

Divergence in State-wise Allocations under India’s National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE), 2010–2013 vs 2019–2022: An Inequality Perspective



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BACKGROUND

- 1) India’s rapidly ageing population is increasing the burden of dementia and geriatric disorders.
- 2) The National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) is India’s major policy framework for geriatric healthcare.
- 3) Uneven implementation across states may contribute to disparities in dementia-capable health systems.
- 4) The role of funding inequality in shaping these disparities remains poorly understood.

METHODS

Retrospective descriptive analysis. Included 21 Indian states. Data obtained from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare budget reports. Compared:

- 2010–13
- 2019–22

Calculated:

- Standard deviation (SD)
- Coefficient of variation (CV)
- Interquartile range (IQR)
- Gini coefficient

Rank mobility and funding divergence assessed using correlation and graphical analysis.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Examine inequality in state-wise NPHCE allocations.
- 2) Compare funding dispersion between 2010–13 and 2019–22.
- 3) Assess divergence versus convergence in NPHCE financing.

RESULTS

Table 1. Inequality measures for state-wise NPHCE allocations, 2010–2013 vs 2019–2022

Measure	2010–2013	2019–2022
Mean allocation (lakhs)	243.5	234.9
Standard deviation	137.0	247.2
Coefficient of variation	0.56	1.05
Interquartile range (IQR)	153.5	230.0

Figure 1. Initial allocation vs subsequent percentage change

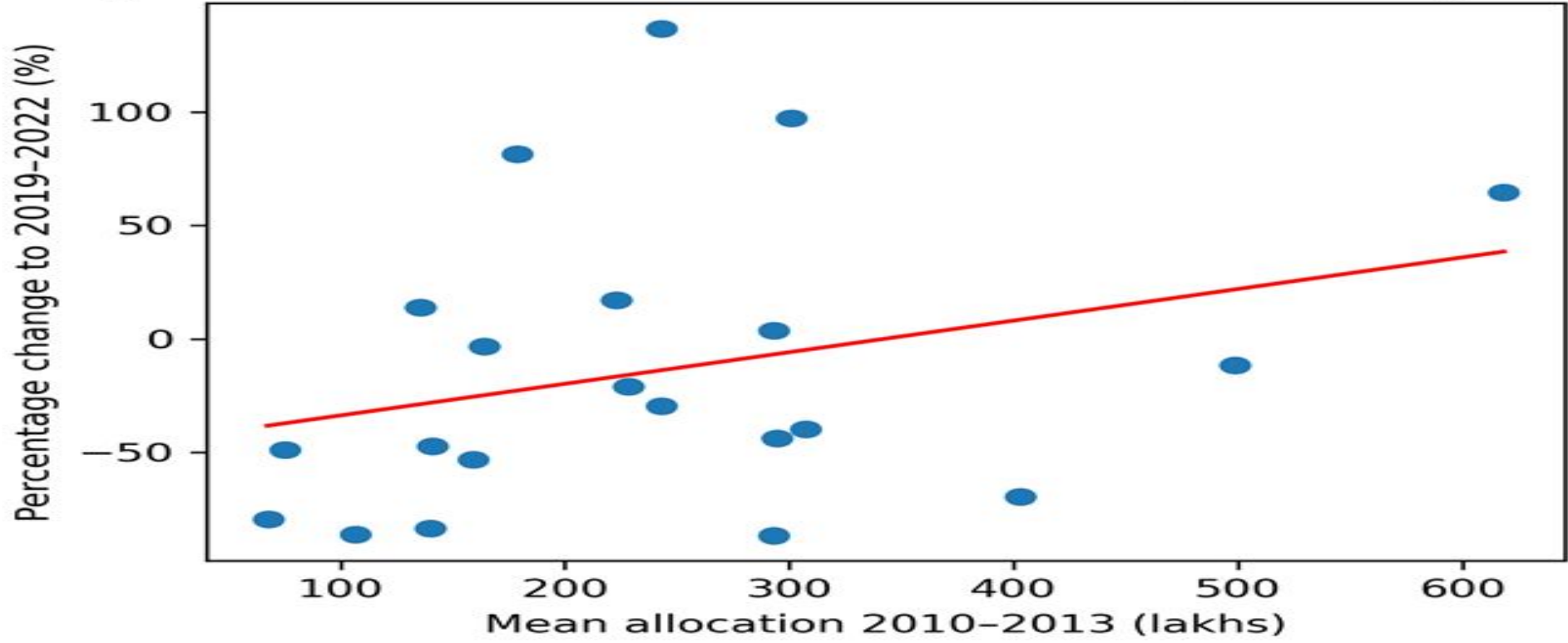


Figure 2. Changes in state-wise funding ranks

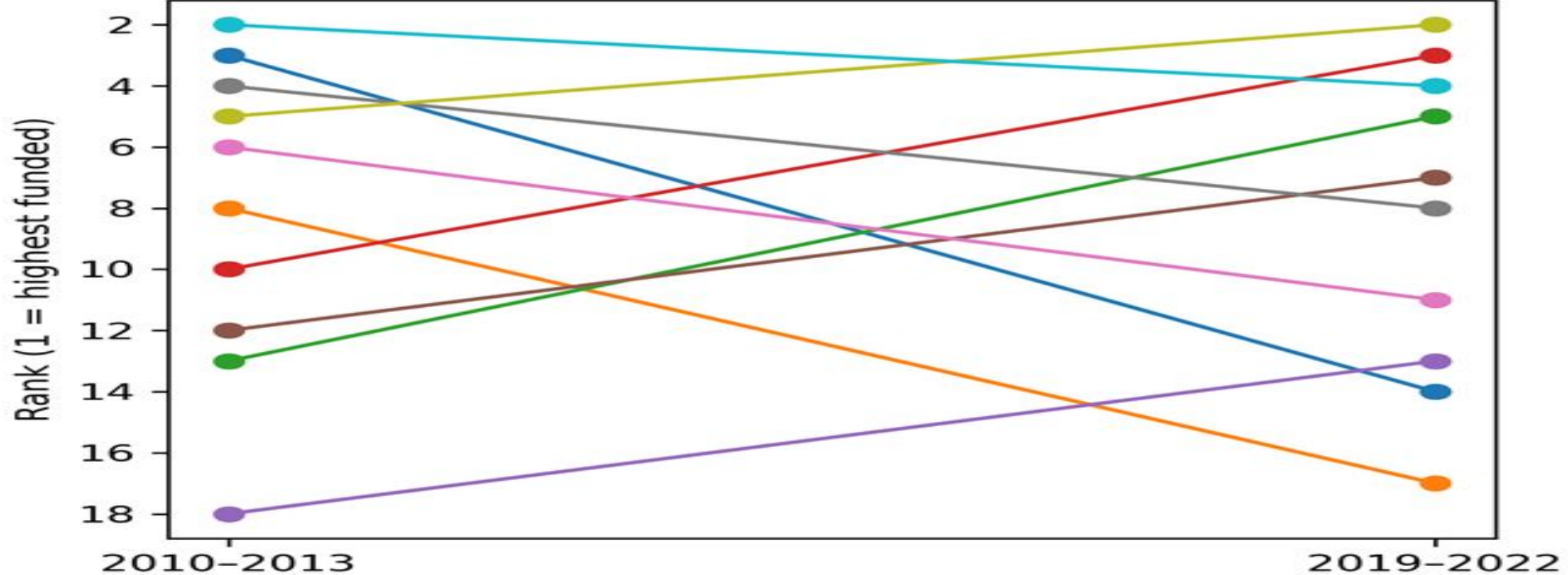


Table 2. Examples of major improvers and decliners in state-wise NPHCE funding ranks

State	Mean 2010–2013	Mean 2019–2022	% change	Rank 2010–2013	Rank 2019–2022	Rank change
Chhattisgarh	178.7	324.4	81.5	13	5	8
Madhya Pradesh	242.9	575.0	136.7	10	3	7
Jharkhand	135.5	154.4	14.0	18	13	5
Assam	222.8	260.8	17.1	12	7	5
Karnataka	300.7	593.5	97.3	5	2	3
Decliners						
Rajasthan	402.9	123.4	-69.4	3	14	-11
Gujarat	292.9	39.4	-86.5	8	17	-9
Maharashtra	294.5	165.4	-43.8	6	11	-5
Bihar	307.4	185.0	-39.8	4	8	-4
Andhra Pradesh	498.8	441.1	-11.6	2	4	-2
Rajasthan	402.9	123.4	-69.4	3	14	-11

CONCLUSIONS

- Inter-state inequality in NPHCE financing nearly doubled.
- Clear “winner” and “loser” states emerged.
- Current allocation patterns may deepen dementia-care inequities.
- Equity-oriented funding reforms are urgently required.