

## NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

# National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2021 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 (EDs) in the United States. Estimates are presented on selected hospital, patient, and visit characteristics using data collected in the 2021 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS). NHAMCS is an annual, nationally representative sample survey of visits to hospitals.

The sampling frame for the 2021 NHAMCS was constructed from IQVIA's database. NHAMCS used a multistage probability design with samples of primary sampling units, hospitals within primary sampling units, and patient visits within emergency service areas of each selected hospital. A total of 470 hospitals were selected for the 2021 NHAMCS, of which, 377 were in scope and had eligible EDs. Of these, 337 responded, yielding an unweighted ED response rate of 89.4% (91.2% weighted). A total of 502 emergency service areas were identified from the EDs. Of these, 233 responded fully or adequately by providing forms for at least one-half of their expected visits, based on the total number of visits during the reporting period. In all, 16,107 Patient Record Forms were submitted electronically. The resulting unweighted emergency service area sample response rate was 46.4% (50.5% weighted), and the overall unweighted two-stage sampling response rate was 41.5% (46.0% weighted).

The U.S. Census Bureau collected data electronically for the 2021 NHAMCS using a computerized instrument that it developed. Census field representatives completed a Product Request Form for a sample of about 100 ED visits during a randomly assigned 4-week reporting period. The content of the Product Request Form may be viewed at: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd\\_survey\\_instruments.htm#nhamcs](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_survey_instruments.htm#nhamcs).

RTI International (Research Triangle Park, North Carolina) processed the data and performed medical coding. As part of the quality assurance procedure, a 10.8% quality control sample of ED survey records was independently keyed and coded. Coding error rates ranged from 0.2% to 4.7% for the ED sample. For more details, see the 2021 NHAMCS public-use data file documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).

Analyses were conducted using data from a restricted-use data file. A public use version of this file is available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/datasets\\_documentation\\_related.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/datasets_documentation_related.htm). Count estimates and measures of variance could differ between the restricted-use and public-use data files. Information for accessing the restricted use data file is available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/rdc/index.htm>. Web table estimates are based on sample data weighted to produce annual national estimates and include standard errors. The sample weight computed for each sample visit considers all stages of survey design. The survey data are inflated or weighted to produce unbiased national annual estimates. The visit weight includes three basic components: inflation by reciprocals of selection probabilities, adjustment for nonresponse, and population ratio adjustments. Estimates of the sampling variability were calculated using the Taylor series method in SUDAAN, which accounts for the complex sample design of NHAMCS. Detailed information on the design, conduct, and estimation procedures of the 2021 NHAMCS are discussed in the public-use data file documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).



As in any survey, results are subject to sampling and nonsampling errors. Nonsampling errors include reporting and processing errors as well as biases due to nonresponse and incomplete response. In 2021, race data were missing for 20.3% (unweighted) of ED records, and ethnicity data were missing for 15.3% (unweighted) of ED records. The National Center for Health Statistics uses model-based single imputation for NHAMCS race and ethnicity data. The race imputation, based on research by an internal work group, is restricted to three categories (Black, White, and Other) because of quality concerns with imputed estimates for race categories other than Black and White. The imputation technique is described in more detail in the public-use data file documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, data collection procedures for the National Health Care Surveys, including NHAMCS, were adapted to ensure that data collection continued. Although changes to data collection occurred, no substantive changes were made to the survey instrument. However, NCHS staff reviewed verbatim notes and medication code entries for any mentions of COVID-19 and created a new variable to reflect this information. NHAMCS ED diagnosis data are coded according to the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD–10–CM). Five tables (Tables 6, 10, 11, 15, and 25) that present estimates of primary diagnoses, injury diagnoses, and primary hospital discharge diagnoses use ICD–10–CM codes. Starting April 1, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines for reporting COVID-19 with ICD–10–CM codes (available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/COVID-19-guidelines-final.pdf>). The code U07.1 in the chapter “Codes for special purposes” was created and assigned for a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis. Two tables (10 and 25) include this chapter, and the code U07.1 is the only code in the 2021 data from this chapter.

Proportion estimates are not presented or are flagged based on the procedure specified in “National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions,” available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf). For all estimates other than estimates of proportions, the following approach is used: Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data, in which case only an asterisk (\*) appears. Visit estimates based on 30 or more cases include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%.

**Suggested citation:** Cairns C, Kang K. National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2021 emergency department summary tables. Available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).

**Table 1. Emergency department visits, by patient age, sex, and residence, and hospital region: United States, 2021**

Patient characteristic	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)	Number of visits per 100 people <sup>1</sup> (standard error)
All visits .....	139,781 (8,457)	100.0 ...	42.7 (2.6)
Age group (years) <sup>1</sup>			
Under 15 .....	24,644 (3,301)	17.6 (2.0)	40.7 (5.5)
Under 1 .....	3,676 (630)	2.6 (0.4)	103.2 (17.7)
1–4 .....	9,396 (1,372)	6.7 (0.8)	61.6 (9.0)
5–14 .....	11,572 (1,413)	8.3 (0.8)	27.7 (3.4)
15–24 .....	17,604 (1,148)	12.6 (0.4)	41.8 (2.7)
25–44 .....	38,561 (2,691)	27.6 (1.0)	44.3 (3.1)
45–64 .....	31,863 (2,146)	22.8 (0.8)	38.5 (2.6)
65 and over .....	27,109 (1,904)	19.4 (0.9)	49.6 (3.5)
65–74 .....	13,191 (927)	9.4 (0.4)	39.4 (2.8)
75 and over .....	13,918 (1,090)	10.0 (0.6)	65.5 (5.1)
Sex and age group (years)			
Female <sup>1</sup> .....	75,609 (4,756)	54.1 (0.6)	45.5 (2.9)
Under 15 .....	11,516 (1,518)	8.2 (0.9)	39.0 (5.1)
15–24 .....	10,939 (771)	7.8 (0.3)	52.2 (3.7)
25–44 .....	21,919 (1,618)	15.7 (0.6)	50.1 (3.7)
45–64 .....	16,183 (1,147)	11.6 (0.4)	38.5 (2.7)
65–74 .....	6,731 (521)	4.8 (0.3)	38.0 (2.9)
75 and over .....	8,320 (728)	6.0 (0.4)	68.5 (6.0)
Male <sup>1</sup> .....	64,173 (3,883)	45.9 (0.6)	39.9 (2.4)
Under 15 .....	13,128 (1,834)	9.4 (1.1)	42.4 (5.9)
15–24 .....	6,665 (484)	4.8 (0.2)	31.4 (2.3)
25–44 .....	16,642 (1,201)	11.9 (0.5)	38.5 (2.8)
45–64 .....	15,680 (1,154)	11.2 (0.6)	38.5 (2.8)
65–74 .....	6,460 (479)	4.6 (0.2)	41.0 (3.0)
75 and over .....	5,598 (469)	4.0 (0.3)	61.5 (5.1)
Residence			
Private residence <sup>1</sup> .....	129,931 (8,285)	93.0 (1.3)	39.7 (2.5)
Nursing home <sup>2</sup> .....	2,618 (358)	1.9 (0.2)	220.0 (30.1)
Homeless <sup>3</sup> .....	1,634 (243)	1.2 (0.2)	... ..
Other .....	1,319 (177)	0.9 (0.1)	0.4 (0.1)
Unknown or blank .....	**4,280 (1,726)	* ...	* ...
Urban–rural classification <sup>4</sup>			
Large central metropolitan .....	40,410 (5,604)	28.9 (3.3)	... ..
Large fringe metropolitan .....	25,465 (4,280)	18.2 (2.8)	... ..
Medium metropolitan .....	29,925 (5,265)	21.4 (3.6)	... ..
Small metropolitan .....	12,170 (3,523)	8.7 (2.4)	... ..
Micropolitan .....	11,641 (2,830)	8.3 (2.0)	... ..
Noncore (nonmetropolitan) .....	12,744 (2,372)	9.1 (1.8)	... ..
Unknown or blank .....	7,427 (2,067)	5.3 (1.5)	... ..
Geographic region <sup>5</sup>			
Northeast .....	23,905 (3,007)	17.1 (2.0)	42.3 (5.3)
Midwest .....	31,291 (3,264)	22.4 (2.2)	46.1 (4.8)
South .....	53,418 (5,632)	38.2 (3.0)	42.7 (4.5)
West .....	31,168 (4,489)	22.3 (2.8)	40.2 (5.8)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Emergency department visits, by patient age, sex, and esidence, and hospital region: United States, 2021—Con.**

... Category not applicable.

\*\* Estimate meets National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability, but its complement does not.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

<sup>1</sup>Visit rates for age group, sex, and private residence are based on estimates of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population as of July 1, 2021, from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

<sup>2</sup>Visit rates for nursing home residents are based on the 2021 population denominators from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2021 Minimum Data Set Frequency Reports, available from: <https://data.cms.gov/quality-of-care/minimum-data-set-frequency>.

<sup>3</sup>As described in "The 2021 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress," available from: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2021-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>, the COVID-19 pandemic caused complications for calculating the number of homelessness in the United States. Due to this limitation, the rate of ED visits made by homeless residents is not shown.

<sup>4</sup>For each record, county of residence was determined using patient ZIP code and then matched to the NCHS Urban–Rural Classification Scheme for Counties, available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data\\_access/urban\\_rural.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/urban_rural.htm).

<sup>5</sup>Refers to the geographic region of the emergency department. For geographic region, population denominators differ for each category and do not add to the total population rate. For other variables, the denominator is the total population.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 2. Emergency department visits, by patient race, age, and ethnicity: United States, 2021**

Patient characteristic	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)	Number of visits per 100 people <sup>1</sup> (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	100.0 ...	42.7 (2.6)
Race <sup>2</sup> and age group (years)			
Black or African American . . . . .	34,808 (3,280)	24.9 (1.9)	79.5 (7.5)
Under 15 . . . . .	6,785 (1,054)	4.9 (0.7)	72.6 (11.3)
15–24 . . . . .	4,953 (454)	3.5 (0.3)	80.1 (7.3)
25–44 . . . . .	10,873 (1,103)	7.8 (0.7)	87.4 (8.9)
45–64 . . . . .	7,783 (886)	5.6 (0.6)	74.4 (8.5)
65–74 . . . . .	2,437 (363)	1.7 (0.2)	69.7 (10.4)
75 and over . . . . .	1,977 (352)	1.4 (0.2)	105.9 (18.9)
White . . . . .	99,266 (6,838)	71.0 (1.9)	40.0 (2.8)
Under 15 . . . . .	16,427 (2,212)	11.8 (1.3)	38.4 (5.2)
15–24 . . . . .	11,986 (952)	8.6 (0.4)	38.8 (3.1)
25–44 . . . . .	26,228 (2,077)	18.8 (0.8)	40.8 (3.2)
45–64 . . . . .	22,892 (1,749)	16.4 (0.7)	35.3 (2.7)
65–74 . . . . .	10,295 (796)	7.4 (0.4)	37.3 (2.9)
75 and over . . . . .	11,438 (956)	8.2 (0.5)	63.8 (5.3)
Other race groups <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	5,708 (552)	4.1 (0.4)	16.2 (1.6)
Race and ethnicity <sup>2</sup>			
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	22,105 (2,490)	15.8 (1.5)	35.6 (4.0)
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	117,676 (7,350)	84.2 (1.5)	44.4 (2.8)
Black or African American . . . . .	32,874 (3,213)	23.5 (1.9)	80.9 (7.9)
White . . . . .	79,789 (5,824)	57.1 (2.1)	41.1 (3.0)
Other race groups <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	5,014 (551)	3.6 (0.4)	16.5 (1.8)

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Visit rates are based on estimates of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population as of July 1, 2021, from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

<sup>2</sup>The race groups Black or African American, White, and Other race groups include people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 2021, race data were missing for 20.3% (weighted) of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 15.3% (weighted) of visits. Starting with 2009 data, the National Center for Health Statistics adopted the technique of model-based single imputation for National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey race and ethnicity data. The race imputation was restricted to three categories (Black, White, and Other race groups) based on research by an internal work group and on quality concerns with imputed estimates for race categories other than Black and White. The imputation technique is described in more detail in the 2021 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey public-use data file documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).

<sup>3</sup>Includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and people of more than one race.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 3. Wait time at emergency department visits: United States, 2021**

Visit characteristic	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	100.0 ...
Time spent waiting to see a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant <sup>1</sup>		
Less than 15 minutes . . . . .	58,442 (4,615)	41.8 (1.9)
15–59 minutes . . . . .	43,213 (3,438)	30.9 (1.3)
1 hour, but less than 2 hours . . . . .	11,960 (1,369)	8.6 (0.7)
2 hours, but less than 3 hours . . . . .	4,573 (599)	3.3 (0.3)
3 hours, but less than 4 hours . . . . .	1,799 (308)	1.3 (0.2)
4 hours, but less than 6 hours . . . . .	1,331 (256)	1.0 (0.2)
6 hours or more . . . . .	483 (137)	0.3 (0.1)
Not applicable . . . . .	4,069 (500)	2.9 (0.3)
Blank . . . . .	13,912 (2,364)	10.0 (1.8)
Time spent in the emergency department		
Less than 1 hour . . . . .	11,435 (1,018)	8.2 (0.6)
1 hour, but less than 2 hours . . . . .	24,394 (1,797)	17.5 (0.8)
2 hours, but less than 4 hours . . . . .	48,147 (3,616)	34.4 (1.0)
4 hours, but less than 6 hours . . . . .	25,408 (1,904)	18.2 (0.7)
6 hours, but less than 10 hours . . . . .	15,600 (1,241)	11.2 (0.6)
10 hours, but less than 14 hours . . . . .	3,140 (316)	2.2 (0.2)
14 hours, but less than 24 hours . . . . .	2,933 (324)	2.1 (0.2)
24 hours or more . . . . .	2,846 (533)	2.0 (0.3)
Blank . . . . .	5,878 (1,551)	4.2 (1.1)
Patient arrived in emergency department after business hours <sup>2</sup>		
Yes . . . . .	76,697 (4,957)	54.9 (0.8)
No . . . . .	59,528 (3,858)	42.6 (0.7)
Blank . . . . .	3,556 (1,481)	2.5 (1.1)

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>The median wait time to see a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant was 16 minutes; the mean wait time to see a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant was 37.5 minutes.

<sup>2</sup>Business hours are defined as Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 4. Mode of arrival at emergency department, by patient age: United States, 2021**

Age group (years)	Number of visits in thousands	Patient's mode of arrival			
		Total <sup>1</sup>	Ambulance	Other	Unknown or blank
Percent distribution (standard error)					
All visits . . . . .	139,781	100.0	17.6 (0.9)	79.7 (1.2)	2.8 (0.9)
Under 15. . . . .	24,644	100.0	5.1 (0.7)	91.3 (1.8)	* ...
Under 1 . . . . .	3,676	100.0	* ...	**90.0 (5.1)	* ...
1-4 . . . . .	9,396	100.0	4.9 (1.0)	92.6 (1.2)	2.5 (0.8)
5-14 . . . . .	11,572	100.0	5.8 (0.9)	90.7 (2.1)	* ...
15-24 . . . . .	17,604	100.0	10.7 (1.0)	87.0 (1.2)	2.4 (0.8)
25-44 . . . . .	38,561	100.0	13.7 (0.8)	83.4 (1.2)	2.9 (1.1)
45-64 . . . . .	31,863	100.0	20.8 (1.0)	77.0 (1.2)	2.2 (0.6)
65 and over . . . . .	27,109	100.0	35.2 (1.6)	62.1 (1.7)	2.7 (0.8)
65-74 . . . . .	13,191	100.0	27.9 (1.8)	68.9 (2.0)	3.3 (1.0)
75 and over . . . . .	13,918	100.0	42.2 (2.0)	55.7 (2.0)	2.1 (0.7)

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

...Category not applicable.

\*\* Estimate meets National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability, but its complement does not.

<sup>1</sup>Arrival by ambulance was the mode of arrival for 24,570,000 visits; arrival by other mode was the mode of arrival for 115,211,000 visits.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 5. Expected source of payment at emergency department visits: United States, 2021**

Expected source of payment	Number of visits <sup>1</sup> (standard error) in thousands	Percent of visits (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	... ..
Private insurance . . . . .	45,097 (3,380)	32.3 (1.5)
Medicaid or CHIP <sup>2</sup> or other state-based program . . . . .	52,083 (4,042)	37.3 (1.7)
Medicare . . . . .	27,791 (2,219)	19.9 (1.1)
Medicare and Medicaid <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	4,996 (668)	3.6 (0.4)
No insurance <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	9,345 (1,575)	6.7 (1.0)
Self-pay . . . . .	9,076 (1,571)	6.5 (1.0)
No charge or charity . . . . .	410 (132)	0.3 (0.1)
Worker's compensation . . . . .	665 (111)	0.5 (0.1)
Other . . . . .	5,878 (580)	4.2 (0.3)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	13,301 (2,689)	9.5 (1.9)

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Total number of visits exceeds "All visits" and percent of visits exceeds 100% because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>Children's Health Insurance Program.

<sup>3</sup>Visits are also included in the "Medicaid or CHIP or other state-based program" and "Medicare" categories.

<sup>4</sup>Defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as payment sources.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.



**Table 6. Triage status of emergency department visits, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2021**

Patient and visit characteristics	Number of visits in thousands	Total	Level 1 (immediate)	Level 2 (emergent)	Level 3 (urgent)	Level 4 (semiurgent)	Level 5 (nonurgent)	No triage <sup>1</sup>	Unknown or blank
All visits . . . . .	139,781	100.0	* ...	10.4 (1.0)	34.8 (2.6)	18.3 (1.7)	2.5 (0.3)	* ...	23.1 (3.4)
Age group (years)									
Under 15 . . . . .	24,644	100.0	* ...	4.6 (0.8)	17.9 (2.5)	31.3 (4.7)	4.5 (1.2)	* ...	26.8 (6.4)
Under 1 . . . . .	3,676	100.0	* ...	* ...	19.1 (5.2)	29.2 (5.5)	* ...	* ...	* ...
1–4 . . . . .	9,396	100.0	* ...	4.5 (1.2)	14.4 (2.3)	33.3 (5.6)	* ...	* ...	28.6 (7.1)
5–14 . . . . .	11,572	100.0	* ...	4.5 (0.9)	20.3 (2.7)	30.3 (4.2)	4.8 (1.2)	* ...	24.7 (5.9)
15–24 . . . . .	17,604	100.0	* ...	7.6 (0.9)	34.8 (2.9)	22.4 (2.1)	3.5 (0.6)	* ...	22.4 (3.7)
25–44 . . . . .	38,561	100.0	* ...	9.3 (0.9)	38.5 (2.9)	17.7 (1.6)	2.0 (0.3)	* ...	22.8 (3.5)
45–64 . . . . .	31,863	100.0	* ...	12.6 (1.5)	38.8 (3.0)	14.2 (1.3)	2.0 (0.4)	* ...	22.0 (3.6)
65 and over . . . . .	27,109	100.0	* ...	16.3 (1.6)	39.9 (3.1)	9.7 (1.1)	1.3 (0.4)	7.3 (2.2)	22.0 (3.8)
65–74 . . . . .	13,191	100.0	* ...	15.1 (1.7)	40.5 (3.2)	12.1 (1.4)	1.5 (0.5)	* ...	20.4 (3.7)
75 and over . . . . .	13,918	100.0	* ...	17.5 (2.0)	39.3 (3.5)	7.3 (1.0)	1.0 (0.4)	* ...	23.4 (4.3)
Sex									
Female . . . . .	75,609	100.0	* ...	9.6 (0.9)	37.1 (2.8)	18.1 (1.7)	2.3 (0.4)	* ...	22.6 (3.5)
Male . . . . .	64,173	100.0	* ...	11.2 (1.1)	32.0 (2.5)	18.6 (1.7)	2.8 (0.4)	* ...	23.7 (3.5)
Race <sup>2</sup>									
Black or African American . . . . .	34,808	100.0	1.4 (0.6)	9.8 (1.3)	33.8 (3.6)	20.5 (2.4)	2.7 (0.5)	* ...	24.0 (4.3)
White . . . . .	99,266	100.0	* ...	10.5 (1.0)	35.2 (2.7)	17.7 (1.7)	2.5 (0.4)	* ...	22.6 (3.7)
Other race groups <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	5,708	100.0	* ...	11.1 (1.8)	32.1 (4.1)	15.4 (2.9)	1.2 (0.4)	* ...	26.6 (5.0)
Ethnicity and race <sup>2</sup>									
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	22,105	100.0	* ...	7.3 (0.9)	34.9 (3.8)	23.7 (3.5)	3.6 (1.0)	* ...	20.6 (4.3)
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	117,676	100.0	* ...	10.9 (1.1)	34.7 (2.7)	17.3 (1.5)	2.3 (0.3)	* ...	23.6 (3.6)
Black or African American . . . . .	32,873	100.0	1.4 (0.7)	10.0 (1.4)	33.9 (3.7)	19.8 (2.4)	2.5 (0.5)	* ...	24.2 (4.5)
White . . . . .	79,789	100.0	* ...	11.3 (1.2)	35.2 (2.8)	16.5 (1.5)	2.2 (0.4)	* ...	23.0 (4.0)
Other race groups <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	5,014	100.0	* ...	11.4 (1.9)	32.4 (4.3)	14.1 (2.7)	1.4 (0.5)	* ...	28.2 (5.3)
Expected source of payment <sup>4</sup>									
Private insurance . . . . .	45,097	100.0	* ...	11.4 (1.3)	36.8 (2.9)	16.9 (1.5)	1.8 (0.4)	* ...	22.8 (3.7)
Medicaid or CHIP <sup>5</sup> or other state-based program . . . . .	52,083	100.0	* ...	8.0 (0.8)	32.2 (2.9)	21.9 (2.4)	3.6 (0.5)	* ...	23.3 (3.9)
Medicare . . . . .	27,791	100.0	* ...	15.7 (1.7)	38.2 (3.4)	10.3 (1.2)	1.6 (0.4)	* ...	23.9 (4.3)
Medicare and Medicaid <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	4,996	100.0	2.3 (0.7)	15.0 (2.5)	40.3 (4.1)	11.6 (2.2)	2.2 (0.8)	* ...	21.8 (4.3)
No insurance <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	9,345	100.0	0.9 (0.4)	9.0 (1.3)	40.9 (3.3)	23.6 (2.7)	2.8 (0.9)	* ...	17.8 (4.7)
Worker's compensation . . . . .	665	100.0	* ...	* ...	29.0 (5.6)	25.8 (5.1)	* ...	* ...	* ...
Other . . . . .	5,878	100.0	* ...	12.3 (1.9)	30.4 (5.2)	20.9 (3.1)	2.8 (1.0)	* ...	* ...
Unknown or blank . . . . .	13,301	100.0	1.8 (0.8)	11.2 (3.3)	33.1 (6.1)	14.2 (2.8)	1.9 (0.6)	* ...	* ...

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 6. Triage status of emergency department visits, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2021—Con.**

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>A visit in which the emergency service area coded nursing triage as zero (had admitted to hospital or treated immediately) or visit occurred in an emergency service area that does not conduct triage.

<sup>2</sup>The race groups Black or African American, White, and Other race groups include people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 2009 data, the National Center for Health Statistics adopted the technique of model-based single imputation for National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey race and ethnicity data. The race imputation was restricted to three categories (Black, White, and Other race groups) based on research by an internal work group and on quality concerns with imputed estimates for race categories other than Black or White. The imputation technique is described in more detail in the 2021 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey public-use data file documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf). For 2021, race data were missing for 20.3% (weighted) of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 15.3% (weighted) of visits.

<sup>3</sup>Includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and people with more than one race.

<sup>4</sup>Total number of visits exceeds "All visits" because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit.

<sup>5</sup>Children's Health Insurance Program.

<sup>6</sup>Visits are also included in both the "Medicaid or CHIP or other state-based program" and "Medicare" categories.

<sup>7</sup>Defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as payment sources.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 7. Initial blood pressure measurements recorded at emergency department visits for adults, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2021**

Patient characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	Total	Initial blood pressure <sup>1</sup>			
			Not high (SBP less than 120 mmHg and DBP less than 80 mmHg)	Prehypertension (SBP 120–139 mmHg or DBP 80–89 mmHg)	Stage 1 hypertension (SBP 140–159 mmHg or DBP 90–99 mmHg)	Stage 2 hypertension (SBP greater than or equal to 160 mmHg or DBP greater than 100 mmHg)
Percent distribution (standard error)						
All visits <sup>2</sup>	105,557	100.0	18.8 (0.6)	33.0 (0.6)	27.5 (0.6)	20.7 (0.7)
Age group (years)						
18–24	12,655	100.0	26.9 (1.6)	44.9 (1.8)	22.1 (1.3)	6.1 (1.0)
25–44	36,491	100.0	20.4 (1.1)	38.7 (1.1)	27.0 (1.0)	13.9 (0.9)
45–64	30,541	100.0	15.6 (1.1)	27.5 (0.8)	30.5 (1.2)	26.3 (1.1)
65–74	12,439	100.0	17.0 (1.5)	27.1 (1.4)	26.5 (1.5)	29.4 (1.4)
75 and over	13,430	100.0	16.0 (1.3)	24.4 (1.4)	27.8 (1.4)	31.8 (1.6)
Sex						
Female	58,685	100.0	21.5 (0.8)	34.0 (0.6)	25.3 (0.8)	19.3 (0.9)
Male	46,872	100.0	15.6 (0.7)	31.8 (1.1)	30.3 (0.9)	22.4 (0.9)
Race <sup>3</sup>						
Black or African American	25,977	100.0	19.3 (1.2)	33.1 (1.2)	27.2 (1.1)	20.4 (1.1)
White	75,698	100.0	18.5 (0.6)	33.1 (0.6)	27.5 (0.7)	20.9 (0.8)
Other race groups <sup>4</sup>	3,882	100.0	22.9 (2.2)	31.2 (2.5)	28.1 (2.5)	17.8 (1.9)
Race and Ethnicity <sup>3</sup>						
Hispanic or Latino	13,747	100.0	21.7 (1.5)	36.8 (1.3)	26.3 (1.7)	15.2 (1.3)
Not Hispanic or Latino	91,810	100.0	18.4 (0.7)	32.5 (0.6)	27.7 (0.6)	21.5 (0.8)
Black or African American	24,768	100.0	18.8 (1.2)	32.8 (1.2)	27.5 (1.1)	20.9 (1.2)
White	63,580	100.0	18.0 (0.7)	32.4 (0.7)	27.7 (0.8)	21.9 (0.9)
Other race groups <sup>4</sup>	3,462	100.0	23.0 (2.4)	31.1 (2.7)	28.5 (2.6)	17.4 (2.3)

<sup>1</sup>SBP is systolic blood pressure. DBP is diastolic blood pressure. Three high blood pressure categories (SBP greater than 120 or DBP greater than 80) are based on "The Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure" and correspond to prehypertensive, stage 1 hypertensive, and stage 2 hypertensive ranges. If SBP and DBP fall into two categories, the visit is included in the higher blood pressure category.

<sup>2</sup>Visits by adults (aged 18 and over). Visits where blood pressure was taken represent 95.2% (standard error = 1.2) of all emergency department visits made by adults.

<sup>3</sup>The race groups Black or African American, White, and Other race groups include people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 2021, race data were missing for 17.8 percent (weighted) of visits made by adults, and ethnicity data were missing for 14.1 percent (weighted) of visits made by adults. Beginning with 2009, the National Center for Health Statistics has adopted model-based single imputation for National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey race and ethnicity data. The race imputation is restricted to three categories (Black, White, and Other race groups) based on research by an internal work group and on quality concerns with imputed estimates for race categories other than Black and White. The imputation technique is described in more detail in the 2021 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey public-use data file documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).

<sup>4</sup>Includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and people of more than one race.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 8. Initial temperature, pulse oximetry, and visit history at emergency department visits: United States, 2021**

Visit characteristic	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	100.0 ...
Temperature		
Febrile: Higher than 38.0° C or higher than 100.4°F . . . . .	4,522 (538)	3.2 (0.3)
Normal: 35.1–38.0° C or 95.1–100.4°F . . . . .	125,596 (8,035)	89.9 (1.2)
Hypothermic: 35.0° C and below or 95.0°F and below . . . . .	* ...	0.2 (0.0)
Blank . . . . .	9,449 (1,600)	6.8 (1.2)
Pulse oximetry <sup>1</sup>		
95%–100% . . . . .	116,345 (7,710)	83.2 (1.4)
Less than 95% . . . . .	13,190 (1,368)	9.4 (0.8)
Blank . . . . .	10,246 (1,809)	7.3 (1.3)
Episode of care		
Initial visit . . . . .	120,976 (7,935)	86.5 (1.5)
Follow-up visit . . . . .	8,062 (711)	5.8 (0.4)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	10,744 (2,100)	7.7 (1.5)
Patient seen in this emergency department within the last 72 hours		
Yes . . . . .	4,648 (540)	3.3 (0.3)
No . . . . .	122,341 (8,197)	87.5 (1.9)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	12,792 (2,654)	9.2 (1.9)

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>Normal oxygen saturation as measured by pulse oximetry is 95% or more.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 9. Ten principal reasons for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2021**

Principal reason for visit and RVC code <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	100.0 ...
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms. . . . . S545	12,441 (989)	8.9 (0.5)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems). . . . . S050	7,811 (649)	5.6 (0.3)
Shortness of breath . . . . . S415	5,918 (515)	4.2 (0.3)
Cough. . . . . S440	4,655 (596)	3.3 (0.4)
Fever . . . . . S010	4,650 (617)	3.3 (0.3)
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	3,893 (395)	2.8 (0.2)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system . . . . . S055	3,365 (348)	2.4 (0.2)
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	3,050 (306)	2.2 (0.2)
Vomiting . . . . . S530	2,810 (349)	2.0 (0.2)
Other symptoms or problems relating to psychological and mental disorders . . . . . S165	2,429 (284)	1.7 (0.2)
All other reasons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	88,759 (5,222)	63.5 (0.6)
All visits under age 15 . . . . .	24,644 (3,301)	100.0 ...
Female . . . . .	11,516 (1,518)	46.7 (1.2)
Fever . . . . . S010	1,809 (314)	7.3 (0.7)
Cough . . . . . S440	1,191 (281)	4.8 (0.8)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms . . . . . S545	660 (139)	2.7 (0.5)
Vomiting . . . . . S530	633 (158)	2.6 (0.5)
Earache, or ear infection . . . . . S355	338 (85)	1.4 (0.3)
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	* ...	1.1 (0.2)
Injury, other and unspecified type—head, neck, and face . . . . . J505	* ...	0.9 (0.3)
Shortness of breath . . . . . S415	* ...	0.9 (0.3)
Skin rash . . . . . S860	* ...	0.8 (0.2)
Nasal congestion. . . . . S400	* ...	0.8 (0.3)
All other reasons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	5,756 (719)	23.4 (1.2)
Male . . . . .	13,128 (1,834)	53.3 (1.2)
Fever . . . . . S010	1,593 (296)	6.5 (0.6)
Cough . . . . . S440	1,163 (253)	4.7 (0.7)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms . . . . . S545	652 (128)	2.6 (0.4)
Vomiting . . . . . S530	579 (129)	2.4 (0.3)
Skin rash . . . . . S860	516 (118)	2.1 (0.4)
Laceration or cut of facial area . . . . . J210	352 (82)	1.4 (0.3)
Injury, other and unspecified type—head, neck, and face . . . . . J505	351 (100)	1.4 (0.4)
Labored or difficult breathing (dyspnea) . . . . . S420	* ...	1.3 (0.4)
Nasal congestion. . . . . S400	285 (77)	1.2 (0.2)
Injury, other and unspecified type—hand and finger(s). . . . . J570	* ...	1.0 (0.3)
All other reasons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	7,065 (899)	28.7 (1.3)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 9. Ten principal reasons for emergency department visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2021—Con.**

Principal reason for visit and RVC code <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All visits, ages 15–64 years . . . . .	88,029 (5,599)	100.0 ...
Female . . . . .	49,041 (3,274)	55.7 (0.8)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms . . . . . S545	6,184 (619)	7.0 (0.5)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems) . . . . . S050	3,337 (348)	3.8 (0.3)
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	2,111 (318)	2.4 (0.3)
Shortness of breath . . . . . S415	1,706 (175)	1.9 (0.2)
Problems of pregnancy . . . . . S790	1,465 (175)	1.7 (0.2)
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	1,357 (153)	1.5 (0.1)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system . . . . . S055	1,326 (171)	1.5 (0.2)
Cough . . . . . S440	1,183 (169)	1.3 (0.2)
Nausea . . . . . S525	954 (139)	1.1 (0.1)
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . . S455	879 (121)	1.0 (0.1)
All other reasons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	28,540 (1,916)	32.4 (0.6)
Male . . . . .	38,987 (2,498)	44.3 (0.8)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms . . . . . S545	3,170 (285)	3.6 (0.2)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems) . . . . . S050	2,620 (272)	3.0 (0.2)
Shortness of breath . . . . . S415	1,608 (195)	1.8 (0.2)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system . . . . . S055	1,389 (206)	1.6 (0.2)
Other symptoms or problems relating to psychological and mental disorders . . . . . S165	993 (142)	1.1 (0.1)
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	892 (136)	1.0 (0.1)
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	821 (125)	0.9 (0.1)
Cough . . . . . S440	740 (121)	0.8 (0.1)
Laceration or cut of upper extremity . . . . . J225	722 (130)	0.8 (0.1)
Foot and toe symptoms . . . . . S935	608 (112)	0.7 (0.1)
All other reasons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	25,424 (1,578)	28.9 (0.6)
All visits, ages 65 and over . . . . .	27,109 (1,904)	100.0 ...
Female . . . . .	15,051 (1,155)	55.5 (1.3)
Shortness of breath . . . . . S415	1,225 (181)	4.5 (0.5)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms . . . . . S545	940 (113)	3.5 (0.3)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems) . . . . . S050	840 (130)	3.1 (0.4)
General weakness . . . . . S020	499 (85)	1.8 (0.3)
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	425 (109)	1.6 (0.4)
Leg symptoms . . . . . S920	402 (81)	1.5 (0.3)
Vertigo—dizziness . . . . . S225	401 (79)	1.5 (0.3)
Headache, pain in head . . . . . S210	384 (73)	1.4 (0.3)
Accident, not otherwise specified . . . . . J810	376 (70)	1.4 (0.3)
Nausea . . . . . S525	*	1.3 (0.3)
All other reasons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	9,207 (726)	34.0 (1.1)
Male . . . . .	12,058 (870)	44.5 (1.3)
Shortness of breath . . . . . S415	928 (150)	3.4 (0.5)
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps and spasms . . . . . S545	834 (140)	3.1 (0.5)
Chest pain and related symptoms (not referable to body systems) . . . . . S050	761 (105)	2.8 (0.3)
General weakness . . . . . S020	394 (67)	1.5 (0.2)
Vertigo—dizziness . . . . . S225	288 (58)	1.1 (0.2)
Back symptoms . . . . . S905	285 (75)	1.1 (0.3)
Other symptoms or problems relating to psychological and mental disorders . . . . . S165	* ...	1.0 (0.3)
Fainting (syncope) . . . . . S030	* ...	0.9 (0.2)
Abnormalities of urine . . . . . S640	* ...	0.9 (0.2)
Pain, site not referable to a specific body system . . . . . S055	246 (60)	0.9 (0.2)
All other reasons <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	7,553 (534)	27.9 (1.1)

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

<sup>1</sup>Reason for visit is based on the patient's own words and coded according to "A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care," National Center for Health Statistics, Series Report 2, Number 78. See the 2021 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey public-use data file documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).

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

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 10. Primary diagnosis at emergency department visits, by major disease category: United States, 2021**

Major disease category and ICD-10-CM code range <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	100.0 ...
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . .	A00-B99 3,782 (403)	2.7 (0.2)
Neoplasms . . . . .	C00-D49 316 (71)	0.2 (0.0)
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism . . . . .	D50-D89 1,084 (161)	0.8 (0.1)
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases . . . . .	E00-E89 2,256 (258)	1.6 (0.2)
Mental, behavioral and neurodevelopmental disorders . . . . .	F01-F99 5,829 (566)	4.2 (0.3)
Diseases of the nervous system . . . . .	G00-G99 2,373 (246)	1.7 (0.2)
Diseases of the eye and adnexa . . . . .	H00-H59 977 (123)	0.7 (0.1)
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process . . . . .	H60-H95 2,113 (362)	1.5 (0.2)
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . .	I00-I99 5,431 (507)	3.9 (0.3)
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . .	J00-J99 10,221 (803)	7.3 (0.4)
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . .	K00-K95 8,447 (641)	6.0 (0.3)
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . .	L00-L99 4,424 (352)	3.2 (0.2)
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . .	M00-M99 9,456 (734)	6.8 (0.3)
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . .	N00-N99 7,679 (588)	5.5 (0.3)
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium . . . . .	O00-O9A 2,248 (273)	1.6 (0.2)
Symptoms, signs, and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified . . . . .	R00-R99 36,410 (2,692)	26.0 (0.8)
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes . . . . .	S00-T88 23,647 (1,588)	16.9 (0.5)
Injuries to the head . . . . .	S00-S09 5,252 (428)	22.2 (0.9)
Injuries to the neck . . . . .	S10-S19 836 (141)	3.5 (0.5)
Injuries to the thorax . . . . .	S20-S29 998 (137)	4.2 (0.5)
Injuries to the abdomen, lower back, lumbar spine, pelvis and external genitals . . . . .	S30-S39 900 (137)	3.8 (0.5)
Injuries to the shoulder and upper arm . . . . .	S40-S49 1,474 (160)	6.2 (0.5)
Injuries to the elbow and forearm . . . . .	S50-S59 1,236 (152)	5.2 (0.5)
Injuries to the wrist, hand and fingers . . . . .	S60-S69 3,190 (271)	13.5 (0.8)
Injuries to the hip and thigh . . . . .	S70-S79 571 (90)	2.4 (0.4)
Injuries to the knee and lower leg . . . . .	S80-S89 1,807 (172)	7.6 (0.5)
Injuries to the ankle and foot . . . . .	S90-S99 1,996 (203)	8.4 (0.6)
Injuries involving multiple body regions or unspecified body region . . . . .	T07, T14 1,380 (192)	5.8 (0.7)
Effects of foreign body entering through natural orifice . . . . .	T15-T19 595 (106)	2.5 (0.4)
Burns and corrosions . . . . .	T20-T32 404 (78)	1.7 (0.3)
Frostbite . . . . .	T33-T34 * ...	* ...
Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of drugs, medicaments and biological substances . . . . .	T36-T50 862 (119)	3.6 (0.4)
Toxic effects of substances chiefly nonmedicinal as to source . . . . .	T51-T65 392 (85)	1.7 (0.3)
Other and unspecified effects of external causes . . . . .	T66-T78 1,046 (125)	4.4 (0.5)
Certain early complications of trauma . . . . .	T79 * ...	* ...
Complications of surgical and medical care . . . . .	T80-T88 658 (87)	2.8 (0.4)
Codes for special purposes <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	U00-U85 3,599 (400)	2.6 (0.3)
All other diagnoses <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	... 8,680 (871)	6.2 (0.5)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	... 785 (149)	0.6 (0.1)

... Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-10-CM). However, certain codes have been combined in this table to better describe the use of ambulatory care services. Web tables presenting diagnosis estimates before 2016 used the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) coding system. Substantial differences between ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM exist, so users should take caution when comparing diagnosis estimates in this table with those before 2016.

<sup>2</sup>The only code in this category is U07.1 for COVID-19.

<sup>3</sup>Includes certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (P00-P96); congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities (Q00-Q99); external causes of morbidity (V00-Y99); and factors influencing health status and contact with health services (Z00-Z99).

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 11. Annual number and percent distribution of emergency department visits, by diagnosis group: United States, 2021**

Primary diagnosis group <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	100.0 ...
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases		
Septicemia (sepsis) . . . . .	434 (58)	0.3 (0.0)
Human immunodeficiency virus syndrome (HIV, HIV+, HIV positive) . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Viral warts, not sexually transmitted . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Acute and chronic viral hepatitis, excluding types B and C . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Acute and chronic viral hepatitis B . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Sexually transmitted infections, excluding viral hepatitis and HIV . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Unspecified viral infection . . . . .	1,420 (235)	1.0 (0.2)
Dermatophytosis . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Candidiasis . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Other systemic infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . .	1,461 (193)	1.0 (0.1)
Neoplasms <sup>2</sup>		
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism		
Anemias . . . . .	800 (120)	0.6 (0.1)
Other diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism . . . . .	* ...	0.2 (0.0)
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases		
Disorders of thyroid gland, excluding acquired hypothyroidism . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Type 1 diabetes mellitus . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Type 2 diabetes mellitus or unspecified . . . . .	579 (100)	0.4 (0.1)
Other types of diabetes mellitus . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other disorders of endocrine glands . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Obesity . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Hyperlipidemias . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Volume depletion . . . . .	466 (79)	0.3 (0.1)
Other nutritional deficiencies and metabolic disorders . . . . .	801 (166)	0.6 (0.1)
Mental, behavioral and neurodevelopmental disorders		
Dementia, excluding Alzheimer disease . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Alcohol-related disorders, excluding alcohol-related dementia and chronic alcoholic liver disease . . . . .	1,544 (191)	1.1 (0.1)
Opioid-related disorders . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Cocaine-related disorders . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Nicotine dependence . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other drug-related disorders, excluding other drug-related dementia . . . . .	702 (116)	0.5 (0.1)
Schizophrenia . . . . .	191 (61)	0.1 (0.0)
Non-mood psychoses, excluding schizophrenia . . . . .	347 (65)	0.2 (0.0)
Bipolar disorders, excluding those with depression . . . . .	248 (89)	0.2 (0.1)
Bipolar disorders, with depression . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Depressive disorders, excluding bipolar depression and adjustment reaction with depressed mood . . . . .	721 (117)	0.5 (0.1)
Acute reaction to stress and adjustment reaction, excluding those with depressed mood . . . . .	157 (52)	0.1 (0.0)
Acute reaction to stress and adjustment reaction with depressed mood . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Impulse disorders . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other mood disorders, nonpsychotic mental disorders, behavioral syndromes, and disorders of adult personality and behavior . . . . .	1,078 (159)	0.8 (0.1)
Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorders . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Oppositional defiant disorder . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Conduct disorders, excluding oppositional defiant disorder . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Autism spectrum disorder . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Cannabis-related disorders . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Other mental disorders . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 11. Annual number and percent distribution of emergency department visits, by diagnosis group: United States, 2021—Con.**

Primary diagnosis group <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
<b>Diseases of the nervous system</b>		
Alzheimer disease . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Migraine . . . . .	622 (101)	0.4 (0.1)
Transient cerebral ischemic attacks and related syndromes . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Sleep disorders, excluding sleep apnea (adult, pediatric, obstructive) and non-organic sleep disorders . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Obstructive sleep apnea (adult, pediatric), and sleep apnea, not otherwise specified . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Carpal tunnel syndrome . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Generalized pain and acute and chronic pain syndromes . . . . .	571 (109)	0.4 (0.1)
Other disorders of the nervous system . . . . .	1,025 (173)	0.7 (0.1)
<b>Diseases of the eye and adnexa</b>		
Inflammation and disorders of eyelids . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Conjunctivitis . . . . .	268 (60)	0.2 (0.0)
Retinal detachment and other retinal disorders, excluding diabetic retinopathy . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Glaucoma . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other disorders of the eye and adnexa . . . . .	479 (79)	0.3 (0.1)
<b>Diseases of the ear and mastoid process</b>		
Disorders of external ear . . . . .	500 (107)	0.4 (0.1)
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders . . . . .	1,239 (303)	0.9 (0.2)
Other disorders of the ear and mastoid process . . . . .	374 (87)	0.3 (0.1)
<b>Diseases of the circulatory system</b>		
Essential hypertension . . . . .	1,282 (250)	0.9 (0.2)
Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease with heart failure and stage 1 through 4 chronic kidney disease or unspecified chronic kidney disease . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease with heart failure with stage 5 chronic kidney disease or end stage renal disease . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Hypertensive crisis . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Angina pectoris not stated as with chronic ischemic heart disease . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Acute myocardial infarction . . . . .	307 (72)	0.2 (0.1)
Other acute and subacute ischemic heart disease . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Coronary atherosclerosis and other chronic ischemic heart disease (with angina pectoris) . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Pulmonary heart disease and diseases of pulmonary circulation . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Conduction disorders . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Cardiac dysrhythmias, excluding ventricular fibrillation . . . . .	824 (136)	0.6 (0.1)
Cardiac arrest and ventricular fibrillation . . . . .	* ...	0.2 (0.1)
Heart failure, non-hypertensive . . . . .	613 (119)	0.4 (0.1)
Pericarditis, endocarditis, myocarditis and cardiomyopathy . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Other and ill-defined heart disease . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Cerebrovascular disease . . . . .	448 (87)	0.3 (0.1)
Diseases of the arteries, arterioles and capillaries . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Varicose veins of lower extremity . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other disorder of circulatory system . . . . .	594 (129)	0.4 (0.1)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 11. Annual number and percent distribution of emergency department visits, by diagnosis group: United States, 2021—Con.**

Primary diagnosis group <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
<b>Diseases of the respiratory system</b>		
Streptococcal pharyngitis and tonsillitis . . . . .	295 (64)	0.2 (0.0)
Acute sinusitis . . . . .	* ...	0.2 (0.1)
Acute pharyngitis, except streptococcal pharyngitis . . . . .	1,025 (129)	0.7 (0.1)
Acute tonsillitis, except streptococcal tonsillitis . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Influenza . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Pneumonia due to infectious organism . . . . .	1,411 (208)	1.0 (0.1)
Acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis . . . . .	942 (183)	0.7 (0.1)
Other acute respiratory infections . . . . .	2,424 (304)	1.7 (0.2)
Allergic rhinitis . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Chronic sinusitis . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Chronic diseases of tonsils and adenoids . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Chronic and unspecified bronchitis . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Bronchiectasis, emphysema and other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, including chronic obstructive asthma . . . . .	791 (111)	0.6 (0.1)
Asthma, excluding chronic obstructive asthma . . . . .	939 (149)	0.7 (0.1)
Respiratory failure . . . . .	459 (110)	0.3 (0.1)
Croup . . . . .	353 (108)	0.3 (0.1)
Aspiration pneumonia . . . . .	* ...	* ...
COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease 2019, SARS-CoV-2, Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) . . . . .	3,599 (400)	2.6 (0.3)
Vaping-related disorder . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other diseases of the respiratory system . . . . .	555 (114)	0.4 (0.1)
<b>Diseases of the digestive system</b>		
<b>Diseases of the teeth and supporting structures, excluding dentofacial anomalies and disorders of the jaw . . . . .</b>		
Esophagitis without gastroesophageal reflux disease . . . . .	1,190 (162)	0.9 (0.1)
Gastroesophageal reflux disease (with esophagitis) . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Other diseases of the esophagus . . . . .	331 (80)	0.2 (0.1)
Ulcers of stomach and small intestine . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Gastritis and duodenitis . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Appendicitis . . . . .	288 (61)	0.2 (0.0)
Diaphragmatic hernia . . . . .	339 (92)	0.2 (0.1)
Hernias of abdominal cavity, except diaphragmatic hernia . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis . . . . .	334 (91)	0.2 (0.1)
Other and unspecified noninfectious enteritis and colitis . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Intestinal obstructions . . . . .	1,071 (183)	0.8 (0.1)
Diverticula of intestine . . . . .	286 (60)	0.2 (0.0)
Irritable bowel syndrome . . . . .	535 (106)	0.4 (0.1)
Constipation . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Anal and rectal diseases . . . . .	977 (148)	0.7 (0.1)
Hemorrhoids and perianal venous thrombosis . . . . .	234 (57)	0.2 (0.0)
Alcoholic liver disease . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Other diseases of the liver . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Disorders of gallbladder and biliary tract . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Diseases of the pancreas . . . . .	443 (94)	0.3 (0.1)
Unspecified gastrointestinal bleeding . . . . .	456 (94)	0.3 (0.1)
Other diseases of the digestive system . . . . .	540 (79)	0.4 (0.1)
615 (122)	0.4 (0.1)	
<b>Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue</b>		
Cellulitis . . . . .	1,654 (160)	1.2 (0.1)
Cutaneous abscess . . . . .	781 (111)	0.6 (0.1)
Other local infections of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . .	432 (102)	0.3 (0.1)
Contact dermatitis and other eczema . . . . .	* ...	0.2 (0.0)
Psoriasis and other similar disorders . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Urticaria . . . . .	334 (85)	0.2 (0.1)
Other inflammatory conditions of skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . .	368 (76)	0.3 (0.1)
Actinic keratosis and other sun exposure-related disorders . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Acne . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Sebaceous cyst . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Corns, callosities and other hypertrophic and atrophic skin condition . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Pressure ulcers . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other disorders of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . .	460 (84)	0.3 (0.1)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 11. Annual number and percent distribution of emergency department visits, by diagnosis group: United States, 2021—Con.**

Primary diagnosis group <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
<b>Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue</b>		
Rheumatoid arthritis . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Infectious and inflammatory arthropathies, excluding rheumatoid and juvenile arthritis . . . . .	* ...	0.2 (0.1)
Osteoarthritis . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Acquired deformities of fingers and toes . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Internal derangement of knee . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other joint disorders . . . . .	2,520 (259)	1.8 (0.2)
Spinal stenosis . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Spondylopathies, excluding spinal stenosis . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Intervertebral disc disorders . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Low back pain, unspecified . . . . .	1,005 (147)	0.7 (0.1)
Other conditions of the spine and back, excluding low back pain . . . . .	2,260 (265)	1.6 (0.2)
Synovitis and tenosynovitis . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Soft tissue disorders related to use, overuse and pressure . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Ganglion and cyst of synovium, tendon and bursa . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Myalgia and myositis, unspecified . . . . .	* ...	0.2 (0.0)
Disorders of bone and cartilage, excluding osteoporosis . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Other diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . .	2,357 (230)	1.7 (0.1)
<b>Diseases of the genitourinary system</b>		
Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Infections of kidney . . . . .	353 (74)	0.3 (0.1)
Acute kidney failure . . . . .	600 (136)	0.4 (0.1)
Chronic kidney disease, excluding end stage renal disease . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
End Stage Renal Disease . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Unspecified kidney failure, including uremia, not otherwise specified . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Calculus of kidney and ureter . . . . .	919 (122)	0.7 (0.1)
Cystitis . . . . .	843 (148)	0.6 (0.1)
Urinary tract infection, site not specified . . . . .	1,704 (169)	1.2 (0.1)
Stress and other specified urinary incontinence, excluding functional . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other diseases of the urinary system . . . . .	520 (91)	0.4 (0.1)
Benign prostatic hyperplasia . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Disorders of prepuce . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Other disorders of male genital organs . . . . .	652 (97)	0.5 (0.1)
Unspecified lump or mass in breast . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Disorders of the breast, excluding unspecified lump or mass . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Inflammatory disease of female pelvic organs . . . . .	379 (85)	0.3 (0.1)
Genital prolapse (female) . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other noninflammatory disorders of female genital organs . . . . .	428 (97)	0.3 (0.1)
Disorders of menstruation and abnormal bleeding . . . . .	452 (77)	0.3 (0.1)
Menopausal and postmenopausal disorders . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other disorders of female genital tract . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
<b>Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium</b>		
Non-uterine pregnancy . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Missed abortion . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Encounter for supervision of high-risk pregnancy . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Early or threatened labor . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Encounter for full-term uncomplicated delivery . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Encounter for supervision of normal pregnancy . . . . .	163 (57)	0.1 (0.0)
Other encounter related to pregnancy, excluding incidental pregnancy . . . . .	228 (66)	0.2 (0.0)
Postpartum care and examination . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other complications of pregnancy . . . . .	1,952 (237)	1.4 (0.2)
Complications of childbirth (includes labor and delivery) . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Complications of the puerperium . . . . .	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Certain other conditions originating in the perinatal period . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 11. Annual number and percent distribution of emergency department visits, by diagnosis group: United States, 2021—Con.**

Primary diagnosis group <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
Congenital anomalies		
Congenital anomalies .....	* ...	* ...
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions		
Abnormal heart beat and heart sounds .....	738 (94)	0.5 (0.1)
Epistaxis .....	306 (54)	0.2 (0.0)
Cough, unspecified .....	1,365 (294)	1.0 (0.2)
Dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities .....	1,869 (255)	1.3 (0.2)
Chest pain .....	5,774 (520)	4.1 (0.3)
Abdominal pain .....	6,035 (552)	4.3 (0.3)
Unspecified jaundice, edema and other non-specific skin symptoms .....	1,418 (150)	1.0 (0.1)
Hematuria .....	375 (70)	0.3 (0.0)
Urinary incontinence, unspecified and functional .....	* ...	* ...
Symptoms involving the genitourinary system, excluding hematuria and urinary incontinence .....	810 (137)	0.6 (0.1)
Age-related cognitive decline, age-related physical debility .....	* ...	* ...
Vertigo and lightheadedness .....	1,209 (170)	0.9 (0.1)
Fever of other and unknown origin .....	2,075 (404)	1.5 (0.3)
Headache, unspecified .....	1,760 (238)	1.3 (0.2)
Malaise and fatigue .....	805 (106)	0.6 (0.1)
Syncope and collapse .....	1,481 (194)	1.1 (0.1)
Convulsions and seizures, not elsewhere classified .....	923 (120)	0.7 (0.1)
Unspecified nausea, vomiting, diarrhea .....	3,463 (354)	2.5 (0.2)
Other symptoms, signs, abnormal findings and ill-defined conditions .....	5,838 (512)	4.2 (0.3)
Injury and poisoning		
Injury of eye and orbit .....	317 (59)	0.2 (0.0)
Contusions (bruise, hematoma), excluding face and head .....	1,903 (230)	1.4 (0.1)
Superficial injuries, excluding contusions (abrasion, blister, external constriction, splinter, superficial bite) .....	784 (117)	0.6 (0.1)
Open wound of head .....	1,811 (191)	1.3 (0.1)
Open wound of wrist, hand and fingers .....	1,525 (157)	1.1 (0.1)
Open wound of hip and lower limb .....	647 (94)	0.5 (0.1)
Open wound, excluding head, hand, fingers, lower limb and internal organs .....	498 (91)	0.4 (0.1)
Traumatic fracture of shoulder and upper arm (clavicle, scapula, humerus) .....	562 (107)	0.4 (0.1)
Traumatic fracture of forearm (radius and ulna) .....	630 (107)	0.5 (0.1)
Traumatic fracture of wrist, hand and fingers (carpal, metacarpals, phalanges) .....	549 (94)	0.4 (0.1)
Traumatic fracture of hip (head and neck of femur) .....	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Traumatic fracture of ankle (medial malleolus, lateral malleolus, bimalleolar, trimalleolar) .....	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Traumatic fracture of leg, foot and toes, excluding hip and ankle (femur, patella, tibia, fibula, tarsals, metatarsals, phalanges) .....	767 (102)	0.5 (0.1)
Other traumatic fractures (skull, facial bones, vertebrae, ribs, sternum, pelvis) .....	868 (117)	0.6 (0.1)
Dislocations, excluding tear of medial meniscus .....	456 (102)	0.3 (0.1)
Sprains and strains of neck .....	643 (130)	0.5 (0.1)
Sprains and strains of back .....	589 (101)	0.4 (0.1)
Sprains and strains of wrist and hand .....	* ...	0.2 (0.0)
Sprains and strains of knee .....	* ...	0.2 (0.0)
Strains and sprains of ankle .....	608 (88)	0.4 (0.1)
Sprain and strains, excluding neck, back, wrist, hand, knee, ankle .....	524 (94)	0.4 (0.1)
Concussion .....	229 (60)	0.2 (0.0)
Intracranial injury, excluding concussion .....	* ...	0.2 (0.0)
Internal injury of chest, abdomen and pelvis .....	* ...	* ...
Other injuries, excluding burns and poisonings .....	3,311 (329)	2.4 (0.2)
Burns and corrosions, external and internal, excluding sunburn .....	404 (78)	0.3 (0.1)
Poisoning (overdose or wrong substance given or taken in error) due to drugs and biological substances, accidental (unintentional) .....	453 (88)	0.3 (0.1)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 11. Annual number and percent distribution of emergency department visits, by diagnosis group: United States, 2021—Con.**

Primary diagnosis group <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
Injury and poisoning—Con.		
Poisoning (overdose or wrong substance given or taken in error) due to drugs and biological substances, intentional self-harm . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Poisoning (overdose or wrong substance given or taken in error) due to drugs and biological substances, undetermined intent . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Adverse effects (of correct substance properly administered) of drugs and biological substances. . . . .	* ...	0.2 (0.0)
Toxic effects of substances chiefly non-medical, accidental (unintentional). . . . .	387 (85)	0.3 (0.1)
Toxic effects of substances chiefly non-medical, intentional self-harm . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Toxic effects of substances chiefly non-medical, assault . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Toxic effects of substances chiefly non-medical, undetermined . . . . .	* ...	* ...
Other and unspecified effects of external causes . . . . .	1,082 (132)	0.8 (0.1)
Complications of surgical and medical care . . . . .	904 (118)	0.6 (0.1)
Contusions (bruise, hematoma) of face and head. . . . .	565 (108)	0.4 (0.1)
Head injury, not otherwise specified . . . . .	1,385 (187)	1.0 (0.1)
Supplementary classifications		
Encounter for general adult medical examinations, including routine gynecological examination. . . . .	331 (81)	0.2 (0.1)
Encounter for routine child examination, excluding newborns . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Encounter and observation for suspected conditions ruled out. . . . .	501 (134)	0.4 (0.1)
Encounter for specific procedures and aftercare and follow up examination after completed treatment, excluding for injuries. . . . .	843 (142)	0.6 (0.1)
Potential health hazards related to communicable diseases. . . . .	1,025 (164)	0.7 (0.1)
Encounter for contraceptive management. . . . .	* ...	* ...
Potential health hazards related to personal and family history, excluding personal history of pulmonary embolism and personal history of cerebral infarction or transient ischemic attack without residual deficits . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Other factors influencing health status and contact with health services. . . . .	4,193 (617)	3.0 (0.4)
Uncodable entries <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1,040 (161)	0.7 (0.1)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	785 (149)	0.6 (0.1)

... Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

<sup>1</sup>Based on *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-10-CM). Codes have been combined in this table according to the National Center for Health Statistics Diagnosis Master Category List. For a list of ICD-10-CM codes corresponding to a specific diagnosis group, refer to the Diagnosis Master Category List document, available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ahcd/Reclass\\_ICD\\_10\\_CM\\_tables.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ahcd/Reclass_ICD_10_CM_tables.pdf). Web tables presenting diagnosis estimates before 2016 used the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) coding system. Due to substantial differences between ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM, caution is advised when comparing diagnosis estimates in this table with those from before 2016.

<sup>2</sup>Diagnosis groups for this chapter are not shown due to low sample sizes.

<sup>3</sup>Includes illegible diagnosis, left before being seen, walked out, eloped, left against medical advice, and entries of "none," "no diagnosis," "no disease," and "healthy" as the only entry in the diagnosis item.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 12. Presence of chronic conditions at emergency department visits: United States, 2021**

Chronic condition <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	100.0 ...
Alcohol misuse, abuse, or dependence . . . . .	5,778 (527)	4.1 (0.3)
Alzheimer disease or dementia . . . . .	1,779 (220)	1.3 (0.1)
Asthma . . . . .	13,249 (1,012)	9.5 (0.5)
Cancer . . . . .	5,848 (606)	4.2 (0.3)
Cerebrovascular disease or history of stroke or transient ischemic attack . . . . .	5,311 (596)	3.8 (0.3)
Chronic kidney disease . . . . .	5,435 (547)	3.9 (0.3)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease . . . . .	8,105 (721)	5.8 (0.4)
Congestive heart failure . . . . .	6,259 (620)	4.5 (0.4)
Coronary artery disease, ischemic heart disease or history of myocardial infarction . . . . .	8,953 (867)	6.4 (0.5)
Depression . . . . .	17,499 (1,661)	12.5 (0.8)
Diabetes mellitus—Type 1 . . . . .	1,107 (202)	0.8 (0.1)
Diabetes mellitus—Type 2 . . . . .	10,327 (1,002)	7.4 (0.6)
Diabetes mellitus—Type unspecified . . . . .	7,802 (1,062)	5.6 (0.6)
End-stage renal disease . . . . .	1,835 (273)	1.3 (0.2)
History of pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis, or venous thromboembolism . . . . .	2,446 (301)	1.7 (0.2)
HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) or AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) . . . . .	678 (100)	0.5 (0.1)
Hyperlipidemia . . . . .	15,570 (1,447)	11.1 (0.8)
Hypertension . . . . .	37,956 (3,043)	27.2 (1.3)
Obesity . . . . .	9,958 (1,202)	7.1 (0.7)
Obstructive sleep apnea . . . . .	4,267 (536)	3.1 (0.3)
Osteoporosis . . . . .	1,318 (187)	0.9 (0.1)
Substance abuse or dependence . . . . .	9,923 (1,127)	7.1 (0.7)
None of the above . . . . .	65,128 (4,860)	46.6 (1.8)
Blank . . . . .	*2,338 (1,181)	1.7 (0.9)

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%.

<sup>1</sup>Presence of chronic conditions is based on the checklist of chronic conditions and reported diagnoses.

NOTES: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Total number of visits exceeds "All visits" and percent of visits exceeds 100% because more than one chronic condition may be reported per visit.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 13. Injury visits to emergency departments, by selected patient and hospital characteristics: United States, 2021**

Patient and hospital characteristics	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)	Number of visits per 100 people <sup>1</sup> (standard error)
All injury visits <sup>2</sup>	36,718 (2,396)	100.0 ...	11.2 (0.7)
Age group (years)			
Under 15	7,492 (810)	20.4 (1.7)	12.4 (1.3)
Under 1	469 (112)	1.3 (0.3)	13.2 (3.2)
1–4	2,413 (296)	6.6 (0.6)	15.8 (1.9)
5–14	4,610 (524)	12.6 (1.1)	11.1 (1.3)
15–24	5,287 (404)	14.4 (0.7)	12.5 (1.0)
25–44	9,877 (766)	26.9 (1.1)	11.4 (0.9)
45–64	7,260 (561)	19.8 (0.9)	8.8 (0.7)
65 and over	6,801 (564)	18.5 (0.9)	12.4 (1.0)
65–74	3,014 (273)	8.2 (0.5)	9.0 (0.8)
75 and over	3,788 (376)	10.3 (0.7)	17.8 (1.8)
Sex and age group (years)			
Female	17,618 (1,255)	48.0 (1.1)	10.6 (0.8)
Under 15	3,216 (385)	8.8 (0.8)	10.9 (1.3)
15–24	2,601 (264)	7.1 (0.6)	12.4 (1.3)
25–44	4,626 (415)	12.6 (0.7)	10.6 (0.9)
45–64	3,483 (309)	9.5 (0.5)	8.3 (0.7)
65–74	1,417 (156)	3.9 (0.4)	8.0 (0.9)
75 and over	2,275 (259)	6.2 (0.6)	18.7 (2.1)
Male	19,100 (1,266)	52.0 (1.1)	11.9 (0.8)
Under 15	4,276 (501)	11.7 (1.1)	13.8 (1.6)
15–24	2,687 (216)	7.3 (0.5)	12.7 (1.0)
25–44	5,251 (453)	14.3 (0.9)	12.1 (1.0)
45–64	3,777 (316)	10.3 (0.6)	9.3 (0.8)
65–74	1,597 (185)	4.4 (0.4)	10.1 (1.2)
75 and over	1,512 (177)	4.1 (0.4)	16.6 (1.9)
Geographic region			
Northeast	5,838 (824)	15.9 (2.1)	10.3 (1.5)
Midwest	7,935 (867)	21.6 (2.3)	11.7 (1.3)
South	14,050 (1,583)	38.3 (3.3)	11.2 (1.3)
West	8,894 (1,345)	24.2 (3.1)	11.5 (1.7)

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Visit rates for age, sex, and region are based on estimates of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population as of July 1, 2021, from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

<sup>2</sup>The definition of injury changed in 2016 due to the switch from the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD–9–CM) coding system for diagnosis data to the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD–10–CM) coding system. Before 2016, injury visits were based on ICD–9–CM. In 2021, injury visits were based on ICD–10–CM and information indicating that the visit was related to an injury, trauma, overdose, or poisoning according to the Patient Record form item, "Is this visit related to an injury/trauma, overdose/poisoning, or adverse effect of medical/surgical treatment?" and additional consideration of values for visits with no concrete evidence of injury. "All injury visits" includes any-listed reason for visit and diagnosis codes related to injury and poisoning. Injury visits do not include adverse effects and complication codes. Using this definition, injury visits represent 26.3% of all emergency department visits. For more details, see the 2021 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey public-use data file documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 14. Injury visits to emergency departments, by race, age, and ethnicity: United States, 2021**

Patient characteristic	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)	Number of visits per 100 people <sup>1</sup> (standard error)
All injury visits <sup>2</sup>	36,717 (2,396)	100.0 ...	11.2 (0.7)
Race <sup>3</sup> and age group (years)			
Black or African American	8,056 (771)	21.9 (1.7)	18.4 (1.8)
Under 15	1,966 (259)	5.4 (0.6)	21.0 (2.8)
15–24	1,433 (169)	3.9 (0.4)	23.2 (2.7)
25–44	2,206 (266)	6.0 (0.7)	17.7 (2.1)
45–64	1,679 (230)	4.6 (0.6)	16.1 (2.2)
65–74	565 (129)	1.5 (0.3)	16.2 (3.7)
75 and over	* ...	0.6 (0.1)	* ...
White	27,463 (1,982)	74.8 (1.7)	11.1 (0.8)
Under 15	5,244 (616)	14.3 (1.3)	12.3 (1.4)
15–24	3,671 (323)	10.0 (0.7)	11.9 (1.0)
25–44	7,327 (642)	20.0 (1.0)	11.4 (1.0)
45–64	5,353 (445)	14.6 (0.7)	8.3 (0.7)
65–74	2,375 (234)	6.5 (0.5)	8.6 (0.8)
75 and over	3,493 (366)	9.5 (0.7)	19.5 (2.0)
Other race groups <sup>4</sup>	1,198 (149)	3.3 (0.4)	3.4 (0.4)
Ethnicity <sup>3</sup>			
Hispanic or Latino	5,611 (612)	15.3 (1.4)	9.0 (1.0)
Not Hispanic or Latino	31,106 (2,146)	84.7 (1.4)	11.7 (0.8)
Black or African American	7,647 (759)	20.8 (1.6)	18.8 (1.9)
White	22,404 (1,751)	61.0 (2.1)	11.5 (0.9)
Other race groups <sup>4</sup>	1,056 (146)	2.9 (0.4)	3.5 (0.5)

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

<sup>1</sup>Visit rates are based on estimates of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population as of July 1, 2021, from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

<sup>2</sup>The definition of injury changed in 2016 due to the switch from the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD–9–CM) coding system for diagnosis data to the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD–10–CM) coding system. Before 2016, injury visits were based on ICD–9–CM. In 2021, injury visits were based on ICD–10–CM and information indicating that the visit was related to an injury, trauma, overdose, or poisoning according to the Patient Record form item, "Is this visit related to an injury/trauma, overdose/poisoning, or adverse effect of medical/surgical treatment?" and additional consideration of values for visits with no concrete evidence of injury. "All injury visits" includes any-listed reason for visit and diagnosis codes related to injury and poisoning. Injury visits do not include adverse effects and complication codes. Using this definition, injury visits represent 26.3% of all emergency department visits. For more details, see the 2021 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey public-use data file documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).

<sup>3</sup>The race groups Black or African American, White, and Other race groups include people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. For 2021, race data were missing for 19.9% of injury visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 15.7% of injury visits. The National Center for Health Statistics uses model-based single imputation for National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey race and ethnicity data. The race imputation is restricted to three categories (Black, White, and Other race groups) based on research by an internal work group and on quality concerns with imputed estimates for race categories other than Black or White. The imputation technique is detailed in the 2021 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey public-use data file documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).

<sup>4</sup>Includes the categories of American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and people with more than one race.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.



**Table 15. Emergency department visits related to injury, poisoning, and adverse effect, by intent: United States, 2021**

Intent <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All injury visits related to injury, poisoning, and adverse effect <sup>2</sup> .....	40,046 (2,578)	100.0 ...
Unintentional .....	25,519 (1,800)	63.7 (1.2)
Self-harm .....	660 (130)	1.6 (0.3)
Assault .....	1,355 (161)	3.4 (0.3)
Undetermined or other <sup>3</sup> .....	1,061 (139)	2.6 (0.2)
Blank cause .....	11,452 (825)	28.6 (1.2)

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the proposed ICD-10-CM External Cause of Injury Matrix. For more information, see the report, available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/ICD-10-CM\\_External\\_Cause\\_Injury\\_Codes-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/ICD-10-CM_External_Cause_Injury_Codes-a.pdf).

<sup>2</sup>The definition of visits related to injury, poisoning, and adverse effects changed in 2016 due to the switch from the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) coding system for diagnosis data to the ICD-10-CM coding system. Before 2016, injury visits were based on ICD-9-CM. Beginning in 2016, injury visits are based on ICD-10-CM and information indicating that the visit is related to an injury, trauma, overdose, poisoning, or adverse effect of medical or surgical treatment based on the Patient Record Form item, "Is this visit related to an injury/trauma, overdose/poisoning, or adverse effect of medical/surgical treatment?", with further consideration of values for visits with no concrete evidence of injury. Using this definition, injury visits accounted for 28.6% (standard error = 0.6) of all emergency department visits in 2021.

<sup>3</sup>Other includes certain diagnosis codes for injury visits not captured using the ICD-10-CM external-cause matrix. Common diagnoses in this group include medical and surgical complications, activity of person seeking health care (such as a heart attack while shoveling snow, which resulted from, or was contributed to, by the activity), place of occurrence of external cause, legal intervention, and war. For more details, see the 2021 NHAMCS Public Use Data File documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 16. Emergency department visits related to injury, poisoning, and adverse effect, by mechanism: United States, 2021**

Mechanism <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All injury visits related to injury, poisoning, and adverse effect <sup>2</sup> .....	40,046 (2,578)	100.0 ...
Cut or pierce .....	2,020 (264)	5.0 (0.5)
Drowning or submersion .....	*	* ...
Fall .....	9,708 (739)	24.2 (0.8)
Fire or burn .....	398 (86)	1.0 (0.2)
Fire or flame .....	*	0.4 (0.1)
Hot object or substance .....	252 (58)	0.6 (0.1)
Firearm .....	*	0.7 (0.1)
Machinery .....	*	0.4 (0.1)
All transportation .....	5,018 (490)	12.5 (0.7)
Motor vehicle—traffic .....	3,547 (367)	8.9 (0.6)
Motor vehicle—nontraffic .....	689 (145)	1.7 (0.3)
Pedal cyclist, other .....	422 (116)	1.1 (0.3)
Pedestrian, other .....	*	0.1 (0.1)
Other land transport .....	261 (64)	0.7 (0.2)
Other transport .....	*	0.1 (0.1)
Natural or environmental <sup>3</sup> .....	1,413 (185)	3.5 (0.4)
Overexertion .....	2,010 (208)	5.0 (0.4)
Struck by or against .....	4,142 (306)	10.3 (0.5)
Other specified <sup>4</sup> .....	1,132 (141)	2.8 (0.3)
Unspecified or other <sup>5</sup> .....	2,215 (221)	5.5 (0.5)
Blank cause .....	11,450 (825)	28.6 (1.2)

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions," (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the proposed *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-10-CM) External Cause of Injury Matrix. For more information, see the report, available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/ICD-10-CM\\_External\\_Cause\\_Injury\\_Codes-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/ICD-10-CM_External_Cause_Injury_Codes-a.pdf).

<sup>2</sup>The definition of visits related to injury, poisoning, and adverse effects changed in 2016 due to the switch from the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) coding system for diagnosis data to the ICD-10-CM coding system. Before 2016, injury visits were based on ICD-9-CM. Starting in 2016, injury visits are based on ICD-10-CM and information indicating that the visit is related to an injury, trauma, overdose, poisoning, or adverse effect of medical or surgical treatment according to the Patient Record Form item, "Is this visit related to an injury/trauma, overdose/poisoning, or adverse effect of medical/surgical treatment?" and additional consideration of values for visits with no concrete evidence of injury. Using this definition, injury visits accounted for 28.6% (standard error = 0.6) of all emergency department visits in 2021.

<sup>3</sup>Includes bites and stings (venomous and nonvenomous), natural or environmental, and other.

<sup>4</sup>Includes child or adult abuse, foreign body, classifiable, and not elsewhere classifiable.

<sup>5</sup>Other includes certain diagnosis codes for injury visits not captured using the ICD-10-CM external-cause matrix. Common diagnoses in this group include medical and surgical complications, activity of person seeking health care (such as a heart attack while shoveling snow, which resulted from, or was contributed to, by the activity), and place of occurrence of external cause. For more details, see the 2021 NHAMCS public-use data file documentation, available from: [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHAMCS/doc21-ed-508.pdf).

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 17. Selected diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided at emergency department visits: United States, 2021**

Diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided	Number of visits <sup>1</sup> (standard error) in thousands	Percent of visits (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	... ..
One or more diagnostic or screening service listed . . . . .	110,599 (7,057)	79.1 (1.3)
None . . . . .	26,322 (2,236)	18.8 (1.1)
Blank . . . . .	*2,861 (1,289)	2.0 (0.9)
<b>Blood tests</b>		
Complete blood count . . . . .	65,003 (4,928)	46.5 (1.6)
Creatinine or renal function panel . . . . .	5,150 (731)	3.7 (0.5)
Glucose, serum . . . . .	9,430 (1,137)	6.7 (0.7)
Electrolytes . . . . .	2,445 (564)	1.7 (0.4)
Prothrombin time (PT/PTT/INR) <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	15,579 (1,835)	11.1 (1.0)
Liver enzymes or hepatic function panel . . . . .	5,612 (800)	4.0 (0.6)
Cardiac enzymes . . . . .	9,831 (1,369)	7.0 (1.0)
Comprehensive metabolic panel . . . . .	47,874 (4,259)	34.2 (1.7)
Blood culture . . . . .	7,580 (824)	5.4 (0.5)
Brain natriuretic peptide . . . . .	7,191 (934)	5.1 (0.5)
D-dimer . . . . .	5,317 (646)	3.8 (0.4)
Arterial blood gases . . . . .	3,300 (701)	2.4 (0.5)
Blood alcohol concentration . . . . .	3,572 (520)	2.6 (0.3)
Basic metabolic panel . . . . .	16,634 (1,862)	11.9 (1.2)
Lactate . . . . .	6,457 (919)	4.6 (0.6)
Other blood test . . . . .	35,095 (3,565)	25.1 (1.6)
Any blood test listed . . . . .	71,488 (5,121)	51.1 (1.6)
<b>Imaging</b>		
X-ray . . . . .	51,363 (3,973)	36.7 (1.2)
Computed tomography (CT) scan . . . . .	32,694 (2,633)	23.4 (1.0)
Abdomen or pelvis . . . . .	13,741 (1,228)	9.8 (0.5)
Chest . . . . .	5,564 (609)	4.0 (0.3)
Head . . . . .	13,312 (1,079)	9.5 (0.5)
Other . . . . .	7,218 (786)	5.2 (0.4)
Intravenous (IV) contrast with CT . . . . .	11,956 (1,114)	8.6 (0.5)
Ultrasound . . . . .	8,742 (868)	6.3 (0.4)
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan . . . . .	1,748 (310)	1.3 (0.2)
IV contrast with MRI . . . . .	211 (77)	0.2 (0.1)
Other imaging . . . . .	1,864 (359)	1.3 (0.2)
Any imaging . . . . .	75,441 (5,466)	54.0 (1.5)
<b>Examinations and tests</b>		
Cardiac monitor . . . . .	14,161 (1,632)	10.1 (1.0)
Urinalysis or urine dipstick . . . . .	36,667 (3,028)	26.2 (1.1)
Electrocardiogram . . . . .	36,445 (2,928)	26.1 (1.3)
Urine culture . . . . .	17,213 (1,984)	12.3 (1.0)
Pregnancy or HCG test <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	13,554 (1,202)	9.7 (0.6)
Toxicology screen . . . . .	7,786 (763)	5.6 (0.4)
Influenza test . . . . .	7,250 (1,244)	5.2 (0.8)
Throat culture . . . . .	1,749 (270)	1.3 (0.2)
Wound culture . . . . .	455 (89)	0.3 (0.1)
Other culture . . . . .	1,231 (206)	0.9 (0.1)
HIV test . . . . .	872 (118)	0.6 (0.1)
Other test or service . . . . .	43,579 (3,892)	31.2 (2.2)

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

<sup>1</sup>Total number of visits exceeds "All visits" and percent of visits exceeds 100% because more than one service may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>PTT is partial thromboplastin time. INR is international normalized ratio.

<sup>3</sup>HCG is human chorionic gonadotropin.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 18. Selected procedures at emergency department visits: United States, 2021**

Procedure performed	Number of visits <sup>1</sup> (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	100.0 ...
One or more procedures listed . . . . .	64,100 (4,645)	45.9 (1.5)
Intravenous fluids . . . . .	41,845 (3,702)	29.9 (1.7)
Cast, splint, wrap . . . . .	6,051 (559)	4.3 (0.3)
Suturing or staples . . . . .	3,553 (330)	2.5 (0.2)
Incision and drainage . . . . .	1,046 (162)	0.7 (0.1)
Nebulizer therapy . . . . .	4,122 (576)	2.9 (0.4)
Bladder catheter . . . . .	2,130 (359)	1.5 (0.3)
Pelvic examination . . . . .	1,000 (164)	0.7 (0.1)
Central line . . . . .	*626 (262)	0.4 (0.2)
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Endotracheal intubation . . . . .	330 (72)	0.2 (0.0)
Skin adhesives . . . . .	1,496 (205)	1.1 (0.1)
BiPAP or CPAP <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	*812 (347)	0.6 (0.2)
Lumbar puncture . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)
Other <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	15,523 (2,402)	11.1 (1.5)
None <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	70,685 (4,889)	50.6 (1.7)
Blank <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	4,997 (1,484)	3.6 (1.1)

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>Total number of visits exceeds "All visits" and percentage exceeds 100% because more than one service may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>BiPAP is variable or bilevel positive airway pressure, and CPAP is continuous positive airway pressure.

<sup>3</sup>Includes all other procedures not listed above.

<sup>4</sup>The "None" checkbox was marked on the Patient Record form.

<sup>5</sup>No checkboxes were marked on the Patient Record Form.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 19. Medication therapy and number of medications mentioned at emergency department visits: United States, 2021**

Medication therapy <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	100.0 ...
Visits with mention of medication <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	106,546 (7,120)	76.2 (1.2)
Visits without mention of medication . . . . .	33,236 (2,246)	23.8 (1.2)
Number of medications provided or prescribed <sup>3</sup>		
0. . . . .	33,236 (2,246)	23.8 (1.2)
1. . . . .	28,889 (1,857)	20.7 (0.7)
2. . . . .	23,933 (1,596)	17.1 (0.5)
3. . . . .	17,216 (1,252)	12.3 (0.4)
4. . . . .	11,802 (978)	8.4 (0.4)
5. . . . .	8,137 (808)	5.8 (0.4)
6. . . . .	5,672 (680)	4.1 (0.3)
7. . . . .	3,396 (423)	2.4 (0.2)
8. . . . .	1,720 (291)	1.2 (0.2)
9. . . . .	1,341 (206)	1.0 (0.1)
10. . . . .	987 (192)	0.7 (0.1)
11. . . . .	778 (126)	0.6 (0.1)
12. . . . .	514 (95)	0.4 (0.1)
13 or more . . . . .	2,160 (449)	1.5 (0.3)

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Includes prescription drugs, over-the-counter preparations, immunizations, and desensitizing agents.

<sup>2</sup>Visits at which one or more drugs were given in the emergency department or prescribed at discharge (up to 30 per visit). Also defined as drug visit.

<sup>3</sup>There were 352,609,000 drug mentions at emergency department visits in 2021. The average drug mention rate was 2.5 drug mentions per emergency department visit. For visits with at least one drug mention, the average drug visit rate was 3.3 drugs per visit.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 20. Twenty most frequently mentioned drugs at emergency department visits, by therapeutic drug category: United States, 2021**

Drug category <sup>1</sup>	Number of occurrences (standard error) in thousands	Percent of drug mentions <sup>2</sup> (standard error)
Analgesics <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	85,974 (6,570)	23.8 (0.6)
Minerals and electrolytes . . . . .	43,411 (4,440)	12.0 (0.6)
Antiemetic or antiverigo agents . . . . .	38,551 (3,336)	10.7 (0.4)
Miscellaneous respiratory agents . . . . .	33,816 (3,684)	9.4 (0.6)
Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics . . . . .	14,918 (1,206)	4.1 (0.2)
Cephalosporins . . . . .	13,438 (1,155)	3.7 (0.2)
Bronchodilators . . . . .	11,759 (1,096)	3.3 (0.2)
Anticonvulsants . . . . .	10,748 (963)	3.0 (0.1)
Adrenal cortical steroids . . . . .	9,948 (961)	2.8 (0.2)
Radiocontrast agents . . . . .	9,897 (1,286)	2.7 (0.2)
Antihistamines . . . . .	9,754 (882)	2.7 (0.1)
Local injectable anesthetics . . . . .	9,024 (798)	2.5 (0.1)
Antiarrhythmic agents . . . . .	8,966 (815)	2.5 (0.1)
Dermatological agents . . . . .	8,340 (775)	2.3 (0.1)
Penicillins . . . . .	6,867 (652)	1.9 (0.1)
Muscle relaxants . . . . .	6,280 (746)	1.7 (0.1)
Antiparkinson agents . . . . .	5,671 (541)	1.6 (0.1)
Laxatives . . . . .	5,585 (745)	1.5 (0.1)
Antiplatelet agents . . . . .	5,448 (632)	1.5 (0.1)
Antidiabetic agents . . . . .	4,527 (620)	1.3 (0.1)

<sup>1</sup>Based on Cerner Multum second-level therapeutic drug category (available from: <https://www.cerner.com/solutions/drug-database>).

<sup>2</sup>Based on an estimated 361,263,000 drug mentions at emergency department visits in 2021. Drug mentions are medications given in emergency departments or prescribed at discharge.

<sup>3</sup>Includes narcotics (7.1%), nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (9.4%), and other analgesics (including salicylates, analgesic combinations, antimigraine agents, Cox-2 inhibitors, and miscellaneous analgesics) (7.3%).

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 21. Twenty most frequently mentioned drugs at emergency department visits: United States, 2021**

Drug name <sup>1</sup>	Number of drug mentions (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)	Percent of drug mentions (standard error)					Unknown <sup>2</sup>	Therapeutic drug category <sup>3</sup>
			Total	Given in emergency department	Prescribed at discharge	Both given in emergency department and prescribed at discharge			
All drug mentions . . . . .	361,263 (28,668)	100.0 ...	100.0	64.3 (2.2)	26.6 (2.2)	7.6 (0.5)	* ...	...	
Sodium chloride . . . . .	33,775 (3,682)	9.3 (0.6)	100.0	99.2 (0.2)	0.4 (0.1)	* ...	* ...	Minerals and electrolytes,	
Ondansetron . . . . .	22,712 (2,095)	6.3 (0.3)	100.0	66.3 (2.4)	16.3 (2.2)	17.1 (1.8)	* ...	Miscellaneous respiratory agents	
Acetaminophen . . . . .	20,850 (1,634)	5.8 (0.3)	100.0	60.9 (2.9)	25.0 (2.3)	12.8 (1.6)	* ...	Antiemetic or antivertigo agents	
Ibuprofen . . . . .	16,966 (1,668)	4.7 (0.3)	100.0	41.2 (3.1)	39.3 (2.6)	18.4 (2.1)	* ...	Analgesics	
Ketorolac . . . . .	12,562 (1,282)	3.5 (0.3)	100.0	92.6 (1.4)	3.5 (0.7)	3.6 (1.0)	* ...	Analgesics	
Lidocaine . . . . .	7,389 (691)	2.0 (0.1)	100.0	78.3 (3.0)	14.2 (2.6)	6.9 (1.3)	* ...	Analgesics	
Morphine . . . . .	6,991 (782)	1.9 (0.1)	100.0	97.8 (0.8)	* ...	* ...	0.0 ...	Antiarrhythmic agents, local injectable anesthetics	
Albuterol . . . . .	6,570 (658)	1.8 (0.1)	100.0	49.9 (3.6)	35.6 (3.5)	12.4 (2.3)	* ...	Analgesics	
Ceftriaxone . . . . .	5,911 (604)	1.6 (0.1)	100.0	**97.1 (1.3)	* ...	* ...	0.0 ...	Bronchodilators	
Acetaminophen-hydrocodone . . . . .	5,695 (640)	1.6 (0.2)	100.0	41.1 (3.6)	44.5 (3.9)	14.2 (2.4)	* ...	Cephalosporins	
Diphenhydramine . . . . .	5,294 (519)	1.5 (0.1)	100.0	77.2 (2.7)	13.3 (2.5)	8.1 (1.4)	* ...	Analgesics	
Aspirin . . . . .	4,852 (535)	1.3 (0.1)	100.0	72.8 (5.1)	20.4 (4.6)	* ...	* ...	Antiemetic or antivertigo agents, Antihistamines, Antiparkinson agents, Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics	
Iohexol . . . . .	4,696 (867)	1.3 (0.2)	100.0	99.6 (0.3)	* ...	0.0 ...	0.0 ...	Analgesics, Antiplatelet agents	
Cephalexin . . . . .	4,568 (415)	1.3 (0.1)	100.0	15.4 (2.3)	64.6 (3.3)	20.0 (2.6)	0.0 ...	Radiocontrast agents	
Lorazepam . . . . .	4,298 (439)	1.2 (0.1)	100.0	90.5 (2.0)	6.3 (1.5)	* ...	* ...	Cephalosporins	
Iopamidol . . . . .	3,912 (851)	1.1 (0.2)	100.0	99.7 (0.3)	* ...	* ...	* ...	Anticonvulsants, Antiemetic or antivertigo agents, Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics	
Prednisone . . . . .	3,800 (374)	1.1 (0.1)	100.0	24.0 (3.6)	51.3 (4.2)	23.9 (2.8)	* ...	Radiocontrast agents	
Famotidine . . . . .	3,790 (429)	1.0 (0.1)	100.0	65.6 (4.2)	20.8 (3.9)	12.7 (2.3)	* ...	Adrenal cortical steroids	
Hydromorphone . . . . .	3,107 (503)	0.9 (0.1)	100.0	97.4 (1.0)	* ...	* ...	* ...	H2 antagonists	
Pantoprazole . . . . .	3,051 (345)	0.8 (0.1)	100.0	68.1 (4.2)	25.0 (4.0)	4.5 (1.1)	* ...	Analgesics	
All other . . . . .	180,472 (15,522)	50.0 (1.2)	100.0	55.0 (3.0)	36.1 (3.1)	6.6 (0.6)	* ...	Proton pump inhibitors	

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

\*\* Estimate meets National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability, but its complement does not.

<sup>1</sup>Based on Cerner Multum terminology, the drug name reflects the active ingredients of a drug mention.

<sup>2</sup>Includes drugs given or prescribed that did not have either the "given in emergency department" or "prescribed at discharge" checkboxes marked.

<sup>3</sup>Based on Cerner Multum second-level therapeutic drug category (available from: <https://www.cerner.com/solutions/drug-database>).

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 22. Providers seen at emergency department visits: United States, 2021**

Type of provider	Number of visits <sup>1</sup> (standard error) in thousands	Percent of visits (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	... ..
Any physician . . . . .	120,377 (7,160)	86.1 (1.3)
Emergency department attending physician . . . . .	118,219 (7,172)	84.6 (1.3)
Emergency department resident or intern . . . . .	16,355 (2,678)	11.7 (1.8)
Consulting physician . . . . .	19,597 (1,931)	14.0 (1.2)
Registered nurse or licensed practical nurse . . . . .	131,621 (8,756)	94.2 (1.4)
Any physician seen . . . . .	113,406 (7,405)	81.1 (1.6)
Physician not seen . . . . .	18,215 (2,289)	13.0 (1.3)
Nurse practitioner . . . . .	13,847 (1,817)	9.9 (1.1)
Any physician seen . . . . .	7,973 (1,515)	5.7 (1.0)
Physician not seen . . . . .	5,874 (1,380)	4.2 (0.9)
Physician assistant . . . . .	25,470 (3,064)	18.2 (1.9)
Any physician seen . . . . .	15,933 (2,322)	11.4 (1.6)
Physician not seen . . . . .	9,537 (1,869)	6.8 (1.2)
Emergency medical technician . . . . .	11,717 (1,383)	8.4 (0.9)
Mental health provider . . . . .	2,419 (306)	1.7 (0.2)
Other . . . . .	53,006 (5,508)	37.9 (3.1)
Blank . . . . .	* ...	0.1 (0.0)

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data, in which case only an asterisk is shown. Estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>Total number of visits exceeds "All visits" and percent of visits exceeds 100% because more than one provider may be reported per visit.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.



**Table 23. Disposition of emergency department visits: United States, 2021**

Disposition	Number of visits <sup>1</sup> (standard error) in thousands	Percent of visits (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	139,781 (8,457)	... ..
Admitted, transferred, or died		
Admit to this hospital . . . . .	18,312 (1,777)	13.1 (1.1)
Critical care unit . . . . .	2,847 (473)	2.0 (0.3)
Stepdown or telemetry unit . . . . .	503 (148)	0.4 (0.1)
Operation room . . . . .	995 (152)	0.7 (0.1)
Mental health or detoxification unit . . . . .	665 (174)	0.5 (0.1)
Cardiac catheterization lab . . . . .	407 (104)	0.3 (0.1)
Other bed or unit . . . . .	10,121 (1,284)	7.2 (0.8)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	2,775 (685)	2.0 (0.5)
Admit to observation unit . . . . .	3,275 (597)	2.3 (0.4)
Then hospitalized . . . . .	1,208 (282)	0.9 (0.2)
Then discharged . . . . .	2,067 (393)	1.5 (0.3)
Return or transfer to nursing home . . . . .	645 (140)	0.5 (0.1)
Transfer to psychiatric hospital . . . . .	1,103 (153)	0.8 (0.1)
Transfer to other hospital . . . . .	2,184 (320)	1.6 (0.2)
Dead in emergency department <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	374 (99)	0.3 (0.1)
Outpatient follow-up		
Return or refer to physician or clinic for follow-up . . . . .	94,970 (6,980)	67.9 (1.7)
No follow-up planned . . . . .	10,335 (1,442)	7.4 (1.1)
Left before completing visit		
Left without being seen . . . . .	2,325 (406)	1.7 (0.3)
Left before treatment complete . . . . .	1,483 (246)	1.1 (0.2)
Left against medical advice . . . . .	1,473 (163)	1.1 (0.1)
Other . . . . .	1,761 (256)	1.3 (0.2)
Blank . . . . .	2,008 (1,236)	1.4 (0.9)

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Total number of visits exceeds "All visits" and percent of visits exceeds 100% because more than one disposition may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>Includes "Dead on arrival."

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 24. Emergency department visits resulting in hospital admission, by selected patient and visit characteristics: United States, 2021**

Patient and visit characteristics	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)	Mean length of stay <sup>1</sup> in days (standard error)	Admissions as percent of visits (standard error)
All admissions .....	18,312 (1,777)	100.0 ...	5.2 (0.3)	13.1 (1.1)
Age group (years)				
Under 15 .....	*1,220 (470)	* ...	5.9 (1.7)	* ...
15–24 .....	1,078 (181)	5.9 (0.9)	4.6 (0.5)	6.1 (0.9)
25–44 .....	2,866 (312)	15.6 (1.3)	4.7 (0.4)	7.4 (0.7)
45–64 .....	5,225 (578)	28.5 (1.4)	5.2 (0.3)	16.4 (1.5)
65–74 .....	3,220 (372)	17.6 (1.1)	5.2 (0.4)	24.4 (2.1)
75 and over .....	4,703 (606)	25.7 (1.8)	5.5 (0.4)	33.8 (2.9)
Residence				
Private .....	16,070 (1,515)	87.8 (2.5)	5.1 (0.3)	12.4 (1.0)
Nursing home .....	1,118 (243)	6.1 (1.0)	6.5 (1.0)	42.7 (5.4)
Homeless .....	* ...	1.2 (0.3)	7.1 (0.9)	13.6 (3.0)
Other .....	* ...	1.1 (0.4)	7.0 (1.1)	* ...
Unknown or blank .....	*690 (445)	* ...	5.0 (0.4)	* ...
Expected sources of payment <sup>2</sup>				
Private insurance .....	5,633 (675)	30.8 (2.7)	5.3 (0.5)	12.5 (1.3)
Medicare .....	8,011 (1,058)	43.7 (3.3)	5.6 (0.3)	28.8 (2.4)
Medicaid or CHIP <sup>3</sup> or other state-based program .....	5,046 (597)	27.6 (2.2)	5.1 (0.3)	9.7 (1.0)
No insurance <sup>4</sup> .....	523 (138)	2.9 (0.7)	4.0 (0.5)	5.6 (1.1)
Mode of arrival				
Ambulance .....	8,080 (867)	44.1 (2.1)	5.7 (0.4)	32.9 (2.2)
Other .....	10,233 (1,069)	55.9 (2.1)	4.8 (0.4)	8.9 (0.8)
Triage category				
Immediate or emergent <sup>5</sup> .....	6,196 (869)	33.8 (3.2)	5.6 (0.4)	33.3 (4.6)
Other .....	12,117 (1,286)	66.2 (3.2)	5.0 (0.3)	10.0 (1.0)
Patient seen in this emergency department during the last 72 hours				
Yes .....	674 (111)	3.7 (0.5)	4.7 (0.4)	14.5 (2.3)
No, unknown, or blank .....	17,638 (1,718)	96.3 (0.5)	5.2 (0.3)	13.1 (1.1)
Length of stay (days)				
1–2 .....	5,228 (761)	28.5 (3.1)	... ..	... ..
3–4 .....	5,390 (663)	29.4 (1.8)	... ..	... ..
5–6 .....	2,656 (334)	14.5 (1.1)	... ..	... ..
7–8 .....	1,562 (229)	8.5 (0.9)	... ..	... ..
9–10 .....	757 (112)	4.1 (0.5)	... ..	... ..
More than 10 .....	1,656 (271)	9.0 (1.1)	... ..	... ..
Unknown or blank .....	1,062 (298)	5.8 (1.7)	... ..	... ..
Hospital discharge status				
Alive .....	17,241 (1,724)	94.1 (1.4)	5.0 (0.3)	... ..
Home or residence .....	14,111 (1,408)	81.8 (1.5)	4.8 (0.3)	... ..
Return or transfer to nursing home .....	1,398 (268)	8.1 (1.2)	6.5 (0.8)	... ..
Transfer to another facility .....	946 (165)	5.5 (0.8)	6.8 (0.8)	... ..
Other .....	367 (84)	2.1 (0.5)	6.6 (0.9)	... ..
Unknown or blank .....	419 (108)	2.4 (0.6)	3.5 (0.9)	... ..
Died .....	442 (121)	2.4 (0.6)	11.4 (1.3)	... ..
Unknown or blank .....	*630 (228)	* ...	4.3 (1.4)	... ..

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 24. Emergency department visits resulting in hospital admission, by selected patient and visit characteristics: United States, 2021—Con.**

---

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

<sup>1</sup>Denominator for length of stay for 17,251,000 visits where this variable was known. Length of stay was unknown for 5.8% (weighted) of visits resulting in admission.

<sup>2</sup>Total number of visits exceeds "All admissions" and percent distribution exceeds 100% because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit. Workers' compensation, other, and unknown sources of payment (not shown) account for 8.8% (weighted) of expected sources of payment.

<sup>3</sup>Children's Health Insurance Program.

<sup>4</sup>Defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as payment sources. Individual self-pay and no charge or charity categories are not mutually exclusive.

<sup>5</sup>Defined as needing to be seen within 1–14 minutes.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 25. Principal hospital discharge diagnoses for patients admitted through the emergency department, by major disease category: United States, 2021**

Major disease category and ICD-10-CM code range <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error)
All visits . . . . .	18,312 (1,777)	100.0 ...
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . . A00-B99	482 (78)	2.6 (0.5)
Neoplasms . . . . . C00-D49	* ...	1.0 (0.2)
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism . . . . . D50-D89	356 (71)	1.9 (0.3)
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases . . . . . E00-E89	721 (114)	3.9 (0.5)
Mental, behavioral and neurodevelopmental disorders . . . . . F01-F99	661 (146)	3.6 (0.7)
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs <sup>2</sup> . . . . . G00-G99, H00-H95	438 (91)	2.4 (0.4)
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . . I00-I99	2,325 (325)	12.7 (1.0)
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . . J00-J99	1,857 (266)	10.1 (1.0)
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . . K00-K95	1,938 (235)	10.6 (0.8)
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . . L00-L99	397 (82)	2.2 (0.4)
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue . . . . . M00-M99	346 (73)	1.9 (0.3)
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . . N00-N99	1,377 (227)	7.5 (1.0)
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium . . . . . O00-O9A	*184 (60)	1.0 (0.3)
Symptoms, signs, and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified . . . . . R00-R99	3,324 (486)	18.2 (1.4)
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes . . . . . S00-T88	1,241 (173)	6.8 (0.8)
Codes for special purposes <sup>3</sup> . . . . . U00-U85	722 (147)	3.9 (0.8)
All other diagnoses <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	*1,045 (324)	5.7 (1.7)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	*711 (224)	* ...

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Visit estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Visit estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-10-CM). However, certain codes have been combined in this table to better describe the utilization of ambulatory care services.

<sup>2</sup>Sense organs include eye, adnexa, ear, and mastoid process.

<sup>3</sup>The only code in this category is U07.1 for COVID-19.

<sup>4</sup>Includes certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (P00-P96), congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities (Q00-Q99), external causes of morbidity (V00-Y99), and factors influencing health status and contact with health services (Z00-Z99).

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.

**Table 26. Hospital and emergency department characteristics, by emergency department visit volume: United States, 2021**

Hospital and emergency department characteristics	Total <sup>1</sup>	Fewer than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 or more
		Percent distribution (standard error)		
All emergency departments . . . . .	100.0 ...	100.0 ...	100.0 ...	100.0 ...
Hospital characteristic				
Has bed coordinator:				
Yes . . . . .	58.5 (5.4)	* ...	* ...	**84.3 (5.9)
No . . . . .	30.9 (5.3)	* ...	20.7 (6.1)	* ...
Unknown or blank . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
How often hospital bed census data are available:				
Instantaneously . . . . .	77.0 (4.6)	78.4 (7.0)	* ...	**86.0 (5.5)
Every 4 hours . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	0.8 (0.8)
Every 8 hours . . . . .	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)
Every 12 hours . . . . .	0.9 (0.6)	0.0 (0.0)	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Every 24 hours . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	0.0 (0.0)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	1.2 (0.9)	0.0 (0.0)	* ...	* ...
Has hospitalists on staff:				
Yes . . . . .	85.0 (4.4)	* ...	**96.6 (2.4)	**93.2 (4.2)
No . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Unknown or blank . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Has emergency medicine residency program:				
Yes . . . . .	25.6 (4.3)	* ...	33.8 (7.0)	44.1 (7.1)
No . . . . .	67.5 (4.8)	**80.1 (6.8)	* ...	48.4 (7.0)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Emergency department (ED) characteristic				
ED uses electronic medical records or health records:				
Yes, all electronic . . . . .	86.2 (3.1)	**83.5 (5.7)	* ...	94.7 (3.0)
Yes, part paper and part electronic . . . . .	12.8 (3.3)	* ...	* ...	* ...
No . . . . .	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)
Unknown or blank, or refused to answer . . . . .	* ...	* ...	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)
ED has physically separate observation or clinical decision unit:				
Yes . . . . .	35.3 (5.2)	* ...	* ...	42.1 (6.9)
No . . . . .	55.5 (5.5)	* ...	* ...	55.2 (7.0)
Unknown . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Admitted patients were ever boarded 2 hours or more in ED or observation while waiting for inpatient bed:				
Yes . . . . .	68.5 (5.3)	* ...	* ...	**89.9 (4.9)
No . . . . .	20.4 (4.7)	* ...	* ...	* ...
Unknown or blank . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
ED went on ambulance diversion in 2020:				
Yes . . . . .	31.4 (4.9)	* ...	* ...	* ...
No . . . . .	52.6 (5.5)	* ...	* ...	* ...
Unknown or blank . . . . .	16.0 (4.1)	* ...	* ...	* ...

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 26. Hospital and emergency department characteristics, by emergency department visit volume: United States, 2021—Con.**

Hospital and emergency department characteristics	Total <sup>1</sup>	Fewer than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 or more
Emergency department (ED) characteristic—Con.		Percent distribution (standard error)		
Ambulance diversion actively managed on regional level compared with each hospital adopting diversion if and when it chooses <sup>2</sup> :				
Yes . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
No . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Unknown or blank . . . . .	* ...	* ...	0.0 (0.0)	* ...
Hospital continues to admit elective or scheduled surgery cases when ED is on ambulance diversion <sup>2</sup> :				
Yes . . . . .	* ...	* ...	**97.3 (2.0)	**87.7 (5.5)
No . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Unknown or blank . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
ED increased the number of standard treatment spaces in last 2 years:				
Yes . . . . .	17.6 (4.0)	* ...	* ...	* ...
No . . . . .	76.3 (4.4)	77.9 (6.5)	* ...	82.1 (5.1)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
ED physical space was expanded in last 2 years:				
Yes . . . . .	14.3 (3.4)	* ...	* ...	* ...
No . . . . .	80.3 (3.8)	78.0 (6.1)	**81.6 (6.0)	84.6 (4.4)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
ED plans to expand physical space in next 2 years <sup>3</sup> :				
Yes . . . . .	12.6 (3.1)	* ...	* ...	* ...
No . . . . .	78.2 (3.7)	**84.4 (5.2)	77.5 (6.1)	* ...
Unknown or blank . . . . .	9.2 (2.4)	* ...	* ...	* ...
Services ED uses:				
Bedside registration . . . . .	77.7 (4.3)	75.2 (6.5)	* ...	**92.2 (3.9)
Kiosk self check-in . . . . .	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Computer-assisted triage . . . . .	33.8 (3.7)	27.1 (6.0)	* ...	43.8 (7.0)
Immediate bedding . . . . .	63.5 (5.7)	* ...	* ...	79.0 (5.2)
Advanced triage (triage-based care) protocols . . . . .	62.8 (4.5)	53.1 (6.8)	* ...	76.6 (5.5)
Physician or practitioner at triage . . . . .	42.8 (5.3)	* ...	40.7 (6.9)	* ...
Separate fast-track unit for nonurgent care . . . . .	38.7 (4.2)	23.5 (6.7)	* ...	66.0 (6.9)
Separate operating room dedicated to ED patients . . . . .	8.1 (2.3)	* ...	* ...	22.4 (6.5)
Electronic dashboard <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	79.4 (3.8)	**83.1 (5.4)	* ...	**89.0 (3.7)
Radio frequency identification tracking <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	20.0 (4.0)	* ...	* ...	27.1 (6.1)
Wireless devices by providers . . . . .	64.3 (4.6)	* ...	* ...	**82.2 (5.4)
Zone nursing <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	47.1 (5.6)	* ...	* ...	79.1 (5.8)
Pool nurses <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	48.8 (5.0)	* ...	43.6 (6.7)	71.2 (6.4)

... Category not applicable.

\* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability. Estimates are not presented if they are based on fewer than 30 cases in the sample data; only an asterisk is shown. Estimates based on 30 cases or more include an asterisk if the relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 30%. Proportion estimates are not presented if they are unreliable based on the procedure specified in "National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions" (available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)), in which case only an asterisk is shown.

\*\* Estimate meets National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability, but its complement does not.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>Number of sampled hospitals for all emergency departments (sample = 183); fewer than 20,000 (sample = 58); 20,000 to 49,999 (sample = 54); and 50,000 or more (sample = 71).

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

<sup>3</sup>Denominator is number of emergency departments that did not expand their physical space, including unknown or blank responses, in the last 2 years.

<sup>4</sup>Displays updated patient information and integrates multiple data sources.

<sup>5</sup>Shows the exact location of patients, caregivers, and equipment.

<sup>6</sup>Refers to all of a nurse's patients being located in one area.

<sup>7</sup>Those who can be pulled into the emergency department on demand to respond to surges.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2021.