

Introduction

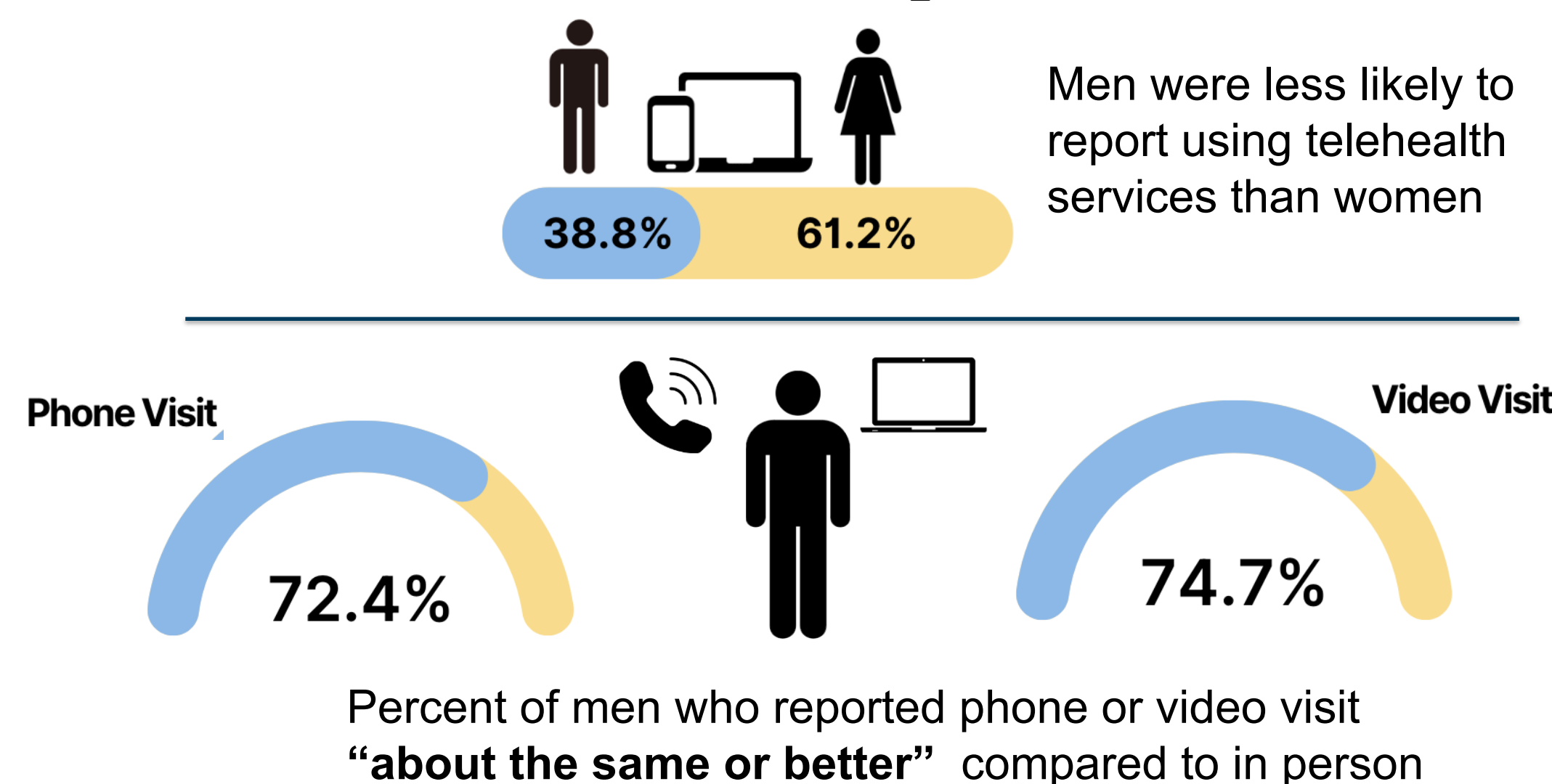
- The **California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)** is the nation's largest state health survey and provides a database from over 20,000 households in California covering a broad range of health topics
- CHIS demonstrates **Telehealth usage growing in California** since the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - 2018:** 12.9% of total surveyed adult population used Telehealth
 - 2022:** 49.6% of total surveyed adult population used Telehealth
- Benefits of Telehealth:**
 - Allows for continuity of care, increased access to specialty care
 - Improves transportation and time barriers
 - Reaches rural patients, healthcare professional shortage areas
- Challenges of Telehealth:**
 - May create a **"digital divide"** by exacerbating health disparities
 - Expanded telehealth reimbursements approved during COVID-19 pandemic are being re-evaluated in 2024

Research Questions

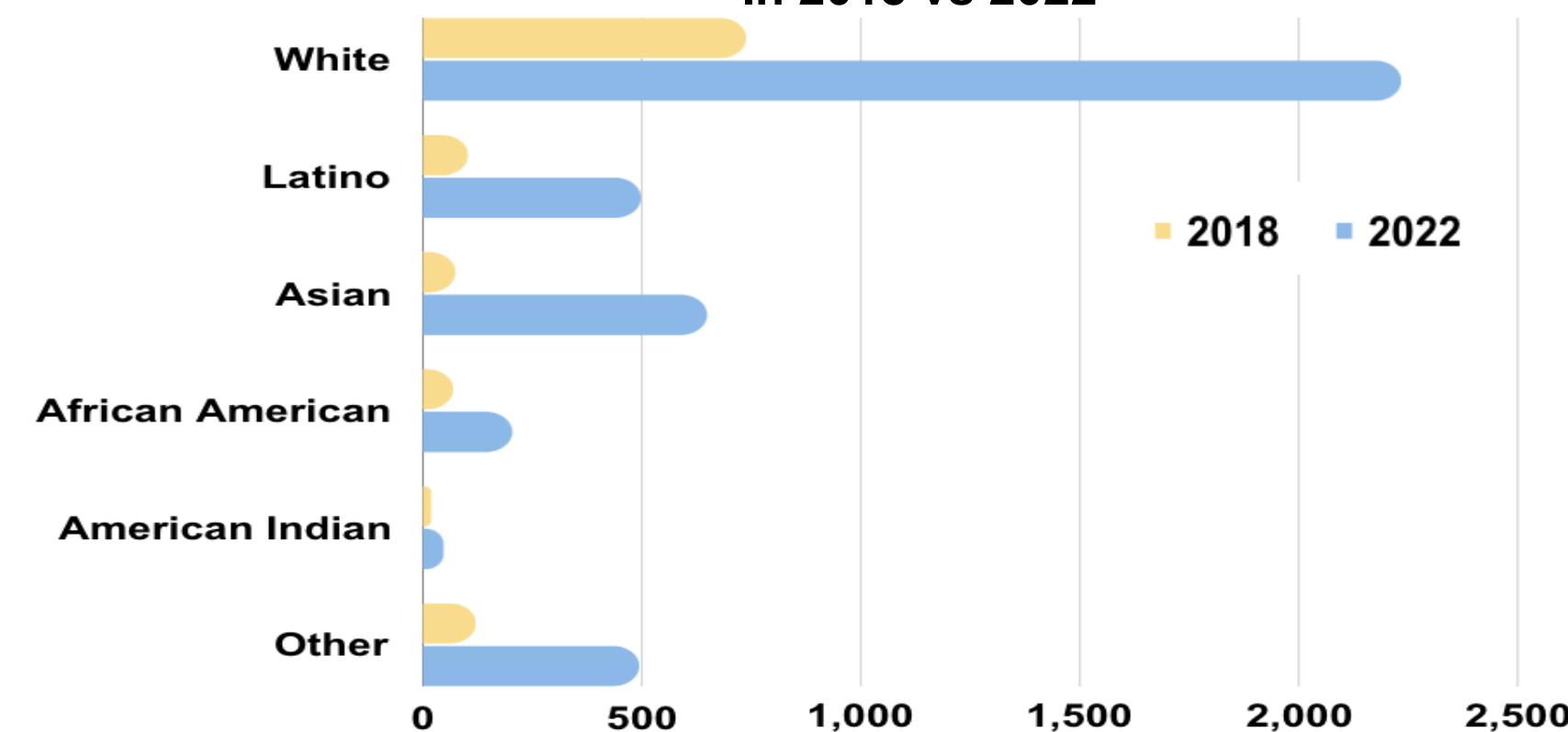
- Are there any differences in patient characteristics among telehealth users?
- What are potential reasons for these disparities?

Results

California Telehealth Usage Statistics in 2022



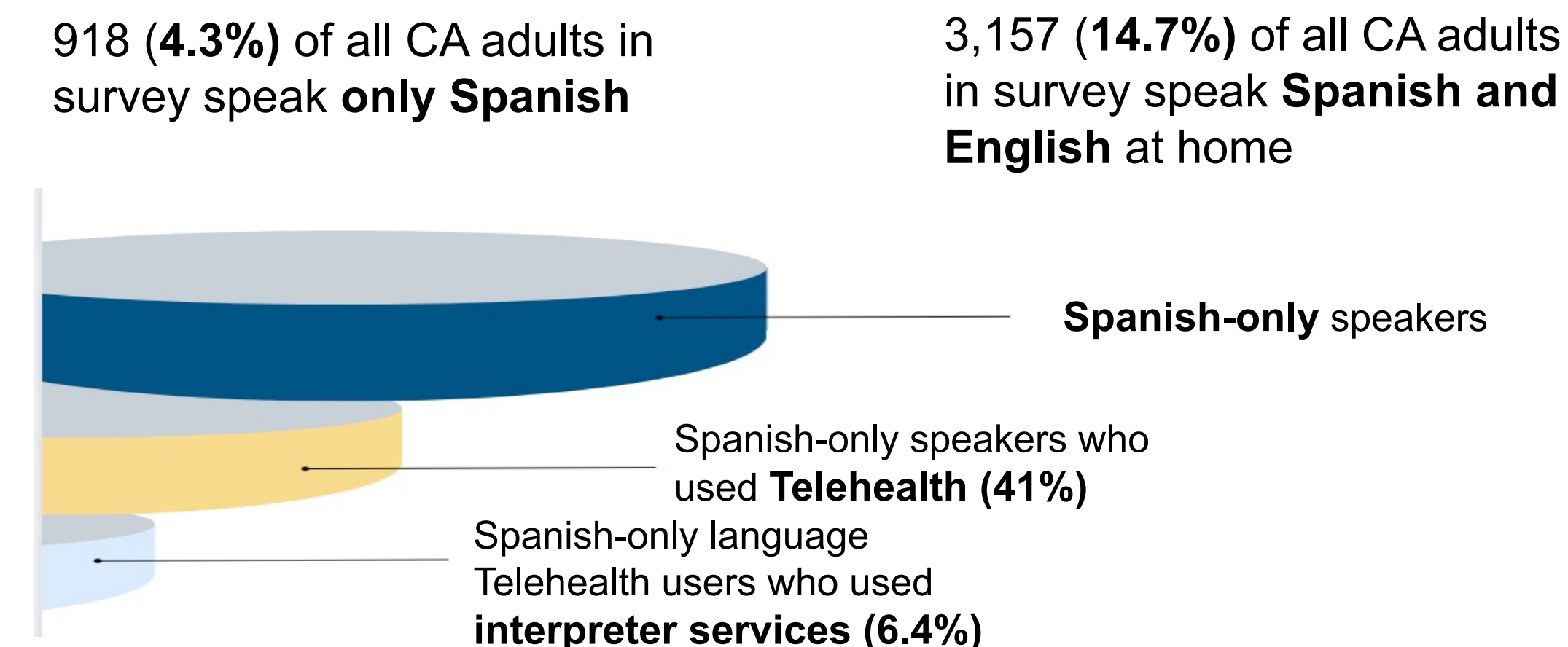
Number of Men Reporting Telehealth Use Across Race/Ethnicity In 2018 vs 2022



- In 2018 (pre COVID-19) the majority of male telehealth users were White (738 (65.6%)), 103 (9.2%) were Latino, 74 (6.6%) Asian, 69 (6.1%) African American, and 20 (1.8%) American Indian/Alaska Native.
- Similarly in 2022, while 2,234 (54.1%) of male telehealth users were White, only 498 (12.1%) were Latino, 649 (15.7%) were Asian, 204 (4.9%) were African American, and 47 (1.1%) were American Indian/Alaska Native.

Results

Language Barriers in Telehealth Use in 2022



Conclusion

- Large disparities in telehealth usage identified a **significant gap in healthcare equity for Men of Color** in California across gender and race/ethnicity, despite high satisfaction with telehealth
- Men of Color have historically faced worse health outcomes, and it is crucial to **prevent further exacerbation of existing disparities** as telehealth becomes more widespread in Urology
- Addressing this disparity and improving telehealth access could be key to improving some healthcare outcomes overall in these populations
- Policymakers and community advocates could use this data and implement support programs that facilitate access to care. Examples include:
 - Maintaining phone visits** as an option for telehealth
 - Subsidized internet and computers/ phones** to decrease gaps in technology access
 - Expanded interpreter services** to decrease language barriers

