

Health Characteristics of Persons With Chronic Activity Limitation: United States, 1979

Statistics on health characteristics for persons with limitation of activity due to one or more chronic conditions or impairments are compared with those for persons who were reported as not limited in activity due to chronic disease or impairment. Statistics are presented on the following utilization of services characteristics: physician visits, dental visits, and short-stay hospitalization. Data on disability days, acute illnesses, and persons injured are also presented by chronic activity limitation status.

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Under the legislation establishing the National Health Survey, the Public Health Service is authorized to use, insofar as possible, the services or facilities of other Federal, State, or private agencies. In accordance with specifications established by the National Center for Health Statistics, the U.S. Bureau of the Census participated in the design and selection of the sample and carried out the household interview stage of the data collection and certain parts of the statistical processing.

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Symbols

- --- Data not available
- ... Category not available
- Quantity zero
- $\begin{array}{cc} \textbf{0.0} & \textbf{Quantity more than zero but less than} \\ \textbf{0.05} & \end{array}$
- Z Quantity more than zero but less than 500
- * Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (more than 30-percent relative standard error).
- # Figure suppressed to comply with confidentiality requirements

Health Characteristics of Persons With Chronic Activity Limitation

by Barbara A. Feller, M.A., Division of Health Interview Statistics

Highlights

Limitation of activity due to one or more chronic conditions or impairments, as used in the National Health Interview Survey, involves three degrees of limitation: limited, but not in major activity; limited in amount or kind of major activity; or unable to carry on major activity. In 1979, an estimated 31.5 million persons had some degree of chronic activity limitation.

The most severe chronic activity limitation includes persons who are *unable to carry on major activity*. An estimated 7.9 million persons were unable to carry on major activity in 1979.

The intermediate category includes persons who are *limited in amount or kind of major activity*—for example, workers limited in amount or kind of work performed, housewives restricted in amount or kind of housework, school-age children limited to certain types of school or in school attendance, and preschool children restricted in amount or kind of play with other children. In 1979, an estimated 15.6 million persons were limited in amount or kind of major activity.

The least severe limitation category includes persons who are limited, but not in major activity. For example, these persons who are not limited in major activity but are otherwise limited are restricted in relation to activities other than major activity, such as recreational, church, or civic interests. In 1979, an estimated 8.0 million persons were limited, but not in major activity. Examples of each type of chronic activity limitation are provided in appendix II in the section entitled "Terms relating to disability."

Chronic activity limitation has an impact on health services utilization and on disability days. The 14.6 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population with chronic activity limitation accounted for about 29 percent of the total number of physician visits, 40 percent of the total number of short-stay

hospital discharges, and 58 percent of the total number of days spent in short-stay hospitals in 1979 (figure 1). Although persons with chronic activity limitation had about 14 percent of the acute illnesses, they experienced about one-half (each) of the total number of restricted-activity and bed-disability days (figure 2).

Age-adjusted rates for selected health services utilization data indicate that the number of physician visits per person with any degree of limitation was 9.6 in contrast with 3.9 physician visits per person with no activity limitation. The age-adjusted number of hospital discharges per 100 persons was 35.2 for limited and 10.0 for not limited persons. The age-adjusted percent of persons with at least one hospital episode during the preceding year was 21.0 per person with limitation, compared with 8.2 for persons with no chronic limitation. About 36.1 percent (age-adjusted) of persons with the most severe limitation had at least one short-stay hospital episode, contrasted with 14.7 percent of those with the least severe limitation.

Persons who were chronically limited had relatively more bed-disability and restricted-activity days than persons with no limitation had. The age-adjusted rates for bed-disability days per year were 18.3 per limited person and 4.2 per person with no limitation. Although the age-adjusted rate indicated 41.1 bed days per person unable to carry on major activity, the corresponding rate was 7.5 per person limited, but not in major activity.

In this report, selected health characteristics of the estimated civilian noninstitutionalized population reported as having chronic activity limitation are compared with those of the remainder of the population free of such restrictions. Health services utilization data and disability data are described. Utilization data such as physician visits, dental visits, and short-stay hospitalization are included. Disability data described include the number of restricted-activity days, the number of bed-disability days, the incidence of acute illnesses, and the number of persons injured.

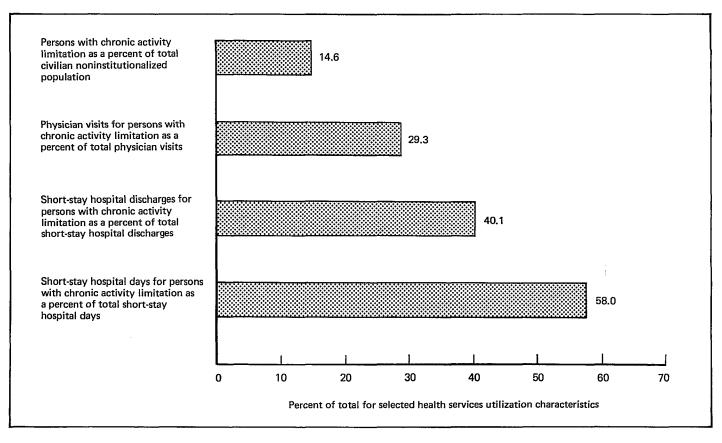


Figure 1. Percent of total for selected health services utilization characteristics reported for persons with chronic activity limitation:

United States, 1979

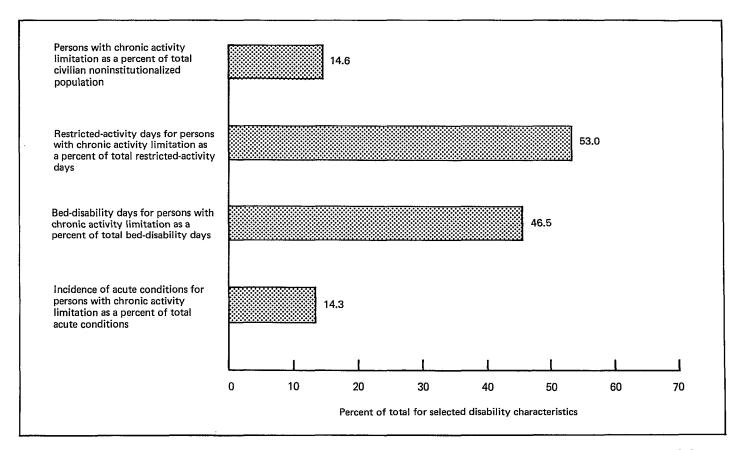


Figure 2. Percent of total for selected disability characteristics reported for persons with chronic activity limitation: United States, 1979

Source and limitations of the data

The information from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) presented in this report is based on data collected in a continuing nationwide survey conducted by household interview. A probability sample of households is interviewed each week by trained personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information about the health and other characteristics of each member of the household in the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

During the 52 weeks in 1979, the sample consisted of approximately 42,000 households containing about 111,000 persons living at the time of the interview. The total noninterview rate was about 3.9 percent—2.2 percent of which was due to respondent refusal and the remainder was primarily due to an inability to locate an eligible respondent at home after repeated calls.

The population base figures used in computing most of the rates and percents in this report are shown in table 1.

A description of the survey design, methods used in estimation, and general qualifications of the data obtained from this survey is provided in appendix I. The estimates in this report are subject to sampling error, because they are based on a sample of the population. Therefore, particular attention should be paid to the section entitled "Reliability of estimates." Sampling errors for most of the estimates are relatively low. However, where an estimated number or the numerator or denominator of a rate or percentage is small, the sampling error may be high. Charts of relative sampling errors and instructions for their use are presented in appendix I.

Terms used here are defined in appendix II. Appendix III contains portions of the questionnaire applicable to this report. A complete facsimile of the questionnaire used in the interview is provided in *Vital and Health Statistics*, Series 10, No. 136.1

In this report, terms such as "similar" and "the same" mean that no statistically significant difference exists between the statistics being compared. Terms relating to difference such as "greater than" or "less than" indicate that differences are statistically significant. The t-test with a critical value of 1.96 (0.05 level of significance) was used to test comparisons that are discussed. Lack of comment regarding the difference between any two statistics does not mean that the difference was tested and found to be not significant.

Utilization of health services

Three types of data on health services utilization are presented: physician visits, dental visits, and hospitalizations. Data on visits include the number of visits and the percent of persons with one or more visits. Hospitalization data include the number of short-stay hospital discharges and the percent of persons with at least one short-stay hospital episode.

Physician visits

In 1979, about 3 in every 10 physician visits (29.3 percent) were reported for persons with chronic activity limitation. A higher number of visits per person was reported for those with limitation (9.5) than for those with no limitation (3.9). Generally, the rate ranged from 6.5 for those limited, but not in major activity, to 11.9 for those unable to carry on major activity (table 2). Figure 3 shows the number of physician visits per person by chronic activity limitation status and age.

Overall, limited persons made about 6.2 physician visits per person in the office compared with about 2.7 for persons with no activity limitation (table 3). The number of office visits per person unable to carry on major activity was higher than for persons limited, but not in major activity, except for persons 65 years of age and over, where this difference was not statistically significant.

In 1979, 87.4 percent of limited persons (27.5 million) contacted a physician at least once within the interview year (table 4). In contrast, 73.0 percent of those without activity restrictions (134.4 million) contacted a physician. Table 4 provides the number and percent of persons with one or more physician visits within a year of the interview, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age.

Dental visits

An estimated 50.9 million dental visits, or 1 visit in every 7, were made by persons with chronic activity limitation (table 5). The number of dental

visits per limited person was generally not significantly different from the number per person with no limitation, except for persons 65 years of age and over. In the latter group, the rate of dental visits was lower for limited than for not limited persons. The number of dental visits and the number per person are shown by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age in table 5.

Approximately 12.5 million limited persons (39.8) percent) made at least one dental visit in 1979 (table 6). Proportionately fewer persons with chronic activity limitation generally made at least one dental visit than those with no limitation did (39.8 percent compared with 51.9 percent). However, for persons under 17 years of age, the percent was higher for limited than for not limited persons (55.0 percent compared with 50.8 percent). Regarding the degree of limitation, those with the most severe limitation were relatively less likely to have seen a dentist at least once (26.9 percent) than those with the least severe restriction were (51.2 percent). Furthermore, a lower percent of those who were unable to carry on a major activity (26.9 percent) visited the dentist at least once than those who were limited in amount or kind of major activity did (40.5 percent). Figure 4 shows the percent of persons in each chronic activity limitation status with one or more dental visits, by age.

Short-stay hospital use

Representing about two-fifths of all discharges from short-stay hospitals, persons with chronic activity limitation accounted for 12.1 million of the total 30.1 million discharges (table 7). Variation occurred among the limitation categories in that the most severely limited group experienced higher numbers of hospital discharges per 100 persons than the least severely limited category did. Generally, the rate ranged from 20.8 per person limited, but not in major activity, to 64.1 per person unable to carry on major activity (table 7).

Approximately three-fifths (58 percent) of all hospital days were reported for limited persons, who experienced 136.7 million of the 235.7 million total days (table 8). The average length of stay was generally higher for persons with chronic activity limitation (11.3 days) than for those free from these health problems (5.5 days).

About one-fourth of all limited persons (7.3 million) had at least one short-stay hospital episode (table 9). This percent was substantially larger than that for persons not limited (8.1). The percent for

persons with the most severe limitation was higher than that for persons with the least severe chronic activity limitation. For example, overall, about one-third of those who were unable to carry on major activity were hospitalized at least once within a year of the interview compared with about one-seventh of those who were limited, but not in major activity. Figure 5 shows the percent of persons in each limitation status with one or more short-stay hospital episodes by age.

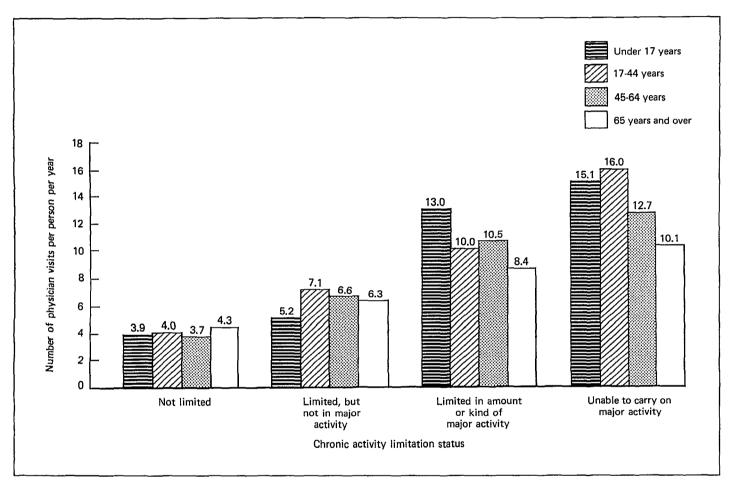


Figure 3. Number of physician visits per person per year, by chronic activity limitation status and age: United States, 1979

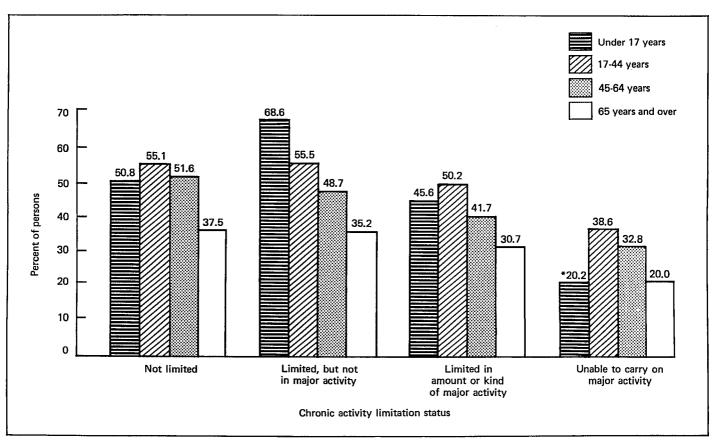


Figure 4. Percent of persons with one or more dental visits within a year of interview, by chronic activity limitation status and age:
United States, 1979

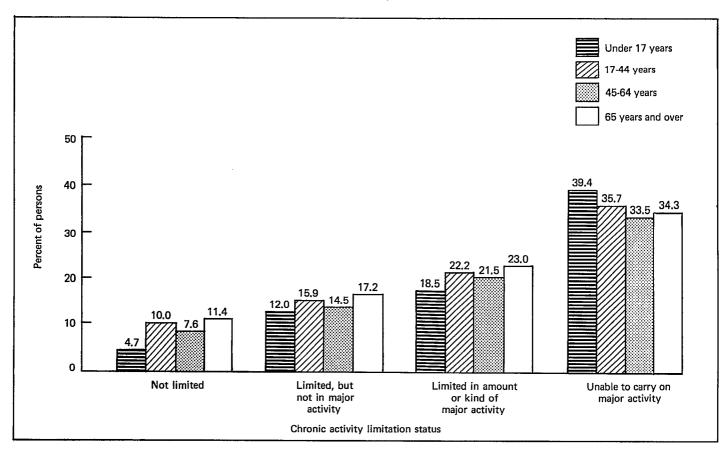


Figure 5. Percent of persons with one or more short-stay hospital episodes within a year of interview, by chronic activity limitation status and age:

United States, 1979

Disability data by chronic activity limitation status

The NHIS concept of "chronic activity limitation" involves long-term disability. Chronic activity limitation refers to long-term reduction in activity because of one or more chronic conditions or impairments and describes one's ability to perform the usual activity of a person in a certain age-sex category.

Other types of disability data are also available from the NHIS. Data on days of disability associated with acute illness or injury or a current episode of disability associated with chronic disease or impairment² are also collected in the NHIS. Thus, for example, a person with chronic activity limitation because of arthritis may have episodes of illness due to flare-ups in the arthritis and may also have experienced acute illnesses or injuries at other times that resulted in restricted activity or bed disability.²

Two types of disability days are shown by chronic activity limitation status in this section—restricted-activity and bed-disability days. Data on the incidence of acute illness and number of persons injured are also presented by chronic activity limitation status.

Disability days

Persons with chronic activity limitation reported about one-half of the total number of restricted-activity days, or an estimated 2.2 billion of the total 4.1 billion restricted-activity days (table 10). A substantially larger number of restricted-activity days per person (69.1) was reported for persons with chronic activity limitation than for those with no such limitation (10.5).

The number of restricted-activity days varied by degree of chronic activity limitation. Generally, the days per person were relatively higher among persons with more severe chronic activity limitation than among those with less severe limitation. For example, 33.9 restricted-activity days per person were reported for those limited, but not in major activity, 63.8 per person limited in amount or kind of major activity,

and 115.4 per person unable to carry on major activity. (However, for persons under 17 years of age, this pattern did not appear to be consistently significant.) Figure 6 shows the number of restricted-activity days per person by chronic activity limitation status and age.

Persons with chronic activity limitation accounted for about one-half of the total number of bed-disability days, thus resulting in about 676 million of the total 1.5 billion bed-disability days (table 11). The rate per limited person was considerably higher than that per person with no chronic limitation (21.5 compared with 4.2).

Regarding the degree of limitation, the number of bed days per person generally increased with the severity of chronic activity limitation: 7.6 bed-disability days per person limited, but not in major activity; 16.9 per person limited in amount or kind of major activity; and 44.6 per person unable to carry on major activity.

Acute illnesses and persons injured

Limited persons were estimated to have had about 1 out of every 7 acute conditions in 1979—about 66.2 million of the 464.5 million total (table 12). Persons with limitations had relatively more acute conditions than those with no limitation in each age category had. However, a consistent significant pattern did not appear among the degrees of limitation that held for each age category. The incidence of acute conditions per 100 persons per year is shown by chronic activity limitation status and age in figure 7.

About 10.3 million persons injured had chronic activity limitation (table 13). The number of persons injured generally did not show significant variation between limited and not limited persons, except for persons 65 years of age and over. For example, the overall number of persons injured per 100 persons with chronic activity limitation and those per 100

persons with no limitation was 32.8 and 31.9, respectively. This difference is small enough to be attributed to sampling variability. For persons 65 years of age and over, however, more persons injured

per 100 persons with chronic activity limitation were found than those with no limitation—25.2 compared with 12.3, respectively.

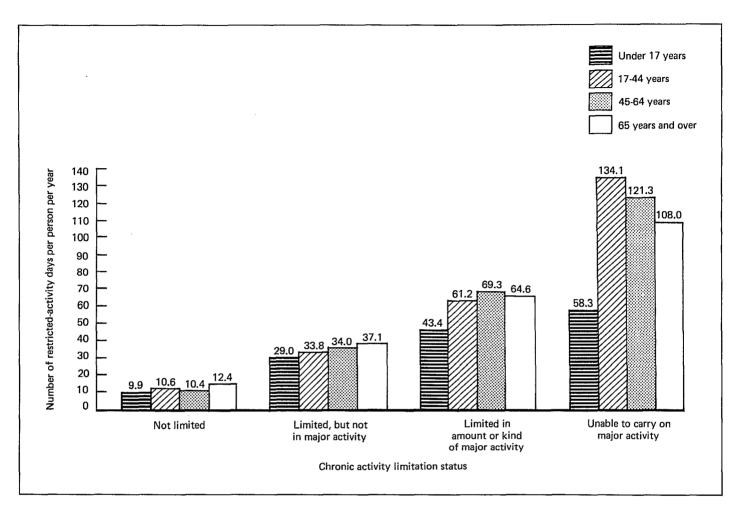


Figure 6. Number of restricted-activity days per person per year, by chronic activity limitation status and age: United States, 1979

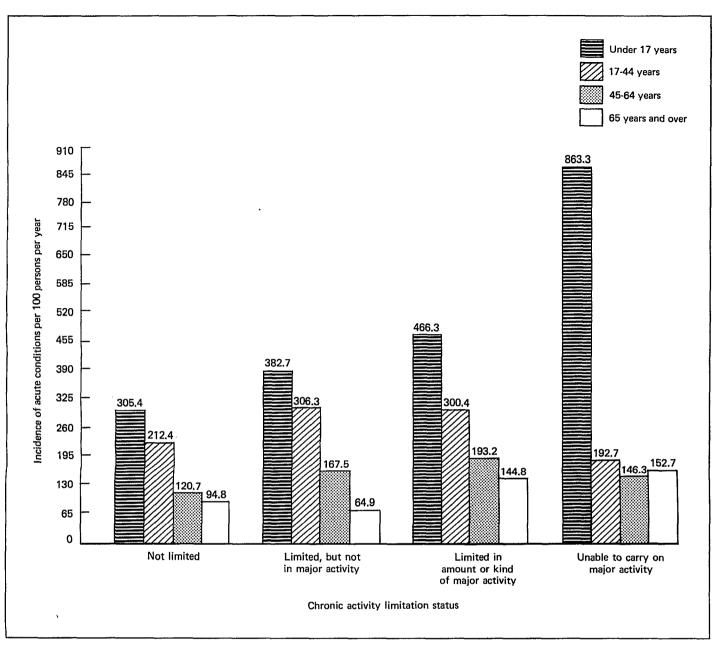


Figure 7. Incidence of acute conditions per 100 persons per year, by chronic activity limitation status and age: United States, 1979

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Table 1. Number and percent distribution of persons by chronic activity limitation status, according to sex and age: United States, 1979

		With no limita- tion of activity	With limitation of activity			
Sex and age	AII persons		Total	Limited, but not in major activity ¹	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹
Both sexes			Number of pe	rsons in thousar	nds	
All ages	215,723	184,227	31,496	8,019	15,603	7,874
Under 17 years	58,250 90,673 43,457 23,343	55,959 82,667 33,005 12,595	2,291 8,006 10,452 10,747	1,059 2,993 2,368 1,599	1,123 4,003 5,277 5,200	109 1,010 2,808 3,947
Male						
All ages	104,097	88,760	15,337	3,775	5,773	5,789
Under 17 years	29,714 43,993 20,773 9,617	28,404 39,920 15,541 4,895	1,310 4,073 5,232 4,721	601 1,576 1,097 501	652 1,764 1,895 1,462	57 733 2,240 2,758
Female						
All ages	111,626	95,467	16,159	4,244	9.830	2,086
Under 17 years 17-44 years 45-64 years 65 years and over	28,537 46,680 22,684 13,726	27,555 42,747 17,464 7,700	981 3,933 5,219 6,026	457 1,417 1,271 1,099	471 2,239 3,382 3,738	53 277 567 1,189
Both sexes			Percent	distribution		
All ages	100.0	85.4	14.6	3.7	7.2	3.7
Under 17 years	100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0	96.1 91.2 75.9 54.0	3.9 8.8 24.1 46.0	1.8 3.3 5.4 6.9	1.9 4.4 12.1 22.3	0.2 1.1 6.5 16.9
Male						
All ages	100.0	85.3	14.7	3.6	5.5	5.6
Under 17 years	100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0	95.6 90.7 74.8 50.9	4.4 9.3 25.2 49.1	2.0 3.6 5.3 5.2	2.2 4.0 9.1 15.2	0.2 1.7 10.8 28.7
Female						
All ages	100.0	85.5	14.5	3.8	8.8	1.9
Under 17 years	100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0	96.6 91.6 77.0 56.1	3.4 8.4 23.0 43.9	1.6 3.0 5.6 8.0	1.7 4.8 14.9 27.2	0.2 0.6 2.5 8.7

 $^{^{1}\}mathrm{Major}$ activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

NOTE: For official population estimates for more general use, see U.S. Bureau of the Census reports on the civilian population of the United States in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, P-25, and P-60.

Table 2. Number of physician visits and number of physician visits per person per year, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age:
United States, 1979

			With limitation of activity				
Sex and age	AII persons	With no limita- tion of activity	Total	Limited, but not in major activity ¹	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹	
Both sexes		Nun	nber of physicia	ın visits in thous	ands		
All ages	1,021,986	722,452	299,535	52,475	153,679	93,381	
Under 17 years	241,153 405,335 227,292 148,207	219,467 327,790 120,598 54,597	21,685 77,546 106,694 93,610	5,483 21,320 15,567 10,105	14,559 40,059 55,402 43,658	1,643 16,166 35,725 39,847	
Male							
All ages	421,832	294,248	127,585	18,075	48,306	61,204	
Under 17 years	124,579 142,998 97,555 56,701	112,757 113,117 49,905 18,469	11,823 29,881 47,650 38,232	2,098 7,499 5,425 3,053	8,882 13,155 16,374 9,896	*843 9,227 25,851 25,283	
Female							
All ages	600,154	428,204	171,950	34,400	105,373	32,178	
Under 17 years	116,573 262,337 129,737 91,506	106,711 214,672 70,693 36,128	9,863 47,665 59,044 55,378	3,385 13,821 10,142 7,052	5,677 26,905 39,029 33,762	*801 6,939 9,874 14,564	
Both sexes		Numbe	r of physician v	isits per person	per year		
All ages	4.7	3.9	9.5	6.5	9.8	11.9	
Under 17 years	4.1 4.5 5.2 6.3	3.9 4.0 3.7 4.3	9.5 9.7 10.2 8.7	5.2 7.1 6.6 6.3	13.0 10.0 10.5 8.4	15.1 16.0 12.7 10.1	
Male							
All ages	4.1	3.3	8.3	4.8	8.4	10.6	
Under 17 years	4.2 3.3 4.7 5.9	4.0 2.8 3.2 3.8	9.0 7.3 9.1 8.1	3.5 4.8 4.9 6.1	13.6 7.5 8.6 6.8	*14.8 12.6 11.5 9.2	
Female							
All ages	5.4	4.5	10.6	8.1	10.7	15.4	
Under 17 years	4.1 5.6 5.7 6.7	3.9 5.0 4.0 4.7	10.1 12.1 11.3 9.2	7.4 9.8 8.0 6.4	12.1 12.0 11.5 9.0	*15.1 25.1 17.4 12.2	

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

Table 3. Number of physician visits in the *office* and number of physician office visits per person per year, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age: United States, 1979

			With limitation of activity			
Sex and age	All limita- persons tion of	With no limita- tion of activity	Total	Limited, but not in major activity 1	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹
Both sexes		Numb	er of physician	office visits in	thousands	
All ages	694,245	499,983	194,262	36,831	102,382	55,049
Under 17 years	151,540 278,350 157,211 107,143	139,312 227,533 89,757 43,381	12,228 50,817 67,455 63,761	3,794 14,410 10,706 7,920	7,237 26,229 36,569 32,347	1,197 10,178 20,179 23,494
Male						
All ages	279,446	200,189	79,257	12,704	30,032	36,521
Under 17 years	80,043 94,520 66,604 38,279	73,714 75,711 37,051 13,713	6,329 18,809 29,554 24,566	1,462 5,281 3,650 2,312	4,283 7,382 11,161 7,206	*584 6,146 14,743 15,048
Female						
All ages	414,799	299,794	115,005	24,126	72,350	18,529
Under 17 years	71,497 183,830 90,607 68,864	65,598 151,822 52,706 29,668	5,900 32,009 37,901 39,196	2,332 9,129 7,057 5,609	2,954 18,847 25,408 25,141	*613 4,032 5,436 8,446
Both sexes		Number o	of physician off	ice visits per pe	rson per year	
All ages	3.2	2.7	6.2	4.6	6.6	7.0
Under 17 years	2.6 3.1 3.6 4.6	2.5 2.8 2.7 3.4	5.3 6.3 6.5 5.9	3.6 4.8 4.5 5.0	6.4 6.6 6.9 6.2	11.0 10.1 7.2 6.0
Male						
All ages	2.7	2.3	5.2	3.4	5.2	6.3
Under 17 years	2.7 2.1 3.2 4.0	2.6 1.9 2.4 2.8	4.8 4.6 5.6 5.2	2.4 3.4 3.3 4.6	6.6 4.2 5.9 4.9	*10.2 8.4 6.6 5.5
Female						
All ages	3.7	3.1	7.1	5.7	7.4	8.9
Under 17 years	2.5 3.9 4.0 5.0	2.4 3.6 3.0 3.9	6.0 8.1 7.3 6.5	5.1 6.4 5.6 5.1	6.3 8.4 7.5 6.7	*11.6 14.6 9.6 7.1

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

Table 4. Number and percent of persons with one or more physician visits within a year of interview, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age: United States, 1979

		With no limita- tion of activity		With limitation of activity				
Sex and age	All persons		Total	Limited, but not in major activity ¹	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity 1		
Both sexes			Number of pe	rsons in thousa	nds			
All ages	161,930	134,418	27,512	6,736	13,792	6,984		
Under 17 years	44,055 67,253 31,985 18,637	42,035 60,375 22,803 9,205	2,020 6,878 9,182 9,432	914 2,510 1,941 1,371	1,000 3,488 4,686 4,618	106 880 2,555 3,443		
Male								
All ages	73,185	60,313	12,872	3,013	4,783	5,076		
Under 17 years	22,577 28,864 14,447 7,298	21,427 25,545 9,992 3,350	1,150 3,319 4,455 3,948	517 1,233 871 392	578 1,440 1,568 1,196	55 645 2,016 2,361		
Female			,					
All ages	88,745	74,105	14,640	3,723	9,010	1,907		
Under 17 years	21,478 38,389 17,539 11,339	20,609 34,830 12,811 5,855	869 3,560 4,728 5,483	397 1,276 1,070 980	421 2,048 3,118 3,422	51 235 539 1,082		
Both sexes			P	ercent				
All ages	75.1	73.0	87.4	84.0	88.4	88.7		
Under 17 years	75.6 74.2 73.6 79.8	75.1 73.0 69.1 73.1	88.2 85.9 87.8 87.8	86.3 83.9 82.0 85.7	89.0 87.1 88.8 88.8	97.2 87.1 91.0 87.2		
Male								
All ages	70.3	68.0	83.9	79.8	82.9	87.7		
Under 17 years	76.0 65.6 69.5 75.9	75.4 64.0 64.3 68.4	87.8 81.5 85.1 83.6	86.0 78.2 79.4 78.2	88.7 81.6 82.7 81.8	96.5 88.0 90.0 85.6		
Female								
All ages	79.5	77.6	90.6	87.7	91.7	91.4		
Under 17 years	75.3 82.2 77.3 82.6	74.8 81.5 73.4 76.0	88.6 90.5 90.6 91.0	86.9 90.0 84.2 89.2	89.4 91.5 92.2 91.5	96.2 84.8 95.1 91.0		

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

Table 5. Number of dental visits and number of dental visits per person per year, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age:
United States, 1979

Sex and age		With no limita- tion of activity	With limitation of activity						
	All persons		Total	Limited, but not in major activity ¹	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹			
Both sexes	Number of dental visits in thousands								
All ages	366,270	315,421	50,850	17,004	26,349	7,497			
Under 17 years	93,893 156,350 83,004 33,024	90,045 141,598 64,135 19,643	3,848 14,751 18,869 13,381	2,372 6,441 4,880 3,311	1,476 7,388 10,130 7,355	*923 3,859 2,715			
Male									
All ages	161,811	139,621	22,191	6,644	10,141	5,405			
Under 17 years	44,532 66,416 38,391 12,471	42,815 59,849 29,570 7,387	1,717 6,568 8,822 5,084	*856 3,361 1,738 *689	*862 2,735 4,196 2,348	*472 2,887 2,046			
Female									
All ages	204,459	175,800	28,659	10,360	16,208	2,091			
Under 17 years	49,360 89,933 44,612 20,553	47,230 81,750 34,565 12,255	2,131 8,184 10,047 8,298	1,516 3,080 3,142 2,622	*614 4,653 5,934 5,007	*451 971 *669			
Both sexes		Num	ber of dental v	visits per person	per year				
All ages	1.7	1.7	1.6	2.1	1.7	1.0			
Under 17 years	1.6 1.7 1.9 1.4	1.6 1.7 1.9 1.6	1.7 1.8 1.8 1.2	2.2 2.2 2.1 2.1	1.3 1.8 1.9 1.4	*0.9 1.4 0.7			
Male									
All ages	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.8	0.9			
Under 17 years	1.5 1.5 1.8 1.3	1.5 1.5 1.9 1.5	1.3 1.6 1.7 1.1	*1.4 2.1 1.6 *1.4	*1.3 1.6 2.2 1.6	*0.6 1.3 0.7			
Female									
All ages	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.4	1.6	1.0			
Under 17 years	1.7 1.9 2.0 1.5	1.7 1.9 2.0 1.6	2.2 2.1 1.9 1.4	3.3 2.2 2.5 2.4	*1.3 2.1 1.8 1.3	*1.6 1.7 *0.6			

 $^{^{1}}$ Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 6. Number and percent of persons with one or more dental visits within a year of interview, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age:

United States, 1979

		With no limita- tion of activity	With limitation of activity				
Sex and age	AII persons		Total	Limited, but not in major activity ¹	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹	
Both sexes			Number of p	ersons in thousa	nds		
All ages	108,209	95,662	12,547	4,104	6,322	2,121	
Under 17 years	29,666 49,571 21,307 7,665	28,405 45,509 17,031 4,717	1,260 4,062 4,276 2,948	727 1,661 1,153 563	512 2,011 2,203 1,596	*22 390 920 790	
Male							
All ages	50,350	44,375	5,975	2,002	2,400	1,573	
Under 17 years	14,857 22,517 9,966 3,011	14,145 20,593 7,872 1,765	711 1,924 2,094 1,246	413 840 575 174	289 807 820 485	*9 277 699 587	
Female							
All ages	57,858	51,286	6,572	2,102	3,922	548	
Under 17 years	14,809 27,055 11,341 4,654	14,260 24,917 9,158 2,952	549 2,138 2,183 1,702	314 822 578 389	223 1,204 1,384 1,111	*12 112 221 203	
Both sexes			P	ercent			
All ages	50.2	51.9	39.8	51.2	40.5	26.9	
Under 17 years	50.9 54.7 49.0 32.8	50.8 55.1 51.6 37.5	55.0 50.7 40.9 27.4	68.6 55.5 48.7 35.2	45.6 50.2 41.7 30.7	*20.2 38.6 32.8 20.0	
Male							
All ages	48.4	50.0	39.0	53.0	41.6	27.2	
Under 17 years	50.0 51.2 48.0 31.3	49.8 51.6 50.7 36.1	54.3 47.2 40.0 26.4	68.7 53.3 52.4 34.7	44.3 45.7 43.3 33.2	*15.8 37.8 31.2 21.3	
Female							
All ages	51.8	53.7	40.7	49.5	39.9	26.3	
Under 17 years	51.9 58.0 50.0 33.9	51.8 58.3 52.4 38.3	56.0 54.4 41.8 28.2	68.7 58.0 45.5 35.4	47.3 53.8 40.9 29.7	*22.6 40.4 39.0 17.1	

 $^{^{1}}$ Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 7. Number of discharges from short-stay hospitals and number of discharges per 100 persons per year, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age: United States, based on data collected in health interviews in 1979

		With no limita- tion of activity	With limitation of activity				
Sex and age	All persons		Total	Limited, but not in major activity 1	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹	
Both sexes			Number of dis	charges in thou	sands		
All ages	30,070	18,004	12,066	1,669	5,346	5,051	
Under 17 years	3,782 12,752 7,235 6,301	3,071 10,019 3,046 1,868	711 2,734 4,189 4,433	224 635 442 368	385 1,407 1,898 1,656	101 692 1,848 2,410	
Male							
All ages	12,125	6,449	5,676	714	1,627	3,335	
Under 17 years	2,070 3,782 3,508 2,764	1,706 2,633 1,409 700	364 1,149 2,099 2,064	100 230 254 130	238 476 538 375	*26 443 1,307 1,559	
Female							
All ages	17,945	11,555	6,390	956	3,719	1,715	
Under 17 years	1,711 8,970 3,726 3,537	1,365 7,385 1,637 1,168	346 1,585 2,089 2,369	124 405 188 238	147 931 1,360 1,281	75 248 541 851	
Both sexes		Num	ber of dischar	ges per 100 pers	ons per year		
All ages	13.9	9.8	38.3	20.8	34.3	64.1	
Under 17 years	6.5 14.1 16.6 27.0	5.5 12.1 9.2 14.8	31.0 34.1 40.1 41.2	21.2 21.2 18.7 23.0	34.3 35.1 36.0 31.8	92.7 68.5 65.8 61.1	
Male							
All ages	11.6	7.3	37.0	18.9	28.2	57.6	
Under 17 years	7.0 8.6 16.9 28.7	6.0 6.6 9.1 14.3	27.8 28.2 40.1 43.7	16.6 14.6 23.2 25.9	36.5 27.0 28.4 25.6	*45.6 60.4 58.3 56.5	
Female							
All ages	16.1	12.1	39.5	22.5	37.8	82.2	
Under 17 years	6.0 19.2 16.4 25.8	5.0 17.3 9.4 15.2	35.3 40.3 40.0 39.3	27.1 28.6 14.8 21.7	31.2 41.6 40.2 34.3	141.5 89.5 95.4 71.6	

 $^{^{1}}$ Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 8. Number of hospital days and average length of stay for discharges from short-stay hospitals, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age: United States, based on data collected in health interviews in 1979

		With no limita- tion of activity	With limitation of activity				
Sex and age	AII persons		Total	Limited, but not in major activity ¹	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹	
Both sexes		N	umber of hospi	tal days in thou	sands		
All ages	235,747	99,054	136,693	13,608	54,285	68,800	
Under 17 years	21,111 78,656 67,897 68,083	14,727 48,065 20,215 16,048	6,384 30,591 47,683 52,035	1,283 5,181 3,565 3,580	4,005 14,329 18,910 17,042	1,096 11,082 25,208 31,414	
Male							
All ages	107,611	36,750	70,861	5,862	17,132	47,867	
Under 17 years	11,981 29,949 36,053 29,630	7,626 14,083 9,197 5,845	4,355 15,866 26,856 23,785	*720 1,940 1,903 1,299	2,950 4,961 6,016 3,205	*685 8,964 18,937 19,281	
Female							
All ages	128,135	62,303	65,832	7,746	37,153	20,933	
Under 17 years	9,130 48,707 31,845 38,453	7,101 33,982 11,018 10,203	2,029 14,726 20,827 28,250	*563 3,241 1,662 2,280	1,055 9,367 12,894 13,837	*411 2,117 6,271 12,133	
Both sexes			Average leng	th of stay in day	/s		
All ages	7.8	5.5	11.3	8.2	10.2	13.6	
Under 17 years	5.6 6.2 9.4 10.8	4.8 4.8 6.6 8.6	9.0 11.2 11.4 11.7	5.7 8.2 8.1 9.7	10.4 10.2 10.0 10.3	10.9 16.0 13.6 13.0	
Male							
All ages	8.9	5.7	12.5	8.2	10.5	14.4	
Under 17 years	5.8 7.9 10.3 10.7	4.5 5.3 6.5 8.4	12.0 13.8 12.8 11.5	*7.2 8.4 7.5 10.0	12.4 10.4 11.2 8.5	*26.3 20.2 14.5 12.4	
Female							
All ages	7.1	5.4	10.3	8.1	10.0	12.2	
Under 17 years 17-44 years 45-64 years 65 years and over	5.3 5.4 8.5 10.9	5.2 4.6 6.7 8.7	5.9 9.3 10.0 11.9	*4.5 8.0 8.8 9.6	7.2 10.1 9.5 10.8	*5.5 8.5 11.6 14.3	

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

Table 9. Number and percent of persons with one or more short-stay hospital episodes within a year of interview, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age: United States, 1979

			With limitation of activity					
Sex and age	All persons	With no limita- tion of activity	Total	Limited, but not in major activity ¹	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹		
Both sexes			Number of p	ersons in thous	ands	, .		
All ages	22,201	14,859	7,342	1,219	3,423	2,699		
Under 17 years	2,997 10,021 4,929 4,254	2,619 8,298 2,511 1,431	378 1,723 2,418 2,823	127 475 343 275	208 887 1,133 1,195	43 361 942 1,352		
Male								
All ages	8,753	5,378	3,375	501	1,053	1,821		
Under 17 years	1,693 2,849 2,394 1,817	1,484 2,140 1,185 569	210 709 1,209 1,247	68 181 172 79	124 290 348 291	*17 237 689 878		
Female								
All ages	13,447	9,481	3,967	718	2,370	878		
Under 17 years	1,304 7,172 2,535 2,437	1,136 6,158 1,326 861	168 1,014 1,209 1,576	59 293 170 196	83 597 786 905	*26 124 253 475		
Both sexes				Percent				
All ages	10.3	8.1	23.3	15.2	21.9	34.3		
Under 17 years	5.1 11.1 11.3 18.2	4.7 10.0 7.6 11.4	16.5 21.5 23.1 26.3	12.0 15.9 14.5 17.2	18.5 22.2 21.5 23.0	39.4 35.7 33.5 34.3		
Male								
All ages	8.4	6.1	22.0	13.3	18.2	31.5		
Under 17 years	5.7 6.5 11.5 18.9	5.2 5.4 7.6 11.6	16.0 17.4 23.1 26.4	11.3 11.5 15.7 15.8	19.0 16.4 18.4 19.9	*29.8 32.3 30.8 31.8		
Female								
All ages	12.0	9.9	24.5	16.9	24.1	42.1		
Under 17 years	4.6 15.4 11.2 17.8	4.1 14.4 7.6 11.2	17.1 25.8 23.2 26.2	12.9 20.7 13.4 17.8	17.6 26.7 23.2 24.2	*49.1 44.8 44.6 39.9		

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

Table 10. Number of restricted-activity days and number of restricted-activity days per person per year, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age: United States, 1979

			With limitation of activity				
Sex and age	AII persons	With no limita- tion of activity	Total	Limited, but not in major activity ¹	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹	
Both sexes		Re	estricted-activity	days in thousan	ds		
All ages	4,105,759	1,930,321	2,175,438	271,955	994,831	908,652	
Under 17 years	639,922 1,358,584 1,129,547 977,706	554,076 877,062 342,850 156,333	85,846 481,522 786,697 821,372	30,748 101,233 80,596 59,378	48,738 244,833 365,439 335,821	6,360 135,457 340,663 426,173	
Male							
All ages	1,755,133	826,171	928,963	97,244	242,731	588,988	
Under 17 years	319,507 570,339 498,222 367,066	277,636 360,288 140,079 48,168	41,871 210,051 358,143 318,898	14,474 39,851 29,820 13,099	24,861 78,781 92,475 46,614	*2,536 91,419 235,848 259,185	
Female							
All ages	2,350,626	1,104,151	1,246,475	174,711	752,100	319,664	
Under 17 years	320,415 788,246 631,324 610,640	276,440 516,774 202,770 108,166	43,975 271,472 428,554 502,474	16,274 61,382 50,776 46,279	23,878 166,052 272,963 289,207	*3,823 44,038 104,815 166,988	
Both sexes		Rest	ricted-activity da	ys per person pe	er year		
All ages	19.0	10.5	69.1	33.9	63.8	115.4	
Under 17 years	11.0 15.0 26.0 41.9	9.9 10.6 10.4 12.4	37.5 60.1 75.3 76.4	29.0 33.8 34.0 37.1	43.4 61.2 69.3 64.6	58.3 134.1 121.3 108.0	
Male							
All ages	16.9	9.3	60.6	25.8	42.0	101.7	
Under 17 years	10.8 13.0 24.0 38.2	9.8 9.0 9.0 9.8	32.0 51.6 68.5 67.5	24.1 25.3 27.2 26.1	38.1 44.7 48.8 31.9	*44.5 124.7 105.3 94.0	
Female							
All ages	21.1	11.6	77.1	41.2	76.5	153.2	
Under 17 years	11.2 16.9 27.8 44.5	10.0 12.1 11.6 14.0	44.8 69.0 82.1 83.4	35.6 43.3 39.9 42.1	50.7 74.2 80.7 77.4	*72.1 159.0 184.9 140.4	

 $^{^{1}}$ Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 11. Number of bed-disability days and number of bed-disability days per person per year, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age:
United States, 1979

Sex and age	All persons	With no limita- tion of activity	With limitation of activity				
			Total	Limited, but not in major activity ¹	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹	
Both sexes	Bed-disability days in thousands						
All ages	1,455,156	779,151	676,005	61,251	263,610	351,145	
Under 17 years	286,402 490,659 359,365 318,731	256,909 345,446 120,831 55,965	29,492 145,213 238,534 262,766	7,650 22,430 18,454 12,716	19,222 72,074 98,121 74,192	*2,620 50,709 121,958 175,857	
Male							
All ages	584,715	314,522	270,193	18,165	54,797	197,230	
Under 17 years	134,903 175,792 151,977 122,043	122,590 122,351 48,516 21,065	12,312 53,441 103,461 100,978	*2,821 6,978 5,510 *2,855	9,234 16,802 19,375 9,387	*257 29,661 78,576 88,736	
Female							
All ages	870,442	464,629	405,813	43,085	208,813	153,915	
Under 17 years	151,499 314,867 207,388 196,688	134,319 223,095 72,315 34,900	17,180 91,772 135,073 161,788	4,829 15,451 12,944 9,861	9,988 55,272 78,747 64,806	*2,363 21,048 43,382 87,122	
Both sexes		Bed	-disability days	per person per	year		
All ages	6.7	4.2	21.5	7.6	16.9	44.6	
Under 17 years	4.9 5.4 8.3 13.7	4.6 4.2 3.7 4.4	12.9 18.1 22.8 24.5	7.2 7.5 7.8 8.0	17.1 18.0 18.6 14.3	*24.0 50.2 43.4 44.6	
Male							
All ages	5.6	3.5	17.6	4.8	9.5	34.1	
Under 17 years	4.5 4.0 7.3 12.7	4.3 3.1 3.1 4.3	9.4 13.1 19.8 21.4	*4.7 4.4 5.0 *5.7	14.2 9.5 10.2 6.4	*4.5 40.5 35.1 32.2	
Female							
All ages	7.8	4.9	25.1	10.2	21.2	73.8	
Under 17 years	5.3 6.7 9.1 14.3	4.9 5.2 4.1 4.5	17.5 23.3 25.9 26.8	10.6 10.9 10.2 9.0	21.2 24.7 23.3 17.3	*44.6 76.0 76.5 73.3	

 $^{^{1}}$ Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

Table 12. Incidence of acute conditions and number of acute conditions per 100 persons per year, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age:

United States, 1979

Sex and age	All persons	With no limita- tion of activity	With limitation of activity			
			Total	Limited, but not in major activity ¹	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹
Both sexes		Nun	nber of acute o	onditions in the	ousands	
All ages	464,515	398,275	66,240	18,225	34,991	13,024
Under 17 years	181,104 198,751 58,124 26,536	170,874 175,612 39,852 11,937	10,230 23,139 18,272 14,598	4,053 9,167 3,967 1,038	5,236 12,026 10,197 7,532	941 1,946 4,108 6,029
Male						
All ages	209,723	180,630	29,094	8,590	11,689	8,815
Under 17 years	89,923 84,046 25,846 9,908	84,154 74,875 17,809 3,792	5,769 9,171 8,037 6,116	2,450 4,316 1,445 *379	2,768 3,577 3,677 1,668	*550 1,279 2,916 4,070
Female						
All ages	254,791	217,645	37,146	9,635	23,302	4,209
Under 17 years	91,181 114,705 32,278 16,628	86,720 100,737 22,043 8,146	4,461 13,968 10,234 8,482	1,603 4,851 2,523 659	2,467 8,450 6,520 5,864	*391 668 1,192 1,959
Both sexes		Number o	f acute conditi	ons per 100 per	sons per year	
All ages	215.3	216.2	210.3	227.3	224.3	165.4
Under 17 years	310.9 219.2 133.8 113.7	305.4 212.4 120.7 94.8	446.5 289.0 174.8 135.8	382.7 306.3 167.5 64.9	466.3 300.4 193.2 144.8	863.3 192.7 146.3 152.7
Male						
All ages	201.5	203.5	189.7	227.5	202.5	152.3
Under 17 years	302.6 191.0 124.4 103.0	296.3 187.6 114.6 77.5	440.4 225.2 153.6 129.5	407.7 273.9 131.7 *75.6	424.5 202.8 194.0 114.1	*964.9 174.5 130.2 147.6
Female						
All ages	228.3	228.0	229.9	227.0	237.0	201.8
Under 17 years	319.5 245.7 142.3 121.1	314.7 235.7 126.2 105.8	454.7 355.1 196.1 140.8	350.8 342.3 198.5 60.0	523.8 377.4 192.8 156.9	*737.7 241.2 210.2 164.8

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

Table 13. Number of persons injured and number of persons injured per 100 persons per year, by chronic activity limitation status, sex, and age:
United States, 1979

Sex and age	All persons	With no limita- tion of activity	With limitation of activity				
			Total	Limited, but not in major activity ¹	Limited in amount or kind of major activity ¹	Unable to carry on major activity ¹	
Both sexes		Number of persons injured in thousands					
All ages	69,127	58,789	10,338	2,595	5,580	2,163	
Under 17 years	20,925 33,807 10,139 4,256	19,691 30,383 7,172 1,544	1,234 3,424 2,967 2,713	*432 1,101 632 *429	695 1,988 1,707 1,190	*106 *335 628 1,094	
Male							
All ages	40,226	35,038	5,188	1,397	2,444	1,347	
Under 17 years 17-44 years 45-64 years 65 years and over	12,907 20,779 5,000 1,540	11,987 19,058 3,583 *411	921 1,721 1,417 1,129	*389 *493 *236 *278	*425 988 793 *238	*106 *240 *388 614	
Female							
All ages	28,901	23,751	5,150	1,198	3,136	816	
Under 17 years	8,017 13,028 5,139 2,716	7,704 11,325 3,589 1,133	*313 1,703 1,550 1,584	*43 608 *396 *151	*270 1,000 913 952	*95 *241 *480	
Both sexes		Numbe	r of persons in	jured per 100 p	ersons per year		
All ages	32.0	31.9	32.8	32.4	35.8	27.5	
Under 17 years	35.9 37.3 23.3 18.2	35.2 36.8 21.7 12.3	53.9 42.8 28.4 25.2	*40.8 36.8 26.7 *26.8	61.9 49.7 32.3 22.9	*97.2 *33.2 22.4 27.7	
Male							
All ages	38.6	39.5	33.8	37.0	42.3	23.3	
Under 17 years	43.4 47.2 24.1 16.0	42.2 47.7 23.1 *8.4	70.3 42.3 27.1 23.9	*64.7 *31.3 *21.5 *55.5	*65.2 56.0 41.8 *16.3	*186.0 *32.7 *17.3 22.3	
Female							
All ages	25.9	24.9	31.9	28.2	31.9	39.1	
Under 17 years 17-44 years 45-64 years 65 years and over	28.1 27.9 22.7 19.8	28.0 26.5 20.6 14.7	*31.9 43.3 29.7 26.3	*9.4 42.9 *31.2 *13.7	*57.3 44.7 27.0 25.5	*34.3 *42.5 *40.4	

 $^{^{1}}$ Major activity refers to ability to work, keep house, or engage in school or preschool activities.

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Appendix I. Technical notes on methods

Background of this report

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

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

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

Statistical design of the National Health Interview Survey

General plan.—The sampling plan of the survey follows a multistage probability design that permits a continuous sampling of the civilian noninstitution-alized population of the United States. The sample is designed in such a way that the sample of households interviewed each week is representative of the target population and that weekly samples are additive over

time. This feature of the design permits both continuous measurement of characteristics of samples and more detailed analysis of less common characteristics and smaller categories of health-related items. The continuous collection has administrative and operational advantages as well as technical assets because it permits fieldwork to be handled with an experienced, stable staff.

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

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

With no loss in general understanding, the remaining stages can be combined and treated in this discussion as an ultimate stage. Within PSU's, then, ultimate stage units called segments are defined so that each segment contains an expected four households. Three general types of segments are used.

Area segments that are defined geographically.

List segments, using 1970 census registers as the frame.

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

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

The usual NHIS sample consists of approximately 12,000 segments containing about 50,000 assigned households, of which 9,000 were vacant, demolished,

or occupied by persons not in the scope of the survey. The 42,000 eligible occupied households yield a probability sample of about 111,000 persons.

Descriptive material on data collection, field procedures, and questionnaire development in the NHIS have been published^{3,4} as well as a detailed description of the sample design and estimation procedure.^{5,6}

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

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

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

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

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

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

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

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

Explanation of hospital recall.—The survey questionnaire uses a 12-month-recall period for hospitalizations, that is, the respondent is asked to report hospitalizations that occurred during the 12 months prior to the week of the interview. Information is also obtained as to the date of entry into the hospital and duration of stay. Analysis of this information, and also the results of special studies, has shown that an increase was found in underreporting of hospitalizations with an increase in the time interval between the discharge and the interview. Exclusive of the hospital experience of decedents, the net underreporting with a 12-month recall is about 10 percent. but underreporting of discharges within 6 months of the week of interview is estimated to be less than 5 percent. Thus hospital discharge data in this report are based on hospital discharges reported to have occurred within 6 months of the week of the interview. Because the interviews were evenly distributed according to weekly probability samples throughout any interviewing year, no seasonal bias was introduced by doubling the 6-month-recall data to produce an annual estimate for that year of interviewing. Doubling the 6-month data in effect imputes to the entire year preceding the interview the

rate of hospital discharges actually observed during the 6 months prior to the interview. However, estimates of the number of persons with hospital episodes (as opposed to estimates of the number of hospital discharges) are based on 12-month recall data because a person's 12-month experiences cannot be obtained by doubling his most recent 6-month experience.

General qualifications

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

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

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

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

Population figures.—Some of the published tables include population figures for specified categories. Except for certain overall totals by age, sex, and color, which are adjusted to independent estimates, these figures are based on the sample of households in the NHIS. These figures are given primarily to provide denominators for rate computation, and for this purpose are more appropriate for use with the accompanying measures of health characteristics than other

population data that may be available. With the exception of the overall totals by age, sex, and color previously mentioned, the population figures differ from figures (which are derived from different sources) published in reports of the Bureau of the Census. Official population estimates are presented in Bureau of the Census reports in Series P-20, P-25, and P-60.

Reliability of estimates

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

As in any survey, the results are also subject to errors due to reporting, processing, and nonresponse. To the extent possible, these errors were kept to a minimum by methods built into survey procedures. Although it is very difficult to measure the extent of bias in the NHIS, a number of studies have been conducted to study this problem. The results have been published in several reports. 8-11 The standard errors shown in this report were computed by using the balanced half-sample replication procedure.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, the variations that might occur by chance because only a sample of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also reflects part of the variation that arises in the measurement process. It does not include estimates of any biases that might be in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error and about 99 out of 100 that it would be less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as large.

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

NOTE: A List of references follows the text.

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

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

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

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

- Rule 1. Estimates of aggregates: Approximate relative standard errors for estimates of aggregates such as the number of persons with a given characteristic are obtained from appropriate curves, figures I-V. The number of persons in the total U.S. population or in an age-sex-color class of the total population is adjusted to official Bureau of the Census figures and is not subject to sampling error.
- Rule 2. Estimates of percentages in a percent distribution: Relative standard errors for percentages in a percent distribution of a total are obtained from appropriate curves, figures VI-VII. For values that do not fall on one of the curves presented in the chart, visual interpolation will provide a satisfactory approximation.
- Rule 3. Estimates of rates where the numerator is a subclass of the denominator: This rule applies for prevalence rates or where a unit of the numerator occurs, with few exceptions, only once in the year for any one unit in the denominator. For example, in computing the rate of visual impairments

per 1,000 population, the numerator consisting of persons with the impairment is a subclass of the denominator, which includes all persons in the population. Such rates if converted to rates per 100 may be treated as though they were precentages and the relative standard errors obtained from the percentage charts for population estimates. Rates per 1,000, or on any other base, must first be converted to rates per 100; then the percentage chart will provide the relative standard error per 100.

- Rule 4. Estimates of rates where the numerator is not a subclass of the denominator: This rule applies where a unit of the numerator often occurs more than once for any one unit in the denominator. For example, in the computation of the number of persons injured per 100 currently employed persons per year, it is possible that a person in the denominator could have sustained more than one of the injuries included in the numerator. Approximate relative standard errors for rates of this kind may be computed as follows:
 - (a) Where the denominator is the total U.S. population or includes all persons in one or more of the age-sex-color groups of the total population, the relative error of the rate is equivalent to the relative error of the numerator, which can be obtained directly from the appropriate chart.
 - (b) In other cases the relative standard error of the numerator and of the denominator can be obtained from the appropriate curve. Square each of these relative errors, add the resulting values, and extract the square root of the sum. This procedure will result in an upper bound on the standard error and often will overstate the error.
- Rule 5. Estimates of difference between two statistics (mean, rate, total, etc.): The standard error of a difference is approximately the square root of the sum of the squares of each standard error considered separately. A formula for the standard error of a difference

$$d = X_1 - X_2$$

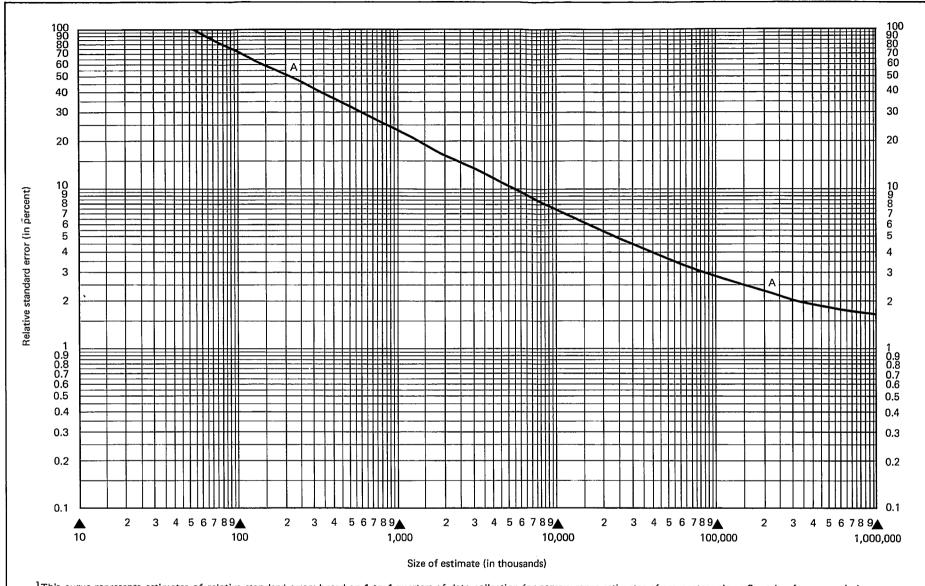
is

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

where X_1 is the estimate for class 1, X_2 is the estimate for class 2, and V_{x1} and V_{x2}

are the relative errors of X_1 and X_2 , respectively. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics, although it is only a

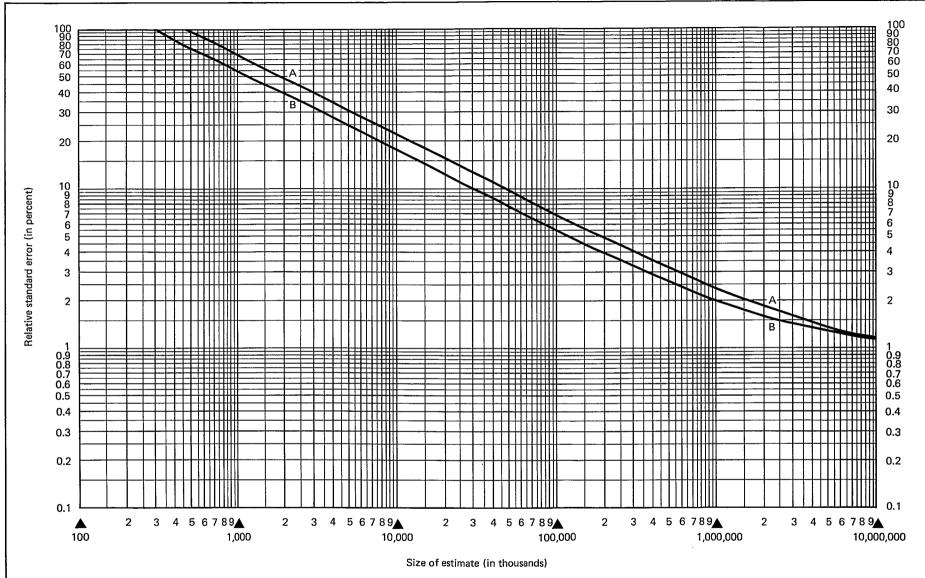
rough approximation in most other cases. The relative standard error of each estimate involved in such a difference can be determined by one of the preceding four rules, whichever is appropriate.



¹This curve represents estimates of relative standard errors based on 1 to 4 quarters of data collection for narrow-range estimates of aggregates using a 2-week reference period.

Example of use of chart: An estimate of 1,000,000 acute respiratory conditions (on scale at bottom of chart) has a relative standard error of 23 percent (read from scale at left side of chart), or a standard error of 230,000 (23 percent of 1,000,000).

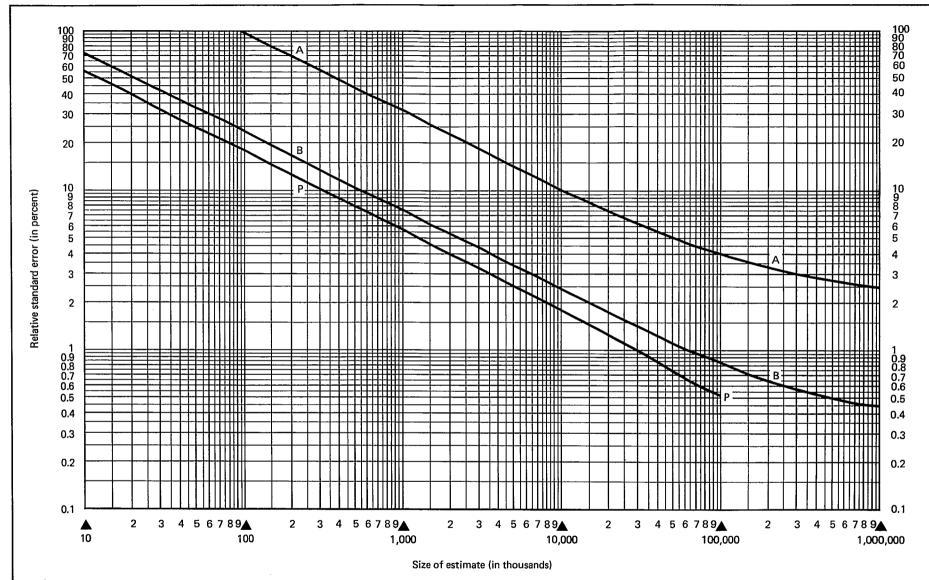
Figure 1. Relative standard errors for number of acute conditions or persons injured 1



¹These curves represent estimates of relative standard errors based on 1 to 4 quarters of data collection for wide-range estimates of aggregates using a 2-week reference period.

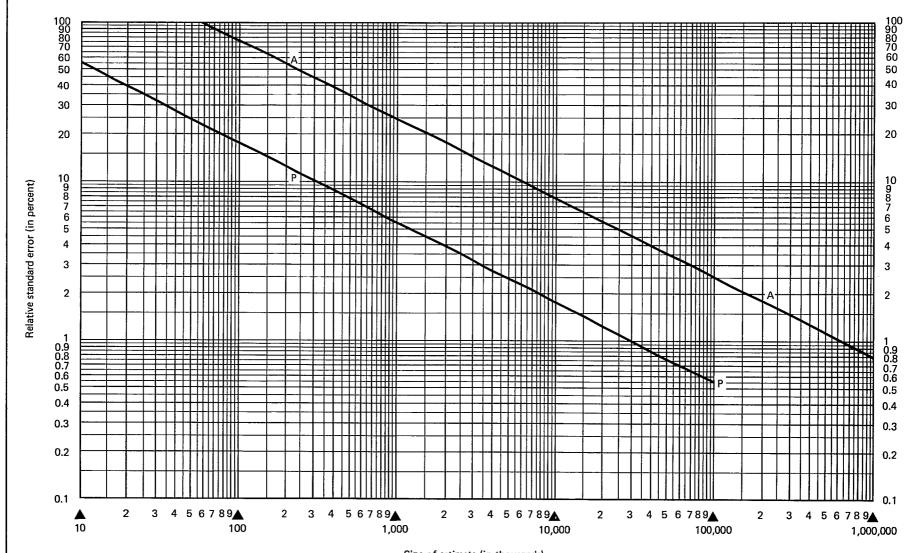
Example of use of chart: An estimate of 10,000,000 days of restricted activity (on scale at bottom of chart) has a relative standard error of 22 percent (read from curve A on scale at left side of chart), or a standard error of 2,200,000 (22 percent of 10,000,000).

Figure II. Relative standard errors for days of restricted activity or bed disability (A) and for days lost from work or school (B)¹



¹The curves related to short-stay hospital days and discharges are based on 4 quarters of data collection for wide- and narrow-range estimates of aggregates using a 6-month reference period; the curve for population characteristics is based on 4 quarters of data collection for narrow-range estimates of aggregates.

Example of use of chart: An estimate of 10,000,000 hospital days (on scale at bottom of chart) has a relative standard error of 10.2 percent (read from curve A on scale at left side of chart), or a standard error of 1,020,000 (10.2 percent of 10,000,000). An estimate of 1,000,000 discharges from short-stay hospitals (curve B) has a relative standard error of 7.4 percent. An estimate of 1,000,000 persons in the Northeast Region (curve P) has a relative standard error of 5.7 percent.

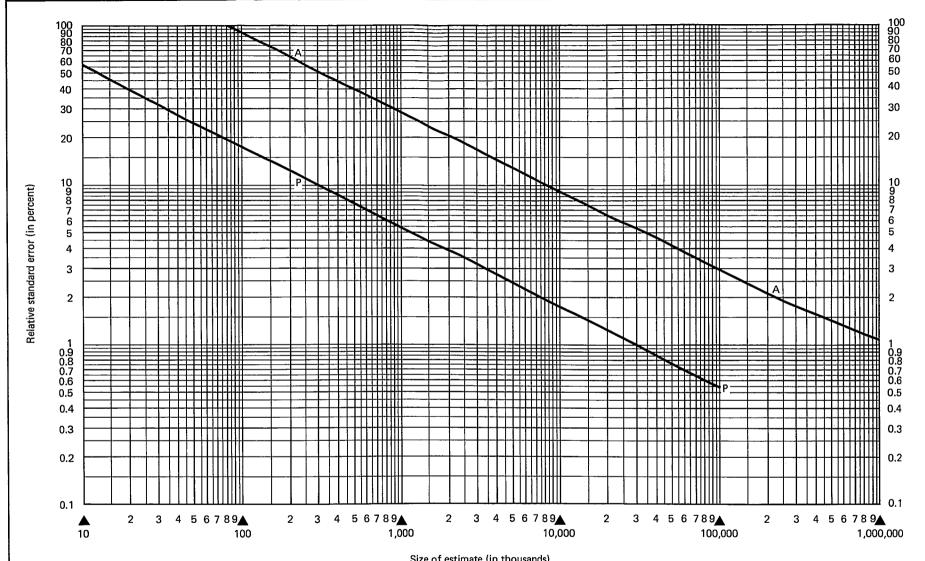


Size of estimate (in thousands)

¹The curve related to hospital days is based on 4 quarters of data collection for wide-range estimates of aggregates using a 12-month reference period; the curve for population characteristics is based on 4 quarters of data collection for narrow-range estimates of aggregates.

Example of use of chart: An estimate of 10,000,000 days of hospitalization in the past year (on scale at bottom of chart) has a relative standard error of 7.8 percent (read from curve A on scale at left side of chart), or a standard error of 780,000 (7.8 percent of 10,000,000). An estimate of 1,000,000 persons with 1 hospital episode or more (curve P) has a relative standard error of 5.7 percent.

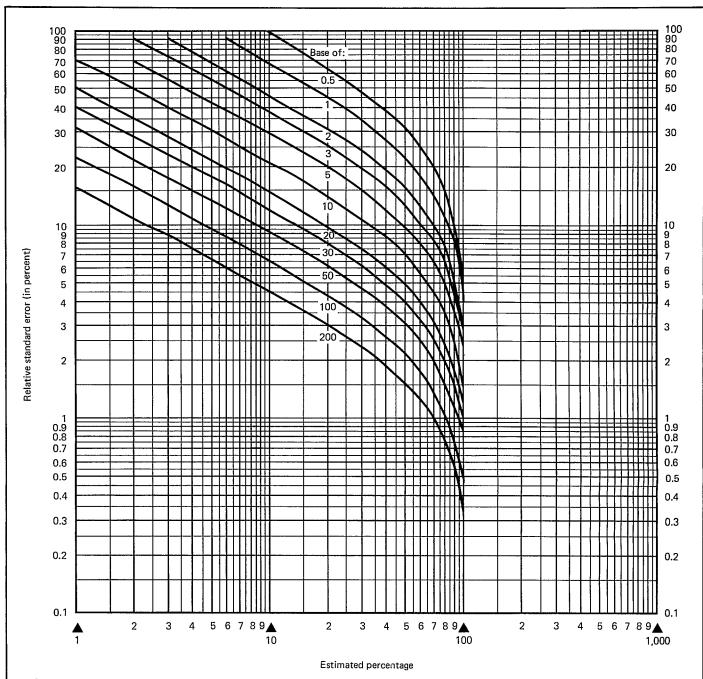
Figure IV. Relative standard errors for short-stay hospital days based on a 12-month reference period (A) and population characteristics (P)1



Size of estimate (in thousands)

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

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

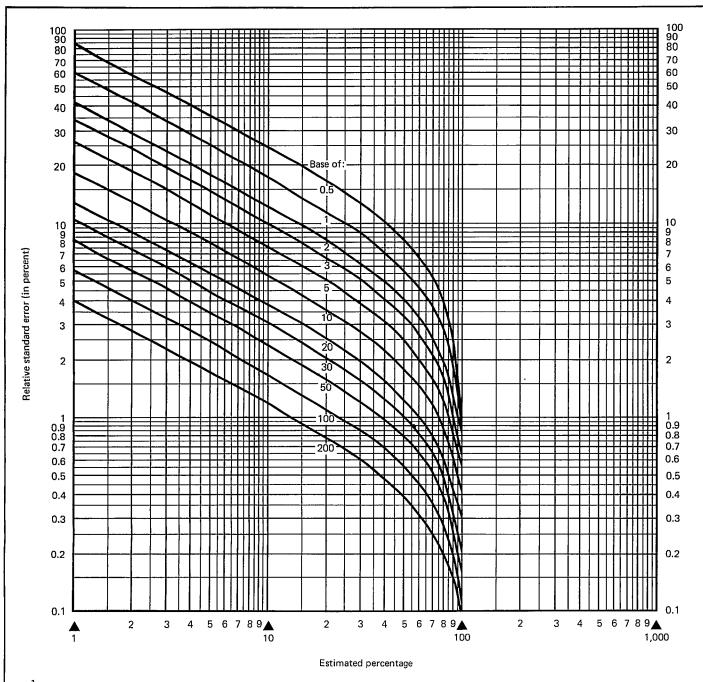


¹These curves represent estimates of relative standard errors of percentages of acute conditions or persons injured based on 1 to 4 quarters of collection for narrow-range data using a 2-week reference period.

²Base of percentage shown on curves in millions.

Example of use of chart: An estimate of 20 percent (on scale at bottom of chart) based on an estimate of 10,000,000 has a relative standard error of 14.5 percent (read from the scale at the left side of chart), the point at which the curve for a base of 10,000,000 intersects the vertical line for 20 percent. The standard error in percentage points is equal to 20 percent X 14.5 percent, or 2.9 percentage points.

Figure VI. Relative standard errors of percentages of acute conditions or persons injured 1, 2



¹These curves represent estimates of relative standard errors of percentages of population characteristics based on 4 quarters of data collection for narrow-range estimates. ²Base of percentage shown on curves in millions.

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

Figure VII. Relative standard errors of percentages of population characteristics 1, 2

Appendix II. Definitions of certain terms used in this report

Terms relating to conditions

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

Conditions except impairments are classified by type according to the ninth revision of the International Classification of Diseases, 12 with certain modifications adopted to make the code more suitable for a household interview survey.

Acute condition.—An acute condition is defined as a condition that has lasted less than 3 months and that has involved either medical attention or restricted activity. Because of the procedures used to estimate incidence, the acute conditions included in this report are the conditions that had their onset during the 2 weeks prior to the interview week and that involved either medical attention or restricted activity during the 2-week period. However, some conditions are excluded that are always classified as chronic even though the onset occurred within 3 months prior to the week of the interview. The codes refer to the ninth revision of the International Classification of Diseases, as modified by the NHIS Medical Coding Manual.

Acute condition groups.—In this report all tables with data classified by type of condition employ a

five-category regrouping plus 'several selected subgroups.

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

Tuberculosis.

Neoplasms (benign and malignant).

Diseases of the thyroid gland.

Diabetes.

Gout.

Psychoses and certain other mental disorders.

Multiple sclerosis and certain other diseases of the central nervous system.

Certain diseases and conditions of the eye.

Certain diseases of the circulatory system (includes rheumatic fever, hypertension, stroke; and all heart conditions).

Emphysema, asthma, hay fever, and bronchiectasis.

Ulcers and certain other diseases of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum.

Hernia of abdominal cavity (includes rupture).

Gastroenteritis and colitis (with exceptions).

Calculus of kidney, ureter, and other parts of the urinary system.

Diseases of the prostate.

Chronic cystic diseases of the breast.

Eczema and certain other dermatitis.

Arthritis and rheumatism.

Cyst of the bone (except jaw).

All congenital anomalies.

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

Impairment.—Impairments are chronic or permanent defects, usually static in nature, that result from disease, injury, or congenital malformation. They represent decrease or loss of ability to perform various functions, particularly those of the musculo-skeletal system and the sense organs. All impairments are classified by means of a special supplementary code. Hence code numbers for impairments in the International Classification of Diseases are not used. In the supplementary code, impairments are grouped according to functional impairment and etiology.

Incidence of conditions.—The incidence of conditions is the estimated number of conditions that have their onset within a specified period. As previously mentioned, minor acute conditions that involve neither restricted activity nor medical attention are excluded from the statistics. The incidence data shown in some reports are further limited to various subclasses of conditions, such as "incidence of conditions involving bed disability."

Onset of condition.—A condition is considered to have had its onset when it was first noticed. This time could be when the person first felt sick or became injured, or it could be when the person or family was first told by a physician that the person had a condition of which he or she had been previously unaware.

Activity-restricting condition.—An activity-restricting condition is one that had its onset in the 2 weeks prior to the interview and that caused at least 1 day of restricted activity during the 2 calendar weeks before the interview week. (See "Restricted-activity day" under the heading "Terms relating to disability.")

Bed-disabling condition.—A condition with onset in the 2 weeks prior to the interview that involved at least 1 day of bed disability is called a bed-disabling condition. (See "Bed-disability day" in the section entitled "Terms relating to disability.")

Medically attended condition.—A condition with onset in the 2 weeks prior to the interview is considered medically attended if a physician had been consulted either at its onset or at any time thereafter. However, when the first medical attention for a condition does not occur until after the end of the 2week period, the case is treated as though no medical attention was given. Medical attention includes consultation either in person or by telephone for treatment or advice. Advice from the physician transmitted to the patient through the nurse is counted as well as visits to physicians in clinics or hospitals. If during the course of a single visit the physician is consulted about more than one condition for each of several patients, each condition for each patient is counted as medically attended.

Discussions of a child's condition between the physician and a responsible member of the household are considered as medical attention even if the child was not seen at that time.

For the purpose of this definition the term "physician" includes doctors of medicine and osteopathic physicians.

Terms relating to disability

Disability.—Disability is the general term used to describe any temporary or long-term reduction of a person's activity as a result of an acute or chronic condition.

Disability day.—Short-term disability days are classified according to whether they are days of restricted activity, bed days, hospital days, work-loss days, or school-loss days. All hospital days are, by definition, days of bed disability; all days of bed disability are, by definition, days of restricted activity. The converse form of these statements is, of course, not true. Days lost from work and from school are special terms that apply to the working and schoolage populations only, but these days are also days of restricted activity. Hence "days of restricted activity" is the most inclusive term used to describe disability days.

Restricted-activity day.—A day of restricted activity is one on which a person cuts down on his or her usual activities for the whole of that day because of an illness or an injury. The term "usual activities" for any day means the activities that the person would ordinarily do on that day. For children under school age, usual activities depend on whatever the usual pattern is for the child's day, which will in turn be affected by the age of the child, weather conditions, and so forth. For retired or elderly persons, usual activities might consist of almost no activity, but cutting down on even a small amount for as long as a day would constitute restricted activity. On Sundays or holidays, usual activities are the activities that the person usually does on these days such as going to church, playing golf, visiting friends or relatives, or staying at home and listening to the radio, reading, looking at television, and so forth. Persons who have permanently reduced their usual activities because of a chronic condition might not report any restrictedactivity days during a 2-week period. Therefore, absence of restricted-activity days does not imply normal health.

Restricted activity does not imply complete inactivity, but it does imply only the minimum of usual activities. A special nap for an hour after lunch does not constitute cutting down on usual activities, nor does the elimination of a heavy chore such as cleaning ashes out of the furnace or hanging out the wash. If a farmer or housewife carries on only the minimum of the day's chores, however, this day is one of restricted activity.

A day spent in bed or a day home from work or school because of illness or injury is, of course, a restricted-activity day. Bed-disability day.—A day of disability is one on which a person stays in bed for all or most of the day because of a specific illness or injury. All or most of the day is defined as more than half of the daylight hours. All hospital days for inpatients are considered to be days of bed disability even if the patient was not actually in bed at the hospital.

Work-loss day.—A day lost from work is a day on which a person did not work at his job or business for at least half of his normal workday because of a specific illness or injury. The number of days lost from work is determined only for persons 17 years of age and over who reported that at any time during the 2-week period covered by the interview they either worked at or had a job or business. (See "Currently employed" persons under the heading "Demographic terms.")

School-loss day.—A day lost from school is a normal school day on which a child did not attend school because of a specific illness or injury. The number of days lost from school is determined only for children 6-16 years of age.

Person-day.—Person-days of restricted activity, bed disability, and so forth are days of the various forms of disability experienced by any one person. The sum of days for all persons in a group represents an unduplicated count of all days of disability for the group.

Condition-day.—Condition-days of restricted activity, bed disability, and so forth are days of the various forms of disability associated with any one condition. Because any particular day of disability may be associated with more than one condition, the sum of days for conditions may add to more than the total number of person-days.

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

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

Preschool children:

Inability to take part in ordinary play with other children.

School-age children:

Inability to go to school.

Housewives:

Inability to do any housework.

Workers and all other persons:

Inability to work at a job or business.

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

Preschool children:

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

School-age children:

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

Housewives:

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

Workers and all other persons:

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

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

Preschool children:

Not classified in this category.

School-age children:

Not limited in going to school but limited in participation in athletics or other extracurricular activities.

Housewives:

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

Workers and all other persons:

Not limited in regular work activities but limited in other activities such as church, club, hobbies, civic projects, sports, or games.

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

Terms relating to persons injured

Injury condition.—An injury condition, or simply an injury, is a condition that is classified according to the nature of injury code numbers (800-999) in the International Classification of Diseases. In addition to fractures, lacerations, contusions, burns, and so forth, which are commonly thought of as injuries, this group of codes includes effects of exposure, such as sunburn; adverse reactions to immunization and other

medical procedures; and poisonings. Unless otherwise specified, the term "injury" is used to cover all of these.

Because a person may sustain more than one injury in a single accident, for example, a broken leg and laceration of the scalp, the number of injury conditions may exceed the number of persons injured.

Statistics of acute injury conditions include only those injuries that involved at least 1 full day of restricted activity or medical attendance.

Person injured.—A person injured is one who has sustained one or more injuries in an accident or in some type of nonaccidental violence. (See definition of injury condition.) Each time a person is involved in an accident or in nonaccidental violence causing injury that results in at least 1 full day of restricted activity or medical attention, he is included in the statistics as a separate person injured; hence one person may be included more than once.

The number of persons injured is not equivalent to the number of accidents for several reasons: (1) the term "accident" as commonly used may not involve injury at all, (2) more than one injured person may be involved in a single accident, so the number of accidents resulting in injury would be less than the number of persons injured in accidents, and (3) the term "accident" ordinarily implies an accidental origin whereas "persons injured" as used in the National Health Interview Survey includes persons whose injuries resulted from certain nonaccidental violence.

The number of persons injured in a specified time interval is equal to or less than the incidence of injury conditions because one person may incur more than one injury in a single accident.

Terms relating to hospitalization

Hospital.—For this survey a hospital is defined as any institution meeting one of the following criteria: (1) named in the listing of hospitals in the current American Hospital Association, Guide to the Health Care Field or (2) found on the Master Facility Inventory List maintained by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Short-stay hospital.—A short-stay hospital is one in which the type of service provided by the hospital is general; maternity; eye, ear, nose, and throat; children's; or osteopathic; or it may be the hospital department of an institution.

Hospital day.—A hospital day is a day on which a person is confined to a hospital. The day is counted as a hospital day only if the patient stays overnight. Thus a patient who enters the hospital on Monday afternoon and leaves Wednesday noon is considered to have had 2 hospital days.

Hospital days during the year.—The number of hospital days during the year is the total number for all hospital episodes in the 12-month period prior to

the interview week. For the purposes of this estimate, episodes overlapping the beginning or end of the 12-month period are subdivided so that only those days falling within the period are included.

Hospital episode.—A hospital episode is any continuous period of stay of 1 night or more in a hospital as an inpatient except the period of stay of a well newborn infant. A hospital episode is recorded for a family member whenever any part of his hospital stay is included in the 12-month period prior to the interview week.

Hospital discharge.—A hospital discharge is the completion of any continuous period of stay of 1 or more nights in a hospital as an inpatient except the period of stay of a well newborn infant. A hospital discharge is recorded whenever a present member of the household is reported to have been discharged from a hospital in the 12-month period prior to the interview week. (Estimates were based on discharges that occurred during the 6-month period prior to the interview.)

Length of hospital stay.—The length of hospital stay is the duration in days, exclusive of the day of discharge, of a hospital discharge. (See subheading "Hospital discharge.")

Average length of stay.—The average length of stay per discharged patient is computed by dividing the total number of hospital days for a specified group by the total number of discharges for the same group.

Terms relating to dental visits

Dental visit.—A dental visit is defined as any visit to a dentist's office for treatment or advice, including services by a technician or hygienist acting under a dentist's supervision.

Interval since last dental visit.—The interval since the last dental visit is the length of time prior to the week of interview since a dentist or dental hygienist was last visited for treatment or advice of any type.

Terms relating to physican visits

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

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

Physician visits to hospital inpatients are not included.

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

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

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

Demographic terms

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

Currently employed.—Persons 17 years of age and over who reported that at any time during the 2-week period covered by the interview they either worked at or had a job or business are considered currently employed. Current employment includes paid work as

an employee of someone else; self-employment in business, farming, or professional practice; and unpaid work in a family business or farm. Persons who were temporarily absent from a job or business because of a temporary illness, vacation, strike, or bad weather are considered as currently employed if they expected to work as soon as the particular event causing the absence no longer existed.

Freelance workers are considered currently employed if they had a definite arrangement with one employer or more to work for pay according to a weekly or monthly schedule, either full time or part time.

Excluded from the currently employed population are persons who have no definite employment schedule but work only when their services are needed. Also excluded from the currently employed population are (1) persons receiving revenue from an enterprise but not participating in its operation, (2) persons doing housework or charity work for which they receive no pay, (3) seasonal workers during the portion of the year they were not working, and (4) persons who were not working, even though having a job or business, but were on layoff or looking for work.

The number of currently employed persons estimated from the NHIS will differ from the estimates prepared from the Current Population Survey (CPS) of the U.S. Bureau of the Census for several reasons. In addition to sampling variability they include three primary conceptual differences, namely: (1) NHIS estimates are for persons 17 years of age and over; CPS estimates are for persons 16 years of age and over. (2) NHIS uses a 2-week reference period, while CPS uses a 1-week reference period. (3) NHIS is a continuing survey with separate samples taken weekly; CPS is a monthly sample taken for the survey week which includes the 12th of the month.

Appendix III. Items on questionnaire relating to chronic activity limitation

Prob	pe Questions		SP H
6	What is the name of the head of this household? — Enter name in first column What are the names of all other persons who live here? — List all persons who live here. I have listed (Read names). Is there anyone else staying here now, such as friends, relatives, or roomers?		First name AGE RACE Last name
_ f	*Apply household membership rules. Are any of the persons in this household now on full-time active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States?		2 B 3 OT
2.	How is related to (Head of household)?	2.	Relationship SEX
3	What is's date of birth? (Enter date and Age, and circle Race and Sex)	3.	Month Date Year
"	Ask Condition list Use Flashcardto determine Sample persons; mark SP boxes.	-	BED DAYS DV HOSP.
C	1. Record the number of Bed Days, Doctor Visits, and Hospitalizations	С	None
	2. Record each condition in the person's column, with the question number(s) where it was reported. Reference dates 2-week period,		Q. No. Condition
	If 17+, ask: Is —— now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?	4.	o Under 17 I Married – spouse present Married – spouse absent Widowed Universed Supersed Never married
Н	If related persons 17 years old or over are listed in addition to the respondent, say: We would like to have all adults who are at home take part in the interview. Is your, your, etc., at home now? If "Yes," ask: Please ask them to join us.	Н	0
	This survey is being conducted to collect information on the Nation's health. I will ask about visits to doctors and dentists, illness in the family, and other health related items. (Hand calendar) The next few questions refer to the past 2 weeks, the 2 weeks outlined in red on that calendar, beginning Monday, (date), and ending this past Sunday, (date). During those 2 weeks, did — stay in bed because of any illness or injury? During that 2-week period, how many days did — stay in bed all or most of the day?	5a. b.	Y (5b) OO N If age: 17+ (6) 6-16 (7) Under 6 (9)
6.	During those 2 weeks, how many days did illness or injury keep —— from work? (For females): not counting work around the house?	6.	WL days (8)
7.	During those 2 weeks, how many days did illness or injury keep from school?	7.	SL days 00
8.	On how many of these —— days lost from \(\begin{array}{l} \text{work} \\ \text{school} \end{array} \) did —— stay in bed all or most of the day?	8.	Days OO None
9a.	(NOT COUNTING the day(s) { in bed lost from work lost from school }) Were there any (other) days during the past 2 weeks that cut down on the things he usually does because of illness or injury?	90.	1 Y 2 N (10)
ь.	(Again, not counting the day(s) { in bed lost from work lost from school During that period, how many (other) days did he cut down for as much as a day?	ь.	Days
10a.	If one or more days in 5-9, ask 10; otherwise go to next person. What condition caused — to what condition caused — to whether condition caused by the past 2 weeks? whether condition caused — to whether condition	10a.	Enter condition in item C Ask 10b
	Did any other condition cause him to	ь.	Y N (NP)
с.	What condition?	듸	Enter condition in item C (10b)
F	ill item C, (BED DAYS), from 5b for all persons.	بالبيني	

lla.	During the past 2 weeks, did anyone in the family, that is you, your — —, etc., have any (other) accidents or injuries?	N (12)		
ь.	Who was this? - Mark "Accident or injury" box in person's column.		11b.	Accident or injury
c.	What was the injury?		с.	Injury
d.	Did anyone have any other accidents or injuries during that period? Y (Reask 11b o	and c) N		
е.	If "Accident or injury," ask: As a result of the accident, did — — see a doctor or did he cut down on the things he usually does?		e.	Y (Enter injury in item C) N
12a.	During the past 2 weeks, did anyone in the family go to the dentist?	N (13)	7 2	
Ь.	Who was this? - Mark "Dental visit" box in person's column.		12b.	Dental visit
c.	During the past 2 weeks, did anyone else in the family go to a dentist? Y (Reask 12b of	and c) N		
d.	If ''Dental visit,'' ask: During the past 2 weeks, how many times did — — go to a dentist?		d.	No. of dental visits (NP)
10	Do not ask for children I yr. old and under. Mark box or ask:		13.	1 2-week dental visit
13.	ABOUT how long has it been since — — LAST went to a dentist?			2 Past 2 weeks not reported (12) 3 2 weeks-6months 4 Over 6-12 months 5 1 year 6 2-4 years 7 5+ years 8 Never/age I or under
FO	DTNOTES		•	
				·

14.	During the past 2 weeks (the 2 weeks outlined in red on that calendar) how many time	14.	00 None Number of visits	
	Do not count doctors seen while a patient in a hospital.		-	Number of Visits y
			╂	
	(Besides those visits)	Y		
150.	During that 2-week period did anyone in the family go to a doctor's office or clinic for shots, X-rays, tests, or examinations?	N (16)	L	
ь.	Who was this? - Mark "Doctor visit" box in person's column.		15ь.	Doctor visit
c.	Anyone else?	Y (Reask 15b and c) N		
	If "Doctor visit," ask: How many times did —— visit the doctor during that period?		d.	Number of visits (NP)
			-	
16a.	During that period, did anyone in the family get any medical advice from a doctor over the telephone?	Y N (17)		
Ь.	. Who was the phone call about? — Mark "Phone call" box in person's column.		16Ь.	Phone call
c.	. Any calls about anyone else?	Y (Reask 16b and c) N		
	If "Phone call," ask:		1	
d.	. How many telephone calls were made to get medical advice about?		d.	Number of calls (NP)
	Fill item C, (DV), from 14-16 for all persons.			Condition (Item C THEN 17d)
	Ask 17a for each person with visits in DV box.		1	Pregnancy (17e)
170.	For what condition did —— see or talk to a doctor during the past 2 weeks?		17a,	No condition
Ь.	Did see or talk to a doctor about any specific condition?		ь.	Y N (NP)
c.	. What condition?		۔ ۔ ۔ ۔ ۔ ۔	Enter condition in item C Ask 17d
d.	During that period, did —— see or talk to a doctor about any other condition?		d.	Y (17c) N (NP)
e.	During the past 2 weeks was sick because of her pregnancy?		e.	Y N (17d)
f.	What was the matter?		f.	Enter condition in item C (17d)
			 	
18a.	During the past 12 months, (that is since <u>(date)</u> a year ago), about how many time talk to a medical doctor? (Do not count doctors seen while a patient in a hospital.) (Include the —— visits you already told me about.)	es did see or	180.	000 Only when in hospital 000 None Number of visits
ь.	ABOUT how long has it been since —— LAST saw or talked to a medical doctor?		ь.	1 2-week DV
	Include doctors seen while a patient in a hospital.			2 Past 2 weeks not reported (14 and 17) 3 2 wks6 mos. 4 Over 6-12 mos. 5 1 year 6 2-4 years
			7 5+ years 8 Never	

	19a. What was — doing MOST OF THE PAST 12 MONTHS — (For males): working or doing something else? (For females): keeping house, working, or doing	19. & 20.	1 ☐ Working (24a) 2 ☐ Keeping house (24b)	
Ages	b. What was doing? something else?	}	3 Retired, health (23)	
17+	If 45+ years and was not "working," "keeping house," or "going to school," ask: c. is retired?	Į.	4 Retired, other (23)	
	d. If "retired," ask: Did he retire because of his health?	İ	5 Going to school (26)	
	20a. What was —— doing MOST OF THE PAST 12 MONTHS — going to school or doing something else?	Ì	6 17+ something else (
Ages 6~16	If "something else," ask:	ĺ	7 🔲 6—16 something else	(25)
	b. What was —— doing?	L		
Ages under 6			0	
21a. Is able	to take part at all in ordinary play with other children?	21 a.	Y 1 N (2	28)
b. Is he limite	d in the kind of play he can do because of his health?	ь.	2 Y (28) N	
c. Is he limite	ed in the amount of play because of his health?	с.	2 Y (28) N (2	27)
22a. ls limit	ed in any way because of his health?	220,	1 Y 5 N (A	IP)
b. In what wa	y is he limited? Record limitation, not condition.	ь.	(2	8)
23a. Does h	ealth now keep him from working?	23a.	1 Y (28) N	
b. Is he limite	d in the kind of work he could do because of his health?	ь.	2 Y (28) N	
c. Is he limite	d in the amount of work he could do because of his health?	c.	2 Y (28) N	
d. Is he limite	d in the kind or amount of other activities because of his health?	d.	3 Y (28) N (2)	7)
24a. Does N	OW have a job?	240.	Y (24c) N	
b. In terms of	health, is NOW able to (work - keep house) at all?	ъ.	Y 1 N /2	8)
c. Is he limite	d in the kind of (work — housework) he can do because of his health?	c.	2 Y (28) N	
d. Is he limite	d in the amount of (work — housework) he can do because of his health?	d.	2 Y (28) N	
e. Is he limite	d in the kind or amount of other activities because of his health?	e,	3 Y (28) N (27	7)
25. In terms of	health would be able to go to school?	25.	Y 1 N (28	9)
26a. Does (would	d) —— have to go to a certain type of school because of his health?	26 a.	2 Y (28) N	
b. Is he (woul	d he be) limited in school attendance because of his health?	ь.	2 Y (28) N	
c. Is he limite	d in the kind or amount of other activities because of his health?	с.	3 Y (28) N	
27a. ls limit	ed in ANY WAY because of a disability or health?	27 a.	4 Y 5 N (N	P)
b. In what wa	is he limited? Record limitation, not condition.	ь.		
28a. About how	long has he { been limited in been unable to had to go to a certain type of school?}	28 o.	000 Less than I month	V
b. What (other) condition causes this limitation?	ь.	Enter condition in Item (Č ~
If "old age	only, ask: Is this limitation caused by any specific condition?		Ask 28c Old age only (NP)	
c. Is this limi	tation caused by any other condition?	c.	Y (Reask N 28b and c)	
Mark box o	ask:		Only I condition	
d. Which of th	ese conditions would you say is the MAIN cause of his limitation?			_
		d.	Enter main condition	

	290.	Y N (Item C)
b. How many times was in a hospital since <u>(date)</u> a year ago?	ь.	Times (Item C)
30a. Was anyone in the family in a nursing home, convalescent home, or similar place since (date) a year ago? Y N (31)	8.7	
b. Who was this? — Circle "Y" in person's column.	30ъ.	Y
If "Y," ask: c. During that period, how many times was —— in a nursing home or similar place?	c	Times (Item C)
Ask for each child I year old or under if date of birth is on or after reference date. 31a. Was born in a hospital? If "Yes," and no hospitalizations entered in his and/or mother's column, enter "I" in 29b and item C. If "Yes," and a hospitalization is entered for the mother and/or baby, ask 31b for each.	310.	Y N (<i>NP</i>)
b. Is this hospitalization included in the number you gave me for? If "No," correct entries in 29 and item C for mother and/or baby.	Б.	Y N

Condition Page

CONDITION 1	A 3 Ask remaining questions as appropriate for the condition entered in:					
1. Person number Name of condition	1					
	2 □ Q. 3a 4 □ Q. 3c 6 □ Q. 3e					
2. When did —— last see or talk to a doctor about his?	4. During the past 2 weeks, did his cause him to cut down on the things he usually does?					
1 To In interview 1 To Past 2 wks. (Item C) 5 2-4 yrs.						
week 2	5. During that period, how many days did he cut down for as much as a day? ———————————————————————————————————					
3 Over 6–12 mos. 7 (17 Never 6 12 mos. 7 (17 Never 6 12 pt. seen	oo None (9)					
9 DK when Dr. seen	6. During that 2-week period, how many days did his keep him in bed all or most of the day?					
Examine "Name of condition" entry and mark	oo None					
Al Color blindness (NC) On Card C (A2) Accident or injury (A2) Neither (3a)	Ask if 17+ years:Days (9)					
If "Doctor not talked to," transcribe entry from item 1.	during that 2-week period? (For females): not					
If "Doctor talked to," ask:	counting work around the house?					
3a. What did the doctor say it was? — Did he give it a medical name?	Ask if 6—16 years: 8. How many days did his keep him fromDays					
	school during that 2-week period?					
Do not ask for Cancer	9. When did —— first notice his?					
b. What was the cause of?	1 ☐ Last week 4 ☐ 2 weeks—3 months					
Accident or injury (A2)	2 [_] Week before 5 [_] Over 3—12 months 3 [_] Past 2 weeks—DK which 6 [_] More than 12 months ago					
If the entry in 3a or 3b includes the words:	3 [] Past 2 weeks—DK which 6 [1 More than 12 months ago (Was it during the past 12 months or before that time?)					
Ailment Condition Disorder Trouble Anemia Cyst Growth Tumor	(Was it during the past 3 months or before that time?)					
Asthma Defect Measles Ulcer Ask C:	(Was it during the past 2 weeks or before that time?)					
Attack Disease Rupture c. What kind of is it?	1 Not an eye cond. (AA) 3 First eye cond. (6+ yrs.)					
c. whoi kind of is ii:	A3 2 First eye cond. (10) (under 6) (AA) 4 Not first eye cond. (AA)					
	<u> </u>					
For allergy or stroke, ask:	10. Can see well enough to read ordinary newspaper print WITH GLASSES with his (left) eye?1 Y 2 N					
d. How does the allergy (stroke) affect him?	right > eye?1 Y 2 N					
If in 3a-d there is an impairment or any of the following entries:	FOOTNOTES					
Abscess Damage Paralysis	i					
Ache (except head or ear) Growth Rupture Bleeding Hemorrhage Sore						
Blood clat Infection Soreness Boil Inflammation Tumor Ask e:						
Boil Inflammation Tumor Ask e: Cancer Neuralgia Ulcer						
Cramps (except Neuritis Varicose veins menstrual) Pain Weak						
Cyst Palsy Weakness						
e. What part of the body is affected?						
Show the following detail:						
Head skull, scalp, face						
Back/spine/vertebraupper, middle, lower Ear or eyeone or both	i					
Arm one or both; shoulder, upper, elbow, lower, wrist, hand						
Leg one or both; hip, upper, knee,						
lower, ankle, foot	<u> </u>					

Missing extremity (A4) Condition in C2 does not have a letter as source (A4) Condition in C2 has a letter as source, Doctor seen (11) Condition in C2 has a letter as source, Doctor not seen (15)	Accident or injury Other (NC) 17a. Did the accident happen during the past 2 years or before that time? During the past 2 years Before 2 years (18a)
lla. Does — NOW take any medicine or treatment for his? b. Was any of this medicine or treatment recommended by a doctor? 1 Y 2 N (12)	b. When did the accident happen? Last week Dover 3-12 months Week before 1-2 years 2 weeks-3 months
12. Has he ever had surgery for this condition? 1 Y 2 N	18a. At the time of the accident what part of the body was hurt? What kind of injury was it? Anything else?
13. Was he ever hospitalized for this condition? 1 Y 2 N	Part(s) of body Kind of injury
14. During the past 12 months, about how many times has	If accident happened more than 3 months ago, ask;
15a. About how many days during the past 12 months has this condition kept him in bed all or most of the day? Days 000 \ None	b. What part of the body is affected now? How is his —— affected? Is he affected in any other way?
Ask if 17+ years: b. About how many days during the past 12 months has Days this condition kept him from work? For females: Not counting work around the house? Doo None	Part(s) of body Present effects
16a. How often does his bother him — all of the time, often, once in a while, or never? 1	19. Where did the accident happen? 1 At home (inside house) 2 At home (adjacent premises) 3 Street and highway (includes roadway and public sidewalk) 4 Farm 5 Industrial place (includes premises) 6 School (includes premises) 7 Place of recreation and sports, except at school 8 Other - Specify
☐ All the time in 16a OR condition list 4 asked (A4) c. Does — still have this condition? 1 Y (A4) N	20. Was — at work at his job or business when the accident happened? 1 Y 3 While in Armed Services 2 N 4 Under 17 at time of accident
d. Is this condition completely cured or is it under control? 2 □ Cured 3 □ Under control (A4)	21a. Was a car, truck, bus, or other motor vehicle involved in the accident in any way? 1 Y 2 N (NC)
A Dother - Specify	b. Was more than one vehicle involved? Y N c. Was it (either one) moving at the time? 1 Y 2 N

2-WEEKS DOCTOR VISITS PAGE	1.	Person number
Earlier, you told me that —— had seen or talked to a doctor during the past 2 weeks.	20.	7777 Last week
2a. On what (other) dates during that 2-week period did —— visit or talk to a doctor?		OR (8888 Week before
b. Were there any other doctor visits for him during that period?	ь.	Y (Reask 2a and b) N (Ask 3-6 for each visit)
3. Where did he see the doctor on the (date), at a clinic, hospital, doctor's office, or some other place? If Hospital: Was it the outpatient clinic or the emergency room? If Clinic: Was it a hospital outpatient clinic, a company clinic, or some other kind of clinic?	3,	O While inpatient in hospital (Next DV) Doctor's office (group practice or doctor's clinic) Telephone Hospital Outpatient Clinic Home Mospital Emergency Room Company or Industry Clinic Cother (Specify)
4. Was the doctor a general practitioner or a specialist?	4.	01
5. During this visit (call) did —— actually see (talk to) the doctor?	5.	1 Y 2 N
6a. Why did he visit (call) the doctor on (date)?	60.	
Write in reason	ļ	
Mark appropriate box(es)		1
b. Was this for any specific condition?	ь.	Y (Enter condition in 6a N (Next DV) and change to "Diag. or treatment")
Mark box or ask:	1	Condition reported in 6a
c. For what condition did —— visit (call) the doctor on <u>(date)</u> ?	c.	
FOOTNOTES		
A Condition page is required for the condition in question 6. If there is no Condition fill a page for it after completing columns for all required doctor visits.	page	, enter condition in item C and

Г	HOSPITAL PAGE		Τ1.	Person number		
 	You said that was in the hospital (nursing home) during the nast year			Month Date Year		
2.	When did —— enter the hospital (nursing home) (the last time)?	USE YOUR CALENDAR Make sure the YEAR is correct	2.			19
				Name		
3.	3. What is the name and address of this hospital (nursing home)?			Street		
	man to the neme and address of this hospital (hersing home).		3.	City (or county)		State
<u> </u>				, (6. 555),		
4.	How many nights was in the hospital (nursing home)?		4.	Nigh	ts	
_	Complete 5 from entries in 2 and 4; if not clear, ask the question	s.				
5a.	How many of these —— nights were during the past 12 months?		5a.	Night	ts 	
Ъ.	How many of these nights were during the past 2 weeks?		ь.	Night	ts	
c.	Was —— still in the hospital (nursing home) last Sunday night for	this hospitalization (stay)?	c.	Y	N	
	For what condition did —— enter the hospital (nursing home) — do If medical name unknown, enter an adequate description.	you know the medical name?	6.	☐ Normal de Condition	:livery No	ormal at birth
	For delivery ask:	Show CAUSE, KIND, and		Cause (On Card C	Acc. or Inj.
	Was this a normal delivery? If "NO," ask:	PART OF BODY in same detail as required for the				
	For newborn, ask: What was the matter? Was the baby normal at birth?	Condition page.		Kind		
	, J	1 ! !		Part of body		
7a.	Were any operations performed on —— during this stay at the hospi	ital (nursing home)?	7a,	Y	0 N (N	ext Hosp)
Ь.	What was the name of the operation?		ъ.			
	If name of operation is not known, describe what was done.					
				Y (Describe)	7 N	,
c.	Any other operations during this stay?		c.		_	
	TNOTES					
D'	A Condition page is required if there is an e	entry of "I" or more nights in 5b. If th	ere is	no Condition or	age, enter	
<u> </u>	condition in item C and fill a page for it after				- F	

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