LA County Disparities in Healthcare Accessibility

Frida Barragan & Keven Michel

Introduction

How does the number of health establishments and their quality of services offered is affected by the median household income of the zip code they are located in? (LA County)

- Our project is aimed to showcase the accessibility to health services on an income-based distribution within Los Angeles County.

- By utilizing census and quantitative data we will be able to visualize how the distribution of health services is affected by the income of the population they are being offered to.

- Our project will also provide insight as to what the effects of Federal and State funds for health services being allocated are in the enrollment of medical establishments targeted for low income communities .

Data Sources

- **Healthcare facility listing in California**

Data from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) of medical facilities that are currently operating and certified.

https://healthdata.gov/dataset/licensed-and-certified-healthcare-facility-listing

- **LA County median household income statistics (by zip code)**

Data from the US Census Bureau about the median income statistics in LA County by zip code.

https://censusreporter.org/data/map/?table=B19013&geo_ids=05000US06037,860|05000US06037&primary_geo_id=05000US06037

- **LA County Hospitals and Medical Centers, Health Clinics and Health and Education Counseling Services**

https://egis-lacounty.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/health-education-and-counseling

https://egis-lacounty.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/hospitals-and-medical-centers

https://egis-lacounty.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/health-clinics

- **LA County Hispanic and Non-Hispanic White Data**

https://censusreporter.org/data/table/?table=B02001&geo_ids=05000US06037,860|05000US06037&primary_geo_id=05000US06037

Income Choropleth

Map 1. This LA County choropleth map shows the Median Household Incomes in 2019 Inflation-adjusted dollars by zip code. The lowest median income per household is found in the Downtown LA area (90021) with a yearly median household income of $ 21,635. The highest median income per household is found in the Bel Air neighborhood (90077) with a yearly median household income of $ 209,531.

Median Household income distributed by zip code in LA county in 2019
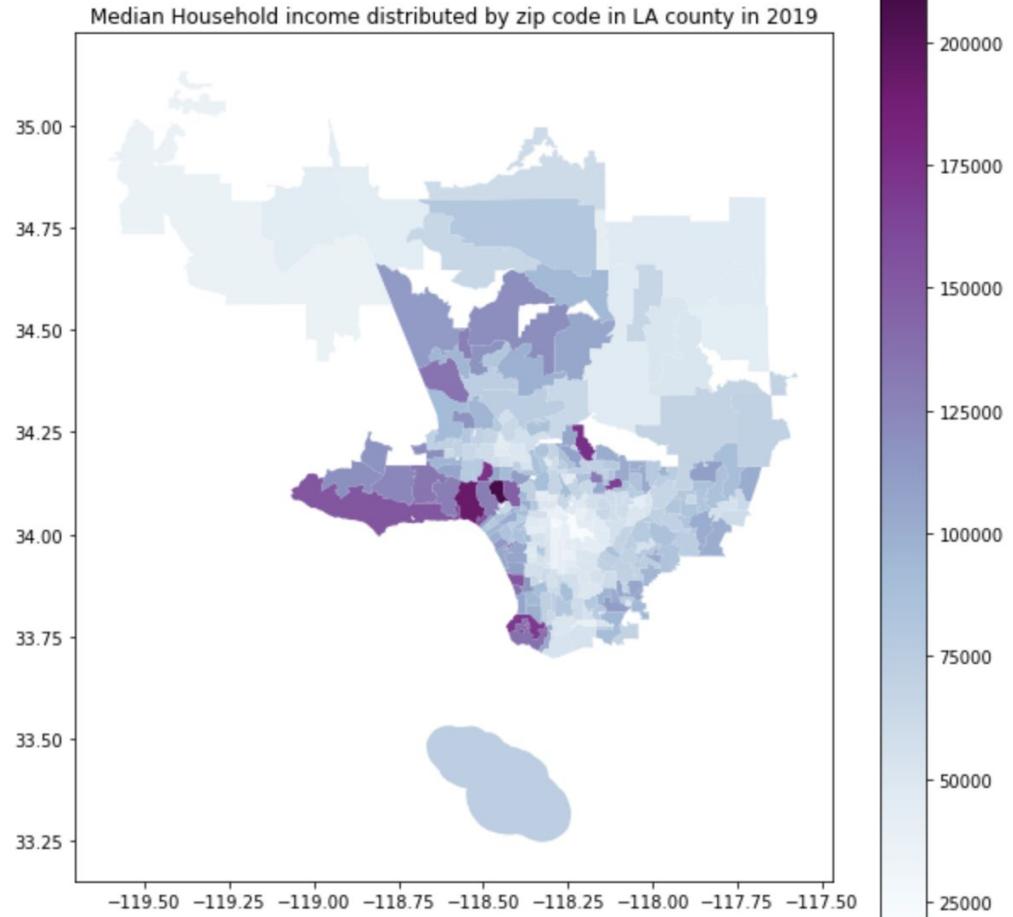
Income and Healthcare Services Available

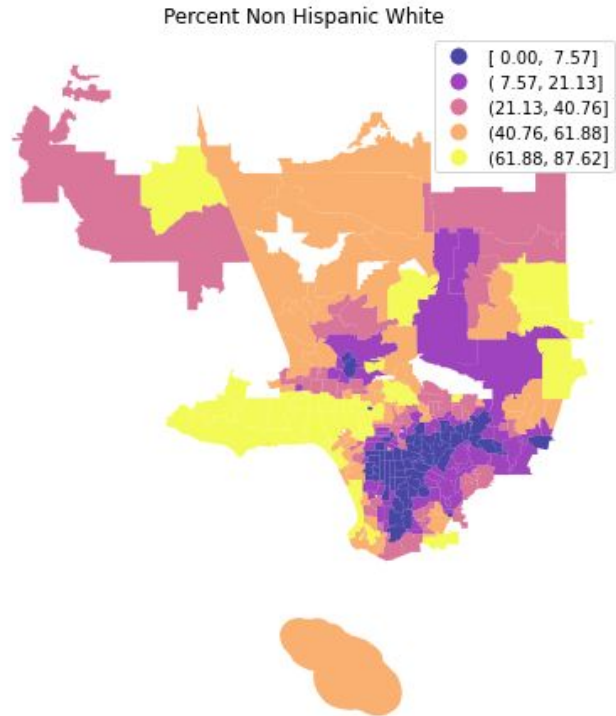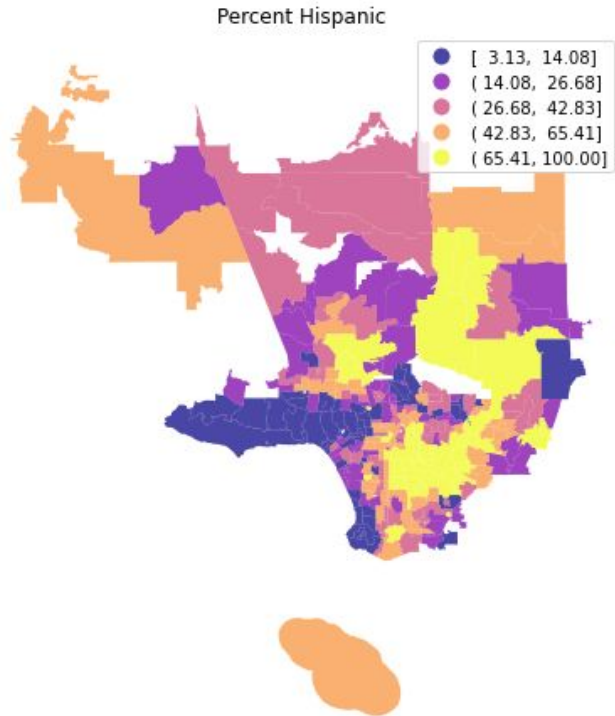**90048** (Median Household Income: **$100,586**)

90021 (Median Household Income: **$21,365**)

Map 2. The Open Street map on the left is of the 90048 zip code area and has a total of 12 healthcare facilities.

Map 3. The Open Street map on the right is of the 90021 zip code area and has a total of 0 healthcare facilities

***The data from Open Street Maps is reliable but there might be discrepancies in the accuracy of the building tags.

Census Data (income relates to race)

Percent Hispanic

●	[3.13, 14.08]
●	(14.08, 26.68]
●	(26.68, 42.83]
●	(42.83, 65.41]
●	(65.41, 100.00]

Percent Non Hispanic White

●	[0.00, 7.57]
●	(7.57, 21.13]
●	(21.13, 40.76]
●	(40.76, 61.88]
●	(61.88, 87.62]

Location of clinics in the county

Hospitals and Medical Centers

Health Clinics

Health Education and Counseling Services
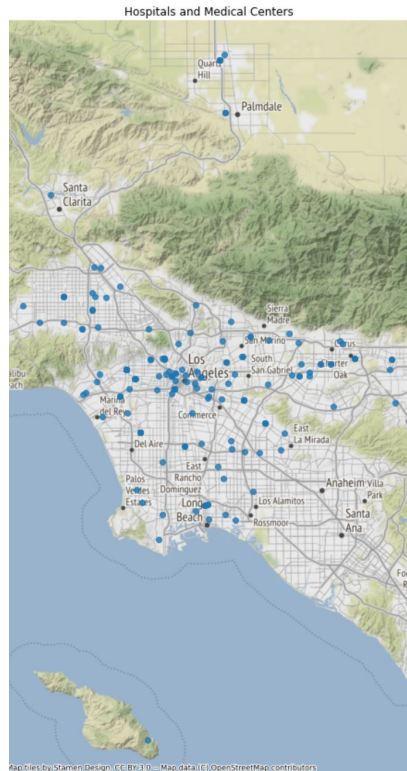
Fig. 1
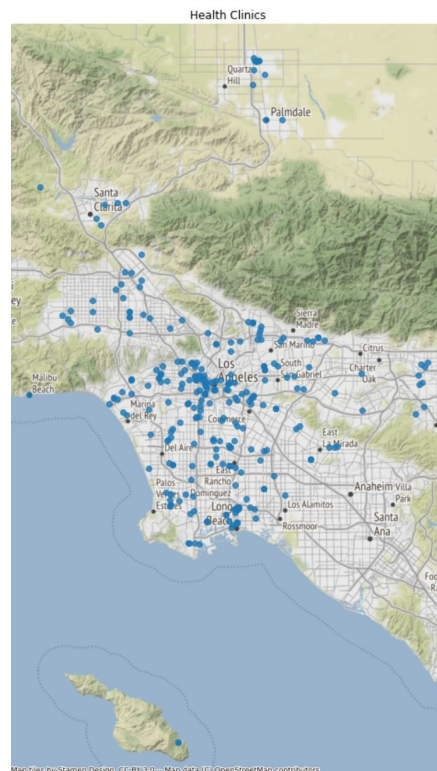
Fig. 2
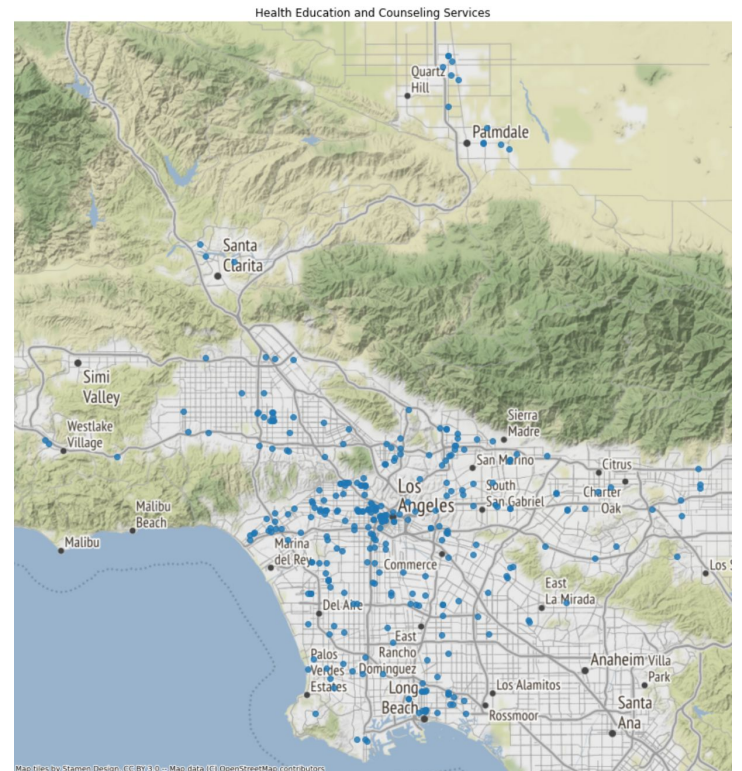
Fig. 3

Health Education and Counseling Services In LA County
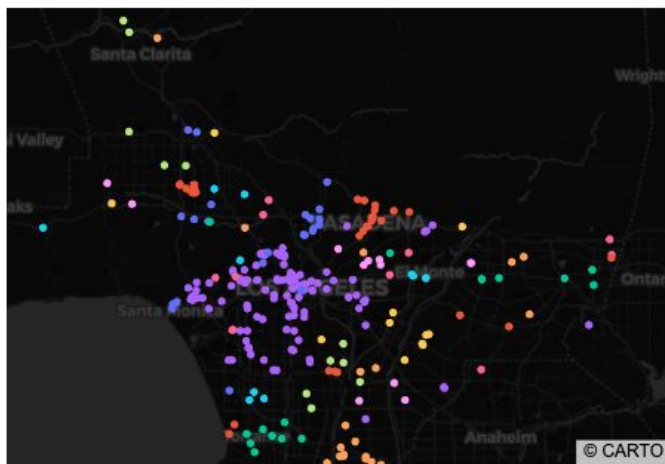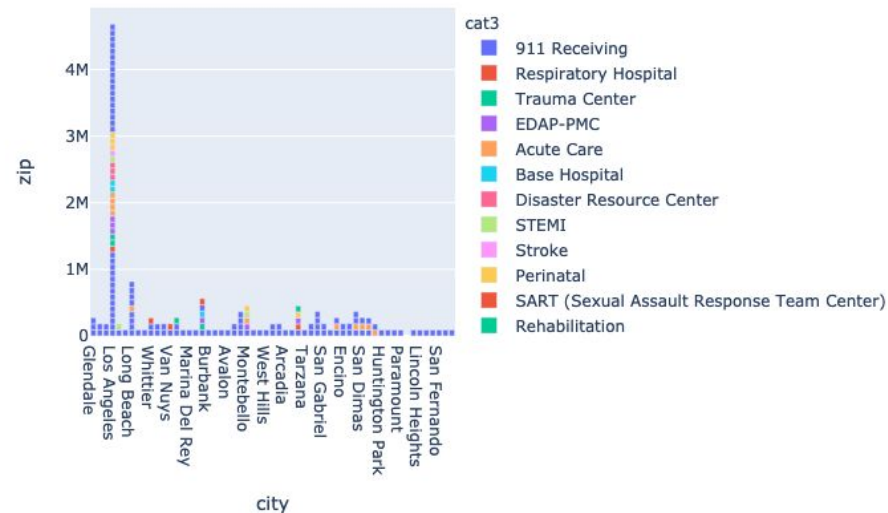
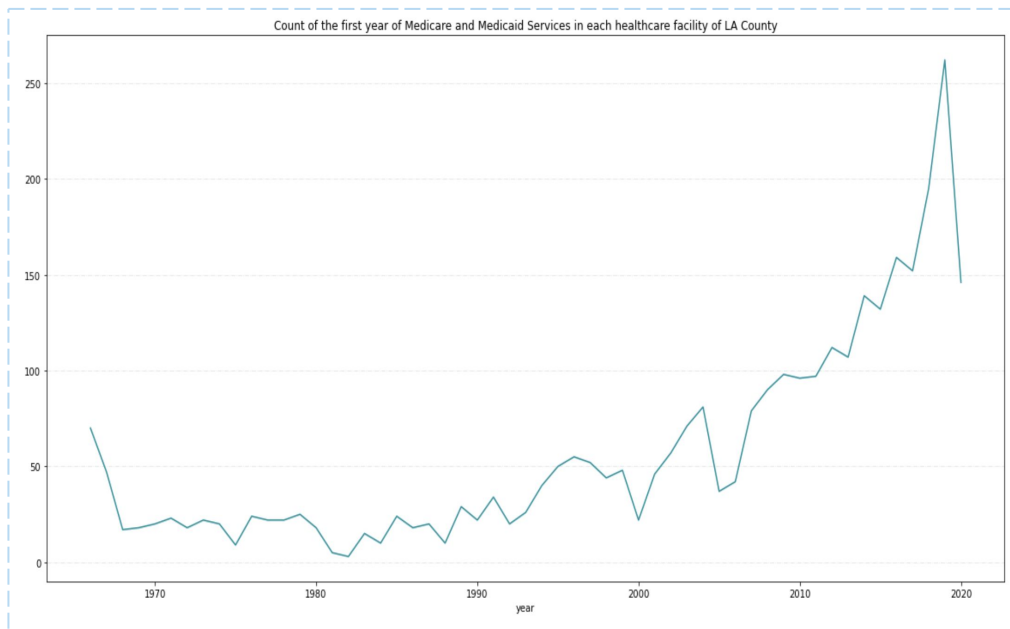# Time Chart of CMS enrollment in healthcare facilities

Figure 2. This figure shows a timeline of the years in which each facility in LA County started participating in Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services.
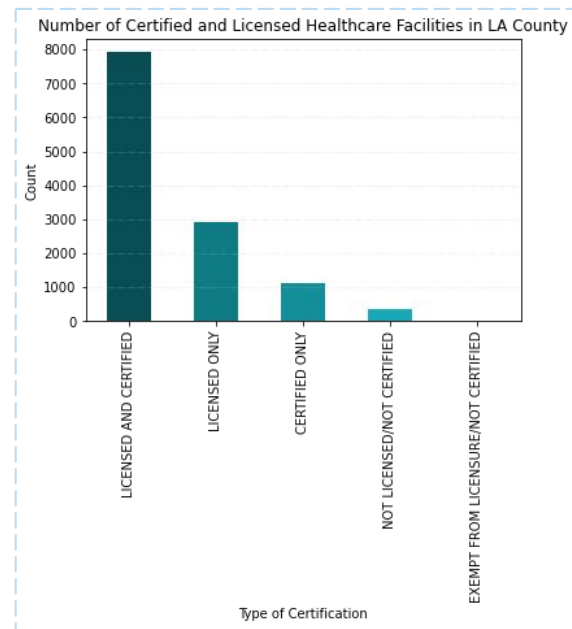

Figure 3. This chart shows a count of the certified and licensed healthcare facilities that are currently active in LA county.

Findings and Conclusion

- Our exploration of the data shows that there is a discrepancy in the healthcare services available for the population of Los Angeles County.

- Our services graphs, demographic and income distribution maps show that in some cases, areas with higher median household income tend to have more access to specific healthcare providers while areas with lower income have less accessibility to medical services.

- Our count of the healthcare services accessible within the county and the time chart of how enrollment in federally funded services spiked after the implementation of Obamacare which extended the medical benefits for its recipients. This could potentially be indicative of the necessity of healthcare resources for low-income communities that were lacking previous to the implementation of Obamacare.