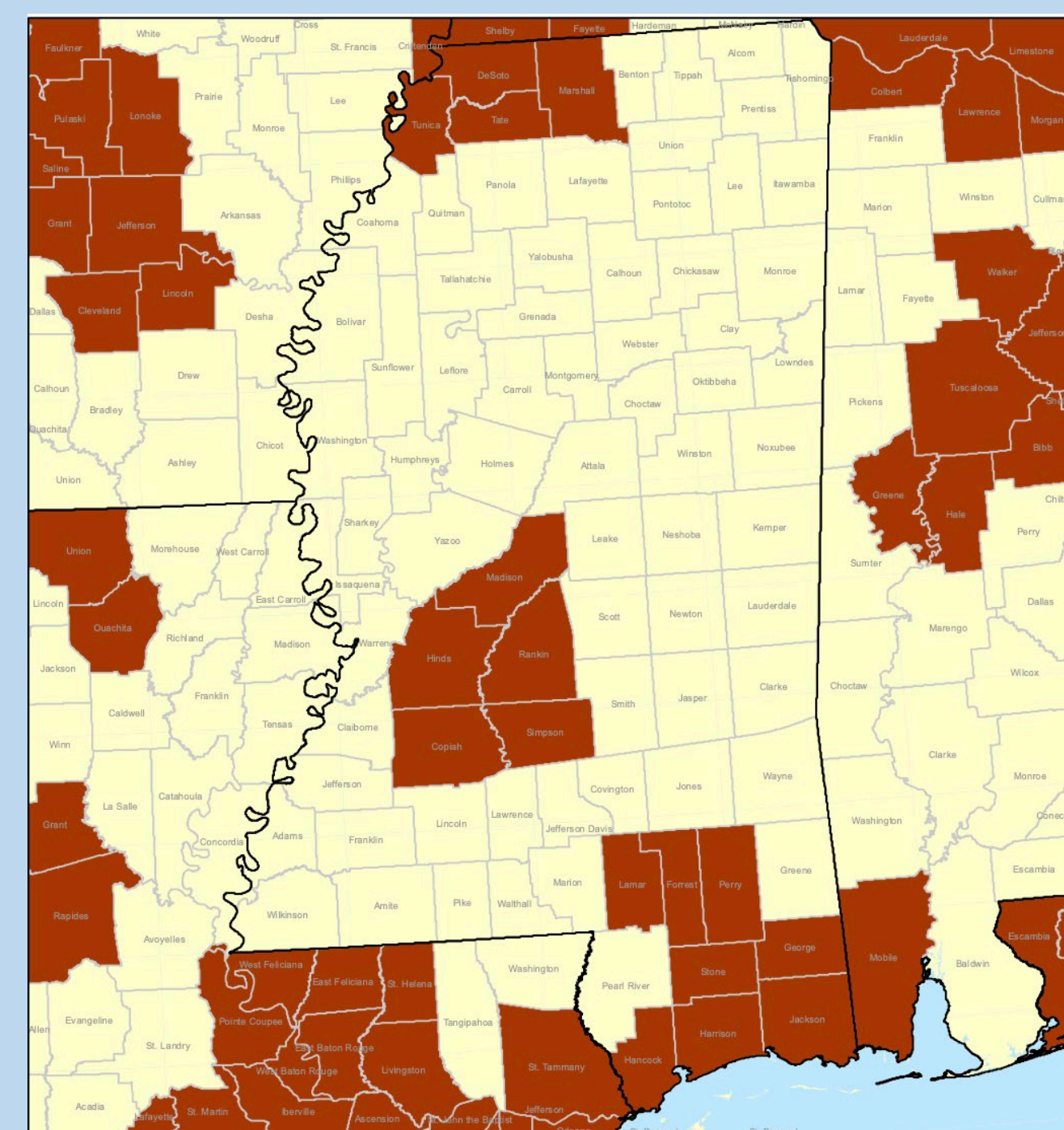


INTRODUCTION

Limited Access to Neurologists



Rural: Nonmetro county
Urban: OMB metro county

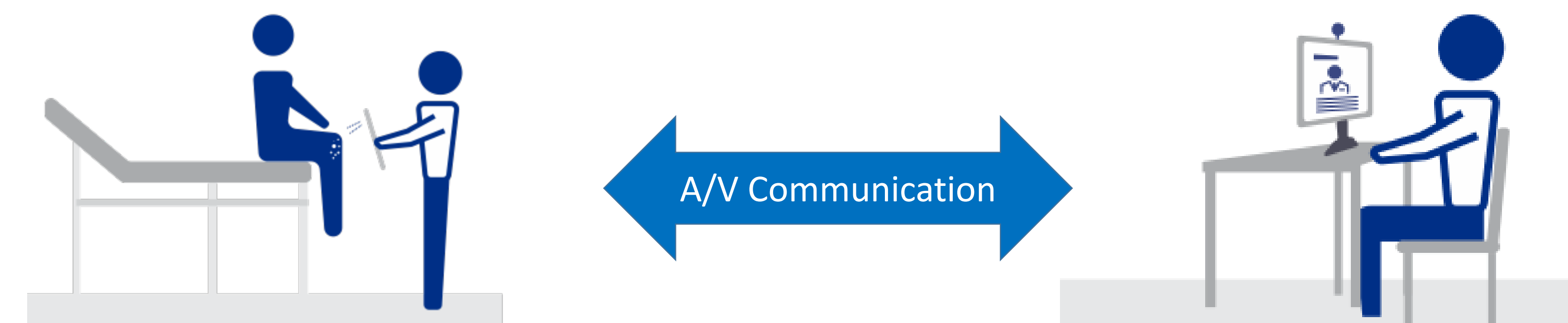
Mississippi Demographics

- Over half (54%) of Mississippians live in a rural or nonmetropolitan area.
- Recruitment and retention of neurologists in rural MS is a challenge and barrier to access.

AIM

- Explore the feasibility of bridging gaps in bedside Neurologist availability using Telehealth
- For inpatient consultations, UMMC collaborated with South Central Regional Medical Center in Laurel, MS to implement a hybrid care model (~15 days of inpatient consult service provided by bedside Neurologist each month and ~15 days of inpatient consult service provided by remote UMMC 'TeleNeurologists').

METHODS AND RESULTS



- Inpatient Neurology Service at South Central Regional Medical Center
- Rounding facilitated by NPs
- 10-15 days / month

- 8 remote neurologists at UMMC
- Access to EMR
- Access to PACS
- Block schedule

Retrospective chart review; study period January – December 2023.

Characteristic	N = 300 ¹
Age	69 (59, 78)
Sex	
Female	140 (47%)
Male	160 (53%)
Race	
Black	125 (42%)
White	172 (57%)
Other	3 (1.0%)
Payor	
Medicaid	30 (10%)
Medicare	212 (71%)
Private	57 (19%)
Uninsured/Self pay	1 (0.3%)
Lives in Rural County ²	294 (98%)

¹Median (Q1, Q3); n (%)

²As defined by HRSA

Table 1: Patient Demographics

Neurological Diagnosis ¹	N = 605 ²
Stroke	173 (29%)
Encephalopathy	150 (25%)
Epilepsy	144 (24%)
Dementia	49 (8.1%)
Parkinson Disease	6 (1.0%)
Migraine	12 (2.0%)
Alzheimer Disease	5 (0.8%)
Multiple Sclerosis	3 (0.5%)

¹Percent of Total Teleneurology Consults, More Than One Diagnosis Per Consult Possible

²n (%)

Table 2: Diagnoses related to neurology consults

Fig. 1 TeleNeurology Patients by Age, Payor

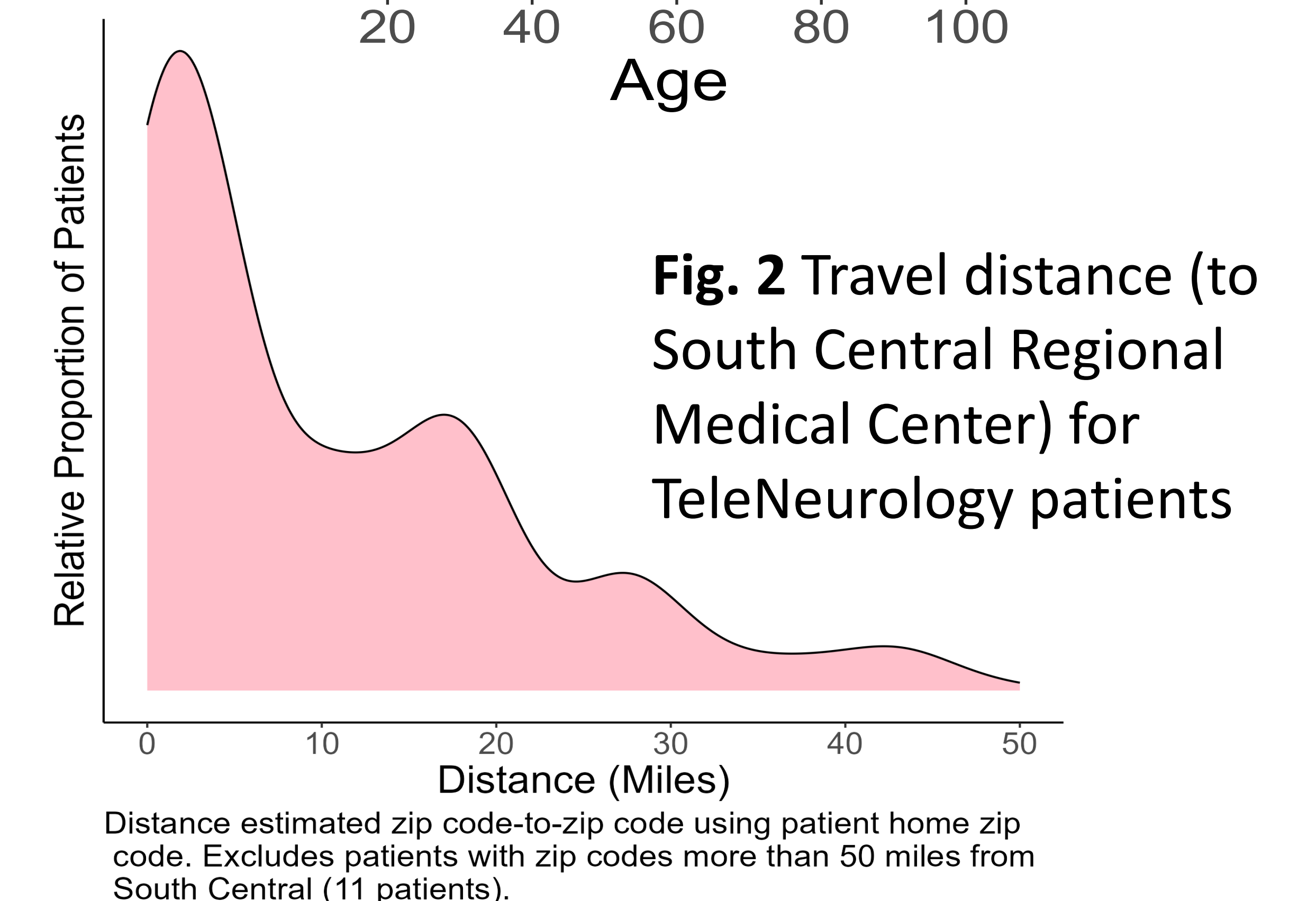
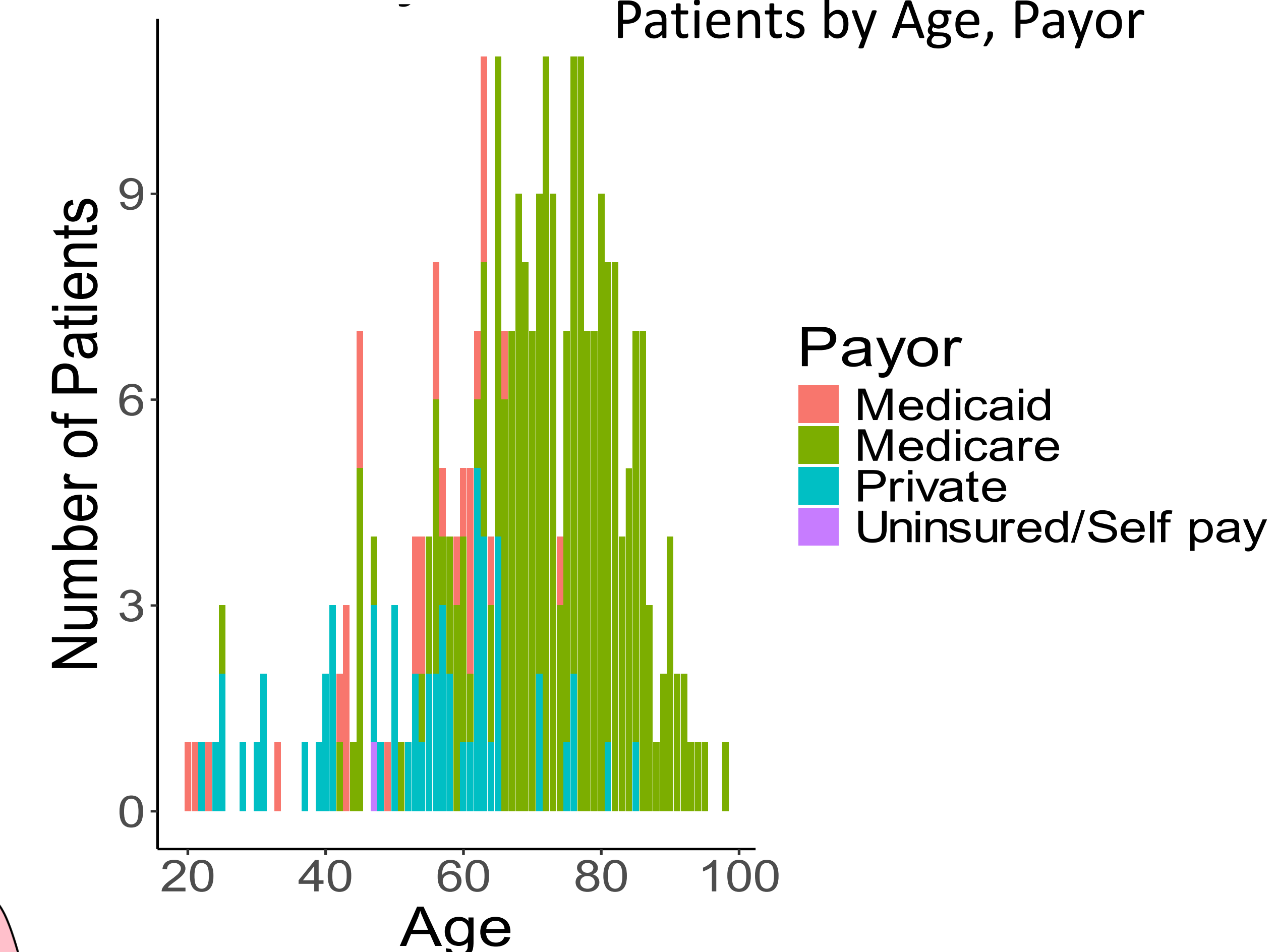


Fig. 2 Travel distance (to South Central Regional Medical Center) for TeleNeurology patients

CONCLUSION

- TeleNeurology inpatient consults can bridge the gap in service and may reduce interfacility transfers for specialty care.
- Future research is necessary to evaluate the long-term clinical outcomes and Financial ROI.