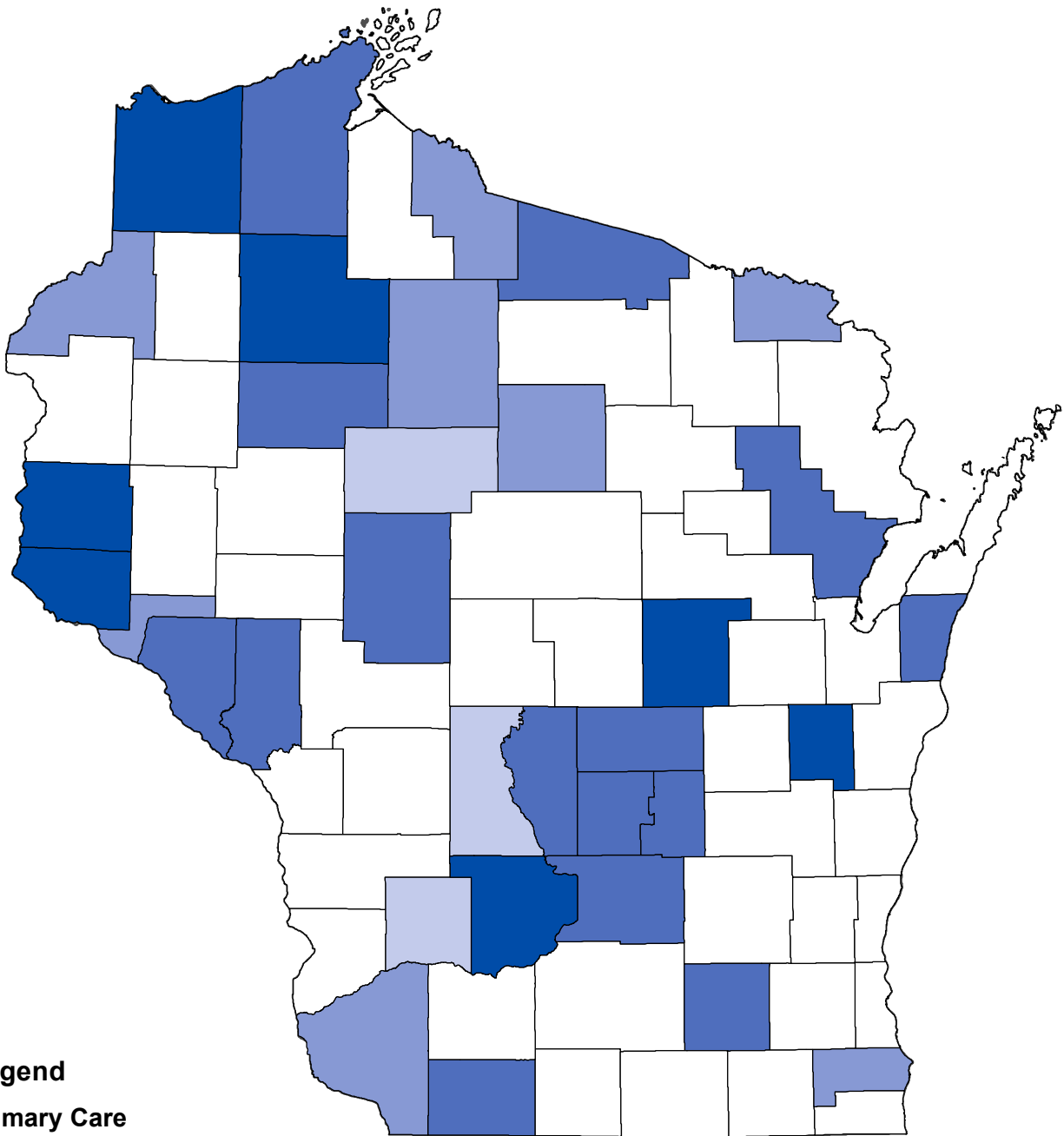


Number of Primary Care Physician FTEs Needed to Remove Shortages for the Resident Population

September 2019



Legend

Primary Care

of physicians needed to remove shortage

- ≤ 0
- > 0 to 1.0
- > 1.0 to 3.0
- > 3.0 to 10.0
- > 10.0 to 21.0

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
Wisconsin Primary Care Office
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/primarycare/index.htm>



Primary Care Physician FTEs Needed to Remove Shortages by County

Map Notes:

- This map and data show the number of full-time equivalent primary care physicians (physician FTEs) that are needed to remove a shortage of primary care physicians for the general population (resident civilians) for all counties in the state. See data definitions below.
- Removing the primary care physician shortage means getting to a ratio of 2,000 population to 1.0 FTE primary care physician or lower, as defined by the federal Shortage Designation Branch. **Note:** This is not an optimal ratio to meet the need for primary care for the general population.
- The threshold for federal designation of a primary care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA, see data table) is a ratio of 3,500 population to 1.0 FTE primary care physician or greater. Physicians completing a service obligation (e.g., federal loan repayment or J-1 visa waiver) are not counted for this ratio. A HPSA designation reflects a severe shortage and not just a shortage of physicians.
- Specific data limitations:
 - Data are not reported on the number of primary care physician FTEs by county, because the numbers are small in rural counties and do not allow for the protection of provider privacy.
 - Data are not available to describe shortages of other primary care providers (e.g., advanced practice nurses or physician assistants).
- The map and data are intended to help identify areas of the state where safety net clinic expansion can most efficiently help improve access to primary care for low-income and uninsured populations.
- This data report and map were prepared by the Department of Health Services, Primary Care Office, and contracted staff at the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, with funding from the HRSA State Primary Care Office grant.
- More information on federally designated primary care HPSAs and HPSA-linked benefits is available on the [Wisconsin Primary Care Office website](#).

Data Definitions and Sources:

Primary Care Physician FTEs needed to remove shortages:

The number of primary care physician FTEs needed to remove a shortage for the resident civilian population is calculated by using the same formula used by [the federal Shortage Designation Branch](#) to calculate the number of primary care physicians needed to meet a population's need for primary care:

$$\begin{aligned} & \# \text{ physician FTEs to meet needs for resident civilians} - \# \text{ physician FTEs providing care} \\ & = \text{FTEs needed to remove a shortage (see map and data table)} \end{aligned}$$

Resident Civilian Population:

The total number of people who are “usually resident” in an area, and does not include Armed Forces personnel who are outside the U.S. or inmates of institutions (2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)

Primary Care Physician FTEs providing outpatient care:

This is the number of full-time equivalent physicians (MDs and DOs in the following specialties: family practice, general pediatrics, general internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, general gynecology, and general practice) who provided outpatient primary care and associated hospital rounds, and does not include inpatient care, administration, teaching or research time. Physicians completing a service obligation (federal loan repayment or J-1 visa waiver) are counted. This physician FTE data was collected by the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association using a survey of clinics.

Number of Primary Care Physicians Needed to Remove Shortages

(notes on last page)

County	# Physicians needed to remove shortage*	Resident civilian population	Primary Care HPSA status (September 2019)
Adams	5.48	20,111	Full County
Ashland	(17.36)	15,779	Partial
Barron	(14.70)	45,358	Partial
Bayfield	4.05	15,004	
Brown	(33.97)	258,004	
Buffalo	4.97	13,243	Partial
Burnett	2.77	15,239	Full County
Calumet	10.47	49,737	Partial
Chippewa	(17.68)	63,445	Partial
Clark	5.31	34,513	Full County
Columbia	6.57	56,790	Partial
Crawford	(0.74)	16,313	Full County
Dane	(748.36)	522,837	
Dodge	(10.08)	87,833	Partial
Door	(1.38)	27,443	Partial
Douglas	15.65	43,503	Partial
Dunn	(5.12)	44,260	Partial
Eau Claire	(75.28)	102,388	Partial
Florence	1.33	4,354	Full County
Fond du Lac	(34.73)	102,082	Partial
Forest	(0.01)	9,035	Full County
Grant	1.45	51,742	Full County
Green	(19.19)	36,869	
Green Lake	4.37	18,745	Partial
Iowa	(4.94)	23,576	
Iron	1.87	5,691	Partial
Jackson	(3.78)	5,748	Partial
Jefferson	9.57	20,531	Partial
Juneau	0.74	84,586	Partial
Kenosha	(14.68)	26,427	Full County
Kewaunee	5.91	167,886	Full County
La Crosse	(64.33)	20,378	Partial
Lafayette	5.35	117,582	Full County
Langlade	(5.83)	16,755	Full County
Lincoln	2.30	19,190	

Manitowoc	(1.33)	27,994	Partial
Marathon	(54.60)	79,680	Partial
Marinette	(9.42)	135,293	Full County
Marquette	7.21	40,712	Full County
Menominee	(3.72)	15,164	
Milwaukee	(320.51)	4,506	Partial
Monroe	(2.65)	956,586	Partial
Oconto	4.48	45,303	Full County
Oneida	(12.30)	37,465	Partial
Outagamie	(126.31)	35,352	Partial
Ozaukee	(68.09)	183,288	
Pepin	1.72	87,817	Partial
Pierce	14.06	7,282	Partial
Polk	(7.84)	41,226	Full County
Portage	(14.04)	43,328	Full County
Price	1.73	70,371	Partial
Racine	1.65	13,566	Partial
Richland	0.56	195,101	Partial
Rock	(3.81)	17,626	Full County
Rusk	3.41	161,226	Full County
Sauk	12.40	14,211	Partial
Sawyer	20.99	87,142	Full County
Shawano	(2.03)	63,340	Full County
Sheboygan	(16.08)	16,384	Partial
St. Croix	13.72	41,136	Partial
Taylor	0.97	115,094	Full County
Trempealeau	4.05	20,344	Partial
Vernon	(2.21)	29,510	Partial
Vilas	6.01	30,378	Partial
Walworth	(16.54)	21,465	Full County
Washburn	(0.41)	102,917	Partial
Washington	(17.62)	15,638	Partial
Waukesha	(180.46)	133,967	
Waupaca	15.95	396,731	Partial
Waushara	5.86	51,651	Full County
Winnebago	(80.70)	24,170	
Wood	(17.94)	169,540	Full County

Table Notes:

***# Primary Care Physician FTEs needed to remove a shortage**

Negative number FTEs:

There is a negative number of FTEs for 39 of the 72 counties for which there are data (see map and table). This indicates that the population to primary care physician ratio for these areas is lower (better) than the threshold that HRSA uses to define a shortage (greater than or equal to 2,000 population to 1.0 FTE physician). As noted previously, getting to a ratio of 2,000: 1.0 FTE or lower is used to indicate a shortage has been removed, but is not an optimal ratio to meet a population's need for primary care. Although the data for these areas do not show a primary care physician shortage, physicians in these areas very likely serve patients from surrounding areas. Thus, the reported negative number of physicians needed is likely to overstate the availability of primary care physician services in these areas and understate the availability of physician services in surrounding areas.

Rural areas and Physician FTEs needed to remove a shortage:

Rural areas have smaller numbers of physician FTEs, their physicians tend to be older, and it takes longer to recruit physician replacements. The sudden and unexpected loss (e.g., retirement, death, re-location) or addition of one physician can dramatically affect a rural community's primary care physician shortage or availability.

Primary Care HPSA status:

To be eligible for federal designation as a primary care HPSA, an area must have a population to primary care physician ratio of 3,500 population to 1.0 FTE or higher and must lack access to primary care physicians in contiguous (surrounding) areas. Areas with high need (high poverty or overutilization of existing providers) can be designated with a ratio of 3,000 to 1.0 FTE.

Table Key:

- **Full County:** indicates the entire county is included in a primary care HPSA designation(s).
- **Partial:** indicates that a portion of the county is located within a designated HPSA, usually a group of rural minor civil divisions (towns, villages) or census tracts in the inner city of the county.

For more information on provider recruitment and retention benefits that are linked with HPSA designation, see [the Primary Care Office web page](#).

Primary Care Physician FTEs Needed to Remove Shortages by County

Map Notes:

- This map and data show the number of full-time equivalent primary care physicians (physician FTEs) that are needed to remove a shortage of primary care physicians for the general population (resident civilians) for all counties in the state based on 2018 data. See data definitions below.
- Removing the primary care physician shortage means getting to a ratio of 2,000 population to 1.0 FTE primary care physician or lower, as defined by the federal shortage designation branch. Note: This is not an optimal ratio to meet the need for primary care for the general population.
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