Why Counties Matter

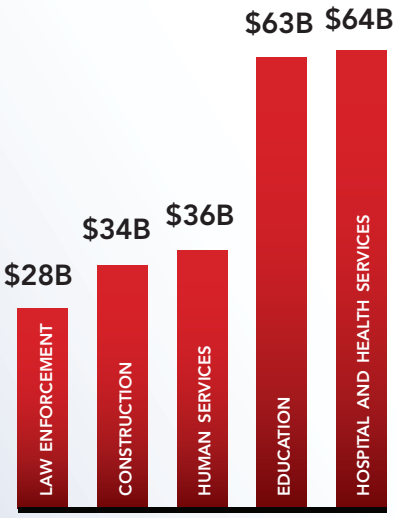
With **America's** system of **FEDERALISM**, counties are a **KEY LEVEL** of government, **DIRECTLY** serving the people.

As governments created by states, counties provide **ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES** including many mandated by **FEDERAL** and **STATE** laws and regulations.

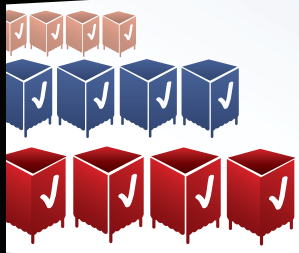
Expenditures

Total expenditures for counties in 2007

$472 BILLION



Elections



Counties fund and oversee more than **112,000** polling places and coordinate **700,000** poll workers **EVERY TWO YEARS**

There are more than **18,000** **ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS**

Services

Counties employ more than **3.2 MILLION** Americans delivering a variety of services

- Healthcare
- Transportation
- Public Safety and Jails
- Courts
- Mental Health Services
- Build Local Economies
- Restaurant Inspections
- Community Colleges
- Recycling
- Solid Waste Management
- 911 Emergency Systems
- Parks and Recreation
- Elections
- Record Keeping

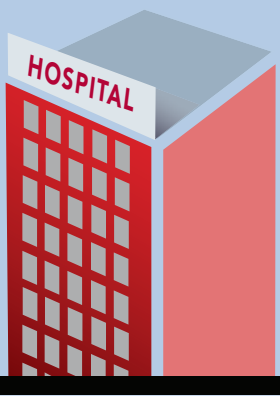
Preventive Health

Counties provide flu shots and other preventive health services through

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Counties own **75%**

of publicly owned **NURSING HOMES**

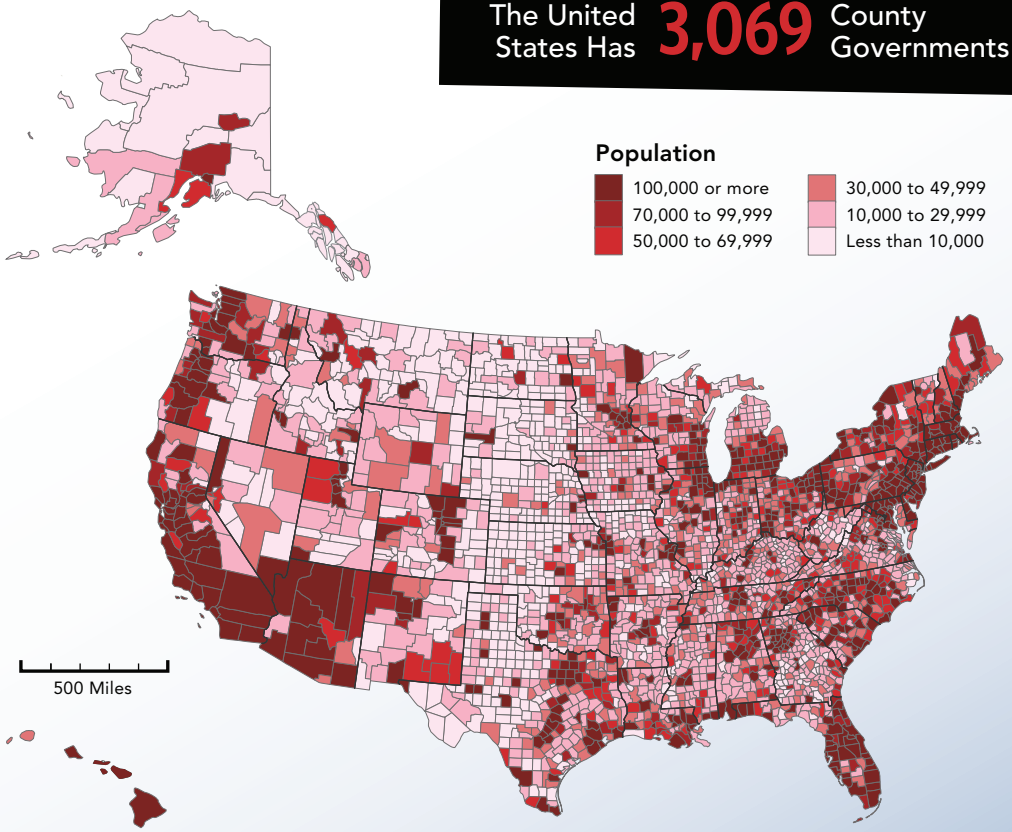


Counties own **964** hospitals and spent **$68.3 BILLION** on healthcare services in 2007

NACo Data, 2012; NACo Analysis of U.S. DOT Data, 2008; U.S. DOT, 2011; NACo Analysis of U.S. FTA Data, 2011; NACo Analysis of U.S. FAA Data, 2010; NACo Analysis of American Hospital Directory Data, 2011; NACo Analysis of Census of Government Expenditure Data, 2007; Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2012; National Association of County and City Health Officials, 2013; U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Vintage 2011 Resident Population Estimates.

NACo National Association of Counties

The United States Has **3,069** County Governments



County Population Range

Infrastructure

Counties invested **$60 BILLION** on infrastructure in 2007 *(highways, roads, bridges, utilities, water, and sewer)*

Counties spent **$34 BILLION** on construction of county facilities

Law Enforcement

3,105 county sheriff and police departments nationwide

11.8M Persons admitted to county jails in 2011

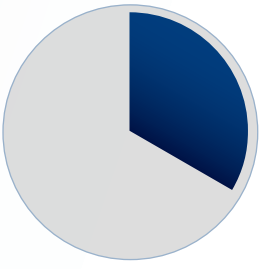
Transportation

Counties own and maintain

44% of America's Roadways,

228,026 of America's Bridges,

and almost **1/3** of America's Transit Systems and Airports



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