In 2010, there were an estimated 29 million visits to nonfederally employed, office-based physicians specializing in cardiovascular diseases in the United States. More than half of the visits were made by persons 65 years of age and over.

Percent distribution of office visits by patient’s age: 2010

The visit rates were highest for persons 65 years and over. The overall rate did not differ by sex.

Annual office visit rates by patient’s age and sex: 2010

The major reason for visit was:
- Chronic problem, routine — 54%
- New problem — 17%
- Preventive Care — 12%
- Chronic problem, flare-up — 9%
- Pre- or post-surgery/injury follow-up — 5%

The top 3 reasons given by patients for visiting cardiovascular disease specialists were:
- Progress visit
- Chest pain
- Ischemic heart disease

The top 4 diagnoses were:
- Coronary atherosclerosis
- Essential hypertension
- Atrial fibrillation
- Chest pain

Medications were provided or prescribed at 91 percent of office visits. The top 5 generic substances utilized were:
- Aspirin
- Metoprolol
- Simvastatin
- Lisinopril
- Clopidogrel

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

Expected source(s) of payment included:
- Medicare — 52%
- Private insurance — 39%
THE IMPORTANCE OF NAMCS DATA

NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals, including *JAMA*, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, and *Circulation*. Here are a few recent publications using NAMCS data:


A complete list of publications using NAMCS data, which includes articles and reports, can be found at our Web site: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_products.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_products.htm)