In 2010, there were an estimated 63 million visits to nonfederally employed, office-based physicians specializing in orthopedic surgery in the United States. More than half of the visits were made by persons aged 25–64 years.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient’s age in years</th>
<th>&lt;15</th>
<th>15–24</th>
<th>25–44</th>
<th>45–64</th>
<th>65–74</th>
<th>75+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of visits</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The annual visit rate was highest in the 65-74 age group.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>&lt;15</th>
<th>15–24</th>
<th>25–44</th>
<th>45–64</th>
<th>65–74</th>
<th>75+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The major reason for visit was:
- New problem — 37%
- Pre- or post-surgery/injury follow-up — 23%
- Chronic problem, routine — 22%
- Chronic problem, flare-up — 15%

The top 4 reasons given by patients for visiting orthopedic surgeons were:
- Knee symptoms
- Shoulder symptoms
- Postoperative visit
- Back symptoms

The top 3 diagnoses were:
- Osteoarthritis
- Lower limb joint pain
- Tear of medial cartilage

Medications were provided or prescribed at 49 percent of office visits. The top 3 generic substances utilized were:
- Acetaminophen with hydrocodone
- Naproxen
- Ibuprofen

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   Orthopedic Surgery

NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals, including *JAMA*, *Journal of Family Practice*, and *Spine*. 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