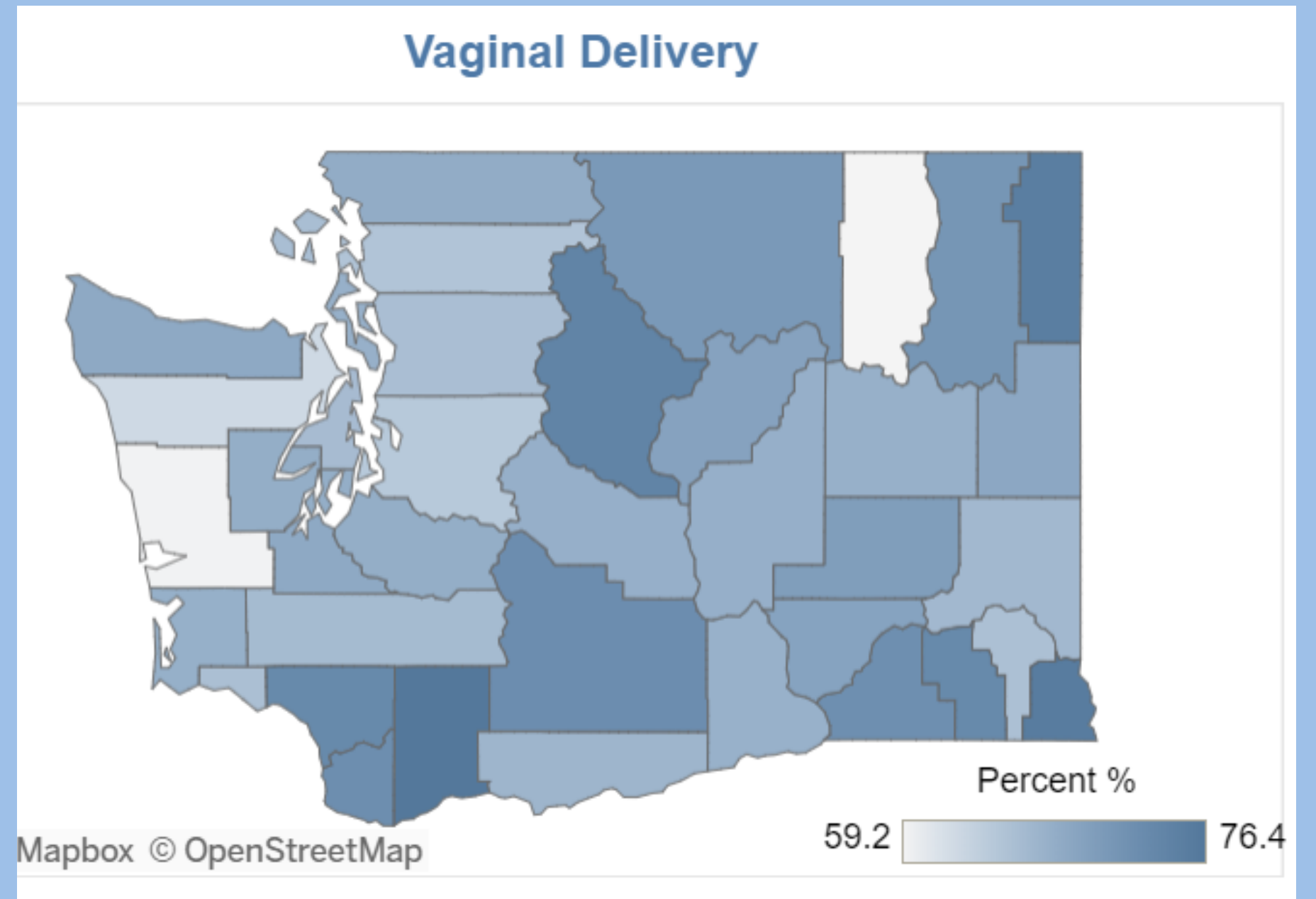


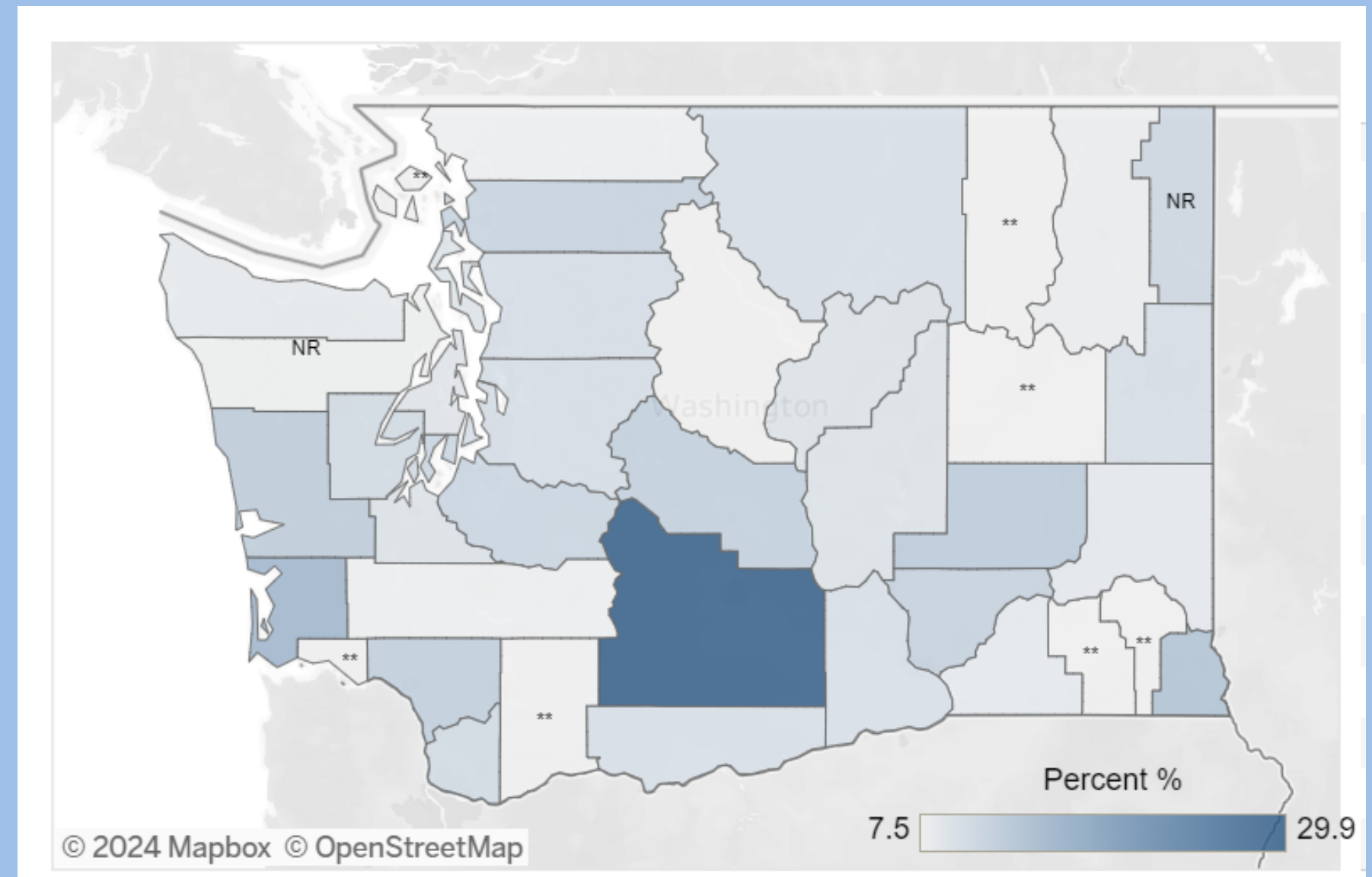
THE IMPORTANCE
OF RURAL
MATERNAL CARE

The amount of vaginal births per county in the state dramatically increases with the rurality of an area.

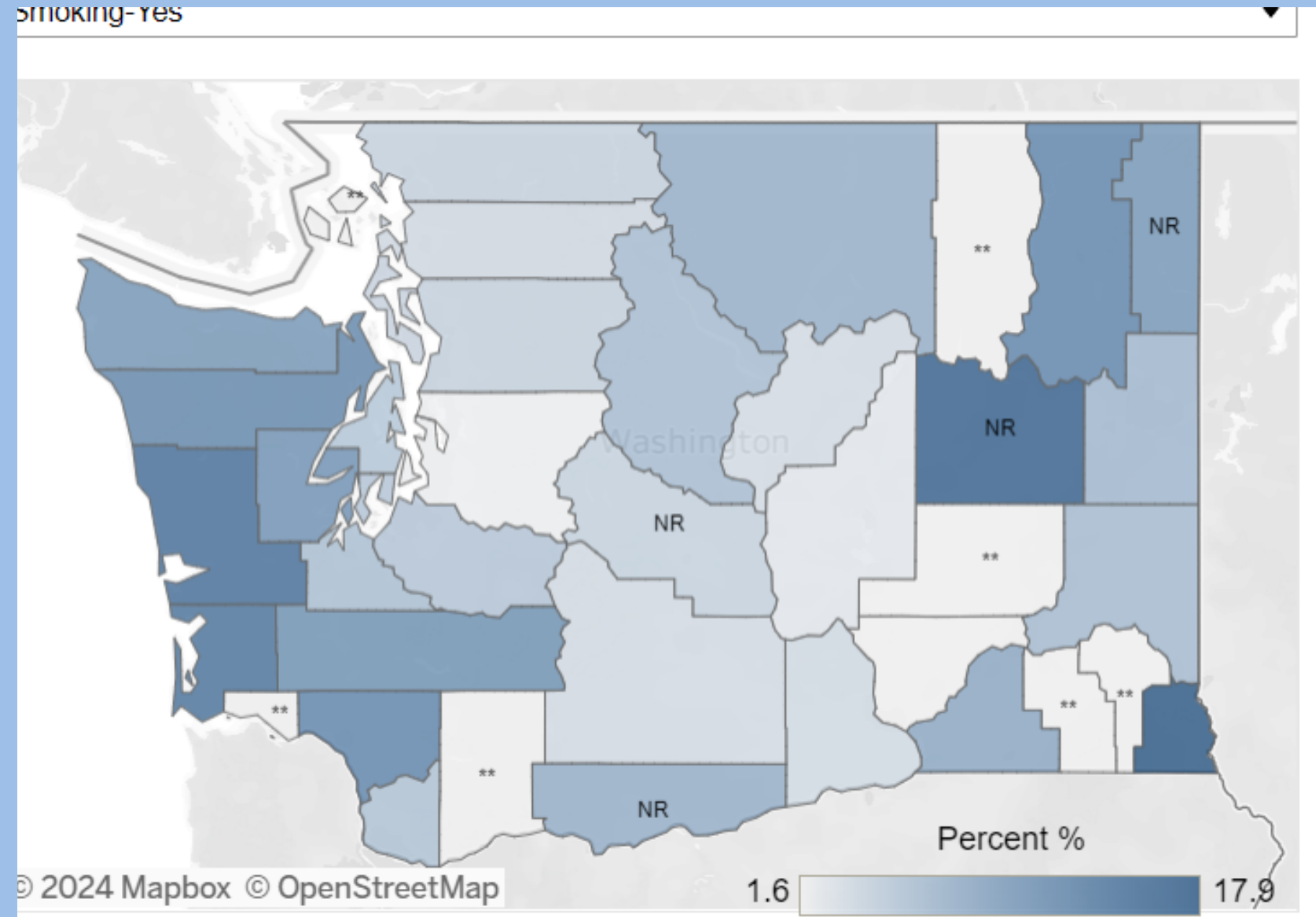
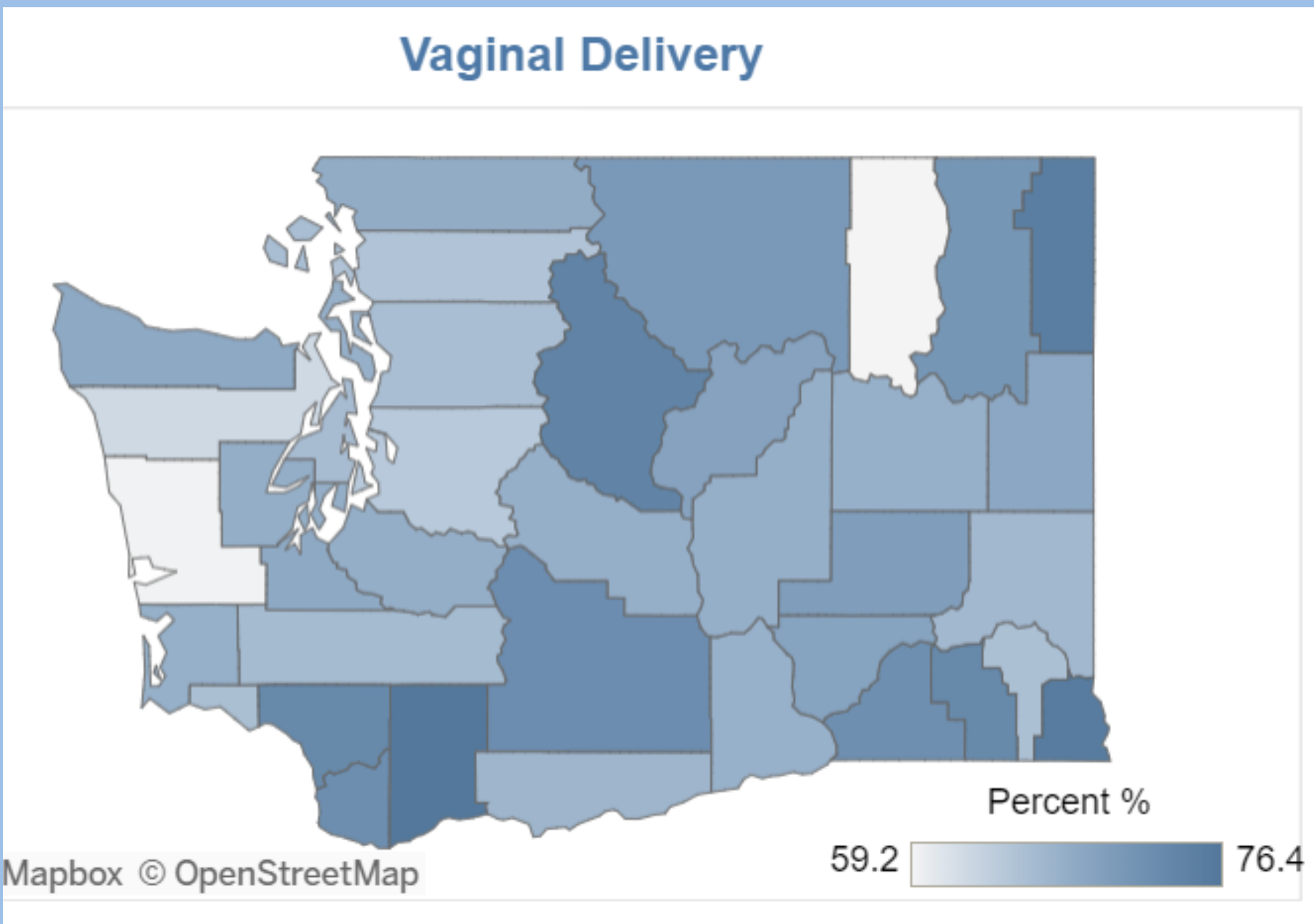


Skamania and Chelan, two of the counties with most vaginal births, are also the most rural. This is one of the many proofs—the lack of cesarean sections is a clear problem. Cesarean sections are an important aspect of maternal and newborn health—many times, cesarean sections must be performed for the safety of the mother. If this procedure is not available readily in all locations, it would be a massive issue, especially for expectant mothers and women living there. This also ties in with the number of hospitals and other medical procedures in the area, especially medical procedures that could possibly be seen as heretic from a church— and many clinics and hospitals in rural Washington happen to be run by religious organizations.

This pattern continues with other signs of maternal health in rural areas.



The chart above, for example, shows the percentage of premature babies. yakima, a historically rural county, has the highest percentage by a dramatic margin. Yakima also has one of the lowest percentages of bachelor's-educated women in the state- perhaps education on maternal health would also be beneficial in rural areas.



Similarly, there's also a strong correlation between c-sections/premature or at risk births, and maternal smoking, as can be seen from the county of pacific. Education regarding maternal health, as well as extra education regarding risks in these rural areas would be immensely beneficial.

The access to maternal education and healthcare, as well as the broadened scope of maternal and newborn procedures in rural washington would exponentially reduce deaths of both mothers and children.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

FIRSTLY, AN EDUCATION AND
INFORMATION INITIATIVE.

Much like tourism initiatives rely on advertisements and Public Service Announcements, a maternal health campaign could do similarly.

AD'S IN YOUTUBE ADVERTISEMENTS, AROUND
GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN THE AREA, COULD ALL
BE TRACED TO SPECIFIC COUNTIES WITH LARGER
PROBLEMS WITH MATERNAL AND NEWBORN
HEALTH. PSA'S COULD BE SCRIPTED AND WRITTEN,
AND TO INSTILL VALUES EARLY,
REPRESENTATIVES COULD COME TO HIGH
SCHOOLS TO TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF
MATERNAL HEALTH.

AS FOR THE
INCREASE OF
MATERNAL
HEALTHCARE
PROCEDURES...

LEGISLATION COULD
SOLVE IT

THIS WOULD FORCE
RELIGIOUSLY-RUN
MEDICAL CARE
CENTERS TO STILL
CARRY LIFESAVING
MEDICAL
PROCEDURES AS
PART OF THEIR
REPERTOIRE.

LEGISLATION COULD BE
PASSED THAT DECREED
ALL “MATERNAL HEALTH
INSTITUTIONS”, CLINICS,
OR HOSPITALS TO HAVE
TO HAVE ADEQUATE
MATERIALS FOR
ABORTIONS AND C-
SECTIONS.

IN CONCLUSION

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON SHOULD INVEST IN A CAMPAIGN FOR RURAL MATERNAL HEALTH THROUGH ADVERTISEMENT, EDUCATION, AND LEGAL MANDATES TO FORCE RURAL BIRTH CENTERS TO HAVE MANY VITAL PROCEDURES AVAILABLE.