

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.

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **27 million visits per year** to nonfederally employed, office-based providers specializing in otolaryngology 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

NEW PROBLEM ¹	39.5%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE	28.9%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, FLARE-UP	13.6%
POSTSURGERY	11.2%
PREVENTIVE CARE	2.7%
PRESURGERY	1.5%

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.

TOP 4 SERVICES, ORDERED OR PROVIDED

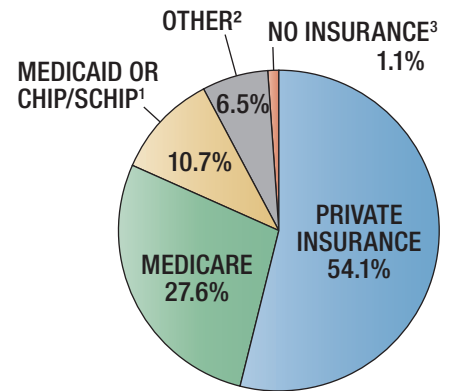
- AUDIOMETRY
- CT SCAN
- DIET/NUTRITION COUNSELING
- EXCISION OF TISSUE

PATIENTS' TOP 5 PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR VISIT

- PROGRESS VISIT
- HEARING DYSFUNCTION
- EARACHE OR EAR INFECTION
- POSTOPERATIVE VISIT
- PLUGGED FEELING IN EAR

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.

PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT



¹CHIP is Children's Health Insurance Program; SCHIP is State CHIP.
²Includes workers' compensation, other sources of payment, unknown, and blank data.
³Having only self-pay, no charge, or charity as source of payment.

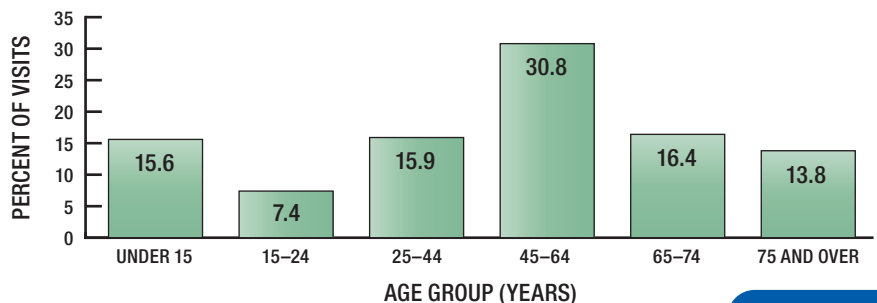
MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT 60.6% OF OFFICE VISITS.

TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



- FLUTICASONE NASAL
- ASPIRIN
- OMEPRAZOLE
- LEVOTHYROXINE
- ATORVASTATIN

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY 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.

Wilson JH, Payne SC, Fermin CR, Churnin I, Qazi J, Mattos JL. **Statin use protective for chronic rhinosinusitis in a nationally representative sample of the United States.** Laryngoscope 130(4):848–51. 2020.

Zhou X, de Luise C, Gaffney M, et al. **National impact of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine on ambulatory care visits for otitis media in children under 5 years in the United States.** Int J Pediatr Otorhinolaryngol 119:96–102. 2019.

Dvorin EL, Lamb MC, Monlezun DJ, Boese AC, Bazzano LA, Price-Haywood EG. **High frequency of systemic corticosteroid use for acute respiratory tract illnesses in ambulatory settings.** JAMA Intern Med 178(6):852–4. 2018.

Mohan S, Bhattacharyya N. **Opioids and the otolaryngologist: An ambulatory assessment.** Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg 159(1):29–34. 2018.

Gilani S, Pynnonen MA, Shin JJ. **National practice patterns of antireflux medication for chronic rhinosinusitis.** JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg 142(7):627–33. 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.

