ACEP 2011 National Emergency Physicians Survey Results

Presented by: American College of Emergency Physicians

ACEP conducted the poll from March 3, 2011, to March 11, 2011. Emails were sent to 20,687 emergency physicians across the United States. 1,768 responded. The survey has a theoretical sampling error range of ± 2.23%

1. How often do you believe your emergency department plays a role in saving patients lives?

![Bar chart showing the frequency of respondents' belief on the role of emergency departments in saving patients' lives.]

2. Approximately, how often are patients referred to your emergency department by a primary care physician?

![Bar chart showing the frequency of respondents' belief on the frequency of patients referred to the emergency department by primary care physicians.]


3. Have you ever heard of or seen Medicaid patients seeking care in your emergency department because they could not get an appointment with a physician when they needed it?

![Bar chart showing 97.3% of respondents answered Yes.](image)

4. How often are Medicaid patients seeking care in your emergency department because they could not get an appointment with a physician when they needed it?

![Bar chart showing the frequency of visits from Medicaid patients.](image)
5. How has the number of patients in your emergency department changed over the past year?

6. Thinking ahead, how do you believe the number of patients in your emergency department will change over the next year?
7. Which of the following is the most important reason the number of patients will increase in your emergency department?

8. Which of the following best describes the main role your emergency department plays in the lives of your community?
9. How efficiently does your emergency department use its resources (e.g., staff, tests, etc.)?

![Bar graph showing efficiency levels and percentages]

- Very efficiently: 22.20%
- Somewhat efficiently: 56.80%
- Not very efficiently: 17.10%
- Not at all efficiently: 3.60%
- Not sure: 0.30%

10. Which of the following do you believe is the biggest expense on a patient’s emergency department bill?

![Pie chart showing expense percentages]

- Hospital facility charges (38.70%)
- Diagnostic testing charges (48.80%)
- Emergency physician charges (1.10%)
- Medication charges (0.40%)
- Specialist/other physician charges (excluding emergency physicians) (0.50%)
- None of the above (0.80%)
- Not sure (9.70%)
11. Which of the following, if any, do you believe is the biggest challenge to cutting emergency department costs?

- The need to run expensive tests (9.10%)
- Patients' demands for expensive tests (9.10%)
- Lack of emergency patient medical history (1.70%)
- Fear of lawsuits (44.40%)
- Cost shifts by hospitals to accommodate poor reimbursements by uninsured patients or Medicaid or Medicare patients. (12.00%)
- Increase in uninsured patients using emergency services because no physicians will treat them. (19.80%)
- None of these (4.00%)
12. For which of the following reasons, if any, do you believe is the main reason that emergency physicians conduct the number of tests that they do?

13. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: There is no room to cut costs in my emergency department.
14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: It would be difficult for emergency physicians to cut emergency department costs without sacrificing patient care.

15. How has the passage of the health care reform law influenced your decision to practice as an emergency physician?
16. How do you believe the number of visits will change as health care reforms are implemented?

![Bar chart showing percentage of responses: significantly increase (54.10%), somewhat increase (34.80%), somewhat decrease (3.20%), significantly decrease (0.20%), no change (7.60%).]

17. Since the health care reform law passed, how has the number of medical specialist physicians (e.g., OB/GYNs, neurosurgeons, cardiologists, etc.) willing to take calls in your emergency department changed?

![Bar chart showing percentage of responses: significantly increased (0%), somewhat increased (0.60%), somewhat decreased (24.10%), significantly decreased (7.20%), no change (68.10%).]
18. Are you a hospital employee?

19. Which of the following best describes the type of hospital at which you work?
20. Which of the following describes the area where your hospital is located?

- Less than 25,000 (12.0%)
- 24,000-49,999 (33.0%)
- 50,000-74,999 (29.40%)
- 75,000-99,999 (15.30%)
- 100,000 or more (10.10%)
- Not sure (0.30%)

21. Approximately, how many patients does your emergency department see annually?

- Less than 25,000 (12.0%)
- 25,000-49,999 (33.0%)
- 50,000-74,999 (29.40%)
- 75,000-99,999 (15.30%)
- 100,000 or more (10.10%)
- Not sure (0.30%)
22. What is your gender?

- Male: 79.10%
- Female: 20.90%

23. Which of the following best describes your political affiliation?

- Democrat: 29.50%
- Republican: 25.0%
- Independent: 34.10%
- Other: 3.40%
- Prefer not to answer: 8.0%