What is a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)?

- A HPSA is a geographic area, population group, or health care facility that has been designated by the Federal government as having a shortage of health professionals. There are three categories of HPSAs: primary care (shortage of primary care clinicians), dental (shortage of oral health professionals), and mental health (shortage of mental health professionals).
- An Urban or Rural Area (county or sub-county area defined by census tracts or divisions)
- A Population Group
- A Public or Non-Profit Private Medical Facility
Types of HPSAs

A shortage of:

Primary Care

Mental Health

Dental Health

Geographic Area

Population Group

Facility
Medically Underserved Areas and Populations (MUA/P)

**Limited access to:**

Primary Care

**services in a:**

Geographic Area  Population
Designation Criteria

Designations are a representation of an area’s or population’s need based on several factors:

- Health Professional Presence
- Socio-Economic and Demographic Data
- Language Barriers
- Health Indicators
- Population’s Access to Health Care
- Travel Time to Nearest Available Provider
HPSA Designation Criteria

- A Geographic area includes the whole county
- A Geographic area with unusually high needs and more than 20% of the population that has incomes at or below the 100% of the Federal poverty level
- A Low-Income area must have > 30% of the population in the service area with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal poverty level (Medicaid and Sliding Fee)
- A Census Tract is a small subdivision of a county that has the same characteristics
- A Facility designation must serve an area or population HPSA, must be reasonably accessible to an area or population HPSA (the facility is within 40 minutes of the population to be served)
HPSA Scoring Criteria

HPSA scores are based on a variety of factors and range from 0 to 25 in the case of Primary Care and Mental Health, and 0 to 26 in the case of Dental Health

Primary Care
0-25
- Population-to-Provider Ratio Point Value
- % of Population at 100% Federal Poverty Level Point Value
- Infant Health Index Point Value (Based on IMR or LBW Rate)
- Travel Time to Nearest Source of Care Point Value

Dental Health
0-26
- Population-to-Provider Ratio Point Value Double Weighted
- % of Population at 100% Federal Poverty Level Point Value Double Weighted
- Water Fluoridation Status Point Value
- Travel Time to Nearest Source of Care Point Value

Mental Health
0-25
- Population-to-Provider Ratio Point Value
- % of Population at 100% Federal Poverty Level Point Value
- Alcohol Abuse Prevalence Point Value
- Substance Abuse Prevalence Point Value
- Elderly Ratio Point Value
- Youth Ratio Point Value
- Travel Time to Nearest Source of Care Point Value

HPSA Score (out of 25)
MUA/P Designation Criteria

- Percent of population at 100% Poverty
- Percent population > 65
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)
- Primary care physicians per 1,000 Population
- Index of Medical Underservice
  - Score of ≤ 62.0
Computing the Index of Medical Underservice

- IMU ≤62.0: Qualifies for designation
- IMU >62.0: Does NOT qualify for designation

**Primary Care 0-100**

- PC physicians per 1,000 population
- % of Population at 100% FPL Point Value
- % of Population over age 65
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

**IMU Score**

12.6 + 21 + 12.8 + 24.8 = 71.2

{% image %}
Auto-HPSA Scoring

• Designation & scoring currently done manually
• No application process necessary
• Same criteria used to determine HPSA score as other HPSAs
• Same scoring range used
• HRSA has not historically required Auto-HPSA scores to be reviewed regularly; updates are requested by facility

**HPSAs impact:**
- NHSC Loan Repayment
- Medicare Bonus Payment
- FQHC / Health Centers
- Rural Health Clinics
- Conrad State 30 Program
- State LRP Programs
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
HRSA Data Warehouse

- **HPSA Link**
  
  http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/

  To find out if an address or county is located in a Geographic or Population Group HPSA, please check the HPSA website above at the HRSA Data Warehouse.

- **SDB@HRSA.GOV**

  To request a score or rescore of an Auto-HPSA, please email the Shortage Designation Branch (SDB) at HRSA, or you may contact Dorothy Bryant at dbryant@dch.ga.gov.