

National Hospital Care Survey

Outpatient Department

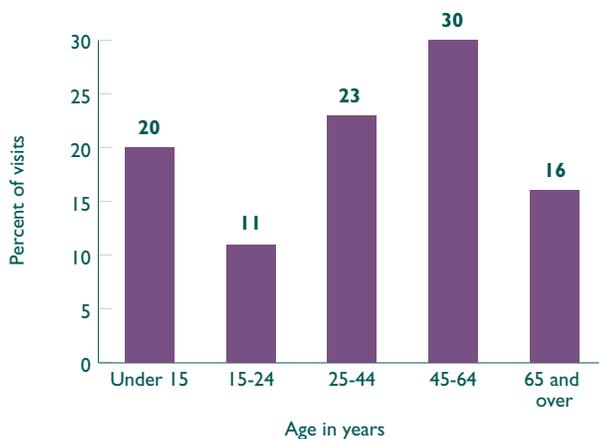
The National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) is a new survey that combines two longstanding valuable data collection efforts: the National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS), and the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS). The NHCS will collect inpatient claims data, data on hospital characteristics, and the use of health care provided in emergency departments and outpatient units as well as ambulatory surgery. Data in this factsheet were collected by the NHAMCS and will continue to be collected by the NHCS.



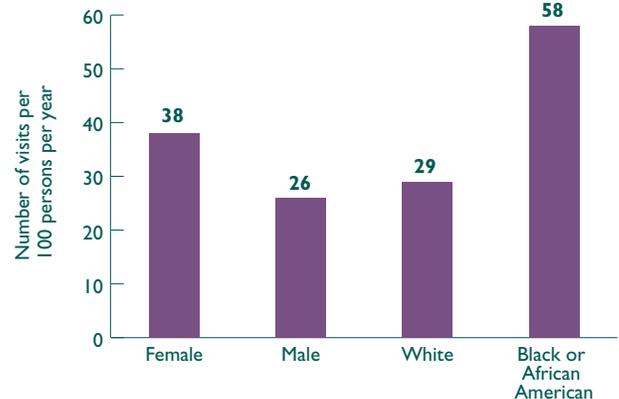
In 2009, there were an estimated 96 million visits to outpatient departments (OPDs) of nonfederal short-stay and general hospitals in the United States. The annual visit rate was 31.9 OPD visits per 100 persons. About one-third of the visits were made by persons under 25 years of age.

The visit rate was higher for females compared with males and for Black or African American persons compared with White persons.

Percent distribution of OPD visits by patient age: 2009



Annual rate of OPD visits by patient sex and race: 2009



Expected sources of payment

- Private insurance (43%)
- Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (29%)
- Medicare (19%)

- No insurance (11%)
- Other (4%)
- Unknown (4%)

NOTE: More than one source may be reported per visit.





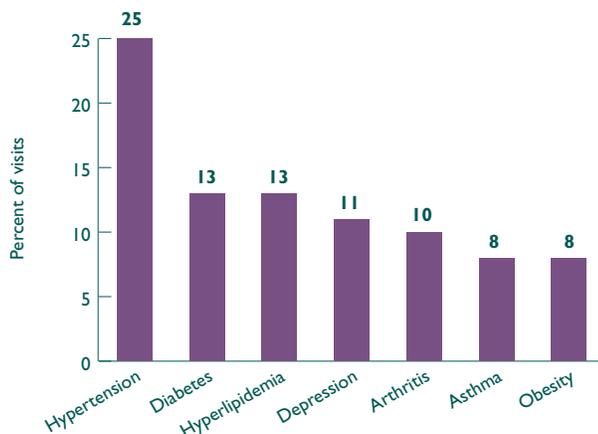
Common reasons for visit

- Progress visit (9.1 million)
- General medical examination (5.8 million)
- Cough (2.6 million)
- Counseling (2.6 million)
- Prenatal examination (2.4 million)
- Medication (2.3 million)
- Throat symptoms (1.8 million)
- Back symptoms (1.6 million)
- Postoperative visit (1.6 million)
- Diabetes mellitus (1.6 million)

Common reasons for visit

- Malignant neoplasms (4.6 million)
- Hypertension (4.2 million)
- Spinal disorders (3.4 million)
- Arthropathies (3.1 million)
- Routine infant or child health check (3.1 million)
- Diabetes mellitus (3.0 million)
- Acute upper respiratory infection, excluding pharyngitis (2.9 million)
- Normal pregnancy (2.0 million)
- Psychoses, excluding major depressive disorder (1.7 million)
- Rheumatism, excluding back (1.7 million)

Percent of OPD visits with selected chronic conditions: 2009



Common drug categories

Medications were provided or prescribed at 75 percent of OPD visits for a total of 255 million drugs.

- Analgesics (32.5 million)
- Antidepressants (11.7 million)
- Antidiabetic agents (11.0 million)
- Antihyperlipidemic agents (10.6 million)
- Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics (9.1 million)
- Bronchodilators (8.6 million)
- Anticonvulsants (8.5 million)
- Beta-adrenergic blocking agents (7.9 million)
- Dermatological agents (7.6 million)
- Diuretics (7.4 million)

Importance of NHAMCS Outpatient Department Data

The NHAMCS OPD data are widely used in research studies published in nationally recognized health and medical journals, including *Pediatrics*, *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, and *Archives of Internal Medicine*. Here are a few examples of recent publications.

Soler ZM, Mace JC, Litvack JR, Smith TL. Chronic rhinosinusitis, race, and ethnicity. *Am J Rhinol Allergy*. 2012 Mar;26(2):110-6.

Le MD, Henson D, Young H, Albores-Saavedra J. Is gallbladder cancer decreasing in view of increasing laparoscopic cholecystectomy? *Ann Hepatol*. 2011 Jul-Sep;10(3):306-14.

Barnett ML, Song Z, Landon BE. Trends in physician referrals in the United States, 1999-2009. *Arch Intern Med*. 2012;172(2):163-170.

BeLue R, Oluwole AN, Degboe ANF, Figaro MK. Hypertension control in ambulatory care patients with diabetes. *Am J Manag Care*. 2012;18(1):17-23.

Siddique J, Lantos JD, VanderWeele TJ, Lauderdale DS. Screening tests during prenatal care: does practice follow the evidence? *Matern Child Health J*. 2012 Jan;16(1):51-9.

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>.