

Is there equity in waiting time to see a specialist?

Results from South-western Ontario

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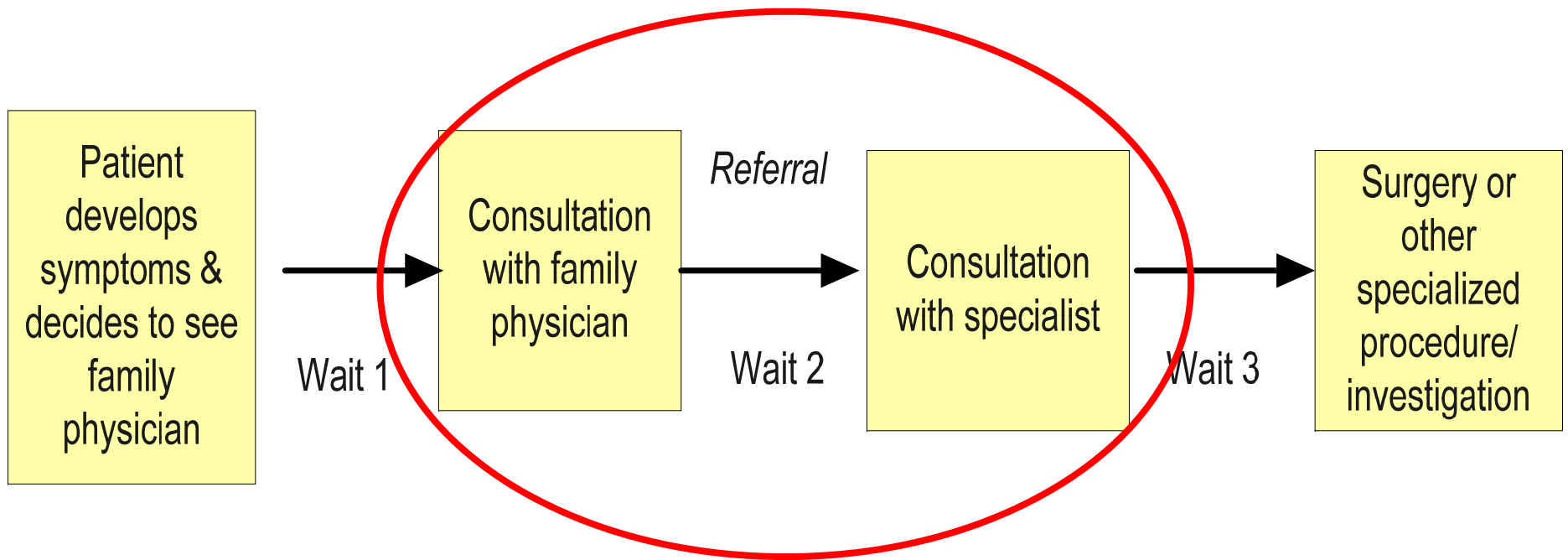
Amanda Terry, PhD

The DELPHI Project

- 10 practice sites
- 25 family physicians
- Inception in October 2005
- Till date:
 - 33,544 patients
 - 305,824 encounters



MODEL OF WAITING TIMES



Adding Consultation for Flintstone, Fred

Appt Date Time : Status **Ordered**

Requester All Doctors Delay 0 days

Provider Filter By Service Initially

Reason

Request

Notes

Attention Staff

Attachment

Diagnosis

Report Due

Report

Status **Pending** Image

Notes

Patient Chart #

Priority

Regular Priority

Urgent Critical

Copies

Requester Family Doctor

Created | Updated | Approved | **Enter Link**

User HEALTH Date **06-Jul-2005**

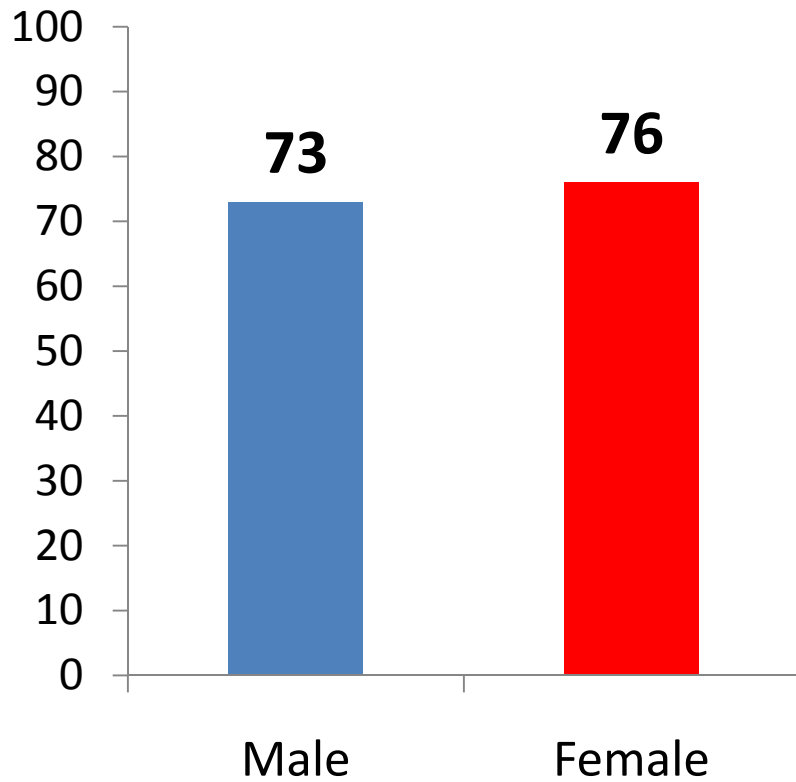
Consult # 61534 Time 11:43:34

Results

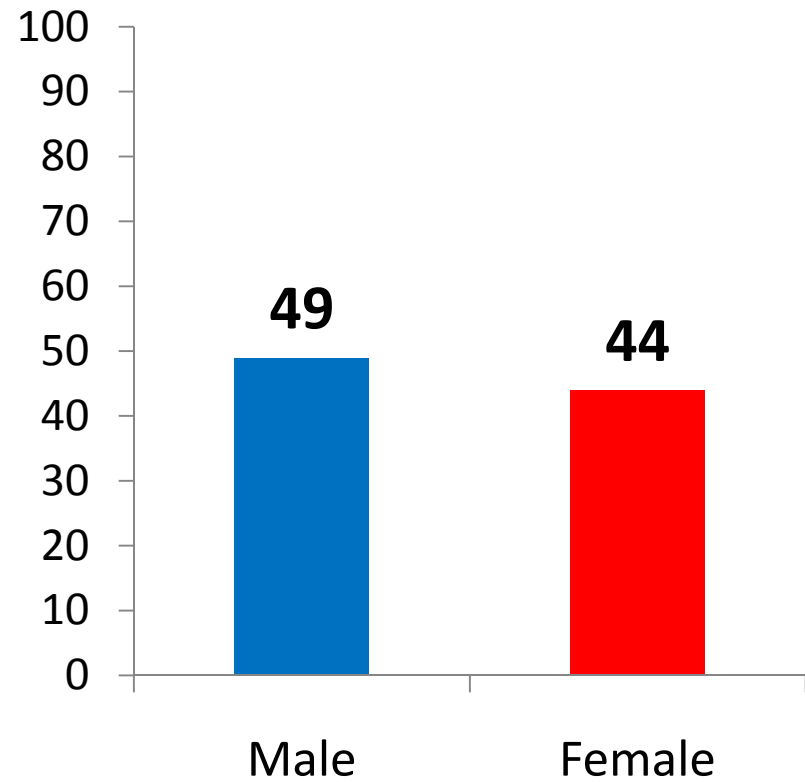
- Data cleaning:
 - removing (1) duplicates; (2) specialties with <100 referrals; (3) missing or incorrectly entered dates.
- Final sample:
 - 10,335 patients
 - Mean age: 54 years
 - 16,115 referrals
 - Mean # referrals per patient = 1.6
 - Mean # referrals per practice = 1,560
 - Mean wait = 74 days (median = 47 days)

Waiting Time by Gender

Mean

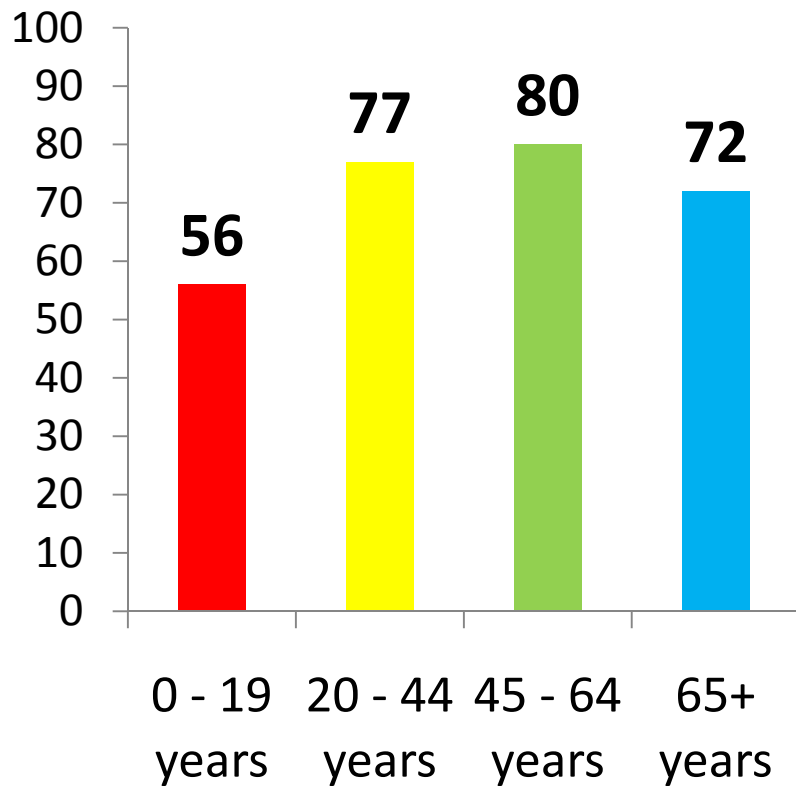


Median

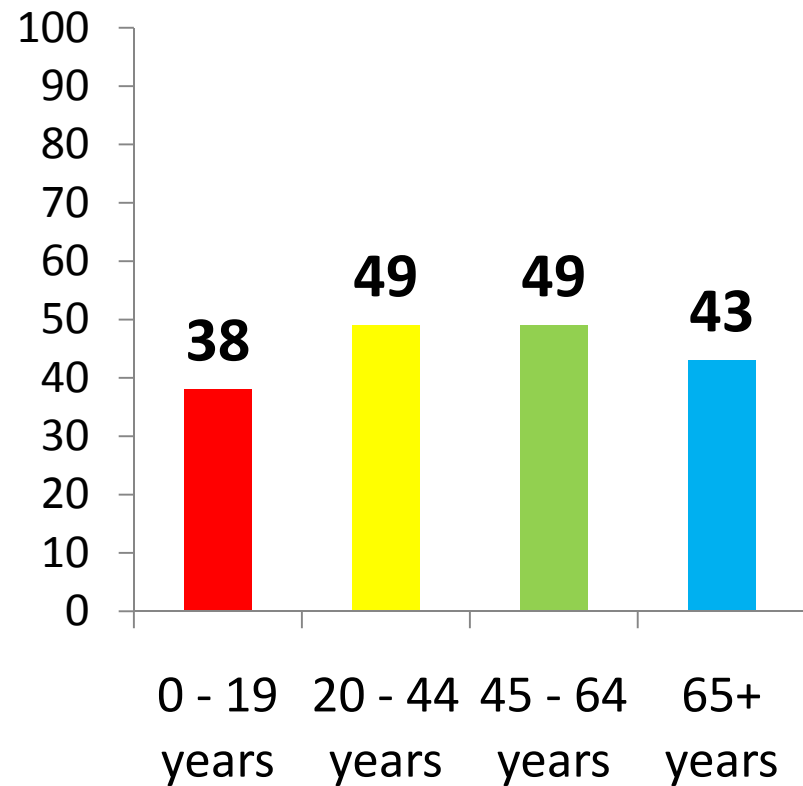


Waiting Time by Age Groups

Mean

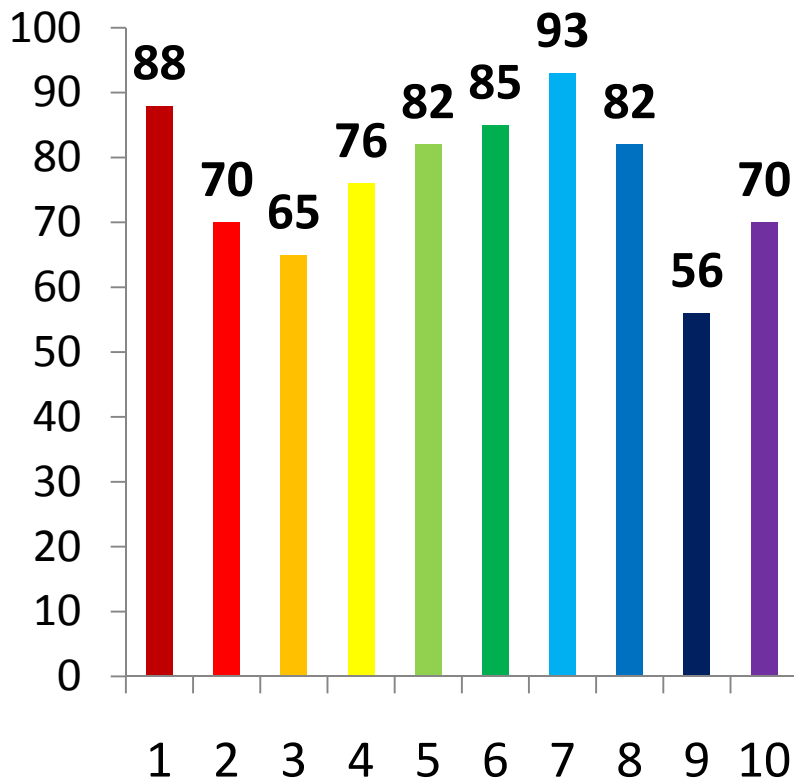


Median



Waiting Time by Practice

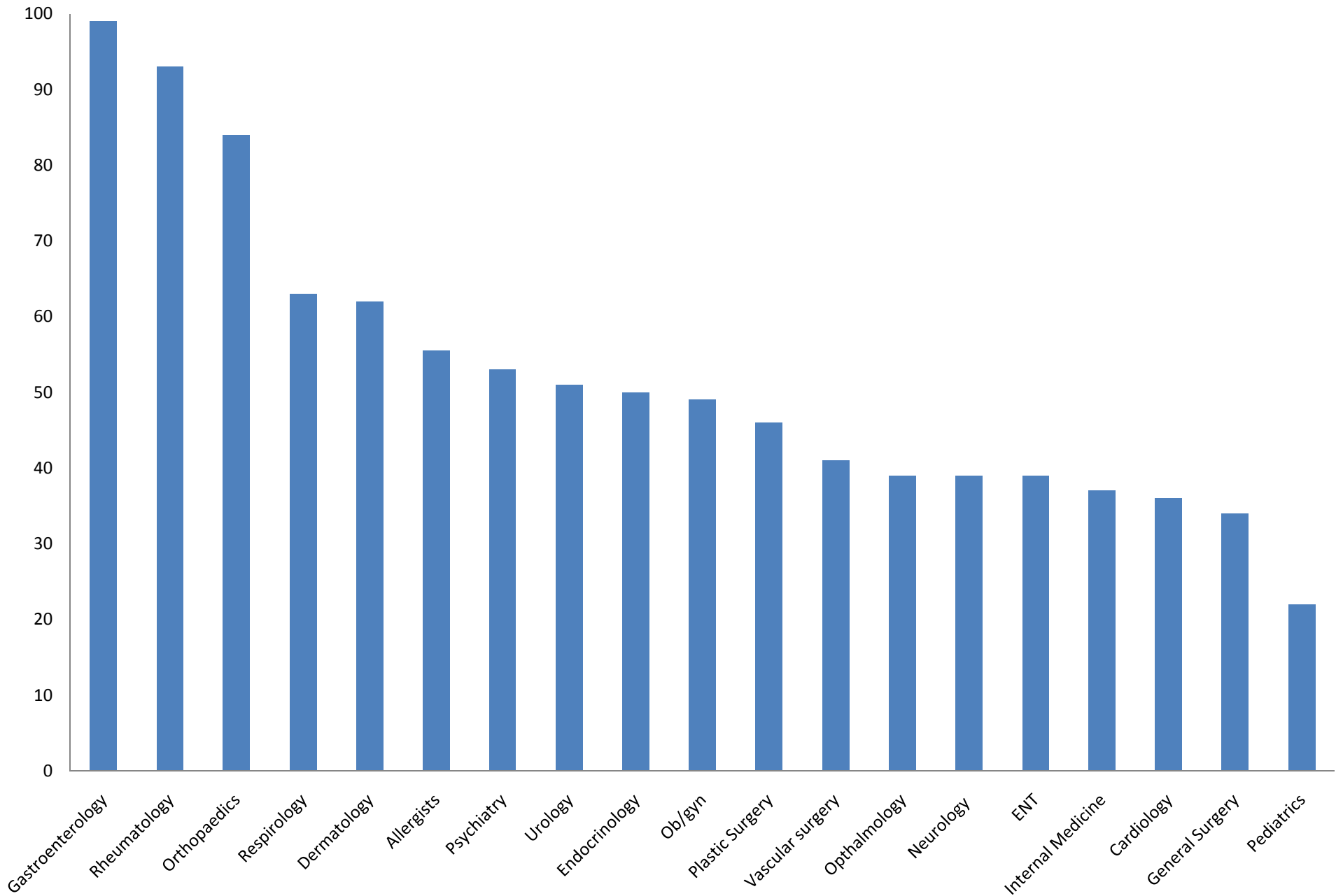
Mean



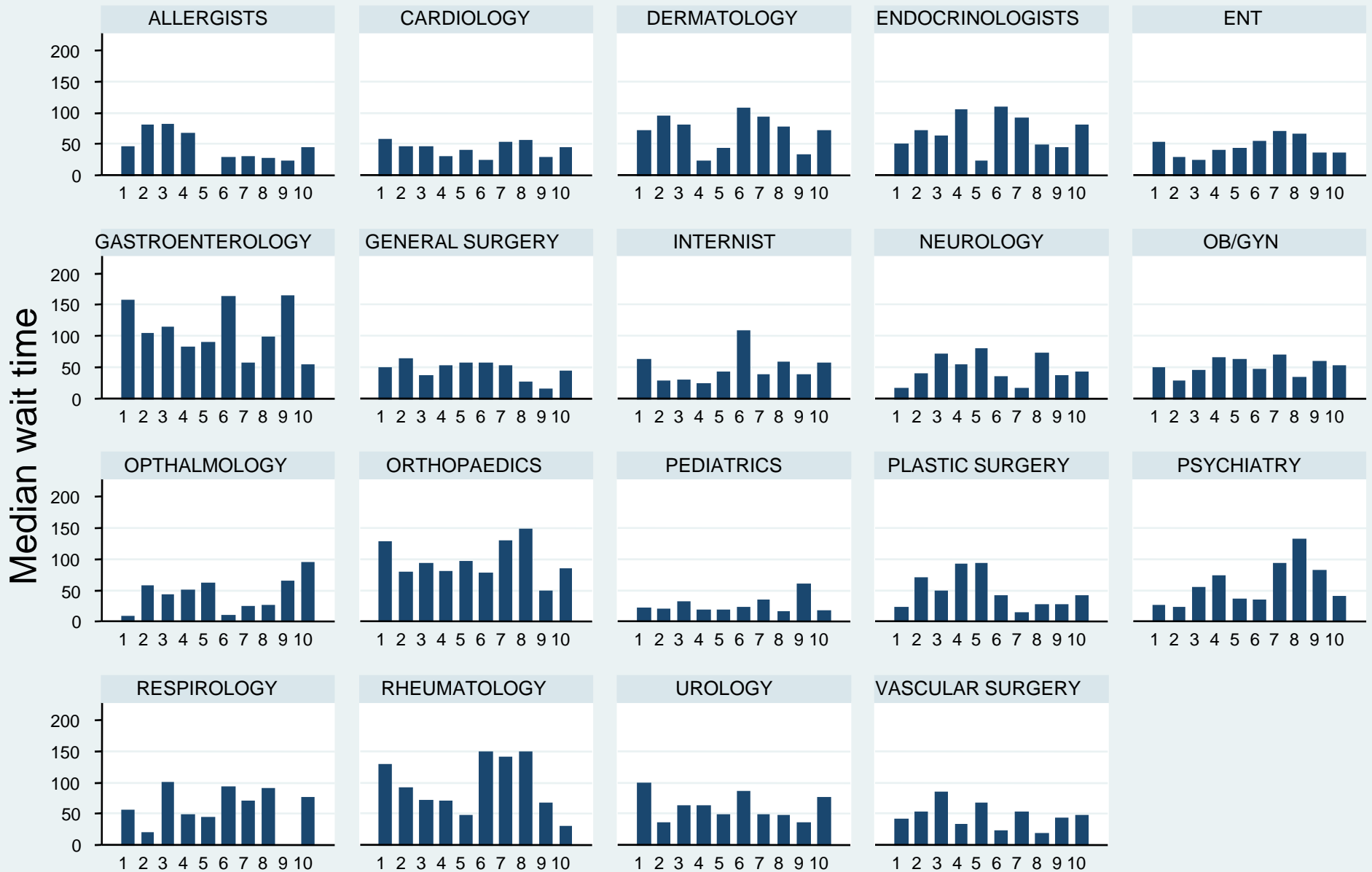
Median



Median Waiting Time by Specialty



Median wait times by specialty and practice



Practice ID is labelled 1 to 10 on X-axis

Assessing equity

- Linked to Census data using Forward Sortation Area (FSA)
- Test if FSA level income is correlated to waiting time
 - Multilevel regression - 3 levels
 - Practice, patient, referral
 - Age & sex as (crude) risk adjusters
 - Control for specialty referred to

Conclusions

- Mean wait in sample = 74 days (median = 47)
- Variations by practice, specialty
- Waits appear equitable

- Future directions:
 - Better risk adjusters
 - Data quality challenge
 - Has wait time changed over time?
 - Link to administrative data for complete wait

Thank you!

Data Quality by Practice

