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# 5 Maps At a Glance: Hospitalizations, by Discharge Status and Race/Ethnicity



# Maps At a Glance: Hospitalizations, by Discharge Status and Race/Ethnicity

In this section, we placed multiple maps on a page to enhance the reader's ability to visually compare geographic patterns. To ease visual comparison across maps in this section, we only included the continental United States, and we omitted the frequency distribution graphs.

## Discharge Status

For this section, the maps represent the geographic patterns of different discharge destinations of Medicare beneficiaries presented in this *Atlas* for the total population, blacks, Hispanics, and whites.

## Discharge Destinations\*

**Home**—residence or place other than a health care facility where patient receives self-care, health service care, or IV drug therapy.

**Skilled Nursing Facility**—facility that meets specific regulatory certification requirements and that primarily provides inpatient skilled nursing care and related services to patients who require medical, nursing, or rehabilitative services, but does not provide the level of care or treatment available in a hospital.

**Died Before Discharge**—patient died during the hospital stay.

**Died Within 30 Days**—patient died within 30 days of admission to the hospital for heart disease.

During 2000–2006, most of the Medicare beneficiaries hospitalized for heart disease were discharged home (73.1%). Skilled nursing facilities were the second most common destination (10.8%). In addition, 6.4% of people died within 30 days and 4.3% died before discharge.

## A Note on Methods

Heart disease hospitalizations were defined as those for which the principal diagnosis on the Medicare hospital claim form was one of the following *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) codes:

### All Diseases of the Heart

Diagnosis	ICD-9-CM Code
Rheumatic fever with heart involvement	391
Rheumatic chorea	392
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	393–398
Hypertensive heart disease	402
Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease	404
Acute myocardial infarction	410
Ischemic heart disease	410–414
Acute pulmonary heart disease	415
Chronic pulmonary heart disease	416
Cardiac dysrhythmia	427
Heart failure	428
Other forms of heart disease	420–426, 429 (excluding 429.2)
Cardiovascular disease, unspecified	429.2

\* Categories of discharge destination are defined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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For each map, the counties are categorized according to quintile; the darkest color represents counties with the highest rates, and the lightest color represents counties with the lowest rates.

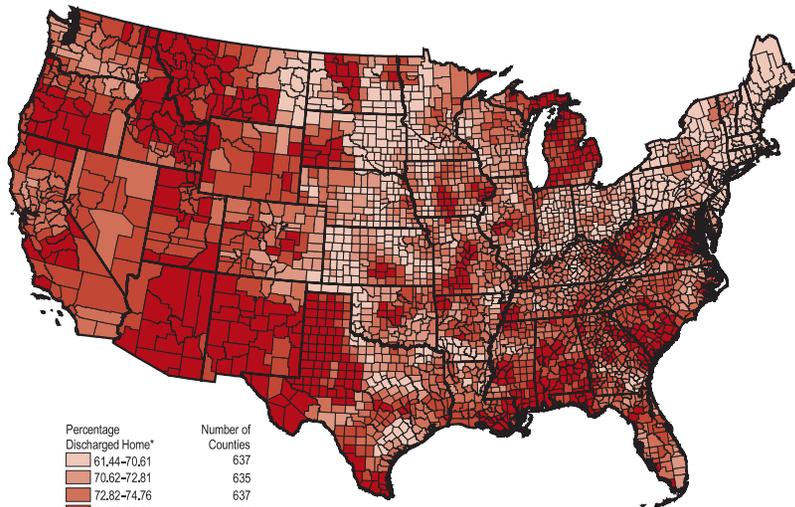
All county-level rates have been spatially smoothed to enhance the stability in counties with small populations. For a detailed explanation of the methods, see Appendix B.

### **A Cautionary Note**

In the Medicare data sets, the accuracy of codes for Hispanic race and ethnicity is limited because these codes are not reported separately. For example, a person who is white and Hispanic is reported as either white or Hispanic. This reporting practice can result in misclassification of race and ethnicity.

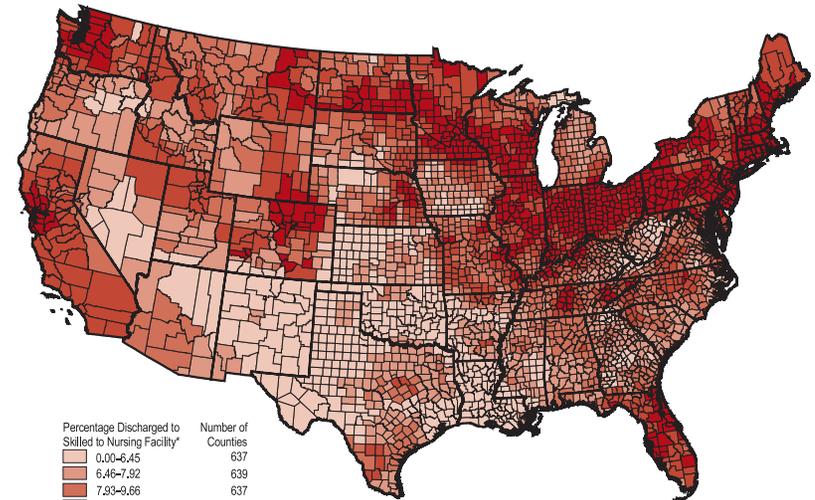
Some studies show evidence that Hispanics are underreported in the Medicare data sets and that this underreporting could introduce bias into the results presented here. (See Appendix B for more details.)

Heart Disease Hospitalizations, Total Population  
Medicare Beneficiaries Ages 65 and Older, 2000–2006



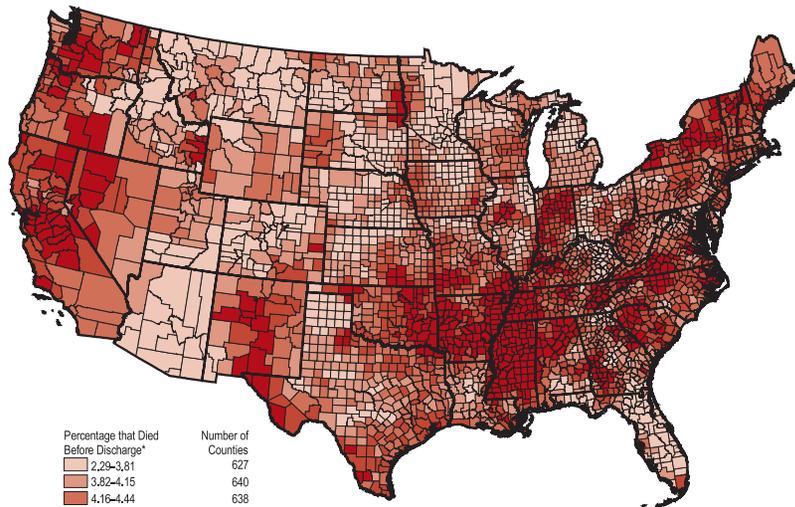
Percentage Discharged Home*	Number of Counties
61.44–70.61	637
70.62–72.81	635
72.82–74.76	637
74.77–76.88	638
76.89–92.59	637
Insufficient Data	3

Discharged Home



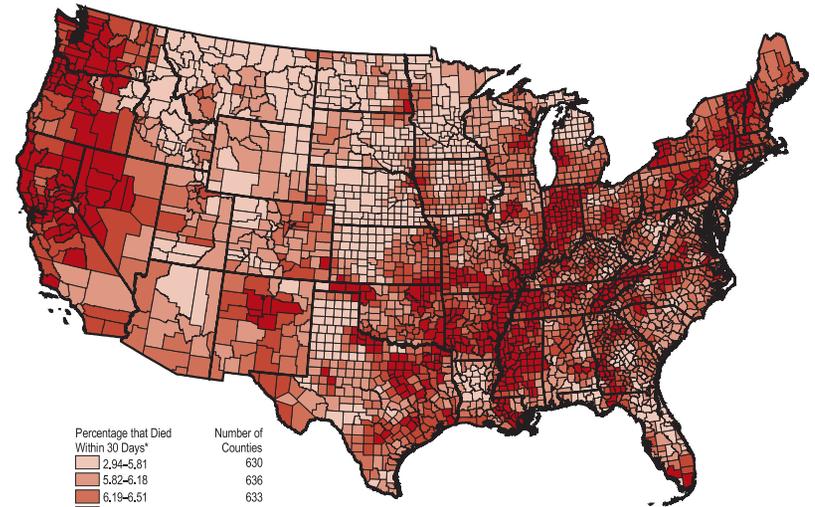
Percentage Discharged to Skilled to Nursing Facility*	Number of Counties
0.00–6.45	637
6.46–7.92	639
7.93–9.66	637
9.67–11.87	635
11.88–22.05	636
Insufficient Data	3

Discharged to Skilled Nursing Facility



Percentage that Died Before Discharge*	Number of Counties
2.29–3.81	627
3.82–4.15	640
4.16–4.44	638
4.45–4.75	639
4.76–8.81	638
Insufficient Data	5

Died Before Discharge



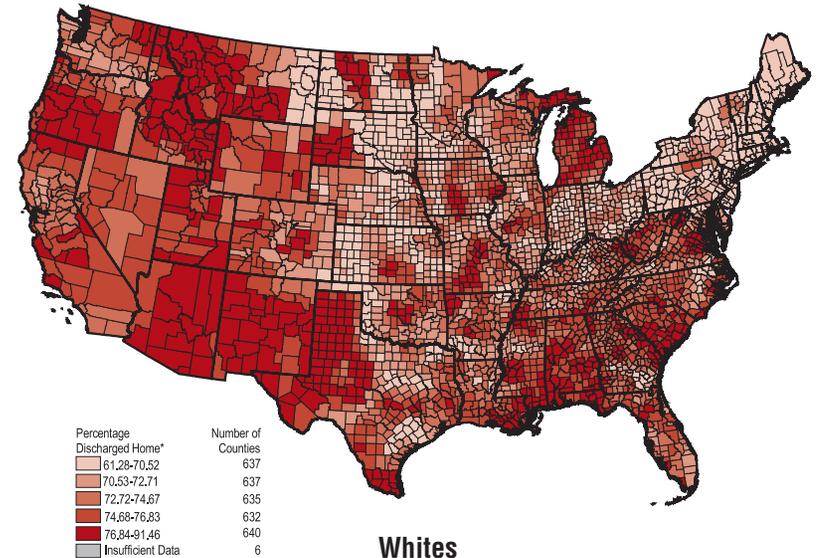
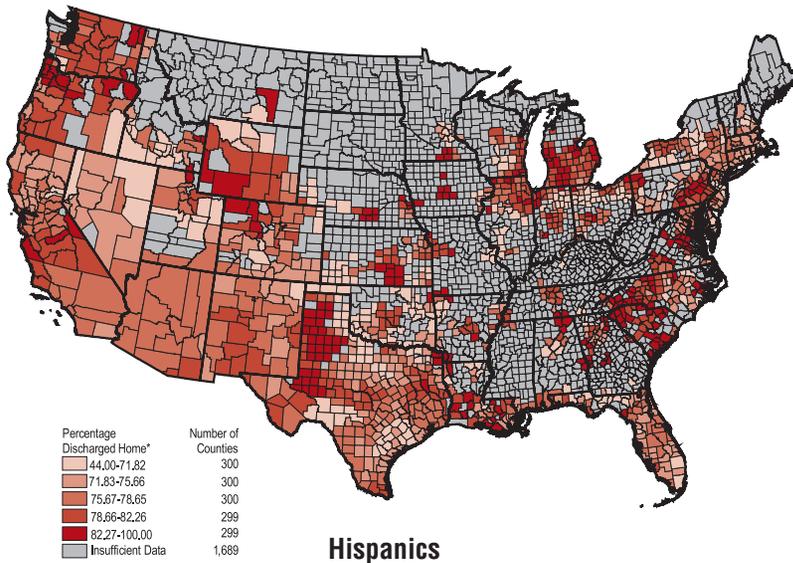
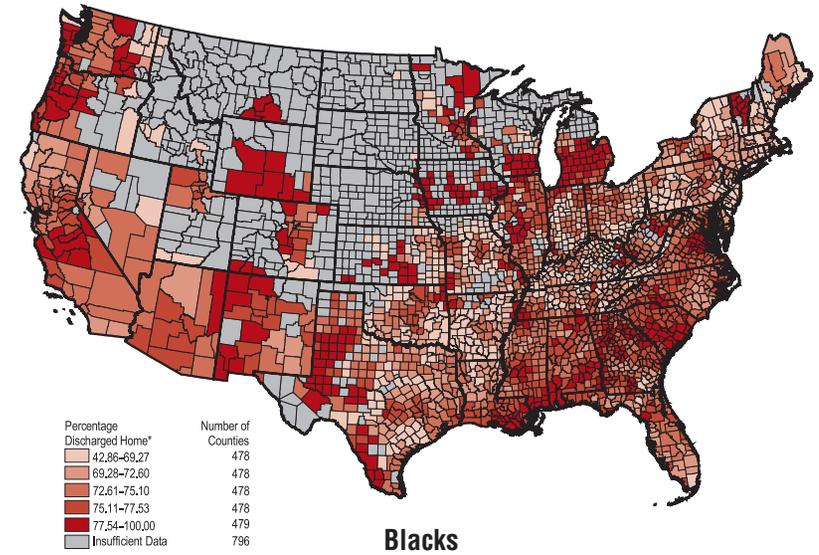
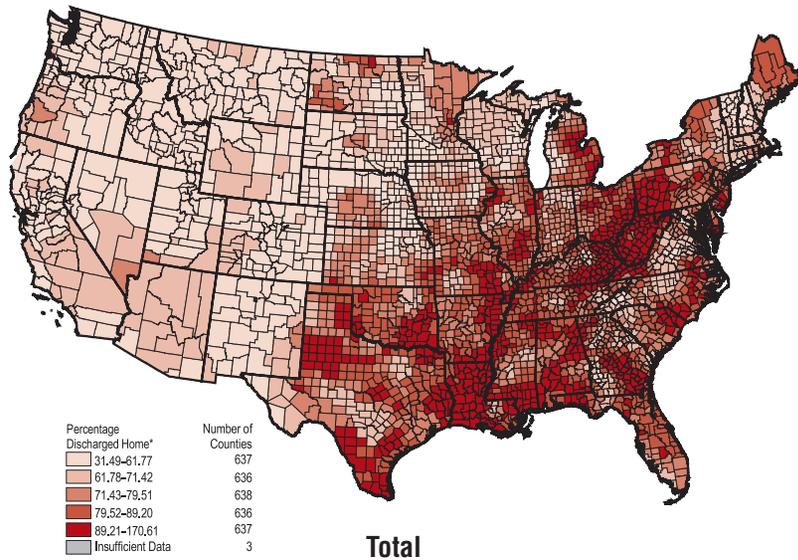
Percentage that Died Within 30 Days*	Number of Counties
2.94–5.81	630
5.82–6.18	636
6.19–6.51	633
6.52–6.86	642
6.87–10.05	640
Insufficient Data	6

Died Within 30 Days

\* Percentages are spatially smoothed to enhance the stability of percentages in counties with small populations.

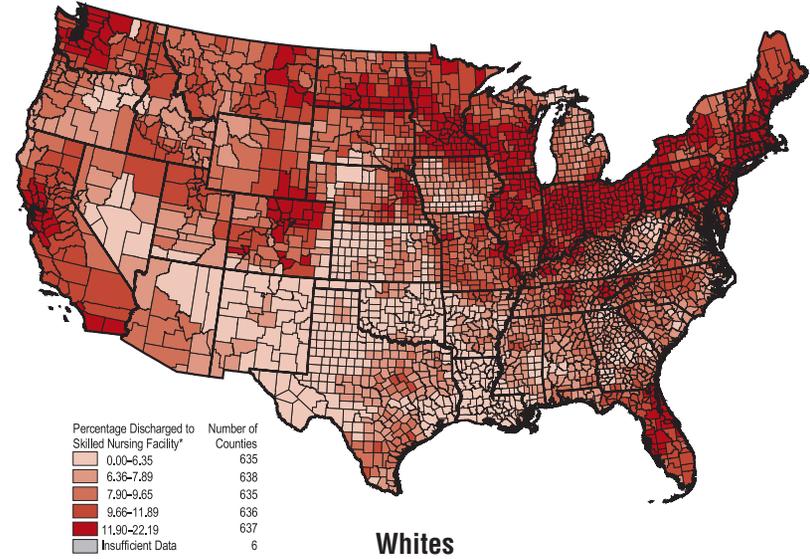
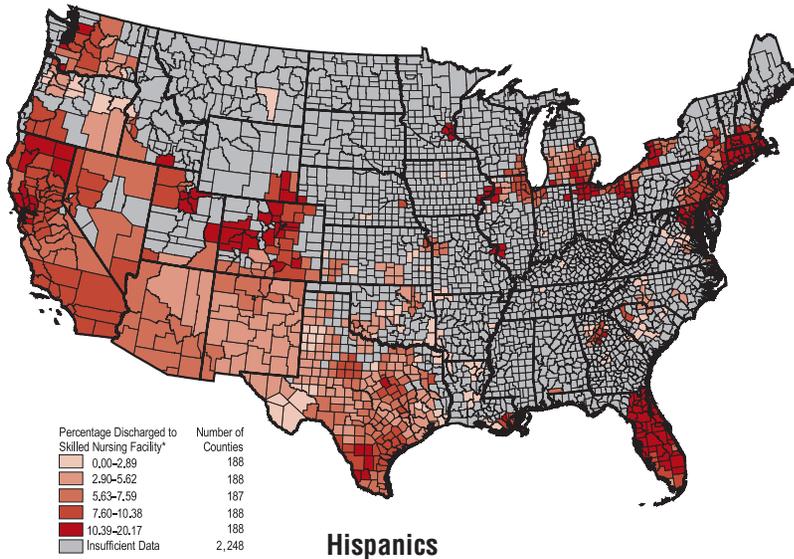
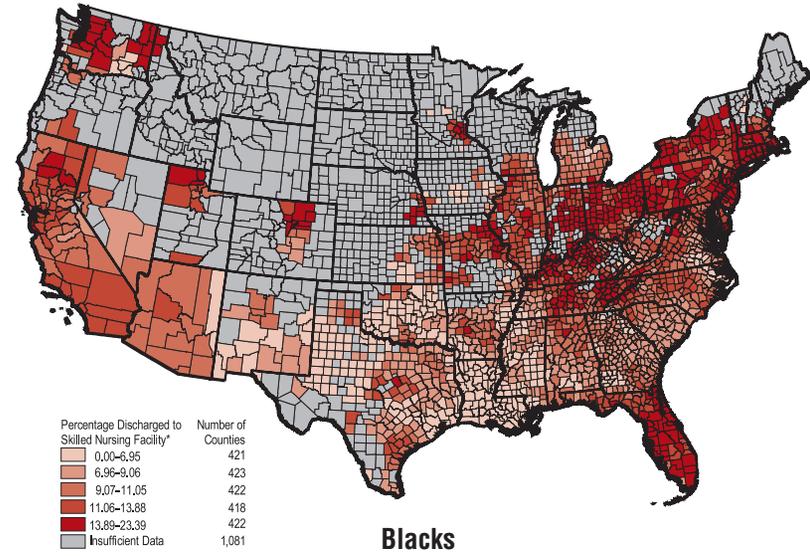
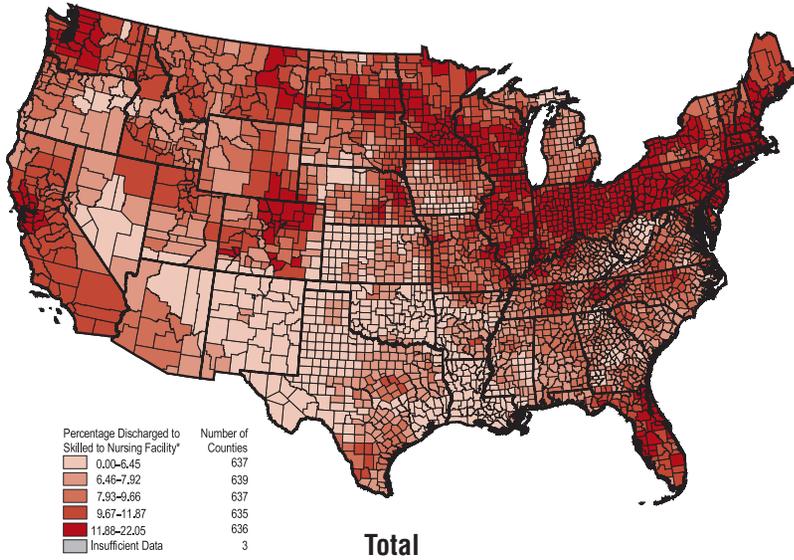


### Heart Disease Hospitalizations, Discharged Home Medicare Beneficiaries Ages 65 and Older, 2000–2006



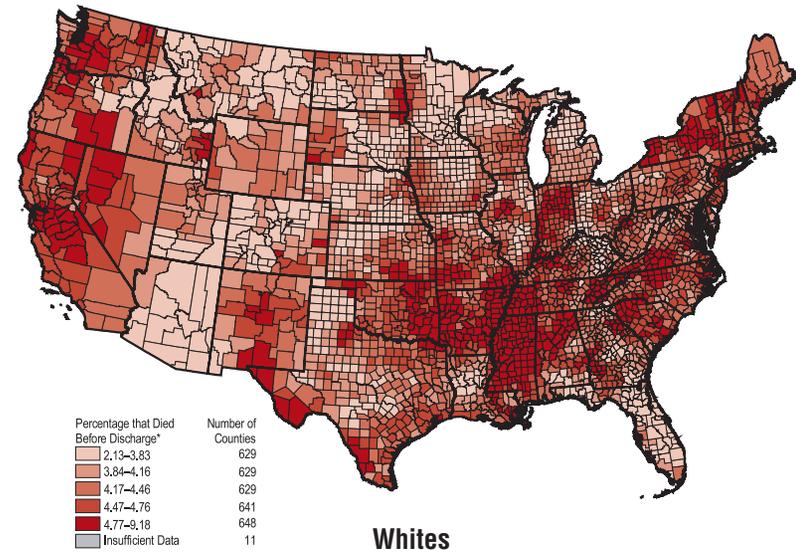
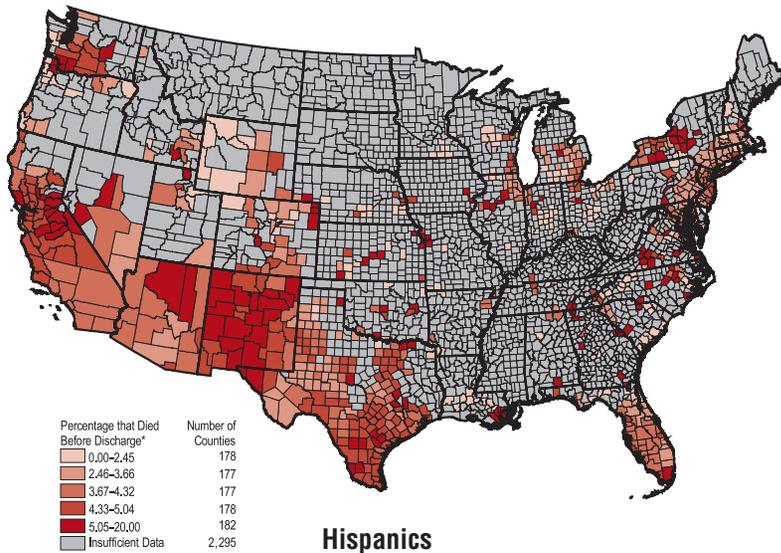
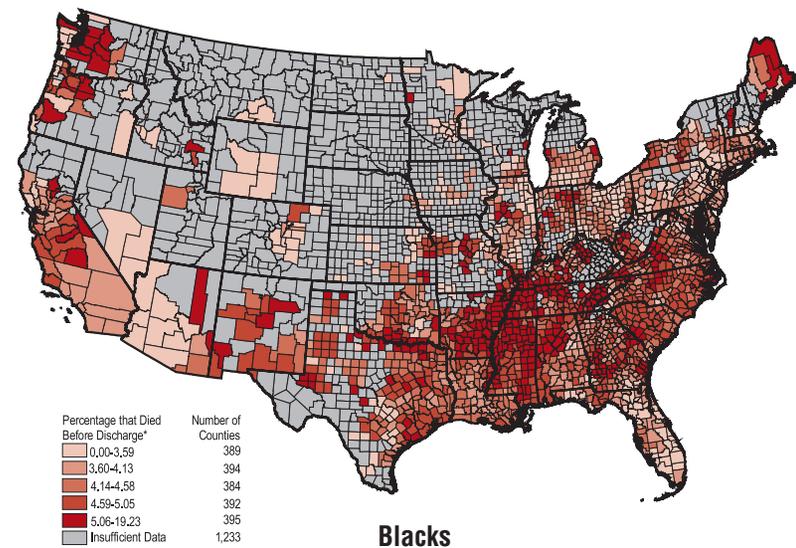
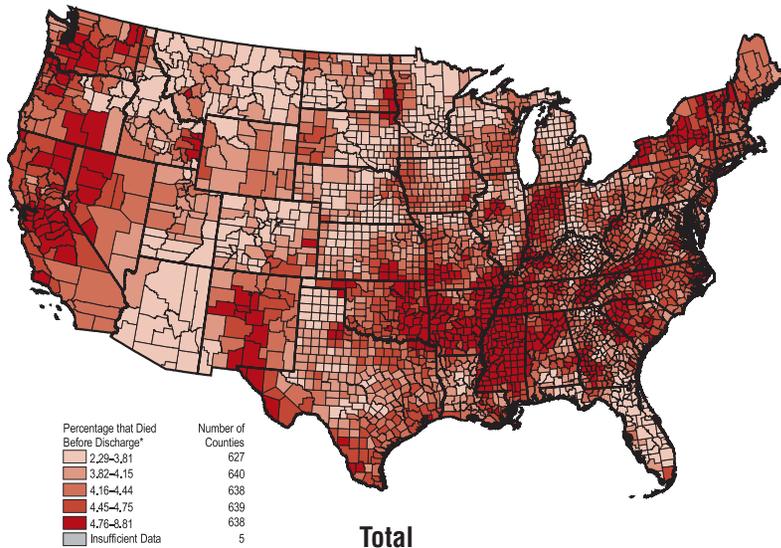
\* Percentages are spatially smoothed to enhance the stability of percentages in counties with small populations.

Heart Disease Hospitalizations, Discharged to Skilled Nursing Facility  
Medicare Beneficiaries Ages 65 and Older, 2000–2006



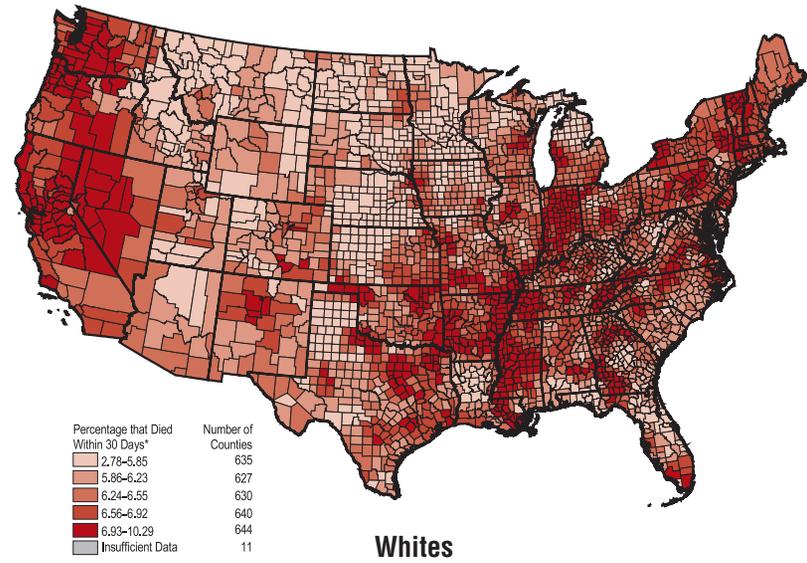
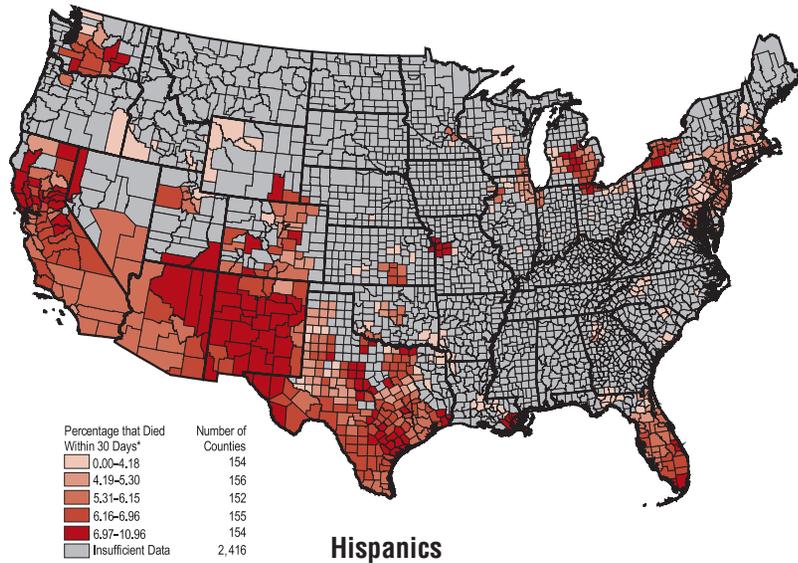
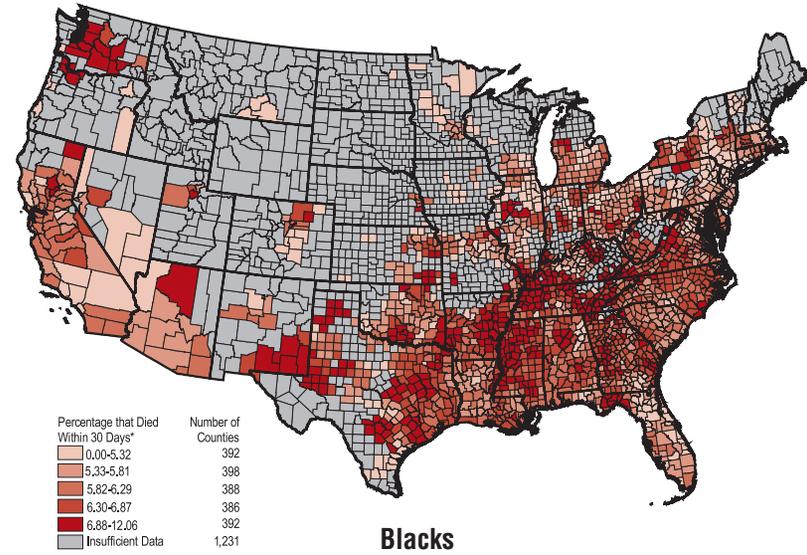
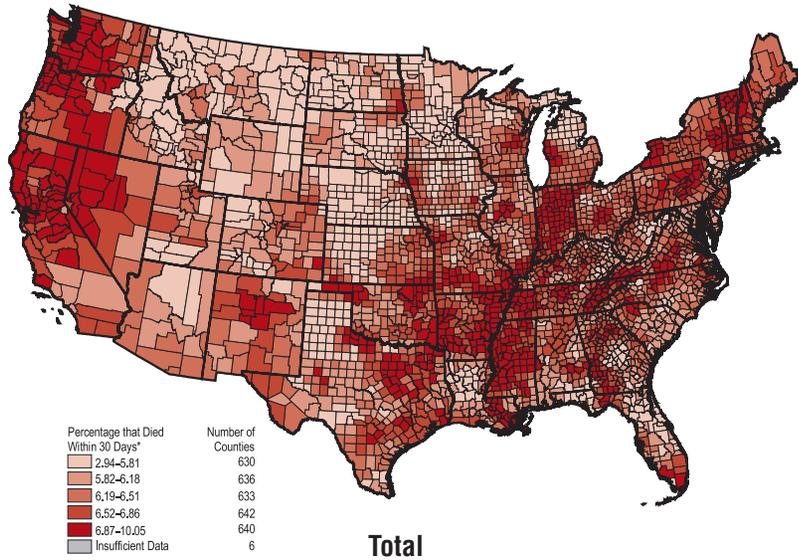
\* Percentages are spatially smoothed to enhance the stability of percentages in counties with small populations.

## Heart Disease Hospitalizations, Died Before Discharge Medicare Beneficiaries Ages 65 and Older, 2000–2006



\* Percentages are spatially smoothed to enhance the stability of percentages in counties with small populations.

## Heart Disease Hospitalizations, Died Within 30 Days Medicare Beneficiaries Ages 65 and Older, 2000–2006



\* Percentages are spatially smoothed to enhance the stability of percentages in counties with small populations.