

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 populations¹
- Community health fairs aim to improve access to care in San Francisco (SF)²
- 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.

Results

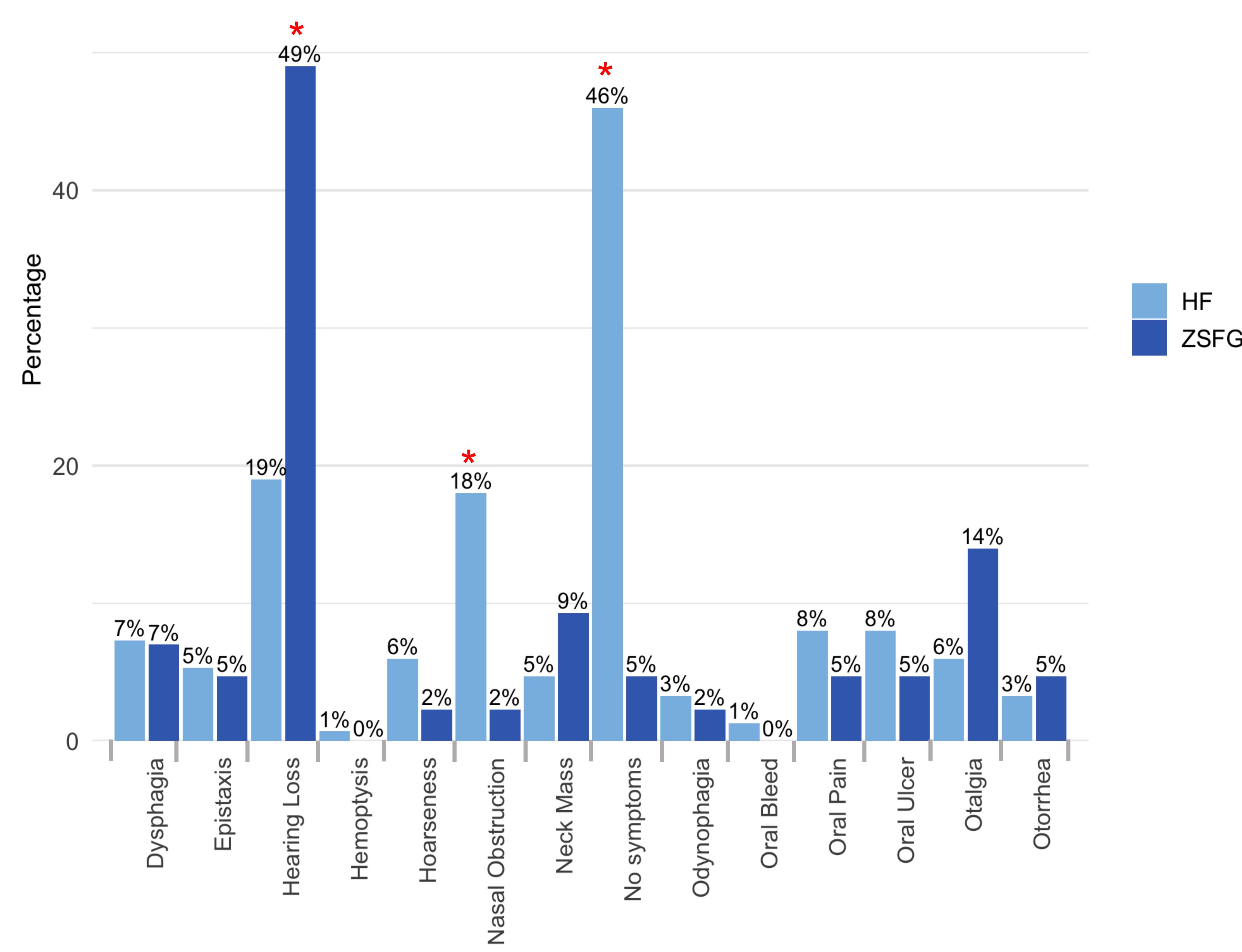
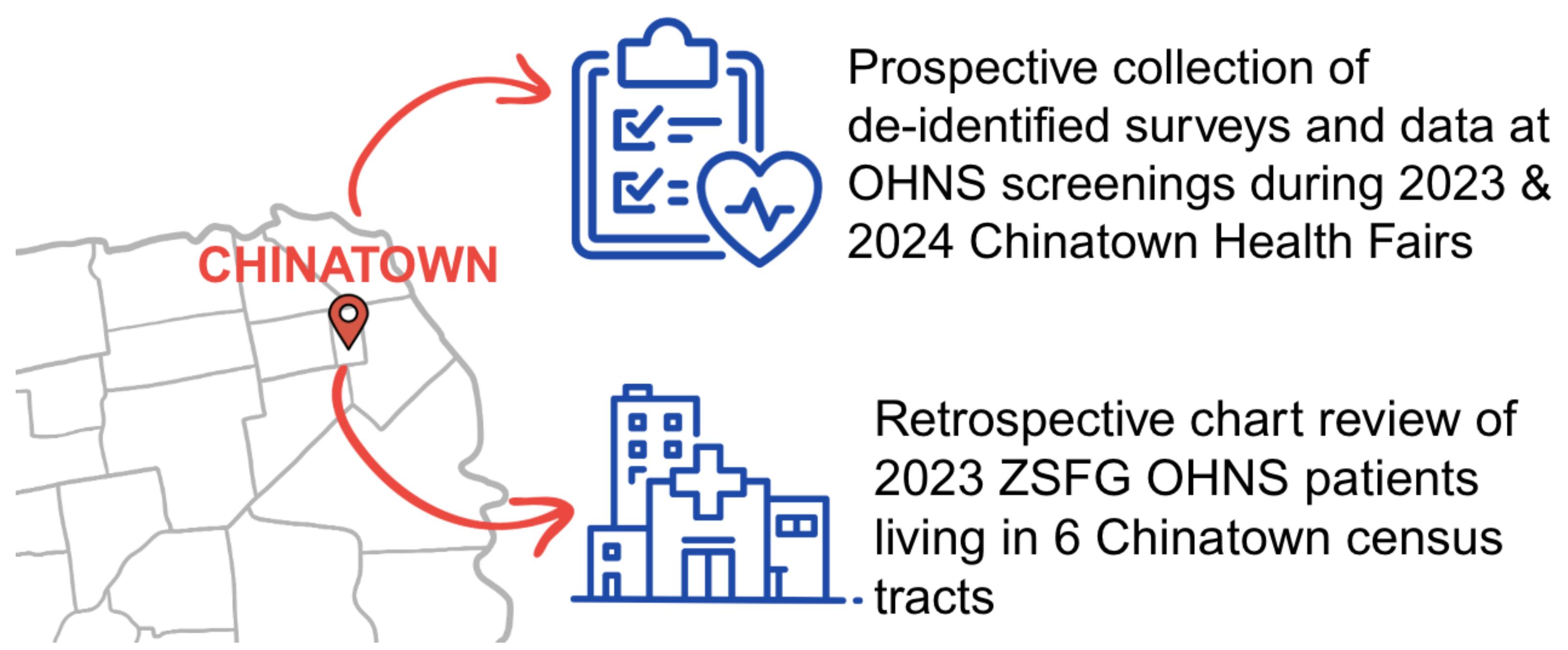


Figure 1. Clinical concerns of health fair participants and ZSFG OHNS patients. *Statistically significant where $p < 0.05$

Methods



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%)	

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

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

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- 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