

PHYSICIAN-TO-POPULATION RATIOS

A Compendium of Suggested Physician-to-Population Ratios provided by the Nation's
Leading Locum Tenens Staffing Firm



Includes Physician Supply Standards Developed by Richard “Buz” Cooper, M.D.

Staff Care

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PHYSICIAN-TO-POPULATION RATIOS

Below are various ratios which indicate the number of physicians in various specialties required by a population of 100,000 people. The ratios include those developed by Richard “Buz” Cooper, M.D. of the University of Pennsylvania/Wharton School, one of the leading physician utilization and supply experts in the United States.

Working with AMN Healthcare, Dr. Cooper developed a unique *Hospital Specific Physician Requirements Model* which indicates at the hospital service area level the number of physicians in various specialties that a community can support.

Dr. Cooper’s model differs from other ratios listed on this document in that it is more contemporary, having been developed in 2012, compared to models such as the one developed by the Graduate Medical Education Advisory Committee (GMENAC), which was developed in 1983 and has not been updated since.

Dr. Cooper’s model also is different in that it is a “demand-based” model indicating the number of physicians by specialty that a population is able to economically support rather than the number it may theoretically need. Dr. Cooper’s numbers below are based on national figures and are not necessarily universally applicable. More precise numbers can be obtained by applying Dr. Cooper’s model to specific hospital service areas.

These ratios may be useful in preparing physician community needs assessment plans and in determining the appropriate use of temporary (locum tenens) physicians and advanced practitioners.

SUGGESTED PHYSICIAN RATIOS PER 100,000 POPULATION

YEAR of DATA	Academy Phys 2009	GMENAC 1980	Hicks and Glenn 1989	Lifton Associates 2007		Solucient 2003					Health Leaders Guide 2009	Health care Strategy Group	Cooper from AMA Masterfile Patient Care Physicians MD+DO 2012			
	DHHS 1976	1980	1983	AMA Masterfile 2000	HRSA/ Lewin Proj for 2020	Nation 2003	MW	NE	South	West	Health Strategies and Solutions 2008	2011	Actual Supply w/o Residents 2010	DEMAND w/o Residents 2010	DEMAND w/o Residents 2020	Actual Supply including Residents 2010
Total	142.5	211.5	153.2	284.3	310.0	154.3	140.2	173.1	154.5	152.3			224.7	238.6	258.9	258.7
Primary Care																
Family Practice	40.0	25.2	33.7	38.3	40.5	22.5	27.9	19.0	22.5	20.2	27.7		30.4	31.0	31.0	33.2
Internal Medicine	12.8	28.8	17.6	38.2	42.7	19.0	14.2	21.8	20.1	19.9	18.5		26.5	29.6	30.8	31.9
Hospitalist											4.0		7.6	8.0	10.0	7.6
Pediatrics	7.3	15.0	12.9	18.4	17.2	13.9	11.9	17.1	12.7	15.2	8.8		16.3	16.1	17.6	18.7
Primary Care Total	60.1	69.0	64.2	94.9	100.4	55.4	54.0	57.9	55.2	55.3	59.0		80.8	84.7	89.4	91.4
ALL Medical Spec. except FP													84.2	95.1	104.4	95.9
Internal Med SubSp w/o Neurol, Psych		18.3	15.2	30.7	35.7	19.0	15.0	23.2	19.0	19.5	22.8		29.6	28.2	31.5	31.5
Allergy	4.0	0.8	1.0			1.7	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.0	0.6		1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3
Cardiology	1.0	3.2	3.8	7.3	8.8	4.2	3.6	6.8	3.4	3.9	6.5	3.0	6.5	7.1	7.8	7.9
Dermatology	2.0	2.9	2.1			3.1	2.3	4.0	3.2	3.2	2.6		3.4	3.6	4.0	3.9
Endocrinology		0.8	0.7								0.8		1.5	1.7	2.0	1.7
Gastroenterology	2.0	2.7	1.7			3.5	1.6	3.5	4.4	4.0	3.3		3.8	4.0	4.4	4.3
Heme/Onc	2.5	3.7	2.3			1.1	1.3	0.9	1.0	1.1	2.6		3.4	3.7	4.2	3.9
Infectious Disease		0.9	0.6								0.9		1.6	1.6	1.7	1.9
Nephrology		1.1	0.9			0.7	0.4	0.3	1.0	1.1	1.4		2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6
Neurology	1.3	3.4	2.2			1.8	0.9	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.9	1.6	3.8	4.6	5.1	4.6
Psychiatry (w/child)	10.0	23.2	10.0	13.6	14.1	6.3	5.3	9.7	5.1	6.5			13.0	14.7	16.0	12.5
Pulmonary	1.0	1.5	1.5			1.3	0.9	1.6	1.8	0.5	3.2		3.4	3.7	4.0	4.0
Rheumatology		0.7	0.7			1.3	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.2	0.9		1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5
Other Medical				23.4	26.9	2.0	2.8	3.1	0.6	2.5			1.0	1.3	2.0	1.6
Medical Spec. Total	23.8	44.9	27.4	44.3	49.8	27.1	21.3	34.6	26.2	28.2	25.7		46.4	51.1	56.6	51.5
Surgery																
General Surgery	10.0	9.7	13.6	13.9	15.5	6.0	6.7	5.8	6.4	4.8	6.4		7.9	10.7	11.4	10.4
Cardio/Thoracic	1.0		0.7								1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5
Neurosurgery	1.0		1.3								1.0	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.9
OB/GYN	9.1	9.9	11.1	14.7	14.1	10.2	9.1	10.2	11.8	8.6	8.2		12.5	13.0	14.0	14.0
Ophthalmology	5.0	4.8	4.8	6.5	7.5	4.7	4.0	5.8	4.5	4.8	4.7		5.5	5.5	5.5	6.0
Orthopedic Surgery	3.3	6.2	5.4	8.6	9.4	6.1	4.5	7.5	5.8	7.2	5.2	5.0	7.6	7.9	8.4	8.9
Otolaryngology	2.0	3.3	2.4	3.5	3.7	2.8	3.2	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.4		3.0	3.1	3.2	3.5
Plastic	2.0	1.1	1.2			2.2	1.7	3.1	2.3	2.0	1.2		2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4
Urology	3.3	3.2	2.9	3.7	4.3	2.9	2.5	3.5	3.0	2.5	3.4		3.1	3.4	3.6	3.5
Vascular											0.4		1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6
Other Surgical				5.8	6.6	2.2	2.9	2.6	1.5	2.3			0.5	0.5	1.0	0.6
Surgery Total	36.8	38.2	43.4	56.7	61.1	37.1	34.6	41.0	38.1	34.8	34.5		46.6	50.7	54.1	54.2

continued

Hospital-Based																
Emergency	2.7	5.5	3.0	9.3	9.5	12.3	12.3	12.7	13.1	11.0			10.0	10.4	11.0	11.8
Anesthesiology	7.0	9.1		13.4	15								13.5	13.5	14.0	15.5
Radiology	8.0	8.9		11	12.2								9.1	9.5	10.2	10.9
Nuclear Med													0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
Pathology	4.1	6.5		6.1	6.7								4.7	4.9	5.2	5.6
Physical Medicine		1.3				1.4	1.4	2.0	1.1	1.6			2.5		2.7	2.9
Preventive Med		3.0											0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
Hosp-Based Total	21.8	34.3	3.0	39.8	43.4	13.8	13.7	14.6	14.2	12.6			40.8	39.3	44.3	47.8
Pediatric Spec.																
Cardiology		0.5				0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2			0.5	0.9	1.0	0.7
Pediatric Neurology						0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2			0.3	0.6	0.8	0.4
Child Psychiatry		3.7				0.6	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.5			2.1	3.0	3.5	2.4
Neonatology		0.5											1.2	1.7	1.9	1.4
Other Pediatric		2.0				0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.1			1.8	3.2	3.3	2.4
Ped Sp w/o Psych	7.3	21.7	12.9	18.4	17.2	15.7	13.6	19.0	14.4	17.2			3.8	6.4	7.0	4.8
Other Specialties				17.9	19.6								6.4	6.5	7.5	8.9
Physicians per 100K		207.8		284.3	310.0	153.7	139.7	172.3	153.9	151.9			224.7	238.6	258.9	258.7

INFORMATION ABOUT RATIO SOURCES REFERENCED ABOVE

GMENAC (Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee)

GMENAC was a one-time, ad hoc committee of health care experts convened by Congress to assess U.S. health care manpower needs. In 1980, GMENAC issued estimates of the number of physicians needed per 100,000 population. No such estimates have been issued from the government or from government-sponsored agencies since. The GMENAC numbers are over 20 years old and are considered dated by many.

HICKS & GLENN

Writing in an 1989 edition of the *Journal of Health Care Management*, Hicks and Glenn, two Ph.Ds. affiliated at that time with the University of Missouri School of Medicine, project physician-per-population needs based on the current rate of patient visits generated to particular specialists as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services' National Ambulatory Healthcare Administration report divided by the number of patient visits physicians typically handle, as determined by the Medical Group Management Association.

SOLUCIENT

Solucient is a health care consulting firm. Its number are based on a 2003 study and are therefore the most recent figures available. Solucient employed a methodology similar to Hicks & Glenn which analyzed National Ambulatory Health Care Administration patient/physician visits data, Medical Group Management Association physician productivity data, and private and public claims data showing patient/physician visit rates by age.

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