

Health Professional Shortage Area Designations

Who: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is charged by the Public Health Service Act to determine which parts of the United States don't have enough health professionals. Within HHS, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) works with State Primary Care Offices (PCOs) to designate Health Professional Shortage Areas. In Washington State the PCO is part of the Department of Health.

Federal regulations determines the type of information used in making a HPSA designation and the formula for calculating a HPSA score.

What: There are three types of HPSAs, Primary Care, Dental and Mental Health. Each HPSA is assigned a score ranging from 1-25 (or 1-26 for dental HPSAs.) A higher score means greater need for clinicians in the area or facility. HPSAs can be for everyone in a geographic area, certain vulnerable populations or specific healthcare facilities granted the right to a designation by legislation.

Main determining factors:

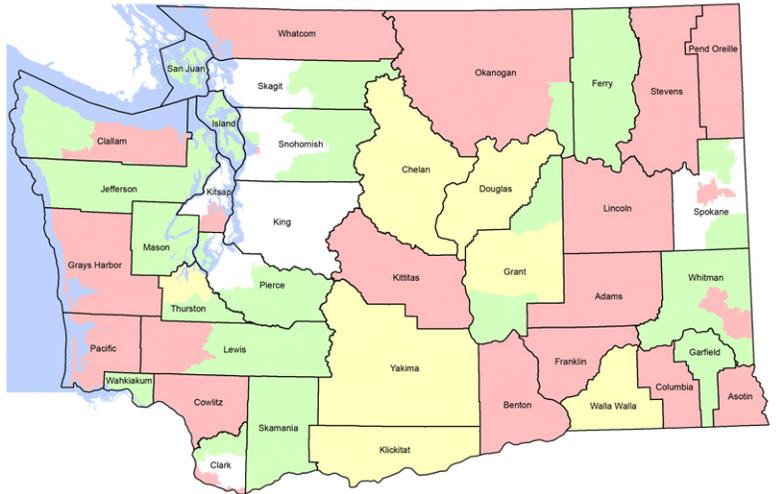
- Population to provider ratio
- Percent of population below poverty level
- Travel time/distance to next nearest source of care
- Depending on the type of HPSA, other considered factors include infant mortality, access to fluoridated water, drug/alcohol abuse and population age

Where: HPSAs cover geographic areas comprising logical healthcare use travel patterns. They can be multi-county, single county or census tracts.

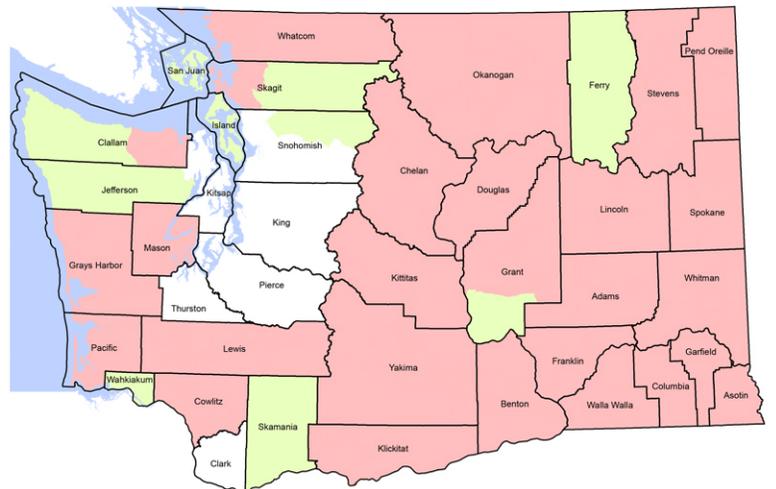
When: HPSAs are reassessed every three years to determine if the area still fits the criteria.

Why: The federal government requires participation in this designation process so they can compare healthcare access nationally. HPSAs are used by the National Health Service Corps in determining eligibility for loan repayment awards and placement of NHSC Scholars and S2S participants. Many other federal programs, ranging from enhanced Medicare payments to telehealth reimbursement, use the HPSA designations also.

Washington Primary Care HPSAs



Washington Dental HPSAs



Washington Mental Health HPSAs



All maps as of July 2016

No HPSA
 Geographic (Total Population)
 Low-Income Population
 Migrant Population

National Health Service Corps in Washington State

The National Health Service Corps has a strong presence in Washington through its loan repayment and scholarship programs. As of September 29, 2016, there are 381 clinicians working across the state with an NHSC obligation to serve underserved communities. These individuals work at 196 different NHSC approved sites. The bulk of those clinicians (355) are taking part in the NHSC Loan Repayment Program. The Loan Repayment Program involves an initial two-year commitment with the option to continue on with one year extensions until all eligible debt is repaid. Some clinicians in the summary below have been participating in the NHSC Loan Repayment Program for seven years. The other 26 NHSC-obligated clinicians are NHSC Scholarship recipients who had all or part of their training paid and now have an obligation to work in an area of greatest need as determined by HPSA score. The NHSC Scholarship program is limited to physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

The NHSC uses HPSA scores to prioritize which areas receive first consideration for federal resources available through NHSC programs. HPSAs change as new designations are approved and scores changed on the HRSA Data Warehouse website (<https://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/tools/analyzers/hpsafind.aspx>). The NHSC pulls HPSA scores for approved NHSC service sites from the Data Warehouse each January. These are the scores in the NHSC Jobs Center (<https://nhsc-jobs.hrsa.gov>). Once pulled the site scores are locked for the year.

All current NHSC program participants by discipline and credential

Primary care 118

Physician (DO or MD):	47
Nurse practitioner:	26
Nurse midwife:	3
Physician assistant:	42

Dental 93

Dentist:	82
Dental Hygienist:	11

Mental health 170

Psychiatrist (DO or MD):	2
Clinical psychologist:	27
Licensed independent clinical social worker:	24
Licensed mental health counselor:	88
Marriage and family therapist:	12
Psychiatric nurse practitioner:	17

NHSC mental health clinicians by practice site

The 170 mental health NHSC clinicians work in the following site types

Tribal health clinic:	27
Rural health clinic:	1
Community Mental Health Center:	51
ICE Detention Center:	1
State prisons:	6
Federally Qualified Health Center:	78
Private Practice:	6

NHSC mental health clinicians by county

The 170 mental health NHSC clinicians work in the following counties. This isn't a perfect representation of where clinicians are working as a few are assigned to multiple sites in different counties but are only counted in a single county.

Asotin:	2	Kittitas:	4
Benton:	1	Klickitat:	1
Chelan:	9	Mason:	1
Clallam:	2	Okanogan:	2
Clark:	2	Pierce:	5
Cowlitz:	4	Snohomish:	11
Douglas:	2	Spokane:	32
Franklin:	3	Stevens:	1
Grant:	2	Walla Walla:	7
Grays Harbor:	7	Whatcom:	20
Island:	1	Whitman:	2
King:	28	Yakima:	19
Kitsap:	2		