

Women's Health: OB/GYN Trends Report™

A Vimo Research Group™ Report

Expert, independent and objective health care industry analysis

Vimo Research Group
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Introduction

The combined practice or field of obstetrics and gynecology, or OB/GYN, is one of the most sought after forms of health care in the United States. According to the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, pregnancy- and childbirth-related procedures are among the most commonly performed in U.S. hospitals, and one of the most common non-pregnancy-related procedures performed nationwide (hysterectomy) is also only performed on women. (1)

In the last century, women's rights organizations were critical of the fact that more men than women served as as obstetrician-gynecologists (also known as "OB/GYNs"), and demand for women specialists has been on the rise (2). This report presents the latest data showing shifting trends in the gender make-up of OB/GYN specialists, and the wide disparities in prices for diagnosis-related groups in different areas of the country.

While there are currently more male than female OB/GYNs, the gender make-up of the profession is dramatically changing. If graduation trends continue, the gender make-up will likely reverse itself within 20 years.

Key Findings

- While there are currently more male than female OB/GYNs, the gender make-up of the profession is dramatically changing. If graduation trends continue, the gender make-up will likely reverse itself within 20 years.
- Average prices for OB/GYN diagnosis-related groups (a system to classify hospital cases into one of approximately 500 groups, also referred to as DRGs) can vary by 2,200 percent, depending upon zip codes.
- Most OB/GYNs are concentrated along the East Coast, and in Texas and California. There are more OB/GYNs in Houston, TX and New York, NY than other cities in the U.S.

Table One: Top 100 cities for OB/GYNs

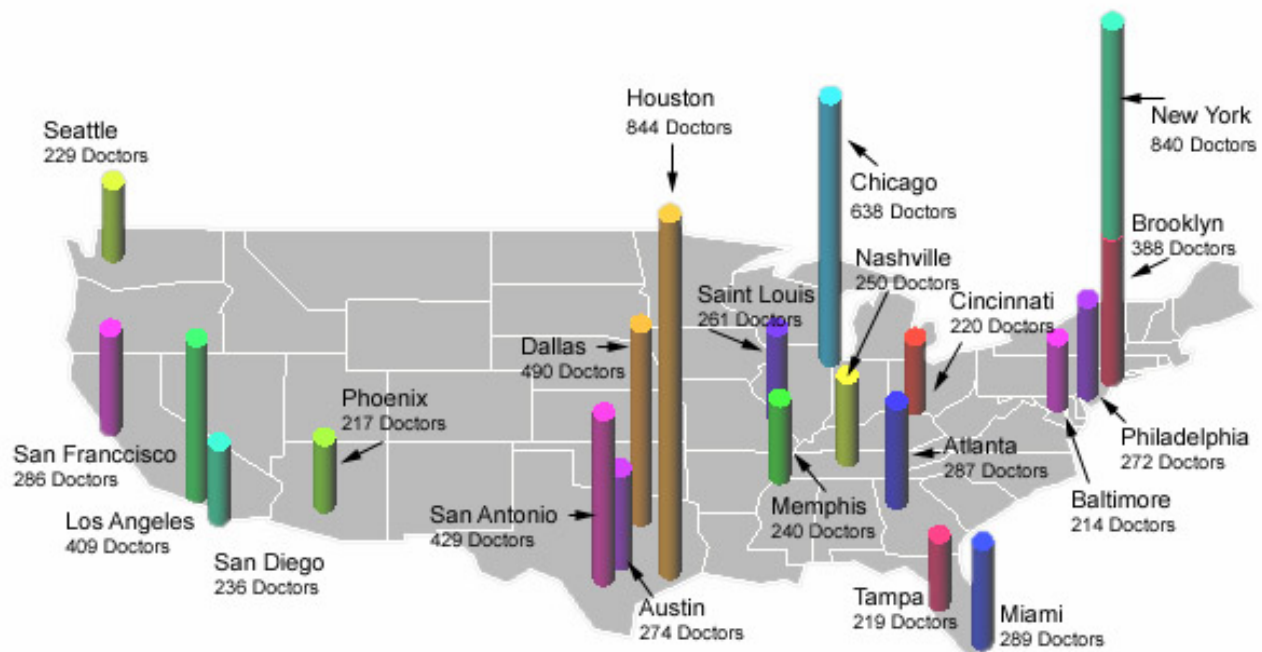
CITY	Number of Doctors	CITY	Number of Doctors
Houston, TX	844	Chattanooga, TN	120
New York, NY	840	Fresno, CA	117
Chicago, IL	638	Plano, TX	115
Dallas, TX	490	Lubbock, TX	113
San Antonio, TX	429	Honolulu, HI	112
Brooklyn, NY	388	Oklahoma City, OK	108
Los Angeles, CA	409	Bakersfield, CA	106
Miami, FL	289	Baton Rouge, LA	104
Atlanta, GA	287	Omaha, NE	104
San Francisco, CA	286	Staten Island, NY	104
Austin, TX	274	Long Beach, CA	103
Philadelphia, PA	272	Grand Rapids, MI	101
Saint Louis, MO	261	Buffalo, NY	99
Nashville, TN	250	Beverly Hills, CA	97
Memphis, TN	240	Norfolk, VA	96
San Diego, CA	236	Charleston, SC	95
Seattle, WA	229	Detroit, MI	95
Cincinnati, OH	220	Fort Myers, FL	94
Tampa, FL	219	Boca Raton, FL	93
Phoenix, AZ	217	Tulsa, OK	93
Baltimore, MD	214	Dayton, OH	92
Richmond, VA	207	Corpus Christi, TX	90
Washington, DC	204	Arlington, TX	89
Jacksonville, FL	202	Fairfax, VA	89
Fort Worth, TX	199	Santa Monica, CA	89
Milwaukee, WI	198	Mobile, AL	88
Denver, CO	197	Gainesville, FL	86
Pittsburgh, PA	195	Colorado Springs, CO	85
Orlando, FL	179	Virginia Beach, VA	84
Indianapolis, IN	178	Raleigh, NC	83
Portland, OR	171	Syracuse, NY	83
Sacramento, CA	166	Alexandria, VA	82
Birmingham, AL	160	Torrance, CA	82
Columbus, OH	159	Roanoke, VA	80
San Jose, CA	159	West Palm Beach, FL	80
Rochester, NY	155	Toledo, OH	79
El Paso, TX	153	Tacoma, WA	78
Knoxville, TN	153	Albuquerque, NM	77
Las Vegas, NV	153	Kansas City, MO	77
Boston, MA	151	Orange, CA	77
Tucson, AZ	148	Spartanburg, SC	77
Charlotte, NC	144	Augusta, GA	76
New Orleans, LA	141	Flushing, NY	76
Greenville, SC	140	Spokane, WA	75
Louisville, KY	134	Akron, OH	74
Providence, RI	133	Lexington, KY	74
Cleveland, OH	132	Pensacola, FL	74
Columbia, SC	132	Reno, NV	73
Bronx, NY	124	Madison, WI	72
Minneapolis, MN	121	Metairie, LA	72

Source: Vimo.com's database of all physicians in the United States.

Top Cities and Regions

According to Vimo's database of all physicians in the United States, Houston, TX and New York, NY top the nation for total number of OB/GYNs. Among regions, more OB/GYNs are concentrated along the East Coast, and in Texas and California. (See Appendix 2.)

Figure 1:



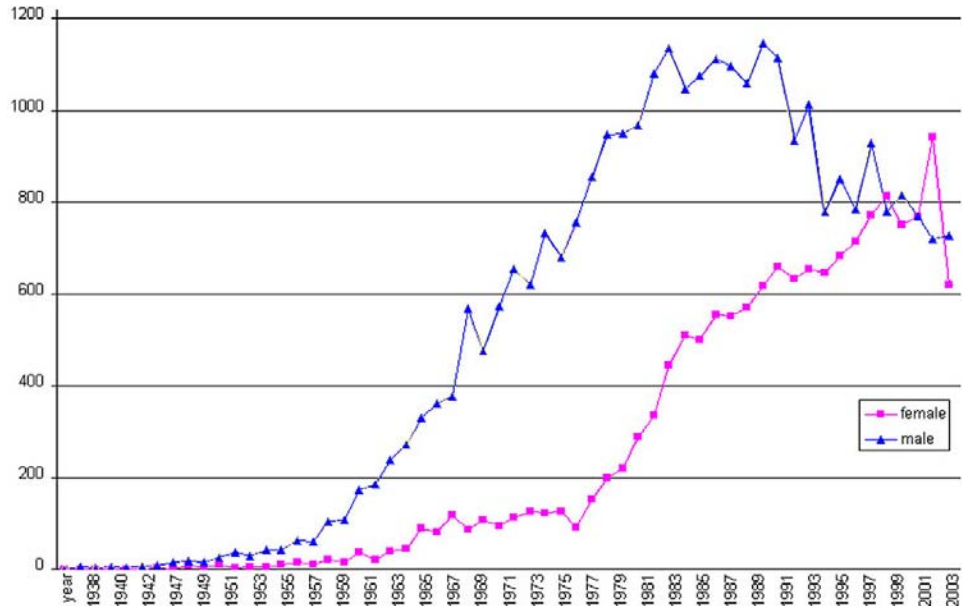
Since 1990, the number of graduating male OB/GYNs has decreased while the number of graduating female OB/GYNs increased. This comparison is based upon graduation dates and genders of OB/GYNs in Vimo's database ...

OB/GYN Trends: Women Continue Gaining on Men

Currently, there are twice as many male OB/GYNs as female OB/GYNs in the nation: 35,166 active male doctors and 17,355 female doctors. Since 1990, however, the number of graduating male OB/GYNs has decreased while the number of graduating female OB/GYNs increased (see figure 2 below).

This comparison is based upon graduation dates and genders of OB/GYNs in Vimo's database of all U.S. physicians. The data used for the comparison does not include 3,395 doctors who did not specify their graduating year and 354 doctors who did not specify their gender.

Figure 2: Number of Male and Female OB/GYN Graduates by Year



Source: Vimo Research Group
Data does not include 3,395 doctors who did not specify their graduating year and 354 doctors who did not specify their gender.

DRG Prices Vary Widely by Zip Code

... The price of this DRG varies by as much as 2,200 percent by zip code.

Vimo Research Group took two of the most common OB/GYN diagnosis-related groups (a system to classify hospital cases into one of approximately 500 groups, also referred to as “DRGs” (3)) and compared the average price in zip codes around the country. DRG 358 - Uterine & adnexa Procedure for non-malignancy CC – is, according to Vimo’s data, the most expensive procedure in Obstetrics/Gynecology specialties. The average national cost of DRG 358 is \$18,166. DRG 358 also ranks #32 in the “Top 100 DRG by number of discharges,” with 179,374 discharges nationwide in 2004. However, the price of this DRG varies by as much as 2,200 percent between different locations or zip codes..

Table Two: Least Expensive and Most Expensive Zip Codes for 'DRG 358'

20 least expensive areas			20 most expensive areas		
Cost	Zip	City	Cost	Zip	City
\$4,123	21801	Salisbury, MD	\$91,637	95352	Modesto, CA
\$4,841	21740	Hagerstown, MD	\$87,410	95030	Los Gatos, CA
\$5,077	21701	Frederick, MD	\$83,023	91356	Tarzana, CA
\$5,097	21061	Glen Burnie, MD	\$83,633	19140	Philadelphia, PA
\$5,226	72401	Jonesboro, AR	\$81,313	35209	Birmingham, AL
\$5,318	21229	Baltimore, MD	\$75,670	95816	Sacramento, CA
\$6,103	16346	Seneca, PA	\$68,149	33511	Brandon, FL
\$6,350	20910	Silver spring, MD	\$64,765	19107	Philadelphia, PA
\$6,508	65301	Sedalia, MO	\$63,169	10021	New York, NY
\$6,735	14626	Rochester, NY	\$57,344	94598	Walnut creek, CA
\$6,804	20850	Rockville, MD	\$52,832	91328	Northridge, CA
\$6,905	44710	Canton, OH	\$50,598	07039	Livingston, NJ
\$6,949	01970	Salem, MA	\$50,435	08104	Camden, NJ
\$7,210	13903	Binghamton, NY	\$47,472	90048	Los Angeles, CA
\$7,251	21204	Towson, MD	\$46,708	92868	Orange, CA
\$7,416	20706	Lanham, MD	\$46,094	64132	Kansas city, MO
\$7,748	21204	Baltimore, MD	\$45,994	33837	Davenport, FL
\$7,841	40476	Richmond, KY	\$45,917	92354	Loma Linda, CA
\$7,875	58501	Bismarck, ND	\$45,214	19001	Abington, PA
\$7,967	21225	Baltimore, MD	\$45,114	19104	Philadelphia, PA

Source: Vimo Research Group

Table Three: Least Expensive and Most Expensive Zip Codes for 'DRG 359'

20 least expensive areas			20 most expensive areas		
Cost	Zip	City	Cost	Zip	City
\$2,912	95825	Sacramento, CA	\$75,752	95352	Modesto, CA
\$3,206	20706	Lanham, MD	\$51,278	95816	Sacramento, CA
\$3,746	21801	Salisbury, MD	\$51,196	92262	Palm springs, CA
\$4,048	26062	Weirton, WV	\$48,569	96001	Redding, CA
\$4,158	21740	Hagerstown, MD	\$47,832	95817	Sacramento, CA
\$4,180	21502	Cumberland, MD	\$47,118	91754	Monterey park, CA
\$4,196	17837	Lewisburg, PA	\$43,211	95030	Los gatos, CA
\$4,238	21701	Frederick, MD	\$42,543	91356	Tarzana, CA
\$4,300	21157	Westminster, MD	\$38,697	19046	Meadowbrook, PA
\$4,377	44622	Dover, OH	\$38,543	94609	Oakland, CA
\$4,437	44710	Canton, OH	\$37,920	91328	Northridge, CA
\$4,484	12304	Schenectady, NY	\$37,808	19013	Upland, PA
\$4,550	72401	Jonesboro, AR	\$37,528	94598	Walnut creek, CA
\$4,694	21225	Baltimore, MD	\$36,848	94705	Berkeley, CA
\$4,697	37745	Greenville, TN	\$36,740	90048	Los Angeles, CA
\$4,720	20850	Rockville, MD	\$35,812	07002	Bayonne, NJ
\$4,781	18235	Lehighton, PA	\$34,565	19107	Philadelphia, PA
\$5,055	21204	Baltimore, MD	\$33,351	89030	North Las Vegas, NV
\$5,065	14830	Corning hospital, NY	\$32,976	33016	Hialeah, FL
\$5,116	14626	Rochester, NY	\$32,513	19104	Philadelphia, PA

Source: Vimo Research Group

References

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2. Lewin, Tamar. Women's Health Is No Longer a Man's World. *New York Times*, February 7, 2001.
<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E00E4DD1631F934A35751C0A9679C8B63&sec=health&spon=&pagewanted=1>
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Appendix 1

Top 100 DRGs by Aggregate Charges for Female Patients

Aggregate charges, or the "national bill," is the sum of all charges for all hospital stays in the U.S.

Rank	Diagnosis Related Group and name	Total number of discharges	Aggregate charges, \$ (the "national bill")	Average cost per discharge
1	209 Major joint & limb reattachment procedures of lower extremity	503,480	\$17,427,306,129	\$34,614
2	373 Vaginal delivery w/o complicating diagnoses	2,454,511	\$16,481,786,773	\$6,715
3	371 Cesarean section w/o CC	956,344	\$12,014,722,215	\$12,563
4	127 Heart failure & shock	551,504	\$10,235,301,933	\$18,559
5	483 Tracheotomy w mech vent 96+ hrs or pdx except face,mouth & neck diag (after Oct 1, 2002)	33,309	\$8,547,177,471	\$256,605
6	430 Psychoses	590,267	\$8,540,204,329	\$14,468
7	148 Major small & large bowel procedures w CC	149,678	\$8,439,484,488	\$56,384
8	89 Simple pneumonia & pleurisy age >17 w CC	440,547	\$7,982,069,115	\$18,119
9	462 Rehabilitation	288,470	\$7,022,952,368	\$24,346
10	475 Respiratory system diagnosis with ventilator support	104,184	\$6,810,948,587	\$65,374
11	416 Septicemia age >17	213,821	\$6,640,380,790	\$31,056
12	359 Uterine & adnexa proc for non-malignancy w/o CC	458,701	\$6,390,410,276	\$13,932
13	527 Percutaneous cardiovascular proc w drug-eluting stent w/o ami	139,285	\$5,928,601,511	\$42,565
14	88 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	371,749	\$5,752,652,548	\$15,475
15	182 Esophagitis, gastroent & misc digest disorders age >17 w CC	389,845	\$5,556,028,504	\$14,252
16	386 Extreme immaturity or respiratory distress syndrome, neonate	40,261	\$5,502,172,268	\$136,663
17	370 Cesarean section w CC	311,962	\$5,015,950,210	\$16,079
18	14 Intracranial hemorrhage & stroke w infarct (after Oct 1, 2002)	223,691	\$5,003,534,782	\$22,368
19	174 G.I. hemorrhage w CC	225,316	\$3,999,582,000	\$17,751
20	143 Chest pain	398,235	\$3,989,097,648	\$10,017
21	210 Hip & femur procedures except major joint age >17 w CC	122,972	\$3,949,250,578	\$32,115
22	107 Coronary bypass w cardiac cath (after Oct 1, 1998)	40,437	\$3,920,587,043	\$96,956
23	478 Other vascular procedures w CC	82,834	\$3,728,844,157	\$45,016

24	320	Kidney & urinary tract infections age >17 w CC	245,999	\$3,624,584,196	\$14,734
25	296	Nutritional & misc metabolic disorders age >17 w CC	246,628	\$3,577,036,831	\$14,504
26	316	Renal failure	153,894	\$3,480,731,517	\$22,618
27	415	O.R. procedure for infectious & parasitic diseases	56,041	\$3,443,749,737	\$61,451
28	468	Extensive O.R. procedure unrelated to principal diagnosis	55,265	\$3,344,569,162	\$60,518
29	288	O.R. procedures for obesity	107,225	\$3,300,028,951	\$30,777
30	116	Other permanent cardiac pacemaker implant (after Oct 1, 1997)	76,756	\$3,294,863,424	\$42,927
31	121	Circulatory disorders w AMI & major comp, discharged alive	117,528	\$3,281,485,491	\$27,921
32	358	Uterine & adnexa proc for non-malignancy w CC	179,374	\$3,258,628,493	\$18,167
33	391	Normal newborn	1,591,468	\$3,141,128,889	\$1,974
34	372	Vaginal delivery w complicating diagnoses	354,350	\$3,048,079,662	\$8,602
35	79	Respiratory infections & inflammations age >17 w CC	108,364	\$3,024,204,275	\$27,908
36	124	Circulatory disorders except AMI, w card cath & complex diag	106,400	\$2,809,280,086	\$26,403
37	526	Percutaneous cardiovascular proc w drug-eluting stent w ami	51,108	\$2,714,434,168	\$53,112
38	497	Spinal fusion except cervical w cc (after Oct 1, 2001)	40,640	\$2,704,688,539	\$66,552
39	138	Cardiac arrhythmia & conduction disorders w CC	180,143	\$2,692,925,586	\$14,949
40	493	Laparoscopic cholecystectomy w/o C.D.E. w CC	94,439	\$2,646,698,890	\$28,025
41	105	Cardiac valve & other major cardiothoracic proc w/o cardiac cath	25,358	\$2,615,564,824	\$103,145
42	110	Major cardiovascular procedures w CC	35,050	\$2,601,690,373	\$74,229
43	75	Major chest procedures	48,822	\$2,529,222,847	\$51,805
44	125	Circulatory disorders except AMI, w card cath w/o complex diag	122,923	\$2,389,996,629	\$19,443
45	144	Other circulatory system diagnoses w CC	98,188	\$2,378,782,405	\$24,227
46	498	Spinal fusion except cervical w/o cc (after Oct 1, 2001)	44,262	\$2,363,756,046	\$53,404
47	395	Red blood cell disorders age >17	153,158	\$2,235,253,915	\$14,594
48	104	Cardiac valve & other major cardiothoracic proc w cardiac cath	14,518	\$2,193,656,855	\$151,094
49	183	Esophagitis, gastroent & misc digest disorders age >17 w/o CC	227,025	\$2,193,337,688	\$9,661
50	204	Disorders of pancreas except malignancy	116,945	\$2,165,607,749	\$18,518
51	76	Other resp system O.R. procedures w CC	40,926	\$2,111,699,340	\$51,598
52	494	Laparoscopic cholecystectomy w/o C.D.E. w/o CC	115,639	\$2,060,131,793	\$17,815
53	188	Other digestive system diagnoses age >17 w CC	106,304	\$2,053,920,539	\$19,321

54	1	Craniotomy age >17 w cc (after Oct 1, 2002)	30,531	\$2,039,243,795	\$66,793
55	383	Other antepartum diagnoses w medical complications	230,642	\$1,957,953,968	\$8,489
56	109	Coronary bypass w/o ptca or cardiac cath (after Oct 1, 1999)	27,046	\$1,931,572,969	\$71,419
57	154	Stomach, esophageal & duodenal procedures age >17 w CC	29,715	\$1,920,754,474	\$64,639
58	387	Prematurity w major problems	37,222	\$1,901,663,708	\$51,089
59	277	Cellulitis age >17 w CC	121,965	\$1,864,670,031	\$15,289
60	243	Medical back problems	139,053	\$1,784,111,817	\$12,830
61	541	Trach w mv 96+ hrs or pdx exc face, mouth & neck diag w maj o.r.	6,049	\$1,782,326,383	\$294,668
62	87	Pulmonary edema & respiratory failure	71,836	\$1,691,724,870	\$23,550
63	294	Diabetes age >35	117,113	\$1,608,160,573	\$13,732
64	82	Respiratory neoplasms	65,385	\$1,546,196,247	\$23,648
65	180	G.I. obstruction w CC	89,307	\$1,517,248,779	\$16,989
66	524	Transient ischemia	110,985	\$1,472,394,779	\$13,267
67	141	Syncope & collapse w CC	107,353	\$1,469,878,956	\$13,692
68	496	Combined anterior/posterior spinal fusion	16,393	\$1,455,639,920	\$88,797
69	520	Cervical spinal fusion w/o cc	48,917	\$1,431,506,133	\$29,264
70	130	Peripheral vascular disorders w CC	82,122	\$1,413,906,090	\$17,217
71	374	Vaginal delivery w sterilization &/or D&C	127,563	\$1,376,857,514	\$10,794
72	150	Peritoneal adhesiolysis w CC	31,803	\$1,358,624,729	\$42,720
73	24	Seizure & headache age >17 w CC	83,032	\$1,337,305,527	\$16,106
74	389	Full term neonate w major problems	76,935	\$1,307,575,575	\$16,996
75	388	Prematurity w/o major problems	104,541	\$1,283,445,772	\$12,277
76	385	Neonates, died or transferred to another acute care facility	39,271	\$1,261,916,380	\$32,134
77	113	Amputation for circ system disorders except upper limb & toe	22,446	\$1,254,057,732	\$55,870
78	120	Other circulatory system O.R. procedures	27,674	\$1,252,474,047	\$45,259
79	218	Lower extrem & humer proc except hip, foot, femur age >17 w CC	41,371	\$1,248,841,275	\$30,187
80	219	Lower extrem & humer proc except hip, foot, femur age >17 w/o CC	64,020	\$1,221,987,764	\$19,088
81	78	Pulmonary embolism	59,121	\$1,218,392,350	\$20,609
82	449	Poisoning & toxic effects of drugs age >17 w CC	85,494	\$1,208,725,746	\$14,138
83	500	Back & neck procedures except spinal fusion w/o CC	73,655	\$1,200,624,778	\$16,301
84	518	Percutaneous cardioasc proc w/o coronary artery stent or ami	34,781	\$1,199,535,067	\$34,488
85	315	Other kidney & urinary tract O.R. procedures	29,567	\$1,184,890,893	\$40,074
86	108	Other cardiothoracic procedures	13,524	\$1,160,136,886	\$85,784
87	12	Degenerative nervous system disorders	66,712	\$1,154,240,617	\$17,302

88	167	Appendectomy w/o complicated principal diag w/o CC	76,208	\$1,152,141,191	\$15,118
89	217	Wnd debrid & skn grft except hand,for muscskelet & conn tiss dis	20,974	\$1,135,112,856	\$54,120
90	517	Percutaneous cardiovascular proc w non-drug eluting stent w/o ami (after Oct 1, 2002)	29,264	\$1,113,888,221	\$38,064
91	515	Cardiac defibrillator implant w/o cardiac cath	11,515	\$1,098,447,742	\$95,394
92	410	Chemotherapy w/o acute leukemia as secondary diagnosis	55,479	\$1,097,814,521	\$19,788
93	132	Atherosclerosis w CC	94,593	\$1,081,800,682	\$11,436
94	390	Neonate w other significant problems	254,808	\$1,057,827,478	\$4,151
95	471	Bilateral or multiple major joint procs of lower extremity	20,144	\$1,023,116,404	\$50,789
96	516	Percutaneous cardiovascular procedures w ami	22,055	\$1,013,634,322	\$45,959
97	96	Bronchitis & asthma age >17 w CC	74,579	\$995,265,325	\$13,345
98	122	Circulatory disorders w AMI w/o major comp, discharged alive	55,944	\$982,858,187	\$17,569
99	170	Other digestive system O.R. procedures w CC	20,014	\$978,647,384	\$48,899
100	149	Major small & large bowel procedures w/o CC	38,322	\$971,274,285	\$25,345

Source: AHRQ – Department of Human Health Services

Appendix 2

Number of active Obstetrics/Gynecology doctors in each State, ordered by states with most doctors

Number of Doctors	STATE
6,147	California
5,099	Texas
4,066	New York
3,618	Florida
2,067	Illinois
1,897	Pennsylvania
1,877	Ohio
1,627	New Jersey
1,591	Virginia
1,559	Georgia
1,489	Michigan
1,157	North Carolina
1,145	Tennessee
1,108	Washington
1,047	Massachusetts
1,038	Maryland
970	South Carolina
831	Louisiana
822	Wisconsin
809	Missouri
801	Indiana
728	Arizona
707	Colorado
665	Alabama
542	Kentucky
530	Connecticut
479	Oregon
454	Minnesota
424	Utah
371	Oklahoma
367	Mississippi
363	West Virginia
291	Arkansas
286	Nevada
282	Kansas
282	Rhode Island
244	Iowa
205	Hawaii
204	D. of Columbia

197	New Hampshire
196	Nebraska
178	New Mexico
155	Maine
143	Vermont
140	Idaho
132	Montana
124	Delaware
120	South Dakota
103	Wyoming
81	Alaska
57	North Dakota

Source: Vimo Research Group

About Vimo

Vimo is the nation's first integrated comparison-shopping portal for health care products and services. On January 24, 2006 we launched a website that allows businesses and consumers to research, rate and purchase health insurance plans and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), and choose doctors from across the country. Vimo brings together a variety of private and public data sources so that shoppers can find a physician and compare hospital prices for medical procedures. Vimo users can read and post reviews about any of the services or products available.