

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

**2012 Washington State Primary Care Physician
Assistant Survey
Data Report**

August 2012



Table of Contents

- Introduction** 1
- Select Results from the Survey** 1
- About the Survey** 3
- Results** 5
 - Section I – Practice Status and Specialty**
 - Q01: Do you currently provide any direct care for ambulatory patients? 5
 - Q02: Do you currently provide direct patient care only in Washington,
both in and outside Washington, or only outside Washington? 5
 - Q03 (1): Primary specialty – Family Medicine 5
 - Q03 (2): Primary specialty – General Practice 5
 - Q03 (3): Primary specialty – General Internal Medicine 5
 - Q03 (4): Primary specialty – General Pediatrics 5
 - Q03 (5): Primary specialty – General OB/GYN 6
 - Q03 (6): Primary specialty – General Geriatrics 6
 - Section II – Practice Site in Washington**
 - Q04: At how many sites in Washington do you provide direct patient care? 6
 - Q05 (1): Region of Main Practice..... 6
 - Q05 (2): Region of Secondary Practice 7
 - Q06: Does your main practice site mostly provide primary care? 7
 - Q07: Which best describes your main practice site in Washington? 7
 - Q08 (1): # of providers at main practice - Family Medicine Physicians 7
 - Q08 (2): # of providers at main practice - General Practice Physicians 8
 - Q08 (3): # of providers at main practice - General Internal Medicine
Physicians..... 8
 - Q08 (4): # of providers at main practice - General Pediatricians 8
 - Q08 (5): # of providers at main practice - General OB/GYNs 8
 - Q08 (6): # of providers at main practice - General Geriatricians 8
 - Q08 (7): # of providers at main practice - ARNPs (not CNM) 9
 - Q08 (8): # of providers at main practice - Physician Assistants 9
 - Q08 (9): # of providers at main practice - Licensed Midwives 9

Q08 (10): # of providers at main practice - Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM-ARNP).....	9
Q09: Do you refer patients to hospitals?	9
Q10: Is the hospital where you refer the largest number of your patients located in Washington?.....	10
Q11: Region of Referral Hospital.....	10

Section III – Practice Activities

Q12 (1): Work hours per typical week in WA - Direct patient care.....	10
Q12 (2): Work hours per typical week in WA - Administration of clinical practice	10
Q12 (3): Work hours per typical week in WA - Other PA activities.....	11
Q12 (4): Work hours per typical week in WA - Computed total hours	11
Q13: Thinking about the time you spent on direct patient care during your last typical work week in Washington, how much of that time was spent on providing primary care? Would you say.....	11
Q14 (1): Work hours per typical week outside WA - Direct patient care.....	11
Q14 (2): Work hours per typical week outside WA - Administration of clinical practice	11
Q14 (3): Work hours per typical week outside WA - Other PA activities.....	11
Q14 (4): Work hours per typical week outside WA - - Computed total hours	12
Q15: Approximately how many weeks did you work as a PA in 2011?	12
Q16: Did you start practicing in Washington before 2011?.....	12
Q17: Please check the year you first started practicing in WA	12

Section IV – Patient Service

Q18: At all sites in WA in 2011, how many patients did you provide care for?.....	12
Q19: Percent of these patients (Q18n) were covered by Medicaid?.....	13
Q20: Are you accepting new patients at main site in Washington?	13
Q21: How many new patients do you yourself plan to accept at main site?.....	13
Q22: Of the new patients you plan to accept, how many are Medicaid patients?.....	13
Q23: Are you accepting new patients at other sites in Washington?	13
Q24: Are you accepting Medicaid patients at other sites in Washington?.....	14
Q25 (1): # of visits seen last typical week - in office and outpatient clinics.....	14
Q25 (2): # of visits seen last typical week - on hospital rounds	14
Q25 (3): # of visits seen last typical week - in nursing homes or patient homes	14

Q25 (4): # of visits seen last typical week - in telephone consultation	14
Q25 (5): # of visits seen last typical week – via email/other electronic consultation	14
Q26: Do you normally see patients in early morning, evening, or weekend hours at your main WA practice site?	15
Q27: Do you have a need for interpreter services for your patients at your WA practice site?	15
Q28: Do you have adequate access to interpreter services at your WA practice site?	15
Q29 (A1): Medicaid - Time spent on paperwork	15
Q29 (A2): Medicaid - Waiting time for reimbursement	15
Q29 (A3): Medicaid - Reimbursement rate	16
Q29 (A4): Medicaid - Patient acceptance of treatment options	16
Q29 (A5): Medicaid - Length of patient visit	16
Q29 (A6): Medicaid - Acceptance of referrals by specialists	16
Q29 (A7): Medicaid - Complexity of patient needs	17
Q29 (A8): Medicaid – Other factors	17
Q29 (B1): Commercial plan – Time spent on paperwork	17
Q29 (B2): Commercial plan – Waiting time for reimbursement	17
Q29 (B3): Commercial plan – Reimbursement rate	18
Q29 (B4): Commercial plan – Patient acceptance of treatment options	18
Q29 (B5): Commercial plan – Length of patient visit	18
Q29 (B6): Commercial plan – Acceptance of referrals by specialists	18
Q29 (B7): Commercial plan – Complexity of patient needs	19
Q29 (B8): Commercial plan – Other factors	19

Section V – Practice History

Q30: How many years have you practiced as a licensed PA in the U.S.?	19
Q31: How many years have you practiced as a licensed PA in WA?	19
Q32: When do you plan to retire?	20

Section VI - Background

Q33 (1): Did you earn an Associate degree	20
Q33 (2): Did you earn a Baccalaureate/Bachelor’s degree	20
Q33 (3): Did you earn a Master’s degree	20
Q33 (4): Did you earn a PA Certificate only	20
Q34: In which U.S. state or other country (if outside the U.S.) did you obtain this credential?	20
Q35 (1): Were you ever in clinical training in - Washington State	21

Q35 (2): Were you ever in clinical training in - a rural community	21
Q35 (3): Were you ever in clinical training in - an inner-city community	21
Q35 (4): Were you ever in clinical training in - a predominantly minority community.....	21
Q35 (5): Were you ever in clinical training in - Were in none of those locations.....	21
Q36: Age	21
Q37: Sex	21
Q38: Are you Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino?.....	22
Q39 (1): What race do you consider yourself to be - White?	22
Q39 (2): What race do you consider yourself to be - Black or African American?.....	22
Q39 (3): What race do you consider yourself to be - Asian or Pacific Islander?	22
Q39 (4): What race do you consider yourself to be - American Indian or Alaska Native?	22
Q39 (5): What race do you consider yourself to be - Other?	22
Q40: Languages you feel comfortable communicating in for most clinical purposes?	22
Q41: Are you a participating provider of any provider networks (including HMOs) in Washington?.....	23
Q42: Region of Residence.....	23

Appendixes

A. Questionnaire for 2012 Washington State Primary Care Physician Assistant Survey	24
B. Comparison of Responding PAs and All Licensed PAs	29

2012 Washington State Primary Care Physician Assistant Survey

Data Report

Introduction

In the spring of 2012, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) conducted a survey of primary care Physician Assistants (PA) practicing in Washington. The purpose of the survey was to gain knowledge of the characteristics and capacity of Washington State's primary care workforce, particularly in light of the expected increase in demand for primary care services when a large number of currently uninsured persons gain health coverage in 2014 under the federal health reform law – the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The survey was funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), State Health Access Program (SHAP). This report presents the distribution of the survey responses.

Also during the spring of 2012, OFM conducted a survey of the primary care nurse practitioners.¹ Earlier, OFM released the Data Report of the survey of primary care physicians that was conducted in the summer of 2011.² Both the physician and nurse practitioner surveys were funded by the federal agency grant that supported the survey of primary care physician assistants.

Select Results from the Survey

(See Results section for detailed responses to each question in the survey.)

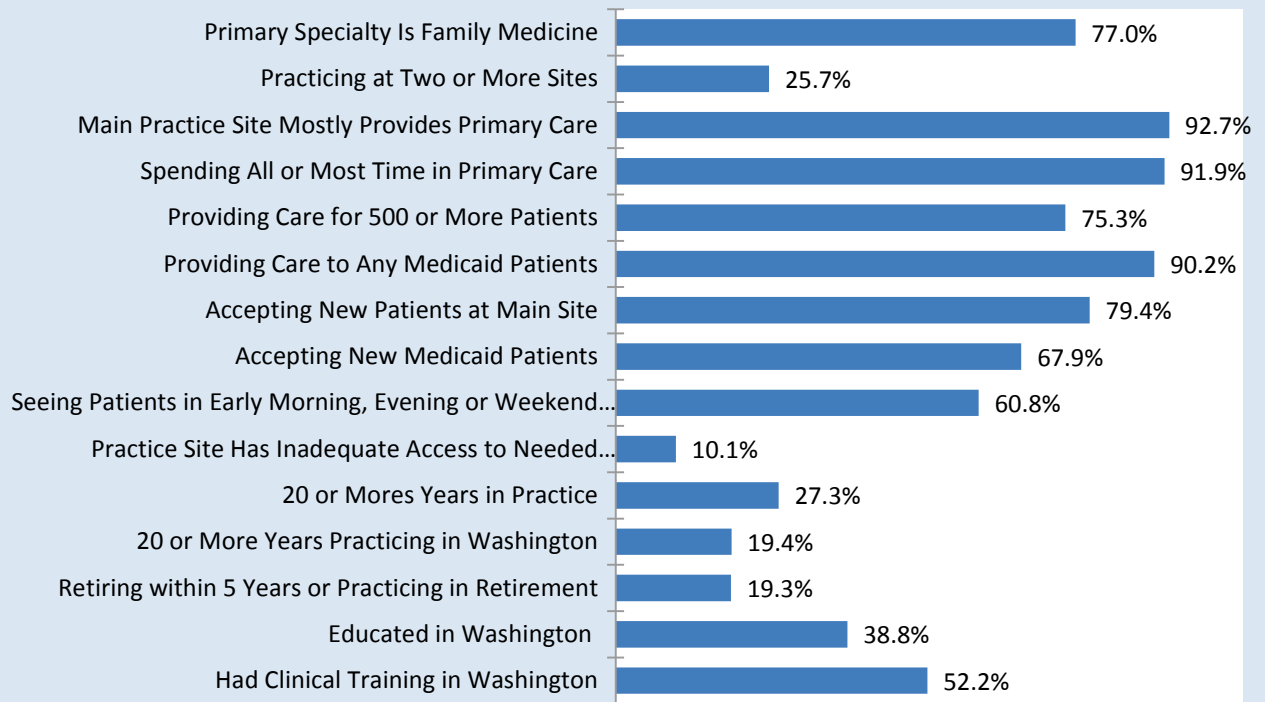
- At the time of the survey, an estimated 851 PAs were practicing in primary care in Washington.
- More than three-quarters (77 percent) of these primary care PAs described their primary specialty as family medicine.
- Over nine in ten (93 percent) worked at a practice site that mostly provides primary care.
- Also over nine in ten (92 percent) of these PAs spent all or most of their direct patient care time in providing primary care.
- Three-quarters (75 percent) of them had a panel with 500 or more patients.
- Nine out of ten (90 percent) primary care PAs had Medicaid clients on their patient panel.
- Seventy-nine percent reported accepting new patients and a smaller group (68 percent) reported accepting new Medicaid patients.
- Six in ten (61 percent) worked with schedules that included early morning, evening, and weekend hours.
- One-tenth (10 percent) worked at a practice site with inadequate access to needed interpreter services.

¹ http://www.ofm.wa.gov/healthcare/deliverysystem/2011_NP_survey_frequency_report.pdf

² http://www.ofm.wa.gov/healthcare/deliverysystem/2011_PCP_survey_frequency_report.pdf

- Slightly more than a quarter (27 percent) had a practice history of 20 or more years while about one-fifth (19 percent) had practiced for 20 or more years in Washington.
- Nearly one-fifth (19 percent) reported planning on retiring within five years or working out of retirement.
- More than one-third of the primary care PAs were educated in Washington and more than half (52 percent) had clinical training in Washington.

**Select Results from the
2012 Washington State Primary Care Physician Assistant Survey
(N=851)**



About the Survey

The 2012 Washington State Primary Care Physician Assistant Survey³ was designed to be a census of all licensed physician assistants providing primary care. The survey was sent to all PAs licensed with Washington State Department of Health (DOH) who had a contact address in Washington (N=2,347). Non-primary care PAs as well as non-practicing PAs were screened to leave in only the PAs who practice in primary care in Washington.

The survey questionnaire was developed by the health care research group within OFM Forecasting and Research Division in consultation with Susan Skillman, Deputy Director of the Center for Health Workforce Studies at University of Washington. Several other experts were also consulted for the questionnaire development. The primary mode for the survey was mail. The questionnaire was mailed to all licensed PAs on DOH's file. In addition to mailing, the questionnaire was made available to be filled out online.

In the end, 1,046 PAs returned the survey, out of the 2,347 on the original list. This yields a response rate of 44.6 percent. A comparison between the 1,046 who returned the survey and the original sample of 2,347 PAs shows that the responding PAs are fairly similar to the total licensed PAs in sex and region (based on mailing addresses), but are slightly older (see Appendix B). As a result, appropriate weights were assigned to the 1,046 responding PAs so that they would represent the entire 2,347 PAs in the original sample.

The survey data was initially processed by the data collection contractor. OFM conducted additional processing that included consistency checks, error corrections, coding of text (open-ended) responses, imputation of missing values in key variables, and creating derived or composite variables.

A final analysis file was created that contains the 389 respondents who meet the definition of the study for currently practicing primary care PAs. These responding PAs, when weighted, represent a total of 851 primary care PAs. The survey results presented below are based on these 851 PAs.

As with any surveys, this survey has its limitations. The following limitations should be considered when interpreting results from this survey.

- The definition of a practicing primary care PAs used in this survey differs slightly from those used by some other analysts. In order to differentiate subspecialties that are not in primary care, this survey used the word “general” in listing the primary care specialties selected for this study. Some other studies treated all PAs of the selected primary specialties as primary care provider. Still some other studies collected subspecialty data and used it to exclude PAs in certain subspecialties as non-primary care. The definition used in this survey seems to fit in between the other two choices. It is likely that the definition used in this survey may result in a count that is between those two, smaller than the former but larger than the latter.
- Although this survey has achieved a response rate of 44.6 percent, a rate that is higher than those in many other similar surveys, there were still over half of the targeted PAs that did not respond

³ The full title of the survey is *Washington State Survey of Physician Assistants*.

to the survey. Despite the use of weights to minimize the differences between the characteristics of the responding PAs and non-responding PAs, there still remains an uncertainty about whether the responding PAs might differ from the non-responding PAs regarding practicing status. That is, are the responding PAs more likely to be actively practicing compared with the non-responding ones? If so, the survey may have overestimated the size of practicing PAs. On the other hand, the survey may have under-estimated the size of practicing PAs if the non-responding PAs are more likely to be actively practicing. In a related project, OFM conducted post-survey research to investigate this issue associated with the primary care physician survey. Using the online search and phone calls on a random sample of 100 non-responding physicians, the research found that the proportion of the physicians who are practicing is quite similar for the responding physicians (77 percent, unweighted) and 100 randomly sampled non-responding physicians (76 percent). It is assumed here that this finding applies to the physician assistant survey.

Results

The survey results below are presented in the order the questions appear in the questionnaire (see Appendix A). While for most questions there is one table per question, some questions have more than one associated tables, such as questions that permit more than one answer. All results represent weighted responses. Note again that the results below are based on the final analysis file that includes only the primary care physician assistants who reported practicing in Washington.

Section I – Practice Status and Specialty

Question 01 - Do you currently provide any direct care for ambulatory patients?

Q01	Frequency	Percent
Yes	851	100.0

Question 02 - Do you currently provide direct patient care only in Washington, both in and outside Washington, or only outside Washington?

Q02	Frequency	Percent
Only in Washington	830	97.6
Both in and outside Washington	21	2.4

Question 03 (1) - Primary Specialty – Family Medicine

Q03_1	Frequency	Percent
NO	195	23.0
Yes	656	77.0

Question 03 (2) - Primary Specialty – General Practice

Q03_2	Frequency	Percent
No	791	92.9
Yes	60	7.1

Question 03 (3) - Primary Specialty – General Internal Medicine

Q03_3	Frequency	Percent
No	765	89.9
Yes	86	10.1

Question 03 (4) - Primary Specialty – General Pediatrics

Q03_4	Frequency	Percent
No	835	98.2
Yes	16	1.8

Question 03 (5) - Primary Specialty – General OB/GYN

Q03_5	Frequency	Percent
No	809	95.1
Yes	42	4.9

Question 03 (6) - Primary Specialty – General Geriatrics

Q03_6	Frequency	Percent
No	847	99.5
Yes	4	0.5

Section II – Practice Site in Washington

Question 04 - At how many sites in Washington do you provide direct patient care?

Q04n	Frequency	Percent
One	633	74.3
Two	161	19.0
Three or More	57	6.7

Question 05 (1) – Region of Main Practice

SPS_10region_practice1	Frequency	Percent
CLARK	51	6.0
EAST BALANCE	113	13.3
KING	200	23.5
NORTH SOUND	41	4.8
OTHER PUGET SOUND METRO	73	8.6
PIERCE	98	11.5
SNOHOMISH	30	3.5
SPOKANE	74	8.7
WEST BALANCE	84	9.9
YAKIMA - TRI CITIES	87	10.2

Question 05 (2) – Region of Secondary Practice

SPS_10region_practice2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped or missing</i>	635	.
CLARK	10	4.5
EAST BALANCE	50	23.2
KING	58	27.1
NORTH SOUND	15	7.1
OTHER PUGET SOUND METRO	18	8.4
PIERCE	23	10.5
SNOHOMISH	2	1.0
SPOKANE	14	6.6
WEST BALANCE	18	8.5
YAKIMA - TRI CITIES	7	3.1

Question 06 – Does your main practice site mostly provide primary care?

Q06	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	2	.
Yes	787	92.7
No	62	7.3

Question 07 – Which best describes your main practice site in Washington?

Q07	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	6	.
Private office/clinic	315	37.2
Hospital outpatient clinic	129	15.3
HMO medical center	94	11.1
Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)	128	15.1
Certified Rural Health Clinic (RHC)	80	9.5
Or some Other office or clinic (SPECIFY:)	37	4.3
College, school, employer onsite, prison	26	3.1
Medical center of a system, university, military, VA	31	3.7
Free clinic/walk-in	6	0.7

Question 08 (1) – # of providers at main practice - Family Medicine Physicians

Q08n01	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing/Skipped</i>	4	.
0	168	19.8
1	124	14.7
2-5	297	35.1
6-10	168	19.8
More than 10	90	10.6

Question 08 (2) – # of providers at main practice - General Practice Physicians

Q08n02	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing/Skipped</i>	4	.
0	756	89.3
1	30	3.6
2-5	45	5.3
6-10	11	1.3
More than 10	5	0.5

Question 08 (3) – # of providers at main practice - General Internal Med. Physicians

Q08n03	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing/Skipped</i>	4	.
0	593	70.0
1	103	12.2
2-5	96	11.3
6-10	42	5.0
More than 10	13	1.5

Question 08 (4) – # of providers at main practice - General Pediatricians

Q08n04	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing/Skipped</i>	4	.
0	643	75.9
1	63	7.5
2-5	104	12.3
6-10	25	2.9
More than 10	12	1.4

Question 08 (5) – # of providers at main practice - General OB/GYNs

Q08n05	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing/Skipped</i>	4	.
0	703	83.0
1	29	3.4
2-5	69	8.1
6-10	36	4.2
More than 10	11	1.3

Question 08 (6) – # of providers at main practice - General Geriatricians

Q08n06	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing/Skipped</i>	6	.
0	815	96.5
1	8	1.0
2-5	17	2.0
6-10	4	0.5
More than 10	0	0.0

Question 08 (7) – # of providers at main practice - ARNPs (not CNM)

Q08n07	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing/Skipped</i>	8	.
0	450	53.3
1	193	23.0
2-5	176	20.9
6-10	18	2.1
More than 10	6	0.7

Question 08 (8) – # of providers at main practice - Physician Assistants

Q08n08	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing/Skipped</i>	4	.
0	0	0.0
1	325	38.4
2-5	418	49.3
6-10	90	10.6
More than 10	14	1.7

Question 08 (9) – # of providers at main practice - Licensed Midwives

Q08n09	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing/Skipped</i>	11	.
0	808	96.2
1	14	1.7
2-5	11	1.3
6-10	5	0.6
More than 10	2	0.2

Question 08 (10) – # of providers at main practice - Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM-ARNP)

Q08n10	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing/Skipped</i>	8	.
0	753	89.3
1	49	5.9
2-5	33	3.9
6-10	8	1.0
More than 10	0	0.0

Question 09 – Do you refer patients to hospitals?

Q09	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	2	.
Yes	788	92.8
No	61	7.2

Question 10 - Is the hospital where you refer the largest number of your patients located in Washington?

Q10	Frequency	Percent
_Missing	68	.
Yes	758	96.9
No	25	3.1

Question 11 - Region of Referral Hospital

SPS_10region_hospital	Frequency	Percent
_Missing	38	.
CLARK	55	6.8
EAST BALANCE	100	12.3
KING	199	24.4
NORTH SOUND	46	5.7
OTHER PUGET SOUND METRO	64	7.9
PIERCE	81	10.0
SNOHOMISH	24	3.0
SPOKANE	83	10.2
WEST BALANCE	77	9.4
YAKIMA - TRI CITIES	84	10.3

Section III – Practice Activities

Question 12 (1) - Work hours per typical week in WA - Direct patient care

imp_Q12n1	Frequency	Percent
1-19 hours	70	8.2
20-34 hours	294	34.6
35-39 hours	174	20.4
40-49 hours	238	27.9
50 or more hours	76	8.9

Question 12 (2) - Work hours per typical week in WA - Administration of clinical practice

imp_Q12n2	Frequency	Percent
0	389	45.7
1-19 hours	448	52.6
20-34 hours	12	1.4
35-39 hours	2	0.2
40-49 hours	389	45.7
50 or more hours	448	52.6

Question 12 (3) - Work hours per typical week in WA - Other PA activities

imp_Q12n3	Frequency	Percent
0	560	65.8
1-19 hours	280	32.9
20-34 hours	10	1.2

Question 12 (4) - Work hours per typical week in WA - Computed total hours

imp_Q12sum	Frequency	Percent
1-19 hours	45	5.3
20-34 hours	168	19.7
35-39 hours	84	9.8
40-49 hours	411	48.3
50 or more hours	144	16.9

Question 13 – Thinking about the time you spent on direct patient care during your last typical work week in Washington, how much of that time was spent on providing primary care? Would you say...

Q13	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	7	.
All	584	69.3
Most	191	22.6
About half	25	3.0
Less than half	31	3.7
Or none	12	1.4

Question 14 (1) - Work hours per typical week outside WA - Direct patient care

imp_Q14n1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not work outside WA)</i>	830	.
0	12	57.7
1-19 hours	2	11.6
20-34 hours	4	19.1
35-39 hours	2	11.6

Question 14 (2) - Work hours per typical week outside WA - Administration of clinical practice

imp_Q14n2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not work outside WA)</i>	830	.
0	16	76.8
1-19 hours	5	23.2

Question 14 (3) - Work hours per typical week outside WA - Other PA activities

imp_Q14n3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not work outside WA)</i>	830	.
0	16	77.0
1-19 hours	5	23.0

Question 14 (4) - Work hours per typical week outside WA -- Computed total hours

imp_Q14sum	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not work outside WA)</i>	830	.
0	10	46.3
1-19 hours	5	23.0
20-34 hours	4	19.1
35-39 hours	0	0.0
40-49 hours	2	11.6

Question 15 - Approximately how many weeks did you work as a PA in 2011?

imp_Q15n	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (started practicing in WA after 2011)</i>	9	.
0	5	0.6
1-13	13	1.5
14-26	15	1.7
27-39	33	3.9
40-52	777	92.3

Question 16 - Did you start practicing in Washington before 2011?

imp_Q16	Frequency	Percent
Yes	820	96.3
No	31	3.7

Question 17 - Please check the year you first started practicing in WA

imp_Q17	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (started practicing in WA prior to 2011)</i>	820	.
2011	22	71.5
2012	9	28.5

Section IV – Patient Service

Question 18 - At all sites in WA in 2011, how many patients did you provide care for?

imp_Q18n	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (started practicing in 2011)</i>	9	.
None	16	1.9
1-99	46	5.5
100-499	145	17.3
500-999	138	16.4
1000-1499	155	18.4
1500-1999	75	8.9
2000 or more	267	31.7

Question 19 - Percent of these patients (Q18n) who were covered by Medicaid?

imp_Q19n	Frequency	Percent
_Skipped (Treated no patients in 2011)	16	.
_Skipped (started practicing in 2012)	9	.
0	81	9.8
1-25	423	51.2
26-50	233	28.2
51-75	54	6.5
76-100	35	4.2

Question 20 - Are you accepting new patients at main site in Washington?

imp_Q20	Frequency	Percent
Yes	675	79.4
No	176	20.6

Question 21 - How many new patients do you yourself plan to accept at main site?

imp_Q21n	Frequency	Percent
_Skipped (not accepting new patients)	176	.
1-99	362	53.6
100-499	200	29.6
500-999	60	8.9
1000-1499	36	5.3
1500-1999	3	0.5
2000 or more	14	2.1

Question 22 - Of the new patients you plan to accept, how many are Medicaid patients?

imp_q22	Frequency	Percent
_Skipped (not accepting new patients)	176	.
All	221	32.7
Most	107	15.9
About half	48	7.1
Less than half	202	30.0
Or none	97	14.4

Question 23 - Are you accepting new patients at other sites in Washington?

imp_q23	Frequency	Percent
_Skipped (only worked at one site in WA)	638	.
Yes	75	35.2
No	138	64.8

Question 24 - Are you accepting Medicaid patients at other sites in Washington?

imp_q24	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (only worked at one site in WA), or</i>	776	.
<i>_Skipped (not accepting any new patients at other sites in WA)</i>		
Yes	71	94.8
No	4	5.2

Question 25 (1) - # of visits seen last typical week - in office and outpatient clinics

imp_q25n1	Frequency	Percent
None	44	5.2
1-49 visits	181	21.3
50-99 visits	434	51.0
100-249 visits	183	21.5
250-499 visits	5	0.5
500+ visits	4	0.4

Question 25 (2) - # of visits seen last typical week - on hospital rounds

imp_q25n2	Frequency	Percent
None	790	92.8
1-49 visits	51	6.1
50-99 visits	8	0.9
100-249 visits	0	0.0
250-499 visits	0	0.0
500+ visits	2	0.3

Question 25 (3) - # of visits seen last typical week - in nursing homes or patient homes

imp_q25n3	Frequency	Percent
None	779	93.9
1-49 visits	52	6.1

Question 25 (4) - # of visits seen last typical week - in telephone consultation

imp_q25n4	Frequency	Percent
None	412	48.5
1-49 visits	429	50.5
50-99 visits	7	0.9
100-249 visits	0	0.0
250-499 visits	2	0.2

Question 25 (5) - # of visits seen last typical week – via email/other electronic consultation

imp_q25n5	Frequency	Percent
None	589	69.2
1-49 visits	251	29.5
50-99 visits	9	1.1
100-249 visits	2	0.2

Question 26 - Do you normally see patients in early morning, evening, or weekend hours at your main WA practice site?

Q26	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	12	.
Yes	510	60.8
No	329	39.2

Question 27 - Do you have a need for interpreter services for your patients at your WA practice site?

Q27	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	15	.
Yes	523	62.1
No	318	37.9

Question 28 - Do you have adequate access to interpreter services at your WA practice site?

Q28	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not have a need for interpreter services), or</i> <i>_Missing</i>	328	.
Yes	437	83.7
No	85	16.3

Question 29 (A1) Medicaid - Time spent on paperwork

Q29A1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or</i> <i>_Missing</i>	109	.
No problem	152	20.5
2	96	13.0
3	219	29.5
4	200	26.9
Major problem	75	10.1

Question 29 (A2) Medicaid - Waiting time for reimbursement

Q29A2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or</i> <i>_Missing</i>	356	.
No problem	103	20.8
2	58	11.7
3	180	36.5
4	96	19.5
Major problem	57	11.5

Question 29 (A3) Medicaid - Reimbursement rate

Q29A3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or _Missing</i>	315	.
No problem	82	15.3
2	63	11.7
3	115	21.4
4	117	21.8
Major problem	160	29.8

Question 29 (A4) Medicaid - Patient acceptance of treatment options

Q29A4	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or _Missing</i>	213	.
No problem	100	15.7
2	196	30.8
3	179	28.0
4	136	21.4
Major problem	26	4.0

Question 29 (A5) Medicaid - Length of patient visit

Q29A5	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or _Missing</i>	186	.
No problem	110	16.6
2	159	23.9
3	191	28.8
4	152	22.9
Major problem	52	7.8

Question 29 (A6) Medicaid - Acceptance of referrals by specialists

Q29A6	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or _Missing</i>	205	.
No problem	87	13.4
2	95	14.6
3	112	17.4
4	186	28.9
Major problem	166	25.7

Question 29 (A7) Medicaid - Complexity of patient needs

Q29A7	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or</i>		
<i>_Missing</i>	192	.
No problem	53	8.0
2	54	8.2
3	187	28.4
4	241	36.6
Major problem	124	18.8

Question 29 (A8) Medicaid – Other factors

Q29A8	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or</i>		
<i>_Missing</i>	806	.
No problem	9	19.5
2	0	0.0
3	0	0.0
4	4	8.5
Major problem	32	72.0

Question 29 (B1) Commercial plan – Time spent on paperwork

Q29B1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or</i>		
<i>_Missing</i>	84	.
No problem	182	23.8
2	203	26.4
3	233	30.4
4	113	14.7
Major problem	36	4.7

Question 29 (B2) Commercial plan – Waiting time for reimbursement

Q29B2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or</i>		
<i>_Missing</i>	343	.
No problem	118	23.3
2	131	25.9
3	205	40.3
4	38	7.5
Major problem	16	3.1

Question 29 (B3) Commercial plan – Reimbursement rate

Q29B3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or</i>		
<i>_Missing</i>	312	.
No problem	108	20.1
2	172	31.9
3	200	37.0
4	43	8.0
Major problem	16	3.0

Question 29 (B4) Commercial plan – Patient acceptance of treatment options

Q29B4	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or</i>		
<i>_Missing</i>	207	.
No problem	152	23.6
2	275	42.6
3	169	26.3
4	42	6.5
Major problem	6	0.9

Question 29 (B5) Commercial plan – Length of patient visit

Q29B5	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or</i>		
<i>_Missing</i>	187	.
No problem	138	20.8
2	259	39.0
3	194	29.3
4	59	9.0
Major problem	13	2.0

Question 29 (B6) Commercial plan – Acceptance of referrals by specialists

Q29B6	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or</i>		
<i>_Missing</i>	206	.
No problem	262	40.7
2	242	37.6
3	108	16.7
4	20	3.2
Major problem	12	1.8

Question 29 (B7) Commercial plan – Complexity of patient needs

Q29B7	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or</i>		
<i>_Missing</i>	197	.
No problem	72	11.1
2	211	32.2
3	273	41.7
4	81	12.3
Major problem	18	2.7

Question 29 (B8) Commercial plan – Other factors

Q29B8	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or</i>		
<i>_Missing</i>	823	.
No problem	5	18.4
2	9	33.1
3	4	15.1
4	4	15.6
Major problem	5	17.9

Section V – Practice History

Question 30 - How many years have you practiced as a licensed PA in the U.S.?

Q30n	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	5	.
Less than 5 years	161	19.1
5-9 years	155	18.3
10-14 years	187	22.1
15-19 years	113	13.3
20 or more years	231	27.3

Question 31 - How many years have you practiced as a licensed PA in WA?

Q31n	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	5	.
Less than 5 years	214	25.3
5-9 years	179	21.1
10-14 years	163	19.2
15-19 years	126	14.9
20 or more years	164	19.4

Question 32 - When do you plan to retire?

IMP_Q32	Frequency	Percent
Already retired	13	1.6
Within the next 6 months	18	2.1
More than 6 months from now but within the next 2 years	44	5.1
Within the next 3 to 5 years	90	10.5
Within the next 6 to 10 years	158	18.6
More than 10 years from now	529	62.1

Section VI – Background

Question 33 (1) - Did you earn an associate degree?

Q33_PA_1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	2	.
No	785	92.4
Yes	64	7.6

Question 33 (2) - Did you earn a Baccalaureate/Bachelor's degree?

Q33_PA_2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	2	.
No	490	57.7
Yes	359	42.3

Question 33 (3) - Did you earn a Master's degree?

Q33_PA_3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	2	.
No	561	66.0
Yes	288	34.0

Question 33 (4) - Did you earn a PA certificate only?

Q33_PA_4	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	2	.
No	720	84.8
Yes	129	15.2

Question 34 - In which U.S. state or other country (if outside the U.S.) did you obtain this credential?

Q34	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	90	.
A Foreign Country	6	0.8
Another US State	459	60.4
Washington	295	38.8

Question 35 (1) - Were you ever in clinical training in - Washington State

Q35_1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	4	.
No	405	47.8
Yes	442	52.2

Question 35 (2) - Were you ever in clinical training in - a rural community

Q35_2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	4	.
No	301	35.5
Yes	546	64.5

Question 35 (3) - Were you ever in clinical training in - an inner-city community

Q35_3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	4	.
No	490	57.9
Yes	357	42.1

Question 35 (4) - Were you ever in clinical training in - a predominantly minority community

Q35_4	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	4	.
No	580	68.4
Yes	268	31.6

Question 35 (5) - Were you ever in clinical training in - Were in none of those locations

Q35_5	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	4	.
No	752	88.8
Yes	95	11.2

Question 36 – Age

Age	Frequency	Percent
Less than 35	130	15.3
35-49	333	39.2
50-64	317	37.3
65 plus	70	8.2

Question 37 – Sex

Q37	Frequency	Percent
Male	373	43.9
Female	478	56.1

Question 38 - Are you Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino?

Q38	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	7	.
Yes	34	4.0
No	810	96.0

Question 39 (1) - What race do you consider yourself to be - White?

Q39_1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	13	.
No	71	8.5
Yes	767	91.5

Question 39 (2) - What race do you consider yourself to be - Black or African American?

Q39_2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	13	.
No	820	97.8
Yes	18	2.2

Question 39 (3) - What race do you consider yourself to be - Asian or Pacific Islander?

Q39_3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	13	.
No	790	94.2
Yes	48	5.8

Question 39 (4) - What race do you consider yourself to be - American Indian or Alaska Native?

Q39_4	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	13	.
No	816	97.4
Yes	22	2.6

Question 39 (5) - What race do you consider yourself to be - Other?

Q39_5	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	11	.
No	821	97.7
Yes	19	2.3

Question 40 - Languages you feel comfortable communicating in for most clinical purposes?

Q40x	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	6	.
English Only	610	72.2
English and Spanish	163	19.3
English and Spanish and Other(s)	28	3.3
English and non-Spanish Other(s)	43	5.1

Question 41 - Are you a participating provider of any provider networks (including HMOs) in Washington?

Q41	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	45	.
Yes	565	70.1
No	241	29.9

Question 42 – Region of Residence

SPS_10region_home	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	5	.
CLARK	54	6.4
EAST BALANCE	112	13.2
KING	197	23.3
NORTH SOUND	47	5.5
OTHER PUGET SOUND METRO	83	9.8
PIERCE	77	9.1
SNOHOMISH	33	3.9
SPOKANE	81	9.5
WEST BALANCE	83	9.8
YAKIMA - TRI CITIES	82	9.6

Appendix A. *Questionnaire for 2012 Washington State Primary Care Physician Assistant Survey*



Washington State Survey of Physician Assistants

For your convenience, you can fill out this survey online at www.waofmsurvey.com or call the Gilmore Research Group at (866) 722-3134 to complete the survey over the phone. You will need your unique ID, which is printed on the back page of this survey.

PRACTICE STATUS AND SPECIALTY

Q01. Do you currently provide any direct care for ambulatory patients? PLEASE CIRCLE ONE

1. Yes
2. No (IF "NO", SKIP TO QUESTION Q30)

Q02. Do you currently provide direct patient care only in Washington, both in and outside Washington, or only outside Washington? PLEASE CIRCLE ONE

1. Only in Washington
2. Both in and outside Washington
3. Only outside Washington (IF "ONLY OUTSIDE WASHINGTON", SKIP TO QUESTION Q30)

Q03. What is your primary specialty? (PLEASE SELECT ONE)

1. Family Medicine
2. General Practice
3. General Internal Medicine
4. General Pediatrics
5. General OB/GYN
6. General Geriatrics
7. Other primary specialty (SPECIFY)

_____ (IF "OTHER PRIMARY SPECIALTY", SKIP TO QUESTION Q30)

PRACTICE SITE IN WASHINGTON

In the following few questions, the term "main practice site in Washington" refers to (1) **the** practice site in Washington if you only work at one site in Washington, or (2) the practice site in Washington where you work the most hours if you work at more than one site in Washington.

Q04. At how many sites in Washington do you provide direct patient care?

Number of sites: _____

Q05. Where are your main practice site and secondary practice site (if applicable) in Washington located?

- | | <u>Main Site</u> | <u>Secondary Site</u> |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. City: | _____ | _____ |
| 2. ZIP code: | _____ | _____ |

Q06. Does your main practice site in Washington mostly provide primary care?

1. Yes
2. No

Q07. Which ONE of the following best describes your main practice site in Washington?

1. Private office/clinic
2. Hospital outpatient clinic
3. HMO medical center
4. Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
5. Certified Rural Health Clinic (RHC)
6. Other office or clinic not listed above (DESCRIBE)

Q08. How many providers, including yourself (where applicable), in each of the following categories provide care at your main practice site in Washington? (USE ZERO IF THERE IS NO ONE AT THIS SITE IN THAT CATEGORY.)

	Number of Providers
1. Family Medicine Physicians	_____
2. General Practice Physicians	_____
3. General Internal Medicine Physicians	_____
4. General Pediatrics	_____
5. General OB/GYNs	_____
6. General Geriatricians	_____
7. ARNPs (not CNM)	_____
8. Physician Assistants	_____
9. Licensed Midwives	_____
10. Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM-ARNP)	_____

Q09. Do you refer patients to hospitals?

1. Yes
2. No (IF "NO", SKIP TO QUESTION Q12)

Q10. Is the hospital where you refer the largest number of your patients located in Washington?

1. Yes
2. No

Q11. Thinking about hospitals **in Washington**, please provide the name and the city of the hospital where you refer the most patients. Check the "N/A" box if you refer all your patients out of Washington.

Hospital Name: _____

City: _____

N/A - I refer all my patients out of Washington.

PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

Q12. During your last typical work week, approximately how many hours did you spend on the following physician assistant activities at **all your practice sites in Washington**? Do not include on-call time.

Hours

1. Direct patient care
Includes: seeing patients, reviewing tests, preparing for and performing procedures, providing other related patient care services _____
2. Administration of clinical practice _____
3. Other physician assistant activities _____
4. Total hours (ADD ITEMS 1-3) _____

Q13. Thinking about the time you spent on direct patient care during your last typical work week **in Washington**, how much of that time was spent on providing **primary care**?

1. All
2. Most
3. About half
4. Less than half
5. None

Q14. During your last typical work week, approximately how many hours did you spend on the following physician assistant activities at **all your practice sites outside Washington**? Do not include on-call time. Check the "N/A" box if you do not practice outside Washington.

Hours

1. Direct patient care _____
2. Administration of clinical practice _____
3. Other physician assistant activities _____
4. Total hours (ADD ITEMS 1-3) _____

N/A – I do not practice **outside Washington**.

Q15. Approximately how many weeks did you work as a physician assistant in 2011? (Do not include time spent at professional conferences, military service, vacation, and other absences.)

Number of weeks: _____

Q16. Did you start practicing **in Washington** before 2011?

1. Yes (SKIP TO QUESTION Q18)
2. No

Q17. Please circle the year and month you first started practicing **in Washington**?

Year: 2011 2012

Month: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun
 Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

PATIENT SERVICE

Q18. During 2011 at **all your practice sites in Washington**, what was your patient panel size if applicable or about how many unique patients did you provide care for? Your best estimate is fine.

Number of patients: _____

Q19. Approximately what percent of these patients were covered by Medicaid only?

Percent Medicaid only: _____

Q20. Are you yourself currently accepting any new patients at your **main practice site in Washington**?

1. Yes
2. No (SKIP TO QUESTION Q23)

Q21. Currently, about how many more new patients do you yourself plan to accept at this site?

Number of new patients: _____

Q22. Of the total new patients you plan to accept, about how many Medicaid patients would you be willing to accept?

1. All
2. Most
3. About half
4. Less than half
5. None

Q23. Are you yourself accepting any new patients at **any other practice sites in Washington**? Check the box for "N/A" box if you practice at only one site in Washington.

1. Yes
 2. No (SKIP TO QUESTION Q25)
- N/A – I only practice at one site. (SKIP TO QUESTION Q25)

Q24. Are you yourself accepting any new Medicaid patients at **any of the other practice sites in Washington**?

1. Yes
2. No

Q25. Thinking about **all your practice sites in Washington**, during your last typical week of work, **how many patient visits** did you personally have in each of the following settings? Your best estimate is fine.

Please count as one visit each time you saw a patient or provided a telemedicine consultation (e.g. telephone and email in lieu of an office visit) to a patient. Circle "N/A" if the category does not apply to you (for instance, you don't do hospital rounds).

- | | | |
|--|--------------|-----|
| 1. Visits in the office and outpatient clinics | _____ Visits | N/A |
| 2. Visits on hospital rounds | _____ Visits | N/A |
| 3. Visits in nursing homes and patients' homes | _____ Visits | N/A |
| 4. Telephone consultations | _____ Visits | N/A |
| 5. Email/Other electronic consultations | _____ Visits | N/A |

Q26. Do you normally see patients in early morning, evening, or weekend hours at your **main practice site in Washington**?

1. Yes
2. No

Q27. Do you have a need for interpreter services for your patients at **your main practice site in Washington**?

1. Yes
2. No (IF "NO", SKIP TO QUESTION Q29)

Q28. Do you have adequate access to interpreter services at **your main practice site in Washington**?

1. Yes
2. No

Q29. On the scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "No Problem" and 5 means "Major Problem," please rate each factor listed on the left of the table below in terms of how they affect your practice for Medicaid patients and commercial plan patients. Check the "N/A" box under "Medicaid Patients" or "Commercial Plan Patients" if you do not see patients covered by that source.

	Medicaid Patients					Commercial Plan Patients				
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A – I do not see patients covered by Medicaid.					<input type="checkbox"/> N/A – I do not see patients covered by commercial plans.				
	CIRCLE A NUMBER FROM 1 THROUGH 5 IN EACH RECTANGLE WHERE 1 MEANS "NO PROBLEM" AND 5 MEANS "MAJOR PROBLEM".									
1. Time spent on paperwork	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
2. Waiting time for reimbursement	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
3. Reimbursement rate	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
4. Patient acceptance of treatment options	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
5. Length of patient visit	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6. Acceptance of referrals by specialists	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
7. Complexity of patient needs	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
8. Other (DESCRIBE): _____ _____	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

PRACTICE HISTORY

Q30. How many total years have you practiced as a physician assistant in the U.S.?

Number of Years: _____

Q31. How many total years have you practiced as a physician assistant in Washington?

Number of Years: _____

Q32. When do you plan to retire?

1. Already retired
2. Within the next 6 months
3. More than 6 months from now but within the next 2 years
4. Within the next 3 to 5 years
5. Within the next 6 to 10 years
6. More than 10 years from now
7. Don't know/Not sure

Q39. What race do you consider yourself to be? PLEASE CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY.

1. White
2. Black or African American
3. Asian or Pacific Islander
4. American Indian or Alaska Native
5. Other (DESCRIBE)

6. Don't know

BACKGROUND

Q33. Which degree, if any, did you earn in association with your Physician Assistant certificate?

1. Associate degree
2. Baccalaureate/Bachelor's degree
3. Master's degree
4. None – obtained a PA certificate only
5. Other (SPECIFY: _____)

Q34. In which U.S. state or other country (if outside the U.S.) did you obtain this credential?

1. U.S. State (USE STATE ABBREVIATION) __ __
2. Other country (GIVE COUNTRY NAME)

Q35. Did your clinical training take place in any of the following places? PLEASE CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY

1. Washington State
2. A rural community
3. An inner-city community
4. A predominantly minority community
5. None of the above

Q36. What is your year of birth?

Year: _____

Q37. What is your sex?

1. Male
2. Female

Q38. Are you Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino?

1. Yes
2. No

Q40. In addition to English, what languages do you feel comfortable communicating in for most clinical purposes? CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY.

1. None (English only)
2. Spanish
3. Other language(s) (SPECIFY)

Q41. Are you a participating provider of any provider networks (including HMOs) in Washington?

1. Yes
2. No

Q42. Do you currently reside in Washington State?

1. Yes → Home ZIP Code: _____
2. No → Home State: _____

(Q43 is left blank intentionally.)

Q44. Would you be interested in being on a focus group panel to provide in-depth input on your primary care practice experience and how the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) may reshape it, if OFM receives funding to hold one?

1. Yes
 → Please provide your contact information
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
2. No

If you are interested in receiving the final results from the survey or have any additional comments, please contact Washington State Office of Financial Management at forecasting@ofm.wa.gov.

Thank you for your participation.

Please return the completed survey in the pre-paid envelope to:

**Gilmore Research Group
2101 4th Avenue, 8th Floor
Seattle, WA 98121**

<insert pin>

Appendix B. Comparison of Responding PAs and All Licensed PAs

(Based on sample characteristics in the sampling frame)

	PA	All PA Respondents		Primary Care PA Respondents	
	Licenseses	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
REGION	N=2347	(N=1046)	(N=2347)	(N=389)	(N=851)
1 NORTH PUGET	5.2%	6.1%	5.2%	5.9%	5.0%
2 WEST BALANCE	6.3%	7.5%	6.3%	11.3%	9.7%
3 KING COUNTY	29.7%	28.2%	29.7%	21.6%	23.0%
4 OTHER PUGET METRO	6.9%	6.8%	6.9%	7.2%	7.4%
5 CLARK COUNTY	6.1%	5.8%	6.1%	6.2%	6.6%
6 EASTERN BALANCE	8.5%	9.3%	8.5%	13.6%	12.9%
7 SPOKANE COUNTY	12.4%	13.8%	12.4%	11.8%	10.8%
8 YAKIMA AND TRI-CITIES	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	9.8%	10.0%
9 SNOHOMISH COUNTY	5.8%	4.7%	5.8%	3.3%	4.2%
10 PIERCE COUNTY	11.5%	10.2%	11.5%	9.3%	10.4%
SEX					
1 Male	49.3%	48.2%	49.3%	46.8%	48.2%
2 Female	50.7%	51.8%	50.7%	53.2%	51.8%
AGE					
1. 20 - 29 years	5.6%	6.3%	5.6%	7.2%	6.5%
2. 30 to 39 years	28.2%	25.6%	28.3%	25.5%	28.2%
3. 40 to 49 years	27.6%	24.7%	27.6%	21.1%	23.7%
4. 50 to 59 years	24.5%	27.0%	24.5%	27.5%	25.2%
5. 60+ years	14.1%	16.4%	14.1%	18.8%	16.5%