

Introduction

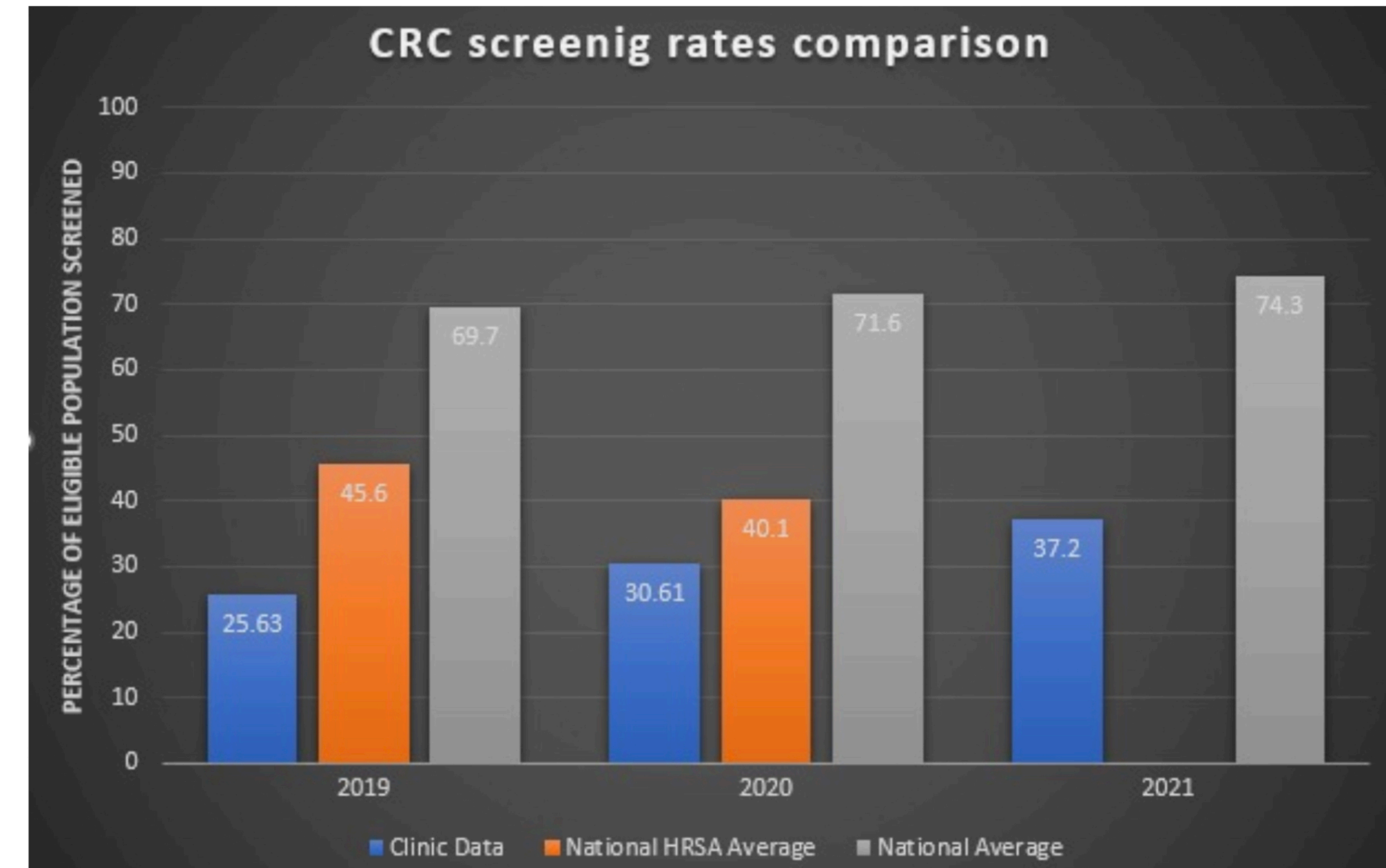
- Late diagnosis of colorectal cancer is linked to higher mortality.
- Early diagnosis can be achieved through proper screening of the eligible population.
- Patients served at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) have CRC screening rates disproportionately lower than the national average.
- According to the HRSA in 2020, 40.1% of eligible adults were up to date with CRC screening compared to CDC data which shows in 2018, 68.8% of qualified individuals were current with CRC screening.
- This project highlights a three-year quality improvement initiative to increase screening rates in an under-served FQHC resident-led clinic

Methods

- A retrospective single-center quality improvement study was done to determine rates of CRC screening between 2019 to 2021.
- As illustrated in the figure below, changes were implemented at different intervals.
- Identifying the barriers to care, proper utilization of EMR, provider education, and Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) kit availability in the provider room

Results

- Serial interventions were done to improve the screening rates of the population receiving CRC screening.
- From 2019 to 2020, this project focused on proper utilization within the EMR
- Screening rates increased from 25.63% to 30.61%, a 4.98% increase in screening percentage.
- 2020 to 2021, this project focused on provider EMR utilization, availability of FIT kits in every exam room, and education geared towards patient compliance
- Which resulted in a 6.59% increased screening rate with a total rate of 37.20%
- Overall, there was 17% improvement in CRC screening rates



CRC Screening Rates Comparison

Discussion

- CRC screening rates are widely different depending on the area, insurance coverage, and education level of the patients.
- In underserved areas, there is a lower screening prevalence compared to the national average. In our study, we compared the screening prevalence in an underserved area in Perth Amboy with the national average.
- Our study showed that the screening rate of the eligible population for CRC screening was 25.63% in 2019, compared with the national average of 69.7% in the same year.
- We took steps forward to enhance CRC screening in our population by educating the clinicians and increasing FIT kit availability in exam rooms.
- Data showed an increase in the prevalence from 25.63% in 2019 to 37.20% in 2021 after applying these interventions.
- The purpose of this study is to increase the screening rates to match the national average, which will decrease mortality from CRC and will improve quality care