

Contacts with GP & specialist: Key results

Health Interview Survey 2023-2024

8 out of 10 people had contact with the GP in the past year

- 84% of the Belgian population had **contact with the GP in the past year**.
- 32% had **at least one contact in the past 4 weeks**.
- 1% has **never** contacted a GP.



6 out of 10 people had contact with a specialist in the past year

- 57% of the Belgian population had an **outpatient contact with a specialist in the past year**.
- 21% had **at least one contact in the past 4 weeks**.
- 10% has **never** contacted a specialist.

Differences between groups



- **Women are more likely than men** to report having had contact with the GP (88% vs. 80%) or specialist (62% vs. 51%) in the past year.
- Of those aged 0-14, 76% report contact with the GP and 42% with a specialist in the past year. **These percentages increase with age**, reaching 96% and 69%, respectively, among those aged 75 and over.

- **Short-educated, medium-educated and highly educated people can reach the GP with equal ease.**
- **Short-educated people are 2.2 times more likely to have had multiple contacts with the GP in the past 4 weeks** than highly educated people.
- **Short-educated and medium-educated people are less likely to reach a specialist** than highly educated people (21% less likely and 14% less likely, respectively, to have consulted a specialist in the past year).



- **People with a nationality from outside the EU have less chance of reaching the GP** (12% less chance) **and specialist** (18% less chance) than people with Belgian nationality.
- **People born outside the EU have less chance of reaching a specialist** than people born in Belgium (8% less chance).