In 2010, there were an estimated 19 million visits to nonfederally employed, office-based physicians specializing in general surgery in the United States. More than 60 percent of the visits were made by persons between 25–64 years of age.

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

The annual visit rates were highest for persons 65 years and over.

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

Expected source(s) of payment included:
- Private insurance — 52%
- Medicare — 28%
- Medicaid/CHIP — 7%

The major reason for visit was:
- Pre- or post-surgery/injury follow-up — 38%
- New problem — 30%
- Chronic problem, flare-up — 6%

The top 2 reasons given by patients for visiting general surgeons were:
- Postoperative visit
- Hernia of abdominal cavity

The top diagnoses were:
- Malignant neoplasms of breast
- Sebaceous cyst
- Hernia of abdominal cavity

Medications or immunizations were provided or prescribed at 49 percent of the visits to general surgeons. The top 2 generic substances utilized were:
- Levothyroxine
- Lisinopril

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>.
THE IMPORTANCE OF NAMCS DATA

NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals, including *JAMA*, *American Journal of Public Health*, and *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*. 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)