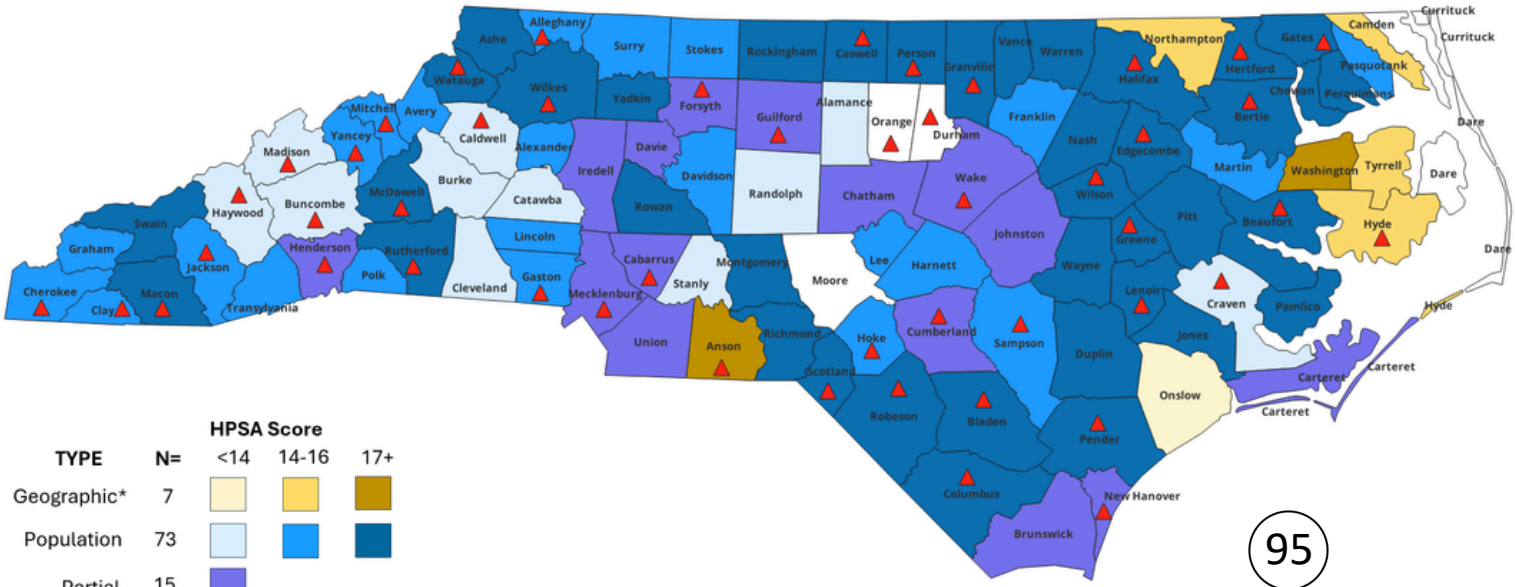
NC Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Rural Health
1915 Health Services Way Raleigh, NC 27607
Phone: 919.527.6440 • Fax: 919.733.2981
https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh

North Carolina Health Professional Shortage Area

2025 Profile (current HPSA Data as of 05/22/2026)

Overview: The North Carolina Office of Rural Health (ORH) works with the federal government and local communities to identify shortages of primary medical care, dental, and mental health providers. These areas or populations are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). HPSA designations allow ORH to identify those areas and populations with the most pressing health care access issues and provides a blueprint for how to efficiently utilize state and federal resources to improve access to health care providers. Many state and federal programs use different types of shortage designations as part of several criteria to determine eligibility for incentives such as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) loan repayment and scholars programs, NURSE Corps loan repayment and scholars programs, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) incentive bonus payments (for physicians in geographic HPSAs only)*, the CMS Rural Health Clinic Program, the Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver program, and NC loan repayment programs.

Primary Care



TYPE	N=	HPSA Score <14	14-16	17+
Geographic*	7			
Population	73			
Partial	15			
No HPSA	5			
Facility	48	▲ Indicates at least one HPSA facility, does not include correctional facilities or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) satellite Sites.		

95
Counties with a geographic, partial or population HPSA for **Primary Care**

ABOUT SCORING: Primary Care and Mental Health HPSA scores range from 0 to 25 and Dental Health HPSA 0 to 26. The higher the HPSA score the greater the need is for providers in a given area for that HPSA type. The Office of Rural Health strives to reduce shortages in North Carolina by targeting recruiting efforts and resources to areas with the highest needs. HPSA scores are one of the factors used by the NHSC Federal Loan Repayment Program to prioritize awards. HPSAs scores are calculated using data for the service area and for areas surrounding the service area within a designated travel boundary. The scoring data includes provider service hours, census demographic information (population and poverty), Medicaid paid claims data, access to services with a sliding fee schedule payment option, low birthweight and infant mortality rates (only for primary care), access to fluoridated water (only for dental), substance abuse prevalence (only for mental health), and the availability or overutilization of providers in nearby areas.

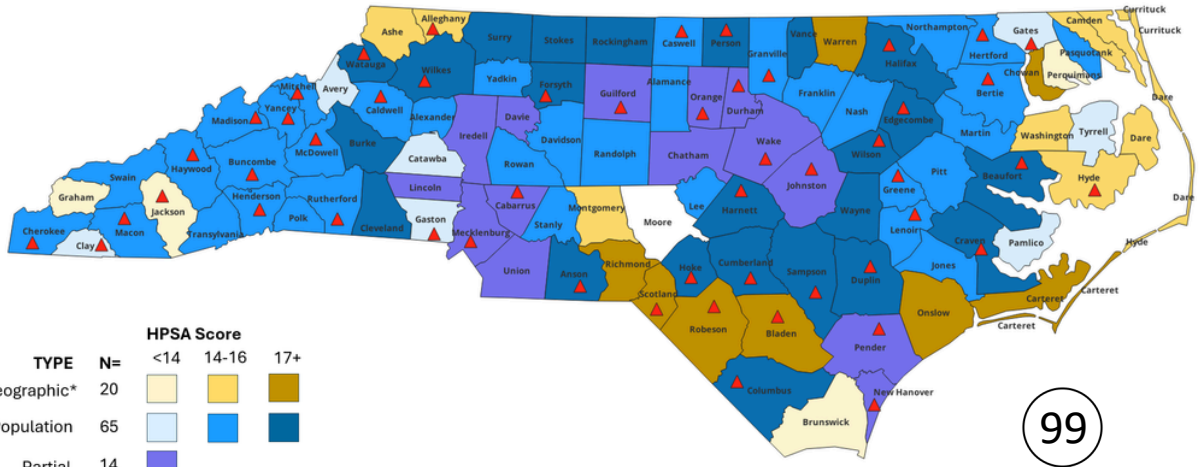
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North Carolina Health Professional Shortage Area

2025 Profile (current HPSA Data as of 05/22/2026)

Mental Health



HPSA Score

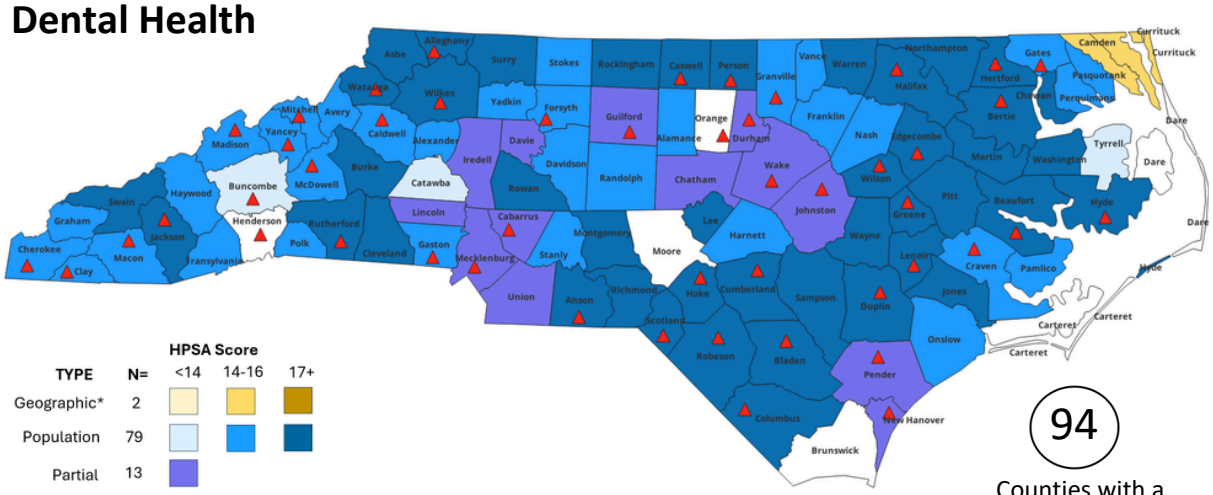
TYPE	N=	<14	14-16	17+
Geographic*	20			
Population	65			
Partial	14			
No HPSA	1			
Facility	51	▲		

▲ Indicates at least one HPSA facility, does not include correctional facilities or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) satellite Sites.

99

Counties with a geographic, partial or population HPSA for **Mental Health**

Dental Health



HPSA Score

TYPE	N=	<14	14-16	17+
Geographic*	2			
Population	79			
Partial	13			
No HPSA	6			
Facility	48	▲		

▲ Indicates at least one HPSA facility, does not include correctional facilities or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) satellite Sites.

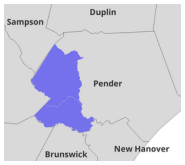
94

Counties with a geographic, partial or population HPSA for **Dental Health**

HPSA TYPES



GEOGRAPHIC
Includes total population residing in the service area



PARTIAL
Service area covering less than a full county (e.g. census tract)

POPULATION
A specific population (e.g. low-income residing in the service area

FACILITY
E.g. FQHC, RHC, state prison, state mental hospital or other facility

ABOUT SERVICE AREAS: The area compromising a HPSA must be recognized as a rational service area (RSA) as defined in the federal HPSA guidelines and may not overlap with other RSAs of the same category (primary care, mental health, dental health). RSAs may be made of multiple counties, or partial county areas consisting of census tracts or county subdivisions. Counties with partial county HPSAs are shaded in purple on the maps above and reflect at least one partial county HPSA within its borders. To see more detail about a county and its components go to HPSA Find, or search the HPSA status for your clinic address. HPSAs expire every three years and must be updated and deemed eligible to retain their status.

If you have further questions, please contact:
John Resendes, Analytics and Innovations Manager
Phone: 919-527-6460
john.resendes@dhhs.nc.gov

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