

The following table breaks down the number of persons receiving Social Security and Supplemental Security income, as of 1991:

<u>County</u>	<u>No. Persons</u>	<u>Rate/1000 Residents</u>
Cameron	1,415	239
Clarion	7,535	181
Clearfield	16,115	206
Crawford	16,740	194
Elk	7,195	206
Erie	49,565	180
Forest	1,345	280
Jefferson	9,885	215
McKean	10,400	221
Mercer	26,055	215
Potter	3,610	216
Venango	12,090	204

The state rate per 1,000 is 54.

Hospitals, Health Systems, and Networks

As might be expected, the number of physicians and their rate per 100,000 is significantly below the state as a whole. This would be due to the rural nature of the region. Erie County has 468 physicians, translating to 170/100,000 population. The state rate is 238/100,000 population.

Since it has the greatest population of the area, Erie/Erie County has the largest number of hospitals, followed by Mercer County. There is one Veterans Administration Medical Center in Erie. Of the 159 beds at this VAMC, 40 are nursing home beds. Outpatient visits totaled 63,000 in 1995. There are 440 employees at the VAMC, with total expenses at \$32,361,000.

Of the non-federal, acute care facilities, the largest, by beds, is Hamot Medical Center, with 526 beds. This is followed by St. Vincent Hospital with 469 beds. All except one of the hospitals, including the VAMC, are accredited by the JCAHO or the American Osteopathic Association. Two of the seven hospitals in the city of Erie are rehabilitation facilities, not acute care facilities. These are Great Lakes Rehab and Lake Erie Institute of Rehabilitation. Both are owned by HealthSouth Corporation.

NWPA is under the same managed care constraints as the southwestern consular region. The Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Western Pennsylvania tends to dominate this region as well.