

# National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

## ABOUT NAMCS

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) produces statistics that represent the experience of the U.S. population at visits to office-based physicians. The survey provides information on office visits in terms of physician practice, patient, and visit characteristics.

## INTERNAL MEDICINE

Annually, an estimated **139 million visits** are made to nonfederally employed, office-based physicians specializing in internal medicine in the United States. More than 75% of the visits were by persons aged 45 and over. The annual visit rate increased with age, and females had a higher visit rate than males.

## CONTACT US

Ambulatory and Hospital  
Care Statistics Branch:

301-458-4600

[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/namcs\\_participant.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/namcs_participant.htm)



## MAJOR REASON FOR VISIT

NEW PROBLEM	33%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE	31%
PREVENTIVE CARE	21%

## TOP 4 PRIMARY DIAGNOSES

- ESSENTIAL HYPERTENSION
- GENERAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION
- DIABETES MELLITUS
- UNSPECIFIED HYPERLIPIDEMIA

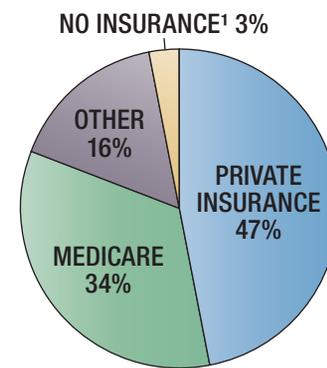
## TOP 5 SERVICES, ORDERED OR PROVIDED

- TOTAL CHOLESTEROL TEST
- NEUROLOGICAL
- COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (CBC)
- DIET/NUTRITION COUNSELING
- HgA1c

## TOP 4 REASONS TO VISIT

- PROGRESSIVE VISIT
- GENERAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION
- MEDICATION
- COUNSELING

## EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT



<sup>1</sup>Having only self-pay, no charge, or charity visits as payment sources.

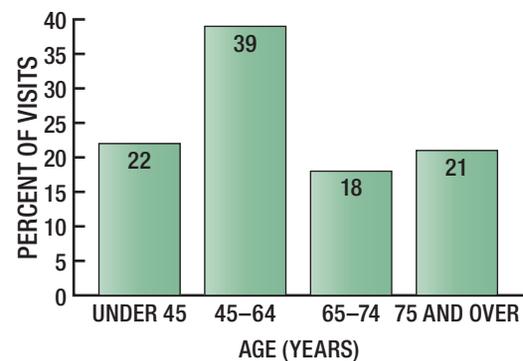
## MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED AT 84% OF OFFICE VISITS.

### TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



- ASPIRIN
- OMEPRAZOLE
- ALBUTEROL
- LISINAPRIL
- AMLODIPINE

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF INTERNAL MEDICINE OFFICE VISITS BY PATIENT'S AGE: 2015



# National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

**NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals. Below is a selection of internal medicine articles in recent publications citing NAMCS data:**

Barnett ML, Linder JA, Clark CR, Sommers BD. **Low-value medical services in the safety-net population.** JAMA Intern Med 177(6):829–37. 2017.

Fitzpatrick SL, Stevens VJ. **Adult obesity management in primary care, 2008–2013.** Prev Med 99:128–33. 2017.

Gray B, Vandergrift J, Lipner RS, Green MM. **Comparison of content on the American Board of Internal Medicine Maintenance of Certification examination with conditions seen in practice by general internists.** JAMA 317(22):2317–24. 2017.

Asao K, McEwen LN, Lee JM, Herman WH. **Ascertainment of outpatient visits by patients with diabetes: The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS).** J Diabetes Complications 29(5):650–8. 2015.

Mafi JN, Edwards ST, Pedersen NP, Davis RB, McCarthy EP, Landon BE. **Trends in the ambulatory management of headache: Analysis of NAMCS and NHAMCS data 1999–2010.** J Gen Intern Med 30(5):548–55. 2015.

Guessous I. **Capsule commentary on Fontil, et al. physician underutilization of effective medications for resistant hypertension at office visits in the United States: NAMCS 2006–2010.** J Gen Intern Med 29(3):516. 2014.

Edwards ST, Mafi JN, Landon BE. **Trends and quality of care in outpatient visits to generalist and specialist physicians delivering primary care in the United States, 1997–2010.** J Gen Intern Med 29(6):947–55. 2014.

Mafi JN, McCarthy EP, Davis RB, Landon BE. **Worsening trends in the management and treatment of back pain.** JAMA Intern Med 173(17):1573–81. 2013.

Margaretten ME, Katz P, Schmajuk G, Yelin E. **Missed opportunities for depression screening in patients with arthritis in the United States.** J Gen Intern Med 28(12):1637–42. 2013.

Kale MS, Bishop TF, Federman AD, Keyhani S. **Trends in the overuse of ambulatory health care services in the U.S.** JAMA Intern Med 173(2):142–8. 2013.

Leventer-Roberts M, Patel A, Trasande L. **Is severity of obesity associated with diagnosis or health education practices?** Int J Obes (Lond) 36(12):1571–7. 2012.

Peery AF, Dellon ES, Lund J, Crockett SD, McGowan CE, Bulsiewicz WJ, et al. **Burden of gastrointestinal disease in the United States: 2012 update.** Gastroenterology 143(5):1179–87. 2012.

**A complete list of publications using NAMCS data, which includes articles and reports, can be found at: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd\\_products.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_products.htm).**

