

AMA Health Workforce Mapper Glossary

Basemap

Basemaps are the underlying maps onto which data are displayed. Basemaps provide a variety of general geographic data such as natural features, road names, county names, and city names.

Diverging Color Scheme

In a diverging color scheme, two distinct gradations of color originate from a midpoint data value. Values less than the midpoint value are displayed with colors from one gradation, while values greater than the midpoint value are displayed with colors from the other gradation. This color scheme works well, for example, when mapping population change. One color gradation (such as shades of blue) can be used to represent positive population change, while colors from another gradation (such as shades of red) can be used to represent negative population change.

Equal Interval

The equal interval system of distribution classifies data being mapped into groups that have equal data ranges represented. Since data ranges for each group are equal, the number of values in each group can differ. For example, if you are mapping 20 values that range between 0 and 20 in four equal interval categories, the categories will be 0-5, 5-10, 10-15, and 15-20, regardless of the number of records in each category.

Facility and Point Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)

A facility HPSA designation, as defined by the Public Health Service Act, is given to FQHCs and RHCs that meet the requirement of providing access to care regardless of ability to pay. FQHC in this definition includes all types of FQHCs: Health Center Program (HCP) grantees, HCP look-alikes, and outpatient health programs/facilities operated by tribal organizations (under the Indian Self-Determination Act) or urban Indian organizations (under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act).

Point HPSAs are only applicable to Alaskan Native and Native American Tribal populations. The Federally Recognized Native American Tribes and Alaskan Natives receive automatic population HPSAs. These HPSAs are represented as a point which is placed at a provider location/ facility within the tribal area.

FIPS Code

Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes are unique identifiers assigned to geographic regions to ensure standardization of identification across the entire federal government.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

A geographic information system (GIS) integrates hardware, software, and data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. GIS allows visualization, understanding, questioning, and interpretation of data in many ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports, and charts. The AMA Health Workforce Mapper is an example of a geographic information system. For more information see: <http://www.esri.com/what-is-gis>.

Health Center Program (HCP) Sites

These are sites where services are provided by Health Center Program grantees or look-alikes.

Health Center Program (HCP) Grantee

An HCP grantee is a public or private non-profit health care organization that meets certain criteria under the Medicare and Medicaid Programs (respectively, Sections 1861(aa)(4) and 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act and receives funds under the Health Center Program (Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act) (i.e., Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Healthcare for the Homeless Programs, and Public Housing Primary Care Programs). For more information on Health Center Program grantees see: <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/>. For a more detailed explanation of health center program terminology, see: http://bphc.hrsa.gov/technicalassistance/health_center_terminology_sheet.pdf.

Health Center Program (HCP) Look-Alike Sites

Health Center Program (HCP) look-alikes are health centers that operate and provide services consistent with all statutory, regulatory, and policy requirements that apply to Health Center Program grantees, but do not receive funding under section 330 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, as amended by the Health Centers Consolidated Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-299) and the Safety Net Amendments of 2002.

Hospital Referral Region (HRR)

According to the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care, hospital referral regions represent regional health care markets for tertiary medical care that generally requires the services of a major referral center. The regions were defined by determining where patients were referred for major cardiovascular surgical procedures and for neurosurgery. Each hospital service area (HSA) was examined to determine where most of its residents went for these services. The result was the aggregation of the 3,436 hospital service areas into 306 HRRs. Each HRR has at least one city where both major cardiovascular surgical procedures and neurosurgery are performed. For more information, see: www.dartmouthatlas.org/data/region/.

Layer

In GIS, a layer is a visual representation of a dataset, generally rendered based upon attributes linked to geographically related records. For example, in the AMA Health Workforce Mapper, primary care physicians, roads, and states are different layers because they contain different types of geographic information.

Locum tenens

Locum tenens refers to a provider who works in a location for a temporary period of time, often to fill in for an absent physician or to provide extra staff to a practice during peak visit seasons. For more detailed information and the history of the locum tenens model of practice, see: www.locumtenens.com/about/locum-tenens.aspx.

Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P)

A medically underserved area (MUA) may be a whole county or a group of contiguous counties; a group of county or civil divisions; or a group of urban census tracts that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has designated as having a shortage of health services for residents. Designations are based on the qualifications outlined in the Index of Medical Underservice (IMU), published in the Federal Register on October 15, 1976. A medically underserved population (MUP) may include groups of persons who face economic, cultural or linguistic barriers to health care. Designations are also based on the qualifications outlined in the Index of Medical Underservice (IMU), and exceptional MUP designations are based on the provisions of Public Law 99-280, enacted in 1986. For more information, see: www.hrsa.gov/shortage/mua/.

Metro Area

Metro areas in the AMA Health Workforce Mapper correspond to current metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), which are geographic entities defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and used by federal statistical agencies including the Census Bureau for the collection, tabulation and analysis of statistics. An MSA contains a core urban area with a population of 50,000 or more and consists of the county or counties containing the core urban area, as well as any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and

economic integration. The level of integration is measured by patterns of commuting to work. For more information on how MSAs are defined, as well as current definition files, see: www.census.gov/population/metro/.

Natural Breaks

Natural breaks distribution classifies data based on natural groupings inherent in the data. Class breaks are identified that best group similar values and that maximize the differences between classes. For example, if a user is mapping 30 states, 15 states with 0-1 values, 10 states with 16-18 values, and 5 state with 24-29 values, the "best" ranges are 0-1, 16-18, 24-29.

Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

Primary Care HPSAs are areas that have been designated as having a shortage of primary care providers. They must represent a rational service area for the delivery of primary medical care services, have high population to provider ratios and demonstrate that primary care providers in contiguous areas are over utilized, excessively distant, or inaccessible to the population under consideration. For more information see: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsas/index.html>

Primary Care Service Areas (PCSAs)

According to the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care, "Primary Care Service Areas (PCSAs) are the first national database of primary care resources and utilization for small areas. The current version of PCSAs is based on 2010 US Census Tracts to reflect Medicare patient primary care utilization. These geographic markets of primary care are linked to hundreds of measures relevant to improving the availability of primary care services." See <http://www.dartmouthatlas.org/keyissues/issue.aspx?con=4623> for more information.

Qualitative Color Scheme

In a qualitative color scheme, unique colors correspond to unique variables being mapped. This type of color scheme is best for variables that have no sequential or quantitative relationship, such as a map displaying the most common surname in each state. Each surname would have a unique color with no quantitative relation to the other colors on the map.

Quantile

The quantile system of distribution classifies the data being mapped into groups that contain the same number of values regardless of the distribution of the data. For example, if a user is mapping 20 records in four quantiles, there will most likely be five records in each category.

Quantitative Color Scheme

In a quantitative color scheme, a single gradation of colors corresponds to a sequential change in the values being mapped. For instance, if lighter colors correspond to lower values, darker colors correspond to higher values.

Rural Health Clinic (RHC)

The Rural Health Clinics (RHC) program was designed to increase access to primary care services for Medicare and Medicaid patients living in rural areas. RHCs can be public, private, or non-profit entities. RHCs must be located in underserved rural areas, as designated by HRSA, and must employ midlevel practitioners (i.e., physician assistants or nurse practitioners) alongside physicians as part of a team-based approach to patient care. For more information and a listing of RHCs from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, see: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/rural-health-clinics>.

Thematic representation

This type of representation shows all of the selected data for the area the user is mapping. The respective units of geography will be colored in gradations of colors depending on the color scheme and palette selected by the user.

Threshold representation

This type of representation allows the user to set a lower limit for a specified set of data and view only the regions that exceed that limit. Regions below the threshold value will appear in white on the AMA Health Workforce Mapper, indicating that there are no providers who meet the criteria in that region.

ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs)

ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) are generalized representations of US Postal Service ZIP Codes. Currently, each ZCTA is built by aggregating Census 2010 blocks, whose addresses use a given ZIP Code, into a ZCTA which gets that ZIP Code assigned as its ZCTA code. While in most instances the ZCTA code equals the ZIP Code for an area, not all ZIP Codes have their own ZCTA. For more information, see: www.census.gov/geo/reference/zctas.html.