

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

ABOUT NAMCS

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) produces statistics that are representative of people in the United States who visit office-based physicians. The survey provides information on office visits by physician practice characteristics, patient characteristics, and visit characteristics.

GENERAL SURGERY

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **16 million visits per year** made to nonfederally employed, office-based physicians specializing in general surgery in the United States.

CONTACT US

Ambulatory and Hospital Care Statistics Branch:

301-458-4600

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/namcs_participant.htm

ambcare@cdc.gov



PROVIDER-ASSESSED MAJOR REASON FOR VISIT

POSTSURGERY	33.3%
NEW PROBLEM ¹	25.2%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE	13.2%
PRESURGERY	9.7%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, FLARE-UP	8.2%

¹Onset less than 3 months.
NOTE: Major reason for visit is the broad category of the problem or symptom which, in the physician's judgment, was most responsible for the patient making this visit.

PATIENTS' TOP 5 PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR VISIT

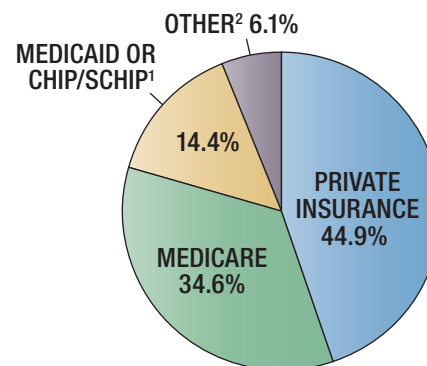
- POSTOPERATIVE VISIT
- PROGRESS VISIT
- HERNIA OF ABDOMINAL CAVITY
- STOMACH AND ABDOMINAL PAIN, CRAMPS
- LUMP OR MASS OF BREAST

NOTE: Principal reason for visit is based on the patient's primary expressed reason for the visit, which is abstracted from the medical record and later coded into categories using an internal NCHS system.

TOP 5 SERVICES, ORDERED OR PROVIDED

- SKIN EXAMINATION
- BREAST EXAMINATION
- NEUROLOGIC EXAMINATION
- WOUND CARE
- OTHER ULTRASOUND

PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT



¹CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program; SCHIP is State CHIP.
²Includes workers' compensation, self-pay, no charge or charity, other sources of payment, unknown, and blank data.

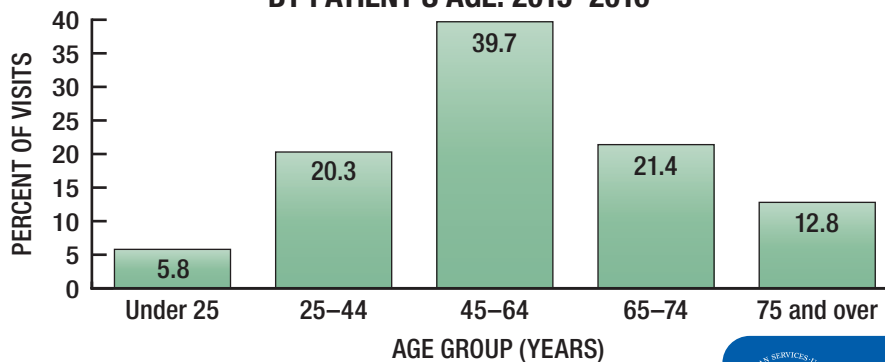
MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT 54.6% OF OFFICE VISITS.

TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



- ASPIRIN
- LISINAPRIL
- MULTIVITAMIN
- OMEPRAZOLE
- LEVOTHYROXINE

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



National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals. Here are a few recent publications using NAMCS data:

Ward BW, Myrick KL, Cherry DK. **Physician specialty and office visits made by adults with diagnosed multiple chronic conditions: United States, 2014–2015.** Public Health Rep 135(3):372–82. 2020.

Ma C, Smith M, Guizzetti L, Panaccione R, Kaplan GG, Novak KL, et al. **Assessing national trends and disparities in ambulatory, emergency department, and inpatient visits for inflammatory bowel disease in the United States (2005–2016).** Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 18(11):2500–9. 2020.

Zhou L, Bhattacharjee S, Kwok CK, Tighe PJ, Malone DC, Slack M, et al. **Trends, patient and prescriber characteristics in gabapentinoid use in a sample of United States ambulatory care visits from 2003 to 2016.** J Clin Med 9(1):83. 2019.

Komaravolu SS, Kim JJ, Singh S, Merchant AM. **Colonoscopy utilization in rural areas by general surgeons: An analysis of the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.** Am J Surg 218(2):281–7. 2019.

Salibian AA, Mahboubi H, Patel MS, Kuan EC, Malinoski DJ, Vagefi PA, Djalilian HR. **The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: PAs and NPs in outpatient surgery.** JAAPA 29(5):47–53. 2016.



A complete list of publications using NAMCS data, which includes articles and reports, can be found at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_products.htm.