In 2010, there were an estimated 55 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: 2010

The visit rates for persons in the two oldest age groups were higher than the two youngest age groups.

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

The major reason for visit was:
- Chronic problem, routine — 33%
- New problem — 27%
- Pre- or post-surgery/injury follow-up — 18%
- Preventative care — 16%
- Chronic problem, flare-up — 6%

The top 5 reasons given by patients for visiting ophthalmologists were:
- Vision dysfunctions
- Eye exam
- Progress visit
- Postoperative visit
- Cataract

The top 3 diagnoses were:
- Cataract
- Lens replacement
- Diabetes ophthalmic manifestations

Medications were provided or prescribed at 59 percent of office visits.

The top 4 generic substances utilized were:
- Multivitamin
- Aspirin
- Prednisone Ophthalmic
- Levothyroxine

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>.

1 No insurance is defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity visits as payment sources.
NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals, including JAMA, and Archives of Ophthalmology (renamed JAMA Ophthalmology). 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