3 The sample

Table 3.1 shows the number of encounters contained in each year of the BEACH program since it began in April 1998, 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, 1998–99 to 2007–08 (final weighted data)

Variable	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	Total all years
General practitioners	984	1,047	999	983	1,008	1,000	953	1,017	930	953	9,874
Encounters	96,901	104,856	99,307	96,973	100,987	98,877	94,386	101,993	91,805	95,898	981,983
Reasons for encounter	141,766	155,690	149,962	144,654	152,352	144,674	141,215	153,309	138,434	146,696	1,468,752
Problems managed	140,824	153,857	143,528	139,092	146,336	148,521	137,330	149,088	136,333	145,078	1,439,987
Medications	106,320	115,432	107,400	101,350	104,813	103,210	95,816	106,493	93,193	98,439	1,032,466
Other treatments	41,839	48,194	49,072	51,130	53,676	52,315	53,630	47,847	44,035	49,130	490,838
Referrals	10,866	11,760	10,366	7,761	12,265	11,794	10,881	12,235	12,195	12,008	112,131
Imaging	6,844	7,841	8,227	7,642	8,678	8,121	7,840	9,003	8,229	9,143	81,568
Pathology	23,872	27,613	29,225	30,086	33,234	34,831	34,652	39,357	38,963	41,375	333,208