Exploring Dental Healthcare Workforce Projections in Minnesota

A customized report produced by the Office of Academic Clinical Affairs (OACA) and U-Spatial using Human Resource Service Administration (HRSA) data

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Key Takeaways

The data sources are in agreement that there is currently a shortage of dental professionals in Minnesota. HRSA projections show an adequate number of General Dentists in the state by 2025, with concern that the number of Hygienists will not meet the demand after 2027. By region, the number of dentists has been increasing since 2010 throughout Minnesota, with regions reporting 5.5 - 10 Dentists per 10,000 population.

The shortage of dental professionals is not a large number, but the disparity is not consistent throughout the state. Rural areas, as well as Hennepin and Ramsey Counties show the highest unmet demand. The HPSA maps show that often a single dental professional in a rural area can provide the needed resources for the area.
Dental Workforce Past Trends

Data Sources:
Dental Workforce Projections

Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas


Background: Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations are submitted by the State Primary Care Offices (Office of Rural Health and Primary Care in Minnesota). If they meet eligibility criteria, HRSA calculates HPSA Score and approves designations. In addition to the population-to-provider ratio, HPSA Score incorporates factors such as percentage of the population below poverty level, water fluoridation status, and travel time to nearest source of care outside the HPSA designation area.

Definitions:

1. Geographic HPSA - A shortage of providers for an entire group of people within a defined geographic area.
2. Population HPSA - A shortage of providers for a specific group of people within a defined geographic area.
3. High Needs Geographic HPSA - A geographic area designated by the HRSA as having a shortage of dental care professionals.
4. Shortage refers to the number of dentists (in FTEs) needed in the HPSA so that it will achieve the population-to-provider target ratio, which must be at least 5,000 to 1 (4,000 to 1 in high-need communities).
Facility HPSAs

- Correctional Facility (9)
- Federally Qualified Health Center (16)
- Federally Qualified Health Center Look A Like (1)
- Indian Health Service, Tribal Health, and Urban Indian Health Organizations (33)
- Other Facility (10)
- Rural Health Clinic (52)
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