In 2009, there were an estimated 34 million visits to nonfederally employed, office-based dermatologists in the United States. More than half of these visits were made by persons more than 25–64 years of age.

Percent distribution of office visits by patient’s age: 2009

The visit rate was highest for persons 75 years and over. The visit rate increased with age. The overall rate did not differ by sex.

Annual office visit rates by patient’s age and sex: 2009

The major reason for visit was:
- New problem — 40%
- Chronic problem, routine — 30%
- Chronic problem, flare-up — 15%
- Preventative care — 9%
- Pre- or post-surgery/injury follow-up — 4%

The top 5 reasons given by patients for visiting dermatologists were:
- Acne or pimples
- Discoloration or pigmentation
- Skin rash
- Skin lesion
- Symptoms of skin moles

The top 5 diagnoses were:
- Actinic and seborrheic keratosis
- Benign neoplasm
- Acne
- Malignant neoplasms
- Contact dermatitis and other eczema

Medications were provided or prescribed at 68 percent of office visits. The top 4 generic substances utilized were:
- Clobetasol topical
- Tretinoin topical
- Triamcinolone topical
- Doxycycline

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

Primary expected source of payment included:
- Private insurance — 72%
- Medicare — 26%

1 No insurance is defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity visits as payment sources.
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 Academy of Dermatology*, and *Archives of Dermatology*. Here are just a few recent publications using NAMCS data:


The complete list of publications using NAMCS data, which includes hundreds of articles and reports, is available on our Web site.

NAMCS(FS)-2 (7-11)