**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**

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

**Results**

- **California Telehealth Usage Statistics in 2022**
  - Men were less likely to report using telehealth services than women
  - **38.8%** for men, **61.2%** for women
  - **72.4%** of men reported phone or video visit “about the same or better” compared to in person
  - **74.7%** of men reported phone or video visit “about the same or better” compared to in person

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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.

**Language Barriers in Telehealth Use in 2022**

- **3,157 (14.7%)** of all CA adults in survey speak Spanish and English at home
- **918 (4.3%)** of all CA adults in survey speak only Spanish

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**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