

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024
Designated HPSA Quarterly Summary

As of March 31, 2024

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 March 31, 2024

	Number of Designations ⁽¹⁾	Population of Designated HPSAs ⁽²⁾	Percent of Need Met ⁽³⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations
Primary Medical HPSA Totals	7,475	74,383,347	47.08 %⁽⁴⁾	12,973⁽⁷⁾
Geographic Area	1,088	24,662,137	61.85 %	2,826
Population Group	1,937	48,832,446	41.40 %	9,520
Facility	4,450	888,764	27.66 %	627
Dental HPSA Totals	6,826	57,777,841	32.42 %⁽⁵⁾	9,814⁽⁸⁾
Geographic Area	498	10,635,053	58.58 %	966
Population Group	1,951	46,128,603	27.10 %	8,382
Facility	4,377	1,014,185	32.05 %	466
Mental Health HPSA Totals	6,227	122,206,512	26.75 %⁽⁶⁾	6,129⁽⁹⁾
Geographic Area	982	73,348,254	31.61 %	2,887
Population Group	723	47,611,021	18.18 %	2,744
Facility	4,522	1,247,237	37.14 %	498

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 2. Health Professional Shortage Areas: Rural/Non-Rural Classification as of March 31, 2024

	Number of Designations ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of All Designations ⁽¹⁰⁾	Population of Designated HPSAs	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations
Primary Medical HPSA Totals	7,475		74,383,347	12,973
Rural	4,986	66.70 %	25,159,676	4,341
Geographic Area	879	11.76 %	13,139,978	1,560
Population Group	1,170	15.65 %	11,500,096	2,402
Facility	2,937	39.29 %	519,602	379
Non-Rural	2,157	28.86 %	35,521,139	6,511
Geographic Area	119	1.59 %	6,839,883	768
Population Group	528	7.06 %	28,312,094	5,495
Facility	1,510	20.20 %	369,162	248
Partially Rural⁽¹¹⁾	293	3.92 %	12,597,912	1,926
Geographic Area	85	1.14 %	4,420,138	452
Population Group	208	2.78 %	8,177,774	1,474
Unknown⁽¹²⁾	39	0.52 %	1,104,620	195
Geographic Area	5	0.07 %	262,138	46
Population Group	31	0.41 %	842,482	149
Facility	3	0.04 %		
Dental HPSA Totals	6,826		57,777,841	9,814
Rural	4,572	66.98 %	19,088,754	3,290
Geographic Area	443	6.49 %	6,157,967	686
Population Group	1,239	18.15 %	12,370,517	2,342
Facility	2,890	42.34 %	560,270	262
Non-Rural	1,961	28.73 %	25,242,445	4,264
Geographic Area	33	0.48 %	2,763,744	161
Population Group	441	6.46 %	22,024,786	3,899
Facility	1,487	21.78 %	453,915	204
Partially Rural⁽¹¹⁾	233	3.41 %	10,010,241	1,604
Geographic Area	21	0.31 %	1,709,564	118
Population Group	212	3.11 %	8,300,677	1,486
Unknown⁽¹²⁾	60	0.88 %	3,436,401	656
Geographic Area	1	0.01 %	3,778	1

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

	Number of Designations ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of All Designations ⁽¹⁰⁾	Population of Designated HPSAs	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations
Population Group	59	0.86 %	3,432,623	655
Mental Health HPSA Totals	6,227		122,206,512	6,129
Rural	3,862	62.02 %	28,925,241	1,682
Geographic Area	680	10.92 %	24,384,674	1,117
Population Group	217	3.48 %	3,834,255	266
Facility	2,965	47.62 %	706,312	299
Non-Rural	1,972	31.67 %	39,291,865	2,146
Geographic Area	108	1.73 %	13,349,010	503
Population Group	307	4.93 %	25,401,930	1,444
Facility	1,557	25.00 %	540,925	199
Partially Rural⁽¹¹⁾	377	6.05 %	53,482,147	2,273
Geographic Area	192	3.08 %	35,561,891	1,263
Population Group	185	2.97 %	17,920,256	1,010
Unknown⁽¹²⁾	16	0.26 %	507,259	28
Geographic Area	2	0.03 %	52,679	4
Population Group	14	0.22 %	454,580	24

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 3. Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of March 31, 2024

Primary Care	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽³⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations ⁽⁶⁾
HPSA Total	7,475	1,088	1,937	4,450	74,383,347	47.08 %	12,973
Region 1	226	17	55	154	1,298,522	59.06 %	174
Connecticut	46	1	25	20	501,022	71.60 %	45
Maine	76	9	14	53	85,169	47.03 %	17
Massachusetts	55	4	8	43	461,205	39.63 %	89
New Hampshire	23	2	4	17	112,513	74.85 %	10
Rhode Island	13	1	3	9	137,033	72.13 %	13
Vermont	13	0	1	12	1,580	77.83 %	0
Region 2	265	8	90	167	5,423,268	35.87 %	1,166
New Jersey	35	0	0	35	24,727	27.60 %	17
New York	183	5	70	108	4,718,761	35.73 %	1,006
Puerto Rico	42	0	20	22	574,059	28.90 %	138
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	105,721	86.22 %	5
Region 3	462	70	135	257	4,817,510	46.06 %	872
Delaware	11	0	4	7	332,833	14.51 %	100
District of Columbia	13	0	4	9	286,765	0.23 %	96
Maryland	56	7	31	18	1,168,915	28.76 %	282
Pennsylvania	130	4	24	102	380,454	57.37 %	70
Virginia	134	53	25	56	1,901,483	66.22 %	202
West Virginia	118	6	47	65	747,060	50.31 %	122
Region 4	1,390	198	535	657	19,479,699	47.46 %	3,444
Alabama	99	34	28	37	1,994,428	66.23 %	218
Florida	277	17	105	155	5,979,660	36.49 %	1,295
Georgia	223	47	96	80	2,750,382	37.84 %	582
Kentucky	213	33	77	103	1,400,770	41.19 %	274
Mississippi	153	28	51	74	1,379,002	46.57 %	251
North Carolina	189	8	84	97	2,229,951	47.62 %	391
South Carolina	92	11	28	53	1,395,598	66.41 %	162
Tennessee	144	20	66	58	2,349,908	64.87 %	271

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 Designations ⁽⁶⁾
Region 5	1,159	175	281	703	12,029,928	49.18 %	1,986
Illinois	239	36	70	133	2,945,516	47.90 %	493
Indiana	134	41	31	62	2,033,082	50.58 %	316
Michigan	252	8	65	179	2,698,029	45.96 %	490
Minnesota	200	52	37	111	1,374,237	55.19 %	192
Ohio	172	28	43	101	1,891,022	43.13 %	361
Wisconsin	162	10	35	117	1,088,042	61.79 %	134
Region 6	948	202	271	475	11,232,410	54.91 %	1,650
Arkansas	131	15	52	64	1,070,866	68.72 %	114
Louisiana	165	29	35	101	1,889,316	67.58 %	202
New Mexico	103	22	12	69	1,027,943	39.74 %	200
Oklahoma	181	9	67	105	1,177,865	36.70 %	253
Texas	368	127	105	136	6,066,420	54.57 %	881
Region 7	772	62	223	487	3,498,102	29.57 %	798
Iowa	158	15	51	92	710,083	31.51 %	157
Kansas	162	12	59	91	676,611	49.32 %	113
Missouri	332	15	90	227	1,970,967	21.21 %	507
Nebraska	120	20	23	77	140,441	41.72 %	21
Region 8	517	144	100	273	2,352,728	48.67 %	387
Colorado	112	19	37	56	836,096	43.14 %	159
Montana	131	23	29	79	297,580	45.25 %	49
North Dakota	85	40	3	42	180,872	33.24 %	39
South Dakota	93	31	17	45	239,956	34.86 %	45
Utah	56	12	10	34	615,591	65.20 %	72
Wyoming	40	19	4	17	182,633	55.98 %	23
Region 9	945	148	141	656	10,024,396	47.48 %	1,724
Arizona	210	29	51	130	2,285,336	35.42 %	493
California	611	90	77	444	5,865,582	54.19 %	881
Hawaii	33	4	0	29	519,572	43.55 %	87

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 Designations ⁽⁶⁾
Nevada	71	17	12	42	925,499	41.14 %	180
American Samoa	2	1	0	1	55,009	5.45 %	17
Federated States of Micronesia	8	3	1	4	99,673	0.00 %	34
Guam	4	1	0	3	146,770	89.33 %	4
Marshall Islands	2	1	0	1	53,158	0.00 %	18
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	0	1	53,890	81.81 %	3
Republic of Palau	2	1	0	1	19,907	0.00 %	7
Region 10	791	64	106	621	4,226,784	43.28 %	772
Alaska	333	15	9	309	287,657	20.71 %	73
Idaho	100	12	32	56	499,961	44.67 %	94
Oregon	154	9	35	110	832,534	62.49 %	106
Washington	204	28	30	146	2,606,632	39.10 %	499

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 4. Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of March 31, 2024

Dental Health	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽⁴⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations ⁽⁷⁾
HPSA Total	6,826	498	1,951	4,377	57,777,841	32.42 %	9,814
Region 1	216	7	55	154	979,182	39.73 %	146
Connecticut	40	0	20	20	480,128	39.96 %	71
Maine	82	6	24	52	234,694	27.97 %	39
Massachusetts	48	1	3	44	90,130	74.00 %	6
New Hampshire	20	0	3	17	27,417	26.51 %	7
Rhode Island	13	0	4	9	140,340	35.72 %	23
Vermont	13	0	1	12	6,473	77.62 %	0
Region 2	286	4	121	161	5,252,538	31.09 %	918
New Jersey	36	0	1	35	82,966	27.77 %	26
New York	146	0	44	102	2,771,946	15.90 %	586
Puerto Rico	99	1	76	22	2,292,005	48.02 %	297
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	105,621	68.76 %	9
Region 3	452	43	161	248	6,530,702	40.47 %	937
Delaware	10	0	3	7	226,759	7.41 %	59
District of Columbia	11	0	2	9	90,280	2.90 %	22
Maryland	41	13	11	17	1,668,131	38.92 %	222
Pennsylvania	148	0	48	100	1,677,370	35.93 %	290
Virginia	128	25	50	53	2,120,170	56.85 %	209
West Virginia	114	5	47	62	747,992	27.65 %	135
Region 4	1,286	91	569	626	16,940,344	25.99 %	3,209
Alabama	86	1	48	37	750,301	25.09 %	136
Florida	261	5	98	158	5,519,905	18.81 %	1,173
Georgia	178	33	90	55	1,963,101	17.15 %	411
Kentucky	190	0	89	101	890,169	13.93 %	198
Mississippi	148	32	45	71	1,401,634	50.20 %	178
North Carolina	188	3	92	93	2,916,711	22.15 %	578
South Carolina	89	13	22	54	1,557,360	44.71 %	221
Tennessee	146	4	85	57	1,941,163	35.23 %	314

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 Designations ⁽⁷⁾
Region 5	1,045	33	307	705	7,719,888	29.03 %	1,403
Illinois	209	8	69	132	2,128,264	24.71 %	405
Indiana	83	1	23	59	464,506	36.73 %	76
Michigan	241	0	64	177	1,581,932	27.39 %	298
Minnesota	185	20	46	119	966,157	44.86 %	128
Ohio	162	2	65	95	1,713,840	26.84 %	333
Wisconsin	165	2	40	123	865,189	26.23 %	163
Region 6	818	120	220	478	6,343,918	34.44 %	1,068
Arkansas	121	3	54	64	580,085	36.70 %	103
Louisiana	161	22	37	102	1,869,995	46.31 %	252
New Mexico	103	16	19	68	865,757	20.60 %	171
Oklahoma	178	4	67	107	1,029,828	33.52 %	175
Texas	255	75	43	137	1,998,253	29.10 %	367
Region 7	689	31	176	482	2,567,264	23.27 %	471
Iowa	140	3	45	92	394,580	20.63 %	76
Kansas	128	6	32	90	279,484	27.72 %	49
Missouri	315	18	74	223	1,761,565	20.81 %	334
Nebraska	106	4	25	77	131,635	54.26 %	12
Region 8	447	82	95	270	1,675,401	50.10 %	193
Colorado	101	20	27	54	884,783	58.12 %	85
Montana	116	10	28	78	240,970	42.56 %	31
North Dakota	66	21	2	43	118,897	51.42 %	12
South Dakota	85	22	19	44	209,727	30.85 %	35
Utah	54	6	14	34	173,862	49.28 %	23
Wyoming	25	3	5	17	47,162	33.30 %	7
Region 9	836	47	154	635	5,960,676	33.59 %	1,000
Arizona	202	21	58	123	2,046,279	34.48 %	339
California	518	12	76	430	2,575,678	38.32 %	395
Hawaii	32	0	4	28	196,213	40.34 %	33

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 Designations ⁽⁷⁾
Nevada	64	6	15	43	797,261	26.48 %	154
American Samoa	2	1	0	1	55,009	0.00 %	14
Federated States of Micronesia	8	4	0	4	91,491	0.00 %	23
Guam	4	0	1	3	71,790	4.85 %	18
Marshall Islands	2	1	0	1	53,158	0.00 %	11
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	0	1	53,890	22.26 %	8
Republic of Palau	2	1	0	1	19,907	0.00 %	5
Region 10	751	40	93	618	3,807,928	48.89 %	469
Alaska	329	18	4	307	412,013	34.20 %	60
Idaho	97	6	36	55	461,141	49.70 %	58
Oregon	143	0	33	110	1,026,308	39.34 %	157
Washington	182	16	20	146	1,908,466	57.17 %	194

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 5. Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of March 31, 2024

Mental Health Care	Total Designations ⁽¹⁾	Geographic Area	Population Group	Facility	Population of Designated HPSAs	Percent of Need Met ⁽⁵⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations ⁽⁸⁾
HPSA Total	6,227	982	723	4,522	122,206,512	26.75 %	6,129
Region 1	198	15	20	163	1,799,945	30.69 %	87
Connecticut	41	0	11	30	790,877	19.48 %	51
Maine	65	10	3	52	268,713	13.93 %	11
Massachusetts	49	1	5	43	254,769	35.33 %	12
New Hampshire	19	2	0	17	91,279	52.68 %	2
Rhode Island	12	2	1	9	394,307	58.09 %	11
Vermont	12	0	0	12			
Region 2	308	11	107	190	5,307,499	20.71 %	336
New Jersey	37	2	0	35	265,826	60.05 %	21
New York	191	6	54	131	3,667,667	15.53 %	230
Puerto Rico	75	0	53	22	1,269,318	7.48 %	79
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	104,688	59.64 %	6
Region 3	396	40	93	263	5,784,003	23.76 %	376
Delaware	11	0	4	7	223,974	13.75 %	21
District of Columbia	10	0	1	9	126,214	0.00 %	8
Maryland	48	10	16	22	1,515,671	22.13 %	80
Pennsylvania	118	14	4	100	811,378	32.32 %	59
Virginia	97	7	32	58	2,341,723	30.58 %	120
West Virginia	112	9	36	67	765,043	11.49 %	88
Region 4	929	116	168	645	29,322,830	26.53 %	1,539
Alabama	58	13	8	37	2,938,473	26.77 %	127
Florida	212	19	35	158	7,812,746	23.89 %	446
Georgia	84	19	8	57	5,025,022	43.46 %	180
Kentucky	142	26	14	102	2,759,384	28.26 %	134
Mississippi	85	10	1	74	2,201,829	39.22 %	93
North Carolina	190	18	70	102	3,517,409	11.52 %	217
South Carolina	72	5	12	55	2,081,830	32.61 %	99
Tennessee	86	6	20	60	2,986,137	14.36 %	243

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 Designations ⁽⁸⁾
Region 5	957	161	79	717	23,787,699	30.33 %	1,035
Illinois	194	47	10	137	6,539,118	21.28 %	289
Indiana	90	23	3	64	5,054,862	29.41 %	214
Michigan	232	35	23	174	3,689,920	40.34 %	144
Minnesota	133	8	10	115	2,124,031	29.58 %	91
Ohio	137	23	16	98	4,829,025	30.35 %	230
Wisconsin	171	25	17	129	1,550,743	41.20 %	67
Region 6	832	261	90	481	20,860,759	29.97 %	985
Arkansas	79	3	13	63	1,163,274	29.68 %	69
Louisiana	165	46	16	103	3,083,827	23.96 %	150
New Mexico	93	19	6	68	1,362,121	18.99 %	73
Oklahoma	120	4	10	106	1,857,216	37.59 %	79
Texas	375	189	45	141	13,394,321	31.36 %	614
Region 7	607	82	38	487	5,587,059	21.15 %	259
Iowa	164	55	17	92	1,384,497	13.05 %	64
Kansas	111	17	2	92	1,180,423	23.01 %	51
Missouri	249	5	19	225	1,969,048	14.18 %	117
Nebraska	83	5	0	78	1,053,091	48.31 %	27
Region 8	380	85	9	286	7,455,532	39.65 %	285
Colorado	70	10	5	55	2,744,353	34.23 %	110
Montana	106	24	3	79	772,338	32.88 %	38
North Dakota	72	24	0	48	285,045	23.46 %	15
South Dakota	57	10	1	46	656,336	28.75 %	31
Utah	53	12	0	41	2,430,542	53.29 %	68
Wyoming	22	5	0	17	566,918	41.26 %	23
Region 9	896	140	89	667	15,979,339	19.51 %	936
Arizona	201	38	33	130	2,074,757	10.07 %	144
California	588	84	49	455	10,994,288	22.74 %	565
Hawaii	32	2	2	28	496,429	14.13 %	28

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 Designations ⁽⁸⁾
Nevada	55	8	4	43	1,959,041	20.60 %	153
American Samoa	2	1	0	1	55,009	0.00 %	12
Federated States of Micronesia	8	4	0	4	100,997	0.00 %	17
Guam	4	0	1	3	71,863	0.00 %	5
Marshall Islands	2	1	0	1	153,158	0.00 %	8
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	0	1	53,890	0.00 %	3
Republic of Palau	2	1	0	1	19,907	0.00 %	1
Region 10	724	71	30	623	6,321,847	22.31 %	291
Alaska	333	19	5	309	414,742	12.01 %	21
Idaho	64	5	2	57	1,210,451	27.24 %	48
Oregon	129	8	12	109	1,385,607	31.07 %	66
Washington	198	39	11	148	3,311,047	17.81 %	156

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.
- (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.

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Endnotes

- (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.
- (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.