

Chapter 8

The Chiropractic Patient

In this chapter, information gathered from Pages 4-8 of the job analysis survey is explored. This portion of the survey relates to the chiropractic patient as perceived by the practitioner/respondent.

The survey asked that practitioners describe their patients in terms of gender, age, ethnic origin, occupation, and condition. A typical patient is an individual who enters a chiropractor's office complaining of some specific pain symptomology: a headache of one type or another; a "crick" or "catch" (pain) in the middle or lower back, neck, shoulder, arm, leg, or other area, all of which may or may not be concurrent with a spinal subluxation or other joint dysfunction. As a result of proper history taking, physical examination, labwork results, and other diagnostic procedures, all diagnostic conclusions reached may or may not include a subluxation.

In completing the portion of the survey relating to the patient, the respondent chiropractors were asked to estimate the distribution of patients in each of the indicated categories.

A five-point scale combining percentages with a corresponding label for each segment of the scale was used. The responses in each category were averaged. The results appear in Table 8.1 and in charts throughout this chapter.

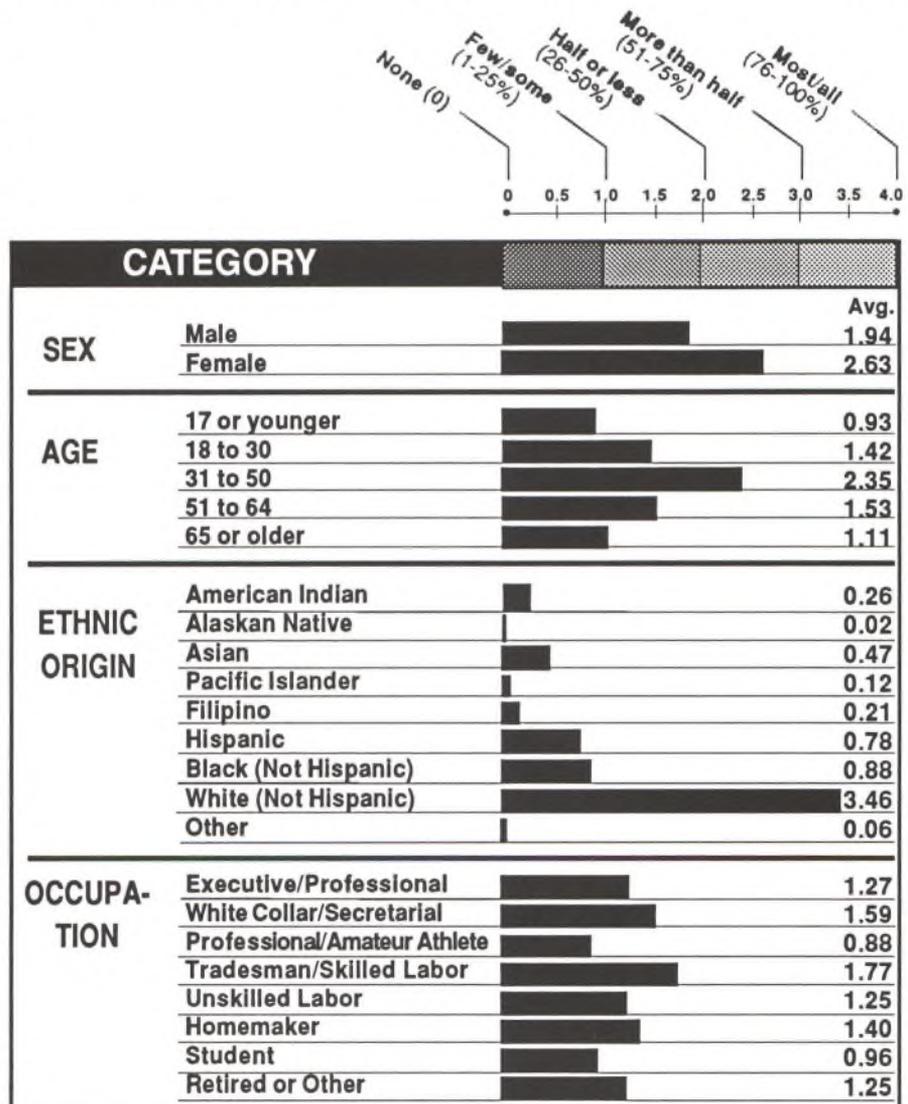


TABLE 8.1
Patient Demographics

Sex/Gender of Patients

Chiropractors estimated that half or fewer of their patients are male, while more than half are female. Based on the mid-points of each percentage range, approximately 41% of their patients are male, while 59% are female (Figure 8.1). These data are consistent with

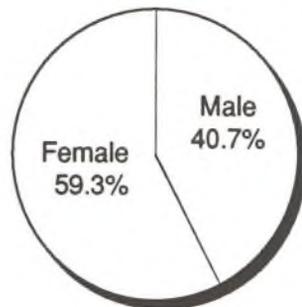


FIGURE 8.1
Patient Gender*

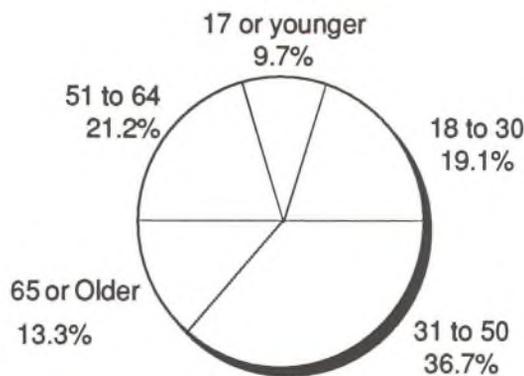


FIGURE 8.2
Patient Age*

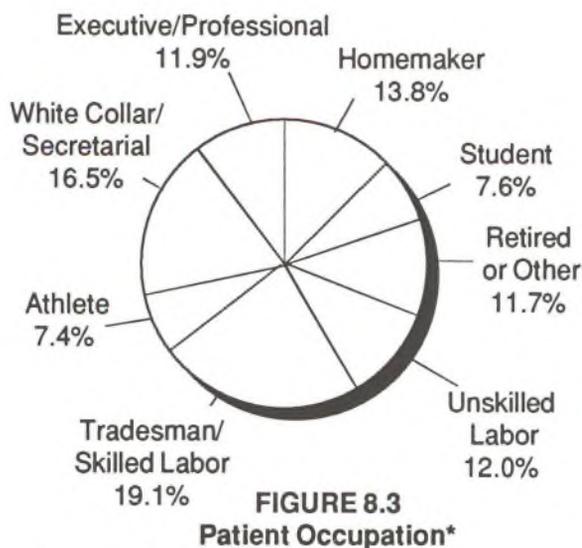


FIGURE 8.3
Patient Occupation*

* See page 56 for explanation of percentages.

information in an ACA Annual Statistical Survey (1992) that indicates 42.8% of patients are male while 57.2% of patients are female. On the zero-to-four scale, the response translates to an average of 1.94 for males, and 2.63 for females (Table 8.1).

Age of Patients

In relation to age, data on the zero-to-four scale indicate that few of the respondents' patients are 17 or younger, with more in the 18 to 30 range. About half or fewer were estimated to be between the ages of 31 and 50, half or fewer 51 to 64, with few who are 65 or older.

When the data are converted to percentages, approximate values are: 9.7% of patients were age 17 or younger; 19.1% were 18 to 30; 36.7% were 31 to 50; 21.2% were 51 to 64; and 13.3% were 65 or older (Figure 8.2).

Ethnic Origin

In the area of ethnic origin, it was noted that all ethnic groups listed are treated by chiropractors to varying degrees. Whites represent the largest group, followed by Blacks and Hispanics (Table 8.1).

Patient Occupation

Concerning patient occupation, no single occupational group is one which chiropractors

treat predominately. All groups are represented and no single occupational group appears to represent more than 19.1% of chiropractic practice (Figure 8.3).

Patient Conditions

Following the section on patient demographics, chiropractors were asked to consider their practices during the past two years, and indicate how often they had seen patients with the **presenting and/or concurrent** conditions listed. A zero-to-four rating scale was used. It is routinely accepted that the International Classification of Disease - 9CM Codes (ICD-9CM) are utilized in clinical chiropractic practices. The list of conditions used on the survey form and reflected in this report was not meant to be all-inclusive. Listed below in decreasing order of frequency are the conditions.

Frequency of Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions	
<i>ROUTINELY SEEN</i>	Spinal subluxation/joint dysfunction Headaches
<i>OFTEN SEEN</i>	Muscular strain/tear Osteoarthritis/degenerative joint disease Peripheral neuritis or neuralgia Tendinitis/tenosynovitis Radiculitis or radiculopathy High or low blood pressure Vertebral facet syndrome Intervertebral disc syndrome Sprain or dislocation of any joint Extremity subluxation/joint dysfunction Allergies Hyperlordosis of cervical or lumbar spine Obesity Scoliosis Bursitis or synovitis
<i>SOMETIMES SEEN</i>	Kyphosis of thoracic spine Osteoporosis/osteomalacia Nutritional disorders Carpal or tarsal tunnel syndrome Menstrual disorders Skeletal congenital/developmental anomaly Articular joint congenital/developmental anomaly TMJ syndrome Asthma, emphysema or COPD

TABLE 8.2 (Continued on next page)
Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

Frequency of Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

SOMETIMES SEEN (CONT.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper respiratory or ear infection Pregnancy Respiratory viral or bacterial infection Acne, dermatitis or psoriasis Thoracic outlet syndrome Loss of equilibrium Diabetes Systemic/rheumatoid arthritis or gout Psychological disorders Eating disorders Ear or hearing disorder Eye or vision disorder Hiatus or inguinal hernia Gastrointestinal bacterial or viral infection Infection of kidney or urinary tract Colitis or diverticulitis Occupational or environmental disorder Thyroid or parathyroid disorder Hemorrhoids Muscular atrophy
RARELY SEEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ulcer of stomach, intestine or colon Integument bacterial or fungal infection Murmur or rhythm irregularity Anemia Herpes simplex or zoster Angina or myocardial infarction Prostate disorder Peripheral artery or vein disorder Fracture Adrenal disorder Disorder of throat or larynx ALS, multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's Cranial nerve disorder Immunological disorder Kidney stones Non-cancerous disorder of breast Disorder of nose or sense of smell Female infertility Cardiovascular congenital anomaly Pigment disorders

TABLE 8.2 (Continued on next page)
Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

Frequency of Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

RARELY SEEN (CONT.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stroke or cerebrovascular condition Male infertility or impotency Endocrine or metabolic bone disorder Skin cancer Vertebrobasilar artery insufficiency Appendicitis, cholecystitis or pancreatitis Tearing or rupture of nerve/plexus Muscular dystrophy Hereditary disorder Arterial aneurysm Pituitary disorder Tumor of breast or reproductive system Aseptic necrosis or epiphysitis Joint tumor or neoplasm Chronic kidney disease or failure Chickenpox Bone tumor Thymus or pineal disorder
VIRTUALLY NEVER SEEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacterial infection of joint Measles/German measles Tumor of lung or respiratory passages Mumps Herpes II Brain or spinal cord tumor Atelectasis or pneumothorax Parasitic Polycythemia Tumor of gastrointestinal tract Cancer of the marrow or lymphatic system Whooping cough Male Reproductive Congenital anomaly Muscle tumor AIDS-related complex Endocrine tumor Tumor of eye, ear, nose or throat Tumor of reproductive system Tumor of the kidney or bladder Chlamydia Venereal warts Gonorrhea Syphilis

TABLE 8.2
Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

Articular/Joint

Articular/Joint conditions were considered first by respondents (Table 8.3). Spinal subluxations or joint dysfunctions were seen routinely in chiropractors' offices. Articular/Joint conditions such as osteoarthritis, degenerative joint disease and intervertebral disc syndrome were seen often. Most other conditions in the Articular/Joint area were seen often or sometimes. Only four of the conditions listed in this area were rarely seen.

Neurological

Neurological conditions were considered next (Table 8.3). Patients presenting with a headache were seen routinely in chiropractors' offices. Peripheral neuritis or neuralgia was seen often, as was radiculitis or radiculopathy. Other related conditions were seen sometimes, rarely or never.

Skeletal

The next section involved Skeletal conditions (Table 8.4). Osteoporosis/osteomalacia and congenital developmental anomaly were sometimes seen. According to response data, all other skeletal conditions were rarely seen.

Muscular

In the Muscular section, muscular strain/tear were seen often, as was tendinitis/tenosynovitis (Table 8.4). Other muscular conditions were seen sometimes, rarely or never.

Cardiovascular

In the Cardiovascular section, high or low blood pressure was seen often (Table 8.4). All other conditions were rarely seen.

Respiratory

In the Respiratory section, viral or bacterial infection, asthma, emphysema or COPD, and occupational or environmental disorders were sometimes seen (Table 8.4). On the average, the other two conditions were seen so seldom as to be termed never.

Integument

In the section addressing Integument conditions, it was noted that acne, dermatitis or psoriasis were sometimes seen (Table 8.4). All other conditions were rarely seen.

Gastrointestinal

In the Gastrointestinal area, bacterial or viral infections were sometimes seen, as were hernias, colitis or diverticulitis, and hemorrhoids (Table 8.5). Patients having the other conditions listed were rarely or never seen.

Renal/Urological

In the Renal/Urological area, infection of the kidney or urinary tract were sometimes seen (Table 8.5). Other conditions listed were rarely or never seen.

Male Reproductive

In the Male Reproductive area, patients presenting with concurrent conditions in this area were rarely or never seen in most chiropractic offices (Table 8.5).

Female Reproductive

In the Female Reproductive area, pregnancy, and menstrual disorders were sometimes seen, while other conditions listed were rarely seen (Table 8.5).

Hematological/Lymphatic

In the Hematological/Lymphatic area, anemia, and immunological disorders were rarely seen (Table 8.5); others were generally never seen in the typical chiropractor's office.

Endocrine/Metabolic

In the Endocrine/Metabolic area, obesity was often seen in chiropractors' offices; and thyroid or parathyroid disorders, and diabetes were sometimes seen (Table 8.6). Other conditions were rarely or never seen.

Childhood Disorders

In the area of Childhood Disorders, upper respiratory or ear infections were sometimes seen (scoliosis and congenital/developmental anomalies are listed with Articular/Joint conditions). All other conditions were rarely or never seen in a chiropractor's office (Table 8.6).

Venereal

In the Venereal area, the conditions listed were typically never seen in a chiropractor's office (Table 8.6).

EENT (eye, ear, nose, and throat)

In the EENT (eye, ear, nose, and throat) section, eye or vision disorders were sometimes seen, as were ear or hearing disorders. Tumors of the eye, ear, nose, or throat were typically never seen (Table 8.6).

Miscellaneous

In the miscellaneous section, allergies were often seen, and nutritional disorders were sometimes seen (Table 8.6). The other areas listed were sometimes or never seen in a typical chiropractic practice.

The following tables present the frequency of presenting and concurrent conditions as they were rated on a zero-to-four scale.

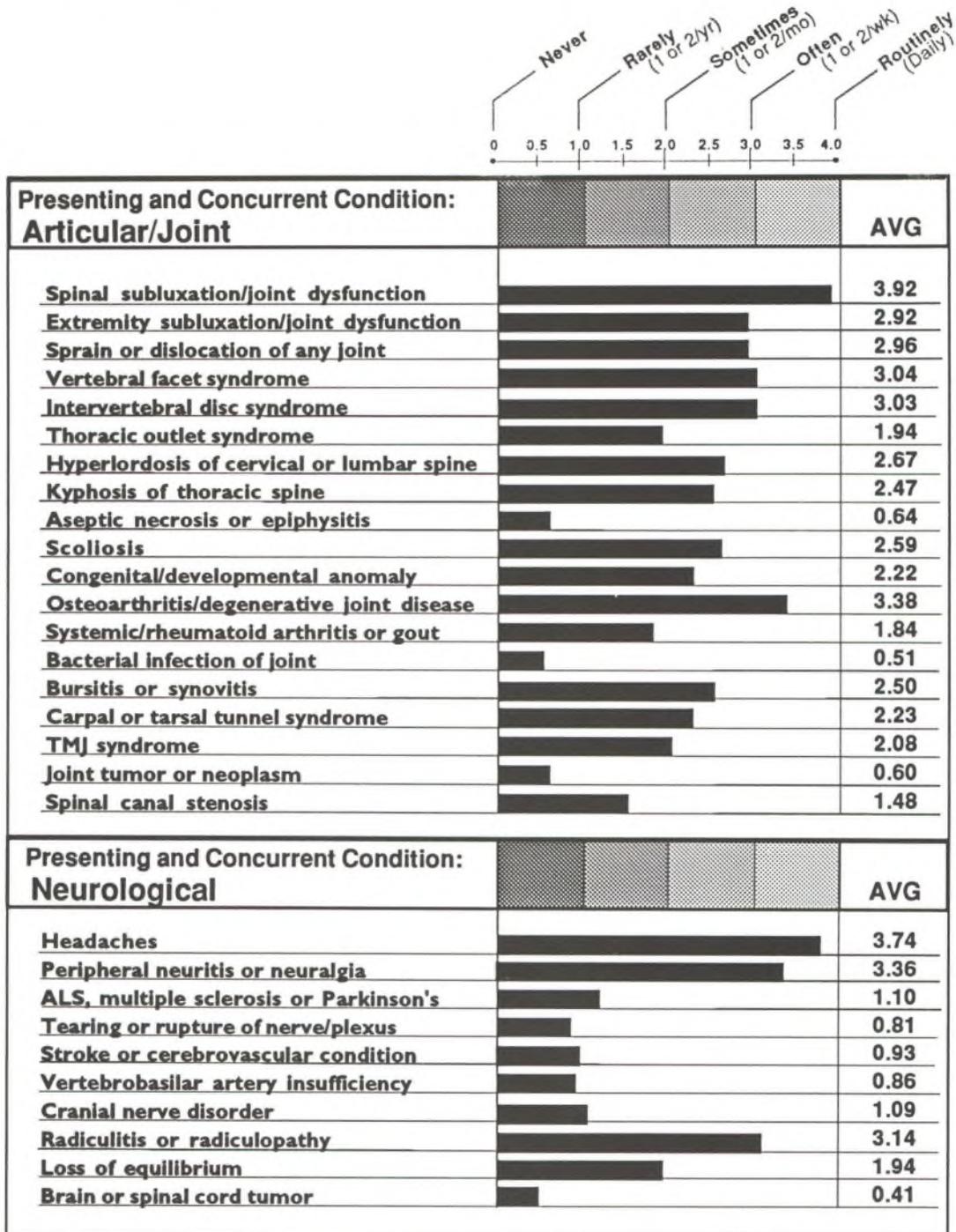


TABLE 8.3
Frequency of Articular/Joint, and Neurological
Conditions

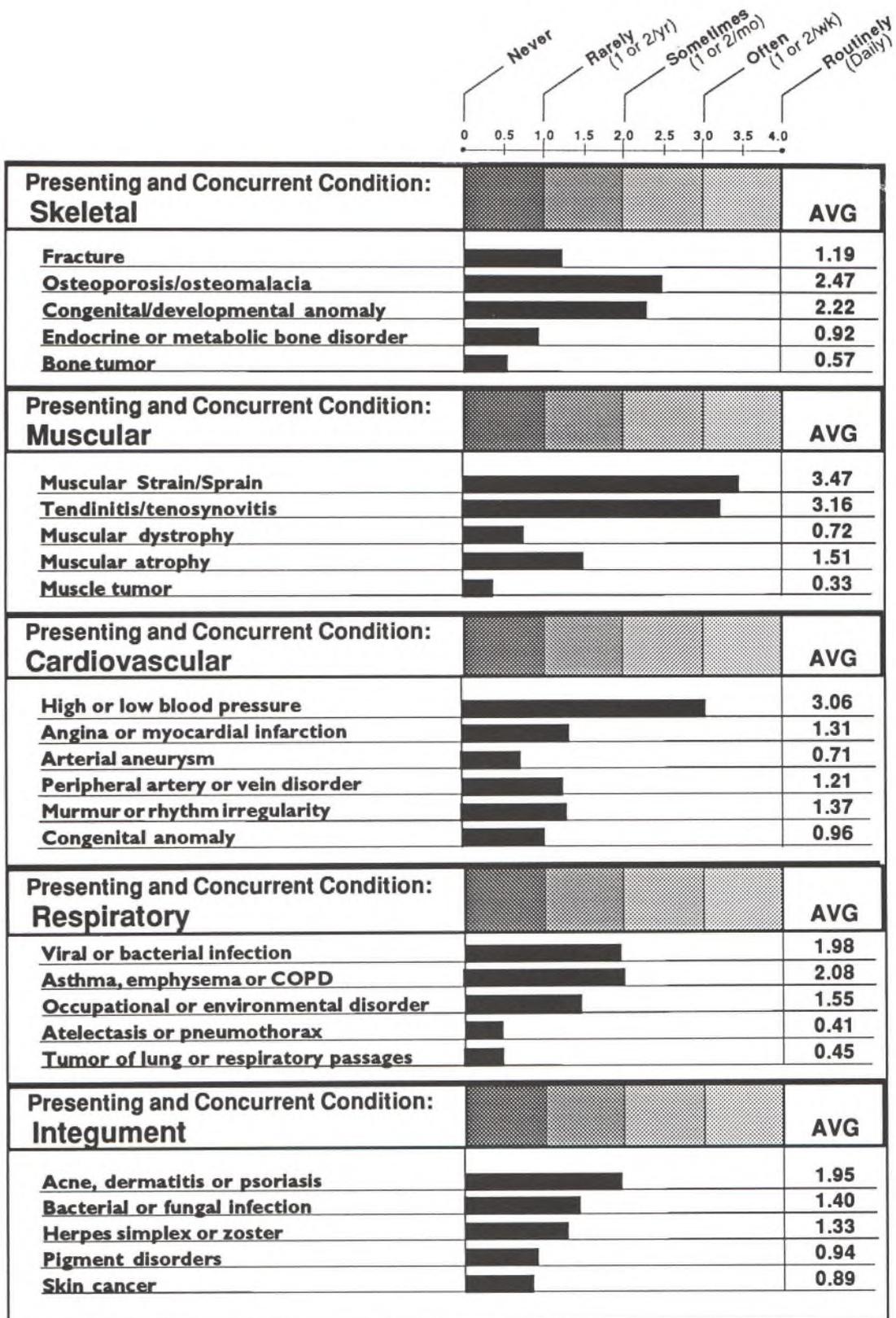


TABLE 8.4
Frequency of Skeletal, Muscular, Cardiovascular, Respiratory,
and Integument Conditions

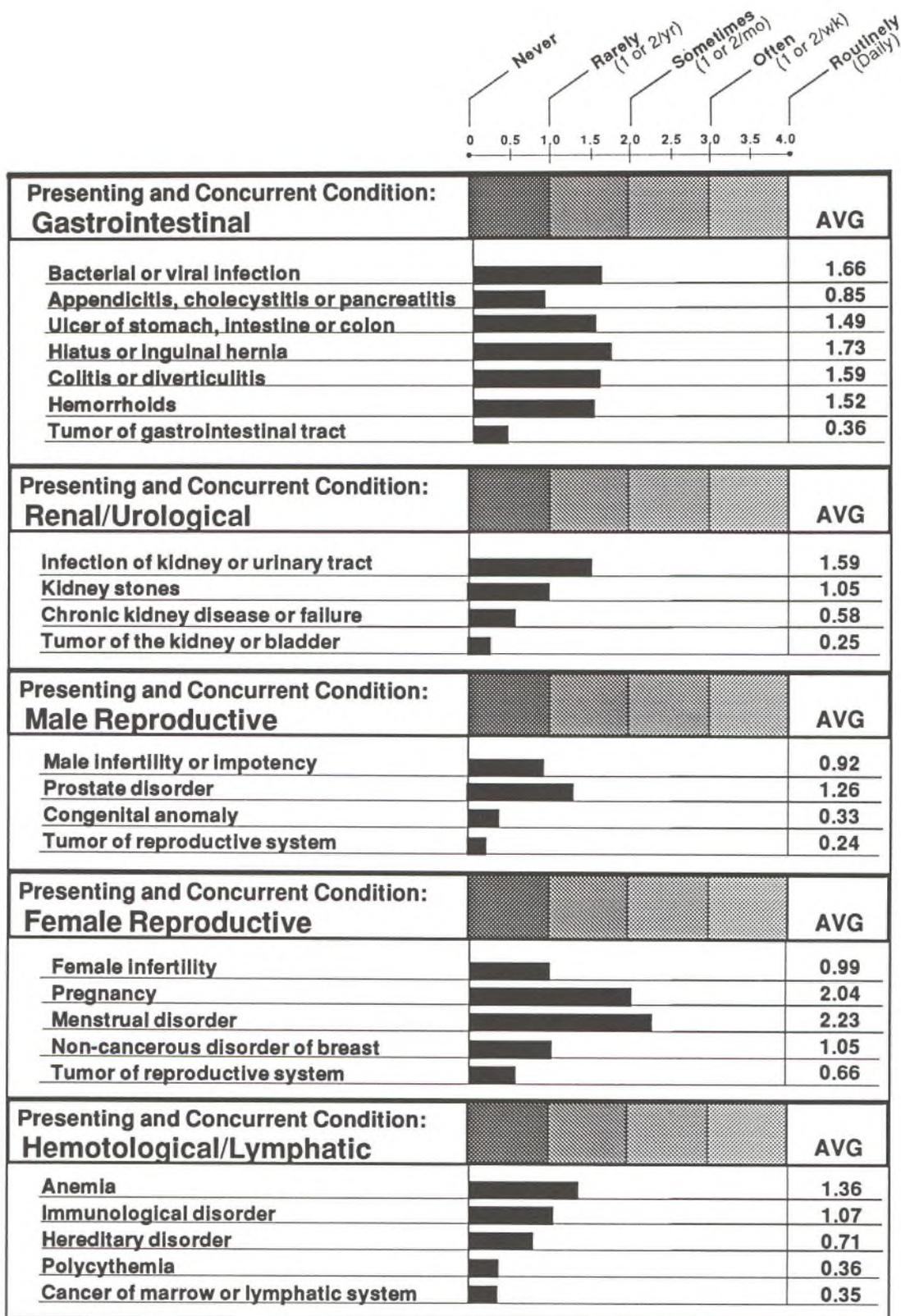


TABLE 8.5
Frequency of Gastrointestinal, Renal/Urological, Male Reproductive, Female Reproductive, and Hemotological/Lymphatic Conditions

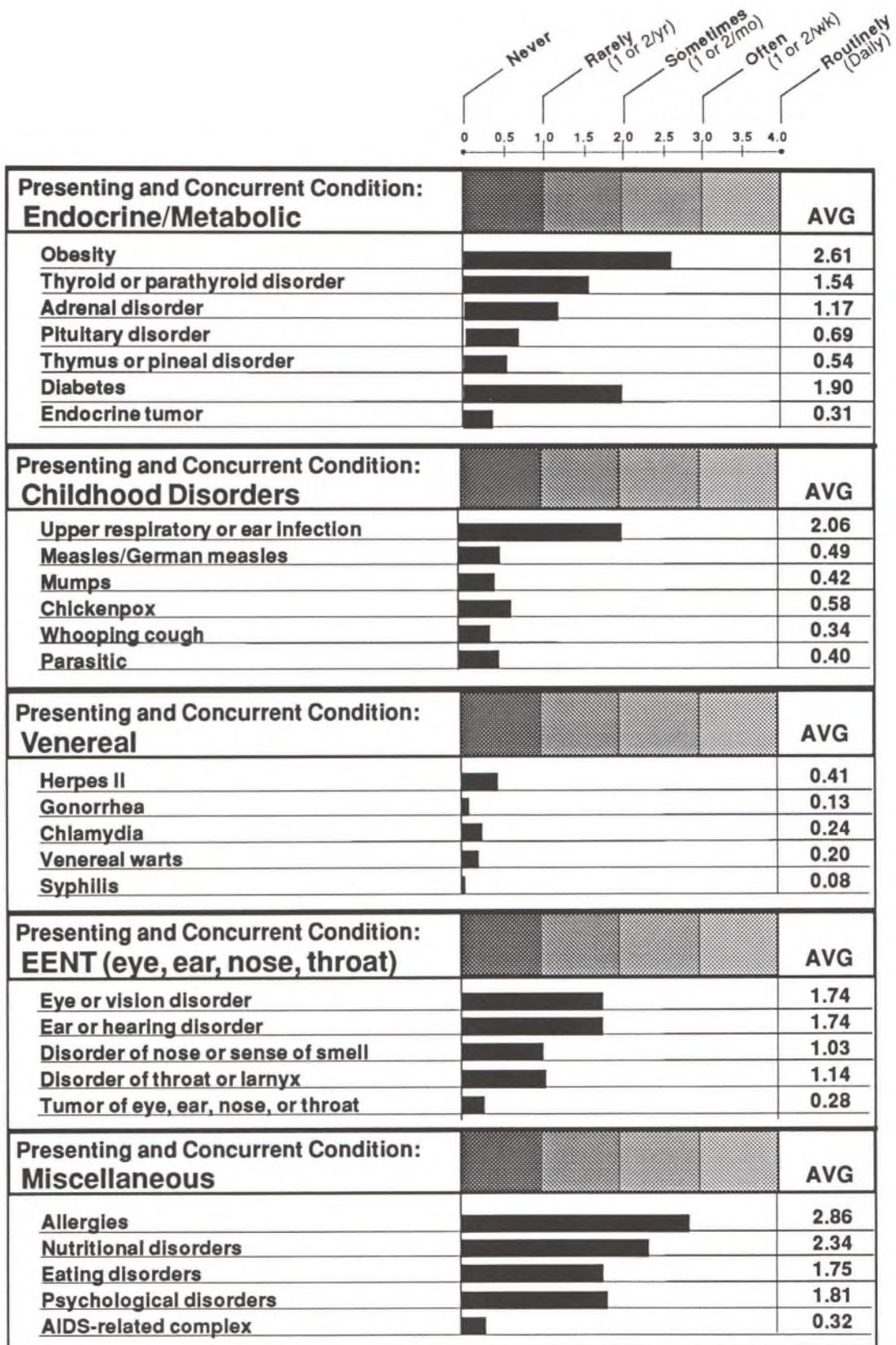


TABLE 8.6
Frequency of Endocrine/Metabolic, Childhood Disorders, Venereal, and EENT Conditions