

Taking Rural into Account

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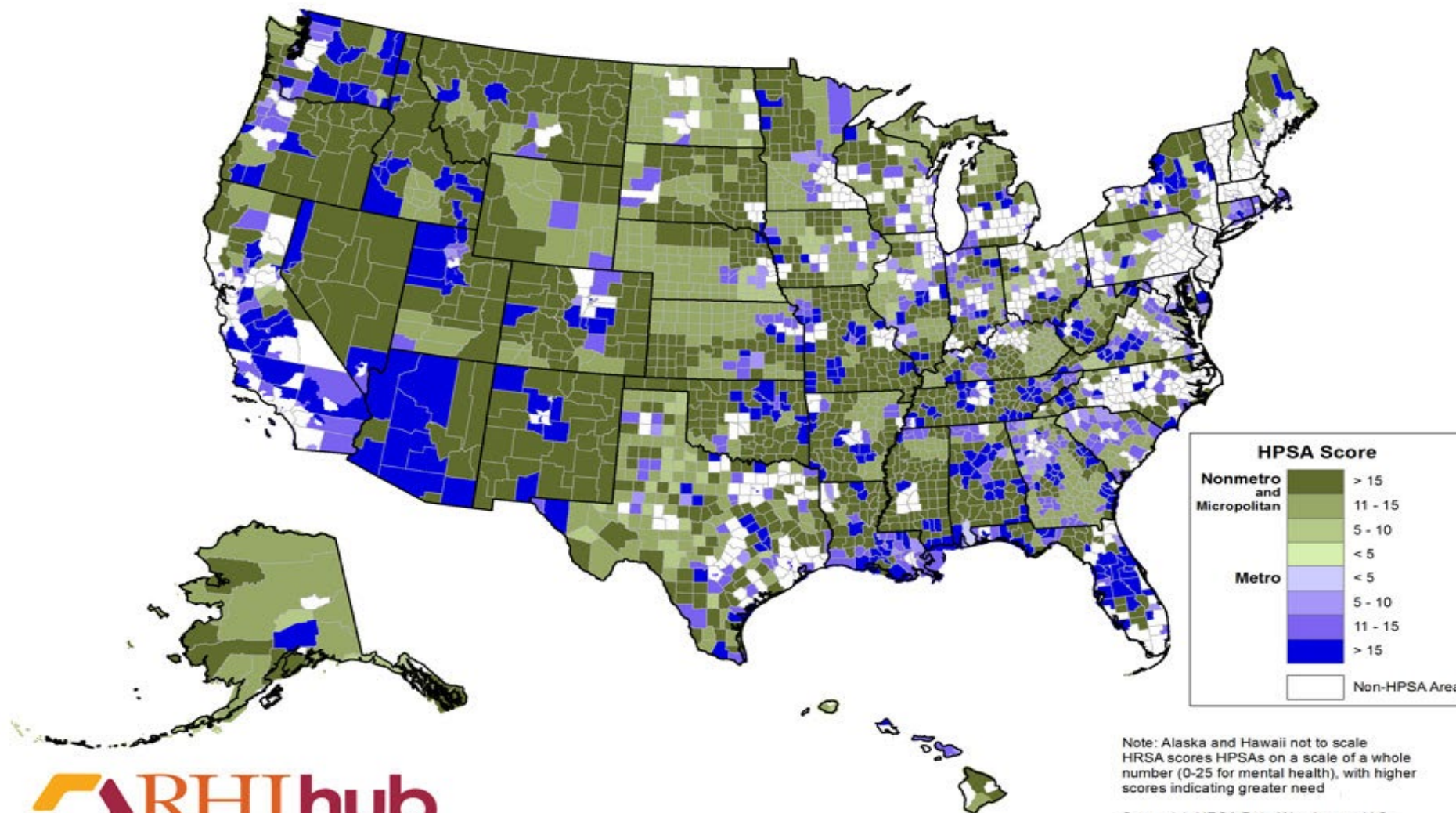


Glacier Bay, Alaska

Challenges and Opportunities

- As of September 30, 2020, HRSA had designated 3,363 Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas in rural areas. It is estimated that it would take 1,676 practitioners to remove the designations
- As many as half of all U.S. counties, all of them rural, have NO addiction treatment services
- The majority of rural areas are served by rescue squads, primarily volunteer, who have limited training in behavioral health crisis response
- Training existing rescue squad personnel as behavioral health first responders, and funding their capacity to respond, may be a more cost-effective mechanism to provide mobile response than creating separate systems., while adding revenue to EMS systems with limited resources

Health Professional Shortage Areas Mental Health



Note: Alaska and Hawaii not to scale
HPSA scores HPSAs on a scale of a whole number (0-25 for mental health), with higher scores indicating greater need

Source(s): HPSA Data Warehouse, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, November 2017



Rural Living Can Be Dangerous

