

# Recommendations to Improve Measurement of Access

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## *Improving access will also require improving the measurement of access to healthcare.*

These recommendations are intended to catalyze further dialogue and action to improve the measurement of access. It is essential to have an accurate physician database in order to have an accurate assessment of the problem, credible way to track progress and appropriate federal shortage designations, so that Hawaii County receives appropriate access to federal funding. For these reasons the author suggests these data improvements:

- Improve data accuracy on the number of actively practicing primary care physicians and total physicians. Also improve accuracy on the number of physician assistants, and nurse practitioners in active practice. Work with JABSOM and Hawaii Island Beacon Community to develop process to update provider database. Then use the updated accurate data to update the American Medical Assessment (AMA) master file (used for federal HPSA designations and national population provider ratios).
- Improve data accuracy on the total relevant population by investigating federal policy on adding an appropriate number of the daily visitor population to the standard resident census population.
- Improve usefulness of physician data collected by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) through its online medical licensing and re-licensing process in order to provide more accurate physician data on primary vs. specialty care, location of practice and the amount of time spent in practice.
- Track the *Healthy People 2020* measure: the proportion of people with a usual source of care; work with *Hawaii Island Beacon Community* and health plans to add additional standardized measures of access.
- Track progress by reporting ratio of population to primary care providers.