

2022

Key Findings

Weld Community Health Survey

Department of
Public Health
and Environment



Public Health



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are pleased to present the results of the 2022 Weld Community Health Survey, a comprehensive source of local-level data on the health and wellbeing of Weld County adult residents. The following is a brief summary of a few findings from this report, presented here to highlight emerging or sustained trends in residents' health, and a few items not examined in previous iterations of the survey.

Self-rated health worsened in 2022 compared to 2019, especially among Hispanic/Latino/a residents.

Countywide, 86.8% of residents reported their health as good or better and 13.2% of residents reported their general health as fair or poor (up from 2019 when 11.0% of residents rated their general health as poor or fair). A larger gap was seen between the percentage of Hispanic/Latino/a residents rating their general health as poor or fair in 2022 compared to 2019, as 19.5% of Hispanic/Latino/a residents rated their health as fair or poor in 2022 compared to 12.6% in 2019.

The prevalence of many chronic conditions, including anxiety, diabetes, high cholesterol, and obesity have increased.

Over 1 in 5 adults (22.3%) reported they have ever been told by a healthcare professional they have anxiety, up from 20.6% in 2019. Similarly, self-reported diabetes rates increased from 10.1% in 2019 to 11.4% in 2022 and high cholesterol rates increased from 27.5% in 2019 to 28.2% in 2022. Countywide, 34.6% of residents were overweight in 2022 and 34.1% were obese; the obesity rate is up from 32.0% in 2019. Rates of these chronic conditions and others vary by many different demographic factors (such as being overpronounced in low-income residents and residents with lower levels of education).

Over half of all Weld County adults use one or more medications to manage their chronic conditions.

Over 1 in 2 residents (54.5%), or roughly 71,725 adults across Weld County report taking at least one medication to manage their chronic conditions. This estimate includes only medications covered in the 2022 survey: diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic pain, depression, anxiety, or other behavioral or mental health condition medications. Just over 7.0% of all adults use 2 or more medications (16,000 adults across Weld County). The majority of residents who have ever been told they have high blood pressure and/or diabetes reported taking medication to manage their condition (more than 70.0%), more than half of

residents who reported currently having a behavioral or mental health condition reported taking medication to manage their condition (57.1%) and about 1 in 4 residents (26.0%) who reported currently having chronic pain reported taking prescription pain medications.

Many residents report being physically active, but few residents are meeting the recommendation for fruit/vegetable consumption.

Just under 1 in 5 adult residents (19.9%) reported consuming the recommended minimum number of fruit and vegetable servings per day (according to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2 servings of fruits and 3 servings of vegetables per day for the average adult). This is down from 27.0% in 2019. However, over 3 in 4 adults (77.7%) reported regularly participating in physical activity outside their job or daily routine (up slightly from 74.6% in 2019). Additionally, more than 80.0% of residents reported being physically active for 30-minutes or more at least 1 day per week, and over 30.0% of residents reported being physically active for 5 or more days per week for 30-minutes or more.

More residents that reported they needed behavioral or mental health care actually sought behavioral or mental health care treatment in 2022 compared to 2019, especially among male residents.

In 2022, 61.0% of adults who reported they needed behavioral or mental health care or counseling in the past year sought out counseling services or treatment. This is up from 55.0% of residents who reported they needed behavioral or mental health care and sought treatment in 2019. About 2 in 3 male residents (67.2%) who reported they needed behavioral or mental health care sought treatment in 2022, which is up from 2019.

Younger adults reported more frequent mental health distress, worry or stress about a variety of topics, and exhibited lower resiliency scores compared to adults in older age groups.

In 2022, a higher percentage of adults aged 18-34 experienced frequent mental health distress (22.6%; over 1 in 5) compared to other age groups (15.0% for adults aged 35-54 and 9.4% for adults aged 55 and older), and the rate of frequent mental health distress increased from 19.4% in 2019 to 22.6% for this age group. Similarly, more young adults (between 10.0% - 25.0% more) are usually or always worried about financial issues such as having enough money to buy nutritious meals, paying for medical bills, accessing insurance or medical care, and accessing or paying for childcare compared to adults in older age groups. While residents in Weld County reported it was easy to deal with unexpected problems that came up in their life and disagreed that when things go wrong in

their lives, it generally takes a long time to get back to normal, younger adults (aged 18-34) had significantly worse resiliency scores compared to adults in older age groups.

Fewer residents reported participating in risky behaviors (such as risky driving practices and using tobacco products) in 2022.

Positive change was seen in all self-reported driving behaviors and seatbelt use in 2022 compared to 2019. Countywide, 92.3% of adults said they always wore a seatbelt, compared to 89.9% in 2019. 81.8% of adults reported talking on the phone while driving at least rarely, down from 90% in 2019. Half (50.8%) of residents reported reading or sending texts/emails while driving, down from 69.0% in 2019. Roughly 96.0% of adults reported never driving within 2-3 hours of using marijuana, up from 85.0% in 2019 and 80.7% reported that they never drive within 1 hour of drinking alcohol, up from 57.0% in 2019. Also, nearly 1 in 9 (11.0%) residents reported using some form of tobacco (not including vapor/e-cigarettes) at least some days in the last 30 days, which is down from 15.0% in 2019.

The uninsured rate increased to 7.9% from 6.5% in 2019.

This means that roughly 18,000 adults across Weld County do not have health insurance. The uninsured rate was significantly higher for: residents aged 18-34 (10.7%), Hispanic/Latino/a residents of any race (23.4%) and residents with less than a high school diploma/GED (26.7%).

Nearly 1 in 3 residents reported delaying medical care in the past 12 months.

While the percent of residents who reported delaying medical care in 2022 (32.1%) is similar to 2019 (30.0%), this represents a large portion of adults across Weld County who did not get medical care when they thought they needed it. The percent delaying or going without needed health care was significantly higher among residents aged 18-34 (43.3%), residents with household incomes less than \$70,001 (the median income for Weld County, 39.0%), and uninsured residents (50.2%).

Nearly 40% of residents reported utilizing telemedicine appointments in the past year.

Countywide, nearly 2 in 5 (39.2%) adult residents reported having a telemedicine appointment in the past 12 months. Primary care was the most frequently reported service among those who had had a telemedicine visit in the past 12 months (53.7% of most recent visits), followed by behavioral or mental health services (17.6%), and specialist care (16.8%). Roughly 1 in 5 (21.2%)

residents said they were either 'very likely' or 'extremely likely' to use telemedicine in place of in-person care in the future.

Most residents have a high level of confidence in vaccines.

Countywide, 88.0% of adults reported they had confidence in vaccines when they were asked about the importance of vaccines for themselves, the importance of vaccines for their community, and about vaccine effectiveness. Vaccine confidence was highest among female residents (90.7%) and Hispanic/Latino/a residents of any race (93.6%). About 12.0% of residents countywide, or 1 in 8, indicated they were vaccine hesitant.

Housing costs are an issue for residents, impact homeowners and renters alike, and are a concern in all regions of the county.

Roughly 15.0% of residents said that more than one family lived in their home (double-up household) at the time the survey was administered in 2022, which is up from 11.0% in 2019. The percent of Hispanic/Latino/a (any race) double-up households in 2022 is about twice that of other race/ethnicities (22.8% vs. 13.0% and 11.0%). Additionally, 44.3% of residents are worried (at least rarely) about paying rent or mortgage and 1 in 3 county residents say they spend more than 30.0% of their income on mortgage or rent and utility payments, which indicates housing cost burden. The percent of housing cost burden was significantly higher among renters (42.3%) compared to homeowners (29.9%); however, this still represents a large percent of homeowners who are burdened by housing costs. Housing cost burden was similar across all regions of the county.

Residents' perception of walkability in their community went down in 2022 compared to 2019.

The percent of residents who agreed or strongly agreed it was easy to walk in their community decreased by 10.0% and the percent of residents who agreed or strongly agreed it is easy to get many places they need to go by walking or biking decreased by 20.0% since 2019. Additionally, 34.2% of residents reported they were moderately concerned or very concerned that there aren't enough sidewalks or trails to walk or bike in their community.

Residents expressed concerns for environmental health topics.

Residents expressed air quality as their top concern (62.2% of residents reported they were moderately or very concerned countywide), followed by household hazardous waste disposal (50.7% moderately or very concerned), pollution due to oil and gas (51.8% moderately or very concerned) and pollution from road vehicles (49.0% moderately or very concerned). Generally, younger residents

(aged 18-34), female residents, Hispanic/Latino/a residents, lower income residents, and residents who live in the Greeley/Evans region were more concerned about most environmental health topics.

The demand for community-based services among low-income residents went up between 2019 and 2022.

While a higher percentage of residents reported they needed a variety of community-based services (such as dental services, food or meal assistance, transportation services/vouchers, unemployment/work services, addiction services and parenting services), the increase in need was concentrated in low-income residents who needed but did not use these services. This is a different trend than what was noted between 2016 and 2019, when more residents needed and used these services and fewer reported they needed but did not use these services.

Nearly 1 in 6 residents reported they would need help in an emergency.

Countywide, about 1 in 6 residents (14.7% or roughly 40,000 adults) reported they would need help in an emergency, including with transportation in an evacuation, with assistance due to a chronic medical condition, or with medical equipment that requires electricity. A higher proportion of older adults, lower-income residents, residents with lower education levels, and residents who live in the Greeley/Evans or rural portions of the county reported they would need some kind of help in an emergency.

INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

The Weld Community Health Survey is conducted every three years as part of the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment's continuous effort to understand residents' health status and health-related behaviors, concerns, and service needs. These data are collected and shared to facilitate ongoing community dialogue about health issues and to help drive efforts to improve the health of Weld County residents.

The 2022 Weld Community Health Survey is the sixth cycle of the Health Department's community health assessment survey. Community partners provide input on survey content and have influence over questions included in the survey. Partners also help promote the survey. The Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment, along with other governmental and non-governmental organizations use the information to better inform local program activities, funding, and policy decisions. The survey itself covers a variety of health topics including mental health, health care access and insurance, health conditions and behaviors, preventive screening, environmental issues, community concerns and needs, and health-related social and demographic factors of residents. In 2022, several questions pertaining to COVID-19 were also included. A separate report on the COVID-19 findings is forthcoming and will be available on the Health Department's website.

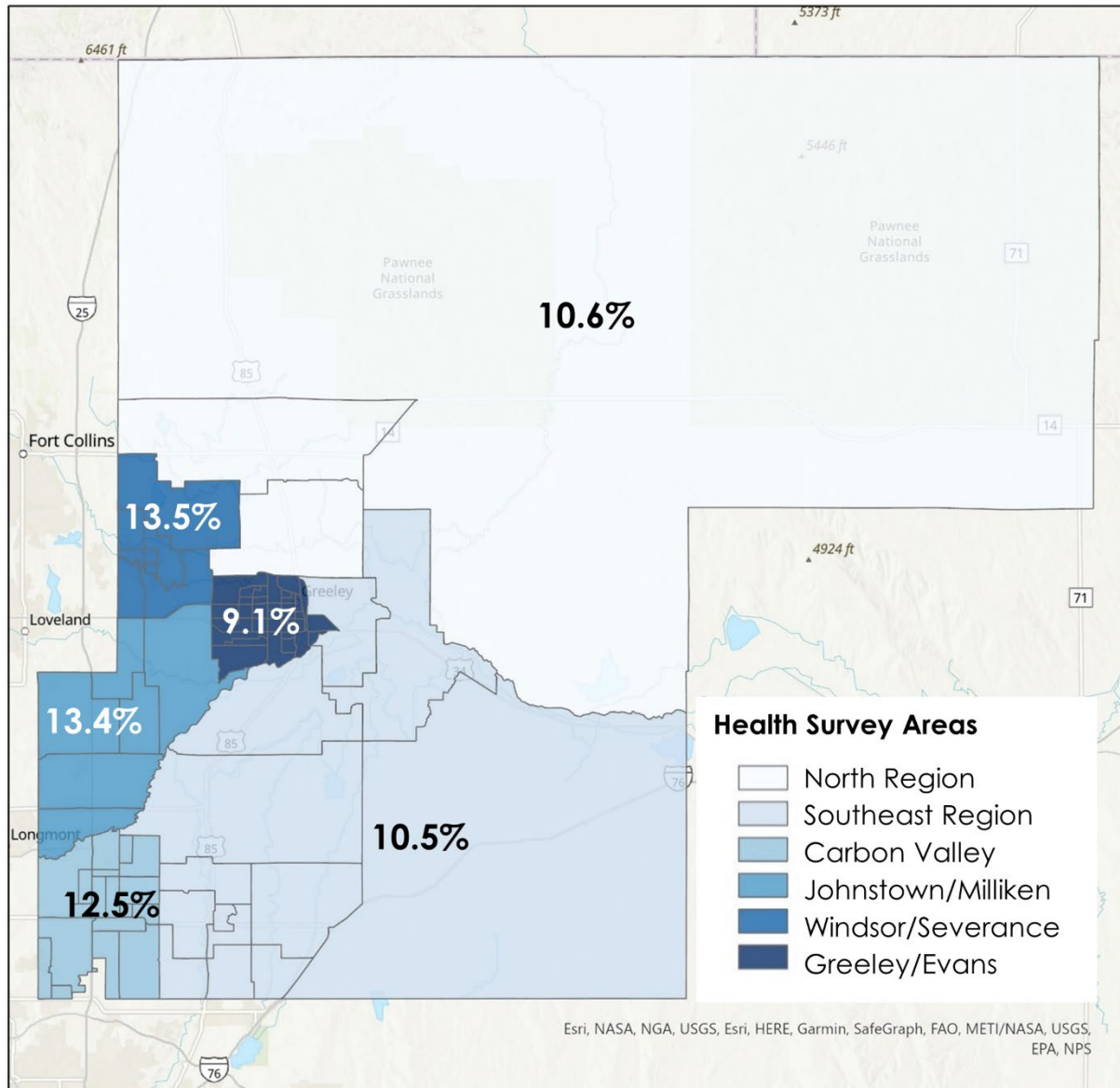
In 2022, letters, postcards, and/or paper copies of the survey with directions to take the survey online were mailed to about 17,000 randomly selected addresses in Weld County. No incentives were used. All responses were voluntary. No individually identifying information was provided and responses are kept confidential. This year's survey was fielded during the summer months, May through August, unlike previous years when it was conducted in the fall. Some estimates may be affected by this change in methodology.

The overall response rate was 11.0% in 2022, yielding 1,828 useable responses. Statistical adjustments for gender, age, race, ethnicity, education, income, and the presence of children in the household have been made so that results presented in this report reflect the demographic makeup of adults in Weld County according to the most recent U.S. Census estimates. This year's sample is stratified into six geographic regions (Figure 1).

The term *significant* is used throughout this report to highlight statistically significant differences in weighted survey estimates with a p-value of less than 0.05.

Note: A full methodology report can be found on the Health Department's website [here](#).

Figure 1. Response Rate by Region



Nearly nine in ten completed surveys were answered online, a higher proportion than in 2019, when nearly six in ten were answered online. A total of 45 surveys (2.5%) were completed in Spanish. Seven percent of respondents were part of a household where a language other than English was spoken in the home. Table 1 describes the unweighted and weighted demographic distribution of those who responded to the survey.

Table 1. Demographic Breakdown of Survey Respondents*

| Age | Unweighted | Weighted | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------|-----|
| 18-34 | 11% | 27% | |
| 35-54 | 28% | 38% | |
| 55+ | 61% | 35% | |
| Sex | Female | 62% | 54% |
| Male | 35% | 46% | |
| Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity | | | |
| Heterosexual | 90% | 91% | |
| Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual | 3% | 6% | |
| Unsure/Something Else | 2% | 3% | |
| Transgender | <1% | <1% | |
| Race | Alaska Native or American Indian | <1% | <1% |
| Asian | 1% | 1% | |
| Black | <1% | <1% | |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | <1% | <1% | |
| White | 86% | 88% | |
| More Than One Race | 2% | 2% | |
| Ethnicity | Hispanic/Latino/a (any race) | 12% | 26% |
| Non-Hispanic/Latino/a | 84% | 74% | |
| Household Income | \$22,000 or less | 9% | 11% |
| \$22,001 - \$32,000 | 8% | 8% | |
| \$32,001 - \$43,000 | 7% | 7% | |
| \$43,001 - \$60,000 | 14% | 14% | |
| \$60,001 - \$88,000 | 18% | 17% | |
| \$88,001 or more | 44% | 43% | |

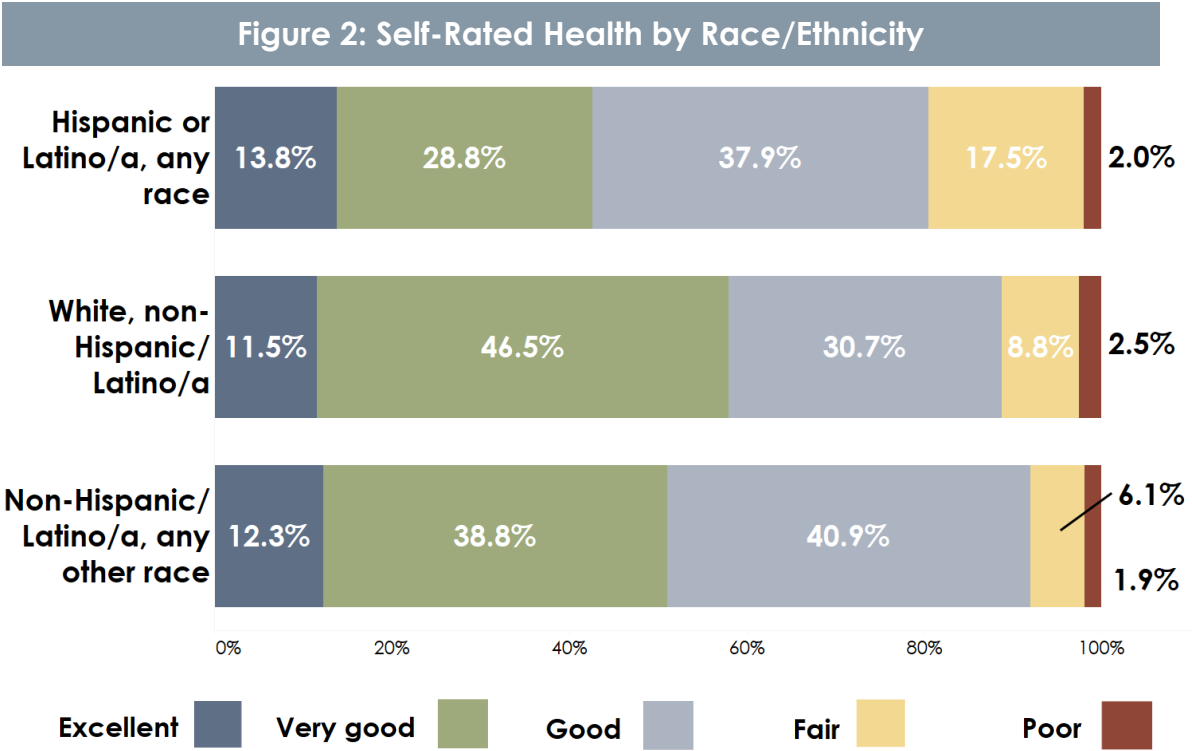
*Sections that do not total to 100% reflect missing data

A note on how race and ethnicity are presented in this report: Due to a small number of responses and small percentage of the overall Weld County population, some race groups are combined in this report. Residents who identified as Alaska Native or American Indian, Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander or more than one race are grouped as ‘Non-Hispanic/Latino, any other race’. We acknowledge that combining these categories can mask important differences in health status and health outcomes between groups.

HEALTH STATUS AND CONDITIONS

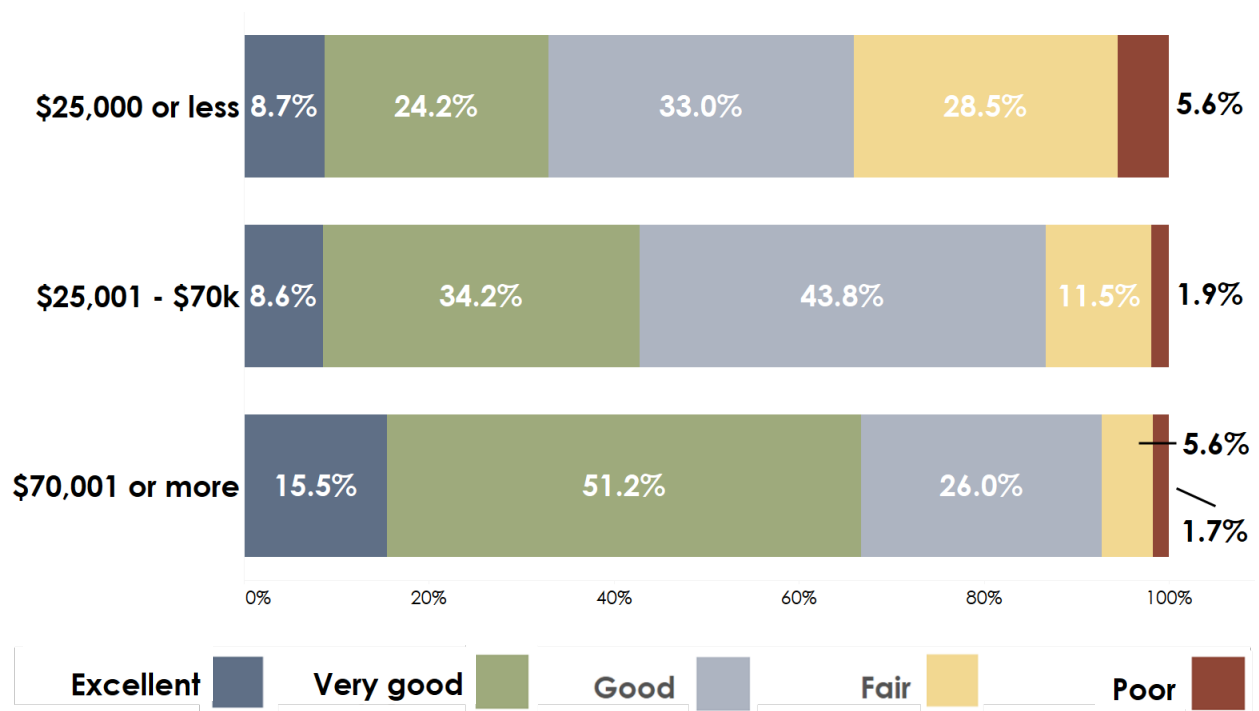
Self-Rated Health

The 2022 Community Health Survey asked residents to rate their personal health from poor to excellent. Nearly 87.0% of Weld County adults described their health as good, very good, or excellent. This self-rated measure of health worsened in 2022 compared to 2019, when 89.0% reported their health as good or better. An even larger gap appeared between the percentage of Hispanic/Latino/a residents reporting poor or fair health compared to other race/ethnicity groups. In 2022, 19.5% of Hispanic/Latino/a residents reported fair or poor physical health (Figure 2), compared to 13.0% in 2019.



Adults living in lower-income households reported worse self-rated health than those in higher income households; more than a third (34.1%) of those with household incomes of \$25,000 or less reported fair or poor health in 2022 (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Self-Rated Health by Income

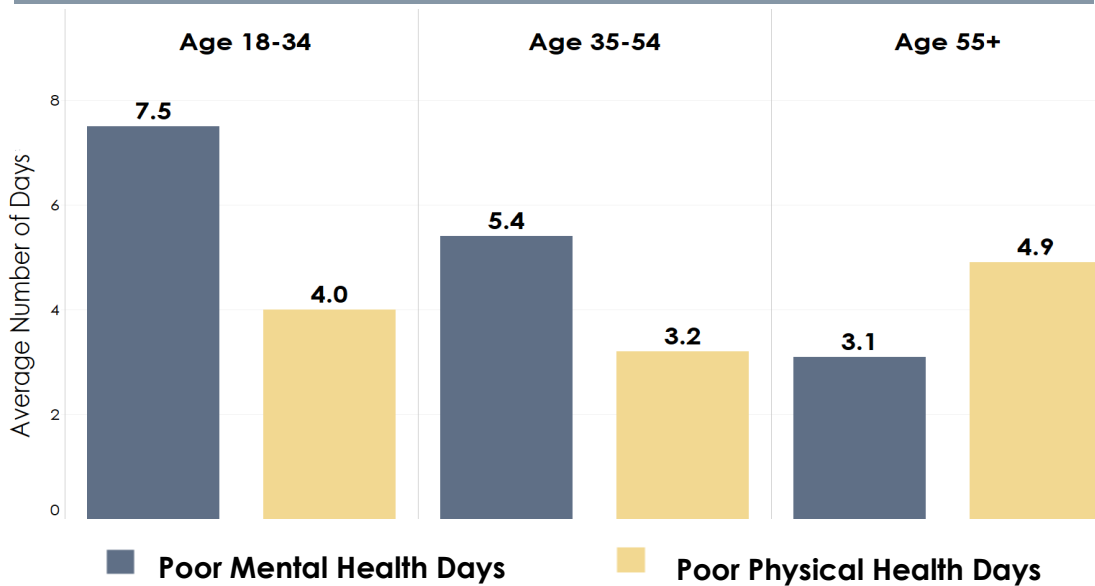


Residents were also asked how many days during the past 30 days their physical and mental health were not good, and how many days poor physical or mental health prevented them from performing their usual daily activities. This second metric is referred to as limitation days. Countywide, residents reported an average of 3.2 limitation days in the past month, up from 0.8 days in 2019.

Residents reported an average of **3.2 limitation days** in the past month.

A higher average number of poor mental health days were reported (5.2 days) compared to poor physical health days (4.0 days). While those aged 55 and older reported a significantly higher number of poor physical days, they also had fewer poor mental health days compared to younger residents (Figure 4). Poor mental health days were significantly higher in younger adults (7.5 days) and residents with household incomes at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$26,500 in 2021 for a family of 4, 8.6 days).

Figure 4: Poor Mental and Physical Health Days by Age



High Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Diabetes, and Asthma

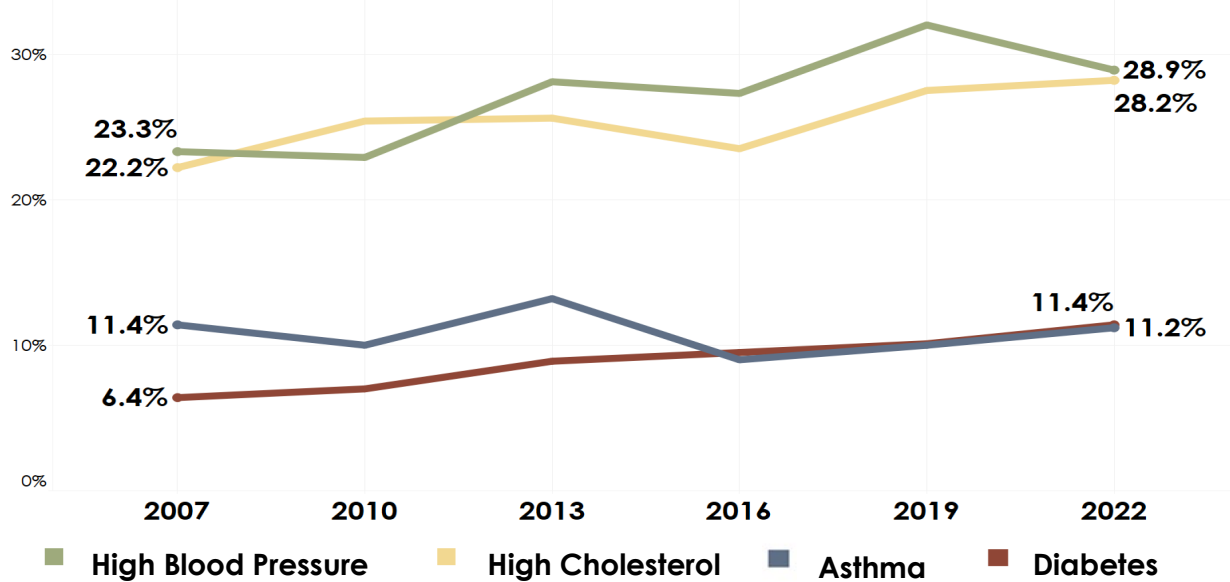
High blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes are all factors that increase the risk for heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States. High blood pressure and diabetes also contribute to the risk of stroke, and people with diabetes are at higher risk for blindness, kidney failure, and loss of toes, feet, and legs. Asthma is a chronic disease that affects the airways in the lungs and can cause coughing, wheezing, and difficulty breathing, potentially leading to disruption of daily life, hospitalization, or death.

Countywide, 28.9% of residents reported that a doctor or other health care professional had diagnosed them with high blood pressure, compared to 32.0% in 2019. Rates of diabetes and high cholesterol, however, have risen slightly since 2019 (Figure 5).

More than 11.0% of residents reported having diabetes, equivalent to roughly 25,000 adults in Weld County. The rate of diabetes has increased slightly; it was 10.0% in 2019 (Figure 5). Colorado’s statewide diabetes rate for adults was 7.2% between 2018 and 2020. An additional 11.3% of residents had been told they had pre-diabetes.

25,000 adults in Weld County reported they have diabetes.

Figure 5: Trends in Chronic Conditions



Diabetes was higher among those aged 55 and older (20.0%), those with less than a college education (Figure 7), and residents with household incomes below \$70,001 (Figure 6). Over 80.0% of residents ever diagnosed with diabetes reported taking medication, including insulin, to manage it.

Figure 6: Diabetes by Income

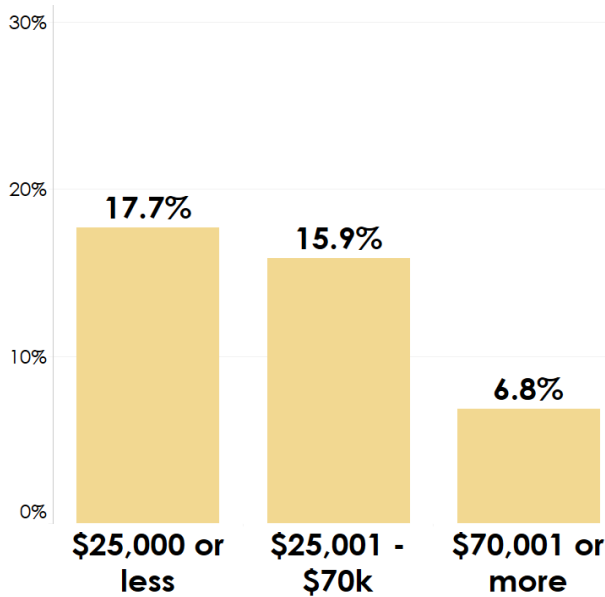
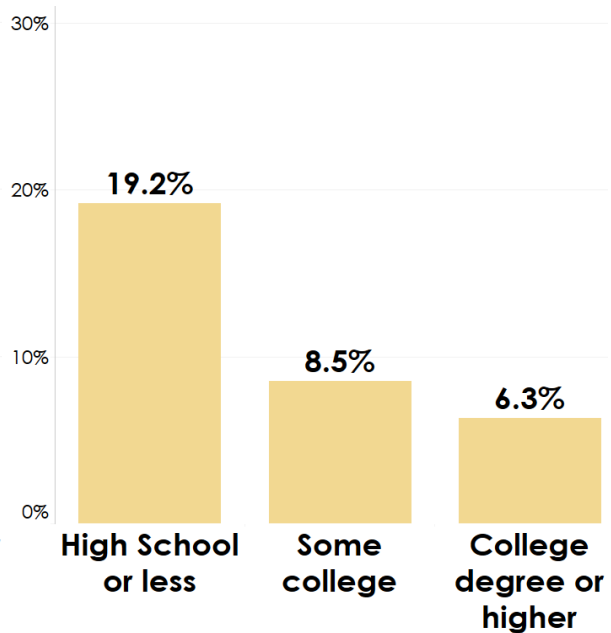


Figure 7: Diabetes by Education



Countywide, 13.4% of adults reported a history of asthma and 11.2% reported currently having asthma, up from about 10.0% in 2019 (Figure 5). The percent of Weld County adults with a history of asthma is higher than Colorado's statewide rate of 9.5% between 2018 and 2020.

History of asthma varied by age, ethnicity, and region. Nineteen percent of young adults (aged 18-34), 18.7% of residents in the rural North and Southwest, and 15.6% of those living in the Urban Corridor/Southwest (Windsor, Severance, Johnstown, and other communities along the county's Western border) had a history of asthma, higher than the countywide rate. In the Greeley/Evans area, a smaller percentage of residents (8.5%) reported a history of asthma. Hispanic/Latino/a residents also reported a lower rate of asthma (5.8%).

Medication Use

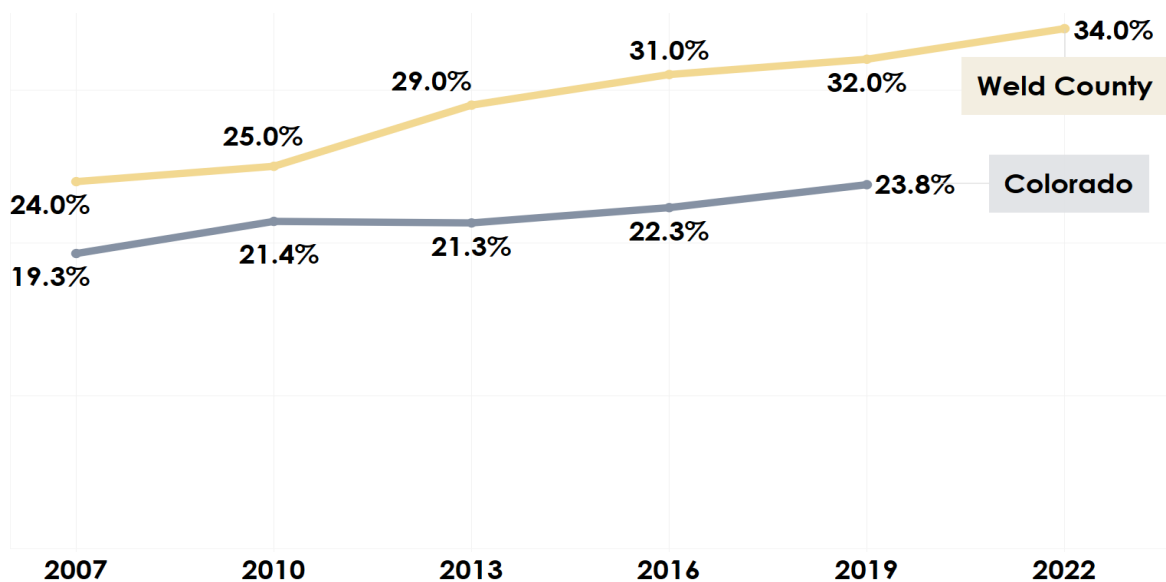
The 2022 Community Health Survey asked residents if they used medications to treat any of the following: diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic pain, depression, anxiety, or other mental health conditions. More than half (54.5%) of all Weld County adults reported relying on one or more medications to manage a health condition, amounting to roughly 72,000 adult residents. Seven percent of all adults reported using two or more medications (roughly 16,000 residents).



More than half
of residents use one
or more medications
to manage their
health condition(s).

The majority of residents (70.0%) who have ever been told they had high blood pressure and/or diabetes reported taking medication to manage their condition, more than half of residents who reported currently having a mental health condition reported taking medication to manage their condition (57.1%) and about 20.0% of residents who reported currently having chronic pain reported taking prescription pain medications or taking THC or CBD to manage their chronic pain.

Figure 8: Trends in Obesity, Weld County and Colorado



Overweight and Obesity

68.7% of Weld County adults are either overweight or obese.

Being overweight or obese is associated with an increased risk of myriad health conditions including high blood pressure, stroke, coronary heart disease, and type 2 diabetes.

The percent of residents who are overweight has declined, while the percent of adults who are obese has increased. Countywide, 34.6% of adults are overweight, down slightly from 37.0% in 2019. The

obesity rate, however, is up slightly from 32.0% in 2019 to 34.1% in 2022 (Figure 8). The decrease in overweight adults paired with an increase in obese adults may suggest that more Weld County residents have transitioned from being overweight to being obese.

A combined total of 68.7% (nearly 150,000 adult residents) are either overweight or obese, higher than the statewide rate of 59.1%. The overweight and obesity rate was higher for males and older adults (aged 55 and older). More than 71.0% of male residents reported being overweight or obese compared to 58.0% of female residents. A higher percentage of adults aged 55 and older reported being overweight or obese (73.3%) compared to those aged 35-54 (66.5%), or those aged 18-34 (49.6%). The obesity rate did not differ between Hispanic/Latino/a and non-Hispanic/Latino/a residents.

Chronic Pain

Roughly one in four residents (25.7%) said they currently experienced chronic pain, down from 32.0% in 2019. Twenty-six percent of those in chronic pain reported using prescription pain medications and 22.6% reported using cannabis or CBD to manage their condition.

Chronic pain was significantly higher in residents aged 55 and older (35.6%), White, non-Hispanic residents (30.1%), and low-income residents (39.3%).

HEALTH INSURANCE AND USE

Health Insurance

The countywide uninsured rate for adults rose to 7.9% in 2022 from 6.5% in 2019, the lowest uninsured rate the county had ever had. This means roughly 18,000 adults in Weld County have no source of health insurance. Nearly 1 in 4 (23.4%) Hispanic/Latino/a residents lack health insurance.

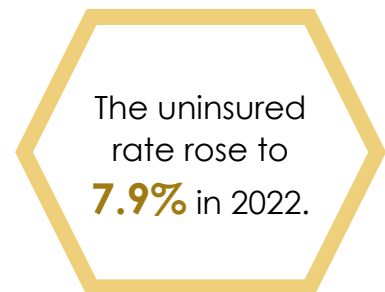
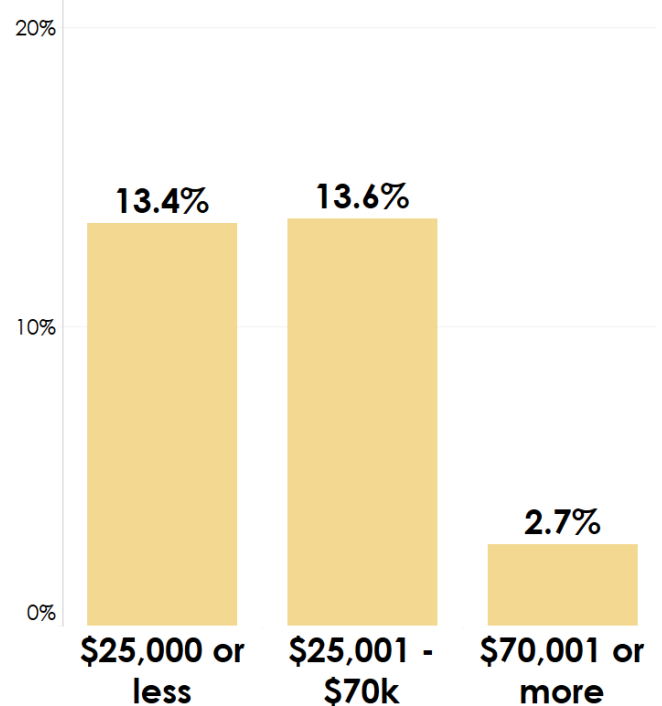


Table 2: Top Reasons for Not Having Health Insurance

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Cost is too high | 80.9% |
| Employer does not offer coverage | 21.6% |
| Lost job/changed employer | 17.6% |
| Don't need insurance because I am in good health | 17.5% |

Among uninsured residents, 80.9% said the cost of health insurance was too high; the most frequently cited reason for not having health insurance (Table 2). Nearly 22.0% cited lack of insurance offered by their employer, 17.6% had lost a job or changed employers, 17.5% said they did not need health insurance because they were in good health, 12.5% were no

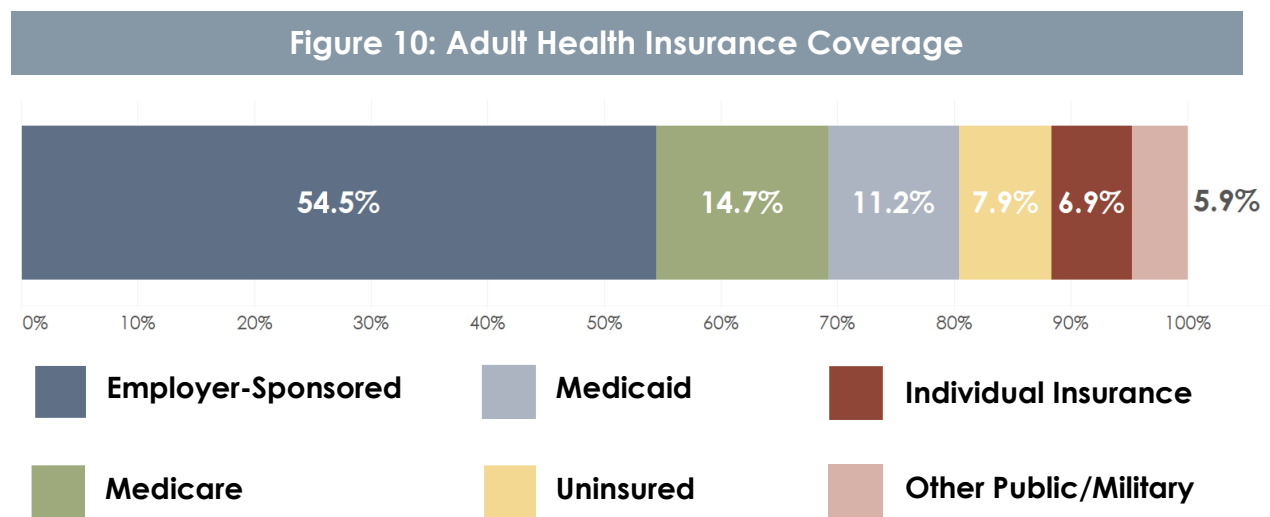
Figure 9: Uninsured by Household Income



longer eligible for their insurance because of age or income, 9.0% did not know how to get insurance, and 5.1% said they had been disenrolled from Medicaid.

The uninsured rate was lower for residents with household incomes of \$70,001 or more (2.7%), compared to those with household incomes of \$25,001 to \$70,000 (13.6%), and those with household incomes under \$25,000 (13.4%) (Figure 9).

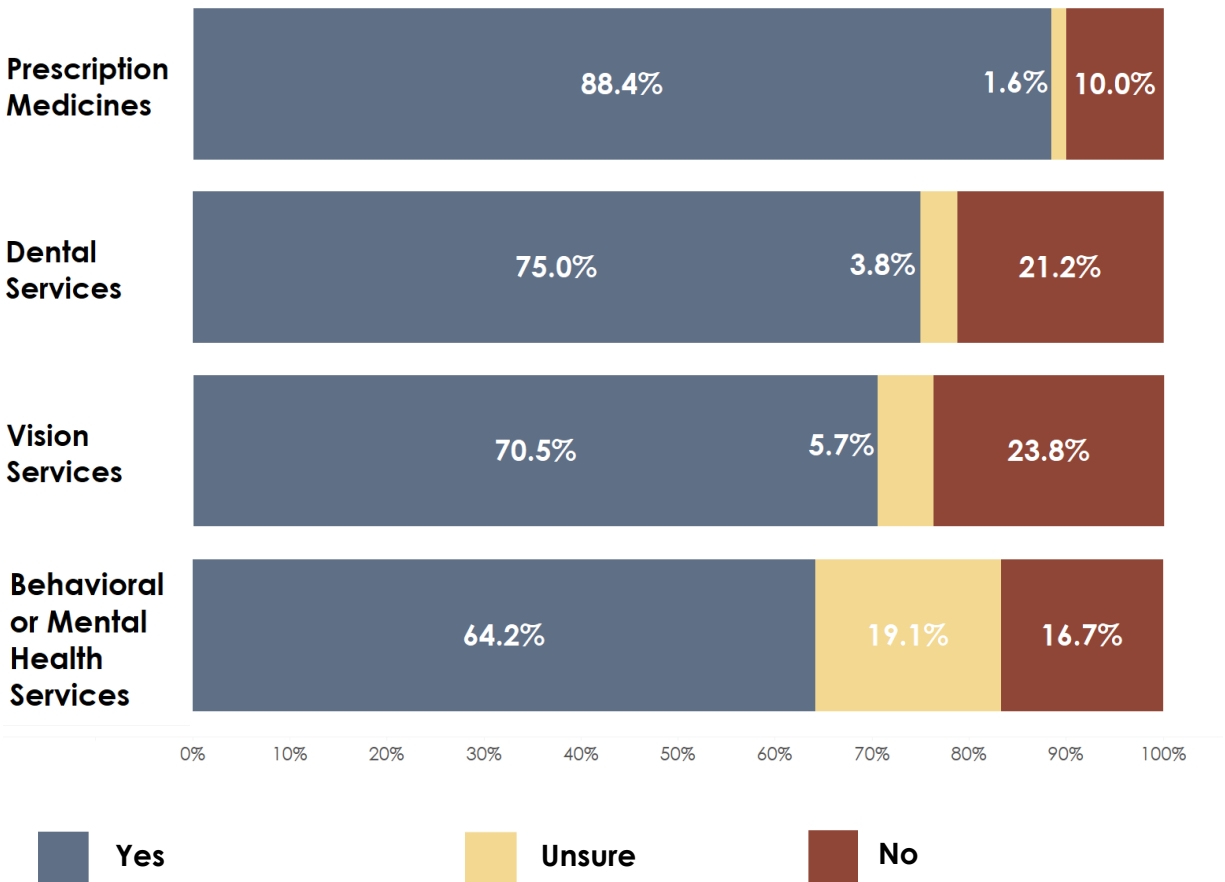
More than half of adult residents (54.5%) reported having health insurance through their employer. Nearly 15.0% reported Medicare as their primary source of insurance and 11.2% were enrolled in Medicaid (Figure 10). The percentage of county adults who purchased individual health insurance decreased from 9.9% in 2019 to 6.9% in 2022.



Residents were asked if they had health insurance that covered at least part of the cost for prescription medications, dental, vision, and behavioral or mental health services. Countywide, 88.4% had some amount of coverage for prescriptions, 75.0% had coverage for dental services, 70.5% had vision coverage, and 64.2% had insurance that covered at least part of the cost for behavioral or mental health services (Figure 11). Notably, nearly one in five (19.1%) residents did not know if they had insurance that included any coverage for behavioral or mental health services.

Nearly **1 in 5** residents did not know if they had insurance that covered behavioral or mental health services.

Figure 11: Adults with Insurance Coverage for Prescription Medicines, Dental, Vision, and Behavioral or Mental Health Services



Regular Source of Care

One in four (25.1%) residents said they did not have someone they thought of as their personal doctor or health care provider, comparable to the 2018 statewide rate of 26.0%.

Roughly 84.0% of those who said they had a regular source of health care said the place they usually go when they are sick or need to see a medical professional is a doctor’s office, medical practice, or private clinic. Seven percent said they went to a community health clinic that offers a discounted fee, and 4.0% relied on an urgent care center or clinic in a retail store.

Delayed Care

Nearly 1 in 3 (32.1%) Weld County residents said that they delayed or went without needed health care in the past year. While the percent who cited cost as a reason for delaying or going without care differed by household income (58.0% of adults with household incomes at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level cited the cost of care compared to 39.9% of those with household incomes above 250% Federal Poverty Level), cost was the top reason for delaying or going without care across income groups.

After cost, residents cited a lack of convenient or available appointments (36.6%) and not being able to take time off work (23.4%) as leading reasons for delaying or going without care (Table 3).

Table 3: Reasons for Delaying or Going Without Needed Care

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Cost | 49.5% |
| No convenient/available appointment | 36.6% |
| Not able to take time off work | 23.4% |
| Problem not covered by insurance | 16.7% |
| No insurance | 15.5% |
| COVID-19 pandemic | 14.3% |
| Couldn't find a provider who accepts my insurance | 9.2% |
| No provider in my area | 8.4% |
| Transportation | 7.2% |

More uninsured residents reported delaying or going without care compared to those with health insurance (50.2% and 30.6%, respectively).

Delaying and forgoing care also varied by age group; 43.3% of residents aged 18-34 delayed or went without needed health care compared to 31.9% of residents aged 35-54 and 23.5% of those aged 55 and older.

Emergency Room Visits

The 2022 Community Health Survey asked residents three questions about emergency department service use – how many times they visited an emergency room (ER) for care in the past 12 months, whether the last visit was for non-urgent care, and reasons why residents went to the ER instead of another type of provider.

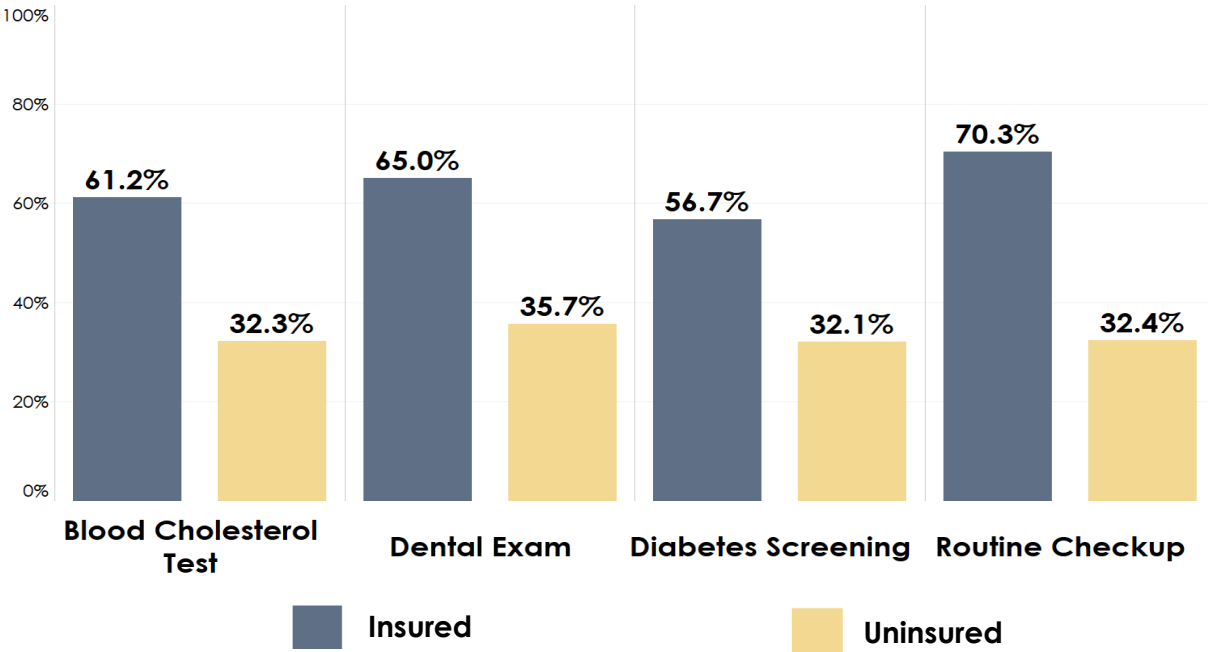
One in five residents (20.0%) had an ER visit within the past 12 months, similar to 2019 when 22.0% of residents reported visiting the ER. Among those who had visited the ER in the past 12 months, roughly one in three (33.6%) believed they could have been treated by a regular doctor if one had been available. ER visits were more common among residents with household incomes at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$66,250 for a family of four), than for those with household incomes above 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (25.8% and 15.7%, respectively).

Preventative Care Behaviors

Preventative care behaviors, such as blood cholesterol tests, diabetes screenings, dental exams, and yearly physicals are important for detecting health conditions early in their onset, when they may be more treatable.

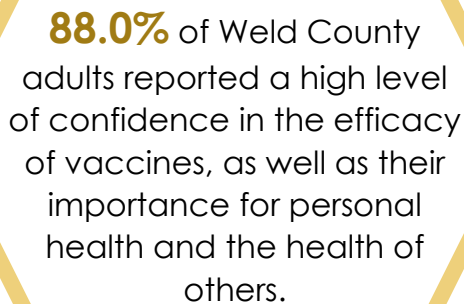
Countywide, 58.7% of adults had received a blood cholesterol level screening within the past year, 54.6% had received a diabetes screening, 62.4% had received a dental exam or teeth cleaning, and 67.2% reported having a routine checkup within the past year. Routine health screenings are valuable for catching certain health issues in their early stages, when they are most treatable. Utilization of preventive health care varies, however; fewer uninsured residents reported receiving preventive services in the past year compared to insured residents (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Health Screenings in the Past Year by Insurance Status



Vaccine Attitudes and Flu Shots

The 2022 Community Health Survey asked residents to rate their confidence in vaccines, including the importance of vaccines for their personal health, the importance of vaccines for the health of others in their community, and the effectiveness of vaccines. The majority of residents (88.0%) have a high level of confidence in vaccines. Vaccine confidence was highest among female residents (90.7%), Hispanic/Latino/a residents of any race (93.6%), and those with household incomes below \$25,000 (93.7%). About 12.0% (or one in eight residents) countywide indicated they were vaccine hesitant.



88.0% of Weld County adults reported a high level of confidence in the efficacy of vaccines, as well as their importance for personal health and the health of others.

Residents were also asked if they received a seasonal flu shot or nasal mist during the most recent flu season. Countywide, 57.8% of adults said they had received a flu shot during the previous flu season (Oct 2021-May 2022). A higher percentage of insured residents received a flu shot (61.0%), compared to those without health insurance (23.4%). A higher percentage of White, non-Hispanic/Latino/a residents (61.8%) and those with household incomes above 250%

FPL (62.1%) reported being vaccinated for flu compared to Hispanic/Latino/a residents (49.1%) and those with household incomes at or below 250% FPL (51.8%).

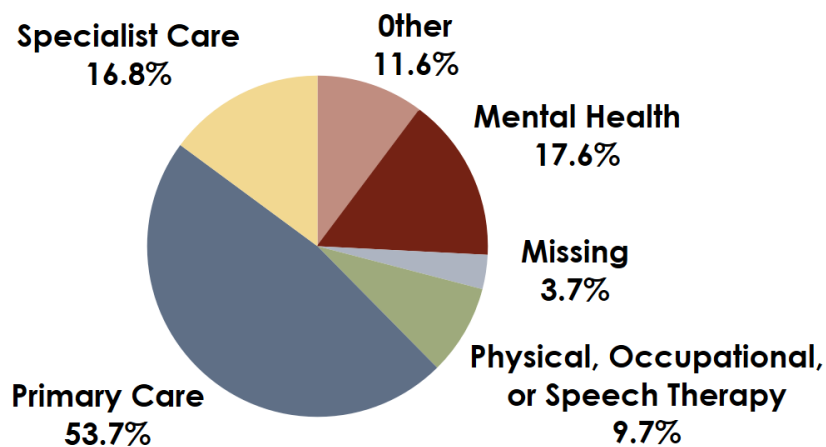
Telemedicine Utilization

The use of virtual healthcare appointments (speaking with a provider over the phone or via video call) expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic. These virtual visits with providers, known as 'telehealth', were a means to continue certain types of routine care while mitigating patients' exposure risk. Residents were asked in the 2022 Community Health Survey if they had had a telemedicine appointment in the past 12 months, which service they received at their most recent telemedicine appointment, and how likely they were to use telemedicine in place of in-person care in the future.

Nearly 40.0% of residents had used telemedicine in the last year and 17.6% of those who had used telemedicine said their most recent visit was for behavioral or mental health care (Figure 13). About 54.0% of those whose most recent visit was for behavioral or mental health care said they were either very likely or extremely likely to use telemedicine in place of in-person care in the future,

compared to 17.5% of those whose most recent visit had been for a service other than behavioral mental health care.

Figure 13: Service at Most Recent Telemedicine Appointment



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE BEHAVIORS

Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

The 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend a healthy dietary pattern across all stages of life, which includes a nutrient-dense diet with fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. A diet that includes fruits and vegetables is protective against the risk of heart disease and certain cancers. The recommended servings of fruits and vegetables per day vary by age group and the number of calories a person consumes per day, however, most recommendations include two or more servings of fruit and three or more servings of vegetables per day.

Fewer Weld County adults (19.9%) reported meeting national recommendations for fruit and vegetable consumption in 2022, compared to 2019 (27.0%) (Figure 14). While most residents did not meet recommendations, 91.9% reported eating at least one serving of vegetables per day, and 83.0% reported eating at least one serving of fruit per day.

Fruit and vegetable consumption varied between male and female residents; 23.8% of female residents met recommendations compared to 15.2% of male residents.

A note on food insecurity: Roughly 15.0% of Weld County adults reported needing food or meal assistance and 15.3% said they were usually or always worried about having enough money to buy nutritious meals. More residents with household incomes below 250% FPL were worried about affording nutritious meals (23.1%) compared to those with incomes above 250% FPL (8.6%).

Only **1 in 5** residents are eating enough fruits and vegetables.

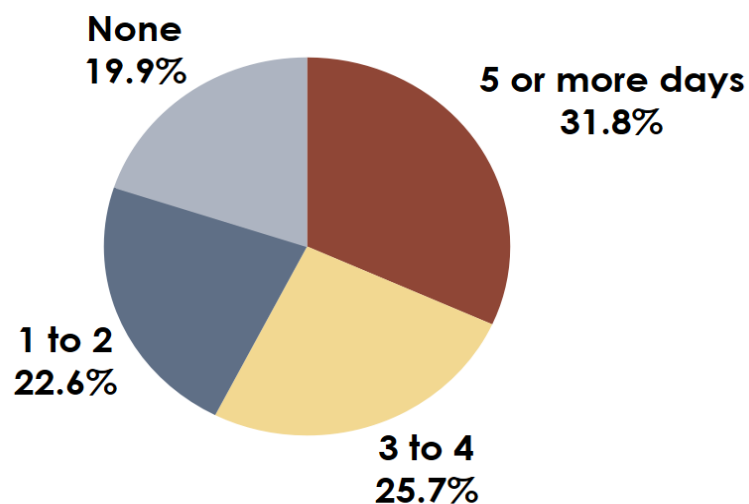
Physical Activity

More than three in four adults (77.7%) said that they engaged in physical activity outside of their regular jobs in the past month, up slightly from 74.6% in 2019. Participation in physical activity varied by age, ethnicity, income, and education.

A lower percentage of Hispanic/Latino/a residents (70.4%) reported engaging in physical activity in the past month compared to about 80.0% of non-Hispanic/Latino/a residents.

More college graduates reported engaging in physical activity within the past month (82.6%) compared to those with some college (76.7%), or those with a high school education or less (73.4%).

Figure 15: Number of Physically Active Days Per Week



Residents were also asked about how many days a week they were physically active. Four in five residents (80.1%) reported engaging in at least 30 minutes of physical activity at least one day in the past 7 days. Only 31.8% were physically active for 5 or more of the last 7 days (Figure 15).

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Current Behavioral or Mental Health Conditions

Mental health refers to emotional, psychological, and social well-being, and can affect an individual's ability to manage stress, stay connected to others, and maintain their physical health. The term behavioral health can refer to a specific subset of issues such as eating disorders or substance use disorders, or it can be used as an umbrella term that includes mental health as well as behavioral health concerns. Countywide, 28.1% of adults said they currently had depression, anxiety, or some other behavioral or mental health condition, similar to 2019.

Figure 16: Residents with Current Behavioral or Mental Health Condition by Age

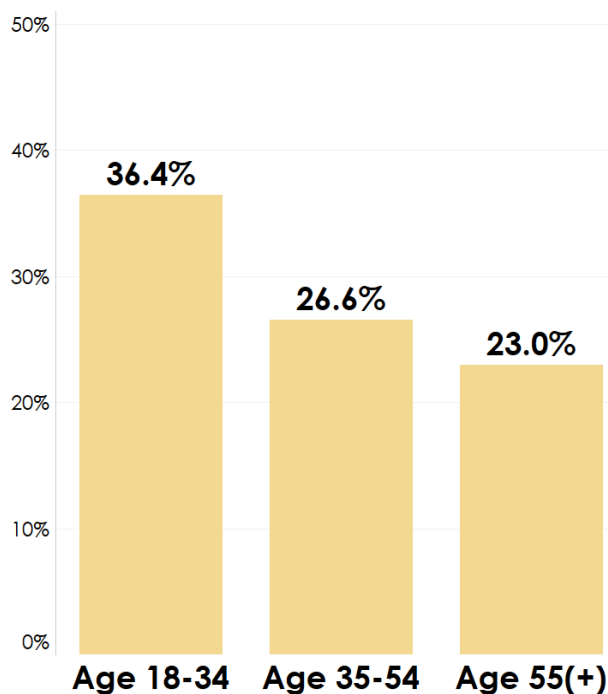
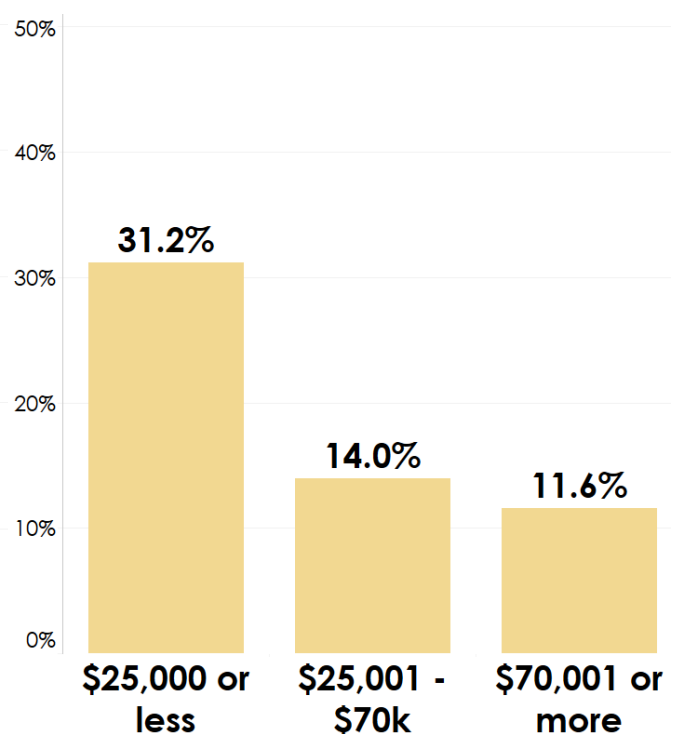


Figure 17: Frequent Mental Distress by Household Income



Behavioral or mental health conditions were more prevalent for residents aged 18-34, 36.4% of whom reported currently having depression, anxiety, or some

other condition, compared to 26.6% of residents aged 35-54 and 23.0% of those aged 55 and older (Figure 16).

The 2022 Community Health Survey also asked about prior mental health diagnoses. Nearly one in four (24.1%) adults had ever been told by a health care provider that they had depression and 22.3% had been told they had an anxiety disorder.

Frequent Mental Distress

Residents were considered to have experienced frequent mental distress if they had 14 or more poor mental health days in the past month, a status reported by 15.2% of adults, up from 11.0% in 2019.

Young adults experienced frequent mental distress in higher numbers than other age groups. Frequent mental distress was reported by 22.6% of residents aged 18-34, 15.0% of residents aged 35-54, and 9.4% of those aged 55 and older.

A higher percentage of those with household incomes of \$25,000 or less experienced frequent mental distress (31.2%), compared to those with household incomes of \$25,001 - \$70,000 (14.0%), or those with household incomes of \$70,001 or more (11.6%) (Figure 17).

Accessing Behavioral or Mental Health Care

Roughly 29.0% of Weld County adults reported thinking they needed behavioral or mental health care or counseling in the past 12 months, similar to 2019. The need for care varied by age, with 43.9% of those aged 18-34 reporting needing behavioral or mental health care or counseling in the past year, compared to 30.3% of those aged 35-54, and 15.2% of those aged 55 and older.

A higher proportion of low-income residents reported needing behavioral or mental health care. Among those with household incomes of \$25,000 or less, 42.3% said that they needed behavioral or mental health care or counseling in the past 12 months, compared to 29.0% of those with household incomes of \$25,001 - \$70,000, and 25.0% of those with household incomes of \$70,001 or more.

Countywide, 61.0% of those who thought they needed behavioral or mental health care or counseling in the past 12 months sought treatment, an increase from 55.0% in 2019.

Of those who thought they needed behavioral or mental health care or counseling, a higher percentage of White, non-Hispanic/Latino/a residents reported seeking care (66.6%), compared to Hispanic/Latino/a residents (49.9%).

More residents in 2022 sought care through a private counselor or therapist (74.0% compared to 67.0% in 2019) and fewer sought care at a primary care provider (15.7% in 2022 compared to 28.9% in 2019), church (5.6% compared to 7.9% in 2019), or through North Range Behavioral Health (12.3% in 2022 compared to 20.9% in 2019). Table 4 provides a breakdown of where residents sought behavioral or mental health care in 2022.



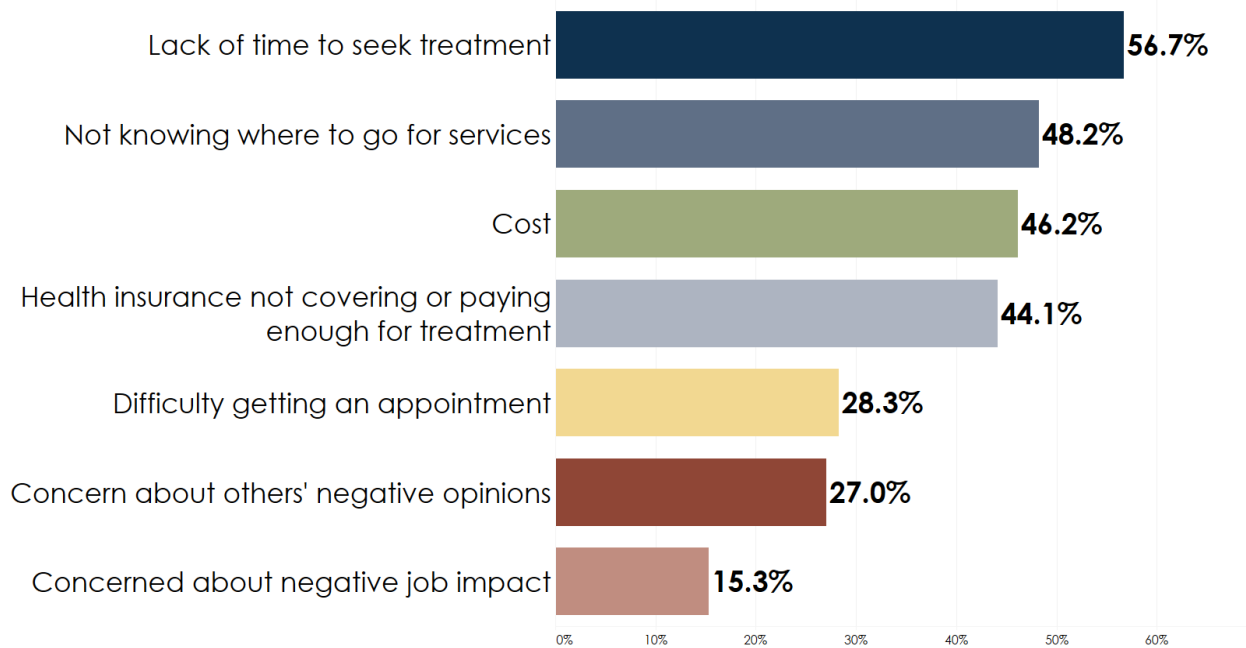
Table 4: Where Weld County Residents Sought Behavioral or Mental Health Care

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Private counselor or therapist | 74.0% |
| Primary care provider | 15.7% |
| North Range Behavioral Health | 12.3% |
| Church or other place of worship | 5.6% |

Residents who said they needed but did not seek out behavioral or mental health care or counseling were asked about different barriers that might explain why they did not get treatment. The leading reasons cited for not getting behavioral or mental health care were not having time to seek treatment (cited by 56.7% of those who needed but did not get behavioral or mental health care), not knowing where to go for services (48.2%), cost (46.2%), and having health insurance that does not cover or pay enough for behavioral or mental health care (44.1%).

About 28.0% said they had difficulty getting an appointment, 27.0% were concerned that seeking treatment would cause others to have a negative opinion of them, and 15.3% worried that seeking treatment would have a negative impact on their job (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Reasons Residents Did Not Get Behavioral or Mental Health Care



Resiliency

According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), community resiliency describes the ability to cope with adversity and is an important piece of overall health as well as disaster preparedness. Residents were asked two questions to assess resiliency in the 2022 Community Health Survey; how difficult they found it to deal with unexpected problems in life, and how much they agreed that it takes a long time to bounce back when things go wrong in their lives.

Generally, residents said they found it easy to deal with unexpected problems and disagreed that when things go wrong in their lives it takes a long time to get back to normal. These findings differed by several demographic factors, such as age, education level, income, and region of the county.

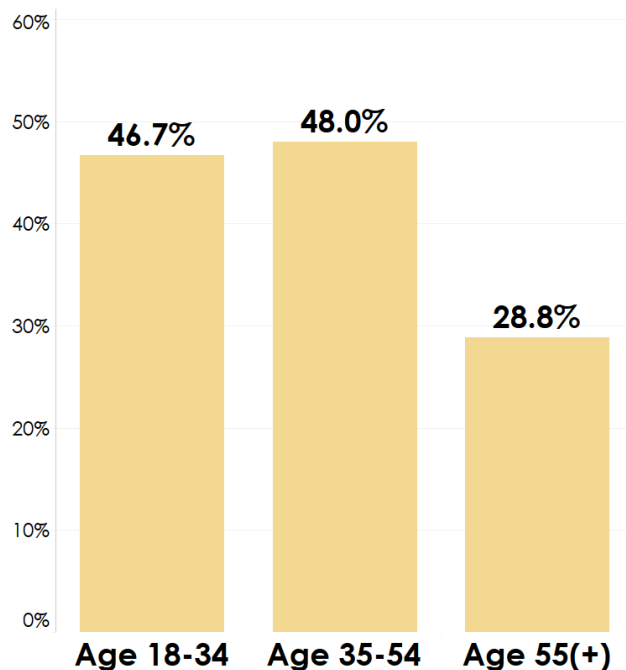
On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 represents 'extremely easy' and 10 represents 'extremely difficult', residents reported an average stress-resistance score of 4.1 out of 10 when asked how difficult they found it to deal with unexpected problems. Younger residents and low-income residents reported more difficulty dealing with unexpected problems; the average score for residents aged 18-34 was 4.4, compared to 3.8 for residents aged 55 and older. The average stress-resistance score was lower for households earning \$25,000 or less compared to higher-earning households.

Weld County residents' ability to 'bounce back' from things that go wrong in their lives was assessed in a question asking how much they agreed with the statement, "When things go wrong in my life, it generally takes me a long time to get back to normal." Residents indicated general disagreement with the statement, with an average 'bounce back' score of 2.4 out of 5 (where a score of 1 indicates more ability to 'bounce back'). Responses from residents aged 18-34, however, indicated that they found it more challenging to 'bounce back' compared to residents aged 35 and older (scores of 2.6 and 2.3, respectively).

RISKY LIFESTYLE BEHAVIORS

Alcohol

Figure 19: Binge Drinking by Age, Among Residents Who Drink Alcohol



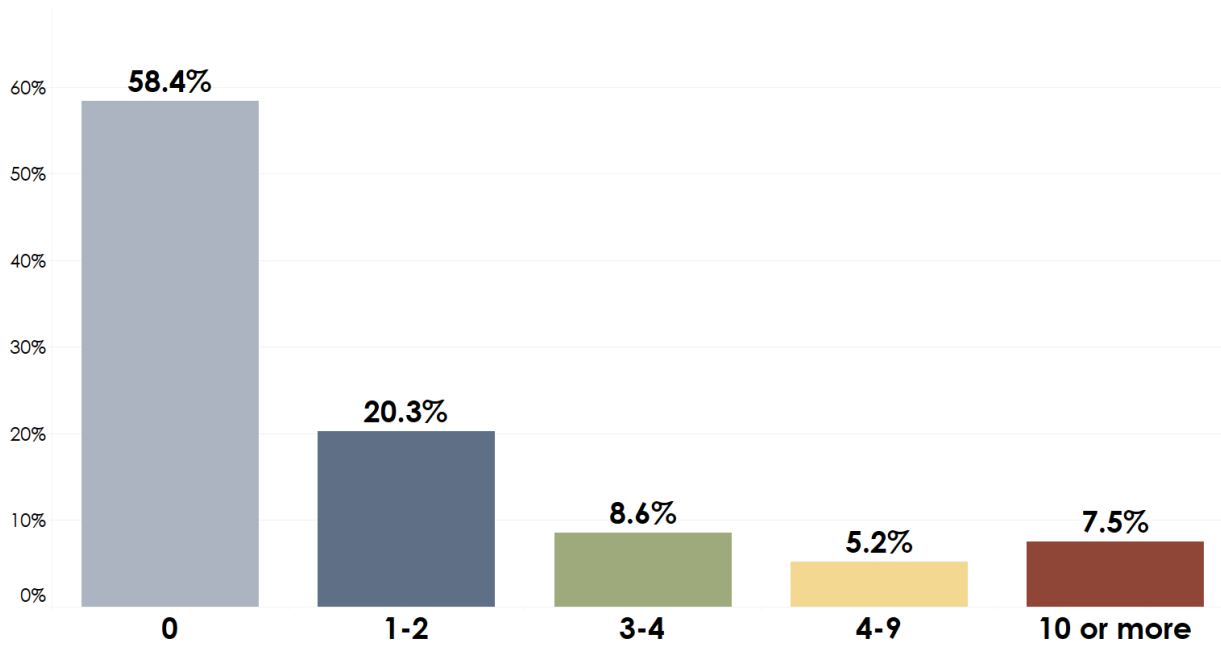
Self-reported alcohol use was similar to 2019; half of adult residents (50.8%) reported consuming alcohol within the past 30 days, compared to 52.8% in 2019. Countywide, 23.9% reported binge-drinking at least once in the past 30 days, higher than the 2021 statewide binge-drinking rate of 18.7%. Fewer residents who identified as Hispanic/Latino/a said that they had consumed alcohol in the past 30 days (32.1%) compared to White, non-Hispanic/Latino/a residents (57.6%) and non-Hispanic/Latino/a residents of any other race (49.8%).

Among just residents who drink alcohol, 41.6% report at least one episode of binge-drinking in the past 30 days, defined as four or more drinks for women and five or more drinks for men in a single sitting. Fewer residents aged 55 and older who drink alcohol reported binge drinking in the last 30 days (28.8%), compared to those aged 35-

Nearly **1 in 4** adults report binge-drinking, higher than the statewide rate.

54 (48.0%), or those aged 18-34 (46.7%) (Figure 19). More than one in five residents who drink alcohol reported three or more binge-drinking episodes in the past month (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Number of Binge-Drinking Episodes in Past 30 Days, Among Residents Who Drink Alcohol



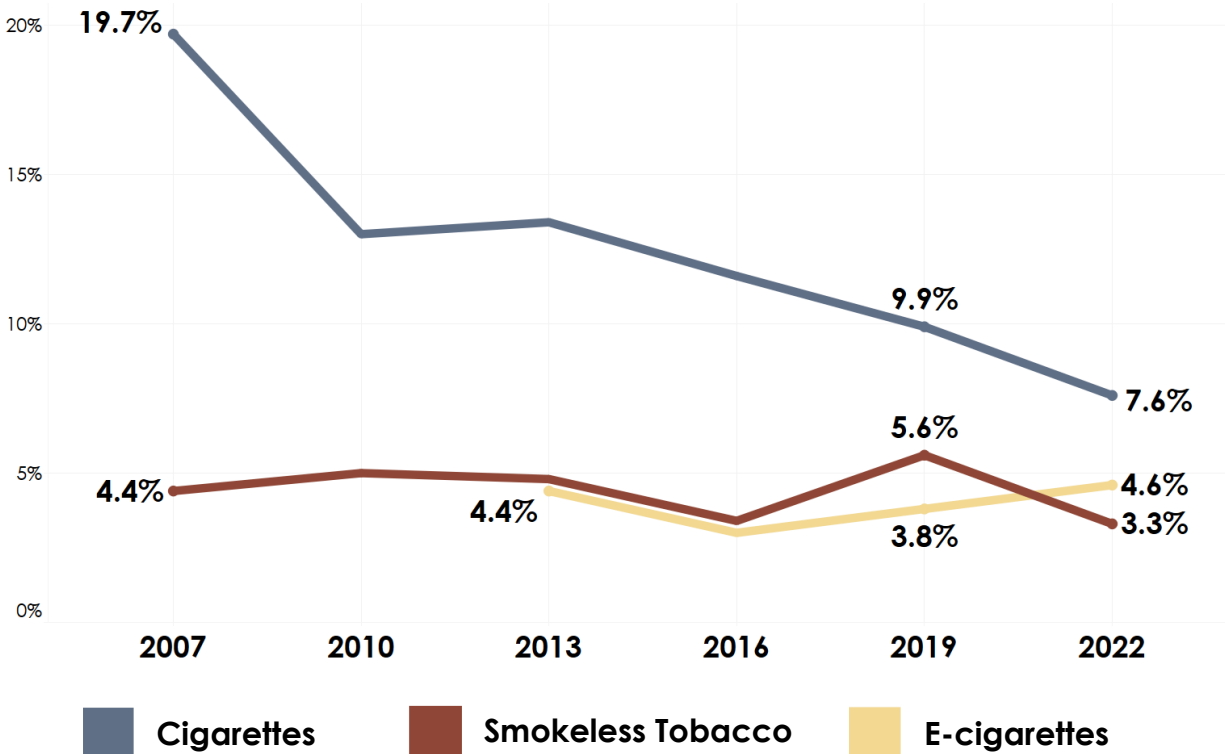
Tobacco

Overall tobacco use has **decreased**, but vaping has increased.

Tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable death in the US and is associated with an increased risk of developing cancer, heart disease, COPD, and diabetes. The Community Health Survey asked residents if they had used various tobacco products some days, every day, or not at all during the past month. Residents were categorized as tobacco users if they used at least some days.

Nearly one in nine Weld County adults (11.0%) reported using some form of tobacco (not including e-cigarettes) at least some days in the past month, down from one in seven (15.0%) in 2019 and 4.6% of adult residents reported using e-cigarettes (electronic vaping products that contain nicotine) at least some days in the past 30 days in 2022, compared to 3.8% in 2019 (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Trends in Tobacco Use



About fourteen percent of Weld County adults reported using some form of tobacco product (including e-cigarettes) at least some days in the past 30 days in 2022. Roughly one in five residents aged 18-34 (19.5%) reported using some form of tobacco product (including e-cigarettes) at least some days in the past 30 days in 2022, compared to 14.9% of those aged 35-54, and 9.5% of those aged 55 and older.

The use of smokeless tobacco products (including chew/spit tobacco, and products like Snus or ZYN) is also down, with 3.3% of adult residents in 2022 reporting using smokeless tobacco products at least some days in the past 30 days, compared to 5.6% in 2019 (Figure 21).

Marijuana

Countywide, 13.6% of adults reported using marijuana at least some days in the past 30 days (either medicinal or recreational), similar to 2019. Nearly 6.0% of residents use both recreational and medical marijuana, 5.7% use recreational

marijuana only, and 2.3% use medical marijuana only. Statewide, 19.0% of Colorado adults in 2021 used marijuana in the past 30 days.

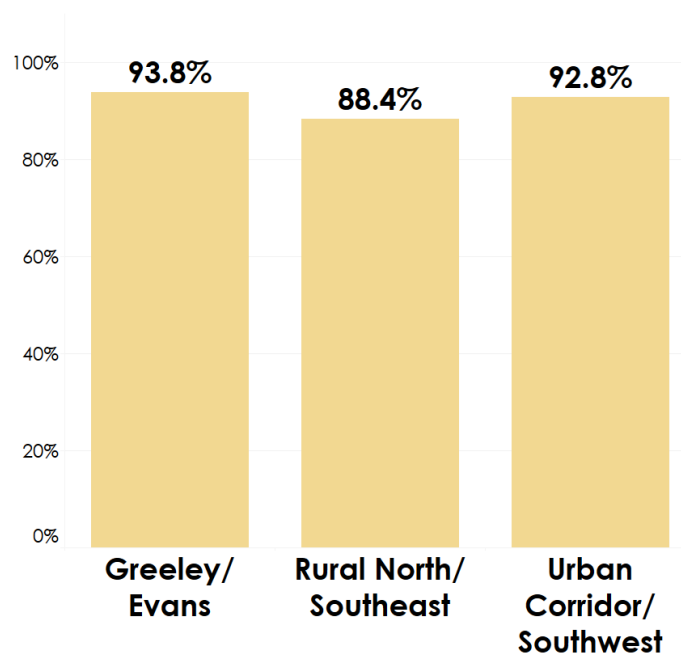
Driving Behaviors

The 2022 Weld County Community Health Survey asked adults in Weld County how frequently they wore their seatbelts and how often they drove while distracted or impaired. Overall, fewer Weld County drivers in 2022 reported risky driving behaviors (driving after using marijuana or alcohol, or texting/emailing/talking on the phone while driving) compared to 2019.



Countywide, 92.3% of drivers reported always wearing their seatbelts, up from 89.9% in 2019. Seatbelt use varied by gender and region. Fewer residents in the Rural North and Southeast areas of Weld County reported always wearing a seatbelt (88.4%), compared to 92.8% in the Urban Corridor/Southwest and 93.8% in the Greeley/Evans area (Figure 22).

Figure 22: Percent of Resident Drivers Who Always Wear a Seatbelt by Region



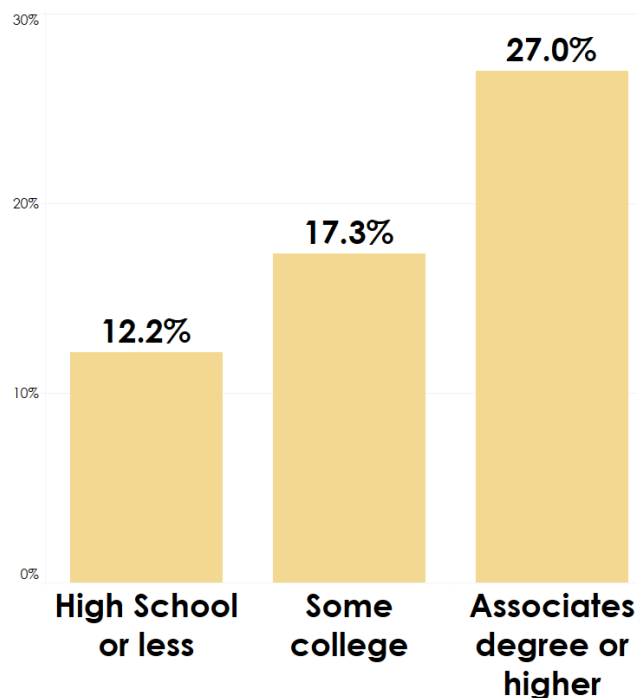
Nearly 1 in 5 Weld County drivers (19.3%) reported driving within an hour of drinking alcohol at least rarely, down from 42.0% in 2019. Drinking and driving varied by educational attainment (Figure 23); more than 1 in 4 (27.0%) college graduates reported driving within an hour of consuming alcohol at least rarely,

compared to 1 in 6 drivers with some college (17.3%) and roughly 1 in 8 with a high school diploma or less (12.2%).

Countywide, 96.1% of adult drivers reported never driving within two to three hours of using marijuana, up from 85.0% in 2019. Young adult drivers reported driving after using marijuana more than middle-aged and older drivers; 8.7% of those aged 18-34 reported driving after marijuana use, compared to 2.7% of drivers aged 35-54 and 1.7% of those aged 55 and older.

Improvements in self-reported distracted driving are also evident between 2019 and 2022. Nearly 82.0% of adult drivers in 2022 reported talking on the phone while driving at least rarely, down from 90.0% in 2019. The difference between 2019 and 2022 was more pronounced for drivers younger than 55 (Figure 24).

Figure 23: Percent of Residents Driving within 1 Hour of Drinking Alcohol by Education Level



Roughly half (50.8%) of drivers reported reading or sending texts or emails while driving, down from 69.0% in 2019. While fewer residents countywide reported reading or sending texts or emails while driving in 2022 compared to 2019, the largest decreases occurred in young and middle-aged residents (Figure 25).

Figure 24: Percent of Drivers Who Talk on the Phone While Driving by Age

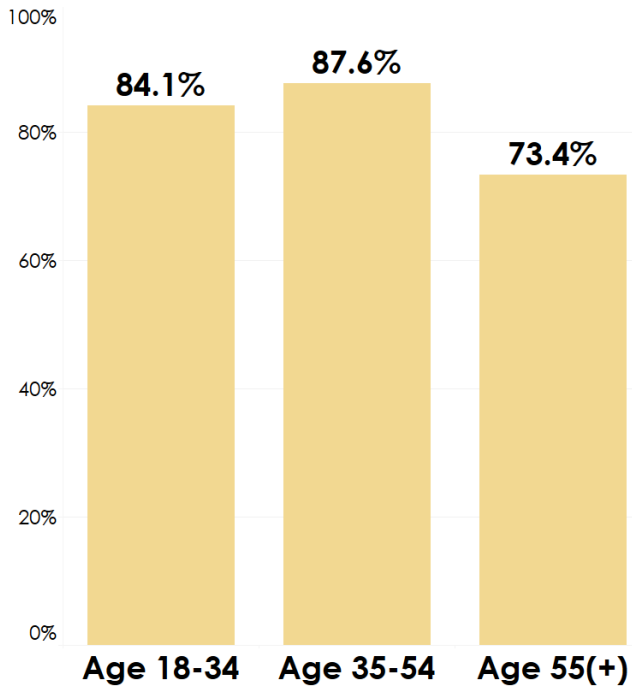
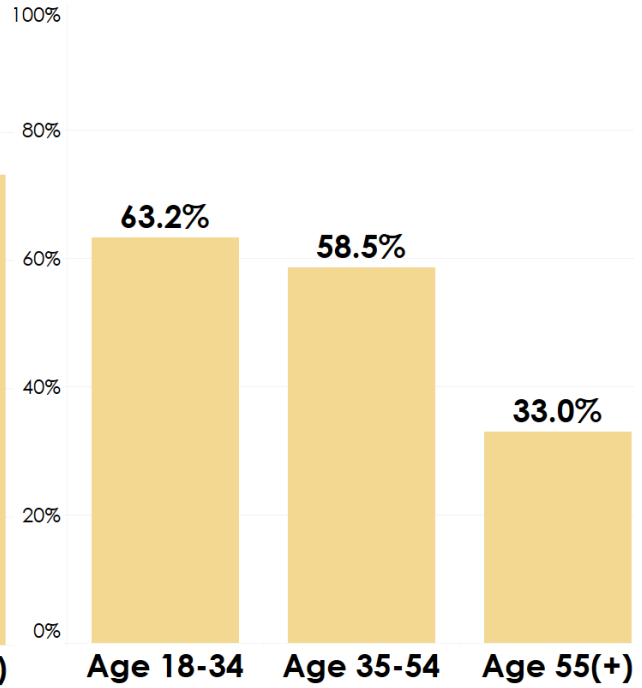


Figure 25: Percent of Drivers Who Read or Send Texts/Emails While Driving by Age



Texting and emailing while driving also varied by income and educational attainment; 56.3% of those with household incomes of \$70,001 or more reported texting/emailing while driving at least rarely, compared to 47.1% of those with household incomes of \$25,001 - \$70,000, and 37.6% of those with household incomes of \$25,000 or less. Roughly 43.0% of drivers with a high school education or less reported texting or emailing while driving, compared to 50.7% of those with some college, and 58.5% of college graduates.

HEALTH AND HOUSING

Housing Instability

Nine-and-a-half percent of adults reported an unstable housing situation in the past year, unchanged from 2019. Unstable housing varied by several demographic factors, including income, education, race/ethnicity, county region, and home ownership status.

Nearly **1 in 10** county residents are experiencing housing instability.

About one out of five Hispanic/Latino/a residents (21.3%) reported having an unstable housing situation. This is four to five times higher than for White, non-Hispanic/Latino/a residents (5.7%) and non-Hispanic/Latino/a residents of other races (3.5%).

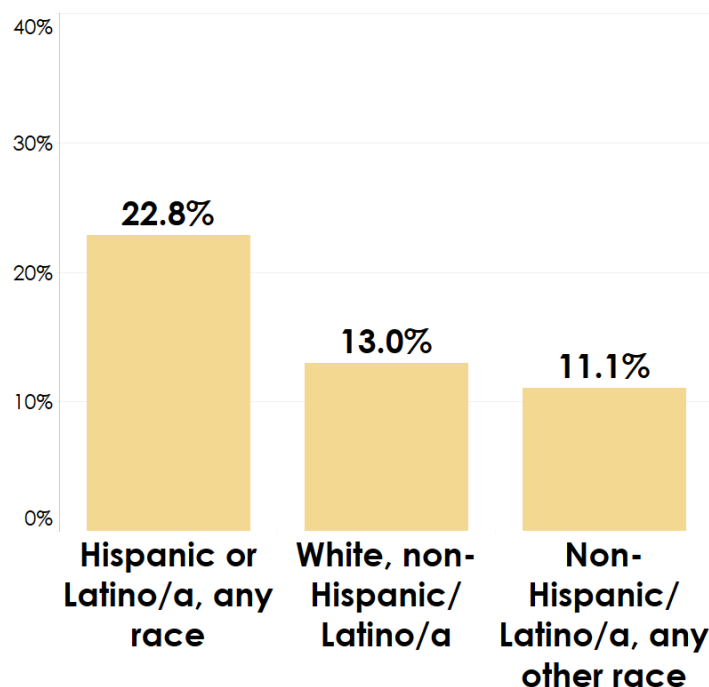
People who live in apartments and other multi-unit buildings (23.9%), and mobile/manufactured homes (31.1%) report having unstable housing more than people who live in single-family homes (4.1%). About one in four renters (24.0%) report having an unstable housing situation, compared to only 5.1% of homeowners.

About three in ten residents (28.7%) with household incomes of \$25,000 or less report having an unstable housing situation compared to only 3.3% of those with household with incomes greater than \$70,000 per year.

Doubled-Up Housing

About 15.0% of residents said that more than one family currently lived in their home, compared to about 10.0% in 2019. This increase could be for temporary or permanent reasons. Additional language clarifying the definition of family in 2022 may or may not have contributed to the increase. It is also possible that the COVID-19 pandemic affected the rate of doubled-up housing.

Figure 26: Doubled-Up Housing by Race/Ethnicity



Doubled-up housing was reported more often by Hispanic/Latino/a residents (Figure 26), those who live in manufactured/mobile homes, low-income, and uninsured residents.

A note on temporary housing:

Residents were also asked if they provided temporary housing to family, friends, or other non-relatives at any point during the past year. About 15.0% provided someone with temporary housing, down from 17.0% in 2019. Of those who reported providing temporary housing to another person, 69.2% did so

because of financial hardship, 33.4% because of a health problem, and 62.5% because of loss of housing.

Housing Cost Burden

Countywide, one third of adults are considered housing cost burdened, meaning they spend more than 30.0% of their household income on rent/mortgage and utilities. This income threshold comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of affordable housing. The percent of residents who are housing cost burdened is higher among young adults, Hispanic/Latino/a residents, low-income residents, and those living in multi-unit housing or mobile/manufactured homes.

About three in ten homeowners and more than four in ten renters say they spend more than 30.0% of their income on mortgage/rent and utility payments.

While the percent of housing cost burdened residents was highest in Greeley/Evans (36.9%), the problem appeared consistent in all areas of the county; with roughly 30.0% of residents in the Rural North, Southeast, Southwest, and Urban Corridor reporting paying more than 30.0% of their income on housing costs.

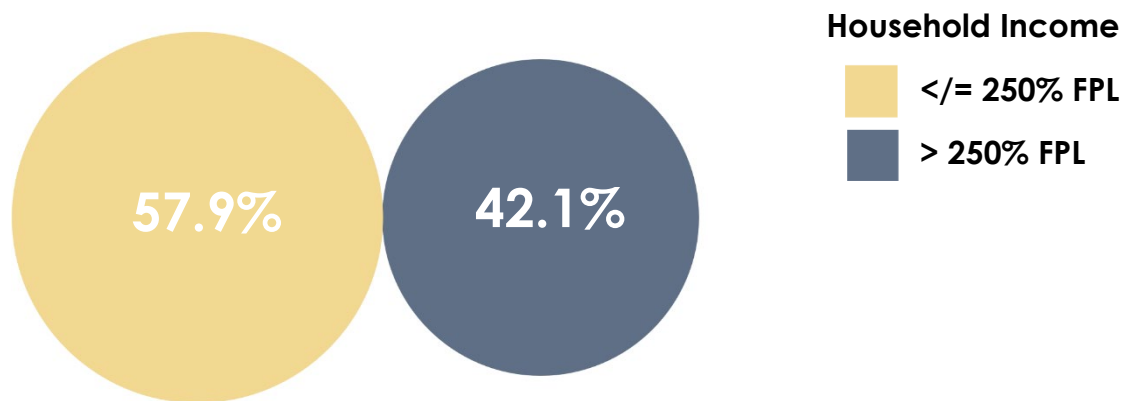
About 44.0% of Hispanic/Latino/a residents reported they were housing cost burdened, compared to 28.4% of White, non-Hispanic/Latino/a residents and 38.8% of non-Hispanic/Latino/a residents of another race.



Nearly half (45.2%) of residents with household incomes at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$66,250 annually for a family of 4) reported spending more than 30.0% of their income on mortgage/rent and utility payments compared to about 1 in 4 (23.8%) residents with household with incomes above 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (Figure 27).

Roughly 13.0% of Weld County adults reported usually or always being worried about paying their rent or mortgage. Young adults worried about paying for housing more than middle-aged and older residents. Just over 20.0% of residents aged 18-34 were usually or always worried about paying rent or mortgage compared to 12.7% of residents aged 35-54 and 7.1% of those aged 55 and older.

Figure 27: Residents Spending More than 30% of Household Income on Housing Costs by Income



HEALTH, COMMUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Community-Based Services

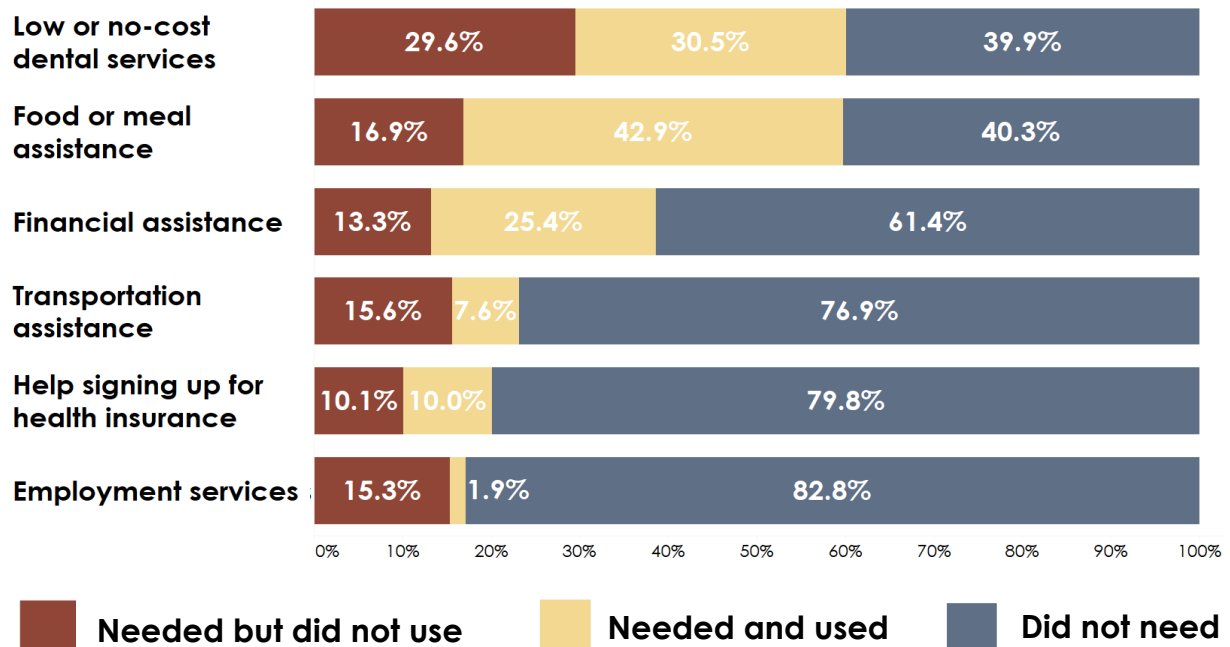
More low-income residents needed but did not use community-based services.

Among low-income residents (those with household incomes at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level), the most needed service was low or no-cost dental care. Sixty percent of low-income residents reported needing this service (Figure 28), more than double the countywide rate of 26%. This means there are more than 15,000 low-income adults in need of low or no-cost dental care in Weld County.

Low-income residents reported an increased demand for several community-based services in 2022, compared to 2019. There was a 25.0% increase between 2019 and 2022 in the need for dental services, a 17.0% increase for food or meal assistance, a 44.0% increase in need for transportation services or vouchers, and a 32.0% increase in need for employment services for low-income residents. About 20.0% of low-income residents reported needing help signing up for health insurance; 10.0% said they needed and used this service, another 10.1% said they needed but did not use help signing up (Figure 28).

Countywide, 12.9% of residents needed financial assistance, welfare, or disability payments, 5.8% needed addiction counseling, and 4.7% needed childcare assistance.

Figure 28: Community-Based Service Needs Among Low-Income Residents



A note on community-based services: Financial assistance includes unemployment, Colorado Works/TANF, Social Security, disability-SSI, Old Age Pension, or Aid to Needy & Disabled. Employment services include help finding work or job training. Food or meal assistance includes use of the Food Bank, SNAP benefits, WIC, Meals on Wheels, and school-based free or reduced lunch.

Environmental Concerns

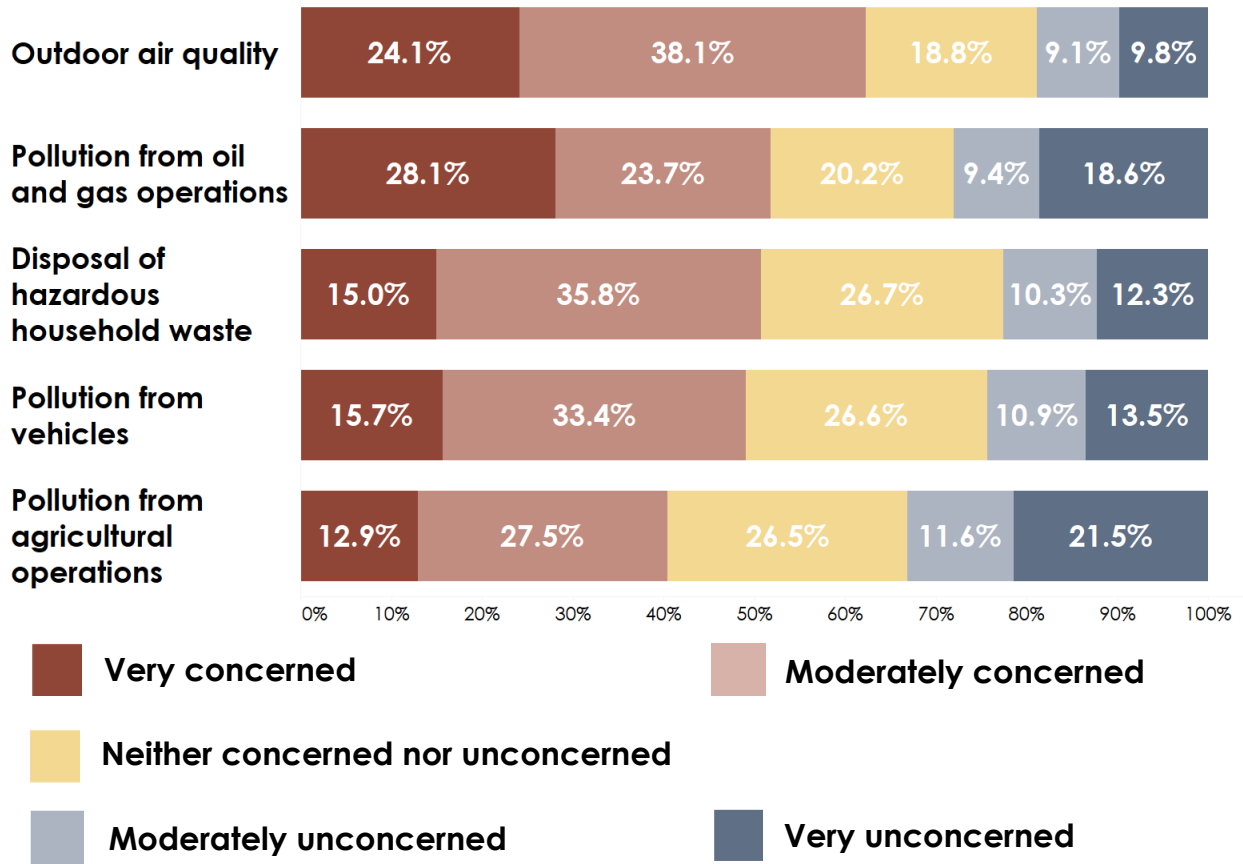
Residents' level of concern regarding certain environmental health issues was assessed in the 2022 Community Health Survey. Residents were asked how concerned they were with environmental issues in Weld County, from 'very unconcerned' to 'very concerned'.

A majority of residents were concerned about outdoor air quality, with only 18.9% of residents reporting that they were unconcerned or very unconcerned with outdoor air quality and another 18.8% reporting that they were neither concerned nor unconcerned.

The second leading environmental concern for residents was disposal of household hazardous waste in landfills, followed by pollution from oil and gas, and then pollution from road vehicles (Figure 29). Residents with a high school diploma or GED but no college expressed lower levels of concern with these environmental health topics.

Roughly **62.0%** of residents were either moderately or very concerned about outdoor air quality.

Figure 29: Concern for Environmental Health Issues



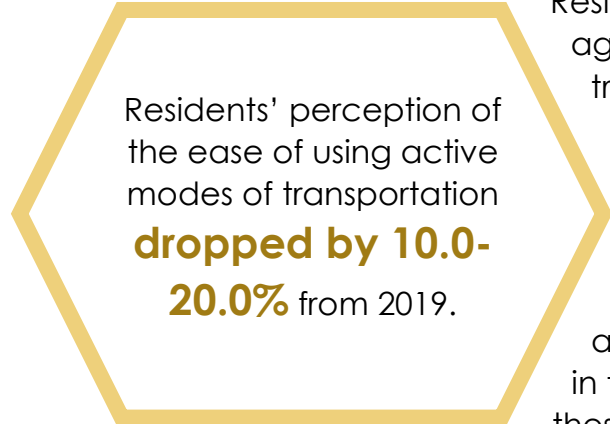
Generally, younger residents, female residents, Hispanic/Latino/a residents, lower income residents, and those in the Greeley/Evans region were more concerned about environmental issues. Exceptions include young adults being less concerned with air quality, pollution from oil and gas operations, radon, and

household hazardous waste, and residents of Greeley/Evans being less concerned about radon.

A new question regarding concern for rabies exposure was asked in the 2022 Community Health Assessment. About 1 in 4 residents (25.2%) reported that they were moderately or very concerned about a potential rabies exposure for them, their family, their pets, or their livestock. Concern about a potential rabies exposure was higher for Hispanic/Latino/a residents (44.5%) residents who live in households that earn \$25,000 or less per year (44.1%), and residents who live in Greeley/Evans (33.1%) or the Rural North or Southeast (29.8%).

A note on accessing air quality information: Although the top environmental health concern for residents was the air quality in their community, the vast majority of residents reported it is easy for them to get air quality information when they want it. Specifically, 83.6% of residents in Weld County reported that it was easy for them to get air quality info when they wanted it, with residents reporting they most often get air quality information from news/weather forecasts or an app on their phone. Of the 16.4% of residents who said it is not easy to find air quality information, residents indicated that they don't know where to find air quality data for their specific area.

Active and Public Transportation

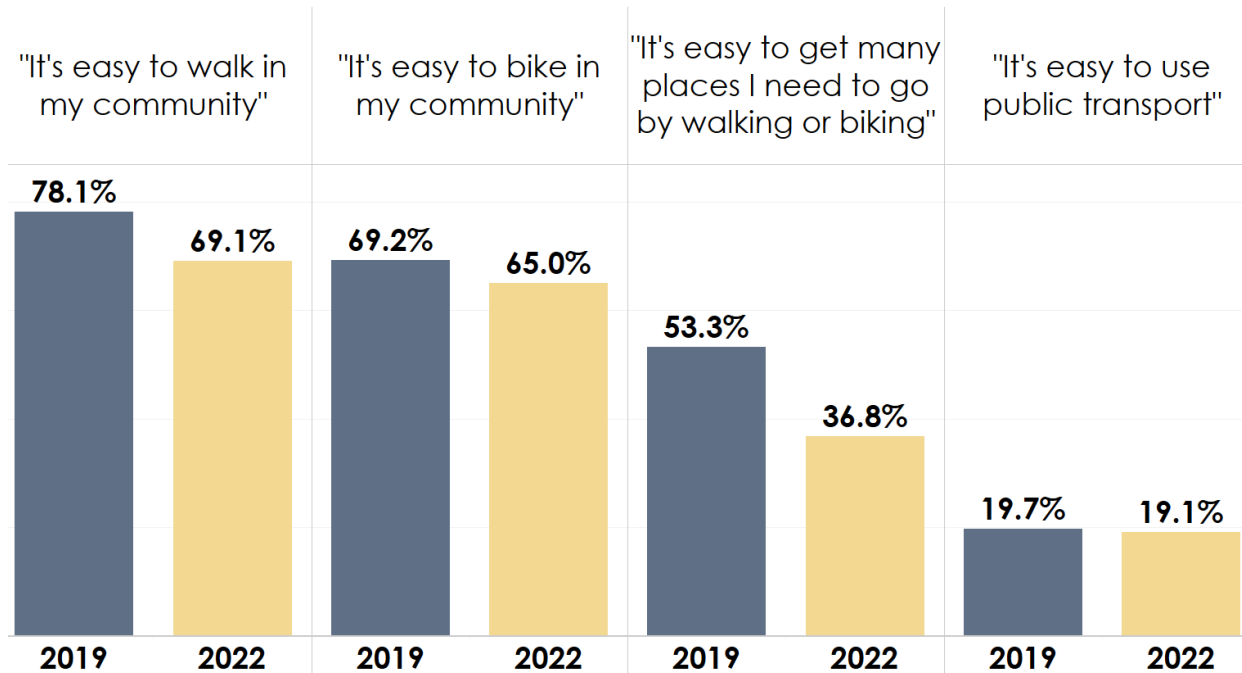


Residents' perception of the ease of using active modes of transportation **dropped by 10.0-20.0%** from 2019.

Residents were asked how much they agreed with various active and public transportation topics, including how easy it is to walk, bike, or get places they needed to go by walking or biking in the city, town, or rural area where they live. Sixty-five percent agreed or strongly agreed that it was easy to bike, and 69.1% agreed that it was easy to walk in their community (Figure 30), however these estimates are down from 2019. Roughly 37.0% agreed that it was possible to get many places they needed to go in their community by walking or biking, down from 53.3% in 2019.

More than one in three residents (34.2%) reported they were moderately or very concerned that there are not enough sidewalks or trails for walking and biking in their community; this concern was more pronounced for female and low-income residents.

Figure 30: Perceptions of Active and Public Transportation, 2019 vs. 2022



Residents were also asked how easy it would be to carpool and how easy it is to use public transit. Roughly one in five residents (21.5%) agreed that it would be easy for them to carpool. Hispanic/Latino/a and Greeley/Evans residents had significantly higher levels of agreement with the ease of carpooling (35.9%, and 31.5%, respectively). Agreement also varied by income; only 14.5% of those with household incomes at or above 250% FPL agreed that carpooling was easy.

Nearly one in five residents (19.1%) across Weld County agreed that it was easy to use public transportation, with a higher percentage of Hispanic/Latino/a residents and those who live in Greeley/Evans reporting it is easy to use public transportation (34.1% and 42.6%, respectively). Agreement was lower among higher earning and more educated residents; roughly one in ten college graduates and residents with household incomes at or above 250% FPL agreed that using public transportation was easy.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Need Help in an Emergency Situation

Emergency preparedness is important to preventing and/or mitigating the effects of an emergency situation (including weather-related incidents, natural disasters, and more).

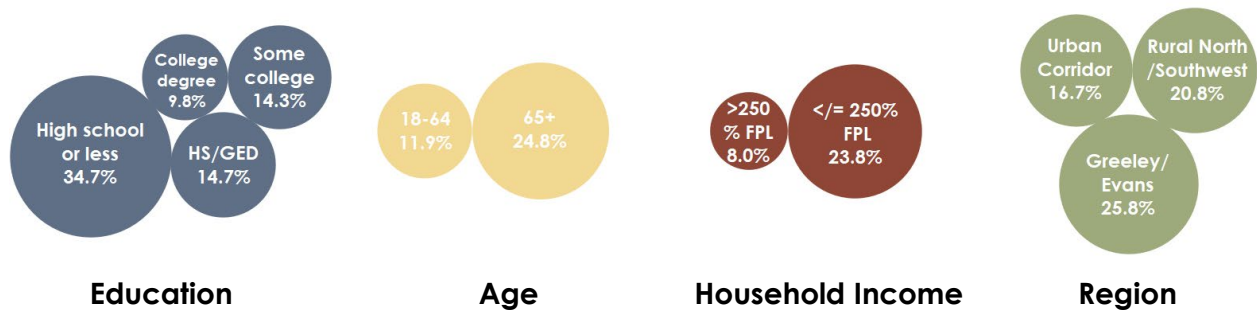
The 2022 Weld County Community Health Survey asked residents three questions about a specific emergency situation, including “Are you dependent on medical equipment that requires electricity to maintain your health?”, “In the event of a disaster, would you need transportation provided by another person or service provider to evacuate to a safe location?” and “Do you require another person’s assistance to maintain your health due to a chronic medical condition?”.

Across Weld County, roughly **40,000** adults reported they may need help in an emergency situation (14.7%).

Nearly one in seven residents (14.7%) reported that they would need some form of assistance in an emergency situation, with either help with evacuation transportation, medical assistance due to a chronic medical condition, and/or require medical equipment that is dependent on electricity.

Needing help during an emergency was significantly associated with the number of chronic conditions a resident reported, education level, income level, region of the county, disability status and age group (Figure 31).

Figure 31: Residents Needing Help in an Emergency by Demographic Factors



In addition to the three emergency preparedness questions related to a specific emergency situation, residents were also asked about their mobility: “Can you safely get in and out of your home without help?”. Countywide, nearly eight percent of residents reported they cannot get safely in and out of their house without assistance (7.5%). A higher percentage of adults aged 55 and older reported they cannot safely get in and out of their home without help (13.0%) compared to roughly 8.0% of residents aged 18-54.

CONCLUSION

Weld County is home to about 330,000 residents and is growing rapidly. The Weld Community Health Survey continues to serve as a valuable source of information about health and wellbeing in our community.

Findings again show that some indicators of our county's health have worsened (such as the number of residents reporting chronic conditions and frequent mental distress), while others have improved or held steady (such as the decline in self-reported risky driving behaviors and tobacco use, or residents' sustained confidence in vaccines). New topics explored this year include telemedicine, the prevalence of adults needing help in the event of an emergency, and residents' perceptions about air quality.

Some of the health indicators assessed in the 2022 Community Health Survey may have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents may have had a harder time accessing routine care, struggled with the pandemic's effects on mental or behavioral health, been impacted financially in ways that affected housing stability or insurance status, or even suffered physically from the virus itself. Residents were asked about testing for COVID-19, whether they had been hospitalized or experienced long-term symptoms, and, in an open-ended question, how the pandemic had impacted them. A special report on findings related to the COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed on the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment's website.

The reversal in 2022 of what had been a steadily declining uninsured rate in Weld County following the implementation of the Affordable Care Act is an worsening trend, but a closer look at the sources of health insurance residents reported suggests that the growth in the uninsured occurred among middle and higher-income earners, as the percent who reported purchasing individual health insurance declined while the percent enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare remained similar to 2019.

The interconnectedness of many of the trends highlighted in this report is important to consider; for example, the prevalence of chronic medical conditions has increased along with widespread use of the medications to manage them, and, as the uninsured rate increased, more residents reported delaying or going without the health care they needed.

These findings indicate that health status of residents is mixed, and in some cases, disproportionately worse among particular groups. For example, self-rated health was significantly worse among Hispanic/Latino/a residents

compared to non-Hispanic/Latino/a residents in 2022, forming an even wider gap between 2019 estimates and 2022 estimates. Examining health-related quality-of-life helps us understand the broad consequences of illness, disease, or injury, and social and environmental influences on health. Health -related quality-of-life is related to self-reported chronic diseases and their risk factors. These differences, along with many others, warrant attention and need to be considered alongside systems and conditions that may impact health.

The results from the 2022 Weld Community Health Survey are just one piece in a larger community health assessment process. These data will be shared with partners, including partners in the Thriving Weld coalition, partners in healthcare, education, local governments, the non-profit sector, and more. These findings will ultimately inform the Health Department's updated Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) along with other data sources. More information on Weld County's CHIP can be found [here](#).

In addition to this detailed Key Findings Report, a dashboard with all 2022 Weld Community Health Survey data and a findings report for health care access and behavioral health care focus groups conducted in 2022 can be found on the Health Department's website [here](#).

For any questions, please contact Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment's Population Health and Data Analytics team at he-healthdata@weldgov.com