Assessing Service Area Status

Strategic Initiatives Division
Office of Policy and Program Development
Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People
Outline

• Overview of the Service Area Status (SAS)
  ▪ Measures and weights
  ▪ Measure groups
  ▪ Data sources
• Possible use cases for the SAS
• How to obtain SAS scores
• SAS for U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States
• Takeaways
Service Area Status (SAS) Overview

• Quantitative, standard way to understand health center service areas

• Describes the health, social, and economic status of communities served by health centers

• Leverages the Service Area Needs Assessment Methodology (SANAM) and the measures and data used in the calculation of the Unmet Need Score (UNS), which was used for the 2019 New Access Point (NAP) funding opportunity

• For a detailed discussion of the SAS, please see the UNS and SAS Resource Guide, available on HRSA’s Health Center Program Strategic Initiatives website
SAS Measures and Weights

• The SAS score is a weighted sum of measures leveraging the UNS 2.0 measure set
  ▪ Includes key measures of Health Determinants and Health Status

• Health Center Penetration is removed from the UNS 2.0 measure set for the SAS
  ▪ Focuses on status of the community
  ▪ Maintains relative weights of measures, after removing Health Center Penetration measure
Non-Access Measures

• Capture information about factors that impact health outside the pathway of access to health care

• Capture aspects of the built environment and social context that influence physical and mental wellbeing
Access Outcome Measures

• Capture information about healthcare utilization and the timeliness and outcome of care

• Access Outcome and Access Barrier measures capture multiple dimensions of health care access
  ▪ Important to Health Center Program’s mission to expand access to high-quality comprehensive care
Access Barrier Measures / Proxy Measures of Health Status

• Include social determinants of health that capture information on impediments to timely access to health care

• Six out of twelve measures
  ▪ Assess socioeconomic status – a well-established driver of health outcomes and health disparities
  ▪ Serve as proxy measures of health status

• Below 200% Federal Poverty Level and Uninsured have higher weights
  ▪ Reflects core mission of Health Center Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCESS BARRIER MEASURES</th>
<th>PROXY MEASURES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below 200% Federal Poverty Level</td>
<td>12.5</td>
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<td>Associate Degree or Higher</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<td>Housing Stress</td>
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<td>No High School Diploma</td>
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Direct Measures of Health Status

- Capture information about age-adjusted mortality and mortality from substance use disorders

- Includes key indicators of morbidity, drivers of health care costs, and top risk factors that lead to high burden of preventable mortality and morbidity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECT MEASURES</th>
<th>Measure Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>All Cause Mortality</td>
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<td>Drug Poisoning Mortality</td>
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<td>Obesity</td>
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<td>Smoking</td>
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Data Sources for Measures in the SAS

Most recent data available from each source was collected in December 2020 for the SAS
Possible SAS Use Cases

• Assess need for and provision of training and technical assistance
• Provide information to inform funding decisions
• Contextualize health center challenges and performance
• Provide context for acute public health emergencies
• Use as component of needs assessment for compliance requirement
• Serve as a public tool that can be utilized by external entities
Obtaining SAS Scores and Measure Values

• The SAS Workbook provides the SAS for any health center or look-alike (LAL) that reported patients in the 2020 UDS data

• The SAS score and underlying measure values are provided for core service areas
  ▪ The core service area for a health center or LAL is the minimum set of ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) in which at least 75% of the patient population resides

• The SAS Workbook can be downloaded from the Health Center Program Strategic Initiatives website
The SAS Workbook consists of three primary sheets:

1. **About the Workbook** describes the SAS and workbook’s contents
2. **View SAS Score** allows users to obtain the SAS for a health center or LAL
3. **SAS Output Interpretation** provides guidance on interpreting the SAS output

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**Service Area Status (SAS) Workbook**

This workbook displays the Service Area Status (SAS) for a **health center or health center look-alike**. The SAS provides a measure of the health, economic, and social status of health centers’ service areas. The score ranges from 0 to 100 with higher values indicating populations that face increased health, social, or economic disparities, relative to other communities.

**Figure 1** shows the measures used in the SAS and their relative weights for U.S. states and D.C. A complete set of weights for Puerto Rico, territories other than Puerto Rico, and Freely Associated States is given in the sheet **SAS Weights**.

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**Health Determinants**

- Limited Access to Healthy Foods
- Cervical Cancer Screening
- Violent Crime
- Dental Visit in Past Year
- Premature Births

**Health Status**

- Below 200% Federal Poverty Level
- Associate Degree or Higher
- Housing Stress
- No High School Diploma
- All Cause Mortality
- Drug Poisoning Mortality
- Asthma
- Diabetes
Obtaining a SAS Score for a Health Center or LAL

- On the **View SAS Score** sheet, enter the health center’s grant number or LAL number

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant or Look-Alike Number</th>
<th>Health Center or Look-Alike Name</th>
<th>ZCTA</th>
<th>Patient Count</th>
<th>Patient Weight</th>
<th>SAS Score</th>
<th>All-Cause Mortality Rate (Percentile)</th>
<th>Associate Degree or Higher (Percentile)</th>
<th>Asthma (Percentile)</th>
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<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Table 1. Health Center Service Area Status (SAS) Information</strong></td>
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Table 1 reports the overall SAS score along with SAS score and measure information for each ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) in the service area.
The SAS Output Interpretation sheet provides guidance for interpreting the output of Table 1.

### Column Interpretation:

- **Grant or Look-Alike Number:** Identifier for the health center.
- **Health Center or Look-Alike Name:** Name of the health center or look-alike.
- **ZCTA:** Zip Code Tabulation Area.
- **Patient Count:** Number of patients.
- **Patient Weight:** Weight assigned to each patient.
- **SAS Score:** Score assigned by the SAS software.
- **All-Cause Mortality Rate (Percentile):** Percentile rank for all-cause mortality.
- **Associate Degree or Higher (Percentile):** Percentile rank for associate degree or higher education.
- **Asthma (Percentile):** Percentile rank for asthma prevalence.

#### Example Explanation:

**Row 7:**
- **ZCTA:** Overall
- **Patient Count:** 1,000
- **Patient Weight:** 100.0%
- **SAS Score:** 73.7
- **All-Cause Mortality Rate (Percentile):** N/A
- **Associate Degree or Higher (Percentile):** 21.071
- **Asthma (Percentile):** 95.060

**Columns F and G:**
- **Row 7 Column F:** Overall SAS score for a health center.
- **Columns G through BV:** Percentiles and values for the measures used in calculating the ZCTA SAS. Percentiles of the measures appear first, then the values of the measures. See below for additional information on measures and percentiles.

**Note:** This example is hypothetical. Three contiguous ZCTAs were randomly selected and patient counts were assigned arbitrarily.

### Guidance for interpreting output:

- The ZCTAs reported are the core service area of a health center.
- The reported patient counts from the ZCTA are included in the ZCTA in Column C for the selected health center.
- The percentage of patients that came from the ZCTA is provided in Column C.
- Row 7 Column F is the overall SAS score for a health center. This is the Service Area Status (SAS) score. It is the summation of the patient population-based weighted scores (Row 8 and below Column F) for each ZCTA in the core service area.
SAS for U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States

• Limited measure data are available for U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States

• SAS calculations developed for health centers and look-alikes in Puerto Rico, the remaining U.S. Territories, and the Freely Associated States
  ▪ Based on available data
  ▪ Measures selected to align with key drivers of morbidity and mortality
SAS Measures and Weights for Puerto Rico

HEALTH DETERMINANTS

NON-ACCESS MEASURES
- Dental Visit in Past Year
- Pap Smear Screening
- Prev Hospital Stays

ACCESS OUTCOME MEASURES
- Below 200% Federal Poverty Level
- Associate Degree or Higher
- Housing Stress
- No High School Diploma
- Single Parent Household
- Unemployment
- Uninsured
- Broadband Access
- No Vehicle Access

ACCESS BARRIER MEASURES

HEALTH STATUS

PROXY MEASURES
- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Poor Mental Health
- Poor Physical Health
- Chlamydia
- Obesity
- Smoking

DIRECT MEASURES

Measure Weight

Socioeconomic Status Measure
SAS for U.S. Territories excluding Puerto Rico

- **Health Determinants**
  - **Non-Access Measures**
    - DTP3 Coverage: 10.4
    - Low Birthweight: 10.4
  - **Access Outcome Measures**
    - Below Poverty Level: 27.8
  - **Access Barrier Measures**
    - No High School Diploma: 10.4
    - Uninsured: 20.1

- **Health Status**
  - **Proxy Measures**
    - Life Expectancy: 4.2
    - Under 5 Mortality: 4.2
    - Diabetes: 4.2
  - **Direct Measures**
    - Obesity: 4.2
    - Smoking: 4.2

Socioeconomic Status Measure | Measure Weight
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**HRSA**
Health Center Program
SAS for the Freely Associated States

**HEALTH DETERMINANTS**
- **NON-ACCESS MEASURES**
  - DTP3 Coverage: 15.3
  - Low Birthweight: 15.3

- **ACCESS OUTCOME MEASURES**
  - Below Poverty Level: 33.3

- **ACCESS BARRIER MEASURES**
  - No High School Diploma: 15.3

**HEALTH STATUS**
- **PROXY MEASURES**
  - Life Expectancy: 4.2
  - Under 5 Mortality: 4.2
  - Diabetes: 4.2
  - Obesity: 4.2
  - Smoking: 4.2

**DIRECT MEASURES**

Socioeconomic Status Measure
Measure Weight

Health Center Program
Takeaways

• Quantitative way for health centers to understand the health, social, and economic status of communities they serve

• Composed of measures from public, reputable data sources

• SAS scores are available for all 50 states, District of Columbia, the U.S. Territories, and the Freely Associated States

• SAS scores are available in the SAS Workbook, available on the Health Center Program Strategic Initiatives website

• For additional, detailed information on the SAS, refer to the UNS and SAS Resource Guide, available on the Health Center Program Strategic Initiatives website
Thank You!

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Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

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