

Monthly



VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

Health Interview Survey—Provisional Data

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FROM THE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Estimated Annual Volume of Dental Visits in the United States, 1968

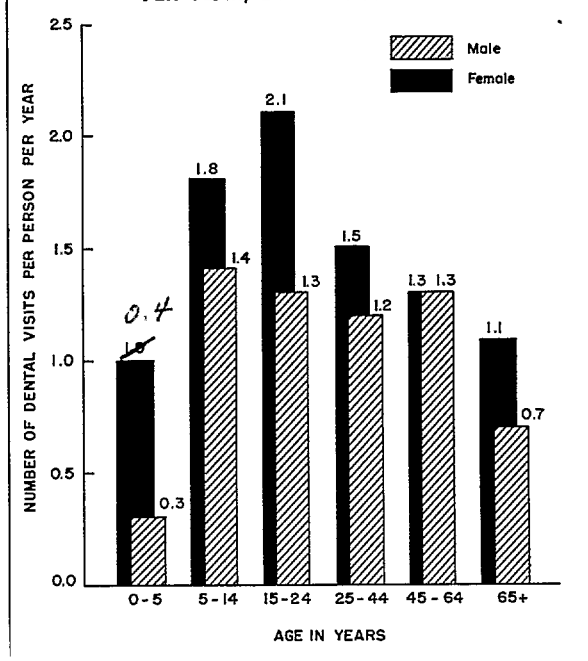
During the year 1968 there were an estimated 265.4 million dental visits, or an average of 1.4 visits per person per year, made by the civilian, noninstitutional population of the United States. This information is based on data collected in the Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, during the period July-December 1968. Any visit to a dentist's office for treatment or advice was considered a dental visit, even if the service was not provided by a dentist himself but by a technician or hygienist acting under a dentist's supervision.

A comparison of the current estimates of dental visits with those based on earlier data collection periods is presented in the table below. Unlike other types of health care such as hospital and physician services, dental visits are not subject to a great amount of seasonal variation. For this reason the estimates based on the 6-month period July-December 1968 are generally comparable to those based on the data collected during the 12-month periods.

Rates of dental visits for the total population and for sex and age groups do not display any con-

Sex and age	July- Dec. 1968	July 1963- June 1964	July 1958- June 1959	July 1957- June 1958
	Number of visits per person per year			
All ages, both sexes--	1.4 ³	1.6	1.4	1.6
Under 5 years----	0.3 ³	0.3	0.2	0.3
5-14 years-----	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.9
15-24 years-----	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.3
25-44 years-----	1.4	1.9	1.7	1.9
45-64 years-----	1.3	1.7	1.3	1.7
65+ years-----	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
All ages, male-	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.4
All ages, female-----	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.8

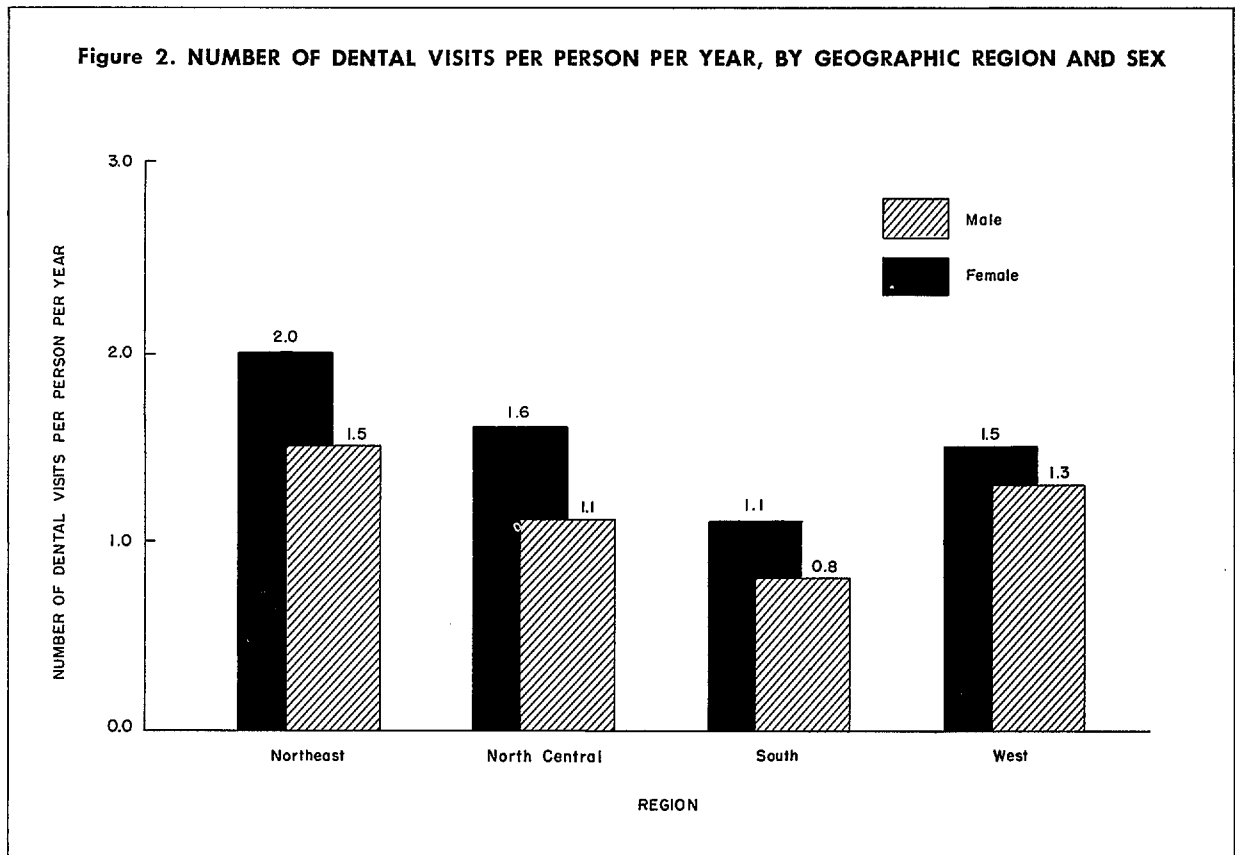
Figure 1. NUMBER OF DENTAL VISITS PER PERSON PER YEAR, BY SEX AND AGE



sistent trend patterns during the period 1957-68. During 1968 the rate of dental visits varied with sex and age (fig. 1), with the lower estimates for those under 5 years of age and for those aged 65 years and over. The infrequency of visits among children under 5 years of age probably reflects not only less need for dental care because of the absence of teeth in a portion of this population but also less utilization of needed services because of a popular

belief that the short life span of the primary teeth reduces the importance of general dental care for young children. The low rate of dental visits for persons aged 65 years and over is not surprising since for many of these people the need for much dental care has been removed by loss of teeth or procurement of dentures prior to age 65. The rates for females exceeded those for males, especially in the middle of the age scale. The higher rate for females may be

Age	All regions	Northeast	North Central	South	West
	Number of visits per person per year				
All ages-----	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.0	1.4
Under 15 years-----	1.2	1.4	1.4	0.8	1.3
15-24 years-----	1.7	2.5	2.0	1.1	1.6
25-44 years-----	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.1	1.5
45 years and over-----	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.4



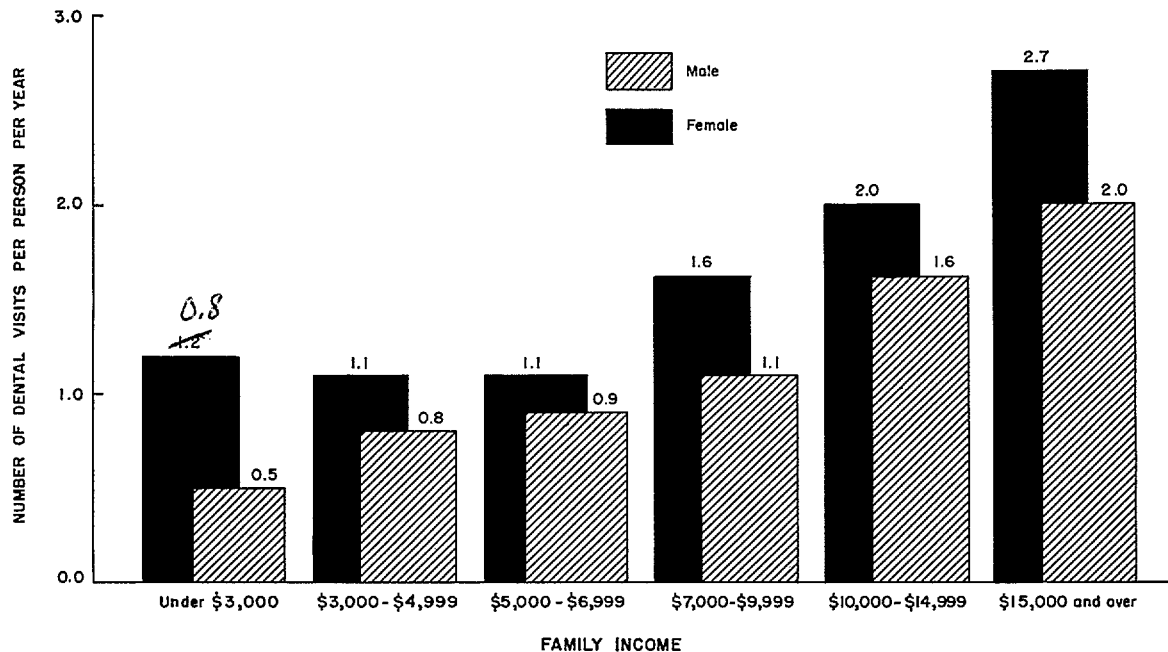
due to either a greater concern for appearance or a higher level of dental health consciousness or both.

The number of dental visits per person was highest in the Northeast Region (1.6⁷) and lowest in the South (1.0). These ranks were held by the Northeast and South, respectively, for all age groups shown in the table on page 2. The Northeast Region produced the highest rates of dental visits for both sex groups (1.5 for males and 2.0⁸ for females) as shown in figure 2.
1.8

The rate of dental visits by family income and age are shown in the following table. Generally speaking, rates increased as level of family income increased. Level of family income, although not a precise measure of per capita wealth, can be considered an indicator of economic status. Thus the ability to pay for dental care may partially explain the relationship of amount of family income to the number of dental visits per person (fig. 3).

Age	All incomes	Under \$3,000	\$3,000-\$4,999	\$5,000-\$6,999	\$7,000-\$9,999	\$10,000-\$14,999	\$15,000 and over
	Number of visits per person per year						
All ages-----	1.4 ³	0.7 ⁷	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.8	2.4
Under 15 years-----	1.5 ²	0.4 ¹⁵	0.6	0.8	1.4	1.4	2.3
15-24 years-----	1.7	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.7	2.8	2.6
25-44 years-----	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.7	1.9
45 years and over----	1.2	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.7	2.7

Figure 3. NUMBER OF DENTAL VISITS PER PERSON PER YEAR, BY FAMILY INCOME AND SEX



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Table 1. Annual number of dental visits and number of dental visits per person per year, by geographic region, sex, and age: United States, July-December 1968

Sex and age	Geographic region				
	All regions	Northeast	North Central	South	West
BOTH SEXES					
Number of visits in thousands					
All ages-----	265,367 259,990	84,915 79,539	75,781	58,458	46,213
Under 5 years-----	11,000 5623	7,407 2030	*	*	*
5-14 years-----	65,061	17,861	21,248	13,502	12,450
15-24 years-----	54,618	17,602	16,607	11,609	8,800
25-44 years-----	63,436	19,725	17,320	14,617	11,774
45-64 years-----	54,290	17,344	14,223	13,245	9,478
65 years and over-----	16,962	4,977	4,434	4,784	2,768
MALE					
All ages-----	108,735	35,612	29,267	23,213	20,644
Under 5 years-----	2,393	*	*	*	*
5-14 years-----	29,594	8,796	8,643	6,180	5,975
15-24 years-----	18,878	6,786	5,167	3,779	3,148
25-44 years-----	26,246	8,455	6,477	6,386	4,928
45-64 years-----	25,839	8,030	6,971	5,625	5,212
65 years and over-----	5,785	2,275	*	*	*
FEMALE					
All ages-----	156,631 151,255	49,303 43,927	46,514	35,245	25,569
Under 5 years-----	8,606 3230	6,136 *	*	*	*
5-14 years-----	35,467	9,065	12,605	7,322	6,475
15-24 years-----	35,739	10,816	11,441	7,831	5,652
25-44 years-----	37,190	11,270	10,842	8,231	6,847
45-64 years-----	28,451	9,314	7,252	7,620	4,265
65 years and over-----	11,177	2,702	2,921	3,684	*

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Table 1. Annual number of dental visits and number of dental visits per person per year, by geographic region, sex, and age: United States, July-December 1968—Con.

Sex and age	Geographic region				
	All regions	Northeast	North Central	South	West
BOTH SEXES					
Number of visits per person per year					
All ages-----	1.0 ³	1.0 ⁷	1.4	1.0	1.4
Under 5 years-----	0.0 ³	0.5 ⁷ 1.7	*	*	*
5-14 years-----	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.1	1.7
15-24 years-----	1.7	2.5	2.0	1.1	1.6
25-44 years-----	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.1	1.5
45-64 years-----	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.5
65 years and over-----	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.1
MALE					
All ages-----	1.2	1.5	1.1	0.8	1.3
Under 5 years-----	0.3	*	*	*	*
5-14 years-----	1.4	1.9	1.5	0.9	1.6
15-24 years-----	1.3	2.1	1.3	0.7	1.3
25-44 years-----	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.3
45-64 years-----	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.7
65 years and over-----	0.7	1.1	*	*	*
FEMALE					
All ages-----	1.5	1.8 ^{1.8} 2.0	1.6	1.1	1.5
Under 5 years-----	0.4 ^{0.4} 1.0	* 2.9	*	*	*
5-14 years-----	1.8	2.0	2.1	1.2	1.8
15-24 years-----	2.1	2.8	2.6	1.4	1.9
25-44 years-----	1.5	1.9	1.7	1.1	1.6
45-64 years-----	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.3
65 years and over-----	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.2	*

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Table 2. Annual number of dental visits and number of dental visits per person per year, by family income, sex, and age: United States, July-December 1968

Sex and age	Family income						
	All incomes ¹	Under \$3,000	\$3,000-\$4,999	\$5,000-\$6,999	\$7,000-\$9,999	\$10,000-\$14,999	\$15,000 and over
BOTH SEXES							
Number of visits in thousands							
All ages-----	265,367	20,583 15,706	23,030	36,858	56,784	67,914	49,611
Under 5 years-----	11,000	5,758 *	*	*	*	*	*
5-14 years-----	65,061	*	4,447	8,331	19,342	16,024	13,230
15-24 years-----	54,618	3,950	3,622	8,761	10,786	16,591	9,026
25-44 years-----	63,436	2,746	5,023	8,830	15,201	19,064	10,125
45-64 years-----	54,290	2,689	5,496	7,968	9,104	11,990	14,523
65 years and over-----	16,962	3,745	3,934	*	*	2,793	2,283
MALE							
All ages-----	108,735	4,295	8,717	16,026	22,834	31,161	21,437
Under 5 years-----	2,393	*	*	*	*	*	*
5-14 years-----	29,594	*	2,612	4,029	7,423	7,821	5,715
15-24 years-----	18,878	*	*	3,664	3,793	5,785	3,288
25-44 years-----	26,246	*	*	3,665	7,159	8,039	4,223
45-64 years-----	25,839	*	2,025	3,547	3,805	7,637	6,740
65 years and over-----	5,785	*	*	*	*	*	*
FEMALE							
All ages-----	156,631	16,287 10,911	14,312	20,832	33,950	36,753	28,174
Under 5 years-----	8,606	5,628 *	*	*	*	*	*
5-14 years-----	35,467	*	*	4,302	11,920	8,203	7,516
15-24 years-----	35,739	2,901	3,002	5,097	6,994	10,806	5,738
25-44 years-----	37,190	2,268	3,132	5,165	8,042	11,025	5,903
45-64 years-----	28,451	*	3,471	4,421	5,299	4,353	7,783
65 years and over-----	11,177	2,963	2,644	*	*	*	*

¹Includes unknown income.

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Table 2. Annual number of dental visits and number of dental visits per person per year, by family income, sex, and age: United States, July-December 1968—Con.

Sex and age	Family income							
	All incomes ¹	Under \$3,000	\$3,000-\$4,999	\$5,000-\$6,999	\$7,000-\$9,999	\$10,000-\$14,999	\$15,000-and over	
BOTH SEXES		Number of visits per person per year						
All ages-----	1.3 ³ 1.0	0.7 ⁷ 0.9	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.8	2.4	
Under 5 years-----	0.3 ³ 0.0	* 0.3	*	*	*	*	*	
5-14 years-----	1.6	*	0.9	1.1	2.0	1.8	2.9	
15-24 years-----	1.7	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.7	2.8	2.6	
25-44 years-----	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.7	1.9	
45-64 years-----	1.3	0.6	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.6	2.6	
65 years and over-----	0.9	0.5	1.0	*	*	2.5	2.8	
MALE								
All ages-----	1.2	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.6	2.0	
Under 5 years-----	0.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5-14 years-----	1.4	*	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.7	2.5	
15-24 years-----	1.3	*	*	1.2	1.3	2.0	1.8	
25-44 years-----	1.2	*	*	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.7	
45-64 years-----	1.3	*	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.9	2.3	
65 years and over-----	0.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	
FEMALE								
All ages-----	1.5	0.8 ⁸ 1.2	1.1	1.1	1.6	2.0	2.7	
Under 5 years-----	0.4 ⁴ 1.0	* 1.1	*	*	*	*	*	
5-14 years-----	1.8	*	*	1.1	2.5	1.9	3.4	
15-24 years-----	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.5	2.0	3.6	3.3	
25-44 years-----	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.4	2.0	2.1	
45-64 years-----	1.3	*	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.2	3.0	
65 years and over-----	1.1	0.7	1.3	*	*	*	*	

¹Includes unknown income.

Technical Notes

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HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service
HEALTH SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
National Center for Health Statistics
Washington, D.C. 20201**

SOURCE OF DATA. The data presented in all tables in this report were derived from household interviews of the Health Interview Survey. These interviews were conducted in a probability sample of the civilian, noninstitutional population of the United States. 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. During the period July-December 1968 approximately 70,000 persons living in a total of 21,000 households were included in the sample.

SAMPLE. Since the estimates shown are based on a sample of the population rather than on the entire population, they are subject to sampling error. The standard errors appropriate for the estimates of the number of dental visits are shown in table I.

DEFINITION OF DENTAL VISITS. Each visit to a dentist's office for treatment or advice is considered a dental visit. The visit may involve services provided directly by the dentist or by a technician or a dental hygienist acting under a dentist's supervision. Services provided while a person is a patient in a hospital overnight or longer are not considered dental visits.

Table I. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF AGGREGATES FOR MEDIUM-RANGE STATISTICS

Size of estimates	Standard error
1,000,000-----	480,000
5,000,000-----	1,050,000
10,000,000-----	1,400,000
20,000,000-----	2,000,000
50,000,000-----	3,000,000
100,000,000-----	4,200,000

SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

Data not available-----

Category not applicable----- ...

Quantity zero----- -

Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05----- 0.0

Figure does not meet standards of reliability
or precision----- *

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