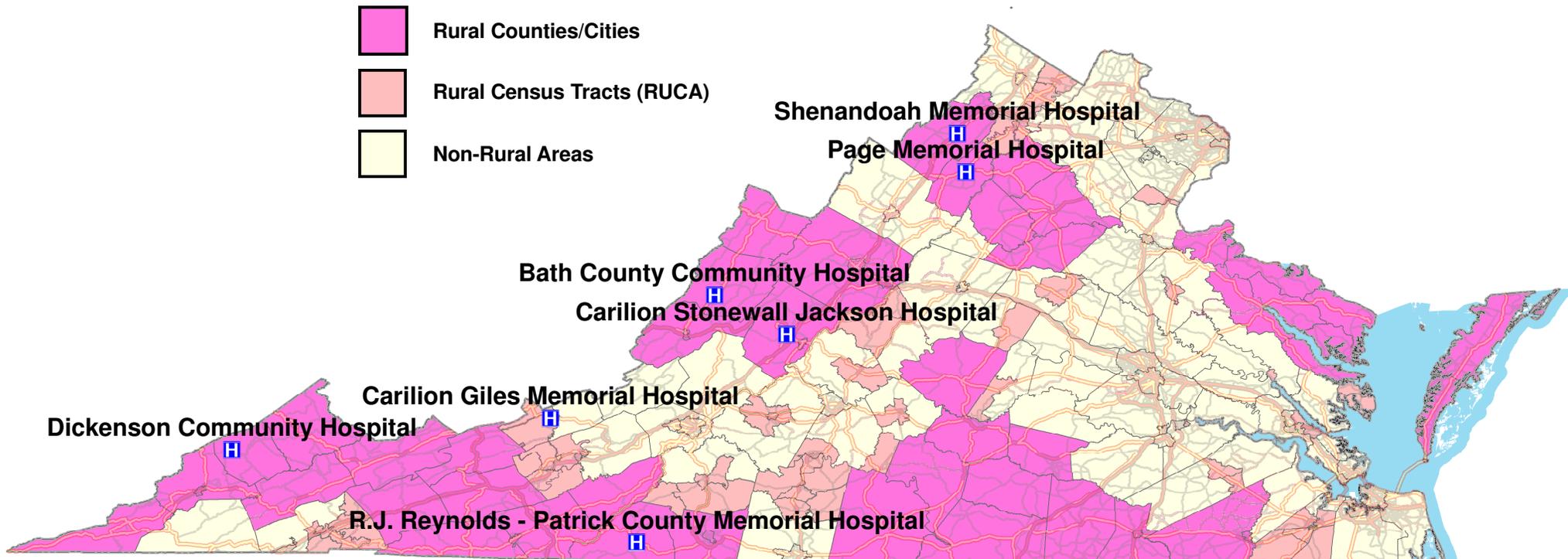


# Virginia Critical Access Hospitals (CAH)\*

OMB Rural Counties/Cities & Rural Census Tracts (RUCA)\*\*



\*The Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Program was created by the 1997 federal Balanced Budget Act to assure that small struggling rural hospitals remain operational to provide Medicare beneficiaries access to health care services in rural areas. It was designed to allow more flexible staffing options relative to community need, simplify billing methods and create incentives to develop local integrated health delivery systems, encompassing acute, primary, emergency and long-term care.

\*\*The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Office of Rural Health Policy has developed the Rural Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes to designate rural census tracts within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defined Metropolitan Areas (MAs) that qualify for HRSA Rural Health grants. For a listing of OMB rural counties/cities and RUCA in Virginia see: <http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/funding/eligibilitytestv2.asp>.

For further discussion of these definitions of "rural" see:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/Rurality/RuralUrbanCommutingAreas/> or  
<http://www.fammed.washington.edu/wwamirhrc/rucas/rucas.html>