

# National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

## ABOUT NAMCS

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) produces statistics that are representative of people in the United States who visit office-based physicians. The survey provides information on office visits by physician practice characteristics, patient characteristics, and visit characteristics.

## DERMATOLOGY

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **44 million visits per year** to nonfederally employed, office-based providers specializing in dermatology in the United States.

## CONTACT US

Ambulatory and Hospital Care Statistics Branch:

301-458-4600

[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/namcs\\_participant.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/namcs_participant.htm)

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### PROVIDER-ASSESSED MAJOR REASON FOR VISIT

CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE	37.0%
NEW PROBLEM <sup>1</sup>	31.0%
PREVENTIVE CARE	16.9%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, FLARE-UP	8.7%
POSTSURGERY	3.6%
PRESURGERY	1.0%

<sup>1</sup>Onset less than 3 months.

NOTE: Major reason for visit is the broad category of the problem or symptom which, in the physician's judgment, was most responsible for the patient making this visit.

### PATIENTS' TOP 5 PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR VISIT

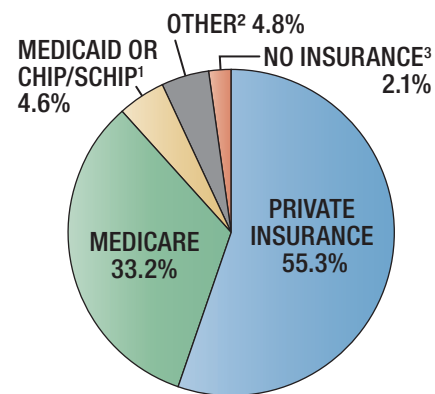
- SKIN LESION
- PROGRESS VISIT
- ACNE OR PIMPLES
- SKIN RASH
- DISCOLORATION OR PIGMENTATION

NOTE: Principal reason for visit is based on the patient's primary expressed reason for the visit, which is abstracted from the medical record and later coded into categories using an internal NCHS system.

### TOP 5 SERVICES, ORDERED OR PROVIDED

- SKIN EXAMINATION
- BIOPSY
- CRYOSURGERY/DESTRUCTION OF TISSUE
- EXCISION OF TISSUE
- WOUND CARE

### PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT



<sup>1</sup>CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program; SCHIP is State CHIP.

<sup>2</sup>Includes workers' compensation, other sources of payment, unknown, and blank data.

<sup>3</sup>Having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as source of payment.

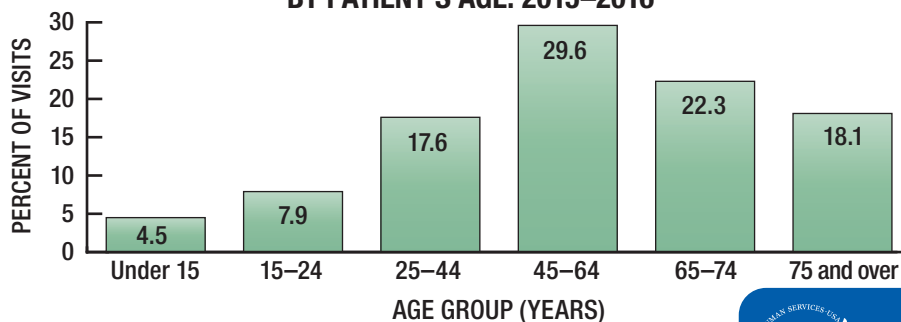
### MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT 70.8% OF OFFICE VISITS.

#### TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



- NITROGEN
- ASPIRIN
- LIDOCAINE
- TRIAMCINOLONE TOPICAL
- MISCELLANEOUS TOPICAL AGENTS

### PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DERMATOLOGY OFFICE VISITS, BY PATIENT'S AGE: 2015–2016



# National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

**NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals. Here are a few recent publications using NAMCS data:**

Dunaway S, Fleischer AB Jr. **Assessing adherence to evidence-based guidelines of care for acne vulgaris.** J Dermatolog Treat 5;1–5. 2020.

Lipner SR, Hancock JE, Fleischer AB. **The ambulatory care burden of nail conditions in the United States.** J Dermatolog Treat 21;1–4. 2019.

Singh P, Silverberg JI. **Outpatient utilization patterns for atopic dermatitis in the United States.** J Am Acad Dermatol S0190–9622(19)30435–9. 2019.

Fleischer AB Jr. **Guideline-based medicine grading on the basis of the guidelines of care for ambulatory atopic dermatitis treatment in the United States.** J Am Acad Dermatol 80(2):417–24. 2019.

He A, Feldman SR, Fleischer AB Jr. **An assessment of the use of antihistamines in the management of atopic dermatitis.** J Am Acad Dermatol 79(1):92–6. 2018.



A complete list of publications using NAMCS data, which includes articles and reports, can be found at: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd\\_products.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_products.htm).