

2. Heart disease hospitalizations in Appalachia

Of all chronic diseases, heart disease related illnesses contribute the most to the health care burden in the U.S. (DHHS, 1999). The definition of heart disease used to construct rates of hospitalization in this study includes any pathological condition of the heart and therefore represents a very broad array of heart related illnesses.

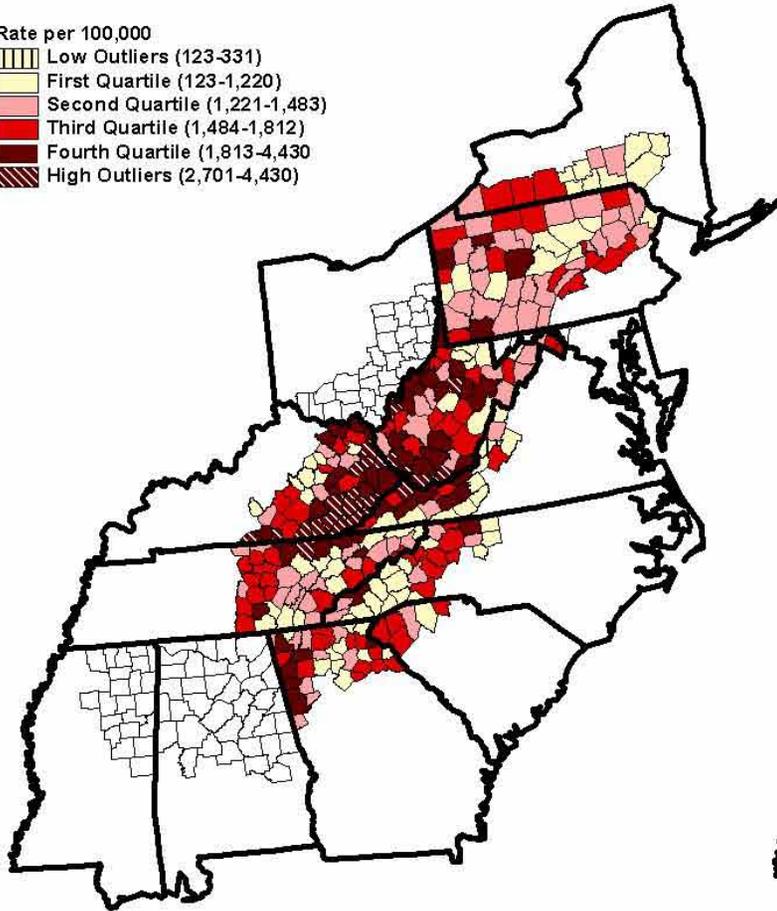
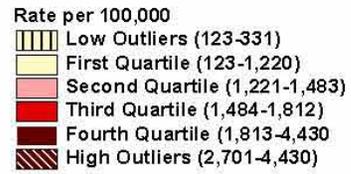
County-level rates of hospitalizations from heart disease have been generated for all persons combined and men and women separately, for two age categories: 35 to 64 and 65 and older. County-level rates of hospitalizations from heart diseases are shown on pages 134-136. Heart disease related hospitalizations are responsible for approximately 15 percent of all hospitalizations in the year 2000 for the counties used in this analysis (Section II A, Figure 3). However, there is considerable variability in rates of hospitalizations among counties in the Appalachian region. High rates of hospitalization are concentrated primarily in the central Appalachian counties in portions of Eastern Kentucky, Southern West Virginia, and Western Virginia for all population subgroups. 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. Hospitalization rates from heart disease related illnesses range from 123 per 100,000 to 4,430 per 100,000 for all persons ages 35 to 64 and from 627 per 100,000 to 18,271 per 100,000 for all persons ages 65 and older. Among men ages 35 to 64 rates range from 72 per 100,000 to 5,316. Among elderly men rates ranged from 1,012 per

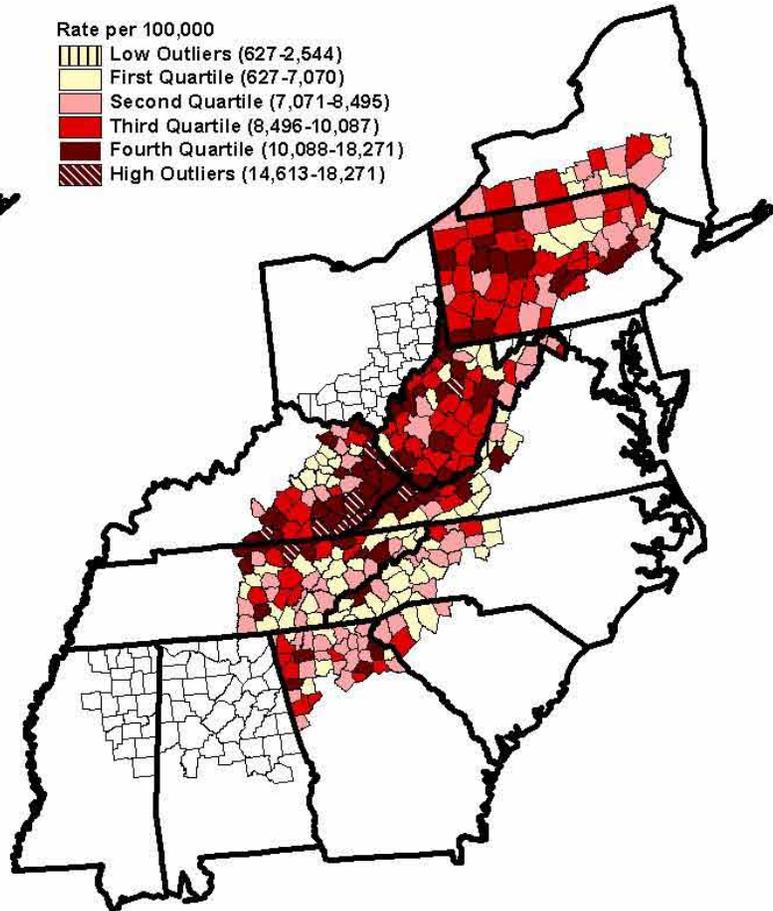
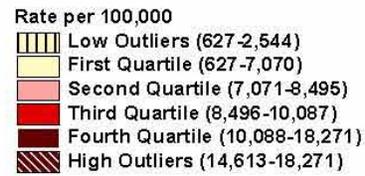
100,000 to 19,009 per 100,000. Among women ages 35 to 64 rates range from 356 per 100,000 to 4,460. Among elderly women rates ranged from 2,430 per 100,000 to 18,081 per 100,000.

Heart Disease Hospitalization Rates, 2000

All Persons Ages 35 to 64



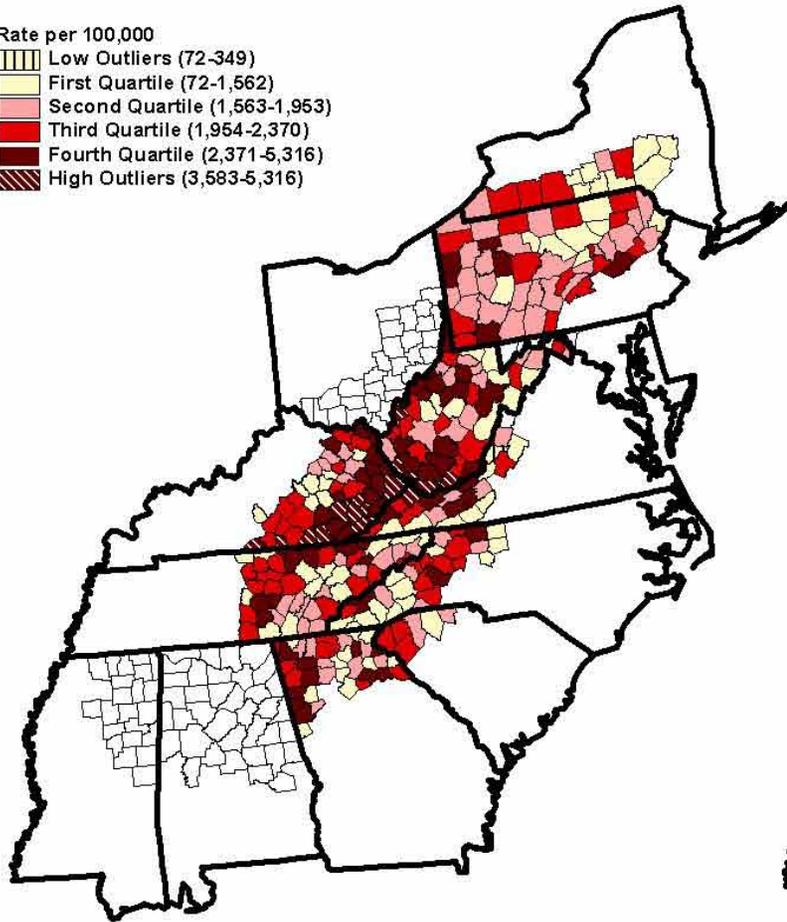
All Persons Ages 65 and Older



Heart Disease Hospitalization Rates, 2000

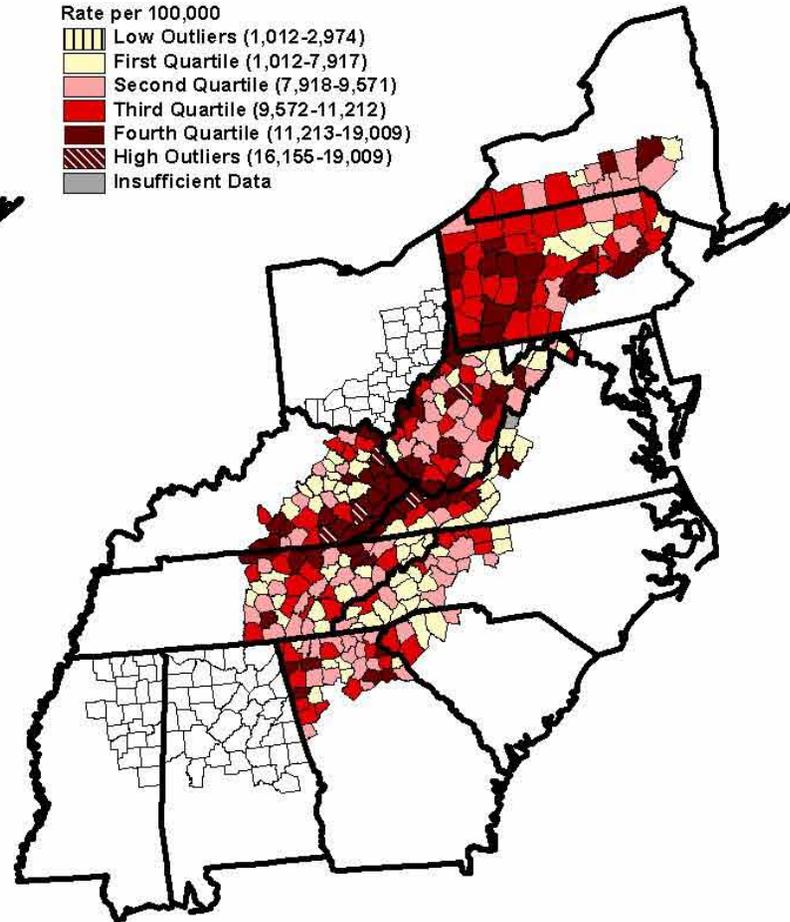
All Men Ages 35 to 64

- Rate per 100,000
- Low Outliers (72-349)
 - First Quartile (72-1,562)
 - Second Quartile (1,563-1,953)
 - Third Quartile (1,954-2,370)
 - Fourth Quartile (2,371-5,316)
 - High Outliers (3,583-5,316)



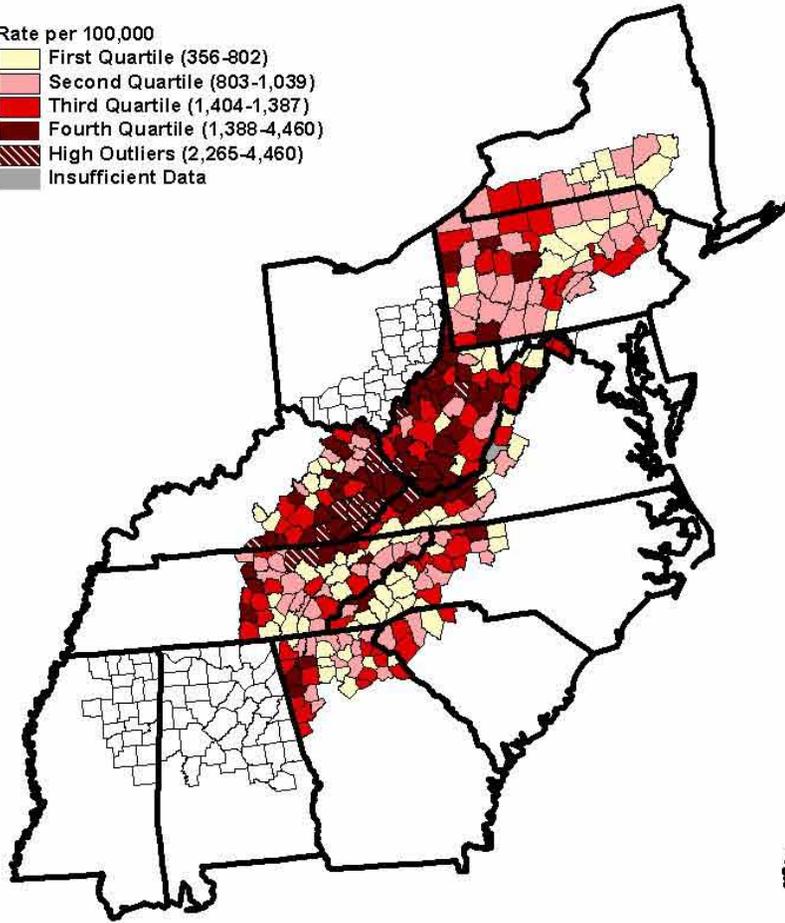
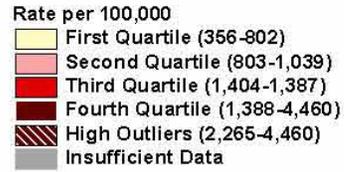
All Men Ages 65 and Older

- Rate per 100,000
- Low Outliers (1,012-2,974)
 - First Quartile (1,012-7,917)
 - Second Quartile (7,918-9,571)
 - Third Quartile (9,572-11,212)
 - Fourth Quartile (11,213-19,009)
 - High Outliers (16,155-19,009)
 - Insufficient Data



Heart Disease Hospitalization Rates, 2000

All Women Ages 35 to 64



All Women Ages 65 and Older

