

Primary Care Providers in Washington State

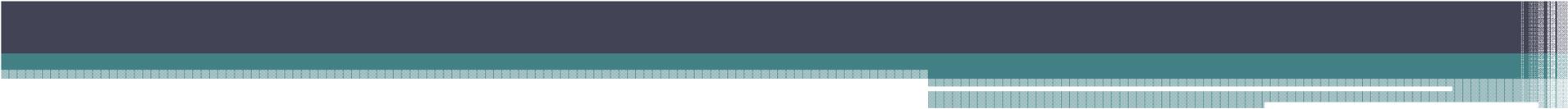
Initial Findings from Three Health Care Provider Surveys

Presentation to the Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force
October 4, 2012

Background

- Based on an analysis by the Urban Institute,¹ about 328,000 more individuals are expected to enroll in Medicaid in Washington State as a result of the ACA implementation.
- In 2011 and 2012, the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) conducted surveys of primary care physicians, nurse practitioners (NPs), and physician assistants (PAs) to estimate the potential impact of implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on primary care providers, with a focus on the Medicaid expansion.
- The surveys were funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, State Health Access Program

1. *The ACA Medicaid Expansion in Washington*. [Http://www.hca.wa.gov/hcr/documents/ACA_Medicaid_Expansion_WA_State.pdf](http://www.hca.wa.gov/hcr/documents/ACA_Medicaid_Expansion_WA_State.pdf).

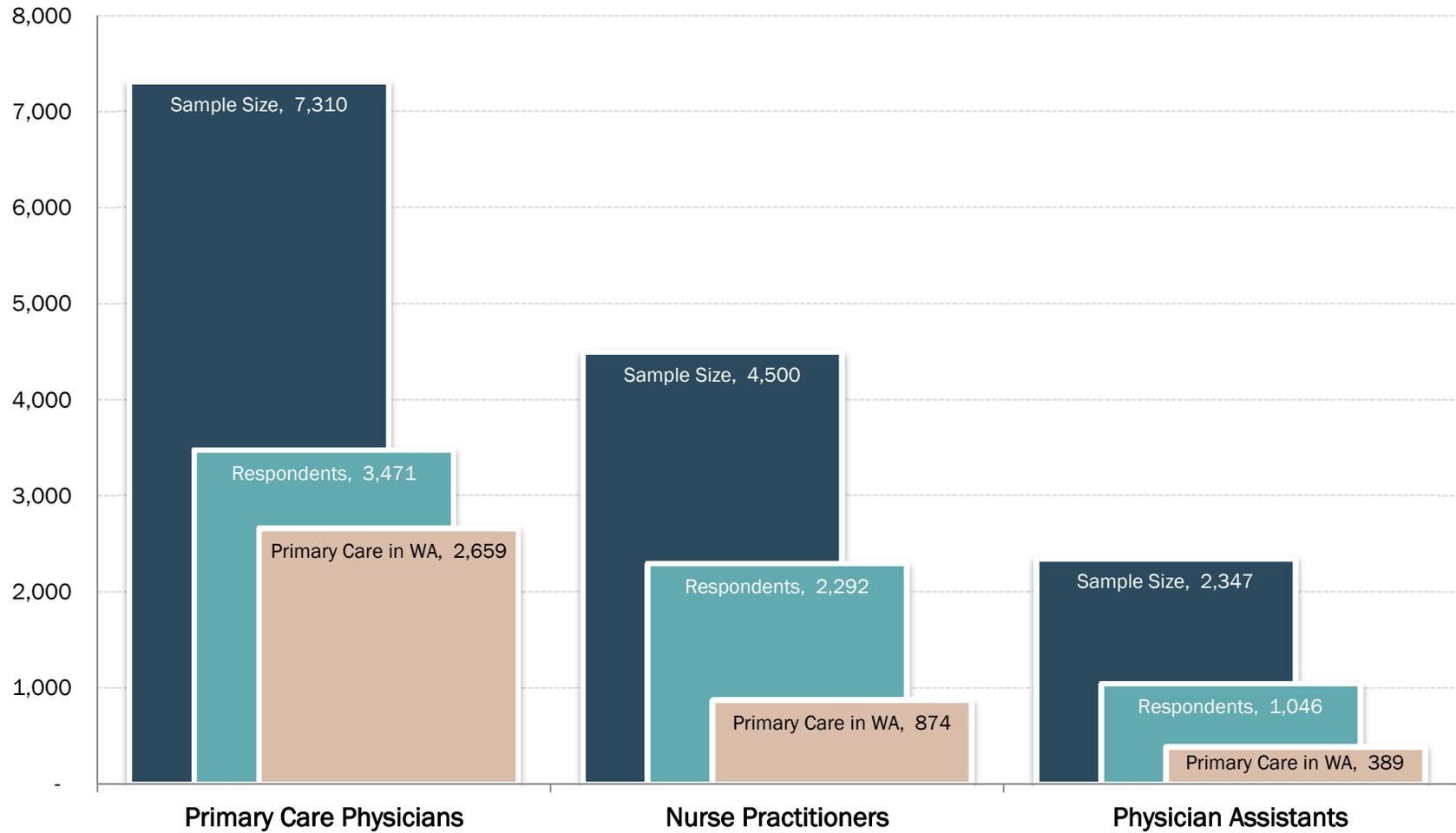


Methodology

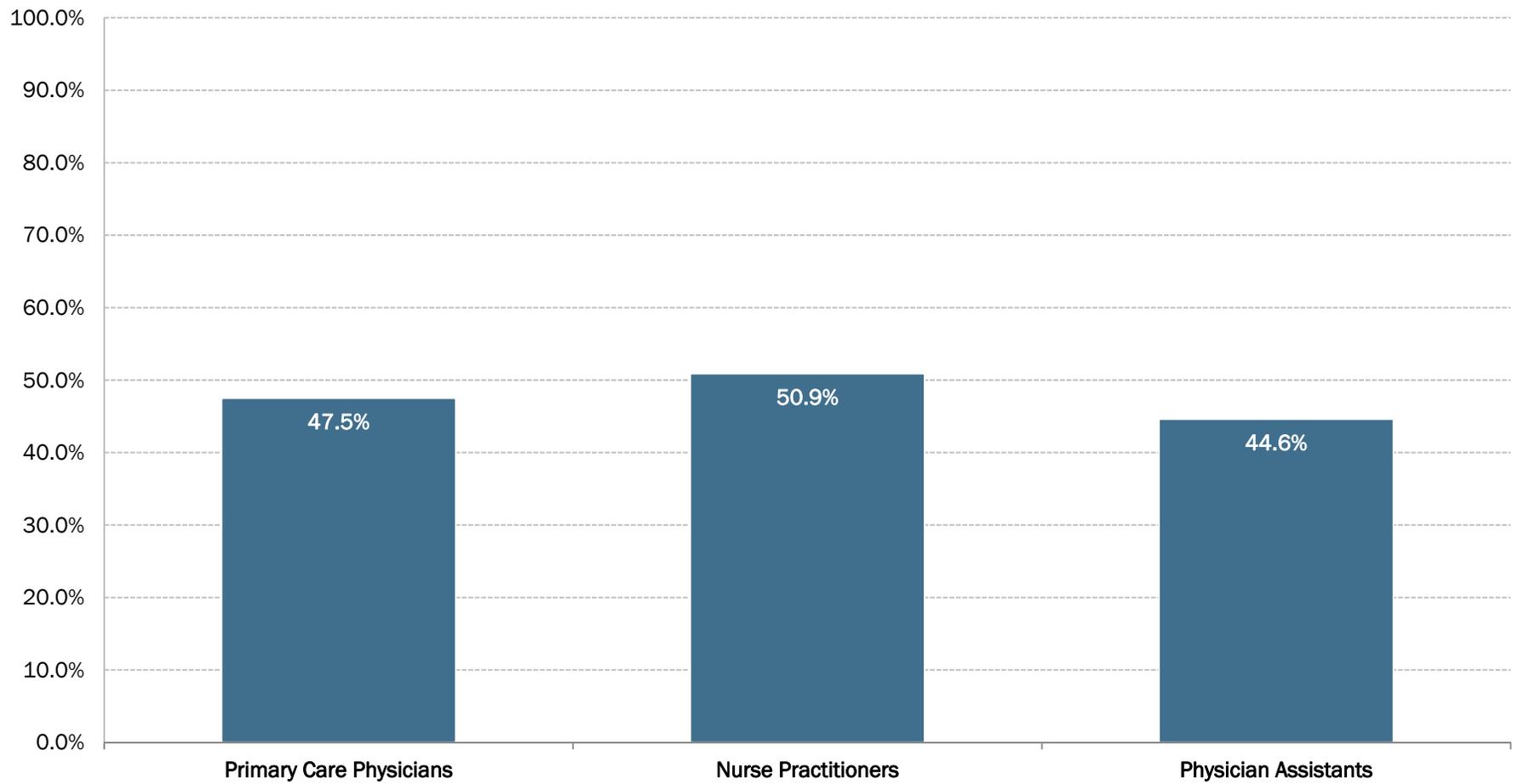
Data Collection

- Three health care provider types were surveyed:
 - **Primary Care Physicians:** Family Medicine/General Medicine; Internal Medicine; General Pediatrics; General OB/GYN; and General Geriatrics
 - **Nurse Practitioners**
 - **Physician Assistants**
- Sample frames:
 - Physician survey – AMA Physician Master File
 - NP and PA surveys – License records with additional contact information from L&I provider directory, Medicaid provider list (Provider 1), NPI, and commercial lists
- Survey instruments were designed by OFM staff in consultation with Sue Skillman of the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies
- Mail survey with online and phone options
- Survey packets were mailed three times to each provider type

Survey Samples Sizes and Number of Respondents



Survey Response Rates



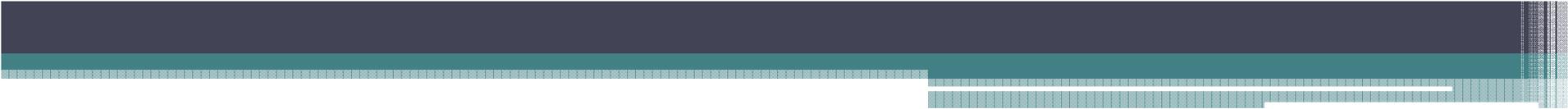


Findings



Washington State Primary Care Provider Survey, 2011-2012:

Summary of Findings



Authors

- SUSAN M. SKILLMAN, MS*
- MEREDITH A. FORDYCE, PhD*
- WEI YEN, PhD**
- THEA N. MOUNTS, MA**

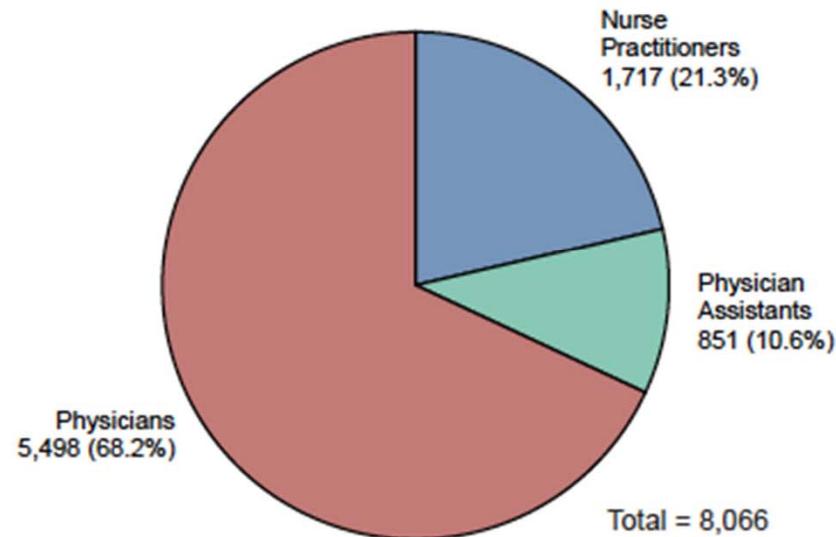
*University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies

**Washington State Office of Financial Management

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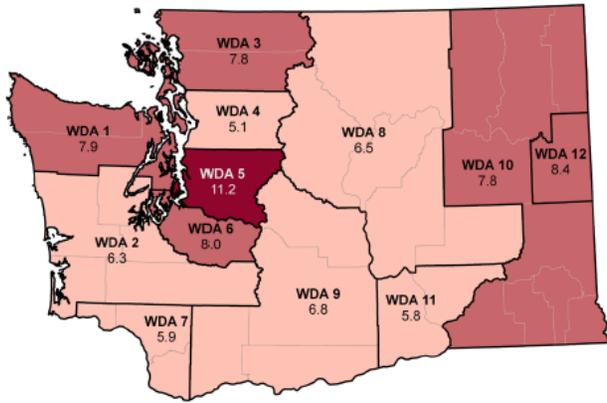
- Washington State has a primary care provider workforce of approximately 8,000 physicians, NPs, and PAs. NPs and PAs make up roughly one third of this workforce.
- Statewide – primary care providers per 10,000 population: 8.1 physicians, 2.5 NPs and 1.3 PAs

Figure 1. Statewide Supply of Primary Care Providers in Washington by Provider Type

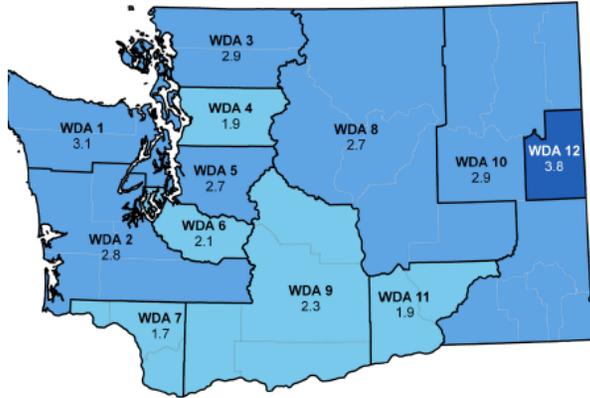
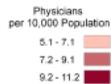


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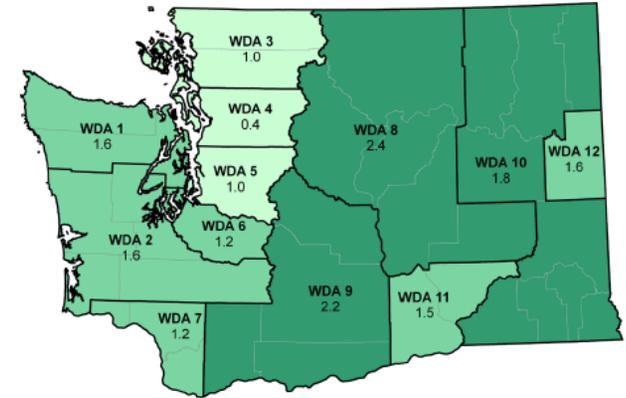
Primary Care Providers Per Capita



Physicians



Nurse Practitioners



Physician Assistants



- King County region (WDA 5) had the highest per capita rate for primary care physicians and Snohomish County (WDA 4) had the lowest (11.2 vs. 5.1 per 10,000)
- Spokane (WDA 12) had the highest rate per capita for primary care NPs and southwest WA (WDA 7) had the lowest (3.8 vs. 1.7 per 10,000)
- Rural areas of Eastern Washington (WDAs 8, 9, and 10) had the highest per capita rates for primary care PAs (1.8 - 2.4 per 10,000) compared with the lowest in the WDAs from King County (WDA 5) north to the Canadian border (0.4 - 1.0 per 10,000)

Demographics

- The average age of Washington's primary care providers is:
 - 47.8 years for PAs,
 - 49.3 years for physicians, and
 - 49.9 years for NPs.
- Over half of primary care physicians and nearly half of primary care PAs are male. Only 1 in 10 primary care NPs is male.
- Nearly 1 in 5 primary care physicians is non-white. Among primary care NPs and PAs, fewer providers are non-white – 1 in 13 and 1 in 10, respectively.
- Between 2.1 and 4.0 percent of primary care providers in each group are Hispanic.

Figure 9. Percent of Primary Care Providers in Washington Who Are Male

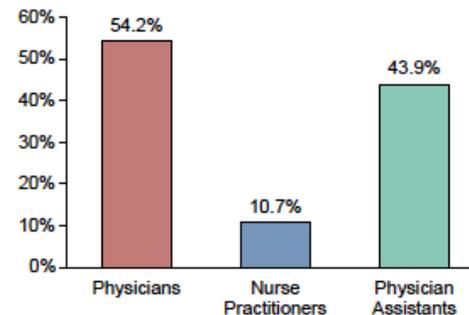
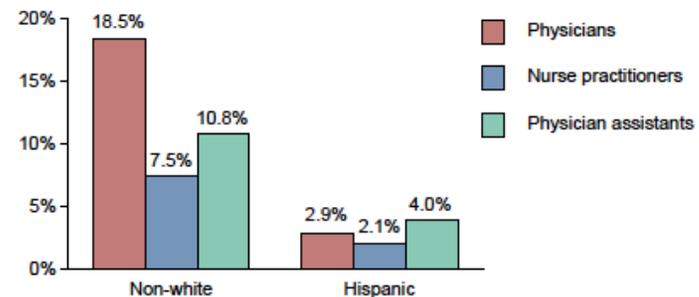


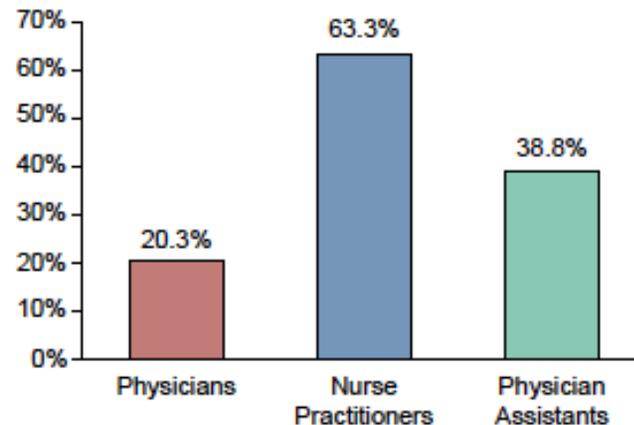
Figure 10. Percent of Primary Care Providers in Washington Who Are Non-white or Hispanic



Education

Approximately 1 in 5 primary care physicians in Washington attended medical school in Washington State. Among NPs 3 in 5 attended professional training programs in Washington, and 2 in 5 PAs did.

Figure 11. Percent of Washington State Primary Care Providers Who Attended School* in Washington



* Medical school (physicians), nurse practitioner program (nurse practitioners), physician assistant program (physician assistants).

Practice Characteristics

- The largest percentage of each primary care provider group works in private offices or clinics.
- On average, providers within each primary care provider group have spent the majority of their careers in Washington state.

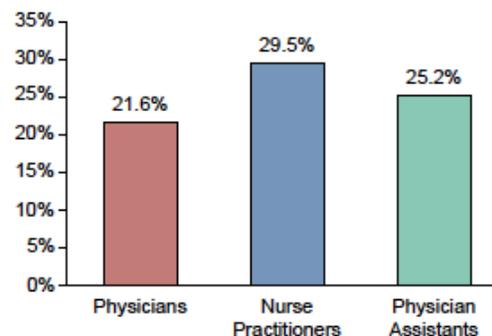
Primary Care Providers

	Physicians	NPs	PAs
Main practice setting is private office or clinic	48.2%	46.0%	37.2%
Patient panel size (mean)	1,677	1,362	1,683
Average weekly patient volume	93	72	86
Direct patient care Hours per week	36.7	30.3	35.1
% plan to retire in next 5 years	20.6%	22.6%	18.5%
Average years in practice in WA	15.3	11.7	12.0
Average years in practice	18.4	13.7	14.3

Medicaid Involvement: Patients Covered

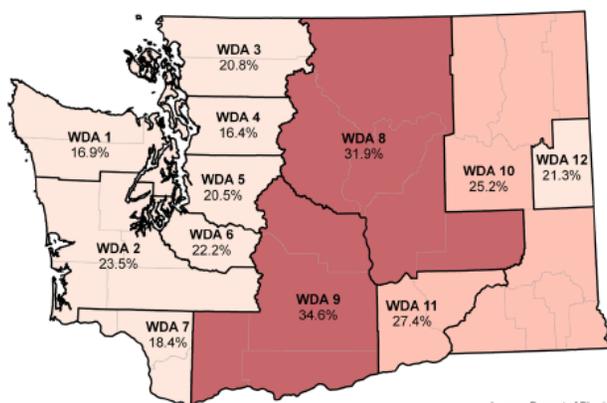
- Patients covered by Medicaid account for about 22% to 30%, on average, of the total patients of primary care providers in Washington.
- In the central Washington regions (WDA 8 and WDA 9), more than 30% of patients seen by each provider type are covered by Medicaid.

Figure 16. Average Percent of Patients Covered by Medicaid Among Primary Care Providers in Washington



Primary Care Providers

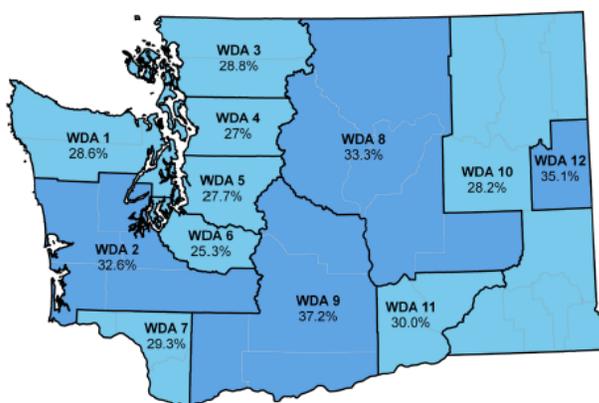
Physicians



Average Percent of Physic Patients Using Medicaid

- 16.4% - 23.8%
- 23.9% - 31.2%
- 31.3% - 38.6%
- 38.7% - 46.0%
- * None present

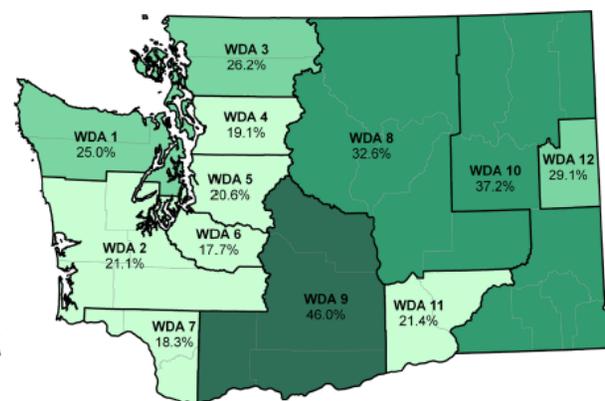
Nurse Practitioners



Average Percent of Nurse Practitioner Patients Using Medicaid

- 16.4% - 23.8%
- 23.9% - 31.2%
- 31.3% - 38.6%
- 38.7% - 46.0%
- * None present

Physician Assistants



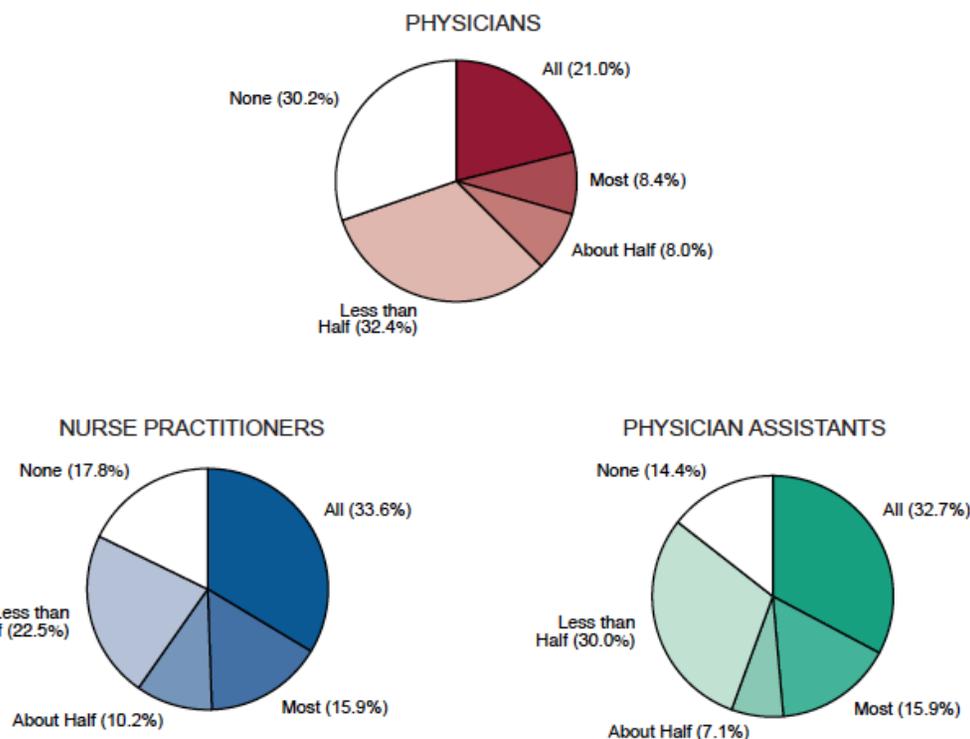
Average Percent of Physician Assistant Patients Using Medicaid

- 16.4% - 23.8%
- 23.9% - 31.2%
- 31.3% - 38.6%
- 38.7% - 46.0%

Medicaid Involvement: Accepting New Patients

- Approximately 80 percent of primary care physicians and PAs, and about 85% of NPs reported accepting new patients.
- Of the primary care physicians accepting new patients about 30% reported that they are not accepting any new patients covered by Medicaid.
- Approximately 18% of NPs and 14% of PAs who are accepting new patients reported they would accept no new patients covered by Medicaid.

Figure 21. Percent of New Patients Providers Are Willing to Accept as Medicaid Patients*

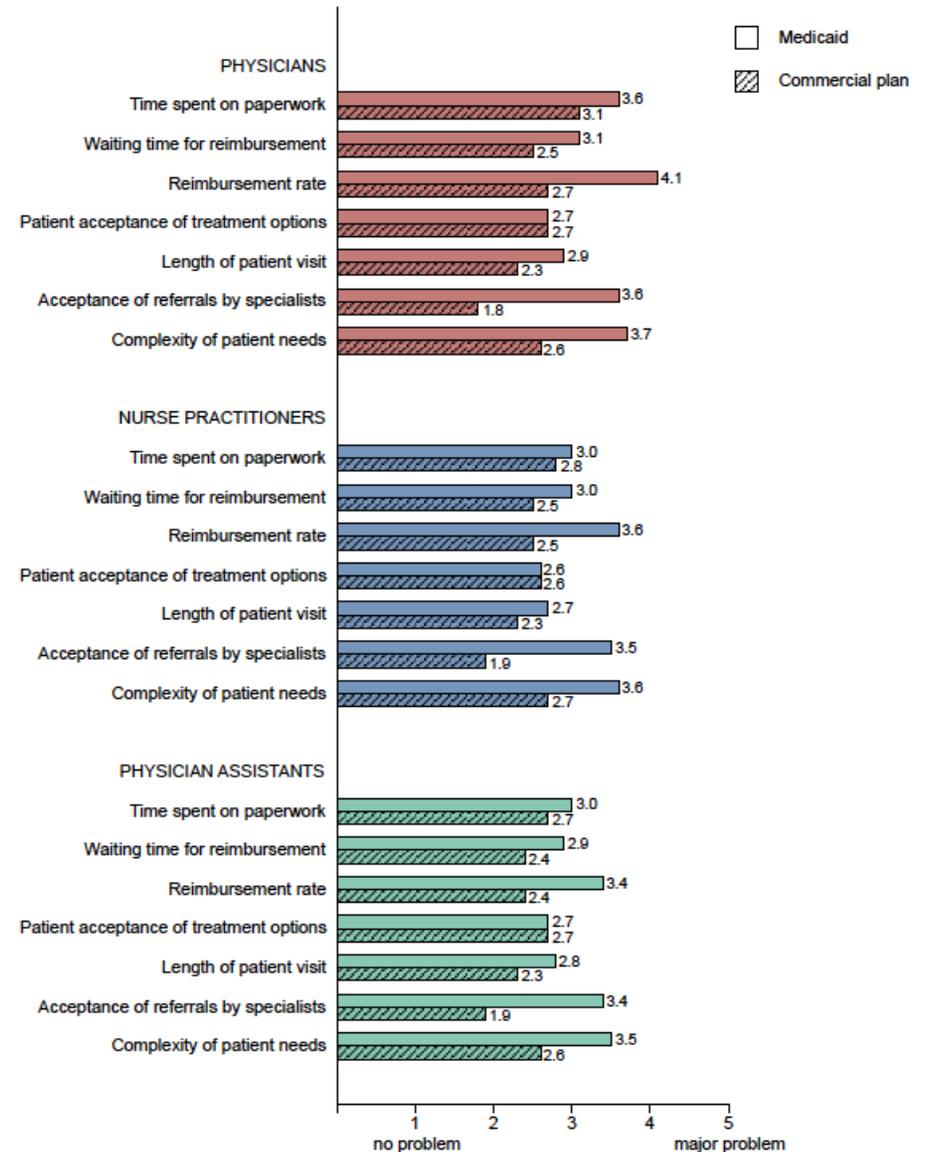


* Among providers accepting new patients.

Factors Affecting Care Provided

All three of the Washington primary care provider groups surveyed rated factors such as reimbursement rate and complexity of patient needs more problematic for patients covered by Medicaid than for patients with commercial coverage.

Figure 22. Insurance-Related Problem Rating of Factors Affecting Primary Care Providers' Practices in Washington





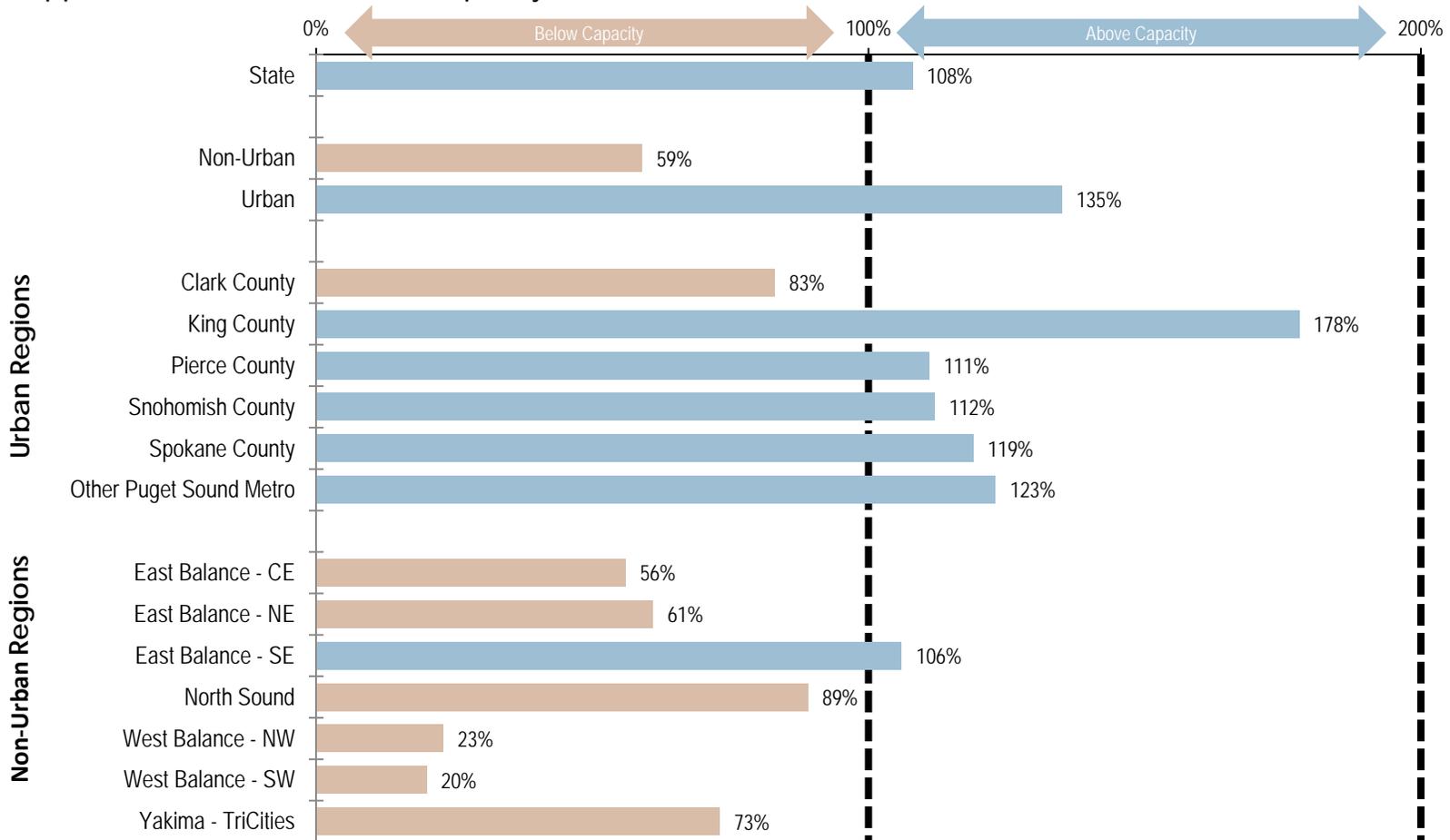
Washington State Office of Financial Management
Forecasting and Research Division
Health Care Research Group

Availability of Primary Care Physicians to Serve the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid Expansion Population

Wei Yen and Thea Mounts

Primary Care Physician Capacity to Absorb New Medicaid Eligibles: Chart

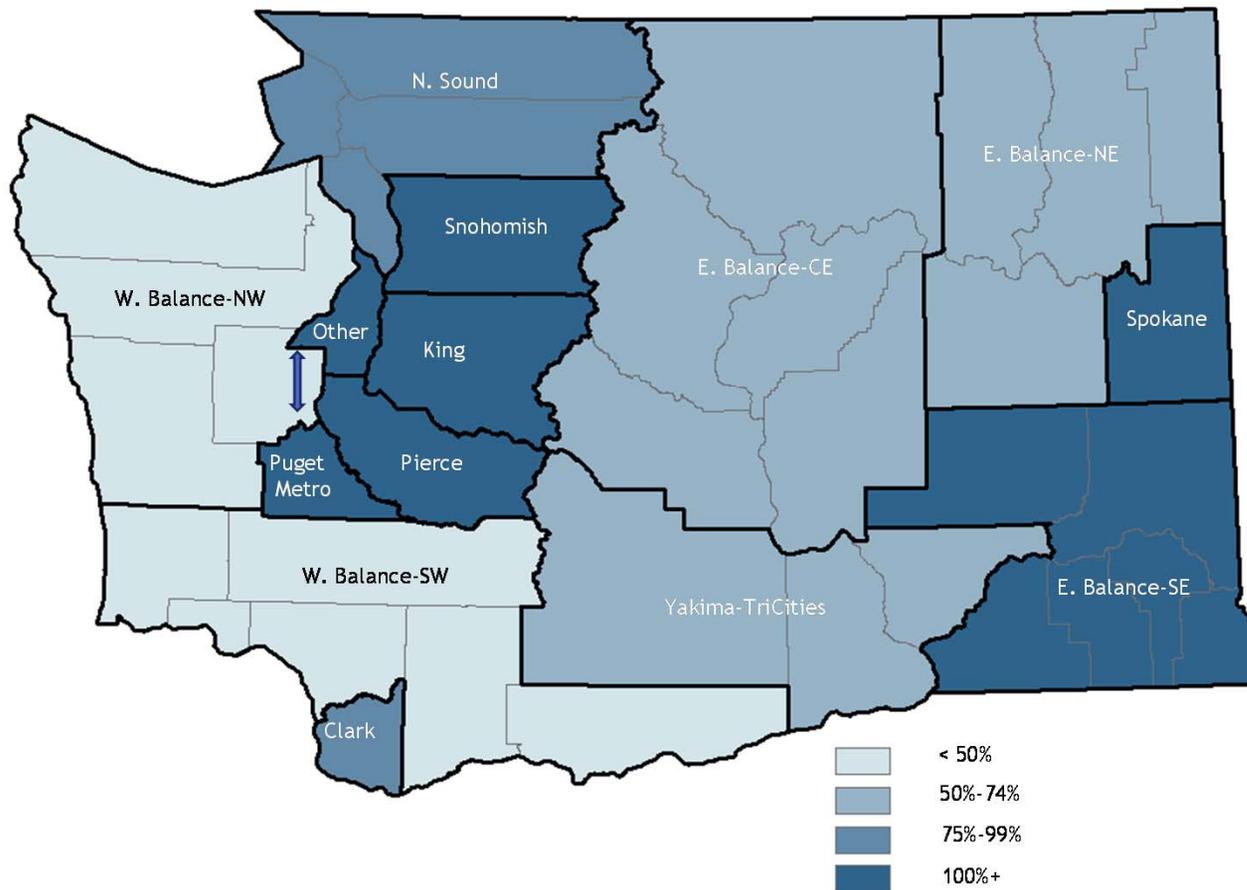
When an estimated number of uninsured-turned newly eligible for Medicaid under the ACA is compared with the estimated number of new Medicaid patients primary care physicians reported to accept in 2011, an unbalanced capacity distribution is revealed. All non-urban regions but one are expected to face insufficient capacity despite the fact that the state, when viewed as a whole, appears to have a sufficient capacity.

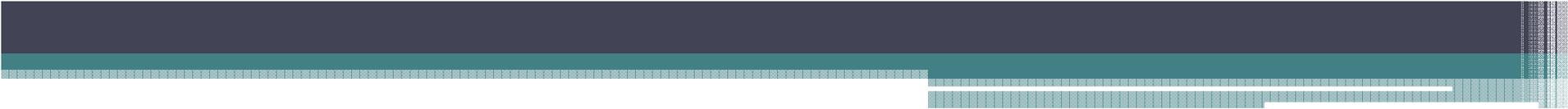


Primary Care Physician Capacity to Absorb New Medicaid Eligibles: Map

The non-urban areas of western Washington have the least available capacity to meet the demand under the ACA.

Capacity to Absorb Medicaid Expansion





Other Research

Other Health Care Workforce Studies

- **Washington State Primary Care Workforce: Summary of Physician Focus Group Findings**
 - Barbara Matthews – University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies
 - Analyzed data from five primary care physician focus groups

- **Higher Reimbursements Will Help but Other Changes Are Needed to Expand Medicaid Participation Among Primary Care Physicians: Findings from Washington State**
 - Sharon Long – The Urban Institute
 - Primary care physician survey and focus groups

Contact Information

Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division, Health Care Research Group

- Thea Mounts, Sr. Forecast and Research Manager

thea.mounts@ofm.wa.gov

- Wei Yen, Sr. Forecast and Research Analyst

wei.yen@ofm.wa.gov

<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/healthcare/default.asp>

University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies and Rural Health Research Center

- Sue Skillman, Deputy Director

skillman@uw.edu

<http://depts.washington.edu/uwchws/>

<http://depts.washington.edu/uwrhrc/>