

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.

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **43 million visits per year** to nonfederally employed, office-based physicians specializing in orthopedic surgery 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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PROVIDER-ASSESSED MAJOR REASON FOR VISIT

NEW PROBLEM ¹	38.6%
POSTSURGERY	20.8%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE	20.0%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, FLARE-UP	12.2%
PRESURGERY	3.6%
PREVENTIVE CARE	2.3%

¹Onset 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

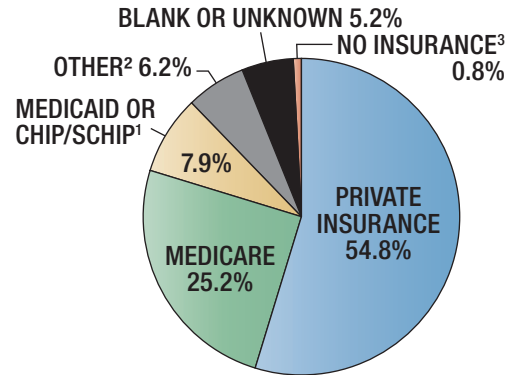
- KNEE SYMPTOMS
- PROGRESS VISIT
- POSTOPERATIVE VISIT
- SHOULDER SYMPTOMS
- HIP SYMPTOMS

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

- X-RAY
- PHYSICAL THERAPY
- SKIN EXAMINATION
- MRI
- NEUROLOGIC EXAMINATION

PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT



¹CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program; SCHIP is State CHIP.
²Includes workers' compensation and other sources of payment.
³Having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as source of payment.
NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

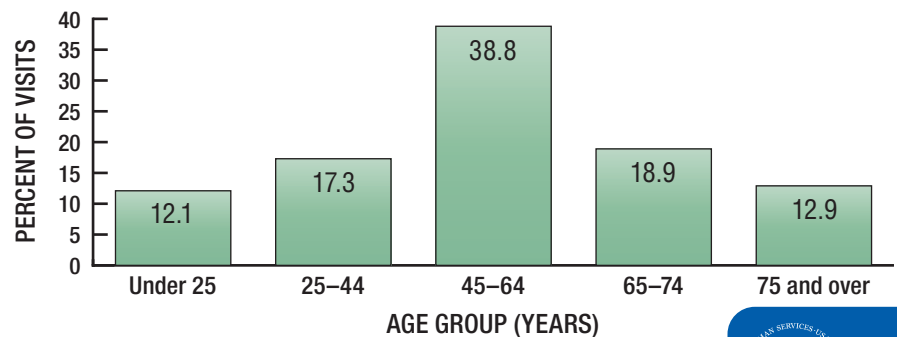
MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT 59.9% OF OFFICE VISITS.

TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



- IBUPROFEN
- ASPIRIN
- ACETAMINOPHEN-HYDROCODONE
- MELOXICAM
- ACETAMINOPHEN-OXYCODONE

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY 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:

Goodson JD, Shahbazi S, Rao K, Song Z. **Differences in the complexity of office visits by physician specialty: NAMCS 2013–2016.** J Gen Intern Med 35(6):1715–20. 2020.

Khoja SS, Almeida GJ, Freburger JK. **Recommendation rates for physical therapy, lifestyle counseling, and pain medications for managing knee osteoarthritis in ambulatory care settings: A cross-sectional analysis of the National Ambulatory Care Survey (2007–2015).** Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken) 72(2):184–92. 2020.

Ward BW, Myrick KL, Cherry DK. **Physician specialty and office visits made by adults with diagnosed multiple chronic conditions: United States, 2014–2015.** Public Health Rep 135(3):372–82. 2020.

Feldman DE, Carlesso LC, Nahin RL. **Management of patients with a musculoskeletal pain condition that is likely chronic: Results from a national cross sectional survey.** J Pain 21(7–8):869–80. 2020.

Gaitonde P, Bozzi LM, Shaya FT. **Factors associated with use of disease modifying agents for rheumatoid arthritis in the National Hospital and Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.** Semin Arthritis Rheum 47(5):649–53. 2018.

Li C, Martin BC, Cummins DF, Andrews LM, Frech-Tamas F, Yadao AM. **Ambulatory resource utilization and cost for gout in United States.** Am J Pharm Benefits 5(2):e46–54. 2013.



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.