

Digestive Diseases Statistics for the United States

National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse



U.S. Department
of Health and
Human Services

NATIONAL
INSTITUTES
OF HEALTH

NIDDK
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE
AND KIDNEY DISEASES

All Digestive Diseases

Prevalence: 60 to 70 million people affected by all digestive diseases¹

Ambulatory care visits: 104.7 million (2004)²

Hospitalizations: 13.5 million (2004)²

Mortality: 236,164 deaths (2004)²

Diagnostic and therapeutic inpatient

procedures: 5.5 million—12 percent of all inpatient procedures (2006)³

Ambulatory surgical procedures:

20 million—31 percent of all ambulatory procedures (2006)⁴

Costs: \$141.8 billion (2004)²

\$97.8 billion direct medical costs (2004)²

\$44 billion indirect costs (e.g., disability and mortality) (2004)²

Specific Diseases

Abdominal Wall Hernia

Ambulatory care visits: 4.7 million (2004)²

Surgical procedures (inguinal hernia only): 600,000 (2004)⁵

Hospitalizations: 372,000 (2004)²

Mortality: 1,663 deaths (2007)⁶

Prescriptions: 3.7 million (2004)²

Chronic Constipation

Prevalence: 63 million people (2000)⁷

Ambulatory care visits: 6.3 million (2004)²

Hospitalizations: 700,000 (2004)²

Mortality: 137 deaths (2004)²

Prescriptions: 5.3 million (2004)²

Diverticular Disease

Prevalence: 2.2 million people (1998)⁸

Ambulatory care visits: 3.2 million (2004)²

Hospitalizations: 815,000 (2004)²

Mortality: 3,372 deaths (2004)²

Prescriptions: 2.8 million (2004)²

Gallstones

Prevalence: 20 million people (2004)⁹

Ambulatory care visits: 1.8 million (2004)²

Surgical procedures: 700,000 cholecystectomies (2004)⁹

Hospitalizations: 622,000 (2004)²

Mortality: 1,092 deaths (2004)²

Prescriptions: 1.65 million (2004)²

Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease

Prevalence: Reflux symptoms at least weekly: 20 percent of the population (2004)¹⁰

Ambulatory care visits: 18.3 million (2004)²

Hospitalizations: 3.1 million (2004)²

Mortality: 1,150 deaths (2004)²

Prescriptions: 64.6 million (2004)²

Gastrointestinal Infections

Prevalence:

Nonfoodborne gastroenteritis: 135 million people (1998)⁸

Foodborne illness: 76 million people (1998)⁸

Ambulatory care visits: 2.3 million (2004)²

Hospitalizations: 450,000 (2004)²

Mortality: 4,396 deaths (2004)²

Prescriptions: 938,000 (2004)²

Hemorrhoids

Prevalence: 75 percent of people older than 45 (2006)¹¹
Ambulatory care visits: 3.2 million (2004)²
Hospitalizations: 306,000 (2004)²
Mortality: 14 deaths (2004)²
Prescriptions: 2 million (2004)²

Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Crohn's Disease

Prevalence: 359,000 people (1998)⁸
Ambulatory care visits: 1.1 million (2004)²
Hospitalizations: 141,000 (2004)²
Mortality: 622 deaths (2004)²
Prescriptions: 1.8 million (2004)²

Ulcerative Colitis

Prevalence: 619,000 people (1998)⁸
Ambulatory care visits: 716,000 (2004)²
Hospitalizations: 82,000 (2004)²
Mortality: 311 deaths (2004)²
Prescriptions: 2.1 million (2004)²

Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Prevalence: 15.3 million people (1998)⁸
Ambulatory care visits: 3 million (2004)²
Hospitalizations: 212,000 (2004)²
Mortality: 20 deaths (2004)²
Prescriptions: 5.9 million (2004)²

Liver Disease

Prevalence: 2.6 million people (2007)¹²
Ambulatory care visits: 2.3 million (2004)²
Liver transplants: 6,319 (2008)¹³
Hospitalizations: 759,000 (2004)²
Mortality: 36,090 deaths (2004)²
Prescriptions: 731,000 (2004)²

Pancreatitis

Prevalence: 1.1 million people (1998)⁸
Incidence:
Acute: 17 cases per 100,000 people (2003)¹⁴
Chronic: 8.2 cases per 100,000 people (1981)¹⁵

Ambulatory care visits: 881,000 (2004)²
Hospitalizations: 454,000 (2004)²
Mortality: 3,480 deaths (2004)²
Prescriptions: 766,000 (2004)²

Peptic Ulcer Disease

Prevalence: 14.5 million people (2007)¹²
Ambulatory care visits: 1.4 million (2004)²
Hospitalizations: 489,000 (2004)²
Mortality: 3,000 deaths (2007)⁶
Prescriptions: 5 million (2004)²

Viral Hepatitis

Hepatitis A

Prevalence of chronic infection: none (2007)¹⁶
Incidence of acute clinical cases: 2,979 new cases (2007)¹⁶
Ambulatory care visits: infrequent (2004)²
Hospitalizations: 10,000 (2004)²
Mortality: 58 deaths (2004)²

Hepatitis B

Prevalence of chronic infection: 800,000–1.4 million people (2007)¹⁶
Incidence of acute clinical cases: 4,519 new cases (2007)¹⁶
Ambulatory care visits: 729,000 (2004)²
Hospitalizations: 69,000 (2004)²
Mortality: 645 deaths (2004)²

Hepatitis C

Prevalence of chronic infection: 2.7–3.9 million people (2007)¹⁶
Incidence of acute clinical cases: 849 new cases (2007)¹⁶
Ambulatory care visits: 2.7 million (2004)²
Hospitalizations: 419,000 (2004)²
Mortality: 4,595 deaths (2004)²

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Glossary

Data for digestive diseases as a group and for specific diseases are provided in various categories. For some diseases, data do not exist in all categories. Following are definitions used for the categories in this fact sheet:

Ambulatory care visits: The number of visits made annually to office-based physicians, hospital outpatient clinics, and emergency departments for a specific disease.

Hospitalizations: The number of hospitalizations annually for a specific disease.

Incidence: The number of new cases annually of a specific disease.

Mortality: The number of deaths resulting annually from a specific disease listed as the underlying or primary cause.

Prescriptions: The number of prescriptions written annually for medications to treat a specific disease.

Prevalence: The number of people affected annually by a specific disease or diseases.

Procedures: The number of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures performed annually in a hospital or outpatient setting for a specific disease.

Hope through Research

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases' (NIDDK's) Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition supports basic and clinical research into digestive diseases.

Participants in clinical trials can play a more active role in their own health care, gain access to new research treatments before they are widely available, and help others by contributing to medical research. For information about current studies, visit www.ClinicalTrials.gov.

Acknowledgments

Publications produced by the Clearinghouse are carefully reviewed by both NIDDK scientists and outside experts.

You may also find additional information about this topic by visiting MedlinePlus at www.medlineplus.gov.

This publication may contain information about medications. When prepared, this publication included the most current information available. For updates or for questions about any medications, contact the U.S. Food and Drug Administration toll-free at 1-888-INFO-FDA (1-888-463-6332) or visit www.fda.gov. Consult your doctor for more information.

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