

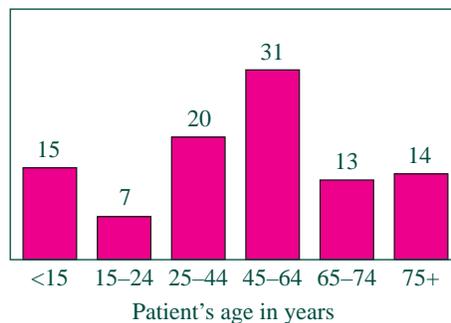


Factsheet

PHYSICIAN OFFICE VISITS

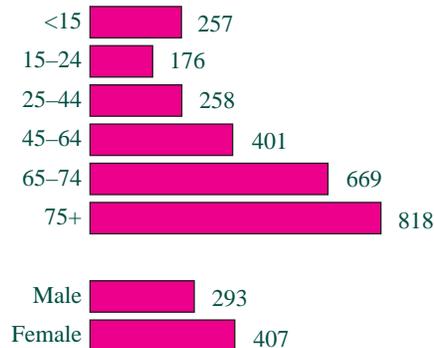
In 2009, there were an estimated 1 billion visits to nonfederally employed, office-based physicians in the United States. Half of the visits were made by persons 25–64 years of age.

Percent distribution of office visits by patient's age: 2009



The annual visit rate increased with age from age 15. The visit rate was highest for persons 65 years and over. Females had a higher visit rate than males.

Annual office visit rates by patient's age and sex: 2009



Number of visits per 100 persons per year

Primary expected source of payment included:

- Private insurance — 64%
- Medicare — 25%
- Medicaid — 13%
- No insurance¹ — 4%
- Worker's compensation — 1%

¹ No insurance is defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity visits as payment sources.

The major reason for visit was:

- New problem — 34%
- Chronic problem, routine — 30%
- Preventative care — 19%
- Chronic problem, flare-up — 8%
- Pre- or post-surgery/injury follow-up — 7%

The top 5 reasons given by patients for visiting physicians were:

- General medical exam
- Progress visit
- Cough
- Postoperative visit
- Medication visit

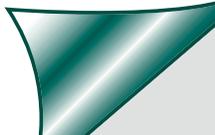
The top 5 diagnoses were:

- Essential hypertension
- Routine infant or child health check
- Diabetes mellitus
- Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis
- Spinal disorders

Medications were provided or prescribed at 74 percent of office visits. The top 5 generic substances utilized were:

- Aspirin
- Lisinopril
- Simvastatin
- Levothyroxine
- Metoprolol

For more information, contact the Ambulatory Care Statistics Branch at 301-458-4600 or visit our Web site at <www.cdc.gov/namcs>.



NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals, including *JAMA*, *Archives of Internal Medicine*, and *Journal of Rheumatology*. Here are just a few recent publications using NAMCS data:

Shi L, Lebrun LA, Tsai J, Zhu J. Characteristics of ambulatory care patients and services: a comparison of community health centers and physicians' offices. *J Health Care Poor Underserved*. 21(4):1169–83. Nov 2010.

Ananthakrishnan AN, McGinley EL, Saeian K. Length of office visits for gastrointestinal disease: impact of physician specialty. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 105(8):1719–25. Aug 2010.

Craig BM, Bell BA, Quinn GP, Vadaparampil ST. Prevalence of Cancer Visits by Physician Specialty, 1997–2006. *J Cancer Educ*. Mar 2010. [Epub ahead of print]

Bleich SN, Pickett-Blakely O, Cooper LA. Physician practice patterns of obesity diagnosis and weight-related counseling. *Patient Educ Couns*. Mar 2010. [Epub ahead of print]

Fang J, Keenan NL, Ayala C. Health care services provided during physician office visits for hypertension: differences by specialty. *J Clin Hypertens (Greenwich)*. 12(2):89–95. Feb 2010.

Neumiller JJ, Sclar DA, Robison LM, Setter SM, Skaer TL. Rate of obesity in U.S. ambulatory patients with diabetes mellitus: A national assessment of office-based physician visits. *Prim Care Diabetes*. Jul 2009. [Epub ahead of print]

Licciardone JC, Clearfield MB, Guillory VJ. Clinical practice characteristics of osteopathic and allopathic primary care physicians at academic health centers: results from the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. *Acad Med*. 84(6):744–50. Jun 2009.

Valderas JM, Starfield B, Forrest CB, Sibbald B, Roland M. Ambulatory care provided by office-based specialists in the United States. *Ann Fam Med*. 7(2):104–11. Mar–Apr 2009.

Sonnenfeld N, Schappert SM, Lin SX. Racial and Ethnic Differences in Delivery of Tobacco-Cessation Services. *Am J Prev Med*. Oct 2008. [Epub ahead of print]

Housman TS, Hancox JG, Mir MR, Camacho F, Fleischer AB, Feldman SR, Williford PM. What Specialties Perform the Most Common Outpatient Cosmetic Procedures in the United States? *Dermatol Surg*. Dec 2007. [Epub ahead of print]

Morgan PA, Strand J, Ostbye T, Albanese MA. Missing in action: care by physician assistants and nurse practitioners in national health surveys. *Health Serv Res*. 42(5):2022–37. Oct 2007.

The complete list of publications using NAMCS data, which includes hundreds of articles and reports, is available on our Web site.