

Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)

What determines Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)?

- Criteria for designations is based on federal regulations.
- Generally the criteria are:
 - Rational Service Area
 - Population to provider ratio (varies depending on the designation)
 - Analysis of contiguous resources (providers within specified radius of population center), socio-economic differences, physical barriers, overutilization of providers.

What are the types of HPSAs?

- Three categories: primary care, dental and mental health
- Three basic types: geographic (county or region), population (low income, homeless) and facilities (prisons, Community Health Centers).

Why have shortage designations?

Designations identify areas of greatest need so limited resources can be prioritized and directed to people in those areas. These efforts include:

- Provider Recruitment: National Health Service Corp, J-1 Visa Waivers
- State loan forgiveness/repayment programs and grants

- Certification as a Rural Health Clinic, Community Health Center, Federally Qualified Health Center
- Ten percent Medicare Incentive Payment for geographic primary care and mental health designations.

Why and how are areas, populations or facilities analyzed?

- HPSAs need to be updated every four years.
- Individuals or facilities can ask the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to analyze an area/site.
- MDH gathers FTE data from clinics, workforce survey data or federal AMA data.
- Census or Claritas data are used for population, poverty, social-economic, etc.
- MDH submits applications to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

How many HPSAs in Minnesota?

- Primary Care = 128
- Mental Health = 51
- Dental = 104

More information: Lee Schutz, designation analyst at 651-201-3860 or leona.schutz@state.mn.us.



Office of Rural Health & Primary Care
 85 East Seventh Place, Suite 400
 P.O. Box 64882
 St. Paul, MN 55016-0882
 651- 215-1300
www.state.mn.us