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 specific disease-related visits made annually to office-based health care providers, hospital outpatient clinics, and emergency departments.

**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 by a specific disease or diseases.

**Procedures:** The number of specific disease-related diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical procedures performed annually in a hospital or an outpatient setting.

All Digestive Diseases

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

**Ambulatory care visits:** 48.3 million (2010)

**Hospitalizations:** 21.7 million (2010)

**Mortality:** 245,921 deaths (2009)

**Diagnostic and therapeutic inpatient procedures:** 5.4 million—12 percent of all inpatient procedures (2007)

**Ambulatory surgical procedures:** 20.4 million—20 percent of all “write-in” surgical procedures (2010)

**Costs:**

$141.8 billion (2004)

$97.8 billion, direct medical costs (2004)

$44 billion, indirect costs—for example, disability and mortality (2004)

Specific Diseases

**Abdominal Wall Hernia**

**Ambulatory care visits:** 3.6 million (2009)

**Surgical procedures:** 526,000 (2006) (inguinal hernia only)

**Hospitalizations:** 380,000 (2010)

**Mortality:** 1,322 deaths (2010)

**Prescriptions:** 3.7 million (2004)

**Chronic Constipation**

**Prevalence:** 63 million people (2000)

**Ambulatory care visits:** 4.0 million (2009)

**Hospitalizations:** 1.1 million (2010)

**Mortality:** 132 deaths (2010)

**Prescriptions:** 5.3 million (2004)

hur är en prostata gjort biopsi?
Diverticular Disease

Prevalence: 2.2 million people (1998)¹²
Ambulatory care visits: 2.7 million (2009)⁶
Hospitalizations: 814,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 2,889 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 2.8 million (2004)⁸

Gallstones

Ambulatory care visits: 2.2 million (2006–2007)¹⁴ (includes all disorders of the gallbladder and biliary tract)
Surgical procedures: 503,000 (2006)⁹ (laparoscopic cholecystectomies only)
Hospitalizations: 675,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 994 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 1.65 million (2004)⁸

Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease

Prevalence: Reflux symptoms at least weekly: 20 percent of the population (2004)¹⁵
Ambulatory care visits: 8.9 million (2009)⁶
Hospitalizations: 4.7 million (2010)⁵
Mortality: 1,653 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 64.6 million (2004)⁸

Gastrointestinal Infections

Ambulatory care visits: 2.3 million (2004)⁸
Hospitalizations: 487,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 11,022 deaths (2011)¹⁶
Prescriptions: 938,000 (2004)⁸

Hemorrhoids

Prevalence: 75 percent of people older than 45 (2006)¹⁷
Ambulatory care visits: 1.1 million (2009)⁶
Hospitalizations: 266,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 20 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 2 million (2004)⁸

Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Crohn’s Disease

Prevalence: 359,000 people (1998)¹²
Ambulatory care visits: 1.1 million (2004)⁸
Hospitalizations: 187,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 611 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 1.8 million (2004)⁸

Ulcerative Colitis

Prevalence: 619,000 people (1998)¹²
Ambulatory care visits: 716,000 (2004)⁸
Hospitalizations: 107,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 305 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 2.1 million (2004)⁸

Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Prevalence: 15.3 million people (1998)¹²
Ambulatory care visits: 1.6 million (2009)⁶
Hospitalizations: 280,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 21 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 5.9 million (2004)⁸

Liver Disease

Prevalence: 3.0 million people (2011)¹⁸
Ambulatory care visits: 635,000 (2009)⁶ (cirrhosis only)
Procedures: 6,342 (2011)¹⁹ (liver transplants)
Hospitalizations: 1.2 million (2010)⁵
Mortality: 42,923 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 731,000 (2004)⁸
Pancreatitis
**Prevalence:** 1.1 million people (1998)\(^{12}\)
**Incidence:** Acute: 17 cases per 100,000 people (2003)\(^{20}\), chronic: 8.2 cases per 100,000 people (1981)\(^{21}\)
**Ambulatory care visits:** 881,000 (2004)\(^{8}\)
**Hospitalizations:** 553,000 (2010)\(^{5}\)
**Mortality:** 3,413 deaths (2010)\(^{10}\)
**Prescriptions:** 766,000 (2004)\(^{8}\)

Peptic Ulcer Disease
**Prevalence:** 15.5 million people (2011)\(^{18}\)
**Ambulatory care visits:** 669,000 (2006–2007)\(^{14}\)
**Hospitalizations:** 358,000 (2010)\(^{5}\)
**Mortality:** 2,981 deaths (2011)\(^{16}\)
**Prescriptions:** 5 million (2004)\(^{8}\)

Viral Hepatitis

**Hepatitis A**
**Prevalence of chronic infection:** None (2007)\(^{22}\)
**Incidence:** 1,670 new acute clinical cases (2010)\(^{22}\)
**Ambulatory care visits:** Infrequent (2004)\(^{8}\)
**Hospitalizations:** 10,000 (2004)\(^{8}\)
**Mortality:** 29 deaths (2010)\(^{10}\)

**Hepatitis B**
**Prevalence of chronic infection:** 800,000 to 1.4 million people (2007)\(^{22}\)
**Incidence:** 3,350 new acute clinical cases (2010)\(^{22}\)
**Ambulatory care visits:** 729,000 (2004)\(^{8}\)
**Hospitalizations:** 61,000 (2010)\(^{3}\)
**Mortality:** 588 deaths (2010)\(^{10}\)

**Hepatitis C**
**Prevalence of chronic infection:** 2.7 to 3.9 million people (2007)\(^{22}\)
**Incidence:** 850 new acute clinical cases (2010)\(^{22}\)
**Ambulatory care visits:** 1.2 million (2009)\(^{6}\)
**Hospitalizations:** 419,000 (2010)\(^{5}\)
**Mortality:** 6,844 deaths (2010)\(^{10}\)

Sources


**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.

Clinical trials are research studies involving people. Clinical trials look at safe and effective new ways to prevent, detect, or treat disease. Researchers also use clinical trials to look at other aspects of care, such as improving the quality of life for people with chronic illnesses. To learn more about clinical trials, why they matter, and how to participate, visit the NIH Clinical Research Trials and You website at [www.nih.gov/health/clinicaltrials](http://www.nih.gov/health/clinicaltrials). For information about current studies, visit [www.ClinicalTrials.gov](http://www.ClinicalTrials.gov).

**Acknowledgments**

Publications produced by the Clearinghouse are carefully reviewed by NIDDK scientists.

You may also find additional information about this topic by visiting MedlinePlus at [www.medlineplus.gov](http://www.medlineplus.gov). This publication may contain information about medications and, when taken as prescribed, the conditions they treat. 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](http://www.fda.gov). Consult your health care provider for more information.
National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse

2 Information Way
Bethesda, MD 20892–3570
Phone: 1–800–891–5389
TTY: 1–866–569–1162
Fax: 703–738–4929
Email: nddic@info.niddk.nih.gov
Internet: www.digestive.niddk.nih.gov

The National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse (NDDIC) is a service of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). The NIDDK is part of the National Institutes of Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Established in 1980, the Clearinghouse provides information about digestive diseases to people with digestive disorders and to their families, health care professionals, and the public. The NDDIC answers inquiries, develops and distributes publications, and works closely with professional and patient organizations and Government agencies to coordinate resources about digestive diseases.

This publication is not copyrighted. The Clearinghouse encourages users of this publication to duplicate and distribute as many copies as desired.
This publication is available at www.digestive.niddk.nih.gov.