

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2026
Designated HPSA Quarterly Summary

As of September 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 September 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	8,830	102,257,076	46.75 %⁽⁴⁾	17,675⁽⁷⁾
Geographic Area	1,408	39,040,768	62.64 %	4,298
Population Group	2,501	62,129,676	38.83 %	12,621
Facility	4,921	1,086,632	28.86 %	756
Dental HPSA Totals	8,027	78,301,897	32.94 %⁽⁵⁾	13,145⁽⁸⁾
Geographic Area	645	15,633,535	62.41 %	1,292
Population Group	2,531	61,411,340	26.31 %	11,291
Facility	4,851	1,257,022	32.85 %	562
Mental Health HPSA Totals	7,127	154,557,656	26.24 %⁽⁶⁾	7,796⁽⁹⁾
Geographic Area	1,173	89,745,770	32.74 %	3,464
Population Group	960	63,270,010	17.16 %	3,696
Facility	4,994	1,541,876	33.69 %	636

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

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

	Number of Designations ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of All Designations ⁽¹⁰⁾	Population of Designated HPSAs	Practitioners Needed to Remove Designations
Primary Medical HPSA Totals	8,830		102,257,076	17,675
Rural	5,480	62.06 %	27,522,357	4,792
Geographic Area	892	10.10 %	14,458,393	1,569
Population Group	1,250	14.16 %	12,416,505	2,780
Facility	3,338	37.80 %	647,459	443
Non-Rural	2,403	27.21 %	41,161,202	7,968
Geographic Area	119	1.35 %	8,716,188	926
Population Group	713	8.07 %	32,017,250	6,737
Facility	1,571	17.79 %	427,764	305
Partially Rural⁽¹¹⁾	913	10.34 %	33,436,046	4,882
Geographic Area	381	4.31 %	15,750,809	1,780
Population Group	532	6.02 %	17,685,237	3,102
Unknown⁽¹²⁾	34	0.39 %	137,471	33
Geographic Area	16	0.18 %	115,378	23
Population Group	6	0.07 %	10,684	2
Facility	12	0.14 %	11,409	8
Dental HPSA Totals	8,027		78,301,897	13,145
Rural	5,142	64.06 %	21,552,919	3,698
Geographic Area	493	6.14 %	7,149,462	720
Population Group	1,378	17.17 %	13,736,712	2,686
Facility	3,271	40.75 %	666,745	292
Non-Rural	2,193	27.32 %	31,672,980	5,471
Geographic Area	33	0.41 %	2,852,394	135
Population Group	595	7.41 %	28,242,966	5,072
Facility	1,565	19.50 %	577,620	264
Partially Rural⁽¹¹⁾	643	8.01 %	23,699,063	3,699
Geographic Area	112	1.40 %	5,585,836	430
Population Group	531	6.62 %	18,113,227	3,269
Unknown⁽¹²⁾	49	0.61 %	1,376,935	277
Geographic Area	7	0.09 %	45,843	7

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	27	0.34 %	1,318,435	264
Facility	15	0.19 %	12,657	6
Mental Health HPSA Totals	7,127		154,557,656	7,796
Rural	4,311	60.49 %	30,046,129	1,812
Geographic Area	700	9.82 %	24,506,782	1,132
Population Group	262	3.68 %	4,671,812	309
Facility	3,349	46.99 %	867,535	371
Non-Rural	2,079	29.17 %	37,984,931	2,166
Geographic Area	101	1.42 %	12,381,429	459
Population Group	348	4.88 %	24,940,086	1,447
Facility	1,630	22.87 %	663,416	260
Partially Rural⁽¹¹⁾	717	10.06 %	86,296,216	3,800
Geographic Area	368	5.16 %	52,821,080	1,872
Population Group	349	4.90 %	33,475,136	1,928
Unknown⁽¹²⁾	20	0.28 %	230,380	18
Geographic Area	4	0.06 %	36,479	1
Population Group	1	0.01 %	182,976	12
Facility	15	0.21 %	10,925	5

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 3. Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of September 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	8,830	1,408	2,501	4,926	102,257,076	46.75 %	17,675
Region 1	301	38	96	167	2,959,949	61.88 %	361
Connecticut	68	4	44	20	1,371,291	60.00 %	172
Maine	102	18	28	56	277,604	55.97 %	39
Massachusetts	68	7	11	50	796,906	58.72 %	108
New Hampshire	29	4	6	19	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	304	16	106	182	6,755,492	40.90 %	1,311
New Jersey	45	7	0	38	796,188	83.22 %	39
New York	211	6	86	119	5,288,766	35.42 %	1,130
Puerto Rico	43	0	20	23	574,059	28.90 %	138
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	96,479	88.27 %	4
Region 3	560	73	185	302	6,434,163	40.44 %	1,271
Delaware	14	0	5	9	469,204	10.99 %	148
District of Columbia	12	0	4	8	286,765	0.23 %	96
Maryland	78	14	46	18	2,079,523	31.62 %	465
Pennsylvania	150	4	38	108	666,243	55.47 %	113
Virginia	180	47	44	89	2,139,409	57.27 %	286
West Virginia	126	8	48	70	793,019	38.28 %	163
Region 4	1,610	224	620	766	22,906,361	48.06 %	3,968
Alabama	134	45	39	50	2,609,948	62.42 %	315
Florida	305	20	115	170	6,110,671	39.39 %	1,276
Georgia	249	52	110	87	2,834,970	38.43 %	590
Kentucky	265	36	84	145	1,623,509	31.64 %	360
Mississippi	156	24	58	74	1,361,358	33.12 %	312
North Carolina	227	9	116	102	3,535,882	48.38 %	610
South Carolina	112	21	23	68	2,512,622	80.15 %	159
Tennessee	162	17	75	70	2,317,401	54.63 %	346

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	1,462	229	439	794	17,641,786	50.03 %	2,860
Illinois	354	53	123	178	4,054,040	41.60 %	763
Indiana	174	50	46	78	2,900,192	54.99 %	414
Michigan	295	8	79	208	3,328,841	44.85 %	617
Minnesota	239	70	51	118	2,084,749	56.36 %	280
Ohio	228	32	102	94	3,787,826	51.34 %	604
Wisconsin	172	16	38	118	1,486,138	63.18 %	182
Region 6	1,107	225	344	538	14,417,319	46.07 %	2,537
Arkansas	157	16	63	78	1,224,488	52.60 %	197
Louisiana	182	30	36	116	1,846,293	70.52 %	173
New Mexico	108	23	15	70	1,139,819	31.39 %	253
Oklahoma	210	15	76	119	1,452,317	28.63 %	370
Texas	450	141	154	155	8,754,402	44.93 %	1,544
Region 7	853	85	251	517	4,469,948	32.40 %	962
Iowa	182	27	55	100	950,239	44.40 %	167
Kansas	175	15	66	94	672,954	41.16 %	122
Missouri	357	19	99	239	2,567,049	23.71 %	636
Nebraska	139	24	31	84	279,706	51.09 %	37
Region 8	612	171	138	303	3,319,266	49.23 %	523
Colorado	148	28	55	65	1,406,030	47.18 %	242
Montana	145	29	37	79	358,743	37.30 %	69
North Dakota	95	44	4	47	202,041	37.53 %	38
South Dakota	110	34	23	53	297,512	34.99 %	58
Utah	64	12	12	40	781,222	66.02 %	80
Wyoming	50	24	7	19	273,718	54.36 %	36
Region 9	1,125	245	177	703	15,096,776	49.53 %	2,432
Arizona	272	73	58	141	4,207,074	40.69 %	797
California	713	136	100	477	8,513,667	54.48 %	1,241
Hawaii	33	4	0	29	522,299	72.13 %	40

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	87	24	18	45	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	891	102	145	644	8,253,222	43.36 %	1,448
Alaska	342	19	10	313	443,060	51.60 %	63
Idaho	114	15	41	58	582,074	43.91 %	104
Oregon	175	12	53	110	1,651,484	44.09 %	306
Washington	260	56	41	163	5,576,604	42.37 %	975
Not Applicable	5	0	0	5	1,397	0.00 %	1
Not Determined	5	0	0	5	1,397	0.00 %	1
Not Determined	5	0	0	5	1,397	0.00 %	1
Not Determined	5	0	0	5	1,397	0.00 %	1

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 4. Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of September 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	8,027	645	2,531	4,853	78,301,897	32.94 %	13,145
Region 1	283	11	106	166	2,060,192	30.82 %	360
Connecticut	60	0	40	20	1,036,905	18.56 %	212
Maine	107	8	44	55	425,483	28.83 %	73
Massachusetts	61	1	10	50	320,208	59.15 %	35
New Hampshire	24	0	5	19	42,823	23.02 %	10
Rhode Island	16	0	6	10	185,974	37.41 %	30
Vermont	15	2	1	12	48,799	90.84 %	0
Region 2	314	6	124	184	5,523,291	31.94 %	946
New Jersey	40	2	1	37	313,937	45.23 %	45
New York	169	0	47	122	2,820,970	15.99 %	598
Puerto Rico	100	1	76	23	2,292,005	48.02 %	297
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	96,379	75.40 %	6
Region 3	535	66	172	297	8,606,907	41.69 %	1,211
Delaware	15	0	6	9	535,667	4.37 %	140
District of Columbia	10	0	2	8	90,280	2.90 %	22
Maryland	50	16	17	17	2,482,025	47.65 %	283
Pennsylvania	164	0	57	107	2,200,998	41.36 %	342
Virginia	173	44	40	89	2,578,035	52.88 %	284
West Virginia	123	6	50	67	719,902	22.61 %	140
Region 4	1,474	98	646	730	19,211,355	24.91 %	3,699
Alabama	94	1	48	45	757,342	24.66 %	139
Florida	293	6	114	173	6,356,375	19.64 %	1,344
Georgia	185	33	90	62	1,918,573	17.42 %	402
Kentucky	263	2	118	143	1,339,378	9.30 %	309
Mississippi	152	32	49	71	1,411,863	39.75 %	219
North Carolina	215	3	114	98	3,485,854	23.66 %	680
South Carolina	112	17	26	69	2,001,958	46.85 %	267
Tennessee	160	4	87	69	1,940,012	30.36 %	339

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	1,272	59	416	797	10,482,089	34.23 %	1,744
Illinois	295	13	104	178	2,529,158	26.36 %	472
Indiana	135	4	54	77	1,131,067	28.80 %	207
Michigan	280	1	74	205	2,022,016	26.46 %	382
Minnesota	230	37	64	129	1,696,487	48.86 %	201
Ohio	169	2	74	93	2,006,452	43.14 %	302
Wisconsin	163	2	46	115	1,096,909	34.74 %	180
Region 6	1,065	137	385	543	11,801,206	26.89 %	2,197
Arkansas	156	4	74	78	1,124,941	22.59 %	232
Louisiana	179	22	41	116	1,865,388	44.81 %	259
New Mexico	110	16	23	71	994,618	16.10 %	207
Oklahoma	196	4	70	122	1,084,104	45.58 %	168
Texas	424	91	177	156	6,732,155	20.85 %	1,331
Region 7	747	47	192	508	3,521,709	32.87 %	551
Iowa	151	8	47	96	553,492	35.06 %	85
Kansas	134	8	33	93	273,834	33.44 %	44
Missouri	347	27	85	235	2,558,669	31.42 %	408
Nebraska	115	4	27	84	135,714	48.80 %	14
Region 8	504	88	115	301	2,050,301	48.14 %	247
Colorado	127	22	42	63	1,187,577	53.97 %	129
Montana	117	11	28	78	249,082	45.81 %	31
North Dakota	72	22	2	48	119,626	29.61 %	16
South Dakota	99	23	24	52	228,620	29.39 %	35
Utah	60	6	14	40	210,736	52.41 %	26
Wyoming	29	4	5	20	54,660	33.90 %	10
Region 9	1,015	67	264	684	8,942,511	32.46 %	1,513
Arizona	287	34	114	139	3,416,091	34.51 %	556
California	602	18	125	459	3,845,255	34.90 %	625
Hawaii	35	0	6	29	283,033	36.43 %	49

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	71	7	18	46	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	816	66	111	639	6,098,508	54.57 %	675
Alaska	342	26	5	311	675,959	56.40 %	70
Idaho	98	6	36	56	452,047	37.48 %	70
Oregon	154	2	44	108	1,543,659	43.71 %	220
Washington	222	32	26	164	3,426,843	61.76 %	315
Not Applicable	2	0	0	2	1,914	33.07 %	1
Not Determined	2	0	0	2	1,914	33.07 %	1
Not Determined	2	0	0	2	1,914	33.07 %	1
Not Determined	2	0	0	2	1,914	33.07 %	1

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics

Table 5. Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of September 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	7,127	1,173	960	4,994	154,557,656	26.24 %	7,796
Region 1	241	23	43	175	3,521,219	22.30 %	196
Connecticut	55	0	22	33	1,932,543	17.17 %	126
Maine	82	15	12	55	470,030	11.45 %	21
Massachusetts	56	2	8	46	553,097	26.50 %	30
New Hampshire	22	3	0	19	153,649	48.15 %	4
Rhode Island	14	3	1	10	411,900	45.42 %	15
Vermont	12	0	0	12			
Region 2	336	15	117	204	6,069,467	20.65 %	369
New Jersey	43	6	0	37	776,426	50.45 %	37
New York	213	6	65	142	4,047,428	14.42 %	256
Puerto Rico	75	0	52	23	1,140,925	8.31 %	70
U.S. Virgin Islands	5	3	0	2	104,688	59.64 %	6
Region 3	482	58	112	312	7,622,264	17.68 %	530
Delaware	16	0	6	10	537,966	6.60 %	61
District of Columbia	10	0	1	9	126,214	0.00 %	8
Maryland	69	22	25	22	2,882,446	19.76 %	150
Pennsylvania	130	17	6	107	1,012,322	34.26 %	67
Virginia	133	8	33	92	2,253,193	17.96 %	150
West Virginia	124	11	41	72	810,123	5.68 %	94
Region 4	1,144	158	234	752	39,071,073	25.32 %	2,095
Alabama	72	14	11	47	3,491,919	23.19 %	227
Florida	241	23	43	175	12,331,976	21.78 %	710
Georgia	93	20	9	64	5,680,979	46.14 %	194
Kentucky	228	46	38	144	2,778,040	19.69 %	151
Mississippi	87	10	3	74	2,312,386	33.34 %	107
North Carolina	224	20	98	106	4,104,845	11.80 %	253
South Carolina	101	19	12	70	5,371,248	32.71 %	233
Tennessee	98	6	20	72	2,999,680	14.92 %	220

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	1,096	174	117	805	29,706,270	31.27 %	1,289
Illinois	245	49	14	182	8,646,794	20.97 %	395
Indiana	117	29	11	77	6,500,041	37.93 %	251
Michigan	276	35	35	206	4,663,345	37.26 %	195
Minnesota	150	10	17	123	2,709,724	24.28 %	123
Ohio	138	24	19	95	5,432,847	34.32 %	240
Wisconsin	170	27	21	122	1,753,519	35.88 %	85
Region 6	926	268	111	547	22,358,174	29.60 %	1,074
Arkansas	94	3	14	77	1,176,745	26.30 %	73
Louisiana	179	45	18	116	2,893,539	27.72 %	139
New Mexico	100	19	8	73	1,617,847	25.67 %	83
Oklahoma	139	5	13	121	2,604,390	23.99 %	148
Texas	414	196	58	160	14,065,653	31.93 %	631
Region 7	648	86	46	516	6,877,535	24.00 %	304
Iowa	174	55	22	97	1,899,150	20.09 %	82
Kansas	118	20	2	96	1,196,031	19.89 %	52
Missouri	265	6	22	237	2,713,118	21.41 %	140
Nebraska	91	5	0	86	1,069,236	44.79 %	30
Region 8	423	91	11	321	10,049,063	40.59 %	364
Colorado	85	13	5	67	4,054,296	40.42 %	137
Montana	115	33	3	79	1,318,372	40.87 %	55
North Dakota	69	18	0	51	464,452	37.36 %	16
South Dakota	65	10	1	54	657,991	18.71 %	36
Utah	63	12	2	49	2,986,377	48.02 %	97
Wyoming	26	5	0	21	567,575	30.63 %	23
Region 9	1,044	202	127	715	20,033,640	20.29 %	1,151
Arizona	282	90	50	142	4,088,063	15.74 %	224
California	643	91	65	487	12,270,229	21.91 %	673
Hawaii	33	2	2	29	504,844	32.16 %	23

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	66	11	9	46	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	787	98	42	647	9,248,951	22.46 %	424
Alaska	343	24	6	313	627,057	27.78 %	29
Idaho	65	5	2	58	1,282,788	20.12 %	56
Oregon	135	11	14	110	1,703,364	25.43 %	90
Washington	244	58	20	166	5,635,742	21.13 %	249

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.