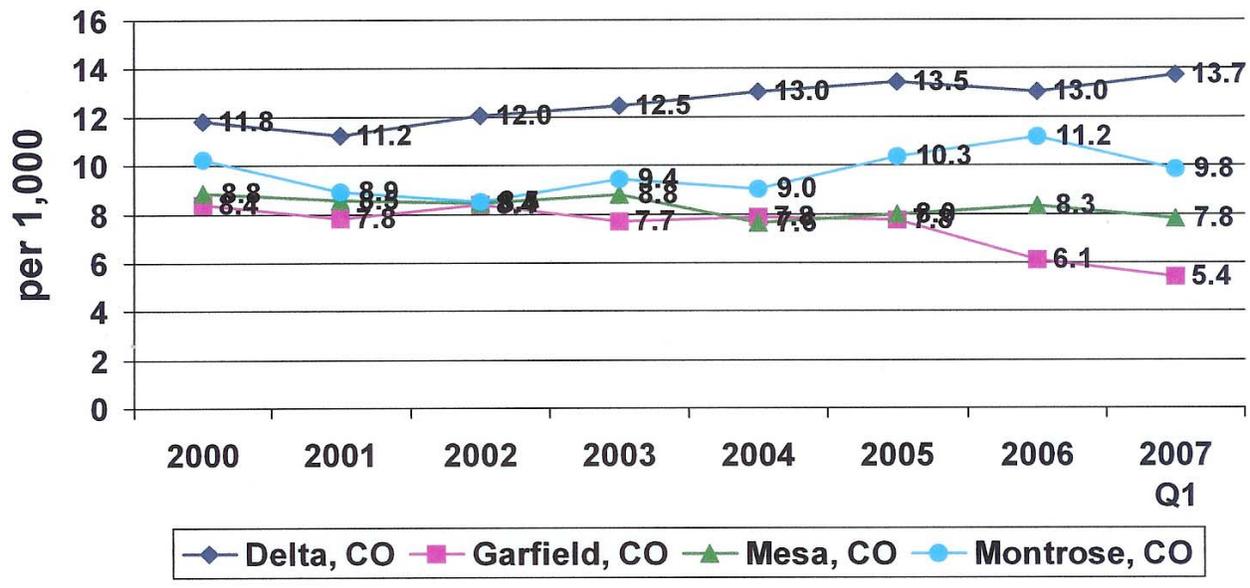


- **Digestive Disorders**

Mesa County has the highest overall rates for this category. Garfield County's overall rates are essentially the same as those in Delta and Montrose Counties until 2005, when Montrose County began to see an increasing trend in these disorders. Garfield County's rate began a downward trend for the same time period. This category includes appendectomy; digestive malignancy; gastrointestinal hemorrhage; gastrointestinal obstruction; hernia procedures; peptic ulcer; small and large bowel procedures; stomach, esophageal and duodenal procedures; and other digestive syndrome diagnoses. For some of these subcategories, Garfield County's rates were the lowest of the four counties; Garfield County's rates were never highest for any subcategory.

Figure 77. Digestive Disorders Hospitalizations by County of Residence



- **Ear, Nose, Throat Disorders**

Overall, and in general, the hospitalization rates for this group of disorders were similar among the four counties, although Delta County has a peak in the first quarter of 2007. When looking at the subcategories, however, Garfield County's hospitalization rates for otitis media and upper respiratory infections for children, ages 0-17 years, are the highest among the four counties. This is also true for the hospitalization rates for bronchitis and asthma in children. In contrast, the hospitalization rates for otitis media, upper respiratory infection, bronchitis and asthma in adults are the lowest among the four counties. Garfield County also has the lowest rate of COPD hospitalizations. This category includes dysequilibrium; ear, nose, mouth and throat diagnoses; otitis media an upper respiratory infection.