

# 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.

## PSYCHIATRY

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **38 million visits per year** to nonfederally employed, office-based providers specializing in psychiatry in the United States.

## CONTACT US

Ambulatory and Hospital Care  
Statistics Branch:

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[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

CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE	70.1%
NEW PROBLEM <sup>1</sup>	10.1%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, FLARE-UP	7.7%

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

### PATIENTS' TOP 4 PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR VISIT

- PROGRESS VISIT
- MEDICATION
- DEPRESSION
- ANXIETY AND NERVOUSNESS

### TOP 3 SERVICES, ORDERED OR PROVIDED

- PSYCHOTHERAPY
- MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, EXCLUDING PSYCHOTHERAPY
- LIPID PROFILE

### PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT

PRIVATE INSURANCE	47.9%
NO INSURANCE <sup>1</sup>	26.7%
MEDICARE	11.9%
MEDICAID OR CHIP/SCHIP <sup>2</sup>	7.6%
OTHER <sup>3</sup>	1.1%

<sup>1</sup>Having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as source of payment.  
<sup>2</sup>CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program; SCHIP is State CHIP.  
<sup>3</sup>Includes workers' compensation and other sources of payment.

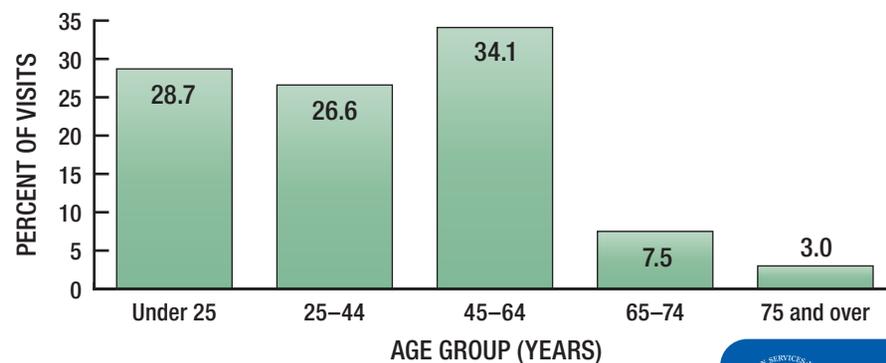
MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT **81.7%** OF OFFICE VISITS.

### TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

- BUPROPION
- CLONAZEPAM
- AMPHETAMINE-DEXTROAMPHETAMINE
- ESCITALOPRAM
- FLUOXETINE



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



NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Psychiatry 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:**

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

Rhee TG. **Co-prescribing of benzodiazepines and opioids in older adults: Rates, correlates, and national trends.** J Gerontol A 73(12):283–9. 2018.

Rhee TG, Capistrant BD, Schommer JC, Hadsall RS, Uden DL. **Effects of the 2009 USPSTF Depression Screening Recommendation on diagnosing and treating mental health conditions in older adults: A difference-in-differences analysis.** J Manag Care Spec Pharm 24(8):769–76. 2018.

Rhee TG. **Continuing versus new antidepressant use in older adults: U.S. prescribing trends from 2006 to 2015.** Eur Geriatr Med 9(4):551–5. 2018.

Rhee TG, Schommer JC, Capistrant BD, Hadsall R, Uden DL. **Potentially inappropriate antidepressant prescriptions among older adults in office-based outpatient settings: National trends from 2002 to 2012.** Adm Policy Ment Health 45(2):224–35. 2018.

Bhattacharjee S, Vadieli N, Goldstone L, Alrabiah Z, Sherman SJ. **Patterns and predictors of depression treatment among older adults with Parkinson's disease and depression in ambulatory care settings in the United States.** Parkinson's Dis 2018:3402983. 2018.

Keller AO, Hooker RS, Jacobs EA. **Visits for depression to physician assistants and nurse practitioners in the USA.** J Behav Health Serv Res 45(2):310–9. 2018.

Mojtabai R, Olfson M. **Management of common medical conditions by office-based psychiatrists.** Psychiatr Serv 69(4):410–23. 2018.

Safer DJ, Rajakannan T, Burcu M, Zito JM. **Trends in subthreshold psychiatric diagnoses for youth in community treatment.** JAMA Psychiatry 72(1):75–83. 2015.

Maust DT, Oslin DW, Marcus SC. **Effect of age on the profile of psychotropic users: Results from the 2010 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.** J Am Geriatr Soc 62(2):358–64. 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](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_products.htm).

