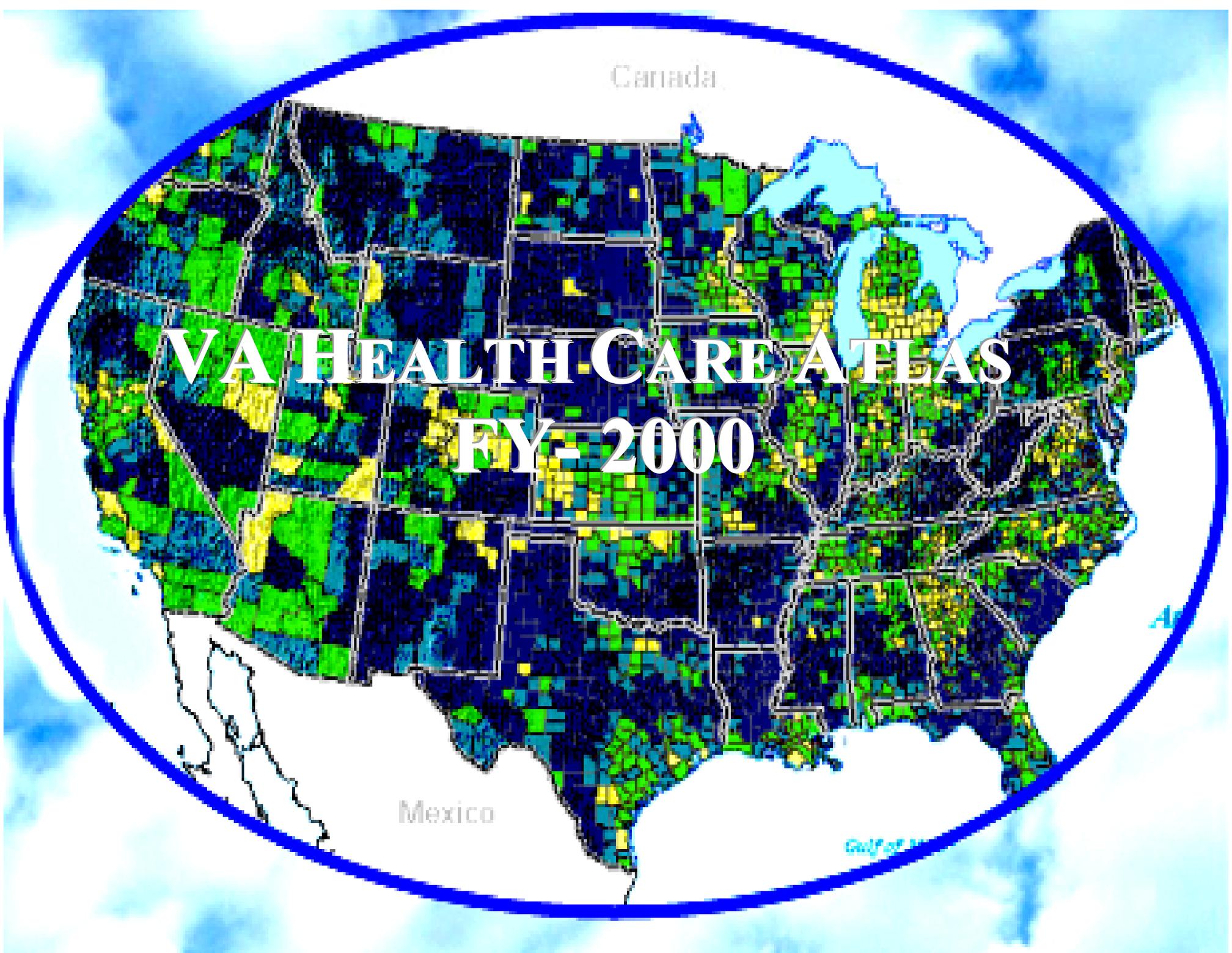


Canada

VA HEALTH CARE ATLAS FY-2000

Mexico

Gulf of Mexico



Introduction

This section presents data on the total number of patients that were treated in FY-2000, along with the two overall utilization measures: total number of outpatient visits and total number of inpatient discharges. VISN level values represent users who received health care in that network during the fiscal year. Users who received care in multiple networks are counted in each network where they received care. The national-level value represents the unique users across all networks.

Data Sources

Data to obtain the total number of patients came from the following patient care databases available at the Austin Automation Center and were extracted during February and March 2003:

- FY-2000 Inpatient Files
 - MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PM00
 - MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.CENSUS.PM00
- FY-2000 Observation Files
 - MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PMO00
 - MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.CENSUS.PMO00
- FY-2000 Extended Care Files
 - MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XM00
 - MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.CENSUS.XM00
- FY-2000 Non-VA Care File
 - MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NM00
- FY-2000 Outpatient Event File
 - MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.SE00

FY-2000 utilization data were obtained from the FY-2000 Inpatient Files and the Outpatient Event File.

National Totals

Table 4.1 shows that during FY-2000, there were over 3 million individual veterans who received care in the VHA. These patients generated a total of 35.3 million outpatient visits and over five hundred thousand inpatient episodes of care.

VISN Trends

The number of patients by VISN ranged from a high in the Sunshine network (VISN 8) of over 300,000 unique patients to a low of just over 70,000 patients in the Central Plains network (VISN 14). Other networks with relatively high number of patient volume include the South Central (VISN 16), Stars and Stripes (VISN 4) and the Atlantic network (VISN 7). Map 4.1 graphically depicts the data for the number of patients and shows the national pattern of large patient populations generally in the southern tier of the United States.

The overall utilization patterns in terms of the total number of outpatient visits and inpatient discharges mirror where the VHA patient population is the largest. That is, networks with a relatively large patient population have concomitant patterns in overall use of VA facilities for health services. Map 4.2 presents the data for outpatient visits and Map 4.3 presents the data for inpatient discharges.

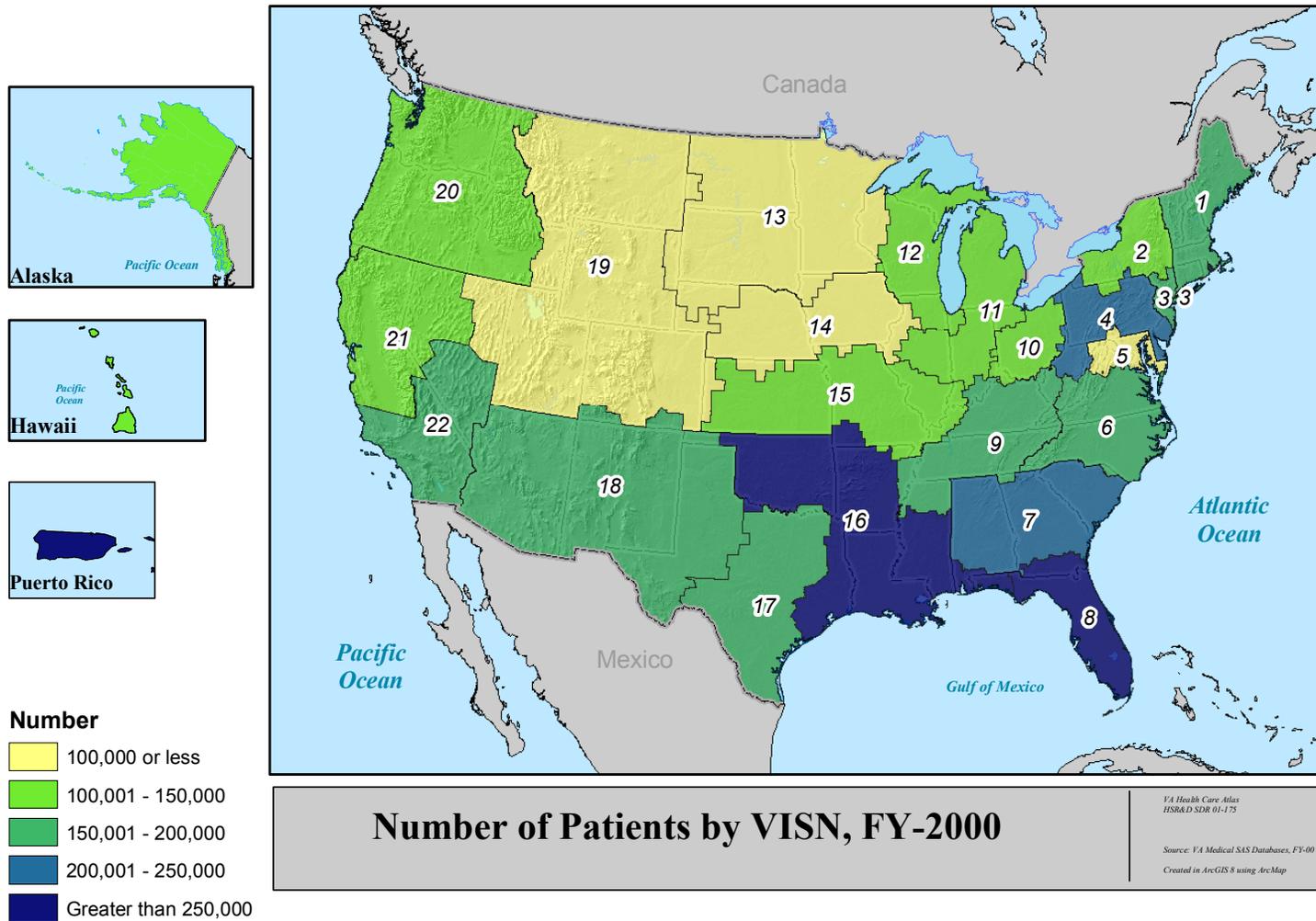
Utilization

Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)

Table 4.1: Number of Patients, Outpatient Visits, and Discharges

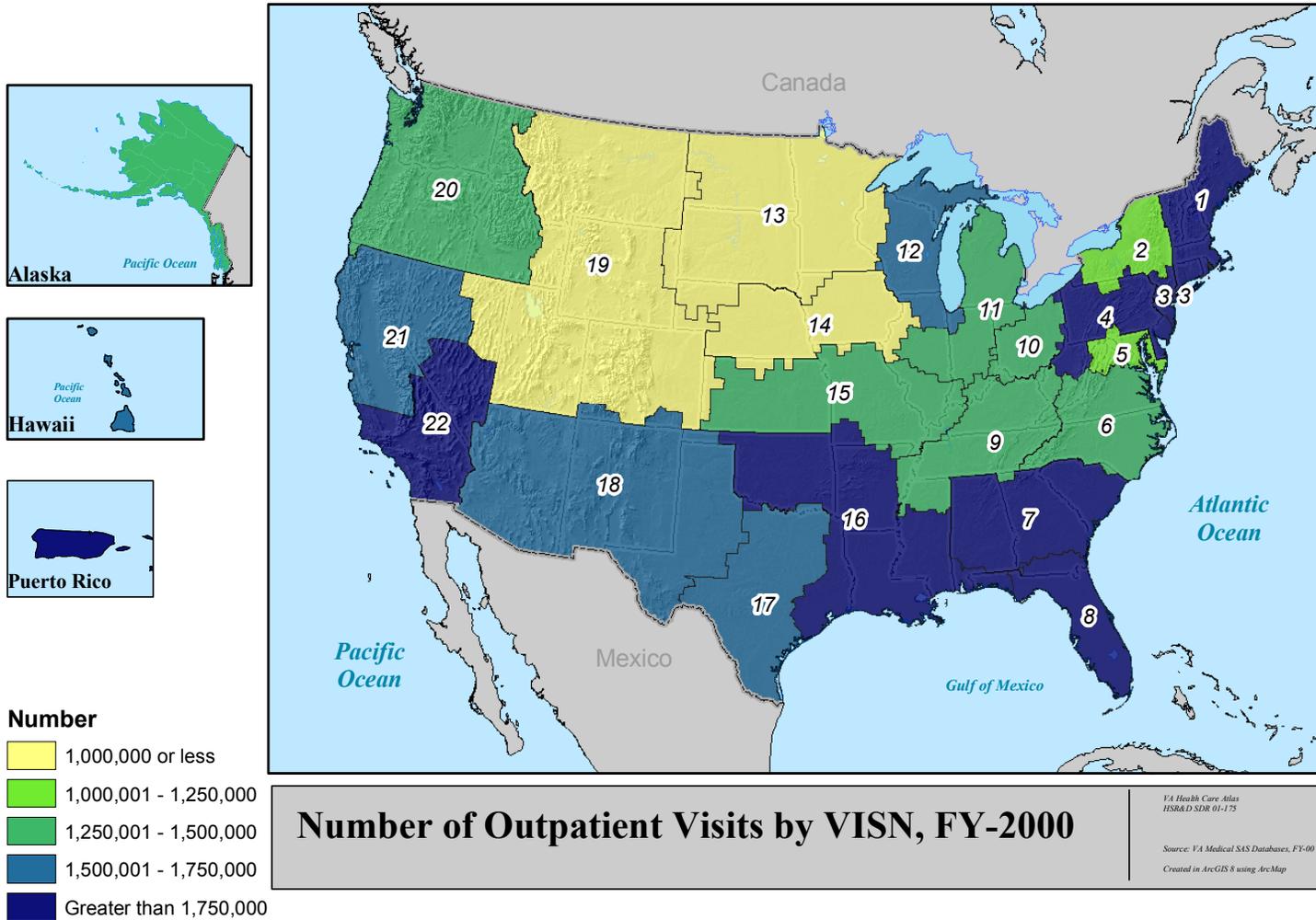
Number of Patients, Number of Outpatient Visits and Number of Hospital Discharges by VISN, FY-2000			
Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)	Number of Patients	Number of Visits	Number of Discharges
New England (1)	158,204	1,990,550	24,413
Upstate New York (2)	100,499	1,093,796	11,871
NY/NJ (3)	166,593	1,854,064	24,128
Stars and Stripes (4)	202,472	1,846,937	24,122
Capital (5)	88,163	1,007,572	17,107
Mid-Atlantic (6)	161,081	1,491,680	31,256
Atlantic (7)	201,514	1,891,761	29,275
Sunshine (8)	308,906	3,109,217	41,850
Mid-South (9)	165,501	1,483,519	34,579
Ohio (10)	117,463	1,327,847	18,945
Vets in Partnership (11)	142,393	1,368,643	23,779
Great Lakes (12)	142,079	1,715,017	30,157
Upper Midwest (13)	96,279	934,533	16,092
Central Plains (14)	73,699	674,604	9,898
Heartland (15)	148,229	1,458,394	25,568
South Central (16)	294,286	2,750,358	47,751
Heart of Texas (17)	151,601	1,544,273	25,932
Southwest (18)	154,764	1,574,259	23,822
Rocky Mt (19)	95,866	959,415	15,065
Northwest (20)	143,215	1,488,150	24,296
Sierra Pacific (21)	149,020	1,630,530	19,163
Desert Pacific (22)	178,204	2,119,773	25,132
National Total	3,314,672	35,314,892	544,201

Veterans Integrated Service Network – Map 4.1

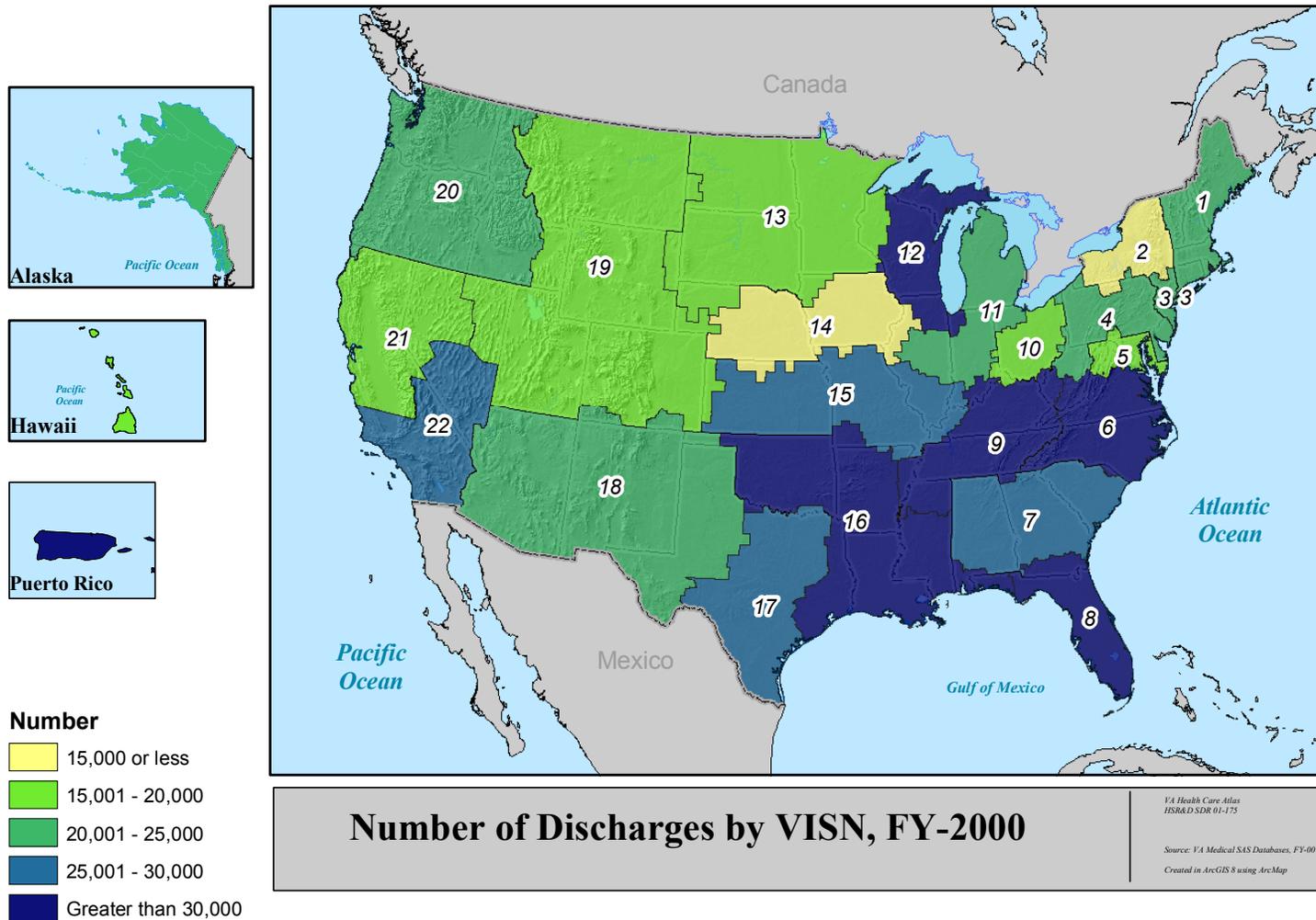


Utilization

Veterans Integrated Service Network – Map 4.2



Veterans Integrated Service Network – Map 4.3



County Overview

Data for county-level patient population, outpatient visits, and inpatient discharges were obtained from the Medical SAS databases listed in the VISN section above. In addition to overall volume, data are presented in terms of rates per 1,000 enrollees. In creating the rate per 1,000, the September enrollment file was used to provide temporal compatibility with the end of year workload databases.

Number of Patients

Map 4.4 graphically depicts the number of patients by county for FY- 2000. Pockets of large patient populations can be seen in southern California, Nevada, Arizona, and Florida. Other large VA patient populations are found in overall high veteran population density counties.

Number of Visits and Discharges

Maps 4.5 and 4.6 portray the overall volume of visits and discharges of the veteran population in the county. As expected, counties with large patient populations also show the largest workload volumes, both for inpatient and outpatient care.

Number of Visits per 1,000 Enrollees

Map 4.7 represents the number of outpatient visits per 1,000 enrollees by county in FY-2000. An interesting trend appears in this national map. Specifically, when adjusting outpatient usage, the West Coast and Pacific Northwest show relatively low rates as compared to other parts of the nation. Whether this trend is due to patient and/or enrollee characteristics or reflects differences in regional practice patterns warrants further investigation. In counties where there are at least 1,000 enrollees, the top ten utilization rates are located in:

- Fall River, South Dakota
- Marion County, Iowa
- Shawnee County, Kansas
- Fannin County, Texas
- Calhoun County, Michigan
- Sterns County, Minnesota
- Monroe County, Wisconsin
- Berkeley County, West Virginia
- Grant County, Indiana
- Cecil County, Maryland

Maps 4.8 – 4.11 show the outpatient utilization rates by county within VISN.

Number of Discharges per 1,000 Enrollees

A trend similar to outpatient rates occurs with the inpatient discharge rate per 1,000 as can be seen in Map 4.12. Again, rates of use appear quite low on the West Coast and Pacific Northwest. The top ten counties with enrollment populations of at least 1,000 veterans are:

- Fall River County, South Dakota
- Berkeley County, West Virginia
- Columbia, Florida
- Vermillion County, Illinois
- Washington County, Tennessee
- Marion County, Iowa
- Ross County, Ohio
- Fayette County, West Virginia
- Carter County, Tennessee
- Shawnee County, Kansas

Maps 4.13 - 4.16 present the inpatient utilization rates by county with VISN.

For More Information

To learn more about the VHA workload databases, individuals should visit the Health Services Research and Development VA Information Resource Center (VIREC) located at the Hines VA Hospital (www.virec.research.med.va.gov).

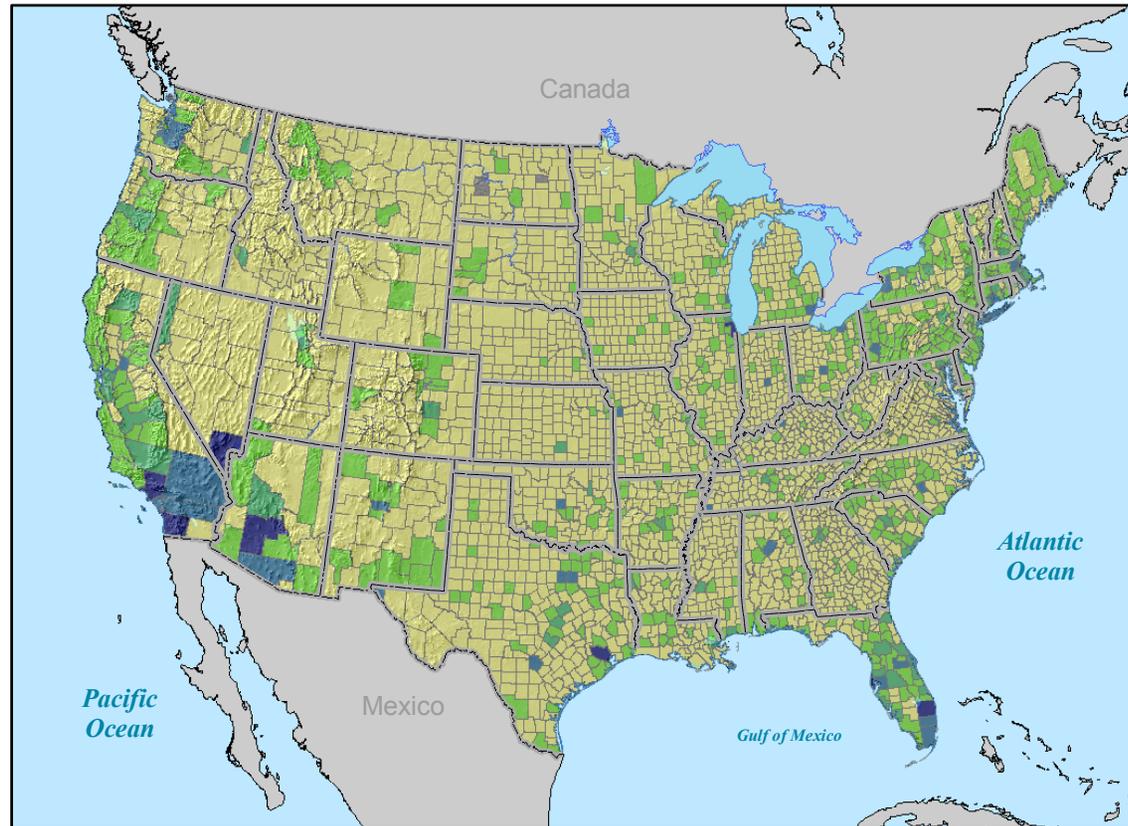
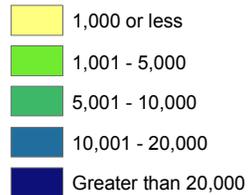
The VIREC has a series of Resource Guides on the VHA's Inpatient and Outpatient Medical SAS databases, along with useful links to other data sources in the Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to the Resource Guides and links, the VIREC also maintains a help desk to assist researchers and other interested parties in their data-related questions. The help desk can be reached by either submitting a Web-based inquiry or by telephone at (708) 202-2413.

Utilization

County – Map 4.4



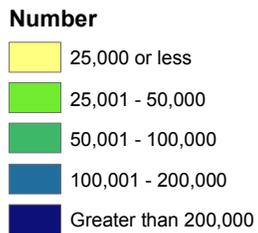
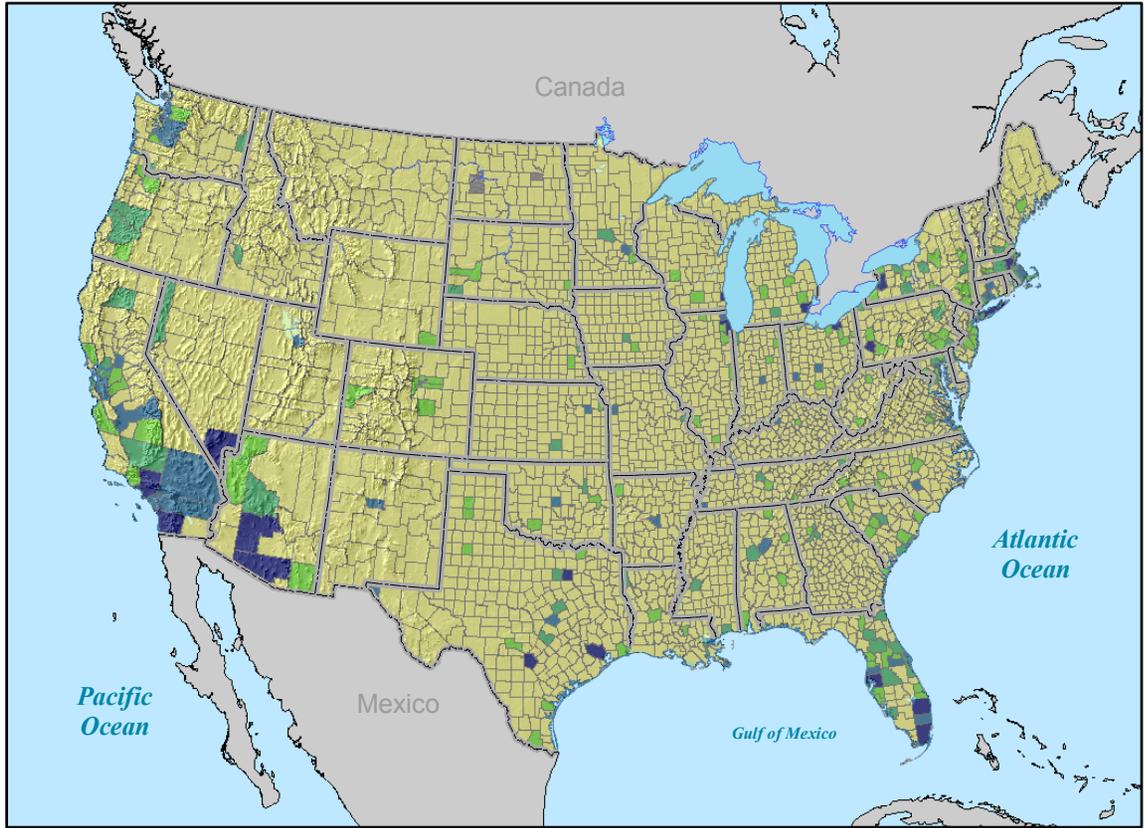
Number



Number of Patients By County, FY-2000

VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175
Source: VA Medical SAS Databases, FY-00
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

County – Map 4.5



Number of Visits by County, FY-2000

VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175

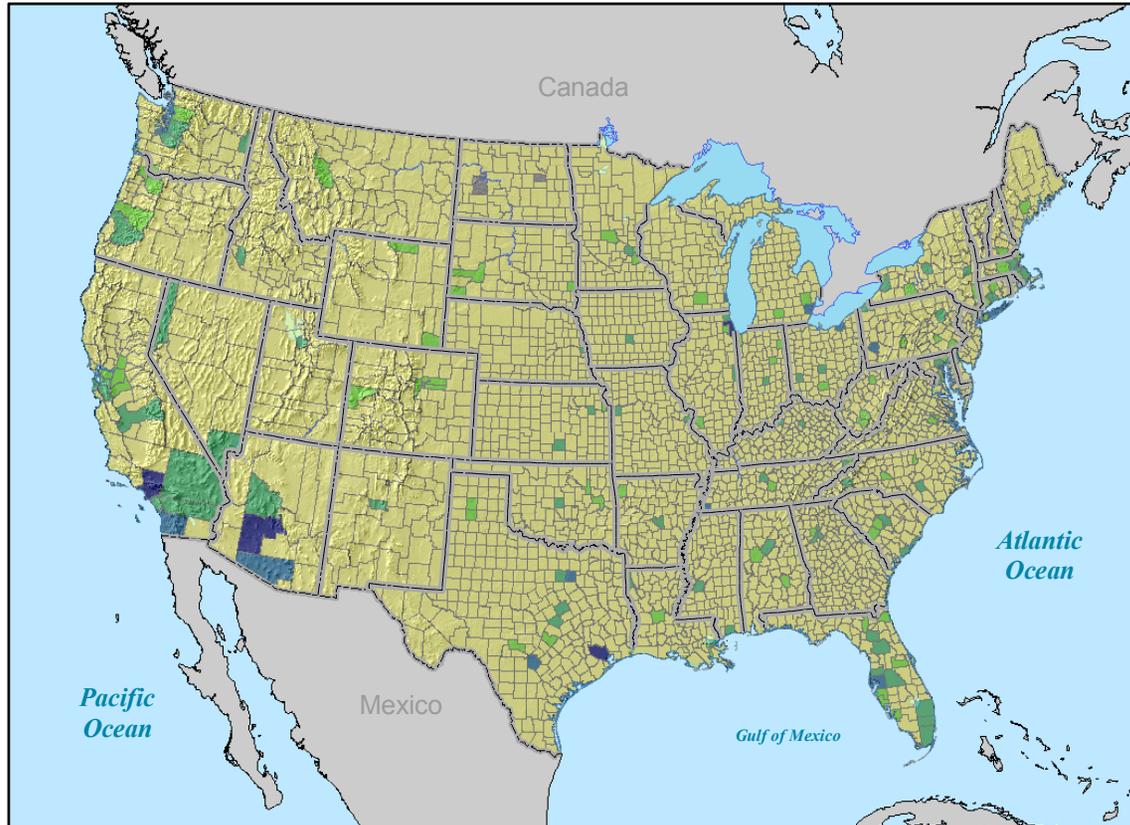
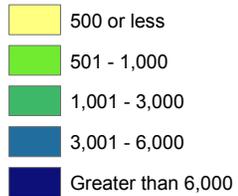
Source: VA Medical SAS Databases, FY-00
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

Utilization

County – Map 4.6



Number



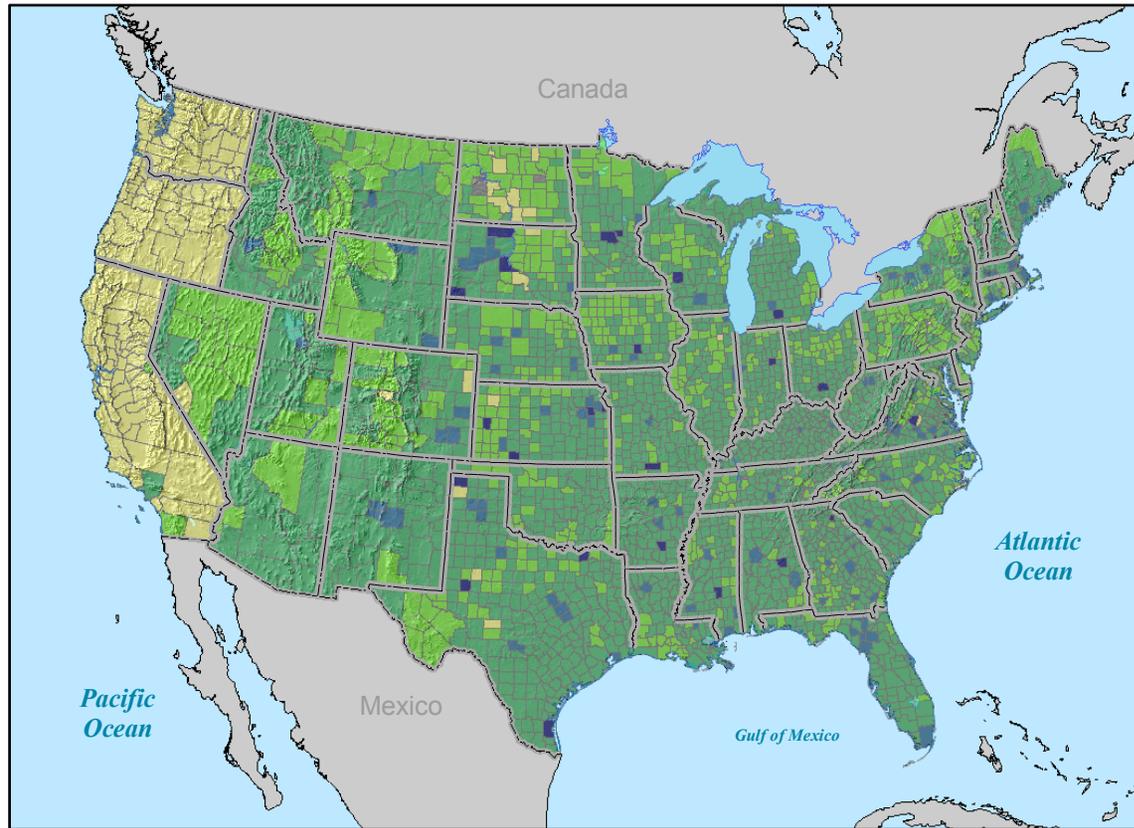
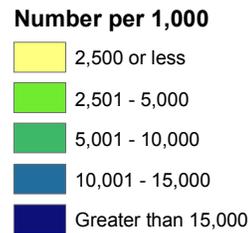
Number of Discharges by County, FY-2000

VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDW 01-175

Source: VA Medical SAS Databases, FY-00

Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

County – Map 4.7

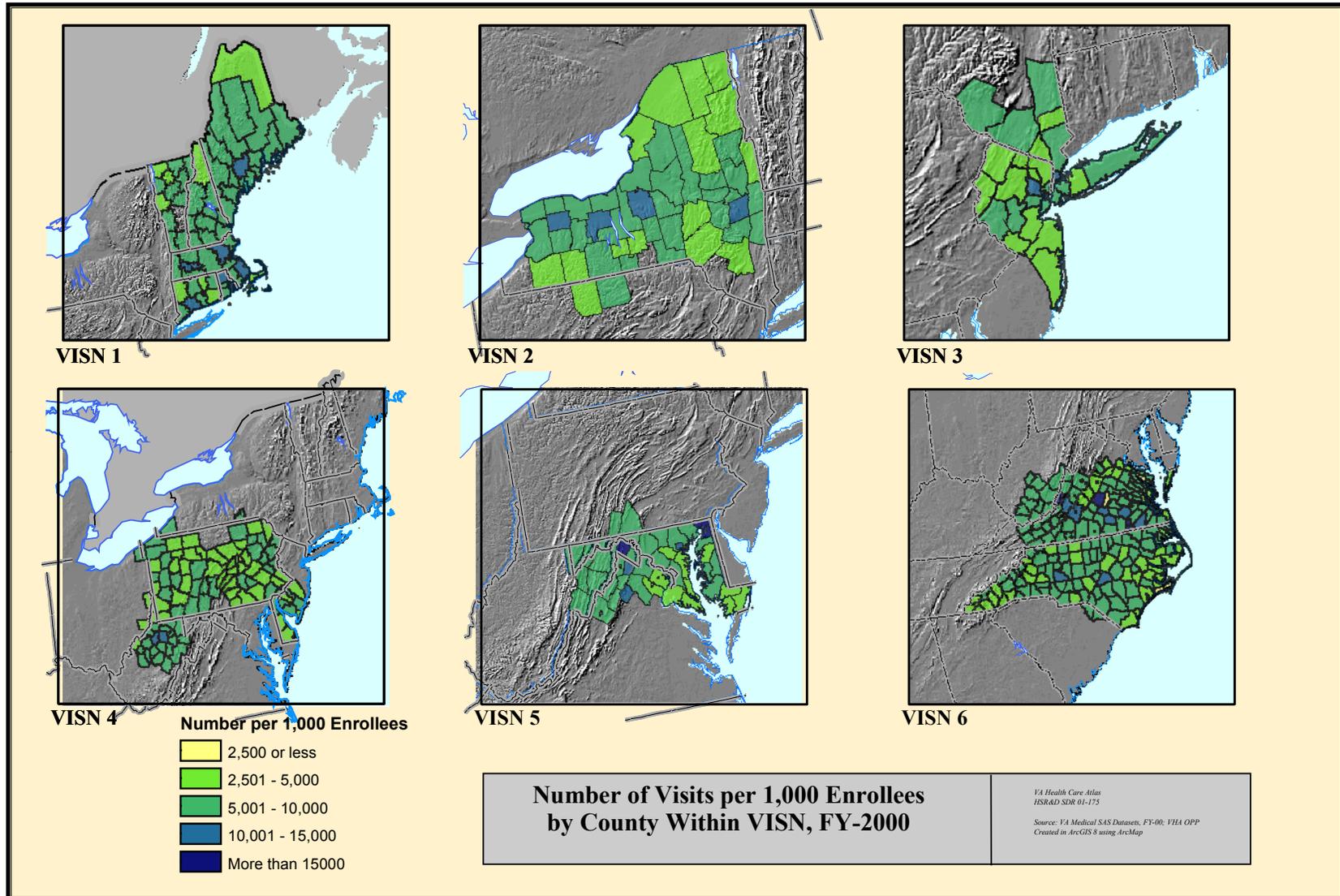


**Number of Visits per 1,000 Enrollees
By County, FY-2000**

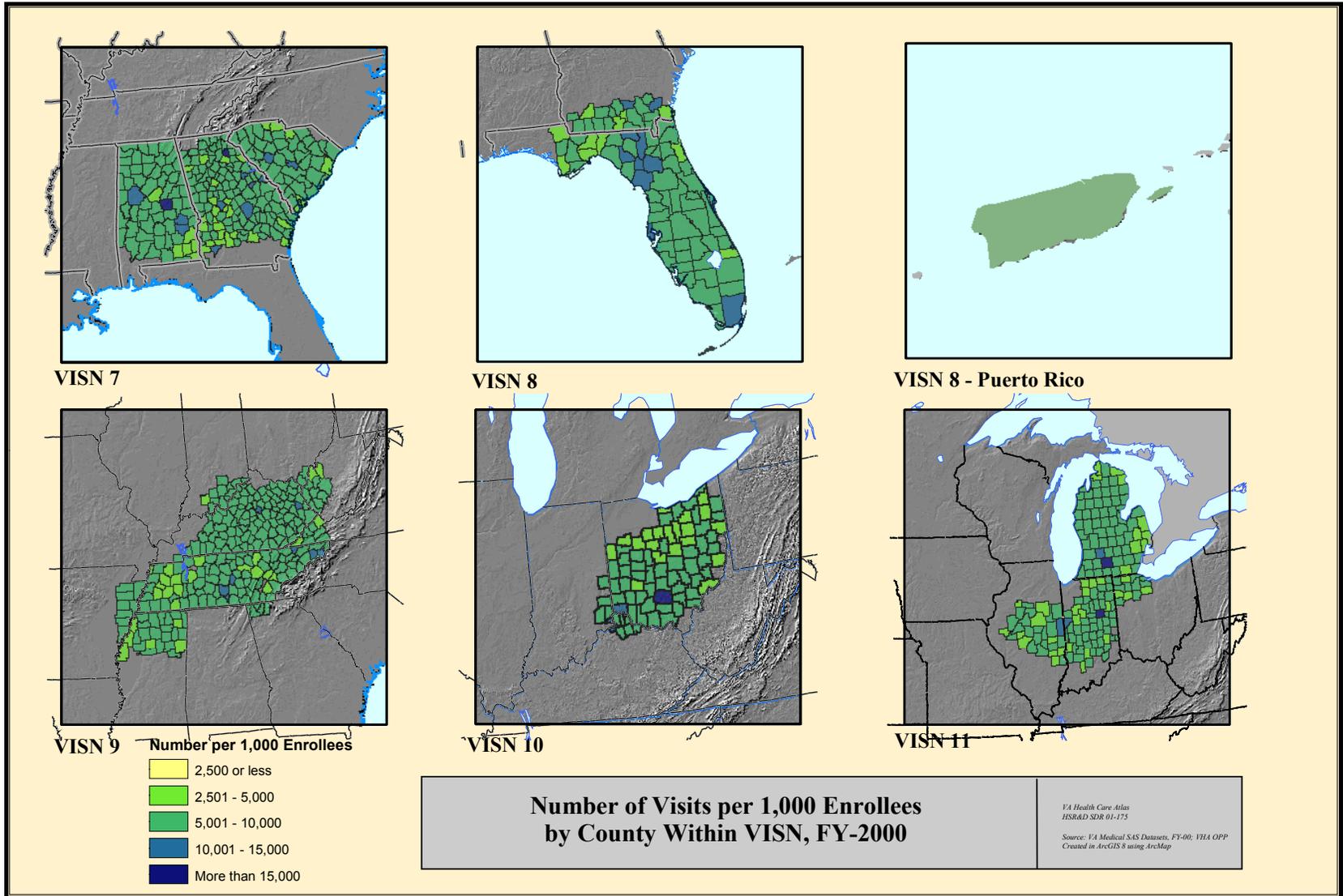
VA Health Care Atlas
HSRA D SDR 01-175
Source: VA Medical SAS Databases, FY-00
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

Utilization

County – Map 4.8

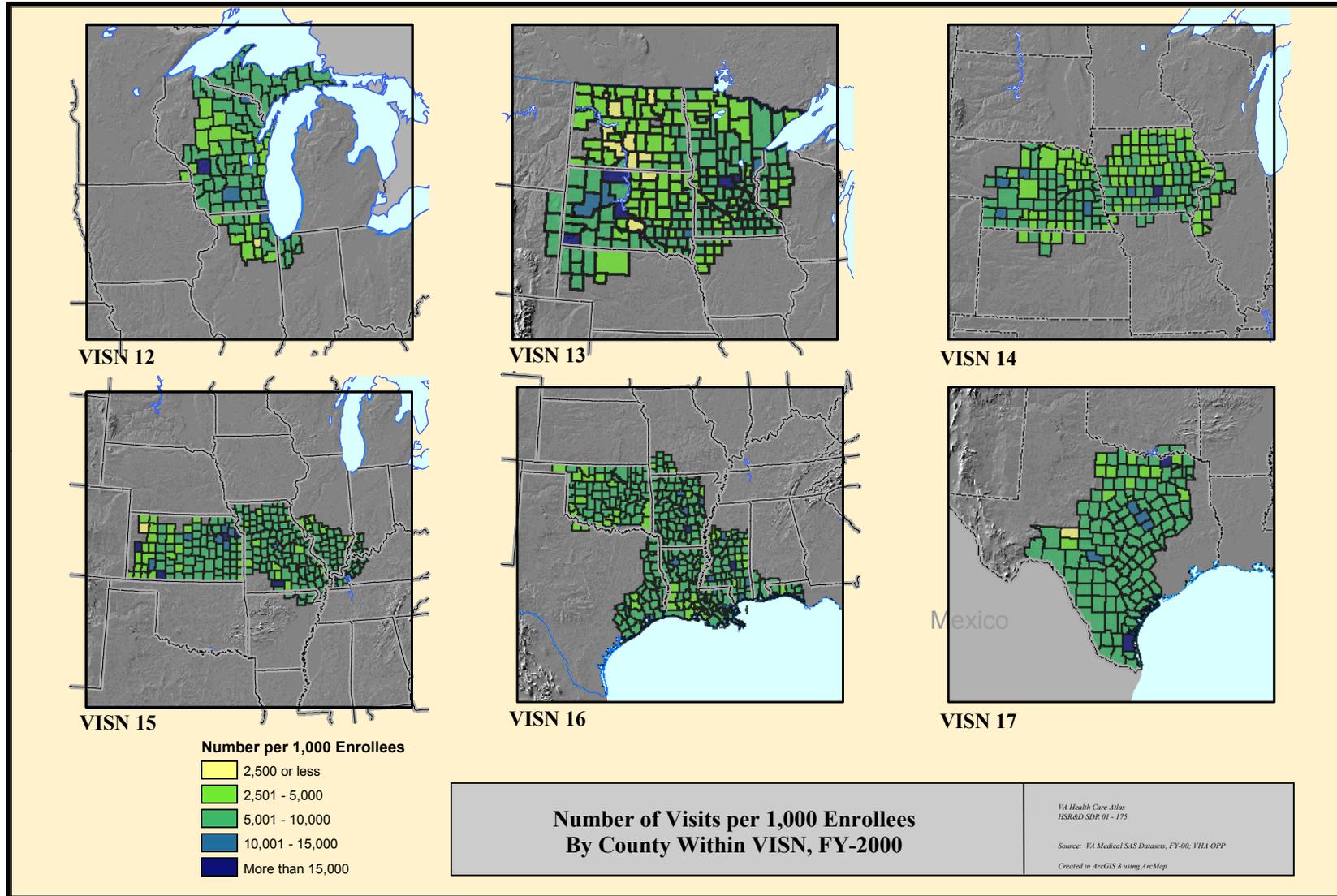


County – Map 4.9

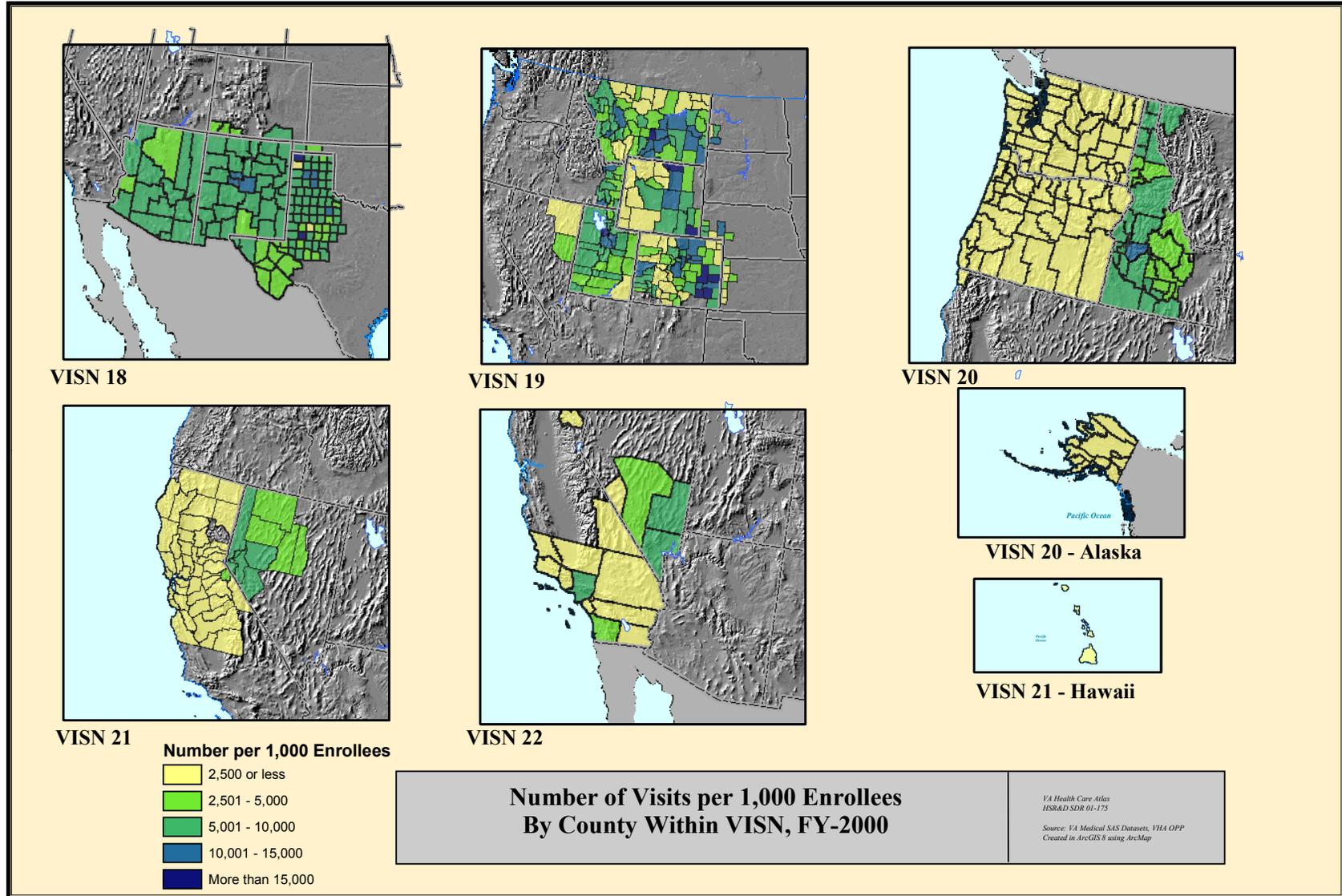


Utilization

County – Map 4.10

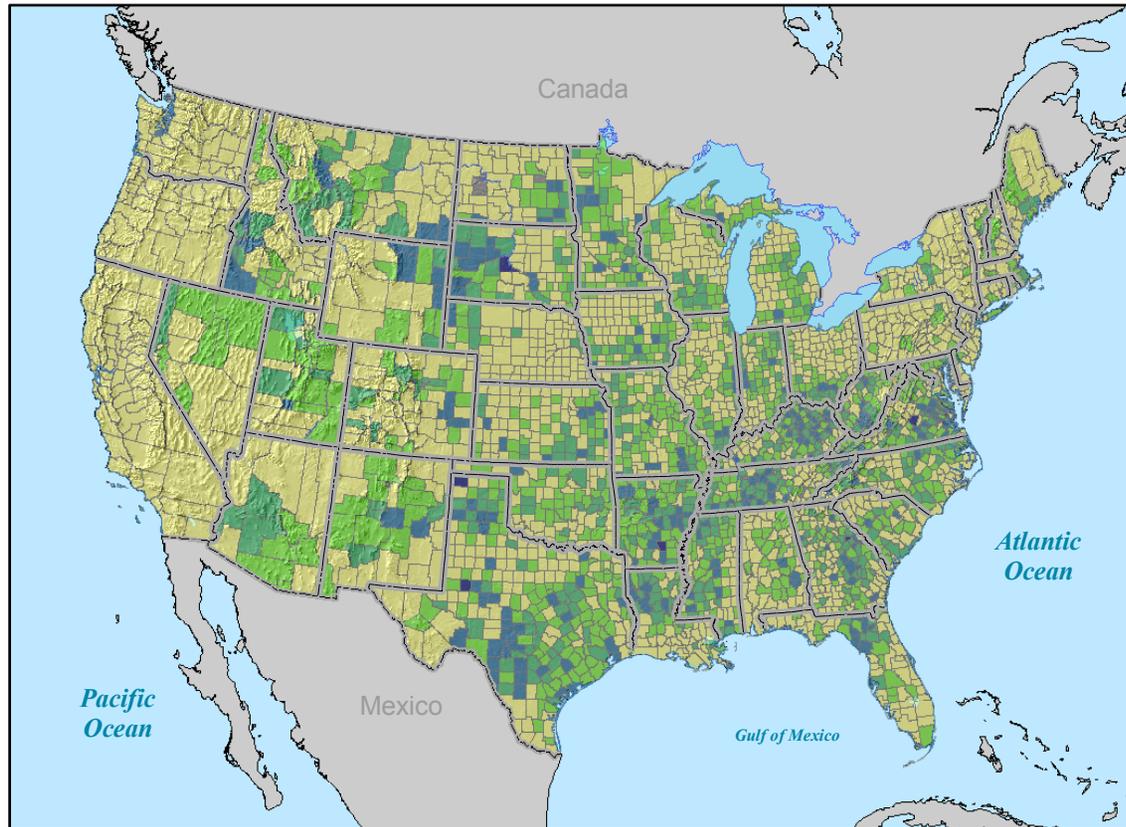


County – Map 4.11



Utilization

County – Map 4.12



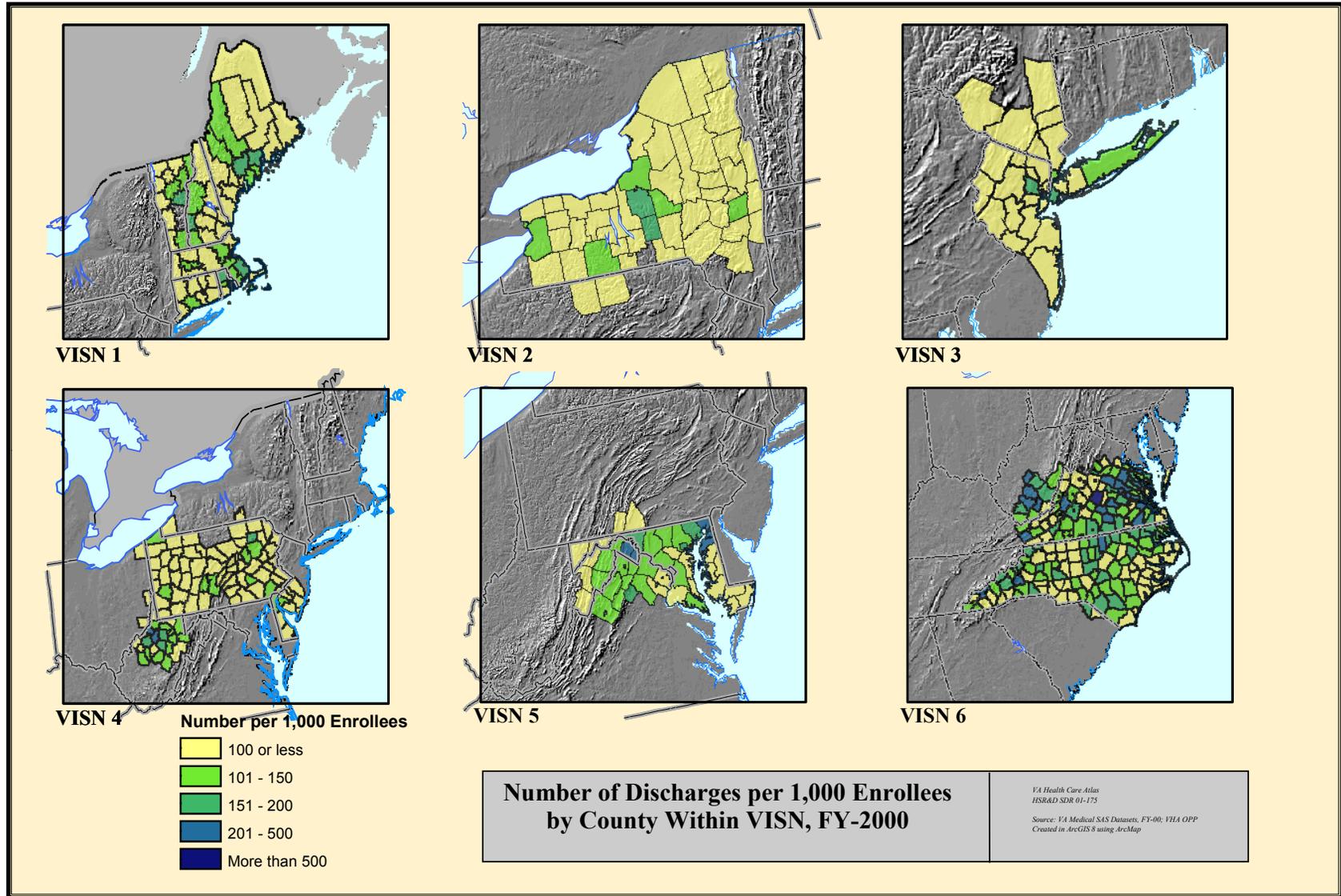
Number per 1,000

-  100 or less
-  101 - 150
-  151 - 200
-  201 - 500
-  Greater than 500

**Number of Discharges per 1,000 Enrollees
By County, FY-2000**

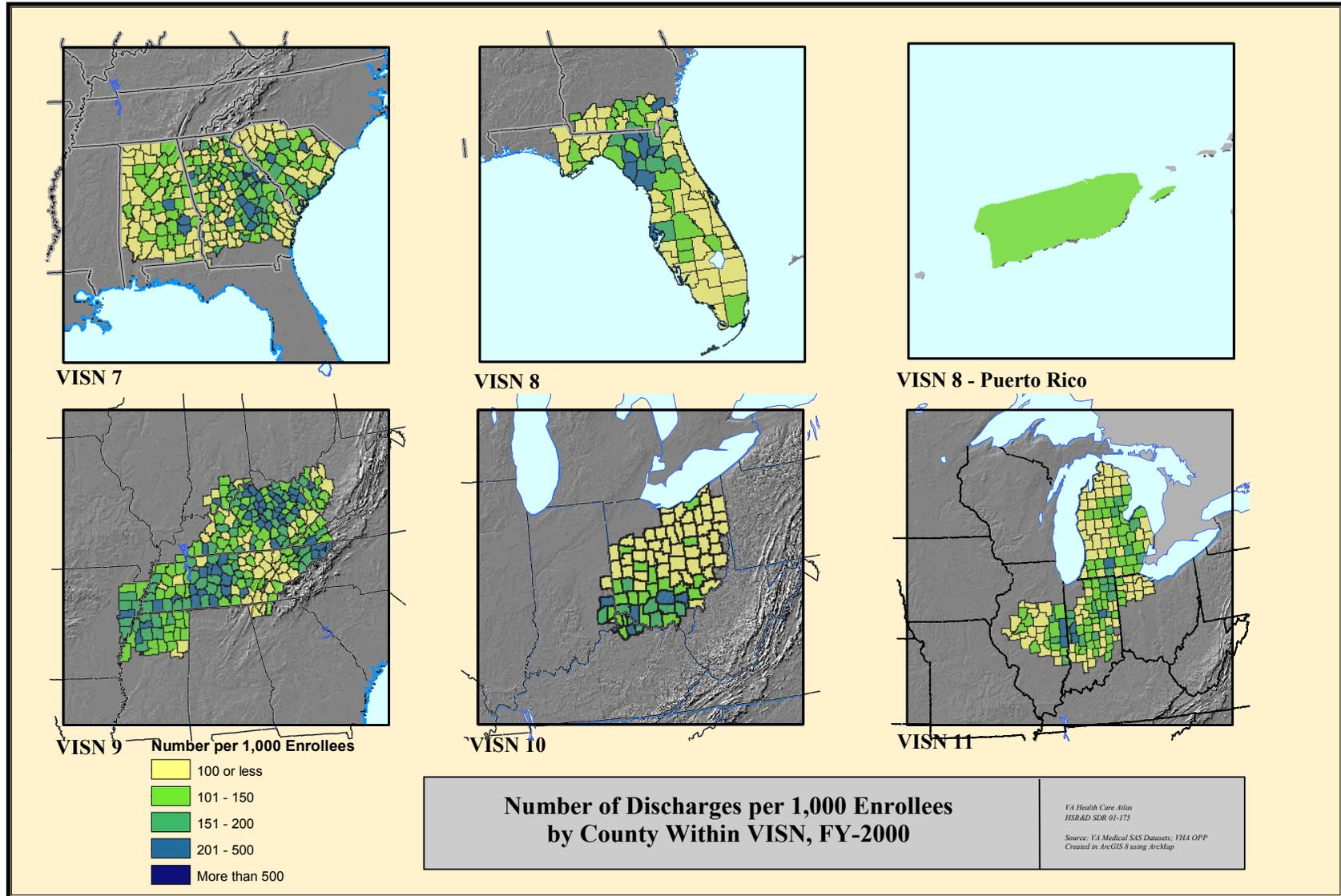
VA Health Care Atlas
HSRAD SDR 01-175
Source: VA Medical SAS Databases, FY-00
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

County – Map 4.13

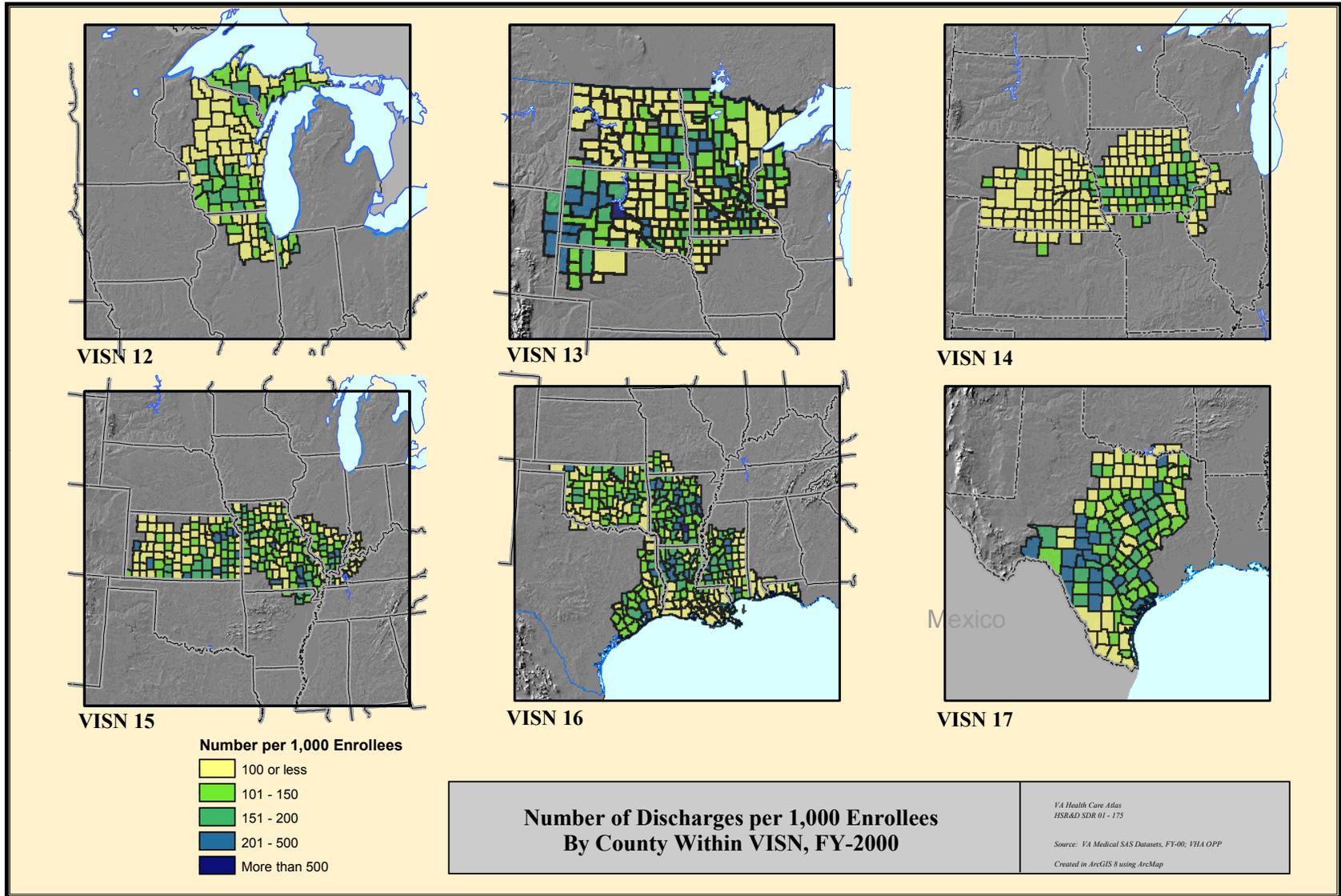


Utilization

County – Map 4.14



County – Map 4.15



Utilization

County – Map 4.16

