

## Dental Care Provider Survey Summary Report: Whatcom County

Survey year: 2012-2013

The Department of Health (DOH) conducts the Dental Care Provider Survey to obtain health care access data. This data is used in the [Health Professional Shortage Area \(HPSA\)](#) designation analysis. HPSA is a federal program administered by the federal Office of [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#). A HPSA designation identifies areas with provider shortages for underserved and uninsured populations. To learn more about the program please see the [HPSA Overview](#).

This summary report reflects dental survey responses. The department makes every attempt to establish a close to accurate number of dentists by collecting lists from local health departments, the National Provider Identifier Registry and other sources. To meet federal guidelines in the analysis the target response rate is >75%. This report offers an aggregate summary of the survey responses.

For questions about the survey data, methodology, and related information please contact Natalie Ogle at [Natalie.Ogle@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Natalie.Ogle@doh.wa.gov) or by phone at (360) 236-2832. Information on other counties can be found on the [County Data web page](#).

GENERAL DEFINITIONS	
<b>Primary Dental Care Provider</b>	Healthcare professionals who provide comprehensive oral health by treating dental concerns and diseases and promoting prevention by providing oral health literacy. Hygienists, denturists, and specialists not providing primary dental care were excluded.
<b>Provider Types and Credentials</b>	Primary dental care providers are defined by HRSA. For purposes of this survey credentialing types licensed by the State of Washington were used.  Dentists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.)</li> <li>• Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.)</li> </ul>
<b>Primary Specialty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Dentistry</li> <li>• Pediatric Dentistry</li> </ul>
<b>Additional specialty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodontics (treatment of supporting structures of teeth such as gums and bone)</li> <li>• Oral Surgery (surgical treatment of oral diseases, injuries and defects)</li> <li>• Endodontics (treatment of tooth pulp and surrounding root of teeth)</li> <li>• Orthodontics (study and treatment of improper bites and tooth irregularity)</li> <li>• Prosthodontics (esthetic restoration and replacement of missing or deficient teeth)</li> </ul>
COUNTY PROFILE	
<b>Whatcom County</b>	The United States Census Bureau supplied county data and can be found at: <a href="http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53000.html">http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53000.html</a>
<b>Population (2013)</b>	206,353
<b>Land area</b>	2,106.86 sq. mi.
<b>Major City/Town (Population)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bellingham (82,234)</li> <li>• Lynden (12,605)</li> <li>• Ferndale (11,998)</li> <li>• Blaine (4,684)</li> <li>• Everson (2,481)</li> </ul>
	
<b>Number of dentists surveyed</b>	The DOH determined the number of providers within the county by reviewing, updating, and consolidating multiple listings to produce a close to accurate headcount for the survey year.
	<b>Dentists: 102</b>
<b>Survey Respondents</b>	Respondent is the number of survey responses submitted. Responses were achieved by direct contact and mailings to clinics.
	<b>Dentists: 73 (or 71.6% of surveyed dentists)</b>

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<p><b>Respondent Specialties</b></p> <p>Some respondents may not have selected a specialty</p>	<p>General Dentistry: 70 Pediatric Dentistry: 3</p>	<p>Periodontics: 1 Oral Surgery: 2 Endodontics: 2 Orthodontics: 1 Prosthodontics: 3 General: - None Listed: 51</p>
<p><b>Provider Full-Time Equivalency (FTE)</b></p>	<p>Full-time equivalent is the sum of reported primary care hours (weekly hours &gt;40 were adjusted to 40) then divided by 40 to obtain the total FTE for the county. One FTE = 40 hours direct patient care per week.</p>	
	<p><b>Dentist FTE: 53.1</b></p>	
<p><b>Average number of days for scheduled appointment</b></p>	<p>Reported number of days was summed and divided by number of survey respondents. Includes reported days for secondary practice sites.</p>	
<p><b>Current patients:</b></p>	<p>4.9 days</p>	
<p><b>New patients:</b></p>	<p>4.4 days</p>	
<b>PROVIDER CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
<p><b>Proportion Calculations</b></p>	<p>Proportions are calculated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerator: counts of respondent dentists who indicate the listed characteristic</li> <li>• Denominator: total respondents dentists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Whatcom County: n=73, unless noted</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Additional Languages</b></p>	<p>35.6% of providers, or 26 dentists, offer additional spoken languages at their practice.</p> <p>Identified languages include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arabic</li> <li>• Hindi</li> <li>• Korean</li> <li>• Portuguese</li> <li>• Russian</li> <li>• Spanish</li> <li>• Ukrainian</li> <li>• Vietnamese</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Transitory agricultural migrant farm workers</b></p>	<p>Patients and their dependents defined as not having a permanent local address in the area as the practice.</p>	
	<p>19.2% of providers, or 14 dentists, indicate having patients and their dependents defined as transitory agricultural migrant farm workers.</p>	
<p><b>Homeless persons</b></p>	<p>Patients and their dependents defined as those living in unstable, nonpermanent locations such as in shelters, transitional housing, in tents, in cars, or on the streets.</p>	
	<p>23.3% of providers, or 17 dentists, indicate having patients and their dependents defined as homeless.</p>	
<b>PAYER TYPE</b>		
<p><b>Private Insurance</b></p>	<p>Insurance through work or self-purchased includes Basic Health and other third party subsidies that are not Medicaid and Medicare.</p>	
	<p>94.5% of providers, or 69 dentists, treat private insurance patients.</p>	
<p><b>Accepting new patients:</b></p>	<p>61.3% is the average proportion of private insurance patients. (n=69)</p> <p>76.7% of providers, or 56 dentists, accept new private insurance patients.</p> <p>Restrictions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the age of 8 unless referred or emergency</li> </ul>	

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<b>Medicaid</b>	Federal and state administered payment for low income persons and includes Healthy Options.
<b>Accepting new patients:</b>	<p>43.8% of providers, or 32 dentists, treat Medicaid patients.</p> <p>27.0% is the average proportion of Medicaid patients. (n=32)</p> <p>19.2% of providers, or 14 dentists, accept new Medicaid patients.</p> <p>Restrictions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Children only (ABDC program)</li> <li>· Under the age of 8 unless referred or emergency</li> </ul>
<b>Self-pay</b>	No dental insurance, patient pays full fees or has cash discount at time of service only.
<b>Accepting new patients:</b>	<p>82.2% of providers, or 60 dentists, treat Self-pay patients.</p> <p>29.6% is the average proportion of Self-pay patients. (n=60)</p> <p>69.9% of providers, or 51 dentists, accept new Self-pay patients.</p> <p>Restrictions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Under the age of 8 unless referred or emergency</li> </ul>
<b>Sliding Fee Scale (SFS)</b>	No insurance or subsidies and fees are discounted according to income level. Includes charity.
<b>Accepting new patients:</b>	<p>23.3% of providers, or 17 dentists, treat SFS patients.</p> <p>7.6% is the average proportion of SFS patients. (n=17)</p> <p>16.4% of providers, or 12 dentists, accept new SFS patients.</p> <p>Restrictions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· None</li> </ul>
<b>Other Payer types</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 13.7% of providers, or 10 dentists, treat L&amp;I patients.</li> <li>· 16.4% of providers, or 12 dentists, treat other patients.</li> </ul>
<b>ADDITIONAL FACILITIES</b>	
<b><u>Federally Qualified Health Center or Community Health Center (FQHC or CHC)</u></b>	<p>FQHCs, also known as CHCs, are health care facilities that provide primary care services to all persons regardless of ability to pay. Centers providing primary care are surveyed. (Only dental clinics listed below.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Interfaith Bellingham Clinic</li> <li>· Sea Mar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bellingham Medical and Dental Clinic</li> <li>○ Healthcare for Homeless (Bellingham)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b><u>Rural Health Clinic (RHC)</u></b>	<p>The U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services designates clinics meeting specific conditions for certification as a Rural Health Clinic. RHCs are eligible for enhanced Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. These clinics are surveyed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· None</li> </ul>
<b><u>Tribal Health Clinic</u></b>	<p>Tribal Health Clinics that do not serve non-tribal patients were excluded in the survey and HPSA analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Lummi Nation Tribal Health Center (Bellingham)</li> <li>· Nooksack Community Health Center (Demming)</li> </ul>
<b><u>Free Clinic</u></b>	<p>Free clinics are medical facilities providing health services for little to no cost. These clinics are not surveyed.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>College/University</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None with dental clinics</li> </ul>

For additional questions or inquiries:

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