

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA)

What determines Health Professional Shortage Areas?

- Criteria for designations are based on federal regulations
- Generally the criteria are:
 - Rational Service Areas
 - 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 do we 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:

- Certification as a Rural Health Clinic, Community Health Center, Federally Qualified Health Center
- Provider Recruitment: National Health Service Corp, J-1 Visa Waivers
- State loan forgiveness/repayment programs and grants
- 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 three years.
- Individuals or facilities can ask the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to analyze an area/site.
- MDH gathers full-time equivalent (FTE) data from clinics, workforce survey data or federal American Medical Association 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 = 121
- Mental Health = 62
- Dental = 126

More information

HRSA Data Warehouse: <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/>

Minnesota Department of Health: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/shortage/index.html>

Minnesota Department of Health
Office of Rural Health and Primary Care
P.O. Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882
651-201-3860
keisha.shaw@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

1/10/2017



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