

DETAILING

According to research from Health
Strategies Group, "[t]he average
primary care physician interacts with
28 sales representatives each week;
the average specialist interacts with
14." While this represents a significant
amount of time, 2 hours and 13
minutes a week in 2004 per doctor,
this is 20% less time than in 1999,
where doctors spent 2 hours and 46
minutes a week meeting with sales reps.c

DRUG REPS PER PHYSICIAN					
Year	Physicians (P)ª	Detailers (D)b	Ratio D to P		
2000	813,869	74,865	1 to 11		
2002	853,187	93,612	1 to 9		
2003	871,535	94,407	1 to 9		
2004	884,974	101,531	1 to 9		

Online Doctors' Attitudes Hearn new information Toward Online from these programs Marketing Programs They provide a convenient way to get information They provide highly relevant information I prefer online programs to 37% on my prescribing behavior Question: Please indicate your opinion 40% Question: Please indicate your opinion about the marketing programs you used online? (Select all that apply.)
Source: MD Linx, Inc. Physicians Survey (6/05), n = 163 (online physicians participating in online detailing, US only) Percentage of Online Physicians Participating in Online Detailing Neither agree nor disagree © 2005 JupiterResearch, a division of Jupitermedia Corporation

For a variety of reasons (e.g. time, professional concerns about information quality, online learning opportunities), 22% of doctors said they see fewer sales reps than in the past.^d According to the table above, this does not appear to be due to a drop in the number of sales reps. It could be related to online detailing. Sixty-five percent of "online doctors" participated in online detailing in 2005. (See Figure 2)

Another way of looking at influence is to consider professional advertising expenditures per physician. The table at the right uses the cost of sales rep visits (excluding samples) to determine cost of all sales rep visits per physician.

COST OF SALES REP VISITS PER PHYSICIAN					
Year	Physiciansg	Sales Rep Visit Cost (\$)h	\$ per Dr.		
2000	813,869	5,137,000,000	\$6311.83		
2002	853,187	6,198,000,000	\$7264.53		
2003	871,535	6,938,000,000	\$7960.67		
2004	884,974	7,336,000,000	\$8289.51		

^a American Medical Association. Available online at: http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/12912.html.

Consumers Union of the U.S. March 2006

b Matthew Arnold. "Flexible Forces." Medical Marketing & Media. November 2005.

^c Ashley Mahoney, Rayna Herman. "2005 Access Report: The current state of pharma sales." *Pharmaceutical Representative.* July 1, 2005.

d Monique Levy, Jupiter Research. Online Marketing to Physicians: Evaluating Physicians' Responsiveness to Online Detailing. September 1, 2005.

e Defined as physicians who use the internet for work-related activities. (Jupiter Research).

f Monique Levy, Jupiter Research. September 1, 2005.

g IMS Health. Total US Professional Promotional Spend by Type, 2004. Available online at: http://www.imshealth.com/ims/portal/front/articleC/0.2777.6599 49695992 75406357.00.html.

h Matthew Arnold. November 2005.