

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

# 2011 Washington State Primary Care Physician Survey Data Report

June 2012



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# 2011 Washington State Primary Care Physician Survey

## Data Report

### Introduction

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) conducted, in the summer months of 2011, a survey of primary care physicians (PCP) practicing in Washington. The purpose of the survey was to gain knowledge of the characteristics and capacity of the PCP workforce, particularly in light of the much anticipated increase in demand for PCP services when a large number of currently uninsured persons are set to gain coverage in 2014 under the federal health reform law – the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The survey was funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) through the State Health Access Program (SHAP). This report presents the distribution of the survey responses. More analyses of the survey data will be forthcoming.

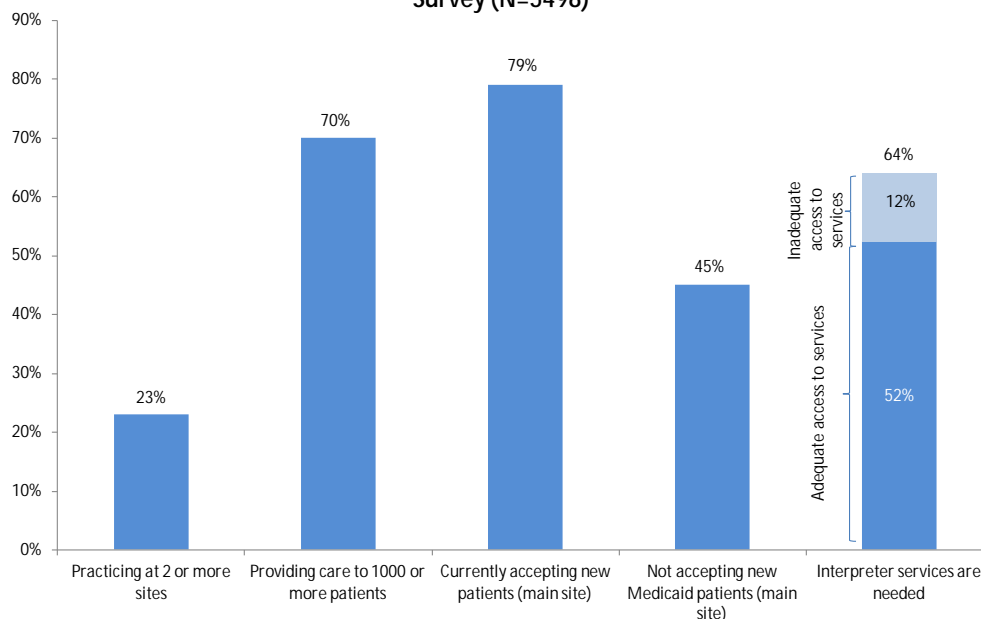
### Select New Information on PCPs

Some of the information in this survey was collected for the first time on Washington's PCPs. Here are a few examples (also see chart on the next page):

- Approximately one in five (23 percent) of the PCPs practiced at 2 or more sites.
- Seven in ten (70 percent) of the PCPs provided care to 1,000 or more patients in 2010.
- Two in three (67 percent) of the PCPs had a patient mix in which Medicaid patients constituted less than one third of the total patients.
- Nearly eight in ten (79 percent) of the PCPs reported they are accepting new patients at the main practice site.
- Three in ten (30 percent) of PCPs accepting new patients reported that they are not accepting new Medicaid patients. When combined with PCPs not accepting any new patients at all, a total of 45 percent of the PCPs are not currently accepting new Medicaid patients.
- Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of the PCPs reported that they have a need for interpreter services for their patients at their main practice sites; however, about one in ten (12 percent) reported that their access to such services is inadequate.

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

Selected Responses from 2011 Washington State Primary Care Physician Survey (N=5498)



## About the Survey

The 2011 Washington State Primary Care Physician Survey<sup>1</sup> was designed to be a census of all primary care physicians. Physicians with the following primary specialties are considered as PCPs in this survey: Family Medicine, General Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, OB/GYN, and Geriatrics.<sup>2</sup> The list of physicians in these specialties was obtained by the data collection contractor, the Gilmore Research Group, from a data vendor of the American Medical Association (AMA). AMA maintains a database called the Physician Masterfile, which includes current and historical data on virtually all doctors of Medicine (MD) and doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DO).<sup>3</sup> All records in the Physician Masterfile in the selected specialties and with a current Washington state mailing address and an “active” status were extracted to form the physician list for the survey.

The survey questionnaire was developed by the health care research group in OFM Forecasting Division in consultation with Susan Skillman, Deputy Director of the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University of Washington. Several other experts were also consulted for the questionnaire development. A small-scale pretest of the questionnaire was conducted with physicians practicing in primary care. The primary mode for the survey was mail. The questionnaire was planned to be mailed first to all physicians on the list obtained from AMA and then in a second mailing to those who did not respond to

<sup>1</sup> The full title of the survey is *Washington State Survey of Physicians in Family Medicine, General Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, OB/GYN, and Geriatrics*.

<sup>2</sup> While all physicians in family medicine and general medicine are considered as PCPs, physicians in internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, and geriatrics may practice in a sub-specialty that does not deliver primary care. To separate the non-PCPs and PCS in those primary specialties, the survey used instead the descriptions of General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, General OB/GYN, and General Geriatrics.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/about-ama/physician-data-resources/physician-masterfile.page>.

the first mailing. In addition to mailing, the questionnaire was made available to be filled online. For those who did not respond to the second mailing and who had a contact phone number, a telephone follow-up was planned with phone interview when the situation allowed. In actual implementation, a third mailing was used in lieu of the telephone follow-up due to difficulties in reaching physicians, particular those at large practices, by phone.

At the end of the data collection, 3,471 physicians returned the survey, out of the total of 7,310 physicians identified by AMA. This yields a raw response rate of 47.5 percent. It was estimated that approximate 11 percent (or 420) of those who did not return the survey (3,839) were not licensed anymore or not engaged in any health care delivery in Washington and therefore were not eligible for the survey. A final and adjusted response rate was calculated to be 50.4 percent after subtracting 420 physicians from the denominator.

A comparison between the 3,471 physicians who returned the survey and the original sample of 7,310 physicians identified by AMA indicates the responding physicians are fairly similar to the original sample in sex, primary specialty, and region (based on mailing addresses), but the responding physicians tend to be older than physicians in the original sample (see Appendix B). As a result, appropriate weights were assigned to the 3,471 responding physicians so that they would represent the entire 7,310 physicians 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.

Although 3,471 returned the survey, not all of them reported practicing in primary care as defined by the study or practicing at all in direct patient care. A final analysis file was created that contains 2,659 physicians who meet the definition of the study for currently practicing primary care physicians. These respondent physicians, when weighted, represent a total of 5,498 such PCPs. The survey results presented below are based on these 5,498 PCPs.

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

- The AMA Physician Masterfile has been used widely by health workforce researchers. Despite its popularity, there have been criticisms about this data source. Some suggest that it does not include all physicians while others suggest that it overestimates practicing physicians. The analysis file for this survey excludes non-practicing physicians. So, the overestimate of practicing physicians is not an issue. However, if the AMA Physician Masterfile does indeed fail to include all practicing physicians, this survey may have inherited the undercount.
- Another potential undercount of practicing PCPs in Washington may come from how physicians in military services are counted. Physicians in military service may or may not be registered in the AMA Physician Masterfile. Since these physicians relocate frequently, their addresses in the AMA data may not be up to date if they are in the Masterfile at all.



- The definition of a practicing PCP used in this survey differs slightly from those used by some other analysts. In order to differentiate subspecialties that are not in primary care, the survey prefixed the word “general” in all primary specialties selected for this study. Some other studies treated all physicians of the selected primary specialties as PCPs. Still some other studies collect subspecialty data and use it to exclude physicians in certain subspecialties. 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 50 percent, a rate that is higher than those in many other similar surveys, there were still 50 percent of the targeted physicians that did not respond to the survey. Despite the use of weights to minimize the differences between the characteristics of the responding physicians and non-responding physicians, there still remains an uncertainty about whether the responding physicians might differ from the non-responding physicians regarding practicing status. That is, are the responding physicians more likely to be actively practicing compared with the non-responding physicians? If so, the survey may have overestimated the size of practicing PCPs. On the other hand, the survey may have underestimated the size of practicing PCPs if the non-responding physicians are more likely to be actively practicing. OFM conducted post-survey research to investigate this issue. Using the snowballing technique that involves on-line search and phone calls on a random sample of 100 non-responding physicians, the research finds 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).

## Results

The survey results below are presented in the order of the questions appearing 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 PCPs who reported providing direct care for ambulatory patients and 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	5498	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	5306	96.5
Both in and outside Washington	192	3.5

Question 03 (1) - Primary Specialty - Family Medicine

Q03_1	Frequency	Percent
No	2762	50.2
Yes	2735	49.8

Question 03 (2) - Primary Specialty - General Practice

Q03_2	Frequency	Percent
No	5361	97.5
Yes	137	2.5

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

Q03_3	Frequency	Percent
No	4305	78.3
Yes	1193	21.7

Question 03 (4) - Primary Specialty - General Pediatrics

Q03_4	Frequency	Percent
No	4667	84.9
Yes	830	15.1

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

Q03_5	Frequency	Percent
No	4927	89.6
Yes	571	10.4

Question 03 (6) - Primary Specialty - General Geriatrics

Q03_6	Frequency	Percent
No	5414	98.5
Yes	84	1.5

**Section II – Practice Site in Washington**

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

Q04n	Frequency	Percent
One	4214	76.6
Two	912	16.6
Three or More	372	6.8

Question 05 (1) – Region of Main Practice

SPS_10region_practice1	Frequency	Percent
CLARK	257	4.7
EAST BALANCE	355	6.5
KING	2181	39.7
NORTH SOUND	322	5.9
OTHER PUGET SOUND METRO	388	7.1
PIERCE	638	11.6
SNOHOMISH	365	6.6
SPOKANE	395	7.2
WEST BALANCE	258	4.7
YAKIMA - TRI CITIES	338	6.1

Question 05 (2) – Region of Secondary Practice

SPS_10region_practice1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped or missing</i>	4221	.
CLARK	88	6.9
EAST BALANCE	99	7.8
KING	532	41.7
NORTH SOUND	75	5.9
OTHER PUGET SOUND METRO	61	4.8
PIERCE	122	9.5
SNOHOMISH	72	5.6
SPOKANE	91	7.2
WEST BALANCE	50	3.9
YAKIMA - TRI CITIES	87	6.8

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

Q06	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	54	.
Yes	4766	87.6
No	677	12.4

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

07	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	65	.
Private physician office/clinic	2617	48.2
Hospital outpatient clinic	1118	20.6
HMO medical center	459	8.5
Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)	430	7.9
Certified Rural Health Clinic (RHC)	164	3.0
Or some Other office or clinic (SPECIFY:)	645	11.9

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

Q08n01	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	205	.
0	1767	33.4
1-2	832	15.7
3-5	991	18.7
6-10	1051	19.9
More than 10	652	12.3

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

Q08n02	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	210	.
0	4947	93.6
1-2	208	3.9
3-5	59	1.1
6-10	46	0.9
More than 10	27	0.5

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

Q08n03	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	205	.
0	3212	60.7
1-2	848	16.0
3-5	536	10.1
6-10	371	7.0
More than 10	327	6.2

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

Q08n04	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	211	.
0	3504	66.3
1-2	786	14.9
3-5	461	8.7
6-10	327	6.2
More than 10	209	4.0

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

Q08n05	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	206	.
0	4088	77.3
1-2	408	7.7
3-5	386	7.3
6-10	326	6.2
More than 10	83	1.6

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

Q08n06	Frequency	Percent
Missing/Skipped	208	.
0	4965	93.9
1-2	178	3.4
3-5	102	1.9
6-10	37	0.7
More than 10	7	0.1

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

Q08n07	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	217	.
0	3049	57.7
1-2	1482	28.1
3-5	542	10.3
6-10	135	2.6
More than 10	71	1.3

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

Q08n08	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	218	.
0	3357	63.6
1-2	1189	22.5
3-5	513	9.7
6-10	159	3.0
More than 10	62	1.2

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

Q08n09	Frequency	Percent
Missing/Skipped	214	.
0	5160	97.7
1-2	59	1.1
3-5	44	0.8
6-10	19	0.4
More than 10	2	0.0

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

Q08n10	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	219	.
0	4918	93.2
1-2	206	3.9
3-5	84	1.6
6-10	69	1.3
More than 10	2	0.0

Question 09 – Do you refer patients to hospitals?

Q09	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	45	.
Yes	5252	96.3
No	200	3.7

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

Q10	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	256	.
Yes	5190	99.0
No	51	1.0

Question 11 - Region of Referral Hospital

SPS_10region_hospital	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	426	.
CLARK	248	4.9
EAST BALANCE	360	7.1
KING	2192	43.2
NORTH SOUND	294	5.8
OTHER PUGET SOUND METRO	307	6.1
PIERCE	546	10.8
SNOHOMISH	216	4.3
SPOKANE	381	7.5
WEST BALANCE	233	4.6
YAKIMA - TRI CITIES	294	5.8

### Section III – Practice Activities

#### Question 12 (1) - Work hours per typical week in WA - Direct Patient Care

imp_Q12n1	Frequency	Percent
0	146	2.6
1-19 hours	532	9.7
20-34 hours	1717	31.2
34-39 hours	590	10.7
40-49 hours	1441	26.2
50 or more hours	1072	19.5

#### Question 12 (2) - Work hours per typical week in WA - Administration of Clinical Practice

imp_Q12n2	Frequency	Percent
0	1797	32.7
1-19 hours	3376	61.4
20-34 hours	260	4.7
34-39 hours	10	0.2
40-49 hours	36	0.7
50 or more hours	20	0.4

#### Question 12 (3) - Work hours per typical week in WA - Other Physician Activities

imp_Q12n3	Frequency	Percent
0	2657	48.3
1-19 hours	2555	46.5
20-34 hours	217	4.0
34-39 hours	19	0.3
40-49 hours	27	0.5
50 or more hours	22	0.4

#### Question 12 (4) - Work hours per typical week in WA - Computed Total Hours

imp_Q12sum	Frequency	Percent
0	133	2.4
1-19 hours	219	4.0
20-34 hours	919	16.7
34-39 hours	404	7.4
40-49 hours	1614	29.4
50 or more hours	2208	40.2

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>	81	.
All	3554	65.6
Most	1047	19.3
About half	220	4.1
Less than half	424	7.8
Or none	172	3.2

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>	5306	.
0	115	60.2
1-19 hours	45	23.6
20-34 hours	15	8.0
34-39 hours	8	4.4
40-49 hours	5	2.8
50 or more hours	2	1.0

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>	5306	.
0	163	85.1
1-19 hours	29	14.9

Question 14 (3) - Work hours per typical week outside WA - Other Physician Activities

imp_Q14n3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not work outside WA)</i>	5306	.
0	163	84.9
1-19 hours	29	15.1

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>	5306	.
0	101	52.9
1-19 hours	57	30.0
20-34 hours	15	7.7
34-39 hours	4	2.0
40-49 hours	9	4.6
50 or more hours	5	2.8



Question 15 - Approximately how many weeks did you work as a physician in 2010?

imp_Q15n	Frequency	Percent
0	19	0.3
1-13	88	1.6
14-26	163	3.0
27-39	211	3.8
40-52	5016	91.2

Question 16 - Did you start practicing in Washington before 2010?

imp_Q16	Frequency	Percent
Yes	5101	92.8
No	397	7.2

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

imp_Q17	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (started practicing in WA prior to 2010)</i>	5101	.
2010	346	87.0
2011	52	12.9

#### Section IV – Patient Service

Question 18 - At all sites in WA in 2010, how many patients did you provide care for?

imp_Q18n	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (started practicing in 2011)</i>	52	.
None	33	0.6
1-99	236	4.3
100-499	681	12.5
500-999	680	12.5
1000-1499	1023	18.8
1500-1999	819	15.0
2000 or more	1975	36.3

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

imp_Q19n	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (Treated no patients in 2010)</i>	33	.
<i>_Skipped (started practicing in 2011)</i>	52	.
0	506	9.3
1-24	3131	57.8
25-49	1248	23.1
50-99	369	6.8
76-100	160	3.0

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

imp_Q20	Frequency	Percent
Yes	4318	78.5
No	1180	21.5

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

imp_Q21n	Frequency	Percent
_Skipped (not accepting new patients)	1180	.
1-99	834	19.3
100-499	1930	44.7
500-999	1050	24.3
1000-1499	394	9.1
1500-1999	56	1.3
2000 or more	53	1.2

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

imp_q22	Frequency	Percent
_Skipped (not accepting new patients)	1180	.
All	905	20.9
Most	367	8.5
About half	342	7.9
Less than half	1397	32.4
Or none	1307	30.3

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

imp_q23	Frequency	Percent
_Skipped (only worked at one site in WA)	4233	.
Yes	493	39.0
No	771	61.0

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

imp_q24	Frequency	Percent
_Skipped (only worked at one site in WA), or _Skipped (not accepting any new patients at other sites in WA)	5004	.
Yes	377	76.5
No	116	23.5

Question 25 (1) - # of visits seen last typical week - in Office and Outpatient Clinics

imp_q25n1	Frequency	Percent
None	206	3.7
1-99	4150	75.5
100-499	1104	20.1
500-999	38	0.7

Question 25 (2) - # of visits seen last typical week - on Hospital Rounds

imp_q25n2	Frequency	Percent
None	3062	55.7
1-99	2395	43.6
100-499	35	0.6
500-999	6	0.1

Question 25 (3) - # of visits seen last typical week - in Nurse Homes and Patient Homes

imp_q25n3	Frequency	Percent
None	4374	79.6
1-99	1115	20.3
100-499	6	0.1
500-999	3	0.1

Question 25 (4) - # of visits seen last typical week - in Telephone Consultation

imp_q25n4	Frequency	Percent
None	2146	39.0
1-99	3310	60.2
100-499	38	0.7
500-999	5	0.1

Question 25 (5) - # of visits seen last typical week – via Email/Other Electronic Consultation

imp_q25n5	Frequency	Percent
None	3411	62.0
1-99	2044	37.2
100-499	41	0.7
500-999	2	0.0

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>	120	.
Yes	2625	48.8
No	2753	51.2

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

Q27	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	112	.
Yes	3442	63.9
No	1944	36.1

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>	2058	.
<i>_Missing</i>		
Yes	2819	82.0
No	620	18.0

Question 29 (A1) Medicaid - Time spent on paperwork

Q29A1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or</i>	1105	.
<i>_Missing</i>		
No problem	299	6.8
2	487	11.1
3	1138	25.9
4	1426	32.5
Major problem	1042	23.7

Question 29 (A2) Medicaid - Waiting time for reimbursement

Q29A2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or</i>	1901	.
<i>_Missing</i>		
No problem	544	15.1
2	506	14.1
3	1114	31.0
4	821	22.8
Major problem	612	17.0

Question 29 (A3) Medicaid - Reimbursement rate

Q29A3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or</i>	1617	.
<i>_Missing</i>		
No problem	302	7.8
2	203	5.2
3	514	13.2
4	807	20.8
Major problem	2055	53.0

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

Q29A4	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or _Missing</i>	1218	.
No problem	790	18.5
2	1146	26.8
3	1273	29.8
4	722	16.9
Major problem	349	8.1

Question 29 (A5) Medicaid - Length of patient visit

Q29A5	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or _Missing</i>	1160	.
No problem	769	17.7
2	938	21.6
3	1198	27.6
4	982	22.6
Major problem	451	10.4

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

Q29A6	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or _Missing</i>	1187	.
No problem	489	11.3
2	427	9.9
3	725	16.8
4	1135	26.3
Major problem	1534	35.6

Question 29 (A7) Medicaid - Complexity of patient needs

Q29A7	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or _Missing</i>	1131	.
No problem	251	5.8
2	382	8.7
3	986	22.6
4	1598	36.6
Major problem	1150	26.3

Question 29 (A8) Medicaid – Other factors

Q29A8	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see Medicaid patients), or _Missing</i>	5116	.
No problem	16	4.2
2	2	0.6
3	26	6.9
4	67	17.5
Major problem	271	70.8

Question 29 (B1) Commercial – Time spent on paperwork

Q29B1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or _Missing</i>	861	.
No problem	380	8.2
2	984	21.2
3	1655	35.7
4	1050	22.7
Major problem	567	12.2

Question 29 (B2) Commercial – Waiting time for reimbursement

Q29B2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or _Missing</i>	1610	.
No problem	736	18.9
2	1175	30.2
3	1456	37.4
4	367	9.5
Major problem	153	3.9

Question 29 (B3) Commercial – Reimbursement rate

Q29B3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or _Missing</i>	1367	.
No problem	616	14.9
2	1173	28.4
3	1500	36.3
4	612	14.8
Major problem	230	5.6

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

Q29B4	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or _Missing</i>	948	.
No problem	1070	23.5
2	1939	42.6
3	1227	27.0
4	267	5.9
Major problem	47	1.0

Question 29 (B5) Commercial – Length of patient visit

Q29B5	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or _Missing</i>	914	.
No problem	1026	22.2
2	1601	34.9
3	1457	31.8
4	390	8.5
Major problem	110	2.4

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

Q29B6	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or _Missing</i>	975	.
No problem	1980	43.8
2	1626	35.9
3	663	14.7
4	186	4.1
Major problem	68	1.5

Question 29 (B7) Commercial – Complexity of patient needs

Q29B7	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or _Missing</i>	916	.
No problem	518	11.3
2	1580	34.5
3	1872	40.9
4	459	10.0
Major problem	153	3.3

Question 29 (B8) Commercial – Other factors

Q29B8	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Skipped (did not see commercial plan patients), or _Missing</i>	5211	.
No problem	45	15.8
2	72	25.3
3	58	20.4
4	39	13.5
Major problem	72	25.1

**Section V – Practice History**

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

Q30n	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	75	.
0	3	0.1
Less than 5 years	714	13.2
5-9 years	726	13.4
10-14 years	811	14.9
15-19 years	622	11.5
20 or more years	2548	47.0

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

Q31n	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	77	.
0	11	0.2
Less than 5 years	1080	19.9
5-9 years	866	16.0
10-14 years	877	16.2
15-19 years	610	11.3
20 or more years	1976	36.5

Question 32 - When do you plan to retire?

Q32n	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	554	.
Already retired	28	0.5
Within the next 6 months	64	1.3
More than 6 months from now but within the next 2 years	241	4.9
Within the next 3 to 5 years	686	13.9
Within the next 6 to 10 years	929	18.8
More than 10 years from now	2997	60.6



## Section VI – Background

Question 33 (1) - Did you earn the degree in - Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)

Q33_1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	23	.
No	385	7.0
Yes	5089	93.0

Question 33 (2) - Did you earn the degree in - Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)

Q33_2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	23	.
No	5088	92.9
Yes	386	7.1

Question 33 (3) - Did you earn the degree in - Other Medical Degrees

Q33_3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	23	.
No	5451	99.6
Yes	23	0.4

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

Q34	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	541	.
A Foreign Country	655	13.2
Another US State	3298	66.5
Washington	1004	20.3

Question 35 (1) - Were you ever in internships or residencies in - Washington State

Q35_1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	132	.
No	3159	58.9
Yes	2206	41.1

Question 35 (2) - Were you ever in internships or residencies in - a Rural Community

Q35_2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	132	.
No	4733	88.2
Yes	632	11.8

Question 35 (3) - Were you ever in internships or residencies in - An inner-city community

Q35_3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	132	.
No	3652	68.1
Yes	1713	31.9

Question 35 (4) - Were you ever in internships or residencies in - A Predominantly Minority Community

Q35_4	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	132	.
No	4564	85.1
Yes	801	14.9

Question 35 (5) - Were you ever in internships or residencies in - Were in none of those internships or residences

Q35_5	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	133	.
No	3859	71.9
Yes	1506	28.1

Question 36 – Age

Age	Frequency	Percent
Less than 35	585	10.6
35-49	2127	38.7
50-64	2394	43.5
65 plus	392	7.1

Question 37 – Sex

Q37	Frequency	Percent
Male	2981	54.2
Female	2517	45.8

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

Q38	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	72	.
Yes	156	2.9
No	5270	97.1

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

Q39_1	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	153	.
No	902	16.9
Yes	4443	83.1

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

Q39_2	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	153	.
No	5277	98.7
Yes	67	1.3

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

Q39_3	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	153	.
No	4482	83.9
Yes	863	16.1

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

Q39_4	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	153	.
No	5272	98.7
Yes	72	1.3

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

Q39_5	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	155	.
No	5253	98.1
Yes	100	1.9

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

Q40x	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	66	.
English Only	3523	64.9
English and Spanish	920	16.9
English and Spanish and Other(s)	187	3.4
English and non-Spanish Other(s)	801	14.8

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

Q41	Frequency	Percent
<i>_Missing</i>	319	.
Yes	3766	72.7
No	1413	27.3

Question 42 – Region of Residence

SPS_10region_home	Frequency	Percent
_ <i>Missing</i>	16	.
CLARK	254	4.6
EAST BALANCE	346	6.3
KING	2277	41.5
NORTH SOUND	333	6.1
OTHER PUGET SOUND METRO	421	7.7
PIERCE	594	10.8
SNOHOMISH	284	5.2
SPOKANE	395	7.2
WEST BALANCE	247	4.5
YAKIMA - TRI CITIES	333	6.1

**Appendix A. *Questionnaire for 2011 Washington State Primary Care Physician Survey***

# Washington State Survey of Physicians in Family Medicine, General Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, OB/GYN, and Geriatrics



*For your convenience, you can fill out this survey online at [www.waofmsurvey.com](http://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?

- |              | Main Site | Secondary Site |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| 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 physician 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 Pediatricians	_____
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 (IN "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 activities at **all your practice sites in Washington**? Do not include on-call time.

Hours

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. Direct patient care<br><i>Includes: seeing patients, reviewing tests, preparing for and performing surgery/procedures, providing other related patient care services</i> | _____ |
| 2. Administration of clinical practice  | _____ |
| 3. Other physician 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 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 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 in 2010? (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 2010?

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

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

Year:            2010    2011

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

### PATIENT SERVICE

**Q18.** During 2010 at **all your practice sites in Washington**, what was your patient panel size if you worked for an HMO or about how many unique patients did you provide care for if you worked in a non-HMO setting? 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 licensed physician in the U.S.?

Number of Years: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q31.** How many total years have you practiced as a licensed physician 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



**BACKGROUND**

**Q33.** Which medical degree have you obtained?

- 1. Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)
- 2. Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)
- 3. Other medical degree (SPECIFY)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Q35.** Were you ever in any internships or residencies in 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

**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

**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.** Please select one from the following.

- 1. I am the addressed physician and I filled out the survey myself.
- 2. I am a staff member associated with the addressed physician who gave me permission to fill out this survey on his/her behalf.
- 3. The addressed physician and an associated staff member filled out the survey jointly.

**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?

- 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](mailto:forecasting@ofm.wa.gov)

***Thank you for your participation.***

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

**Gilmore Research Group**  
2101 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98121

<insert pin>

**Appendix B. Comparison of Responding Physicians and Physician Sample From AMA**

**AMA/Population Unweighted Survey**

**REGION**

1 NORTH PUGET	5.4%	6.3%
2 WEST BALANCE	4.2%	5.2%
3 KING COUNTY	42.9%	41.1%
4 OTHER PUGET METRO	7.1%	7.8%
5 CLARK COUNTY	4.9%	4.4%
6 EASTERN BALANCE	5.8%	6.9%
7 SPOKANE COUNTY	7.3%	7.4%
8 YAKIMA AND TRI-CITIES	5.9%	5.5%
9 SNOHOMISH COUNTY	5.5%	5.6%
10 PIERCE COUNTY	10.9%	10.0%

**SPECIALTY**

1 Family medicine	41.7%	43.8%
2 General practice	3.6%	3.6%
3 General internal medicine	27.4%	24.7%
4 General pediatrics	15.5%	16.3%
5 General OB/GYN	10.6%	10.3%
6 General Geriatrics	1.3%	1.4%

**SEX**

1 Male	54.8%	56.4%
2 Female	45.2%	43.6%

**AGE CATEGORY**

1 Under 40	25.4%	18.4%
2 40 to 64 years	65.7%	70.4%
3 65+ years	8.9%	11.2%