

Chapter 13

The Chiropractic Patient in New Zealand

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 symptomatology: a headache of one type or another; a 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, neuromusculoskeletal examination, and other diagnostic procedures, a diagnosis is made which 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 13.1 and in charts throughout this chapter.

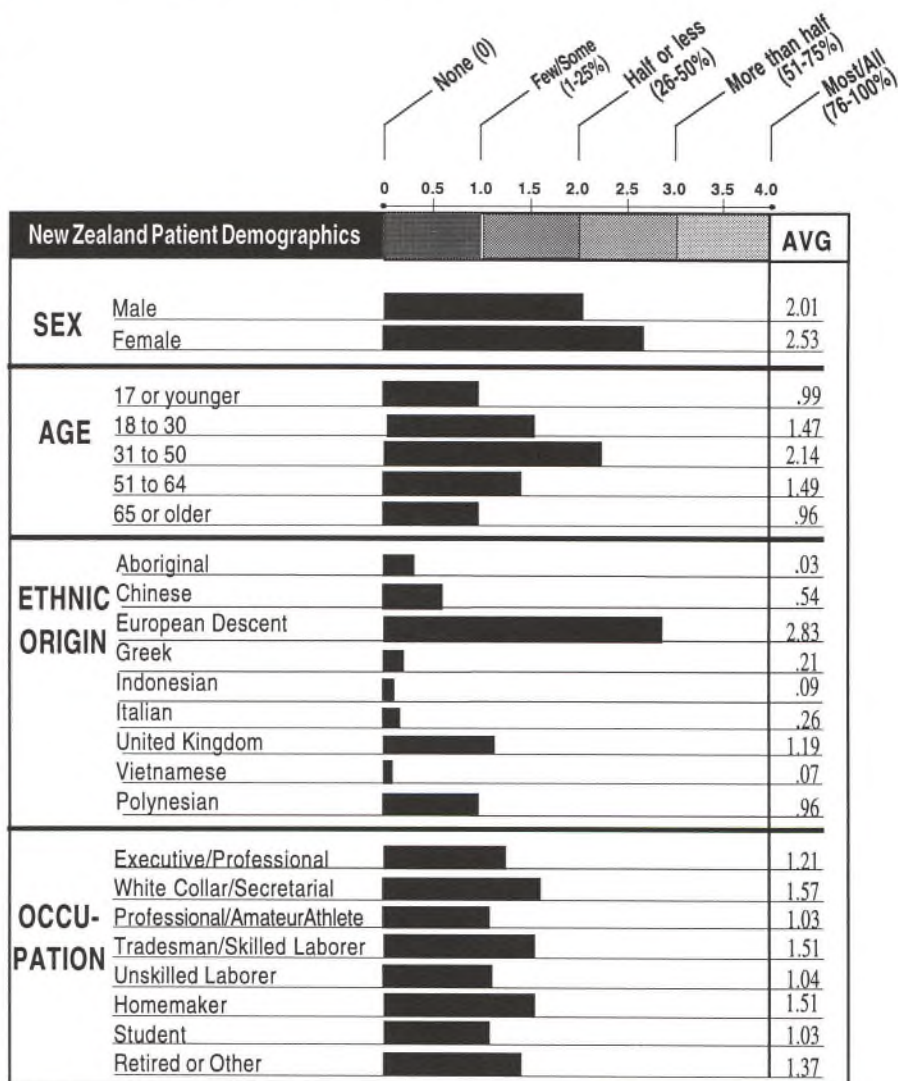


TABLE 13.1

Sex/Gender of Patients

Chiropractors estimated that more than half of their patients are female (55.7%) while less than half (44.3%) are male (Figure 13.1). In comparison, information from the *United States Job Analysis of Chiropractic* indicated that 40.7% of chiropractic patients are female while 59.3% are male.

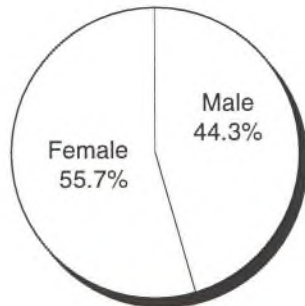


FIGURE 13.1
Patient Gender*

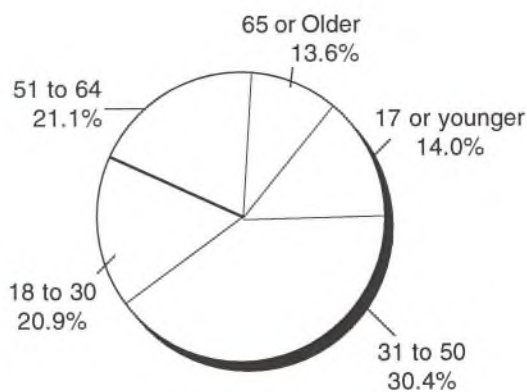


FIGURE 13.2
Patient Age*

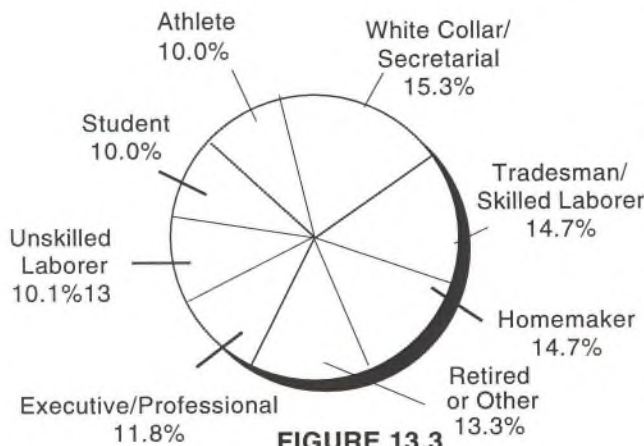


FIGURE 13.3
Patient Occupation*

* See page 64 for explanation of percentages.

Age of Patients

In relation to age, 14.0% of patients were age 17 or younger; 20.9% were 18 to 30; 30.4% were 31 to 50; 21.1% were 51 to 64; and 13.6% were 65 or older (Figure 13.2).

Ethnic Origin

Almost half of the patients (45.8%) were of European descent (Table 13.1). This was followed by patients from the United Kingdom (19.2%), Polynesia (15.5%), China (8.8%), Italy (4.2%), Greece (3.5%), Indonesia (1.4%), and Vietnam (1.2%).

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 15.3% of chiropractic practice (Figure 13.3).

Patient Conditions

Following the section on patient demographics, chiropractors were asked to con-

sider 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. The list of conditions used on the survey form and reflected in this report was not meant to be all-inclusive. Listed below are conditions seen by chiropractors in descending order of frequency.

Frequency of Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions	
ROUTINELY SEEN	Spinal subluxation/joint dysfunction Headaches
OFTEN SEEN	Osteoarthritis/degenerative joint disease Peripheral neuritis or neuralgia High or low blood pressure Vertebral facet syndrome Extremity subluxation/joint dysfunction Hyperlordosis of cervical or lumbar spine Muscular strain/tear Allergies Asthma, emphysema or COPD Intervertebral disc syndrome Osteoporosis/osteomalacia Scoliosis Tendinitis/tenosynovitis Obesity Articular joint congenital/developmental anomaly Kyphosis of thoracic spine Menstrual disorder Skeletal congenital/developmental anomaly Respiratory viral or bacterial infection Radiculitis or radiculopathy
SOMETIMES SEEN	Pregnancy Eye or vision disorder Ear or hearing disorder Acne, dermatitis or psoriasis Upper respiratory or ear infection Loss of equilibrium Nutritional disorders Sprain or dislocation of any joint TMJ syndrome

TABLE 13.2 (Continued on next page)
Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

Frequency of Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

SOMETIMES SEEN (CONT.)	<p>Carpal or tarsal tunnel syndrome Thoracic outlet syndrome Hiatus or inguinal hernia Diabetes Bursitis or synovitis Occupational or environmental disorder Psychological disorders Systemic/rheumatoid arthritis or gout Eating disorders Thyroid or parathyroid disorder Angina or myocardial infarction Gastrointestinal bacterial or viral infection Integument bacterial or fungal infection Disorder of throat or larynx Hemorrhoids Infection of kidney or urinary tract Disorder of nose or sense of smell Colitis or diverticulitis Skin cancer Ulcer of stomach, intestine or colon Herpes simplex or zoster</p>
RARELY SEEN	<p>Anemia Prostate disorder Muscular atrophy Cranial nerve disorder Adrenal disorder Stroke or cerebrovascular condition Vertebrobasilar artery insufficiency Murmur or rhythm irregularity Non-cancerous disorder of breast Fracture Peripheral artery or vein disorder Spinal canal stenosis Pigment disorders Immunological disorder Female infertility ALS, multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's Kidney stones</p>

**TABLE 13.2 (Continued on next page)
 Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions**

Frequency of Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

RARELY SEEN (CONT.)	<p>Endocrine or metabolic bone disorder Male infertility or impotency Arterial aneurysm Measles/German measles Appendicitis, cholecystitis or pancreatitis Tearing or rupture of nerve/plexus Chickenpox Tumor of breast or female reproductive system Joint tumor or neoplasm Mumps Cardiovascular congenital anomaly Aseptic necrosis or epiphysitis Muscular dystrophy Pituitary disorder Hereditary disorder Bone tumor Whooping cough Chronic kidney disease or failure Parasitic disorder Thymus or pineal disorder Bacterial infection of joint Tumor of gastrointestinal tract Cancer of the marrow or lymphatic system Brain or spinal cord tumor</p>
VIRTUALLY NEVER SEEN	<p>Tumor of lung or respiratory passages Herpes II Atelectasis or pneumothorax Tumor of male reproductive system Tumor of eye, ear, nose or throat Chlamydia Endocrine tumor Muscle tumor Tumor of the kidney or bladder Polycythemia Male reproductive congenital anomaly Venereal warts AIDS-related complex Gonorrhea Syphilis</p>

TABLE 13.2
Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

Articular/Joint

Articular/Joint conditions were considered first by respondents (Table 13.3). Spinal subluxations or joint dysfunctions were seen routinely in chiropractors' offices. Articular/Joint conditions such as osteoarthritis, degenerative joint disease, vertebral facet syndrome, extremity subluxations/joint dysfunctions, hyperlordosis of the cervical or lumbar spine, intervertebral disc syndrome, scoliosis, articular joint congenital/developmental anomaly were often seen. Most other conditions in the Articular/Joint area were sometimes seen. Only four of the conditions listed in this area were rarely seen.

Neurological

Neurological conditions were considered next (Table 13.3). 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 or rarely .

Skeletal

The next section involved Skeletal conditions (Table 13.4). Osteoporosis/osteomalacia and congenital developmental anomalies were often seen. According to response data, all other skeletal conditions were rarely seen.

Muscular

In the Muscular section, muscular strain/tear was often seen, as was tendinitis/tenosynovitis (Table 13.4). Other muscular conditions were seen rarely or never.

Cardiovascular

In the Cardiovascular section, high or low blood pressure was often seen (Table 13.4). All other conditions were sometimes or rarely seen.

Respiratory

In the Respiratory section, asthma, emphysema or COPD, and viral or bacterial infections were often seen; occupational or environmental disorders were sometimes seen (Table 13.4). The other two conditions were so infrequently seen as to be termed "never".

Integument

In the section addressing Integument conditions, it was found that acne, dermatitis or psoriasis, bacterial or fungal infections, and herpes simplex or zoster, were sometimes seen (Table 13.4). Skin cancer and pigment disorders were rarely seen.

Gastrointestinal

In the Gastrointestinal area, hernias, bacterial or viral infections, ulcers, hemorrhoids, colitis and diverticulitis were sometimes seen (Table 13.5). Patients having the other conditions listed were rarely seen.

Renal/Urological

In the Renal/Urological area, infection of the kidney or urinary tract was sometimes seen (Table 13.5). 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 13.5).

Female Reproductive

In the Female Reproductive area, menstrual disorders were often seen, and pregnancy was sometimes seen. Other conditions listed were rarely seen (Table 13.5).

Hematological/Lymphatic

In the Hematological/Lymphatic area, all conditions were rarely or never seen in the typical chiropractor's office (Table 13.5).

Endocrine/Metabolic

In the Endocrine/Metabolic area, obesity was often seen in chiropractors' offices; thyroid or parathyroid disorders, and diabetes were sometimes seen (Table 13.6). 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 seen in a chiropractor's office (Table 13.6).

Venereal

In the Venereal area, the conditions listed were typically never seen in a chiropractor's office (Table 13.6).

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. Disorders of the nose, throat, and larynx were rarely seen. Tumors of the eye, ear, nose, or throat were typically never seen (Table 13.6).

Miscellaneous

In the miscellaneous section, patients with allergies were often seen. Nutritional, psychological, and eating disorders were sometimes seen (Table 13.6). The other area listed, AIDS-related complex, was typically never seen in a chiropractic practice.

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

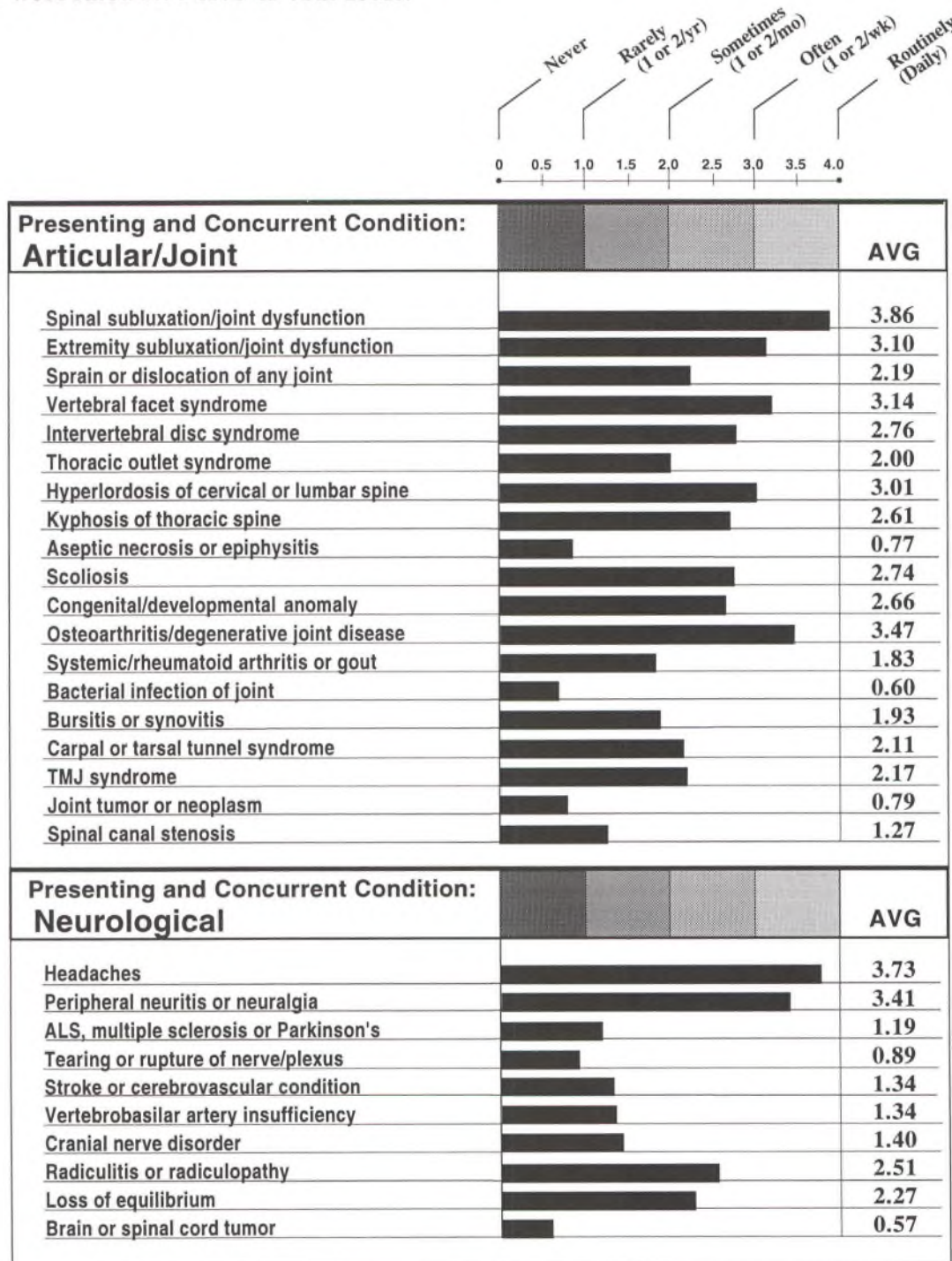


TABLE 13.3
Frequency of Articular/Joint, and Neurological
Conditions

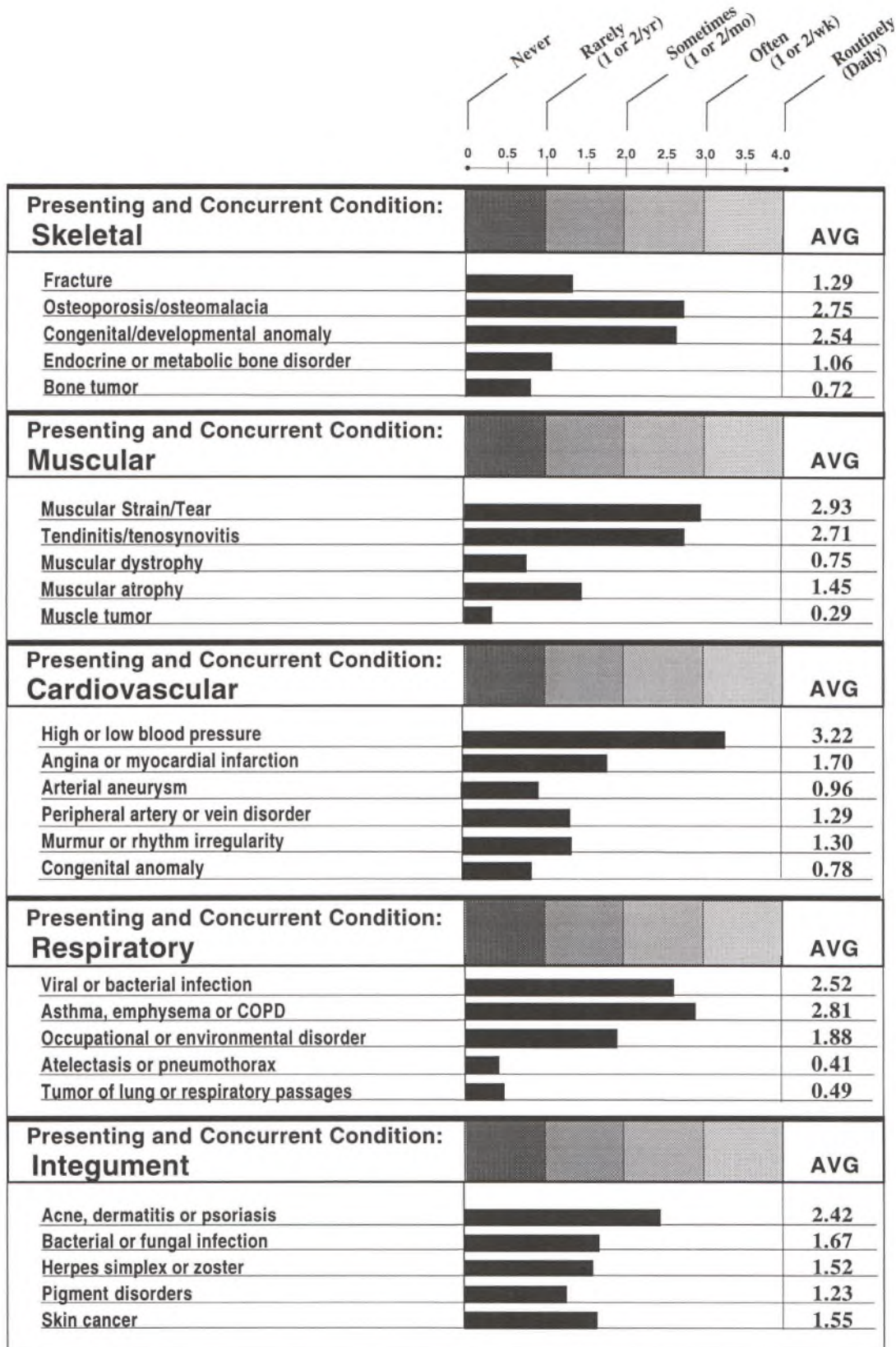


TABLE 13.4
Frequency of Skeletal, Muscular, Cardiovascular, Respiratory,
and Integument Conditions

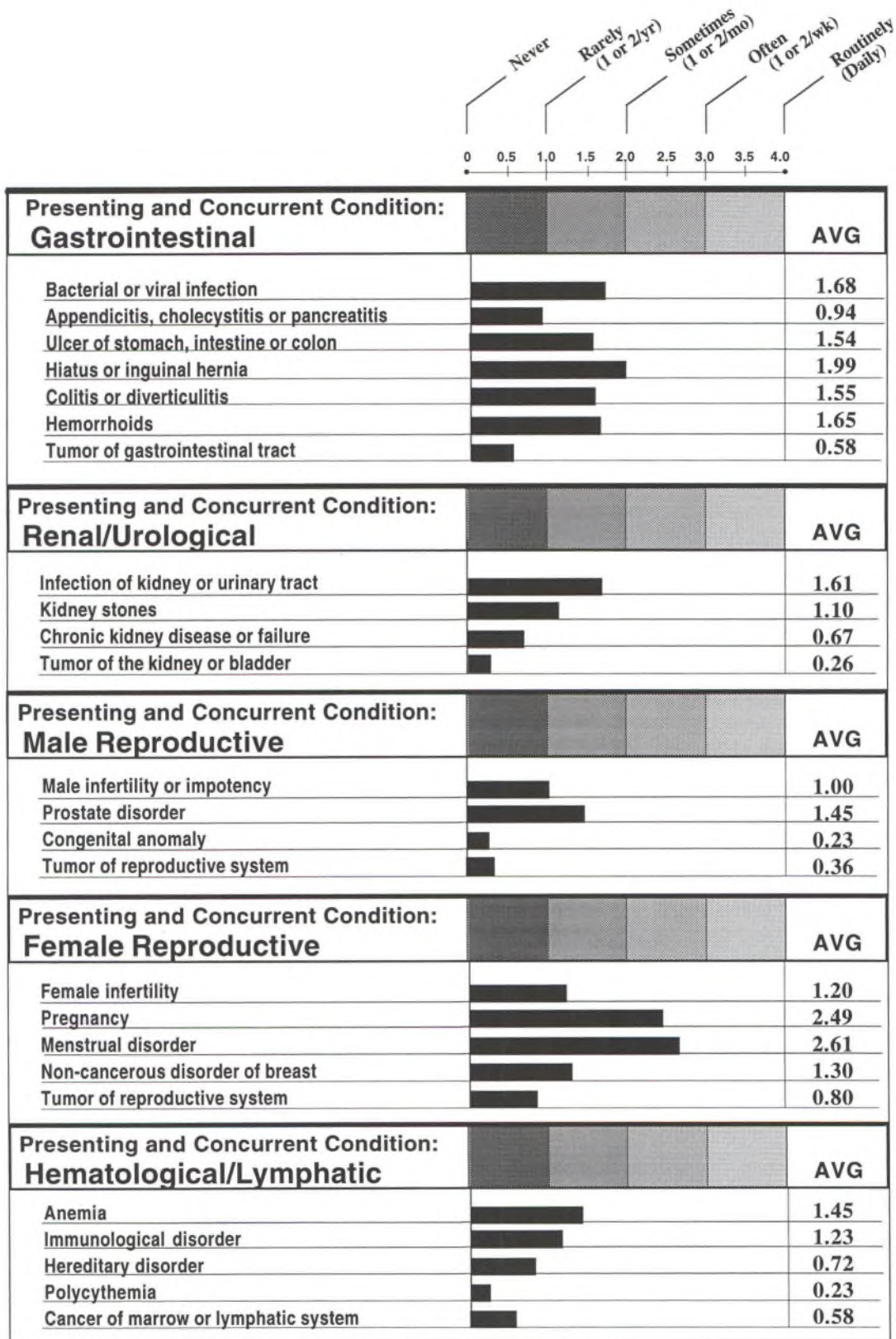


TABLE 13.5
Frequency of Gastrointestinal, Renal/Urological, Male Reproductive, Female Reproductive, and Hematological/Lymphatic Conditions

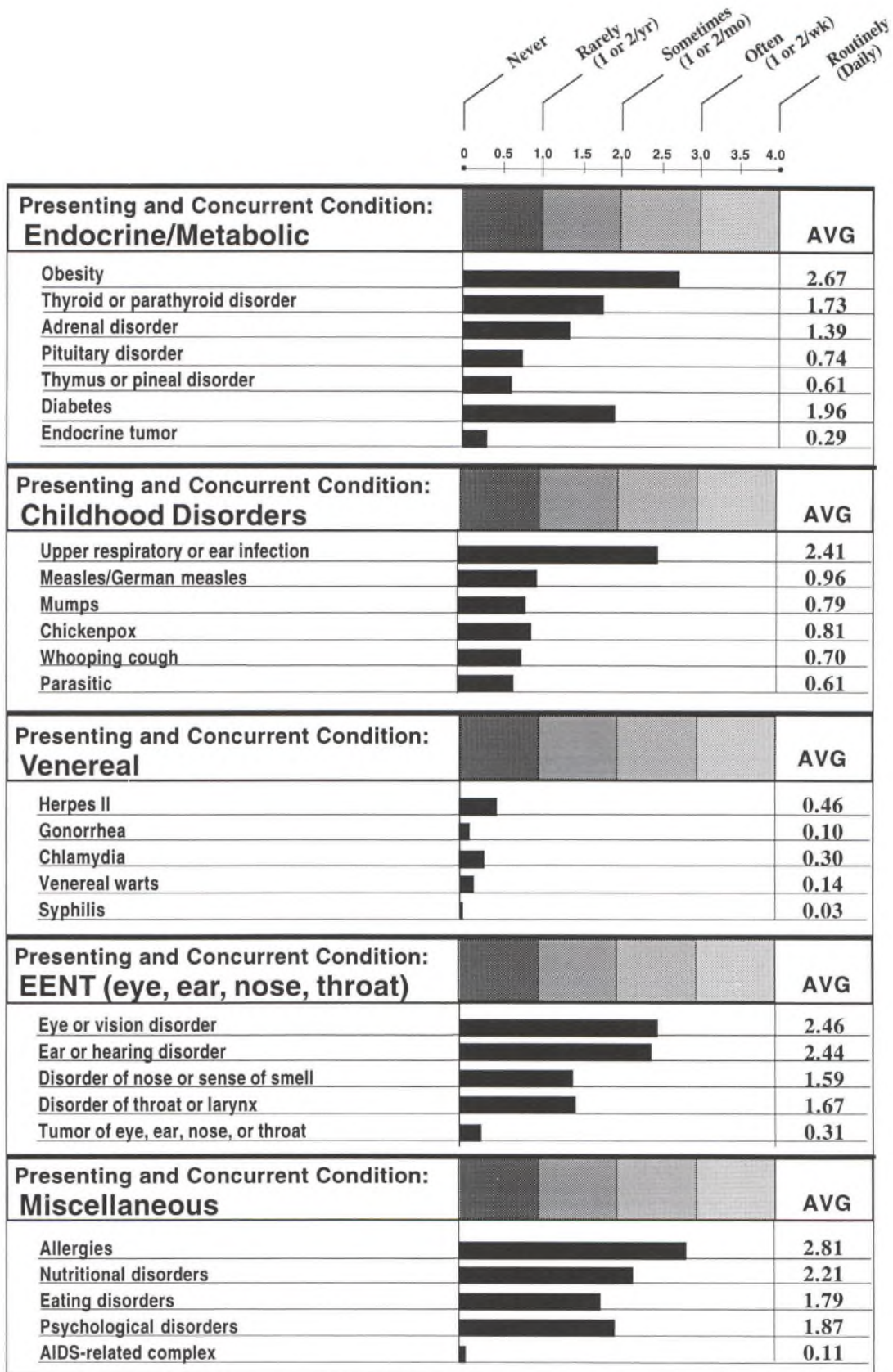


TABLE 13.6
Frequency of Endocrine/Metabolic, Childhood Disorders, Venereal, and EENT Conditions