

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.

PEDIATRICS

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **115 million visits per year** to nonfederally employed, office-based pediatricians in the United States.

CONTACT US

Ambulatory and Hospital Care Statistics Branch:

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https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/namcs_participant.htm

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PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT

PRIVATE INSURANCE	56.5%
MEDICAID OR CHIP/SCHIP ¹	36.3%
MEDICARE	1.6%
NO INSURANCE ²	1.4%
OTHER ³	1.0%

¹CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program; SCHIP is State CHIP.

²Having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as source of payment.

³Includes workers' compensation and other sources of payment.

PATIENTS' TOP 5 PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR VISIT

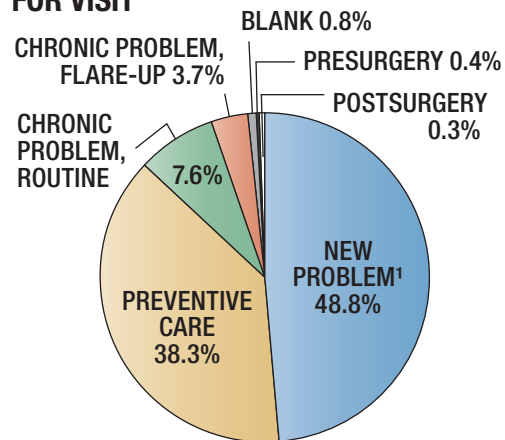
- GENERAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION
- WELL-BABY EXAMINATION
- COUGH
- FEVER
- PROGRESS VISIT

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

- DIET/NUTRITION COUNSELING
- SKIN EXAMINATION
- RETINAL/EYE EXAMINATION
- GROWTH/DEVELOPMENT COUNSELING
- NEUROLOGIC EXAMINATION

PROVIDER-ASSESSED MAJOR REASON FOR VISIT



¹Onset less than 3 months.

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. 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.

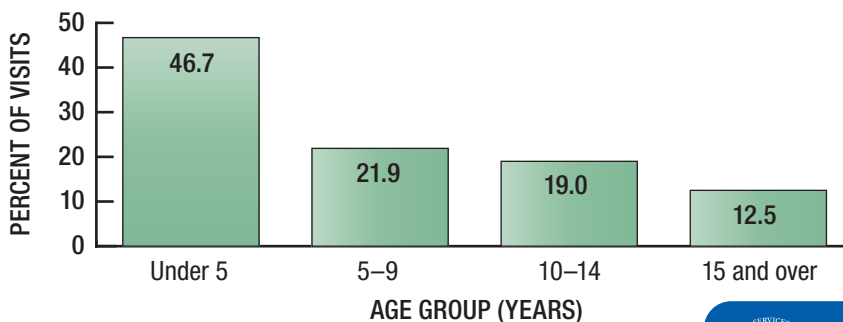
MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT 71.6% OF OFFICE VISITS.

TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

- AMOXICILLIN
- IBUPROFEN
- ALBUTEROL
- ACETAMINOPHEN
- INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE, INACTIVATED



PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF PEDIATRIC 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:

Florin TA, Byczkowski T, Gerber JS, Ruddy R, Kuppermann N. **Diagnostic testing and antibiotic use in young children with community-acquired pneumonia in the United States, 2008–2015.** J Pediatric Infect Dis Soc 9(2):248–52. 2020.

Poole NM, Shapiro DJ, Kronman MP, Hersh AL. **Ambulatory antibiotic prescribing for children with pneumonia after publication of national guidelines: A cross-sectional retrospective study.** Infect Dis Ther 9(1):69–76. 2020.

Inouye BM, Dionise ZR, Jiang R, Wolf S, Nicholl L, Pomann GM, et al. **National imaging and antibiotic practice patterns in children presenting with urinary tract infection to community practices: Little impact from the American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines?** Clin Pediatr (Phila) 58(11–12):1302–8. 2019.

Zhou X, de Luise C, Gaffney M, Burt CW, Scott DA, Gatto N, Center KJ. **National impact of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine on ambulatory care visits for otitis media in children under 5 years in the United States.** Int J Pediatr Otorhinolaryngol 119:96–102. 2019.

Rege S, Kavati A, Ortiz B, Mosnaim G, Cabana MD, Murphy K, Aparasu RR. **Documentation of asthma control and severity in pediatrics: Analysis of national office-based visits.** J Asthma 57(2):205–16. 2019.

Rege S, Kavati A, Ortiz B, Mosnaim G, Cabana MD, Murphy K, Aparasu RR. **Asthma medication prescribing practices in pediatric office visits.** Clinical Pediatr (Phila) 58(4):395–405. 2019.

Alzahrani MS, Maneno MK, Daftary MN, Wingate L, Ettienne EB. **Factors associated with prescribing broad-spectrum antibiotics for children with upper respiratory tract infections in ambulatory care settings.** Clin Med Insights Pediatr 784300. 2018.

Kawai K, Adil EA, Barrett D, Manganello J, Kenna MA. **Ambulatory visits for otitis media before and after the introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccination.** J Pediatr 201:122–7. 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.