

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 non-federal employed office-based physicians who are primarily engaged in direct patient care.

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), became integrated into the new National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS). According to the NHCS, data from hospital discharges can now be linked across health care utilization services including outpatient and emergency department visits, hospital-based ambulatory surgery, free standing ambulatory surgery as well as linked to the National Death Index, as well as 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:

- Continuous since 1989, periodic 1973-1981, 1985, 1989-2011
- Nationally representative probability sample design (~1,500 physicians participate annually; ~35,000 patient visits sampled annually in 2010)
- Sample of visits to the emergency and outpatient departments of noninstitutionalized general and short-stay hospitals
- Geography: National and regional estimates only

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
- ~900 outpatient clinics participate with ~35,000 patient visits sampled; ~400 emergency service areas participate with ~35,000 patient visits sampled in 2010)
- Geography: National and regional estimates only

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Respiratory Health Content:

NAMCS

- ICD-9 visit codes identify visits for asthma and other respiratory health reasons

Patient record form includes asthma items:

- Tobacco use
- Major reason for visit (acute versus follow up)
- Current asthma
- Diagnostic tests: x-rays
- 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

NHAMCS:

Outpatient Department

- ICD-9 visit code
- Patient record form includes asthma items:
 - Tobacco use
 - Major reason for visit (acute versus follow up)
 - Current asthma
 - Diagnostic tests: x-rays
 - Co-morbidities
 - Health education for asthma
 - Documentation of medications and immunizations at visit
 - Hospital admission or observation unit stay

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Emergency Department:

- ICD-9 visit code
- Patient record form includes:
 - Major reason for visit (initial versus follow up)
 - 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

Most Recent Survey Instruments and Available Data:

NAMCS & NHAMCS 2011/2012 Surveys: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_questionnaires.htm

NAMCS 2010 Data: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Datasets/NAMCS/

NHAMCS 2010 Data: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Datasets/NHAMCS/

Survey Instruments, Datasets, and Documentation:

Patient Record Form & other instruments: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_questionnaires.htm

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

Results, Reports, and Publications:

NHAMC 2011 Emergency Department Summary Tables: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ahcd/nhamcs_emergency/2011_ed_web_tables.pdf

NAMCS 2010 Summary Tables: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ahcd/namcs_summary/2010_namcs_web_tables.pdf

Survey Results & Products: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_products.htm

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

Health Data Interactive Tables: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hdi.htm>

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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