates were lowest for those in the under 15 years age group (11.4 visits per 100 females). Visit rates for the other age groups (15-24 years, 25-44 years, 45-64 years, 65-74 years, and 75 years and over) were higher than that of the youngest group, but were not significantly different from each other.

For males, injury-visit rates were not statistically different for the youngest and two oldest age groups (under 15, 65-74, and 75 years and over). Males 15-24 years, 25-44 years, and 45-64 years had higher injury-visit rates (37.4, 39.7, and 33.7

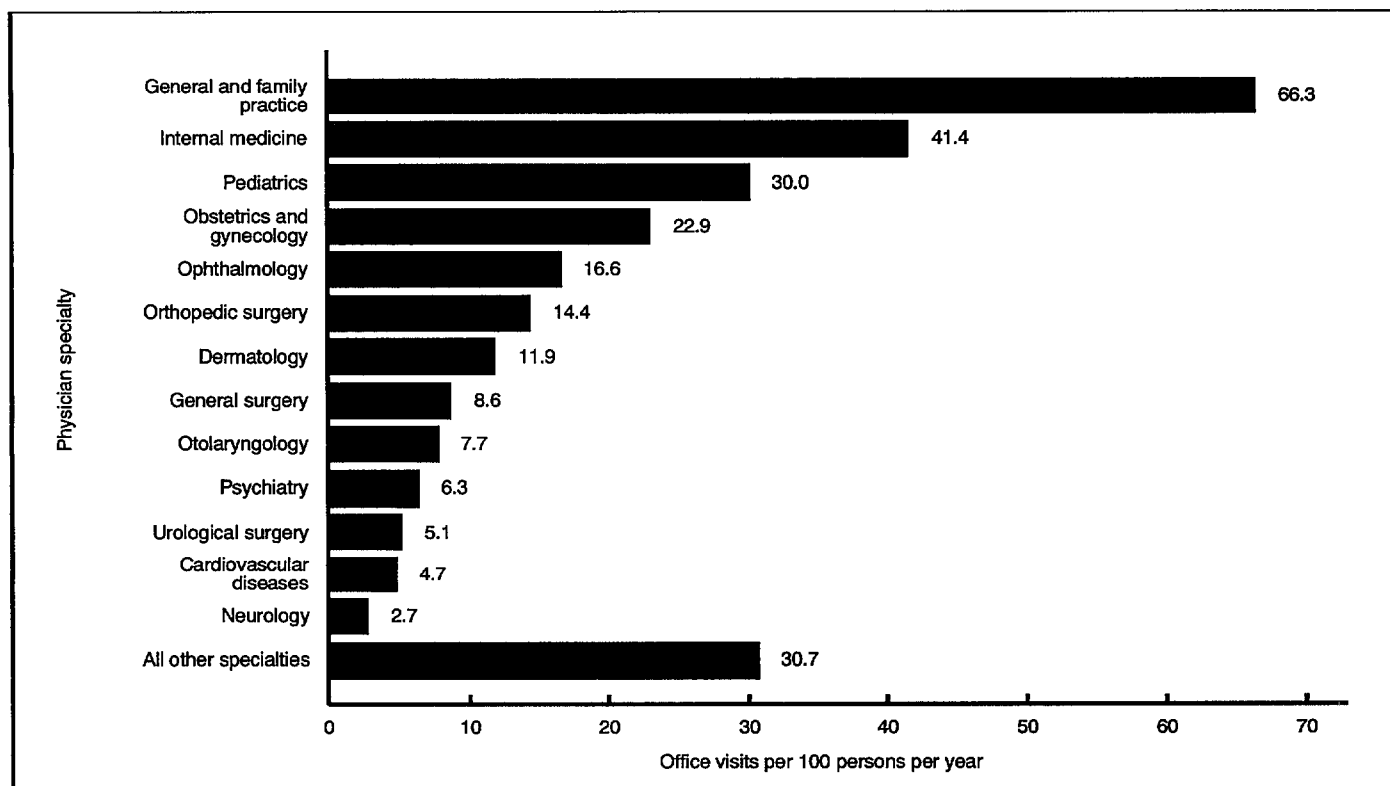


Figure 3. Annual rate of visits to office-based physicians by specialty: United States, 1991

visits per 100 males in each age group respectively), but these rates were not statistically different from each other. Injury-related office visits, described in terms of the patient's age and sex, are shown in table A.

### Does patient smoke cigarettes?

Another new item in the 1991 NAMCS collected data on whether the patient currently smokes cigarettes. Results showed that 10.1 percent of all office visits, or 67.7 million, were made by patients who smoke cigarettes. However, the patient's smoking status was unreported for 27.7 percent of the total, or 185.2 million office visits. Data on visits made by patients who smoke cigarettes are presented in table B.

### Patient's principal reason for visit

Office visits by patient's principal reason for visit are displayed in tables 5 and 6. In item 10 of the Patient Record form, the physician is asked to record the patient's (or patient surrogate's) "complaint(s), symptom(s), or other reason(s) for this visit in the patient's own words." Up to three reasons for visit are classified and coded from the survey according to the *Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC)* (14). The principal reason for visit is the problem, complaint, or reason listed in item 10a.

The RVC is divided into the eight modules or groups of reasons displayed in table 5. More than half of all visits were made for reasons classified as symptoms (57.6 percent). Respiratory symptoms accounted for 11.5 percent of all visits, and musculoskeletal symptoms accounted for 11.4 percent. Of all

symptom categories, those referable to the respiratory and musculoskeletal systems were mentioned most frequently by both males and females. Among the youngest patients (under 15 years), visits due to respiratory symptoms accounted for 22.0 percent of the total, compared with 11.1 percent for all ages combined. Musculoskeletal symptoms were mentioned most frequently by those in the age groups 25–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65–74 years. For 15–24 year-olds, musculoskeletal symptoms were mentioned more frequently than any other type of symptom with two exceptions—respiratory symptoms and skin, hair, and nail symptoms. For visits by those 75 years and over, musculoskeletal symptoms were cited more frequently than any other type of symptoms with one exception—symptoms referable to the eyes and ears.

The second most frequently cited module was the diagnostic/screening and preventive one, accounting for 15.1 percent of office visits. Females had a significantly higher percent of visits in this group, which includes routine prenatal examinations, than males did.

The 10 most frequently mentioned principal reasons for visit are shown by patient's age and sex in table 6. (It is important to note that the rank ordering presented in this and other tables in this report may not always be reliable because near estimates may not differ from each other due to sampling variability.) General medical examination was the most frequently mentioned reason for visit overall (4.4 percent of the total), while cough was the most frequently mentioned reason related to illness or injury (3.6 percent). The top 10 reasons listed for all visits in 1991 accounted for 25.5 percent of office visits and were also the top 10 reasons for visit in 1990.

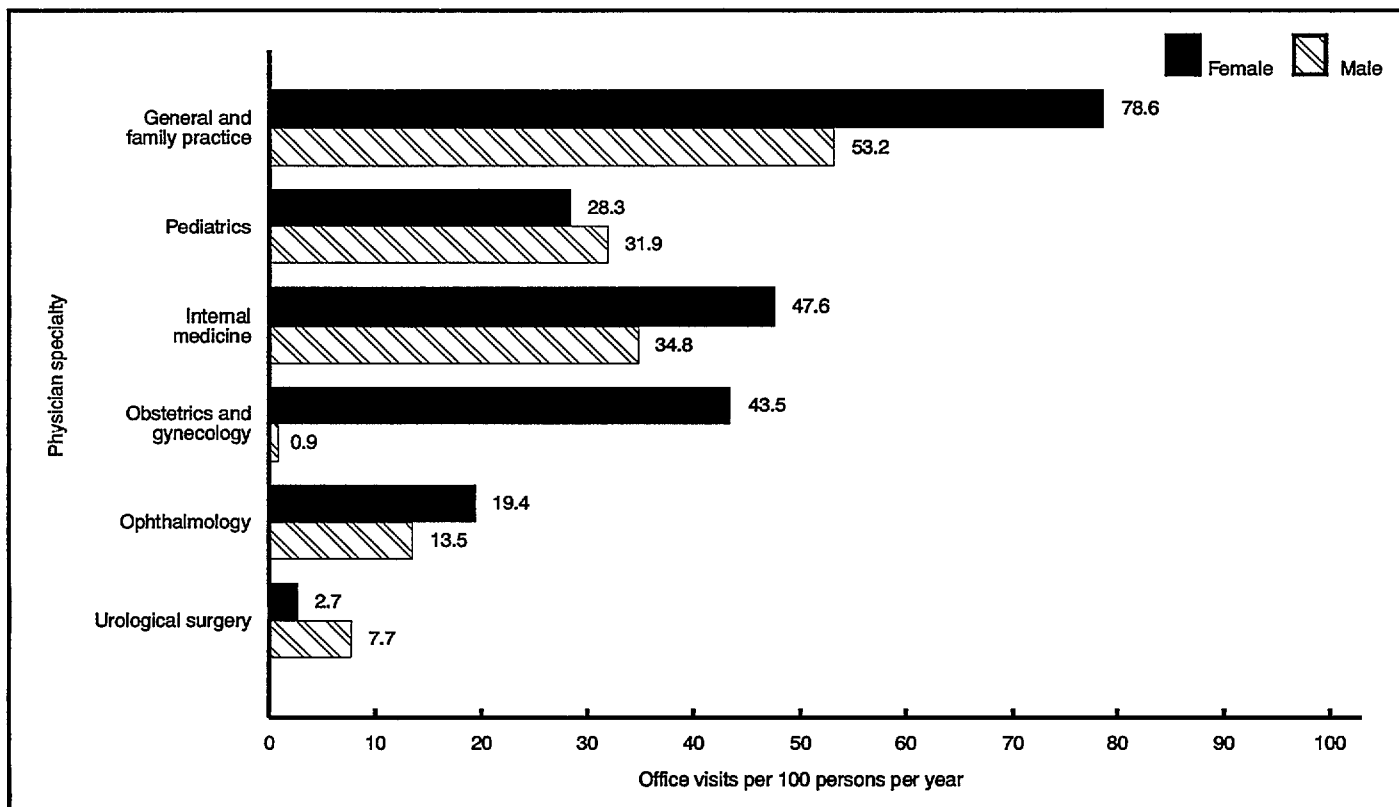


Figure 4. Annual visit rates for selected physician specialties by patient's sex: United States, 1991

## Diagnostic and screening services

Statistics on diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided by the physician during the office visit are displayed in table 7. The list of diagnostic and screening services appearing on the Patient Record form is changed periodically to reflect the changing needs of data users, recommendations of advisors, and anticipated future health data needs. The 1991 NAMCS added a number of services that either had never appeared on the Patient Record form or had not been included for several years. New categories for 1991 include the following: EKG—resting, EKG—exercise, allergy testing, spirometry, strep throat test, hearing test, and mental status exam. In addition, the former “other” category was expanded to permit greater specificity with the addition of the “other radiology” and “other lab test” categories.

More than half (64.8 percent) of all office visits included one or more diagnostic or screening services. The most frequently mentioned diagnostic service was blood pressure check, recorded at 43.2 percent of visits. This percent was significantly higher than that recorded in 1990. (The 1990 percent was also higher than that found in 1989.) Also, blood pressure checks were ordered or provided at a higher percent of female visits (47.9 percent) than male visits (36.1 percent) in 1991, but the percents for both sexes showed an increase over 1990 figures.

Other frequently mentioned diagnostic or screening services included the new category, “other lab test” (17.1 percent of visits); urinalysis (12.7 percent); visual acuity (6.0 percent); other radiology (radiology other than chest x ray) (5.5 percent); cholesterol

measure (4.0 percent); and resting EKG (2.8 percent). Pap tests and mammograms were ordered or performed at 7.1 percent and 2.9 percent of visits by females, respectively.

Examining the distribution of diagnostic services by sex, visits by females showed a higher percent than visits by males of the following services: blood pressure check (discussed above), urinalysis, and cholesterol measure. A greater proportion of visits by males included the following: EKG—resting, EKG—exercise, chest x ray and other radiology, hearing test, visual acuity, and mental status exam.

Strep throat tests, mentioned at 2.0 percent of office visits in general, were ordered or provided at 5.7 percent of visits by children under age 15. Likewise, hearing tests, which were mentioned at 1.7 percent of visits overall, were included at 3.7 percent of visits by children under 15 years.

HIV serology was included as a specific diagnostic service on the Patient Record form beginning with the 1989 NAMCS, when it was cited at about 1 million office visits, or less than 1 percent of all office visits. For 1991, HIV serology was recorded at 1.4 million office visits, which was still less than 1 percent of the total, and not significantly different from the 1989 figure. Continuing efforts to increase public awareness and knowledge about HIV and AIDS might seem to suggest an increase in the number of office visits with HIV serology ordered or performed, but this has not been seen within the NAMCS. One theory may be that substantial numbers of HIV-related visits are made to facilities outside the scope of the NAMCS survey design, such as government-operated clinics and hospital-based clinics.

**Table A. Number, percent distribution, and annual rate of injury-related office visits by patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Patient characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	Percent distribution	Number of visits per 100 persons per year <sup>1</sup>	Percent of all office visits <sup>2</sup>
All injury-related visits	66,066	100.0	26.6	9.9
Age				
Under 15 years	7,417	11.2	13.3	1.1
15-24 years	10,510	15.9	30.4	1.6
25-44 years	27,126	41.1	33.4	4.1
45-64 years	14,222	21.5	30.2	2.1
65-74 years	3,955	6.0	21.6	0.6
75 years and over	2,836	4.3	23.7	0.4
Sex and age				
Female	29,544	44.7	23.1	4.4
Under 15 years	3,098	4.7	11.4	0.5
15-24 years	4,094	6.2	23.5	0.6
25-44 years	11,300	17.1	27.4	1.7
45-64 years	6,596	10.0	26.9	1.0
65-74 years	2,510	3.8	24.8	0.4
75 years and over	1,945	2.9	25.9	0.3
Male	36,522	55.3	30.3	5.5
Under 15 years	4,319	6.5	15.2	0.6
15-24 years	6,415	9.7	37.4	1.0
25-44 years	15,826	24.0	39.7	2.4
45-64 years	7,626	11.5	33.7	1.1
65-74 years	1,445	2.2	17.7	0.2
75 years and over	891	1.3	19.9	0.1

<sup>1</sup>Based on U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States as of July 1, 1991.

<sup>2</sup>Based on an estimated total of 669,689,000 office visits in 1991.

## Principal diagnosis

Item 11 of the Patient Record form asks the physician to record the principal diagnosis or problem associated with the patient's most important reason for the current visit as well as any other significant current diagnoses. Up to three diagnoses are coded and classified according to the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

Displayed in table 8 are office visits by principal diagnosis using the major disease categories specified by the ICD-9-CM. The supplementary classification, used for diagnoses not classifiable to injury or illness (for example, general medical examination, routine prenatal examination, and health supervision of an infant or child), accounted for 15.1 percent of all office visits. Diseases of the respiratory system (13.8 percent) and diseases of the nervous system and sense organs (11.6 percent) were also prominent on the list.

A higher proportion of visits by females than visits by males included principal diagnoses within the categories of diseases of the endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders; diseases of the circulatory system; diseases of the genitourinary system; and the supplementary classification. On the other hand, a higher proportion of visits by males cited principal diagnoses within the diagnostic classes of diseases of the nervous system and sense organs; diseases of the digestive system; diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue; and injury and poisoning. No statistical

**Table B. Number and percent distribution of office visits by patient's cigarette-smoking status: United States, 1991**

Does patient smoke cigarettes?	Number of visits in thousands	Percent distribution
All visits	669,689	100.0
Yes	67,674	10.1
No	416,771	62.2
Unknown	185,245	27.7
All visits by patients who smoke cigarettes	67,674	100.0
Age:		
Under 15 years	*237	*0.4
15-24 years	6,131	9.1
25-44 years	27,939	41.3
45-64 years	22,652	33.5
65-74 years	7,575	11.2
75 years and over	3,139	4.6
Sex:		
Female	39,308	58.1
Male	28,366	41.9

differences were found in the proportion of visits by males and females for any of the other diagnostic classes.

The 10 most frequently reported principal diagnoses for 1991 according to patient's age and sex are shown in table 9. These are categorized at the three-digit coding level of the ICD-9-CM. The most common diagnosis rendered by physicians at office visits in 1991 was essential hypertension,

**Table C. Number and percent distribution of office visits by selected medical conditions, according to patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Patient characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	Selected medical condition <sup>1</sup>					
		Total	Depression	Hypertension	Hypercholesterolemia	Obesity	None of these
		Percent distribution					
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	6.0	12.7	6.9	7.9	75.9
Age							
Under 15 years . . . . .	125,025	100.0	1.0	*0.4	*0.2	1.3	97.4
15-24 years . . . . .	61,534	100.0	3.0	*0.9	*0.3	4.3	92.3
25-44 years . . . . .	185,267	100.0	8.0	4.9	2.5	8.6	80.3
45-64 years . . . . .	141,994	100.0	9.1	19.2	9.8	13.2	63.1
65-74 years . . . . .	83,689	100.0	6.9	28.7	12.5	10.9	58.3
75 years and over . . . . .	72,181	100.0	5.7	33.2	9.1	6.8	58.8
Sex							
Female . . . . .	400,485	100.0	6.9	13.1	5.8	9.4	74.0
Male . . . . .	269,205	100.0	4.8	12.1	4.8	5.6	78.7

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one condition may be reported per visit.

occurring at 3.5 percent of all visits. Essential hypertension has been the most frequently reported morbidity-related diagnosis in every survey year since the NAMCS began in 1973. (Morbidity-related diagnoses are those classifiable to illness or injury. Nonmorbidity-related diagnoses include routine prenatal examination, health supervision of an infant or child, and general medical examination, among others.) Of the 10 diagnoses shown in table 9 for all visits combined, 8 also appeared on the list of the 10 most frequent diagnoses for 1990.

Additional diagnostic data are presented in table 10, which lists the most frequently reported principal diagnoses at injury-related office visits according to patient's age and sex. Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles (ICD-9-CM codes 840-848) were the most frequently mentioned diagnostic group overall, accounting for about one-fifth (21.3 percent) of all injury-related office visits. This diagnostic group was recorded most frequently at visits by both males and females and by each age group, with the exception of the youngest (under 15 years). Fracture of the upper limb (ICD-9-CM codes 810-819) was the most frequent diagnosis at injury-related office visits by persons under age 15 and accounted for about one-quarter (24.5 percent) of all injury visits in this age group.

### Physician's checklist of selected medical conditions

In addition to the diagnostic data reported in item 11 of the Patient Record form, selected information on the patient's current health status was collected in item 13, another addition to the 1991 NAMCS. Physicians were given a list of four common conditions—depression, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, and obesity—and asked to record whether the patient now had any of them, regardless of what was recorded as the current diagnosis in item 11 of the survey form. Results from item 13 are shown in table C.

Nearly one-quarter (24.1 percent) of the visits were made by patients who were reported to have one or more of

the four conditions listed on the survey form. Hypertension was checked most frequently, at 85.3 million visits (12.7 percent of the total). This figure is substantially higher than the number of visits in which a first, second, or third diagnosis of hypertension was reported in item 11 of the Patient Record form (44.9 million visits or 6.7 percent of the total), and suggests the possibility that physicians tend to underreport chronic conditions in item 11. It should be noted that in item 11, physicians are instructed to record up to two additional diagnoses, if any (in addition to the principal diagnosis), whether or not they are of direct concern to the current visit.

Similar discrepancies between data reported in items 11 and 13 were found for the other three medical conditions. There were an estimated 9.0 million visits with a possible first, second, or third diagnosis of hypercholesterolemia in item 11 compared with 46.0 million visits where hypercholesterolemia was checked in item 13. For depression, the corresponding figures were 15.4 million and 40.2 million. For obesity, 10.4 million visits included a possible diagnosis of obesity compared with 53.0 million visits where this condition was checked off in item 13. Additional analysis of the differences between these items and related items on the Patient Record form is warranted by these results.

Hypertension was no more likely to be cited at visits by males compared with visits by females. However, the percent of visits with a mention of hypertension increased with the patient's age and was highest for persons 65-74 years and 75 years and over. (No significant difference was found in the percent of hypertension mentions for these two age groups.) Depression, hypercholesterolemia, and obesity were reported by physicians more often at visits made by females than at visits made by males.

Comparing diagnostic data from item 11 with the medical conditions reported in item 13 was a complicated task. For example, if the check box for hypercholesterolemia was selected in item 13, which diagnostic codes

**Table D. Number and percent distribution of drug mentions by medication status, according to patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Patient characteristic	Number of drug mentions in thousands	New medication <sup>1</sup>			
		Total	Yes	No	Unknown
All drug mentions . . . . .	804,615	100.0	38.3	53.0	8.7
Age					
Under 15 years . . . . .	123,833	100.0	58.3	28.9	12.8
15-24 years . . . . .	56,142	100.0	57.7	36.3	6.0
25-44 years . . . . .	178,001	100.0	49.6	43.2	7.2
45-64 years . . . . .	189,094	100.0	32.3	59.9	7.9
65-74 years . . . . .	132,111	100.0	22.9	68.1	9.0
75 years and over . . . . .	125,434	100.0	19.3	72.0	8.8
Sex					
Female . . . . .	490,824	100.0	37.8	54.1	8.1
Male . . . . .	313,791	100.0	39.1	51.3	9.5

<sup>1</sup>Physicians were asked to specify, for each medication ordered or provided at the current visit, whether the medication was new for the patient or whether it was a continued medication. Continued medications include those which were to be continued by the patient, even if a refill was not specifically ordered at the visit.

(based on the ICD-9-CM) would be used to identify a diagnosis of hypercholesterolemia in item 11? A number of diagnostic codes exist for each of the four medical conditions for which some, but not necessarily all, of the cases classifiable to that code contain the condition of interest. In the example mentioned above, it was necessary to include in the comparison not only visits with a diagnosis of pure hypercholesterolemia (ICD-9-CM code 272.0), but also those with diagnoses of mixed hyperlipidemia (ICD-9-CM code 272.2) and other and unspecified hyperlipidemia (ICD-9-CM 272.4), because of the possibility that such codes may encompass the condition of interest.

Because of the need to be as general as possible in the selection of diagnostic codes for comparison, the term "possible diagnoses" is used in the comparative analysis. This denotes that visit estimates are based on a range of possible diagnostic codes in item 11 for each condition reported in item 13. A list of the ICD-9-CM codes used to compare diagnostic data from item 11 with the medical conditions reported in item 13 is included in appendix I.

## Medication therapy

Medication therapy was the most commonly mentioned therapeutic service in 1991, reported at 423.7 million office visits or 63.3 percent of the total. Physicians were instructed to record all new or continued medications ordered or provided at the visit, including prescription and nonprescription preparations, and immunizing and desensitizing agents. As used in the NAMCS, the term "drug" is interchangeable with the term "medication" and the term "prescribing" is used broadly to mean ordering or providing any medication, whether prescription or over-the-counter.

Visits with one or more drug mentions are termed "drug visits" in the NAMCS. As many as five medications, or drug mentions, could be coded per drug visit, resulting in a total of 804.6 million drug mentions during 1991. This yields an average of about 1.2 drug mentions per office visit, or 1.9 drug

mentions per drug visit. Data on number of drug visits and number of medications per visit according to patient's age and sex are shown in table 11. A significantly higher percent of visits by females included one or more medications than did visits by males.

Shown in table D are drug mentions by medication status according to patient's age and sex. Medication status refers to whether the medication was new for the patient or whether it was a continued medication. Continued medications include those the patient was instructed to continue even if a refill was not specifically ordered at the visit. In general, more than half of all drug mentions (53.0 percent) were continued medications, ranging from 28.9 percent of mentions for patients under 15 years of age to 72.0 percent for patients 75 years of age and over.

The 20 most frequently used generic substances are presented in table E. These substances are also displayed according to patient's age and sex in table 12. It should be noted that drug products containing more than one substance (combination products) are included in the data for each substance. For example, acetaminophen with codeine is included in both the count for acetaminophen and the count for codeine.

Amoxicillin was the generic ingredient most frequently used in drugs ordered or provided by the physician at office visits in 1991 (as well as in 1990), occurring in 4.1 percent of drug mentions. Seventeen of the 20 most used generic ingredients for 1991 were also on the list of the top 20 for 1990.

The NAMCS drug data base permits classification by a wide range of variables, including specific product name, generic class, entry form chosen by the physician (brand name, generic name, or the desired therapeutic effect), prescription status (whether the product is prescription or nonprescription), federally controlled substance status, composition status (single or multiple ingredient product), and therapeutic category. A report describing the method and instruments used to collect and process drug information for the NAMCS is available (16).

**Table E. Number, percent, and therapeutic classification of drug mentions by the 20 most frequently used generic substances: United States, 1991**

<i>Generic substance</i>	<i>Number of drug mentions in thousands<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Therapeutic classification<sup>2</sup></i>
All drug mentions . . . . .	804,615	100.0	...
Amoxicillin . . . . .	33,304	4.1	Penicillins
Acetaminophen . . . . .	28,387	3.5	General analgesics
Erythromycin . . . . .	16,060	2.0	Erythromycins and lincosamides
Hydrochlorothiazide . . . . .	15,727	2.0	Diuretics
Aspirin . . . . .	13,426	1.7	General analgesics
Ibuprofen . . . . .	13,321	1.7	Antiarthritics
Phenylephrine . . . . .	12,900	1.6	Nasal decongestants
Codeine . . . . .	12,655	1.6	General analgesics
Phenylpropanolamine . . . . .	11,734	1.5	Nasal decongestants
Albuterol . . . . .	11,387	1.4	Bronchodilators, antiasthmatics
Digoxin . . . . .	10,411	1.3	Cardiac glycosides
Naproxen . . . . .	10,341	1.3	Antiarthritics
Guaifenesin . . . . .	10,281	1.3	Antitussives, expectorants, mucolytics
Furosemide . . . . .	10,257	1.3	Diuretics
Vitamin A . . . . .	10,169	1.3	Vitamins, minerals
Riboflavin . . . . .	9,402	1.2	Vitamins, minerals
Trimethoprim . . . . .	9,343	1.2	Sulfanamides and trimethoprim
Sulfamethoxazole . . . . .	9,223	1.1	Sulfanamides and trimethoprim
Ergocalciferol . . . . .	9,165	1.1	Vitamins, minerals
Cefaclor . . . . .	8,791	1.1	Cephalosporins

<sup>1</sup>Frequency of mention combines single-ingredient agents with mentions of the agent as an ingredient in a combination drug.

<sup>2</sup>Therapeutic classification is based on the *National Drug Code Directory, 1985 edition* (NDC) (17). In cases where a generic substance had more than one therapeutic use, it was listed under the NDC classification that occurred with the highest frequency.

## Therapeutic services other than medication therapy

In the 1991 NAMCS, item 16 of the Patient Record form underwent substantial revision with an expanded list of therapeutic categories permitting greater specificity in physicians' responses. These are displayed according to patient's age and sex in table 13.

About 33.1 percent of all office visits included some form of counseling, education, or other nonmedication therapy. Diet education or counseling was mentioned most frequently, at 11.4 percent of the total, or 76.5 million visits. Other prominent categories included exercise (8.2 percent), weight reduction (3.8 percent), cholesterol reduction (3.1 percent) and growth/development (3.1 percent). Counseling related to diet, weight, growth/development, and family planning each occurred at a higher percent of visits by females than at visits by males. A higher proportion of visits by males included counseling for alcohol abuse compared with visits by females. No significant differences were found by sex for the other counseling categories.

Visits made by persons 75 years and over were the least likely to report some form of nonmedication therapy, whether in the form of counseling, education, or other therapeutic service (26.2 percent of all visits in this age group), while visits by persons 45–64 years of age were the most likely to include a mention of nonmedication therapy (38.0 percent of all visits in this age group). In general, visits made by males were less likely to include a mention of nonmedication therapy than were visits by females.

## Ambulatory surgical procedures

The 1991 NAMCS included a new item concerning ambulatory surgical procedures that were scheduled or performed at the current visit. Physicians were asked to record up to two outpatient diagnostic and/or therapeutic procedures, and were instructed to record procedures that were performed during the visit before procedures that were simply scheduled. Ambulatory surgery is defined here to include minor procedures as well as those that are more complex. However, physicians were instructed to record the more complex procedure first when reporting two procedures scheduled or two procedures performed.

Ambulatory surgical procedures were reported at 6.1 percent of all office visits—about 43.3 million procedures scheduled or performed. Data on ambulatory surgery by patient's age and sex are shown in tables F, 14, and 15. Visits made by persons under 15 years were the least likely to include ambulatory surgery; no significant differences were found in the proportions of visits with ambulatory surgery scheduled or performed for any of the other age groups, nor was a difference found according to patient's sex.

## Disposition and duration of visit

Data on the disposition and duration of office visits according to patient's age and sex are displayed in table 16. About two-thirds (66.7 percent) of all office visits included a scheduled followup visit or telephone call and another 21.6 percent included instructions to return if needed. Less than one



**Table F. Number and percent distribution of office visits by diagnostic and therapeutic ambulatory surgical procedures scheduled or performed, and standard error of visits with one or more procedures scheduled or performed, according to patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

<i>Patient characteristic</i>	<i>Diagnostic and therapeutic procedures scheduled or performed</i>			<i>Standard error of visits with one or more procedures<sup>1</sup></i>
	<i>All visits</i>	<i>No procedures</i>	<i>One or more procedures</i>	
Number of visits in thousands				
All visits . . . . .	669,689	629,142	40,548	2,972
Age				
Under 15 years . . . . .	125,025	122,220	2,804	324
15-24 years . . . . .	61,534	57,361	4,173	516
25-44 years . . . . .	185,267	173,907	11,360	1,014
45-64 years . . . . .	141,994	131,550	10,444	997
65-74 years . . . . .	83,689	77,132	6,377	679
75 years and over . . . . .	72,181	66,791	5,389	711
Sex				
Female . . . . .	400,485	377,406	23,079	1,676
Male . . . . .	269,205	251,736	17,469	1,539
Percent distribution				
All visits . . . . .	100.0	93.9	6.1	0.4
Age				
Under 15 years . . . . .	100.0	97.8	2.2	0.3
15-24 years . . . . .	100.0	93.2	6.8	0.8
25-44 years . . . . .	100.0	93.9	6.1	0.5
45-64 years . . . . .	100.0	92.6	7.4	0.7
65-74 years . . . . .	100.0	92.2	7.6	0.8
75 years and over . . . . .	100.0	92.5	7.5	1.0
Sex				
Female . . . . .	100.0	94.2	5.8	0.4
Male . . . . .	100.0	93.5	6.5	0.6

<sup>1</sup>See Appendix I for a discussion of standard errors and precision of NAMCS estimates.

percent of visits resulted in a hospital admission. These percents are not statistically different than those reported in 1990. A higher proportion of visits by males did not include followup instructions compared with visits by females. This difference was also noted in 1989 and 1990.

Duration of visit refers to the amount of time spent in face-to-face contact between the physician and the patient. This time is estimated and recorded by the physician and does not include time spent waiting to see the physician, time spent receiving care from someone other than the physician without the presence of the physician, or time spent by the physician in reviewing patient records and/or test results. In cases where

the patient received care from a member of the physician's staff but did not actually see the physician during the visit, duration was recorded as "zero" minutes.

About 68.3 percent of office visits had a duration of 15 minutes or less in 1991. The mean duration for all visits was 17.0 minutes. Corresponding numbers for 1990 were 69.3 percent and 16.7 minutes, respectively. Data on the mean duration of office visits by patient's age, sex, and prior-visit status are displayed in table G.

Additional data related to patient characteristics are presented in tables 17, 18, 34, and 38.

**Table G. Number and percent distribution of office visits, mean duration of physician-patient contact, and standard error of mean contact duration by patient's age, sex, and prior-visit status: United States, 1991**

<i>Patient characteristic</i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>	<i>Mean contact duration in minutes<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Standard error of mean contact duration in minutes<sup>2</sup></i>
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	17.0	0.29
<b>Age</b>				
Under 15 years . . . . .	125,025	18.7	14.4	0.39
15-24 years . . . . .	61,534	9.2	15.7	0.43
25-44 years . . . . .	185,267	27.7	17.4	0.35
45-64 years . . . . .	141,994	21.2	18.4	0.42
65-74 years . . . . .	83,689	12.5	17.7	0.53
75 years and over . . . . .	72,181	10.8	18.1	0.58
<b>Sex</b>				
Female . . . . .	400,485	59.8	16.9	0.29
Male . . . . .	269,205	40.2	17.1	0.34
<b>Prior-visit status</b>				
New patient . . . . .	111,801	16.7	21.3	0.51
Old patient, new problem . . . . .	144,190	21.5	15.2	0.31
Old patient, old problem . . . . .	413,698	61.8	16.4	0.36

<sup>1</sup>Time spent in face-to-face contact between physician and patient. Does not include visits of 0 minutes duration, i.e., visits in which there was no face-to-face contact between physician and patient.

<sup>2</sup>See Appendix I for a discussion of standard error and precision of NAMCS estimates.

# Office-based care as related to physician practice characteristics

In this section, data on office-based ambulatory care are presented for the 13 most visited physician specialties: general and family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, dermatology, general surgery, otolaryngology, psychiatry, urological surgery, cardiovascular diseases, and neurology. Visits to these 13 specialties accounted for about 89 percent of all office-based visits for ambulatory care in 1991. Figure 5 shows the distribution of office visits by physician specialty.

Within each specialty, data have been classified by patient characteristics (tables 17 and 18); patient's principal reason for visit (tables 19, 20, and 21); selected diagnostic services (tables 22 and 23); physician's principal diagnosis (tables 24, 25, and 26); selected therapeutic services (tables 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31); and selected visit characteristics (tables 32 and 33).

Most of the data contained in these tables are self-explanatory and allow the reader to reference areas of particular interest according to any of the listed specialties.

Table H summarizes office visits to 13 physician specialties by the patient's prior-visit status and also displays the return visit rate for each specialty. The return visit rate can be explained as follows: visits were characterized as falling into one of two categories—"new problem visits" (visits made either by new or previously seen patients for the care of new problems) or "return visits for old problems" (visits involving previously seen patients returning for the care of previously treated problems).

The return visit rate refers to the ratio of return visits to new problem visits. Among the 13 listed specialties, psychiatrists had the highest rate of return visits during 1991, with about seven visits for old problems for every new problem visit.

Table J highlights the nature of medical care provided within each of the 13 physician specialties. Nature of care is defined here as being either morbidity related (visits with an illness- or injury-related diagnosis, ICD-9-CM codes 001-999) or nonmorbidity related (visits for reasons other than those classifiable to disease or injury, ICD-9-CM supplementary classification codes V01-V82). Examples of nonmorbidity-related care are visits for general medical examinations, routine prenatal examinations, and health supervision of an infant or child.

In general, 83.2 percent of the principal diagnoses recorded at office visits to ambulatory care physicians was related to illness or injury. The percent was lowest for obstetricians and

gynecologists (42.8 percent), due in large part to the number of visits related to normal pregnancy.

Data pertaining to injury-related office visits according to physician specialty is displayed in table K. About 61 percent of all visits to office-based orthopedic surgeons were injury related, as were 19.9 percent of visits to office-based neurologists. The distribution of such visits was 10 percent or less for each of the other major specialties.

Data concerning whether or not the patient currently smokes cigarettes, according to physician specialty, are presented in table L. The percent of office visits made by cigarette smokers was highest for psychiatrists (16.1 percent). However, these data were either unknown or unreported at 27.7 percent of office visits overall, including 30.1 percent of visits to cardiovascular disease specialists and 26.3 percent of visits to obstetricians and gynecologists.

Table M displays four common medical conditions—depression, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, and obesity—which the patient was reported to have at the time of the office visit, according to physician specialty. This short checklist of medical conditions was added to the 1991 NAMCS, as discussed in the previous section of this report, and physicians were instructed to check any of the applicable categories regardless of what was recorded as the physician's diagnosis in a separate survey item.

Office visits to psychiatrists and cardiovascular disease specialists were the most likely to be made by patients with one or more of these four conditions (69.8 percent and 53.3 percent of visits, respectively). Hypertension (36.3 percent) and hypercholesterolemia (20.2 percent) were mentioned most frequently at visits to cardiologists. In addition, 13.1 percent of visits to this specialty were made by persons suffering from obesity. About two-thirds (68.3 percent) of visits to psychiatrists were made by patients who suffered from depression. Also, a substantial proportion of visits to internists were made by patients with hypertension (27.3 percent), hypercholesterolemia (12.3 percent), and obesity (10.6 percent).

Although hypertension was cited at an estimated 4.2 million visits to cardiovascular disease specialists (based on responses to item 13 of the Patient Record form), a specific diagnosis involving hypertension was reported by cardiologists at only 2.6 million visits (based on responses to item 11). Corresponding figures for visits to internists were 28.1 million and 19.8 million visits, respectively. Larger differences were found between items 11 and 13 for hypercholesterolemia, obesity, and depression. These data suggest that chronic

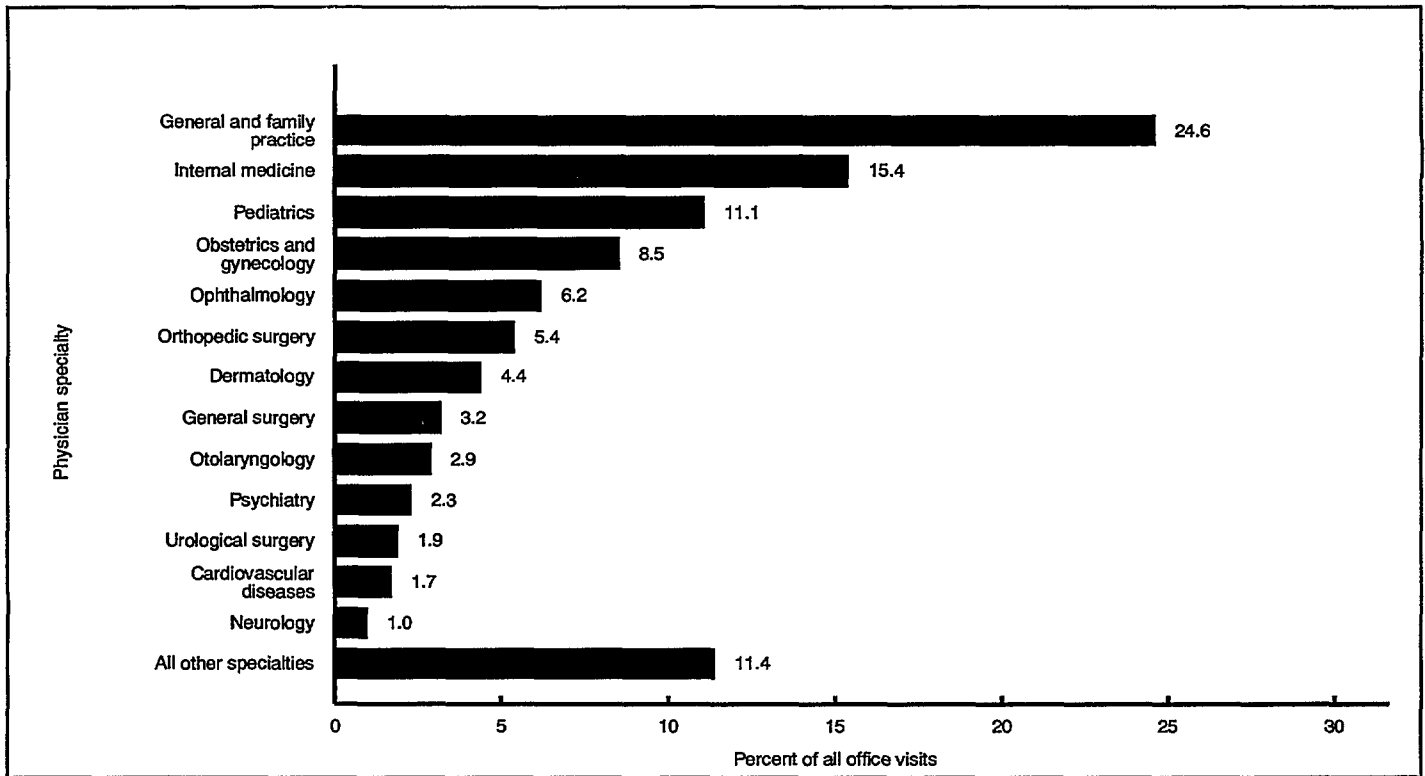


Figure 5. Percent distribution of office visits by physician specialty: United States, 1991

conditions may be underreported in the NAMCS and warrant further analysis. For further discussion of this issue, see the technical notes in appendix I.

Table N presents data on drug visits and drug mentions by physician specialty. "Drug visits" are visits during which at least one medication was ordered or provided by the physician while "drug mentions" refer to the total number of medications listed by the physician on the Patient Record form. There

were about 804.6 million drug mentions in 1991—an average of 1.2 drug mentions per office visit or 1.9 drug mentions for every visit at which one or more medications were prescribed. As noted earlier, drugs were ordered or provided at 63.3 percent of all office visits. The percent of drug visits was highest for internists and cardiovascular disease specialists (81.6 percent and 80.4 percent of visits, respectively).

Table H. Number and percent distribution of office visits by patient's prior-visit status, and return visit rate, according to physician specialty: United States, 1991

Physician specialty	Total	New problem visits <sup>1</sup>	Return visits for old problems	Return visit rate <sup>2</sup>			
				Total	New problem visits	Return visits for old problems	Return visit rate <sup>2</sup>
	Number in thousands			Percent distribution			
All visits . . . . .	669,689	255,991	413,698	100.0	38.2	61.8	1.6
General and family practice . . . . .	164,857	76,262	88,595	100.0	46.3	53.7	1.2
Internal medicine . . . . .	102,923	38,700	64,223	100.0	37.6	62.4	1.7
Pediatrics . . . . .	74,646	32,610	42,036	100.0	43.7	56.3	1.3
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	56,834	18,928	37,906	100.0	33.3	66.7	2.0
Ophthalmology . . . . .	41,207	12,088	29,119	100.0	29.3	70.7	2.4
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	35,932	14,777	21,155	100.0	41.1	58.9	1.4
Dermatology . . . . .	29,659	11,512	18,147	100.0	38.8	61.2	1.6
General surgery . . . . .	21,285	7,940	13,345	100.0	37.3	62.7	1.7
Otolaryngology . . . . .	19,101	7,499	11,602	100.0	39.3	60.7	1.5
Psychiatry . . . . .	15,720	1,989	13,731	100.0	12.7	87.3	6.9
Urological surgery . . . . .	12,758	3,958	8,800	100.0	31.0	69.0	2.2
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	11,629	2,467	9,162	100.0	21.2	78.8	3.7
Neurology . . . . .	6,798	2,764	4,035	100.0	40.7	59.3	1.5
Other . . . . .	76,341	24,498	51,843	100.0	32.1	67.9	2.1

<sup>1</sup>New problem" visits may be made by either old or new patients.

<sup>2</sup>Return visit rate is the ratio of visits made by previously seen patients for the care of previously treated problems to visits made for the treatment of new problems.

**Table J. Number and percent distribution of office visits by type of diagnosis, according to physician specialty: United States, 1991**

Physician specialty	Total	Visits with morbidity-related diagnosis <sup>1</sup>	Visits with nonmorbidity-related diagnosis <sup>2</sup>	Total	Visits with morbidity-related diagnosis	Visits with nonmorbidity-related diagnosis	Ratio of morbidity-related care to other care
		Number in thousands			Percent distribution <sup>3</sup>		
All visits . . . . .	669,689	557,232	101,433	100.0	83.2	15.1	5.5
General and family practice . . . . .	164,857	141,804	19,645	100.0	86.0	11.9	7.2
Internal medicine . . . . .	102,923	95,535	6,099	100.0	92.8	5.9	15.7
Pediatrics . . . . .	74,646	51,767	21,683	100.0	69.3	29.0	2.4
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	56,834	24,329	30,990	100.0	42.8	54.5	0.8
Ophthalmology . . . . .	41,207	34,125	5,991	100.0	82.8	14.5	5.7
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	35,932	32,518	3,058	100.0	90.5	8.5	10.6
Dermatology . . . . .	29,659	28,689	850	100.0	96.7	2.9	33.8
General surgery . . . . .	21,285	18,041	2,995	100.0	84.8	14.1	6.0
Otolaryngology . . . . .	19,101	17,168	1,792	100.0	89.9	9.4	9.6
Psychiatry . . . . .	15,720	15,303	246	100.0	97.3	1.6	62.3
Urological surgery . . . . .	12,758	11,254	1,359	100.0	88.2	10.7	8.3
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	11,629	10,059	1,357	100.0	86.5	11.7	7.4
Neurology . . . . .	6,798	6,503	204	100.0	95.7	3.0	31.9
Other . . . . .	76,341	70,136	5,165	100.0	91.9	6.8	13.6

<sup>1</sup>Diagnostic codes are based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*. "Morbidity-related diagnosis" refers to visits with a principal diagnosis of illness or injury (ICD-9-CM codes 001-999).

<sup>2</sup>"Nonmorbidity related diagnosis" refers to visits with a principal diagnosis which is not classifiable to illness or injury (ICD-9-CM supplementary classification codes V01-V82). Examples include visits for general medical examination, routine prenatal examination, and health supervision of an infant or child.

<sup>3</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because unknown and blank diagnoses have been omitted.

**Table K. Number and percent distribution of office visits by injury status, according to physician specialty: United States, 1991**

Physician specialty	Number of visits in thousands	Is this visit injury related?		
		Total	Yes	No
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	9.9	90.1
General and family practice . . . . .	164,857	100.0	9.5	90.5
Internal medicine . . . . .	102,923	100.0	8.7	91.3
Pediatrics . . . . .	74,646	100.0	2.7	97.3
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	56,834	100.0	0.8	99.2
Ophthalmology . . . . .	41,207	100.0	3.1	96.9
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	35,932	100.0	60.9	39.1
Dermatology . . . . .	29,659	100.0	0.8	99.2
General surgery . . . . .	21,285	100.0	8.3	91.7
Otolaryngology . . . . .	19,101	100.0	3.8	96.2
Psychiatry . . . . .	15,720	100.0	3.1	96.9
Urological surgery . . . . .	12,758	100.0	1.8	98.2
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	11,629	100.0	1.1	98.9
Neurology . . . . .	6,798	100.0	19.9	80.1
Other . . . . .	76,341	100.0	14.2	85.8

Drug mentions within each of the 13 aforementioned physician specialties are displayed by therapeutic classification in tables 29 and 30. This classification is adapted from the therapeutic classification of the National Drug Code, 1985 (17). In cases where a drug could apply to more than one therapeutic category, it was assigned to the category for which it was most often prescribed.

Table O shows whether ambulatory surgery was scheduled or performed at the office visit, according to physician

specialty. As would be expected, surgical specialties were generally more likely to report visits with ambulatory surgery than were medical specialties. One or more procedures were scheduled or performed at 18.0 percent of visits to general surgeons and at 18.6 percent of visits to urologists.

The mean duration of physician-patient contact for each of the 13 major physician specialties is shown in table P. Mean duration ranged from 13.4 minutes for dermatologists to 44.3 minutes for psychiatrists.

**Table L. Number and percent distribution of office visits by patient's cigarette-smoking status, according to physician specialty: United States, 1991**

Physician specialty	Number of visits in thousands	Does patient smoke cigarettes?			
		Total	Yes	No	Unknown
Percent distribution					
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	10.1	62.2	27.7
General and family practice . . . . .	164,857	100.0	12.6	63.5	23.9
Internal medicine . . . . .	102,923	100.0	13.3	63.3	23.4
Pediatrics . . . . .	74,646	100.0	0.4	96.8	2.8
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	56,834	100.0	11.8	61.9	26.3
Ophthalmology . . . . .	41,207	100.0	6.6	43.0	50.4
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	35,932	100.0	9.2	38.8	52.0
Dermatology . . . . .	29,659	100.0	4.2	33.0	62.8
General surgery . . . . .	21,285	100.0	13.2	56.3	30.5
Otolaryngology . . . . .	19,101	100.0	8.0	62.3	29.7
Psychiatry . . . . .	15,720	100.0	16.1	59.6	24.3
Urological surgery . . . . .	12,758	100.0	9.3	51.4	39.3
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	11,629	100.0	8.2	61.7	30.1
Neurology . . . . .	6,798	100.0	13.7	63.4	22.9
All other specialties . . . . .	76,341	100.0	11.7	61.3	26.9

**Table M. Number and percent distribution of office visits by selected medical conditions, according to physician specialty: United States, 1991**

Physician specialty	Number of visits in thousands	Medication condition					
		Total	Depression	Hypertension	Hypercholesterolemia	Obesity	None of these
Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>							
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	6.1	12.7	5.4	7.9	75.9
General and family practice . . . . .	164,857	100.0	6.2	16.7	7.9	12.2	69.4
Internal medicine . . . . .	102,923	100.0	8.7	27.3	12.3	10.6	57.3
Pediatrics . . . . .	74,646	100.0	0.5	0.7	*0.1	1.4	97.8
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	56,834	100.0	2.8	3.0	1.0	6.1	88.7
Ophthalmology . . . . .	41,207	100.0	1.7	13.8	1.3	2.9	82.8
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	35,932	100.0	1.2	2.8	0.6	5.4	91.0
Dermatology . . . . .	29,659	100.0	1.0	4.5	1.9	2.5	92.1
General surgery . . . . .	21,285	100.0	3.1	13.4	5.2	12.0	74.9
Otolaryngology . . . . .	19,101	100.0	0.9	3.1	0.9	2.1	93.7
Psychiatry . . . . .	15,720	100.0	68.3	2.0	1.8	4.7	30.2
Urological surgery . . . . .	12,758	100.0	3.7	13.3	2.9	8.1	78.5
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	11,629	100.0	5.4	36.3	20.2	13.1	46.7
Neurology . . . . .	6,798	100.0	9.6	7.4	2.3	7.4	76.7
Other . . . . .	76,341	100.0	6.3	12.0	5.3	8.8	76.0

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one condition may be recorded per visit.

**Table N. Number and percent distribution of drug visits and drug mentions by physician specialty: United States, 1991**

Physician specialty	Number of drug visits in thousands <sup>1</sup>	Percent distribution	Number of drug mentions in thousands	Percent distribution	Percent drug visits <sup>2</sup>
All drug visits . . . . .	423,675	100.0	804,615	100.0	63.3
General and family practice . . . . .	119,003	28.1	222,158	27.6	72.2
Internal medicine . . . . .	83,975	19.8	193,229	24.0	81.6
Pediatrics . . . . .	51,903	12.3	81,746	10.2	69.5
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	27,106	6.4	35,507	4.4	47.7
Ophthalmology . . . . .	19,125	4.5	32,259	4.0	46.4
Dermatology . . . . .	16,979	4.0	31,609	3.9	57.2
Psychiatry . . . . .	10,161	2.4	16,320	2.0	64.6
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	9,350	2.2	30,029	3.7	80.4
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	9,309	2.2	12,115	1.5	25.9
Otolaryngology . . . . .	8,744	2.1	12,405	1.5	45.8
General surgery . . . . .	6,920	1.6	13,498	1.7	32.5
Urological surgery . . . . .	5,093	1.2	6,616	0.8	39.9
Neurology . . . . .	4,210	1.0	6,625	0.8	61.9
All other specialties . . . . .	51,797	12.2	110,499	13.7	67.8

<sup>1</sup>Drug visits are visits at which one or more drugs is ordered or supplied by the physician.

<sup>2</sup>Number of drug visits divided by number of office visits multiplied by 100.

**Table O. Number and percent distribution of office visits by diagnostic and therapeutic ambulatory surgical procedures scheduled or performed, and standard error of visits with one or more procedures scheduled or performed, according to physician specialty: United States, 1991**

Physician specialty	Diagnostic and therapeutic procedures scheduled or performed			Standard error of visits with one or more procedures <sup>1</sup>
	All visits	No procedures	One or more procedures	
	Number of visits in thousands			
All visits . . . . .	669,689	629,141	40,548	2,972
General and family practice . . . . .	164,857	160,565	4,292	510
Internal medicine . . . . .	102,923	98,053	*4,870	1,749
Pediatrics . . . . .	74,646	74,117	530	143
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	56,834	53,279	3,555	535
Ophthalmology . . . . .	41,207	36,390	4,817	1,393
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	35,932	31,616	4,316	644
Dermatology . . . . .	29,659	25,835	3,824	597
General surgery . . . . .	21,285	17,452	3,833	468
Otolaryngology . . . . .	19,101	17,232	1,869	301
Psychiatry . . . . .	15,720	15,720	-	-
Urological surgery . . . . .	12,758	10,385	2,373	319
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	11,629	11,472	*157	70
Neurology . . . . .	6,798	6,705	*93	31
Other . . . . .	76,341	70,322	6,019	1,450
	Percent distribution			
All visits . . . . .	100.0	93.9	6.1	0.4
General and family practice . . . . .	100.0	97.4	2.6	0.3
Internal medicine . . . . .	100.0	95.3	*4.7	1.8
Pediatrics . . . . .	100.0	99.3	0.7	0.2
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	100.0	93.7	6.3	0.8
Ophthalmology . . . . .	100.0	88.3	11.7	3.2
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	100.0	88.0	12.0	1.9
Dermatology . . . . .	100.0	87.1	12.9	1.9
General surgery . . . . .	100.0	82.0	18.0	1.9
Otolaryngology . . . . .	100.0	90.2	9.8	1.4
Psychiatry . . . . .	100.0	100.0	-	-
Urological surgery . . . . .	100.0	81.4	18.6	1.8
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	100.0	98.7	*1.4	0.6
Neurology . . . . .	100.0	98.6	*1.4	0.4
Other . . . . .	100.0	92.1	7.9	1.7

<sup>1</sup>See Appendix I for a discussion of standard errors and precision of NAMCS estimates.

**Table P. Number and percent distribution of office visits, mean duration of physician-patient contact, and standard error of mean contact duration, by physician specialty: United States, 1991**

<i>Physician specialty</i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>	<i>Mean contact duration in minutes<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Standard error of mean contact duration in minutes<sup>2</sup></i>
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	17.0	0.29
General and family practice . . . . .	164,857	24.6	15.5	0.34
Internal medicine . . . . .	102,923	15.4	15.9	0.85
Pediatrics . . . . .	74,646	11.1	14.2	0.54
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	56,834	8.5	16.3	0.68
Ophthalmology . . . . .	41,207	6.2	19.0	1.80
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	35,932	5.4	15.6	0.65
Dermatology . . . . .	29,659	4.4	13.4	0.57
General surgery . . . . .	21,285	3.2	14.5	0.46
Otolaryngology . . . . .	19,101	2.9	14.8	0.74
Psychiatry . . . . .	15,720	2.3	44.3	1.87
Urological surgery . . . . .	12,758	1.9	17.9	0.68
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	11,629	1.7	22.5	1.74
Neurology . . . . .	6,798	1.0	33.0	1.90
Other . . . . .	76,341	11.4	19.1	1.22

<sup>1</sup>Time spent in face-to-face contact between physician and patient. Does not include visits of 0 minutes duration, i.e., visits in which there was no face-to-face contact between physician and patient.

<sup>2</sup>See Appendix I for a discussion of standard error and precision of NAMCS estimates.



# Office-based care as related to patient's principal reason for visit

In item 10 of the 1991 NAMCS Patient Record form, the reporting physician is instructed to list "the patient's complaint(s), symptom(s), or other reason(s) for this visit (in patient's own words)." The intent is to obtain information on how the patient defines his or her own problem. In cases where a visit occurs for reasons other than a complaint or symptom (for example, general medical examination, routine prenatal examination, or well-baby examination), the physician is asked to enter the reason for the visit.

Responses are coded according to a nosology developed for the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey and outlined in *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC)* (14). Up to three reasons are coded for each visit in the order in which they are listed on the Patient Record form by the physician. All of the tables presented here focus on the patient's "most important" reason for visit, reported in item 10a of the Patient Record form. Reasons for visit referring to complaints or symptoms are termed "morbidity-related" throughout this report.

Tables 34, 35, and 36 examine the top 25 morbidity-related reasons for visit in terms of patient's age and sex, prior visit status, and selected diagnostic services.

Table Q displays the top 10 morbidity-related principal reasons for visit for males and females. Males and females shared 9 of the 10 top morbidity-related principal reasons for visiting a physician.

Table R lists the 60 most frequently mentioned principal reasons for visit, which accounted for 67.0 percent of all office visits, along with the average duration of physician-patient contact for each. It is important to keep in mind that the rank ordering found in this and other tables in this report may not always be reliable, since near estimates may not be statistically different from each other due to sampling variability.

Among the 10 most frequently mentioned reasons for visit to an office-based physician, five reasons accounting for 15.2 percent of all visits were not symptom related, but rather came under the "diagnostic/screening and preventive" module and "treatment" module. These reasons included the most frequently mentioned general medical examination (4.4 percent of all visits), progress visit not otherwise specified (3.5 percent), routine prenatal examination (2.9 percent), postoperative visit (2.4 percent), and well-baby examination (2.0 percent).

The other five reasons listed among the 10 most commonly reported reasons were symptomatic in nature and

**Table Q. Number and percent of office visits by patient's sex and 10 most frequent morbidity-related principal reasons for visit: United States, 1991**

<i>Patient's sex, principal reason for visit, and RVC code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Female</b>		
All visits . . . . .	400,485	100.0
Cough . . . . . S440	14,434	3.6
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	10,977	2.7
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	7,750	1.9
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	7,585	1.9
Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	7,319	1.8
Skin rash . . . . . S860	6,638	1.7
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	6,116	1.5
Vision dysfunction . . . . . S305	5,933	1.5
Knee symptoms . . . . . S925	4,930	1.2
Fever . . . . . S010	4,767	1.2
<b>Male</b>		
All visits . . . . .	269,205	100.0
Cough . . . . . S440	9,830	3.7
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	6,905	2.6
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	5,654	2.1
Fever . . . . . S010	5,551	2.1
Skin rash . . . . . S860	5,481	2.0
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	5,392	2.0
Knee symptoms . . . . . S925	4,593	1.7
Vision dysfunction . . . . . S305	4,077	1.5
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	4,013	1.5
Nasal congestion . . . . . S400	3,917	1.5

<sup>1</sup>Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC)* (14).

included cough (the most frequently listed morbidity-related reason, accounting for 3.6 percent of all visits), symptoms referable to the throat (2.7 percent), earache or ear infection (2.0 percent), back symptoms (1.9 percent), and skin rash (1.8 percent). Together, these five reasons accounted for 12.0 percent of all visits to office-based physicians in 1991.

Table S displays the 25 most frequently mentioned principal reasons for visit at injury-related office visits. Back symptoms were cited most frequently, accounting for 7.1 percent of the 66.1 million injury-related office visits, or 4.7 million visits in all. Lower back symptoms were mentioned at an additional 4.3 million visits, or 6.5 percent of all injury-related visits.

**Table R. Number, percent, cumulative percent, mean duration of physician-patient contact, and standard error of mean contact duration of office visits, by 60 principal reasons for visit most often mentioned by patients: United States, 1991**

Rank	Reason for visit and RVC code <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits in thousands	Percent	Cumulative percent	Mean contact duration of visit in minutes <sup>2</sup>	Standard error of mean contact duration in minutes
	All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	...	17.0	0.29
1	General medical examination . . . . . X100	29,720	4.4	4.4	18.6	0.54
2	Cough . . . . . S440	24,263	3.6	8.1	13.7	0.46
3	Routine prenatal examination . . . . . X205	19,675	2.9	11.0	13.3	0.78
4	Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	17,882	2.7	13.7	12.5	0.48
5	Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	16,308	2.4	16.1	14.0	1.08
6	Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	13,404	2.0	18.1	12.2	0.38
7	Well-baby examination . . . . . X105	13,276	2.0	20.1	16.4	0.93
8	Back symptoms . . . . . S905	12,977	1.9	22.0	17.1	0.71
9	Skin rash . . . . . S860	12,119	1.8	23.8	12.8	0.50
10	Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	11,106	1.7	25.5	18.3	0.69
11	Fever . . . . . S010	10,318	1.5	27.0	13.3	0.46
12	Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	10,128	1.5	28.5	18.1	1.22
13	Vision dysfunctions . . . . . S305	10,011	1.5	30.0	22.0	1.95
14	Knee symptoms . . . . . S925	9,522	1.4	31.5	15.4	0.68
15	Nasal congestion . . . . . S400	8,444	1.3	32.7	13.9	0.62
16	Blood pressure test . . . . . X320	7,645	1.1	33.9	14.0	0.51
17	Head cold, upper respiratory infection (coryza) . . . . . S445	7,616	1.1	35.0	13.0	0.78
18	Neck symptoms . . . . . S900	7,193	1.1	36.1	16.9	1.82
19	Depression . . . . . S110	7,060	1.1	37.1	39.1	2.39
20	Low back symptoms . . . . . S910	7,051	1.1	38.2	19.0	1.04
21	Shoulder symptoms . . . . . S940	6,825	1.0	39.2	16.1	0.82
22	Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body system) . . . . . S050	6,785	1.0	40.2	21.4	1.39
23	Hypertension . . . . . D510	6,699	1.0	41.2	17.1	1.04
24	Glaucoma . . . . . D415	6,508	1.0	42.2	28.0	4.41
25	Leg symptoms . . . . . S920	6,368	1.0	43.1	19.0	0.93
26	No complaint . . . . . U997	5,951	0.9	44.0	16.5	0.95
27	Hand and finger symptoms . . . . . S960	5,893	0.9	44.9	17.5	0.93
28	Physical examination required for employment . . . . . A100	5,652	0.8	45.8	15.5	0.99
29	Skin lesion . . . . . S865	5,632	0.8	46.6	15.1	0.61
30	Diabetes mellitus . . . . . D205	5,561	0.8	47.4	17.1	0.86
31	Vertigo, dizziness . . . . . S225	5,417	0.8	48.2	19.6	1.17
32	Foot and toe symptoms . . . . . S935	5,397	0.8	49.0	14.4	0.58
33	Anxiety and nervousness . . . . . S100	5,353	0.8	49.8	31.5	1.83
34	Acne or pimples . . . . . S830	4,943	0.7	50.6	13.9	1.79
35	Allergy, not otherwise specified . . . . . S090	4,940	0.7	51.3	11.1	2.50
36	Sinus problems . . . . . S410	4,350	0.6	52.0	13.0	0.77
37	Pap smear . . . . . X365	4,328	0.6	52.6	20.7	1.37
38	Tiredness, exhaustion . . . . . S015	4,221	0.6	53.2	20.7	1.13
39	Medication, other and unspecified kinds . . . . . T115	3,938	0.6	53.8	18.3	1.48
40	Shortness of breath . . . . . S415	3,898	0.6	54.4	19.4	1.00
41	Other symptoms referable to the ears, not elsewhere classified . . . . . S365	3,887	0.6	55.0	11.5	0.80
42	Diarrhea . . . . . S595	3,787	0.6	55.6	14.3	0.79
43	Other and unspecified diagnostic tests . . . . . X370	3,692	0.6	56.1	17.8	3.45
44	Eye examination . . . . . X230	3,514	0.5	56.6	19.0	3.68
45	Abnormal sensations of the eye . . . . . S320	3,424	0.5	57.1	16.1	1.19
46	Prophylactic inoculations . . . . . X400	3,394	0.5	57.7	10.2	1.11
47	Pain, site not referable to specific body system . . . . . S055	3,364	0.5	58.2	16.4	0.81
48	Suture-insertion, removal . . . . . T555	3,198	0.5	58.6	8.5	0.67
49	Discoloration or pigmentation . . . . . S835	3,160	0.5	59.1	15.1	1.14
50	Pain and related symptoms, generalized, site unspecified . . . . . S060	3,075	0.5	59.6	17.7	1.00
51	Asthma . . . . . D625	2,981	0.4	60.0	16.1	2.78
52	Other symptoms referable to skin . . . . . S880	2,980	0.4	60.5	15.2	1.93
53	Counseling, not otherwise specified . . . . . T605	2,926	0.4	60.9	27.2	2.91
54	Skin irritations, not elsewhere classified . . . . . S870	2,901	0.4	61.3	13.4	0.84
55	Wrist symptoms . . . . . S955	2,844	0.4	61.7	15.5	0.96
56	Arm symptoms . . . . . S945	2,823	0.4	62.2	18.1	1.20
57	Warts, not otherwise specified . . . . . S850	2,808	0.4	62.6	14.3	0.77
58	Other growths of skin . . . . . S855	2,794	0.4	63.0	15.9	1.88
59	Frequency and urgency of urination . . . . . S645	2,683	0.4	63.4	17.3	1.49
60	For other and unspecified test results . . . . . R700	2,664	0.4	63.8	16.8	0.95

<sup>1</sup>Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC)* (14).

<sup>2</sup>Time spent in face-to-face contact between physician and patient. Does not include visits of 0 minutes duration, i.e., visits in which there was no face-to-face contact between physician and patient.

**Table S. Number and percent distribution of injury-related office visits, by the 25 most frequently mentioned principal reasons for visit: United States, 1991**

<i>Principal reason for visit and RVC code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>
All injury-related visits . . . . .	66,066	100.0
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	4,668	7.1
Low back symptoms . . . . . S910	4,264	6.5
Neck symptoms . . . . . S900	4,156	6.3
Knee symptoms . . . . . S925	4,107	6.2
Shoulder symptoms . . . . . S940	3,009	4.6
Hand and finger symptoms . . . . . S960	2,958	4.5
Wrist symptoms . . . . . S955	1,789	2.7
Accident, not otherwise specified . . . . . J810	1,636	2.5
Ankle symptoms . . . . . S930	1,533	2.3
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	1,529	2.3
Leg symptoms . . . . . S920	1,403	2.1
Foot and toe symptoms . . . . . S935	1,388	2.1
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	1,248	1.9
Upper extremity . . . . . J225	1,205	1.8
Suture—insertion, removal . . . . . T555	974	1.5
Arm symptoms . . . . . S945	857	1.3
Hand and finger(s) . . . . . J570	805	1.2
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system . . . . . S055	792	1.2
Elbow symptoms . . . . . S950	758	1.1
Knee . . . . . J535	749	1.1
Extremities . . . . . J715	693	1.0
Abnormal sensations of the eye . . . . . S320	671	1.0
Motor vehicle accident, type of injury unspecified . . . . . J805	670	1.0
Head, neck, and face . . . . . J505	623	0.9
Hand and finger . . . . . J045	618	0.9
All other reasons . . . . .	22,967	34.8

<sup>1</sup>Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC)* (14).

# Office-based care as related to physician's diagnosis and treatment

In item 11 of the NAMCS Patient Record form, the responding physician is asked to record his or her "best assessment of diagnosis associated with the patient's most important complaint/reason" for the current visit. A final or provisional diagnosis is preferred, but, if necessary, a diagnosis may be expressed in "problem" terms. Space is provided in the item for a second and third diagnosis if applicable.

Diagnostic information is coded according to the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (15). The data presented in this report highlight the first-listed diagnosis on the Patient Record form because it is most directly related to the patient's principal reason for visit. The term "morbidity-related" refers to diagnoses that are classifiable to illness or injury (ICD-9-CM codes 001-999). "Nonmorbidity-related" diagnoses (ICD-9-CM supplementary classification, codes V01-V82) are not classifiable to illness or injury and include such diagnoses as general medical examination, normal pregnancy, and health supervision of an infant or child.

Table T displays the 10 most frequently reported morbidity-related principal diagnoses according to patient's sex. Males and females shared 9 of the top 10 diagnoses, with essential hypertension leading the list for each sex.

Table U provides a rank ordering of the 60 most frequently rendered principal diagnoses, accounting for 59.9 percent of all visits. As previously mentioned, the rank ordering found in this and other tables throughout this report may not always be reliable since near estimates may not be statistically different due to sampling variability.

The most frequent diagnosis, essential hypertension, was rendered at 27.7 million office visits, or 4.0 percent of all visits. Among visits with a principal diagnosis of hypertension, 48.9 percent of the visits were made by patients 65 years and over, and 62.3 percent were made by females.

Table 37 provides a rank ordering of principal diagnoses according to the patient's prior-visit status, that is, whether the visit was made by a patient seeking treatment for a new problem, or by a patient who was seeking treatment for a condition which had been treated by the physician on a previous occasion. "New problem" visits may be made by either old or new patients. Tables 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42 present data on the patient's age and sex, prior-visit status and return visit rate, and selected therapeutic services according to selected principal diagnoses. These are grouped at the 3-digit coding level of the ICD-9-CM according to major disease categories, with specific reference to the most frequently

**Table T. Number and percent of office visits by patient's sex and 10 most frequent morbidity-related principal diagnoses: United States, 1991**

Patient's sex, principal diagnosis, and ICD-9-CM code <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits in thousands	Percent
Female		
All visits . . . . .	400,485	100.0
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	14,439	3.6
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	9,762	2.4
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	8,214	2.1
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	7,304	1.8
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	7,030	1.8
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	6,611	1.7
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	6,531	1.6
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	5,960	1.5
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	5,811	1.5
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	5,761	1.4
Male		
All visits . . . . .	269,205	100.0
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	8,749	3.3
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	7,972	3.0
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	7,166	2.7
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	5,489	2.0
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	5,055	1.9
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	4,540	1.7
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	4,432	1.6
Asthma . . . . . 493	4,158	1.5
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	3,653	1.4
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	3,644	1.4

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (15).

mentioned 3-digit codes within each category. The physician's use of medication therapy is explored more fully in tables 43, 44, and 45, where data on drug mentions are presented by therapeutic classification in general, the most commonly prescribed new and continuing medications according to their generic components, and whether the prescribed drug was a new or continuing medication according to its therapeutic classification. Continuing medications included those that the patient was instructed to continue at the visit, even if a refill prescription was not ordered at that time.

Cardiovascular-renal drugs accounted for 15.5 percent of all drug mentions, while antimicrobial agents (14.9 percent), pain relief drugs (10.6 percent), and respiratory tract drugs

**Table U. Number, percent, cumulative percent, mean duration of physician-patient contact, and standard error of mean contact duration of office visits, by the 60 principal diagnoses most frequently rendered by physicians: United States, 1991**

Rank	Principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits in thousands	Percent	Cumulative percent	Mean contact duration in minutes <sup>2</sup>	Standard error of mean contact duration in minutes
	All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	. . .	17.0	0.29
1	Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	23,188	3.5	4.0	16.6	0.53
2	Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	20,657	3.1	7.1	13.3	0.71
3	General medical examination . . . . . V70	18,321	2.7	9.8	16.4	0.81
4	Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	17,271	2.6	12.4	16.5	0.53
5	Acute upper respiratory infections . . . . . 465	16,928	2.5	14.9	12.3	0.59
6	Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	16,185	2.4	17.3	12.4	0.44
7	Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	12,793	1.9	19.3	17.5	0.72
8	Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	11,570	1.7	21.0	13.1	0.52
9	Glaucoma . . . . . 365	11,043	1.6	22.6	23.3	4.16
10	Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	11,015	1.6	24.3	11.9	0.56
11	Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	9,757	1.5	25.7	13.3	0.44
12	Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	9,464	1.4	27.1	13.5	1.13
13	Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	9,405	1.4	28.6	12.5	1.81
14	Asthma . . . . . 493	8,804	1.3	29.9	15.8	1.53
15	Cataract . . . . . 366	7,540	1.1	31.0	23.3	5.11
16	Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . . 692	7,048	1.1	32.0	12.1	0.59
17	Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	6,381	1.0	33.0	17.4	0.90
18	Special investigations and examinations . . . . . V72	6,318	0.9	33.9	17.3	1.26
19	Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	6,220	0.9	34.9	31.9	1.84
20	General symptoms . . . . . 780	6,101	0.9	35.8	21.6	1.01
21	Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	5,713	0.9	36.6	21.3	1.26
22	Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	5,513	0.8	37.5	17.1	0.76
23	Disorders of refraction and accommodation . . . . . 367	5,420	0.8	38.3	21.7	2.27
24	Other postsurgical states . . . . . V45	5,354	0.8	39.1	13.6	0.56
25	Other and unspecified disorders of back . . . . . 724	5,197	0.8	39.8	16.8	1.38
26	Other disorders of urethra and urinary tract . . . . . 599	5,115	0.8	40.6	15.9	0.99
27	Peripheral enthesopathies and allied syndromes . . . . . 726	5,109	0.8	41.4	14.4	0.59
28	Affective psychoses . . . . . 296	4,944	0.7	42.1	43.2	2.56
29	Other diseases due to viruses and chlamydiae . . . . . 078	4,692	0.7	42.8	13.9	0.54
30	Disorders of external ear . . . . . 380	4,642	0.7	43.5	13.9	0.86
31	Intervertebral disc disorders . . . . . 722	4,547	0.7	44.2	17.8	2.41
32	Other dermatoses . . . . . 702	4,177	0.6	44.8	13.8	0.86
33	Other noninfectious gastroenteritis and colitis . . . . . 558	4,166	0.6	45.4	14.3	0.64
34	Depressive disorder, not elsewhere classified . . . . . 311	4,138	0.6	46.0	29.7	2.61
35	Other disorders of synovium, tendon, and bursa . . . . . 727	4,126	0.6	46.7	14.6	0.60
36	Disorders of conjunctiva . . . . . 372	3,998	0.6	47.3	13.9	0.61
37	Disorders of lipid metabolism . . . . . 272	3,979	0.6	47.8	16.1	0.65
38	Nonsuppurative otitis media and eustachian tube disorders . . . . . 381	3,973	0.6	48.4	12.6	0.51
39	Certain adverse effects not elsewhere classified . . . . . 995	3,901	0.6	49.0	13.7	1.72
40	Personal history of certain other diseases . . . . . V12	3,839	0.6	49.6	12.1	0.84
41	Acute tonsillitis . . . . . 463	3,783	0.6	50.2	12.1	0.87
42	Other symptoms involving abdomen and pelvis . . . . . 789	3,747	0.6	50.7	19.2	1.20
43	Other disorders of soft tissues . . . . . 729	3,735	0.6	51.3	21.0	1.25
44	Malignant neoplasm of female breast . . . . . 174	3,636	0.5	51.8	17.1	2.22
45	Cardiac dysrhythmias . . . . . 427	3,619	0.5	52.4	22.1	1.26
46	Symptoms involving respiratory system and other chest symptoms . . . . . 786	3,572	0.5	52.9	20.6	1.36
47	Inflammatory disease of cervix, vagina, and vulva . . . . . 616	3,365	0.5	53.4	16.2	0.81
48	Disorders of menstruation and other abnormal bleeding from female genital tract . . . . . 626	3,235	0.5	54.6	21.9	1.90
49	Sprains and strains of sacroiliac region . . . . . 846	3,113	0.5	55.1	18.2	1.40
50	Viral infection in conditions classified elsewhere . . . . . 079	3,108	0.5	55.5	13.2	0.70
51	Acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis . . . . . 466	3,101	0.5	56.0	16.0	1.47
52	Organ or tissue replaced by other means . . . . . V43	3,014	0.5	56.4	17.4	3.15
53	Obesity and other hyperalimentation . . . . . 278	3,005	0.4	56.9	18.1	2.38
54	Other malignant neoplasm of skin . . . . . 173	2,981	0.4	57.3	15.7	1.13
55	Observation and evaluation for suspected conditions . . . . . V71	2,926	0.4	57.8	17.2	1.14
56	Benign neoplasm of skin . . . . . 216	2,889	0.4	58.2	15.4	0.97
57	Migraine . . . . . 346	2,863	0.4	58.6	18.0	2.39
58	Menopausal and postmenopausal disorders . . . . . 627	2,841	0.4	59.1	20.3	1.12
59	Chronic airway obstruction, not elsewhere classified . . . . . 496	2,789	0.4	59.5	17.9	1.22
60	Mononeuritis of upper limb and mononeuritis multiplex . . . . . 354	2,765	0.4	59.9	20.3	2.48

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

<sup>2</sup>Time spent in face-to-face contact between physician and patient. Does not include visits of 0 minutes duration, i.e., visits in which there was no face-to-face contact between physician and patient.

**Table W. Number, standard error, percent, and standard error of percent of office visits, by diagnostic and therapeutic ambulatory surgical procedures most frequently scheduled or performed: United States, 1991**

<i>Diagnostic or therapeutic procedure scheduled or performed and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1,2</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Standard error in thousands<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Percent of all office visits</i>	<i>Standard error of percent<sup>3</sup></i>
Visits with procedures . . . . .	40,548	3,293	6.1	0.4
Biopsy of skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . 86.11	3,112	412	0.5	0.1
Irrigation of ear . . . . . 96.52	1,822	278	0.3	0.0
Other intracapsular extraction of lens . . . . . 13.19	*1,683	625	*0.3	0.1
Hemodialysis . . . . . 39.95	*1,654	1,449	*0.2	0.2
Ophthalmoscopy . . . . . 16.21	*1,570	1,084	*0.2	0.2
Other cystoscopy . . . . . 57.32	1,445	216	0.2	0.0
Flexible sigmoidoscopy . . . . . 45.24	1,226	282	0.2	0.0
Injection of therapeutic substances into joint or ligament . . . . . 81.92	1,220	232	0.2	0.0
Suture of skin and subcutaneous tissue of other sites . . . . . 86.59	*1,039	322	*0.2	0.1
Application of other cast . . . . . 93.53	1,020	225	0.2	0.0
Other incision with drainage of skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . 86.04	931	214	0.1	0.0
Other operations on skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . 86.99	*924	394	*0.1	0.1
Application of splint . . . . . 93.54	*914	298	*0.1	0.0
Rigid proctosigmoidoscopy . . . . . 48.23	752	157	0.1	0.0
Vaginoscopy . . . . . 70.21	734	180	0.1	0.0
Arthroscopy, knee . . . . . 80.26	702	200	*0.1	0.0
Release of carpal tunnel . . . . . 04.43	*648	261	*0.1	0.0
All other procedures . . . . .	21,866	1,751	3.3	0.3

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

<sup>2</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because up to two procedures could be reported per visit. There were an estimated 43.3 million procedures scheduled or performed in all.

<sup>3</sup>See Appendix I for a discussion of standard errors and precision of NAMCS estimates.

NOTE: The figure "0.0" indicates a quantity greater than zero but less than 0.05.

(10.0 percent) were also prominent. In general, medications were more likely to be continued rather than new prescriptions (53.0 percent and 38.3 percent, respectively). Exceptions to this were drugs classified as antimicrobial agents, skin/mucous membrane preparations, and respiratory tract drugs. In each of these cases, the majority of drug mentions were new medications for the patient.

The physician's diagnosis and treatment of the patient can also be examined in terms of the diagnostic and therapeutic ambulatory surgical procedures that were recorded at the office visit. In item 14, which was new on the 1991 NAMCS, physicians were asked to list up to two such procedures, including those performed at the visit as well as those which were scheduled at the visit. Procedure data were coded using the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*. An estimated 43.3 million procedures were scheduled or performed at 40.5 million visits or 6.1 percent of all office visits. Table W

provides a ranked listing of the most frequently mentioned diagnostic and therapeutic ambulatory surgical procedures scheduled or performed at office visits.

Table 46 displays the number and percent distribution of office visits by disposition of visit according to major ICD-9 coding groups and selected principal diagnoses at the 3-digit coding level.

Finally, in order to assess the significance of some of the changes in physicians' diagnoses over the years, visit rates for selected diagnoses from 1985-91 are compared in table 47. Between 1985 and 1991, increases were seen in office visit rates for chronic sinusitis and glaucoma, while decreases were noted in visit rates for disorders of refraction and accommodation and neurotic disorders. Slight decreases were also noted in visit rates for essential hypertension and normal pregnancy between 1985 and 1991. Additional years of data will be needed to evaluate these apparent changes more fully.

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**Table 1. Number, percent distribution, and annual rate of office visits by patient's age, sex, and race, and geographic region of visit: United States, 1991**

<i>Patient and visit characteristics</i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>	<i>Number of visits per person per year<sup>1</sup></i>
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	2.7
<b>Age</b>			
Under 15 years . . . . .	125,025	18.7	2.2
15-24 years . . . . .	61,534	9.2	1.8
25-44 years . . . . .	185,267	27.7	2.3
45-64 years . . . . .	141,994	21.2	3.0
65-74 years . . . . .	83,689	12.5	4.6
75 years and over . . . . .	72,181	10.8	6.0
<b>Sex and age</b>			
Female . . . . .	400,485	59.8	3.1
Under 15 years . . . . .	60,157	9.0	2.2
15-24 years . . . . .	40,447	6.0	2.3
25-44 years . . . . .	122,449	18.3	3.0
45-64 years . . . . .	83,210	12.4	3.4
65-74 years . . . . .	49,475	7.4	4.9
75 years and over . . . . .	44,747	6.7	5.9
Male . . . . .	269,205	40.2	2.2
Under 15 years . . . . .	64,868	9.7	2.3
15-24 years . . . . .	21,088	3.1	1.2
25-44 years . . . . .	62,818	9.4	1.6
45-64 years . . . . .	58,783	8.8	2.6
65-74 years . . . . .	34,214	5.1	4.2
75 years and over . . . . .	27,434	4.1	6.1
<b>Race and age</b>			
White . . . . .	587,800	87.8	2.8
Under 15 years . . . . .	103,174	15.4	2.3
15-24 years . . . . .	54,099	8.1	2.0
25-44 years . . . . .	161,071	24.1	2.4
45-64 years . . . . .	125,363	18.7	3.1
65-74 years . . . . .	76,306	11.4	4.7
75 years and over . . . . .	67,787	10.1	6.2
Black . . . . .	58,494	8.7	1.9
Under 15 years . . . . .	16,377	2.4	1.9
15-24 years . . . . .	5,213	0.8	1.0
25-44 years . . . . .	17,198	2.6	1.8
45-64 years . . . . .	11,660	1.7	2.4
65-74 years . . . . .	4,682	0.7	2.9
75 years and over . . . . .	3,364	0.5	3.5
<b>All other races</b>			
Asian/Pacific Islander . . . . .	20,127	3.0	---
American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut . . . . .	3,269	0.5	---
<b>Geographic region</b>			
Northeast . . . . .	154,869	23.1	3.1
Midwest . . . . .	166,680	24.9	2.8
South . . . . .	193,071	28.8	2.3
West . . . . .	155,070	23.2	2.8

<sup>1</sup>Based on U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as of July 1, 1991.

**Table 2. Number and percent distribution of office visits by patient's age, sex, and race, according to geographic region of visit: United States, 1991**

<i>Patient characteristic</i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Northeast</i>	<i>Midwest</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>
Number of visits in thousands					
All visits . . . . .	669,689	154,869	166,680	193,071	155,070
Age					
Under 15 years . . . . .	125,025	28,742	31,828	35,690	28,764
15-24 years . . . . .	61,534	13,905	17,261	17,121	13,246
25-44 years . . . . .	185,267	44,931	45,627	52,432	42,277
45-64 years . . . . .	141,994	33,722	33,235	40,834	34,203
65-74 years . . . . .	83,689	18,108	20,671	24,786	20,125
75 years and over . . . . .	72,181	15,460	18,058	22,209	16,454
Sex					
Female . . . . .	400,485	90,226	101,361	117,897	91,000
Male . . . . .	269,205	64,642	65,319	75,173	64,070
Race					
White . . . . .	587,800	140,667	149,292	168,447	129,394
Black . . . . .	58,494	12,109	15,539	23,234	7,612
Asian/Pacific Islander . . . . .	20,127	1,974	1,636	1,078	15,439
American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut . . . . .	3,269	*119	*214	*311	2,625
Percent distribution					
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age					
Under 15 years . . . . .	18.7	18.6	19.1	18.5	18.5
15-24 years . . . . .	9.2	9.0	10.4	8.9	8.5
25-44 years . . . . .	27.7	29.0	27.4	27.2	27.3
45-64 years . . . . .	21.2	21.8	19.9	21.2	22.1
65-74 years . . . . .	12.5	11.7	12.4	12.8	13.0
75 years and over . . . . .	10.8	10.0	10.8	11.5	10.6
Sex					
Female . . . . .	59.8	58.3	60.8	61.1	58.7
Male . . . . .	40.2	41.7	39.2	38.9	41.3
Race					
White . . . . .	87.8	90.8	89.6	87.2	83.4
Black . . . . .	8.7	7.8	9.3	12.0	4.9
Asian/Pacific Islander . . . . .	3.0	1.3	1.0	0.6	10.0
American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut . . . . .	0.5	*0.0	*0.0	*0.0	1.7

**Table 3. Number, percent distribution, and annual rate of office visits by physician specialty, according to patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Physician specialty	All ages, both sexes	Age						Sex	
		Under 15 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	Female	Male
Number of visits in thousands									
All visits . . . . .	669,689	125,025	61,534	185,267	141,994	83,689	72,181	400,485	269,205
General and family practice . . . . .	164,857	29,209	17,857	48,940	36,034	16,899	15,918	100,574	64,283
Internal medicine . . . . .	102,923	2,460	6,113	26,121	29,464	20,658	18,107	60,941	41,982
Pediatrics . . . . .	74,646	69,115	3,368	784	833	*258	*289	36,160	38,486
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	56,834	*505	12,227	34,572	7,000	1,810	719	55,728	1,105
Ophthalmology . . . . .	41,207	2,681	1,508	5,537	8,812	9,984	12,685	24,881	16,326
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	35,932	4,114	4,065	12,421	8,898	3,596	2,838	18,034	17,898
Dermatology . . . . .	29,659	1,979	4,505	8,350	6,536	4,624	3,664	16,607	13,052
General surgery . . . . .	21,285	731	1,217	5,490	7,000	3,967	2,880	12,616	8,668
Otolaryngology . . . . .	19,101	5,490	1,542	4,973	3,717	1,920	1,458	9,974	9,127
Psychiatry . . . . .	15,720	1,344	1,185	6,982	5,106	650	*453	8,795	6,925
Urological surgery . . . . .	12,758	*526	*448	2,539	3,400	3,350	2,495	3,477	9,281
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	11,629	*82	*193	1,465	3,678	3,720	2,491	5,411	6,217
Neurology . . . . .	6,798	790	*522	2,423	1,714	768	*581	3,858	2,940
Other . . . . .	76,341	5,997	6,784	24,670	19,802	11,486	7,603	43,427	32,914
Percent distribution of visits									
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
General and family practice . . . . .	24.6	23.4	29.0	26.4	25.4	20.2	22.1	25.1	23.9
Internal medicine . . . . .	15.4	2.0	9.9	14.1	20.8	24.7	25.1	15.2	15.6
Pediatrics . . . . .	11.1	55.3	5.5	0.4	0.6	*0.3	*0.4	9.0	14.3
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	8.5	*0.4	19.9	18.7	4.9	2.2	1.0	13.9	0.4
Ophthalmology . . . . .	6.2	2.1	2.5	3.0	6.2	11.9	17.6	6.2	6.1
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	5.4	3.3	6.6	6.7	6.3	4.3	3.9	4.5	6.6
Dermatology . . . . .	4.4	1.6	7.3	4.5	4.6	5.5	5.1	4.1	4.8
General surgery . . . . .	3.2	0.6	2.0	3.0	4.9	4.7	4.0	3.2	3.2
Otolaryngology . . . . .	2.9	4.4	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.5	3.4
Psychiatry . . . . .	2.3	1.1	1.9	3.8	3.6	0.8	*0.6	2.2	2.6
Urological surgery . . . . .	1.9	*0.4	*0.7	1.4	2.4	4.0	3.5	0.9	3.4
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	1.7	*0.1	*0.3	0.8	2.6	4.4	3.5	1.4	2.3
Neurology . . . . .	1.0	0.6	*0.8	1.3	1.2	0.9	*0.8	1.0	1.1
Other . . . . .	11.4	4.8	11.0	13.3	13.9	13.7	10.5	10.8	12.2
Number of visits per 100 persons <sup>1</sup>									
All visits . . . . .	269.3	224.8	178.2	228.5	301.1	457.3	602.0	312.9	223.0
General and family practice . . . . .	66.3	52.5	51.7	60.3	76.4	92.3	132.8	78.6	53.2
Internal medicine . . . . .	41.4	4.4	17.7	32.2	62.5	112.9	151.0	47.6	34.8
Pediatrics . . . . .	30.0	124.2	9.8	1.0	1.8	*1.4	*2.4	28.3	31.9
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	22.9	*0.9	35.4	42.6	14.8	9.9	6.0	43.5	0.9
Ophthalmology . . . . .	16.6	4.8	4.4	6.8	18.7	54.6	105.8	19.4	13.5
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	14.4	7.4	11.8	15.3	18.9	19.6	23.7	14.1	14.8
Dermatology . . . . .	11.9	3.6	13.0	10.3	13.9	25.3	30.6	13.0	10.8
General surgery . . . . .	8.6	1.3	3.5	6.8	14.8	21.7	24.0	9.9	7.2
Otolaryngology . . . . .	7.7	9.9	4.5	6.1	7.9	10.5	12.2	7.8	7.6
Psychiatry . . . . .	6.3	2.4	3.4	8.6	10.8	3.6	*3.8	6.9	5.7
Urological surgery . . . . .	5.1	*0.9	*1.3	3.1	7.2	18.3	20.8	2.7	7.7
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	4.7	*0.1	*0.6	1.8	7.8	20.3	20.8	4.2	5.1
Neurology . . . . .	2.7	1.4	*1.5	3.0	3.6	4.2	*4.8	3.0	2.4
Other . . . . .	30.7	10.8	19.6	30.4	42.0	62.8	63.4	33.9	27.3

<sup>1</sup>Visit rates are based on U.S. Bureau of the Census national estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized U.S. population for July 1, 1991.

**Table 4. Number and percent distribution of office visits by patient's referral status, prior-visit status, and expected source(s) of payment, according to patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Visit characteristic	Age							Sex	
	All ages, both sexes	Under 15 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	Female	Male
Number of visits in thousands									
All visits . . . . .	669,689	125,025	61,534	185,267	141,994	83,689	72,181	400,485	269,205
Referral status									
Patient was referred for this visit by another physician . . . . .	41,598	5,495	3,624	13,432	10,218	5,008	3,821	23,627	17,971
Patient was not referred for this visit by another physician . . . . .	628,091	119,529	57,910	171,835	131,776	78,682	68,359	376,858	251,234
Prior-visit status									
New patient . . . . .	111,801	16,890	14,752	39,834	22,999	10,551	6,775	61,748	50,053
Old patient . . . . .	557,888	108,134	46,782	145,433	118,994	73,138	65,406	338,737	219,152
New problem . . . . .	144,190	40,837	15,351	39,051	25,732	13,151	10,068	87,407	56,784
Old problem . . . . .	413,698	67,297	31,431	106,383	93,263	59,988	55,338	251,330	162,368
Expected source(s) of payment <sup>1</sup>									
Private/commercial insurance . . . . .	239,425	40,723	22,274	74,673	59,862	23,356	18,536	142,663	96,762
Patient-paid . . . . .	157,834	34,013	15,735	46,857	38,901	12,004	10,324	95,580	62,254
Medicare . . . . .	141,679	1,156	*382	4,027	10,442	64,922	60,751	85,877	55,802
HMO/other pre-paid . . . . .	100,983	24,058	11,009	36,659	20,099	5,467	3,691	59,965	41,018
Medicaid . . . . .	63,411	25,084	7,337	12,512	8,023	6,151	4,304	41,200	22,211
Other government . . . . .	14,409	2,691	1,558	3,973	3,866	1,415	907	7,562	6,847
No charge . . . . .	10,437	1,517	1,407	3,505	2,206	1,091	712	6,273	4,164
Other . . . . .	27,390	2,442	2,658	9,987	8,048	2,490	1,765	13,499	13,890
Unknown . . . . .	13,828	2,022	1,391	3,945	3,606	1,341	1,524	7,983	5,845
Percent distribution									
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Referral status									
Patient was referred for this visit by another physician . . . . .	6.2	4.4	5.9	7.2	7.2	6.0	5.3	5.9	6.7
Patient was not referred for this visit by another physician . . . . .	93.8	95.6	94.1	92.8	92.8	94.0	94.7	94.1	93.3
Prior-visit status									
New patient . . . . .	16.7	13.5	24.0	21.5	16.2	12.6	9.4	15.4	18.6
Old patient . . . . .	83.3	86.5	76.0	78.5	83.8	87.4	90.6	84.6	81.4
New problem . . . . .	21.5	32.7	24.9	21.1	18.1	15.7	13.9	21.8	21.1
Old problem . . . . .	61.8	53.8	51.1	57.4	65.7	71.7	76.7	62.8	60.3
Expected source(s) of payment <sup>1</sup>									
Private/commercial insurance . . . . .	35.8	32.6	36.2	40.3	42.2	27.9	25.7	35.6	35.9
Patient-paid . . . . .	23.6	27.2	25.6	25.3	27.4	14.3	14.3	23.9	23.1
Medicare . . . . .	21.2	0.9	*0.6	2.2	7.4	77.6	84.2	21.4	20.7
HMO/other pre-paid . . . . .	15.1	19.2	17.9	19.8	14.2	6.5	5.1	15.0	15.2
Medicaid . . . . .	9.5	20.1	11.9	6.8	5.7	7.3	6.0	10.3	8.3
Other government . . . . .	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.1	2.7	1.7	1.3	1.9	2.5
No charge . . . . .	1.6	1.2	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.6	1.5
Other . . . . .	4.1	2.0	4.3	5.4	5.7	3.0	2.4	3.4	5.2
Unknown . . . . .	2.1	1.6	2.3	2.1	2.5	1.6	2.1	2.0	2.2

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one expected source of payment may be recorded for each visit.

**Table 5. Number and percent distribution of office visits by patient's principal reason for visit, according to patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Principal reason for visit and RVC code <sup>1</sup>	All ages, both sexes	Age						Sex		
		Under 15 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	Female	Male	
Number of visits in thousands										
All visits	669,689	125,025	61,534	185,267	141,994	83,689	72,181	400,485	269,205	
Symptom module	S001-S999	385,861	77,708	36,693	109,961	81,163	43,466	36,871	226,865	158,996
General symptoms	S001-S099	44,230	12,411	2,558	11,200	9,275	4,411	4,374	25,028	19,202
Symptoms referable to psychological/mental disorders	S100-S199	18,291	1,835	1,057	7,910	4,801	1,538	1,149	10,780	7,511
Symptoms referable to the nervous system (excluding sense organs)	S200-S259	21,066	1,853	1,802	6,919	5,486	2,357	2,650	12,888	8,178
Symptoms referable to the cardiovascular/lymphatic system	S260-S299	3,417	*250	*156	831	754	864	*562	2,051	1,366
Symptoms referable to the eyes and ears	S300-S399	43,588	15,479	3,359	7,541	6,707	4,761	5,741	24,488	19,100
Symptoms referable to the respiratory system	S400-S499	76,764	27,566	7,292	18,478	11,716	6,262	5,450	44,755	32,010
Symptoms referable to the digestive system	S500-S639	27,074	5,372	2,317	7,445	5,234	3,766	2,940	16,384	10,689
Symptoms referable to the genitourinary system	S640-S829	31,265	1,339	3,813	12,601	6,790	4,296	2,425	24,032	7,233
Symptoms referable to the skin, hair, and nails	S830-S899	43,089	7,435	6,659	12,217	8,066	5,576	3,855	25,008	18,802
Symptoms referable to the musculoskeletal system	S900-S999	76,356	4,169	7,679	24,818	22,334	9,634	7,724	41,451	34,906
Disease module	D001-D999	64,926	6,718	2,548	13,083	17,134	13,064	12,378	37,271	27,655
Diagnostic/screening, and preventive module	X100-X599	101,002	23,449	12,253	31,835	15,324	9,402	8,739	72,265	28,737
Treatment module	T100-T899	65,333	6,375	3,460	16,088	18,156	11,884	9,371	36,987	28,346
Injuries and adverse effects module	J001-J999	20,462	4,796	3,304	6,839	3,103	1,324	1,097	9,325	11,137
Test results module	R100-R700	6,832	*222	*507	2,267	2,046	1,122	669	4,586	2,247
Administrative module	A100-A140	7,122	2,324	1,591	1,798	1,239	*76	*94	2,869	4,254
Other <sup>2</sup>	U990-U999	18,150	3,433	1,180	3,394	3,829	3,352	2,963	10,317	7,833
Percent distribution										
All visits		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Symptom module	S001-S999	57.6	62.2	59.6	59.4	57.2	51.9	51.1	56.6	59.1
General symptoms	S001-S099	6.6	9.9	4.2	6.0	6.5	5.3	6.1	6.2	7.1
Symptoms referable to psychological/mental disorders	S100-S199	2.7	1.5	1.7	4.3	3.4	1.8	1.6	2.7	2.8
Symptoms referable to the nervous system (excluding sense organs)	S200-S259	3.1	1.5	2.9	3.7	3.9	2.8	3.7	3.2	3.0
Symptoms referable to the cardiovascular/lymphatic system	S260-S299	0.5	*0.2	*0.3	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.5
Symptoms referable to the eyes and ears	S300-S399	6.5	12.4	5.5	4.1	4.7	5.7	8.0	6.1	7.1
Symptoms referable to the respiratory system	S400-S499	11.5	22.0	11.9	10.0	8.3	7.5	7.6	11.2	11.9
Symptoms referable to the digestive system	S500-S639	4.0	4.3	3.8	4.0	3.7	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.0
Symptoms referable to the genitourinary system	S640-S829	4.7	1.1	6.2	6.8	4.8	5.1	3.4	6.0	2.7
Symptoms referable to the skin, hair, and nails	S830-S899	6.4	5.9	10.8	6.6	5.7	6.7	5.3	6.2	7.0
Symptoms referable to the musculoskeletal system	S900-S999	11.4	3.3	12.5	13.4	15.7	11.5	10.7	10.4	13.0
Disease module	D001-D999	9.7	5.4	4.1	7.1	12.1	15.6	17.1	9.3	10.3
Diagnostic/screening, and preventive module	X100-X599	15.1	18.8	19.9	17.2	10.8	11.2	12.1	18.0	10.7
Treatment module	T100-T899	9.8	5.1	5.6	8.7	12.8	14.2	13.0	9.2	10.5
Injuries and adverse effects module	J001-J999	3.1	3.8	5.4	3.7	2.2	1.6	1.5	2.3	4.1
Test results module	R100-R700	1.0	*0.2	*0.8	1.2	1.4	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.8
Administrative module	A100-A140	1.1	1.9	2.6	1.0	0.9	*0.1	*0.1	0.7	1.6
Other <sup>2</sup>	U990-U999	2.7	2.7	1.9	1.8	2.7	4.0	4.1	2.6	2.9

<sup>1</sup>Based on A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC) (14).

<sup>2</sup>Includes problems and complaints not elsewhere classified, entries of "none," blanks, and illegible entries.

**Table 6. Number, percent, and cumulative percent of office visits by patient's age and sex and the 10 principal reasons for visit most frequently mentioned by patients: United States, 1991**

<i>Patient's age and sex, principal reason for visit, and RVC code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
Patient's age			
All ages:			
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	...
General medical examination . . . . . X100	29,720	4.4	4.4
Cough . . . . . S440	24,263	3.6	8.1
Routine prenatal examination . . . . . X205	19,675	2.9	11.0
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	17,882	2.7	13.7
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	16,308	2.4	16.1
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	13,404	2.0	18.1
Well-baby examination . . . . . X105	13,276	2.0	20.1
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	12,977	1.9	22.0
Skin rash . . . . . S860	12,119	1.8	23.8
Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	11,106	1.7	25.5
Under 15 years:			
All visits . . . . .	125,025	100.0	...
Well-baby examination . . . . . X105	13,276	10.6	10.6
Cough . . . . . S440	10,307	8.2	18.9
Fever . . . . . S010	8,956	7.2	26.0
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	8,165	6.5	32.6
General medical examination . . . . . X100	7,212	5.8	38.3
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	6,671	5.3	43.7
Nasal congestion . . . . . S400	4,497	3.6	47.3
Skin rash . . . . . S860	3,672	2.9	50.2
Head cold, upper respiratory infection (coryza) . . . . . S445	3,221	2.6	52.8
Other symptoms referable to the ears, not elsewhere classified . . . . . S365	2,910	2.3	55.1
15-24 years:			
All visits . . . . .	61,534	100.0	...
Routine prenatal examination . . . . . X205	6,264	10.2	10.2
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	3,256	5.3	15.5
Acne or pimples . . . . . S830	2,737	4.4	19.9
General medical examination . . . . . X100	2,233	3.6	23.5
Cough . . . . . S440	1,659	2.7	26.2
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	1,328	2.2	28.4
Physical examination required for employment . . . . . A100	1,266	2.1	30.5
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	1,239	2.0	32.5
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	1,232	2.0	34.5
Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	1,168	1.9	36.4
25-44 years:			
All visits . . . . .	185,267	100.0	...
Routine prenatal examination . . . . . X205	13,249	7.2	7.2
General medical examination . . . . . X100	8,216	4.4	11.6
Cough . . . . . S440	5,128	2.8	14.4
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	5,081	2.7	17.1
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	4,856	2.6	19.7
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	4,394	2.4	22.1
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	4,097	2.2	24.3
Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	3,770	2.0	26.3
Skin rash . . . . . S860	3,664	2.0	28.3
Depression . . . . . S110	3,473	1.9	30.2
45-64 years:			
All visits . . . . .	141,994	100.0	...
General medical examination . . . . . X100	5,788	4.1	4.1
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	4,005	2.8	6.9
Cough . . . . . S440	3,624	2.6	9.4
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	3,467	2.4	11.9
Blood pressure test . . . . . X320	3,029	2.1	14.0
Knee symptoms . . . . . S925	2,663	1.9	15.9
Shoulder symptoms . . . . . S940	2,504	1.8	17.7
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body system) . . . . . S050	2,470	1.7	19.4

<sup>1</sup>Based on A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC) (14).

**Table 6. Number, percent, and cumulative percent of office visits by patient's age and sex and the 10 principal reasons for visit most frequently mentioned by patients: United States, 1991—Con.**

<i>Patient's age and sex, principal reason for visit, and RVC code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
<b>45–64 years—Con.:</b>			
Hypertension . . . . . D510	2,436	1.7	21.1
Low back symptoms . . . . . S910	2,354	1.7	22.8
<b>65–74 years:</b>			
All visits . . . . .	83,689	100.0	...
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	3,401	4.1	4.1
General medical examination . . . . . X100	3,298	3.9	8.0
Vision dysfunctions . . . . . S305	2,249	2.7	10.7
Glaucoma . . . . . D415	2,212	2.6	13.3
Cough . . . . . S440	2,006	2.4	15.7
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . D205	1,976	2.4	18.1
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	1,813	2.2	20.3
Hypertension . . . . . D510	1,731	2.1	22.3
Blood pressure test . . . . . X320	1,704	2.0	24.4
Skin lesion . . . . . S865	1,476	1.8	26.1
<b>75 years and over:</b>			
All visits . . . . .	72,181	100.0	...
General medical examination . . . . . X100	2,973	4.1	4.1
Vision dysfunctions . . . . . S305	2,922	4.0	8.2
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	2,559	3.5	11.7
Glaucoma . . . . . D415	2,373	3.3	15.0
Blood pressure test . . . . . X320	1,842	2.6	17.6
Cough . . . . . S440	1,540	2.1	19.7
Cataract . . . . . D410	1,434	2.0	21.7
Vertigo-dizziness . . . . . S225	1,423	2.0	23.6
Hypertension . . . . . D510	1,415	2.0	25.6
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	1,323	1.8	27.4
<b>Patient's sex</b>			
<b>Female:</b>			
All visits . . . . .	400,485	100.0	...
Routine prenatal examination . . . . . X205	19,675	4.9	4.9
General medical examination . . . . . X100	19,233	4.8	9.7
Cough . . . . . S440	14,434	3.6	13.3
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	10,977	2.7	16.1
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	9,165	2.3	18.3
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	7,750	1.9	20.3
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	7,585	1.9	22.2
Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	7,319	1.8	24.0
Well-baby examination . . . . . X105	6,741	1.7	25.7
Skin rash . . . . . S860	6,638	1.7	27.3
<b>Male:</b>			
All visits . . . . .	269,205	100.0	...
General medical examination . . . . . X100	10,487	3.9	3.9
Cough . . . . . S440	9,830	3.7	7.5
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	7,143	2.7	10.2
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	6,904	2.6	12.8
Well-baby examination . . . . . X105	6,535	2.4	15.2
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	5,654	2.1	17.3
Fever . . . . . S010	5,551	2.1	19.4
Skin rash . . . . . S860	5,481	2.0	21.4
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	5,392	2.0	23.4
Knee symptoms . . . . . S925	4,593	1.7	25.1

<sup>1</sup>Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC) (14)*.



**Table 7. Number and percent distribution of office visits by diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided, according to patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided <sup>1</sup>	All ages, both sexes	Age						Sex	
		Under 15 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	Female	Male
Number of visits in thousands									
All visits . . . . .	669,689	125,025	61,534	185,267	141,994	83,689	72,181	400,485	269,205
None . . . . .	236,035	78,165	21,265	58,802	41,140	19,928	16,736	126,389	109,647
Blood pressure check . . . . .	289,153	15,589	27,933	93,288	72,304	43,039	37,000	192,006	97,147
Urinalysis . . . . .	85,194	8,729	12,441	31,332	16,212	8,981	7,500	61,272	23,922
EKG—resting <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	19,020	*75	*258	2,916	6,700	4,593	4,478	10,348	8,672
EKG—exercise <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2,661	—	*53	*502	1,158	640	*307	802	1,859
Mammogram . . . . .	11,558	*58	*155	3,669	4,889	1,811	975	11,558	...
Chest x ray . . . . .	16,307	1,267	604	3,439	4,218	3,700	3,079	8,940	7,367
Other radiology <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	36,864	3,810	4,159	11,260	9,051	4,771	3,813	19,793	17,070
Allergy testing <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1,445	*331	*82	627	*302	*75	*27	727	718
Spirometry <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2,486	*265	—	931	*538	*283	*469	1,332	1,154
Pap test . . . . .	28,312	*161	3,700	15,139	6,598	1,833	882	28,312	—
Strep throat test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	13,650	7,114	2,250	2,693	1,085	*298	*210	7,933	5,716
HIV serology <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1,362	*69	*352	*523	*229	*70	*119	715	647
Cholesterol measure . . . . .	26,932	705	748	6,494	9,482	5,408	4,095	17,804	9,128
Other lab test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	114,274	12,124	8,714	29,997	29,350	18,814	15,274	73,641	40,633
Hearing test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	9,282	4,651	553	1,600	1,481	*454	*543	4,267	5,015
Visual acuity . . . . .	40,374	6,267	2,099	6,026	7,741	8,317	9,923	22,442	17,932
Mental status exam <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	8,664	1,499	916	3,282	2,167	*389	*411	4,580	4,084
Other . . . . .	67,757	9,289	5,978	18,787	13,654	10,732	9,316	42,587	25,170
Percent distribution									
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None . . . . .	35.2	62.5	34.6	31.7	29.0	23.8	23.2	31.6	40.7
Blood pressure check . . . . .	43.2	12.5	45.4	50.4	50.9	51.4	51.3	47.9	36.1
Urinalysis . . . . .	12.7	7.0	20.2	16.9	11.4	10.7	10.4	15.3	8.9
EKG—resting <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2.8	*0.1	*0.4	1.6	4.7	5.5	6.2	2.6	3.2
EKG—exercise <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.4	*0.0	*0.1	*0.3	0.8	0.8	*0.4	0.2	0.7
Mammogram . . . . .	1.7	*0.0	*0.3	2.0	3.4	2.2	1.4	2.9	...
Chest x ray . . . . .	2.4	1.0	1.0	1.9	3.0	4.4	4.3	2.2	2.7
Other radiology <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	5.5	3.0	6.8	6.1	6.4	5.7	5.3	4.9	6.3
Allergy testing <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.2	*0.3	*0.1	*0.3	*0.2	*0.1	*0.0	0.2	0.3
Spirometry <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.4	*0.2	*0.0	0.5	*0.4	*0.3	*0.6	0.3	0.4
Pap test . . . . .	4.2	*0.1	6.0	8.2	4.6	2.2	1.2	7.1	—
Strep throat test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2.0	5.7	3.7	1.5	0.8	*0.4	*0.3	2.0	2.1
HIV serology <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.2	*0.1	*0.6	*0.3	*0.2	*0.1	*0.2	0.2	0.2
Cholesterol measure . . . . .	4.0	0.6	1.2	3.5	6.7	6.5	5.7	4.4	3.4
Other lab test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	17.1	9.7	14.2	16.2	20.7	22.5	21.2	18.4	15.1
Hearing test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.4	3.7	*0.9	0.9	1.0	*0.5	0.0	1.1	1.9
Visual acuity . . . . .	6.0	5.0	3.4	3.3	5.5	9.9	13.7	5.6	6.7
Mental status exam <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.5	*0.5	*0.6	1.1	1.5
Other . . . . .	10.1	7.4	9.7	10.1	9.6	12.8	12.9	10.6	9.3

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one diagnostic or screening service may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>Category is new in the 1991 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

<sup>3</sup>HIV is human immunodeficiency virus.

**Table 8. Number and percent distribution of office visits by physician's principal diagnosis, according to patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code <sup>1</sup>	All ages, both sexes	Age						Sex	
		Under 15 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	Female	Male
Number of visits in thousands									
All visits	669,689	125,025	61,534	185,267	141,994	83,689	72,181	400,485	269,205
Infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . . 001-139	24,570	8,809	3,499	7,195	2,770	1,301	995	13,975	10,595
Neoplasms . . . . . 140-239	23,308	788	748	4,340	7,273	5,839	4,321	13,778	9,531
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders . . . . . 240-279	27,312	*559	*548	6,280	9,600	6,972	3,352	17,661	9,651
Mental disorders . . . . . 290-319	26,167	2,416	1,504	11,494	7,723	1,729	1,301	14,715	11,452
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs . . . . . 320-389	77,724	21,691	3,993	12,849	13,995	11,389	13,807	43,633	34,091
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . . 390-459	50,226	*357	*512	5,205	16,307	14,211	13,634	27,936	22,290
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . . 460-519	92,100	32,820	8,463	24,174	14,173	6,777	5,693	53,265	38,835
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . . 520-579	22,724	3,560	1,415	6,342	5,205	3,453	2,748	12,021	10,703
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . . 580-629	39,308	1,350	4,405	14,873	9,811	5,569	3,300	30,254	9,054
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . 680-709	39,578	5,027	5,965	11,406	8,449	5,218	3,513	22,188	17,391
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . . 710-739	45,829	1,889	2,749	14,613	14,494	6,298	5,786	26,688	19,141
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions . . . . . 780-799	25,694	3,849	1,765	7,340	5,913	3,383	3,444	15,417	10,277
Injury and poisoning . . . . . 800-999	53,400	8,069	8,956	18,857	10,734	4,102	2,682	25,054	28,346
Supplementary classification . . . . . V01-V82	101,433	29,486	14,116	33,883	12,536	5,837	5,574	69,149	32,283
All other diagnoses <sup>2</sup>	9,292	2,406	1,365	3,337	768	*497	921	7,073	2,219
Unknown <sup>3</sup>	11,025	1,948	1,531	3,079	2,241	1,114	1,112	7,679	3,346
Percent distribution									
All visits	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . . 001-139	3.7	7.0	5.7	3.9	2.0	1.6	1.4	3.5	3.9
Neoplasms . . . . . 140-239	3.5	0.6	1.2	2.3	5.1	7.0	6.0	3.4	3.5
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders . . . . . 240-279	4.1	*0.4	*0.9	3.4	6.8	8.3	4.6	4.4	3.6
Mental disorders . . . . . 290-319	3.9	1.9	2.4	6.2	5.4	2.1	1.8	3.7	4.3
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs . . . . . 320-389	11.6	17.3	6.5	6.9	9.9	13.6	19.1	10.9	12.7
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . . 390-459	7.5	*0.3	*0.8	2.8	11.5	17.0	18.9	7.0	8.3
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . . 460-519	13.8	26.3	13.8	13.0	10.0	8.1	7.9	13.3	14.4
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . . 520-579	3.4	2.8	2.3	3.4	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.0	4.0
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . . 580-629	5.9	1.1	7.2	8.0	6.9	6.7	4.6	7.6	3.4
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . 680-709	5.9	4.0	9.7	6.2	6.0	6.2	4.9	5.5	6.5
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . . 710-739	6.8	1.5	4.5	7.9	10.2	7.5	8.0	6.7	7.1
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions . . . . . 780-799	3.8	3.1	2.9	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.8	3.8	3.8
Injury and poisoning . . . . . 800-999	8.0	6.5	14.6	10.2	7.6	4.9	3.7	6.3	10.5
Supplementary classification . . . . . V01-V82	15.1	23.6	22.9	18.3	8.8	7.0	7.7	17.3	12.0
All other diagnoses <sup>2</sup>	1.4	1.9	2.2	1.8	0.5	*0.6	1.3	1.8	0.8
Unknown <sup>3</sup>	1.6	1.6	2.5	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.2

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (15).

<sup>2</sup>Includes diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (280-289); complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (630-678); congenital anomalies (740-759); and certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (760-779).

<sup>3</sup>Includes blank diagnoses, uncodable diagnoses, and illegible diagnoses.

**Table 9. Number, percent, and cumulative percent of office visits by patient's age and sex and the 10 principal diagnoses most frequently rendered by physicians: United States, 1991**

<i>Patient's age and sex, principal diagnosis, and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
Patient's age			
All ages:			
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	...
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	23,188	3.5	3.5
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	20,657	3.1	6.5
General medical examination . . . . . V70	18,321	2.7	9.3
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	17,271	2.6	11.9
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	16,928	2.5	14.4
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	16,185	2.4	16.8
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	12,793	1.9	18.7
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	11,570	1.7	20.4
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	11,043	1.6	22.1
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	11,015	1.6	23.7
Under 15 years:			
All visits . . . . .	125,025	100.0	...
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	17,053	13.6	13.6
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	12,811	10.2	23.9
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	9,766	7.8	31.7
General medical examination . . . . . V70	5,324	4.3	36.0
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	4,810	3.8	39.8
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	3,073	2.5	42.3
Nonsuppurative otitis media and eustachian tube disorders . . . . . 381	2,808	2.2	44.5
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	2,774	2.2	46.7
Asthma . . . . . 493	2,714	2.2	48.9
Personal history of certain other diseases . . . . . V12	2,538	2.0	50.9
15-24 years:			
All visits . . . . .	61,534	100.0	...
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	6,905	11.2	11.2
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	3,577	5.8	17.0
General medical examination . . . . . V70	2,491	4.0	21.1
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	1,518	2.5	23.5
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	1,290	2.1	25.6
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	1,214	2.0	27.6
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	1,164	1.9	29.5
Other diseases due to viruses and chlamydiae . . . . . 078	1,085	1.8	31.3
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	990	1.6	32.9
Special investigations and examinations . . . . . V72	921	1.5	34.4
25-44 years:			
All visits . . . . .	185,267	100.0	...
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	13,595	7.3	7.3
General medical examination . . . . . V70	6,092	3.3	10.6
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	4,222	2.3	12.9
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	4,215	2.3	15.2
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	3,145	1.7	16.9
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	3,133	1.7	18.6
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	3,063	1.7	20.3
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	2,990	1.6	21.9
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	2,862	1.5	23.4
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	2,710	1.5	24.9
45-64 years:			
All visits . . . . .	141,994	100.0	...
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	8,578	6.0	6.0
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	4,572	3.2	9.3
General medical examination . . . . . V70	3,128	2.2	11.5
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	2,489	1.8	13.2
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	2,467	1.7	15.0
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	2,005	1.4	16.4

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

**Table 9. Number, percent, and cumulative percent of office visits by patient's age and sex and the 10 principal diagnoses most frequently rendered by physicians: United States, 1991—Con.**

<i>Patient's age and sex, principal diagnosis, and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>	
<b>45-64 years—Con.:</b>				
Peripheral enthesopathies and allied syndromes . . . . .	726	1,997	1.4	17.8
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . .	692	1,884	1.3	19.1
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . .	490	1,882	1.3	20.4
Menopausal and postmenopausal disorders . . . . .	627	1,765	1.2	21.7
<b>65-74 years:</b>				
All visits . . . . .	83,689	100.0		...
Essential hypertension . . . . .	401	5,833	7.0	7.0
Diabetes mellitus . . . . .	250	4,412	5.3	12.2
Glaucoma . . . . .	365	3,505	4.2	16.4
Cataract . . . . .	366	2,821	3.4	19.8
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . .	414	2,114	2.5	22.3
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . .	715	1,780	2.1	24.5
Other dermatoses . . . . .	702	1,336	1.6	26.0
Cardiac dysrhythmias . . . . .	427	1,235	1.5	27.5
Disorders of lipid metabolism . . . . .	272	1,202	1.4	29.0
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . .	490	1,099	1.3	30.3
<b>75 years and over:</b>				
All visits . . . . .	72,181	100.0		...
Essential hypertension . . . . .	401	5,487	7.6	7.6
Glaucoma . . . . .	365	4,247	5.9	13.5
Cataract . . . . .	366	3,384	4.7	18.2
Diabetes mellitus . . . . .	250	2,073	2.9	21.0
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . .	414	1,781	2.5	23.5
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . .	715	1,560	2.2	25.7
Cardiac dysrhythmias . . . . .	427	1,375	1.9	27.6
Organ or tissue replaced by other means . . . . .	V43	1,361	1.9	29.5
Other dermatoses . . . . .	702	1,120	1.6	31.0
Heart failure . . . . .	428	1,081	1.5	32.5
<b>Patient's sex</b>				
<b>Female:</b>				
All visits . . . . .	400,485	100.0		...
Normal pregnancy . . . . .	V22	20,657	5.2	5.2
Essential hypertension . . . . .	401	14,439	3.6	8.8
General medical examination . . . . .	V70	10,333	2.6	11.3
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . .	465	9,762	2.4	13.8
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . .	V20	8,473	2.1	15.9
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . .	382	8,214	2.1	18.0
Diabetes mellitus . . . . .	250	7,304	1.8	19.8
Chronic sinusitis . . . . .	473	7,030	1.8	21.5
Glaucoma . . . . .	365	6,611	1.7	23.2
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . .	490	6,531	1.6	24.8
<b>Male:</b>				
All visits . . . . .	269,205	100.0		...
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . .	V20	8,798	3.3	3.3
Essential hypertension . . . . .	401	8,749	3.3	6.5
General medical examination . . . . .	V70	7,989	3.0	9.5
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . .	382	7,972	3.0	12.4
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . .	465	7,166	2.7	15.1
Diabetes mellitus . . . . .	250	5,489	2.0	17.1
Acute pharyngitis . . . . .	462	5,055	1.9	19.0
Chronic sinusitis . . . . .	473	4,540	1.7	20.7
Glaucoma . . . . .	365	4,432	1.6	22.3
Asthma . . . . .	493	4,158	1.5	23.9

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

**Table 10. Number, percent distribution, and cumulative percent of injury-related office visits by patient's age, sex, and ranked principal diagnoses: United States, 1991**

<i>Patient's age and sex, principal diagnosis, and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
Patient's age			
All ages:			
All injury-related visits . . . . .	66,066	100.0	. . .
Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles . . . . . 840-848	14,063	21.3	21.3
Dorsopathies . . . . . 720-724	5,540	8.4	29.7
Fracture of upper limb . . . . . 810-819	5,407	8.2	37.9
Contusion with intact skin surface . . . . . 920-924	4,427	6.7	44.6
Rheumatism, excluding the back . . . . . 725-729	3,820	5.8	50.3
Fracture of lower limb . . . . . 820-829	3,197	4.8	55.2
Open wound of head, neck, and trunk . . . . . 870-879	2,133	3.2	58.4
Arthropathies and related disorders . . . . . 710-719	2,122	3.2	61.6
Open wound of upper limb . . . . . 880-887	2,095	3.2	64.8
Dislocation . . . . . 830-839	1,295	2.0	66.7
Osteopathies, chondropathies, and acquired musculoskeletal deformities . . . . . 730-739	1,167	1.8	68.5
Burns . . . . . 940-949	911	1.4	69.9
Superficial injury . . . . . 910-919	863	1.3	71.2
Open wound of lower limb . . . . . 890-897	680	1.0	72.2
Intracranial injury, excluding those with skull fracture . . . . . 850-854	667	1.0	73.2
All other diagnoses . . . . .	17,680	26.8	100.0
Under 15 years:			
All injury-related visits . . . . .	7,417	100.0	. . .
Fracture of upper limb . . . . . 810-819	1,820	24.5	24.5
Open wound of head, neck, and trunk . . . . . 870-879	896	12.1	36.6
Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles . . . . . 840-848	851	11.5	48.1
Contusion with intact skin surface . . . . . 920-924	667	9.0	57.1
All other diagnoses . . . . .	3,183	42.9	100.0
15-24 years:			
All injury-related visits . . . . .	10,510	100.0	. . .
Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles . . . . . 840-848	3,238	30.8	30.8
Fracture of upper limb . . . . . 810-819	943	9.0	39.8
Contusion with intact skin surface . . . . . 920-924	692	6.6	46.4
Open wound of upper limb . . . . . 880-887	607	5.8	52.1
All other diagnoses . . . . .	5,030	47.9	100.0
25-44 years:			
All injury-related visits . . . . .	27,126	100.0	. . .
Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles . . . . . 840-848	6,136	22.6	22.6
Dorsopathies . . . . . 720-724	3,143	11.6	34.2
Rheumatism, excluding the back . . . . . 725-729	2,314	8.5	42.7
Contusion with intact skin surface . . . . . 920-924	1,542	5.7	48.4
Fracture of upper limb . . . . . 810-819	1,464	5.4	53.8
Open wound of upper limb . . . . . 880-887	1,003	3.7	57.5
Fracture of lower limb . . . . . 820-829	946	3.5	61.0
Arthropathies and related disorders . . . . . 710-719	809	3.0	64.0
Open wound of head, neck, and trunk . . . . . 870-879	629	2.3	66.3
All other diagnoses . . . . .	9,141	33.7	100.0
45-64 years:			
All injury-related visits . . . . .	14,222	100.0	. . .
Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles . . . . . 840-848	2,891	20.3	20.3
Dorsopathies . . . . . 720-724	1,739	12.2	32.6
Fracture of lower limb . . . . . 820-829	999	7.0	39.6
Rheumatism, excluding the back . . . . . 725-729	896	6.3	45.9
Contusion with intact skin surface . . . . . 920-924	663	4.7	50.5
All other diagnoses . . . . .	7,033	49.5	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

**Table 10. Number, percent distribution, and cumulative percent of injury-related office visits by patient's age, sex, and ranked principal diagnoses: United States, 1991—Con.**

<i>Patient's age and sex, principal diagnosis, and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
<b>65 years and over<sup>2</sup>:</b>			
All injury-related visits . . . . .	6,792	100.0	...
Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles . . . . . 840-848	947	13.9	13.9
Contusion with intact skin surface . . . . . 920-924	863	12.7	26.7
Fracture of upper limb . . . . . 810-819	782	11.5	38.2
All other diagnoses . . . . .	4,200	61.8	100.0
<b>Patient's sex</b>			
<b>Female:</b>			
All injury-related visits . . . . .	29,544	100.0	...
Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles . . . . . 840-848	7,586	25.7	25.7
Contusion with intact skin surface . . . . . 920-924	2,398	8.1	33.8
Fracture of upper limb . . . . . 810-819	2,283	7.7	41.5
Dorsopathies . . . . . 720-724	2,073	7.0	48.5
Rheumatism, excluding the back . . . . . 725-729	1,799	6.1	54.6
Fracture of lower limb . . . . . 820-829	1,701	5.8	60.4
Arthropathies and related disorders . . . . . 710-719	1,021	3.5	63.8
Open wound of head, neck, and trunk . . . . . 870-879	886	3.0	66.8
Open wound of upper limb . . . . . 880-887	722	2.4	69.3
All other diagnoses . . . . .	9,074	30.7	100.0
<b>Male:</b>			
All injury-related visits . . . . .	36,522	100.0	...
Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles . . . . . 840-848	7,586	20.8	20.8
Dorsopathies . . . . . 720-724	3,467	9.5	30.3
Fracture of upper limb . . . . . 810-819	3,125	8.6	38.8
Fracture of lower limb . . . . . 820-829	1,496	4.1	42.9
Open wound of upper limb . . . . . 880-887	1,373	3.8	46.7
Open wound of head, neck, and trunk . . . . . 870-879	1,246	3.4	50.1
Arthropathies and related disorders . . . . . 710-719	1,101	3.0	53.1
Dislocation . . . . . 830-839	856	2.3	55.4
Superficial injury . . . . . 910-919	643	1.8	57.2
Osteopathies, chondropathies, and acquired musculoskeletal deformities . . . . . 730-739	622	1.7	58.9
All other diagnoses . . . . .	15,007	41.1	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

<sup>2</sup>Injury-related office visits made by persons in the 65-74 years and 75 years and over age groups have been combined because the frequencies of diagnoses for each age group were too low to produce reliable estimates. Only diagnoses with reliable estimates have been included in this table.

**Table 11. Number and percent distribution of office visits by medication therapy and number of medications ordered or provided, according to patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Visit characteristic	All ages, both sexes	Age						Sex	
		Under 15 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	Female	Male
Medication therapy ordered or provided									
Number of visits in thousands									
All visits	669,689	125,025	61,534	185,267	141,994	83,689	72,181	400,485	269,205
Drug visits <sup>1</sup>	423,675	79,790	36,301	109,111	92,194	56,185	50,095	257,170	166,505
Visits without mention of medication therapy	246,014	45,235	25,233	76,156	49,800	27,504	22,086	143,315	102,700
Number of medications ordered or provided									
None	246,014	45,235	25,233	76,156	49,800	27,504	22,086	143,315	102,700
One	217,786	48,935	22,516	64,253	42,518	22,052	17,511	132,380	85,405
Two	107,800	21,074	9,316	28,990	23,922	13,016	11,482	64,481	43,319
Three	48,520	7,105	3,168	10,137	12,081	8,344	7,685	29,037	19,483
Four	22,176	1,944	1,013	3,294	5,875	4,870	5,181	13,987	8,189
Five	27,393	732	*288	2,436	7,797	7,903	8,236	17,285	10,108
Medication therapy ordered or provided									
Percent distribution									
All visits	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Drug visits <sup>1</sup>	63.3	63.8	59.0	58.9	64.9	67.1	69.4	64.2	61.9
Visits without mention of medication therapy	36.7	36.2	41.0	41.1	35.1	32.9	30.6	35.8	38.1
Number of medications ordered or provided									
None	36.7	36.2	41.0	41.1	35.1	32.9	30.6	35.8	38.1
One	32.5	39.1	36.6	34.7	29.9	26.4	24.3	33.1	31.7
Two	16.1	16.9	15.1	15.6	16.8	15.6	15.9	16.1	16.1
Three	7.2	5.7	5.1	5.5	8.5	10.0	10.6	7.3	7.2
Four	3.3	1.6	1.6	1.8	4.1	5.8	7.2	3.5	3.0
Five	4.1	0.6	*0.5	1.3	5.5	9.4	11.4	4.3	3.8

<sup>1</sup>Drug visits are visits at which one or more drugs is ordered or provided by the physician.

**Table 12. Number, percent, and therapeutic classification of drug mentions by patient's age and sex and the 10 most frequently used generic substances: United States, 1991**

<i>Age and sex of patient and generic substance<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of drug mentions in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Therapeutic classification<sup>2</sup></i>
<b>Patient's age</b>			
<b>All ages:</b>			
All drug mentions . . . . .	804,615	100.0	...
Amoxicillin . . . . .	33,304	4.1	Penicillins
Acetaminophen . . . . .	28,387	3.5	General analgesics
Erythromycin . . . . .	16,060	2.0	Erythromycins and lincosamides
Hydrochlorothiazide . . . . .	15,727	2.0	Diuretics
Aspirin . . . . .	13,426	1.7	General analgesics
Ibuprofen . . . . .	13,321	1.7	Antiarthritics
Phenylephrine . . . . .	12,900	1.6	Nasal decongestants
Codeine . . . . .	12,655	1.6	General analgesics
Phenylpropranolamine . . . . .	11,734	1.5	Nasal decongestants
Albuterol . . . . .	11,387	1.4	Bronchodilators, antiasthmatics
<b>Under 15 years:</b>			
All drug mentions . . . . .	123,833	15.4	...
Amoxicillin . . . . .	19,642	2.4	Penicillins
DIPH-Pertussis-Tetanus vaccine . . . . .	6,853	0.9	Vaccines and antisera
Polio vaccine . . . . .	5,621	0.7	Vaccines and antisera
Haemophilus B vaccine . . . . .	5,600	0.7	Vaccines and antisera
Cefaclor . . . . .	4,899	0.6	Cephalosporins
Phenylephrine . . . . .	4,818	0.6	Nasal decongestants
Alcohol . . . . .	4,795	0.6	General analgesics
Erythromycin . . . . .	4,771	0.6	Erythromycins and lincosamides
Acetaminophen . . . . .	4,423	0.5	General analgesics
Pseudoephedrine . . . . .	4,224	0.5	Nasal decongestants
<b>15-24 years:</b>			
All drug mentions . . . . .	56,142	7.0	...
Amoxicillin . . . . .	3,230	0.4	Penicillins
Erythromycin . . . . .	2,855	0.4	Erythromycins and lincosamides
Acetaminophen . . . . .	2,769	0.3	General analgesics
Vitamin A . . . . .	2,749	0.3	Vitamins, minerals
Estradiol . . . . .	2,564	0.3	Contraceptive agents
Pyridoxine . . . . .	2,490	0.3	Vitamins, minerals
Riboflavin . . . . .	2,467	0.3	Vitamins, minerals
Ergocalciferol . . . . .	2,434	0.3	Vitamins, minerals
Ibuprofen . . . . .	1,885	0.2	Antiarthritics
Thiamine . . . . .	1,784	0.2	Vitamins, minerals
<b>25-44 years:</b>			
All drug mentions . . . . .	178,001	22.1	...
Acetaminophen . . . . .	8,740	1.1	General analgesics
Amoxicillin . . . . .	6,055	0.8	Penicillins
Vitamin A . . . . .	4,927	0.6	Vitamins, minerals
Erythromycin . . . . .	4,703	0.6	Erythromycins and lincosamides
Ergocalciferol . . . . .	4,569	0.6	Vitamins, minerals
Pyridoxine . . . . .	4,455	0.6	Vitamins, minerals
Codeine . . . . .	4,382	0.5	General analgesics
Riboflavin . . . . .	4,315	0.5	Vitamins, minerals
Naproxen . . . . .	4,057	0.5	Antiarthritics
Ibuprofen . . . . .	3,946	0.5	Antiarthritics
<b>45-64 years:</b>			
All drug mentions . . . . .	189,094	23.5	...
Acetaminophen . . . . .	6,993	0.9	General analgesics
Hydrochlorothiazide . . . . .	4,910	0.6	Diuretics
Estrogens . . . . .	4,118	0.5	Estrogens and progestins
Aspirin . . . . .	4,002	0.5	General analgesics
Ibuprofen . . . . .	3,615	0.4	Antiarthritics

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 12. Number, percent, and therapeutic classification of drug mentions by patient's age and sex and the 10 most frequently used generic substances: United States, 1991—Con.**

<i>Age and sex of patient and generic substance<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of drug mentions in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Therapeutic classification<sup>2</sup></i>
<b>45–64 years—Con.:</b>			
Codeine . . . . .	3,654	0.5	General analgesics
Verapamil . . . . .	3,162	0.4	Antiarrhythmic agents
Naproxen . . . . .	3,012	0.4	Antiarthritics
Levothyroxine . . . . .	2,913	0.4	Agents used to treat thyroid disease
Enalapril . . . . .	2,719	0.3	Antihypertensive agents
<b>65–74 years:</b>			
All drug mentions . . . . .	132,111	16.4	...
Hydrochlorothiazide . . . . .	4,581	0.6	Diuretics
Digoxin . . . . .	3,461	0.4	Cardiac glycosides
Aspirin . . . . .	3,327	0.4	General analgesics
Furosemide . . . . .	2,814	0.3	Diuretics
Acetaminophen . . . . .	2,692	0.3	General analgesics
Insulin . . . . .	2,675	0.3	Blood glucose regulators
Verapamil . . . . .	2,263	0.3	Antiarrhythmic agents
Potassium replacement solution . . . . .	2,253	0.3	Replenishers and regulators of water and electrolytes
Diltiazem . . . . .	2,112	0.3	Antianginal agents
Glyburide . . . . .	2,075	0.3	Blood glucose regulators
<b>75 years and over:</b>			
All drug mentions . . . . .	125,434	15.6	...
Hydrochlorothiazide . . . . .	5,196	0.6	Diuretics
Digoxin . . . . .	4,787	0.6	Cardiac glycosides
Furosemide . . . . .	4,670	0.6	Diuretics
Aspirin . . . . .	3,218	0.4	General analgesics
Acetaminophen . . . . .	2,770	0.3	General analgesics
Triamterene . . . . .	2,744	0.3	Diuretics
Potassium replacement solution . . . . .	2,476	0.3	Replenishers and regulators of water and electrolytes
Nitroglycerin . . . . .	2,460	0.3	Antianginal agents
Timolol . . . . .	2,300	0.3	Agents used to treat glaucoma
Nifedipine . . . . .	2,277	0.3	Antianginal agents
<b>Patient's sex</b>			
<b>Female:</b>			
All drug mentions . . . . .	490,824	61.0	...
Amoxicillin . . . . .	18,058	2.2	Penicillins
Acetaminophen . . . . .	16,007	2.0	General analgesics
Hydrochlorothiazide . . . . .	11,156	1.4	Diuretics
Erythromycin . . . . .	9,446	1.2	Erythromycins and lincosamides
Vitamin A . . . . .	9,133	1.1	Vitamins, minerals
Ergocalciferol . . . . .	8,264	1.0	Vitamins, minerals
Riboflavin . . . . .	8,208	1.0	Vitamins, minerals
Pyridoxine . . . . .	7,925	1.0	Vitamins, minerals
Ibuprofen . . . . .	7,912	1.0	Antiarthritics
Phenylephrine . . . . .	7,528	0.9	Nasal decongestants
<b>Male:</b>			
All drug mentions . . . . .	313,791	39.0	...
Amoxicillin . . . . .	15,246	1.9	Penicillins
Acetaminophen . . . . .	12,380	1.5	General analgesics
Aspirin . . . . .	7,064	0.9	General analgesics
Erythromycin . . . . .	6,614	0.8	Erythromycins and lincosamides
Ibuprofen . . . . .	5,409	0.7	Antiarthritics
Phenylephrine . . . . .	5,373	0.7	Nasal decongestants
Codeine . . . . .	5,278	0.7	General analgesics
Phenylpropanolamine . . . . .	5,121	0.6	Nasal decongestants
Digoxin . . . . .	4,970	0.6	Cardiac glycosides
Albuterol . . . . .	4,929	0.6	Bronchodilators, antiasthmatics

<sup>1</sup>Frequency of mention combines single-ingredient agents with mentions of the agent as an ingredient in a combination drug.

<sup>2</sup>Therapeutic classification is based on the *National Drug Code Directory, 1985 edition* (NDC) (17). In cases where a generic substance had more than one therapeutic use, it was listed under the NDC classification that occurred with the highest frequency.

**Table 13. Number and percent distribution of office visits by therapeutic services other than medication ordered or provided, according to patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Therapeutic services ordered or provided <sup>1</sup>	All ages, both sexes	Age						Sex	
		Under 15 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	Female	Male
Number of visits in thousands									
All visits . . . . .	669,689	125,025	61,534	185,267	141,994	83,689	72,181	400,485	269,205
Counseling/education and other therapy									
None . . . . .	448,044	84,707	41,960	122,131	88,024	57,983	53,238	264,163	183,881
Diet <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	76,476	15,964	4,415	16,811	20,534	11,247	7,506	48,318	28,159
Exercise <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	54,617	4,038	4,684	16,510	17,506	7,070	4,808	32,063	22,554
Cholesterol reduction . . . . .	20,818	*460	*333	3,965	8,683	4,532	2,846	12,697	8,121
Weight reduction . . . . .	25,761	*585	787	7,558	10,826	3,889	2,115	17,295	8,466
Drug abuse <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1,570	*206	*225	765	*255	*84	*36	733	838
Alcohol abuse <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	3,187	*248	*217	1,153	1,131	*426	*11	1,094	2,093
Smoking cessation . . . . .	13,013	*291	959	4,698	5,141	1,280	644	7,333	5,680
Family/social <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	12,486	6,276	985	2,688	1,380	707	*451	6,997	5,489
Growth/development <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	20,580	18,828	951	604	*197	-	-	10,821	9,759
Family planning <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	5,456	*156	2,227	2,949	*123	-	-	5,219	*237
Other counseling . . . . .	55,911	12,174	6,463	16,613	10,630	5,410	4,621	37,654	18,257
Psychotherapy . . . . .	17,789	1,572	1,112	7,903	5,289	1,076	837	10,268	7,521
Corrective lenses . . . . .	7,934	969	597	1,284	1,830	1,667	1,587	4,589	3,345
Hearing aid <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	*440	*35	-	*37	*165	*73	*130	*242	*198
Physiotherapy . . . . .	16,763	*332	1,883	7,292	4,918	1,281	1,057	8,684	8,079
Other therapy . . . . .	21,235	2,534	1,952	6,670	4,811	3,044	2,223	12,551	8,684
Percent distribution									
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Counseling/education and other therapy									
None . . . . .	66.9	67.8	68.2	65.9	62.0	69.3	73.8	66.0	68.3
Diet <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	11.4	12.8	7.2	9.1	14.5	13.4	10.4	12.1	10.5
Exercise <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	8.2	3.2	7.6	8.9	12.3	8.4	6.7	8.0	8.4
Cholesterol reduction . . . . .	3.1	*0.4	*0.5	2.1	6.1	5.4	3.9	3.2	3.0
Weight reduction . . . . .	3.8	0.0	1.3	4.1	7.6	4.6	2.9	4.3	3.1
Drug abuse <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.2	*0.2	*0.4	0.4	*0.2	*0.1	*0.0	0.2	0.3
Alcohol abuse <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.5	*0.2	*0.4	0.6	0.8	*0.5	*0.0	0.3	0.8
Smoking cessation . . . . .	1.9	*0.2	1.6	2.5	3.6	1.5	0.9	1.8	2.1
Family/social <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.9	5.0	1.6	1.5	1.0	0.8	*0.6	1.7	2.0
Growth/development <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	3.1	15.1	1.5	*0.3	*0.1	-	-	2.7	3.6
Family planning <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.8	*0.1	3.6	1.6	*0.1	-	-	1.3	*0.1
Other counseling . . . . .	8.3	9.7	10.5	9.0	7.5	6.5	6.4	9.4	6.8
Psychotherapy . . . . .	2.7	1.3	1.8	4.3	3.7	1.3	1.2	2.6	2.8
Corrective lenses . . . . .	1.2	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.3	2.0	2.2	1.1	1.2
Hearing aid <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	*0.1	*0.0	*0.0	*0.0	*0.1	*0.1	*0.2	*0.1	*0.1
Physiotherapy . . . . .	2.5	*0.3	3.1	3.9	3.5	1.5	1.5	2.2	3.0
Other therapy . . . . .	3.2	2.0	3.2	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.1	3.1	3.2

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one therapeutic service may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>Category is new in the 1991 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

**Table 14. Number and percent distribution of office visits by diagnostic and therapeutic ambulatory surgical procedures scheduled or performed with corresponding standard errors, according to patient's sex: United States, 1991**

Diagnostic or therapeutic procedure scheduled or performed and ICD-9-CM code <sup>1</sup>	Patient's sex					
	Both sexes	Standard error	Female	Standard error	Male	Standard error
Number of visits in thousands and corresponding standard error <sup>2,3</sup>						
All visits . . . . .	669,689	20,578	400,485	12,553	269,205	9,497
Visits with procedures . . . . .	40,548	2,972	23,079	1,676	17,469	1,539
Operations on the nervous system . . . . . 01-05	1,007	291	642	165	*365	164
Operations on the eye . . . . . 08-16	6,503	1,802	4,221	1,158	*2,281	707
Operations on the nose, mouth, and pharynx . . . . . 21-29	1,710	427	847	192	*862	270
Operations on the cardiovascular system . . . . . 35-39	2,220	*1,455	*1,026	593	*1,194	866
Operations on the digestive system . . . . . 42-54	4,901	535	2,787	343	2,113	264
Operations on the urinary system . . . . . 55-59	1,891	249	783	119	1,108	168
Operations on the male genital organs . . . . . 60-64	765	126	...	...	765	126
Operations on the female genital organs . . . . . 65-71	3,304	472	3,304	472	...	...
Operations on the musculoskeletal system . . . . . 76-84	5,051	739	2,692	459	2,359	385
Operations on the integumentary system . . . . . 85-86	8,948	951	5,043	602	3,905	493
Miscellaneous diagnostic and therapeutic procedures . . . . . 87-99	5,063	631	2,444	305	2,618	476
Other procedures <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	1,901	259	1,059	176	842	162
Visits without procedures . . . . .	629,141	19,703	377,406	12,068	251,736	8,896
Percent distribution of visits and corresponding standard error <sup>2,3</sup>						
All visits . . . . .	100.0	...	100.0	...	100.0	...
Visits with procedures . . . . .	6.1	0.4	5.8	0.4	6.5	0.6
Operations on the nervous system . . . . . 01-05	*0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	*0.1	0.1
Operations on the eye . . . . . 08-16	1.0	0.3	1.1	0.3	*0.8	0.3
Operations on the nose, mouth, and pharynx . . . . . 21-29	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	*0.3	0.1
Operations on the cardiovascular system . . . . . 35-39	*0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	*0.4	0.3
Operations on the digestive system . . . . . 42-54	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.8	0.1
Operations on the urinary system . . . . . 55-59	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.1
Operations on the male genital organs . . . . . 60-64	0.1	0.0	...	...	0.3	0.1
Operations on the female genital organs . . . . . 65-71	0.5	0.1	0.8	0.1	...	...
Operations on the musculoskeletal system . . . . . 76-84	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.2
Operations on the integumentary system . . . . . 85-86	1.3	0.1	1.3	0.2	1.5	0.2
Miscellaneous diagnostic and therapeutic procedures . . . . . 87-99	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.1	1.0	0.2
Other procedures <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.1
Visits without procedures . . . . .	93.9	0.4	94.2	0.4	93.5	0.6

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (15).

<sup>2</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because up to two procedures could be reported per visit. There were an estimated 43.3 million procedures scheduled or performed in all.

<sup>3</sup>See Appendix I for a discussion of standard errors and the precision of NAMCS estimates.

<sup>4</sup>Includes operations on the endocrine system (ICD-9-CM codes 06-07), operations on the ear (ICD-9-CM codes 18-20), operations on the respiratory system (ICD-9-CM codes 30-34), operations on the hemic and lymphatic system (ICD-9-CM codes 40-41), and obstetrical procedures (ICD-9-CM codes 72-75).

NOTE: The figure "0.0" indicates a quantity greater than zero but less than 0.05.

**Table 15. Number and percent distribution of office visits by diagnostic and therapeutic ambulatory surgical procedures scheduled or performed with corresponding standard errors, according to patient's age: United States, 1991**

Diagnostic or therapeutic procedure scheduled or performed and ICD-9-CM code <sup>1</sup>	Patient's age							
	All ages	Standard error	Under 25 years	Standard error	25-64 years	Standard error	65 years and over	Standard error
Number of visits in thousands and corresponding standard error <sup>2,3</sup>								
All visits . . . . .	669,689	20,578	186,559	8,725	327,261	11,548	155,870	6,361
Visits with procedures . . . . .	40,548	2,972	6,976	706	21,804	1,821	11,767	1,228
Operations on the nervous system . . . . . 01-05	1,007	291	*8	8	*782	270	*217	77
Operations on the eye . . . . . 08-16	6,503	1,802	*336	215	*1,618	521	*4,548	1,439
Operations on the nose, mouth, and pharynx . . . . . 21-29	1,710	427	*541	238	899	232	270	66
Operations on the cardiovascular system . . . . . 35-39	2,220	*1,455	*67	52	*1,345	928	*809	530
Operations on the digestive system . . . . . 42-54	4,901	535	436	98	3,107	377	1,357	199
Operations on the urinary system . . . . . 55-59	1,891	249	*96	36	838	134	957	149
Operations on the male genital organs . . . . . 60-64	765	126	*14	10	568	106	*182	61
Operations on the female genital organs . . . . . 65-71	3,304	472	578	130	2,570	387	*155	53
Operations on the musculoskeletal system . . . . . 76-84	5,051	739	937	222	3,106	481	1,008	236
Operations on the integumentary system . . . . . 85-86	8,948	951	2,049	427	4,754	542	2,146	243
Miscellaneous diagnostic and therapeutic procedures . . . . . 87-99	5,063	631	1,748	319	2,196	331	1,118	188
Other procedures <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	1,901	259	566	122	938	164	397	111
Visits without procedures . . . . .	629,141	19,703	179,583	8,525	305,457	11,014	144,103	6,016
Percent distribution of visits and corresponding standard error <sup>2,3</sup>								
All visits . . . . .	100.0	...	100.0	...	100.0	...	100.0	...
Visits with procedures . . . . .	6.1	0.4	3.7	0.4	6.7	0.6	7.5	0.8
Operations on the nervous system . . . . . 01-05	*0.2	0.0	*0.0	0.0	*0.2	0.1	*0.1	0.1
Operations on the eye . . . . . 08-16	1.0	0.3	*0.2	0.1	*0.5	0.2	*2.9	1.0
Operations on the nose, mouth, and pharynx . . . . . 21-29	0.3	0.1	*0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0
Operations on the cardiovascular system . . . . . 35-39	*0.3	0.2	*0.0	0.0	*0.4	0.3	*0.5	0.4
Operations on the digestive system . . . . . 42-54	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.9	0.1
Operations on the urinary system . . . . . 55-59	0.3	0.0	*0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.1
Operations on the male genital organs . . . . . 60-64	0.1	0.0	*0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	*0.1	0.0
Operations on the female genital organs . . . . . 65-71	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.1	*0.1	0.0
Operations on the musculoskeletal system . . . . . 76-84	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.2
Operations on the integumentary system . . . . . 85-86	1.3	0.1	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.2	1.4	0.2
Miscellaneous diagnostic and therapeutic procedures . . . . . 87-99	0.8	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.1
Other procedures <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	*0.3	0.1
Visits without procedures . . . . .	93.9	0.4	96.3	0.4	93.3	0.6	92.5	0.8

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

<sup>2</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because up to two procedures could be reported per visit. There were an estimated 43.3 million procedures scheduled or performed in all.

<sup>3</sup>See Appendix I for a discussion of standard errors and precision of NAMCS estimates.

<sup>4</sup>Includes operations on the endocrine system (ICD-9-CM codes 06-07), operations on the ear (ICD-9-CM codes 18-20), operations on the respiratory system (ICD-9-CM codes 30-34), operations on the hemic and lymphatic system (ICD-9-CM codes 40-41), and obstetrical procedures (ICD-9-CM codes 72-75).

NOTE: The figure "0.0" indicates a quantity greater than zero but less than 0.05.

**Table 16. Number and percent distribution of office visits by disposition and duration of visit, according to patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Visit characteristic	All ages, both sexes	Age						Sex	
		Under 15 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	Female	Male
Disposition of visit <sup>1</sup>		Number of visits in thousands							
All visits . . . . .	669,689	125,025	61,534	185,267	141,994	83,689	72,181	400,485	269,205
No followup planned . . . . .	63,538	16,111	7,662	19,988	11,717	4,851	3,210	34,590	28,948
Return at specified time . . . . .	423,785	64,819	33,944	111,279	94,914	62,325	56,504	255,924	167,860
Return if needed . . . . .	144,693	41,693	15,522	41,868	26,117	10,939	8,554	86,991	57,702
Telephone followup planned . . . . .	22,813	4,127	2,671	6,638	5,036	2,451	1,889	14,375	8,438
Referred to other physician . . . . .	21,783	2,274	2,254	6,629	4,518	3,425	2,682	12,720	9,063
Returned to referring physician . . . . .	5,594	*286	*323	1,395	1,515	1,083	992	3,280	2,314
Admit to hospital . . . . .	5,856	*428	*366	1,496	1,754	939	872	3,749	2,107
Other . . . . .	7,917	1,027	824	2,337	1,937	1,153	639	4,708	3,209
Duration of visit									
All visits . . . . .	669,689	125,025	61,534	185,267	141,994	83,689	72,181	400,485	269,205
0 minutes <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	8,469	848	770	2,704	1,920	1,207	1,020	5,090	3,380
1-5 minutes . . . . .	59,584	12,150	7,369	16,893	12,139	6,258	4,775	34,024	25,560
6-10 minutes . . . . .	177,511	41,980	18,343	49,273	33,830	18,538	15,547	105,658	71,852
11-15 minutes . . . . .	211,340	43,285	18,096	55,900	41,753	28,353	23,952	127,367	83,972
16-30 minutes . . . . .	164,581	23,014	13,496	45,042	38,833	23,099	21,098	100,673	63,909
31-60 minutes . . . . .	45,110	3,460	3,305	14,652	12,650	5,744	5,300	26,167	18,943
More than 60 minutes . . . . .	3,094	*288	*154	803	870	*489	*489	1,505	1,588
Disposition of visit <sup>1</sup>		Percent distribution							
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No followup planned . . . . .	9.5	12.9	12.5	10.8	8.3	5.8	4.4	8.6	10.8
Return at specified time . . . . .	63.3	51.8	55.2	60.1	66.8	74.5	78.3	63.9	62.4
Return if needed . . . . .	21.6	33.3	25.2	22.6	18.4	13.1	11.9	21.7	21.4
Telephone followup planned . . . . .	3.4	3.3	4.3	3.6	3.5	2.9	2.6	3.6	3.1
Referred to other physician . . . . .	3.3	1.8	3.7	3.6	3.2	4.1	3.7	3.2	3.4
Returned to referring physician . . . . .	0.8	*0.2	*0.5	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.4	0.8	0.9
Admit to hospital . . . . .	0.9	*0.3	*0.6	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.8
Other . . . . .	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.2
Duration of visit									
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 minutes <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.3	0.7	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
1-5 minutes . . . . .	8.9	9.7	12.0	9.1	8.5	7.5	6.6	8.5	9.5
6-10 minutes . . . . .	26.5	33.6	29.8	26.6	23.8	22.2	21.5	26.4	26.7
11-15 minutes . . . . .	31.6	34.6	29.4	30.2	29.4	33.9	33.2	31.8	31.2
16-30 minutes . . . . .	24.6	18.4	21.9	24.3	27.3	27.6	29.2	25.1	23.7
31-60 minutes . . . . .	6.7	2.8	5.4	7.9	8.9	6.9	7.3	6.5	7.0
More than 60 minutes . . . . .	0.5	*0.2	*0.3	0.4	0.6	*0.6	*0.7	0.4	0.6

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one disposition may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>Visits of 0 minutes duration are those in which there was no face-to-face contact between the physician and the patient.

**Table 17. Number and percent distribution of office visits by selected patient and visit characteristics, according to six physician specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Selected characteristic</i>	<i>All specialties</i>	<i>General and family practice</i>	<i>Internal medicine</i>	<i>Pediatrics</i>	<i>Obstetrics and gynecology</i>	<i>Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Orthopedic surgery</i>
Number of visits in thousands							
All visits . . . . .	669,689	164,857	102,923	74,646	56,834	41,207	35,932
Percent distribution							
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age							
Under 15 years . . . . .	18.7	17.7	2.4	92.6	0.9	6.5	11.5
15-24 years . . . . .	9.2	10.8	5.9	4.5	21.5	3.7	11.3
25-44 years . . . . .	27.7	29.7	25.4	1.1	60.8	13.4	34.6
45-64 years . . . . .	21.2	21.9	28.6	1.1	12.3	21.4	24.8
65-74 years . . . . .	12.5	10.3	20.1	0.3	3.2	24.2	10.0
75 years and over . . . . .	10.8	9.7	17.6	0.4	1.3	30.8	7.9
Sex							
Female . . . . .	59.8	61.0	59.2	48.4	98.1	60.4	50.2
Male . . . . .	40.2	39.0	40.8	51.6	1.9	39.6	49.8
Race							
White . . . . .	87.8	89.0	83.8	77.7	86.3	93.0	92.7
Black . . . . .	8.7	7.8	10.4	17.8	9.7	5.4	5.1
Asian/Pacific Islander . . . . .	3.0	2.4	5.6	4.1	3.8	1.3	2.1
American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut . . . . .	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	*0.1
Prior-visit status							
New patient . . . . .	16.7	12.8	12.5	7.8	15.2	20.3	32.1
Old patient, new problem . . . . .	21.5	33.5	25.1	35.9	18.1	9.0	9.0
Old patient, old problem . . . . .	61.8	53.7	62.4	56.3	66.7	70.7	58.9
Referral status							
Referred by other physician . . . . .	6.2	1.8	2.3	2.3	5.0	8.3	16.2
Not referred . . . . .	93.8	98.2	97.7	97.7	95.1	91.7	83.8
Geographic region							
Northeast . . . . .	23.1	16.6	26.8	24.5	22.4	21.5	26.2
Midwest . . . . .	24.9	34.9	21.1	20.5	24.5	31.2	19.5
South . . . . .	28.8	26.5	30.2	32.0	31.9	26.3	30.0
West . . . . .	23.2	22.1	21.9	23.0	21.2	21.0	24.3

**Table 18. Number and percent distribution of office visits by selected patient and visit characteristics, according to seven other physician specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Selected characteristic</i>	<i>All specialties</i>	<i>Dermatology</i>	<i>General surgery</i>	<i>Otolaryngology</i>	<i>Psychiatry</i>	<i>Urological surgery</i>	<i>Cardiovascular diseases</i>	<i>Neurology</i>	<i>Other</i>
Number of visits in thousands									
All visits . . . . .	669,689	29,659	21,285	19,101	15,720	12,758	11,629	6,798	76,341
Percent distribution									
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age									
Under 15 years . . . . .	18.7	6.7	3.4	28.7	8.6	4.1	*0.7	11.6	7.9
15–24 years . . . . .	9.2	15.2	5.7	8.1	7.5	3.5	1.7	7.7	8.9
25–44 years . . . . .	27.7	28.2	25.8	26.0	44.4	19.9	12.6	35.6	32.3
45–64 years . . . . .	21.2	22.0	32.9	19.5	32.5	26.6	31.6	25.2	25.9
65–74 years . . . . .	12.5	15.6	18.6	10.0	4.1	26.3	32.0	11.3	15.0
75 years and over . . . . .	10.8	12.4	13.5	7.6	2.9	19.6	21.4	8.6	10.0
Sex									
Female . . . . .	59.8	56.0	59.3	52.2	55.9	27.3	46.5	56.8	56.9
Male . . . . .	40.2	44.0	40.7	47.8	44.1	72.7	53.5	43.2	43.1
Race									
White . . . . .	87.8	92.0	91.4	92.8	89.8	94.1	90.3	91.2	90.2
Black . . . . .	8.7	4.3	5.7	4.2	9.0	4.9	4.0	6.8	7.6
Asian/Pacific Islander . . . . .	3.0	3.4	2.8	2.9	0.8	*0.7	4.0	*1.5	1.3
American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut . . . . .	0.5	*0.3	*0.1	*0.2	*0.3	*0.3	1.7	*0.6	0.9
Prior-visit status									
New patient . . . . .	16.7	23.0	22.0	30.0	12.7	24.4	13.4	37.0	22.4
Old patient, new problem . . . . .	21.5	15.8	15.3	9.3	–	6.6	7.8	3.7	9.7
Old patient, old problem . . . . .	61.8	61.2	62.7	60.7	87.3	69.0	78.8	59.4	67.9
Referral status									
Referred by other physician . . . . .	6.2	8.9	19.0	17.4	5.8	17.3	7.4	31.8	8.3
Not referred . . . . .	93.8	91.1	81.0	82.6	94.2	82.7	92.6	68.2	91.7
Geographic region									
Northeast . . . . .	23.1	21.7	14.8	16.9	31.8	20.9	27.2	17.5	33.9
Midwest . . . . .	24.9	16.8	30.9	24.6	8.6	13.4	21.4	19.9	19.9
South . . . . .	28.8	21.9	34.7	27.0	27.1	34.2	27.8	29.2	28.5
West . . . . .	23.2	39.6	19.6	31.5	32.5	31.5	23.7	33.4	17.7

**Table 19. Number and percent distribution of office visits by patient's principal reason for visit, according to six physician specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Principal reason for visit and RVC code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>All specialties</i>	<i>General and family practice</i>	<i>Internal medicine</i>	<i>Pediatrics</i>	<i>Obstetrics and gynecology</i>	<i>Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Orthopedic surgery</i>
	Number of visits in thousands						
All visits . . . . .	669,689	164,857	102,923	74,646	56,834	41,207	35,932
	Percent distribution						
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Symptom module . . . . . S001–S999	57.6	64.6	59.7	61.1	27.3	39.8	66.2
General symptoms . . . . . S001–S099	6.6	7.7	7.3	11.9	2.6	0.5	2.9
Symptoms referable to psychological/mental disorders . . . . . S100–S199	2.7	1.7	1.8	0.7	0.3	–	*0.0
Symptoms referable to the nervous system (excluding sense organs) . . . . . S200–S259	3.1	3.9	5.2	1.3	0.8	1.8	0.9
Symptoms referable to the cardiovascular/lymphatic system . . . . . S260–S299	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.2	*0.1	*0.0	–
Symptoms referable to the eyes and ears . . . . . S300–S399	6.5	5.0	2.9	10.9	*0.2	37.1	–
Symptoms referable to the respiratory system . . . . . S400–S499	11.5	17.6	14.3	23.7	0.9	*0.0	*0.1
Symptoms referable to the digestive system . . . . . S500–S639	4.0	5.7	6.5	5.0	1.4	–	–
Symptoms referable to the genitourinary system . . . . . S640–S829	4.7	4.0	3.7	0.7	18.5	–	*0.1
Symptoms referable to the skin, hair, and nails . . . . . S830–S899	6.5	5.4	3.8	4.8	1.8	0.3	0.7
Symptoms referable to the musculoskeletal system . . . . . S900–S999	11.4	13.1	13.1	1.9	0.7	*0.1	61.6
Disease module . . . . . D001–D999	9.7	7.1	12.6	5.6	3.5	16.4	1.4
Diagnostic/screening and preventive module . . . . . X100–X599	15.1	13.6	11.2	24.3	56.2	17.9	1.2
Treatment module . . . . . T100–T899	9.8	6.2	9.6	2.3	6.4	18.6	11.8
Injuries and adverse effects module . . . . . J001–J999	3.1	3.6	1.9	2.4	0.4	1.3	16.2
Test results module . . . . . R100–R700	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.1	2.8	0.4	*0.1
Administrative module . . . . . A100–A140	1.1	2.3	0.7	1.8	*0.1	*0.0	–
Other <sup>2</sup> . . . . . U990–U999	2.7	1.4	3.3	2.5	3.3	5.5	3.1

<sup>1</sup>Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care* (RVC) (14).

<sup>2</sup>Includes problems and complaints not elsewhere classified, entries of "none," illegible entries, and blanks.



**Table 20. Number and percent distribution of office visits by patient's principal reason for visit, according to seven other physician specialties: United States, 1991**

Principal reason for visit and RVC code <sup>1</sup>	All specialties	Dermatology	General surgery	Otolaryngology	Psychiatry	Urological surgery	Cardio-vascular diseases	Neurology	Other
	Number of visits in thousands								
All visits . . . . .	669,689	29,659	21,285	19,101	15,720	12,758	11,629	6,798	76,341
	Percent distribution								
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Symptom module . . . . . S001–S999	57.6	77.1	46.7	68.1	73.4	60.4	42.6	83.9	53.6
General symptoms . . . . . S001–S099	6.6	1.3	4.8	4.8	1.7	3.8	15.0	7.0	9.3
Symptoms referable to psychological/mental disorders . . . . . S100–S199	2.7	–	*0.3	*0.0	68.5	4.0	*1.0	3.2	1.5
Symptoms referable to the nervous system (excluding sense organs) . . . . . S200–S259	3.1	–	1.8	4.3	2.1	*0.3	3.1	45.5	2.4
Symptoms referable to the cardiovascular/lymphatic system . . . . . S260–S299	0.5	*0.4	0.9	*0.1	–	*0.1	4.6	–	*0.4
Symptoms referable to the eyes and ears . . . . . S300–S399	6.5	0.5	0.7	32.9	*0.0	*0.1	*0.8	2.6	2.6
Symptoms referable to the respiratory system . . . . . S400–S499	11.5	*0.3	3.0	21.7	*0.1	*0.9	9.2	*0.4	11.4
Symptoms referable to the digestive system . . . . . S500–S639	4.0	1.2	9.5	1.6	*0.4	1.8	2.6	*0.7	4.2
Symptoms referable to the genitourinary system . . . . . S640–S829	4.7	*0.4	9.0	–	*0.4	44.2	*1.0	*0.3	2.5
Symptoms referable to the skin, hair, and nails . . . . . S830–S899	6.5	70.8	7.4	1.5	–	1.9	*0.5	*0.1	3.7
Symptoms referable to the musculoskeletal system . . . . . S900–S999	11.4	2.2	9.3	1.1	*0.2	3.4	4.8	24.0	15.5
Disease module . . . . . D001–D999	9.7	9.7	16.3	6.1	2.6	9.4	12.9	6.6	20.6
Diagnostic/screening and preventive module . . . . . X100–X599	15.1	1.1	7.5	2.8	–	8.4	10.5	*1.2	5.7
Treatment module . . . . . T100–T899	9.8	8.6	21.4	16.6	21.5	16.9	25.1	3.8	11.8
Injuries and adverse effects module . . . . . J001–J999	3.1	1.1	3.6	1.7	*0.3	*0.8	*0.5	*1.0	3.3
Test results module . . . . . R100–R700	1.0	*0.2	2.2	*0.6	–	1.0	2.3	*1.4	*0.9
Administrative module . . . . . A100–A140	1.1	*0.1	0.6	–	*0.2	*0.2	–	0.1	1.4
Other <sup>2</sup> . . . . . U990–U999	2.7	2.2	1.8	4.1	2.0	3.0	6.1	2.0	2.8

<sup>1</sup>Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care* (RVC) (14).

<sup>2</sup>Includes problems and complaints not elsewhere classified, entries of "none," illegible entries, and blanks.

**Table 21. Number, percent, and cumulative percent of office visits by physician specialty and the 10 principal reasons for visit most frequently mentioned by patients: United States, 1991**

<i>Physician specialty, principal reason for visit, and RVC code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
<b>General and family practice</b>			
All visits . . . . .	164,857	100.0	...
Cough . . . . . S440	9,863	6.0	6.0
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	8,103	4.9	10.9
General medical examination . . . . . X100	6,219	3.8	14.7
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	4,752	2.9	17.6
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	4,096	2.5	20.1
Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	3,961	2.4	22.5
Blood pressure test . . . . . X320	3,659	2.2	24.7
Skin rash . . . . . S860	3,527	2.1	26.8
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	3,252	2.0	28.8
Physical examination required for employment . . . . . A100	3,006	1.8	30.6
<b>Internal medicine</b>			
All visits . . . . .	102,903	100.0	...
General medical examination . . . . . X100	4,391	4.3	4.3
Cough . . . . . S440	4,319	4.2	8.5
Hypertension . . . . . D510	3,419	3.3	11.8
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	3,296	3.2	15.0
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	3,218	3.1	18.1
Blood pressure test . . . . . X320	3,122	3.0	21.1
Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	2,941	2.9	24.0
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	2,636	2.6	26.6
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body system) . . . . . S050	2,269	2.2	28.8
Skin rash . . . . . S860	2,027	2.0	30.8
<b>Pediatrics</b>			
All visits . . . . .	74,646	100.0	...
Well baby examination . . . . . X105	10,118	13.6	13.6
Cough . . . . . S440	6,943	9.3	22.9
Fever . . . . . S010	6,759	9.1	32.0
General medical examination . . . . . X100	6,250	8.4	40.3
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	4,640	6.2	46.5
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	3,474	4.7	51.2
Nasal congestion . . . . . S400	2,959	4.0	55.2
Head cold, upper respiratory infection (coryza) . . . . . S445			
Skin rash . . . . . S860	2,531	3.4	58.6
Other symptoms referable to the ears, not elsewhere classified . . . . . S365	2,346	3.1	61.7
<b>Obstetrics and gynecology</b>			
All visits . . . . .	56,834	100.0	...
Routine prenatal examination . . . . . X205	17,496	30.8	30.8
General medical examination . . . . . X100	7,292	12.8	43.6
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	1,611	2.8	46.5
Postpartum examination . . . . . X215	1,554	2.7	49.2
Pap smear . . . . . X365	1,525	2.7	51.9
For cytology findings . . . . . R300	1,502	2.6	54.5
Gynecological examination . . . . . X225	1,313	2.3	56.8
Symptoms of infertility . . . . . S815	1,311	2.3	59.1
Uterine and vaginal bleeding . . . . . S755	1,153	2.0	61.2
Other vaginal symptoms . . . . . S765	1,114	2.0	63.1
<b>Ophthalmology</b>			
All visits . . . . .	41,207	100.0	...
Vision dysfunctions . . . . . S305	9,254	22.5	...
Eye examination . . . . . X230	3,416	8.3	8.3
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	3,031	7.4	15.6
Other and unspecified diagnostic tests . . . . . X370	2,571	6.2	21.9
Glaucoma . . . . . D415	2,569	6.2	28.1
Cataract . . . . . D410	2,513	6.1	34.2
Abnormal sensations of the eye . . . . . S320	2,132	5.2	39.4
Other symptoms referable to the eye, not elsewhere classified . . . . . S335	1,198	2.9	42.3
General medical examination . . . . . X100	1,084	2.6	44.9
Abnormal appearance of eyes . . . . . S340	794	1.9	46.8

<sup>1</sup>Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC) (14)*.

**Table 21. Number, percent, and cumulative percent of office visits by physician specialty and the 10 principal reasons for visit most frequently mentioned by patients: United States, 1991—Con.**

<i>Physician specialty, principal reason for visit, and RVC code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
<b>Orthopedic surgery</b>			
All visits . . . . .	35,932	100.0	...
Knee symptoms . . . . . S925	5,148	14.3	14.3
Shoulder symptoms . . . . . S940	2,861	8.0	22.3
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	2,162	6.0	28.3
Hand and finger symptoms . . . . . S960	2,095	5.8	34.1
Low back symptoms . . . . . S910	1,998	5.6	39.7
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	1,784	5.0	44.6
Foot and toe symptoms . . . . . S935	1,662	4.6	49.3
Wrist symptoms . . . . . S955	1,253	3.5	52.7
Ankle symptoms . . . . . S930	1,137	3.2	55.9
Neck symptoms . . . . . S900	1,051	2.9	58.8
Accident, not otherwise specified . . . . . J810	962	2.7	61.5
<b>Dermatology</b>			
All visits . . . . .	29,659	100.0	...
Acne or pimples . . . . . S830	4,085	13.8	13.8
Skin rash . . . . . S860	3,186	10.7	24.5
Skin lesion . . . . . S865	2,522	8.5	33.0
Other symptoms referable to skin . . . . . S880	2,256	7.6	40.7
Discoloration or pigmentation . . . . . S835	2,138	7.2	47.9
Other growths of skin . . . . . S855	1,430	4.8	52.7
Warts, not otherwise specified . . . . . S850	1,242	4.2	56.9
Symptoms of skin moles . . . . . S845	1,204	4.1	60.9
Skin irritations, not elsewhere classified . . . . . S870	1,184	4.0	64.9
Symptoms referable to hair and scalp . . . . . S890	1,008	3.4	68.3
<b>General surgery</b>			
All visits . . . . .	21,285	100.0	...
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	2,949	13.9	13.9
Lump or mass of breast . . . . . S805	1,180	5.5	19.4
Hernia of abdominal cavity . . . . . D660	1,003	4.7	24.2
Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	980	4.6	28.8
Suture—insertion, removal . . . . . T555	681	3.2	32.0
Skin lesion . . . . . S865	627	2.9	34.9
Leg symptoms . . . . . S920	434	2.0	36.9
General medical examination . . . . . X100	418	2.0	38.9
Symptoms referable to anus-rectum . . . . . S605	398	1.9	40.8
Breast examination . . . . . X220	354	1.7	42.4
<b>Psychiatry</b>			
All visits . . . . .	15,720	100.0	...
Depression . . . . . S110	4,930	31.4	31.4
Anxiety and nervousness . . . . . S110	2,716	17.3	48.7
Behavioral disturbances . . . . . S130	821	5.2	53.9
Other symptoms relating to psychological and mental disorders, not elsewhere classified . . . . . S165	725	4.6	58.5
Marital problems . . . . . T705	626	4.0	62.5
Psychotherapy . . . . . T410	497	3.2	65.6
Disturbances of sleep . . . . . S135	400	2.5	68.2
Medication, other and unspecified kinds . . . . . T115	354	2.3	70.4
Anger . . . . . S115	304	1.9	72.4
Functional psychoses . . . . . D305	302	1.9	74.3
<b>Otolaryngology</b>			
All visits . . . . .	19,101	100.0	...
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	2,238	11.7	11.7
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	2,195	11.5	23.2
Hearing dysfunctions . . . . . S345	1,506	7.9	31.1
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	1,089	5.7	36.8
Plugged feeling in ear . . . . . S360	1,080	5.7	42.4
Other symptoms referable to ears, not elsewhere classified . . . . . S365	822	4.3	46.7

<sup>1</sup>Based on A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC) (14).

**Table 21. Number, percent, and cumulative percent of office visits by physician specialty and the 10 principal reasons for visit most frequently mentioned by patients: United States, 1991—Con.**

<i>Physician specialty, principal reason for visit, and RVC code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
<b>Otolaryngology—Cont.</b>			
Nasal congestion . . . . . S400	819	4.3	51.0
Sinus problems . . . . . S410	749	3.9	54.9
Allergy, not otherwise specified . . . . . S090	647	3.4	58.3
Discharge from ear . . . . . S350	545	2.9	61.1
<b>Cardiovascular diseases</b>			
All visits . . . . .	11,629	100.0	...
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body system) . . . . . S050	1,205	10.4	10.4
Abnormal pulsations and palpitations . . . . . S260	479	4.1	14.5
General medical examination . . . . . X100	470	4.0	18.5
Ischemic heart disease . . . . . D515	465	4.0	22.5
Shortness of breath . . . . . S415	441	3.8	26.3
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	395	3.4	29.7
Hypertension . . . . . D510	387	3.3	33.0
Other heart disease . . . . . D520	294	2.5	35.6
Tiredness, exhaustion . . . . . S015	265	2.3	37.8
Counseling, not otherwise specified . . . . . T605	219	1.9	39.7
<b>Urological surgery</b>			
All visits . . . . .	12,758	100.0	...
Other urinary dysfunctions . . . . . S660	1,097	8.6	8.6
Frequency and urgency of urination . . . . . S645	927	7.3	15.9
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	773	6.1	21.9
Symptoms of prostate . . . . . S710	698	5.5	27.4
Abnormalities of urine . . . . . S640	602	4.7	32.1
Incontinence of urine (enuresis) . . . . . S655	541	4.2	36.4
Psychosexual disorders . . . . . S160	508	4.0	40.3
Painful urination . . . . . S650	486	3.8	44.1
Cancer, urinary and male genital tract . . . . . D125	387	3.0	47.2
Symptoms of scrotum and testes . . . . . S715	383	3.0	50.2
<b>Neurology</b>			
All visits . . . . .	6,798	100.0	...
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	1,219	17.9	17.9
Convulsions . . . . . S205	718	10.6	28.5
Neck symptoms . . . . . S900	367	5.4	33.9
Leg symptoms . . . . . S920	339	5.0	38.9
Disturbances of sensation . . . . . S220	334	4.9	43.8
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	319	4.7	48.5
Vertigo, dizziness . . . . . S225	300	4.4	52.9
Abnormal involuntary movements . . . . . S200	288	4.2	57.1
Low back symptoms . . . . . S910	177	2.6	59.7
Disorders of motor functions . . . . . S095	159	2.3	62.1
<b>All other specialties</b>			
All visits . . . . .	76,341	100.0	...
Glaucoma . . . . . D415	3,842	5.0	8.8
Allergy, not otherwise specified . . . . . S090	2,743	3.6	12.4
General medical examination . . . . . X100	2,535	3.3	15.7
Cough . . . . . S440	2,421	3.2	18.9
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	2,083	2.7	21.6
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . D205	2,039	2.7	24.3
Postoperative visit . . . . . T205	1,976	2.6	26.9
Low back symptoms . . . . . S910	1,598	2.1	29.0
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	1,550	2.0	31.0
Asthma . . . . . D625	1,409	1.8	32.8

<sup>1</sup>Based on A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC) (14).

**Table 22. Number and percent distribution of office visits by selected diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided, according to six physician specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>All specialties</i>	<i>General and family practice</i>	<i>Internal medicine</i>	<i>Pediatrics</i>	<i>Obstetrics and gynecology</i>	<i>Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Orthopedic surgery</i>
Number of visits in thousands							
All visits . . . . .	669,689	164,857	102,923	74,646	56,834	41,207	35,932
Percent distribution							
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None . . . . .	35.2	24.8	16.5	62.0	8.8	26.6	62.0
Blood pressure check . . . . .	43.2	61.6	73.1	14.0	77.9	2.8	5.8
Urinalysis . . . . .	12.7	11.3	12.1	9.5	47.5	*0.0	1.4
EKG—resting <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2.8	2.6	6.1	—	0.5	0.6	0.8
EKG—exercise <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.4	0.3	0.9	—	—	—	—
Mammogram . . . . .	1.7	1.4	3.0	*0.1	8.0	—	—
Chest x ray . . . . .	2.4	2.9	4.1	0.8	0.5	*0.0	1.0
Other radiology <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	5.5	5.0	4.8	1.5	2.6	1.7	29.4
Allergy testing <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.2	*0.2	—	*0.1	*0.0	—	*0.0
Spirometry <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.3	*0.1	—	—
Pap test . . . . .	4.2	3.6	2.9	0.2	32.6	—	—
Strep throat test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2.0	3.3	1.9	6.6	0.5	—	—
HIV serology <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.2	0.3	*0.2	*0.1	0.5	—	—
Cholesterol measure . . . . .	4.0	4.4	9.6	0.9	3.7	*0.1	*0.1
Other lab test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	17.1	17.7	29.3	13.1	22.5	1.0	1.6
Hearing test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.4	1.0	*0.3	4.8	*0.0	*0.2	*0.0
Visual acuity . . . . .	6.0	1.3	*0.4	5.1	—	68.8	—
Mental status exam <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.3	*0.2	*0.1	0.6	*0.0	*0.0	0.5
Other service . . . . .	10.1	9.4	5.9	7.5	17.3	28.1	4.6

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one category may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>Category is new in the 1991 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

<sup>3</sup>HIV is human immunodeficiency virus.

**Table 23. Number and percent distribution of office visits by selected diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided, according to seven other physician specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>All specialties</i>	<i>Dermatology</i>	<i>General surgery</i>	<i>Otolaryngology</i>	<i>Psychiatry</i>	<i>Urological surgery</i>	<i>Cardio-vascular diseases</i>	<i>Neurology</i>	<i>Other</i>
Number of visits in thousands									
All visits . . . . .	669,689	29,659	21,285	19,101	15,720	12,758	11,629	6,798	76,341
Percent distribution									
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None . . . . .	35.2	79.9	57.4	71.2	50.1	24.7	7.8	32.7	39.3
Blood pressure check . . . . .	43.2	2.7	23.1	2.2	12.3	17.1	78.3	34.7	42.7
Urinalysis . . . . .	12.7	*0.4	6.9	1.1	4.2	62.9	4.9	*1.1	10.9
EKG—resting <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2.8	—	5.6	*0.2	4.1	*0.6	33.1	*0.3	2.3
EKG—exercise <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.4	—	*0.2	—	*0.4	*0.1	8.0	*0.1	*0.2
Mammogram . . . . .	1.7	—	4.8	—	—	*0.1	1.2	*0.1	0.5
Chest x ray . . . . .	2.4	*0.0	6.8	0.7	*0.2	*0.5	10.8	*0.1	4.1
Other radiology <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	5.5	0.6	6.1	4.7	—	7.1	5.5	8.8	6.9
Allergy testing <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.2	*0.1	—	1.4	—	*0.1	*0.2	—	0.8
Spirometry <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.4	—	*0.1	*0.1	—	—	*0.2	—	1.1
Pap test . . . . .	4.2	—	0.8	—	—	*0.4	—	—	0.7
Strep throat test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2.0	—	—	*0.3	—	*0.4	—	—	1.1
HIV serology <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.2	*0.2	*0.3	—	*0.1	*0.3	*0.9	—	*0.1
Cholesterol measure . . . . .	4.0	*0.3	2.2	—	*0.2	*0.1	8.6	*0.6	6.8
Other lab test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	17.1	14.4	15.5	4.4	4.0	17.1	23.0	12.8	21.7
Hearing test <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.4	*0.0	*0.1	15.7	—	*0.1	*0.3	*1.1	0.7
Visual acuity . . . . .	6.0	*0.1	*0.2	*0.1	*0.2	—	*0.8	3.2	7.0
Mental status exam <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.3	*0.0	*0.1	—	40.3	—	*0.1	12.6	*0.2
Other service . . . . .	10.1	2.8	5.4	3.4	1.1	6.3	13.8	26.7	13.8

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one category may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>Category is new in the 1991 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

<sup>3</sup>HIV is human immunodeficiency virus.

**Table 24. Number and percent distribution of office visits by principal diagnosis, according to six physician specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>All specialties</i>	<i>General and family practice</i>	<i>Internal medicine</i>	<i>Pediatrics</i>	<i>Obstetrics and gynecology</i>	<i>Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Orthopedic surgery</i>
Number of visits in thousands							
All visits . . . . .	669,689	164,857	102,923	74,646	56,834	41,207	35,932
Percent distribution							
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . . 001-139	3.7	4.4	3.6	8.3	3.4	0.9	*0.1
Neoplasms . . . . . 140-239	3.5	1.0	1.5	0.3	1.9	0.6	*0.3
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders . . . . . 240-279	4.1	5.2	8.2	0.4	1.7	2.6	*0.2
Mental disorders . . . . . 290-319	3.9	2.9	2.5	0.9	0.4	0.1	*0.1
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs . . . . . 320-389	11.6	7.2	4.4	14.9	*0.2	75.0	4.3
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . . 390-459	7.5	9.2	19.4	0.3	0.7	*0.0	*0.1
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . . 460-519	13.8	19.7	15.7	28.2	1.2	*0.1	*0.1
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . . 520-579	3.4	4.3	5.2	2.9	0.5	-	-
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . . 580-629	5.9	4.6	6.0	0.6	23.8	-	-
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . 680-709	5.9	4.6	3.7	3.5	0.7	0.5	1.2
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . . 710-739	6.8	8.0	9.0	0.8	0.3	-	36.9
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions . . . . 780-799	3.8	5.0	5.6	3.4	2.1	0.6	0.6
Injury and poisoning . . . . . 800-999	8.0	8.8	7.2	3.4	0.7	2.2	45.4
Supplementary classification . . . . . V01-V82	15.1	11.9	5.9	29.0	54.5	14.5	8.5
All other diagnoses <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.4	1.2	0.9	1.5	5.1	*0.1	1.2
Unknown <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.6	2.1	1.3	1.6	2.7	2.6	1.0

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (15).

<sup>2</sup>Includes diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (280-289); complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (630-676); congenital anomalies (740-759); and certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (760-779).

<sup>3</sup>Includes blank diagnoses, uncodable diagnoses, and illegible diagnoses.

**Table 25. Number and percent distribution of office visits by principal diagnosis, according to seven other physician specialties: United States, 1991**

Principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code <sup>1</sup>	All specialties	Dermatology	General surgery	Otolaryngology	Psychiatry	Urological surgery	Cardio-vascular diseases	Neurology	Other
All visits . . . . .	669,689	29,659	21,285	19,101	15,720	12,758	11,629	6,798	76,341
	Percent distribution								
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . . 001-139	3.7	11.1	1.5	*0.5	-	2.0	*0.7	*1.2	1.3
Neoplasms . . . . . 140-239	3.5	16.2	13.7	4.2	-	14.0	*0.9	*0.7	10.5
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders . . . . . 240-279	4.1	*0.1	2.8	*0.1	*0.3	*0.6	4.5	*1.2	8.6
Mental disorders . . . . . 290-319	3.9	*0.1	*0.5	*0.1	96.1	4.4	*0.6	7.8	1.7
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs . . . . . 320-389	11.6	*0.2	2.1	39.6	*0.4	1.8	*0.8	37.1	8.7
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . . 390-459	7.5	2.3	8.9	-	-	1.1	54.9	4.2	6.7
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . . 460-519	13.8	*0.3	3.2	30.4	-	*0.8	7.0	*0.3	18.5
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . . 520-579	3.4	*0.2	16.6	3.5	-	1.1	2.9	*0.1	4.1
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . . 580-629	5.9	*0.1	11.3	-	*0.2	53.7	*0.7	*0.3	3.0
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . 680-709	5.9	63.7	8.0	1.9	-	*0.7	*0.6	*0.0	4.5
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . . 710-739	6.8	*0.1	4.0	*0.5	-	*0.6	3.2	13.9	9.0
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions . . . . . 780-799	3.8	0.8	5.7	4.7	*0.2	4.6	8.4	21.7	2.9
Injury and poisoning . . . . . 800-999	8.0	1.0	5.4	3.8	*0.2	2.1	*0.9	6.7	10.9
Supplementary classification . . . . . V01-V82	15.1	2.9	14.1	9.4	1.6	10.7	11.7	3.0	6.8
All other diagnoses <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.4	0.6	1.2	*0.6	-	*0.6	*0.4	*0.4	1.5
Unknown <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.6	*0.4	1.2	0.7	1.1	1.1	1.8	*1.3	1.4

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

<sup>2</sup>Includes diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (280-289); complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (630-676); congenital anomalies (740-759); and certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (760-779).

<sup>3</sup>Includes blank diagnoses, uncodable diagnoses, and illegible diagnoses.

**Table 26. Number, percent, and cumulative percent of office visits by physician specialty and 10 principal diagnoses most frequently rendered: United States, 1991**

<i>Physician specialty, principal diagnosis, and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
<b>General and family practice</b>			
All visits . . . . .	164,857	100.0	...
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	7,957	4.8	4.8
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	5,701	3.5	8.3
General medical examination . . . . . V70	5,678	3.4	11.7
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	5,020	3.0	14.8
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	4,665	2.8	17.6
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	4,469	2.7	20.3
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	4,230	2.6	22.9
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	3,285	2.0	24.9
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	3,099	1.9	26.8
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	2,858	1.7	28.5
<b>Internal medicine</b>			
All visits . . . . .	102,923	100.0	...
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	11,069	10.8	10.8
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	4,597	4.5	15.2
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	2,704	2.6	17.8
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	2,543	2.5	20.3
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	2,000	1.9	22.3
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	1,873	1.8	24.1
Asthma . . . . . 493	1,817	1.8	25.9
Other and unspecified disorders of back . . . . . 724	1,769	1.7	27.6
Cardiac dysrhythmias . . . . . 427	1,702	1.7	29.3
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	1,679	1.6	30.9
<b>Pediatrics</b>			
All visits . . . . .	74,646	100.0	...
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	13,854	18.6	18.6
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	8,099	10.8	29.4
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	6,673	8.9	38.4
General medical examination . . . . . V70	3,776	5.1	43.5
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	3,255	4.4	47.8
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	2,723	3.6	51.5
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	1,865	2.5	54.0
Asthma . . . . . 493	1,718	2.3	56.3
Personal history of certain other diseases . . . . . V12	1,624	2.2	58.4
Viral infection in conditions classified elsewhere . . . . . 079	1,528	2.0	60.5
<b>Obstetrics and gynecology</b>			
All visits . . . . .	56,834	100.0	...
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	18,152	31.9	31.9
General medical examination . . . . . V70	4,048	7.1	39.1
Disorders of menstruation and other abnormal bleeding from female genital tract . . . . . 626	2,442	4.3	43.4
Special investigations and examinations . . . . . V72	2,042	3.6	47.0
Inflammatory disease of cervix, vagina, and vulva . . . . . 616	1,847	3.2	50.2
Menopausal and postmenopausal disorders . . . . . 627	1,770	3.1	53.4
Pain and other symptoms associated with female genital organs . . . . . 625	1,693	3.0	56.3
Postpartum care and examination . . . . . V24	1,603	2.8	59.1
Infertility, female . . . . . 628	1,075	1.9	61.0
Noninflammatory disorders of cervix . . . . . 622	931	1.6	62.6
<b>Ophthalmology</b>			
All visits . . . . .	41,207	100.0	...
Cataract . . . . . 366	7,403	18.0	18.0
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	7,090	17.2	35.2
Disorders of refraction and accommodation . . . . . 367	5,357	13.0	48.2
Organ or tissue replaced by other means . . . . . V43	2,548	6.2	54.4
Other retinal disorders . . . . . 362	1,864	4.5	58.9
Other disorders of eye . . . . . 379	1,690	4.1	63.0
Disorders of conjunctiva . . . . . 372	1,455	3.5	66.5

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.



**Table 26. Number, percent, and cumulative percent of office visits by physician specialty and 10 principal diagnoses most frequently rendered: United States, 1991—Con.**

<i>Physician specialty, principal diagnosis, and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>	
<b>Ophthalmology—Cont.:</b>				
Special investigations and examinations . . . . .	V72	1,217	3.0	69.5
Inflammation of eyelids . . . . .	373	1,116	2.7	72.2
Diabetes mellitus . . . . .	250	981	2.4	74.6
<b>Orthopedic surgery</b>				
All visits . . . . .		35,932	100.0	...
Peripheral enthesopathies and allied syndromes . . . . .	726	2,165	6.0	6.0
Other disorders of synovium, tendon, and bursa . . . . .	727	1,703	4.7	10.8
Fracture of radius and ulna . . . . .	813	1,450	4.0	14.8
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . .	715	1,348	3.8	18.6
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . .	847	1,281	3.6	22.1
Mononeuritis of upper limb and mononeuritis multiplex . . . . .	354	1,102	3.1	25.2
Dislocation of knee . . . . .	836	1,088	3.0	28.2
Intervertebral disc disorders . . . . .	722	1,074	3.0	31.2
Sprains and strains of knee and leg . . . . .	844	999	2.8	34.0
Sprains and strains of ankle and foot . . . . .	845	999	2.8	36.7
<b>Dermatology</b>				
All visits . . . . .		29,659	100.0	...
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . .	706	5,842	19.7	19.7
Other dermatoses . . . . .	702	3,656	12.3	32.0
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . .	692	2,459	8.3	40.3
Other malignant neoplasm of skin . . . . .	173	2,263	7.6	47.9
Other diseases due to viruses and chlamydiae . . . . .	078	1,932	6.5	54.5
Benign neoplasm of skin . . . . .	216	1,577	5.3	59.8
Psoriasis and similar disorders . . . . .	696	1,359	4.6	64.4
Erythematous conditions . . . . .	695	829	2.8	67.2
Diseases of hair and hair follicles . . . . .	704	823	2.8	69.9
Other hypertrophic and atrophic conditions of skin . . . . .	701	807	2.7	72.6
<b>General surgery</b>				
All visits . . . . .		21,285	100.0	...
Inguinal hernia . . . . .	550	1,135	5.3	5.3
Other disorders of breast . . . . .	611	1,123	5.3	10.6
Other postsurgical states . . . . .	V45	1,103	5.2	15.8
Benign mammary dysplasias . . . . .	610	959	4.5	20.3
Malignant neoplasm of female breast . . . . .	174	815	3.8	24.1
Other hernia of abdominal cavity without mention of obstruction or gangrene . . . . .	553	539	2.5	26.7
Follow-up examination . . . . .	V67	537	2.5	29.2
Cholelithiasis . . . . .	574	487	2.3	31.5
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . .	706	421	2.0	33.5
Hemorrhoids . . . . .	455	391	1.8	35.3
<b>Psychiatry</b>				
All visits . . . . .		15,720	100.0	...
Affective psychoses . . . . .	296	4,317	27.5	27.5
Neurotic disorders . . . . .	300	3,293	20.9	48.4
Depressive disorder, not elsewhere classified . . . . .	311	1,942	12.4	60.8
Personality disorders . . . . .	301	1,739	11.1	71.8
Schizophrenic disorders . . . . .	295	1,214	7.7	79.5
Adjustment reaction . . . . .	309	1,036	6.6	86.1
Disturbance of emotions specific to childhood and adolescence . . . . .	313	421	2.7	88.8
Acute reaction to stress . . . . .	799	319	2.0	90.8
Hyperkinetic syndrome of childhood . . . . .	314	188	1.2	92.0
Personal history of mental disorder . . . . .	V11	144	0.9	92.9
<b>Otolaryngology</b>				
All visits . . . . .		19,101	100.0	...
Nonsuppurative otitis media and eustachian tube disorders . . . . .	381	2,136	11.2	11.2
Disorders of external ear . . . . .	380	1,713	9.0	20.2
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . .	382	1,567	8.2	28.4

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

**Table 26. Number, percent, and cumulative percent of office visits by physician specialty and 10 principal diagnoses most frequently rendered: United States, 1991—Con.**

<i>Physician specialty, principal diagnosis, and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>	
<b>Otolaryngology—Cont.</b>				
Allergic rhinitis . . . . .	477	1,259	6.6	34.9
Chronic sinusitis . . . . .	473	1,079	5.6	40.6
Chronic disease of tonsils and adenoids . . . . .	474	841	4.4	45.0
Hearing loss . . . . .	389	742	3.9	48.9
Follow-up examination . . . . .	V67	589	3.1	52.0
Other postsurgical states . . . . .	V45	577	3.0	55.0
Chronic pharyngitis and nasopharyngitis . . . . .	472	444	2.3	57.3
<b>Cardiovascular diseases</b>				
All visits . . . . .		11,629	100.0	...
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . .	414	1,843	15.8	15.8
Essential hypertension . . . . .	401	1,242	10.7	26.5
Cardiac dysrhythmias . . . . .	427	875	7.5	34.1
Symptoms involving respiratory system and other chest symptoms . . . . .	786	521	4.5	38.5
Angina pectoris . . . . .	413	504	4.3	42.8
Heart failure . . . . .	428	407	3.5	46.3
Other postsurgical states . . . . .	V45	387	3.3	49.7
Other diseases of endocardium . . . . .	424	270	2.3	52.0
Hypertensive heart disease . . . . .	402	246	2.1	54.1
Cardiomyopathy . . . . .	425	244	2.1	56.2
<b>Urological surgery</b>				
All visits . . . . .		12,758	100.0	...
Hyperplasia of prostate . . . . .	600	1,938	15.2	15.2
Malignant neoplasm of prostate . . . . .	185	1,122	8.8	24.0
Other disorders of urethra and urinary tract . . . . .	599	1,055	8.3	32.3
Inflammatory diseases of prostate . . . . .	601	677	5.3	37.6
Urethral stricture . . . . .	598	557	4.4	41.9
Sexual deviations and disorders . . . . .	302	556	4.4	46.3
Contraceptive management . . . . .	V25	513	4.0	50.3
Cystitis . . . . .	595	462	3.6	53.9
Calculus of kidney and ureter . . . . .	592	420	3.3	57.2
Symptoms involving urinary system . . . . .	688	385	3.0	60.2
<b>Neurology</b>				
All visits . . . . .		6,798	100.0	...
General symptoms . . . . .	780	975	14.3	14.3
Migraine . . . . .	346	661	9.7	24.1
Symptoms involving head and neck . . . . .	784	407	6.0	30.0
Parkinson's disease . . . . .	332	346	5.1	35.1
Mononeuritis of upper limb and mononeuritis multiplex . . . . .	354	283	4.2	39.3
Other and unspecified disorders of back . . . . .	724	233	3.4	42.7
Multiple sclerosis . . . . .	340	223	3.3	46.0
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . .	847	218	3.2	49.2
Other disorders of soft tissues . . . . .	729	194	2.9	52.1
Other disorders of cervical region . . . . .	723	170	2.5	54.6
<b>All other specialties</b>				
All visits . . . . .		76,341	100.0	...
Allergic rhinitis . . . . .	477	4,391	5.8	5.8
Glaucoma . . . . .	365	3,856	5.1	10.8
Asthma . . . . .	493	3,613	4.7	15.5
Diabetes mellitus . . . . .	250	3,105	4.1	19.6
Malignant neoplasm of female breast . . . . .	174	2,354	3.1	22.7
General medical examination . . . . .	V70	2,342	3.1	25.8
Essential hypertension . . . . .	401	2,059	2.7	28.5
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . .	465	1,290	1.7	30.1
Other disorders of soft tissues . . . . .	729	1,193	1.6	31.7
Intervertebral disc disorders . . . . .	722	1,168	1.5	33.2

<sup>1</sup>Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC)* (14).

**Table 27. Number and percent distribution of office visits by therapeutic services ordered or provided, according to six physician specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Therapeutic services ordered or provided</i>	<i>All specialties</i>	<i>General and family practice</i>	<i>Internal medicine</i>	<i>Pediatrics</i>	<i>Obstetrics and gynecology</i>	<i>Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Orthopedic surgery</i>
Number of visits in thousands							
All visits . . . . .	669,689	164,857	102,923	74,646	56,834	41,207	35,932
Percent distribution							
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Medication therapy							
Drug visits <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	63.3	72.2	81.6	69.5	47.7	46.4	25.9
One drug mention . . . . .	32.5	36.3	31.9	42.5	35.7	28.5	20.3
Two drug mentions . . . . .	16.1	19.6	22.1	17.3	10.2	9.0	4.1
Three drug mentions . . . . .	7.2	9.2	9.9	7.0	1.3	4.9	1.1
Four drug mentions . . . . .	3.3	3.6	6.8	2.0	*0.2	2.7	*0.3
Five drug mentions . . . . .	4.1	3.4	11.0	0.7	0.3	1.2	*0.2
Visits without mention of medication . . . . .	36.7	27.8	18.4	30.5	52.3	53.6	74.1
Counseling/education and other therapy <sup>2</sup>							
None . . . . .	66.9	67.1	65.2	61.7	61.3	77.1	56.4
Diet <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	11.4	15.0	17.8	17.2	12.3	*0.2	1.4
Exercise <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	8.2	10.4	13.4	4.0	8.8	*0.1	19.6
Cholesterol reduction . . . . .	3.1	4.4	7.7	0.6	1.3	-	-
Weight reduction . . . . .	3.8	5.9	7.6	0.6	2.8	*0.0	0.9
Drug abuse <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	*0.1	*0.1	*0.1
Alcohol abuse <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4	*0.0	-
Smoking cessation . . . . .	1.9	2.9	2.9	0.3	3.2	*0.1	*0.2
Family/social <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.9	2.1	1.1	6.4	1.3	*0.1	-
Growth/development <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	3.1	2.1	*0.2	20.8	1.3	-	1.0
Family planning <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.8	0.7	*0.2	0.4	6.1	-	-
Other counseling . . . . .	8.3	5.9	7.9	12.3	19.3	1.5	5.5
Psychotherapy . . . . .	2.7	0.9	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5
Corrective lenses . . . . .	1.2	*0.0	-	-	-	18.9	-
Hearing aid <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.1	*0.0	*0.1	-	*0.0	*0.0	-
Physiotherapy . . . . .	2.5	2.3	3.7	0.2	*0.2	-	14.8
Other therapy . . . . .	3.2	3.5	2.1	1.2	1.5	2.1	8.0

<sup>1</sup>Drug visits are visits at which one or more medications is ordered or provided by the physician. Includes new and continuing medications.

<sup>2</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one category may be reported per visit.

<sup>3</sup>Category is new in the 1991 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

**Table 2B. Number and percent distribution of office visits by therapeutic services ordered or provided, according to seven other physician specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Therapeutic services ordered or provided</i>	<i>All specialties</i>	<i>Dermatology</i>	<i>General surgery</i>	<i>Otolaryngology</i>	<i>Psychiatry</i>	<i>Urological surgery</i>	<i>Cardiovascular diseases</i>	<i>Neurology</i>	<i>Other</i>
Number of visits in thousands									
All visits . . . . .	669,689	29,659	21,285	19,101	15,720	12,758	11,629	6,798	76,341
Percent distribution									
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Medication therapy									
Drug visits <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	63.3	57.2	32.5	45.8	64.6	39.9	80.4	61.9	67.8
One drug mention . . . . .	32.5	26.7	16.3	30.6	39.0	31.6	14.1	38.9	29.3
Two drug mentions . . . . .	16.1	17.8	7.5	12.2	16.1	6.1	16.5	15.0	17.5
Three drug mentions . . . . .	7.2	8.4	5.1	2.2	6.2	1.3	12.7	4.5	10.2
Four drug mentions . . . . .	3.3	2.6	1.2	*0.6	2.6	*0.5	12.5	2.5	4.1
Five drug mentions . . . . .	4.1	1.8	2.4	*0.2	*0.7	*0.4	24.6	*1.0	6.6
Visits without mention of medication . . . . .	36.7	42.8	67.5	54.2	35.4	60.1	19.6	38.1	32.2
Counseling/education and other therapy <sup>2</sup>									
None . . . . .	66.9	81.1	79.6	87.1	9.1	84.1	63.3	73.1	72.3
Diet <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	11.4	0.5	7.0	1.4	2.6	2.4	24.9	6.4	9.2
Exercise <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	8.2	*0.2	3.5	*0.4	2.8	1.0	14.7	7.5	6.4
Cholesterol reduction . . . . .	3.1	*0.1	2.3	*0.2	*0.7	*0.1	12.6	*1.4	2.9
Weight reduction . . . . .	3.8	*0.1	3.5	*0.1	2.7	*0.3	9.4	2.9	4.3
Drug abuse <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.2	*0.0	*0.2	–	1.2	*0.1	*0.1	*0.6	*0.2
Alcohol abuse <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.5	–	*0.3	*0.1	1.7	*0.1	0.6	*0.2	*0.2
Smoking cessation . . . . .	1.9	*0.2	1.1	1.3	2.1	*0.3	3.3	*0.4	2.3
Family/social <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.9	*0.4	*0.3	*0.1	8.4	*0.3	1.6	2.7	0.6
Growth/development <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	3.1	–	*0.0	*0.1	*0.6	*0.0	–	*0.7	*0.1
Family planning <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.8	*0.1	*0.1	–	*0.1	*0.7	–	*0.3	*0.1
Other counseling . . . . .	8.3	11.8	6.1	7.5	10.7	11.1	6.2	7.1	6.3
Psychotherapy . . . . .	2.7	*0.1	*0.2	*0.1	80.8	–	*0.1	*0.9	1.6
Corrective lenses . . . . .	1.2	–	–	*0.1	*0.4	–	–	–	–
Hearing aid <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0.1	–	–	1.0	*0.1	–	–	–	–
Physiotherapy . . . . .	2.5	*0.1	*0.4	*0.0	*0.3	*0.3	*0.8	4.2	4.0
Other therapy . . . . .	3.2	6.2	4.9	2.3	4.6	2.2	1.2	2.8	4.2

<sup>1</sup>Drug visits are visits at which one or more medications is ordered or provided by the physician. Includes new and continuing medications.

<sup>2</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one category may be reported per visit.

<sup>3</sup>Category is new in the 1991 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

**Table 29. Number and percent distribution of drug mentions by therapeutic classification, according to six physician specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Therapeutic classification<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>All specialties</i>	<i>General and family practice</i>	<i>Internal medicine</i>	<i>Pediatrics</i>	<i>Obstetrics and gynecology</i>	<i>Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Orthopedic surgery</i>
Number of drug mentions in thousands							
All drug mentions . . . . .	804,615	222,158	193,229	81,746	35,507	32,259	12,115
Antimicrobial agents . . . . .	119,663	44,167	18,355	25,825	3,670	1,219	333
Cardiovascular-renal drugs . . . . .	124,554	34,121	51,565	525	707	1,477	384
Drugs used for relief of pain . . . . .	85,132	25,571	23,824	4,254	1,642	499	7,389
Respiratory tract drugs . . . . .	80,758	28,101	16,573	15,842	1,084	1,288	*53
Hormones and related agents . . . . .	76,507	21,397	19,613	2,066	11,720	821	1,697
Psychopharmacologic drugs . . . . .	49,588	13,216	11,872	641	757	*166	309
Skin/mucous membrane . . . . .	43,912	9,086	3,294	4,661	2,355	318	460
Metabolic and nutrient agents . . . . .	36,964	7,168	11,245	1,637	9,520	504	*59
Ophthalmic agents . . . . .	35,260	1,984	828	1,452	*115	22,215	-
Gastrointestinal agents . . . . .	34,157	10,604	12,373	1,563	475	250	*130
Immunologic agents . . . . .	28,440	6,735	3,296	17,196	*48	*33	-
Neurologic drugs . . . . .	16,372	4,152	5,104	249	*88	*20	547
Hematologic agents . . . . .	10,571	2,842	3,755	228	1,550	-	*15
Other and unclassified <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	62,735	13,013	11,532	5,609	1,778	3,447	740
Percent distribution							
All drug mentions . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Antimicrobial agents . . . . .	14.9	19.9	9.5	31.6	10.3	3.8	2.7
Cardiovascular-renal drugs . . . . .	15.5	15.4	26.7	0.6	2.0	4.6	3.2
Drugs used for relief of pain . . . . .	10.6	11.5	12.3	5.2	4.6	1.5	61.0
Respiratory tract drugs . . . . .	10.0	9.6	8.6	19.4	3.1	4.0	*0.4
Hormones and related agents . . . . .	9.5	5.9	10.1	2.5	33.0	2.5	14.0
Psychopharmacologic drugs . . . . .	6.2	5.9	6.1	0.8	2.1	*0.0	2.5
Skin/mucous membrane . . . . .	5.5	4.1	1.7	5.7	6.6	1.0	3.8
Metabolic and nutrient agents . . . . .	4.6	3.2	5.8	2.0	26.8	1.6	*0.5
Ophthalmic agents . . . . .	4.4	0.9	0.4	1.8	*0.3	68.9	-
Gastrointestinal agents . . . . .	4.2	4.8	6.4	1.9	1.3	0.8	*0.0
Immunologic agents . . . . .	3.5	3.0	1.7	21.0	*0.1	*0.1	-
Neurologic drugs . . . . .	2.0	1.9	2.6	0.3	*0.2	*0.1	4.5
Hematologic agents . . . . .	1.3	1.3	1.9	0.3	4.4	-	*0.1
Other and unclassified <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	7.8	5.9	6.0	6.9	5.0	10.7	6.1

<sup>1</sup>Therapeutic class is based on the standard drug classification used in the *National Drug Code Directory, 1985 Edition (17)*.

<sup>2</sup>Includes anesthetics, antidotes, radiopharmaceuticals/contrast media, oncology, otology, antiparasitics, and unclassified/miscellaneous drugs.

**Table 30. Number and percent distribution of drug mentions by therapeutic classification, according to seven other physician specialties: United States, 1991**

Therapeutic classification <sup>1</sup>	All specialties	Dermatology	General surgery	Otolaryngology	Psychiatry	Urological surgery	Cardiovascular diseases	Neurology	Other
All drug mentions . . . . .	804,615	31,609	13,498	12,405	16,320	6,616	30,029	6,625	110,498
Antimicrobial agents . . . . .	119,663	6,751	1,636	3,760	—	*10	839	*168	10,302
Cardiovascular-renal drugs . . . . .	124,554	336	2,423	*185	327	872	15,600	697	15,335
Drugs used for relief of pain . . . . .	85,132	293	2,507	644	187	722	3,300	1,329	12,972
Respiratory tract drugs . . . . .	80,758	824	718	2,808	*78	*91	1,089	*101	12,109
Hormones and related agents . . . . .	76,507	1,958	1,268	349	*117	451	1,566	*219	13,229
Psychopharmacologic drugs . . . . .	49,588	411	685	*85	12,993	206	1,073	1,371	5,802
Skin/mucous membrane . . . . .	43,912	17,524	552	1,428	*51	*122	*120	*50	3,890
Metabolic and nutrient agents . . . . .	36,964	*145	874	*104	*104	*117	2,288	*104	3,095
Ophthalmic agents . . . . .	35,260	215	*97	489	—	*30	*73	*28	7,458
Gastrointestinal agents . . . . .	34,157	*87	1,059	261	*114	283	1,297	*103	5,561
Immunologic agents . . . . .	28,440	*23	250	—	—	*32	*140	*8	680
Neurologic drugs . . . . .	16,372	*9	200	*26	1,567	*74	*157	1,945	2,234
Hematologic agents . . . . .	10,571	*87	280	*9	*14	*14	838	*70	869
Other and unclassified <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	62,735	2,948	949	2,258	768	3,593	1,648	430	16,962
	Percent distribution								
All drug mentions . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Antimicrobial agents . . . . .	14.9	21.4	12.1	30.3	—	*0.1	2.8	*0.0	9.3
Cardiovascular-renal drugs . . . . .	15.5	1.1	17.9	*0.0	2.0	13.2	52.0	10.5	13.9
Drugs used for relief of pain . . . . .	10.6	0.9	18.6	5.2	1.1	10.9	11.0	20.1	11.7
Respiratory tract drugs . . . . .	10.0	6.2	5.3	22.6	*0.5	*1.4	3.6	*1.5	11.0
Hormones and related agents . . . . .	9.5	1.3	9.4	2.8	*0.7	6.8	5.2	*0.0	12.0
Psychopharmacologic drugs . . . . .	6.2	1.3	5.1	*0.7	79.6	3.1	3.6	20.7	5.3
Skin/mucous membrane . . . . .	5.5	55.4	4.1	11.5	*0.3	*1.8	*0.4	*0.8	3.5
Metabolic and nutrient agents . . . . .	4.6	*0.0	6.5	*0.8	*0.6	*1.8	7.6	*1.6	2.8
Ophthalmic agents . . . . .	4.4	0.7	*0.7	3.9	—	*0.5	*0.2	*0.4	6.7
Gastrointestinal agents . . . . .	4.2	*0.3	7.8	2.1	*0.7	4.3	4.3	*1.6	5.0
Immunologic agents . . . . .	3.5	*0.1	1.9	—	—	*0.5	0.5	*0.1	0.6
Neurologic drugs . . . . .	2.0	*0.0	1.5	*0.2	9.6	*1.1	0.5	29.4	2.0
Hematologic agents . . . . .	1.3	*0.3	2.1	*0.1	*0.1	*0.0	2.8	*1.1	0.8
Other and unclassified <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	7.8	9.3	7.0	18.2	4.7	54.3	5.5	6.5	15.4

<sup>1</sup>Therapeutic class is based on the standard drug classification used in the *National Drug Code Directory, 1985 Edition* (17).

<sup>2</sup>Includes anesthetics, antidotes, radiopharmaceuticals/contrast media, oncolytics, otologics, antiparasitics, and unclassified/miscellaneous drugs.

**Table 31. Number and percent distribution of office visits by diagnostic and therapeutic ambulatory surgical procedures scheduled or performed with corresponding standard errors, according to selected medical specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Diagnostic or therapeutic procedure scheduled or performed and ICD-9-CM code</i> <sup>1</sup>	<i>All specialties</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Medical specialties</i>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Surgical specialties</i>	<i>Standard error</i>
Number of visits in thousands and corresponding standard error <sup>3,4</sup>						
All visits . . . . .	669,689	20,578	410,169	16,608	198,654	8,379
Visits with procedures . . . . .	40,548	2,972	15,467	1,998	23,578	2,089
Operations on the nervous system . . . . . 01-05	1,007	291	*157	82	*803	279
Operations on the eye . . . . . 08-16	6,503	1,802	*217	84	6,064	1,788
Operations on the nose, mouth, and pharynx . . . . . 21-29	1,710	427	290	73	1,419	421
Operations on the cardiovascular system . . . . . 35-39	*2,220	1,455	*1,940	1,452	*210	67
Operations on the digestive system . . . . . 42-54	4,901	535	2,896	439	1,981	307
Operations on the urinary system . . . . . 55-59	1,891	249	*142	62	1,749	242
Operations on the male genital organs . . . . . 60-64	765	126	*97	62	668	109
Operations on the female genital organs . . . . . 65-71	3,304	472	*308	102	2,996	460
Operations on the musculoskeletal system . . . . . 76-84	5,051	739	1,174	284	3,853	683
Operations on the integumentary system . . . . . 85-86	8,948	951	5,761	761	2,677	359
Miscellaneous diagnostic and therapeutic procedures . . . . . 87-99	5,063	631	2,206	367	2,377	383
Other procedures <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	1,901	259	*458	142	1,315	204
Visits without procedures . . . . .	629,141	19,703	394,702	16,071	175,076	7,794
Percent distribution of visits and corresponding standard error <sup>3,4</sup>						
All visits . . . . .	100.0	...	100.0	...	100.0	...
Visits with procedures . . . . .	6.1	0.4	3.8	0.5	11.9	1.0
Operations on the nervous system . . . . . 01-05	*0.2	0.0	*0.0	0.0	*0.0	0.1
Operations on the eye . . . . . 08-16	1.0	0.3	*0.0	0.0	3.1	0.9
Operations on the nose, mouth, and pharynx . . . . . 21-29	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	*0.7	0.2
Operations on the cardiovascular system . . . . . 35-39	*0.3	0.2	*0.0	0.4	*0.0	0.0
Operations on the digestive system . . . . . 42-54	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.1	1.0	0.2
Operations on the urinary system . . . . . 55-59	0.3	0.0	*0.0	0.0	0.9	0.1
Operations on the male genital organs . . . . . 60-64	0.1	0.0	*0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
Operations on the female genital organs . . . . . 65-71	0.5	0.1	*0.0	0.0	1.5	0.2
Operations on the musculoskeletal system . . . . . 76-84	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.1	1.9	0.4
Operations on the integumentary system . . . . . 85-86	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.2	1.3	0.2
Miscellaneous diagnostic and therapeutic procedures . . . . . 87-99	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.1	1.2	0.2
Other procedures <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	0.3	0.0	*0.0	0.0	0.7	0.1
Visits without procedures . . . . .	93.9	0.4	96.2	0.5	88.1	1.0

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

<sup>2</sup>Included in the total are an estimated 1.5 million procedures scheduled or performed at visits to physicians in specialties other than medical and surgical. However, data for this group have been omitted from the table as a separate category because the low frequencies of procedures at the 2-digit coding level resulted in estimates that were, without exception, statistically unreliable.

<sup>3</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because up to two procedures could be reported per visit. There were an estimated 43.3 million procedures scheduled or performed in all.

<sup>4</sup>See Appendix 1 for a discussion of standard errors and precision of NAMCS estimates.

<sup>5</sup>Includes operations on the endocrine system (ICD-9-CM codes 06-07), operations on the ear (ICD-9-CM codes 18-20), operations on the respiratory system (ICD-9-CM codes 30-34), operations on the hemic and lymphatic system (ICD-9-CM codes 40-41), and obstetrical procedures (ICD-9-CM codes 72-75).

**Table 32. Number and percent distribution of office visits by disposition and duration of visit, according to six physician specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Visit characteristic</i>	<i>All specialties</i>	<i>General and family practice</i>	<i>Internal medicine</i>	<i>Pediatrics</i>	<i>Obstetrics and gynecology</i>	<i>Ophthalmology</i>	<i>Orthopedic surgery</i>
Number of visits in thousands							
All visits . . . . .	669,689	164,857	102,923	74,646	56,834	41,207	35,932
Percent distribution							
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Disposition of visit <sup>1</sup>							
No follow-up planned . . . . .	9.5	13.7	6.3	13.3	6.3	7.3	7.6
Return at specified time . . . . .	63.3	48.9	67.8	49.9	72.0	77.4	70.0
Return if needed . . . . .	21.6	31.5	18.3	37.0	16.8	12.1	17.1
Telephone follow-up planned . . . . .	3.4	4.6	2.9	3.5	3.1	1.3	1.2
Referred to other physician . . . . .	3.3	4.6	5.9	1.8	1.8	1.4	1.9
Returned to referring physician . . . . .	0.8	0.3	0.8	*0.1	0.8	1.5	0.7
Admit to hospital . . . . .	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.2	1.6	*0.2	0.9
Other . . . . .	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.2	1.4	2.2
Duration of visit							
0 minutes <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.3	1.6	2.0	0.5	0.6	*0.2	—
1–5 minutes . . . . .	8.9	7.8	11.1	7.3	8.0	7.9	8.0
6–10 minutes . . . . .	26.5	31.3	24.3	33.0	26.7	23.6	26.0
11–15 minutes . . . . .	31.6	31.0	34.2	38.4	34.3	29.2	38.8
16–30 minutes . . . . .	24.6	24.6	24.0	18.9	26.0	28.5	23.8
More than 30 minutes . . . . .	7.2	3.7	4.4	1.9	4.4	10.6	3.3

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one category may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>Visits of 0 minutes duration are those in which there was no face-to-face contact between the physician and the patient.

**Table 33. Number and percent distribution of office visits by disposition and duration of visit, according to seven other physician specialties: United States, 1991**

<i>Visit characteristic</i>	<i>All specialties</i>	<i>Dermatology</i>	<i>General surgery</i>	<i>Otolaryngology</i>	<i>Psychiatry</i>	<i>Urological surgery</i>	<i>Cardio-vascular diseases</i>	<i>Neurology</i>	<i>Other</i>
Number of visits in thousands									
All visits . . . . .	669,689	29,659	21,285	19,101	15,720	12,758	11,629	6,798	76,341
Percent distribution									
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Disposition of visit <sup>1</sup>									
No follow-up planned . . . . .	9.5	11.1	10.7	9.1	2.3	5.4	4.2	6.9	7.8
Return at specified time . . . . .	63.3	64.9	61.4	61.2	93.8	70.3	79.0	69.0	74.2
Return if needed . . . . .	21.6	19.6	14.2	19.6	5.2	14.3	8.6	10.7	11.4
Telephone follow-up planned . . . . .	3.4	4.0	2.4	3.7	1.0	5.2	4.9	8.3	3.4
Referred to other physician . . . . .	3.3	1.1	3.6	0.7	*0.3	2.1	5.2	4.3	2.6
Returned to referring physician . . . . .	0.8	0.6	2.9	1.0	*0.1	1.4	3.0	6.1	1.1
Admit to hospital . . . . .	0.9	—	2.9	1.1	*0.1	1.7	1.4	*0.2	1.4
Other . . . . .	1.2	*0.2	4.4	4.8	—	2.8	1.7	*0.5	1.4
Duration of visit									
0 minutes <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.3	0.5	*0.1	*0.4	—	1.0	*0.6	—	3.3
1–5 minutes . . . . .	8.9	13.7	18.9	13.8	*0.2	7.2	1.6	*0.1	9.5
6–10 minutes . . . . .	26.5	38.0	28.1	29.8	—	24.0	12.4	4.0	18.7
11–15 minutes . . . . .	31.6	27.7	25.1	31.3	8.6	30.9	31.1	17.5	27.8
16–30 minutes . . . . .	24.6	17.7	23.4	21.1	18.4	29.5	43.3	41.5	28.0
More than 30 minutes . . . . .	7.2	2.4	4.3	3.5	72.9	7.3	11.0	37.0	12.7

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one category may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>Visits of 0 minutes duration are those in which there was no face-to-face contact between the physician and the patient.



**Table 34. Number and percent distribution of office visits for the 25 morbidity-related principal reasons for visit most frequently mentioned by patients, by patient's age and sex: United States, 1991**

Principal reason for visit and RVC code <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits in thousands	Age							Sex	
		Total	Under 15 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	Female	Male
Percent distribution										
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	18.7	9.2	27.7	21.2	12.5	10.8	59.8	40.2
Cough . . . . . S440	24,263	100.0	42.5	6.8	21.1	14.9	8.3	6.3	59.5	40.5
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	17,882	100.0	37.3	18.2	28.4	10.9	3.4	*1.7	61.4	38.6
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	13,404	100.0	60.9	9.9	15.6	7.3	*3.8	*2.4	57.8	42.2
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	12,977	100.0	*2.2	9.5	37.4	26.7	14.0	10.2	58.4	41.6
Skin rash . . . . . S860	12,119	100.0	30.3	8.2	30.2	14.9	9.7	6.6	54.8	45.2
Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	11,106	100.0	12.5	10.5	33.9	19.8	13.1	10.2	65.9	34.1
Fever . . . . . S010	10,318	100.0	86.8	*3.2	*5.2	*3.2	*0.9	*0.8	46.2	53.8
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	10,128	100.0	10.7	12.2	43.4	22.7	6.5	*4.6	60.4	39.6
Vision dysfunction . . . . . S305	10,011	100.0	7.5	*3.9	14.5	22.4	22.5	29.2	59.3	40.7
Knee symptoms . . . . . S925	9,522	100.0	*5.3	11.5	28.4	28.0	14.3	12.6	51.8	48.2
Nasal congestion . . . . . S400	8,444	100.0	53.3	9.5	19.7	9.0	*4.8	*3.6	53.6	46.4
Head cold, upper respiratory infection (coryza) . . . . . S445	7,616	100.0	42.3	*5.3	21.8	17.1	*7.0	*6.5	59.2	40.8
Neck symptoms . . . . . S900	7,193	100.0	*6.0	8.4	41.9	31.8	7.5	*4.4	57.1	42.9
Depression . . . . . S110	7,060	100.0	*5.5	*5.9	49.2	26.4	*6.9	*6.1	65.8	34.2
Low back symptoms . . . . . S910	7,051	100.0	*3.1	13.9	36.7	33.4	7.7	*5.2	46.8	53.2
Shoulder symptoms . . . . . S940	6,825	100.0	*3.0	9.2	28.8	36.7	13.8	8.5	49.1	50.9
Chest pain and related symptoms (not related to body system) . . . . . S050	6,785	100.0	*3.6	*4.9	23.7	36.4	17.2	14.2	55.7	44.3
Hypertension . . . . . D510	6,699	100.0	*0.9	*1.5	14.3	36.4	25.8	21.1	60.7	39.3
Glaucoma . . . . . D415	6,508	100.0	*0.4	-	9.1	20.1	34.0	36.5	60.5	39.5
Leg symptoms . . . . . S920	6,368	100.0	*4.9	*5.8	20.7	30.3	19.0	19.3	53.9	46.1
Hand and finger symptoms . . . . . S960	5,893	100.0	*6.2	19.3	26.5	23.7	14.0	10.4	47.1	52.9
Skin lesion . . . . . S865	5,632	100.0	*8.6	*5.7	16.7	22.9	26.2	19.8	54.4	45.6
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . D205	5,561	100.0	*2.1	*0.9	14.9	33.8	35.5	12.8	57.4	42.6
Vertigo, dizziness . . . . . S225	5,417	100.0	*3.0	*4.8	19.4	27.9	18.6	26.3	67.2	32.8
Foot and toe symptoms . . . . . S935	5,397	100.0	*6.9	*5.2	31.8	31.8	15.3	*9.1	58.9	41.1

<sup>1</sup>Based on A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC) (14).

**Table 35. Number and percent distribution of office visits by patient's prior-visit status, and return visit rate, according to the 25 morbidity-related principal reasons for visit most frequently mentioned by patients: United States, 1991**

Principal reason for visit and RVC code <sup>1</sup>	Total	New problem visits <sup>2</sup>	Return visits for old problems	Percent distribution		Return visit rate <sup>3</sup>	
				Total	New problem visits <sup>2</sup>		
	Number in thousands						
All visits . . . . .	669,689	255,991	413,698	100.0	38.2	61.8	1.6
Cough . . . . . S440	24,263	12,173	12,091	100.0	50.2	49.8	1.0
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	17,882	10,689	7,192	100.0	59.8	40.2	0.7
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	13,404	7,019	6,385	100.0	52.4	47.6	0.9
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	12,977	4,761	8,216	100.0	36.7	63.3	1.7
Skin rash . . . . . S860	12,119	8,231	3,888	100.0	67.9	32.1	0.5
Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	11,106	6,070	5,036	100.0	54.7	45.3	0.8
Fever . . . . . S010	10,318	5,889	4,430	100.0	57.1	42.9	0.8
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	10,128	4,252	5,877	100.0	42.0	58.0	1.4
Vision dysfunction . . . . . S305	10,011	4,680	5,331	100.0	46.7	53.3	1.1
Knee symptoms . . . . . S925	9,522	4,045	5,477	100.0	42.5	57.5	1.4
Nasal congestion . . . . . S400	8,444	3,377	5,068	100.0	40.0	60.0	1.5
Head cold, upper respiratory infection (coryza) . . . . . S445	7,616	4,266	3,350	100.0	56.0	44.0	0.8
Neck symptoms . . . . . S900	7,193	3,058	4,135	100.0	42.5	57.5	1.4
Depression . . . . . S110	7,060	1,412	5,648	92.8	20.0	80.0	4.0
Low back symptoms . . . . . S910	7,051	2,960	4,091	100.0	42.0	58.0	1.4
Shoulder symptoms . . . . . S940	6,825	3,398	3,427	100.0	49.8	50.2	1.0
Chest pain and related symptoms (not related to body system) . . . . . S050	6,785	2,680	4,105	100.0	39.5	60.5	1.5
Hypertension . . . . . D510	6,699	1,155	5,545	100.0	17.2	82.8	4.8
Glaucoma . . . . . D415	6,508	566	5,942	100.0	8.7	91.3	10.5
Leg symptoms . . . . . S920	6,368	2,794	3,573	100.0	43.9	56.1	1.3
Hand and finger symptoms . . . . . S960	5,893	3,082	2,812	100.0	52.3	47.7	0.9
Skin lesion . . . . . S865	5,632	2,686	2,946	100.0	47.7	52.3	1.1
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . D205	5,561	830	4,731	100.0	14.9	85.1	5.7
Vertigo, dizziness . . . . . S225	5,417	2,420	2,998	100.0	44.7	55.3	1.2
Foot and toe symptoms . . . . . S935	5,397	2,770	2,627	100.0	51.3	48.7	0.9

<sup>1</sup>Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC)* (14).

<sup>2</sup>"New problem" visits may be made by either old or new patients.

<sup>3</sup>Return visit rate is the ratio of visits made by previously seen patients for the care of previously treated problems to visits made for the treatment of new problems.

**Table 36. Number and percent distribution of office visits by diagnostic services ordered or provided, according to the 25 morbidity-related principal reasons for visit most frequently mentioned by patients: United States, 1991**

Principal reason for visit and RVC code <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits in thousands	Diagnostic services ordered or provided <sup>2</sup>					
		Total	None	Blood pressure check	Lab test <sup>3</sup>	Radiology <sup>4</sup>	Other diagnostic service <sup>5</sup>
		Percent distribution					
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	35.2	43.2	40.2	9.7	22.6
Cough . . . . . S440	24,263	100.0	43.3	43.6	19.4	11.4	8.6
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	17,882	100.0	28.0	41.0	51.2	1.7	9.7
Earache or ear infection . . . . . S355	13,404	100.0	63.6	24.6	9.3	*1.3	14.2
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	12,977	100.0	33.7	47.2	20.6	21.1	7.2
Skin rash . . . . . S860	12,119	100.0	57.3	31.8	20.2	*1.3	7.5
Stomach pain, cramps, and spasms . . . . . S545	11,106	100.0	18.1	59.3	62.9	22.3	18.2
Fever . . . . . S010	10,318	100.0	62.0	11.4	37.1	*2.5	*5.0
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	10,128	100.0	26.4	54.9	24.8	*9.0	19.3
Vision dysfunction . . . . . S305	10,011	100.0	22.0	9.3	6.7	*5.2	92.5
Knee symptoms . . . . . S925	9,522	100.0	46.0	30.5	17.3	25.6	12.3
Nasal congestion . . . . . S400	8,444	100.0	56.2	28.6	9.3	6.6	12.2
Head cold, upper respiratory infection (coryza) . . . . . S445	7,616	100.0	43.3	47.8	28.7	*3.4	13.9
Neck symptoms . . . . . S900	7,193	100.0	49.8	38.0	9.3	12.3	8.6
Depression . . . . . S110	7,060	100.0	44.5	31.8	16.3	*2.6	37.6
Low back symptoms . . . . . S910	7,051	100.0	41.2	31.6	9.4	24.3	9.7
Shoulder symptoms . . . . . S940	6,825	100.0	43.9	35.3	12.0	23.7	14.4
Chest pain and related symptoms (not related to body system) . . . . . S050	6,785	100.0	10.0	70.4	40.8	24.8	59.3
Hypertension . . . . . D510	6,699	100.0	*5.5	92.1	59.3	*6.5	17.2
Glaucoma . . . . . D415	6,508	100.0	*3.7	*0.2	—	—	<sup>6</sup> 183.3
Leg symptoms . . . . . S920	6,368	100.0	33.5	49.6	31.4	16.2	16.3
Hand and finger symptoms . . . . . S960	5,893	100.0	41.7	27.1	18.8	30.7	12.6
Skin lesion . . . . . S865	5,632	100.0	58.2	27.0	21.1	*3.3	*5.3
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . D205	5,561	100.0	*5.3	83.9	<sup>7</sup> 112.7	*4.4	17.1
Vertigo, dizziness . . . . . S225	5,417	100.0	16.0	69.6	31.5	*8.0	32.9
Foot and toe symptoms . . . . . S935	5,397	100.0	34.2	41.8	18.5	22.1	*6.2

<sup>1</sup>Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC)* (14).

<sup>2</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one diagnostic service may be reported per visit.

<sup>3</sup>Includes urinalysis, cholesterol measure, pap test, strep throat test, HIV serology, and other unspecified lab tests.

<sup>4</sup>Includes mammogram, chest x ray, and other unspecified radiology.

<sup>5</sup>Includes EKG—resting, EKG—exercise, hearing test, visual acuity, mental status exam, allergy testing, spirometry, and other unspecified diagnostic services.

<sup>6</sup>95.4 percent of these visits included a visual acuity examination, and 88.0 percent included other unspecified diagnostic services.

<sup>7</sup>65.6 percent of these visits included an unspecified lab test, while cholesterol measure and urinalysis were reported at 22.2 percent and 24.9 percent, respectively.

**Table 37. Number, percent distribution, and cumulative percent of office visits by patient's prior-visit status and principal diagnosis: United States, 1991**

<i>Prior-visit status, principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
<b>New problem visits<sup>2</sup></b>			
All new problem visits . . . . .	255,991	100.0	. . .
General medical examination . . . . . V70	10,637	4.2	4.2
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	10,087	3.9	8.1
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	6,939	2.7	10.8
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	6,529	2.6	13.4
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	5,996	2.3	15.7
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	4,920	1.9	17.6
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	4,345	1.7	19.3
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . . 692	4,287	1.7	21.0
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	3,818	1.5	22.5
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	3,399	1.3	23.8
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	3,381	1.3	25.1
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	3,106	1.2	26.4
Disorders of conjunctiva . . . . . 372	3,056	1.2	27.5
Other noninfectious gastroenteritis and colitis . . . . . 558	2,993	1.2	28.7
Other disorders of urethra and urinary tract . . . . . 599	2,742	1.1	29.8
General symptoms . . . . . 780	2,564	1.0	30.8
Peripheral enthesopathies and allied syndromes . . . . . 726	2,502	1.0	31.8
Other symptoms involving abdomen and pelvis . . . . . 789	2,423	0.9	32.7
Disorders of external ear . . . . . 380	2,373	0.9	33.6
Other disorders of synovium, tendon, and bursa . . . . . 727	2,350	0.9	34.6
Disorders of refraction and accommodation . . . . . 367	2,334	0.9	35.5
Other diseases due to viruses and chlamydiae . . . . . 078	2,326	0.9	36.4
Acute tonsillitis . . . . . 463	2,120	0.8	37.2
Disorders of menstruation and other abnormal bleeding from female genital tract . . . . . 626	2,002	0.8	38.0
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	1,955	0.8	38.7
All other diagnoses . . . . .	156,808	61.3	100.0
<b>Return visits for conditions previously treated by the physician</b>			
All return visits . . . . .	413,698	100.0	. . .
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	20,082	4.9	4.9
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	16,838	4.1	8.9
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	12,926	3.1	12.0
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	10,838	2.6	14.7
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	9,794	2.4	17.0
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	9,246	2.2	19.3
General medical examination . . . . . V70	7,684	1.9	21.1
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	7,475	1.8	22.9
Asthma . . . . . 493	7,148	1.7	24.7
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	6,841	1.7	26.3
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	6,065	1.5	27.8
Cataract . . . . . 366	5,673	1.4	29.1
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	5,041	1.2	30.4
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	5,020	1.2	31.6
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	4,969	1.2	32.8
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	4,916	1.2	34.0
Other postsurgical states . . . . . V45	4,843	1.2	35.1
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	4,838	1.2	36.3
Special investigations and examinations . . . . . V72	4,686	1.1	37.4
Follow-up examination . . . . . V67	4,303	1.0	38.5
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	4,238	1.0	39.5
Affective psychoses . . . . . 296	4,095	1.0	40.5
General symptoms . . . . . 780	3,537	0.9	41.3
Disorders of lipid metabolism . . . . . 272	3,456	0.8	42.2
Intervertebral disc disorders . . . . . 722	3,348	0.8	43.0
All other diagnoses . . . . .	235,798	57.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

<sup>2</sup>"New problem" visits may be made by either old or new patients.

**Table 38. Number and percent distribution of office visits by patient's age and sex, according to selected principal diagnoses: United States, 1991**

Principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits in thousands	Age							Sex		
		Total	Under 15 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	Female	Male	
			Percent distribution								
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	18.7	9.2	27.7	21.2	12.5	10.8	59.8	40.2	
Infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . . 001-139	24,570	100.0	35.9	14.2	29.3	11.3	5.3	4.0	56.9	43.1	
Neoplasms . . . . . 140-239	23,308	100.0	3.4	3.2	18.6	31.2	25.1	18.5	59.1	40.9	
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders . . . . . 240-279	27,312	100.0	2.0	2.0	23.0	35.2	25.5	12.3	64.7	35.3	
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	12,793	100.0	*1.5	*1.1	11.0	35.7	34.5	16.2	57.1	42.9	
Mental disorders . . . . . 290-319	26,167	100.0	9.2	5.7	43.9	29.5	6.6	5.0	56.2	43.8	
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	6,220	100.0	*5.1	*3.8	49.2	32.3	*5.8	*3.7	64.8	35.2	
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs . . . . . 320-389	77,724	100.0	27.9	5.1	16.5	18.0	14.7	17.8	56.1	43.9	
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	11,043	100.0	*0.2	-	7.0	22.5	31.7	38.5	60.8	39.2	
Cataract . . . . . 366	7,540	100.0	*0.3	*0.3	*1.6	15.5	37.4	44.9	60.2	39.8	
Disorders of refraction and accommodation . . . . . 367	5,420	100.0	19.3	13.4	27.3	29.5	*6.0	*4.5	56.8	43.2	
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	16,185	100.0	79.2	6.1	7.7	4.3	*1.2	*1.6	50.7	49.3	
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . . 390-459	50,226	100.0	*0.7	1.0	10.4	32.5	28.3	27.1	55.6	44.4	
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	23,188	100.0	*0.6	*1.2	12.3	37.0	25.2	23.7	62.3	37.7	
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	5,713	100.0	*0.1	-	*1.9	29.8	37.0	31.2	44.5	55.5	
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . . 460-519	92,100	100.0	35.6	9.2	26.2	15.4	7.4	6.2	57.8	42.2	
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	11,015	100.0	43.7	13.8	27.1	10.5	*3.7	*1.2	54.1	45.9	
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites . . . . . 465	16,928	100.0	57.7	7.6	18.5	10.0	3.6	*2.6	57.7	42.3	
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	11,570	100.0	26.6	7.1	36.4	21.3	*4.7	*3.9	60.8	39.2	
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	9,405	100.0	20.9	12.4	44.9	15.6	*4.1	*2.1	61.3	38.7	
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	9,757	100.0	28.4	7.4	26.7	19.3	11.3	6.9	66.9	33.1	
Asthma . . . . . 493	8,804	100.0	30.8	10.4	26.2	17.5	7.8	7.2	52.8	47.2	
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . . 520-579	22,724	100.0	15.7	6.2	27.9	22.9	15.2	12.1	52.9	47.1	
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . . 580-629	39,308	100.0	3.4	11.2	37.8	25.0	14.2	8.4	77.0	23.0	
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . 680-709	39,578	100.0	12.7	15.1	28.8	21.3	13.2	8.9	56.1	43.9	
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . . 692	7,049	100.0	17.8	8.8	30.2	26.7	10.0	*6.6	57.4	42.6	
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	9,464	100.0	9.3	37.8	33.2	10.6	7.0	*2.1	61.4	38.6	
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . . 710-739	45,829	100.0	4.1	6.0	31.9	31.6	13.7	12.6	58.2	41.8	
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	5,513	100.0	*0.8	*1.4	6.9	30.3	32.3	28.3	70.3	29.7	
Other and unspecified disorders of back . . . . . 724	5,197	100.0	*1.5	10.5	40.9	26.9	*9.7	10.4	51.9	48.1	
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions . . . . . 780-799	25,694	100.0	15.0	6.9	28.6	23.0	13.2	13.4	60.0	40.0	
General symptoms . . . . . 780	6,101	100.0	17.7	*7.1	29.0	24.1	10.2	11.9	55.8	44.1	
Injury and poisoning . . . . . 800-999	53,400	100.0	15.1	16.8	35.3	20.1	7.7	5.0	46.9	53.1	
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	6,381	100.0	*2.3	19.0	42.5	23.6	10.9	*1.7	53.5	46.5	
Supplementary classification . . . . . V01-V82	101,433	100.0	29.1	13.9	33.4	12.4	5.8	5.5	68.2	31.8	
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	17,271	100.0	98.7	*1.3	...	...	...	...	49.1	50.9	
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	20,657	100.0	0.6	33.4	65.8	*0.1	-	-	100.0	...	
Other postsurgical states . . . . . V45	5,354	100.0	5.6	*4.8	27.1	32.7	12.0	17.8	56.6	43.4	
General medical examination . . . . . V70	18,321	100.0	29.1	13.6	33.3	17.1	4.3	*2.8	56.4	43.6	
Special investigations and examinations . . . . . V72	6,318	100.0	10.5	14.6	41.6	17.7	9.5	*6.1	79.5	20.5	
All other diagnoses <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	9,292	100.0	25.9	14.7	35.9	8.3	*5.3	9.9	76.1	23.9	
Unknown <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	11,025	100.0	17.7	13.9	27.9	20.3	10.1	10.1	69.6	30.4	

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (15).

<sup>2</sup>Includes diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (280-289); complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (630-676); congenital anomalies (740-759); and certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (760-779).

<sup>3</sup>Includes blank diagnoses, uncodable diagnoses, and illegible diagnoses.

**Table 39. Number and percent distribution of office visits by patient's prior-visit status, and return visit rate, according to selected principal diagnoses: United States, 1991**

Principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code <sup>1</sup>	Total	New problem visits <sup>2</sup>		Return visits for old problems		Return visit rate <sup>3</sup>	
		Total	New problem visits <sup>2</sup>	Total	Return visits for old problems		
	Number in thousands			Percent distribution			
All visits . . . . .	669,689	255,991	413,698	100.0	38.2	61.8	1.6
Infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . . 001-139	24,570	14,792	9,778	100.0	38.2	61.8	0.7
Neoplasms . . . . . 140-239	23,308	5,885	17,423	100.0	60.3	39.8	3.0
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders . . . . . 240-279	27,312	4,910	22,402	100.0	18.0	82.0	4.6
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	12,793	1,955	10,838	100.0	15.3	84.7	5.5
Mental disorders . . . . . 290-319	26,167	5,857	20,310	100.0	22.4	77.6	3.5
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	6,220	1,250	4,969	100.0	20.1	79.9	4.0
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs . . . . . 320-389	77,724	29,178	48,546	100.0	37.5	62.5	1.7
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	11,043	1,249	9,794	100.0	11.3	88.7	7.8
Cataract . . . . . 366	7,540	1,867	5,673	100.0	24.8	75.2	3.0
Disorders of refraction and accommodation . . . . . 367	5,420	2,334	3,086	100.0	43.1	56.9	1.3
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	16,185	6,939	9,246	100.0	42.9	57.1	1.3
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . . 390-459	50,226	8,464	41,762	100.0	16.9	83.1	4.9
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	23,188	3,106	20,082	100.0	13.4	86.6	6.5
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	5,713	797	4,916	100.0	14.0	86.0	6.2
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . . 460-519	92,100	42,336	49,764	100.0	46.0	54.0	1.2
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	11,015	5,996	5,020	100.0	54.4	45.6	0.8
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites . . . . . 465	16,928	10,087	6,841	100.0	59.6	40.4	0.7
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	11,570	6,529	5,041	100.0	56.4	43.6	0.8
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	9,405	1,930	7,475	100.0	20.5	79.5	3.9
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	9,757	4,920	4,838	100.0	50.4	49.6	1.0
Asthma . . . . . 493	8,804	1,656	7,148	100.0	18.8	81.2	4.3
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . . 520-579	22,724	11,447	11,277	100.0	50.4	49.6	1.0
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . . 580-629	39,308	17,368	21,940	100.0	44.2	55.8	1.3
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . 680-709	39,578	18,268	21,310	100.0	46.2	53.8	1.2
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . . 692	7,049	4,287	2,761	100.0	60.8	39.2	0.6
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	9,464	3,399	6,065	100.0	35.9	64.1	1.8
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . . 710-739	45,829	17,356	28,473	100.0	46.2	53.8	1.6
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	5,513	1,275	4,238	100.0	23.1	76.9	3.3
Other and unspecified disorders of back . . . . . 724	5,197	1,871	3,326	100.0	36.0	64.0	1.8
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions . . . . . 780-799	25,694	12,468	13,226	100.0	48.5	51.5	1.1
General symptoms . . . . . 780	6,101	2,564	3,537	100.0	42.0	58.0	1.4
Injury and poisoning . . . . . 800-999	53,400	29,818	23,582	100.0	55.8	44.2	0.8
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	6,381	3,381	3,000	100.0	53.0	47.0	0.9
Supplementary classification . . . . . V01-V82	101,433	30,389	71,043	100.0	30.0	70.0	2.3
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	17,271	4,345	12,926	100.0	25.2	74.8	3.0
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	20,657	3,818	16,838	100.0	18.5	81.5	4.4
Other postsurgical states . . . . . V45	5,354	512	4,843	100.0	9.6	90.4	9.5
General medical examination . . . . . V70	18,321	10,637	7,684	100.0	58.1	41.9	0.7
Special investigations and examinations . . . . . V72	6,318	1,632	4,686	100.0	25.8	74.2	2.9
All other diagnoses <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	9,292	3,016	6,276	100.0	32.5	67.5	2.1
Unknown <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	11,025	4,438	6,587	100.0	40.3	59.7	1.5

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

<sup>2</sup>"New problem" visits may be made either by new or old patients.

<sup>3</sup>Return visit rate is the ratio of visits made by previously seen patients for the care of previously treated problems to visits made for the treatment of new problems.

<sup>4</sup>Includes diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (280-289); complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (630-676); congenital anomalies (740-759); and certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (760-779).

<sup>5</sup>Includes blank diagnoses, uncodable diagnoses, and illegible diagnoses.

**Table 40. Number and percent distribution of office visits by therapeutic services ordered or provided, according to selected principal diagnoses: United States, 1991**

Principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code <sup>2</sup>	Number of visits in thousands	Therapeutic services ordered or provided <sup>1</sup>								
		Counseling and education							Other	
		Total	None	Diet	Exercise	Weight reduction	Cholesterol reduction	Other counseling and education <sup>3</sup>	Other therapy <sup>4</sup>	
Percent distribution										
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	66.9	11.4	8.2	3.8	3.1	16.8	4.4	
Infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . . 001-139	24,570	100.0	77.5	9.4	2.6	*1.0	*0.7	14.4	*1.0	
Neoplasms . . . . . 140-239	23,308	100.0	77.8	4.1	*2.4	*1.6	*2.0	16.2	*2.4	
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders . . . . . 240-279	27,312	100.0	50.1	39.7	23.2	18.9	17.2	9.9	1.5	
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	12,793	100.0	47.9	43.4	24.8	17.6	12.4	9.0	*4.5	
Mental disorders . . . . . 290-319	26,167	100.0	21.2	6.2	6.6	3.6	*1.6	33.7	7.6	
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	6,220	100.0	23.2	*7.1	*7.1	*3.1	*1.6	27.6	13.8	
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs . . . . . 320-389	77,724	100.0	79.2	3.2	2.2	1.1	0.8	8.0	18.9	
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	11,043	100.0	93.1	-	-	-	-	*1.5	7.7	
Cataract . . . . . 366	7,540	100.0	77.5	-	-	-	-	*5.6	17.0	
Disorders of refraction and accommodation . . . . . 367	5,420	100.0	41.1	-	-	-	-	-	57.7	
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	16,185	100.0	86.8	*3.9	*0.5	*0.6	*0.6	11.8	*0.7	
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . . 390-459	50,226	100.0	58.4	27.4	18.2	11.3	12.8	12.4	3.1	
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	23,188	100.0	54.4	31.7	21.8	13.5	14.0	14.9	*1.7	
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	5,713	100.0	60.3	28.9	19.7	10.5	15.2	10.3	*3.7	
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . . 460-519	92,100	100.0	81.4	5.5	3.2	2.0	1.5	12.9	7.7	
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	11,015	100.0	84.2	3.9	*2.2	*0.3	*0.7	11.4	*1.7	
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites . . . . . 465	16,928	100.0	76.0	6.5	*2.5	*0.9	*1.4	18.8	*1.6	
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	11,570	100.0	88.8	*3.7	*3.2	*1.3	*1.3	6.7	*0.6	
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	9,405	100.0	90.7	*4.0	*1.7	*1.1	*0.7	*0.0	*0.5	
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	9,757	100.0	78.5	6.2	*2.4	*3.3	*3.6	15.5	*1.8	
Asthma . . . . . 493	8,804	100.0	76.0	6.3	*4.8	*5.3	*2.3	14.4	*4.9	
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . . 520-579	22,724	100.0	62.2	26.4	6.1	5.5	2.8	15.7	*2.4	
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . . 580-629	39,308	100.0	72.1	9.3	4.1	3.0	*1.4	21.4	7.5	
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . 680-709	39,578	100.0	79.6	3.7	*1.2	*1.1	*1.1	12.7	8.6	
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . . 692	7,049	100.0	80.1	*5.7	*2.0	*2.7	*3.1	12.7	*2.3	
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	9,464	100.0	80.6	*4.7	*0.7	*0.5	*0.5	12.8	*4.5	
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . . 710-739	45,829	100.0	56.0	8.9	22.3	5.9	3.4	7.3	6.4	
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	5,513	100.0	61.1	21.2	23.3	13.8	10.5	*4.8	*7.5	
Other and unspecified disorders of back . . . . . 724	5,197	100.0	50.6	*7.5	24.3	*8.8	*1.7	*9.5	*8.2	
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions . . . . . 780-799	25,694	100.0	71.6	13.8	6.2	4.0	3.5	14.6	5.1	
General symptoms . . . . . 780	6,101	100.0	75.5	11.2	*6.6	*2.8	*3.4	11.8	*5.3	
Injury and poisoning . . . . . 800-999	53,400	100.0	61.3	2.9	12.1	2.7	*0.9	7.3	14.5	
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	6,381	100.0	36.4	*4.6	23.5	*4.3	*1.3	*5.6	13.7	
Supplementary classification . . . . . V01-V82	101,433	100.0	60.2	16.7	8.6	2.1	1.6	36.1	4.4	
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	17,271	100.0	32.4	42.0	6.5	*0.5	*1.3	88.2	*0.9	
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	20,657	100.0	60.3	18.2	12.4	*1.6	*0.2	30.2	-	
Other postsurgical states . . . . . V45	5,354	100.0	66.6	*5.1	10.5	*3.3	*1.8	*9.3	14.2	
General medical examination . . . . . V70	18,321	100.0	66.6	14.4	10.6	*3.0	*2.5	37.8	*0.6	
Special investigations and examinations . . . . . V72	6,318	100.0	70.1	*7.4	*5.5	*3.0	*2.4	24.2	*1.1	
All other diagnoses <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	9,292	100.0	57.5	16.6	6.6	*3.1	*0.6	35.5	9.0	
Unknown <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	11,025	100.0	78.0	5.7	*4.1	*2.3	*2.7	9.8	10.3	

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one category may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

<sup>3</sup>Includes counseling in the following areas: drug abuse, alcohol abuse, smoking cessation, family/social, growth/development, family planning, and other unspecified counseling.

<sup>4</sup>Includes psychotherapy, physiotherapy, corrective lenses, hearing aid, and other therapy.

<sup>5</sup>Includes diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (280-289); complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (630-676); congenital anomalies (740-759); and certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (760-779).

<sup>6</sup>Includes blank diagnoses, uncodable diagnoses, and illegible diagnoses.

**Table 41. Number and percent distribution of office visits by medication therapy ordered or provided and ambulatory surgery scheduled or performed, according to selected principal diagnoses: United States, 1991**

Principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits in thousands	One or more medications ordered or provided at the visit			Ambulatory surgery scheduled or performed at the visit			
		Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	
			Percent distribution					
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	63.3	36.7	100.0	6.2	93.8	
Infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . . 001-139	24,570	100.0	72.0	28.0	100.0	2.3	97.7	
Neoplasms . . . . . 140-239	23,308	100.0	41.7	58.3	100.0	15.2	84.8	
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders . . . . . 240-279	27,312	100.0	77.8	22.2	100.0	2.3	97.8	
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	12,793	100.0	80.4	19.6	100.0	*2.4	100.0	
Mental disorders . . . . . 290-319	26,167	100.0	68.6	31.4	100.0	*0.3	99.7	
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	6,220	100.0	65.6	34.4	100.0	—	100.0	
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs . . . . . 320-389	77,724	100.0	64.6	35.4	100.0	9.1	90.9	
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	11,043	100.0	83.8	16.2	100.0	7.9	92.1	
Cataract . . . . . 366	7,540	100.0	38.6	61.4	100.0	22.2	77.8	
Disorders of refraction and accommodation . . . . . 367	5,420	100.0	6.1	93.9	100.0	*3.0	97.0	
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	16,185	100.0	91.4	8.7	100.0	*1.4	98.6	
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . . 390-459	50,226	100.0	81.9	18.1	100.0	4.0	96.0	
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	23,188	100.0	86.6	13.4	100.0	*1.0	99.0	
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	5,713	100.0	82.6	17.4	100.0	*1.9	98.1	
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . . 460-519	92,100	100.0	86.9	13.1	100.0	1.1	98.9	
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	11,015	100.0	84.7	15.3	100.0	*0.1	99.9	
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites . . . . . 465	16,928	100.0	85.4	14.6	100.0	*0.6	94.4	
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	11,570	100.0	92.0	8.0	100.0	*2.6	97.4	
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	9,405	100.0	85.5	14.5	100.0	*0.1	99.9	
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	9,757	100.0	95.6	4.4	100.0	*0.3	99.7	
Asthma . . . . . 493	8,804	100.0	91.9	8.1	100.0	*0.3	99.7	
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . . 520-579	22,724	100.0	62.7	37.3	100.0	*10.4	89.6	
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . . 580-629	39,308	100.0	55.6	44.4	100.0	13.7	86.3	
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . 680-709	39,578	100.0	69.3	30.7	100.0	10.5	89.5	
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . . 692	7,049	100.0	90.3	9.7	100.0	*1.5	98.5	
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	9,464	100.0	72.1	27.9	100.0	16.8	83.2	
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . . 710-739	45,829	100.0	63.6	36.4	100.0	7.8	92.2	
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	5,513	100.0	72.6	27.4	100.0	11.3	88.7	
Other and unspecified disorders of back . . . . . 724	5,197	100.0	71.8	28.2	100.0	*1.2	98.8	
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions . . . . . 780-799	25,694	100.0	61.3	38.7	100.0	5.5	94.5	
General symptoms . . . . . 780	6,101	100.0	63.3	36.7	100.0	*0.6	99.4	
Injury and poisoning . . . . . 800-999	53,400	100.0	47.5	52.5	100.0	10.1	89.9	
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	6,381	100.0	61.2	38.8	100.0	*0.4	99.6	
Supplementary classification . . . . . V01-V82	101,433	100.0	41.9	58.1	100.0	3.2	96.8	
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	17,271	100.0	53.4	46.6	100.0	—	100.0	
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	20,657	100.0	41.9	58.1	100.0	*2.5	97.5	
Other postsurgical states . . . . . V45	5,354	100.0	34.4	65.6	100.0	*6.5	93.5	
General medical examination . . . . . V70	18,321	100.0	26.7	73.3	100.0	*1.3	98.7	
Special investigations and examinations . . . . . V72	6,318	100.0	40.9	59.1	100.0	*0.4	99.6	
All other diagnoses <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	9,292	100.0	48.5	51.5	100.0	7.8	92.2	
Unknown <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	11,025	100.0	45.4	54.6	100.0	*3.0	97.0	

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (15).

<sup>2</sup>Includes diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (280-289); complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (630-676); congenital anomalies (740-759); and certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (760-779).

<sup>3</sup>Includes blank diagnoses, uncodable diagnoses, and illegible diagnoses.



**Table 42. Number, percent distribution, and cumulative percent of office visits by selected therapeutic services ordered or provided and ranked principal diagnoses: United States, 1991**

<i>Therapeutic service ordered or provided, principal diagnosis, and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
Diet counseling and education . . . . .	76,476	100.0	...
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	7,342	9.6	9.6
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	7,255	9.5	19.1
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	5,558	7.3	26.4
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	3,767	4.9	31.3
General medical examination . . . . . V70	2,635	3.4	34.7
Disorders of lipid metabolism . . . . . 272	2,029	2.7	37.4
Obesity and other hyperalimentation . . . . . 278	1,732	2.3	39.6
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	1,650	2.2	41.8
Other noninfectious gastroenteritis and colitis . . . . . 558	1,350	1.8	43.6
Hypertensive heart disease . . . . . 402	1,337	1.7	45.3
Functional digestive disorders, not elsewhere classified . . . . . 564	1,324	1.7	47.0
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	1,169	1.5	48.6
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	1,092	1.4	50.0
Intestinal infections due to other organisms . . . . . 008	785	1.0	51.0
Migraine . . . . . 346	774	1.0	52.0
Heart failure . . . . . 428	716	0.9	53.0
General symptoms . . . . . 780	684	0.9	53.9
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	633	0.8	54.7
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	608	0.8	55.5
All other diagnoses . . . . .	34,036	44.5	100.0
Exercise counseling and education . . . . .	54,617	100.0	...
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	5,044	9.2	9.2
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	3,171	5.8	15.0
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	2,570	4.7	19.7
General medical examination . . . . . V70	1,937	3.5	23.3
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	1,501	2.7	26.0
Obesity and other hyperalimentation . . . . . 278	1,466	2.7	28.7
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	1,283	2.3	31.1
Intervertebral disc disorders . . . . . 722	1,265	2.3	33.4
Other and unspecified disorders of back . . . . . 724	1,262	2.3	35.7
Peripheral enthesopathies and allied syndromes . . . . . 726	1,145	2.1	37.8
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	1,129	2.1	39.9
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	1,123	2.1	41.9
Disorders of lipid metabolism . . . . . 272	1,087	2.0	43.9
Migraine . . . . . 346	778	1.4	45.3
Hypertensive heart disease . . . . . 402	757	1.4	46.7
Other disorders of synovium, tendon, and bursa . . . . . 727	637	1.2	47.9
All other diagnoses . . . . .	28,462	52.1	100.0
Weight reduction counseling and education . . . . .	25,761	100.0	...
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	3,134	12.2	12.2
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	2,258	8.8	20.9
Obesity and other hyperalimentation . . . . . 278	1,613	6.3	27.2
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	763	3.0	30.2
Disorders of lipid metabolism . . . . . 272	756	2.9	33.1
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	601	2.3	35.4
All other diagnoses . . . . .	16,636	64.6	100.0
Cholesterol reduction counseling and education . . . . .	20,818	100.0	...
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	3,238	15.6	15.6
Disorders of lipid metabolism . . . . . 272	2,127	10.2	25.8
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	1,585	7.6	33.4
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	869	4.2	37.6
Hypertensive heart disease . . . . . 402	591	2.8	40.4
All other diagnoses . . . . .	12,408	59.6	100.0
Growth/development counseling and education . . . . .	20,580	100.0	...
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	10,091	49.0	49.0
General medical examination . . . . . V70	2,975	14.5	63.5
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	845	4.1	67.6
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	742	3.6	71.2
All other diagnoses . . . . .	5,927	28.8	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

**Table 42. Number, percent distribution, and cumulative percent of office visits by selected therapeutic services ordered or provided and ranked principal diagnoses: United States, 1991—Con.**

<i>Therapeutic service ordered or provided, principal diagnosis, and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of visits in thousands</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
Smoking cessation counseling and education . . . . .	19,013	100.0	...
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	938	4.9	4.9
Bronchitis not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	687	3.6	8.5
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	603	3.2	11.7
Chronic airway obstruction, not elsewhere classified . . . . . 496	601	3.2	14.9
General medical examination . . . . . V70	599	3.2	18.0
All other diagnoses . . . . .	15,585	82.0	100.0
Family/social counseling and education . . . . .	12,486	100.0	...
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	2,846	22.8	22.8
Neurotic disorders; depressive disorder not elsewhere classified; adjustment reaction; hyperkinetic syndrome of childhood; affective psychoses; disturbance of emotions specific to childhood; personality disorders . . . . . 300,311,309,314,296,313,301	1,925	15.4	38.2
General medical examination . . . . . V70	1,207	9.7	47.9
All other diagnoses . . . . .	6,508	52.1	100.0
Family planning counseling and education . . . . .	5,456	100.0	...
Contraceptive management . . . . . V25	1,079	19.8	19.8
Postpartum care and examination . . . . . V24	*570	10.4	30.2
All other diagnoses . . . . .	3,807	69.8	100.0
Psychotherapy . . . . .	17,789	100.0	...
Affective psychoses . . . . . 296	3,873	21.8	21.8
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	3,286	18.5	40.2
Depressive disorder, not elsewhere classified . . . . . 311	1,843	10.4	50.6
Personality disorders . . . . . 301	1,619	9.1	59.7
Schizophrenic disorders . . . . . 295	1,123	6.3	66.0
Adjustment reaction . . . . . 313	1,060	6.0	72.0
All other diagnoses . . . . .	4,985	28.0	100.0
Physiotherapy . . . . .	16,763	100.0	...
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	2,145	12.8	12.8
Sprains and strains of sacroiliac region . . . . . 846	1,500	8.9	21.7
Intervertebral disc disorders . . . . . 722	1,515	9.0	30.8
Other and unspecified disorders of back . . . . . 724	840	5.0	35.8
Peripheral enthesopathies and allied syndromes . . . . . 726	682	4.1	39.9
Other disorders of cervical region . . . . . 723	611	3.6	43.5
All other diagnoses . . . . .	9,470	56.5	100.0
Ambulatory surgery . . . . .	40,548	100.0	...
Cataract . . . . . 366	1,639	4.0	4.0
Diseases of the sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	1,592	3.9	8.0
Chronic renal failure . . . . . 585	1,339	3.3	11.3
Disorders of the external ear . . . . . 380	1,222	3.0	14.3
Other malignant neoplasm of skin . . . . . 173	906	2.2	16.5
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	870	2.1	18.7
Other disorders of synovium, tendon, and bursa . . . . . 727	812	2.0	20.7
Mononeuritis of upper limb and mononeuritis multiplex . . . . . 354	750	1.8	22.5
Fracture of one or more phalanges of hand . . . . . 682	682	1.7	24.2
Peripheral enthesopathies and allied syndromes . . . . . 726	642	1.6	25.8
Other dermatoses . . . . . 702	623	1.5	27.3
Hemorrhoids . . . . . 455	616	1.5	28.8
All other diagnoses . . . . .	28,850	71.2	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

**Table 43. Number and percent distribution of drug mentions by therapeutic classification: United States, 1991**

<i>Therapeutic classification<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of drug mentions in thousands</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>
All drug mentions . . . . .	804,615	100.0
Cardiovascular-renal drugs . . . . .	124,554	15.5
Antihypertensive agents . . . . .	45,462	5.7
Diuretics . . . . .	28,913	3.6
Antianginal agents . . . . .	22,888	2.8
Cardiac glycosides . . . . .	10,446	1.3
Antiarrhythmic agents . . . . .	9,398	1.2
Agents used in peripheral or cerebral vascular disorders . . . . .	4,308	0.5
Other . . . . .	3,139	0.4
Antimicrobial agents . . . . .	119,663	14.9
Penicillins . . . . .	37,470	4.7
Cephalosporins . . . . .	23,822	3.0
Erythromycins and lincosamides . . . . .	19,801	2.5
Tetracyclines . . . . .	10,374	1.3
Sulfanomides and trimethoprim . . . . .	10,025	1.2
Urinary tract antiseptics . . . . .	5,288	0.7
Miscellaneous antibacterial agents . . . . .	4,463	0.6
Antiviral agents . . . . .	3,307	0.4
Antifungal agents for systemic mycoses . . . . .	2,878	0.4
Other . . . . .	2,235	0.3
Drugs used for relief of pain . . . . .	85,132	10.6
General analgesics . . . . .	43,667	5.4
Antiarthritics . . . . .	37,696	4.7
Drugs used in gout . . . . .	2,988	0.4
Other . . . . .	*780	*0.1
Respiratory tract drugs . . . . .	80,758	10.0
Bronchodilators, antiasthmatics . . . . .	24,992	3.1
Nasal decongestants . . . . .	20,084	2.5
Antitussives, expectorants, mucolytics . . . . .	18,323	2.3
Antihistamines . . . . .	17,300	2.2
Other . . . . .	*60	*0.1
Hormones and related agents . . . . .	76,507	9.5
Adrenal corticosteroids . . . . .	24,180	3.0
Blood glucose regulators . . . . .	17,186	2.1
Estrogens and progestins . . . . .	13,254	1.6
Agents used to treat thyroid disease . . . . .	10,843	1.3
Contraceptive agents . . . . .	8,516	1.1
Other . . . . .	2,528	0.3
Psychopharmacological drugs . . . . .	49,588	6.2
Antidepressants . . . . .	19,722	2.5
Antianxiety agents . . . . .	16,209	2.0
Antipsychotic drugs . . . . .	5,824	0.7
Sedatives and hypnotics . . . . .	5,282	0.7
CNS stimulants, anorexiant . . . . .	2,551	0.3
Skin/mucous membrane . . . . .	43,912	5.5
Dermatologics . . . . .	41,053	5.1
Other . . . . .	2,859	0.4
Metabolic and nutrient agents . . . . .	36,964	4.6
Vitamins, minerals . . . . .	18,579	2.3
Replenishers and regulators of water and electrolytes . . . . .	8,948	1.1
Agents used to treat hyperlipidemia . . . . .	8,631	1.1
Other . . . . .	*806	*0.1
Ophthalmic drugs . . . . .	35,260	4.4
Ocular anti-infective and anti-inflammatory agents . . . . .	14,726	1.8
Agents used to treat glaucoma . . . . .	13,121	1.6
Miscellaneous ophthalmic preparations . . . . .	5,521	0.7
Mydriatics and cycloplegics . . . . .	1,892	0.2

<sup>1</sup>Therapeutic classification is based on the standard drug classification used in the *National Drug Code Directory, 1995 Edition (17)*.

**Table 43. Number and percent distribution of drug mentions by therapeutic classification: United States, 1991—Con.**

<i>Therapeutic classification</i> <sup>1</sup>	<i>Number of drug mentions in thousands</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>
Gastrointestinal agents . . . . .	34,157	4.2
Agents used in disorders of upper GI tract . . . . .	17,615	2.2
Miscellaneous gastrointestinal agents . . . . .	9,707	1.2
Laxatives . . . . .	3,737	0.5
Antidiarrheal agents . . . . .	2,155	0.3
Other . . . . .	*942	*0.1
Immunologic agents . . . . .	28,440	3.5
Vaccines and antiserum . . . . .	27,959	3.5
Other . . . . .	*481	*0.1
Neurologic drugs . . . . .	16,372	2.0
Hematologic agents . . . . .	10,571	1.3
Other and unclassified <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	62,737	7.8

<sup>1</sup>Therapeutic classification is based on the standard drug classification used in the *National Drug Code Directory, 1985 Edition (17)*.

<sup>2</sup>Includes anesthetics, antidotes, radiopharmaceuticals/contrast media oncolytics, otologics, antiparasitics, and unclassified/miscellaneous drugs.

**Table 44. Number, percent, and therapeutic classification of drug mentions by treatment status and the 20 generic substances most frequently utilized at office visits: United States, 1991**

<i>Treatment status and generic substance<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of drug mentions in thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Therapeutic classification<sup>2</sup></i>
All drug mentions . . . . .	804,615	100.0	
<b>New medications<sup>3</sup></b>			
All new medications . . . . .	308,341	38.3	...
Amoxicillin . . . . .	24,397	3.0	Penicillins
Acetaminophen . . . . .	13,083	1.6	General analgesics
Erythromycin . . . . .	12,132	1.5	Erythromycins and lincosamides
Phenylephrine . . . . .	9,338	1.2	Nasal decongestants
Guaifenesin . . . . .	7,776	1.0	Antitussives, expectorants, mucolytics
Phenylpropanolamine . . . . .	7,653	1.0	Nasal decongestants
Codeine . . . . .	7,633	0.9	General analgesics
Cefaclor . . . . .	6,712	0.8	Cephalosporins
Trimethoprim . . . . .	6,607	0.8	Sulfanomides and trimethoprim
Sulfamethoxazole . . . . .	6,577	0.8	Sulfanomides and trimethoprim
Naproxen . . . . .	6,259	0.8	Antiarthritics
Ibuprofen . . . . .	6,061	0.8	Antiarthritics
Hydrocortisone . . . . .	5,680	0.7	Dermatologics
Cephalexin . . . . .	5,346	0.7	Cephalosporins
Alcohol . . . . .	5,270	0.7	Antitussives, expectorants, mucolytics
Pseudoephedrine . . . . .	5,140	0.6	Antitussives, expectorants, mucolytics
Neomycin . . . . .	4,459	0.6	Dermatologics
Chlorpheniramine . . . . .	4,309	0.5	Nasal decongestants
Polymixin B . . . . .	3,951	0.5	Dermatologics
Doxycycline . . . . .	3,914	0.5	Tetracyclines
<b>Continuing medications<sup>4</sup></b>			
All continuing medications . . . . .	426,474	53.0	...
Hydrochlorothiazide . . . . .	13,437	1.7	Diuretics
Acetaminophen . . . . .	13,183	1.6	General analgesics
Aspirin . . . . .	9,149	1.1	General analgesics
Digoxin . . . . .	8,805	1.1	Cardiac glycosides
Furosemide . . . . .	8,372	1.0	Diuretics
Levothyroxine . . . . .	7,482	0.9	Agents used to treat thyroid disease
Albuterol . . . . .	7,416	0.9	Bronchodilators, antiasthmatics
Amoxicillin . . . . .	6,943	0.9	Penicillins
Triamterene . . . . .	6,857	0.9	Diuretics
Vitamin A . . . . .	6,819	0.8	Vitamins, minerals
Verapamil . . . . .	6,800	0.8	Antiarrhythmic agents
Insulin . . . . .	6,646	0.8	Blood glucose regulators
Riboflavin . . . . .	6,459	0.8	Vitamins, minerals
Pyridoxine . . . . .	6,251	0.8	Vitamins, minerals
Ergocalciferol . . . . .	6,102	0.8	Vitamins, minerals
Theophylline . . . . .	6,009	0.7	Bronchodilators, antiasthmatics
Enalapril . . . . .	6,002	0.7	Antihypertensive agents
Estrogens . . . . .	5,995	0.7	Estrogens and progestins
Nifedipine . . . . .	5,938	0.7	Antianginal agents
Diltiazem . . . . .	5,858	0.7	Antianginal agents

<sup>1</sup>Frequency of mentions combines single-ingredient agents with mentions of the agent as an ingredient in a combination drug.  
<sup>2</sup>Therapeutic classification is based on the *National Drug Code Directory, 1985 edition* (NDC) (17). In cases where a generic substance had more than one therapeutic use, it was listed under the NDC classification that occurred with the highest frequency.  
<sup>3</sup>New medications are those for which the patient does not have a current prescription.  
<sup>4</sup>Continuing medications are those which the physician has instructed the patient to continue, regardless of whether a refill prescription was ordered at the visit.

**Table 45. Number and percent distribution of drug mentions by medication status, according to therapeutic classification: United States, 1991**

Therapeutic classification <sup>2</sup>	Number of drug mentions in thousands	Total	New medication <sup>1</sup>		
			Yes	No	Unknown
			Percent distribution		
All drug mentions . . . . .	804,615	100.0	38.3	53.0	8.7
Cardiovascular-renal drugs . . . . .	124,554	100.0	9.0	83.2	7.8
Antimicrobial agents . . . . .	119,663	100.0	72.1	21.8	6.1
Drugs used for relief of pain . . . . .	85,132	100.0	41.2	50.6	8.2
Respiratory tract drugs . . . . .	80,758	100.0	55.9	37.9	6.2
Hormones and related agents . . . . .	76,507	100.0	25.0	67.9	7.1
Psychopharmacological drugs . . . . .	49,588	100.0	24.0	69.6	6.4
Skin/mucous membrane . . . . .	43,912	100.0	63.6	28.9	7.5
Metabolic and nutrient agents . . . . .	36,964	100.0	18.2	73.3	8.4
Ophthalmic drugs . . . . .	35,260	100.0	33.7	60.0	6.2
Gastrointestinal agents . . . . .	34,157	100.0	37.5	53.1	9.4
Immunologic agents . . . . .	28,440	100.0	40.2	26.5	33.4
Neurologic drugs . . . . .	16,372	100.0	33.1	60.6	6.3
Hematologic agents . . . . .	10,571	100.0	14.3	78.5	7.2
Other and unclassified <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	62,735	100.0	35.0	50.6	14.4

<sup>1</sup>Physicians were asked to specify, for each medication ordered or provided at the current visit, whether the medication was a new or continuing prescription. Continued medications include those which were to be continued by the patient, even if a refill was not specifically ordered at the visit.

<sup>2</sup>Therapeutic classification is based on the standard drug classification used in the *National Drug Code Directory, 1985 Edition* (17).

<sup>3</sup>Includes anesthetics, antidotes, radiopharmaceuticals/contrast media, oncology, otology, antiparasitics, and unclassified/miscellaneous drugs.

**Table 46. Number and percent distribution of office visits by disposition of visit, according to selected principal diagnoses: United States, 1991**

Principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code <sup>2</sup>	Number of visits in thousands	Disposition of visit <sup>1</sup>				
		Total	Return at specified time	Return if needed	Other <sup>3</sup>	No follow-up planned
		Percent distribution				
All visits . . . . .	669,689	100.0	63.3	21.6	9.6	9.5
Infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . . 001-139	24,570	100.0	43.7	37.8	7.5	14.7
Neoplasms . . . . . 140-239	23,308	100.0	77.2	8.6	13.0	5.2
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders . . . . . 240-279	27,312	100.0	84.7	7.4	9.8	3.2
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	12,793	100.0	92.2	*3.8	7.8	*1.4
Mental disorders . . . . . 290-319	26,167	100.0	82.4	10.7	6.6	3.8
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	6,220	100.0	81.2	12.6	*5.8	*3.9
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs . . . . . 320-389	77,724	100.0	68.0	19.8	7.7	7.9
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	11,043	100.0	96.0	*1.5	*4.9	*0.9
Cataract . . . . . 366	7,540	100.0	85.2	*5.9	*6.9	*4.8
Disorders of refraction and accommodation . . . . . 367	5,420	100.0	51.6	26.6	*3.4	19.3
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	16,185	100.0	60.8	30.0	5.5	7.0
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . . 390-459	50,226	100.0	83.9	9.1	9.9	2.5
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	23,188	100.0	85.8	8.4	7.9	*2.3
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	5,713	100.0	87.4	*6.2	11.7	*1.5
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . . 460-519	92,100	100.0	44.6	38.2	7.2	12.8
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	11,015	100.0	23.2	51.9	8.9	18.5
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites . . . . . 465	16,928	100.0	33.0	46.3	3.9	18.4
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	11,570	100.0	33.0	51.7	7.3	12.4
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	9,405	100.0	76.6	16.1	*4.6	5.9
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	9,757	100.0	39.4	43.2	7.5	13.4
Asthma . . . . . 493	8,804	100.0	73.2	21.0	*4.4	*2.9
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . . 520-579	22,724	100.0	49.8	27.9	17.2	9.6
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . . 580-629	39,308	100.0	58.9	22.1	16.1	8.1
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . 680-709	39,578	100.0	56.4	26.5	7.8	11.5
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . . 692	7,049	100.0	38.4	39.2	*6.4	18.5
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	9,464	100.0	68.5	17.0	7.5	9.7
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . . 710-739	45,829	100.0	62.9	22.3	13.1	*5.9
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	5,513	100.0	67.8	17.9	13.4	*7.3
Other and unspecified disorders of back . . . . . 724	5,197	100.0	56.8	26.1	16.1	*4.5
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions . . . . . 780-799	25,694	100.0	59.5	20.1	19.9	6.6
General symptoms . . . . . 780	6,101	100.0	57.9	17.8	25.5	*6.2
Injury and poisoning . . . . . 800-999	53,400	100.0	60.7	22.6	8.0	11.0
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	6,381	100.0	60.6	27.4	*6.0	10.0
Supplementary classification . . . . . V01-82	101,433	100.0	67.0	16.7	5.6	15.1
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	17,271	100.0	84.1	20.4	*2.4	4.7
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	20,657	100.0	93.8	2.9	4.8	*0.7
Other postsurgical states . . . . . V45	5,354	100.0	76.3	12.1	*8.0	*5.8
General medical examination . . . . . V70	18,321	100.0	35.0	21.9	5.5	40.7
Special investigations and examinations . . . . . V72	6,318	100.0	52.7	27.6	10.4	12.7
All other diagnoses <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	9,292	100.0	70.3	13.3	18.2	*3.9
Unknown <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	11,025	100.0	58.4	21.0	9.3	16.1

<sup>1</sup>Numbers may not add to totals because more than one disposition may be coded per visit.

<sup>2</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (15).

<sup>3</sup>Includes the following dispositions: telephone followup planned, referred to other physician, returned to referring physician, admitted to hospital, and other unspecified dispositions.

<sup>4</sup>Includes diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (280-289); complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (630-676); congenital anomalies (740-759); and certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (760-779).

<sup>5</sup>Includes blank diagnoses, uncodable diagnoses, and illegible diagnoses.

**Table 47. Number, percent, and annual rate of office visits by selected principal diagnoses, according to selected years: United States, 1985-91**

<i>Principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>1985</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1991</i>
	Number of visits in thousands		
All visits . . . . .	636,386	692,702	669,689
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	26,049	27,708	23,188
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	24,182	23,578	20,657
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	17,088	15,669	17,271
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	15,607	20,033	16,185
General medical examination . . . . . V70	14,916	20,166	18,321
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	14,691	15,765	16,928
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	12,302	13,237	12,793
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	9,320	8,511	6,220
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	9,302	10,958	11,015
Disorders of refraction and accommodation . . . . . 367	8,268	7,686	5,420
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	8,104	8,146	9,464
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	7,835	11,631	9,405
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	7,563	11,160	9,757
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	6,732	5,712	5,713
Asthma . . . . . 493	6,503	6,822	8,804
Cataract . . . . . 366	6,285	6,335	7,540
Special investigations and examinations . . . . . V72	5,838	4,261	6,318
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . . 692	5,837	6,542	7,048
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	5,675	8,700	11,570
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	5,522	6,259	5,513
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	5,322	7,614	6,381
General symptoms . . . . . 780	4,874	5,550	6,101
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	4,304	4,952	11,043
	Percent		
All visits . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	4.1	4.0	3.5
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	3.8	3.4	3.1
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	2.7	2.3	2.6
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	2.5	2.9	2.4
General medical examination . . . . . V70	2.3	2.9	2.7
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	2.3	2.3	2.5
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	1.9	1.9	1.9
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	1.5	1.2	0.9
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	1.5	1.6	1.6
Disorders of refraction and accommodation . . . . . 367	1.3	1.1	0.8
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . . 706	1.3	1.2	1.4
Allergic rhinitis . . . . . 477	1.2	1.7	1.4
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . . 490	1.2	1.6	1.5
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . . 414	1.1	0.8	0.9
Asthma . . . . . 493	1.0	1.0	1.3
Cataract . . . . . 366	1.0	0.9	1.1
Special investigations and examinations . . . . . V72	0.9	0.6	0.9
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . . 692	0.9	0.9	1.1
Chronic sinusitis . . . . . 473	0.9	1.3	1.7
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . . 715	0.9	0.9	0.8
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . . 847	0.8	1.1	1.0
General symptoms . . . . . 780	0.8	0.8	0.9
Glaucoma . . . . . 365	0.7	0.7	1.6
	Number of visits per 100 persons <sup>2</sup>		
All visits . . . . .	274.1	284.4	269.3
Essential hypertension . . . . . 401	11.2	11.4	9.3
Normal pregnancy . . . . . V22	10.4	9.7	8.3
Health supervision of infant or child . . . . . V20	7.4	6.4	6.9
Suppurative and unspecified otitis media . . . . . 382	6.7	8.2	6.5
General medical examination . . . . . V70	6.4	8.3	7.4
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites . . . . . 465	6.3	6.5	6.8
Diabetes mellitus . . . . . 250	5.3	5.4	5.1
Neurotic disorders . . . . . 300	4.0	3.5	2.5
Acute pharyngitis . . . . . 462	4.0	4.5	4.4

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 47. Number, percent, and annual rate of office visits by selected principal diagnoses, according to selected years: United States, 1985-91—Con.**

<i>Principal diagnosis and ICD-9-CM code<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>1985</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1991</i>	
		Number of visits per 100 persons <sup>2</sup>		
Disorders of refraction and accommodation . . . . .	367	3.6	3.2	2.2
Diseases of sebaceous glands . . . . .	706	3.5	3.3	3.8
Allergic rhinitis . . . . .	477	3.4	4.8	3.8
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic . . . . .	490	3.3	4.6	3.9
Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . .	414	2.9	2.3	2.3
Asthma . . . . .	493	2.8	2.8	3.5
Cataract . . . . .	366	2.7	2.6	3.0
Special investigations and examinations . . . . .	V72	2.5	1.7	2.5
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . .	692	2.5	2.7	2.8
Chronic sinusitis . . . . .	473	2.4	3.6	4.7
Osteoarthritis and allied disorders . . . . .	715	2.4	2.6	2.2
Sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back . . . . .	847	2.3	3.1	2.6
General symptoms . . . . .	780	2.1	2.3	2.5
Glaucoma . . . . .	365	1.9	2.0	4.4

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*.

<sup>2</sup>Based on U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as of July 1 of each year.

# Appendixes

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# Appendix I

## Technical notes

This report is based on data collected during the period January 1991–December 1991 in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS), a sample survey of office-based physicians conducted by the Division of Health Care Statistics of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The NAMCS survey design and procedures are presented in the following sections.

### Statistical design

#### Scope of the survey

The target population of the 1991 NAMCS includes office visits made in the United States by ambulatory patients to nonfederally employed physicians who are principally engaged in office-based patient care practice, but not in the specialties of anesthesiology, pathology, or radiology. Included are visits to physicians in solo, partnership, and group practice settings, and visits that occur in private, nonhospital-based clinics and health maintenance organizations (HMO's). Not included are visits made to hospital-based clinics and government-operated facilities, telephone contacts, and nonoffice visits.

#### Sample design

The NAMCS utilizes a three-stage survey design that involves probability samples of primary sampling units (PSU's), physician practices within PSU's, and patient visits within physician practices. The first-stage sample consisted of 112 PSU's that comprise a probability subsample of PSU's used in the 1985–94 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). A PSU is a county, a group of counties or county equivalents (such as parishes or independent cities), or towns and townships (for some PSU's in New England). The PSU strata were defined within four geographic regions by metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or non-MSA status by using the 1980 Census of Population data and a computer program that minimized the between-PSU variances for NHIS stratification variables. (MSA is defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on the basis of the 1980 Census.) From the strata thus formed, the PSUs were selected with probability proportional to the projected 1985 population. For details of the NHIS PSU sample design, see Massey et al. (18).

The second stage consisted of a probability sample of practicing physicians, selected from the masterfiles maintained

by the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), who met the following criteria:

- Office-based, as defined by AMA and AOA.
- Principally engaged in patient care activities.
- Nonfederally employed.
- Not in the specialties and subspecialties of anesthesiology, pathology, and radiology.

The 1991 NAMCS physician universe included 286,132 doctors of medicine and 46,891 doctors of osteopathy. Eligible physicians were stratified into the following 15 groups:

- General and family practice
- Doctors of osteopathy
- Internal medicine
- Pediatrics
- General surgery
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Orthopedic surgery
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Dermatology
- Urological surgery
- Psychiatry
- Neurology
- Ophthalmology
- Otolaryngology
- Other specialties

The number of physicians selected from each stratum was calculated to produce strata with similar levels of precision. The 1991 NAMCS physician sample included 2,540 physicians. Sample physicians were screened at the time of the survey to ensure that they met the aforementioned criteria; 653 physicians did not meet the criteria and were, therefore, ruled out of scope (ineligible) for the study. Reasons for being out of scope include the following: the physician is deceased; retired; employed in teaching, research, or administration; or engages mainly in hospital-based rather than office-based practice. Of the 1,887 in scope (eligible) physicians, 1,354 (71.8 percent) participated in the study. Of the participating physicians, 216 saw no patients during their assigned reporting period because of vacations, illnesses, or other reasons for being temporarily out of office-based practice. The physician universe, sample size, and response data by physician strata are shown in table I.

**Table I. Number of physicians in the universe, total sample, sample response categories, and response rate by physician strata: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 1991**

Physician strata	Universe <sup>1</sup>	Sample					Response rate <sup>2</sup>
		Total	Out of scope	In scope	Non-respondents	Respondents	
							Percent
All strata . . . . .	334,714	2,540	653	1,887	533	1,354	72
General and family practice . . . . .	57,754	364	115	249	73	176	71
Osteopathy . . . . .	14,558	264	58	206	51	155	75
Internal medicine . . . . .	46,891	206	56	150	56	94	63
Pediatrics . . . . .	28,117	177	65	112	26	86	77
General surgery . . . . .	19,356	229	62	167	36	131	78
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	25,422	171	37	134	38	96	72
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	14,237	116	8	108	34	74	69
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	11,027	125	28	97	39	58	60
Dermatology . . . . .	6,217	101	16	85	17	68	80
Urological surgery . . . . .	7,366	117	18	99	29	70	71
Psychiatry . . . . .	23,058	105	38	67	14	53	79
Neurology . . . . .	5,758	98	15	83	28	55	66
Ophthalmology . . . . .	13,149	108	23	85	22	63	74
Otorhinolaryngology . . . . .	6,433	105	20	85	27	58	68
All other specialties . . . . .	55,371	254	94	160	43	117	73

<sup>1</sup>These data are derived from the American Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association and represent the total number of physicians eligible for the NAMCS.

<sup>2</sup>Response rate is the number of physicians responding divided by the number of physicians in scope.

The third stage was the selection of patient visits within the annual practices of the sample physicians. This stage involved two steps. First, the total physician sample was divided into 52 random subsamples of approximately equal size; then each subsample was randomly assigned to 1 of the 52 weeks in the survey year. Second, a systematic random sample of visits was selected by the physician during the assigned reporting week. The visit sampling rate varied for this final step from a 100-percent sample for very small practices to a 20-percent sample for very large practices. The method for determining the visit sampling rate is described later in this appendix and in the Induction Interview form in appendix III. The 1991 NAMCS responding sample physicians completed 33,795 Patient Records.

## Data collection and processing

### Field procedures

The U.S. Bureau of the Census, Housing Surveys Branch, participated with NCHS staff in planning the survey and collecting survey data. The Census Bureau was responsible for carrying out all field operations and provided trained field representatives who worked closely with sample physicians.

Both mail and telephone contacts were used to enlist sample physicians for NAMCS. Initially, physicians were sent introductory letters from the Director of NCHS (see appendix III). When appropriate, a letter from the physician's specialty organization endorsing the survey and urging participation was enclosed with the NCHS letter. Approximately 2 weeks prior to the physician's assigned reporting period, a field representative telephoned the physician to briefly explain the study and arrange an appointment for a personal interview. Physicians who did not initially respond were usually recon-

tacted via telephone or special explanatory letter and requested to reconsider participation in the study.

During the personal interview, the field representative determined the physician's eligibility for the study, obtained cooperation, delivered survey materials with verbal and printed instructions, and assigned a predetermined Monday-Sunday reporting period. A short induction interview concerning basic practice characteristics, such as type of practice and expected number of office visits, was conducted (see appendix III). Office staff who were to assist with data collection were invited to attend the instructional session or were offered separate instructional sessions.

The field representative telephoned the sample physician prior to and during the assigned reporting week to answer questions that might have arisen and to ensure that survey procedures were going smoothly. At the end of the reporting week, the participating physician mailed the completed survey materials to the field representative who edited the forms for completeness before transmitting them for central data processing. Problems of missing or incomplete data were resolved through telephone followup by the field representative to the sample physicians.

### Data collection

The actual data collection for NAMCS was carried out by the sample physicians, often assisted by their office staff. Two data collection forms were employed by the physicians: the Patient Log and the Patient Record (see appendix III). The Patient Log was used to sequentially list all patients seen in the physician's office during the assigned reporting week and served as the sampling frame to indicate the office visits for which data were to be recorded on the Patient Records. A perforation between the patient's name on the Patient Log and

patient visit information on the Patient Record permitted the physician to detach and retain the listing of patients, thus assuring the anonymity of the patients.

Based on the physician's estimate of the expected number of office visits and expected number of days in practice during the assigned reporting week, each physician was assigned a visit sampling rate. The visit sampling rates were designed so that about 30 Patient Records would be completed by each physician during the assigned reporting week. Physicians expecting 10 or fewer visits each day recorded data for all visits, while those expecting more than 10 visits per day recorded data for every second, third, or fifth visit based on the predetermined sampling interval. These visit sampling procedures minimized the physician's data collection workload and maintained approximately equal reporting levels among sample physicians regardless of practice size. For physicians recording data for every second, third, or fifth patient visit, a random start was provided on the first page of the Patient Log so that predesignated sample visits recorded on each succeeding page of the Patient Log provided a systematic random sample of patient visits during the reporting period.

### Data processing

In addition to followups for missing and inconsistent data made by the field staff, numerous clerical edits were performed on data received for central data processing. These manual edit procedures reduced item nonresponse rates to 2 percent or less for most data items.

Information contained in item 10 ("Patient's complaint(s), symptom(s), or other reason(s) for this visit") of the Patient Record was coded according to *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC)* (14). The physician's diagnosis (item 11 of the Patient Record) was coded according to the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)* (15). A maximum of three entries were coded from each of these items.

Quality control for the medical coding operation involved a two-way 100 percent independent verification procedure. A dependent verification procedure was used to review and adjudicate all records with coding discrepancies.

Data on ambulatory surgical procedures (item 14 of the Patient Record) were classified and coded according to volume 3 of the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)* (15). Up to two ambulatory procedures were coded for each visit. Quality control for this item was identical to that described for patient's reason for visit and physician's diagnosis.

The NAMCS medication data (item 15 of the Patient Record) was classified and coded according to a scheme developed at NCHS based on the Drug Product Information File maintained by the American Druggist Blue Book Data Center. A description of the drug coding scheme and of the NAMCS drug data processing procedures has been published (16). A two-way 100 percent independent verification procedure was used to control the medication coding operation. As an additional quality control, all Patient Records with differences between drug coders or with illegible drug entries were reviewed and adjudicated.

Information from the Induction Interview form and Patient Records was keypunched with 100 percent verification and converted to computer tape. Extensive computer consistency and edit checks were performed to ensure complete and accurate data. Incomplete data items were imputed by assigning a value from a randomly selected Patient Record with similar characteristics; patient sex and age, physician specialty, and broad diagnostic categories were used as the basis for these imputations.

### Estimation procedures

Statistics from the NAMCS were derived by a multistage estimation procedure that produces essentially unbiased national estimates and has three basic components: (1) inflation by reciprocals of the probabilities of selection, (2) adjustment for nonresponse, and (3) ratio adjustment to fixed totals. Each component is briefly described below.

#### Inflation by reciprocals of probabilities of selection

Because the survey utilized a three-stage sample design, three probabilities of selection existed: (1) the probability of selecting the PSU, (2) the probability of selecting the physician within the PSU, and (3) the probability of selecting the office visit within the physician's practice. The overall probability of including a physician in the sample was the product of the probability of the PSU being selected multiplied by the probability of the physician being selected. The probability of selecting the physician within a PSU was 1.0 for physicians in nonmetropolitan areas and was the PSU weight divided by the sampling interval for physicians in metropolitan areas. The probability of selecting the office visit was defined as the number of office visits during the physician's assigned reporting week divided by the number of Patient Records completed. All weekly estimates were inflated by a factor of 52 to derive annual estimates.

#### Adjustment for nonresponse

Estimates from NAMCS data were adjusted to account for sample physicians who were in scope but did not participate in the study. This adjustment was calculated to minimize the impact of response on final estimates by imputing to nonresponding physicians the practice characteristics of similar responding physicians. For this purpose, physicians were judged similar if they had the same specialty designation and practiced in the same PSU.

#### Ratio adjustment

A poststratification adjustment was made within each of the 15 physician strata. The ratio adjustment was a multiplication factor that had as its numerator the number of physicians in the universe in each physician specialty strata and as its denominator the estimated number of physicians in that particular specialty strata. The numerator was based on figures obtained from the AMA and AOA masterfiles, and the denominator was based on data from the sample.

## Reliability of estimates

As in any survey, results are subject to both sampling and nonsampling errors. Nonsampling errors include reporting and processing errors, as well as biases due to nonresponse or incomplete response. The magnitude of the nonsampling errors cannot be computed. However, these errors were kept to a minimum by procedures built into the operation of the survey. To eliminate ambiguities and encourage uniform reporting, attention was given to the phrasing of questions, terms, and definitions. Also, extensive pretesting of most data items and survey procedures was performed. The steps taken to reduce bias in the data are discussed in the sections on field procedures and data collection. Quality control procedures and consistency and edit checks, discussed in the data processing section, reduced errors in data coding and processing. Because survey results are subject to sampling and nonsampling errors, the total error will be larger than the error due to sampling variability alone.

Because the statistics presented in this report are based on a sample, they differ somewhat from the figures that would be obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same forms, definitions, instructions, and procedures. However, the probability design of NAMCS permits the calculation of sampling errors. The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability that occurs by chance because only a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. The standard error, as calculated in this report, also reflects part of the variation that arises in the measurement process, but does not include estimates of any systematic biases that may 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 of 100 that it would be less than 2 1/2 times as large.

The relative standard error of an estimate is obtained by dividing the standard error by the estimate itself and is expressed as a percent of the estimate. In this report, an asterisk (\*) precedes any estimate with more than a 30-percent relative standard error.

Estimates of sampling variability were calculated with SESUDAAN software, which computes standard errors by using a first-order Taylor approximation of the deviation of estimates from their expected values. A description of the software and the approach it uses has been published (19).

Approximate relative standard errors for aggregate estimates are presented in figures I and II. To derive error estimates that would be applicable to a wide variety of statistics and could be prepared at moderate cost, several approximations were required. As a result, the relative standard errors shown in figures I and II should be interpreted as approximate rather than exact for any specific estimate. This applies to all estimates in this report with the exception of those related to ambulatory surgical procedures, discussed below. Directions for determining approximate relative standard errors follow.

## Estimates of aggregates

Figure I presents approximate relative standard errors for aggregate estimates of office visits, and figure II presents approximate relative standard errors for aggregate estimates of drug mentions. In each figure, curve A represents the relative standard errors appropriate for estimates based on all physicians, and curves B–D represent relative standard errors appropriate for estimates based on the individual physician group indicated.

Alternatively, relative standard errors (RSE's) for aggregate estimates may be calculated using the following general formula, where  $x$  is the aggregate of interest in thousands, and  $A$  and  $B$  are the appropriate coefficients from table II.

$$RSE(x) = \sqrt{A + \frac{B}{x}} \cdot 100.0$$

## Estimates of percents

Approximate relative standard errors (in percent) for estimates of percents may be calculated from figures I and II as follows. From the appropriate curve, obtain the relative standard error of the numerator and denominator of the percent. Square each of the RSE values, subtract the resulting value for the denominator from the resulting value for the numerator, and extract the square root. This approximation is valid if the RSE of the denominator is less than 0.05 or if the RSE's of the numerator and denominator are both less than 0.10.

Alternatively, RSE's for percents may be calculated using the following general formula, where  $p$  is the percent of interest and  $x$  is the denominator of the percent in thousands, using the appropriate coefficient from table II.

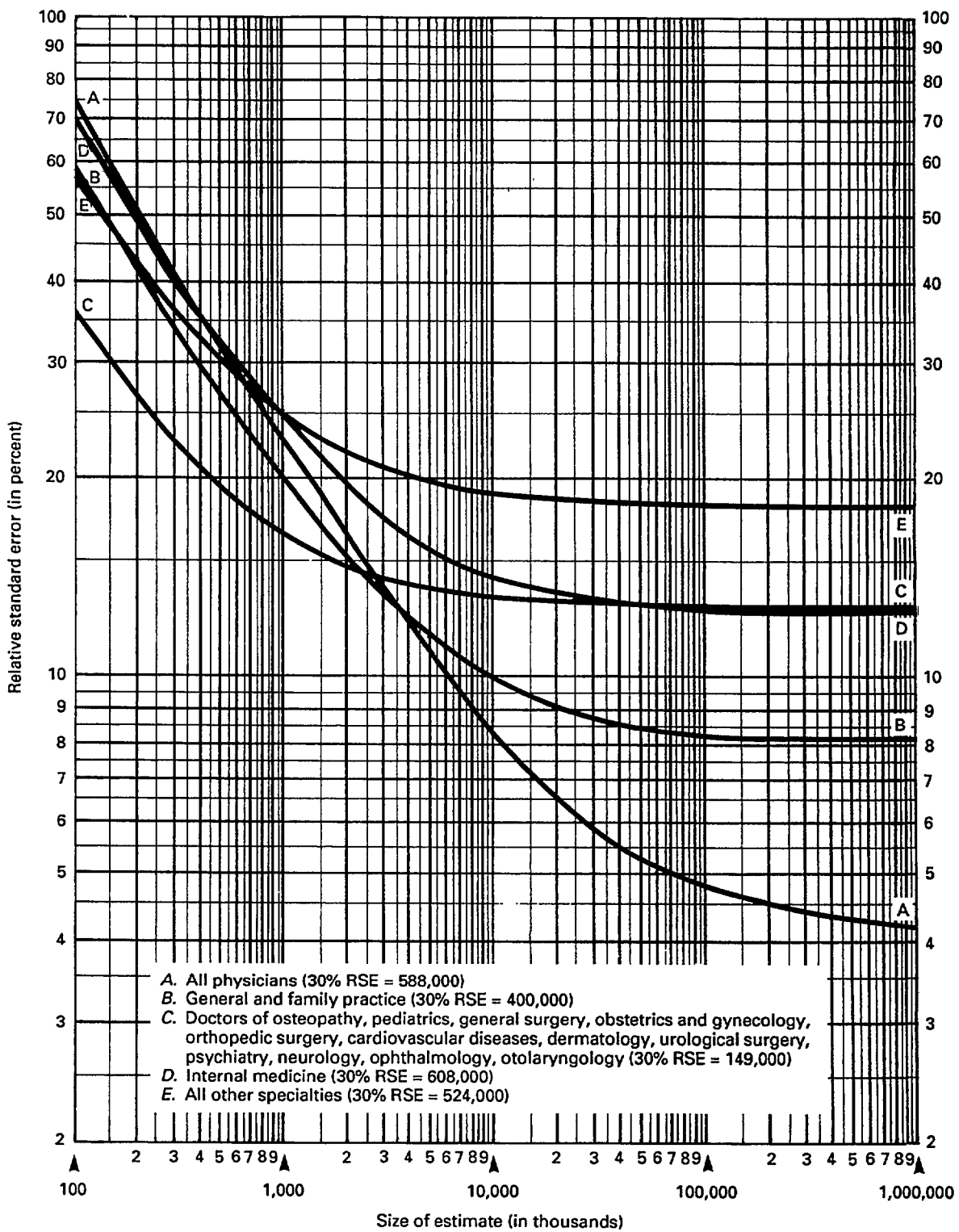
$$RSE(p) = \sqrt{\frac{B \cdot (1-p)}{p \cdot x}} \cdot 100.0$$

## Reliability of estimates relating to ambulatory surgical procedures

The 1991 NAMCS included a new item on the Patient Record form that instructed physicians to record up to two diagnostic or therapeutic ambulatory surgical procedures that were scheduled or performed at the office visit. Estimates relating to ambulatory surgical procedures have been presented in tables throughout this report with specific standard errors calculated using SESUDAAN software (20), rather than using the generalized variance curves that approximate relative standard errors for most NAMCS estimates. The decision to provide specific standard errors for these estimates was made following a statistical analysis of the data that resulted from this survey item. The analysis suggested that a generalized variance curve would be of limited utility, given the nature of the data in question.

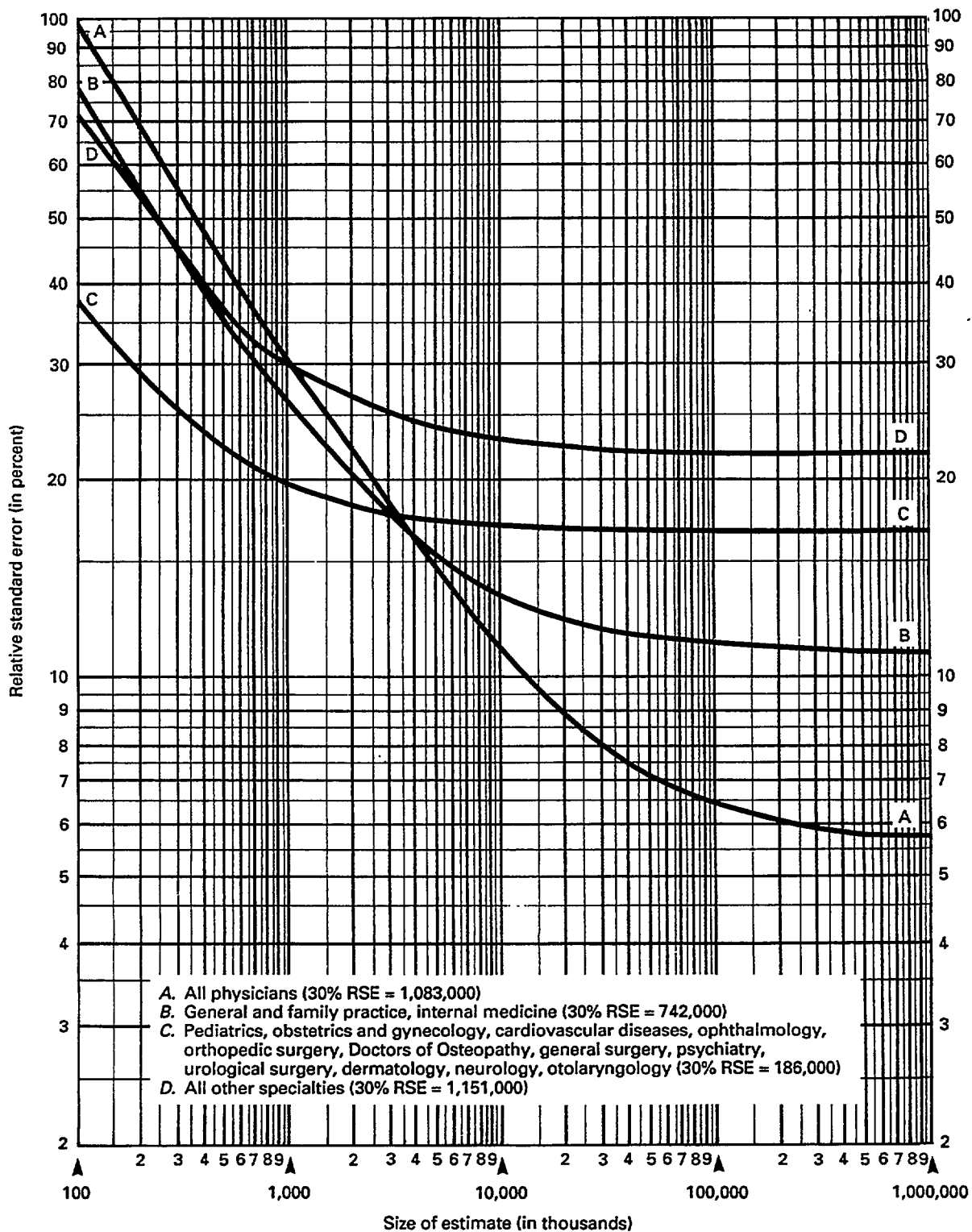
## Estimates of rates where numerator is not a subclass of denominator

Approximate relative standard errors for rates in which the denominator is the total U.S. population or one or more of



EXAMPLE OF USE OF TABLE: An estimate of 9 million visits to general and family practice physicians (read on scale at bottom of chart) has a relative standard error of 10.2 percent (read from curve B on scale at left of chart) or a standard error of 918,000 office visits (10.2 percent of 9 million office visits.)

Figure I. Approximate relative standard errors for estimated numbers of office visits based on all physicians (A) and on individual physician groups (B-E): National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 1991.



A. All physicians (30% RSE = 1,083,000)  
 B. General and family practice, internal medicine (30% RSE = 742,000)  
 C. Pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, cardiovascular diseases, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, Doctors of Osteopathy, general surgery, psychiatry, urological surgery, dermatology, neurology, otolaryngology (30% RSE = 186,000)  
 D. All other specialties (30% RSE = 1,151,000)

EXAMPLE OF USE OF TABLE: An estimate of 20 million drug mentions by pediatricians (read on scale at bottom of chart) has a relative standard error of 16.9 percent (read from curve C on scale at left of chart) or a standard error of 3,380,000 drug mentions (16.9 percent of 20 million drug mentions).

Figure II. Approximate relative standard errors for estimated numbers of drug mentions based on all physicians (A) and on individual physician groups (B-D): National Ambulatory Medical Survey, 1991.



the age-sex-race groups of the total population are equivalent to the relative standard error of the numerator that can be obtained from figures I or II.

### Estimates of differences between two statistics

The relative standard errors shown in this appendix are not directly applicable to differences between two sample estimates. The standard error of a difference is approximately the square root of the sum of squares of each standard error considered separately. This formula represents the standard error quite accurately for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics, although it is only a rough approximation in most other cases.

### Tests of significance

In this report, the determination of statistical inference is based on the t-test. The Bonferroni inequality was used to establish the critical value for statistically significant differences (0.05 level of significance). Terms relating to differences such as “greater than” and “less than” indicate that the differences are statistically significant. Terms such as “similar” or “no difference” mean that no statistical significance exists between the estimates being compared. A lack of comment regarding the difference between any two estimates does not mean that the difference was tested and found to be not significant.

### Population figures and rate computation

The population figures used in computing annual visit rates are presented in table III. The figures are based on the July 1, 1991 estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States.

### Rounding of numbers

Estimates presented in this report are rounded to the nearest thousand. For this reason, detailed figures within tables do not always add to totals. Rates and percents are calculated on the basis of the original, unrounded figures and may not agree precisely with percents calculated from rounded data.

### Systematic bias

No formal attempt was undertaken to determine or measure systematic bias in the 1991 NAMCS data. It should be noted, however, that there are several factors affecting the data that indicate these data underrepresent the total number of office visits. Some of these factors are briefly discussed below:

- Physicians who participated in NAMCS generally did a thorough and conscientious job in keeping the Patient Log; however, a postsurvey evaluation study conducted in the 1985 NAMCS among a random sample of participating physicians indicates that a small number of patient visits may have been accidentally omitted from the Patient Log; although this number is quite small, such omissions would result in an undercoverage of office visits. The

**Table II. Coefficients appropriate for determining relative standard errors by type of estimate and physician groups: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 1991**

Type of estimate and physician group	Coefficient for visits in thousands	
	A	B
Visits		
Overall totals . . . . .	0.001744284	51.82697927
General and family practice . . . . .	0.006617364	33.29640705
Internal medicine . . . . .	0.01573396	45.10067385
Doctors of osteopathy, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, cardiovascular diseases, psychiatry, urological surgery, dermatology, neurology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology . . . . .	0.0163602	10.90230286
All other . . . . .	0.03340709	29.631108
Drug mentions		
Overall totals . . . . .	0.003224617	93.92631687
General and family practice, internal medicine . . . . .	0.0125584	57.64543271
Doctors of osteopathy, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, cardiovascular diseases, urological surgery, dermatology, neurology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry . . . . .	0.02784109	11.55212504
All other . . . . .	0.0483582	46.53697419

same postsurvey study indicates that the inclusion of patient visits which did not actually occur was infrequent and would have a negligible effect on survey estimates.

- As previously stated, the physician universe for the 1991 NAMCS included all non-Federal, office-based, patient care physicians on the AMA and AOA masterfiles. The NAMCS was designed to provide statistically unbiased estimates of office visits to this designated population. Not included in the universe were physicians who were classified as federally employed or hospital-based, or who were principally engaged in research, teaching, administration, or other nonpatient care activity. Consequently, ambulatory patient visits in an office setting to these physicians would not be included in NAMCS estimates. In an attempt to measure the number of office visits to physicians not in the NAMCS universe, a NAMCS Complement Survey was conducted in 1980. This study involved a sample of approximately 2,000 physicians selected from among the 230,000 physicians in the AMA and AOA masterfiles who were not eligible (in scope) for the 1980 NAMCS. Details of the Complement Survey methodology and results have been published (20). Results indicate that about 17 percent of the Complement Survey physicians saw some ambulatory patients in an office setting and that an estimated 69 million office visits were made to these physicians in 1980.

### Comparison of diagnostic data from items 11 and 13

Item 13 of the 1991 NAMCS Patient Record form was a short checklist of four medical conditions—depression, hyper-

**Table III. Population figures used in computing annual visit rates shown in this report by selected demographic characteristics: July 1, 1991**

Characteristics	All ages	Under 15 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over
Race and sex		Number in thousands					
All races . . . . .	248,713	55,628	34,534	81,098	47,162	18,301	11,991
Female . . . . .	127,988	27,153	17,403	41,257	24,536	10,118	7,522
Male . . . . .	120,724	28,475	17,131	39,841	22,626	8,183	4,469
White . . . . .	208,202	44,707	27,726	67,944	40,628	16,323	10,874
Female . . . . .	106,616	21,823	13,881	34,135	209,086	8,975	6,816
Male . . . . .	101,586	22,284	13,845	33,809	19,642	7,348	4,058
Black . . . . .	30,896	8,755	5,077	9,640	4,861	1,609	954
Female . . . . .	16,461	4,304	2,649	5,294	2,690	915	610
Male . . . . .	14,435	4,451	2,428	4,346	2,171	694	344
Other . . . . .	9,614	2,166	1,731	3,514	1,673	368	163
Female . . . . .	4,911	1,026	873	1,828	860	227	96
Male . . . . .	4,704	1,140	858	1,686	655	130	66
Region							
Northeast . . . . .	50,300	...	...	...	...	...	...
Midwest . . . . .	59,735	...	...	...	...	...	...
South . . . . .	84,008	...	...	...	...	...	...
West . . . . .	54,670	...	...	...	...	...	...

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

tension, hypercholesterolemia, and depression—which physicians were instructed to fill out for the patient regardless of what was recorded as the physician’s diagnosis in item 11. In item 11, physicians were asked to report the principal diagnosis, which is the one most closely associated with the patient’s most important reason for the current visit, as well as up to two additional diagnoses existing at the time of the visit, whether they were of direct concern to that visit or not.

An analysis was undertaken to ascertain the amount of correspondence that existed between diagnostic data recorded in items 11 and 13. Because diagnostic data reported in item 11 were coded using the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (15)*, it was first necessary to determine which ICD-9-CM codes had relevance to each of the four conditions listed in item 13. The codes used to compare diagnostic data between these two data items are listed below. It was recognized that not all cases coded to certain of the diagnostic codes listed below would necessarily have the condition of interest (for example, other and unspecified hyperlipidemia might include cases of hypercholesterolemia but could also include other conditions not of interest to this analysis), but it was necessary to take them into account in order to be as comprehensive in the analysis as possible.

Visits with a mention of hypertension in item 13 were compared with visits showing a first, second, or third diagnosis in item 11 of any of the following ICD-9-CM codes: essential hypertension (401.0-401.9); hypertensive heart disease (402.00-402.91); hypertensive renal disease (403.00-403.91); hypertensive heart and renal disease (404.00-404.93); secondary hypertension (405.01-405.99); and hypertension complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (642.00-642.94).

Visits with a mention of hypercholesterolemia in item 13 were compared with visits showing a first, second, or third

diagnosis of pure hypercholesterolemia (272.0); mixed hypercholesterolemia (272.2); and other and unspecified hyperlipidemia (272.4).

Visits with a mention of depression in item 13 were compared with visits showing a first, second, or third diagnosis of senile dementia with depressive features (290.21); affective psychoses, excluding mania without depression, (296.20-296.89); depressive type psychosis (298.0); neurotic depression (300.4); chronic depressive personality disorder (301.12); cyclothymic disorder (301.13); brief depressive reaction (309.0); prolonged depressive reaction (309.1); adjustment reaction with mixed emotional features (309.28); depressive disorder, not elsewhere classified (311); and mental disorders complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (648.40-648.44).

Finally, visits with a mention of obesity in item 13 were compared with visits citing a first, second, or third diagnosis of congenital hypothyroidism (243); acquired hypothyroidism (244.0-244.9); panhypopituitarism (253.2); other anterior pituitary disorders (253.4); other disorders of neurohypophysis (253.6); iatrogenic pituitary disorders (253.7); other disorders of the pituitary and other syndromes of diencephalohypophysal origin (253.8); unspecified disorder of pituitary and hypothalamus (253.9); Cushing’s syndrome (255.0); other adrenal hypofunction (255.5); other specified disorders of adrenal glands (255.8); unspecified disorder of adrenal glands (255.9); other combinations of endocrine dysfunction (258.1); other specified polyglandular dysfunction (258.8); polyglandular dysfunction, unspecified (258.9); unspecified endocrine disorder (259.9); obesity (278.0); and edema or excessive weight gain in pregnancy without mention of hypertension (646.10-646.14). Preliminary results from this analysis have been reported in earlier sections of this report and will be explored further in a subsequent publication.

# Appendix II

## Definition of terms

### Terms relating to the survey

*Office*—Premises identified by physicians as locations for their ambulatory practices, customarily including consultation, examination, or treatment spaces the patients associate with a particular physician. Responsibility over time for patient care and professional services rendered generally resides with the individual physician rather than with any institution.

*Ambulatory patient*—An individual seeking personal health services who is neither bedridden nor currently admitted to any health care institution on the premises.

*Physician*—A duly licensed doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy. For purposes of this National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, physicians are classified as in scope or out of scope as follows:

- *In scope*—Physicians currently in practice who spend some time caring for ambulatory patients in office locations except as excluded below.
- *Out of scope*—

Physicians who treat patients only indirectly, including specialists in anesthesiology, pathology, forensic pathology, radiology, therapeutic radiology, and diagnostic radiology.

Physicians who are federally employed, including those physicians who work for the Department of Veterans Affairs or who are in military service.

Physicians who treat patients only in institutional settings, such as nursing homes and hospitals.

Physicians employed full time in industry or by institutions and having no private practice, for example, physicians who work for the Ford Motor Company.

Physicians who spend no time seeing ambulatory patients or whose patient care activity is secondary to another principal activity, such as teaching, administration, or research.

*Patient*—A person under a physician's care for health reasons. For purposes of this National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, patients are defined as in scope or out of scope as follows:

- *In scope*—A patient seen by an in-scope physician or a staff member in the physician's office except as excluded below.
- *Out of scope*—  
Patients seen by a physician in a hospital, nursing home, or other extended care institution, or in the patient's home.

NOTE: If the physician has a private office (which fits definition of "office") located in a hospital, the ambulatory patients seen there are considered in scope.

Patients seen by the physician in an institution, including outpatient clinics of hospitals, for whom the institution has primary responsibility over time.

Patients who contact and receive advice from the physician via telephone.

Patients who come to the office only to leave a specimen, to pick up insurance forms, or to pay a bill.

Patients who come to the office to pick up medications previously prescribed by the physician.

*Visit*—A direct, personal exchange between an ambulatory patient and a physician or a staff member working under the physician's supervision for the purpose of seeking care and rendering personal health services.

*Drug mention*—The physician's entry of a pharmaceutical agent ordered or provided—by any route of administration—for prevention, diagnosis, or treatment. Generic as well as brand name drugs are included, as are nonprescription as well as prescription drugs. Along with all new drugs, the physician also records continued medication, if the patient was specifically instructed during the visit to continue the medication.

*Physician specialty*—Principal specialty, including general practice, as designated by the physician at the time of the survey. Those physicians for whom a specialty was not obtained were assigned the principal specialty recorded in the physician masterfiles maintained by the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association.

*Region of practice location*—The four geographic regions that correspond to those used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census:

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

## Terms relating to the Patient Record

**Age**—The age calculated from date of birth was the age at last birthday on the date of visit.

**Race**—Physicians were instructed to mark the category they judged to be the most appropriate for each patient based on observation or prior knowledge. The following definitions were provided to the physician:

- **White**—A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
- **Black**—A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- **Asian/Pacific Islander**—A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands, including for example, China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, and Samoa.
- **American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut**—A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

**Ethnicity**—Category judged by the physician to be the most appropriate. The following definitions were provided:

- **Hispanic origin**—A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- **Not Hispanic**—A person not of Hispanic origin.

**Expected source(s) of payment**—The source(s) that to the best of the physician's knowledge describes how charges incurred this visit will be paid:

- **Patient-paid**—Charges billed directly to the patient that will not be reimbursed by a third party. Includes "copayments" and "deductibles." Does not include prepaid plans for which no copayment is charged.

- **Medicare**—Charges paid in part or in full by a Medicare plan, including payments made directly to the physician, as well as payments reimbursed to the patient.
- **Medicaid**—Charges paid in part or in full by a Medicaid plan, including payments made directly to the physician, as well as payments reimbursed to the patient.
- **Private/commercial insurance**—Charges paid by a private insurance company, including payments made directly to the physician, as well as payments reimbursed to the patient. If charges are covered under a Blue Cross/Blue Shield-sponsored prepaid plan, the physician is requested to check off both the private/commercial insurance and the "HMO/other prepaid" category.
- **HMO/other prepaid**—Charges included under a health maintenance organization (HMO) plan or other prepayment plan, including independent practice associations (IPA's) and preferred provider organizations (PPO's).
- **Other government**—Charges paid under any other local, state, or Federal health care program, such as workers' compensation programs and CHAMPUS.
- **No charge**—Visits for which no fee is charged (not including visits paid for as part of a total care package; for example, post-operative visits included in a surgical fee, pregnancy visits for which a flat fee was charged, and HMO and prepaid systems).
- **Other**—All other sources of payment not in the preceding categories, for example, private charitable institutions.
- **Unknown**—This category indicates that none of the previous source of payment categories was checked.

**Was patient referred for this visit by another physician?**—Referrals are any visits that are made at the advice or direction of a physician other than the one being visited. The interest is in referrals for the current visit and not in referrals for any prior visit.

**Is this visit injury related?**—The physician was instructed to check "YES" if any part of this visit was for acute or followup care of an injury.

**Does patient smoke cigarettes?**—The physician was instructed to check "YES" if it is known that the patient currently smokes cigarettes, regardless of quantity. "NO" is checked if it is known that the patient currently does not smoke cigarettes.

**Patient's complaint(s), symptom(s), or other reason(s) for this visit (in patient's own words)**—The patient's problem, complaint, symptom, or other reason for this visit as expressed by the patient. Physicians were instructed to record key words or phrases verbatim to the extent possible. "Most important" refers to that problem which in the physician's judgment was most responsible for the patient's visit.

**Diagnostic/screening services this visit**—Physicians were instructed to check any of the following services that were ordered or provided during the current visit:

- **Blood pressure check**—Self-explanatory.
- **Urinalysis**—Any physical, chemical, or microscopic examination of urine.
- **EKG—resting**—An electrocardiogram performed when the patient is at rest. Electrocardiography is the graphic

recording from the body surface of the potential of electric currents generated by the heart as a means of studying the action of the heart muscle.

- **EKG—exercise**—An electrocardiogram performed on the patient following a specified amount of exercise. See **EKG—resting**.
- **Mammogram**—A radiograph, or x ray, of the breast for diagnostic or screening purposes.
- **Chest x ray**—Single or multiple x rays of the chest for diagnostic or screening purposes. Excludes fluoroscopy and studies of ribs, bony thorax, and spine.
- **Other radiology**—Any other types of x rays or gamma rays that are taken for diagnostic or screening purposes.
- **Allergy testing**—Diagnostic methods used in determining a patient's reaction to substances that are capable of inducing allergy or specific hypersensitivity. Includes the skin test, in which various substances are applied to the patient's skin via patch or scratch tests in order to provoke a suspected allergic reaction.
- **Spirometry**—Measurement of the breathing capacity of the lungs by means of a spirometer.
- **Pap test**—Papanicolaou test.
- **Strep throat test**—Laboratory test used to identify the presence of a streptococcus responsible for causing a severe sore throat that may be accompanied by high fever, swelling of neck glands, and rash.
- **HIV serology**—The study of the HIV antigen-antibody reaction in vitro.
- **Cholesterol measure**—A blood test taken to measure the level of cholesterol in a patient's blood.
- **Other lab test**—Self-explanatory.
- **Hearing test**—Self-explanatory.
- **Visual acuity test**—Self-explanatory.
- **Mental status exam**—Diagnostic tool used in assessing the patient's mental condition.
- **Other**—Any other diagnostic services not included or listed in the preceding categories.

**Physician's diagnosis**—The physician's best assessment of diagnosis of the patient's most important problem, complaint, or symptom. In the event of multiple diagnoses, the physician was instructed to list them in order of decreasing importance. The term "principal" refers to the first-listed diagnosis. The diagnosis represents the physician's best judgment at the time of the visit and may be tentative, provisional, or definitive.

**Other significant current diagnoses**—The diagnosis of any other condition known to exist for the patient at the time of the visit. Other diagnoses may or may not be related to the patient's reason for visit.

**Have you seen the patient before?**—"Seen before" means provided care for at any time in the past. The second part of item 12 refers to the patient's current episode of illness.

**Does patient now have any of the following: depression, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, obesity**—The physician was asked to check all that apply, regardless of any entry made in item 11, physician's diagnoses.

**Ambulatory surgical procedures**—The physician was asked to record up to two ambulatory surgical procedures scheduled

or performed at this visit, including, but not limited to, suture of wounds, reduction of fractures, application or removal of casts, incision and draining of abscesses, application of supportive materials for fractures and sprains, irrigations, aspirations, dilations, and excisions. Procedures that were performed were to be recorded before procedures that were scheduled. When reporting two procedures that were performed or two procedures that were scheduled, the physician was asked to record the more complex procedure first. For the first procedure, the physician was asked to check whether it was scheduled or actually performed during the visit, and which type of anesthesia, if any, was used or will be used.

**Therapeutic services**—Includes counseling/education and other types of nonmedication therapy. Physicians were requested to check any of the applicable categories for which they ordered or provided counseling, advice, education, instructions, or recommendations, or for which they ordered or provided other forms of nonmedication therapy:

- **Diet**
- **Exercise**
- **Cholesterol reduction**
- **Weight reduction**
- **Drug abuse**
- **Alcohol abuse**
- **Smoking cessation**
- **Family/social**
- **Growth/development**
- **Family planning**
- **Other counseling**
- **Psychotherapy**—All treatments designed to produce a mental or emotional response through suggestion, persuasion, reeducation, reassurance, or support, including psychological counseling, hypnosis, psychoanalysis, and transactional therapy.
- **Corrective lenses**—Provision, ordering, or prescription for glasses or contact lenses.
- **Hearing aid**—Provision, ordering, or prescription for hearing aid.
- **Physiotherapy**—Any form of physical therapy ordered or provided, including any treatment using heat, light, sound, or physical pressure or movement; for example, ultrasonic, ultraviolet, infrared, whirlpool, diathermy, cold, and manipulative therapy.
- **Other therapy**—Any treatment or therapeutic services, excluding medication, ordered or provided and not included in the specific categories listed.

**Medication**—The physician was instructed to list all medications, including biologicals, that were ordered, injected, administered, or otherwise provided at this visit. These include prescription and nonprescription drugs, vaccinations, immunizations, and desensitization agents. Physicians were requested to record the same specific drug name (brand or generic) that was used on any prescription or office medical record. Also included are drugs and medications ordered or provided prior to the visit that the physician instructed or expected the patient to continue taking.

- *New medication?*—Indicates whether the medication was newly prescribed for the patient at the time of the visit.

*Disposition this visit*—Eight categories are provided to describe the physician's disposition of the case. The physician was instructed to check as many of the categories as apply:

- *No followup planned*—No return visit or telephone contact was scheduled for the patient's problem.
- *Return at specified time*—Patient was told to schedule an appointment or was instructed to return at a particular time.
- *Return if needed, P.R.N.*—No future appointment was made, but the patient was instructed to make an appointment with the physician if the patient considered it necessary. (P.R.N., pro re nata, as necessary.)
- *Telephone followup planned*—Patient was instructed to telephone the physician either on a particular day to report on progress, or at any time if the need should arise.
- *Referred to other physician*—Patient was instructed to consult or seek care from another physician. The patient may or may not return to this physician at a later date.

- *Returned to referring physician*—Patient was instructed to consult again with the referring physician.
- *Admit to hospital*—Patient was instructed that further care or treatment would be provided in a hospital. No further office visits were expected prior to hospital admission.
- *Other*—Any other disposition of the case not included in the preceding categories.

*Duration of this visit*—Time the physician spent with the patient, not including time the patient spent waiting to see the physician, time the patient spent receiving care from someone other than the physician without the presence of the physician, and time the physician spent in reviewing such things as records and test results. If the patient was provided care by a member of the physician's staff, but did not see the physician during the visit, the duration of the visit was recorded as 0 minutes.

# Appendix III

## Survey instruments



### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Health Statistics  
6525 Belcrest Road  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

#### NAMCS Endorsing Organizations

American Academy  
of Dermatology

Dear Dr. :

American Academy of  
Family Physicians

The National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of its continuing program to provide information on the health status of the American people, is conducting the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS).

American Academy  
of Neurology

The purpose of this study is to collect information about ambulatory patients, their problems, and the resources used for their care. The resulting published statistics will help your profession plan for more effective health services, determine health resource requirements, and improve medical education.

American Academy  
of Ophthalmology

American Academy of  
Orthopaedic Surgeons

Since practicing physicians are the only reliable source of this information, we need your assistance in the NAMCS. As one of the physicians selected in our national sample, your participation is essential to the success of the study.

American Academy  
of Pediatrics

The NAMCS is authorized by Title 42, United States Code, Section 242k. Participation is voluntary. Although there are no penalties for not participating, each non-response makes the statistics less accurate. All information collected is held in strict confidence as mandated by section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act and will be used only to prepare statistical summaries.

American College of  
Obstetricians and  
Gynecologists

American College  
of Physicians

Many organizations and leaders in the medical profession, including those shown to the left, have expressed their support for this study. They join me in urging your cooperation in this important research.

American College of  
Preventive Medicine

Within a few days, a representative of the Census Bureau, acting as our agent, will telephone you for an appointment to discuss the details of your participation. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

American Osteopathic  
Association

Sincerely yours,

American Psychiatric  
Association

Manning Feinleib, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Director

American Society of  
Internal Medicine

American Society of  
Plastic and Reconstructive  
Surgeons, Inc.

American Urological  
Association

Association of American  
Medical Colleges

American College  
of Surgeons

**NOTICE** — Information contained on this form which would permit identification of any individual or establishment has been collected with a guarantee that it will be held in strict confidence, will be used only for purposes stated for this study, and will not be disclosed or released to others without the consent of the individual or the establishment in accordance with section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 242m). Public reporting burden for this phase of the survey is estimated to average 25 minutes per response. If you have any comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this survey, including suggestions for reducing this burden, send them to the PHS Reports Clearance Officer, Attn: PRA: HHH Building, Rm. 721-B, 200 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20201, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0920-0234), Washington, DC 20503.

<b>1. Label</b>	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"> <b>FORM NAMCS-1</b>                      (5-15-90)                 </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">                     U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE                      BUREAU OF THE CENSUS                      ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR THE                      NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS                      CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL                 </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: large;"> <b>NATIONAL AMBULATORY                      MEDICAL CARE SURVEY                      1991 PANEL</b> </div>
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<b>2. Physician's telephone numbers (Area code and number)</b>	<b>3. Field Representative information</b>
Office (1)	Telephone screener <span style="float: right;">Code</span>
Office (2)	Induction interview <span style="float: right;">Code</span>

Section I — TELEPHONE SCREENER

4. Record of telephone calls			
Call	Date	Time	Results
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

**5. Final outcome of screening**

1  Appointment

Day	Date	Time
Place		

2  Noninterview  
 3  Physician moved out of PSU } *Complete Section III, page 10*

**Hello, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ . I am (Your name). I'm calling for the Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control regarding their study of ambulatory care. You should have received a letter from Dr. Manning Feinleib, Director of the National Center for Health Statistics explaining the study. (Pause) You've probably also received a letter from the Census Bureau. We are acting as field agent for the study.**

IF DOCTOR DOES NOT REMEMBER NCHS LETTER:

The National Center for Health Statistics, one of the Centers for Disease Control, has a continuing program to provide information on the health of the American people. As part of this program it is conducting a national study of ambulatory medical care.

The purpose of this study is to collect information about ambulatory patients, their problems, and the resources used for their care. The resulting published data will help your profession plan for more effective health services, determine health manpower requirements, and improve medical education.

Since practicing physicians are the only reliable source of this information, we need your assistance. As one of the physicians selected in our national sample, your participation is essential to the success of the study.

This study is authorized by Title 42, United States Code, Section 242K. Participation is voluntary, and there are no penalties for refusing to provide information. All information collected is held in strict confidence, and will be used only to prepare statistical summaries.

**We include in this study most physicians whose practice INCLUDES any AMBULATORY PATIENTS. In order to know whether or not you should be included, I would like to ask you a few questions.**



**Section I – TELEPHONE SCREENER – Continued**

**6. REPORTING DATES** – Reporting week code appears on the label on page 1. Circle the number of that code below to determine this physician's assigned reporting week and dates.

Reporting week code	Begins Monday	Through Sunday	Reporting week code	Begins Monday	Through Sunday	Reporting week code	Begins Monday	Through Sunday	Reporting week code	Begins Monday	Through Sunday
011	Jan 07	Jan 13	161	Apr 22	Apr 28	311	Aug 05	Aug 11	461	Nov 18	Nov 24
021	Jan 14	Jan 20	171	Apr 29	May 05	321	Aug 12	Aug 18	471	Nov 25	Dec 01
031	Jan 21	Jan 27	181	May 06	May 12	331	Aug 19	Aug 25	481	Dec 02	Dec 08
041	Jan 28	Feb 03	191	May 13	May 19	341	Aug 26	Sep 01	491	Dec 09	Dec 15
051	Feb 04	Feb 10	201	May 20	May 26	351	Sep 02	Sep 08	501	Dec 16	Dec 22
061	Feb 11	Feb 17	211	May 27	Jun 02	361	Sep 09	Sep 15	511	Dec 23	Dec 29
071	Feb 18	Feb 24	221	Jun 03	Jun 09	371	Sep 16	Sep 22	521	Dec 30	Jan 05
081	Feb 25	Mar 03	231	Jun 10	Jun 16	381	Sep 23	Sep 29			
091	Mar 04	Mar 10	241	Jun 17	Jun 23	391	Sep 30	Oct 06			
101	Mar 11	Mar 17	251	Jun 24	Jun 30	401	Oct 07	Oct 13			
111	Mar 18	Mar 24	261	Jul 01	Jul 07	411	Oct 14	Oct 20			
121	Mar 25	Mar 31	271	Jul 08	Jul 14	421	Oct 21	Oct 27			
131	Apr 01	Apr 07	281	Jul 15	Jul 21	431	Oct 28	Nov 03			
141	Apr 08	Apr 14	291	Jul 22	Jul 28	441	Nov 04	Nov 10			
151	Apr 15	Apr 21	301	Jul 29	Aug 04	451	Nov 11	Nov 17			

**END OF  
1991 PANEL**

**7a. Do you directly care for any ambulatory patients in your practice?**

*(Mark without asking, if obvious)*

- 1  Yes – SKIP to item 8a
- 2  No, does not give direct care [7b – PROBE]
- 3  No, no longer in practice – Determine reason. Then read item 10.

**b. PROBE: We include as ambulatory patients, any persons coming to see you for personal health services who are not currently admitted to any health care institution on the premises. Does your practice include any such individuals?**

- 1  Yes, cares for ambulatory patients – Go to item 8a
- 2  No, does not give direct care – Determine reason. Then read item 10.

**8a. We have your address as (Read address shown on label). Is that the correct address for your office where you see patients?**

- 1  Yes – SKIP to item 9
- 2  No, incorrect address – Ask item 8b

**b. What is the (correct) address and telephone number of your office where you see ambulatory patients?**

Number and street

City State ZIP Code

Telephone (Area code and number)

**9. I would like to arrange an appointment with you within the next week or so to discuss the study. It will take about 15 minutes. What would be a good time for you, before Friday, \_\_\_\_\_ (last Friday before the assigned reporting week)?**

*(Verify office location, if appropriate.)*

**Thank you, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, I'll see you then. (Record day, date, time, and place of appointment in item 5 on page 1.)**

**10. Thank you, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, but I believe that since you do not (see any ambulatory patients/practice any longer), our questions would not be appropriate for you. I appreciate your time and interest. (Terminate telephone call and complete Section III on page 10.)**

**SAMPLE PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE SCHEDULE**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
A.M.							
P.M.							
Office No.							

**Section II – INDUCTION INTERVIEW**

Doctor, before we begin, I would like to give you a little background about this study.

**Systematic information about the characteristics and problems of the people who consult physicians in their offices is essential for medical researchers, educators, and others who are concerned with medical education, manpower needs, and the changing nature of health care delivery.**

**In response to the demand for this information, the Centers for Disease Control, in close consultation with representatives of the medical profession, developed the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.**

**Your part in the study is very simple, carefully designed, and should not take much of your time. It consists of your participation during a specified 7-day period. During that time, you would supply a minimal amount of information about patients you see.**

**Now, before we get to the actual procedures, I have some questions to ask you about your practice. The answers you give will be used only for classification and analysis. Of course, ALL information you provide for this study will be held in strict confidence.**

**11a. Your specialty is \_\_\_\_\_, is that right?**  
*(Specialty from code on label)*

- 1  Yes – SKIP to item 12a  
2  No

**b. What is your specialty (including general practice)?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Name of specialty)*

Code

**12a. This study will be concerned with the AMBULATORY patients you will see in your office during the week of Monday, \_\_\_\_\_ through Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**Are you likely to see any ambulatory patients in your office during that week?**

*(For allergists, family practitioners, etc. — if routine care such as allergy shots, blood pressure checks, and so forth will be provided by staff in physician's absence, mark "Yes.")*

- 1  Yes – SKIP to item 13a  
2  No

**b. Why is that? Record verbatim.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(If appropriate, read item 12c below and leave form with physician. Otherwise, SKIP to item 13a.)*

**C. Since it's very important that we include any ambulatory patients that you might see in your office during that week, I'll leave these forms with you — just in case your plans change. I'll check back with your office just before (Starting date) to make sure, and if necessary I can explain them in detail then. Give doctor the "A" patient log folio, and enter folio number in Table B on the bottom of page 5. Then continue with item 13a on page 4.**

NOTES

**Section II – INDUCTION INTERVIEW – Continued**

**NOTE** – Enter responses to items 13a–g in the appropriate columns in chart below.

**13a. At what office locations (will you be seeing/would you normally be seeing) ambulatory patients during that 7-day period?**

**PROBE: Are there any other office locations at which you (will be seeing/would normally be seeing) ambulatory patients during that 7-day period?**

<p><b>b. Mark (X) whether each location in item 13a is in-scope or out-of-scope. (See chart at right.)</b> If in doubt, PROBE –</p> <p><b>(1) Is that (clinic/facility/institution) hospital based?</b> <b>(2) Is that (clinic/facility/institution) government operated?</b></p> <p>Ask 13c once to obtain total for all in-scope locations.</p> <p><b>c. (During the week of Monday, _____ through Sunday, _____/during a normal week), on how many DAYS (do/would) you expect to see any ambulatory patients? (Only include days at in-scope locations.)</b></p> <p>Ask 13d–g for EACH in-scope location.</p> <p><b>d. During (that week/a normal week), approximately how many ambulatory patient visits (do/would) you expect to see in your office practice (at (Address of in-scope office location))?</b></p> <p><b>e. Do you have a solo practice, or are you associated with other physicians in a partnership, in a group practice, or in some other way (at (Address of in-scope location))?</b></p> <p>If non-solo ask:</p> <p><b>f. How many other physicians are associated with you (at this/that location)?</b></p> <p><b>g. Do you perform any laboratory testing (in that office)?</b> NOTE: Lab must be administratively connected to office.</p>	In-scope	Out-of-scope
	Private offices	Hospital emergency rooms
	Free-standing clinics (nonhospital based)	Hospital outpatient departments
	Groups, partnerships	School infirmaries
	Neighborhood health centers	Industrial outpatient facilities
	Privately operated clinics (except family planning)	Family planning clinics
	Health maintenance organizations or other prepaid practices such as Kaiser, HIP, Mayo Clinic	Government operated clinics (VD, maternal and child health, etc.)

**13a–g. Enter responses in chart below.**

Office No.	a. Office locations (Enter street address)	b.		c. Number of days	d. Number of visits	e.		f. Number of other physicians	g. Lab testing	
		In-scope	Out-of-scope			Solo	Non solo		Yes	No
1		1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>			1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>		1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
2		1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>			1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>		1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
3		1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>			1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>		1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
4		1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>			1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>		1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL FOR IN-SCOPE LOCATIONS</b> →										

**CHECK ITEM A**

- 1  All locations out-of-scope – Read CLOSING STATEMENT below
- 2  "Yes" in item 12a – SKIP to Tables A and B on page 5
- 3  "No" in item 12a – SKIP to item 15a on page 7

**CLOSING STATEMENT**

**Thank you, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, but I do not believe your practice is within the scope of this study. We appreciate your time and interest. (Terminate interview and complete Sections III and IV on pages 10 and 11.)**

**NOTES**

**Section II – INDUCTION INTERVIEW – Continued**

Determine proper Patient Log from Table A below. Read down the "Expected TOTAL VISITS during survey week" column to the line corresponding to the total entry in item 13d. Then, read across to the "TOTAL DAYS in practice during week" column corresponding to the total entry in item 13c. CIRCLE the appropriate letter. Circled letter shows which of the four Patient Log forms (A, B, C, D) should be used by this doctor. Transcribe the circled letter to Table B below.

TABLE A (PATIENT LOG)

Log form description	Expected TOTAL VISITS during survey week	TOTAL DAYS in practice during week						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A – Patient Record is to be completed for ALL patients listed on log.  B – Patient Record is to be completed for every SECOND patient listed on log.  C – Patient Record is to be completed for every THIRD patient listed on log.  D – Patient Record is to be completed for every FIFTH patient listed on log.*  * In the rare instance the physician will see <b>more than 500 patients</b> during the assigned reporting week, leave two "D" Patient Log Folios with instructions to complete a Patient Record form for only every <b>tenth</b> patient. Draw an X through the Patient Record on every other page of the two folio pads, starting with page 1 of the pad. The physician then completes the Patient Log on <b>every</b> page, but completes the Patient Record on every <b>second</b> page.  <b>NOTE:</b> Notify supervisor if this situation arises.	1–12	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
	13–25	B	A	A	A	A	A	A
	26–39	C	B	A	A	A	A	A
	40–52	C	B	B	A	A	A	A
	53–65	D	C	B	B	A	A	A
	66–79	D	C	B	B	B	A	A
	80–92	D	D	C	B	B	B	B
	93–105	D	D	C	B	B	B	B
	106–118	D	D	C	C	B	B	B
	119–131	D	D	C	C	B	B	B
132–145	D	D	D	C	C	B	B	
146–158	D	D	D	C	C	B	B	
159–171	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	
172–184	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	
185 +	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	

Fill Table B (Folio) below for each in-scope location **before** discussing folio instructions with physician (or assistant). **NOTE:** If doctor expects to see ambulatory patients at more than one in-scope location during assigned week, explain that you will deliver forms to other locations. Fill Table B (Folio) for other locations before delivering forms.

TABLE B (FOLIO)

Office number (Enter office number from item 13.)	Folio					Number of lines stamped "BEGIN NEXT LINE."	OFFICE USE ONLY
	Letter	Number					Number of patient record forms completed

NOTES

## Section II – INDUCTION INTERVIEW – Continued

### ► INSTRUCTIONS:

HAND DOCTOR APPROPRIATE FOLIO AND A COPY OF THE SAMPLE PATIENT RECORD FORM (NAMCS-73), AND EXPLAIN HOW TO FILL OUT THE FORMS.

Cover following points –

**(1)** Who to list/Who not to list on the Patient Log.

List every ambulatory patient visit to all in-scope locations during the period.

INCLUDE patients doctor doesn't see but who receive care from an assistant, nurse, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, etc.

EXCLUDE patients who do not seek care or services, e.g., they come to pay a bill or leave a specimen.

EXCLUDE telephone contacts with patients.

**(2)** Explain sampling system. For "A" folio, list everyone on log **and** fill out Patient Record for each patient. For "B," "C," and "D" folios, list everyone on Log but fill out Patient Record only for patient listed at bottom of each page. Emphasize that **all** patients seen during that week must be listed.

Show doctor instruction card in folio pocket.

**(3)** Go over Patient Record item by item, paying particular attention to –

**Item 8** – "Injury related" includes visits for follow-up of previously treated injuries (regardless of when the injury occurred) and visits for flare-ups of problems due to old injuries, as well as visits for recent injuries.

**Item 10** – To be recorded in patient's own words. We want the patient's own complaint here, not the doctor's diagnosis. If the patient has no complaint, the physician should enter the reason for the visit.

**Item 11a** – Diagnosis can be tentative or provisional or expressed as a problem. Doctor **should not** record "Rule Out" diagnosis (R.O.).

**Item 11b, c** – Enter any other diagnoses, including those not necessarily connected with the visit.

**Item 13** – This should be answered regardless of any entry in item 11. Also, it is not necessary to add or delete any entry in item 11 based on response(s) to this item.

**Item 14** – Record up to two ambulatory (outpatient) surgical procedures. For the first, check whether provided at this visit or scheduled to be done later. Also check the type of anesthesia that was used or is planned for use. Include minor procedures (e.g., wound care) as well as more complex procedures (e.g., lens extractions, vasectomies). Procedures that were performed should be listed before procedures that were scheduled. If reporting two that were performed, or two that were scheduled, list the more complex procedure first.

**Item 16** – Note that medication must be excluded from this item. All other types of counseling/education and other therapy that were either ordered or provided should be included. Be sure to use "other counseling" and "other therapy" as needed.

**Item 17** – Record all new or continued medications, using the same brand name or generic name entered on any prescription or office record. Include immunizations, allergy shots, etc. Fill 17a for each medication listed.

**Item 19** – Doctor's best estimate of time spent in face-to-face contact with the patient. Answer may be zero (0), if the patient was entirely attended by a nurse or technician and did not see the doctor.

**(4)** Explain to the doctor, where appropriate, that the receptionist, nurse, or assistant can list patients on the Log as they enter office and check in or when they see the doctor. Aide may also fill out items 1 – 7 on Patient Record.

**(5)** Instruct doctor to enter number of patients seen and number of PRF's filled in on front of folio – at end of each day.

**(6)** Before returning forms, doctor should remove log containing patient names.

**Section II – INDUCTION INTERVIEW – Continued**

**14a. During the period Monday, \_\_\_\_\_ through Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_ will ANYONE be available to help you fill out these records at (Read locations of in-scope office(s) in item 13a)?**

- 1  Yes – Ask b  
2  No – SKIP to item 15a

**b. Who will that be?**

Name	Position	Location (Enter office number and street name)

**15a. Are you currently participating in any prepaid plan such as –**

**NOTE:** Ask 15b for each "Yes" after asking (1)–(4) in 15a.

**b. What percentage of your patient visits are covered by the:**

- |   |   |                               |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| (1) HMO (Health Maintenance Organization)?                | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    2 <input type="checkbox"/> No | (1) HMO? _____ %              |
| (2) IPA (Independent Practice Association)?               | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    2 <input type="checkbox"/> No | (2) IPA? _____ %              |
| (3) PPO (Preferred Provider Organization)?                | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    2 <input type="checkbox"/> No | (3) PPO? _____ %              |
| (4) Some other type of prepaid plan? – Specify ↴<br>_____ | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    2 <input type="checkbox"/> No | (4) (Other plan name) _____ % |

**NOTE** – If doctor practices in large group, the following information can be obtained from someone else.

**16a. What is the total number of full-time (35 hours or more per week) and part-time (less than 35 hours per week) employees of your (partnership/ group) practice? Include persons regularly employed who are now on vacation, temporarily ill, etc. Do NOT include other physicians. →**

Full-time (35 or more hours/week) (a)	Part-time (Less than 35 hours/week) (b)
_____ Total number o <input type="checkbox"/> None	_____ Total number o <input type="checkbox"/> None

**NOTE:** READ CATEGORIES AND RECORD NUMBER OF EACH IN COLUMNS (a) AND (b).

**b. How many of these full-time and part-time employees are –**

- |                                  |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| (1) A registered nurse?          | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| (2) A licensed practical nurse?  | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| (3) A nurse's aid?               | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| (4) A nurse practitioner?*       | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| (5) A physician assistant?***    | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| (6) A technician?                | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| (7) A secretary or receptionist? | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| (8) Other? – Specify ↴<br>_____  | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None | _____ Number<br>o <input type="checkbox"/> None |

\* Certified by American Nursing Association.

\*\* Physician Assistant must be a graduate of an accredited training program for physician assistants (e.g., Medex) or certified by the National Commission on Certification for Physician Assistants.

**CHECK ITEM B**

- 1  "Yes" marked for lab testing in item 13g for at least one in-scope office – Read Statement A on page 8.  
2  "No" marked in item 13g for ALL in-scope offices – SKIP to Closing Statement, page 9.

**Section II – INDUCTION INTERVIEW – Continued**

STATEMENT A: **The next few questions are about lab testing in your office** (at (Read in-scope location from 13a on page 4)).

*If more than one in-scope location, ask about the one with the MOST visits in item 13d.*

**17. Who in your office performs lab tests?**

Mark (X) all that apply.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT:**

Any office staff with some training in the use of laboratory testing equipment, but less training than the other categories.

**MEDICAL TECHNICIAN:**

An individual with post high school training as a laboratory technician either through a formal course curriculum or through two years laboratory experience as a trainee in a clinical laboratory.

**MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST:**

An individual who possesses a current license as a clinical laboratory technologist through the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP), American Medical Technologist (AMT), or equivalent.

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT:**

A graduate of an accredited training program for physician assistants (physician extenders, Medex, etc.) or certified by the National Commission on Certification for Physician Assistants.

- 1  Medical Assistant
- 2  Medical Technician
- 3  Medical Technologist
- 4  Nurse
- 5  Physician
- 6  Physician Assistant
- 7  Other – Specify \_\_\_\_\_
- 8  Don't know

**NOTE:** If "non-solo" is marked in item 13e for the location selected, items 17–22 refer to tests performed by the lab for the entire group practice, not for the sample doctor only.

*(The lab must be administratively connected to the doctor's/group's practice. Do not include "outside" labs.)*

*If you have already asked the lab questions for a doctor previously in the 1991 panel sample, and you are certain that the lab questions are for the same office lab as before, enter the name of the previous sample physician and DO NOT ask the lab questions again this time.*

NAME OF PREVIOUS SAMPLE PHYSICIAN \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)

<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b>				
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STATEMENT B:

**Doctor, I have questions about specific tests, whether they are performed in your office and if there are quality control procedures for each. Would you prefer I get this information from you or from someone else?**

- 1  Doctor
- 2  Someone else – Specify \_\_\_\_\_ →

*If someone else, READ Closing Statement on page 9. Then complete questions 18a–22 with the person specified by the doctor.*

Name
Title

NOTES

**Section II – INDUCTION INTERVIEW – Continued**

SHOW FLASHCARD <b>18a. Which, if any, of these tests are performed in your office?</b>	Ask 18b for each Yes in 18a. <b>b. Is quality control performed in office each day that patient samples are tested? *</b>			Ask 18c for each Yes in 18b. <b>c. Are there written instructions if quality control suggests an error? *</b>					
	Yes	No	DK	Yes	No	DK	Yes	No	DK
(1) Dipstick urinalysis/specific gravity/microscopic	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(2) Pregnancy tests	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(3) Hemoglobin	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(4) WBC	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(5) Hematocrit	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(6) Gonorrhea cultures	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(7) Prothrombin	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(8) Glucose	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(9) Uric Acid	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(10) BUN	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(11) Cholesterol	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(12) Creatinine	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(13) Na/K	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(14) Triglycerides	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(15) Urine screen colony counts	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(16) Occult blood	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(17) RA Latex	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(18) Theophylline	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(19) B-strep rapid test	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Other — Specify ONLY if none of the above tests (1 – 19) are performed in office ↴									
(20)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(21)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
(22)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>

\* Quality control is anything the laboratory performer does to check that the test is working properly on each day patient samples are run.

<p><b>19. Approximately how many TESTS were performed (yesterday/during your last full day of practice) in your office (where most patients are seen)?</b> <i>NOTE: Many tests can be performed on one specimen.</i></p>	<p align="center">_____ Number</p>
<p><b>20. Approximately what percentage of TESTS ordered in your practice are sent to an outside lab?</b></p>	<p align="center">_____ Percent</p>
<p><b>21. Has your practice enrolled in a laboratory proficiency testing program such as the ones offered by The College of American Pathologists, The American Association of Bioanalysts, or The American Society of Internal Medicine?</b></p>	<p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
<p><b>22. Does your state have regulations governing laboratory testing in your office?</b></p>	<p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>

**CLOSING STATEMENT**

Thank you for your time Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ . I will call you on Monday, \_\_\_\_\_ to see if (everything is all right/your plans have changed). If you have any questions, please feel free to call me. My telephone number is written in the folio.



**Section III – NONINTERVIEW**

**23.** What is the reason the doctor did not participate in this study?

Explanations for noninterview codes 6 and 11 –

Temporarily not practicing – Refers to duration of 3 months or more

Unavailable during reporting period – Absence must be for duration of LESS than 3 months

- 1  Refused/Breakoff – SKIP to item 25a
  - 2  Non-office based – Ask item 24
  - 3  Sees no ambulatory patients – Ask item 24
  - 4  Retired } SKIP to item 28
  - 5  Deceased } SKIP to item 28
  - 6  Temporarily not practicing – SKIP to item 26
  - 7  Can't locate
  - 8  Not licensed } SKIP to item 28
  - 9  Moved out of U.S.A. }
  - 10  Other out-of-scope – Specify ▾ } Ask item 24
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 11  Unavailable during reporting period – SKIP to item 26
  - 12  Moved out of PSU – SKIP to item 27a

**24.** Describe physician's practice or medical activities which define him/her as ineligible or out-of-scope.

\_\_\_\_\_ } SKIP to item 28

\_\_\_\_\_ }

**25a.** At what point in the interview did the refusal/break-off occur? (Mark (X) one.)

- 1  During telephone screening
- 2  During induction interview
- 3  After induction but prior to assigned reporting days
- 4  At reminder call
- 5  During assigned reporting days or mid-week calls
- 6  At follow-up contact

**b.** By whom? (Mark (X) one.)

- 1  Doctor
  - 2  Doctor through nurse
  - 3  Nurse/Secretary
  - 4  Receptionist
  - 5  Office manager/Administrator
  - 6  Other office staff – Specify ▾
- \_\_\_\_\_

**c.** What reason was given? (Verbatim)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**d.** Date refusal/breakoff was reported to supervisor

Month	Day	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**e.** Conversion attempt result

- 1  No conversion attempt } SKIP to item 28
- 2  Doctor refused }
- 3  Doctor agreed to see Field Representative – Complete Section II

**26.** Why is doctor unavailable or not in practice?

\_\_\_\_\_ } SKIP to item 28

\_\_\_\_\_ }

**27a.** What is the physician's new address?

Number and street
City, State, ZIP Code
Telephone

**b.** Name of Field Representative

RO	PSU	Date transferred
----	-----	------------------

**Section IV – DISPOSITION AND SUMMARY**

**28. FINAL DISPOSITION**

- 1  Completed Patient Record Forms
- 2  Out-of-scope (Item 23, codes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10)
- 3  Refused-Breakoff (Item 23, code 1)
- 4  Unavailable during reporting period (Item 23, code 11)
- 5  Moved out of PSU (Item 23, code 12 – final)
- 6  Can't locate (Item 23, code 7)

*FOR TRANSFER CASES MARK –*

- Moved out of PSU (Item 23, code 12 – pending)

**29. CASE SUMMARY**

\*1. Number of patient visits during reporting week .....

2. Number of days during reporting week on which patients were seen ...

\*3. Number of patient record forms completed .....

\* Accurate determination of "Number of patient visits during reporting week" is EXTREMELY important. When reviewing the Patient Log, remember **not to count** as visits any lines marked "Begin Next Line," any lines known to have been skipped by the doctor/staff, or any lines or PRF's marked "void," "left before seeing," etc. **Do** remember to include all log entries on the **last used Patient Log**, which often will be attached to an unused Patient Record.

\*\* If doctor was assigned the:

- A Folio: Item 29(3) × 1 = Item 29(1)
- B Folio: Item 29(3) × 2 = Item 29(1) ± 1
- C Folio: Item 29(3) × 3 = Item 29(1) ± 2
- D Folio: Item 29(3) × 5 = Item 29(1) ± 4

Verify Item 29

× \_\_\_\_\_ =  → compare answer with item 29(1)

If comparison is not within specified range, explain difference in NOTES below.

**NOTES**

**Assurance of Confidentiality**—All information which would permit identification of an individual, a practice, or an establishment will be held confidential, will be used only by persons engaged in and for the purposes of the survey and will not be disclosed or released to other persons or used for any other purpose.

Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control  
Public Health Service  
National Center for Health Statistics

OMB No. 0920-0234  
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# PATIENT LOG

As each patient arrives, record name and time of visit on the log below. For the patient entered on line #5, also complete the patient record to the right.

PATIENT	TIME OF VISIT
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

## PATIENT RECORD NATIONAL AMBULATORY MEDICAL CARE SURVEY

### 1. DATE OF VISIT

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

### 2. DATE OF BIRTH

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

### 4. COLOR OR RACE

- 1  White
- 2  Black
- 3  Asian / Pacific Islander
- 4  American Indian / Eskimo / Aleut

### 5. ETHNICITY

- 1  Hispanic origin
- 2  Not Hispanic

### 6. EXPECTED SOURCE(S) OF PAYMENT [Check all that apply]

- 1  HMO/other prepaid
- 2  Medicare
- 3  Medicaid
- 4  Other government
- 5  Private / commercial
- 6  Patient paid
- 7  No charge
- 8  Other

### 7. WAS PATIENT REFERRED FOR THIS VISIT BY ANOTHER PHYSICIAN?

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

### 8. IS THIS VISIT INJURY RELATED?

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

### 3. SEX

- 1  Female
- 2  Male

### 9. DOES PATIENT SMOKE CIGARETTES?

- 1  Yes
- 2  No
- 3  Unknown

### 10. PATIENT'S COMPLAINT(S), SYMPTOM(S), OR OTHER REASON(S) FOR THIS VISIT [In patient's own words]

- a. Most important: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 11. PHYSICIAN'S DIAGNOSES

- a. Principal diagnosis / problem associated with item 10.a: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 12. HAVE YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR PRACTICE SEEN PATIENT BEFORE?

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

If yes, for the condition in item 11a?

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

### 13. DOES PATIENT NOW HAVE: [Check all that apply regardless of any entry in item 11]

- 1  None of below
- 2  Depression
- 3  Hypertension
- 4  Hypercholesterolemia
- 5  Obesity

### 14. AMBULATORY SURGICAL PROCEDURE(S)

[Record any outpatient diagnostic or therapeutic procedure. For the first, check appropriate boxes.]

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1  Scheduled
- 2  Performed
- 3  Local anesthesia
- 4  Regional anesthesia
- 5  General anesthesia

b. \_\_\_\_\_

### 15. DIAGNOSTIC / SCREENING SERVICES [Check all ordered or provided]

- 1  None
- 2  Blood pressure
- 3  Urinalysis
- 4  EKG - resting
- 5  EKG - exercise
- 6  Mammogram
- 7  Chest x-ray
- 8  Other radiology
- 9  Allergy testing
- 10  Spirometry
- 11  Pap test
- 12  Strep throat test
- 13  HIV serology
- 14  Cholesterol measure
- 15  Other lab test
- 16  Hearing test
- 17  Visual acuity
- 18  Mental status exam
- 19  Other [Specify] \_\_\_\_\_

### 16. THERAPEUTIC SERVICES [Check all ordered or provided. Exclude medication]

- 1  None
- 2  Diet
- 3  Exercise
- 4  Cholesterol reduction
- 5  Weight reduction
- 6  Drug abuse
- 7  Alcohol abuse
- 8  Smoking cessation
- 9  Family / social
- 10  Growth / development
- 11  Family planning
- 12  Other counseling
- OTHER THERAPY: \_\_\_\_\_
- 13  Psychotherapy
- 14  Corrective lenses
- 15  Hearing aid
- 16  Physiotherapy
- 17  Other therapy [Specify] \_\_\_\_\_

### 17. MEDICATION

[Record all new or continued medications ordered or provided at this visit. Use the same brand name or generic name entered on any Rx or office medical record. Include immunizing and desensitizing agents.]

If none, check here

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

### a. New medication?

- Yes No
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

### 18. DISPOSITION THIS VISIT [Check all that apply]

- 1  No follow-up planned
- 2  Return at specified time
- 3  Return if needed, P.R.N.
- 4  Telephone follow-up planned
- 5  Referred to other physician
- 6  Returned to referring physician
- 7  Admit to hospital
- 8  Other [Specify] \_\_\_\_\_

### 19. DURATION OF THIS VISIT [Time actually spent with physician]

\_\_\_\_\_ Minutes

Record items 1-19 for this patient

CONTINUE LISTING PATIENTS ON NEXT PAGE

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- SERIES 1. Programs and Collection Procedures**—These reports describe the data collection programs of the National Center for Health Statistics. They include descriptions of the methods used to collect and process the data, definitions, and other material necessary for understanding the data.
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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Public Health Service  
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Hyattsville, MD 20782  
(301) 436-8500

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