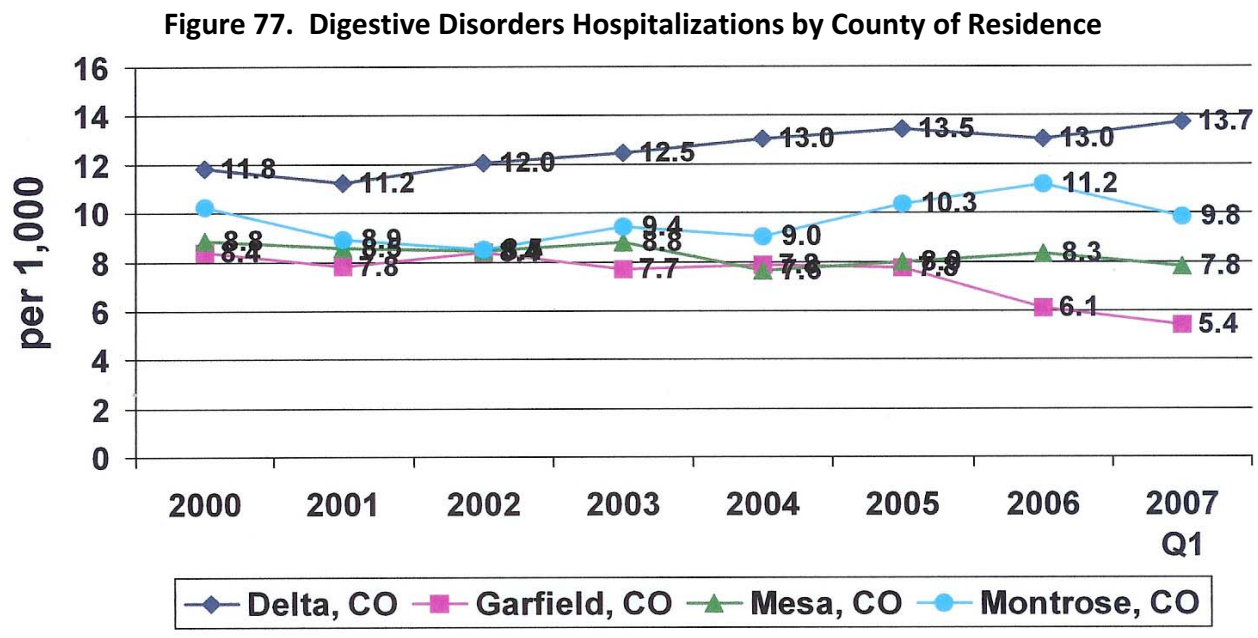


- **Digestive Disorders**

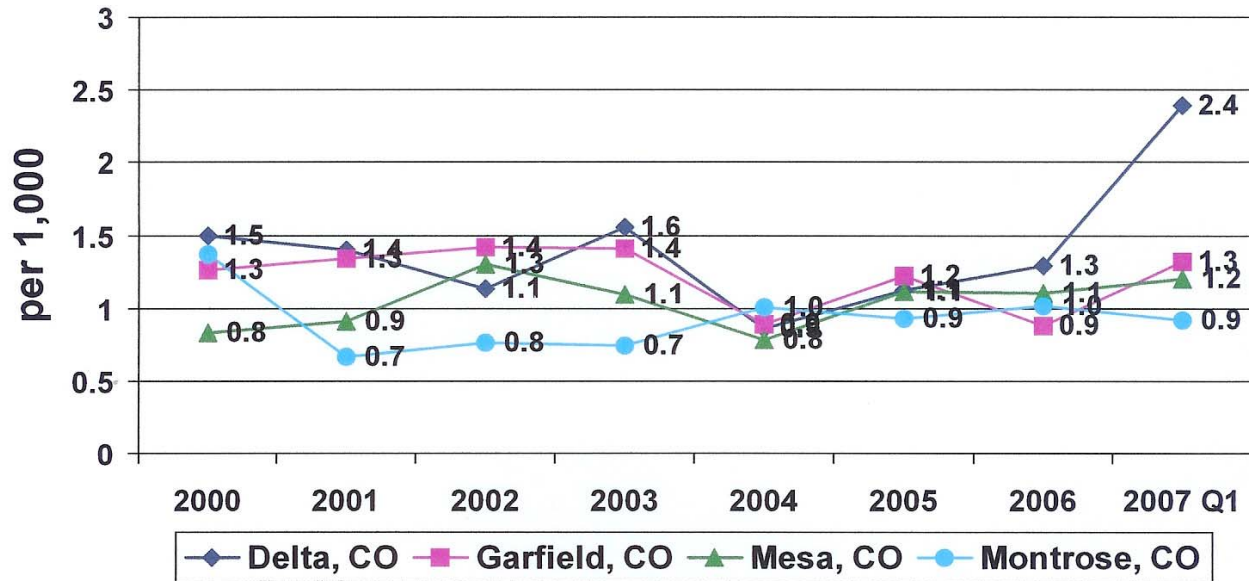
Mesa County has the highest overall rates for this category. Garfield County's overall rates are essentially the same as those in Delta and Montrose Counties until 2005, when Montrose County began to see an increasing trend in these disorders. Garfield County's rate began a downward trend for the same 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.



- **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.

Figure 78. Ear, Nose, Throat Disorders Hospitalizations by County of Residence



• **Infectious and Parasitic Diseases**

Hospitalizations for infectious and parasitic diseases were highest in Delta County throughout the majority of the time period studied. Rates for all counties appear to be decreasing from a high in 2005, with the exception of rates for Montrose County, which have remained essentially stable. Garfield County’s hospitalization rates for these diseases were generally lower than for the other three counties, increasing to a peak in 2005, and then dropping steadily through the 1st quarter of 2007. This category includes postoperative and post-traumatic infections, fevers of unknown origin, viral illnesses, septicemia, and other infectious or parasitic disease diagnoses.

Figure 79. Infectious and Parasitic Diseases Hospitalizations by County of Residence

