

National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2011 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 2011 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), as well as freestanding ASCs (starting in 2010).

The sampling frame for the 2011 NHAMCS was constructed from SDI's "Healthcare Market Index, Updated July 15, 2006" and "Hospital Market Profiling Solution, Second Quarter, 2006." NHAMCS uses a multi-stage probability design with samples of primary sampling units (PSUs), hospitals within PSUs, and patient visits within emergency service areas (ESAs). A total of 483 hospitals were selected for the 2011 NHAMCS, of which 370 were in scope and had eligible EDs. Of these, 322 participated, yielding an unweighted ED response rate of 87.0 percent. All 419 emergency services areas (ESAs) were selected from the EDs. Of these, 387 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, 31,084 Patient Record forms (PRFs) were submitted. The resulting unweighted ESA sample response rate was 92.4 percent, and the overall unweighted two stage sampling response rate was 80.4 percent (81.3% weighted). Response rates have been adjusted to exclude minimal participants.

The 2011 NHAMCS was conducted from December 27, 2010 through December 25, 2011. The U.S. Bureau of the Census was the data collection agent for the 2011 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: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ahcd/nhamcs100ed_2011.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 0.5 percent. For items that required medical coding, discrepancy rates ranged between 0.5–0.8 percent. For further details, see 2011 NHAMCS Public Use Data File Documentation at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc11.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 2011 NHAMCS are discussed in the 2011 NHAMCS Public Use Data File Documentation.

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 2011, race data were missing for 14.8 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 18.5 percent of visits. The National Center for Health Statistics uses 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 2011 NHAMCS Public Use Data File Documentation. Information on missing data for other variables is 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, 2011

Selected hospital characteristics	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 rate)	
All visits	136,296	(6,413)	100.0	...	44.5	(2.1)
Ownership						
Voluntary	98,021	(6,478)	71.9	(3.1)	32.0	(2.1)
Government	24,504	(3,367)	18.0	(2.5)	8.0	(1.1)
Proprietary	13,772	(3,348)	10.1	(2.3)	4.5	(1.1)
Metropolitan status ^{2,3,4}						
MSA	114,150	(6,184)	83.8	(2.1)	44.3	(2.4)
Non-MSA	22,147	(3,060)	16.2	(2.1)	45.2	(6.3)
Geographic region ⁴						
Northeast	24,263	(2,380)	17.8	(1.6)	44.3	(4.3)
Midwest	29,929	(2,794)	22.0	(1.8)	45.2	(4.2)
South	55,410	(4,582)	40.7	(2.4)	48.7	(4.0)
West	26,696	(2,304)	19.6	(1.6)	37.2	(3.2)
Teaching hospital						
Yes	23,764	(2,906)	17.4	(2.2)	7.8	(0.9)
Non-teaching hospital ⁵	112,532	(6,693)	82.6	(2.2)	36.7	(2.2)
Trauma center						
Yes	62,506	(5,684)	45.9	(3.3)	20.4	(1.9)
No or blank	73,791	(5,233)	54.1	(3.3)	24.1	(1.7)
Season ⁶						
Winter	31,918	(4,354)	23.4	(3.0)	10.4	(1.4)
Spring	35,781	(4,729)	26.3	(3.2)	11.7	(1.5)
Summer	36,437	(4,081)	26.7	(2.9)	11.9	(1.3)
Fall	32,161	(4,120)	23.6	(2.7)	10.5	(1.3)

... Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates for region are based on the July 1, 2011, set of the estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

³Population estimates by MSA are based on estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as of July 1, 2011, from the 2011 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/metro/> for more about metropolitan statistical area definitions.

⁴For 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.

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

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

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

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

Table 2. Emergency department visits by patient age, sex, and residence: United States, 2011

Selected 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	136,296	(6,413)	100.0	...	44.5	(2.1)
Age ¹						
Under 15 years	24,823	(1,724)	18.2	(0.9)	40.6	(2.8)
Under 1 year	3,485	(303)	2.6	(0.2)	87.3	(7.6)
1–4 years	9,773	(737)	7.2	(0.4)	60.5	(4.6)
5–14 years	11,565	(823)	8.5	(0.4)	28.2	(2.0)
15–24 years	22,150	(1,140)	16.3	(0.3)	51.7	(2.7)
25–44 years	39,124	(1,997)	28.7	(0.6)	48.7	(2.5)
45–64 years	29,828	(1,537)	21.9	(0.5)	36.4	(1.9)
65 years and over	20,372	(1,172)	14.9	(0.5)	50.8	(2.9)
65–74 years	8,208	(518)	6.0	(0.2)	36.9	(2.3)
75 years and over	12,163	(729)	8.9	(0.3)	68.2	(4.1)
Sex and age ¹						
Female	74,621	(3,622)	54.7	(0.4)	47.6	(2.3)
Under 15 years	11,385	(820)	8.4	(0.5)	38.1	(2.7)
15–24 years	13,289	(746)	9.8	(0.2)	62.6	(3.5)
25–44 years	22,534	(1,192)	16.5	(0.4)	55.1	(2.9)
45–64 years	15,381	(862)	11.3	(0.3)	36.4	(2.0)
65–74 years	4,353	(296)	3.2	(0.2)	36.6	(2.5)
75 years and over	7,678	(498)	5.6	(0.2)	72.1	(4.7)
Male	61,676	(2,890)	45.3	(0.4)	41.2	(1.9)
Under 15 years	13,439	(945)	9.9	(0.5)	43.0	(3.0)
15–24 years	8,861	(463)	6.5	(0.2)	41.0	(2.1)
25–44 years	16,590	(906)	12.2	(0.3)	42.1	(2.3)
45–64 years	14,446	(768)	10.6	(0.3)	36.4	(1.9)
65–74 years	3,855	(283)	2.8	(0.1)	37.2	(2.7)
75 years and over	4,485	(293)	3.3	(0.2)	62.4	(4.1)
Patient residence						
Private residence ¹	126,297	(5,984)	92.7	(0.4)	41.2	(2.0)
Nursing home ²	2,557	(184)	1.9	(0.1)	74.2	(5.3)
Homeless ³	1,092	(160)	0.8	(0.1)	171.7	(25.1)
Other	1,401	(135)	1.0	(0.1)	0.5	(0.0)
Unknown or blank	4,949	(475)	3.6	(0.3)	1.6	(0.2)

...Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Visit rates for age, sex, and private residence are based on the July 1, 2011, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²Visit rates for nursing home residents are based on the 2011 population denominators from the Center for Clinical Standards and Certification Group, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

³Visit rates for the homeless people are based on The 2011 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

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

Table 3. Emergency department visits by patient race and age, and ethnicity: United States, 2011

Patient characteristics	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)		Number of visits per 100 persons per year (standard error of rate) ¹	
All visits	136,296	(6,413)	100.0	...	44.5	(2.1)
Race and age ^{2,3}						
White	98,147	(4,872)	72.0	(1.5)	40.9	(2.0)
Under 15 years	16,766	(1,164)	12.3	(0.7)	37.3	(2.6)
15–24 years	15,254	(885)	11.2	(0.4)	47.6	(2.8)
25–44 years	27,800	(1,499)	20.4	(0.6)	45.0	(2.4)
45–64 years	21,760	(1,188)	16.0	(0.5)	32.6	(1.8)
65–74 years	6,410	(387)	4.7	(0.2)	33.9	(2.0)
75 years and over	10,156	(610)	7.5	(0.3)	65.0	(3.9)
Black or African American	32,627	(2,676)	23.9	(1.4)	82.9	(6.8)
Under 15 years	6,708	(747)	4.9	(0.5)	72.9	(8.1)
15–24 years	6,032	(493)	4.4	(0.3)	91.9	(7.5)
25–44 years	9,710	(833)	7.1	(0.5)	92.6	(7.9)
45–64 years	7,025	(636)	5.2	(0.4)	73.1	(6.6)
65–74 years	1,511	(228)	1.1	(0.1)	72.5	(10.9)
75 years and over	1,640	(291)	1.2	(0.2)	117.5	(20.8)
Other ³	5,523	(819)	4.1	(0.6)	20.3	(3.0)
Ethnicity and race ^{2,3}						
Hispanic or Latino	19,206	(1,649)	14.1	(1.0)	37.4	(3.2)
Not Hispanic or Latino	117,091	(5,640)	85.9	(1.0)	45.9	(2.2)
White	81,185	(4,216)	59.6	(1.6)	41.7	(2.2)
Black or African American	31,514	(2,627)	23.1	(1.4)	85.2	(7.1)
Other	4,392	(706)	3.2	(0.5)	18.7	(3.0)

...Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates are based on the July 1, 2011, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²The race groups, white, black or African American, and other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 2011, race data were missing for 14.8 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 18.5 percent of visits. The National Center for Health Statistics uses 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 2011 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc11.pdf.

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

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

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

Table 4. Wait time at emergency department visits: United States, 2011

Visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits	136,296	(6,413)	100.0	...
Time spent waiting to see a MD, DO, PA or NP ¹				
Fewer than 15 minutes	36,845	(2,434)	27.0	(1.4)
15–59 minutes	55,477	(2,887)	40.7	(1.0)
1 hour, but less than 2 hours	18,429	(1,176)	13.5	(0.6)
2 hours, but less than 3 hours	6,541	(626)	4.8	(0.4)
3 hours, but less than 4 hours	2,142	(298)	1.6	(0.2)
4 hours, but less than 6 hours	1,407	(269)	1.0	(0.2)
6 hours or more	937	(149)	0.7	(0.1)
Not applicable	4,292	(396)	3.1	(0.2)
Blank	10,227	(1,565)	7.5	(1.1)
Time spent in the emergency department				
Less than 1 hour	16,198	(1,020)	11.9	(0.6)
1 hour, but less than 2 hours	33,184	(1,776)	24.3	(0.7)
2 hours, but less than 4 hours	47,537	(2,476)	34.9	(0.5)
4 hours, but less than 6 hours	20,420	(1,256)	15.0	(0.5)
6 hours, but less than 10 hours	10,487	(762)	7.7	(0.5)
10 hours, but less than 14 hours	2,134	(229)	1.6	(0.2)
14 hours, but less than 24 hours	1,340	(128)	1.0	(0.1)
24 hours or more	794	(96)	0.6	(0.1)
Blank	4,202	(1,006)	3.1	(0.7)
Patient arrived in emergency department after business hours ²				
Yes	81,428	(3,799)	59.7	(0.5)
No	53,700	(2,581)	39.4	(0.5)
Blank	*1,169	(904)	* 0.9	(0.7)

...Category not applicable

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹MD is medical doctor, DO is doctor of osteopathy, PA is physician assistant, NP is nurse practitioner. The median waiting time to see a MD, DO, PA, or NP was 27.0 minutes; the mean waiting time to see a MD, DO, PA, or NP was 48.9 minutes.

²Business hours defined as Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

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

Table 5. Mode of arrival at emergency department, by patient age: United States, 2011

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	136,296	100.0	15.7	(0.5)	79.9	(0.6)	4.5	(0.4)
Age								
Under 15 years	24,823	100.0	5.4	(0.5)	90.0	(0.8)	4.6	(0.5)
Under 1 year	3,485	100.0	5.7	(1.1)	90.0	(1.4)	4.3	(1.0)
1–4 years	9,773	100.0	4.5	(0.7)	90.9	(1.1)	4.6	(0.7)
5–14 years	11,565	100.0	6.1	(0.6)	89.2	(1.0)	4.7	(0.7)
15–24 years	22,150	100.0	10.7	(0.7)	84.9	(0.8)	4.4	(0.6)
25–44 years	39,124	100.0	11.7	(0.5)	84.0	(0.7)	4.3	(0.5)
45–64 years	29,828	100.0	19.7	(0.9)	75.8	(1.0)	4.6	(0.5)
65 years and over	20,372	100.0	35.2	(1.1)	60.1	(1.1)	4.7	(0.6)
65–74 years	8,208	100.0	24.8	(1.4)	70.3	(1.5)	4.9	(0.7)
75 years and over	12,163	100.0	42.2	(1.4)	53.3	(1.4)	4.5	(0.7)

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

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

Table 6. Expected source(s) of payment at emergency department visits: United States, 2011

Expected source of payment	Number of visits in thousands ¹		Percent of visits	
	(standard error in thousand)		(standard error of percent)	
All visits	136,296	(6,413)	...	...
Private insurance	47,600	(2,687)	34.9	(1.0)
Medicaid or CHIP ²	43,327	(2,562)	31.8	(1.1)
Medicare	25,060	(1,472)	18.4	(0.6)
Medicare and Medicaid ³	5,771	(479)	4.2	(0.3)
No insurance ⁴	21,744	(1,488)	16.0	(0.7)
Self-pay	19,524	(1,287)	14.3	(0.7)
No charge or charity	2,767	(807)	2.0	(0.6)
Workers' compensation	1,503	(140)	1.1	(0.1)
Other	5,592	(877)	4.1	(0.6)
Unknown or blank	7,867	(1,126)	5.8	(0.8)

...Category not applicable.

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

²CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program.

³The 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.

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

Table 7. Triage status of emergency department visits, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2011

Patient and visit characteristics	Number of visits in thousands		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)												
	Total		Level 1 (immediate)		Level 2 (emergent)		Level 3 (urgent)		Level 4 (semiurgent)		Level 5 (nonurgent)		No triage ¹		
All visits	136,296	100.0	1.2	(0.2)	10.7	(0.6)	42.3	(1.1)	35.5	(1.0)	8.0	(0.7)	*2.2	(0.8)	
Age															
Under 15 years	24,823	100.0	0.7	(0.2)	6.2	(0.9)	31.1	(1.5)	47.0	(1.6)	13.1	(1.5)	*1.9	(0.7)	
Under 1 year	3,485	100.0	*	...	6.5	(1.9)	31.7	(2.3)	46.5	(2.6)	13.1	(2.0)	*	...	
1–4 years	9,773	100.0	*	...	5.1	(0.8)	31.8	(1.9)	47.4	(2.0)	13.3	(1.5)	*1.5	(0.6)	
5–14 years	11,565	100.0	*	...	6.9	(0.9)	30.3	(2.0)	46.8	(1.9)	13.0	(1.6)	*2.3	(0.8)	
15–24 years	22,150	100.0	1.1	(0.3)	7.6	(0.7)	40.1	(1.5)	39.8	(1.3)	9.0	(1.0)	*2.4	(1.0)	
25–44 years	39,124	100.0	1.1	(0.2)	8.9	(0.7)	42.8	(1.3)	37.0	(1.0)	8.0	(0.9)	*2.1	(0.8)	
45–64 years	29,828	100.0	1.3	(0.3)	14.8	(1.0)	45.3	(1.3)	30.3	(1.2)	6.1	(0.7)	*2.2	(0.8)	
65 years and over	20,372	100.0	*1.9	(0.6)	17.1	(1.0)	53.0	(1.6)	21.8	(1.4)	3.7	(0.6)	*2.4	(0.9)	
65–74 years	8,208	100.0	*2.2	(0.9)	17.9	(1.3)	50.3	(1.8)	23.2	(1.5)	4.0	(0.7)	*2.4	(1.0)	
75 years and over	12,163	100.0	*1.7	(0.5)	16.6	(1.2)	54.9	(1.9)	20.9	(1.6)	3.6	(0.6)	*2.4	(0.9)	
Sex															
Female	74,621	100.0	0.9	(0.2)	10.1	(0.7)	44.2	(1.3)	35.0	(1.2)	7.6	(0.7)	*2.2	(0.8)	
Male	61,676	100.0	1.6	(0.3)	11.4	(0.7)	40.0	(1.0)	36.2	(0.9)	8.6	(0.8)	*2.1	(0.8)	
Race ^{2,3}															
White	98,147	100.0	1.3	(0.3)	11.2	(0.7)	42.5	(1.3)	34.6	(1.1)	8.0	(0.8)	*2.4	(0.9)	
Black or African American	32,627	100.0	1.0	(0.2)	9.4	(0.8)	41.6	(1.4)	38.3	(1.5)	8.5	(0.9)	*1.3	(1.1)	
Other	5,523	100.0	*	...	9.2	(1.3)	43.4	(2.6)	35.9	(2.2)	6.7	(1.3)	*3.8	(2.6)	
Ethnicity and race ^{2,3}															
Hispanic or Latino	19,206	100.0	0.8	(0.2)	9.3	(1.0)	41.4	(2.0)	37.2	(1.7)	10.0	(1.4)	*1.3	(1.0)	
Not Hispanic or Latino	117,091	100.0	1.3	(0.3)	10.9	(0.7)	42.5	(1.2)	35.3	(1.0)	7.7	(0.7)	*2.3	(0.8)	
White	81,185	100.0	1.4	(0.3)	11.6	(0.8)	42.8	(1.4)	34.2	(1.2)	7.6	(0.8)	*2.5	(0.9)	
Black or African American	31,514	100.0	1.0	(0.2)	9.6	(0.8)	41.4	(1.5)	38.3	(1.6)	8.4	(0.9)	*1.4	(1.2)	
Other	4,392	100.0	*	...	9.3	(1.3)	44.8	(2.9)	34.5	(2.2)	5.9	(1.2)	*4.5	(3.2)	
Expected source(s) of payment ⁴															
Private insurance	47,600	100.0	1.3	(0.4)	11.9	(0.7)	45.3	(1.4)	32.6	(1.1)	6.8	(0.8)	*2.2	(0.8)	
Medicaid or CHIP ⁵	43,327	100.0	0.8	(0.2)	9.6	(0.9)	38.7	(1.3)	38.4	(1.4)	9.8	(1.0)	*2.6	(1.1)	
Medicare	25,060	100.0	1.7	(0.5)	16.4	(1.0)	50.2	(1.4)	24.8	(1.4)	4.4	(0.5)	*2.6	(1.1)	
Medicare and Medicaid ⁶	5,771	100.0	*	...	16.3	(1.7)	46.8	(2.2)	27.0	(2.2)	5.3	(0.8)	*3.4	(1.8)	
No insurance ⁷	21,744	100.0	1.4	(0.3)	9.2	(0.8)	39.7	(1.3)	39.2	(1.2)	8.7	(1.0)	*1.9	(0.8)	
Workers' compensation	1,503	100.0	*	...	*	...	22.1	(3.0)	57.7	(3.5)	*	...	*	...	
Other	5,592	100.0	*	...	10.3	(1.1)	44.5	(2.6)	37.1	(1.6)	6.4	(1.3)	*	...	
Unknown or blank	7,867	100.0	*	...	7.5	(1.3)	42.2	(2.5)	37.3	(2.1)	10.1	(1.3)	*	...	

...Category not applicable.

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹A visit which occurred in an emergency service area that does not conduct nursing triage.

²The race groups, white, black or African American, and other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 2011, race data were missing for 14.8 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 18.5 percent of visits. The National Center for Health Statistics uses 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 2011 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc11.pdf.

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

⁴Total exceeds "all visits" because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit.

⁵CHIP is the Children's Health Insurance Program.

⁶The visits in this category are also included in both the Medicare and the Medicaid or CHIP categories.

⁷"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.

NOTES: The 2011 Patient Record Form (PRF) requested responses using a 1–5 scale. PRF responses were evaluated with reference to responses on the Ambulatory Unit Record, completed during induction, to the question, "How many levels are in this emergency service area's (ESA) triage system?" ESAs using 3 or 4 level triage systems had their responses rescaled to fit the 5 level system, such that, for 3-level ESAs, responses of 1, 2, and 3 were recoded to 2, 3, and 4. For ESAs using a 4-level system, responses were recoded from 1–4 to 2–5. The rescaling method was determined in consultation with subject matter experts and based on record analysis. Rescaling was required for about 12.0 percent of records. Also, missing responses (17.9%) 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. Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

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

Table 8. Initial blood pressure measurements recorded at emergency department visits by adults 18 years and over, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2011

Patient characteristics	Number of visits in thousands	Initial blood pressure ¹								
		Total	SBP<120 mm Hg and DBP <80 mm Hg		SBP 120-139 mm Hg or DBP 80-89 mm Hg		SBP 140-159 mm Hg or DBP 90-99 mm Hg		SBP≥160 mm Hg or DBP ≥100 mm Hg	
Percent distribution (standard error of percent)										
All visits ²	103,624	100.0	20.3	(0.5)	34.0	(0.5)	27.9	(0.4)	17.8	(0.5)
Age										
18–24 years	16,923	100.0	29.6	(1.2)	44.8	(1.3)	21.2	(0.9)	4.4	(0.4)
25–44 years	37,844	100.0	21.1	(0.6)	38.0	(0.6)	27.9	(0.7)	12.9	(0.5)
45–64 years	28,914	100.0	16.7	(0.7)	29.0	(0.7)	30.6	(0.8)	23.6	(0.8)
65–74 years	8,040	100.0	17.6	(1.1)	24.0	(1.2)	30.8	(1.4)	27.7	(1.6)
75 years and over	11,902	100.0	15.4	(0.9)	24.4	(1.0)	28.9	(1.3)	31.4	(1.1)
Sex										
Female	58,855	100.0	23.9	(0.6)	34.2	(0.6)	25.2	(0.6)	16.8	(0.6)
Male	44,768	100.0	15.7	(0.6)	33.7	(0.6)	31.5	(0.6)	19.1	(0.7)
Race ^{3,4}										
White	76,121	100.0	20.4	(0.5)	34.0	(0.5)	28.3	(0.5)	17.3	(0.5)
Black or African American	23,616	100.0	19.8	(0.9)	33.2	(1.0)	27.0	(0.8)	20.0	(1.0)
Other	3,887	100.0	22.0	(1.7)	38.5	(1.7)	26.4	(1.5)	13.1	(1.6)
Ethnicity and race ^{3,4}										
Hispanic or Latino	12,413	100.0	22.9	(1.0)	37.0	(1.1)	27.2	(1.1)	12.9	(0.8)
Not Hispanic or Latino	91,211	100.0	20.0	(0.5)	33.5	(0.5)	28.0	(0.4)	18.4	(0.5)
White	65,075	100.0	20.0	(0.5)	33.6	(0.5)	28.4	(0.5)	18.0	(0.5)
Black or African American	22,963	100.0	19.8	(0.9)	32.8	(1.0)	27.0	(0.8)	20.3	(1.0)
Other	3,172	100.0	20.4	(1.7)	37.7	(1.7)	27.2	(1.7)	14.7	(1.5)

¹SBP is systolic blood pressure. DBP is diastolic blood pressure. Three high blood pressure categories (SBP≥120 or DBP≥80) are based on the Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure (JNC-7) and correspond to prehypertensive, stage 1 hypertensive, and stage 2 hypertensive ranges. If the SBP and DBP taken fall into two different categories, the visit is included in the higher blood pressure category.

²Visits by adults (18 years of age or over). Visits where blood pressure was taken represent 97.0 percent (SE=0.7) of all emergency department visits made by adults.

³The race groups, white, black or African American, and other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 2011, race data were missing for 14.8 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 18.5 percent of visits. The National Center for Health Statistics uses 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 2011 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc11.pdf.

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

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

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

Table 9. Initial temperature, pulse oximetry, and visit history at emergency department visits: United States, 2011

Visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits	136,296	(6,413)	100.0	...
Temperature				
Febrile: greater than 38.0° C or greater than 100.4°F	5,328	(373)	3.9	(0.2)
Normal: 35.1–38.0° C or 95.1–100.4°F	124,430	(5,964)	91.3	(0.6)
Hypothermic: 35.0° C or less, or 95.0°F or less	431	(59)	0.3	(0.0)
Blank	6,107	(898)	4.5	(0.6)
Pulse oximetry ¹				
95–100%	113,292	(5,704)	83.1	(1.2)
Less than 95%	9,140	(914)	6.7	(0.6)
Blank	13,864	(1,525)	10.2	(1.0)
Episode of care				
Initial visit	116,825	(5,911)	85.7	(1.5)
Follow-up visit	6,891	(448)	5.1	(0.2)
Unknown or blank	12,581	(2,124)	9.2	(1.5)
Patient seen in this emergency department within the last 72 hours				
Yes	5,396	(572)	4.0	(0.4)
No	107,225	(5,569)	78.7	(2.0)
Unknown or blank	23,674	(3,107)	17.4	(2.1)

...Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

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

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

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

Table 10. Ten leading principal reasons for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2011

Principal reason for visit and RVC code ¹	Number of visits in thousands		Percent distribution		
		(standard error in thousands)		(standard error of percent)	
All visits	...	136,296	(6,413)	100.0	...
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	11,069	(618)	8.1	(0.2)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems)	S050	7,052	(454)	5.2	(0.2)
Fever	S010	5,077	(382)	3.7	(0.2)
Headache, pain in head	S210	4,323	(366)	3.2	(0.2)
Cough	S440	4,056	(274)	3.0	(0.2)
Back symptoms	S905	3,880	(288)	2.8	(0.1)
Shortness of breath	S415	3,700	(304)	2.7	(0.2)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	3,012	(218)	2.2	(0.1)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	2,563	(201)	1.9	(0.1)
Vomiting	S530	2,458	(191)	1.8	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	89,106	(4,175)	65.4	(0.5)
All visits under age 15	...	24,823	(1,724)	100.0	...
Female:	...	11,385	(820)	45.9	(0.8)
Fever	S010	1,831	(200)	7.4	(0.6)
Cough	S440	836	(114)	3.4	(0.4)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	583	(75)	2.4	(0.3)
Vomiting	S530	444	(53)	1.8	(0.2)
Skin rash	S860	413	(63)	1.7	(0.2)
Earache, or ear infection	S355	374	(48)	1.5	(0.2)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	325	(51)	1.3	(0.2)
Injury, other and unspecified type-head, neck, and face	J505	295	(54)	1.2	(0.2)
Laceration or cut of facial area	J210	228	(52)	0.9	(0.2)
Headache, pain in head	S210	213	(47)	0.9	(0.2)
All other reasons ²	...	5,844	(423)	23.5	(0.7)
Male:	...	13,439	(945)	54.1	(0.8)
Fever	S010	1,969	(169)	7.9	(0.5)
Cough	S440	1,043	(106)	4.2	(0.4)
Vomiting	S530	573	(77)	2.3	(0.3)
Injury, other and unspecified type-head, neck, and face	J505	543	(85)	2.2	(0.3)
Skin rash	S860	464	(62)	1.9	(0.2)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	452	(70)	1.8	(0.2)
Earache, or ear infection	S355	397	(52)	1.6	(0.2)
Laceration or cut of facial area	J210	383	(66)	1.5	(0.2)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	310	(51)	1.3	(0.2)
Headache, pain in head	S210	242	(44)	1.0	(0.2)
All other reasons ²	...	7,062	(581)	28.4	(0.9)
All visits, age 15-64 years	...	91,101	(4,430)	100.0	...
Female:	...	51,204	(2,587)	56.2	(0.5)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	6,163	(389)	6.8	(0.3)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems)	S050	2,679	(209)	2.9	(0.2)
Headache, pain in head	S210	2,331	(225)	2.6	(0.2)

Back symptoms	S905	1,838	(154)	2.0	(0.1)
Problems of pregnancy	S790	1,470	(141)	1.6	(0.1)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	1,387	(127)	1.5	(0.1)
Shortness of breath	S415	1,229	(130)	1.3	(0.1)
Symptoms referable to throat	S455	1,176	(120)	1.3	(0.1)
Cough	S440	1,045	(116)	1.1	(0.1)
Symptoms of teeth and gums	S500	880	(123)	1.0	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	31,006	(1,505)	34.0	(0.4)
Male:	...	39,897	(1,950)	43.8	(0.5)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	2,649	(193)	2.9	(0.2)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems)	S050	2,627	(180)	2.9	(0.2)
Back symptoms	S905	1,461	(130)	1.6	(0.1)
Headache, pain in head	S210	1,179	(126)	1.3	(0.1)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	1,150	(111)	1.3	(0.1)
Laceration or cut of upper extremity	J225	1,147	(101)	1.3	(0.1)
Shortness of breath	S415	826	(101)	0.9	(0.1)
Symptoms of teeth and gums	S500	791	(95)	0.9	(0.1)
Cough	S440	765	(90)	0.8	(0.1)
Leg symptoms	S920	726	(85)	0.8	(0.1)
All other reasons ²	...	26,578	(1,306)	29.2	(0.4)
All visits, age 65 years and over	...	20,372	(1,172)	100.0	...
Female:	...	12,032	(731)	59.1	(1.0)
Shortness of breath	S415	861	(95)	4.2	(0.4)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems)	S050	854	(98)	4.2	(0.4)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	746	(85)	3.7	(0.4)
General weakness	S020	376	(54)	1.8	(0.3)
Back symptoms	S905	352	(67)	1.7	(0.3)
Hip symptoms	S915	335	(62)	1.6	(0.3)
Accident, not otherwise specified	J810	333	(77)	1.6	(0.3)
Leg symptoms	S920	327	(50)	1.6	(0.2)
Vertigo-dizziness	S225	307	(48)	1.5	(0.2)
Headache, pain in head	S210	277	(55)	1.4	(0.2)
All other reasons ²	...	7,262	(450)	35.6	(0.9)
Male:	...	8,340	(508)	40.9	(1.0)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems)	S050	748	(99)	3.7	(0.4)
Shortness of breath	S415	611	(71)	3.0	(0.3)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms	S545	475	(58)	2.3	(0.3)
Vertigo-dizziness	S225	366	(55)	1.8	(0.3)
General weakness	S020	287	(43)	1.4	(0.2)
Leg symptoms	S920	203	(38)	1.0	(0.2)
Accident, not otherwise specified	J810	*	...	*	...
Laceration or cut of upper extremity	J225	163	(38)	0.8	(0.2)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system	S055	156	(34)	0.8	(0.2)
Other urinary dysfunctions	S660	155	(33)	0.8	(0.2)
All other reasons ²	...	5,005	(360)	24.6	(1.0)

...Category not applicable.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Based on A Reason for Visit Classification (RVC) for Ambulatory Care, National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 2(78) 1979. See 2011 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Public Use File Documentation (ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc11.pdf). Reason for visit is defined by patient's own words.

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

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

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

Table 11. Primary diagnosis at emergency department visits, classified by major disease category: United States, 2011

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	...	136,296 (6,413)	100.0	...
Infectious and parasitic diseases	001-139	3,966 (269)	2.9	(0.2)
Neoplasms	140-239	284 (53)	0.2	(0.0)
Endocrine, nutritional, metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders	240-279	2,071 (161)	1.5	(0.1)
Mental disorders	290-319	5,315 (371)	3.9	(0.2)
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	320-389	6,419 (411)	4.7	(0.2)
Diseases of the circulatory system	390-459	4,359 (307)	3.2	(0.2)
Diseases of the respiratory system	460-519	13,464 (730)	9.9	(0.4)
Diseases of the digestive system	520-579	7,681 (463)	5.6	(0.2)
Diseases of the genitourinary system	580-629	7,175 (441)	5.3	(0.2)
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	680-709	5,305 (327)	3.9	(0.2)
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	710-739	9,256 (572)	6.8	(0.3)
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions	780-799	30,740 (1,699)	22.6	(0.6)
Injury and poisoning	800-999	30,664 (1,564)	22.5	(0.5)
Fractures	800-829	4,087 (269)	3.0	(0.2)
Sprains and strains	840-848	6,279 (410)	4.6	(0.2)
Intracranial injury	850-854	537 (79)	0.4	(0.1)
Open wounds	870-897	6,359 (387)	4.7	(0.2)
Superficial injury	910-919	1,689 (122)	1.2	(0.1)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	4,646 (279)	3.4	(0.2)
Foreign bodies	930-939	574 (74)	0.4	(0.0)
Burns	940-949	486 (67)	0.4	(0.0)
Trauma complications and unspecified injuries	958-959	2,567 (213)	1.9	(0.1)
Poisoning and toxic effects	960-989	989 (110)	0.7	(0.1)
Surgical and medical complications	996-999	548 (75)	0.4	(0.0)
Other injuries	...	1,904 (152)	1.4	(0.1)
Supplementary classification ²	V01-V89	3,718 (238)	2.7	(0.1)
All other diagnoses ³	...	5,419 (442)	4.0	(0.2)
Unknown or blank	...	462 (80)	0.3	(0.1)

....Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Based on the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)(U.S. Department of Health Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service. 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 (630-679); congenital anomalies (740-759), 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.

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

Table 12. Twenty leading primary diagnosis groups and presence of chronic conditions at emergency department visits: United States, 2011

Primary diagnosis group with ICD–9–CM code(s) and chronic condition		Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits	---	136,296	(6,413)	100.0	...
Primary diagnosis group with ICD–9–CM code(s) ¹					
Abdominal pain	789.0	6,911	(472)	5.1	(0.2)
Chest pain	786.5	5,521	(420)	4.1	(0.2)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920–924	4,646	(279)	3.4	(0.2)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460–461,463–466	4,625	(316)	3.4	(0.2)
Spinal disorders	720–724	4,260	(302)	3.1	(0.1)
Open wound, excluding head	874–897	4,089	(255)	3.0	(0.1)
Cellulitis and abscess	681–682	3,262	(227)	2.4	(0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840–844,845.1,848	2,838	(229)	2.1	(0.1)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800–819	2,745	(200)	2.0	(0.1)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725–729	2,500	(204)	1.8	(0.1)
Headache	784.0	2,378	(268)	1.7	(0.2)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	2,342	(180)	1.7	(0.1)
Open wound of head	870–873	2,269	(193)	1.7	(0.1)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710–719	2,206	(182)	1.6	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck and back	846,847	2,186	(173)	1.6	(0.1)
Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures	520–525	1,927	(190)	1.4	(0.1)
Pyrexia of unknown origin	780.6	1,852	(160)	1.4	(0.1)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders	381–382	1,851	(153)	1.4	(0.1)
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	630–679.99	1,790	(198)	1.3	(0.1)
Asthma	493	1,781	(156)	1.3	(0.1)
All other diagnoses ²	...	74,316	(3,515)	54.5	(0.5)
Chronic condition ³					
Diabetes	---	11,667	(748)	8.6	(0.3)
Congestive heart failure	---	4,221	(322)	3.1	(0.2)
Cerebrovascular disease or history of stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA)	---	4,071	(547)	3.0	(0.4)
Condition requiring dialysis	---	1,269	(147)	0.9	(0.1)
HIV ⁴	---	526	(73)	0.4	(0.1)
None of the above	---	109,168	(5,134)	80.1	(0.6)
Blank	---	8,942	(808)	6.6	(0.5)

---Category not applicable.

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

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

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

⁴HIV is human immunodeficiency virus.

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

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

Table 13. Twenty leading primary diagnosis groups for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2011

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	...	136,296 (6,413)	100.0	...
All visits, age under 15 years	...	24,823 (1,724)	100.0	...
Female:	...	11,385 (820)	45.9	(0.8)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	1,003 (126)	4.0	(0.4)
Pyrexia of unknown origin	780.6	646 (98)	2.6	(0.3)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders	381-382	625 (72)	2.5	(0.2)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	441 (60)	1.8	(0.2)
Open wound of head	870-873	383 (78)	1.5	(0.3)
Abdominal pain	789.0	331 (56)	1.3	(0.2)
Acute pharyngitis	462	299 (59)	1.2	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	291 (47)	1.2	(0.2)
Unspecified viral and chlamydial infection	079.9	280 (59)	1.1	(0.2)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	258 (50)	1.0	(0.2)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840-844,845.1,848	255 (48)	1.0	(0.2)
Conjunctivitis	372.0-372.3	226 (44)	0.9	(0.2)
Asthma	493	215 (51)	0.9	(0.2)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	214 (38)	0.9	(0.1)
Streptococcal sore throat	034.0	187 (41)	0.8	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	185 (37)	0.7	(0.1)
Superficial injuries	910-919	180 (37)	0.7	(0.1)
Observation and evaluation for suspected conditions not found	V71	160 (30)	0.6	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of ankle	845.0	*	*	...
Pneumonia	480-486	128 (33)	0.5	(0.1)
All other diagnoses ²	...	4,931 (376)	19.9	(0.7)
Male:	...	13,439 (945)	54.1	(0.8)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460-461,463-466	1,283 (121)	5.2	(0.4)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders	381-382	746 (81)	3.0	(0.3)
Pyrexia of unknown origin	780.6	727 (73)	2.9	(0.3)
Open wound of head	870-873	683 (96)	2.8	(0.3)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920-924	614 (89)	2.5	(0.4)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	445 (78)	1.8	(0.3)
Open wound, excluding head	874-897	397 (56)	1.6	(0.2)
Asthma	493	396 (65)	1.6	(0.2)
Acute pharyngitis	462	308 (54)	1.2	(0.2)
Unspecified viral and chlamydial infection	079.9	288 (50)	1.2	(0.2)
Superficial injuries	910-919	271 (42)	1.1	(0.2)
Abdominal pain	789.0	230 (41)	0.9	(0.2)
Streptococcal sore throat	034.0	227 (57)	0.9	(0.2)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840-844,845.1,848	220 (50)	0.9	(0.2)
Pneumonia	480-486	201 (41)	0.8	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	186 (37)	0.7	(0.1)
Cough	786.2	180 (47)	0.7	(0.2)

Conjunctivitis	372.0–372.3	179	(42)	0.7	(0.2)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490–491	173	(43)	0.7	(0.2)
Noninfectious enteritis and colitis	555–558	168	(34)	0.7	(0.1)
All other diagnoses ²	...	5,517	(456)	22.2	(0.7)
All visits, age 15–64 years	...	91,101	(4,430)	100.0	...
Female:	...	51,204	(2,587)	56.2	(0.5)
Abdominal pain	789.0	3,879	(324)	4.3	(0.3)
Chest pain	786.5	2,067	(189)	2.3	(0.1)
Spinal disorders	720–724	1,965	(163)	2.2	(0.1)
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	630–679.99	1,790	(198)	2.0	(0.2)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920–924	1,569	(148)	1.7	(0.1)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	1,415	(130)	1.6	(0.1)
Headache	784.0	1,322	(152)	1.5	(0.1)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460–461,463–466	1,304	(121)	1.4	(0.1)
Cellulitis and abscess	681–682	1,267	(108)	1.4	(0.1)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725–729	1,218	(113)	1.3	(0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840–844,845.1,848	1,128	(117)	1.2	(0.1)
Open wound, excluding head	874–897	1,025	(97)	1.1	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck and back	846,847	948	(86)	1.0	(0.1)
Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures	520–525	932	(115)	1.0	(0.1)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710–719	814	(100)	0.9	(0.1)
Asthma	493	772	(84)	0.8	(0.1)
Migraine	346	681	(81)	0.7	(0.1)
Noninflammatory disorders of the female genital organs	620,622–624	642	(80)	0.7	(0.1)
Superficial injuries	910–919	586	(65)	0.6	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of ankle	845.0	585	(68)	0.6	(0.1)
All other diagnoses ²	...	25,297	(1,270)	27.8	(0.5)
Male:	...	39,897	(1,950)	43.8	(0.5)
Chest pain	786.5	2,139	(169)	2.3	(0.1)
Open wound, excluding head	874–897	1,885	(137)	2.1	(0.1)
Abdominal pain	789.0	1,679	(148)	1.8	(0.1)
Spinal disorders	720–724	1,669	(151)	1.8	(0.1)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920–924	1,320	(100)	1.4	(0.1)
Cellulitis and abscess	681–682	1,293	(113)	1.4	(0.1)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800–819	1,149	(104)	1.3	(0.1)
Sprains and strains, excluding ankle and back	840–844,845.1,848	1,015	(111)	1.1	(0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck and back	846,847	946	(95)	1.0	(0.1)
Drug dependence and nondependence abuse of drugs	304–305	884	(108)	1.0	(0.1)
Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures	520–525	835	(106)	0.9	(0.1)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725–729	800	(93)	0.9	(0.1)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710–719	762	(83)	0.8	(0.1)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460–461,463–466	749	(78)	0.8	(0.1)
Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder	290–295,296.0–296.1,296.4–	728	(81)	0.8	(0.1)
Open wound of head	870–873	690	(71)	0.8	(0.1)
Headache	784.0	627	(96)	0.7	(0.1)
Superficial injuries	910–919	518	(59)	0.6	(0.1)

Calculus of kidney and ureter	592	416	(68)	0.5	(0.1)
Acute pharyngitis	462	414	(56)	0.5	(0.1)
All other diagnoses ²	...	19,379	(1,013)	21.3	(0.4)
All visits, age 65 years and over	...	20,372	(1,172)	100.0	...
Female:	...	12,032	(731)	59.1	(1.0)
Chest pain	786.5	604	(92)	3.0	(0.4)
Abdominal pain	789.0	528	(59)	2.6	(0.3)
Heart disease, excluding ischemic	391–392.0,393–398,402,404, 415–416,420–429	485	(65)	2.4	(0.3)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920–924	461	(54)	2.3	(0.3)
Pneumonia	480–486	401	(64)	2.0	(0.3)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	352	(60)	1.7	(0.3)
Spinal disorders	720–724	344	(58)	1.7	(0.3)
Fracture of the lower limb	820–829	339	(60)	1.7	(0.3)
Arthropathies and related disorders	710–719	326	(55)	1.6	(0.3)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800–819	301	(40)	1.5	(0.2)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490–491	285	(42)	1.4	(0.2)
Cerebrovascular disease	430–438	224	(39)	1.1	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head	874–897	221	(40)	1.1	(0.2)
Essential hypertension	401	220	(48)	1.1	(0.2)
Dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities	786.0	206	(40)	1.0	(0.2)
Rheumatism, excluding back	725–729	202	(41)	1.0	(0.2)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460–461,463–466	182	(44)	0.9	(0.2)
Dizziness and giddiness	780.4	182	(35)	0.9	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681–682	159	(30)	0.8	(0.1)
Headache	784.0	*	...	*	...
All other diagnoses ²	...	5,856	(376)	28.7	(0.8)
Male:	...	8,340	(508)	40.9	(1.0)
Chest pain	786.5	612	(90)	3.0	(0.4)
Heart disease, excluding ischemic	391–392.0,393–398,402,404, 415–416,420–429	435	(55)	2.1	(0.2)
Open wound, excluding head	874–897	270	(52)	1.3	(0.3)
Abdominal pain	789.0	265	(46)	1.3	(0.2)
Syncope and collapse	780.2	254	(49)	1.2	(0.2)
Contusion with intact skin surface	920–924	241	(46)	1.2	(0.2)
Pneumonia	480–486	222	(37)	1.1	(0.2)
Dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities	786.0	195	(34)	1.0	(0.2)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	180	(42)	0.9	(0.2)
Cellulitis and abscess	681–682	173	(35)	0.9	(0.2)
Symptoms involving the urinary system	788	164	(32)	0.8	(0.2)
Cerebrovascular disease	430–438	156	(35)	0.8	(0.2)
Spinal disorders	720–724	149	(27)	0.7	(0.1)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490–491	148	(27)	0.7	(0.1)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800–819	143	(35)	0.7	(0.2)
Dizziness and giddiness	780.4	*	...	*	...
Arthropathies and related disorders	710–719	*	...	*	...

Essential hypertension	401	*	...	*	...
Anemias	280–285	*	...	*	...
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis	460–461, 463–466	*	...	*	...
<u>All other diagnoses²</u>	...	4,170	(279)	20.5	(0.8)

...Category not applicable.

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

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

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

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

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

Table 14. Injury visits to emergency departments, by selected patient and hospital characteristics: United States, 2011

Selected patient and hospital characteristics	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)
All injury visits ²	40,220	(2,071)	100.0	...	13.1	(0.7)
Patient characteristics						
Age:						
Under 15 years	8,068	(644)	20.1	(1.0)	13.2	(1.1)
Under 1 year	489	(71)	1.2	(0.2)	12.2	(1.8)
1–4 years	2,862	(233)	7.1	(0.5)	17.7	(1.4)
5–14 years	4,717	(427)	11.7	(0.7)	11.5	(1.0)
15–24 years	7,253	(406)	18.0	(0.5)	16.9	(0.9)
25–44 years	11,368	(629)	28.3	(0.7)	14.2	(0.8)
45–64 years	8,331	(453)	20.7	(0.6)	10.2	(0.6)
65 years and over	5,201	(337)	12.9	(0.5)	13.0	(0.8)
65–74 years	1,940	(163)	4.8	(0.3)	8.7	(0.7)
75 years and over	3,261	(239)	8.1	(0.4)	18.3	(1.3)
Sex and age						
Female	18,952	(1,029)	47.1	(0.8)	12.1	(0.7)
Under 15 years	3,459	(277)	8.6	(0.5)	11.6	(0.9)
15–24 years	3,081	(204)	7.7	(0.3)	14.5	(1.0)
25–44 years	5,202	(334)	12.9	(0.5)	12.7	(0.8)
45–64 years	4,011	(259)	10.0	(0.4)	9.5	(0.6)
65–74 years	1,064	(112)	2.6	(0.2)	8.9	(0.9)
75 years and over	2,134	(165)	5.3	(0.3)	20.0	(1.5)
Male	21,268	(1,144)	52.9	(0.8)	14.2	(0.8)
Under 15 years	4,608	(418)	11.5	(0.7)	14.7	(1.3)
15–24 years	4,172	(259)	10.4	(0.4)	19.3	(1.2)
25–44 years	6,166	(386)	15.3	(0.7)	15.6	(1.0)
45–64 years	4,320	(260)	10.7	(0.4)	10.9	(0.7)
65–74 years	876	(93)	2.2	(0.2)	8.5	(0.9)
75 years and over	1,127	(114)	2.8	(0.2)	15.7	(1.6)
Hospital characteristics						
Ownership						
Voluntary	28,593	(1,991)	71.1	(3.4)	9.3	(0.6)
Proprietary	7,392	(1,096)	18.4	(2.7)	2.4	(0.4)
Government	4,235	(1,117)	10.5	(2.6)	1.4	(0.4)
Geographic region						
Northeast	7,294	(776)	18.1	(1.8)	13.3	(1.4)
Midwest	8,935	(812)	22.2	(1.9)	13.5	(1.2)
South	15,251	(1,349)	37.9	(2.5)	13.4	(1.2)
West	8,740	(1,043)	21.7	(2.2)	12.2	(1.5)
Metropolitan status ³						
Metropolitan statistical area	33,635	(2,041)	83.6	(2.1)	13.1	(0.8)
Nonmetropolitan statistical area	6,585	(873)	16.4	(2.1)	13.4	(1.8)

...Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates for age, sex, race, and region are based on the July 1, 2011, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey definition of injury visits, as shown on this table, changed in 2010 and includes first-, second-, and third-listed reason for visit and diagnosis codes that are injury or poison related. Adverse effects and complications are excluded. Reason for visit was coded using A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care; diagnosis and external cause of injury were coded using the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition. DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 06-1260). Injury visits, using this definition, accounted for 29.5 percent (SE=0.6) of all emergency department visits in 2011. For more details see the 2011 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc11.pdf.

³Population estimates by metropolitan statistical area status are based on estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of United States as of July 1, 2011, from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, compiled according to December 2009 Office of Management and Budget definition of core-based statistical areas. See <http://www.census.gov/population/metro/> for more about metropolitan statistical area definitions.

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

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

Table 15. Injury visits to emergency departments by race and age, and ethnicity: United States, 2011

Patient characteristics	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)		Number of visits per 100 persons per year (standard error of rate) ¹	
All injury visits ²	40,220	(2,071)	100.0	...	13.1	(0.7)
Race and age ^{3,4}						
White	30,522	(1,710)	75.9	(1.4)	12.7	(0.7)
Under 15 years	5,757	(499)	14.3	(0.8)	12.8	(1.1)
15–24 years	5,271	(359)	13.1	(0.6)	16.5	(1.1)
25–44 years	8,516	(505)	21.2	(0.7)	13.8	(0.8)
45–64 years	6,486	(387)	16.1	(0.5)	9.7	(0.6)
65–74 years	1,603	(137)	4.0	(0.3)	8.5	(0.7)
75 years and over	2,890	(211)	7.2	(0.4)	18.5	(1.3)
Black or African American	8,016	(619)	19.9	(1.2)	20.4	(1.6)
Under 15 years	1,814	(221)	4.5	(0.5)	19.7	(2.4)
15–24 years	1,698	(145)	4.2	(0.3)	25.9	(2.2)
25–44 years	2,366	(233)	5.9	(0.5)	22.6	(2.2)
45–64 years	1,576	(152)	3.9	(0.3)	16.4	(1.6)
65–74 years	275	(66)	0.7	(0.2)	13.2	(3.2)
75 years and over	287	(83)	0.7	(0.2)	20.6	(6.0)
Other	1,682	(239)	4.2	(0.6)	6.2	(0.9)
Ethnicity and race ^{3,4}						
Hispanic	5,375	(555)	13.4	(1.1)	10.5	(1.1)
Not Hispanic	34,845	(1,756)	86.6	(1.1)	13.7	(0.7)
White	25,845	(1,452)	64.3	(1.5)	13.3	(0.7)
Black or African American	7,704	(594)	19.2	(1.2)	20.8	(1.6)
Other	1,295	(188)	3.2	(0.5)	5.5	(0.8)

...Category not applicable.

¹Visit rates are based on the July 1, 2011, estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey definition of injury visits, as shown on this table, changed in 2010 and includes first-, second-, and third-listed reason for visit and diagnosis codes that are injury or poison related. Adverse effects and complications are excluded. Reason for visit was coded using A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care; diagnosis and external cause of injury were coded using the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition. DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 06-1260). Injury visits, using this definition, accounted for 29.5 percent (SE=0.6) of all emergency department visits in 2011. For more details see the 2011 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc11.pdf.

³The race groups, white, black or African American, and other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 2011, race data were missing for 14.8 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 18.5 percent of visits. The National Center for Health Statistics uses 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 2011 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc11.pdf.

⁴Other race includes visits by Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and persons with more than one race.

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

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

Table 16. Injury visits to emergency departments, by body site: United States, 2011

Body site ¹	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All injury visits ²	40,220	(2,071)	100.0	...
Head and neck	4,705	(303)	11.7	(0.5)
Traumatic brain injury	371	(67)	0.9	(0.2)
Other head	1,360	(126)	3.4	(0.3)
Face	1,410	(122)	3.5	(0.3)
Eye	477	(66)	1.2	(0.2)
Head, face, and neck unspecified	1,087	(112)	2.7	(0.2)
Spinal cord	*	...	*	...
Vertebral column	1,630	(137)	4.1	(0.3)
Cervical	819	(87)	2.0	(0.2)
Thoracic and dorsal	174	(42)	0.4	(0.1)
Lumbar	588	(70)	1.5	(0.2)
Other vertebral column	*	...	*	...
Torso	1,771	(134)	4.4	(0.3)
Chest	641	(75)	1.6	(0.2)
Abdomen	*	...	*	...
Pelvis and urogenital	312	(52)	0.8	(0.1)
Trunk	235	(40)	0.6	(0.1)
Back and buttocks	463	(66)	1.2	(0.2)
Upper extremity	7,390	(418)	18.4	(0.5)
Shoulder and upper arm	1,325	(116)	3.3	(0.2)
Forearm and elbow	1,095	(106)	2.7	(0.2)
Wrist, hand, and fingers	4,543	(275)	11.3	(0.4)
Other and unspecified upper extremity	426	(63)	1.1	(0.1)
Lower extremity	6,071	(409)	15.1	(0.5)
Hip	561	(76)	1.4	(0.2)
Upper leg and thigh	*	...	*	...
Knee	415	(61)	1.0	(0.1)
Lower leg and ankle	1,630	(137)	4.1	(0.2)
Foot and toes	1,612	(145)	4.0	(0.3)
Other and unspecified lower extremity	1,761	(157)	4.4	(0.3)
System-wide	2,176	(189)	5.4	(0.4)
Other and unspecified body site injuries	1,897	(200)	4.7	(0.4)
Injury visit with multiple injury diagnoses	6,892	(419)	17.1	(0.6)
Injury visit without injury diagnoses ³	7,188	(449)	17.9	(0.5)
Musculoskeletal conditions	2,167	(174)	5.4	(0.3)
Skin conditions	814	(98)	2.0	(0.2)
Symptoms, signs, ill-defined conditions	1,256	(118)	3.1	(0.3)
Mental disorders	683	(73)	1.7	(0.2)
Observation and evaluation	461	(67)	1.1	(0.1)
All other diagnoses	1,807	(151)	4.5	(0.3)
Unknown ⁴	489	(72)	1.2	(0.2)

...Category not applicable.

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)*. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition*. DHHS Pub No.(PHS) 06-1260). A detailed description of the Barell Injury Diagnosis Matrix: Classification by Region of Body and Nature of the Injury can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/injury/ice/barell_matrix.htm. In this table, injury visits with a single injury diagnosis, whether first-, second-, or third-listed, are reported in the relevant body region category; 17.1% of injury visits had multiple injury diagnoses and are shown in a separate row of the table. Injury visits with multiple injury diagnoses can include visits in which there were multiple injuries within a single body site as well as visits in which there were injuries to more than one body site.

²The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey definition of injury visits, as shown on this table, changed in 2010 and includes first-, second-, and third-listed reason for visit and diagnosis codes that are injury or poison related. Adverse effects and complications are excluded. Reason for visit was coded using A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care; diagnosis and external cause of injury were coded using the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)* (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition*. DHHS Pub No.(PHS) 06-1260). Injury visits, using this definition, accounted for 29.5 percent (SE=0.6) of all emergency department visits in 2011. For more details see the 2011 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc11.pdf.

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

⁴Includes blank, uncodable, and illegible diagnoses.

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

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

Table 17. Emergency department visits related to injury, poisoning, and adverse effect, by intent and mechanism: United States, 2011

Intent and mechanism ¹	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits related to injury, poisoning, and adverse effects ^{1,2}	42,997	(2,181)	100.0	...
Unintentional injuries	31,013	(1,680)	72.1	(0.9)
Falls	11,324	(677)	26.3	(0.7)
Motor vehicle traffic	3,828	(249)	8.9	(0.3)
Struck against or struck accidentally by objects or persons	3,482	(230)	8.1	(0.4)
Cutting or piercing instruments or objects	2,369	(174)	5.5	(0.3)
Overexertion and strenuous movements	2,210	(170)	5.1	(0.3)
Natural and environmental factors	2,091	(164)	4.9	(0.3)
Poisoning	946	(111)	2.2	(0.2)
Foreign body	780	(88)	1.8	(0.2)
Caught accidentally in or between objects	405	(47)	0.9	(0.1)
Pedal cycle, nontraffic and other	400	(64)	0.9	(0.1)
Fire and flames, hot substances or object, caustic or corrosive and steam	393	(55)	0.9	(0.1)
Motor vehicle, nontraffic	314	(69)	0.7	(0.2)
Other transportation	*	...	*	...
Suffocation	*	...	*	...
Machinery	179	(35)	0.4	(0.1)
Other mechanism ³	2,046	(218)	4.8	(0.4)
Mechanism unspecified	*	...	*	...
Intentional injuries	2,984	(206)	6.9	(0.3)
Assault	2,061	(169)	4.8	(0.3)
Unarmed fight or brawl, striking by blunt or thrown object	1,240	(123)	2.9	(0.2)
Cutting or piercing instrument	127	(31)	0.3	(0.1)
Other and unspecified mechanism ⁴	693	(79)	1.6	(0.2)
Self-inflicted	836	(99)	1.9	(0.2)
Poisoning by solid or liquid substances, gases, and vapors	509	(71)	1.2	(0.2)
Other and unspecified mechanism ⁵	327	(58)	0.8	(0.1)
Other causes of violence	*	...	*	...
Injuries of undetermined intent	510	(74)	1.2	(0.2)
Adverse effects of medical treatment	1,888	(147)	4.4	(0.3)
Medical and surgical complications	1,157	(99)	2.7	(0.2)
Adverse drug effects	731	(95)	1.7	(0.2)
Alcohol and drug use ⁶	134	(32)	0.3	(0.1)
Unknown cause ⁷	6,468	(448)	15.0	(0.8)

...Category not applicable.

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

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

²The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey definition of visits related to injury, poisoning and adverse effect, as shown on this table, changed in 2010 and includes first-, second-, and third-listed reason for visit and diagnosis codes related to injury, poisoning, or adverse effect. Such visits accounted for 31.5 percent (SE=0.6) of all emergency department visits in 2011. Reason for visit was coded using A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care; diagnosis and external cause of injury were coded using the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM). For more information on why this definition changed, see the 2011 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available at: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc11.pdf.

³Includes drowning, firearms, and other mechanism.

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

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

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

⁷Includes illegible entries and blanks.

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

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

Table 18. Selected diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided at emergency department visits: United States, 2011

Diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided	Number of visits in thousands ¹		Percent of visits	
	(standard error in thousands)		(standard error of percent)	
All visits	136,296	(6,413)	...	...
One or more diagnostic or screening service listed	96,322	(4,710)	70.7	(0.6)
None	37,986	(1,919)	27.9	(0.6)
Blank	1,988	(209)	1.5	(0.1)
Blood tests				
Any blood test listed	57,251	(2,946)	42.0	(0.9)
Complete blood count	51,909	(2,745)	38.1	(0.9)
Blood urea nitrogen or creatinine	34,448	(2,419)	25.3	(1.3)
Glucose	32,953	(2,385)	24.2	(1.2)
Electrolytes	30,635	(2,420)	22.5	(1.3)
Cardiac enzymes	19,174	(1,487)	14.1	(0.9)
Liver function tests	12,646	(1,233)	9.3	(0.8)
Prothrombin time or international normalized ratio (INR)	11,120	(1,012)	8.2	(0.6)
Blood culture	5,180	(427)	3.8	(0.3)
Arterial blood gases	4,521	(739)	3.3	(0.5)
Blood alcohol concentration	3,214	(305)	2.4	(0.2)
Other blood test	28,308	(1,796)	20.8	(1.0)
Imaging				
Any imaging	63,799	(3,216)	46.8	(0.7)
X-ray	46,910	(2,320)	34.4	(0.6)
Computed tomography scan	21,511	(1,285)	15.8	(0.5)
Head	10,560	(638)	7.7	(0.3)
Other than head	11,687	(777)	8.6	(0.4)
Ultrasound	5,222	(362)	3.8	(0.2)
Magnetic resonance imaging scan	835	(87)	0.6	(0.1)
Other imaging	1,351	(187)	1.0	(0.1)
Examinations and tests				
Urinalysis	35,231	(1,890)	25.8	(0.6)
Electrocardiogram	25,996	(1,563)	19.1	(0.6)
Cardiac monitor	12,286	(1,008)	9.0	(0.6)
Pregnancy test ²	9,582	(679)	12.8	(0.6)
Toxicology screen	5,132	(476)	3.8	(0.3)
Influenza test	2,221	(389)	1.6	(0.3)
Wound culture	1,227	(253)	0.9	(0.2)
HIV ³ test	619	(157)	0.5	(0.1)
Other test or service	22,878	(2,189)	16.8	(1.3)

...Category not applicable.

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

²Based on 74,621,000 female visits.

³HIV is human immunodeficiency virus.

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

Table 19. Selected procedures at emergency department visits: United States, 2011

Procedure performed	Number of visits in thousands		Percent of visits	
	(standard error in thousands)		(Standard error of percent)	
All visits	136,296	(6,413)	...	...
One or more procedure listed	63,418	(3,303)	46.5	(0.9)
None ¹	66,790	(3,282)	49.0	(0.9)
Blank ²	6,089	(724)	4.5	(0.5)
Intravenous fluids	39,562	(2,365)	29.0	(0.9)
Splint or wrap	7,668	(473)	5.6	(0.3)
Suturing or staples	4,448	(295)	3.3	(0.2)
Nebulizer therapy	3,984	(326)	2.9	(0.2)
Bladder catheter	2,854	(288)	2.1	(0.2)
Pelvic exam	2,548	(275)	1.9	(0.2)
Incision and drainage	1,620	(157)	1.2	(0.1)
Foreign body removal	489	(62)	0.4	(0.0)
Cast	335	(54)	0.2	(0.0)
Endotracheal intubation	259	(40)	0.2	(0.0)
Central line	151	(34)	0.1	(0.0)
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	122	(29)	0.1	(0.0)
Other	10,426	(968)	7.6	(0.6)

...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.

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

Table 20. Medication therapy and number of medications mentioned at emergency department visits: United States, 2011

Medication therapy ¹	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)		Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	
All visits	136,296	(6,413)	100.0	...
Visits with mention of medication ²	109,384	(5,222)	80.3	(0.6)
Visits without mention of medication	26,913	(1,465)	19.7	(0.6)
Number of medications provided or prescribed ³				
All visits	136,296	(6,413)	100.0	...
0	26,913	(1,465)	19.7	(0.6)
1	33,970	(1,659)	24.9	(0.5)
2	29,468	(1,438)	21.6	(0.4)
3	19,666	(1,016)	14.4	(0.3)
4	11,799	(692)	8.7	(0.3)
5	6,366	(435)	4.7	(0.2)
6	3,676	(315)	2.7	(0.2)
7	2,265	(252)	1.7	(0.2)
8	2,173	(231)	1.6	(0.2)

...Category not applicable.

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

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

³There were 286,227,000 drug mentions at emergency department visits in 2011. The average drug mention rate was 2.1 drug mentions per ED visit (standard error=0.03). For visits with at least one drug mention, the average drug mention rate was 2.6 drugs per visit (standard error=0.03).

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

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

Table 21. Twenty most frequently mentioned drugs by therapeutic drug categories at emergency department visits: United States, 2011

Drug category ¹	Number of occurrences		Percent of drug mentions ²	
	in thousands (standard error in thousands)		(standard error of percent)	
Analgesics ³	97,578	(5,018)	34.1	(0.4)
Antiemetic or antivertigo agents	36,089	(2,106)	12.6	(0.3)
Minerals and electrolytes	17,063	(1,676)	6.0	(0.4)
Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics	13,682	(902)	4.8	(0.2)
Miscellaneous respiratory agents	13,316	(1,504)	4.7	(0.4)
Antihistamines	11,043	(774)	3.9	(0.2)
Bronchodilators	9,720	(643)	3.4	(0.1)
Cephalosporins	9,319	(517)	3.3	(0.1)
Adrenal cortical steroids	8,990	(535)	3.1	(0.1)
Penicillins	8,402	(472)	2.9	(0.1)
Anticonvulsants	7,861	(524)	2.7	(0.1)
Miscellaneous antibiotics	7,045	(399)	2.5	(0.1)
Antiparkinson agents	5,354	(440)	1.9	(0.1)
Quinolones	5,345	(358)	1.9	(0.1)
Macrolide derivatives	5,294	(341)	1.8	(0.1)
Antiarrhythmic agents	5,210	(396)	1.8	(0.1)
Dermatological agents	5,165	(405)	1.8	(0.1)
Local injectable anesthetics	5,107	(445)	1.8	(0.1)
Muscle relaxants	4,899	(355)	1.7	(0.1)
Antiplatelet agents	4,396	(365)	1.5	(0.1)

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

²Based on an estimated 286,227,000 drug mentions at emergency department visits in 2011. Drug mentions are medications given in the emergency room or prescribed at discharge.

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

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

Table 22. Twenty most frequently mentioned drugs at emergency department visits: United States, 2011

Drug name ¹	Number of drug mentions in thousands (standard error in thousands)				Percent of mention (standard error of percent)				Percent of mention (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	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Given in emergency department	Prescribed at discharge	Both given in emergency department and prescribed at discharge	Unknown ²				
All drug mentions	286,227	(14,702)	100.0	...	100.0	57.6	(1.0)	31.5	(0.9)	9.5	(0.4)	1.4	(0.1)	
Ondansetron	18,977	(1,135)	6.6	(0.2)	100.0	77.8	(1.1)	8.0	(0.7)	12.9	(0.9)	1.3	(0.3)	Antiemetic or antivertigo agents
Ibuprofen	18,338	(1,102)	6.4	(0.2)	100.0	34.0	(1.6)	49.1	(1.7)	15.4	(1.1)	1.5	(0.3)	Analgesics
Acetaminophen-hydrocodone	16,876	(1,138)	5.9	(0.2)	100.0	21.5	(1.4)	62.9	(1.6)	14.9	(1.0)	0.7	(0.2)	Analgesics
Sodium chloride	13,192	(1,505)	4.6	(0.4)	100.0	96.6	(0.6)	0.9	(0.2)	*0.4	(0.1)	2.1	(0.4)	Minerals and electrolytes, miscellaneous respiratory agents
Acetaminophen	11,319	(652)	4.0	(0.2)	100.0	57.2	(2.3)	30.4	(1.8)	10.9	(1.1)	1.5	(0.3)	Analgesics
Ketorolac	9,119	(529)	3.2	(0.1)	100.0	93.5	(0.7)	3.0	(0.5)	2.8	(0.5)	*0.7	(0.3)	Analgesics
Morphine	8,189	(570)	2.9	(0.1)	100.0	97.4	(0.5)	0.9	(0.2)	*0.3	(0.1)	1.4	(0.4)	Analgesics
Hydromorphone	7,597	(644)	2.7	(0.2)	100.0	95.8	(0.6)	1.6	(0.4)	1.8	(0.4)	*0.8	(0.3)	Analgesics
Acetaminophen-oxycodone	6,634	(601)	2.3	(0.2)	100.0	24.7	(2.4)	51.6	(2.6)	22.6	(1.7)	*1.1	(0.4)	Analgesics
Albuterol	5,564	(422)	1.9	(0.1)	100.0	51.4	(2.2)	28.6	(1.9)	18.8	(1.4)	1.2	(0.3)	Bronchodilators
Diphenhydramine	5,251	(429)	1.8	(0.1)	100.0	66.0	(2.6)	20.0	(2.0)	13.1	(1.5)	*0.9	(0.3)	Antiemetic or antivertigo agents, antihistamines, antiparkinson agents, anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics
Azithromycin	4,739	(314)	1.7	(0.1)	100.0	29.0	(1.9)	57.6	(2.5)	11.9	(1.5)	*1.5	(0.5)	Macrolide derivatives
Promethazine	4,257	(361)	1.5	(0.1)	100.0	50.4	(2.4)	38.0	(2.3)	9.9	(1.8)	*1.6	(0.6)	Antiemetic or antivertigo agents, antihistamines
Ceftriaxone	4,256	(321)	1.5	(0.1)	100.0	94.9	(0.9)	*1.8	(0.6)	1.1	(0.3)	*2.2	(0.7)	Cephalosporins
Aspirin	4,114	(343)	1.4	(0.1)	100.0	89.5	(1.3)	5.6	(1.1)	1.9	(0.5)	3.1	(0.8)	Analgesics, antiplatelet agents
Amoxicillin	4,086	(308)	1.4	(0.1)	100.0	6.0	(1.1)	73.9	(2.6)	19.1	(2.3)	*0.9	(0.5)	Penicillins
Lorazepam	3,923	(287)	1.4	(0.1)	100.0	81.6	(1.5)	7.6	(1.2)	8.4	(1.0)	*2.4	(0.7)	Anticonvulsants, antiemetic or antivertigo agents, anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics
Lidocaine	3,849	(335)	1.3	(0.1)	100.0	92.7	(1.1)	4.2	(0.9)	*1.2	(0.5)	*2.0	(0.6)	Antiarrhythmic agents, local injectable anesthetics
Prednisone	3,708	(260)	1.3	(0.1)	100.0	25.6	(2.2)	48.6	(2.7)	25.1	(2.1)	*0.7	(0.3)	Adrenal cortical steroids
Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim	3,641	(274)	1.3	(0.1)	100.0	14.2	(1.9)	66.8	(3.0)	18.0	(2.9)	*1.0	(0.4)	Miscellaneous antibiotics, sulfonamides
All other	128,600	(6,530)	44.9	(0.5)	100.0	54.1	(1.3)	36.2	(1.3)	8.3	(0.5)	1.5	(0.2)	...

...Category not applicable.

*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

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

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

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

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

Table 23. Providers seen at emergency department visits: United States, 2011

Type of provider	Number of visits in thousands ¹ (standard error in thousands)		Percent of visits (standard error of percent)	
All visits	136,296	(6,413)	...	...
Any physician	121,307	(5,797)	89.0	(0.9)
Emergency department attending physician	119,056	(5,789)	87.4	(1.2)
Emergency department resident or intern	14,293	(1,728)	10.5	(1.2)
Consulting physician	9,749	(975)	7.2	(0.6)
Registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN)	123,787	(6,115)	90.8	(1.4)
Any physician seen	111,222	(5,616)	81.6	(1.6)
Physician not seen	12,565	(1,381)	9.2	(0.9)
Nurse practitioner	7,971	(811)	5.8	(0.5)
Any physician seen	4,833	(550)	3.5	(0.4)
Physician not seen	3,138	(537)	2.3	(0.4)
Physician assistant	16,848	(1,815)	12.4	(1.1)
Any physician seen	9,566	(1,328)	7.0	(0.9)
Physician not seen	7,282	(1,146)	5.3	(0.8)
Emergency medical technician	10,745	(1,168)	7.9	(0.8)
Mental health provider	1,900	(217)	1.4	(0.1)
Other	36,164	(3,091)	26.5	(1.9)
Blank	1,248	(161)	0.9	(0.1)

...Category not applicable.

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

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

Table 24. Disposition of emergency department visits: United States, 2011

Disposition	Number of visits in thousands ¹		Percent of visits	
	(standard error in thousands)		(standard error of percent)	
All visits	136,296	(6,413)	...	...
Admitted, transferred, or died				
Admit to this hospital	16,229	(1,127)	11.9	(0.6)
Critical care unit	2,094	(238)	1.5	(0.2)
Stepdown or telemetry unit	1,811	(337)	1.3	(0.2)
Operation room	734	(110)	0.5	(0.1)
Mental health or detoxification unit	822	(105)	0.6	(0.1)
Cardiac catheterization lab	289	(83)	0.2	(0.1)
Other bed or unit	8,047	(618)	5.9	(0.4)
Unknown or blank	2,432	(330)	1.8	(0.2)
Admit to observation unit	2,884	(458)	2.1	(0.3)
Then hospitalized	965	(166)	0.7	(0.1)
Then discharged	1,919	(340)	1.4	(0.2)
Return or transfer to nursing home	434	(66)	0.3	(0.0)
Transfer to psychiatric hospital	892	(122)	0.7	(0.1)
Transfer to other hospital	1,950	(207)	1.4	(0.1)
Died in emergency department ²	183	(31)	0.1	(0.0)
Outpatient follow-up				
Return to emergency department if needed (PRN) or by appointment	46,723	(3,335)	34.3	(2.3)
Return or refer to physician or clinic for follow-up	90,820	(4,606)	66.6	(1.2)
No follow-up planned	6,492	(850)	4.8	(0.6)
Left prior to completing visit				
Left before triage	550	(79)	0.4	(0.1)
Left after triage	2,130	(276)	1.6	(0.2)
Left against medical advice	1,659	(177)	1.2	(0.1)
Other	1,246	(228)	0.9	(0.2)
Blank	769	(111)	0.6	(0.1)

...Category not applicable.

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 "dead on arrival."

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

Table 25. Emergency department visits resulting in hospital admission, by selected patient and visit characteristics: United States, 2011

Selected characteristic	Number of visits		Percent distribution		Mean length of stay in days ¹		Admissions as percent of visits (standard error of percent)	
	in thousands (standard error in thousands)	(standard error of percent)	(standard error of percent)	(standard error in days)	(standard error in days)	(standard error of percent)	(standard error of percent)	
All admissions	16,229	(1,127)	100.0	...	5.0	(0.1)	11.9	(0.6)
Age								
Under 15 years	767	(162)	4.7	(1.0)	3.6	(0.4)	3.1	(0.6)
15–24 years	886	(98)	5.5	(0.5)	4.0	(0.3)	4.0	(0.4)
25–44 years	2,703	(226)	16.7	(0.9)	4.6	(0.3)	6.9	(0.5)
45–64 years	4,814	(396)	29.7	(1.0)	4.8	(0.2)	16.1	(0.9)
65–74 years	2,452	(237)	15.1	(1.0)	5.4	(0.3)	29.9	(1.7)
75 years and over	4,605	(388)	28.4	(1.2)	5.8	(0.2)	37.9	(1.7)
Residence								
Private residence	13,982	(1,002)	86.2	(0.9)	4.9	(0.1)	11.1	(0.6)
Nursing home	1,222	(120)	7.5	(0.6)	6.3	(0.3)	47.8	(3.0)
Other	301	(52)	1.9	(0.3)	6.5	(1.1)	21.5	(3.4)
Homeless	109	(22)	0.7	(0.1)	5.0	(0.9)	9.9	(1.9)
Unknown or blank	616	(92)	3.8	(0.5)	6.0	(0.4)	12.4	(1.5)
Expected sources of payment ²								
Private insurance	6,542	(542)	40.3	(1.5)	4.7	(0.1)	13.7	(0.9)
Medicare	7,518	(633)	46.3	(1.7)	5.7	(0.1)	30.0	(1.3)
Medicaid or CHIP ³	4,014	(380)	24.7	(1.5)	5.2	(0.2)	9.3	(0.7)
No insurance ⁴	1,202	(123)	7.4	(0.6)	4.5	(0.3)	5.5	(0.5)
Mode of arrival								
Ambulance	6,794	(511)	41.9	(1.0)	5.7	(0.2)	31.8	(1.4)
Other	9,434	(667)	58.1	(1.0)	4.5	(0.1)	8.2	(0.4)
Triage category								
Immediate or emergent	5,240	(499)	32.3	(1.7)	5.2	(0.2)	32.3	(1.8)
Other	10,988	(764)	67.7	(1.7)	5.0	(0.1)	9.2	(0.5)
Patient seen in this emergency department during the last 72 hours								
Yes	771	(105)	4.7	(0.5)	5.4	(0.5)	14.3	(1.5)
No, unknown, or blank	15,458	(1,071)	95.3	(0.5)	5.0	(0.1)	11.8	(0.6)
Patient discharged from any hospital within the last 7 days								
Yes	1,025	(138)	6.3	(0.7)	5.8	(0.3)	28.5	(2.6)
No, unknown, or blank	15,204	(1,051)	93.7	(0.7)	5.0	(0.1)	11.5	(0.6)
Length of stay								
1–2 days	4,029	(293)	24.8	(1.1)	...	...	...	...
3–4 days	5,013	(419)	30.9	(1.1)	...	...	...	...
5–6 days	2,751	(241)	17.0	(0.8)	...	...	...	...
7–8 days	1,253	(135)	7.7	(0.6)	...	...	...	...
9–10 days	639	(73)	3.9	(0.4)	...	...	...	...

More than 10 days	1,191	(126)	7.3	(0.6)	...	...	...	...
Unknown or blank	1,354	(243)	8.3	(1.4)	...	...	...	...
Hospital discharge status								
Alive	14,486	(1,038)	89.3	(1.5)	5.0	(0.1)	...	...
Home or residence	11,022	(808)	76.1	(1.5)	4.5	(0.1)	...	...
Return or transfer to nursing home	1,552	(176)	10.7	(0.9)	6.9	(0.4)	...	...
Transfer to another facility	1,112	(145)	7.7	(0.8)	7.6	(0.6)	...	...
Other	211	(38)	1.5	(0.3)	5.3	(0.6)	...	...
Unknown or blank	*588	(185)	*4.1	(1.2)	5.8	(0.4)	...	...
Died	296	(54)	1.8	(0.3)	6.4	(0.6)	...	...
Unknown or blank	1,448	(248)	8.9	(1.4)	4.7	(0.4)	...	...

...Category not applicable.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Denominator for length of stay is 14,875,000 visits where this variable was known. Length of stay was unknown in 8.3 percent of visits resulting in admission.

²Total exceeds "all visits" because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit. Workers' compensation, other, and unknown sources of payment are not included in this table, but account for 5.1 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. The individual self-pay and no charge or charity categories are not mutually exclusive.

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

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

Table 26. Twenty leading principal hospital discharge diagnosis groups for emergency department visits: United States, 2011

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	...	16,229	(1,127)	100.0	...
Heart disease, excluding ischemic	391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-416,420-429	969	(103)	6.0	(0.5)
Chest pain	786.5	937	(123)	5.8	(0.6)
Pneumonia	480-486	701	(83)	4.3	(0.4)
Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder	290-295,296.0-296.1,296.4-299	459	(70)	2.8	(0.4)
Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	452	(62)	2.8	(0.3)
Ischemic heart disease	410-414.9	403	(64)	2.5	(0.3)
Fracture of the lower limb	820-829	389	(63)	2.4	(0.3)
Syncope and collapse	780.2	312	(51)	1.9	(0.3)
Cellulitis and abscess	681-682	310	(53)	1.9	(0.3)
Diabetes mellitus	249-250	301	(53)	1.9	(0.3)
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis	490-491	285	(52)	1.8	(0.3)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	599.0	282	(55)	1.7	(0.3)
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	578	273	(63)	1.7	(0.3)
Abdominal pain	789.0	268	(51)	1.7	(0.3)
Anemias	280-285	237	(50)	1.5	(0.3)
Fractures, excluding lower limb	800-819	236	(45)	1.5	(0.3)
Disorder of gallbladder and biliary tract	574-576	228	(40)	1.4	(0.2)
Asthma	493	185	(43)	1.1	(0.2)
Malignant neoplasms	140-208,209-209.36,209.7-209.79,230-234	184	(34)	1.1	(0.2)
Essential hypertension	401	184	(41)	1.1	(0.2)
All other diagnoses²	...	8,634	(633)	53.2	(1.5)

...Category not applicable.

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

²All other diagnoses includes blanks and unknown diagnoses (10.3 percent).

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

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

Table 27. Hospital and emergency department characteristics, by emergency department visit volume and metropolitan status: United States, 2011

Hospital and ED characteristics	ED annual visit volume								Metropolitan status			
	Total ¹		Fewer than 20,000		20,000 to 49,999		50,000 or more		Metropolitan area		Not metropolitan area	
	Percent distribution		Percent distribution		Percent distribution		Percent distribution		Percent distribution		Percent distribution	
	(standard error)		(standard error)		(standard error)		(standard error)		(standard error)		(standard error)	
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	13.0	(3.7)	29.4	(7.8)	*0.1	(0.1)	*3.4	(2.0)	*8.2	(3.8)	*22.1	(7.4)
5	70.2	(4.4)	54.3	(8.4)	88.0	(3.1)	68.1	(5.9)	71.0	(4.8)	68.6	(8.3)
6-7	10.3	(2.4)	*10.5	(4.7)	*6.7	(2.1)	17.6	(4.5)	14.6	(3.5)	*2.1	(2.0)
Unknown or blank	*6.5	(2.0)	*5.8	(3.5)	*5.2	(2.4)	*10.9	(4.0)	*6.3	(2.1)	*7.1	(4.4)
Has bed coordinator:												
Yes	66.2	(4.5)	42.2	(8.0)	80.9	(4.3)	88.7	(3.9)	77.8	(4.3)	44.0	(8.2)
No	26.8	(4.5)	48.0	(8.6)	13.7	(3.6)	*7.2	(3.0)	16.4	(3.8)	46.7	(9.0)
Unknown or blank	*7.0	(2.6)	*9.8	(5.7)	*5.4	(2.3)	*4.1	(2.7)	*5.8	(2.6)	*9.3	(5.9)
How often hospital bed census data are available:												
Instantaneously	79.8	(3.3)	86.6	(5.6)	73.4	(4.6)	78.3	(4.4)	71.7	(4.2)	95.3	(3.3)
Every 4 hours	*4.0	(1.6)	*3.1	(2.9)	*4.8	(2.6)	*4.3	(2.2)	*5.5	(2.4)	*1.1	(1.2)
Every 8-12 hours	*2.2	(1.3)	-	...	*4.8	(3.1)	*1.8	(0.9)	*3.4	(1.9)	-	...
Every 24 hours	6.4	(1.9)	*5.9	(3.1)	*6.5	(2.9)	*7.4	(3.3)	7.9	(2.3)	*3.6	(3.0)
Other	*0.5	(0.3)	-	...	*1.2	(0.8)	*0.4	(0.4)	*0.8	(0.5)	-	...
Unknown or blank	7.0	(2.0)	*4.4	(3.4)	*9.4	(3.0)	*7.9	(3.2)	10.7	(2.9)	-	...
ED characteristic												
ED uses electronic medical records												
Yes, all electronic	48.9	(5.0)	33.8	(8.4)	59.9	(5.3)	59.4	(5.8)	51.5	(4.9)	43.9	(10.6)
Yes, part electronic	34.8	(3.8)	41.2	(7.1)	29.1	(5.1)	32.5	(5.2)	33.1	(4.3)	38.1	(6.9)
No	14.6	(3.3)	*21.7	(7.0)	11.0	(3.0)	*6.3	(4.4)	12.8	(2.9)	*18.0	(7.6)
Unknown or blank	*1.7	(1.4)	*3.4	(3.3)	-	...	*1.8	(1.0)	*2.7	(2.1)	-	...
Has observation or clinical decision unit												
Yes	20.7	(3.5)	*18.3	(6.4)	20.3	(5.2)	27.0	(4.8)	20.7	(3.9)	*20.8	(7.7)
No	75.2	(3.6)	77.8	(6.8)	75.9	(5.6)	68.0	(4.8)	73.4	(4.0)	78.6	(7.7)
Unknown or blank	*4.1	(1.8)	*3.9	(3.3)	*3.8	(2.5)	*5.0	(2.5)	*5.9	(2.6)	*0.6	(0.6)
Admitted patients were ever boarded 2 or more hours in the ED while waiting for an inpatient bed												
Yes	62.4	(4.1)	31.6	(7.1)	83.3	(4.0)	86.7	(3.7)	76.1	(4.5)	36.0	(8.2)
No	32.5	(4.3)	63.6	(7.4)	*9.5	(2.9)	*11.4	(3.5)	18.2	(3.8)	59.9	(8.5)
Unknown or blank	*5.2	(1.9)	*4.8	(3.4)	*7.2	(3.8)	*1.9	(1.1)	*5.7	(2.7)	*4.1	(3.0)
If ED is critically overloaded, admitted patients are boarded in inpatient hallways or in another space outside the ED												
Yes	20.0	(2.8)	*17.0	(5.5)	18.2	(4.2)	30.8	(5.2)	23.0	(3.2)	*14.3	(5.2)
No	73.1	(4.0)	72.5	(8.2)	79.5	(4.7)	60.9	(6.3)	68.6	(4.2)	81.5	(7.2)

Unknown or blank	*6.9	(2.6)	*10.5	(5.5)	*2.4	(2.3)	*8.3	(4.6)	*8.3	(3.1)	*4.1	(4.3)
ED went on ambulance diversion 2011												
Yes	33.4	(3.6)	18.8	(5.3)	42.8	(5.1)	46.1	(5.7)	41.6	(4.3)	*17.7	(6.3)
No	55.9	(3.7)	72.4	(5.5)	46.8	(5.3)	38.4	(5.4)	48.0	(4.1)	71.0	(7.1)
Unknown or blank	10.7	(2.4)	*8.8	(4.3)	*10.4	(3.9)	15.5	(3.8)	10.4	(2.7)	*11.2	(4.9)
Ambulance diversion is actively managed on a regional versus hospital level ²												
Yes	52.9	(6.2)	*	...	52.7	(8.0)	64.6	(8.2)	53.1	(6.2)	*	...
No	38.3	(5.7)	*	...	43.4	(7.8)	29.5	(7.8)	41.3	(6.0)	*	...
Unknown or blank	*8.8	(4.2)	*	...	*3.9	(2.1)	*5.8	(2.4)	*5.6	(1.9)	*	...
Hospital continues to admit elective or scheduled surgery cases when ED is on ambulance diversion ²												
Yes	64.4	(6.0)	*	...	70.3	(6.7)	61.9	(8.8)	70.7	(5.2)	*	...
No	16.9	(4.5)	*	...	*17.4	(5.5)	*18.4	(6.8)	15.5	(4.0)	*	...
Unknown or blank	18.6	(5.6)	*	...	*12.3	(4.7)	*19.7	(8.8)	*13.9	(4.3)	*	...
ED increased the number of standard treatment spaces in last 2 years												
Yes	22.3	(3.2)	*15.4	(5.4)	25.4	(4.8)	31.0	(5.8)	25.5	(3.6)	*16.1	(6.7)
No	73.6	(3.7)	81.3	(6.0)	68.9	(5.3)	66.2	(5.9)	68.2	(4.3)	83.9	(6.7)
Unknown or blank	*4.2	(1.8)	*3.4	(3.3)	*5.7	(2.9)	*2.8	(1.5)	*6.4	(2.7)	-	...
ED physical space was expanded in last 2 years												
Yes	18.1	(3.1)	*12.3	(5.3)	18.5	(4.5)	30.3	(5.5)	20.0	(3.2)	*14.5	(6.7)
No	79.9	(3.4)	84.3	(5.8)	81.0	(4.5)	67.6	(5.5)	77.0	(3.9)	85.5	(6.7)
Unknown or blank	*2.0	(1.4)	*3.4	(3.3)	*0.4	(0.4)	*2.1	(1.4)	*3.0	(2.1)	-	...
ED plans to expand physical space in next 2 years ³												
Yes	21.0	(3.9)	*19.1	(7.1)	19.8	(4.9)	29.0	(5.7)	25.8	(4.5)	*12.2	(7.1)
No	66.1	(4.7)	64.6	(8.7)	73.2	(5.8)	53.0	(7.3)	59.6	(5.0)	78.0	(8.8)
Unknown or blank	12.9	(3.0)	*16.2	(5.9)	*7.0	(3.4)	18.0	(5.3)	14.6	(3.8)	*9.8	(4.9)
Services that ED uses:												
Bedside registration	80.1	(3.8)	67.9	(8.1)	87.2	(3.9)	92.3	(4.4)	82.6	(4.3)	75.2	(7.1)
Computer-assisted triage	59.0	(3.4)	46.3	(6.0)	63.3	(5.6)	78.3	(5.2)	61.5	(4.1)	54.3	(5.2)
Separate fast track unit for nonurgent care	45.3	(4.2)	*13.8	(5.3)	62.6	(5.3)	78.9	(5.4)	54.6	(4.4)	27.3	(8.2)
Separate operating room dedicated to ED patients	6.2	(1.8)	*5.1	(3.3)	*4.4	(2.4)	*12.1	(3.9)	6.2	(1.5)	*6.1	(4.3)
Electronic dashboard ⁴	65.9	(3.9)	45.4	(6.4)	77.7	(5.4)	86.9	(4.6)	69.6	(4.9)	58.8	(7.1)
Radio frequency identification tracking ⁵	15.4	(2.8)	5.2	(0.8)	22.7	(5.5)	22.7	(4.6)	16.0	(3.4)	*14.3	(4.5)
Zone nursing ⁶	54.8	(4.4)	31.2	(6.1)	66.7	(5.2)	82.2	(5.9)	60.1	(5.0)	44.6	(7.9)
Pool nurses ⁷	52.7	(4.0)	54.8	(6.5)	47.6	(6.0)	58.6	(5.6)	47.4	(4.5)	62.8	(8.5)
Full capacity protocol ⁸	39.8	(3.7)	37.9	(6.8)	37.1	(6.0)	49.6	(5.9)	41.0	(4.5)	37.4	(7.2)

...Category not applicable.

- Quantity equals zero.

* 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.

¹Number of sample records: all emergency departments (N= 306); less than 20,000 (N= 60); 20,000 to 50,000 (N= 124); over 50,000 (N= 122); metropolitan area (N= 260); not metropolitan area (N= 46).

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

³Denominator is number of EDs that did not expand their physical space, including unknown or blank, 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 ED to inpatient corridors while awaiting a bed.

NOTE: ED is emergency department.

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

Table I. Reclassification of cause-of-injury codes for use with National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey data

Intent and mechanism of injury	Cause-of-injury code ¹
Unintentional injuries	E800–E848, E850–E869, E880–E929
Falls	E880.0–E886.9, E888
Motor vehicle traffic	E810–E819
Struck against or struck accidentally by objects or persons	E916–E917
Overexertion and strenuous movements	E927
Cutting or piercing instruments or objects	E920
Natural and environmental factors	E900–E909, E928.0–E928.2
Poisoning by drugs, medicinal substances, biologicals, other solid and liquid substances, gases, and vapors	E850–E869
Fire and flames, hot substance or object, caustic or corrosive material, and steam	E890–E899, E924
Machinery	E919
Pedal cycle, nontraffic and other	E800–E807 (.3), E820–E825 (.6), E826.1, E826.9
Motor vehicle, nontraffic	E820–E825 (.0–.5, .7–.9)
Other transportation	E800–E807 (.0–.2, .8–.9), E826 (.0, .2–.8), E827–E829, E831, E833–E845
Suffocation	E911–E913
Firearm missile	E922.0–.3, .8–.9
Drowning or submersion	E830, E832, E910
Foreign body	E914–E915
Caught accidentally in or between objects	E918
Other and not elsewhere classified	E846–E848, E921, E922.4–5, E923, E925–E926, E928.3–.5, .8, E929.0–.5, .8
Mechanism unspecified	E887, E928.9, E929.9
Intentional injuries	E950–E979, E990–E999
Assault	E960–E969, E979
Unarmed fight or brawl, striking by blunt or thrown object	E960.0, E968.2
Cutting or piercing instrument	E966
Firearms	E965.0–E965.4, E979.4
Other and unspecified mechanism	E960.1, E961–E964, E965.5–E965.9, E967–E968.1, E968.3–E969, E979.0–.3, .5–.9
Self-inflicted	E950–E959
Poisoning by solid or liquid substances, gases, and vapors	E950–E952
Cutting and piercing instrument	E956
Suffocation	E953
Other and unspecified mechanism	E954–E955, E957–E959
Other causes of violence	E970–E978, E990–E999
Injuries of undetermined intent	E980–E989
Adverse effects of medical treatment	E870–E879, E930–E949

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