

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2026
Designated HPSA Quarterly Summary

As of June 30, 2026

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 June 30, 2026

	Number of Designations ⁽¹⁾	Population of Designated HPSAs ⁽²⁾	Percent of Need Met ⁽³⁾	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations
Primary Medical HPSA Totals	9,003	108,566,500	47.43 %⁽⁴⁾	18,541⁽⁷⁾
Geographic Area	1,496	41,151,288	62.50 %	4,570
Population Group	2,653	66,327,446	40.01 %	13,214
Facility	4,854	1,087,766	28.83 %	757
Dental HPSA Totals	7,951	76,757,184	33.60 %⁽⁵⁾	12,760⁽⁸⁾
Geographic Area	653	15,722,977	61.94 %	1,317
Population Group	2,519	59,778,986	27.05 %	10,881
Facility	4,779	1,255,221	32.79 %	562
Mental Health HPSA Totals	7,109	157,149,246	26.53 %⁽⁶⁾	7,825⁽⁹⁾
Geographic Area	1,216	92,785,532	32.49 %	3,583
Population Group	968	62,821,838	17.77 %	3,606
Facility	4,925	1,541,876	33.69 %	636

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Table 2. Health Professional Shortage Areas: Rural/Non-Rural Classification as of June 30, 2026

	Number of Designations ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of All Designations ⁽¹⁰⁾	Population of Designated HPSAs	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations
Primary Medical HPSA Totals	9,003		108,566,500	18,541
Rural	5,521	61.32 %	28,910,891	4,965
Geographic Area	944	10.49 %	15,410,442	1,685
Population Group	1,317	14.63 %	12,894,295	2,866
Facility	3,260	36.21 %	606,154	414
Non-Rural	2,466	27.39 %	43,387,424	8,247
Geographic Area	135	1.50 %	9,278,282	1,004
Population Group	756	8.40 %	33,642,216	6,909
Facility	1,575	17.49 %	466,926	334
Partially Rural⁽¹¹⁾	972	10.80 %	36,028,887	5,288
Geographic Area	400	4.44 %	16,349,427	1,858
Population Group	572	6.35 %	19,679,460	3,430
Unknown⁽¹²⁾	44	0.49 %	239,298	41
Geographic Area	17	0.19 %	113,137	23
Population Group	8	0.09 %	111,475	9
Facility	19	0.21 %	14,686	9
Dental HPSA Totals	7,951		76,757,184	12,760
Rural	5,093	64.05 %	21,709,278	3,702
Geographic Area	498	6.26 %	7,338,277	744
Population Group	1,385	17.42 %	13,706,057	2,666
Facility	3,210	40.37 %	664,944	292
Non-Rural	2,176	27.37 %	31,205,136	5,319
Geographic Area	30	0.38 %	2,824,750	128
Population Group	592	7.45 %	27,802,766	4,927
Facility	1,554	19.54 %	577,620	264
Partially Rural⁽¹¹⁾	626	7.87 %	22,094,835	3,396
Geographic Area	115	1.45 %	5,479,441	439
Population Group	511	6.43 %	16,615,394	2,957
Unknown⁽¹²⁾	56	0.70 %	1,747,935	343
Geographic Area	10	0.13 %	80,509	6

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	Number of Designations ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of All Designations ⁽¹⁰⁾	Population of Designated HPSAs	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations
Population Group	31	0.39 %	1,654,769	331
Facility	15	0.19 %	12,657	6
Mental Health HPSA Totals	7,109		157,149,246	7,825
Rural	4,295	60.42 %	31,746,892	1,910
Geographic Area	731	10.28 %	25,936,381	1,192
Population Group	274	3.85 %	4,942,976	347
Facility	3,290	46.28 %	867,535	371
Non-Rural	2,077	29.22 %	39,361,346	2,215
Geographic Area	103	1.45 %	13,373,328	495
Population Group	354	4.98 %	25,324,602	1,460
Facility	1,620	22.79 %	663,416	260
Partially Rural⁽¹¹⁾	713	10.03 %	85,746,166	3,678
Geographic Area	376	5.29 %	53,424,299	1,893
Population Group	337	4.74 %	32,321,867	1,785
Unknown⁽¹²⁾	24	0.34 %	294,842	22
Geographic Area	6	0.08 %	51,524	3
Population Group	3	0.04 %	232,393	14
Facility	15	0.21 %	10,925	5

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Table 3. Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of June 30, 2026

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	9,003	1,496	2,653	4,856	108,566,500	47.43 %	18,541
Region 1	302	40	98	164	3,023,207	61.79 %	369
Connecticut	70	5	45	20	1,409,946	60.34 %	175
Maine	100	18	28	54	277,604	55.97 %	39
Massachusetts	70	8	12	50	821,509	58.00 %	113
New Hampshire	28	4	6	18	206,720	74.78 %	17
Rhode Island	17	1	6	10	257,218	74.29 %	22
Vermont	17	4	1	12	50,210	82.64 %	3
Region 2	302	16	106	180	6,832,327	40.73 %	1,330
New Jersey	45	7	0	38	796,188	83.22 %	39
New York	210	6	86	118	5,365,601	35.29 %	1,149
Puerto Rico	42	0	20	22	574,059	28.90 %	138
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	96,479	88.27 %	4
Region 3	564	87	187	290	6,821,414	41.07 %	1,328
Delaware	15	0	6	9	523,704	11.18 %	164
District of Columbia	12	0	4	8	286,765	0.23 %	96
Maryland	78	14	46	18	2,079,523	31.62 %	465
Pennsylvania	148	5	38	105	680,010	56.66 %	112
Virginia	185	60	45	80	2,458,393	57.21 %	328
West Virginia	126	8	48	70	793,019	38.28 %	163
Region 4	1,678	242	696	740	25,768,750	48.70 %	4,406
Alabama	135	46	40	49	2,648,069	62.97 %	315
Florida	328	23	138	167	7,262,986	39.70 %	1,501
Georgia	245	51	106	88	2,781,611	39.13 %	573
Kentucky	267	39	94	134	1,845,120	30.83 %	414
Mississippi	162	28	59	75	1,425,606	34.11 %	323
North Carolina	254	11	141	102	3,880,251	48.10 %	670
South Carolina	114	23	35	56	2,924,569	79.36 %	194
Tennessee	173	21	83	69	3,000,538	57.97 %	416

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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	1,517	253	476	788	19,107,085	50.09 %	3,096
Illinois	351	54	125	172	4,069,576	41.49 %	768
Indiana	173	51	47	75	3,028,093	54.16 %	441
Michigan	294	8	79	207	3,328,841	44.85 %	617
Minnesota	254	77	59	118	2,208,743	55.35 %	303
Ohio	261	46	118	97	4,449,937	49.72 %	732
Wisconsin	184	17	48	119	2,021,895	65.20 %	235
Region 6	1,130	246	348	536	15,210,217	50.23 %	2,461
Arkansas	159	16	63	80	1,224,488	52.60 %	197
Louisiana	204	42	46	116	2,545,085	72.14 %	224
New Mexico	109	23	15	71	1,139,819	31.39 %	253
Oklahoma	207	15	76	116	1,452,317	28.63 %	370
Texas	451	150	148	153	8,848,508	49.82 %	1,417
Region 7	854	82	256	516	4,582,750	31.67 %	1,000
Iowa	187	27	61	99	1,085,522	40.51 %	206
Kansas	172	14	65	93	666,724	41.14 %	121
Missouri	358	19	99	240	2,567,049	23.71 %	636
Nebraska	137	22	31	84	263,455	49.06 %	37
Region 8	622	179	147	296	3,706,539	50.72 %	569
Colorado	148	29	55	64	1,401,517	47.50 %	240
Montana	147	30	41	76	387,238	38.46 %	72
North Dakota	95	44	5	46	201,227	36.46 %	38
South Dakota	111	35	25	51	310,255	34.59 %	61
Utah	71	17	14	40	1,132,584	65.38 %	122
Wyoming	50	24	7	19	273,718	54.36 %	36
Region 9	1,136	247	192	697	15,207,219	48.36 %	2,517
Arizona	307	88	77	142	4,928,001	41.23 %	923
California	689	122	96	471	7,820,854	53.23 %	1,184
Hawaii	34	5	0	29	604,628	67.05 %	56

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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	86	24	18	44	1,425,329	41.45 %	271
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	896	104	147	645	8,301,930	43.20 %	1,461
Alaska	344	19	11	314	476,136	48.94 %	72
Idaho	114	15	41	58	582,074	43.91 %	104
Oregon	178	14	54	110	1,667,116	43.93 %	310
Washington	260	56	41	163	5,576,604	42.37 %	975
Not Determined	2	0	0	2	2,531	0.00 %	2
Not Determined	2	0	0	2	2,531	0.00 %	2

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Table 4. Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of June 30, 2026

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	7,951	653	2,519	4,781	76,757,184	33.60 %	12,760
Region 1	276	11	102	163	1,962,895	33.09 %	332
Connecticut	56	0	36	20	899,409	21.39 %	178
Maine	105	8	44	53	425,483	28.83 %	73
Massachusetts	61	1	10	50	320,208	59.15 %	35
New Hampshire	23	0	5	18	42,823	23.02 %	10
Rhode Island	16	0	6	10	226,173	37.38 %	36
Vermont	15	2	1	12	48,799	90.84 %	0
Region 2	310	6	122	182	5,496,726	32.08 %	940
New Jersey	40	2	1	37	313,937	45.23 %	45
New York	166	0	45	121	2,794,405	16.11 %	592
Puerto Rico	99	1	76	22	2,292,005	48.02 %	297
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	96,379	75.40 %	6
Region 3	542	71	186	285	8,795,350	40.26 %	1,272
Delaware	16	0	7	9	618,161	4.15 %	160
District of Columbia	10	0	2	8	90,280	2.90 %	22
Maryland	49	15	17	17	2,290,671	44.91 %	277
Pennsylvania	162	0	58	104	2,257,016	40.64 %	355
Virginia	182	50	52	80	2,819,320	51.64 %	318
West Virginia	123	6	50	67	719,902	22.61 %	140
Region 4	1,461	100	658	703	19,574,361	25.19 %	3,750
Alabama	92	1	48	43	755,541	24.33 %	139
Florida	292	8	114	170	6,222,405	19.74 %	1,314
Georgia	186	33	90	63	1,922,418	17.57 %	402
Kentucky	256	2	122	132	1,371,360	9.26 %	316
Mississippi	154	32	50	72	1,423,544	40.23 %	219
North Carolina	217	3	116	98	3,540,396	23.42 %	692
South Carolina	100	17	26	57	2,001,958	46.85 %	267
Tennessee	164	4	92	68	2,336,739	31.56 %	401

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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	1,283	59	437	787	11,287,150	33.74 %	1,889
Illinois	289	13	104	172	2,529,158	26.36 %	472
Indiana	133	4	55	74	1,135,293	28.74 %	208
Michigan	274	1	69	204	1,916,665	26.28 %	363
Minnesota	230	37	64	129	1,696,487	48.86 %	201
Ohio	190	2	96	92	2,706,448	39.43 %	425
Wisconsin	167	2	49	116	1,303,099	33.29 %	220
Region 6	1,002	132	331	539	8,932,986	30.89 %	1,587
Arkansas	157	4	73	80	1,109,146	22.69 %	229
Louisiana	184	25	43	116	1,918,801	44.90 %	266
New Mexico	110	16	23	71	994,618	16.10 %	207
Oklahoma	192	4	70	118	1,084,104	45.58 %	168
Texas	359	83	122	154	3,826,317	25.51 %	717
Region 7	748	47	194	507	3,614,608	31.98 %	574
Iowa	152	8	49	95	646,391	29.91 %	108
Kansas	133	8	33	92	273,834	33.44 %	44
Missouri	348	27	85	236	2,558,669	31.42 %	408
Nebraska	115	4	27	84	135,714	48.80 %	14
Region 8	505	92	118	295	2,137,656	47.86 %	259
Colorado	128	23	42	63	1,219,930	54.88 %	129
Montana	114	11	28	75	249,082	45.81 %	31
North Dakota	71	22	2	47	119,626	29.61 %	16
South Dakota	100	24	26	50	276,608	27.00 %	46
Utah	62	7	15	40	212,651	52.30 %	26
Wyoming	30	5	5	20	59,759	31.51 %	11
Region 9	1,003	67	259	677	8,732,148	33.00 %	1,465
Arizona	287	34	114	139	3,416,091	34.51 %	556
California	591	18	120	453	3,634,892	36.35 %	577
Hawaii	35	0	6	29	283,033	36.43 %	49

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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	70	7	18	45	1,052,887	24.57 %	204
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	819	68	112	639	6,219,476	54.34 %	690
Alaska	345	28	5	312	788,308	54.74 %	83
Idaho	98	6	36	56	452,047	37.48 %	70
Oregon	155	2	45	108	1,552,278	43.54 %	222
Washington	221	32	26	163	3,426,843	61.76 %	315
Not Determined	2	0	0	2	1,914	33.07 %	1
Not Determined	2	0	0	2	1,914	33.07 %	1

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Table 5. Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of June 30, 2026

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	7,109	1,216	968	4,925	157,149,246	26.53 %	7,825
Region 1	234	23	39	172	3,193,868	26.41 %	169
Connecticut	52	0	19	33	1,479,795	20.61 %	96
Maine	80	15	12	53	470,030	11.45 %	21
Massachusetts	54	2	6	46	483,318	25.23 %	27
New Hampshire	21	3	0	18	153,649	48.15 %	4
Rhode Island	15	3	2	10	607,076	48.94 %	21
Vermont	12	0	0	12			
Region 2	329	15	112	202	5,932,303	21.01 %	361
New Jersey	43	6	0	37	776,426	50.45 %	37
New York	207	6	60	141	3,910,264	14.79 %	248
Puerto Rico	74	0	52	22	1,140,925	8.31 %	70
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	104,688	59.64 %	6
Region 3	478	61	117	300	8,090,297	18.37 %	549
Delaware	18	0	8	10	617,675	7.50 %	65
District of Columbia	10	0	1	9	126,214	0.00 %	8
Maryland	69	22	25	22	2,882,446	19.76 %	150
Pennsylvania	129	18	7	104	1,038,679	33.67 %	69
Virginia	128	10	35	83	2,615,160	20.36 %	163
West Virginia	124	11	41	72	810,123	5.68 %	94
Region 4	1,139	170	243	726	40,074,261	25.10 %	2,102
Alabama	67	13	8	46	2,934,202	28.40 %	128
Florida	254	31	51	172	13,764,968	22.60 %	775
Georgia	92	19	8	65	5,064,401	45.33 %	174
Kentucky	222	50	39	133	2,908,312	19.30 %	159
Mississippi	88	10	3	75	2,312,386	33.34 %	107
North Carolina	229	22	101	106	4,574,202	11.96 %	275
South Carolina	89	19	12	58	5,371,848	32.84 %	232
Tennessee	98	6	21	71	3,143,942	13.25 %	252

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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	1,091	177	119	795	30,290,439	31.59 %	1,307
Illinois	238	48	14	176	8,604,128	21.06 %	393
Indiana	114	29	11	74	6,500,041	37.93 %	251
Michigan	274	35	34	205	4,350,590	37.85 %	180
Minnesota	151	11	17	123	3,112,340	24.34 %	138
Ohio	139	26	19	94	5,541,531	33.72 %	248
Wisconsin	175	28	24	123	2,181,809	40.29 %	97
Region 6	927	272	112	543	22,685,004	29.71 %	1,083
Arkansas	96	3	14	79	1,176,745	26.30 %	73
Louisiana	184	49	19	116	3,220,369	28.65 %	148
New Mexico	100	19	8	73	1,617,847	25.67 %	83
Oklahoma	135	5	13	117	2,604,390	23.99 %	148
Texas	412	196	58	158	14,065,653	31.93 %	631
Region 7	659	91	53	515	7,083,964	23.71 %	315
Iowa	185	60	29	96	2,105,579	19.47 %	93
Kansas	117	20	2	95	1,196,031	19.89 %	52
Missouri	266	6	22	238	2,713,118	21.41 %	140
Nebraska	91	5	0	86	1,069,236	44.79 %	30
Region 8	430	102	11	317	10,481,332	40.19 %	384
Colorado	85	13	5	67	4,054,296	40.42 %	137
Montana	112	33	3	76	1,318,372	40.87 %	55
North Dakota	78	26	0	52	497,647	34.87 %	18
South Dakota	63	10	1	52	657,991	18.71 %	36
Utah	63	12	2	49	2,986,377	48.02 %	97
Wyoming	29	8	0	21	966,649	32.25 %	41
Region 9	1,032	205	119	708	19,963,264	20.51 %	1,136
Arizona	282	90	50	142	4,088,063	15.74 %	224
California	632	94	57	481	12,199,853	22.29 %	658
Hawaii	33	2	2	29	504,844	32.16 %	23

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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	65	11	9	45	2,715,680	21.72 %	185
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	790	100	43	647	9,354,514	23.93 %	419
Alaska	347	26	7	314	743,171	28.89 %	32
Idaho	65	5	2	58	1,272,237	30.37 %	48
Oregon	135	11	14	110	1,703,364	25.43 %	90
Washington	243	58	20	165	5,635,742	21.13 %	249

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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.