

At a Glance | February 6, 2020

Attitudes Toward Primary Care Providers Differ by Generation

Findings from the 2019 Consumer Engagement in Health Care Survey of 2,068 privately insured adults.

WHO HAS PRIMARY CARE?

Most individuals reported having a primary care provider. Boomers were more likely than Gen Xers and Millennials to have a primary care provider.

Percentage of Respondents With a Primary Care Physician By Generational Cohort



DIFFERING VIEWS

Baby Boomers were much more likely than Millennials to strongly agree that they are comfortable telling their primary care provider about any health issue that they may have, that it is important that their doctor knows them and their medical history personally, that it is important that their primary care provider is aware of all of the other medical care that they receive, and that they see their own primary care provider at every visit.

Gen Xers preferred an office with all physicians in one place. Millennials were slightly more likely to rely on themselves regarding health care.

Views on Primary Care Provider's Role

How Strongly Do You Agree or Disagree With the Following Statement:

Statement	Generational Cohort	Strongly Agree
I am comfortable telling my primary doctor about any health issue I may have	Boomers	69%
	Gen Xers	54%
	Millennials	47%
It is important to me that my doctor knows me and my medical history personally	Boomers	63%
	Gen Xers	48%
	Millennials	45%
It is important to me that my primary doctor is aware of all the other medical care that I receive from other providers	Boomers	65%
	Gen Xers	48%
	Millennials	38%
It is important to me that I see my own primary care provider every time	Boomers	51%
	Gen Xers	41%
	Millennials	32%
I prefer a doctor's office that has all of the doctors that I need all in one place	Boomers	20%
	Gen Xers	25%
	Millennials	22%
After seeing my primary doctor, I make healthier lifestyle choices	Boomers	16%
	Gen Xers	17%
	Millennials	21%
I rely on myself, more than my primary doctor, to make decisions about my medical care	Boomers	14%
	Gen Xers	17%
	Millennials	20%

SOURCE: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald & Associates, "The 2019 EBRI/Greenwald & Associates Consumer Engagement in Health Care Survey" (Employee Benefit Research Institute, December 19, 2019).

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