



BACKGROUND

- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide preventive health services such as colorectal cancer (CRC) screening to low-income and underinsured individuals.
- California has a racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse population of 39 million people across 58 counties.
- California also has more FQHCs than any other state, serving more than 5 million patients.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess CRC screening rates and factors impacting the screening rate change (SRC) from 2019 to 2020 at California FQHCs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

METHODS

Data sources:

- National Health Resources and Services Administration Uniform Data System (UDS), 2019 and 2020.

Analyses:

- Determined screening rate change (SRC) from 2019 to 2020 at FQHCs in the state of California.
- Stratified FQHCs into quartiles by SRC and assessed clinic-level differences between FQHCs with the largest decrease in CRC screening rates (SRC Q1) and all other FQHCs (SRC Q2-Q4).
- Performed mixed-effects logistic regression to determine FQHC characteristics associated with the largest decline in CRC screening rate from 2019 to 2020 (SRC Q1).

RESULTS

- CRC screening rates at California FQHCs decreased from 44.5% in 2019 to **36.8% in 2020**.
- FQHCs with a high proportion of Medicare and Medicaid dual eligibility patients had lower odds of a large decline in CRC screening (**aOR 0.46**; 95% CI 0.27-0.81; p=0.007).

Figure 1: A) Median CRC screening rate by California region; B) SRC by California region from 2019-2020

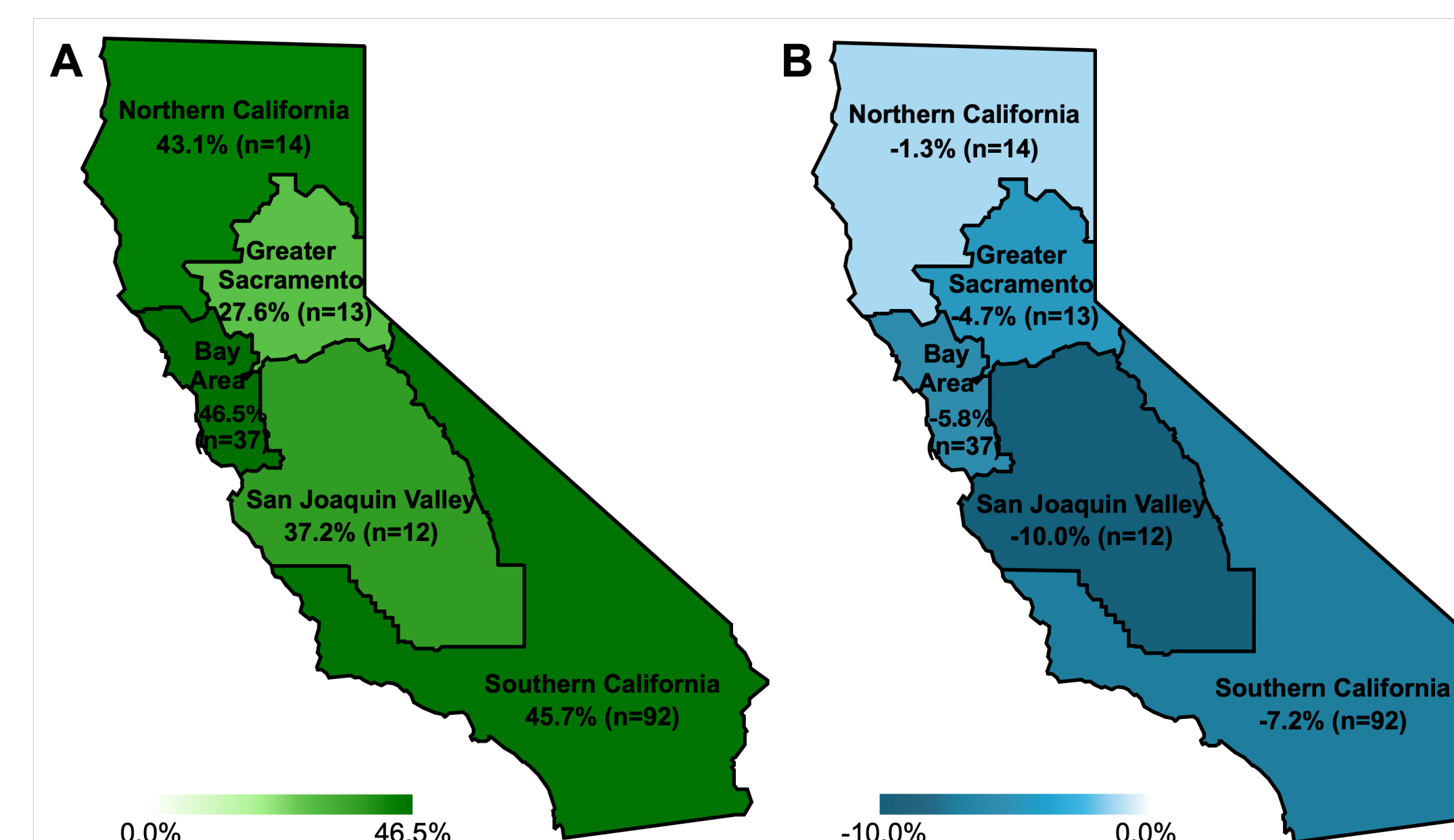
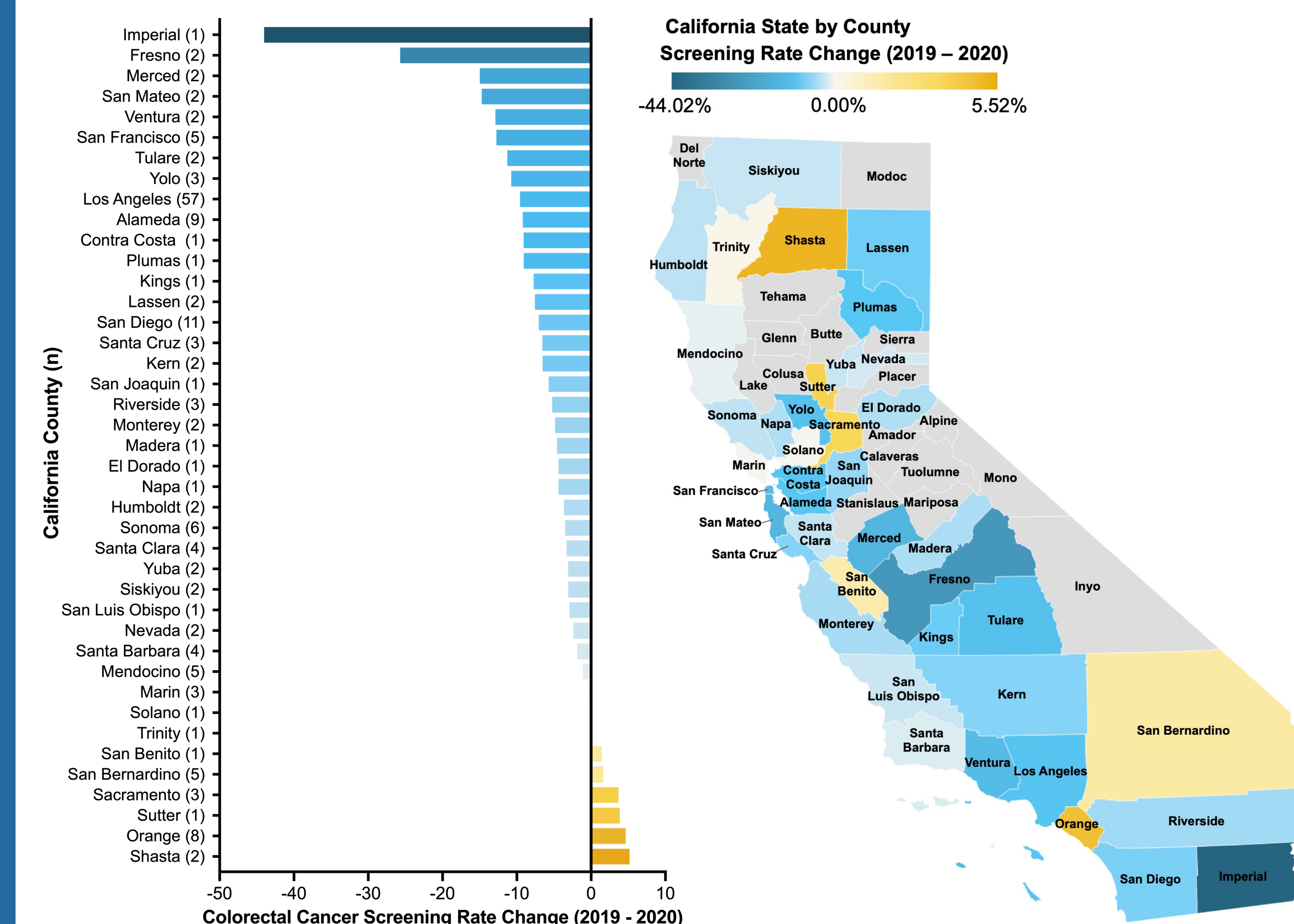


Table 1: California FQHC characteristics and CRC SRC by quartile

Frequency or Median %	Overall (n=168)	SRC Q1 (n=42)	SRC Q2+3+4 (n=126)	p-value*
Total Patients Eligible for CRC Screening (Age 50-74)	1,207,401	346,591	860,810	--
CRC Screening Rate 2019 (%)	44.5	53.7	41.6	<0.0001
CRC Screening Rate 2020 (%)	36.8	31.2	37.7	0.030
Change in CRC Screening Uptake between 2020 and 2019				
Median	-5.7	-18.6	-3.1	<0.0001
Interquartile Range	-13.1, -0.6	-28.4, -15.1	-7.5, 1.0	
Male Sex (%)	42.5	41.3	42.9	0.010
Race & Ethnicity (%)				
White Non-Hispanic	17.5	11.5	18.9	0.002
Black Non-Hispanic	3.0	2.8	3.0	0.890
Hispanic/Latinx	55.8	68.2	51.1	0.002
Other Non-Hispanic	3.2	2.9	3.4	0.180
Preference for Non-English (%)	33.1	38.7	30.6	0.009
Experiencing Homelessness (%)	3.2	3.3	3.2	0.890
Income Level >200% FPL (%)	3.3	2.7	3.8	0.480
Uninsured (%)	18.6	18.8	18.5	0.120
Medicaid (%)	39.3	35.9	40.3	0.240
Medicare/Medicaid Dually Eligible (%)	4.2	3.0	4.7	0.002
Private Insurance (%)	8.6	10.2	8.3	0.610
Agricultural Workers (%)	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.790
Urban FQHCs (n [%])	133 [79.2%]	38 [90.5%]	95 [75.4%]	0.040

*p-values were calculated using Wilcoxon rank-sum or Chi-square tests with statistical significance at <0.05.

Figure 2: SRC by California state county from 2019-2020



CONCLUSIONS

- California FQHCs saw a notable decline in CRC screening in 2020, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley. By individual California counties, SRC ranged from -44.0% to +5.5%.
- Interventions are needed for CRC screening uptake in California FQHCs, especially in clinics with high proportions of underinsured patients, as well as clinics in regions with low screening rates.

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