

**Types of Rational Service Areas:** (Applies to all types of designations)

- I. Whole county
  - a. no size requirement
  - b. counties with large metropolitan areas cannot be designated as whole county
  
- II. Multiple counties
  - a. whole counties adjacent to each other
  - b. population centers must be within 30 minutes for primary care or 40 minutes for dental and mental health
    - i. (25 x 1.2 miles interstate, 20 x 1.5 miles primary road and 15 x 2.0 miles on secondary roads = 30 minutes)
  
- III. Sub-county or parts of adjacent counties including towns, cities, townships, minor civil divisions (MCD), census county divisions (CCD), and census tracts (CT)
  - a. must demonstrate how area has similar socio-economic characteristics which result in it's being isolated from nearby resources (e.g. poverty, race, ethnicity, etc.) or
  - b. physical barriers which result in isolation ( mountains, large bodies of water or parks, busy highways, railroad yards, industrial areas, etc.) or
  - c. established neighborhoods and communities within metropolitan areas which display a strong self-identity, have limited interaction with contiguous areas, and generally have a minimum population of 20,000
  
- IV. Catchment areas (mental health only)

**HPSA Service Areas Cannot:**

- 1) Overlap
- 2) Have more than one HPSA designation
- 3) Be smaller than a census tract
- 4) Exceed travel time between population centers (multiple whole counties only)
- 5) Have interior portions carved out

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**Contiguous Areas: (HPSAs only)**

- I. Must be identified in all directions on a map.
- II. Boundaries of each contiguous area are often (not always) based on the same census delineation as the proposed area. For example: county to county or census tract to census tract.
- III. Areas must be identified to a distance of 30 or 40 minutes from the population center of the service area. In metropolitan areas travel time can be measured by time on public transportation.
- IV. Check contiguous areas to see if designated and therefore in accessible.  

<u>If the proposed services area is:</u>	<u>Then contiguous area is inaccessible if it is a:</u>
a. Geographic without high needs	Geographic HPSA
b. Geographic with high needs	Geographic/Low-Income
c. Low-Income HPSA	Geographic/Low-Income
- V. Check to see if providers in contiguous areas are in accessible due to excessive distance (exceed 30 or 40 minutes travel time).
- VI. Check to see if the contiguous area population to provider ratio is overutilized : Primary care  $\geq$  2,000:1

**Primary Care Unusually High Needs:**

- I. Lowers the ratio needed to qualify (3,000:1)
- II. Includes:
  - a. More than 20% of the population has income at or below FPL; or
  - b. More than 100 births per year per 1,000 women ages 15-44; or
  - c. More than 20 infant deaths per 1,000 live births; or
  - d. Meets two insufficient capacity criteria
    - i. ER rates, waiting times, number of visits per doc, number of docs accepting new patients.

**Determine the Nearest Source of Accessible Care  
HPSA Score**