

## HPSAs – Health Professional Shortage Areas

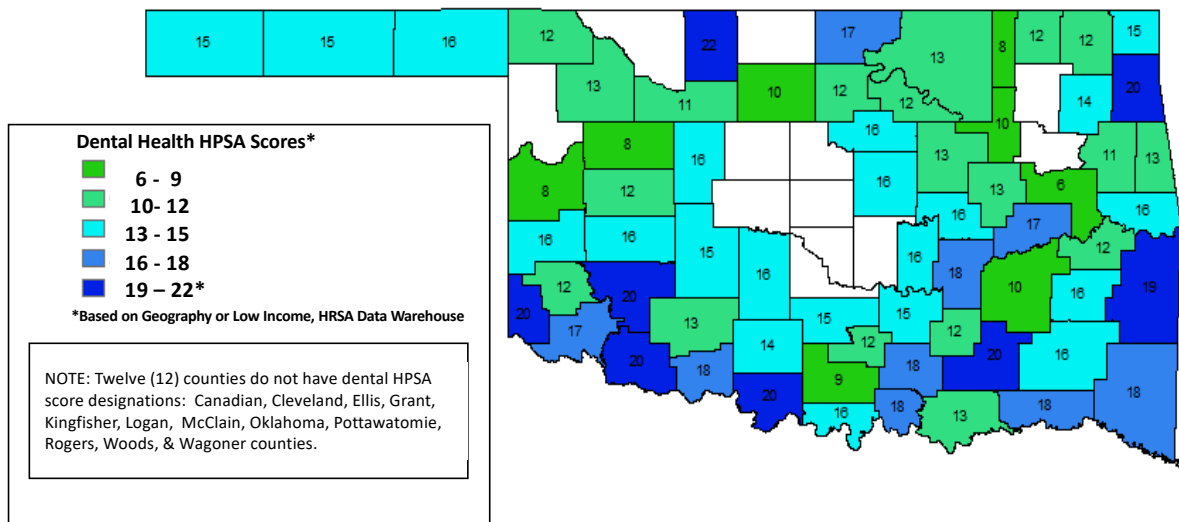
- Designation indicating a health provider shortage
- Dental HPSAs - regions where the number of dentists doesn't meet the federal government's standard of adequacy
- Score Range: 0 – 26.
- Higher numbers suggest higher comparative needs

# Rural Disparities in Oral Health Workforce

Access to dental providers is one of the most common factors cited as a cause of rural oral health disparities

- Provider challenges –
  - Unwillingness to live in rural regions
  - Capital needed to start rural practice
  - Retirements outpacing recruitments
  - Comparatively lower salary & revenues
  
- Patient challenges –
  - Poverty
  - Transportation
  - Uninsured/underinsured
  - Difficulty finding providers willing to treat uninsured or Medicaid

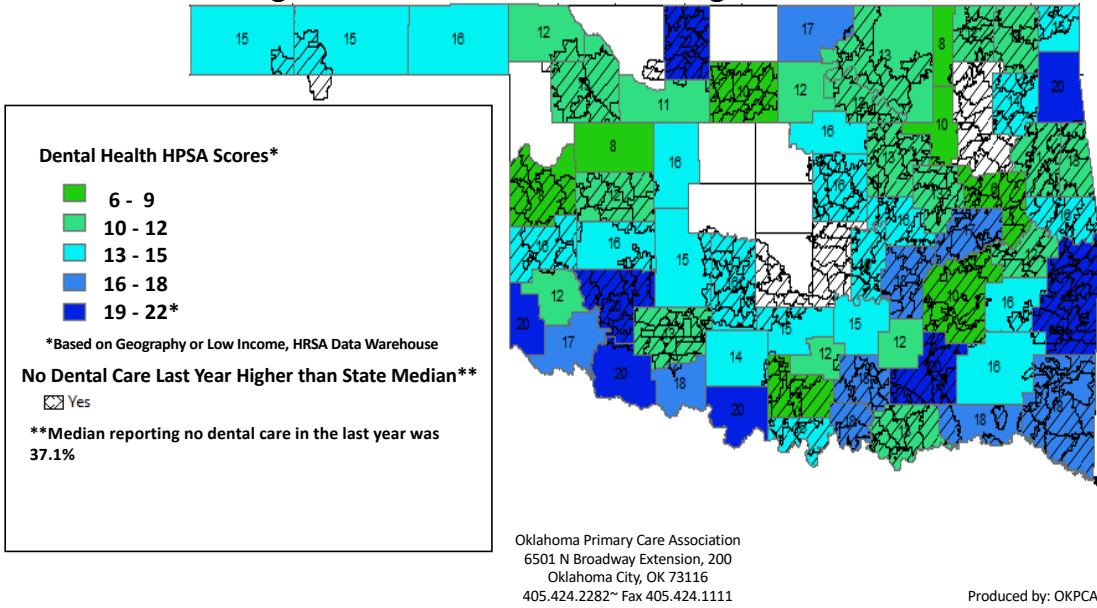
## Dental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Scores by County



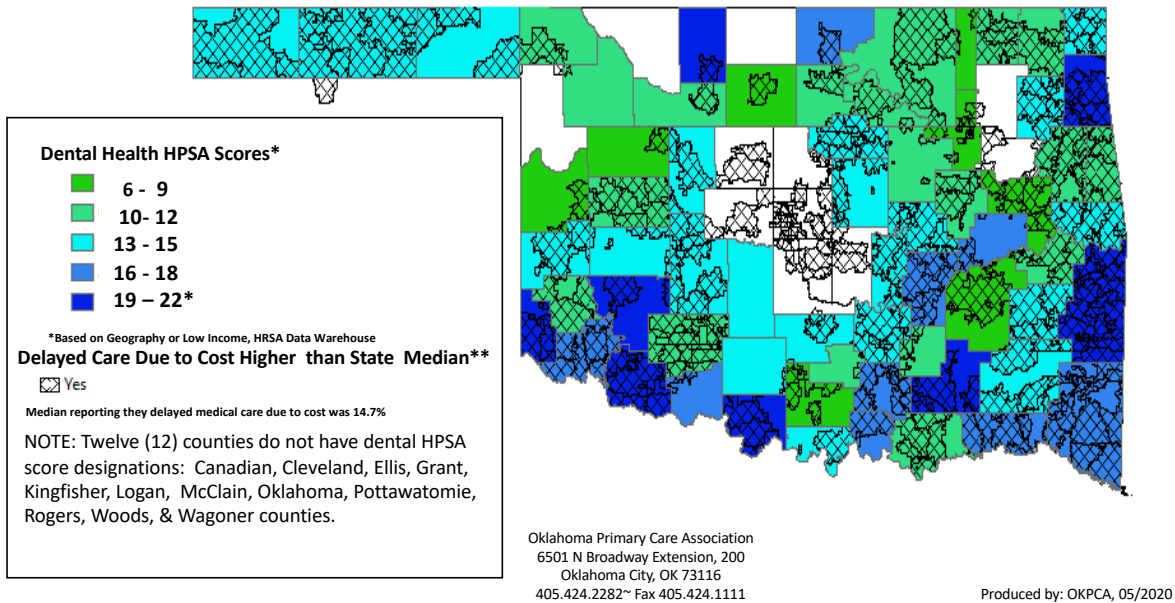
Oklahoma Primary Care Association  
 6501 N Broadway Extension, 200  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
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Produced by: OKPCA, 05/2020

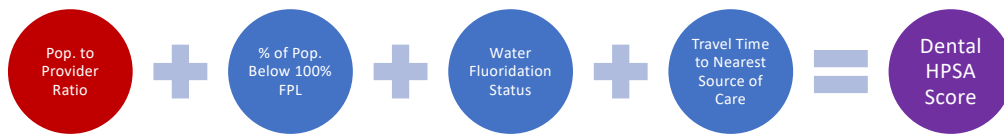
## Dental Health Professional Shortage Scores by County with Percentage No Dental Care Last Year Higher than State Median



## Dental Health Professional Shortage Scores by County with Percentage Delaying Care Due to Care Cost Higher than State Median



# D-HPSA Scoring: Population to Provider Ratio is Key



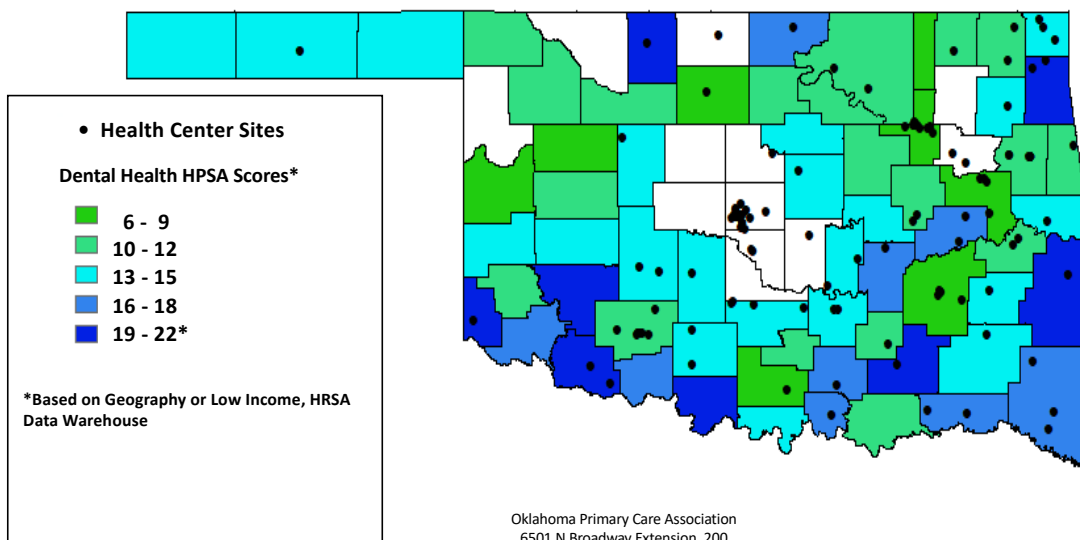
Includes –

- Dentists/auxiliaries in service area accepting Medicaid &/or sliding fee scale payments

Implications –

- Providers not accepting new Medicaid patients
- Providers making minimal number of Medicaid claims
- Urban Indian & tribal providers within service areas
- FQHC/CHC providers serving a disproportionality large number of uninsured

## Dental Health Professional Shortage Scores by County with Community Health Center Site Locations



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## National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Programs

- Dentists/hygienists receive loan repayment assistance in exchange for at least 2 years service at NHSC-approved site w/in HPSA
- General practice & pediatric dentistry only
- Limited funding – Only facilities above a given HPSA threshold qualify
  - Other high-need, lower scoring facilities are at a competitive disadvantage for recruiting
- OK Dental Loan Repayment Program - different program, similar intent

## Invitation for Further Conversation

- Scholarship and loan repayment programs
- Expanding the reach of dentists through teledentistry
  - Live patient/provider interactions
  - Asynchronous 'store & forward' teledentistry
- Mid-level dental providers
- Direct access to dental hygienists
- Preventive care services in non-traditional locations
- Roles coupling care navigation with preventive services