Rural Health Reform Policy
RESEARCH CENTER

RHRC
Rural Health Research
& Policy Centers
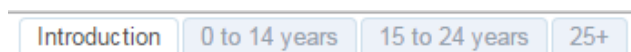*Funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy*

USER'S GUIDE

Mortality Rates among Persons by Cause of Death, Age, and
Rural-Urban Status: United States, 2011-2013 Online Tool

Purpose: This tool allows users to create maps and explore variation in mortality rates by Health and Human Services (HHS) region, cause of death, age, and rural-urban status. Underlying data come from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) based on U.S. Standard Death Certificates.

Using the tool

Navigation

| Introduction | 0 to 14 years | 15 to 24 years | 25+ |

There are four tabs located at the top of the page. The first tab, *Introduction*, is the home page for the tool. From the Introduction tab you can navigate to the other tabs.

To return to the *Introduction* tab, click the black arrow on the top of the page.

Click the arrow to return to the Introduction. ➡

Selecting an Age Range

The tabs at the top of the page show age range options for viewing mortality rate maps. The middle tabs show data for ages *0-14 years* and for *15-24 years* for two rural-urban classifications. The last tab shows data for ages *25+* for five rural-urban classifications.

There are two ways to view the mortality rates for a specific age range: either select the range from the tabs at the top of the page (pictured above) or click on the GO button to the right of the age range under "Table of Contents" (pictured right).

Table of Contents
Click on "Go" to navigate to each view.

0 to 14 Years of Age	GO
15 to 24 Years of Age	GO
25+ Years of Age	GO

Selecting Demographic and Mortality Characteristics

After selecting an age range, use the drop-down menus at the top of the page to make a selection from each of the input categories: Age, Cause of Death, and Sex. Note that Sex only available as an input category for the 25+ age groups. To see the options within each category, click once on the triangle (▼).

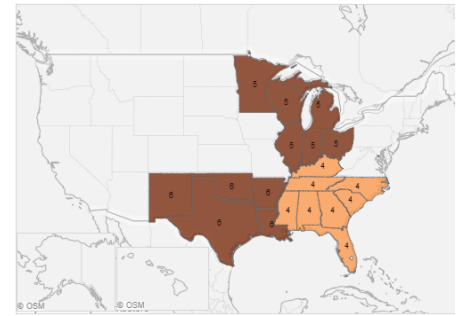| Age	Cause of Death	Sex
25 to 64 ▼	Heart disease ▼	Male ▼
25 to 64		
65 and older		

As the maps are being generated the processing icon ⋰ will display.

The *Exploring Rural and Urban Mortality Differences* may be accessed from the Rural Health Research Gateway website at http://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/.

The title of the map will change to reflect selected inputs. Note that not all causes of death are available for each age group. This makes some input combinations display a blank result when switching between age groups. For example, in Age category 25+, Alzheimer's data are only available for age group *65 and older*; selecting age group *25 to 64* while *Alzheimer's* is selected for cause of death will result in a display of titles and headers but no maps.

Sub-national (e.g. rural-urban level) data representing fewer than 10 deaths are suppressed and unreliable rates have been omitted for continuity so as to not mislead the reader (death count less than 20). Suppressed and unreliable rates are not shown within each map and will display as gray (example, right). Because mortality rates for individuals under the age of 25 are lower than for those over the age of 25, more suppressed and unreliable rates exist thus limiting the visual display for all but the top causes of death.
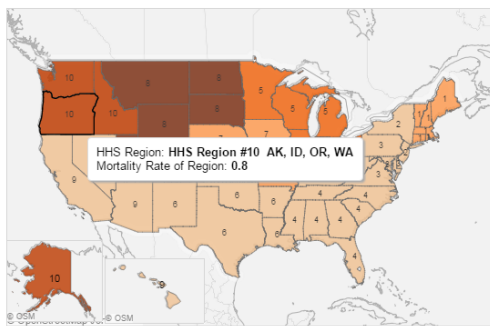
Understanding the Maps

The numbers on each state represent their corresponding HHS region. Maps are shaded such that darker areas represent higher mortality rates. Each map displays a legend to show the mortality rate ranges relevant to the selected inputs. Each legend is divided into five color bins divided uniformly. Note that any rate that falls within the range for the bin color will display as the same color, even though the two values may not be identical.
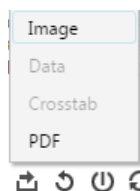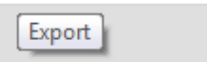
Rates are shaded by HHS region (not by individual state). To view the mortality rate for a specific region, hover your cursor over that region on of the map. A pop up box will display showing the HHS region, included states, and the mortality rate.

Exporting and Printing Maps

To export maps for either printing or to insert into presentations, click the Export icon at the bottom of the page.

Maps can be exported as either an Image (.png) or as a PDF using the menu that pops up when the Export icon is selected.

For More Information

For information on the source data available through this tool see the technical notes (http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/health-reform-policy-research-center).