



PeaceHealth St. Joseph, Whatcom County Community Profile

PeaceHealth St. Joseph serves the North Sound region of Wash., with Whatcom County being its primary service area (PSA). The Bellingham-based medical center is a tertiary care hospital providing comprehensive specialty care and centers of excellence in cardiovascular, cancer, spine and joint replacements. Providers at PeaceHealth Medical Group in Bellingham and Lynden provide a full range of primary and specialty care services.

Overview

Service Area: Whatcom County, Wash. Bellingham is the largest city in the county, representing approximately 40% of the county's population.

Facts & Figures (July 2016 to June 2017)

Total licensed beds	255
Average daily census	197
Average length of stay	4.57 days
Employees	2,665
Active medical staff	642
Volunteers	450
Inpatient admissions	14,999
Outpatient clinic visits	322,232
Surgeries	7,724
Births	2,022
ED visits	64,464

Major Medical Services

- Integrated Cancer Center
- Cardiovascular Center
- Joint Replacement Center
- Spine Care Center
- Haggren Family Emergency & Trauma Center
- Behavioral Health Inpatient Center
- Childbirth Center
- Robotic Surgery
- Grabow Therapy & Wellness Center



Accreditations & Accommodations

- ★ **Quality & Safety** – 2017, Medicare 4-star overall rating (out of 5) on a variety of patient care, patient experience and quality criteria.
- ★ **Stroke Care** – 2017, Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke GOLD PLUS Quality Achievement Award, American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
- ★ **Women's Health** – 2017, Highest rating from CareChex for Medical Excellence in Women's Health
- ★ **Maternity Care** – 2017, Blue Distinction Center of Excellence, Blue Cross, Blue Shield Association
- ★ **Quality & Safety** – 2015, Achieving Best Care award for hospital safety, Washington State Hospital Association
- ★ **Quality & Safety** – 2015, Achievement Level Award, Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award



Community Benefit

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

\$3,503,000 Charity Care	\$28,289,000 Unpaid Cost of State Programs	\$32,976,000 Total Community Benefit
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History



In 1891, PeaceHealth St. Joseph was the first hospital founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace and has provided care to the greater Whatcom County community for the last 126 years.

Geography & Economy



Whatcom County is bordered to its north by British Columbia, Canada and includes stunning vistas of Puget Sound, the San Juan Islands and the North Cascades, Coast and Cascade mountain ranges, including the active volcano Mount Baker. The local economy has historically relied on coal, timber, salmon and agriculture. Today, Whatcom County produces the most raspberries of any county in the United States.



Whatcom County Community Health Overview

Service Area Demographics >

Approx. 216,800 residents. Approx. 40% of residents live in Bellingham which has an approx. population of 87,574.

- 50.8% adult females
- 49.2% adult males
- 5.5% under age 5
- 19.7% under age 18
- 18.7% **adults 18-24+**
- 16.2% adults 25-34
- 14.3% adults 35-44
- 15.0% adults 45-54
- 15.9% adults 55-64
- 19.9% adults 65+

Race/Ethnicity

- 9.2% Hispanic (WA: 12.4%)
- 4% **American Indian/ Alaska Native** **

Socioeconomics

Pockets of high poverty, low educational attainment, especially in Nooksack, Everson, Bellingham, and inland areas of the county

41% of all households are in poverty or cannot afford basic household expenses (WA: 32%)

91.2% adults have a high school diploma (WA: 90.6%)

\$54,207 median household income (WA: \$62,848)

15.2% in Whatcom County and **23.2%** in Bellingham live below the Federal Poverty Level (WA: 11.3%)

15.78% Veterans (approx. 13,657)

Top Community Health Concerns

- ✓ Opiate abuse, including heroin and prescription drug use
- ✓ Alcohol abuse
- ✓ Low vaccination completion rates
- ✓ Lack of affordable housing
- ✓ Disparities in healthcare coverage based on race/ethnicity

Major Health Problems/Gaps, Key Health Indicators & Strategies

Pillar	Major Health Problems/Gaps*	Key Health Indicators [^]	Prioritized Evidence-Based Strategies
Healthy, Active Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult alcohol use • Teen tobacco use • Food, beverage environments at school, in the community • Elder isolation • Physical inactivity 	Major issues identified include the abuse of opiates and excessive adult drinking. The county ranks 3rd in negative effects from heroin abuse and 6th of 39 counties in negative effects from prescription drug use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health Worker programs • School-based early intervention • School nutrition programs
Child & Family Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low immunization rates • Low graduation rates, particularly among homeless and low-income families • Maternal smoking during pregnancy • High cost of childcare • Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) 	ACEs and low vaccination completion rates are major concerns for Whatcom County. These factors put Whatcom County residents at greater risk of poor health outcomes or greater risk of serious infections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prenatal and early childhood home visiting programs • Levy to support early childhood services • 'Early Pathways'/home-based mental health
Health Delivery Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High rates of opiate abuse/pain management, e-cigarette use, DUI rates • Racial/ethnic disparities in health insurance • Unaffordable healthcare • Lack of dental and behavioral healthcare providers 	Data show that there are significant differences in uninsured rates by race/ethnicity, and racial/ethnic differences in the quality of preventive care received by Medicare beneficiaries. Addressing these inequities is important to the health of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported housing programs • Expand triage/crisis stabilization • Linking social services and medical services
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High poverty and low educational attainment concentrated around Bellingham and certain rural areas • Cost-burdened housing • Underrepresentation of nonmajority persons at all levels of health and social service delivery systems • Limited economic opportunities • Lack of affordable child care for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed populations 	Affordable housing is a key component of financial wellbeing and stability, and forms the basis of good health. A high percentage of cost-burdened housing in certain areas of Whatcom County imperils the wellbeing of affected households and the community as a whole.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded Housing First programs • School based health centers • Community Health Workers / patient navigators

[^] Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Whatcom County 2016; PeaceHealth 2016 CHNA; CentraForce Health.
^{*} Above avg. population of younger adults (ages 18-24) compared to rest of Whatcom County.
^{**} 32% increase since 2010. Wash. avg. is 1.9%.

[^] Based on primary data from Robert Wood Johnson's 2016 County Health Rankings and other state sources.
^{*} Summarized from interviews with organizations throughout the county representing public health and minority health.