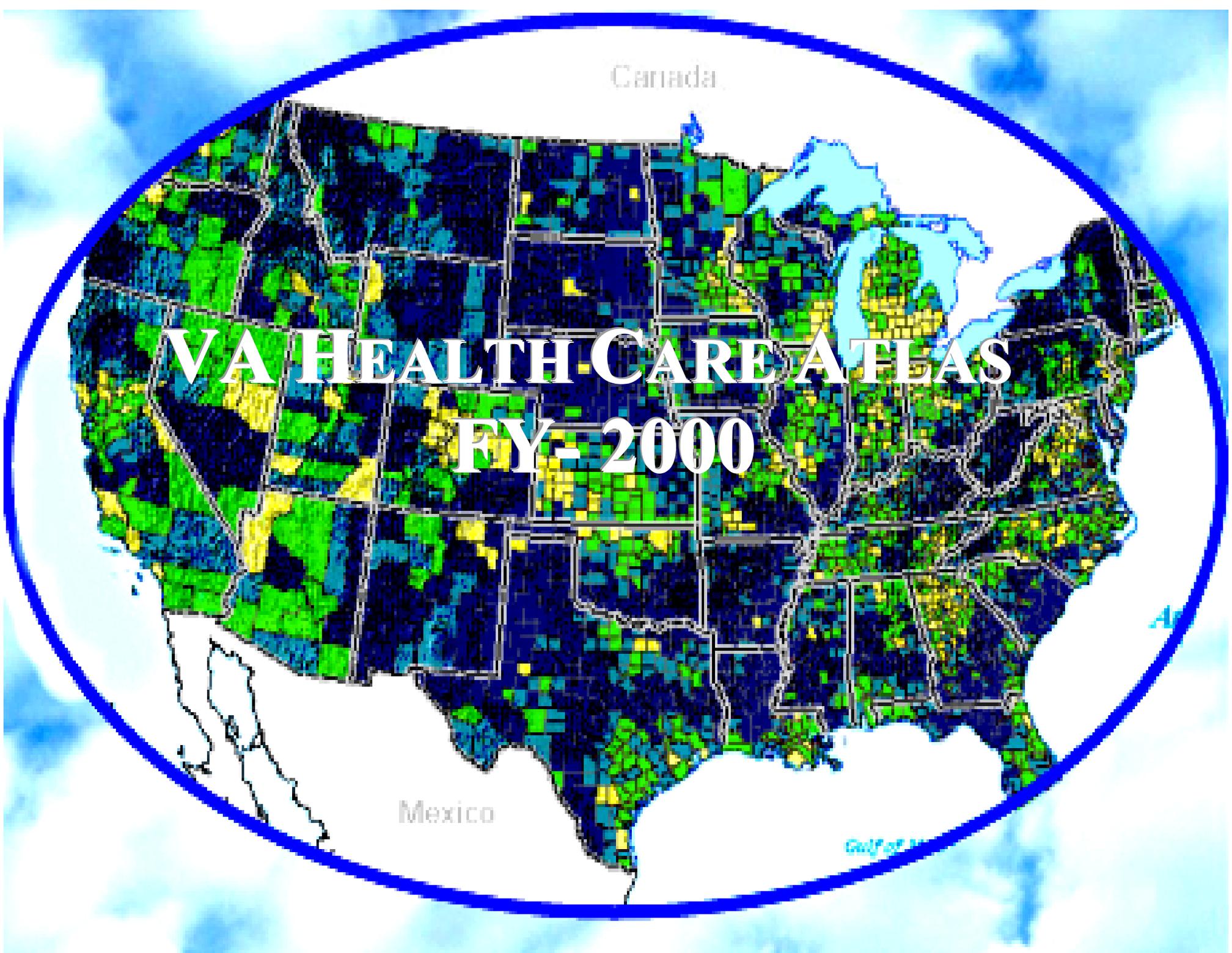


Canada

VA HEALTH CARE ATLAS FY-2000

Mexico

Gulf of Mexico



Introduction

On October 1, 1998, as mandated by the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996, VA became a national enrollment system. Any honorably discharged veteran could sign up for VA health care services and potentially receive care from the VA. Veterans enrolled in the system by filling out a 10-10EZ form. The form gathers information about the type of benefits the veteran is applying for and, if applying for health benefits, their preferred VA facility from which to obtain health care. Military-related information is also requested including whether the veteran has a service-connected disability rating, in which branch of the Armed Forces they served, when they were discharged, whether they are receiving a VA pension, whether they were exposed to toxins, Agent Orange, or radiation during their tour of duty, and whether they are a former prisoner of war. Other information requested includes employment status, financial assets, insurance coverage, marital status, and next of kin. To see a copy of the 10-10EZ form, go to the Web site: <http://www.va.gov/1010ez.htm>.

Once a veteran has applied for enrollment, their eligibility is verified and a priority level is assigned through the Health Eligibility Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Originally, there were 7 priority levels:

Priority Group 1

- Veterans with service connected conditions rated 50 percent or more disabling

Priority Group 2

- Veterans with service connected conditions rated 30 to 49 percent disabling

Priority Group 3

- Veterans who are former Prisoners of War
- Veterans with service connected conditions rated 10 to 29 percent disabling
- Veterans discharged from active duty for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty
- Veterans awarded special eligibility classification under 38 USC, Section 1151

Priority Group 4

- Veterans who are receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits
- Veterans who have been determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled

Priority Group 5

- Non-service connected injured veterans and service connected injured veterans rated 0-9 percent disabled, whose income and net worth are below the established dollar thresholds

Priority Group 6

- All other eligible veterans who are not required to make co-payments for their care including:
 - World War I and Mexican Border War veterans
 - Veterans solely seeking care for disorders associated with exposure to a toxic substance, radiation, or disorders associated with service in the Persian Gulf
 - Compensable zero percent service connected veterans

Priority Group 7

- Zero percent non-compensable service connected veterans with income and net worth above the statutory threshold and who agree to pay specified co-payments
- Non-service connected veterans with income and net worth above the statutory threshold and who agree to pay specified co-payments

More recently, Purple Heart Recipients have been added to Priority Group 3 new and a new Priority Group, **Priority Group 8**, has been added that includes Priority 7 veterans who enrolled in the VA health care system after January 1, 2003. For more information about Priority Groups, go to <http://www.va.gov/elig/eligibility.htm>.

Data Sources

Two sources were tapped to provide information for the tables and maps. The first is a SAS[™] Remote Product (RMTPRD) database housed at the Austin Automation Center that contains information on all enrollees. A data file extract is generated by the VHA Office of Policy and Planning on a monthly basis and is available to VA researchers who have access to the Austin system.

The second data source is the Census 2000 that provided data on the estimated veteran population (for more detail see Chapter 1 “Veteran Population”).

Data Presented

The tables and maps in this section provide information on the number of enrollees in the VA health care system and the percentage of veterans who were enrolled by Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), state (including the District of Columbia and

Puerto Rico) in April 2000. The April enrollment file was used to be concurrent with the Census 2000.

- Table 2.1 shows the number of veterans, number of enrollees and the percentage of veterans who were enrolled in the VA health care system in April 2000 by VISN and these data are graphically depicted in Map 2.1 and Map 2. 2.
- Table 2.2 shows the number of veterans, number of enrollees, and the percentage of veterans who were enrolled in the VA health care system in April 2000 by STATE and these data are graphically depicted in Map 2.3 and Map 2.4.
- Map 5 and Map 6 illustrate the number of veterans and percentage of veterans enrolled in the VA health care system by COUNTY at the national level. Maps 7 – 10 provide a close-in view of the percentage of veterans enrolled by county for each VISN.

National and VISN Totals

Nationally, the data show that the VHA had enrolled nearly 17 percent (16.6%) of the veteran population into the VA health care system by April 2000. Of the approximately 26.5 million veterans living in the United States and Puerto Rico, roughly 4.4 million were enrolled. The number of enrollees varies from a low of 93,638 in VISN 14 to a high of 368,988 in VISN 16.

It appears that some VISNs were more successful in enrolling veterans than others, at least in the early periods of the program. For example, the percent of veterans enrolled ranged from a low of 11.8 percent in VISN 11 to a high of almost double that figure, 22.1 percent, in VISN 2. Most VISNs showed enrollments between 15 and 20 percent of their veteran population.

Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)

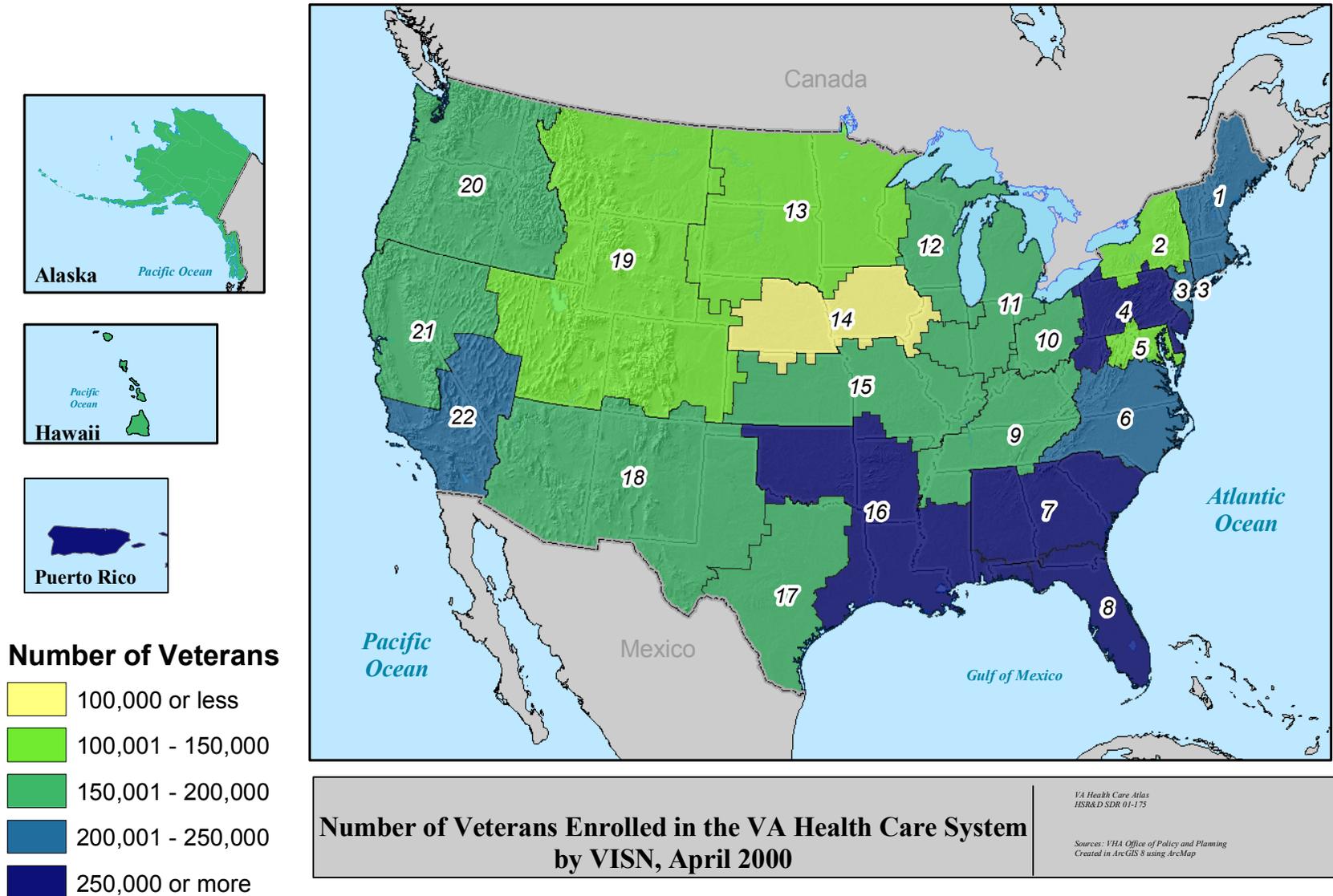
Table 2.1: Enrollees as a Percentage of the Veteran Population

Enrollees as a Percentage of the Veteran Population by VISN, 2000			
Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)	Veteran Population	Enrollment Population	Percent Enrolled
New England (1)	1,327,933	210,764	15.9
Upstate New York (2)	617,040	136,628	22.1
NY/NJ (3)	1,230,989	249,501	20.3
Stars and Stripes (4)	1,635,354	278,039	17.0
Capital (5)	827,066	110,677	13.4
Mid-Atlantic (6)	1,383,878	222,191	16.1
Atlantic (7)	1,501,145	254,584	17.0
Sunshine (8)	1,935,726	303,293	15.7
Mid-South (9)	1,099,248	196,195	17.8
Ohio (10)	1,066,077	169,959	15.9
Vets in Partnership (11)	1,533,351	181,077	11.8
Great Lakes (12)	1,221,864	199,749	16.3
Upper Midwest (13)	688,301	116,247	16.9
Central Plains (14)	495,976	93,638	18.9
Heartland (15)	1,030,765	175,055	17.0
South Central (16)	1,946,911	368,988	19.0
Heart of Texas (17)	1,092,479	188,501	17.3
Southwest (18)	948,529	169,639	17.9
Rocky Mt (19)	799,369	122,869	15.4
Northwest (20)	1,248,708	189,134	15.1
Sierra Pacific (21)	1,280,265	186,513	14.6
Desert Pacific (22)	1,638,730	224,278	13.7

Enrollee Population

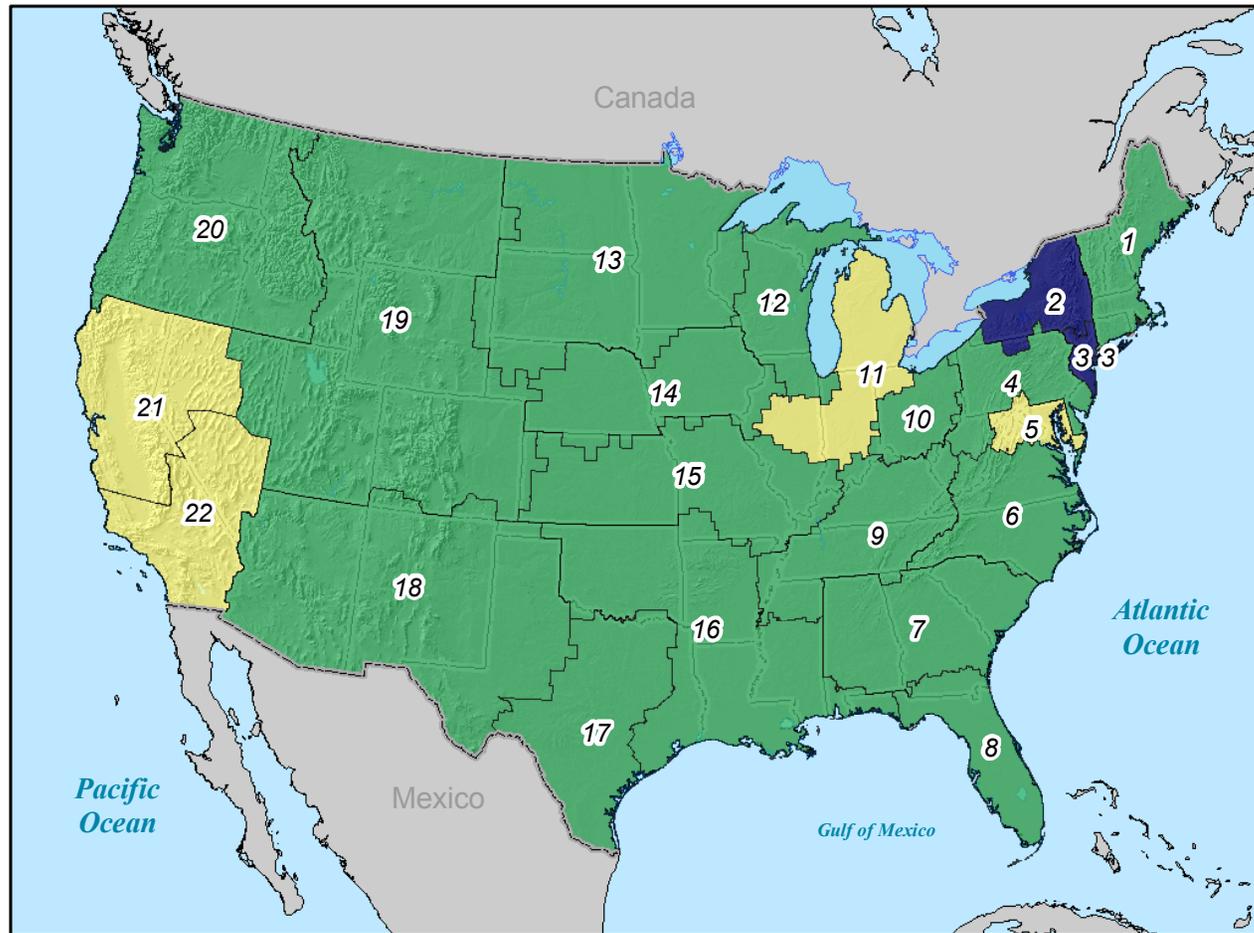
Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)

Map 2.1: Number of Veterans Enrolled



Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)

Map 2.2: Percent of Veterans Enrolled



Percent



Percent of Veterans Enrolled in the VA Health Care System by VISN, April 2000

VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175

Sources: VHA Office of Policy and Planning, US Census 2001
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

Enrollee Population

State Trends

In terms of raw numbers, the number of enrollees by state shows:

- California with the greatest number of enrollees with 358,436 veterans followed by:
 - New York 317,075 enrollees
 - Texas 314,814 enrollees
 - Florida 312,664 enrollees
 - Pennsylvania 214,068 enrollees
 - Ohio 179,490 enrollees
 - Illinois 178,233 enrollees
 - North Carolina 117,721 enrollees
 - Georgia 113,454 enrollees
 - Virginia 110,013 enrollees
- All the states that have large numbers of enrollees also have large veteran populations overall, although the top ten rankings are not perfectly correlated.

The top ten states (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) in the percentage of veterans enrolled in the VA health care system are:

- Puerto Rico 42.5% enrolled
- South Dakota 30.7% enrolled
- District of Columbia 29.4% enrolled
- West Virginia 28.5% enrolled
- Wyoming 26.6% enrolled
- Arkansas 24.1% enrolled
- New York 23.3% enrolled
- Alaska 22.9% enrolled
- Mississippi 22.6% enrolled
- Montana, Nebraska And North Dakota 22.2% enrolled

Enrollees as a Percent of the Veteran Population

Enrollees as a percentage of the total veteran population in the state show some interesting findings. For example, Puerto Rico has by far the largest percentage of the veteran population enrolled in the VA health care system, with 42.5%. Another finding of interest was that although California has a large veteran population (2.6 million) and a large enrollee population (358,436) the percentage enrolled is relatively low (14%). In fact, only 7 states have a lower enrollment percentage than California (Minnesota, Maryland, Hawaii, Utah, Washington, Colorado, and Michigan).

State Enrollee Population

Table 2.2: Percent Veterans Enrolled in VHA

Percent Veterans Enrolled in the Veterans Health System			
By State, 2000			
State	Veteran Population	Enrollment Pop	% Enrolled
		N	%
Alabama	447,397	80,492	18.0
Alaska	71,552	16,354	22.9
Arizona	562,916	83,394	14.8
Arkansas	281,714	67,883	24.1
California	2,569,340	358,436	14.0
Colorado	446,385	57,482	12.9
Connecticut	310,069	47,677	15.4
Delaware	84,289	14,341	17.0
DC	44,484	13,072	29.4
Florida	1,875,597	312,664	16.7
Georgia	768,675	113,454	14.8
Hawaii	120,587	16,561	13.7
Idaho	136,584	24,734	18.1
Illinois	1,003,572	178,233	17.8
Indiana	590,476	83,797	14.2
Iowa	292,020	50,858	17.4
Kansas	267,452	42,859	16.0
Kentucky	380,618	72,131	19.0
Louisiana	392,486	75,667	19.3
Maine	154,590	24,310	15.7
Maryland	524,230	72,349	13.8
Massachusetts	558,933	88,823	15.9
Michigan	913,573	98,728	10.8

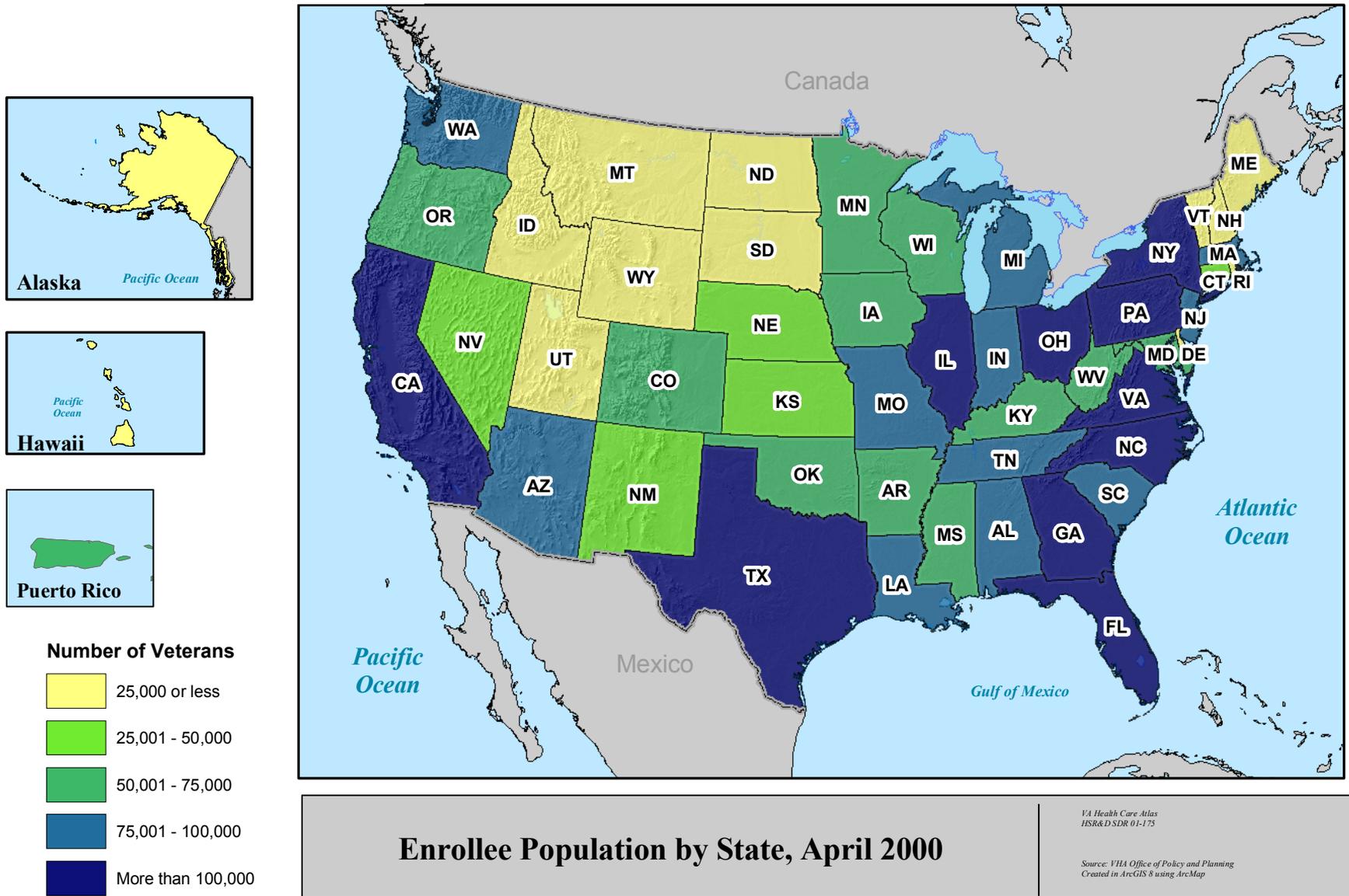
Enrollee Population

State Enrollee Population – (Continued)

Percent Veterans Enrolled in the Veterans Health System By State, 2000			
State	Veteran Population	Enrollment Pop	% Enrolled
		N	%
Minnesota	464,968	64,445	13.9
Mississippi	249,431	56,332	22.6
Missouri	592,271	97,136	16.4
Montana	108,476	24,126	22.2
Nebraska	173,189	38,453	22.2
Nevada	238,128	37,023	15.5
New Hampshire	139,038	21,942	15.8
New Jersey	672,217	94,146	14.0
New Mexico	190,718	33,230	17.4
New York	1,361,164	317,075	23.3
North Carolina	792,646	117,721	14.9
North Dakota	61,365	13,643	22.2
Ohio	1,144,007	179,490	15.7
Oklahoma	376,062	74,078	19.7
Oregon	388,990	62,908	16.2
Pennsylvania	1,280,788	214,068	16.7
Rhode Island	102,494	15,070	14.7
South Carolina	420,971	83,296	19.8
South Dakota	79,370	24,376	30.7
Tennessee	560,141	91,489	16.3
Texas	1,754,809	314,814	17.9
Utah	161,351	21,908	13.6
Vermont	62,809	12,942	20.6
Virginia	786,359	110,013	14.0
Washington	670,628	87,625	13.1
West Virginia	201,701	57,562	28.5
Wisconsin	514,213	72,899	14.2
Wyoming	57,860	15,410	26.6
Puerto Rico	146,001	62,003	42.5
National Total	26,549,704	4,409,522	16.6

State Enrollee Population

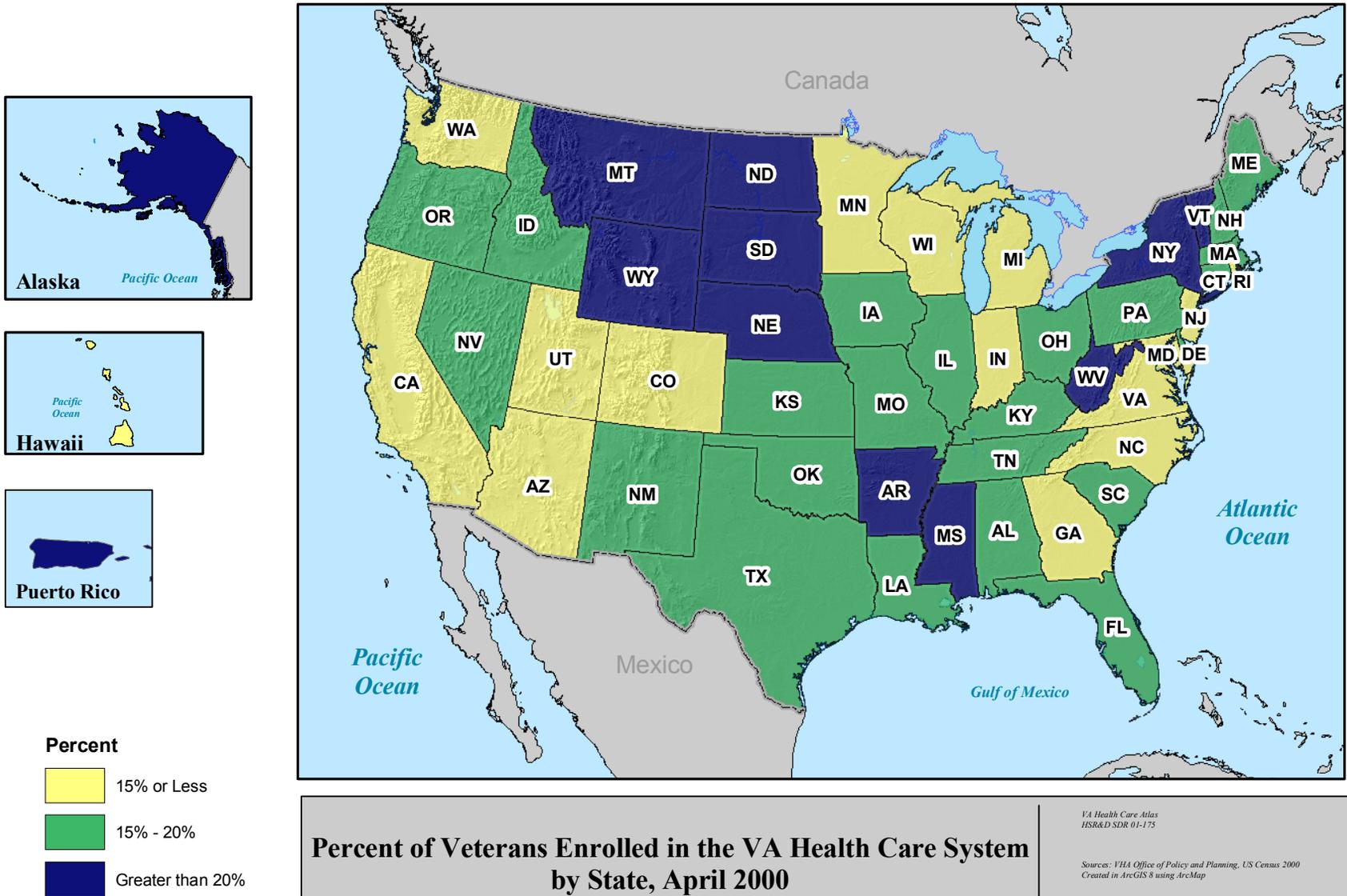
Map 2.3: Enrollee Population by State



Enrollee Population

State Enrollee Population

Map 2.4: Percent of Veterans Enrolled



County Trends

Similar to the state trends, the numbers of enrollees by county reflect large populations of veterans overall. The top ten counties in the United States in terms of VA enrollees are:

COUNTY	Enrollees
1. Los Angeles County, California	77,137
2. Cook County, Illinois	76,391
3. San Diego County, California	43,118
4. Maricopa County, Arizona	38,777
5. Harris County, Texas	36,640
6. Palm Beach County, Florida	30,153
7. Kings County, New York	27,366
8. Wayne County, Michigan	26,346
9. Dallas County, Texas	25,511
10. Pinellas County, Florida	25,230

Enrollees as a Percent of the Veteran Population

In ranking the top ten counties in their percentage of veteran population enrolled, we limited the pool of counties to those counties with at least 1,000 veterans. The map illustrating the percentage enrolled, however, does not include this restriction. The counties with at least 1,000 veterans that have the highest percent enrollment are as follows:

1. Fall River County, South Dakota
2. Sheridan County, Wyoming
3. Martinsville City, Virginia
4. Macon County, Alabama

5. Fannin County, Texas
6. Suwanee County, Florida
7. Holt County, Nebraska
8. Johnson County, Wyoming
9. Falls County, Texas
10. Petersburg City, Virginia

For More Information About Enrollees

For those researchers who are familiar with the KLFMenu located on the VISN Service Support Center Web site (<http://vssc.med.va.gov> **NOTE: behind VA Firewall**), a number of reports are available under the Enrollment folder. In addition to the canned reports available, there is also an option to create your own report, by station, VISN or nation.

The VHA Office of Policy and Planning Web site (<http://vaww.va.gov/vhaopp/enroll01/enroll.htm> **NOTE: Behind VA Firewall**) has a number of tables with information about enrollment **1999- 2001:**

- Enrollment, adjustments, and projections (pre & post enrollment)
- Enrollment (pre & post), patients, and expenditures (pre & post enrollee and new & past patient)
- Enrollee – Inpatient (workload and expenditures) and Outpatient (expenditures)
- Enrollee – Long term care (workload) and Non-VA contract care

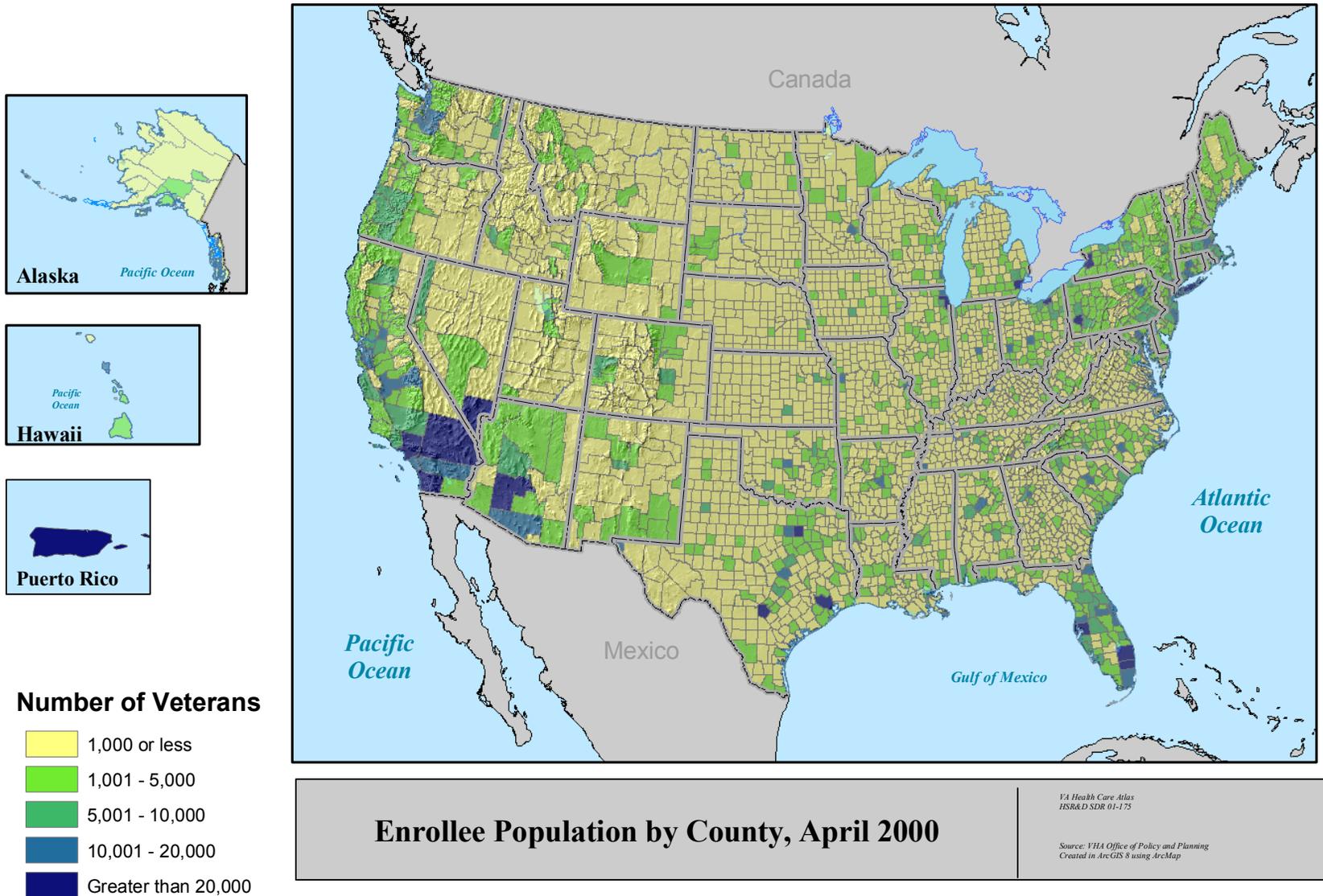
Data from 2002 until the most recent month:

- VHA enrollment, expenditures, and patients
- Year-to-date trends in enrollment, expenditures and patients
- Other data (enrollment adjustments, military retirees, and VHA sites of care)

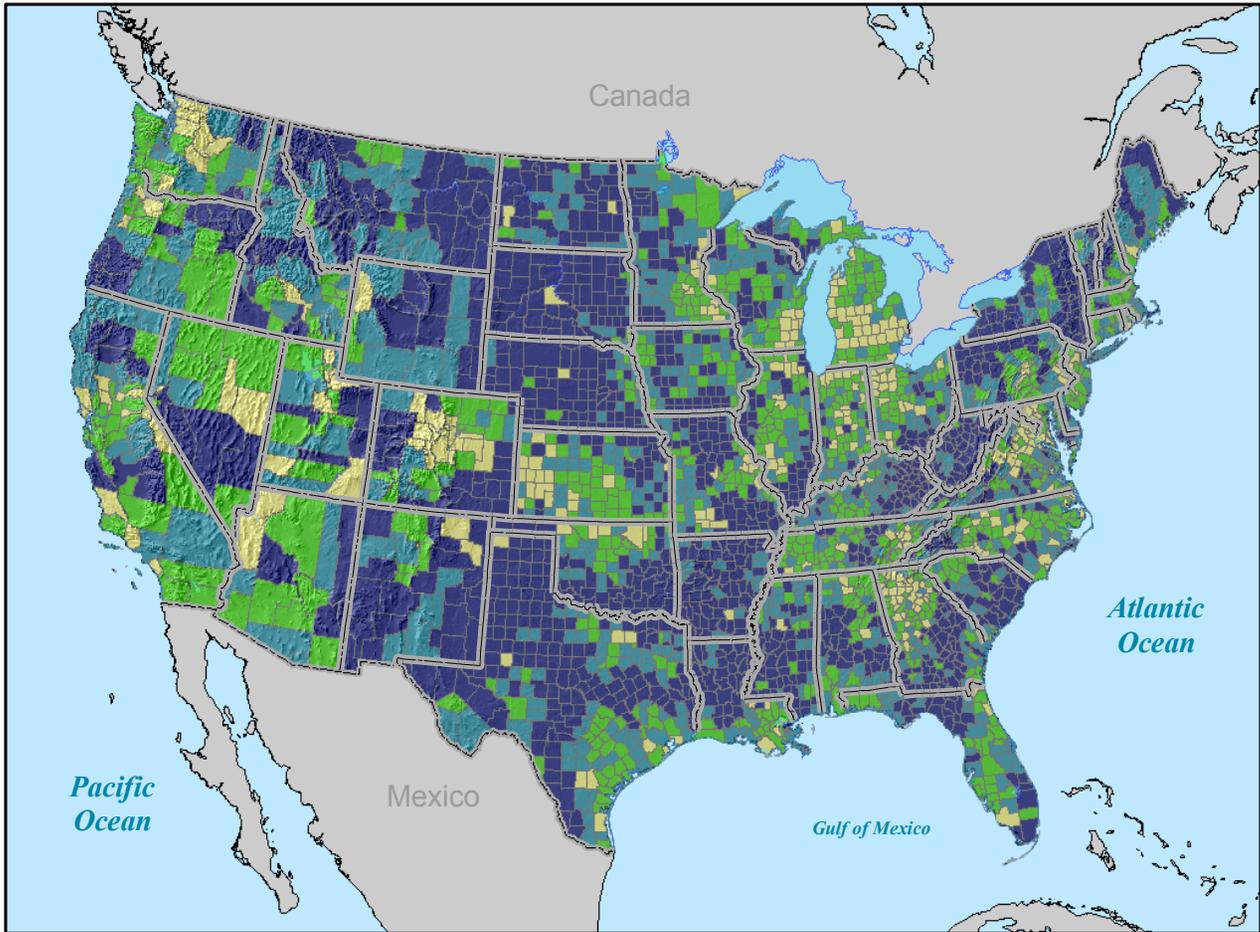
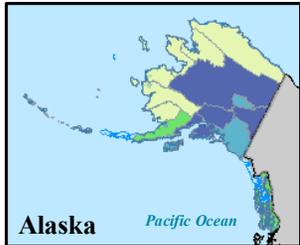
Enrollee Population

County Enrollee Population

Map 2.5: Enrollee Population by County



County Enrollee Population
Map 2.6: Percent Enrolled in VHA



Percent

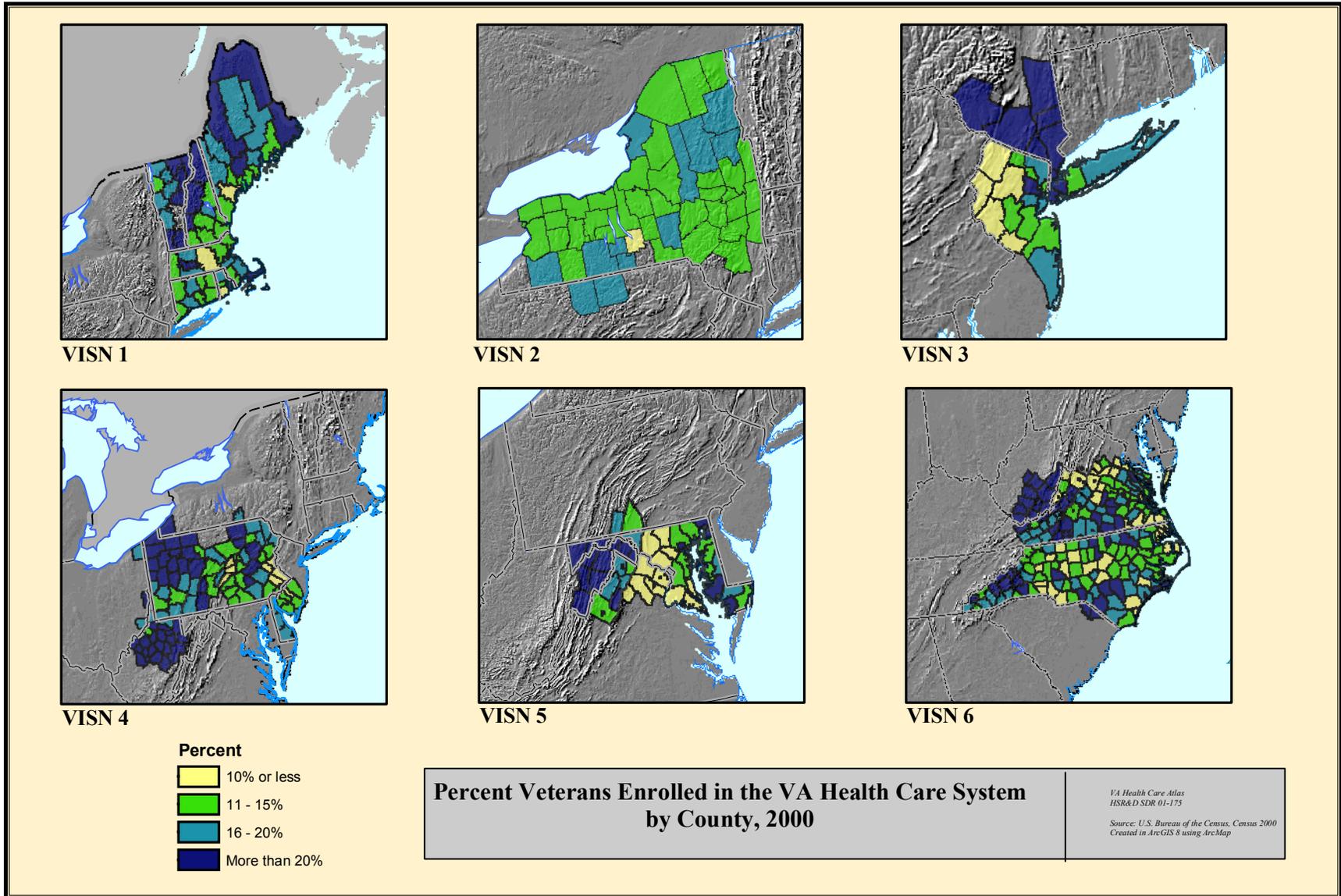
- 10% or less
- 10 - 15%
- 15 - 20%
- Greater than 20%

Percent Veterans Enrolled in the VA Health Care System, 2000

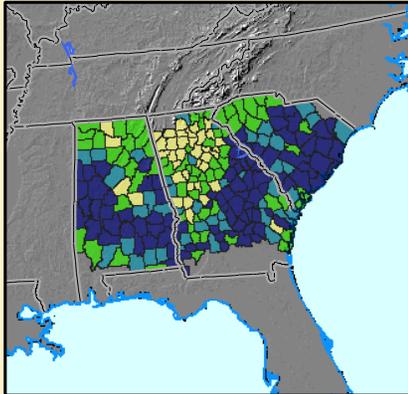
VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175
Source: VHA Office of Policy and Planning; US Census 2000
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

Enrollee Population

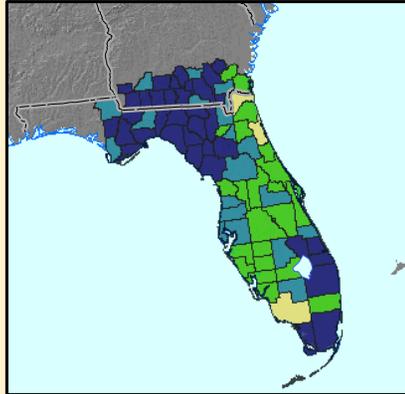
County Enrollee Population – Map 2.7



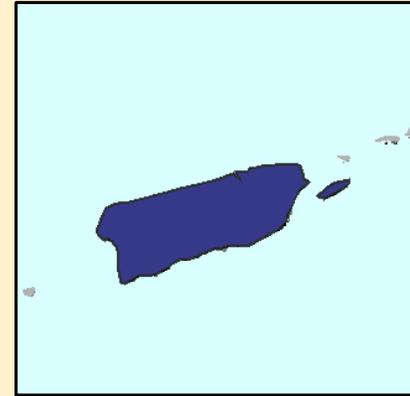
County Enrollee Population – Map 2.8



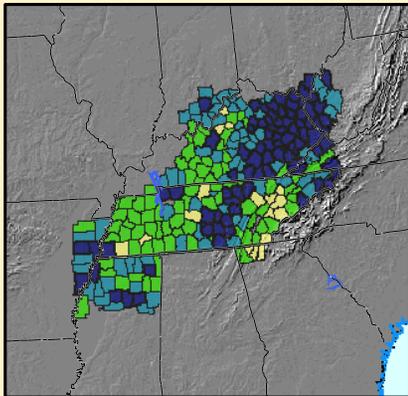
VISN 7



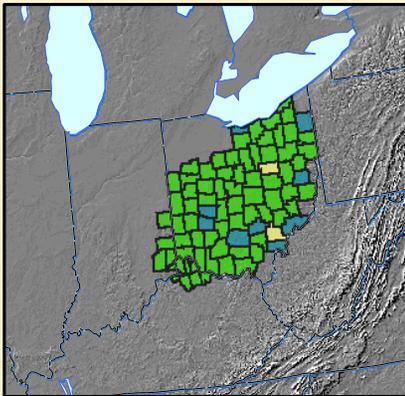
VISN 8



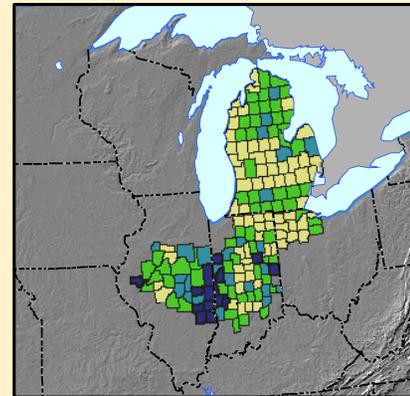
VISN 8 - Puerto Rico



VISN 9



VISN 10



VISN 11

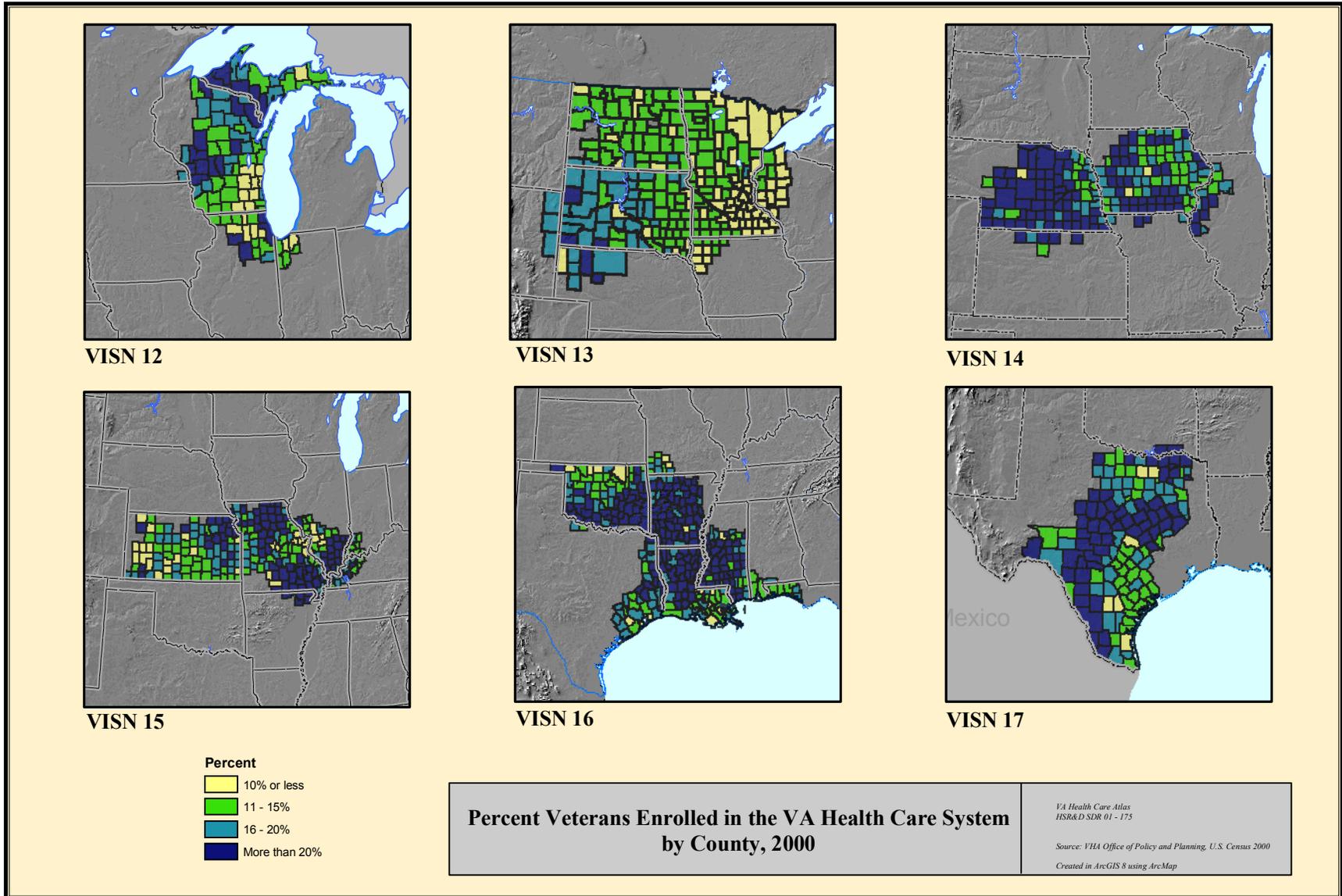


Percent Veterans Enrolled in the VA Health Care System
by County, 2000

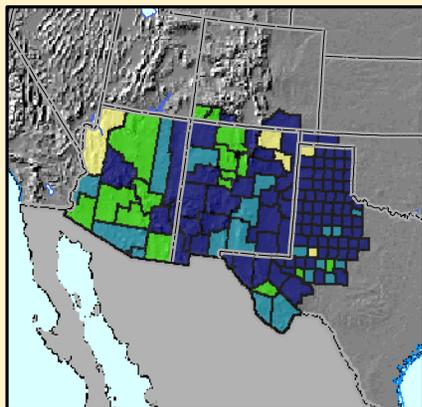
VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

Enrollee Population

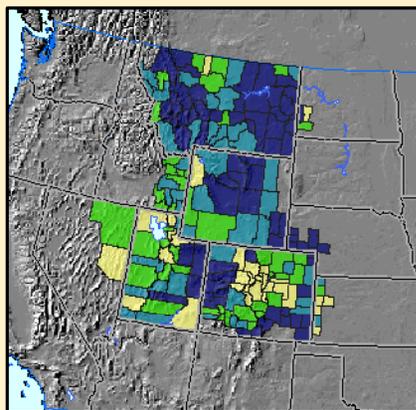
County Enrollee Population - Map 2.9



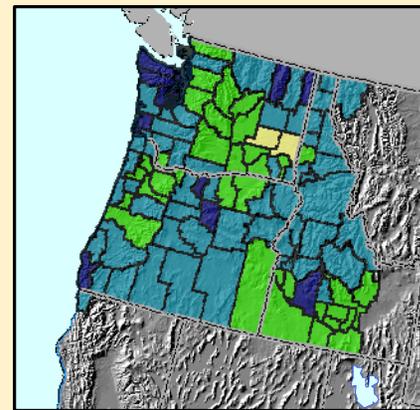
County Enrollee Population – Map 2.10



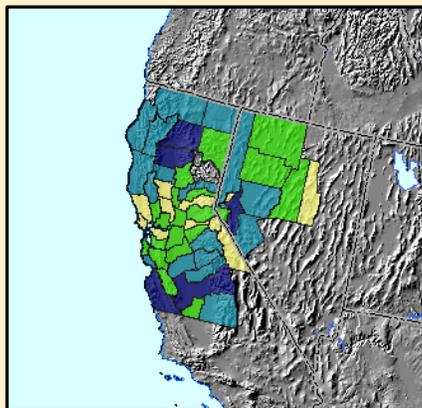
VISN 18



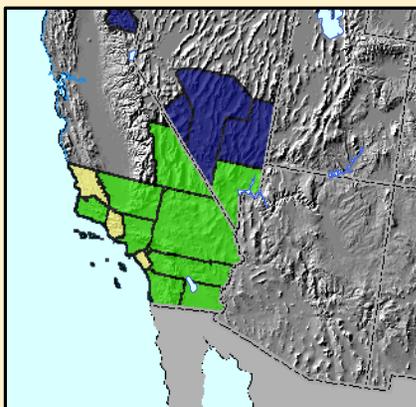
VISN 19



VISN 20



VISN 21



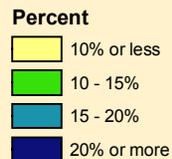
VISN 22



VISN 20 - Alaska



VISN 21 - Hawaii



**Percent Veterans Enrolled in the VA Health Care System
by County, 2000**

*VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap*

