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Agenda Item 12: Severity of Areas of Unmet Need(AUN)

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June 2020 Song-Brown Policy Meeting

Project Background

- Originated from the Areas of Unmet Need (AUN) subcommittee.
 - Commissioners Bains and Flores.
 - Purpose: to explore a more effective method to measure primary care shortage areas.
- Commission voted to create a severity measure at the June 2019 policy meeting.
 - Maximum 5 bonus points for graduates.
 - Maximum 5 bonus points for training sites.

Project Purpose

Create a methodology to:

- Measure the severity of shortage in an AUN.
- Assign bonus points to applicants based on the severity of shortage in the AUNs where they place training sites and graduates.

Measuring Severity

- Severity is based on the population to provider (P2P) ratio. A lower ratio indicates greater severity of need.
- Example:

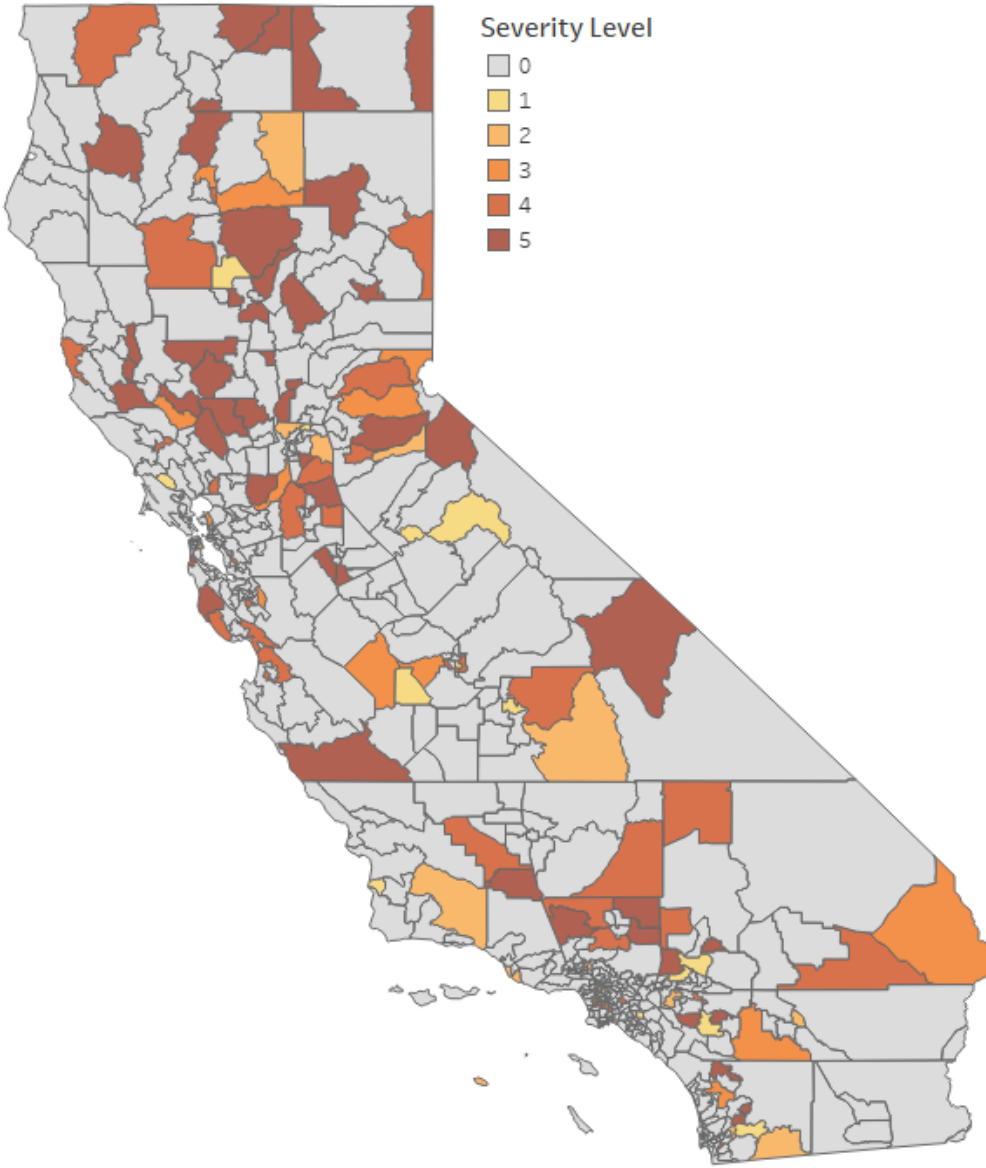
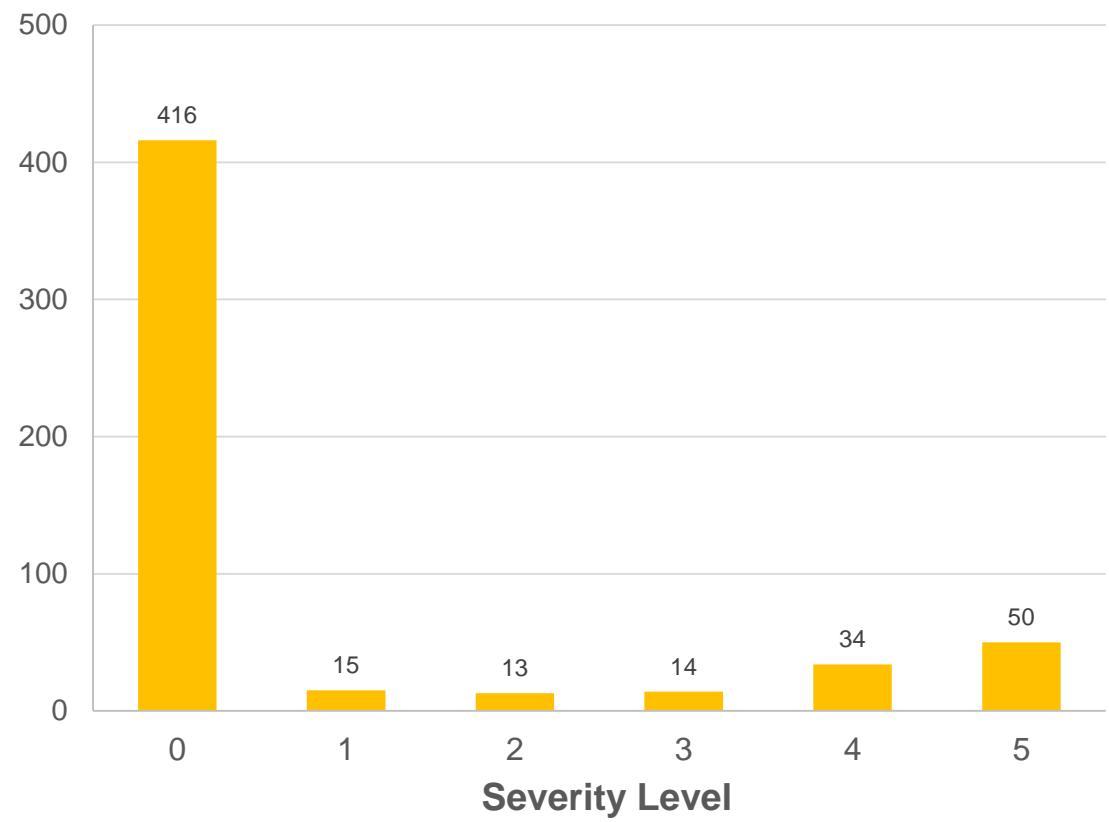
Area	Ratio	Severity Level
A	0.00040 (1:2,500)	Medium
B	0.00003 (1:4,000)	High
C	0.00200 (1:500)	Low

Severity Level

- A number that indicates an area's shortage severity.
- Based on the ratios used by the Health Resources Services Administration to designate Health Professional Shortage Areas.

Severity Level	P2P Ratio
0	1:3,000 or less
1	1:3,000 to 1:3,500
2	1:3,500 to 1:4,000
3	1:4,000 to 1:5,000
4	1:5,000 to 1:10,000
5	1:10,000 or more

Medical Service Study Area Distribution



Severity Index

- Overall measure of a program's presence in shortage areas.
 - The Graduate Severity Index is based on the location of a program's graduates' practice sites.
 - The Training Site Severity Index is based on the location of a program's training sites.

Graduate Severity Index Calculation

- Based on the number of graduates in each severity level multiplied by the respective severity level.

- Example:

Severity Level	# of Grads	Severity Level x Grads	Product
0	28	0 x 28	0
1	35	1 x 35	35
2	22	2 x 22	44
3	16	3 x 16	48
4	8	4 x 8	32
5	3	5 x 3	15
Total	112	--	174

- Graduate Severity Index: $174 / 112 = 1.55$

Training Site Severity Index Calculation

- Based on the number of training sites in each severity level multiplied by the respective severity level.

- Example:

Severity Level	# of Training Sites	Severity Level x Sites	Product
0	12	0 x 12	0
1	9	1 x 9	9
2	13	2 x 13	26
3	6	3 x 6	18
4	2	4 x 2	8
5	0	5 x 0	0
Total	42	--	61

- Training Site Severity Index: $61 / 42 = 1.45$

Scoring Severity Indices

- Step 1: Eliminate programs from consideration for bonus points:
 - That did not meet the 50% point cutoff.
 - With a severity index of 0 (i.e., a program with no graduates or training sites in an area with a severity score greater than 0).
- Step 2: Divide the remaining programs into five tiers.
- Step 3: Assign bonus points based on tier:
 - Top tier = 5 points
 - Second tier = 4 points
 - Third tier = 3 points
 - Fourth tier = 2 points
 - Fifth tier = 1 point

Scoring Severity Indices: 2019 PCR Analysis

Data Element	Value
# Receiving Any Bonus Points	36
<i># Receiving Graduate Bonus Points</i>	<i>29</i>
<i># Receiving Training Site Bonus Points</i>	<i>15</i>
Average Bonus Points Awarded	1.9
Average Total Points w/ Bonus (Average w/out = 68.3)	69.8
# Programs that Changed Tiers	26

Conclusions

- Total recommended funding might be minimally affected by adding severity bonus points.
- Programs with greater presence in severe shortage areas will receive more points and could be awarded more funding.

Transitional Program Impact

- Transitional programs would not qualify for graduate bonus points.
 - They do not have full set of graduate data.
- Possible considerations:
 - Adopt bonus point methodology as presented.
 - Only apply bonus point methodology to training site data.
 - Develop different scoring method for AUN severity.

Implementation Timeline

OSHDP staff can:

- Present alternative severity of shortage scoring methodology at upcoming Commission meetings (September 2020 or November 2020) in order to implement for the 2021 application cycle.
- Implement methodology as presented for the 2021 application cycle.
- Apply this methodology only to training site data and implement for the 2021 application cycle.