

Generic-Rescore Report-Sept 2025

Figure 1 shows the current data sources HRSA prepopulates into its Shortage Designation Management System (SDMS). These are used by the system to calculate the low-income population (the 2023 population living at or below 2 times the Federal Poverty Level), infant health index, and travel distances for your service area. Your service area is calculated based on the aggregated patient zip code data provided in your Annual UDS submissions (currently 2023 UDS). Source Data Updates (SDUs) are usually run annually, in March, but had been postponed for 2 years after the 2022 update from 2019 to 2020 data. Barring any further schedule changes, we would expect the 2024 health, demographic, UDS data to be reflected following the March 2026 SDU.

Figure 1: Shortage Designation Management System (SDMS) pre-populated data sources as of September 2025.

SDMS Data Sources

- American Community Survey (ACS) 2023 5YR Data, including ACS 2023 American Indian Alaska Native (AI/AN) Alone Data (CT and ZCTA)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2023 Data
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) 2022 Data
- Census 2023 TIGER Geometry Data
- ESRI 2023 ArcGIS North America HERE Data
- Uniform Data System (UDS) 2023 Data (for organizations using UDS data only)
- State Primary Care Office (PCO) Provider Data

Figure 2: Points awarded for population to provider ratio; and distance to nearest source of care (distance from FQHC address to eligible non-FQHC provider)

Helpful Benchmarks:

*Points awarded based on Population to Provider (P:P) Ratio

*Points awarded based on distance to Nearest Source of Care (NSC)

Source: Federal Register / Vol. 68, No. 104 / Friday, May 30, 2003 / Notices

Primary Care:

Points Awarded	Minimum P:P ratio	Minimum Population if no providers
0	< 1: 3,000	< 500
2	1 : 3,000	500
4	1 : 3,500	1,000
6	1 : 4,000	1,500
8	1 : 5,000	2,000
10	1 : 10,000	2,500

Points Awarded	Minimum Time to NSC	Minimum Distance to NSC
0	< 20 minutes	< 10 miles
1	20 minutes	10 miles
2	30 minutes	20 miles
3	40 minutes	30 miles
4	50 minutes	40 miles
5	60 minutes	50 miles

Dental:

Points Awarded	Minimum P:P ratio	Minimum Population if no providers
0	< 1: 4,000	< 1000
2	1 : 4,000	1,000
4	1 : 5,000	1,500
6	1 : 6,000	2,000
8	1 : 8,000	2,500
10	1 : 10,000	3,000

Points Awarded	Minimum Time to NSC	Minimum Distance to NSC
0	< 30 minutes	< 20 miles
1	30 minutes	20 miles
2	45 minutes	30 miles
3	60 minutes	40 miles
4	75 minutes	50 miles
5	90 minutes	60 miles

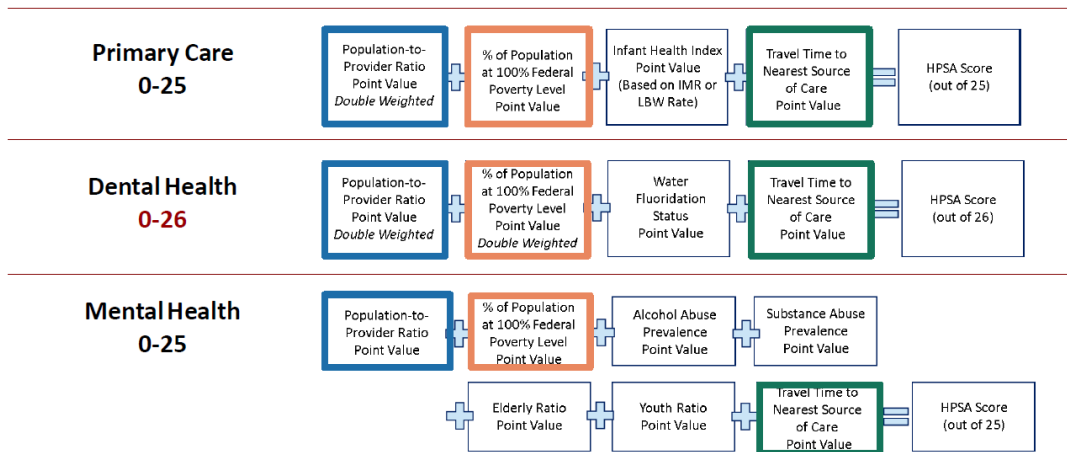
Mental: Psychiatrists Only

Points Awarded	Minimum P:P ratio
1	1 : 20,000
2	1 : 25,000
3	1 : 30,000
4	1 : 35,000
5	1 : 40,000
6	1 : 45,000
7	1 : 50,000

Points Awarded	Minimum Time to NSC	Maximum Time to NSC
0	<20 minutes	
1	20 minutes	29 minutes
2	30 minutes	39 minutes
3	40 minutes	49 minutes
4	50 minutes	59 minutes
5	60 minutes	N/A

Figure 3: HPSA scoring criteria for primary care, dental, and mental health. These formulas are applied to both community level HPSAs and Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs)

HPSA scores are based on a variety of factors and range from 0 to 25 in the case of Primary Care and Mental Health, and 0 to 26 in the case of Dental Health.



History, notable events, and hypotheses on the causes of any score drops

9/2021 Update and events before 9/2025:

This update was based on 2019 Census Demographic data, which reflects pre-COVID economic conditions and population. Provider recruitment increased for 2022 to 2023 in many areas of the state due to funding provided from the American Rescue Plan. This included huge drops in what was considered a competitive HPSA score, resulting in successful NHSC Loan Repayment applications at sites with HPSA scores as low as 2. NHSC scholars and loan repayment recipients

are coded in the federal provider database as “federal providers” and are not included in the calculations of the HPSA scores while they are completing their service. If a provider completes their NHSC service and chooses to continue working in the area they will no longer be considered a “federal” provider, and their Medicaid claims will be included in the calculation of the HPSA scores. This is true for both community level HPSAs and FQHCs. We tend to see the scores drop together, at different levels of severity depending on how close the footprint of the FQHC service area matches that of the community level HPSAs. The larger an FQHC service area the less likely marginal changes are to affect the score.

Programmatic Recommendations:

Loan Repayment:

A score of 16 for primary care and mental health are at the low end of what is considered competitive for the NHSC Loan Repayment Program because that was the lowest score funded for new applicants, in 2024. For this reason, Virginia PCO recommends that NHSC Loan Repayment applicants at sites with HPSA scores less than 17 also apply for Nurse Corps or State Programs. There is no limit on the number of programs a provider can apply for, but they may only accept a single award in cases where more than one application is successful.

As for the use of MCTA sub-designation associated with every primary care HPSA, the qualifying providers are Obstetrics and Gynecology MD/DOs and Certified Nurse Midwives (CMHs) who are eligible for the supplemental via the NHSC S2S LRP. The site must have a score of 16+.

Scholars:

The 2026 Primary Care HPSA score threshold for NHSC MD/DO and NP scholars is 21, while Certified Nurse Midwife and Physician Assistant scholars are eligible to complete their service at sites with a Primary HPSA score of 19.

The 2026 Mental HPSA score threshold for NHSC MD/DO scholars is 21.

The 2026 Dental HPSA score threshold for NHSC scholars is 14, but NHSC Loan Repayment applicants should still follow the rule of thumb for scores less than 17.

For all 3 disciplines, a HPSA score of 14+ enables sites to recruit NHSC Student to Service (S2S) scholars and Nurse Corps scholars who require a PC or MH HPSA score of 14.

<https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships/requirements-compliance/jobs-and-site-search/hpsa-score-class-year>

Detailed Information about the Virginia programs and Decision tool dashboards for sites and providers are listed below:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-equity/incentive-programs/>

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/anna.riggan2894/viz/IncentiveProgramsforSites/Dashboard1>

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/anna.riggan2894/viz/ResourcesforGraduates/Dashboard1>