

Data Source with Asthma Content: National Ambulatory Care Survey

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.

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

Sampling Frame and Methodology:

NAMCS

- Continuous since 1989, periodic 1973-1981, 1985
- Nationally representative sample (~1,600 physicians participate annually; 32,000 patient visits sampled annually)
- Geography: National and regional estimates only

NHAMCS

- Continuous since 1992
- Nationally representative sample (~900 outpatient clinics participate with 34,000 patient visits sampled; ~425 emergency departments participate with ~35,000 patient visits sampled)
- Geography: National and regional estimates only

Respiratory Health Content:

NAMCS

- ICD-9 visit codes identify visits for asthma and other respiratory health reasons
- Patient record form includes asthma items:
 - Major reason for visit (acute versus follow up)
 - Diagnostic tests: x-rays
 - Health education for asthma
 - Documentation of medications and immunizations at visit
- 2011-2012 asthma supplement planned with physician questions on clinical decision making

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Respiratory Health Content:

NHAMCS:

Outpatient Department

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

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
 - Procedures: nebulizer therapy, intubation
 - Documentation of medications and immunizations at visit
 - Hospital admission or observation unit stay

Website and Data Access Information:

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

Related Resources:

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

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

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

Survey Instruments:

See patient record forms, etc.: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_questionnaires.htm