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Arizona Primary Care Office: HPSAs & Loan Repayment Program

November 18, 2021



Presenters:



Tracy Lenartz, CEO of Lenartz Consulting, works on a contract basis for the Arizona Department of Health Services. She coordinates Arizona's shortage designations program, and assists with health planning, data and training around issues related to access to health care for Arizona's underserved and rural communities. Tracy has served as project staff for Arizona's HRSA-funded Primary Care Office Cooperative Agreement since 2007. Tracy received a Masters of Public Health degree with a focus on Community Health Education from the University of Minnesota.



Edith Di Santo is the Chief for the Primary Care Office, AZDHS. The Primary Care Office oversees workforce programs aimed at increasing access to primary care with emphasis on the health needs of underserved people and areas. Edith has a Master's Degree in Public Health focused in health policy from George Washington University. Edith has over 13 years of public health experience, working at the federal, state, local and non-profit sectors.







Arizona Primary Care Office (PCO)

 To optimize the health of all Arizona residents by developing and strengthening systems services to expand access to primary care and other services with emphasis on the health needs of underserved people and areas



PCO Goals

- Implement strategies for strengthening primary care and the health care delivery system
- Increase the number of providers and improve services in underserved areas
- Identify areas that need improved health services and assist with federal/state shortage designations
- Support statewide partners and provide technical assistance

PCO Core Functions

- Administers:
 - Evaluation and data collection for the designation of
 - AZ Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)
 - Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/P)
 - Arizona State Loan Repayment Program
 - J1 Visa Program
 - National Interest Waiver Program
- Technical Assistance/Promotes Federal Programs in AZ:
 - —National Health Service Corps (LRP & Scholarship)
 - Nurse Corps (LRP & Scholarship)

Health Professional Shortage Areas

- Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations identify an area or population as having a shortage of providers
 - Primary Care
 - Dental
 - Mental Health
- HPSA designations are used to qualify for state and federal programs aimed at increasing primary care services to underserved areas and populations

HPSAs

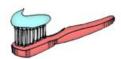
A shortage of:



Primary Care



Mental Health



Dental Health

providers in a:



Geographic Area



Population Group



Types of HPSAs

- Geographic
- Geographic with high needs (i.e. > 20% poverty)
- Population (i.e. Low Income)
- Facilities:
 - State and Federal Correctional Facilities
 - Some facility types are eligible for an automatic HPSA designation
 - Community Health Centers (CHCs) and FQHC Look-Alikes
 - Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) must become NHSC site certified first
 - Indian Health Service/Tribal sites

Geographic Area

- A rational service area in Arizona we use an established Primary Care Area plan
 - Based on demographics and care-seeking patterns
- Population to Provider Ratio Requirement:
 - 3,500:1 primary care (MDs and DOs, does not count PAs, NPs; family/general practice, internal medicine, pediatrics and OB/GYN)
 - 5,000:1 dental (incorporates dental hygienists and assistants, as well as dentist age)
 - 30,000:1 mental health (psychiatrists only)
 - Does not include obligated providers (NHSC, J-1, federal commissioned officers)

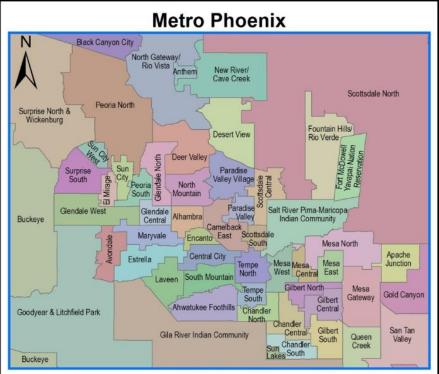
Geography: Az Primary Care Areas

Primary Care Areas (PCAs) were built by ADHS in 2013 to represent where Arizonans go for primary care while also representing communities with a population size conducive to spatial and statistical analysis.

- 126 communities
- Required by state statute in connection with Arizona Medically Underserved Area (AzMUA) biennial designation
- "State Rational Service Area" plan for federal shortage designations
- Built with a repeatable, rule-based methodology
- Reflects tribal and village/planning area boundaries when possible
- Updated every decennial census to reflect changing demographics



Primary Care Areas Page Colorado City Navajo Nation Hopi Tribe Hopi Tribe Grand Canyon Golden Valley Chino Valley Flagstaff Kingman Winslow Williamson Snowflake/Heber Springerville/ Eager Black Canyon City White Mountain Payson Colorado River Apache Tribe Indian Tribe Surprise North & Wickenburg Quartzsite Gold San Carlos Apache Tribe Canyon Morenci Buckeye Safford Fortuna Foothills Somerton Yumay Thatcher Ajo Tohono O'odham Willcox & Bowie Green Valley Douglas & Pirtleville Rio Rico Bisbee Arizona Map Date: Department of September 2013 **Health Services**







Geographic Area with High Needs

- A rational service area that exhibits one of the following:
 - 20% or more of the population is @ 100 % of the poverty level
 - Infant mortality rate is greater than 20
- Population to Provider Ratio Requirement:
 - 3,000:1 primary care
 - 4,000: 1 dental
 - 20,000:1 mental health

Population – Low Income

- Population = Those below 200% FPL in rational service area
- Providers = just those seeing patients on AHCCCS or a sliding fee scale
- Population to Provider Ratio Requirement:
 - 3,000:1 Primary Care
 - 4,000:1 Dental
 - 20,000:1 Mental Health
- Typically do this type of designation when area does not qualify for geographic HPSA

Excluded from Provider FTE Count

- NHSC Federal Scholarship or Loan Repayment Providers
- Other Federal providers (e.g. Commissioned Officers)
- Physicians who are graduates of foreign schools who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents (including those with J-I or H1-B visas)
- Providers engaged solely in admin, research, or teaching
- Physicians involved exclusively in inpatient or ER care or Urgent Care
- Providers full-time in correctional institutions
- Providers working in facilities not open to the public (i.e. VA)
- Providers suspended under provisions of the Medicaid-Medicare-Anti-Fraud and Abuse Act for a period of 18 months or more

Contiguous Areas

- Must show population of proposed HPSA cannot get services in surrounding service areas
- Can rule out contiguous areas due to:
 - Over-utilization (>2,000:1 primary care)
 - Excessive Distance (> 30 minutes)
 - Significant socioeconomic differences
 - Designated as HPSA
 - Inaccessible for other reasons (i.e. reservation services only available to tribal populations)

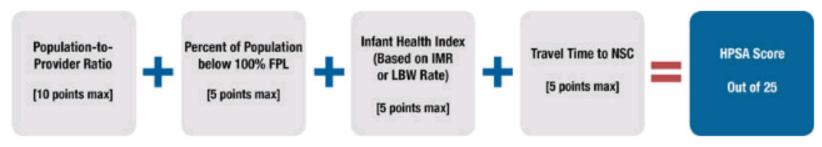
HPSA Score – Primary Care

- HRSA assigns each HPSA a score based on data we submit
- Higher score = higher need
- All clinics/providers in a geographic/population HPSA have same HPSA score and identification number

I. Primary Care HPSA Scoring

Primary Care HPSAs can receive a score between 0-25.

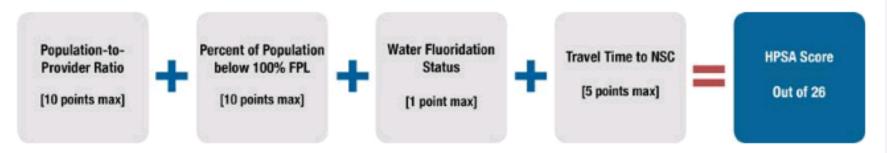
The following figure provides a broad overview of the four components used in Primary Care HPSA scoring:



HPSA Score - Dental

II. Dental Health HPSA Scoring

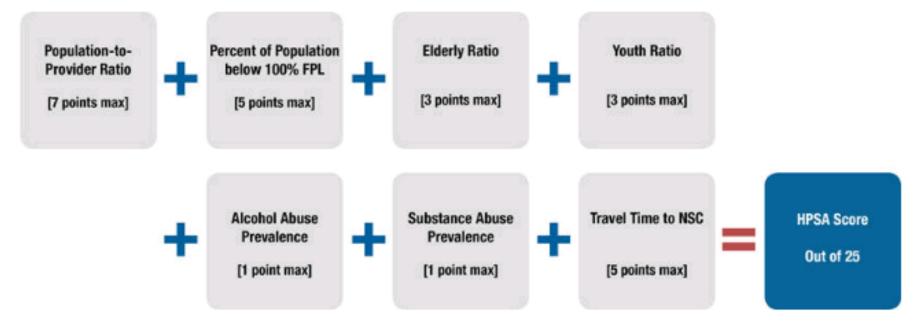
We calculate a score between 0-26 for Dental Health HPSAs. The following figure provides a broad overview of the four components used in Dental HPSA scoring:



HPSA Score – Mental Health

III. Mental Health Scoring

We calculate a score between 0-25 for Mental Health HPSAs. The following figure provides a broad overview of the seven components used in Mental Health HPSA scoring:



HPSA Designation Process

- State Primary Care Office role is to ensure provider data is as accurate as possible (using required NPI dataset) in HRSA's Shortage Designation Management System (SDMS)
 - Phone surveys
 - Medicaid claims data
- HRSA conducted the National Shortage Designation Update in September 2021, which updated scores for all existing HPSAs using current data.
- PCO can continue to submit applications for new HPSAs (areas not previously designated) or for rescoring of existing HPSAs if data changes.

Results of National Shortage Designation Update: Geographic/Population HPSAs PRIMARY CARE

Of 126 Primary Care Areas:

- 5 Geographic High Needs HPSAs
- 24 Geographic HPSAs
- 50 Low Income Population HPSAs (18 of these were previously geographic HPSAs)
- 1 currently pending for geographic HPSA
- 8 Proposed Withdraw (previously designated but did not qualify this time)
- 38 Not previously designated (will be assessed by early 2022 to determine whether meet HPSA criteria with new data)

SCORES

Average HPSA score overall = 15

- average for Geographic HPSAs = 14.7
- average for Low Income Population HPSAs = 15.8
- average change in score overall from previous HPSAs = +3.3 points



Results of National Shortage Designation Update: Geographic/Population HPSAs DENTAL

Of 126 Primary Care Areas:

- 6 Geographic High Needs HPSAs
- 2 Geographic HPSAs
- 31 Low Income Population HPSAs (2 of these were previously geographic HPSAs)
- 35 in progress (qualify, but applications need to be resubmitted with updated water fluoridation data; will be submitted by end of November)
- 11 Proposed Withdraw (previously designated but did not qualify this time)
- 41 Not previously designated (will be assessed by early 2022 to determine whether meet HPSA criteria with new data)

SCORES

Average HPSA score overall = 16

- average for Geographic HPSAs = 15.9
- average for Low Income Population HPSAs = 16.5
- average change in score overall from previous HPSAs = +2.5 points

Results of National Shortage Designation Update: Geographic/Population HPSAs MENTAL HEALTH

Of 126 Primary Care Areas:

- 18 Geographic High Needs HPSAs
- 16 Geographic HPSAs
- 7 Low Income Population HPSAs
- 28 Currently pending review
- 10 Proposed Withdraw (previously designated but did not qualify this time)
- 47 Not previously designated (will be assessed by early 2022 to determine whether meet HPSA criteria with new data)

SCORES

Average HPSA score overall = 16.3

- average for Geographic HPSAs = 16.3
- average for Low Income Population HPSAs = 16.6
- average change in score overall from previous HPSAs = -0.2 points



Shortage Designations 101:

AUTOMATIC FACILITY HPSA

Area vs. Facility HPSAs

Area (geo or pop) HPSAs:

- Community-based (must follow AZ Primary Care Area boundaries)
- Must meet specific criteria regarding population-to-provider ratio
- Must eliminate all contiguous areas as potential sources of care
- Must be updated regularly

Auto Facility HPSAs:

- Only applies to that facility/organization
- No ratio or contiguous area requirements for designation
- Scores regularly updated through the National Shortage Designation Update.

Results of National Shortage Designation Update: Auto Facility HPSAs

Type of Facility HPSA	Primary Care	Dental	Mental Health
	(# Auto Facility	(# Auto Facility	(# Auto Facility
	HPSAs, Average	HPSAs, Average	HPSAs, Average
	score)	score)	score)
Federally Qualified Health Center (CHC)	23 auto HPSAs Avg score = 19.3	23 auto HPSAs Avg score = 24.0	23 auto HPSAs Avg score = 19.8
IHS, Tribal &	72 auto HPSAs	72 auto HPSAs	72 auto HPSAs
Urban Indian	Avg score = 18.9	Avg score = 21.6	Avg score = 17.9
Rural Health	19 auto HPSAs	19 auto HPSAs	19 auto HPSAs
Clinic	Avg score = 16.5	Avg score =17.1	Avg score = 17.4

Shortage Designations 101: DESIGNATION RESOURCES



HPSAs and Workforce Programs

HPSA designation is an eligibility requirement for:

- National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment
- NHSC Scholar Program
- Arizona State Loan Repayment
- J-1 Visa Waiver Program

May use area or facility HPSA score when applying for these programs – use whichever is higher.

 NHSC no longer has a "HPSA Freeze" - scores will be utilized real-time.

Scholar HPSA Score Requirements

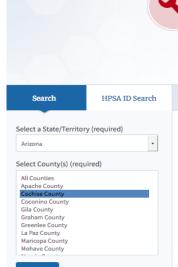
What are HPSA score requirements by class year?

NHSC-approved sites must meet the HPSA score requirements* by class year (CY):

Discipline	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Primary Care (Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of	20	20	19	18	17
Osteopathic Medicine (DO), & Nurse Practitioner					
(NP)					
Physician Assistant (PA)	14	20	19	18	17
Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM)	10	18	16	18	17
Dentists (DDS & DMD)	20	20	19	18	17
Psychiatric (MD & DO)	20	20	21	18	17

HPSA Find - Search by County

https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find



HPSA Find

The Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Find tool displays data on the geographic, population, and facility HPSA designations throughout the U.S. To determine National Health Service Corps (NHSC) site eligibility please contact HRSA at http://www.hrsa.gov/about/contact/bhwhelp.aspx or call 1-800-221-9393.

Will give all HPSAs in county, including facilities

Primary 1046713038 LI - Bei Primary 1043612250 LI - Bi Primary 1046206090 LI - De Primary 2 1042156423 LI - Williams 2 1042156423										
Care 1043612250 LI - Bi Primary Care 1043612250 LI - Bi Primary Care 1046206090 LI - De Pirtle Primary Care 1042156423 LI - Windle Bowid Primary Care 1046562656 Sierra Primary Care 1041417481 CF-Ar Prison Primary Care 10499904C2 Chiric		Designation Type 6	Primary State Name (9	County Name	HPSA FTE Short	HPSA Score	Status ()	Rural Status ⊕	Design. Date 0	
Care □ Primary Care 1046206090 LI - Dr. Pirtle Primary Care 1042156423 LI - W. Bowie Primary Care 1046562656 Sierra Primary Care 1041417481 CF-Ar. Prisor Primary Care 10499904C2 Chiric		Low Income Population HPSA	Arizona	Cochise County, AZ	0.88	15	Designated	Partially Rural	09/08/2021	09/08/202
Care Pirtle ● Primary Care 1042156423 LI - W. Bowit ● Primary Care 1046562656 Sierra ● Primary Care 1041417481 CF-Ar Prisor ● Primary 10499904C2 Chiric		Low Income Population HPSA	Arizona	Cochise County, AZ	3.16	17	Designated	Partially Rural	09/08/2021	09/08/202
Care Bowie ▶ Primary Care 1046562656 Sierra ▶ Primary Care 1041417481 CF-Ar Prisor ▶ Primary 10499904C2 Chiric	tleville	Low Income Population HPSA	Arizona	Cochise County, AZ	1.67	16	Designated	Rural	09/08/2021	09/08/202
Primary	wie	Low Income Population HPSA	Arizona	Cochise County, AZ	1.76	16	Designated	Rural	09/08/2021	09/08/20
Care Prison Primary 10499904C2 Chiric		Low Income Population HPSA	Arizona	Cochise County, AZ	3.94	14	Designated	Partially Rural	09/07/2021	09/07/20
		Correctional Facility	Arizona	Cochise County, AZ	1.25	21	Designated	Rural	03/21/2002	12/09/20:
	mmunity alth Centers,	Federally Qualified Health Center	Arizona	Cochise County, AZ		19	Designated	Rural	08/27/2003	09/10/20



Apply Filters (Optional)

HPSA Discipline

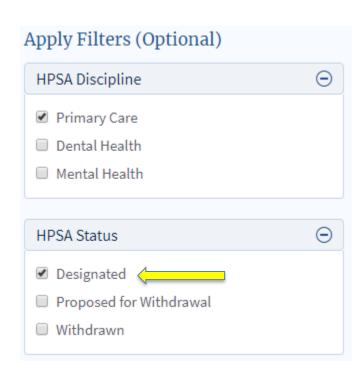
Primary Care
Dental Health
Mental Health

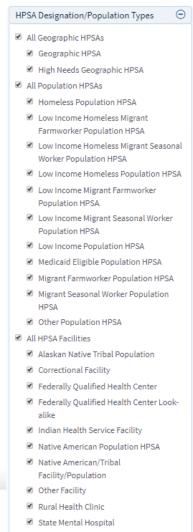
HPSA Status

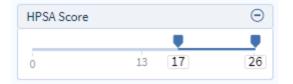
Designated
Proposed for Withdrawal
Withdrawn

Tip: FQHCs are listed only by parent site and county that site is located in.

HPSA Find Search Options



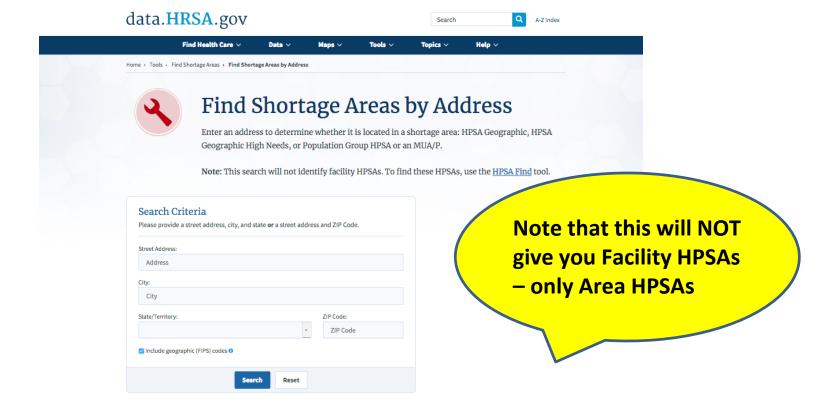




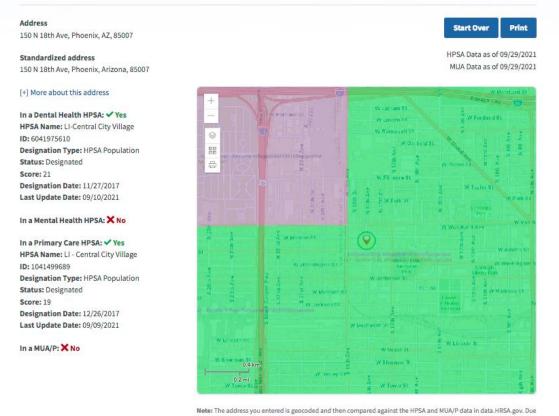


HPSA Find - Search by Address

https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/by-address



Address Search - Example





Finding Your HPSA Score

A CHC, RHC or IHS/Tribal site can have 1 or 2 different Primary Care HPSAs per Site, 1 or 2 Dental HPSAs and 1 or 2 Mental Health HPSAs.

This gets confusing!

You want to use whichever score is greatest for NHSC and SLRP purposes.

Things to remember:

- For CHCs All of your sites will have the same FACILITY HPSA ID/Score.
 For RHCs Each of your sites will have different FACILITY HPSA ID/Score.
- Your sites will usually have DIFFERENT geo/pop HPSA ID/Scores (unless they are located very close to each other geographically).
- 3. Look up each site's geo/pop HPSA using the HPSA address search tool, and record those scores.
- 4. Look up your Facility HPSA score using the HPSA Find by county tool, record that score.
- 5. For each site, select whichever score is higher.



THANK YOU!

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