

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) & National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS): Asthma Content

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) is a national survey designed to meet the need for objective, reliable information about the provision and use of ambulatory medical care services in the United States. Findings are based on a sample of visits to office-based physicians who are primarily engaged in direct patient care and not federal employees.

The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) is designed to collect data on the utilization and provision of ambulatory care services in hospital emergency and outpatient departments and in ambulatory surgery centers.

In 2011 the NAMCS and NHAMCS, along with the National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS), were integrated into the new National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS). According to NHCS, data from hospital discharges can now be linked across health care utilization services including outpatient and emergency department visits, hospital-based ambulatory surgery, and free standing ambulatory surgery, and also linked to the National Death Index and Medicare and Medicaid information systems for a complete picture of patient care.

Administered by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), CDC

Survey Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>

Sampling Frame and Methodology:

NAMCS:

- Annually 1973-1981, in 1985, and annually since 1989
- Nationally representative probability sample design (~1,400 physicians participate annually; ~28,000 patient visits sampled annually)
- Sample of visits to the emergency and outpatient departments of noninstitutionalized general and short-stay hospitals
- Geography: National and regional estimates only

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NHAMCS:

- Continuous since 1992
- Nationally representative probability sample design
- Sample of visits to emergency and outpatient departments and to ambulatory surgery facilities in noninstitutional general and short-stay hospitals
- ~850 outpatient clinics participate with ~32,000 patient visits sampled; ~290 emergency service areas participate with ~21,500 patient visits sampled annually
- Geography: National and regional estimates only

Respiratory Health Content:

NAMCS:

- ICD-9 visit codes identify visits for asthma and other respiratory health reasons (*ICD-10 effective October 2014*)
- Patient record form includes asthma items:
 - Current and prior tobacco use
 - Major reason for visit (acute versus follow up)
 - Current asthma
 - Asthma severity
 - Asthma control
 - Diagnostic tests: x-rays, peak flow, spirometry
 - Health education for asthma
 - Documentation of medications and immunizations at visit
 - Hospital admission or observation unit stay
- 2012 asthma supplement with physician questions on clinical decision making

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NHAMCS:

Outpatient Department

- ICD-9 visit code (*ICD-10 effective October 2014*)
- Patient record form includes asthma items:
 - Current and prior tobacco use
 - Major reason for visit (acute versus follow up)
 - Current asthma
 - Asthma severity
 - Asthma control
 - Diagnostic tests: x-rays, peak flow, spirometry
 - Co-morbidities
 - Health education for asthma
 - Asthma action plan given to patient
 - Documentation of medications and immunizations at visit
 - Hospital admission or observation unit stay

Emergency Department

- ICD-9 visit code (*ICD-10 effective October 2014*)
- Patient record form includes:
 - Major reason for visit (acute versus follow up)
 - Current asthma
 - Diagnostic tests: x-rays, arterial blood gas, influenza test
 - Co-morbidities
 - Procedures: nebulizer therapy, intubation
 - Documentation of medications and immunizations at visit
 - Disposition including hospital admission or observation unit stay

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Survey Instruments, Datasets, and Documentation:

NAMCS & NHAMCS Survey Methodology: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_questionnaires.htm

Patient Record Form & Other Survey Instruments: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_survey_instruments.htm

2012 Asthma Supplement: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ahcd/2012_NAMCS_Asthma_Supplement.pdf

NAMCS Data: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Datasets/NAMCS/

NHAMCS Data: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Datasets/NHAMCS/

Results, Reports, and Publications:

NAMCS and NHAMCS Web Tables & Products: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_products.htm

CDC MMWR Surveillance Summaries: <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/mmwr.html>

FastStats: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/asthma.htm>

New Data Products & Publications: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/new_ahcd.htm

Developed by CDC National Asthma Control Program: <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/NACP.htm>

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