

# Comparing the Incidence of Otolaryngologic Concerns in San Francisco's Chinatown: Community Health Fair vs. County Hospital

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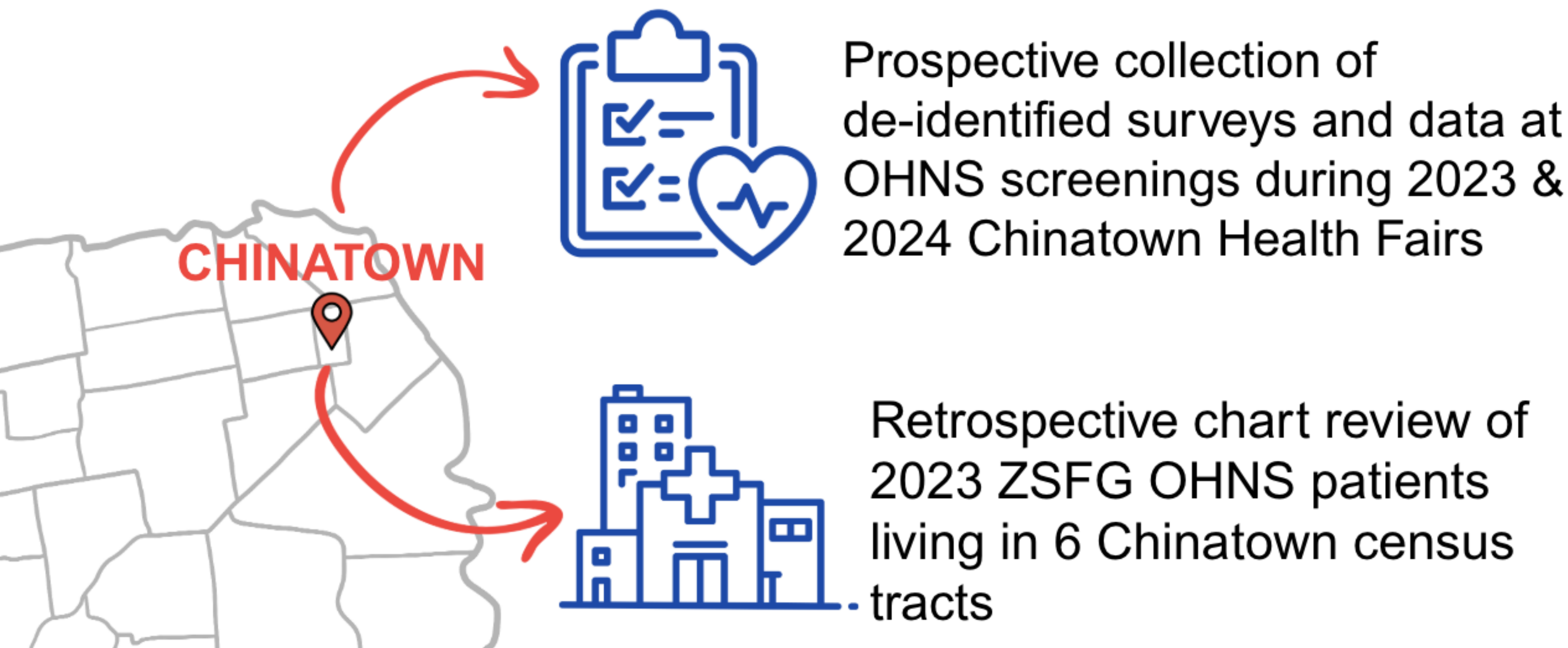


## Introduction

- Access to otolaryngologic care is often limited in underserved populations<sup>1</sup>
- Community health fairs aim to improve access to care in San Francisco (SF)<sup>2</sup>
- ZSFG is a safety net hospital providing OHNS services through its outpatient clinic
- It remains unclear whether individuals reached through community health fairs (HFs) represent the broader population that seeks formal OHNS care
- Identifying differences between these two populations informs future targeted outreach efforts

**Aim:** To compare the differences in patient demographics and clinical concerns from SF's Chinatown OHNS screening events to the patient population from Chinatown who presented to ZSFG for otolaryngologic concerns.

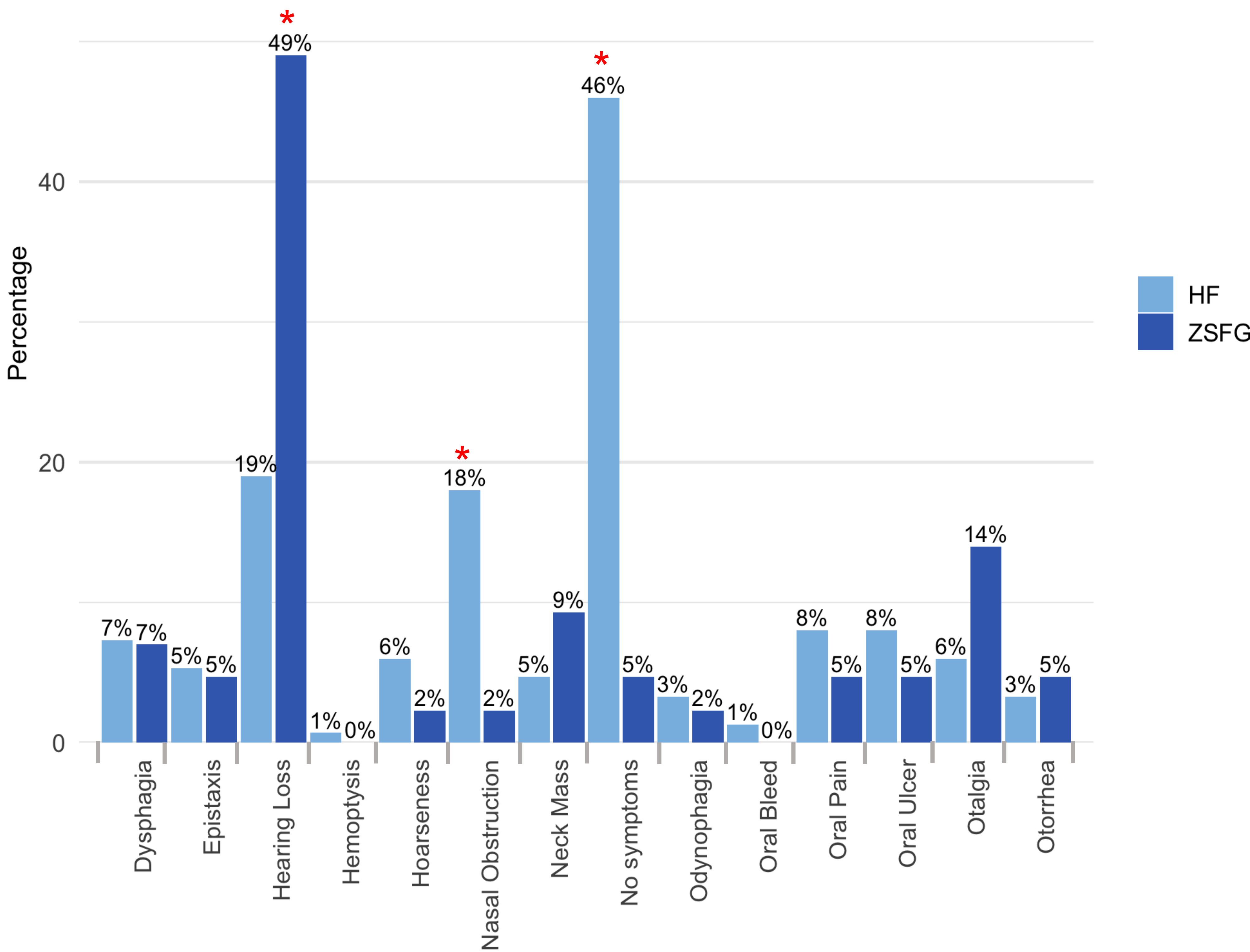
## Methods



### Variables:

Age  
Gender  
Race  
Ethnicity  
Language  
Marital Status  
Insurance  
Symptom

## Results



**Figure 1.** Clinical concerns of health fair participants and ZSFG OHNS patients. \*Statistically significant where  $p < 0.05$

## Results

Characteristic	HF Participants (n = 150)	ZSFG OHNS Patients (n = 43)	p-value
Median Age (IQR)	67 (54 -74)	66 (51 -71)	0.200
Race			<0.001*
Asian	144 (96%)	35 (81%)	
Black or African American	0 (0%)	1 (2.3%)	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1 (0.7%)	0 (0%)	
Other	0 (0%)	3 (7.0%)	
Unknown	4 (2.7%)	0 (0%)	
White	1 (0.7%)	4 (9.3%)	
Ethnicity			<0.001*
Not Hispanic or Latino/a, or Spanish origin	122 (81%)	41 (95%)	
Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin	0 (0%)	2 (4.7%)	
Unknown	28 (19%)	0 (0%)	
Gender			0.011*
Female	106 (71%)	22 (51%)	
Male	39 (26%)	21 (49%)	
Unknown	5 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	

Characteristic	HF Participants (n = 150)	ZSFG OHNS Patients (n = 43)	p-value
Primary Language			0.010*
Cantonese	102 (68%)	26 (60%)	
English	21 (14%)	10 (23%)	
Mandarin	8 (5.3%)	2 (4.7%)	
Multilingual	12 (8.0%)	0 (0%)	
Other	2 (1.3%)	0 (0%)	
Toishanese	2 (1.3%)	5 (12%)	
UNK	3 (2.0%)	0 (0%)	
Marital Status			0.200
Divorced	4 (2.7%)	4 (9.3%)	
Married or Partnered	96 (64%)	25 (58%)	
Single	32 (21%)	9 (21%)	
Unknown	5 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	
Widowed	13 (8.7%)	5 (12%)	
Insurance			<0.001*
Healthy San Francisco	10 (6.7%)	1 (2.3%)	
Healthy Workers	0 (0%)	10 (23%)	
Medi-Cal	32 (21%)	13 (30%)	
Medicare	33 (22%)	19 (44%)	
Multiple	20 (13%)	0 (0%)	
None	3 (2.0%)	0 (0%)	
Other	19 (13%)	0 (0%)	
Private/Purchased	20 (13%)	0 (0%)	
Unknown	12 (8.0%)	0 (0%)	

## Discussion

- Significant demographic differences observed between HF participants and ZSFG patients in race, ethnicity, gender, primary language, and insurance type
  - HF participants were more likely to be Asian, female, and Cantonese-speaking
  - ZSFG patients had greater language and insurance diversity
- Reflecting the preventative intent of HFs, a greater proportion of HF participants were asymptomatic in comparison to referral-based clinical visits at ZSFG
  - ZSFG patients had a higher prevalence of hearing loss
  - HF patients had a higher prevalence of nasal obstruction
- Community health interventions can improve early disease detection, but may miss vulnerable populations without tailored engagement

## Conclusions

- **Conclusion:** SF's Chinatown health fairs are reaching patients who remain unseen even the county hospital OHNS clinics. This highlights a critical gap and the need for community-based outreach.
- **Future direction:** tailor outreach efforts to target underrepresented subgroups, evaluate whether HF participants with concerns ultimately connect with OHNS care, and develop strategies to support navigation into specialty care

## References

1. Batool S, Burks CA, Bergmark RW. Healthcare Disparities in Otolaryngology. *Curr Otorhinolaryngol Rep*. Published online June 8, 2023. doi:10.1007/s40136-023-00459-0
2. Branford C, Regis-Andrew P, Phillip D, Auguste A. Community health fairs and cancer prevention in low-resource settings: a global perspective. *Curr Epidemiol Rep*. 2024;11(2):110-119. doi:10.1007/s40471-024-00321-1

**Table 1.** Demographics of health fair participants and ZSFG OHNS patients. \*Statistically significant where  $p < 0.05$