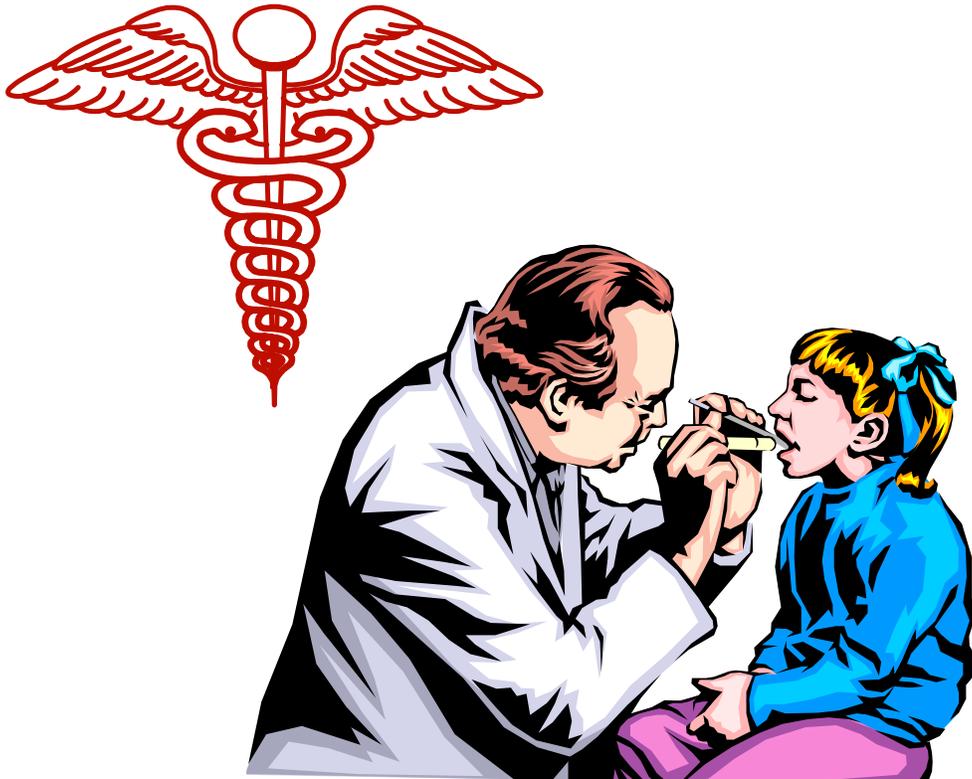


Demand for Primary Care Physicians in Garvin County, Oklahoma



Oklahoma State Department of Health
Office of Rural Health

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
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**An Analysis of the Demand for Primary Care Physicians
in Garvin County, Oklahoma**

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT
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Introduction

This report will examine the need for primary care physicians in Garvin County, Oklahoma. Specifically, the study will:

1. Determine the medical service area and population;
2. Estimate primary care physician office visits; and
3. Estimate the total demand for primary care physicians in the medical service area.

No recommendations will be made. The information included in this report is designed to assist local decision-makers in assessing the need and potential for primary care physician services.

Determine Need for Primary Care Physicians in the Garvin County, Oklahoma, Medical Service Area

To determine an estimate of the number of visits to primary care physicians, the medical service area was delineated as shown in **Figure 1**. The medical service area includes all of Garvin County (**Figure 1**). The 2000 population of the medical service area is 27,210, as shown in **Table 1 [4]**.

Figure 1
Garvin County, Oklahoma

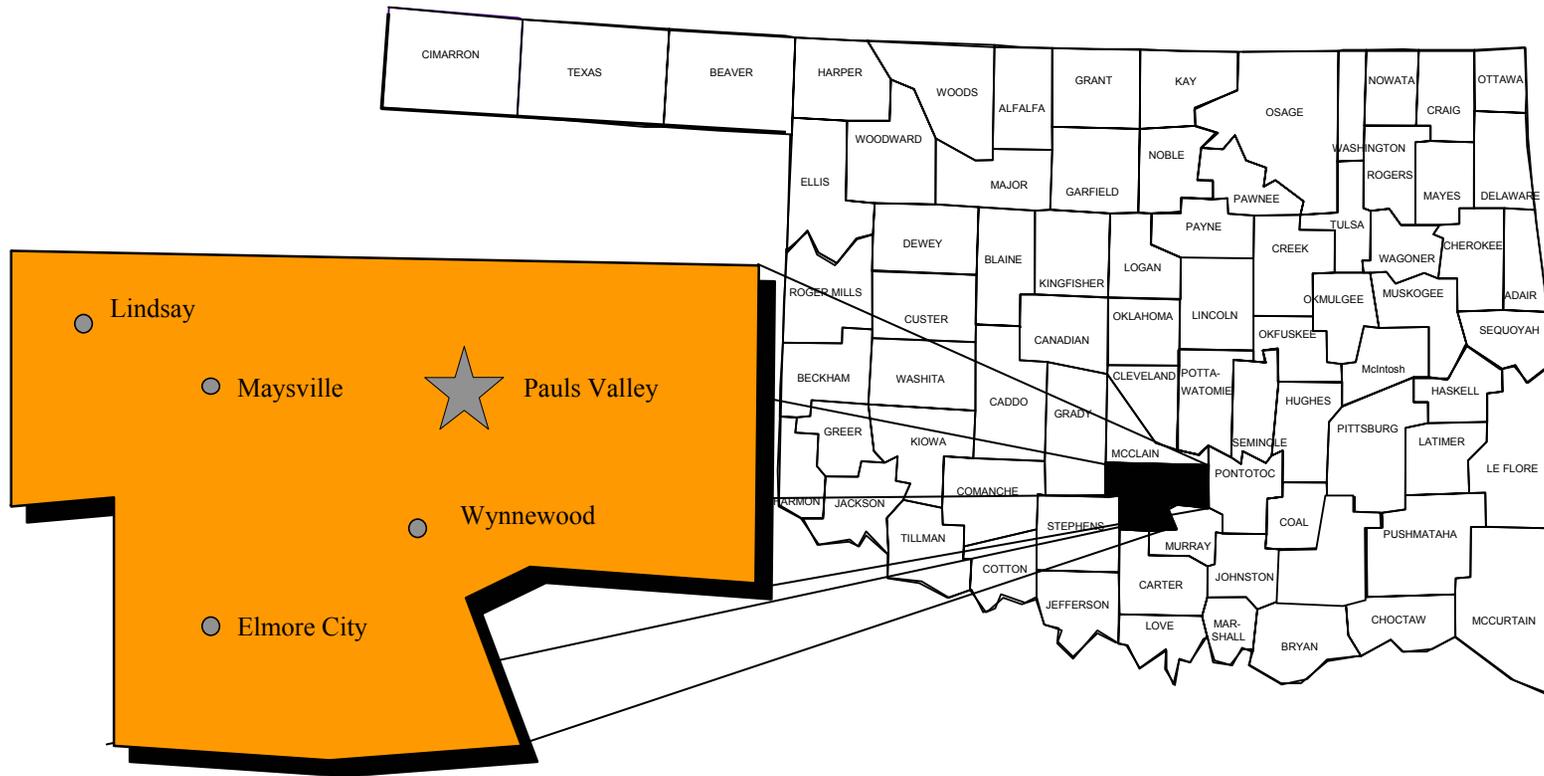


Table 1
2000 Population of Garvin County, Oklahoma, Medical Service Area

<u>Garvin County Medical Service Area</u>	Population
Elmore City	756
Lindsay	2,889
Maysville	1,313
Pauls Valley	6,256
Wynnewood	2,367
Remainder of county	<u>13,629</u>
Total Medical Service Area Population	<u>27,210</u>

The number of physician office visits generated in the Garvin County service area is estimated by using the service area population data and the data from state and national research [1,2,3]. Research shows the number of annual physician office visits for the specified age group breakdowns shown in **Table 2**. For instance, for males under age 15, the average number of physician office visits is 2.4 visits per year [1,3]. This average annual visit rate is applied to the populations for each gender and age group. Residents in the medical service area are estimated to make 88,724 total physician office visits (**Table 2**). Of these total physician office visits, 62.2 percent or 55,186 office visits ($88,724 \times 62.2\% = 55,186$) will be made to physicians active in primary patient care while the remainder will be made to specialists [1].

The total number of primary care physician office visits given various usage rates is presented in **Table 3** for the Garvin County medical service area. If there is 85 percent usage of Garvin County primary care physicians by residents of the medical service area, an estimated 46,908 primary care physician office visits will be made annually in Garvin County. A primary care physician in Oklahoma has an average of 4,976 patient office visits [1] annually and, therefore, it is estimated that Garvin County needs an estimated 9.4 primary care physicians ($46,908/4,976 = 9.4$). Higher usage levels would indicate more physicians could be supported and lower usage levels would indicate fewer physicians. All assumptions and local conditions must be taken into consideration by decision-makers before deciding if additional physicians could successfully locate in Garvin County. The actual usage level should be determined by local decision-makers.

Table 2
Total Annual Physician Office Visits
and Total Annual Primary Care Physician Office Visits Generated in the Garvin County
Medical Service Area

Age	TOTAL ANNUAL PHYSICIAN OFFICE VISITS						Total County Population	Total Annual Physician Office Visits
	MALE			FEMALE				
	2000 Population	Visit Rate	Total Visits	2000 Population	Visit Rate	Total Visits		
Under 15	2,622	2.4	6,411	2,829	2.3	6,428	5,451	12,838
15-24	1,693	1.2	1,996	1,826	2.3	4,232	3,519	6,227
25-44	3,407	1.6	5,601	3,676	3.1	11,499	7,083	17,100
45-64	3,018	3.0	9,087	3,256	4.1	13,390	6,274	22,476
65-74	1,170	5.4	6,302	1,262	6.1	7,686	2,432	13,987
75+	<u>1,179</u>	6.7	<u>7,895</u>	<u>1,272</u>	6.4	<u>8,200</u>	<u>2,451</u>	<u>16,095</u>
Total	13,088		37,291	14,122		51,433	27,210	88,724

Total Annual Physician Office Visits = 88,724
62.2% of Total Annual Physician Office Visits (62.2% x 88,724)
Equals Total Annual Primary Care Physician Office Visits of 55,186

Table 3
Primary Care Physician Office Visits Given Usage
By Local Residents in Garvin County, Oklahoma

	70%	75%	80%	85%	90%	95%	100%
Usage Level	38,630	41,390	44,149	46,908	49,667	52,427	55,186
Number of Primary Care Physicians	7.8	8.3	8.9	9.4	10	10.5	11.1

For example, **85%** usage level, then 46,908 total primary care physician office visits for an estimated 9.4 Total Primary Care Physicians

Based on 4,976 average annual primary care office visits per primary care physician practice in Oklahoma

Summary

Many assumptions have been made in the preceding analysis. These include items that may change such as the population of the service area or service area delineation. For example, the service area depicted here may change due to the exit or entry of physicians from nearby communities. Should this occur, revised estimates of physician office visits should be made.

All assumptions should be closely examined by local decision-makers to verify that they reflect local conditions. If additional local data are available, they should be included to arrive at the most realistic analysis possible. If further analysis is needed, contact your County Extension office listed on the title page.

References

- [1] "Family Medicine – A Systematic Approach to the Planning and Development of a Community Practice," Doeksen, G., Miller, K.A., Shelton, P.J., and Miller, D.A., University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, 1990.
- [2] "Internal Medicine - A Systematic Approach to the Planning and Development of a Community Practice - A Step-by-Step Guide," Miller, K.A., Doeksen, G., Miller, D., Campbell, J., and Shelton, P.J., University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, 1993.
- [3] U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center of Health Statistics, "National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2002 Summary," No. 328, June 5, 2002.
- [4] U. S. Census of Population, 2000.

