

# Unmet Need Score Map Tool

The Unmet Need Score (UNS) is used to evaluate the need for new Health Center Program investments. These new service sites will provide comprehensive primary and preventive care services to address health disparities and advance health equity. The UNS is calculated using 28 health determinant and health status measures. Details about the data sources and calculation methodology are available in the [UNS and Service Area Status \(SAS\) Resource Guide](#).

This map tool is designed to help applicants evaluate service area needs. The tool converts ZIP Codes to ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA) because the UNS is calculated at the ZCTA level. Using the map and summary data table, applicants can explore the UNS for a proposed health center service area.

*Note: This tool is for applicant planning purposes only. The outputs from the tool are not linked to an actual application.*

## How to Use This Tool

**There are two options to add ZIP Codes to your proposed service area data table.**

**Option A:** Search by ZIP Code or city and state to select a proposed service area.

1. Enter a ZIP Code or a city and state into the map search box.

2. Use the “+” and “-” buttons on the map toolbar to zoom in or out. If you do not see the color-coded ZCTA map layer activated, zoom in closer to a geographic location.
  - *Note:* A color-coded ZCTA map layer will appear on the selected geographic location, alongside a UNS legend for scores ranging from 0-20, 21-40, 41-50, 61-80, and 81-100.
3. Click on a highlighted area to view UNS details and to add the area to the Service Area Details table below the map.
  - *Note:* An area with a yellow boundary and a black pattern fill designate it is selected as a proposed service area and added to the data table. A teal boundary designates the area is actively selected with a viewable UNS details pop-up box.
4. Review the Service Area Details table that lists data for the ZIP Codes mapped to the ZCTAs in the proposed service area. Options to remove selections:
  - In the “Selected Zip Codes” panel, select the “x”: button to remove the ZIP Code or click “Clear Selection” to remove all ZIP Codes.
  - In the Service Area Details data table, select the “X” button from the first column to remove the ZIP Code.
  - Click once on the the selected map area to display the pop-up ZIP Code Information box. Select the “Remove ZIP Code” button for the appropriate ZIP Code.
5. To save the data table, click the Export Data button to export the Service Area Details data as an Excel file.

**Option B:** Search by state and county to select a proposed service area.

1. Expand the blue “Selected ZIP Codes” panel.
2. Select a State and County to populate a list of ZIP Codes. Click the “x” next to the listed ZIP Codes to deselect, as needed.
3. Click “Go to Selected Area” to zoom to the area and automatically add all ZIP Code(s) to the data table as the proposed service area.
  - *Note:* An area with a yellow boundary and a black pattern fill designate it is selected as a proposed service area and added to the data table. A teal boundary designates the area is actively selected with a viewable UNS details pop-up box.
4. Use the “+” and “-” buttons on the map toolbar to zoom in or out.

- **Note:** A color-coded map layer will appear on the selected geographic location, alongside a UNS legend for scores ranging from 0-20, 21-40, 41-50, 61-80, and 81-100.
5. Review the data table below the map that lists all ZIP Codes mapped to the ZCTAs in the proposed service area. Options to remove selections:
    - In the “Selected ZIP Codes” box, click the “x” button next to the ZIP Code or click “Clear Selection” to remove all ZIP Codes.
    - In the Service Area Details data table, select the “X” button in the first column to remove the ZIP Code
    - Click once on the the selected map area to display the pop-up ZIP Code Information box. Select the “Remove ZIP Code” button for the appropriate ZIP Code.
  6. To save the data table, click the Export Data button to export the Service Area Details data as an Excel file.

**Important Note:** To reset the map, refresh the browser. Settings applied to the map will not be saved.

## Helpful Definitions

- **ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA)** is a generalized areal representation of U.S. Postal Service ZIP Code service areas. ZCTA is a trademark of the U.S. Census Bureau.
- **Unmet Need Score (UNS)** is a value from 0 to 100 that represents the unmet need for primary and preventive health care services in ZCTA(s) that comprise a proposed service area. The higher the score, the higher the unmet need in a service area.

## Contact Us

For technical issues with using the map tool, please contact the HRSA Data Warehouse team at [data@hrsa.gov](mailto:data@hrsa.gov).