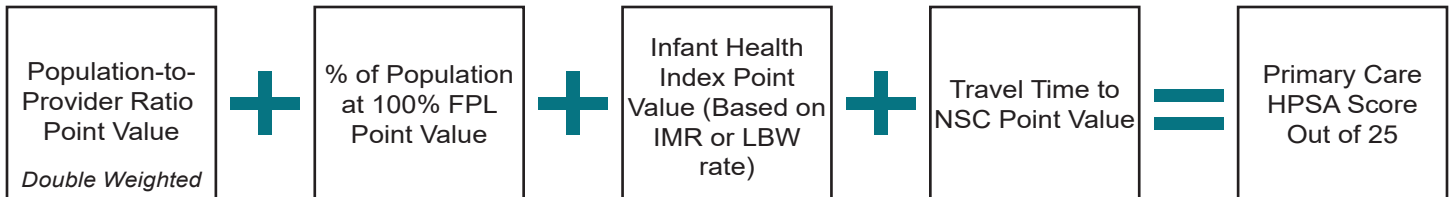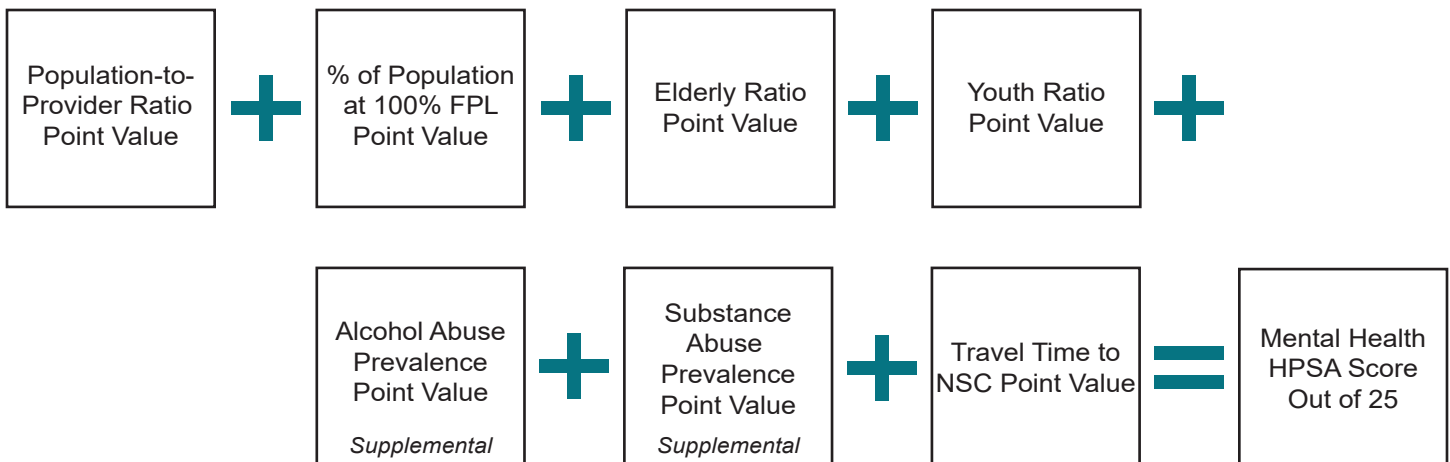# Health Professional Shortage Area Scoring & Data Sources

This fact sheet explains the basic criteria and data used in scoring Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) for the primary care, mental health, and dental health disciplines.

Primary Care Scoring

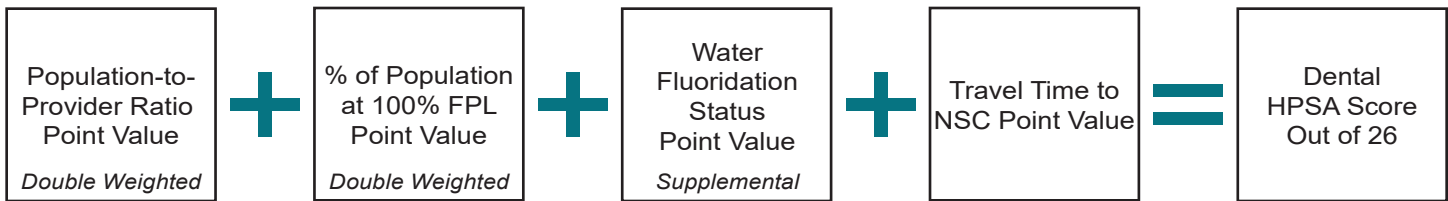| Population-to-Provider Ratio Point Value *Double Weighted*	**+**	% of Population at 100% FPL Point Value	**+**	Infant Health Index Point Value (Based on IMR or LBW rate)	**+**	Travel Time to NSC Point Value	**=**	Primary Care HPSA Score Out of 25

- Population-to-Provider ratio: *0-5 points then multiplied by 2 (only Auto-HPSAs can get 0 points*)*
- Percent of individuals below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL): *0-5 points*
- Infant Health Index (based on Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) or Low Birth-weight Rate (LBW), whichever is higher): *0-5 points*
- Travel time or distance to nearest source of non-designated accessible care (NSC): *0-5 points*

Mental Health Scoring

Population-to-Provider Ratio Point Value	**+**	% of Population at 100% FPL Point Value	**+**	Elderly Ratio Point Value	**+**	Youth Ratio Point Value	**+**

Alcohol Abuse Prevalence Point Value *Supplemental*	**+**	Substance Abuse Prevalence Point Value *Supplemental*	**+**	Travel Time to NSC Point Value	**=**	Mental Health HPSA Score Out of 25

- Population-to-Provider ratio: *0-7 points (only Auto-HPSAs can get 0 points*)*
- Percent of individuals below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL): *0-5 points*
- Elderly ratio (ratio of adults age 65 and over to adults age 18-64): *0-3 points*
- Youth ratio (ratio of children under 18 to adults ages 18-64): *0-3 points*
- Substance abuse prevalence (this is a supplemental point, it is not automatically calculated into the score): *1 point*
- Alcohol abuse prevalence (this is a supplemental point, it is not automatically calculated into the score): *1 point*
- Travel time or distance to nearest source of non-designated accessible care (NSC): *0-5 points*

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Dental Health Scoring

Population-to-Provider Ratio Point Value *Double Weighted*	+	% of Population at 100% FPL Point Value *Double Weighted*	+	Water Fluoridation Status Point Value *Supplemental*	+	Travel Time to NSC Point Value	=	Dental HPSA Score Out of 26

- Population-to-Provider ratio: *0-5 points then multiplied by 2 (only Auto-HPSAs can get 0 points*)*
- Percent of individuals below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL): *0-5 points then multiplied by 2*
- Water fluoridation status (this is a supplemental point, it is not automatically calculated into the score): *1 point*
- Travel time or distance to nearest source of non-designated accessible care (NSC): *0-5 points*

Data Sources

- Demographic data (population, age, sex, race/ethnicity, poverty) – U.S. Census American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates
- Infant health data – Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Mortality and Natality Files from 2014-2018
- HRSA Bureau of Primary Healthcare (BPHC) Uniform Data System (UDS) is used to calculate service area and patient population for the Auto-HPSA scoring process

The state or organization must provide data for special populations, age-sex adjusted population, water fluoridation status, alcohol misuse prevalence, and substance misuse prevalence.
   - o North Dakota uses My Water's Fluoride report from the CDC for water fluoridation status data.
   - o County Health Rankings, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and other data sources have been used for the alcohol and substance misuse prevalence.

Reference

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Health Resources and Services Administration. (May 2020). Shortage Designation Management System (SDMS): *Manual for Policies and Procedures.*

*Auto-HPSAs are safety net facilities that are automatically designated even if they do not meet the minimum benchmark for the population-to-provider ratio, hence the ability for those designations to have 0 points for the provider-to-population ratio.

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