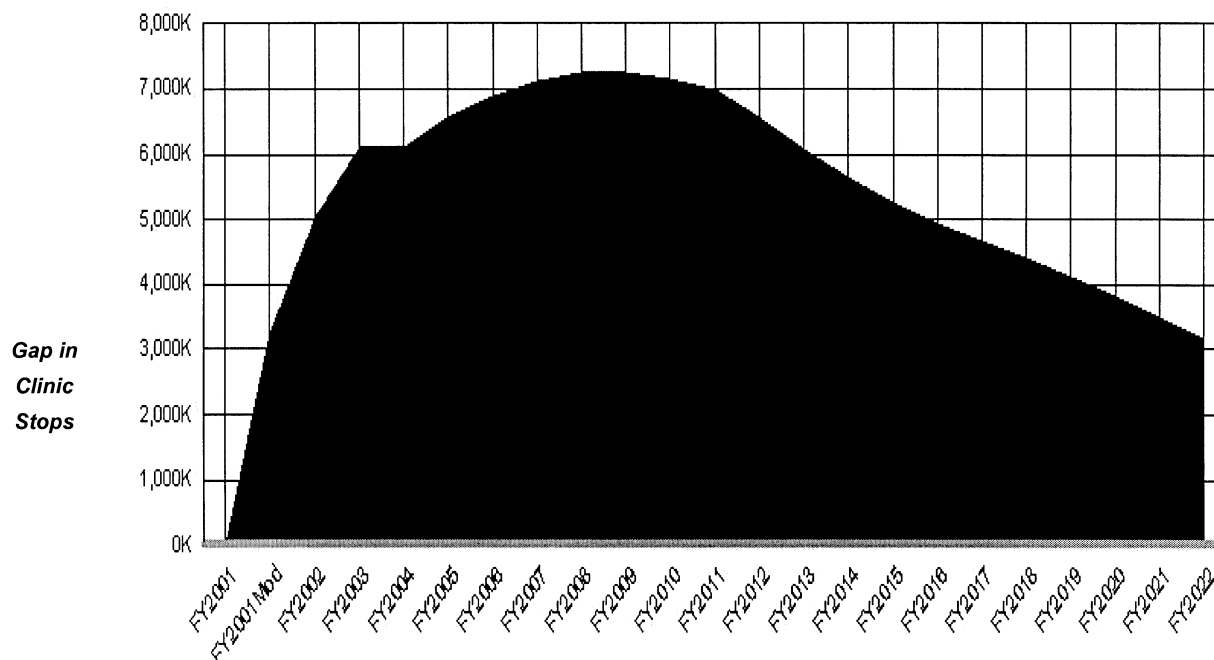


Figure 5.3 Projected Gaps in Primary Care Clinic Stops by Fiscal Year**Specialty Care**

Projected national workload gaps, measured in outpatient specialty care clinic stops, are shown in the graph below (Figure 5.4). Again, the most significant gap is projected between FY

2001 and the first year of forecasted demand. This forecasted, initial gap is even more pronounced for specialty care (an indication which validates VHA's current focus on reducing waiting times for such sub-specialty services as cardiology, ophthalmology,

orthopedics and urology). The projected gap in specialty care workload continues to grow in future years until the anticipated decline in enrollment levels becomes a significant factor in FY 2010.

Figure 5.4 Projected Gaps in Specialty Care Clinic Stops by Fiscal Year