

Health Care Access: Access and Utilization

Key Findings

In 2021, 67% of Wood County adults had visited a doctor for a routine checkup. For a variety of medical and mental health needs, many adults looked for services but were unable to find a specific program.

Health Care Access and Utilization

- Two-thirds (67%) of Wood County adults visited a doctor for a routine checkup in the past year, increasing to 86% of those over the age of 65.
- More than two-fifths (44%) of Wood County adults reported they had one person they thought of as their personal doctor or healthcare provider. One-third (33%) of adults had more than one person they thought of as their personal healthcare provider, and 18% did not have one at all.
- Twelve percent (12%) of Wood County adults reported there was no particular clinic, health center, doctor's office, or other place that they usually went to if they were sick or needed advice about their health.
- Wood County adults preferred to access information about their health or healthcare services from the following: doctor (80%); family member or friend (37%); internet searches (37%); medical portal (30%); newspaper articles or radio/television news stories (8%); text messages (7%); social networks (4%); and advertisements or mailings from hospitals, clinics, or doctor's offices (3%).
- Wood County adults did not receive medical care in the past 12 months for the following reasons: no need to go (12%), cost/no insurance (3%), inconvenient appointment times (3%), too long of a wait for an appointment (3%), office was not open when they could get there (2%), and other reasons (4%).
- The following might prevent Wood County adults from seeing a doctor if they were sick, injured, or needed some kind of health care: cost (33%), inconvenient hours (18%), doctor would not take their insurance (17%), could not get time off work (17%), worried they might find something wrong (13%), difficult to get an appointment (13%), frightened of the procedure or doctor (10%), difficult to find/no transportation (2%), discrimination (1%), do not trust or believe doctors (1%), could not find childcare (<1%), and some other reason (5%).
- Adults usually visited the following places for health care services or advice: doctor's office (54%), urgent care center (7%), internet (5%), hospital emergency room (4%), family and friends (3%), chiropractor (<1%), the VA (<1%), alternative therapies (<1%), telemedicine (<1%), and some other kind of place (2%). One-fifth (20%) of adults visited multiple places, and four percent (4%) indicated they had no usual place for healthcare services.
- Nearly two-thirds (62%) of adults went outside of Wood County for the following health care services in the past 12 months: specialty care (29%), primary care (28%), dental services (26%), obstetrics/gynecology (7%), orthopedic care (7%), mental health care/counseling services (5%), cardiac care (4%), cancer care (4%), pediatric care (2%), pediatric therapies (2%), hospice/palliative care (2%), addiction services (1%), skilled nursing (1%), and other services (4%).
- Wood County adults had not gotten the following, recommended major care or preventive care due to cost: lab testing (4%), weight loss program (3%), mental health services (3%), family planning services (3%), surgery (2%), colonoscopy (2%), immunizations (1%), medications (1%), mammogram (1%), prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test (1%), smoking cessation (1%), and alcohol/drug treatment (1%). Eighty-seven percent (87%) of adults indicated cost was not a factor in getting recommended care.
- Wood County adults had the following problems when they needed health care in the past year: too busy (6%), could not get appointments when they wanted them (6%), too embarrassed to seek help (5%), did not have enough money to pay for health care (3%), had to change doctors because of their health care plan (3%), could not find a doctor they were comfortable with (3%), could not find a doctor to take them as a patient (3%), health care plan did not allow them to see doctors in Wood County (3%), did not have insurance (2%), did not get health services because they were concerned about their confidentiality (1%), did not have transportation (<1%), did not have child care (<1%), and other problems that prevented them from getting health care (4%).
- In the past 12 months, Wood County adults reported they or someone in their household visited the emergency room or urgent care for the following: oral or dental pain (1%), asthma (1%), COPD or emphysema (1%), congestive heart failure (1%), and other illnesses (31%).

Availability of Services

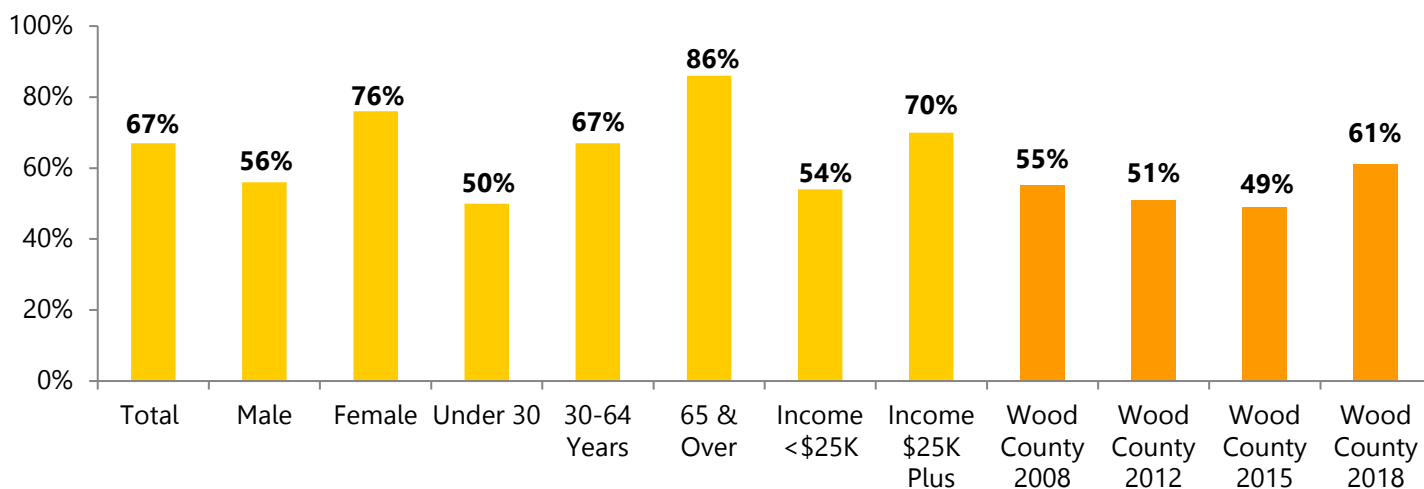
- Wood County adults reported they had looked for the following programs: depression, anxiety or mental health (28%); weight problems (14%); assist in care for the elderly (11%); end-of-life/hospice care (7%); marital or family problems (7%); nutritional services (6%); disability (5%); assist in care for a person with a disability (5%); drug abuse (5%); cancer support group/counseling (4%); family planning (3%); tobacco cessation (3%); and alcohol abuse (2%). No adults reported looking for a program for gambling abuse.

Wood County Adults Able to Access Assistance Programs/Services

Types of Programs (% of all adults who looked for the programs)	Wood County adults who looked but did NOT find a specific program	Wood County adults who looked and found a specific program
Depression, anxiety, or some mental health problem (28% of all adults looked)	10%	90%
Weight problem (14% of all adults looked)	53%	47%
Assist in care for the elderly (either in-home or out-of- home, or adult day care) (11% of all adults looked)	39%	61%
End-of-life care or hospice care (7% of all adults looked)	25%	75%
Marital or family problems (7% of all adults looked)	25%	75%
Nutritional Services (6% of all adults looked)	53%	47%
Disability (5% of all adults looked)	27%	73%
Assist in care for a person with a disability (either in- home or out-of-home) (5% of all adults looked)	15%	85%
Drug abuse (5% of all adults looked)	0%	100%
Cancer support group/counseling (4% of all adults looked)	33%	67%
Family planning (3% of all adults looked)	37%	63%
Tobacco cessation (3% of all adults looked)	14%	86%
Alcohol abuse (2% of all adults looked)	0%	100%

The following graph shows the percentage of Wood County adults who had a routine check-up in the past year. An example of how to interpret the information on the graph includes: 67% of all Wood County adults have had a routine check-up in the past year, including 76% of females and 86% of those 65 years and older.

Wood County Adults Who Had a Routine Check-up in the Past Year



Note: Caution should be used when interpreting subgroup results as the margin of error for any subgroup is higher than that of the overall survey.

Adult Comparisons	Wood County 2008	Wood County 2012	Wood County 2015	Wood County 2018	Wood County 2021	Ohio 2019	U.S. 2019
Had at least one person they thought of as their personal doctor or health care provider	N/A	89%	85%	85%	77%	80%	77%
Visited a doctor for a routine checkup in the past year	55%	51%	49%	61%	67%	78%	78%

N/A-Not available