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Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

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Timeframe: As of December 31, 2024

TABLE

Location	Total Mental Health Care HPSA Designations	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met	Practitioners Needed to Remove HPSA Designation
United States ¹	6,418	122,132,786	26.4%	6,2
Alabama	64	2,943,245	27.9%	1
Alaska	341	414,742	12.0%	
Arizona	208	2,074,757	10.1%	1
Arkansas	91	1,163,274	29.7%	
California	599	11,030,569	22.4%	5
Colorado	78	2,744,353	34.2%	1
Connecticut	41	801,108	18.7%	
Delaware	12	316,367	7.9%	
District of Columbia	11	126,214	0.0%	
Florida	219	7,826,846	23.8%	4
Georgia	88	5,025,398	43.4%	1

NOTES



Notes

Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations are used to identify areas and population groups within the United States that are experiencing a shortage of health professionals. There are three categories of HPSA designation based on the health discipline that is experiencing a shortage: 1) primary medical; 2) dental; and 3) mental health.

The primary factor used to determine a HPSA designation is the number of health professionals relative to the population with consideration given to the health care needs of the population. Federal regulations stipulate that, in order to be considered as having a shortage of providers, an area must have a population-to-provider ratio that meets or exceeds a certain threshold. For mental health, the population to provider ratio must be at least 30,000 to 1 (20,000 to 1 if there are unusually high needs in the community). State/territorial primary care offices, which conduct needs assessments and submit HPSA applications to HRSA, determine which ratio is used for each HPSA application.

HPSAs can be designated by a geographic area, a population group (e.g., low-income populations or people experiencing homelessness in a designated area), or a facility type (e.g., federally qualified health centers, Indian health centers, correctional facilities, state/county mental hospitals), and the population of one HPSA may overlap with another. The state totals for both the population of designated HPSAs and the practitioners needed to remove HPSA designations, therefore, may count some individuals more than once.

For a full list of HPSA designation/population types and more information about individual HPSAs, visit [HPSA Find](#). For information on how each state identifies and determines what areas are eligible for HPSA designation, contact a state or territory's primary care office [here](#).

The number of mental health care HPSA designations includes HPSAs that are proposed for withdrawal and HPSAs that have no data. By statute, designations are not withdrawn until a Federal Register Notice is published, generally once a year on or around July 1.

Sources

Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, [Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics: Designated HPSA Quarterly Summary, as of December 31, 2024](#) available at <https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas>.

Definitions

Percent of Need Met is computed by dividing the number of psychiatrists available to serve the population of the area, group, or facility by the number of psychiatrists that would be necessary to eliminate the mental health HPSA (based on a ratio of 30,000 to 1 (20,000 to 1 where high needs are indicated)).

Practitioners Needed to Remove HPSA Designation is the number of additional psychiatrists needed to achieve a population-to-psychiatrist ratio of 30,000 to 1 (20,000 to 1 where high needs are indicated) in all designated mental health HPSAs, resulting in their removal from designation. While mental health HPSA designations can include core mental health providers in addition to psychiatrists, most mental health HPSA designations are currently based on the psychiatrists only to population ratio. HPSA designations based on psychiatrists only do 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.

N/A: Data not available.

FOOTNOTES

1. U.S. totals include data from the territories.
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