

National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2009 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 2009 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS). NHAMCS is an annual nationally representative sample survey of visits to EDs, outpatient departments, and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) of nonfederal short-stay and general hospitals (starting in 2009).

The sampling frame for the 2009 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 489 hospitals was selected for the 2009 NHAMCS, of which 389 were in scope and had eligible EDs. Of these, 356 participated, yielding an unweighted ED response rate of 91.5 percent. A sample of 456 emergency services areas (ESAs) was selected from the EDs. Of these, 412 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, 34,942 Patient Record forms (PRFs) were submitted. The resulting unweighted ESA sample response rate was 90.4 percent, and the overall unweighted two stage sampling response rate was 82.7 percent (81.7% weighted). Response rates have been adjusted to exclude minimal participants.

The 2009 NHAMCS was conducted from December 29, 2008 through December 27, 2009. The U.S. Bureau of the Census was the data collection agent for the 2009 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_2009.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 0.1 percent. For items that required medical coding, discrepancy rates ranged between 0.0 and 0.5 percent. For further details, see 2009 NHAMCS Public Use Data File Documentation at the website: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc09.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 2009 NHAMCS are discussed in the 2009 NHAMCS

Public Use Data File Documentation at the website:

ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc09.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 2009, race data were missing for 10.6 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 13.5 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 2009 NHAMCS Public Use Data File Documentation at:

ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc09.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, 2009

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 ¹⁻³	(Standard error of rate)
All visits	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	...	45.1	(2.5)
Ownership						
Voluntary	102,867	(6,960)	75.6	(2.7)	34.1	(2.3)
Government	19,313	(3,036)	14.2	(2.2)	6.4	(1.0)
Proprietary	13,892	(3,067)	10.2	(2.1)	4.6	(1.0)
Metropolitan status ²⁻⁴						
MSA	110,702	(7,503)	81.4	(2.8)	43.5	(3.0)
Non-MSA	25,370	(3,988)	18.6	(2.8)	53.6	(8.4)
Geographic region ⁴						
Northeast	24,832	(2,686)	18.2	(1.9)	45.6	(4.9)
Midwest	31,935	(3,927)	23.5	(2.5)	48.6	(6.0)
South	53,733	(5,352)	39.5	(2.9)	48.4	(4.8)
West	25,572	(3,039)	18.8	(2.1)	36.3	(4.3)
Teaching hospital						
Teaching hospital	25,298	(3,503)	18.6	(2.4)	8.4	(1.2)
Non-teaching hospital ⁵	110,774	(7,223)	81.4	(2.4)	36.7	(2.4)
Trauma center						
Yes	50,895	(5,832)	37.4	(3.7)	16.9	(1.9)
No	83,875	(6,891)	61.6	(3.7)	27.8	(2.3)
Blank	*1,302	(906)	*1.0	(0.7)	* 0.4	(0.3)
Season ⁶						
Winter	33,367	(3,777)	24.5	(2.4)	11.1	(1.3)
Spring	33,721	(4,349)	24.8	(3.0)	11.2	(1.4)
Summer	36,845	(4,452)	27.1	(2.6)	12.2	(1.5)
Fall	32,138	(3,851)	23.6	(2.6)	10.7	(1.3)

... Category not applicable.

¹ Visit rates for region are based on the July 1, 2009, set of the estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

² MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

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

⁴ For geographic region and MSA, 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.

⁵ Includes a small percentage of hospitals with unknown or blank teaching status (0.7 percent).

⁶ Winter is December 22 to March 19; spring is March 20 to June 20; summer is June 21 to September 22; and fall is September 23 to December 21.

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

Table 2. Emergency department visits by patient age, sex, and residence: United States, 2009

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	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	...	45.1	(2.5)
Age ¹						
Under 15 years	28,273	(2,228)	20.8	(1.1)	45.7	(3.6)
Under 1 year	4,170	(382)	3.1	(0.2)	97.9	(9.0)
1-4 years	10,726	(932)	7.9	(0.5)	63.0	(5.5)
5-14 years	13,377	(1,027)	9.8	(0.4)	33.0	(2.5)
15-24 years	21,060	(1,307)	15.5	(0.3)	50.1	(3.1)
25-44 years	37,624	(2,308)	27.7	(0.5)	46.5	(2.9)
45-64 years	29,297	(1,673)	21.5	(0.5)	37.2	(2.1)
65 years and over	19,818	(1,174)	14.6	(0.5)	52.2	(3.1)
65-74 years	8,396	(520)	6.2	(0.2)	40.9	(2.5)
75 years and over	11,423	(705)	8.4	(0.3)	65.7	(4.1)
Sex and age ¹						
Female	74,539	(4,284)	54.8	(0.4)	48.5	(2.8)
Under 15 years	12,882	(1,050)	9.5	(0.5)	42.6	(3.5)
15-24 years	12,516	(832)	9.2	(0.2)	60.2	(4.0)
25-44 years	21,708	(1,353)	16.0	(0.4)	53.3	(3.3)
45-64 years	15,721	(933)	11.6	(0.3)	38.8	(2.3)
65-74 years	4,614	(347)	3.4	(0.2)	41.7	(3.1)
75 years and over	7,099	(435)	5.2	(0.2)	67.7	(4.1)
Male	61,533	(3,447)	45.2	(0.4)	41.7	(2.3)
Under 15 years	15,392	(1,231)	11.3	(0.6)	48.7	(3.9)
15-24 years	8,544	(525)	6.3	(0.2)	40.3	(2.5)
25-44 years	15,916	(1,001)	11.7	(0.3)	39.6	(2.5)
45-64 years	13,576	(801)	10.0	(0.3)	35.4	(2.1)
65-74 years	3,782	(239)	2.8	(0.1)	39.9	(2.5)
75 years and over	4,324	(311)	3.2	(0.2)	62.7	(4.5)
Patient residence						
Private residence ¹	121,875	(7,053)	89.6	(1.0)	40.4	(2.3)
Nursing home ²	2,783	(273)	2.0	(0.2)	85.4	(8.4)
Homeless ³	646	(97)	0.5	(0.1)	100.5	(15.1)
Other	1,416	(175)	1.0	(0.1)	0.5	(0.1)
Unknown or blank	9,353	(1,449)	6.9	(1.0)	3.1	(0.5)

...Category not applicable.

¹ Visit rates for age, sex and private residence are based on the July 1, 2009, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

² Visit rates for nursing home residents are based on 2008 population denominators from the 2009 Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services Nursing Home Data Compendium.

³ Visit rates for homeless people are based on The 2009 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.

Table 3. Emergency department visits by patient race and age, and ethnicity: United States, 2009

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 ¹	(Standard error of rate)
All visits	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	...	45.1	(2.5)
Race and age ^{2,3}						
White	97,565	(5,894)	71.7	(1.6)	40.6	(2.5)
Under 15 years	19,238	(1,630)	14.1	(0.9)	41.2	(3.5)
15-24 years	14,168	(929)	10.4	(0.3)	43.8	(2.9)
25-44 years	26,816	(1,852)	19.7	(0.7)	42.2	(2.9)
45-64 years	20,961	(1,303)	15.4	(0.5)	32.2	(2.0)
65-74 years	6,640	(450)	4.9	(0.2)	37.8	(2.6)
75 years and over	9,741	(638)	7.2	(0.3)	63.8	(4.2)
Black or African American	32,250	(2,761)	23.7	(1.5)	84.5	(7.2)
Under 15 years	7,213	(764)	5.3	(0.4)	78.1	(8.3)
15-24 years	6,081	(591)	4.5	(0.3)	95.5	(9.3)
25-44 years	9,156	(791)	6.7	(0.5)	87.4	(7.6)
45-64 years	7,150	(665)	5.3	(0.4)	80.6	(7.5)
65-74 years	1,377	(160)	1.0	(0.1)	72.6	(8.4)
75 years and over	1,274	(152)	0.9	(0.1)	94.7	(11.3)
Other ³	6,257	(1,097)	4.6	(0.8)	27.4	(4.8)
Ethnicity ^{2,3}						
Hispanic	19,050	(1,745)	14.0	(1.2)	39.8	(3.6)
Not Hispanic	117,022	(7,038)	86.0	(1.2)	46.1	(2.8)
White	81,118	(5,399)	59.6	(1.8)	41.3	(2.7)
Black or African American	30,851	(2,711)	22.7	(1.5)	85.1	(7.5)
Other ³	5,053	(973)	3.7	(0.7)	24.2	(4.7)

...Category not applicable.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹ Visit rates are based on the July 1, 2009, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

² The 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 2009, race data were missing for 10.6 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 13.5 percent of visits. Starting with 2009 data, National Center for Health Statistics 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 2009 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc09.pdf.

³ Other 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.

Table 4. Number and percent of emergency department visits with corresponding standard errors, by time spent waiting to see a physician and time spent in the emergency department: United States, 2009

Visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (Standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (Standard error of percent)	
All visits	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	...
Time spent waiting to see a MD, DO, PA or NP ¹				
Fewer than 15 minutes	29,503	(2,492)	21.7	(1.4)
15-59 minutes	53,677	(3,209)	39.4	(0.9)
1 hour, but less than 2 hours	23,032	(1,690)	16.9	(0.7)
2 hours, but less than 3 hours	8,094	(692)	5.9	(0.4)
3 hours, but less than 4 hours	3,402	(382)	2.5	(0.2)
4 hours, but less than 6 hours	2,160	(324)	1.6	(0.2)
6 hours or more	1,185	(203)	0.9	(0.1)
Not applicable	4,369	(523)	3.2	(0.3)
Blank	10,650	(1,656)	7.8	(1.2)
Time spent in the emergency department				
Less than 1 hour	14,997	(1,147)	11.0	(0.6)
1 hour, but less than 2 hours	32,118	(2,100)	23.6	(0.7)
2 hours, but less than 4 hours	46,994	(2,820)	34.5	(0.6)
4 hours, but less than 6 hours	21,031	(1,423)	15.5	(0.6)
6 hours, but less than 10 hours	11,254	(916)	8.3	(0.5)
10 hour, but less than 14 hours	2,411	(227)	1.8	(0.1)
14 hours, but less than 24 hours	1,580	(158)	1.2	(0.1)
24 hours or more	548	(73)	0.4	(0.1)
Blank	5,140	(818)	3.8	(0.6)
Patient arrived in ED after business hours ²				
Yes	81,376	(4,550)	59.8	(0.4)
No	53,985	(3,121)	39.7	(0.4)
Blank	*711	(249)	* 0.5	(0.2)

...Category not applicable

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹ MD is medical doctor, DO is doctor of osteopathy, PA is physician assistant, NP is nurse practitioner. The median wait time to see a MD/DO/PA/NP was 33.0 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.

Table 5. Mode of arrival at emergency department, by patient age: United States, 2009

Patient age	Number of visits in thousands	Patient's mode of arrival						
		Total	Ambulance		Other	Unknown or blank		
Percent distribution (standard error of percent)								
All visits	136,072	100.0	15.8	(0.5)	79.2	(0.6)	5.0	(0.6)
Age								
Under 15 years	28,273	100.0	5.3	(0.5)	88.7	(1.6)	6.0	(1.2)
Under 1 year	4,170	100.0	5.0	(1.1)	89.4	(2.0)	5.7	(1.3)
1-4 years	10,726	100.0	4.2	(0.5)	89.8	(1.7)	6.0	(1.5)
5-14 years	13,377	100.0	6.3	(0.8)	87.6	(1.7)	6.1	(1.2)
15-24 years	21,060	100.0	9.4	(0.6)	86.0	(0.9)	4.6	(0.7)
25-44 years	37,624	100.0	11.4	(0.5)	83.9	(0.7)	4.7	(0.6)
45-64 years	29,297	100.0	20.6	(0.8)	74.7	(0.9)	4.7	(0.6)
65 years and over	19,818	100.0	38.6	(1.3)	56.2	(1.2)	5.3	(0.8)
65-74 years	8,396	100.0	29.9	(1.4)	65.2	(1.4)	4.9	(0.8)
75 years and over	11,423	100.0	44.9	(1.7)	49.6	(1.6)	5.5	(0.9)

...Category not applicable.

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

Table 6. Expected source(s) of payment at emergency department visits: United States, 2009

Expected source(s) of payment	Number of visits in thousands ¹	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	...
Private insurance	52,528	(3,393)	38.6	(1.4)
Medicaid or CHIP ²	39,860	(2,772)	29.3	(1.1)
Medicare	23,076	(1,353)	17.0	(0.5)
Medicare and Medicaid ³	4,859	(423)	3.6	(0.2)
No insurance ⁴	21,151	(1,725)	15.5	(0.8)
Self-pay	19,843	(1,529)	14.6	(0.7)
No charge or charity	1,526	(390)	1.1	(0.3)
Worker's compensation	1,572	(138)	1.2	(0.1)
Other	4,564	(796)	3.4	(0.6)
Unknown or blank	9,123	(1,638)	6.7	(1.1)

... Category not applicable.

¹ Combined 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.

² CHIP is the Children's Health Insurance Program.

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

⁴ "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. More than one category could be indicated.

Table 7. Triage status¹ of emergency department visits, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2009

Patient and visit characteristics	Number of visits in thousands	Total	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)											
			Level 1 (Immediate) ²		Level 2 (Emergent) ³		Level 3 (Urgent) ⁴		Level 4 (Semiurgent) ⁵		Level 5 (Nonurgent) ⁶		No triage ⁷	
All visits	136,072	100.0	1.8	(0.3)	10.2	(0.7)	41.6	(1.1)	35.1	(1.2)	7.7	(0.6)	*3.5	(1.1)
Age														
Under 15 years	28,273	100.0	1.6	(0.4)	6.4	(0.8)	31.3	(1.5)	45.9	(2.0)	11.3	(0.9)	*3.5	(1.4)
Under 1 year	4,170	100.0	*	...	8.2	(1.4)	35.3	(1.8)	39.6	(2.3)	12.0	(1.7)	*2.8	(1.4)
1-4 years	10,726	100.0	1.6	(0.4)	6.1	(0.8)	30.0	(1.9)	48.1	(2.5)	11.0	(1.2)	*3.2	(1.4)
5-14 years	13,377	100.0	1.4	(0.4)	6.1	(0.9)	31.2	(1.8)	46.1	(2.1)	11.2	(1.0)	*4.0	(1.6)
15-24 years	21,060	100.0	1.5	(0.4)	6.8	(0.6)	39.5	(1.3)	39.2	(1.4)	8.9	(0.9)	*4.0	(1.4)
25-44 years	37,624	100.0	1.5	(0.4)	9.0	(0.8)	42.7	(1.3)	35.9	(1.4)	7.6	(0.7)	*3.3	(1.0)
45-64 years	29,297	100.0	2.1	(0.4)	13.1	(0.9)	45.5	(1.3)	29.5	(1.3)	6.3	(0.7)	*3.5	(1.1)
65 years and over	19,818	100.0	2.7	(0.5)	17.3	(1.3)	50.7	(1.4)	22.0	(1.6)	3.9	(0.5)	*3.3	(1.0)
65-74 years	8,396	100.0	2.9	(0.6)	18.1	(1.5)	48.9	(1.7)	22.2	(1.6)	4.5	(0.7)	*3.5	(1.1)
75 years and over	11,423	100.0	2.6	(0.5)	16.6	(1.4)	52.1	(1.8)	21.9	(1.9)	3.5	(0.5)	*3.2	(1.0)
Sex														
Female	74,539	100.0	1.7	(0.3)	9.9	(0.7)	43.3	(1.2)	34.3	(1.2)	7.3	(0.7)	*3.4	(1.1)
Male	61,533	100.0	2.0	(0.4)	10.5	(0.7)	39.6	(1.1)	36.1	(1.3)	8.3	(0.6)	*3.6	(1.2)
Race ^{8,9}														
White	97,565	100.0	2.0	(0.4)	10.5	(0.8)	41.7	(1.2)	34.8	(1.4)	7.5	(0.6)	*3.5	(1.2)
Black or African American	32,250	100.0	1.4	(0.3)	9.2	(0.8)	40.8	(1.5)	36.2	(1.5)	8.8	(1.0)	*3.5	(1.7)
Other	6,257	100.0	*1.8	(0.6)	10.5	(1.4)	45.3	(3.1)	33.3	(1.9)	5.4	(1.2)	*3.7	(2.9)
Ethnicity ^{8,9}														
Hispanic or Latino	19,050	100.0	1.6	(0.4)	9.2	(1.0)	41.1	(2.2)	35.3	(2.5)	8.4	(0.8)	*4.4	(2.9)
Not Hispanic or Latino	117,022	100.0	1.9	(0.3)	10.4	(0.7)	41.7	(1.1)	35.1	(1.2)	7.6	(0.6)	*3.3	(1.0)
Expected sources of payment ¹⁰														
Private insurance	52,528	100.0	1.6	(0.3)	10.3	(0.8)	44.2	(1.3)	33.9	(1.3)	6.6	(0.7)	*3.5	(1.1)
Medicaid or CHIP ¹¹	39,860	100.0	1.3	(0.2)	8.6	(0.7)	38.1	(1.5)	38.6	(1.7)	9.3	(0.8)	*4.2	(1.5)
Medicare	23,076	100.0	2.5	(0.4)	16.0	(1.3)	49.9	(1.5)	23.6	(1.6)	4.6	(0.5)	*3.5	(1.1)
Medicare and Medicaid ¹²	4,859	100.0	*	...	11.9	(1.2)	48.9	(2.6)	27.3	(2.2)	5.3	(1.1)	*4.6	(1.8)
No insurance ¹³	21,151	100.0	1.3	(0.3)	8.5	(0.9)	40.4	(1.3)	38.7	(1.4)	8.4	(0.8)	*2.6	(1.2)
Worker's compensation	1,572	100.0	*	...	*	...	26.0	(2.9)	50.6	(3.5)	13.0	(2.0)	*	...
Other	4,564	100.0	*2.2	(0.8)	15.8	(2.5)	45.0	(2.5)	30.6	(3.0)	4.0	(0.7)	*2.5	(1.2)
Unknown or blank	9,123	100.0	*5.7	(2.9)	9.7	(1.3)	39.6	(2.5)	31.8	(2.3)	9.6	(1.7)	*3.7	(2.3)

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹ The collection and processing of "triage level" changed in 2009. Unlike previous years when response categories were checkboxes for each level of immediacy, the 2009 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 15 percent of records. Also, missing responses (18.5%) 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.

² A visit in which the patient should be seen in less than 1 minute.

³ A visit in which the patient should be seen in 1-14 minutes.

⁴ A visit in which the patient should be seen within 15-60 minutes.

⁵ A visit in which the patient should be seen within 61-120 minutes.

⁶ A visit in which the patient should be seen within 121 minutes-24 hours.

⁷ A visit which occurred in an emergency service area that does not conduct nursing triage.

⁸ The 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 2009, race data were missing for 10.6 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 13.5 percent of visits. Starting with 2009 data, National Center for Health Statistics 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 2009 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc09.pdf.

⁹ Other race includes the categories of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and persons with more than one race.

¹⁰ Total exceeds "all visits" because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit.

¹¹ CHIP is the Children's Health Insurance Program.

¹² The visits in this category are also included in both the Medicare and the Medicaid or CHIP categories.

¹³ "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.

Table 8. Initial blood pressure measurements recorded at emergency department visits for adults, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2009

Patient characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	Total	Initial blood pressure ¹							
			Normal or low	Mildly high	Moderately high	Severely high				
Percent distribution (standard error of percent)										
Adult visits ²	99,403	100.0	21.5	(0.4)	33.8	(0.5)	27.2	(0.4)	17.5	(0.4)
Age										
18-24 years	15,562	100.0	31.3	(1.0)	43.9	(1.1)	19.7	(0.8)	5.0	(0.5)
25-44 years	36,256	100.0	22.8	(0.6)	37.6	(0.7)	27.2	(0.6)	12.5	(0.6)
45-64 years	28,470	100.0	16.6	(0.6)	29.5	(0.7)	31.1	(0.6)	22.8	(0.7)
65-74 years	8,092	100.0	16.0	(1.1)	26.6	(1.4)	30.1	(1.1)	27.3	(1.5)
75 years and over	11,023	100.0	19.9	(0.9)	23.8	(1.0)	25.9	(1.0)	30.5	(1.2)
Sex										
Female	57,104	100.0	24.6	(0.6)	34.0	(0.6)	24.8	(0.5)	16.6	(0.5)
Male	42,299	100.0	17.3	(0.5)	33.6	(0.7)	30.5	(0.6)	18.6	(0.5)
Race ^{3,4}										
White	72,367	100.0	21.2	(0.5)	34.3	(0.5)	27.4	(0.5)	17.0	(0.4)
Black or African American	23,095	100.0	21.7	(0.8)	32.3	(0.6)	27.1	(0.7)	18.9	(0.8)
Other	3,941	100.0	25.4	(1.8)	33.5	(1.7)	23.9	(1.5)	17.2	(1.4)
Ethnicity ^{3,4}										
Hispanic or Latino	10,257	100.0	25.4	(1.2)	36.8	(1.4)	22.7	(1.1)	15.1	(0.9)
Not Hispanic or Latino	89,146	100.0	21.0	(0.5)	33.5	(0.5)	27.7	(0.4)	17.7	(0.4)

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

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. Normal or low BP is defined as less than 120 mm Hg systolic or less than 80 mm Hg diastolic. In contrast to prior years, low BP has been combined with normal BP in 2009 because there is no accepted clinical demarcation between normal and low on the population level. 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 the JNC-7 stage 2 hypertensive range.

² Visits by adults (18 years of age and over). Visits where blood pressure was taken represent 96.6 percent (SE=0.7) of all emergency department visits made by adults.

³ The 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 2009, race data were missing for 10.6 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 13.5 percent of visits. Starting with 2009 data, National Center for Health Statistics 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 2009 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc09.pdf.

⁴ Other 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.

Table 9. Initial temperature, pulse oximetry, and visit history at emergency department visits: United States, 2009

Visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	...
Temperature				
Febrile: >38.0°C or >100.4°F	7,646	(633)	5.6	(0.3)
Normal: 35.1-38.0°C or 95.1-100.4°F	120,140	(6,820)	88.3	(0.7)
Hypothermic: =<35.0°C or <=95.0°F	500	(68)	0.4	(0.0)
Blank	7,786	(1,067)	5.7	(0.7)
Pulse oximetry ¹				
95-100%	105,313	(6,487)	77.4	(1.8)
<95%	9,004	(1,058)	6.6	(0.7)
Blank	21,756	(2,785)	16.0	(1.8)
Episode of care				
Initial visit	114,813	(6,842)	84.4	(1.3)
Follow-up visit	9,052	(664)	6.7	(0.3)
Unknown or blank	12,208	(1,936)	9.0	(1.4)
Patient seen in this emergency department within the last 72 hours				
Yes	5,125	(369)	3.8	(0.2)
No	108,584	(6,765)	79.8	(2.3)
Unknown or blank	22,363	(3,467)	16.4	(2.3)

...Category not applicable.

¹ Normal oxygen saturation as measured by pulse oximetry is 95% or more. An oxygen saturation less than 95% is consistent with hypoxemia.

Table 10. Ten leading principal reasons for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2009

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	...	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	...
Stomach pain, cramps and spasms	S545	9,597	(629)	7.1	(0.2)
Fever	S010	7,373	(641)	5.4	(0.3)
Chest pain and related symptoms	S050	7,169	(449)	5.3	(0.2)
Cough	S440	4,684	(402)	3.4	(0.2)
Headache, pain in head	S210	3,993	(297)	2.9	(0.1)
Shortness of breath	S415	3,710	(261)	2.7	(0.1)
Back symptoms	S905	3,696	(279)	2.7	(0.1)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	2,881	(221)	2.1	(0.1)
Vomiting	S530	2,785	(233)	2.0	(0.1)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	2,596	(202)	1.9	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	87,587	(4,914)	64.4	(0.5)
All visits under age 15	...	28,273	(2,228)	100.0	...
Female	...	12,882	(1,050)	45.6	(0.9)
Fever	S010	2,624	(283)	9.3	(0.6)
Cough	S440	979	(111)	3.5	(0.3)
Vomiting	S530	566	(89)	2.0	(0.2)
Earache or ear infection	S355	486	(65)	1.7	(0.2)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasms	S545	443	(69)	1.6	(0.2)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	425	(69)	1.5	(0.2)
Skin rash	S860	409	(59)	1.4	(0.2)
Injury, other and unspecified type-head, neck, and face	J505	270	(48)	1.0	(0.2)
Labored or difficult breathing (dyspnea)	S420	205	(38)	0.7	(0.1)
Nasal congestion	S400	202	(39)	0.7	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	6,273	(528)	22.2	(0.8)
Male	...	15,392	(1,231)	54.4	(0.9)
Fever	S010	2,933	(313)	10.4	(0.6)
Cough	S440	1,160	(133)	4.1	(0.4)
Vomiting	S530	706	(86)	2.5	(0.2)
Injury, other and unspecified type-head, neck, and face	J505	555	(79)	2.0	(0.3)
Earache or ear infection	S355	500	(77)	1.8	(0.2)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasms	S545	474	(82)	1.7	(0.2)
Skin rash	S860	430	(63)	1.5	(0.2)
Facial area	J210	354	(65)	1.3	(0.2)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	336	(50)	1.2	(0.2)
Labored or difficult breathing (dyspnea)	S420	318	(48)	1.1	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	7,623	(607)	27.0	(0.8)

All visits, age 15-64 years	...	87,981	(5,128)	100.0	...
Female	...	49,945	(2,969)	56.8	(0.5)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasms	S545	5,431	(393)	6.2	(0.2)
Chest pain and related symptoms	S050	2,878	(231)	3.3	(0.2)
Headache, pain in head	S210	2,261	(215)	2.6	(0.2)
Back symptoms	S905	1,683	(142)	1.9	(0.1)
Problems of pregnancy and the post-partum period	S790	1,409	(163)	1.6	(0.2)
Cough	S440	1,399	(147)	1.6	(0.1)
Shortness of breath	S415	1,197	(102)	1.4	(0.1)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	1,157	(108)	1.3	(0.1)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	1,152	(103)	1.3	(0.1)
Nausea	S525	982	(90)	1.1	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	30,397	(1,816)	34.6	(0.4)
Male	...	38,036	(2,230)	43.2	(0.5)
Chest pain and related symptoms	S050	2,487	(192)	2.8	(0.2)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasms	S545	2,150	(177)	2.4	(0.1)
Back symptoms	S905	1,433	(143)	1.6	(0.1)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	1,191	(117)	1.4	(0.1)
Headache, pain in head	S210	955	(90)	1.1	(0.1)
Lacerations and cuts - upper extremity	J225	945	(97)	1.1	(0.1)
Low back symptoms	S910	849	(95)	1.0	(0.1)
Cough	S440	848	(99)	1.0	(0.1)
Shortness of breath	S415	832	(90)	0.9	(0.1)
Fever	S010	728	(79)	0.8	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	25,618	(1,535)	29.1	(0.5)
All visits, age 65 years and over	...	19,818	(1,174)	100.0	...
Female	...	11,713	(738)	59.1	(0.9)
Chest pain and related symptoms	S050	936	(93)	4.7	(0.4)
Shortness of breath	S415	792	(95)	4.0	(0.4)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasms	S545	706	(76)	3.6	(0.3)
General weakness	S020	478	(61)	2.4	(0.3)
Vertigo-dizziness	S225	363	(46)	1.8	(0.2)
Back symptoms	S905	324	(52)	1.6	(0.2)
Accident, not otherwise specified	J810	311	(72)	1.6	(0.3)
Leg symptoms	S920	297	(40)	1.5	(0.2)
Nausea	S525	260	(46)	1.3	(0.2)
Hip symptoms	S915	256	(41)	1.3	(0.2)
All other reasons ²	...	6,988	(476)	35.3	(0.9)

Male	...	8,106	(491)	40.9	(0.9)
Chest pain and related symptoms	S050	658	(69)	3.3	(0.3)
Shortness of breath	S415	601	(66)	3.0	(0.3)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasms	S545	394	(56)	2.0	(0.3)
General weakness	S020	296	(40)	1.5	(0.2)
Vertigo-dizziness	S225	245	(49)	1.2	(0.2)
Labored or difficult breathing (dyspnea)	S420	187	(33)	0.9	(0.2)
Fainting (syncope)	S030	180	(38)	0.9	(0.2)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	170	(36)	0.9	(0.2)
Back symptoms	S905	161	(37)	0.8	(0.2)
Other urinary dysfunctions	S660	150	(29)	0.8	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	5,064	(332)	25.6	(0.7)

...Category not applicable.

¹Based on A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care, National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 2(78) 1979. See 2009 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey public use documentation (ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc09.pdf). Reason for visit is based on the patient's or patient surrogate'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.

Table 11. Primary diagnosis at emergency department visits, by major disease category: United States, 2009

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	...	136,072	(7,642)	100.0
Infectious and parasitic diseases	001-139	4,586	(334)	3.4 (0.2)
Neoplasms	140-239	297	(52)	0.2 (0.0)
Endocrine, nutritional, metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders	240-279	2,151	(182)	1.6 (0.1)
Mental disorders	290-319	4,695	(354)	3.5 (0.2)
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	320-389	6,490	(514)	4.8 (0.3)
Diseases of the circulatory system	390-459	4,755	(339)	3.5 (0.2)
Diseases of the respiratory system	460-519	16,710	(1,124)	12.3 (0.4)
Diseases of digestive system	520-579	7,967	(509)	5.9 (0.2)
Diseases of the genitourinary system	580-629	6,768	(455)	5.0 (0.2)
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	680-709	4,960	(339)	3.6 (0.2)
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	710-739	8,169	(566)	6.0 (0.2)
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions	780-799	27,143	(1,640)	19.9 (0.5)
Injury and poisoning	800-999	29,927	(1,775)	22.0 (0.5)
Fractures	800-829	3,929	(288)	2.9 (0.1)
Sprains and strains	840-848	6,126	(430)	4.5 (0.2)
Intracranial injury	850-854	476	(67)	0.3 (0.0)
Open wounds	870-897	5,880	(412)	4.3 (0.2)
Superficial injury	910-919	1,422	(135)	1.0 (0.1)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	5,037	(333)	3.7 (0.1)
Foreign bodies	930-939	639	(73)	0.5 (0.0)
Burns	940-949	579	(72)	0.4 (0.0)
Trauma complications and unspecified injuries	958-959	2,332	(247)	1.7 (0.1)
Poisoning and toxic effects	960-989	1,136	(160)	0.8 (0.1)
Surgical and medical complications	996-999	579	(81)	0.4 (0.1)
Other injuries	...	1,793	(140)	1.3 (0.1)
Supplementary classification ²	V01-V8999	3,697	(290)	2.7 (0.1)
All other diagnoses ³	...	5,701	(452)	4.2 (0.2)
Unknown or blank	...	*2,055	(876)	*1.5 (0.6)

...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 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 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 been 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.

Table 12. Twenty leading primary diagnosis groups and presence of chronic diseases at emergency department visits: United States, 2009

Primary diagnosis group with ICD-9-CM code(s) and chronic disease categories		Number of visits in thousands (Standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (Standard error of percent)		
All visits	...	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	...
Primary diagnosis group with ICD-9-CM code(s) ¹					
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	6,003	(476)	4.4	(0.2)
Abdominal pain	789.0	5,712	(399)	4.2	(0.2)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	5,037	(333)	3.7	(0.1)
Chest pain	786.5	5,031	(322)	3.7	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	3,919	(297)	2.9	(0.1)
Spinal disorders	720-724	3,758	(299)	2.8	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	3,078	(223)	2.3	(0.1)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	2,613	(219)	1.9	(0.1)
Pyrexia of unknown origin	780.6	2,550	(297)	1.9	(0.2)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840-844,845.1,848	2,441	(178)	1.8	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck and back	846,847	2,326	(202)	1.7	(0.1)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	2,200	(158)	1.6	(0.1)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders	381-382	2,170	(243)	1.6	(0.2)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710-719	2,120	(171)	1.6	(0.1)
Asthma	493	2,070	(173)	1.5	(0.1)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725-729	2,029	(180)	1.5	(0.1)
Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures	520-525	1,965	(190)	1.4	(0.1)
Open wound of head	870-873	1,961	(167)	1.4	(0.1)
Headache	784.0	1,926	(155)	1.4	(0.1)
Pneumonia	480-486	1,923	(178)	1.4	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	75,241	(4,264)	55.3	(0.6)
Chronic disease categories ³					
Cerebrovascular disease/History of stroke	...	3,363	(385)	2.5	(0.3)
Congestive heart failure	...	4,093	(324)	3.0	(0.2)
Condition requiring dialysis	...	1,177	(129)	0.9	(0.1)
HIV	...	704	(98)	0.5	(0.1)
Diabetes	...	10,627	(672)	7.8	(0.3)
None of the above	...	107,809	(6,392)	79.2	(0.9)
Blank	...	11,792	(1,435)	8.7	(1.0)

....Category not applicable

¹ Based 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).

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

³ Presence 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.

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

Table 13. Twenty leading primary diagnosis groups for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2009

Primary diagnosis groups and ICD-9-CM code(s) ¹	Number of visits in thousands (Standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (Standard error of percent)		
All visits	...	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	...
All visits, age under 15 years	...	28,273	(2,228)	100.0	(0.0)
Female	...	12,882	(1,050)	45.6	(0.9)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	1,452	(147)	5.1	(0.4)
Pyrexia of unknown origin	780.6	886	(150)	3.1	(0.4)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders	381-382	831	(104)	2.9	(0.3)
Unspecified viral and chlamydial infections	079.9	410	(58)	1.5	(0.2)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	397	(59)	1.4	(0.2)
Acute pharyngitis	462	351	(67)	1.2	(0.2)
Open wound of head	870-873	330	(49)	1.2	(0.2)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	306	(62)	1.1	(0.2)
Abdominal pain	789.0	285	(48)	1.0	(0.2)
Pneumonia	480-486	271	(60)	1.0	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	270	(45)	1.0	(0.2)
Influenza	487,488	270	(61)	1.0	(0.2)
Asthma	493	243	(43)	0.9	(0.1)
Noninfectious enteritis and colitis	555-558	239	(54)	0.8	(0.2)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	217	(44)	0.8	(0.1)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	208	(44)	0.7	(0.1)
Superficial injuries	910-919	188	(37)	0.7	(0.1)
Streptococcal sore throat	034.0	175	(46)	0.6	(0.1)
Symptoms involving skin and other integumentary tissue	782	137	(33)	0.5	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of ankle	845.0	129	(30)	0.5	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	5,288	(506)	18.7	(0.8)
Male	...	15,392	(1,231)	54.4	(0.9)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	1,611	(167)	5.7	(0.4)
Pyrexia of unknown origin	780.6	977	(130)	3.5	(0.4)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders	381-382	902	(132)	3.2	(0.4)
Open wound of head	870-873	634	(85)	2.2	(0.2)
Unspecified viral and chlamydial infections	079.9	557	(84)	2.0	(0.3)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	551	(76)	1.9	(0.2)
Asthma	493	531	(86)	1.9	(0.2)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	456	(66)	1.6	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	394	(63)	1.4	(0.2)
Abdominal pain	789.0	306	(60)	1.1	(0.2)
Acute pharyngitis	462	285	(54)	1.0	(0.2)
Superficial injuries	910-919	278	(54)	1.0	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	241	(37)	0.9	(0.1)
Noninfectious enteritis and colitis	555-558	225	(41)	0.8	(0.1)
Influenza	487,488	208	(53)	0.7	(0.2)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490-491	201	(43)	0.7	(0.1)
Pneumonia	480-486	178	(39)	0.6	(0.1)
Fracture of the lower limb	820-829	169	(44)	0.6	(0.1)
Streptococcal sore throat	034.0	164	(36)	0.6	(0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840-844,845.1,848	156	(33)	0.6	(0.1)

All other reasons ²	...	6,368	(569)	22.5	(0.8)
All visits, age 15-64 years	...	87,981	(5,128)	100.0	(0.0)
Female	...	49,945	(2,969)	56.8	(0.5)
Abdominal pain	789.0	3,090	(236)	3.5	(0.2)
Chest pain	786.5	2,099	(162)	2.4	(0.1)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	1,753	(143)	2.0	(0.1)
Spinal disorders	720-724	1,712	(154)	1.9	(0.1)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	1,700	(178)	1.9	(0.2)
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	630-679.99	1,529	(146)	1.7	(0.1)
Headache	784.0	1,174	(119)	1.3	(0.1)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	1,154	(105)	1.3	(0.1)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	1,115	(113)	1.3	(0.1)
Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures	520-525	1,046	(111)	1.2	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck and back	846,847	1,044	(111)	1.2	(0.1)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	1,027	(111)	1.2	(0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840-844,845.1,848	1,003	(93)	1.1	(0.1)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710-719	900	(87)	1.0	(0.1)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725-729	888	(98)	1.0	(0.1)
Migraine	346	885	(172)	1.0	(0.2)
Asthma	493	754	(80)	0.9	(0.1)
Acute pharyngitis	462	704	(74)	0.8	(0.1)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490-491	684	(71)	0.8	(0.1)
Noninflammatory disorders of the female genital organs	620,622-624	555	(76)	0.6	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	25,130	(1,540)	28.6	(0.5)
Male	...	38,036	(2,230)	43.2	(0.5)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	1,842	(155)	2.1	(0.1)
Chest pain	786.5	1,765	(139)	2.0	(0.1)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	1,592	(140)	1.8	(0.1)
Spinal disorders	720-724	1,533	(150)	1.7	(0.1)
Abdominal pain	789.0	1,385	(129)	1.6	(0.1)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	1,162	(103)	1.3	(0.1)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	1,095	(106)	1.2	(0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840-844,845.1,848	1,028	(96)	1.2	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck and back	846,847	1,014	(114)	1.2	(0.1)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	934	(103)	1.1	(0.1)
Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures	520-525	787	(99)	0.9	(0.1)
Drug dependence and nondependent use of drugs	304-305	759	(100)	0.9	(0.1)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725-729	735	(89)	0.8	(0.1)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710-719	652	(75)	0.7	(0.1)
Open wound of head	870-873	624	(78)	0.7	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of ankle	845.0	534	(67)	0.6	(0.1)
Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder	290-295,296.0-296.1,296.4-299	528	(66)	0.6	(0.1)
Superficial injuries	910-919	460	(72)	0.5	(0.1)
Headache	784.0	459	(52)	0.5	(0.1)
Pneumonia	480-486	456	(65)	0.5	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	18,693	(1,138)	21.2	(0.5)
All visits, age 65 years and over	...	19,818	(1,174)	100.0	(0.0)
Female	...	11,713	(738)	59.1	(0.9)
Chest pain	786.5	655	(71)	3.3	(0.3)

Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	551	(73)	2.8	(0.3)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	440	(64)	2.2	(0.3)
Abdominal pain	789.0	415	(56)	2.1	(0.2)
Heart disease, excluding ischemic	391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-416,420-429	412	(51)	2.1	(0.2)
Pneumonia	480-486	398	(58)	2.0	(0.3)
Spinal disorders	720-724	304	(52)	1.5	(0.3)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	302	(50)	1.5	(0.2)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710-719	296	(48)	1.5	(0.2)
Dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities	786.0	287	(58)	1.4	(0.3)
Syncope and collapse	780.2	284	(41)	1.4	(0.2)
Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	244	(47)	1.2	(0.2)
Essential hypertension	401	232	(48)	1.2	(0.2)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490-491	223	(38)	1.1	(0.2)
Fracture of the lower limb	820-829	219	(35)	1.1	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	201	(46)	1.0	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	198	(35)	1.0	(0.2)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725-729	197	(31)	1.0	(0.1)
Ischemic heart disease	410-414.9	189	(37)	1.0	(0.2)
Dizziness and giddiness	780.4	152	(31)	0.8	(0.2)
All other reasons ²	...	5,515	(375)	27.8	(0.8)
Male	...	8,106	(491)	40.9	(0.9)
Heart disease, excluding ischemic	391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-416,420-429	567	(75)	2.9	(0.3)
Chest pain	786.5	422	(49)	2.1	(0.2)
Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	265	(52)	1.3	(0.3)
Pneumonia	480-486	236	(42)	1.2	(0.2)
Abdominal pain	789.0	232	(44)	1.2	(0.2)
Syncope and collapse	780.2	212	(36)	1.1	(0.2)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490-491	194	(46)	1.0	(0.2)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	194	(34)	1.0	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	186	(42)	0.9	(0.2)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	172	(32)	0.9	(0.2)
Symptoms involving the urinary system	788	155	(31)	0.8	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	154	(31)	0.8	(0.2)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	152	(30)	0.8	(0.2)
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	578	145	(32)	0.7	(0.2)
Spinal disorders	720-724	143	(30)	0.7	(0.1)
Complications of surgical and medical care, not elsewhere classified	996-999	137	(38)	0.7	(0.2)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710-719	133	(30)	0.7	(0.1)
Dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities	786.0	118	(23)	0.6	(0.1)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725-729	*	...	*	...
Ischemic heart disease	410-414.9	100	(20)	0.5	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	4,081	(284)	20.6	(0.7)

...Category not applicable.

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹ Based 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).

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

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

Table 14. Injury-related emergency department visits by selected patient and hospital characteristics: United States, 2009

Selected patient and hospital characteristic	Number of visits in thousands		Percent distribution		Number of visits per 100 persons per year ¹	
	(Standard error in thousands)	(Standard error of percent)	(Standard error of percent)	(Standard error of rate)	(Standard error of rate)	(Standard error of rate)
All injury-related visits ²	45,420	(2,612)	100.0	...	15.1	(0.9)
Patient characteristic						
Age						
Under 15 years	9,072	(715)	20.0	(1.0)	14.7	(1.2)
Under 1 year	510	(70)	1.1	(0.1)	12.0	(1.7)
1-4 years	3,227	(312)	7.1	(0.5)	18.9	(1.8)
5-14 years	5,335	(411)	11.7	(0.6)	13.2	(1.0)
15-24 years	7,806	(498)	17.2	(0.5)	18.6	(1.2)
25-44 years	12,698	(858)	28.0	(0.8)	15.7	(1.1)
45-64 years	10,185	(636)	22.4	(0.6)	12.9	(0.8)
65 years and over	5,659	(364)	12.5	(0.5)	14.9	(1.0)
65-74 years	2,387	(170)	5.3	(0.3)	11.6	(0.8)
75 years and over	3,273	(237)	7.2	(0.4)	18.8	(1.4)
Sex and age						
Female	21,462	(1,296)	47.3	(0.7)	13.9	(0.8)
Under 15 years	3,745	(318)	8.2	(0.5)	12.4	(1.1)
15-24 years	3,330	(238)	7.3	(0.4)	16.0	(1.1)
25-44 years	6,015	(447)	13.2	(0.6)	14.8	(1.1)
45-64 years	5,041	(362)	11.1	(0.5)	12.4	(0.9)
65-74 years	1,317	(130)	2.9	(0.2)	11.9	(1.2)
75 years and over	2,014	(175)	4.4	(0.3)	19.2	(1.7)
Male	23,959	(1,398)	52.7	(0.7)	16.2	(0.9)
Under 15 years	5,327	(461)	11.7	(0.8)	16.9	(1.5)
15-24 years	4,476	(311)	9.9	(0.4)	21.1	(1.5)
25-44 years	6,684	(478)	14.7	(0.5)	16.6	(1.2)
45-64 years	5,144	(329)	11.3	(0.4)	13.4	(0.9)
65-74 years	1,069	(88)	2.4	(0.2)	11.3	(0.9)
75 years and over	1,258	(110)	2.8	(0.2)	18.2	(1.6)
Hospital characteristic						
Ownership						
Voluntary	34,080	(2,344)	75.0	(2.8)	11.3	(0.8)
Proprietary	6,652	(1,047)	14.6	(2.3)	2.2	(0.3)
Government	4,688	(1,074)	10.3	(2.2)	1.6	(0.4)
Geographic region:						
Northeast	8,697	(999)	19.1	(2.1)	16.0	(1.8)
Midwest	10,694	(1,339)	23.5	(2.6)	16.3	(2.0)
South	17,669	(1,814)	38.9	(3.0)	15.9	(1.6)
West	8,360	(987)	18.4	(2.0)	11.9	(1.4)

Metropolitan status³

Metropolitan statistical area	36,438	(2,509)	80.2	(2.9)	14.3	(1.0)
Non-metropolitan statistical area	8,982	(1,402)	19.8	(2.9)	19.0	(3.0)

...Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates for age, sex, race, and region are based on the July 1, 2009, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²"Injury-related" includes injuries, poisoning, and adverse effects, accounting for 24.9 percent(SE=0.7) of all visits.

³Population estimates by metropolitan statistical area status are based on estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as of July 1, 2009, from the 2009 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/www/estimates/metrodef.html> for more about metropolitan statistical area definitions.

⁴MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

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

Table 15. Injury-related emergency department visits by race and age, and ethnicity: United States, 2009

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 (Standard error of rate) ¹	
All injury-related visits	45,420	(2,612)	100.0	...	15.1	(0.9)
Race and age ^{2,3}						
White	34,488	(2,136)	75.9	(1.5)	14.3	(0.9)
Under 15 years	6,677	(560)	14.7	(0.9)	14.3	(1.2)
15-24 years	5,670	(397)	12.5	(0.5)	17.5	(1.2)
25-44 years	9,664	(732)	21.3	(0.8)	15.2	(1.2)
45-64 years	7,627	(532)	16.8	(0.6)	11.7	(0.8)
65-74 years	2,006	(156)	4.4	(0.3)	11.4	(0.9)
75 years and over	2,844	(216)	6.3	(0.3)	18.6	(1.4)
Black or African American	9,106	(779)	20.0	(1.3)	23.8	(2.0)
Under 15 years	1,876	(204)	4.1	(0.4)	20.3	(2.2)
15-24 years	1,850	(209)	4.1	(0.4)	29.1	(3.3)
25-44 years	2,543	(247)	5.6	(0.5)	24.3	(2.4)
45-64 years	2,175	(205)	4.8	(0.4)	24.5	(2.3)
65-74 years	323	(50)	0.7	(0.1)	17.1	(2.6)
75 years and over	339	(59)	0.7	(0.1)	25.2	(4.4)
Other	1,825	(355)	4.0	(0.7)	8.0	(1.6)
Ethnicity ^{2,3}						
Hispanic	5,309	(473)	11.7	(1.0)	11.1	(1.0)
Not Hispanic	40,111	(2,476)	88.3	(1.0)	15.8	(1.0)
White	29,785	(2,011)	65.6	(1.6)	15.2	(1.0)
Black or African American	8,754	(765)	19.3	(1.3)	24.1	(2.1)
Other	1,572	(329)	3.5	(0.7)	7.5	(1.6)

...Category not applicable.

¹ Visit rates are based on the July 1, 2009, estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

² The 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 2009, race data were missing for 10.6 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 13.5 percent of visits. Starting with 2009 data, National Center for Health Statistics 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 2009 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc09.pdf.

³ Other 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.

Table 16. Injury-related ED visits by intent and mechanism: United States, 2009

Intent and mechanism ¹	Number of visits in thousands (Standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (Standard error of percent)	
All injury-related visits	45,420	(2,612)	100.0	...
Unintentional injuries	29,499	(1,710)	64.9	(0.8)
Falls	10,249	(615)	22.6	(0.6)
Motor vehicle traffic	3,916	(288)	8.6	(0.4)
Struck against or struck accidentally by objects or persons	3,221	(232)	7.1	(0.4)
Overexertion and strenuous movements	2,363	(211)	5.2	(0.4)
Cutting or piercing instruments or objects	2,189	(194)	4.8	(0.3)
Natural and environmental factors	2,152	(190)	4.7	(0.3)
Foreign body	812	(82)	1.8	(0.2)
Poisoning	711	(86)	1.6	(0.2)
Motor vehicle, nontraffic and other	559	(63)	1.2	(0.1)
Fire and flames, hot substances or object, caustic or corrosive and steam	510	(72)	1.1	(0.1)
Caught accidentally in or between objects	447	(58)	1.0	(0.1)
Pedal cycle, nontraffic	435	(63)	1.0	(0.1)
Machinery	248	(46)	0.5	(0.1)
Other transportation	*	...	*	...
Suffocation	*	...	*	...
Other mechanism ²	1,419	(132)	3.1	(0.2)
Mechanism unspecified	*	...	*	...
Intentional injuries	2,748	(237)	6.1	(0.4)
Assault	2,065	(199)	4.5	(0.3)
Unarmed fight or brawl, striking by blunt or thrown object	1,286	(142)	2.8	(0.2)
Cutting or piercing instrument	194	(37)	0.4	(0.1)
Other and unspecified mechanism ³	585	(79)	1.3	(0.2)
Self-inflicted	633	(78)	1.4	(0.2)
Poisoning by solid or liquid substances, gases, and vapors	397	(61)	0.9	(0.1)
Other and unspecified mechanism ⁴	236	(39)	0.5	(0.1)
Other causes of violence	*	...	*	...
Injuries of undetermined intent	540	(89)	1.2	(0.2)
Adverse effects of medical treatment	2,043	(173)	4.5	(0.3)
Medical and surgical complications	1,220	(123)	2.7	(0.2)
Adverse drug effects	823	(97)	1.8	(0.2)
Alcohol and drug use ⁵	2,245	(209)	4.9	(0.4)
Blank cause ⁶	8,344	(621)	18.4	(0.8)

...Category not applicable

¹Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

²Based on the "Supplementary Classification of External Cause of Injury and Poisoning" in 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). A detailed description of the ICD-9-CM E-codes used to create the groupings in this table can be found in Technical notes Table I of Advance Data report no. 358: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad358.pdf>.

³Includes drowning, firearms, and other mechanism.

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

⁵Includes injury by cutting and piercing instrument, 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.

Table 17. Injury-related emergency department visits by body site of primary injury-related diagnosis: United States, 2009

Body site ¹	Number of visits in thousands (Standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (Standard error of percent)	
All injury visits	45,420	(2,612)	100.0	...
Head and neck	5,941	(411)	13.1	(0.5)
Traumatic brain injury	507	(71)	1.1	(0.1)
Other head	1,844	(179)	4.1	(0.3)
Face	1,677	(169)	3.7	(0.3)
Eye	468	(59)	1.0	(0.1)
Head, face, and neck unspecified	1,445	(134)	3.2	(0.2)
Spinal cord	*	...	*	...
Vertebral column	1,922	(159)	4.2	(0.3)
Cervical	1,025	(107)	2.3	(0.2)
Thoracic and dorsal	142	(29)	0.3	(0.1)
Lumbar	697	(78)	1.5	(0.2)
Other vertebral column	*	...	*	...
Torso	2,074	(173)	4.6	(0.2)
Chest	801	(81)	1.8	(0.1)
Abdomen	110	(28)	0.2	(0.1)
Pelvis and urogenital	351	(52)	0.8	(0.1)
Trunk	237	(49)	0.5	(0.1)
Back and buttocks	575	(78)	1.3	(0.1)
Upper extremity	8,040	(518)	17.7	(0.5)
Shoulder and upper arm	1,425	(128)	3.1	(0.2)
Forearm and elbow	1,329	(128)	2.9	(0.2)
Wrist, hand, and fingers	4,680	(331)	10.3	(0.4)
Other and unspecified upper extremity	606	(81)	1.3	(0.2)
Lower extremity	6,455	(407)	14.2	(0.4)
Hip	566	(82)	1.2	(0.2)
Upper leg and thigh	148	(33)	0.3	(0.1)
Knee	581	(75)	1.3	(0.1)
Lower leg and ankle	2,094	(171)	4.6	(0.3)
foot and toes	1,361	(102)	3.0	(0.2)
Other and unspecified lower extremity	1,705	(124)	3.8	(0.2)
System-wide	1,907	(205)	4.2	(0.4)
Other and unspecified body site injuries	2,066	(191)	4.5	(0.3)

Adverse effects and medical complications	1,478	(149)	3.3	(0.3)
All other diagnoses ²	14,316	(874)	31.5	(0.8)
Unknown ³	1,209	(246)	2.7	(0.5)

...Category not applicable.

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹ 1Based on 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). A detailed description of the Barell 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. Three additional categories were added that were not in the *Barell Injury Diagnosis Matrix* to account for all injury-related visits: illness diagnoses, supplementary classification, and other adverse effects and medical complications.

²All other diagnoses include musculoskeletal system (710-739), symptoms and ill-defined conditions (780-799), skin and subcutaneous tissue (680-709), mental disorders (290-319), nervous system and sense organs (320-389), other illnesses (001-289, 390-677, 740-779), and supplementary classification (V01-V82).

³Category includes blank, uncodable, and illegible diagnoses.

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

Table 18. Selected diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided at emergency department visits: United States, 2009

Diagnostic and screening services	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	136,072	(7,642)	...	...
One or more diagnostic or screening services listed	92,143	(5,365)	67.7	(1.1)
None	41,033	(2,660)	30.2	(1.0)
Blank	*2,896	(889)	2.1	(0.6)
Blood tests				
Complete blood count	47,792	(2,969)	35.1	(1.0)
Blood urea nitrogen/creatinine	31,284	(2,233)	23.0	(1.1)
Glucose	27,599	(1,877)	20.3	(1.1)
Electrolytes	26,830	(1,916)	19.7	(1.1)
Cardiac enzymes	17,102	(1,333)	12.6	(0.8)
Liver function tests	11,836	(1,187)	8.7	(0.8)
Prothrombin time or international normalized ratio (INR)	9,302	(819)	6.8	(0.5)
Blood culture	5,360	(507)	3.9	(0.3)
Arterial blood gases	3,149	(442)	2.3	(0.3)
Blood alcohol concentration	2,699	(269)	2.0	(0.2)
Other blood test	24,730	(1,817)	18.2	(1.0)
Any blood test listed	53,090	(3,163)	39.0	(0.9)
Imaging				
X-ray	47,146	(2,727)	34.6	(0.7)
Computed tomography scan	19,495	(1,217)	14.3	(0.5)
Head	9,669	(678)	7.1	(0.3)
Other than head	9,796	(658)	7.2	(0.3)
Magnetic resonance imaging scan	933	(108)	0.7	(0.1)
Ultrasound	3,918	(358)	2.9	(0.2)
Other imaging	1,312	(196)	1.0	(0.1)
Any imaging	61,635	(3,521)	45.3	(0.9)
Examinations and tests				
Cardiac monitor	12,357	(1,036)	9.1	(0.6)
Electrocardiogram	23,393	(1,423)	17.2	(0.6)
HIV test	233	(56)	0.2	(0.0)
Influenza test	3,618	(524)	2.7	(0.3)
Pregnancy test ²	7,461	(656)	10.0	(0.6)
Toxicology screen	3,912	(394)	2.9	(0.2)
Urinalysis	30,714	(1,992)	22.6	(0.6)
Wound culture	1,219	(247)	0.9	(0.2)
Other test/service	18,827	(2,429)	13.8	(1.5)

...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 74,539,000 visits by females.

Table 19. Selected procedures at emergency department visits: United States, 2009

Procedure performed	Number of visits in thousands (Standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (Standard error of percent)
All visits	136,072 (7,642)	... ..
One or more procedure listed	60,867 (3,895)	44.7 (1.5)
None ¹	69,781 (4,450)	51.3 (1.5)
Blank ²	5,424 (1,001)	4.0 (0.7)
Intravenous fluids	35,642 (2,250)	26.2 (0.9)
Splint or wrap	7,376 (483)	5.4 (0.2)
Nebulizer therapy	4,597 (371)	3.4 (0.2)
Suturing/Staples	3,920 (348)	2.9 (0.2)
Bladder catheter	2,906 (343)	2.1 (0.2)
Pelvic exam	2,357 (280)	1.7 (0.2)
Incision and drainage	1,388 (165)	1.0 (0.1)
Foreign body removal	715 (91)	0.5 (0.1)
Cast	441 (69)	0.3 (0.0)
Endotracheal intubation	270 (51)	0.2 (0.0)
Other	13,427 (2,216)	9.9 (1.5)

...Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

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

²No checkboxes were marked on PRF.

Table 20. Medication therapy and number of medications mentioned at emergency department visits: United States, 2009

Medication therapy ¹	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	...
Visits with mention of medication ²	106,191	(6,200)	78.0	(0.9)
Number of medications provided or prescribed ³				
1	34,631	(2,192)	25.5	(0.6)
2	29,748	(1,823)	21.9	(0.4)
3	18,905	(1,166)	13.9	(0.3)
4	10,185	(713)	7.5	(0.3)
5	5,884	(536)	4.3	(0.3)
6	3,089	(326)	2.3	(0.2)
7	1,870	(222)	1.4	(0.1)
8	1,880	(312)	1.4	(0.2)
Visits without mention of medication	29,881	(1,979)	22.0	(0.9)

...Category not applicable.

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

²Visits at which one or more drugs were provided or prescribed.

³There were 267,664,000 drug mentions at emergency department visits in 2009. The average drug mention rate was 2.3 drug mentions per ED visit (standard error=0.07). For visits with at least one drug mention, the average drug visit rate was 2.9 drugs per visit (standard error=0.07).

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

Table 21. Twenty most frequently mentioned drugs by therapeutic drug category at emergency department visits: United States, 2009

Drug category ¹	Number of occurrences in thousands (Standard error in thousands)		Percent of drug mentions ² (Standard error of percent)	
Analgesics ³	94,468	(5,911)	35.3	(0.6)
Antiemetic/antivertigo agents	30,891	(2,021)	11.5	(0.3)
Minerals and electrolytes	13,676	(1,553)	5.1	(0.4)
Antihistamines	11,681	(801)	4.4	(0.2)
Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics	11,566	(763)	4.3	(0.1)
Miscellaneous respiratory agents	10,207	(1,409)	3.8	(0.4)
Bronchodilators	10,046	(739)	3.8	(0.2)
Cephalosporins	8,896	(654)	3.3	(0.1)
Penicillins	8,721	(628)	3.3	(0.1)
Adrenal cortical steroids	8,520	(712)	3.2	(0.1)
Anticonvulsants	7,453	(557)	2.8	(0.1)
Miscellaneous antibiotics	6,374	(430)	2.4	(0.1)
Quinolones	5,651	(390)	2.1	(0.1)
Macrolide derivatives	5,003	(372)	1.9	(0.1)
Dermatological agents	4,631	(370)	1.7	(0.1)
Antiplatelet agents	4,433	(353)	1.7	(0.1)
Muscle relaxants	4,376	(344)	1.6	(0.1)
Antiparkinson agents	4,271	(307)	1.6	(0.1)
Antiarrhythmic agents	4,178	(338)	1.6	(0.1)
Sulfonamides	3,439	(284)	1.3	(0.1)

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

²Based on an estimated 267,664,000 drug mentions at emergency department visits in 2009.

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

Table 22. Twenty most frequently mentioned drug at emergency department visits: United States, 2009

Drug name ¹	Number of drug mentions in thousands (Standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (Standard error of percent)		Percent of mentions (Standard error of percent)								Therapeutic drug category ³	
					Total	Given in emergency department	Prescribed at discharge	Both given in emergency department and prescribed at discharge		Unknown ²				
All drug mentions	267,664	(16,536)	100.0	(0.0)	100.0	54.1	(1.0)	34.6	(1.0)	9.8	(0.4)	1.5	(0.2)	
Ibuprofen	18,958	(1,300)	7.1	(0.3)	100.0	31.5	(1.7)	51.3	(1.8)	15.4	(1.2)	1.8	(0.3)	Analgesics
Acetaminophen- hydrocodone	15,489	(1,233)	5.8	(0.3)	100.0	18.7	(1.3)	64.2	(1.6)	16.1	(1.2)	1.0	(0.2)	Analgesics
Acetaminophen	12,969	(914)	4.8	(0.2)	100.0	47.8	(2.4)	39.8	(2.4)	10.6	(0.9)	1.8	(0.3)	Analgesics
Ondansetron	12,776	(943)	4.8	(0.2)	100.0	83.3	(1.2)	5.3	(0.7)	10.1	(1.0)	1.3	(0.3)	Antiemetic/antivertigo agents
Sodium chloride	10,054	(1,404)	3.8	(0.4)	100.0	96.8	(0.6)	*0.4	(0.1)	*0.5	(0.2)	2.3	(0.5)	Minerals and electrolytes, Miscellaneous respiratory agents
Ketorolac	8,409	(573)	3.1	(0.1)	100.0	92.2	(0.9)	3.5	(0.6)	3.7	(0.5)	0.6	(0.2)	Analgesics
Morphine	7,680	(633)	2.9	(0.2)	100.0	97.7	(0.4)	0.7	(0.2)	*0.5	(0.2)	1.1	(0.3)	Analgesics
Promethazine	6,406	(525)	2.4	(0.1)	100.0	54.8	(2.4)	32.7	(2.4)	11.2	(1.3)	*1.3	(0.5)	Antiemetic/antivertigo agents, Antihistamines
Hydromorphone	6,364	(630)	2.4	(0.2)	100.0	92.8	(1.1)	1.7	(0.4)	3.7	(0.8)	*1.8	(0.6)	Analgesics
Acetaminophen-oxycodone	6,236	(661)	2.3	(0.2)	100.0	29.9	(3.0)	49.3	(3.0)	19.8	(1.7)	*1.0	(0.3)	Analgesics
Albuterol	5,883	(441)	2.2	(0.1)	100.0	46.6	(2.1)	29.3	(1.9)	22.7	(1.7)	1.4	(0.4)	Bronchodilators
Azithromycin	4,423	(339)	1.7	(0.1)	100.0	28.3	(1.9)	56.6	(2.2)	13.8	(1.5)	1.3	(0.4)	Macrolide derivatives
Amoxicillin	4,191	(405)	1.6	(0.1)	100.0	8.6	(1.2)	75.8	(1.9)	14.7	(1.5)	*0.9	(0.4)	Penicillins
Diphenhydramine	4,048	(298)	1.5	(0.1)	100.0	59.0	(2.5)	24.5	(2.0)	15.1	(1.4)	*1.5	(0.5)	Antiemetic/antivertigo agents, Antihistamines, Antiparkinson agents, Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics
Aspirin	3,916	(312)	1.5	(0.1)	100.0	85.6	(2.4)	9.5	(2.3)	2.9	(0.6)	*2.0	(0.6)	Analgesics, Antiplatelet agents
Ceftriaxone	3,906	(329)	1.5	(0.1)	100.0	93.4	(1.0)	3.3	(0.8)	2.0	(0.5)	*1.3	(0.4)	Cephalosporins
Lorazepam	3,669	(301)	1.4	(0.1)	100.0	78.7	(2.3)	11.4	(1.7)	8.1	(1.3)	1.8	(0.5)	Anticonvulsants, Antiemetic/antivertigo agents, Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics
Cephalexin	3,398	(284)	1.3	(0.1)	100.0	12.3	(1.6)	69.5	(2.4)	17.1	(2.0)	*1.0	(0.4)	Cephalosporins
Prednisone	3,386	(279)	1.3	(0.1)	100.0	25.0	(2.3)	46.5	(2.8)	27.4	(2.2)	*1.1	(0.5)	Adrenal cortical steroids
Sulfamethoxazole- trimethoprim	3,357	(277)	1.3	(0.1)	100.0	16.6	(1.8)	66.0	(2.3)	16.6	(1.7)	*0.8	(0.3)	Miscellaneous antibiotics, Sulfonamides
All other	122,146	(7,733)	45.6	(0.7)	100.0	52.7	(1.2)	37.6	(1.2)	8.0	(0.4)	1.7	(0.2)	

...Category not applicable.

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

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>).

Table 23. Providers seen at emergency department visits: United States, 2009

Type of provider	Number of visits in thousands (Standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (Standard error of percent)	
All visits	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	...
Any physician	123,114	(6,996)	90.5	(1.0)
Emergency department attending physician	119,938	(6,844)	88.1	(1.3)
Emergency department resident or intern	13,296	(1,946)	9.8	(1.3)
Consulting physician	8,934	(1,007)	6.6	(0.6)
Registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN)	121,946	(7,314)	89.6	(1.3)
Any physician seen	111,991	(6,745)	82.3	(1.5)
Physician not seen	9,955	(1,354)	7.3	(0.9)
Nurse practitioner	6,432	(1,005)	4.7	(0.7)
Any physician seen	4,002	(819)	2.9	(0.6)
Physician not seen	2,430	(456)	1.8	(0.3)
Physician assistant	13,509	(1,557)	9.9	(1.0)
Any physician seen	8,080	(1,073)	5.9	(0.7)
Physician not seen	5,429	(946)	4.0	(0.6)
Emergency medical technician	13,434	(1,791)	9.9	(1.1)
Mental health provider	1,808	(243)	1.3	(0.2)
Other	35,848	(3,381)	26.3	(1.9)
Blank	1,372	(298)	1.0	(0.2)

...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.

Table 24. Disposition of emergency department visits: United States, 2009

Disposition	Number of visits in thousands ¹ (Standard error in thousands)		Percent of visits (Standard error of percent)	
All visits	136,072	(7,642)	100.0	(0.0)
Admitted, transferred, or died				
Admit to this hospital	17,119	(1,151)	12.6	(0.6)
Stepdown or telemetry unit	4,023	(456)	3.0	(0.3)
Critical care unit	2,164	(204)	1.6	(0.1)
Operation room	610	(81)	0.4	(0.1)
Mental health or detoxification unit	691	(109)	0.5	(0.1)
Cardiac catheterization lab	97	(24)	0.1	(0.0)
Other bed or unit	7,212	(593)	5.3	(0.3)
Unknown or blank	2,322	(304)	1.7	(0.2)
Admit to observation unit	1,999	(215)	1.5	(0.1)
Then hospitalized	849	(137)	0.6	(0.1)
Then discharged	1,162	(139)	0.9	(0.1)
Transfer to psychiatric hospital	793	(98)	0.6	(0.1)
Transfer to other hospital	1,899	(206)	1.4	(0.1)
Died in emergency department ²	212	(43)	0.2	(0.0)
Outpatient follow-up				
Return or refer to physician or clinic for follow-up	85,618	(5,281)	62.9	(1.4)
Return to emergency department if needed (PRN) or by appointment	47,393	(3,785)	34.8	(2.0)
No follow-up planned	8,368	(1,206)	6.1	(0.8)
Left prior to completing visit				
Left before medical screening exam	924	(128)	0.7	(0.1)
Left after medical screening exam	1,149	(175)	0.8	(0.1)
Left against medical advice	1,171	(135)	0.9	(0.1)
Other	978	(177)	0.7	(0.1)
Blank	1,947	(189)	1.4	(0.1)

...Category not applicable

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

0.0 Quantity more than zero, but less than 0.05

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

²Includes less than 0.1 percent "Dead on arrival".

Table 25. Emergency department visits resulting in hospital admission, by selected patient and visit characteristics: United States, 2009

Selected characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (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	17,119 (1,151)	100.0	...	5.1 (0.1) 12.6 (0.6)
Age				
Under 15 years	913 (130)	5.3 (0.7)	3.2 (0.2)	3.2 (0.4)
15-24 years	904 (108)	5.3 (0.5)	4.0 (0.3)	4.3 (0.5)
25-44 years	2,957 (267)	17.3 (0.9)	4.8 (0.2)	7.9 (0.5)
45-64 years	4,946 (375)	28.9 (0.9)	5.1 (0.2)	16.9 (0.9)
65-74 years	2,751 (231)	16.1 (0.8)	5.7 (0.3)	32.8 (1.7)
75 years and over	4,648 (334)	27.2 (1.0)	5.6 (0.2)	40.7 (1.5)
Residence				
Private residence	14,076 (972)	82.2 (1.6)	5.0 (0.1)	11.5 (0.5)
Nursing home	1,250 (124)	7.3 (0.6)	6.7 (0.4)	44.9 (3.0)
Other	239 (50)	1.4 (0.3)	5.4 (0.4)	16.9 (2.7)
Homeless	* ...	*	...	8.0 (1.3) 13.2 (3.4)
Unknown or blank	1,468 (300)	8.6 (1.6)	5.3 (0.5)	15.7 (1.8)
Expected sources of payment ²				
Private insurance	7,384 (596)	43.1 (1.6)	4.9 (0.1)	14.1 (0.8)
Medicare	7,586 (517)	44.3 (1.3)	5.7 (0.1)	32.9 (1.3)
Medicaid or CHIP ³	3,768 (312)	22.0 (1.2)	5.3 (0.2)	9.5 (0.7)
No insurance ⁴	1,414 (156)	8.3 (0.7)	5.2 (0.5)	6.7 (0.6)
Mode of arrival				
Ambulance	7,259 (534)	42.4 (1.0)	5.6 (0.1)	33.8 (1.2)
Other	9,860 (670)	57.6 (1.0)	4.8 (0.1)	8.6 (0.4)
Triage category				
Immediate or emergent ⁵	5,045 (499)	29.5 (1.8)	5.2 (0.2)	30.8 (1.9)
Other	12,073 (818)	70.5 (1.8)	5.1 (0.1)	10.1 (0.5)
Patient seen in this emergency department				
Yes	716 (83)	4.2 (0.4)	4.9 (0.4)	14.0 (1.3)
No, unknown, or blank	16,402 (1,111)	95.8 (0.4)	5.1 (0.1)	12.5 (0.6)
Patient discharged from any hospital within the last 7 days				
Yes	885 (112)	5.2 (0.5)	5.0 (0.3)	29.7 (3.1)
No, unknown, or blank	16,234 (1,088)	94.8 (0.5)	5.1 (0.1)	12.2 (0.6)

Length of stay

1-2 days	3,935	(357)	23.0	(1.2)	...	...	...	...
3-4 days	5,224	(433)	30.5	(1.1)	...	...	...	...
5-6 days	2,879	(284)	16.8	(0.9)	...	...	...	...
7-8 days	1,428	(150)	8.3	(0.6)	...	...	...	...
9-10 days	715	(95)	4.2	(0.5)	...	...	...	...
More than 10 days	1,211	(125)	7.1	(0.5)	...	...	...	...
Unknown or blank	1,727	(292)	10.1	(1.9)	...	...	...	...

Hospital discharge status

Alive	14,821	(1,113)	86.6	(1.7)	5.1	(0.1)	...	...
Home or residence	12,320	(958)	83.1	(1.5)	4.8	(0.1)	...	...
Transferred to another hospital	1,013	(120)	6.8	(0.7)	7.8	(0.5)	...	...
Other	824	(98)	5.6	(0.5)	7.4	(0.7)	...	...
Unknown or blank	*664	(215)	*4.5	(1.4)	4.5	(0.6)	...	...
Died	401	(60)	2.3	(0.3)	7.5	(0.9)	...	...
Unknown or blank	1,896	(294)	11.1	(1.8)	4.4	(0.2)	...	...

...Category not applicable

¹Denominator for length of stay is 15,392,000 visits where this variable was known. Length of stay was unknown in 10.1 percent of visits resulting in admission.

²Total exceeds "all visits" because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit. Worker's compensation, other, and unknown sources of payment are not included in this table, but account for 8.1 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.

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

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

Table 26. Twenty leading principal hospital discharge diagnosis groups for emergency department visits: United States, 2009

Principal diagnosis group and ICD-9-CM code(s) ¹		Number of visits in thousands		Percent distribution	
		(Standard error in thousands)	(Standard error of percent)		
All visits	...	17,119	(1,151)	100.0	...
Heart disease, excluding ischemic	391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-416,420-429	1,067	(115)	6.2	(0.5)
Chest pain	786.5	927	(126)	5.4	(0.6)
Pneumonia	480-486	732	(89)	4.3	(0.4)
Ischemic heart disease	410-414.9	513	(69)	3.0	(0.3)
Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	477	(64)	2.8	(0.3)
Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder	290-295,296.0-296.1,296.4-299	445	(88)	2.6	(0.5)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490-491	324	(54)	1.9	(0.3)
Syncope and collapse	780.2	316	(50)	1.8	(0.3)
Fracture of the lower limb	820-829	305	(54)	1.8	(0.3)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	296	(47)	1.7	(0.3)
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	630-679.99	262	(69)	1.5	(0.4)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	260	(44)	1.5	(0.2)
Malignant neoplasms	140-208,209-209.36,209.7-209.79,230-234	241	(55)	1.4	(0.3)
Disorder of gallbladder and biliary tract	574-576	239	(40)	1.4	(0.2)
Abdominal pain	789.0	232	(50)	1.4	(0.3)
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	578	230	(50)	1.3	(0.3)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	224	(40)	1.3	(0.2)
Diabetes mellitus	249-250	219	(42)	1.3	(0.2)
Anemia	280-285	197	(38)	1.1	(0.2)
Essential hypertension	401	192	(46)	1.1	(0.3)
All other diagnoses ²	...	9,421	(622)	55.0	(1.5)

...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). However, certain codes have been combined in this table to better describe the use of ambulatory care services.

²All other diagnoses include blanks and unknown diagnoses (15.9 percent).

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

Table 27. Hospital and emergency department characteristics by emergency department visit volume and metropolitan status: United States 2009

Hospital and emergency department characteristic	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)
All emergency departments	100.0 ...	100.0 ...	100.0 ...	100.0 ...	100.0 ...	100.0 ...
Hospital characteristic						
Number of days in week that elective surgeries are scheduled						
0-4	15.9 (4.0)	30.4 (7.4)	*1.5 (1.4)	*3.3 (2.6)	*7.9 (4.2)	29.9 (8.2)
5	65.1 (4.0)	63.0 (7.3)	71.0 (4.7)	59.8 (5.6)	66.9 (4.3)	62.0 (8.0)
6-7	12.4 (2.3)	3.6 (3.1)	18.5 (4.0)	25.0 (4.8)	17.5 (3.3)	3.5 (2.2)
Unknown or blank	6.6 (1.7)	*2.9 (2.2)	9.0 (2.7)	*11.9 (4.0)	7.7 (1.9)	*4.7 (3.1)
Has bed coordinator						
Yes	56.6 (4.5)	38.9 (6.7)	69.3 (5.1)	81.3 (4.3)	62.7 (4.9)	45.9 (8.3)
No	38.6 (4.4)	57.2 (6.6)	25.8 (5.0)	*11.9 (3.9)	32.8 (5.1)	48.9 (8.4)
Unknown or blank	4.7 (2.0)	*3.9 (3.8)	*4.9 (1.6)	*6.8 (2.3)	4.5 (1.2)	*5.2 (5.0)
How often hospital bed census data are available						
Instantaneously	76.5 (3.7)	76.5 (6.3)	78.3 (4.5)	73.1 (5.3)	70.8 (4.9)	86.6 (4.4)
Every 4 hours	*3.3 (1.4)	*3.4 (2.5)	*3.5 (1.8)	*2.7 (1.7)	*3.5 (1.4)	*3.1 (3.1)
Every 8-12 hours	*5.9 (1.9)	*4.3 (2.6)	*8.5 (3.6)	*5.1 (3.0)	*5.9 (2.2)	*5.8 (3.5)
Every 24 hours	8.1 (2.3)	*10.1 (4.2)	*4.7 (1.8)	*8.9 (3.5)	10.7 (3.3)	*3.5 (2.3)
Other	*0.6 (0.4)	*0.0 ...	*1.1 (1.1)	0 ...	0 ...	*1.1 (1.1)
Unknown or blank	*5.6 (2.6)	*5.1 (4.9)	*3.8 (1.7)	*10.2 (3.3)	*8.7 (3.9)	0 ...
Emergency department (ED) characteristic						
ED uses electronic medical records						
Yes, all electronic	22.5 (3.3)	*11.6 (4.1)	30.9 (5.5)	36.5 (5.8)	27.5 (4.4)	*13.6 (4.6)
Yes, part electronic	51.3 (4.4)	59.4 (7.8)	39.8 (5.4)	50.8 (5.8)	44.2 (4.5)	63.6 (8.5)
No	25.5 (4.2)	29.0 (7.7)	28.2 (4.8)	*10.8 (4.3)	27.1 (4.7)	22.8 (7.8)
Unknown or blank	*0.7 (0.5)	0 ...	*1.1 (1.1)	*1.9 (1.5)	*1.1 (0.7)	0 ...
Has observation or clinical decision unit						
Yes	11.6 (2.1)	*7.6 (3.2)	12.2 (3.0)	21.4 (4.8)	13.8 (2.9)	*7.6 (2.7)
No	85.8 (2.4)	90.1 (3.8)	84.5 (3.5)	76.7 (5.0)	84.5 (3.0)	88.2 (3.9)
Unknown or blank	*2.6 (1.3)	*2.3 (2.3)	*3.3 (1.7)	*1.9 (1.5)	*1.7 (0.8)	*4.2 (3.3)
Admitted patients were ever boarded 2 or more hours in ED while waiting for inpatient bed						
Yes	57.8 (5.2)	39.0 (8.5)	74.7 (4.8)	77.6 (5.3)	68.8 (5.4)	38.5 (10.6)
No	34.1 (5.1)	53.6 (8.2)	16.4 (4.3)	13.9 (4.7)	22.2 (4.9)	54.9 (10.4)
Unknown or blank	8.1 (2.1)	*7.4 (3.8)	*8.9 (2.7)	*8.5 (2.9)	8.9 (2.3)	*6.6 (3.8)
If ED is critically overloaded, admitted patients are boarded in inpatient hallways or in another space outside the ED						
Yes	17.0 (2.6)	*14.5 (4.8)	17.3 (3.8)	23.5 (4.6)	18.9 (3.1)	*13.7 (5.5)
No	76.2 (3.0)	81.2 (5.1)	73.3 (5.0)	67.8 (5.3)	72.9 (3.7)	82.0 (5.7)
Unknown or blank	*6.8 (2.1)	*4.3 (2.8)	*9.4 (4.2)	*8.7 (3.4)	*8.2 (2.7)	*4.4 (3.4)
ED went on ambulance diversion in 2008						
Yes	23.9 (2.9)	*6.9 (2.7)	41.6 (5.3)	36.8 (5.9)	34.4 (4.6)	*5.5 (2.5)
No	59.1 (3.6)	85.3 (4.4)	37.3 (5.4)	28.3 (5.5)	41.7 (5.4)	89.7 (4.0)
Unknown or blank	17.0 (2.8)	*7.7 (3.8)	21.1 (4.4)	34.9 (5.3)	24.0 (3.8)	*4.8 (3.4)
Ambulance diversion is actively managed on a regional versus hospital level						
Yes	51.3 (5.3)	*46.4 (16.4)	42.5 (6.7)	68.8 (5.7)	49.7 (5.4)	67.2 (16.0)
No	34.2 (5.1)	*35.6 (13.8)	42.4 (6.9)	19.7 (4.5)	34.3 (5.3)	*32.8 (16.0)
Unknown or blank	*14.5 (4.4)	*18.0 (15.5)	*15.1 (5.6)	*11.5 (4.0)	*16.0 (4.8)	*0.0 ...
Hospital continues to admit elective or scheduled surgery cases when ED is on ambulance diversion						
Yes	70.5 (5.0)	*47.3 (16.1)	76.4 (6.1)	73.7 (5.6)	71.2 (4.9)	*63.2 (22.9)
No	16.4 (4.3)	*52.7 (16.1)	*8.1 (3.0)	*10.0 (3.8)	14.4 (3.8)	*36.8 (22.9)
Unknown or blank	13.1 (3.3)	*0.0 ...	*15.5 (5.7)	*16.3 (5.0)	14.4 (3.5)	*0.0 ...
ED increased the number of standard treatment spaces in last 2 years						
Yes	26.7 (3.7)	25.0 (6.5)	25.6 (5.0)	33.7 (5.3)	30.7 (5.0)	19.6 (5.2)
No	70.6 (3.6)	75.0 (6.5)	69.4 (5.2)	60.3 (5.3)	65.0 (4.9)	80.4 (5.2)
Unknown or blank	*2.7 (0.8)	*0.0 ...	*4.9 (2.1)	*6.1 (2.3)	*4.3 (1.3)	*0.0 ...
ED physical space was expanded in last 2 years						
Yes	22.7 (3.9)	24.3 (7.0)	17.6 (3.6)	27.9 (4.8)	24.2 (4.9)	*20.0 (6.4)
No	74.6 (3.8)	75.7 (7.0)	77.5 (4.2)	65.9 (5.0)	71.6 (4.9)	80.0 (6.4)
Unknown or blank	2.7 (0.8)	*0.0 ...	*4.8 (2.0)	*6.2 (2.3)	4.3 (1.2)	*0.0 ...
ED plans to expand physical space in next 2 years ³						
Yes	27.3 (3.7)	27.1 (6.6)	24.3 (5.1)	34.2 (6.5)	33.4 (4.5)	*17.1 (7.2)
No	56.7 (3.8)	62.9 (6.9)	54.1 (5.6)	44.4 (6.8)	52.7 (4.7)	63.4 (7.8)
Unknown or blank	16.0 (3.5)	*9.9 (5.3)	21.5 (5.0)	21.4 (6.0)	13.9 (3.0)	*19.5 (7.4)

Services that ED uses							
Bedside registration	76.6 (3.5)	71.6 (6.3)	78.9 (4.1)	86.3 (3.7)	74.6 (3.8)	80.3 (6.6)	
Computer-assisted triage	41.2 (4.3)	24.0 (5.6)	52.9 (5.8)	66.1 (5.1)	49.7 (5.3)	26.2 (6.1)	
Separate fast track unit for nonurgent care	30.9 (3.4)	*3.6 (3.2)	49.9 (5.8)	70.1 (5.6)	43.2 (5.2)	*9.3 (4.2)	
Separate operating room dedicated to Emergency department patients	1.6 (0.5)	*0.0 ...	*1.8 (0.9)	*5.8 (2.2)	*2.5 (0.8)	*0.0 ...	
Electronic dashboard ⁴	35.7 (3.9)	*17.9 (5.7)	47.5 (5.6)	62.2 (5.3)	46.8 (4.7)	*16.1 (6.2)	
Radio frequency identification tracking ⁵	8.0 (1.6)	*1.2 (0.7)	*9.4 (3.1)	23.9 (5.2)	11.8 (2.4)	*1.2 (1.2)	
Zone nursing ⁶	36.5 (3.6)	*17.4 (5.6)	49.3 (5.4)	64.6 (5.2)	42.9 (4.7)	25.3 (6.7)	
Pool nurses ⁷	43.6 (4.0)	38.8 (7.6)	48.5 (5.3)	47.6 (5.2)	45.7 (4.8)	39.9 (7.7)	
Full capacity protocol ⁸	35.5 (4.0)	33.2 (7.1)	34.2 (5.0)	44.6 (6.1)	38.1 (4.2)	31.0 (8.2)	
None of the above	10.2 (3.0)	*12.3 (5.2)	*9.0 (3.7)	*6.9 (2.7)	*10.3 (3.4)	*10.1 (5.7)	

...Category not applicable.

0 Quantity equals zero.

0.0 Quantity more than zero, but less than 0.05.

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Number of sample records: all emergency departments(N=334); Less than 20,000(N=62); 20,000 to 50,000(N=139); Over 50,000(N=133); Metropolitan area(N=280); Not metropolitan area(N=54).

²Denominator is number of emergency departments with observation or clinical decision units.

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.