

Table 84 (page 1 of 2). Ambulatory care visits to primary care and specialist physicians, according to selected characteristics and type of physician: United States, 1980, 1990, and 2001

[Data are based on reporting by a sample of office-based physicians]

| Age, sex, and race | Type of primary care physician ¹ | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------|------|-----------------------------|------|-------|-------------------|------|-------|------------|------|------|
| | All primary care | | | General and family practice | | | Internal medicine | | | Pediatrics | | |
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2001 | 1980 | 1990 | 2001 | 1980 | 1990 | 2001 | 1980 | 1990 | 2001 |
| | Percent of all physician office visits | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 56.6 | 54.9 | 51.3 | 33.5 | 29.9 | 23.9 | 12.1 | 13.8 | 15.3 | 10.9 | 11.2 | 12.1 |
| Under 18 years | 76.6 | 78.3 | 80.2 | 26.1 | 26.5 | 16.6 | 2.0 | 2.9 | * | 48.5 | 48.9 | 62.1 |
| 18–44 years | 43.6 | 44.3 | 42.3 | 34.3 | 31.9 | 28.2 | 8.6 | 11.8 | 13.2 | 0.7 | 0.7 | *0.9 |
| 45–64 years | 56.0 | 50.9 | 43.7 | 36.3 | 32.1 | 25.5 | 19.5 | 18.6 | 18.3 | * | * | 0.0 |
| 45–54 years | 54.6 | 49.4 | 43.2 | 37.4 | 32.0 | 25.8 | 17.1 | 17.1 | 17.3 | * | * | 0.0 |
| 55–64 years | 57.3 | 52.4 | 44.4 | 35.4 | 32.1 | 25.0 | 21.8 | 20.0 | 19.4 | * | * | 0.0 |
| 65 years and over | 60.3 | 51.5 | 47.4 | 37.5 | 28.1 | 22.9 | 22.7 | 23.3 | 24.5 | * | * | * |
| 65–74 years | 59.5 | 51.2 | 46.8 | 37.4 | 28.1 | 25.0 | 22.1 | 23.0 | 21.7 | * | * | * |
| 75 years and over | 61.3 | 51.8 | 48.1 | 37.6 | 28.0 | 20.9 | 23.5 | 23.7 | 27.2 | * | * | * |
| Sex and age | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 years | 77.1 | 77.9 | 80.0 | 25.6 | 24.1 | 16.1 | 2.0 | 3.0 | * | 49.4 | 50.7 | 62.5 |
| 18–44 years | 50.5 | 51.7 | 52.2 | 38.0 | 35.9 | 35.2 | 11.5 | 15.0 | 16.2 | * | * | *0.9 |
| 45–64 years | 55.0 | 50.5 | 46.6 | 34.4 | 31.0 | 26.7 | 20.5 | 19.2 | 19.9 | * | * | 0.0 |
| 65 years and over | 57.9 | 51.1 | 47.3 | 35.6 | 27.7 | 22.3 | 22.3 | 23.3 | 25.0 | * | * | 0.0 |
| Female: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 years | 76.0 | 78.8 | 80.5 | 26.6 | 29.1 | 17.1 | 2.0 | 2.8 | * | 47.4 | 46.9 | 61.7 |
| 18–44 years | 40.4 | 41.0 | 37.2 | 32.5 | 30.0 | 24.7 | 7.3 | 10.3 | 11.6 | * | * | *0.9 |
| 45–64 years | 56.7 | 51.1 | 41.8 | 37.7 | 32.8 | 24.7 | 18.9 | 18.2 | 17.2 | * | * | 0.0 |
| 65 years and over | 61.8 | 51.7 | 47.5 | 38.7 | 28.3 | 23.3 | 22.9 | 23.3 | 24.1 | * | * | * |
| Race and age ² | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 years | 76.5 | 78.2 | 79.7 | 26.4 | 27.1 | 16.8 | 2.0 | 2.3 | * | 48.2 | 48.8 | 61.3 |
| 18–44 years | 43.8 | 43.2 | 43.2 | 34.5 | 31.9 | 28.8 | 8.6 | 10.6 | 13.5 | * | * | *0.9 |
| 45–64 years | 55.4 | 49.4 | 44.2 | 36.0 | 31.5 | 26.2 | 19.2 | 17.6 | 17.9 | * | * | 0.0 |
| 65 years and over | 60.0 | 50.7 | 47.5 | 36.6 | 27.5 | 23.0 | 23.3 | 23.1 | 24.4 | * | * | * |
| Black or African American: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 years | 77.1 | 82.1 | 71.2 | 23.7 | 20.2 | *14.4 | * | * | * | 51.2 | 52.1 | 56.3 |
| 18–44 years | 41.4 | 50.4 | 31.2 | 31.7 | 31.9 | 19.8 | 9.0 | 18.1 | *11.0 | * | * | * |
| 45–64 years | 61.3 | 58.2 | 42.3 | 38.6 | 31.2 | 18.0 | 22.6 | 26.9 | *24.3 | * | * | 0.0 |
| 65 years and over | 63.3 | 57.8 | 49.7 | 49.0 | 28.9 | *21.9 | 14.2 | 28.7 | *27.7 | * | * | 0.0 |

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 84 (page 2 of 2). Ambulatory care visits to primary care and specialist physicians, according to selected characteristics and type of physician: United States, 1980, 1990, and 2001

[Data are based on reporting by a sample of office-based physicians]

| Age, sex, and race | Type of specialist physician ¹ | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------|-------|---------------------------|------|-------|-----------------------|------|-------|
| | All specialists | | | Obstetrics and gynecology | | | All other specialists | | |
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2001 | 1980 | 1990 | 2001 | 1980 | 1990 | 2001 |
| | Percent of all physician office visits | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 43.4 | 45.1 | 48.7 | 9.6 | 9.0 | 7.9 | 33.8 | 36.1 | 40.8 |
| Under 18 years | 23.4 | 21.7 | 19.8 | 1.3 | 1.2 | * | 22.2 | 20.5 | 18.7 |
| 18–44 years | 56.4 | 55.7 | 57.7 | 21.7 | 21.5 | 19.3 | 34.7 | 34.1 | 38.4 |
| 45–64 years | 44.0 | 49.1 | 56.3 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 6.7 | 39.8 | 44.3 | 49.6 |
| 45–54 years | 45.4 | 50.6 | 56.8 | 5.6 | 6.5 | 8.3 | 39.8 | 44.2 | 48.5 |
| 55–64 years | 42.7 | 47.6 | 55.6 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 4.8 | 39.8 | 44.4 | 50.8 |
| 65 years and over | 39.7 | 48.5 | 52.6 | 1.4 | 1.2 | *2.1 | 38.4 | 47.3 | 50.5 |
| 65–74 years | 40.5 | 48.8 | 53.2 | 1.7 | 1.6 | *2.7 | 38.8 | 47.2 | 50.5 |
| 75 years and over | 38.7 | 48.2 | 51.9 | 1.0 | *0.7 | *1.5 | 37.7 | 47.5 | 50.4 |
| Sex and age | | | | | | | | | |
| Male: | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 years | 22.9 | 22.1 | 20.0 | ... | ... | ... | 22.7 | 21.9 | 20.0 |
| 18–44 years | 49.5 | 48.3 | 47.8 | ... | ... | ... | 49.2 | 48.2 | 47.7 |
| 45–64 years | 45.0 | 49.5 | 53.4 | ... | ... | ... | 44.4 | 49.4 | 53.4 |
| 65 years and over | 42.1 | 48.9 | 52.7 | ... | ... | ... | 41.8 | 48.8 | 52.7 |
| Female: | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 years | 24.0 | 21.2 | 19.5 | 2.5 | 2.3 | * | 21.5 | 18.9 | 17.3 |
| 18–44 years | 59.6 | 59.0 | 62.8 | 31.7 | 31.4 | 29.1 | 27.9 | 27.6 | 33.7 |
| 45–64 years | 43.3 | 48.9 | 58.2 | 6.7 | 7.9 | 11.2 | 36.6 | 40.9 | 47.0 |
| 65 years and over | 38.2 | 48.3 | 52.5 | 2.1 | 1.9 | *3.6 | 36.1 | 46.4 | 48.9 |
| Race and age ² | | | | | | | | | |
| White: | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 years | 23.5 | 21.8 | 20.3 | 1.1 | 1.0 | *1.1 | 22.4 | 20.8 | 19.2 |
| 18–44 years | 56.2 | 56.8 | 56.8 | 21.0 | 21.8 | 19.2 | 35.2 | 35.0 | 37.6 |
| 45–64 years | 44.6 | 50.6 | 55.8 | 4.1 | 4.9 | 6.3 | 40.4 | 45.7 | 49.5 |
| 65 years and over | 40.0 | 49.3 | 52.5 | 1.4 | 1.3 | *2.0 | 38.6 | 48.1 | 50.5 |
| Black or African American: | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 years | 22.9 | 17.9 | *28.8 | 2.8 | *3.4 | * | 20.1 | 14.5 | *26.3 |
| 18–44 years | 58.6 | 49.6 | 68.8 | 27.1 | 18.6 | *23.9 | 31.5 | 31.0 | 44.9 |
| 45–64 years | 38.7 | 41.8 | 57.7 | 4.8 | 4.0 | * | 33.9 | 37.9 | 48.5 |
| 65 years and over | 36.7 | 42.2 | 50.3 | * | * | * | 35.4 | 41.3 | 45.9 |

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Data preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error (RSE) of 20–30 percent. Data not shown have a RSE of greater than 30 percent.

... Category not applicable.

¹Type of physician is based on physician's self-designated primary area of practice. Primary care physicians are defined as practitioners in the fields of general and family practice, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics. Primary care physicians in general and family practice exclude specialists such as sports medicine and geriatrics. Primary care internal medicine physicians exclude internal medicine specialists such as allergists, cardiologists, endocrinologists, etc. Primary care pediatricians exclude pediatric specialists such as adolescent medicine specialists, neonatologists, pediatric allergists, pediatric cardiologists, etc. Specialist physicians include obstetricians and gynecologists in addition to other specialists not included in general and family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, and all other specialists. See Appendix II, Physician specialty.

²Beginning in 1999 the instruction for the race item on the Patient Record Form was changed so that more than one race could be recorded. In previous years only one racial category could be checked. Estimates for racial groups presented in this table are for visits where only one race was recorded. Estimates for visits where multiple races were checked are unreliable and are not presented.

NOTES: This table presents data on ambulatory care visits to physician offices and excludes ambulatory care visits to other sites such as hospital outpatient and emergency departments. In 1980 the survey excluded Alaska and Hawaii. Data for all other years include all 50 States. Excludes visits with type of physician unknown. Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.