

# Where should the cancer control interventions target: A geospatial hotspot analysis for major cancer mortality 2018-2022 in the U.S.

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# Acknowledgement



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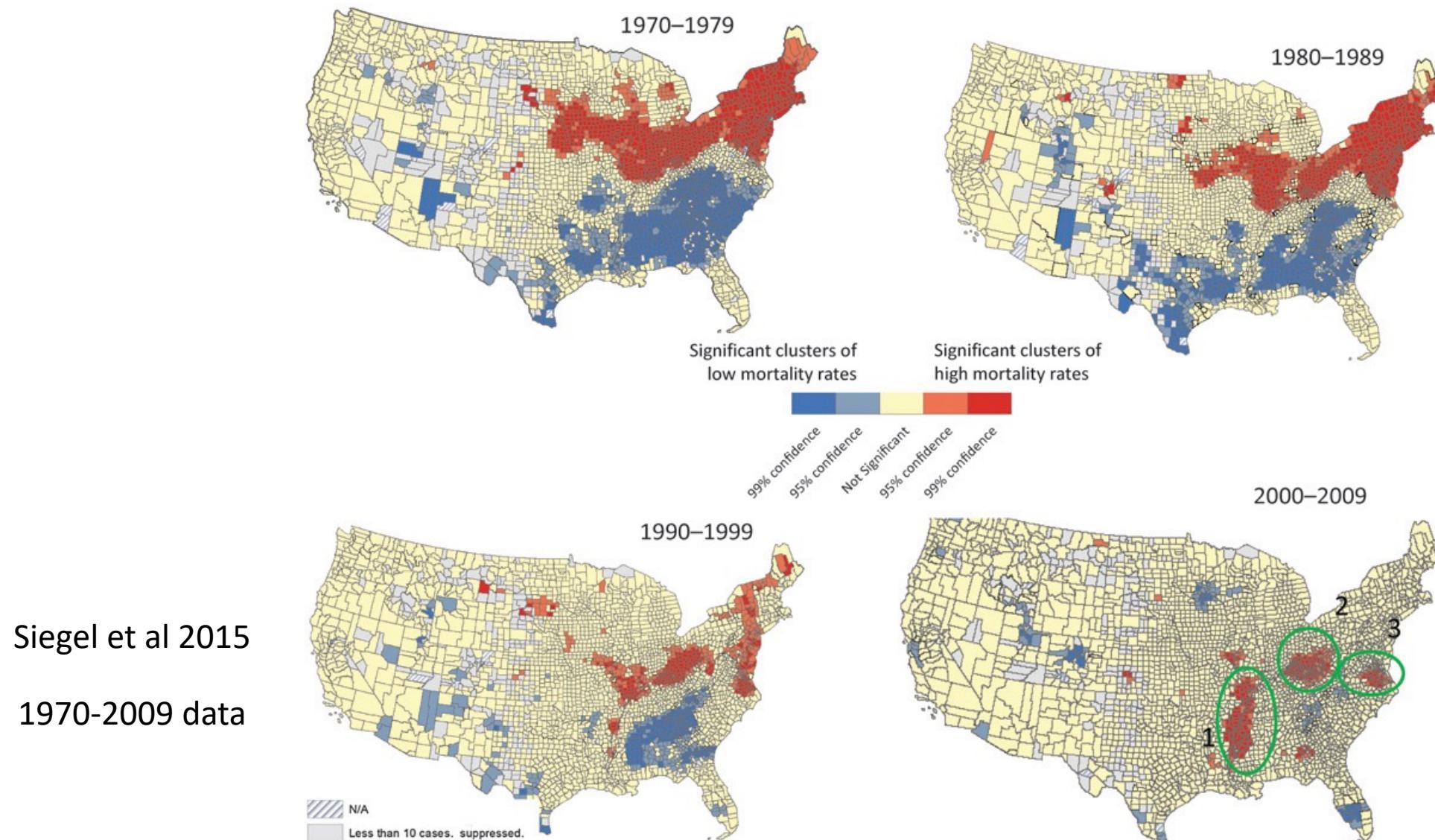


# Mortality by cancer type

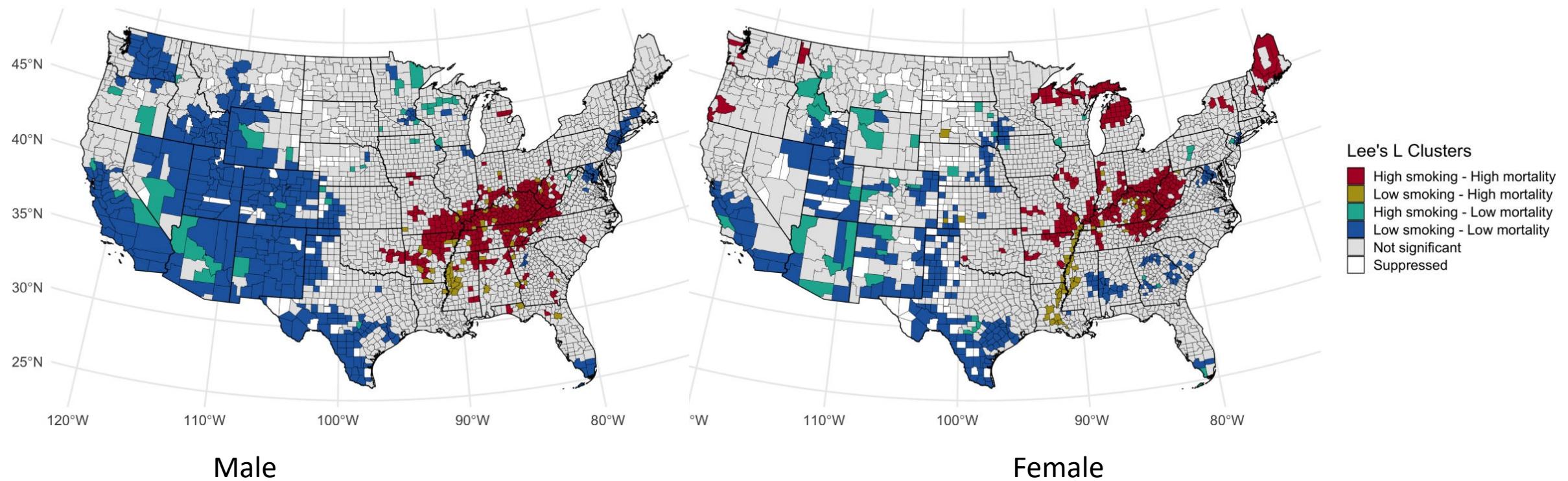
## Estimated Deaths

	Males	Females
Lung & bronchus	83,550 26%	Lung & bronchus 70,500 25%
Prostate	29,430 9%	Breast 40,920 14%
Colon & rectum	27,390 8%	Colon & rectum 23,240 8%
Pancreas	23,020 7%	Pancreas 21,310 7%
Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	20,540 6%	Ovary 14,070 5%
Leukemia	14,270 4%	Uterine corpus 11,350 4%
Esophagus	12,850 4%	Leukemia 10,100 4%
Urinary bladder	12,520 4%	Liver & intrahepatic bile duct 9,660 3%
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	11,510 4%	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma 8,400 3%
Kidney & renal pelvis	10,010 3%	Brain & other nervous system 7,340 3%
All Sites	323,630 100%	All Sites 286,010 100%

# Colorectal cancer mortality hotspots



# Lung cancer mortality hotspots



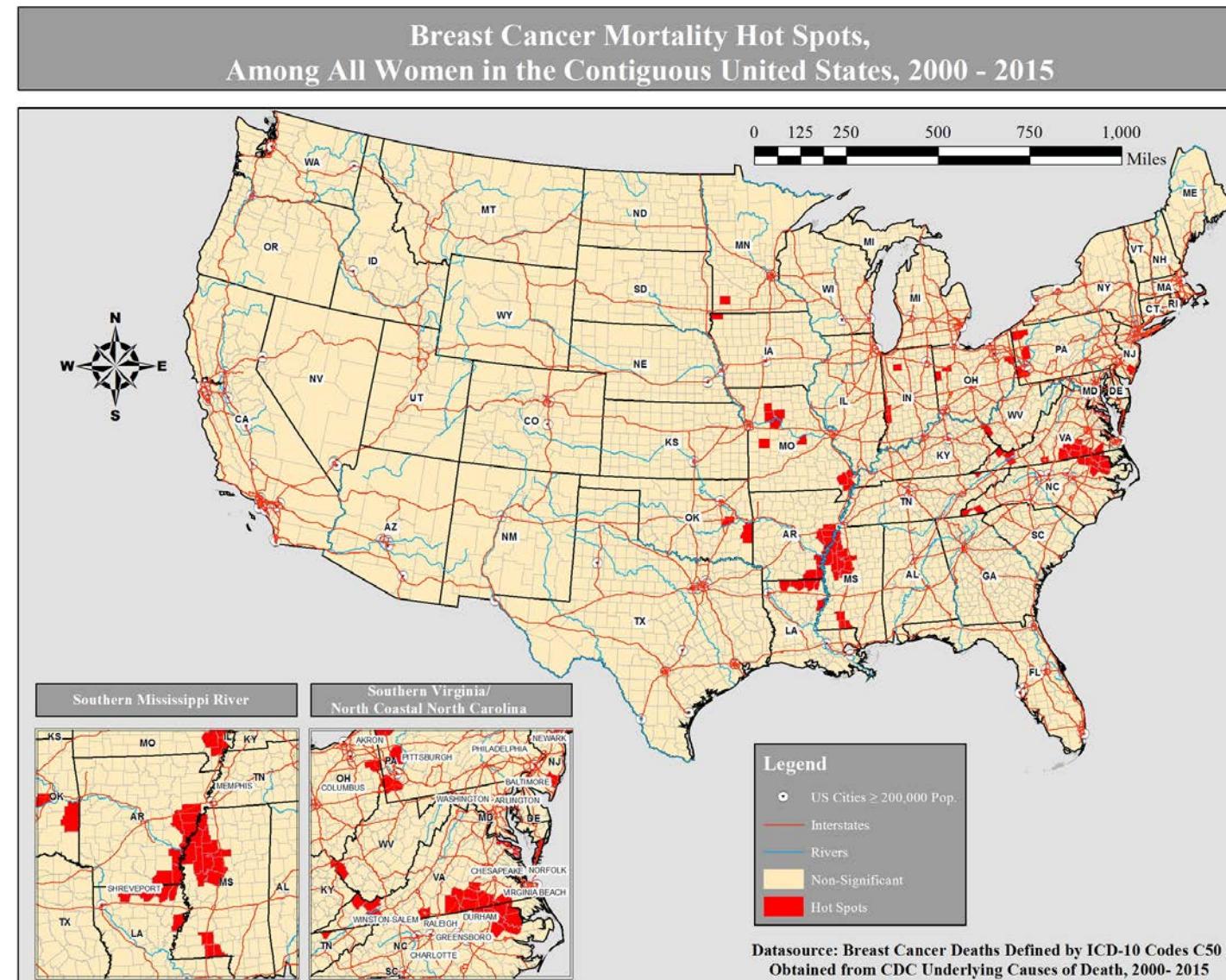
Shreves, et al. 2023

2005–2018 data

# Breast cancer mortality hotspots

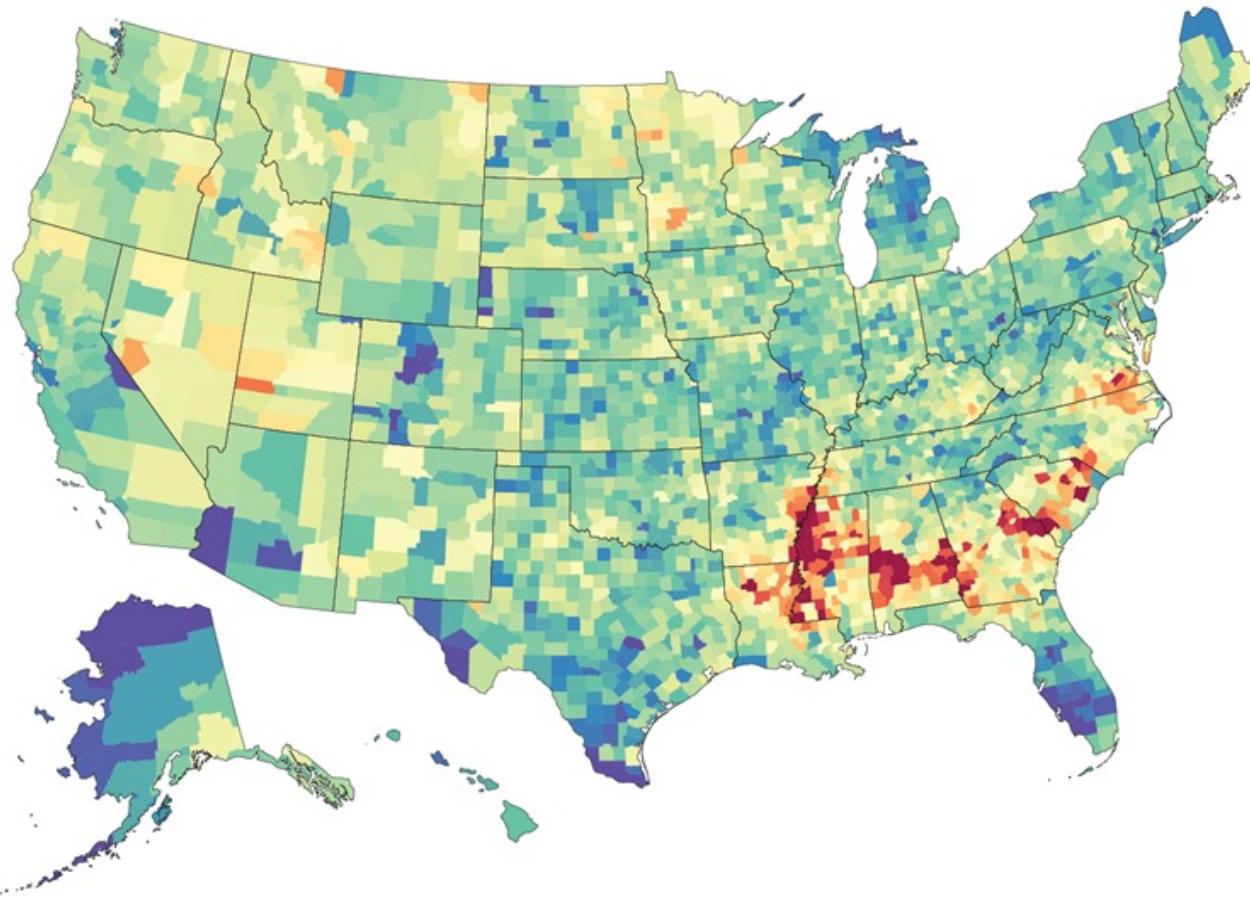
Moore, et al. 2018

2000-2015 data



# Prostate cancer mortality hotspots

A Age-standardized mortality rate from prostate cancer (males only), 2014



Mokdad, et al. 2017

1980-2014 data

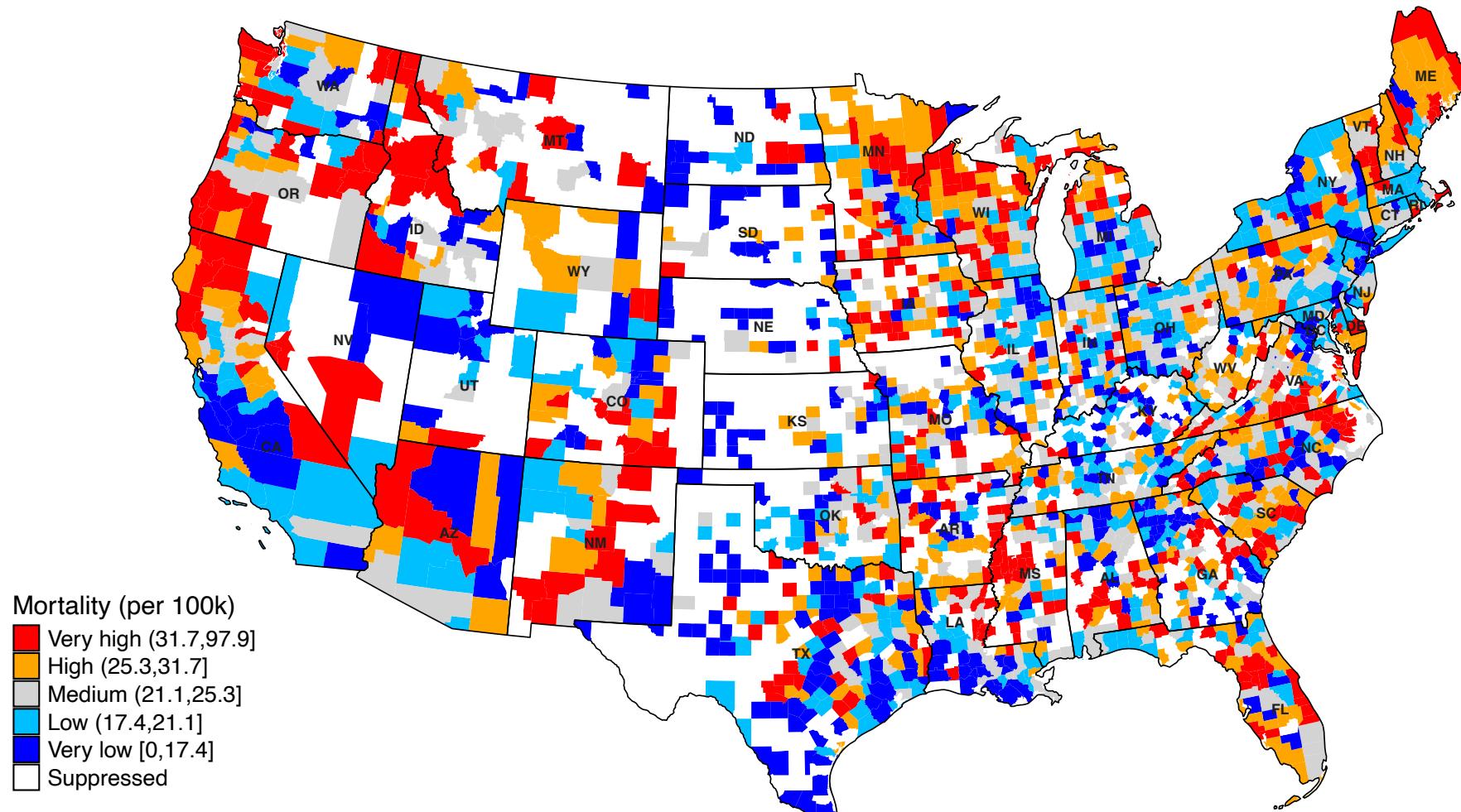


# Cancer mortality, 2018-2022

- The CDC Wide-ranging ONline Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER) Underlying Cause of Death data.
- US mainland county-level (n=3108), 2018-2022 data.
- Cancer by ICD-10 113 Cause List:
  - Malignant neoplasms of colon, rectum and anus (C18-C21);
  - Malignant neoplasms of trachea, bronchus and lung (C33-C34);
  - Malignant neoplasm of breast (C50); and
  - Malignant neoplasm of prostate (C61).

# Data suppression

Direct visualization of prostate cancer mortality (US mainland 2018–2022)



# Data suppression

- Death counts (1-9) are suppressed for some counties.
- May affect the clustering of neighbor counties.

Cancer Type	Number of counties with suppression (total N=3108)	National average mortality per 100,000
Lung	211 (6.8%)	42.0
Colorectal	536 (17.2%)	16.4
Breast (female)	849 (26.2%)	25.9
Prostate (male)	974 (31.3%)	20.2

# Imputation

- Use cancer-related predictors (n=14):
  - median age, male/female ratio, poverty % in 2018, education, unemployment rate, uninsured %, PCP rate,
  - smoking %, obese %, physically inactive %, excessive drinking %, mammogram screening %,
  - food environment index, and average daily inhalable particulate matter level (PM 2.5).
- Data from the Census and County Health Ranking, 2018.
- Spatial error regression model.
- Impute the suppressed death counts with fitted value (truncated within 1-9).

# Hotspot analysis

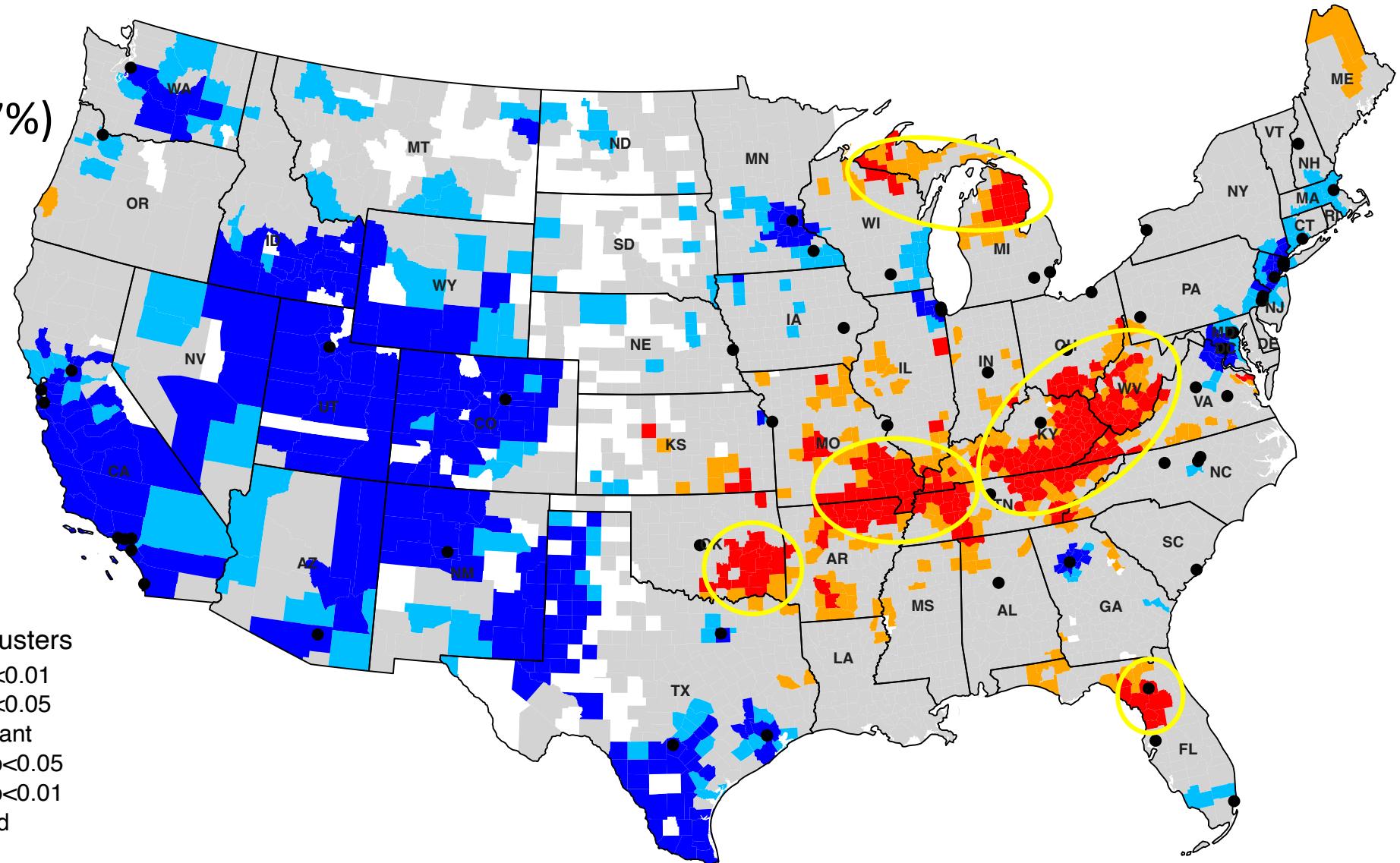
- Mortality hotspots: counties with high mortality rates based on their neighborhood counties.
- The Getis-Ord Gi\* statistics are used to identify hotspots.
- Statistical significance based on permutation testing: a larger global G test statistic (and smaller p-value) indicates more spatial clustering.
- The counties with imputed mortality rates were used to evaluate their neighboring counties' spatial clustering but their own clustering was not calculated.

# Lung cancer mortality, 2018-2022

Hotspot n=456 (14.7%)

Central Appalachia,  
MO-KY-AR-TN joint,  
North Michigan,  
**East Oklahoma and  
North Florida**

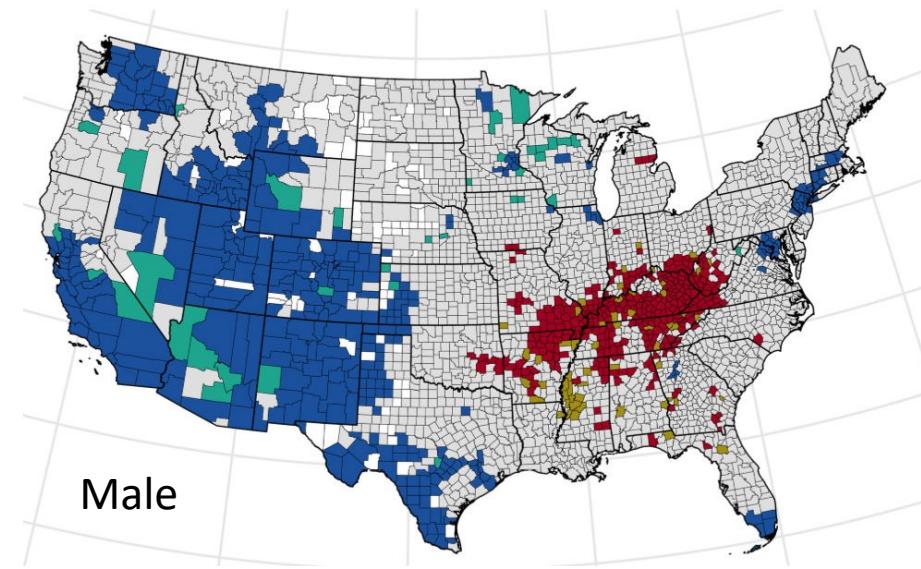
- Significant clusters
- Hot spot  $p < 0.01$
  - Hot spot  $p < 0.05$
  - Not significant
  - Cold spot  $p < 0.05$
  - Cold spot  $p < 0.01$
  - Suppressed



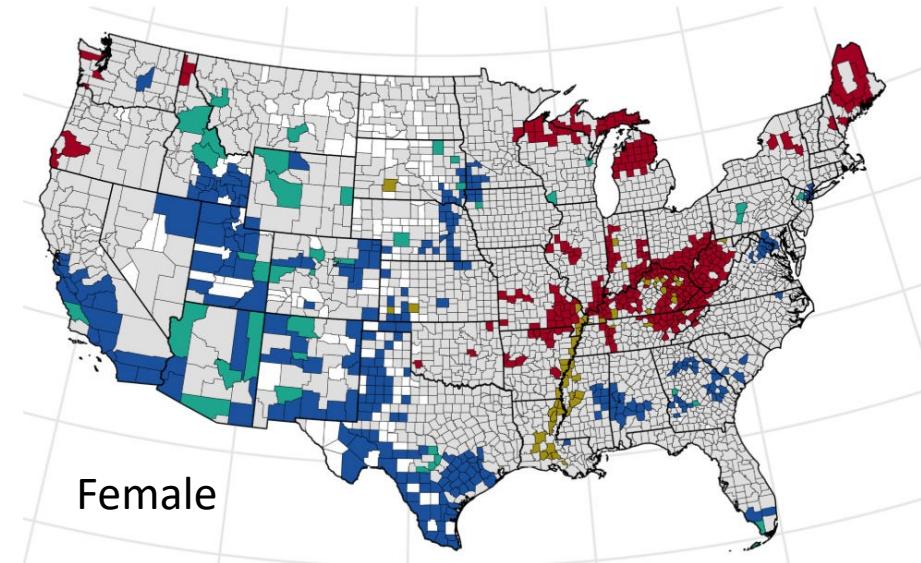
# Lung cancer mortality, 2018-2022

- Compare to previous hotspots:
  - Central Appalachia, MO-KY-AR-TN joint and north Michigan remain.
  - East Oklahoma and north Florida are the new hotspots.

Lung hotspots, 2005–2018  
Shreves, et al. 2023



Male



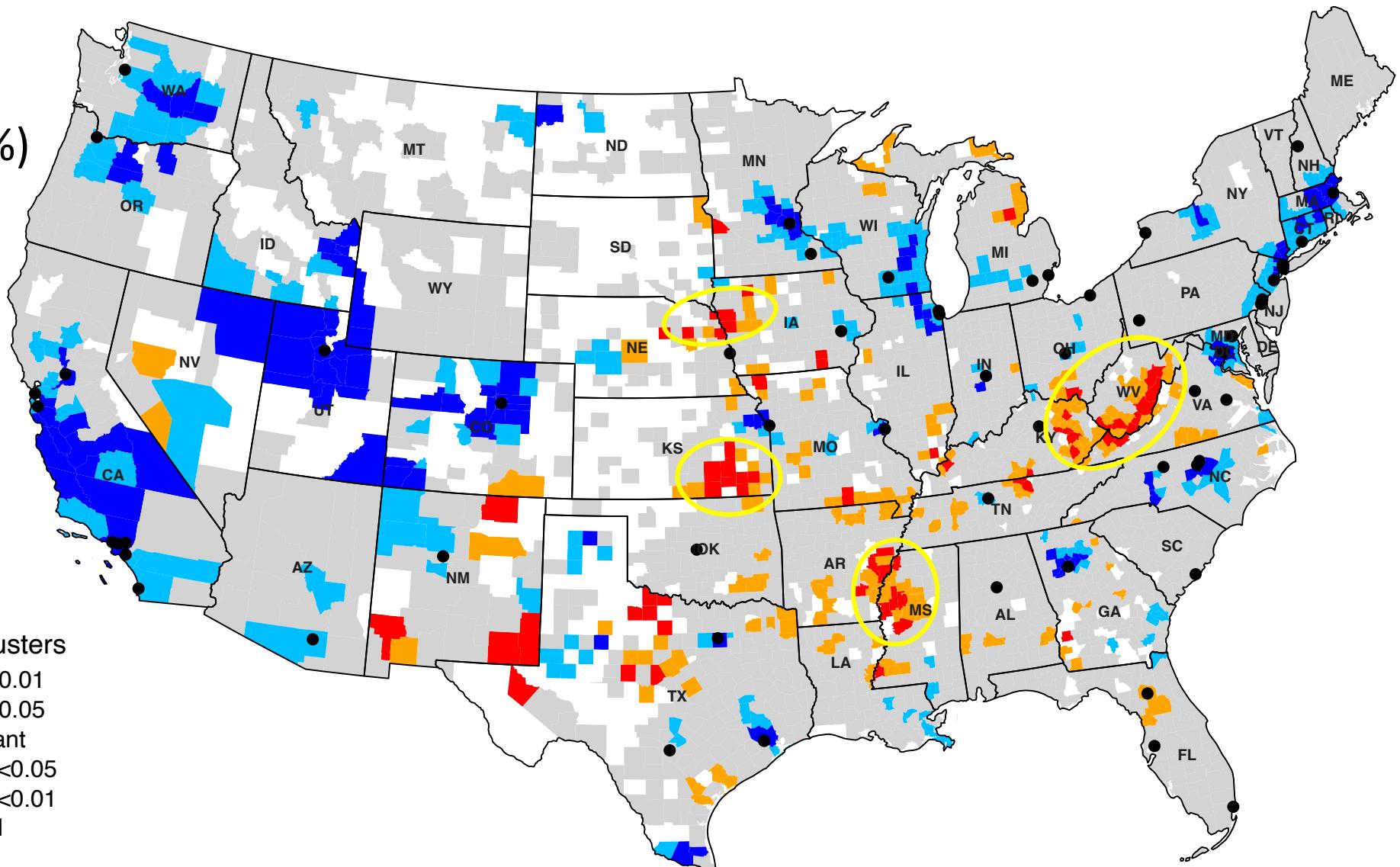
Female

# Colorectal cancer mortality, 2018-2022

Hotspot n=244 (7.9%)

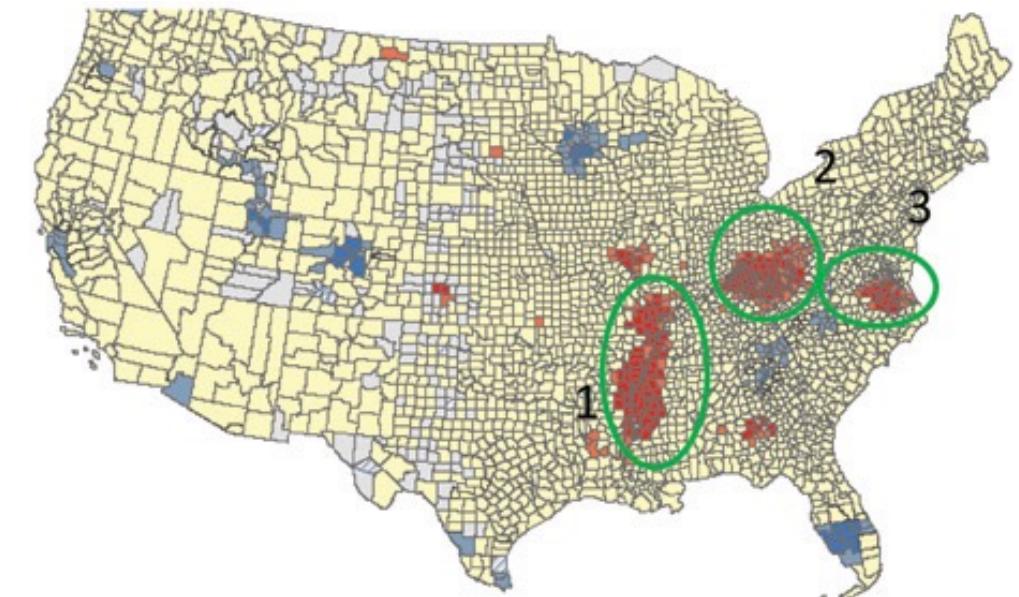
Central Appalachia  
(KY, WV),  
LMD (MS, AR), and  
**Midwest (KS, IA)**

- Significant clusters
- Hot spot  $p < 0.01$
  - Hot spot  $p < 0.05$
  - Not significant
  - Cold spot  $p < 0.05$
  - Cold spot  $p < 0.01$
  - Suppressed



# Colorectal cancer mortality, 2018-2022

- Compare to previous hotspots:
  - Central Appalachia and Lower Mississippi Delta remain,
  - Eastern North Carolina/Virginia hotspots shrank, and
  - Small areas in the Midwest (IA, KS) emerged as the new hotspots.



Colorectal hotspots, 2000-2009

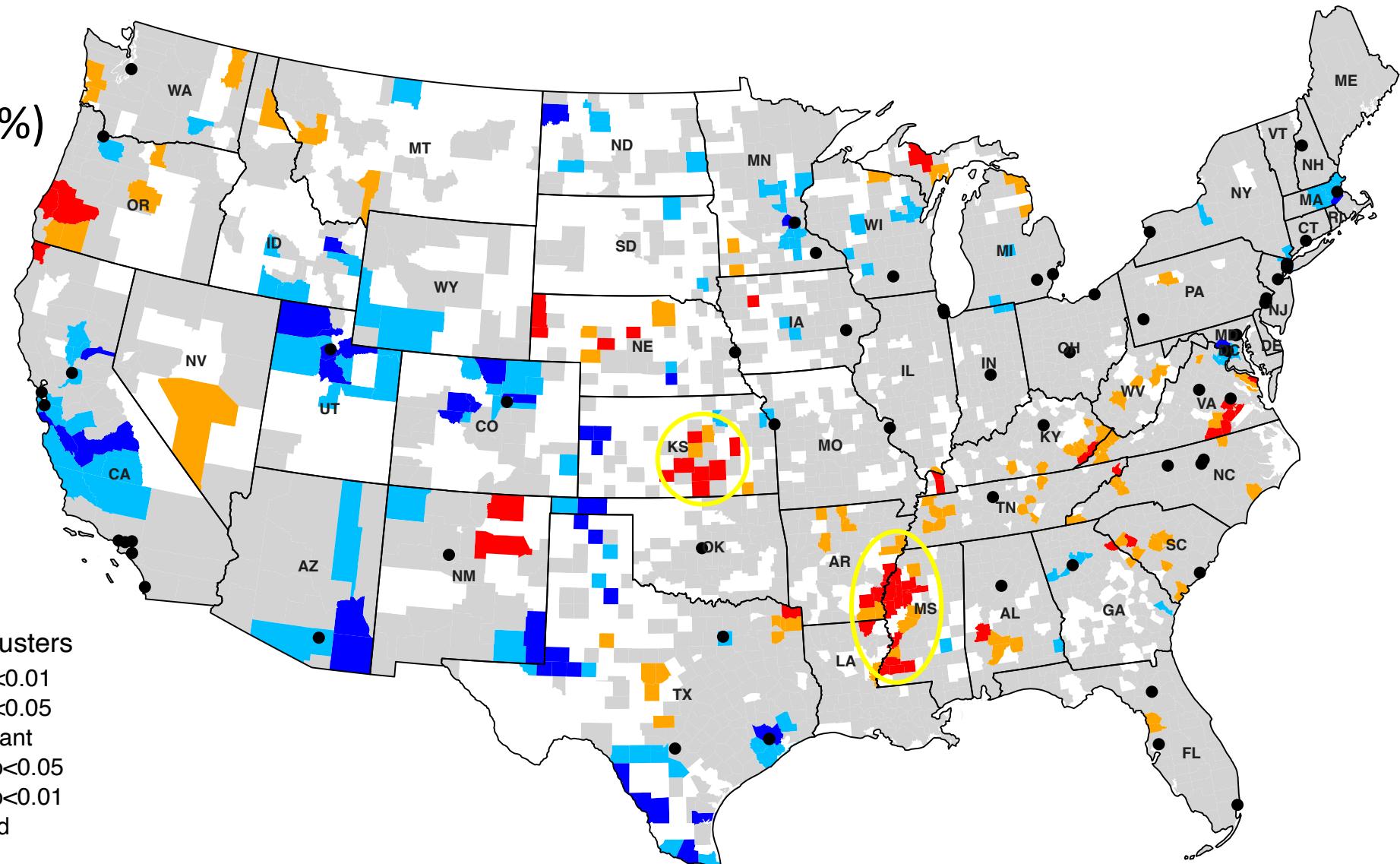
Siegel, et al. 2015

# Breast cancer mortality, 2018-2022

Hotspot n=147 (4.7%)

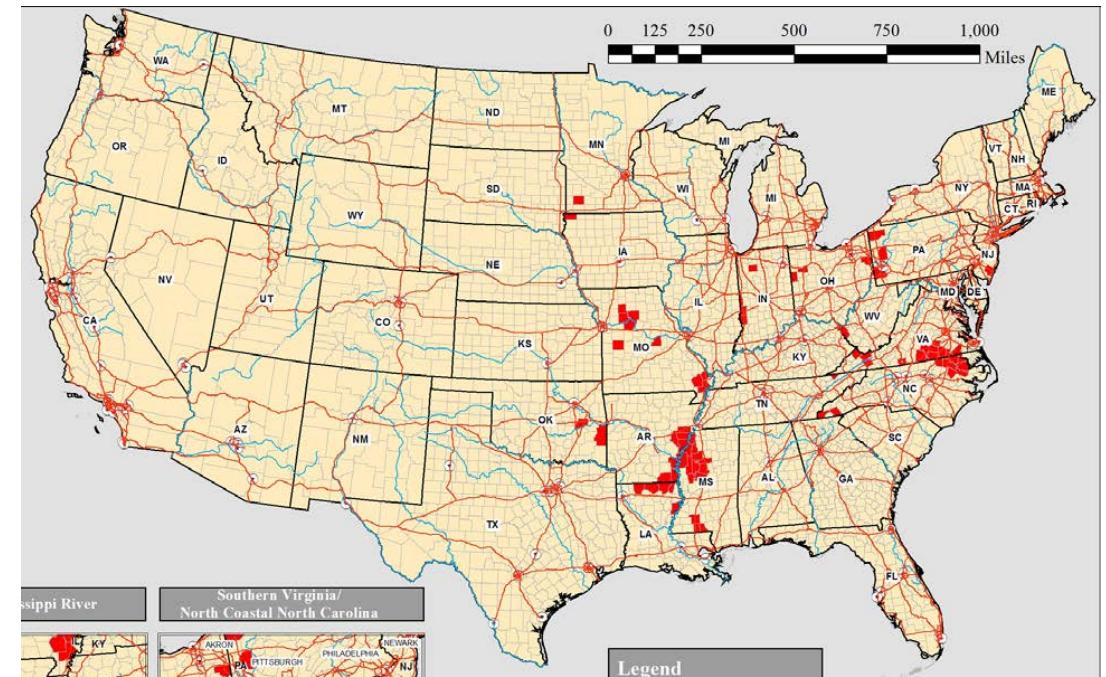
LMD (MS, AR), and  
Southeast Kansas

- Significant clusters
- Hot spot  $p < 0.01$
  - Hot spot  $p < 0.05$
  - Not significant
  - Cold spot  $p < 0.05$
  - Cold spot  $p < 0.01$
  - Suppressed



# Breast cancer mortality, 2018-2022

- Compare to previous hotspots:
  - Lower Mississippi Delta remains,
  - Eastern North Carolina/Virginia hotspots shrank, and
  - southeast Kansas emerged as the new hotspot.



Breast hotspots, 2000-2015

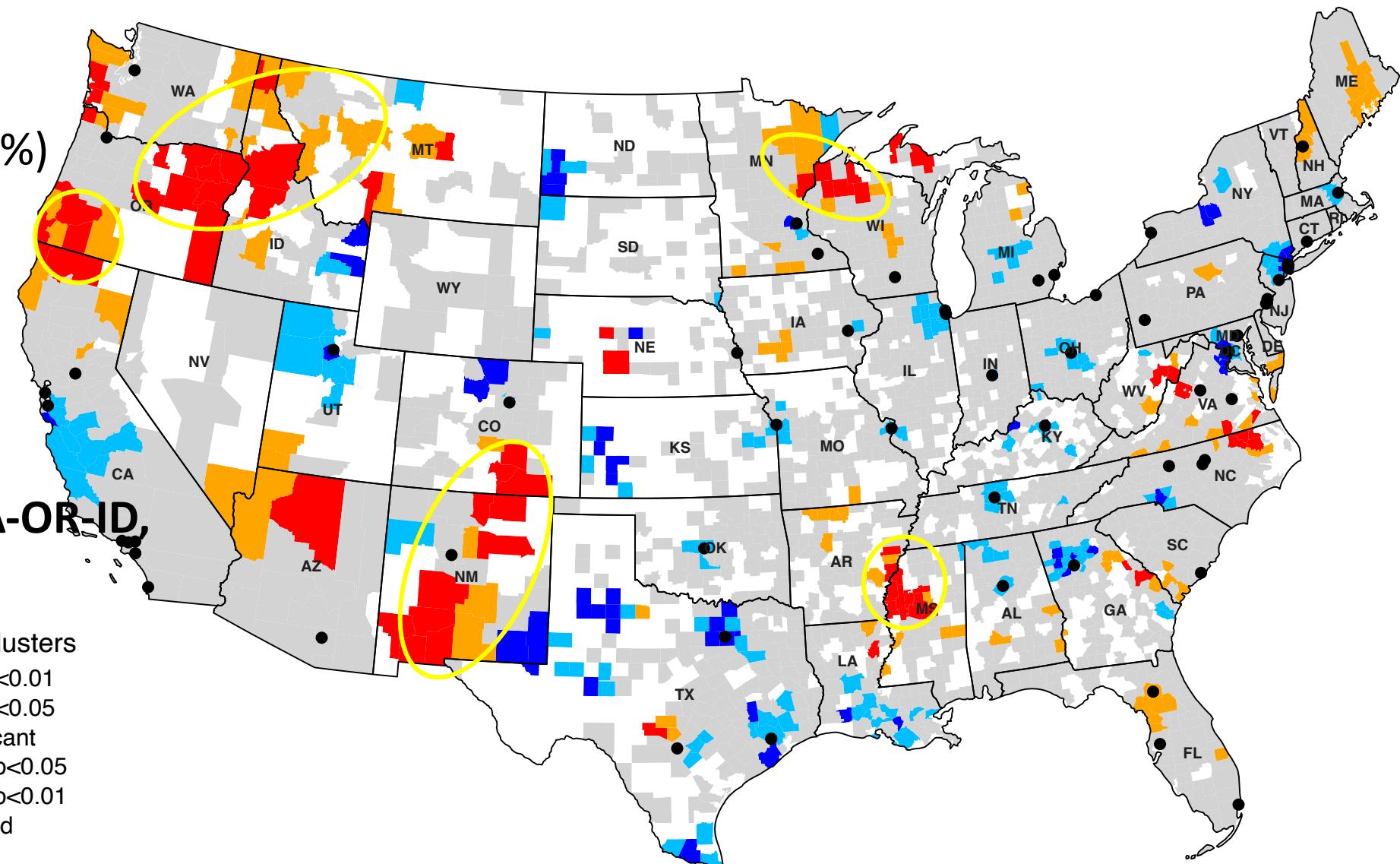
Moore, et al. 2018

# Prostate cancer mortality, 2018-2022

Hotspot n=180 (5.8%)

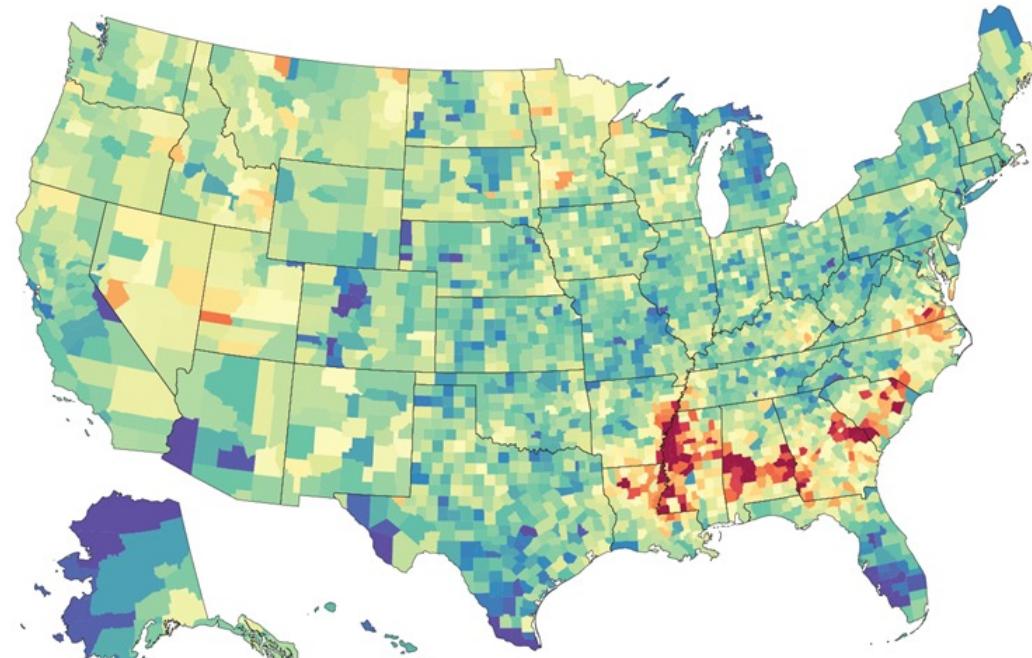
LMD (MS, AR),  
North WI and  
**The West (north CA-OR-ID,  
north AZ, and NM)**

- Significant clusters
- Hot spot  $p < 0.01$
- Hot spot  $p < 0.05$
- Not significant
- Cold spot  $p < 0.05$
- Cold spot  $p < 0.01$
- Suppressed



# Prostate cancer mortality, 2018-2022

- Compare to previous hotspots:
  - Lower Mississippi Delta remains,
  - SouthEast (AL-GA-SC) shrinks, and
  - new hotspots in the West (north CA-OH-ID, north AZ, and NM).



Prostate hotspots, 1980-2014

Mokdad, et al. 2017

# Prostate cancer mortality history

- Studies in recent decades reported prostate cancer mortality shifted from the **North** to the **South** and **West** regions. Our analysis is the first to show that **hotspots have emerged in the West**.
- The underlying factor contributing to this shift was suggested to have changed from **lower UV radiation-related vitamin D synthesis** in earlier studies (1970-1994, Schwartz, et al. 2006) to **lack of access to medical care** (1995-2000, Jemal, et al 2005).
- However, it remains unclear why mortality rates in recent decades are higher in the West region. One possible reason is that men in the West had the **highest rate of active surveillance for low-risk prostate cancer** (Al Awamlih, et al. 2021).

# Why geographical disparity exist?

## Social Determinants of Health



Social Determinants of Health  
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 Healthy People 2030



<https://www.wellahealth.com/blog/10-cancer-risk-factors-africans-shouldnt-ignore/>

# Summary

- Updated hotspot analysis for major cancer mortality using the most recent data.
- Developed a novel method to impute the suppressed death counts.
- New hotspots: Midwest for colorectal and breast, East Oklahoma and North Florida for lung cancer, and several hotspots emerged in the West for prostate cancer.
- The geographical disparity is driven by various SDOH, environmental and behavioral factors. Cancer prevention and control efforts should target the under-resourced areas.

# Data & code

- Chongliang (Jason) Luo, PhD.
- Email: [chongliang@wustl.edu](mailto:chongliang@wustl.edu)
- <https://github.com/chongliang-luo/NationalCancerHotspot>





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