



Western Washington University's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is conducting this survey under direction from the Whatcom County Health Department and the Whatcom Alliance for Health Care Access. All responses will be held confidential and data will only be reported in the aggregate. We have also contacted physician practices to complete a web-based survey which contains a different set of questions. Data from the two surveys will be compiled into the same report to describe current physician supply and medical access issues in Whatcom County.

If you have any questions about this mail survey or the web-based practice survey, please email Cate Albright at [cate.albright@wwu.edu](mailto:cate.albright@wwu.edu), or call the SBDC at 733-4014. Thank you.

Please use the specialties listed below to answer the questions A, B, and C.

A. Please write the letter "A" next to all specialties in which you actively provide patient care. For example, if you are an IM physician who devotes part of your office practice to GI work, please check both.

B. From your experience of practicing and referring in Whatcom County, please write the letter "B" next to all specialties that need additional physician capacity.

C. In the next 3 to 5 years, do you plan to: (select one answer in each **pair** below)

Keep practicing in the **same** specialty area(s)

**Change** your specialty focus

If you intend to **change**, please refer to the specialty list and write a “C” next to all that will be your new focus.

	A. You practice <u>now</u>	B. Need more in <u>Whatcom</u>	C. Future focus for <u>you</u>
Allergy/Immunology	_____	_____	_____
Anesthesia	_____	_____	_____
Cardiac Surgery	_____	_____	_____
Cardiology	_____	_____	_____
Dermatology	_____	_____	_____
Emergency/Crit. Care	_____	_____	_____
Endocrinology	_____	_____	_____
Family Practice	_____	_____	_____
Gastroenterology	_____	_____	_____
General Surgery	_____	_____	_____
Hematology/Oncol.	_____	_____	_____
Infectious Disease	_____	_____	_____
Internal Medicine	_____	_____	_____
Nephrology	_____	_____	_____
Neurology	_____	_____	_____
Neurosurgery	_____	_____	_____
Nuc.Med./Rad. Onc.	_____	_____	_____
OB/GYN	_____	_____	_____
Ophthalmology	_____	_____	_____
Orthopedics	_____	_____	_____
Otolaryngology	_____	_____	_____
Pathology	_____	_____	_____
Pediatrics	_____	_____	_____
Physiatry	_____	_____	_____
Phys.Med.& Rehab	_____	_____	_____
Plastic Surgery	_____	_____	_____
Psychiatry	_____	_____	_____
Pulmonary Med	_____	_____	_____
Radiology	_____	_____	_____
Rheumatology	_____	_____	_____
Thoracic Surgery	_____	_____	_____
Urology	_____	_____	_____
Vascular Surgery	_____	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____	_____

In the next 3 to 5 years, do you plan to: (select one answer in each **pair** below)

- Provide the **same** amount of office-based patient care  
 **Change** the amount of time

If you intend to **change**, please select one answer from those below:

- Increase** time **more** than 50% of current hours  
 **Increase** time **less** than 50% of current hours  
 **Decrease** time **more** than 50% of current hours  
 **Decrease** time **less** than 50% of current hours

Your age category (select one)

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under age 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50 to 59    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30 to 39     | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 to 69    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 40 to 49     | <input type="checkbox"/> 70 and over |

Other than issue of physician supply, from your experience, what factors contribute to difficulties in patients accessing medical services in Whatcom Co.? (Please write in your answer below.)

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Does your practice have a current or anticipated recruitment or retention need in any of the following areas? (Check all that apply.)

- |                                                              |                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add employed physician(s)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Add physician partner(s)                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Find a provider to rent/share space | <input type="checkbox"/> Practice sale/retirement planning               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practice management analysis        | <input type="checkbox"/> Support of new physician in practice and family |

Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please write in)

Please check the top three marketing strategies which you think are most effective in recruiting physicians:

- |                                                                           |                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contact with residency programs                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Having training/internship sites in Whatcom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional or national recruitment events          | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional society journals               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional society websites                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional society events/conferences     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Websites such as PracticeLink or CareerMD        | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional recruitment firms              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local or state Medical Societies                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct mail to practicing physicians        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Networking with personal contacts (alumni, etc.) |                                                                      |

Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please write in)

Thank you again for participating in this survey.

