Maine Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas

Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (Dental HPSAs) are areas designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) as having shortages of dentists. The purpose of these designations is to identify areas of greatest need in order to prioritize limited resources. The designation is primarily used for recruiting providers for the National Health Service Corp, J-1 Visa waivers and state loan forgiveness/repayment programs and grants.

Dental HPSAs may be geographic (a county or service area), demographic (low-income population) or institutional (comprehensive health center, federally qualified health center or other public facility). In Maine, the majority of dental HPSAs are low-income (i.e. areas that are at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines), therefore, may represent areas with lower access to dental/oral health care and populations with greater risk of dental diseases and oral conditions.

**Sources:** Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, [HRSA Data Warehouse: Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics, as of September 9, 2016.](https://data.hrsa.gov/health-professional-shortages/dental-health-professional-shortage-areas)