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.

If the proposed services area is: Then contiguous area is inaccessible if it is a:

- 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