

# 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.

## INTERNAL MEDICINE

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **110 million visits per year** to nonfederally employed, office-based providers specializing in internal 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](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/namcs_participant.htm)  
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## PROVIDER-ASSESSED MAJOR REASON FOR VISIT

NEW PROBLEM <sup>1</sup>	31.5%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE	31.5%
PREVENTIVE CARE	25.2%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, FLARE-UP	7.0%
PRESURGERY	1.4%

<sup>1</sup>Onset 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

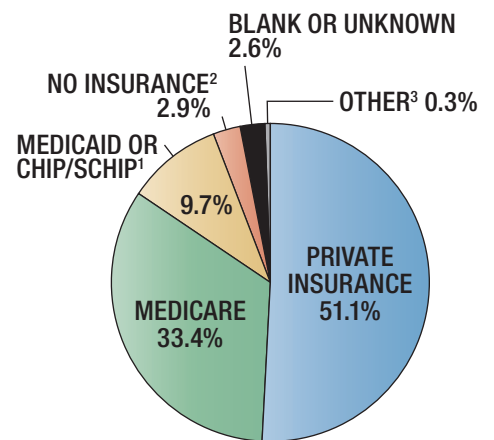
- PROGRESS VISIT
- GENERAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION
- MEDICATION
- DIABETES MELLITUS
- STOMACH AND ABDOMINAL PAIN, CRAMPS

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

- COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (CBC)
- LIPID PROFILE
- NEUROLOGIC EXAMINATION
- DIET/NUTRITION COUNSELING
- COMPREHENSIVE METABOLIC PANEL (CMP)

## PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT



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

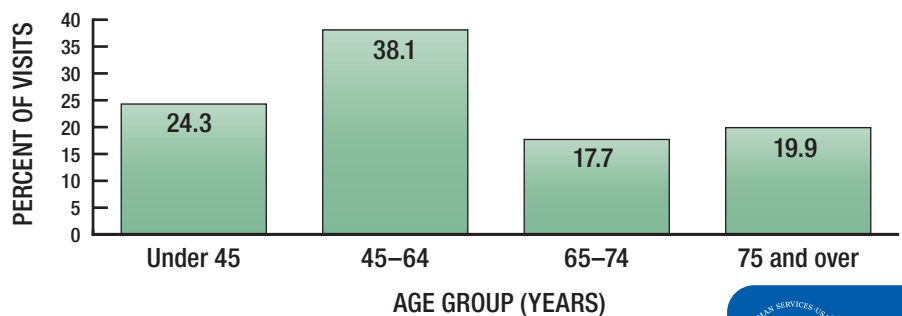
## MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT 84.1% OF OFFICE VISITS.

### TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



- ASPIRIN
- OMEPRAZOLE
- LISINAPRIL
- ATORVASTATIN
- ALBUTEROL

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF INTERNAL 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:**

Goodson JD, Shahbazi S, Rao K, Song Z. **Differences in the complexity of office visits by physician specialty: NAMCS 2013–2016.** J Gen Intern Med 35(6):1715–20. 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.

Samples H, Stuart EA, Saloner B, Barry CL, Mojtabai R. **The role of screening in depression diagnosis and treatment in a representative sample of US primary care visits.** J Gen Intern Med 35(1):12–20. 2020.

Oronce CIA, Fortuna RJ. **Differences in rates of high-value and low-value care between community health centers and private practices.** J Gen Intern Med 35(4):994–1000. 2020.

Wu J, Ward E, Lu ZK. **Addressing lifestyle management during visits involving patients with prediabetes: NAMCS 2013–2015.** J Gen Intern Med 34(8):1412–8. 2019.

Pilla SJ, Segal JB, Maruthur NM. **Primary care provides the majority of outpatient care for patients with diabetes in the US: NAMCS 2009–2015.** J Gen Intern Med 34(7):1089–91. 2019.

Barnett ML, Linder JA, Clark CR, Sommers BD. **Low-value medical services in the safety-net population.** JAMA Intern Med 177(6):829–37. 2017.

Fitzpatrick SL, Stevens VJ. **Adult obesity management in primary care, 2008–2013.** Prev Med 99:128–33. 2017.

Gray B, Vandergrift J, Lipner RS, Green MM. **Comparison of content on the American Board of Internal Medicine Maintenance of Certification examination with conditions seen in practice by general internists.** JAMA 317(22):2317–24. 2017.

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](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_products.htm).

