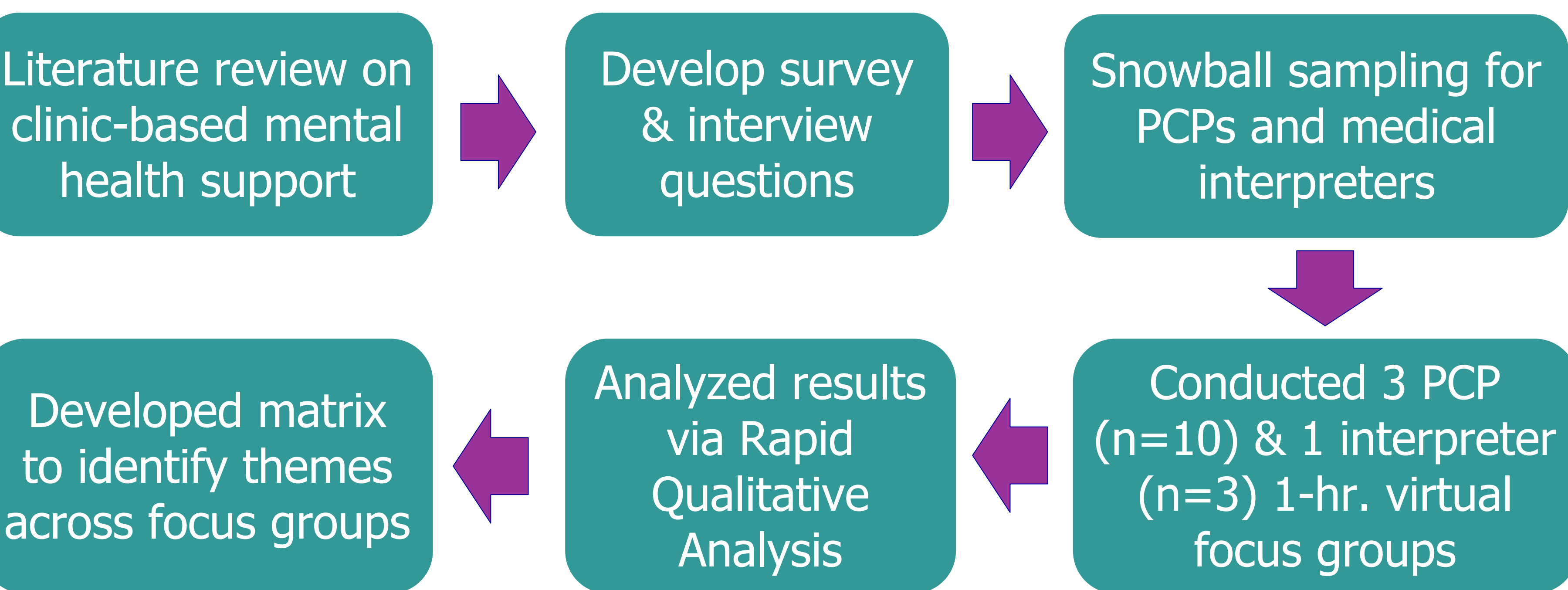


Francisco Banda¹, Anna de Pourtales¹, Elaijah Lapay¹, Sue-Ann Maynard⁶, Vibhav Nandagiri¹, Sabrina Takemoto-Spraggins¹, Karina Vasudeva⁷
 Olivia Ferris^{1,4}, Sarahi Robles¹, Stephanie Stan^{1,5}
 Rushina Cholera, MD, PhD^{1,2}, Jeylan Close, MD^{1,2}, Michelle Franklin, PhD, MSN¹, Greeshma James, MPH¹, Andrea Thoumi, MPP, MSc¹
¹Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy, ²Duke University School of Medicine, ⁴Duke University School of Law, ⁵Duke Global Health Institute, ⁶North Carolina Central University, ⁷University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

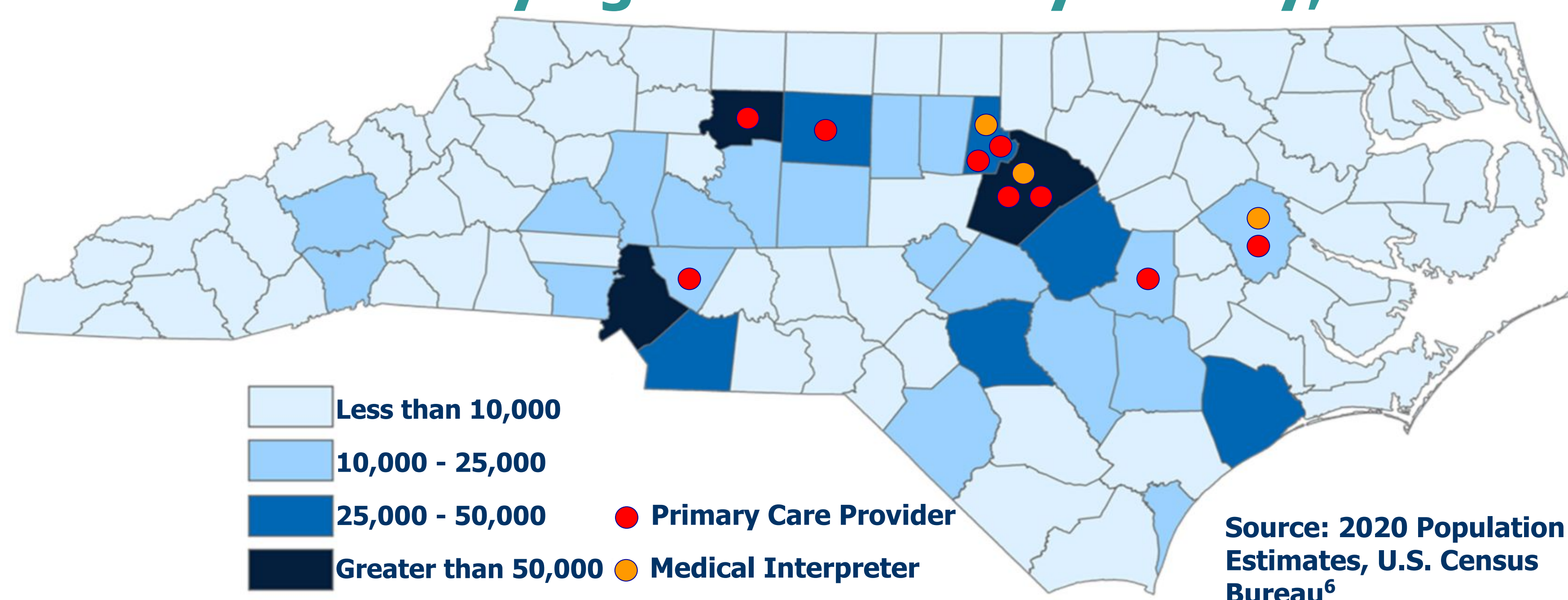
Background

- In 2021, national leaders in pediatric care declared a **National Emergency in Child and Adolescent Mental Health**.¹
- The mental health crisis has disproportionately impacted **US Latinx communities** who already face extensive challenges in accessing behavioral & mental health services^{2,3}
- NC Latinx population stands at **1.1 million**, with an over **40%** increase in the past decade⁴ and **35.2%** of NC Latinx under 18⁵
- Study Aims: Determine the **current landscape** of mental & behavioral healthcare access in the NC pediatric Latino population, address its **barriers & facilitators for support**, & identify **strategies & solutions** needed to support providers

Methods



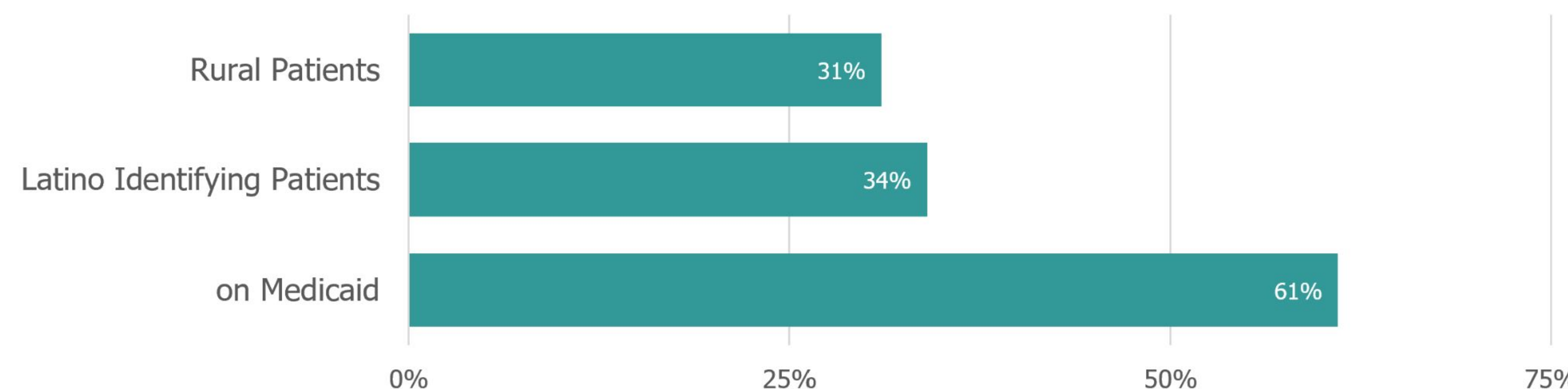
Map of Focus Group Sample vs. Number of Hispanic & Latino Identifying Individuals by County, 2019



Results

Emerging Themes	Quotes
Tailoring Mental Health Care with Cultural Humility	"Cultural considerations that I take into account are understanding that the definition of mental health is varied and understood differently with people from different backgrounds. So, I try to approach a conversation with what the family stated as their concern , and go from there."
Bridging the Provider to Interpreter Gap	" Debriefing is is very, very helpful, because interpreters don't just interpret...spoken word. They also interpret a culture and and they're able to also provide education to the provider about cultural considerations ."
Healthcare Workers Need Systems-Level Accountability	"I think it'll be great if a hospital system would ... actually ask the populations that we want to improve access for instead of us just guessing what we think need[ed]. And actually do what's right for the patients."

Demographics of Patients Served by PCPs



Recommendations

Clinical Encounter Level

- Provider cultural humility is vital
- Interpretation modality preferences: In-person > Video > Phone
- Encourage debriefing with PCPs and interpreters

Organizational Level

- Allow more time for clinic visits with interpretation services
- Increase frequency and incentivization of provider cultural competency trainings
- Ease referral process to Spanish-speaking therapists
- Enable equitable distribution of in-person interpreters across health system

Policy Level

- Increase workforce development of Spanish-speaking healthcare workers
- Allow for reimbursement from insurance companies for use of interpreters and extended mental health visits
- Bolster a closed-loop process for referrals to Spanish-speaking mental health services

Acknowledgements & References

Our team would like to thank the PCPs and interpreters that dedicated time to speak with us for this study. Huge thanks also goes to Bass Connections and the Margolis Center for supporting our work.

