

# 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.

## OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY

In 2015–2016, there were an estimated **77 million visits per year** to nonfederally employed, office-based providers specializing in obstetrics and gynecology 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)  
[ambcare@cdc.gov](mailto:ambcare@cdc.gov)



### PROVIDER-ASSESSED MAJOR REASON FOR VISIT

PREVENTIVE CARE	69.2%
NEW PROBLEM <sup>1</sup>	16.5%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, ROUTINE	4.1%
POSTSURGERY	3.9%
CHRONIC PROBLEM, FLARE-UP	2.7%
PRESURGERY	1.2%

<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

- ROUTINE PRENATAL EXAMINATION
- GYNECOLOGICAL EXAMINATION
- PROGRESS VISIT
- DIAGNOSED COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY
- GENERAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION

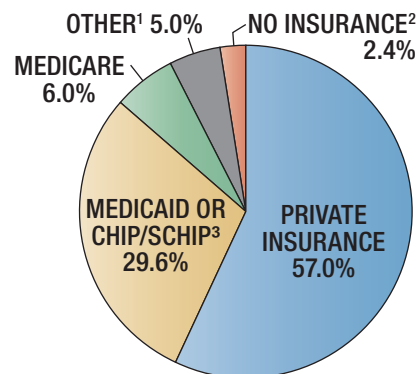
NOTE: Principal reason for visit is based on the patient's primary expressed reason for the visit, which is abstracted from the medical record and later coded into categories using an internal NCHS system.

### TOP 5 SERVICES, ORDERED OR PROVIDED

- PELVIC EXAMINATION
- PAP TEST
- URINALYSIS
- BREAST EXAMINATION
- OTHER ULTRASOUND



### PRIMARY EXPECTED SOURCE OF PAYMENT



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

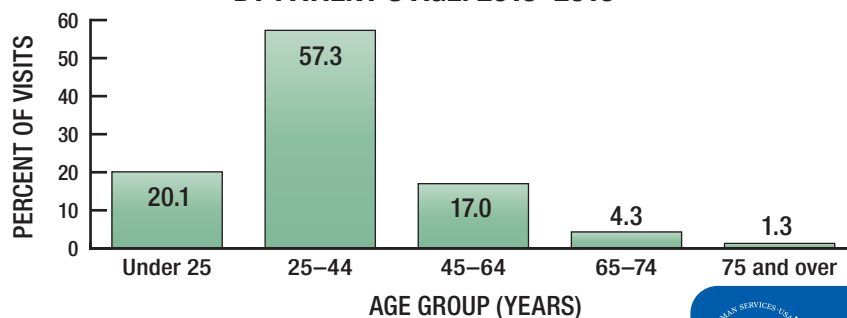
### MEDICATIONS WERE PRESCRIBED OR CONTINUED AT 63.9% OF OFFICE VISITS.

#### TOP 5 ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

- MULTIVITAMIN
- IRON PREPARATIONS
- FOLIC ACID
- IBUPROFEN
- ONDANSETRON



### PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY 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:**

Liao GJ, Hippe DS, Chen LE, Lee JM, Liao JM, Ramsey SD, Lee CI. **Physician ordering of screening ultrasound: National rates and association with state-level breast density reporting laws.** J Am Coll Radiol 17(1 Pt A):15–21. 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.

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.

Sanchez N. **Suitability of the National Health Care Surveys to examine behavioral health services associated with polycystic ovary syndrome.** J Behav Health Serv Res 45(2):252–68. 2018.

Rajan SS, Suryavanshi MS, Karanth S, Lairson DR. **The immediate impact of the 2009 USPSTF screening guideline change on physician recommendation of a screening mammogram: Findings from a National Ambulatory and Medical Care Survey-based study.** Popul Health Manag 20(2):155–64. 2017.

Scheel JR, Hippe DS, Chen LE, Lam DL, Lee JM, Elmore JG, et al. **Are physicians influenced by their own specialty society's guidelines regarding mammography screening? An analysis of nationally representative data.** AJR Am J Roentgenol 207(5):959–64. 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](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_products.htm).