

Child Care, Pre-K, and Head Start in West Virginia

Child Care Deserts, Poverty, and Rurality

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Child Care Supply in Rural Areas

- Recent review indicates that family child care providers most common in rural areas (Anderson & Mikesell, 2017)
- States vary in provision and regulation of care, notably around pre-K
- The type of care that is available has implications for quality, and in turn children's developmental outcomes (Burchinal et al., 2015)

The Context: West Virginia

- 18% of residents live in poverty
- Over half of the state lives in rural areas
- The rest in small urban
- 1.8 million people; 5% children under 5 years old

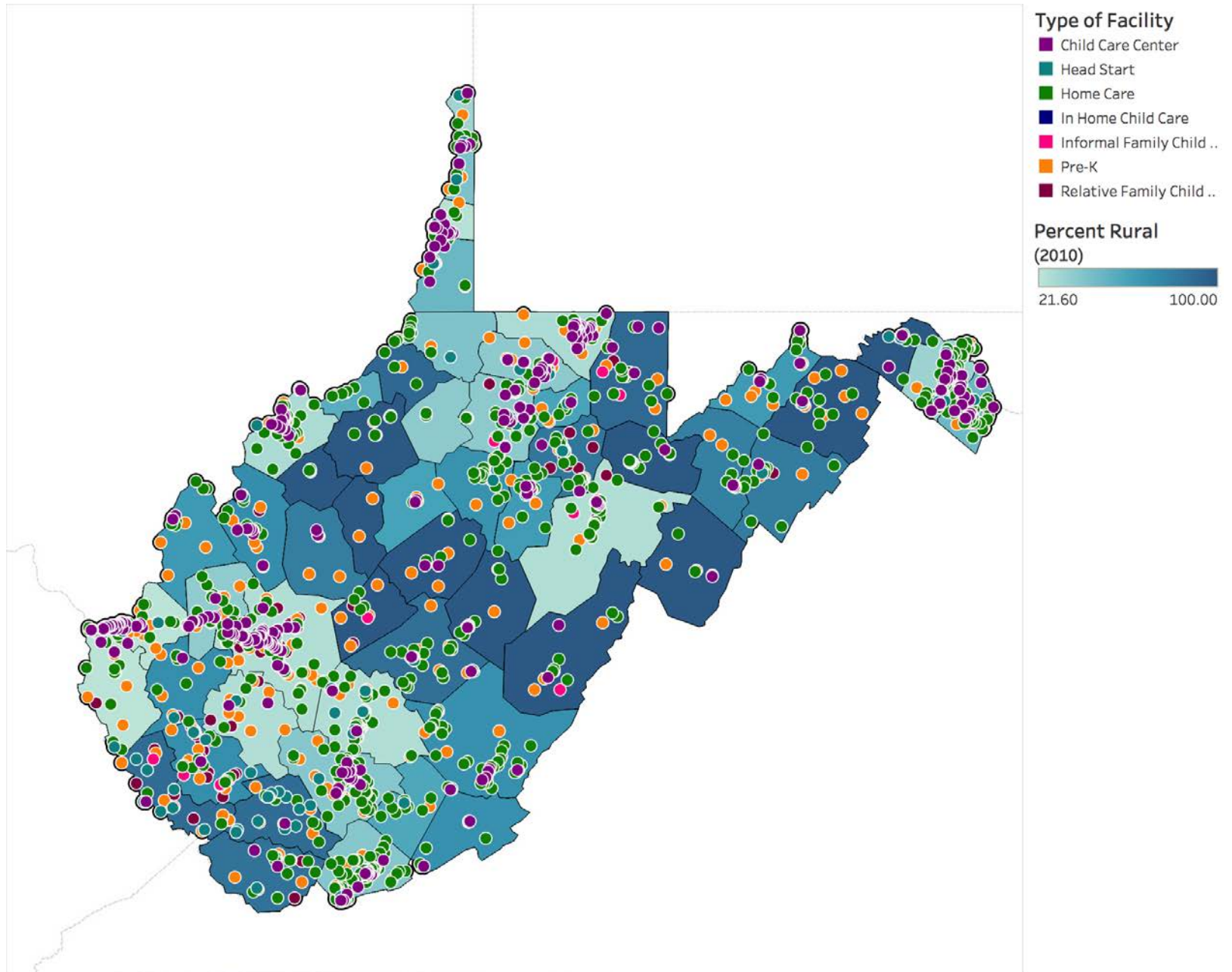
The Question

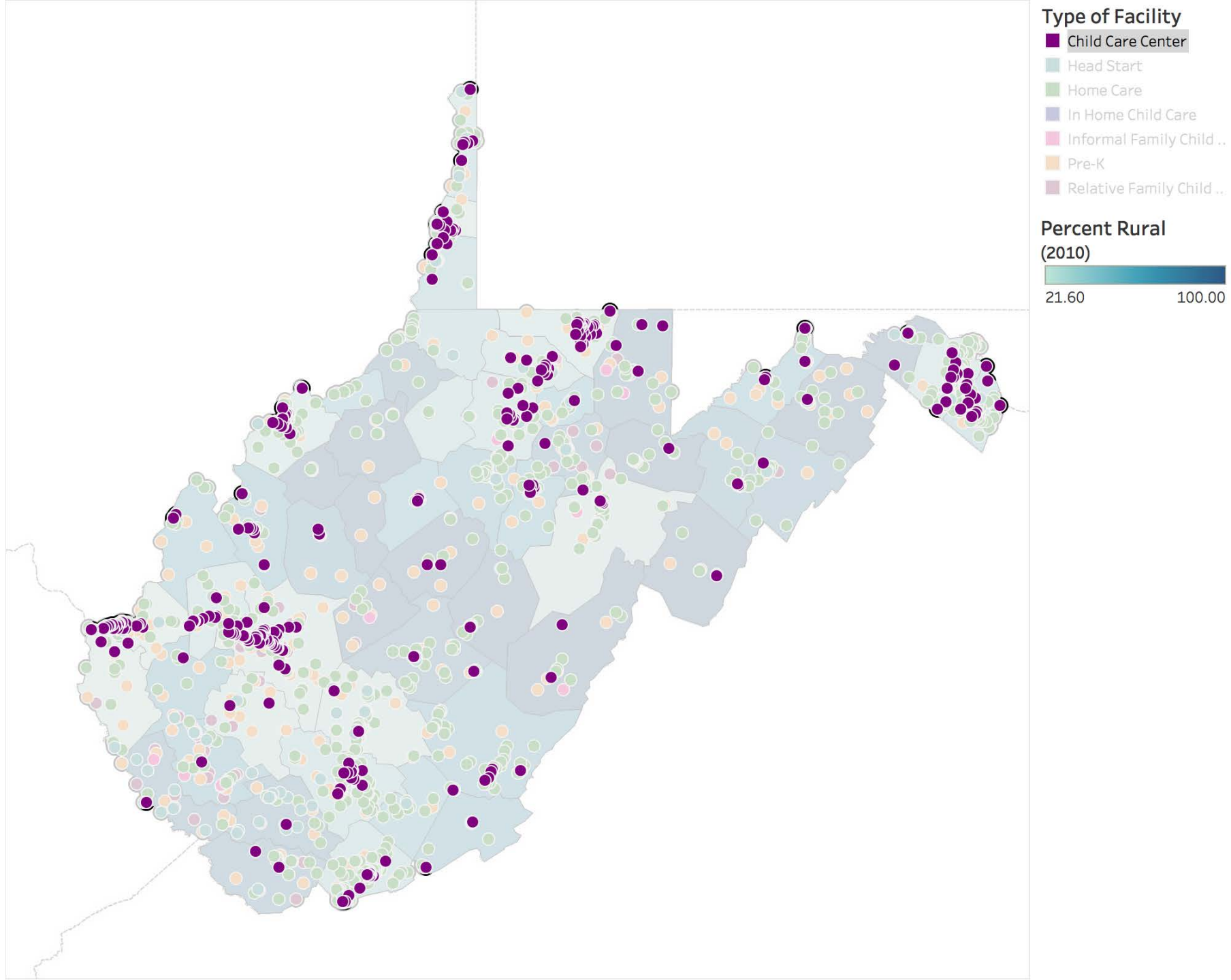
- Where are child care providers located in West Virginia?
- How are they distributed by poverty status and rurality?
- Types we consider include
 - Pre-K (N = 538)
 - Head Start (N = 100)
 - Child Care Center (> 13 children; N = 300)
 - Family Care
 - Facility (7-12 children; N = 121)
 - Home (<4 children; N = 1,122)
 - Relative Care (N = 118)

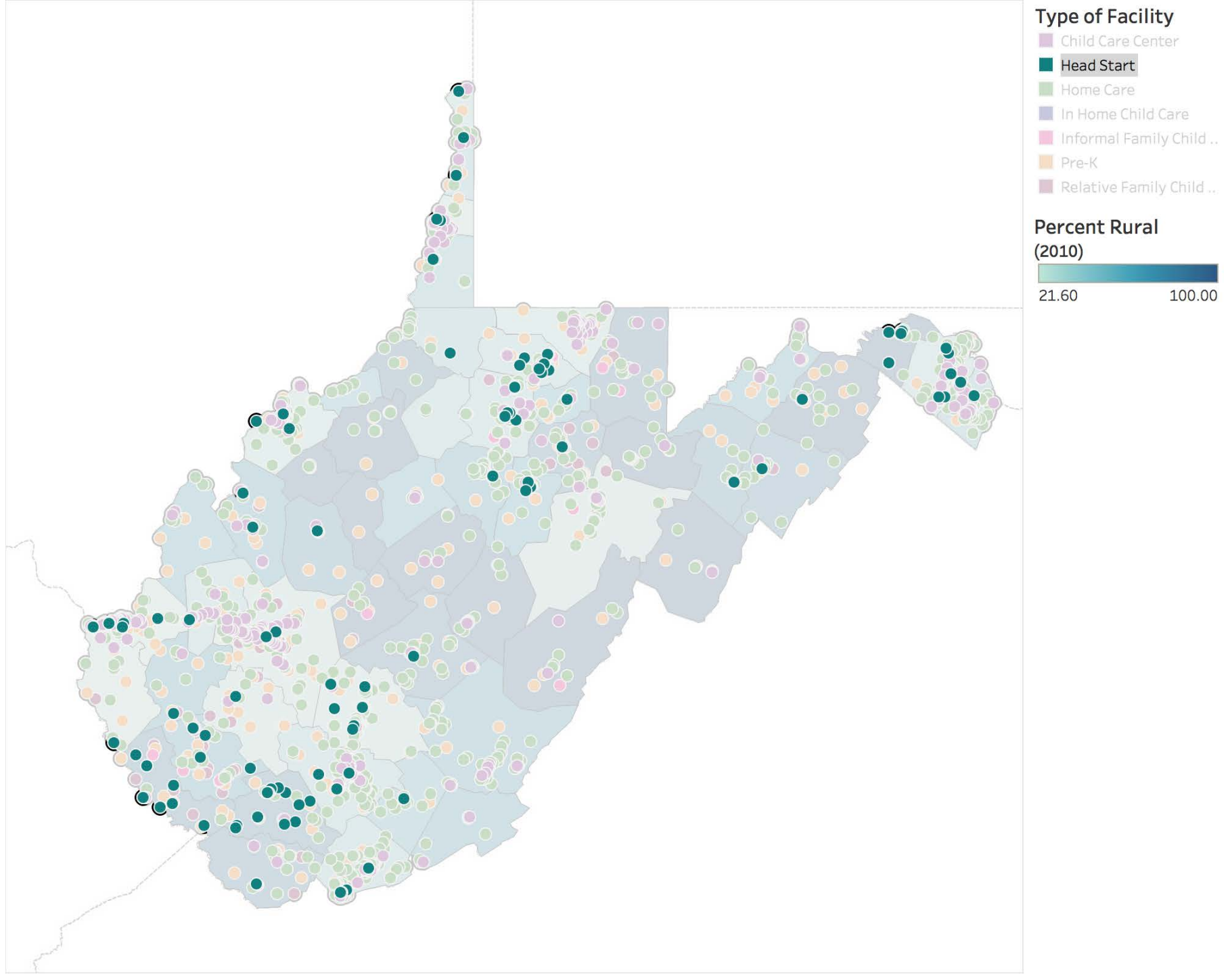
The Data

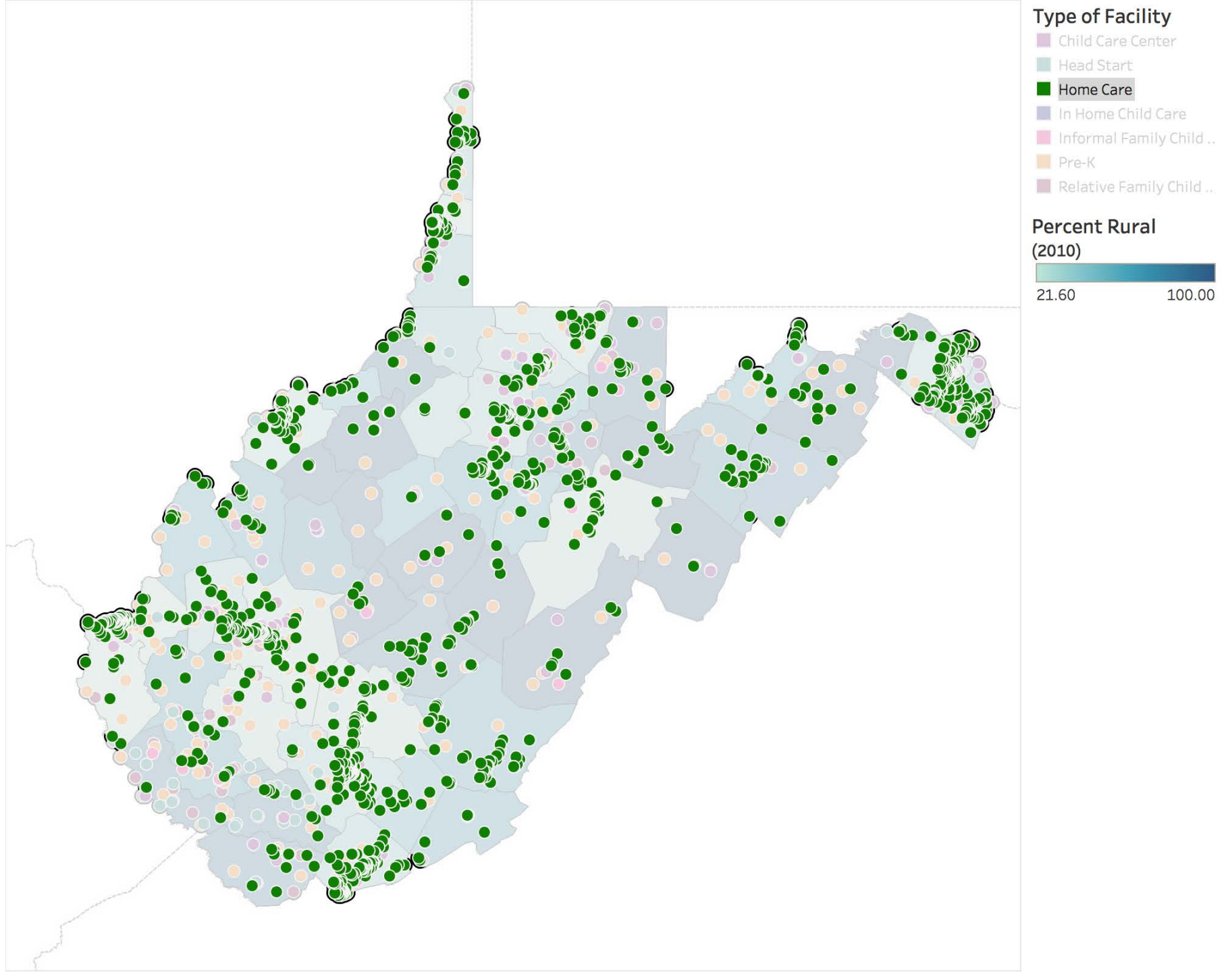
- WV DHHR administrative data from 2017 on
 - Child care (center, family care facility/home, relative)
- Universal pre-K lists from WV Department of Education
- Head Start from WV HS association
- U.S. ACS estimates from 2017 on % of county under poverty level and % living in rural area
- Used GIS approaches to overlay child care sites and U.S. Census data

Rural





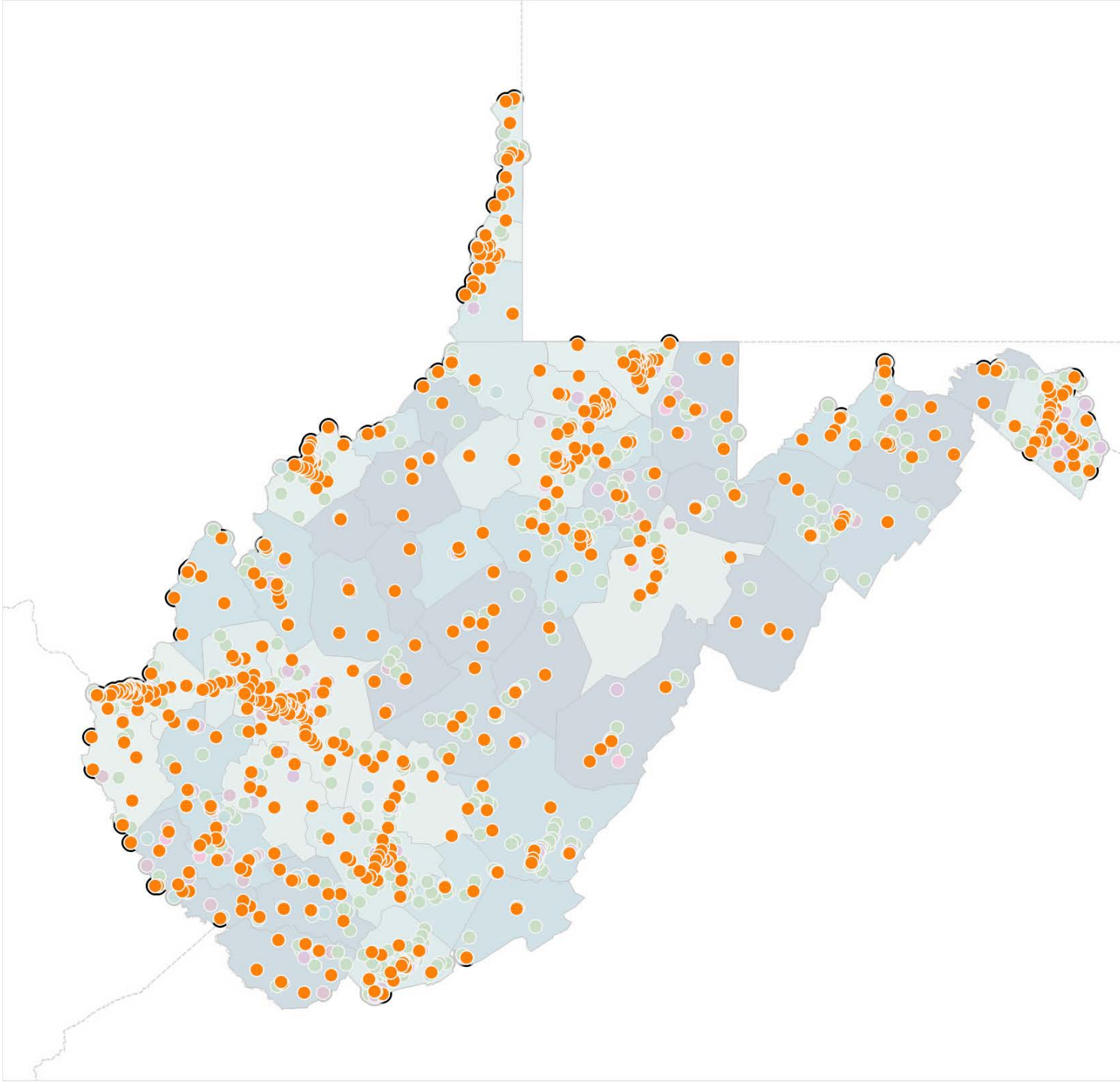


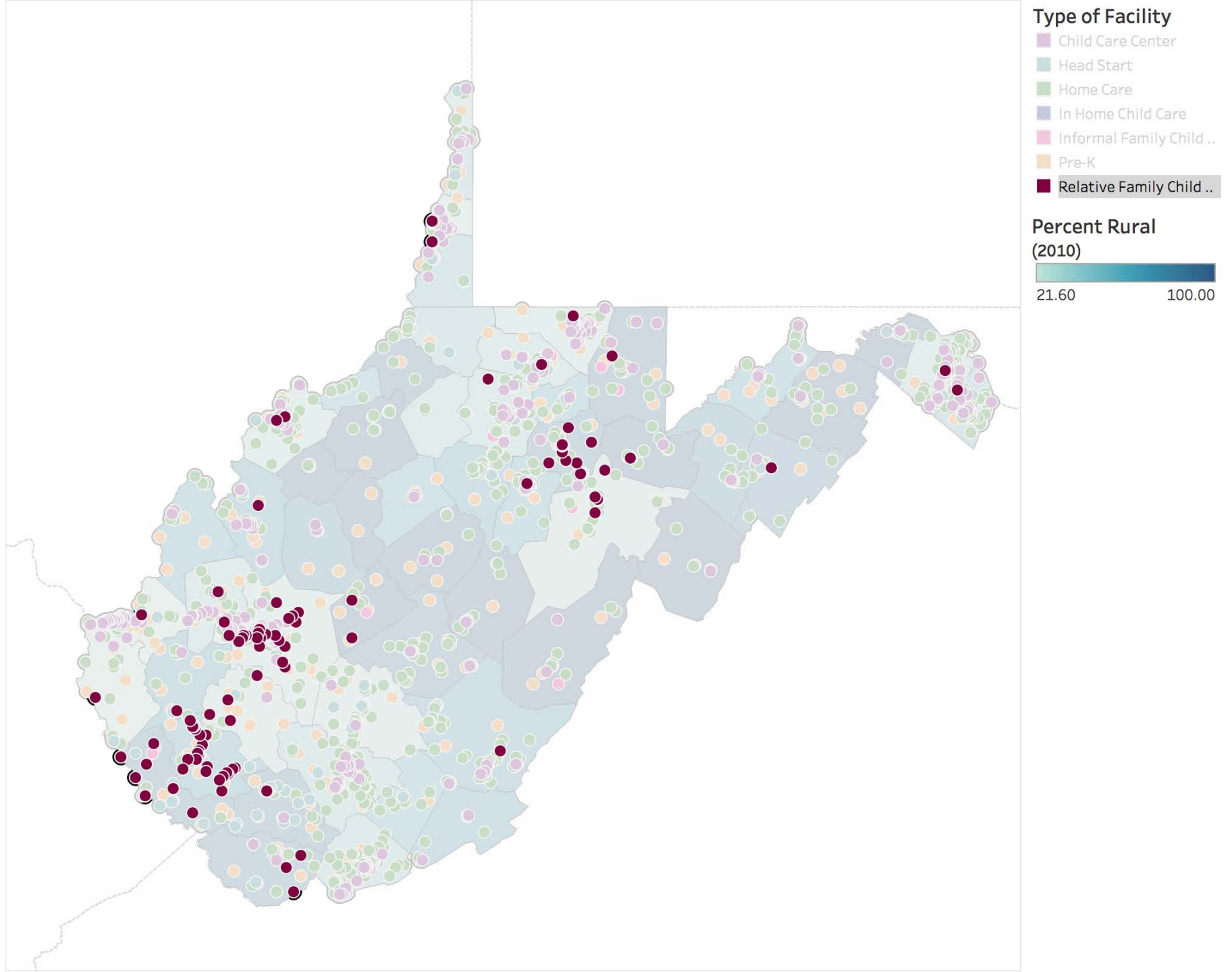


Type of Facility

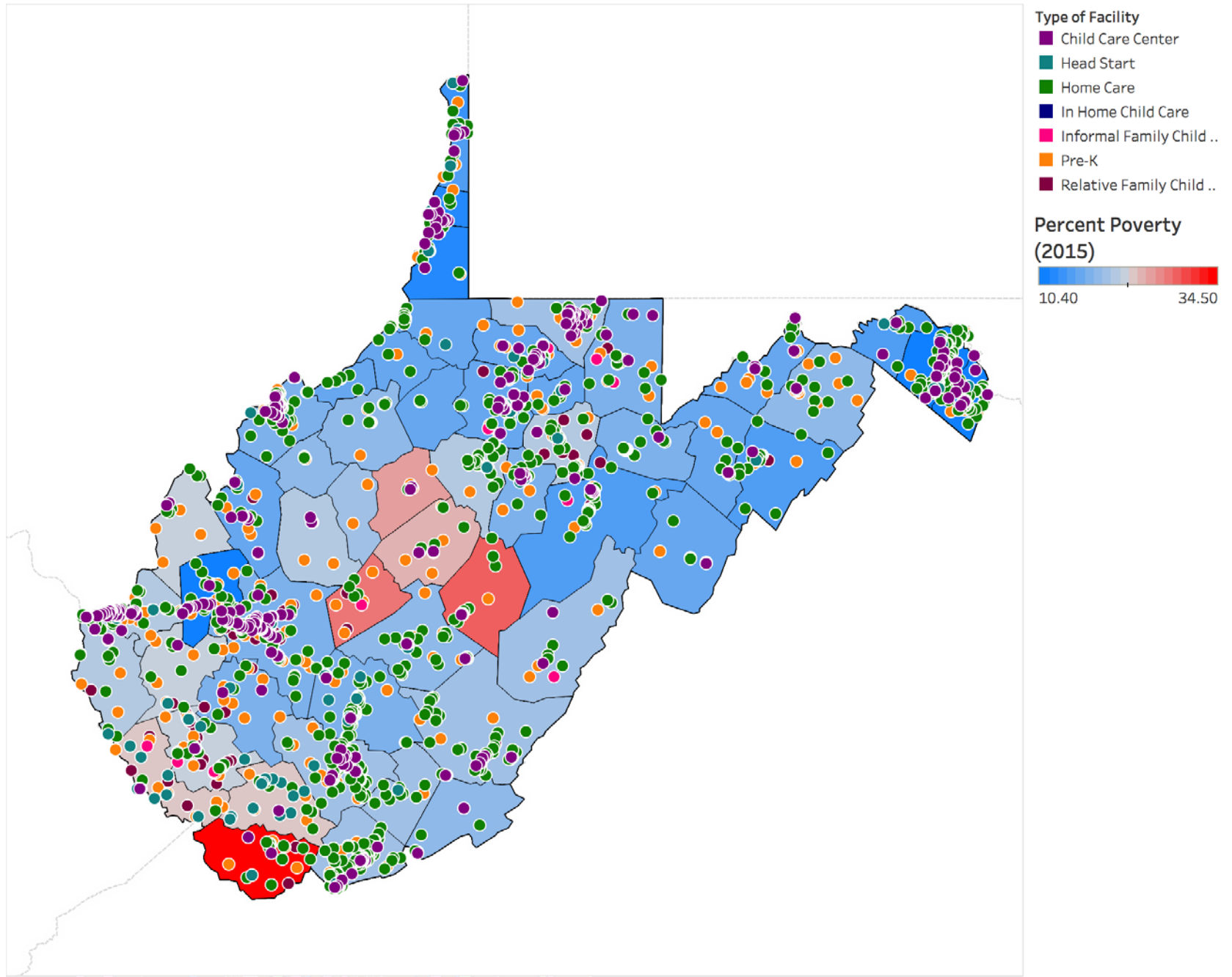
- Child Care Center
- Head Start
- Home Care
- In Home Child Care
- Informal Family Child ..
- Pre-K
- Relative Family Child ..

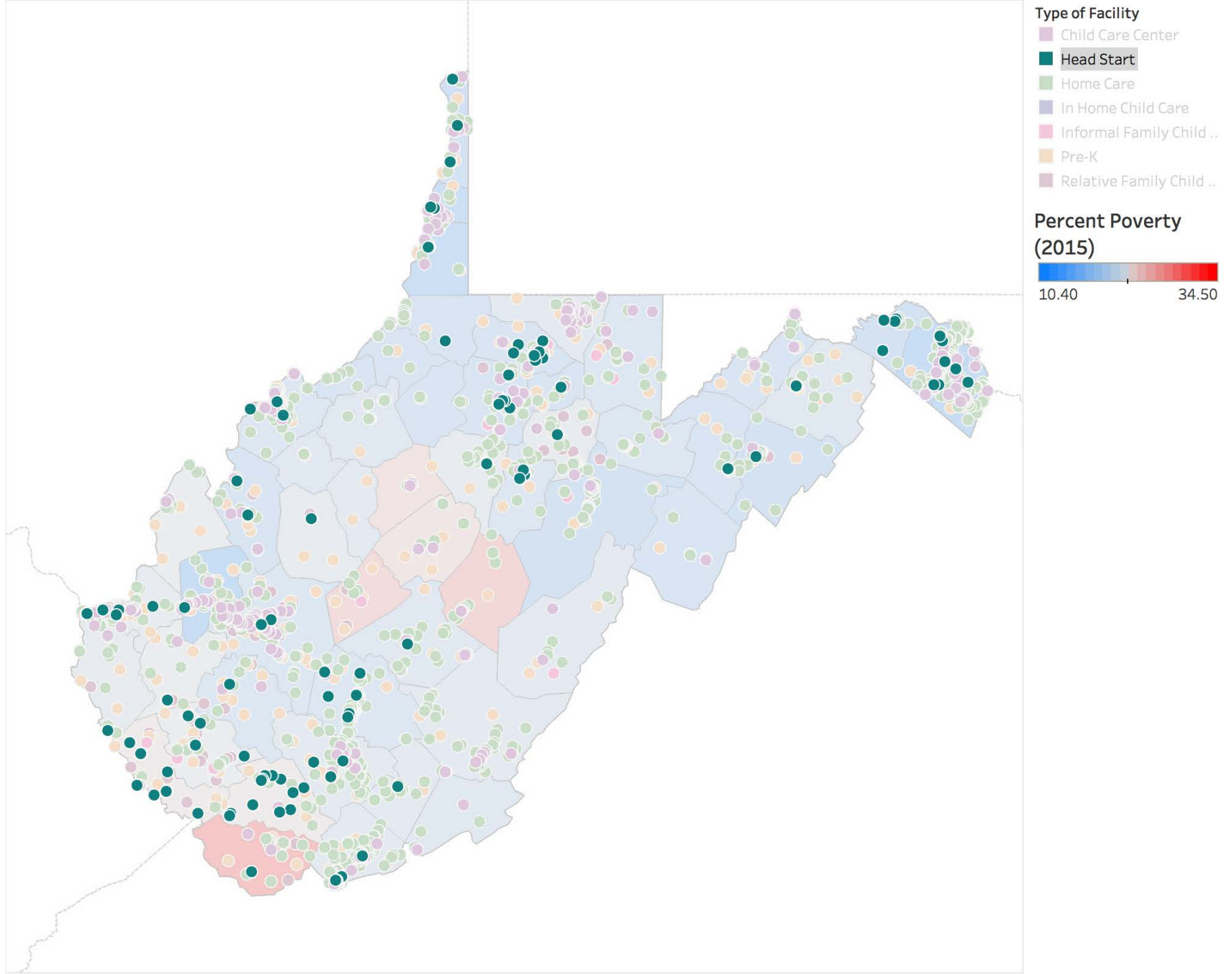
Percent Rural (2010)

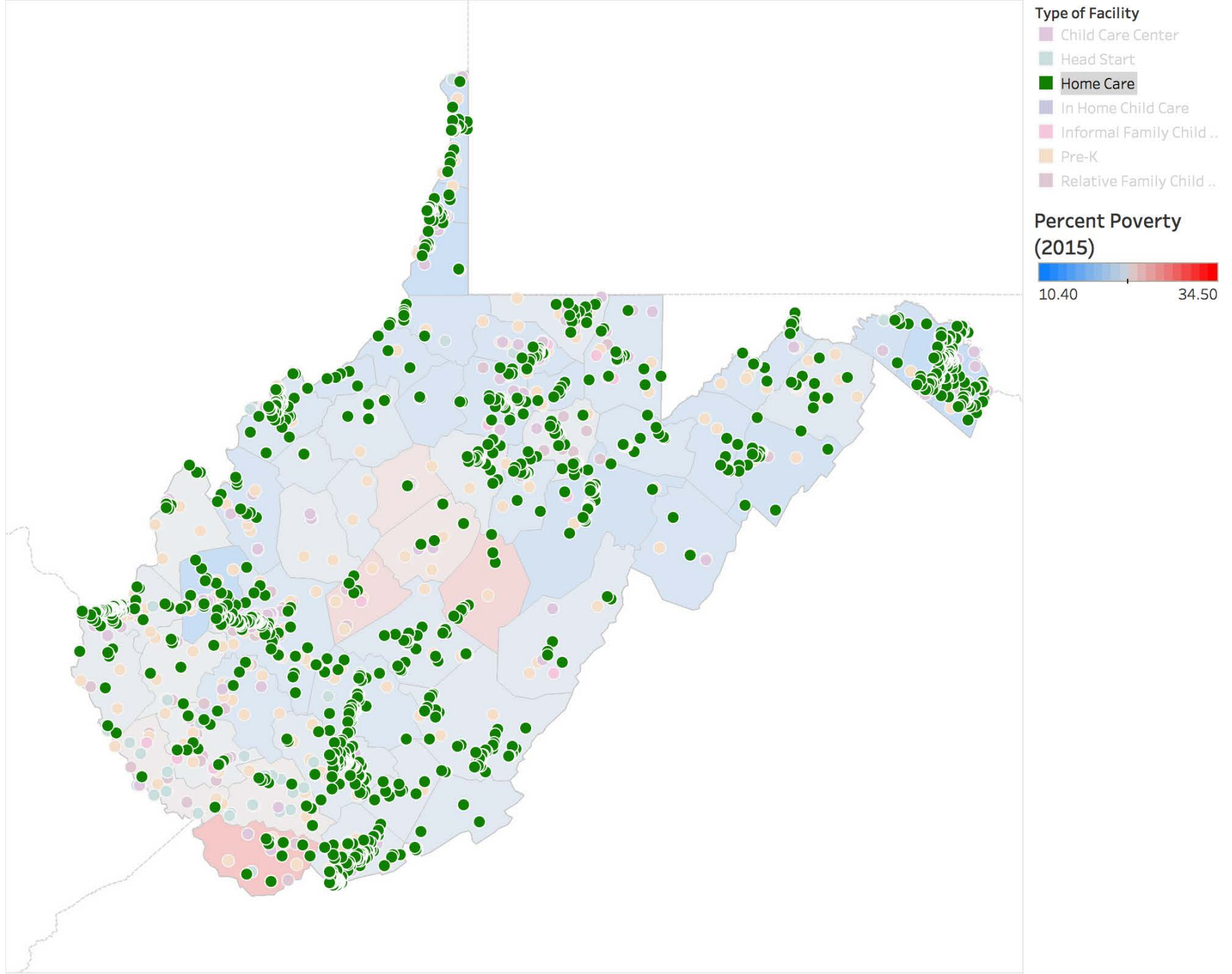


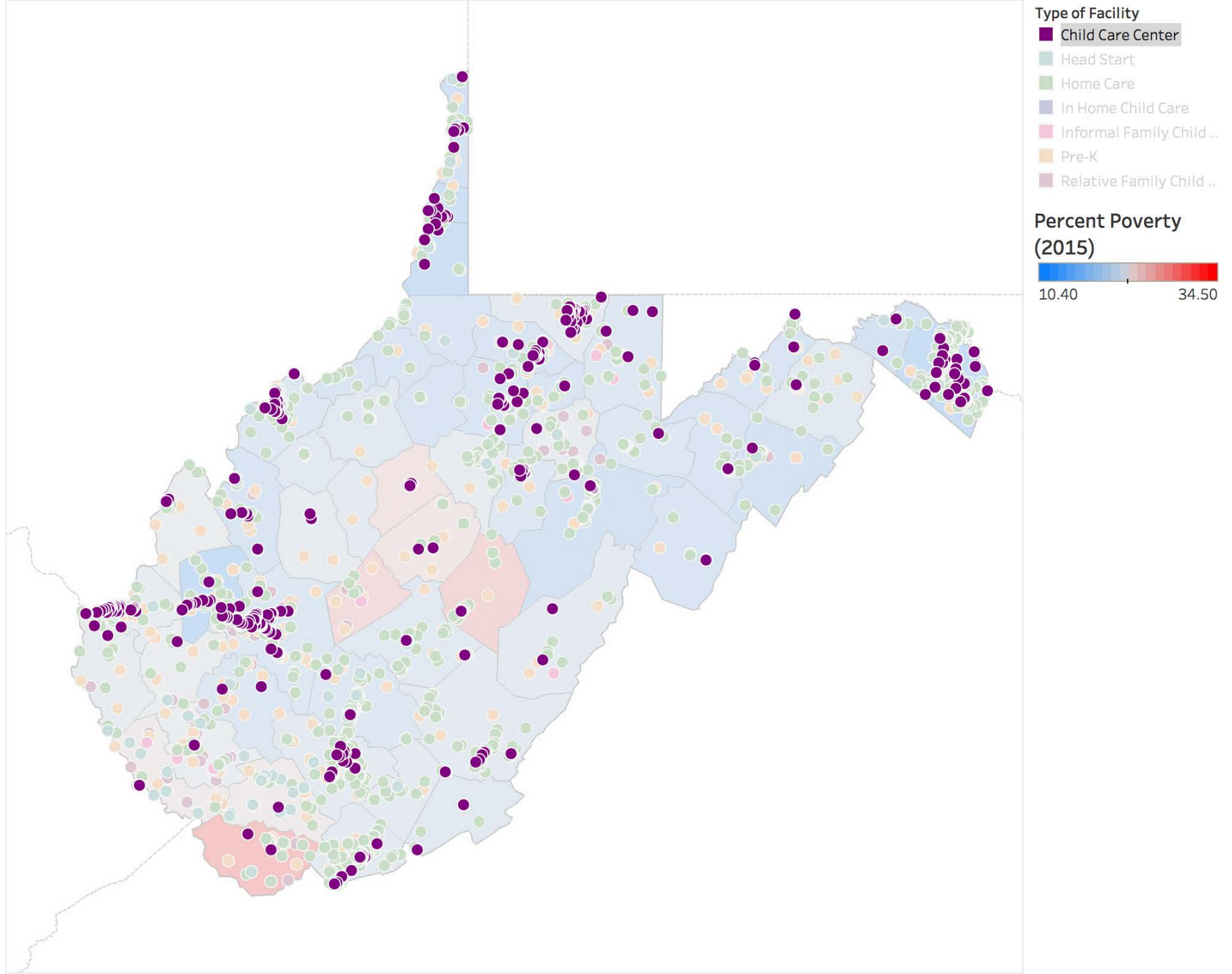


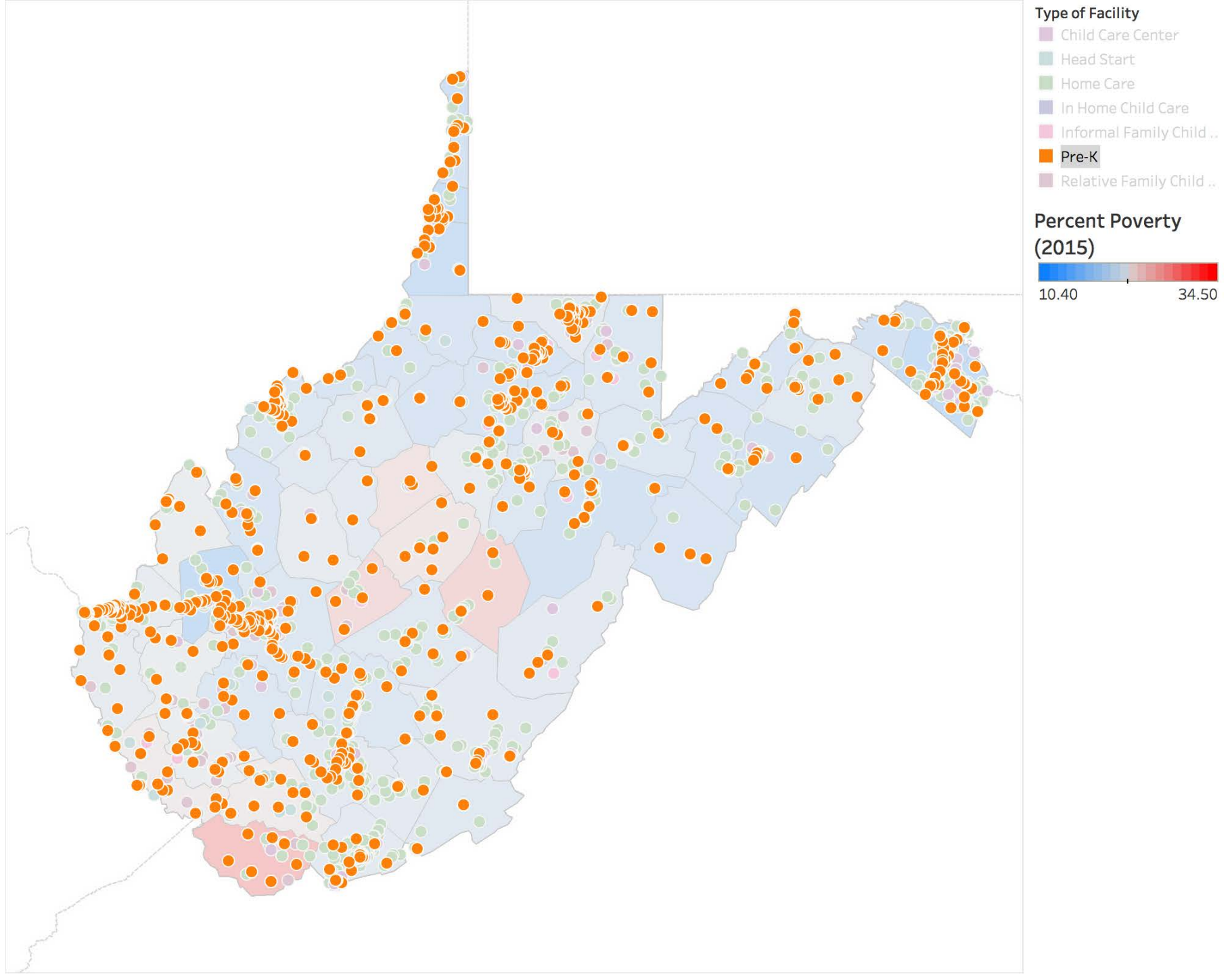
Poverty

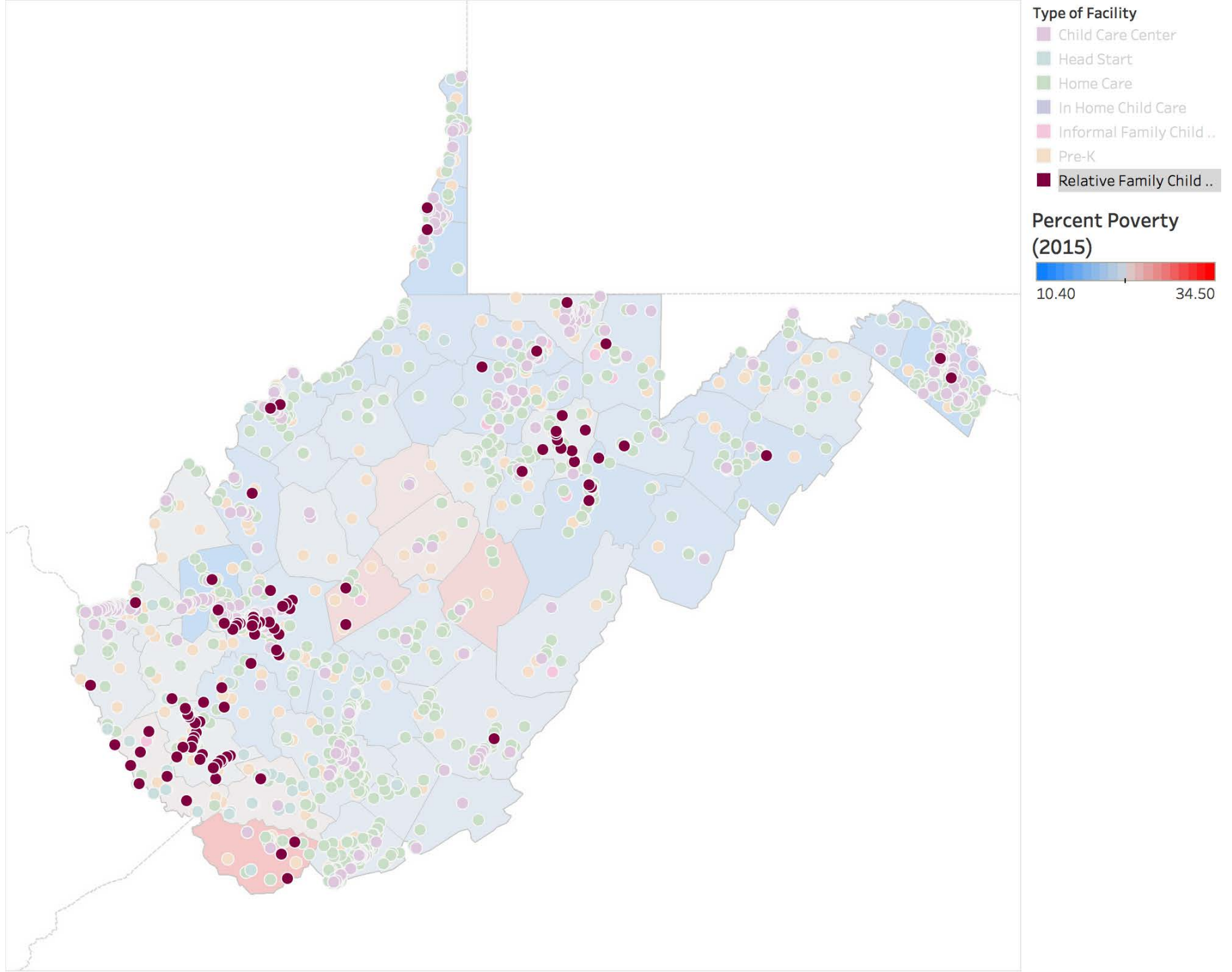












Child Care Deserts

- Using CAP definition (ratio of # children < 5 / cumulative child care capacity)
 - 14/55 counties meet that definition
 - In line with expectations, % rural significantly higher among child care desert counties
 - Not so for poverty

A Deeper Dive

- 3 poorest counties (>30%) in WV do not meet qualifications as being a child care desert

County	0-5 YO	> Pov	< Pov	Est. Capacity	# Center	# Family	# HS	# Pre-K	# Relative	CAP Desert	% Pov	% Rural
McDowell	1437	594	843	543	1	0	2	9	3	2.65	35	86
Webster	569	315	254	259	1	0	0	3	0	2.20	30	100
Mingo	1849	980	869	791	2	0	8	15	9	2.34	29	90

Conclusions

- Child care centers lacking in rural and most impoverished areas (which overlap)
- Several rural counties have no Head Start, but do have state pre-K
- Relative care in smaller urban areas, perhaps without adequate population demand

Questions

- How do we provide high quality care to children in rural and poor communities? What are the best policy solutions to reach these children?