

FIGURE 1
**Where 26 Million
 American Veterans
 Live, 2001**

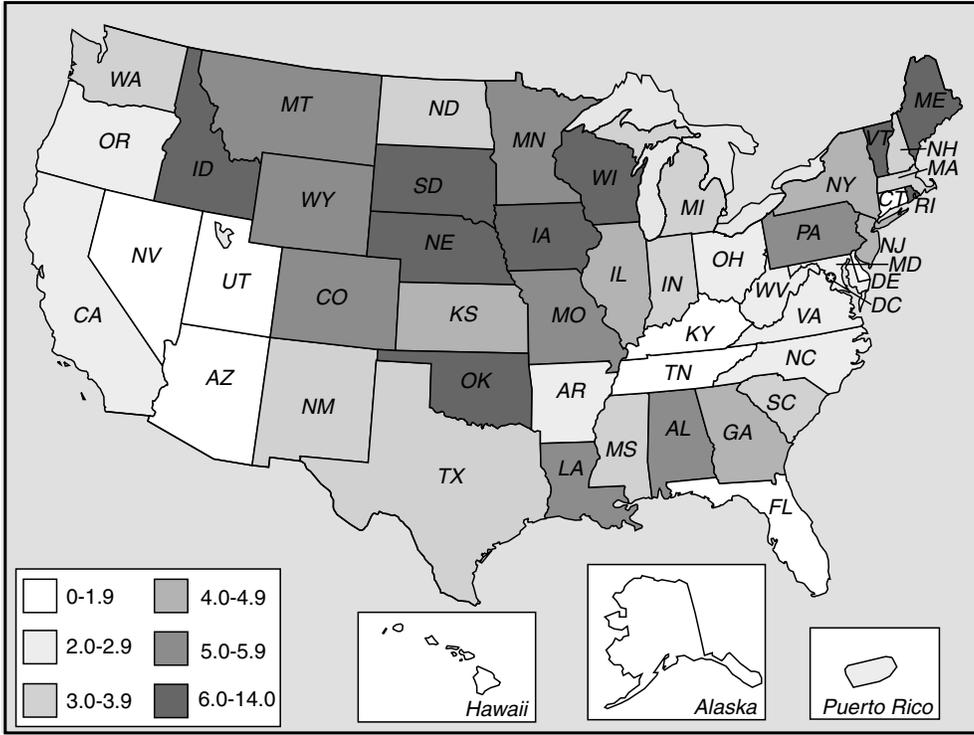


FIGURE 2
**VA or State-Run
 Nursing Home Beds
 per 1,000 Veterans 65
 Years or Older, 2004**

Sources: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; National Association of State Veterans Homes.

Over one-third of all Veterans reside in six states (darkest). The overall distribution of residence, and characteristics of sub-groups (age profiles, health conditions, means, etc.) is the basis for deciding what ratios of infrastructure (hospitals, clinics, etc.) need to be provided, where. But **Figure 2** shows the wide disparity in nursing home beds provided by either the VA, or state-run homes. More need be built, not shut down.