TRAVEL TIME TO PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS IN ARKANSAS, 2023

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More than one-third of Arkansans live in federally designated primary care shortage areas, where the supply of primary care providers is insufficient relative to population and community need.[1] In 2023, Arkansas had 6.9 active[a] primary care physicians (PCPs) per 10,000 residents.[2] Limited access to PCPs may increase travel times for patients, which is associated with lower use of PCP services, delays in preventive care, and increased preventable emergency department visits.[3,4] To estimate the median time patients spend traveling to PCPs in Arkansas, ACHI analyzed health insurance claims data for 2023. Our findings are presented in this infographic.

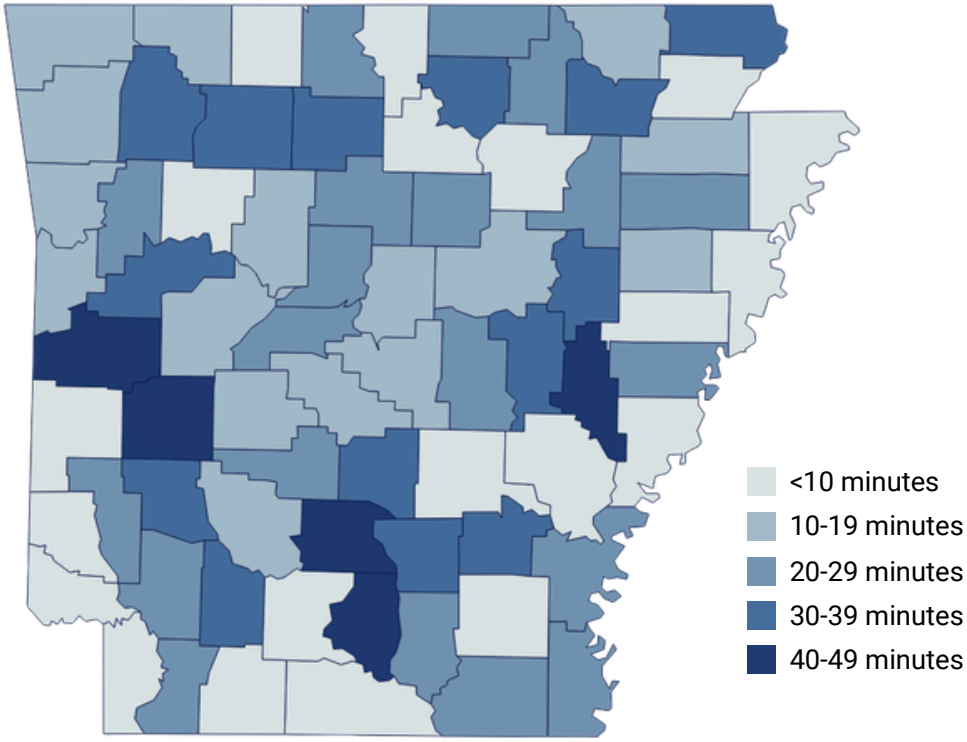
Provider counts alone may not reflect access. For example, residents of Dallas County had a median travel time of 42 minutes to a PCP in 2023. Twenty-four PCPs were active in the county, but 18 saw patients on fewer than 50 days in 2023.[2] Access may also vary because physicians may not serve patients across all payer types. Travel-time estimates are based on primary care visits identified in insurance claims and may not capture all encounters or service locations.

Percentages of Patients Traveling 30+ or 60+ Minutes to PCPs[b]		
	30 Minutes or More	22% n = 172,709
	60 Minutes or More	7% n = 56,630

Note: Percentages reflect individual patient travel times statewide; the map displays county-level median travel times.

"n" = Number of patients

Median Minutes Traveled to PCPs in Arkansas, by County of Residence



14 median minutes traveled to PCPs statewide

2,130 active PCPs in Arkansas, or 6.9 PCPs per 10,000 residents

[1-4] For references: achi.net/publications/travel-time-to-pcps

[a] To be considered "active," a PCP must have seen at least two patients on the same day at least once during the year.

[b] Figures represent percentages of patients with insurance claims showing PCP visits, not percentages of the Arkansas population.

Sources: Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative's All-Payer Claims Database, Arkansas State Medical Board licensure files.

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