In 2009, there were an estimated 96 million visits to outpatient departments (OPDs) of nonfederal short-stay and general hospitals in the United States. The annual visit rate was 31.9 OPD visits per 100 persons. About one-third of the visits were made by persons under 25 years of age.

Percent distribution of OPD visits by patient age: 2009

The visit rate was higher for females compared with males and for Black or African American persons compared with White persons.

Annual rate of OPD visits by patient sex and race: 2009

Expected sources of payment:
- Private insurance (43%)
- Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (29%)
- Medicare (19%)
- No insurance (11%)
- Other (4%)
- Unknown (4%)

NOTE: More than one source may be reported per visit.

Common reasons for visit:
- Progress visit (9.1 million)
- General medical examination (5.8 million)
- Cough (2.6 million)
- Counseling (2.6 million)
- Prenatal examination (2.4 million)
- Medication (2.3 million)
- Throat symptoms (1.8 million)
- Back symptoms (1.6 million)
- Postoperative visit (1.6 million)
- Diabetes mellitus (1.6 million)

Common diagnoses:
- Malignant neoplasms (4.6 million)
- Hypertension (4.2 million)
- Spinal disorders (3.4 million)
- Arthropathies (3.1 million)
- Routine infant or child health check (3.1 million)
- Diabetes mellitus (3.0 million)
- Acute upper respiratory infection, excluding pharyngitis (2.9 million)
- Normal pregnancy (2.0 million)
- Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder (1.7 million)
- Rheumatism, excluding back (1.7 million)

Percent of OPD visits with selected chronic conditions: 2009
Common reasons for visit:
- Progress visit (9.1 million)
- General medical examination (5.8 million)
- Cough (2.6 million)
- Counseling (2.6 million)
- Prenatal examination (2.4 million)
- Medication (2.3 million)
- Throat symptoms (1.8 million)
- Back symptoms (1.6 million)
- Postoperative visit (1.6 million)
- Diabetes mellitus (1.6 million)

Common diagnoses:
- Malignant neoplasms (4.6 million)
- Hypertension (4.2 million)
- Spinal disorders (3.4 million)
- Arthropathies (3.1 million)
- Routine infant or child health check (3.1 million)
- Diabetes mellitus (3.0 million)
- Acute upper respiratory infection, excluding pharyngitis (2.9 million)
- Normal pregnancy (2.0 million)
- Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder (1.7 million)
- Rheumatism, excluding back (1.7 million)

Percent of OPD visits with selected chronic conditions: 2009

Medications were provided or prescribed at 75 percent of OPD visits for a total of 255 million drugs.

Common drug categories:
- Analgesics (32.5 million)
- Antidepressants (11.7 million)
- Antidiabetic agents (11.0 million)
- Antihyperlipidemic agents (10.6 million)
- Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics (9.1 million)
- Bronchodilators (8.6 million)
- Anticonvulsants (8.5 million)
- Beta-adrenergic blocking agents (7.9 million)
- Dermatological agents (7.6 million)
- Diuretics (7.4 million)

IMPORTANCE OF NHAMCS OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT DATA

NHAMCS OPD data are widely used in research studies published in nationally recognized health and medical journals, including Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Clinical Infectious Diseases. Here are a few examples of recent publications.


NHAMCS(FS)-2 (8-11)

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