

# National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2008 Summary Tables

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The Ambulatory and Hospital Care Statistics Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics is pleased to release the most current nationally representative data on ambulatory care visits to physician offices in the United States. Statistics are presented on selected characteristics of the physician's practice, the patient, and the visit, based on data collected in the 2008 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). NAMCS is a national probability sample survey of visits to nonfederal office-based physicians in the United States. Web table estimates are based on sample data weighted to produce annual national estimates and include standard errors. Detailed information on the design, conduct, and estimation procedures of NAMCS can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>.

As in any survey, results are subject to sampling and nonsampling errors. Nonsampling errors include reporting and processing errors, as well as biases due to nonresponse and incomplete response. In 2008, race was missing for 33% (unweighted) of NAMCS records, while ethnicity was missing for 35% (unweighted). As in previous years, missing responses for race and ethnicity were imputed using a warm deck method. Nonetheless, the high amounts of missing data are of concern. [Tables 4, 10, 11, 14, and 18](#) presenting race and ethnicity data include estimates based on both imputed and reported (known) values and estimates based on reported values only. The "best" estimates of visits to office-based physicians by race and ethnicity are those that include both imputed and reported data.

For those who wish to understand the effects of imputation on percent distributions and their standard errors, we provide "reported only" data. Those who wish to conduct a complete-case analysis can use the "reported only" data for benchmarking.

**Table 1. Physician office visits, by selected physician characteristics: United States, 2008**

Physician characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Number of visits per 100 persons per year <sup>1,2</sup> (standard error of rate)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0 . . .	320.1 (12.9)
Physician specialty <sup>3</sup>			
General and family practice . . . . .	224,443 (17,095)	23.5 (1.4)	75.1 (5.7)
Internal medicine . . . . .	152,909 (13,210)	16.0 (1.3)	51.2 (4.4)
Pediatrics <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	119,797 (10,693)	12.5 (0.9)	175.1 (16.1)
Obstetrics and gynecology <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	81,928 (8,034)	8.6 (0.8)	66.5 (6.6)
Ophthalmology . . . . .	65,599 (7,206)	6.9 (0.7)	22.0 (2.4)
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	51,322 (6,509)	5.4 (0.7)	17.2 (2.2)
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	39,252 (5,730)	4.1 (0.6)	13.1 (1.9)
Dermatology . . . . .	34,483 (4,820)	3.6 (0.5)	11.5 (1.6)
Urology . . . . .	24,786 (2,637)	2.6 (0.3)	8.3 (0.9)
Psychiatry . . . . .	22,990 (3,055)	2.4 (0.3)	7.7 (1.0)
Otolaryngology . . . . .	18,169 (2,767)	1.9 (0.3)	6.1 (0.9)
General surgery . . . . .	15,751 (2,577)	1.6 (0.3)	5.3 (0.9)
Neurology . . . . .	12,099 (1,166)	1.3 (0.1)	4.1 (0.4)
All other specialties . . . . .	92,441 (10,848)	9.7 (1.0)	30.9 (3.6)
Professional degree			
Doctor of Medicine . . . . .	885,916 (36,433)	92.7 (0.8)	296.6 (12.2)
Doctor of Osteopathy . . . . .	70,053 (8,377)	7.3 (0.8)	23.5 (2.8)
Specialty type <sup>3</sup>			
Primary care . . . . .	578,475 (28,542)	60.5 (1.3)	193.7 (9.6)
Medical specialty . . . . .	199,655 (12,495)	20.9 (1.2)	66.8 (4.2)
Surgical specialty . . . . .	177,839 (13,921)	18.6 (1.3)	59.5 (4.7)
Geographic region			
Northeast . . . . .	196,759 (16,635)	20.6 (1.6)	363.9 (30.8)
Midwest . . . . .	191,392 (12,943)	20.0 (1.4)	292.3 (19.8)
South . . . . .	357,419 (27,702)	37.4 (2.2)	326.7 (25.3)
West . . . . .	210,399 (18,251)	22.0 (1.7)	301.7 (26.2)
Metropolitan status <sup>6</sup>			
MSA . . . . .	875,139 (38,582)	91.5 (1.8)	349.9 (15.4)
Non-MSA . . . . .	80,830 (17,859)	8.5 (1.8)	166.4 (36.8)

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Visit rates for age, sex, race, and region are based on the July 1, 2008, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>2</sup>Population estimates by metropolitan statistical area definitions status are based on estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as of July 1, 2008, from the 2008 National Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, compiled according to the November 2007 Office of Management and Budget definitions of core-based statistical areas. See <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates.metrodef.html> for more about metropolitan statistical definitions. For geographic region and metropolitan statistical area, population denominators are different for each category and thus do not add to total population rate. For other variables, the denominator is the total population.<sup>3</sup>Physician specialty and specialty type are defined in the 2008 public use file documentation ([ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf)).<sup>4</sup>Number of visits (numerator) and population estimate (denominator) in visit rate include children under age 15 years.<sup>5</sup>Number of visits (numerator) and population estimate (denominator) in visit rate include females aged 15 years and over.<sup>6</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 2. Office visits, by selected physician practice characteristics: United States, 2008**

Physician practice characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0 . . .
Employment status		
Owner . . . . .	666,213 (32,472)	69.7 (2.0)
Employee . . . . .	261,923 (21,722)	27.4 (1.9)
Contractor . . . . .	23,187 (6,301)	2.4 (0.7)
Blank . . . . .	*4,646 (2,912)	*0.5 (0.3)
Ownership		
Physician or group . . . . .	796,629 (35,411)	83.3 (1.5)
Other health care corporation . . . . .	52,487 (9,510)	5.5 (1.0)
Other hospital . . . . .	34,667 (8,646)	3.6 (0.9)
Community Health Center . . . . .	21,416 (4,761)	2.2 (0.5)
Medical or academic health center . . . . .	19,951 (5,437)	2.1 (0.6)
HMO <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	19,180 (4,445)	2.0 (0.5)
Other <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	*11,025 (3,607)	*1.2 (0.4)
Blank . . . . .	*615 (502)	*0.1 (0.1)
Practice size		
Solo . . . . .	304,337 (21,516)	31.8 (1.9)
2 . . . . .	115,827 (13,194)	12.1 (1.3)
3-5 . . . . .	275,285 (24,511)	28.8 (2.3)
6-10 . . . . .	165,185 (16,165)	17.3 (1.5)
11 or more . . . . .	92,747 (12,597)	9.7 (1.2)
Blank . . . . .	*2,589 (1,222)	*0.3 (0.1)
Type of practice		
Single-specialty group . . . . .	457,650 (28,823)	47.9 (2.3)
Multispecialty group . . . . .	192,852 (19,393)	20.2 (1.8)
Solo . . . . .	304,337 (21,516)	31.8 (1.9)
Blank . . . . .	*1,130 (565)	*0.1 (0.1)
Office type		
Private practice . . . . .	876,508 (37,241)	91.7 (1.1)
Clinic or urgent center . . . . .	30,074 (8,958)	3.1 (0.9)
Community health center . . . . .	22,074 (4,789)	2.3 (0.5)
Other <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	27,313 (5,530)	2.9 (0.6)
Electronic medical records		
Yes, all electronic . . . . .	275,378 (23,478)	28.8 (1.9)
Yes, part paper and part electronic . . . . .	166,787 (17,147)	17.4 (1.7)
No . . . . .	503,429 (25,202)	52.7 (2.0)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	*10,375 (3,484)	*1.1 (0.4)
Practice submits claims electronically		
Yes, all electronic . . . . .	583,348 (36,803)	61.0 (2.4)
Yes, part paper and part electronic . . . . .	252,057 (20,387)	26.4 (2.1)
No . . . . .	84,252 (13,181)	8.8 (1.3)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	36,313 (7,919)	3.8 (0.8)

. . . Category not applicable.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>HMO is health maintenance organization.<sup>2</sup>Other<sup>2</sup> includes owners such as local government (state, county, or city) and charitable organizations.<sup>3</sup>Other<sup>3</sup> includes the following office types: HMO, nonfederal government clinic, mental health center, family planning clinic, and faculty practice plan.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 3. Office visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2008**

Patient age and sex	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Number of visits per 100 persons per year (standard error of rate)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0 . . .	320.1 (12.9)
Age			
Under 15 years . . . . .	147,207 (10,937)	15.4 (0.9)	241.0 (17.9)
Under 1 year . . . . .	29,371 (2,638)	3.1 (0.2)	681.6 (61.2)
1–4 years . . . . .	48,449 (4,155)	5.1 (0.4)	290.3 (24.9)
5–14 years . . . . .	69,386 (5,059)	7.3 (0.4)	173.1 (12.6)
15–24 years . . . . .	73,875 (3,990)	7.7 (0.3)	177.8 (9.6)
25–44 years . . . . .	194,641 (8,583)	20.4 (0.6)	239.4 (10.6)
45–64 years . . . . .	284,110 (12,793)	29.7 (0.7)	366.5 (16.5)
65 years and over . . . . .	256,135 (13,278)	26.8 (0.8)	688.0 (35.7)
65–74 years . . . . .	127,125 (6,822)	13.3 (0.5)	639.5 (34.3)
75 years and over . . . . .	129,010 (7,501)	13.5 (0.5)	743.5 (43.2)
Sex and age			
Female . . . . .	572,697 (24,064)	59.9 (0.7)	375.7 (15.8)
Under 15 years . . . . .	69,271 (5,248)	7.2 (0.4)	232.1 (17.6)
15–24 years . . . . .	50,764 (3,246)	5.3 (0.3)	246.7 (15.8)
25–44 years . . . . .	135,625 (6,681)	14.2 (0.5)	331.1 (16.3)
45–64 years . . . . .	168,957 (8,411)	17.7 (0.5)	424.1 (21.1)
65–74 years . . . . .	71,812 (4,024)	7.5 (0.3)	669.4 (37.5)
75 years and over . . . . .	76,267 (4,662)	8.0 (0.3)	727.6 (44.5)
Male . . . . .	383,272 (16,618)	40.1 (0.7)	262.1 (11.4)
Under 15 years . . . . .	77,936 (6,103)	8.2 (0.5)	249.5 (19.5)
15–24 years . . . . .	23,111 (1,490)	2.4 (0.1)	110.2 (7.1)
25–44 years . . . . .	59,016 (3,367)	6.2 (0.3)	146.3 (8.3)
45–64 years . . . . .	115,153 (5,596)	12.0 (0.4)	305.6 (14.9)
65–74 years . . . . .	55,313 (3,328)	5.8 (0.3)	604.4 (36.4)
75 years and over . . . . .	52,743 (3,342)	5.5 (0.3)	767.7 (48.7)

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Visit rates are based on the July 1, 2008, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 4. Office visits, by patient race and age, and ethnicity: United States, 2008**

Patient characteristic	Reported plus imputed <sup>1,2</sup>			Reported only <sup>3,4</sup>	
	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Number of visits per 100 persons per year <sup>5</sup> (standard error of rate)	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0 . . .	320.1 (12.9)	. . . . .	. . . . .
Race and age <sup>6,7</sup>					
Reported visits . . . . .	640,220 (29,829)	67.0 (2.3)	. . . . .	640,220 (29,829)	100.0 . . .
Imputed (missing) . . . . .	315,749 (27,698)	33.0 (2.3)	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
White . . . . .	802,362 (34,961)	83.9 (1.2)	335.9 (14.6)	534,321 (26,198)	83.5 (1.5)
Under 15 years . . . . .	117,261 (9,502)	12.3 (0.8)	253.1 (20.5)	72,333 (7,403)	11.3 (1.0)
15–24 years . . . . .	60,050 (3,658)	6.3 (0.3)	187.1 (11.4)	39,567 (2,655)	6.2 (0.3)
25–44 years . . . . .	159,358 (7,884)	16.7 (0.6)	248.6 (12.3)	108,077 (6,590)	16.9 (0.8)
45–64 years . . . . .	242,181 (11,801)	25.3 (0.7)	377.8 (18.4)	165,545 (9,757)	25.9 (0.9)
65–74 years . . . . .	110,164 (6,182)	11.5 (0.4)	647.7 (36.4)	74,451 (5,183)	11.6 (0.6)
75 years and over . . . . .	113,348 (6,678)	11.9 (0.5)	742.5 (43.7)	74,348 (5,250)	11.6 (0.6)
Black or African American . . . . .	104,002 (10,178)	10.9 (0.9)	276.4 (27.0)	73,911 (8,498)	11.5 (1.2)
Under 15 years . . . . .	19,996 (4,045)	2.1 (0.4)	218.6 (44.2)	15,225 (3,947)	2.4 (0.6)
15–24 years . . . . .	9,956 (1,584)	1.0 (0.2)	159.2 (25.3)	7,247 (1,389)	1.1 (0.2)
25–44 years . . . . .	22,709 (2,531)	2.4 (0.2)	217.8 (24.3)	17,107 (2,225)	2.7 (0.3)
45–64 years . . . . .	29,539 (2,956)	3.1 (0.3)	341.9 (34.2)	20,277 (2,390)	3.2 (0.4)
65–74 years . . . . .	11,642 (1,491)	1.2 (0.1)	635.9 (81.5)	7,898 (1,247)	1.2 (0.2)
75 years and over . . . . .	10,159 (1,709)	1.1 (0.2)	761.9 (128.2)	6,158 (1,268)	1.0 (0.2)
Asian . . . . .	38,433 (6,726)	4.0 (0.7)	285.1 (49.9)	24,437 (5,267)	3.8 (0.8)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander . . . . .	*4,539 (1,652)	*0.5 (0.2)	*820.7 (298.7)	*3,204 (1,454)	*0.5 (0.2)
American Indian or Alaska Native . . . . .	2,994 (728)	0.3 (0.1)	98.9 (24.0)	1,615 (476)	0.3 (0.1)
Multiple races . . . . .	3,639 (851)	0.4 (0.1)	71.1 (16.6)	*2,731 (837)	*0.4 (0.1)
Ethnicity <sup>6,7</sup>					
Reported visits . . . . .	615,221 (30,061)	64.4 (2.3)	. . . . .	615,221 (30,061)	100.0 . . .
Imputed (missing) . . . . .	340,747 (28,445)	35.6 (2.3)	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	116,682 (10,439)	12.2 (1.0)	251.5 (22.5)	84,618 (9,301)	13.8 (1.4)
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	839,286 (35,307)	87.8 (1.0)	332.7 (14.0)	530,603 (27,207)	86.2 (1.4)

. . . Category not applicable.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>“Reported plus imputed” includes race that was reported directly by physician offices and imputed for the 33.0 percent of visits for which race was not reported.<sup>2</sup>“Reported plus imputed” includes ethnicity that was reported directly by physician offices and imputed for the 35.6 percent of visits for which ethnicity was not reported.<sup>3</sup>“Reported only” calculations are based on 640,220 visits (in thousands) with race reported directly by physician offices. The 33.0 percent of visits for which race was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed race values.<sup>4</sup>“Reported only” calculations are based on 615,221 visits (in thousands) with ethnicity reported directly by physician offices. The 35.6 percent of visits for which ethnicity was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed ethnicity values.<sup>5</sup>Visit rates are based on the July 1, 2008, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>6</sup>For 2008, race data were missing for 33.0 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 35.6 percent of visits. Readers are therefore advised to treat these data with caution. In this table, estimates based on imputed race and ethnicity data are shown separately from comparison estimates using unimputed data. Missing race and ethnicity were imputed using a hot deck approach rather than the previously used cold deck strategy. The imputation process is described more fully in the 2008 public use file documentation ([http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf](http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf)). Research is currently underway to evaluate further changes to the imputation strategy for use with 2009 data.<sup>7</sup>The race groups white, black or African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and multiple races include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race-specific estimates were tabulated according to 1997 standards for federal data on race and ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The percent of visit records with multiple races indicated is small and lower than what is typically found for self-reported race in household surveys.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 5. Expected sources of payment at office visits: United States, 2008**

Expected source of payment	Number of visits in thousands <sup>1</sup> (standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits (standard error of percent)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	. . . . .
Private insurance . . . . .	631,627 (26,711)	66.1 (1.2)
Medicare . . . . .	231,356 (12,997)	24.2 (0.8)
Medicaid or SCHIP <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	111,644 (8,138)	11.7 (0.7)
Medicare and Medicaid <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	13,370 (1,434)	1.4 (0.1)
No insurance <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	43,540 (4,630)	4.6 (0.5)
Self-pay . . . . .	40,115 (4,509)	4.2 (0.5)
No charge or charity . . . . .	3,583 (1,041)	0.4 (0.1)
Worker's compensation . . . . .	10,505 (2,445)	1.1 (0.2)
Other . . . . .	27,471 (4,532)	2.9 (0.4)
Unknown or blank . . . . .	28,654 (4,945)	3.0 (0.5)

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Combined total of individual sources exceeds "all visits," and "percent of visits" exceeds 100%, because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit.

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

<sup>3</sup>The visits in this category are also included in both the Medicare and Medicaid or SCHIP categories.

<sup>4</sup>"No insurance" is defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity visits as payment sources. The individual self-pay and no charge or charity categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Table 6. Primary care provider and referral status of office visits, by prior-visit status: United States, 2008**

Prior-visit status, primary care provider, and referral status	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)
All visits. . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0 . . .
Visit to PCP <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	455,012 (24,851)	47.6 (1.5)
Visit to non-PCP <sup>1,2</sup> . . . . .	447,409 (20,977)	46.8 (1.4)
Referred for this visit . . . . .	127,601 (9,092)	13.3 (0.7)
Not referred for this visit . . . . .	252,142 (15,809)	26.4 (1.4)
Unknown if referred <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	67,666 (5,786)	7.1 (0.6)
Unknown if PCP <sup>1</sup> visit <sup>2,3</sup> . . . . .	53,548 (7,061)	5.6 (0.7)
Established patient		
All visits. . . . .	841,192 (34,226)	100.0 (0.4)
Visit to PCP <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	432,238 (23,981)	51.4 (1.6)
Visit to non-PCP <sup>1,2</sup> . . . . .	363,293 (17,188)	43.2 (1.5)
Referred for this visit . . . . .	73,579 (6,998)	8.7 (0.7)
Not referred for this visit . . . . .	235,643 (15,026)	28.0 (1.6)
Unknown if referred <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	54,072 (4,941)	6.4 (0.6)
Unknown if PCP <sup>1</sup> visit <sup>2,3</sup> . . . . .	45,661 (6,697)	5.4 (0.8)
New patient		
All visits. . . . .	114,777 (6,138)	100.0 (0.4)
Visit to PCP <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	22,774 (2,547)	19.8 (1.9)
Visit to non-PCP <sup>1,2</sup> . . . . .	84,117 (4,982)	73.3 (1.9)
Referred for this visit . . . . .	54,023 (3,526)	47.1 (1.9)
Not referred for this visit . . . . .	16,499 (1,752)	14.4 (1.3)
Unknown if referred <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	13,595 (1,401)	11.8 (1.0)
Unknown if PCP <sup>1</sup> visit <sup>2,3</sup> . . . . .	7,887 (982)	6.9 (0.8)

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>PCP is patient's primary care physician as indicated by a positive response to the question "Are you the patient's primary care physician/provider?"<sup>2</sup>Referral status was only asked for visits to non-PCPs and visits with unknown PCP status. Among these visits, referral information was unknown for 18.8 percent of visits.<sup>3</sup>The unknown category includes blanks.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 7. Primary care provider and referral status of office visits, by physician specialty: United States, 2008**

Physician specialty	Total	Visit to PCP <sup>1</sup>	Visit to non-PCP <sup>1,2</sup>			
			Referred by other physician	Not referred by other physician	Unknown if referred <sup>3</sup>	Unknown if PCP <sup>1</sup> visit <sup>2,3</sup>
Percent distribution (standard error of percent)						
All visits . . . . .	100.0	47.6 (1.5)	13.3 (0.7)	26.4 (1.4)	7.1 (0.6)	5.6 (0.7)
General and family practice . . . . .	100.0	82.0 (2.6)	*2.7 (1.1)	4.2 (1.0)	2.0 (0.4)	9.1 (2.1)
Internal medicine . . . . .	100.0	82.2 (3.5)	1.5 (0.3)	*7.8 (2.9)	*1.0 (0.4)	7.6 (2.0)
Pediatrics . . . . .	100.0	91.1 (1.7)	*1.5 (0.6)	*3.6 (1.2)	*1.5 (0.7)	2.4 (0.6)
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	100.0	16.6 (4.4)	7.5 (1.5)	56.8 (5.5)	13.4 (2.6)	*5.6 (2.4)
Ophthalmology . . . . .	100.0	* . . .	20.5 (4.2)	56.4 (5.5)	15.8 (3.8)	*6.0 (2.6)
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	100.0	* . . .	31.6 (2.9)	51.2 (4.4)	11.9 (2.8)	*4.8 (1.8)
Dermatology . . . . .	100.0	* . . .	21.2 (3.4)	53.9 (4.9)	19.9 (4.4)	*3.3 (1.2)
Psychiatry . . . . .	100.0	*7.7 (3.4)	12.5 (3.2)	66.0 (5.3)	9.6 (2.5)	*4.2 (2.3)
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	100.0	*11.5 (3.9)	30.6 (4.6)	50.3 (6.5)	4.5 (1.2)	*3.1 (1.1)
Otolaryngology . . . . .	100.0	* . . .	43.0 (5.1)	35.8 (4.5)	*17.5 (5.3)	*3.1 (1.4)
General surgery . . . . .	100.0	* . . .	38.9 (4.6)	47.6 (5.2)	*10.9 (4.1)	* . . .
Urology . . . . .	100.0	* . . .	29.4 (3.7)	53.8 (4.5)	12.9 (2.8)	*2.4 (1.3)
Neurology . . . . .	100.0	*4.4 (2.4)	41.6 (4.6)	37.9 (5.2)	10.4 (2.2)	*5.7 (1.8)
Oncology . . . . .	100.0	*6.4 (2.2)	31.8 (5.5)	46.7 (5.1)	*7.5 (3.0)	*7.6 (2.7)
All other specialties . . . . .	100.0	*14.7 (5.9)	35.9 (4.3)	33.7 (5.8)	13.3 (2.9)	2.4 (0.7)

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>PCP is patient's primary care provider as indicated by a positive response to the question "Are you the patient's primary care physician/provider?"<sup>2</sup>Referral status was only asked for visits to non-PCPs and visits with unknown PCP status. Among these visits, referral information was unknown for 18.8 percent of visits.<sup>3</sup>The unknown category includes blanks.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.



**Table 8. Continuity-of-care office visit characteristics, by specialty type: United States, 2008**

Continuity-of-care visit characteristic	Specialty type <sup>1</sup>				Specialty type <sup>1</sup>			
	All specialties	Primary care	Surgical specialties	Medical specialties	All specialties	Primary care	Surgical specialties	Medical specialties
	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)				Percent distribution (standard error of percent)			
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	578,475 (28,542)	199,655 (12,495)	177,839 (13,921)	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .
Prior-visit status and number of visits in last 12 months								
Established patient <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	841,192 (34,226)	532,659 (26,447)	159,563 (9,798)	148,970 (11,998)	88.0 (0.4)	92.1 (0.6)	79.9 (1.0)	83.8 (1.1)
None . . . . .	62,945 (4,150)	34,462 (2,921)	17,631 (2,004)	10,851 (1,610)	6.6 (0.4)	6.0 (0.4)	8.8 (0.8)	6.1 (0.8)
1–2 visits . . . . .	296,173 (12,434)	165,052 (8,705)	71,033 (4,834)	60,089 (5,373)	31.0 (0.5)	28.5 (0.7)	35.6 (1.0)	33.8 (1.3)
3–5 visits . . . . .	262,802 (12,733)	174,301 (9,964)	45,962 (3,473)	42,539 (4,190)	27.5 (0.6)	30.1 (0.7)	23.0 (1.1)	23.9 (1.1)
6 or more visits . . . . .	219,272 (10,638)	158,844 (9,395)	24,937 (2,125)	35,490 (3,569)	22.9 (0.6)	27.5 (0.9)	12.5 (0.9)	20.0 (1.5)
New patient . . . . .	114,777 (6,138)	45,816 (3,980)	40,092 (3,470)	28,869 (2,897)	12.0 (0.4)	7.9 (0.6)	20.1 (1.0)	16.2 (1.1)

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Specialty type is defined in the 2008 public use file documentation ([ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf)).

<sup>2</sup>Number of previous visits by established patients to responding physician in last 12 months.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 9. Twenty leading principal reasons for office visits, by patient sex: United States, 2008**

Principal reason for visit and RVC code <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Female <sup>2</sup>	Male <sup>3</sup>
			Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .
General medical examination . . . . .X100	70,328 (4,616)	7.4 (0.3)	6.5 (0.4)	8.7 (0.5)
Progress visit, not otherwise specified . . . . .T800	63,749 (6,724)	6.7 (0.6)	6.6 (0.7)	6.7 (0.7)
Postoperative visit . . . . .T205	29,575 (2,838)	3.1 (0.3)	2.8 (0.3)	3.5 (0.4)
Cough . . . . .S440	26,538 (2,214)	2.8 (0.2)	2.6 (0.2)	3.0 (0.3)
Prenatal examination, routine . . . . .X205	22,516 (3,496)	2.4 (0.4)	3.9 (0.6)	. . . . .
Medication, other and unspecified kinds . . . . .T115	20,749 (1,988)	2.2 (0.2)	2.2 (0.2)	2.1 (0.2)
Gynecological examination . . . . .X225	19,665 (2,972)	2.1 (0.3)	3.4 (0.5)	. . . . .
For other and unspecified test results . . . . .R700	17,246 (1,681)	1.8 (0.2)	1.9 (0.2)	1.7 (0.2)
Symptoms referable to throat . . . . .S455	17,221 (1,480)	1.8 (0.1)	1.8 (0.2)	1.8 (0.2)
Eye examination . . . . .X230	16,223 (3,448)	1.7 (0.4)	1.7 (0.4)	1.7 (0.3)
Well baby examination . . . . .X105	14,456 (1,421)	1.5 (0.1)	1.2 (0.1)	2.0 (0.2)
Hypertension . . . . .D510	14,422 (1,776)	1.5 (0.2)	1.5 (0.2)	1.6 (0.2)
Knee symptoms . . . . .S925	14,086 (1,378)	1.5 (0.1)	1.5 (0.1)	1.5 (0.2)
Fever . . . . .S010	13,119 (1,432)	1.4 (0.1)	1.1 (0.1)	1.8 (0.2)
Skin rash . . . . .S860	12,767 (1,008)	1.3 (0.1)	1.2 (0.1)	1.6 (0.1)
Stomach pain, cramps and spasms . . . . .S545	12,699 (1,276)	1.3 (0.1)	1.5 (0.1)	1.1 (0.2)
Back symptoms . . . . .S905	12,676 (1,403)	1.3 (0.1)	1.3 (0.2)	1.4 (0.2)
Counseling, not otherwise specified . . . . .T605	12,365 (1,414)	1.3 (0.1)	1.3 (0.1)	1.2 (0.2)
Vision dysfunctions . . . . .S305	11,717 (1,906)	1.2 (0.2)	1.2 (0.2)	1.2 (0.2)
Earache or ear infection . . . . .S355	11,235 (1,372)	1.2 (0.1)	1.1 (0.1)	1.2 (0.2)
All other reasons . . . . .	522,616 (21,935)	54.7 (0.9)	53.7 (1.0)	56.2 (1.0)

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Based on *A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care* (RVC) defined in the 2008 public use file documentation ([http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf](http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf)). Reason for visit is defined by the patient.<sup>2</sup>Based on 572,697,000 visits made by females.<sup>3</sup>Based on 383,272,000 visits made by males.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 10. Provider-assessed major reason for office visit, by selected patient and visit characteristics: United States, 2008**

Patient and visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Total percent	New problem	Chronic problem, routine	Chronic problem, flare-up	Pre- or post-surgery	Preventive care <sup>1</sup>	Unknown or blank
Percent distribution (standard error of percent)								
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0	34.2 (0.9)	28.4 (1.0)	7.5 (0.4)	7.2 (0.4)	20.8 (0.9)	1.7 (0.2)
Age								
Under 15 years . . . . .	147,207 (10,937)	100.0	50.0 (1.6)	9.0 (0.8)	4.2 (0.5)	1.4 (0.3)	34.7 (1.3)	0.7 (0.2)
Under 1 year . . . . .	29,371 (2,638)	100.0	35.6 (2.7)	3.6 (0.8)	*	*	58.6 (2.6)	*
1–4 years . . . . .	48,449 (4,155)	100.0	51.5 (1.8)	6.9 (0.9)	4.7 (0.9)	1.4 (0.4)	34.7 (1.7)	*
5–14 years . . . . .	69,386 (5,059)	100.0	55.0 (1.9)	12.8 (1.2)	5.2 (0.8)	1.7 (0.4)	24.6 (1.5)	*
15–24 years . . . . .	73,875 (3,990)	100.0	40.5 (1.9)	15.4 (1.1)	5.0 (0.6)	5.1 (1.0)	32.9 (2.2)	1.2 (0.3)
25–44 years . . . . .	194,641 (8,583)	100.0	34.9 (1.4)	21.6 (1.2)	8.0 (0.7)	6.7 (0.6)	26.7 (1.7)	2.1 (0.3)
45–64 years . . . . .	284,110 (12,793)	100.0	31.3 (1.2)	33.9 (1.3)	9.2 (0.6)	8.8 (0.6)	14.7 (1.1)	2.1 (0.3)
65 years and over . . . . .	256,135 (13,278)	100.0	26.0 (1.2)	42.5 (1.5)	8.1 (0.6)	9.9 (0.7)	11.8 (1.1)	1.8 (0.3)
65–74 years . . . . .	127,125 (6,822)	100.0	26.6 (1.2)	40.5 (1.7)	7.9 (0.7)	10.7 (1.0)	12.3 (1.2)	2.0 (0.4)
75 years and over . . . . .	129,010 (7,501)	100.0	25.4 (1.5)	44.4 (1.7)	8.2 (0.7)	9.1 (0.8)	11.3 (1.2)	1.6 (0.3)
Sex								
Female . . . . .	572,697 (24,064)	100.0	33.1 (1.0)	27.0 (1.0)	7.6 (0.4)	7.1 (0.5)	23.3 (1.0)	1.9 (0.2)
Male . . . . .	383,272 (16,618)	100.0	35.9 (1.1)	30.6 (1.2)	7.4 (0.5)	7.5 (0.5)	17.1 (0.8)	1.5 (0.2)
Race <sup>2,3</sup>								
Reported . . . . .	640,220 (29,829)	100.0	33.0 (1.0)	30.4 (1.3)	7.8 (0.5)	7.1 (0.5)	20.0 (1.0)	1.6 (0.2)
Imputed (missing) . . . . .	315,749 (27,698)	100.0	36.7 (1.5)	24.4 (1.4)	6.9 (0.7)	7.6 (0.8)	22.5 (1.3)	2.0 (0.3)
Reported plus imputed <sup>4</sup> :								
White . . . . .	802,362 (34,961)	100.0	34.3 (0.9)	29.0 (1.0)	7.7 (0.4)	7.5 (0.5)	19.8 (0.9)	1.7 (0.2)
Black or African American . . . . .	104,002 (10,178)	100.0	31.0 (2.2)	26.5 (2.1)	7.7 (1.1)	5.9 (0.9)	26.8 (2.1)	2.0 (0.5)
Other <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	49,605 (7,756)	100.0	39.7 (2.4)	24.0 (2.6)	4.6 (0.7)	5.7 (0.9)	24.3 (2.4)	*
Reported only <sup>6</sup> :								
White . . . . .	534,321 (26,198)	100.0	32.7 (1.0)	31.3 (1.4)	8.1 (0.5)	7.4 (0.6)	18.8 (1.0)	1.6 (0.2)
Black or African American . . . . .	73,911 (8,498)	100.0	32.1 (2.7)	26.1 (2.7)	7.5 (1.0)	5.6 (1.1)	27.1 (2.6)	*1.6 (0.6)
Other <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	31,987 (6,545)	100.0	39.3 (2.8)	26.0 (3.3)	4.4 (1.0)	4.8 (1.0)	24.0 (2.9)	*
Ethnicity <sup>2,3</sup>								
Reported . . . . .	615,221 (30,061)	100.0	33.7 (1.1)	29.7 (1.3)	8.1 (0.5)	6.9 (0.5)	20.0 (1.0)	1.6 (0.2)
Imputed (missing) . . . . .	340,747 (28,445)	100.0	35.0 (1.4)	26.2 (1.5)	6.6 (0.7)	7.9 (0.8)	22.2 (1.4)	2.0 (0.3)
Reported plus imputed <sup>7</sup> :								
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	116,682 (10,439)	100.0	38.3 (1.9)	21.7 (1.6)	5.7 (0.6)	5.3 (0.7)	26.1 (2.0)	2.9 (0.5)
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	839,286 (35,307)	100.0	33.6 (0.9)	29.4 (1.0)	7.8 (0.4)	7.5 (0.4)	20.1 (0.9)	1.6 (0.2)
Reported only <sup>8</sup> :								
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	84,618 (9,301)	100.0	40.0 (2.2)	21.3 (2.0)	6.3 (0.8)	3.8 (0.8)	25.4 (2.3)	3.1 (0.6)
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	530,603 (27,207)	100.0	32.7 (1.1)	31.0 (1.5)	8.3 (0.5)	7.4 (0.6)	19.2 (1.1)	1.3 (0.2)
Expected source of payment <sup>9</sup>								
Private insurance . . . . .	631,627 (26,711)	100.0	35.3 (1.0)	28.0 (1.1)	7.6 (0.5)	7.1 (0.4)	20.4 (1.0)	1.5 (0.2)
Medicare . . . . .	231,356 (12,997)	100.0	24.8 (1.3)	43.3 (1.7)	8.0 (0.6)	10.7 (0.8)	11.7 (1.1)	1.6 (0.3)
Medicaid or SCHIP <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	111,644 (8,138)	100.0	34.6 (1.8)	21.3 (1.8)	6.1 (0.6)	4.0 (0.6)	32.5 (2.2)	1.5 (0.4)
Medicare and Medicaid <sup>11</sup> . . . . .	13,370 (1,434)	100.0	26.2 (3.7)	44.8 (4.3)	9.7 (2.0)	*	9.6 (2.3)	*
Self-pay, no charge, or charity . . . . .	57,309 (6,745)	100.0	38.5 (4.1)	26.2 (2.9)	5.9 (0.8)	8.7 (2.3)	18.8 (2.6)	1.9 (0.5)
Other <sup>12</sup> . . . . .	59,569 (7,162)	100.0	30.7 (2.0)	28.2 (2.2)	9.3 (1.4)	7.3 (1.0)	21.2 (2.3)	3.4 (0.7)

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>Preventive care includes routine prenatal, well-baby, screening, insurance, or general exams (see question 4c on 2008 Patient Record form).<sup>2</sup>For 2008, race data were missing for 33.0 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 35.6 percent of visits. Readers are therefore advised to treat these data with caution. In this table, estimates based on imputed race and ethnicity data are shown separately from comparison estimates using unimputed data. Missing race and ethnicity were imputed using a hot deck approach rather than the previously used cold deck strategy. The imputation process is described more fully in the 2008 public use file documentation ([http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf](http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf)). Research is currently underway to evaluate further changes to the imputation strategy for use with 2009 data.<sup>3</sup>The race groups white, black or African American, and other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race-specific estimates were tabulated according to 1997 standards for federal data on race and ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The percent of visit records with multiple races indicated is small and lower than what is typically found for self-reported race in household surveys.<sup>4</sup>"Reported plus imputed" includes race that was reported directly by physician offices and imputed values for the 33.0 percent of visits for which race was not reported.<sup>5</sup>"Other race" includes visits by Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and multiple races.<sup>6</sup>"Reported only" calculations are based on 640,220 visits (in thousands) with race reported directly by physician offices. The 33.0 percent of visits for which race was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed race values.<sup>7</sup>"Reported plus imputed" includes ethnicity that was reported directly by physician offices and imputed for the 35.6 percent of visits for which ethnicity was not reported.<sup>8</sup>"Reported only" calculations are based on 615,221 visits (in thousands) with ethnicity reported directly by physician offices. The 35.6 percent visits for which ethnicity was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed ethnicity values.<sup>9</sup>Combined total of individual sources exceeds "all visits," and "percent of visits" exceeds 100%, because more than one source may be reported per visit.<sup>10</sup>SCHIP is State Children's Health Insurance Program.<sup>11</sup>The visits in this category are also included in both the Medicare and Medicaid or SCHIP categories.<sup>12</sup>"Other" includes worker's compensation, unknown or blank, and payments not classified elsewhere.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 11. Preventive care visits made to primary care specialists, by selected patient and visit characteristics: United States, 2008

Patient and visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent (standard error of percent)	Number of visits per 100 persons per year <sup>1</sup> (standard error of rate)	Percent of preventive care visits made to primary care specialists <sup>2</sup> (standard error of percent)
Percent distribution				
All preventive care visits <sup>3</sup>	199,115 (12,169)	100.0 ...	66.7 (4.1)	83.7 (2.0)
Age				
Under 15 years	51,077 (4,031)	25.7 (1.7)	83.6 (6.6)	96.6 (1.0)
Under 1 year	17,219 (1,558)	8.6 (0.7)	399.6 (36.2)	99.1 (0.6)
1-4 years	16,821 (1,657)	8.4 (0.7)	100.8 (9.9)	98.2 (0.8)
5-14 years	17,037 (1,551)	8.6 (0.7)	42.5 (3.9)	92.4 (2.0)
15-24 years	24,271 (2,391)	12.2 (0.9)	58.4 (5.8)	94.6 (1.6)
25-44 years	51,924 (4,421)	26.1 (1.4)	63.9 (5.4)	90.5 (1.8)
45-64 years	41,720 (3,822)	21.0 (1.2)	53.8 (4.9)	73.6 (3.5)
65 years and over	30,122 (3,306)	15.1 (1.3)	80.9 (8.9)	55.2 (5.9)
65-74 years	15,576 (1,760)	7.8 (0.7)	78.4 (8.9)	56.6 (6.1)
75 years and over	14,546 (1,765)	7.3 (0.8)	83.8 (10.2)	53.6 (6.3)
Sex and age				
Female	133,693 (8,867)	67.1 (1.3)	87.7 (5.8)	87.2 (1.7)
Under 15 years	25,063 (2,112)	12.6 (0.9)	84.0 (7.1)	96.8 (0.9)
15-24 years	20,427 (2,232)	10.3 (0.9)	99.3 (10.8)	95.6 (1.7)
25-44 years	44,526 (4,077)	22.4 (1.4)	108.7 (10.0)	94.1 (1.2)
45-64 years	26,400 (2,534)	13.3 (0.8)	66.3 (6.4)	77.5 (3.7)
65-74 years	8,656 (996)	4.3 (0.4)	80.7 (9.3)	60.5 (6.3)
75 years and over	8,621 (1,090)	4.3 (0.5)	82.2 (10.4)	60.6 (6.5)
Male	65,422 (4,448)	32.9 (1.3)	44.7 (3.0)	76.4 (2.9)
Under 15 years	26,014 (2,239)	13.1 (1.0)	83.3 (7.2)	96.3 (1.2)
15-24 years	3,844 (608)	1.9 (0.3)	18.3 (2.9)	89.4 (3.6)
25-44 years	7,399 (925)	3.7 (0.4)	18.3 (2.3)	69.2 (6.2)
45-64 years	15,320 (1,692)	7.7 (0.7)	40.7 (4.5)	66.7 (4.6)
65-74 years	6,921 (1,009)	3.5 (0.5)	75.6 (11.0)	51.8 (7.8)
75 years and over	5,925 (941)	3.0 (0.4)	86.2 (13.7)	43.5 (7.7)
Race <sup>4,5</sup>				
Reported	128,097 (8,654)	64.3 (3.0)	...	85.7 (1.9)
Imputed (missing)	71,018 (8,153)	35.7 (3.0)	...	80.1 (3.8)
Reported plus imputed <sup>6</sup> :				
White	159,167 (10,294)	79.9 (1.9)	66.6 (4.3)	82.2 (2.2)
Black or African American	27,910 (4,134)	14.0 (1.7)	74.2 (11.0)	90.0 (2.6)
Other <sup>7</sup>	12,038 (1,988)	6.0 (1.0)	54.3 (9.0)	88.1 (3.6)
Reported only <sup>8</sup> :				
White	100,420 (6,932)	78.4 (2.5)	...	83.9 (2.2)
Black or African American	20,015 (3,479)	15.6 (2.3)	...	92.1 (3.1)
Other <sup>7</sup>	7,662 (1,902)	6.0 (1.4)	...	91.7 (2.7)
Ethnicity <sup>4,5</sup>				
Reported	123,303 (8,627)	61.9 (3.2)	...	86.4 (1.9)
Imputed (missing)	75,812 (8,701)	38.1 (3.2)	...	79.2 (3.7)
Reported plus imputed <sup>9</sup> :				
Hispanic or Latino	30,405 (3,331)	15.3 (1.5)	65.5 (7.2)	89.3 (2.2)
Not Hispanic or Latino	168,710 (10,975)	84.7 (1.5)	66.9 (4.3)	82.7 (2.2)
Reported only <sup>10</sup> :				
Hispanic or Latino	21,517 (2,722)	17.5 (1.9)	...	91.5 (2.2)
Not Hispanic or Latino	101,786 (7,708)	82.5 (1.9)	...	85.3 (2.2)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 11. Preventive care visits made to primary care specialists, by selected patient and visit characteristics: United States, 2008—Con.**

Patient and visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent (standard error of percent)	Number of visits per 100 persons per year <sup>1</sup> (standard error of rate)	Percent of preventive care visits made to primary care specialists <sup>2</sup> (standard error of percent)
Expected source of payment <sup>11</sup>		Percent of visits		
Private insurance . . . . .	129,102 (8,701)	64.8 (2.1)	67.7 (4.6)	83.3 (2.2)
Medicare . . . . .	26,957 (2,986)	13.5 (1.2)	65.7 (7.3)	52.1 (5.9)
Medicaid or SCHIP <sup>12</sup> . . . . .	36,233 (4,082)	18.2 (1.6)	97.8 (11.0)	97.4 (0.7)
Medicare and Medicaid <sup>13</sup> . . . . .	1,285 (328)	0.6 (0.2)	. . . . .	73.2 (9.6)
No insurance <sup>14</sup> . . . . .	10,761 (1,993)	5.4 (1.0)	24.5 (4.5)	86.4 (4.7)
Other <sup>15</sup> . . . . .	12,619 (2,299)	6.3 (1.1)	. . . . .	82.1 (6.5)

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Visit rates for age, sex, race, and ethnicity are based on the July 1, 2008, set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Visit rates for expected source(s) of payment are based on the 2008 National Health Interview Survey estimates of health insurance.

<sup>2</sup>Primary care specialty defined in the 2008 public use file documentation ([ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf](http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf)).

<sup>3</sup>Preventive care includes routine prenatal, well-baby, screening, insurance, or general exams (see question 4c on Patient Record form).

<sup>4</sup>For 2008, race data were missing for 33.0 percent of visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 35.6 percent of visits. Readers are therefore advised to treat these data with caution. In this table, estimates based on imputed race and ethnicity data are shown separately from comparison estimates using unimputed data. Missing race and ethnicity were imputed using a hot deck approach rather than the previously used cold deck strategy. The imputation process is described more fully in the 2008 public use file documentation ([ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf](http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf)). Research is currently under way to evaluate further changes to the imputation strategy for use with 2009 data.

<sup>5</sup>The race groups white, black or African American, and other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race-specific estimates have been tabulated according to 1997 standards for federal data on race and ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The percent of visit records with multiple races indicated is small and lower than what is typically found for self-reported race in household surveys.

<sup>6</sup>"Reported plus imputed" includes race that was reported directly by physician offices and imputed values for the 35.7 percent of preventive care visits for which race was not reported.

<sup>7</sup>"Other race" includes visits by Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and multiple races.

<sup>8</sup>"Reported only" calculations are based on 128,097 visits (in thousands) with race reported directly by physician offices. The 35.7 percent of preventive care visits for which race was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed race values.

<sup>9</sup>"Reported plus imputed" includes ethnicity that was reported directly by physician offices, and imputed values for the 38.1 percent of preventive care visits for which ethnicity was not reported.

<sup>10</sup>"Reported only" calculations are based on 123,303 preventive care visits (in thousands) with ethnicity reported directly by physician offices. The 38.1 percent of preventive care visits for which ethnicity was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed ethnicity values.

<sup>11</sup>Combined total of individual sources exceeds "all visits," and "percent of visits" exceeds 100%, because more than one source of payment may be reported per visit.

<sup>12</sup>SCHIP is State Children's Health Insurance Program.

<sup>13</sup>The visits in this category are also included in both the Medicare and Medicaid or SCHIP categories.

<sup>14</sup>"No insurance" is defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as payment sources. The visit rate was calculated using "uninsured" as the denominator from the estimates of health insurance coverage from the National Health Interview Survey.

<sup>15</sup>"Other" includes worker's compensation, unknown or blank, and payments not classified elsewhere.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 12. Primary diagnosis at office visits, classified by major disease category: United States, 2008**

Major disease category and ICD-9-CM code range <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0 . . .
Infectious and parasitic diseases . . . . .001-139	24,213 (1,852)	2.5 (0.2)
Neoplasms . . . . .140-239	29,397 (3,894)	3.1 (0.4)
Endocrine, nutritional, metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders . . . . .240-279	56,417 (3,995)	5.9 (0.4)
Mental disorders . . . . .290-319	39,831 (3,410)	4.2 (0.3)
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs . . . . .320-389	94,420 (7,239)	9.9 (0.6)
Diseases of the circulatory system . . . . .390-459	91,736 (7,514)	9.6 (0.6)
Diseases of the respiratory system . . . . .460-519	95,852 (6,291)	10.0 (0.5)
Diseases of the digestive system . . . . .520-579	28,367 (2,640)	3.0 (0.3)
Diseases of the genitourinary system . . . . .580-629	46,175 (3,691)	4.8 (0.4)
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue . . . . .680-709	46,097 (3,904)	4.8 (0.4)
Diseases of the musculoskeletal and connective tissue . . . . .710-739	76,626 (5,788)	8.0 (0.5)
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions . . . . .780-799	60,018 (3,243)	6.3 (0.3)
Injury and poisoning . . . . .800-999	41,186 (3,411)	4.3 (0.3)
Supplementary classification <sup>2</sup> . . . . .V01-V85	199,611 (11,223)	20.9 (0.8)
All other diagnoses <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	20,633 (2,106)	2.2 (0.2)
Blank . . . . .	5,389 (981)	0.6 (0.1)

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version: International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition. DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 06-1260).

<sup>2</sup>"Supplementary classification" is preventive and follow-up care and includes general medical examination, routine prenatal examination, and health supervision of an infant or child, and other diagnoses not classifiable to injury or illness.

<sup>3</sup>Includes diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (280-289); complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (630-677); congenital anomalies (740-759); certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (760-779); and entries not codable to the ICD-9-CM (e.g., illegible entries, "left against medical advice," transferred, and entries of "none" or "no diagnoses").

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 13. Twenty leading primary diagnosis groups for office visits, by patient sex: United States, 2008**

Primary diagnosis group and ICD-9-CM code(s) <sup>1</sup>	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Female <sup>2</sup>	Male <sup>3</sup>
			Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)
All visits. . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .
Essential hypertension. . . . .401	45,969 (3,810)	4.8 (0.3)	4.8 (0.3)	4.8 (0.4)
Routine infant or child health check . . . . .V20.2	43,178 (3,843)	4.5 (0.4)	3.7 (0.3)	5.8 (0.5)
Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis . . . . .460-461,463-466	29,296 (2,451)	3.1 (0.2)	2.7 (0.2)	3.6 (0.3)
Arthropathies and related disorders. . . . .710-719	28,404 (2,474)	3.0 (0.2)	3.1 (0.3)	2.7 (0.3)
Diabetes mellitus . . . . .250	25,365 (2,502)	2.7 (0.2)	2.2 (0.2)	3.4 (0.4)
Spinal disorders. . . . .720-724	24,376 (2,825)	2.5 (0.3)	2.5 (0.3)	2.6 (0.3)
Normal pregnancy . . . . .V22	22,140 (2,835)	2.3 (0.3)	3.9 (0.5)	* . . .
General medical examination . . . . .V70	20,913 (2,387)	2.2 (0.2)	1.9 (0.2)	2.6 (0.3)
Malignant neoplasms. . . . .140-208,230-234	19,770 (3,607)	2.1 (0.4)	1.8 (0.4)	2.4 (0.3)
Rheumatism, excluding back. . . . .725-729	18,757 (1,831)	2.0 (0.2)	2.0 (0.2)	1.8 (0.2)
Specific procedures and aftercare . . . . .V50-V59.9	18,372 (2,272)	1.9 (0.2)	1.9 (0.2)	1.9 (0.3)
Follow up examination. . . . .V67	17,652 (2,319)	1.8 (0.2)	1.9 (0.2)	1.8 (0.2)
Heart disease, excluding ischemic . . .391-392.0,393-398,402,404,415-416,420-429	17,017 (2,512)	1.8 (0.2)	1.5 (0.2)	2.1 (0.3)
Gynecological examination. . . . .V72.3	16,140 (2,634)	1.7 (0.3)	2.8 (0.4)	* . . .
Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders . . . . .381-382	15,812 (2,171)	1.7 (0.2)	1.3 (0.2)	2.1 (0.3)
Disorders of lipid metabolism . . . . .272	15,274 (2,026)	1.6 (0.2)	1.4 (0.2)	1.9 (0.3)
Ischemic heart disease . . . . .410-414.9	14,448 (1,937)	1.5 (0.2)	0.9 (0.1)	2.4 (0.3)
Chronic sinusitis. . . . .473	12,506 (1,451)	1.3 (0.1)	1.4 (0.2)	1.1 (0.1)
Acute pharyngitis . . . . .462	11,729 (1,148)	1.2 (0.1)	1.1 (0.1)	1.5 (0.2)
Allergic rhinitis. . . . .477	9,966 (2,303)	1.0 (0.2)	0.9 (0.2)	1.2 (0.3)
All other diagnoses <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	528,885 (20,690)	55.3 (0.8)	56.0 (0.9)	54.3 (0.9)

. . . Category not applicable.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version: International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition. DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 06-1260). However, certain codes have been combined in this table to form larger categories that better describe the utilization of ambulatory care services.

<sup>2</sup>Based on 572,697,000 visits made by females.

<sup>3</sup>Based on 383,272,000 visits made by males.

<sup>4</sup>Includes all other diagnoses not listed above, as well as unknown and blank diagnoses.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 14. Injury-related office visits, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2008**

Patient and visit characteristic	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Number of visits per 100 persons per year (standard error of rate) <sup>1</sup>
All injury-related visits <sup>2</sup>	95,935 (5,982)	100.0 . . .	32.1 (2.0)
Age			
Under 15 years . . . . .	11,795 (1,080)	12.3 (1.1)	19.3 (1.8)
Under 1 year . . . . .	* . . .	* . . .	* . . .
1–4 years . . . . .	2,806 (367)	2.9 (0.4)	16.8 (2.2)
5–14 years . . . . .	8,173 (824)	8.5 (0.8)	20.4 (2.1)
15–24 years . . . . .	9,729 (979)	10.1 (0.8)	23.4 (2.4)
25–44 years . . . . .	19,744 (1,651)	20.6 (1.1)	24.3 (2.0)
45–64 years . . . . .	33,163 (2,710)	34.6 (1.5)	42.8 (3.5)
65 years and over . . . . .	21,503 (1,752)	22.4 (1.1)	57.8 (4.7)
65–74 years . . . . .	10,980 (1,089)	11.4 (0.8)	55.2 (5.5)
75 years and over . . . . .	10,524 (992)	11.0 (0.8)	60.6 (5.7)
Sex and age			
Female . . . . .	49,237 (3,211)	51.3 (1.3)	32.3 (2.1)
Under 15 years . . . . .	4,622 (544)	4.8 (0.6)	15.5 (1.8)
15–24 . . . . .	4,618 (607)	4.8 (0.6)	22.4 (2.9)
25–44 . . . . .	10,194 (948)	10.6 (0.8)	24.9 (2.3)
45–64 . . . . .	17,850 (1,595)	18.6 (1.0)	44.8 (4.0)
65–74 . . . . .	5,754 (715)	6.0 (0.6)	53.6 (6.7)
75 years and over . . . . .	6,199 (726)	6.5 (0.7)	59.1 (6.9)
Male . . . . .	46,698 (3,240)	48.7 (1.3)	31.9 (2.2)
Under 15 years . . . . .	7,174 (753)	7.5 (0.8)	23.0 (2.4)
15–24 . . . . .	5,111 (626)	5.3 (0.5)	24.4 (3.0)
25–44 . . . . .	9,549 (1,056)	10.0 (0.9)	23.7 (2.6)
45–64 . . . . .	15,313 (1,491)	16.0 (1.1)	40.6 (4.0)
65–74 . . . . .	5,226 (644)	5.4 (0.5)	57.1 (7.0)
75 years and over . . . . .	4,324 (486)	4.5 (0.4)	62.9 (7.1)
Race <sup>3,4</sup>			
Reported . . . . .	63,800 (5,439)	66.5 (3.2)	. . . . .
Imputed (missing) . . . . .	32,135 (3,368)	33.5 (3.2)	. . . . .
Reported plus imputed <sup>5</sup> :			
White . . . . .	83,118 (5,669)	86.6 (1.4)	34.8 (2.4)
Black or African American . . . . .	7,884 (1,063)	8.2 (1.1)	21.0 (2.8)
Other <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	4,932 (835)	5.1 (0.8)	22.2 (3.8)
Reported only <sup>7</sup> :			
White . . . . .	54,982 (5,182)	86.2 (1.8)	. . . . .
Black or African American . . . . .	5,745 (924)	9.0 (1.5)	. . . . .
Other <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	3,072 (693)	4.8 (1.1)	. . . . .
Ethnicity <sup>3,4</sup>			
Reported . . . . .	61,505 (5,452)	64.1 (3.3)	. . . . .
Imputed (missing) . . . . .	34,430 (3,443)	35.9 (3.3)	. . . . .
Reported plus imputed <sup>8</sup> :			
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	11,088 (1,371)	11.6 (1.4)	23.9 (3.0)
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	84,847 (5,681)	88.4 (1.4)	33.6 (2.3)
Reported only <sup>9</sup> :			
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	7,498 (1,227)	12.2 (2.0)	. . . . .
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	54,008 (5,216)	87.8 (2.0)	. . . . .

. . . Category not applicable.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>Visits rates for age, sex, race, and ethnicity are based on the July 1, 2008 set of estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as developed by the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>2</sup>Injury visits include injury, poisoning, or adverse effects of medical treatment based on item 2 of the Patient Record form. Injury visits represent 10.0 percent (SE = 0.5) of all office visits.<sup>3</sup>For 2008, race data were missing for 33.0 percent of all visits, and ethnicity data were missing for 35.6 percent of all visits. Readers are therefore advised to treat these data with caution. In this table, estimates based on imputed race and ethnicity data are shown separately from comparison estimates using unimputed data. Missing race and ethnicity were imputed using a hot deck approach rather than the previously used cold deck strategy. The imputation process is described more fully in the 2008 public use file documentation ([http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf](http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf)). Research is currently under way to evaluate further changes to the imputation strategy for use with 2009 data.<sup>4</sup>The race groups white, black or African American, and other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with data year 1999, race-specific estimates have been tabulated according to 1997 Standards for federal data on race and ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The percent of visit records with multiple races indicated is small and lower than what is typically found for self-reported race in household surveys.<sup>5</sup>"Reported plus imputed" includes race that was reported directly by physician offices and imputed values for the 33.5 percent of injury-related visits for which race was not reported.<sup>6</sup>"Other race" includes visits by Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and persons with more than one race.<sup>7</sup>"Reported only" calculations are based on 63,800 injury-related visits (in thousands) with race reported directly by physician offices. The 33.5 percent of injury-related visits for which race was missing



are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed race values.

<sup>8</sup>“Reported plus imputed” includes ethnicity that was reported directly by physician offices, and imputed values for the 35.9 percent of injury-related visits for which ethnicity was not reported.

<sup>9</sup>“Reported only” calculations are based on 61,505 injury-related visits (in thousands) with ethnicity reported directly by physician offices. The 35.9 percent of visits for which ethnicity was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed ethnicity values.

**Table 15. Injury-related office visits, by intent: United States, 2008**

Intent	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)
All injury-related visits . . . . .	95,935 (5,982)	100.0 . . .
Unintentional injuries . . . . .	60,065 (4,618)	62.6 (1.9)
Intentional injuries <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	1,522 (348)	1.6 (0.3)
Injuries of undetermined intent <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	24,569 (1,851)	25.6 (1.5)
Adverse effect of medical treatment <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	9,780 (1,097)	10.2 (1.1)

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Category includes assault, self-inflicted, and other causes of violence.

<sup>2</sup>Category includes illegible entries and blanks.

<sup>3</sup>Category includes medical and surgical complications and adverse drug effects.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 16. Presence of selected chronic conditions at office visits, by patient age and sex: United States, 2008**

Chronic condition <sup>1</sup>	Total	Age				Sex	
		Under 45 years	45–64 years	65–74 years	75 years and over	Female	Male
Percent distribution (standard error of percent)							
All visits . . . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .
At least one condition . . . . .	53.8 (1.1)	26.9 (0.9)	68.6 (1.3)	80.8 (1.3)	81.2 (1.5)	53.1 (1.1)	54.8 (1.3)
None . . . . .	43.7 (1.1)	70.0 (1.1)	29.1 (1.3)	17.7 (1.3)	17.0 (1.5)	44.3 (1.2)	42.8 (1.3)
Blank . . . . .	2.5 (0.4)	3.0 (0.6)	2.4 (0.4)	1.5 (0.3)	1.8 (0.3)	2.5 (0.5)	2.4 (0.3)
Percent of visits (standard error of percent)							
Hypertension . . . . .	26.5 (0.9)	5.6 (0.3)	34.2 (1.1)	49.6 (1.5)	54.2 (1.8)	25.2 (0.9)	28.4 (1.1)
Hyperlipidemia . . . . .	15.7 (0.7)	3.1 (0.3)	22.2 (1.1)	29.2 (1.5)	28.5 (1.7)	14.2 (0.7)	17.8 (0.9)
Arthritis . . . . .	13.0 (0.6)	4.0 (0.3)	16.7 (1.0)	23.5 (1.3)	23.6 (1.3)	14.0 (0.7)	11.5 (0.7)
Diabetes . . . . .	11.1 (0.4)	3.3 (0.2)	14.8 (0.7)	21.0 (1.0)	18.7 (1.3)	10.2 (0.5)	12.5 (0.5)
Depression . . . . .	8.4 (0.5)	6.5 (0.4)	12.6 (0.8)	7.4 (0.7)	6.6 (0.7)	10.1 (0.6)	6.0 (0.5)
Obesity . . . . .	6.4 (0.4)	5.0 (0.4)	9.2 (0.6)	6.7 (0.7)	4.5 (0.7)	7.3 (0.5)	5.1 (0.4)
Asthma . . . . .	5.8 (0.3)	6.6 (0.5)	5.5 (0.4)	5.3 (0.6)	4.1 (0.5)	5.9 (0.3)	5.5 (0.5)
Cancer . . . . .	5.7 (0.5)	1.2 (0.2)	6.7 (0.9)	10.8 (0.9)	12.7 (1.1)	5.1 (0.6)	6.5 (0.5)
Ischemic heart disease . . . . .	4.4 (0.3)	0.3 (0.1)	4.4 (0.4)	9.7 (0.9)	12.0 (1.1)	2.9 (0.2)	6.5 (0.5)
COPD <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	3.7 (0.2)	1.2 (0.2)	3.8 (0.3)	7.5 (0.8)	7.9 (0.7)	3.8 (0.3)	3.7 (0.3)
Osteoporosis . . . . .	2.6 (0.2)	* *	2.7 (0.3)	5.6 (0.7)	7.8 (0.7)	3.9 (0.3)	0.7 (0.1)
Chronic renal failure . . . . .	1.8 (0.4)	* *	1.6 (0.4)	3.3 (0.9)	5.3 (1.3)	1.4 (0.3)	2.3 (0.5)
CHF <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.7 (0.2)	* *	1.0 (0.2)	3.2 (0.5)	7.2 (0.8)	1.4 (0.2)	2.2 (0.3)
Cerebrovascular disease . . . . .	1.7 (0.1)	0.3 (0.1)	1.7 (0.3)	2.7 (0.4)	5.3 (0.6)	1.5 (0.1)	2.1 (0.2)

. . . Category not applicable.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>Presence of chronic conditions was based on the checklist of chronic conditions and reported diagnoses. Combined total number of visits by patients with chronic conditions exceeds "all visits," and "percent of visits exceeds 100%," because more than one chronic condition may be reported per visit.<sup>2</sup>COPD is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.<sup>3</sup>CHF is congestive heart failure.

**Table 17. Selected diagnostic and screening services ordered or provided at office visits, by patient sex: United States, 2008**

Diagnostic or screening service ordered or provided	Number of visits in thousands <sup>1</sup> (standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits (standard error of percent)	Female <sup>2</sup>	Male <sup>3</sup>
			Percent of visits (standard error of percent)	Percent of visits (standard error of percent)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0 . . .	59.9 (0.7)	40.1 (0.7)
One or more diagnostic or screening service listed . . . . .	857,030 (37,091)	89.7 (0.9)	90.1 (0.9)	89.0 (0.9)
None . . . . .	93,266 (8,146)	9.8 (0.8)	9.4 (0.8)	10.3 (0.9)
Blank . . . . .	5,673 (920)	0.6 (0.1)	0.5 (0.1)	0.7 (0.1)
Examinations				
Skin . . . . .	133,288 (12,355)	13.9 (1.1)	14.0 (1.3)	13.8 (1.1)
Pelvic . . . . .	63,482 (6,391)	6.6 (0.6)	11.1 (0.9)	0.0 *
Breast . . . . .	51,313 (5,268)	5.4 (0.5)	8.7 (0.8)	0.4 (0.1)
Rectal . . . . .	30,866 (4,427)	3.2 (0.4)	3.3 (0.5)	3.2 (0.6)
Depression screening . . . . .	10,256 (1,769)	1.1 (0.2)	1.2 (0.2)	1.0 (0.2)
Vital signs				
Weight . . . . .	679,855 (33,965)	71.1 (1.3)	71.9 (1.4)	70.0 (1.5)
Blood pressure . . . . .	566,673 (28,098)	59.3 (1.3)	62.5 (1.4)	54.5 (1.5)
Height . . . . .	434,463 (23,663)	45.4 (1.5)	46.2 (1.5)	44.3 (1.8)
Temperature . . . . .	338,479 (20,544)	35.4 (1.6)	33.7 (1.7)	38.0 (1.8)
Blood tests				
Complete blood count . . . . .	111,388 (8,100)	11.7 (0.7)	11.6 (0.8)	11.7 (0.7)
Lipids or cholesterol . . . . .	80,735 (6,139)	8.4 (0.5)	8.0 (0.5)	9.2 (0.6)
Glucose . . . . .	55,312 (4,808)	5.8 (0.4)	5.7 (0.5)	5.9 (0.5)
Electrolytes . . . . .	45,275 (4,869)	4.7 (0.5)	4.5 (0.5)	5.1 (0.6)
Glycohemoglobin . . . . .	33,312 (4,209)	3.5 (0.4)	3.3 (0.4)	3.8 (0.5)
Prostate-specific antigen . . . . .	19,549 (1,768)	2.0 (0.2)	0.0 . . .	5.1 (0.4)
Other blood test . . . . .	122,520 (9,000)	12.8 (0.7)	13.1 (0.8)	12.4 (0.8)
Other tests				
Urinalysis . . . . .	83,033 (7,036)	8.7 (0.6)	9.6 (0.9)	7.3 (0.6)
Electrocardiogram . . . . .	28,862 (3,304)	3.0 (0.3)	2.7 (0.3)	3.5 (0.4)
Any Pap test . . . . .	35,022 (3,394)	3.7 (0.3)	6.1 (0.5)	0.0 . . .
Liquid-based . . . . .	17,627 (2,485)	1.8 (0.3)	3.1 (0.4)	0.0 . . .
Conventional . . . . .	10,603 (2,108)	1.1 (0.2)	1.9 (0.3)	0.0 . . .
Unspecified . . . . .	6,791 (1,470)	0.7 (0.1)	1.2 (0.2)	0.0 . . .
Biopsy . . . . .	12,999 (1,030)	1.4 (0.1)	1.4 (0.1)	1.3 (0.1)
Any scope procedure . . . . .	27,005 (3,072)	2.8 (0.3)	2.7 (0.3)	3.0 (0.4)
Sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy . . . . .	12,524 (2,115)	1.3 (0.2)	1.3 (0.2)	1.4 (0.3)
Other scope procedure . . . . .	10,823 (1,478)	1.1 (0.2)	1.2 (0.1)	1.1 (0.2)
Cystoscopy . . . . .	3,073 (526)	0.3 (0.1)	*0.2 (0.1)	0.5 (0.1)
Spirometry or pulmonary function test . . . . .	5,474 (1,519)	0.6 (0.2)	0.5 (0.1)	*0.7 (0.2)
HPV DNA test <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	4,352 (1,206)	0.5 (0.1)	0.8 (0.2)	*0.0 *
Chlamydia test . . . . .	4,078 (720)	0.4 (0.1)	0.7 (0.1)	*0.1 *
Pregnancy test . . . . .	3,695 (560)	0.4 (0.1)	0.6 (0.1)	0.0 . . .
Other test or service . . . . .	201,712 (20,421)	21.1 (1.8)	20.4 (1.9)	22.2 (1.9)
Imaging				
Any imaging . . . . .	146,453 (7,223)	15.3 (0.5)	16.9 (0.6)	13.0 (0.6)
X-ray . . . . .	58,184 (3,899)	6.1 (0.3)	5.8 (0.3)	6.5 (0.4)
Other ultrasound . . . . .	27,564 (2,642)	2.9 (0.3)	3.5 (0.3)	2.0 (0.2)
Mammography . . . . .	21,069 (2,260)	2.2 (0.2)	3.7 (0.4)	*0.0 . . .
Magnetic resonance imaging . . . . .	15,479 (1,480)	1.6 (0.1)	1.6 (0.2)	1.7 (0.2)
Computed tomography scan . . . . .	15,247 (1,612)	1.6 (0.2)	1.6 (0.2)	1.6 (0.2)
Echocardiogram . . . . .	11,876 (1,469)	1.2 (0.2)	1.2 (0.2)	1.3 (0.2)
Bone mineral density . . . . .	7,020 (1,040)	0.7 (0.1)	1.1 (0.2)	*0.2 *
Positron emission tomography scan . . . . .	*2,414 (784)	*0.3 (0.1)	*0.3 (0.1)	*0.2 *
Other imaging . . . . .	11,515 (1,721)	1.2 (0.2)	1.1 (0.2)	1.4 (0.2)

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

\*Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Combined total of individual sources exceeds "all visits," and "percent of visits" exceeds 100%, because more than one may be reported per visit.<sup>2</sup>Based on 572,697,000 visits made by females.<sup>3</sup>Based on 383,272,000 visits made by males.<sup>4</sup>HPV is human papilloma virus. DNA is deoxyribonucleic acid. Based on visits made by females.

**Table 18. Initial blood pressure measurements recorded at office visits for adults aged 18 and over, by selected patient characteristics: United States, 2008**

Patient characteristic	Number of visits in thousands	Total	Initial blood pressure <sup>1</sup>				
			Low	Normal	Mildly high	Moderately high	Severely high
All visits <sup>2</sup>	522,481	100.0	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)				
			4.9 (0.3)	24.2 (0.8)	45.8 (0.8)	18.9 (0.6)	6.1 (0.3)
<b>Age</b>							
18–24 years	34,188	100.0	10.5 (1.4)	45.2 (2.2)	38.1 (2.4)	4.8 (0.8)	* *
25–44 years	139,866	100.0	6.4 (0.6)	35.0 (1.4)	42.4 (1.4)	12.7 (0.8)	3.5 (0.4)
45–64 years	187,015	100.0	3.2 (0.3)	20.9 (0.9)	47.4 (1.1)	21.7 (0.9)	6.8 (0.5)
65–74 years	79,402	100.0	3.9 (0.5)	14.0 (1.0)	50.5 (1.8)	24.3 (1.4)	7.3 (0.8)
75 years and over	82,010	100.0	5.2 (0.7)	14.2 (1.0)	47.0 (1.5)	23.8 (1.3)	9.7 (0.9)
<b>Sex</b>							
Female	334,969	100.0	5.8 (0.4)	27.6 (0.9)	44.2 (0.9)	16.7 (0.7)	5.7 (0.4)
Male	187,512	100.0	3.3 (0.3)	18.1 (0.8)	48.8 (1.2)	22.9 (0.9)	6.9 (0.5)
<b>Race<sup>3,4</sup></b>							
Reported	362,130	100.0	5.1 (0.4)	23.9 (0.9)	45.9 (1.1)	19.1 (0.8)	6.0 (0.4)
Imputed (missing)	160,351	100.0	4.7 (0.4)	24.7 (1.3)	45.7 (1.2)	18.6 (0.9)	6.3 (0.6)
Reported plus imputed <sup>5</sup>							
White	436,537	100.0	4.9 (0.3)	24.1 (0.8)	46.3 (0.9)	18.8 (0.7)	5.9 (0.4)
Black or African American	57,621	100.0	4.8 (1.2)	22.1 (1.8)	42.8 (1.8)	21.9 (1.3)	8.4 (0.9)
Asian	22,097	100.0	6.1 (1.3)	29.4 (5.2)	44.1 (2.5)	15.2 (3.5)	* *
Other <sup>6</sup>	6,226	100.0	* *	30.5 (4.7)	46.1 (3.7)	17.2 (5.0)	* *
Reported only <sup>7</sup> :							
White	302,526	100.0	4.9 (0.4)	23.9 (1.0)	46.6 (1.1)	18.8 (0.9)	5.8 (0.4)
Black or African American	40,554	100.0	5.7 (1.6)	20.6 (2.2)	42.5 (2.3)	22.6 (1.7)	8.7 (1.1)
Asian	14,446	100.0	* *	31.6 (5.8)	40.9 (3.3)	15.0 (3.7)	* *
Other <sup>6</sup>	*4,605	100.0	* *	32.3 (5.1)	46.1 (4.6)	*17.1 *(6.7)	* *
<b>Ethnicity<sup>3,4</sup></b>							
Reported	344,277	100.0	4.9 (0.4)	24.4 (1.0)	46.0 (1.1)	18.7 (0.8)	6.0 (0.4)
Imputed (missing)	178,203	100.0	5.0 (0.4)	23.8 (1.3)	45.6 (1.1)	19.3 (0.9)	6.4 (0.6)
Reported plus imputed <sup>8</sup> :							
Hispanic or Latino	65,749	100.0	5.7 (0.7)	30.2 (2.1)	42.6 (1.9)	16.1 (1.6)	5.5 (0.8)
Not Hispanic or Latino	456,732	100.0	4.8 (0.3)	23.3 (0.8)	46.3 (0.9)	19.3 (0.7)	6.2 (0.4)
Reported only <sup>9</sup> :							
Hispanic or Latino	46,682	100.0	5.4 (0.9)	31.8 (2.8)	42.2 (2.5)	15.3 (2.1)	5.2 (1.0)
Not Hispanic or Latino	297,595	100.0	4.8 (0.4)	23.2 (1.0)	46.6 (1.2)	19.3 (0.8)	6.1 (0.5)

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>Blood pressure levels were categorized using the following hierarchical definitions. Severely high blood pressure is defined as 160 mm Hg systolic or above, or 100 mm Hg diastolic or above. Moderately high blood pressure is defined as 140–159 mm Hg systolic or 90–99 mm Hg diastolic. Mildly high blood pressure is defined as 120–139 mm Hg systolic or 80–89 mm Hg diastolic. Low blood pressure is defined as less than 100 mm Hg systolic or less than 60 mm Hg diastolic. Normal blood pressure is defined as 100–119 mm Hg systolic and 60–79 mm Hg diastolic. Blood pressure classification was based on the “Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure” (JNC-7)(Chobanian AV, Bakris GL, Black HR, et al. Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure. Hypertension 42:1206–52. 2003). Mildly high blood pressure corresponds to the JNC-7 prehypertensive range. Moderately high blood pressure corresponds to the JNC-7 stage 1 hypertensive range. Severely high blood pressure corresponds to the JNC-7 stage 2 hypertensive range. Initial blood pressure was recorded if blood pressure was taken more than once.

<sup>2</sup>Visits where blood pressure was recorded represent 66.6 percent (SE = 1.4) of all office visits made by adults (aged 18 and over).

<sup>3</sup>For 2008, race data were missing for 30.7 percent of visits where blood pressure was recorded, and ethnicity data were missing for 34.1 percent of these visits. Readers are therefore advised to treat these data with caution. In this table, estimates based on imputed race and ethnicity data are shown separately from comparison estimates using unimputed data. Missing race and ethnicity were imputed using a hot deck approach rather than the previously used cold deck strategy. The imputation process is described more fully in the 2008 public use file documentation ([http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf](http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf)). Research is currently under way to evaluate further changes to the imputation strategy for use with 2009 data.

<sup>4</sup>The race groups white, black or African American, Asian, and other include persons of Hispanic and not Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Race-specific estimates have been tabulated according to 1997 standards for federal data on race and ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The percent of visit records with multiple races indicated is small and lower than what is typically found for self-reported race in household surveys.

<sup>5</sup>“Reported plus imputed” includes race that was reported directly by physician offices, and imputed values for the 30.7 percent of visits for which race was not reported.

<sup>6</sup>“Other race” includes visits by Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and persons with more than one race.

<sup>7</sup>“Reported only” calculations are based on 362,130 visits (in thousands) where blood pressure was recorded with race reported directly by physician offices. The 30.7 percent of these visits for which race was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed ethnicity values.

<sup>8</sup>“Reported plus imputed” includes ethnicity that was reported directly by physician offices, and imputed values for the 34.1 percent of visits for which ethnicity was not reported.

<sup>9</sup>“Reported only” calculations are based on 344,277 visits (in thousands) where blood pressure was recorded with ethnicity reported directly by physician offices. The 34.1 percent of these visits for which ethnicity was missing are excluded from the denominator so that readers can compare differences between estimates that include and exclude imputed ethnicity values.

**Table 19. Selected health education services ordered or provided at office visits, by patient sex: United States, 2008**

Health education service ordered or provided	Number of visits in thousands <sup>1</sup> (standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits (standard error of percent)	Female <sup>2</sup>	Male <sup>3</sup>
			Percent of visits (standard error of percent)	Percent of visits (standard error of percent)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
One or more health education services listed . . . . .	339,939 (20,755)	35.6 (1.5)	35.6 (1.6)	35.5 (1.6)
None . . . . .	600,648 (26,843)	62.8 (1.5)	62.9 (1.6)	62.7 (1.6)
Blank . . . . .	15,382 (1,706)	1.6 (0.2)	1.5 (0.2)	1.8 (0.2)
Diet and nutrition . . . . .	116,266 (7,914)	12.2 (0.8)	11.4 (0.8)	13.3 (1.0)
Exercise . . . . .	81,143 (7,063)	8.5 (0.7)	8.0 (0.7)	9.2 (0.8)
Weight reduction . . . . .	35,632 (3,928)	3.7 (0.4)	3.7 (0.4)	3.8 (0.5)
Growth and development . . . . .	28,665 (3,229)	3.0 (0.3)	2.6 (0.3)	3.6 (0.5)
Injury prevention . . . . .	25,085 (3,109)	2.6 (0.3)	2.2 (0.3)	3.2 (0.5)
Tobacco use or exposure . . . . .	23,561 (2,316)	2.5 (0.2)	2.3 (0.2)	2.7 (0.3)
Stress management . . . . .	20,638 (2,653)	2.2 (0.3)	2.2 (0.3)	2.1 (0.3)
Asthma education . . . . .	8,979 (1,141)	0.9 (0.1)	0.9 (0.1)	1.0 (0.2)
Other health education . . . . .	183,256 (16,048)	19.2 (1.3)	19.9 (1.5)	18.1 (1.3)

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Combined total of individual health education services exceeds "all visits," and "percent of visits" exceeds 100% because more than one may be reported per visit.<sup>2</sup>Based on 572,697,000 visits made by females.<sup>3</sup>Based on 383,272,000 visits made by males.

**Table 20. Selected nonmedication treatments ordered or provided at office visits: United States, 2008**

Nonmedication treatment ordered or provided	Number of visits in thousands <sup>1</sup> (standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits (standard error of percent)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	. . . . .
One or more nonmedication treatments listed . . . . .	160,164 (11,631)	16.8 (1.0)
None . . . . .	752,574 (31,287)	78.7 (1.1)
Blank . . . . .	43,231 (3,817)	4.5 (0.3)
Excision of tissue. . . . .	21,053 (2,355)	2.2 (0.2)
Physical therapy . . . . .	20,789 (2,304)	2.2 (0.2)
Orthopedic care . . . . .	20,356 (4,284)	2.1 (0.4)
Wound care . . . . .	16,389 (1,922)	1.7 (0.2)
Psychotherapy . . . . .	12,230 (1,822)	1.3 (0.2)
Other mental health counseling . . . . .	10,546 (1,959)	1.1 (0.2)
Durable medical equipment . . . . .	8,518 (1,628)	0.9 (0.2)
Complementary alternative medicine (CAM) . . . . .	*5,715 *(2,251)	*0.6 *(0.2)
Radiation therapy . . . . .	* * *	* * *
Home health care . . . . .	1,714 (457)	0.2 (0.0)
Speech or occupational therapy. . . . .	1,570 (353)	0.2 (0.0)
Hospice care . . . . .	* . . .	* . . .

. . . Category not applicable.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>Combined total of individual treatments exceeds "all visits," and "percent of visits" exceeds 100%, because more than one treatment may be reported per visit.

**Table 21. Write-in surgical procedures ordered or performed at office visits, by procedure category: United States, 2008**

Procedure or operation category and ICD-9-CM code range <sup>1</sup>	Number of procedures in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)
All write-in procedures . . . . .	79,244 (5,386)	100.0 . . .
Nervous system . . . . . .01-05	2,456 (540)	3.1 (0.7)
Eye . . . . . .08-16	8,141 (1,990)	10.3 (2.4)
Ear . . . . . .18-20	1,361 (370)	1.7 (0.4)
Nose, mouth, and pharynx . . . . . .21-29	2,390 (523)	3.0 (0.6)
Cardiovascular system . . . . . .35-39	*3,095 (1,355)	*3.9 (1.7)
Digestive system . . . . . .42-54	18,602 (3,515)	23.5 (3.5)
Urinary system . . . . . .55-59	4,393 (815)	5.5 (1.1)
Male genital organs . . . . . .60-64	905 (193)	1.1 (0.3)
Female genital organs . . . . . .65-71	5030 (620)	6.3 (0.8)
Obstetrical procedures . . . . . .72-75	*3,365 (1,334)	*4.2 (1.6)
Musculoskeletal system . . . . . .76-84	7,135 (1,007)	9.0 (1.3)
Integumentary system . . . . . .85-86	20,847 (2,306)	26.3 (2.4)
Other procedures <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1,524 (335)	1.9 (0.4)

. . . Category not applicable.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Official version: *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Sixth Edition*. DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 06-1260). At least one surgical procedure was ordered or performed at 7.6 percent of office visits.

<sup>2</sup>Includes operations on the endocrine system (ICD-9-CM codes 06-07), operations on the respiratory system (ICD-9-CM codes 30-34), and operations on the hemic and lymphatic system (ICD-9-CM codes 40-41).

NOTE: Included are responses to the write-in fields on the Patient Record form under Diagnostic/Screening Services (item 7.23, Scope procedures; item 7.24, Biopsy; and item 7.34, Other exam/test/service) and Non-Medication Treatment (item 9.14 and 9.15, Procedures). Up to two procedures could be coded for items 7.34, 9.14, and 9.15, for a total of eight procedures per visit. In addition to the surgical procedures shown in this table, an additional 298,836,000 nonsurgical procedures were reported (ICD-9-CM, Volume 3, codes 00, 87-99).



**Table 22. Medication therapy and number of medications mentioned at office visits, by patient sex: United States, 2008**

Medication therapy <sup>3</sup>	Number of visits in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Female <sup>1</sup>	Male <sup>2</sup>
			Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)
All visits. . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .
Visits with mention of medication <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	711,368 (31,782)	74.4 (1.0)	74.6 (1.1)	74.2 (1.0)
Visits without mention of medication . . . . .	227,254 (11,124)	23.8 (0.9)	23.8 (1.1)	23.7 (0.9)
Blank . . . . .	17,346 (2,468)	1.8 (0.2)	1.6 (0.2)	2.1 (0.3)
Number of medications provided or prescribed by a physician				
All visits. . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .	100.0 . . .
0 . . . . .	227,254 (11,124)	23.8 (0.9)	23.8 (1.1)	23.7 (0.9)
1 . . . . .	216,088 (10,343)	22.6 (0.6)	22.7 (0.7)	22.4 (0.7)
2 . . . . .	146,290 (7,118)	15.3 (0.4)	15.0 (0.5)	15.8 (0.5)
3 . . . . .	96,037 (5,052)	10.0 (0.3)	10.0 (0.4)	10.1 (0.5)
4 . . . . .	63,685 (3,838)	6.7 (0.3)	6.6 (0.3)	6.7 (0.4)
5 . . . . .	47,032 (2,984)	4.9 (0.2)	4.8 (0.3)	5.1 (0.3)
6 . . . . .	35,480 (2,648)	3.7 (0.2)	4.0 (0.3)	3.3 (0.2)
7 . . . . .	28,238 (2,175)	3.0 (0.2)	3.1 (0.2)	2.7 (0.2)
8 . . . . .	78,517 (7,104)	8.2 (0.6)	8.3 (0.6)	8.0 (0.7)
Blank . . . . .	17,346 (2,468)	1.8 (0.2)	1.6 (0.2)	2.1 (0.3)

<sup>1</sup>Based on 572,697,000 visits made by females.

<sup>2</sup>Based on 383,272,000 visits made by males.

<sup>3</sup>Includes prescription drugs, over-the-counter preparations, immunizations, and desensitizing agents. Mentions refer to drugs provided, prescribed, or continued.

<sup>4</sup>Also defined as drug visits.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 23. Office drug visits and drug mentions, by physician specialty: United States, 2008**

Physician specialty	Drug visits <sup>1</sup>		Drug mentions <sup>2</sup>		Percent of visits with drug mentions <sup>3</sup>	Drug mention rates <sup>4</sup>
	Number in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Number in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	(Standard error of percent)	(Standard error of rate)
All specialties . . . . .	711,368 (31,782)	100.0 . . .	2,325,368 (124,916)	100.0 . . .	74.4 (1.0)	243.2 (6.9)
General and family practice . . . . .	186,902 (14,408)	26.3 (1.5)	591,889 (49,831)	25.5 (1.8)	83.3 (1.0)	263.7 (10.3)
Internal medicine . . . . .	131,712 (11,926)	18.5 (1.5)	546,996 (53,999)	23.5 (2.0)	86.1 (2.3)	357.7 (21.9)
Pediatrics . . . . .	92,424 (9,067)	13.0 (1.0)	197,135 (19,213)	8.5 (0.7)	77.2 (1.7)	164.6 (7.3)
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	48,669 (5,312)	6.8 (0.7)	99,016 (12,456)	4.3 (0.5)	59.4 (2.9)	120.9 (11.5)
Ophthalmology . . . . .	41,374 (5,146)	5.8 (0.7)	127,396 (22,033)	5.5 (0.9)	63.1 (4.3)	194.2 (25.3)
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	37,163 (5,597)	5.2 (0.7)	207,272 (34,765)	8.9 (1.3)	94.7 (1.1)	528.1 (22.8)
Dermatology . . . . .	23,255 (3,615)	3.3 (0.5)	60,186 (11,962)	2.6 (0.5)	67.4 (3.5)	174.5 (21.9)
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	21,241 (3,345)	3.0 (0.5)	54,196 (11,801)	2.3 (0.5)	41.4 (3.6)	105.6 (18.2)
Psychiatry . . . . .	19,872 (2,853)	2.8 (0.4)	50,220 (8,063)	2.2 (0.4)	86.4 (3.3)	218.4 (12.0)
Urology . . . . .	15,503 (1,909)	2.2 (0.3)	42,547 (7,187)	1.8 (0.3)	62.5 (3.8)	171.7 (21.5)
Otolaryngology . . . . .	11,108 (1,987)	1.6 (0.3)	29,899 (6,495)	1.3 (0.2)	61.1 (3.5)	164.6 (20.7)
Neurology . . . . .	9,847 (1,011)	1.4 (0.2)	33,094 (4,133)	1.4 (0.2)	81.4 (3.0)	273.5 (20.0)
General surgery . . . . .	6,181 (1,551)	0.9 (0.2)	*20,094 (6,146)	*0.9 (0.3)	39.2 (6.5)	127.6 (29.1)
All other specialties . . . . .	66,117 (9,612)	9.3 (1.2)	265,430 (45,532)	11.4 (1.7)	71.5 (4.1)	287.1 (25.7)

. . . Category not applicable.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>Visits at which one or more drugs were provided or prescribed.<sup>2</sup>A drug mention is documentation in a patient's record of a drug provided, prescribed, or continued at a visit (up to eight per visit).<sup>3</sup>Percent of visits that included one or more drugs provided or prescribed (number of visits by number of office visits multiplied by 100).<sup>4</sup>Average number of drugs that were provided or prescribed per 100 visits (number of drug mentions divided by total number of visits multiplied by 100).

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 24. Twenty most frequently mentioned drugs at office visits, by therapeutic drug categories: United States 2008**

Therapeutic drug category <sup>1</sup>	Number of occurrences in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent of drug mentions <sup>1</sup> (standard error of percent)
Analgesics <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	249,881 (14,669)	10.7 (0.3)
Antihyperlipidemic agents . . . . .	134,954 (9,543)	5.8 (0.2)
Antidepressants . . . . .	96,718 (6,131)	4.2 (0.2)
Beta-adrenergic blocking agents . . . . .	87,348 (6,522)	3.8 (0.1)
Antidiabetic agents . . . . .	86,274 (6,623)	3.7 (0.2)
Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics . . . . .	83,461 (6,312)	3.6 (0.1)
Antiplatelet agents . . . . .	82,054 (6,470)	3.5 (0.2)
Dermatological agents . . . . .	67,599 (4,479)	2.9 (0.2)
Diuretics . . . . .	65,606 (5,756)	2.8 (0.1)
Proton pump inhibitors . . . . .	64,740 (4,822)	2.8 (0.1)
Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors . . . . .	64,571 (4,649)	2.8 (0.1)
Bronchodilators . . . . .	64,020 (4,949)	2.8 (0.2)
Anticonvulsants . . . . .	60,948 (4,168)	2.6 (0.1)
Viral vaccines . . . . .	55,086 (5,274)	2.4 (0.2)
Antihistamines . . . . .	51,885 (3,773)	2.2 (0.1)
Ophthalmic preparations . . . . .	51,142 (6,736)	2.2 (0.3)
Sex hormones . . . . .	45,824 (3,180)	2.0 (0.1)
Thyroid drugs . . . . .	45,367 (3,475)	2.0 (0.1)
Calcium channel blocking agents . . . . .	43,927 (3,594)	1.9 (0.1)
Adrenal cortical steroids . . . . .	43,679 (3,600)	1.9 (0.1)

<sup>1</sup>Based on Multum Lexicon second-level therapeutic drug category (see <http://www.multum.com/lexicon.htm>).<sup>2</sup>Drug mentions are based on an estimated 2,325,368,000 drugs provided, prescribed, or continued at visits in 2008.<sup>3</sup>Includes narcotic and nonnarcotic analgesics and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

**Table 25. Twenty most frequently mentioned drug names at office visits, by new or continued status: United States, 2008**

Drug name <sup>1</sup>	Number of mentions in thousands (standard error in thousands)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)				Therapeutic drug category <sup>3</sup>
			Total	New	Continued	Unknown <sup>2</sup>	
All drug mentions . . . . .	2,325,368 (124,916)	100.0 . . .	100.0	24.0 (1.0)	72.9 (1.0)	3.1 (0.3)	. . .
Aspirin . . . . .	64,463 (5,044)	2.8 (0.1)	100.0	4.4 (0.7)	92.9 (0.9)	2.7 (0.6)	Analgesics, Antiplatelet agents
Metoprolol . . . . .	43,206 (3,456)	1.9 (0.1)	100.0	5.3 (0.9)	92.7 (1.0)	2.0 (0.6)	Beta-adrenergic blocking agents
Levothyroxine . . . . .	42,089 (3,293)	1.8 (0.1)	100.0	4.4 (0.9)	93.3 (1.0)	2.2 (0.5)	Thyroid drugs
Lisinopril . . . . .	41,980 (3,196)	1.8 (0.1)	100.0	7.1 (0.9)	90.7 (1.1)	2.2 (0.5)	Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors
Simvastatin . . . . .	35,660 (2,935)	1.5 (0.1)	100.0	7.0 (1.1)	90.5 (1.1)	2.5 (0.7)	Antihyperlipidemic agents
Atorvastatin . . . . .	33,385 (2,515)	1.4 (0.1)	100.0	4.9 (0.9)	93.0 (1.0)	2.1 (0.5)	Antihyperlipidemic agents
Albuterol . . . . .	32,576 (2,451)	1.4 (0.1)	100.0	18.6 (1.8)	78.1 (2.0)	3.3 (0.9)	Bronchodilators
Ibuprofen . . . . .	30,404 (2,499)	1.3 (0.1)	100.0	40.2 (3.2)	54.9 (3.2)	4.8 (1.0)	Analgesics
Furosemide . . . . .	28,278 (2,647)	1.2 (0.1)	100.0	6.9 (1.2)	90.1 (1.5)	3.1 (0.8)	Diuretics
Acetaminophen-hydrocodone . . . . .	26,479 (2,311)	1.1 (0.1)	100.0	28.9 (2.9)	69.1 (2.9)	*1.9 (0.6)	Analgesics
Metformin . . . . .	26,429 (1,970)	1.1 (0.1)	100.0	7.2 (1.4)	90.6 (1.5)	2.2 (0.6)	Antidiabetic agents
Hydrochlorothiazide . . . . .	24,435 (2,403)	1.1 (0.1)	100.0	7.4 (1.4)	89.5 (1.6)	3.0 (0.8)	Diuretics
Warfarin . . . . .	23,587 (2,512)	1.0 (0.1)	100.0	3.4 (0.9)	95.1 (0.9)	*1.5 (0.5)	Anticoagulants
Acetaminophen . . . . .	22,199 (2,113)	1.0 (0.1)	100.0	40.2 (4.1)	55.7 (4.1)	4.1 (1.1)	Analgesics
Omeprazole . . . . .	22,144 (1,708)	1.0 (0.1)	100.0	10.8 (1.6)	86.5 (1.7)	2.7 (0.7)	Proton pump inhibitors
Amoxicillin . . . . .	21,108 (1,720)	0.9 (0.1)	100.0	82.5 (2.0)	14.9 (1.9)	*2.6 (0.9)	Penicillins
Amlodipine . . . . .	20,003 (1,823)	0.9 (0.0)	100.0	6.8 (1.4)	90.9 (1.8)	*2.3 (0.8)	Calcium channel blocking agents
Atenolol . . . . .	19,908 (1,684)	0.9 (0.1)	100.0	4.9 (1.4)	93.9 (1.5)	*1.2 (0.5)	Beta-adrenergic blocking agents
Azithromycin . . . . .	18,911 (2,044)	0.8 (0.1)	100.0	87.0 (1.9)	10.5 (1.8)	*2.5 (0.8)	Macrolide derivatives
Alprazolam . . . . .	18,348 (1,656)	0.8 (0.0)	100.0	12.9 (2.4)	85.5 (2.5)	*1.6 (0.7)	Anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics
Other . . . . .	1,729,777 (90,661)	74.4 (0.4)	100.0	26.7 (1.1)	70.0 (1.1)	3.3 (0.3)	Other

. . . Category not applicable.

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>Based on Multum Lexicon terminology, drug name reflects the active ingredient(s) of a drug provided, prescribed, or continued.

<sup>2</sup>Unknown includes drugs provided or prescribed that did not have either the new drug or continued drug boxes marked.

<sup>3</sup>Based on Multum Lexicon second-level therapeutic drug category (see: <http://www.multum.com/lexicon.htm>).

**Table 26. Providers seen at office visits: United States, 2008**

Type of provider	Number of visits in thousands <sup>1</sup> (standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits (standard error of percent)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	. . . . .
Physician . . . . .	929,715 (37,654)	97.3 (0.4)
R.N. <sup>2</sup> or L.P.N. <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	217,461 (25,027)	22.7 (2.3)
Physician assistant . . . . .	36,171 (6,383)	3.8 (0.7)
Nurse practitioner or midwife . . . . .	8,986 (1,974)	0.9 (0.2)
Mental health provider . . . . .	*2,019 (756)	*0.2 (0.1)
Other provider . . . . .	159,886 (13,349)	16.7 (1.2)

. . . Category not applicable.

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>Total exceeds "all visits," and "percent of visits" exceeds 100%, because more than one provider may be reported per visit. The sample of visits was drawn from all scheduled visits to a sampled physician during the 1-week reporting period. However, at 2.7 percent of these scheduled visits, the physician was not seen; instead, the patient saw another provider. In addition, at many visits, patients were seen by multiple providers, the most common being a physician and an R.N. or L.P.N.

<sup>2</sup>R.N. is registered nurse.

<sup>3</sup>L.P.N. is licensed practical nurse.

NOTE: Numers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 27. Disposition of office visits: United States, 2008**

Disposition	Number of visits in thousands <sup>1</sup> (standard error in thousands)	Percent of visits (standard error of percent)
All visits . . . . .	955,969 (38,548)	. . . . .
Return at specified time . . . . .	635,217 (29,945)	66.4 (1.1)
Return if needed, P.R.N. <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	248,903 (12,512)	26.0 (1.0)
Refer to other physician . . . . .	70,055 (4,576)	7.3 (0.4)
No followup planned . . . . .	49,740 (4,453)	5.2 (0.4)
Telephone followup planned. . . . .	23,502 (4,162)	2.5 (0.4)
Admit to hospital. . . . .	2,369 (354)	0.2 (0.0)
Refer to emergency department . . . . .	2,083 (481)	0.2 (0.1)
Other disposition. . . . .	14,388 (2,442)	1.5 (0.2)
Blank. . . . .	10,754 (1,827)	1.1 (0.2)

. . . Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>Combined total of individual dispositions exceeds "all visits," and "percent of visits" exceeds 100%, because more than one disposition may be reported per visit.

<sup>2</sup>P.R.N. is "as needed."

**Table 28. Physician characteristics, by response status: United States, 2008**

Physician characteristic <sup>1</sup>	Number of sampled in-scope physicians <sup>2</sup>	Total sample percent distribution <sup>3</sup> (weighted)	Responding physician percent distribution <sup>4</sup> (weighted)	Nonresponding physician percent distribution <sup>5</sup> (weighted)	Combined physician weighted response rate <sup>6</sup>
All office-based physicians . . . . .	2,229	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.596
Age					
Under 50 years . . . . .	941	43.5	44.7	41.6	0.613
50 years and over . . . . .	1,288	56.5	55.3	58.4	0.583
Sex					
Male . . . . .	1,677	74.9	73.0	77.6	0.582
Female . . . . .	547	25.0	26.8	22.3	0.638
Unknown . . . . .	5	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.677
Region <sup>7</sup>					
Northeast . . . . .	521	23.4	21.4	26.5	0.543
Midwest . . . . .	462	20.9	23.1	17.6	0.660
South . . . . .	726	32.5	31.3	34.1	0.576
West . . . . .	520	23.2	24.2	21.7	0.621
Metropolitan status <sup>7,8</sup>					
MSA . . . . .	165	8.5	11.1	4.7	0.774
Non-MSA . . . . .					
Type of doctor <sup>7</sup>					
Doctor of Medicine . . . . .	1,946	92.7	92.1	93.7	0.594
Doctor of Osteopathy . . . . .	142	5.3	5.0	5.9	0.560
Community health center physician . . . . .	141	1.9	2.9	0.4	0.801
Physician specialty <sup>7,9</sup>					
General or family practice . . . . .	402	18.2	19.1	16.8	0.623
Internal medicine . . . . .	154	13.8	15.0	11.9	0.648
Pediatrics . . . . .	172	10.7	12.8	7.6	0.711
General surgery . . . . .	116	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.595
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	171	8.5	7.3	10.4	0.509
Orthopedic surgery . . . . .	113	5.2	5.6	4.6	0.642
Cardiovascular diseases . . . . .	165	4.5	4.1	5.1	0.543
Dermatology . . . . .	105	2.6	2.5	2.8	0.570
Urology . . . . .	118	2.1	2.0	2.3	0.569
Psychiatry . . . . .	165	5.9	5.2	7.0	0.526
Neurology . . . . .	159	2.3	2.1	2.6	0.547
Ophthalmology . . . . .	106	4.3	3.7	5.2	0.510
Otolaryngology . . . . .	108	2.0	1.8	2.4	0.520
All other specialties . . . . .	175	16.0	15.1	17.3	0.565
Specialty type <sup>7,9</sup>					
Primary care . . . . .	885	50.4	53.5	45.7	0.632
Surgical . . . . .	609	21.4	21.1	21.9	0.589
Medical . . . . .	735	28.2	25.4	32.3	0.538
Practice type <sup>7</sup>					
Solo . . . . .	554	23.9	22.3	26.2	0.559
Two physicians . . . . .	117	5.8	5.4	6.3	0.561
Group or HMO <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	1,137	54.3	55.1	53.2	0.606
Medical school or government . . . . .	18	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.637
Community health center . . . . .	141	1.9	2.9	0.4	0.801
Other . . . . .	17	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.518
Unclassified . . . . .	245	12.4	12.6	12.0	0.608
Annual visit volume <sup>7</sup>					
0–25th percentile . . . . .	683	25.9	30.6	18.9	0.699
26–50th percentile . . . . .	533	25.0	24.0	26.6	0.572
51–75 percentile . . . . .	508	24.5	21.5	29.0	0.525
76–100th percentile . . . . .	505	24.6	23.9	25.5	0.583

<sup>1</sup>Characteristic information is from a combination of sources: the master files of the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the NAMCS induction form.

<sup>2</sup>In-scope physicians are those who verified that they were nonfederal and involved in direct patient care in an office-based setting or community health center (CHC), excluding the specialties of radiology, pathology, and anesthesiology.

<sup>3</sup>Total physicians are those who were selected from (a) the master files of the American Medical Association, (b) the American Osteopathic Association, and (c) physicians practicing in federally funded

or look-alike CHCs and urban Indian Health Service outpatient clinics. In-scope determination was also used for inclusion in NAMCS.

<sup>4</sup>Responding physicians were those who were in-scope and participated fully in the completion of Patient Record forms or were unavailable to complete Patient Record forms.

<sup>5</sup>Nonresponding physicians were those who were in-scope and participated minimally or refused to participate in NAMCS.

<sup>6</sup>Values represent a combined response rate among physicians selected from the office-based sample and the CHC sample. Numerator is the combined number of in-scope physicians from the physician and CHC samples who participated fully in NAMCS or who did not see any patients during their sampled reporting week. Denominator is all in-scope physicians selected from both the physician and CHC samples. The response rate for CHC physicians is adjusted to take into account CHC facility response.

<sup>7</sup>Chi-square test of association is significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) between physician response and indicated physician characteristic.

<sup>8</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

<sup>9</sup>Physician specialty type defined in the 2008 NAMCS public use data file Documentation ([ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NAMCS/doc08.pdf)).

<sup>10</sup>HMO is health maintenance organization.