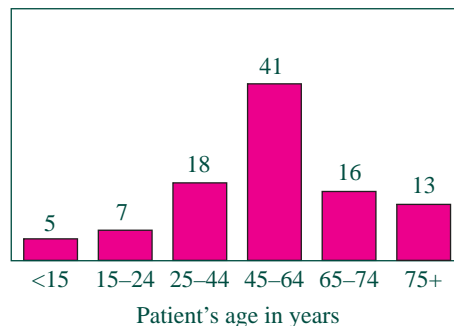


## ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

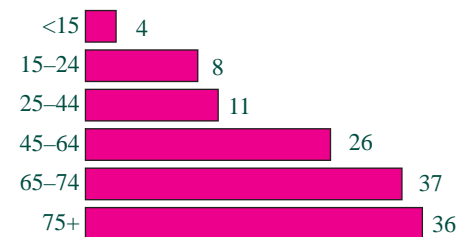
**In 2009, there were an estimated 49 million visits to nonfederally employed, office-based physicians specializing in orthopedic surgery in the United States. More than half of the visits were made by persons aged 25–64 years.**

Percent distribution of office visits by patient's age: 2009



**The annual visit rate increased with age until age 74.**

Annual office visit rates by patient's age: 2009



Male 15  
Female 17

Number of visits per 100 persons per year

**Primary expected source of payment included:**

- Private insurance — 69%
- Medicare — 26%
- Workers' compensation — 10%
- Medicaid — 6%

**The major reason for visit was:**

- New problem — 35%
- Pre- or post-surgery/injury follow-up — 28%
- Chronic problem, routine — 20%
- Chronic problem, flare-up — 15%

**The top 5 reasons given by patients for visiting orthopedic surgeons were:**

- Knee symptoms
- Postoperative visit
- Shoulder symptoms
- Hip symptoms
- Back symptoms

**The top 5 diagnoses were:**

- Arthropathies and related disorders
- Rheumatisms, excluding back
- Spinal disorders
- Sprains and strains
- Fracture of lower limb

**Medications were provided or prescribed at 54 percent of office visits. The top 5 generic substances utilized were:**

- Acetaminophen with hydrocodone
- Ibuprofen
- Acetaminophen with oxycodone
- Meloxicam
- Lidocaine

*For more information, contact the Ambulatory Care Statistics Branch at 301-458-4600 or visit our Web site at <[www.cdc.gov/names](http://www.cdc.gov/names)>.*

**NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals, including *JAMA*, *Journal of Family Practice*, and *Spine*. Here are just a few publications using NAMCS data:**

Friedman BW, Chilstrom M, Bijur PE, Gallagher EJ. Diagnostic testing and treatment of low back pain in United States emergency departments: a national perspective. *Spine* (Phila Pa 1976). 35(24):E1406–11. Nov 2010.

Sacks JJ, Luo YH, Helmick CG. Prevalence of specific types of arthritis and other rheumatic conditions in the ambulatory health care system in the United States, 2001–2005. *Arthritis Care Res* (Hoboken). 62(4):460–4. Apr 2010.

Licciardone JC. The epidemiology and medical management of low back pain during ambulatory medical care visits in the United States. *Osteopath Med Prim Care*. 2(1):11. Nov 2008. [Epub ahead of print]

Avasarala J, Odonovan CA, Roach S, Camacho F, Feldman S. Analysis of NAMCS data for Multiple Sclerosis, 1998–2004. *BMC Med*. 5(1):6. Apr 2007. [Epub ahead of print]

Riddle DL, Schappert SM. Volume and characteristics of inpatient and ambulatory medical care for neck pain in the United States: data from three national surveys. *Spine*. 32(1):132–40; discussion 141. Jan 2007.

Deyo RA, Mirza SK, Martin BI. Back pain prevalence and visit rates: estimates from U.S. national surveys, 2002. *Spine*. 31(23):2724–7. Nov 2006.

Federman AD, Litke A, Morrison RS. Association of age with analgesic use for back and joint disorders in outpatient settings. *Am J Geriatr Pharmacother*. 4(4):306–15. Dec 2006.

Wofford JL, Mansfield RJ, Watkins RS. Patient characteristics and clinical management of patients with shoulder pain in U.S. primary care settings: Secondary data analysis of the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord*. 6(1):4. Feb 2005. [Epub ahead of print]

Caudill-Slosberg MA, Schwartz LM, Woloshin S. Office visits and analgesic prescriptions for musculoskeletal pain in US: 1980 vs. 2000. *Pain*. 109(3):514–9. Jun 2004.

Riddle DL, Schappert SM. Volume of Ambulatory Care Visits and Patterns of Care for Patients Diagnosed With Plantar Fasciitis: A National Study of Medical Doctors. *Foot and Ankle Int'l*. 25(5):303–310. 2004.

Freburger JK, Holmes GM, Carey TS. Physician referrals to physical therapy for the treatment of musculoskeletal conditions. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil*. 84(12):1839–49. Dec 2003.

**The complete list of publications using NAMCS data, which includes hundreds of articles and reports, is available on our Web site.**