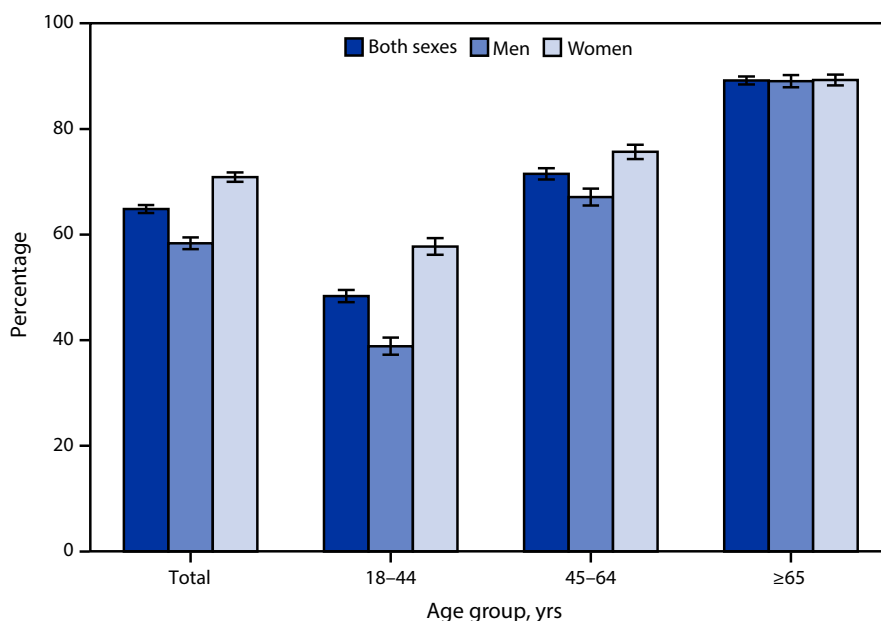


QuickStats

FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Percentage* of Adults Aged ≥ 18 Years Who Took Prescription Medication During the Past 12 Months,[†] by Sex and Age Group — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2021[§]



* With 95% CIs indicated by error bars.

[†] Based on a positive response to the question, “At any time in the past 12 months, did you take prescription medication?”

[§] Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian, noninstitutionalized U.S. population.

In 2021, 64.8% of adults aged ≥ 18 years took prescription medication at any time during the past 12 months. The percentage of adults taking prescription medication was lower among men than women overall (58.4% versus 70.9%) and for those aged 18–44 years (38.9% versus 57.8%) and 45–64 years (67.1% versus 75.7%). Among adults aged ≥ 65 years, men (89.0%) and women (89.3%) were equally likely to take prescription medication. Prescription medication use increased with age, from 48.4% for those aged 18–44 years to 89.2% for those aged ≥ 65 years, and this pattern of increasing use with age was observed for both men and women.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics; National Health Interview Survey, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

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