



National Center for Health Statistics  
3311 Toledo Road  
Room 3409  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

**NAMCS**  
**Endorsing Organizations**

Academy of Managed  
Care Providers

American Academy  
of Dermatology

American Academy of  
Family Physicians

American Academy  
of Neurology

American Academy  
of Ophthalmology

American Academy of  
Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Academy of  
Otolaryngology - Head  
and Neck Surgery, Inc.

American Academy  
of Pediatrics

American Academy of  
Physical Medicine and  
Rehabilitation

American College  
of Cardiology

American College of  
Obstetricians and  
Gynecologists

American College  
of Physicians -  
American Society  
of Internal Medicine

American College of  
Preventive Medicine

American College  
of Surgeons

American Osteopathic  
Association

American Psychiatric  
Association

American Society of  
Plastic and Reconstructive  
Surgeons, Inc.

American Urological  
Association

Association of American  
Medical Colleges

Dear

The CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, as part of its continuing program to provide information on the health status of the U.S. population, is conducting the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). The purpose of this study is to collect information about ambulatory patients, their problems, and the resources used for their care. The resulting published statistics will help your profession plan for more effective health services, improve medical education, and assist the public health community in understanding the epidemiology of diseases and health conditions. Therefore, many organizations and leaders in the medical profession, including those shown to the left, have expressed their support and join me in urging your cooperation in this public health research.

Practicing physicians are the only reliable source of this information. Thus, we need your assistance. As one of the physicians selected in our national sample, your participation is essential to the success of the study. You will be asked to complete a 1-page questionnaire on a sample of about 30 patient encounters during a randomly assigned 1-week reporting period. Additionally, there is a short interview (approximately 30 minutes) with you about the nature of your practice and about physician preparedness in the event of a bioterror attack on our Nation.

Data collection for the NAMCS is authorized by the Public Health Service Act (Title 42, United States Code, Section 242k). Participation is voluntary. Although there are no penalties for not participating, each nonresponse makes the national statistics less accurate. All information collected is held in the strictest confidence and will be used only to prepare statistical summaries. Please be assured that there are several ways that the Privacy Rule (as mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act [HIPAA]) allows you to participate. Disclosures of patient data are permitted for public health purposes and for research that has been approved by an Institutional Review Board – both of which apply to this survey. We invite you to visit our respondent Web site ([www.cdc.gov/namcs](http://www.cdc.gov/namcs)) for information on the survey including important policies and procedures regarding confidentiality and meeting the HIPAA Privacy Rule requirements.

Within a few days, a representative of the U.S. Census Bureau, acting as our agent, will telephone you for an appointment to discuss the details of your participation. If you have any questions regarding your participation, please call a NAMCS representative at (800) 392-2862. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.  
Director, The National Center for Health