

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%

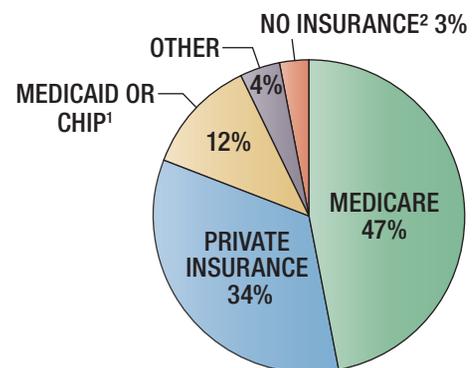
PATIENTS' TOP 5 REASONS FOR VISIT

- PROGRESS VISIT
- EYE EXAMINATION
- VISION DYSFUNCTION
- GLAUCOMA
- CATARACT

TOP 3 DIAGNOSES

- UNSPECIFIED CATARACT
- LENS REPLACEMENT
- NUCLEAR SCLEROSIS

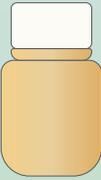
EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT



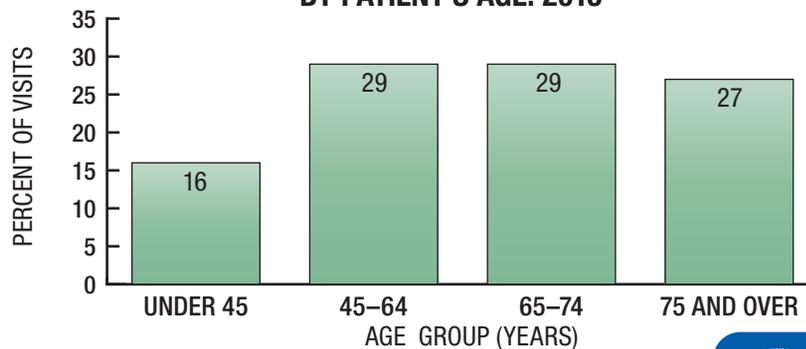
¹Children's Health Insurance Program.
²Having only self-pay, no charge, or charity visits as payment sources.

MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT **68%** OF OFFICE VISITS.

TOP 4 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

- 
- ASPIRIN
 - TROPICAMIDE OPHTHALMIC
 - MISCELLANEOUS OPHTHALMIC AGENTS
 - MULTIVITAMIN

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



NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Ophthalmology Fact Sheet *from the*

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

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:

De Lott LB, Kerber KA, Lee PP, Brown DL, Burke JF. **Diplopia-related ambulatory and emergency department visits in the United States, 2003–2012.** JAMA Ophthalmol 135(12):1339–44. 2017.

Wilson FA, Stimpson JP, Wang Y. **Inconsistencies exist in national estimates of eye care services utilization in the United States.** J Ophthalmol 2015:435606. 2015.

Shokeen D, O'Neill JL, Davis SA, Moustafa F, Huang WW. **Characterizing the treatment of autoimmune bullous disorders from 1993 through 2010: A NAMCS study.** J Clin Investigat Dermatol 1(1):1–4. 2013.

Zambelli-Weiner A, Friedman DS. **Building a basis for action: Enhancing public health surveillance of vision impairment and eye health in the United States.** Am J Ophthalmol 154(6 Suppl):S8–22. 2012.

Rein DB, Wittenborn JS, Zhang X, Hoerger TJ, Zhang P, Klein BE, et al. **The cost-effectiveness of Welcome to Medicare visual acuity screening and a possible alternative Welcome to Medicare eye evaluation among persons without diagnosed diabetes mellitus.** Arch Ophthalmol 130(5):607–14. 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.