

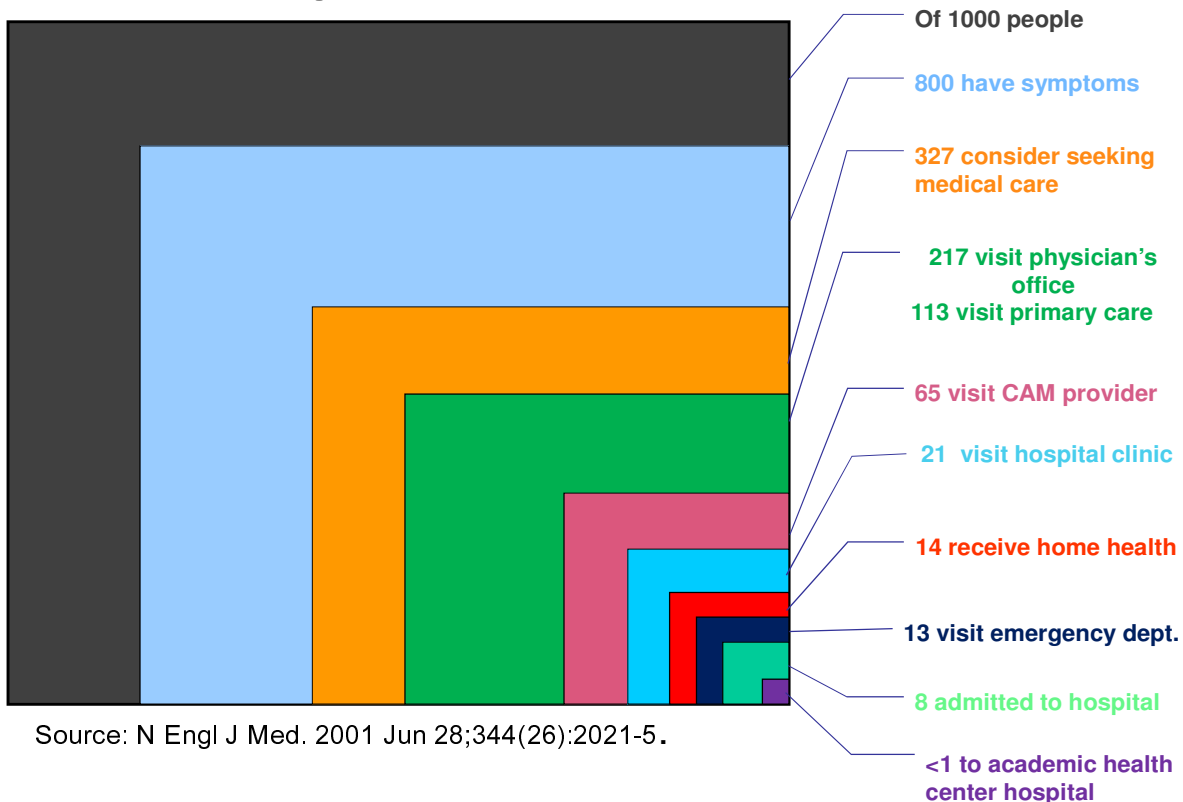
## The Ecology of Health Care

First demonstrated by Kerr White in the classic ecology of medical care study published in 1961, and updated by the Robert Graham Center in 2000, physician's offices remain the largest platform of formal health care in the United States.

In a typical month in the U.S. in 2000, of every 1000 individuals: 800 reported symptoms, 327 considered seeking medical care, 217 visited a physician's office (113 of which were seen in a primary care office), 65 were seen by a complementary or alternative care provider, 21 visited a hospital outpatient clinic, 14 received home health care, 13 visited an emergency department, 8 were hospitalized, and less than one was seen in an academic health center.

The continued focus of education and research on hospitals and the problems seen within them persists and invites policy revisions that better balance education, research funding, and service toward the needs of the entire population.

### In an average month:



Source: N Engl J Med. 2001 Jun 28;344(26):2021-5.