

National Hospital Care Survey

Ambulatory Surgery

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.

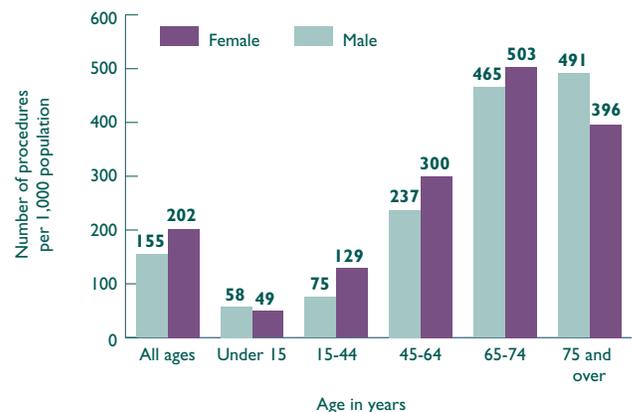


The National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery (NSAS) gathered data from 1994–1996 and again in 2006. The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey phased-in ambulatory surgery data collection beginning in 2009.

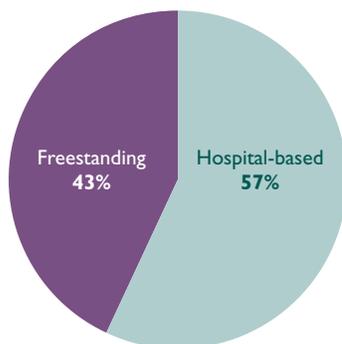
In 2006, an estimated 53.3 million surgical and nonsurgical procedures were performed during 34.7 million ambulatory surgery visits. Of the 34.7 million ambulatory surgery visits, 19.9 million (57%) occurred in hospitals and 14.9 million (43%) occurred in freestanding ambulatory surgery centers. The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

The rate of ambulatory surgery procedures was higher for females.

Rate of ambulatory surgery procedures by age and sex: 2006



Percent distribution of ambulatory surgery visits by type of facility: 2006



Principal expected sources of payment

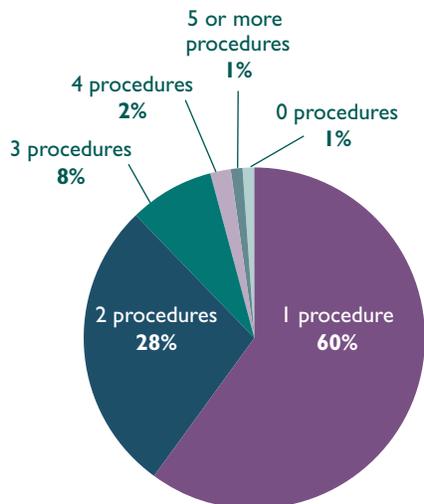
- Private insurance (53%)
- Medicare (32%)
- Medicaid (7%)
- Self-pay (3%)
- Other (5%)





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

Percent distribution of the number of ambulatory surgery procedures performed per visit: 2006



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 angiocardiology 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.

Colvin AC, Egorova N, Harrison AK, Moskowitz A, Flatow EL. National trends in rotator cuff repair. *J Bone Joint Surg Am.* 2012 Feb 1;94(3):227-33.

Tighe PJ, Brennan M, Moser M, Boezaart AP, Bihorac A. Primary payer status is associated with the use of nerve block placement for ambulatory orthopedic surgery. *Reg Anesth Pain Med.* 2012 Mar 16.

Poulose BK, Shelton J, Phillips S, Moore D, Nealon W, Penson D, Beck W, Holzman MD. Epidemiology and cost of ventral hernia repair: making the case for hernia research. *Hernia.* 2012 Apr;16(2):179-83.

Memtsoudis SG, Ma Y, Swamidoss CP, Edwards AM, Mazumdar M, Liguori GA. Factors influencing unexpected disposition after orthopedic ambulatory surgery. *J Clin Anesth.* 2012 Mar;24(2):89-95.

Boss EF, Marsteller JA, Simon AE. Outpatient tonsillectomy in children: demographic and geographic variation in the United States, 2006. *J Pediatr.* 2011 Dec 17.

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>.