In 2009, there were an estimated 56 million visits to nonfederally employed, office-based ophthalmologists in the United States. A majority of the visits were made by persons 45 years of age and over.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient’s age in years</th>
<th>&lt;25</th>
<th>25–44</th>
<th>45–64</th>
<th>65–74</th>
<th>75+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of visits</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The visit rates for persons in the three oldest age groups were higher compared to each of the two youngest age groups.

Annual office visit rates by patient’s age: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number of Visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;25</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Male: 16
Female: 20

Number of visits per 100 persons per year

Primary expected source of payment included:

- Private insurance — 69%
- Medicare — 48%
- Medicaid — 9%
- No insurance\(^1\) — 3%

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

The major reason for visit was:

- Chronic problem, routine — 36%
- New problem — 24%
- Preventative care — 18%
- Pre- or post-surgery/injury follow-up — 16%
- Chronic problem, flare-up — 6%

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

- Vision dysfunctions
- Eye exam
- Postoperative visit
- Cataract
- Progressive visit

The top 5 diagnoses were:

- Glaucoma
- Cataract
- Retinal detachment and other retinal disorders
- Diabetes mellitus
- Disorders of refraction and accommodation

Medications were provided or prescribed at 59 percent of office visits. The top 3 generic substances utilized were:

- Prednisolone ophthalmic
- Miscellaneous ophthalmic agents
- Latanoprost ophthalmic

For more information, contact the Ambulatory Care Statistics Branch at 301-458-4600 or visit our Web site at [www.cdc.gov/namcs](http://www.cdc.gov/namcs).
THE IMPORTANCE OF NAMCS DATA

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


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

NAMCS(FS)-8 (7-11)