

WASHINGTON STATE HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH PROJECT

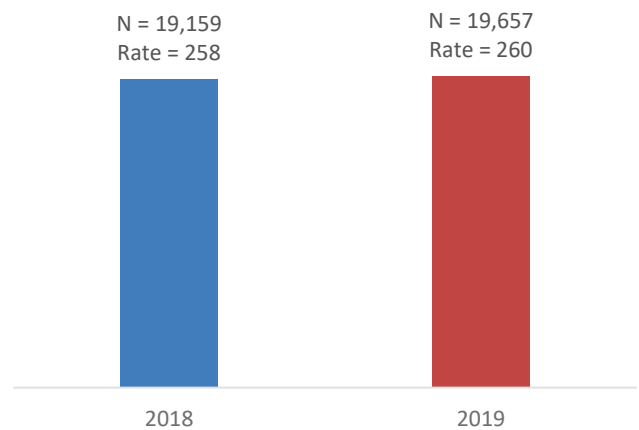
Preliminary Estimates of 2018-2019 Physician Supply in Washington State

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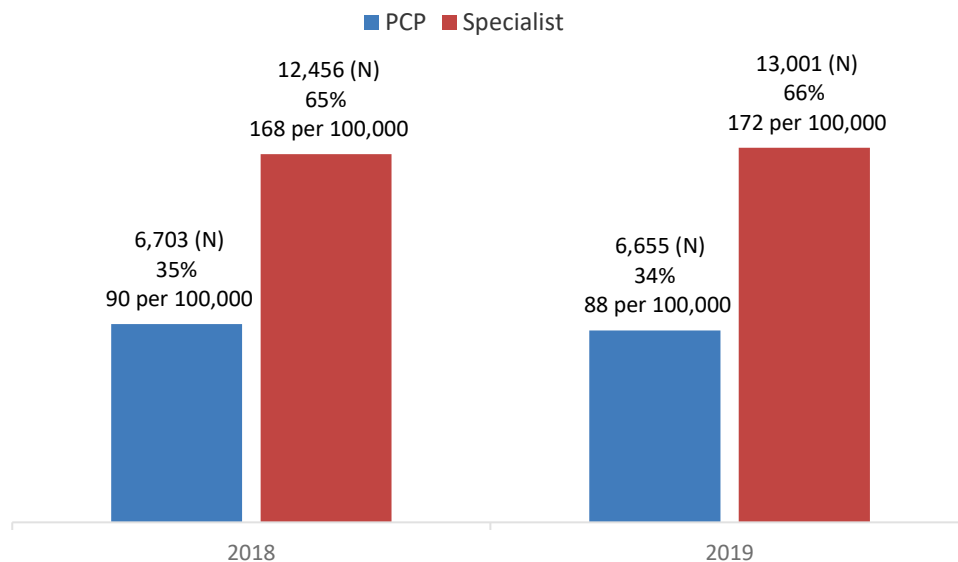
Washington State’s physician supply continued to grow in 2019. With an increase of 498, there are currently 19,657 physicians in Washington (Chart 1). This increase puts Washington’s supply at 260 physicians per 100,000 population, up from 258 in 2018.

Chart 1. Number and Rate (per 100,000 population) of Physicians, 2018 and 2019



The growth of physician supply in 2019 came entirely from specialists. The supply of specialists increased by 545 from 12,456 in 2018 to 13,001 in 2019 (Chart 2). Of the total physician supply, the specialists’ share increased from 65% to 66%. The rate of specialists increased to 172 physicians per 100,000 population, from the previous year’s rate of 168. The primary care physician (PCP) supply, on the other hand, experienced a slight decline.¹ The number of PCPs decreased by 48 from 6,703 to 6,655. The PCP’s rate per 100,000 population declined from 90 physicians to 88 physicians.

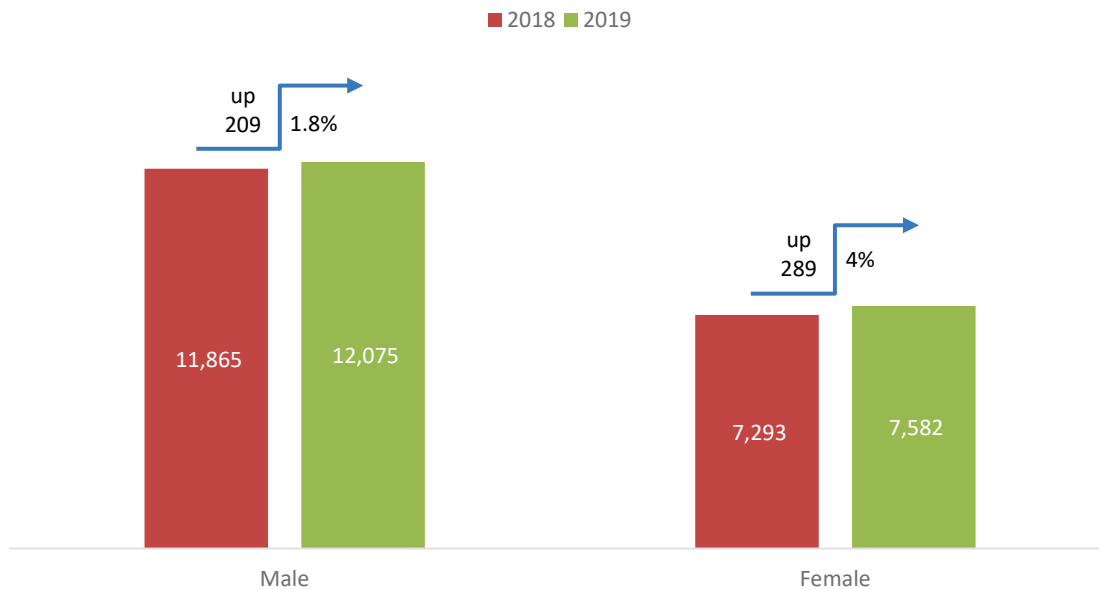
Chart 2. Number, Percent and Rate (per 100,000) of PCPs and Specialists, Washington: 2018 and 2019



¹For the purpose of this analysis, physicians in the following specialties are considered as primary care physicians: family medicine/general practice, geriatric medicine, internal medicine (general) and pediatrics (general). Physicians in other specialties are specialists.

The median age of all physicians in 2019 did not change from a year ago. It remained at 49 years. The number of male physicians and the number of female physicians both increased in 2019. However, the increase of female physicians was greater than that of male physicians. The female physician supply gained 289 physicians, or 4%, compared to male physician supply's gain of 209 physicians, or 1.8% (Chart 3).

Chart 3. Increases of Male and Female Physicians, 2018 to 2019: Washington



More data on the physician capacity in 2019 will be included in the upcoming report *2018-19 Physician Supply: Estimates for Washington State, Counties and Accountable Communities of Health*. This detailed report is scheduled for release in early 2020.

For data source and method, refer to the section “Data Sources and Method” in *2017-18 Physician Supply: Estimates for Washington State, Counties and Accountable Communities of Health*.²

² https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/dataresearch/healthcare/workforce/physician_supply_2017-18.pdf