



Variability in Access to Hospital Palliative Care in the United States

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Specific Aims

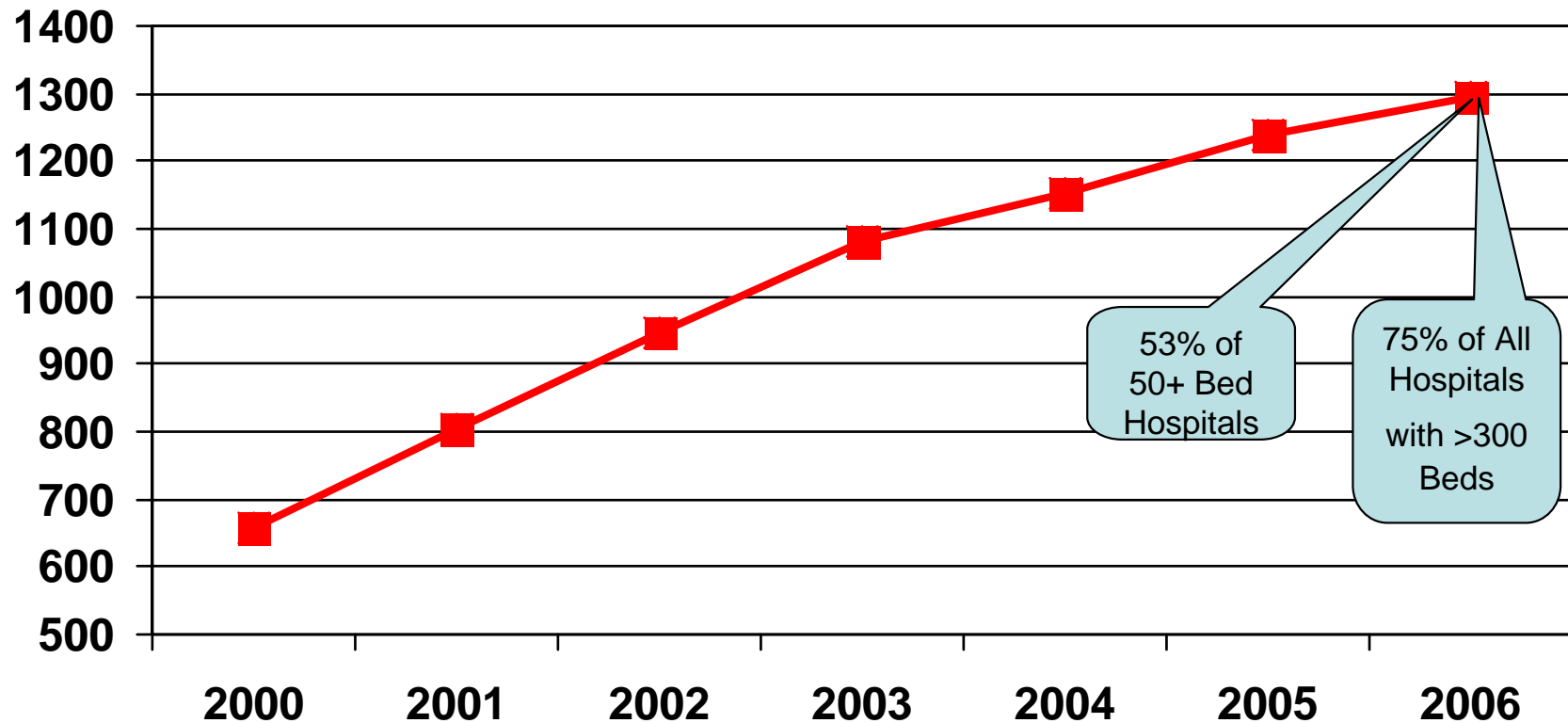
- Examine prevalence of hospital palliative programs at the state and national level
- Examine the extent to which medical students have access to palliative care programs at their main teaching hospital
- Identify factors associated with the presence of hospital palliative care programs

Methods

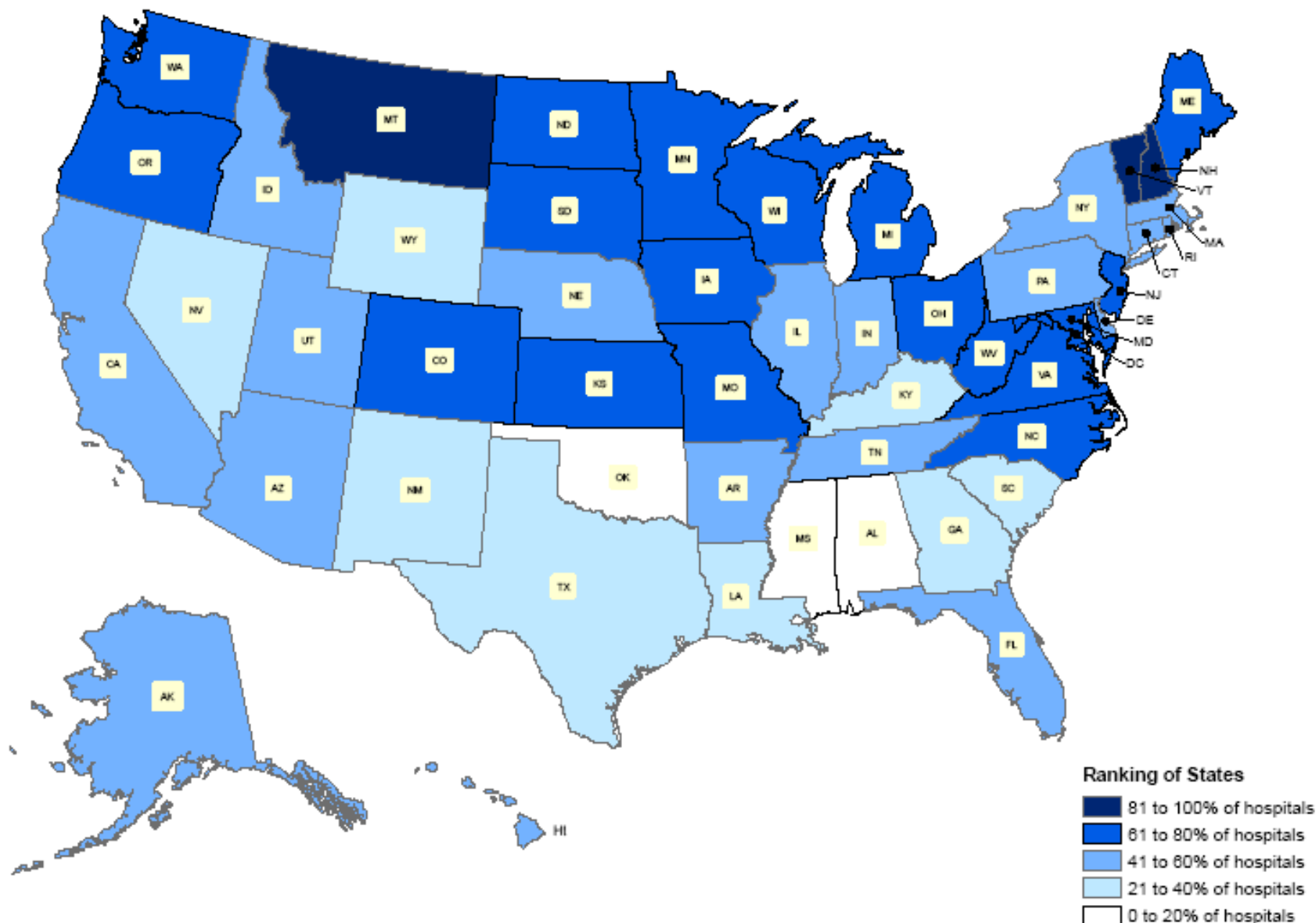
- Data sources:
 - Primary data on palliative care programs: 2008 American Hospital Association (AHA) annual survey
 - Reflects 2006 data
 - Confirmatory data on palliative care programs: 2007 mailed survey through the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC)
 - Medical school hospitals: 2007 AAMC database supplemented by web-site review and telephone survey of non-respondents
 - Census data: 2000 U.S. census
- Inclusion/Exclusion criteria
 - Included hospitals of 50 beds or larger
 - Included hospitals with adult general medical–surgical hospitals, specialized cancer hospitals, and specialized cardiac hospitals.
 - Excluded military/VA hospitals
- Multivariable regression modeling



Growth of Hospital Palliative Care Program



Prevalence of Hospital Palliative Care Programs by State



Medical Schools

- 97/116 medical schools (83.4%) are affiliated with a hospital palliative care program
 - Private Medical Schools: 88.4% (38/43)
 - State Medical Schools: 80.8%(59/73)
- Connecticut, Mississippi, Nebraska and Nevada do not have a publicly funded medical school affiliated with a hospital palliative care program

Summary

- 53% of hospitals over 50 beds now report a palliative care program
 - 75% of hospitals with over 300 beds
- Wide variation in state prevalence rates ranging from 10% (Mississippi) to 100% (Vermont)
- Majority of medical schools (82%) are affiliated with hospitals reporting palliative care programs