

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

As of October 20, 2018

Bureau of Health Workforce
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 1. Health Professional Shortage Areas: Number, Population, and Additional Practitioners Needed for Geographic Areas, Population Groups, and Facilities as of October 20, 2018

	Number of Designations ⁽¹⁾	Population of Designated HPSAs ⁽²⁾	Percent of Need Met ⁽³⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations
Primary Medical HPSA Totals	6,898	75,248,193	43.93 %⁽⁴⁾	14,167⁽⁷⁾
Undetermined	1,495		---	
Geographic Area	1,304	30,873,199	57.64 %	4,059
Population Group	1,644	42,958,232	36.05 %	9,146
Facility	2,455	1,416,762	30.78 %	962
Dental HPSA Totals	5,744	56,775,105	29.22 %⁽⁵⁾	10,444⁽⁸⁾
Undetermined	1,497		---	
Geographic Area	593	11,128,172	50.16 %	1,268
Population Group	1,759	43,781,261	24.65 %	8,256
Facility	1,895	1,865,672	26.26 %	920
Mental Health HPSA Totals	5,043	110,454,029	25.55 %⁽⁶⁾	6,635⁽⁹⁾
Undetermined	1,495		---	
Geographic Area	1,035	78,160,223	30.37 %	3,581
Population Group	428	30,104,216	16.68 %	1,865
Facility	2,085	2,189,590	22.39 %	1,189

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 2. Health Professional Shortage Areas: Rural/Non-Rural Classification as of October 20, 2018

	Number of Designations ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of All Designations ⁽¹⁰⁾	Population of Designated HPSAs	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations
Primary Medical HPSA Totals	6,898		75,248,193	14,167
Rural	4,082	59.18 %	22,078,889	3,823
Undetermined	491	7.12 %		
Geographic Area	857	12.42 %	12,334,140	1,642
Population Group	880	12.76 %	9,058,130	1,729
Facility	1,854	26.88 %	686,619	452
Non-Rural	2,361	34.23 %	37,485,884	7,701
Undetermined	1,004	14.55 %		
Geographic Area	238	3.45 %	11,692,054	1,608
Population Group	518	7.51 %	25,063,687	5,583
Facility	601	8.71 %	730,143	510
Partially Rural⁽¹¹⁾	451	6.54 %	15,641,307	2,632
Geographic Area	205	2.97 %	6,804,892	798
Population Group	246	3.57 %	8,836,415	1,834
Unknown⁽¹²⁾	4	0.06 %	42,113	11
Geographic Area	4	0.06 %	42,113	11
Dental HPSA Totals	5,744		56,775,105	10,444
Rural	3,402	59.23 %	19,048,925	3,490
Undetermined	492	8.57 %		
Geographic Area	460	8.01 %	6,375,833	755
Population Group	1,030	17.93 %	11,751,198	2,300
Facility	1,420	24.72 %	921,894	435
Non-Rural	2,003	34.87 %	25,947,990	4,866
Undetermined	1,005	17.50 %		
Geographic Area	64	1.11 %	2,680,471	280
Population Group	459	7.99 %	22,323,741	4,101
Facility	475	8.27 %	943,778	485
Partially Rural	334	5.81 %	11,704,514	2,075
Geographic Area	66	1.15 %	2,024,549	225
Population Group	268	4.67 %	9,679,965	1,850

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Unknown	5	0.09 %	73,676	13
Geographic Area	3	0.05 %	47,319	8
Population Group	2	0.03 %	26,357	5
Mental Health HPSA Totals	5,043		110,454,029	6,635
Rural	2,692	53.38 %	25,793,216	1,865
Undetermined	488	9.68 %		
Geographic Area	623	12.35 %	22,546,458	1,245
Population Group	102	2.02 %	2,204,826	171
Facility	1,479	29.33 %	1,041,932	449
Non-Rural	1,925	38.17 %	34,476,753	2,349
Undetermined	1,007	19.97 %		
Geographic Area	131	2.60 %	17,997,419	690
Population Group	181	3.59 %	15,331,676	919
Facility	606	12.02 %	1,147,658	740
Partially Rural	423	8.39 %	49,943,816	2,406
Geographic Area	279	5.53 %	37,571,079	1,644
Population Group	144	2.86 %	12,372,737	762
Unknown	3	0.06 %	240,244	15
Geographic Area	2	0.04 %	45,267	2
Population Group	1	0.02 %	194,977	13

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 3. Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of October 20, 2018

Primary Care	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽³⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designation ⁽⁶⁾
HPSA Total	6,898	1,304	1,644	3,950	75,248,193	43.93 %	14,167
Region I	253	21	49	183	1,301,333	30.37 %	312
Connecticut	43	0	22	21	442,392	0.24 %	149
Maine	66	12	8	46	78,132	35.53 %	16
Massachusetts	67	4	9	54	504,948	36.88 %	110
New Hampshire	30	2	6	22	96,029	60.01 %	14
Rhode Island	14	1	3	10	167,510	65.94 %	21
Vermont	33	2	1	30	12,322	53.56 %	2
Region II	259	12	89	158	6,288,922	22.53 %	1,640
New Jersey	35	0	0	35	28,823	54.90 %	13
New York	180	9	72	99	4,462,511	29.78 %	1,044
Puerto Rico	39	0	17	22	1,690,470	1.92 %	554
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	107,118	18.86 %	29
Region III	472	82	108	282	4,197,547	47.78 %	775
Delaware	15	2	4	9	237,967	32.40 %	58
District of Columbia	15	3	3	9	248,519	27.16 %	64
Maryland	52	7	20	25	975,941	42.45 %	218
Pennsylvania	158	16	25	117	539,557	43.19 %	123
Virginia	111	48	17	46	1,579,909	61.18 %	195
West Virginia	121	6	39	76	615,654	44.75 %	117
Region IV	1,315	268	456	591	20,480,254	44.49 %	3,843
Alabama	113	41	28	44	2,279,225	55.56 %	341
Florida	264	15	112	137	5,843,332	22.01 %	1,585
Georgia	235	55	97	83	3,217,771	42.70 %	627
Kentucky	175	48	38	89	1,131,223	54.71 %	166

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Primary Care	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽³⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designation ⁽⁶⁾
Mississippi	117	53	26	38	1,746,844	41.16 %	341
North Carolina	182	20	62	100	1,873,279	46.04 %	323
South Carolina	92	14	29	49	1,928,557	68.76 %	206
Tennessee	137	22	64	51	2,460,023	69.20 %	254
Region V	1,126	190	233	703	11,395,125	55.39 %	1,673
Illinois	225	40	75	110	3,264,455	53.43 %	494
Indiana	127	30	35	62	2,118,245	76.79 %	164
Michigan	365	25	58	282	3,006,918	42.15 %	577
Minnesota	123	29	20	74	445,707	46.42 %	78
Ohio	153	41	17	95	1,411,273	55.74 %	207
Wisconsin	133	25	28	80	1,148,527	58.96 %	153
Region VI	960	239	198	523	9,931,759	53.09 %	1,559
Arkansas	89	14	40	35	503,091	50.92 %	87
Louisiana	139	41	26	72	2,215,039	64.85 %	253
New Mexico	104	29	10	65	1,048,498	23.00 %	261
Oklahoma	183	13	62	108	1,274,833	56.51 %	196
Texas	445	142	60	243	4,890,298	53.48 %	762
Region VII	589	61	187	341	3,124,164	27.51 %	746
Iowa	126	28	29	69	626,490	54.77 %	91
Kansas	151	17	60	74	786,579	44.78 %	142
Missouri	207	8	98	101	1,697,303	10.06 %	509
Nebraska	105	8	0	97	13,792	20.40 %	4
Region VIII	500	161	97	242	2,686,441	41.71 %	527
Colorado	120	24	36	60	1,085,993	34.23 %	260
Montana	117	25	31	61	412,474	35.28 %	85
North Dakota	74	44	1	29	182,572	33.34 %	36
South Dakota	91	35	13	43	236,885	41.59 %	45
Utah	56	14	13	29	590,565	59.94 %	79
Wyoming	42	19	3	20	177,952	54.65 %	22

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Primary Care	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽³⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designation ⁽⁶⁾
Region IX	953	202	133	618	12,127,782	43.31 %	2,319
Arizona	191	53	37	101	2,971,289	40.56 %	603
California	635	121	81	433	7,574,394	43.51 %	1,440
Hawaii	27	4	2	21	183,754	72.90 %	14
Nevada	81	16	12	53	946,585	47.62 %	170
American Samoa	2	1	0	1	55,009	5.45 %	17
Federated States of Micronesia	8	3	1	4	103,528	0.00 %	34
Guam	2	1	0	1	178,457	72.28 %	16
Marshall Islands	2	1	0	1	50,638	0.00 %	17
Northern Mariana Islands	3	1	0	2	53,366	72.13 %	4
Republic of Palau	2	1	0	1	10,762	0.00 %	4
Region X	471	68	94	309	3,714,866	35.23 %	773
Alaska	84	15	0	69	105,032	26.34 %	24
Idaho	99	14	29	56	489,987	49.30 %	81
Oregon	125	12	33	80	909,657	51.36 %	150
Washington	163	27	32	104	2,210,190	25.21 %	518

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 4. Dental Health Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of October 20, 2018

Dental Health	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽⁴⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designation ⁽⁷⁾
HPSA Total	5,744	593	1,759	3,392	56,775,105	29.22 %	10,444
Region I	237	18	52	167	1,275,874	35.84 %	216
Connecticut	37	0	19	18	395,968	0.00 %	101
Maine	74	13	21	40	295,798	40.10 %	40
Massachusetts	59	3	4	52	345,672	66.17 %	34
New Hampshire	24	0	3	21	30,353	40.40 %	5
Rhode Island	14	0	4	10	178,655	34.89 %	34
Vermont	29	2	1	26	29,428	53.66 %	2
Region II	210	6	36	168	2,487,360	23.99 %	515
New Jersey	40	0	0	40	45,705	25.96 %	23
New York	141	2	36	103	2,324,001	23.20 %	473
Puerto Rico	24	1	0	23	13,159	16.13 %	4
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	104,495	42.11 %	15
Region III	436	43	154	239	5,242,803	36.51 %	860
Delaware	10	0	3	7	178,124	6.84 %	50
District of Columbia	11	0	2	9	83,820	9.30 %	20
Maryland	46	10	16	20	927,014	19.02 %	175
Pennsylvania	163	2	56	105	2,021,477	46.20 %	298
Virginia	91	22	37	32	1,294,150	43.54 %	176
West Virginia	115	9	40	66	738,218	28.41 %	141
Region IV	1,131	139	471	521	18,239,162	24.45 %	3,558
Alabama	73	0	43	30	1,827,739	20.59 %	375
Florida	235	2	108	125	5,454,485	12.88 %	1,249
Georgia	195	41	82	72	2,071,643	22.75 %	421

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Dental Health	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽⁴⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designation ⁽⁷⁾
Kentucky	124	14	30	80	620,601	49.12 %	76
Mississippi	110	56	23	31	1,805,889	45.53 %	251
North Carolina	164	3	74	87	2,447,039	19.07 %	511
South Carolina	85	20	18	47	1,656,370	40.57 %	251
Tennessee	145	3	93	49	2,355,396	28.74 %	424
Region V	994	18	405	571	9,651,851	26.94 %	1,818
Illinois	166	4	78	84	2,384,772	41.53 %	356
Indiana	87	2	40	45	1,125,483	30.15 %	210
Michigan	343	1	115	227	2,454,698	5.36 %	596
Minnesota	124	9	56	59	710,585	15.60 %	152
Ohio	145	2	67	76	1,764,676	32.82 %	300
Wisconsin	129	0	49	80	1,211,637	36.33 %	204
Region VI	742	146	152	444	6,248,876	42.53 %	969
Arkansas	84	8	50	26	648,937	36.02 %	105
Louisiana	118	33	21	64	1,892,833	54.20 %	223
New Mexico	82	21	16	45	891,071	21.44 %	174
Oklahoma	163	6	57	100	890,503	34.63 %	167
Texas	295	78	8	209	1,925,532	46.32 %	300
Region VII	494	41	194	259	2,865,644	19.45 %	571
Iowa	121	8	54	59	535,912	35.66 %	92
Kansas	123	22	54	47	594,586	24.49 %	103
Missouri	173	11	84	78	1,732,104	12.50 %	376
Nebraska	77	0	2	75	3,042	60.53 %	0
Region VIII	375	79	94	202	2,123,488	42.68 %	314
Colorado	98	20	28	50	808,368	37.28 %	137
Montana	97	10	31	56	351,605	31.58 %	62
North Dakota	41	22	0	19	96,632	34.38 %	12
South Dakota	61	18	11	32	143,923	27.12 %	29
Utah	50	5	20	25	673,310	59.06 %	69

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Dental Health	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽⁴⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designation ⁽⁷⁾
Wyoming	28	4	4	20	49,650	51.72 %	5
Region IX	734	68	106	560	4,968,717	30.06 %	952
Arizona	183	38	47	98	2,454,477	30.92 %	455
California	438	14	40	384	1,193,697	31.25 %	251
Hawaii	23	1	2	20	110,229	52.63 %	13
Nevada	71	7	16	48	877,695	32.99 %	152
American Samoa	2	1	0	1	55,009	0.00 %	14
Federated States of Micronesia	8	4	0	4	102,843	0.00 %	26
Guam	2	0	1	1	82,842	5.79 %	20
Marshall Islands	2	1	0	1	27,797	0.00 %	7
Northern Mariana Islands	3	1	0	2	53,366	0.00 %	11
Republic of Palau	2	1	0	1	10,762	0.00 %	3
Region X	391	35	95	261	3,671,330	24.19 %	671
Alaska	69	13	0	56	115,246	31.32 %	19
Idaho	95	6	36	53	498,559	45.25 %	67
Oregon	105	1	36	68	1,134,788	20.37 %	229
Washington	122	15	23	84	1,922,737	20.33 %	356

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 5. Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of October 20, 2018

Mental Health Care	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽⁵⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designation ⁽⁸⁾
HPSA Total	5,043	1,035	428	3,580	110,454,029	25.55 %	6,635
Region I	201	21	11	169	2,176,268	28.58 %	151
Connecticut	34	3	5	26	1,084,864	15.02 %	76
Maine	51	12	0	39	261,782	33.58 %	29
Massachusetts	58	1	5	52	294,816	25.27 %	27
New Hampshire	21	3	0	18	92,634	45.04 %	3
Rhode Island	13	2	1	10	442,172	57.16 %	16
Vermont	24	0	0	24		---	
Region II	267	14	55	198	5,425,227	19.13 %	378
New Jersey	38	0	0	38	32,755	71.51 %	4
New York	182	10	44	128	3,836,012	15.32 %	276
Puerto Rico	42	1	11	30	1,451,959	13.32 %	89
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	104,501	60.95 %	9
Region III	400	59	58	283	6,163,036	29.14 %	486
Delaware	15	0	1	14	94,481	6.52 %	18
District of Columbia	10	1	0	9	133,945	5.31 %	28
Maryland	54	9	13	32	1,356,453	28.85 %	88
Pennsylvania	122	23	1	98	1,660,052	35.13 %	103
Virginia	82	17	8	57	2,198,881	39.79 %	119
West Virginia	117	9	35	73	719,224	16.83 %	130
Region IV	796	129	137	530	26,936,831	22.95 %	1,865
Alabama	56	14	7	35	2,932,221	24.03 %	159
Florida	180	17	41	122	6,286,508	16.07 %	408
Georgia	99	18	8	73	4,834,543	38.05 %	199

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Mental Health Care	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽⁵⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designation ⁽⁸⁾
Kentucky	107	23	5	79	2,160,036	29.59 %	120
Mississippi	47	13	0	34	2,381,982	24.49 %	366
North Carolina	167	24	51	92	2,522,692	13.90 %	149
South Carolina	69	10	11	48	2,418,422	37.54 %	108
Tennessee	71	10	14	47	3,400,427	11.66 %	356
Region V	792	178	26	588	19,062,897	26.70 %	1,024
Illinois	123	32	4	87	4,871,763	25.54 %	216
Indiana	76	22	0	54	3,738,068	34.74 %	159
Minnesota	67	9	0	58	2,000,050	33.27 %	79
Michigan	278	48	13	217	4,132,859	23.94 %	212
Ohio	114	19	7	88	2,235,622	30.83 %	111
Wisconsin	134	48	2	84	2,084,535	19.23 %	247
Region VI	785	277	41	467	17,335,925	30.11 %	891
Arkansas	47	5	10	32	1,266,192	31.82 %	65
Louisiana	126	51	11	64	3,143,641	21.96 %	162
New Mexico	71	16	2	53	1,251,275	12.30 %	75
Oklahoma	118	4	9	105	1,556,785	20.65 %	95
Texas	423	201	9	213	10,118,032	35.47 %	494
Region VII	333	42	22	269	5,985,690	24.53 %	305
Iowa	72	15	0	57	1,610,233	39.24 %	53
Kansas	70	19	2	49	1,387,508	31.58 %	55
Missouri	110	3	20	87	1,948,955	7.20 %	171
Nebraska	81	5	0	76	1,038,994	50.82 %	26
Region VIII	340	91	17	232	7,742,007	32.26 %	384
Colorado	92	11	8	73	2,665,379	29.80 %	131
Montana	82	21	7	54	602,361	13.27 %	71
North Dakota	51	26	0	25	291,463	18.75 %	20
South Dakota	51	14	1	36	456,245	11.63 %	43
Utah	40	14	1	25	3,165,372	50.20 %	94

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Mental Health Care	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽⁵⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designation ⁽⁸⁾
Wyoming	24	5	0	19	561,187	31.46 %	25
Region IX	767	151	47	569	13,742,861	24.40 %	838
Arizona	176	64	15	97	2,968,874	7.95 %	235
California	485	64	29	392	7,678,250	30.32 %	419
Hawaii	28	5	2	21	191,566	17.54 %	9
Nevada	58	8	1	49	2,445,591	29.40 %	146
American Samoa	2	1	0	1	55,009	0.00 %	12
Federated States of Micronesia	8	4	0	4	107,020	0.00 %	6
Guam	2	1	0	1	159,358	58.97 %	3
Marshall Islands	2	1	0	1	53,158	0.00 %	3
Northern Mariana Islands	3	1	0	2	53,366	0.00 %	3
Republic of Palau	3	2	0	1	30,669	0.00 %	2
Region X	362	73	14	275	5,883,287	16.64 %	313
Alaska	75	18	0	57	276,716	20.71 %	10
Idaho	62	6	1	55	1,276,767	21.08 %	57
Oregon	93	14	7	72	1,490,882	23.52 %	80
Washington	132	35	6	91	2,838,922	10.48 %	166

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Endnotes

- (1) The number of designations includes HPSAs that are proposed for withdrawal (P) and HPSAs that have no data (N). Designations are not withdrawn until a Federal Register Notice is published, generally once a year on or around July 1.
- (2) The figure reported for the Population of Designated Facility HPSAs for both Primary Care and Dental reflects the number of internees in designated correctional facilities. The figure reported for the Population of Designated Facility HPSAs for Mental Health reflects the number of internees in designated correctional facilities, as well as the average daily inpatient census for state and county mental hospitals designated after September 1, 2015. For reports generated prior to September 1, 2015, the Population of Designated Facility HPSAs for all disciplines included populations served by other public or non-profit facilities. These are facilities that qualify for HPSA designation by demonstrating that even though they are not located in a geographic or population HPSA, they serve the populations of geographic and population HPSAs. As a result, these populations were potentially double counted.
- (3) The figure reported for Percent of Need Met for facility HPSAs includes correctional facilities and state mental hospitals. It excludes facilities not located in a HPSA that are designated based on providing services to the population of a geographic or population HPSA. It also excludes facilities automatically designated based on statute, including health center program grantees, Federally Qualified Health Center Look Alikes, Indian Health Service facilities, and rural health clinics that meet National Health Service Corps (NHSC) site requirements.
- (4) The percent of need met is computed by dividing the number of primary care physicians available to serve the population of the area, group, or facility by the number of primary care physicians that would be necessary to reduce the population to provider ratio below the threshold for designation so that it would eliminate the designation as a primary care HPSA. Federal regulations stipulate that, in order to be considered as having a shortage of providers, a designation must have a population-to-provider ratio that meets or exceeds a certain threshold. For primary care geographic designations, the population to provider ratio must be at least 3,500 to 1. For primary care population designations or geographic designations in areas with unusually high needs, the threshold is 3,000 to 1. For correctional facilities, the threshold is 1,000:1 and takes into account the average length of stay, and whether or not intake examinations are routinely performed.
- (5) The percent of need met is computed by dividing the number of dentists available to serve the population of the area, group, or facility by the number of dentists that would be necessary to reduce the population to provider ratio below the threshold for designation so that it would eliminate the designation as a dental HPSA. Federal regulations stipulate that, in order to be considered as having a shortage of providers, a designation must have a population-to-provider ratio that meets or exceeds a certain threshold. For dental geographic designations, the ratio must be at least 5,000 to 1. For dental population designations or geographic designations in areas with unusually high needs, the threshold is 4,000 to 1. For correctional facilities, the threshold is 1,500:1 and takes into account the average length of stay, and whether or not intake examinations are routinely performed.

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Endnotes

- (6) The percent of need met is computed by dividing the number of mental health providers available to serve the population of the area, group, or facility by the number of mental health providers that would be necessary to reduce the population to provider ratio below the threshold for designation so that it would eliminate the designation as a mental health HPSA. Federal regulations stipulate that, in order to be considered as having a shortage of providers, a designation must have a population-to-provider ratio that meets or exceeds a certain threshold. Mental health designations may qualify for designation based on the population to psychiatrist ratio, the population to core mental health provider (psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, psychiatric nurse specialists, and marriage and family therapists) ratio, or the population to both psychiatrist and core mental health provider ratios. For mental health geographic designations based on the ratio of population to psychiatrist ratio, the designation must have a ratio of 30,000 to 1, while for population designations or geographic designations in areas with unusually high needs, the threshold is 20,000 to 1. For mental health geographic designations based on the ratio of population to core mental health providers, the designation must have a ratio of 9,000 to 1, while for population designations or geographic designations in areas with unusually high needs, the threshold is 6,000 to 1. For mental health geographic designations based on the ratios of both population to psychiatrist and population to core mental health providers, the designation must have ratios of 20,000 to 1 (psychiatrists) and 6,000 to 1 (core mental health providers), while for population designations or geographic designations in areas with unusually high needs, the thresholds are 15,000 to 1 (psychiatrists) and 4,500 to 1 (core mental health providers). For correctional facilities, the threshold is 2,000:1 and takes into account the average length of stay, and whether or not intake examinations are routinely performed. For state mental hospitals, the calculation is based on workload units, which are a function of the average daily inpatient census and the number and type of admissions. For correctional facilities and state mental hospitals, psychiatrists are the only provider type counted.
- (7) The number of additional primary care physicians needed to achieve a population-to-primary care physician ratio below the thresholds necessary for designation in all designated primary care HPSAs that would result in their removal from designation. The formula used to designate primary care HPSAs does not take into account the availability of additional primary care services provided by nurse practitioners and physician assistants in an area. The figure reported for Practitioners Needed To Remove Designations for facility HPSAs includes correctional facilities. It excludes facilities not located in a HPSA that are designated based on providing services to the population of a geographic or population HPSA. It also excludes facilities automatically designated based on statute, including health center program grantees, Federally Qualified Health Center Look Alikes, Indian Health Service facilities, and rural health clinics that meet NHSC site requirements.
- (8) The number of additional dentists needed to achieve a population-to-dentist ratio below the thresholds necessary for designation in all designated dental HPSAs that would result in their removal from designation. The figure reported for Practitioners Needed To Remove Designations for facility HPSAs includes correctional facilities. It excludes facilities not located in a HPSA that are designated based on providing services to the population of a geographic or population HPSA. It also excludes facilities automatically designated based on statute, including health center program grantees, Federally Qualified Health Center Look Alikes, Indian Health Service facilities, and rural health clinics that meet NHSC site requirements.
- (9) The number of additional mental health providers needed to achieve a population-to-provider ratio below the thresholds necessary for designation in all designated mental health HPSAs that would result in their removal from designation. While the regulations allow mental health HPSA designations to be based on the psychiatrist to population ratio, the core mental health provider to population ratio, or both in conjunction, most mental health HPSA designations are currently based on the psychiatrists only to population ratio. If a HPSA designation is based on the ratio of population to psychiatrists only, it does not take into account the availability of additional mental health services provided by other mental health providers in the area, such as clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, psychiatric nurse specialists, and marriage and family therapists. The figure reported for Practitioners Needed To Remove Designations for facility HPSAs includes correctional facilities and state mental hospitals. It excludes facilities not located in a HPSA that are designated based on providing services to the population of a geographic or population HPSA. It also excludes facilities automatically designated based on statute, including health center program grantees, Federally Qualified Health Center Look Alikes, Indian Health Service facilities, and rural health clinics that meet NHSC site requirements.

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Endnotes

- (10) Percentages of all designations classified as rural/non-rural are calculated by dividing the number of designations for the specified subcategory by the total number of designations for each discipline type and multiplying the result by 100. Due to decimal rounding, percentage totals may not equal exactly 100%.
- (11) Partially rural designations are those made up of geographic components that have a mixture of rural, non-rural, and unknown statuses.
- (12) Designations of unknown rural status may include 1) facility HPSAs whose precise location could not be located on a map (i.e. geocoded) or 2) geographic or population group HPSAs that are made up of some or all areas for which rural status is undefined. Rural status may be undefined where rural information or underlying geographic reference data for administrative boundaries is unavailable for the specified geographic area.