

# 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.

## GENERAL/FAMILY PRACTICE

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **198 million visits per year** to nonfederally employed, office-based providers specializing in general and family practice 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)

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## MAJOR REASON FOR VISIT

NEW PROBLEM <sup>1</sup>	36.8%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE	30.8%
PREVENTIVE CARE	21.2%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, FLARE-UP	6.4%
PRESURGERY	1.2%
POSTSURGERY	0.6%

<sup>1</sup>Onset less than 3 months.

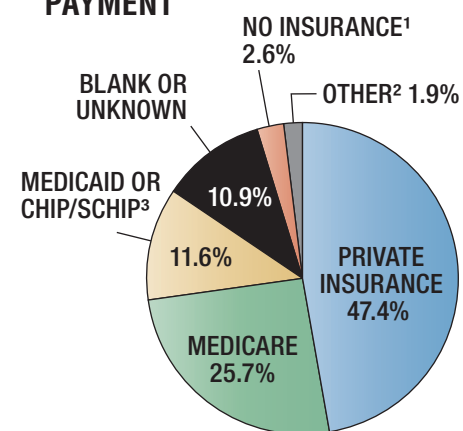
## TOP 5 SERVICES, ORDERED OR PROVIDED

- LIPID PROFILE
- COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (CBC)
- DIET OR NUTRITION COUNSELING
- COMPREHENSIVE METABOLIC PANEL (CMP)
- SKIN EXAMINATION

## PATIENTS' TOP 5 PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR VISIT

- PROGRESS VISIT
- GENERAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION
- MEDICATION
- HYPERTENSION
- DIABETES MELLITUS

## PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT



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

<sup>2</sup>Includes workers' compensation and other sources of payment.

<sup>3</sup>CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program; SCHIP is State CHIP.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

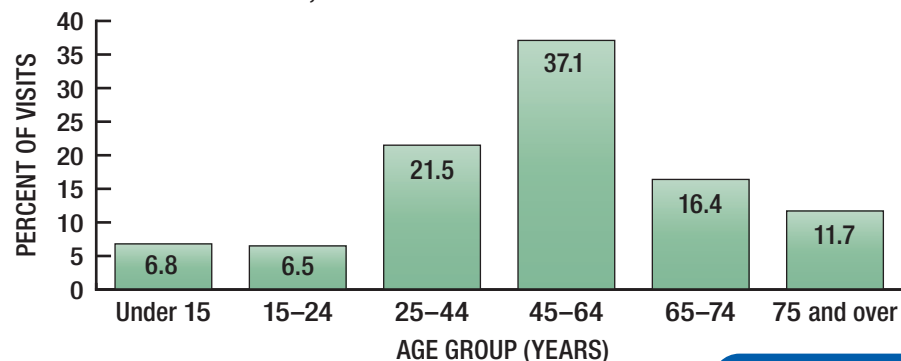
## MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT 84.7% OF OFFICE VISITS.

## TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



- ASPIRIN
- ALBUTEROL
- LISINAPRIL
- ATORVASTATIN
- OMEPRAZOLE

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF GENERAL AND FAMILY PRACTICE OFFICE VISITS, BY PATIENT'S AGE: 2015–2016



# 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:**

Pilla SJ, Segal JB, Maruthur NM. **Primary care provides the majority of outpatient care for patients with diabetes in the US: NAMCS 2009–2015.** J Gen Intern Med 34(7):1089–91. 2019.

Wen H, Borders TF, Cummings JR. **Trends in buprenorphine prescribing by physician specialty.** Health Aff (Millwood) 38(1):24–8. 2019.

Rhee TG, Choi YC, Ouellet GM, Ross JS. **National prescribing trends for high-risk anticholinergic medications in older adults.** J Am Geriatr Soc 66(7):1382–7. 2018.

Rhee TG. **Co-prescribing of benzodiazepines and opioids in older adults: Rates, correlates, and national trends.** J Gerontol A 73(2):123–31. 2018.

Peabody MR, O'Neill TR, Stelter KL, Puffer JC. **Frequency and criticality of diagnoses in family medicine practices: From the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS).** J Am Board Fam Med 31(1):126–38. 2018.

Mafi JN, Wee CC, Davis RB, Landon BE. **Association of primary care practice location and ownership with the provision of low-value care in the United States.** JAMA Intern Med 177(6):838–45. 2017.

Mainous AG 3rd, Tanner RJ, Baker R. **Prediabetes diagnosis and treatment in primary care.** J Am Board Fam Med 29(2):283–5. 2016.

Gates K, Petterson S, Wingrove P, Miller B, Klink K. **You can't treat what you don't diagnose: An analysis of the recognition of somatic presentations of depression and anxiety in primary care.** Fam Syst Health 34(4):317–29. 2016.

Reddy SM, Ramachandran A, Cabral H, Kazis L. **Provision of family planning to women with cardiovascular risk factors.** J Am Board Fam Med 28(1):105–14. 2015.

McMorrow S, Long SK, Fogel A. **Primary care providers ordered fewer preventive services for women with Medicaid than for women with private coverage.** Health Aff 34(6):1001–9. 2015.



**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).**