

Memo 2002-3



Trends in Medical Care Visits

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C.H.A.I.N. REPORT

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Key Findings

- The general trend graph shows that the number of medical care visits has slowly decreased, controlling for cd4 counts. (Table 1 and Figure 1a)
- The same decrease in mean number of medical care visits was evident across ethnic groups, gender, and risk groups. However, the total number of visits by white men, especially men who have sex with men, decreased more than in other groups. (Table1, Figure1b, 1c and 1d)
- People with lower cd4 counts ($cd4 < 200$) had a higher numbers of visits than those with higher cd4 counts ($cd4 > 200$), but the gap between the two groups became narrower over time. However, people who have an opportunistic infection continue to have a higher number of visits than people who don't, even though the overall number has decreased for both groups. (Table1, Figure 1e and 1f)
- The refresher group has a similar pattern of medical care visits as the original cohort, but shows a more rapid decrease in mean visits. (Table 2 and Figure 2)
- Use of the ER by the cohort decreased after the first round of interviews in 1995, but has been stable in recent rounds. (Table 3 and Figure 3)
- Those with no medical provider visited the ER more than both the groups who had the same provider as of the last interview and the group who changed providers. (Figure 4)

Measurement:

- Medical care visits includes total number of visits to a hospital clinic, hospital out-patient department, community clinic, neighborhood health clinic, neighborhood health center, and private doctor's office (a doctor who was a regular MD), for medical care during the last six months.
- Missing values, responses of "don't know" and refusals to answer for number of visits are counted as one visit if a service agency was named.
- The maximum number of each type of service per person is counted as fifty if the number of visits is over 50 .

Table 1. Trends in Mean Number of Medical Care Visits in the Prior Six Months*

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8
Total N = 968	700	568	480	420	651	508	444	388
All	8.3	8.7	8.1	7.9	7.1	6.5	5.3	5.5
Ethnicity								
White	10.0	11.6	10.9	10.0	9.6	9.8	6.0	4.9
Black	7.9	7.1	7.6	7.2	7.0	6.0	5.4	4.9
Latino	8.1	9.9	7.6	8.0	6.4	6.0	4.4	6.8
Sex								
Women	6.9	8.8	7.9	7.8	7.0	6.0	5.3	5.8
Men	9.1	8.7	8.3	7.9	7.2	6.8	5.2	4.9
Risk Group								
MSM	11.0	11.9	10.1	9.6	8.7	6.4	6.8	5.0
Drug User	7.3	6.3	7.9	7.8	6.7	7.3	5.6	5.9
MSM & Drug	6.5	7.9	6.2	5.9	6.8	6.9	4.4	5.0
Other	8.3	10.4	7.6	7.1	6.9	5.4	4.3	5.0
Health Status								
CD4>500	6.3	5.0	6.7	6.7	7.5	5.3	4.8	4.7
200<CD4<500	7.6	9.2	7.0	8.0	7.1	6.8	5.8	5.4
CD4<200	9.9	9.9	10.0	8.6	6.8	7.6	4.9	6.4
Opportunistic Infection								
Yes	9.7	11.2	10.0	10.2	9.2	9.2	6.4	7.4
No	6.5	5.8	6.5	6.4	5.6	5.3	4.6	4.3

* mean numbers after cd4 count is controlled

Figure 1a. Trends in Mean Number of Medical Care Visits for All Respondents

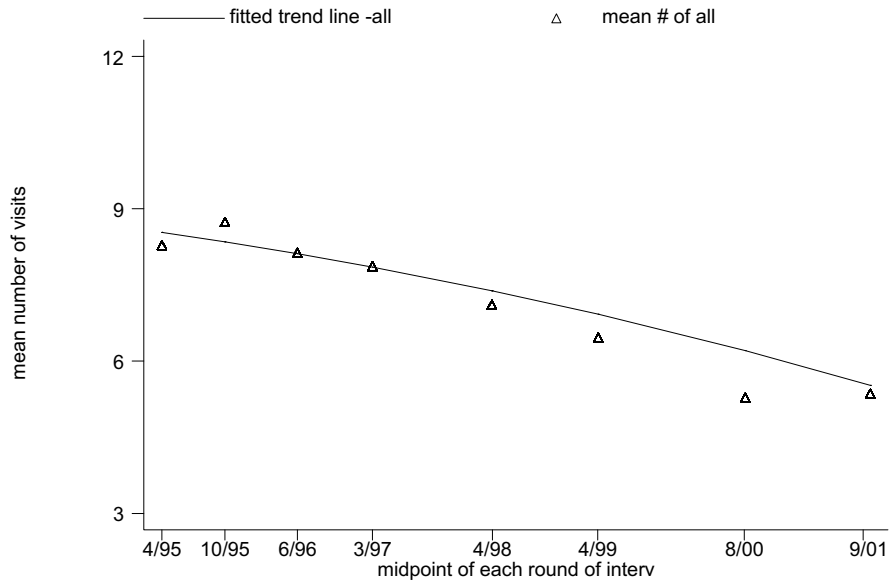


Figure 1b. Trends in Mean Number of Medical Care Visits by Ethnicity

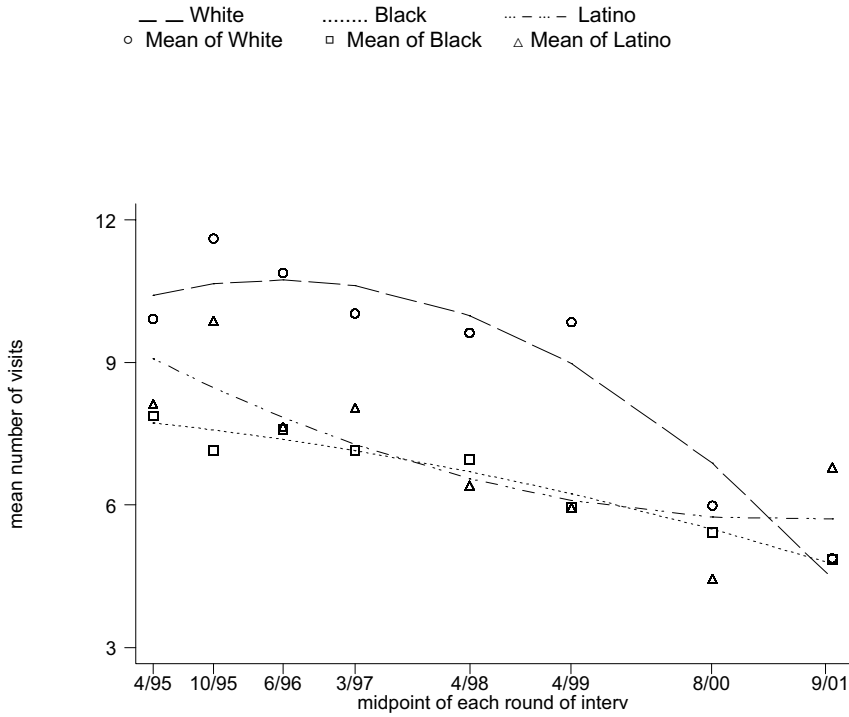


Figure 1c. Trends in Mean Number of Medical Care Visits by Sex

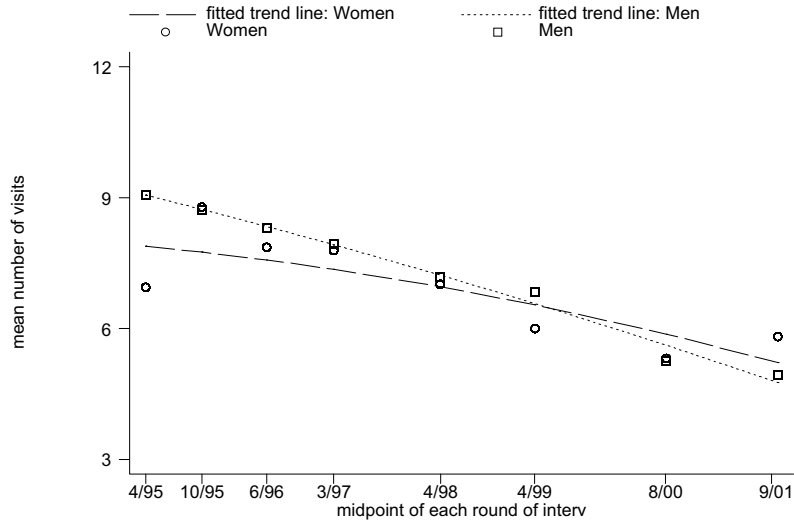


Figure 1d. Trends in Mean Number of Medical Care Visits by Risk Group

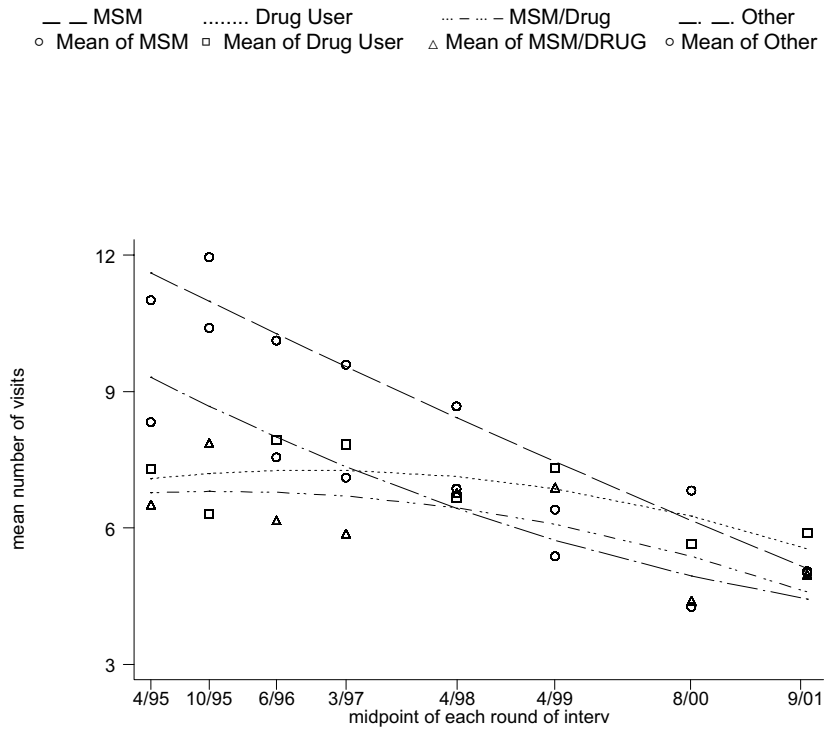


Figure 1e. Trends in Mean Number of Medical Care Visits by CD4 Count

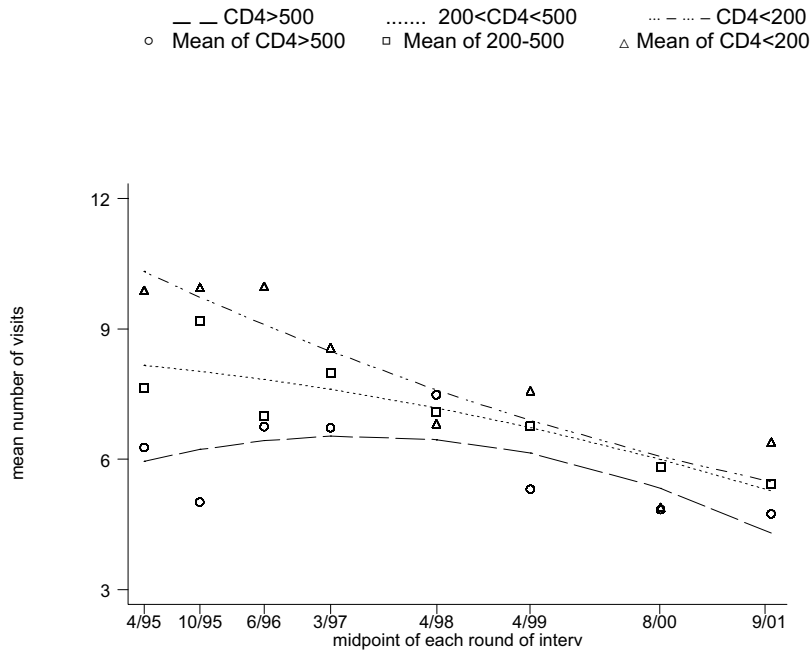


Figure 1f. Trends in Mean Number of Medical Care Visits by Opportunistic Infection

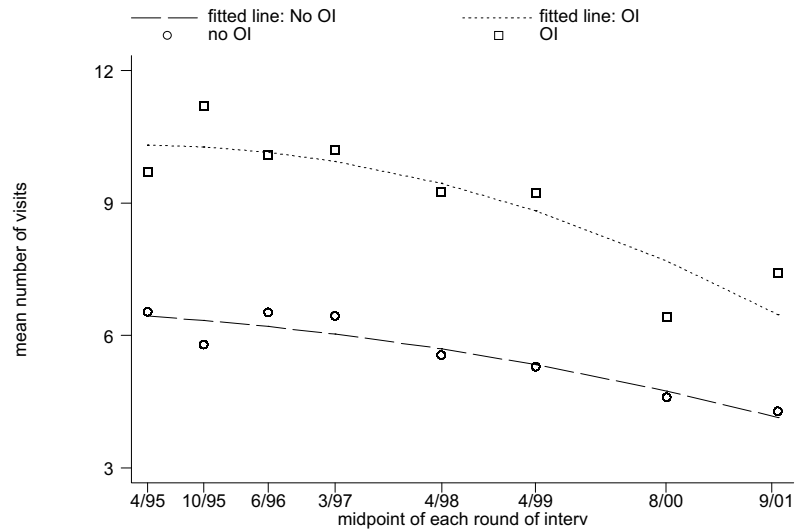
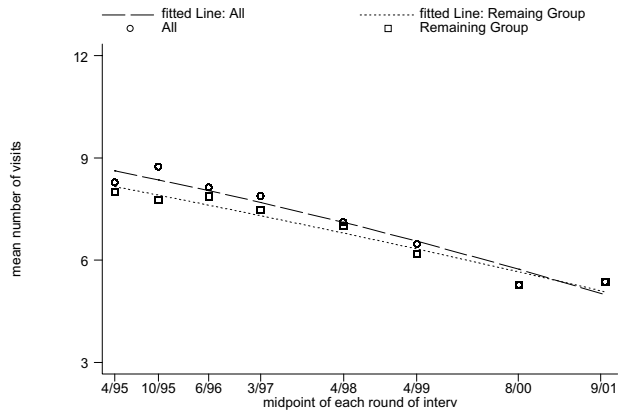


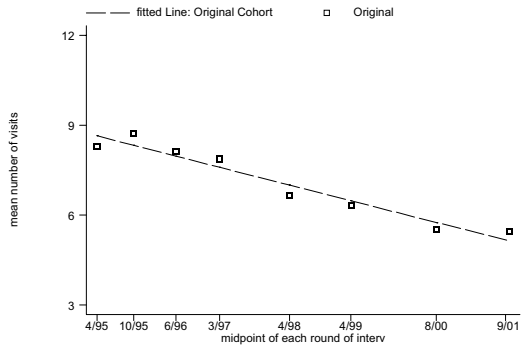
Table 2. Trends in Mean Number of Medical Care Visits by Cohort Group

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8
Total N = 968	700	568	480	420	651	508	444	388
All	8.3	8.7	8.1	7.9	7.1	6.5	5.3	5.4
Remaining group (stay from wave1 to wave 7or 8)	8.0	7.7	7.9	7.5	6.7	6.4	5.5	5.5
Recruit Group Original Cohort	8.2	8.7	8.1	7.9	6.6	6.3	5.5	5.5
Refresher	-	-	-	-	7.8	6.7	4.9	5.2

Figure 2. Mean Number of Medical Care Visits by Cohort Group



Original Cohort



Refresher Group



Table 3. Trends in ER Use in the Last Six Months

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8
Total N =	700	568	480	420	651	508	444	388
Percentage of ER use*	41%	32%	36%	33%	31%	30%	25%	30%
Mean Number of ER Visits **	.91	.59	.78	.57	.55	.52	.45	.55

* Percentage of people who used ER at least once in the last six months.

** Mean number of ER visits for the whole cohort.

Figure 3. Mean Number of ER Visits in the Last Six Months

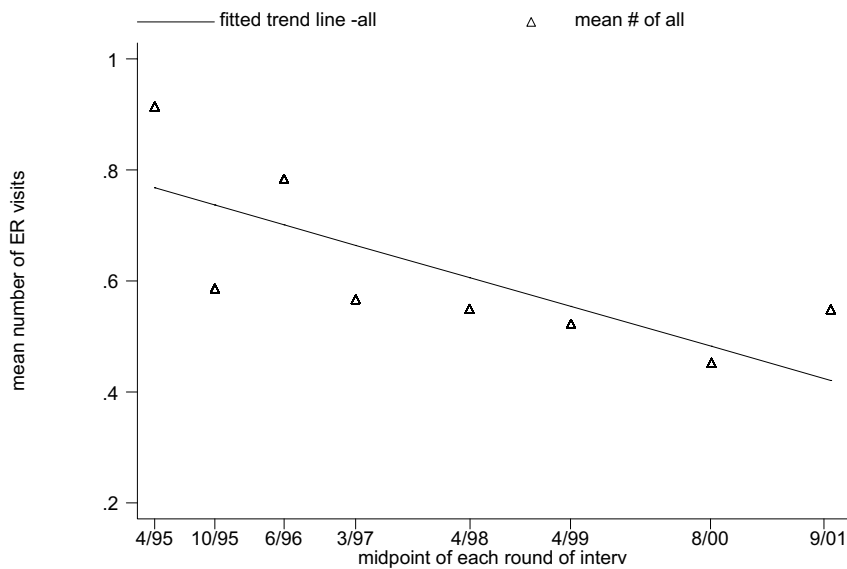


Figure 4. Mean Number of ER Visits by Pattern of Medical Provider

