In 2011, there were an estimated 125.7 million visits to outpatient departments (OPDs) of nonfederal short-stay and general hospitals in the United States. The annual visit rate was 41.0 OPD visits per 100 persons. The highest number of visits was made by persons between 45 and 64 years of age.

Percent distribution of OPD visits by patient age: 2011

Females had a higher visit rate compared with males. The visit rate was higher for Black or African American persons compared with White persons.

Annual rate of OPD visits by patient sex and race: 2011

Common reasons for visit:
- Progress visit (16.7 million)
- General medical examination (7.7 million)
- Postoperative visit (3.3 million)
- Medication (2.7 million)
- Counseling (2.7 million)
- Cough (2.6 million)
- Prenatal examination (2.4 million)
- Diabetes mellitus (2.3 million)
- Throat symptoms (2.1 million)
- Well baby examination (1.9 million)

Common diagnoses:
- Malignant neoplasms (5.2 million)
- Diabetes mellitus (5.0 million)
- Routine infant or child health check (4.3 million)
- Arthropathies (4.1 million)
- Hypertension (3.7 million)
- Spinal disorders (3.4 million)
- Acute upper respiratory infection, excluding pharyngitis (3.3 million)
- Normal pregnancy (3.2 million)
- Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder (2.8 million)
- General medical examination (2.5 million)

Percent of OPD visits with selected chronic conditions: 2011

Expected sources of payment:
- Private insurance (39%)
- Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (35%)
- Medicare (20%)
- No insurance (7%)
- Other (7%)
- Unknown (5%)

NOTE: More than one source may be reported per visit.
Medications were provided or prescribed at 73 percent of OPD visits for a total of 329 million drugs.

Common drug categories:
- Analgesics (41.1 million)
- Antidiabetic agents (15.6 million)
- Antihyperlipidemic agents (14.5 million)
- Antidepressants (14.3 million)
- Immunostimulants (12.9 million)
- Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics (12.3 million)
- Bronchodilators (10.9 million)
- Anticonvulsants (10.4 million)
- Dermatological agents (10.2 million)
- Antiplatelet agents (10.1 million)
- Beta-adrenergic blocking agents (10.1 million)

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

IMPORTANCE OF NHAMCS OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT DATA

NHAMCS OPD data are widely used in research studies published in nationally recognized health and medical journals, including Pediatrics, JAMA and Gynecology. Here are a few examples of recent publications:


