

National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2010 Emergency Department Summary Tables

The Ambulatory and Hospital Care Statistics Branch is pleased to release the most current nationally representative data on ambulatory care visits to hospital emergency departments (ED) in the United States. Statistics are presented on selected hospital, patient and visit characteristics based on data collected in the 2010 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS). NHAMCS is an annual nationally representative sample survey of visits to EDs, outpatient departments, ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) of nonfederal short-stay and general hospitals (starting in 2009), and freestanding ASCs (starting in 2010).

The sampling frame for the 2010 NHAMCS was constructed from SDI's "Healthcare Market Index, Updated July 15, 2006" and "Hospital Market Profiling Solution, Second Quarter, 2006." NHAMCS uses a four-stage probability design with samples of primary sampling units (PSUs), hospitals within PSUs, emergency service areas (ESAs) within emergency departments, and patient visits within ESAs. A total of 488 hospitals were selected for the 2010 NHAMCS, of which 388 were in scope and had eligible EDs. Of these, 357 participated, yielding an unweighted ED response rate of 92.0 percent. A sample of 449 emergency services areas (ESAs) was selected from the EDs. Of these, 427 responded fully or adequately by providing forms for at least half of their expected visits based on the total number of visits during the reporting period, and 5 responded minimally (i.e. they provided fewer than half of their expected forms). In all, 34,936 Patient Record forms (PRFs) were submitted. The resulting unweighted ESA sample response rate was 95.1 percent, and the overall unweighted two stage sampling response rate was 87.5 percent (84.9% weighted). Response rates have been adjusted to exclude minimal participants.

The 2010 NHAMCS was conducted from December 28, 2009 through December 26, 2010. The U.S. Bureau of the Census was the data collection agent for the 2010 NHAMCS. Hospital staff or Census field representatives completed a PRF for a sample of about 100 ED visits during a randomly assigned 4-week reporting period. The PRF may be viewed at the website: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ahcd/nhamcs100ed_2010.pdf

Data processing and medical coding were performed by SRA International, Inc., Durham, North Carolina. As part of the quality assurance procedure, a 10 percent quality control sample of ED survey records was independently keyed and coded, with an error rate of 0.01 percent. For items that required medical coding, discrepancy rates ranged between 0.0 and 0.1 percent. For further details, see 2010 NHAMCS Public Use Data File Documentation at the website: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf

Web table estimates are based on sample data weighted to produce annual national estimates and include standard errors. Because of the complex multistage design of NHAMCS, a sample weight is computed for each sample visit that takes all stages of design into account. The survey data are inflated or weighted to produce unbiased national annual estimates. The visit weight includes four basic components: inflation by reciprocals of selection probabilities, adjustment for nonresponse, population ratio adjustments, and weight smoothing. Estimates of the sampling variability were calculated using Taylor approximations in SUDAAN, which take into account the complex sample design of NHAMCS. Detailed information on the design, conduct, and estimation procedures of 2010 NHAMCS are discussed in the 2010 NHAMCS

Public Use Data File Documentation at the website:

ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf

As in any survey, results are subject to sampling and nonsampling errors. Nonsampling errors include reporting and processing errors as well as biases due to nonresponse and incomplete response. In 2010, race data were missing for 9.9 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 13.2 percent of visits. Starting with 2009 data, NHAMCS has adopted the technique of model-based single imputation for NHAMCS race and ethnicity data. The race imputation is restricted to three categories (white, black, and other) based on research by an internal work group and on quality concerns with imputed estimates for race categories other than white and black. The imputation technique is described in more detail in the 2010 NHAMCS Public Use Data File Documentation at:

ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf

Information on missing data for other variables are indicated in table footnotes.

In the following tables, estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk (*) appears in the tables. The relative standard error (RSE) of an estimate is obtained by dividing the standard error by the estimate itself. The result is then expressed as a percentage of the estimate. Estimates based on 30 or more cases include an asterisk if the RSE of the estimate exceeds 30 percent.

Table 1. Emergency department visits, by selected hospital characteristics: United States, 2010

Selected hospital characteristic		Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Number of visits per 100 persons per year ^{1,2,3} (standard error of rate)
All visits		129,843 (6,216)	100.0 ...	42.8 (2.0)
Ownership				
Voluntary		94,673 (5,965)	72.9 (3.0)	31.2 (2.0)
Government		21,245 (3,291)	16.4 (2.5)	7.0 (1.1)
Proprietary		13,925 (2,933)	10.7 (2.2)	4.6 (1.0)
Metropolitan status ⁴				
MSA		107,799 (6,000)	83.0 (2.3)	42.0 (2.3)
Non-MSA		22,044 (3,131)	17.0 (2.3)	47.1 (6.7)
Geographic region				
Northeast		24,306 (2,418)	18.7 (1.7)	44.5 (4.4)
Midwest		27,731 (2,544)	21.4 (1.8)	42.1 (3.9)
South		52,785 (4,420)	40.7 (2.5)	47.1 (3.9)
West		25,021 (2,737)	19.3 (1.9)	35.2 (3.8)
Teaching hospital				
Teaching hospital		21,030 (2,624)	16.2 (2.0)	6.9 (0.9)
Non-teaching hospital ⁵		108,813 (6,216)	83.8 (2.0)	35.8 (2.0)
Trauma center				
Yes		56,746 (5,031)	43.7 (3.1)	18.7 (1.7)
No or blank		73,097 (5,232)	56.3 (3.1)	24.1 (1.7)
Season ⁶				
Winter		30,931 (4,288)	23.8 (3.3)	10.2 (1.4)
Spring		33,426 (3,880)	25.7 (2.6)	11.0 (1.3)
Summer		34,737 (4,512)	26.8 (3.1)	11.4 (1.5)
Fall		30,749 (3,414)	23.7 (2.4)	10.1 (1.1)

...Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates for region are based on the July 1, 2010, set of the estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²Population estimates by metropolitan statistical area status are based on estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as of July 1, 2010, from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, compiled according to the December 2010 Office of Management and Budget definitions of core-based statistical areas. See <http://www.census.gov/population/metro/> for more about metropolitan statistical area definitions.

³For geographic region and metropolitan statistical area status, population denominators are different for each category and thus do not add to total population rate. For other variables, the denominator is the total population.

⁴MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

⁵Includes a small percentage of hospitals with unknown or blank teaching status (1.0 percent).

⁶Winter is December 22 to March 19; spring is March 20 to June 20; summer is June 21 to September 22; and fall is September 22 to December 21.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 2. Emergency department visits, by patient age, sex, and residence: United States, 2010

Selected patient characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)		Number of visits per 100 persons per year ¹ (standard error of rate)	
All visits	129,843	(6,216)	100.0	...	42.8	(2.0)
Age ¹						
Under 15 years	25,503	(1,754)	19.6	(0.9)	41.2	(2.8)
Under 1 year	3,859	(378)	3.0	(0.2)	93.1	(9.1)
1-4 years	9,743	(761)	7.5	(0.4)	56.9	(4.4)
5-14 years	11,901	(736)	9.2	(0.4)	29.2	(1.8)
15-24 years	20,750	(1,094)	16.0	(0.3)	49.1	(2.6)
25-44 years	36,259	(1,859)	27.9	(0.5)	45.0	(2.3)
45-64 years	27,877	(1,447)	21.5	(0.5)	34.9	(1.8)
65 years and over	19,454	(1,019)	15.0	(0.4)	50.0	(2.6)
65-74 years	8,199	(490)	6.3	(0.2)	38.7	(2.3)
75 years and over	11,255	(605)	8.7	(0.3)	63.5	(3.4)
Sex and age ¹						
Female	71,535	(3,510)	55.1	(0.4)	46.3	(2.3)
Under 15 years	11,351	(804)	8.7	(0.4)	37.5	(2.7)
15-24 years	12,450	(721)	9.6	(0.3)	59.9	(3.5)
25-44 years	21,461	(1,136)	16.5	(0.4)	52.8	(2.8)
45-64 years	14,800	(836)	11.4	(0.3)	36.0	(2.0)
65-74 years	4,571	(310)	3.5	(0.2)	40.3	(2.7)
75 years and over	6,902	(387)	5.3	(0.2)	65.6	(3.7)
Male	58,308	(2,803)	44.9	(0.4)	39.1	(1.9)
Under 15 years	14,152	(1,000)	10.9	(0.5)	44.7	(3.2)
15-24 years	8,300	(449)	6.4	(0.2)	38.6	(2.1)
25-44 years	14,799	(792)	11.4	(0.3)	37.0	(2.0)
45-64 years	13,077	(672)	10.1	(0.3)	33.7	(1.7)
65-74 years	3,628	(237)	2.8	(0.1)	36.9	(2.4)
75 years and over	4,353	(270)	3.4	(0.2)	60.4	(3.7)
Patient residence						
Private residence ¹	119,070	(5,840)	91.7	(0.6)	39.2	(1.9)
Nursing home ²	2,710	(180)	2.1	(0.1)	82.7	(5.5)
Homeless ³	680	(88)	0.5	(0.1)	104.6	(13.5)
Other	1,584	(188)	1.2	(0.1)	0.5	(0.1)
Unknown or blank	5,800	(788)	4.5	(0.6)	1.9	(0.3)

...Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates for age, sex, and private residence are based on the July 1, 2010, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²Visit rates for nursing home residents are based on the 2009 population denominators from 2010 Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services Nursing Home Data Compendium.

³Visit rates for the homeless people are based on The 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 3. Emergency department visits, by patient race and age, and ethnicity: United States, 2010

Patient characteristics	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)		Number of visits per 100 persons per year (standard error of rate) ¹	
All visits	129,843	(6,216)	100.0	...	42.8	(2.0)
Race and age ^{2,3}						
White	97,437	(5,343)	75.0	(1.4)	40.3	(2.2)
Under 15 years	18,407	(1,393)	14.2	(0.8)	39.5	(3.0)
15-24 years	15,067	(874)	11.6	(0.3)	46.3	(2.7)
25-44 years	26,824	(1,583)	20.7	(0.6)	42.5	(2.5)
45-64 years	20,809	(1,225)	16.0	(0.5)	31.7	(1.9)
65-74 years	6,644	(443)	5.1	(0.2)	36.7	(2.4)
75 years and over	9,687	(564)	7.5	(0.3)	62.5	(3.6)
Black or African American	27,822	(1,956)	21.4	(1.3)	72.1	(5.1)
Under 15 years	5,944	(527)	4.6	(0.4)	64.3	(5.7)
15-24 years	5,018	(435)	3.9	(0.3)	78.7	(6.8)
25-44 years	8,073	(625)	6.2	(0.4)	76.7	(5.9)
45-64 years	6,269	(547)	4.8	(0.4)	68.7	(6.0)
65-74 years	1,285	(132)	1.0	(0.1)	65.9	(6.8)
75 years and over	1,234	(142)	1.0	(0.1)	88.8	(10.2)
Other ³	4,584	(736)	3.5	(0.6)	19.6	(3.1)
Ethnicity ^{2,3}						
Hispanic or Latino	18,921	(1,917)	14.6	(1.3)	38.6	(3.9)
Not Hispanic or Latino	110,922	(5,588)	85.4	(1.3)	43.6	(2.2)
White	80,041	(4,746)	61.6	(1.7)	40.7	(2.4)
Black or African American	27,101	(1,946)	20.9	(1.3)	74.0	(5.3)
Other	3,780	(571)	2.9	(0.4)	17.7	(2.7)

...Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates are based on the July 1, 2010, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²The race groups, White, Black or African American, and Other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 2010, race data were missing for 9.9 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 13.2 percent of visits. Starting with 2009 data, the National Center for Health Statistics adopted the technique of model-based single imputation for NHAMCS race and ethnicity data. The race imputation is restricted to three categories (white, black, and other) based on research by an internal work group and on quality concerns with imputed estimates for race categories other than white and black. The imputation technique is described in more detail in the 2010 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf.

³Other race includes the categories of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and persons with more than one race.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 4. Wait time at emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits	129,843	(6,216)	100.0	...
Time spent waiting to see a MD,DO,PA or NP ¹				
Fewer than 15 minutes	32,612	(1,723)	25.1	(1.1)
15-59 minutes	53,939	(2,909)	41.5	(0.9)
1 hour, but less than 2 hours	18,842	(1,417)	14.5	(0.6)
2 hours, but less than 3 hours	6,376	(645)	4.9	(0.4)
3 hours, but less than 4 hours	2,526	(284)	1.9	(0.2)
4 hours, but less than 6 hours	1,679	(236)	1.3	(0.2)
6 hours or more	864	(118)	0.7	(0.1)
Not applicable	3,881	(288)	3.0	(0.2)
Blank	9,124	(1,472)	7.0	(1.1)
Time spent in the emergency department				
Less than 1 hour	16,203	(956)	12.5	(0.6)
1 hour, but less than 2 hours	31,314	(1,497)	24.1	(0.6)
2 hours, but less than 4 hours	44,635	(2,443)	34.4	(0.5)
4 hours, but less than 6 hours	19,825	(1,286)	15.3	(0.5)
6 hours, but less than 10 hours	10,379	(791)	8.0	(0.4)
10 hour, but less than 14 hours	1,995	(215)	1.5	(0.2)
14 hours, but less than 24 hours	1,222	(143)	0.9	(0.1)
24 hours or more	614	(72)	0.5	(0.1)
Blank	3,656	(368)	2.8	(0.3)
Patient arrived in ED after business hours ²				
Yes	78,532	(3,765)	60.5	(0.3)
No	50,772	(2,483)	39.1	(0.3)
Blank	540	(145)	0.4	(0.1)

...Category not applicable

¹ MD is medical doctor, DO is doctor of osteopathy, PA is physician assistant, NP is nurse practitioner. The median waiting time to see a MD/DO/PA/NP was 28.0 minutes.²Business hours defined as Monday through Friday. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 5. Mode of arrival at emergency department, by patient age: United States, 2010

Patient age	Number of visits in thousands	Total	Patient's mode of arrival					
			Ambulance		Other		Unknown or blank	
			Percent distribution (standard error of percent)					
All visits	129,843	100.0	16.3	(0.6)	78.8	(0.8)	4.9	(0.6)
Age								
Under 15 years	25,503	100.0	5.2	(0.5)	89.4	(1.0)	5.4	(0.8)
Under 1 year	3,859	100.0	3.4	(0.8)	89.9	(1.4)	6.7	(1.3)
1-4 years	9,743	100.0	4.5	(0.6)	89.8	(1.3)	5.6	(1.2)
5-14 years	11,901	100.0	6.3	(0.7)	88.8	(1.1)	4.8	(0.7)
15-24 years	20,750	100.0	10.9	(0.7)	84.5	(1.0)	4.6	(0.7)
25-44 years	36,259	100.0	12.7	(0.6)	82.3	(0.9)	5.0	(0.7)
45-64 years	27,877	100.0	20.3	(0.9)	75.0	(1.0)	4.7	(0.6)
65 years and over	19,454	100.0	38.0	(1.3)	57.7	(1.3)	4.4	(0.7)
65-74 years	8,199	100.0	28.5	(1.6)	66.5	(1.6)	5.0	(1.2)
75 years and over	11,255	100.0	44.8	(1.5)	51.2	(1.5)	3.9	(0.6)

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 6. Expected source(s) of payment at emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Primary expected source of payment	Number of visits in thousands ¹ (standard error in thousand)		Percent of visits (standard error of percent)	
All visits	129,843	(6,216)	100.0	...
Private insurance	47,898	(2,736)	36.9	(1.0)
Medicaid/CHIP ²	40,707	(2,347)	31.4	(1.0)
Medicare	22,946	(1,197)	17.7	(0.5)
Medicare and Medicaid ³	4,944	(372)	3.8	(0.2)
No insurance ⁴	20,897	(1,348)	16.1	(0.7)
Self-pay	19,558	(1,262)	15.1	(0.7)
No charge or charity	1,880	(553)	1.4	(0.4)
Workers' compensation	1,563	(150)	1.2	(0.1)
Other	4,786	(710)	3.7	(0.5)
Unknown or blank	6,142	(718)	4.7	(0.5)

...Category not applicable.

¹Combined total of expected sources of payment exceeds "all visits" and "percent of visits" exceed 100% because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit.

²CHIP is State Children's Health Insurance Program.

³The visits in this category are also included in both the Medicare and the Medicaid.

⁴"No insurance" is defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as payment sources.

Table 7. Triage status¹ of emergency department visits, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2010

Patient and visit characteristics	Number of visits in thousands	Total	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4		Level 5		No triage	
			(Immediate) ²		(Emergent) ³		(Urgent) ⁴		(Semiurgent) ⁵		(Nonurgent) ⁶			
Percent distribution (standard error of percent)														
All visits	129,843	100.0	1.1	(0.2)	10.2	(0.7)	43.4	(1.3)	32.7	(1.1)	7.0	(0.7)	5.6	(1.6)
Age														
Under 15 years	25,503	100.0	*0.6	(0.2)	7.4	(1.5)	33.8	(1.6)	42.6	(1.9)	8.4	(0.9)	7.2	(2.1)
Under 1 year	3,859	100.0	*	...	8.3	(1.5)	39.2	(2.8)	37.4	(2.8)	8.2	(1.5)	*6.2	(2.3)
1-4 years	9,743	100.0	*	...	7.5	(1.4)	33.5	(1.9)	42.9	(1.9)	8.1	(1.0)	*7.4	(2.3)
5-14 years	11,901	100.0	*	...	6.9	(1.8)	32.3	(1.7)	44.1	(2.3)	8.7	(1.0)	7.4	(2.1)
15-24 years	20,750	100.0	1.1	(0.3)	6.9	(0.9)	40.9	(1.5)	37.1	(1.5)	8.7	(0.8)	5.2	(1.5)
25-44 years	36,259	100.0	1.0	(0.2)	8.6	(0.7)	43.4	(1.4)	34.0	(1.3)	7.6	(0.8)	5.4	(1.6)
45-64 years	27,877	100.0	1.4	(0.3)	13.1	(0.9)	47.3	(1.6)	27.2	(1.2)	5.8	(0.7)	5.1	(1.5)
65 years and over	19,454	100.0	1.7	(0.3)	16.3	(1.0)	53.1	(1.9)	20.2	(1.2)	3.6	(0.6)	*5.2	(1.6)
65-74 years	8,199	100.0	1.7	(0.4)	16.6	(1.3)	51.6	(2.0)	21.4	(1.4)	3.7	(0.7)	*5.0	(1.6)
75 years and over	11,255	100.0	1.8	(0.3)	16.0	(1.2)	54.2	(2.0)	19.4	(1.4)	3.4	(0.6)	*5.3	(1.7)
Sex														
Female	71,535	100.0	1.1	(0.2)	9.8	(0.7)	45.3	(1.4)	31.8	(1.2)	6.6	(0.7)	5.3	(1.5)
Male	58,308	100.0	1.2	(0.2)	10.7	(0.7)	41.1	(1.3)	33.8	(1.2)	7.3	(0.7)	5.9	(1.7)
Race ^{8,9}														
White	97,437	100.0	1.0	(0.1)	10.1	(0.7)	43.4	(1.4)	32.6	(1.2)	6.8	(0.7)	6.1	(1.8)
Black or African American	27,822	100.0	*1.6	(0.6)	10.6	(1.4)	43.2	(1.6)	33.2	(1.6)	7.7	(0.9)	*3.8	(1.5)
Other	4,584	100.0	*	...	10.7	(1.4)	43.6	(2.1)	32.1	(1.9)	6.7	(1.0)	*5.8	(2.5)
Ethnicity ^{8,9}														
Hispanic or Latino	18,921	100.0	0.6	(0.1)	9.0	(1.0)	41.5	(2.1)	32.9	(1.9)	7.3	(1.1)	*8.7	(3.8)
Not Hispanic or Latino	110,922	100.0	1.2	(0.2)	10.4	(0.7)	43.7	(1.3)	32.6	(1.2)	6.9	(0.7)	5.1	(1.5)
Expected source of payment ¹⁰														
Private insurance	47,898	100.0	1.2	(0.1)	10.9	(0.9)	45.1	(1.4)	31.4	(1.1)	5.3	(0.6)	6.2	(1.8)
Medicaid or CHIP ¹¹	40,707	100.0	1.1	(0.3)	8.6	(0.7)	41.4	(1.5)	35.8	(1.6)	8.0	(0.9)	*5.2	(1.7)
Medicare	22,946	100.0	1.8	(0.3)	14.9	(1.0)	51.3	(1.6)	23.0	(1.2)	4.4	(0.6)	*4.7	(1.6)
Medicare and Medicaid ¹²	4,944	100.0	*	...	12.3	(1.4)	50.0	(2.2)	26.0	(1.9)	5.4	(1.2)	*4.6	(2.1)
No insurance ¹³	20,897	100.0	*0.9	(0.3)	10.0	(1.1)	41.6	(1.5)	34.2	(1.5)	9.0	(1.1)	*4.2	(1.5)
Workers' compensation	1,563	100.0	*	...	*	...	25.7	(3.6)	49.7	(3.8)	10.7	(2.2)	*	...
Other	4,786	100.0	*	...	11.3	(1.3)	43.4	(3.2)	33.5	(2.4)	6.0	(1.2)	*5.4	(2.8)
Unknown or blank	6,142	100.0	*	...	8.3	(1.1)	38.7	(2.7)	31.6	(2.4)	10.6	(1.8)	*9.7	(3.9)

...Category not applicable.

¹Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

²The collection and processing of "triage level" changed in 2009. Unlike previous years when response categories were checkboxes for each level of immediacy, the 2010 Patient Record Form (PRF) requested responses using a 1-5 scale. PRF responses were evaluated with reference to responses on the Ambulatory Unit Record, completed during induction, to the question, "How many levels are in this emergency service area's (ESA) triage system?" ESAs using 3 or 4 level triage systems had their responses rescaled to fit the 5 level system, such that, for 3-level ESAs, responses of 1, 2, and 3 were recoded to 2, 3, and 4. For ESAs using a 4-level system, responses were recoded from 1-4 to 2-5. The rescaling method was determined in consultation with subject matter experts and based on record analysis. Rescaling was required for about 12.1 percent of records. Also, missing responses (20.4 percent) were imputed to levels 1-5 using a hot deck (i.e. current year's data) to identify donor records. Matching was based on the number of levels in the ESA's triage system, 3-digit ICD-9-CM code for primary diagnosis, the hospital's ED volume, and geographic region. This is unlike years 2005-2008 when "no triage" and "unknown", checkboxes used on the PRF in those years, were also valid imputation categories.

³A visit in which the patient should be seen in less than 1 minute.

⁴A visit in which the patient should be seen in 1-14 minutes.

⁵A visit in which the patient should be seen within 15-60 minutes.

⁶A visit in which the patient should be seen within 61-120 minutes.

⁷A visit in which the patient should be seen within 121 minutes-24 hours.

⁸A visit which occurred in an emergency service area that does not conduct nursing triage.

⁹The race groups, White, Black or African American, and Other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 2010, race data were missing for 9.9 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 13.2 percent of visits. Starting with 2009 data, the National Center for Health Statistics adopted the technique of model-based single imputation for NHAMCS race and ethnicity data. The race imputation is restricted to three categories (white, black, and other) based on research by an internal work group and on quality concerns with imputed estimates for race categories other than white and black. The imputation technique is described in more detail in the 2010 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Public Use Data File documentation, available at: http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf.

¹⁰Other race includes the categories of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and persons with more than one race.

¹¹Total exceeds "all visits" because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit.

¹²CHIP is the Children's Health Insurance Program.

¹³The visits in this category are also included in both the Medicare and the Medicaid or CHIP categories.

¹⁴"No insurance" is defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as payment sources. The individual self-pay and no-charge or charity categories are not mutually exclusive.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 8. Initial blood pressure measurements recorded at emergency department visits for adults, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2010

Characteristics: United States, 2010		Initial blood pressure ¹						
Patient characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	Total	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)					
			Not high	Mildly high	Moderately high	Severely high		
All visits ²	97,513	100.0	20.8 (0.4)	34.4 (0.4)	27.3 (0.4)	17.5 (0.4)		
Age								
18-24 years	16,041	100.0	28.1 (1.0)	45.2 (0.9)	21.2 (0.8)	5.4 (0.5)		
25-44 years	35,265	100.0	22.4 (0.5)	37.7 (0.7)	26.5 (0.6)	13.5 (0.5)		
45-64 years	27,147	100.0	16.5 (0.6)	30.6 (0.7)	30.5 (0.7)	22.4 (0.6)		
65-74 years	8,017	100.0	18.4 (1.2)	26.9 (1.3)	29.6 (1.4)	25.1 (1.5)		
75 years and over	11,043	100.0	17.6 (0.9)	23.2 (0.9)	29.2 (0.9)	30.0 (1.1)		
Sex								
Female	56,690	100.0	24.2 (0.5)	34.5 (0.5)	24.5 (0.5)	16.8 (0.5)		
Male	40,823	100.0	16.1 (0.6)	34.2 (0.6)	31.2 (0.7)	18.4 (0.5)		
Race ^{3,4}								
White	73,814	100.0	21.0 (0.4)	34.4 (0.5)	27.8 (0.5)	16.9 (0.4)		
Black	20,498	100.0	19.7 (0.6)	34.9 (0.9)	26.1 (0.8)	19.3 (0.8)		
Other	3,201	100.0	24.9 (1.9)	32.7 (1.5)	24.5 (1.7)	18.0 (2.1)		
Ethnicity ^{3,4}								
Hispanic or Latino	11,427	100.0	23.7 (0.9)	34.9 (1.2)	26.6 (1.0)	14.9 (1.0)		
Not Hispanic or Latino	86,086	100.0	20.4 (0.4)	34.3 (0.5)	27.4 (0.4)	17.8 (0.4)		

¹ Blood pressure (BP) levels were categorized using the following hierarchical definitions. Severely high BP is defined as 160 mm Hg systolic or above, or 100 mm Hg diastolic or above. Moderately high BP is defined as 140-159 mm Hg systolic or 90-99 mm Hg diastolic. Mildly high BP is defined as 120-139 mm Hg systolic or 80-89 mm Hg diastolic. Not high is defined as BP less than 120 mm Hg systolic and less than 80 mm Hg diastolic. High BP classification was based on the Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure (JNC-7). "Mildly high" BP corresponds to the JNC-7 prehypertensive range. "Moderately high" BP corresponds to the JNC-7 stage 1 hypertensive range. "Severely high" BP corresponds to JNC-7 stage 2 hypertensive range.

²Visits by adults (18+ years of age). Visits where blood pressure was taken represent 97.5 percent (SE=0.3) of all emergency department visits made by adults.

³The race groups, White, Black or African American, and Other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 2010, race data were missing for 9.9 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 13.2 percent of visits. Starting with 2009 data, the National Center for Health Statistics adopted the technique of model-based single imputation for NHAMCS race and ethnicity data. The race imputation is restricted to three categories (white, black, and other) based on research by an internal work group and on quality concerns with imputed estimates for race categories other than white and black. The imputation technique is described in more detail in the 2010 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf.

⁴Other race includes the categories of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and persons with more than one race.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 9. Initial temperature, pulse oximetry, and visit history at emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Visit characteristic		Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits		129,843	(6,216)	100.0	...
Temperature					
Febrile: >38.0° C or >100.4°F		5,591	(369)	4.3	(0.2)
Normal: 35.1-38.0° C or 95.1-100.4°F		117,881	(5,661)	90.8	(0.4)
Hypothermic: =<35.0° C or =<95.0°F		416	(65)	0.3	(0.0)
Blank		5,955	(591)	4.6	(0.4)
Pulse oximetry ¹					
95-100%		105,621	(5,446)	81.3	(1.1)
<95%		8,774	(719)	6.8	(0.5)
Blank		15,448	(1,554)	11.9	(1.1)
Episode of care					
Initial visit		112,187	(5,591)	86.4	(0.9)
Follow-up visit		9,054	(707)	7.0	(0.4)
Unknown or blank		8,602	(1,028)	6.6	(0.8)
Patient seen in this emergency department within the last 72 hours					
Yes		5,038	(367)	3.9	(0.2)
No		105,394	(5,895)	81.2	(2.1)
Unknown or blank		19,412	(2,823)	15.0	(2.1)

...Category not applicable

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Normal oxygen saturation as measured by pulse oximetry is 95% or more.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 10. Ten leading principal reasons for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2010

Principal reason for visit and RVC code ¹		Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits	...	129,843	(6,216)	100.0	...
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	10,417	(588)	8.0	(0.2)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems)	S050	7,007	(440)	5.4	(0.2)
Fever	S010	4,992	(374)	3.8	(0.2)
Headache, pain in head	S210	4,028	(264)	3.1	(0.1)
Back symptoms	S905	3,510	(237)	2.7	(0.1)
Shortness of breath	S415	3,464	(227)	2.7	(0.1)
Cough	S440	3,441	(264)	2.7	(0.2)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	3,159	(212)	2.4	(0.1)
Vomiting	S530	2,459	(199)	1.9	(0.1)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	2,391	(177)	1.8	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	84,975	(4,065)	65.4	(0.4)
All visits under age 15	...	25,503	(1,754)	100.0	...
Female	...	11,351	(804)	44.5	(0.8)
Fever	S010	1,757	(156)	6.9	(0.4)
Cough	S440	825	(108)	3.2	(0.3)
Vomiting	S530	585	(69)	2.3	(0.2)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	581	(70)	2.3	(0.2)
Skin rash	S860	481	(66)	1.9	(0.2)
Earache, or ear infection	S355	422	(56)	1.7	(0.2)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	356	(54)	1.4	(0.2)
Injury, other and unspecified type-head, neck, and face	J505	283	(51)	1.1	(0.2)
Headache, pain in head	S210	228	(46)	0.9	(0.2)
Laceration/cut of facial area	J210	189	(35)	0.7	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	5,643	(407)	22.1	(0.7)
Male	...	14,152	(1,000)	55.5	(0.8)
Fever	S010	2,147	(230)	8.4	(0.5)
Cough	S440	956	(99)	3.7	(0.3)
Earache, or ear infection	S355	573	(88)	2.2	(0.3)
Skin rash	S860	551	(64)	2.2	(0.2)
Laceration/cut of facial area	J210	540	(77)	2.1	(0.2)
Vomiting	S530	508	(74)	2.0	(0.2)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	488	(71)	1.9	(0.3)
Injury, other and unspecified type-head, neck, and face	J505	385	(52)	1.5	(0.2)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	339	(48)	1.3	(0.2)
Headache, pain in head	S210	312	(51)	1.2	(0.2)
All other reasons ²	...	7,353	(507)	28.8	(0.8)
All visits, age 15-64 years	...	84,886	(4,216)	100.0	...
Female	...	48,711	(2,514)	57.4	(0.5)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	5,800	(356)	6.8	(0.2)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems)	S050	2,600	(208)	3.1	(0.2)
Headache, pain in head	S210	2,108	(172)	2.5	(0.2)
Back symptoms	S905	1,559	(122)	1.8	(0.1)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	1,495	(131)	1.8	(0.1)
Problems of pregnancy	S790	1,426	(135)	1.7	(0.1)
Shortness of breath	S415	1,136	(98)	1.3	(0.1)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	1,113	(98)	1.3	(0.1)
Nausea	S525	1,060	(118)	1.2	(0.1)
Low back symptoms	S910	908	(77)	1.1	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	29,505	(1,509)	34.8	(0.5)

Male	...	36,175	(1,784)	42.6	(0.5)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems)	S050	2,684	(188)	3.2	(0.1)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	2,460	(164)	2.9	(0.1)
Back symptoms	S905	1,383	(117)	1.6	(0.1)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	1,090	(100)	1.3	(0.1)
Headache, pain in head	S210	1,074	(101)	1.3	(0.1)
Leg symptoms	S920	801	(71)	0.9	(0.1)
Laceration/cut of upper extremity	J225	794	(71)	0.9	(0.1)
Shortness of breath	S415	736	(74)	0.9	(0.1)
Symptoms of teeth and gums	S500	712	(86)	0.8	(0.1)
Low back symptoms	S910	691	(78)	0.8	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	23,750	(1,214)	28.0	(0.4)
All visits, age 65 years and over	...	19,454	(1,019)	100.0	...
Female	...	11,473	(622)	59.0	(0.9)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems)	S050	885	(82)	4.5	(0.4)
Shortness of breath	S415	780	(85)	4.0	(0.4)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	684	(82)	3.5	(0.3)
General weakness	S020	407	(51)	2.1	(0.2)
Accident, not otherwise specified	J810	341	(57)	1.8	(0.3)
Vertigo-dizziness	S225	332	(46)	1.7	(0.2)
Leg symptoms	S920	326	(47)	1.7	(0.2)
Back symptoms	S905	285	(42)	1.5	(0.2)
Fainting (syncope)	S030	268	(44)	1.4	(0.2)
Cough	S440	257	(41)	1.3	(0.2)
All other reasons ²	...	6,906	(385)	35.5	(0.9)
Male	...	7,981	(452)	41.0	(0.9)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems)	S050	637	(67)	3.3	(0.3)
Shortness of breath	S415	600	(73)	3.1	(0.3)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	404	(54)	2.1	(0.3)
Vertigo-dizziness	S225	333	(51)	1.7	(0.2)
General weakness	S020	320	(48)	1.6	(0.2)
Back symptoms	S905	169	(39)	0.9	(0.2)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	161	(32)	0.8	(0.2)
Laceration/cut of upper extremity	J225	148	(34)	0.8	(0.2)
Accident, not otherwise specified	J810	144	(27)	0.7	(0.1)
Leg symptoms	S920	130	(28)	0.7	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	4,936	(291)	25.4	(0.8)

...Category not applicable.

¹Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification (RVC)* for Ambulatory Care, National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 2(78) 1979. See 2010 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey public use documentation (ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf). Reason for visit is defined by patient's own words.

²Category includes all other reasons not listed above, as well as unknown and blanks.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 11. Primary diagnosis at emergency department visits, classified by major disease category: United States, 2010

Major disease category and ICD-9-CM code range ¹		Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits	...	129,843	(6,216)	100.0	...
Infectious and parasitic diseases	001-139	3,651	(252)	2.8	(0.1)
Neoplasms	140-239	255	(38)	0.2	(0.0)
Endocrine, nutritional, metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders	240-279	2,284	(215)	1.8	(0.1)
Mental disorders	290-319	4,537	(312)	3.5	(0.2)
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	320-389	6,737	(377)	5.2	(0.2)
Diseases of the circulatory system	390-459	4,632	(293)	3.6	(0.2)
Diseases of the respiratory system	460-519	12,724	(684)	9.8	(0.3)
Diseases of digestive system	520-579	7,921	(413)	6.1	(0.2)
Diseases of the genitourinary system	580-629	7,008	(406)	5.4	(0.2)
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	680-709	5,424	(371)	4.2	(0.2)
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	710-739	8,239	(498)	6.3	(0.2)
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions	780-799	28,062	(1,528)	21.6	(0.5)
Injury and poisoning	800-999	29,164	(1,431)	22.5	(0.4)
Fractures	800-829	3,932	(244)	3.0	(0.1)
Sprains and strains	840-848	5,758	(368)	4.4	(0.2)
Intracranial injury	850-854	516	(65)	0.4	(0.0)
Open wounds	870-897	5,789	(312)	4.5	(0.2)
Superficial injury	910-919	1,486	(112)	1.1	(0.1)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	4,756	(283)	3.7	(0.1)
Foreign bodies	930-939	535	(62)	0.4	(0.0)
Burns	940-949	603	(83)	0.5	(0.1)
Trauma complications and unspecified injuries	958-959	2,341	(172)	1.8	(0.1)
Poisoning and toxic effects	960-989	975	(97)	0.8	(0.1)
Surgical and medical complications	996-999	667	(77)	0.5	(0.1)
Other injuries	...	1,806	(121)	1.4	(0.1)
Supplementary classification ²	V01-V89	3,492	(228)	2.7	(0.1)
All other diagnoses ³	...	4,897	(364)	3.8	(0.2)
Unknown or blank	...	818	(163)	0.6	(0.1)

....Category not applicable

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Based on *the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (U.S. Department of Health Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version: *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition*. DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 06-1260). However, certain codes have been combined in this table to better describe the utilization of ambulatory care services.

²Includes general medical examination, routine prenatal examination, and health supervision of an infant or child, and other diagnoses not classifiable to injury or illness.

³Includes diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (280-289); complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (630-677); certain conditions originating in perinatal period (760-779), entries not codable to the ICD-9-CM (e.g., illegible entries, patient left before being seen, patient was transferred to another facility, health maintenance organization did not authorize treatment, and entries of "none," "no diagnosis," or, "no disease").

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 12. Twenty leading primary diagnosis groups and presence of chronic disease at emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Primary diagnosis group with ICD-9-CM code(s) and chronic disease category		Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits (standard error of percent)	
All visits	---	129,843	(6,216)	100.0 ...
Primary diagnosis group with ICD-9-CM code(s) ¹				
Abdominal pain	789.0	6,362	(419)	4.9 (0.2)
Chest pain	786.5	5,360	(335)	4.1 (0.2)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	4,756	(283)	3.7 (0.1)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	4,103	(275)	3.2 (0.2)
Spinal disorders	720-724	3,958	(273)	3.0 (0.1)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	3,567	(204)	2.7 (0.1)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	3,436	(260)	2.6 (0.1)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	2,748	(187)	2.1 (0.1)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	2,413	(202)	1.9 (0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840-844,845.1,848	2,388	(178)	1.8 (0.1)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders	381-382	2,361	(203)	1.8 (0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck and back	846,847	2,342	(186)	1.8 (0.1)
Open wound of head	870-873	2,221	(159)	1.7 (0.1)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725-729	2,200	(194)	1.7 (0.1)
Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures	520-525	2,009	(166)	1.5 (0.1)
Headache	784.0	1,919	(143)	1.5 (0.1)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710-719	1,903	(126)	1.5 (0.1)
Pyrexia of unknown origin	780.6	1,838	(178)	1.4 (0.1)
Acute pharyngitis	462	1,814	(145)	1.4 (0.1)
Asthma	493	1,754	(146)	1.4 (0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	70,392	(3,409)	54.2 (0.4)
Chronic disease categories ³				
Diabetes	...	11,362	(715)	8.8 (0.3)
Congestive heart failure	...	4,170	(304)	3.2 (0.2)
Cerebrovascular disease/History of stroke	...	3,566	(479)	2.7 (0.3)
Condition requiring dialysis	...	1,071	(106)	0.8 (0.1)
HIV ⁴	...	490	(70)	0.4 (0.1)
None of the above	...	103,522	(5,055)	79.7 (0.7)
Blank	...	9,168	(819)	7.1 (0.5)

....Category not applicable

¹Based on the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Official version International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition, DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 06-1260).

²Includes all other reasons not listed above as well as unknown and blanks.

³Presence of chronic conditions was based on the checklist of chronic conditions and reported diagnoses. Combined total of visits by patients with chronic conditions and percent of visits exceeds 100% because more than one chronic condition may be reported per visit.

⁴HIV is human immunodeficiency virus.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 13. Twenty leading primary diagnosis groups for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2010

Principal diagnosis group and ICD-9-CM code(s) ¹		Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits	...	129,843	(6,216)	100.0	...
All visits, age under 15 years	...	25,503	(1,754)	100.0	...
Female	...	11,351	(804)	44.5	(0.8)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	955	(88)	3.7	(0.3)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders	381-382	698	(92)	2.7	(0.3)
Pyrexia of unknown origin	780.6	664	(85)	2.6	(0.3)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	413	(58)	1.6	(0.2)
Acute pharyngitis	462	320	(55)	1.3	(0.2)
Open wound of head	870-873	320	(51)	1.3	(0.2)
Abdominal pain	789.0	309	(51)	1.2	(0.2)
Asthma	493	257	(53)	1.0	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	249	(51)	1.0	(0.2)
Unspecified viral and chlamydial infection	079.9	246	(44)	1.0	(0.2)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	246	(37)	1.0	(0.1)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	243	(49)	1.0	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	230	(33)	0.9	(0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840-844,845.1,848	197	(34)	0.8	(0.1)
Superficial injuries	910-919	182	(35)	0.7	(0.1)
Pneumonia	480-486	175	(41)	0.7	(0.1)
Noninfectious enteritis and colitis	555-558	169	(33)	0.7	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of ankle	845.0	144	(30)	0.6	(0.1)
Observation and evaluation for suspected conditions not found	V71	130	(32)	0.5	(0.1)
Conjunctivitis	372.0-372.3	124	(31)	0.5	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	5,081	(391)	19.9	(0.7)
Male	...	14,152	(1,000)	55.5	(0.8)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	1,310	(143)	5.1	(0.4)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders	381-382	1,182	(129)	4.6	(0.4)
Open wound of head	870-873	850	(96)	3.3	(0.3)
Pyrexia of unknown origin	780.6	701	(99)	2.7	(0.3)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	563	(67)	2.2	(0.3)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	469	(62)	1.8	(0.2)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	450	(52)	1.8	(0.2)
Asthma	493	384	(59)	1.5	(0.2)
Acute pharyngitis	462	372	(61)	1.5	(0.2)
Unspecified viral and chlamydial infection	079.9	306	(48)	1.2	(0.2)
Abdominal pain	789.0	304	(53)	1.2	(0.2)
Pneumonia	480-486	260	(49)	1.0	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	236	(51)	0.9	(0.2)
Conjunctivitis	372.0-372.3	223	(46)	0.9	(0.2)
Superficial injuries	910-919	210	(35)	0.8	(0.1)
Noninfectious enteritis and colitis	555-558	195	(38)	0.8	(0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840-844,845.1,848	188	(32)	0.7	(0.1)
Symptoms involving skin and other integumentary tissue	782	167	(33)	0.7	(0.1)
Poisonings	960-989	156	(35)	0.6	(0.1)
Fracture of the lower limb	820-829	147	(32)	0.6	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	5,481	(426)	21.5	(0.7)
All visits, age 15-64 years	...	84,886	(4,216)	100.0	...
Female	...	48,711	(2,514)	57.4	(0.5)
Abdominal pain	789.0	3,424	(252)	4.0	(0.2)
Chest pain	786.5	2,137	(170)	2.5	(0.1)
Spinal disorders	720-724	1,850	(153)	2.2	(0.1)
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	630-679.99	1,639	(145)	1.9	(0.1)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	1,567	(117)	1.8	(0.1)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	1,376	(126)	1.6	(0.1)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	1,270	(113)	1.5	(0.1)
Headache	784.0	1,213	(101)	1.4	(0.1)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	1,123	(115)	1.3	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck and back	846,847	1,104	(105)	1.3	(0.1)

Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures	520-525	1,097	(99)	1.3	(0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840-844,845.1,848	930	(103)	1.1	(0.1)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725-729	924	(93)	1.1	(0.1)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	862	(80)	1.0	(0.1)
Migraine	346	761	(96)	0.9	(0.1)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710-719	726	(69)	0.9	(0.1)
Acute pharyngitis	462	694	(66)	0.8	(0.1)
Noninflammatory disorders of the female genital organs	620,622-624	640	(70)	0.8	(0.1)
Asthma	493	628	(67)	0.7	(0.1)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490-491	617	(76)	0.7	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	24,130	(1,288)	28.4	(0.4)
Male	...	36,175	(1,784)	42.6	(0.5)
Chest pain	786.5	1,883	(145)	2.2	(0.1)
Spinal disorders	720-724	1,582	(136)	1.9	(0.1)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	1,581	(108)	1.9	(0.1)
Abdominal pain	789.0	1,567	(129)	1.8	(0.1)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	1,480	(112)	1.7	(0.1)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	1,351	(135)	1.6	(0.1)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	1,015	(91)	1.2	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck and back	846,847	919	(98)	1.1	(0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840-844,845.1,848	913	(85)	1.1	(0.1)
Drug dependence and nondependence abuse of drugs	304-305	864	(84)	1.0	(0.1)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725-729	801	(97)	0.9	(0.1)
Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures	520-525	768	(88)	0.9	(0.1)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710-719	724	(70)	0.9	(0.1)
Open wound of head	870-873	647	(67)	0.8	(0.1)
Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder	290-295,296.0-296.1,296.4-299	563	(66)	0.7	(0.1)
Superficial injuries	910-919	531	(61)	0.6	(0.1)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	505	(54)	0.6	(0.1)
Headache	784.0	486	(62)	0.6	(0.1)
Heart disease, excluding ischemic	391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-	385	(50)	0.5	(0.1)
Acute pharyngitis	462	374	(55)	0.4	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	17,236	(896)	20.3	(0.4)
All visits, age 65 years and over	...	19,454	(1,019)	100.0	...
Female	...	11,473	(622)	59.0	(0.9)
Chest pain	786.5	789	(78)	4.1	(0.4)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	525	(61)	2.7	(0.3)
Abdominal pain	789.0	491	(63)	2.5	(0.3)
Heart disease, excluding ischemic	391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-	477	(59)	2.5	(0.3)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	431	(53)	2.2	(0.2)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	366	(47)	1.9	(0.2)
Pneumonia	480-486	364	(53)	1.9	(0.3)
Spinal disorders	720-724	307	(43)	1.6	(0.2)
Syncope and collapse	780.2	289	(40)	1.5	(0.2)
Dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities	786.0	247	(37)	1.3	(0.2)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725-729	235	(43)	1.2	(0.2)
Fracture of the lower limb	820-829	223	(33)	1.1	(0.2)
Essential hypertension	401	214	(40)	1.1	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	203	(40)	1.0	(0.2)
Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	203	(43)	1.0	(0.2)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490-491	195	(35)	1.0	(0.2)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710-719	189	(35)	1.0	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	179	(33)	0.9	(0.2)
Dizziness and giddiness	780.4	162	(31)	0.8	(0.2)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	138	(28)	0.7	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	5,246	(313)	27.0	(0.8)
Male	...	7,981	(452)	41.0	(0.9)
Heart disease, excluding ischemic	391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-	528	(70)	2.7	(0.3)
Chest pain	786.5	427	(55)	2.2	(0.3)
Abdominal pain	789.0	266	(48)	1.4	(0.2)
Pneumonia	480-486	265	(44)	1.4	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	247	(38)	1.3	(0.2)
Dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities	786.0	232	(44)	1.2	(0.2)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	208	(38)	1.1	(0.2)

Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	180	(38)	0.9	(0.2)
Syncope and collapse	780.2	153	(31)	0.8	(0.2)
Symptoms involving the urinary system	788	151	(29)	0.8	(0.2)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	148	(31)	0.8	(0.2)
Dizziness and giddiness	780.4	144	(26)	0.7	(0.1)
Ischemic heart disease	410-414.9	142	(28)	0.7	(0.1)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	139	(27)	0.7	(0.1)
Spinal disorders	720-724	135	(29)	0.7	(0.1)
Essential hypertension	401	130	(26)	0.7	(0.1)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710-719	129	(32)	0.7	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	126	(33)	0.6	(0.2)
Complications of surgical and medical care, not elsewhere	996-999	*	...	*	...
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490-491	105	(24)	0.5	(0.1)
All other reasons²	...	4,005	(236)	20.6	(0.7)

...Category not applicable.

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Based on the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM). (U.S. Department of Health Services. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition. DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 06-1260). However, certain codes have been combined in this table to better describe the use of ambulatory care services.

²Includes all other reasons not listed above as well as unknown and blanks.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 14. Injury visits to emergency departments, by selected patient and hospital characteristics: United States, 2010

Selected patient and hospital characteristics	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)		Number of visits per 100 persons per year ¹ (standard error of rate)	
All injury visits ²	37,879	(1,869)	100.0	...	12.5	(0.6)
Patient characteristics						
Age						
Under 15 years	8,104	(514)	21.4	(0.8)	13.1	(0.8)
Under 1 year	426	(59)	1.1	(0.1)	10.3	(1.4)
1-4 years	2,690	(210)	7.1	(0.4)	15.7	(1.2)
5-14 years	4,987	(323)	13.2	(0.5)	12.3	(0.8)
15-24 years	7,296	(406)	19.3	(0.6)	17.3	(1.0)
25-44 years	10,627	(631)	28.1	(0.7)	13.2	(0.8)
45-64 years	7,162	(408)	18.9	(0.6)	9.0	(0.5)
65 years and over	4,691	(280)	12.4	(0.5)	12.1	(0.7)
65-74 years	1,821	(128)	4.8	(0.3)	8.6	(0.6)
75 years and over	2,870	(198)	7.6	(0.4)	16.2	(1.1)
Sex and age						
Female	17,808	(925)	47.0	(0.6)	11.5	(0.6)
Under 15 years	3,333	(248)	8.8	(0.5)	11.0	(0.8)
15-24 years	3,052	(201)	8.1	(0.4)	14.7	(1.0)
25-44 years	5,041	(334)	13.3	(0.5)	12.4	(0.8)
45-64 years	3,479	(248)	9.2	(0.4)	8.5	(0.6)
65-74 years	1,083	(94)	2.9	(0.2)	9.5	(0.8)
75 years and over	1,819	(138)	4.8	(0.3)	17.3	(1.3)
Male	20,071	(999)	53.0	(0.6)	13.5	(0.7)
Under 15 years	4,770	(315)	12.6	(0.6)	15.1	(1.0)
15-24 years	4,244	(267)	11.2	(0.4)	19.7	(1.2)
25-44 years	5,585	(344)	14.7	(0.5)	14.0	(0.9)
45-64 years	3,682	(200)	9.7	(0.4)	9.5	(0.5)
65-74 years	738	(63)	1.9	(0.2)	7.5	(0.6)
75 years and over	1,051	(105)	2.8	(0.2)	14.6	(1.5)
Hospital characteristics						
Ownership						
Voluntary	27,415	(1,835)	72.4	(3.2)	9.0	(0.6)
Proprietary	6,548	(1,061)	17.3	(2.7)	2.2	(0.3)
Government	3,916	(858)	10.3	(2.2)	1.3	(0.3)
Geographic region						
Northeast	7,417	(790)	19.6	(1.9)	13.6	(1.4)
Midwest	8,089	(688)	21.4	(1.7)	12.3	(1.0)
South	14,817	(1,317)	39.1	(2.5)	13.2	(1.2)
West	7,556	(840)	19.9	(2.0)	10.6	(1.2)
Metropolitan status (MSA) ^{3,4}						
MSA	30,490	(1,732)	80.5	(2.6)	11.9	(0.7)
Non-MSA	7,389	(1,090)	19.5	(2.6)	15.8	(2.3)

...Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates for age, sex, race, and region are based on the July 1, 2010, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey definition of injury visits, as shown in this table, changed in 2010 and includes only first-, second-, and third- listed reason for visit and diagnosis codes that are injury or poisoning related. Adverse effects and complications are excluded. Reason for visit was coded using *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care*; diagnosis was coded using the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition. DHHS Pub No.(PHS) 06-1260). Injury visits, using this definition, accounted for 29.2 percent (SE=0.4) of all emergency department visits in 2010. For more information on why this definition changed, see the 2010 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Public Use Data File Documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf.

³Population estimates by metropolitan statistical area status are based on estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of United States as of July 1, 2010, from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, compiled according to the December 2009 Office of Management and Budget definition of core-based statistical areas. See <http://www.census.gov/population/metro/> for more about metropolitan statistical area definitions.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 15. Injury visits to emergency departments, by race and age, and ethnicity: United States, 2010

Patient characteristics	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Number of visits per 100 persons per year (standard error of rate) ¹
All injury visits ^{2,3}	37,879 (1,869)	100.0 ...	12.5 (0.6)
Race and age ^{4,5}			
White	29,731 (1,642)	78.5 (1.3)	12.3 (0.7)
Under 15 years	6,147 (435)	16.2 (0.8)	13.2 (0.9)
15-24 years	5,590 (340)	14.8 (0.5)	17.2 (1.0)
25-44 years	8,303 (554)	21.9 (0.8)	13.2 (0.9)
45-64 years	5,596 (350)	14.8 (0.5)	8.5 (0.5)
65-74 years	1,523 (121)	4.0 (0.3)	8.4 (0.7)
75 years and over	2,573 (191)	6.8 (0.4)	16.6 (1.2)
Black or African American	6,812 (471)	18.0 (1.1)	17.6 (1.2)
Under 15 years	1,665 (160)	4.4 (0.4)	18.0 (1.7)
15-24 years	1,470 (130)	3.9 (0.3)	23.0 (2.0)
25-44 years	1,910 (167)	5.0 (0.4)	18.2 (1.6)
45-64 years	1,332 (120)	3.5 (0.3)	14.6 (1.3)
65-74 years	231 (44)	0.6 (0.1)	11.8 (2.3)
75 years and over	204 (45)	0.5 (0.1)	14.7 (3.3)
Other	1,335 (254)	3.5 (0.7)	5.7 (1.1)
Ethnicity ^{4,5}			
Hispanic	4,955 (479)	13.1 (1.1)	10.1 (1.0)
Not Hispanic	32,924 (1,699)	86.9 (1.1)	12.9 (0.7)
White	25,234 (1,488)	66.6 (1.5)	12.8 (0.8)
Black or African American	6,618 (468)	17.5 (1.1)	18.1 (1.3)
Other	1,072 (181)	2.8 (0.5)	5.0 (0.8)

...Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates are based on the July 1, 2010, estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey definition of injury visits, as shown in this table, changed in 2010 and includes only first-, second-, and third- listed reason for visit and diagnosis codes that are injury or poisoning related. Adverse effects and complications are excluded. Reason for visit was coded using *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care*; diagnosis was coded using the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition. DHHS Pub No.(PHS) 06-1260). Injury visits, using this definition, accounted for 29.2 percent (SE=0.4) of all emergency department visits in 2010. For more information on why this definition changed, see the 2010 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Public Use Data File Documentation, available at: http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf.

⁴The race groups, White, Black or African American, and Other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 2010, race data were missing for 9.9 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 13.2 percent of visits. Starting with 2009 data, the National Center for Health Statistics adopted the technique of model-based single imputation for NHAMCS race and ethnicity data. The race imputation is restricted to three categories (white, black, and other) based on research by an internal work group and on quality concerns with imputed estimates for race categories other than white and black. The imputation technique is described in more detail in the 2010 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Public Use Data File documentation, available at: [ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf](http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf).

⁵Other race includes visits by Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and persons with more than one race.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 16. Injury visits to emergency departments, by body site: United States, 2010

Body site ¹	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All injury visits ^{2,3}	37,879	(1,869)	100.0	...
Head and neck	4,658	(280)	12.3	(0.6)
Traumatic brain injury	355	(57)	0.9	(0.1)
Other head	1,283	(126)	3.4	(0.3)
Face	1,583	(120)	4.2	(0.3)
Eye	525	(70)	1.4	(0.2)
Head, face, and neck unspecified	913	(79)	2.4	(0.2)
Spinal cord	*	...	*	...
Vertebral column	1,817	(150)	4.8	(0.3)
Cervical	858	(87)	2.3	(0.2)
Thoracic and dorsal	148	(34)	0.4	(0.1)
Lumbar	745	(76)	2.0	(0.2)
Other vertebral column	*	...	*	...
Torso	1,817	(159)	4.8	(0.3)
Chest	607	(76)	1.6	(0.2)
Abdomen	*	...	*	...
Pelvis and urogenital	369	(66)	1.0	(0.2)
Trunk	156	(35)	0.4	(0.1)
Back and buttocks	635	(76)	1.7	(0.2)
Upper extremity	6,317	(357)	16.7	(0.5)
Shoulder and upper arm	1,197	(104)	3.2	(0.2)
Forearm and elbow	1,035	(95)	2.7	(0.2)
Wrist, hand, and fingers	3,704	(214)	9.8	(0.4)
Other and unspecified upper extremity	381	(51)	1.0	(0.1)
Lower extremity	5,114	(290)	13.5	(0.5)
Hip	462	(61)	1.2	(0.2)
Upper leg and thigh	*	...	*	...
Knee	323	(46)	0.9	(0.1)
Lower leg and ankle	1,572	(127)	4.1	(0.3)
Foot and toes	1,319	(113)	3.5	(0.3)
Other and unspecified lower extremity	1,377	(101)	3.6	(0.2)
System-wide	1,836	(143)	4.8	(0.3)
Other and unspecified body site injuries	2,099	(156)	5.5	(0.3)
Injury visit with multiple injury diagnoses	6,684	(411)	17.6	(0.5)
Injury visit without injury diagnosis ³	6,943	(424)	18.3	(0.6)
Musculoskeletal conditions	1,931	(158)	5.1	(0.3)
Skin conditions	1,061	(121)	2.8	(0.3)
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions	999	(89)	2.6	(0.2)
Mental disorders	582	(76)	1.5	(0.2)
Observation and evaluation	380	(56)	1.0	(0.1)
All other diagnoses	1,991	(159)	5.3	(0.3)
Unknown ⁴	575	(75)	1.5	(0.2)

...Category not applicable.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM). (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition. DHHS Pub No.(PHS) 06-1260). A detailed description of the Barel Injury Diagnosis Matrix: Classification by Region of Body and Nature of the Injury can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/injury/injury_matrices.htm#barell. In this table, injury visits with a single injury diagnosis, whether first-, second-, or third-listed, are reported in the relevant body region category; 17.6% of injury visits had multiple injury diagnoses and are shown in a separate row of the table. Injury visits with multiple injury diagnoses can include visits in which there were multiple injuries within a single body site as well as visits in which there were injuries to more than one body site.

²The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey definition of injury visits, as shown in this table, changed in 2010 and includes only first-, second-, and third-listed reason for visit and diagnosis codes that are injury or poisoning related. Adverse effects and complications are excluded. Reason for visit was coded using *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care*; diagnosis was coded using the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM). Injury visits, using this definition, accounted for 29.2 percent (SE=0.4) of all emergency department visits in 2010. For more information on why this definition changed, see the 2010 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Public Use Data File Documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf.

³"Injury visit without injury diagnosis" includes visits where injury status was based on first-, second-, or third-listed reason for visit or cause of injury codes. These are shown by their primary diagnosis group.

⁴Includes blank, uncodable, and illegible diagnoses.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 17. Emergency department visits related to Injury, poisoning, and adverse effect, by intent and mechanism: United States, 2010

Intent and mechanism ¹	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits related to injury, poisoning, and adverse effect ^{1,2}	40,970	(2,005)	100.0	...
Unintentional injuries	29,310	(1,472)	71.5	(0.7)
Falls	10,512	(566)	25.7	(0.6)
Motor vehicle traffic	4,047	(268)	9.9	(0.5)
Struck against or struck accidentally by objects or persons	3,322	(210)	8.1	(0.3)
Overexertion and strenuous movements	2,117	(176)	5.2	(0.3)
Cutting or piercing instruments or objects	1,894	(127)	4.6	(0.3)
Natural and environmental factors	1,866	(179)	4.6	(0.3)
Poisoning	821	(71)	2.0	(0.1)
Foreign body	785	(74)	1.9	(0.2)
Fire and flames, hot substances or object, caustic or corrosive and steam	504	(74)	1.2	(0.2)
Motor vehicle, nontraffic and other	411	(64)	1.0	(0.1)
Pedal cycle, nontraffic	405	(66)	1.0	(0.1)
Caught accidentally in or between objects	349	(46)	0.9	(0.1)
Other transportation	160	(33)	0.4	(0.1)
Suffocation	*	...	*	...
Machinery	246	(38)	0.6	(0.1)
Other mechanism ³	1,763	(152)	4.3	(0.3)
Mechanism unspecified	*	...	*	...
Intentional injuries	2,772	(218)	6.8	(0.4)
Assault	1,957	(169)	4.8	(0.4)
Unarmed fight or brawl, striking by blunt or thrown object	1,273	(117)	3.1	(0.3)
Cutting or piercing instrument	126	(37)	0.3	(0.1)
Other and unspecified mechanism ⁴	557	(66)	1.4	(0.1)
Self-inflicted	713	(84)	1.7	(0.2)
Poisoning by solid or liquid substances, gases, and vapors	456	(56)	1.1	(0.1)
Other and unspecified mechanism ⁵	257	(47)	0.6	(0.1)
Other causes of violence	103	(25)	0.3	(0.1)
Injuries of undetermined intent	444	(68)	1.1	(0.2)
Adverse effect of medical treatment	2,184	(184)	5.3	(0.3)
Medical and surgical complications	1,412	(129)	3.4	(0.3)
Adverse drug effect	771	(87)	1.9	(0.2)
Alcohol and drug use ⁶	177	(34)	0.4	(0.1)
Unknown ⁷	6,082	(388)	14.8	(0.7)

...Category not applicable

¹Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Based on "Supplementary Classification of External Cause of Injury and Poisoning" in the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition. DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 06-1260). A detailed description of the ICD-9-CM E-codes used to create the groupings in this table can be found in the Technical notes Table I of Advance Data report no. 358, available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad358.pdf>.

²The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey definition of visits related to injury, poisoning and adverse effect, as shown in this table, changed in 2010 and includes only first-, second-, and third-listed reason for visit and diagnosis codes related to injury, poisoning, or adverse effect. Such visits accounted for 31.6 percent (SE=0.4) of all emergency department visits in 2010. Reason for visit was coded using *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care*; diagnosis was coded using the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM). For more information on why this definition changed, see the 2010 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Public Use Data File Documentation, available at: http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc2010.pdf.

³Includes suffocation, drowning, firearms, and other mechanism.

⁴Includes assaults by firearms and explosives, and other mechanism.

⁵Includes injury by cutting and piercing instruments, and other and unspecified mechanism.

⁶Alcohol and drug abuse are not contained in the "Supplementary Classification of External Causes of Injury and Poisoning", but are frequently recorded as a cause of injury or poisoning.

⁷Includes illegible entries and blanks.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 18. Selected diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided at emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Diagnostic and screening service	Number of visits in thousands ¹		Percent of visits	
	(standard error in thousands)		(standard error of percent)	
All visits	129,843	(6,216)	...	...
One or more diagnostic or screening service listed	90,583	(4,735)	69.8	(0.9)
None	37,724	(1,866)	29.1	(0.8)
Blank	1,536	(192)	1.2	(0.1)
Blood tests				
Complete blood count	48,614	(2,624)	37.4	(0.9)
Blood urea nitrogen/creatinine	34,856	(2,586)	26.8	(1.3)
Glucose	32,012	(2,336)	24.7	(1.2)
Electrolytes	30,418	(2,464)	23.4	(1.4)
Cardiac enzymes	17,771	(1,363)	13.7	(0.8)
Liver function tests	13,503	(1,407)	10.4	(0.9)
Prothrombin time or international normalized ratio (INR)	10,903	(904)	8.4	(0.6)
Blood culture	5,352	(386)	4.1	(0.2)
Arterial blood gases	3,662	(513)	2.8	(0.4)
Blood alcohol concentration	2,927	(280)	2.3	(0.2)
Other blood test	25,371	(1,624)	19.5	(1.0)
Any blood test listed	53,823	(2,777)	41.5	(0.8)
Imaging				
X-ray	45,384	(2,418)	35.0	(0.6)
Computed tomography scan	21,287	(1,273)	16.4	(0.5)
Head	10,347	(646)	8.0	(0.3)
Other than head	11,774	(734)	9.1	(0.3)
Ultrasound	4,857	(361)	3.7	(0.2)
Magnetic resonance imaging scan	704	(87)	0.5	(0.1)
Other imaging	1,328	(157)	1.0	(0.1)
Any imaging	61,286	(3,253)	47.2	(0.8)
Examinations and tests				
Urinalysis	32,115	(1,751)	24.7	(0.6)
Electrocardiogram	24,172	(1,435)	18.6	(0.6)
Cardiac monitor	11,919	(938)	9.2	(0.5)
Pregnancy test ²	8,908	(657)	12.5	(0.6)
Toxicology screen	4,996	(427)	3.8	(0.3)
Influenza test	1,884	(307)	1.5	(0.2)
Wound culture	1,438	(320)	1.1	(0.2)
HIV test	462	(112)	0.4	(0.1)
Other test/service	19,992	(2,506)	15.4	(1.6)

...Category not applicable.

^{*}Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Total exceeds "All visits" because more than one service may be reported per visit.

²Based on 71,535,000 female visits.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 19. Selected procedures at emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Procedure performed	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent of visits (standard error of percent)	
All visits	129,843	(6,216)	...	...
One or more procedure listed	59,394	(3,284)	45.7	(1.1)
None ¹	66,044	(3,287)	50.9	(1.0)
Blank ²	4,405	(506)	3.4	(0.3)
Intravenous fluids	35,201	(2,061)	27.1	(0.9)
Splint or wrap	7,506	(447)	5.8	(0.2)
Suturing/Staples	4,039	(252)	3.1	(0.1)
Nebulizer therapy	4,013	(330)	3.1	(0.2)
Bladder catheter	2,867	(265)	2.2	(0.2)
Pelvic exam	2,333	(237)	1.8	(0.2)
Incision and drainage	1,477	(167)	1.1	(0.1)
Foreign body removal	551	(56)	0.4	(0.0)
Cast	374	(55)	0.3	(0.0)
Endotracheal intubation	277	(42)	0.2	(0.0)
Central line	161	(35)	0.1	(0.0)
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	133	(27)	0.1	(0.0)
Other	11,369	(1,558)	8.8	(1.1)

...Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹The "None" check box was marked on the Patient Record form (PRF).

²No check boxes were marked on PRF.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 20. Medication therapy and number of medications mentioned at emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Medication therapy ¹	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits	129,843	(6,216)	100.0	...
Visits with mention of medication ²	103,000	(5,062)	79.3	(0.6)
Visits without mention of medication	26,843	(1,481)	20.7	(0.6)
Number of medications provided or prescribed ³				
All visits	129,843	(6,216)	100.0	...
0	26,843	(1,481)	20.7	(0.6)
1	31,102	(1,576)	24.0	(0.5)
2	27,970	(1,415)	21.5	(0.4)
3	18,929	(983)	14.6	(0.3)
4	11,237	(666)	8.7	(0.3)
5	6,221	(449)	4.8	(0.2)
6	3,393	(273)	2.6	(0.2)
7	1,999	(201)	1.5	(0.1)
8	2,149	(280)	1.7	(0.2)

...Category not applicable.

¹Includes prescription drugs, over-the-counter preparations, immunizations, and desensitizing agents.

²Visits at which one or more drugs were given in ED or prescribed at discharge (up to eight per visit). Also defined as drug visit.

³There were 271,423,000 drug mentions at emergency department visits in 2010. The average drug mention rate was 2.1 drug mentions per ED visit (standard error=0.04). For visits with at least one drug mention, the average drug visit rate was 2.6 drugs per visit (standard error=0.04).

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 21. Twenty most frequently mentioned drugs by therapeutic drug categories at emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Drug category ¹	Number of occurrences in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent of drug mentions ² (standard error of percent)	
Analgesics ³	94,656	(5,068)	34.9	(0.4)
Antiemetic/antivertigo agents	33,486	(2,007)	12.3	(0.3)
Minerals and electrolytes	14,690	(1,509)	5.4	(0.4)
Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics	11,967	(723)	4.4	(0.1)
Miscellaneous respiratory agents	10,927	(1,381)	4.0	(0.4)
Antihistamines	10,673	(648)	3.9	(0.1)
Bronchodilators	8,830	(542)	3.3	(0.1)
Cephalosporins	8,742	(505)	3.2	(0.1)
Penicillins	8,397	(498)	3.1	(0.1)
Adrenal cortical steroids	8,227	(505)	3.0	(0.1)
Anticonvulsants	7,391	(501)	2.7	(0.1)
Miscellaneous antibiotics	6,770	(456)	2.5	(0.1)
Quinolones	5,760	(397)	2.1	(0.1)
Dermatological agents	4,972	(418)	1.8	(0.1)
Muscle relaxants	4,782	(396)	1.8	(0.1)
Macrolide derivatives	4,773	(329)	1.8	(0.1)
Antiplatelet agents	4,759	(390)	1.8	(0.1)
Antiarrhythmic agents	4,678	(382)	1.7	(0.1)
Antiparkinson agents	4,385	(289)	1.6	(0.1)
Local injectable anesthetics	4,291	(357)	1.6	(0.1)

¹Based on Multum Lexicon second-level therapeutic drug category (See <http://www.multum.com/Lexicon.htm>).

²Based on an estimated 271,423,000 drug mentions at emergency department visits in 2010. Mentions refer to drugs given in ED or prescribed at discharge.

³Includes narcotic and nonnarcotic analgesics and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 22. Twenty most frequently mentioned drugs at emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Drug name ¹	Percent of mention (standard error of percent)									
	Number of drug mentions in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Total	Given in emergency department	Prescribed at discharge	Both given in emergency department and prescribed at discharge	Unknown ²	Therapeutic drug category ³		
All drug mentions	271,423 (14,660)	100.0 (0.0)	100.0	57.3 (0.9)	32.3 (1.0)	9.1 (0.3)	1.4 (0.1)			
Ibuprofen	17,542 (1,091)	6.5 (0.2)	100.0	34.5 (1.6)	49.2 (1.7)	14.7 (1.0)	1.6 (0.2)	Analgesics		
Ondansetron	16,565 (1,144)	6.1 (0.2)	100.0	81.8 (1.1)	6.2 (0.6)	10.6 (0.8)	1.4 (0.3)	Antiemetic/antivertigo agents		
Acetaminophen-hydrocodone	15,813 (1,118)	5.8 (0.2)	100.0	21.2 (1.5)	62.0 (1.8)	16.0 (1.1)	0.8 (0.2)	Analgesics		
Acetaminophen	11,795 (794)	4.3 (0.2)	100.0	51.4 (2.4)	36.4 (2.1)	10.3 (1.1)	1.9 (0.4)	Analgesics		
Sodium chloride	10,833 (1,379)	4.0 (0.4)	100.0	96.6 (0.9)	*0.6 (0.2)	*0.4 (0.2)	*2.4 (0.8)	Minerals and electrolytes, Miscellaneous respiratory agents		
Ketorolac	8,965 (523)	3.3 (0.1)	100.0	93.2 (1.1)	4.2 (0.9)	2.2 (0.5)	*0.4 (0.1)	Analgesics		
Morphine	8,190 (639)	3.0 (0.2)	100.0	96.7 (0.6)	1.5 (0.3)	*0.6 (0.2)	*1.2 (0.4)	Analgesics		
Hydromorphone	7,121 (583)	2.6 (0.2)	100.0	95.9 (0.8)	1.1 (0.3)	2.5 (0.7)	*0.5 (0.2)	Analgesics		
Acetaminophen-oxycodone	6,630 (606)	2.4 (0.2)	100.0	26.0 (2.0)	54.2 (2.6)	19.0 (1.8)	0.9 (0.3)	Analgesics		
Albuterol	5,027 (314)	1.9 (0.1)	100.0	50.1 (2.3)	29.4 (2.2)	19.4 (1.6)	*1.1 (0.4)	Bronchodilators		
Promethazine	5,026 (411)	1.9 (0.1)	100.0	52.6 (2.5)	35.5 (2.5)	11.1 (1.1)	*0.8 (0.4)	Antiemetic/antivertigo agents, Antihistamines		
Azithromycin	4,312 (306)	1.6 (0.1)	100.0	30.1 (2.2)	57.9 (2.8)	11.1 (1.5)	*1.0 (0.3)	Macrolide derivatives		
Aspirin	4,288 (347)	1.6 (0.1)	100.0	85.4 (2.0)	10.0 (1.9)	2.8 (0.5)	*1.9 (0.6)	Analgesics, Antiplatelet agents		
Diphenhydramine	4,240 (287)	1.6 (0.1)	100.0	65.3 (2.3)	20.0 (2.1)	14.1 (1.5)	*0.6 (0.2)	Antiemetic/antivertigo agents, Antihistamines, Antiparkinson agents, Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics		
Ceftriaxone	4,028 (284)	1.5 (0.1)	100.0	95.7 (1.1)	*2.7 (1.0)	*1.1 (0.5)	*0.5 (0.3)	Cephalosporins		
Amoxicillin	4,009 (281)	1.5 (0.1)	100.0	7.6 (1.1)	74.6 (2.1)	16.6 (1.7)	*1.1 (0.5)	Penicillins		
Lorazepam	3,749 (297)	1.4 (0.1)	100.0	84.1 (1.5)	7.5 (1.2)	7.5 (1.1)	*0.9 (0.3)	Anticonvulsants, Antiemetic/antivertigo agents, Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics		
Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim	3,538 (269)	1.3 (0.1)	100.0	12.4 (1.6)	68.7 (2.6)	18.4 (2.3)	*0.5 (0.2)	Miscellaneous antibiotics, Sulfonamides		
Lidocaine	3,294 (292)	1.2 (0.1)	100.0	94.5 (1.0)	3.2 (0.8)	*1.0 (0.4)	*1.4 (0.6)	Antiarrhythmic agents, Local injectable		
Methylprednisolone	3,125 (269)	1.2 (0.1)	100.0	74.1 (2.3)	24.1 (2.3)	*0.9 (0.3)	*0.8 (0.3)	Adrenal cortical steroids		
All other	123,333 (6,591)	45.4 (0.5)	100.0	52.8 (1.0)	37.2 (1.2)	8.5 (0.4)	1.6 (0.2)			

...Category not applicable.

¹Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Based on Multum Lexicon terminology, the drug name reflects the active ingredients of a drug mention.

²Unknown includes drugs given or prescribed that did not have either the "given in emergency department" or "prescribed at discharge" check boxes marked.

³Based on Multum Lexicon second level therapeutic drug category (see: <http://www.multum.com/lexicon.htm>).

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 23. Providers seen at emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Type of provider	Number of visits in thousands ¹ (standard error in thousands)		Percent of visits (standard error of percent)	
All visits	129,843	(6,216)	...	...
Any physician	115,950	(5,558)	89.3	(0.8)
Emergency department attending physician	112,605	(5,470)	86.7	(1.1)
Emergency department resident or intern	13,381	(1,682)	10.3	(1.2)
Consulting physician	9,449	(1,132)	7.3	(0.7)
Registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN)	116,501	(6,120)	89.7	(1.3)
Any physician seen	105,656	(5,564)	81.4	(1.5)
Physician not seen	10,845	(1,048)	8.4	(0.6)
Nurse practitioner	7,123	(839)	5.5	(0.5)
Any physician seen	4,015	(535)	3.1	(0.4)
Physician not seen	3,108	(563)	2.4	(0.4)
Physician assistant	15,328	(1,684)	11.8	(1.1)
Any physician seen	8,768	(1,333)	6.8	(1.0)
Physician not seen	6,560	(825)	5.1	(0.6)
Emergency medical technician	10,191	(1,089)	7.8	(0.7)
Mental health provider	1,760	(211)	1.4	(0.1)
Other	32,829	(3,144)	25.3	(1.9)
Blank	1,115	(158)	0.9	(0.1)

...Category not applicable.

¹Combined total of providers seen exceeds "All visits" and percent of visits exceeds 100%, because more than one provider may be reported per visit.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 24. Disposition of emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Disposition	Number of visits in thousands ¹ (standard error in thousands)		Percent of visits (standard error of percent)	
All visits	129,843	(6,216)	...	...
Admitted, transferred, or died				
Admit to this hospital	17,239	(1,196)	13.3	(0.6)
Critical care unit	2,069	(203)	1.6	(0.1)
Step-down or telemetry unit	1,622	(223)	1.2	(0.2)
Operating room	770	(109)	0.6	(0.1)
Mental health or detoxification unit	735	(110)	0.6	(0.1)
Cardiac catheterization lab	289	(78)	0.2	(0.1)
Other bed or unit	9,384	(816)	7.2	(0.5)
Unknown or blank	2,369	(311)	1.8	(0.2)
Admit to observation unit	2,652	(303)	2.0	(0.2)
Then hospitalized	1,030	(175)	0.8	(0.1)
Then discharged	1,622	(178)	1.2	(0.1)
Return/Transfer to nursing home	528	(56)	0.4	(0.0)
Transfer to psychiatric hospital	770	(104)	0.6	(0.1)
Transfer to other hospital	2,003	(191)	1.5	(0.1)
Dead in emergency department ²	240	(48)	0.2	(0.0)
Outpatient follow-up				
Return to emergency department if needed (PRN) or by appointment	44,193	(3,329)	34.0	(1.9)
Return or refer to physician or clinic for follow-up	81,281	(4,290)	62.6	(1.5)
No follow-up planned	7,431	(1,021)	5.7	(0.8)
Left prior to completing visit				
Left before triage	477	(77)	0.4	(0.1)
Left after triage	1,881	(192)	1.4	(0.1)
Left against medical advice	1,355	(126)	1.0	(0.1)
Other	828	(154)	0.6	(0.1)
Blank	523	(97)	0.4	(0.1)

...Category not applicable

¹Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Total exceeds "All visits" because more than one disposition may be reported per visit.

²Includes less than 0.04 percent "Dead on arrival"

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 25. Emergency department visits resulting in hospital admission, by selected patient and visit characteristics: United States, 2010

Selected characteristic	Number of visits in thousands ¹ (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)		Mean length of stay in days ¹ (standard error in days)		Admissions as percent of visits (standard error of percent)	
All admissions	17,239	(1,196)	100.0	...	5.0	(0.1)	13.3	(0.6)
Age								
Under 15 years	878	(171)	5.1	(0.9)	3.5	(0.3)	3.4	(0.6)
15-24 years	979	(116)	5.7	(0.5)	4.9	(0.5)	4.7	(0.5)
25-44 years	3,097	(268)	18.0	(0.8)	4.6	(0.3)	8.5	(0.6)
45-64 years	5,365	(414)	31.1	(0.9)	4.8	(0.2)	19.2	(0.9)
65-74 years	2,620	(230)	15.2	(0.8)	5.9	(0.7)	32.0	(1.7)
75 years and over	4,299	(298)	24.9	(1.0)	5.5	(0.2)	38.2	(1.4)
Residence								
Private residence	14,571	(1,049)	84.5	(1.4)	4.9	(0.2)	12.2	(0.6)
Nursing home	1,219	(114)	7.1	(0.5)	6.6	(0.3)	45.0	(2.5)
Other	304	(55)	1.8	(0.3)	6.3	(0.8)	19.2	(3.0)
Homeless	62	(17)	0.4	(0.1)	*	...	9.1	(2.1)
Unknown or blank	1,083	(238)	6.3	(1.3)	4.9	(0.3)	18.7	(2.0)
Expected sources of payment ²								
Private insurance	7,034	(614)	40.8	(1.6)	4.9	(0.2)	14.7	(0.9)
Medicare	7,275	(517)	42.2	(1.3)	5.8	(0.3)	31.7	(1.3)
Medicaid or CHIP ³	4,643	(409)	26.9	(1.4)	5.0	(0.2)	11.4	(0.7)
No insurance ⁴	1,275	(140)	7.4	(0.6)	4.4	(0.3)	6.1	(0.6)
Mode of arrival								
Ambulance	7,129	(538)	41.4	(1.2)	5.8	(0.3)	33.6	(1.3)
Other	10,110	(735)	58.6	(1.2)	4.5	(0.1)	9.3	(0.5)
Triage category								
Immediate or emergent ⁵	4,672	(418)	27.1	(1.4)	5.3	(0.2)	31.7	(2.0)
Other	12,568	(896)	72.9	(1.4)	5.0	(0.2)	10.9	(0.5)
Patient seen in this emergency department during the last 72 hours								
Yes	680	(83)	3.9	(0.4)	4.4	(0.4)	13.5	(1.3)
No, unknown, or blank	16,560	(1,146)	96.1	(0.4)	5.1	(0.2)	13.3	(0.6)
Patient discharged from any hospital within the last 7 days								
Yes	958	(110)	5.6	(0.5)	5.2	(0.4)	27.4	(2.4)
No, unknown, or blank	16,281	(1,128)	94.4	(0.5)	5.0	(0.2)	12.9	(0.6)
Length of stay								
1-2 days	4,366	(365)	25.3	(1.1)	...	...	...	...
3-4 days	5,537	(424)	32.1	(1.0)	...	...	...	...
5-6 days	2,718	(235)	15.8	(0.8)	...	...	...	...
7-8 days	1,316	(141)	7.6	(0.5)	...	...	...	...
9-10 days	758	(94)	4.4	(0.4)	...	...	...	...
More than 10 days	1,191	(123)	6.9	(0.5)	...	...	...	...
Unknown or blank	1,354	(190)	7.9	(1.1)	...	...	...	...
Hospital discharge status								
Alive	15,415	(1,122)	89.4	(1.1)	5.0	(0.2)	...	...
Home or residence	12,116	(925)	78.6	(1.4)	4.6	(0.2)	...	...
Return/Transfer to nursing home	1,290	(135)	8.4	(0.7)	7.4	(0.4)	...	...
Transfer to another facility	1,136	(132)	7.4	(0.6)	7.0	(0.8)	...	...
Other	294	(58)	1.9	(0.4)	5.3	(0.7)	...	...
Unknown or blank	579	(149)	3.8	(0.9)	4.5	(0.5)	...	...
Died	392	(56)	2.3	(0.3)	6.5	(0.6)	...	...
Unknown or blank	1,432	(199)	8.3	(1.1)	4.3	(0.4)	...	...

...Category not applicable

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Denominator for length of 15,886,000 visits where this variable was known. Length of stay was unknown in 7.9 percent of visits resulting in admission.

²Total exceeds "all visits" because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit. Workers' compensation, other, and unknown sources of payment are not included in this table, but account for 6.8 percent of expected sources of payment.

³CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program.

⁴No insurance is defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as payment sources. The individual self-pay and no-charge or charity categories are not mutually exclusive.

⁵Emergent is needing to be seen within 1-14 minutes.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 26. Twenty leading principal hospital discharge diagnosis groups for emergency department visits: United States, 2010

Principal diagnosis group and ICD-9-CM code(s) ¹		Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits	...	17,239	(1,196)	100.0	...
Heart disease, excluding ischemic	391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-416,420-429	1,100	(118)	6.4	(0.5)
Chest pain	786.5	1,001	(120)	5.8	(0.5)
Pneumonia	480-486	784	(92)	4.5	(0.4)
Ischemic heart disease	410-414.9	505	(75)	2.9	(0.4)
Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	457	(65)	2.7	(0.3)
Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder	290-295,296.0-296.1,296.4-299	455	(76)	2.6	(0.4)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	368	(56)	2.1	(0.3)
Abdominal pain	789.0	344	(62)	2.0	(0.3)
Syncope and collapse	780.2	308	(57)	1.8	(0.3)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	299	(53)	1.7	(0.3)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490-491	294	(58)	1.7	(0.3)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	287	(54)	1.7	(0.3)
Fracture of the lower limb	820-829	264	(40)	1.5	(0.2)
Asthma	493	260	(56)	1.5	(0.3)
Disorder of gallbladder and biliary tract	574-576	236	(43)	1.4	(0.2)
Malignant neoplasms	140-208,209-209.36,209.7-209.79,230-234	230	(47)	1.3	(0.2)
Diabetes mellitus	249-250	225	(42)	1.3	(0.2)
Noninfectious enteritis and colitis	555-558	210	(40)	1.2	(0.2)
Anemias	280-285	209	(35)	1.2	(0.2)
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	578	186	(37)	1.1	(0.2)
All other diagnoses ²	...	9,217	(619)	53.5	(1.2)

...Category not applicable.

¹Based on the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version: International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition. DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 06-1260). However, certain codes have been combined in this table to better describe the use of ambulatory care services.

²All other diagnoses includes blank and unknown diagnoses (11.1 percent).

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Table 27. Hospital and emergency department characteristics, by emergency department visit volume and metropolitan status: United States, 2010

Hospital and emergency department characteristics	Emergency department annual visit volume						Metropolitan status			
	Total ¹		Fewer than 20,000		20,000 to 50,000		50,000 or more		Metropolitan area	Not metropolitan area
	Percent distribution (standard error)	...	Percent distribution (standard error)	...	Percent distribution (standard error)	...	Percent distribution (standard error)	...	Percent distribution (standard error)	Percent distribution (standard error)
All emergency departments	100.0	...	100.0	...	100.0	...	100.0	...	100.0	...
Hospital characteristic										
Number of days in week that elective surgeries are scheduled										
0-4	17.6	(3.4)	32.3	(6.2)	*1.8	(1.3)	*3.3	(1.7)	*12.9	(4.1)
5	64.8	(3.9)	55.7	(6.9)	76.8	(4.9)	70.3	(5.3)	68.1	(4.2)
6-7	11.2	(1.8)	*5.2	(2.3)	16.1	(3.6)	19.6	(4.6)	15.1	(2.4)
Unknown or blank	*6.4	(2.1)	*6.8	(3.7)	*5.4	(2.5)	*6.9	(2.7)	*3.9	(1.3)
Has bed coordinator										
Yes	59.3	(3.7)	40.2	(6.4)	77.2	(4.6)	82.8	(3.6)	70.0	(4.4)
No	36.4	(3.8)	54.9	(7.1)	21.2	(4.5)	10.3	(3.0)	25.2	(4.4)
Unknown or blank	*4.3	(1.8)	*4.9	(3.2)	*1.7	(1.3)	*6.9	(2.4)	*4.8	(2.2)
How often hospital bed census data are available										
Instantaneously	83.5	(2.9)	88.9	(3.7)	79.4	(5.1)	75.4	(4.8)	78.6	(3.8)
Every 4 hours	*5.8	(1.8)	*3.3	(2.4)	*9.0	(3.8)	*7.7	(3.0)	7.5	(2.2)
Every 8-12 hours	*2.2	(0.7)	*1.7	(1.1)	*2.0	(0.7)	*4.2	(1.6)	*2.9	(1.0)
Every 24 hours	6.5	(1.9)	*5.7	(2.9)	*7.7	(3.5)	*6.7	(2.6)	*8.0	(2.4)
Other	*0.3	(0.2)	*0.0	...	*0.7	(0.6)	*0.2	(0.2)	*0.4	(0.3)
Unknown or blank	*1.6	(0.5)	*0.4	(0.4)	*1.2	(1.1)	*5.8	(1.9)	*2.6	(0.9)
Emergency department (ED) characteristic										
ED users electronic medical records										
Yes, all electronic	38.9	(3.7)	30.9	(6.0)	39.5	(4.6)	60.5	(5.9)	42.7	(4.3)
Yes, part electronic	31.8	(3.5)	32.1	(6.1)	35.8	(5.1)	24.2	(5.2)	27.6	(3.6)
NO	28.1	(5.0)	37.0	(8.5)	23.0	(4.3)	*11.7	(5.7)	27.9	(4.9)
Unknown or blank	*1.2	(0.6)	*0.0	...	*1.7	(1.6)	*3.6	(1.7)	*1.8	(0.9)
Has observation or clinical decision unit										
Yes	21.1	(3.2)	*18.2	(5.5)	19.7	(4.5)	31.5	(4.8)	21.9	(3.1)
No	77.0	(3.2)	81.1	(5.5)	76.3	(4.7)	66.7	(4.9)	75.1	(3.2)
Unknown or blank	*1.9	(0.7)	*0.7	(0.7)	*3.9	(1.9)	*1.9	(1.1)	*3.0	(1.2)
Admitted patients were ever boarded 2 or more hours in the ED while waiting for an inpatient bed										
Yes	53.4	(4.2)	37.0	(6.7)	68.4	(5.3)	74.0	(5.6)	64.9	(4.6)
No	42.6	(4.2)	62.1	(6.7)	25.0	(5.2)	*17.7	(5.8)	29.4	(4.7)
Unknown or blank	4.0	(1.0)	*0.9	(0.9)	*6.6	(2.4)	*8.4	(2.5)	5.6	(1.4)
If ED is critically overloaded, admitted patients are boarded in inpatient hallways or in another space outside the ED										
Yes	23.8	(3.3)	19.9	(5.0)	20.8	(4.4)	39.8	(6.4)	22.2	(3.4)
No	71.4	(3.8)	76.4	(5.8)	71.0	(5.0)	58.0	(6.2)	72.7	(3.7)
Unknown or blank	*4.8	(1.7)	*3.7	(2.5)	*8.2	(3.3)	*2.2	(1.1)	*5.1	(1.8)

ED went on ambulance diversion 2009							
Yes	28.8 (3.0)	14.5 (4.3)	42.0 (5.2)	46.1 (6.3)	37.7 (3.9)	*13.5 (5.7)	
No	60.8 (3.7)	77.2 (5.6)	45.9 (5.7)	40.0 (6.5)	50.9 (4.3)	77.8 (7.2)	
Unknown or blank	10.4 (2.3)	*8.2 (3.8)	12.0 (3.5)	13.9 (3.5)	11.5 (2.0)	*8.7 (5.0)	
Ambulance diversion is actively managed on a regional versus hospital level ²							
Yes	49.5 (6.2)	*43.4 (16.6)	44.7 (7.5)	61.7 (7.6)	54.7 (5.8)	*24.2 (20.7)	
No	43.2 (6.4)	*42.3 (14.5)	49.4 (8.5)	34.8 (7.2)	40.8 (5.7)	*54.7 (21.7)	
Unknown or blank	*7.3 (3.1)	*14.3 (9.7)	*5.8 (3.5)	*3.6 (2.3)	*4.4 (1.9)	*21.2 (14.6)	
Hospital continues to admit elective or scheduled surgery cases when ED is on ambulance diversion ²							
Yes	70.3 (5.8)	62.9 (16.8)	69.1 (7.2)	78.3 (6.6)	71.8 (5.3)	*63.1 (21.7)	
No	*13.8 (4.5)	*20.9 (13.9)	*12.1 (4.8)	*10.5 (5.1)	*14.1 (4.8)	*12.7 (9.9)	
Unknown or blank	15.8 (4.6)	*16.3 (14.3)	18.7 (5.5)	*11.2 (4.3)	14.1 (3.5)	*24.2 (20.7)	
ED increased the number of standard treatment spaces in last 2 years							
Yes	23.7 (3.6)	*17.4 (6.5)	24.3 (4.8)	40.3 (6.0)	26.9 (3.2)	*18.2 (7.9)	
No	74.4 (3.6)	81.6 (6.5)	73.0 (5.0)	56.6 (6.0)	70.1 (3.3)	81.8 (7.9)	
Unknown or blank	*1.9 (0.6)	*1.0 (0.7)	*2.6 (1.4)	*3.1 (1.5)	*3.0 (1.0)	*0.0 ...	
ED physical space was expanded in last 2 years							
Yes	23.1 (3.9)	*20.0 (6.7)	19.1 (4.6)	38.4 (6.1)	24.7 (3.8)	*20.2 (8.1)	
No	75.0 (3.8)	79.2 (6.6)	78.1 (4.7)	57.8 (6.0)	72.8 (3.8)	78.7 (8.1)	
Unknown or blank	*1.9 (0.7)	*0.8 (0.8)	*2.8 (1.3)	*3.7 (1.7)	*2.5 (0.8)	*1.1 (1.1)	
ED plans to expand physical space in next 2 years ³							
Yes	19.1 (4.0)	*14.8 (6.7)	20.6 (4.4)	31.5 (7.0)	20.7 (3.5)	*16.6 (9.0)	
No	63.3 (4.8)	66.5 (8.4)	65.3 (5.5)	47.7 (7.3)	61.5 (4.7)	66.3 (10.5)	
Unknown or blank	17.5 (3.6)	*18.7 (6.3)	14.2 (3.9)	20.8 (5.0)	17.8 (3.7)	*17.1 (8.0)	
Services that ED uses:							
Bedside registration	79.3 (3.6)	72.3 (6.6)	83.6 (4.1)	91.6 (2.5)	82.6 (3.1)	73.7 (8.6)	
Computer-assisted triage	49.3 (4.6)	35.8 (7.6)	60.0 (4.9)	68.6 (5.7)	56.1 (4.8)	37.6 (9.0)	
Separate fast track unit for nonurgent care	39.7 (3.4)	16.7 (5.0)	55.6 (5.4)	77.2 (5.0)	52.0 (4.0)	*18.7 (6.1)	
Separate operating room dedicated to Emergency department patients	5.0 (1.4)	*2.5 (1.5)	*2.5 (1.2)	*16.1 (5.6)	6.8 (2.0)	*1.8 (1.8)	
Electronic dashboard ⁴	51.9 (3.9)	32.3 (5.3)	67.5 (4.7)	80.5 (4.0)	63.6 (4.3)	32.1 (6.8)	
Radio frequency identification tracking ⁵	20.7 (3.4)	*17.3 (5.7)	20.8 (4.5)	30.3 (6.5)	17.5 (3.1)	26.3 (7.7)	
Zone nursing ⁶	44.6 (4.0)	22.8 (6.2)	56.9 (5.8)	84.6 (4.0)	54.3 (4.3)	28.0 (7.7)	
Pool nurses ⁷	60.0 (4.1)	54.0 (7.4)	69.3 (4.7)	61.2 (5.5)	62.4 (4.4)	55.9 (8.7)	
Full capacity protocol ⁸	45.6 (4.2)	43.2 (7.1)	40.0 (5.7)	62.0 (5.2)	47.7 (4.3)	42.1 (9.1)	

...Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity equals zero.

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision. Estimates include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30 percent.

¹Number of sample records: all emergency departments (N= 344); Less than 20,000 (N= 75); 20,000 to 50,000 (N= 134); Over 50,000 (N= 135); Metropolitan area (N= 294); Not metropolitan area (N= 50).

²Denominator is number of emergency departments on ambulance diversion or for which ambulance diversion status is unknown.

³Denominator is number of emergency departments that did not expand their physical space in the last 2 years.

⁴An electronic dashboard displays updated patient information and integrates multiple data sources.

⁵Radio frequency identification tracking shows the exact location of patients, caregivers, and equipment.

⁶Zone nursing refers to all of a nurse's patients being located in one area.

⁷Pool nurses are those that can be pulled to the ED to respond to surges in demand.

⁸A full capacity protocol allows some admitted patients to move from the emergency department to inpatient corridors while awaiting a bed.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.