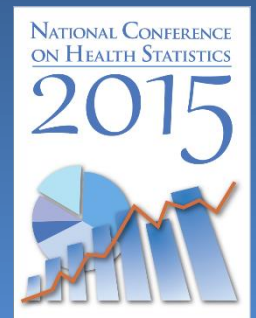


# Variation in physician office visits by patient characteristics and state, United States, 2012

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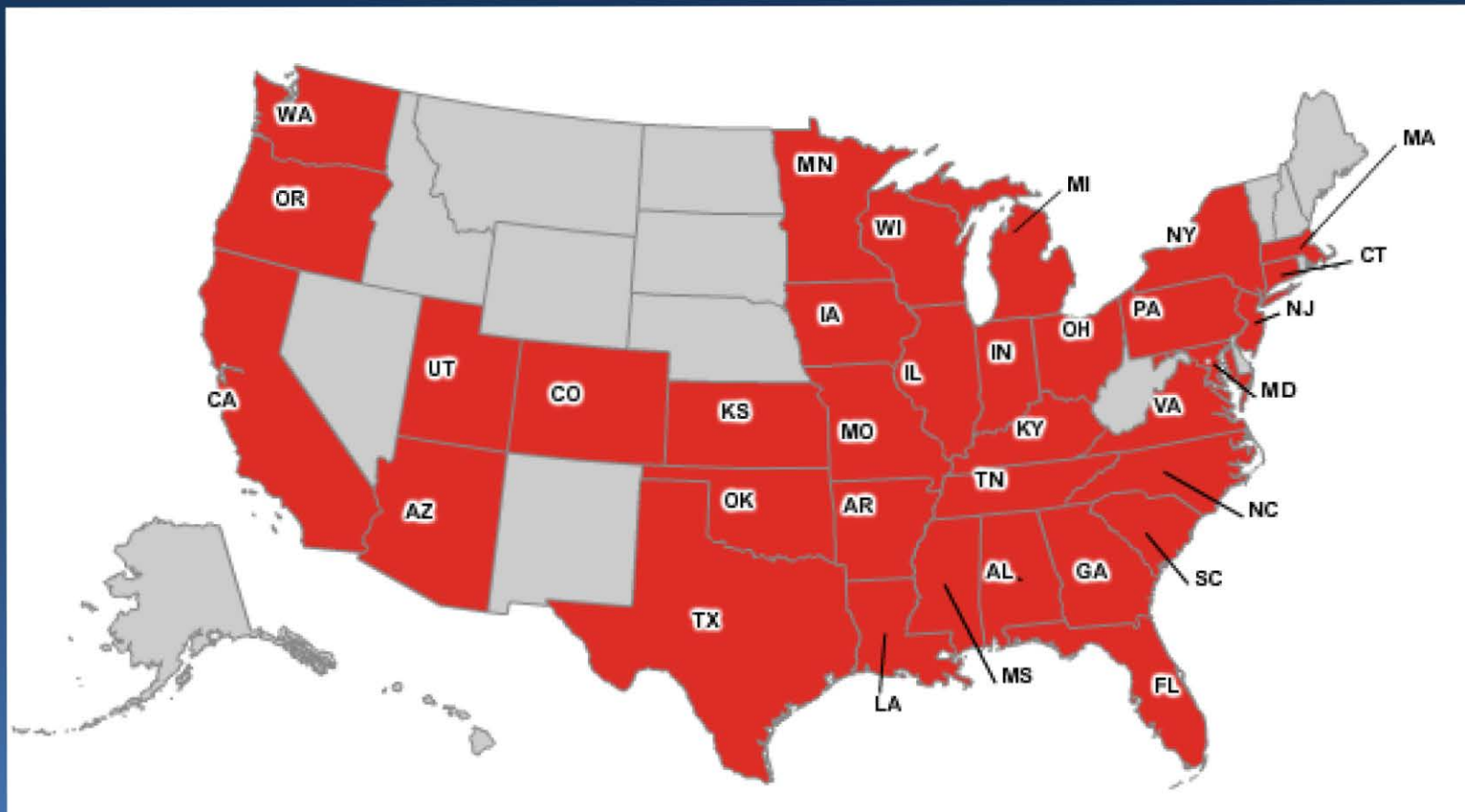
# Background

- In 2012, most Americans had a usual place to receive health care (83% of adults and 96% of children).
- Seventy-four percent of children and adults who reported having a usual place to visit, listed a doctor's office as the usual place they received care.
- Differences in the rate of physician office visits are examined by age, sex, and state. Insurance is also examined.
- Estimates are based on data from the 2012 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS).

# Background Continued

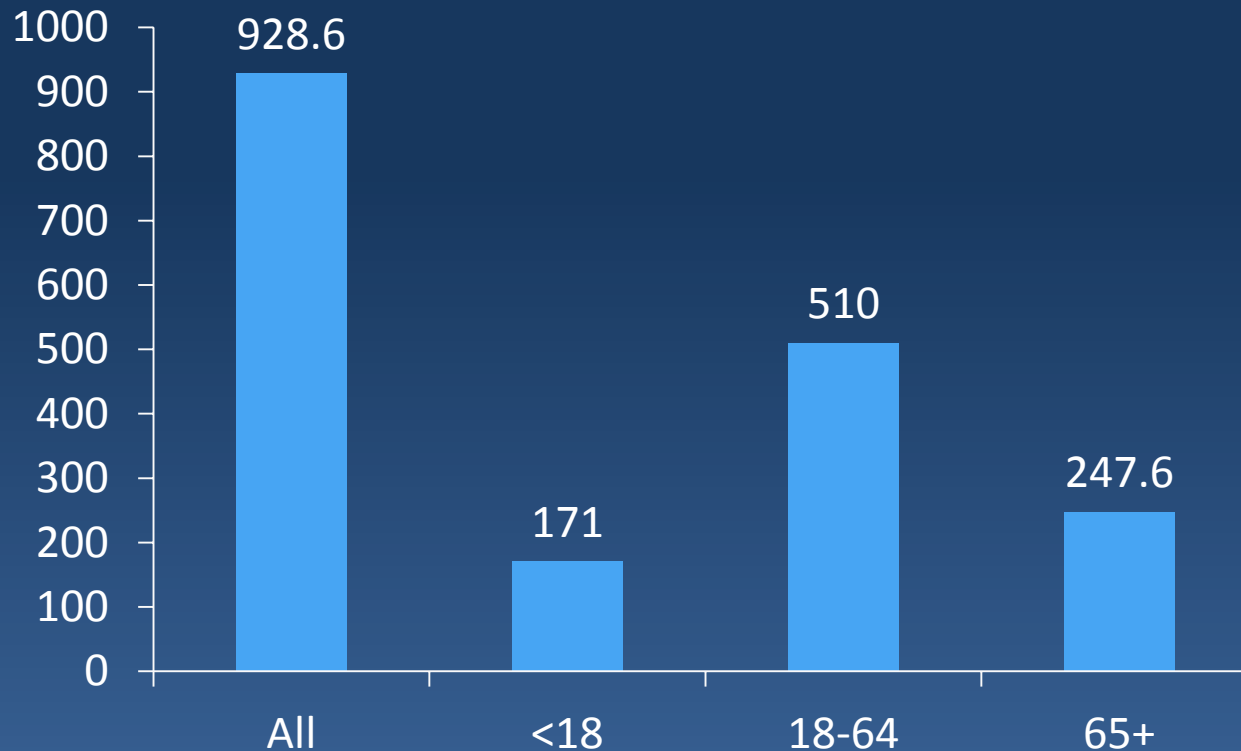
- NAMCS is an annual (since 1989) nationally representative survey of office-based physician encounters.
- NAMCS was redesigned in 2012 to permit estimates for the 34 most populous states.
- This redesign provides national regional and state estimates for ambulatory care utilization.

# 2012 NAMCS Targeted States



# Number of physician office visits by age: United States, 2012

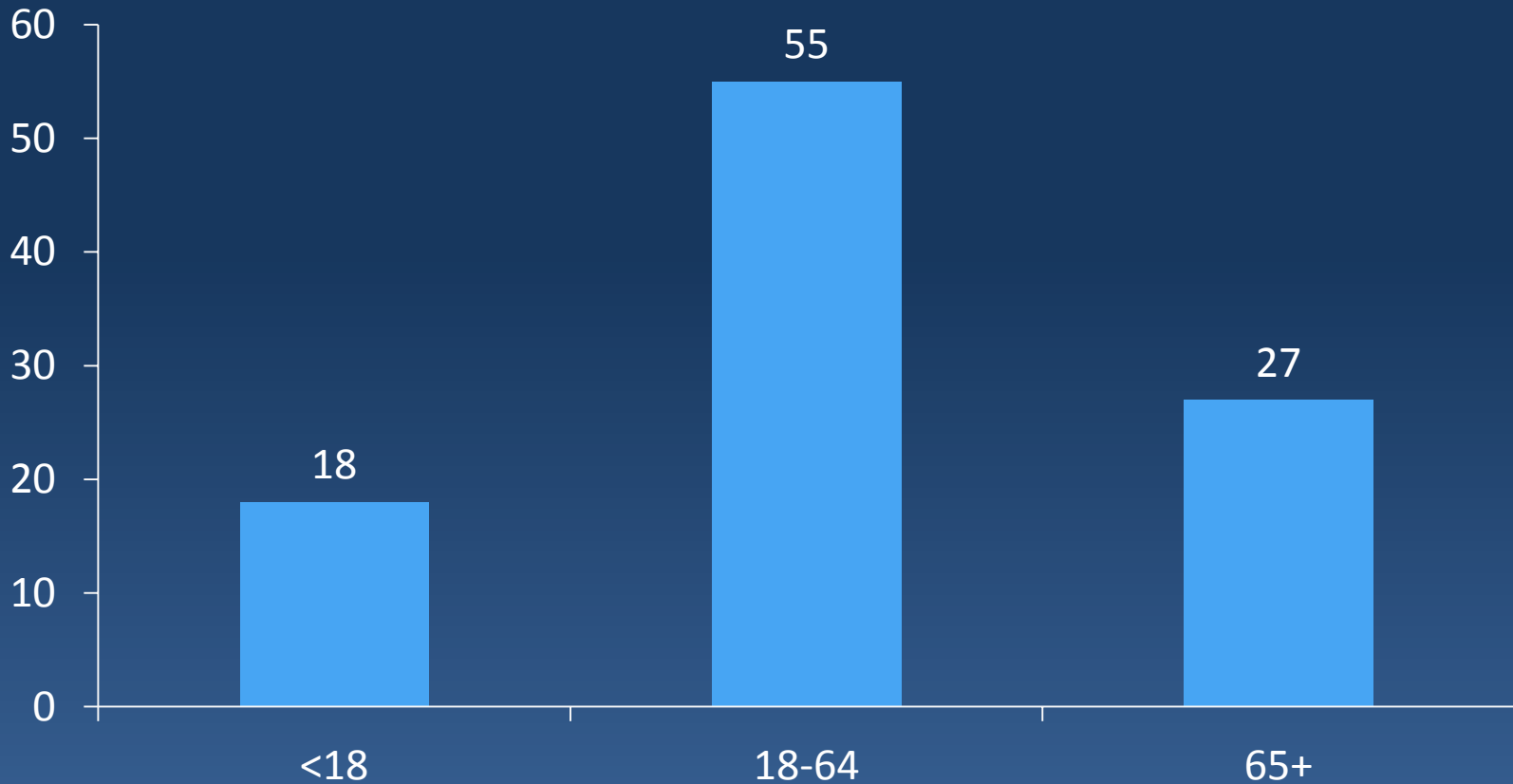
## Number of Visits in Millions



**NOTE:** Data for 2012 are based on a sample of 76,330 physician office visits, representing an estimated weighted total of 928.6 million visits. Includes visits to nonfederal, office based physicians. Excludes physicians in community health centers, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists. For more information see the 2012 NAMCS micro data file documentation <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>.

**SOURCE:** CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2012

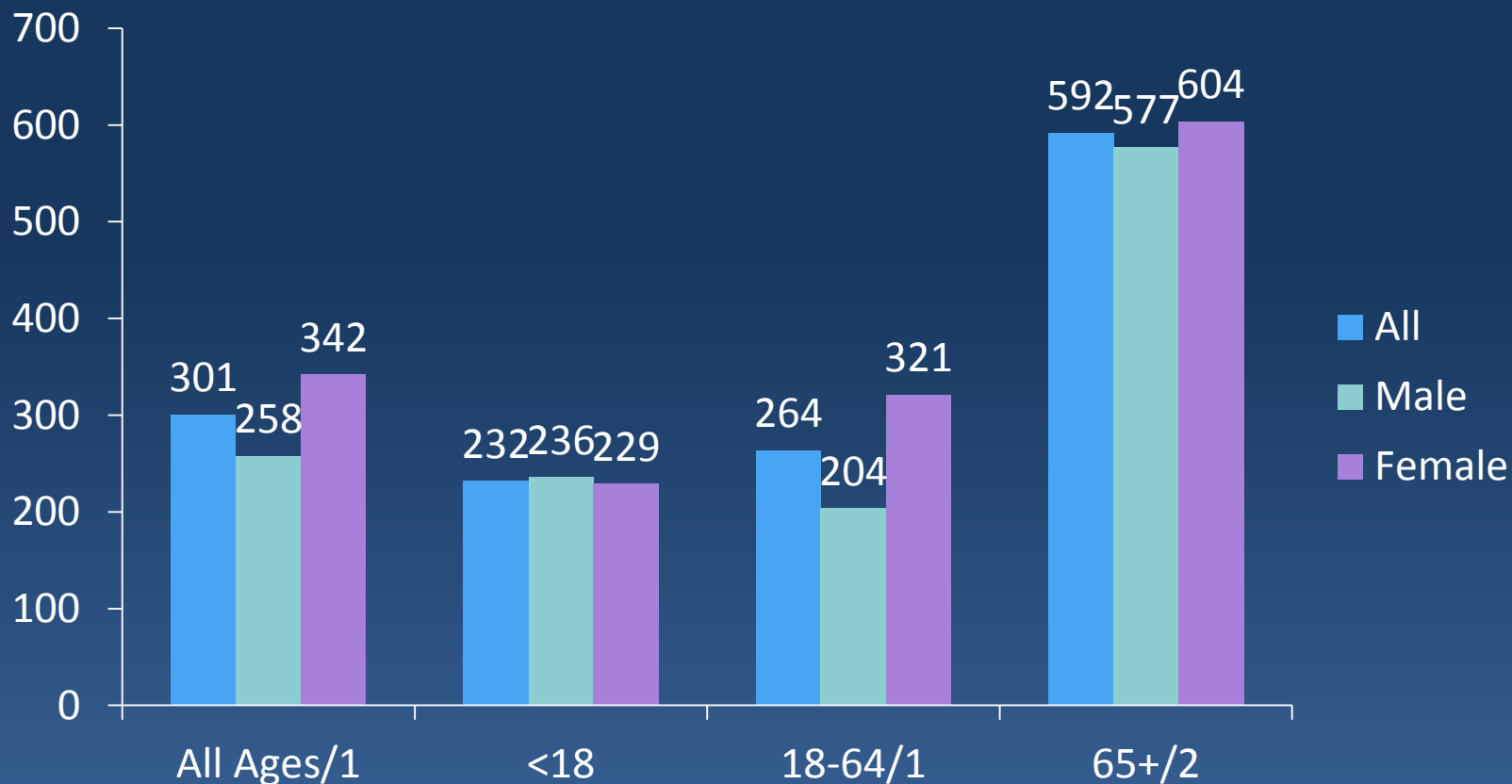
# Percent of physician office visits by age: United States, 2012



**NOTE:** Includes visits to nonfederal, office based physicians. Excludes physicians in community health centers, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists For more information see the 2012 NAMCS micro data file documentation <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>.

**SOURCE:** CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2012

# Number of physician office visits per 100 people by sex and age: United States, 2012



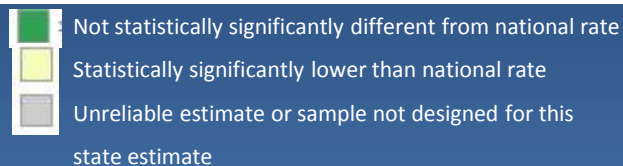
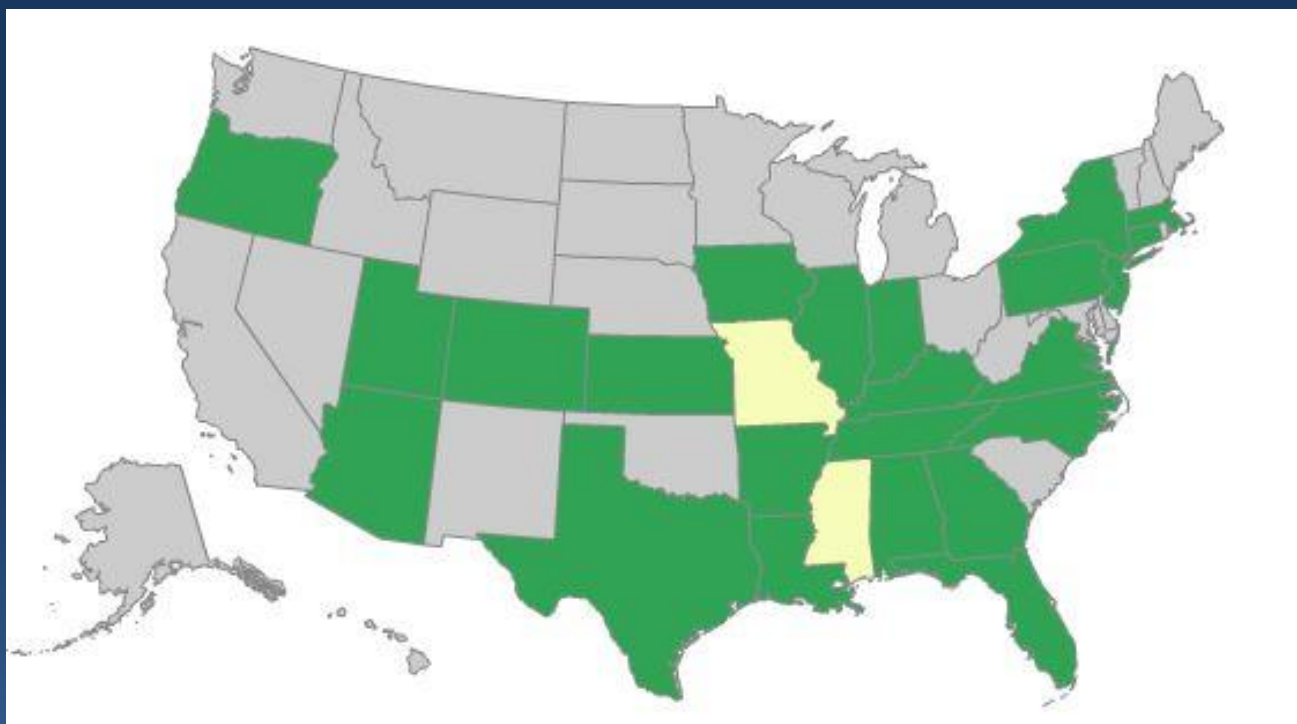
1 Visit rate is statistically significantly higher ( $p < 0.05$ ) for females compared with males.

2 Visit rate is statistically significantly higher ( $p < 0.05$ ) for 65+ compared with <18 and 18-64.

**NOTE:** Includes visits to nonfederal, office based physicians. Excludes physicians in community health centers, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists. For more information see the 2012 NAMCS micro data file documentation <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>.

**SOURCE:** CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2012

# Number of physician office visits per 100 children under 18 years, by selected states: United States, 2012



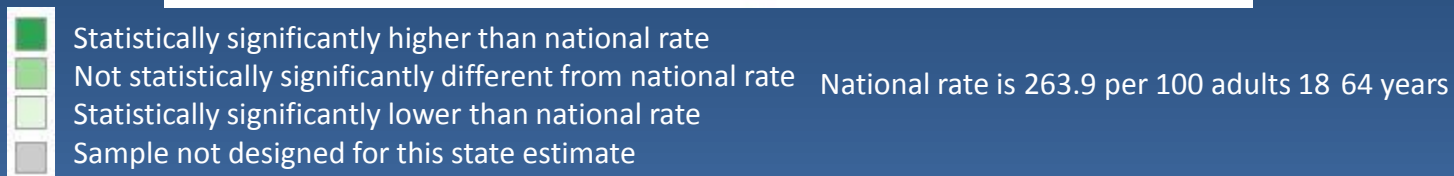
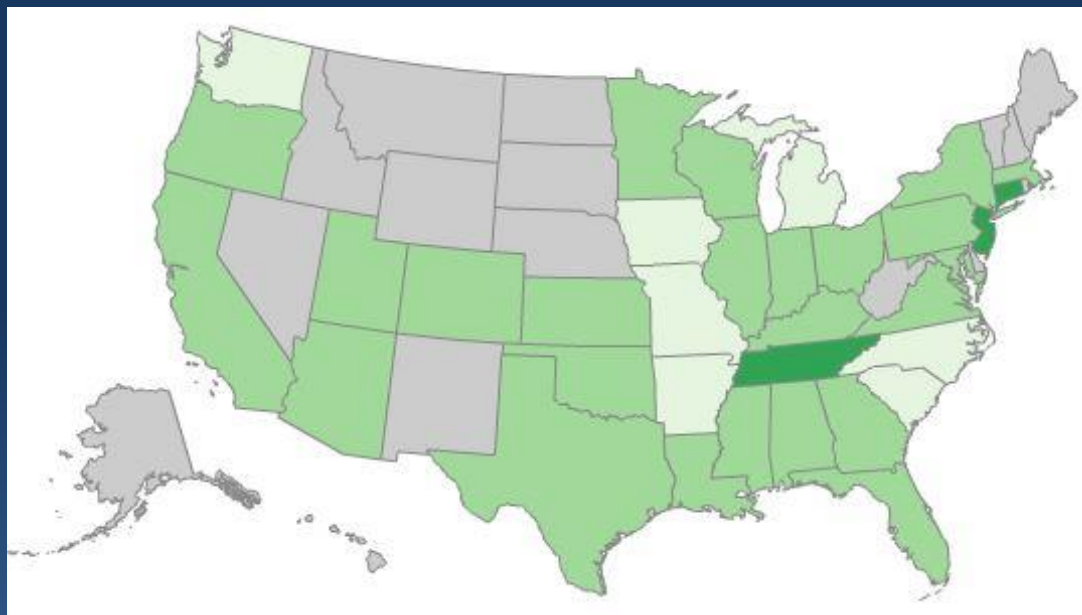
National rate is 232.4 per 100 children under 18 years

NOTES: Includes visits to nonfederal, office based physicians. Excludes physicians in community health centers, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists. State refers to the location of the physician office visit. For more information see the 2012 NAMCS micro data file documentation <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>. Visit rates per 100 persons are based on estimates from special tabulations developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau using the July 1, 2012 set of state population estimates, and reflect Census 2010 data. More information may be obtained from the Census website at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2012



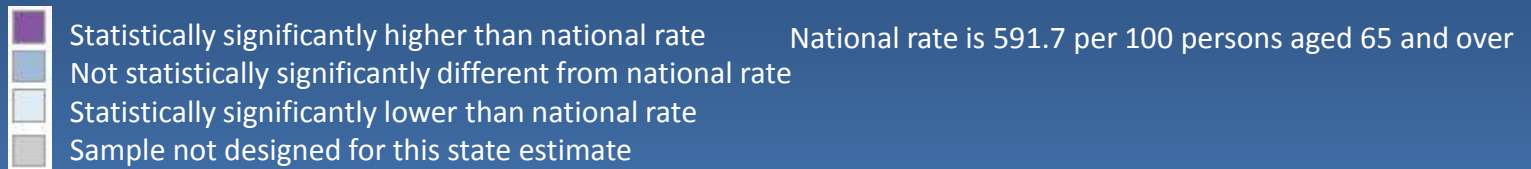
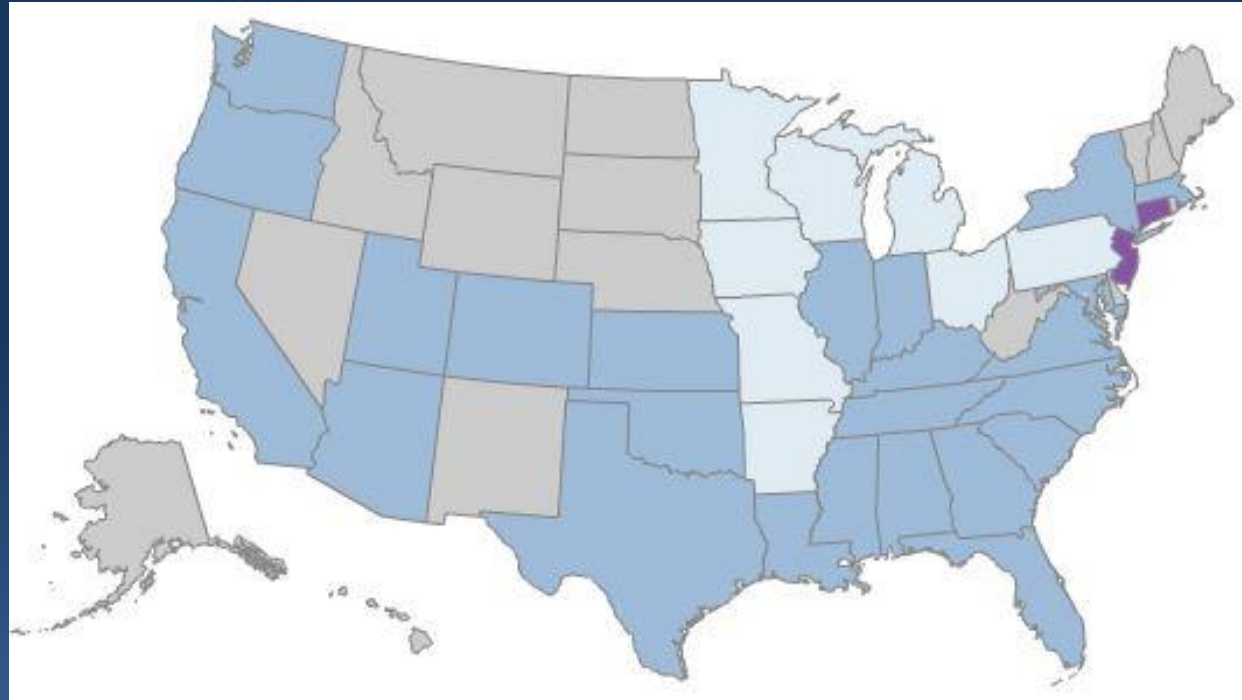
## Number of physician office visits per 100 adults aged 18-64 by selected states: United States, 2012



NOTES: Includes visits to nonfederal, office based physicians. Excludes physicians in community health centers, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists. State refers to the location of the physician office visit. For more information see the 2012 NAMCS micro data file documentation <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>. Visit rates per 100 persons are based on estimates from special tabulations developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau using the July 1, 2012 set of state population estimates, and reflect Census 2010 data. More information may be obtained from the Census website at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2012

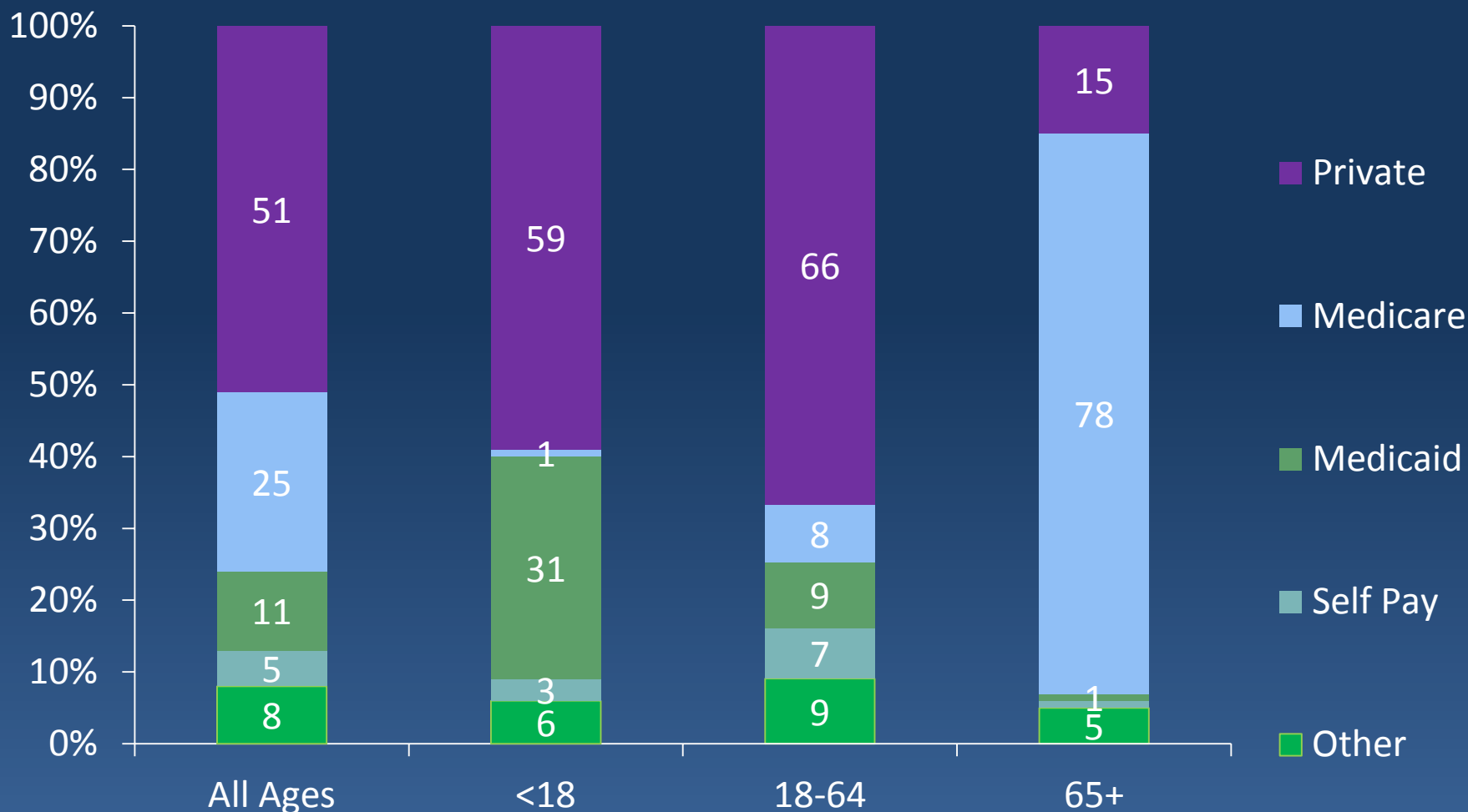
# Number of physician office visits per 100 persons aged 65 and over, by selected states: United States, 2012



NOTES: Includes visits to nonfederal, office based physicians. Excludes physicians in community health centers, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists. State refers to the location of the physician office visit. For more information see the 2012 NAMCS micro data file documentation <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>. Visit rates per 100 persons are based on estimates from special tabulations developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau using the July 1, 2012 set of state population estimates, and reflect Census 2010 data. More information may be obtained from the Census website at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2012

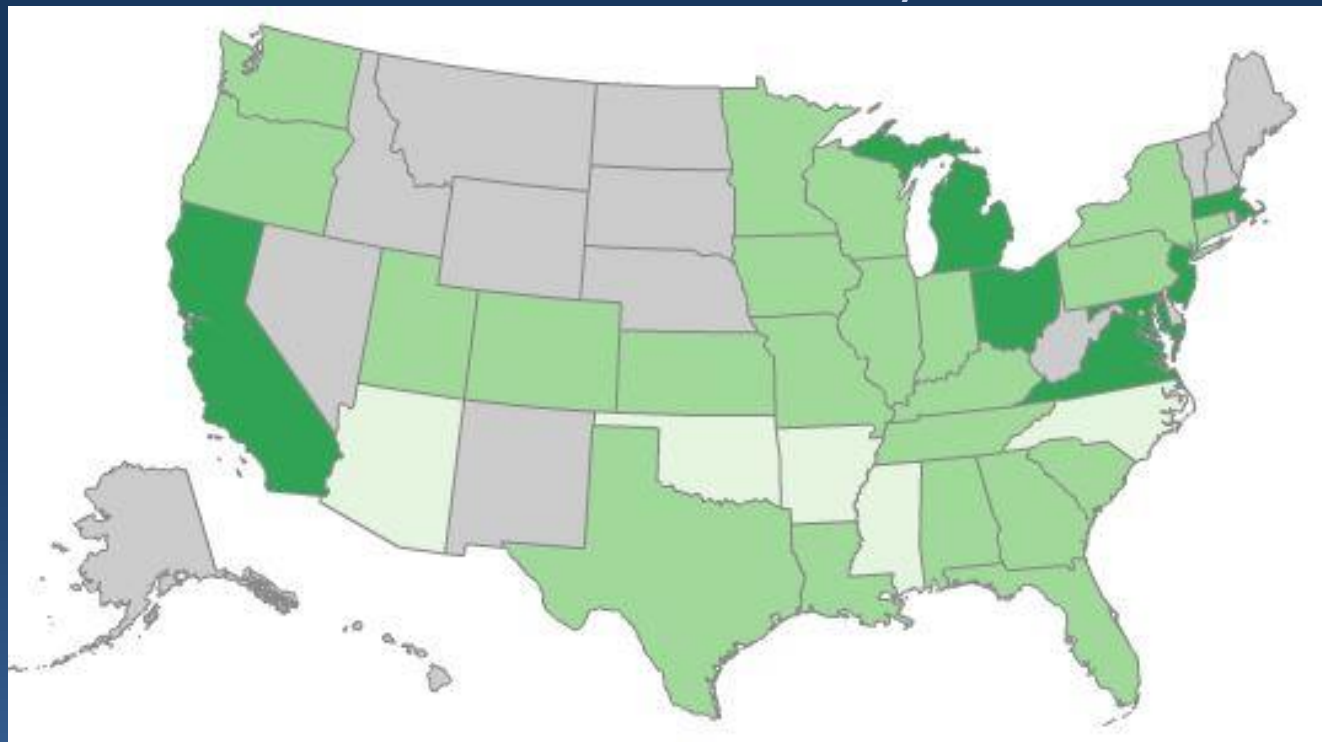
## Percent distribution of primary expected source of payment at office-based physician visits by age: United States, 2012



NOTES: Includes visits to nonfederal, office based physicians. Excludes physicians in community health centers, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists. State refers to the location of the physician office visit. For more information see the 2012 NAMCS micro data file documentation <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2012

# Percent of office visits made by children under 18 years with private insurance as the primary source of payment, by selected states: United States, 2012



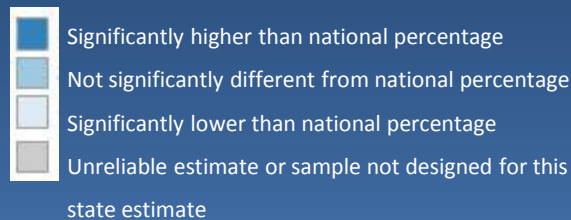
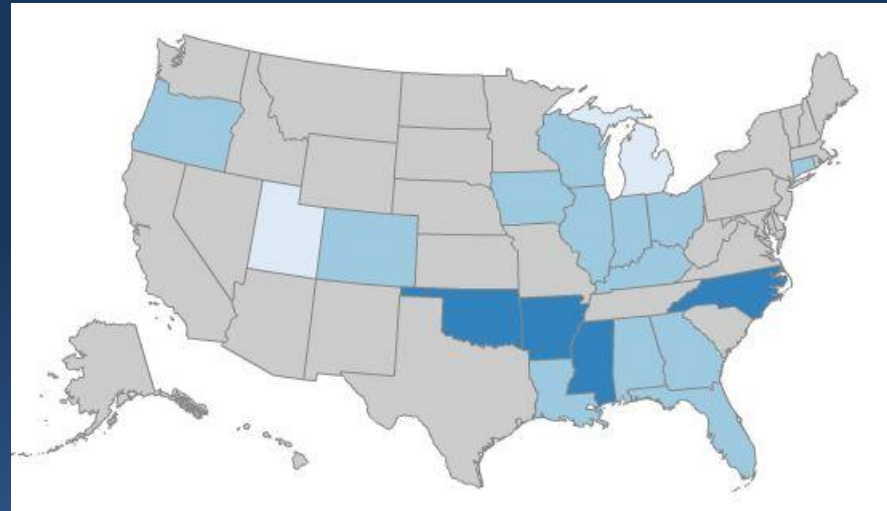
- Significantly higher than national percentage
- Not significantly different from national percentage
- Significantly lower than national percentage
- Sample not designed for this state estimate

National average is 58.9%

NOTES: Includes visits to nonfederal, office based physicians. Excludes physicians in community health centers, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists. State refers to the location of the physician office visit. For more information see the 2012 NAMCS micro data file documentation <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2012

# Percent of office visits made by children under 18 years with Medicaid/CHIP as the primary source of payment, by selected states: United States, 2012

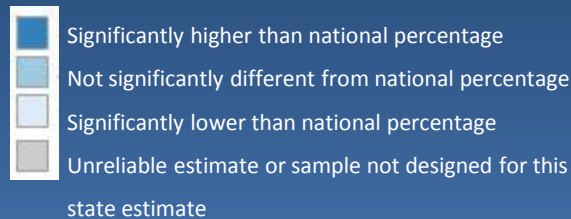
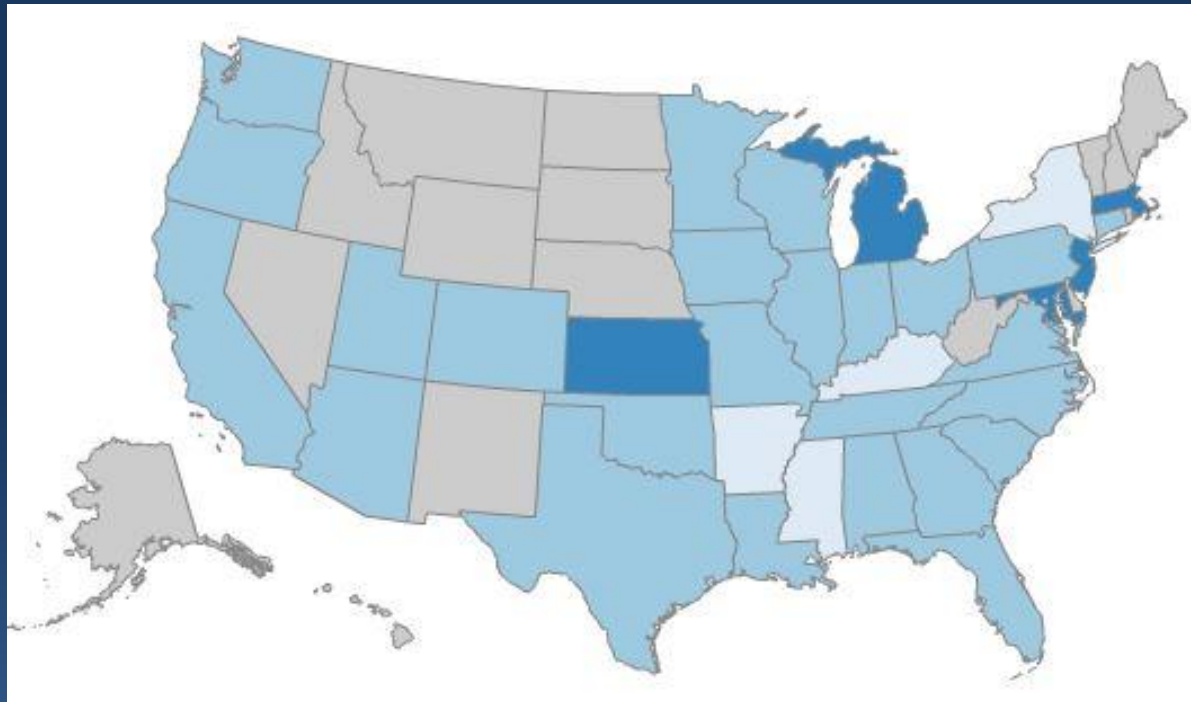


National average is 65.6%

NOTES: Includes visits to nonfederal, office based physicians. Excludes physicians in community health centers, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists. State refers to the location of the physician office visit. For more information see the 2012 NAMCS micro data file documentation <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2012

# Percent of physician office visits made by adults aged 18-64 with private insurance as the expected source of payment: United States, 2012

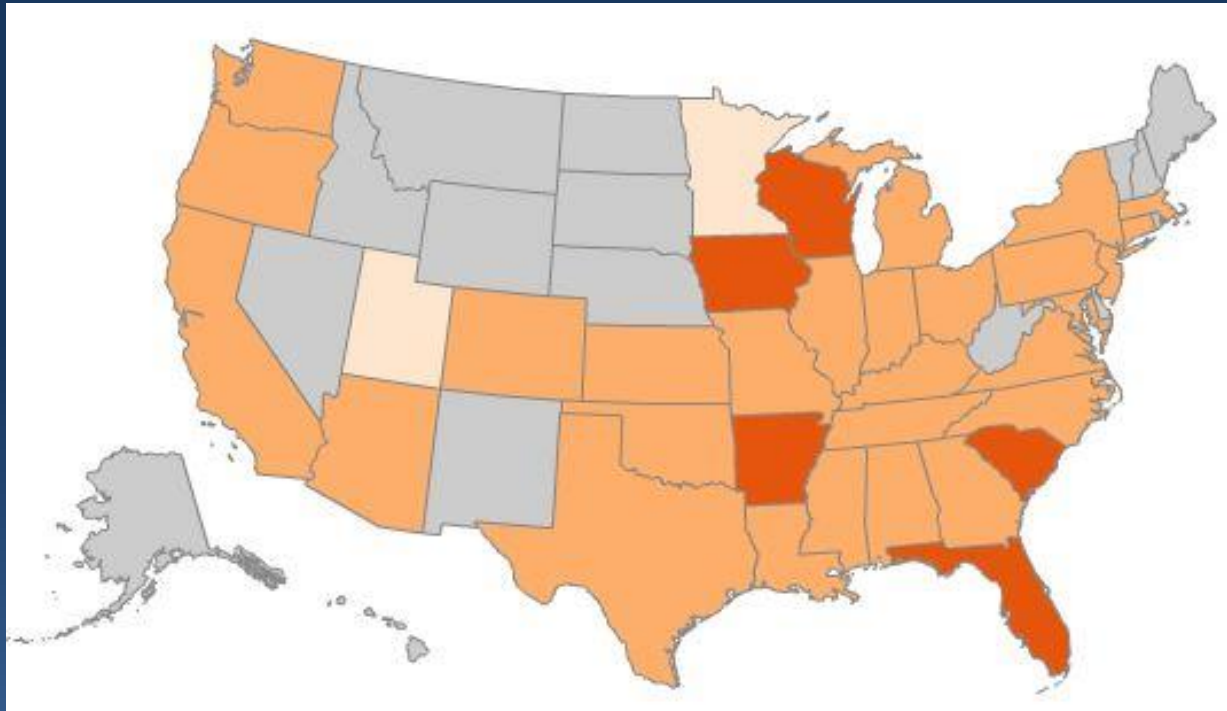


National average is 30.6%

NOTES: Includes visits to nonfederal, office based physicians. Excludes physicians in community health centers, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists. State refers to the location of the physician office visit. For more information see the 2012 NAMCS micro data file documentation <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2012

# Percent of office visits made by elderly persons 65 years and over with Medicare as the primary source of payment, by selected states: United States, 2012



- Significantly higher than national percentage
- Not significantly different from national percentage
- Significantly lower than national percentage
- Sample not designed for this state estimate

National average is 77.5%

NOTES: Includes visits to nonfederal, office based physicians. Excludes physicians in community health centers, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists. State refers to the location of the physician office visit. For more information see the 2012 NAMCS micro data file documentation <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2012

# Conclusions

- The number and percent of office visits varied by age, with over half of all visits made by adults aged 18-64.
- The rate of office visits also varied by age, with adults aged 65 and over having much higher rates than children and younger adults.
- The rate of office visits varied by sex, with women aged 18-64 having higher rates than men aged 18-64.



# Conclusions Continued

- The rate of office visits varied by the state where the visit occurred.
- Visit rates in Connecticut and New Jersey were higher than the national rate for both adult age groups.
- The visit rate for Missouri was lower than the national rate for each of the three age groups (under 18 years, 18-64 years, 65 years and over).

## Conclusions (cont.)

- The primary source of payment used at office visits also varied by state.
- Certain states were associated with higher use of private insurance by both children and adults aged 18-64 (Michigan, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Maryland).
- Conversely certain states were associated with both higher use of Medicaid/CHIP by children and Medicare by adults aged 65+ (Arkansas and Mississippi).

# Discussion

- Ambulatory care utilization as measured by rates of physician office visits varies by state.
- State variation was seen for all age groups and for payment sources.
- Variation by state may reflect any of a number of reasons--Medicaid reimbursement levels and/or expansion, the age distribution, urbanicity, state unemployment rate, supply of physicians, health of the population.

# Need more information?

- Call the Ambulatory and Hospital Care Statistics Branch at 301-458-4600
- Email: [JAshman@cdc.gov](mailto:JAshman@cdc.gov)