Ophthalmology Fact Sheet from the 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.

OPHTHALMOLOGY
In 2015, an estimated 58 million visits were made to nonfederally employed, office-based ophthalmologists in the United States. A majority of the visits were made by persons aged 45 and over. The visit rates for the two oldest age groups were higher than for the two youngest age groups.

CONTACT US
Ambulatory and Hospital Care Statistics Branch:
301–458–4600
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/namcs_participant.htm

MAJOR REASON FOR VISIT
- CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE 38%
- NEW PROBLEM 21%
- PRE- OR POST-SURGERY 14%
- PREVENTIVE CARE 13%

EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT
- MEDICARE 47%
- PRIVATE INSURANCE 34%
- MEDICAID OR CHIP 12%
- OTHER 4%
- NO INSURANCE 3%

PATIENTS’ TOP 5 REASONS FOR VISIT
- PROGRESS VISIT
- EYE EXAMINATION
- VISION DYSFUNCTION
- GLAUCOMA
- Cataract

TOP 3 DIAGNOSES
- UNSPECIFIED CATARACT
- LENS REPLACEMENT
- NUCLEAR SCLEROSIS

TOP 4 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS
- ASPIRIN
- TROPICAMIDE OPHTHALMIC
- MISCELLANEOUS OPHTHALMIC AGENTS
- MULTIVITAMIN

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF OPHTHALMOLOGY OFFICE VISITS, BY PATIENT’S AGE: 2015

PERCENT OF VISITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUP (YEARS)</th>
<th>UNDER 45</th>
<th>45–64</th>
<th>65–74</th>
<th>75 AND OVER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERCENT OF VISITS</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Children’s Health Insurance Program.
2Having only self-pay, no charge, or charity visits as payment sources.
NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals. Below is a selection of ophthalmology articles in recent publications citing NAMCS data:


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.