

# 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 SURGERY

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **16 million visits per year** made to nonfederally employed, office-based physicians specializing in general surgery 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

POSTSURGERY	33.3%
NEW PROBLEM <sup>1</sup>	25.2%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE	13.2%
PRESURGERY	9.7%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, FLARE-UP	8.2%

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

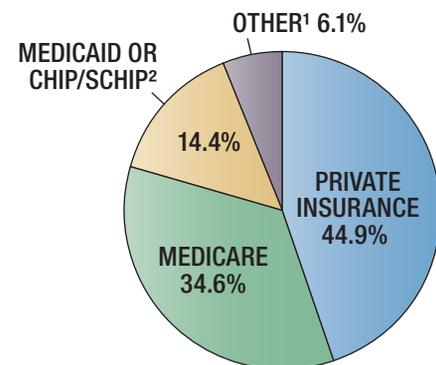
## PATIENTS' TOP 5 PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR VISIT

- POSTOPERATIVE VISIT
- PROGRESS VISIT
- HERNIA OF ABDOMINAL CAVITY
- STOMACH AND ABDOMINAL PAIN, CRAMPS
- LUMP OR MASS OF BREAST

## TOP 5 SERVICES, ORDERED OR PROVIDED

- SKIN EXAMINATION
- BREAST EXAMINATION
- NEUROLOGIC EXAMINATION
- WOUND CARE
- OTHER ULTRASOUND

## PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT



<sup>1</sup>Includes workers' compensation, self-pay, no charge or charity, other sources of payment, unknown, and blank data.

<sup>2</sup>CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program; SCHIP is State CHIP.

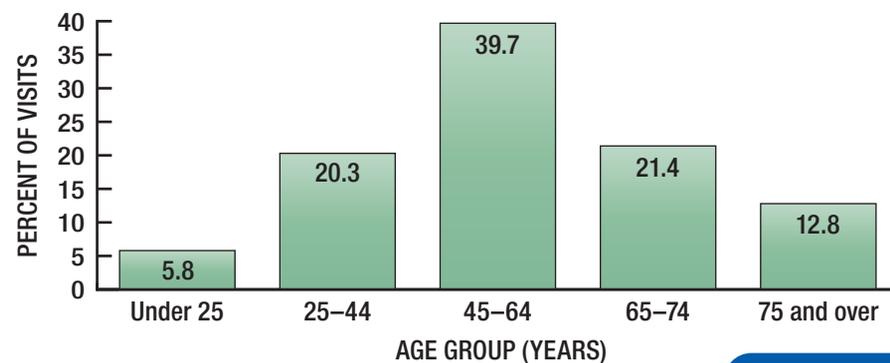
MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT **54.6%** OF OFFICE VISITS.

## TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



- ASPIRIN
- LISINAPRIL
- MULTIVITAMIN
- OMEPRAZOLE
- LEVOTHYROXINE

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



NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

General Surgery 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:**

Komaravolu SS, Kim JJ, Singh S, Merchant AM. **Colonoscopy utilization in rural areas by general surgeons: An analysis of the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.** Am J Surg [Epub ahead of print]. 2019.

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.

Salibian AA, Mahboubi H, Patel MS, Kuan EC, Malinoski DJ, Vagefi PA, Djalilian HR. **The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: PAs and NPs in outpatient surgery.** JAAPA 29(5):47–53. 2016.

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.

Davis SA, Huang KE, Feldman SR, Fleischer AB Jr, Huang WW. **Trends in ambulatory health care usage for adult acne.** J Cutan Med Surg 19(4):377–9. 2015.

Farhangian ME, Snyder A, Huang KE, Doerfler L, Huang WW, Feldman SR. **Cutaneous cryosurgery in the United States.** J Dermatolog Treat 27(1):91–4. 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.

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).

