



DATA BRIEF • March 2016

Primary Care Service Areas in South Carolina

Background

This project was developed in collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Primary Care Office in order to identify primary care market areas and resources within South Carolina. Primary Care Service Areas (PCSAs) are designed to identify small geographic areas that are relatively self-contained markets for primary care. The 95 PCSAs identified in our analysis were developed using de-identified 2013 billing data from the South Carolina State Employee Health Plan to identify patient travel patterns for ambulatory non-consultative primary care services. The State Employee Health Plan is the largest private insurance plan in the state, covering approximately 550,000 lives.

Methods and Data Sources

We applied the PCSA methodology developed by Dartmouth University researchersⁱ which links the geographic location of primary care providers with the residential location of people obtaining primary care services from those provider locations. State Employee Health Plan beneficiaries identified as receiving primary care services from a qualified provider were grouped together by their residential ZIP Code. Within each ZIP Code area the data was subdivided by the ZIP Code areas of the providers seen during those visits and then the number of visits were summed and standardized. The service areas were created by identifying the provider area visited most often by people living in a specific residential area. This process creates clusters of geographic areas based on provider location ZIP Code areas with the associated patient residential ZIP Code areas.

Results

While the majority of the service areas created were based on where the population received care, in a few cases the boundary of a PCSA was influenced by the culture or history of an area which was obtained through in-depth consultation with the South Carolina DHEC Primary Care Office. In these cases one or more PCSAs were combined, or a larger service area was divided to create two or more separate PCSAs. Because the PCSAs we have identified in this analysis are based on the patient travel patterns and the practice location of primary care physicians in 2013, PCSA geographic areas may be different in the future as travel patterns and provider locations change.



[Click here to see the full map and access the resource information.](#)

Each Zip Code in South Carolina is encompassed in a Primary Care Service Area. Click on the link above to see the PCSA map. The map also includes a summary report of population characteristics, health status indicators and primary care provider resources available in each of the PCSAs. To see the characteristics of a specific PCSA click on that area of the map. A list of Zip Codes and the name of the associated PCSA can be found at the end of this report. By linking information about community characteristics to each PCSA we hope this information will be useful for needs and policy assessment projects related to primary care resources in South Carolina.

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Data sources:

Information on population characteristics, health status indicators and community resource measures used in the PCSA needs assessment came from the American Community Survey (the 2013 ZCTA Summary data file) and the U.S. Census Office (2010 population figures).

Information about primary care providers practicing in each PCSA was drawn from professional licensure files available in South Carolina which contain detailed information about clinical specialty, practice setting type and location, and hours worked per week.

Data used to calculate hospital discharge rates and ER visit rates for South Carolina citizens was provided by the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Health and Demographics Section. Information about low birth weight births was provided by the Biostatistics Division of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

For more detailed information on the South Carolina Primary Care Service Area needs Assessment please contact the Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning.

ⁱ Goodman et al. Primary Care Service Areas: a New Tool for the Evaluation of Primary Care Services. *Health Services Research* 2003; 38: 287 – 309.

ZIP CODE	PCSA	ZIP CODE	PCSA	ZIP CODE	PCSA	ZIP CODE	PCSA	ZIP CODE	PCSA
28277	Charlotte NC	29160	Swansea	29424	Mount Pleasant	29580	Georgetown	29714	Rock Hill
28352	Laurinburg NC	29161	Florence	29426	Charleston	29581	Mullins	29715	Rock Hill
29001	Manning	29162	Turbeville	29429	Mount Pleasant	29582	North Myrtle Beach	29717	Western York County
29003	Bamberg	29163	Orangeburg	29431	Moncks Corner	29583	Pamplico	29718	Jefferson
29006	Lexington	29164	Aiken	29432	Branchville	29584	Hartsville	29720	Lancaster
29009	Camden	29166	Saluda	29434	Moncks Corner	29585	Pawleys Island	29724	Rock Hill
29010	Bishopville	29168	Sumter	29435	Walterboro	29588	Murrells Inlet / Socastee	29726	Rock Hill
29014	Chester	29169	Columbia	29436	Moncks Corner	29590	Kingstree	29727	Cheraw
29015	Winnsboro	29170	West Columbia	29437	Summerville	29591	Lower Florence	29728	Pageland
29016	Columbia	29172	West Columbia	29438	Edisto Island	29592	Dillon	29729	Rock Hill
29018	Orangeburg	29175	Camden	29439	James Island	29593	Society Hill	29730	Rock Hill
29020	Camden	29178	Whitmire	29440	Georgetown	29594	Laurinburg NC	29732	Rock Hill
29030	Orangeburg	29180	Winnsboro	29445	North Charleston	29596	Cheraw	29733	Rock Hill
29031	Union	29201	Columbia	29446	Walterboro	29601	Greenville	29741	Cheraw
29032	Camden	29202	Columbia	29448	Saint George	29605	Greenville	29742	Western York County
29033	Columbia	29203	Columbia	29449	Ravenel / Hollywood	29607	Greenville	29743	Western York County
29036	Chapin	29204	Columbia	29450	Mount Pleasant	29609	Greenville	29745	Western York County
29037	Greenwood	29205	Columbia	29451	Mount Pleasant	29611	Greenville	29801	Aiken
29038	Orangeburg	29206	Columbia	29452	Walterboro	29613	Greenville	29803	Aiken
29039	Orangeburg	29207	Columbia	29453	Moncks Corner	29614	Greenville	29805	Aiken
29040	Sumter	29208	Columbia	29455	James Island	29615	Greenville	29809	Aiken
29042	Bamberg	29209	Columbia	29456	North Charleston	29617	Greenville	29810	Fairfax / Allendale
29044	Columbia	29210	Irmo / Dutchfork	29458	Mount Pleasant	29620	Abbeville	29812	Barnwell
29045	Blythewood	29212	Irmo / Dutchfork	29461	Moncks Corner	29621	Anderson	29816	North Augusta
29046	Bishopville	29223	Blythewood	29464	Mount Pleasant	29624	Anderson	29817	Barnwell
29047	Elloree	29225	Columbia	29466	Mount Pleasant	29625	Anderson	29819	Greenwood
29048	Orangeburg	29229	Blythewood	29468	Moncks Corner	29626	Anderson	29821	Evans GA
29051	Sumter	29301	Spartanburg	29469	Moncks Corner	29627	Anderson	29824	Edgefield
29052	Columbia	29302	Spartanburg	29470	Ravenel/ Hollywood	29628	Greenwood	29826	Aiken
29053	West Columbia	29303	Spartanburg	29471	Saint George	29630	Clemson	29827	Fairfax / Allendale
29054	Lexington	29303	Spartanburg	29472	Summerville	29631	Clemson	29828	Aiken
29055	Chester	29306	Spartanburg	29474	Walterboro	29634	Clemson	29829	North Augusta
29056	Manning	29307	Spartanburg	29475	Walterboro	29635	Greenville	29831	Augusta GA
29058	Lancaster	29316	Spartanburg	29477	Saint George	29638	Due West	29832	Edgefield
29059	Holly Hill	29320	Spartanburg	29479	Moncks Corner	29639	Due West	29834	Aiken
29061	Columbia	29321	Union	29481	Walterboro	29640	Easley	29835	Mc Cormick
29062	Irmo / Dutchfork	29322	Spartanburg	29482	Mount Pleasant	29642	Powdersville	29836	Fairfax / Allendale
29063	Irmo / Dutchfork	29323	Spartanburg	29483	Summerville	29643	Seneca	29838	Edgefield
29065	Peak	29324	Spartanburg	29485	Ladson	29644	Simpsonville	29840	Greenwood
29067	Camden	29325	Laurens / Clinton	29487	Mount Pleasant	29645	Laurens/ Clinton	29841	North Augusta
29069	Darlington	29329	Spartanburg	29488	Walterboro	29646	Greenwood	29842	North Augusta
29070	Lexington	29330	Spartanburg	29492	Mount Pleasant	29649	Greenwood	29843	Barnwell
29072	Lexington	29331	Spartanburg	29493	Walterboro	29650	Greenville	29844	Edgefield
29073	Lexington	29332	Greenwood	29501	Florence	29651	Greenville	29845	Mc Cormick
29074	Lugoff	29333	Spartanburg	29505	Florence	29653	Greenwood	29847	Edgefield
29075	Chapin	29334	Spartanburg	29506	Florence	29654	Anderson	29848	Greenwood
29078	Lugoff	29335	Spartanburg	29510	Georgetown	29655	Anderson	29849	Barnwell
29079	Hartsville	29338	Spartanburg	29511	Aynor	29657	Easley	29850	Aiken
29080	Sumter	29340	Gaffney	29512	Bennettsville	29658	Seneca	29851	Aiken
29081	Bamberg	29341	Gaffney	29516	Bennettsville	29659	Anderson	29853	Barnwell
29082	Walterboro	29346	Spartanburg	29518	Lower Florence	29661	Travelers Rest	29856	Aiken
29101	Hartsville	29349	Spartanburg	29519	Aynor	29662	Greenville	29860	North Augusta
29102	Manning	29351	Laurens / Clinton	29520	Cheraw	29664	Seneca	29899	Mc Cormick
29104	Sumter	29353	Spartanburg	29525	Bennettsville	29665	Seneca	29902	Beaufort
29105	Lexington	29355	Newberry	29526	Conway	29666	Greenwood	29904	Beaufort
29107	Orangeburg	29356	Landrum	29527	Conway	29667	Easley	29905	Beaufort
29108	Newberry	29360	Laurens / Clinton	29530	Lower Florence	29669	Greenville	29906	Beaufort
29111	Manning	29364	Union	29532	Darlington	29670	Anderson	29907	Beaufort
29112	Swansea	29365	Spartanburg	29536	Dillon	29671	Easley	29909	Bluffton
29113	Orangeburg	29368	Spartanburg	29540	Darlington	29672	Seneca	29910	Bluffton
29114	Lower Florence	29369	Spartanburg	29541	Florence	29673	Greenville	29911	Hampton / Varnville
29115	Orangeburg	29370	Laurens / Clinton	29543	Dillon	29676	Seneca	29912	Walterboro
29115	Orangeburg	29372	Spartanburg	29544	Aynor	29678	Seneca	29915	Bluffton
29117	Orangeburg	29373	Spartanburg	29545	Loris	29680	Simpsonville	29916	Hampton / Varnville
29118	Orangeburg	29374	Spartanburg	29546	Conway	29681	Simpsonville	29918	Hampton / Varnville
29122	Peak	29375	Spartanburg	29547	Dillon	29682	Easley	29920	Beaufort
29123	Lexington	29376	Spartanburg	29550	Hartsville	29683	Greenville	29921	Hampton / Varnville
29125	Sumter	29377	Spartanburg	29554	Georgetown	29684	Anderson	29922	Hampton / Varnville
29126	Peak	29378	Spartanburg	29555	Lower Florence	29685	Easley	29923	Hampton / Varnville
29127	Chapin	29379	Union	29556	Kingstree	29686	Seneca	29924	Hampton / Varnville
29128	Sumter	29384	Greenwood	29560	Lower Florence	29687	Greenville	29926	Hilton Head Island
29129	Edgefield	29385	Spartanburg	29563	Dillon	29689	Anderson	29927	Hardeeville
29130	Winnsboro	29388	Spartanburg	29564	Kingstree	29690	Travelers Rest	29928	Hilton Head Island
29133	Orangeburg	29401	Mount Pleasant	29565	Dillon	29691	Seneca	29929	Walterboro
29135	Orangeburg	29403	Mount Pleasant	29566	Little River	29692	Greenwood	29932	Hampton / Varnville
29137	Lexington	29404	North Charleston	29567	Dillon	29693	Seneca	29934	Hampton / Varnville
29138	Saluda	29405	Mount Pleasant	29568	Little River	29696	Seneca	29935	Beaufort
29142	Orangeburg	29406	North Charleston	29569	Loris	29697	Anderson	29936	Ridgeland
29145	Newberry	29407	Ravenel / Hollywood	29570	Bennettsville	29702	Gaffney	29939	Hampton / Varnville
29146	Orangeburg	29409	Mount Pleasant	29571	Marion	29704	Rock Hill	29940	Beaufort
29147	Columbia	29410	North Charleston	29572	Myrtle Beach	29706	Chester	29941	Beaufort
29148	Manning	29412	James Island	29574	Mullins	29707	Charlotte NC	29943	Ridgeland
29150	Sumter	29414	Charleston	29575	Surfside Beach	29708	Rock Hill	29944	Hampton / Varnville
29152	Sumter	29418	Mount Pleasant	29576	Murrells Inlet / Socastee	29709	Cheraw	29945	Walterboro
29153	Sumter	29420	North Charleston	29577	Myrtle Beach	29710	Western York County	30809	Evans GA
29154	Sumter	29423	Mount Pleasant	29579	Carolina Forest	29712	Rock Hill	30904	Augusta GA