In 2010, there were an estimated 20 million visits to nonfederally employed, office-based otolaryngologists in the United States. One-fifth of the visits were made by persons under 15 years of age.

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

The visit rate was not different for males and females.

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

The major reason for visit was:
- New problem — 34%
- Chronic problem, routine — 29%
- Chronic problem, flare-up — 17%
- Pre- or post-surgery/injury follow-up — 15%

The top 3 reasons given by patients for visiting otolaryngologists were:
- Hearing dysfunction
- Earache or ear infection
- Nasal congestion

The top 3 diagnoses were:
- Otitis media
- Chronic sinusitis
- Impacted cerumen

Medications were provided or prescribed at 55 percent of office visits. The top 3 generic substances utilized were:
- Mometasone nasal
- Omeprazole
- Fluticasone nasal

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, Laryngoscope, and Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. 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

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