

2020-21 Physician Assistant Supply:

Estimates for Washington

Wei Yen, PhD
Wei.Yen@ofm.wa.gov

Forecasting and Research
Health Care Research Center
The Office of Financial Management

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2020-21 Physician assistant supply: Estimates for Washington

Executive summary

The Washington state physician assistant (PA) workforce supply in 2021 continued the growth pattern of the previous few years and increased by more than 200 to 3,574 physician assistants.

Our data sources and method

The main data source for this report was the Network Adequacy Reports that health insurance carriers filed with the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner. We matched individual provider records in these reports with records in the state's health professional license database and records in the National Plan & Provider Enumeration system. We used a weighting procedure to account for PAs with primary care *and* specialist care designations and/or those with two or more practice locations. This helps us record all the representation of the different care designations and at different practice locations in our estimates without overcounting the total PAs.¹

Here is what we found

- **Total PA supply continued to increase.** The total PA supply in 2021 stood at 3,574, an increase from 3,351 in 2020. The new total increased the number of PAs per 100,000 population from 44 in 2020 to 46 in 2021.
- **The increase in total PA supply came entirely from an increase in specialist care PAs.** Specialist care PAs accounted for 80% of all PAs in 2021, compared to 76% in 2020. Conversely, the share of primary care PAs decreased by 4 percentage points from 24% to 20%.
- **Women constituted the majority of the PA workforce and their share increased.** The share of women in the PA workforce was approximately 60% in total PAs, primary care PAs and specialist PAs. The share of women increased in all three categories, particularly among specialist care PAs (57.3% to 58.6%).
- **Little change in the median age of the PAs.** For all PAs and specialist care PAs, the median age remained at 41 years. For primary care PAs, the median age increased slightly from 40 to 41. The median age gap continued to exist between male PAs and female PAs. Men continued to have their median age 2 to 6 years higher than that of women in total PAs, primary care PAs and specialist care PAs.
- **The supply and characteristics of PAs at the county level still varied widely.** Slightly more than one third of the total PAs practiced in King County. The bottom 23 counties, with less than 1% of PAs in each, accounted for a total of 7.1%. Chelan County increased its lead in total rate from 120 to 133 PAs per 100,000 population, a rate that was more than twice as high as the second highest rate. Similar to what occurred at the state level, primary care PA rates decreased while specialist care PA rates increased in most counties, with Chelan County leading with the largest change in both categories. Percentages of female PAs ranged from about 30% to nearly 100% among the counties. Almost all eastern Washington counties had shares of female PAs below the state average of 59. The

¹ For detailed information on the data sources and method, see the Data Sources and Method section in *2017-20 Physician Assistant Supply: Estimates for Washington* at https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/dataresearch/healthcare/workforce/physician_assistant_supply_2017-20.pdf.

median age of the PAs also varied greatly among the counties, from 35 to 61 years, with a higher median age in most counties than the state average of 41 years.

- **Overall, changes are minor in Accountable Community of Health (ACH) regions, but changes were significant in North Central ACH's primary care PA rate and specialist care PA rate.** An ACH is a health service region made up of one or more counties. The distribution of total PAs among the nine ACH regions changed little from 2020 to 2021. Changes were small also in the overall PA rates, shares of female PAs and median age of PAs. Notable changes were the increase in specialist care PA rate and decrease in the primary care PA rate, primarily in the North Central ACH that includes Chelan County.

State supply of physician assistants

Total supply

The supply of PAs in Washington continued the growth pattern from the previous few years. PA licenses increased by 241 (5.3%) from 4,554 in 2020 to 4,795 in 2021. Nearly all the additional licenses were for PAs who practiced in Washington, as the number of practicing PAs increased by 223 (6.7%) from 3,351 to 3,574. (Figure 1) The increase in the number of practicing PAs is proportionately greater than the increase in the general population – the number of PAs per 100,000 population increased from 44 in 2020 to 46 in 2021. (Figure 2)

The number of practicing PAs continued to increase and at a rate greater than the population growth.

Figure 1. Physician assistants with Washington licenses, number and percent practicing: Washington, 2020-21

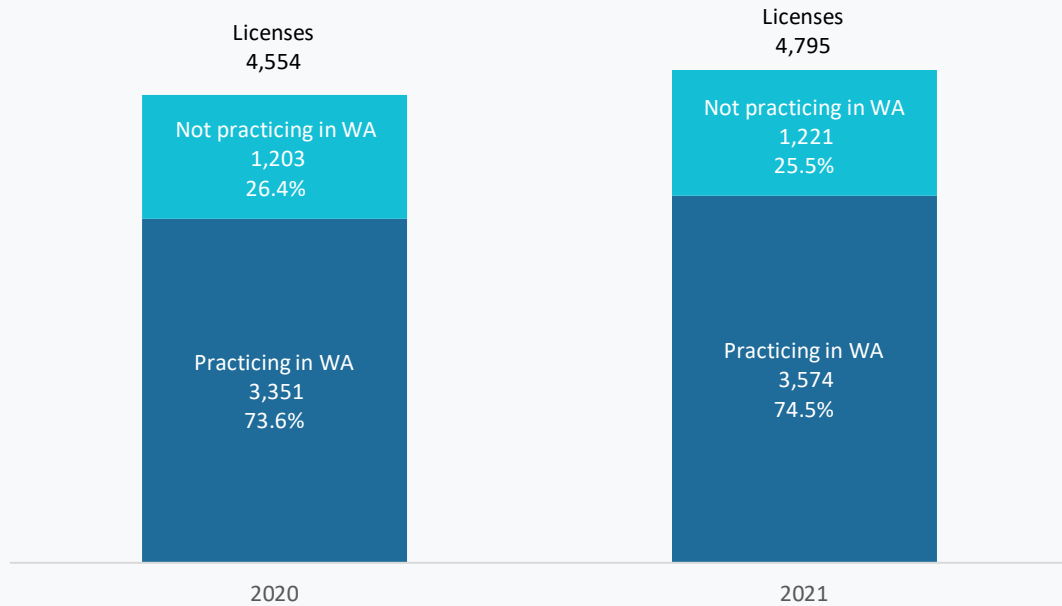
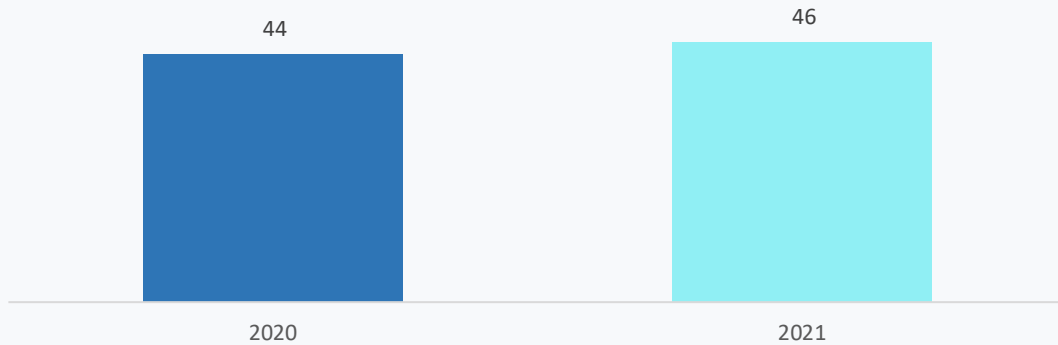


Figure 2. Total practicing physician assistants per 100,000 population: Washington, 2020-21

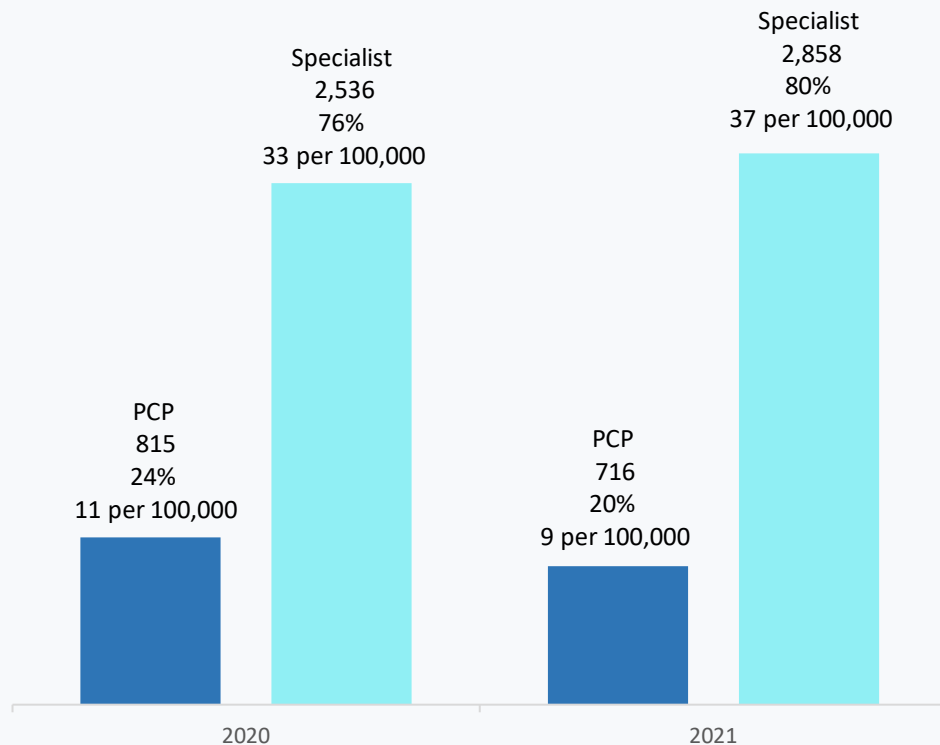


Supplies in primary care and specialist care

The share of PAs practicing in primary care² was declining before 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic started. In 2020, however, that trend reversed with the primary care share increasing from 20.9% in 2019 to 24.3%.³ In 2021, though, the primary care share dropped below the pre-pandemic level, to 20%. At the same time, the share of the specialist care PAs reached the highest point of 80%. The rate of primary care PAs decreased from 11 to 9 per 100,000 population from 2020 to 2021. The rate of specialist care PAs, on the other hand, increased from 33 to 37 per 100,000 population. (Figure 3)

Specialist care PAs reached 80%, the highest we have ever observed.

Figure 3. Number, percent and rate (per 100,000) of primary care and specialist physician assistants: Washington, 2020-21



² The designation of primary care and specialist care is assigned by the health insurance companies in their Network Adequacy Reports to the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

³ See

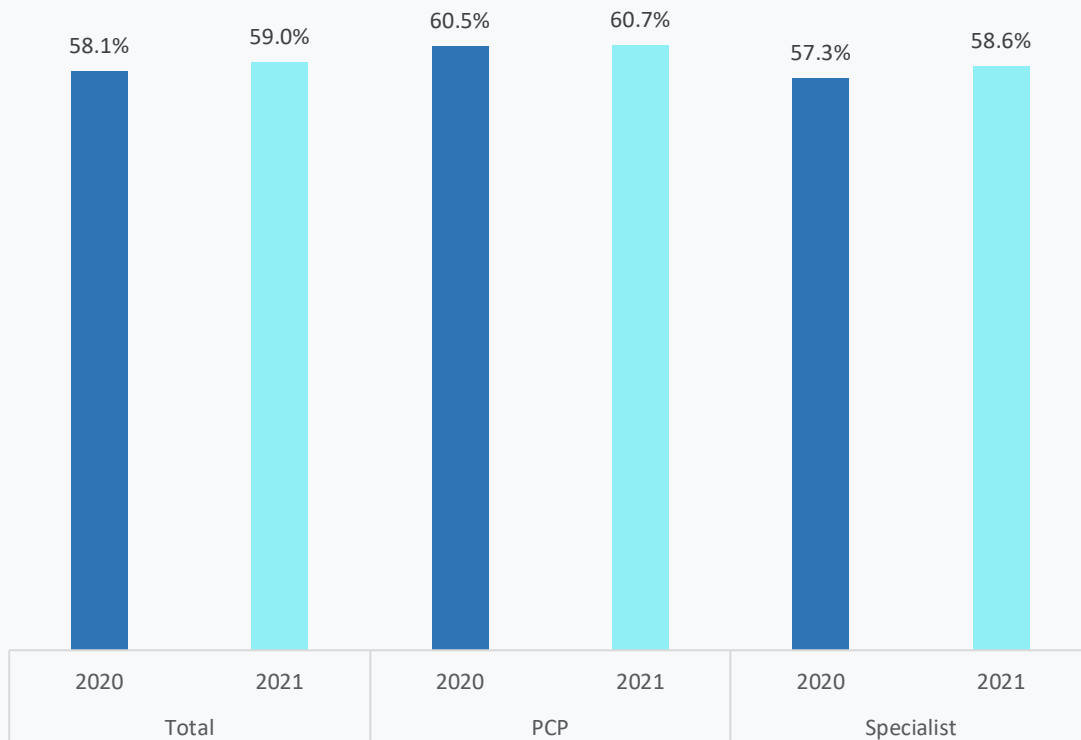
https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/dataresearch/healthcare/workforce/physician_assistant_supply_2017-20.pdf

Gender

From 2020 to 2021, the share of female PAs increased slightly in total, primary care and specialist care. In total PAs, the female share increased 0.9 percentage point, from 58.1% in 2020 and 59% in 2021. In primary care, the increase was 0.2 percentage point (60.5% 60.7%) and in specialist care, the increase was 1.3 percentage point (57.3% to 58.6%). Shares of female PAs continued to be larger in primary care than in specialist care. (Figure 4)

Female PAs made up more than half of each group below and their shares increased.

Figure 4. Percentage of females in overall, primary care and specialist care physician assistant supplies: Washington, 2020-21

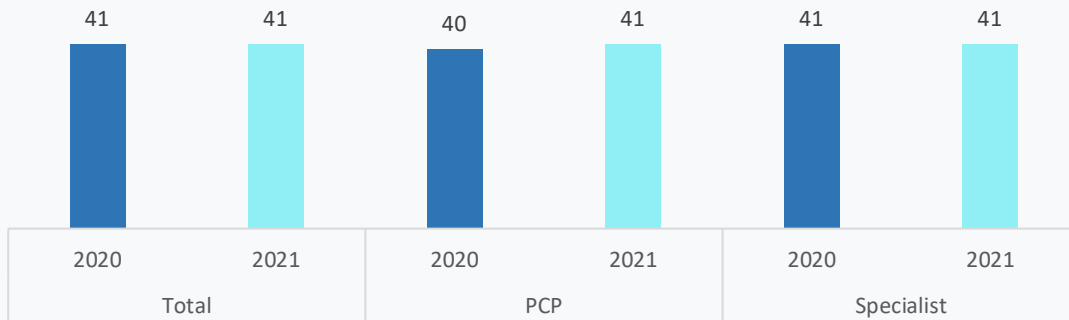


Median age

In 2021, the median age was the same for total PAs, primary care PAs, and specialist PAs, at 41 years. The median age did not change from 2020 to 2021 for total PAs and specialist PAs, but it did increase by one year for primary care specialist PAs. (Figure 5)

The median age of PAs remained just above 40 for total, primary care, and specialist care PAs.

Figure 5. Median age of total, primary care and specialist physician assistants: Washington, 2020-21



Median age of male and female PAs

The median age of male PAs did not change from 2020 to 2021, regardless of their primary/specialist care status. It remained at 44 for total, 42 for primary care and 45 for specialist care. The median age of female PAs dropped by one year from 40 to 39 for both total and specialist care, but it increased by one year from 39 to 40 for primary care. Note that female PAs had a lower median age than male PAs in all three categories, by 2 to 6 years. (Figure 6)

Female PAs have a lower median age than male PAs in the state.

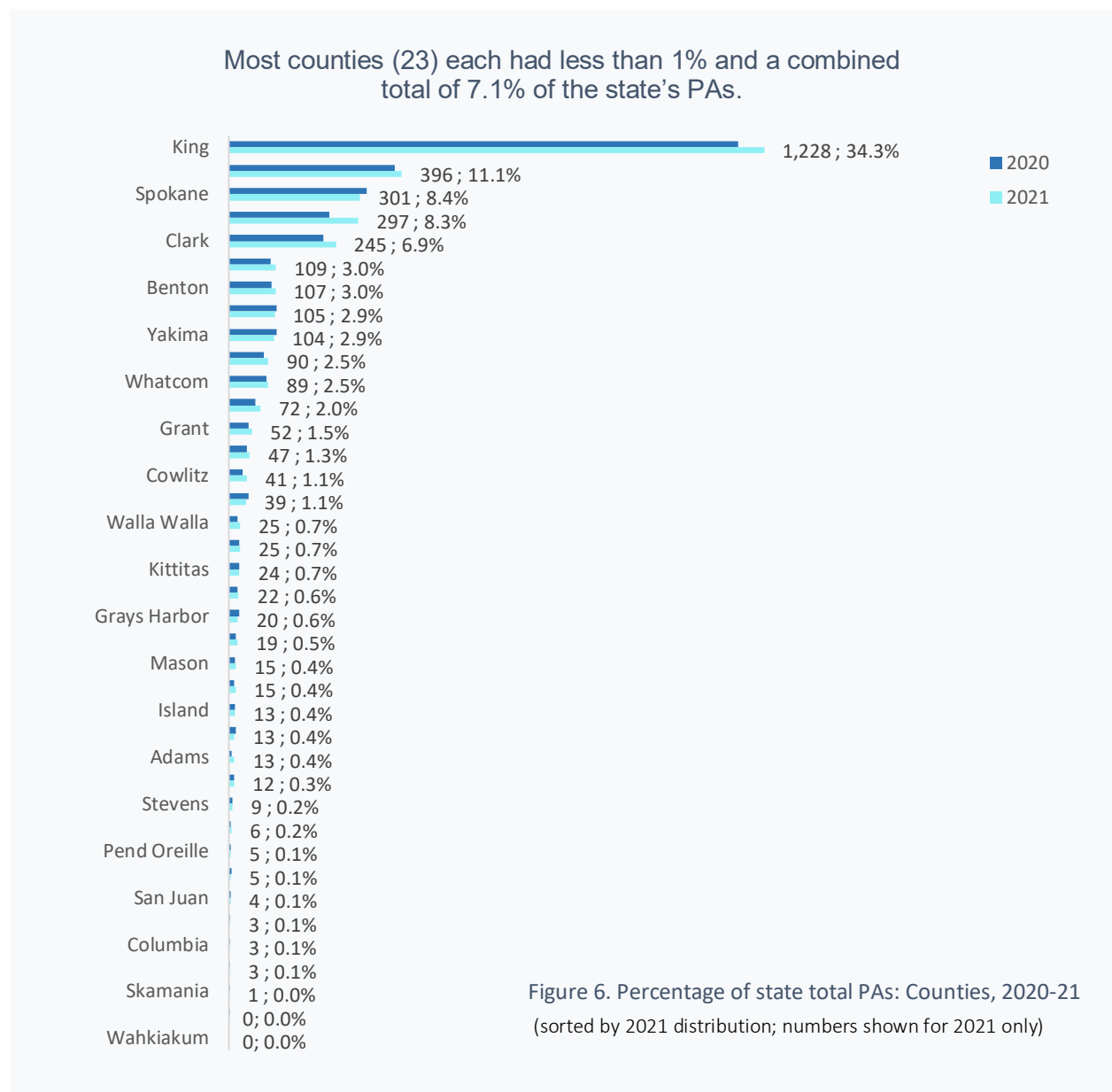
Figure 6. Median age of overall, primary care and specialist physician assistants by gender: Washington, 2020-21



County supplies of physician assistants

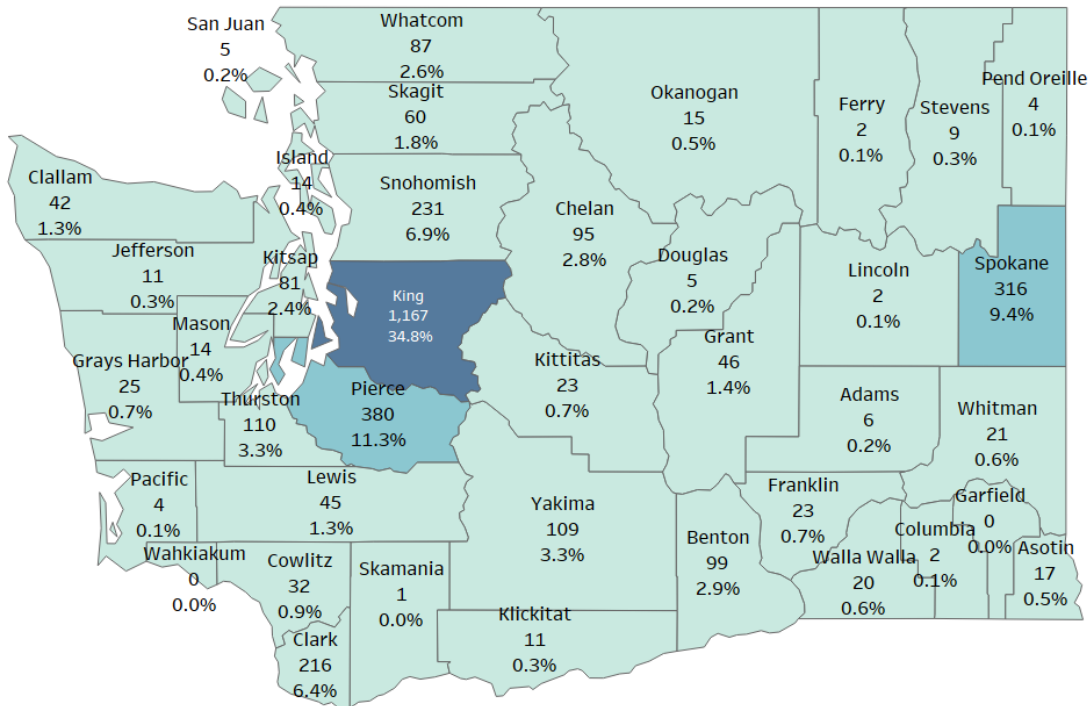
Total supply

King County continued to have the largest number of PAs which increased from 1,167 to 1,228, although the county's share of the state's total PAs declined from 34.8% in 2020 to 34.3% in 2021. The ranking of the county shares of the state's total PA supply did not change for the five most populous counties (King, Pierce, Spokane, Snohomish and Clark). Four of these five counties had an increase in their PA supply. Spokane County was the only one that had a decline in its PA supply. Among the smaller counties, there were some small-scale shifts in the ranking of county shares of the PA supply, with increases in some and declines in the others. The bottom 23 counties had a combined total of 7.1% of all PAs in 2021, with each county's share smaller than 1%. Garfield County and Wahkiakum County had no PA present in 2020 or 2021. (Figure 7)

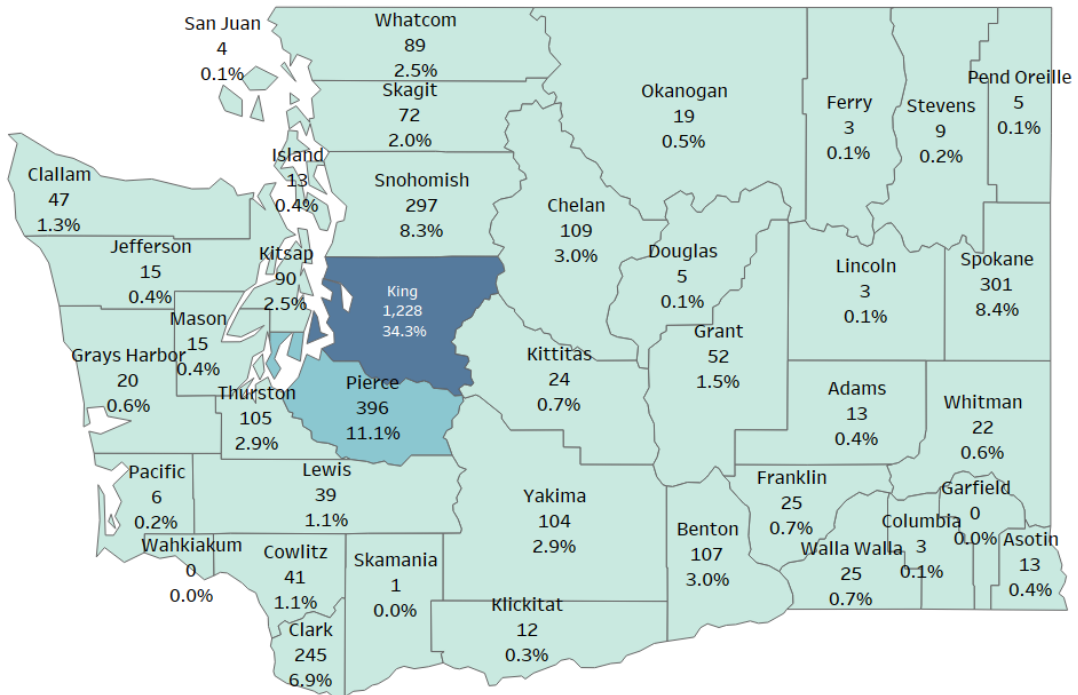


Map 1. Number and percent of physician assistants: Counties, 2020-21
 See [Table 2](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data.

2020



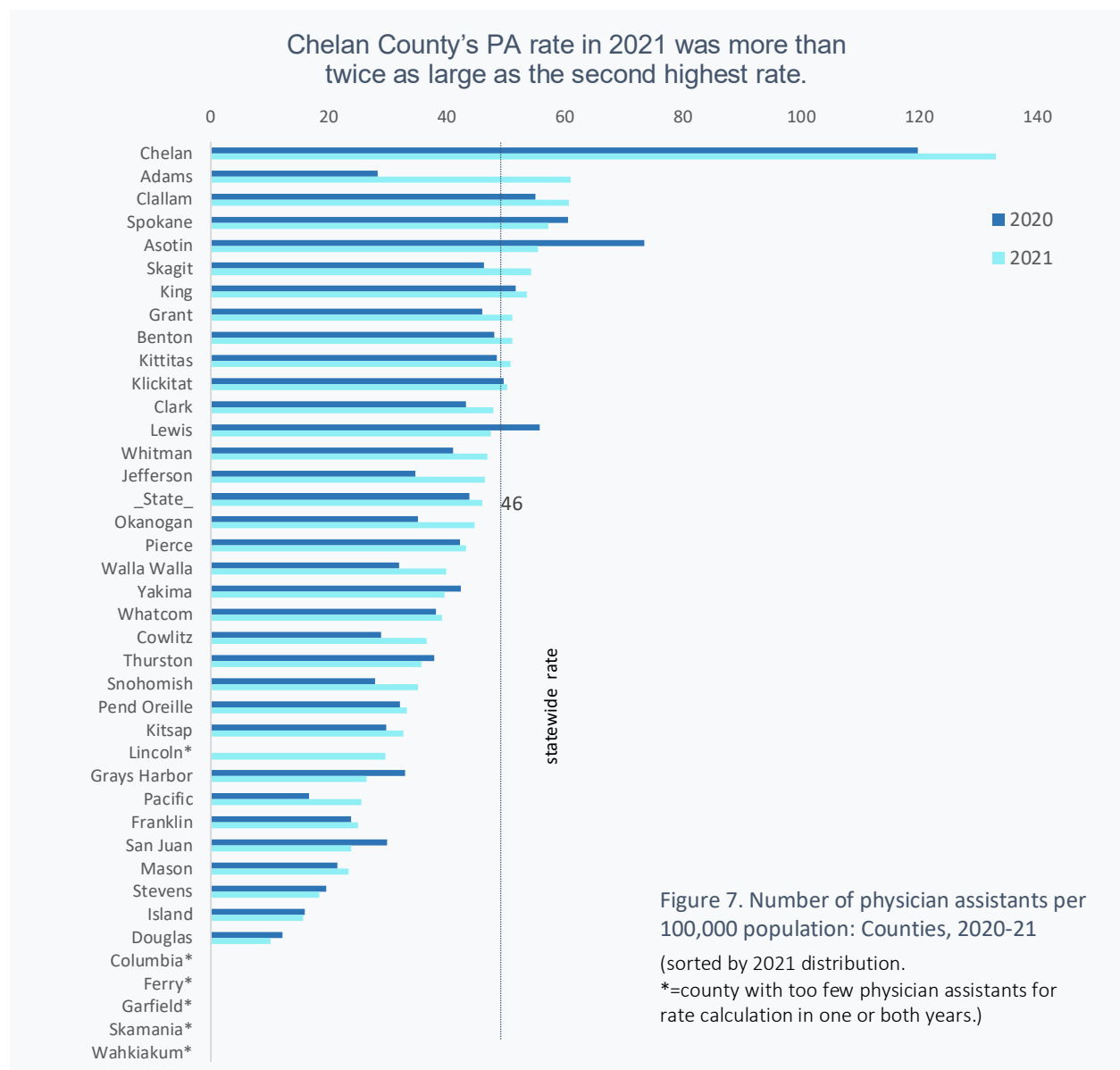
2021



Number of PAs per 100,000 population

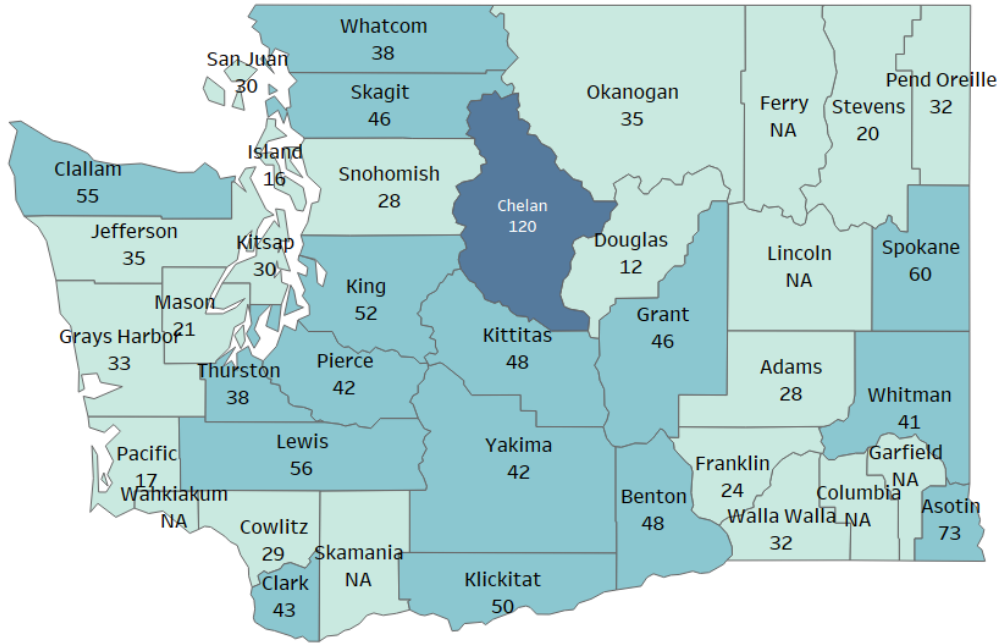
Even though the ranking of county shares of the state's total PA supply changed little from 2020 to 2021, the rates of PAs per 100,000 population among the counties had fairly large changes in some counties. This happened particularly in those counties that had very small numbers of PAs in either or both years. The largest change occurred in Adams County. Its PA rate increased from 28 to 61. The largest decrease occurred in Asotin County where the PA rate changed from 73 to 55. The numbers of PAs in Columbia County, Ferry County, Garfield County and Skamania County dropped in 2021 below a level that we need for PA rate calculation.

Chelan County continued to lead the other counties in PA rates. Its rate of 133 in 2021, an increase from 120 in 2020, was more than twice as large as the second highest rate of 61 in Asotin County. More than half of the counties had an increase in their PA rates. However, more than half of the counties had a PA rate that was lower than the state average of 46. (Figure 8)

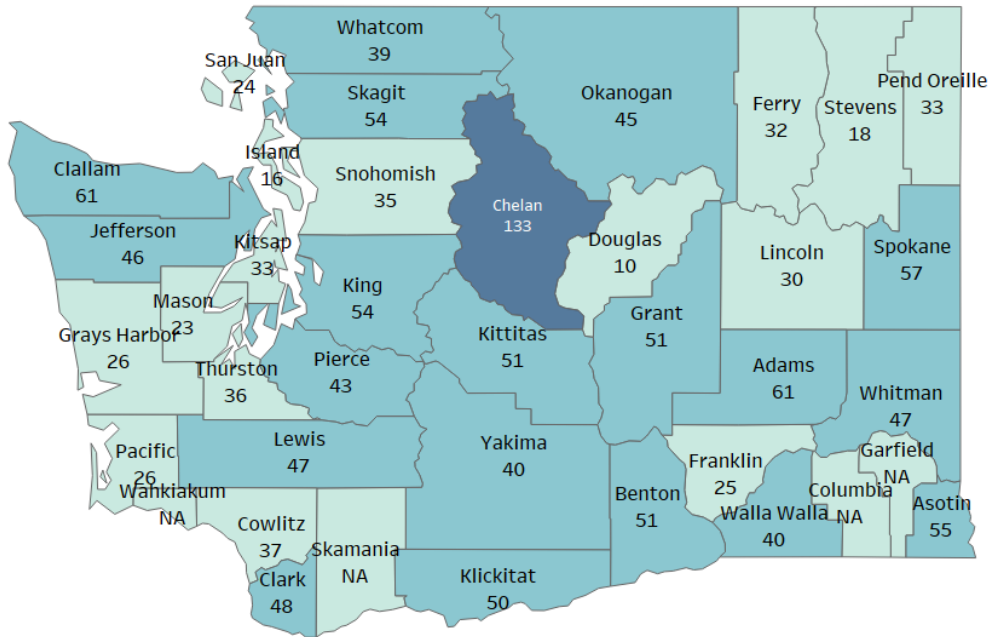


Map 2. Number of physician assistants per 100,000 population: Counties, 2020-21
 See [Table 3](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data.

2020



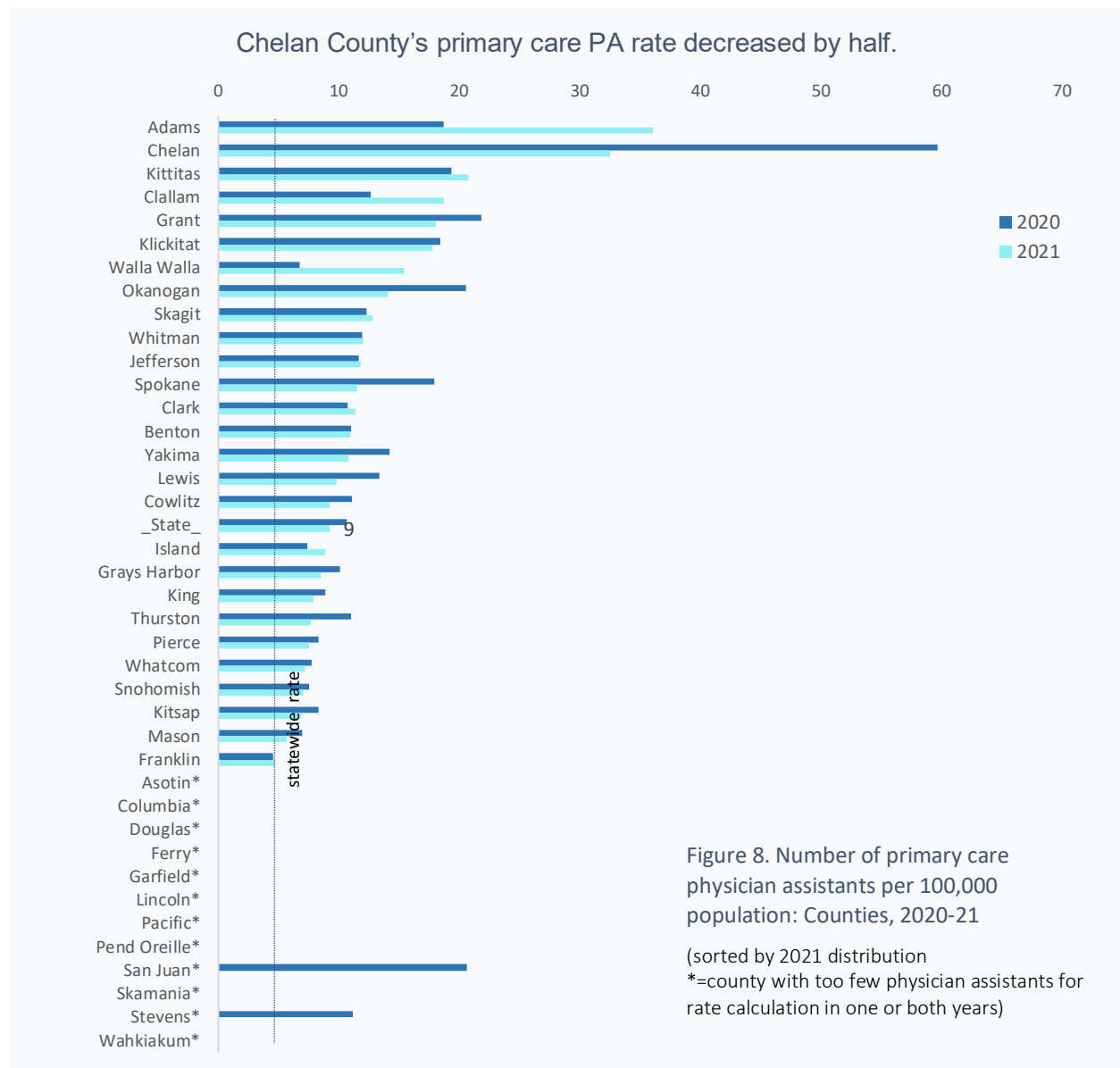
2021



Number of primary care PAs per 100,000 population

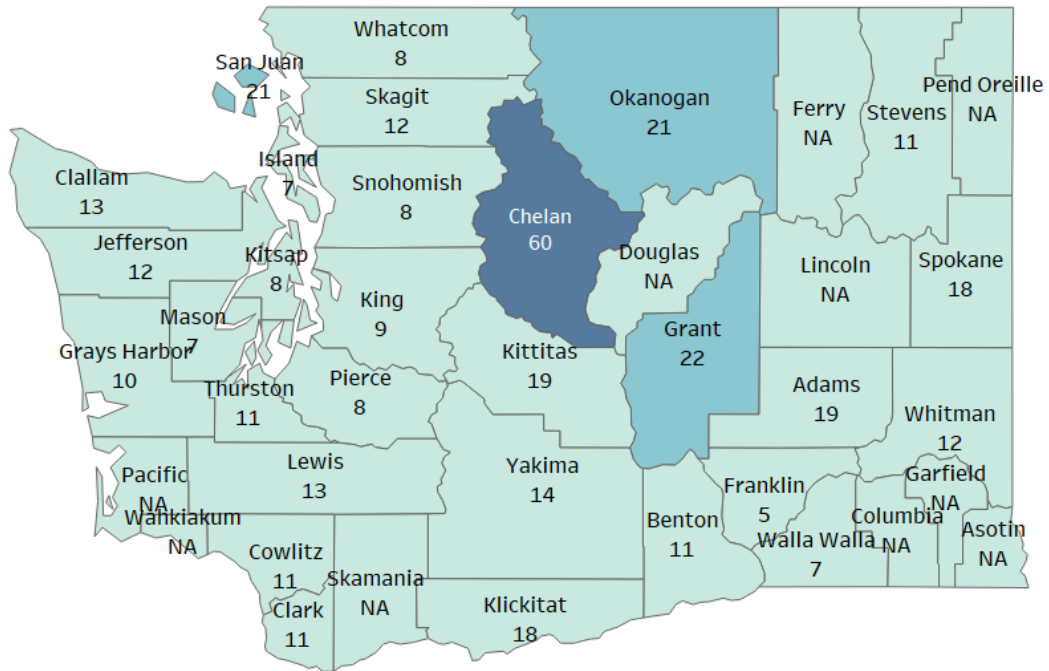
Most counties experienced a decrease in 2021 in their rates for primary care PAs. The largest decrease occurred in Chelan County where the rate dropped by nearly half from 60 to 32 PAs per 100,000 population. Recall that Chelan’s total number of PAs increased in 2021. This large decrease of primary care PAs in Chelan in 2021 was not necessarily an exodus of PAs from Chelan. Rather, more PAs in Chelan in 2021 were designated as specialists by the insurance carriers. Primary care PA rates had large increases in Adams County and Walla Walla County. Both counties had rates in 2021 that were twice as large as their rates in 2020.

Counties along the Interstate 5 corridor from north to south of the Puget Sound had rates that were lower than the state average of 9 primary care PAs per 100,000 in 2021, except Skagit County. With the exception of Franklin County, counties east of the Cascades all had primary care PA rates higher than the state average. (Figure 9)

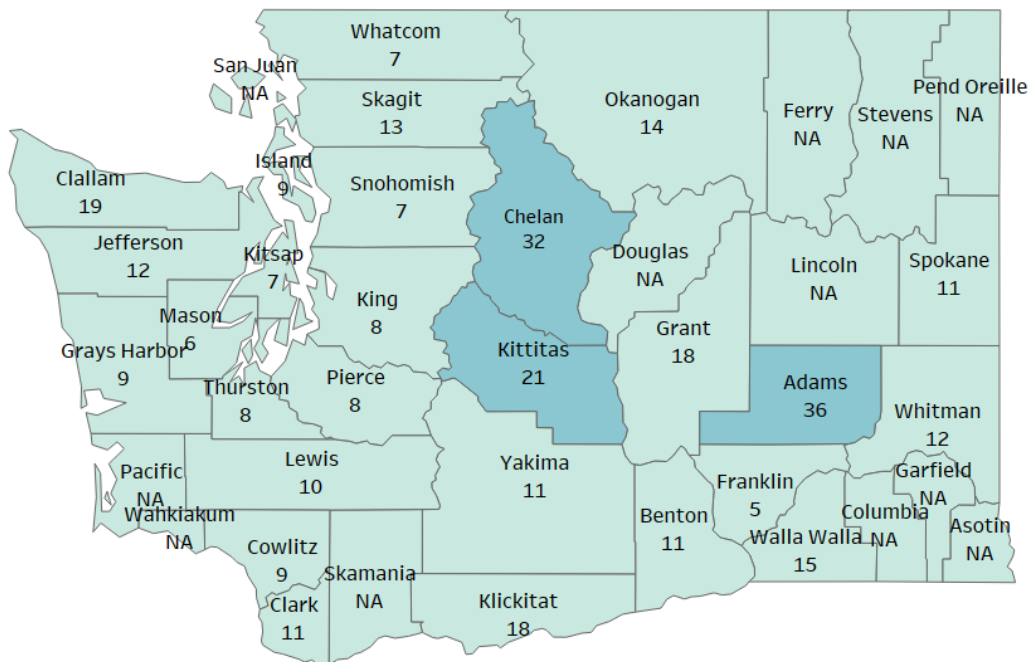


Map 3. Number of primary care physician assistants per 100,000 population: Counties, 2020-21
 See [Table 3](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data.

2020

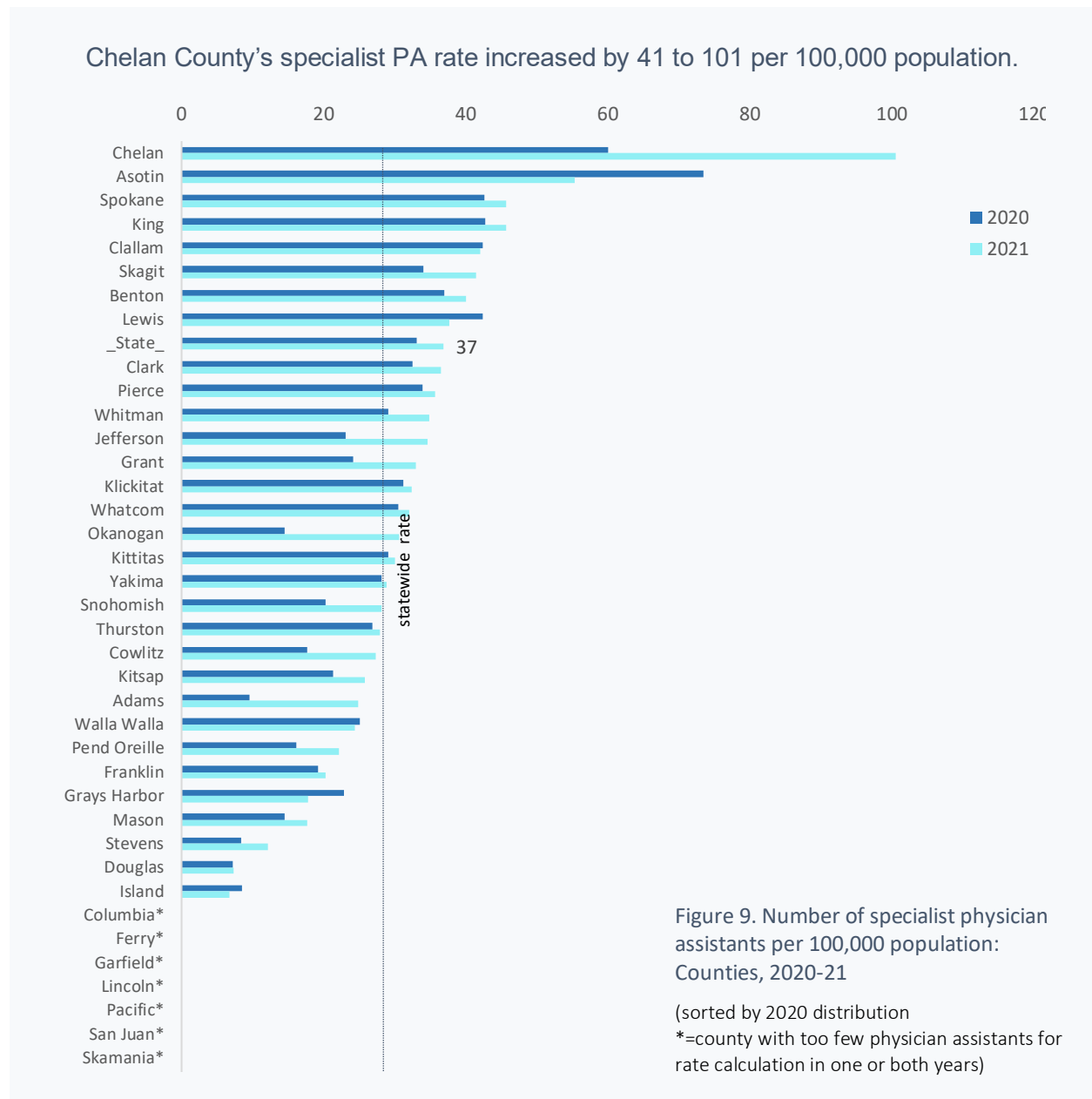


2021



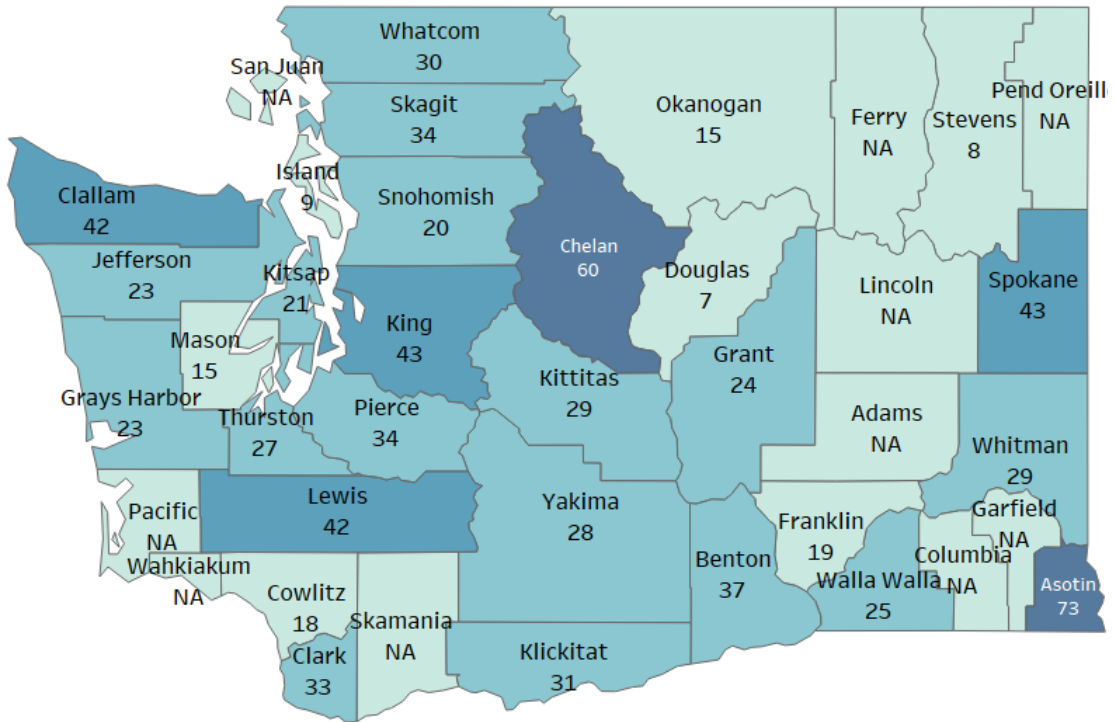
Number of specialist PAs per 100,000 population

The rate of specialist care PAs increased in the majority (26) of the counties. PAs in specialist care concentrated in a few counties. While the statewide rate of PAs in specialist care was 37 per 100,000 population, only eight counties had specialist care PA rates above the statewide rate. Leading the eight was Chelan County. Chelan's rate in 2021 was 101 and that was an increase of 41 from the county's rate in 2020. Chelan's increase in rate of specialist care PAs was a combination of new PAs added to the county's supply and a redesignation of previously primary care PAs to specialist care PAs. Besides Chelan, two other counties also saw large increases in their specialist care PA rates. Okanogan's rate increased from 15 to 31 and Adams's rate from 10 to 25. Asotin was the only county that had relatively large decrease in its rate, from 73 to 55. (Figure 10)

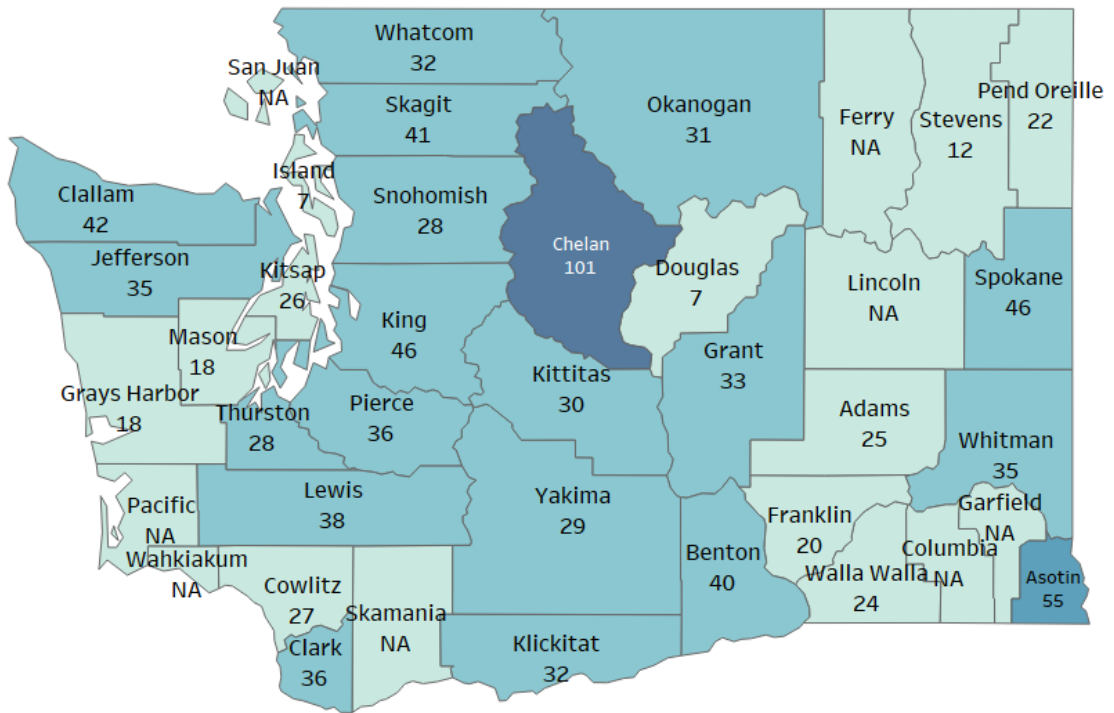


Map 4. Number of specialist care physician assistants per 100,000 population: Counties, 2020-21
 See [Table 3](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data.

2020



2021



Percentage of female PAs

The share of female PAs at the county level ranged from nearly 100% in San Juan County (in both 2020 and 2021) to below 40% in some counties. In 2021, nine counties had a share of female PAs above the state average share of 59%. With the exception of Whitman County, the shares of female PAs in counties east of the Cascades were below the state average in both 2020 and 2021. (Figure 11)

A wide range of percentages of female PAs among the counties. Shares of female PAs in all eastern Washington counties but one were below state average.

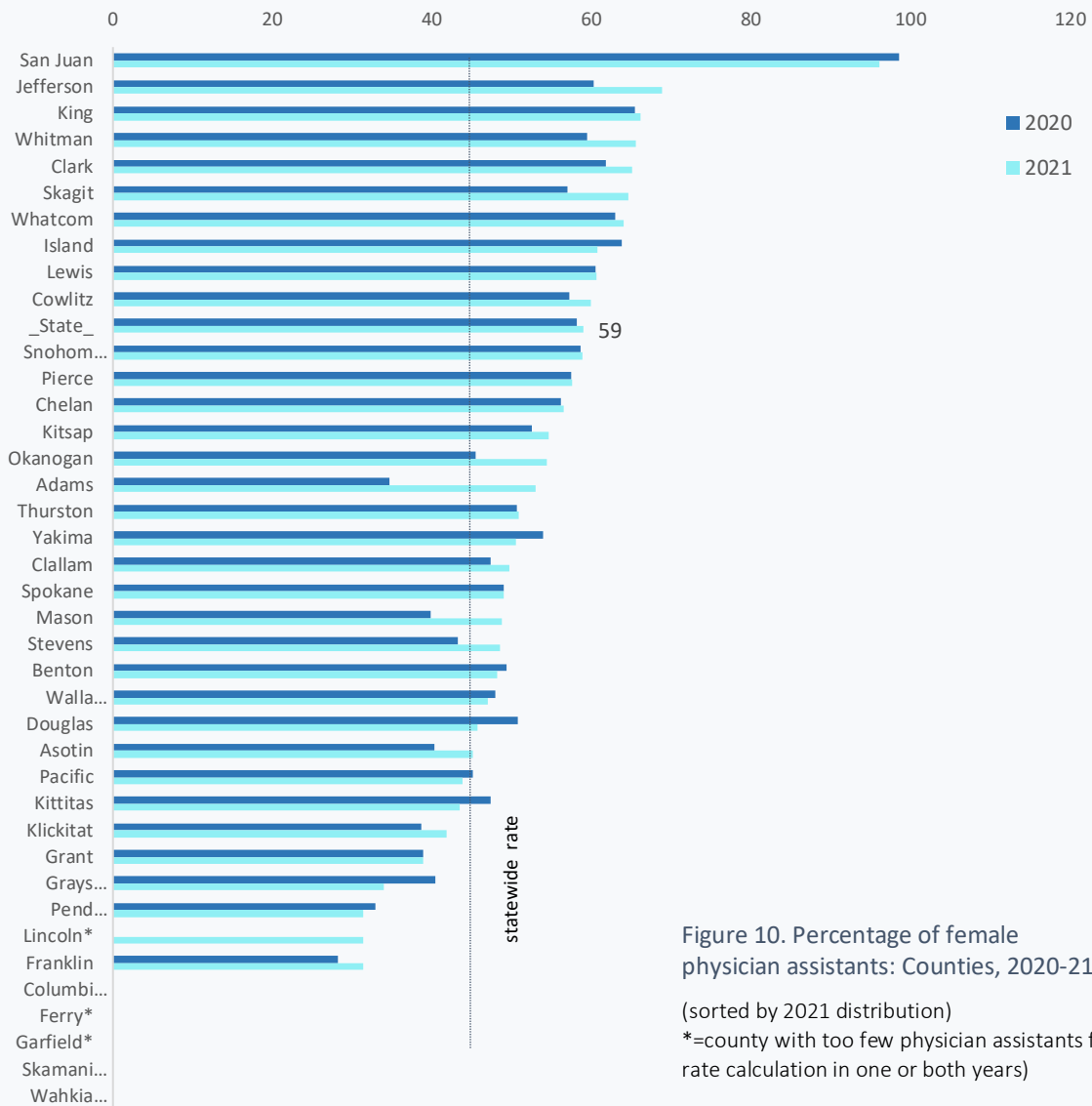


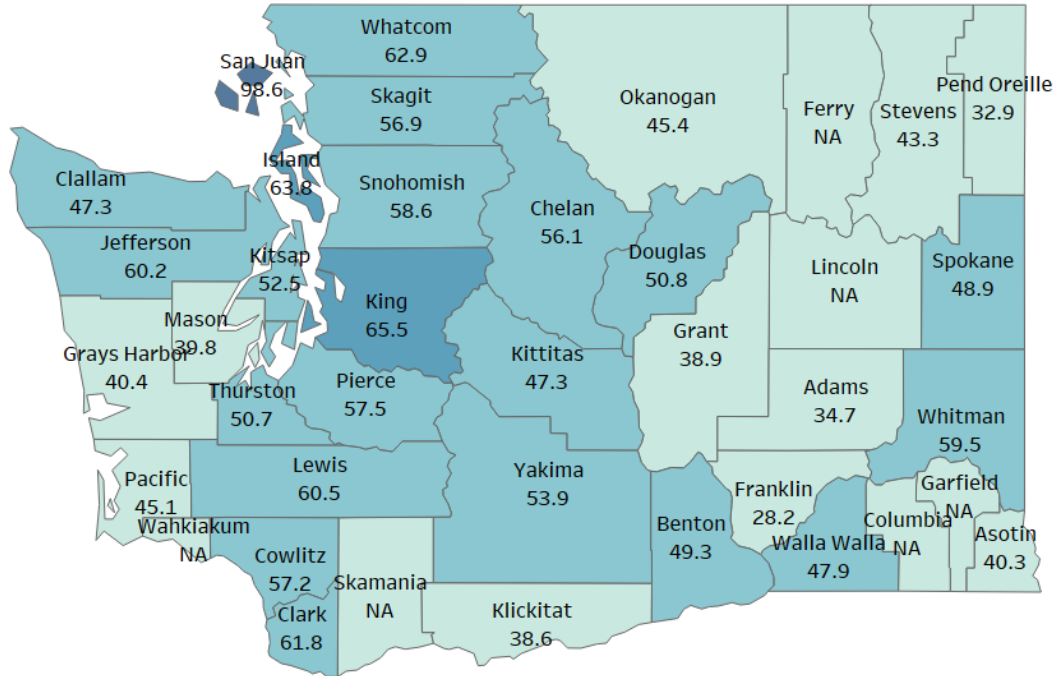
Figure 10. Percentage of female physician assistants: Counties, 2020-21

(sorted by 2021 distribution)

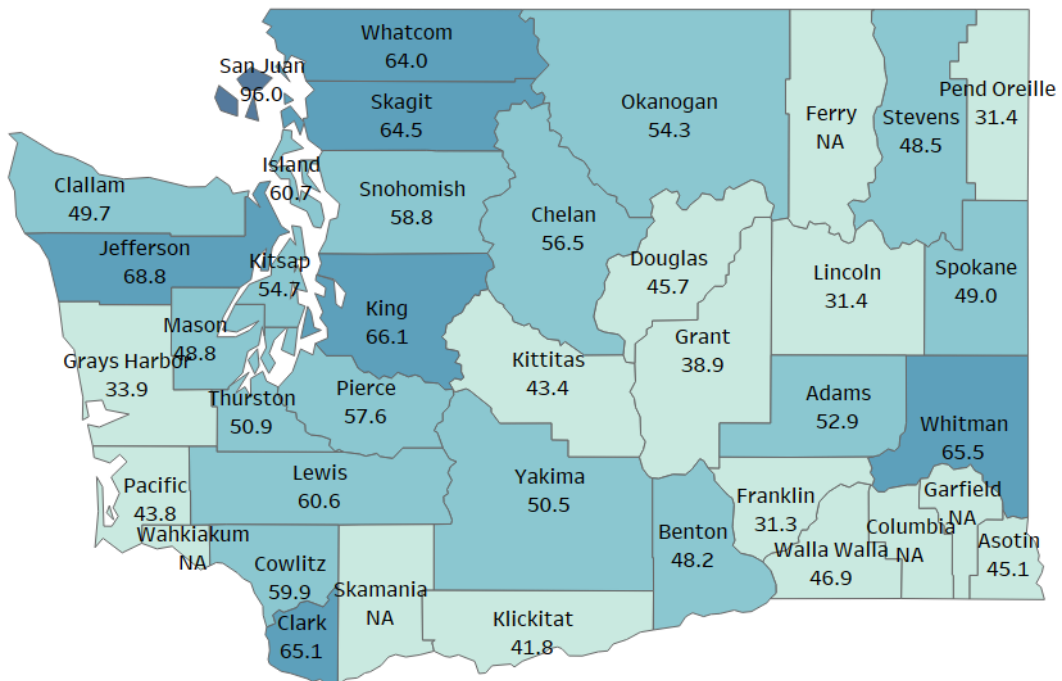
*=county with too few physician assistants for rate calculation in one or both years)

Map 5. Percentage of female physician assistants: Counties, 2020-21
 See [Table 4](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data.

2020



2021



Median age

There was no change in the overall PA median age change statewide, but a few counties had relatively large changes. San Juan County's PA median age of 54 was the highest in 2020, and it increased to 61. The PA median age in Klickitat County also increased, from 38 to 44 and in Manson County, from 40 to 44. In Adams County, the PA median age dropped by 5 years from 52 to 47. Except for San Juan County, the PA median age among the counties in 2021 ranged from 35 to 50. (Figure 12)

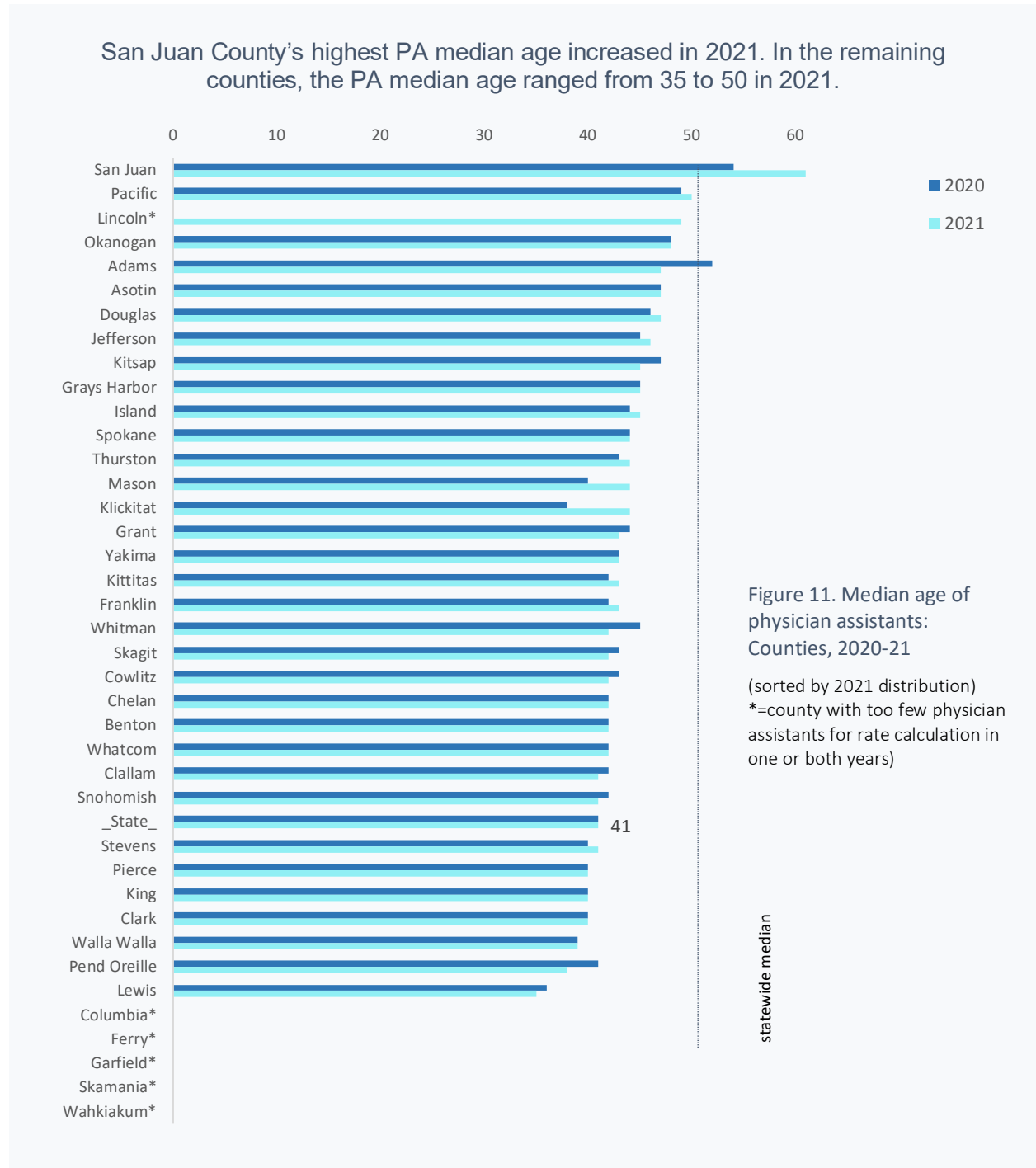
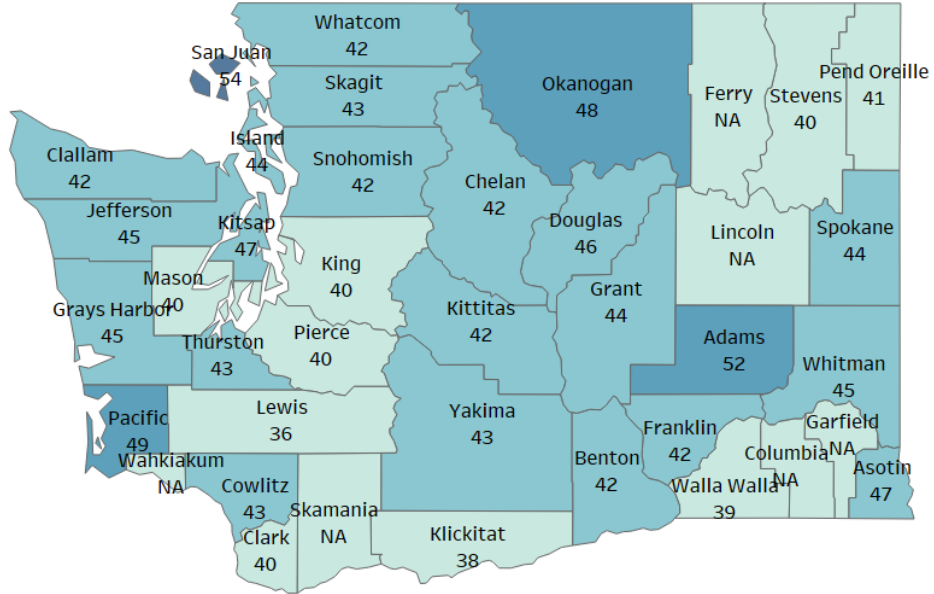


Figure 11. Median age of physician assistants: Counties, 2020-21

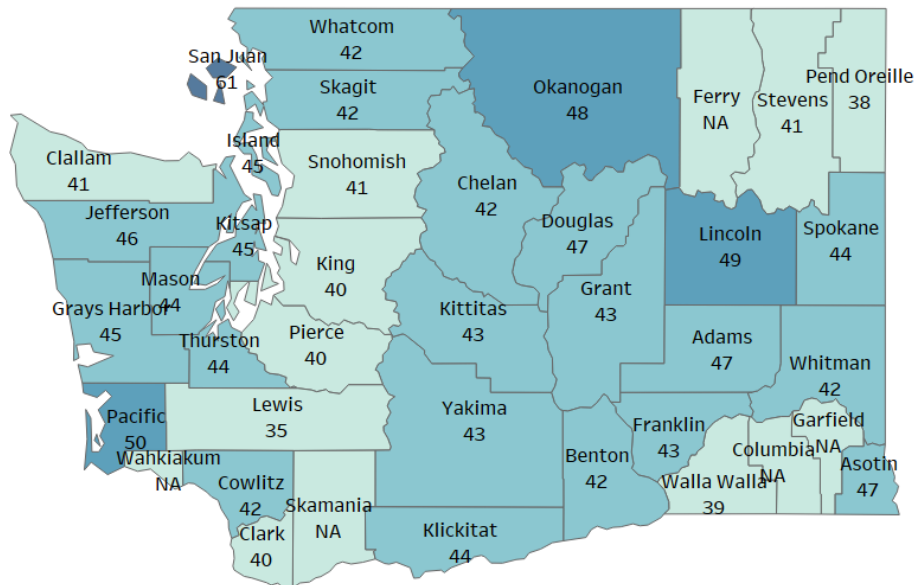
(sorted by 2021 distribution)
 *=county with too few physician assistants for rate calculation in one or both years)

Map 6. Median age of physician assistants: Counties, 2020-21
 See [Table 4](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data.

2020



2021



ACH supplies of physician assistant

An Accountable Community of Health or ACH is a regional coalition consisting of representatives from a variety of sectors, working together to improve population health. Each ACH represents a county or a group of adjacent counties. The nine ACHs, with the counties in each, are:⁴

1. Better Health Together (Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens)
2. Cascade Pacific Action Alliance (Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Thurston and Wahkiakum)
3. Elevate Health (Pierce)
4. Greater Columbia ACH (Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Garfield, Franklin, Kittitas, Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima)
5. HealthierHere (King)
6. North Central ACH (Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan)
7. North Sound ACH (Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom)
8. Olympic ACH (Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap)
9. SWACH (Southwest Washington ACH) (Clark, Klickitat and Skamania)

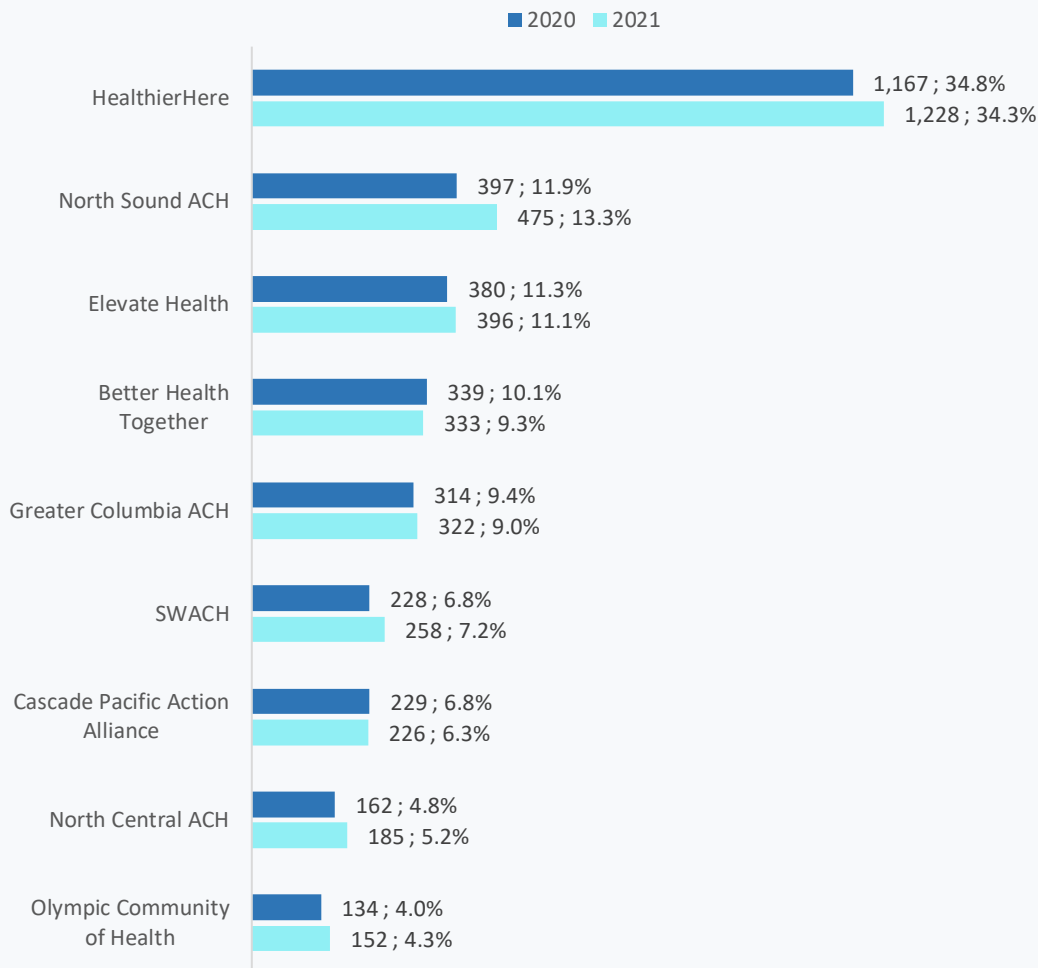
⁴ See <https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/program/achfactsheet.pdf>.

Total supply

The distribution of PAs among the ACHs in 2021 remained roughly the same as in 2020, with HealthierHere accounting for one-third of the state’s total PAs and the other ACHs accounting for 4-13% each. The number of PAs increased in six of the nine ACHs. However, the shares of PAs decreased slightly in five ACHs, including three ACHs where the numbers of PAs had an increase (HealthierHere, Elevate Health and Greater Columbia ACH). The largest share change, either in increase or in decrease, was an increase of 1.4 percentage point from 11.9% to 13.3% in North Sound ACH. (Figure 13)

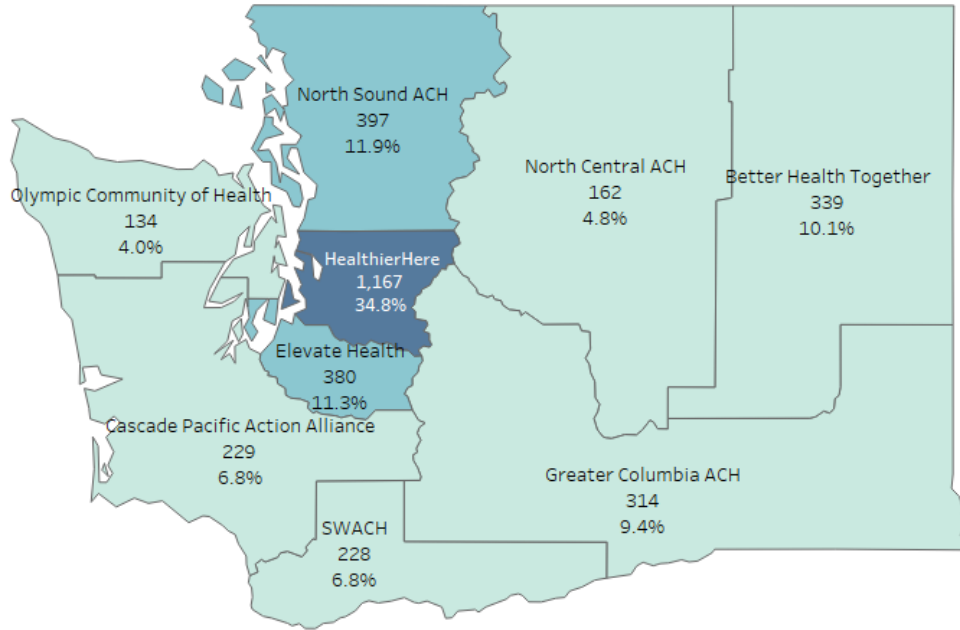
HealthierHere continued to account for 1/3 of the state's total PAs.
Changes in ACH shares of the state total PAs were minor.

Figure 12. Number and percent of state total physician assistant supply: ACH regions, 2020-21 (sorted by 2021 distribution)

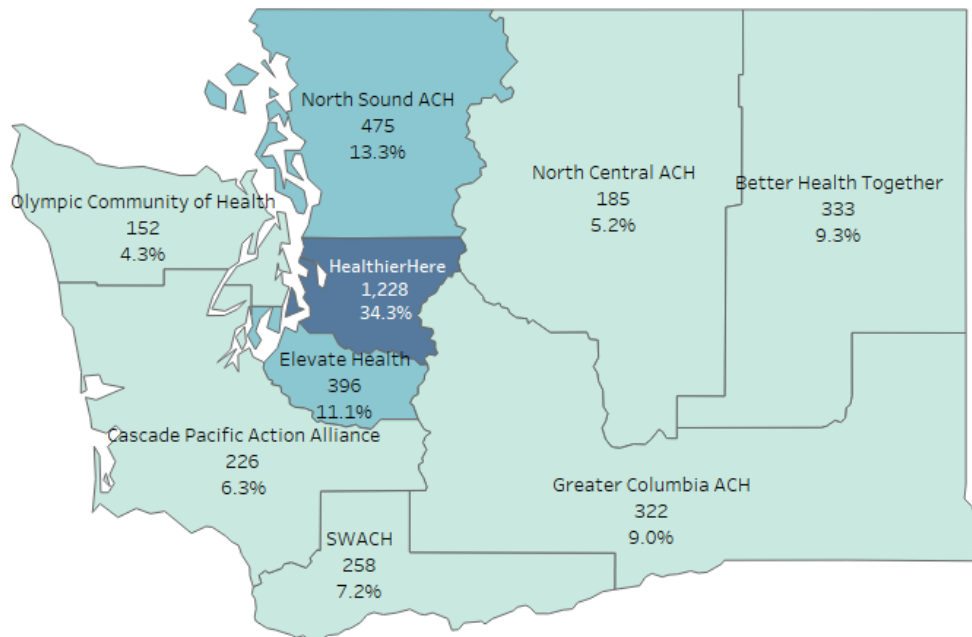


Map 7. Number and percent of state total physician assistant supply: ACH Regions, 2020-21
 See [Table 5](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data.

2020



2021

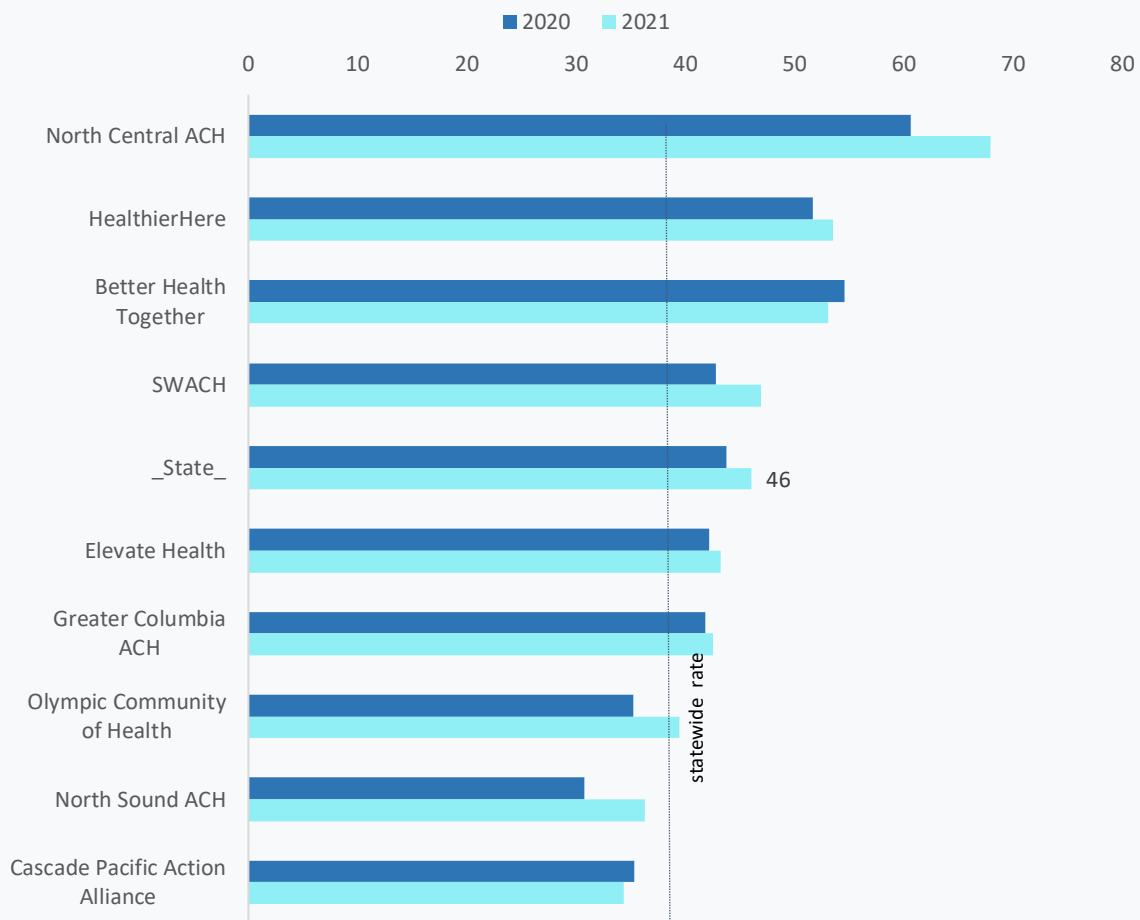


Number of PAs per 100,000 population

North Central ACH, which includes Chelan County, increased its lead in number of PAs per 100,000 population from 61 to 68. Its increase was also the largest of all ACHs. The PA rate also increased in six other ACHs. The only two ACHs where the PA rate decreased, though slightly, were Better Health Together and Cascade Pacific Action Alliance. Cascade Pacific Action Alliance's PA rate of 34 in 2021 was also the lowest of all ACHs. (Figure 14)

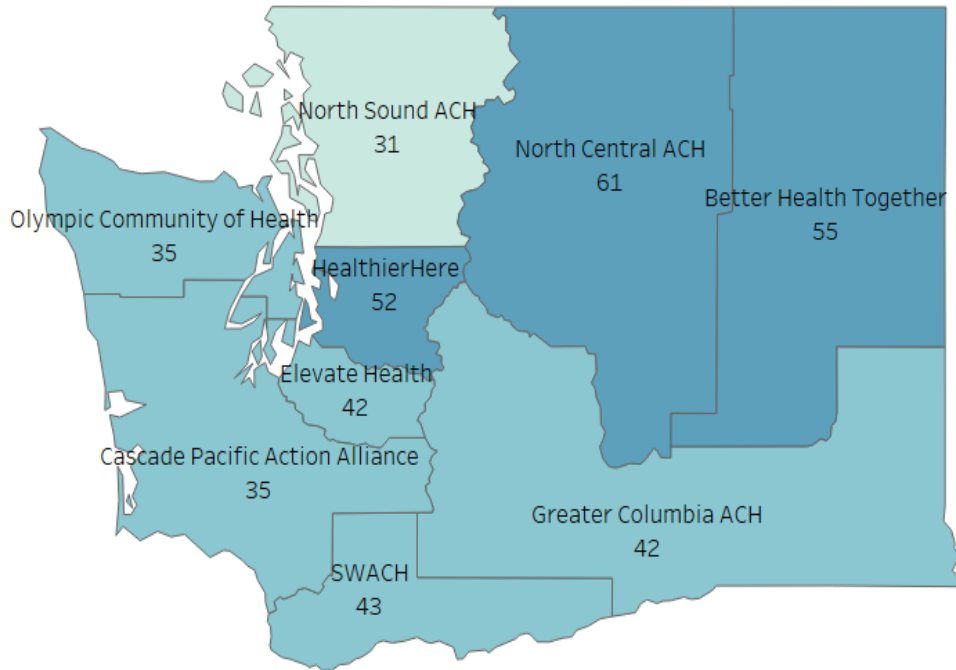
North Central ACH increased its lead in PA rate and its increase was the largest.

Figure 14. Number of physician assistants per 100,000 population: ACH Regions, 2020-21 (sorted by 2021 distribution)

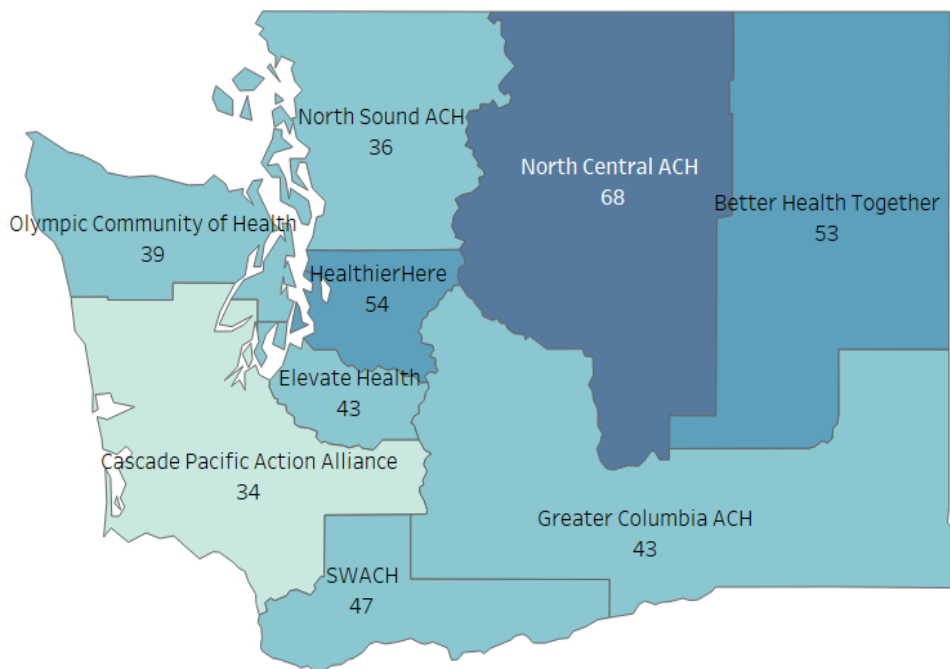


Map 8. Number of physician assistants per 100,000 population: ACH Regions, 2020-21
See [Table 6](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data

2020



2021

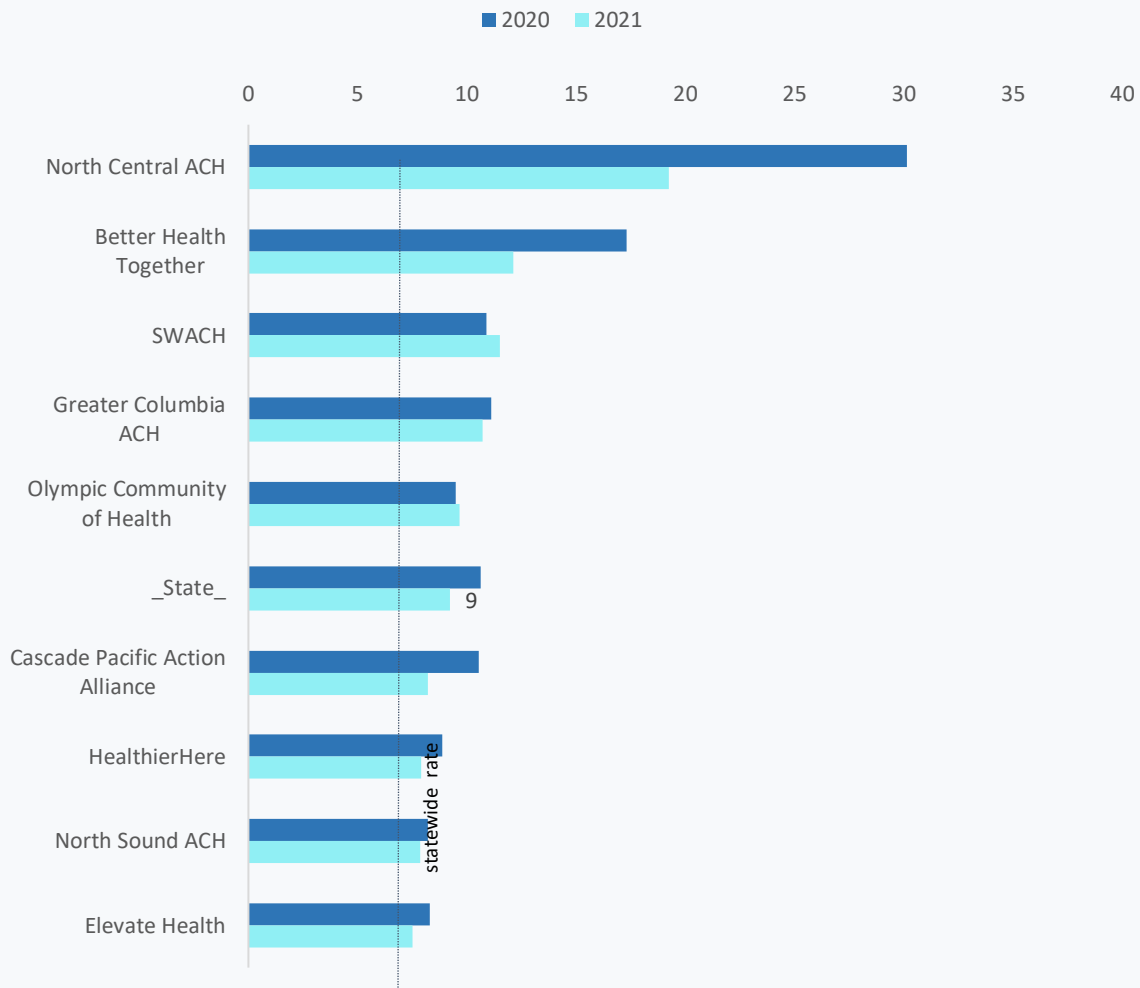


Number of primary care PAs per 100,000 population

In all ACHs, with the exception of SWACH, the rate of primary care PAs per 100,000 population decreased in 2021. The largest decrease was in the ACH with the highest rate of primary care PAs in both years – North Central ACH. Its rate decreased by one-third from 30 to 19. In the remaining ACHs, the rate ranged from 8 to twelve primary care PAs per 100,000 in 2021. (Figure 15)

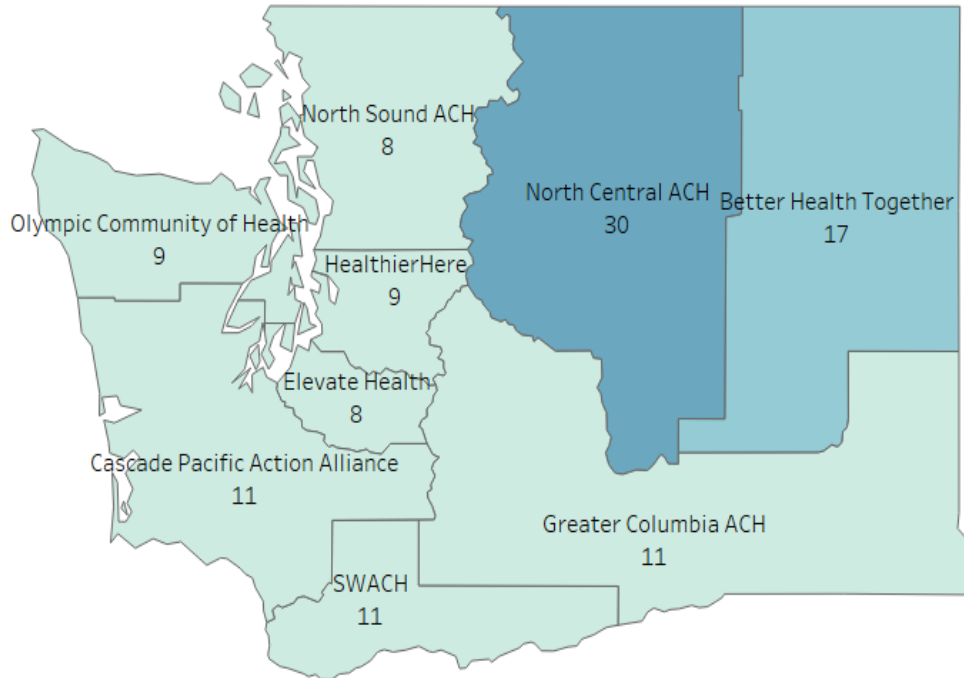
The primary care PA rate decreased in all but one of the ACHs from 2020 to 2021, with the largest decrease in the North Central ACH.

Figure 13. Number of primary care physician assistants per 100,000 population: ACH Regions, 2020-21 (sorted by 2021 distribution)

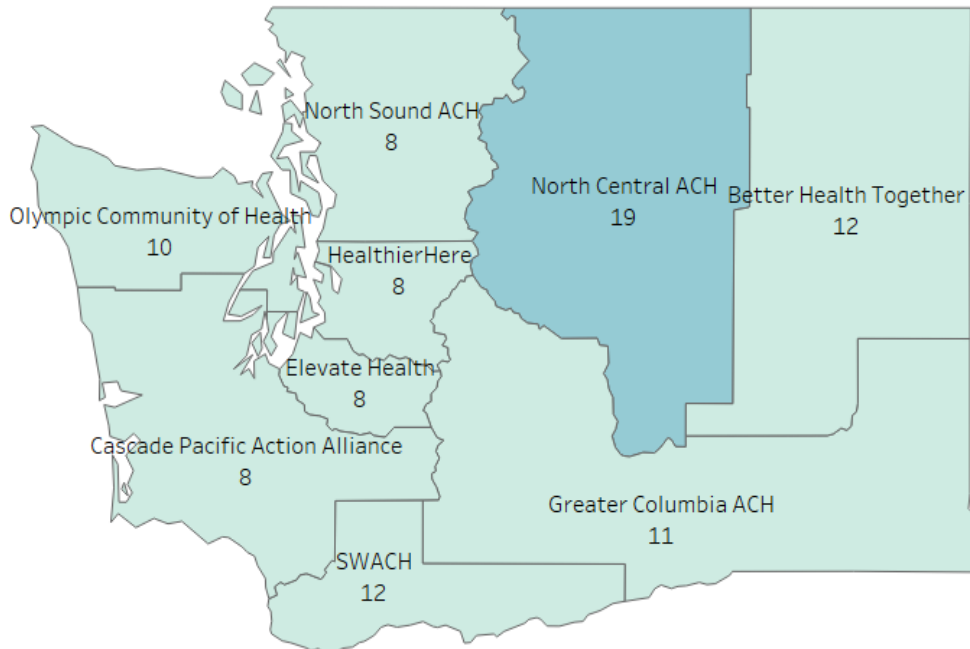


Map 9. Number of primary care physician assistants per 100,000 population: ACH Regions, 2020-21
See [Table 6](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data.

2020



2021

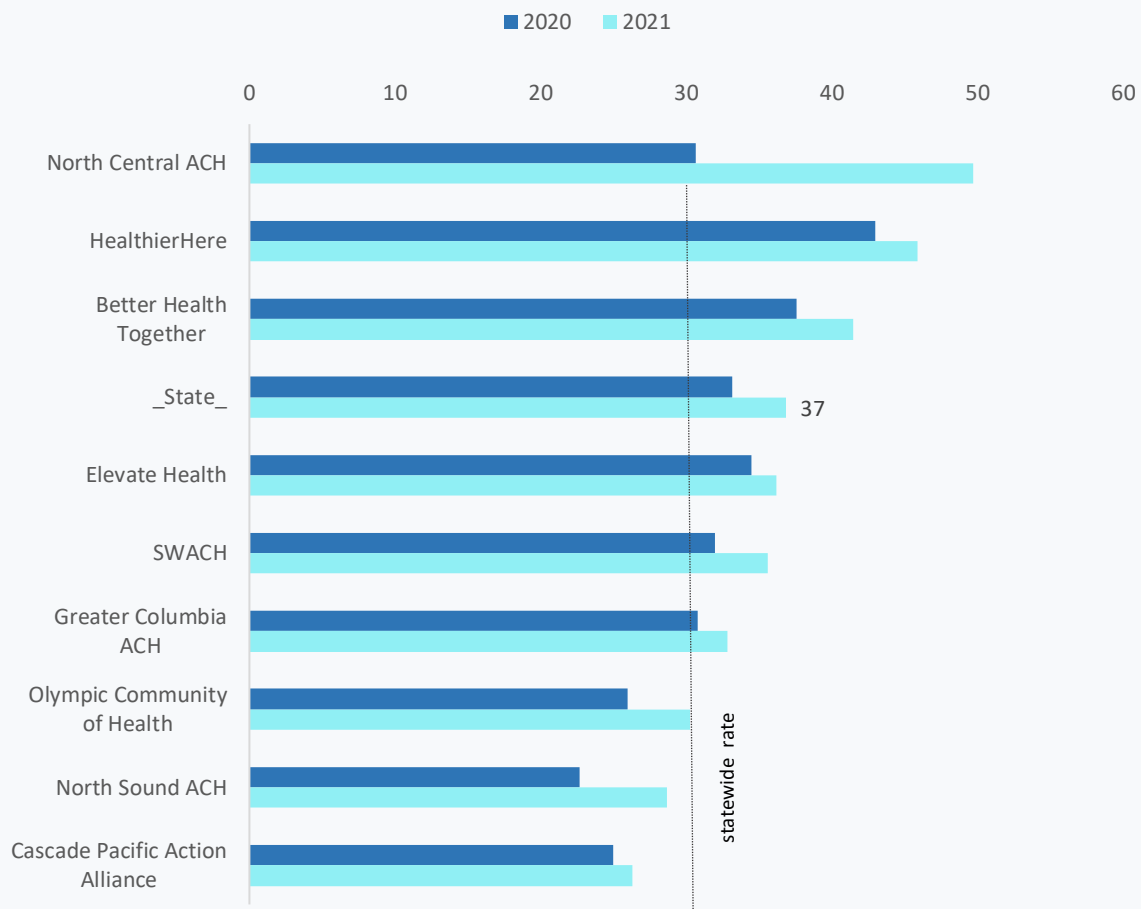


Number of specialist care PAs per 100,000 population

The number of specialist care PAs per 100,000 population increased in 2021 in all nine ACHs. Due to the large increase in the member county of Chelan, the specialist PA rate in North Central ACH had the largest increase, from 31 to 50, propelling it from below the state average in 2020 to the highest rate of all ACHs in 2021. Two other ACHs also had rates higher than the state average, in both years. These were HealthierHere and Better Health Together. That leaves the remaining six ACHs with specialist PA rates below the state average in 2021. This includes Elevate Health, which had a rate slightly higher than the state average in 2020. (Figure 16)

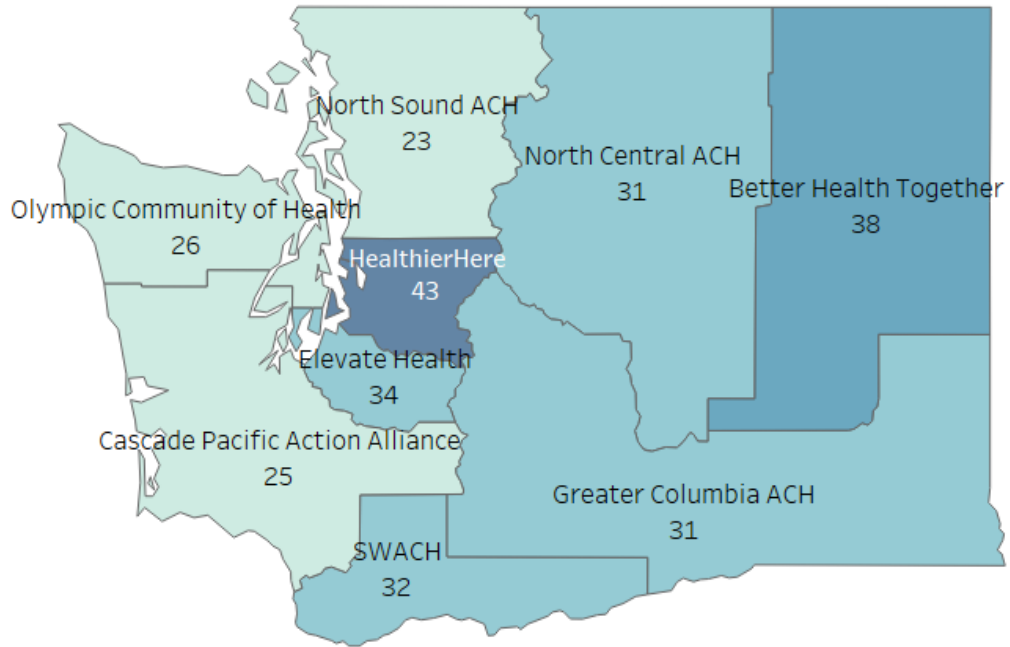
The specialist care PA rate increased in all ACHs in 2021.

Figure 16. Number of specialist physician assistants per 100,000 population: ACH Regions, 2020-21 (sorted by 2021 distribution)

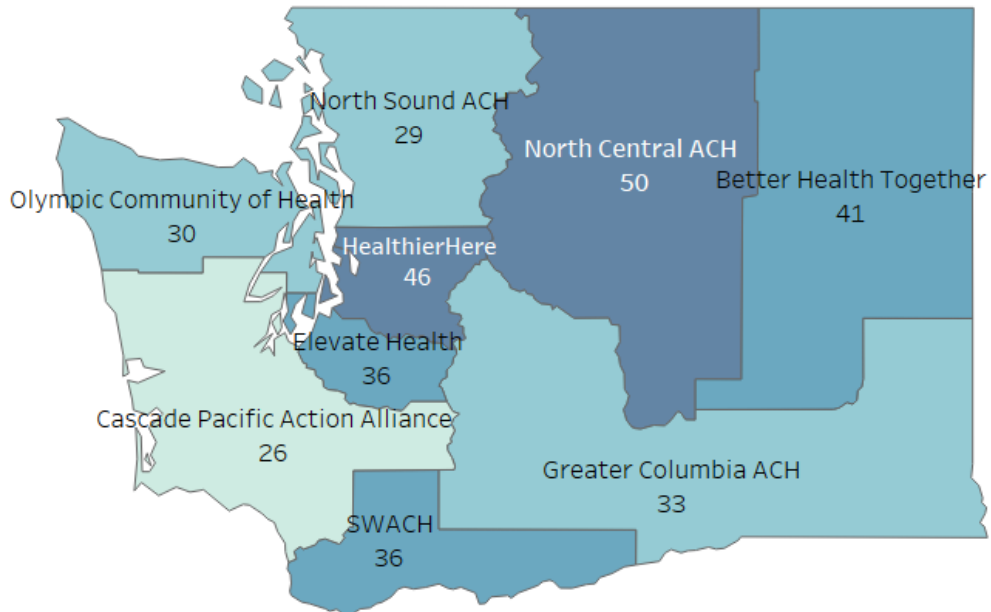


Map 10. Number of specialist physician assistants per 100,000 population: ACH Regions, 2020-21
 See [Table 6](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data

2020



2021

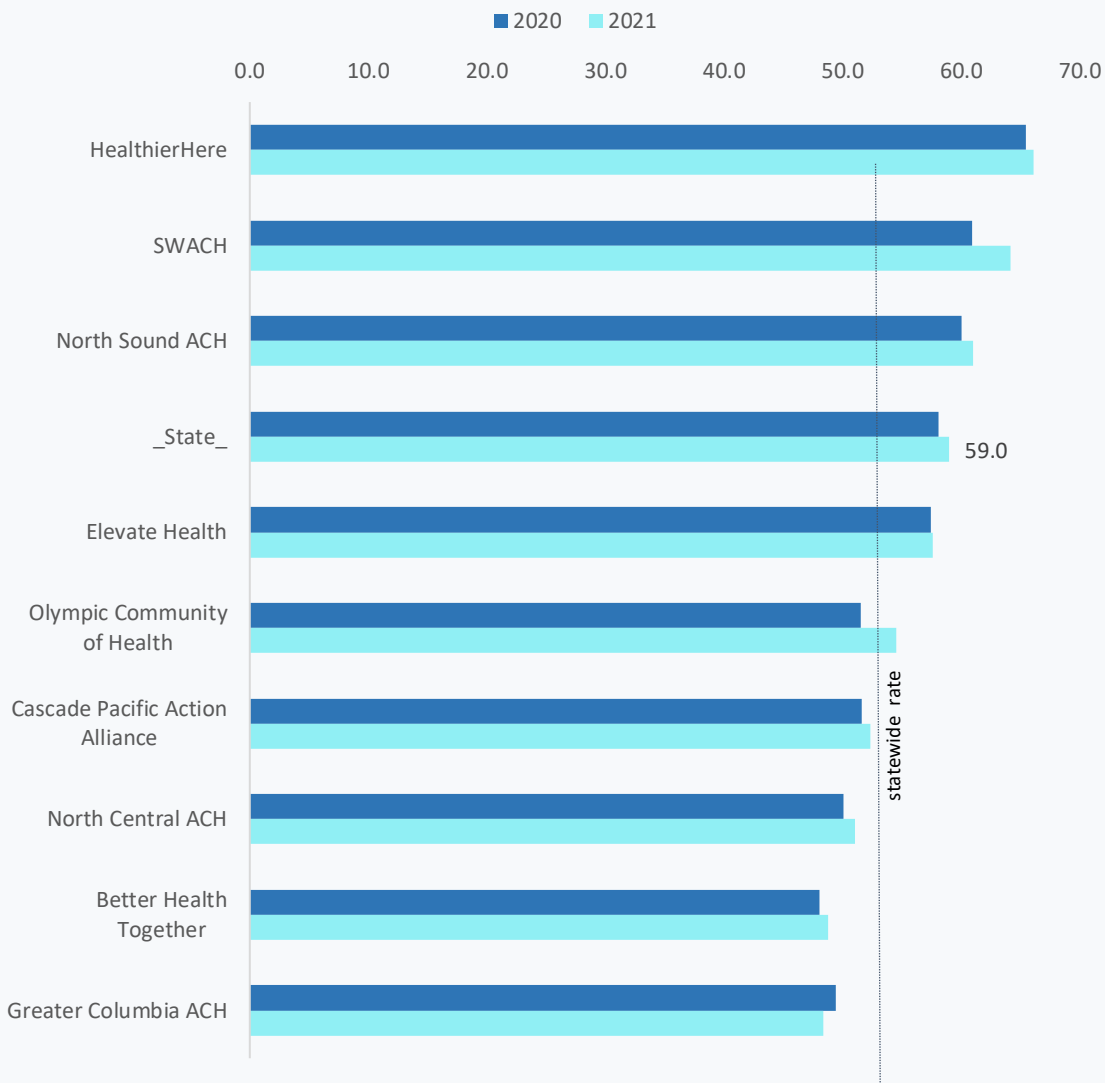


Percentage of female PAs

Although changes in the shares of the ACHs' female PAs were small in 2021, eight of the nine ACHs had an increase in their shares. The only one with a decrease, from 49.4% to 48.4%, was Greater Columbia ACH. The same six ACHs, however, still had shares of female PAs below the state average (58.1% in 2020 and 59% in 2021). The three ACHs with shares above the state average were HealthierHere, SWACH and North Sound ACH. (Figure 17)

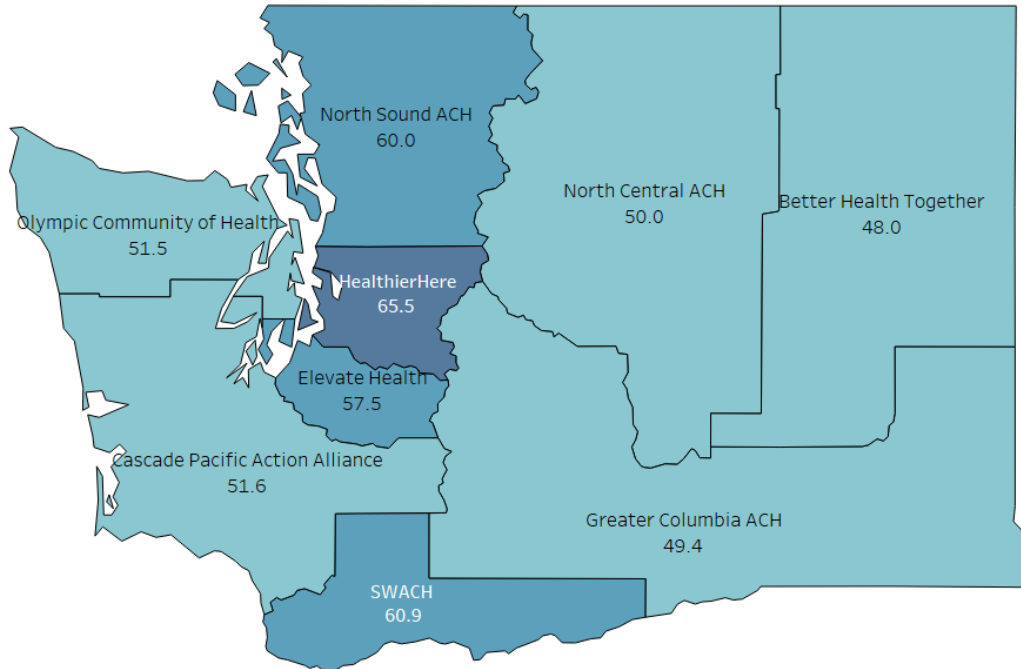
The share of females PAs increased in 2021 in eight of the nine ACHs.

Figure 14. Percentage of female physician assistants: ACH Regions, 2020-21
(sorted by 2021 distribution)

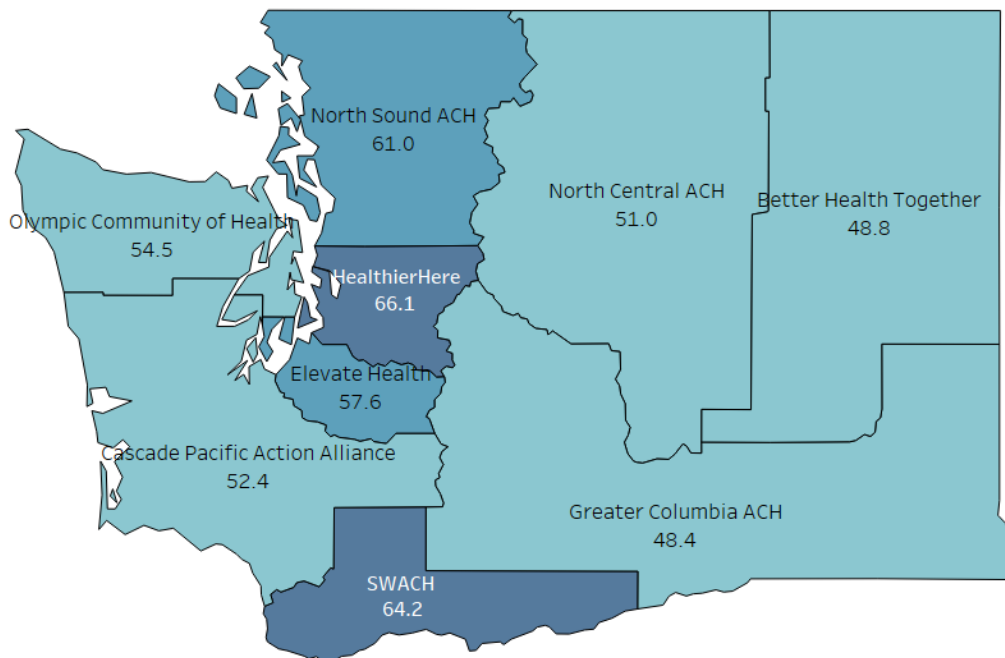


Map 11. Percentage of female physician assistants: ACH Regions, 2020-21
See [Table 7](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data

2020



2021

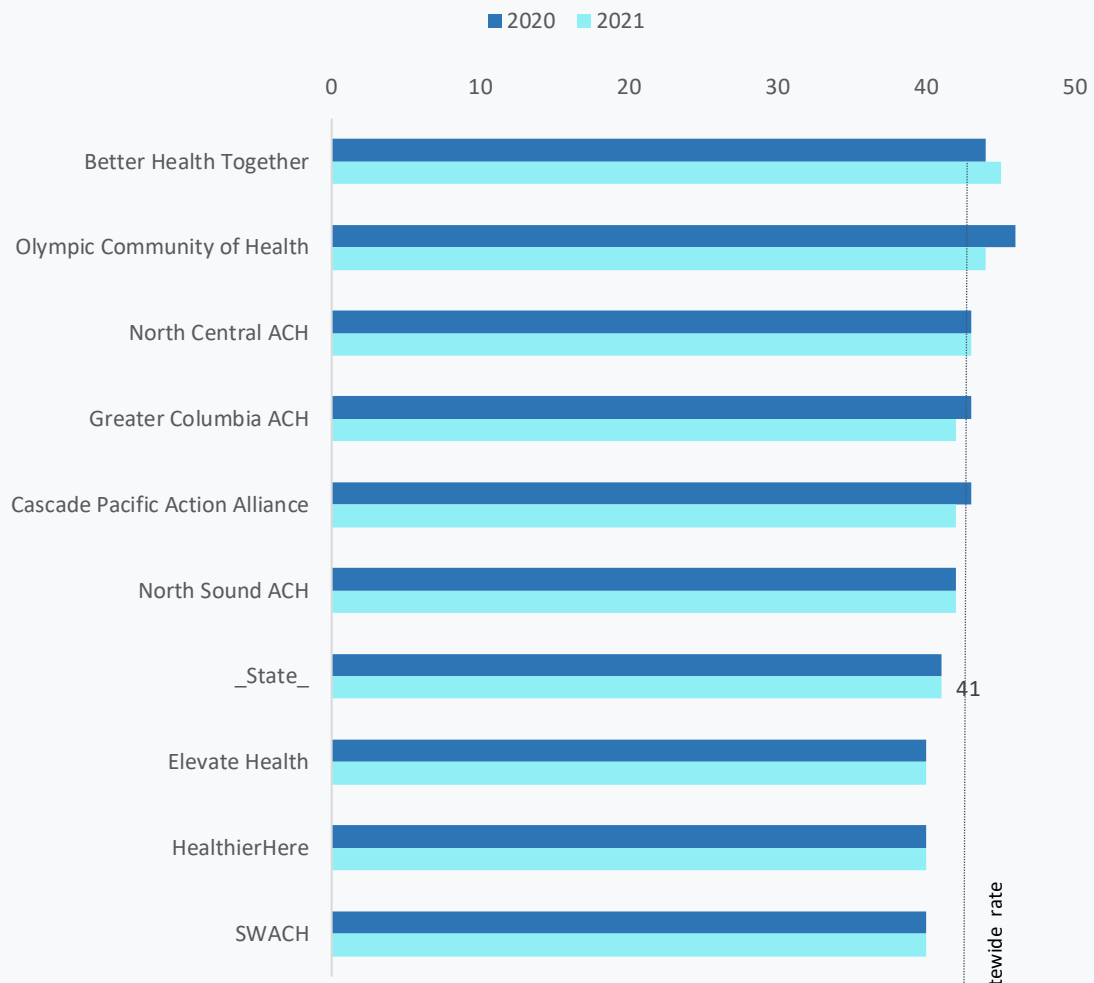


Median age

In five of the nine ACHs, the median age of PAs remained the same in 2021 from the previous year. In three of the remaining ACHs, the median age dropped by 1 to 2 years. Better Health Together was the only ACH in which the PAs' median age increased, from 44 to 45 years. Statewide, the median age of PAs was 41, in both years. The median age of PAs at the ACH level did not differ much from the statewide PA median age of 41, in both years. However, in only three ACHs the median age was below the state median age, in both years as well. These three ACHs were HealthierHear, Elevate Health and SWACH. (Figure 18)

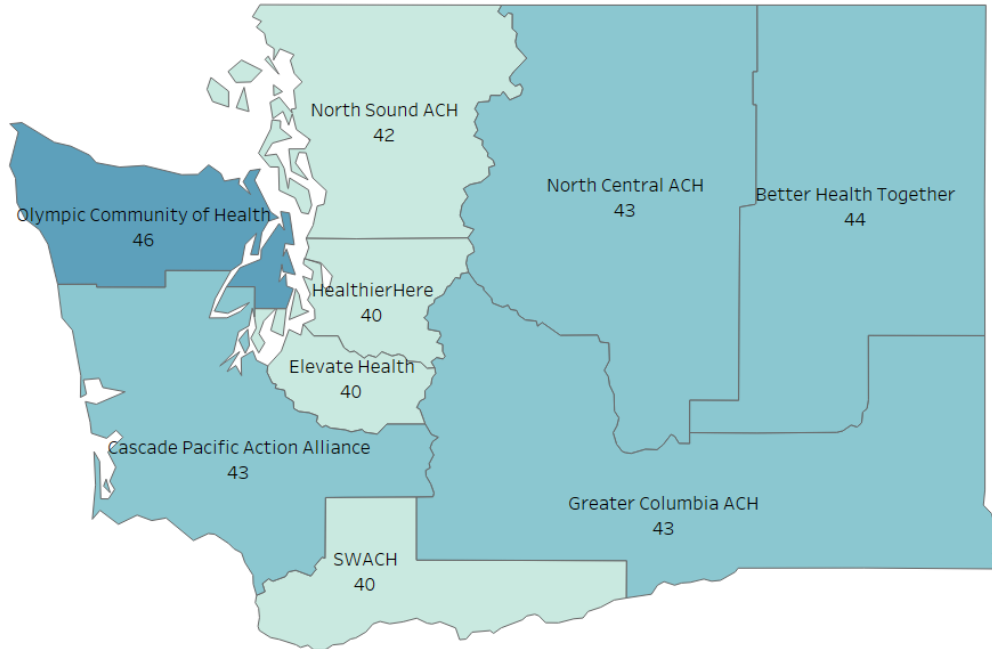
The median age of PAs among the ACHs varied slightly from 41 to 47 years old.

Figure 15. Median age of physician assistant: ACH Regions, 2020-21
(sorted by 2021 distribution)

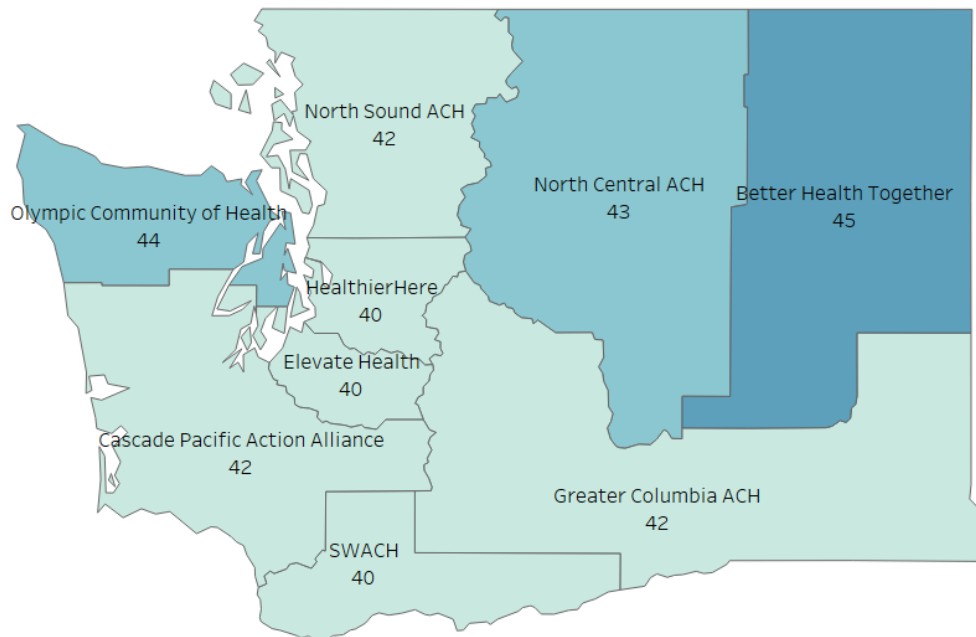


Map 12. Median age of physician assistants: ACH Regions, 2020-21
See [Table 7](#) in the appendix for an accessible version of this data

2020



2021



Data Sources and Method

The main data source for this report was the monthly Network Access Reports that health insurance carriers filed to the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner. We matched the records from the Network Access Reports with the National Provider Identifier (NPI) registry from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and with the health professional license database of the Washington State Department of Health.

We retained only one record from each unique combination of NPI, primary/specialist care status and practice location. We also used a record weighting system to assign a weight to each record so that we could account for PAs with both primary care *and* specialist care designations and/or with multiple practice locations in each care designation and location without overcounting the total PAs. For more details on the data sources and method that we used, see the Data Sources and Method section in [2017-20 Physician assistant supply: Estimates for Washington](#) on our website.

Appendixes – Data Tables

Table 1. Physician assistant supply and characteristics: Washington, 2020-21

State	2020	2021
Total Licenses	4,554	4,795
Number (and Percent) of PAs Providing	3,351	3,574
Direct Care in Washington	73.6%	74.5%
Number of PAs per 100,000 Population	44	46
Primary Care PAs		
Number	815	716
Per 100,000 Population	11	9
Percent	24.3%	20.0%
Specialist PAs		
Number	2,536	2,858
Per 100,000 Population	33	37
Percent	75.7%	80.0%
Percent of Women in		
Total PAs	58.1%	59.0%
Primary Care PAs	60.5%	60.7%
Specialist Care PAs	57.3%	58.6%
Median Age		
Total PAs	41	41
Primary Care PAs	40	41
Specialist PAs	41	41
Median Age of Men		
Total PAs	44	44
Primary Care PAs	42	42
Specialist PAs	45	45
Median Age of Women		
Total PAs	40	39
Primary Care PAs	39	40
Specialist PAs	40	39

Table 2. Number and percent of physician assistants: Counties, 2020-21

County	Number		Percent	
	2020 (N)	2021 (N)	2020 (%)	2021 (%)
Adams	6	13	0.2%	0.4%
Asotin	17	13	0.5%	0.4%
Benton	99	107	2.9%	3.0%
Chelan	95	109	2.8%	3.0%
Clallam	42	47	1.3%	1.3%
Clark	216	245	6.4%	6.9%
Columbia	2	3	0.1%	0.1%
Cowlitz	32	41	0.9%	1.1%
Douglas	5	5	0.2%	0.1%
Ferry	2	3	0.1%	0.1%
Franklin	23	25	0.7%	0.7%
Garfield	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Grant	46	52	1.4%	1.5%
Grays Harbor	25	20	0.7%	0.6%
Island	14	13	0.4%	0.4%
Jefferson	11	15	0.3%	0.4%
King	1,167	1,228	34.8%	34.3%
Kitsap	81	90	2.4%	2.5%
Kittitas	23	24	0.7%	0.7%
Klickitat	11	12	0.3%	0.3%
Lewis	45	39	1.3%	1.1%
Lincoln	2	3	0.1%	0.1%
Mason	14	15	0.4%	0.4%
Okanogan	15	19	0.5%	0.5%
Pacific	4	6	0.1%	0.2%
Pend Oreille	4	5	0.1%	0.1%
Pierce	380	396	11.3%	11.1%
San Juan	5	4	0.2%	0.1%
Skagit	60	72	1.8%	2.0%
Skamania	1	1	0.0%	0.0%
Snohomish	231	297	6.9%	8.3%
Spokane	316	301	9.4%	8.4%
Stevens	9	9	0.3%	0.2%
Thurston	110	105	3.3%	2.9%
Wahkiakum	-	-	0.0%	0.0%
Walla Walla	20	25	0.6%	0.7%
Whatcom	87	89	2.6%	2.5%
Whitman	21	22	0.6%	0.6%
Yakima	109	104	3.3%	2.9%

Table 3. Number of PAs per 100,000 population - total, primary care and specialist care: Counties, 2020-21

County	Total PAs		Primary Care PAs		Specialist Care PAs	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Adams	28	19	*	61	36	25
Asotin	73	*	73	55	*	55
Benton	48	11	37	51	11	40
Chelan	120	60	60	133	32	101
Clallam	55	13	42	61	19	42
Clark	43	11	33	48	11	36
Columbia	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cowlitz	29	11	18	37	9	27
Douglas	12	*	7	10	*	7
Ferry	*	*	*	*	*	*
Franklin	24	5	19	25	5	20
Garfield	*	*	*	*	*	*
Grant	46	22	24	51	18	33
Grays Harbor	33	10	23	26	9	18
Island	16	7	9	16	9	7
Jefferson	35	12	23	46	12	35
King	52	9	43	54	8	46
Kitsap	30	8	21	33	7	26
Kittitas	48	19	29	51	21	30
Klickitat	50	18	31	50	18	32
Lewis	56	13	42	47	10	38
Lincoln	*	*	*	30	*	*
Mason	21	7	15	23	6	18
Okanogan	35	21	15	45	14	31
Pacific	17	*	*	26	*	*
Pend Oreille	32	*	*	33	*	22
Pierce	42	8	34	43	8	36
San Juan	30	21	*	24	*	*
Skagit	46	12	34	54	13	41
Skamania	*	*	*	*	*	*
Snohomish	28	8	20	35	7	28
Spokane	60	18	43	57	11	46
Stevens	20	11	8	18	*	12
Thurston	38	11	27	36	8	28
Wahkiakum	*	*	*	*	*	*
Walla Walla	32	7	25	40	15	24
Whatcom	38	8	30	39	7	32
Whitman	41	12	29	47	12	35
Yakima	42	14	28	40	11	29

*The underlying number is too small for this calculation.

Table 4. Percentage of female PAs and PA median age: Counties, 2020-21

County	Percent female		Median age	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Adams	35	53	52	47
Asotin	40	45	52	47
Benton	49	48	52	42
Chelan	56	56	52	42
Clallam	47	50	52	41
Clark	62	65	52	40
Columbia	*	*	52	*
Cowlitz	57	60	52	42
Douglas	51	46	52	47
Ferry	*	*	52	*
Franklin	28	31	52	43
Garfield	*	*	52	*
Grant	39	39	52	43
Grays Harbor	40	34	52	45
Island	64	61	52	45
Jefferson	60	69	52	46
King	65	66	52	40
Kitsap	52	55	52	45
Kittitas	47	43	52	43
Klickitat	39	42	52	44
Lewis	60	61	52	35
Lincoln	*	31	52	49
Mason	40	49	52	44
Okanogan	45	54	52	48
Pacific	45	44	52	50
Pend Oreille	33	31	52	38
Pierce	57	58	52	40
San Juan	99	96	52	61
Skagit	57	65	52	42
Skamania	*	*	52	*
Snohomish	59	59	52	41
Spokane	49	49	52	44
Stevens	43	48	52	41
Thurston	51	51	52	44
Wahkiakum	*	*	52	*
Walla Walla	48	47	52	39
Whatcom	63	64	52	42
Whitman	59	66	52	42
Yakima	54	51	52	43

*The underlying number is too small for this calculation.

Table 5. Number and percent of physician assistants: ACH Regions, 2020-21

County	Number		Percent	
	2020 (N)	2021 (N)	2020 (%)	2021 (%)
Better Health Together	339	333	10.1%	9.3%
Cascade Pacific Action Alliance	229	226	6.8%	6.3%
Elevate Health	380	396	11.3%	11.1%
Greater Columbia ACH	314	322	9.4%	9.0%
HealthierHere	1,167	1,228	34.8%	34.3%
North Central ACH	162	185	4.8%	5.2%
North Sound ACH	397	475	11.9%	13.3%
Olympic Community of Health	134	152	4.0%	4.3%
SWACH	228	258	6.8%	7.2%

Table 6. Number of PAs per 100,000 population – total, primary care and specialist care: ACH Regions, 2020-21

County	Total PAs		Primary Care PAs		Specialist Care PAs	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Better Health Together	55	53	17	12	38	41
Cascade Pacific Action Alliance	35	34	11	8	25	26
Elevate Health	42	43	8	8	34	36
Greater Columbia ACH	42	43	11	11	31	33
HealthierHere	52	54	9	8	43	46
North Central ACH	61	68	30	19	31	50
North Sound ACH	31	36	8	8	23	29
Olympic Community of Health	35	39	9	10	26	30
SWACH	43	47	11	12	32	36

Table 7. Percentage of female PAs and PA median age: ACH Regions, 2020-21

County	Percent female		Median age	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Better Health Together	58.1	59.0	41	41
Cascade Pacific Action Alliance	48.0	48.8	44	45
Elevate Health	51.6	52.4	43	42
Greater Columbia ACH	57.5	57.6	40	40
HealthierHere	49.4	48.4	43	42
North Central ACH	65.5	66.1	40	40
North Sound ACH	50.0	51.0	43	43
Olympic Community of Health	60.0	61.0	42	42
SWACH	51.5	54.5	46	44