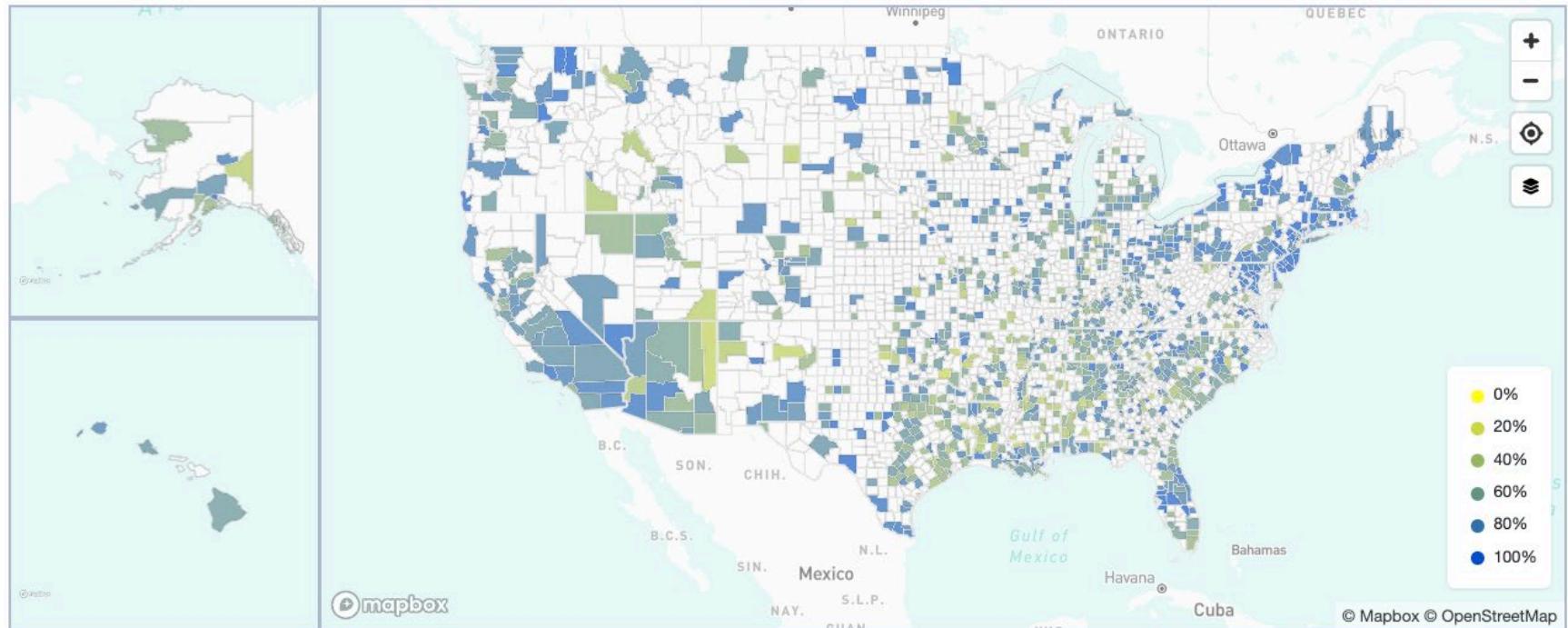
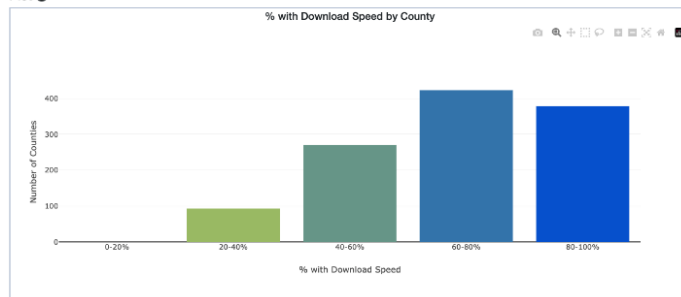


Fixed Download Speed and Maternal Deaths



Plot 1



FCC Mapping Broadband Health in America Platform, 2023.
 Data Sources: FCC Form 477 (September 2020 release; data as of June 2019); National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) via Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) WONDER (2018-2021).

This map explores broadband as a function of health and was generated from the BROADBAND view by selecting Download Speed and adding a filter (Maternal Deaths) under MATERNAL HEALTH.

It first isolates counties with at least one maternal death between 2018 and 2021 and then displays the percentage of the population in those counties with access to fixed download speeds of at least 25 mbps. Green and blue green areas have a comparatively lower percentage of the population (20-60%) meeting this speed threshold. Accessing telehealth solutions for maternity care – especially those that require higher broadband speeds and low latency – may be more challenging in these counties. Note that for privacy and confidentiality, the actual number of maternal deaths at the county level are suppressed below 10, so this platform cannot compare counties based on relative maternal mortality rates. However, we are mindful that even one preventable maternal death is one too many.