

Chapter 4

VHA Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)

A Rural Veterans Health Care Atlas Series
2nd Edition - FY 2015

PRODUCED BY THE
GeoSPATIAL OUTCOMES DIVISION
VHA OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS





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OVERVIEW

This chapter examines the overall outpatient utilization (encounters) of VHA patients in *highly rural, rural, insular island (R/HR/I)* areas- with their home address location based on the RUCA system of rurality. In addition to overall figures, specific subgroups of patient encounters, including gender, age, race, and service era, are also reported here. An encounter is defined as a professional contact between a patient and a practitioner vested with primary responsibility for diagnosing, evaluating, and/or treating the patient's condition. The diagnosis position of the patient's medical condition could be of any ranking, whether primary, secondary, tertiary, etc. Encounter contact can include face-to-face interactions or those accomplished via telemedicine technology. Encounters occur in both the outpatient and inpatient setting, and in this chapter, numbers and percentages of outpatient encounters in VA facilities as well as those in non-VA facilities (obtained from fee and payment sources¹) are examined at the U.S. State and county level.

Process of Data Compilation

Using the VHA Support Service Center (VSSC), the Diagnosis Cube was the data repository where outpatient encounter data (from VA and non-VA providers) as of EOFY-2015 were extracted. The Pyramid Analytics application was used to extract these data, which provides analysis of diagnoses as measured by unique patients and frequency of occurrence¹. Occurrences were queried on a broad level and then drilled down to specific parameters, entered in different combinations to present various scenarios:

Measures: Frequency (or the number of occurrences of the ICD9 code)

DXDate Fiscal Year: FY15-EOY

Home County: State, County

Rurality: All Rurality, Highly Rural, Insular Islands, Rural, Urban, Unknown

Source Category: Fee Inpatient, Fee Outpatient, VA Inpatient, VA Outpatient

Gender: All Gender, Female, Male, Unknown

Age Group: All Age Group, <25, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85+, Unknown



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Race: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Declined to Answer, Multiple, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Unknown, White

OEF_OIF: OEFOIF, Non-OEFOIF

Subsequent data analyses, such as calculating percentages based on those numbers and combining age groups, were performed in MS Excel after raw data was extracted, resulting in the chapter data tables. ESRI ArcGIS Desktop 10.3 was used to import the tabular data to create custom maps, which are presented at the State/Territory and county levels.

For VA Outpatient Encounters, the tabular data is broken down by rows of State/Territory and FIPS codes (county level geographic units), and then by columns of the following:

- Counts of Outpatient Encounters by a VA facility or provider and the percentage to all types of encounters
- Counts and percentages of those encounters by patients living in R/HR/I areas, with R/HR/I combined into RHRI for the purposes of patient confidentiality
- Counts and percentages of R/HR/I VA Outpatient Encounters *by gender (male and female)* compared to total R/HR/I VA Outpatient Encounters (R/HR/I/U/total), with R/HR/I combined into RHRI for the purposes of patient confidentiality
- Counts and percentages of R/HR/I VA Outpatient Encounters *by age groups (LT45, 45_to_64, 65_to_74, GE75)* compared to total R/HR/I VA Outpatient Encounters (R/HR/I/U/total), with R/HR/I combined into RHRI for the purposes of patient confidentiality
- Counts and percentages of R/HR/I VA Outpatient Encounters *by race (White, Black, Other*)* compared to total R/HR/I VA Outpatient Encounters (R/HR/I/U/total), with R/HR/I combined into RHRI for the purposes of patient confidentiality
(*NOTE: The 'other' race category includes American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and those who answered multiple race categories)
- Counts and percentages of R/HR/I VA Outpatient Encounters *by service era (OEFOIF)* compared to total R/HR/I VA Outpatient Encounters (R/HR/I/U/total), with R/HR/I combined into RHRI for the purposes of patient confidentiality



For Non-VA Care (otherwise known as 'Fee') Outpatient Encounters, the tabular data is broken down by rows of State/Territory and FIPS codes (county level geographic units), and then by columns of the following:

- Counts of Outpatient Encounters by a non-VA facility or provider (Fee) and the percentage to all types of encounters
- Counts and percentages of those encounters by patients living in R/HR/I areas, with R/HR/I combined into RHRI for the purposes of patient confidentiality
- Counts and percentages of R/HR/I Fee Outpatient Encounters *by gender (male and female)* compared to total R/HR/I Fee Outpatient Encounters (R/HR/I/U/total), with R/HR/I combined into RHRI for the purposes of patient confidentiality
- Counts and percentages of R/HR/I Fee Outpatient Encounters *by age groups (LT45, 45_to_64, 65_to_74, GE75)* compared to total R/HR/I Fee Outpatient Encounters (R/HR/I/U/total), with R/HR/I combined into RHRI for the purposes of patient confidentiality
- Counts and percentages of R/HR/I Fee Outpatient Encounters *by race (White, Black, Other*)* compared to total R/HR/I Fee Outpatient Encounters (R/HR/I/U/total), with R/HR/I combined into RHRI for the purposes of patient confidentiality
(*NOTE: The 'other' race category includes American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and those who answered multiple race categories)
- Counts and percentages of R/HR/I Fee Outpatient Encounters *by service era (OEFOIF)* compared to total R/HR/I Fee Outpatient Encounters (R/HR/I/U/total), with R/HR/I combined into RHRI for the purposes of patient confidentiality



Organization of Data Tables and Maps

The organization of the data tables and maps displaying outpatient encounters is organized into 3 sections. The first section (Section I) focuses outpatient encounters with or at VA health care facility. We first present an overview of the data at the National and U.S. State/Territory levels. Table 1 contains the data with number of all VA outpatient encounters, then broken down by each of the following rurality categories: *highly rural*, *rural*, *insular island*, *urban*, and *unknown*. Since the R/HR/I categories are of particular interest in this volume, numbers and percentages are distinctively highlighted in shades of blue in Table 1. While Table 1 provides VA outpatient encounter information by National and State/Territory and rurality (including numbers and percentages of *urban* and *unknown*), the State/Territory and county maps remove the *urban* and *unknown* VA outpatient encounter data and focus solely on encounters by the R/HR/I population. Following the table, three maps visually illustrate the data.

- Map 1: Number of VA R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters by State/Territory, EOFY-2015
- Map 2: Percent VA R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters of All VA Outpatient Encounters by State/Territory, EOFY-2015
- Map 3: Number of VA R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters by County, EOFY-2015
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Section II provides information on specific subgroups of R/HR/I patients who had outpatient encounter in a VA health care setting, specifically: gender, age categories, race, and service era. Table 2 displays the information by State/Territory, and then calculates a grand total at the bottom representing National-level aggregation. The subsequent maps illustrating these patterns geographically are as follows:

- Map 5: Number of Male VA R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters by State/Territory, EOFY-2015
- Map 6: Percent Male VA R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters as a Percentage of All VA R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters by State/Territory, EOFY-2015
- Map 7: Number of Male VA R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters by County, EOFY-2015
- Map 8: Percent Male VA R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters as a Percentage of All VA R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters by County, EOFY-2015
- Map 9: Number of Female VA R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters by State/Territory, EOFY-2015
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Section III provides overall encounter information where a patient with a diagnosis of a medical condition was evaluated or treated at a non-VA medical facility on an outpatient basis. This information is broken down by rurality and displayed in tabular form at the National and State/Territory level in Table 3. Table 4 then provides information on subgroups of these same patients living in R/HR/I areas, specifically: gender, age categories, race, and service era. The same methodology and process used to generate the tables and maps for outpatient encounters in the VA was also applied to those encounters with patients in a non-VA clinical setting. The maps that geographically portray the information in Tables 3 and 4 are as follows:

- Map 37: Number of Non-VA Care R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters by State/Territory, EOFY-2015
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- Map 57: Number of Non-VA Care R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters Aged 65 to 74 by State/Territory, EOFY-2015
- Map 58: Percent Non-VA Care R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters Aged 65 to 74 as a Percentage of All Non-VA Care R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters by State/Territory, EOFY-2015
- Map 59: Number of Non-VA Care R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters Aged 65 to 74 by County, EOFY-2015



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- Map 60: Percent Non-VA Care R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters Aged 65 to 74 as a Percentage of All Non-VA Care R/HR/I Outpatient Encounters by County, EOFY-2015
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Section I: Outpatient Encounters in the VA

National Overview

At the end of Fiscal Year 2015 (EOFY-2015), the number of outpatient encounters performed in the VA health care system or by a VA medical provider totaled over 178 million (or about 67.48% of all types of encounters). Of that number, more than 57 million, or about a third, lived in R/HR/I areas. The remaining outpatient encounters outside rural areas totaled just over 121 million (Table 1).

State/Territory Overview

Of all U.S. States and Territories, the State of Texas had the largest number of R/HR/I outpatient encounters in a VA health care setting (N=3,497,208). VA outpatient encounters by those patients living in R/HR/I areas in Texas represented 27.58% of its total number of VA outpatient encounters. Other States with high numbers of R/HR/I VA outpatient encounters included (in rank order): Ohio (N=2,691,603), North Carolina (N= 2,609,443), Florida (N= 2,178,023), New York (N=2,134,530), Missouri (N=2,113,299), Pennsylvania (N=1,983,593), California (N=1,861,480), Mississippi (N=1,852,815), and Kentucky (N=1,845,129). As a portion of the total number of VA outpatient encounters, the U.S. Virgin Islands, with a total count of 28,143, had the highest percentage of R/HR/I outpatient encounters, predominately insular island, at 95.51%. The State of Vermont followed closely behind with 87.53% of their VA outpatient encounters by patients living in R/HR/I areas. Vermont had a total of 447,083 VA outpatient encounters in EOFY-2015, and of that number, 391,325 of those were R/HR/I. Other States also showed a high percentage of R/HR/I VA outpatient encounters including: Maine (78.64%), Montana (73.51%), Wyoming (63.36%), South Dakota (63.22%), Mississippi (60.85%), West Virginia (60.11%), Oklahoma (58.98%) and Kentucky (57.5%). State/Territory Maps 1 and 2 are presented by quartile for volume and percentage of VA outpatient encounters by those Veteran patients residing in R/HR/I areas. Comparing the two maps show that the State of Kentucky is the only U.S. State in the upper 25% quartile (darkest green shade) in terms of number as well as proportion of VA outpatient encounters by R/HR/I Veteran patients.



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County Overview

Three counties in Arizona were among the top ten counties with the largest R/HR/I outpatient encounters by a VA provider or a VA health care facility: Pima County (N=172,855), Yavapai County (N=162,896), and Maricopa County (N=160,323). Florida had two counties, Columbia (N=170,933) and Marion County (N=151,432). The other five in the top ten counties with the largest VA outpatient encounters by the R/HR/I patient population were: Douglas County, Oregon (N=227,963), Kennebec County, Maine (N=176,287), Leavenworth County, Kansas (N=160,424), Steuben County, New York (N=151,924), and Muskogee County, Oklahoma (N=151,042). County Maps 3 and 4 are presented by quartile for volume and percentage of VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters.



Table 1: VA Outpatient Encounters by Rurality, EOFY-2015

U.S. State	Total Number of All Encounters	VA Outpatient Encounters				
		TOTAL	Rurality			
		N	R/HR/I	%	Urban & Unknown	%
Alabama	4,725,449	3,229,852	1,447,919	44.83	1,781,933	55.17
Alaska	920,490	357,980	148,732	41.55	209,248	58.45
Arizona	6,152,886	3,965,264	1,022,681	25.79	2,942,583	74.21
Arkansas	4,404,227	3,041,785	1,507,317	49.55	1,534,468	50.45
California	18,788,531	13,157,405	1,861,480	14.15	11,295,925	85.85
Colorado	4,285,984	2,609,109	600,964	23.03	2,008,145	76.97
Connecticut	2,195,244	1,661,904	172,210	10.36	1,489,694	89.64
Delaware	652,454	492,528	121,633	24.70	370,895	75.30
District of Columbia	484,556	375,170	1,995	0.53	373,175	99.47
Florida	24,319,909	15,715,116	2,178,023	13.86	13,537,093	86.14
Georgia	8,159,168	5,293,101	1,752,372	33.11	3,540,729	66.89
Hawaii	1,109,862	580,491	184,887	31.85	395,604	68.15
Idaho	1,724,451	1,126,136	463,418	41.15	662,718	58.85
Illinois	8,602,045	5,868,217	1,600,780	27.28	4,267,437	72.72
Indiana	5,358,795	3,780,794	1,492,823	39.48	2,287,971	60.52
Iowa	2,952,195	2,010,233	1,146,664	57.04	863,569	42.96
Kansas	2,804,062	1,894,938	928,030	48.97	966,908	51.03
Kentucky	4,685,357	3,208,943	1,845,129	57.50	1,363,814	42.50
Louisiana	4,189,001	2,604,217	934,931	35.90	1,669,286	64.10
Maine	1,618,133	1,016,415	799,356	78.64	217,059	21.36
Maryland	3,529,388	2,579,701	415,716	16.11	2,163,985	83.89
Massachusetts	3,907,775	2,858,799	205,763	7.20	2,653,036	92.80
Michigan	6,281,934	4,421,839	1,852,815	41.90	2,569,024	58.10
Minnesota	4,775,341	3,187,236	1,608,323	50.46	1,578,913	49.54
Mississippi	3,091,610	2,058,824	1,252,868	60.85	805,956	39.15
Missouri	6,553,493	4,313,663	2,113,299	48.99	2,200,364	51.01
Montana	1,662,822	818,121	601,431	73.51	216,690	26.49
Nebraska	1,950,989	1,349,075	604,445	44.80	744,630	55.20
Nevada	3,521,592	2,252,609	377,191	16.74	1,875,418	83.26



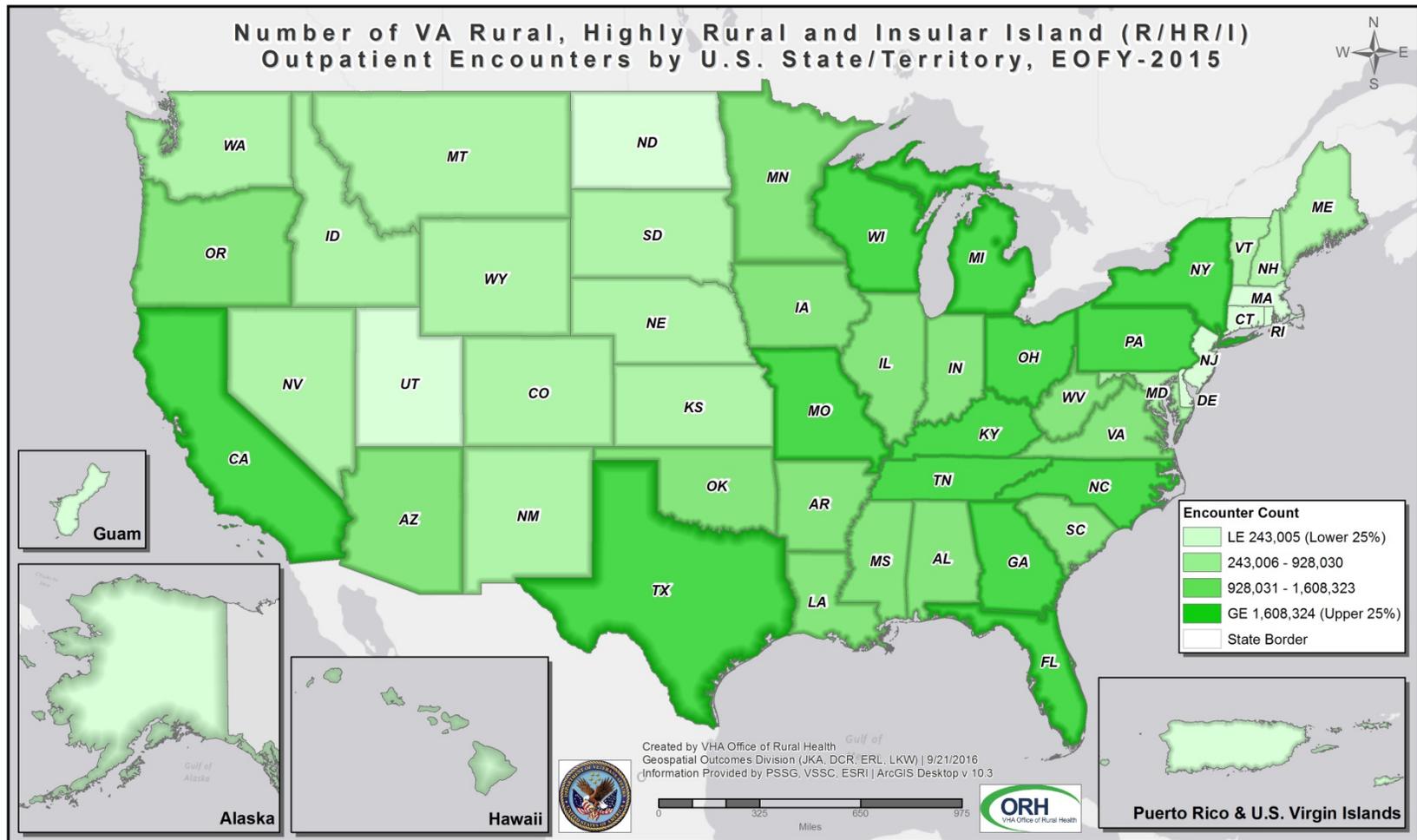
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U.S. State	Total Number of All Encounters	VA Outpatient Encounters				
		TOTAL	Rurality			
		N	R/HR/I	%	Urban & Unknown	%
New Hampshire	1,284,222	909,966	462,020	50.77	447,946	49.23
New Jersey	2,914,303	2,103,778	178,721	8.50	1,925,057	91.50
New Mexico	2,255,859	1,572,615	675,581	42.96	897,034	57.04
New York	10,958,932	8,240,937	2,134,530	25.90	6,106,407	74.10
North Carolina	9,288,198	6,129,326	2,609,443	42.57	3,519,883	57.43
North Dakota	690,898	440,688	243,005	55.14	197,683	44.86
Ohio	11,419,809	8,031,452	2,691,603	33.51	5,339,849	66.49
Oklahoma	3,732,794	2,520,022	1,486,207	58.98	1,033,815	41.02
Oregon	4,049,315	2,665,870	1,209,047	45.35	1,456,823	54.65
Pennsylvania	9,725,572	6,585,099	1,983,593	30.12	4,601,506	69.88
Rhode Island	899,629	689,057	43,695	6.34	645,362	93.66
South Carolina	5,169,084	3,628,629	1,395,159	38.45	2,233,470	61.55
South Dakota	1,551,691	934,455	590,772	63.22	343,683	36.78
Tennessee	6,375,139	4,200,588	1,752,099	41.71	2,448,489	58.29
Texas	19,230,023	12,679,098	3,497,208	27.58	9,181,890	72.42
Utah	1,882,062	1,226,064	207,233	16.90	1,018,831	83.10
Vermont	621,057	447,083	391,325	87.53	55,758	12.47
Virginia	6,432,606	4,434,088	1,580,319	35.64	2,853,769	64.36
Washington	4,705,262	3,138,928	760,862	24.24	2,378,066	75.76
West Virginia	3,229,567	2,175,158	1,307,578	60.11	867,580	39.89
Wisconsin	5,437,742	3,746,739	1,683,863	44.94	2,062,876	55.06
Wyoming	911,394	565,820	358,522	63.36	207,298	36.64
U.S. Outlying Territories						
American Samoa	742	691	0	0.00	691	100.00
Federated States of Micronesia	482	172	0	0.00	172	100.00
Guam	168,226	46,991	375	0.80	46,616	99.20
Marshall Islands	156	148	0	0.00	148	100.00
Northern Mariana Islands	8,040	3,658	18	0.49	3,640	99.51
Palau	46	12	0	0.00	12	100.00
Puerto Rico	3,471,970	2,494,699	118,175	4.74	2,376,524	95.26
U.S. Virgin Islands	45,552	29,466	28,143	95.51	1,323	4.49
*Unassigned State/Territory	4,471,007	2,913,959	655,935	22.51	2,258,024	77.49
TOTAL	264,339,122	178,384,721	57,288,226	32.11	121,096,495	67.89



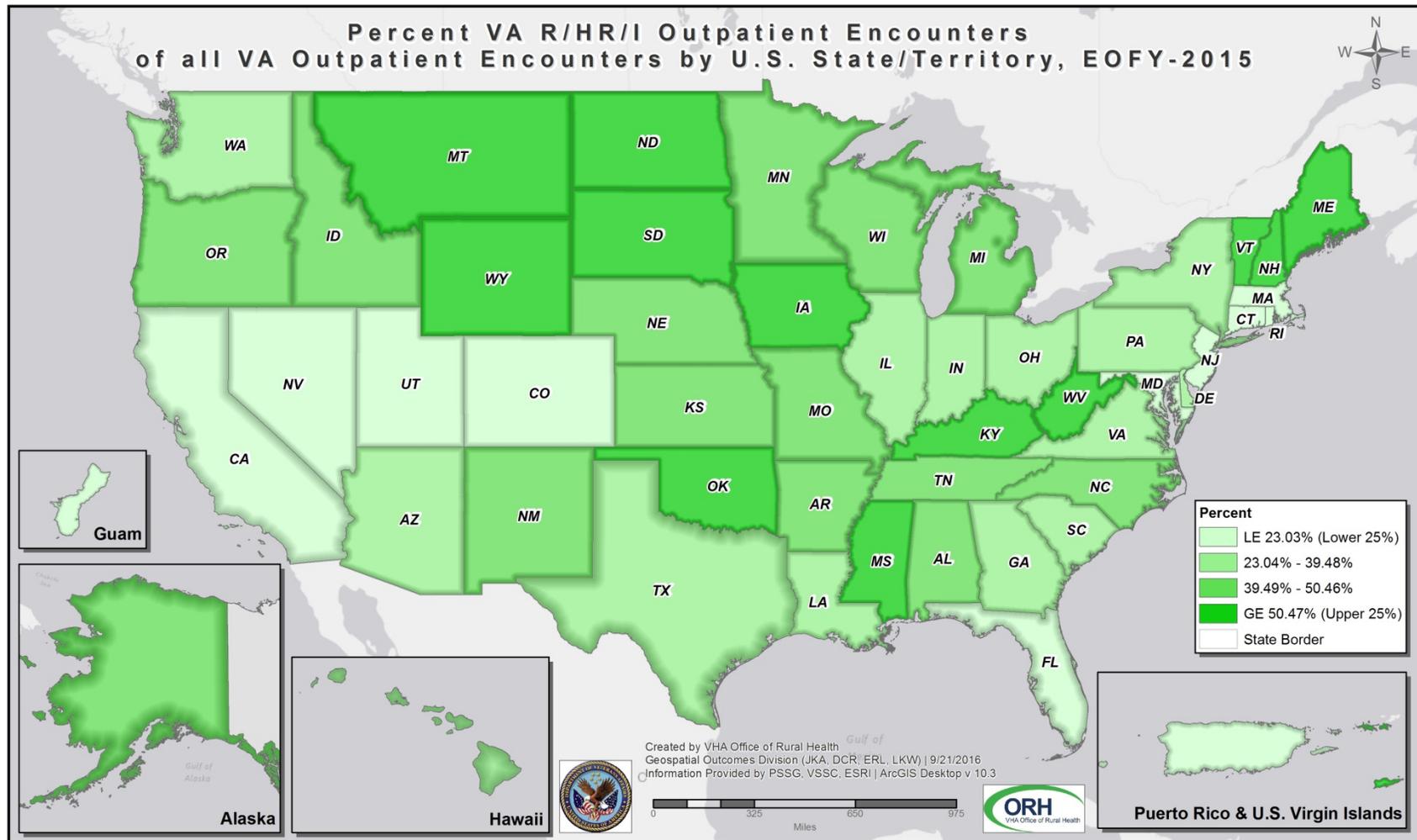
Map 1



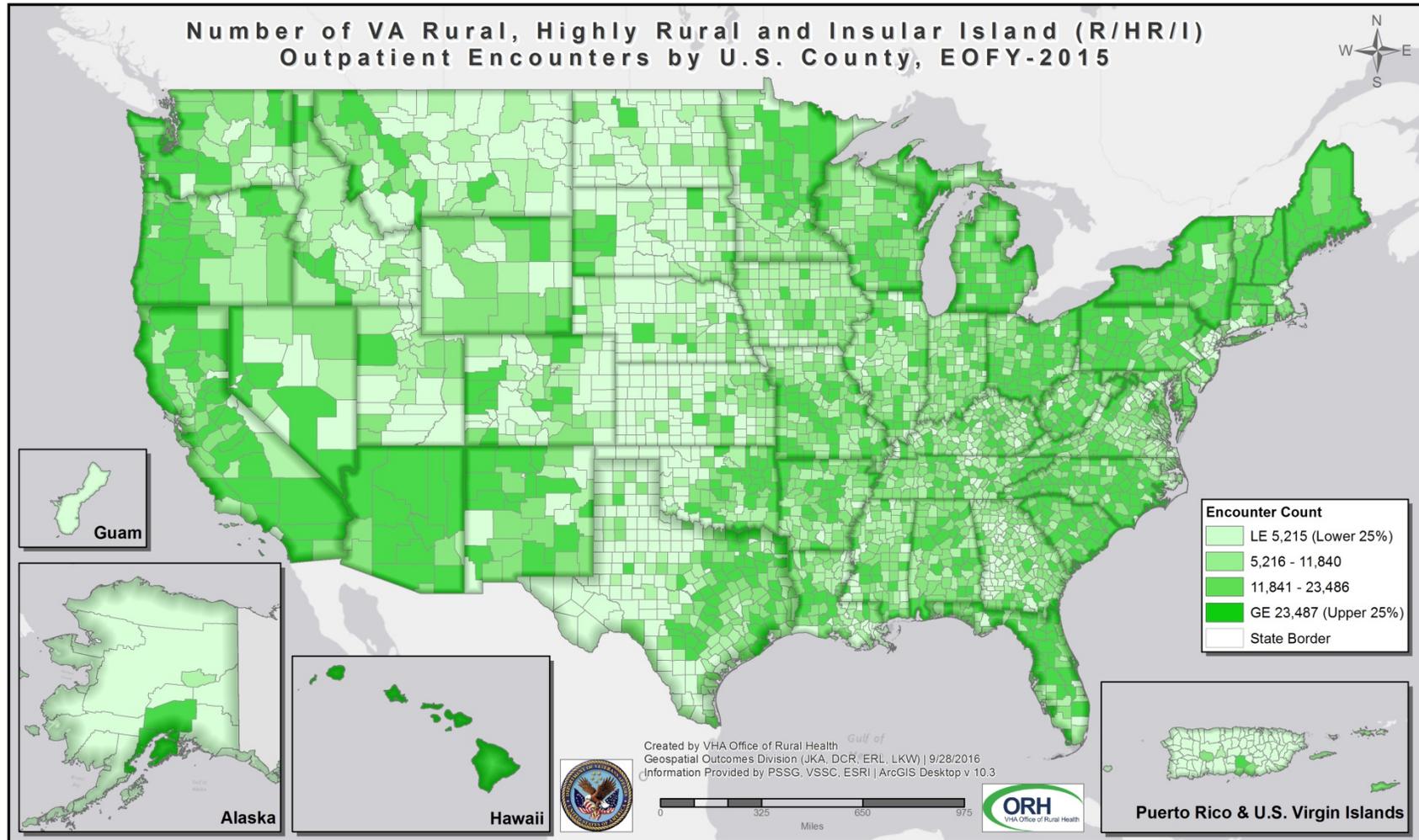
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 2



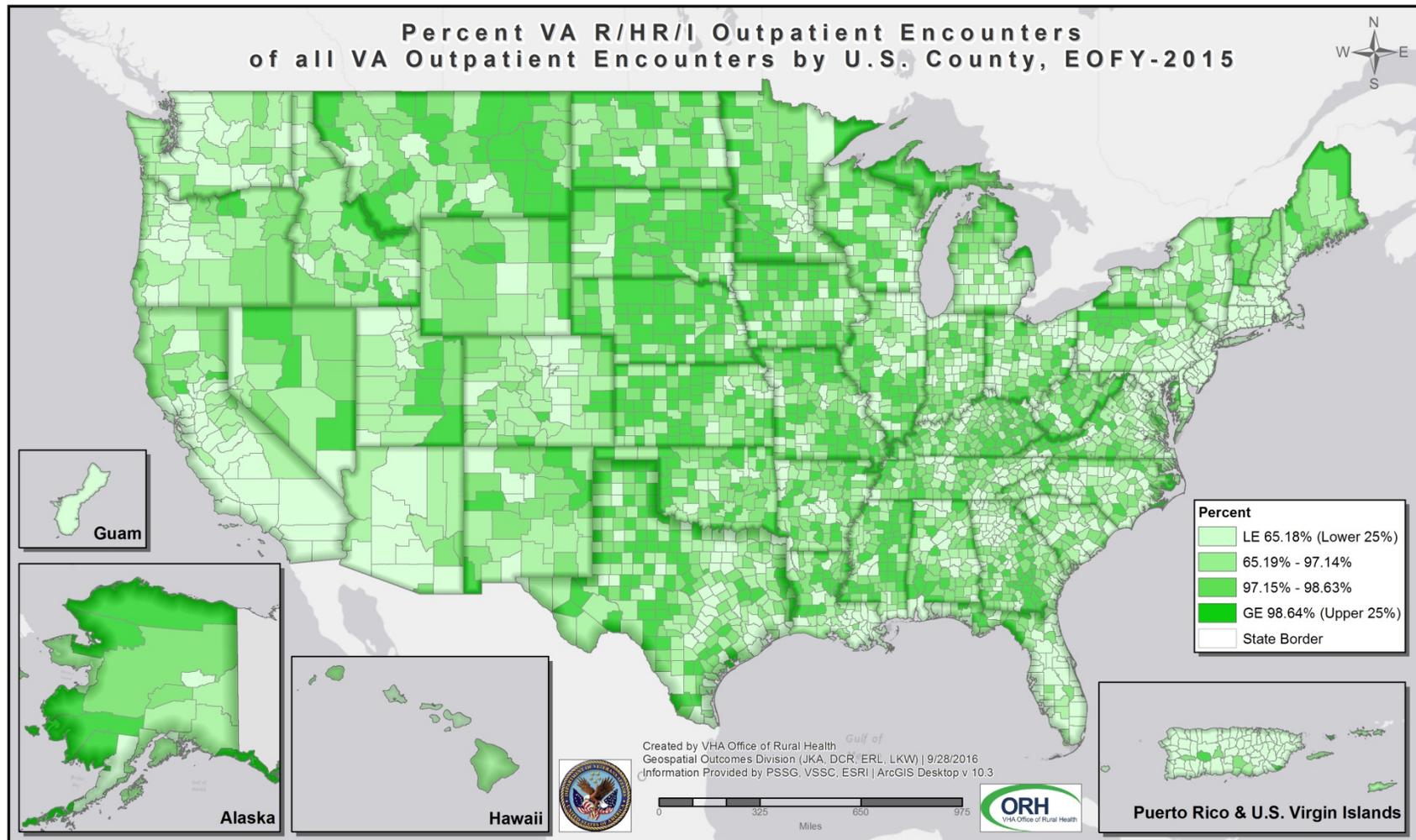
Map 3



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 4



Section II: Outpatient Encounters in the VA for Combined Rural (R/HR/I) Subgroups

GENDER

Table 2 further illustrates VA Outpatient Encounters by R/HR/I patients in each U.S. State/Territory, broken down by patient gender (number and percentage).

MALES

On the national level, VA encounters in an outpatient setting by male patients in R/HR/I areas comprised an overwhelming 93.25% of the total number of VA outpatient encounters. The States/Territories with the greatest percentages of these types of male patients, which exceed the national overall percentage, included: Northern Mariana Islands (100.0%), Guam (98.4%), Puerto Rico (95.22%), Kentucky (95.2%), Minnesota (94.77%), Nebraska (94.76%), Indiana (94.69%), Michigan (94.46%), Ohio (94.27%), and Tennessee (94.19%).

The map series from Map 5 to Map 8 provide visual displays of the numbers and percentages of VA outpatient encounters by R/HR/I male Veteran patients at the State/Territory and County levels. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion are designated by the darkest shade of green. Five of the U.S. States/Territories, as shown on Maps 5 and 6, had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of male VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters as a percent of all VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters. Those were Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee.



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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**Table 2: VA Rural, Highly Rural & Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters
by Gender, Age Group, Race, and Service Era, EOFY-2015**

U.S. State	R/HR/I VA Outpatient Encounters	Gender (%)		Age Group (%)					Race (%)				Service Era (%)	
		F	M	<45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	White Cauc	Black Afr Am	Other*	Missing	OEF/OIF	Other
Alabama	1,447,919	7.69	92.31	12.09	13.27	24.52	33.09	17.03	66.74	30.65	2.61	6.88	12.03	87.97
Alaska	148,732	11.40	88.60	17.29	16.21	24.55	30.26	11.68	89.50	3.02	7.48	6.48	15.53	84.47
Arizona	1,022,681	8.49	91.51	10.54	10.11	20.62	38.54	20.19	88.10	4.30	7.60	6.60	8.20	91.80
Arkansas	1,507,317	6.80	93.20	10.47	12.38	23.28	35.08	18.78	82.56	14.86	2.58	3.88	9.30	90.70
California	1,861,480	6.43	93.57	9.62	7.33	19.77	41.41	21.87	90.54	4.07	5.39	13.64	6.96	93.04
Colorado	600,964	7.46	92.54	11.83	9.71	19.59	38.83	20.04	95.56	1.20	3.24	10.93	8.82	91.18
Connecticut	172,210	6.88	93.12	11.83	9.95	17.96	40.24	20.01	95.64	2.55	1.81	4.10	9.92	90.08
Delaware	121,633	7.60	92.40	10.30	13.06	20.27	38.33	18.04	79.68	16.52	3.80	4.04	9.71	90.29
District of Columbia	1,995	12.43	87.57	17.74	34.24	32.28	1.70	14.04	15.51	84.49	0.00	10.18	7.32	92.68
Florida	2,178,023	7.91	92.09	8.27	10.54	22.81	37.38	21.00	84.87	12.17	2.96	6.01	6.42	93.58
Georgia	1,752,372	7.82	92.18	9.88	13.30	24.71	37.07	15.03	67.63	30.19	2.18	4.23	8.71	91.29
Hawaii	184,887	6.88	93.12	11.54	9.62	21.23	39.22	18.38	52.25	3.39	44.36	3.76	10.16	89.84
Idaho	463,418	6.38	93.62	9.82	9.72	19.64	38.97	21.85	96.44	0.65	2.91	10.14	8.44	91.56
Illinois	1,600,780	6.47	93.53	10.65	9.14	18.18	40.15	21.88	94.15	3.46	2.38	5.24	8.17	91.83
Indiana	1,492,823	5.31	94.69	9.54	10.32	20.59	38.53	21.02	96.92	1.83	1.25	3.84	8.05	91.95
Iowa	1,146,664	5.95	94.05	9.08	9.30	19.18	36.90	25.54	97.76	0.94	1.30	6.85	8.24	91.76
Kansas	928,030	7.13	92.87	12.21	11.34	22.40	34.95	19.11	89.59	7.19	3.23	3.84	11.40	88.60
Kentucky	1,845,129	4.80	95.20	10.51	10.78	19.24	38.89	20.58	93.49	4.82	1.69	4.75	8.88	91.12
Louisiana	934,931	7.30	92.70	11.48	11.03	21.57	37.28	18.64	63.66	33.00	3.33	4.07	9.37	90.63
Maine	799,356	6.95	93.05	9.09	9.98	21.05	37.39	22.48	96.37	0.51	3.12	3.24	6.81	93.19
Maryland	415,716	10.12	89.88	12.09	13.54	20.65	34.62	19.10	67.85	28.79	3.36	8.64	10.05	89.95
Massachusetts	205,763	6.70	93.30	12.39	8.71	18.09	37.40	23.42	94.46	2.19	3.35	3.02	9.71	90.29
Michigan	1,852,815	5.54	94.46	10.84	9.76	19.13	40.23	20.04	95.81	1.53	2.66	4.34	8.55	91.45
Minnesota	1,608,323	5.23	94.77	9.90	9.09	18.52	38.00	24.50	96.74	0.73	2.52	13.64	8.90	91.10
Mississippi	1,252,868	6.92	93.08	10.22	12.55	24.11	33.97	19.15	58.31	39.19	2.50	3.85	11.10	88.90
Missouri	2,113,299	6.27	93.73	9.53	10.28	21.41	37.33	21.45	94.15	3.35	2.50	3.92	8.14	91.86
Montana	601,431	8.12	91.88	11.86	9.55	20.14	36.27	22.18	94.59	0.39	5.02	4.67	10.45	89.55
Nebraska	604,445	5.24	94.76	9.46	8.40	17.48	37.40	27.26	96.63	0.84	2.53	4.17	7.97	92.03
Nevada	377,191	7.45	92.55	7.50	8.65	20.90	41.94	21.02	92.11	3.08	4.80	6.88	6.01	93.99

*Race-Other category includes American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or Multiple (those who identify as more than one race)



U.S. State	R/HR/I VA Outpatient Encounters	Gender (%)		Age Group (%)					Race (%)				Service Era (%)	
		F	M	<45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	White Cauc	Black Afr Am	Other*	Missing	OEF/OIF	Other
New Hampshire	462,020	7.26	92.74	10.32	10.37	18.75	35.77	24.78	97.54	0.41	2.05	5.02	9.51	90.49
New Jersey	178,721	7.08	92.92	12.81	10.66	20.41	37.68	18.44	80.19	15.81	4.00	6.85	10.51	89.49
New Mexico	675,581	7.00	93.00	9.51	10.48	21.54	37.87	20.60	86.51	2.61	10.88	28.79	8.26	91.74
New York	2,134,530	7.20	92.80	10.83	10.30	20.78	35.22	22.87	94.49	3.40	2.11	4.46	8.13	91.87
North Carolina	2,609,443	6.77	93.23	9.52	10.99	22.85	38.52	18.12	73.09	23.38	3.53	2.82	8.05	91.95
North Dakota	243,005	6.41	93.59	13.24	12.03	19.75	34.05	20.94	92.88	1.30	5.82	9.96	11.57	88.43
Ohio	2,691,603	5.73	94.27	9.95	10.28	21.15	38.92	19.70	94.85	3.19	1.97	4.57	6.95	93.05
Oklahoma	1,486,207	6.52	93.48	10.31	9.83	21.24	38.82	19.79	85.88	5.04	9.08	4.49	8.40	91.60
Oregon	1,209,047	6.92	93.08	9.53	8.46	20.93	40.11	20.98	95.05	0.58	4.37	9.10	6.78	93.22
Pennsylvania	1,983,593	6.15	93.85	11.06	9.72	17.91	37.56	23.74	95.18	2.52	2.30	1.66	9.13	90.87
Rhode Island	43,695	6.21	93.79	9.65	10.14	16.30	47.93	15.97	97.35	0.78	1.87	2.31	9.29	90.71
South Carolina	1,395,159	7.37	92.63	9.59	12.26	23.31	37.55	17.29	58.28	39.49	2.23	6.19	8.74	91.26
South Dakota	590,772	7.75	92.25	10.78	11.66	20.86	31.55	25.14	89.11	0.64	10.25	12.58	9.21	90.79
Tennessee	1,752,099	5.81	94.19	9.12	10.77	21.74	41.02	17.36	90.59	7.40	2.00	7.04	8.93	91.07
Texas	3,497,208	7.56	92.44	10.74	9.68	22.19	37.69	19.70	85.10	11.25	3.65	7.97	8.05	91.95
Utah	207,233	6.05	93.95	12.80	8.79	20.05	36.00	22.36	96.64	0.72	2.63	1.28	10.03	89.97
Vermont	391,325	6.43	93.57	10.11	10.57	19.58	33.40	26.34	97.73	0.51	1.76	3.33	10.67	89.33
Virginia	1,580,319	6.23	93.77	8.21	10.36	20.73	39.48	21.21	76.76	20.92	2.32	5.42	6.84	93.16
Washington	760,862	7.89	92.11	11.70	10.69	20.83	40.51	16.27	92.85	2.11	5.04	7.89	9.89	90.11
West Virginia	1,307,578	5.96	94.04	8.70	9.96	19.53	39.37	22.45	95.05	3.01	1.94	1.97	7.32	92.68
Wisconsin	1,683,863	6.21	93.79	10.80	10.27	20.17	37.15	21.61	96.26	1.28	2.46	3.79	9.05	90.95
Wyoming	358,522	7.77	92.23	13.36	11.72	21.63	33.84	19.46	95.86	1.07	3.07	2.96	10.03	89.97
U.S. Outlying Territories														
American Samoa	0													
Micronesia	0													
Guam	375	1.60	98.40	18.67	4.00	15.73	61.60	0.00	72.45	9.06	18.49	29.33	7.73	92.27
Marshall Islands	0													
N. Mariana Islands	18	0.00	100.00	33.33	0.00	0.00	66.67	0.00	50.00	16.67	33.33	0.00	33.33	66.67
Palau	0													
Puerto Rico	118,175	4.78	95.22	9.99	14.76	21.85	26.37	27.03	88.78	7.43	3.80	5.50	19.64	80.36
U.S. Virgin Islands	28,143	16.78	83.22	8.47	14.82	26.32	32.67	17.72	31.32	65.57	3.10	2.53	13.02	86.98
Unassigned State/Terr.	655,935	12.47	87.53	12.52	12.48	24.32	32.45	18.23	84.11	11.17	4.72	12.12	7.91	92.09
TOTAL	57,288,226	6.75	93.25	10.23	10.45	21.08	37.73	20.52	87.05	9.63	3.32	6.03	8.52	91.48

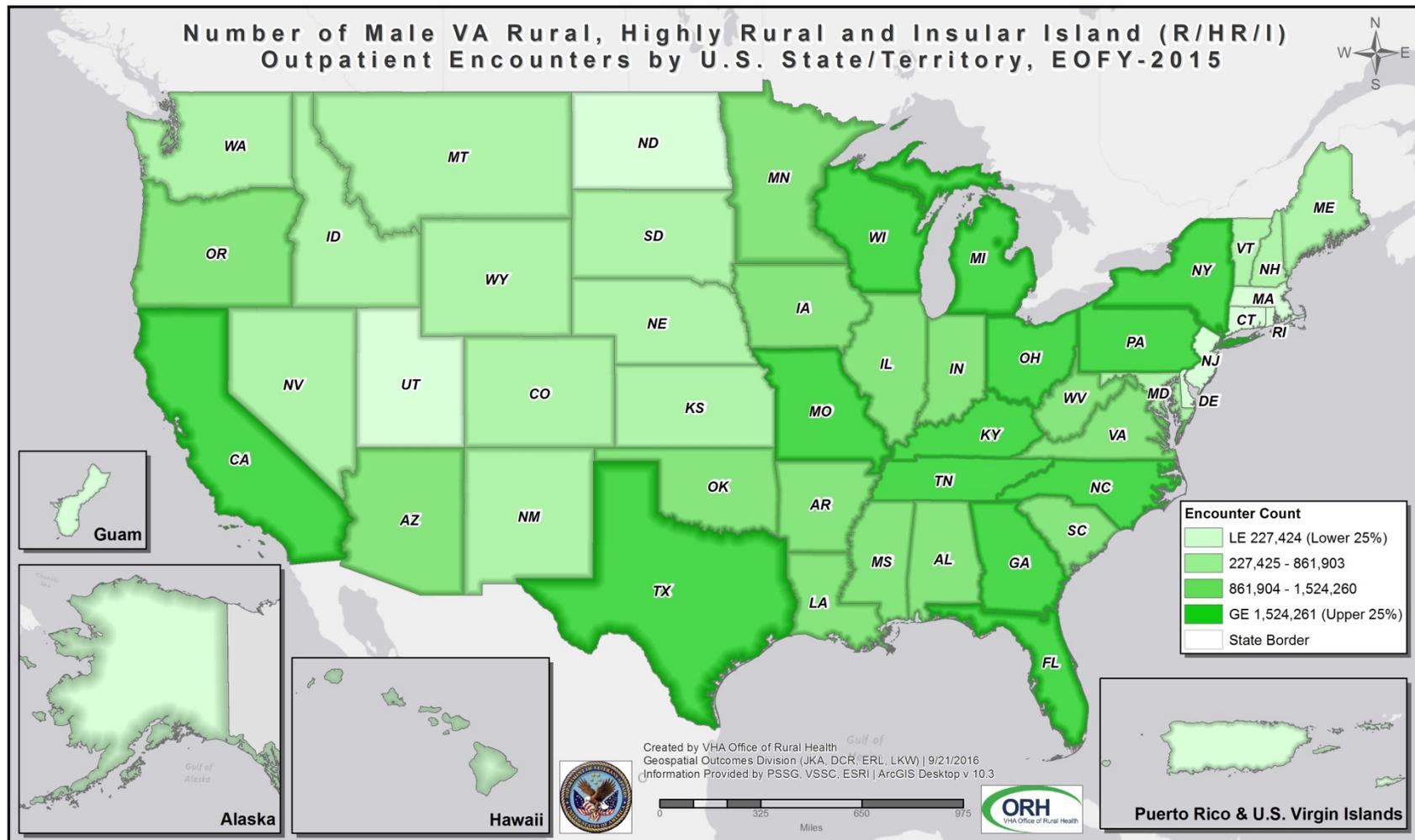
*Race-Other category includes American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or Multiple (those who identify as more than one race)



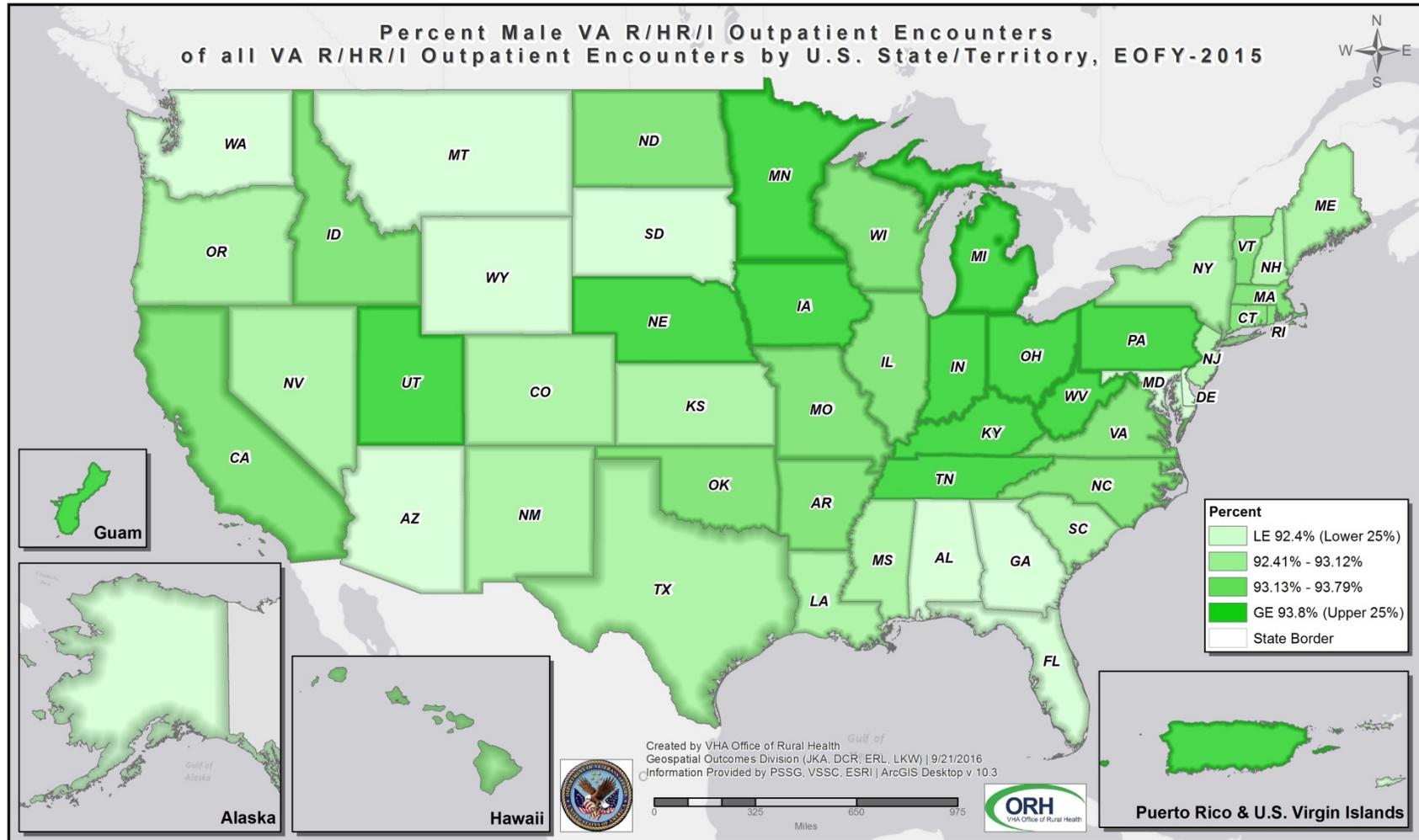
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 5



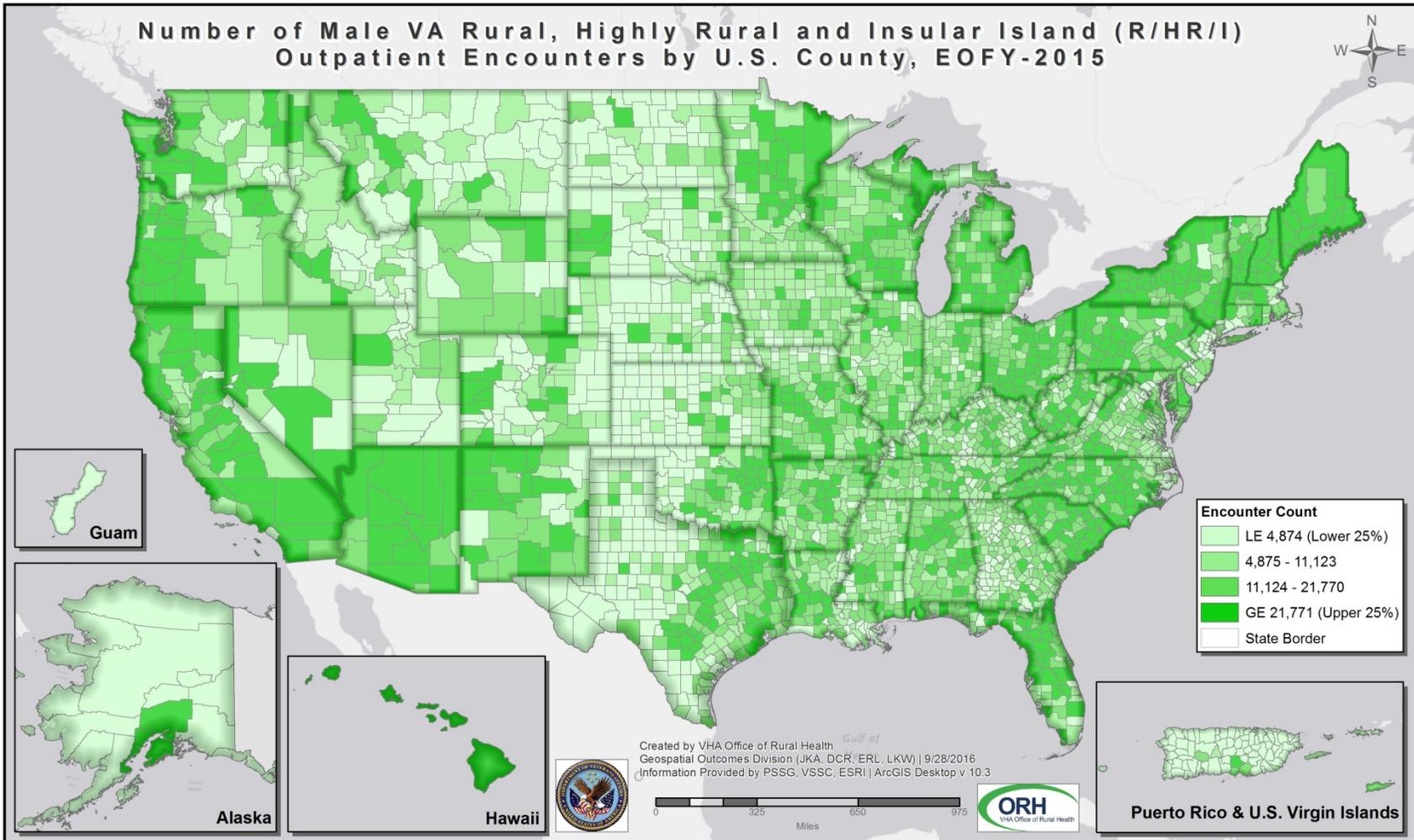
Map 6



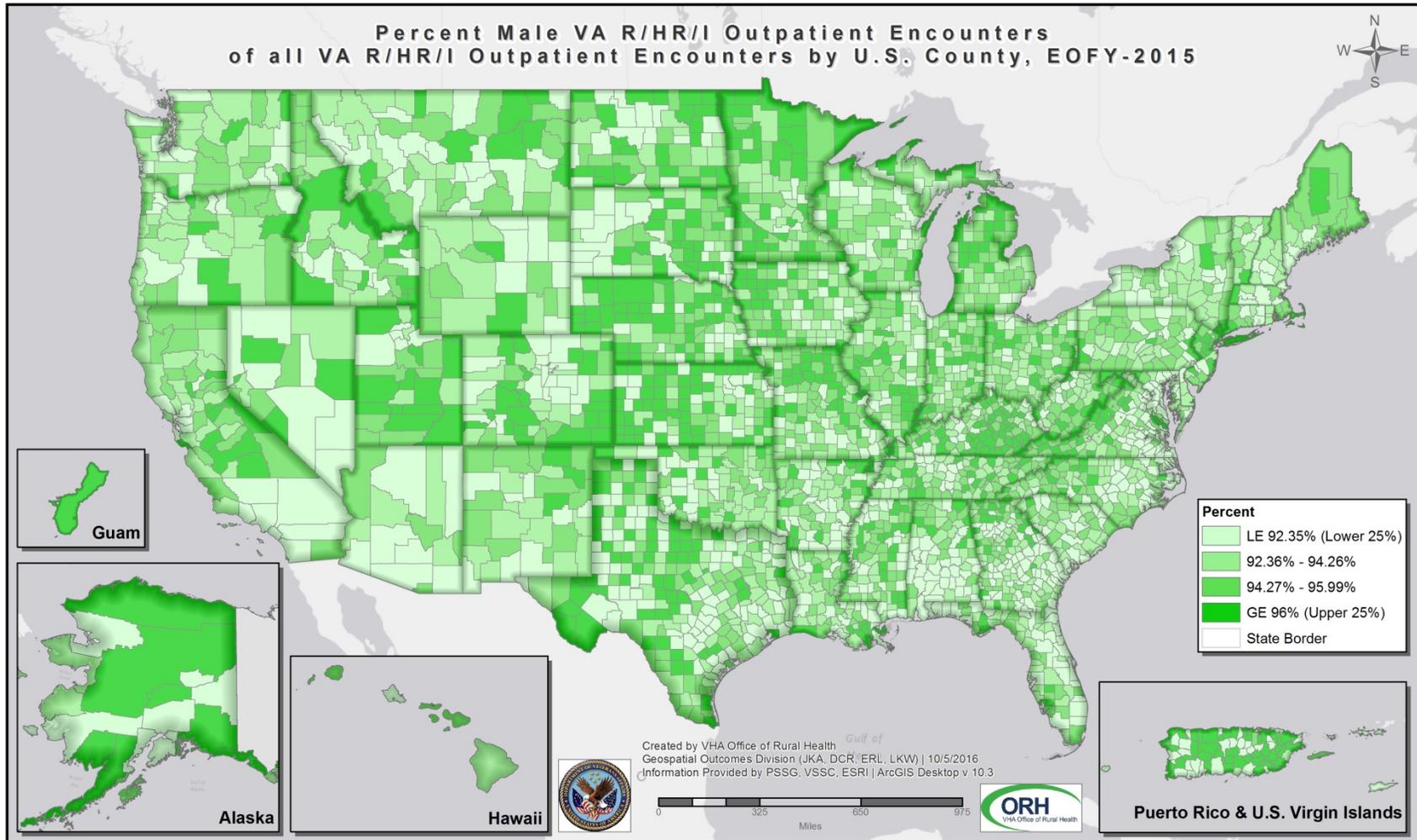
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 7



Map 8



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



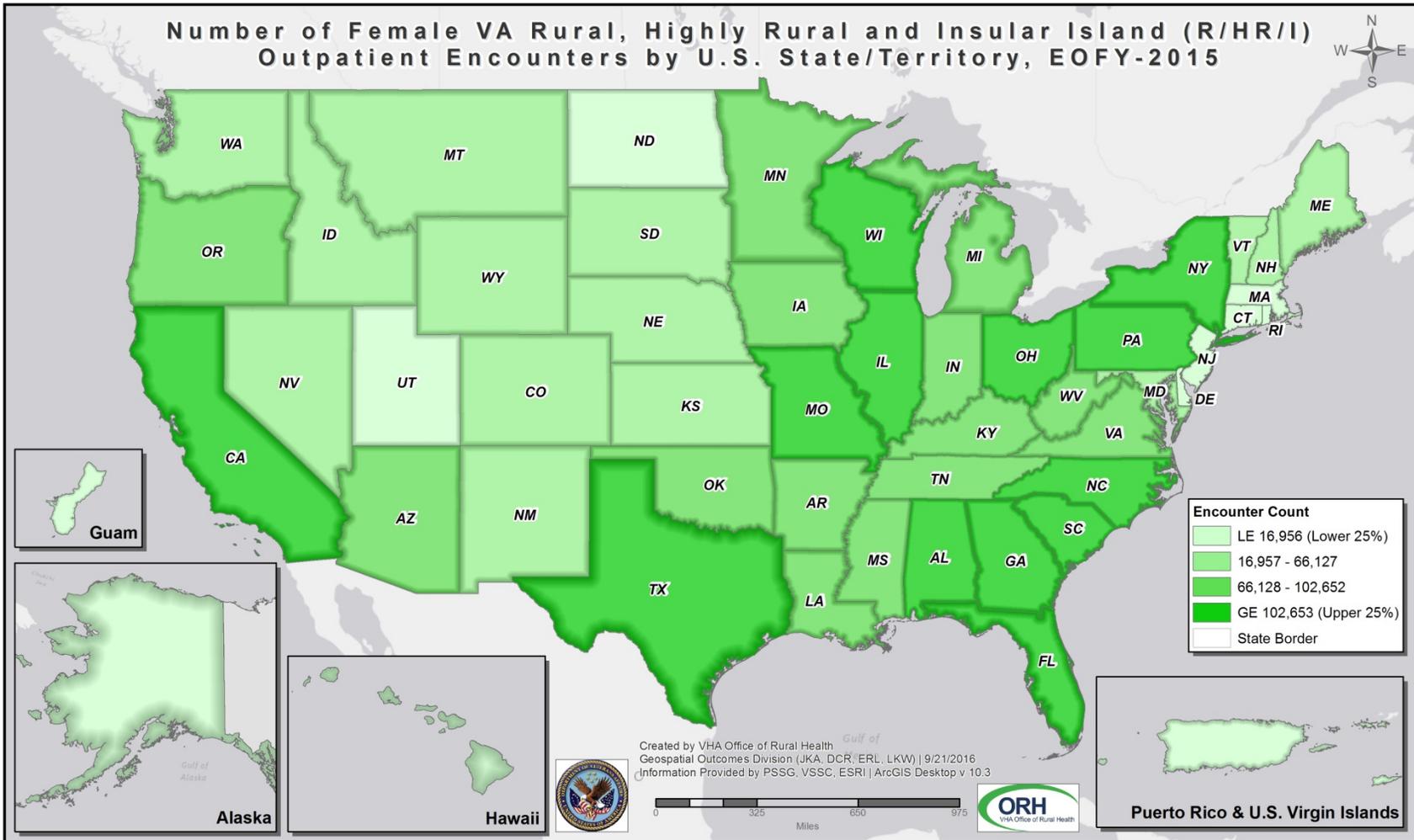
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FEMALES

While a growing number of women are enrolling in the VA Health Care System, VA outpatient encounters by women Veterans living in R/HR/I areas comprised of just 6.75% nationally of the total number of VA outpatient encounters. However, several States/Territories showed proportions of *greater than* seven percent, including: U.S. Virgin Islands (16.78%), District of Columbia (12.43%), Alaska (11.4%), Maryland (10.12%), Arizona (8.49%), Montana (8.12%), Florida (7.91%), Washington (7.89%), Georgia (7.82%), and Wyoming (7.77%).

The map series from Map 9 to Map 12 provide visual displays of R/HR/I female outpatient encounters by a VA provider or at a VA medical establishment, mapped out by State/Territory and County. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion are designated by the darkest shade of green. Only three of the U.S. States, as shown on Maps 9 and 10, had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of female VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters as a percent of all VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters. Those were Alabama, Florida, and Georgia.



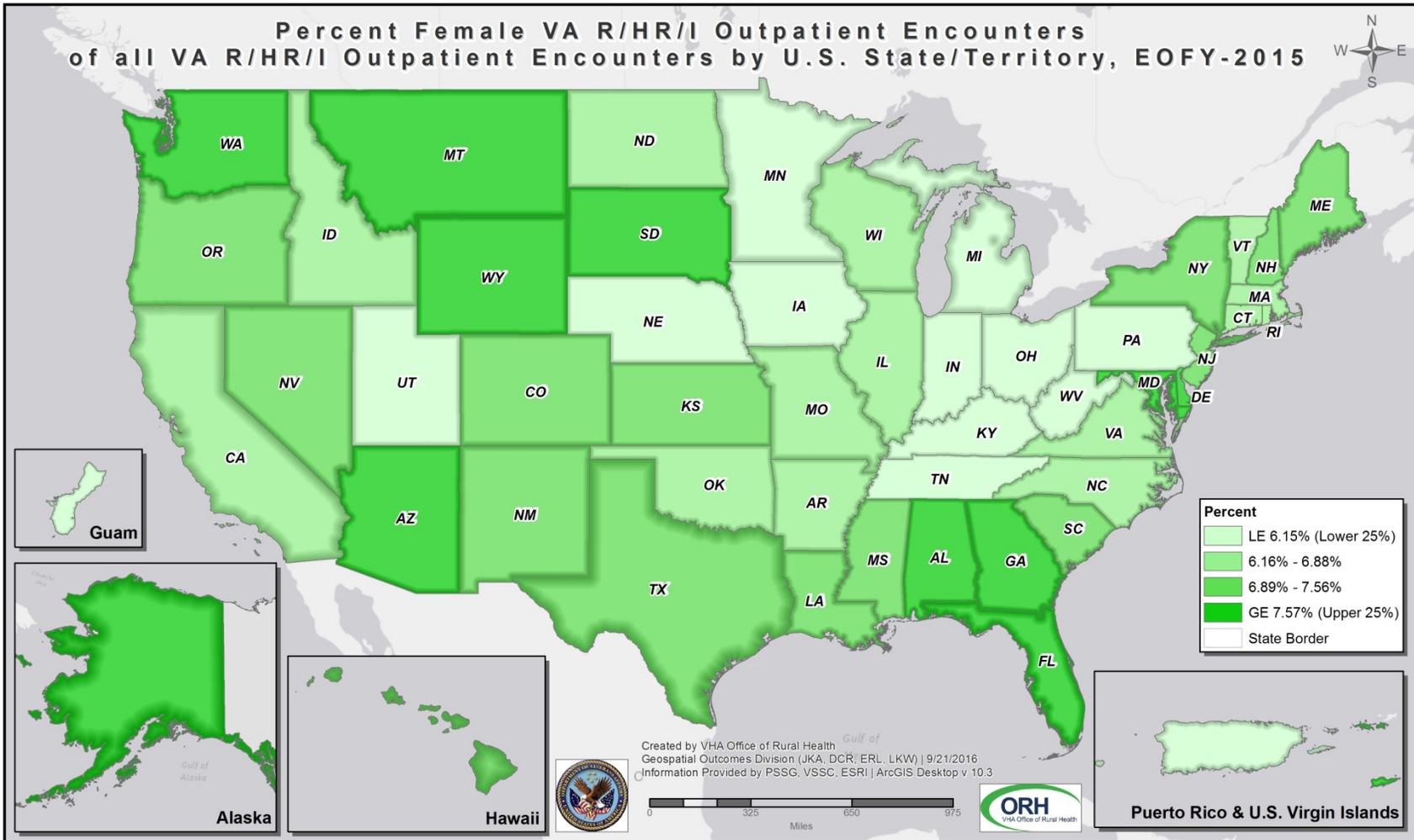
Map 9



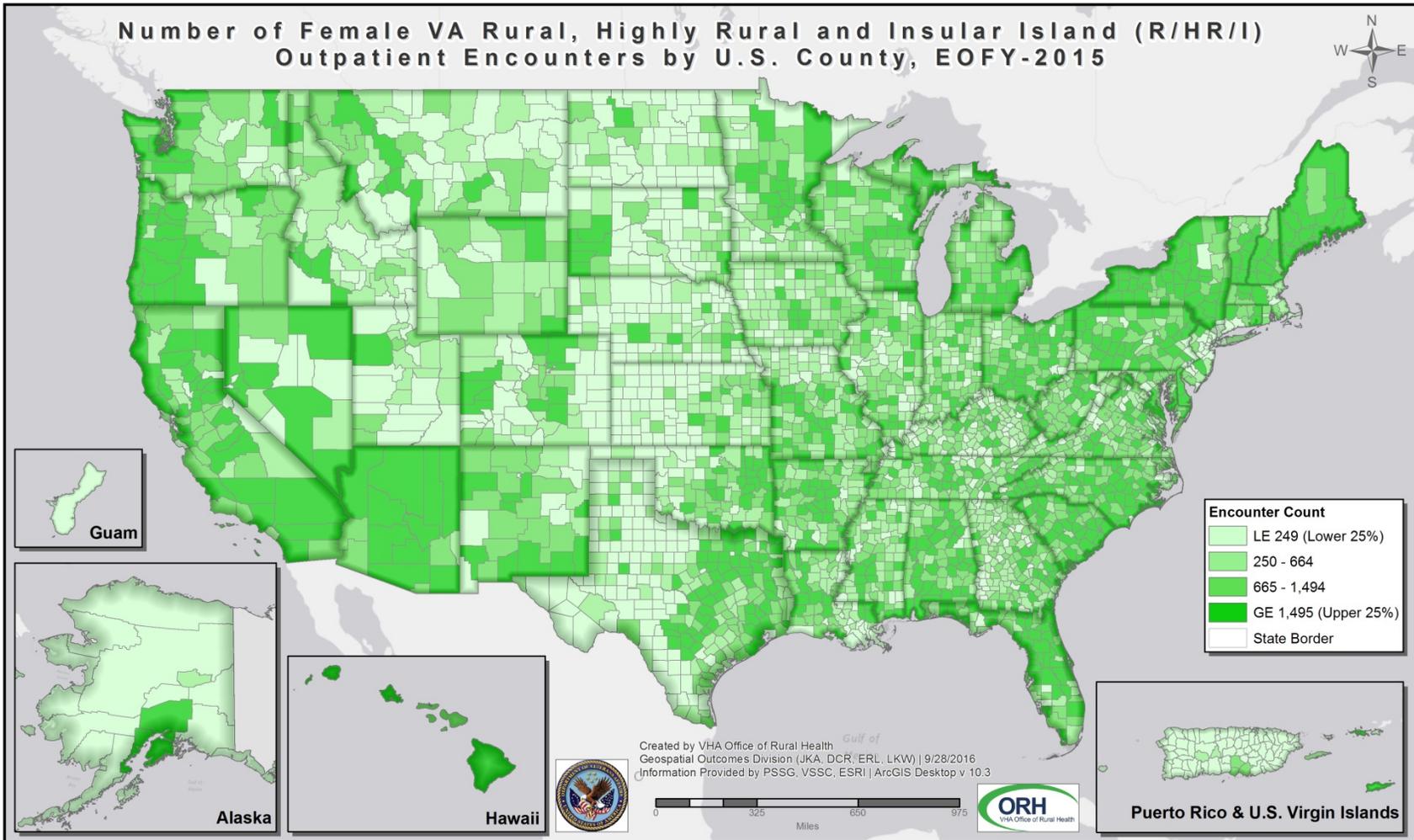
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 10



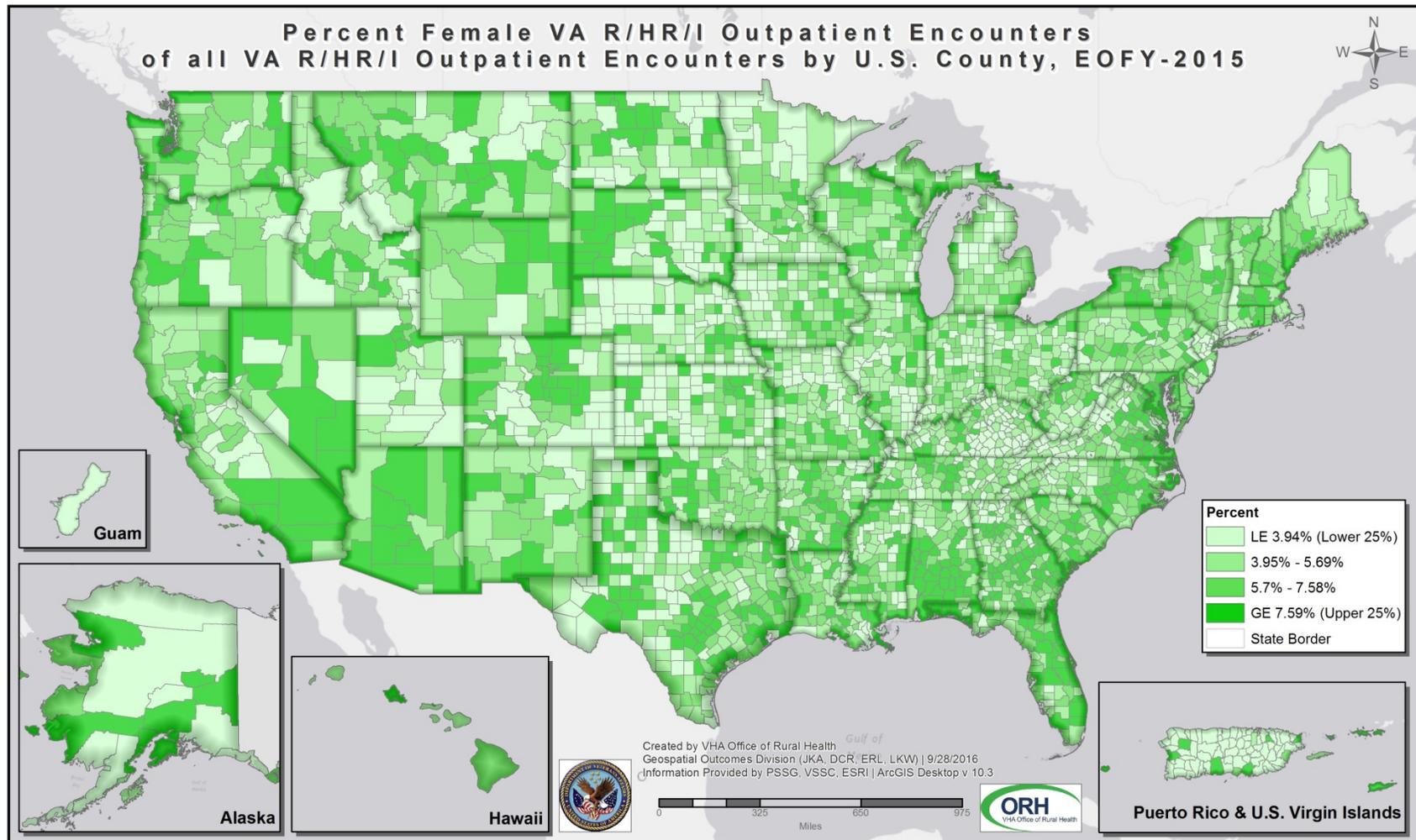
Map 11



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 12



AGE GROUP

OVERALL

Examining how and where various age groups of Veteran patients residing in R/HR/I areas are utilizing health care services is of particular interest to the policy and planning community within the VHA. Table 2 shows that, nationwide, the 65-74 age group had the highest percentage of VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters (37.73%), and had the highest representation in most U.S. States/Territories as well. Several exceptions included: 1) District of Columbia, where encounters in the less than 45 years of age category had slightly more representation, and 2) Puerto Rico, where there were more VA outpatient encounters in the over the age of 75 category. All VA outpatient encounters by R/HR/I patients below age 55 were least represented nationally (ages 45 to 54 at 10.45%, followed by those under the age of 45 at 10.23%).

UNDER THE AGE OF 45

On the national level, VA outpatient encounters by R/HR/I patients *under the age of 45* comprised 10.23% of the total number of all VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters. The top 10 States/Territories with the greatest percentage of these younger patients, which exceed the national overall percentage, and have 12 or more encounters, include: Guam (18.67%), District of Columbia (17.74%), Alaska (17.29%), Wyoming (13.36%), North Dakota (13.24%), New Jersey (12.81%), Utah (12.8%), Massachusetts (12.39%), Kansas (12.21%), and Alabama (12.09%).

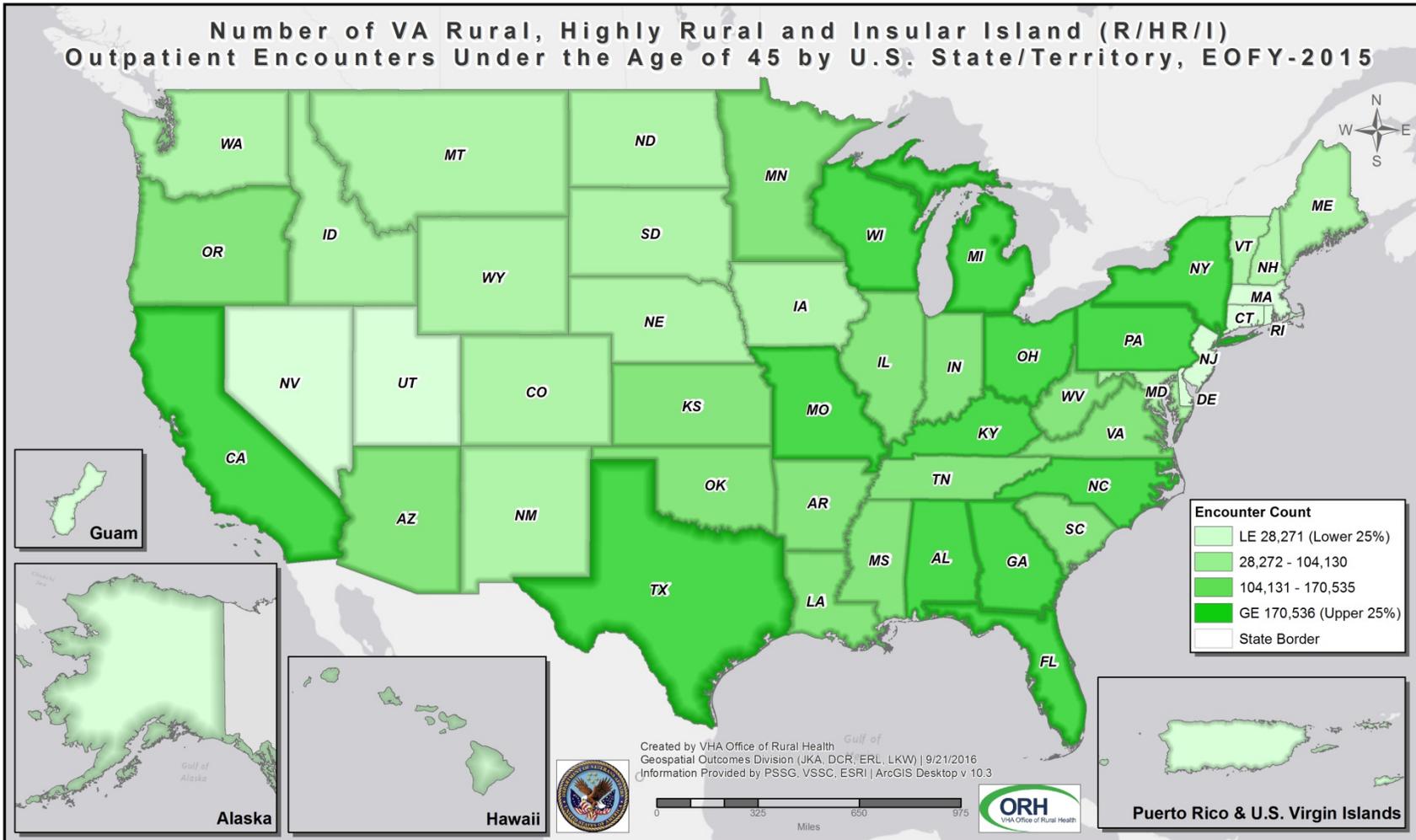
The maps in the next series focus on those R/HR/I patients *under the age of 45* who had an outpatient encounter at a VA health care facility or by a VA medical provider. These data are mapped at the State/Territory and county levels of aggregation. The denominator for the percentages is the number of all R/HR/I patients who had VA outpatient encounters. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion is designated by the darkest shade of green. The State of Alabama was the only U.S. State, as shown on Maps 13 and 14, which had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of VA outpatient encounters by those patients *under the age of 45*.



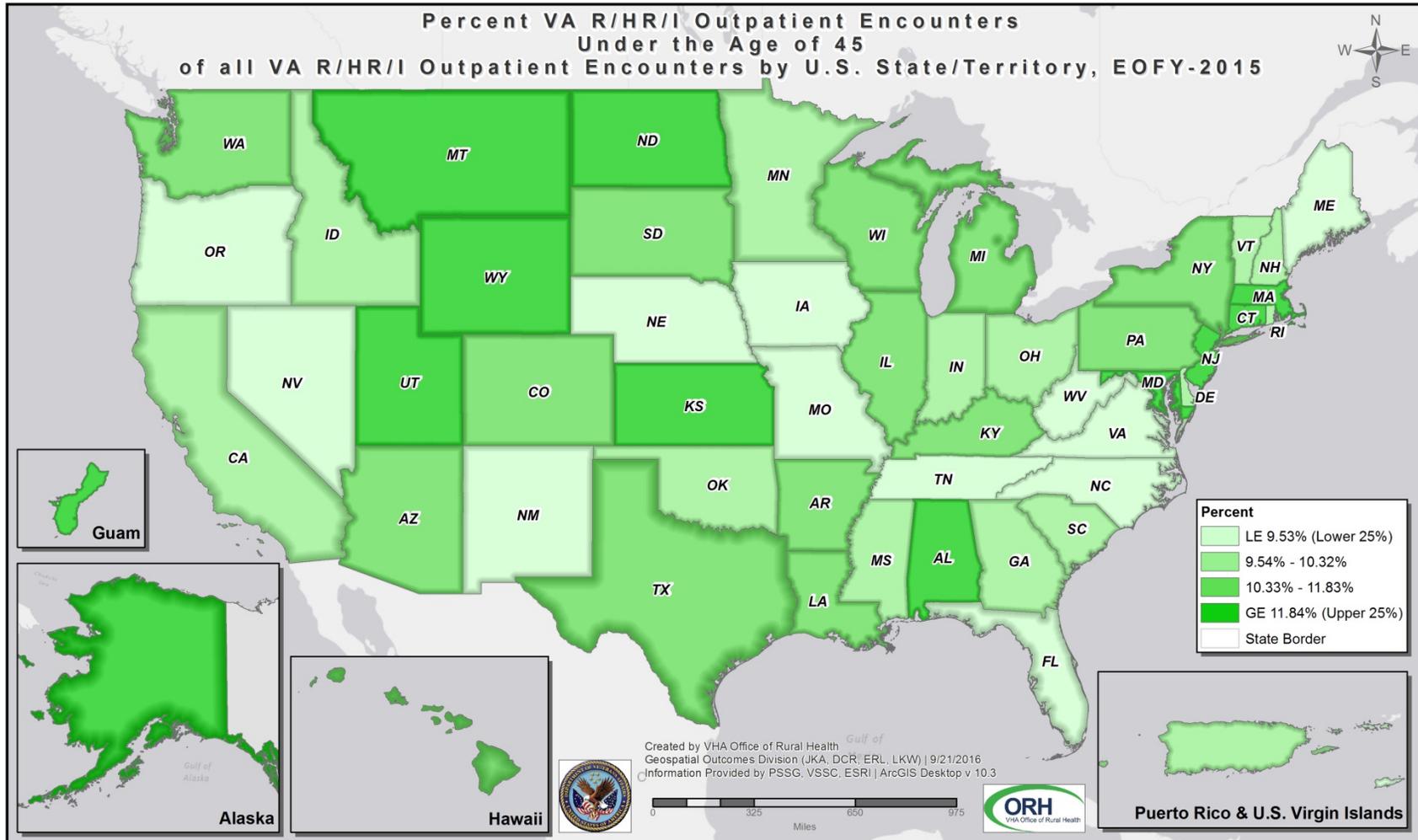
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 13



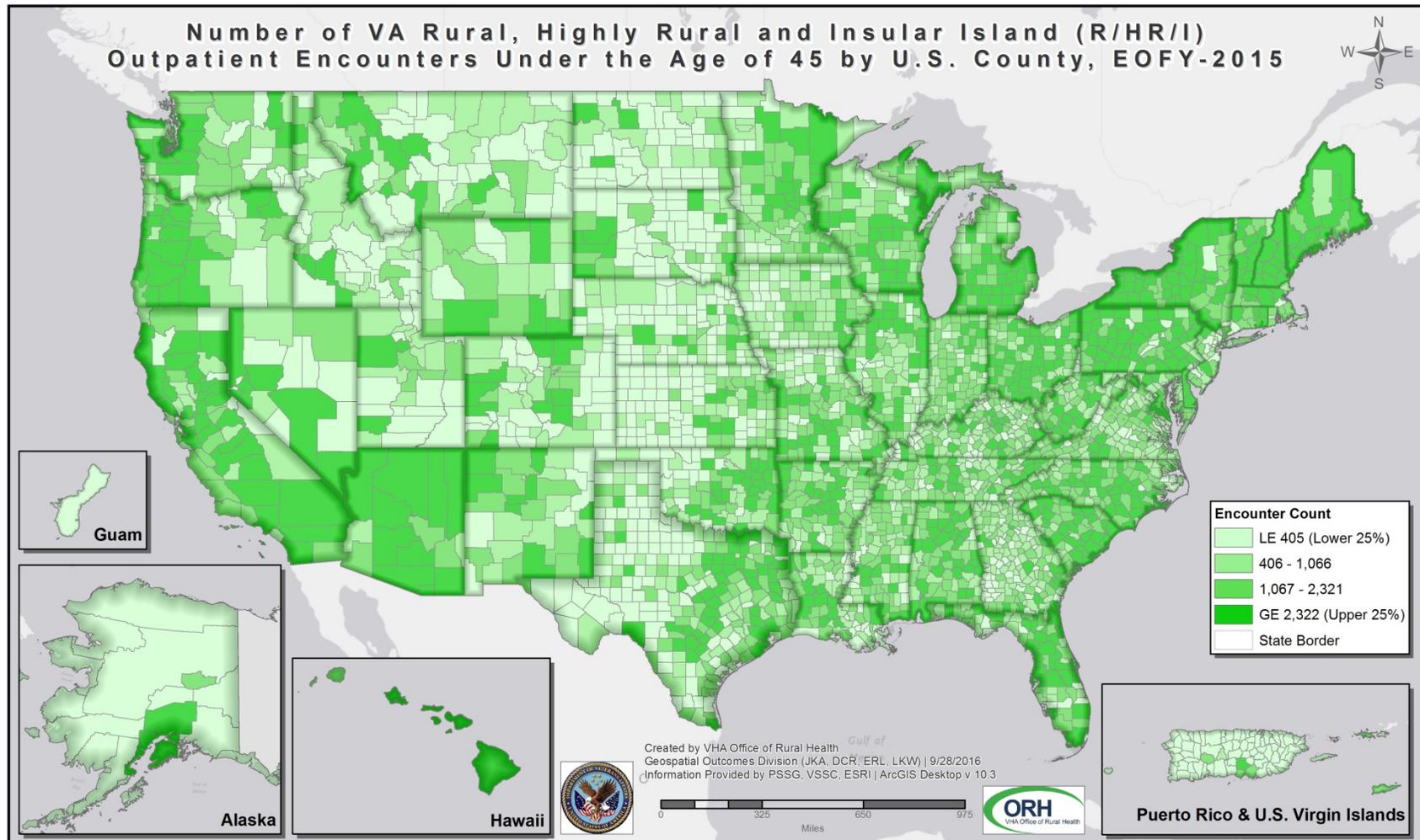
Map 14



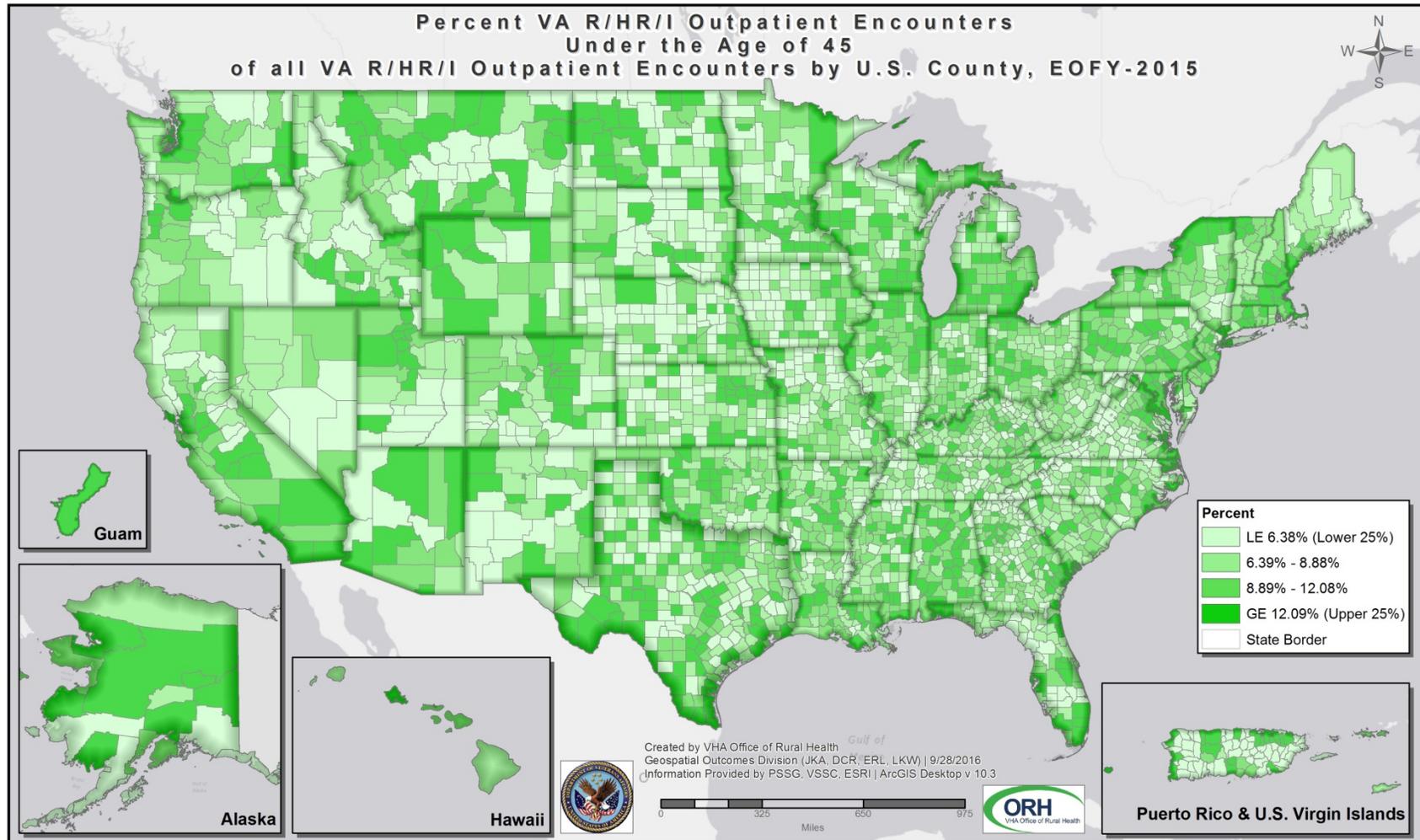
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 15



Map 16

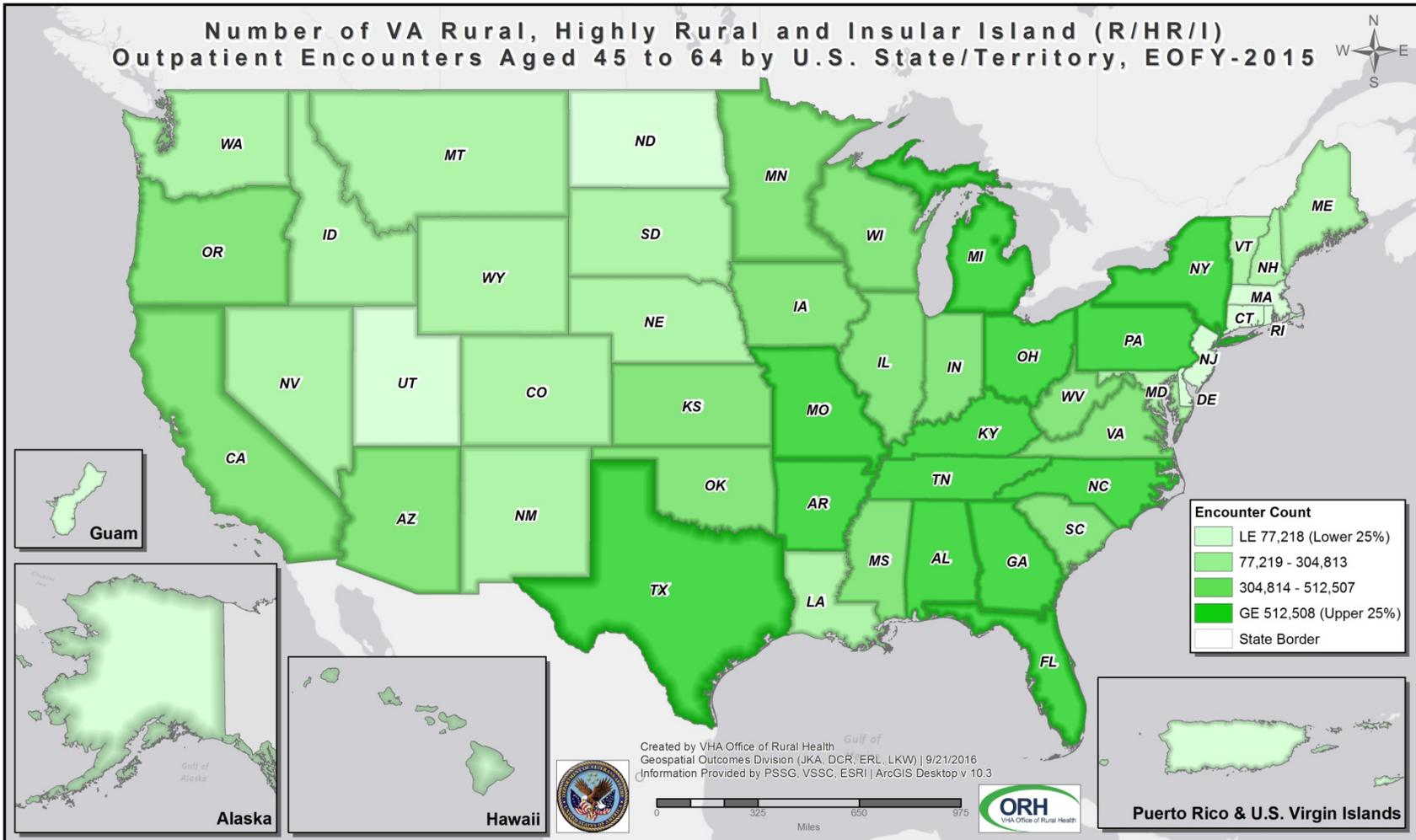


AGES 45 TO 64

Table 2 shows statistics for VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters by those patients *aged 45 to 54*, which represent 10.45% of all VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters across the nation. The top 10 States/Territories with the greatest percentage of Veteran patients in this age group, which exceeded the national overall percentage, include: District of Columbia (34.24%), Alaska (16.21%), U.S. Virgin Islands (14.82%), Puerto Rico (14.76%), Maryland (13.54%), Georgia (13.3%) , Alabama (13.27%), Delaware (13.06%), Mississippi (12.55%), and Arkansas (12.38%).

Those VA outpatient encounters patients who are between *55 and 64 years of age* and live in R/HR/I areas of the nation account for 21.08% as a whole, but on the State level, many have higher concentrations of this particular age group than of younger patients. The top 10 States/Territories reflecting this trend include: District of Columbia (32.28%), U.S. Virgin Islands (26.32%), Georgia (24.71%), Alaska (24.55%), Alabama (24.52%), Mississippi (24.11%), South Carolina (23.31%), Arkansas (23.28%), North Carolina (22.85%), and Florida (22.81%).

The maps in the next series combine the two age groups together to portray a visual of those R/HR/I patients *aged 45 to 64* who had VA outpatient encounters. These data are mapped at the State/Territory and county levels of aggregation. The denominator for the percentages is the number of all R/HR/I patients who had VA outpatient encounters. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion is designated by the darkest shade of green. Four of the U.S. States, as shown on Maps 17 and 18, had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of VA outpatient encounters by those patients *aged 45 to 64*. Those are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, and North Carolina.



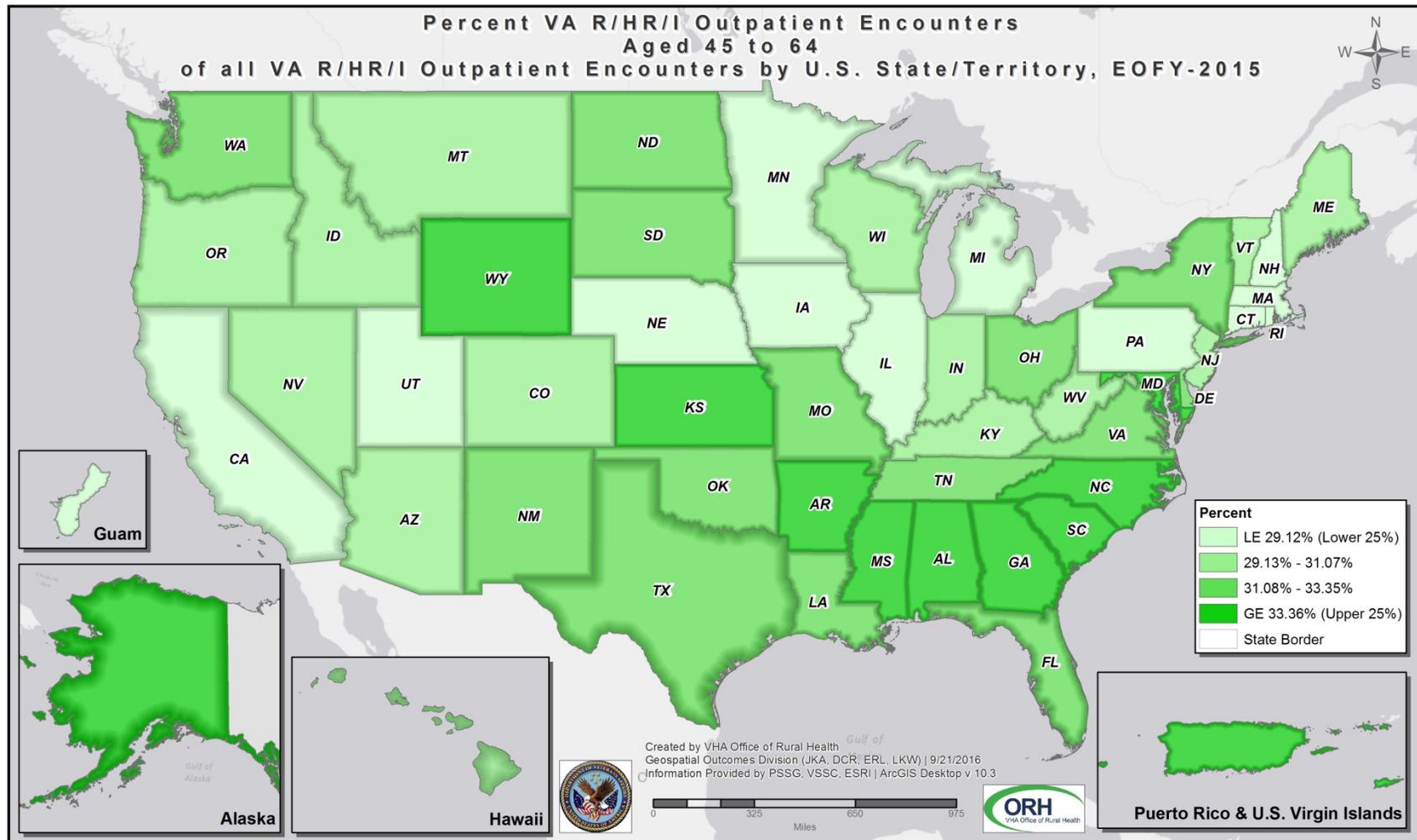
Map 17



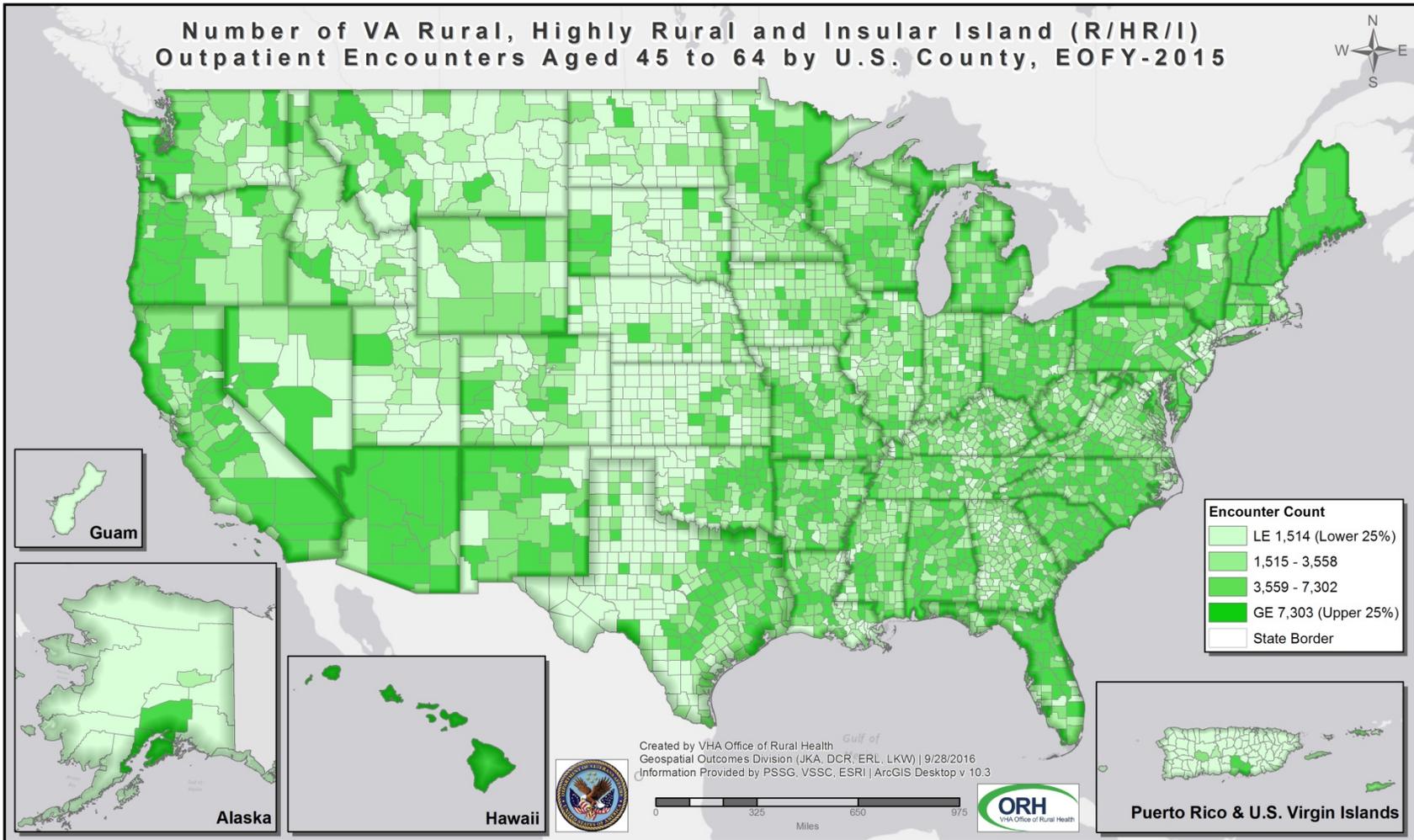
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 18



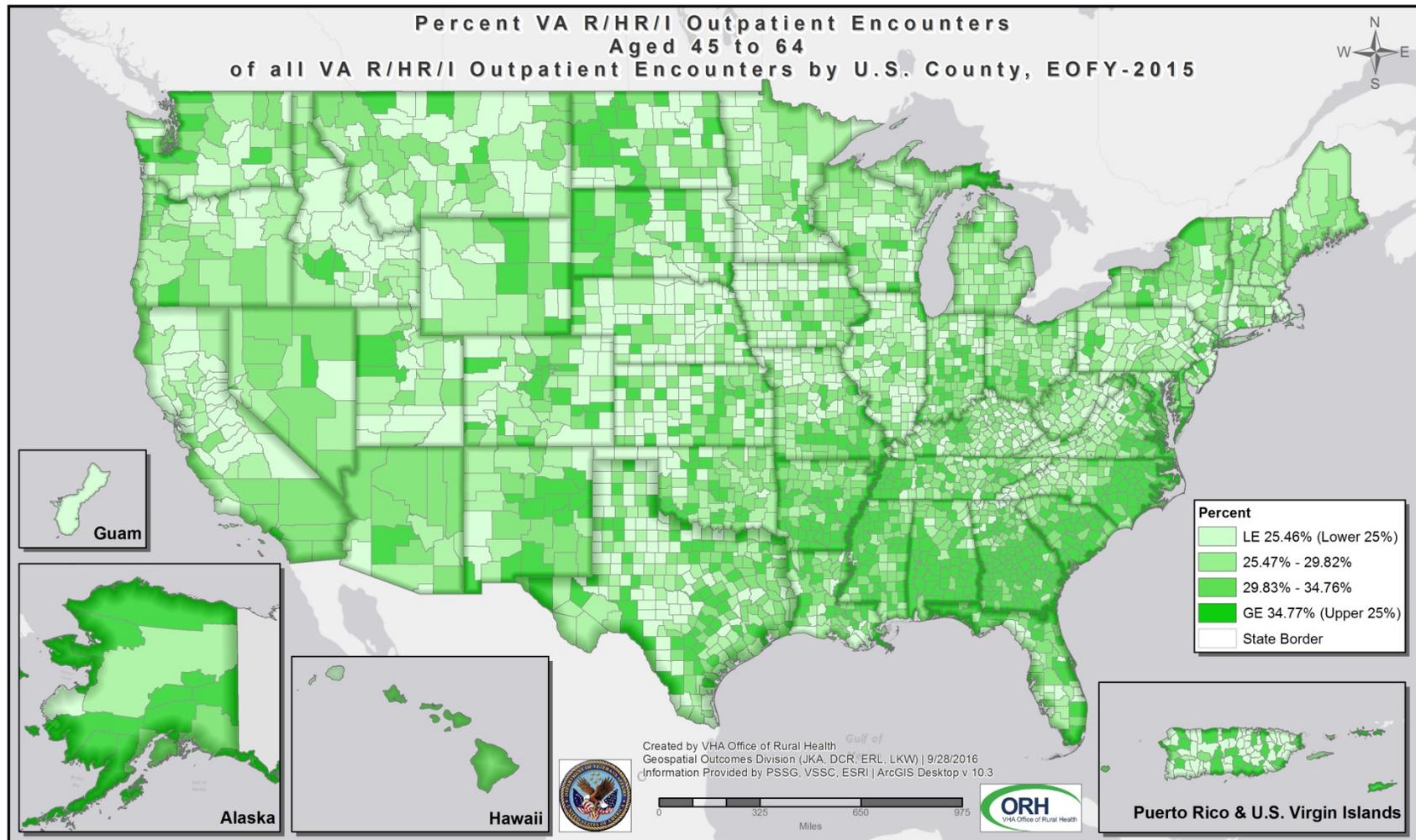
Map 19



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 20



AGES 65 TO 74

On the national level, patients in R/HR/I areas *aged 65 to 74* who had VA outpatient encounters comprised of more than one-third (37.73%) of the total number of VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters, the highest of all age groups. The top 10 States/Territories with the greatest percentage of those patients in this age group, which exceed the national overall percentage include: Northern Mariana Islands (66.67%), Guam (61.6%), Rhode Island (47.93%), Nevada (41.94%), California (41.41%), Tennessee (41.02%), Washington (40.51%), Connecticut (40.24%), Michigan (40.23%), and Illinois (40.15%).

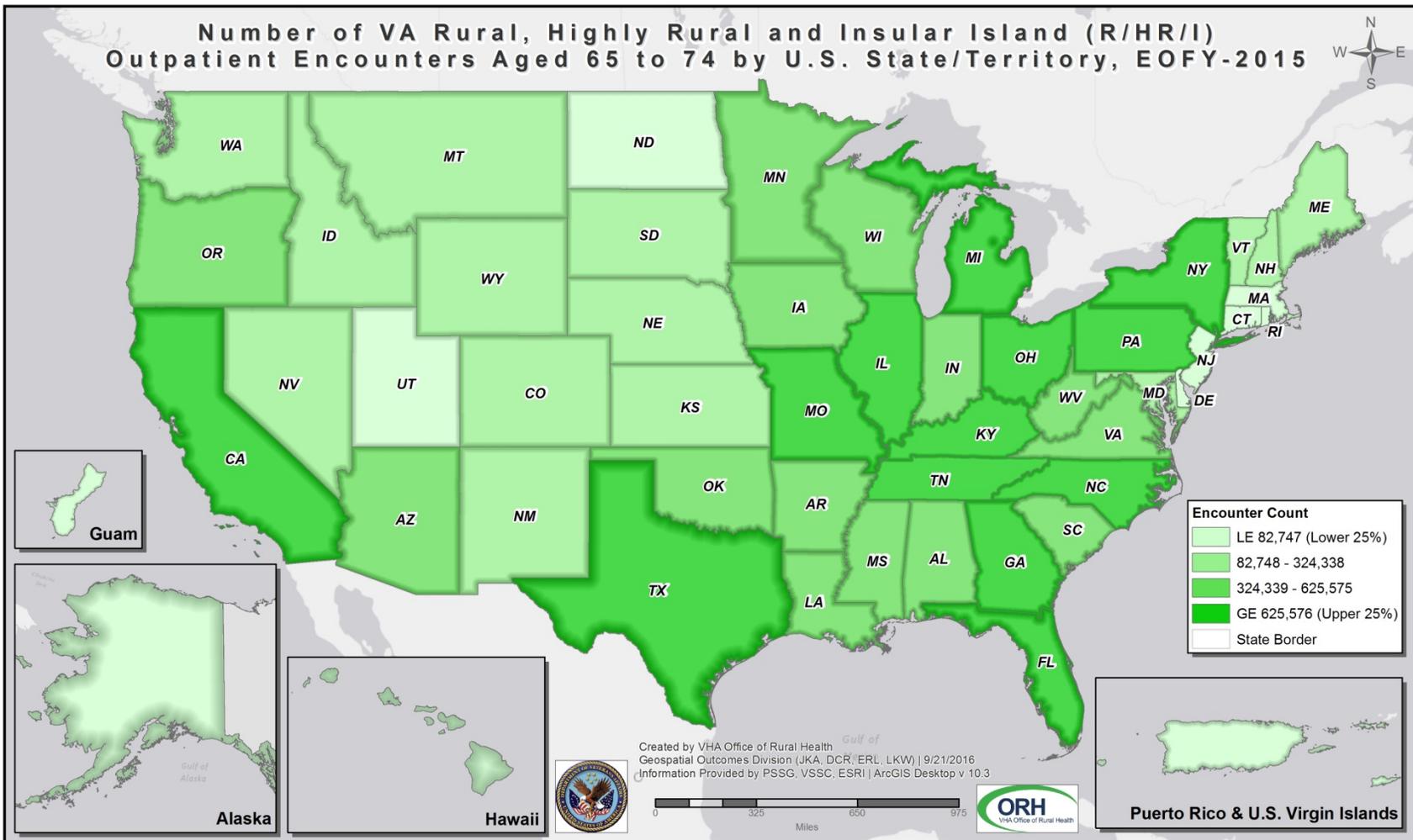
The maps in the next series focus on R/HR/I patients *aged 65 to 74* who had VA outpatient encounters. These data are mapped at the State/Territory and county levels of aggregation. The denominator for the percentages is the number of all R/HR/I patients who had VA outpatient encounters. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion is designated by the darkest shade of green. Four of the U.S. States, as shown on Maps 21 and 22, had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of VA outpatient encounters by those patients *aged 65 to 74*. Those are California, Illinois, Michigan, and Tennessee.



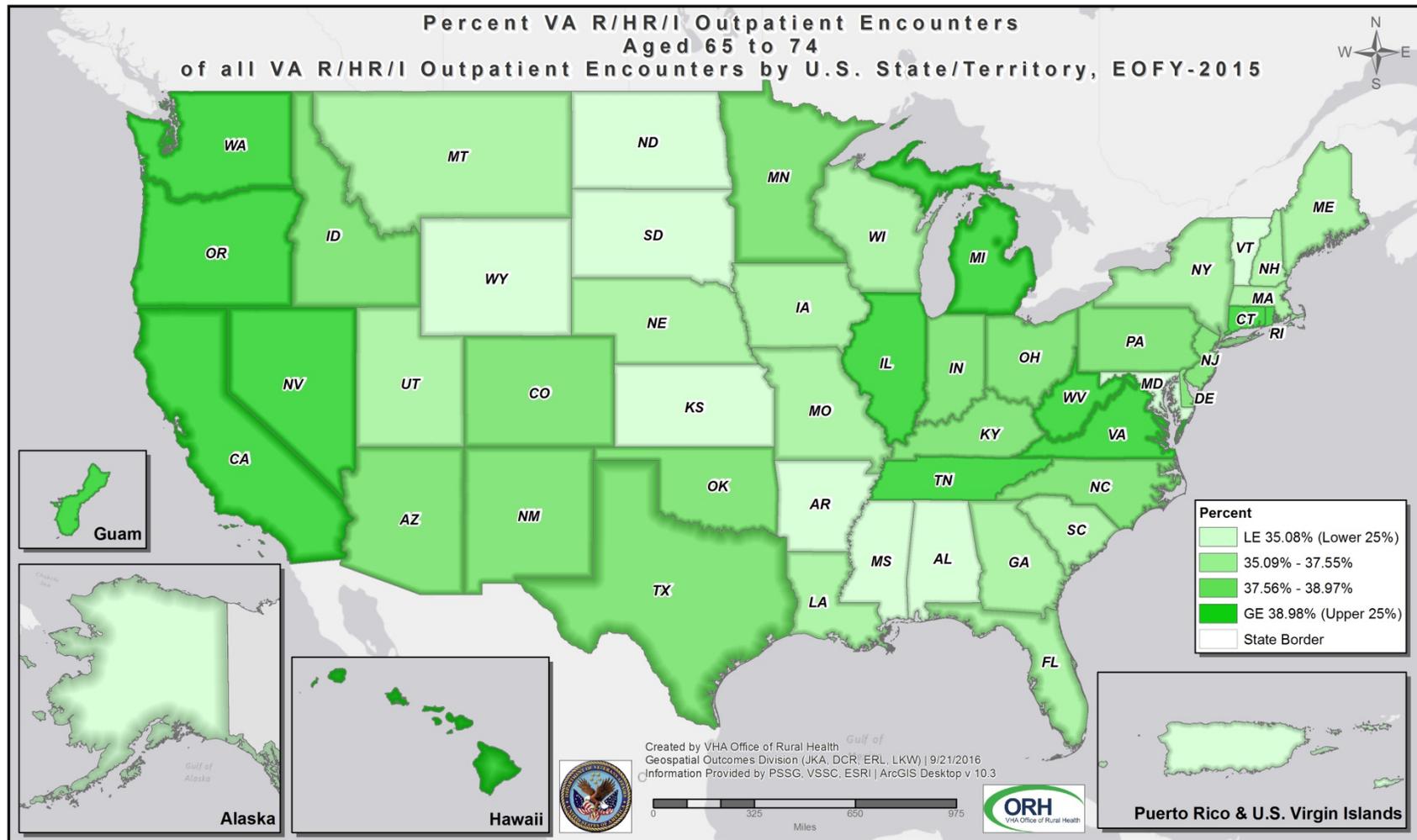
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 21



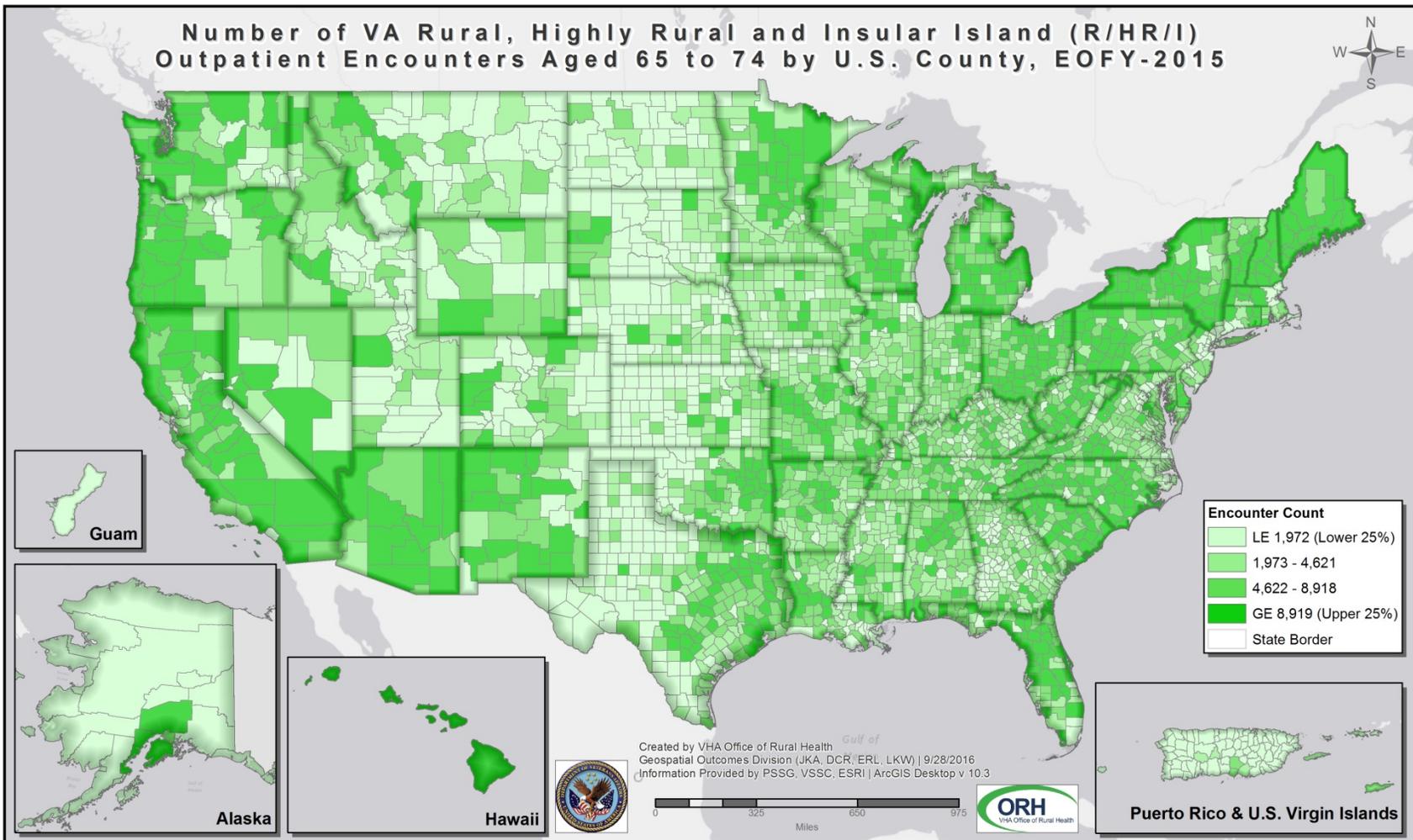
Map 22



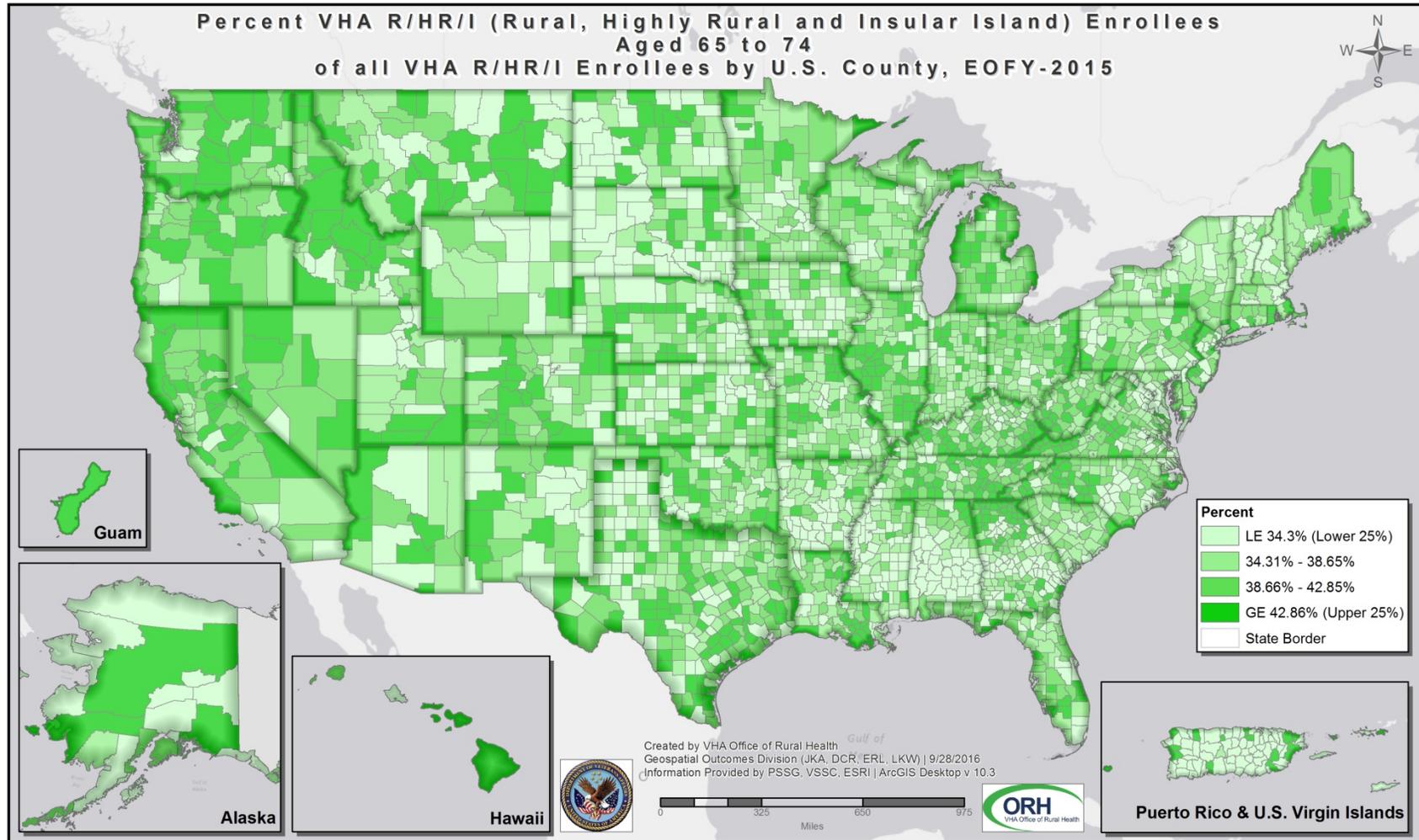
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Map 23



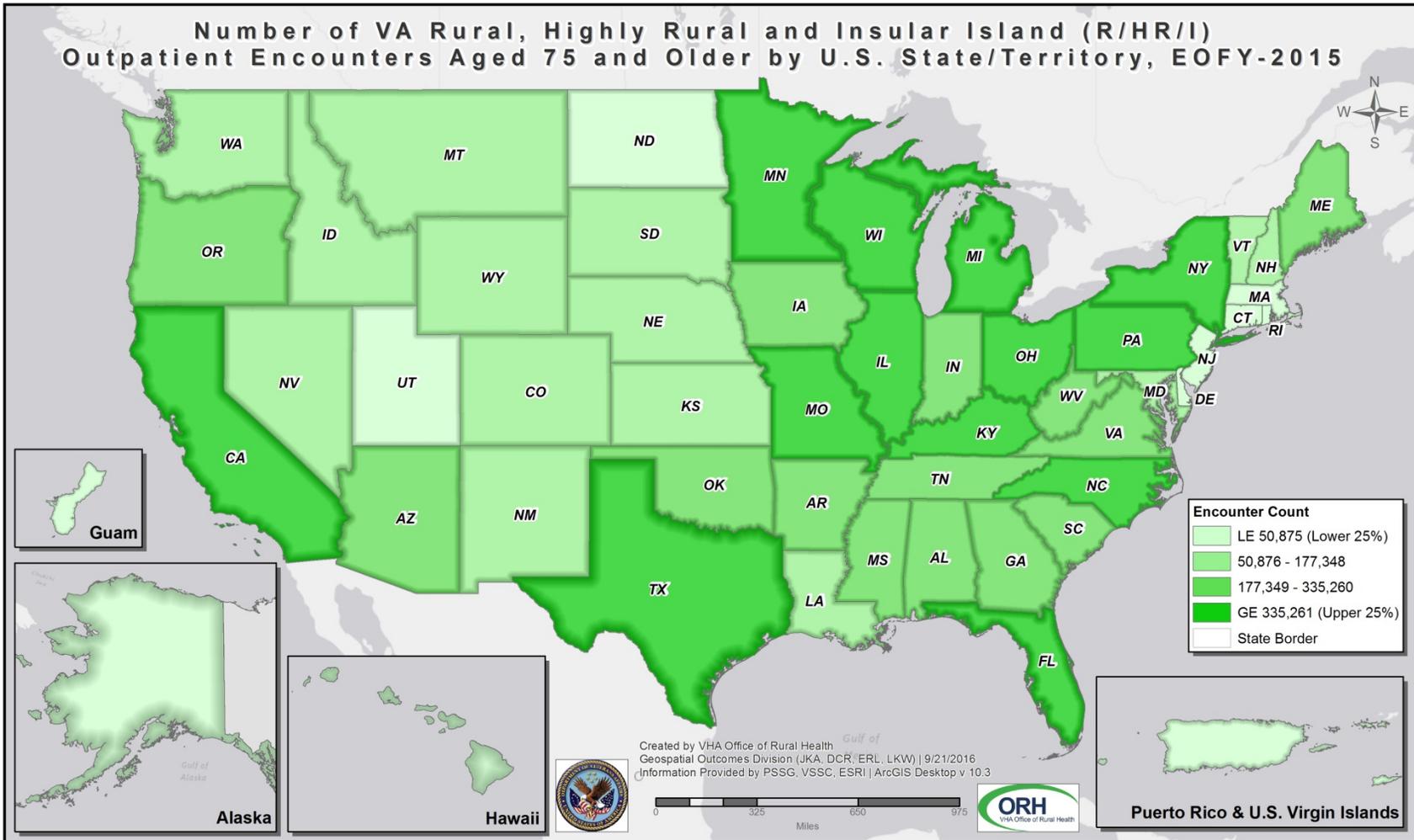
Map 24



AGED 75 AND OLDER

On the national level, Veteran patients in R/HR/I areas who were *age 75 and older* and provided outpatient care by a VA facility or VA provider comprised of about one-fifth (20.52%) of all VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters. The top 10 States/Territories with the greatest percentage of Veteran patients in this age group, which exceed the national overall percentage include: Nebraska (27.26%), Puerto Rico (27.03%), Vermont (26.34%), Iowa (25.54%), South Dakota (25.14%), New Hampshire (24.78%), Minnesota (24.5%), Pennsylvania (23.74%), Massachusetts (23.42%), and New York (22.87%).

The maps in the next series focus on R/HR/I patients *aged 75 and older* who had VA outpatient encounters. These data are mapped at the State/Territory and county levels of aggregation. The denominator for the percentages is the number of all R/HR/I patients who had VA outpatient encounters. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion is designated by the darkest shade of green. Three of the U.S. States, as shown on Maps 25 and 26, had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of VA outpatient encounters by those patients *aged 75 and older*. Those are Minnesota, New York, and Pennsylvania.



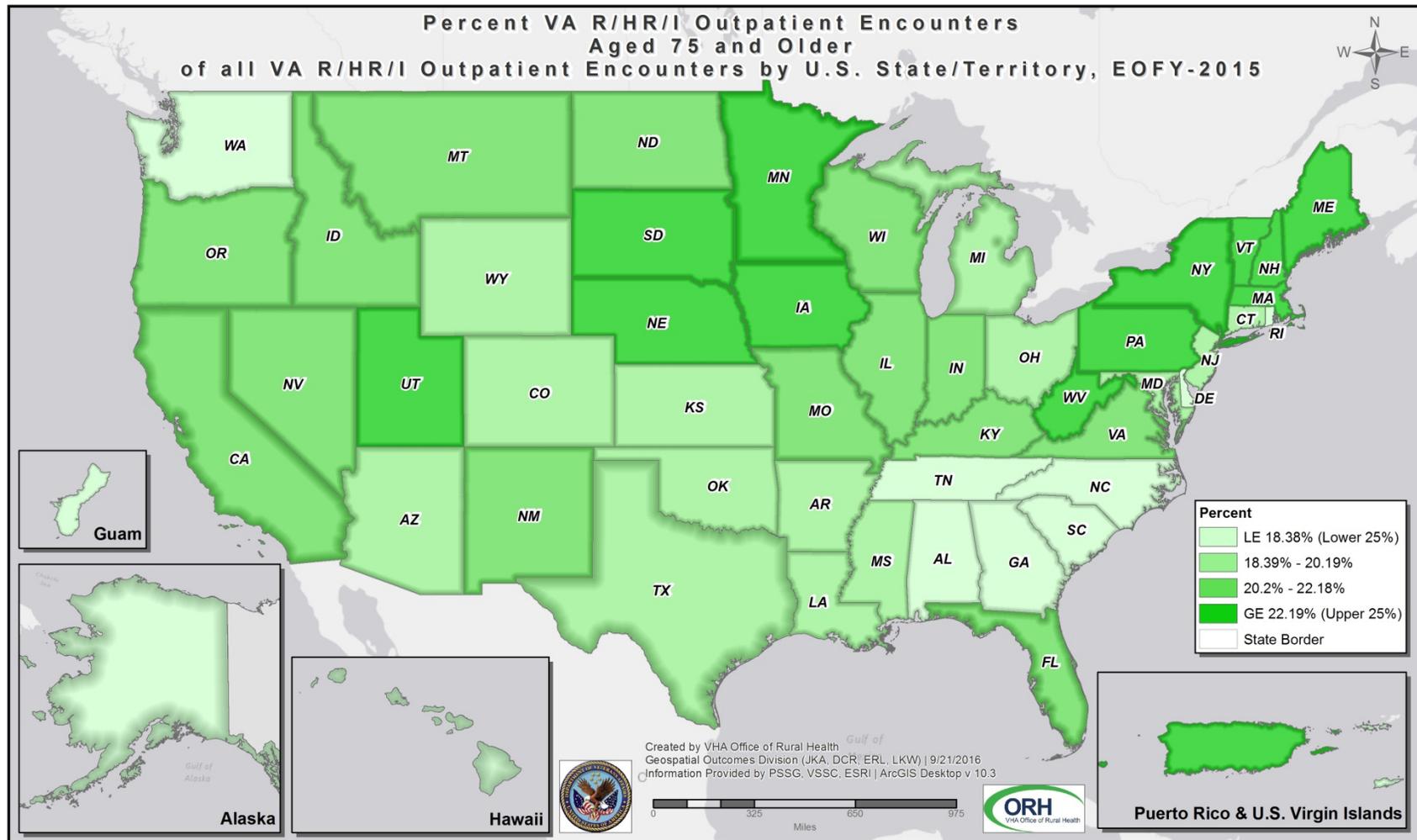
Map 25



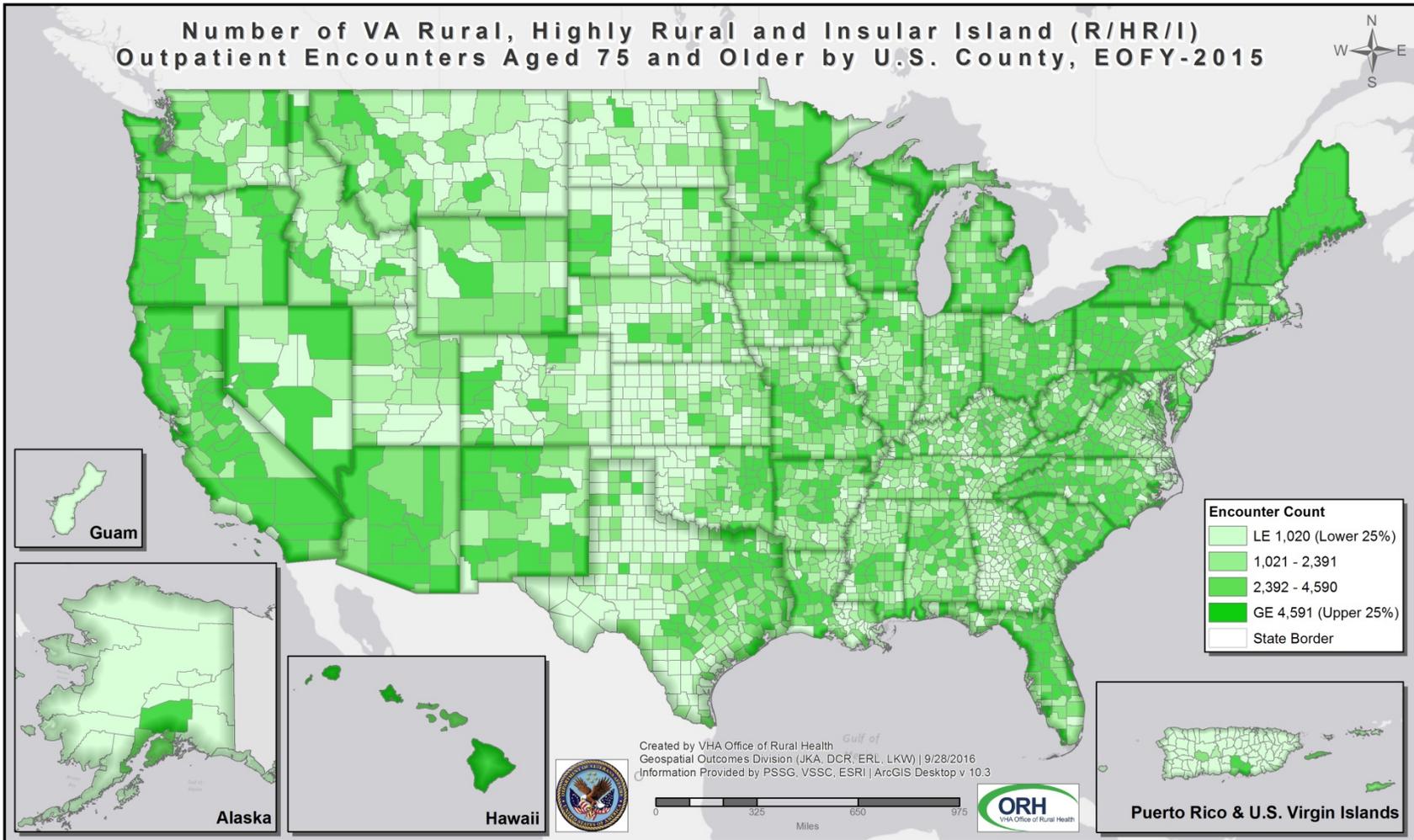
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 26



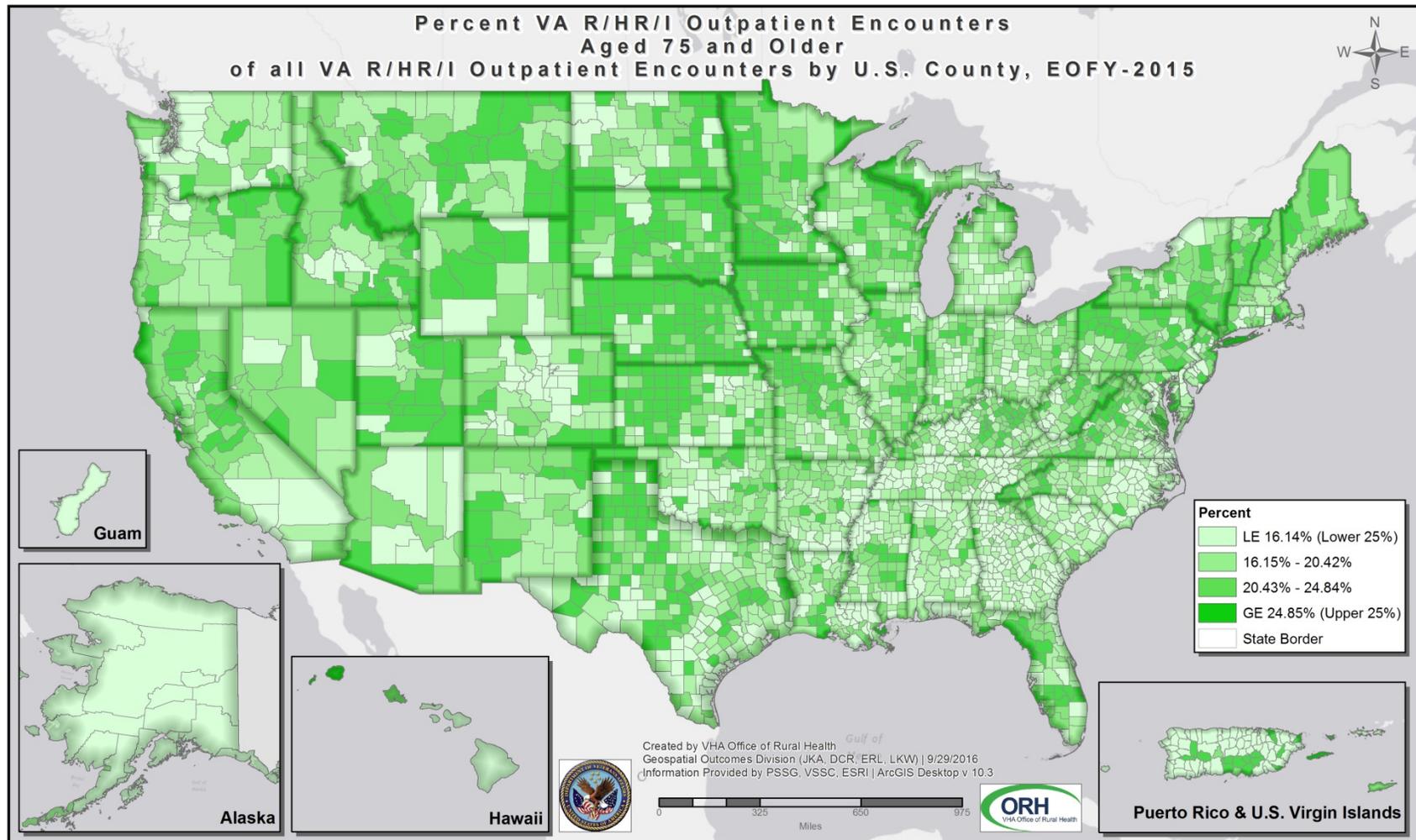
Map 27



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 28



RACE

The focus of this section pertains to the the number and percentages of Veteran patients of various racial groups residing in R/HR/I areas and their outpatient encounters at a VA medical facility or by a VA provider. Nationally, the majority (87.05%) of encounters were by patients who identified as White or Caucasian race, while those by Black and African Americans represented 9.63%. The Veteran patients who identified as Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Alaska Native/Native American, or more than one race category were summed into a race category of Other. These encounters accounted for about 6.03% of the total number of VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters. Those who declined to answer or where race was unknown (6.03% of the VA R/HR/I outpatient encounters) were excluded from the analysis in this chapter. In other words, the numbers and percentages in the maps are based on known race.

Map 29 – Map 32 portray the numbers and percentages of VA outpatient encounters by White R/HR/I patients (numerator) of all VA outpatient encounters by patients whose race is known (denominator). In this series of maps, areas with a lower White population (and therefore areas with a higher concentration of minority groups) are portrayed by the lowest 25% (or quartile) in terms of volume and proportion, which are designated by the lightest shade of green. The bottom 10 States/Territories with the lowest percentage of VA outpatient encounters by White/Caucasian patients includes: District of Columbia (15.51%), U.S. Virgin Islands (31.32%), Northern Mariana Islands (50.0%), Hawaii (52.25%), South Carolina (58.28%), Mississippi (58.31%), Louisiana (63.66%), Alabama (66.74%), Georgia (67.63%), and Maryland (67.85%).



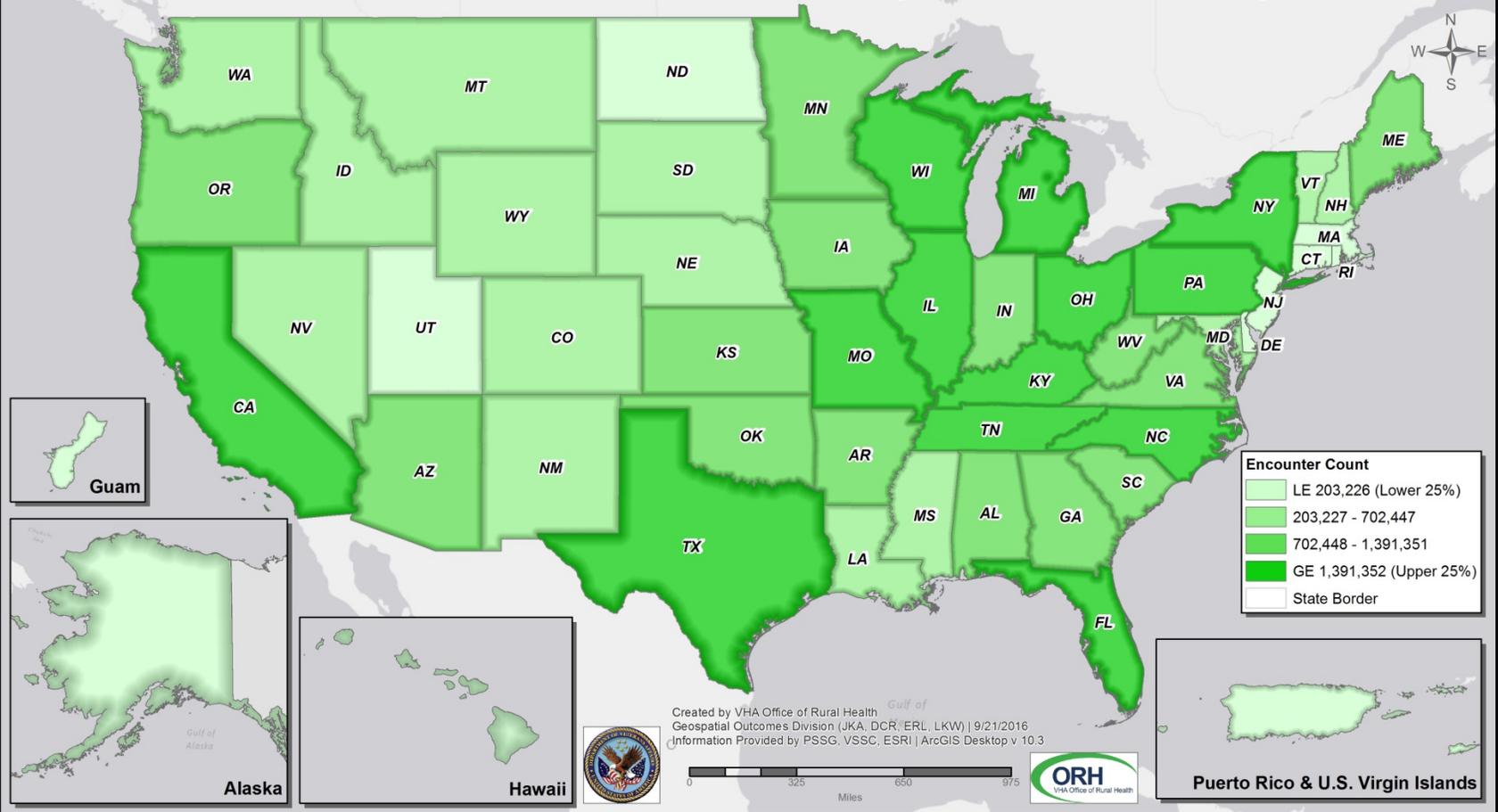
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



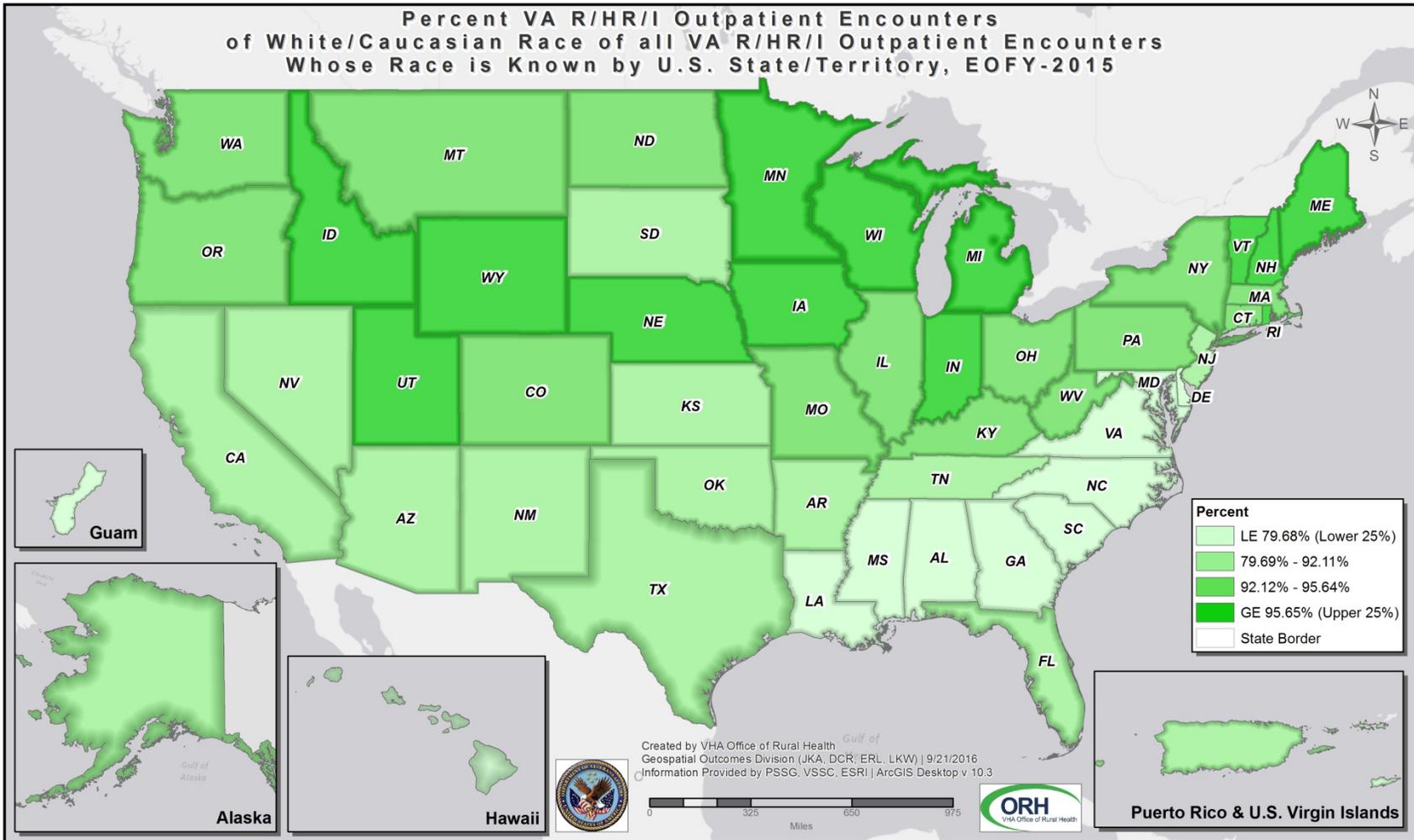
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Number of VA Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters of White/Caucasian Race by U.S. State/Territory, EOFY-2015



Map 29



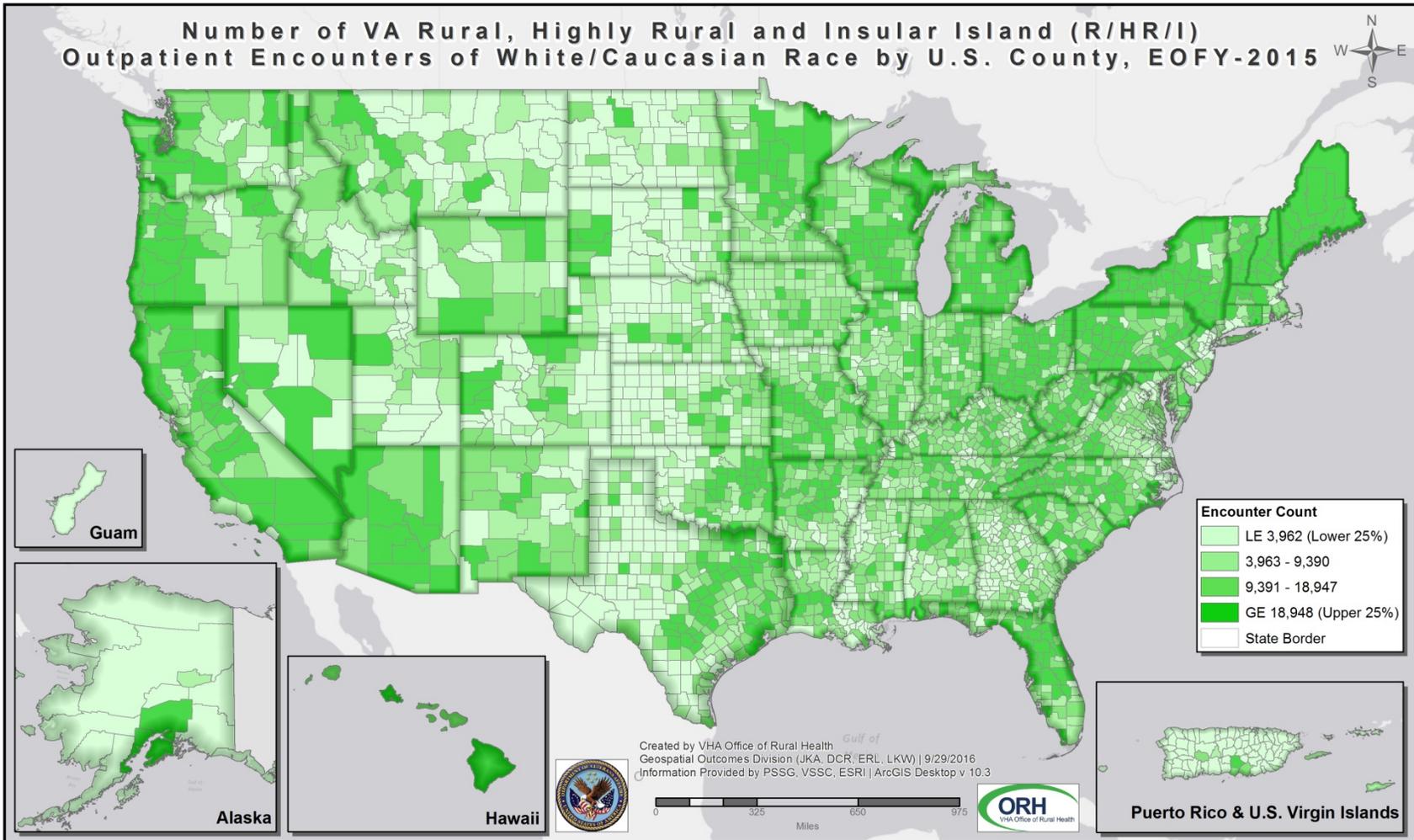
Map 30



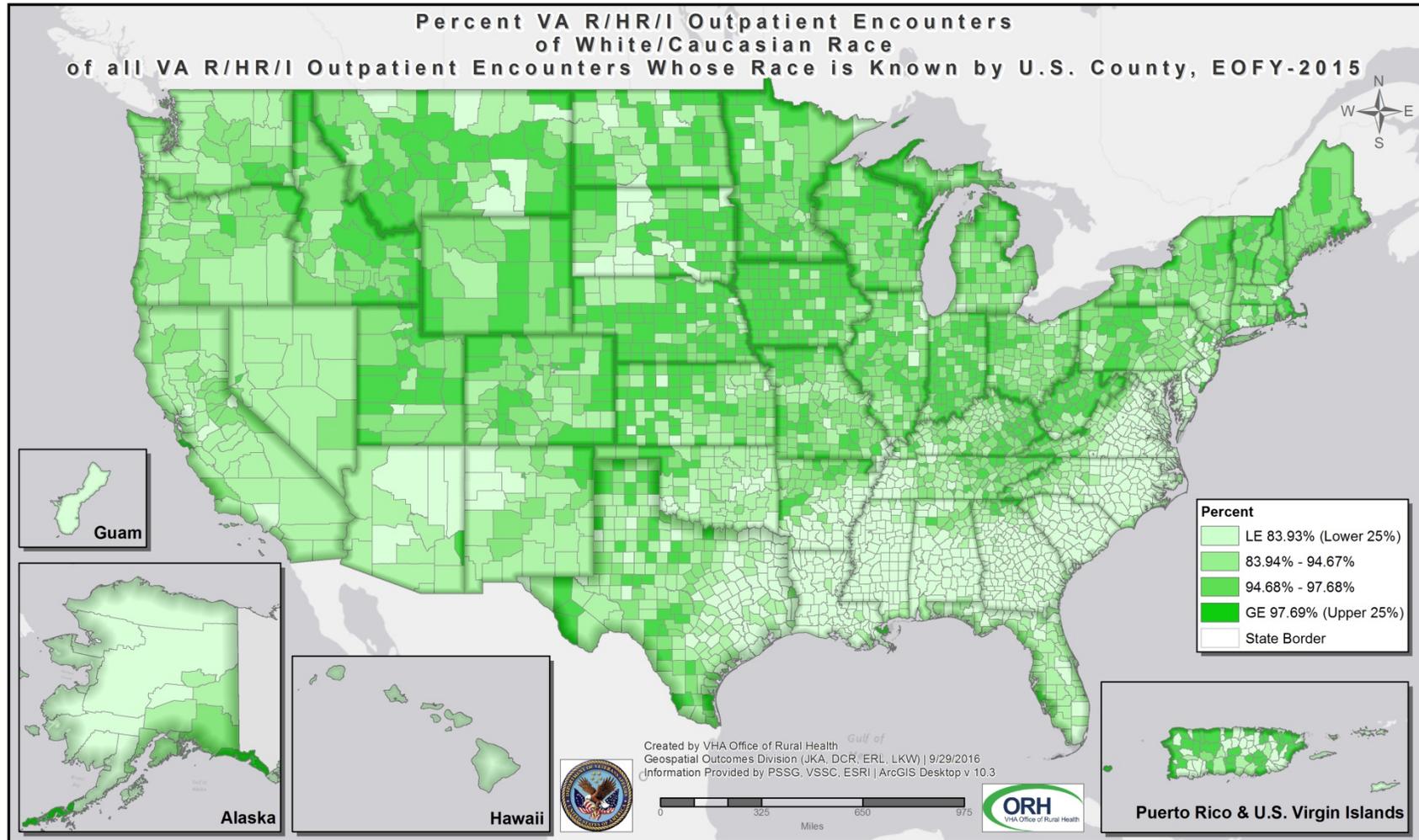
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 31



Map 32



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



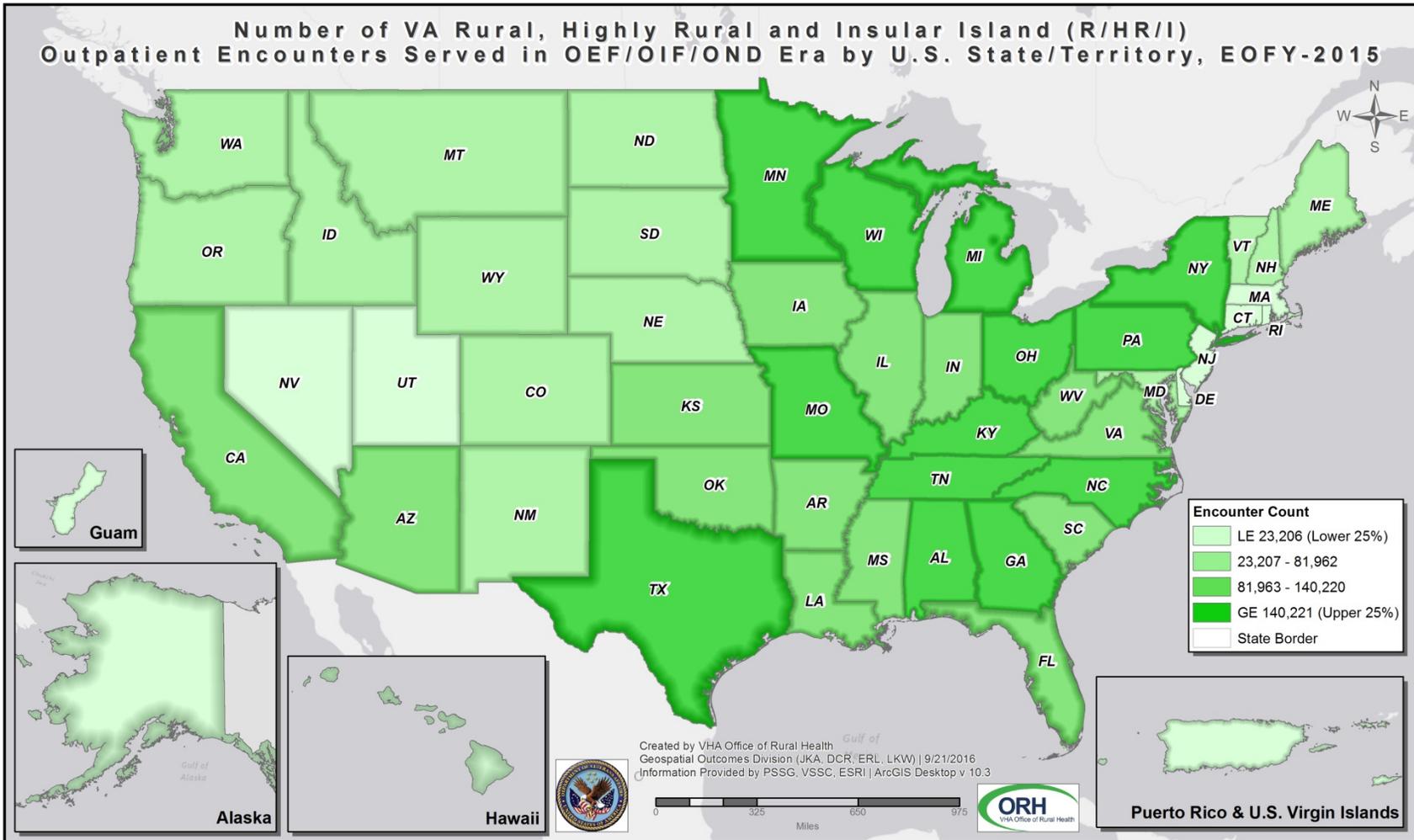
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SERVICE ERA

With the particular focus being those Veteran patients living in R/HR/I areas and who served in OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom), OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom), and OND (Operation New Dawn) eras, the national overall representation of VA outpatient encounters by those particular patients to those VA outpatient encounters by all patients was 8.52% at EOFY-2015. The Top 10 States/Territories with VA outpatient encounters by R/HR/I patients who served in OEF/OIF/OND include: Puerto Rico (19.64%), Alaska (15.53%), U.S. Virgin Islands (13.02%), Alabama (12.03%), North Dakota (11.57%), Kansas (11.4%), Mississippi (11.1%), Vermont (10.67%), New Jersey (10.51%), and Montana (10.45%).

Map 33 – Map 36 portray the numbers and percentages of VA outpatient encounters by patients who previously served in OEF/OIF/OND (numerator) of all VA outpatient encounters (denominator). The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion is designated by the darkest shade of green. Alabama was the only U.S. State, shown on Maps 33 and 34, that had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of VA outpatient encounters by those patients who served in the OEF/OIF/OND Era.



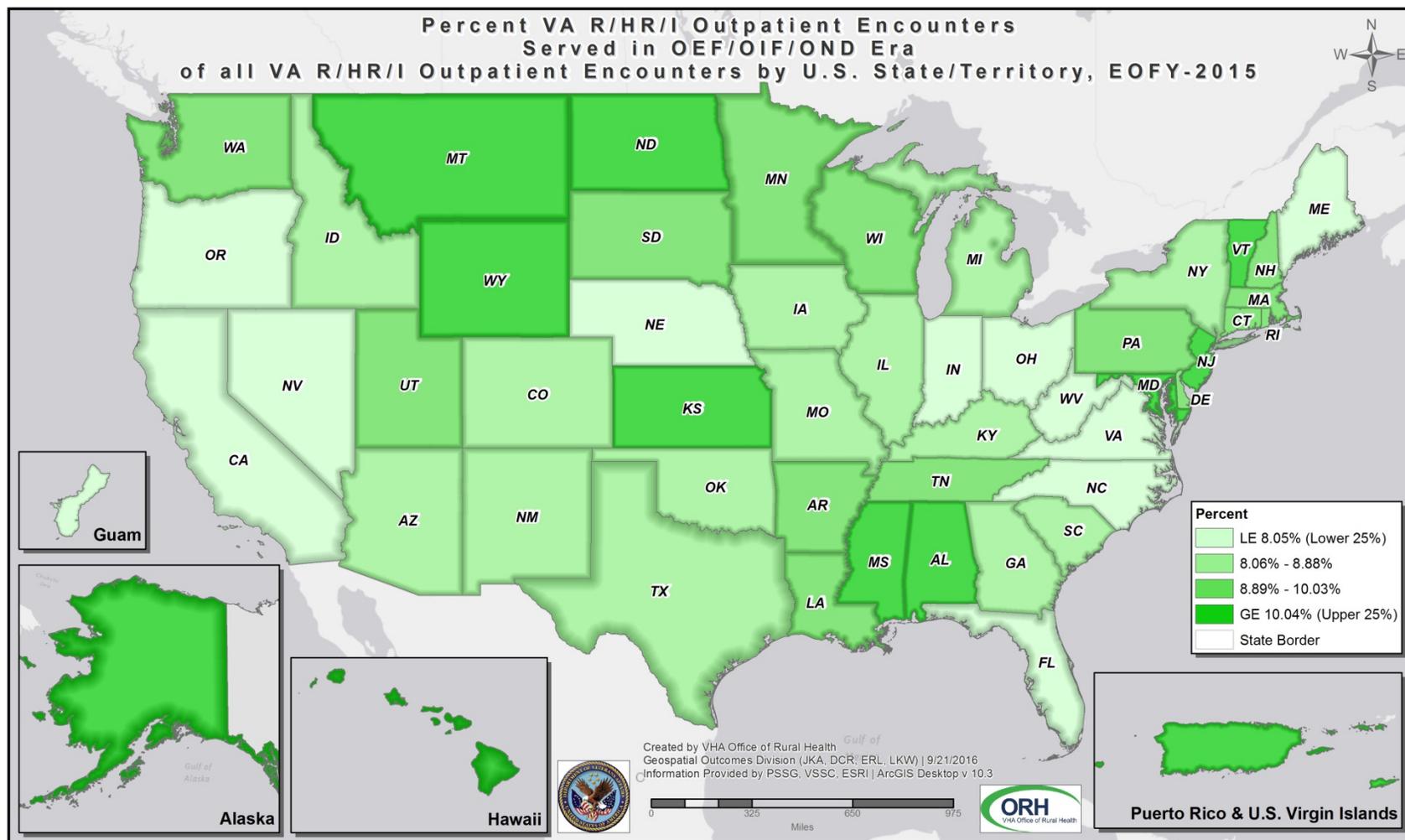
Map 33



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



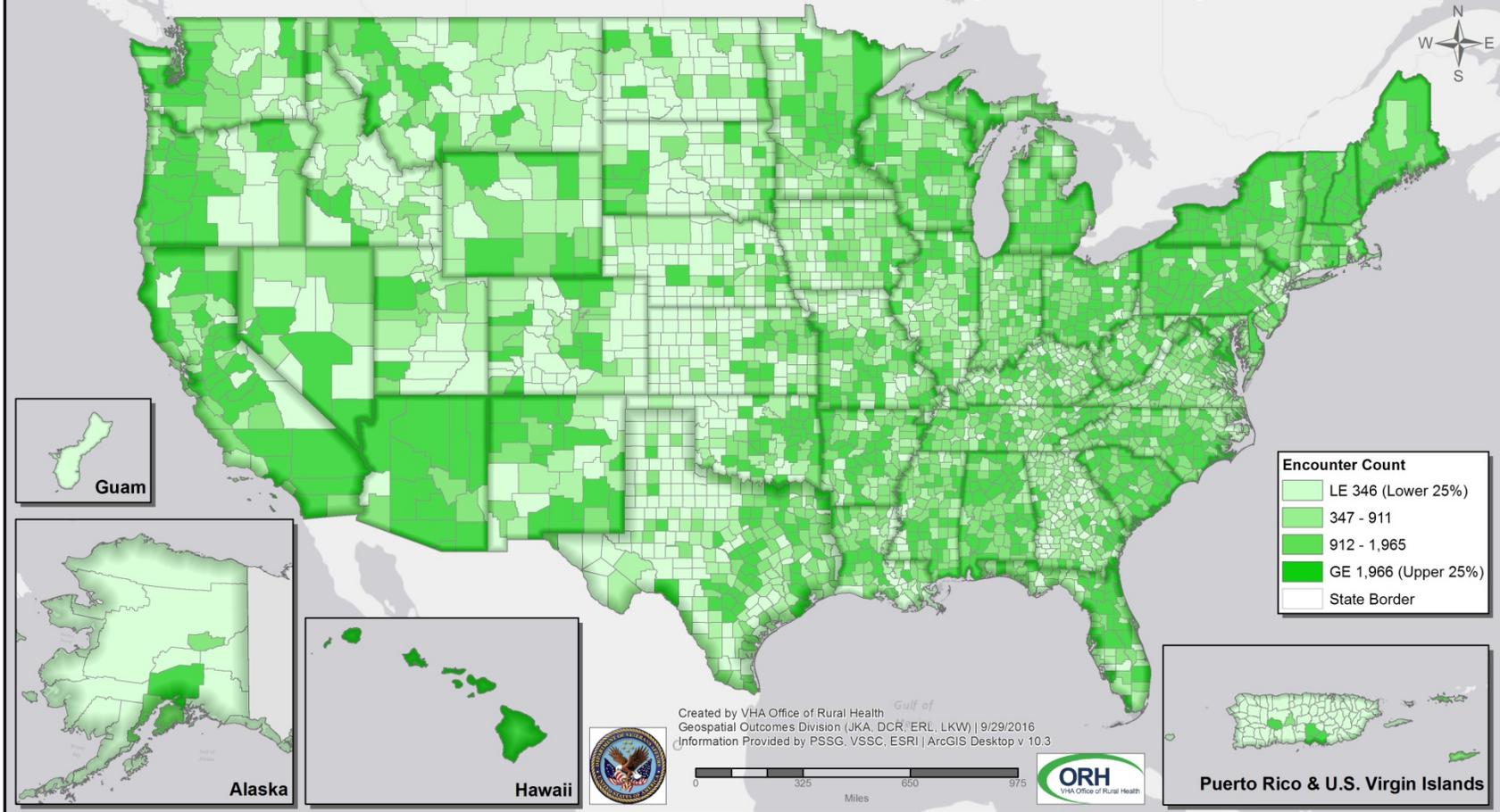
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Map 34



Number of VA Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I)
Outpatient Encounters Served in OEF/OIF/OND Era by U.S. County, EOFY-2015



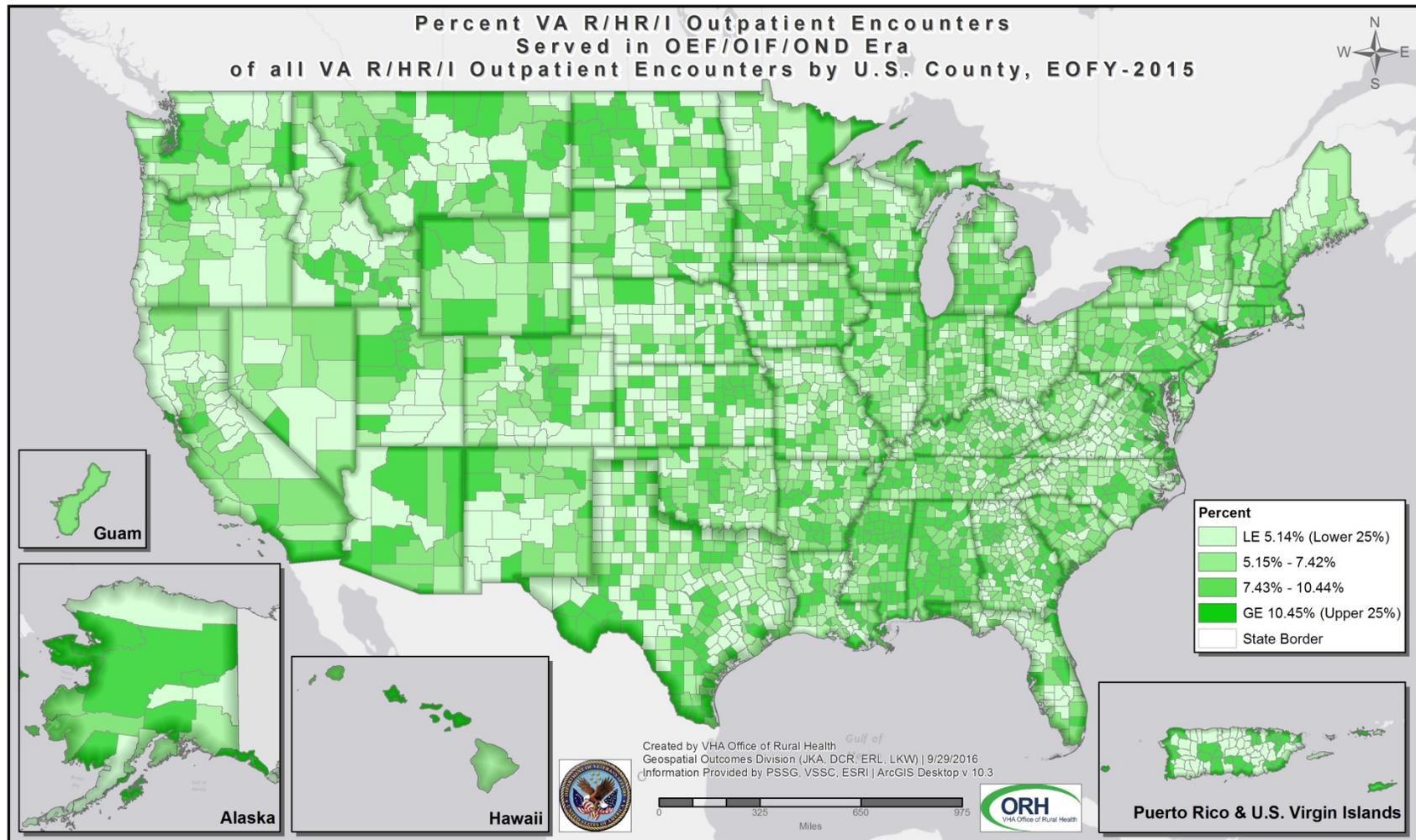
Map 35



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Map 36



Section III: Outpatient Encounters in Non-VA Facilities

National Overview

While the number of VA outpatient encounters totaled over 178 million (or about 67.48% of all types of encounters) at the end of EOFY-2015, as mentioned in Section I, a smaller population of Veteran patients sometimes find it necessary to seek or receive care outside of the VHA health care system. A number of factors that cause this trend may include a patient's limited geographic access and resources to the nearest VA facility, or even a shortage of available VA specialty care and providers in a patient's location. Therefore, about 13.72% of all types of encounters (or just over 36 million) were performed by a non-VA care provider or facility on a fee-based outpatient basis. Of that number, more than 13 million, or about a third, were outpatient encounters by individuals who lived in R/HR/I areas. The remaining fee-based outpatient encounters outside rural areas totaled just over 23 million (Table 3).

State/Territory Overview

Of all U.S. States and Territories, the State of Texas had the largest number of R/HR/I outpatient encounters in a non-VA health care setting (N=742,798). Non-VA Care (referred throughout Sections III and IV as 'Fee') outpatient encounters by those patients living in R/HR/I areas in Texas represented 25.62% of its total number of Fee outpatient encounters. Other States with high numbers of R/HR/I Fee outpatient encounters included (in rank order): North Carolina (N=676,871), Ohio (N=559,303), Missouri (N=538,701), Minnesota (N=462,620), Georgia (N=453,367), California (N=422,377), Pennsylvania (N=410,535), Florida (N=406,684), and Tennessee (N=389,976). As a portion of the total number of Fee outpatient encounters, the U.S. Virgin Islands, with a total count of 8,194, had the highest percentage of R/HR/I Fee outpatient encounters, predominately insular island, at 95.62%. The State of Vermont followed closely behind with 89.68% of their Fee outpatient encounters by patients living in R/HR/I areas. Vermont had a total of 80,214 Fee outpatient encounters in EOFY-2015, and of that number, 71,934 of those were R/HR/I. Other States also showed a high percentage of R/HR/I Fee outpatient encounters including: Maine (78.25%), Wyoming (74.07%), Montana (72.38%), Mississippi (66.05%), Iowa (64.29%), Arkansas (63.95%), South Dakota (63.86%), and Missouri (62.47%). State/Territory Maps 37 and 38 are presented by quartile for volume and percentage of Fee outpatient encounters by those Veteran patients residing in R/HR/I areas. Comparing the two maps show that the Minnesota, Missouri, and Montana are the three U.S. States in the



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upper 25% quartile (darkest blue shade) in terms of number as well as proportion of Fee outpatient encounters by R/HR/I Veteran patients.

County Overview

Three counties in Arizona were among the top ten counties with the largest R/HR/I outpatient encounters by a non-VA provider or a non-VA medical facility: Mohave County (N=48,433), Yavapai County (N=47,160), and Maricopa County (N=40,896). California had two counties, Humboldt (N=41,764) and San Bernardino (N=37,047). Montana also had two counties- Flathead (N=54,874) and Lewis and Clark (N=43,498). The other three in the top ten counties with the largest Fee outpatient encounters by the R/HR/I patient population were: Hawaii County, Hawaii (N=80,120), Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska (N=72,116), and Douglas County, Oregon (N=41,368). County Maps 39 and 40 are presented by quartile for volume and percentage of Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters.



Table 3: Non-VA Care (Fee) Outpatient Encounters by Rurality, EOFY-2015

U.S. State	Total Number of All Encounters	Fee Outpatient Encounters				
		TOTAL	Rurality			
		N	R/HR/I	%	Urban & Unknown	%
Alabama	4,725,449	595,210	291,766	49.02	303,444	50.98
Alaska	920,490	338,444	176,062	52.02	162,382	47.98
Arizona	6,152,886	1,038,776	275,396	26.51	763,380	73.49
Arkansas	4,404,227	347,392	222,156	63.95	125,236	36.05
California	18,788,531	2,608,648	422,377	16.19	2,186,271	83.81
Colorado	4,285,984	914,796	210,637	23.03	704,159	76.97
Connecticut	2,195,244	147,717	19,330	13.09	128,387	86.91
Delaware	652,454	59,384	18,870	31.78	40,514	68.22
District of Columbia	484,556	26,677	105	0.39	26,572	99.61
Florida	24,319,909	3,229,821	406,684	12.59	2,823,137	87.41
Georgia	8,159,168	1,309,331	453,367	34.63	855,964	65.37
Hawaii	1,109,862	294,220	146,901	49.93	147,319	50.07
Idaho	1,724,451	281,005	133,742	47.59	147,263	52.41
Illinois	8,602,045	1,006,158	366,448	36.42	639,710	63.58
Indiana	5,358,795	684,846	293,779	42.90	391,067	57.10
Iowa	2,952,195	458,296	294,650	64.29	163,646	35.71
Kansas	2,804,062	301,966	158,295	52.42	143,671	47.58
Kentucky	4,685,357	607,041	329,997	54.36	277,044	45.64
Louisiana	4,189,001	751,909	244,470	32.51	507,439	67.49
Maine	1,618,133	243,384	190,445	78.25	52,939	21.75
Maryland	3,529,388	456,117	75,415	16.53	380,702	83.47
Massachusetts	3,907,775	318,407	27,697	8.70	290,710	91.30
Michigan	6,281,934	703,330	368,841	52.44	334,489	47.56
Minnesota	4,775,341	771,242	462,620	59.98	308,622	40.02
Mississippi	3,091,610	410,008	270,816	66.05	139,192	33.95
Missouri	6,553,493	862,368	538,701	62.47	323,667	37.53
Montana	1,662,822	512,027	370,628	72.38	141,399	27.62
Nebraska	1,950,989	256,362	155,622	60.70	100,740	39.30
Nevada	3,521,592	440,758	81,183	18.42	359,575	81.58



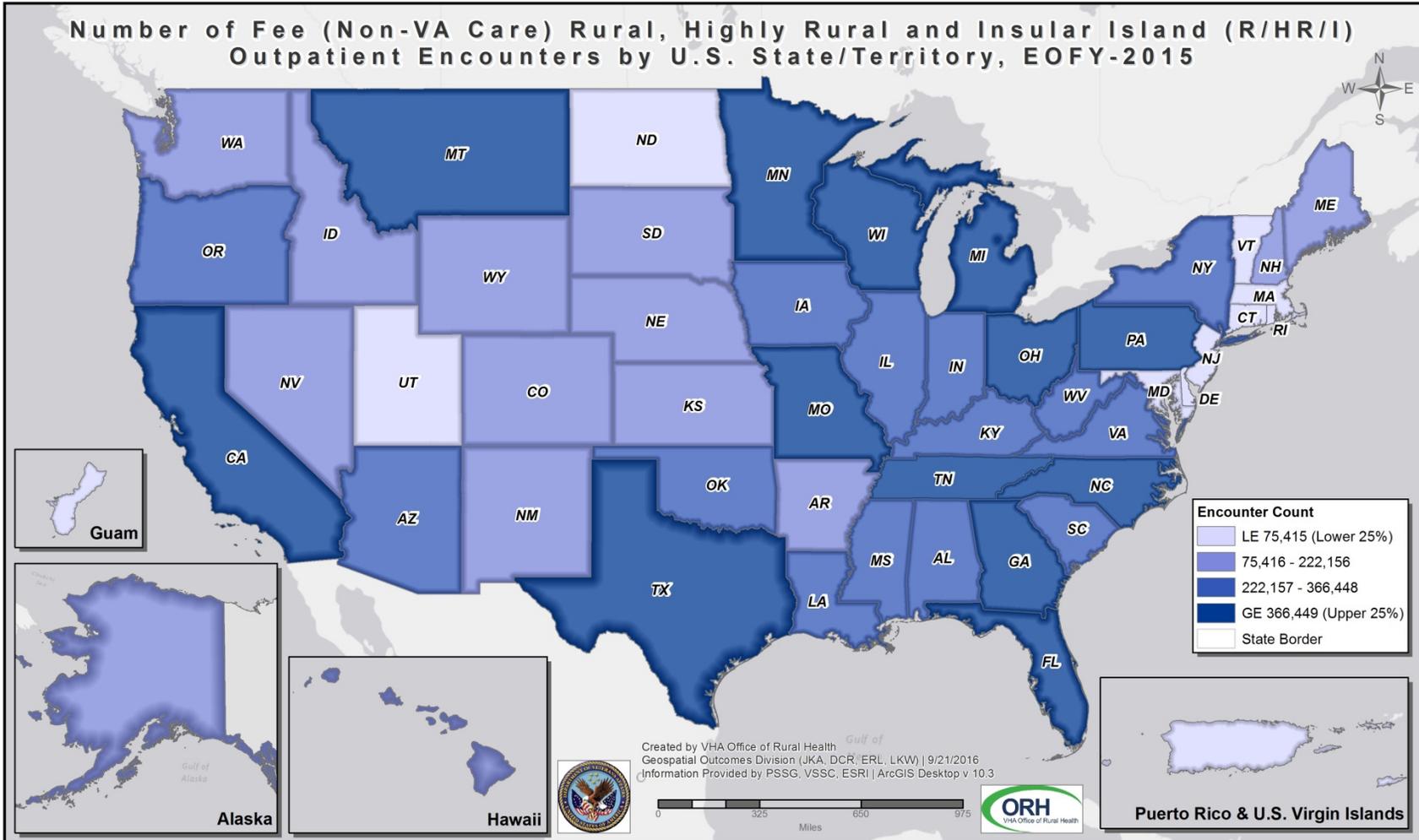
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U.S. State	Total Number of All Encounters	Fee Outpatient Encounters				
		TOTAL	Rurality			
		N	R/HR/I	%	Urban & Unknown	%
New Hampshire	1,284,222	147,461	80,921	54.88	66,540	45.12
New Jersey	2,914,303	420,477	22,509	5.35	397,968	94.65
New Mexico	2,255,859	310,681	175,124	56.37	135,557	43.63
New York	10,958,932	728,984	256,435	35.18	472,549	64.82
North Carolina	9,288,198	1,526,426	676,871	44.34	849,555	55.66
North Dakota	690,898	130,537	65,145	49.91	65,392	50.09
Ohio	11,419,809	1,497,653	559,303	37.35	938,350	62.65
Oklahoma	3,732,794	459,341	269,744	58.72	189,597	41.28
Oregon	4,049,315	601,387	314,267	52.26	287,120	47.74
Pennsylvania	9,725,572	1,310,430	410,535	31.33	899,895	68.67
Rhode Island	899,629	61,088	3,444	5.64	57,644	94.36
South Carolina	5,169,084	743,169	317,126	42.67	426,043	57.33
South Dakota	1,551,691	261,735	167,152	63.86	94,583	36.14
Tennessee	6,375,139	843,738	389,976	46.22	453,762	53.78
Texas	19,230,023	2,899,453	742,798	25.62	2,156,655	74.38
Utah	1,882,062	292,356	63,672	21.78	228,684	78.22
Vermont	621,057	80,214	71,934	89.68	8,280	10.32
Virginia	6,432,606	852,304	332,643	39.03	519,661	60.97
Washington	4,705,262	714,640	215,899	30.21	498,741	69.79
West Virginia	3,229,567	407,017	249,141	61.21	157,876	38.79
Wisconsin	5,437,742	720,169	372,341	51.70	347,828	48.30
Wyoming	911,394	148,584	110,055	74.07	38,529	25.93
U.S. Outlying Territories						
American Samoa	742	3	0	0.00	3	100.00
Federated States of Micronesia	482	195	0	0.00	195	100.00
Guam	168,226	91,336	620	0.68	90,716	99.32
Marshall Islands	156	8	0	0.00	8	100.00
Northern Mariana Islands	8,040	2,597	56	2.16	2,541	97.84
Palau	46	34	0	0.00	34	100.00
Puerto Rico	3,471,970	429,581	17,829	4.15	411,752	95.85
U.S. Virgin Islands	45,552	8,569	8,194	95.62	375	4.38
*Unassigned State/Territory	4,471,007	621,409	161,321	25.96	460,088	74.04
TOTAL	264,339,122	36,287,216	13,062,055	36.00	23,225,161	64.00



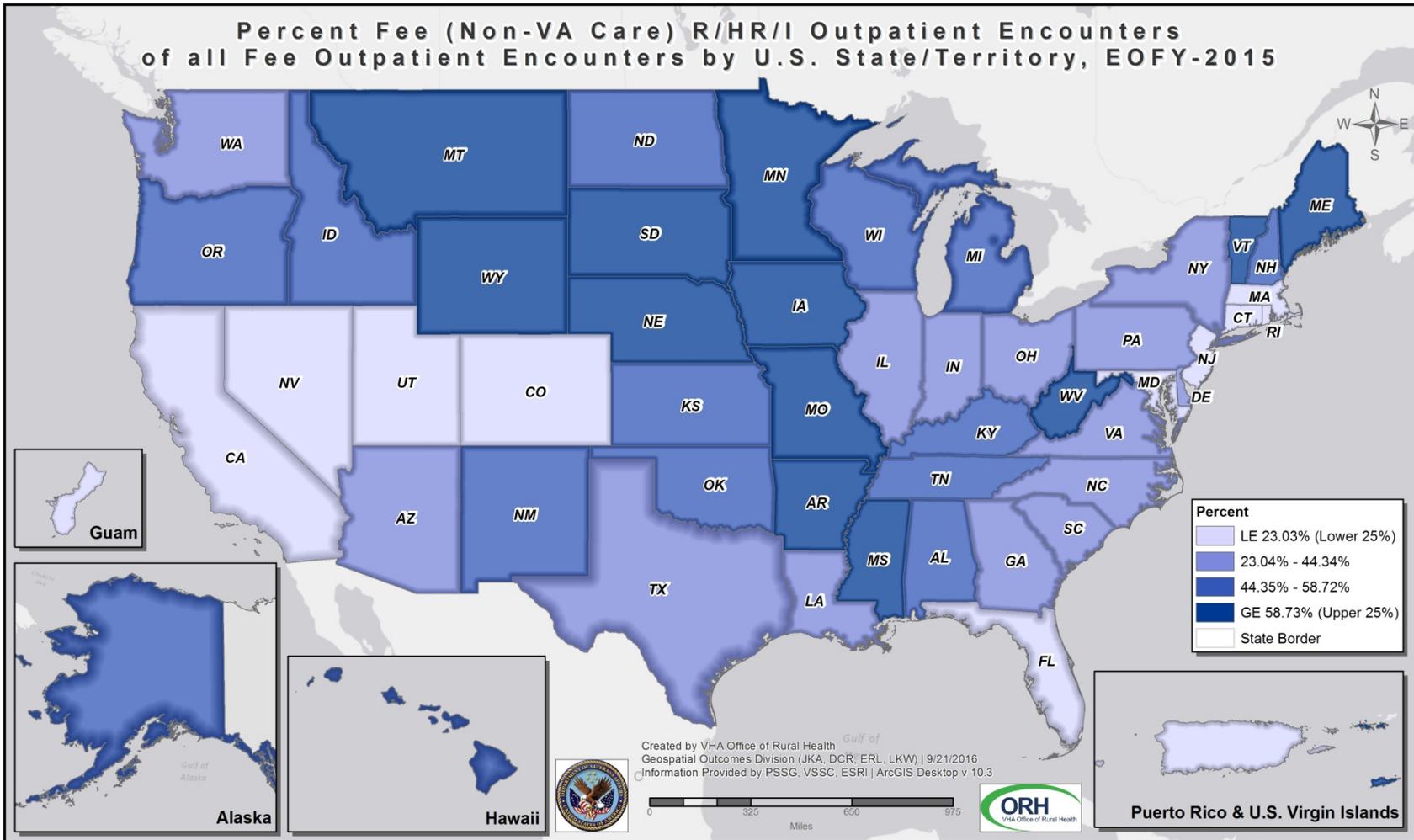
Map 37



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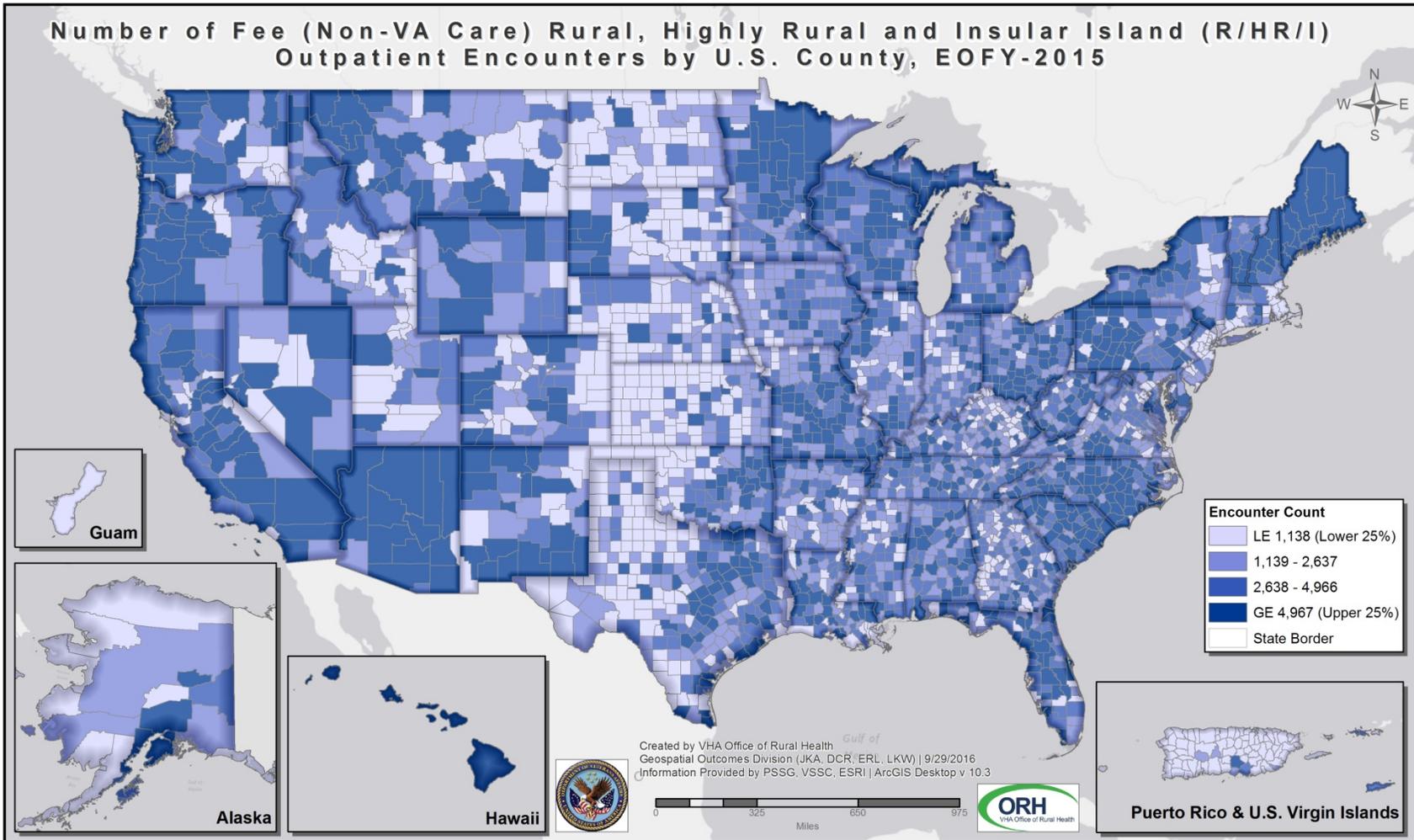
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Map 38



Number of Fee (Non-VA Care) Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters by U.S. County, EOFY-2015



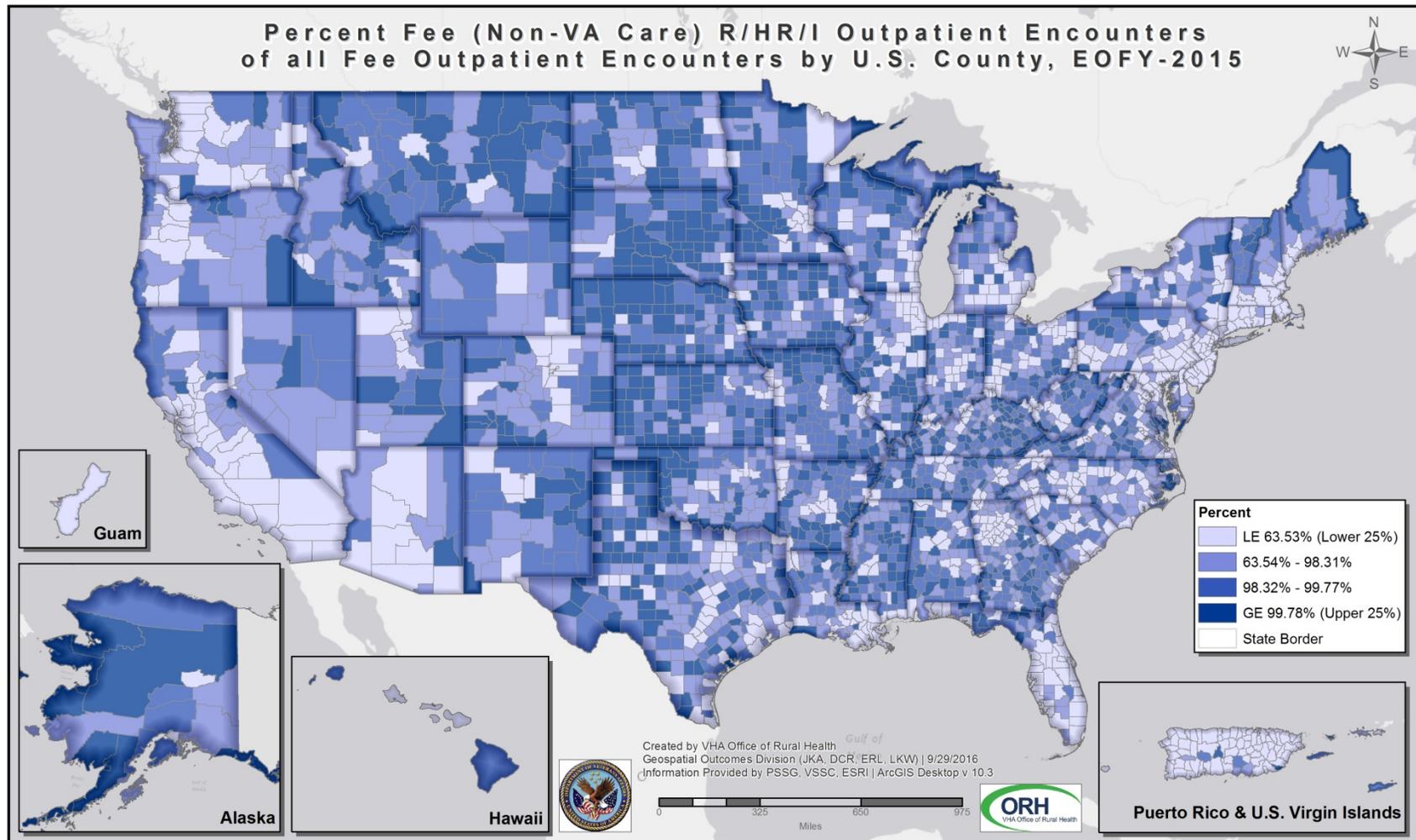
Map 39



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Map 40



Section IV: Non-VA Outpatient Encounters for Combined Rural (R/HR/I) Subgroups

GENDER

Table 4 further illustrates Fee Outpatient Encounters by R/HR/I patients in each U.S. State/Territory, broken down by patient gender (number and percentage).

MALES

On the national level, Fee encounters in an outpatient setting by male patients in R/HR/I areas represented the majority (93.27%) of the total number of Fee outpatient encounters. The States/Territories with the greatest percentages of these types of male patients, which exceed the national overall percentage, included: Northern Mariana Islands (100.0%), Guam (99.68%), Puerto Rico (97.76%), District of Columbia (96.19%), Minnesota (95.56%), Arkansas (95.51%), West Virginia (95.03%), Kentucky (95.01%), Vermont (94.83%), and Virginia (94.76%).

The map series from Map 41 to Map 44 provide visual displays of the numbers and percentages of Fee outpatient encounters by R/HR/I male Veteran patients at the State/Territory and County levels. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion are designated by the darkest shade of blue. Three of the U.S. States/Territories, as shown on Maps 41 and 42, had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of male Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters as a percent of all Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters. Those were Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio.



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**Table 4: Non-VA Care (Fee) Rural, Highly Rural & Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters
by Gender, Age Group, Race, and Service Era, EOFY-2015**

U.S. State	R/HR/I Fee Outpatient Encounters	Gender (%)		Age Group (%)					Race (%)				Service Era (%)	
		F	M	<45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	White Cauc	Black Afr Am	Other*	Missing	OEF/OIF	Other
Alabama	291,766	6.50	93.50	8.28	10.86	26.71	32.80	21.35	58.39	38.40	3.20	6.81	7.17	92.83
Alaska	176,062	11.51	88.49	14.05	13.36	23.10	34.19	15.30	87.45	2.78	9.77	8.82	11.65	88.35
Arizona	275,396	6.88	93.12	6.97	6.70	20.21	40.76	25.37	85.45	3.74	10.80	7.94	4.93	95.07
Arkansas	222,156	4.49	95.51	5.37	9.46	21.46	35.57	28.13	79.30	18.79	1.91	3.99	3.52	96.48
California	422,377	6.18	93.82	7.52	6.16	21.28	39.97	25.07	88.78	5.65	5.57	13.38	5.75	94.25
Colorado	210,637	8.40	91.60	9.17	9.18	17.61	37.62	26.42	93.85	1.70	4.45	12.59	6.14	93.86
Connecticut	19,330	8.21	91.79	6.66	8.27	24.41	44.04	16.63	96.43	1.53	2.04	1.41	5.94	94.06
Delaware	18,870	11.18	88.82	7.17	11.85	24.68	30.78	25.51	77.17	20.97	1.86	5.57	6.00	94.00
District of Columbia	105	3.81	96.19	4.76	27.62	0.00	0.00	67.62	0.95	99.05	0.00	0.00	0.95	99.05
Florida	406,684	7.86	92.14	7.00	9.99	23.30	34.26	25.46	80.28	16.43	3.29	5.54	4.99	95.01
Georgia	453,367	6.91	93.09	6.86	11.11	29.08	34.22	18.73	60.61	37.37	2.02	5.24	5.36	94.64
Hawaii	146,901	6.59	93.41	6.89	7.63	19.19	46.36	19.92	52.89	3.22	43.89	3.21	6.55	93.45
Idaho	133,742	8.23	91.77	7.81	7.88	19.10	39.69	25.52	96.72	0.31	2.97	11.16	5.86	94.14
Illinois	366,448	5.43	94.57	6.03	6.85	19.07	38.46	29.58	94.01	4.21	1.78	6.54	3.86	96.14
Indiana	293,779	5.59	94.41	6.86	8.00	20.74	33.75	30.65	96.80	2.11	1.09	3.60	4.79	95.21
Iowa	294,650	6.75	93.25	5.46	7.34	18.81	36.21	32.18	97.52	0.95	1.53	5.84	4.38	95.62
Kansas	158,295	6.27	93.73	9.29	9.70	27.07	32.19	21.76	88.98	7.91	3.11	3.74	7.32	92.68
Kentucky	329,997	4.99	95.01	7.32	9.25	20.77	35.10	27.55	91.47	6.51	2.02	5.48	5.29	94.71
Louisiana	244,470	8.36	91.64	9.42	12.08	26.80	35.99	15.71	48.24	47.79	3.97	3.08	6.59	93.41
Maine	190,445	7.38	92.62	8.05	9.85	21.44	37.78	22.88	96.49	0.48	3.03	3.37	5.75	94.25
Maryland	75,415	10.45	89.55	9.95	10.04	19.81	30.56	29.64	65.19	30.91	3.90	14.75	8.28	91.72
Massachusetts	27,697	6.57	93.43	6.09	6.99	20.82	29.87	36.23	95.22	1.49	3.29	2.04	4.65	95.35
Michigan	368,841	6.75	93.25	8.21	8.46	19.18	34.46	29.68	94.89	1.96	3.14	3.93	5.92	94.08
Minnesota	462,620	4.44	95.56	3.85	5.31	14.59	31.81	44.43	96.48	0.34	3.19	15.45	3.35	96.65
Mississippi	270,816	6.46	93.54	8.55	12.35	29.66	30.57	18.87	47.74	49.82	2.44	3.40	7.18	92.82
Missouri	538,701	7.04	92.96	8.16	8.29	21.45	34.07	28.02	94.53	3.25	2.22	3.08	5.72	94.28
Montana	370,628	7.52	92.48	8.10	7.80	20.52	37.26	26.32	92.45	0.32	7.23	5.69	6.60	93.40
Nebraska	155,622	7.14	92.86	7.57	8.15	18.46	37.10	28.71	97.02	0.75	2.23	3.93	6.04	93.96
Nevada	81,183	9.19	90.81	5.52	9.60	20.66	41.86	22.36	89.75	2.72	7.53	8.09	3.98	96.02

*Race-Other category includes American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or Multiple (those who identify as more than one race)



U.S. State	R/HR/I Fee Outpatient Encounters	Gender (%)		Age Group (%)					Race (%)				Service Era (%)	
		F	M	<45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	White Cauc	Black Afr Am	Other*	Missing	OEF/OIF	Other
New Hampshire	80,921	6.83	93.17	5.09	10.72	17.37	29.43	37.39	97.82	0.06	2.13	5.70	5.27	94.73
New Jersey	22,509	6.44	93.56	8.12	9.80	17.30	28.23	36.55	72.77	22.55	4.67	8.70	4.38	95.62
New Mexico	175,124	6.71	93.29	6.90	8.79	23.62	38.88	21.80	78.41	4.14	17.45	29.50	5.76	94.24
New York	256,435	7.85	92.15	7.84	8.36	20.14	35.02	28.65	94.31	3.56	2.13	4.09	5.24	94.76
North Carolina	676,871	6.60	93.40	7.44	9.46	24.89	35.94	22.26	60.71	35.37	3.93	2.90	5.20	94.80
North Dakota	65,145	7.53	92.47	9.56	9.65	20.78	35.22	24.80	86.39	2.06	11.55	11.63	7.68	92.32
Ohio	559,303	5.48	94.52	5.95	8.31	19.81	39.23	26.70	94.43	3.68	1.89	4.87	3.28	96.72
Oklahoma	269,744	6.05	93.95	8.16	8.07	22.48	38.72	22.56	75.39	6.22	18.39	5.53	6.08	93.92
Oregon	314,267	7.98	92.02	8.22	7.41	21.22	41.48	21.67	93.85	0.44	5.71	10.33	5.17	94.83
Pennsylvania	410,535	6.38	93.62	8.48	8.19	16.11	34.60	32.62	94.45	2.88	2.67	1.45	5.97	94.03
Rhode Island	3,444	7.72	92.28	9.18	4.76	27.26	37.40	21.40	99.68	0.00	0.32	0.12	9.20	90.80
South Carolina	317,126	6.37	93.63	6.04	9.16	21.39	37.64	25.76	48.47	48.69	2.84	6.12	4.68	95.32
South Dakota	167,152	8.35	91.65	7.35	10.32	22.04	31.40	28.89	80.70	0.29	19.01	10.39	5.94	94.06
Tennessee	389,976	6.34	93.66	6.64	9.48	22.82	37.97	23.10	86.95	11.48	1.58	6.19	5.76	94.24
Texas	742,798	6.75	93.25	9.07	8.58	23.97	36.96	21.43	80.85	14.59	4.57	9.25	5.96	94.04
Utah	63,672	6.42	93.58	8.93	7.92	22.92	33.20	27.03	96.67	0.35	2.97	2.97	6.94	93.06
Vermont	71,934	5.17	94.83	4.58	5.44	12.00	29.45	48.53	98.10	0.33	1.56	5.33	3.99	96.01
Virginia	332,643	5.24	94.76	5.71	9.79	21.76	36.32	26.42	65.19	33.02	1.79	6.71	3.61	96.39
Washington	215,899	9.96	90.04	9.73	8.68	21.34	41.78	18.46	92.87	1.76	5.37	8.99	6.95	93.05
West Virginia	249,141	4.97	95.03	5.47	5.71	15.84	33.61	39.38	93.35	4.44	2.21	2.71	3.00	97.00
Wisconsin	372,341	6.68	93.32	6.55	7.64	19.12	36.92	29.78	96.68	0.86	2.46	3.73	5.06	94.94
Wyoming	110,055	8.82	91.18	9.58	9.58	18.97	36.28	25.59	94.61	0.74	4.65	4.77	6.61	93.39
U.S. Outlying Territories														
American Samoa	0													
Micronesia	0													
Guam	620	0.32	99.68	8.55	1.94	22.26	67.26	0.00	72.94	8.82	18.24	45.16	4.19	95.81
Marshall Islands	0													
N. Mariana Islands	56	0.00	100.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
Palau	0													
Puerto Rico	17,829	2.24	97.76	3.65	7.16	12.91	18.66	57.62	90.69	4.27	5.04	3.25	9.14	90.86
U.S. Virgin Islands	8,194	18.57	81.43	12.06	15.82	28.45	26.54	17.13	33.26	63.67	3.08	0.84	15.71	84.29
Unassigned State/Terr.	161,321	7.95	91.64	6.75	8.45	21.85	38.44	24.10	79.85	14.68	5.47	7.03	4.88	95.12
TOTAL	13,062,055	6.72	93.27	7.40	8.68	21.45	36.21	26.26	83.15	12.29	4.57	6.55	5.43	94.57

*Race-Other category includes American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or Multiple (those who identify as more than one race)



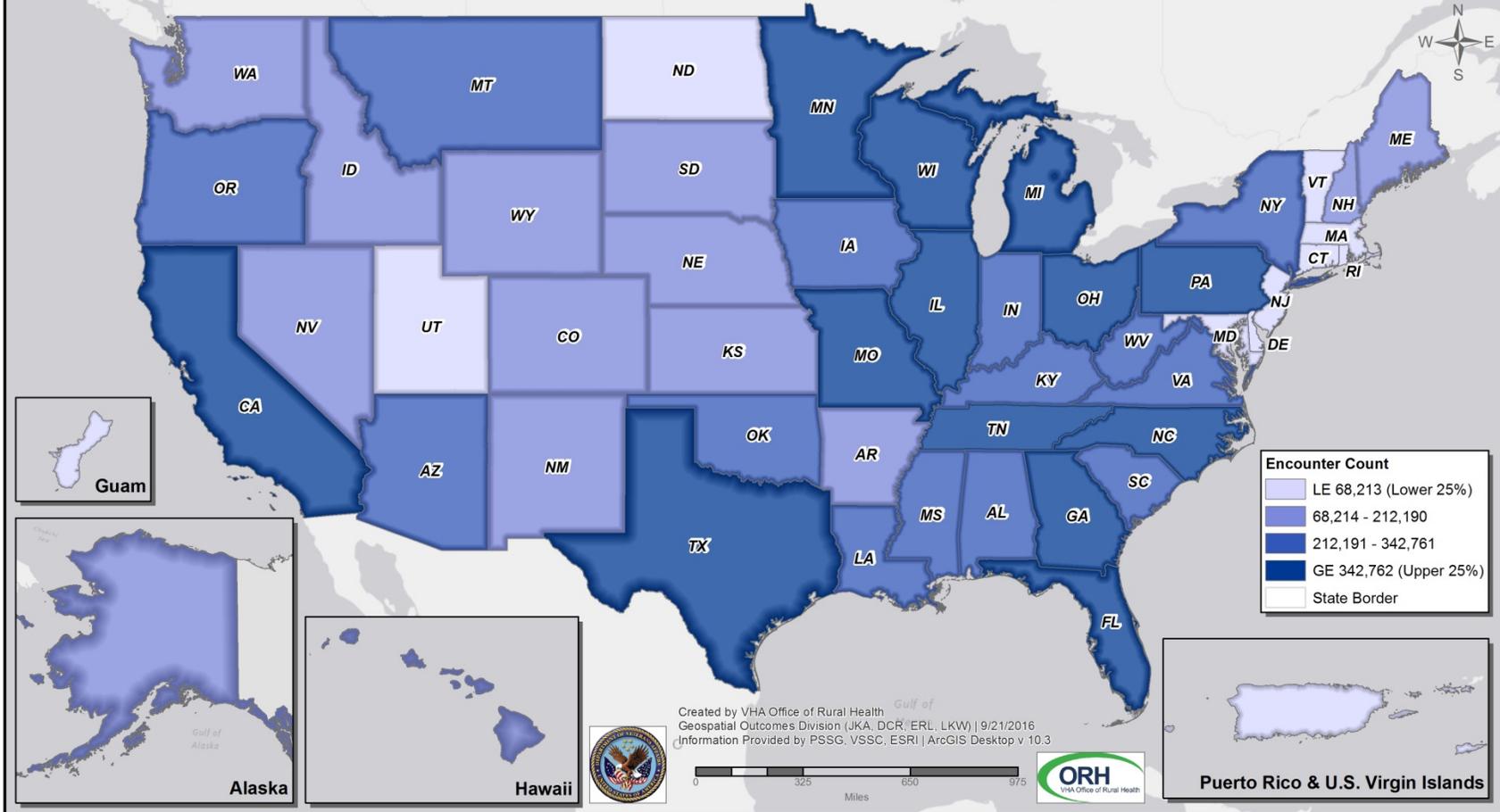
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



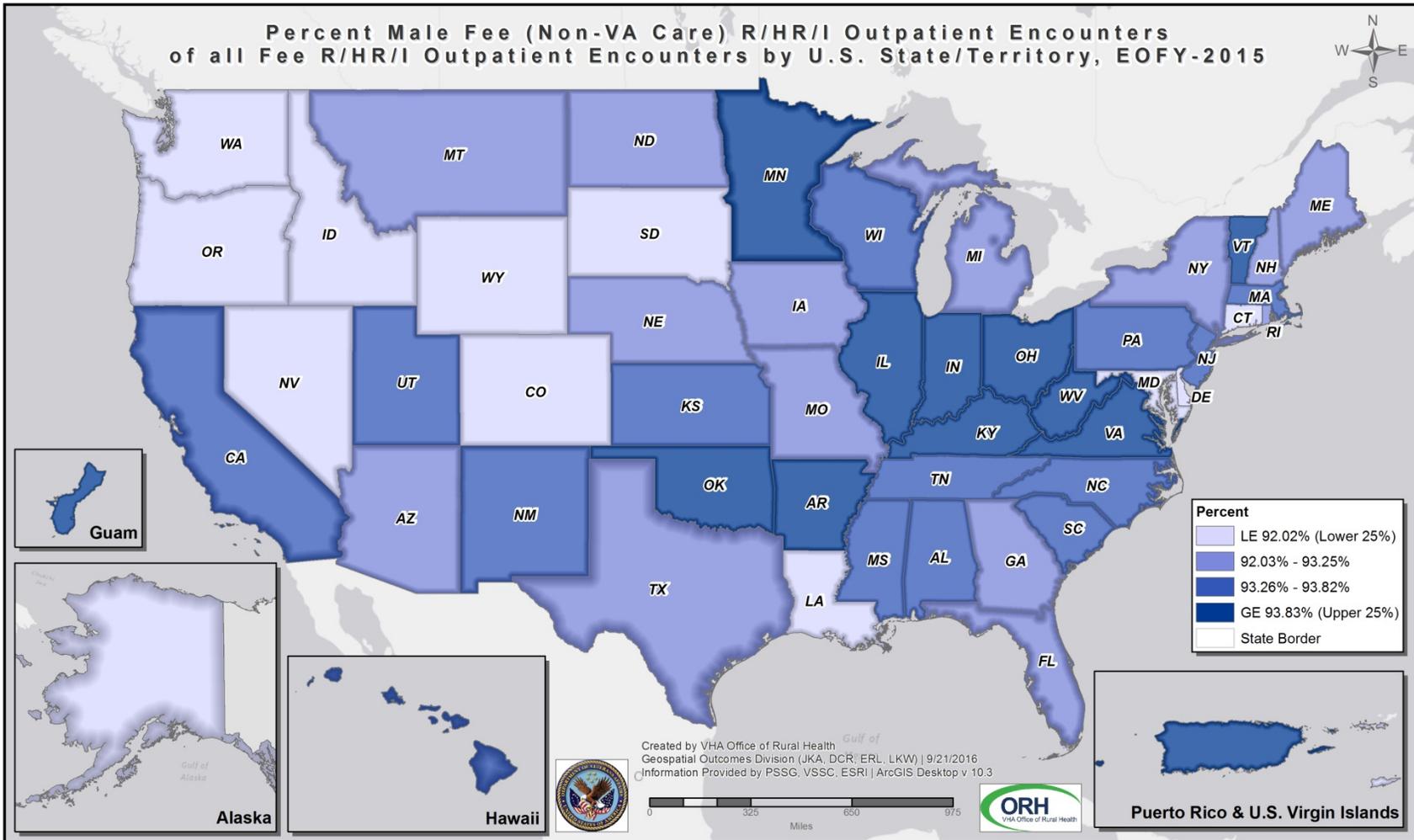
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Number of Male Fee (Non-VA Care) Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters by U.S. State/Territory, EOFY-2015



Map 41



Map 42



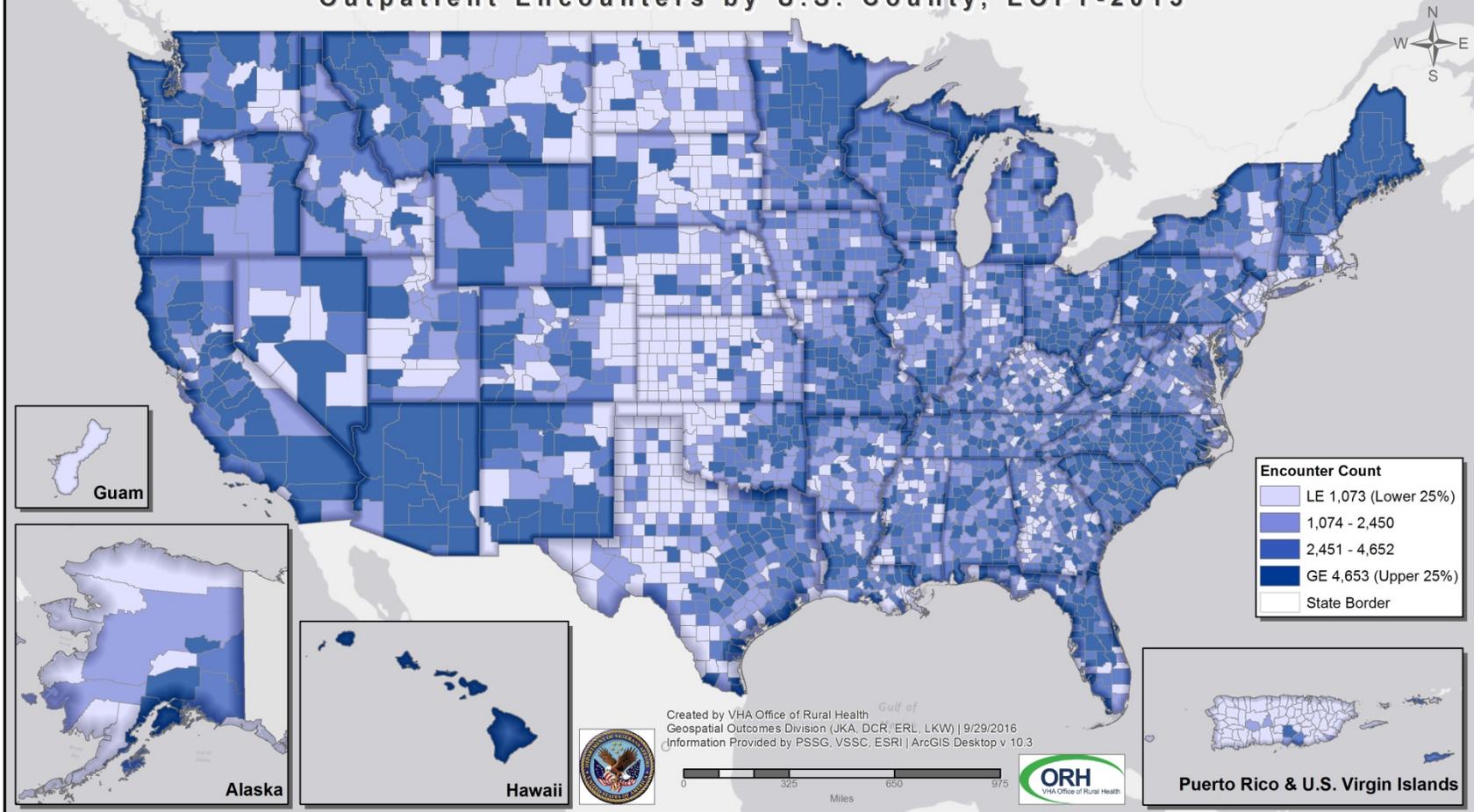
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



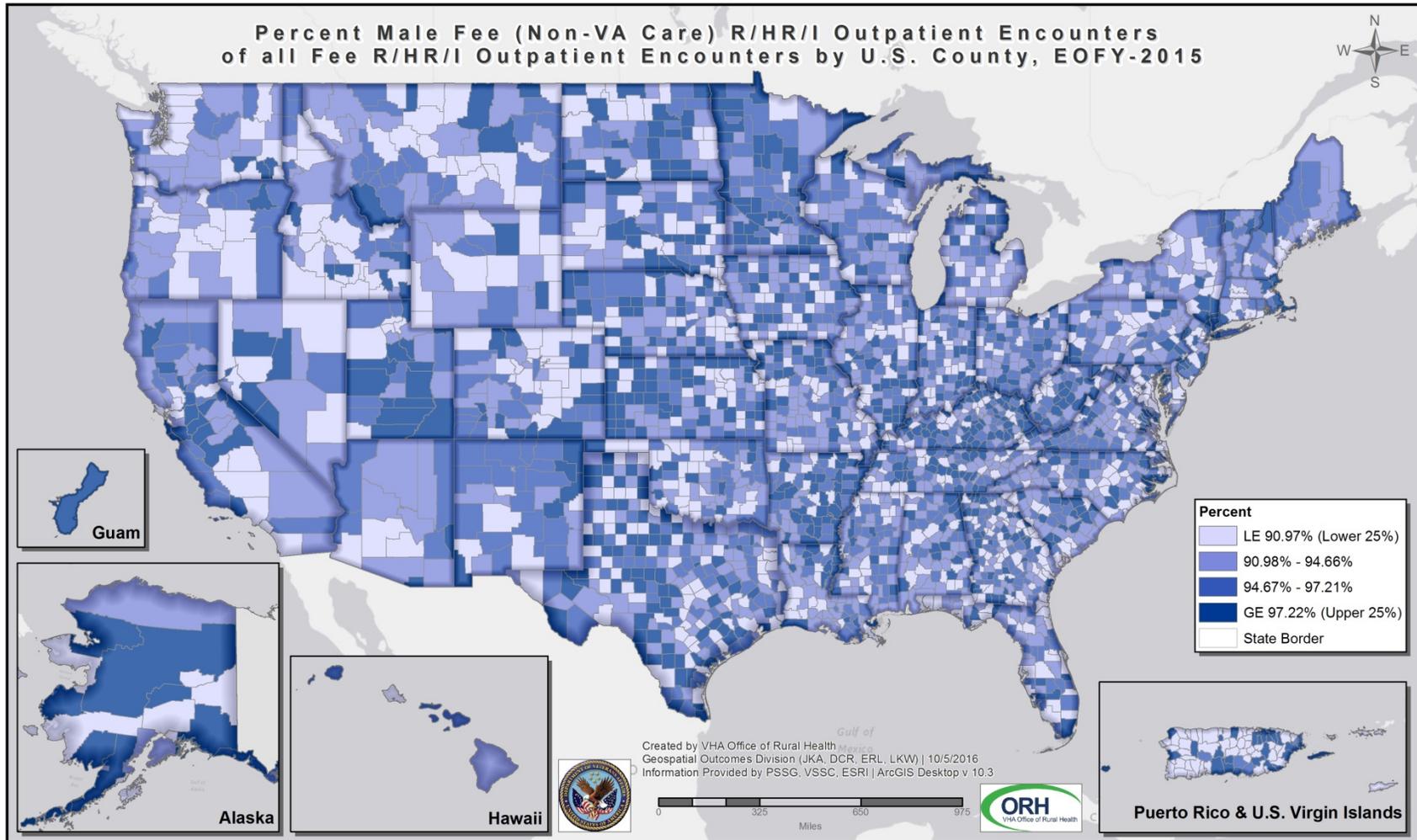
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Outcomes Division
VHA Office of Rural Health



Number of Male Fee (Non-VA Care) Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters by U.S. County, EOFY-2015



Map 43



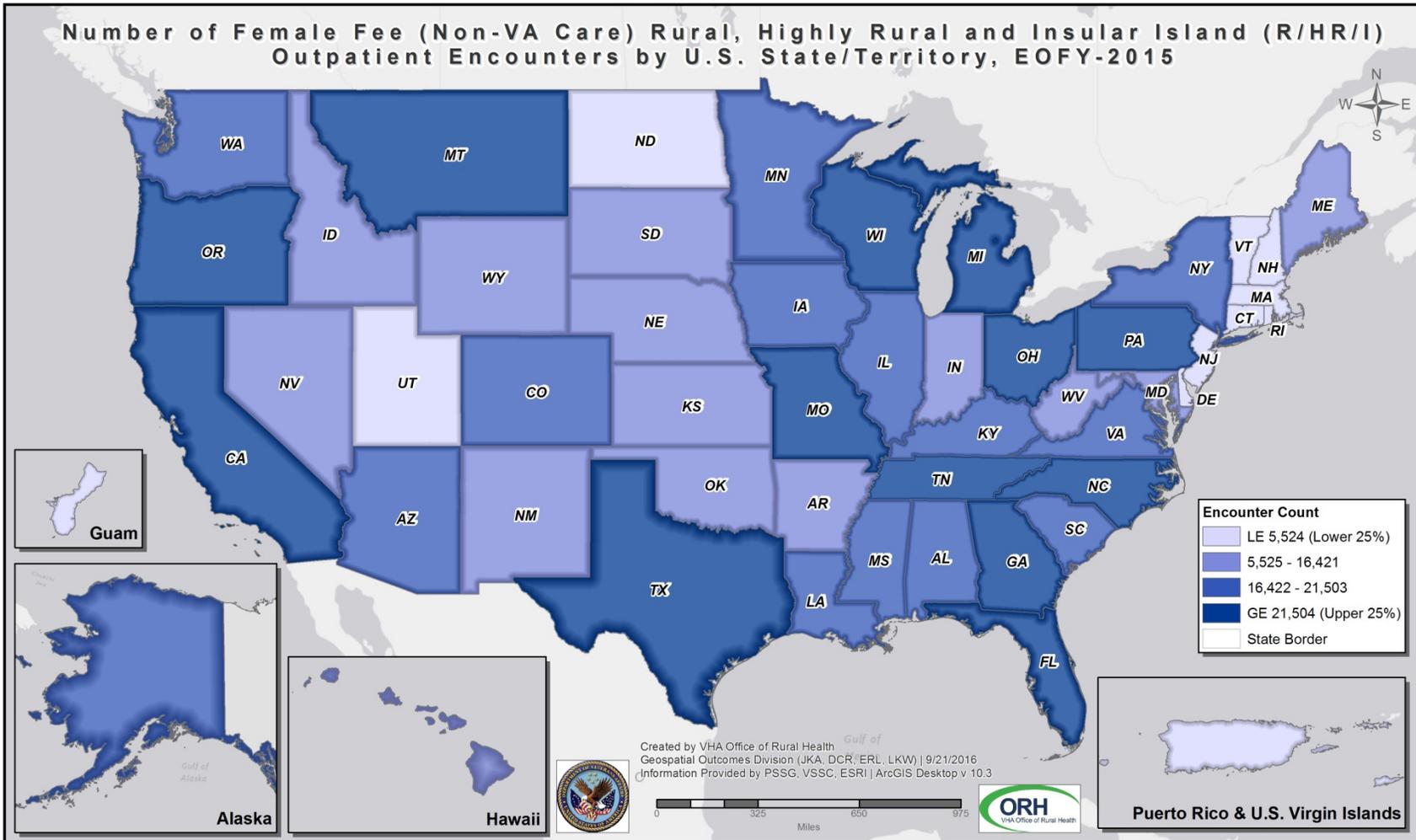
Map 44



FEMALES

In comparison to men, a much smaller percentage of Fee outpatient encounters by women living in R/HR/I areas comprised of just 6.72% nationally of the total number of Fee outpatient encounters. However, several States/Territories showed proportions of *greater than* seven percent, including: U.S. Virgin Islands (18.57%), Alaska (11.51%), Delaware (11.18%), Maryland (10.45%), Washington (9.96%), Nevada (9.19%), Wyoming (8.82%), Colorado (8.4%), Louisiana (8.36%), and South Dakota (8.35%).

The map series from Map 45 to Map 48 provide visual displays of R/HR/I female outpatient encounters by a non-VA provider or at a non-VA medical establishment, mapped out by State/Territory and County. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion are designated by the darkest shade of blue. As shown on Maps 45 and 46, Oregon was the only U.S. State that had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of female Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters as a percent of all Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters.



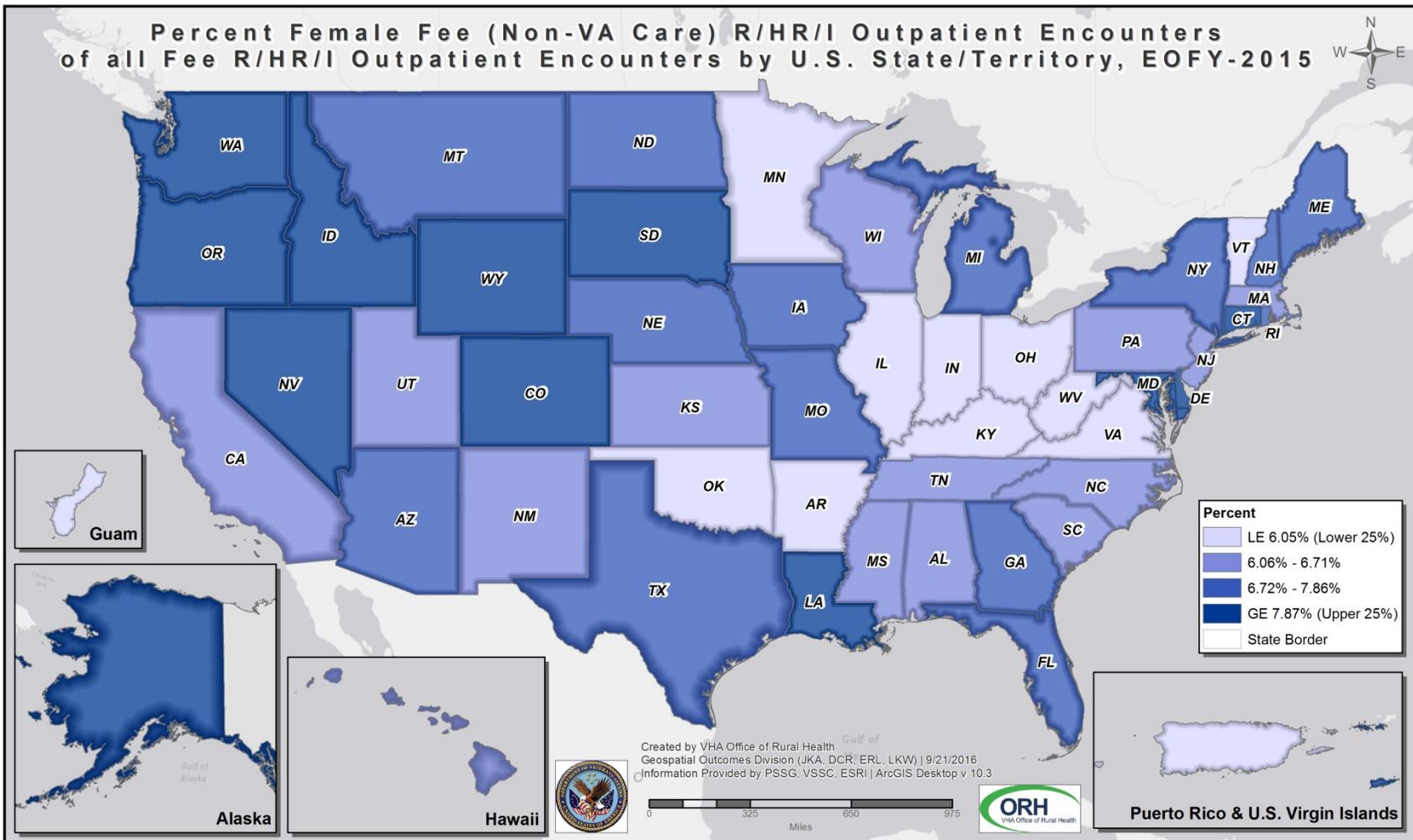
Map 45



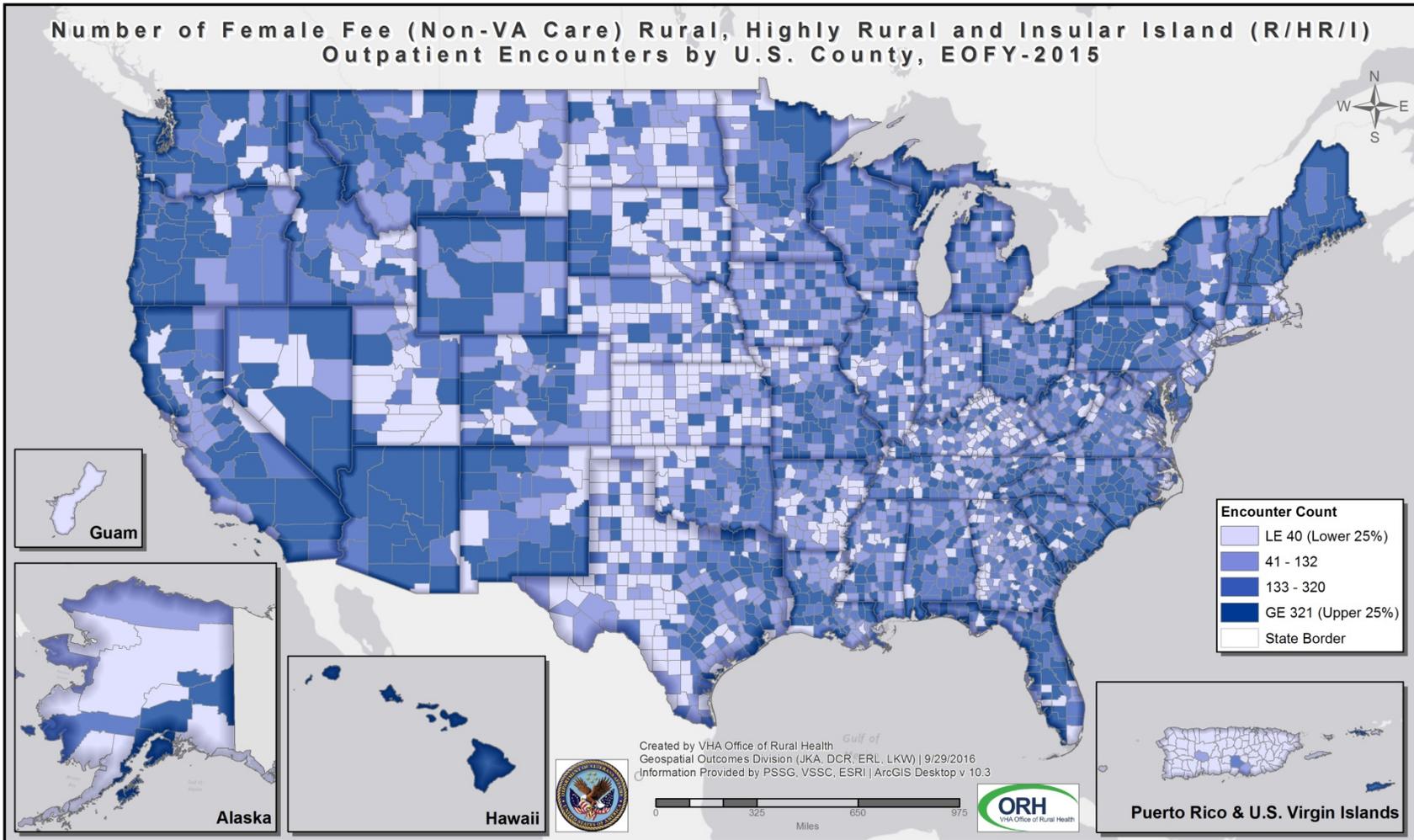
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 46



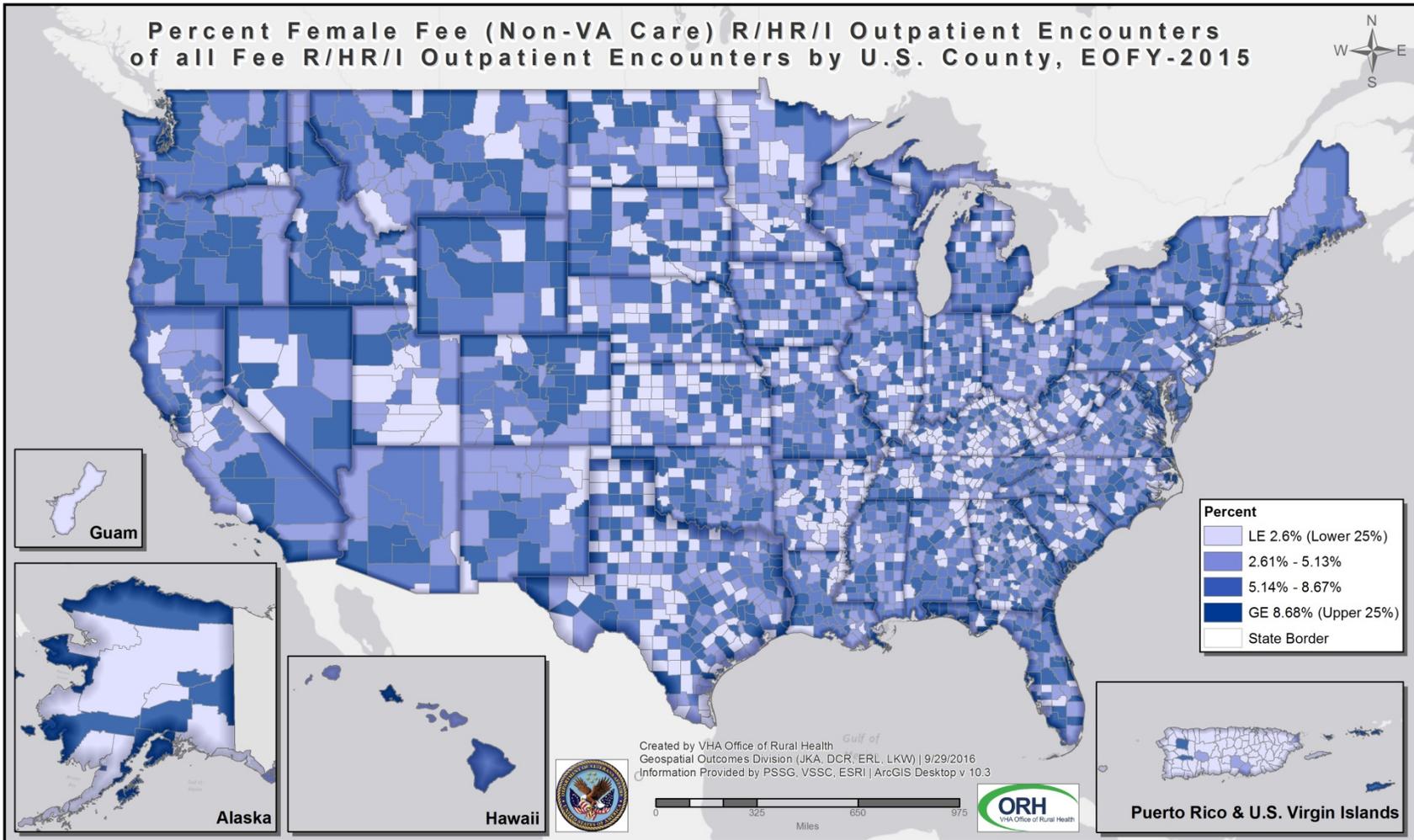
Map 47



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 48



AGE GROUP

OVERALL

Various age groups of Veteran patients residing in R/HR/I areas are compared on how they seek or receive health care services, particularly from non-VA medical providers or facilities. Table 4 shows that, nationwide, the 65-74 age group had the highest percentage of Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters (36.21%), and had the highest representation in most U.S. States/Territories as well. Several exceptions, where there were more Fee outpatient encounters in the over the age of 75 category, included the District of Columbia, as well as the States of Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, Vermont, and West Virginia. All Fee outpatients encounters by R/HR/I patients below age 55 were least represented nationally (ages 45 to 54 at 8.68%, followed by those under the age of 45 at 7.4%).

UNDER THE AGE OF 45

On the national level, Fee outpatient encounters by R/HR/I patients *under the age of 45* comprised 7.4% of the total number of all Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters. The top 10 States/Territories with the greatest percentage of these younger patients, which exceed the national overall percentage, included: Northern Mariana Islands (50.0%), Alaska (14.05%), U.S. Virgin Islands (12.06%), Maryland (9.95%), Washington (9.73%), Wyoming (9.58%), North Dakota (9.56%), Louisiana (9.42%), Kansas (9.29%), and Rhode Island (9.18%).

The maps in the next series focus on those R/HR/I patients *under the age of 45* who had an outpatient encounter at a non-VA health care facility or by a non-VA medical provider. These data are mapped at the State/Territory and county levels of aggregation. The denominator for the percentages is the number of all R/HR/I patients who had non-VA care (Fee) outpatient encounters. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion is designated by the darkest shade of blue. Alaska and Texas were the only U.S. States, as shown on Maps 49 and 50, which had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of Fee outpatient encounters by those patients *under the age of 45*.



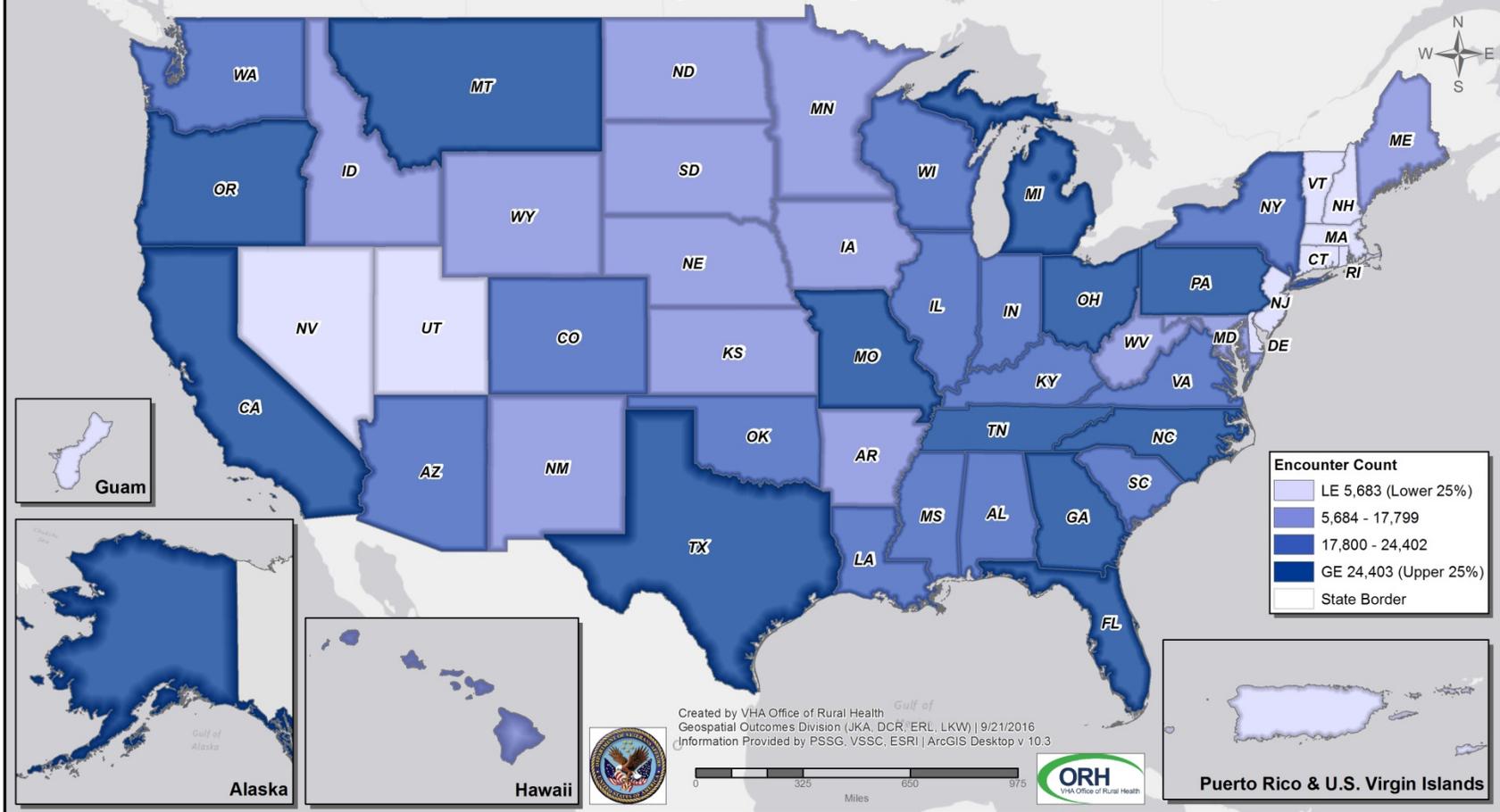
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



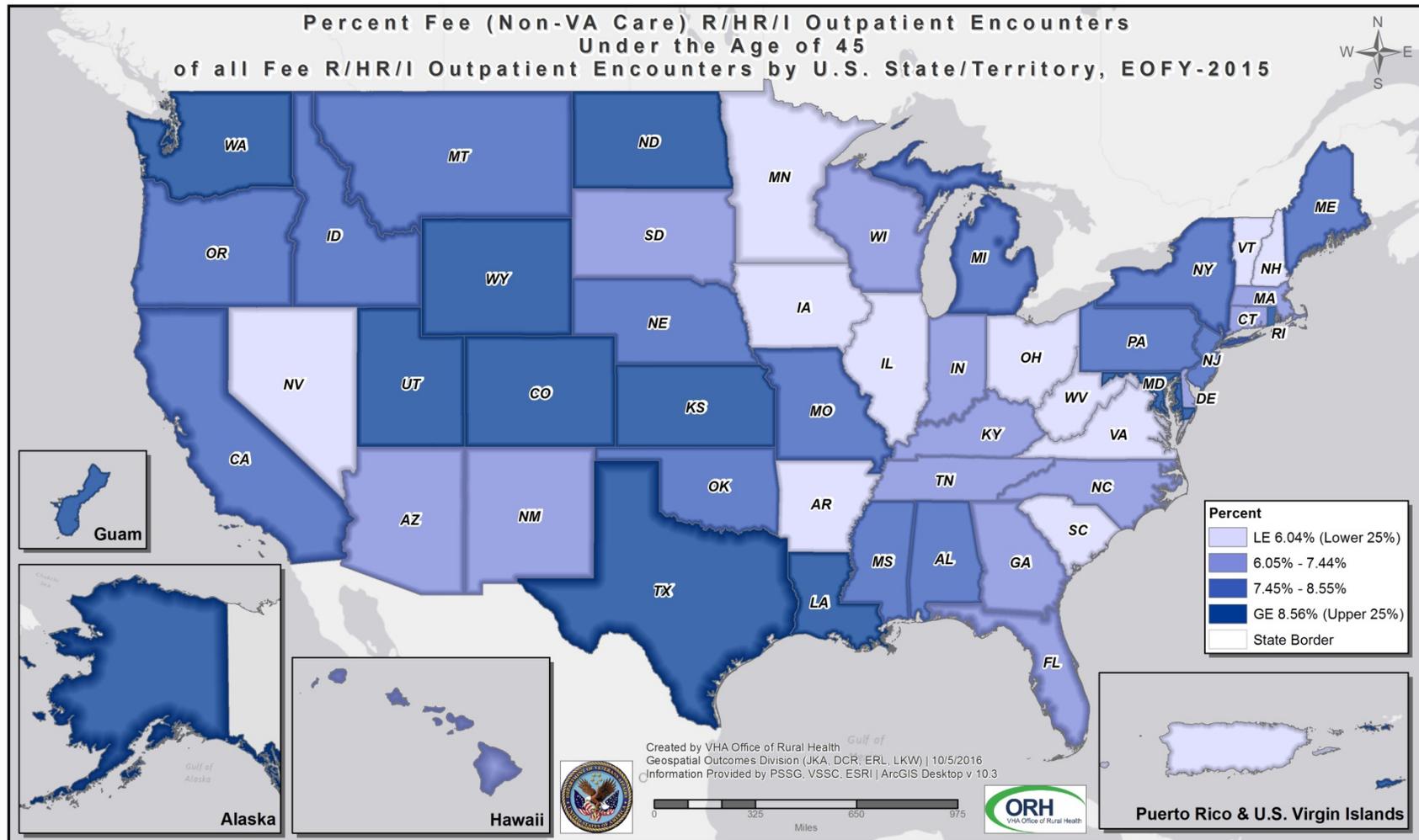
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Number of Fee (Non-VA Care) Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters Under the Age of 45 by U.S. State/Territory, EOFY-2015



Map 49



Map 50



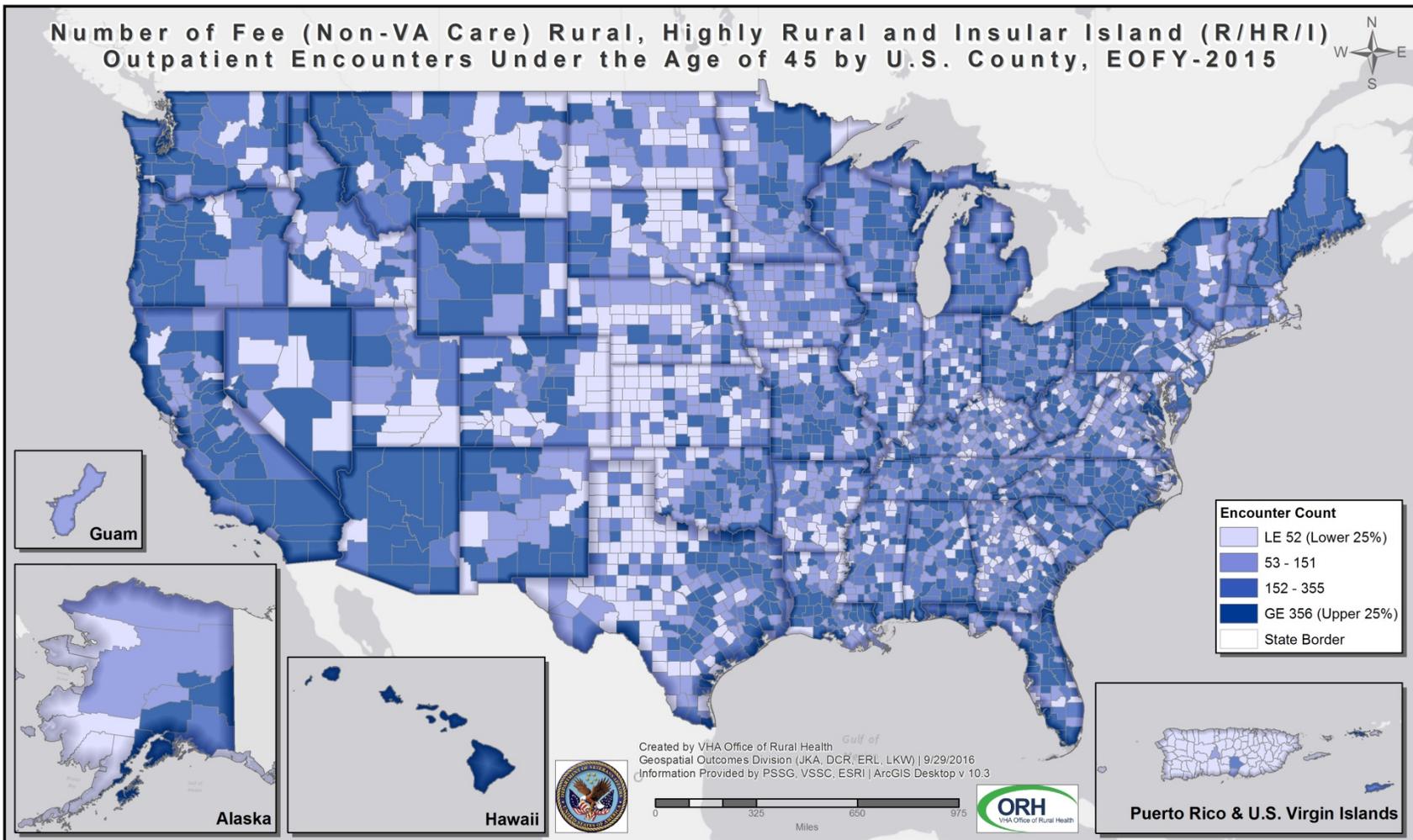
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



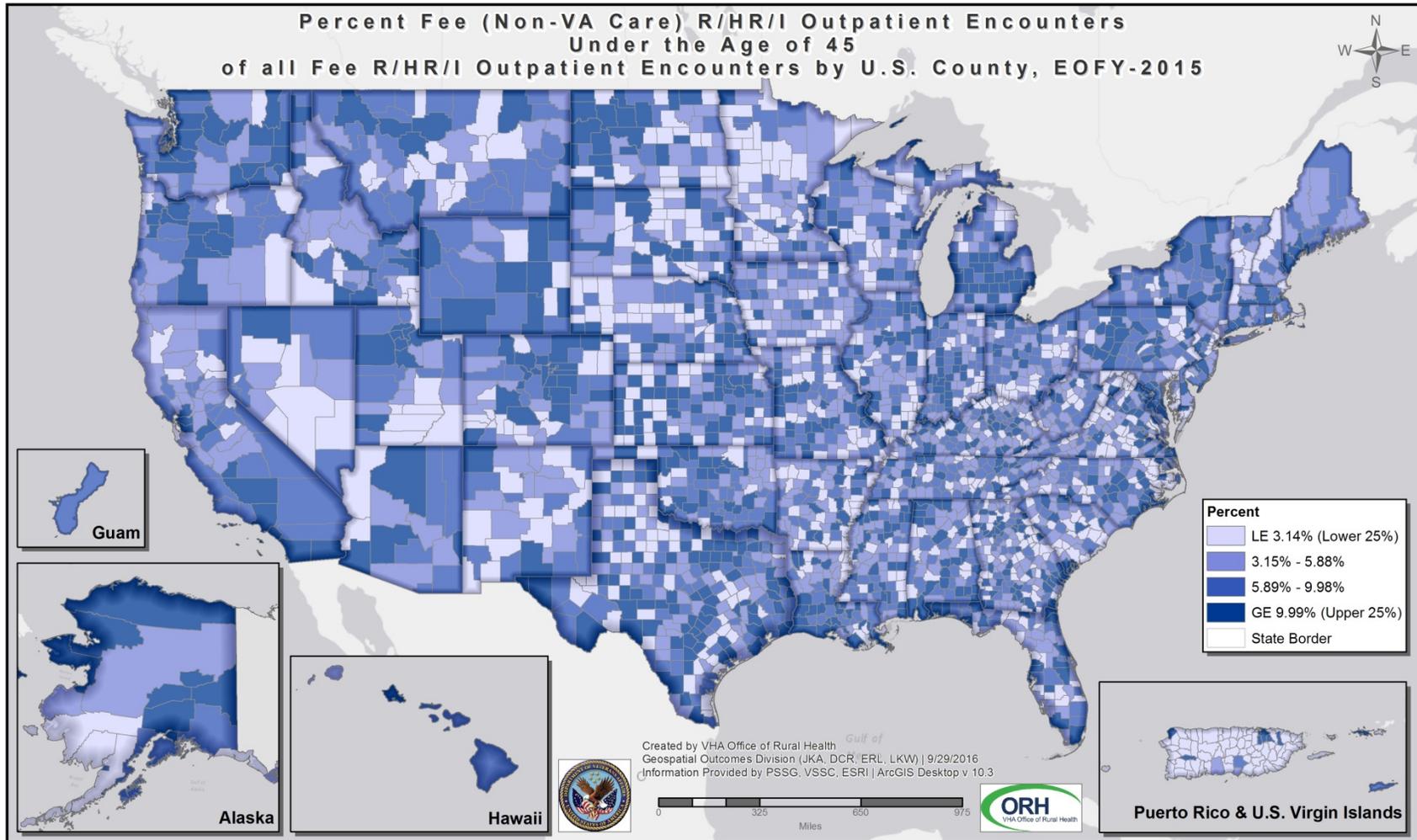
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Number of Fee (Non-VA Care) Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters Under the Age of 45 by U.S. County, EOFY-2015



Map 51



Map 52

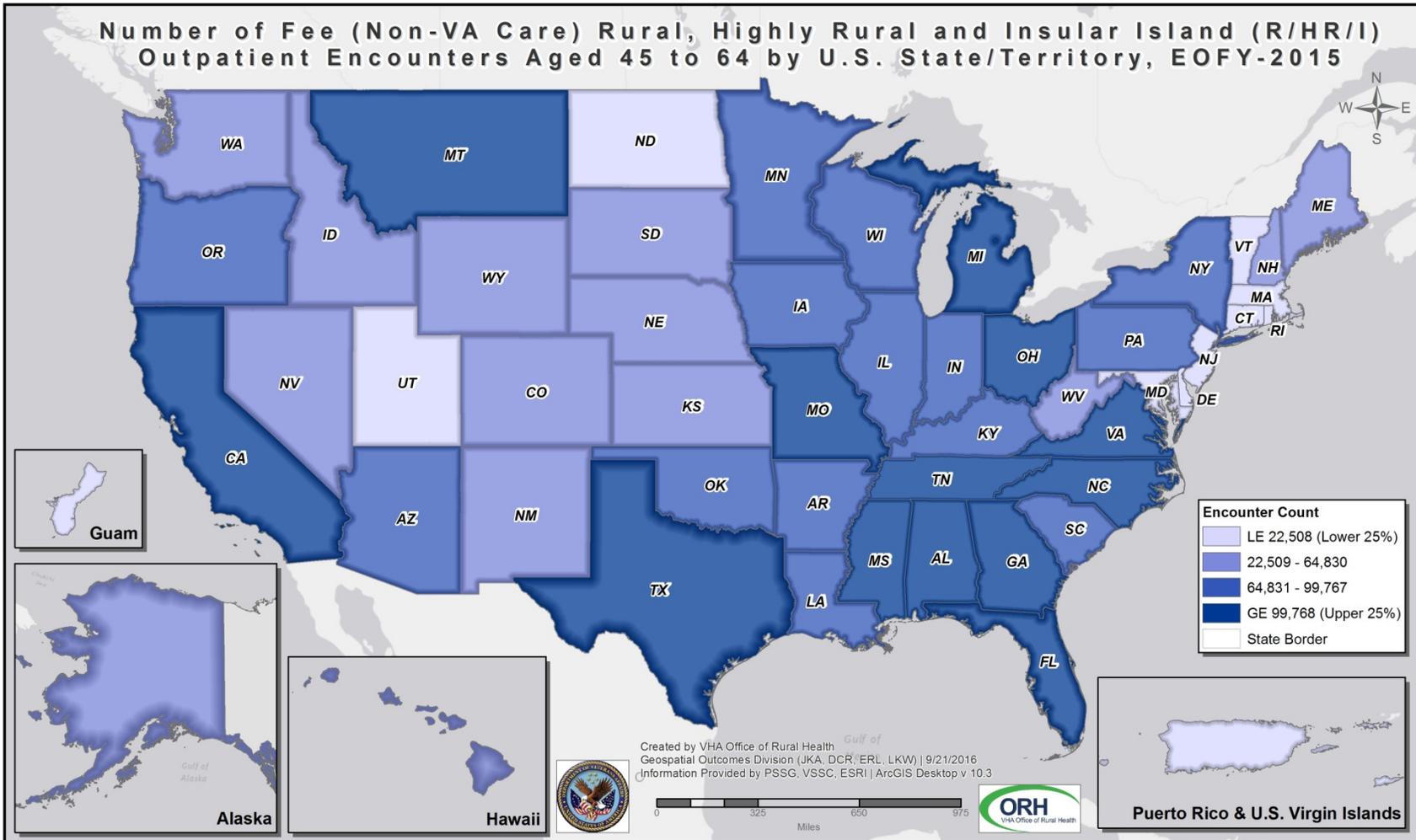


AGES 45 TO 64

Table 4 shows statistics for Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters by those patients *aged 45 to 54*, which represent 8.68% of all Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters across the nation. The top 10 States/Territories with the greatest percentage of Veteran patients in this age group, which exceeded the national overall percentage, included: District of Columbia (27.62%), U.S. Virgin Islands (15.82%), Alaska (13.36%), Mississippi (12.35%), Louisiana (12.08%), Delaware (11.85%), Georgia (11.11%), Alabama (10.86%), New Hampshire (10.72%), and South Dakota (10.32%).

Those Fee outpatient encounters patients who are between *55 and 64 years of age* and live in R/HR/I areas of the nation account for 21.45% as a whole, but on the State level, many have higher concentrations of this particular age group than of younger patients. The top 10 States/Territories reflecting this trend include: Mississippi (29.66%), Georgia (29.08%), U.S. Virgin Islands (28.45%), Rhode Island (27.26%), Kansas (27.07%), Louisiana (26.8%), Alabama (26.71%), North Carolina (24.89%), Delaware (24.68%), and Connecticut (24.41%).

The maps in the next series combine the two age groups together to portray a visual of those R/HR/I patients *aged 45 to 64* who had Fee outpatient encounters. These data are mapped at the State/Territory and county levels of aggregation. The denominator for the percentages is the number of all R/HR/I patients who had Fee outpatient encounters. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion is designated by the darkest shade of blue. Three of the U.S. States, as shown on Maps 53 and 54, had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of Fee outpatient encounters by those patients *aged 45 to 64*. Those are Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi.



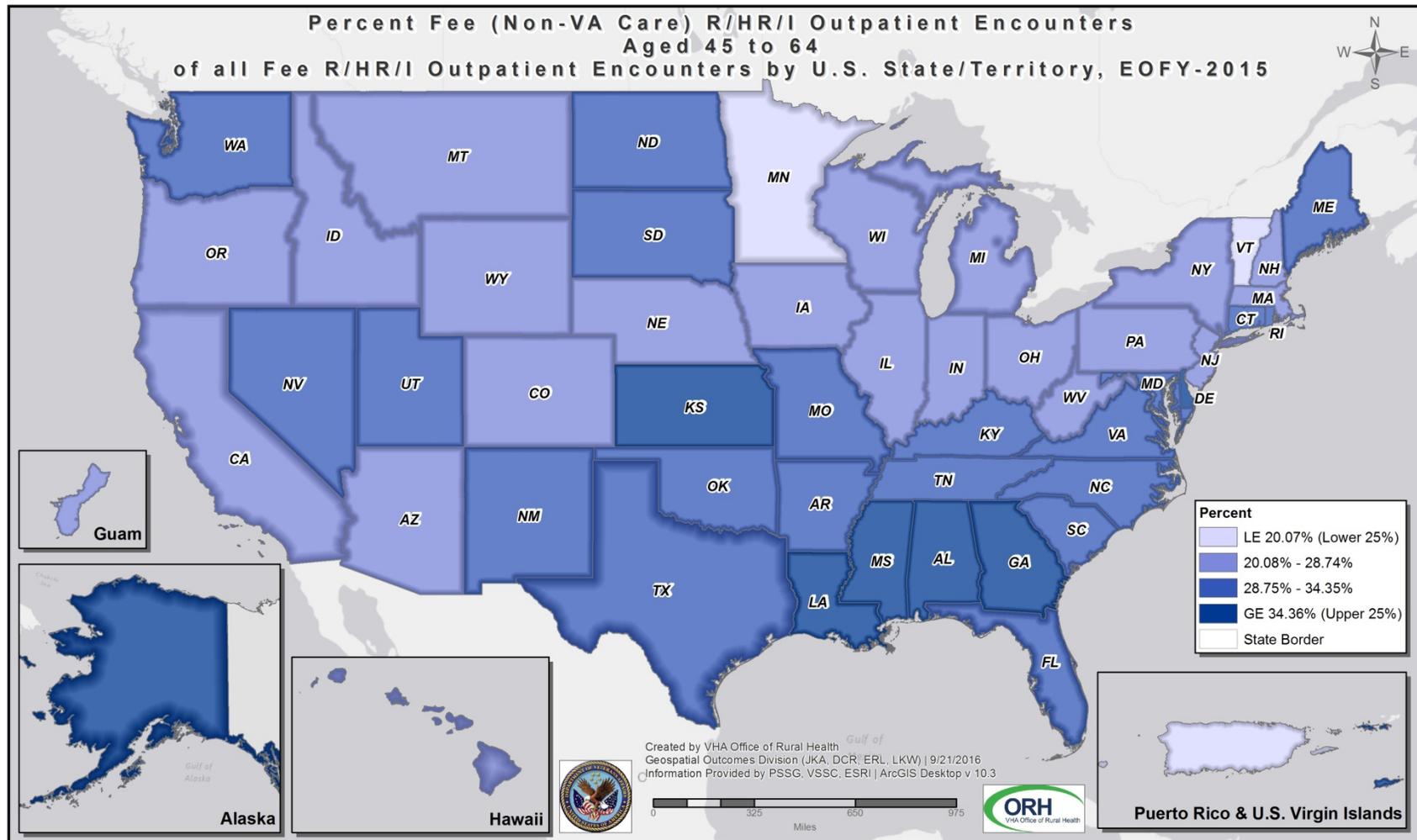
Map 53



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



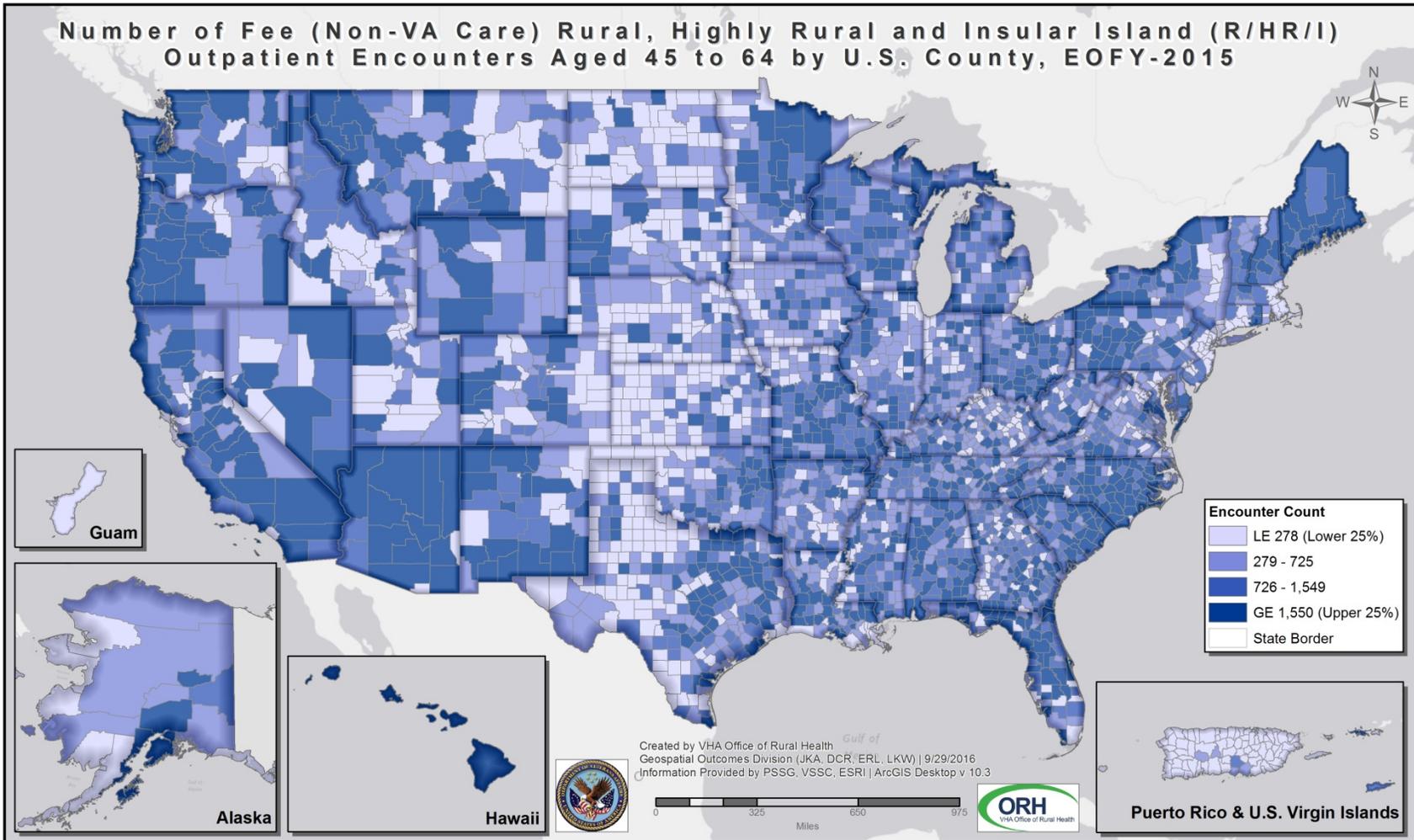
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Map 54



Number of Fee (Non-VA Care) Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters Aged 45 to 64 by U.S. County, EOFY-2015



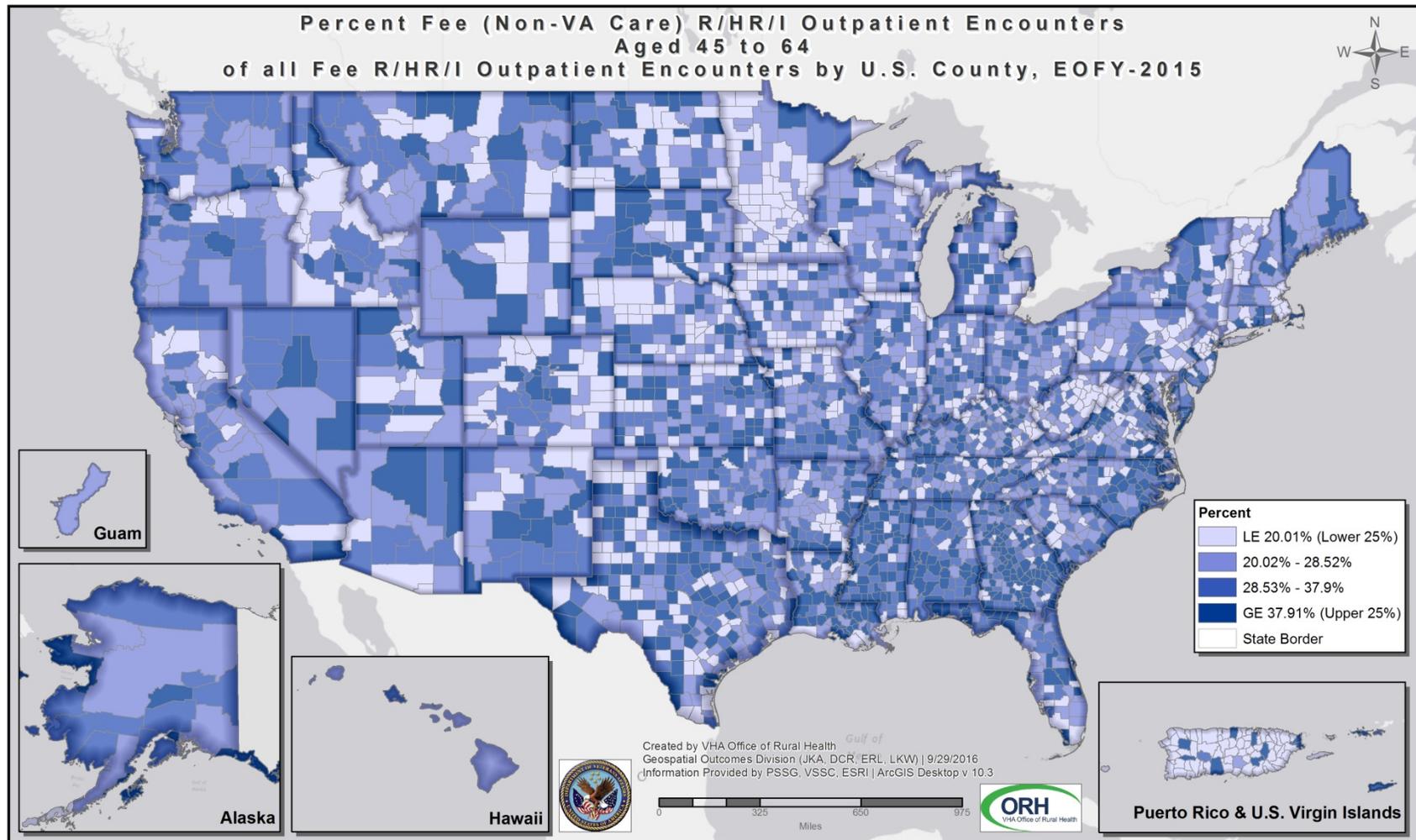
Map 55



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 56



AGES 65 TO 74

On the national level, patients in R/HR/I areas *aged 65 to 74* who had Fee outpatient encounters comprised of more than one-third (36.21%) of the total number of Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters, the highest of all age groups. The top 10 States/Territories with the greatest percentage of those patients in this age group, which exceed the national overall percentage included: Guam (67.26%), Northern Mariana Islands (50.0%), Hawaii (46.36%), Connecticut (44.04%), Nevada (41.86%), Washington (41.78%), Oregon (41.48%), Arizona (40.76%), California (39.97%), and Idaho (39.69%).

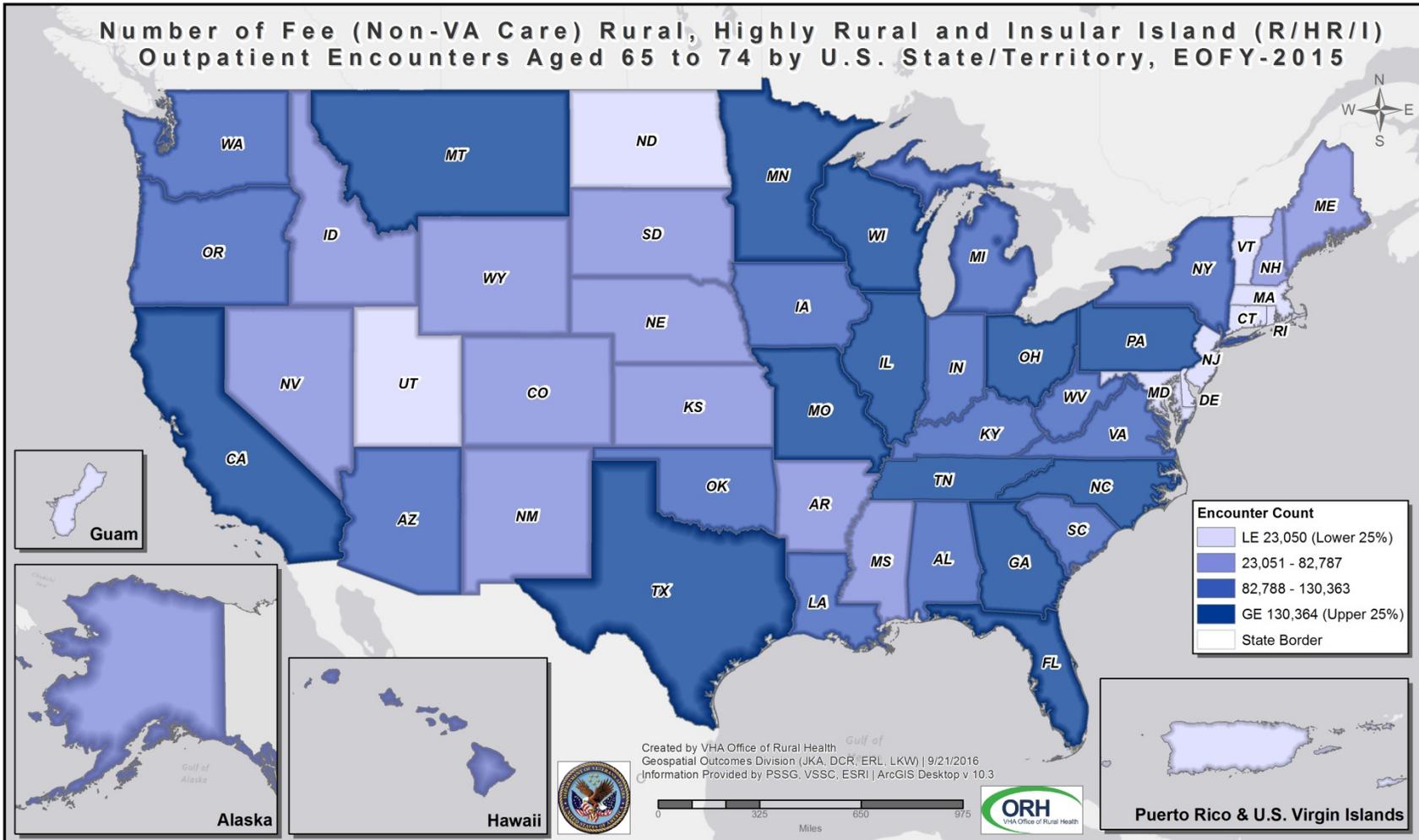
The maps in the next series focus on R/HR/I patients *aged 65 to 74* who had Fee outpatient encounters. These data are mapped at the State/Territory and county levels of aggregation. The denominator for the percentages is the number of all R/HR/I patients who had Fee outpatient encounters. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion is designated by the darkest shade of blue. Three of the U.S. States, as shown on Maps 57 and 58, had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of Fee outpatient encounters by those patients *aged 65 to 74*. Those are California, Illinois and Ohio.



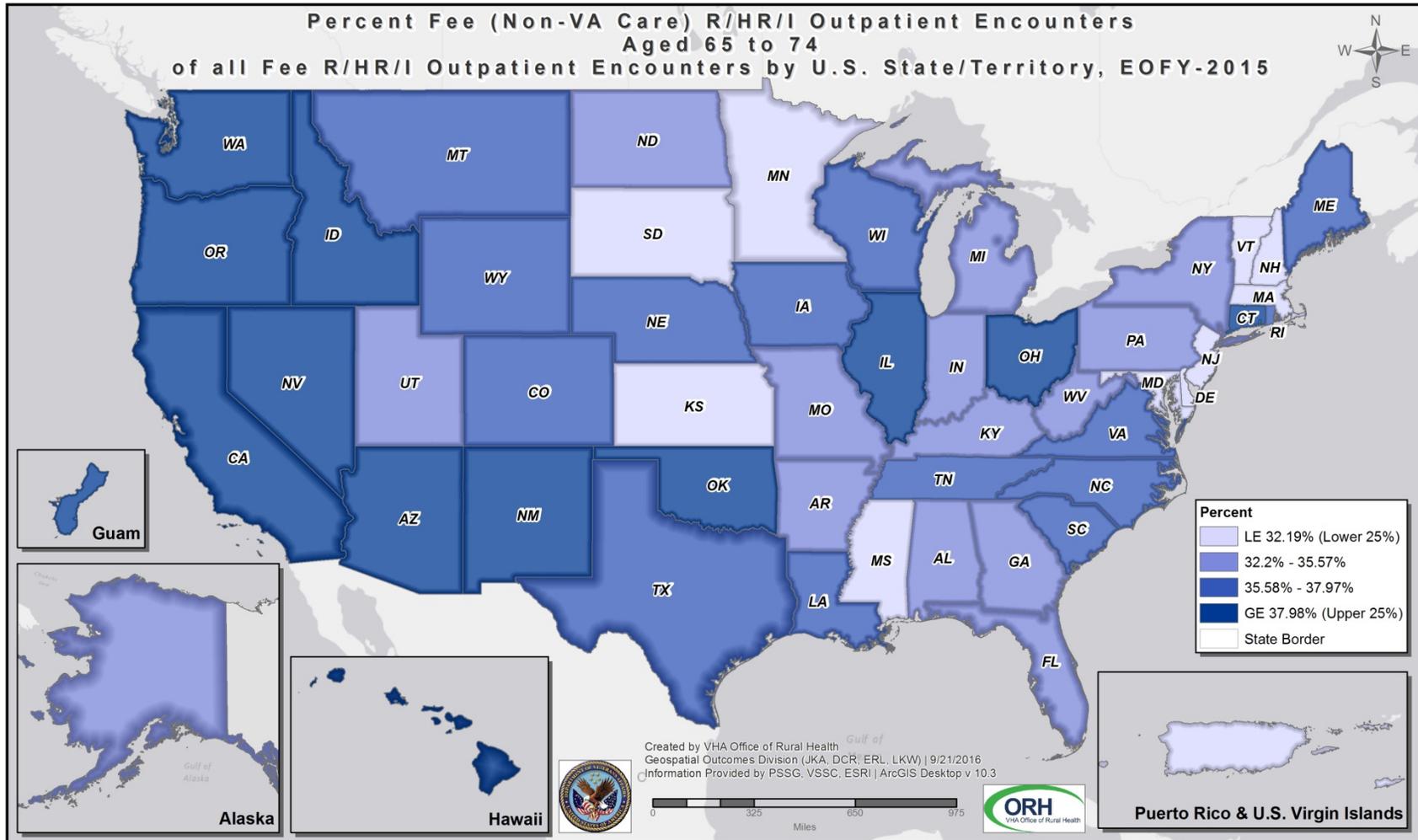
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 57



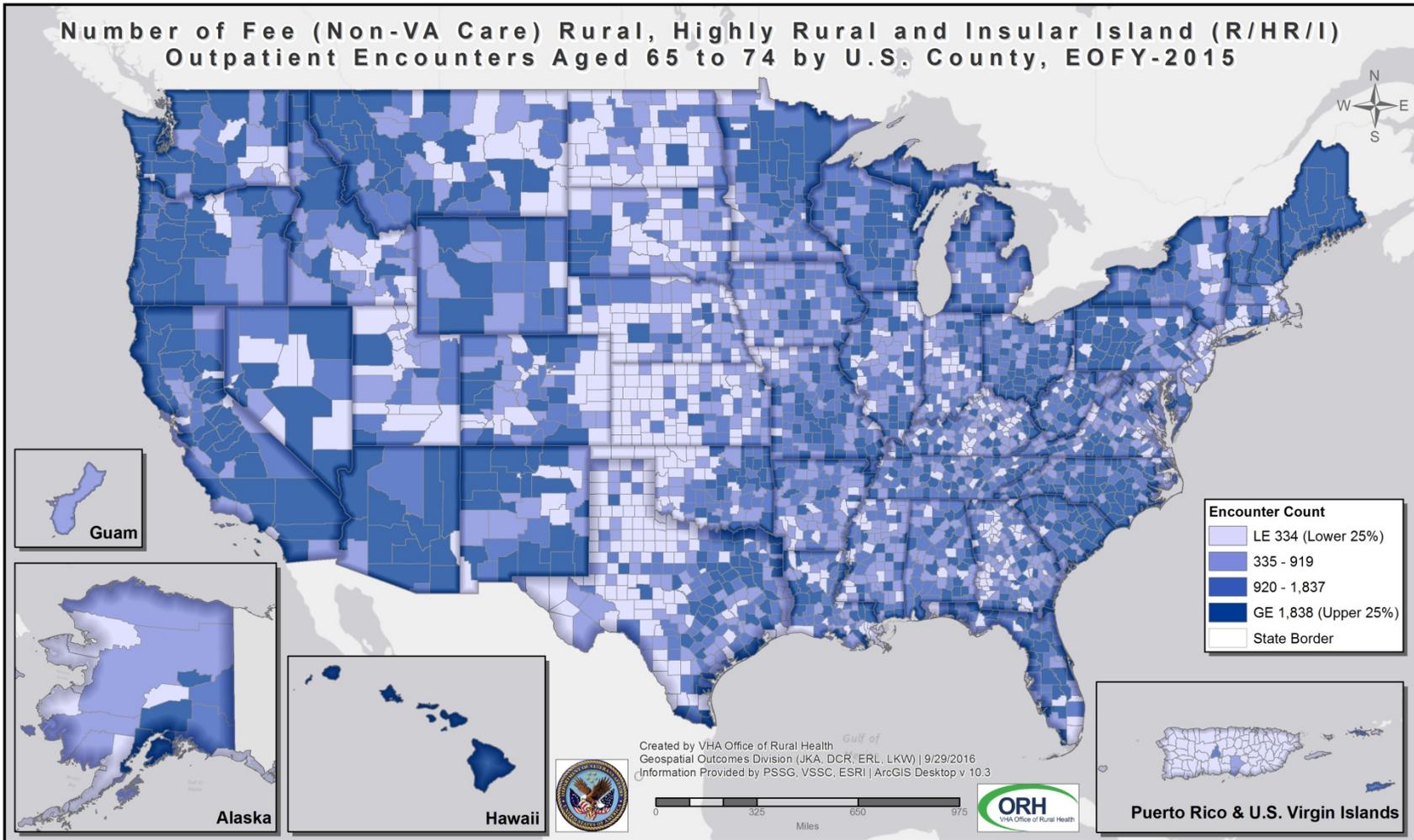
Map 58



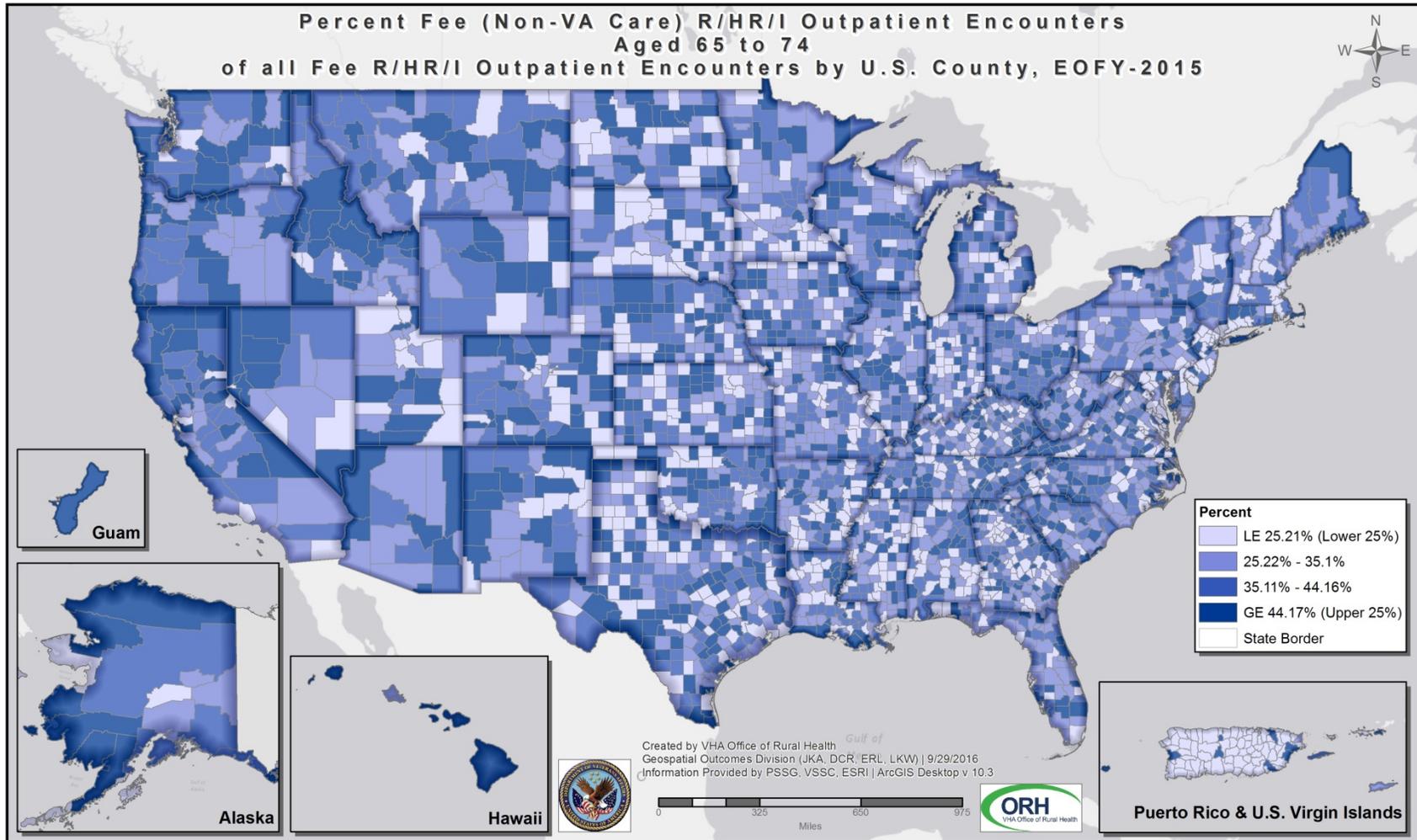
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 59



Map 60



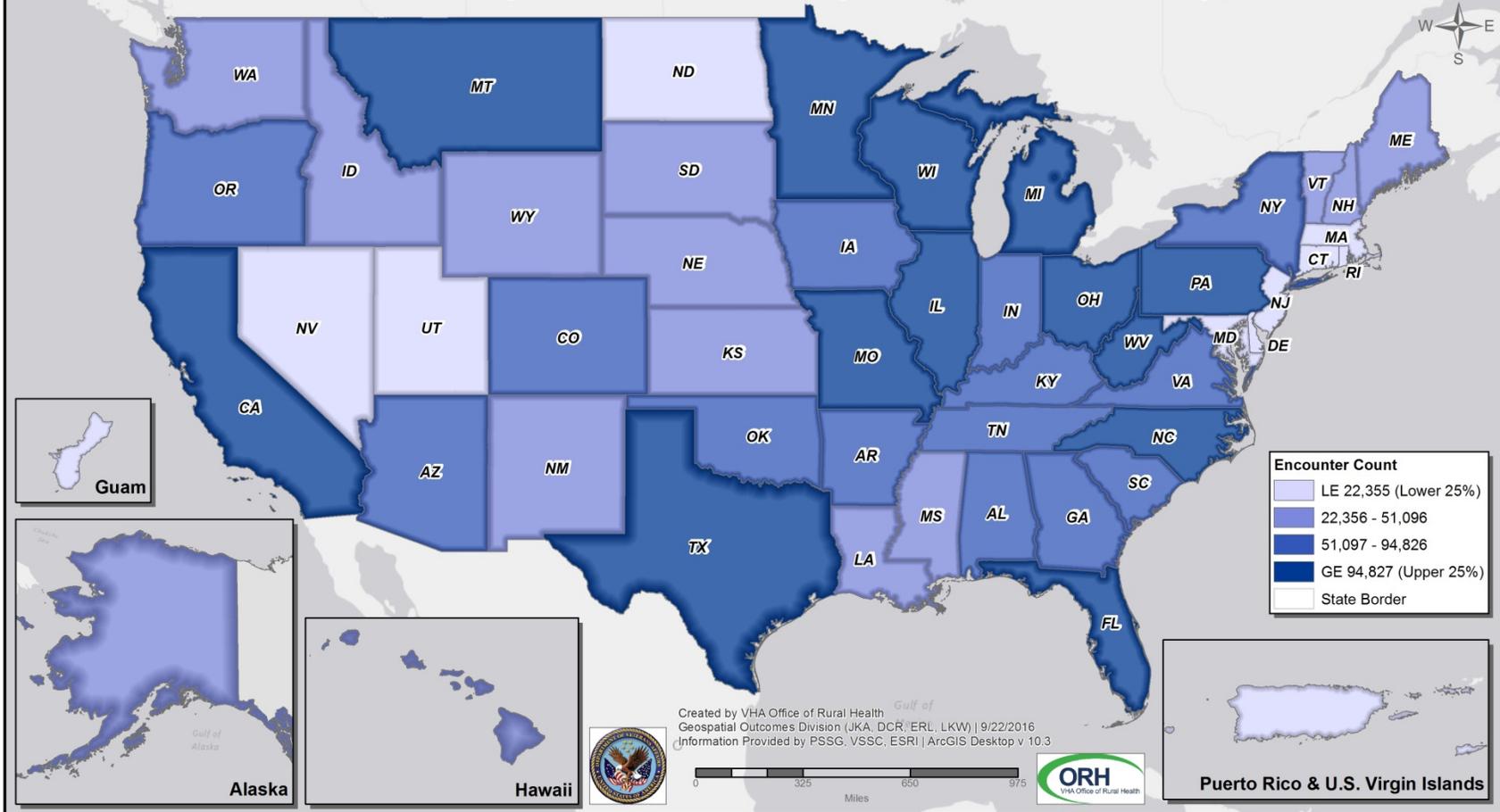
AGED 75 AND OLDER

On the national level, Veteran patients in R/HR/I areas who were *aged 75 and older* and were provided outpatient care by a non-VA facility or non-VA provider (Fee) comprised of more than one-quarter (26.26%) of all Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters. The top 10 States/Territories with the greatest percentage of Veteran patients in this age group, which exceed the national overall percentage included: District of Columbia (67.62%), Puerto Rico (57.62%), Vermont (48.53%), Minnesota (44.43%), West Virginia (39.38%), New Hampshire (37.39%), New Jersey (36.55%), Massachusetts (36.23%), Pennsylvania (32.62%), and Iowa (32.18%).

The maps in the next series focus on R/HR/I patients *aged 75 and older* who had Fee outpatient encounters. These data are mapped at the State/Territory and county levels of aggregation. The denominator for the percentages is the number of all R/HR/I patients who had Fee outpatient encounters. The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion is designated by the darkest shade of blue. Five of the U.S. States, as shown on Maps 61 and 62, had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of Fee outpatient encounters by those patients *aged 75 and older*. Those are Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.



Number of Fee (Non-VA Care) Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters Aged 75 and Older by U.S. State/Territory, EOFY-2015



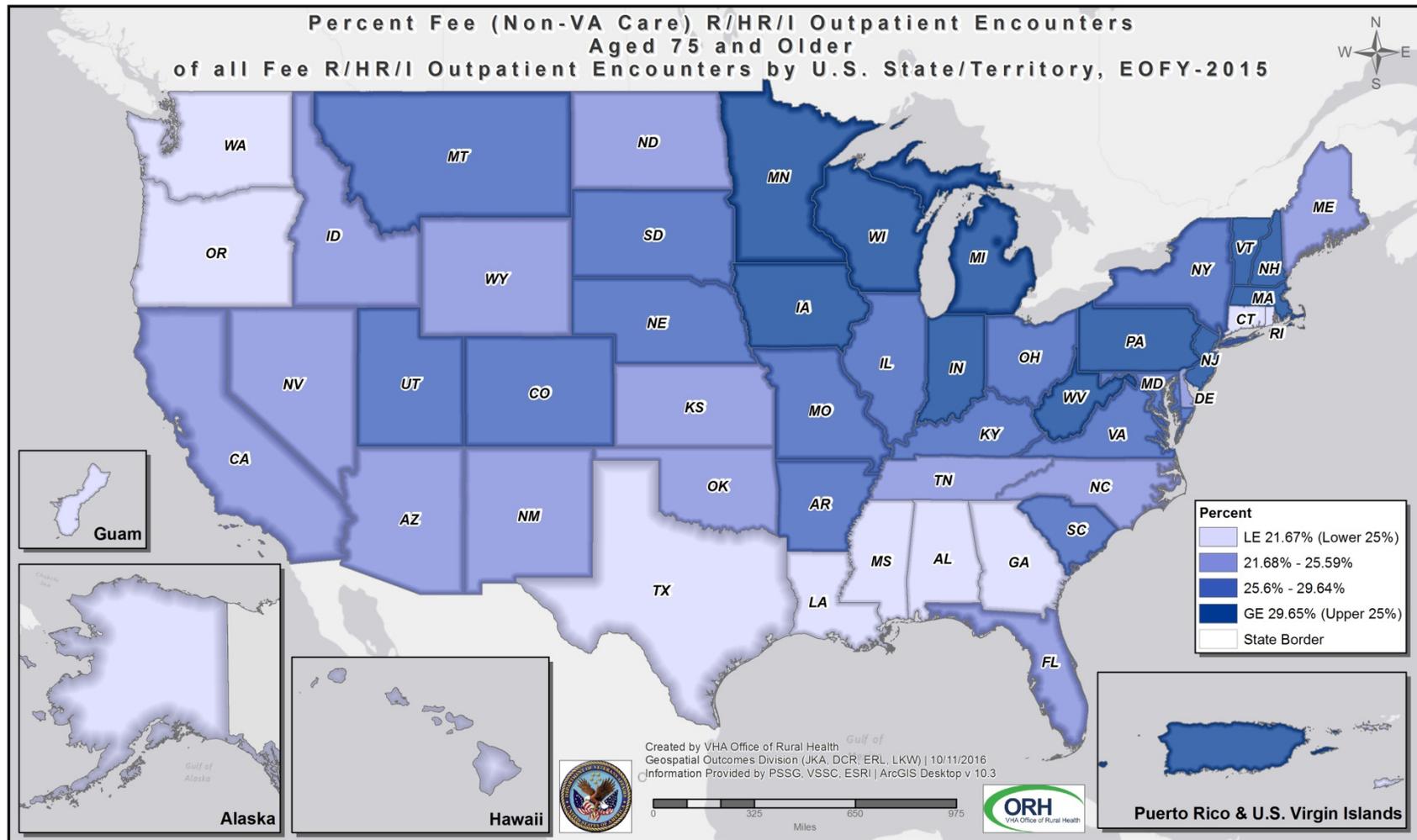
Map 61



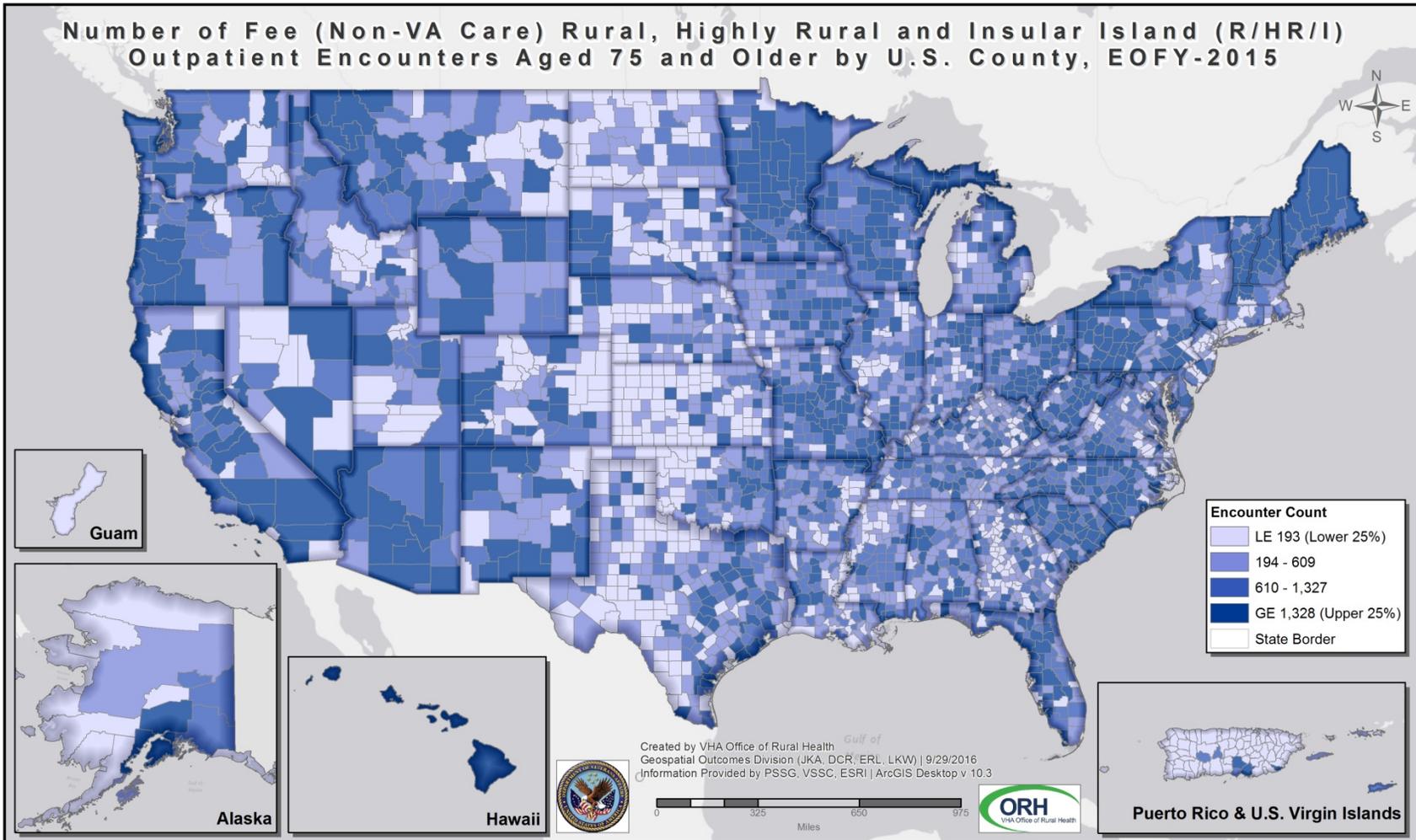
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 62



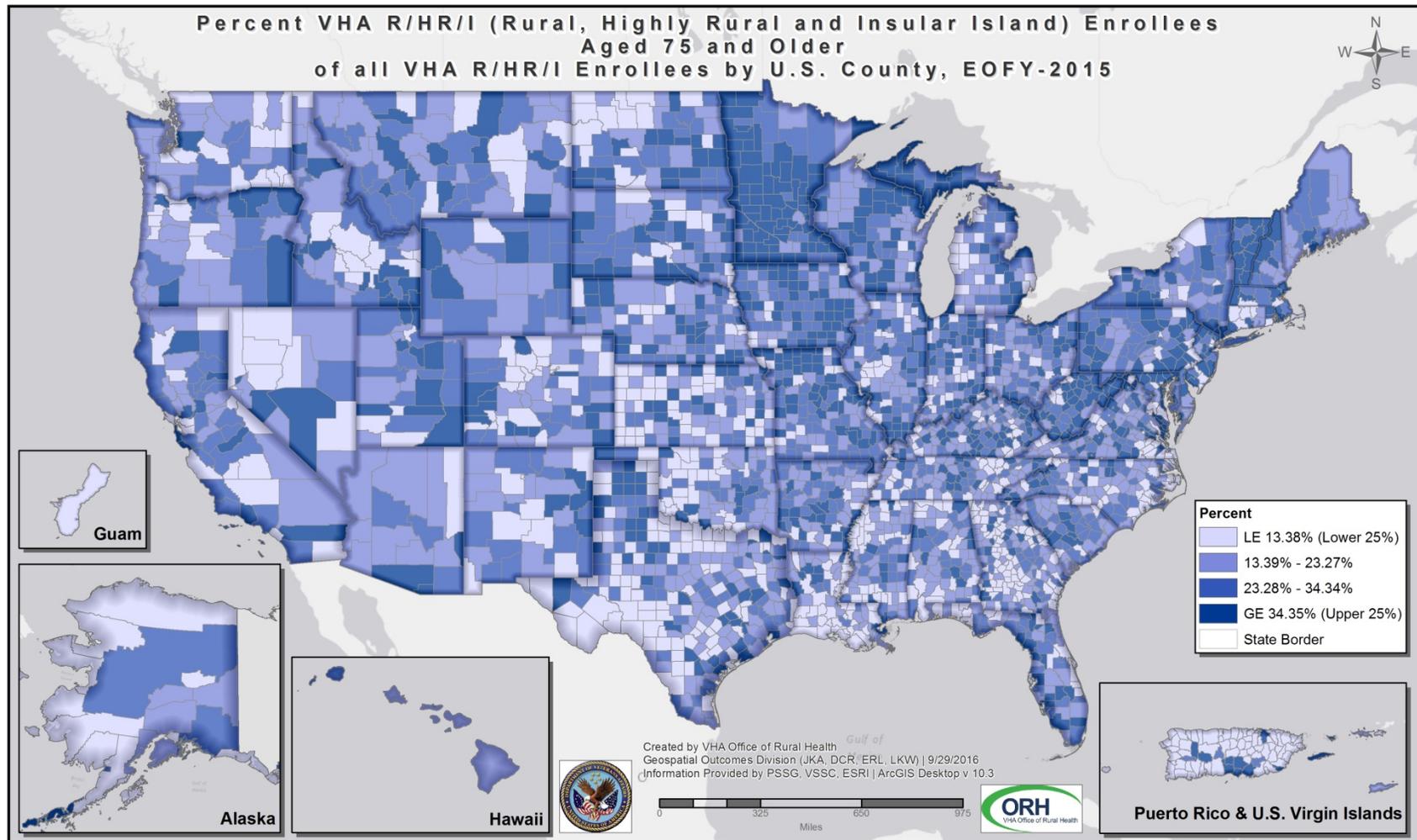
Map 63



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 64



RACE

Data highlighting Veteran patients of various racial groups residing in R/HR/I areas and their outpatient encounters at non-VA medical facilities or by non-VA providers (Fee) are summarized in this section. Nationally, most encounters (83.15%) were by patients who were White or Caucasian, while the same types of encounters by Blacks/African Americans comprised of 12.29%. A small percentage of those patients in the 'Other' category- including Asians, Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders, Alaska Natives/Native Americans, or those patients who identified as multiple races- constituted about 4.57% of the total number of Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters. Race was missing on about 6.55% of the Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters.

Therefore, the series of maps that follow show the numbers of Fee outpatient encounters by White R/HR/I patients (numerator) divided by total number of Fee R/HR/I outpatient encounters of all patients whose race was known (denominator). Areas with a lower White population (and therefore areas with a higher concentration of minority groups) are portrayed by the lowest 25% (or quartile) in terms of volume and proportion, which are designated by the lightest shade of blue. The bottom 10 States/Territories with the lowest percentage of Fee outpatient encounters by White/Caucasian patients (in ascending order) included: Northern Mariana Islands (25.0%), U.S. Virgin Islands (33.26%), Mississippi (47.74%), Louisiana (48.24%), South Carolina (48.47%), Hawaii (52.89%), Alabama (58.39%), Georgia (60.61%), North Carolina (60.71%), and Virginia (65.19%).



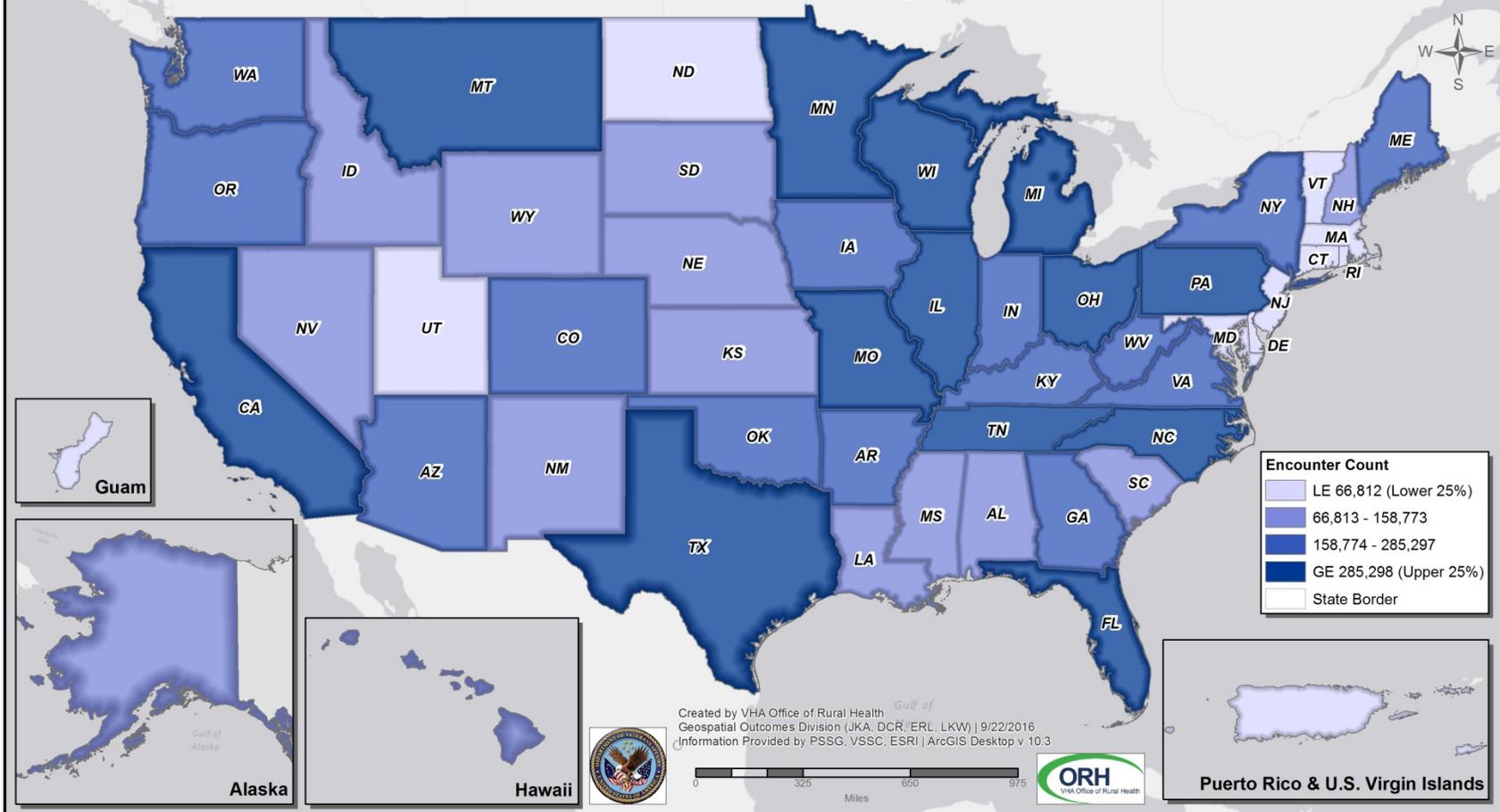
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



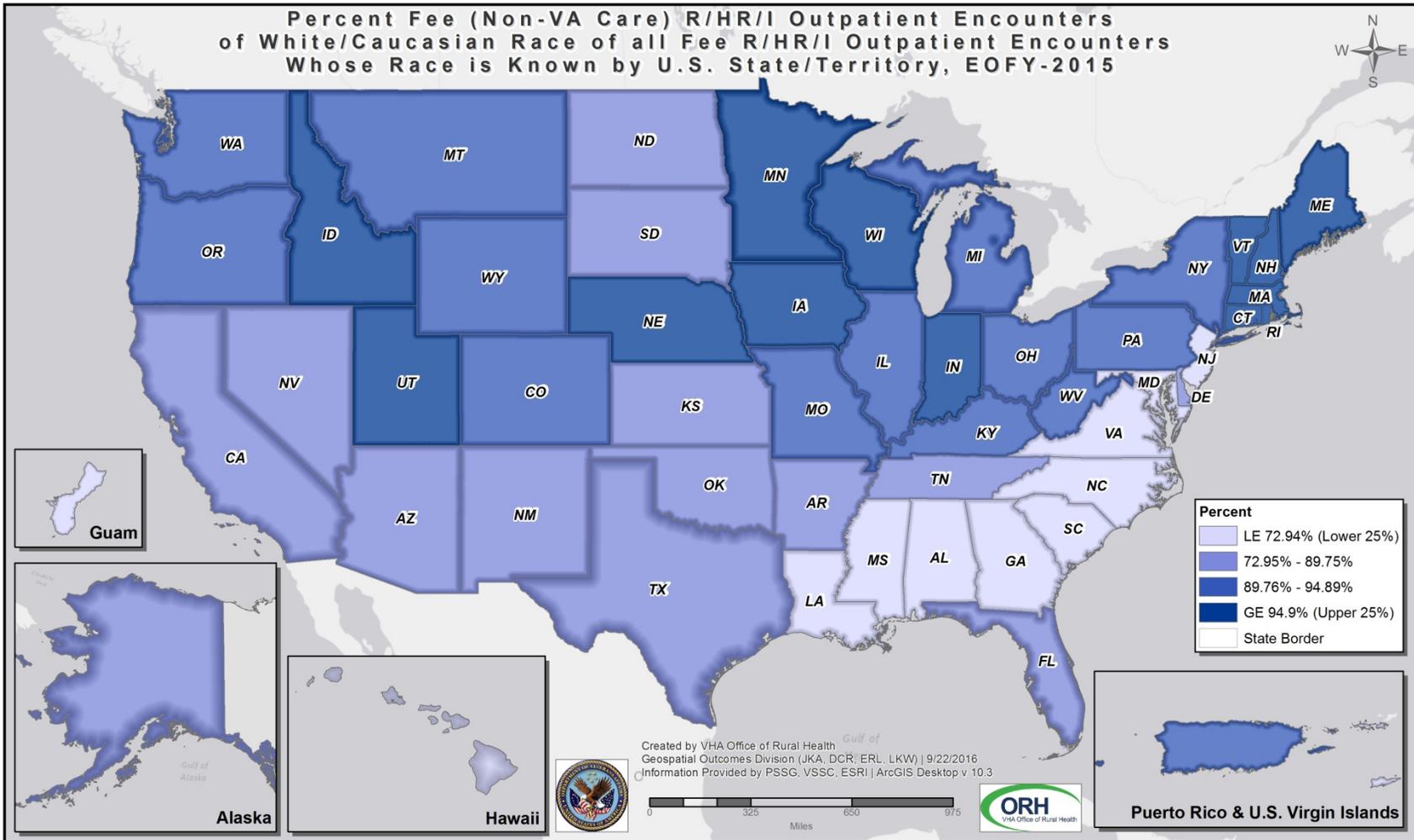
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Number of Fee (Non-VA Care) Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters of White/Caucasian Race by U.S. State/Territory, EOFY-2015



Map 65



Map 66



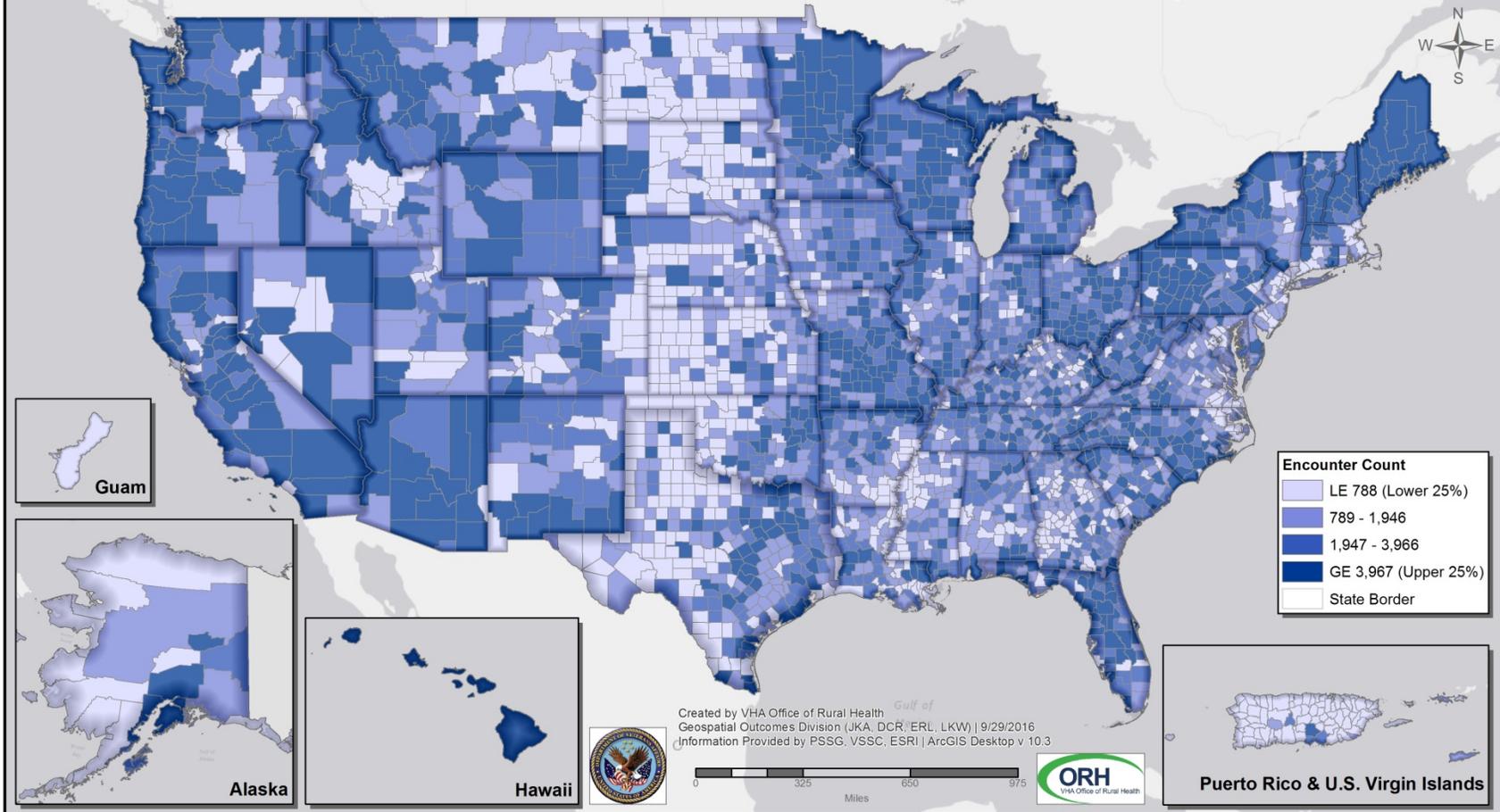
Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



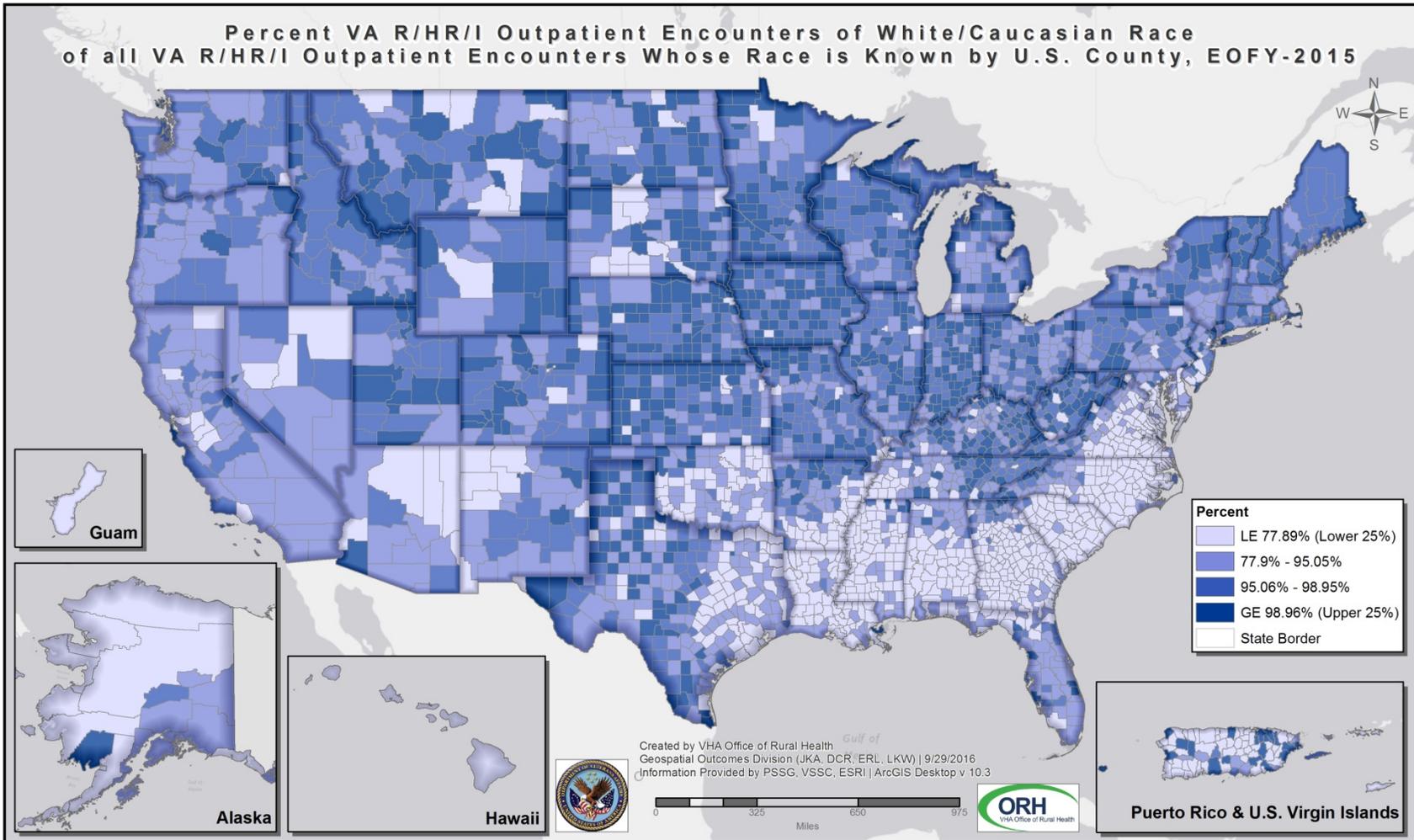
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Number of Fee (Non-VA Care) Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters of White/Caucasian Race by U.S. County, EOFY-2015



Map 67



Map 68



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



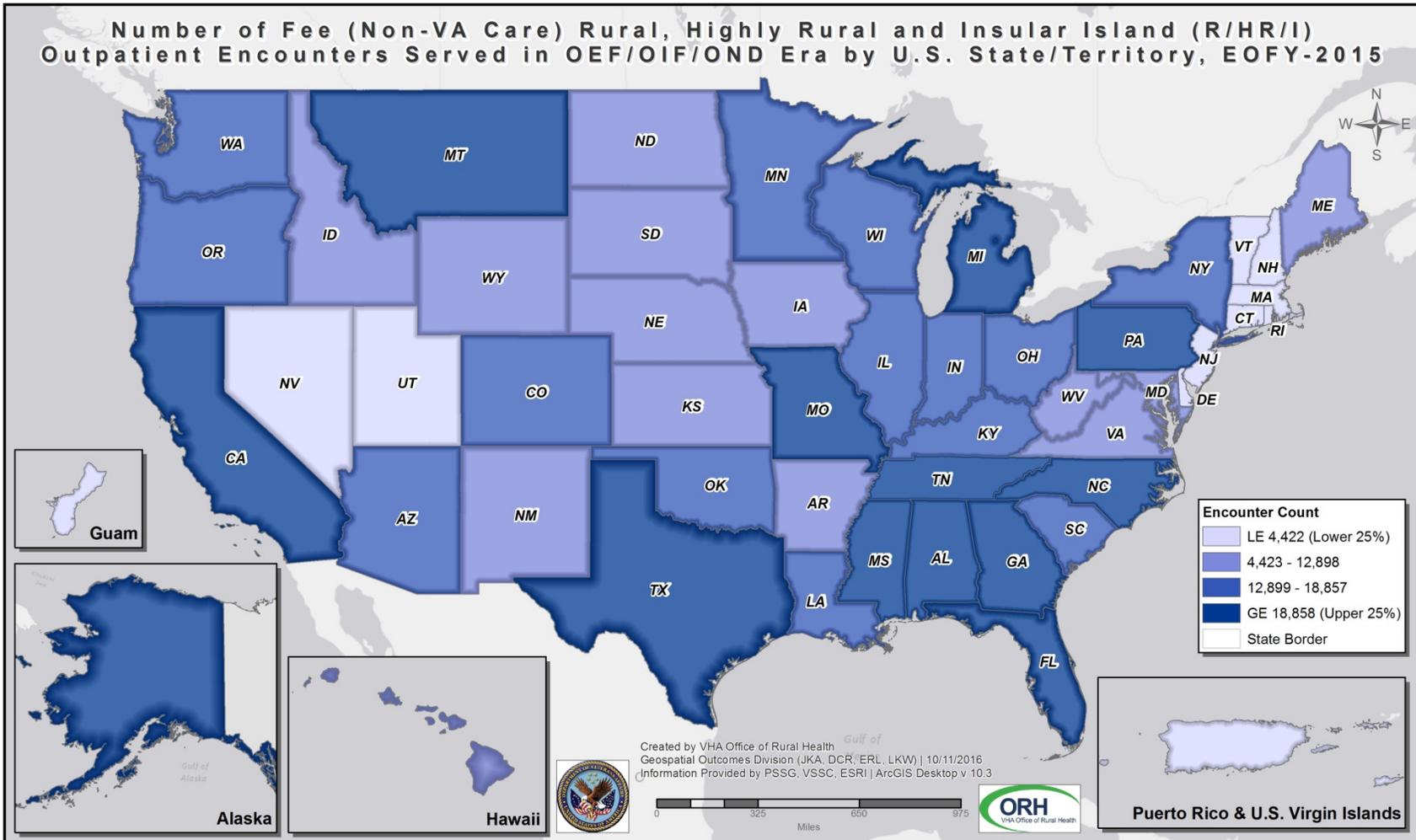
GeoSpatial
Outcomes Division
VHA Office of Rural Health



SERVICE ERA

Military service members who 1) were discharged from service during the OEF/OIF/OND era, 2) are enrolled in VHA but sought or received outpatient health care services by non-VA providers or non-VA medical facilities (Fee), and 3) reside in R/HR/I areas are examined in this section. Nationally, as of EOFY-2015, only about 5.43% of all Fee outpatient encounters were by those particular R/HR/I patients who served in the OEF/OIF/OND era. On the State/Territory level, the Top 10 (in rank order) included: Northern Mariana Islands (50.0%), U.S. Virgin Islands (15.71%), Alaska (11.65%), Rhode Island (9.2%), Puerto Rico (9.14%), Maryland (8.28%), North Dakota (7.68%), Kansas (7.32%), Mississippi (7.18%), and Alabama (7.17%).

Map 69 – Map 72 portray the numbers and percentages of Fee outpatient encounters by patients who previously served in OEF/OIF/OND (numerator) of all Fee outpatient encounters (denominator). The highest 25% in terms of volume and proportion is designated by the darkest shade of blue. Alabama, Alaska, Mississippi, and Montana were the four U.S. States, shown on Maps 69 and 70, that had both a high volume and high proportion (in upper 25% quartile) of Fee outpatient encounters by those patients who served in the OEF/OIF/OND Era.



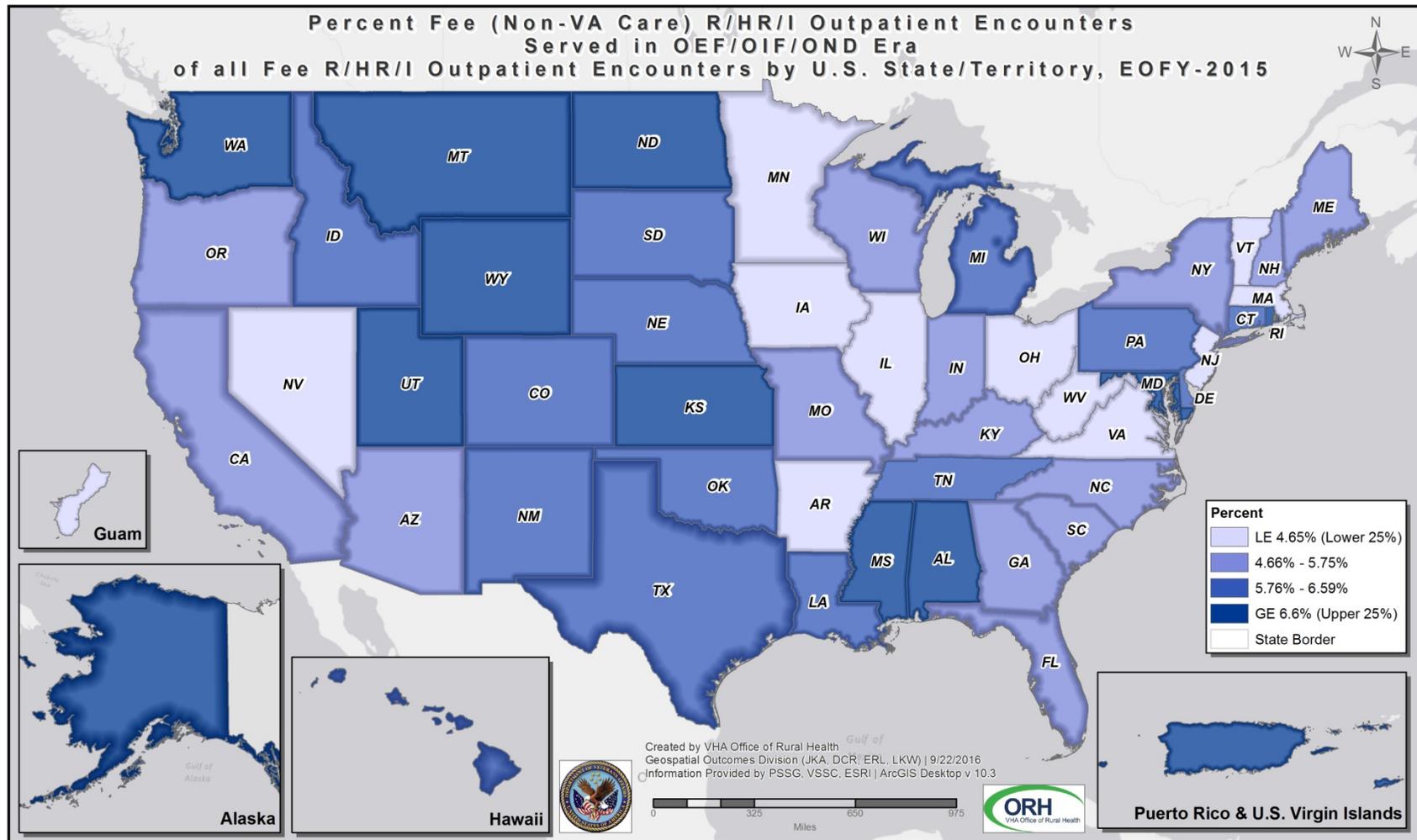
Map 69



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



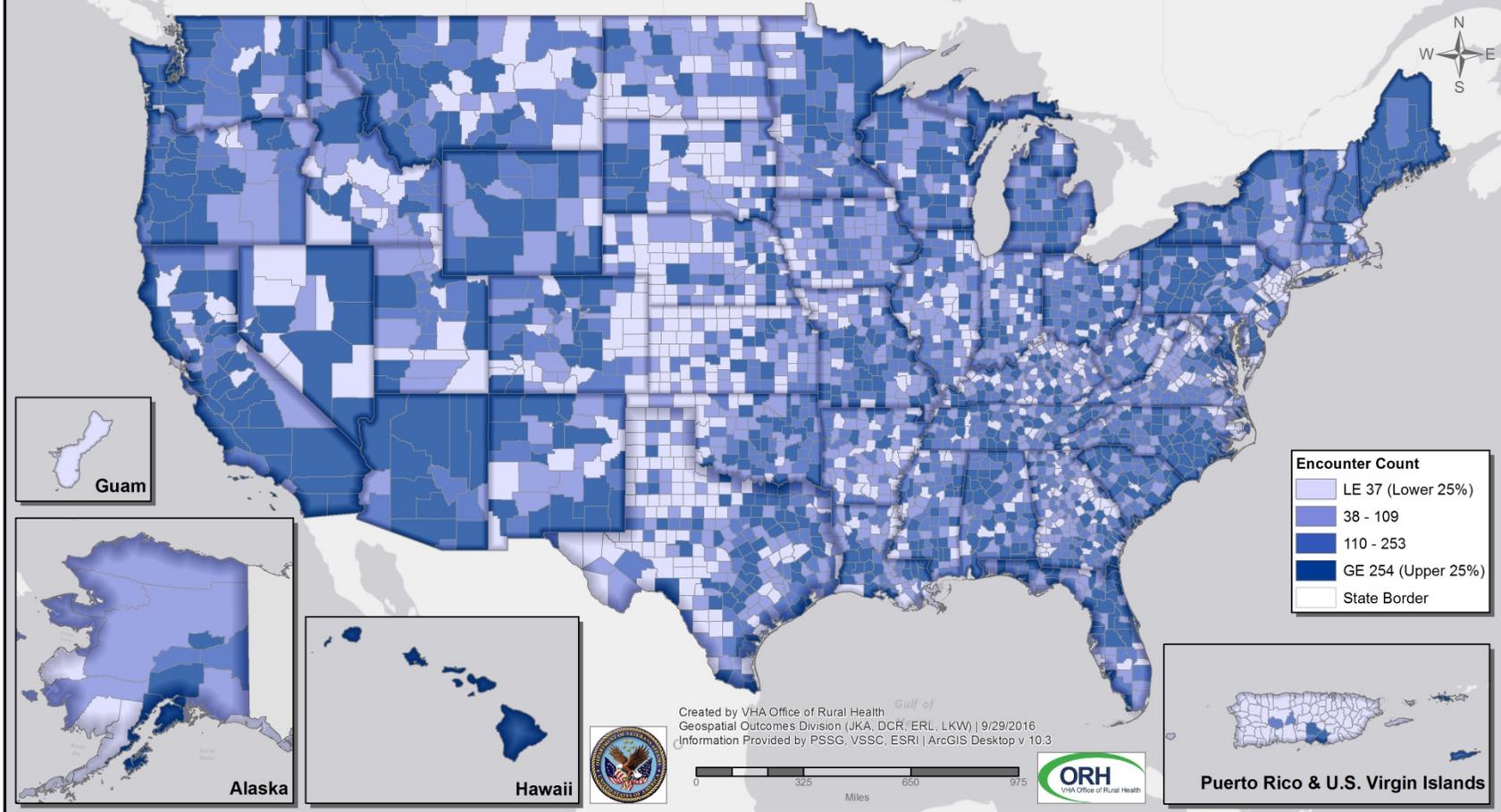
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Map 70



Number of Fee (Non-VA Care) Rural, Highly Rural and Insular Island (R/HR/I) Outpatient Encounters Served in OEF/OIF/OND Era by U.S. County, EOFY-2015



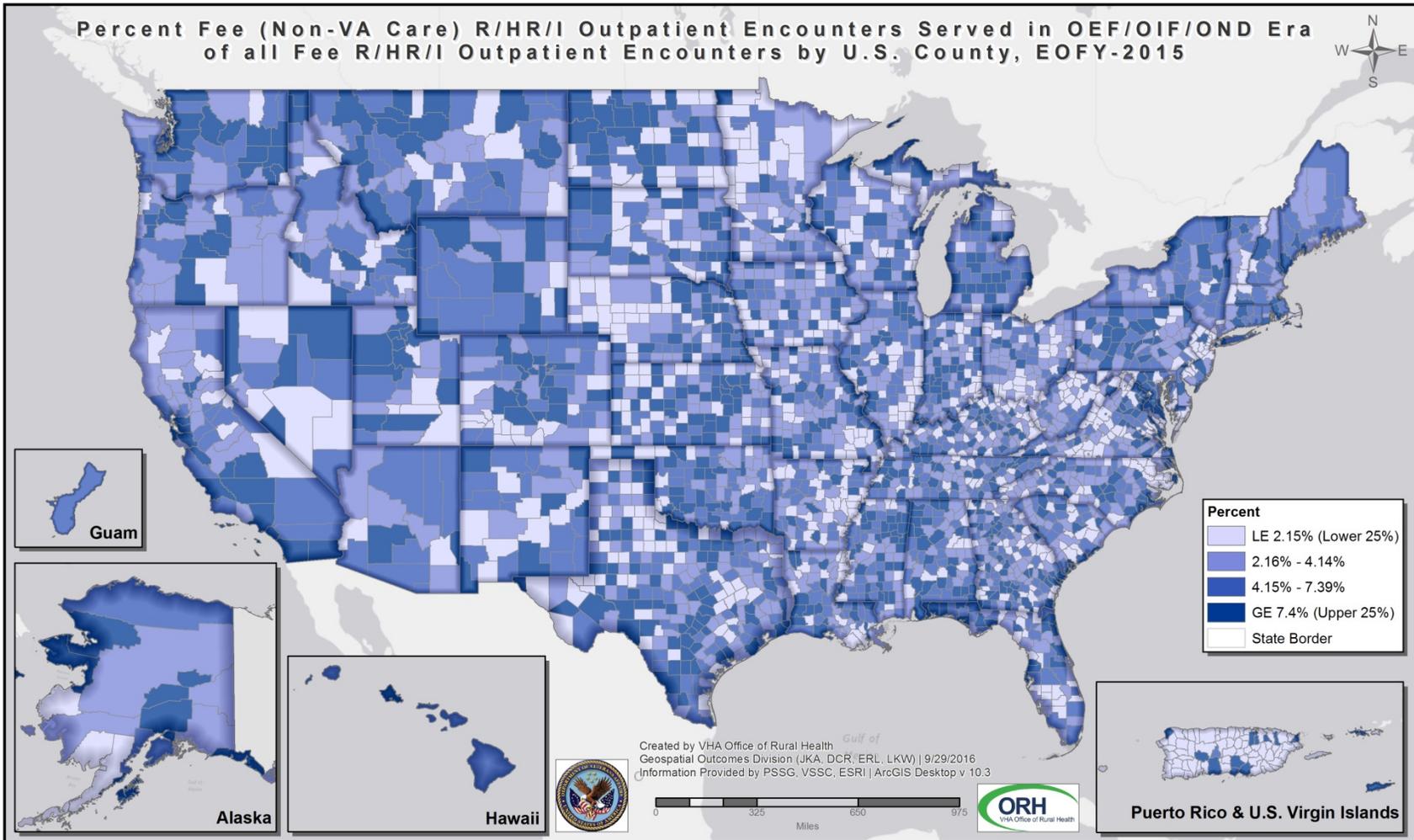
Map 71



Health Services Utilization By Rural Veterans (Outpatient Encounters)



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Map 72



References

1) Diagnosis Cube (Inpatient/Outpatient/Fee) Data Definitions:

[Diagnosis Cube Data Definitions](#)

NOTE: This is an internal VA website and is not accessible to the public.

For more information or inquires and requests regarding geospatial products and services, please contact:

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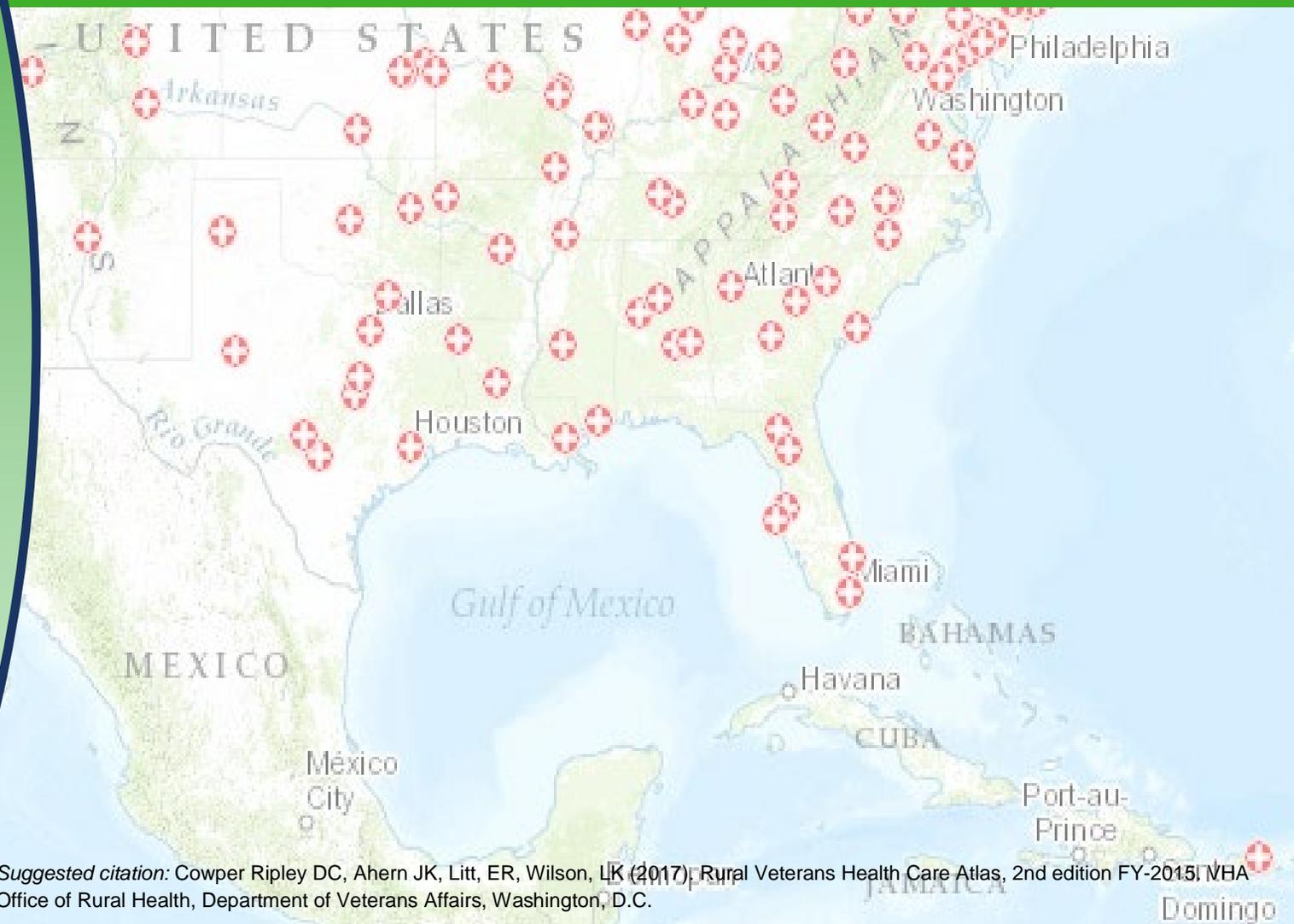
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**High-resolution versions of the maps featured in this Atlas are available upon request by contacting the GSOD Team.*

The Rural Veterans Health Care Atlas, 2nd edition aims to collect, compile, and disseminate information on health care access and delivery for the rural Veteran Enrollee and patient population. It builds on the first edition and represents information as of end of FY-2015 for VA health care facilities, outpatient and inpatient utilization in rural, highly rural, and insular island areas in all States/Territories and counties in the United States. Additionally, this second edition analyzes hospital bed occupancy and average daily census data at VA health care facilities. This second edition represents the beginning stages of many critical changes in the organization. The robust and valuable data from this atlas and future editions show evidence of improvement of health care resources for the Veteran Enrollee and patient population within the dynamic landscape of the VHA health care system



Suggested citation: Cowper Ripley DC, Ahern JK, Litt, ER, Wilson, LK (2017). Rural Veterans Health Care Atlas, 2nd edition FY-2015. VHA Office of Rural Health, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

