The National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) is a new survey that combines two long-standing valuable data collection efforts: the National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) and the National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery (NSAS). The NHCS will collect inpatient claims data, data on hospital characteristics, and the use of health care provided in emergency departments and outpatient units as well as ambulatory surgery.


In 2006, an estimated 53.3 million surgical and nonsurgical procedures were performed during 34.7 million ambulatory surgery visits. Of the 34.7 million ambulatory surgery visits, 19.9 million (57%) occurred in hospitals and 14.9 million (43%) occurred in freestanding ambulatory surgery centers. The overall ambulatory surgery visit rate was 116 per 1,000 population.

The rate of ambulatory surgery procedures was higher for females.

Principal expected sources of payment

- Private insurance (53%)
- Medicare (32%)
- Medicaid (7%)
- Self-pay (3%)
- Other (5%)

(continued on back)
Although the majority of visits had only one or two procedures performed (60% and 28%, respectively), one percent had five or more procedures performed.

### Common procedures
- Endoscopy of large intestine (5.7 million)
- Endoscopy of small intestine (3.5 million)
- Extraction of lens (3.1 million)
- Insertion of prosthetic lens (2.6 million)
- Injection of agent into spinal canal (2.0 million)
- Injection or infusion of therapeutic or prophylactic substance (1.5 million)
- Endoscopic polypectomy of large intestine (1.4 million)
- Arteriography and angiocardiography using contrast material (1.1 million)
- Arthroscopy of knee (1.0 million)
- Hernia repair (920,000)

### Common diagnoses
- Cataract (3.0 million)
- Benign neoplasms (2.0 million)
- Malignant neoplasms (1.2 million)
- Diseases of esophagus (1.1 million)
- Diverticula of intestine (1.1 million)
- Hernia (1.1 million)
- Rheumatism, excluding back (1.0 million)
- Intervertebral disc disorders (861,000)
- Arthropathies and related disorders (809,000)
- Hemorrhoids (715,000)

### Importance of Ambulatory Surgery Data
The NSAS data are used in research studies published in nationally recognized medical journals. Here are a few recent examples of publications using NSAS.


For information about more recent ambulatory surgery data collection from the National Center for Health Statistic’s National Health Care surveys, visit [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhcs.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhcs.htm).