

Results of the 2004 Health Center Expansion and Recruitment Survey for Health Centers: Analyses for Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (WWAMI States)

Technical Report

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Overview

Federally qualified health centers (HCs) face major barriers in recruiting and retaining health professionals, yet there have been no projections of key health professions staffing needs for HCs and proposed new HCs. A study by the University of Washington Rural Health Research Center (RHRC) and collaborators described the current staffing needs of HCs across the U.S. and the staffing, recruitment, and retention issues that HC chief executive officers (CEO) regard as most critical throughout the nation as a whole.* Presented here is a subset of the findings from the larger national study for HCs located in Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (WWAMI) overall and by urban and rural geography.

Methods

The survey was conducted between May and September 2004. Of the 846 HCs in the national study, 62 were located in the WWAMI region. Survey responses were received from 53 of the 62 WWAMI HCs (85.5%). Nationally the survey response rate was 79.3% and the national response rate for HCs in rural locations was 97.5%. Questionnaires were mailed to the CEOs of all federally qualified HCs in the nation. The questionnaire profiled their current staff vacancies, projected staffing needs, recruitment and retention issues, center site expansion plans, and CEO perception of policies that would facilitate recruitment and retention.

Findings and Collaborators

This report includes graphs of selected survey results for HCs located in the WWAMI region. Results are reported overall and by geographic location of the HCs when there are large enough numbers to protect respondent confidentiality. Vacancy rates for selected health personnel are reported at the state level in addition to for the WWAMI region overall.

These data were collected via a collaborative project between the WWAMI RHRC, South Carolina RHRC, National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), Bureau of Health Professions (BHP), Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), and the federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP). Core funding for data collection came from ORHP and BPHC. These WWAMI region analyses were funded by the School of Medicine, University of Washington. The WWAMI RHRC is solely responsible for these WWAMI results.

* Rosenblatt RA, Andrilla CHA, Curtin T, Hart LG. Shortages of medical personnel at community health centers: implications for planned expansion. JAMA. Mar 1 2006;295(9):1042-1049.

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Figure 1a: Family Physician Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)

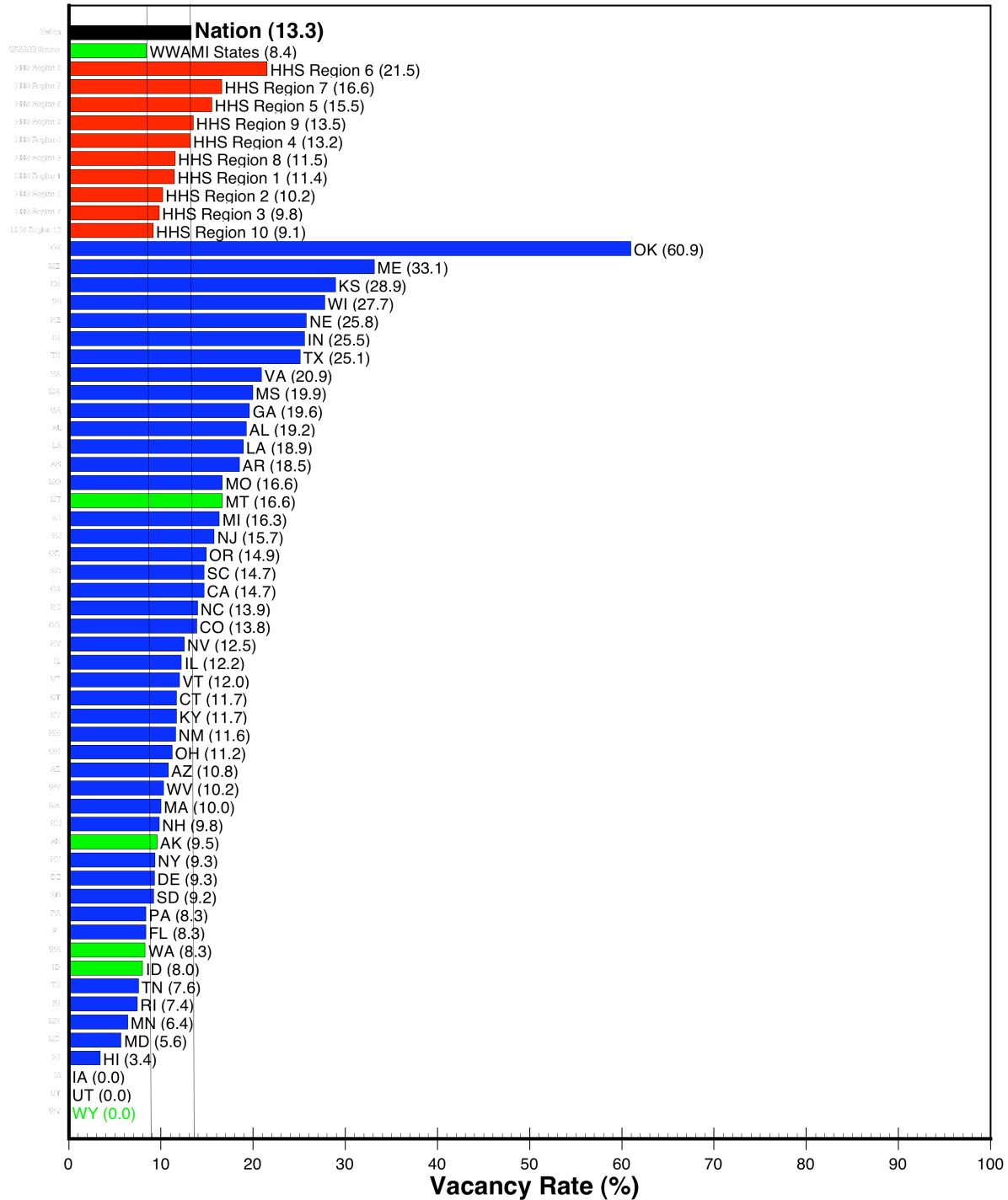


Figure 1b. Internal Medicine Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)

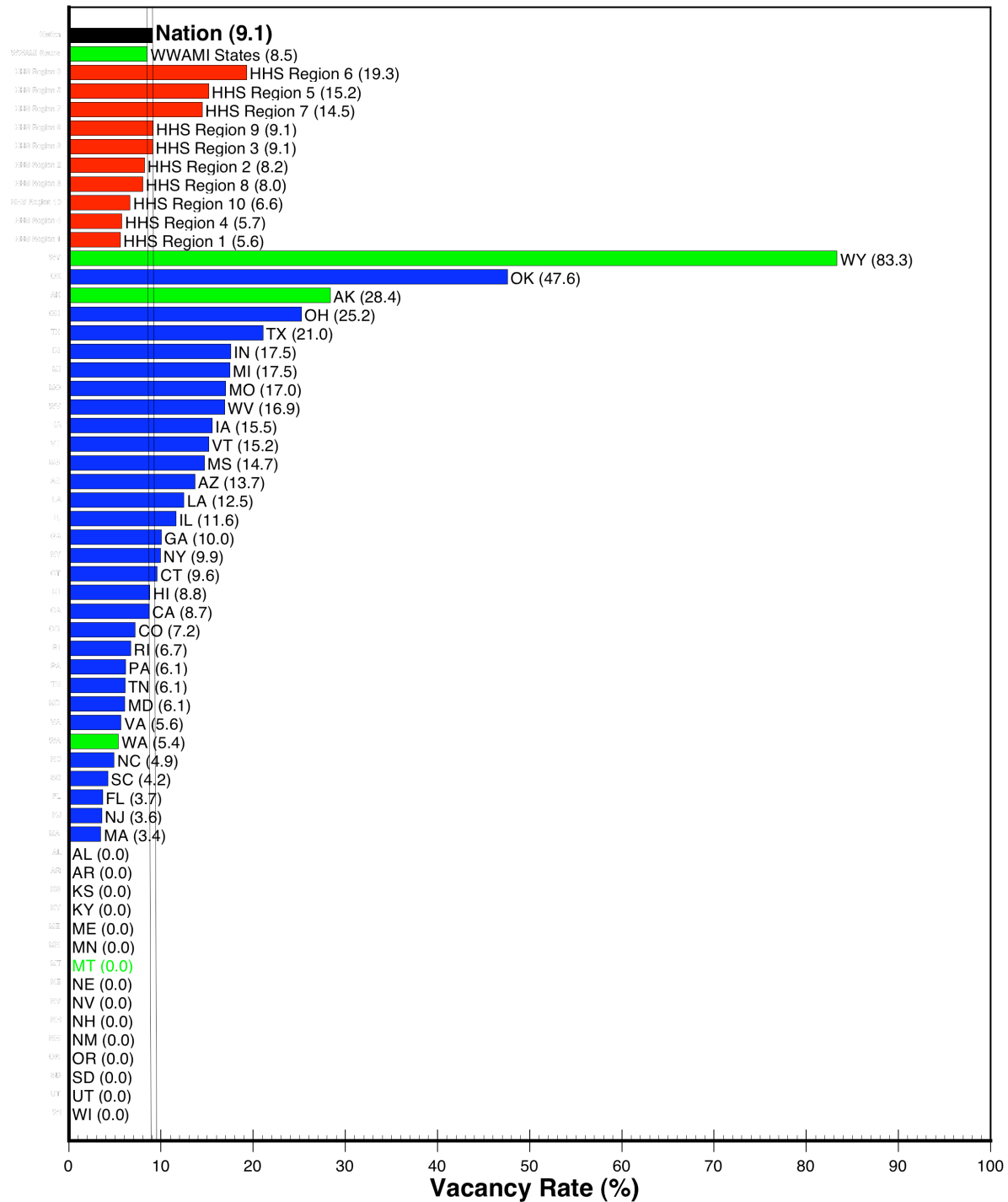


Figure 1c. Pediatrician Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)

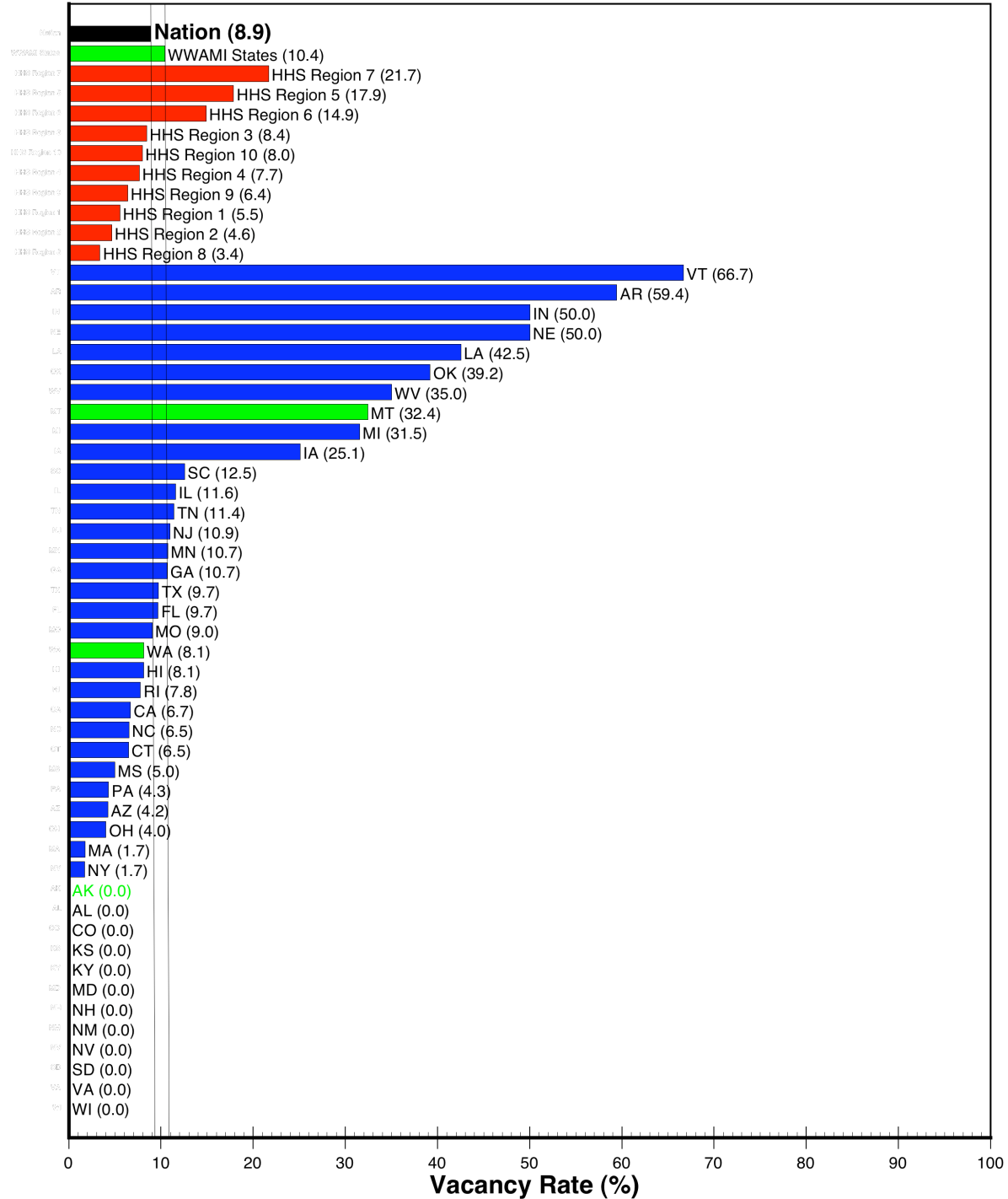


Figure 1d. Obstetrician Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)

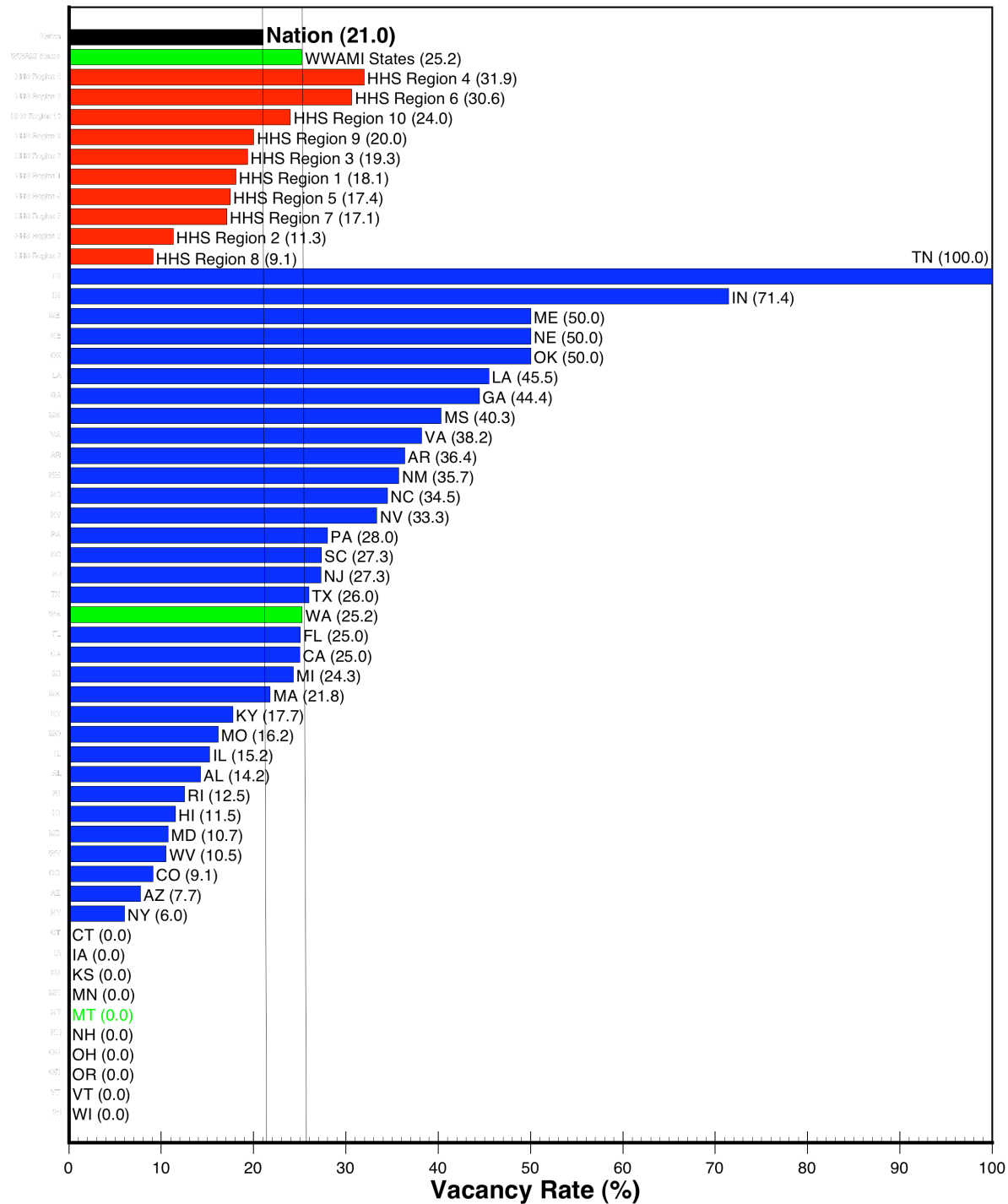


Figure 1e. Psychiatrist Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)

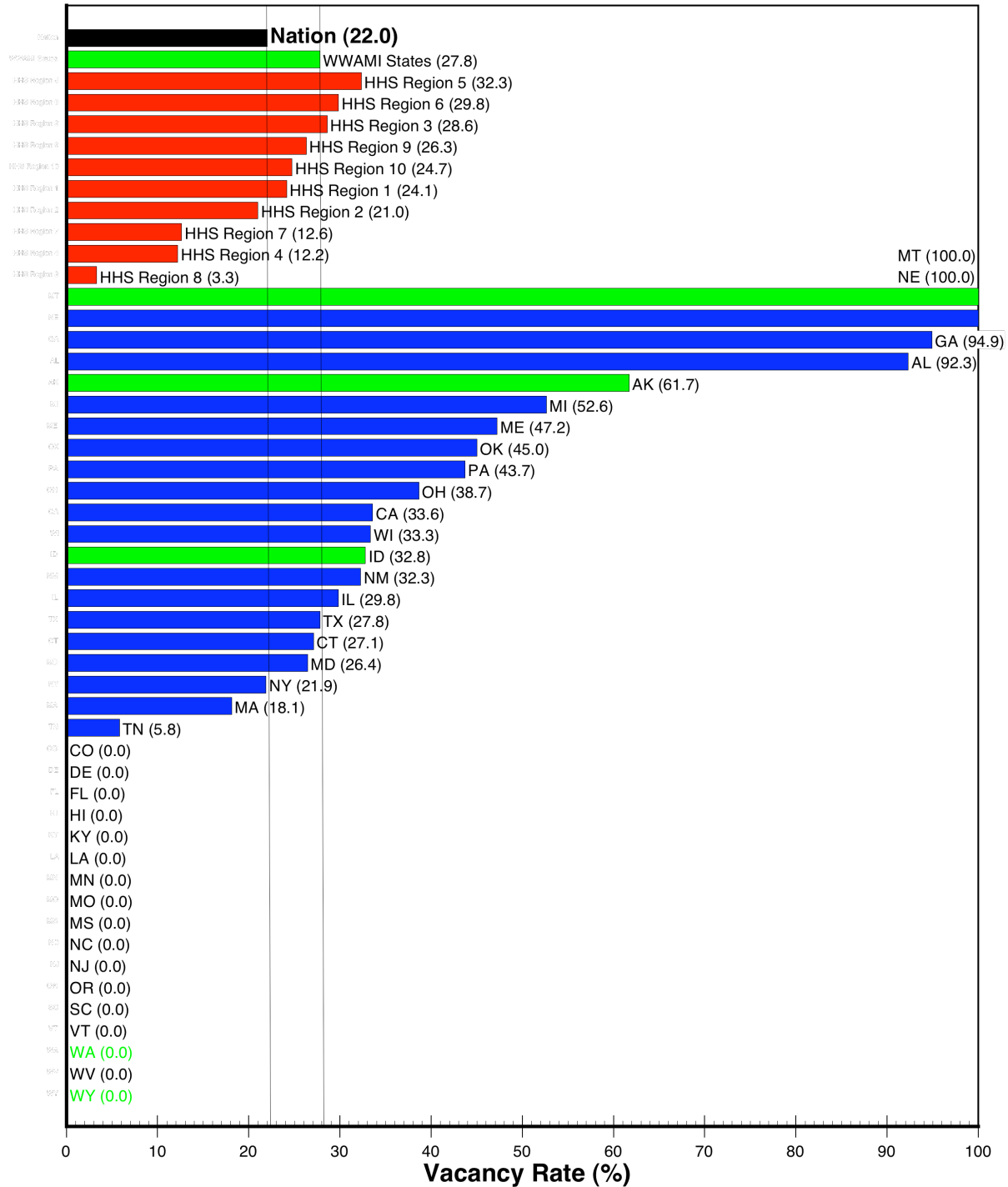


Figure 1f. Certified Nurse Midwife Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)

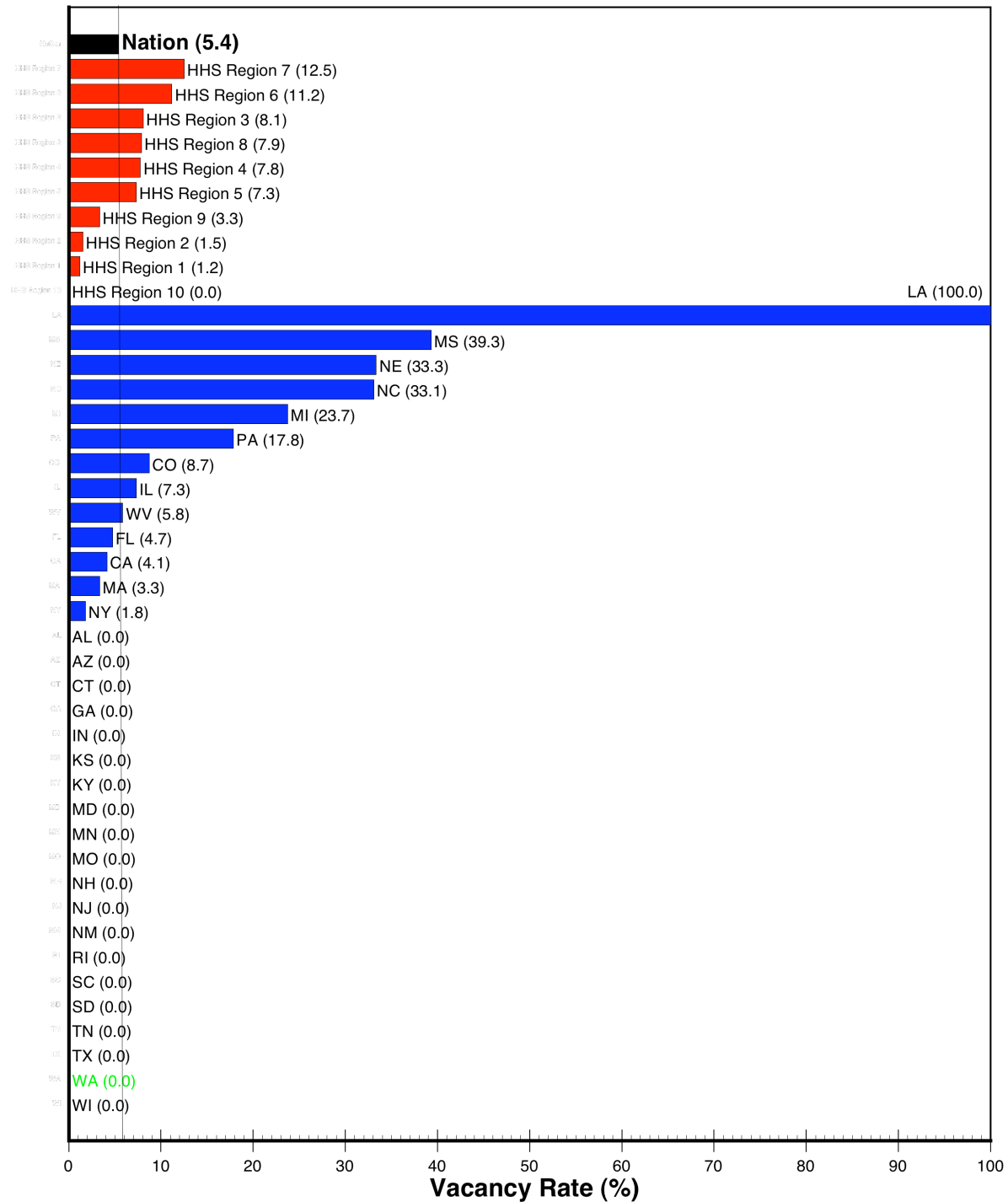


Figure 1g. Dentist Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)

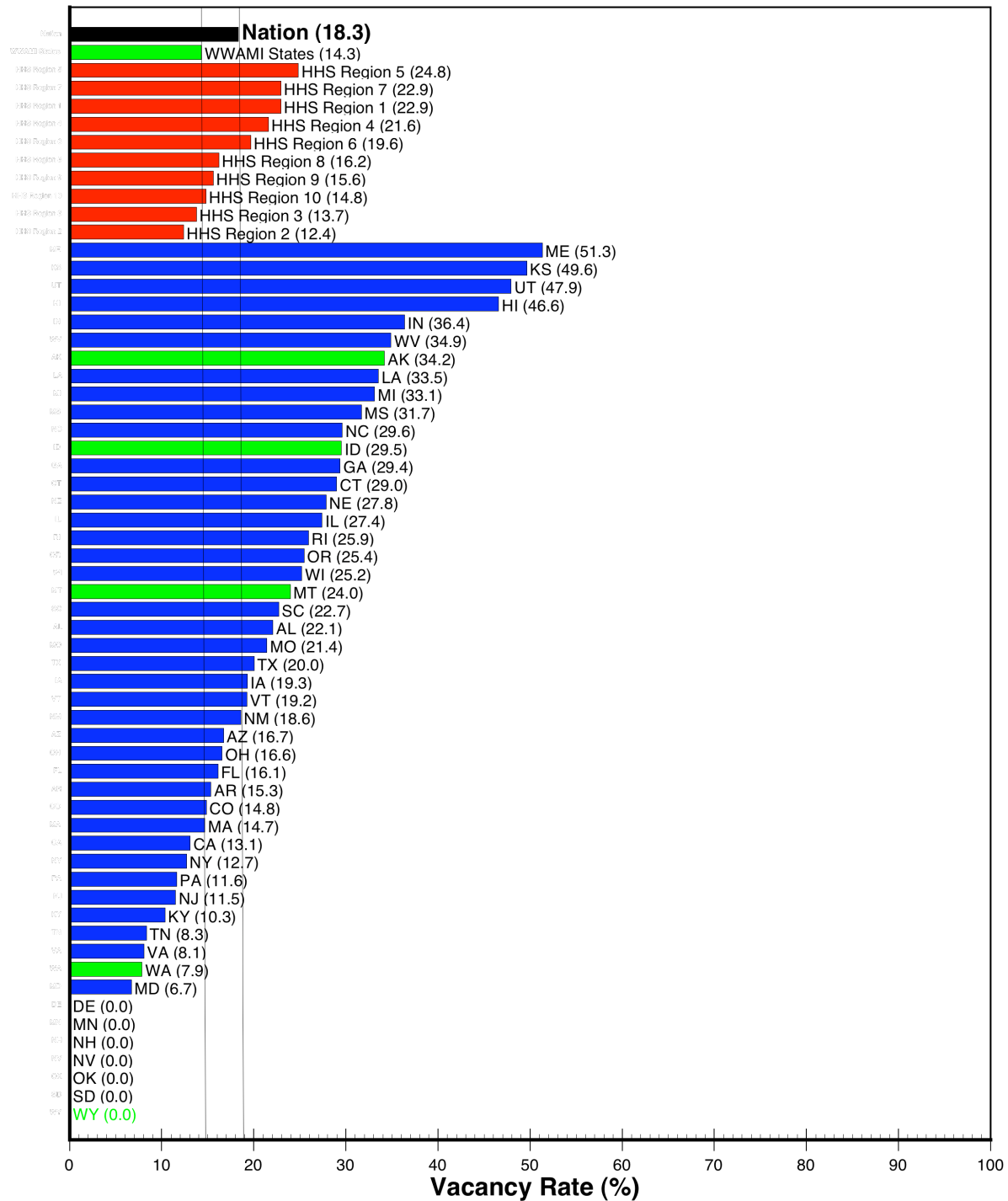


Figure 1h. Nurse Practitioner Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)

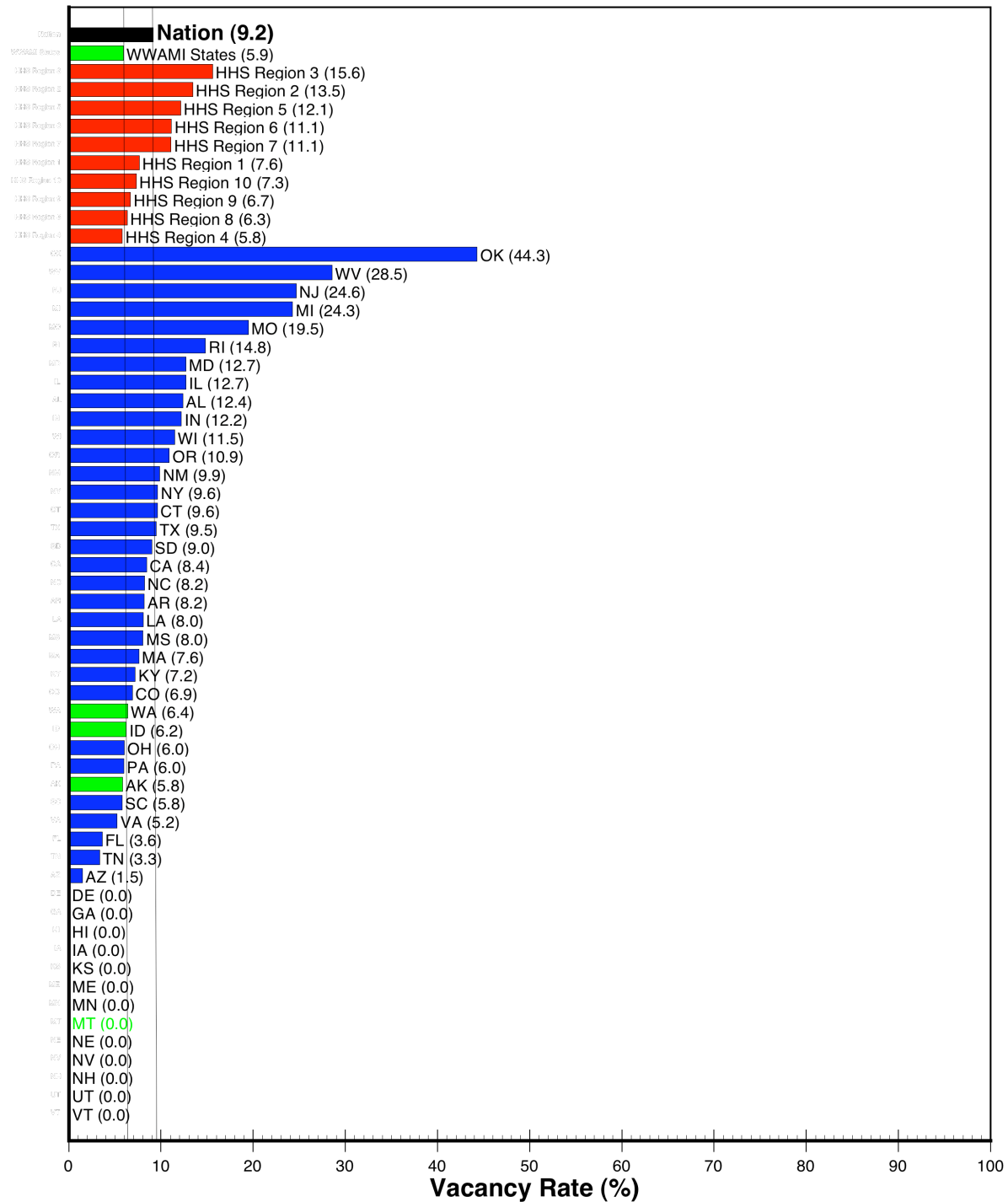


Figure 1i. Physician Assistant Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)

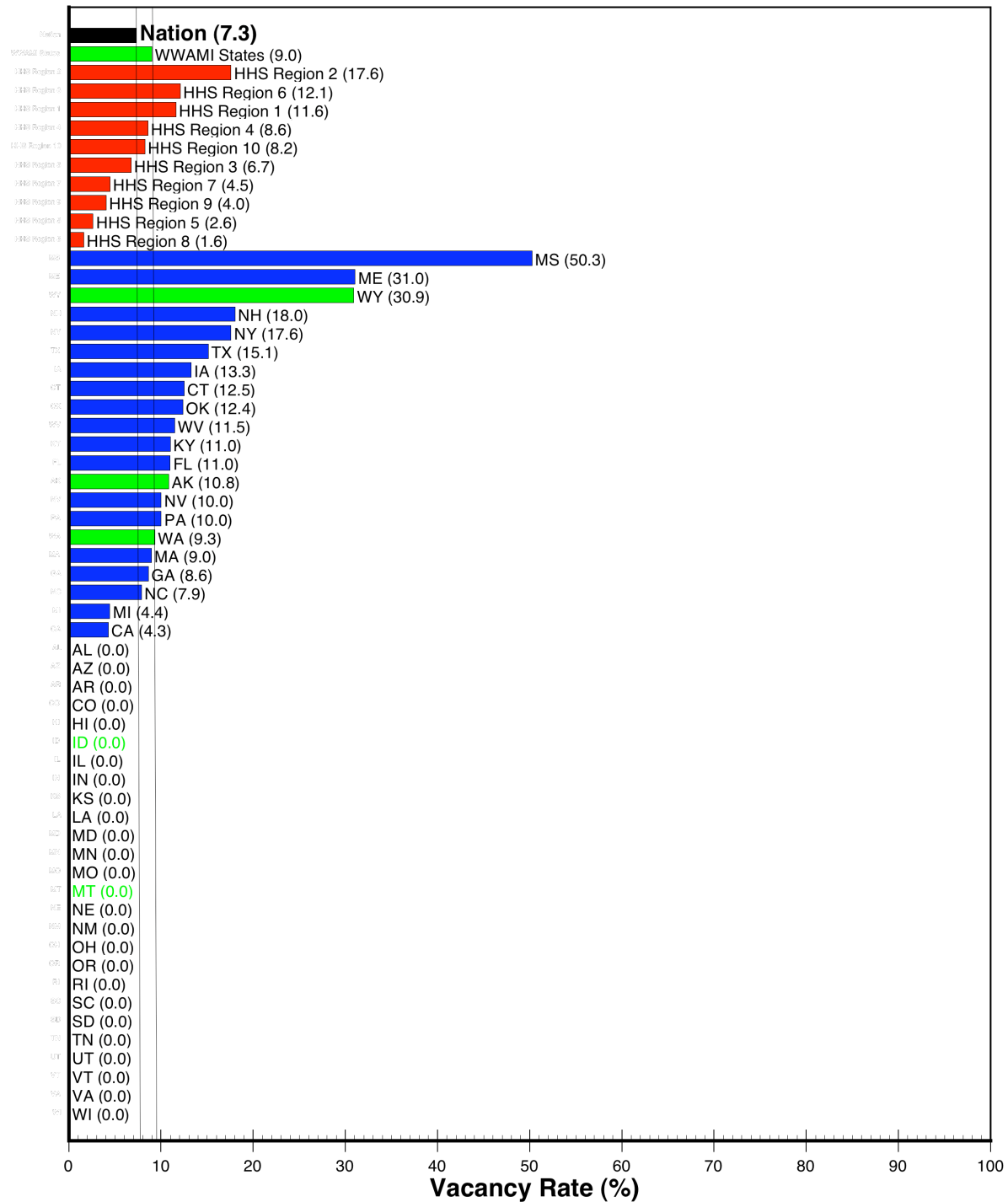


Figure 1j. Registered Nurse Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)

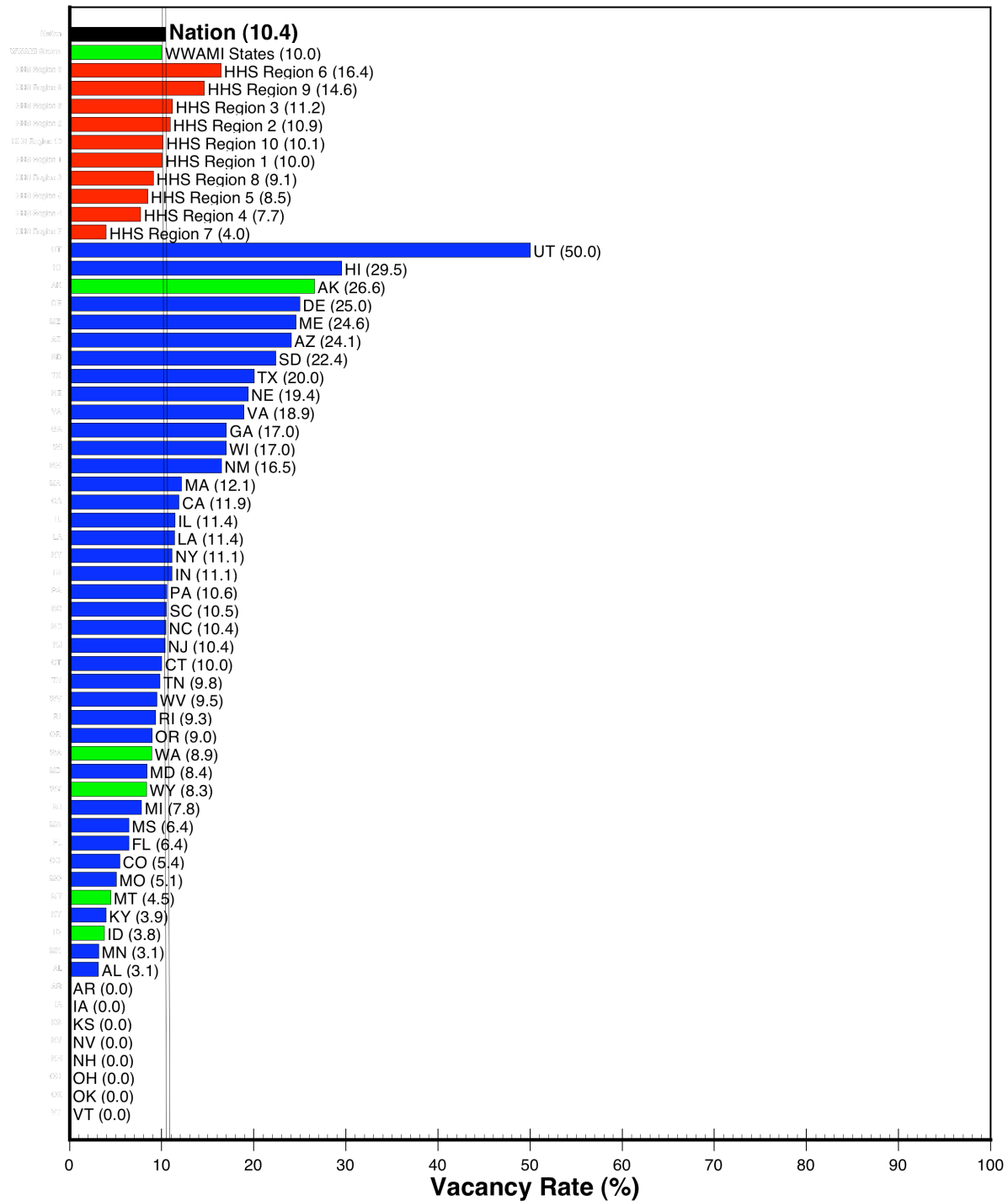


Figure 1k. Pharmacist Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)

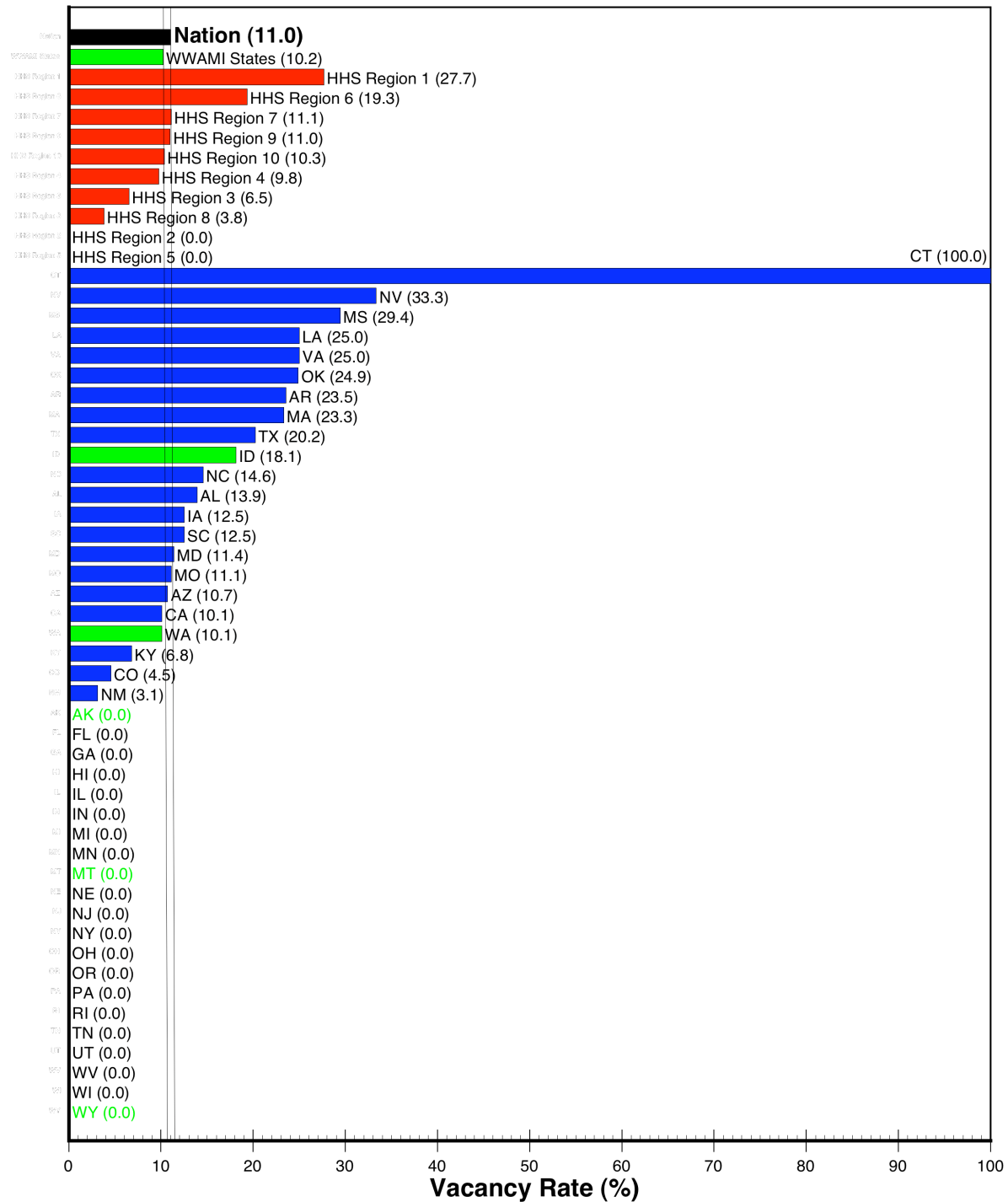
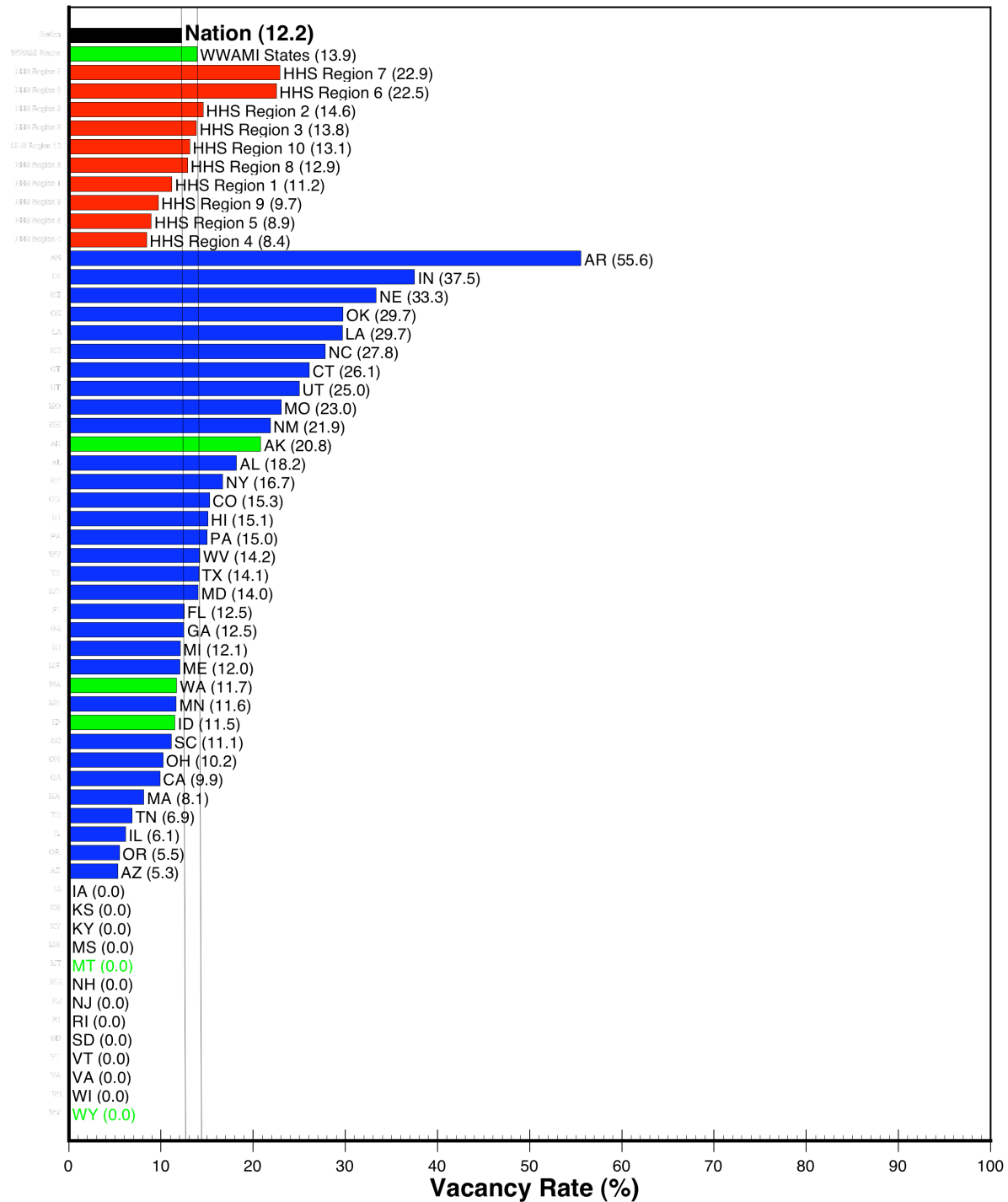


Figure 11. Mental Health Provider Overall Vacancy Rate by Geography
(2004 Federally Funded Health Center Survey)



**Figure 2. Expansion Plans of Federally Funded
WWAMI Health Centers by Location**

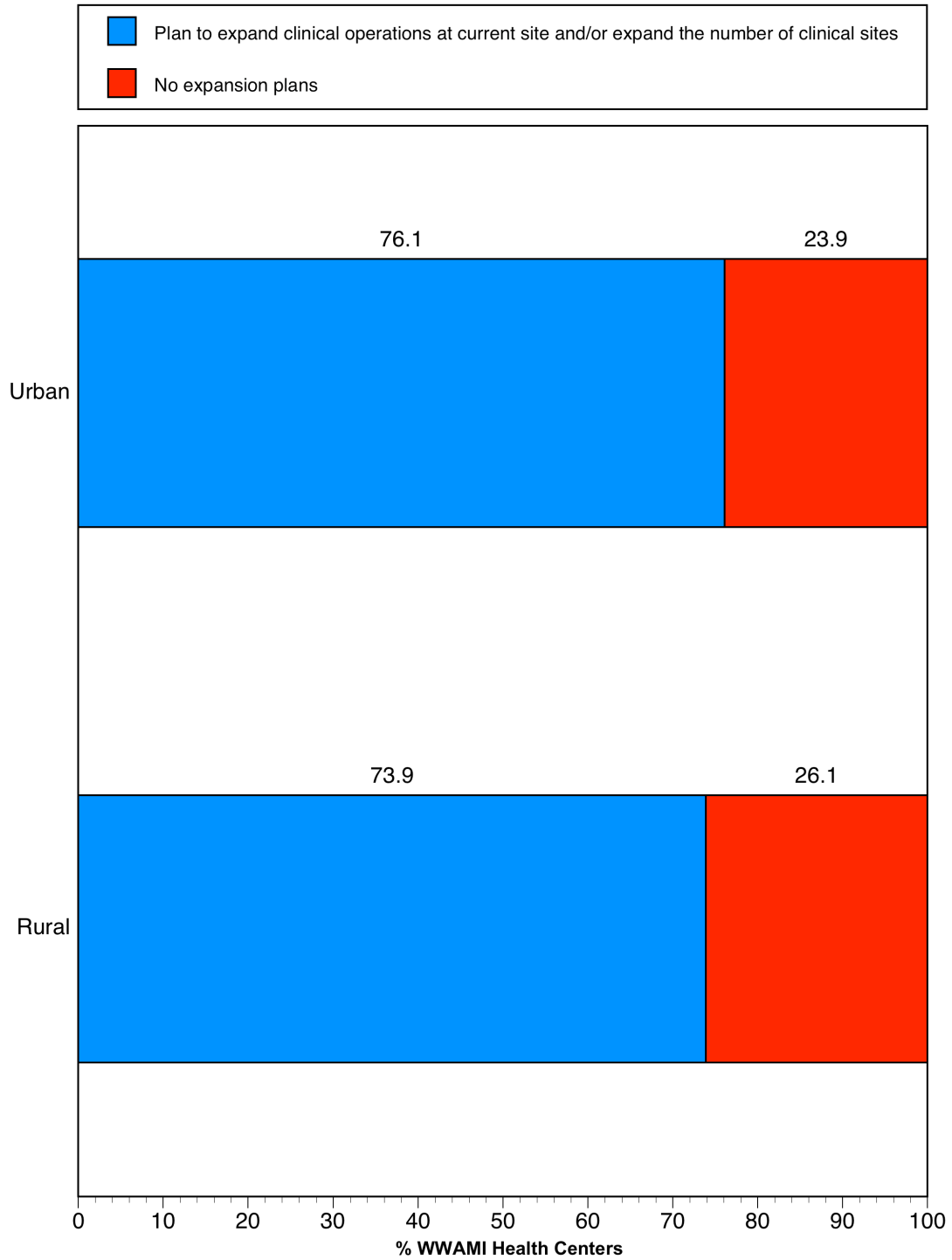


Figure 3a. Perceived Difficulty Filling a Vacancy of Selected Physician Types in WWAMI Health Centers

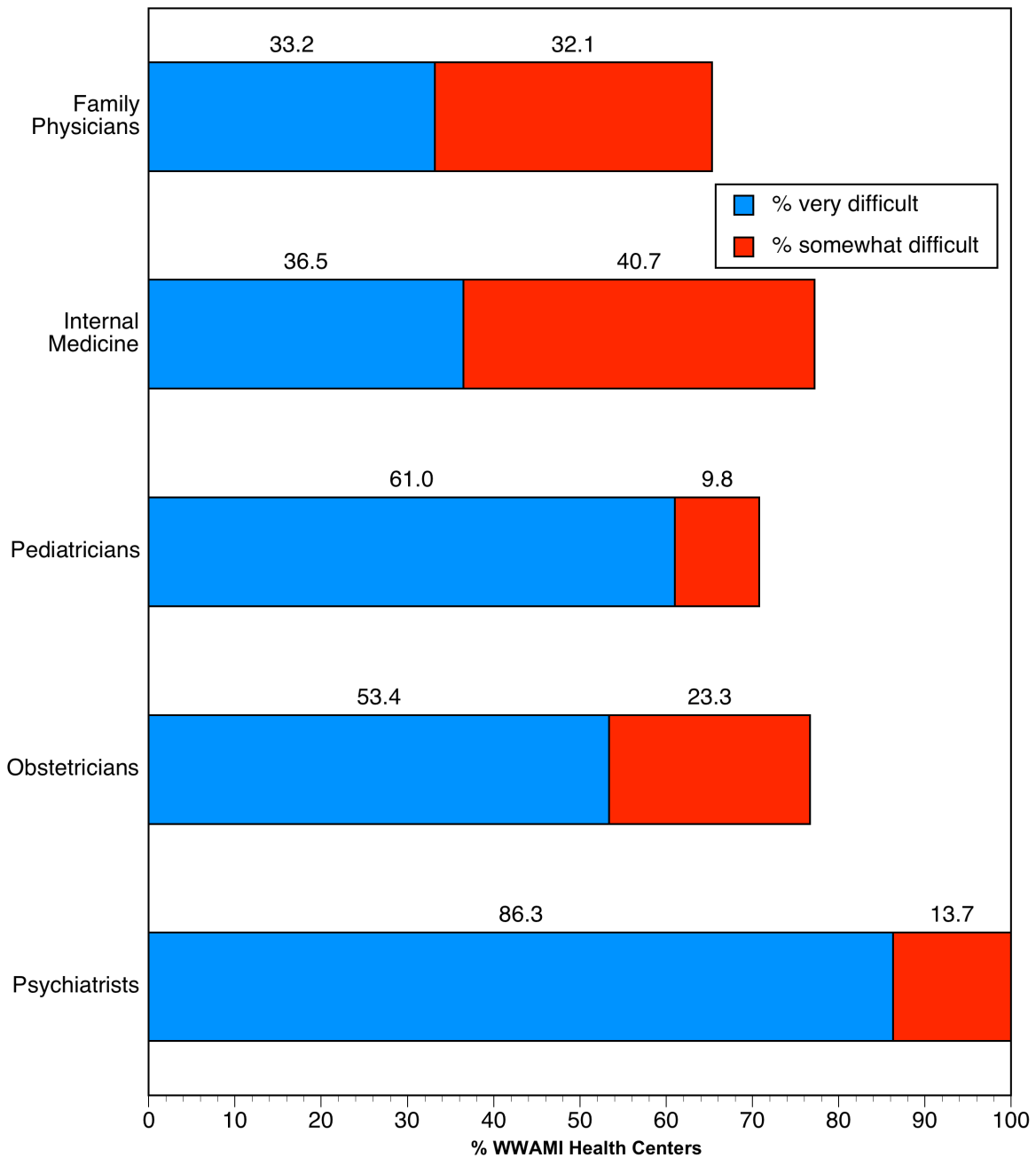


Figure 3b. Perceived Difficulty Filling a Vacancy of Selected Non-Physician Health Center Personnel in WWAMI Health Centers

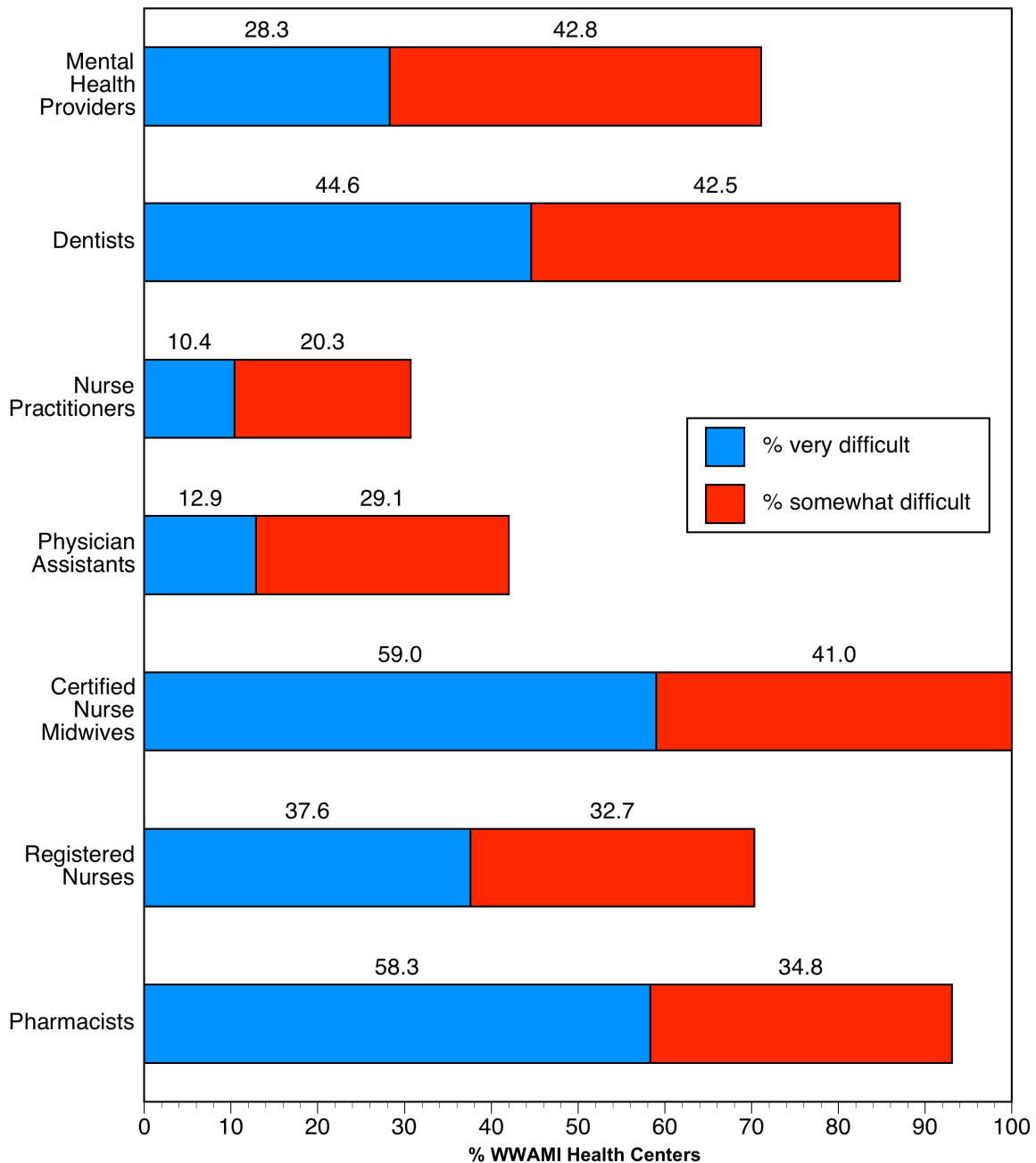
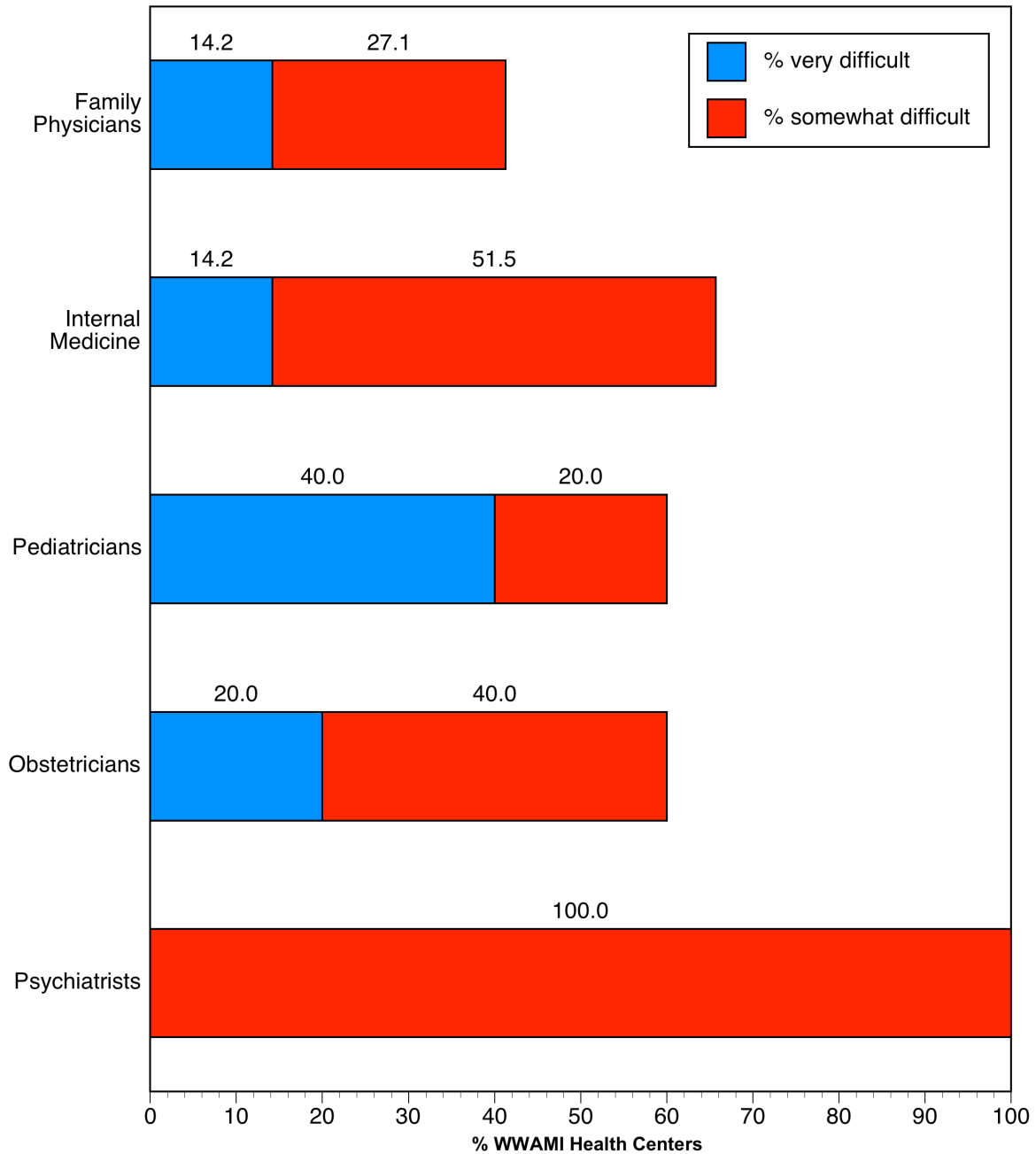


Figure 3c. Perceived Difficulty Filling a Vacancy of Selected Physician Types for WWAMI Health Centers in Urban Locations



**Figure 3d. Perceived Difficulty Filling a Vacancy of Selected
Non-Physician Health Center Personnel
for WWAMI Health Centers Located in Urban Locations**

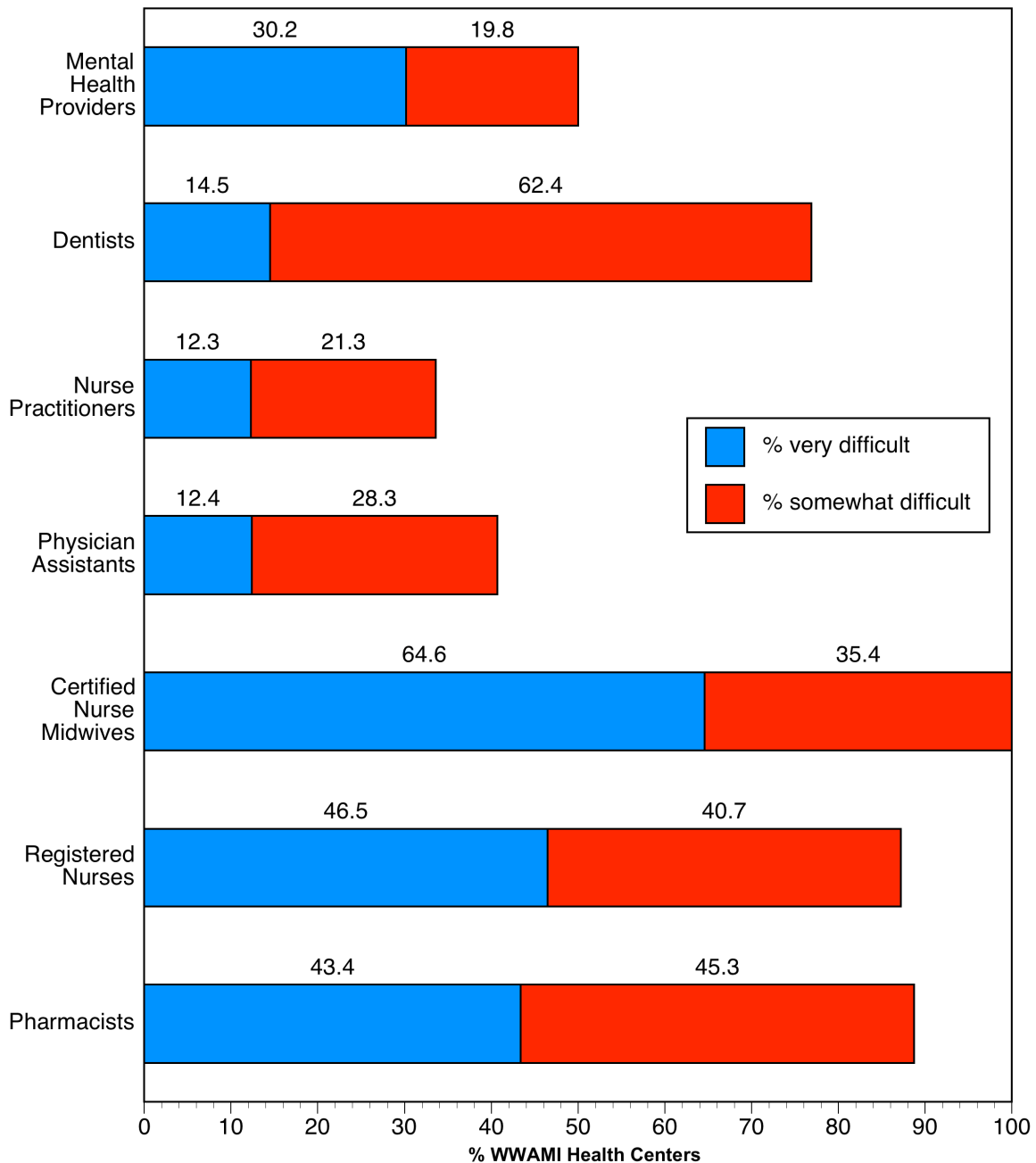


Figure 3e. Perceived Difficulty Filling a Vacancy of Selected Physician Types for WWAMI Health Centers in Rural Locations

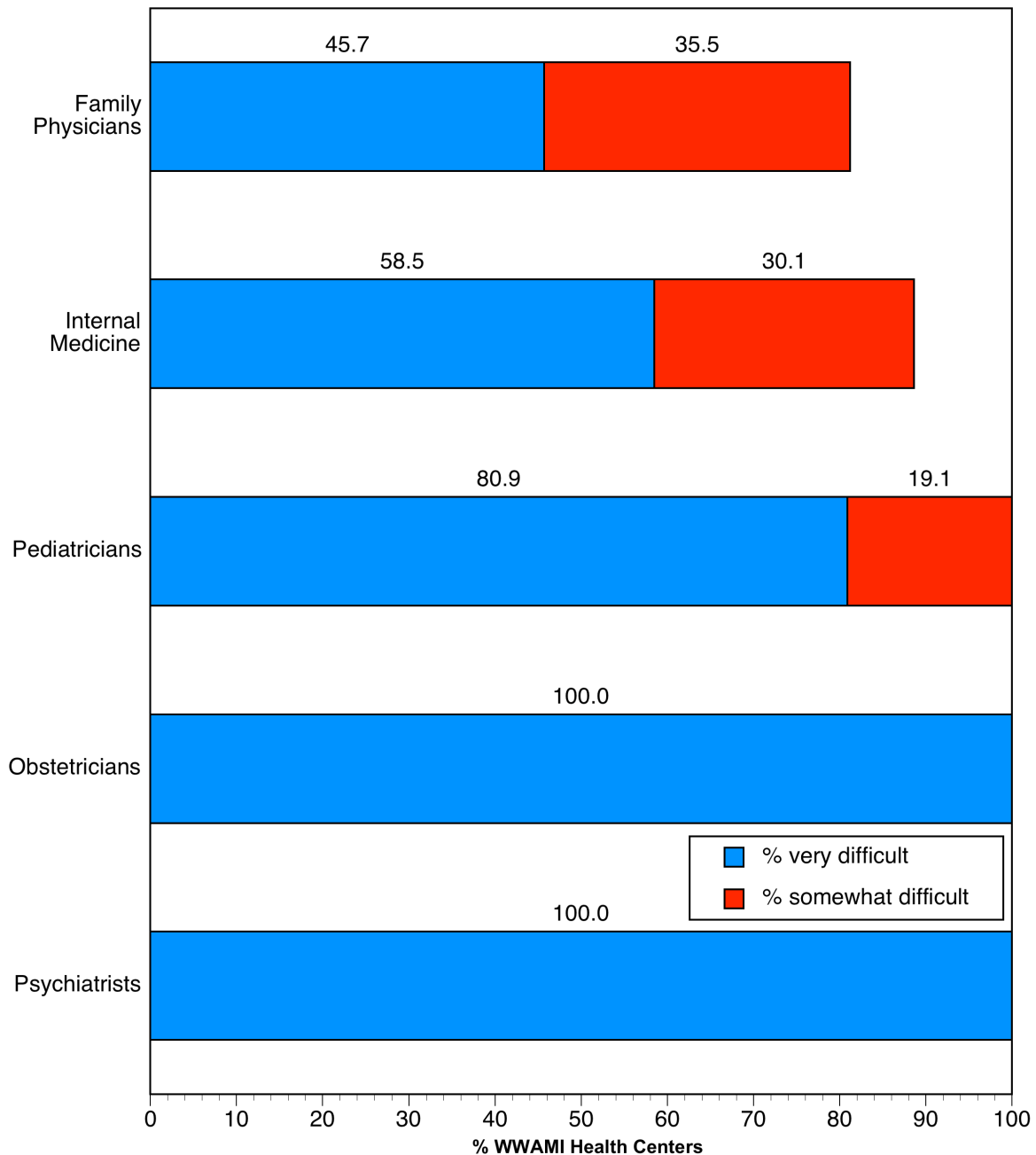


Figure 3f. Perceived Difficulty Filling a Vacancy of Selected Non-Physician Health Center Personnel for WWAMI Health Centers Located in Rural Locations

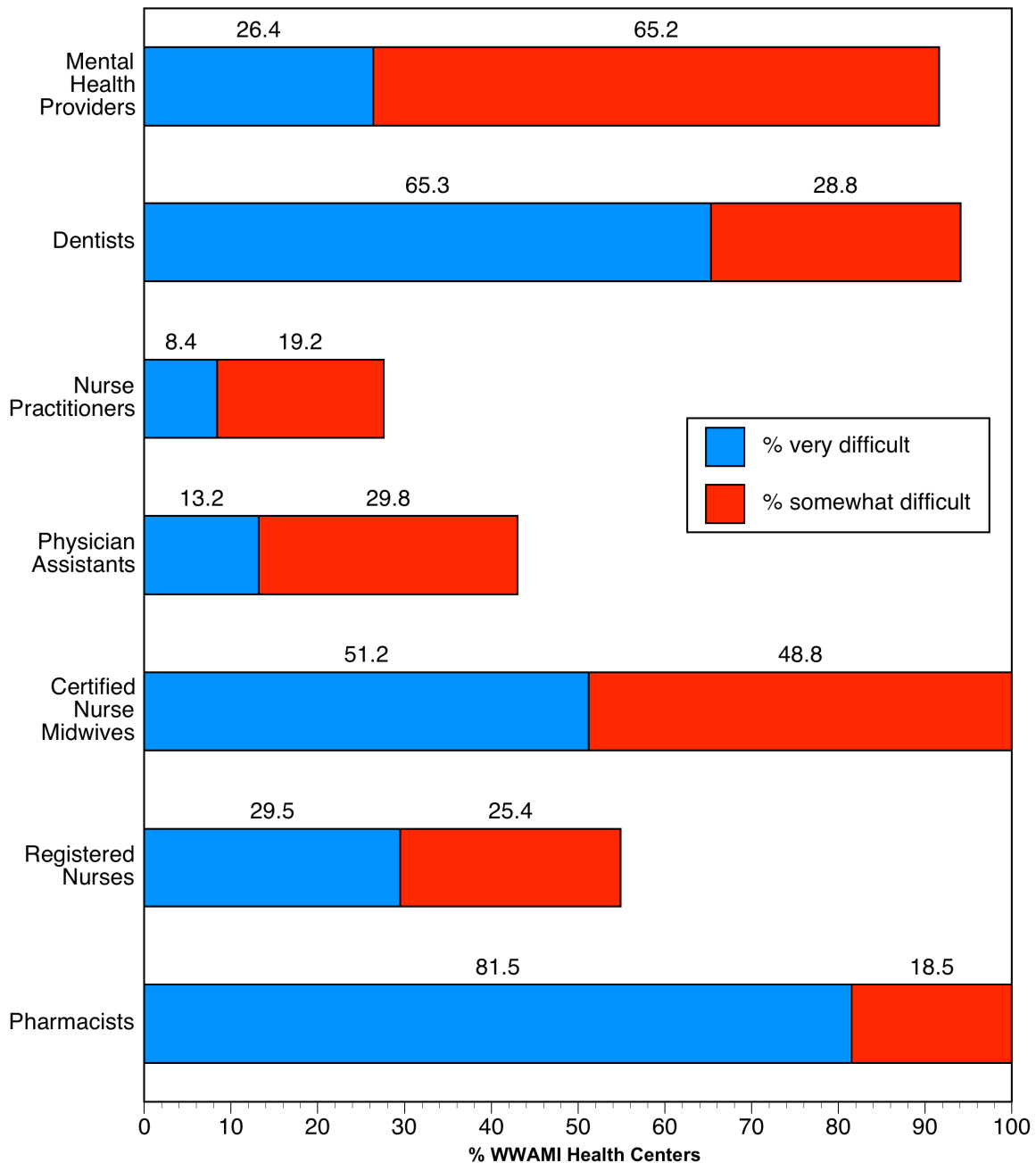


Figure 4. Perceived Factors that Would Aid in the Recruitment and Retention of Health Professionals in WWAMI Health Centers by Location

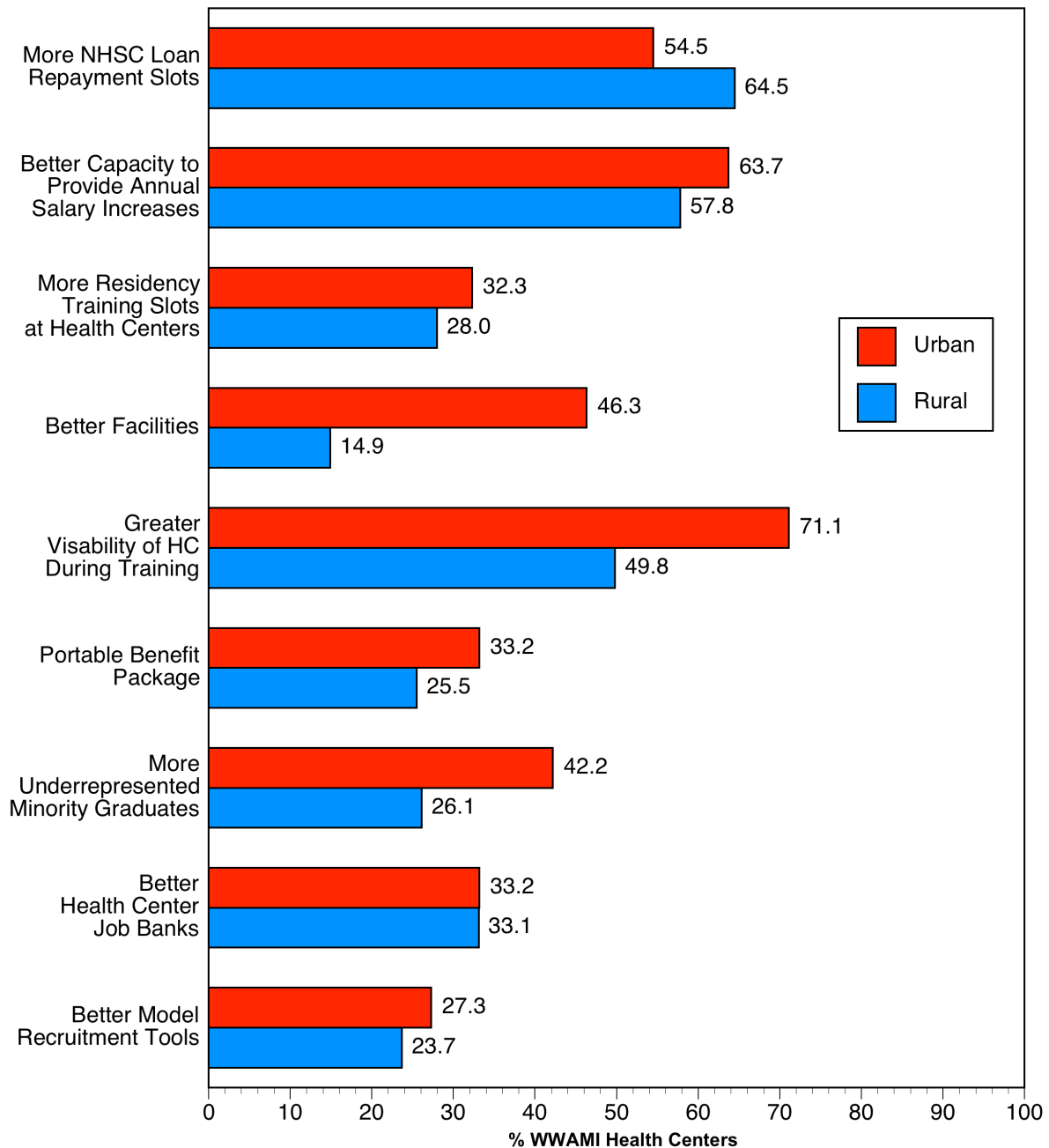


Figure 5. Perceived Importance of Factors Affecting Recruitment to WWAMI Community Health Centers by Geographic Location

