

1. All-Cause hospitalizations in Appalachia

Rates of hospitalizations from all causes reflect a variety of influences. While rates of hospitalization may provide a rough estimate of population health status, variability in rates of hospitalizations may also reflect differential access and utilization of hospital-based medical care services, hospital bed availability, availability and quality of ambulatory care, and familial or community support, among others.

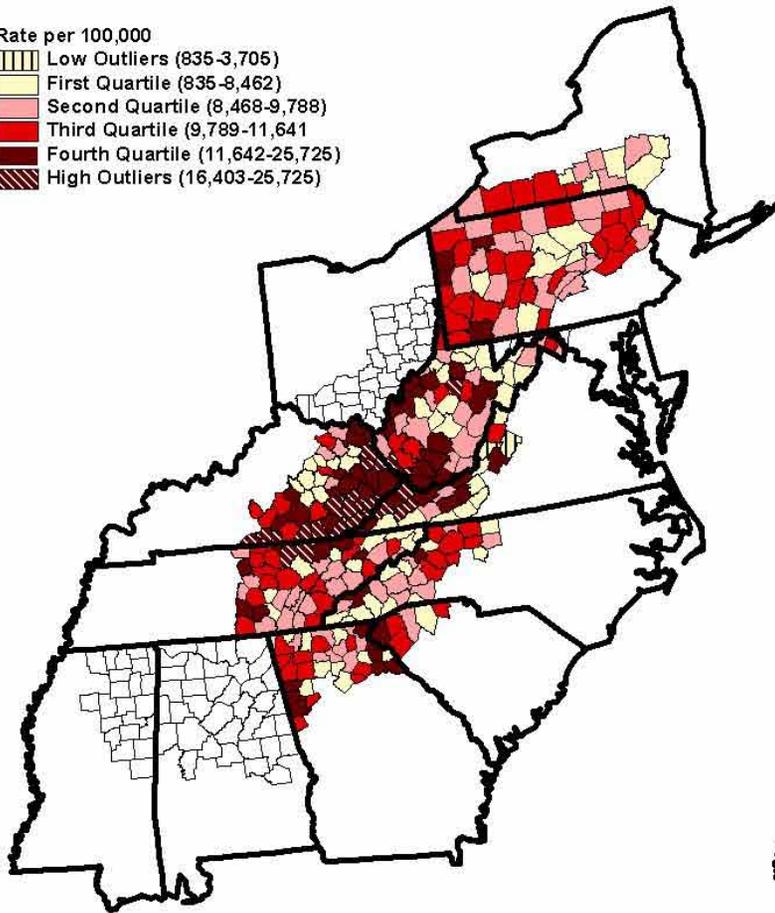
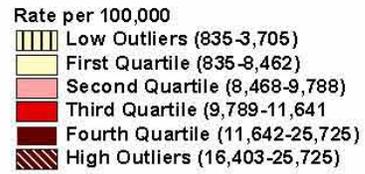
County level rates of hospitalizations from all causes have been generated for all persons combined and men and women separately, for two age categories: 35 to 64 and 65 and older. County level rates of hospitalizations from all causes are shown on pages 130-132. Geographic patterns appear to be consistent among both gender and age groups among the counties analyzed. High rates of hospitalization are concentrated primarily in the central Appalachian counties in portions of Eastern Kentucky, Southern West Virginia, and Western Virginia for persons ages 35 to 64. High rates of hospitalization are a bit more wide-spread for the elderly. High outliers in the distributions appear consistently in Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia, and Western Virginia among all persons, men, and women in both age categories.

There is considerable disparity in rates of hospitalization, both within each population subgroup and between age groups. Some gender differences are also apparent. Hospitalization rates from all causes range from 835 per 100,000 for all persons ages 35 to 64 and from 3,520 per 100,000 to 81,447 per 100,000 for all persons ages 65 and older. Among men ages 35 to 64 rates range from 630 per 100,000 to 22,198 per 100,000, while comparable rates for women range from 1,033 per 100,000 to 30,382 per 100,000. Similarly hospitalization rates for elderly men rates from 4,828 per 100,000 to 75,599

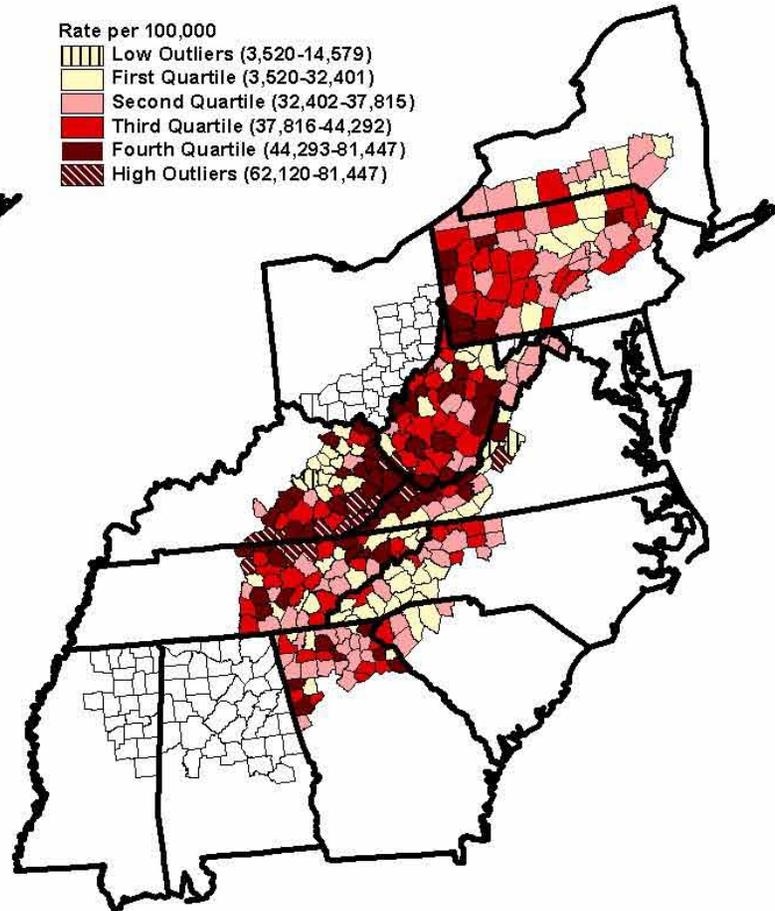
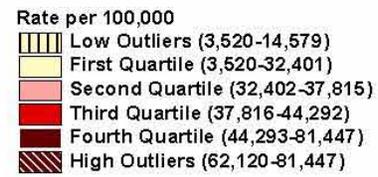
per 100,000 while rates for elderly women are generally higher ranging from 2,892 per 100,000 to 86,217 per 100,000.

All Cause Hospitalization Rates, 2000

All Persons Ages 35 to 64

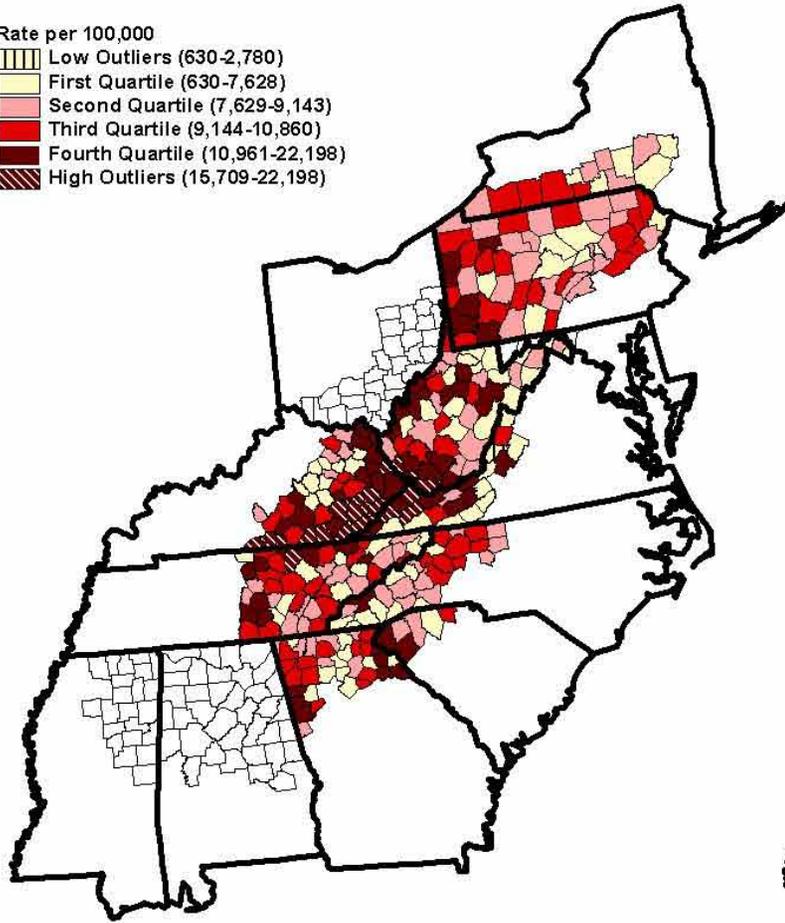
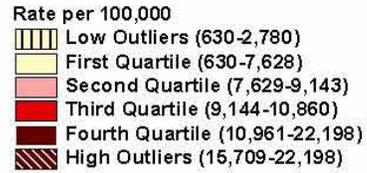


All Persons Ages 65 and Older

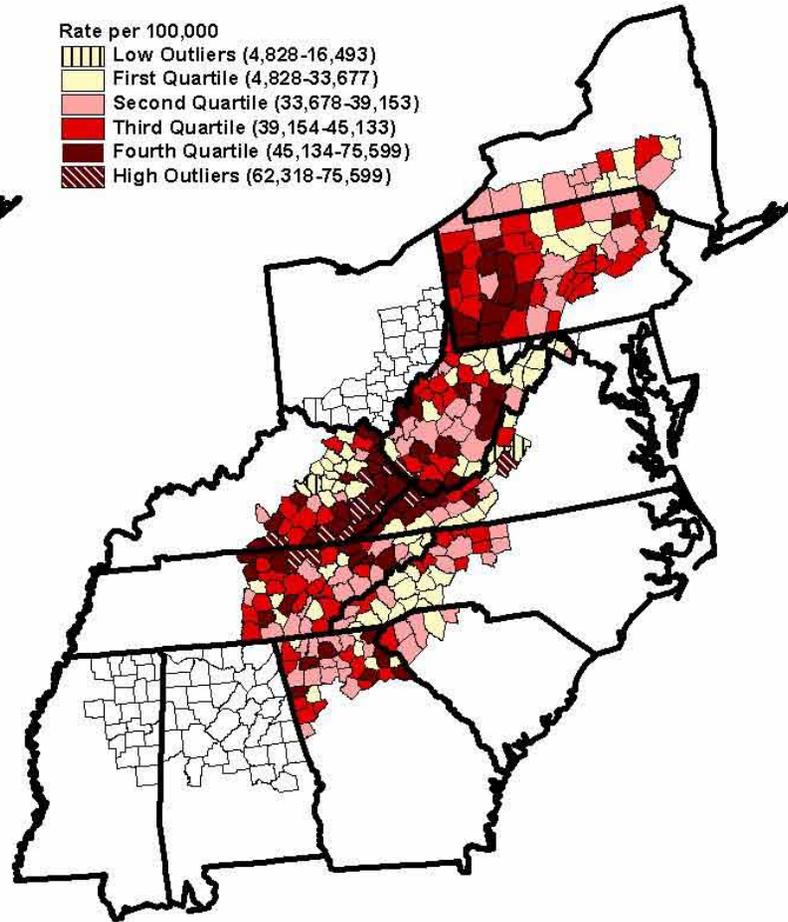
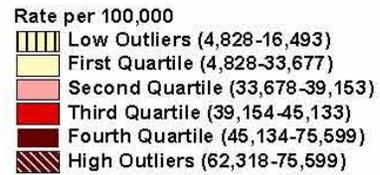


All Cause Hospitalization Rates, 2000

All Men Ages 35 to 64

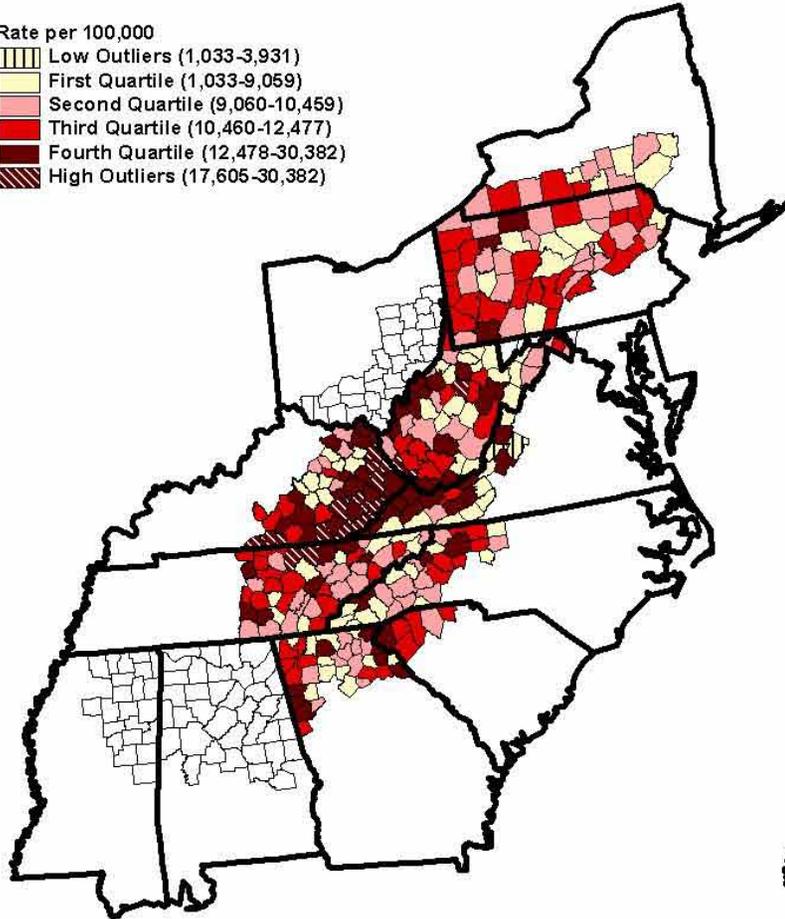
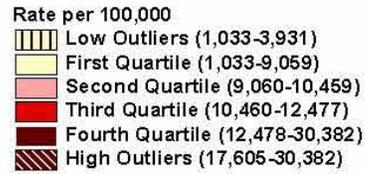


All Men Ages 65 and Older



All Cause Hospitalization Rates, 2000

All Women Ages 35 to 64



All Women Ages 65 and Older

