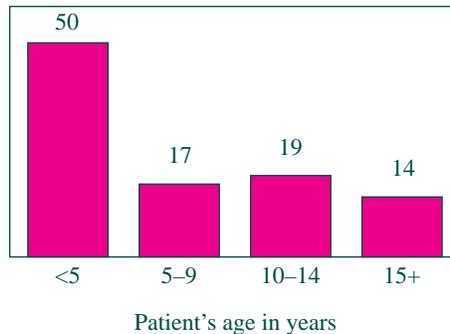


**In 2009, there were an estimated 127 million visits to nonfederally employed, office-based pediatricians in the United States. Half of these visits were made by children under the age of 5.**

Percent distribution of office visits by patient's age: 2009



**The visit rate was not different for males and females and did not differ by race.**

Annual office visit rates by patients under 15: 2009



Number of visits per 100 persons per year

**Primary expected source of payment included:**

- Private insurance — 63%
- Medicaid — 31%
- No Insurance<sup>1</sup> — 2%

<sup>1</sup> No insurance is defined as having only self-pay, no charge, or charity visits as payment sources.

**The major reason for visit was:**

- New problem — 50%
- Preventative care — 37%
- Chronic problem, routine — 7%
- Chronic problem, flare-up — 4%

**The top 5 reasons for visiting the pediatrician given by patients/patient spokespersons were:**

- General medical exam
- Well baby exam
- Cough
- Fever
- Throat symptoms

**The top 5 diagnoses were:**

- Routine infant or child health check
- Acute upper respiratory infections, excluding pharyngitis
- Otitis media and eustachian tube disorders
- Other infectious and parasitic diseases
- Acute pharyngitis

**Medications or immunizations were provided or prescribed at 71 percent of pediatric visits. The top 5 generic substances utilized were:**

- Amoxicillin
- Influenza virus vaccine, inactivated
- Albuterol
- Diphth; Pertussis; Acel; Tetanus
- Acetaminophen

*For more information, contact the Ambulatory Care Statistics Branch at 301-458-4600 or visit our Web site at <[www.cdc.gov/namcs](http://www.cdc.gov/namcs)>.*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF NAMCS DATA

## Pediatrics

**NAMCS data are widely used in research studies appearing in nationally recognized medical journals, including *JAMA*, *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, and *Journal of Family Practice*. Here are just a few recent publications using NAMCS data:**

Shapiro DJ, Gonzales R, Cabana MD, Hersh AL. National trends in visit rates and antibiotic prescribing for children with acute sinusitis. *Pediatrics*. 127(1):28–34. Jan 2011. [Epub Dec 2010]

Patel AI, Madsen KA, Maselli JH, Cabana MD, Stafford RS, Hersh AL. Underdiagnosis of Pediatric Obesity during Outpatient Preventive Care Visits. *Acad Pediatr*. 10(6):405–409. Nov–Dec 2010.

Yawman D, Mahar P, Blumkin A, Connors G. Evaluating children with otitis media for bacteremia or urinary tract infection. *Int J Pediatr*. pii: 790167. 2010. [Epub Aug 2010]

Stevens J, Harman J, Pakalnis A, Lo W, Prescod J. Sociodemographic Differences in Diagnosis and Treatment of Pediatric Headache. *J Child Neurol*. Oct 2009. [Epub ahead of print]

Pont SJ, Grijalva CG, Griffin MR, Scott TA, Cooper WO. National Rates of Diarrhea-Associated Ambulatory Visits in Children. *J Pediatr*. Apr 2009. [Epub ahead of print]

Fortuna RJ, Ting DY, Kaelber DC, Simon SR. Characteristics of medicine-pediatrics practices: results from the national ambulatory medical care survey. *Acad Med*. 84(3):396–401. Mar 2009.

Rand CM, Shone LP, Albertin C, Auinger P, Klein JD, Szilagyi PG. National health care visit patterns of adolescents: implications for delivery of new adolescent vaccines. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*. 161(3):252–9. Mar 2007.

Aparasu RR, Bhatara V. Patterns and determinants of antipsychotic prescribing in children and adolescents, 2003–2004. *Curr Med Res Opin*. 23(1):49–56. Jan 2007.

Hambidge SJ, Emsermann CB, Federico S, Steiner JF. Disparities in pediatric preventive care in the United States, 1993–2002. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*. 161(1):30–6. Jan 2007.

Cooper WO, Arbogast PG, Ding H, Hickson GB, Fuchs DC, Ray WA. Trends in Prescribing of Antipsychotic Medications for US Children. *Ambul Pediatr*. 6(2):79–83. Mar–Apr 2006.

Ferris TG, Kuhlthau K, Ausiello J, Perrin J, Kahn R. Are minority children the last to benefit from a new technology? Technology diffusion and inhaled corticosteroids for asthma. *Med Care*. 44(1):81–6. Jan 2006.

**The complete list of publications using NAMCS data, which includes hundreds of articles and reports, is available on our Web site.**

NAMCS(FS)-12 (7-11)