

3 The sample

Table 3.1 shows the number of encounters contained in each year of the BEACH program since April 1999, and the size of the total 10-year database for each variable (weighted), upon which all comparisons over time described in this report are based.

Table 3.1: Annual summary of data sets, 1999-00 to 2008-09 (final weighted data)

Variable	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total 10 years
General practitioners	1,047	999	983	1,008	1,000	953	1,017	930	953	1,011	9,901
Encounters	104,856	99,307	96,973	100,987	98,877	94,386	101,993	91,805	95,898	96,688	981,770
Reasons for encounter	155,690	149,962	144,654	152,352	144,674	141,215	153,309	138,434	146,696	151,282	1,478,268
Problems managed	153,857	143,528	139,092	146,336	148,521	137,330	149,088	136,333	145,078	149,462	1,448,625
Medications	115,432	107,400	101,350	104,813	103,210	95,816	106,493	93,193	98,439	102,737	1,028,883
Other treatments	48,194	49,072	51,130	53,676	52,315	53,630	47,847	44,035	49,130	49,048	498,077
Referrals	11,760	10,366	7,761	12,265	11,794	10,881	12,235	12,195	12,008	13,251	114,516
Imaging	7,841	8,227	7,642	8,678	8,121	7,840	9,003	8,229	9,143	9,469	84,193
Pathology	27,613	29,225	30,086	33,234	34,831	34,652	39,357	38,963	41,375	44,066	353,402