

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.

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **58 million visits per year** to nonfederally employed, office-based providers specializing in osteopathic medicine 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



PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT

PRIVATE INSURANCE	48.1%
MEDICARE	25.6%
MEDICAID OR CHIP/SCHIP ¹	13.1%
NO INSURANCE ²	2.2%

¹CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program; SCHIP is State CHIP.
²Having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as source of payment.

PATIENTS' TOP 4 PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR VISIT

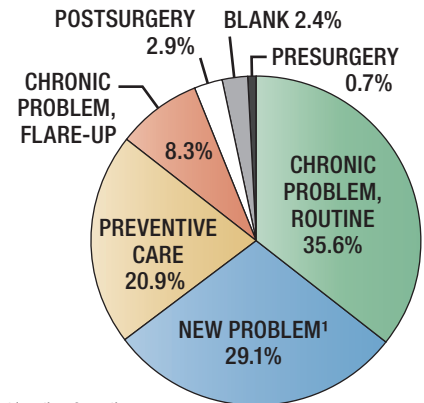
- PROGRESS VISIT
- GENERAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION
- KNEE SYMPTOMS
- COUGH

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

- RETINAL/EYE EXAMINATION
- NEUROLOGIC EXAMINATION
- COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (CBC)
- DIET/NUTRITION COUNSELING
- LIPID PROFILE

PROVIDER-ASSESSED MAJOR REASON FOR VISIT



¹Onset less than 3 months.
 NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. 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.

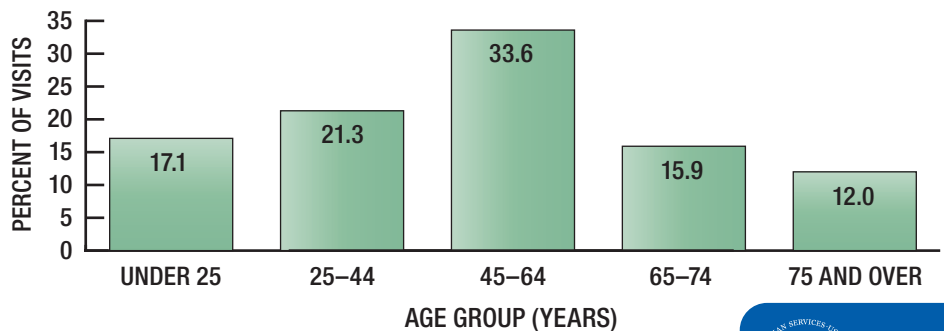
MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT 78.6% OF OFFICE VISITS.

TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



- ASPIRIN
- LISINAPRIL
- ALBUTEROL
- METOPROLOL
- ATORVASTATIN

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE 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:

Stussman BJ, Nahin RR, Barnes PM, Ward BW. **U.S. physician recommendations to their patients about the use of complementary health approaches.** J Altern Complement Med 26(1):25–33. 2020.

Licciardone JC. **A national study of primary care provided by osteopathic physicians.** J Am Osteopath Assoc 115(12):704–13. 2015.

Licciardone JC, Singh KP. **Sociodemographic and geographic characteristics associated with patient visits to osteopathic physicians for primary care.** BMC Health Serv Res 11:303. 2011.

Moser A, Segars LW. **Assessment of antihyperlipidemic therapy in US patients with coronary heart disease.** J Am Osteopath Assoc 110(6):331–9. 2010.



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.