THE EFFECTS OF SMOKING ON HUMAN HEALTH IN WEST VIRGINIA STATE.

Winnie Ngare,
Graduate Student, Geography Department, Binghamton University.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY.
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

o Tobacco smoking ranks as the top preventable cause of disease and premature death.

o West Virginia ranks as the top state in tobacco use with a 26.7% smoking prevalence compared to the nationwide smoking prevalence of 17.4%.

o About 440,000 people die per year as a result of smoking.

o People with low income and education tend to smoke more.

o Smoking is the leading cause of respiratory disease, cancer and cardiovascular disease.

METHODS.

✓ Census data from the NHGIS website along with health data from West Virginia department of health and human resource.

✓ Used Arc map tool, a GIS, to map the data.

✓ Ran a regression model to test the significance of the results.

✓ Used Maps and plots to display results.

Primary explanatory factors.

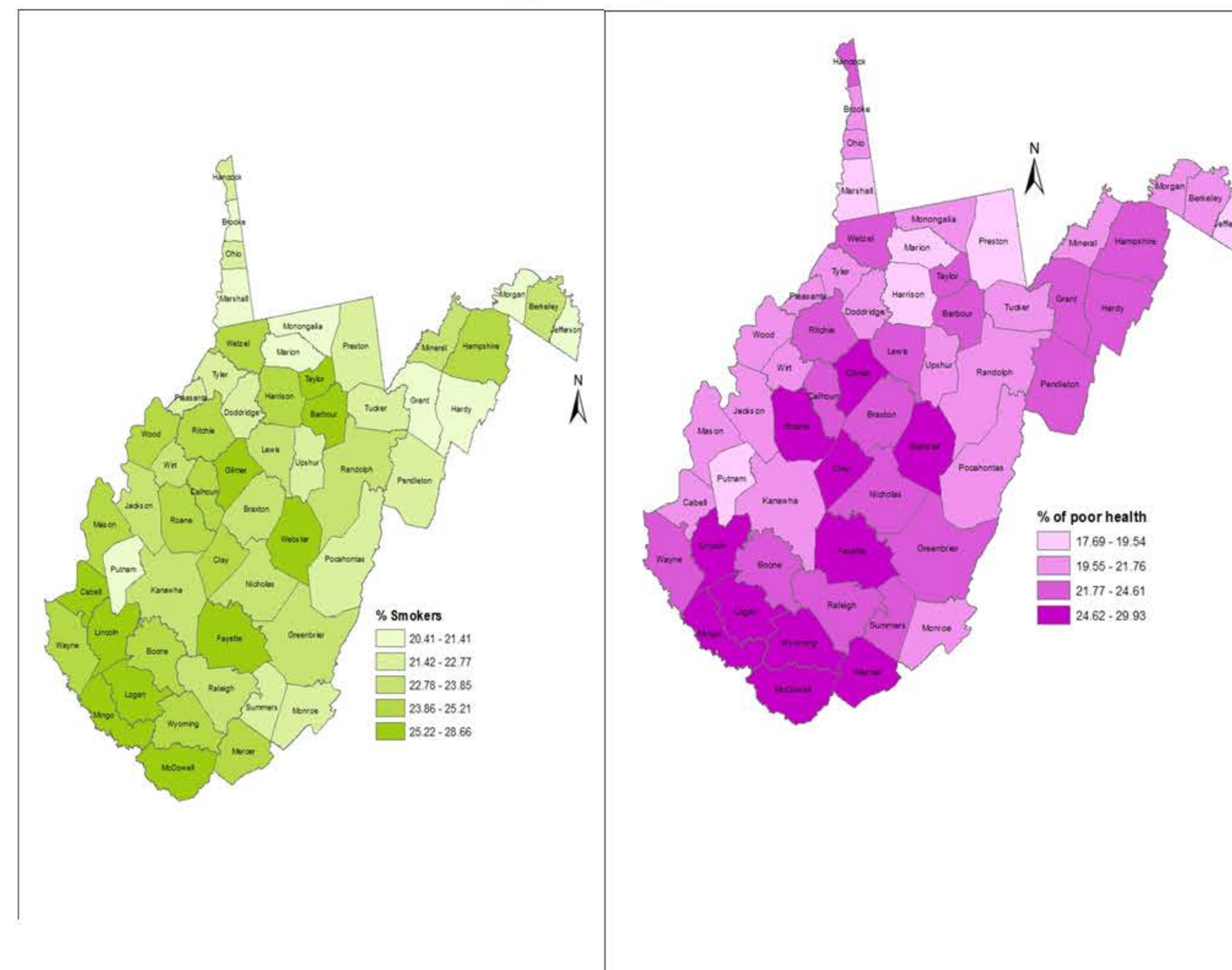✓ Low birthweight, poor health, potential years of life lost and mental health.

Other factors

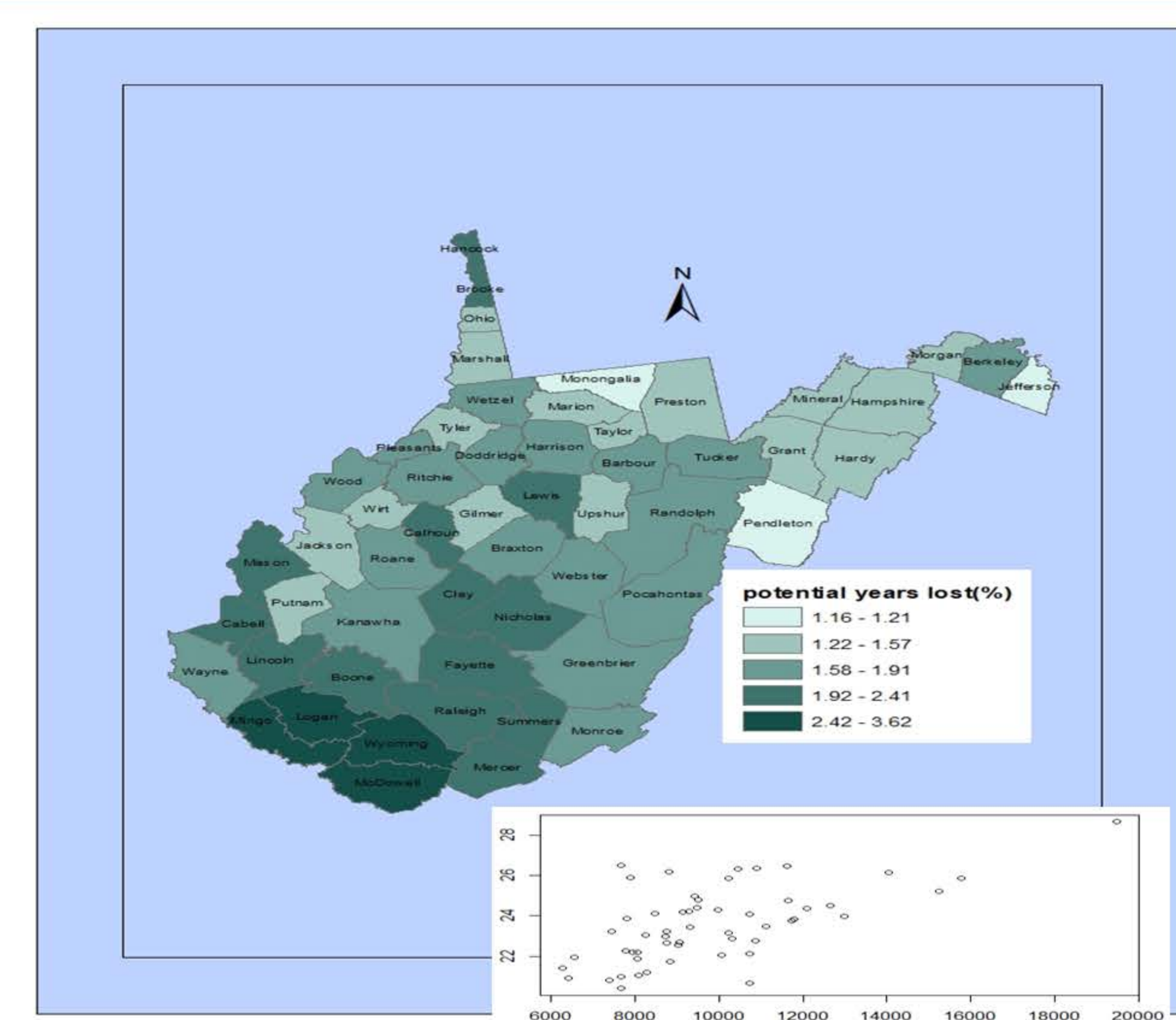graduation rate and income inequality.

HYPOTHESES.

1. Low birthweight is positively related to smoking.

2. Poor / fair health is positively related to smoking.

3. Potential years of life lost is positively related to smoking.

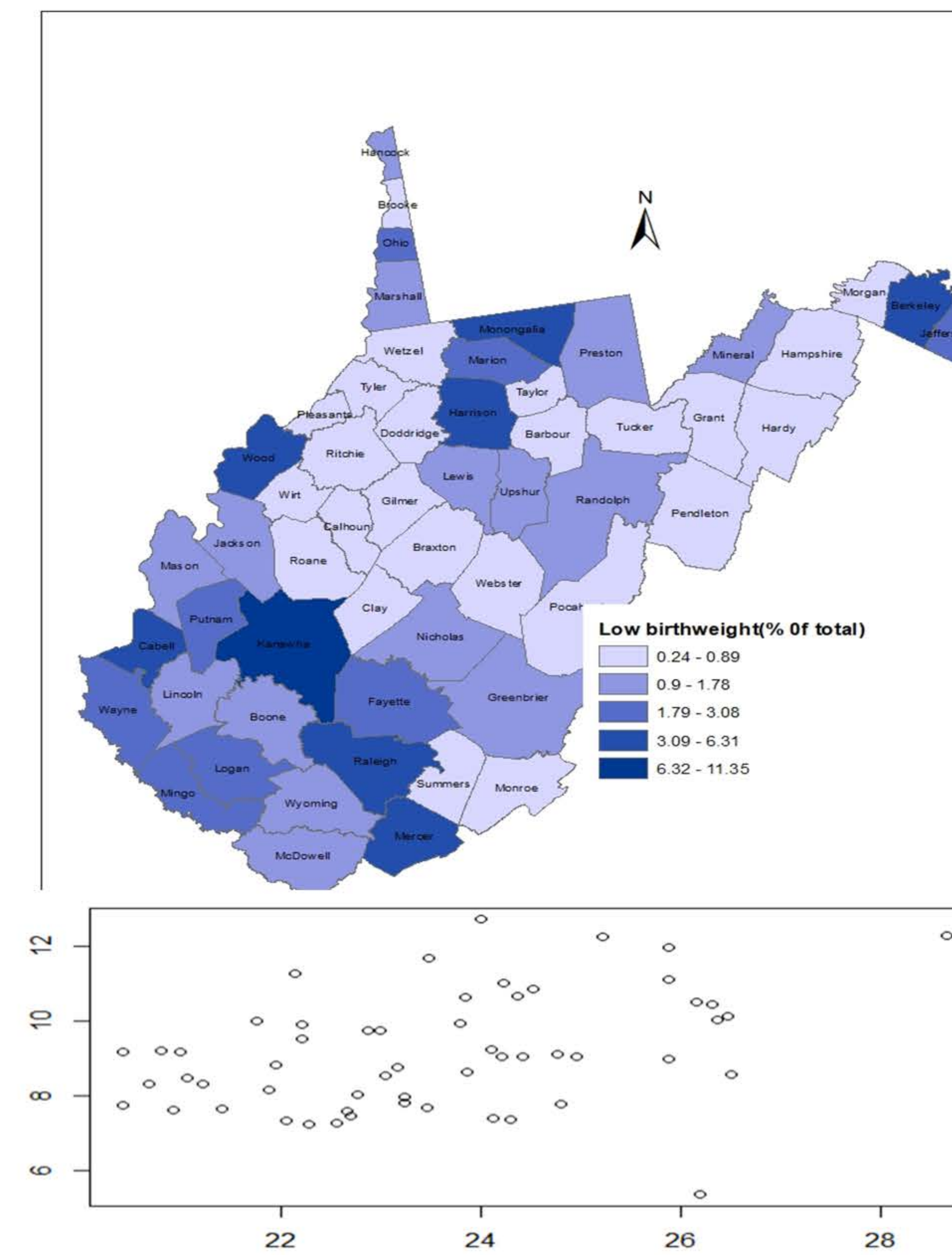4. Poor mental health is positively related to smoking.
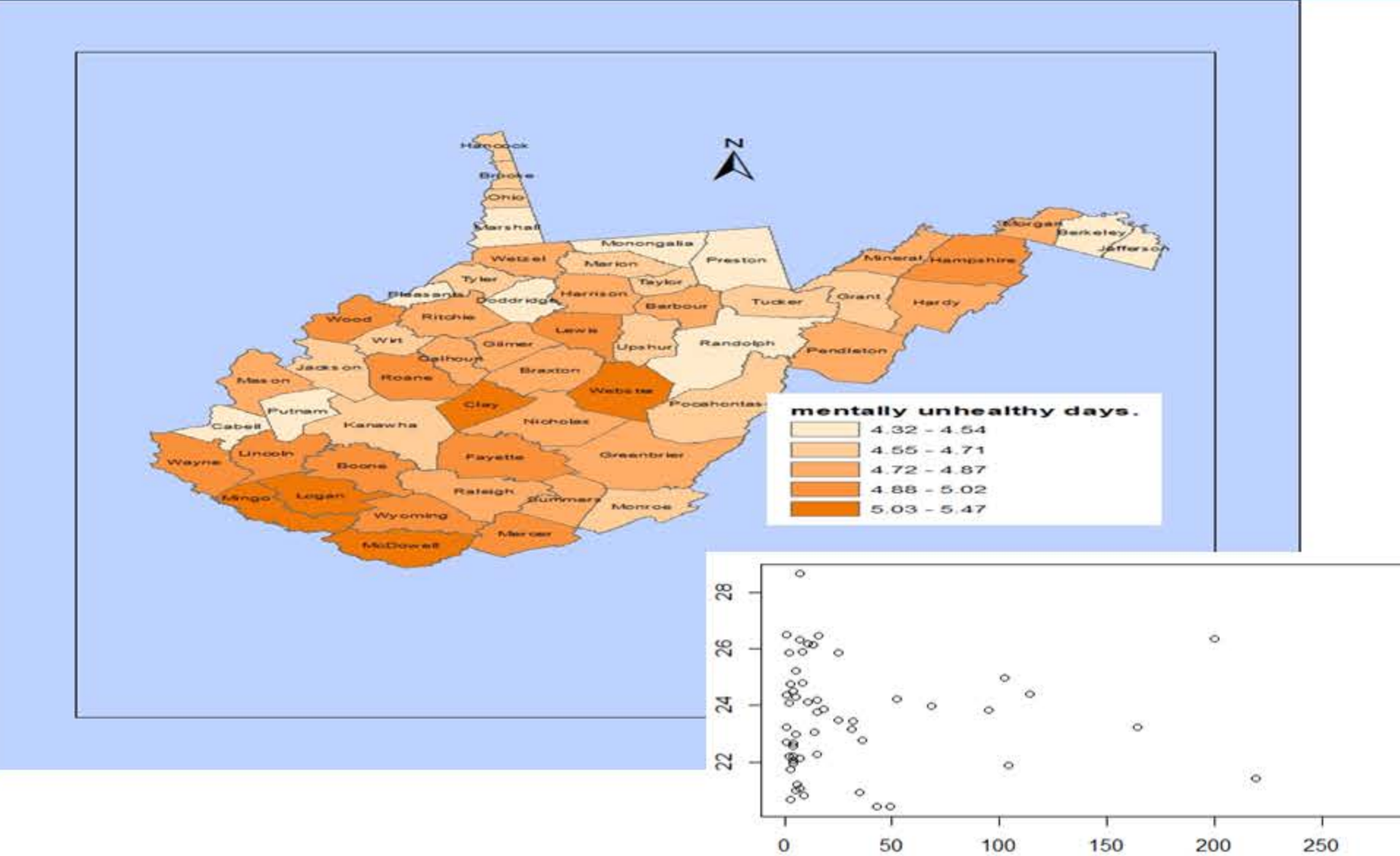
RESULTS.

Tobacco smoking and poor/fair health.

Years of potential life lost and smoking.

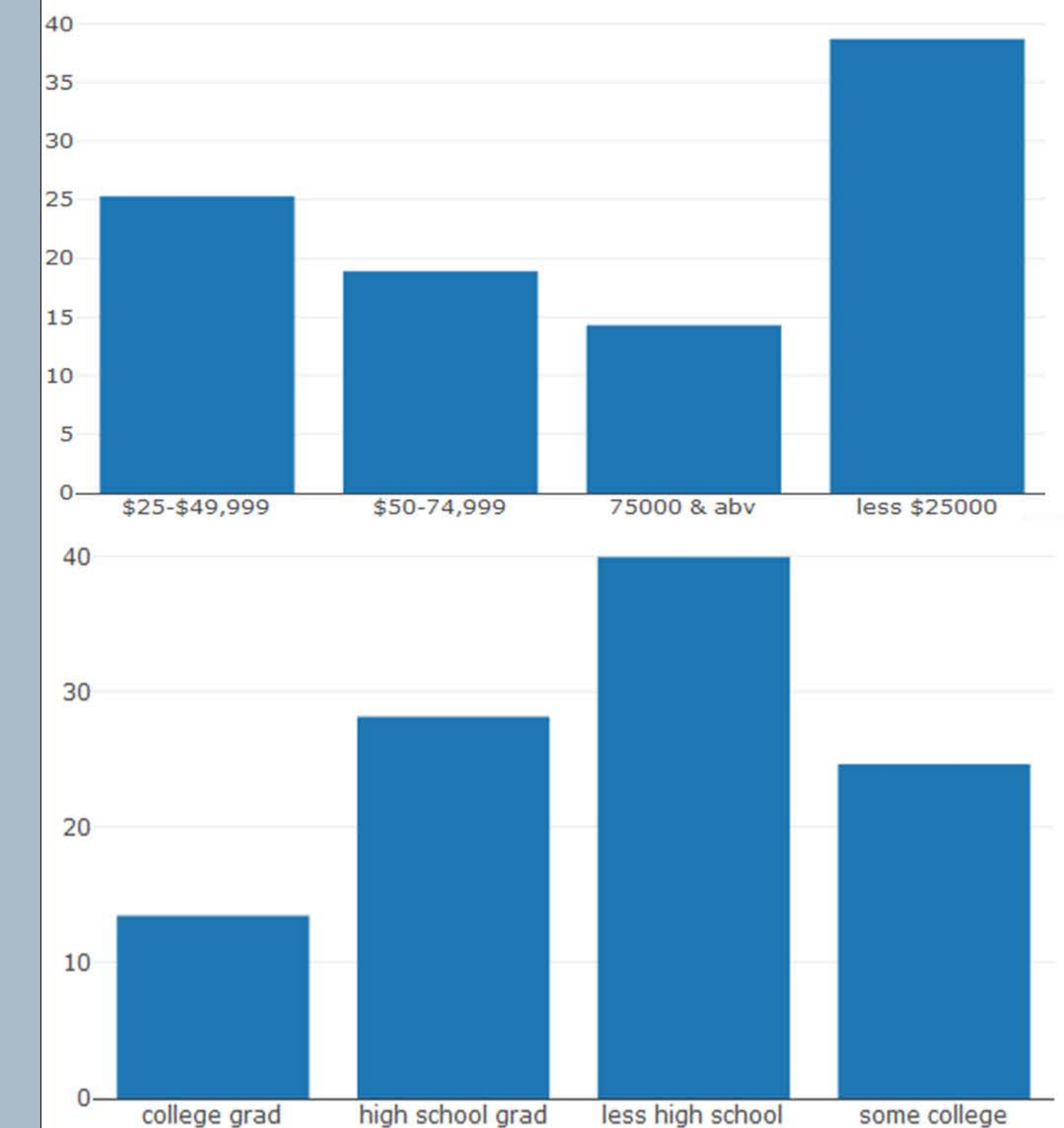### Lower birth weight and smoking.

Mentally unhealthy days and smoking.

o Poor health is positively related to smoking.

o The average potential years of life lost by smokers increases with an increase in tobacco use.

o Tobacco smoking is positively associated with lower birth weight.

o There is no strong relationship between smoking and mental health.

People with little income and education are likely to smoke more than those with higher income and education.

DISCUSSIONS

❑ Smoking prevalence exhibits a spatial trend in West Virginia. It shows huge variations in tobacco effects across counties.

❑ The covariates reveal an inequality gap in income and education across counties.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

❑ Effective policies to address poverty in heavy smoking counties.

❑ Incentives to encourage higher learning.

❑ Creating awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco smoking.