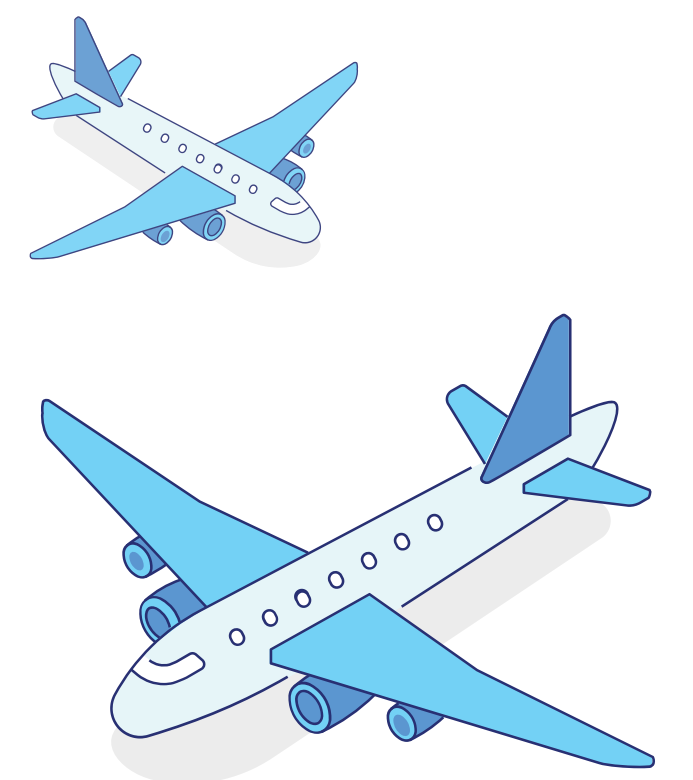


Secondhand Smoke Exposure: An Important Cause of Death In South Carolina

- Secondhand smoke (SHS) contains **hundreds of toxic chemicals**, including carcinogens. Exposure to SHS causes **coronary heart disease, lung cancer, and stroke**.
- In South Carolina, **16.5%** of nonsmoking adults were exposed to SHS at **home** or in their **workplace**.
- SHS exposure among nonsmokers was higher in **males (19.7%)** than **females (13.7%)**.
- Black females have **1.4-fold** higher SHS exposures than White women, and Black males have **1.2-fold** higher SHS exposure than White men.
- SHS exposure in homes or workplaces substantially decreases with age, with nonsmokers aged ≤19 years showing almost **7 times higher** exposure than those aged ≥75 years.

STATE MORTALITY ESTIMATES

- Each year, **371** South Carolinians die from SHS exposure (a crude annual death rate of **7.5 per 100,000 population**)
- The number of deaths is comparable to losing **2 Boeing 737-800 flights** of passengers each year.



REGION & COUNTY MORTALITY ESTIMATES

Figure 1. Death Rate Per Year Among Nonsmokers Due to SHS Exposure by Public Health Region

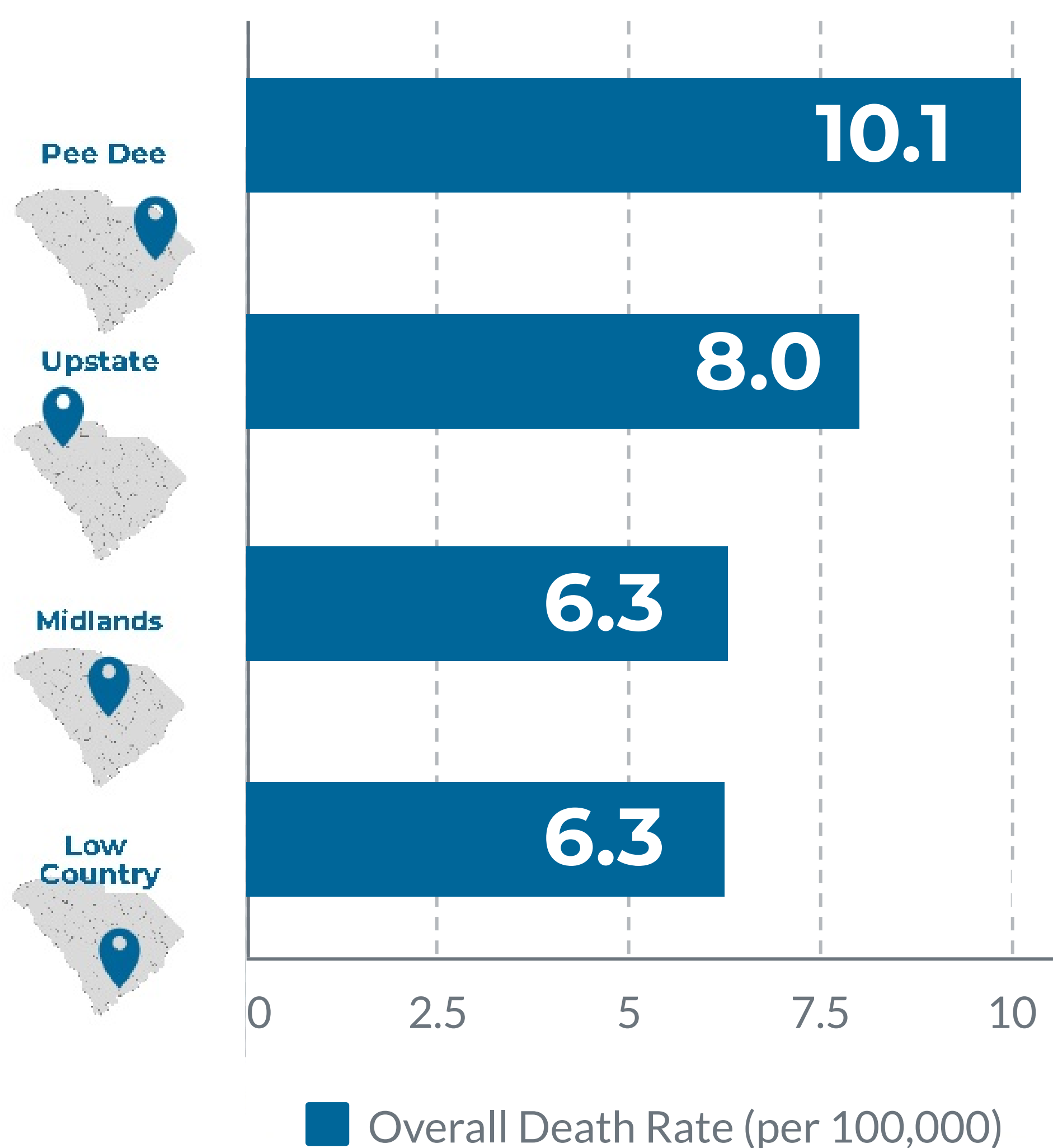
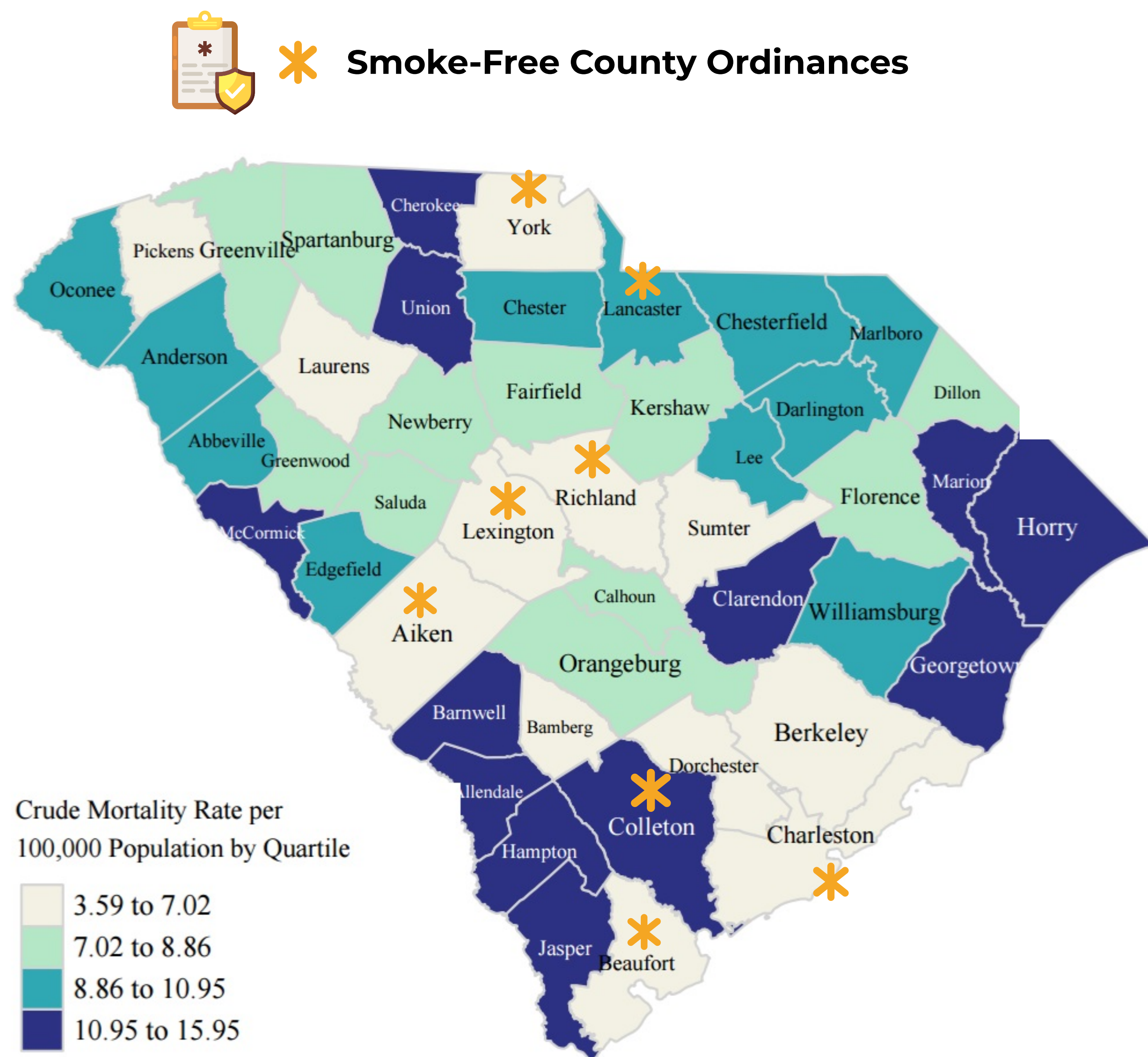


Figure 2. Death Rate Per Year Among Nonsmokers Due to SHS Exposure by County



Conclusion

- SHS causes **371** deaths per year in South Carolina, making it an important public health problem impacting all South Carolinians regardless of gender, race/ethnicity, or location.
- Data from these smoke-free counties show a link between lower death rates and smoke-free ordinances.