

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

As of January 1, 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 January 1, 2018

	Number of Designations ⁽¹⁾	Population of Designated HPSAs ⁽²⁾	Percent of Need Met ⁽³⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations
Primary Medical HPSA Totals	7,176	84,367,007	48.66 %⁽⁴⁾	14,741⁽⁷⁾
Geographic Area	1,530	37,597,644	62.61 %	4,559
Population Group	1,788	45,524,160	38.89 %	9,359
Facility	3,858	1,245,203	32.20 %	823
Dental HPSA Totals	5,866	62,916,553	35.28 %⁽⁵⁾	10,802⁽⁸⁾
Geographic Area	767	16,968,087	60.61 %	1,767
Population Group	1,797	44,266,714	25.74 %	8,224
Facility	3,302	1,681,752	27.30 %	811
Mental Health HPSA Totals	5,042	123,832,882	32.52 %⁽⁶⁾	5,906⁽⁹⁾
Geographic Area	1,172	95,399,011	38.53 %	3,515
Population Group	377	26,230,889	21.35 %	1,206
Facility	3,493	2,202,982	20.92 %	1,185

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 2. Health Professional Shortage Areas: Rural/Non-Rural Classification as of January 1, 2018

	Number of Designations ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of All Designations ⁽¹⁰⁾	Population of Designated HPSAs	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations
Primary Medical HPSA Totals	7,176		84,367,007	14,741
Rural	4,237	59.04 %	24,082,688	3,953
Geographic Area	972	13.55 %	13,595,916	1,750
Population Group	984	13.71 %	9,888,732	1,825
Facility	2,281	31.79 %	598,040	378
Non-Rural	2,421	33.74 %	43,017,527	8,011
Geographic Area	307	4.28 %	15,837,028	1,900
Population Group	544	7.58 %	26,533,336	5,666
Facility	1,570	21.88 %	647,163	445
Partially Rural⁽¹¹⁾	509	7.09 %	17,228,029	2,767
Geographic Area	249	3.47 %	8,125,937	899
Population Group	260	3.62 %	9,102,092	1,868
Unknown⁽¹²⁾	9	0.13 %	38,763	10
Geographic Area	2	0.03 %	38,763	10
Facility	7	0.10 %		
Dental HPSA Totals	5,866		62,916,553	10,802
Rural	3,456	58.92 %	20,401,767	3,483
Geographic Area	568	9.68 %	8,025,210	891
Population Group	1,043	17.78 %	11,559,354	2,214
Facility	1,845	31.45 %	817,203	378
Non-Rural	2,033	34.66 %	29,200,445	5,107
Geographic Area	105	1.79 %	5,585,743	552
Population Group	477	8.13 %	22,750,153	4,122
Facility	1,451	24.74 %	864,549	433
Partially Rural	369	6.29 %	13,275,578	2,205
Geographic Area	92	1.57 %	3,318,371	317
Population Group	277	4.72 %	9,957,207	1,888
Unknown	8	0.14 %	38,763	7
Geographic Area	2	0.03 %	38,763	7
Facility	6	0.10 %		

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Mental Health HPSA Totals	5,042		123,832,882	5,906
Rural	2,679	53.13 %	28,097,388	1,697
Geographic Area	693	13.74 %	25,127,243	1,164
Population Group	89	1.77 %	2,001,675	130
Facility	1,897	37.62 %	968,470	403
Non-Rural	1,899	37.66 %	34,459,760	1,978
Geographic Area	147	2.92 %	20,062,010	651
Population Group	162	3.21 %	13,163,238	545
Facility	1,590	31.54 %	1,234,512	782
Partially Rural	455	9.02 %	61,211,276	2,228
Geographic Area	329	6.53 %	50,145,300	1,697
Population Group	126	2.50 %	11,065,976	531
Unknown	9	0.18 %	64,458	3
Geographic Area	3	0.06 %	64,458	3
Facility	6	0.12 %		

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 3. Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of January 1, 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	7,176	1,530	1,788	3,858	84,367,007	48.66 %	14,741
Region I	256	23	54	179	1,374,153	31.67 %	325
Connecticut	41	0	24	17	458,794	0.23 %	155
Maine	68	13	9	46	85,030	42.33 %	16
Massachusetts	68	5	9	54	539,073	38.66 %	113
New Hampshire	32	2	8	22	117,263	56.69 %	19
Rhode Island	14	1	3	10	161,671	66.97 %	20
Vermont	33	2	1	30	12,322	53.56 %	2
Region II	277	27	103	147	7,652,452	33.33 %	1,802
New Jersey	35	0	0	35	28,823	54.90 %	13
New York	197	23	86	88	5,821,682	41.81 %	1,205
Puerto Rico	39	0	17	22	1,690,470	1.92 %	554
U.S. Virgin Islands	6	4	0	2	111,477	18.12 %	30
Region III	490	88	119	283	4,543,501	51.65 %	788
Delaware	13	2	4	7	233,024	31.91 %	55
District of Columbia	15	3	3	9	248,519	27.16 %	64
Maryland	60	10	25	25	1,178,084	47.15 %	231
Pennsylvania	166	18	32	116	727,671	56.05 %	134
Virginia	110	49	15	46	1,528,472	63.14 %	185
West Virginia	126	6	40	80	627,731	45.18 %	119
Region IV	1,287	269	468	550	20,597,408	45.54 %	3,789
Alabama	99	31	28	40	1,919,497	57.58 %	278
Florida	264	15	120	129	5,990,814	21.82 %	1,609
Georgia	239	59	96	84	3,239,213	43.85 %	612
Kentucky	167	52	29	86	1,117,446	61.01 %	147

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	1,747,991	41.16 %	344
North Carolina	159	20	66	73	1,902,580	47.22 %	322
South Carolina	103	18	36	49	2,230,932	69.48 %	232
Tennessee	139	21	67	51	2,448,935	70.21 %	245
Region V	1,169	229	243	697	12,563,160	63.00 %	1,528
Illinois	234	48	77	109	3,847,031	57.43 %	527
Indiana	159	48	52	59	3,259,892	78.37 %	234
Michigan	361	27	51	283	2,193,779	55.87 %	320
Minnesota	128	32	23	73	464,373	47.65 %	78
Ohio	150	42	15	93	1,396,882	55.24 %	208
Wisconsin	137	32	25	80	1,401,203	65.72 %	161
Region VI	1,000	289	208	503	11,466,442	62.42 %	1,561
Arkansas	103	22	54	27	656,572	62.60 %	92
Louisiana	144	51	27	66	2,719,568	68.19 %	283
New Mexico	104	29	10	65	1,048,498	23.00 %	261
Oklahoma	186	13	66	107	1,312,316	56.50 %	201
Texas	463	174	51	238	5,729,488	67.34 %	724
Region VII	662	93	228	341	3,871,357	33.72 %	860
Iowa	132	35	31	66	726,989	62.21 %	98
Kansas	169	20	76	73	802,087	51.31 %	134
Missouri	250	27	121	102	2,314,257	16.99 %	622
Nebraska	111	11	0	100	28,024	56.02 %	6
Region VIII	522	175	107	240	2,759,332	48.47 %	490
Colorado	123	24	38	61	1,068,743	38.41 %	225
Montana	122	29	32	61	330,385	38.37 %	63
North Dakota	80	46	5	29	196,600	35.84 %	38
South Dakota	94	41	13	40	258,414	43.82 %	45
Utah	62	16	17	29	746,636	66.90 %	100
Wyoming	41	19	2	20	158,554	55.67 %	19

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	990	242	138	610	14,588,550	45.62 %	2,624
Arizona	216	79	37	100	4,770,858	45.09 %	837
California	640	130	81	429	7,932,713	45.88 %	1,443
Hawaii	26	5	2	19	184,449	69.81 %	17
Nevada	90	20	17	53	1,235,504	51.23 %	205
American Samoa	2	1	0	1	57,291	10.47 %	17
Federated States of Micronesia	8	3	1	4	106,632	0.00 %	36
Guam	2	1	0	1	186,337	29.79 %	44
Marshall Islands	2	1	0	1	50,638	0.00 %	17
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	0	1	53,366	72.13 %	4
Republic of Palau	2	1	0	1	10,762	0.00 %	4
Region X	523	95	120	308	4,950,652	38.58 %	974
Alaska	86	17	0	69	116,708	29.15 %	29
Idaho	103	16	31	56	531,793	48.36 %	88
Oregon	127	14	34	79	1,072,476	54.46 %	165
Washington	207	48	55	104	3,229,675	31.63 %	692

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 4. Dental Health Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of January 1, 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	5,866	767	1,797	3,302	62,916,553	35.28 %	10,802
Region I	241	23	56	162	1,434,411	44.11 %	248
Connecticut	38	0	22	16	430,364	0.00 %	105
Maine	75	14	21	40	302,757	42.45 %	40
Massachusetts	61	7	4	50	453,680	68.85 %	61
New Hampshire	24	0	4	20	39,527	42.52 %	6
Rhode Island	14	0	4	10	178,655	34.89 %	34
Vermont	29	2	1	26	29,428	53.66 %	2
Region II	208	7	38	163	2,865,080	27.20 %	561
New Jersey	40	0	0	40	45,705	25.96 %	23
New York	139	3	38	98	2,701,721	26.79 %	519
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	444	45	158	241	5,275,490	38.56 %	850
Delaware	10	0	3	7	178,124	6.84 %	50
District of Columbia	11	0	2	9	83,820	9.30 %	20
Maryland	49	11	18	20	920,107	23.44 %	166
Pennsylvania	167	4	58	105	2,143,077	48.97 %	307
Virginia	89	21	36	32	1,207,685	43.01 %	166
West Virginia	118	9	41	68	742,677	28.80 %	141
Region IV	1,077	140	458	479	17,739,844	25.09 %	3,402
Alabama	64	0	43	21	1,792,743	20.37 %	357
Florida	223	1	105	117	5,185,561	13.28 %	1,169
Georgia	192	42	81	69	2,020,389	23.06 %	405

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	111	13	23	75	555,405	55.90 %	59
Mississippi	110	56	23	31	1,798,158	46.17 %	245
North Carolina	144	3	71	70	2,330,121	18.79 %	488
South Carolina	85	20	18	47	1,656,183	40.44 %	252
Tennessee	148	5	94	49	2,401,284	29.41 %	427
Region V	951	32	362	557	9,435,276	32.71 %	1,651
Illinois	166	6	77	83	2,580,979	43.92 %	386
Indiana	69	7	22	40	1,098,107	37.08 %	182
Michigan	283	1	60	222	1,323,505	6.01 %	321
Minnesota	134	11	65	58	768,755	20.40 %	159
Ohio	161	7	80	74	2,117,101	34.45 %	349
Wisconsin	138	0	58	80	1,546,829	36.64 %	254
Region VI	769	186	155	428	8,676,312	60.92 %	1,053
Arkansas	84	10	52	22	673,677	38.46 %	101
Louisiana	117	38	21	58	2,006,437	54.26 %	232
New Mexico	82	21	16	45	891,071	21.44 %	174
Oklahoma	164	7	59	98	901,763	35.85 %	163
Texas	322	110	7	205	4,203,364	75.34 %	383
Region VII	564	72	231	261	3,612,583	24.22 %	661
Iowa	125	13	56	56	575,429	42.02 %	82
Kansas	138	27	64	47	647,183	29.37 %	107
Missouri	220	31	109	80	2,382,155	18.33 %	472
Nebraska	81	1	2	78	7,816	78.38 %	0
Region VIII	378	84	93	201	1,930,535	46.92 %	259
Colorado	101	21	30	50	713,469	39.99 %	110
Montana	85	11	18	56	202,582	36.79 %	32
North Dakota	41	20	2	19	91,060	32.72 %	11
South Dakota	67	22	14	31	157,140	33.69 %	28
Utah	53	5	23	25	693,700	59.58 %	72

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	31	5	6	20	72,584	64.51 %	6
Region IX	814	130	129	555	7,406,779	32.30 %	1,318
Arizona	257	94	65	98	4,640,143	32.99 %	792
California	439	16	41	382	1,229,760	31.58 %	258
Hawaii	20	1	1	18	40,313	36.09 %	7
Nevada	81	11	22	48	1,240,327	36.40 %	200
American Samoa	2	1	0	1	57,291	8.38 %	13
Federated States of Micronesia	8	4	0	4	107,020	0.00 %	27
Guam	1	0	0	1		---	
Marshall Islands	2	1	0	1	27,797	0.00 %	7
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	0	1	53,366	0.00 %	11
Republic of Palau	2	1	0	1	10,762	0.00 %	3
Region X	420	48	117	255	4,540,243	26.77 %	799
Alaska	66	15	0	51	138,234	37.34 %	20
Idaho	97	6	38	53	503,387	45.10 %	68
Oregon	107	3	37	67	1,194,258	22.26 %	234
Washington	150	24	42	84	2,704,364	24.74 %	477

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 5. Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of January 1, 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	5,042	1,172	377	3,493	123,832,882	32.52 %	5,906
Region I	198	26	9	163	4,445,254	42.61 %	187
Connecticut	34	8	4	22	3,212,364	40.52 %	116
Maine	51	12	0	39	261,782	33.58 %	29
Massachusetts	56	1	4	51	436,302	42.35 %	29
New Hampshire	20	3	0	17	92,634	45.04 %	3
Rhode Island	13	2	1	10	442,172	67.86 %	10
Vermont	24	0	0	24		---	
Region II	244	20	54	170	6,024,707	41.35 %	261
New Jersey	38	0	0	38	32,755	71.51 %	4
New York	159	16	43	100	4,435,492	42.43 %	197
Puerto Rico	42	1	11	30	1,451,959	21.04 %	51
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	104,501	60.95 %	9
Region III	415	70	58	287	7,152,950	40.64 %	443
Delaware	14	0	1	13	88,323	7.77 %	15
District of Columbia	10	1	0	9	133,945	5.31 %	28
Maryland	59	13	14	32	1,535,876	52.52 %	92
Pennsylvania	123	25	1	97	1,808,176	38.73 %	105
Virginia	80	17	7	56	2,141,634	40.70 %	110
West Virginia	129	14	35	80	1,444,996	37.56 %	93
Region IV	767	140	121	506	27,113,007	28.92 %	1,458
Alabama	53	14	7	32	2,913,725	25.83 %	149
Florida	160	16	32	112	4,935,227	28.88 %	158
Georgia	109	23	8	78	6,540,716	44.74 %	205

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	30	2	75	2,255,845	37.39 %	87
Mississippi	47	13	0	34	2,388,011	23.76 %	372
North Carolina	152	25	47	80	2,679,240	19.81 %	118
South Carolina	66	9	9	48	1,890,058	51.71 %	61
Tennessee	73	10	16	47	3,510,185	13.41 %	308
Region V	790	196	19	575	20,158,246	29.09 %	1,030
Illinois	126	33	5	88	5,128,380	28.02 %	214
Indiana	81	31	4	46	4,604,867	31.70 %	226
Minnesota	65	9	0	56	1,996,166	37.19 %	66
Michigan	269	51	3	215	3,796,494	28.74 %	167
Ohio	113	20	7	86	2,334,584	31.99 %	110
Wisconsin	136	52	0	84	2,297,755	23.45 %	247
Region VI	780	293	31	456	16,707,921	35.91 %	796
Arkansas	45	5	9	31	1,088,383	41.16 %	31
Louisiana	121	54	8	59	3,188,241	21.60 %	165
New Mexico	72	16	2	54	1,251,275	12.30 %	75
Oklahoma	117	4	9	104	1,551,366	21.60 %	93
Texas	425	214	3	208	9,628,656	44.02 %	432
Region VII	344	52	19	273	7,391,256	34.15 %	269
Iowa	72	16	0	56	1,694,382	48.07 %	45
Kansas	71	20	2	49	1,444,937	43.65 %	39
Missouri	117	11	17	89	3,212,943	20.75 %	159
Nebraska	84	5	0	79	1,038,994	50.82 %	26
Region VIII	357	112	10	235	6,276,452	31.33 %	299
Colorado	92	11	4	77	2,084,535	28.25 %	91
Montana	82	23	5	54	558,619	23.20 %	68
North Dakota	56	31	0	25	394,208	36.22 %	20
South Dakota	64	29	0	35	665,269	12.69 %	38
Utah	39	13	1	25	2,012,634	47.62 %	57

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	761	163	38	560	20,248,015	30.26 %	832
Arizona	182	70	15	97	9,164,190	16.56 %	398
California	468	62	21	385	6,486,018	33.99 %	260
Hawaii	29	9	1	19	317,911	75.23 %	5
Nevada	65	14	1	50	3,867,098	43.69 %	156
American Samoa	2	1	0	1	57,292	0.00 %	3
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	1	0	0	1		---	
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	0	1	69,221	86.96 %	0
Republic of Palau	2	1	0	1	19,907	0.00 %	1
Region X	386	100	18	268	8,315,074	26.92 %	331
Alaska	70	18	0	52	276,449	23.38 %	10
Idaho	63	7	1	55	1,700,834	37.36 %	45
Oregon	95	18	7	70	1,899,357	32.68 %	84
Washington	158	57	10	91	4,438,434	21.09 %	192

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.