

## **Designation Requirements for Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/Ps) as of July 7, 2010**

The following federal guidelines are for use in applying the established Criteria for Designation of Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs) and Populations (MUPs), based on the Index of Medical Underservice (IMU), published in the Federal Register on October 15, 1976, and in submitting requests for exceptional MUP designations based on the provisions of Public Law 99-280, enacted in 1986.

Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/Ps) are areas or populations designated by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as having: too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty and/or high elderly population. In order to establish a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or FQHC Look-Alike, a site must be located in an MUA/P or providing services to residents who reside in an MUA/P. The Maryland Primary Care Office (PCO) is charged with analyzing areas in Maryland for eligibility as recommended designation candidates to HRSA's Office of Shortage Designation.

As of June 30, 2010, Maryland had:

- **40 MUAs with 873,023 people** living in them.
- **12 MUPs with 93,202 people** living in them.

To determine if an area is eligible for recommendation, the following steps must be completed by the PCO to compute the Index of Medical Underservice Score:

### **1. Assemble Data per county, census tract or minor civil division:**

- a. Percent of Population at 100% poverty level
  - i. Determine the percentage of the population in the area at the 100% poverty level
  - ii. Use latest available data (Census or Claritas) that has resident civilian (RC) percentage applied
  - iii. Calculate 100% poverty
- b. Percent Population  $\geq 65$ 
  - i. Determine the percentage of the population in the area  $\geq 65$  years old
  - ii. Use latest available data (Census or Claritas) that has resident civilian percentage applied
  - iii. Calculate percent  $\geq 65$  years old

Number  $\geq 65$   
(RC) Population

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- c. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)
- i. Determine the IMR for the service area
  - ii. Calculate IMR

$$\frac{\text{Number of Infant Deaths}}{\text{Number of Live Births} \times 1,000}$$

- d. Primary care physicians per 1,000 Population
- i. Determine the Full Time Equivalency (FTE) for each primary care provider (must collect inpatient and outpatient hours)
    1. MUA – All primary care physicians are counted
    2. MUP – All primary care physicians servicing the population group are counted
  - ii. Calculate Physicians per 1,000 population

1. MUA:  $\frac{\text{Total FTE}}{(\text{RC}) \text{ Population} \times 1,000}$

2. MUP:  $\frac{\text{Total FTE}}{\text{Population to be designated} \times 1,000}$

### 2. Determine weighted values of assembled data for area using Value Charts:

- a. Percent of Population at 100% poverty level (Chart V-1)

**CHART V-1**  
**Percent Population at 100% Poverty**

% Below Poverty	Weighted Value	% Below Poverty	Weighted Value
0.0	25.1	26.1-28.0	9.3
0.0-2.0	24.6	28.1-30.0	7.8
2.1-4.0	23.7	30.1-32.0	6.6
4.1-6.0	22.8	32.1-34.0	5.6
6.1-8.0	21.9	34.1-36.0	4.7
8.1-10.0	21.0	36.1-38.0	3.4
10.1-12.0	20.0	38.1-40.0	2.1
12.1-14.0	18.7	40.1-42.0	1.3
14.1-16.0	17.4	42.1-44.0	1.0
16.1-18.0	16.2	44.1-46.0	0.7
18.1-20.0	14.9	46.1-48.0	0.4
20.1-22.0	13.6	48.1-50.0	0.1
22.1-24.0	12.2	50 +	0.0
24.1-26.0	10.9		

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b. Percent Population  $\geq 65$  (Chart V-2)

**CHART V-2  
Percent Population at  $\geq 65$**

Percent $\geq 65$	Weighted Value	Percent $\geq 65$	Weighted Value
0-7.0	20.2	19.1-20.0	11.1
7.0-8.0	20.1	20.1-21.0	9.8
8.1-9.0	19.9	21.1-22.0	8.9
9.1-10.0	19.8	22.1-23.0	8.0
10.1-11.0	19.6	23.1-24.0	7.0
11.1-12.0	19.4	24.1-25.0	6.1
12.1-13.0	19.1	25.1-26.0	5.1
13.1-14.0	18.9	26.1-27.0	4.0
14.1-15.0	18.7	27.1-28.0	2.8
15.1-16.0	17.8	28.1-29.0	1.7
16.1-17.0	16.1	29.1-30.0	0.6
17.1-18.0	14.4	30 +	0
18.1-19.0	12.8		

c. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) (Chart V-3)

**CHART V-3  
Infant Mortality Rate**

Percent $\geq 65$	Weighted Value	Percent $\geq 65$	Weighted Value
0-8	26.0	25.1-26.0	8.5
8.1-9.0	25.6	26.1-27.0	7.3
9.1-10.0	24.8	27.1-28.0	6.1
10.1-11.0	24.0	28.1-29.0	5.4
11.1-12.0	23.2	29.1-30.0	5.0
12.1-13.0	22.4	30.1-31.0	4.7
13.1-14.0	21.5	31.1-32.0	4.3
14.1-15.0	20.5	32.1-33.0	4.0
15.1-16.0	19.5	33.1-34.0	3.6
16.1-17.0	18.5	34.1-35.0	3.3
17.1-18.0	17.5	35.1-36.0	3.0
18.1-19.0	16.4	36.1-37.0	3
19.1-20.0	15.3	37.1-39.0	2.0
20.1-21.0	14.2	39.1-41.0	1.4
21.1-22.0	13.1	41.1-43.0	0.8
22.1-23.0	11.9	43.1-45.0	0.2
23.1-24.0	10.8	45.1 +	0
24.1-25.0	9.6		

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Source: HRSA's <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/muaguide.htm>

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d. Primary care physicians per 1,000 Population (Chart V-4)

### CHART V-4 Physicians per 1,000 Population

Primary Care Physicians per 1,000 population	Weighted Value	Primary Care Physicians per 1,000 population	Weighted Value
0-.050	0.0	.651-.700	20.7
.051-.100	0.5	.701-.750	21.9
.101-.150	1.5	.751-.800	23.1
.151-.200	2.8	.801-.850	24.3
.201-.250	4.1	.851-.900	25.3
.251-.300	5.7	.901-.950	25.9
.301-.350	7.3	.951-1.000	26.6
.351-.400	9.0	1.001-1.050	27.2
.401-.450	10.7	1.051-1.100	27.7
.451-.500	12.6	1.101-1.150	28.0
.501-.550	14.8	1.151-1.200	28.3
.551-.600	16.9	1.201-1.250	29
.601-.650	19.1	Over 1.250	28.7

### 3. Compute the Index of Medical Underservice Score (IMU Score)

- a.  $V1 + V2 + V3 + V4 = \text{IMU Score}$
- b. If IMU is  $\leq 62$ , area qualifies for recommendation as an MUA/P
- c. If IMU is  $\geq 62$ , area does not qualify as an MUA/P

### 4. Exceptional (“Permissible”) MUP

An Exceptional MUP is a designation requested by the Governor for areas that meet the following:

- a. An area or population group that does not meet the IMU Score of  $\leq 62.0$ ; an explanation indicating “**why the area is in need**” is required.
- b. Documentation must focus on why this area or population group is “exceptional”; what makes it stand out from other areas, surrounding areas, the county, and the state. Information should demonstrate unusual local conditions in the service area which has resulted in barriers to accessing medical care. The area must also indicate unusual local conditions which show:

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- i. A barrier to accessing primary medical care or indication of medical under-service is present
  - ii. Documented data showing high disease or mortality rates
  - iii. Significant changes in economic profile since the last census
- c. Data for area must also compare to National or State norms (include data, and source of data).
- d. Support of local officials in the area must be obtained.
- e. Governor submits application to SDB.

For a listing of currently designated MUA/Ps, please visit Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Office of Shortage Designation website:

<http://muafind.hrsa.gov/> .