

## Health Care Access

# Well woman visits

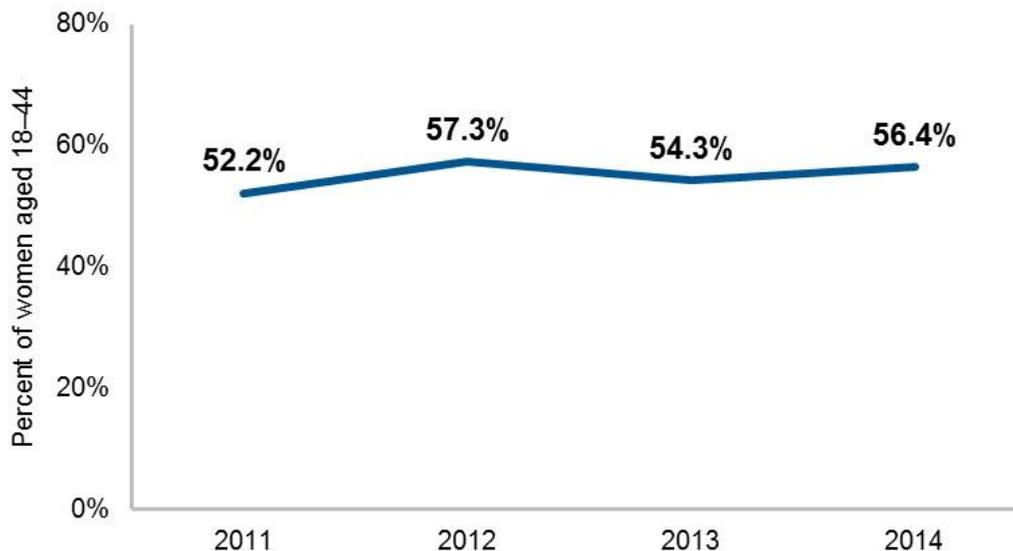
Access to high-quality well woman care is a key driver for optimizing the health of women before, between and beyond potential pregnancies. By taking action on health issues throughout the lifespan, future problems for the mother and baby can be prevented. Access to high-quality well woman care:

- Provides a critical opportunity to receive recommended clinical preventive services, screening and management of chronic conditions such as diabetes, counseling to achieve a healthy weight and smoking cessation, and immunizations.
- Increases the likelihood that any future pregnancies are by choice rather than chance.
- Decreases the likelihood of complications for future pregnancies.

In 2011, 52.2% of Oregon women aged 18 to 44 years had a well woman visit (a routine checkup) within the last year. This percentage increased slightly to 56.4% in 2014 (Figure 1).

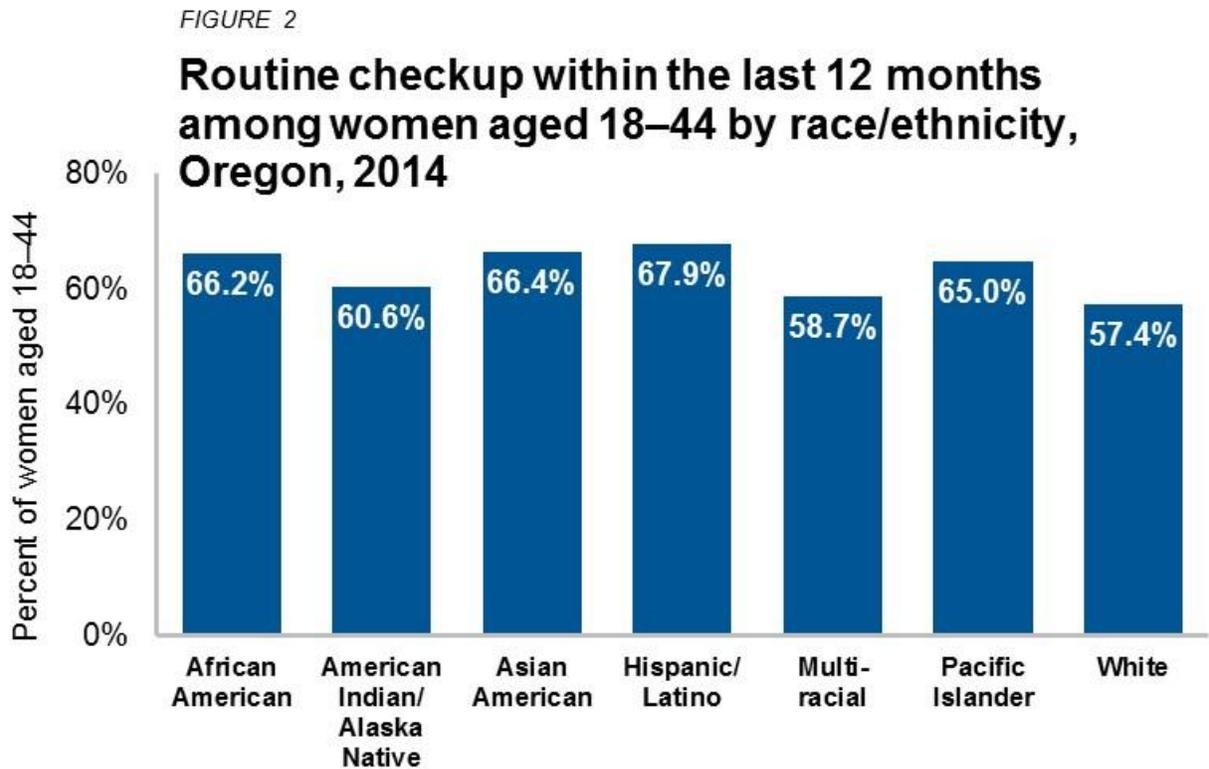
FIGURE 1

**Routine checkup within the last 12 months among women aged 18–44 by year, Oregon**



Source: Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Racial/ethnic disparities exist in the receipt of well woman visits among Oregon women aged 18 to 44 years. However due to small sample size, this disparity data should be interpreted with caution (Figure 2).



Notes: All other groups exclude Hispanic ethnicity

Source: Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

A well woman care visit is supported in Oregon and nationally as a chance to screen for diseases and risk factors, and promote health before and between pregnancies. The annual well woman visit has been endorsed by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG) and was also identified among the women’s preventive services required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to be covered by private insurance plans without cost-sharing.

**Additional Resources:** [Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#)

**About the Data:** Data source is the Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which is conducted annually. Data includes women of reproductive age (18 to 44 years old). The question asked in BRFSS is “About how long has it been since you last visited a doctor for a routine checkup? A routine checkup is a general physical exam, not an exam for a specific injury, illness, or condition.”

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[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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