

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

ABOUT NAMCS

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) produces statistics that are representative of people in the United States who visit office-based physicians. The survey provides information on office visits by physician practice characteristics, patient characteristics, and visit characteristics.

DERMATOLOGY

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **44 million visits per year** to nonfederally employed, office-based providers specializing in dermatology in the United States.

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)

ambcare@cdc.gov



MAJOR REASON FOR VISIT

CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE	37.0%
NEW PROBLEM ¹	31.0%
PREVENTIVE CARE	16.9%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, FLARE-UP	8.7%
POSTSURGERY	3.6%
PRESURGERY	1.0%

¹Onset less than 3 months.

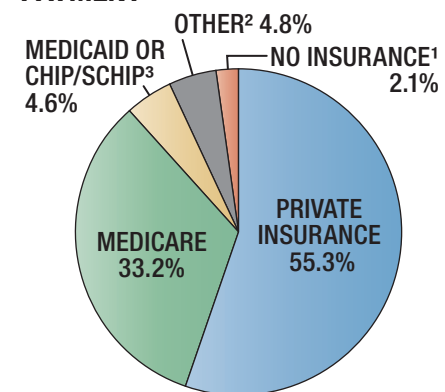
PATIENTS' TOP 5 PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR VISIT

- SKIN LESION
- PROGRESS VISIT
- ACNE OR PIMPLES
- SKIN RASH
- DISCOLORATION OR PIGMENTATION

TOP 5 SERVICES, ORDERED OR PROVIDED

- SKIN EXAMINATION
- BIOPSY
- CRYOSURGERY/DESTRUCTION OF TISSUE
- EXCISION OF TISSUE
- WOUND CARE

PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT



¹Having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as source of payment.

²Includes workers' compensation, other sources of payment, unknown, and blank data.

³CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program; SCHIP is State CHIP.

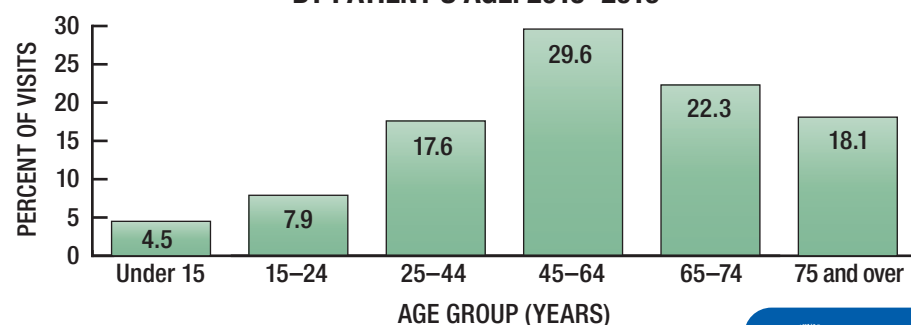
MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT 70.8% OF OFFICE VISITS.

TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



- NITROGEN
- ASPIRIN
- LIDOCAINE
- TRIAMCINOLONE TOPICAL
- MISCELLANEOUS TOPICAL AGENTS

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DERMATOLOGY OFFICE VISITS, BY PATIENT'S AGE: 2015–2016



NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Dermatology Fact Sheet *from the*

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals. Here are a few recent publications using NAMCS data:

Fleischer AB Jr. **Guideline-based medicine grading on the basis of the guidelines of care for ambulatory atopic dermatitis treatment in the United States.** J Am Acad Dermatol 80(2):417–24. 2019.

Patel VM, Schwartz RA. **Disparities in access to a dermatologist for acne care in the United States.** Int J Dermatol 56(6):e131–3. 2017.

Wilmer EN, Gustafson CJ, Ahn CS, Davis SA, Feldman SR, Huang WW. **Most common dermatologic conditions encountered by dermatologists and nondermatologists.** Cutis 94(6):285–92. 2014.

Luersen K, Dabade TS, West CE, Davis SA, Feldman SR. **Phototherapy trends in dermatology.** J Dermatolog Treat 25(6):487–8. 2014.

Ahn CS, Allen MM, Davis SA, Huang KE, Fleischer AB Jr, Feldman SR. **The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: A resource for understanding the outpatient dermatology treatment.** J Dermatolog Treat 25(6):453–8. 2014.

Landis ET, Davis SA, Feldman SR, Taylor S. **Complementary and alternative medicine use in dermatology in the United States.** J Altern Complement Med 20(5):392–8. 2014.



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.