



DECLINE IN COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING RATES IN FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY FROM 2019 TO 2020

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BACKGROUND

- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
 - Provide primary care services to low-income and underinsured individuals
- Los Angeles County (LAC) is a large and diverse county with:
 - More than 10.2 million residents
 - 8 distinct Service Planning Areas (SPAs)

OBJECTIVES

- To describe colorectal cancer (CRC) screening rates (CRCSR) and the screening rate change (SRCs) at LAC FQHCs between 2019 and 2020
 - In LAC overall
 - For each SPA

METHODS

Data sources:

- Uniform Data System (UDS)
- Includes quality data for the FQHCs funded by HRSA

Study Population:

- FQHCs in LAC that provide data on CRC screening rates

Analyses:

- Determined 2019 and 2020 CRCSR for LAC FQHCs combined
- Determined 2019 and 2020 CRCSR for each FQHC in LAC
- Separated FQHCs into quartiles based on SRC
- Mixed-effects logistic regression to determine FQHC-characteristics associated with largest decline in CRCSR from 2019 to 2020
- Determined SRC for each SPA in LAC

RESULTS

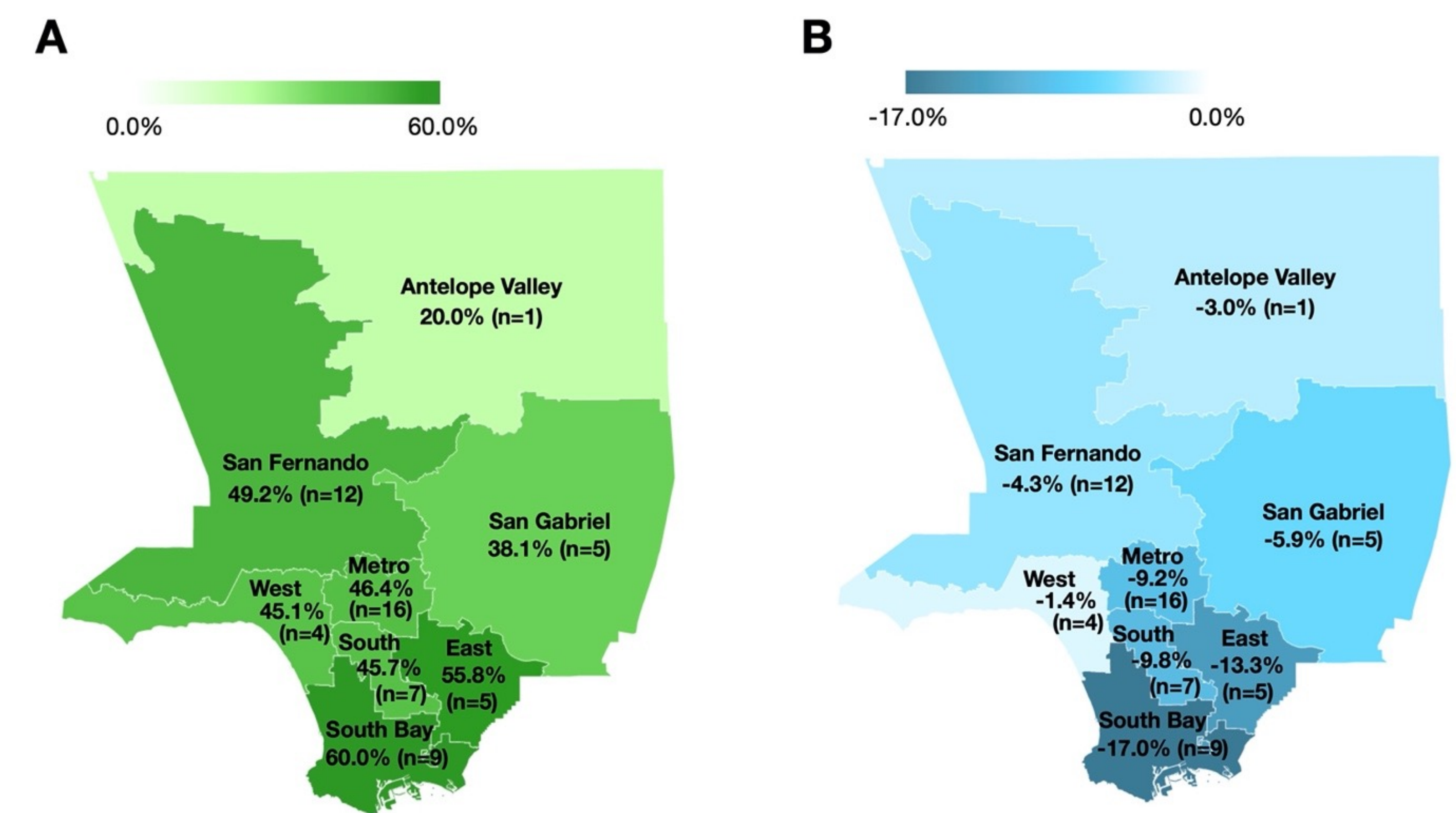
- Median CRCSR in LAC FQHCs was 37.3% in 2020, down from 48.0% in 2019 (59 FQHCs total).
- LAC FQHCs with higher proportions of patients **preferring non-English language** had significantly higher odds of having largest decline in CRCSR (SRC Q1 group) (aOR 3.25, 95% CI=1.22-8.65).
- CRCSR decreased from 2019 to 2020 in all SPAs
 - SRCs range: -17.0% in South Bay to -1.4% in West LA

Table: FQHC characteristics and SRC quartiles in LAC

Frequency or median %	Overall	Groups		p-value*
		SRC Q1 (n=15)	SRC Q2+Q3+Q4 (n=44)	
Total patients eligible for CRC screening (age 50-74)	350,405	79,218	271,187	n/a
CRC screening rate in 2019	48.0	61.4	44.7	0.0001
CRC screening rate in 2020	37.3	37.3	37.3	0.97
Change in CRC Screening Uptake (2020 to 2019)				
Median	-9.58	-24.49	-5.52	<0.0001
Interquartile Range	-15.2, -2.2	-31.4, -17.2	-10.0, -1.3	1
Race/Ethnicity				
White Non-Hispanic	8.7	6.2	10.2	0.12
Black Non-Hispanic	6.4	4.6	6.7	0.40
Hispanic/Latino/LatinX	63.5	54.9	63.7	0.94
Other Non-Hispanic	2.6	1.8	2.6	0.16
Preference for non-English Language	34.1	43.4	33.3	0.01
Experiencing homelessness	2.3	2.4	2.2	0.57
Income Level >200% FPL	2.1	1.8	2.2	0.60
Uninsured	22.6	22.7	22.6	0.72
Medicaid	41.8	40.0	42.0	0.52
Medicare/Medicaid Dually Eligible	3.0	2.8	3.0	0.64
Private Insurance	7.1	10.2	6.5	0.19
Agricultural Workers	0.26	0.30	0.26	0.74

*p-values were calculated using student's t-tests or Chi-square tests with statistical significance at <0.05.

Figure: A) Median LAC CRCSR in 2019 by SPA; B) % SRC between 2019 and 2020



CONCLUSIONS

- CRC screening rates in FQHCs in Los Angeles County were higher than the national average for FQHCs in 2019 but declined considerably in 2020
- CRC screening rates declined most in FQHCs that serve a large proportion of patients with preference for non-English language
- Declines in screening rates also varied by SPA
- These findings highlight need for targeted measures, including **language-appropriate resources**, to improve CRC screening uptake at LAC FQHCs

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