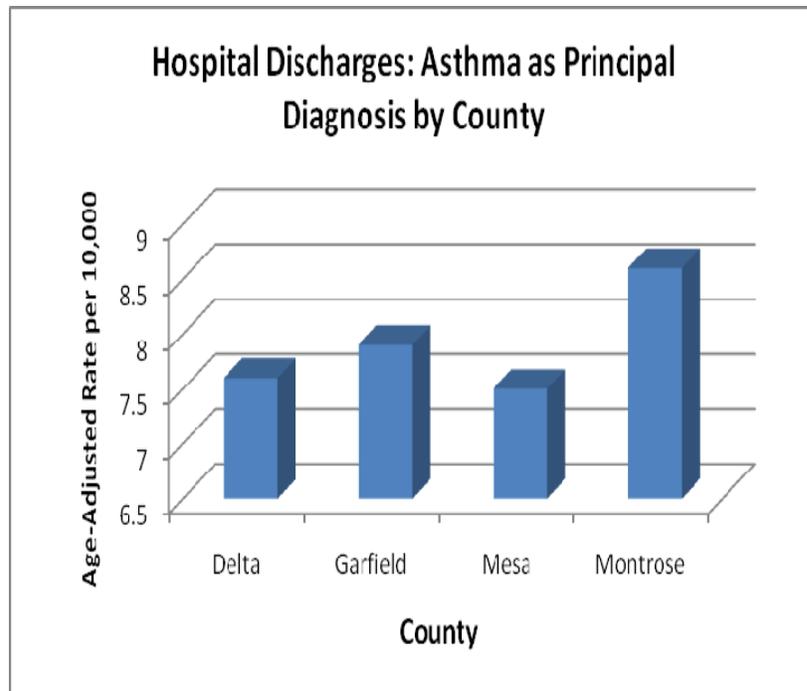


- **Asthma Hospitalization Rates**

Colorado state data for county rates of hospitalization discharges with a principal diagnosis of asthma for the years 1993-2001 are provided in the graph below (Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment). The age-adjusted rates are per 10,000 county residents. Rates were adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population using the direct method applied to 10-year age groups.

Figure 90.



Rocky Mountain Health Plans Member Data for Health Plan Usage by County; Grand River Health District and Valley View Hospital Emergency Room Admissions Data by Zip Code

Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP) is a non-profit health insurance provider, operating in Colorado. The company's main office is in Grand Junction, Colorado. RMHP provides health insurance to a large proportion of insured individuals in the four comparison counties, although only about 7% of the population of Garfield County is insured by RMHP. We were able to obtain ambulatory, emergency room, inpatient and outpatient hospital visit data for RMHP members in all four counties for the years 2000 through 2007. The limitations of these data, with respect to providing valid comparative information are the fact that fewer individuals are insured by RMHP in Garfield County than in the other three counties (although all rates are adjusted to member months), and the demographics of the RMHP-insured populations most likely varies among the counties. Thus, these comparisons should be viewed with caution. Complete datasets and graphs may be found in the Appendix P.