



FACT SHEET: Access Barriers to Health Care for People with Disabilities

People with disabilities face significant barriers when accessing health care, resulting in poorer health outcomes and reduced quality of life. These barriers:

1. Inaccessible Buildings and Equipment

- Health-care facilities often lack wheelchair ramps, elevators, and accessible examination tables.
- Waiting rooms and entrances are frequently designed without consideration for mobility devices.
- Many offices lack clear signage, large print or braille forms, and interpreter services.

2. Inadequate Transportation

- Limited availability of accessible public transportation.
- Long wait times and unreliable services for specialized transportation.
- High cost of modifications for personal vehicles not covered by insurance.

3. Insufficient Provider Knowledge

- Health-care providers often lack training on how to treat patients with disabilities.
- Providers may attribute symptoms to a known disability rather than investigating new concerns.
- Routine screenings and preventative care are often overlooked for patients with disabilities

4. Coordination Challenges

- People with disabilities often need care from multiple doctors and specialists.
- Organizing appointments is difficult, and the responsibility usually falls on the patient.
- People with disabilities often experience long waits for essential medical equipment like wheelchair batteries or repairs.

For more information about access to health care for people with disabilities, visit:

[FISAFoundation.org](https://www.fisafoundation.org)

#Access2HealthCareSWPA