

The Changes in Health Resources by Rurality and Region: 2000 to 2010

Kevin J. Bennett PhD, Janice C. Probst PhD, Yu-Hsiu Lin MBA*

Background

- Understanding the demography of rural America is vital to understanding what programs, interventions, and policy initiatives are needed to improve health care access, delivery, and outcomes.

Purpose

- To describe how health care resources changed from 2000 to 2010 by rurality and region.

Methods

Data

- Area Health Resources File (AHRF) supplemented by data from the US Census Bureau

Exclusion Criteria

- Missing information on rurality

Rurality

- Urban Influence Codes: Urban, Micropolitan, Small Adjacent, and Remote Rural

Health Care Resources

- Primary care physicians, PCP to resident ratios, Obstetrician/Gynecologists, Hospitals, Hospital Beds to resident ratio, LTC Facilities, HH Agencies

Analysis

- All analyses were performed at the county level, with key measures summarized. Analysis was subset by rurality
- Statistical analysis and merging of data was conducted in SAS 9.4.

The research reported here was supported in part by Grant No. U1CRH0711 from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, USDHHS

About the SC Rural Health Research Center:

Website: <http://rhr.sph.sc.edu/index.php>

Twitter: @scrhrc

Blog: <http://scrhrc.blogspot.com>



Results

Figure 1: Percent change in number of primary care physicians and population to physician care physician ratio from 2000-2010, by Rurality and Region

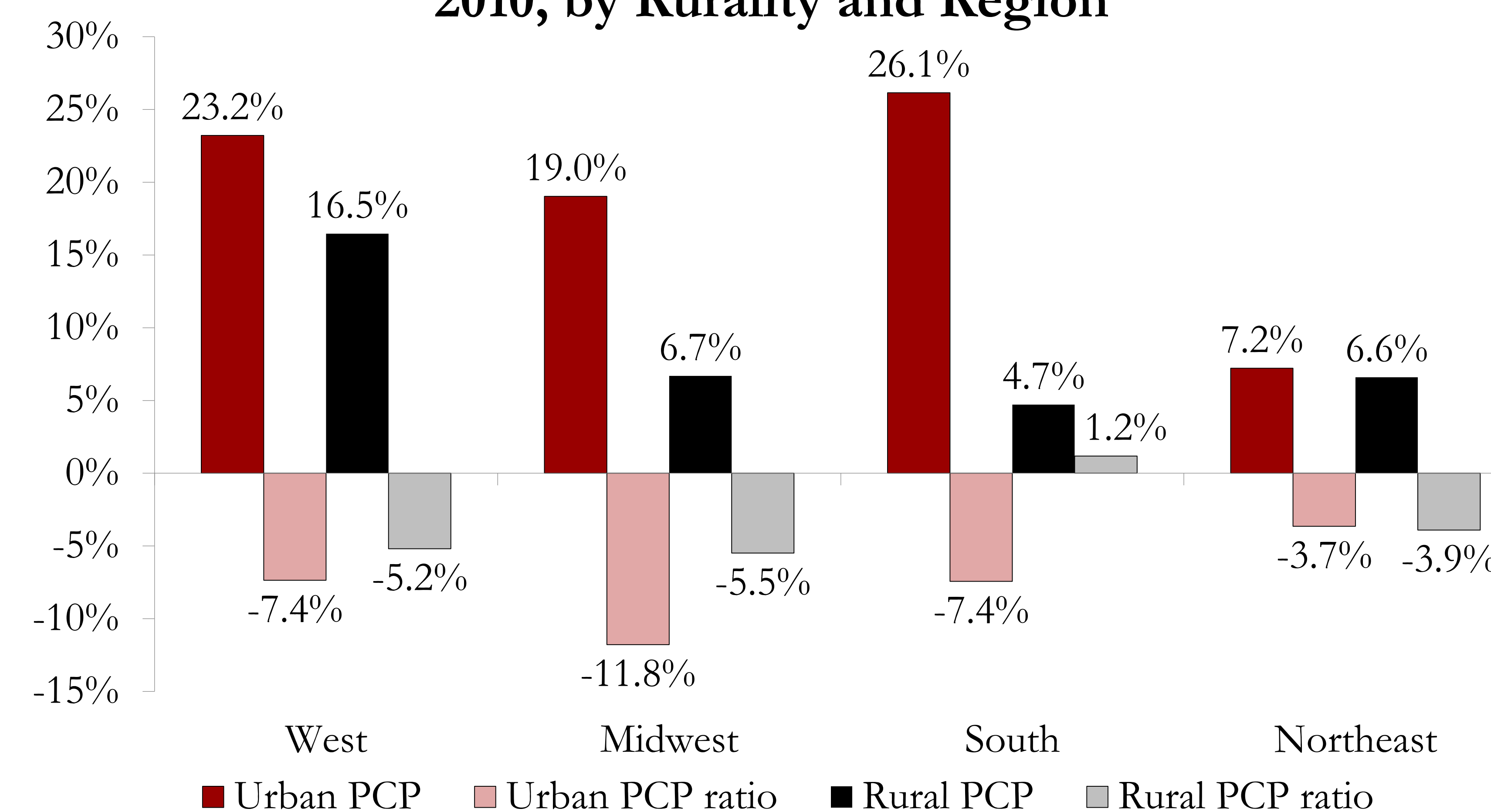


Figure 2: Percent change in number of hospitals and hospital bed to population ratio from 2000-2010, by Rurality and Region

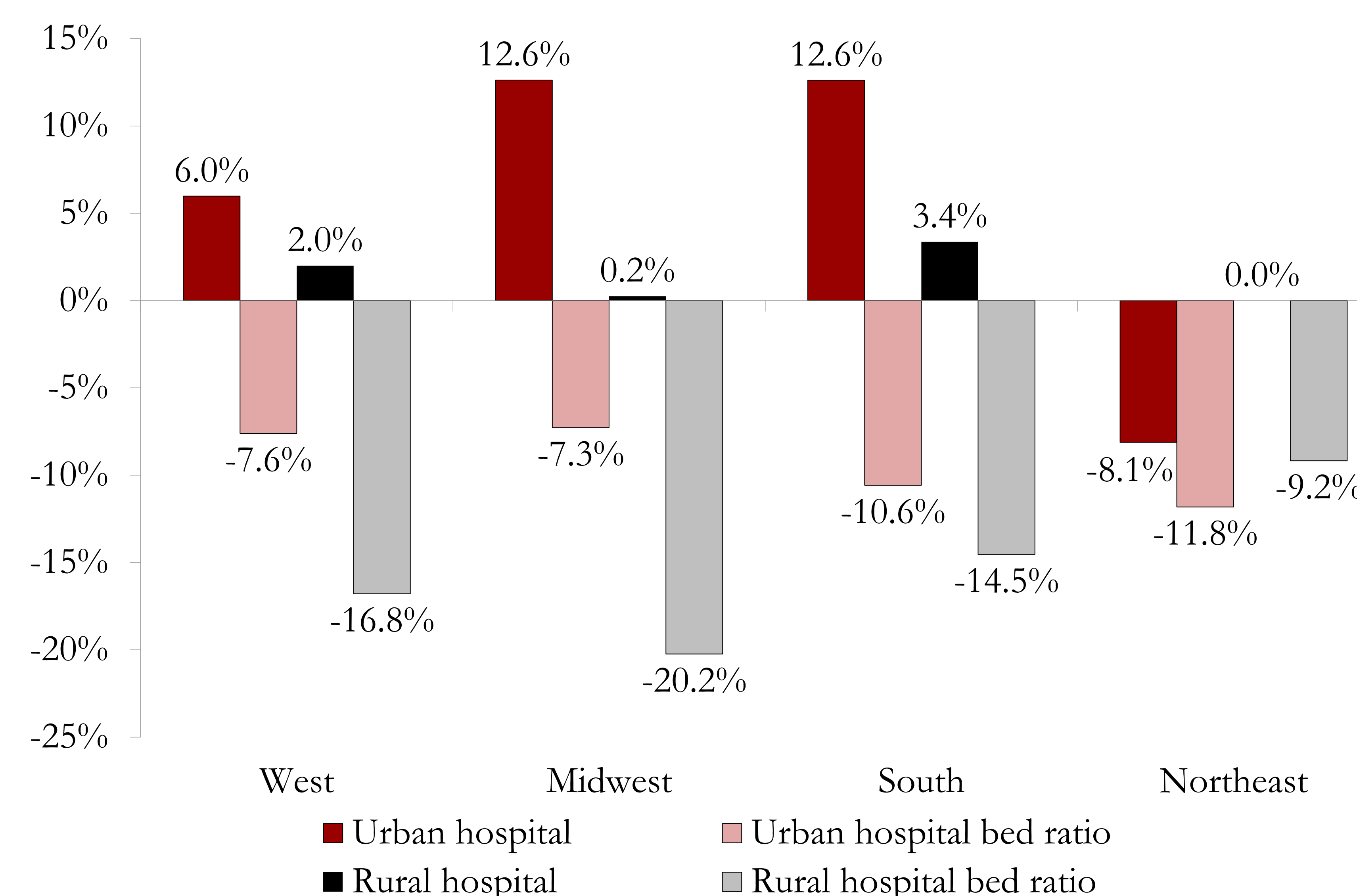


Figure 3: Percent change in number of Obstetric / Gynecologists from 2000-2010, by Rurality within Region

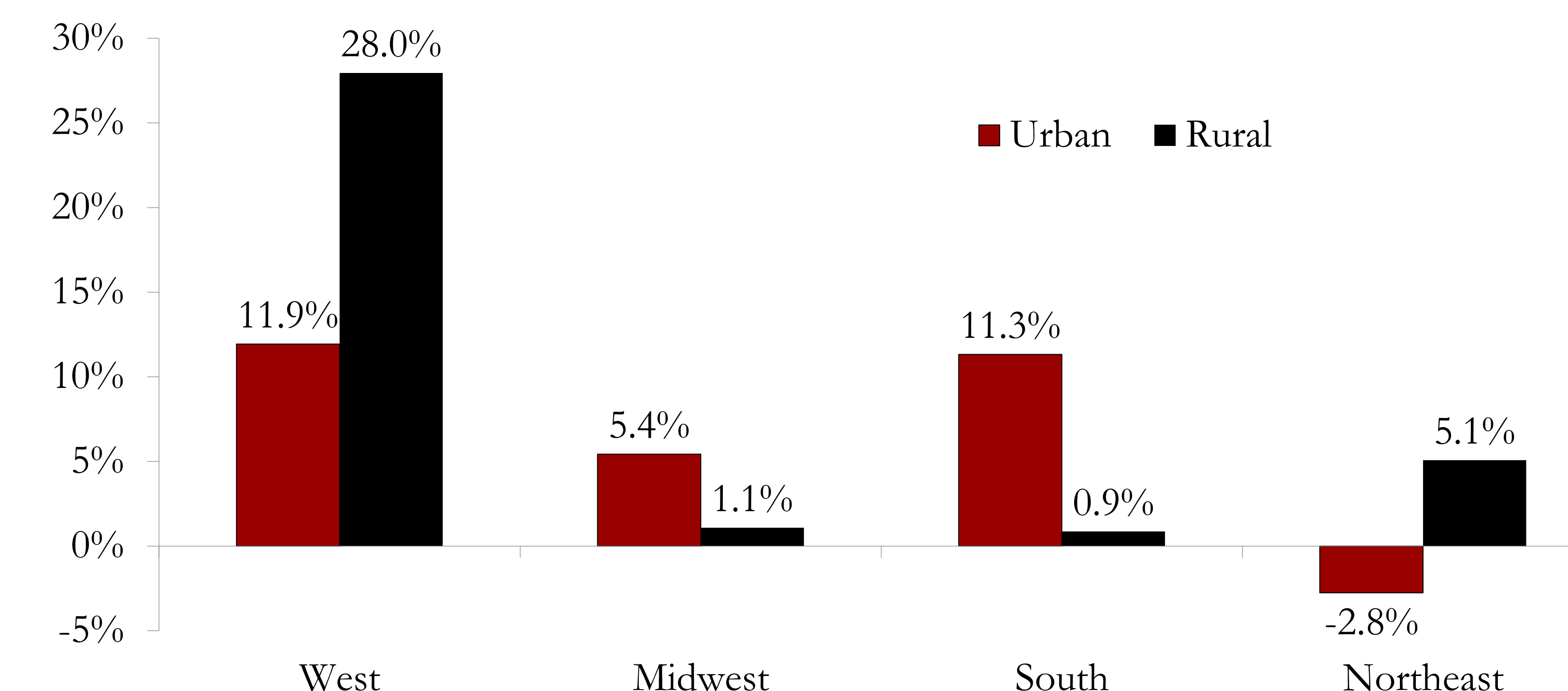
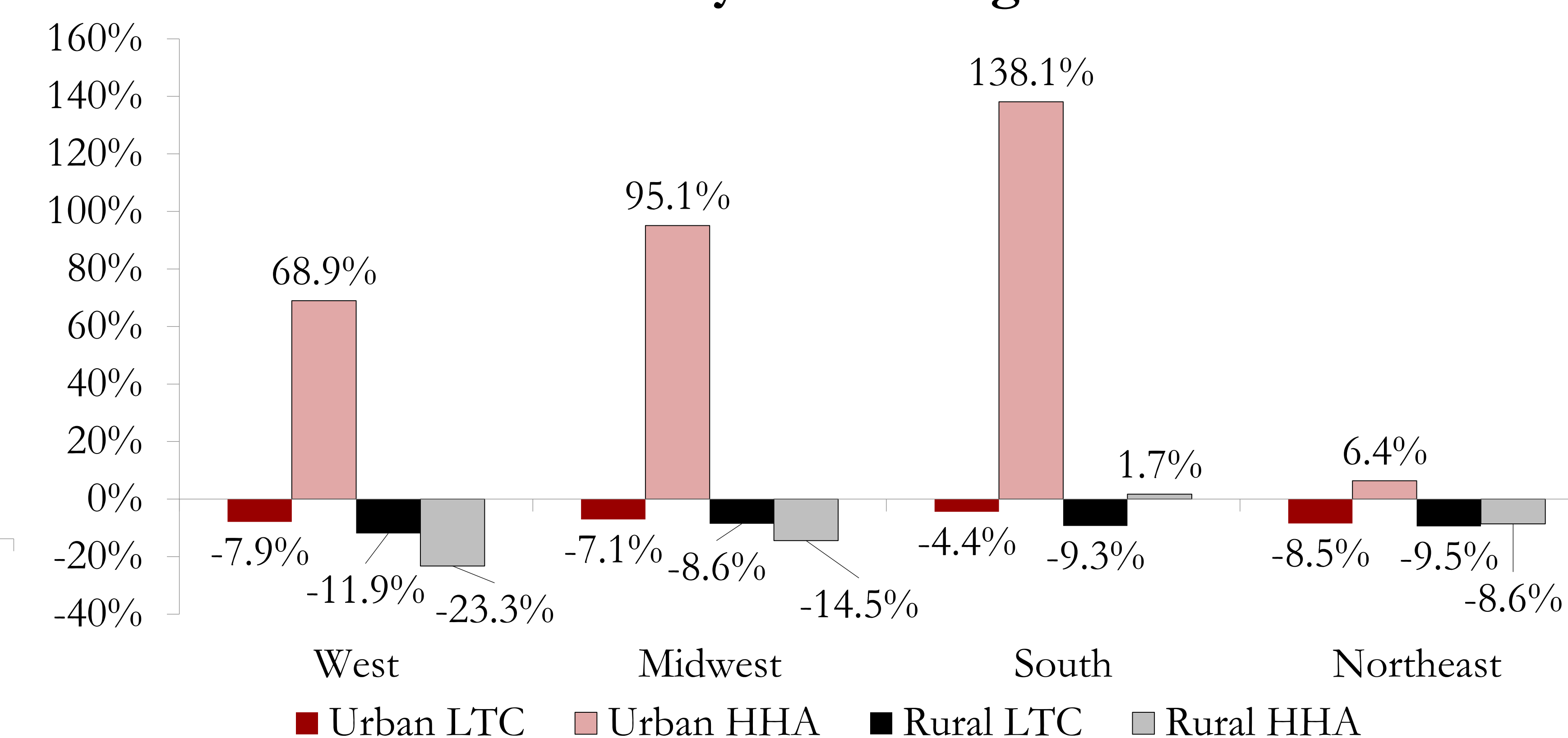


Figure 4: Percent change in number of long-term care facilities and home health agencies from 2000-2010, by Rurality within Region



Conclusions

- Rurality and regional differences in health care resources distributions were apparent. There are marked shortages in specific geographic areas, particularly in rural America.
- Rural areas disproportionately lack hospitals, HHAs, PCPs, and OB/GYN physicians.