

# **Physician Contacts by Sociodemographic and Health Characteristics**

## **United States, 1982–83**

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Estimates of the use of physician services are presented by the health and sociodemographic characteristics of the patients, the type of physician contacted, whether the patient actually talked to or saw the physician during the contact, the place of contact, the reason for the choice of a particular place or physician, the patient's travel time to the place of contact, the health conditions discussed, whether surgery was performed, and the weekly and annual patterns of contacts. Also presented are estimates of the annual use of physician services and the interval since the person last saw a physician. All estimates are of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population and are exclusive of contacts which occurred during overnight hospital stays.

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Series 10, No. 161**

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### *Cooperation of the U.S. Bureau of the Census*

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

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

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**Symbols**

- Data not available
  - ... Category not applicable
  - Quantity zero
  - 0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
  - Z Quantity more than zero but less than 500 where numbers are rounded to thousands
  - \* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (more than 30 percent relative standard error)
  - # Figure suppressed to comply with confidentiality requirements
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# Physician Contacts by Sociodemographic and Health Characteristics

by Peter Ries,  
Division of Health Interview Statistics

## Introduction

This report is a description of the use of physician services in the United States during 1982–83 by the U.S. noninstitutionalized population, exclusive of physician contacts during overnight hospital stays. Estimates of the number of contacts with a physician or a medical person working under the supervision of a physician are presented with respect to the following characteristics: the health and sociodemographic characteristics of the patients, the type of physician contacted, whether the patient actually talked to or saw the physician during the contact, the place of contact, the reason for the choice of a particular place or physician, the patient's travel time to the place of contact, the health conditions discussed, whether surgery was performed during the contact, and the weekly and annual pattern of physician contacts. Estimates are also presented of persons distributed by how frequently they contacted a physician in the past year and the interval since they last talked to or saw a physician.

Since its inception, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has collected data on physician contacts. During the past 15 years, questions on physician contacts have been included in each of the annual National Health Interview

Surveys (NHIS), and statistical reports on this topic have appeared every 3 or 4 years (Series 10, Nos. 18, 19, 49, 75, 97, 128, and 144).<sup>1–7</sup> The term “visit” used in these earlier reports has been changed to “contact” to emphasize that the NHIS concept of a physician contact includes telephone calls directly related to the health of the patient.

This report differs from earlier reports on physician contacts in that the data upon which it is based are derived from revised data-gathering and data-processing procedures initiated in 1982. The major differences between these and the previous procedures are described in appendix IV of the 1982 *Current Estimates* (Series 10, No. 150).<sup>8</sup> Because of these changes, it is important to note that the estimates of physician contacts presented in this report should be compared cautiously with those shown in earlier reports.

The other major source of data on physician contacts from NCHS is the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). Information about that survey is available by obtaining the most recent NAMCS report<sup>9</sup> or by contacting the Division of Health Care Statistics at the address shown on the back cover of this report.

# Highlights

The following statements briefly summarize the results discussed in this report.

- During 1982–83, an annual average of approximately 1.2 billion contacts between patients and their physicians occurred—an average annual rate of 5.1 physician contacts per person.
- Of the characteristics of patients considered in this report, the greatest variation in the rate of physician contacts was associated with respondent-assessed health status. Persons assessed to be in excellent health had an annual average rate of 3.2 contacts per person, as opposed to those assessed to be in poor health, who had an annual average rate of 19.1 contacts per person.
- In relation to age, the highest rates of physician contacts were for children under 5 years of age (6.7 per child per year) and older adults (from 6.6 per person per year for persons 55–64 years of age to 8.3 per person per year for persons 75 years of age and over). However, for persons assessed to be in fair or poor health, persons 65 years of age and over do not have a higher rate of contact than do most other age groups.
- Females had a higher rate of physician contacts than males (5.8 compared with 4.4 per person per year).
- White persons had a higher rate of physician contacts than black persons (5.2 compared with 4.6 per person per year).
- Members of families with low family income had a higher rate of physician contacts than persons from middle and higher family income groups. However, when assessed health status is taken into account, although the rate of physician contacts generally declined as family income declined for persons assessed to be in fair or poor health, the rates did not vary much by family income for persons assessed to be in good to excellent health.
- Most physician contacts (57.1 percent) took place in the physician's office. A relatively large proportion of all contacts were telephone calls (14.6 percent).
- About 4 of every 10 physician contacts (38.9 percent) involved a travel time for the patient of less than 15 minutes. About 6 percent involved a travel time of 1 hour or more.
- An estimated 35.8 million physician contacts involved outpatient surgery.
- In terms of the frequency of the use of physician services, 9.1 percent of persons had 10 or more physician contacts during the year preceding interview, and 75.1 percent of all persons had talked to or seen a physician at least one time within the same time period.
- The conditions most often discussed during the physician contacts were hypertension (5.9 percent of all conditions discussed), deformity or orthopedic impairment (5.1 percent), arthritis (3.8 percent), influenza (3.1 percent), the common cold (2.8 percent), and diabetes (2.6 percent).
- The type of physician most often involved in the contact was a general practitioner (41.6 percent of all contacts); the type of specialist most often involved was an internist (11.8 percent of all contacts).
- The patient did not actually talk to or see the physician in about 20.8 percent of all the contacts. Among the types of assistant (working under the supervision of a physician) that were actually talked to or seen during these contacts, nurses were by far the type most often involved (10.8 percent of all physician contacts, or 58.5 percent of contacts where the physician was not seen).

## Source and limitations of the data

The information presented in this report is based on data collected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the National Health Interview Survey, a continuing nationwide survey by household interview. Each week a probability sample of households in the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States is interviewed. Information is obtained from adults about the health and other characteristics of each member of the family living in a particular residence.

During 1982, two weeks of data collection were omitted because of budget restrictions. The results from the 50 weeks of data collection were weighted to compensate for these missing weeks.

During the 102 weeks of data collection in 1982–83, the sample was composed of approximately 81,000 households containing about 210,000 persons living at the time of the interview. The total noninterview rate was about 3.1 percent, of which 1.9 percent was due to respondent refusal, and the remainder was due to failure to locate an eligible respondent at home after repeated calls.

Descriptions of the survey design, the methods used in estimation, and general qualifications of the data obtained from the survey are presented in appendix I. Because the estimates shown in this report are based on a sample of the population, they are subject to sampling errors. Therefore, particular attention should be paid to the section titled “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 percent is small, the sampling error may be high. The method for obtaining the relative standard errors for the estimates found in this report is given in appendix I.

Some of the terms used in this report have specific meanings for the purpose of the survey. These terms are defined in appendix II. Appendix III contains the questionnaire items related to physician contacts used in the interview.



## Comparison with earlier results

The NHIS data collection and processing procedures were extensively revised in 1982. For some of the health-related concepts used in NHIS, this revision also included a redefining of terms. In the case of physician contacts, however, the name but not the concept was changed. The following conceptual definition of a physician contact has been used since the beginning of the NHIS:

A physician contact is defined as consultation with a physician, in person or by telephone, for examination, diagnosis, treatment, or advice. (Physician contacts with hospital inpatients are not included.) The contact is considered to be a physician contact if the service is provided directly by the physician or by a nurse or other person acting under a physician's supervision. For the purpose of this definition, "physician" includes doctors of medicine and osteopathic physicians. The term "doctor" is used in the interview rather than "physician" because of popular usage. However, the concept toward which all interviewer instructions are directed is that which is described here.

Physician contacts 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 (such as a test for diabetes) or a single procedure (such as a measles inoculation) when this single service is administered identically to all persons who are at the place for this purpose.

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

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

Ordinarily, many different questions may be asked to measure a concept. Any particular set of such questions constitutes the operational definition of the concept being measured. Though, as noted above, the conceptual definition of physician contact did not change in 1982, more and different questions were asked to measure the same concept. The major focus of these changes was to probe more extensively for physician contacts that involved contact only with a medical person working under the supervision of the physician. Another change was to introduce a new set of questions to determine whether any operations (surgery) had been performed during the contact.

Table A shows the average annual rate and number of physician contacts during 1982-83 and the rate and number of physician contacts for 1980, the year of the previous Series 10 report on this topic. As may be noted, the rate increased from 4.8 contacts per person per year in 1980 to 5.1 per person per year in 1982-83. However, when only those physician contacts are included during which the patient actually talked to or saw a physician, the rate (4.1 per person per year) is the same for both time periods. On the other hand, the rate in cases where the patient did not actually talk to or see the physician increased by about 90 percent from the first to the second time period (that is, from 0.6 to 1.0 contacts per person per year).

Thus, it would appear that the apparent increase in the rate of physician contacts beginning in 1982 derives entirely or in large part from the addition of questions to probe whether the person had received medical care from an assistant working under the supervision of a physician. Because the addition of these questions constitutes a change in the operational (but not the conceptual) definition of a physician contact, estimates from the revised questionnaire (the version beginning in 1982) should not be directly compared with the results on this topic from earlier surveys of NHIS for the purpose of determining trends.

**Table A. Rate and number of physician contacts by whether the physician was actually talked to or seen, and year of survey: United States, 1980 and 1982-83**

Type of contact and year	Rate of physician contacts per person per year	Number of physician contacts in thousands
All physician contacts <sup>1</sup>		
1980 . . . . .	4.8	1,036,092
1982-83 . . . . .	5.1	1,168,381
Physician actually talked to or seen		
1980 . . . . .	4.1	898,917
1982-83 . . . . .	4.1	925,211
Only an assistant talked to or seen		
1980 . . . . .	0.6	123,376
1982-83 . . . . .	1.0	230,624

<sup>1</sup>Includes contacts in which it was not known whether the physician was actually talked to or seen.

NOTE: Estimates for 1982-83 are average annual estimates.

# Presentation of the results

The results on physician contacts from the 1982 and 1983 NHIS are presented in greatest detail in tables 1–21. Tables 1–13 describe various aspects of the contact between the patient and the physician or his or her assistant whom the patient actually talked to or saw. Tables 1–5 describe the health and sociodemographic characteristics of the patients. Tables 6–13 describe other aspects related to the contact, including the type of physician contacted, whether he or she was actually talked to or seen during the contact, the place of contact, the reason for the choice of a particular place or physician, the patient’s travel time to the place of contact, the health condition discussed, whether surgery was performed during the contact, and the weekly and annual pattern of contacts.

Tables 14–17 describe people (rather than contacts) in terms of frequent and infrequent users of physician services and the time interval since they last talked to or saw a physician or assistant.

All tables that relate to the sociodemographic characteristics of persons (tables 2–5 and 14–17) show the results for persons assessed by the respondent to be in fair or poor health separately from the results for persons assessed by the respondent to be in good, very good, or excellent health.

The estimates are shown in this way to aid in avoiding a possible misinterpretation of the results. Sociodemographic characteristics often serve as the basis for distinguishing groups in society. For example, family income is a basis for distinguishing rich people from poor people. A comparison of the rates of physician contacts for two groups is most meaningful

if something is known about the relative health status of the two groups. For instance, it would be erroneous to conclude that Group A was receiving better health care than Group B because it had a 20 percent higher rate of physician contacts if persons in Group A had health problems that were twice as serious as the health problems of the persons in Group B. With respect to these conditions, it would be reasonable to conclude that even though Group A had a higher rate of physician contacts than Group B, it was receiving relatively less health care in relation to need. By showing estimates of physician contacts by sociodemographic characteristics crossed by a measure of health status, this type of misleading comparison can be avoided.

It should be noted that assessed health status as used here means the health status of the family member as judged by the respondent in the interview. It is not directly derived from clinical or medical information about the person.

All of the other tables (tables 6–13) are shown by the place of contact. “Place of contact” as used here includes telephone calls as well as the more usual places suggested by the term, such as physician’s office, hospital, company clinic, and home.

Tables 18–21 show the population estimates used to calculate the rates presented in tables 1–17.

The following sections summarize the results presented in tables 1–17. Statements regarding the similarity or difference between two estimates are based on applying a statistical test at the 0.05 level of significance.

# Volume of physician contacts by characteristics of the patients

During 1982 and 1983, there was an estimated annual average of 1,168,380,940 contacts between patients and physicians or medical assistants working under the supervision of a physician. The rate of physician contacts was 5.1 per person per year. These estimates include contacts over the telephone but do not include contacts during overnight hospital stays.

The following two sections of this report show the rates of these contacts by health and sociodemographic characteristics of patients.

## Health characteristics

The high association between the rate of physician contacts and measures of health status is shown in figure 1. For instance, persons assessed to be in excellent health had a rate of 3.2 physician contacts per person per year, and those assessed to be in poor health had a rate of 19.1 physician contacts. A similar pattern of association between indicators of health status and the rate of physician contacts is shown for each of the other health status measures included in figure 1.

Table 1 shows these results for each of several age groups. For each of the age groups the pattern of association between the rate of physician contacts and the measure of health status is similar to that shown in figure 1.

## Sociodemographic characteristics

### Age, sex, and race

The average annual rate and number of physician contacts by age, sex, race, and assessed health status are shown in tables 2 and 3. These results are summarized in figures 2-4.

The degree to which health status has an influence on the relationship between age and the rate of physician contacts is shown in figure 2. For persons of all health status levels the results follow the usual pattern of this relationship—that is, a high rate for young children and old persons, a low rate for youth in their teens, and thereafter an increasing rate as age increases, with an especially higher rate during the child-bearing years of females.

However, when the relationship between age and the rate of physician contacts is viewed in terms of specific health status groups, it is different for persons over the age of 30 years. For persons in good to excellent health, there was the usual pattern of increasing rates of physician contacts with increasing age. However, the rate of increase was much less than in the case of persons of all health statuses. On

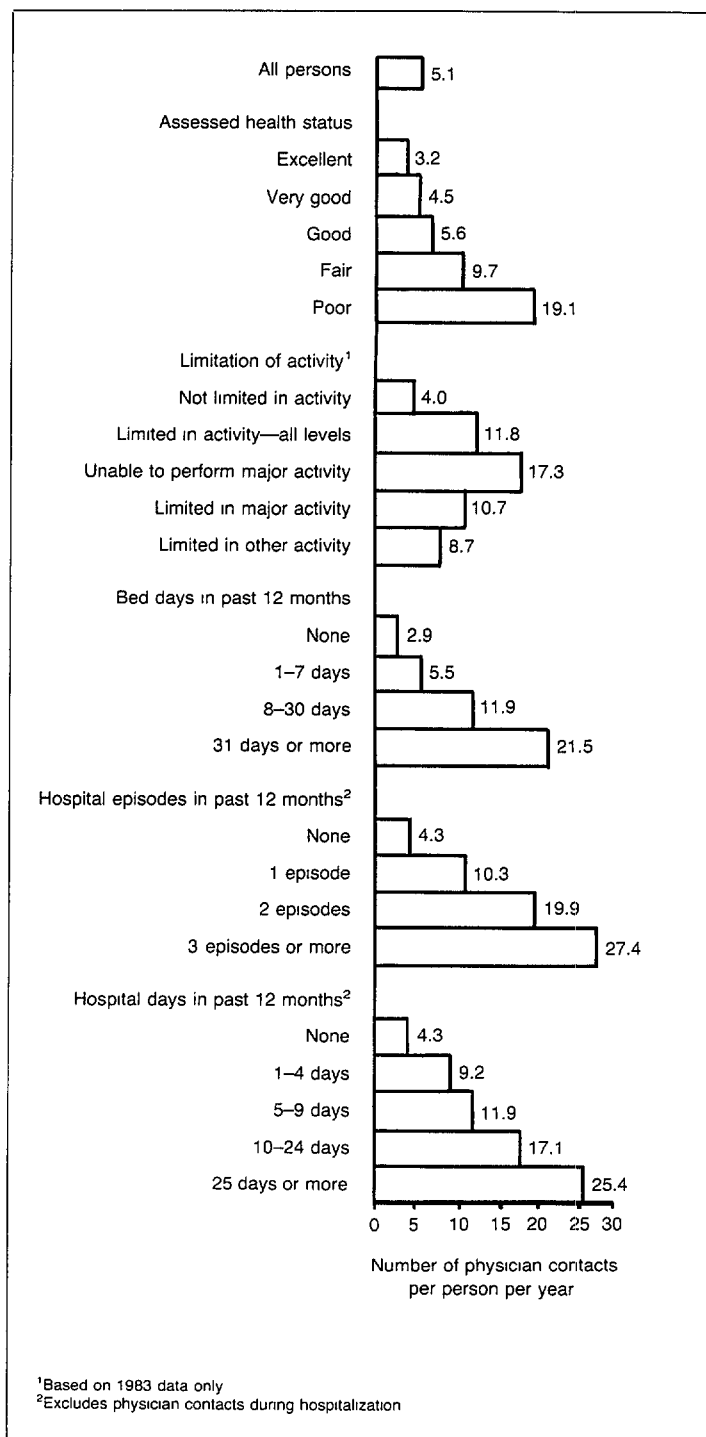


Figure 1. Average annual number of physician contacts per person per year for selected health characteristics: United States, 1982-83

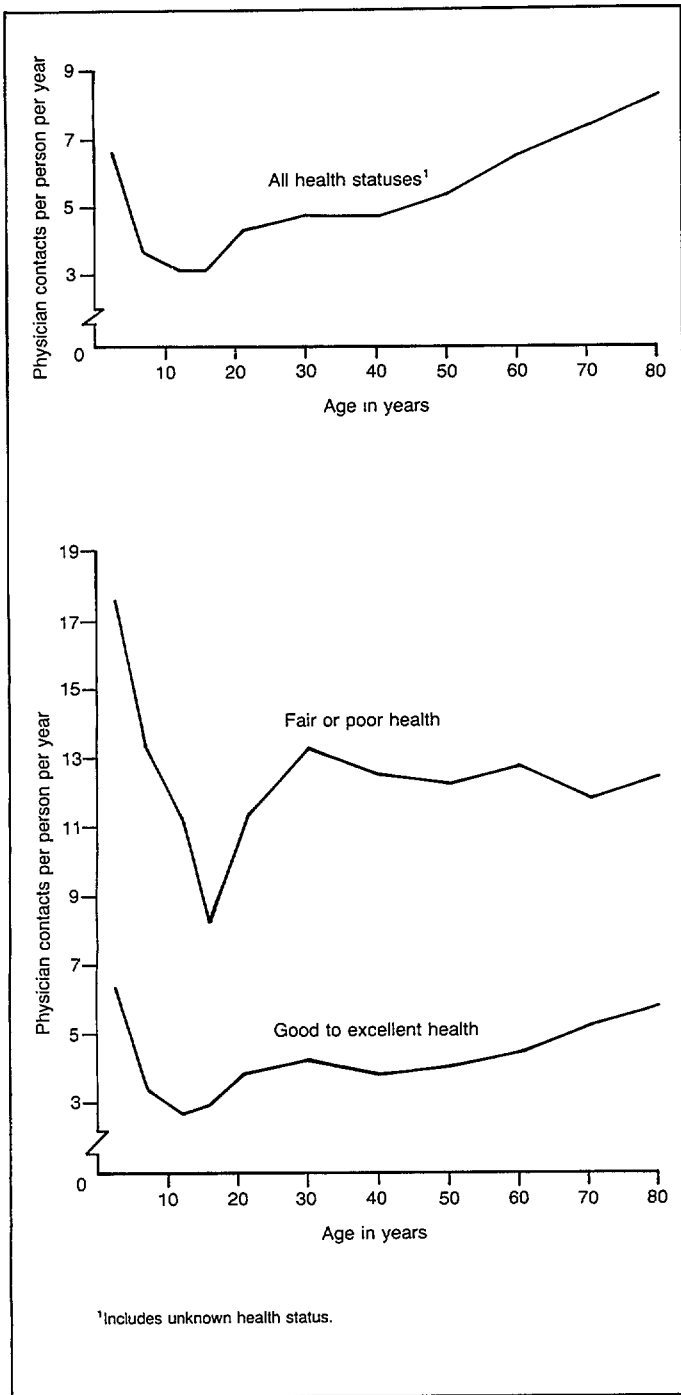


Figure 2. Average annual number of physician contacts per person per year by assessed health status and age: United States, 1982-83

the other hand, for persons assessed to be in fair or poor health, the rate of physician contacts tended to decrease slightly with increasing age over about 30 years of age.

Females has a substantially higher rate of physician contacts than had males (5.8 compared to 4.4 per person per year). Figure 3 shows that, except for young people and very old people, the higher rate existed even outside of the child-bearing years.

For persons assessed to be in good to excellent health, the pattern of the relationship of physician contact rates for males and females was similar to that shown for all health



Figure 3. Average annual number of physician contacts per person per year by assessed health status, age, and sex: United States, 1982-83

statuses, except for persons 75 years of age and over, where the rate for females (6.1) remained higher than the rate for males (5.6).

However, for persons assessed in fair or poor health, the rate of physician contacts declined over the age of 30 years for females; for males, however, it followed a somewhat erratic pattern, being especially high at around 60 and 80 years of age. Though sampling error may account for some of the variation, it would not completely explain the wide fluctuation in the rates for adult males assessed in fair or poor health.



Figure 4. Average annual number of physician contacts per person per year by assessed health status, age, and race: United States, 1982-83

In relation to race, the rate of physician contacts was higher for white persons than it was for black persons (5.2 compared to 4.6 per person per year). However, figure 4 shows that from about the mid-30's to about 70 years of age the rates for persons of all assessed health statuses tended to be higher for black persons. On the other hand, if the results are viewed in terms of assessed health status, the rates of physician contacts for white persons were generally higher than for black persons throughout the entire age range.

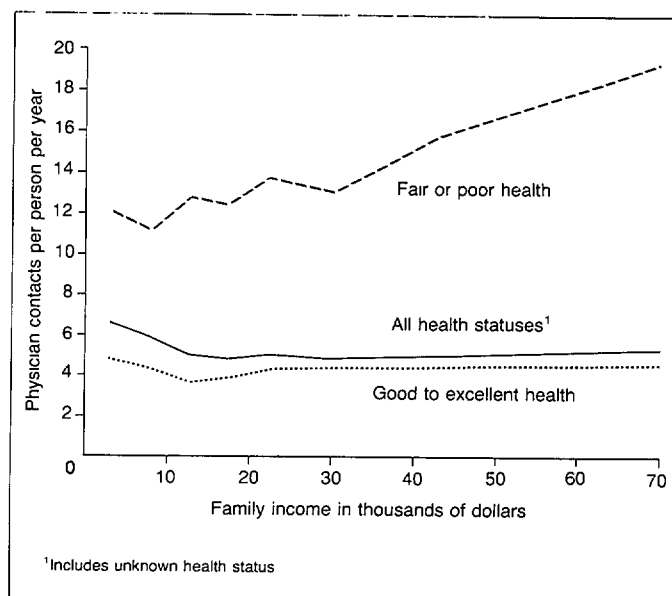


Figure 5. Average annual number of physician contacts per person per year by assessed health status and family income: United States, 1982-83

#### Family income and race

The relationship of the rate of physician contacts to family income, race, sex, age, and assessed health status is shown in table 4. Figure 5 shows that the rate of physician contacts for persons of all health statuses was similar for different levels of family income, except that the rate for persons in families with an annual income of less than \$10,000 was somewhat higher than for persons in families with higher incomes.

However, when assessed health is considered, the picture is altered. For persons assessed in fair or poor health, the rate of physician contacts tended to increase with increasing family income, especially for families with an annual family income of \$30,000 or more. The lowest rate of physician contacts for persons assessed in fair or poor health was for persons in families with an annual income of \$5,000-\$9,999 (11.2 per person per year compared with, for instance, a rate of 19.4 for persons in families earning \$50,000 or more per year).

For persons assessed in good to excellent health, the highest rate of physician contacts (4.8 per person per year) was for members of families with an annual income of less than \$5,000 and for those with a family income of \$50,000 or more per year. The lowest rates were for persons from families with an annual income of \$10,000-\$19,999 per year.

With regard to race (figure 6), white persons had a higher rate of physician contacts than did black persons throughout the range of family incomes, except for persons from families earning \$50,000 or more per year. When viewed in terms of assessed health status, the rates of physician contacts were higher for white persons than for black persons at all levels of family income. The one possible exception was for members of families with an annual income of \$50,000 or more who

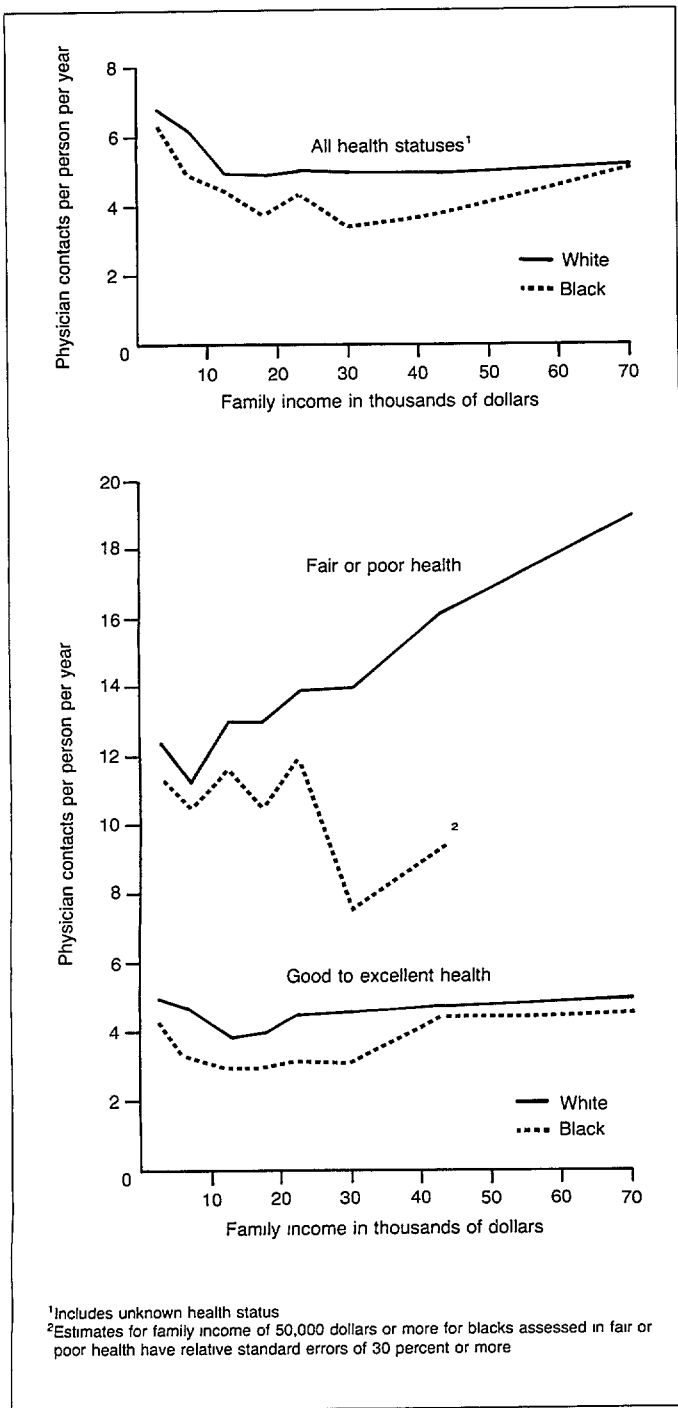


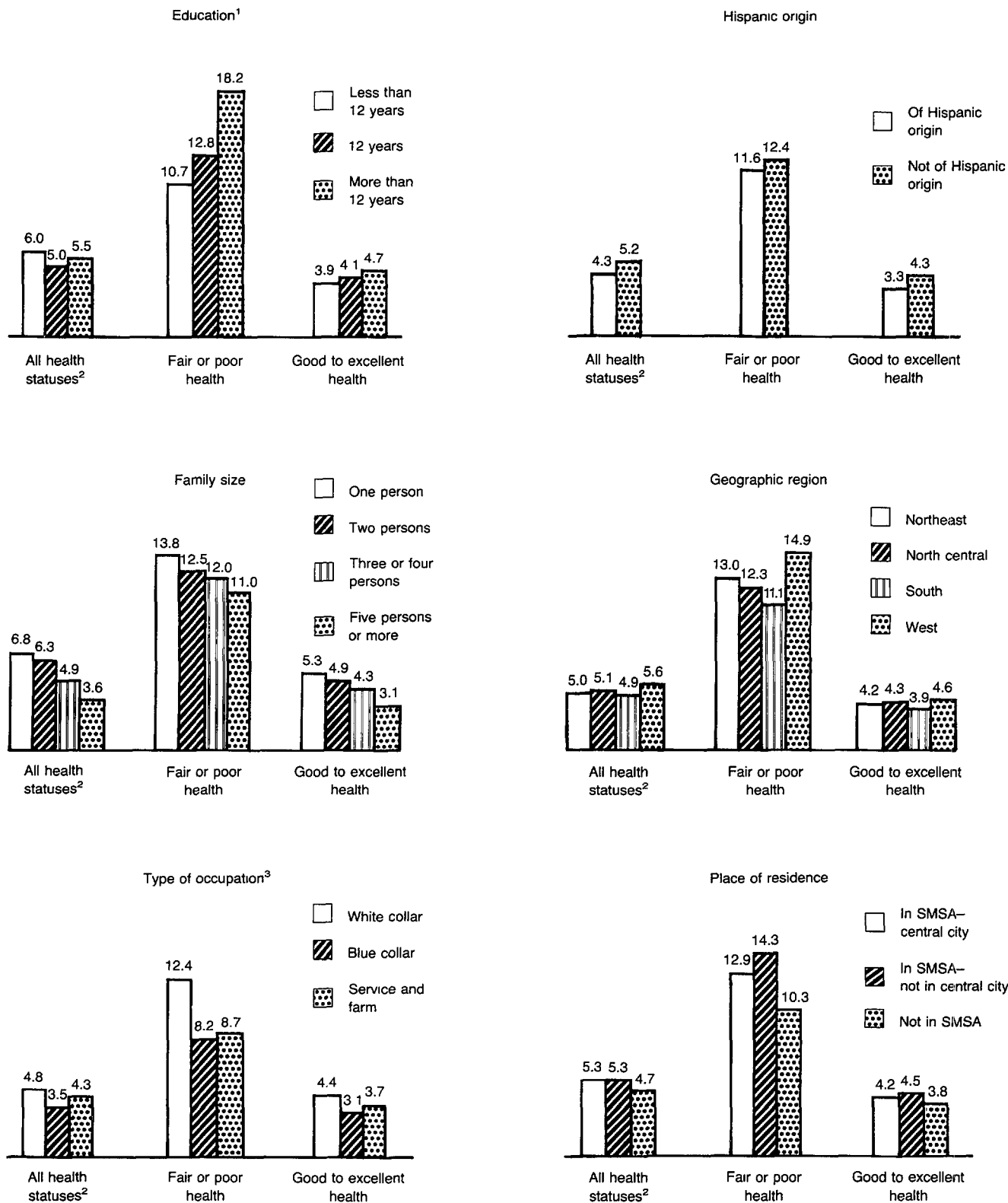
Figure 6. Average annual number of physician contacts per person per year by assessed health status, family income, and race: United States, 1982-83

were assessed in fair or poor health. The comparison for this group is inconclusive, because the sampling error of the estimate for black persons is extremely large. For this reason the part of the curve for these persons is not included in figure 6.

### Other sociodemographic characteristics

Table 5 shows the rate and number of physician contacts by assessed health status and age by years of completed education of persons 18 years of age and over, family size, type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over, whether of Hispanic origin, geographic region, and place of residence. The results are summarized in figure 7 and by the following statements:

- People with less education had a higher rate of physician contacts than people with more education had. However, both for people assessed to be in fair or poor health and those assessed to be in good to excellent health, the rate of physician contacts increased as the years of completed education increased.
- The rate of physician contacts was inversely related to family size, and this relationship held for both assessed health status groups.
- Blue-collar workers had lower rates of physician contacts than white-collar or service and farm workers had.
- Persons of non-Hispanic origin had higher rates of physician contacts than those of Hispanic origin had. However, this relationship did not hold for all age groups.
- Persons in the West region had higher rates of physician contacts than persons in the other three geographic regions had.
- Persons in Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) had higher rates of physician contacts than persons residing outside of SMSA's had.



<sup>1</sup>Persons 18 years of age and over  
<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown health status  
<sup>3</sup>Currently employed persons 18 years of age and over.

**Figure 7. Average annual number of physician contacts per person per year by assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982**

# Characteristics related to the contact

The focus of the previous section was on the sociodemographic characteristics of the patients involved in the contact with the physician or physician's assistant. In this section, other aspects of the contact are described, such as place of contact, the reason for going to this particular place or physician, the length of time to get to the place of contact, the type of medical person the patient talked to or saw, the health conditions discussed during the contact, whether the contact involved surgery, and the seasonal and weekly patterns of contact.

Because the rates for most of these characteristics are related to the place of contact, this variable, rather than (as in the previous section) the assessed health status of the patient, will serve as the major control variable in the following sections.

## Place of contact

Table B summarizes some of the more detailed percent distributions of physician contacts by place of contact shown in table 6. The detailed frequencies are shown in table 7.

Most contacts with a physician or physician's assistant took place at a physician's office (57.1 percent). The other two major places of contact were at hospitals (14.7 percent) and by means of telephone calls (14.6 percent).

Proportionately, the physician's office was most frequently the place of contact for older persons, for white persons, for persons with higher family incomes, for those living outside of central cities of SMSA's, and among persons assessed to be in good to excellent health.

**Table B. Average annual percent distribution of physician contacts by place of contact, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

Selected characteristic	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office	Hospital						Company clinic	Other
			Total <sup>2</sup>	Emergency room	Clinic	Telephone	Home	Other		
Percent distribution										
All persons <sup>3</sup>	100.0	57.1	14.7	4.0	8.1	14.6	2.0	1.1	10.6	
Age										
Under 18 years	100.0	55.6	14.2	5.8	6.6	18.2	0.7	0.5	10.8	
18-44 years	100.0	55.4	15.7	5.0	8.0	14.3	0.6	1.6	12.3	
45-64 years	100.0	58.8	15.5	2.3	10.0	13.1	2.0	1.3	9.3	
65 years and over	100.0	60.4	12.1	1.5	8.0	12.5	6.8	*0.3	8.0	
Race										
White	100.0	58.7	13.1	3.8	6.9	15.3	2.0	1.0	9.8	
Black	100.0	44.8	27.3	5.9	18.0	9.3	1.8	1.5	15.4	
Family income										
Less than \$5,000	100.0	47.7	18.9	5.4	11.0	12.5	2.9	1.2	16.7	
\$5,000-\$9,999	100.0	53.9	17.0	4.0	10.8	12.5	3.4	0.9	12.4	
\$10,000-\$19,999	100.0	55.4	16.2	4.3	9.1	14.3	2.0	1.2	10.9	
\$20,000-\$34,999	100.0	59.6	13.2	4.0	6.6	15.8	0.9	1.2	9.3	
\$35,000 or more	100.0	61.3	11.4	3.3	5.8	16.8	1.1	1.2	8.3	
Place of residence										
SMSA—central city	100.0	51.8	18.6	4.2	11.4	14.1	2.0	1.3	12.3	
SMSA—outside central city	100.0	58.2	13.5	3.6	7.4	15.9	1.6	1.1	9.6	
Not SMSA	100.0	60.6	12.7	4.4	6.0	13.2	2.5	0.8	10.2	
Assessed health status										
Fair or poor	100.0	51.3	17.5	2.9	11.6	15.7	4.6	0.7	10.1	
Good to excellent	100.0	59.3	13.7	4.4	6.9	14.2	1.0	1.2	10.7	

<sup>1</sup>Excludes unknown place of contact.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes other places in hospital.  
<sup>3</sup>Includes other races and unknowns.



Of the various groups for whom estimates are shown in table B, the highest proportion of physician contacts at hospitals was for black persons (27.3 percent). Proportionately, most contacts over the telephone were for persons under 18 years of age (18.2 percent), and most contacts at home were for persons 65 years of age and over (6.8 percent).

### Reasons for choice of a particular physician or place of contact and travel time to the place

During 1983, NHIS included a supplement to the regular questions on physician contacts. The purpose of the supplement was to obtain the reasons why people chose a particular physician or place of contact and to find out how long they had to travel to reach the place of contact. Needless to say, telephone calls and home visits were not included among the types of contacts for which the supplemental information was sought.

Table C shows that in general the reason given most often for a patient's choice of a particular physician or place of contact was "Place used for nearly all medical care" (29.8 percent of all the reasons given). This specific reason

was given most often for all of the places of contact except for emergency rooms, for which "emergency" was the reason given most frequently (43.5 percent).

With regard to travel time to the place of contact, table D shows that 38.9 percent of all contacts involved less than 15 minutes of travel time and 5.7 percent of the contacts involved a travel time of 60 or more minutes. Travel time was shortest (involving less than 15 minutes) for contacts at a company clinic (62.1 percent) and longest (involving 60 or more minutes) for hospital clinics and to other places for outpatient care at hospitals besides the clinic or emergency room (12.1 and 12.6 percent, respectively).

The frequencies of the physician contacts for the percent distributions shown in tables B and C are shown in tables 8 and 9. It should be noted that because the estimates discussed in this section are based on only 1 year of data collection, the sampling variability of these estimates will be relatively higher than those shown in the rest of this report. The sampling variability of these estimates may be approximated by using the graphs shown in appendix I and multiplying the relative standard error by a factor of 1.4.

**Table C. Percent distribution of reasons physician was chosen, according to place of contact: United States, 1983**

Reason physician was chosen	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office	Hospital				Company clinic	Other
			Total	Emergency room	Clinic	Other		
			Percent distribution					
All reasons . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Place used for nearly all medical care . . . . .	29.8	33.5	23.5	13.0	27.9	25.6	16.7	20.7
Especially good for treating this condition . . . . .	19.5	22.2	13.4	4.3	15.3	21.6	*9.6	14.7
Convenient to home . . . . .	10.4	10.4	9.1	13.3	8.1	6.0	*4.8	12.0
Convenient to work or shopping . . . . .	2.0	1.6	2.0	*1.9	1.6	*3.5	13.5	2.9
Referred by a doctor . . . . .	12.2	10.3	17.2	4.9	24.4	13.1	*4.0	15.6
Referred by a friend or relative . . . . .	7.6	9.2	2.9	*2.2	2.5	5.5	*5.5	6.3
Only place available . . . . .	2.0	1.2	3.0	5.8	2.3	*0.5	*6.2	4.1
Required by health insurance plan . . . . .	3.4	2.1	5.3	3.4	4.7	10.0	13.5	6.7
Emergency . . . . .	3.8	1.4	13.6	43.5	2.6	*2.6	*3.1	2.8
Other reasons . . . . .	9.4	8.1	9.9	7.7	10.5	11.6	23.2	14.2

<sup>1</sup>Excludes telephone and home contacts; includes unknown place of contact

**Table D. Percent distribution of physician contacts by travel time to place of contact, according to place of contact: United States, 1983**

Travel time	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office	Hospital				Company clinic	Other
			Total	Emergency room	Clinic	Other		
			Percent distribution					
All travel time . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 15 minutes . . . . .	38.9	40.0	31.1	44.5	24.8	29.6	62.1	41.5
15-19 minutes . . . . .	19.3	20.1	18.5	20.9	17.5	17.9	*10.0	16.6
20-29 minutes . . . . .	18.7	18.7	19.7	17.1	20.9	19.9	*13.6	18.1
30-44 minutes . . . . .	13.6	13.1	16.8	12.6	19.2	15.7	*7.9	12.6
45-59 minutes . . . . .	3.8	3.5	4.3	*1.8	5.5	*4.3	*1.0	5.0
60 minutes or more . . . . .	5.7	4.5	9.7	*3.1	12.1	12.6	*5.3	6.3

<sup>1</sup>Excludes telephone and home contacts; includes unknown place of contact.

## Type of medical person talked to or seen

Table E serves three purposes. First, it shows the percent of physician contacts for the major types of physician (column 1). As may be noted, about 41.6 percent of all contacts were with general practitioners. Among specialists, the highest proportions of contacts were with internists (11.8 percent) and pediatricians (9.2 percent).

Secondly, table E shows the proportion of contacts with each type of physician in which the patient actually talked to or saw the physician (column 3). Overall, about 79.2 percent of all physician contacts involved direct contact with the physician. In other contacts the patient talked to or saw a medical person working under the supervision of a physician.

Thirdly, table E shows that, in most cases where the physician was not talked to or seen, it was with a nurse that the patient had contact (10.8 percent of all contacts—column 5 in table E).

It should be noted that the estimates of physician contact by type of physician and type of assistant actually talked to or seen shown in table E do *not* reflect the number of times physician assistants were talked to or seen. The estimates represent the number of contacts in which the patient talked to or saw an assistant *without* talking directly to or seeing the physician during the contact.

## Medical conditions discussed during the contact

Table F shows the medical conditions most frequently discussed during physician contacts during 1982–83. Ta-

ble 10 shows the same estimates for a much larger group of acute conditions, and Table 11 for a much larger group of chronic conditions.

Hypertension was the condition discussed during more physician contacts than any other condition (5.9 percent of all conditions discussed). In relation to place of contact, hypertension was the condition most often discussed at a physician's office (6.8 percent). At hospitals, deformity or orthopedic impairments were the conditions most often discussed (5.5 percent). The condition most often discussed over the telephone was influenza (6.3 percent of all conditions involving telephone calls).

## Contacts involving surgery

In the recent past there has been a growing tendency to perform certain types of surgery without admitting the person involved as an overnight patient in a hospital. "Surgery" as used here includes the setting of bones and joints and other related procedures. Table G shows that almost 35.8 million of these procedures were performed on an annual basis during 1982–83. The majority (54.2 percent) of these procedures involved operations on the integumentary system, such as the removal of warts or moles.

Most of the estimates for the places of contacts have large sampling errors and should be used with great caution. This is the first time such estimates have been published by NHIS, and they are shown mainly to indicate the order of magnitude of such events.

**Table E. Average annual percent distribution and number of physician contacts by type of physician, and average annual percent distribution and number of physician contacts by whether the physician was actually talked to or seen, according to type of physician: United States, 1982–83**

Type of physician	Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>	Total	Physician not talked to or seen			Physician talked to or seen			
			Physician talked to or seen	Nurse talked to or seen	Total	Physician talked to or seen	Total <sup>2</sup>	Nurse talked to or seen	
			Percent distribution			Number in thousands			
All types of physicians . . . . .	100.0	100.0	79.2	20.8	10.8	1,168,381	925,211	243,170	125,822
General practitioner . . . . .	41.6	100.0	83.3	16.7	11.7	469,440	390,939	78,501	54,894
Internist . . . . .	11.8	100.0	76.2	23.8	16.5	133,143	101,401	31,742	22,012
Pediatrician . . . . .	9.2	100.0	84.6	15.4	12.0	104,347	88,248	16,099	12,487
Obstetrician or gynecologist . . . . .	7.2	100.0	85.5	14.5	8.8	81,028	69,316	11,712	7,104
Orthopedist . . . . .	5.1	100.0	74.8	25.2	4.3	57,612	43,115	14,497	2,498
Ophthalmologist . . . . .	3.6	100.0	94.8	5.3	*1.8	40,751	38,614	2,137	*714
Surgeon . . . . .	3.0	100.0	88.4	11.6	6.3	34,375	30,385	3,990	2,161
Dermatologist . . . . .	2.1	100.0	94.7	5.3	*3.0	23,144	21,921	1,223	*687
Otolaryngologist . . . . .	1.9	100.0	87.2	12.8	7.7	21,789	19,009	2,780	1,676
Psychiatrist . . . . .	1.8	100.0	84.6	15.4	*1.5	20,066	16,973	3,093	*291
Urologist . . . . .	1.7	100.0	83.9	16.1	9.0	19,528	16,383	3,145	1,755
Radiologist . . . . .	1.6	100.0	71.2	28.8	9.8	17,802	12,676	5,126	1,740
Neurologist . . . . .	1.1	100.0	75.4	24.6	7.0	12,157	9,169	2,988	856
Osteopath . . . . .	0.6	100.0	85.6	14.4	*9.6	7,059	6,044	1,015	*675
Other and unknown specialist . . . . .	2.4	100.0	78.2	21.8	7.3	26,664	20,838	5,826	1,934
M.D., unknown if specialist or general practitioner . . . . .	5.3	100.0	58.9	41.1	18.9	60,053	35,377	24,676	11,320
Unknown . . . . .	-	100.0	12.2	87.8	7.7	39,423	4,803	34,620	3,018

<sup>1</sup>Excludes unknown type of physicians.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes unknowns.

**Table F. Average annual percent and number of conditions involving more than 10 million physician contacts, by place of contact: United States, 1982-83**

Conditions involving more than 10 million physician contacts	Place of contact					Place of contact				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office				Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office			
		Hospital	Telephone	Other	Hospital		Telephone	Other		
	Percent					Number in thousands				
<b>Acute condition</b>										
Influenza . . . . .	3.1	2.6	2.3	6.3	2.4	36,008	17,292	4,097	10,802	3,658
Common cold . . . . .	2.8	2.6	1.6	4.2	2.9	32,157	17,514	2,856	7,274	4,409
Fractures or dislocations . . . . .	2.1	1.9	4.0	1.0	2.1	24,453	12,296	7,202	1,683	3,127
Sprains and strains . . . . .	2.1	1.9	4.1	0.8	1.9	24,184	12,644	7,312	1,363	2,815
Open wounds or lacerations . . . . .	2.0	1.6	5.0	0.7	1.9	23,709	10,621	8,969	1,232	2,808
Ear infections . . . . .	2.0	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.4	25,500	15,425	3,055	2,654	2,122
Contusions and superficial injuries . . . . .	1.5	1.3	2.3	1.1	1.7	17,361	8,843	4,078	1,893	2,547
Urinary tract infections . . . . .	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.7	0.9	13,573	7,661	1,499	2,991	1,397
Delivery and other conditions of pregnancy and puerperium . . . . .	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.4	0.9	12,179	6,171	2,068	2,452	1,413
Viral infections (not including intestinal virus) . . . . .	1.0	0.8	0.7	2.6	0.7	12,042	5,291	1,205	4,390	1,059
Bronchitis . . . . .	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.9	0.7	11,489	7,798	1,166	1,486	1,011
<b>Chronic conditions</b>										
Hypertension . . . . .	5.9	6.8	4.1	4.0	6.4	69,088	44,742	7,379	6,866	9,773
Deformity or orthopedic impairments . . . . .	5.1	5.1	5.5	3.7	5.8	59,205	33,863	9,778	6,353	8,836
Arthritis . . . . .	3.8	4.1	3.1	3.3	3.6	44,167	27,315	5,613	5,595	5,445
Diabetes . . . . .	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.2	3.2	30,725	17,865	4,043	3,744	4,851
Asthma . . . . .	2.5	2.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	28,964	19,315	3,221	3,202	3,015
Ischemic heart disease . . . . .	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	21,287	12,077	3,254	3,046	2,725
Dermatitis . . . . .	1.0	1.1	0.6	1.2	0.9	11,485	6,978	1,027	2,126	1,327

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown place of contact.

**Table G. Average annual percent distribution and number of operations performed on persons who were not overnight patients in a short-stay hospital by site or type of operation, according to place of operation: United States, 1982-83**

Site or type of operation	Total	Physician's office		Hospital	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office	
		Hospital	Hospital			Hospital	
	Percent distribution			Number in thousands			
All sites and types <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	35,824	18,920	12,647	
Eye . . . . .	3.5	*2.1	*5.2	1,018	*312	*573	
Ear . . . . .	2.8	*2.3	*3.1	814	*331	*338	
Nose, mouth, and pharynx . . . . .	7.7	8.2	8.2	2,213	1,199	897	
Cardiovascular system . . . . .	4.6	*0.5	*5.4	1,335	*78	*590	
Digestive system . . . . .	2.9	*2.3	*2.8	836	*339	*311	
Female genital organs . . . . .	3.8	*3.7	*4.3	1,107	*533	*469	
Musculoskeletal system . . . . .	15.3	13.3	18.4	4,432	1,935	2,027	
Integumentary system . . . . .	54.2	62.4	47.8	15,654	9,083	5,249	
Other sites and types . . . . .	5.1	*5.2	*4.9	1,480	*753	*543	
Unknown type or site . . . . .	...	...	...	6,937	4,360	1,652	

<sup>1</sup>Includes all places of contact.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes unknown type or site of operation

### Seasonal and weekly patterns of contact

Figure 8 shows the seasonal pattern of the average number of physician contacts per day during 1982-83. The rates were calculated by dividing the average number of contacts for each month for 1982 and 1983 and dividing by the number of days in the month. As such, compensation is made for differences based on the number of days in a month.

As may be noted, most physician contacts on a per-day basis were made in February and April and least in July and December. Most of this seasonal variation is related to visits at a physician's office, since the curve for ambulatory

physician contacts at hospitals shows less seasonal variation.

The estimates upon which figure 8 is based can be found in table 12.

Figure 9 shows the average annual number of physician contacts for 1982 and 1983 by the day of the week. Proportionately more contacts took place on Monday and Friday; the fewest over the weekend. A similar pattern is found regardless of whether the contact took place at a physician's office or a hospital.

More detail regarding more specific places of contact may be found in table 13.

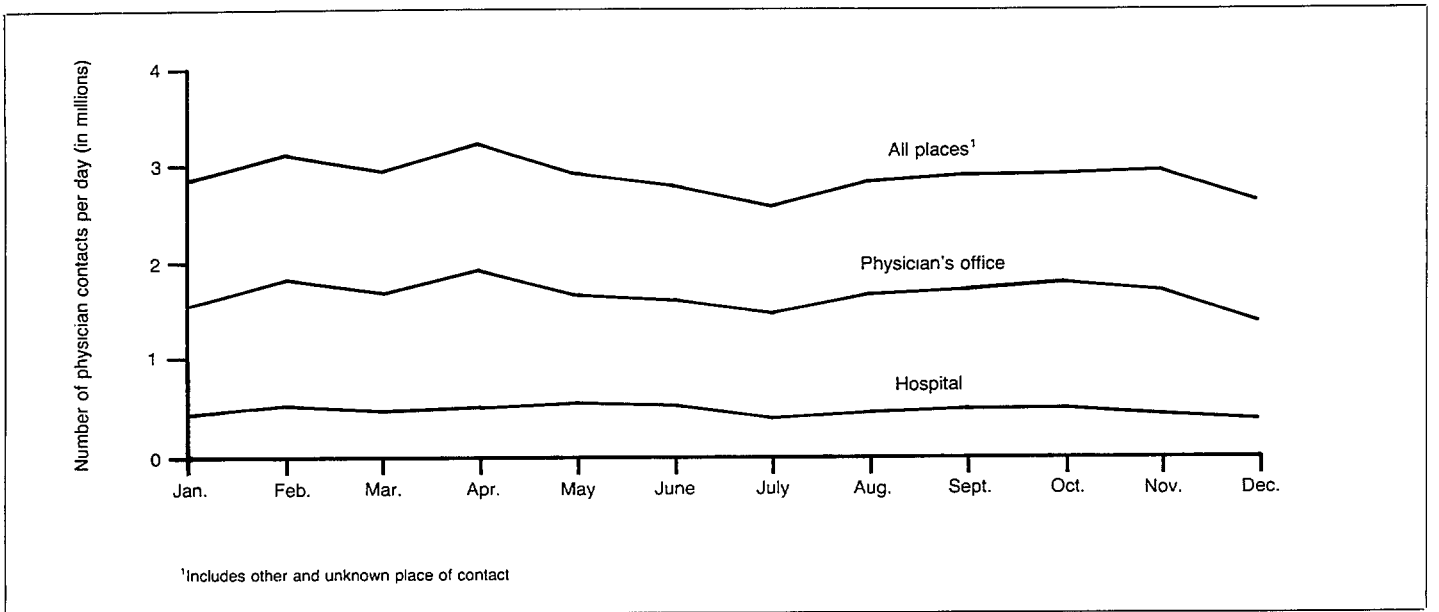


Figure 8. Average annual number of physician contacts per day per month by month and place of contact: United States, 1982-83

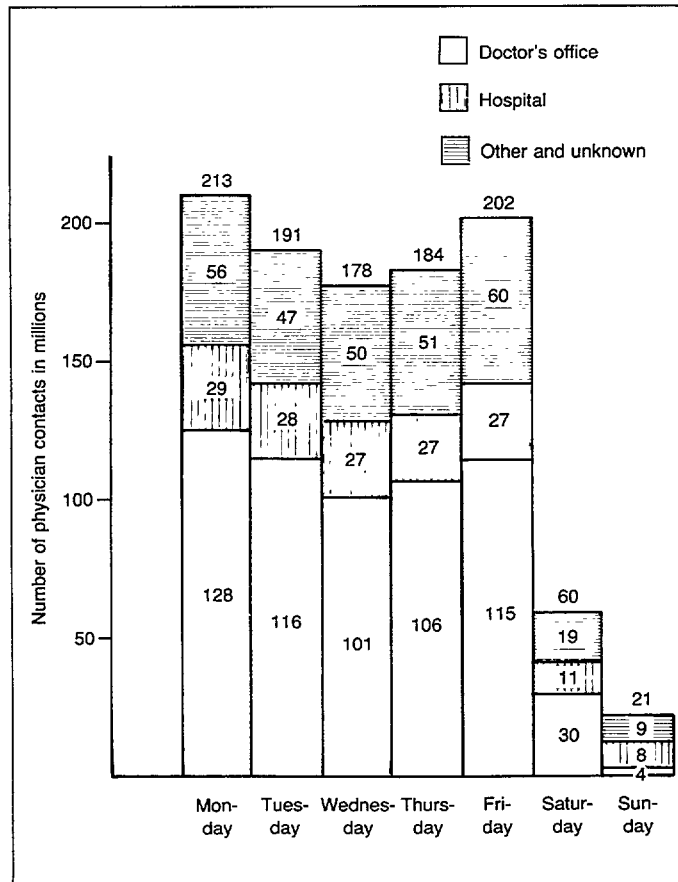


Figure 9. Average annual number of physician contacts by day of week and place of contact: United States, 1982-83

# Number of times persons contacted a physician during the past year

The estimates discussed to this point have been based on information related to each physician contact during the 2 weeks preceding the interview. In this and the next section the unit of description is people rather than physician contacts. In this section, people are described in terms of whether they were relatively frequent or infrequent users of physician services during the year preceding interview. In the next section, they are described in terms of the interval since they last talked to or saw a physician or an assistant working under the supervision of a physician.

Table H shows the percent of persons who had 10 or more physician contacts during the year preceding interview in terms of several characteristics. In relation to age, sex, race, family income, and assessed health status, the highest percents of persons with 10 or more physician contacts in the year were children under the age of 5 years who were assessed in fair or poor health (37.3 percent), and persons in families with an annual income of \$35,000 and over who were assessed to be in fair or poor health (34.6 percent). Those with the lowest percent of persons with 10 or more physician contacts during the year were males assessed to be in good to excellent health (4.7 percent).

Tables 14 and 15 show the estimates of persons by their annual number of physician contacts in more detail and for more sociodemographic characteristics than are shown in table H.

**Table H. Average annual percent of persons with 10 or more physician contacts during the past year, by assessed health status and selected characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

Selected characteristic	Assessed health status		
	Total	Fair or poor	Good to excellent
		Percent	
All persons <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	9.1	28.7	6.6
Age			
Under 18 years . . . . .	5.6	25.9	5.0
Under 5 years . . . . .	9.6	37.3	8.8
18-44 years . . . . .	8.8	28.7	7.6
45-64 years . . . . .	10.8	29.6	5.8
65 years and over . . . . .	15.5	28.3	9.0
Sex			
Male . . . . .	6.8	25.8	4.7
Female . . . . .	11.2	30.9	8.4
Race			
White . . . . .	9.2	29.0	6.8
Black . . . . .	9.0	27.1	5.2
Family income			
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	13.4	30.3	8.1
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	12.1	28.3	7.4
\$10,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	9.0	27.3	6.3
\$20,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	8.2	29.0	6.8
\$35,000 or more . . . . .	7.7	34.6	6.6

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown family income and other races.

# Time interval since persons last contacted a physician

Tables 16 and 17 show estimates of the percent and number of persons by various time intervals since they last talked to or saw a physician or his or her assistant by assessed health status and sociodemographic characteristics. These results are summarized in table J.

The group shown in table J with the largest percent of persons who had contact with a physician within the past year (and correspondingly, the lowest percent of persons who did not have such contact in 5 or more years or ever) were children under the age of 5 years. Males assessed to be in

good to excellent health constituted the lowest percent of persons (68.0 percent) who had at least one physician contact during the year preceding the interview.

It should be noted that whereas all of the estimates discussed prior to this section of the report excluded physician contacts while a person was an overnight patient in a hospital, the estimates related to the interval since last physician contact included any hospital stays (and therefore implied contact with a physician) the person may have experienced during the year preceding the interview.

**Table J. Average annual percent of persons who had contacted a physician within the past year and percent of persons who had not contacted a physician in more than 5 years, by assessed health status and selected characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

Selected characteristic	Interval since last physician contact					
	Less than 1 year			5 or more years, or never		
	Assessed health status			Assessed health status		
	Total	Fair or poor	Good to excellent	Total	Fair or poor	Good to excellent
	Percent <sup>1</sup>					
All persons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	75.1	88.5	73.3	3.8	2.0	4.0
Age						
Under 18 years . . . . .	78.5	91.1	78.0	1.8	*0.9	1.8
Under 5 years . . . . .	92.1	97.3	91.9	0.2	-	0.3
18-44 years . . . . .	71.5	85.4	70.6	4.0	1.9	4.1
45-64 years . . . . .	73.8	88.3	70.0	5.6	2.2	6.5
65 years and over . . . . .	82.1	90.4	77.9	4.9	2.0	6.4
Sex						
Male . . . . .	69.9	85.3	68.0	5.0	2.9	5.3
Female . . . . .	79.9	91.0	78.3	2.7	1.3	2.9
Race						
White . . . . .	75.4	88.8	73.8	3.8	2.0	4.0
Black . . . . .	74.2	87.9	71.1	3.6	1.7	4.0
Family income						
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	77.9	87.3	74.8	4.2	2.4	4.7
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	75.1	87.7	71.3	4.6	2.3	5.3
\$10,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	73.4	88.1	71.2	4.2	2.2	4.5
\$20,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	75.4	90.1	74.4	3.3	1.2	3.4
\$35,000 or more . . . . .	77.7	92.7	77.0	2.6	0.9	2.7

<sup>1</sup>Excludes unknown interval.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown family income and other races.

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**Table 1. Average annual number per person per year and number of physician contacts by age and selected health characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

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

Selected health characteristic	All ages	Under 18 years		18-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
		Total	Under 5 years			
Number per person per year						
Total <sup>1</sup>	5.1	4.3	6.7	4.6	5.9	7.7
Assessed health statuses						
Good to excellent	4.2	4.0	6.4	4.1	4.2	5.5
Excellent	3.2	3.3	5.3	3.1	2.8	3.7
Very good	4.5	4.6	7.4	4.5	4.0	5.2
Good	5.6	5.0	8.0	5.6	5.6	6.6
Fair or poor	12.4	12.9	17.8	12.6	12.6	11.9
Fair	9.7	10.9	15.9	10.4	9.1	9.3
Poor	19.1	26.0	28.2	22.6	19.2	17.0
Limitation of activity due to chronic conditions <sup>2</sup>						
Limited in activity	11.8	10.4	19.9	12.0	12.2	11.6
Unable to perform major activity	17.3	21.9	21.1	20.0	17.5	14.7
Limited in kind or amount of major activity	10.7	10.0	22.9	9.7	10.1	12.7
Limited in other activity	8.7	8.9	12.6*	9.3	8.4	8.4
Not limited in activity	4.0	4.0	6.6	3.8	3.7	4.9
Bed-disability days in past 12 months						
None	2.9	2.4	4.2	2.5	3.2	4.6
1-7 days	5.5	5.0	7.8	5.2	6.6	9.0
8-30 days	11.9	10.8	14.4	11.7	12.6	13.4
31 days or more	21.5	17.6	18.5	20.7	23.3	21.3
Hospital episodes in past 12 months <sup>3</sup>						
None	4.3	4.0	6.3	4.0	4.6	5.7
1 episode	10.3	8.6	10.1	8.6	12.8	12.5
2 episodes	19.9	18.7	19.6	19.1	21.4	19.8
3 episodes or more	27.4	22.2	22.0	24.1	28.6	30.5
Hospital days in past 12 months <sup>3</sup>						
None	4.3	4.0	6.3	4.0	4.6	5.7
1-4 days	9.2	8.3	11.0	8.0	12.2	11.2
5-9 days	11.9	11.2	10.6	10.8	12.5	13.3
10-24 days	17.1	15.9	16.1	16.3	18.1	17.1
25 days or more	25.4	17.6	16.8	24.9	28.7	24.7
Number in thousands						
Total <sup>1</sup>	1,168,381	266,571	117,636	442,628	262,491	196,691
Assessed health statuses						
Good to excellent	842,728	239,520	107,857	365,452	146,001	91,755
Excellent	284,136	107,807	50,283	129,596	31,718	15,015
Very good	258,296	71,262	32,484	120,216	41,492	25,325
Good	300,296	60,451	25,090	115,640	72,790	51,415
Fair or poor	316,520	24,371	8,659	74,942	114,256	102,952
Fair	176,283	17,871	6,569	50,334	54,759	53,319
Poor	140,237	6,500	2,090	24,608	59,496	49,633
Limitation of activity due to chronic conditions <sup>2</sup>						
Limited in activity	386,679	33,238	7,400	101,564	130,909	120,969
Unable to perform major activity	147,626	4,706	1,834	39,724	63,653	39,542
Limited in kind or amount of major activity	151,564	19,747	4,405	37,396	45,208	49,213
Limited in other activity	87,490	8,784	*1,160	24,443	22,049	32,214
Not limited in activity	777,421	238,699	115,749	338,271	124,450	76,002
Bed-disability days in past 12 months						
None	365,159	74,968	36,869	126,128	89,106	74,957
1-7 days	410,419	127,070	56,272	179,608	66,490	37,251
8-30 days	237,885	53,960	20,553	89,702	51,846	42,377
31 days or more	138,400	8,214	2,819	43,015	50,301	36,870

See footnotes at end of table

**Table 1. Average annual number per person per year and number of physician contacts by age and selected health characteristics: United States, 1982-83—Con.**

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

<i>Selected health characteristic</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>Under 18 years</i>		<i>18-44 years</i>	<i>45-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>
		<i>Total</i>	<i>Under 5 years</i>			
Hospital episodes in past 12 months <sup>3</sup>						
Number in thousands						
None . . . . .	875,661	235,798	103,164	340,984	180,811	118,068
1 episode . . . . .	191,727	22,345	10,113	72,520	50,829	46,033
2 episodes . . . . .	64,547	6,032	3,150	19,909	19,170	19,437
3 episodes or more . . . . .	36,446	2,397	1,208	9,215	11,681	13,154
Hospital days in past 12 months <sup>3</sup>						
None . . . . .	876,030	235,827	103,164	341,199	180,860	118,144
1-4 days . . . . .	98,887	15,470	7,077	45,392	22,122	15,903
5-9 days . . . . .	75,316	7,819	3,707	28,204	20,044	19,249
10-24 days . . . . .	72,923	4,890	2,430	18,578	23,150	26,305
25 days or more . . . . .	45,225	2,564	1,258	9,255	16,315	17,091

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown health status and bed-disability days in past 12 months.

<sup>2</sup>Based on 1983 data only.

<sup>3</sup>Excludes physician contacts during hospitalization.

**Table 2. Average annual number of physician contacts per person per year by race, sex, assessed health status, and age: United States, 1982–83**

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

Assessed health status and age	All races <sup>1</sup>			White			Black		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
All assessed health statuses <sup>2</sup>									
Number per person per year									
All persons . . . . .	5.1	4.4	5.8	5.2	4.5	5.9	4.6	3.7	5.3
Under 18 years . . . . .	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.5	3.0	2.8	3.3
Under 5 years . . . . .	6.7	6.9	6.5	7.2	7.5	6.8	5.0	4.5	5.4
5–9 years . . . . .	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.9	4.0	3.8	2.3	2.7	1.9
10–14 years . . . . .	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	2.2	1.8	2.5
15–17 years . . . . .	3.2	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.7	2.2	1.7	2.7
18–44 years . . . . .	4.6	3.3	5.8	4.7	3.4	5.9	4.5	3.1	5.6
18–24 years . . . . .	4.3	2.8	5.6	4.4	3.0	5.8	3.6	2.4	4.7
25–34 years . . . . .	4.8	3.3	6.3	4.9	3.4	6.4	4.5	3.0	5.8
35–44 years . . . . .	4.7	3.9	5.5	4.6	3.9	5.3	5.6	4.2	6.7
45–64 years . . . . .	5.9	5.3	6.5	5.9	5.3	6.4	6.7	6.1	7.2
45–54 years . . . . .	5.3	4.5	6.1	5.4	4.5	6.2	5.7	4.9	6.3
55–64 years . . . . .	6.6	6.2	6.9	6.5	6.2	6.7	7.9	7.5	8.2
65 years and over . . . . .	7.7	7.2	8.0	7.7	7.2	8.0	7.7	7.6	7.9
65–74 years . . . . .	7.3	6.6	7.8	7.3	6.7	7.8	7.5	6.7	8.0
75 years and over . . . . .	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.4	8.2	9.2	7.7
Fair or poor health									
All persons . . . . .	12.4	11.3	13.2	12.8	11.8	13.6	10.7	9.9	11.3
Under 18 years . . . . .	12.9	11.8	14.1	14.6	13.8	15.3	9.0	7.6	10.6
Under 5 years . . . . .	17.8	16.0	20.0	20.7	18.8	23.1	12.7	10.6	15.8
5–9 years . . . . .	13.4	14.4	12.3	16.2	18.1	13.7	8.8	*7.7	*10.2
10–14 years . . . . .	11.3	8.7	14.1	12.2	9.8	14.8	7.2	*5.6	*9.0
15–17 years . . . . .	8.4	5.5	10.3	8.7	*5.4	10.8	7.5	*6.1	*8.6
18–44 years . . . . .	12.6	10.8	14.0	13.2	11.0	14.8	10.9	9.9	11.5
18–24 years . . . . .	11.7	9.7	13.0	13.2	11.2	14.5	8.6	7.0	9.6
25–34 years . . . . .	13.2	11.3	14.6	14.2	11.7	16.1	10.6	9.8	11.1
35–44 years . . . . .	12.6	10.9	13.9	12.4	10.5	14.0	12.4	11.6	12.8
45–64 years . . . . .	12.6	11.8	13.2	12.9	12.1	13.6	11.5	10.9	11.9
45–54 years . . . . .	12.2	10.6	13.5	13.0	11.1	14.6	10.3	9.4	10.8
55–64 years . . . . .	12.8	12.6	12.9	12.8	12.7	12.9	12.4	12.0	12.7
65 years and over . . . . .	11.9	11.1	12.4	12.1	11.3	12.7	10.4	10.0	10.7
65–74 years . . . . .	11.6	10.2	12.7	11.9	10.5	13.0	9.9	8.7	10.7
75 years and over . . . . .	12.4	12.7	12.2	12.5	12.8	12.3	11.3	12.3	10.6
Good to excellent health									
All persons . . . . .	4.2	3.5	4.8	4.3	3.7	5.0	3.3	2.6	3.9
Under 18 years . . . . .	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.3	4.2	2.7	2.5	2.8
Under 5 years . . . . .	6.4	6.6	6.1	6.8	7.1	6.5	4.6	4.2	5.0
5–9 years . . . . .	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.6	1.8	2.2	1.4
10–14 years . . . . .	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.8	1.6	2.1
15–17 years . . . . .	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.4	1.8	1.4	2.2
18–44 years . . . . .	4.1	2.9	5.2	4.2	3.0	5.3	3.6	2.3	4.7
18–24 years . . . . .	3.9	2.6	5.2	4.1	2.7	5.4	3.2	2.1	4.2
25–34 years . . . . .	4.3	2.9	5.7	4.5	3.0	5.9	3.7	2.3	5.0
35–44 years . . . . .	3.9	3.3	4.5	3.9	3.3	4.5	3.8	2.7	4.9
45–64 years . . . . .	4.2	3.7	4.6	4.3	3.8	4.7	3.8	3.5	4.0
45–54 years . . . . .	4.0	3.4	4.6	4.1	3.5	4.7	3.6	3.1	4.0
55–64 years . . . . .	4.4	4.1	4.7	4.5	4.1	4.8	4.1	4.1	4.0
65 years and over . . . . .	5.5	5.1	5.8	5.6	5.1	5.9	4.5	4.5	4.4
65–74 years . . . . .	5.2	4.8	5.5	5.2	4.8	5.6	4.5	4.4	4.5
75 years and over . . . . .	5.9	5.6	6.1	6.1	5.7	6.3	4.4	*4.7	4.3

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than white and black.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown health status

**Table 3. Average annual number of physician contacts by race, sex, assessed health status, and age: United States, 1982-83**

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

Assessed health status and age	All races <sup>1</sup>			White			Black		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
All assessed health statuses <sup>2</sup>									
Number in thousands									
All persons . . . . .	1,168,381	479,772	688,608	1,022,701	425,117	597,584	124,372	46,971	77,401
Under 18 years . . . . .	266,571	136,680	129,891	232,919	120,858	112,061	28,786	13,398	15,388
Under 5 years . . . . .	117,636	62,061	55,575	101,975	54,673	47,301	13,911	6,353	7,558
5-9 years . . . . .	57,737	30,452	27,285	51,140	26,704	24,436	5,525	3,230	2,296
10-14 years . . . . .	54,674	27,019	27,655	47,665	24,122	23,543	5,712	2,383	3,330
15-17 years . . . . .	36,524	17,149	19,375	32,139	15,358	16,781	3,637	1,433	2,204
18-44 years . . . . .	442,628	156,185	286,443	380,930	136,918	244,012	50,922	15,908	35,014
18-24 years . . . . .	122,346	39,807	82,539	105,817	34,817	71,000	13,987	4,278	9,709
25-34 years . . . . .	187,552	62,955	124,597	162,603	55,571	107,033	20,491	6,122	14,369
35-44 years . . . . .	132,729	53,423	79,306	112,510	46,531	65,979	16,445	5,508	10,936
45-64 years . . . . .	262,491	111,812	150,678	230,491	99,284	131,207	28,200	11,264	16,936
45-54 years . . . . .	118,218	47,932	70,286	103,736	42,434	61,301	12,803	4,868	7,935
55-64 years . . . . .	144,273	63,880	80,393	126,755	56,849	69,906	15,397	6,396	9,001
65 years and over . . . . .	196,691	75,095	121,597	178,361	68,058	110,303	16,464	6,400	10,063
65-74 years . . . . .	116,466	45,907	70,558	105,224	41,770	63,454	10,046	3,739	6,308
75 years and over . . . . .	80,226	29,187	51,038	73,137	26,288	46,850	6,418	2,662	3,756
Fair or poor health									
All persons . . . . .	316,520	127,221	189,299	259,108	106,207	152,901	51,257	19,334	31,923
Under 18 years . . . . .	24,371	11,361	13,010	18,534	8,917	9,618	5,066	2,236	2,830
Under 5 years . . . . .	8,659	4,396	4,263	6,738	3,459	3,279	1,744	856	887
5-9 years . . . . .	6,352	3,716	2,637	5,064	3,101	1,963	1,265	*614	*651
10-14 years . . . . .	5,908	2,352	3,556	4,297	1,788	2,509	1,146	*462	*684
15-17 years . . . . .	3,451	897	2,554	2,435	*568	1,867	911	*303	*608
18-44 years . . . . .	74,942	27,155	47,786	55,980	20,648	35,332	16,182	5,598	10,584
18-24 years . . . . .	14,979	4,840	10,139	11,572	3,817	7,755	3,002	967	2,035
25-34 years . . . . .	27,853	10,080	17,773	21,277	7,796	13,481	5,681	1,979	3,702
35-44 years . . . . .	32,110	12,235	19,875	23,130	9,035	14,096	7,500	2,653	4,847
45-64 years . . . . .	114,256	48,765	65,491	94,358	41,292	53,065	18,232	7,040	11,192
45-54 years . . . . .	42,987	16,556	26,431	35,333	13,869	21,464	7,191	2,660	4,531
55-64 years . . . . .	71,269	32,208	39,061	59,025	27,424	31,602	11,040	4,380	6,661
65 years and over . . . . .	102,952	39,940	63,012	90,235	35,349	54,886	11,777	4,460	7,317
65-74 years . . . . .	60,585	23,773	36,813	52,951	21,210	31,742	7,152	2,511	4,642
75 years and over . . . . .	42,366	16,167	26,199	37,284	14,140	23,144	4,625	1,949	2,676
Good to excellent health									
All persons . . . . .	842,728	348,132	494,596	755,652	315,024	440,628	72,030	27,209	44,821
Under 18 years . . . . .	239,520	123,876	115,644	212,081	110,657	101,424	23,370	11,030	12,340
Under 5 years . . . . .	107,857	57,044	50,812	94,197	50,621	43,576	12,114	5,497	6,618
5-9 years . . . . .	50,715	26,336	24,378	45,569	23,309	22,260	4,098	2,510	1,588
10-14 years . . . . .	48,221	24,416	23,806	42,931	22,083	20,848	4,458	1,921	2,538
15-17 years . . . . .	32,727	16,080	16,647	29,385	14,644	14,740	2,699	1,103	1,596
18-44 years . . . . .	365,452	127,891	237,562	322,811	115,176	207,635	34,646	10,264	24,381
18-24 years . . . . .	106,790	34,571	72,219	93,689	30,603	63,085	10,963	3,312	7,652
25-34 years . . . . .	158,776	52,391	106,386	140,449	47,336	93,113	14,764	4,097	10,667
35-44 years . . . . .	99,886	40,929	58,957	88,673	37,237	51,436	8,918	2,856	6,063
45-64 years . . . . .	146,001	62,042	83,959	134,213	57,132	77,081	9,734	4,156	5,577
45-54 years . . . . .	74,209	30,910	43,299	67,560	28,193	39,367	5,486	2,168	3,318
55-64 years . . . . .	71,791	31,132	40,660	66,653	28,939	37,713	4,247	1,988	2,259
65 years and over . . . . .	91,755	34,324	57,432	86,547	32,059	54,488	4,281	1,758	2,522
65-74 years . . . . .	54,893	21,680	33,214	51,444	20,167	31,277	2,736	1,166	1,569
75 years and over . . . . .	36,862	12,644	24,218	35,103	11,892	23,211	1,545	*592	953

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than white or black.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown health status.

**Table 4. Average annual number per person per year and number of physician contacts by age, assessed health status, race, and family income: United States, 1982-83**

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

Assessed health status, race, and family income	Under 18	18-44	45-64	65 years	All ages	Under 18	18-44	45-64	65 years	All ages
	All ages	years	years	and over		years	years	years	and over	
<b>ALL ASSESSED HEALTH STATUSES<sup>1</sup></b>										
<b>All races<sup>2</sup></b>										
	Number per person per year					Number in thousands				
All persons <sup>3</sup>	5.1	4.3	4.6	5.9	7.7	1,168,381	266,571	442,628	262,491	196,691
Less than \$5,000	6.6	5.0	6.4	8.0	8.1	104,052	20,739	40,572	16,748	25,993
\$5,000-\$9,999	5.9	3.9	5.4	7.6	7.8	155,258	27,212	48,574	30,558	48,914
\$10,000-\$14,999	5.1	3.3	4.5	7.0	7.5	133,422	24,062	47,425	30,587	31,348
\$15,000-\$19,999	4.8	4.0	4.4	5.8	7.0	134,406	32,057	54,246	29,213	18,889
\$20,000-\$24,999	5.1	4.8	4.6	5.6	8.0	126,490	35,551	51,679	26,202	13,058
\$25,000-\$34,999	4.8	4.4	4.5	5.4	7.8	191,609	52,476	82,797	42,241	14,094
\$35,000-\$49,999	5.0	4.9	4.5	5.5	8.6	138,326	38,092	56,174	34,752	9,308
\$50,000 or more	5.3	5.2	4.7	5.7	9.5	73,902	18,393	28,150	21,546	5,812
<b>White</b>										
All persons <sup>3</sup>	5.2	4.5	4.7	5.9	7.7	1,022,701	232,919	380,930	230,491	178,361
Less than \$5,000	6.7	5.3	6.4	7.6	7.9	71,849	12,171	28,884	10,774	20,019
\$5,000-\$9,999	6.2	4.6	5.5	7.4	7.9	127,163	22,028	38,157	23,310	43,669
\$10,000-\$14,999	5.2	3.6	4.4	7.2	7.6	114,294	19,799	38,366	27,023	29,105
\$15,000-\$19,999	5.0	4.4	4.5	5.9	7.1	120,433	28,935	47,434	25,719	18,345
\$20,000-\$24,999	5.2	5.1	4.7	5.6	7.8	115,894	33,408	46,851	23,658	11,977
\$25,000-\$34,999	5.0	4.6	4.6	5.5	7.9	178,681	48,740	76,486	39,848	13,607
\$35,000-\$49,999	5.0	5.0	4.4	5.6	8.9	128,563	35,744	50,809	32,830	9,180
\$50,000 or more	5.3	5.2	4.6	5.7	9.6	69,589	17,231	25,937	20,714	5,707
<b>Black</b>										
All persons <sup>3</sup>	4.6	3.0	4.5	6.7	7.7	124,372	28,786	50,922	28,200	16,464
Less than \$5,000	6.3	4.3	6.5	9.2	8.7	29,555	7,638	10,737	5,605	5,575
\$5,000-\$9,999	5.0	2.5	5.1	9.1	7.4	25,323	4,772	9,130	6,759	4,662
\$10,000-\$14,999	4.4	2.7	4.8	6.2	7.8	16,831	3,880	7,511	3,304	2,136
\$15,000-\$19,999	3.8	2.7	3.8	5.9	*5.0	12,134	2,922	5,725	3,058	*429
\$20,000-\$24,999	4.3	2.7	4.0	6.7	12.0	8,797	1,751	4,051	2,181	815
\$25,000-\$34,999	3.5	3.2	3.5	4.0	*6.0	9,654	2,868	4,672	1,783	*330
\$35,000-\$49,999	4.7	3.7	5.3	4.7	*4.0	6,750	1,606	3,712	1,331	*101
\$50,000 or more	5.3	*6.3	*4.0	*6.9	*6.4	1,980	*603	*784	*541	*51
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH</b>										
<b>All races<sup>2</sup></b>										
All persons <sup>3</sup>	12.4	12.9	12.6	12.6	11.9	316,520	24,371	74,942	114,256	102,952
Less than \$5,000	12.1	11.7	14.8	11.4	11.1	46,077	3,804	13,107	13,081	16,084
\$5,000-\$9,999	11.2	10.5	10.9	11.3	11.3	65,608	4,303	12,421	20,518	28,365
\$10,000-\$14,999	12.7	12.1	12.1	14.0	12.0	49,552	3,112	11,073	18,377	16,990
\$15,000-\$19,999	12.5	11.2	12.7	13.0	12.0	36,628	2,334	9,809	15,286	9,198
\$20,000-\$24,999	13.7	21.2	12.5	11.8	15.9	25,051	3,288	6,378	9,312	6,073
\$25,000-\$34,999	13.2	14.9	11.6	13.8	13.2	28,814	2,892	6,968	13,370	5,584
\$35,000-\$49,999	15.8	20.3	17.2	14.1	15.3	18,003	1,848	5,797	6,802	3,555
\$50,000 or more	19.4	*21.8	18.2	20.2	18.4	9,262	*786	2,131	4,394	1,951
<b>White</b>										
All persons <sup>3</sup>	12.8	14.6	13.2	12.9	12.1	259,108	18,534	55,980	94,358	90,235
Less than \$5,000	12.3	11.1	16.6	11.5	11.1	29,888	1,746	8,210	7,982	11,951
\$5,000-\$9,999	11.3	12.2	11.2	10.9	11.5	51,653	3,037	8,683	15,013	24,920
\$10,000-\$14,999	13.0	13.8	11.1	14.8	12.4	41,425	2,466	7,436	16,134	15,390
\$15,000-\$19,999	13.0	13.5	13.5	13.3	12.2	32,547	2,166	8,165	13,439	8,776
\$20,000-\$24,999	13.9	21.9	12.8	12.0	15.8	21,719	3,065	5,225	8,151	5,277
\$25,000-\$34,999	13.9	15.4	12.8	14.3	13.7	26,569	2,428	6,282	12,475	5,384
\$35,000-\$49,999	16.4	22.9	17.5	14.8	16.0	16,524	1,767	4,838	6,393	3,525
\$50,000 or more	18.8	*20.3	15.1	20.5	18.5	8,231	*648	1,423	4,234	1,925

See footnotes at end of table

**Table 4. Average annual number per person per year and number of physician contacts by age, assessed health status, race, and family income: United States, 1982-83—Con.**

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

Assessed health status, race, and family income	Under 18 18-44 45-64 65 years					Under 18 18-44 45-64 65 years				
	All ages	years	years	years	and over	All ages	years	years	years	and over
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH—CON.</b>										
<b>Black</b>										
	Number per person per year					Number in thousands				
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	10.7	9.0	10.9	11.5	10.4	51,257	5,066	16,182	18,232	11,777
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	11.4	10.2	12.5	11.3	11.0	14,846	1,588	4,508	4,807	3,944
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	10.7	8.0	10.5	12.8	9.7	13,041	1,190	3,525	5,094	3,232
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	11.5	*8.6	13.8	11.1	10.2	7,357	*621	2,994	2,167	1,574
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	10.6	*4.2	11.0	12.1	*10.1	3,777	*168	1,455	1,820	*334
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	11.9	*17.2	11.3	10.7	*14.2	2,784	*223	990	987	*584
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	7.7	*15.6	*6.7	*7.5	*4.2	1,695	*390	*686	*523	*96
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	9.4	*5.1	*14.1	*6.7	*4.3	821	*56	*534	*201	*30
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	*19.8	*43.0	*12.1	*26.0	*13.0	*376	*86	*109	*156	*26
<b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT HEALTH</b>										
<b>All races<sup>2</sup></b>										
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.2	5.5	842,728	239,520	365,452	146,001	91,755
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	4.8	4.4	5.0	3.8	5.6	57,204	16,861	27,230	3,489	9,625
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	4.4	3.6	4.6	4.6	5.5	88,968	22,861	36,019	9,887	20,200
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	3.7	3.0	3.8	3.9	5.1	82,845	20,746	36,298	11,804	13,996
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	5.0	96,770	29,362	43,890	13,927	9,590
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.3	5.6	100,324	31,577	45,164	16,627	6,957
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	6.1	161,476	49,087	75,618	28,395	8,376
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	4.5	4.7	4.1	4.7	6.8	119,233	35,982	50,094	27,433	5,725
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	4.8	5.0	4.4	4.8	7.7	64,364	17,418	25,960	17,125	3,861
<b>White</b>										
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	5.6	755,652	212,081	322,811	134,213	86,547
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	5.0	5.0	5.1	3.9	5.6	41,616	10,402	20,461	2,792	7,961
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	4.8	4.3	4.8	4.6	5.5	74,987	18,943	29,340	8,171	18,533
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	3.9	3.2	3.8	4.0	5.2	71,960	17,130	30,876	10,538	13,415
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.7	5.1	86,949	26,434	38,768	12,279	9,468
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	4.5	4.7	4.4	4.3	5.6	93,222	29,818	41,488	15,243	6,673
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	6.2	150,875	45,843	69,992	26,950	8,090
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	4.6	4.9	4.1	4.8	6.9	111,061	33,827	45,688	25,919	5,627
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	4.8	5.1	4.4	4.8	7.7	61,083	16,393	24,455	16,453	3,782
<b>Black</b>										
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	3.3	2.7	3.6	3.8	4.5	72,030	23,370	34,646	9,734	4,281
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	4.3	3.8	4.9	*3.8	5.3	14,362	6,027	6,208	*673	1,455
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	3.2	2.0	3.8	4.8	4.6	12,122	3,582	5,605	1,638	1,297
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	3.0	2.4	3.4	3.4	*4.3	9,384	3,259	4,516	1,109	*500
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	3.0	2.7	3.1	3.4	*1.9	8,286	2,728	4,224	1,238	*95
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	3.2	2.2	3.3	5.2	*8.6	5,852	1,367	3,061	1,193	*231
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	3.1	2.8	3.2	3.2	*7.3	7,877	2,451	3,986	1,206	*234
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	4.4	3.5	4.9	4.5	*4.2	5,817	1,438	3,178	1,130	*72
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	4.5	*5.5	*3.6	*5.4	*4.2	1,604	*518	*676	*386	*25

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown health status.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes races other than white or black.  
<sup>3</sup>Includes unknown family income.

**Table 5. Average annual number per person per year and number of physician contacts by age, assessed health status, and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

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

<i>Assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristic</i>	<i>Number per person per year</i>					<i>Number in thousands</i>				
	<i>All ages</i>	<i>Under 18 years</i>	<i>18-44 years</i>	<i>45-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>Under 18 years</i>	<i>18-44 years</i>	<i>45-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>
<b>ALL ASSESSED HEALTH STATUSES<sup>1</sup></b>										
All persons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	5.1	4.3	4.6	5.9	7.7	1,168,381	266,571	442,628	262,491	196,691
<b>Education of persons 18 years of age and over</b>										
Less than 12 years . . . . .	6.0	...	4.4	6.4	7.5	267,363	...	72,943	90,868	103,552
12 years . . . . .	5.0	...	4.3	5.7	7.7	321,425	...	172,771	97,721	50,933
13 years or more . . . . .	5.5	...	5.1	5.9	8.1	302,910	...	193,979	70,732	38,199
<b>Family size</b>										
1 person . . . . .	6.8	7.9	5.6	7.5	8.2	173,933	1,057	68,896	37,427	66,552
2 persons . . . . .	6.3	5.3	5.4	6.4	7.5	327,424	12,520	92,752	119,902	102,250
3-4 persons . . . . .	4.9	5.0	4.5	5.2	7.1	466,694	164,809	200,499	79,618	21,768
5 persons or more . . . . .	3.6	3.2	3.7	5.0	7.4	200,331	88,185	80,482	25,543	6,121
<b>Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over</b>										
White collar . . . . .	4.8	...	4.7	4.9	6.1	273,216	...	185,539	77,324	10,354
Blue collar . . . . .	3.5	...	3.2	4.3	3.9	114,179	...	75,198	36,638	2,343
Service and farm . . . . .	4.3	...	4.1	4.5	4.7	71,440	...	47,368	19,504	4,568
<b>Hispanic origin</b>										
Hispanic . . . . .	4.3	3.5	4.1	5.9	8.4	70,801	22,327	29,349	12,942	6,183
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	5.2	4.3	4.7	6.0	7.6	1,088,856	241,215	411,085	247,791	188,765
<b>Geographic region</b>										
Northeast . . . . .	5.0	4.5	4.5	5.5	7.1	249,663	57,898	91,163	57,185	43,416
North Central . . . . .	5.1	4.4	4.7	5.7	7.5	301,276	72,143	116,486	64,031	48,616
South . . . . .	4.9	4.0	4.2	5.9	7.7	367,882	83,956	132,958	86,440	64,528
West . . . . .	5.6	4.2	5.3	6.8	8.5	249,560	52,574	102,021	54,834	40,131
<b>Place of residence</b>										
SMSA—central city . . . . .	5.3	4.1	4.9	6.3	8.0	330,282	67,862	130,735	73,001	58,685
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	5.3	4.7	4.9	6.0	8.0	495,855	118,145	193,962	110,938	72,810
Not SMSA . . . . .	4.7	3.9	4.0	5.6	7.1	342,244	80,565	117,931	78,551	65,197
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH</b>										
All persons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	12.4	12.9	12.6	12.6	11.9	316,520	24,371	74,942	114,256	102,952
<b>Education of persons 18 years of age or over</b>										
Less than 12 years . . . . .	10.7	...	9.7	11.1	10.9	143,235	...	24,161	56,970	62,104
12 years . . . . .	12.8	...	12.3	12.7	13.3	86,348	...	28,207	34,442	23,699
13 years or more . . . . .	18.2	...	19.7	19.0	15.5	57,140	...	21,552	20,901	14,687
<b>Family size</b>										
1 person . . . . .	13.8	*6.3	16.3	15.0	12.6	60,347	*25	9,396	20,026	30,900
2 persons . . . . .	12.5	14.4	14.0	13.1	11.7	121,686	1,296	14,091	51,854	54,445
3-4 persons . . . . .	12.0	15.4	12.1	11.3	11.1	89,958	14,020	31,815	30,564	13,559
5 persons or more . . . . .	11.0	10.2	11.4	11.0	11.4	44,529	9,030	19,639	11,813	4,048
<b>Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over</b>										
White collar . . . . .	12.4	...	12.4	12.7	9.7	33,267	...	15,700	15,645	1,923
Blue collar . . . . .	8.2	...	8.7	8.0	*3.6	23,103	...	11,936	10,781	*386
Service and farm . . . . .	8.7	...	9.8	7.9	8.2	16,235	...	7,446	6,919	1,869
<b>Hispanic origin</b>										
Hispanic . . . . .	11.6	10.1	12.2	11.4	12.6	22,132	3,322	8,122	6,720	3,968
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	12.4	13.4	12.7	12.7	11.8	291,252	20,627	66,409	106,343	97,873

See footnotes at end of table

**Table 5. Average annual number per person per year and number of physician contacts by age, assessed health status, and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83—Con.**

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

<i>Assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristic</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>Under 18 years</i>	<i>18-44 years</i>	<i>45-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>Under 18 years</i>	<i>18-44 years</i>	<i>45-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>
	<i>Number per person per year</i>					<i>Number in thousands</i>				
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH—CON.</b>										
<b>Geographic region</b>										
Northeast . . . . .	13.0	15.0	14.6	13.0	11.6	64,192	5,350	15,528	22,651	20,663
North Central . . . . .	12.3	13.4	12.8	12.3	11.6	72,902	5,680	17,918	25,297	24,006
South . . . . .	11.1	11.0	10.3	11.3	11.5	116,532	8,301	24,674	43,458	40,100
West . . . . .	14.9	14.3	15.5	15.8	13.6	62,893	5,039	16,821	22,850	18,183
<b>Place of residence</b>										
SMSA—central city . . . . .	12.9	12.3	13.7	12.7	12.5	101,202	8,435	28,113	33,258	31,397
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	14.3	17.4	16.0	14.1	12.8	115,995	9,208	29,496	42,599	34,692
Not SMSA . . . . .	10.3	10.0	8.5	11.1	10.7	99,323	6,728	17,333	38,399	36,863
<b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT HEALTH</b>										
All persons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.2	5.5	842,728	239,520	365,452	146,001	91,755
<b>Education of persons 18 years of age and over</b>										
Less than 12 years . . . . .	3.9	...	3.4	3.7	5.1	121,927	...	48,463	33,060	40,404
12 years . . . . .	4.1	...	3.8	4.3	5.6	232,892	...	143,446	62,599	26,847
13 years or more . . . . .	4.7	...	4.6	4.5	6.2	244,074	...	171,755	49,238	23,080
<b>Family size</b>										
1 person . . . . .	5.3	7.9	5.1	4.7	6.2	112,071	1,032	59,269	17,082	34,688
2 persons . . . . .	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.6	5.3	203,797	11,174	78,283	67,225	47,115
3-4 persons . . . . .	4.3	4.7	4.0	3.9	4.3	372,607	149,180	167,435	48,085	7,906
5 persons or more . . . . .	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.4	4.4	154,254	78,133	60,465	13,609	2,047
<b>Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over</b>										
White collar . . . . .	4.4	...	4.5	4.2	5.6	238,614	...	169,221	61,147	8,246
Blue collar . . . . .	3.1	...	2.9	3.6	4.0	90,245	...	62,819	25,470	1,956
Service and farm . . . . .	3.7	...	3.7	3.6	3.5	54,796	...	39,812	12,405	2,579
<b>Hispanic origin</b>										
Hispanic . . . . .	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.8	5.2	48,051	18,714	21,029	6,120	2,188
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2	5.5	789,276	218,272	342,719	139,315	88,970
<b>Geographic region</b>										
Northeast . . . . .	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.0	5.2	183,732	51,972	75,379	34,139	22,242
North Central . . . . .	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	5.6	226,609	66,019	97,954	38,211	24,425
South . . . . .	3.9	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.9	248,154	74,471	107,598	42,400	23,686
West . . . . .	4.6	3.9	4.7	4.7	6.5	184,233	47,058	84,522	31,250	21,402
<b>Place of residence</b>										
SMSA—central city . . . . .	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.4	5.6	226,644	58,976	102,054	38,989	26,624
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.4	5.9	375,899	107,549	163,485	67,441	37,424
Not SMSA . . . . .	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.9	240,186	72,995	99,914	39,570	27,707

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown health status.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown education and whether or not of Hispanic origin.



**Table 6. Average annual percent distribution of physician contacts by place of contact according to selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

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

Selected sociodemographic characteristic	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office	Hospital				Home	Telephone	Company clinic	Other
			Total	Emergency room	Clinic	Other				
Percent distribution										
All persons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	100.0	57.1	14.7	4.0	8.1	2.6	2.0	14.6	1.1	10.6
Age										
Under 18 years . . . . .	100.0	55.6	14.2	5.8	6.6	1.8	0.7	18.2	0.5	10.8
Under 5 years . . . . .	100.0	54.7	13.0	4.7	6.4	1.9	0.9	20.4	*0.6	10.5
5-17 years . . . . .	100.0	56.4	15.1	6.6	6.7	1.8	*0.5	16.5	*0.4	11.0
18-44 years . . . . .	100.0	55.4	15.7	5.0	8.0	2.6	0.6	14.3	1.6	12.3
45-64 years . . . . .	100.0	58.8	15.5	2.3	10.0	3.2	2.0	13.1	1.3	9.3
65 years and over . . . . .	100.0	60.4	12.1	1.5	8.0	2.6	6.8	12.5	*0.3	8.0
Sex										
Male . . . . .	100.0	55.6	16.7	4.9	9.2	2.6	1.9	13.0	1.7	11.0
Female . . . . .	100.0	58.1	13.3	3.4	7.4	2.5	2.0	15.7	0.7	10.2
Race										
White . . . . .	100.0	58.7	13.1	3.8	6.9	2.4	2.0	15.3	1.0	9.8
Black . . . . .	100.0	44.8	27.3	5.9	18.0	3.4	1.8	9.3	1.5	15.4
Other . . . . .	100.0	52.3	16.3	4.3	7.4	4.7	*1.5	11.4	*0.6	17.8
Family income										
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	100.0	47.7	18.9	5.4	11.0	2.6	2.9	12.5	1.2	16.7
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	100.0	53.9	17.0	4.0	10.8	2.2	3.4	12.5	0.9	12.4
\$10,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	100.0	55.4	16.2	4.3	9.1	2.8	2.0	14.3	1.2	10.9
\$20,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	100.0	59.6	13.2	4.0	6.6	2.6	0.9	15.8	1.2	9.3
\$35,000 or more . . . . .	100.0	61.3	11.4	3.3	5.8	2.3	1.1	16.8	1.2	8.3
Education of persons 18 years of age and over										
Less than 12 years . . . . .	100.0	56.5	16.3	4.8	9.1	2.5	3.0	12.5	0.9	10.8
12 years . . . . .	100.0	59.3	14.6	4.0	8.1	2.5	1.6	13.6	1.4	9.5
13 years or more . . . . .	100.0	56.7	13.2	2.7	7.4	3.0	1.4	15.9	1.2	11.6
Family size										
1 person . . . . .	100.0	52.5	14.9	3.1	8.7	3.2	4.5	14.5	1.3	12.2
2 persons . . . . .	100.0	58.5	15.0	2.7	9.3	3.0	2.5	13.2	0.8	10.0
3-4 persons . . . . .	100.0	57.8	13.6	4.4	7.0	2.2	1.1	16.4	1.1	10.0
5 persons or more . . . . .	100.0	56.9	16.6	5.9	8.5	2.2	1.1	12.6	1.3	11.4
Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over										
White collar . . . . .	100.0	58.9	13.4	3.2	7.2	3.0	0.6	15.7	1.5	10.1
Blue collar . . . . .	100.0	59.5	15.9	7.0	6.7	2.3	*0.5	9.9	4.2	9.9
Service and farm . . . . .	100.0	59.1	14.2	4.9	6.6	2.7	*0.2	11.4	1.2	14.0
Hispanic origin										
Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	52.7	20.7	5.0	13.4	2.3	1.3	8.2	2.0	15.1
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	57.3	14.3	3.9	7.8	2.6	2.0	15.0	1.0	10.3
Geographic region										
Northeast . . . . .	100.0	58.0	15.9	4.3	9.5	2.1	2.7	14.0	1.2	8.2
North Central . . . . .	100.0	55.4	14.1	3.8	7.8	2.4	1.7	16.0	1.2	11.6
South . . . . .	100.0	58.0	14.4	4.4	7.4	2.6	2.1	14.6	0.9	10.0
West . . . . .	100.0	56.8	14.7	3.4	8.2	3.1	1.4	13.5	1.1	12.5
Place of residence										
SMSA—central city . . . . .	100.0	51.8	18.6	4.2	11.4	3.1	2.0	14.1	1.3	12.3
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	100.0	58.2	13.5	3.6	7.4	2.5	1.6	15.9	1.1	9.6
Not SMSA . . . . .	100.0	60.6	12.7	4.4	6.0	2.2	2.5	13.2	0.8	10.2

<sup>1</sup>Excludes unknown place of contact.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown family income and education, and whether or not of Hispanic origin

**Table 7. Average annual number of physician contacts by place of contact and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

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

Selected sociodemographic characteristic	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office	Hospital			Home	Telephone	Company clinic	Other	
			Total	Emergency room	Clinic					Other
Number of physician contacts in thousands										
All persons <sup>2</sup>	1,168,381	663,464	170,850	46,511	94,509	29,829	23,109	169,836	12,609	122,730
Age										
Under 18 years	266,571	147,611	37,555	15,279	17,383	4,892	1,842	48,370	1,305	28,620
Under 5 years	117,636	64,094	15,207	5,566	7,450	2,190	1,060	23,908	*672	12,330
5-17 years	148,935	83,517	22,348	9,713	9,933	2,702	*782	24,463	*633	16,290
18-44 years	442,628	244,060	69,281	22,223	35,454	11,604	2,752	62,940	7,258	54,173
45-64 years	262,491	153,461	40,378	6,056	25,992	8,330	5,168	34,143	3,509	24,330
65 years and over	196,691	118,332	23,636	2,954	15,681	5,002	13,347	24,383	*536	15,607
Sex										
Male	479,772	265,784	79,736	23,285	43,856	12,595	9,145	62,243	7,987	52,773
Female	688,608	397,679	91,114	23,226	50,653	17,235	13,964	107,593	4,623	69,957
Race										
White	1,022,701	596,926	133,626	38,301	70,660	24,664	20,519	155,922	10,671	99,871
Black	124,372	55,402	33,748	7,299	22,281	4,169	2,261	11,481	1,807	19,056
Other	21,308	11,136	3,476	912	1,567	997	*330	2,433	*132	3,802
Family income										
Less than \$5,000	104,052	49,379	19,613	5,579	11,385	2,649	3,003	12,978	1,231	17,342
\$5,000-\$9,999	155,258	83,174	26,207	6,130	16,640	3,436	5,210	19,251	1,332	19,107
\$10,000-\$19,999	267,828	147,715	43,191	11,486	24,259	7,446	5,296	38,049	3,216	29,157
\$20,000-\$34,999	318,098	188,755	41,791	12,613	20,868	8,310	2,878	50,101	3,751	29,448
\$35,000 or more	212,227	129,580	24,112	6,985	12,291	4,837	2,256	35,460	2,440	17,433
Education of persons 18 years of age and over										
Less than 12 years	410,324	230,436	66,517	19,423	36,978	10,116	12,351	51,186	3,639	43,949
12 years	322,593	190,282	46,928	12,974	26,052	7,902	4,989	43,641	4,649	30,605
13 years or more	302,965	170,992	39,647	8,229	22,249	9,169	4,314	48,049	3,595	34,873
Family size										
1 person	173,933	90,825	25,851	5,382	14,987	5,482	7,778	25,152	2,292	21,145
2 persons	327,424	190,519	48,947	8,934	30,156	9,858	8,068	43,061	2,532	32,493
3-4 persons	466,694	268,566	63,009	20,492	32,366	10,150	5,078	76,403	5,153	46,331
5 persons or more	200,331	113,553	33,043	11,704	17,000	4,339	2,186	25,219	2,632	22,761
Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over										
White collar	273,216	160,034	36,358	8,601	19,535	8,222	1,501	42,711	3,959	27,325
Blue collar	114,179	67,662	18,081	7,948	7,565	2,568	*565	11,293	4,824	11,266
Service and farm	71,440	42,017	10,092	3,511	4,668	1,912	*136	8,080	839	9,963
Hispanic origin										
Hispanic	70,801	37,098	14,582	3,493	9,442	1,647	936	5,754	1,383	10,633
Non-Hispanic	1,088,856	621,132	155,232	42,620	84,635	27,977	21,905	162,954	11,110	111,236
Geographic region										
Northeast	249,663	143,878	39,431	10,604	23,506	5,320	6,639	34,793	3,045	20,475
North Central	301,276	166,215	42,251	11,428	23,482	7,342	5,043	48,097	3,664	34,748
South	367,882	212,435	52,774	16,024	27,186	9,564	7,863	53,350	3,125	36,510
West	249,560	140,936	36,393	8,455	20,334	7,604	3,564	33,596	2,775	30,997
Place of residence										
SMSA—central city	330,282	170,060	61,029	13,641	37,321	10,066	6,441	46,379	4,235	40,448
SMSA—outside central city	495,855	286,948	66,705	17,821	36,637	12,247	8,068	78,478	5,575	47,574
Not SMSA	342,244	206,456	43,116	15,049	20,550	7,516	8,600	44,978	2,799	34,707

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown place of contact.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown family income and education, and whether or not of Hispanic origin.

**Table 8. Number of reasons for choice of physician or place of contact by place of contact and reason: United States, 1983**

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

Reason for choice of physician	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office	Hospital				Company clinic	Other
			Total	Emergency room	Clinic	Other		
Number in thousands								
All reasons . . . . .	1,283,644	862,814	230,596	62,068	128,727	39,801	14,706	170,711
Place used for nearly all medical care . . . . .	382,498	289,150	54,193	8,041	35,978	10,175	2,459	35,370
Especially good for treating this condition . . . . .	250,014	191,465	30,994	2,680	19,727	8,588	*1,407	25,118
Convenient to home . . . . .	132,927	90,082	21,012	8,229	10,405	2,378	*706	20,517
Convenient to work or shopping . . . . .	25,086	13,475	4,607	*1,208	1,997	*1,402	1,980	4,964
Referred by a doctor . . . . .	156,203	88,701	39,724	3,050	31,461	5,213	*582	26,569
Referred by a friend or relative . . . . .	98,100	79,613	6,714	*1,342	3,188	2,184	*804	10,692
Only place available . . . . .	25,663	10,776	6,841	3,611	3,012	*218	*917	6,977
Required by health insurance plan . . . . .	43,651	17,885	12,172	2,111	6,064	3,997	1,989	11,390
Emergency . . . . .	49,041	12,103	31,446	27,014	3,406	*1,026	*454	4,840
Other reason . . . . .	120,460	69,566	22,892	4,783	13,489	4,620	3,408	24,275

<sup>1</sup>Excludes telephone and home contacts and includes unknown place of contact

**Table 9. Number of physician contacts by place of contact and travel time to place of contact: United States, 1983**

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

Travel time	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office	Hospital				Company clinic	Other
			Total	Emergency room	Clinic	Other		
Number in thousands								
All travel times . . . . .	969,315	654,443	172,720	47,702	96,463	28,555	12,126	124,694
Less than 15 minutes . . . . .	362,616	252,721	51,668	20,494	23,052	8,122	7,320	49,230
15-19 minutes . . . . .	179,340	126,798	30,772	9,620	16,253	4,899	*1,182	19,670
20-29 minutes . . . . .	174,519	118,205	32,729	7,886	19,400	5,443	*1,605	21,513
30-44 minutes . . . . .	127,037	82,832	27,945	5,799	17,839	4,307	*933	14,934
45-59 minutes . . . . .	35,164	21,875	7,125	*840	5,107	*1,178	*112	5,952
60 minutes or more . . . . .	52,880	28,666	16,084	*1,426	11,190	3,468	*630	7,443
Unknown . . . . .	37,759	23,345	6,397	1,637	3,622	*1,138	*345	5,953

<sup>1</sup>Excludes telephone and home contacts and includes unknown travel time of contact

**Table 10. Average annual percent distribution and number of conditions involved in the physician contact by whether the condition was chronic or acute and the type of acute condition, according to place of contact: United States, 1982-83**

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

Type of acute condition	Place of contact					Place of contact						
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office		Hospital	Telephone	Other places	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office		Hospital	Telephone	Other places
		Percent distribution <sup>2</sup>						Number in thousands				
All conditions . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,168,871	660,967	178,992	171,499	151,534		
Chronic conditions . . . . .	61.5	63.8	58.4	52.7	65.2	719,054	421,499	104,526	90,403	98,859		
Acute conditions . . . . .	38.5	36.2	41.6	47.3	34.8	449,817	239,467	74,465	81,096	52,675		
Type of acute conditions												
Infective and parasitic diseases . . . . .	4.3	3.5	3.0	9.0	3.8	50,110	23,382	5,307	15,391	5,717		
Common childhood diseases . . . . .	0.3	0.2	*0.2	1.0	*0.2	3,776	1,298	*398	1,778	*301		
Intestinal virus, NOS . . . . .	0.4	0.3	*0.3	1.1	*0.4	4,912	1,816	*539	1,879	*651		
Viral infections, unspecified . . . . .	1.0	0.8	0.7	2.6	0.7	12,042	5,291	1,205	4,390	1,059		
Other . . . . .	2.5	2.3	1.8	4.3	2.4	29,381	14,976	3,165	7,343	3,707		
Respiratory conditions . . . . .	10.1	9.9	7.0	15.4	8.5	117,982	65,605	12,493	26,404	12,948		
Common cold . . . . .	2.8	2.6	1.6	4.2	2.9	32,157	17,514	2,856	7,242	4,409		
Other acute upper respiratory infections . . . . .	1.9	2.0	0.8	2.8	1.4	21,706	13,296	1,429	4,745	2,185		
Influenza . . . . .	3.1	2.6	2.3	6.3	2.4	36,008	17,292	4,097	10,802	3,658		
Acute bronchitis . . . . .	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.9	0.7	11,489	7,798	1,166	1,486	1,011		
Pneumonia . . . . .	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	9,241	5,611	1,608	1,133	840		
Other respiratory conditions . . . . .	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	7,380	4,094	1,337	997	846		
Digestive system conditions . . . . .	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.9	1.6	15,852	7,552	2,490	3,340	2,441		
Dental conditions . . . . .	0.2	0.1	*0.2	*0.3	*0.2	2,068	948	*375	*509	*236		
Indigestion, nausea, and vomiting . . . . .	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	*0.4	5,557	2,560	927	1,388	*681		
Other digestive conditions . . . . .	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	8,228	4,043	1,189	1,444	1,524		
Injuries . . . . .	9.8	8.4	18.7	5.9	9.8	114,358	55,612	33,445	10,115	14,852		
Fractures and dislocations . . . . .	2.1	1.9	4.0	1.0	2.1	24,453	12,296	7,202	1,683	3,127		
Sprains and strains . . . . .	2.1	1.9	4.1	0.8	1.9	24,184	12,644	7,312	1,363	2,815		
Open wounds and lacerations . . . . .	2.0	1.6	5.0	0.7	1.9	23,709	10,621	8,969	1,232	2,808		
Contusions and superficial injuries . . . . .	1.5	1.3	2.3	1.1	1.7	17,361	8,843	4,078	1,893	2,547		
Other current injuries . . . . .	2.1	1.7	3.3	2.3	2.3	24,650	11,207	5,884	3,945	3,554		
All other acute conditions . . . . .	13.0	13.2	11.6	15.1	11.0	151,515	87,316	20,731	25,846	16,716		
Eye conditions . . . . .	0.6	0.6	0.7	*0.5	*0.3	6,573	4,119	1,171	*773	*434		
Acute ear infections . . . . .	2.0	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.4	23,500	15,425	3,055	2,654	2,122		
Other ear conditions . . . . .	0.4	0.5	*0.4	0.5	*0.3	5,258	3,221	*706	828	*473		
Acute urinary tract infections . . . . .	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.7	0.9	13,573	7,661	1,499	2,991	1,397		
Other urinary conditions . . . . .	0.3	0.2	*0.3	*0.4	*0.3	3,030	1,429	*516	*691	*393		
Disorders of menstruation . . . . .	0.3	0.2	*0.4	*0.4	*0.2	3,052	1,376	*653	*689	*333		
Other disorders of female genital tract . . . . .	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.8	*0.3	6,351	3,717	808	1,381	*444		
Delivery and other conditions of pregnancy and puerperium . . . . .	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.4	0.9	12,179	6,171	2,068	2,452	1,413		
Skin conditions . . . . .	1.2	1.3	0.8	1.5	1.0	14,144	8,476	1,481	2,620	1,541		
Acute back, spine, and neck pain . . . . .	0.2	0.2	*0.2	*0.1	*0.1	1,953	1,162	*312	*234	*218		
Other musculoskeletal conditions . . . . .	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.5	17,069	10,223	2,793	1,660	2,202		
Headache, excluding migraine . . . . .	0.2	0.1	*0.2	*0.2	*0.4	2,160	990	*341	*281	*547		
Fever, NOS . . . . .	0.2	0.2	*0.1	0.7	*0.2	2,677	1,141	*134	1,142	*260		
All other acute conditions . . . . .	3.4	3.4	2.9	4.3	3.3	39,997	22,204	5,193	7,449	4,940		

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown place of contact.

<sup>2</sup>Percents of specific acute conditions are of all conditions, not just acute conditions.

NOTE: NOS = Not otherwise specified.

**Table 11. Average annual percent distribution and number of conditions involved in the physician contact by whether the condition was acute or chronic, and the type of chronic condition, according to place of contact: United States, 1982-83**

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

Type of chronic condition	Place of contact					Place of contact				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office			Other places	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office			Other places
		Hospital	Telephone	Other places			Hospital	Telephone	Other places	
	Percent distribution <sup>2</sup>					Number in thousands				
All conditions . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,168,871	660,967	178,992	171,499	151,534
Acute conditions . . . . .	38.5	36.2	41.6	47.3	34.8	449,817	239,467	74,465	81,096	52,675
Chronic conditions . . . . .	61.5	63.8	58.4	52.7	65.2	719,054	421,499	104,526	90,403	98,859
<b>SELECTED CHRONIC CONDITIONS</b>										
<b>Skin and musculoskeletal</b>										
Arthritis . . . . .	3.8	4.1	3.1	3.3	3.6	44,167	27,315	5,613	5,595	5,445
Gout, including gouty arthritis . . . . .	0.2	0.3	*0.1	*0.3	*0.2	2,867	1,742	*216	*580	*302
Intervertebral disc disorders . . . . .	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.1	9,563	5,211	1,455	1,282	1,616
Bonespur tendonitis NOS . . . . .	0.2	0.2	*0.1	*0.1	*0.1	2,165	1,645	*209	*207	*104
Disorders of bone or cartilage . . . . .	0.3	0.3	*0.4	*0.3	*0.3	3,661	1,912	*747	*565	*410
Bursitis NEC . . . . .	0.3	0.3	*0.4	*0.3	*0.4	3,950	2,252	*685	*440	*573
Sebaceous skin cyst . . . . .	0.3	0.4	*0.4	*0.1	*0.2	4,027	2,750	*760	*145	*373
Trouble with acne . . . . .	0.4	0.6	*0.2	*0.2	*0.2	4,777	3,759	*410	*317	*264
Dermatitis . . . . .	1.0	1.1	0.6	1.2	0.9	11,485	6,978	1,027	2,126	1,327
Benign neoplasms of skin . . . . .	0.2	0.3	*0.2	*0.0	*0.2	2,696	1,993	*362	*79	*261
Malignant neoplasms of skin . . . . .	0.4	0.5	*0.4	*0.1	*0.1	4,206	3,181	*677	*220	*128
<b>Impairments</b>										
Visual impairments . . . . .	0.3	0.3	*0.3	*0.2	*0.2	3,271	2,131	*522	*267	*351
Hearing impairments . . . . .	0.3	0.4	*0.3	*0.1	*0.4	3,768	2,331	*583	*254	*600
Absence of extremities . . . . .	0.2	0.1	*0.4	*0.1	0.6	2,724	903	*740	*120	960
Paralysis . . . . .	0.4	0.2	*0.4	*0.2	1.3	4,372	1,318	*766	*357	1,903
Deformity or orthopedic impairment . . . . .	5.1	5.1	5.5	3.7	5.8	59,205	33,863	9,778	6,353	8,836
Cataracts . . . . .	0.7	0.9	0.6	*0.2	*0.4	7,786	5,664	1,103	*267	*674
Glaucoma . . . . .	0.4	0.5	0.5	*0.1	*0.1	4,661	3,424	839	*180	*194
<b>Digestive</b>										
Ulcer . . . . .	0.7	0.7	0.7	*0.5	*0.5	7,835	4,957	1,200	*805	*783
Hernia of abdominal cavity . . . . .	0.6	0.6	*0.4	*0.4	*0.5	6,437	4,206	*797	*656	*700
Gastritis or duodenitis . . . . .	0.2	0.2	*0.1	*0.3	*0.2	2,211	1,177	*236	*477	*321
Indigestion . . . . .	0.2	0.1	*0.4	*0.3	*0.1	2,180	840	*642	*455	*218
Enteritis or colitis . . . . .	0.5	0.4	*0.4	1.3	*0.2	6,095	2,791	*761	2,175	*340
Malignant neoplasms of stomach, intestines, colon, or rectum . . . . .	0.3	0.2	0.5	*0.1	*0.3	2,985	1,514	814	*170	*487
<b>Circulatory</b>										
Rheumatic fever . . . . .	0.2	0.1	*0.3	*0.3	*0.3	2,352	859	*505	*545	*444
Ischemic heart disease . . . . .	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	21,287	12,077	3,254	3,046	2,725
Heart rhythm disorders . . . . .	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	*0.5	7,568	4,243	1,097	1,377	*773
Congenital and other heart disease . . . . .	2.1	2.0	2.3	1.7	2.6	24,279	13,208	4,093	2,932	3,994
Hypertension . . . . .	5.9	6.8	4.1	4.0	6.4	69,088	44,742	7,379	6,866	9,773
Cerebrovascular disease . . . . .	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	*1.6	6,367	2,097	981	682	2,483
Hardening of arteries . . . . .	0.3	0.3	*0.1	*0.4	*0.5	3,598	1,869	*191	*762	*748
Phlebitis or thrombophlebitis . . . . .	0.2	0.3	*0.1	*0.2	*0.2	2,646	1,738	*239	*420	*249
Hemorrhoids . . . . .	0.3	0.3	*0.2	*0.3	*0.3	3,305	1,929	*379	*472	*473
Poor circulation . . . . .	0.3	0.2	*0.3	*0.1	*0.5	3,032	1,648	*457	*236	*692
<b>Respiratory</b>										
Bronchitis . . . . .	0.4	0.5	*0.4	*0.4	*0.1	4,614	3,113	*643	*605	*202
Asthma . . . . .	2.5	2.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	28,904	19,315	3,221	3,202	3,015
Hay fever or allergic rhinitis without asthma . . . . .	1.9	2.6	0.5	1.1	1.3	22,228	17,247	983	1,905	2,032
Sinusitis . . . . .	0.6	0.6	*0.4	0.8	0.6	6,985	4,121	*632	1,349	883
Disease of tonsils or adenoids . . . . .	0.2	0.2	*0.1	*0.3	*0.2	2,375	1,352	*266	*466	*255
Emphysema . . . . .	0.6	0.6	*0.4	0.5	*0.4	6,519	4,236	*755	845	*655
Malignant neoplasms of lung and bronchus . . . . .	0.2	0.1	*0.4	*0.1	*0.4	2,563	968	*676	*239	*654

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 11. Average annual percent distribution and number of conditions involved in the physician contact by whether the condition was acute or chronic, and the type of chronic condition, according to place of contact: United States, 1982-83—Con.**

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

Type of chronic condition	Place of contact					Place of contact				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office	Hospital	Telephone	Other places	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician's office	Hospital	Telephone	Other places
Other selected conditions		Percent distribution <sup>2</sup>				Number in thousands				
Thyroid disorders . . . . .	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.6	6,045	2,948	832	1,420	845
Diabetes . . . . .	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.2	3.2	30,725	17,805	4,043	3,744	4,851
Anemias . . . . .	0.4	0.4	*0.3	*0.3	0.6	4,849	2,930	*476	*567	851
Epilepsy . . . . .	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.5	*0.4	4,599	1,563	1,583	856	*597
Migraine headache . . . . .	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	6,443	3,414	886	1,182	936
Other types of headache . . . . .	0.3	0.3	*0.2	*0.4	*0.4	3,646	1,965	*403	*662	*556
Kidney stones . . . . .	0.3	0.3	*0.3	*0.4	*0.2	3,300	1,756	*615	*697	*233
Other kidney troubles . . . . .	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.6	0.8	6,719	2,712	1,819	1,047	1,141
Bladder disorders . . . . .	0.4	0.4	*0.2	0.5	*0.2	4,240	2,536	*405	933	*340
Prostate diseases . . . . .	0.5	0.4	0.8	*0.3	*0.4	5,333	2,823	1,356	*517	*586
Disorder or disease of female genital organs . . . . .	0.9	1.0	0.7	1.3	0.7	10,896	6,330	1,188	2,244	1,082
Malignant neoplasms of female breast or genital organs . . . . .	0.6	0.4	1.6	*0.3	*0.5	6,782	2,631	2,860	*553	*738
Benign neoplasm of female breast or genital organs . . . . .	0.2	0.2	*0.2	*0.1	*0.1	2,079	1,382	*403	*110	*184
All other chronic conditions . . . . .	17.0	17.0	17.3	15.1	18.9	198,590	112,085	30,961	25,831	28,700

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown place of contact.

<sup>2</sup>Percents of specific chronic conditions are of all conditions, not just chronic conditions.

NOTES: NOS = Not otherwise specified. NEC = Not elsewhere classified.

**Table 12. Average annual percent distribution and number of physician contacts by the place of contact, according to the day of the week of the contact: United States, 1982-83**

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

Day of the week of contact	Total <sup>1</sup>	Telephone	Physician's office	Hospital			Company clinic	Home	Other	
				Total	Emergency room	Clinic				
Percent distribution										
All days <sup>2</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Monday	20.3	18.8	21.3	18.2	15.0	19.5	19.1	20.6	16.3	20.4
Tuesday	18.2	14.9	19.3	17.8	14.1	18.4	21.7	17.6	19.4	16.9
Wednesday	17.0	17.3	16.8	17.0	12.2	19.5	16.5	16.8	16.4	17.6
Thursday	17.5	16.6	17.6	17.0	12.2	18.7	19.5	17.4	16.5	18.9
Friday	19.3	21.1	19.3	17.4	13.1	18.9	19.3	21.5	17.3	19.9
Saturday	5.7	7.7	5.0	6.9	17.6	3.1	*2.5	*4.5	8.1	4.7
Sunday	2.0	3.5	0.7	5.6	15.9	1.9	*1.5	*1.7	6.0	1.6
Number in thousands										
All days <sup>3</sup>	1,168,381	169,836	663,464	170,850	46,511	94,509	29,829	12,609	23,109	122,730
Monday	212,563	26,965	127,716	28,538	6,394	17,021	5,122	2,368	3,356	22,962
Tuesday	190,872	21,425	115,540	27,933	6,013	16,093	5,827	2,020	3,984	19,076
Wednesday	178,033	24,832	100,840	26,694	5,223	17,048	4,423	1,927	3,369	19,791
Thursday	183,626	23,832	105,594	26,737	5,213	16,290	5,234	2,004	3,388	21,318
Friday	202,425	30,301	115,409	27,244	5,586	16,474	5,184	2,477	3,560	22,443
Saturday	59,700	11,077	30,017	10,866	7,518	2,687	*661	*515	1,655	5,280
Sunday	21,436	5,039	4,225	8,843	6,804	1,628	*411	*191	1,235	1,764

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown place

<sup>2</sup>Excludes unknown day of contact.

<sup>3</sup>Includes unknown day of contact.

**Table 13. Average annual percent distribution and number of physician contacts by the place of contact, according to the month of contact: United States, 1982-83**

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

Month of contact	Total <sup>1</sup>	Telephone	Physician's office	Hospital			Company clinic	Home	Other	
				Total	Emergency room	Clinic				
Percent distribution										
All months <sup>2</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
January	8.4	10.1	8.2	8.3	7.5	8.3	9.4	*5.6	6.5	8.4
February	8.5	8.8	8.3	9.3	10.1	8.7	10.0	9.4	5.8	8.5
March	8.8	9.7	8.7	8.3	7.9	8.3	9.1	*6.4	7.5	9.1
April	9.2	8.8	9.5	8.5	6.3	10.2	6.2	10.7	10.8	9.2
May	8.6	8.5	8.5	9.8	9.3	10.2	9.1	7.6	7.2	8.4
June	7.9	7.8	7.9	9.1	8.5	9.8	7.9	9.9	6.1	6.7
July	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.2	7.3	7.6	6.0	*6.2	9.0	7.4
August	8.3	7.8	8.5	8.2	9.8	7.6	7.5	12.7	8.2	8.1
September	8.2	7.0	8.5	8.0	9.3	6.6	10.2	*4.4	9.7	8.4
October	8.5	8.2	8.8	8.2	8.5	7.8	9.0	8.2	8.4	7.9
November	8.3	7.6	8.4	7.8	7.3	7.9	8.1	12.3	6.7	9.6
December	7.6	8.0	7.3	7.3	8.1	6.9	7.4	*6.4	14.1	8.2
Number in thousands										
All months <sup>3</sup>	1,168,381	169,836	663,464	170,850	46,511	94,509	29,829	12,609	23,109	122,730
January	88,013	14,477	48,977	12,995	3,209	7,257	2,529	*639	1,335	9,435
February	89,161	12,632	49,819	14,631	4,334	7,603	2,694	1,083	1,186	9,620
March	92,310	13,980	52,192	13,074	3,372	7,267	2,434	*736	1,542	10,226
April	96,779	12,682	56,669	13,284	2,689	8,923	1,672	1,236	2,210	10,399
May	90,577	12,183	50,682	15,326	3,966	8,909	2,451	873	1,484	9,485
June	83,317	11,167	47,573	14,317	3,643	8,542	2,133	1,141	1,253	7,572
July	78,917	10,955	45,415	11,334	3,142	6,588	1,604	*716	1,856	8,369
August	87,445	11,243	50,696	12,819	4,207	6,608	2,004	1,466	1,687	9,137
September	85,476	10,046	50,736	12,480	3,966	5,770	2,744	*511	1,997	9,438
October	89,601	11,752	52,764	12,901	3,640	6,838	2,423	947	1,720	8,915
November	87,407	10,907	50,284	12,193	3,107	6,903	2,182	1,417	1,381	10,856
December	79,653	11,448	43,536	11,502	3,476	6,033	1,993	*739	2,895	9,180

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown place of contact.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes unknown month of contact

<sup>3</sup>Includes unknown month of contact.

**Table 14. Average annual percent distribution and number of persons by the number of physician contacts during the 12 months preceding interview, according to assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

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

Assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristic	Physician contacts in past 12 months						Physician contacts in past 12 months					
	Total <sup>1</sup>	None	1 month	2-4 months	5-9 months	10 months or more	Total <sup>2</sup>	None	1 month	2-4 months	5-9 months	10 months or more
<b>ALL ASSESSED HEALTH STATUSES<sup>3</sup></b>												
	Percent distribution						Number in thousands					
All persons <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.0	26.7	23.9	29.5	10.8	9.1	228,270	60,879	54,320	67,188	24,613	20,689
<b>Age</b>												
Under 18 years . . . . .	100.0	23.4	27.8	32.2	10.9	5.6	62,652	14,646	17,374	20,139	6,839	3,521
Under 5 years . . . . .	100.0	10.4	19.3	41.0	19.7	9.6	17,593	1,824	3,394	7,191	3,458	1,679
18-44 years . . . . .	100.0	30.3	24.6	27.1	9.2	8.8	95,785	28,930	23,553	25,859	8,793	8,458
45-64 years . . . . .	100.0	27.9	21.2	28.7	11.4	10.8	44,185	12,280	9,360	12,655	5,016	4,743
65 years and over . . . . .	100.0	19.7	15.8	33.4	15.5	15.5	25,647	5,023	4,033	8,535	3,965	3,967
<b>Sex</b>												
Male . . . . .	100.0	32.0	24.4	27.8	8.9	6.8	110,141	35,209	26,796	30,520	9,832	7,525
Female . . . . .	100.0	21.8	23.4	31.1	12.5	11.2	118,129	25,670	27,524	36,669	14,781	13,164
<b>Race</b>												
White . . . . .	100.0	26.3	23.7	29.8	11.0	9.2	195,274	51,306	46,157	58,024	21,471	17,837
Black . . . . .	100.0	28.4	24.7	28.2	9.6	9.0	27,109	7,681	6,674	7,620	2,606	2,445
Other . . . . .	100.0	32.3	25.4	26.3	9.1	7.0	5,887	1,893	1,488	1,544	536	408
<b>Family income</b>												
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	100.0	24.3	20.7	29.7	12.0	13.4	15,864	3,838	3,272	4,692	1,890	2,120
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	100.0	26.6	20.9	28.5	11.9	12.1	26,155	6,944	5,450	7,435	3,100	3,145
\$10,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	100.0	28.1	23.1	29.1	10.7	9.0	54,433	15,278	12,542	15,800	5,819	4,877
\$20,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	100.0	26.0	25.0	30.0	10.9	8.2	64,628	16,758	16,112	19,365	7,030	5,266
\$35,000 or more . . . . .	100.0	23.8	26.1	31.8	10.6	7.7	41,754	9,897	10,878	13,258	4,420	3,216
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH</b>												
All persons <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.0	13.6	10.0	28.2	19.6	28.7	25,599	3,455	2,538	7,155	4,975	7,283
<b>Age</b>												
Under 18 years . . . . .	100.0	11.5	13.5	29.7	19.5	25.9	1,890	217	253	558	366	487
Under 5 years . . . . .	100.0	6.4	7.0	26.2	23.1	37.3	487	31	34	127	112	181
18-44 years . . . . .	100.0	16.8	11.7	26.1	16.7	28.7	5,940	993	691	1,536	986	1,690
45-64 years . . . . .	100.0	13.6	9.4	27.4	20.1	29.6	9,098	1,228	846	2,476	1,815	2,677
65 years or more . . . . .	100.0	11.8	8.7	30.1	21.1	28.3	8,671	1,016	748	2,585	1,809	2,428
<b>Sex</b>												
Male . . . . .	100.0	17.2	10.8	28.5	17.7	25.8	11,212	1,912	1,201	3,175	1,976	2,879
Female . . . . .	100.0	10.8	9.4	27.9	21.0	30.9	14,387	1,542	1,337	3,980	2,999	4,403
<b>Race</b>												
White . . . . .	100.0	13.2	9.7	27.9	20.2	29.0	20,278	2,657	1,948	5,620	4,060	5,842
Black . . . . .	100.0	15.0	11.2	29.2	17.4	27.1	4,777	711	532	1,383	826	1,286
Other . . . . .	100.0	15.9	10.7	28.1	16.5	28.7	544	86	58	152	89	155
<b>Family income</b>												
Less than 5,000 . . . . .	100.0	15.1	10.3	26.8	17.5	30.3	3,809	569	389	1,011	662	1,145
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	100.0	13.9	9.7	28.2	19.9	28.3	5,884	816	569	1,649	1,165	1,653
\$10,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	100.0	13.5	10.1	28.8	20.2	27.3	6,813	918	682	1,954	1,370	1,852
\$20,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	100.0	11.3	9.8	29.2	20.7	29.0	4,021	454	394	1,169	827	1,160
\$35,000 or more . . . . .	100.0	8.7	7.9	28.2	20.8	34.6	1,618	140	127	454	335	557
<b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT HEALTH</b>												
All persons <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.0	28.3	25.6	29.7	9.7	6.6	201,119	56,922	51,467	59,642	19,486	13,266
<b>Age</b>												
Under 18 years . . . . .	100.0	23.7	28.3	32.3	10.7	5.0	60,160	14,246	16,983	19,414	6,423	2,995
Under 5 years . . . . .	100.0	10.4	19.7	41.4	19.7	8.8	16,932	1,762	3,333	6,995	3,329	1,481
18-44 years . . . . .	100.0	31.1	25.5	27.1	8.7	7.6	89,356	27,741	22,757	24,216	7,766	6,739
45-64 years . . . . .	100.0	31.6	24.4	29.1	9.1	5.8	34,831	10,981	8,470	10,112	3,172	2,030
65 years and over . . . . .	100.0	23.6	19.5	35.2	12.7	9.0	16,772	3,955	3,258	5,901	2,126	1,502

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 14. Average annual percent distribution and number of persons by the number of physician contacts during the 12 months preceding interview, according to assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83—Con.**

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

Assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristic	Physician contacts in past 12 months						Physician contacts in past 12 months					
	Total <sup>1</sup>	None	1 month	2-4 months	5-9 months	10 months or more	Total <sup>2</sup>	None	1 month	2-4 months	5-9 months	10 months or more
<b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT HEALTH—CON.</b>												
Sex												
	Percent distribution						Number in thousands					
Male . . . . .	100.0	33.7	25.9	27.7	8.0	4.7	98,208	33,056	25,439	27,165	7,796	4,591
Female . . . . .	100.0	23.2	25.3	31.6	11.4	8.4	102,911	23,867	26,028	32,478	11,690	8,674
Race												
White . . . . .	100.0	27.8	25.3	30.0	10.0	6.8	173,748	48,242	43,968	52,086	17,293	11,874
Black . . . . .	100.0	31.3	27.6	28.0	7.9	5.2	22,072	6,886	6,086	6,176	1,747	1,139
Other . . . . .	100.0	34.0	26.7	26.1	8.5	4.8	5,299	1,795	1,413	1,381	447	253
Family income												
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	100.0	27.1	24.0	30.6	10.2	8.1	11,930	3,234	2,853	3,646	1,218	960
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	100.0	30.3	24.2	28.6	9.5	7.4	20,103	6,083	4,849	5,747	1,908	1,475
\$10,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	100.0	30.2	24.9	29.1	9.3	6.3	47,270	14,272	11,776	13,756	4,412	2,989
\$20,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	100.0	26.9	26.0	30.1	10.3	6.8	60,258	16,195	15,655	18,089	6,171	4,073
\$35,000 or more . . . . .	100.0	24.3	26.9	32.0	10.2	6.6	39,903	9,686	10,698	12,747	4,061	2,639

<sup>1</sup>Excludes unknown number of annual physician contacts.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown number of annual physician contacts.

<sup>3</sup>Includes unknown health status.

<sup>4</sup>Includes unknown family income.

**Table 15. Average annual percent distribution and number of persons by the number of physician contacts during the 12 months preceding interview, according to assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

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

Assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristic	Physician contacts in past 12 months						Physician contacts in past 12 months						
	Total <sup>1</sup>	None	1 month	2-4 months	5-9 months	10 months or more	Total <sup>2</sup>	None	1 month	2-4 months	5-9 months	10 months or more	
<b>ALL ASSESSED HEALTH STATUSES<sup>3</sup></b>		Percent distribution						Number in thousands					
All persons <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.0	26.7	23.9	29.5	10.8	9.1	228,270	60,879	54,320	67,188	24,613	20,689	
Education of persons 18 years of age and over													
Less than 12 years . . . . .	100.0	28.7	24.6	28.1	9.9	8.7	88,292	25,270	21,650	24,732	8,718	7,686	
12 years . . . . .	100.0	29.1	23.5	28.0	10.0	9.3	64,480	18,745	15,111	18,046	6,429	6,014	
13 years or more . . . . .	100.0	25.6	24.7	30.1	10.5	9.2	54,986	14,021	13,546	16,507	5,739	5,049	
Family size													
1 person . . . . .	100.0	23.5	20.9	31.3	12.4	11.9	25,511	5,981	5,301	7,952	3,157	3,022	
2 persons . . . . .	100.0	24.6	21.5	31.1	12.1	10.8	51,975	12,756	11,136	16,098	6,265	5,579	
3-4 persons . . . . .	100.0	26.1	24.5	29.7	10.9	8.8	95,705	24,884	23,436	28,361	10,422	8,392	
5 persons or more . . . . .	100.0	31.4	26.3	26.9	8.7	6.7	55,078	17,258	14,447	14,778	4,768	3,696	
Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over													
White collar . . . . .	100.0	27.1	25.5	29.8	9.8	7.8	56,775	15,362	14,479	16,897	5,531	4,412	
Blue collar . . . . .	100.0	37.9	24.0	24.9	7.4	5.8	32,348	12,242	7,734	8,050	2,401	1,859	
Service and farm . . . . .	100.0	31.4	24.7	27.7	9.1	7.2	16,801	5,259	4,134	4,647	1,518	1,199	
Hispanic origin													
Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	32.5	23.3	26.2	9.6	8.5	16,482	5,340	3,827	4,302	1,577	1,401	
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	26.2	23.9	29.8	10.9	9.1	209,657	54,882	50,040	62,289	22,797	19,120	
Geographic region													
Northeast . . . . .	100.0	24.6	24.9	29.8	11.2	9.5	49,441	12,143	12,270	14,694	5,531	4,694	
North Central . . . . .	100.0	26.5	23.9	30.0	11.0	8.6	58,984	15,578	14,088	17,682	6,453	5,045	
South . . . . .	100.0	28.2	23.7	29.3	10.3	8.5	75,315	21,189	17,805	22,000	7,716	6,387	
West . . . . .	100.0	26.9	22.9	28.8	11.1	10.3	44,530	11,969	10,157	12,812	4,913	4,563	
Place of residence													
SMSA—central city . . . . .	100.0	26.3	23.5	29.1	11.1	10.1	62,223	16,316	14,558	18,069	6,861	6,239	
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	100.0	25.7	24.3	30.1	10.9	9.0	92,877	23,782	22,491	27,926	10,113	8,335	
Not SMSA . . . . .	100.0	28.5	23.7	29.0	10.5	8.4	73,170	20,782	17,271	21,193	7,639	6,115	
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH</b>													
All persons <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.0	13.6	10.0	28.2	19.6	28.7	25,599	3,455	2,538	7,155	4,975	7,283	
Education of persons 18 years of age and over													
Less than 12 years . . . . .	100.0	14.8	10.5	28.7	19.0	27.1	14,663	2,151	1,527	4,182	2,760	3,939	
12 years . . . . .	100.0	12.6	10.1	28.2	20.3	28.8	6,776	850	678	1,898	1,367	1,938	
13 years or more . . . . .	100.0	10.0	8.1	25.9	20.7	35.3	3,138	312	251	806	645	1,097	
Family size													
1 person . . . . .	100.0	12.2	8.7	27.8	21.1	30.2	4,370	527	375	1,201	908	1,302	
2 persons . . . . .	100.0	12.5	9.6	28.8	20.4	28.6	9,710	1,210	923	2,783	1,968	2,764	
3-4 persons . . . . .	100.0	14.5	10.3	27.3	19.1	28.8	7,483	1,081	763	2,029	1,417	2,141	
5 persons or more . . . . .	100.0	15.9	11.9	28.5	17.0	26.8	4,036	637	477	1,142	682	1,075	
Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over													
White collar . . . . .	100.0	13.9	10.3	29.7	19.7	26.4	2,692	372	276	796	529	707	
Blue collar . . . . .	100.0	21.7	14.9	29.0	15.8	18.6	2,814	608	418	813	442	520	
Service and farm . . . . .	100.0	17.8	13.8	32.7	18.0	17.6	1,862	330	256	604	333	326	

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 15. Average annual percent distribution and number of persons by the number of physician contacts during the 12 months preceding interview, according to assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83—Con.**

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

Assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristic	Total <sup>1</sup>	Physician contacts in past 12 months					Total <sup>2</sup>	Physician contacts in past 12 months				
		None	1 month	2-4 months	5-9 months	10 months or more		None	1 month	2-4 months	5-9 months	10 months or more
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH—CON.</b>												
Hispanic origin												
		Percent distribution						Number in thousands				
Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	16.3	11.1	27.1	17.7	27.8	1,901	309	209	513	334	526
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	13.3	9.9	28.3	19.7	28.8	23,442	3,105	2,300	6,580	4,586	6,689
Geographic region												
Northeast . . . . .	100.0	10.5	8.8	27.3	20.4	33.0	4,949	516	433	1,344	1,006	1,627
North Central . . . . .	100.0	14.0	9.4	27.8	19.7	29.0	5,942	829	558	1,642	1,166	1,717
South . . . . .	100.0	15.1	11.2	29.8	18.6	25.2	10,491	1,564	1,168	3,100	1,937	2,617
West . . . . .	100.0	13.1	9.0	25.6	20.7	31.6	4,217	546	378	1,068	867	1,321
Place of residence												
SMSA—central city . . . . .	100.0	12.6	9.7	27.3	19.7	30.6	7,855	985	755	2,129	1,536	2,387
SMSA—outside of central city . . . . .	100.0	12.5	9.1	27.5	19.8	31.1	8,112	1,010	736	2,212	1,593	2,503
Not SMSA . . . . .	100.0	15.3	11.0	29.4	19.3	25.0	9,632	1,460	1,047	2,814	1,846	2,393
<b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT HEALTH</b>												
All persons <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.0	28.3	25.6	29.7	9.7	6.6	201,119	56,922	51,467	59,642	19,486	13,266
Education of persons 18 years of age and over												
Less than 12 years . . . . .	100.0	31.5	27.4	28.0	8.1	5.1	72,944	22,910	19,966	20,386	5,876	3,692
12 years . . . . .	100.0	31.1	25.1	28.0	8.8	7.1	57,386	17,798	14,367	16,064	5,033	4,041
13 years or more . . . . .	100.0	26.5	25.7	30.4	9.9	7.6	51,607	13,633	13,243	15,635	5,076	3,925
Family size												
1 person . . . . .	100.0	25.8	23.4	32.1	10.7	8.1	20,994	5,397	4,906	6,723	2,233	1,699
2 persons . . . . .	100.0	27.4	24.2	31.6	10.2	6.6	41,977	11,462	10,159	13,243	4,262	2,779
3-4 persons . . . . .	100.0	27.0	25.8	29.9	10.2	7.1	87,634	23,615	22,560	26,183	8,942	6,196
5 persons or more . . . . .	100.0	32.6	27.5	26.8	8.0	5.1	50,514	16,449	13,842	13,494	4,049	2,592
Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over												
White collar . . . . .	100.0	27.7	26.3	29.8	9.3	6.9	53,850	14,910	14,151	16,043	4,979	3,691
Blue collar . . . . .	100.0	39.5	24.8	24.5	6.6	4.5	29,388	11,583	7,288	7,203	1,944	1,324
Service and farm . . . . .	100.0	33.1	26.0	27.1	7.9	5.8	14,875	4,908	3,863	4,028	1,180	867
Hispanic origin												
Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	34.6	24.9	26.1	8.5	6.0	14,443	4,983	3,589	3,757	1,225	867
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	27.8	25.7	30.0	9.8	6.7	184,878	51,366	47,464	55,355	18,085	12,300
Geographic region												
Northeast . . . . .	100.0	26.2	26.7	30.1	10.2	6.9	44,137	11,526	11,765	13,250	4,487	3,039
North Central . . . . .	100.0	27.8	25.6	30.4	10.0	6.3	52,665	14,599	13,447	15,967	5,252	3,305
South . . . . .	100.0	30.3	25.7	29.2	8.9	5.8	64,312	19,462	16,532	18,779	5,727	3,713
West . . . . .	100.0	28.4	24.3	29.2	10.1	8.0	40,005	11,335	9,723	11,648	4,021	3,210
Place of residence												
SMSA—central city . . . . .	100.0	28.2	25.5	29.4	9.8	7.1	53,914	15,174	13,709	15,830	5,275	3,826
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	100.0	26.9	25.7	30.4	10.1	6.9	84,174	22,595	21,621	25,564	8,469	5,777
Not SMSA . . . . .	100.0	30.4	25.6	29.0	9.1	5.8	63,031	19,154	16,137	18,249	5,743	3,662

<sup>1</sup>Excludes unknown number of annual physician contacts  
<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown number of annual physician contacts  
<sup>3</sup>Includes unknown health status  
<sup>4</sup>Includes unknown years of education and whether or not of Hispanic origin

**Table 16. Average annual percent distribution and number of persons by the interval since their last physician contact, according to assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

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

Assessed health status and sociodemographic characteristic	Interval since last physician contact					Interval since last physician contact				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Less than 1 year	1 to under 2 years	2 to under 5 years	5 years or more	Total <sup>2</sup>	Less than 1 year	1 to under 2 years	2 to under 5 years	5 years or more
<b>ALL ASSESSED HEALTH STATUSES<sup>3</sup></b>										
	Percent distribution					Number in thousands				
All persons <sup>4</sup>	100.0	75.1	10.9	10.2	3.8	228,270	168,651	24,593	22,861	8,543
Age										
Under 18 years	100.0	78.5	11.9	7.8	1.8	62,652	48,254	7,334	4,780	1,103
Under 5 years	100.0	92.1	5.9	1.7	0.2	17,593	15,848	1,020	297	43
18-44 years	100.0	71.5	12.3	12.2	4.0	95,785	67,384	11,582	11,484	3,769
45-64 years	100.0	73.8	9.6	11.0	5.6	44,185	32,147	4,183	4,801	2,426
65 years and over	100.0	82.1	5.9	7.1	4.9	25,647	20,867	1,495	1,796	1,245
Sex										
Male	100.0	69.9	12.3	12.8	5.0	110,141	75,609	13,326	13,822	5,432
Female	100.0	79.9	9.7	7.8	2.7	118,129	93,042	11,267	9,039	3,111
Race										
White	100.0	75.4	10.7	10.2	3.8	195,274	144,976	20,502	19,617	7,286
Black	100.0	74.2	12.8	9.4	3.6	27,109	19,655	3,387	2,499	959
Other	100.0	69.7	12.2	12.9	5.2	5,887	4,019	704	745	298
Family income										
Less than \$5,000	100.0	77.9	9.7	8.2	4.2	15,864	12,174	1,519	1,280	660
\$5,000-\$9,999	100.0	75.1	10.2	10.1	4.6	26,155	19,385	2,625	2,613	1,193
\$10,000-\$19,999	100.0	73.4	11.3	11.0	4.2	54,433	39,457	6,094	5,934	2,257
\$20,000-\$34,999	100.0	75.4	11.1	10.2	3.3	64,628	48,125	7,095	6,542	2,077
\$35,000 or more	100.0	77.7	10.5	9.2	2.6	41,754	32,003	4,335	3,801	1,073
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH</b>										
All persons <sup>4</sup>	100.0	88.5	5.0	4.5	2.0	25,599	22,381	1,257	1,144	498
Age										
Under 18 years	100.0	91.1	4.4	3.6	*0.9	1,890	1,691	82	67	*17
Under 5 years	100.0	97.3	*1.9	*0.8	-	487	467	*9	*4	-
18-44 years	100.0	85.4	6.5	6.1	1.9	5,940	4,997	383	358	114
45-64 years	100.0	88.3	4.9	4.6	2.2	9,098	7,935	436	417	199
65 years and over	100.0	90.4	4.2	3.5	2.0	8,671	7,759	357	303	168
Sex										
Male	100.0	85.3	5.8	6.0	2.9	11,212	9,425	645	662	317
Female	100.0	91.0	4.3	3.4	1.3	14,387	12,957	612	482	181
Race										
White	100.0	88.8	4.8	4.4	2.0	20,278	17,788	965	877	410
Black	100.0	87.9	5.5	5.0	1.7	4,777	4,132	260	233	78
Other	100.0	85.9	5.9	6.3	*1.9	544	462	32	34	*10
Family income										
Less than \$5,000	100.0	87.3	5.5	4.8	2.4	3,809	3,286	208	179	91
\$5,000-\$9,999	100.0	87.7	5.1	4.9	2.3	5,884	5,111	295	285	135
\$10,000-\$19,999	100.0	88.1	5.0	4.7	2.2	6,813	5,941	337	316	146
\$20,000-\$34,999	100.0	90.1	4.6	4.2	1.2	4,021	3,600	183	167	46
\$35,000 or more	100.0	92.7	3.0	3.4	*0.9	1,618	1,489	48	55	*15
<b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT HEALTH</b>										
All persons <sup>4</sup>	100.0	73.3	11.7	10.9	4.0	201,119	145,199	23,233	21,625	8,005
Age										
Under 18 years	100.0	78.0	12.2	7.9	1.8	60,160	46,138	7,211	4,684	1,084
Under 5 years	100.0	91.9	6.1	1.7	0.3	16,932	15,237	1,008	290	43
18-44 years	100.0	70.6	12.7	12.6	4.1	89,356	62,088	11,160	11,087	3,641
45-64 years	100.0	70.0	10.9	12.7	6.5	34,831	24,021	3,733	4,369	2,216
65 years and over	100.0	77.9	6.8	8.9	6.4	16,772	12,951	1,129	1,486	1,064

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 16. Average annual percent distribution and number of persons by the interval since their last physician contact, according to assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982–83—Con.**

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

Assessed health status and sociodemographic characteristic	Interval since last physician contact					Interval since last physician contact				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Less than 1 year	1 to under 2 years	2 to under 5 years	5 years or more	Total <sup>2</sup>	Less than 1 year	1 to under 2 years	2 to under 5 years	5 years or more
<b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT HEALTH—CON.</b>										
<b>Sex</b>										
	Percent distribution					Number in thousands				
Male . . . . .	100.0	68.0	13.1	13.6	5.3	98,208	65,693	12,635	13,119	5,091
Female . . . . .	100.0	78.3	10.4	8.4	2.9	102,911	79,505	10,599	8,506	2,914
<b>Race</b>										
White . . . . .	100.0	73.8	11.4	10.9	4.0	173,748	126,333	19,455	18,658	6,847
Black . . . . .	100.0	71.1	14.4	10.5	4.0	22,072	15,340	3,108	2,260	872
Other . . . . .	100.0	67.9	12.9	13.6	5.5	5,299	3,525	670	707	285
<b>Family income</b>										
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	100.0	74.8	11.1	9.3	4.7	11,930	8,796	1,307	1,098	558
\$5,000–\$9,999 . . . . .	100.0	71.3	11.7	11.7	5.3	20,103	14,148	2,317	2,319	1,053
\$10,000–\$19,999 . . . . .	100.0	71.2	12.3	12.0	4.5	47,270	33,254	5,729	5,587	2,109
\$20,000–\$34,999 . . . . .	100.0	74.4	11.6	10.7	3.4	60,258	44,282	6,889	6,343	2,024
\$35,000 or more . . . . .	100.0	77.0	10.8	9.5	2.7	39,903	30,349	4,270	3,736	1,054

<sup>1</sup>Excludes unknown interval.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown interval.  
<sup>3</sup>Includes unknown health status.  
<sup>4</sup>Includes unknown family income.

**Table 17. Average annual percent distribution and number of persons by the interval since their last physician contact, according to assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

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

Assessed health status and sociodemographic characteristic	Interval since last physician contact					Interval since last physician contact				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Less than 1 year <sup>1</sup>	1 to under 2 years	2 to under 5 years	5 years or more	Total <sup>2</sup>	Less than 1 year <sup>2</sup>	1 to under 2 years	2 to under 5 years	5 years or more
<b>ALL ASSESSED HEALTH STATUSES<sup>3</sup></b>										
	Percent distribution					Number in thousands				
All persons <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.0	75.1	10.9	10.2	3.8	228,270	168,651	24,593	22,861	8,543
Education of persons 18 years of age and over										
Less than 12 years . . . . .	100.0	73.2	12.0	10.7	4.2	88,292	63,581	10,407	9,267	3,661
12 years . . . . .	100.0	72.5	11.4	11.6	4.5	64,480	46,097	7,268	7,368	2,833
13 years or more . . . . .	100.0	75.8	10.3	10.4	3.5	54,986	41,189	5,603	5,668	1,902
Family size										
1 person . . . . .	100.0	78.1	8.0	9.3	4.6	25,511	19,719	2,028	2,361	1,156
2 persons . . . . .	100.0	77.1	9.2	9.4	4.2	51,975	39,530	4,734	4,843	2,166
3-4 persons . . . . .	100.0	75.6	11.3	9.8	3.2	95,705	71,310	10,663	9,244	3,058
5 persons or more . . . . .	100.0	70.8	13.3	11.9	4.0	55,078	38,092	7,168	6,413	2,163
Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over										
White collar . . . . .	100.0	74.3	11.0	10.8	3.9	56,775	41,660	6,158	6,040	2,188
Blue collar . . . . .	100.0	63.9	13.7	16.0	6.4	32,348	20,322	4,345	5,088	2,025
Service and farm . . . . .	100.0	70.3	11.8	12.6	5.3	16,801	11,626	1,945	2,082	882
Hispanic origin										
Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	69.6	12.5	12.0	6.0	16,482	11,250	2,018	1,941	963
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	75.5	10.8	10.0	3.6	209,657	155,911	22,347	20,732	7,499
Geographic region										
Northeast . . . . .	100.0	77.0	10.1	9.3	3.6	49,441	37,510	4,902	4,516	1,765
North Central . . . . .	100.0	75.2	11.0	10.2	3.6	58,984	43,706	6,385	5,915	2,103
South . . . . .	100.0	73.9	11.8	10.5	3.9	75,315	54,704	8,719	7,749	2,882
West . . . . .	100.0	74.7	10.5	10.7	4.1	44,530	32,731	4,587	4,681	1,793
Place of residence										
SMSA—central city . . . . .	100.0	75.7	10.7	9.7	3.9	62,223	46,290	6,531	5,912	2,398
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	100.0	76.1	10.7	9.9	3.4	92,877	69,545	9,775	9,018	3,102
Not SMSA . . . . .	100.0	73.3	11.5	11.0	4.2	73,170	52,816	8,287	7,932	3,043
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH</b>										
All persons <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.0	88.5	5.0	4.5	2.0	25,599	22,381	1,257	1,144	498
Education of persons 18 years of age and over										
Less than 12 years . . . . .	100.0	87.4	5.2	5.1	2.3	14,663	12,661	753	740	332
12 years . . . . .	100.0	89.0	5.1	4.3	1.6	6,776	5,969	343	288	109
13 years or more . . . . .	100.0	91.5	4.1	3.0	1.5	3,138	2,852	127	93	47
Family size										
1 person . . . . .	100.0	90.1	3.9	3.8	2.2	4,370	3,895	169	164	93
2 persons . . . . .	100.0	89.5	4.7	3.9	1.9	9,710	8,581	448	377	183
3-4 persons . . . . .	100.0	87.8	5.7	4.9	1.7	7,483	6,478	418	358	127
5 person or more . . . . .	100.0	85.9	5.6	6.1	2.4	4,036	3,427	222	245	96
Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over										
White collar . . . . .	100.0	88.1	5.5	4.4	2.1	2,692	2,337	145	116	55
Blue collar . . . . .	100.0	80.4	7.9	8.4	3.3	2,814	2,227	218	233	91
Service and farm . . . . .	100.0	84.2	5.7	7.0	3.2	1,862	1,541	104	129	58
Hispanic origin										
Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	85.5	6.3	5.7	2.4	1,901	1,606	119	107	46
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	88.8	4.9	4.5	1.9	23,442	20,557	1,129	1,031	446

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 17. Average annual percent distribution and number of persons by the interval since their last physician contact, according to assessed health status and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83—Con.**

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

Assessed health status and sociodemographic characteristic	Interval since last physician contact					Interval since last physician contact				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Less than 1 year <sup>1</sup>	1 to under 2 years	2 to under 5 years	5 years or more	Total <sup>2</sup>	Less than 1 year <sup>2</sup>	1 to under 2 years	2 to under 5 years	5 years or more
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH—CON.</b>										
Geographic region										
Northeast . . . . .	100.0	91.0	3.6	3.5	1.9	4,949	4,463	178	173	92
North Central . . . . .	100.0	88.2	4.9	4.7	2.2	5,942	5,173	288	277	130
South . . . . .	100.0	87.4	5.8	4.9	2.0	10,491	9,044	595	502	203
West . . . . .	100.0	88.9	4.7	4.6	1.8	4,217	3,701	196	192	73
Place of residence										
SMSA—central city . . . . .	100.0	89.6	4.7	3.8	1.9	7,855	6,954	362	296	145
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	100.0	89.5	4.6	4.2	1.7	8,112	7,172	366	338	139
Not SMSA . . . . .	100.0	86.8	5.6	5.4	2.3	9,632	8,255	529	510	214
Bed days in past 12 months										
None . . . . .	100.0	76.6	9.7	9.6	4.1	9,732	7,337	927	919	397
1-7 days . . . . .	100.0	92.8	3.6	2.6	1.1	5,633	5,172	198	144	63
8-30 days . . . . .	100.0	97.5	1.3	0.8	*0.4	5,488	5,321	72	43	*22
31 days or more . . . . .	100.0	98.0	0.9	0.8	*0.3	4,128	4,040	38	33	*11
<b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT HEALTH</b>										
All persons <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.0	73.3	11.7	10.9	4.0	201,119	145,199	23,233	21,625	8,005
Education of persons 18 years of age and over										
Less than 12 years . . . . .	100.0	70.2	13.4	11.8	4.6	72,944	50,437	9,600	8,484	3,311
12 years . . . . .	100.0	70.5	12.2	12.5	4.8	57,386	39,899	6,897	7,059	2,718
13 years or more . . . . .	100.0	74.8	10.7	10.9	3.6	51,607	38,171	5,460	5,556	1,845
Family size										
1 person . . . . .	100.0	75.5	8.9	10.5	5.0	20,994	15,730	1,855	2,194	1,046
2 persons . . . . .	100.0	74.2	10.3	10.7	4.8	41,977	30,740	4,276	4,450	1,980
3-4 persons . . . . .	100.0	74.6	11.8	10.2	3.4	87,634	64,424	10,202	8,855	2,923
5 persons or more . . . . .	100.0	69.5	14.0	12.4	4.2	50,514	34,306	6,900	6,127	2,057
Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over										
White collar . . . . .	100.0	73.6	11.3	11.1	4.0	53,850	39,164	5,999	5,908	2,125
Blue collar . . . . .	100.0	62.3	14.3	16.8	6.7	29,388	17,999	4,116	4,839	1,928
Service and farm . . . . .	100.0	68.6	12.5	13.3	5.6	14,875	10,042	1,834	1,946	823
Hispanic origin										
Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	67.4	13.3	12.8	6.4	14,443	9,552	1,885	1,819	911
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.0	73.8	11.6	10.8	3.9	184,878	134,410	21,131	19,624	7,023
Geographic region										
Northeast . . . . .	100.0	75.4	10.8	9.9	3.8	44,137	32,791	4,702	4,322	1,670
North Central . . . . .	100.0	73.8	11.7	10.8	3.8	52,665	38,301	6,069	5,603	1,957
South . . . . .	100.0	71.6	12.8	11.4	4.2	64,312	45,299	8,086	7,225	2,667
West . . . . .	100.0	73.2	11.1	11.4	4.3	40,005	28,808	4,376	4,475	1,710
Place of residence										
SMSA—central city . . . . .	100.0	73.7	11.6	10.5	4.2	53,914	39,030	6,139	5,583	2,238
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	100.0	74.7	11.3	10.4	3.6	84,174	61,953	9,364	8,653	2,954
Not SMSA . . . . .	100.0	71.1	12.4	11.9	4.5	63,031	44,215	7,730	7,389	2,813

<sup>1</sup>Excludes unknown interval.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown interval

<sup>3</sup>Includes unknown health status

<sup>4</sup>Includes unknown years of education and whether or not of Hispanic origin

**Table 18. Average annual population by age and selected health characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

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

Selected health characteristic	All ages	Under 18 years		18-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
		All	Under 5 years			
Population in thousands						
All health statuses <sup>1</sup>	228,270 <sup>1</sup>	62,652	17,593	95,785	44,185	25,647
Assessed health statuses						
Good to excellent	201,119	60,160	16,932	89,356	34,831	16,772
Excellent	89,807	32,530	9,420	41,802	11,435	4,040
Very good	57,767	15,488	4,369	27,003	10,376	4,899
Good	53,545	12,142	3,143	20,551	13,020	7,832
Fair or poor	25,599	1,890	487	5,940	9,098	8,671
Fair	18,249	1,640	414	4,851	6,007	5,747
Poor	7,355	250	74	1,090	3,091	2,925
Limitation of activity due to chronic conditions <sup>2</sup>						
Limited in activity	32,809	3,185	371	8,470	10,751	10,404
Unable to perform major activity	8,532	215	87	1,988	3,633	2,695
Limited in kind or amount of major activity	14,196	1,981	192	3,840	4,495	3,880
Limited in other activity	10,081	988	92	2,642	2,622	3,828
Not limited in activity	196,512	59,428	17,480	88,174	33,422	15,489
Bed-disability days in past 12 months						
None	125,983	31,455	8,678	50,846	27,425	16,256
1-7 days	74,124	25,237	7,180	34,679	10,057	4,151
8-30 days	19,949	4,989	1,426	7,660	4,129	3,171
31 days or more	6,433	467	152	2,075	2,163	1,728
Hospital episodes in past 12 months						
None	205,042	59,622	16,374	85,963	38,915	20,543
1 episode	18,656	2,600	1,003	8,399	3,966	3,691
2 episodes	3,241	322	161	1,041	895	982
3 episodes or more	1,330	108	55	382	409	431
Hospital days in past 12 months						
None	205,092	59,632	16,375	85,987	38,925	20,549
1-4 days	10,784	1,865	641	5,688	1,810	1,422
5-9 days	6,351	700	350	2,600	1,607	1,444
10-24 days	4,264	308	151	1,140	1,276	1,541
25 days or more	1,778	146	75	371	569	691

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown health status and bed-disability days in past 12 months.

<sup>2</sup>Based on 1983 data only.



**Table 19. Average annual population by race, sex, assessed health status, and age: United States, 1982-83**

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

Assessed health status and age	All races <sup>1</sup>			White			Black		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
All assessed health statuses <sup>2</sup>									
Population in thousands									
All persons . . . . .	228,270	110,141	118,129	195,274	94,814	100,460	27,109	12,571	14,538
Under 18 years . . . . .	62,652	32,025	30,626	51,287	26,352	24,935	9,468	4,764	4,703
Under 5 years . . . . .	17,593	9,001	8,591	14,250	7,338	6,922	2,800	1,413	1,387
5-9 years . . . . .	15,966	8,163	7,804	13,089	6,731	6,359	2,386	1,203	1,183
10-14 years . . . . .	17,831	9,105	8,725	14,655	7,518	7,138	2,638	1,326	1,313
15-17 years . . . . .	11,262	5,756	5,506	9,283	4,765	4,518	1,643	823	821
18-44 years . . . . .	95,785	46,690	49,095	81,746	40,305	41,441	11,304	5,105	6,199
18-24 years . . . . .	28,673	13,977	14,696	24,047	11,795	12,252	3,836	1,771	2,065
25-34 years . . . . .	38,833	18,971	19,862	33,178	16,444	16,734	4,523	2,026	2,497
35-44 years . . . . .	28,280	13,743	14,537	24,521	12,066	12,455	2,945	1,309	1,636
45-64 years . . . . .	44,185	20,951	23,234	39,035	18,676	20,360	4,212	1,854	2,358
45-54 years . . . . .	22,222	10,711	11,512	19,385	9,440	9,945	2,263	1,002	1,261
55-64 years . . . . .	21,963	10,241	11,722	19,650	9,235	10,415	1,949	852	1,097
65 years and over . . . . .	25,647	10,474	15,173	23,205	9,481	13,724	2,126	847	1,278
65-74 years . . . . .	15,942	6,918	9,024	14,387	6,264	8,123	1,348	558	789
75 years and over . . . . .	9,705	3,556	6,149	8,818	3,217	5,601	778	289	489
Fair or poor health									
All persons . . . . .	25,599	11,212	14,387	20,278	9,033	11,245	4,777	1,957	2,820
Under 18 years . . . . .	1,890	965	925	1,272	644	628	560	293	267
Under 5 years . . . . .	487	275	213	326	184	142	137	81	56
5-9 years . . . . .	473	258	214	313	171	143	144	80	64
10-14 years . . . . .	521	270	252	353	183	169	159	82	76
15-17 years . . . . .	409	162	247	280	106	173	121	50	71
18-44 years . . . . .	5,940	2,517	3,423	4,249	1,869	2,380	1,491	568	924
18-24 years . . . . .	1,275	498	777	876	340	536	351	139	212
25-34 years . . . . .	2,110	894	1,216	1,501	665	836	534	201	334
35-44 years . . . . .	2,555	1,125	1,430	1,872	864	1,008	605	228	378
45-64 years . . . . .	9,098	4,121	4,977	7,312	3,400	3,912	1,591	648	943
45-54 years . . . . .	3,515	1,560	1,955	2,715	1,244	1,471	701	283	418
55-64 years . . . . .	5,583	2,561	3,022	4,597	2,156	2,441	890	365	525
65 years and over . . . . .	8,671	3,610	5,062	7,445	3,121	4,324	1,134	448	686
65-74 years . . . . .	5,244	2,335	2,909	4,460	2,020	2,440	724	289	435
75 years and over . . . . .	3,428	1,275	2,153	2,985	1,101	1,884	411	159	252
Good to excellent health									
All persons . . . . .	201,119	98,208	102,911	173,748	85,191	88,557	22,072	10,505	11,567
Under 18 years . . . . .	60,160	30,758	29,402	49,534	25,460	24,075	8,802	4,425	4,376
Under 5 years . . . . .	16,932	8,637	8,295	13,800	7,086	6,713	2,629	1,314	1,315
5-9 years . . . . .	15,352	7,840	7,512	12,665	6,505	6,160	2,217	1,117	1,101
10-14 years . . . . .	17,138	8,744	8,393	14,157	7,257	6,900	2,458	1,233	1,226
15-17 years . . . . .	10,738	5,536	5,202	8,913	4,611	4,301	1,497	762	735
18-44 years . . . . .	89,356	43,946	45,410	77,105	38,254	38,851	9,729	4,498	5,231
18-24 years . . . . .	27,231	13,389	13,842	23,044	11,388	11,656	3,445	1,610	1,836
25-34 years . . . . .	36,557	18,011	18,546	31,540	15,726	15,814	3,965	1,816	2,149
35-44 years . . . . .	25,568	12,546	13,023	22,522	11,141	11,380	2,319	1,072	1,247
45-64 years . . . . .	34,831	16,716	18,115	31,518	15,185	16,333	2,581	1,189	1,391
45-54 years . . . . .	18,573	9,095	9,479	16,570	8,156	8,414	1,536	710	827
55-64 years . . . . .	16,257	7,621	8,636	14,948	7,030	7,919	1,045	480	565
65 years and over . . . . .	16,772	6,789	9,983	15,590	6,292	9,298	960	391	568
65-74 years . . . . .	10,575	4,535	6,040	9,818	4,199	5,618	611	265	346
75 years and over . . . . .	6,197	2,254	3,943	5,772	2,092	3,680	349	127	222

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than white or black.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown health status.

**Table 20. Average annual population by age, assessed health status, race, and family income: United States, 1982-83**

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

<i>Assessed health status, race, and family income</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>Under 18 years</i>	<i>18-44 years</i>	<i>45-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>
<b>ALL ASSESSED HEALTH STATUSES<sup>1</sup></b>					
<b>All races<sup>2</sup></b>					
Population in thousands					
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	228,270	62,652	95,785	44,185	25,647
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	15,864	4,177	6,389	2,088	3,210
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	26,155	6,905	8,989	4,009	6,251
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	26,369	7,183	10,636	4,378	4,172
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	28,064	7,948	12,401	5,002	2,713
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	24,942	7,395	11,266	4,647	1,634
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	39,686	11,805	18,295	7,782	1,805
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	27,785	7,789	12,598	6,320	1,078
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	13,969	3,549	6,004	3,806	610
<b>White</b>					
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	195,274	51,287	81,746	39,035	23,205
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	10,747	2,284	4,518	1,423	2,522
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	20,371	4,753	6,889	3,171	5,558
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	21,866	5,524	8,746	3,747	3,849
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	24,139	6,633	10,534	4,388	2,584
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	22,312	6,565	9,961	4,241	1,544
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	36,054	10,621	16,528	7,190	1,715
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	25,523	7,096	11,516	5,875	1,036
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	13,183	3,311	5,625	3,653	594
<b>Black</b>					
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	27,109	9,468	11,304	4,212	2,126
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	4,668	1,760	1,653	610	644
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	5,097	1,919	1,807	744	628
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	3,788	1,427	1,556	530	275
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	3,175	1,071	1,506	514	85
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	2,058	646	1,021	324	68
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	2,760	909	1,348	447	55
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	1,441	439	696	281	25
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	377	96	195	78	*8
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH</b>					
<b>All races<sup>2</sup></b>					
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	25,599	1,890	5,940	9,098	8,671
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	3,809	324	886	1,143	1,454
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	5,884	408	1,140	1,820	2,516
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	3,891	257	914	1,310	1,410
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	2,922	209	772	1,172	769
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	1,833	155	509	786	383
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	2,188	194	600	971	423
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	1,141	91	337	481	232
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	478	36	117	218	106
<b>White</b>					
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	20,278	1,272	4,249	7,312	7,445
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	2,423	158	495	694	1,076
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	4,560	248	775	1,373	2,165
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	3,183	179	668	1,093	1,244
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	2,495	161	606	1,007	721
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	1,563	140	409	679	335
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	1,915	158	490	874	393
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	1,006	77	277	432	220
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	437	32	94	207	104

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 20. Average annual population by age, assessed health status, race, and family income: United States, 1982-83—Con.**

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

<i>Assessed health status, race, and family income</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>Under 18 years</i>	<i>18-44 years</i>	<i>45-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH—CON.</b>					
Black					
Population in thousands					
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	4,777	560	1,491	1,591	1,134
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	1,302	156	362	425	359
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	1,217	148	336	399	334
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	640	72	217	196	154
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	355	40	132	150	33
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	234	*13	88	92	41
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	220	25	102	70	*23
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	87	*11	38	30	*7
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	*19	*2	*9	*6	*2
<b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT HEALTH</b>					
All races <sup>2</sup>					
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	201,119	60,160	89,356	34,831	16,772
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	11,930	3,818	5,465	927	1,721
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	20,103	6,433	7,811	2,162	3,697
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	22,320	6,866	9,679	3,039	2,735
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	24,950	7,661	11,567	3,798	1,923
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	22,984	7,179	10,721	3,841	1,244
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	37,273	11,511	17,621	6,770	1,371
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	26,495	7,622	12,210	5,820	843
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	13,408	3,467	5,856	3,581	503
White					
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	173,748	49,534	77,105	31,518	15,590
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	8,250	2,101	4,003	724	1,422
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	15,689	4,457	6,085	1,781	3,366
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	18,562	5,300	8,044	2,636	2,583
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	21,477	6,403	9,878	3,353	1,844
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	20,644	6,375	9,522	3,544	1,202
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	33,937	10,372	15,975	6,279	1,311
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	24,399	6,961	11,200	5,424	814
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	12,664	3,233	5,502	3,439	489
Black					
All persons <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	22,072	8,802	9,729	2,581	960
Less than \$5,000 . . . . .	3,320	1,595	1,273	176	277
\$5,000-\$9,999 . . . . .	3,840	1,755	1,465	338	283
\$10,000-\$14,999 . . . . .	3,121	1,345	1,334	325	117
\$15,000-\$19,999 . . . . .	2,798	1,024	1,363	362	51
\$20,000-\$24,999 . . . . .	1,809	625	928	229	27
\$25,000-\$34,999 . . . . .	2,518	875	1,236	375	32
\$35,000-\$49,999 . . . . .	1,331	412	651	250	*17
\$50,000 or more . . . . .	358	94	186	72	*6

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown health status

<sup>2</sup>Includes races other than white or black.

<sup>3</sup>Includes unknown family income.

**Table 21. Average annual population by age, assessed health status, and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83**

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

<i>Assessed health status and sociodemographic characteristic</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>Under 18 years</i>	<i>18-44 years</i>	<i>45-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>
ALL ASSESSED HEALTH STATUSES <sup>1</sup>					
Population in thousands					
All persons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	228,270	62,652	95,785	44,185	25,647
Education of persons 18 years of age and over					
Less than 12 years . . . . .	44,660	...	16,701	14,229	13,729
12 years . . . . .	64,073	...	40,143	17,283	6,647
13 years or more . . . . .	54,968	...	38,244	12,037	4,687
Family size					
1 person . . . . .	25,511	134	12,285	4,984	8,107
2 persons . . . . .	51,975	2,374	17,173	18,801	13,628
3-4 persons . . . . .	95,705	32,728	44,643	15,251	3,083
5 persons or more . . . . .	55,078	27,415	21,684	5,149	830
Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over					
White collar . . . . .	56,775	...	39,407	15,673	1,695
Blue collar . . . . .	32,348	...	23,261	8,491	596
Service and farm . . . . .	16,801	...	11,482	4,343	976
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic . . . . .	16,482	6,392	7,142	2,210	738
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	209,657	55,493	87,885	41,573	24,707
Geographic region					
Northeast . . . . .	49,441	12,757	20,234	10,353	6,096
North Central . . . . .	58,984	16,381	24,950	11,173	6,480
South . . . . .	75,315	21,107	31,295	14,537	8,376
West . . . . .	44,530	12,407	19,306	8,123	4,695
Place of residence					
SMSA—central city . . . . .	62,223	16,541	26,728	11,624	7,331
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	92,877	25,250	39,908	18,592	9,126
Not SMSA . . . . .	73,170	20,860	29,149	13,969	9,191
FAIR OR POOR HEALTH					
All persons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	25,599	1,890	5,940	9,098	8,671
Education of persons 18 years of age and over					
Less than 12 years . . . . .	13,321	...	2,493	5,129	5,699
12 years . . . . .	6,765	...	2,286	2,704	1,776
13 years or more . . . . .	3,138	...	1,094	1,099	945
Family size					
1 person . . . . .	4,370	*4	577	1,335	2,453
2 persons . . . . .	9,710	90	1,005	3,971	4,644
3-4 persons . . . . .	7,483	910	2,640	2,716	1,217
5 persons or more . . . . .	4,036	886	1,718	1,076	356
Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over					
White collar . . . . .	2,692	...	1,265	1,228	199
Blue collar . . . . .	2,814	...	1,365	1,343	106
Service and farm . . . . .	1,862	...	758	876	228
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic . . . . .	1,901	329	666	590	315
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	23,442	1,538	5,222	8,404	8,279

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 21. Average annual population by age, assessed health status, and selected sociodemographic characteristics: United States, 1982-83—Con.**

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

<i>Assessed health status and sociodemographic characteristic</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>Under 18 years</i>	<i>18-44 years</i>	<i>45-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>
<b>FAIR OR POOR HEALTH—CON.</b>					
Geographic region					
Population in thousands					
Northeast . . . . .	4,949	356	1,064	1,743	1,785
North Central . . . . .	5,942	423	1,400	2,058	2,061
South . . . . .	10,491	758	2,394	3,851	3,487
West . . . . .	4,217	353	1,082	1,445	1,338
Place of residence					
SMSA—central city . . . . .	7,855	687	2,048	2,609	2,511
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	8,112	529	1,844	3,030	2,709
Not SMSA . . . . .	9,632	674	2,049	3,458	3,452
<b>GOOD TO EXCELLENT HEALTH</b>					
All persons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	201,119	60,160	89,356	34,831	16,772
Education of persons 18 years of age and over					
Less than 12 years . . . . .	31,044	...	14,112	9,002	7,930
12 years . . . . .	56,994	...	37,665	14,503	4,826
13 years or more . . . . .	51,589	...	37,000	10,880	3,709
Family size					
1 person . . . . .	20,994	131	11,660	3,619	5,584
2 persons . . . . .	41,977	2,265	16,086	14,737	8,888
3-4 persons . . . . .	87,634	31,553	41,804	12,445	1,832
5 persons or more . . . . .	50,514	26,211	19,805	4,029	468
Type of occupation of currently employed persons 18 years of age and over					
White collar . . . . .	53,850	...	37,974	14,392	1,484
Blue collar . . . . .	29,388	...	21,798	7,103	486
Service and farm . . . . .	14,875	...	10,686	3,444	745
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic . . . . .	14,443	5,994	6,427	1,605	417
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	184,878	53,443	82,260	32,937	16,238
Geographic region					
Northeast . . . . .	44,137	12,255	19,067	8,557	4,258
North Central . . . . .	52,665	15,803	23,426	9,053	4,385
South . . . . .	64,312	20,141	28,751	10,599	4,820
West . . . . .	40,005	11,962	18,113	6,622	3,309
Place of residence					
SMSA—central city . . . . .	53,914	15,697	24,543	8,927	4,747
SMSA—outside central city . . . . .	84,174	24,461	37,872	15,480	6,361
Not SMSA . . . . .	63,031	20,002	26,941	10,423	5,664

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown health status

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown education and whether or not of Hispanic origin.

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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. It is based on information collected in a continuing nationwide sample of households in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

The National Health Interview Survey utilizes a questionnaire for obtaining 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 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 (such as 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 noninstitutionalized population of the United States. The sample is designed in such a way that the sample of households interviewed each week is representative of the target population and that weekly samples are additive over time. This feature of the design permits continuous measurement of characteristics of samples by aggregating weeks of data. It also permits more detailed analysis of less common characteristics and smaller categories of health-related items. The continuous collection also has administrative and operational advantages because fieldwork can be handled on a continuing basis 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 standard metropolitan statistical areas in the United States.

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

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

- Area segments, which are defined geographically.
- List segments, using 1980 census registers as the frame.
- Permit segments, using updated lists of building permits issued in sample PSU's since 1980.

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 51,000 assigned households, of which 9,000 are 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 NHIS have been published as well as a detailed description of the sample design and estimation procedure.<sup>10</sup>

#### 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 (NCHS). In accordance with these specifications, the U.S. 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.

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NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

## Estimating procedures

Since the design of 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 among PSU's within a region, the estimates are ratio adjusted to the 1980 populations within race-residence classes.
4. *Poststratification by age-sex-race*—The estimates are ratio adjusted within each of 60 age-sex-race cells to an independent estimate of the population of each cell for the survey period. These independent estimates are prepared by the U.S. 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, race, and residence, which thereby reduces sampling variance.

As noted, each week's sample represents the population living during that week and characteristics of the population. Consolidation of samples over a time period such as 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 statistic—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—a similar computational procedure is used, but the statistics are interpreted differently. For these items, the interviewer 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 which actually occurred for each person in a 2-calendar-week interval prior to week of interview—is treated as though it measured

the total of such experience during the year. Such interpretation leads to no significant bias.

## Explanation of hospital recall

The survey questionnaire uses a 12-month recall period for short-stay hospitalizations; that is, the respondent is asked to report hospitalizations that occurred during the 12 months prior to the week of interview. Information is also obtained on the date of entry into the hospital and duration of stay. Analysis of this information and also the results of special studies have shown that there is an increase in underreporting of hospitalizations with increase in time interval between the discharge and the interview. Exclusive of the hospital experience of decedents, the net underreporting with a 12-month recall is in the neighborhood of 10 percent. It should further be noted that, although the reported frequencies and rates related to hospital episodes are presented in terms of the year in which the data were collected, the estimates are in most cases based on hospitalizations that occurred during the year of data collection and the prior year. Overall, approximately one-half of the reported hospitalizations occurred in the year prior to the year of data collection.

## General qualifications

### Nonresponse

Data were adjusted for nonresponse by a procedure that imputes to persons in a household whose members were not interviewed the characteristics of persons in households in the same segment who were interviewed. Interviews were completed in 96.9 percent of the sample households.

### 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. Regarding this and other types of information, a respondent may not answer a question in the intended manner because he or she has not properly understood the question, had forgotten the event, or does not wish to divulge the answer.

### Rounding of numbers

The original tabulations on which the data in this report are based show all estimates to the nearest whole unit. All



consolidations were made from the original tabulations using the estimates to the nearest unit. In the final published tables, the figures are rounded to the nearest thousand, although they 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 race, which are adjusted to independent estimates, these figures are based on the sample of households in NHIS. They are given primarily to provide denominators for rate computation, and for this purpose they 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 race mentioned above, the population figures differ from figures (which are derived from different sources) published in reports of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Official population estimates are presented in Bureau of the Census reports in Series P-20, P-25, and P-60.

### Bias

As in any survey, the results are subject to reporting and processing errors and errors due to nonresponse. To the extent possible, these types of errors were kept to a minimum by methods built into survey procedures. Although it is very difficult to measure the extent of bias in NHIS, a number of studies have been conducted to examine this problem. The results have been published in several reports.<sup>11-15</sup>

### 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 using the same schedules, instructions, and interviewing personnel and procedures.

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. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error and about 99 out of 100 that it would be less than 2½ times as large. The standard errors shown in this report were computed using the balanced half-sample replication procedure.

### 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 percent of the estimate. For this

report, asterisks are shown for any rate or percent with more than a 30-percent relative standard error. Included in this appendix are charts from which the relative standard errors for estimates shown in the report can be determined.

### 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:

- 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 in figures I-II. The number of persons in the total U.S. population or in an age-sex-race class of the total population is adjusted to official U.S. Bureau of the Census figures and is not subject to sampling error.
- Rule 2. *Estimates of percents in a percent distribution*—Relative standard errors for percents in a percent distribution of a total are obtained from appropriate curves in figures III-IV. 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 percents and the relative standard errors obtained from the percent charts for population estimates.
- 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, for 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-race 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 will overstate the error to the extent that the

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NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

correlation between numerator and denominator is greater than zero.

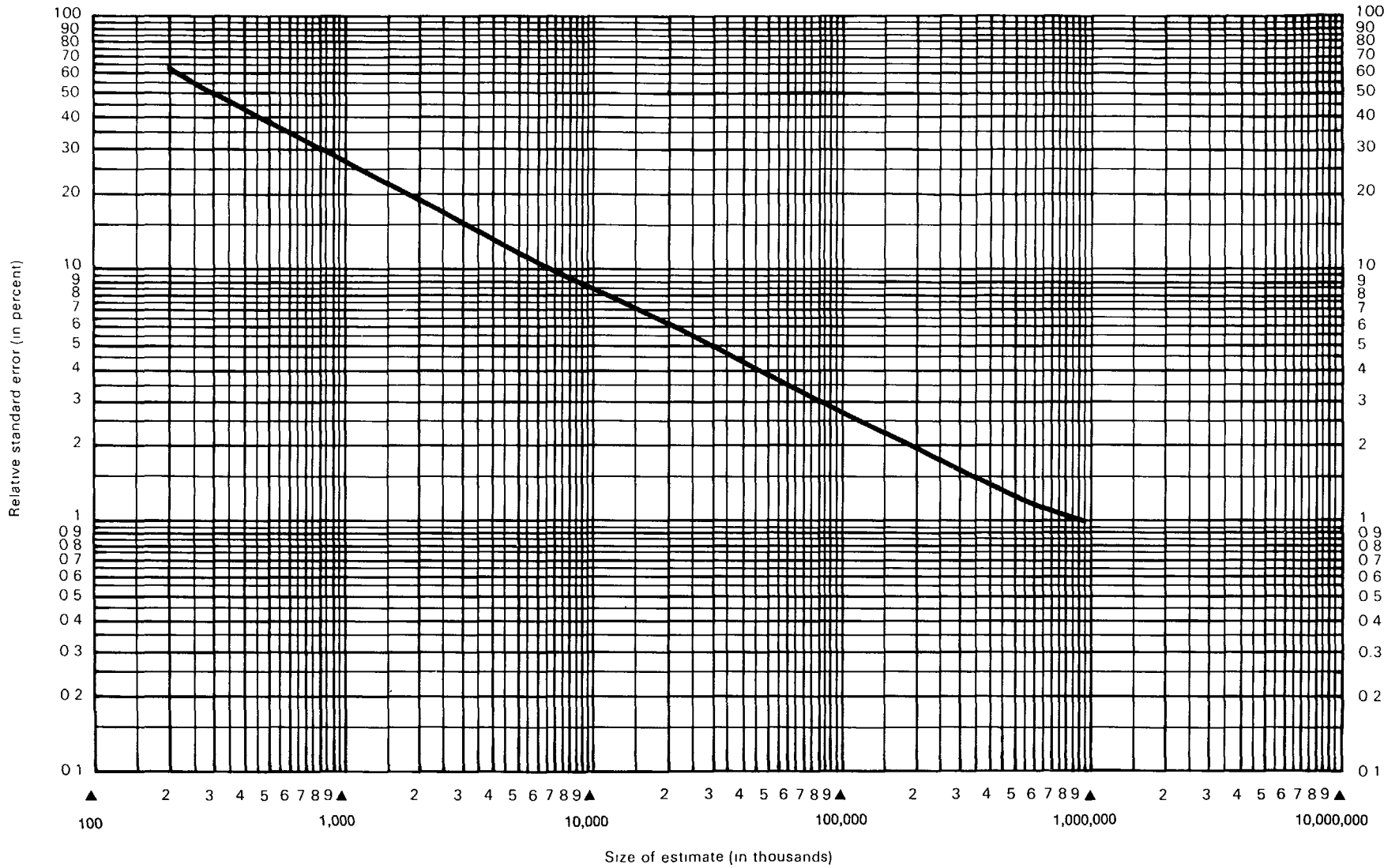
**Rule 5.** *Estimates of difference between two statistics (mean, rate, total, etc.)*— The standard error of a difference is approximately the square root of the sum of the squares of each standard error considered separately. A formula for the standard error of a difference,

$$d = X_1 - X_2$$

is

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

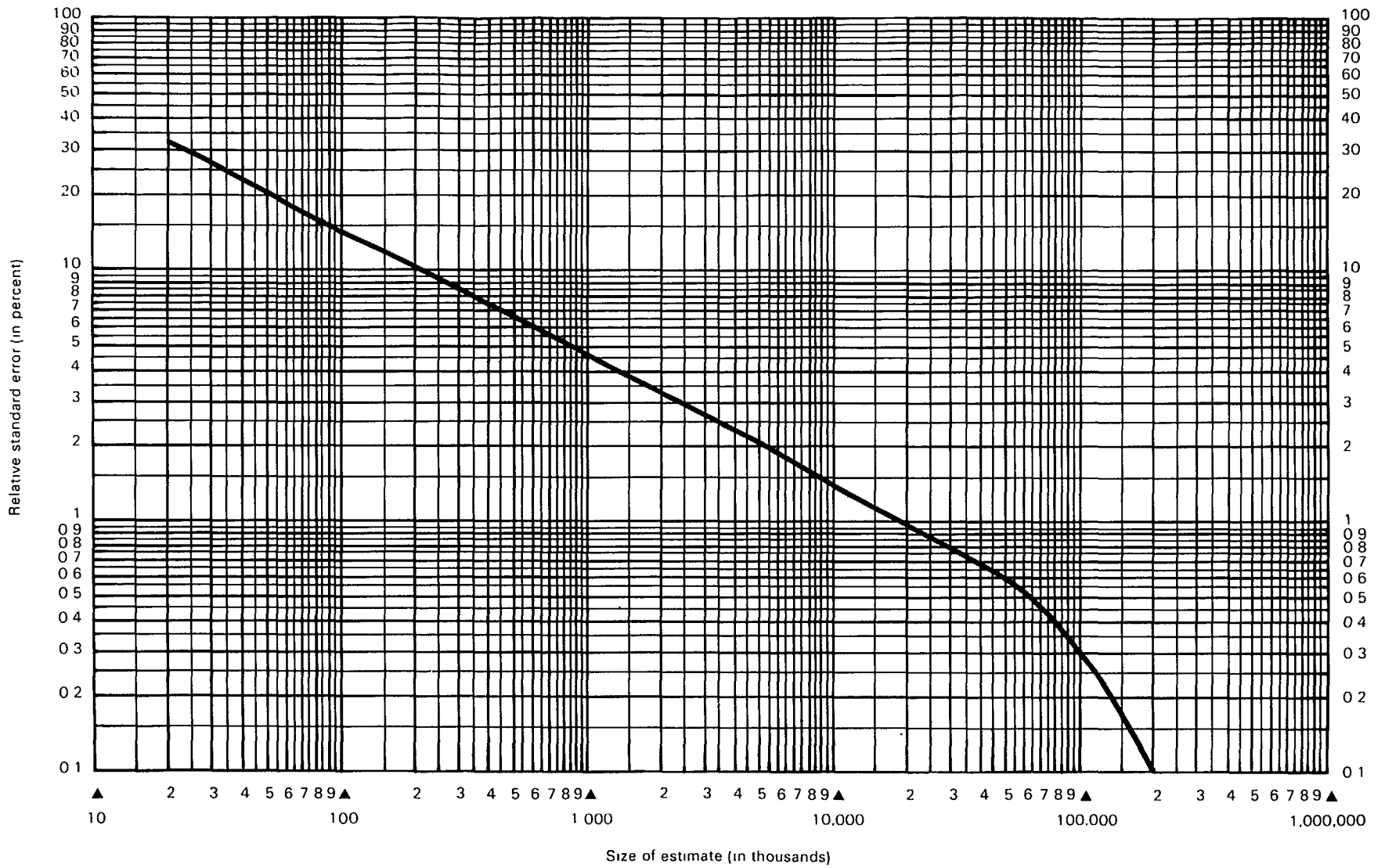
where  $X_1$  is the estimate for class 1,  $X_2$  is the estimate for class 2, and  $V_{X_1}$  and  $V_{X_2}$  are the relative errors of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  respectively. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics although it is only a rough approximation in most other cases. The relative standard error of each estimate involved in such a difference can be determined by one of the four rules above, whichever is appropriate.



NOTE: This curve represents estimates of relative standard errors based on 1 to 8 quarters of data collection for estimates of aggregates using a 2-week reference period

EXAMPLE OF USE OF CHART: An estimate of 10,000,000 physician contacts (on scale at bottom of chart) has a relative standard error of 8.5 percent (read from scale at left side of chart), or a standard error of 850,000 (8.5 percent of 10,000,000).

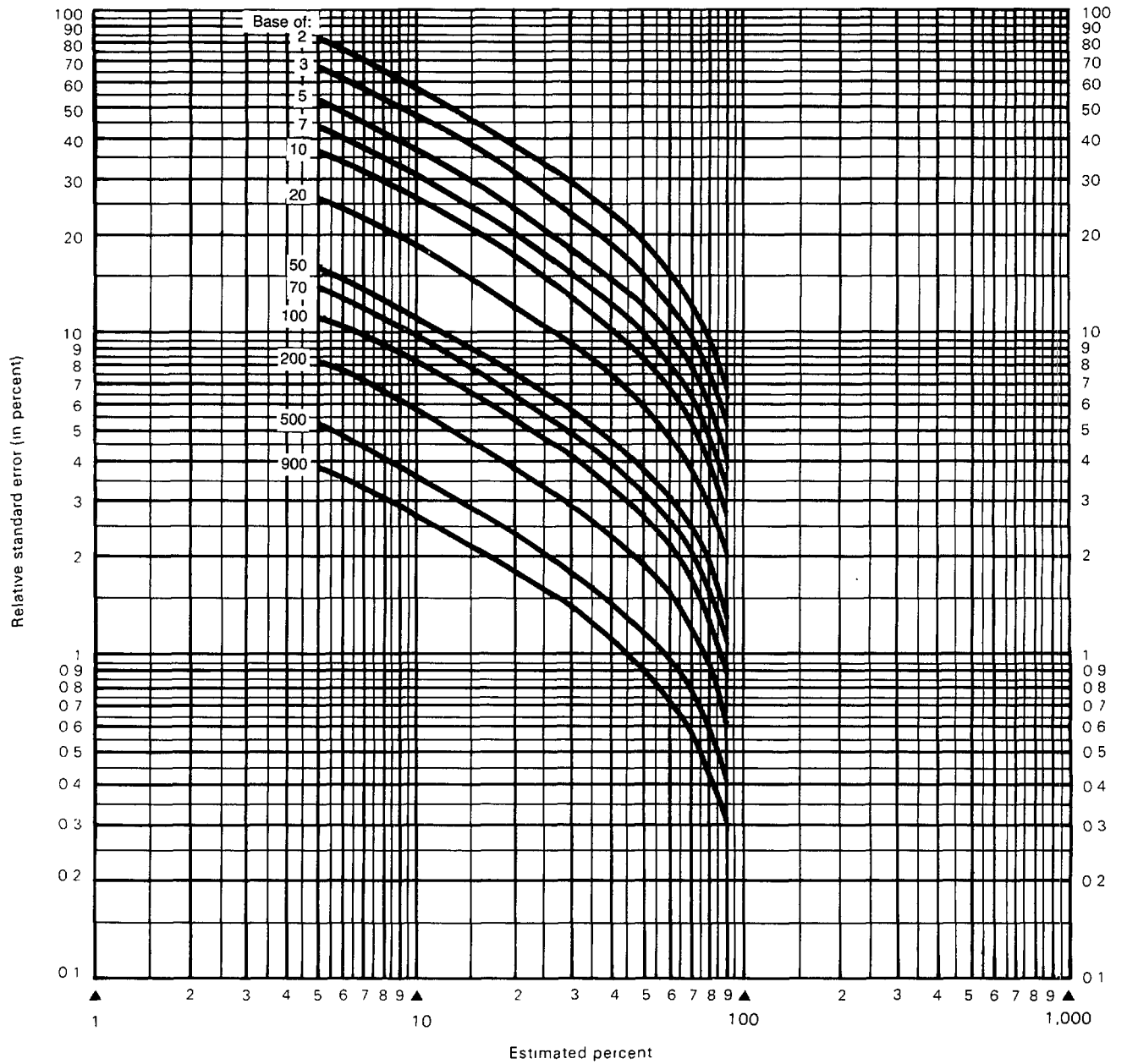
Figure I. Relative standard errors for number of physician contacts based on a 2-week reference period



NOTE: This curve represents estimates of relative standard errors based on 8 quarters of data collection for estimates of aggregates.

EXAMPLE OF USE OF CHART: An estimate of 10,000,000 persons (on scale at bottom of chart) has a relative standard error of 1.4 percent (read from scale at left side of chart), or a standard error of 140,000 (1.4 percent of 10,000,000).

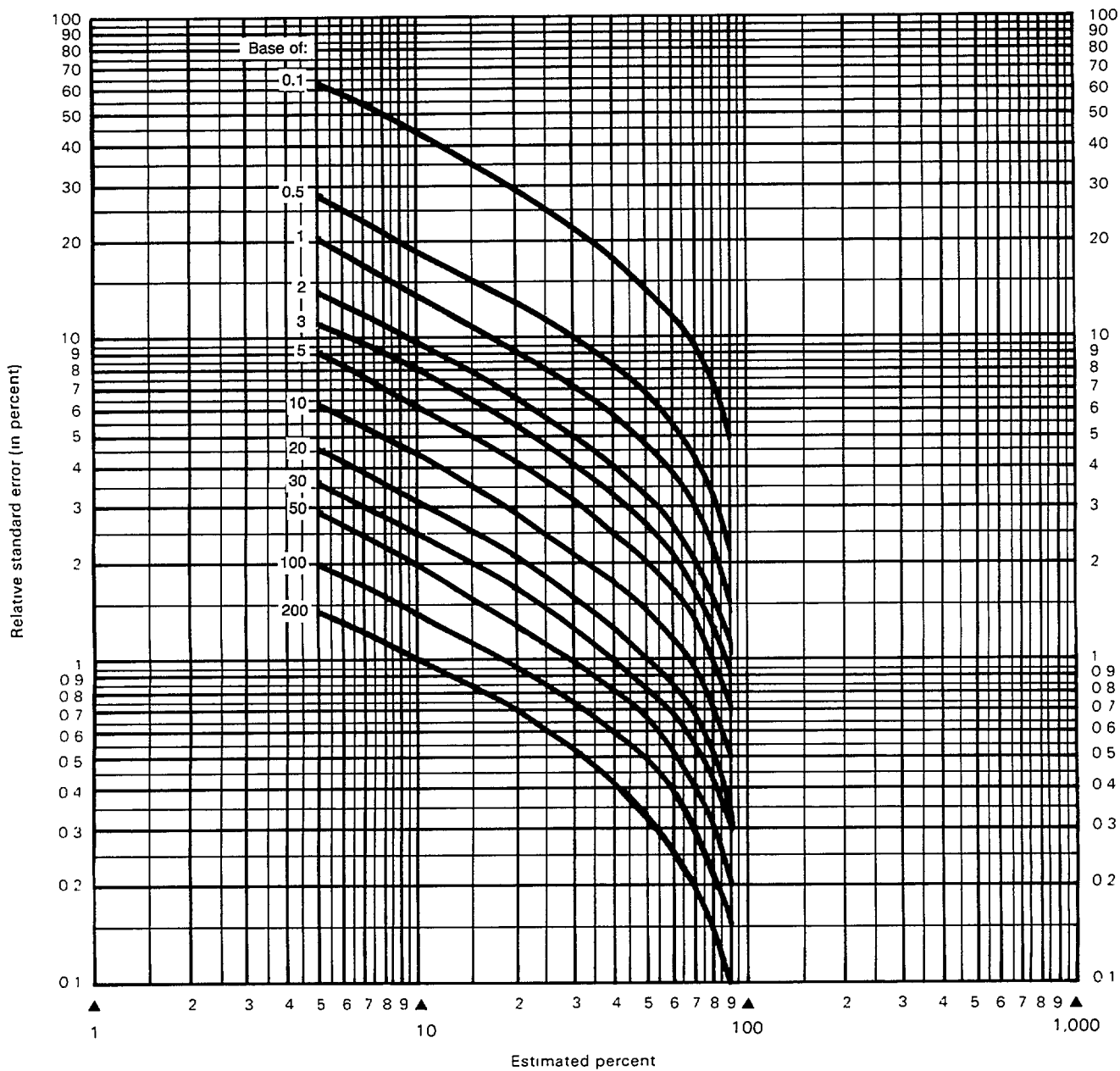
Figure II. Relative standard errors for population characteristics



NOTE: Base of percent shown on curves in millions. These curves represent estimates of relative standard errors of percents of physician contacts based on 8 quarters of data collection.

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 17.1 percent (read from scale at 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  $\times$  17.1 percent, or 3.4 percentage points.

Figure III. Relative standard errors of percents of physician contacts



NOTE: Base of percent shown on curves in millions. These curves represent estimates of relative standard errors of percents of population characteristics based on 8 quarters of data collection.

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 2.9 percent (read from scale at 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  $\times$  2.9 percent, or 0.58 percentage points.

Figure IV. Relative standard errors of percents of population characteristics

# Appendix II

## Definitions of certain terms used in this report

### Terms relating to physician visits

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

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

Physician visits to hospital inpatients are not included.

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

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

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

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

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

*Office* is defined as the office of a physician in private practice only. This may be an office in the physician's home, an individual office in an office building, or a suite of offices occupied by several physicians.

*Hospital clinic* is defined as an outpatient clinic, emergency room, or other place in any hospital.

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

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

*Other*—A doctor's office in a hospital.

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

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

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

### Terms relating to conditions

*Condition*—"Condition" is a general term that includes any specific illness, injury, or impairment. Condition data are derived from the survey in two ways. First, respondents are asked to identify any conditions that caused certain types of impact associated with health, such as a visit to a doctor or a day spent in bed. Second, respondents are read lists of selected chronic conditions and asked whether they or any family members have any of these conditions.

At a later point in the survey, a series of questions is asked about each of the conditions identified in either of the two ways just described. The information obtained on each condition helps to clarify the nature of the condition and whether medical services have been involved in its diagnosis or treatment. It also aids in the coding of the condition.

All conditions except impairments are coded according to the ninth revision of the International Classification of Diseases,<sup>16</sup> with certain modifications adopted to make the codes more suitable for information derived from a household survey. A special set of codes devised by NHIS is used to code impairments.

**Chronic condition**—A condition is considered chronic if (1) the respondent indicates it was first noticed more than 3 months before the reference date of the interview, or (2) it is a type of condition that ordinarily has a duration of more than 3 months. Examples of conditions that are considered chronic regardless of their time of onset are diabetes, heart conditions, emphysema, and arthritis. A complete list of these conditions may be obtained by contacting the Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

**Impairment**—An impairment is a chronic or permanent defect, usually static in nature, that results from disease, injury, or congenital malformation. It represents a decrease or loss of ability to perform various functions, particularly those of the musculoskeletal system and the sense organs. Impairments are grouped according to type of functional impairment and etiology in the special NHIS impairment codes.

**Acute condition**—A condition is considered acute if (1) it was first noticed no longer than 3 months before the reference date of the interview and (2) it is not one of the conditions considered chronic regardless of the time of onset. (See definition of chronic condition.) However, any acute condition not associated with either at least one doctor visit or at least one day of restricted activity during the reference period is considered to be of minor consequence and is excluded from the final data produced by the survey.

**Onset of condition**—A condition is considered to have had its onset when it was first noticed. This could be the time the person first felt sick or became injured, or it could be the time 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.

**Incidence of conditions**—The incidence of a condition is the number of cases that had their onset during a specified period of time. A person may have more than one acute condition during a period of time or may have the same condition, such as a headache, more than once. Ordinarily, however, a chronic condition can begin only one time during a given reference period.

**Prevalence of conditions**—The prevalence of a condition is the number of persons who have the condition at a given point in time. Although the prevalence of acute conditions is a meaningful concept, it is seldom used in health statistics, which generally focus on the incidence of acute conditions. If the prevalence of a chronic condition is measured during a period of time (say, each week during a year), then the resulting estimate of prevalence is an average of 52 weekly prevalence estimates. This is called an average annual point prevalence estimate.

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NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

## Terms relating to disability

**Disability**—Disability is a general term that refers to any long- or short-term reduction of a person's activity as a result of an acute or chronic condition. **Limitation of activity** refers to a long-term reduction in a person's capacity to perform the average kind or amount of activities associated with his or her age group. **Restriction of activity** refers to particular kinds of behavior usually associated with a reduction in activity due to either long- or short-term conditions. Thus limitation of activity refers to what a person is generally capable of doing, but restriction of activity ordinarily refers to a relatively short-term reduction in a person's activities below his or her normal capacity.

**Limitation of activity because of chronic conditions**—Persons are classified in terms of the major activity usually associated with their particular age group. The major activities for the age groups are (1) ordinary play for children under 5 years of age, (2) attending school for those 5–17 years of age, (3) working or keeping house for persons 18–64 years of age, and (4) capacity for independent living for those 65 years of age and over. People aged 18–64 who are classified as keeping house are also classified in terms of their ability to work at a job or business.

In regard to these activities, each person is classified into one of four categories: (1) unable to perform the major activity, (2) able to perform the major activity but limited in the kind or amount of this activity, (3) not limited in the major activity but limited in the kind or amount of other activities, and (4) not limited in any way. In regard to these four categories, NHIS publications often classify persons only by whether they are limited (groups 1–3) or not limited (group 4). Persons are not classified as limited in activity unless one or more chronic conditions are reported as the cause of the activity limitation. If more than one condition is reported, the respondent is asked to identify the condition that is the major cause of the limitation.

**Restriction of activity**—Four types of restricted activity are measured in NHIS: *bed days*, *work-loss days* for currently employed persons 18 years of age and over, *school-loss days* for children 5–17 years of age, and *cut-down days*.

A *bed day* is one during which a person stayed in bed more than half a day because of illness or injury. All hospital days for inpatients are considered bed days even if the patient was not in bed more than half a day.

A *work-loss day* is one on which a currently employed person 18 years of age and over missed more than half a day from a job or business.

A *school-loss day* is one on which a student 5–17 years of age missed more than half a day from the school in which he or she was currently enrolled.

A *cut-down day* is a day on which a person cuts down for more than half a day on the things he or she usually does.

Work-loss, school-loss, and cut-down days refer to the short-term effects of illness or injury. However, bed days are a measure of both long- and short-term disability, because a chronically ill bedridden person and a person with a cold



could both report having spent more than half a day in bed due to an illness.

The number of restricted-activity days is the number of days a person experienced at least one of the four types of activity restriction just described. It is the most inclusive measure of disability days and the least descriptive; 4 days of restricted activity may mean 4 bed days associated with serious illness or 4 days during which a person merely cut down on his or her usual activities due to a mild illness.

A single restricted-activity day may involve both a bed day and a work-loss or school-loss day. However, a cut-down day cannot overlap with any of these three types of disability days. In calculating the sum of restricted-activity days, each day is counted only once even if more than one type of activity restriction was involved.

Restricted-activity days may be associated with either persons or conditions. *Person days* are the number of days during which a person restricted his or her activity. *Condition days* are the number of days during which a condition caused a person to restrict his or her activity. A person day of restricted activity can be caused by more than one condition. In such a case, each condition causing restriction is associated with that day of restricted activity. Therefore, the number of condition days of restricted activity may exceed the number of person days of restricted activity. This relationship holds for each type of restricted-activity day.

When two or more conditions cause a day of restricted activity, the conditions may be (1) both (all) acute, (2) one (some) acute and the other (some) chronic, or (3) both (all) chronic. The number of restricted-activity days associated with acute conditions includes groups (1) and (2); the number of such days associated with chronic conditions includes groups (2) and (3). The phrase "associated with" rather than "caused by" is used to indicate that some days associated with acute or chronic conditions are not necessarily caused solely by that type of condition.

*Assessed health status*—The categories related to this concept result from asking the respondent, "Would you say \_\_\_\_\_ health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?" As such, it is based on a respondent's opinion and not directly on any clinical evidence.

## Terms relating to hospitalization

*Hospital*—For this survey, a hospital is defined as any institution either (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 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. It 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 two 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 one 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.

## 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.

*Geographic region*—For the purpose of classifying the population by geographic area, the States are grouped into four regions. These regions, which correspond to those used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, are as follows:

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

*Place of residence*—The place of residence of a member of the civilian noninstitutionalized population is classified as inside a standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA) or outside an SMSA. Place of residence inside an SMSA is further classified as either central city or not central city.

*Standard metropolitan statistical area*—The definitions and titles of SMSA's are established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget with the advice of the Federal Committee on Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Generally speaking, an SMSA consists of a county or group of counties containing at least one city (or twin cities) having a population of 50,000 or more plus adjacent counties that are metropolitan in character and are economically and socially integrated with the central city. In New England, towns and cities rather than counties are the units used in defining SMSA's. There is no limit to the number of adjacent counties included in the SMSA as long as they are integrated with the central city, nor is an SMSA limited to a single State; boundaries may cross State lines. The metropolitan population in this

report is based on SMSA's as defined in the 1980 census and does not include any subsequent additions or changes.

*Central city of an SMSA*—The largest city in an SMSA is always a central city. One or two additional cities may be secondary central cities in the SMSA on the basis of one of the following criteria:

1. The additional city or cities must have a population one-third or more of that of the largest city and a minimum population of 25,000.
2. The additional city or cities must have at least 250,000 inhabitants.

*Not central city of an SMSA*—This includes all of the SMSA that is not part of the central city itself.

*Not in SMSA*—This includes all other places in the country.

*Race*—The population is divided into three racial groups,

“white,” “black,” and “all other.” “All other” includes Aleut, Eskimo or American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, and any other races. Race characterization is based on the respondent's description of his racial background.

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

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

# Appendix III

## Questionnaire items relating to physician contacts

E. 2-WEEK DOCTOR VISITS PROBE PAGE			
Read to respondent(s) These next questions are about health care received during the 2 weeks outlined in red on that calendar.			
<b>E1</b>	Refer to age.	<b>E1</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 14 (1b) <input type="checkbox"/> 14 and over (1a)
1a. During those 2 weeks, how many times did -- see or talk to a medical doctor? (Include all types of doctors, such as dermatologists, psychiatrists, and ophthalmologists, as well as general practitioners and osteopaths.) (Do not count times while an overnight patient in a hospital.) ----- b. During those 2 weeks, how many times did anyone see or talk to a medical doctor about --? (Do not count times while an overnight patient in a hospital.)		1a. and b.	00 <input type="checkbox"/> None <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Number of times } (NP)
2a. (Besides the time(s) you just told me about) During those 2 weeks, did anyone in the family receive health care at home or go to a doctor's office, clinic, hospital or some other place? Include care from a nurse or anyone working with or for a medical doctor. Do not count times while an overnight patient in a hospital. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (3a)			
b. Who received this care? Mark "DR Visit" box in person's column.		2b.	<input type="checkbox"/> DR Visit
c. Anyone else? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Reask 2b and c) <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Ask for each person with "DR Visit" in 2b			
d. How many times did -- receive this care during that period?		d.	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Number of times
3a. (Besides the time(s) you already told me about) During those 2 weeks, did anyone in the family get any medical advice, prescriptions or test results over the PHONE from a doctor, nurse, or anyone working with or for a medical doctor? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (E2)			
b. Who was the phone call about? Mark "Phone call" box in person's column.		3b.	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone call
c. Were there any calls about anyone else? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Reask 3b and c) <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Ask for each person with "Phone call" in 3b			
d. How many telephone calls were made about --?		d.	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Number of calls
<b>E2</b>	Add numbers in 1, 2d, and 3d for each person. Record total number of visits and calls in "2-WK, DV" box in item C1.		
FOOTNOTES			

FORM HIS-1(1 982) (4-6-82)

F. 2-WEEK DOCTOR VISITS PAGE

DR VISIT 1

Refer to CI, "2-WK. DV" box.

Person number \_\_\_\_\_

**F1** Refer to age.

**F1**  Under 14 (1b)  
 14 and over (1a)

1a. On what (other) date(s) during those 2 weeks did --- see or talk to a medical doctor, nurse, or doctor's assistant?  
b. On what (other) date(s) during those 2 weeks did anyone see or talk to a medical doctor, nurse, or doctor's assistant about ---?  
Ask after last DR visit column for this person:  
c. Were there any other visits or calls for --- during that period? Make necessary correction to 2-Wk. DV box in CI.

1a. and b. \_\_\_\_\_ OR { 7777  Last week  
Month Date } 8888  Week before  
c. 1  Yes (Reask 1a or b and c)  
2  No (Ask 2-5 for each visit)

2. Where did --- receive health care on (date in 1), at a doctor's office, clinic, hospital, some other place, or was this a telephone call?  
If doctor's office: Was this office in a hospital?  
If hospital: Was it the outpatient clinic or the emergency room?  
If clinic: Was it a hospital outpatient clinic, a company clinic, a public health clinic, or some other kind of clinic?  
If lab: Was this lab in a hospital?  
What was done during this visit? (Footnote)

2. 01  Telephone  
Not in hospital: 02  Home  
03  Doctor's office  
04  Co. or Ind. clinic  
05  Other clinic  
06  Lab  
07  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
Hospital: 08  O.P. clinic  
09  Emergency room  
10  Doctor's office  
11  Lab  
12  Overnight patient (Next DR visit)  
88  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Ask 3b if under 14.  
3a. Did --- actually talk to a medical doctor?  
b. Did anyone actually talk to a medical doctor about ---?  
c. What type of medical person or assistant was talked to?  
d. Does the (entry in 3c) work with or for ONE doctor or MORE than one doctor?  
e. For this [visit/call] what kind of doctor was the (entry in 3c) working with or for - a general practitioner or a specialist?  
f. Is that doctor a general practitioner or a specialist?  
g. What kind of specialist?

3a. and b. 1  Yes (3f) 8  DK if M.D. (3c)  
2  No (3c) 9  DK who was seen (3f)  
c. \_\_\_\_\_ 99  DK  
Type  
d. 1  One (3f) 3  None (4)  
2  More 9  DK  
e. and f. 1  GP (4) 2  Specialist (3g) 9  DK (4)  
g. \_\_\_\_\_  
Kind of specialist

Ask 4b if under 14.  
4a. For what condition did --- see or talk to the [doctor/(entry in 3c)] on (date in 1)? Mark first appropriate box.  
b. For what condition did anyone see or talk to the [doctor/(entry in 3c)] about --- on (date in 1)? Mark first appropriate box.  
c. Was a condition found as a result of the [test(s)/examination] ?  
d. Was this [test/examination] because of a specific condition --- had?  
e. During the past 2 weeks was --- sick because of --- pregnancy?  
f. What was the matter?  
g. During this [visit/call] was the [doctor/(entry in 3c)] talked to about any (other) condition?  
h. What was the condition?

4a. and b. 1  Condition (Item C2, THEN 4g)  
2  Pregnancy (4e)  
3  Test(s) or examination (4c)  
8  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (4g)  
c.  Yes (4h)  No  
d.  Yes (4h)  No (4g)  
e.  Yes  No (4g)  
f. \_\_\_\_\_ (Item C2, THEN 4g)  
Condition  
g.  Yes  No (5)  
h.  Pregnancy (4e)  
Condition (Item C2, THEN 4g)

Mark box if "Telephone" in 2.  
5a. Did --- have any kind of surgery or operation during this visit, including bone settings and stitches?  
b. What was the name of the surgery or operation? If name of operation not known, describe what was done.  
c. Was there any other surgery or operation during this visit?

5a. 0  Telephone in 2 (Next DR visit)  
1  Yes  
2  No (Next DR visit)  
b. (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
c.  Yes (Reask 5b and c)  
 No

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