



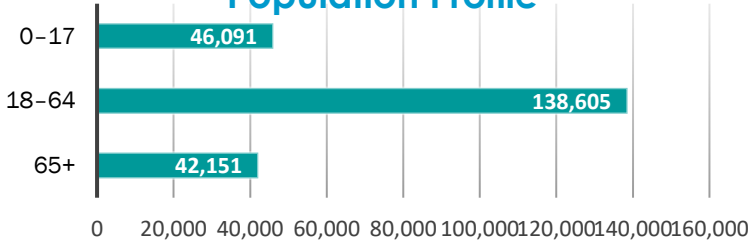
Washington Rural County Medicaid Workforce Report

Whatcom County

Established in 1854, Whatcom is the 12th largest county in Washington state covering 2,107 square miles. It has a population of 226, 847. The city of Bellingham is the county seat and largest city. The county falls within the boundaries of the North Sound Accountable Community of Health (ACH) Region.

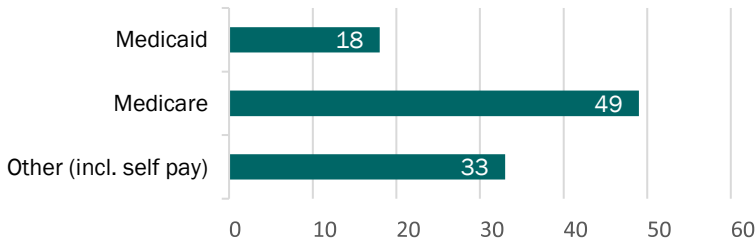
Source¹: Employment Security Department, county-profiles; HCA, ACH Regions Map

Population Profile



Source²: OFM, WA Data&Research, Population Estimates,

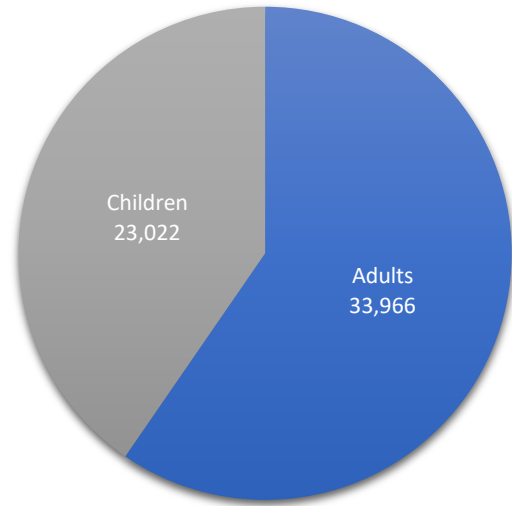
Hospital Payer Mix %



Source³: DOH HospitalFinancialData 2023

Medicaid Program Enrollment

for 2024



Source⁴: Apple Health Client Eligibility Dashboard

Licensed In-County Workforce

Represents all physicians, nurses, maternal care providers, master level behavioral health and substance use disorder professionals with an active WA credential in the county (does not incl. professionals with an associate/trainee credentials).

Profession Type	Count
ARNP (NP, ANP, FNP, GNP, PNP, WHNP)	201
ARNP-CNM	19
Dentist	164
Licensed Midwife	11
Licensed Practical Nurse	308
Marriage&Family Therapist	75
Medical Doctor (incl. Psychiatry, IMLC)	570
Mental Health Counselor	435
Osteopathic Physician (incl. Psychiatry, IMLC)	71
Physician Assistant	128
Psychologist	114
Registered Nurse	2,554
Social Worker (Advanced & Independent)	223
Substance Use Disorder Professional	102

Source⁵: DOH Licensing Database; Washington Medical Commission (As of 2/3/2025)

Health Service Systems

This section is a list of county institutions and resources that provide health care Services at the local level to meet the health needs of the population. The following are links to source web pages to provide more information about the facilities in the county.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

- Sea Mar CHC
- Unity Care Northwest

Rural Health Clinics (RHC)

- FCN Lynden Family Medicine
- FCN Ferndale Family Medical Center
- FCN Birch Bay Family Medicine

Critical Access Hospitals (CAH)

- None

Behavioral Health Agencies (BHA)

- Catholic Comm. Svcs. - Bellingham Lakeway Drive
- Catholic Comm. Svcs. - Bellingham Main
- Catholic Comm. Svcs. Recovery Centers NW
- Clarity Mental Health and Recovery
- Compass Health - Whatcom County McLeod
- Compass Health, Whatcom County Triage Center
- Contact Counseling Recovery Svcs.
- Lake Whatcom Center
- NW Regional Council

- Lake Whatcom Residential and Treatment Center - Main
- PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center E and T
- Rule and Associates
- Sea Mar Behavioral Health - Bellingham
- Sea Mar Visions Female Youth Treatment Center
- Sendan Center
- Sunrise Svcs., Inc. - Bellingham
- Touchstone Behavioral Health
- Unity Care Northwest
- Whatcom Comm. Detox
- Whatcom County Response System Division

Nursing Homes

- Alderwood Park and Rehab of Cascadia
- Highland Health and Rehab of Cascadia
- MT Baker Care Center
- North Cascades Health & Rehab Center
- Shuksan Rehab and Health Care
- St Francis of Bellingham
- Staffholt Health and Rehab of Cascadia
- Christian Health Care Center

Assisted Living (ALF)

- Alabama House
- Brookdale Fairhaven
- Columbia Place
- Cordata Court, Assisted Living & Memory Care
- Highgate Senior Living
- Lake Whatcom Residential & Treatment Center
- Orchard Park Assisted Living
- Rosewood Villa Assisted Living Comm.
- Silverado Bellingham
- Spring Creek Retirement & Assisted Living Comm.
- Summit Place Assisted Living
- The Bellingham at Orchard
- Woodway Senior Living
- Avista Senior Living Ferndale
- Grace Retirement Home
- Lyden Manor
- Meadow Greens

Whatcom County At-a-Glance

Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and Maternal Care Target Area (MCTA)

Healthcare providers in Washington are surveyed to determine if a shortage of eligible types that serve the low-income, disadvantaged populations exist. Areas with these designations receive scores based on a combination of data gathered during the surveying process and national datasets. These federal designations allow eligible facilities and providers access to numerous federal and state workforce incentive programs. There are three main HPSA categories: behavioral health, dental health, and primary care. MCTAs are supplementary scores added only to an existing primary care designated area. If you would like more information about HPSAs, MCTAs or the Medicaid Provider Survey, [contact our office](#). **Note: A provider may work at multiple locations. Provider/FTE counts are based on each location of service.**

Primary Care survey	
Number of physicians	127
Physician FTE	104.2
Number serving Medicaid	30
Number serving MFW/S	22
Number serving homeless	22
Number with sliding scale	17
Number serving AI/AN	23

Maternal Care survey	
Number of MCTA providers (incl. OB/GYN)	27
MCTA FTE	24
Number serving Medicaid	7
Number serving MFW/S	3
Number serving homeless	4
Number with sliding scale	4
Number serving AI/AN	6

Dental survey	
Number of dentists	91
Dental FTE	75
Number serving Medicaid	25
Number serving MFW/S	25
Number serving homeless	24
Number with sliding scale	24
Number serving AI/AN	32

Behavioral Health survey	
Number of psychiatrists	17
Psychiatric FTE	9.3
Number serving Medicaid	7
Number serving MFW/S	3
Number serving homeless	4
Number with sliding scale	5
Number serving AI/AN	8

Source⁶: DOH County Medicaid Provider Survey



Health Workforce Investments

Health Workforce Investments represents the number of clinicians and students currently participating in federal and/or state loan repayment programs and the [J-1 Visa Waiver Program](#). The [National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\) Loan Repayment Program](#) and the [Washington Student Achievement Council \(WSAC\)](#), connect healthcare professionals interested in loan repayment or scholarship opportunities with rural and urban underserved employers. They are open to a range of different healthcare professionals seeking employment at approved sites in Washington. For more information about workforce recruitment and retention, [contact our office](#).

Medical workforce	
NHSC (LRP/SP/S2S) awardees	5
WSAC (FHP/SHP/BHP) awardees	1
Obligated J1-Visa Waivers	3

Dental workforce	
NHSC (LRP/SP/S2S) awardees	3
WSAC (FHP/SHP/BHP) awardees	1
Obligated J1-Visa Waivers	N/A

Behavioral Health workforce	
NHSC (LRP/SP/S2S) awardees	3
WSAC (FHP/SHP/BHP) awardees	10
Obligated J1-Visa Waivers	0

Source⁷: NHSC & WSAC Field Strength Reports



Data Notes and Resources

Data published in this report is current as of document publication date of April 30, 2024

List of Source web links:

- Source¹: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/county-profiles> & <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/healthier-washington/accountable-communities-health-ach>
- Source²: <https://www.ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-estimates/estimates-april-1-population-age-sex-race-and-hispanic-origin>
- Source³: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/HealthcareinWashington/HospitalandPatientData/HospitalFinancialData/YearEndReports/2017HospitalYearEndReports>
- Source⁴: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/apple-health-medicare-reports#apple-health-enrollment-reports>
- Source⁵: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/providercredentialsearch/> & <https://wmc.wa.gov/>
- Source⁶: not privy due to personally identifiable and financial information.
- Source⁷: Field Strength reports are not privy due to personally identifiable information.

List of Acronyms:

- ACH—Accountable Communities of Health
- AI/AN—American Indian/Alaskan Native
- DOH—WA State Department of Health
- HCA—WA State Health Care Authority
- WSAC—WA Student Achievement Council
- HRSA—Health Resources & Svcs. Administration
- SDB—Shortage Designation Branch
- OFM—Office of Financial Management
- ARNP—Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner
- SUD—Substance Use Disorder Professional
- MFW/S—Migrant Farm Worker/ Seasonal
- LRP—Loan Repayment Program
- SP—Scholar Program
- S2S—Student-to-Service
- FHP—Federal Health Loan Repayment Program
- SHP—State Health Loan Repayment Program
- BHP—Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program
- IMLC—Physician and Surgeon License Interstate Medical Licensure Compact