

# Gabbs Health Care Survey Report<sup>1</sup>



University of Nevada School of Medicine  
University Center for Economic Development

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## Overview

This report provides current data on the views of Gabbs, Nevada residents regarding their local health care system. The purpose of this report is to provide local leaders and citizens of Gabbs with information on health care usage and needs in their local community.

Household-level data were collected by a telephone survey administered by the private firm of InfoSearch International during July 2003. The sample was composed of thirty households of the rural community of Gabbs, Nevada, randomly selected by telephone number. The thirty households contained sixty individuals. The Nevada State Demographer estimated the population of Gabbs at 320 in 2002. Respondents were asked eight questions regarding the source of their medical information, greatest health concern and possible remedies for it, interactions with the Gabbs Clinic or other healthcare providers, as well as all household members' type of health insurance coverage. The data were then analyzed and compiled into this report by the University Center for Economic Development. In this report, a short statement regarding each question is followed by a graph or chart illustrating the responses to that question.

In general, the findings indicate a demand for additional health care services in Gabbs. The highest concern of Gabbs citizens was a need for a full-time doctor or physician's assistant in Gabbs. However, before expansion of health care services can be considered in Gabbs, a feasibility analysis would be required. This feasibility analysis would look at the financial feasibility of expanding existing services and assess the feasibility of additional medical care services in Gabbs.

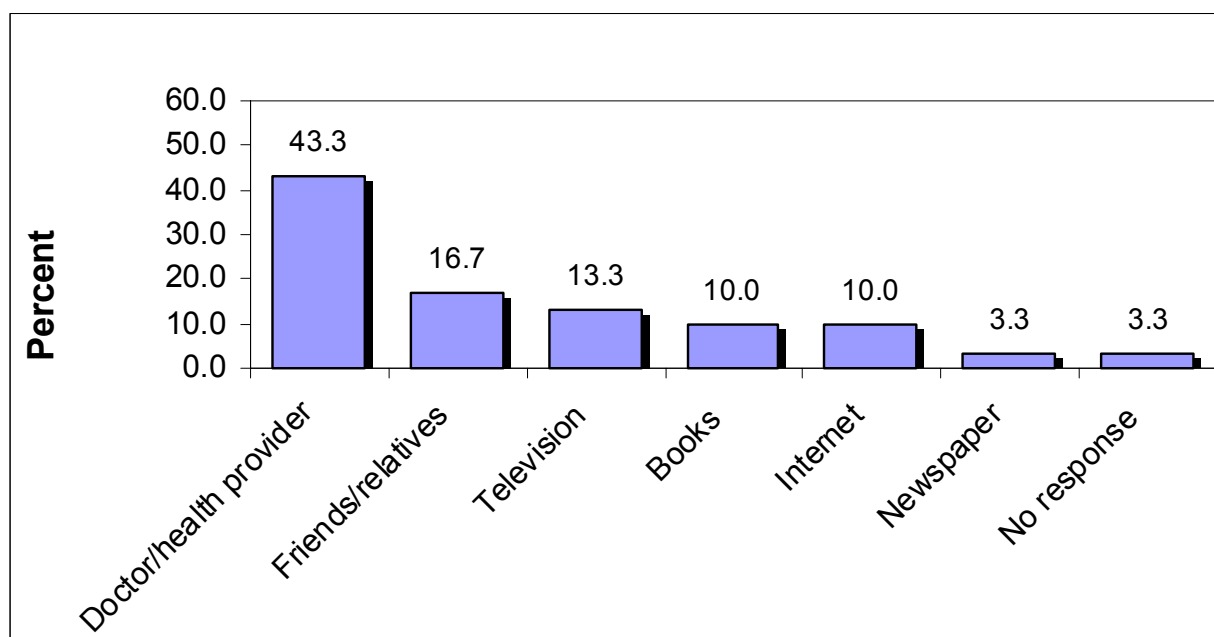
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## Survey Findings

The primary source of medical information for Gabbs residents is the family doctor. Residents are more than twice as likely to receive medical information from their physician or other healthcare provider than the nearest alternative. Friends or relatives, television and books appear as the most frequent sources of medical information after the family doctor.

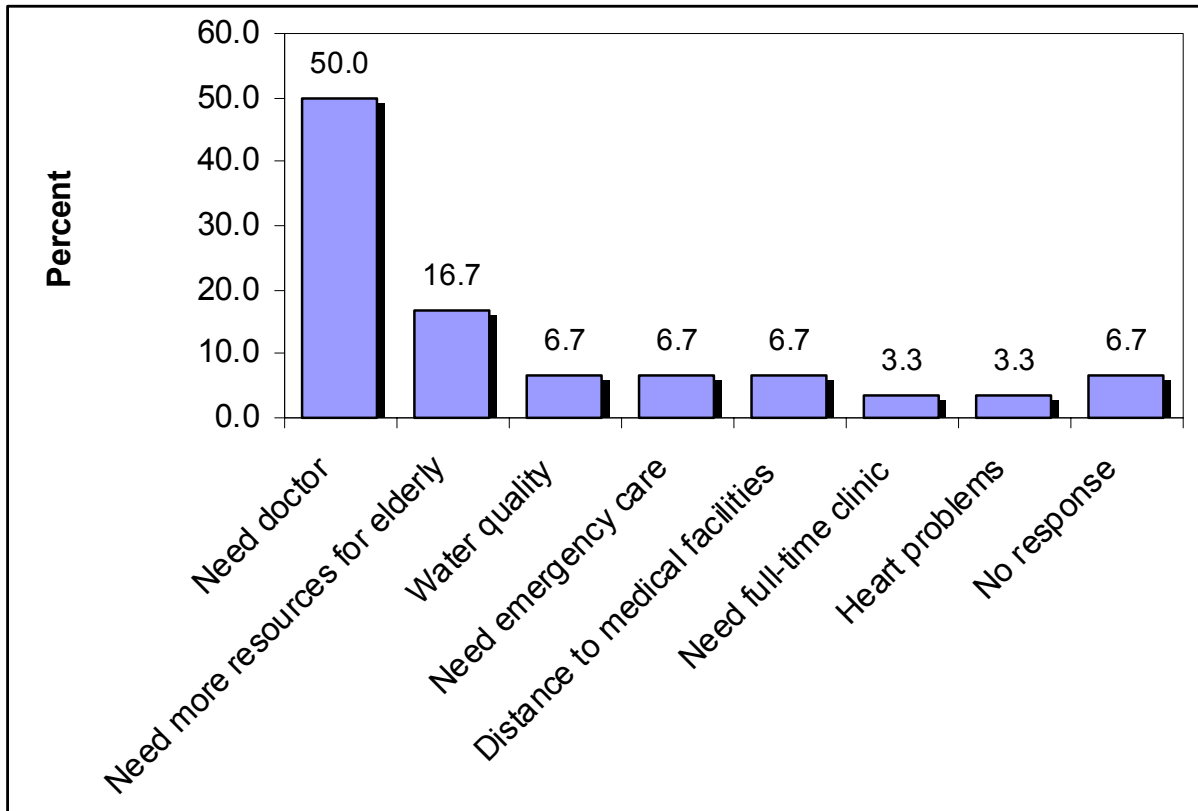
**Figure 1. Primary Source of Medical Information**



Since healthcare providers are the primary source of medical information, news about changes in healthcare service provision may best be provided through doctor's offices.

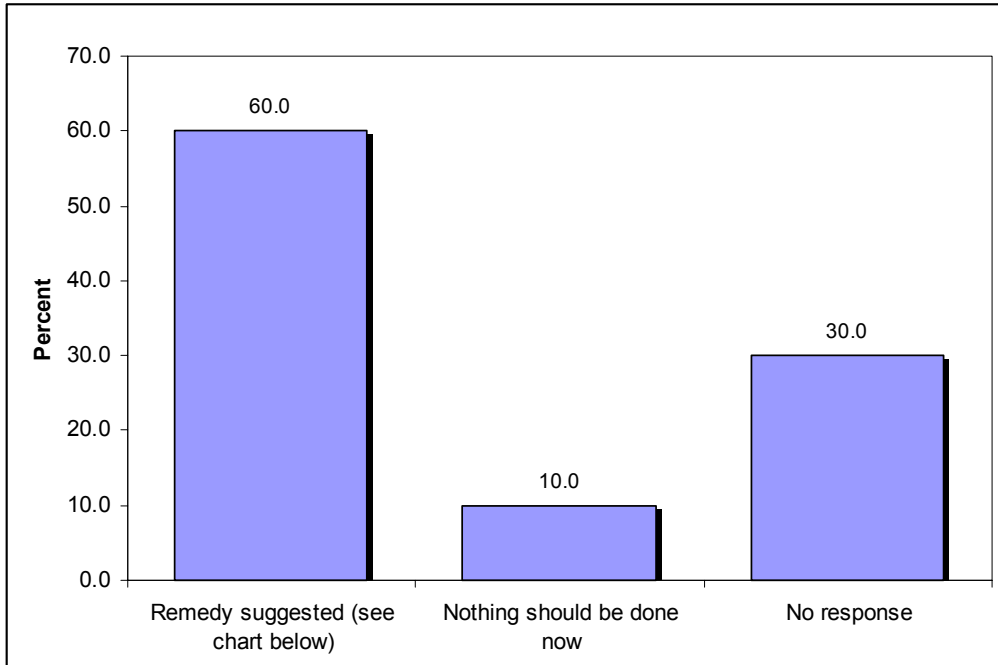
The most important community health concern identified by local residents relates to the lack of a full-time doctor in Gabbs. The lack of various aspects of medical care for the elderly was mentioned second most frequently. Other concerns included poor water quality, the availability, quality and expense of emergency care, distance to medical facilities, the lack of a full-time clinic and heart problems.

**Figure 2. Most Important Community Health Concern**

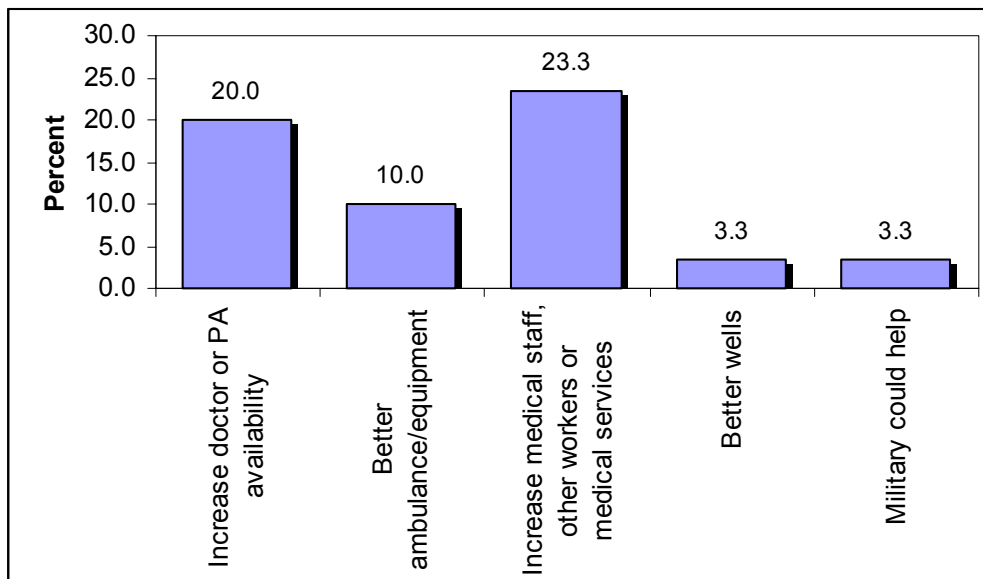


Gabbs residents were asked what, if anything, should be done in response to the community's most important health concern they identified in question 2 above. As seen in Figure 3 below, 10% or three of the respondents felt no action should be taken, eighteen of the respondents suggested a remedy and nine didn't know of a remedy or gave no response. Those who suggested a remedy most often suggested some sort of increased staffing of doctors or other healthcare workers.

**Figure 3. Whether or Not Action Should be Taken**

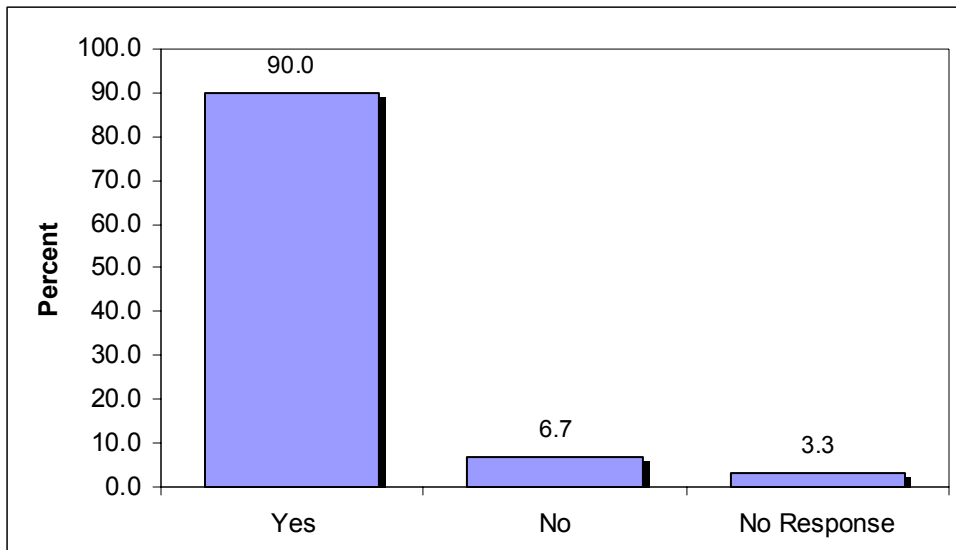


**Figure 4. Remedies for Community's Most Important Health Concern**

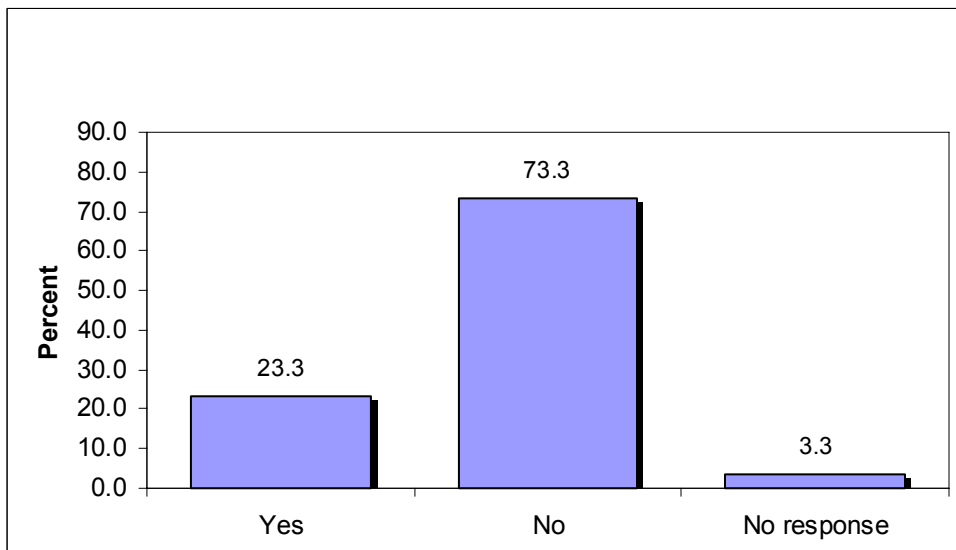


Gabbs residents were asked whether they were aware of the medical services provided by Gabbs Clinic. They were also asked whether their family generally goes to the Gabbs Clinic for primary health care. 90% of respondents knew about the clinic but only about 23% said their family used the clinic for primary healthcare.

**Figure 5. Awareness of Gabbs Clinic**



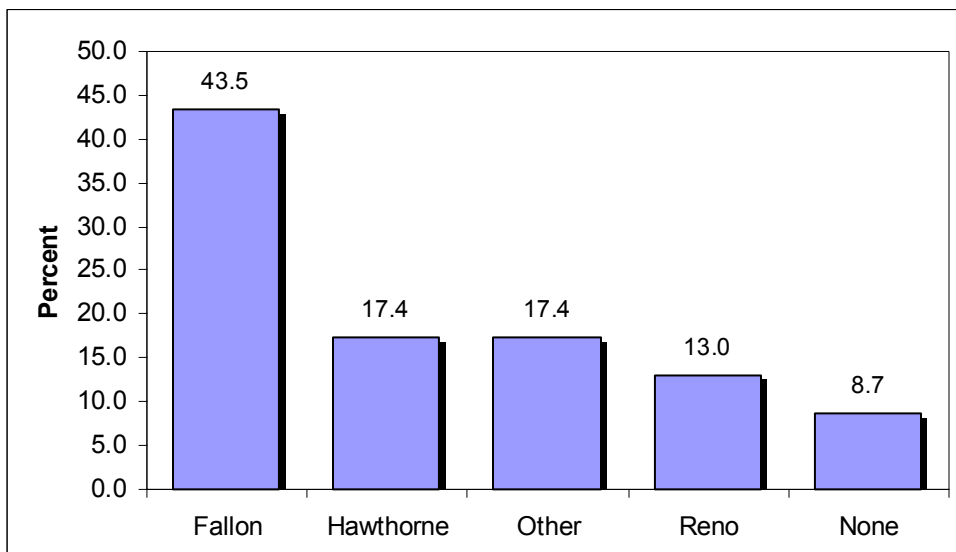
**Figure 6. Use of Gabbs Clinic for Primary Healthcare**



Only a small proportion of those responding to the phone survey reported using the Gabbs Clinic for primary healthcare for their family. Of the seven individuals who did report using the clinic, four did not know or could not remember how often they had used the clinic. The three individuals who did remember averaged 19 visits. The seven individuals reported varied levels of satisfaction with the clinic – two were very satisfied with the clinic, one satisfied, one neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, one was not satisfied, and two had no opinion.

For the majority of Gabbs respondents who reported that they generally went out of town for their family’s healthcare, 43% reported going to Fallon, the most likely alternative. Hawthorne was the next most likely alternative followed by Reno. Other locations for primary healthcare included Yerington and Pahrump. Two respondents reported having no primary care provider.

**Figure 7. Location of Primary Care Provider**

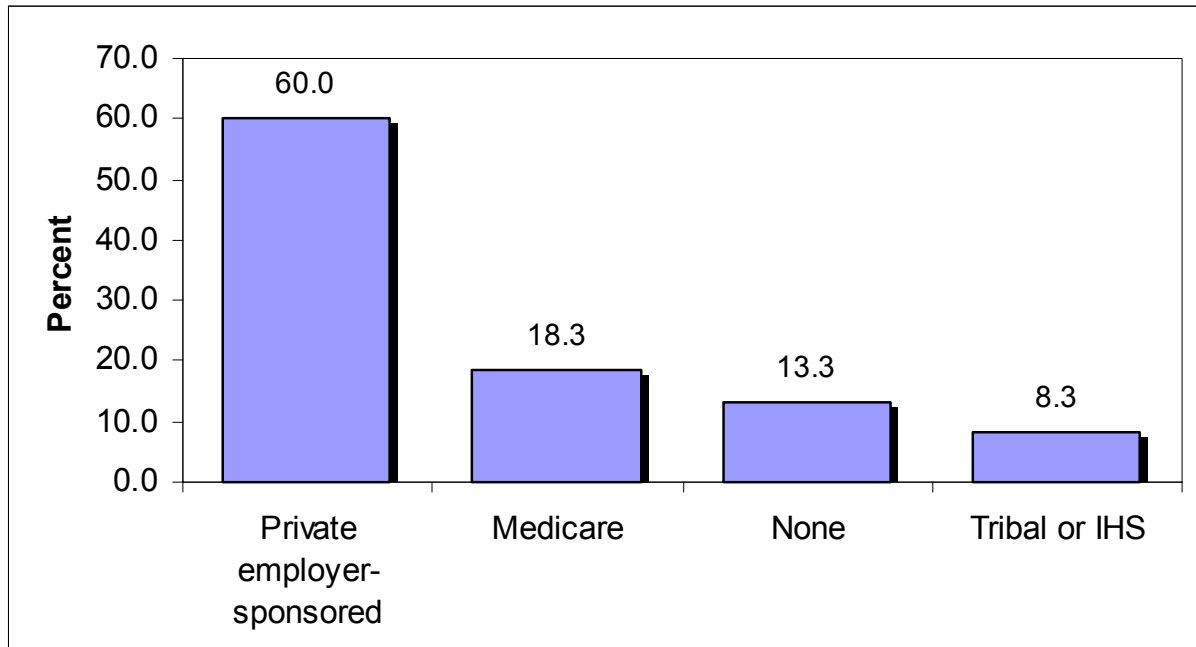


From the respondents, an average use of primary care facilities outside Gabbs was about 4 visits per family. Approximately 83% of those who traveled outside of Gabbs for primary health care reported either being satisfied or very satisfied with outside healthcare services.



The thirty individuals surveyed reported the form of health insurance for each member of their family. There were sixty individuals in these thirty households. Most of the sample of Gabbs residents had private employer-sponsored health insurance plans (60%). Nearly 20% reported having Medicare coverage while approximately 13% said they had no health insurance. A small number reported having tribal health insurance or coverage with the Indian Health Service.

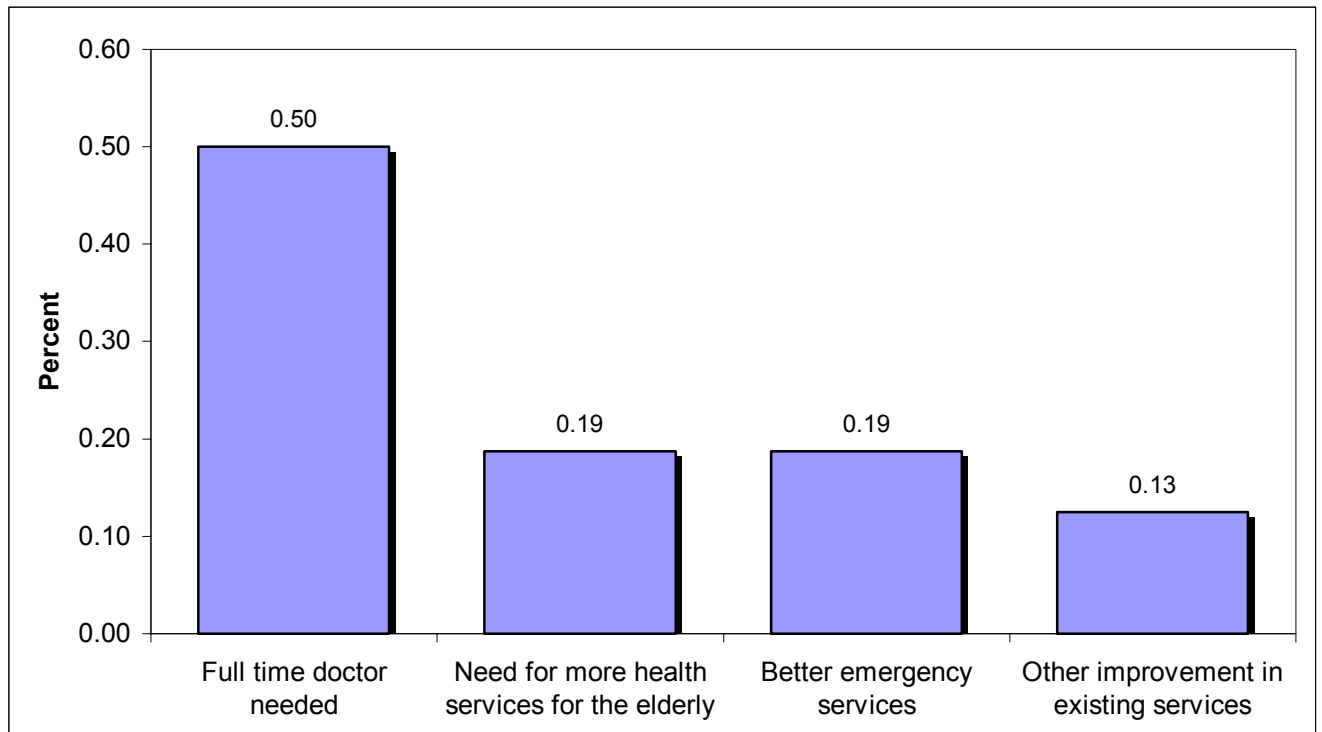
**Figure 8. Type of Health Insurance**



The average age of the sixty individuals was approximately 47 years of age. The age of individuals ranged from a low of 2 years of age to a high of 88 years of age. Approximately 23% of the residents in the sample were over 65 years of age and 18% were under 18 years of age. As to gender 53% of the sample were female.

Approximately half of the Gabbs respondents provided additional comments about the healthcare system in their community. The top three concerns mirrored the information residents gave previously about their community's most important health concern. Most often mentioned was that Gabbs residents would like greater access to a physician, especially a full-time physician. Emergency services and care for the elderly emerged again as top concerns. Also mentioned was the desire for a mobile clinic and a fire department, both of which might be construed to involve emergency care and greater access to healthcare professionals.

**Figure 9 General Comments on Healthcare Concerns in Gabbs**



## Conclusion

The survey results indicate that the citizens of Gabbs most important health concern is the lack of a full-time doctor. Other top priorities were expanded health services for the elderly and emergency services. The concern for an expansion of health care services in Gabbs is complicated by the small population in Gabbs and the long distance to other population centers. Before expansion of health care services can be considered in Gabbs, the financial feasibility of an expansion would need to be studied.