Health Professional Shortage Areas

Numbers matter
Health Professional Shortage Areas

• Are designations made by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration
• Indicate health provider shortages in one of three disciplines:
  o Primary Care
  o Dental Health
  o Mental Health
HPSA Designations

- HPSA designations rely on accurate population to provider ratios:
  - Primary Care - 3,500 population per primary care physician
  - Dental Health - 5,000 population per general dentist
  - Mental Health - 30,000 population per psychiatrist

- Special considerations
Primary Care Shortage Areas in Texas
HPSA Scoring

Each HPSA is given a score to indicate the degree of shortage within a designated area.

• Example: Primary Care HPSA Scoring

Population to Provider Ratio (10 points max) + Percent of population below 100% federal poverty line (5 points max) + Infant Health Index (based on infant mortality rate or low birthweight rate) (5 points max) + Travel time to nearest source of care. (5 points max) = Health Professional Shortage Area Score 0 out of 25

• Example: Dental Health HPSA Scoring

Population to Provider Ratio (10 points max) + Percent of population below 100% federal poverty line (10 points max) + Water Fluoridation Status (1 point max) + Travel time to nearest source of care. (5 points max) = Health Professional Shortage Area Score 0 out of 26
How are HPSAs Used?

- Recruitment and Retention Initiatives
  - Federal programs such as National Health Service Corps, and Nurse Corps Scholarship Program
  - State programs such as the Physician Education Loan Repayment Program
- Medicare Bonus Payment
- Federally Qualified Health Center and Rural Health Clinic locations
Thank you

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