

National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2008 Emergency Department Summary Tables

The Ambulatory and Hospital Care Statistics Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics is pleased to release the most current nationally representative data on ambulatory care visits to hospital emergency departments (EDs) in the United States. Statistics are presented on selected hospital, patient, and visit characteristics based on data collected in the 2008 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS). NHAMCS is a national probability sample survey of visits to EDs and outpatient departments of nonfederal short-stay and general hospitals in the United States. Web table estimates are based on sample data weighted to produce annual national estimates and include standard errors. Detailed information on the design, conduct, and estimation procedures of NHAMCS can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>.

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 2008, race was missing for 15% (unweighted) of ED records, while ethnicity was missing for 24% (unweighted) of ED records. As in previous years, missing responses for race and ethnicity were imputed using a warm deck method. Nonetheless, the high amount of missing data are of concern. Tables 3, 7, 8, and 14 presenting race and ethnicity data include estimates based on both imputed and reported (known) values and estimates based on reported values only. The "best" estimates of ED use by race and ethnicity are those that include both imputed and reported data. For those who wish to understand the effects of imputation on percent distributions and their standard errors, we provide "reported only" data. Those who wish to conduct a complete-case analysis can use the "reported only" data for benchmarking.

Table 1. Emergency department visits, by selected hospital characteristics: United States, 2008

Selected hospital characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Number of visits per 100 persons per year ^{1,2,3}	(Standard error of rate)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	100.0	. . .	41.4	(1.6)
Ownership						
Voluntary	93,847	(5,102)	75.8	(2.6)	31.4	(1.7)
Government	15,237	(2,446)	12.3	(2.0)	5.1	(0.8)
Proprietary	14,677	(3,198)	11.9	(2.5)	4.9	(1.1)
Geographic region						
Northeast	24,529	(1,960)	19.8	(1.5)	45.4	(3.6)
Midwest	27,004	(2,434)	21.8	(1.7)	41.2	(3.7)
South	48,153	(3,188)	38.9	(2.1)	44.0	(2.9)
West	24,075	(2,653)	19.5	(1.9)	34.5	(3.8)
Metropolitan status ⁴						
MSA	102,735	(5,271)	83.0	(1.9)	41.1	(2.1)
Non-MSA	21,027	(2,220)	17.0	(1.9)	43.3	(4.6)
Medical school affiliation						
Yes	65,786	(4,527)	53.2	(2.9)	22.0	(1.5)
No or blank ⁵	57,975	(4,180)	46.8	(2.9)	19.4	(1.4)
Trauma center						
Yes	46,727	(4,700)	37.8	(3.3)	15.6	(1.6)
No or blank	77,034	(4,811)	62.2	(3.3)	25.8	(1.6)
Season ⁶						
Winter	28,302	(3,620)	22.9	(2.8)	9.5	(1.2)
Spring	32,771	(3,384)	26.5	(2.5)	11.0	(1.1)
Summer	33,183	(3,486)	26.8	(2.7)	11.1	(1.2)
Fall	29,504	(3,941)	23.8	(2.9)	9.9	(1.3)

. . . Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates are based on the July 1, 2008, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized 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, 2008, from the 2008 National Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, compiled according to the November 2007 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.

³For geographic region and metropolitan statistical area, 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.

⁵In 2008, hospitals not affiliated with medical schools include hospitals with unknown or blank medical school affiliation status because this information could not be identified separately. In prior years, the percentage of unknowns or blanks was small.

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 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, 2008

Selected patient characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Number of visits per 100 persons per year ¹	(Standard error of rate)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	100.0	...	41.4	(1.6)
Age						
Under 15 years	23,157	(1,658)	18.7	(1.0)	37.9	(2.7)
Under 1 year	3,684	(349)	3.0	(0.3)	85.5	(8.1)
1–4 years	8,698	(700)	7.0	(0.5)	52.1	(4.2)
5–14 years	10,775	(709)	8.7	(0.4)	26.9	(1.8)
15–24 years	19,823	(874)	16.0	(0.3)	47.7	(2.1)
25–44 years	35,185	(1,511)	28.4	(0.5)	43.3	(1.9)
45–64 years	26,335	(1,130)	21.3	(0.4)	34.0	(1.5)
65 years and over	19,261	(896)	15.6	(0.5)	51.7	(2.4)
65–74 years	7,479	(341)	6.0	(0.2)	37.6	(1.7)
75 years and over	11,781	(631)	9.5	(0.3)	67.9	(3.6)
Sex and age						
Female	67,020	(2,784)	54.2	(0.4)	44.0	(1.8)
Under 15 years	10,395	(803)	8.4	(0.5)	34.8	(2.7)
15–24 years	11,543	(544)	9.3	(0.2)	56.1	(2.6)
25–44 years	20,220	(905)	16.3	(0.3)	49.4	(2.2)
45–64 years	13,793	(637)	11.1	(0.3)	34.6	(1.6)
65–74 years	3,964	(231)	3.2	(0.2)	37.0	(2.2)
75 years and over	7,104	(421)	5.7	(0.2)	67.8	(4.0)
Male	56,742	(2,212)	45.8	(0.4)	38.8	(1.5)
Under 15 years	12,762	(896)	10.3	(0.6)	40.9	(2.9)
15–24 years	8,280	(417)	6.7	(0.2)	39.5	(2.0)
25–44 years	14,965	(682)	12.1	(0.3)	37.1	(1.7)
45–64 years	12,542	(554)	10.1	(0.3)	33.3	(1.5)
65–74 years	3,515	(189)	2.8	(0.1)	38.4	(2.1)
75 years and over	4,677	(272)	3.8	(0.2)	68.1	(4.0)
Patient residence						
Private residence	113,298	(4,659)	91.5	(0.6)	37.9	(1.6)
Nursing home	2,504	(181)	2.0	(0.1)	167.8	(12.1)
Other institution	954	(107)	0.8	(0.1)	37.5	(4.2)
Other residence	924	(140)	0.7	(0.1)	0.3	(0.0)
Homeless	549	(77)	0.4	(0.1)	72.8	(10.2)
Unknown or blank	5,532	(727)	4.5	(0.6)	...	...

... Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates for age, sex, race, ethnicity, private residence, and other residence are based on the July 1, 2008, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Visit rates for nursing home residents are based on the 2004 CDC/NCHS National Nursing Home Survey (National Center for Health Statistics. National Nursing Home Survey: 2004 overview. Hyattsville, MD. 2009. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nnhs.htm>. Accessed 12/18/09). Visit rate for homeless people is based on The Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (Office of Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The third annual homeless assessment report to Congress. Washington, DC. 2008. <http://www.hudhre.info/documents/3rdHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf>. Accessed 10/15/09).

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

Table 3. Emergency department visits by patient race and age, and ethnicity: United States, 2008

Patient characteristic	Reported plus imputed race and ethnicity					Reported race and ethnicity only				
	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)	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	100.0	...	41.4	(1.6)	...	...	...	...
Race and age ^{2,3,4,5}										
Reported	103,905	(4,429)	84.0	(2.0)	34.8	(1.5)	103,905	(4,429)	100.0	...
Imputed (missing)	19,856	(2,714)	16.0	(2.0)	6.6	(0.9)	...	...	...	...
White	89,405	(4,127)	72.2	(1.5)	37.4	(1.7)	75,221	(3,741)	72.4	(1.6)
Under 15 years	15,626	(1,113)	12.6	(0.7)	33.7	(2.4)	12,540	(953)	12.1	(0.7)
15–24 years	13,899	(717)	11.2	(0.4)	43.3	(2.2)	11,725	(673)	11.3	(0.4)
25–44 years	24,868	(1,230)	20.1	(0.5)	38.8	(1.9)	20,732	(1,078)	20.0	(0.6)
45–64 years	18,950	(961)	15.3	(0.5)	29.6	(1.5)	16,151	(864)	15.5	(0.5)
65–74 years	5,879	(303)	4.8	(0.2)	34.6	(1.8)	5,128	(268)	4.9	(0.2)
75 years and over	10,182	(601)	8.2	(0.3)	66.7	(3.9)	8,944	(540)	8.6	(0.3)
Black or African American	28,985	(1,956)	23.4	(1.3)	77.0	(5.2)	24,760	(1,785)	23.8	(1.5)
Under 15 years	6,109	(665)	4.9	(0.5)	66.8	(7.3)	4,969	(536)	4.8	(0.5)
15–24 years	5,196	(396)	4.2	(0.3)	83.1	(6.3)	4,434	(362)	4.3	(0.3)
25–44 years	8,815	(606)	7.1	(0.4)	84.5	(5.8)	7,594	(552)	7.3	(0.5)
45–64 years	6,287	(520)	5.1	(0.4)	72.8	(6.0)	5,599	(485)	5.4	(0.4)
65–74 years	1,334	(121)	1.1	(0.1)	72.9	(6.6)	1,114	(110)	1.1	(0.1)
75 years and over	1,244	(136)	1.0	(0.1)	93.3	(10.2)	1,050	(126)	1.0	(0.1)
Asian	2,555	(472)	2.1	(0.4)	19.0	(3.5)	1,858	(293)	1.8	(0.3)
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*765	(262)	*0.6	(0.2)	*138.4	(47.3)	488	(146)	0.5	(0.1)
American Indian or Alaska Native	*996	(330)	*0.8	(0.3)	*32.9	(10.9)	*685	(218)	*0.7	(0.2)
Multiple races	*1,055	(375)	*0.9	(0.3)	*20.6	(7.3)	*892	(368)	*0.9	(0.4)
Ethnicity ^{2,3,6,7}										
Reported	89,511	(4,520)	72.3	(3.0)	30.0	(1.5)	89,511	(4,520)	100.0	...
Imputed (missing)	34,250	(4,226)	27.7	(3.0)	11.5	(1.4)	...	...	...	...
Hispanic or Latino	17,274	(1,587)	14.0	(1.1)	37.2	(3.4)	12,402	(1,188)	13.9	(1.2)
Not Hispanic or Latino	106,487	(4,370)	86.0	(1.1)	42.2	(1.7)	77,109	(4,119)	86.1	(1.2)

... Category not applicable.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Visit rates are based on the July 1, 2008, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²The race groups white, black or African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and multiple races include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with data year 1999, race-specific estimates have been tabulated according to 1997 standards for federal data on race and ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The percent of visit records with multiple races indicated is small and lower than what is typically found for self-reported race in household surveys.

³For 2008, race data were missing for 16.0 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 27.7 percent of visits. Readers are therefore advised to treat these data with caution. In this table, estimates based on imputed race and ethnicity data are shown separately from comparison estimates using unimputed data. Missing race and ethnicity were imputed using a hot deck approach rather than the previously used cold deck strategy. The imputation process is described more fully in the 2008 public use file documentation (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>). Research is currently under way to evaluate further changes to the imputation strategy for use with 2009 data.

⁴“Reported plus imputed” includes race that was reported directly by emergency departments and imputed values for the 16.0 percent of visits for which race was not reported.

⁵“Reported only” calculations are based on 103,905,000 visits with race reported directly by emergency departments. The visits for which race was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers may compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed race values.

⁶“Reported plus imputed” includes ethnicity that was reported directly by emergency departments and imputed values for the 27.7 percent of visits for which ethnicity was not reported.

⁷“Reported only” calculations are based on 89,511,000 visits with ethnicity reported directly by emergency departments. The visits for which ethnicity was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers may compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed ethnicity values.

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

Table 4. Wait times at emergency department visits: United States, 2008

Visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	100.0	...
Time spent waiting to see a physician ¹				
Fewer than 15 minutes	22,105	(1,526)	17.9	(1.1)
15–59 minutes	46,545	(1,981)	37.6	(1.0)
1 hour, but less than 2 hours	19,295	(1,066)	15.6	(0.6)
2 hours, but less than 3 hours	6,636	(501)	5.4	(0.3)
3 hours, but less than 4 hours	2,629	(250)	2.1	(0.2)
4 hours, but less than 6 hours	1,770	(208)	1.4	(0.1)
6 hours or more	662	(94)	0.5	(0.1)
Not seen by a physician	11,078	(1,124)	9.0	(0.8)
Blank	13,041	(1,707)	10.5	(1.3)
Time spent in emergency department ²				
Less than 1 hour	13,728	(799)	11.1	(0.5)
1 hour, but less than 2 hours	29,750	(1,304)	24.0	(0.5)
2 hours, but less than 4 hours	42,421	(1,800)	34.3	(0.6)
4 hours, but less than 6 hours	18,594	(992)	15.0	(0.4)
6 hours, but less than 10 hours	10,254	(613)	8.3	(0.4)
10 hour, but less than 14 hours	1,803	(138)	1.5	(0.1)
14 hours, but less than 24 hours	1,144	(114)	0.9	(0.1)
24 hours or more	474	(142)	0.4	(0.1)
Blank	5,594	(719)	4.5	(0.5)
Patient arrived in emergency department after business hours ³				
All ages:				
Yes	80,136	(3,203)	64.8	(0.4)
No	42,498	(1,736)	34.3	(0.3)
Blank	1,128	(308)	0.9	(0.2)

... Category not applicable.

¹Median waiting time to see a physician was 35 minutes.

²Median time spent in the emergency department was 154 minutes.

³Business 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, 2008

Patient age	Number of visits inc thousands	Patient mode of arrival				
		Total	Walk-in ¹	Ambulance	Public service ²	Unknown ³
		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)				
All visits	123,761	100.0	77.0 (0.8)	15.8 (0.5)	1.6 (0.2)	5.5 (0.6)
Under 15 years	23,157	100.0	88.5 (1.0)	4.9 (0.5)	*1.1 (0.5)	5.5 (0.7)
Under 1 year	3,684	100.0	87.0 (2.1)	4.2 (0.8)	* . . .	6.4 (1.0)
1–4 years	8,698	100.0	89.3 (1.3)	4.1 (0.7)	*1.0 (0.6)	5.6 (1.0)
5–14 years	10,775	100.0	88.3 (1.1)	5.9 (0.6)	*0.7 (0.3)	5.1 (0.8)
15–24 years	19,823	100.0	83.2 (0.8)	9.5 (0.5)	1.7 (0.3)	5.6 (0.7)
25–44 years	35,185	100.0	81.3 (0.9)	11.3 (0.6)	2.1 (0.3)	5.3 (0.6)
45–64 years	26,335	100.0	72.2 (1.0)	20.3 (0.8)	1.7 (0.3)	5.8 (0.7)
65 years and over	19,261	100.0	55.8 (1.2)	37.5 (1.2)	1.2 (0.2)	5.4 (0.7)
65–74 years	7,479	100.0	66.2 (1.7)	26.3 (1.5)	1.6 (0.3)	5.9 (0.9)
75 years and over	11,781	100.0	49.2 (1.5)	44.7 (1.5)	1.0 (0.3)	5.1 (0.7)

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

. . . Category not applicable.

¹Includes patients arriving by car, taxi, bus, or foot.²Includes patients arriving in a police car, social service vehicle, beach patrol, or escorted or carried by a public service official.³The unknown category includes blanks.

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

Table 6. Expected sources of payment at emergency department visits: United States, 2008

Expected source of payment	Number of visits in thousands ¹	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	...	...
Private insurance	51,887	(2,904)	41.9	(1.4)
Medicaid or SCHIP ²	29,701	(1,512)	24.0	(1.0)
Medicare	22,827	(1,094)	18.4	(0.5)
Medicare and Medicaid ³	4,238	(349)	3.4	(0.3)
No insurance ⁴	19,094	(1,238)	15.4	(0.8)
Self-pay	17,859	(1,187)	14.4	(0.8)
No charge or charity	1,472	(301)	1.2	(0.2)
Worker's compensation	1,561	(133)	1.3	(0.1)
Other	5,706	(924)	4.6	(0.7)
Unknown or blank	7,492	(1,120)	6.1	(0.9)

... Category not applicable.

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

²SCHIP is State Childrens Health Insurance Program.

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

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

Table 7. Triage status of emergency department visits, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2008

Patient and visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	Total	Immediate ¹	Emergent ²	Urgent ³	Semiurgent ⁴	Nonurgent ⁵	Unknown or no triage ⁶
Percent distribution (standard error of percent)								
All visits	123,761	100.0	3.7 (0.3)	11.9 (0.8)	38.9 (1.5)	21.2 (1.3)	8.0 (0.9)	16.3 (1.9)
Age								
Under 15 years	23,157	100.0	1.9 (0.3)	8.3 (0.9)	36.0 (2.7)	25.1 (2.2)	8.8 (1.1)	20.0 (3.5)
Under 1 year	3,684	100.0	* . . .	9.3 (1.5)	34.0 (3.0)	23.6 (2.7)	10.3 (1.8)	20.0 (3.9)
1–4 years	8,698	100.0	1.9 (0.4)	8.0 (1.1)	35.8 (3.2)	24.4 (2.5)	8.0 (1.2)	22.0 (4.0)
5–14 years	10,775	100.0	1.6 (0.3)	8.2 (1.0)	36.8 (2.6)	26.1 (2.2)	8.8 (1.1)	18.4 (3.1)
15–24 years	19,823	100.0	2.6 (0.4)	9.2 (0.9)	37.0 (2.0)	24.9 (2.0)	9.8 (1.2)	16.5 (2.1)
25–44 years	35,185	100.0	3.1 (0.4)	10.1 (0.9)	39.0 (1.7)	23.0 (1.5)	9.1 (1.1)	15.7 (1.9)
45–64 years	26,335	100.0	5.0 (0.5)	14.0 (1.0)	40.2 (1.5)	18.4 (1.2)	7.1 (0.9)	15.3 (1.9)
65 years and over	19,261	100.0	6.2 (0.8)	19.5 (1.1)	42.2 (1.6)	13.5 (1.1)	4.6 (0.7)	14.0 (1.8)
65–74 years	7,479	100.0	5.2 (0.8)	19.3 (1.5)	41.3 (1.9)	15.3 (1.4)	5.5 (1.1)	13.3 (1.7)
75 years and over	11,781	100.0	6.9 (0.9)	19.7 (1.2)	42.8 (1.8)	12.4 (1.1)	4.0 (0.6)	14.4 (2.0)
Sex								
Female	67,020	100.0	3.4 (0.4)	11.4 (0.8)	40.3 (1.6)	21.0 (1.3)	8.0 (0.9)	15.8 (1.8)
Male	56,742	100.0	4.0 (0.3)	12.5 (0.9)	37.1 (1.6)	21.5 (1.4)	8.1 (0.9)	16.8 (2.1)
Race ^{7,8,9,10}								
Reported	103,905	100.0	3.8 (0.4)	12.8 (0.9)	39.9 (1.7)	21.1 (1.4)	8.0 (0.9)	14.4 (1.9)
Imputed (missing)	19,856	100.0	3.1 (0.5)	7.4 (1.2)	33.6 (2.9)	22.0 (2.2)	*8.0 (2.1)	25.8 (4.9)
Reported plus imputed:								
White	89,405	100.0	3.6 (0.3)	12.7 (0.9)	38.8 (1.6)	21.2 (1.4)	7.0 (0.7)	16.7 (2.2)
Black or African American	28,985	100.0	4.2 (0.6)	10.3 (0.8)	37.3 (2.4)	21.8 (2.0)	11.8 (1.9)	14.6 (2.1)
Other	5,371	100.0	2.7 (0.7)	7.2 (1.1)	48.1 (4.1)	18.9 (2.5)	4.7 (1.0)	*18.4 (4.4)
Reported only:								
White	75,221	100.0	3.7 (0.3)	13.8 (1.1)	39.7 (1.7)	20.9 (1.5)	6.9 (0.8)	15.1 (2.2)
Black or African American	24,760	100.0	4.3 (0.7)	10.5 (0.9)	38.3 (2.7)	22.0 (2.2)	12.1 (2.1)	12.8 (2.1)
Other	3,923	100.0	2.9 (0.7)	8.6 (1.3)	53.2 (4.2)	18.3 (2.7)	4.7 (1.1)	12.3 (2.4)
Ethnicity ^{7,8,11,12}								
Reported	89,511	100.0	3.9 (0.4)	12.4 (1.0)	40.5 (1.9)	20.5 (1.4)	8.3 (1.0)	14.3 (2.1)
Imputed (missing)	34,250	100.0	3.1 (0.6)	10.7 (1.3)	34.5 (2.1)	23.1 (2.4)	7.2 (1.6)	21.4 (3.4)
Reported plus imputed:								
Hispanic or Latino	17,274	100.0	2.8 (0.4)	11.8 (1.4)	41.3 (2.5)	20.4 (1.6)	5.2 (0.8)	18.5 (2.7)
Not Hispanic or Latino	106,487	100.0	3.8 (0.4)	11.9 (0.8)	38.5 (1.6)	21.4 (1.4)	8.5 (1.0)	15.9 (1.9)
Reported only:								
Hispanic or Latino	12,402	100.0	2.8 (0.5)	11.2 (1.6)	42.6 (3.3)	18.8 (1.7)	5.5 (0.9)	18.9 (3.2)
Not Hispanic or Latino	77,109	100.0	4.1 (0.4)	12.6 (0.9)	40.2 (2.0)	20.8 (1.5)	8.7 (1.2)	13.6 (2.1)
Expected source of payment ¹³								
Private insurance	51,887	100.0	3.5 (0.4)	13.5 (1.3)	40.6 (1.8)	21.3 (1.5)	6.3 (0.8)	14.7 (2.0)
Medicaid or SCHIP ¹⁴	29,701	100.0	3.1 (0.4)	10.6 (0.9)	39.8 (2.0)	21.5 (1.6)	9.5 (1.0)	15.3 (1.9)
Medicare	22,827	100.0	6.0 (0.7)	18.5 (1.2)	41.3 (1.6)	14.0 (1.0)	6.0 (0.8)	14.3 (1.9)
Medicare and Medicaid ¹⁵	4,238	100.0	5.3 (0.8)	17.1 (2.2)	41.2 (2.5)	15.6 (2.0)	7.9 (1.3)	12.9 (2.3)
No insurance ¹⁶	19,094	100.0	3.0 (0.4)	8.9 (0.8)	34.0 (2.2)	23.9 (2.0)	11.7 (1.8)	18.5 (2.8)
Worker's compensation	1,561	100.0	* . . .	7.5 (1.6)	32.3 (3.0)	36.6 (3.7)	7.7 (1.9)	12.5 (2.6)
Other	5,706	100.0	*4.7 (1.6)	12.4 (2.0)	43.1 (3.3)	21.6 (3.1)	7.6 (1.3)	10.5 (2.1)
Unknown or blank	7,492	100.0	4.1 (0.8)	7.0 (1.0)	33.0 (3.2)	19.3 (2.4)	6.7 (1.2)	29.9 (5.4)

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

. . . Category not applicable.

¹A visit in which the patient should be seen immediately.²A visit in which the patient should be seen in 1–14 minutes.³A visit in which the patient should be seen within 15–60 minutes.⁴A visit in which the patient should be seen within 61–120 minutes.⁵A visit in which the patient should be seen within 121 minutes–24 hours.⁶A visit in which there is no mention of triage level or immediacy rating in the medical record, the hospital did not perform triage, or the patient was dead on arrival.⁷Other race includes visits by Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and persons with more than one race. All race categories include visits by persons of Hispanic origin and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with data year 1999, race-specific estimates have been tabulated according to 1997 standards for federal data on race and ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The percent of visit records with multiple races indicated is small and lower than what is typically found for self-reported race.⁸For 2008, race data were missing for 16.0 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 27.7 percent of visits. Readers are therefore advised to treat these data with caution. In this table, estimates based on imputed race and ethnicity data are shown separately from comparison estimates using unimputed data. Missing race and ethnicity were imputed using a hot deck approach rather than the previously used cold deck strategy. The imputation process is described more fully in the 2008 public use file documentation (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>). Research is currently under way to evaluate further changes to the imputation strategy for use with 2009 data.⁹“Reported plus imputed” includes race that was reported directly by emergency departments and imputed values for the 16.0 percent of visits for which race was not reported.¹⁰“Reported only” calculations are based on 103,905,000 visits with race reported directly by emergency departments. The visits for which race was missing are excluded from the denominator so that

readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed race values.

¹¹"Reported plus imputed" includes ethnicity that was reported directly by emergency departments and imputed values for the 27.7 percent of visits for which ethnicity was not reported.

¹²"Reported only" calculations are based on 89,511,000 visits with ethnicity reported directly by emergency departments. The visits for which ethnicity was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed ethnicity values.

¹³Combined total of expected sources of payment exceeds "all visits," and percent of visits exceeds 100%, because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit.

¹⁴SCHIP is State Children's Health Insurance Program.

¹⁵The visits in this category are included in both the Medicaid or SCHIP and Medicare categories.

¹⁶"No insurance" is defined as having only self-pay, or 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, 2008

Patient characteristic	Number of visit in thousands	Initial blood pressure ¹						
		Total	Low	Normal	Mildly high	Moderately high	Severely high	Blank
Adult visits ²	95,882	100.0	6.1 (0.2)	14.6 (0.4)	32.9 (0.4)	26.4 (0.4)	15.7 (0.3)	4.3 (0.4)
Percent distribution (standard error of percent)								
Age								
18–24 years	15,100	100.0	6.3 (0.4)	22.2 (1.0)	40.9 (1.0)	19.9 (1.0)	5.4 (0.6)	5.3 (0.7)
25–44 years	35,185	100.0	4.5 (0.3)	17.6 (0.5)	36.5 (0.7)	25.0 (0.6)	12.0 (0.5)	4.4 (0.5)
45–64 years	26,335	100.0	5.1 (0.3)	11.3 (0.5)	29.2 (0.8)	29.8 (0.7)	20.5 (0.6)	4.1 (0.5)
65–74 years	7,479	100.0	9.2 (0.9)	8.1 (0.7)	25.6 (1.2)	31.8 (1.4)	22.4 (1.2)	2.9 (0.5)
75 years and over	11,781	100.0	10.5 (0.7)	7.2 (0.6)	25.2 (1.1)	27.8 (0.9)	25.3 (1.0)	4.1 (0.6)
Sex								
Female	54,006	100.0	6.7 (0.3)	17.1 (0.5)	33.1 (0.5)	23.7 (0.4)	15.4 (0.4)	4.0 (0.4)
Male	41,875	100.0	5.3 (0.3)	11.3 (0.4)	32.7 (0.5)	29.8 (0.7)	16.1 (0.5)	4.7 (0.5)
Race^{3,4,5,6}								
Reported	81,470	100.0	6.2 (0.2)	14.3 (0.4)	33.0 (0.4)	26.8 (0.4)	16.0 (0.3)	3.6 (0.4)
Imputed (missing)	14,412	100.0	5.2 (0.4)	16.0 (0.9)	32.6 (0.9)	24.1 (1.1)	14.1 (0.9)	8.0 (1.4)
Reported plus imputed:								
White	70,442	100.0	6.1 (0.2)	14.2 (0.4)	33.4 (0.4)	26.9 (0.4)	15.1 (0.4)	4.3 (0.4)
Black	21,674	100.0	6.0 (0.4)	15.5 (0.7)	31.5 (0.8)	25.3 (0.8)	17.7 (0.6)	3.9 (0.7)
Asian	1,857	100.0	7.8 (1.5)	17.5 (2.2)	31.0 (2.2)	22.2 (1.8)	17.0 (2.6)	4.5 (1.2)
Other	1,910	100.0	4.6 (1.2)	17.2 (2.3)	33.0 (2.3)	23.6 (2.1)	14.3 (2.0)	7.4 (2.1)
Reported only:								
White	59,857	100.0	6.3 (0.3)	13.8 (0.4)	33.5 (0.5)	27.4 (0.5)	15.3 (0.4)	3.7 (0.4)
Black	18,814	100.0	5.9 (0.4)	15.4 (0.7)	31.5 (0.9)	25.7 (0.8)	18.2 (0.6)	3.3 (0.7)
Asian	1,369	100.0	7.5 (1.4)	17.4 (3.0)	32.0 (2.7)	21.2 (2.1)	17.0 (3.1)	* . . .
Other	1,429	100.0	5.3 (1.3)	17.6 (2.0)	32.9 (2.2)	22.3 (2.3)	15.6 (2.4)	*6.3 (2.0)
Ethnicity^{3,4,7,8}								
Reported	69,010	100.0	6.4 (0.2)	14.6 (0.4)	33.6 (0.4)	26.0 (0.4)	15.8 (0.4)	3.7 (0.4)
Imputed (missing)	26,871	100.0	5.2 (0.3)	14.6 (0.7)	31.3 (0.8)	27.5 (0.9)	15.6 (0.8)	5.9 (1.1)
Reported plus imputed:								
Hispanic or Latino	11,697	100.0	5.4 (0.6)	17.1 (0.9)	33.3 (1.1)	24.9 (0.9)	14.4 (0.9)	4.9 (0.7)
Not Hispanic or Latino	84,184	100.0	6.2 (0.2)	14.2 (0.4)	32.9 (0.4)	26.6 (0.4)	15.9 (0.3)	4.2 (0.4)
Reported only:								
Hispanic or Latino	7,939	100.0	6.1 (0.6)	18.6 (1.1)	33.9 (1.1)	24.0 (1.2)	12.8 (0.9)	4.8 (0.8)
Not Hispanic or Latino	61,071	100.0	6.5 (0.2)	14.1 (0.4)	33.5 (0.5)	26.2 (0.5)	16.2 (0.4)	3.5 (0.4)

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

. . . Category not applicable.

¹Blood 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. Low BP is defined as less than 100 mm Hg systolic or less than 60 mm Hg diastolic. Normal BP is defined as 100–119 mm Hg systolic and 60–79 mm Hg diastolic. 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. (Reference: Chobanian AV, Bakris GL, Black HR, et al. Seventh report of the Joint National Committee on prevention, detection, evaluation, and treatment of high blood pressure. Hypertension 42:1206–52. 2003.)

²Visits by adults (18 years and over). Visits where blood pressure was recorded represent 95.7 percent (SE = 0.4) of all emergency department visits made by adults.

³Other race includes visits by Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and persons with more than one race. All race categories may include visits by persons of Hispanic origin and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with data year 1999, race-specific estimates have been tabulated according to 1997 standards for federal data on race and ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The percent of visit records with multiple races indicated is small and lower than what is typically found for self-reported race in household surveys.

⁴For 2008, race data were missing for 16.0 percent of visits by adults, and ethnicity data were missing for 27.7 percent of visits by adults. Readers are therefore advised to treat these data with caution. In this table, estimates based on imputed race and ethnicity data are shown separately from comparison estimates using unimputed data. Missing race and ethnicity were imputed using a hot deck approach rather than the previously used cold deck strategy. The imputation process is described more fully in the 2008 public use file documentation (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>). Research is currently under way to evaluate further changes to the imputation strategy for use with 2009 data.

⁵"Reported plus imputed" includes race that was reported directly by emergency departments and imputed values for the 15.0 percent of visits for which race was not reported.

⁶"Reported only" calculations are based on 81,470,000 visits by adults with race reported directly by emergency departments. The visits for which race was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed race values.

⁷"Reported plus imputed" includes ethnicity that was reported directly by emergency departments and imputed values for the 28.0 percent of visits for which ethnicity was not reported.

⁸"Reported only" calculations are based on 69,010,000 visits with ethnicity reported directly by emergency departments. The visits for which ethnicity was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed ethnicity values.

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

Table 9. Initial vital signs and visit history of emergency department visits: United States, 2008

Visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	100.0	...
Temperature				
Febrile: >38.0°C or >100.4°F	6,035	(480)	4.9	(0.3)
Normal: 35.1–38.0°C or 95.1–100.4°F	109,413	(4,385)	88.4	(0.5)
Hypothermic: ≤35.0°C or <95.0°F	485	(68)	0.4	(0.1)
Unknown or blank.	7,829	(581)	6.3	(0.4)
Pulse oximetry ¹				
95–100%	87,861	(4,011)	71.0	(1.7)
90–94%	6,252	(527)	5.1	(0.3)
<90%	3,748	(994)	3.0	(0.8)
Unknown or blank.	25,901	(2,030)	20.9	(1.5)
Oriented to time, place, and person				
Yes.	92,084	(3,729)	74.4	(1.5)
No	2,665	(194)	2.2	(0.1)
Unknown or blank.	29,012	(2,490)	23.4	(1.6)
Presenting level of pain				
None.	25,041	(1,368)	20.2	(0.7)
Mild	15,381	(925)	12.4	(0.6)
Moderate	27,215	(1,335)	22.0	(0.7)
Severe	28,275	(1,609)	22.8	(0.8)
Unknown or blank.	27,849	(2,002)	22.5	(1.4)
Episode of care				
Initial visit	100,600	(4,494)	81.3	(1.4)
Follow-up visit	8,159	(621)	6.6	(0.4)
Unknown or blank.	15,003	(1,710)	12.1	(1.4)
Patient seen in this emergency department within the last 72 hours				
Yes.	4,199	(289)	3.4	(0.2)
No	93,189	(4,632)	75.3	(2.3)
Unknown or blank.	26,373	(3,112)	21.3	(2.4)
Patient discharged from any hospital within the last 7 days				
Yes.	2,800	(266)	2.3	(0.2)
No	63,033	(4,466)	50.9	(3.0)
Unknown or blank.	57,928	(4,564)	46.8	(3.1)

... Category not applicable.

¹Normal oxygen saturation as measured by pulse oximetry is 95% or more. An oxygen saturation less than 90% is consistent with severe hypoxemia.

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

Table 10. Ten leading principal reasons for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2008

Principal reason for visit and RVC code ¹	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	100.0	...
All visits, under age 15 years	23,157	(1,658)	100.0	...
Female	10,395	(803)	44.9	(0.8)
FeverS010	1,842	(174)	8.0	(0.5)
CoughS440	644	(71)	2.8	(0.2)
VomitingS530	575	(85)	2.5	(0.3)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasmsS545	422	(65)	1.8	(0.2)
Skin rashS860	397	(56)	1.7	(0.2)
Earache or ear infectionS355	367	(51)	1.6	(0.2)
Symptoms referable to throatS455	260	(38)	1.1	(0.2)
Lacerations and cuts-facial areaJ210	199	(41)	0.9	(0.2)
Injury, other and unspecified type-head, neck, and faceJ505	190	(37)	0.8	(0.1)
Accident, not otherwise specifiedJ810	184	(35)	0.8	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	5,314	(421)	22.9	(0.7)
Male	12,762	(896)	55.1	(0.8)
FeverS010	2,030	(214)	8.8	(0.5)
CoughS440	841	(96)	3.6	(0.4)
VomitingS530	537	(66)	2.3	(0.2)
Earache or ear infectionS355	443	(65)	1.9	(0.3)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasmsS545	407	(59)	1.8	(0.2)
Skin rashS860	394	(56)	1.7	(0.2)
Injury, other and unspecified type-head, neck, and faceJ505	371	(53)	1.6	(0.2)
Lacerations and cuts-facial areaJ210	360	(49)	1.6	(0.2)
Accident, not otherwise specifiedJ810	310	(52)	1.3	(0.2)
Labored or difficult breathing (dyspnea)S420	245	(44)	1.1	(0.2)
All other reasons ²	6,824	(500)	29.5	(0.8)
All visits, aged 15–64 years	81,344	(3,327)	100.0	...
Female	45,556	(1,939)	56.0	(0.5)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasmsS545	4,767	(243)	5.9	(0.2)
Chest pain and related symptomsS050	2,576	(171)	3.2	(0.2)
Headache, pain in headS210	1,788	(118)	2.2	(0.1)
Back symptomsS905	1,544	(136)	1.9	(0.1)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body systemS055	1,255	(104)	1.5	(0.1)
Problems of pregnancy and the post-partum periodS790	1,216	(112)	1.5	(0.1)
Symptoms referable to throatS455	1,096	(99)	1.3	(0.1)
Shortness of breathS415	1,018	(93)	1.3	(0.1)
CoughS440	975	(94)	1.2	(0.1)
NauseaS525	841	(86)	1.0	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	28,478	(1,275)	35.0	(0.5)
Male	35,788	(1,480)	44.0	(0.5)
Chest pain and related symptomsS050	2,271	(148)	2.8	(0.1)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasmsS545	2,025	(127)	2.5	(0.1)
Back symptomsS905	1,364	(111)	1.7	(0.1)
Lacerations and cuts-upper extremityJ225	957	(93)	1.2	(0.1)
Headache, pain in headS210	908	(91)	1.1	(0.1)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body systemS055	882	(87)	1.1	(0.1)
Shortness of breathS415	795	(80)	1.0	(0.1)
Motor vehicle accident, type of injury unspecifiedJ805	736	(93)	0.9	(0.1)
Symptoms of teeth and gumsS500	650	(78)	0.8	(0.1)
Symptoms referable to throatS455	601	(65)	0.7	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	24,599	(1,011)	30.2	(0.4)
All visits, aged 65 years and over	19,261	(896)	100.0	...
Female	11,069	(574)	57.5	(1.0)
Chest pain and related symptomsS050	854	(88)	4.4	(0.4)
Shortness of breathS415	821	(88)	4.3	(0.4)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasmsS545	646	(60)	3.4	(0.3)
Accident, not otherwise specifiedJ810	545	(67)	2.8	(0.3)
General weaknessS020	443	(58)	2.3	(0.3)
Leg symptomsS920	323	(58)	1.7	(0.3)
NauseaS525	311	(47)	1.6	(0.2)
Labored or difficult breathing (dyspnea)S420	268	(49)	1.4	(0.2)
Headache, pain in headS210	265	(43)	1.4	(0.2)
Back symptomsS905	257	(40)	1.3	(0.2)
All other reasons ²	6,337	(355)	32.9	(0.9)

Table 10. Ten leading principal reasons for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2008—Con.

Principal reason for visit and RVC code ¹	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
Male	8,192	(406)	42.5	(1.0)
Chest pain and related symptomsS050	695	(66)	3.6	(0.3)
Shortness of breathS415	616	(71)	3.2	(0.3)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasmsS545	448	(53)	2.3	(0.3)
General weaknessS020	298	(41)	1.5	(0.2)
Accident, not otherwise specifiedJ810	270	(42)	1.4	(0.2)
Labored or difficult breathing (dyspnea)S420	241	(44)	1.3	(0.2)
Vertigo-dizzinessS225	214	(34)	1.1	(0.2)
FeverS010	203	(33)	1.1	(0.2)
Fainting (syncope)S030	192	(38)	1.0	(0.2)
Other symptoms or problems relating to psychological and mental disordersS165	184	(37)	1.0	(0.2)
All other reasons ²	4,831	(258)	25.1	(0.8)

. . . Category not applicable.

¹Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification (RVC)* defined in the 2008 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey public use documentation (ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc08.pdf). Reason for visit is defined by patient.

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, classified by major disease category: United States, 2008

Major disease category and ICD-9-CM code range ¹	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	100.0	. . .
Infectious and parasitic diseases001-139	3,841	(283)	3.1	(0.2)
Neoplasms140-239	331	(50)	0.3	(0.0)
Endocrine, nutritional, metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders240-279	2,072	(162)	1.7	(0.1)
Mental disorders290-319	4,135	(268)	3.3	(0.2)
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs320-389	6,510	(396)	5.3	(0.3)
Diseases of the circulatory system390-459	4,866	(284)	3.9	(0.2)
Diseases of the respiratory system460-519	13,273	(723)	10.7	(0.4)
Diseases of digestive system520-579	7,199	(327)	5.8	(0.2)
Diseases of the genitourinary system580-629	5,888	(316)	4.8	(0.2)
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue680-709	5,195	(280)	4.2	(0.2)
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue710-739	7,068	(394)	5.7	(0.2)
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions780-799	25,091	(1,109)	20.3	(0.4)
Injury and poisoning800-999	28,503	(1,231)	23.0	(0.4)
Fractures800-829	3,811	(206)	3.1	(0.1)
Sprains and strains840-848	6,019	(363)	4.9	(0.2)
Intracranial injury850-854	413	(56)	0.3	(0.0)
Open wounds870-897	6,264	(330)	5.1	(0.2)
Superficial injury910-919	1,536	(129)	1.2	(0.1)
Contusion with intact skin surface920-924	4,800	(260)	3.9	(0.2)
Foreign bodies930-939	503	(50)	0.4	(0.0)
Burns940-949	390	(46)	0.3	(0.0)
Trauma complications and unspecified injuries958-959	1,756	(153)	1.4	(0.1)
Poisoning and toxic effects960-989	938	(79)	0.8	(0.1)
Surgical and medical complications996-999	467	(53)	0.4	(0.0)
Other injuries	1,606	(123)	1.3	(0.1)
Supplementary classification ²V01-V8699	3,328	(239)	2.7	(0.1)
All other diagnoses ³	5,607	(398)	4.5	(0.3)
Blank	855	(201)	0.7	(0.2)

. . . 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 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 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.

Table 12. Ten leading primary diagnosis groups for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2008

Primary diagnosis group and ICD-9-CM code(s) ¹	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	100.0	. . .
All visits, aged under 15 years	23,157	(1,658)	100.0	. . .
Female	10,395	(803)	44.9	(0.8)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis460-461,463-466	916	(111)	4.0	(0.4)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders381-382	696	(93)	3.0	(0.3)
Pyrexia of unknown origin780.6	650	(97)	2.8	(0.4)
Contusion with intact skin surface920-924	363	(57)	1.6	(0.2)
Acute pharyngitis462	308	(48)	1.3	(0.2)
Open wound of head870-873	307	(46)	1.3	(0.2)
Abdominal pain789.0	287	(56)	1.2	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head874-897	278	(47)	1.2	(0.2)
Unspecified viral and chlamydial infection079.9	250	(41)	1.1	(0.2)
Asthma493	250	(42)	1.1	(0.2)
All other diagnoses ²	6,089	(474)	26.3	(0.7)
Male	12,762	(896)	55.1	(0.8)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis460-461,463-466	1,129	(114)	4.9	(0.4)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders381-382	826	(107)	3.6	(0.4)
Open wound of head870-873	742	(77)	3.2	(0.3)
Pyrexia of unknown origin780.6	718	(123)	3.1	(0.4)
Contusion with intact skin surface920-924	577	(64)	2.5	(0.3)
Open wound, excluding head874-897	497	(70)	2.1	(0.3)
Asthma493	460	(70)	2.0	(0.3)
Unspecified viral and chlamydial infection079.9	453	(76)	2.0	(0.3)
Fractures, excluding lower limb800-819	399	(53)	1.7	(0.2)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back840-844,845.1,848	269	(48)	1.2	(0.2)
All other diagnoses ²	6,692	(504)	28.9	(0.6)
All visits, aged 15-64 years	81,344	(3,327)	100.0	. . .
Female	45,556	(1,939)	56.0	(0.5)
Abdominal pain789.0	2,804	(175)	3.4	(0.2)
Chest pain786.5	1,971	(164)	2.4	(0.2)
Spinal disorders720-724	1,560	(140)	1.9	(0.1)
Contusion with intact skin surface920-924	1,554	(118)	1.9	(0.1)
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium630-677	1,409	(97)	1.7	(0.1)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis460-461,463-466	1,355	(130)	1.7	(0.1)
Cellulitis and abscess681-682	1,228	(113)	1.5	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck and back846,847	1,028	(98)	1.3	(0.1)
Headache784.0	1,023	(95)	1.3	(0.1)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified599.0	1,013	(87)	1.2	(0.1)
All other diagnoses ²	30,611	(1,325)	37.6	(0.4)
Male	35,788	(1,480)	44.0	(0.5)
Open wound, excluding head874-897	1,829	(121)	2.2	(0.1)
Chest pain786.5	1,655	(129)	2.0	(0.1)
Contusion with intact skin surface920-924	1,514	(99)	1.9	(0.1)
Cellulitis and abscess681-682	1,294	(105)	1.6	(0.1)
Spinal disorders720-724	1,268	(99)	1.6	(0.1)
Abdominal pain789.0	1,197	(108)	1.5	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck and back846,847	1,046	(101)	1.3	(0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back840-844,845.1,848	964	(91)	1.2	(0.1)
Fractures, excluding lower limb800-819	961	(85)	1.2	(0.1)
Open wound of head870-873	741	(73)	0.9	(0.1)
All other diagnoses ²	23,320	(988)	28.7	(0.4)
All visits, aged 65 years and over	19,261	(896)	100.0	. . .
Female	11,069	(574)	57.5	(1.0)
Chest pain786.5	628	(70)	3.3	(0.3)
Heart disease, excluding ischemic391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-416,420-429	541	(69)	2.8	(0.3)
Contusion with intact skin surface920-924	537	(61)	2.8	(0.3)
Abdominal pain789.0	459	(69)	2.4	(0.3)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified599.0	316	(47)	1.6	(0.2)
Pneumonia480-486	278	(43)	1.4	(0.2)
Fractures, excluding lower limb800-819	264	(43)	1.4	(0.2)
Dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities786.0	261	(48)	1.4	(0.2)
Syncope and collapse780.2	250	(39)	1.3	(0.2)
Cerebrovascular disease430-438	248	(42)	1.3	(0.2)
All other diagnoses ²	7,287	(403)	37.8	(1.0)

Table 12. Ten leading primary diagnosis groups for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2008—Con.

Primary diagnosis group and ICD-9-CM code(s) ¹	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
Male	8,192	(406)	42.5	(1.0)
Chest pain 786.5	456	(50)	2.4	(0.2)
Heart disease, excluding ischemic391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-416,420-429	442	(59)	2.3	(0.3)
Pneumonia480-486	356	(52)	1.8	(0.3)
Contusion with intact skin surface920-924	254	(42)	1.3	(0.2)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis490-491	241	(46)	1.3	(0.2)
Syncope and collapse780.2	240	(43)	1.2	(0.2)
Cerebrovascular disease430-438	220	(38)	1.1	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head.874-897	211	(31)	1.1	(0.2)
Abdominal pain789.0	205	(34)	1.1	(0.2)
Symptoms involving the urinary system788	178	(33)	0.9	(0.2)
All other diagnoses ²	5,389	(272)	28.0	(0.8)

. . . 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 utilization of ambulatory care services.

²Includes all other diagnoses not listed above, as well as unknown and blank diagnoses.

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

Table 13. Injury-related emergency department visits, by selected patient and hospital characteristics: United States, 2008

Selected patient and hospital characteristics	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error of percent)
All injury-related visits ²	42,420	(1,767)	100.0	...	14.2	(0.6)
Patient characteristic						
Age:						
Under 15 years	7,780	(536)	18.3	(0.9)	12.7	(0.9)
Under 1 year	485	(60)	1.1	(0.1)	11.3	(1.4)
1–4 years	2,371	(197)	5.6	(0.4)	14.2	(1.2)
5–14 years	4,924	(348)	11.6	(0.6)	12.3	(0.9)
15–24 years	7,906	(373)	18.6	(0.5)	19.0	(0.9)
25–44 years	12,183	(574)	28.7	(0.6)	15.0	(0.7)
45–64 years	8,715	(421)	20.5	(0.5)	11.2	(0.5)
65 years and over	5,836	(315)	13.8	(0.5)	15.7	(0.8)
65–74 years	2,210	(152)	5.2	(0.3)	11.1	(0.8)
75 years and over	3,626	(228)	8.5	(0.4)	20.9	(1.3)
Sex and age:						
Female	19,891	(911)	46.9	(0.6)	13.0	(0.6)
Under 15 years	3,161	(270)	7.5	(0.5)	10.6	(0.9)
15–24 years	3,382	(190)	8.0	(0.3)	16.4	(0.9)
25–44 years	5,740	(314)	13.5	(0.5)	14.0	(0.8)
45–64 years	4,198	(227)	9.9	(0.3)	10.5	(0.6)
65–74 years	1,167	(115)	2.8	(0.3)	10.9	(1.1)
75 years and over	2,243	(165)	5.3	(0.3)	21.4	(1.6)
Male	22,529	(913)	53.1	(0.6)	15.4	(0.6)
Under 15 years	4,619	(309)	10.9	(0.6)	14.8	(1.0)
15–24 years	4,524	(249)	10.7	(0.4)	21.6	(1.2)
25–44 years	6,442	(325)	15.2	(0.5)	16.0	(0.8)
45–64 years	4,517	(244)	10.6	(0.4)	12.0	(0.6)
65–74 years	1,043	(91)	2.5	(0.2)	11.4	(1.0)
75 years and over	1,383	(105)	3.3	(0.2)	20.1	(1.5)
Hospital characteristic						
Ownership:						
Voluntary	32,100	(1,813)	75.7	(2.7)	10.7	(0.6)
Government	5,231	(1,193)	12.3	(2.7)	1.8	(0.4)
Proprietary	5,089	(858)	12.0	(2.1)	1.7	(0.3)
Geographic region:						
Northeast	8,457	(753)	19.9	(1.6)	15.6	(1.4)
Midwest	9,060	(778)	21.4	(1.7)	13.8	(1.2)
South	16,255	(1,113)	38.3	(2.2)	14.9	(1.0)
West	8,648	(997)	20.4	(2.1)	12.4	(1.4)
Metropolitan status ³ :						
MSA ⁴	34,705	(1,839)	81.8	(2.0)	13.9	(0.7)
Non-MSA	7,714	(832)	18.2	(2.0)	15.9	(1.7)

. . . Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates for age, sex, race, and region are based on the July 1, 2008, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized 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 34.3 percent (SE = 0.5) of all visits.³Population estimates by metropolitan statistical area status are based estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as of July 1, 2008, from the 2008 National Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, compiled according to the November 2007 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.⁴MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

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

Table 14. Injury-related emergency department visits, by race and age, and ethnicity: United States, 2008

Patient characteristic	Reported plus imputed						Reported only					
	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)	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-related visits ²	42,420	(1,767)	100.0	...	14.2	(0.6)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Race and age ^{3,4,5,6}												
Reported	35,708	(1,622)	84.2	(2.1)	12.0	(0.5)	35,708	(1,622)	100.0	(2.1)	12.0	(0.5)
Imputed (missing)	6,712	(989)	15.8	(2.1)	2.2	(0.3)	...	...	...	...	...	...
White	32,043	(1,532)	75.5	(1.4)	13.4	(0.6)	27,051	(1,416)	75.8	(1.5)	11.3	(0.6)
Under 15 years	5,566	(402)	13.1	(0.7)	12.0	(0.9)	4,505	(349)	12.6	(0.7)	9.7	(0.8)
15–24 years	5,967	(327)	14.1	(0.5)	18.6	(1.0)	5,125	(318)	14.4	(0.6)	16.0	(1.0)
25–44 years	9,007	(479)	21.2	(0.6)	14.1	(0.7)	7,573	(438)	21.2	(0.7)	11.8	(0.7)
45–64 years	6,500	(365)	15.3	(0.6)	10.1	(0.6)	5,513	(317)	15.4	(0.5)	8.6	(0.5)
65–74 years	1,784	(134)	4.2	(0.3)	10.5	(0.8)	1,530	(121)	4.3	(0.3)	9.0	(0.7)
75 years and over	3,219	(216)	7.6	(0.4)	21.1	(1.4)	2,805	(197)	7.9	(0.4)	18.4	(1.3)
Black or African American	8,515	(615)	20.1	(1.2)	22.6	(1.6)	7,252	(552)	20.3	(1.4)	19.3	(1.5)
Under 15 years	1,748	(183)	4.1	(0.4)	19.1	(2.0)	1,463	(152)	4.1	(0.4)	16.0	(1.7)
15–24 years	1,708	(159)	4.0	(0.3)	27.3	(2.5)	1,423	(142)	4.0	(0.4)	22.8	(2.3)
25–44 years	2,595	(211)	6.1	(0.4)	24.9	(2.0)	2,227	(195)	6.2	(0.5)	21.4	(1.9)
45–64 years	1,830	(181)	4.3	(0.4)	21.2	(2.1)	1,606	(164)	4.5	(0.4)	18.6	(1.9)
65–74 years	337	(56)	0.8	(0.1)	18.4	(3.1)	285	(53)	0.8	(0.1)	15.5	(2.9)
75 years and over	298	(50)	0.7	(0.1)	22.3	(3.7)	249	(44)	0.7	(0.1)	18.7	(3.3)
Asian	896	(171)	2.1	(0.4)	6.6	(1.3)	650	(114)	1.8	(0.3)	4.8	(0.8)
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	274	(74)	0.6	(0.2)	49.6	(13.4)	193	(49)	0.5	(0.1)	35.0	(8.9)
American Indian or Alaska Native	*339	(109)	*0.8	(0.3)	*11.2	(3.6)	*239	(81)	*0.7	(0.2)	*7.9	(2.7)
Multiple races	*352	(140)	*0.8	(0.3)	*6.9	(2.7)	*322	(140)	*0.9	(0.4)	*6.3	(2.7)
Ethnicity ^{3,4,7,8}												
Reported	30,550	(1,647)	72.0	(3.2)	10.2	(0.6)	30,550	(1,647)	100.0	(3.2)	10.2	(0.6)
Imputed (missing)	11,869	(1,521)	28.0	(3.2)	4.0	(0.5)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hispanic or Latino	5,139	(493)	12.1	(1.0)	11.1	(1.1)	3,640	(376)	11.9	(1.1)	7.8	(0.8)
Not Hispanic or Latino	37,281	(1,602)	87.9	(1.0)	14.8	(0.6)	26,910	(1,525)	88.1	(1.1)	10.7	(0.6)

... Category not applicable.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Visit rates are based on the July 1, 2008, estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized 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 34.3 percent (SE = 0.5) of all visits.³The race groups white, black or African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and multiple races, include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with data year 1999, race-specific estimates have been tabulated according to 1997 standards for federal data on race and ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The percent of visit records with multiple races indicated is small and lower than what is typically found for self-reported race in household surveys.⁴For 2008, race data were missing for 16.0 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 27.7 percent of visits. Readers are therefore advised to treat these data with caution. In this table, estimates based on imputed race and ethnicity data are shown separately from comparison estimates using unimputed data. Missing race and ethnicity were imputed using a hot deck approach rather than the previously used cold deck strategy. The imputation process is described more fully in the 2008 public use file documentation (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>). Research is currently under way to evaluate further changes to the imputation strategy for use with 2009 data.⁵"Reported plus imputed" includes race reported by emergency departments and imputed values for the 15.8% of injury-related visits for which race was not reported.⁶"Reported only" calculations are based on 35,708,000 injury-related visits with race reported directly by emergency departments. The visits for which race was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed race values.⁷"Reported plus imputed" includes ethnicity reported by emergency departments and imputed values for the 28.0% of injury-related visits for which ethnicity was not reported.⁸"Reported only" calculations are based on 30,550,000 visits with ethnicity reported directly by emergency departments. The visits for which ethnicity was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed ethnicity values.

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

Table 15. Injury-related emergency department visits, by intent: United States, 2008

Intent and mechanism ¹	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All injury-related visits	42,420	(1,767)	100.0	. . .
Unintentional injuries	28,385	(1,279)	66.9	(0.8)
Falls	9,658	(484)	22.8	(0.5)
Motor vehicle traffic	3,942	(247)	9.3	(0.4)
Struck against or struck accidentally by objects or persons	3,128	(207)	7.4	(0.4)
Cutting or piercing instruments or objects	2,334	(166)	5.5	(0.3)
Overexertion and strenuous movements	1,993	(137)	4.7	(0.3)
Natural and environmental factors	1,762	(148)	4.2	(0.3)
Poisoning	695	(84)	1.6	(0.2)
Foreign body	649	(59)	1.5	(0.1)
Caught accidentally in or between objects	571	(76)	1.3	(0.2)
Pedal cycle, nontraffic	442	(58)	1.0	(0.1)
Fire and flames, hot substances or object, caustic or corrosive material and steam	431	(59)	1.0	(0.1)
Motor vehicle, nontraffic and other	429	(54)	1.0	(0.1)
Machinery	278	(43)	0.7	(0.1)
Other transportation	184	(31)	0.4	(0.1)
Suffocation	151	(27)	0.4	(0.1)
Other mechanism ²	1,708	(144)	4.0	(0.3)
Mechanism unspecified	*	. . .	*	. . .
Intentional injuries	2,533	(154)	6.0	(0.3)
Assault	1,806	(132)	4.3	(0.3)
Unarmed fight or brawl, striking by blunt or thrown object	1,167	(113)	2.8	(0.2)
Cutting or piercing instrument	136	(30)	0.3	(0.1)
Other and unspecified mechanism ³	503	(53)	1.2	(0.1)
Self-inflicted	666	(78)	1.6	(0.2)
Poisoning by solid or liquid substances, gases, and vapors	449	(58)	1.1	(0.1)
Other and unspecified mechanism ⁴	217	(39)	0.5	(0.1)
Other causes of violence	*	. . .	*	. . .
Injuries of undetermined intent	420	(59)	1.0	(0.1)
Adverse effects of medical treatment	1,980	(148)	4.7	(0.3)
Medical and surgical complications	1,184	(100)	2.8	(0.2)
Adverse drug effects	796	(85)	1.9	(0.2)
Alcohol and drug use ⁵	1,962	(158)	4.6	(0.3)
Unknown ⁶	7,141	(421)	16.8	(0.7)

. . . Category not applicable.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹First-mentioned of three possible causes. *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 grouping in this table can be found in the 2003 Advance Data report. McCaig LF, Burt CW. National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2003 emergency department summary. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 358. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2005.

²Includes drowning, firearms, and other mechanism.³Includes assaults by firearms and explosives, and other mechanism.⁴Includes injury by cutting and piercing instrument, and other and unspecified mechanism.⁵Alcohol 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.⁶Category includes illegible entries and blanks.

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

Table 16. Injury-related emergency department visits, by body site of primary injury-related diagnosis: United States, 2008

Body site ¹	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All injury visits	42,420	(1,767)	100.0	. . .
Head and neck	5,880	(321)	13.9	(0.4)
Traumatic brain injury	485	(57)	1.1	(0.1)
Other head	1,653	(144)	3.9	(0.3)
Face	1,878	(129)	4.4	(0.2)
Eye	567	(61)	1.3	(0.1)
Head, face, and neck unspecified.	1,297	(111)	3.1	(0.2)
Spinal cord	*	. . .	*	. . .
Vertebral column	2,029	(166)	4.8	(0.3)
Cervical	1,033	(116)	2.4	(0.2)
Thoracic and dorsal	181	(30)	0.4	(0.1)
Lumbar	788	(85)	1.9	(0.2)
Other vertebral column	*	. . .	*	. . .
Torso	1,873	(124)	4.4	(0.2)
Chest	850	(71)	2.0	(0.1)
Abdomen.	135	(29)	0.3	(0.1)
Pelvis and urogenital	238	(35)	0.6	(0.1)
Trunk	154	(29)	0.4	(0.1)
Back and buttocks	495	(66)	1.2	(0.2)
Upper extremity	7,707	(386)	18.2	(0.6)
Shoulder and upper arm	1,308	(92)	3.1	(0.2)
Forearm and elbow	1,249	(108)	2.9	(0.2)
Wrist, hand, and fingers.	4,726	(272)	11.1	(0.4)
Other and unspecified upper extremity	424	(54)	1.0	(0.1)
Lower extremity	6,335	(335)	14.9	(0.5)
Hip	530	(70)	1.2	(0.1)
Upper leg and thigh	183	(36)	0.4	(0.1)
Knee	509	(62)	1.2	(0.1)
Lower leg and ankle.	1,815	(125)	4.3	(0.2)
Foot and toes	1,573	(123)	3.7	(0.3)
Other and unspecified lower extremity.	1,725	(143)	4.1	(0.3)
System-wide	1,556	(104)	3.7	(0.2)
Other and unspecified body site injuries	1,819	(167)	4.3	(0.3)
Adverse effects and medical complications	1,203	(100)	2.8	(0.2)
All other diagnoses ²	12,921	(614)	30.5	(0.7)
Unknown ³	1,088	(102)	2.6	(0.2)

. . . Category not applicable.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Public Health Service and Health Care Financing Administration. International Classification of Diseases, ninth revision, clinical modification, 6th ed. (ICD-9-CM). Washington: Public Health Service. 2004. 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_tools.htm. 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 17. Selected diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided at emergency department visits: United States, 2008

Diagnostic and screening service ordered or provided	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	...	...
One or more diagnostic or screening service listed	83,922	(3,525)	67.8	(0.8)
None	37,572	(1,762)	30.4	(0.8)
Blank.	2,267	(286)	1.8	(0.2)
Blood tests				
Complete blood count	44,552	(1,964)	36.0	(0.9)
Blood urea nitrogen or creatinine.	29,695	(1,690)	24.0	(1.2)
Glucose	26,849	(1,720)	21.7	(1.2)
Electrolytes	25,828	(1,683)	20.9	(1.2)
Cardiac enzymes	16,390	(1,020)	13.2	(0.8)
Liver function tests	10,593	(833)	8.6	(0.7)
Prothrombin time or international normalized ratio (INR)	8,120	(600)	6.6	(0.4)
Blood culture	4,909	(365)	4.0	(0.3)
Toxicology screen	3,716	(382)	3.0	(0.3)
Arterial blood gases	2,850	(326)	2.3	(0.3)
Blood alcohol concentration	2,630	(266)	2.1	(0.2)
Other blood test	22,576	(1,298)	18.2	(0.9)
Any blood test listed	49,904	(2,189)	40.3	(0.8)
Imaging				
X-ray	43,965	(1,893)	35.5	(0.6)
Computed tomography scan	18,071	(943)	14.6	(0.4)
Head	8,966	(518)	7.2	(0.3)
Other than head	9,356	(562)	7.6	(0.3)
Ultrasound	3,819	(223)	3.1	(0.1)
Magnetic resonance imaging scan.	712	(87)	0.6	(0.1)
Head	346	(51)	0.3	(0.0)
Other than head	297	(52)	0.2	(0.0)
Other Imaging	1,286	(137)	1.0	(0.1)
Any imaging	57,688	(2,480)	46.6	(0.7)
Examinations and tests				
Urinalysis	28,225	(1,338)	22.8	(0.5)
Electrocardiogram	22,547	(1,085)	18.2	(0.5)
Cardiac monitor	10,566	(697)	8.5	(0.5)
Pregnancy test ²	6,515	(458)	9.7	(0.6)
Rapid flu or influenza test	1,981	(335)	1.6	(0.3)
Wound culture	1,158	(159)	0.9	(0.1)
Other test or service	15,714	(1,670)	12.7	(1.2)

... Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Combined total of services exceeds "all visits," and percent of visits exceeds 100%, because more than one service may be reported per visit.²Based on N = 67,019,620 female visits.

Table 18. Selected procedures at emergency department visits: United States, 2008

Procedure performed	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	...	...
One or more procedure listed	57,300	(2,729)	46.3	(1.3)
None ²	61,329	(2,958)	49.6	(1.3)
Blank ³	5,133	(537)	4.1	(0.4)
Intravenous fluids	32,950	(1,726)	26.6	(0.9)
Splint or wrap	7,071	(416)	5.7	(0.3)
Laceration repair	5,486	(309)	4.4	(0.2)
Nebulizer therapy	3,556	(295)	2.9	(0.2)
Bladder catheter	2,631	(221)	2.1	(0.2)
Wound debridement	1,862	(232)	1.5	(0.2)
Incision and drainage	1,437	(126)	1.2	(0.1)
Foreign body removal	569	(73)	0.5	(0.1)
Cast	422	(63)	0.3	(0.0)
Nasogastric tube/gastric suction	406	(82)	0.3	(0.1)
Endotracheal intubation	234	(50)	0.2	(0.0)
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	119	(30)	0.1	(0.0)
Other	11,723	(1,796)	9.5	(1.4)

... Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Combined total of procedures exceeds "all visits," and percent of visits exceeds 100%, because more than one procedures may be reported per visit.

²The "none" checkbox was marked on the Patient Record form (PRF).

³No checkboxes were marked on PRF.

Table 19. Medication therapy and number of medications mentioned at emergency department visits: United States, 2008

Medication therapy ¹	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	100.0	. . .
Visits with mention of medication ²	96,419	(4,034)	77.9	(0.7)
Number of medications provided or prescribed ³ :				
1	31,749	(1,338)	25.7	(0.5)
2	26,925	(1,090)	21.8	(0.3)
3	17,789	(889)	14.4	(0.4)
4	9,897	(590)	8.0	(0.3)
5	4,845	(311)	3.9	(0.2)
6	2,440	(224)	2.0	(0.1)
7	1,316	(152)	1.1	(0.1)
8	1,460	(268)	1.2	(0.2)
Visits without mention of medication	27,343	(1,307)	22.1	(0.7)

. . . Category not applicable.

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

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

³There were 238,301,000 drug mentions at emergency department visits in 2008. The average drug mention rate was 1.9 drug mentions per emergency department visit (SE = 0.04). For visits with at least one drug mention, the average drug visit rate was 2.5 drugs per visit (SE = 0.04).

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

Table 20. Twenty most frequently mentioned drugs by therapeutic drug categories at emergency department visits: United States, 2008

Drug category ¹	Number of occurrence in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent of drug mentions ^{2,3}	(Standard error of percent)
Analgesics ³	85,473	(4,265)	35.9	(0.5)
Antiemetic or antivertigo agents	26,798	(1,440)	11.2	(0.3)
Antihistamines	12,075	(699)	5.1	(0.2)
Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics	10,353	(574)	4.3	(0.1)
Minerals and electrolytes	10,301	(951)	4.3	(0.3)
Bronchodilators	8,572	(661)	3.6	(0.2)
Cephalosporins	7,806	(410)	3.3	(0.1)
Penicillins	7,444	(405)	3.1	(0.1)
Miscellaneous respiratory agents	7,191	(851)	3.0	(0.3)
Adrenal cortical steroids	7,160	(422)	3.0	(0.1)
Miscellaneous antibiotics	6,803	(390)	2.9	(0.1)
Anticonvulsants	6,102	(395)	2.6	(0.1)
Quinolones	5,402	(338)	2.3	(0.1)
Macrolide derivatives	4,282	(265)	1.8	(0.1)
Dermatological agents	4,210	(304)	1.8	(0.1)
Antiplatelet agents	4,097	(325)	1.7	(0.1)
Muscle relaxants	3,777	(289)	1.6	(0.1)
Antiparkinson agents	3,741	(261)	1.6	(0.1)
Antiarrhythmic agents	3,714	(245)	1.6	(0.1)
Local injectable anesthetics	3,328	(250)	1.4	(0.1)

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

²Based on an estimated 238,301,000 drug mentions at emergency department visits in 2008.

³Mentions refers to drugs provided or prescribed.

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

Table 21. Twenty most frequently mentioned drug names at emergency department visits: United States, 2008

Drug name ¹	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Percent of mentions ¹ (standard error of percent)			Therapeutic drug category ³
					Given in emergency department	Prescribed at discharge	Unknown ³	
All drug mentions	238,341	(11,365)	100.0	. . .	64.2 (1.0)	43.6 (1.1)	2.1 (0.4)	. . .
Ibuprofen	17,000	(1,025)	7.1	(0.3)	3.3 (0.2)	4.7 (0.2)	*0.2 (0.1)	Analgesics
Acetaminophen-hydrocodone . . .	14,466	(926)	6.1	(0.3)	2.2 (0.1)	4.9 (0.2)	*0.1 (0.0)	Analgesics
Acetaminophen	11,333	(724)	4.8	(0.2)	2.8 (0.1)	2.3 (0.2)	*0.1 (0.1)	Analgesics
Ondansetron	9,382	(621)	3.9	(0.2)	3.7 (0.2)	0.5 (0.0)	*0.1 (0.0)	Antiemetic or antivertigo agents
Ketorolac	7,630	(413)	3.2	(0.1)	3.0 (0.1)	0.3 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	Analgesics
Morphine	7,097	(485)	3.0	(0.2)	2.9 (0.2)	0.1 (0.0)	*0.1 (0.0)	Analgesics
Sodium chloride	7,065	(846)	3.0	(0.3)	2.9 (0.3)	0.0 (0.0)	0.1 (0.0)	Minerals and electrolytes or miscellaneous respiratory agents
Promethazine	6,913	(484)	2.9	(0.2)	2.2 (0.1)	1.0 (0.1)	*0.0 (0.0)	Antiemetic or antivertigo agents or antihistamines
Hydromorphone	5,711	(518)	2.4	(0.2)	2.3 (0.2)	0.1 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	Analgesics
Acetaminophen-oxycodone	5,258	(533)	2.2	(0.2)	1.0 (0.1)	1.6 (0.1)	*0.0 (0.0)	Analgesics
Albuterol	5,000	(406)	2.1	(0.1)	1.4 (0.1)	1.1 (0.1)	0.0 (0.0)	Bronchodilators
Azithromycin	3,828	(253)	1.6	(0.1)	0.7 (0.0)	1.1 (0.1)	*0.0 (0.0)	Macrolide derivatives
Aspirin	3,696	(289)	1.6	(0.1)	1.4 (0.1)	*0.2 (0.1)	*0.0 (0.0)	Analgesics or antiplatelet agents
Diphenhydramine	3,586	(249)	1.5	(0.1)	1.1 (0.1)	0.6 (0.0)	*0.0 (0.0)	Antiemetic or antivertigo agents or antihistamines or antiparkinson agents or anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics
Amoxicillin	3,564	(276)	1.5	(0.1)	0.3 (0.0)	1.4 (0.1)	*0.0 (0.0)	Penicillins
Ceftriaxone	3,284	(210)	1.4	(0.1)	1.3 (0.1)	0.1 (0.0)	*0.0 (0.0)	Cephalosporins
Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim . .	3,154	(222)	1.3	(0.1)	0.4 (0.0)	1.1 (0.1)	*0.0 (0.0)	Miscellaneous antibiotics or sulfonamides
Cephalexin	3,084	(215)	1.3	(0.1)	0.4 (0.0)	1.1 (0.1)	*0.0 (0.0)	Cephalosporins
Lorazepam	3,071	(233)	1.3	(0.1)	1.1 (0.1)	0.2 (0.0)	*0.0 (0.0)	Anticonvulsants; antiemetic or antivertigo agents; or anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics"
Methylprednisolone	2,889	(216)	1.2	(0.1)	0.9 (0.1)	0.3 (0.0)	*0.0 (0.0)	Adrenal cortical steroids
All other	111,329	(5,528)	46.7	(0.6)	29.0 (0.5)	20.8 (0.7)	1.1 (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.

¹Mentions refers to drugs provided or prescribed.

²Based on Multum Lexicon terminology, drug name reflects the active ingredients of a drug mention.

³Unknown includes drugs provided or prescribed that did not have either the "given in ED" or "prescribed at discharge" check boxes marked.

⁴Based on Multum Lexicon second-level therapeutic drug category (see: <http://www.multum.com/lexicon.htm>).

Table 22. Providers seen at emergency department visits: United States, 2008

Type of provider	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	...	...
Registered nurse or licensed practical nurse	114,299	(4,819)	92.4	(1.0)
Any physician	111,248	(4,411)	89.9	(0.8)
Emergency department attending physician	107,038	(4,380)	86.5	(1.3)
Emergency department resident or intern	12,003	(1,683)	9.7	(1.3)
Other on-call attending physician, fellow, or resident	5,898	(855)	4.8	(0.7)
Physician assistant.	10,765	(1,265)	8.7	(0.9)
Emergency medical technician	10,730	(1,365)	8.7	(1.1)
Nurse practitioner	4,450	(546)	3.6	(0.4)
Other	32,775	(2,657)	26.5	(2.0)
Blank	1,435	(183)	1.2	(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.

Table 23. Disposition of emergency department visits: United States, 2008

Disposition	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits	(Standard error of percent)
All visits	123,761	(4,918)	...	...
Admitted, transferred, or died				
Admitted to hospital	16,559	(1,021)	13.4	(0.6)
Step-down or telemetry unit	3,217	(298)	2.6	(0.2)
Critical care unit ²	2,124	(261)	1.7	(0.2)
Operating room.	716	(90)	0.6	(0.1)
Mental health or detoxification unit	603	(85)	0.5	(0.1)
Cardiac catheterization lab.	176	(34)	0.1	(0.0)
Other bed or unit.	7,242	(497)	5.9	(0.4)
Unknown or blank	2,481	(454)	2.0	(0.3)
Admitted to observation unit	2,318	(234)	1.9	(0.2)
Transferred to different hospital	2,095	(178)	1.7	(0.1)
Died in emergency department	139	(31)	0.1	(0.0)
Outpatient follow-up				
Returned or referred to physician or clinic for follow-up.	79,916	(3,557)	64.6	(1.2)
Returned to emergency department as needed or by appointment	43,661	(2,776)	35.3	(2.0)
No follow-up planned	6,266	(800)	5.1	(0.6)
Referred to social services	1,037	(125)	0.8	(0.1)
Left or referred out from triage.				
Left before medical screening exam	2,014	(206)	1.6	(0.1)
Left after medical screening exam	1,275	(175)	1.0	(0.1)
Left against medical advice.	1,255	(111)	1.0	(0.1)
Other	861	(164)	0.7	(0.1)
Blank	792	(151)	0.6	(0.1)

. . . Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Combined total of dispositions exceeds "all visits," and percent of visits exceeds 100%, because more than one disposition may be reported per visit.²Critical care units include intensive care and coronary care units.

Table 24. Emergency department visits resulting in hospital admission, by selected patient and visit characteristics: United States, 2008

Selected characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	(Standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits	(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	16,559	(1,021)	100.0	...	5.5	(0.2)	13.4	(0.0)
Age								
Under 15 years	816	(117)	4.9	(0.6)	4.0	(0.4)	3.5	(0.6)
15–24 years	823	(85)	5.0	(0.5)	4.2	(0.2)	4.2	(0.4)
25–24 years	2,838	(229)	17.1	(0.8)	5.2	(0.3)	8.1	(0.5)
45–64 years	4,939	(353)	29.8	(0.9)	5.2	(0.2)	18.8	(1.0)
65–74 years	2,316	(154)	14.0	(0.6)	5.9	(0.3)	31.0	(1.4)
75 years and over	4,828	(363)	29.2	(1.2)	6.1	(0.2)	41.0	(1.7)
Residence								
Private residence	13,690	(878)	82.7	(1.5)	5.3	(0.2)	12.1	(0.5)
Nursing home	1,215	(114)	7.3	(0.6)	7.3	(0.4)	48.5	(2.4)
Other institution	250	(41)	1.5	(0.2)	6.3	(0.6)	26.2	(3.5)
Other residence	186	(39)	1.1	(0.2)	5.1	(0.7)	20.1	(4.4)
Homeless	99	(28)	0.6	(0.2)	5.5	(0.7)	18.0	(4.4)
Unknown or blank	1,119	(250)	6.8	(1.4)	6.0	(0.6)	20.2	(2.7)
Expected source of payment ²								
Private insurance	7,279	(536)	44.0	(1.7)	5.2	(0.1)	14.0	(1.2)
Medicare	7,620	(527)	46.0	(1.3)	6.1	(0.2)	33.4	(1.3)
Medicaid or SCHIP ³	3,205	(264)	19.4	(1.1)	5.5	(0.3)	10.8	(0.7)
No insurance ⁴	1,341	(167)	8.1	(0.9)	4.9	(0.4)	6.1	(0.6)
Mode of arrival								
Ambulance	6,759	(501)	40.8	(1.1)	6.0	(0.2)	34.5	(1.2)
Other	9,800	(581)	59.2	(1.1)	5.1	(0.1)	9.4	(0.4)
Triage category								
Immediate or emergent ⁵	5,814	(456)	35.1	(1.7)	5.7	(0.3)	30.1	(1.9)
Other	10,745	(728)	64.9	(1.7)	5.3	(0.1)	10.3	(0.5)
Patient seen in this emergency department within the last 72 hours								
Yes	581	(70)	3.5	(0.4)	5.3	(0.7)	13.8	(1.4)
No, unknown, or blank	15,978	(985)	96.5	(0.4)	5.5	(0.2)	13.4	(0.6)
Patient discharged from any hospital within the last 7 days								
Yes	970	(98)	5.9	(0.5)	6.0	(0.6)	34.6	(2.6)
No, unknown, or blank	15,589	(975)	94.1	(0.5)	5.4	(0.1)	12.9	(0.6)
Length of stay								
1–2 days	3,172	(267)	19.2	(1.1)	...	...	...	...
3–4 days	5,297	(345)	32.0	(1.2)	...	...	...	...
5–6 days	2,944	(217)	17.8	(0.8)	...	...	...	...
7–8 days	1,280	(116)	7.7	(0.5)	...	...	...	...
9–10 days	636	(70)	3.8	(0.4)	...	...	...	...
More than 10 days	1,324	(133)	8.0	(0.6)	...	...	...	...
Unknown or blank	1,906	(351)	11.5	(1.9)	...	...	...	...
Hospital discharge status								
Alive	14,063	(887)	85.0	(1.9)	5.4	(0.2)	...	...
Home or residence	11,449	(770)	81.4	(1.7)	5.1	(0.1)	...	...
Transferred to another hospital	1,058	(135)	7.5	(0.8)	7.3	(0.5)	...	...
Other	771	(109)	5.5	(0.7)	7.4	(0.5)	...	...
Unknown or blank	785	(171)	5.6	(1.2)	5.3	(0.6)	...	...
Died	376	(52)	2.3	(0.3)	8.8	(0.9)	...	...
Unknown or blank	2,120	(358)	12.8	(1.9)	5.9	(0.7)	...	...

... Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantitiy more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Denominator for length of stay is 14,653,000 visits where this variable was known. Length of stay was unknown in 11.5 percent of visits resulting in admission.²Combined total exceeds "all admissions," and percent of visits exceeds 100%, 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 8.7 percent of expected sources of payment.³SCHIP is State Children's Health Insurance Program.⁴No insurance is defined as having only self-pay, or 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 25. Twenty leading principal hospital discharge diagnosis groups for emergency department visits: United States, 2008

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	16,559	(1,021)	100.0	...
Heart disease, excluding ischemic.391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-416,420-429	1,001	(93)	6.0	(0.5)
Chest pain786.5	888	(99)	5.4	(0.5)
Pneumonia480-486	673	(76)	4.1	(0.4)
Ischemic heart disease410-414.9	445	(63)	2.7	(0.3)
Cerebrovascular disease.430-438	443	(56)	2.7	(0.3)
Malignant neoplasms140-208,230-234	345	(55)	2.1	(0.3)
Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder.290-295,296.0-296.1,296.4-299	315	(49)	1.9	(0.3)
Asthma493	299	(59)	1.8	(0.3)
Cellulitis and abscess681-682	298	(41)	1.8	(0.2)
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage.578	291	(54)	1.8	(0.3)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified599.0	288	(50)	1.7	(0.3)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis490-491	283	(41)	1.7	(0.2)
Fracture of the lower limb820-829	264	(42)	1.6	(0.2)
Abdominal pain789.0	262	(61)	1.6	(0.4)
Syncope and collapse780.2	250	(39)	1.5	(0.2)
Diabetes mellitus250	242	(41)	1.5	(0.2)
Anemia280-285	217	(37)	1.3	(0.2)
Dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities786.0	194	(40)	1.2	(0.2)
Noninfectious enteritis and colitis.555-558	194	(32)	1.2	(0.2)
Fractures, excluding lower limb.800-819	190	(34)	1.1	(0.2)
All other diagnoses ²	9,176	(636)	55.4	(1.3)

... 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 utilization of ambulatory care services.

²All other diagnoses include blanks and the 15.5 percent of hospital discharges where the discharge diagnosis was unknown or blank.

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

Table 26. Visit volume and metropolitan status of emergency department visits, by selected characteristics: United States 2008

Hospital and ED characteristics	ED ¹ annual visit volume								Metropolitan status			
	Total ²		Fewer than 20,000		20,000 to 50,000		50,000 or more		Metropolitan statistical area		Not a metropolitan statistical area	
	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
All EDs	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	*12.6	(3.9)	*24.6	(7.4)	*1.5	(1.1)	*1.4	(0.9)	*3.6	(1.9)	*27.6	(9.0)
5	68.5	(4.4)	65.8	(8.0)	69.2	(4.8)	74.6	(4.0)	69.7	(3.9)	66.3	(9.6)
6-7	10.2	(1.9)	*3.6	(1.6)	15.8	(3.9)	17.4	(3.8)	15.3	(2.8)	*1.7	(1.3)
Unknown or blank	8.8	(2.2)	*6.1	(2.8)	*13.4	(4.6)	*6.7	(2.3)	11.4	(3.1)	*4.3	(2.9)
Has bed coordinator:												
Yes	58.1	(4.4)	38.1	(7.1)	69.5	(5.5)	91.4	(2.2)	68.8	(4.6)	40.3	(8.1)
No	34.3	(4.6)	54.4	(7.6)	21.3	(4.6)	*4.2	(2.0)	26.9	(4.6)	46.7	(8.9)
Unknown or blank	*7.6	(2.5)	*7.5	(4.1)	*9.2	(4.2)	*4.4	(1.9)	*4.3	(2.0)	*13.0	(5.8)
How often hospital bed census data are available:												
Instantaneously	70.4	(3.7)	70.7	(6.7)	67.7	(4.8)	74.9	(4.5)	68.8	(3.9)	73.0	(7.6)
Every 4 hours	4.3	(0.9)	4.1	(0.8)	*3.8	(2.0)	*5.8	(2.7)	*3.9	(1.4)	4.9	(1.0)
Every 8 hours	*1.4	(0.6)	*0	...	*0.7	(0.6)	*7.2	(3.5)	*2.3	(1.0)	*0	...
Every 12 hours	*4.7	(1.8)	*4.6	(3.1)	*6.2	(2.8)	*1.5	(1.1)	*5.7	(2.4)	*3.0	(2.9)
Every 24 hours	9.6	(2.9)	*12.9	(5.3)	*7.9	(3.0)	*3.8	(1.6)	*11.3	(3.5)	*6.9	(4.9)
Other	*0.5	(0.3)	*0	...	*1.3	(0.9)	*0	...	*0.7	(0.5)	*0	...
Unknown or blank	9.2	(2.4)	*7.6	(2.9)	*12.4	(5.1)	*6.8	(2.2)	*7.3	(2.7)	*12.3	(4.4)
ED characteristic												
ED uses electronic medical records:												
Yes, all electronic	22.7	(3.6)	*13.6	(5.9)	28.1	(4.6)	37.3	(6.4)	25.1	(3.3)	*18.7	(7.8)
Yes, part electronic	49.0	(3.6)	53.2	(6.4)	42.3	(5.3)	50.9	(6.7)	44.3	(4.2)	56.9	(6.4)
No	28.3	(4.2)	33.0	(7.3)	29.6	(5.9)	*11.8	(4.2)	30.5	(5.0)	*24.5	(7.6)
Unknown or blank	*0.0	(0.0)	*0.1	(0.1)	*0	...	*0	...	*0.1	(0.1)	*0	...
ED has observation or clinical decision unit:												
Yes	32.1	(3.8)	24.7	(5.7)	30.8	(5.4)	56.0	(6.8)	36.7	(4.6)	24.5	(6.3)
No	66.3	(3.9)	74.2	(5.8)	68.0	(5.4)	39.9	(6.6)	61.0	(4.7)	74.9	(6.4)
Unknown or blank	*1.6	(0.6)	*1.1	(0.6)	*1.1	(0.7)	*4.0	(2.2)	*2.3	(0.8)	0.6	(0.6)
Observation or clinical decision unit is administratively part of the ED or inpatient side of the hospital ³												
Part of ED	62.0	(6.7)	*	...	58.6	(9.2)	68.1	(8.9)	63.0	(6.4)	*	...
Part of inpatient side of hospital	30.1	(6.2)	*	...	37.3	(9.2)	*13.9	(5.2)	25.9	(5.0)	*	...
Unknown or blank	*7.9	(3.4)	*	...	*4.1	(2.8)	*18.0	(9.4)	*11.1	(4.6)	*	...
Admitted ED patients ever boarded for more than 2 hours in the ED while waiting for an inpatient bed:												
Yes	61.4	(5.2)	35.9	(8.3)	83.5	(3.0)	88.7	(4.0)	73.9	(4.3)	40.7	(10.4)
No	35.9	(5.3)	63.1	(8.4)	11.3	(2.9)	*9.1	(4.0)	22.1	(4.4)	58.8	(10.4)
Unknown or blank	*2.7	(1.2)	*1.1	(0.6)	*5.2	(3.2)	*2.3	(1.6)	*4.0	(1.9)	*0.6	(0.6)

Table 26. Visit volume and metropolitan status of emergency department visits, by selected characteristics: United States 2008—Con.

Hospital and ED characteristics	ED ¹ annual visit volume								Metropolitan status			
	Total ²		Fewer than 20,000		20,000 to 50,000		50,000 or more		Metropolitan statistical area		Not a metropolitan statistical area	
	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)	Percent distribution	(Standard error of percent)
If ED is critically overloaded, admitted patients are boarded in inpatient hallways or in another space outside the ED:												
Yes	17.5	(3.1)	*14.1	(5.2)	20.1	(3.9)	21.9	(5.6)	19.8	(3.5)	*13.7	(5.7)
No	80.1	(3.2)	83.8	(5.3)	78.1	(3.9)	73.8	(6.2)	77.6	(3.6)	84.3	(5.8)
Unknown or blank.	*2.4	(0.8)	*2.1	(1.2)	*1.7	(0.8)	*4.3	(2.0)	*2.6	(0.9)	*2.0	(1.5)
ED went on ambulance diversion 2007:												
Yes	30.8	(3.5)	*12.5	(4.6)	42.9	(5.1)	57.9	(6.0)	43.3	(4.5)	*9.9	(4.7)
No	55.2	(3.7)	80.3	(5.2)	36.5	(5.0)	22.2	(5.3)	36.5	(4.1)	86.1	(5.3)
Unknown or blank.	14.1	(2.5)	*7.3	(3.5)	20.6	(4.4)	19.9	(4.1)	20.1	(3.6)	*4.0	(2.6)
Ambulance diversion is actively managed on a regional versus hospital level ⁴ :												
Yes	47.4	(4.6)	*	...	47.4	(6.5)	57.1	(5.8)	47.6	(4.6)	*	...
No	45.5	(4.7)	*	...	49.0	(6.4)	31.2	(5.3)	46.1	(4.5)	*	...
Unknown or blank.	7.1	(2.0)	*	...	*3.6	(1.5)	*11.7	(3.9)	6.3	(1.8)	*	...
Hospital continues to admit elective or scheduled surgery cases when ED is on ambulance diversion ⁴ :												
Yes	69.3	(4.9)	*	...	70.9	(5.8)	75.9	(5.6)	73.7	(4.4)	*	...
No	12.8	(3.1)	*	...	*12.4	(3.7)	*9.7	(4.2)	11.6	(2.5)	*	...
Unknown or blank.	17.9	(4.3)	*	...	*16.7	(5.3)	14.4	(4.1)	14.7	(4.0)	*	...
ED increased the number of standard treatment spaces in last 2 years:												
Yes	27.9	(3.3)	21.4	(5.0)	29.4	(4.4)	43.7	(6.7)	34.2	(4.3)	17.5	(4.4)
No	69.6	(3.3)	77.8	(5.0)	67.2	(4.6)	51.0	(6.8)	63.8	(4.3)	79.2	(5.0)
Unknown or blank.	*2.5	(1.1)	*0.8	(0.5)	*3.4	(2.8)	*5.3	(2.2)	*2.0	(0.7)	*3.3	(2.7)
ED's physical space was expanded in last 2 years:												
Yes	22.4	(3.0)	17.8	(4.4)	26.5	(4.6)	26.8	(5.9)	27.7	(4.1)	13.5	(3.3)
No	76.2	(3.1)	81.4	(4.5)	72.5	(4.6)	68.8	(6.3)	70.3	(4.2)	85.9	(3.4)
Unknown or blank.	*1.5	(0.5)	*0.8	(0.5)	*1.0	(0.6)	*4.4	(2.0)	*2.0	(0.7)	*0.6	(0.6)
ED plans to expand physical space in next 2 years ⁴ :												
Yes	28.3	(4.0)	26.5	(6.5)	27.7	(5.4)	35.3	(6.3)	30.0	(4.4)	25.9	(7.4)
No	56.8	(4.3)	58.2	(7.2)	56.5	(6.1)	52.8	(6.9)	56.9	(4.9)	56.6	(7.9)
Unknown or blank.	14.9	(3.7)	*15.3	(6.6)	*15.8	(5.1)	*11.9	(3.7)	13.1	(3.6)	*17.5	(7.5)
ED uses:												
Bedside registration	72.3	(3.8)	54.3	(7.5)	87.3	(3.2)	92.6	(2.5)	83.4	(3.8)	53.8	(8.7)
Computer-assisted triage	46.5	(4.6)	26.9	(7.2)	61.4	(4.8)	71.4	(6.0)	57.6	(4.7)	28.0	(8.1)
Separate fast track unit for nonurgent care	34.9	(3.2)	*8.2	(3.6)	52.2	(5.1)	75.3	(5.9)	53.1	(4.5)	*4.7	(2.5)
Separate operating room dedicated to ED patients	3.1	(0.9)	*0	...	*4.2	(1.8)	*9.7	(3.6)	4.9	(1.4)	*0	...
Electronic dashboard ⁵	40.7	(4.1)	*12.7	(5.4)	61.7	(5.5)	77.3	(3.9)	58.8	(4.4)	*10.8	(5.4)
Radio frequency identification tracking ⁶	11.8	(2.3)	*6.5	(3.2)	15.2	(3.5)	19.8	(5.7)	15.0	(2.7)	*6.3	(3.9)
Zone nursing ⁷	37.5	(2.9)	16.9	(4.2)	51.3	(5.2)	67.9	(5.3)	51.3	(3.9)	14.8	(4.1)
Pool nurses ⁸	44.8	(4.3)	43.3	(7.4)	44.8	(5.5)	49.0	(5.5)	54.0	(4.5)	29.5	(7.2)
Full capacity protocol ⁹	27.0	(3.0)	25.8	(5.2)	24.2	(4.4)	36.3	(7.0)	30.6	(3.7)	21.1	(4.9)
None of the above	12.4	(3.4)	24.7	(6.5)	*1.4	(1.3)	*0	...	*2.3	(1.7)	29.1	(8.0)

... 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. Only an asterisk (*) appears in the table if the estimates for the entire category are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data. Estimates based on 30 or more cases include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30 percent.

¹ED is emergency department.

²Number of sampled records: all EDs (N = 331); less than 20,000 (N = 68); 20,000–50,000 (N = 140); 50,000 or more (N = 123); metropolitan area (N = 279); and not a metropolitan area (N = 52).

³Denominator is number of EDs with observation or clinical decision units.

⁴Denominator is number of emergency departments that did not expand their physical space in the last 2 years.

⁵An electronic dashboard displays updated patient information and integrates multiple data sources.

⁶Radio frequency identification tracking shows the exact location of patients, caregivers, and equipment.

⁷Zone nursing refers to all of a nurse's patients being located in one area.

⁸Pool nurses are those that can be pulled to the ED to respond to surges in demand.

⁹A full capacity protocol allows some admitted patients to move from the emergency department to inpatient corridors while awaiting a bed.