

BACKGROUND

Veterans of color (VoC) and people of color in rural areas face disparities compared to their non-Hispanic White counterparts.¹⁻⁴ However, little is known about the intersection of these populations - rural VoC.

This poster answers:

- Where do rural VoC live?
- What socioeconomic disparities do rural VoC face?

METHODS

Datasets (county-level):

- 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates⁵
 - Veteran: status, % below poverty level, % unemployed
- 2018 Social Vulnerability Index⁶
 - Total uninsured rate
- 2013 Rural-Urban Commuting Codes (RUCC)⁷

Definitions (county-level):

- **Rural** → RUCC codes 4-9
- **VoC** → ≥ 20% Hispanic or non-white Veterans
- **non-VoC** → > 80% non-Hispanic white Veterans

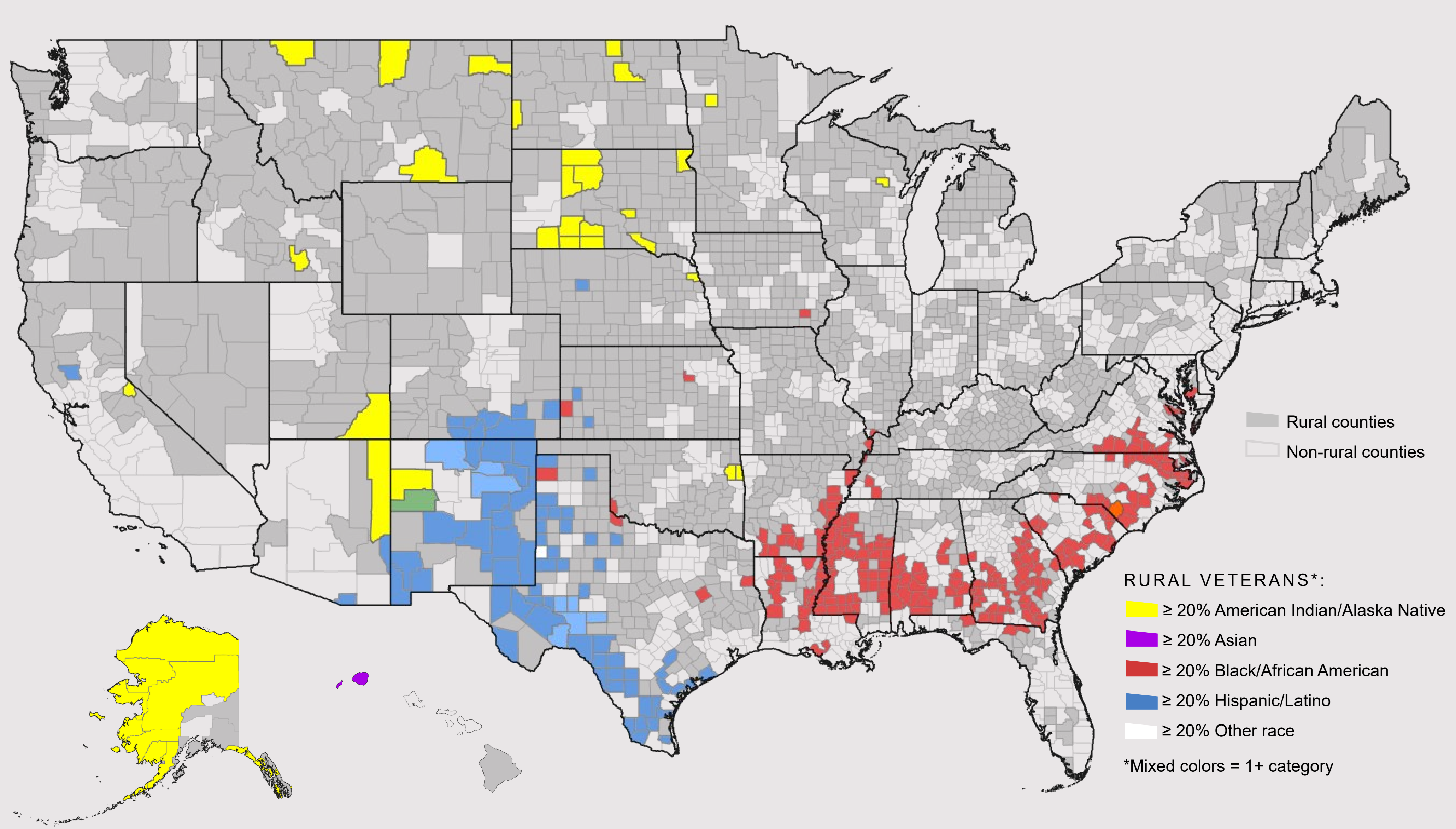
Map: ArcGIS Enterprise⁸

Statistical Tests (t-tests): SAS 9.4⁹

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Rural Veterans of Color
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Future researchers should collaborate with rural Veterans of Color to better explore their needs and identify areas to provide funding and resources to reduce socioeconomic disparities

RESULTS

≥ 20% rural VOC: 470 counties

Variable	Non-VoC (n=1505)	VoC (n= 470)	p-value
Veteran unemployment rate	4.2%	5.2%	0.001
Veteran % below poverty level	7.7%	10.1%	<0.0001
Total uninsured rate	9.4%	15.0%	<0.0001

DISCUSSION

- Research on rural VoC is significantly lacking¹⁰
- Though rural Veterans tend to be less racially diverse, numerous counties with sizable populations of rural VoC exist
- Veterans in these counties are more likely to experience poverty, unemployment, and being uninsured
- Socioeconomic disparities are likely to be exacerbated by the discrimination, historical trauma, and lack of access to culturally appropriate healthcare VoC face²

References

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