

## Chapter 8

# The Chiropractic Patient in Canada

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, place of birth, 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 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 8.1 and in charts throughout this chapter.

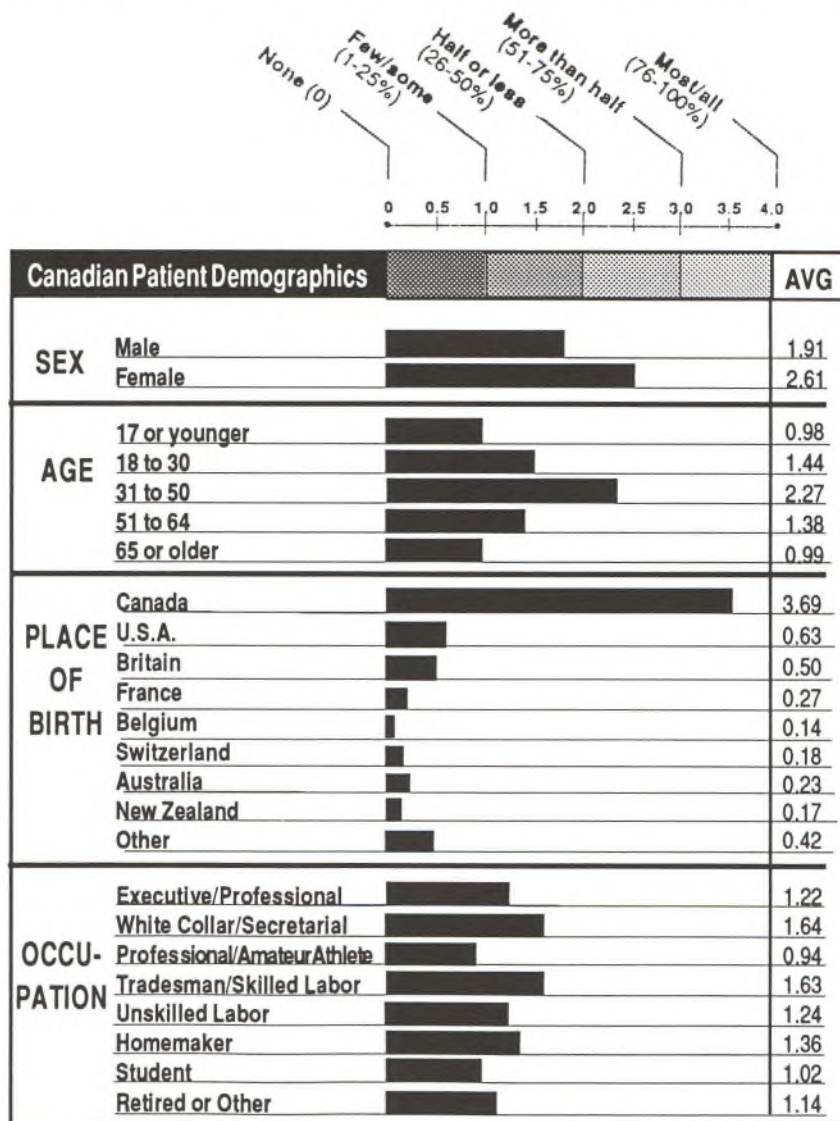
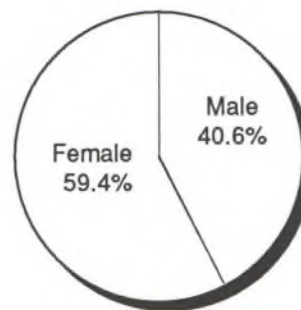


TABLE 8.1

## Sex/Gender of Patients

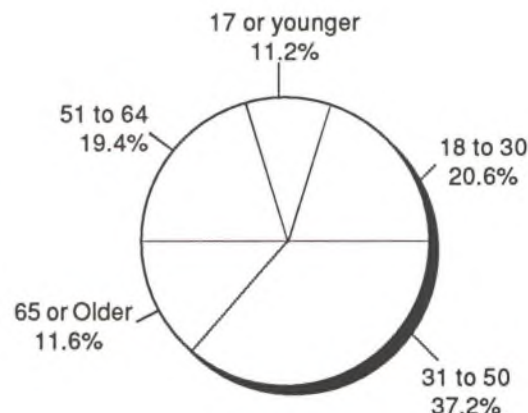
Chiropractors estimated that half or fewer of their patients are male (40.6%) while more than half (59.4%) are female (Figure 8.1). These data are consistent with information from the *United States Job Analysis of Chiropractic* that indicated 40.7% of chiropractic patients are male while 59.3% are female.



**FIGURE 8.1**  
**Patient Gender\***

## Age of Patients

In relation to age, 11.2% of patients were age 17 or younger; 20.6% were 18 to 30; 37.2% were 31 to 50; 19.4% were 51 to 64; and 11.6% were 65 or older (Figure 8.2).



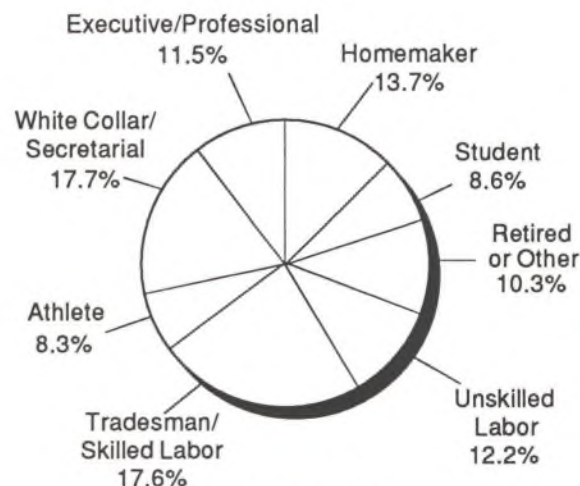
**FIGURE 8.2**  
**Patient Age\***

## Place of Birth

The patient's place of birth was primarily in Canada. Patients born in the U.S.A., Britain, and "other" were the next most frequently treated group of patients (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 17.7% of chiropractic practice (Figure 8.3).



**FIGURE 8.3**  
**Patient Occupation\***

## 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

\* See page 62 for explanation of percentages.

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

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

## Frequency of Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

### **SOMETIMES SEEN (CONT.)**

Psychological disorders  
 Thoracic outlet syndrome  
 Eye or vision disorder  
 Loss of equilibrium  
 Systemic/rheumatoid arthritis or gout  
 Diabetes  
 Occupational or environmental disorder  
 Hiatus or inguinal hernia  
 Gastrointestinal bacterial or viral infection  
 Ulcer of stomach, intestine or colon  
 Eating disorders  
 Thyroid or parathyroid disorder  
 Angina or myocardial infarction  
 Colitis or diverticulitis  
 Infection of kidney or urinary tract  
 Muscular atrophy  
 Hemorrhoids

### **RARELY SEEN**

Peripheral artery or vein disorder  
 Integument bacterial or fungal infection  
 Herpes simplex or zoster  
 Disorder of throat or larynx  
 Anemia  
 Murmur or rhythm irregularity  
 Prostate disorder  
 ALS, multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's  
 Fracture  
 Non-cancerous disorder of breast  
 Immunological disorder  
 Spinal canal stenosis  
 Disorder of nose or sense of smell  
 Kidney stones  
 Cranial nerve disorder  
 Female infertility  
 Adrenal disorder  
 Pigment disorders  
 Appendicitis, cholecystitis or pancreatitis  
 Endocrine or metabolic bone disorder

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

Frequency of Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

**RARELY SEEN (CONT.)**

Stroke or cerebrovascular condition  
 Vertebrobasilar artery insufficiency  
 Male infertility or impotency  
 Tumor of breast or reproductive system  
 Cardiovascular congenital anomaly  
 Skin cancer  
 Hereditary disorder  
 Muscular dystrophy  
 Chickenpox  
 Arterial aneurysm  
 Aseptic necrosis or epiphysitis  
 Tearing or rupture of nerve/plexus  
 Joint tumor or neoplasm  
 Measles/German measles  
 Bone tumor  
 Pituitary disorder  
 Chronic kidney disease or failure  
 Whooping cough

**VIRTUALLY NEVER SEEN**

Mumps  
 Atelectasis or pneumothorax  
 Tumor of gastrointestinal tract  
 Tumor of lung or respiratory passages  
 Bacterial infection of joint  
 Thymus or pineal disorder  
 Brain or spinal cord tumor  
 Herpes II  
 Parasitic disorder  
 Cancer of the marrow or lymphatic system  
 Endocrine tumor  
 Male reproductive congenital anomaly  
 Polycythemia  
 Chlamydia  
 Tumor of male reproductive system  
 Tumor of the kidney or bladder  
 AIDS-related complex  
 Tumor of eye, ear, nose or throat  
 Muscle tumor  
 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, vertebral facet syndrome, and intervertebral disc syndrome were often seen. 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 anomalies were sometimes seen. According to response data, all other skeletal conditions were rarely seen.

## **Muscular**

In the Muscular section, muscular strain/tear was 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 sometimes or rarely seen.

## **Respiratory**

In the Respiratory section, asthma, emphysema or COPD, viral or bacterial infection, and occupational or environmental disorders were sometimes seen (Table 8.4). The other two conditions were rarely or never seen.

## **Integument**

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

## **Gastrointestinal**

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

## **Renal/Urological**

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

## **Male Reproductive**

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

## **Female Reproductive**

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

## **Hematological/Lymphatic**

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

## **Endocrine/Metabolic**

In the Endocrine/Metabolic area, obesity was often seen in chiropractors' offices; 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).

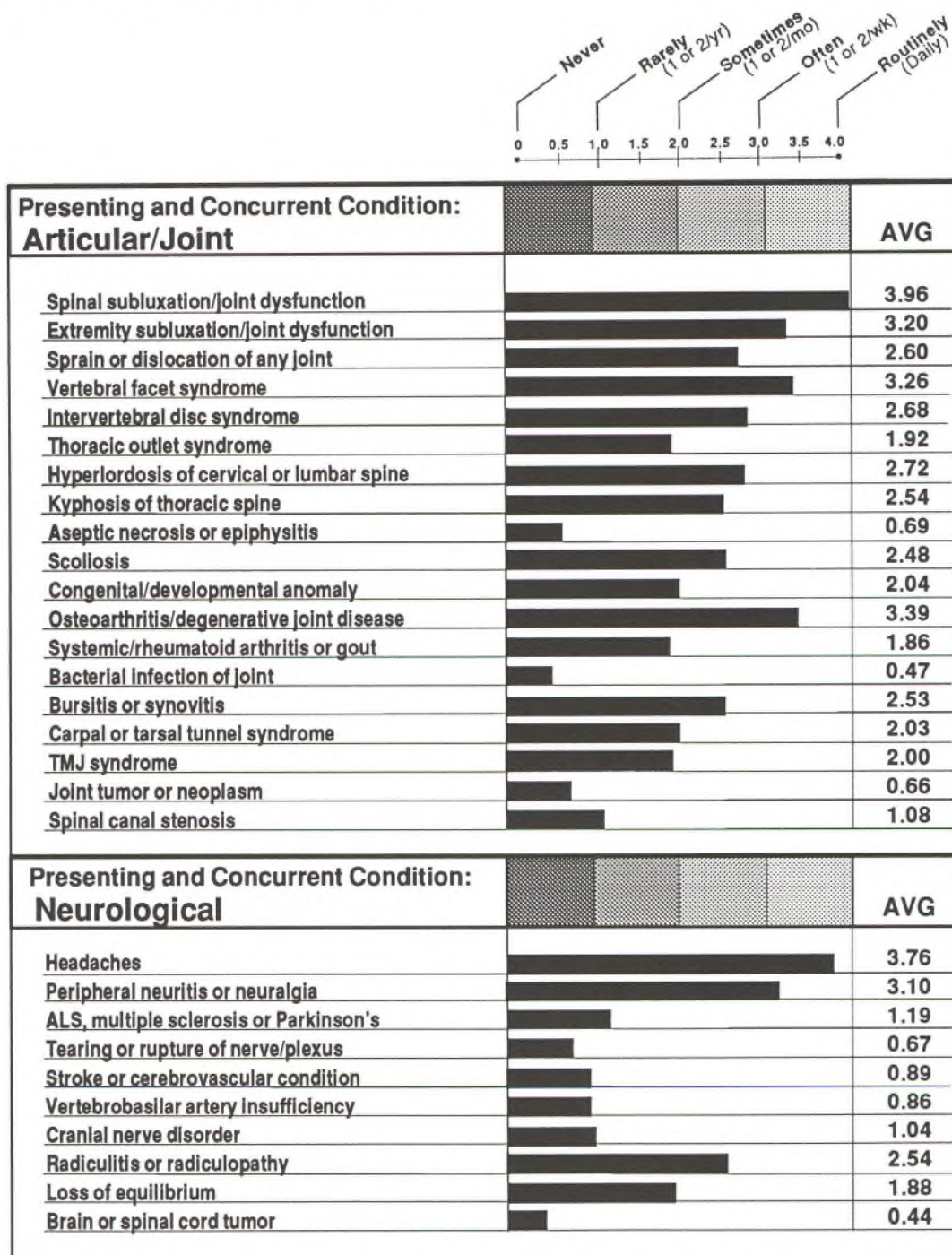
## **EENT (eye, ear, nose, and throat)**

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

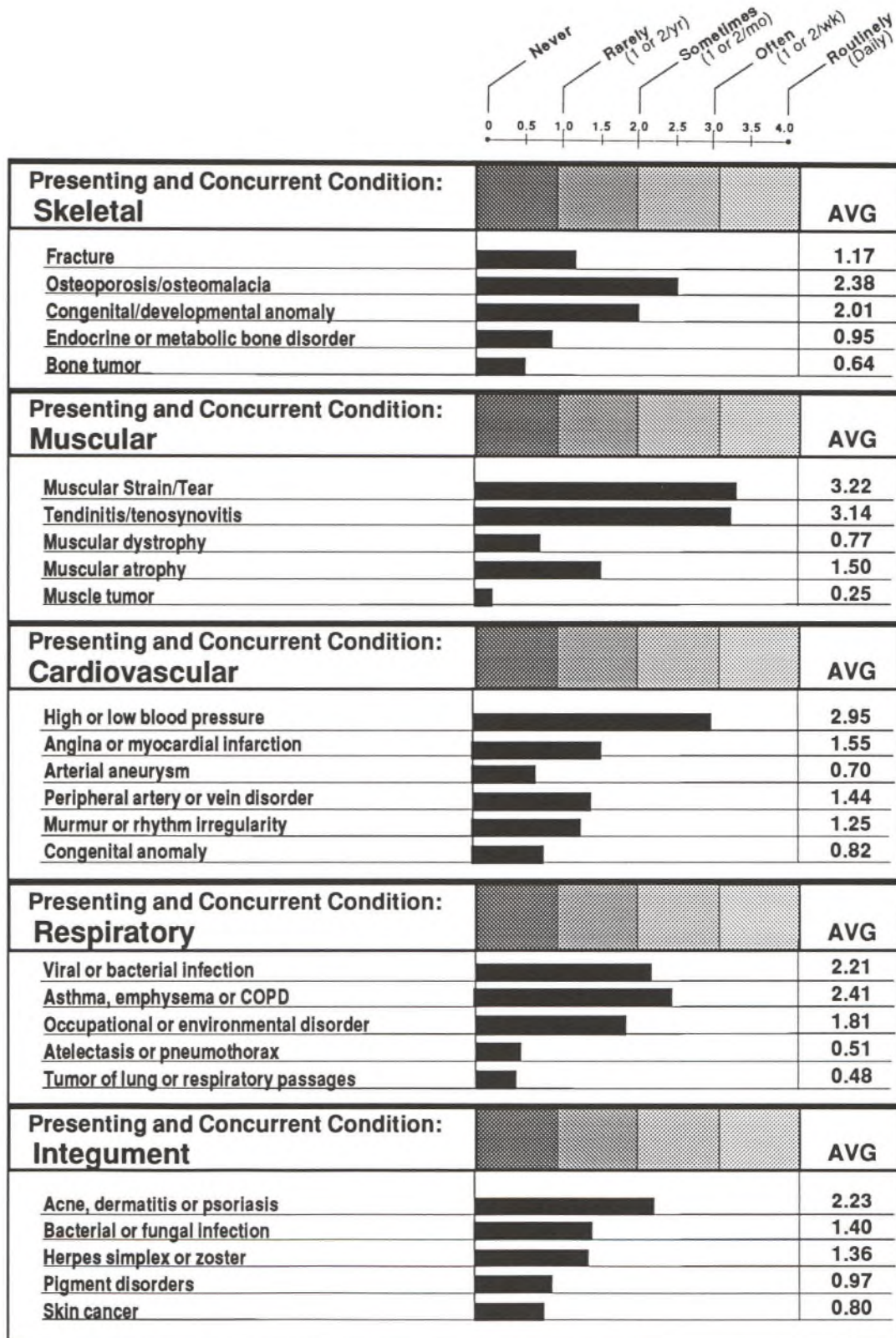
## **Miscellaneous**

In the miscellaneous section, allergies were often seen. Nutritional, psychological, and eating disorders were sometimes seen (Table 8.6). The other area listed, AIDS-related complex, was typically never seen in a chiropractic practice.

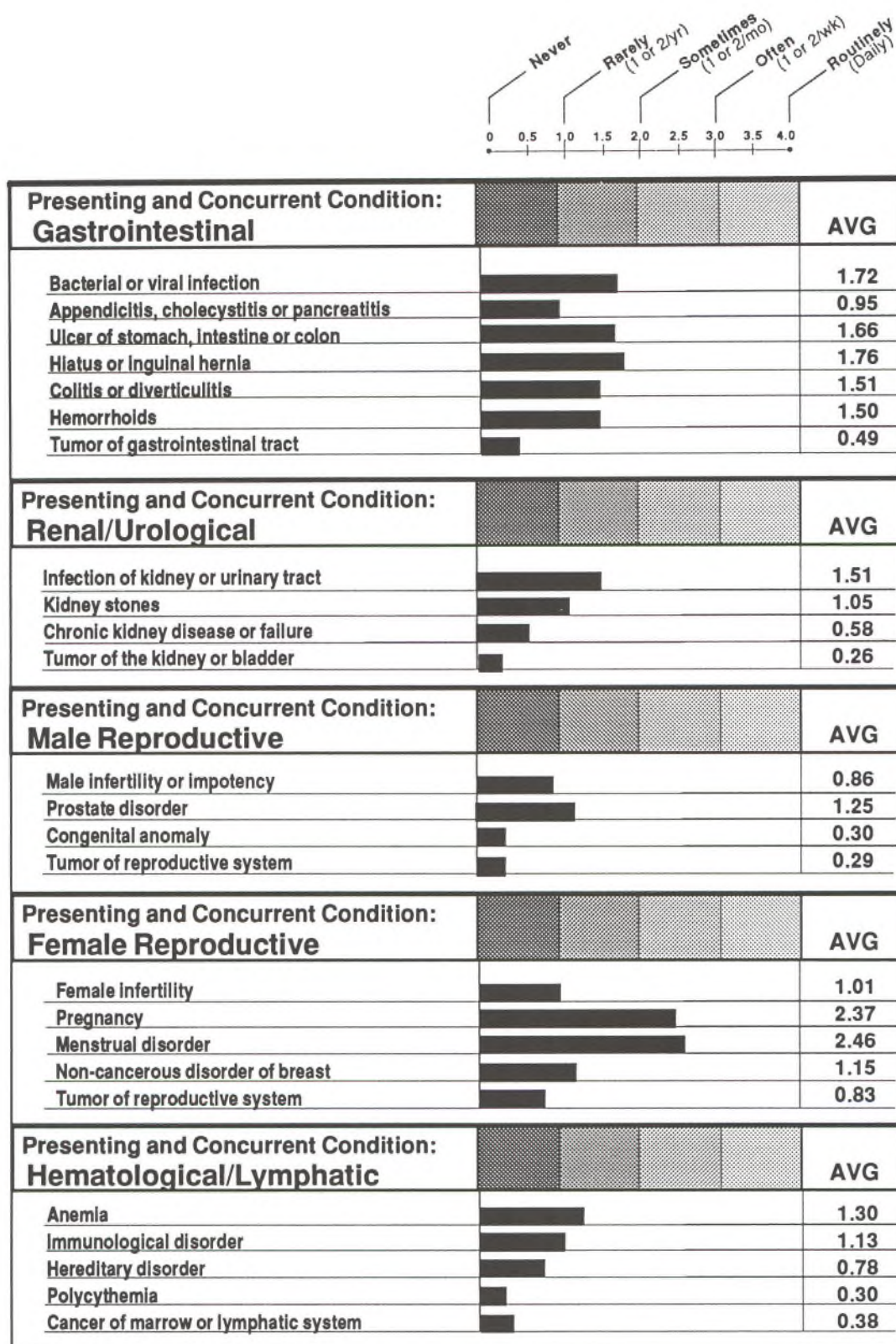
The following tables present the frequency of presenting and concurrent conditions as they were rated on a zero-to-four scale.



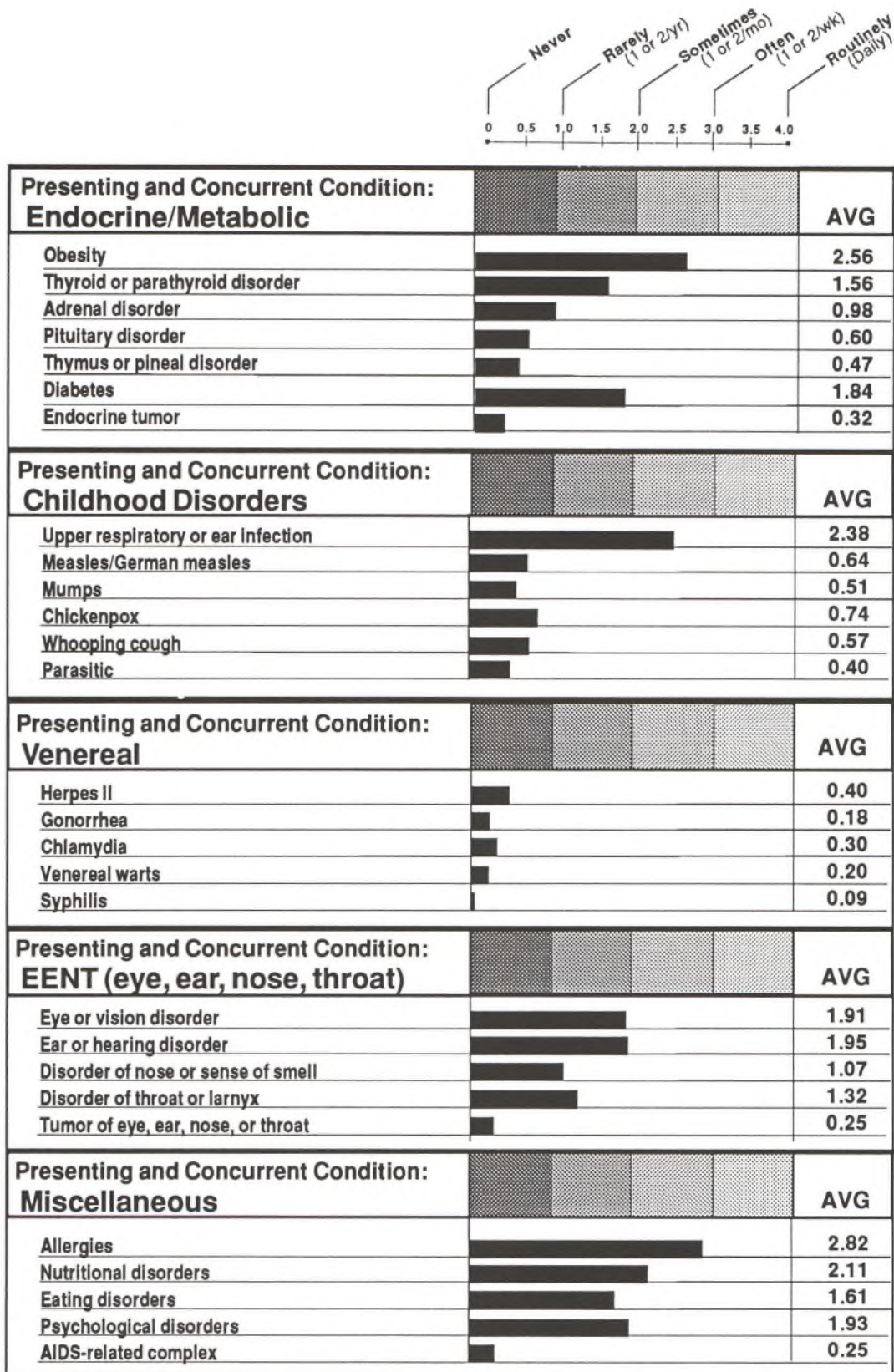
**TABLE 8.3**  
Frequency of Articular/Joint, and Neurological Conditions



**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 Hematological/Lymphatic Conditions



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