In 2009, 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: 2009

In 2009, 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: 2009

Annual office visit rates by patient’s age and sex: 2009. The visit rate was not different for males and females.

Primary expected source of payment included:
- Private insurance — 73%
- Medicare — 21%
- Medicaid — 11%
- No insurance\(^1\) — 2%

The major reason for visit was:
- New Problem — 35%
- Chronic problem, routine — 28%
- Pre- or post-surgery/injury follow-up — 17%
- Chronic problem, flare-up — 15%
- Preventative care — 4%

The top 5 reasons given by patients for visiting otolaryngologists were:
- Postoperative visit
- Earache or ear infection
- Hearing dysfunction
- Plugged feeling in ear
- Nasal congestion

The top 5 diagnoses were:
- Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders
- Other diseases of the respiratory system
- Other disorders of the ear and mastoid process
- Disorders of external ear
- Chronic sinusitis

Medications were provided or prescribed at 65 percent of office visits. The top 5 generic substances utilized were:
- Levothyroxine
- Omeprazole
- Aspirin
- Fluticasone nasal
- Montelukast

For more information, contact the Ambulatory 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.
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 Board of Family Practice,* and *Archives of Internal Medicine.* 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)-11 (7-11)