

Why Counties Matter

With **America's** system of **FEDERALISM**, counties are a **KEY LEVEL** of government, **DIRECTLY** serving the people.

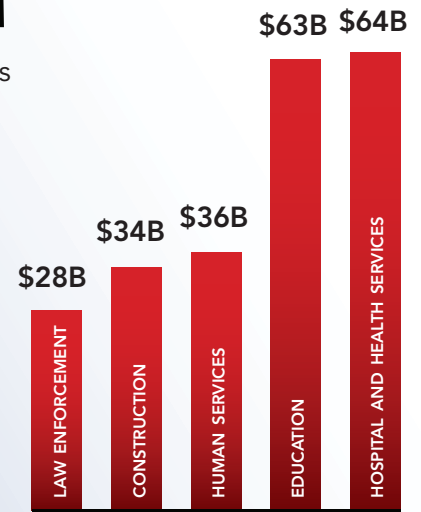


As governments created by states, counties provide **ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES** including many mandated by **FEDERAL** and **STATE** laws and regulations.

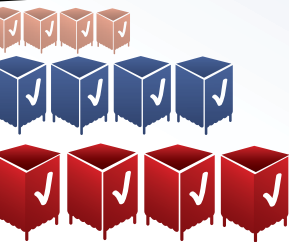
Expenditures

Total expenditures for counties in 2007

\$472 BILLION



Elections



Counties fund and oversee more than

112,000

polling places and coordinate

700,000

poll workers

EVERY TWO YEARS

There are more than

18,000



ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS

Counties employ more than

3.2 MILLION

Americans delivering a variety of services

Healthcare
Transportation
Public Safety and Jails
Courts
Mental Health Services
Build Local Economies
Restaurant Inspections
Community Colleges
Recycling
Solid Waste Management
911 Emergency Systems
Parks and Recreation
Elections
Record Keeping



Preventive Health



Counties provide flu shots and other preventive health services through

1,947

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Counties own

75%

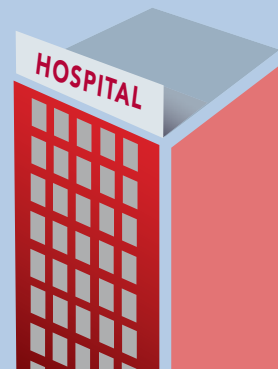


of publicly owned
NURSING HOMES

Counties own

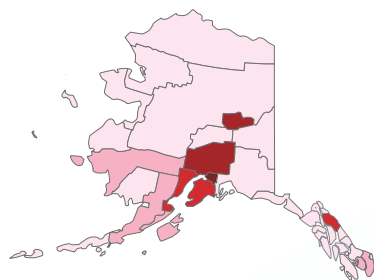
964

hospitals and spent
\$68.3 BILLION
on healthcare services in 2007

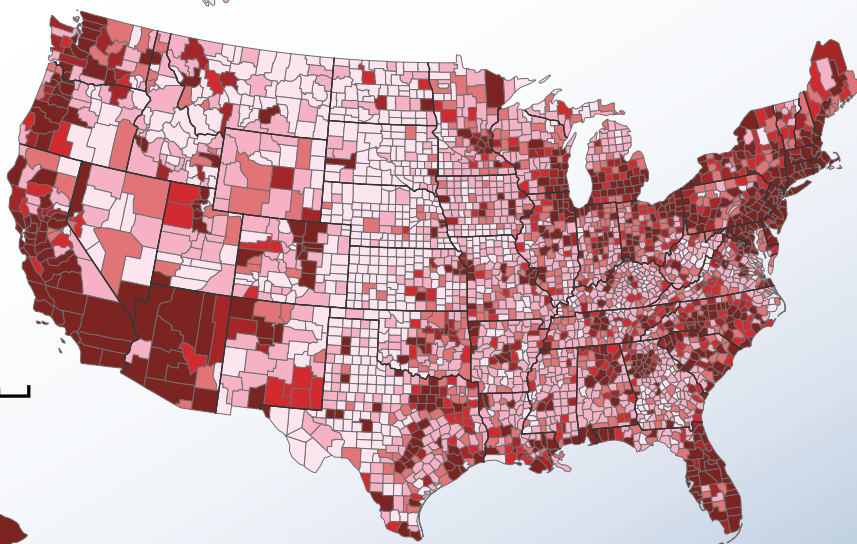
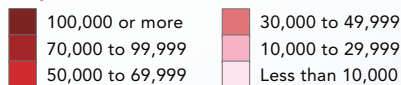


The United States Has **3,069** County Governments

County Population Range



Population



500 Miles

9,787,747

62

Loving Co. Texas Los Angeles Co. California

Counties invested

**\$60
BILLION**

on infrastructure in 2007

(highways, roads, bridges, utilities, water, and sewer)



Infrastructure

Counties spent

**\$34
BILLION**

on construction of county facilities

Law Enforcement



3,105

county sheriff and police departments nationwide

11.8M

Persons admitted to county jails in 2011

Transportation

Counties own and maintain



44%
of America's Roadways,

228,026

of America's Bridges,

and almost

1/3

of America's Transit Systems and Airports

