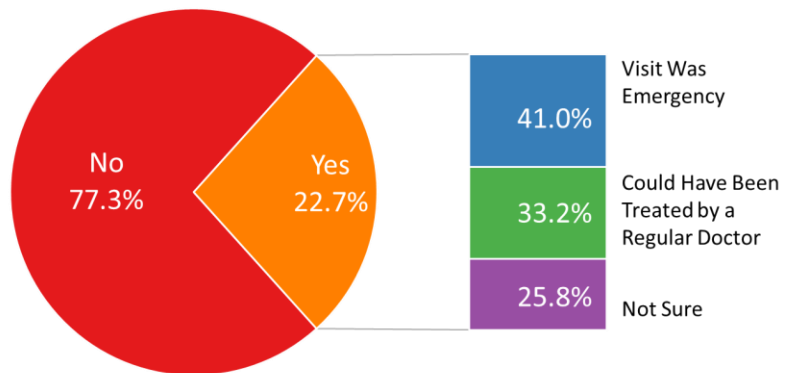


Emergency Room Visits

Key Findings

- As the focus nationally continues on providing the right care at the right time in the right place, understanding who uses emergency department services can provide important information about our local health care delivery system.
- The 2016 CHS asked residents how many times they visited an emergency department (ER) for care in the past 12 months, whether or not the last visit was for non-urgent care, and reasons why residents went to the ER instead of another type of provider.
- About one in four (23%) Weld County adult residents visited an ER at least once during the 12 months prior to being surveyed. One in three (33%) of those that visited an ER said their condition could have been treated by a regular doctor if one had been available.
- In 2016, among uninsured ER users, 3 in 10 said their condition could have been treated by a regular doctor whereas in 2013, 7 in 10 uninsured ER users said so.

Visited an ER in Previous 12 Months

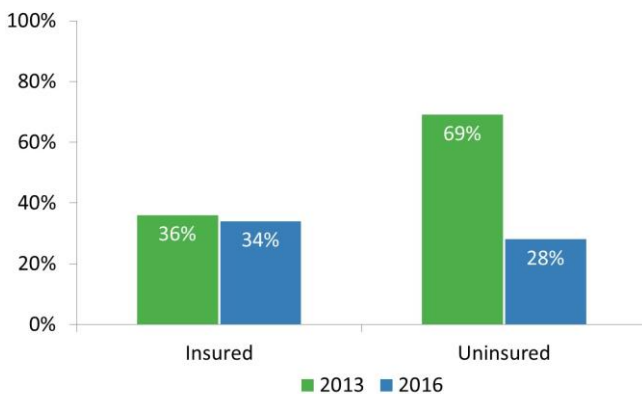


How does Weld compare?

According to the 2015 Colorado Health Access Survey, 21.7% of Coloradans visited an ER in the past year.

- Among people who visited an ER last year, important reasons for using the ER instead of a regular doctor were needing care after hours (45.9%), having a medical need too serious for a regular doctor (43.7%), being unable to schedule an appointment (25.1%), being told to go to an ER (20.8%), and being taken to an ER by an emergency vehicle (14.3%).
- Certain groups of residents reported going to the emergency department for care at higher rates than others. They were: Adults aged 55 and older (28.6%), people living in Greeley/Evans (26.2%), and those reporting household incomes at or below 100% of the federal poverty level* (44.3%).

ER Visit Could Have Been Treated By Regular Doctor



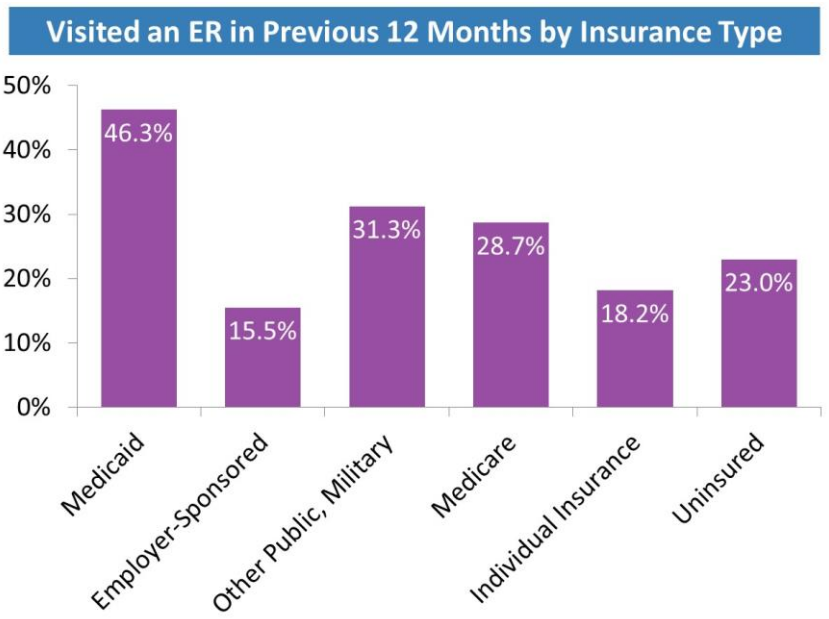
*Due to changes in weighting methodology, interpret comparisons before 2016 with caution.

*100% Federal Poverty Level (100% FPL) in 2016 was \$11,770 for single person, \$4,160 for each additional person, and \$24,250 for a family of four.

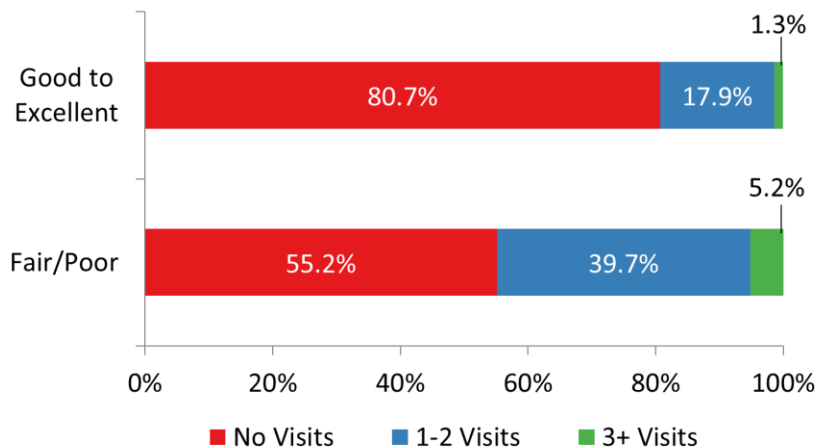
Weld County 2016 Community Health Survey

Key Findings

- Countywide, the average number of ER visits (for those who reported going to the ER in the 12 months prior to the survey) was 2.7 visits. The number of visits ranged from 1 to 50 visits.
- The average number of ER visits was highest at 6.4 visits for residents reporting very low incomes (<\$16,000/yr) and those with less than a high school education.
- In Weld County, people covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or other public insurance programs had the highest rates of emergency department use. Nearly half (46.3%) of people covered by Medicaid (the joint state and federal insurance program for qualified low-income individuals) visited an ER in the 12 months prior to being surveyed.



ER Visits by Self-Reported Health Status, Weld County



- Countywide, 1.8% of adult residents were frequent visitors to the ER, meaning they went to the ER three or more times during the 12 months prior to being surveyed.
- Over 5% of residents who reported they were in fair or poor health were frequent ER users compared to only about 1% of residents who reported good to excellent health.

Questions?

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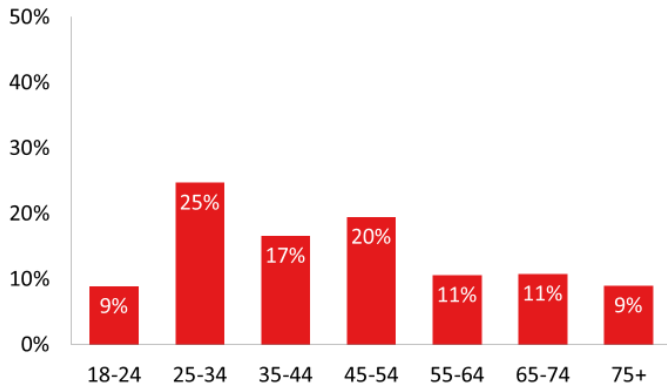


Weld County 2016 Community Health Survey

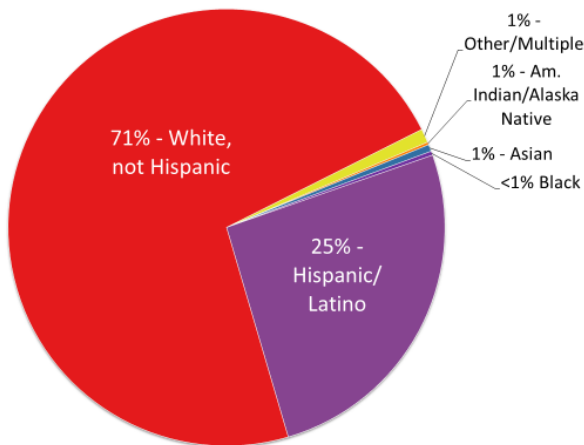
About the Survey

Description of Responders

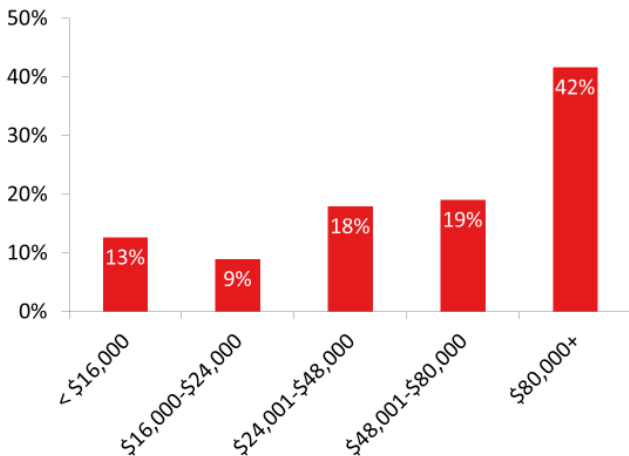
Age Groups



Race/Ethnicity



Household Income



The Survey Explained

- In order to periodically assess the health status of county residents, between September 6, 2016 and November 17, 2016, Weld County Department of Public Health & Environment contacted 8,494 households by mail requesting an adult to complete the 55-item survey or complete it online.
- Question topics included health, health care access and insurance, health conditions and lifestyle habits, preventive screenings, environmental issues, community concerns and needs, and demographics.
- Households were selected randomly by first dividing the mailing list into **four regions (see map below)** and two household types (single-family vs. multi-family). The list was certified by the post office but did not contain residents' names.
- After multiple contacts, 2,080 community residents returned usable surveys for a 25 percent response rate. The results are representative of the population within a ± 5.0 percent margin of error.
- To see the actual survey go to: www.weldhealth.org

