



Nevada Physician Workforce Supply and Shortages

John Packham, PhD and Tabor Griswold, PhD
Nevada Health Workforce Research Center
Office of Statewide Initiatives

April 2023

Figure 1 – Nevada Physician Workforce Rankings among US States

- Nevada's rank among U.S. states is currently 45th for active physicians per 100,000 population, 48th for primary care physicians per 100,000 population, and 49th for general surgeons per 100,000 population.
- 27.5% of active physicians in Nevada possess a medical degree from another country (rank of 8th among U.S. states), 32.2% are aged 60 or older (33th), and 29.8% are female (44th).
- Nevada currently ranks 24th among U.S. states for the number of undergraduate medical students per 100,000 population. However, Nevada ranks 41th for the number of residents and fellows per 100,000 population.
- Nevada ranks 21st among U.S. states as 39.8% of physicians who completed undergraduate medical education (UME) in Nevada and are actively practicing in Nevada.
- Nevada ranks 6th among U.S. states as 55.2% of physicians who completed graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada and are actively practicing in Nevada.
- Nevada ranks 8th among U.S. states with 76.9% of physicians completing both UME and GME in Nevada and are actively practicing in Nevada.

Figure 2 – Number of Licensed Physicians (MD and DO) per 100,000 Population in Nevada and the U.S.

- The current number of physicians per 100,000 population in Nevada is lower than the U.S. rate for most medical specialties (shaded in red) – exceptions include anesthesiology, emergency medicine, internal medicine, and occupational medicine (shaded in green).

- Similarly, the current number of physicians per 100,000 population in Clark County is lower than the U.S. rate for most medical specialties (shaded in red) – exceptions include anesthesiology, internal medicine, and occupational medicine (shaded in green).

Figure 3 – Number of Additional Physicians Needed to Meet National per Capita Rates by Specialty in Clark County and Nevada

- Based on a rate of 225.6 physicians per 100,000 population, Nevada would need an additional 2,450 physicians to meet the national rate of 301.7 physicians per 100,000 population.
- Similarly, based on a rate 217.0 physicians per 100,000 population, Clark County would need an additional 2,005 physicians to meet the national rate of 301.7 physicians per 100,000 population.
- To meet the national average by medical specialty, Nevada would need an additional 95 cardiovascular disease specialists, 120 medical oncologists, 171 obstetrician/gynecologists, 561 pediatricians, and 88 psychiatrists for these specialty areas.
- Similarly, Clark County would need an additional 73 cardiovascular disease specialists, 92 medical oncologists, 131 obstetrician/gynecologists, 388 pediatricians, and 75 psychiatrists to meet national rates for these specialty areas.

Figures 4 to 6 – Number and Percent of County Population in Nevada Residing in Health Professional Shortage Areas by County in Nevada

- Currently, an estimated 2,282,125 Nevadans or 69.7% of the state’s population reside in a federally-designated primary medical care health professional shortage area (HPSA) – 12 of 17 counties in Nevada are single-county primary medical care HPSAs.
- In 2023, an estimated 247,084 residents of rural and frontier Nevada (81.6% of the population) live in a primary medical care health professional shortage area (HPSA) – 11 of 14 rural and frontier counties in Nevada are single-county primary medical care HPSAs.
- Currently, 2.85 million Nevadans or 86.9% of the state’s population reside in a federally designated mental health professional shortage area (HPSA) – 15 of 17 counties in Nevada are single-county mental HPSAs.
- In 2023, an estimated 302,794 residents of rural and frontier Nevada (100% of the population) live in a mental health professional shortage area (HPSA) – 14 of 14 rural and frontier counties in Nevada are single-county mental HPSA.
- In Clark County, an estimated 1.55 million residents live in a primary care HPSA (64.5% of the county population) – 2 million residents live in a mental HPSA (84.3% of the population).

Figure 1: Nevada's Physician Workforce Rankings – 2010 to 2020

Physician Workforce Indicators	2010			2020		
	Rank	Nevada	U.S.	Rank	Nevada	U.S.
Physician Workforce Supply in Nevada						
Physicians per 100,000 Population	45	198.3	258.7	45	218.5	286.5
Patient Care Physicians per 100,000 Population	44	178.1	219.5	48	190.2	247.5
Primary Care Physicians per 100,000 Population	46	71.2	90.5	48	73.5	94.4
Patient Care Primary Care Physicians per 100,000 Population	46	63.7	79.4	48	65.9	84.5
General Surgeons per 100,000 Population	*	*	*	49	5.7	7.6
Patient Care General Surgeons per 100,000 Population	*	*	*	50	5.0	6.6
Female Physicians (%)	44	25.0%	30.4%	44	29.8%	36.7%
Physicians with International Medical Degree (%)	7	27.9%	24.0%	8	27.5%	24.7%
Physicians Aged 60 or Older (%)	30	24.5%	24.7%	33	32.2%	33.7%
Physicians Who Identify as Asian	*	*	*	4	23.9%	19.1%
Physicians Who Identify as Black or African American	*	*	*	17	5.0%	5.3%
Physicians Who Identify as Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish Origin	*	*	*	6	5.3%	5.4%
Physicians Who Identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native	*	*	*	20	0.5%	0.4%
Physicians Who Identify as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	*	*	*	3	0.5%	0.2%
Physicians Who Identify as White (Alone or in Combination)	*	*	*	41	75.5%	59.1%
Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) in Nevada						
Student Enrollment per 100,000 Population	21	29.4	31.4	24	37.7	37.9
10-year Student Enrollment in Public Schools per 100,000 Pop	37	9.4	16.3	39	9.4	18.7
Change in Student Enrollment over Ten Years (%)	1	273.7%	22.9%	14	48.5%	30.2%
Instate Matriculating to a MD-Granting Institution (%)	21	68.4%	62.7%	38	41.2%	60.2%
Graduate Medical Education (GME) in Nevada						
Residents & Fellows per 100,000 Population	46	10.5	35.8	41	27.9	43.8
Residents & Fellows Primary Care Programs per 100,000 Pop	46	6.5	13.4	23	13.5	16.1
Residents & Fellows with an International Medical Degree (%)	5	43.0%	27.4%	17	22.2%	23.0%
Ratio of GME to UME, Academic Year 2017-2018	45	0.42	1.21	34	0.7	1.2
Change in Number of Residents & Fellows (%)	1	77.8%	15.3%	2	199.7%	27.2%
Retention from UME and GME Programs in Nevada						
Physicians Retained from UME & Active in State (%)	22	39.2%	38.6%	21	39.8%	38.2%
Physicians Retained from Public UME & Active in State (%)	30	39.2%	46.8%	33	38.2%	46.0%
Physicians Retained from GME & Active in State (%)	6	57.8%	47.4%	6	55.2%	47.6%
Physicians Retained from UME and GME & Active in State (%)	4	80.0%	66.2%	8	76.9%	67.5%

Source: Association of American Medical Colleges (2011, 2021).

Figure 2: Number of Licensed Physicians (MD and DO) per 100,000 Population in Nevada – 2022

Specialty	Carson City	Churchill	Clark	Douglas	Elko	Esmeralda	Eureka	Humboldt	Lander	Lincoln	Lyon	Mineral	Nye	Pershing	Storey	Washoe	White Pine	Nevada	United States
Allergy & Immunology	-	-	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	-	0.6	1.3
Anesthesiology	15.7	-	15.9	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24.0	9.5	15.7	14.8
Cardiovascular Diseases	12.2	-	6.0	2.0	7.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	8.5	-	6.1	9.1
Child / Adolescent Psychiatry	-	-	0.5	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	-	0.7	2.9
Colon / Rectal Surgery	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	0.1	0.6
Dermatology	12.2	-	2.0	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0	-	-	5.6	-	2.8	4.4
Diagnostic Radiology	13.9	3.7	6.8	8.0	1.8	-	-	5.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.5	-	6.6	7.7
Emergency Medicine	31.3	11.2	15.3	54.9	5.5	-	-	5.7	16.0	-	6.8	-	8.0	14.1	-	28.6	19.1	17.7	15.6
Family Medicine	40.0	33.6	26.6	37.9	21.8	-	-	45.6	64.0	58.9	16.9	20.4	14.1	56.6	-	48.4	76.4	30.3	32.3
FM-Subspecialties	-	-	0.5	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.2	-	0.7	1.1
Gastroenterology	7.0	-	2.7	-	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.2	-	2.9	4.8
General Practice	-	-	1.1	2.0	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	1.7	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	1.0	1.5
General Surgery	15.7	14.9	8.8	4.0	9.1	-	-	5.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.1	28.6	8.9	12.2
Internal Medicine	47.0	14.9	44.3	26.0	10.9	96.6	-	17.1	-	-	3.4	20.4	6.0	-	22.3	51.4	28.6	42.4	36.9
IM-Subspecialties	8.7	-	8.9	6.0	5.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.9	-	9.2	14.3
Medical Genetics	1.7	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	0.1	0.2
Medical Oncology	5.2	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	4.8	-	3.1	20.1
Neurology	3.5	-	4.5	2.0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.0	-	4.2	6.3
Nuclear Medicine	1.7	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.3
Neurological Surgery	1.7	-	0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.8	-	1.1	2.0
Obstetrics / Gynecology	57.7	51.1	27.6	4.7	25.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.1	-	-	34.9	31.1	27.8	33.1
OBG-Subspecialties	-	-	1.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.6	-	1.6	1.9
Occupational Medicine	5.2	-	0.6	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	1.6	-	0.8	0.4
Ophthalmology	7.0	-	4.1	-	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.9	-	4.3	5.7
Orthopaedics	26.1	3.7	6.1	20.0	7.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.3	-	7.2	8.6
Otolaryngology	12.2	-	1.8	-	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0	-	2.2	3.4
Pathology, Anatomic	5.2	-	2.8	4.0	3.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0	-	2.9	4.4
Pathology, Forensic	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	0.3	0.2
Pediatrics	123.7	31.5	55.0	46.9	51.4	-	-	22.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66.1	-	55.0	72.4
PD-Subspecialties	-	-	14.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21.4	-	13.8	35.2
Pediatric Cardiology	-	-	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	0.9
Physical Medicine & Rehab	7.0	-	1.9	6.0	3.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.8	9.5	2.6	5.1
Plastic Surgery	-	-	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	1.6	2.5
Psychiatry	8.7	-	8.7	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.7	-	-	-	-	15.9	-	9.0	11.7
Public Health & Gen Prev Med	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	0.4	0.8
Pulmonary Diseases	5.2	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.4	-	2.1	4.5
Radiology	5.2	-	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0	-	2.4	3.8
Radiation Oncology	5.2	-	0.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	1.0	1.7
Thoracic Surgery	1.7	-	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	1.0	1.3
Urology / Surgery	8.7	-	1.8	-	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.2	9.5	2.0	3.5
Other Specialties	10.4	-	4.1	-	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	1.7	-	-	-	-	4.4	-	3.9	13.9
Totals	372.5	108.2	217.0	197.7	107.4	96.6	-	91.3	80.0	58.9	32.2	40.9	40.2	70.7	22.3	329.4	191.0	225.6	301.7

Source: Unpublished data from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (July 2022) and Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine (2022).
 Licensed physicians per 100,000 population in Nevada utilize 2022 population estimates developed by the Nevada State Demographer's Office (2022).
 Obstetrician rates per 100,000 females over age 18 in Nevada utilize 2022 population estimates developed by the Nevada State Demographer's Office (2022).
 Pediatrician rates per 100,000 children under age 18 utilize 2022 population estimates developed by the Nevada State Demographer's Office (2022).

Figure 3: Number of Additional Physicians Needed to Meet National per Capita Rates by Specialty in Clark County and Nevada – 2022

Specialty	Number of Physicians (MD and DO) per 100,000 Population			Number of Physicians Needed to Meet the National Average	
	Clark County	Nevada	U.S.	Clark County	Nevada
Allergy & Immunology	0.5	0.6	1.3	20	23
Anesthesiology	15.9	15.7	14.8	(27)	(32)
Cardiovascular Diseases	6.0	6.1	9.1	73	95
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	0.5	0.7	2.9	56	70
Colon & Rectal Surgery	0.1	0.1	0.6	11	16
Dermatology	2.0	2.8	4.4	57	53
Diagnostic Radiology	6.8	6.6	7.7	22	36
Emergency Medicine	15.3	17.7	15.6	7	(67)
Family Medicine	26.7	30.3	32.3	136	64
FM-Subspecialties	0.5	0.7	1.1	15	12
Gastroenterology	2.7	2.9	4.8	50	60
General Practice	1.1	1.0	1.5	10	16
General Surgery	8.8	8.9	12.2	81	106
Internal Medicine	44.3	42.4	36.9	(174)	(176)
IM-Subspecialties	8.9	9.2	14.3	128	166
Medical Genetics	0.0	0.1	0.2	4	4
Medical Oncologists	3.0	3.1	20.1	92	120
Neurology	4.5	4.2	6.3	43	68
Nuclear Medicine	0.1	0.1	0.3	5	6
Neurological Surgery	0.9	1.1	2.0	26	29
Obstetrics / Gynecology	27.6	27.8	33.1	131	171
OBG-Subspecialties	1.7	1.6	1.9	5	8
Occupational Medicine	0.6	0.8	0.4	(3)	(13)
Ophthalmology	4.1	4.3	5.7	37	47
Orthopaedics	6.1	7.2	8.6	59	46
Otolaryngology	1.8	2.2	3.4	38	39
Pathology, Anatomic	1.7	1.6	2.5	18	29
Pathology, Forensic	2.8	2.9	4.4	38	49
Pediatrics	55.0	55.0	72.4	413	561
PD-Subspecialties	14.0	13.8	35.2	501	688
Pediatric Cardiology	0.5	0.4	0.9	9	16
Physical Medicine and Rehab	1.9	2.6	5.1	75	80
Plastic Surgery	1.8	1.6	2.5	16	27
Psychiatry	8.5	8.9	11.7	75	88
Public Health & Gen Prev Med	0.4	0.4	0.8	9	12
Pulmonary Diseases	2.0	2.1	4.5	57	75
Radiology	2.3	2.4	3.8	35	44
Radiation Oncology	0.8	1.0	1.7	20	21
Thoracic Surgery	1.1	1.0	1.3	5	11
Urology / Surgery	1.8	2.0	3.5	41	48
Other Specialties	4.1	3.9	13.9	233	322
Totals	217.0	225.6	301.7	2,005	2,450

Source: Unpublished data from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (2022) and Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine (July 2022). Licensed physicians per 100,000 population in Nevada utilize 2022 population estimates developed by the Nevada State Demographer's Office (2022). Licensed physicians per 100,000 population in Nevada are based on the AMA Type of Physician Specialty report and United States census data to calculate the U.S. rates.

Figure 4: Number and Percent of Population Residing in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) by County in Nevada – 2023

Region/County	Population Residing in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)						Population
	Primary Medical Care HPSAs		Dental HPSAs		Mental HPSAs		
	Number	Percent of Population	Number	Percent of Population	Number	Percent of Population	
Rural and Frontier							
Churchill County	27,271	100.0	27,271	100.0	27,271	100.0	27,271
Douglas County	32,483	64.3	37,977	75.2	50,490	100.0	50,490
Elko County	21,951	39.7	36,673	66.3	55,314	100.0	55,314
Esmeralda County	1,053	100.0	1,053	100.0	1,053	100.0	1,053
Eureka County	2,032	100.0	2,032	100.0	2,032	100.0	2,032
Humboldt County	13,477	75.6	13,477	75.6	17,817	100.0	17,817
Lander County	6,315	100.0	6,315	100.0	6,315	100.0	6,315
Lincoln County	4,999	100.0	4,999	100.0	4,999	100.0	4,999
Lyon County	59,832	100.0	59,832	100.0	59,832	100.0	59,832
Mineral County	4,958	100.0	4,958	100.0	4,958	100.0	4,958
Nye County	50,316	100.0	50,316	100.0	50,316	100.0	50,316
Pershing County	7,160	100.0	7,160	100.0	7,160	100.0	7,160
Storey County	4,593	100.0	4,593	100.0	4,593	100.0	4,593
White Pine County	10,644	100.0	10,644	100.0	10,644	100.0	10,644
Rural Subtotal	247,084	81.6	267,300	88.3	302,794	100.0	302,794
Urban							
Carson City	57,787	100.0	57,787	100.0	57,787	100.0	57,787
Clark County	1,555,530	64.5	1,397,820	58.0	2,030,796	84.3	2,409,815
Washoe County	421,724	83.4	424,246	83.9	456,357	90.2	505,821
Urban Subtotal	2,035,041	68.4	1,879,853	63.2	2,544,940	85.6	2,973,423
Nevada – Total	2,282,125	69.7	2,147,153	65.5	2,847,734	86.9	3,276,217

Sources: Office of Statewide Initiatives analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau (2022), Health Resources Services Administration (2022) and Nevada State Demographer’s Office (2022a).

Figure 5: Primary Medical Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in Nevada – 2023

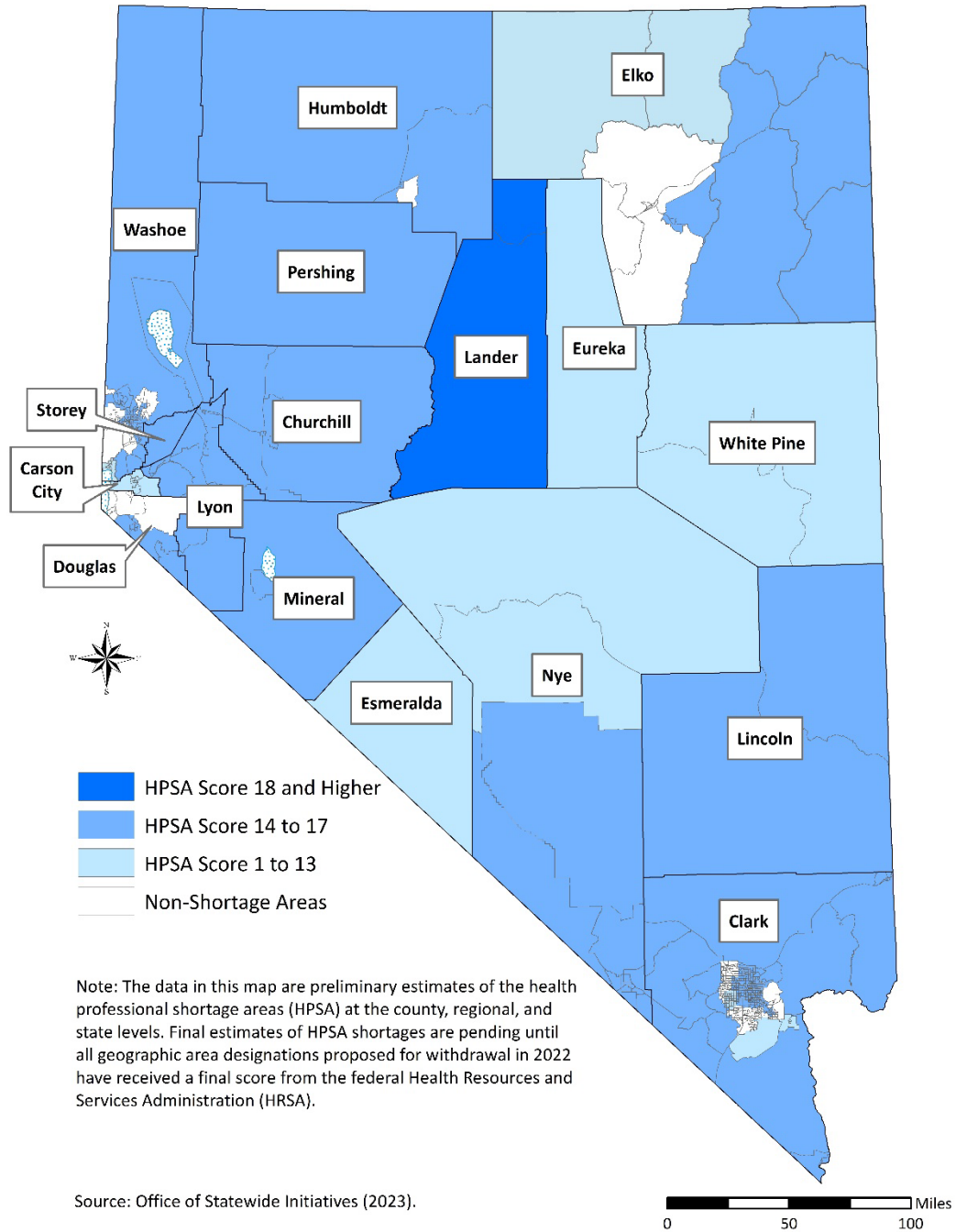
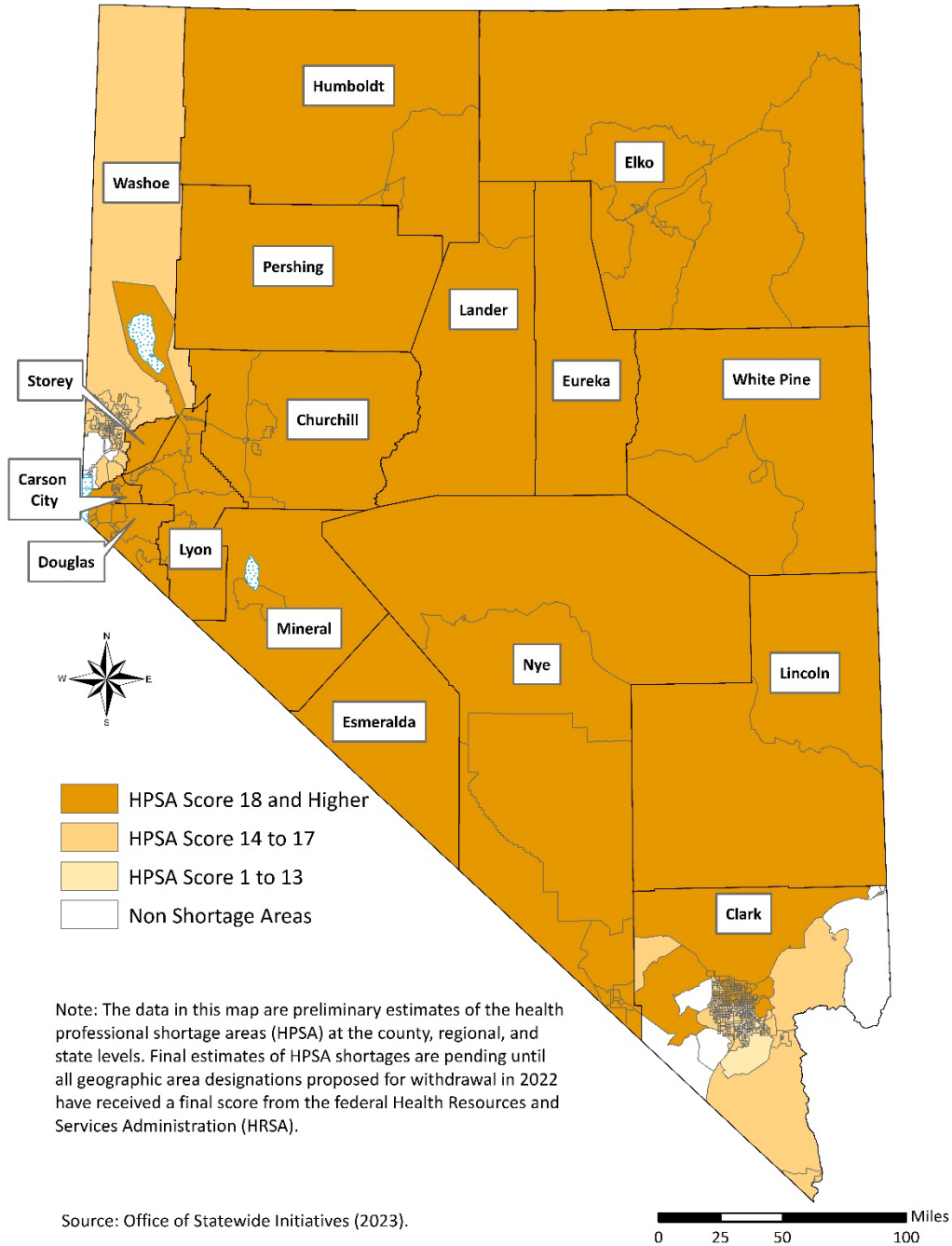


Figure 6: Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in Nevada – 2023





NEVADA HEALTH
WORKFORCE
RESEARCH CENTER