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Current State (Pre-COVID19) of Teleurology: Personel, Barriers and Reimbursement

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Introduction

- COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed the landscape for telemedicine
- While utilization was slowly adopted given restrictions, recent adoption has been exponential
- Prior to COVID-19 urologist utilization of virtual platforms has increased from 8.5% in 2016 to 11.9% in 2019.

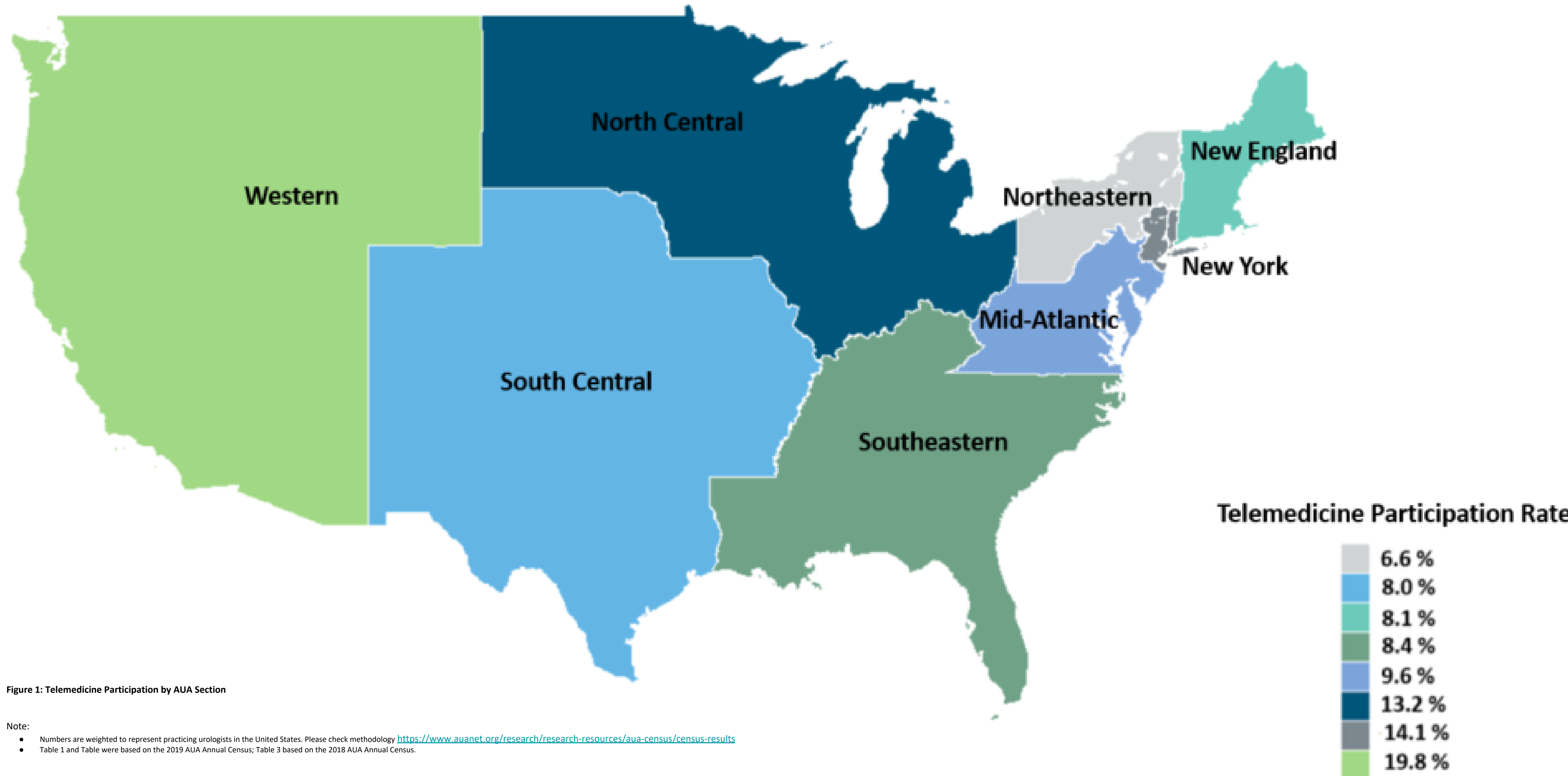
Objectives

- Utilizing AUA census data, we sought to determine which urologist are utilizing teleplatforms, assess barriers to implementation and determine from whom urologists are getting reimbursed.

Methods

- In the 2019 AUA Annual Census, practicing urologists were asked to indicate whether they participated in telemedicine as well as other questions related to their demographics and practice setting, team composition and other characteristics.
- Reimbursement information for performing telemedicine was extracted from the 2018 AUA Annual Census.
- Participating in telemedicine as binary outcome was analyzed against other factors with the Pearson chi-square test.

Results



Concerns	Urologists with Concerns Regarding Reimbursement for Performing Telemedicine	
	Number	Percent
No Concerns at All Regarding Reimbursement	629	42.5
There Is No/Insufficient Reimbursement from Medicare	714	48.2
There Is No/Insufficient Reimbursement from Medicaid	604	40.8
There Is No/Insufficient Reimbursement from PPO FFS	562	38.0
There Is No/Insufficient Reimbursement from Other Payers	640	43.2
Other Concerns	24	1.6

Factors	Level	Telemedicine Participation		p-value
		Number	Percent	
Gender	Female	173	13.5	0.579
	Male	1,363	11.7	
Age	≤ 40	307	12.4	0.439
	41-50	379	14.7	
	51-60	366	13.3	
	61-69	237	10.6	
	≥ 70	248	8.6	
Race	White	1,064	10.3	0.016
	Asian	277	19.9	
	Black	39	20.7	
	Other and Multiple	21	9.3	
Hispanic Status	Hispanic	23	5.7	0.269
	Non-Hispanic	1,457	12.0	
Level of Rurality	Urban Areas	1,070	16.7	< 0.001
	Suburban Areas	363	7.5	
	Rural Areas	92	6.0	
AUA Sections	Mid-Atlantic	127	9.6	0.009
	New England	51	8.1	
	New York	138	14.1	
	North Central	285	13.2	
	Northeastern	34	6.6	
	South Central	149	8.0	
	Southeastern	246	8.4	
APP Use	Yes	1,222	13.6	0.021
	No	314	8.0	

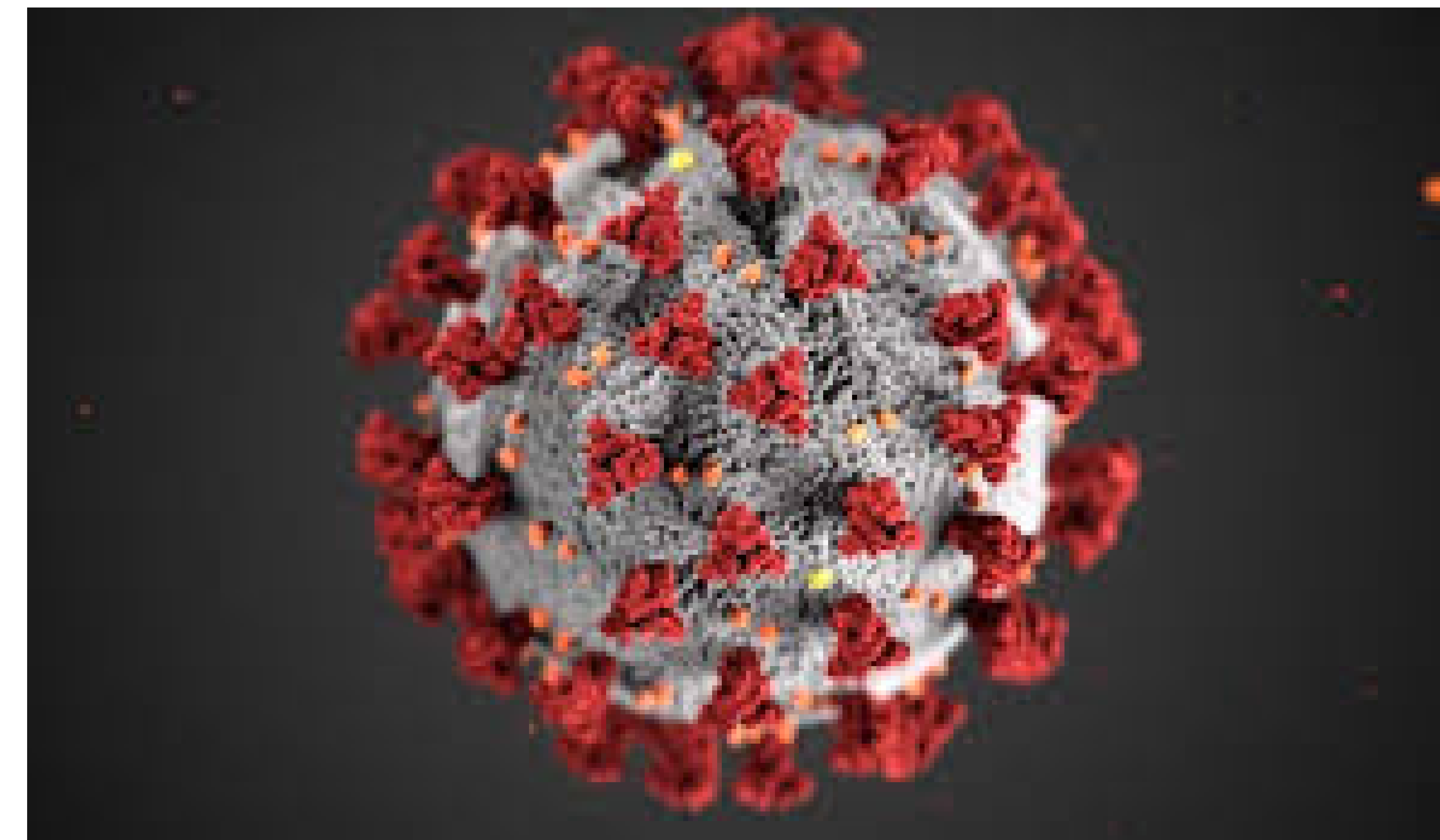
Conclusions

- Prior to COVID-19 telemedicine was slow to be adopted given various insurance restrictions
- Overall utilization prior to COVID-19 was ~12%
- It will be interesting to see the numnber of urologist utilizing telemedicine in 2020 and how many plan to continue to utilize in their practices

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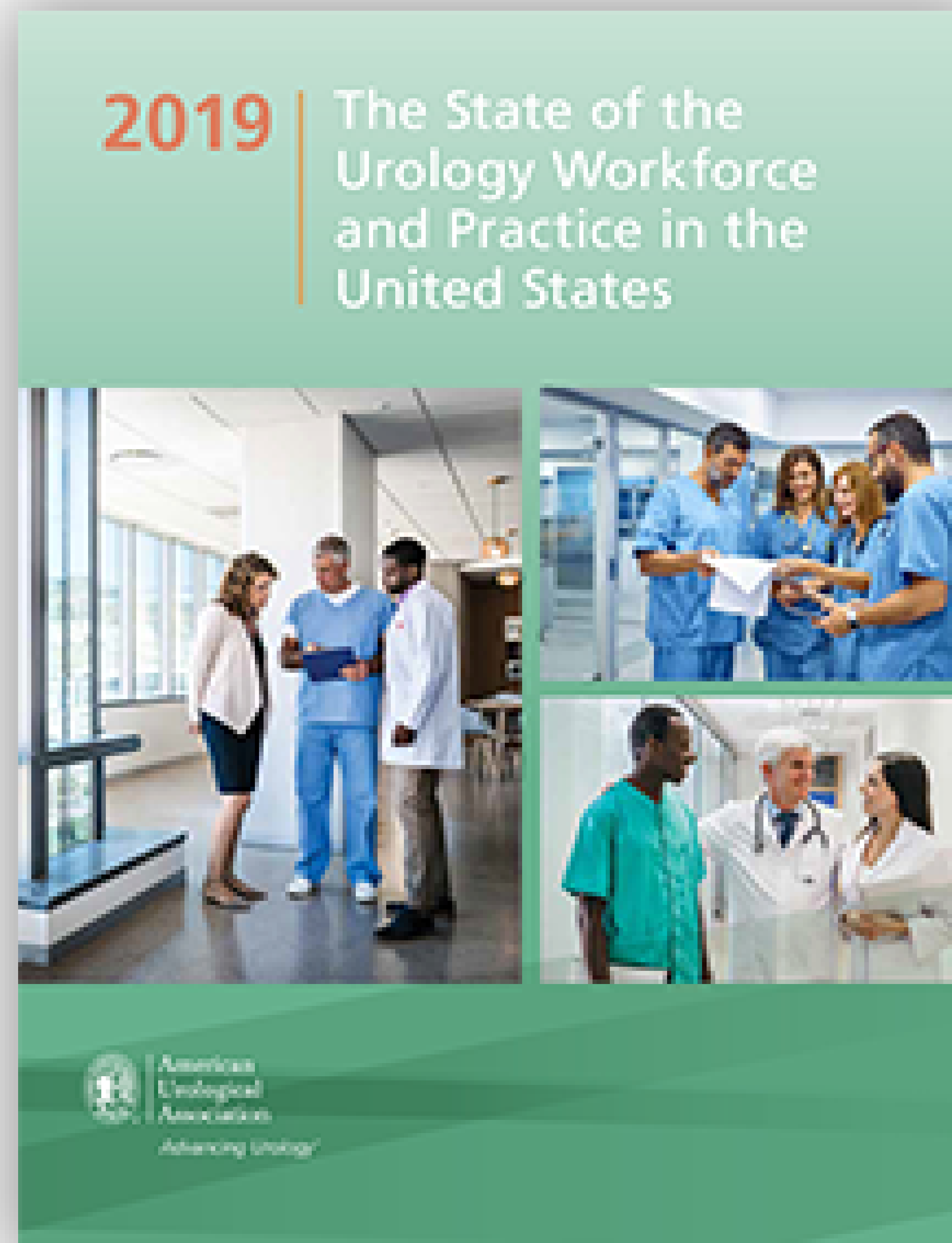
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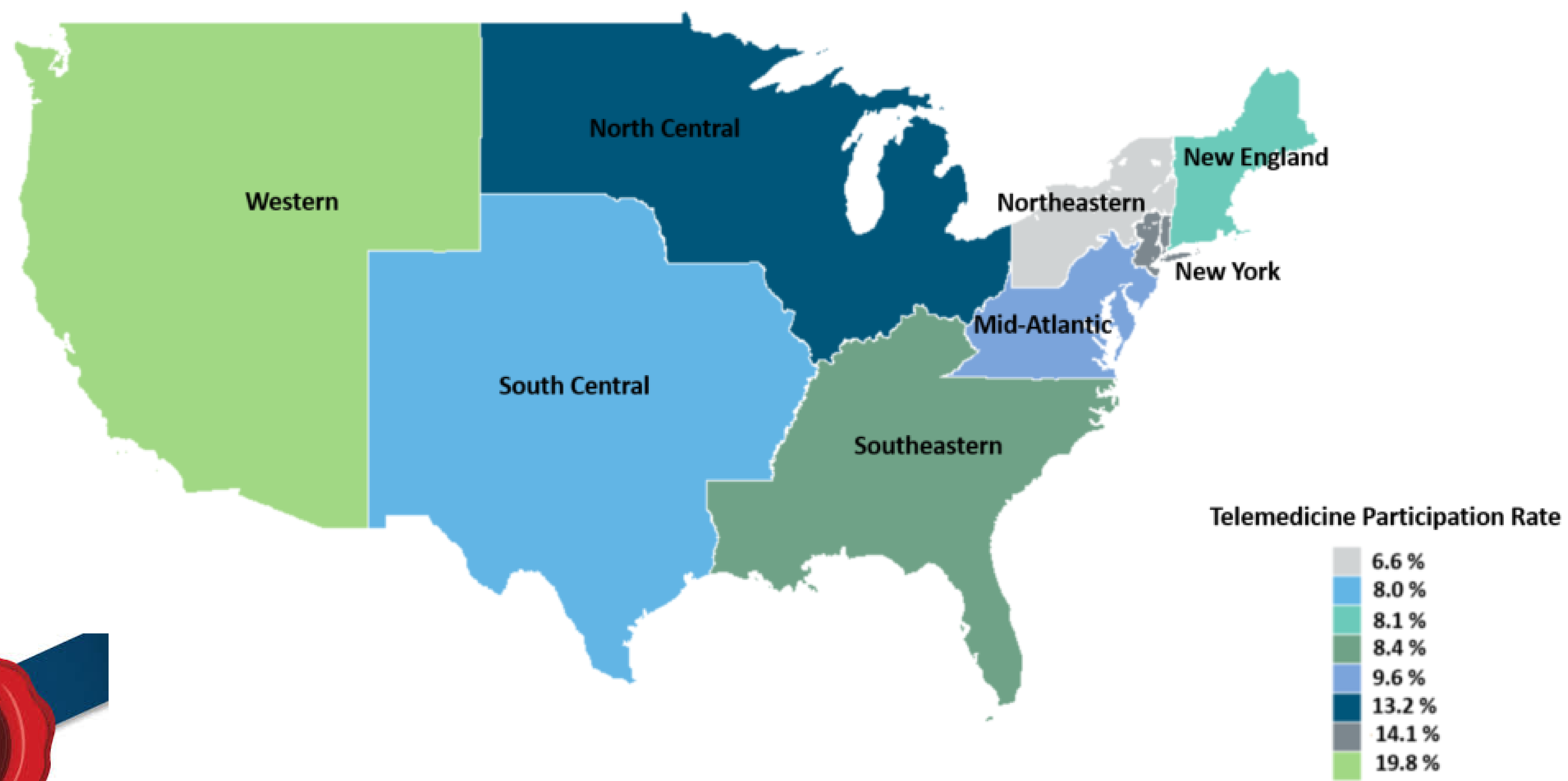


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