

## **Primary Care Office Health Professional Shortage Area Q & A**

### **What is a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation?**

HPSA designation refers to identifying a geographical region as having a shortage of health professionals to meet the healthcare needs of the community. They are a way of determining healthcare access or lack of access. The primary purpose of an HPSA designation is to inform the distribution of federal resources around provider recruitment and retention. The higher the HPSA score, the greater the need and opportunity for federal resources to be deployed to an area.

### **What are the different types of HPSA designations?**

- Geographic
  - All people in a geographic area
- Special Populations
  - Low income (under 200% of federal poverty level)
  - Migrant and seasonal farmworkers
  - Homeless
  - Medicaid eligible participants
- Facility
  - Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
  - Some rural health clinics
  - Federal and state correctional facilities

### **What are the three types of disciplines every HPSA designation is separated by?**

- Primary Care
- Dental Health
- Mental Health

### **How are each HPSA designation scored?**

- Every HPSA designation receives a score.
- Primary Care and Mental Health can be scored from 1-25.
- Dental Health is scored from 1-26.

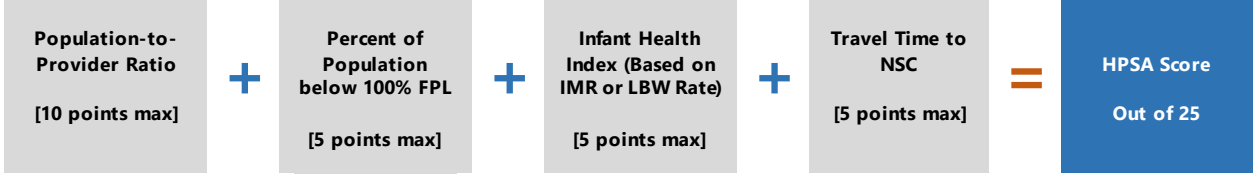
### **What information is used to calculate the HPSA scores?**

- Population to Provider Ratio (10 points max)
  - Only calculates doctoral providers like MDs, DOs, Dentists and Psychiatrists
- Percent of population below 100% federal poverty level (5 points max for Primary Care and Mental Health; 10 point max for Dental Health)
- Travel time to the nearest source of care (5 points max)

**What additional factors are calculated into the score depending on the discipline?**

**Primary Care**

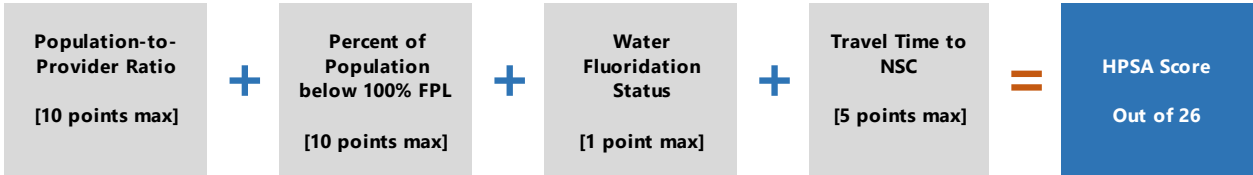
- Infant Health Index or Low Birth Rate [5 points max]; only included in Primary Care HPSA scores



*\*The Infant Health Index evaluates both IMR and LBW rate. It awards points based on whichever has the higher score.*

**Dental Health**

- Water Fluoridation status [1 point]; only included in Dental Health HPSA scores



**Mental Health**

- Elderly Ratio - percent of people over age 65 [3 points max] – only included in Mental Health HPSA scores
- Youth Ratio - percent of people under age 18 [3 points max] – only included in Mental Health HPSA scores
- Alcohol Abuse Prevalence [1 point max] – only included in Mental Health HPSA scores
- Substance Abuse Prevalence [1 point max] – only included in Mental Health HPSA scores

