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## Background

- Children with developmental disabilities have complex needs and require support in a number of areas of development
- In Canada, there are often long wait lists for public services
- Private services are available but not affordable for all families
- These children utilize services from a number of professionals
  - Behaviour therapist
  - Psychologist
  - Psychiatrist
  - Speech-language pathologist
  - Occupational therapist
  - Physical therapist
- To better service families, it is important to consider their experiences with the services they are receiving or investigate if there are services that they would like but are not receiving

## Research Questions

1. Which services do families report they need and are they receiving these services?
2. Are child factors related to received services?
3. Are families satisfied with the services they have received?
4. Are child factors related to the satisfaction with these services?

## Participants

- $N = 200$  (primary caregivers of children with DD)
  - 139 boys, 58 girls (3 N/A)
  - Ages 3-19 ( $M = 11.6$ ,  $SD = 3.7$ )
  - 83 ID only, 117 ASD and ID
  - 119 moderate - profound ID, 81 unknown/mild ID

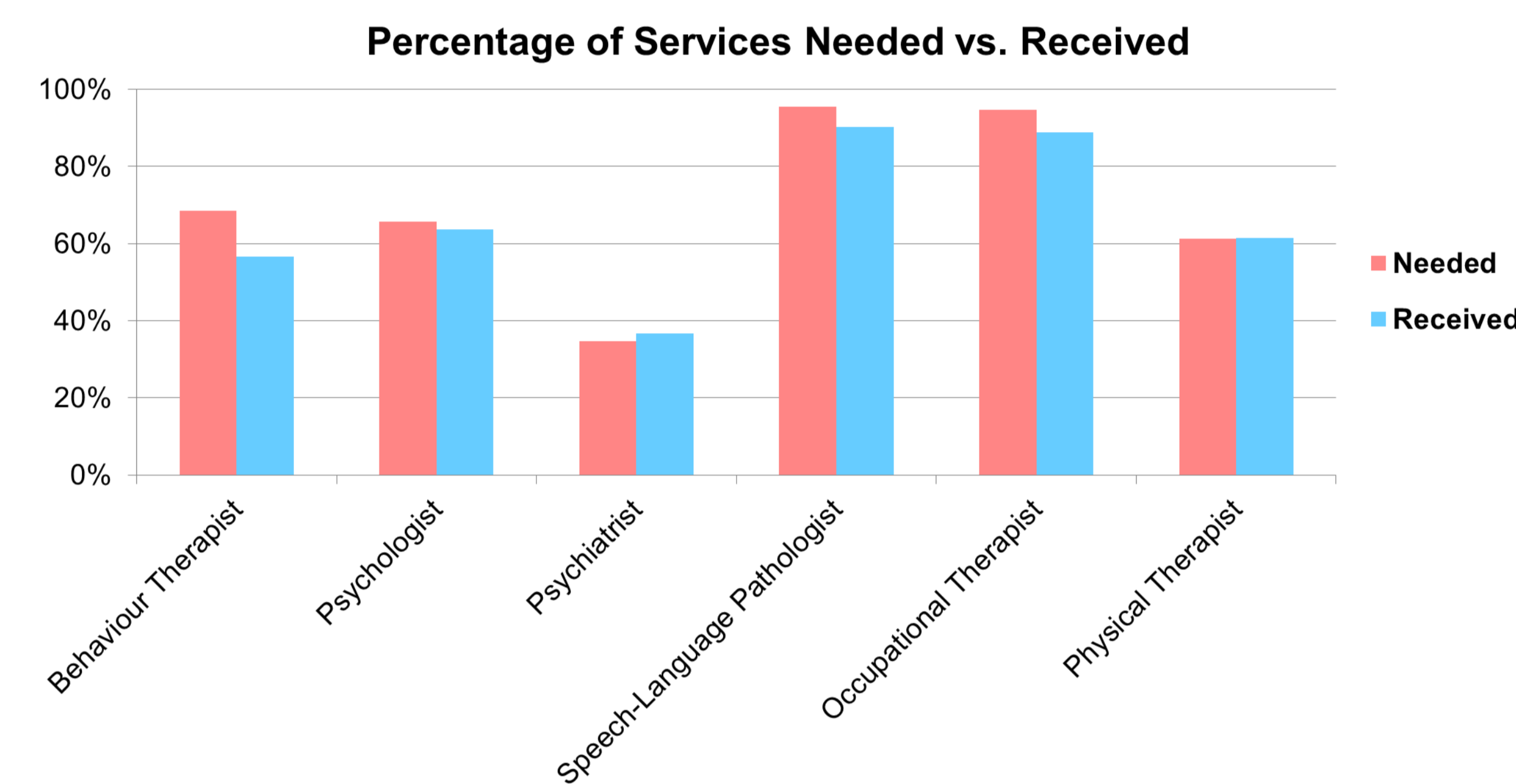
## Measures

### GO4KIDDS Basic and Extended Surveys

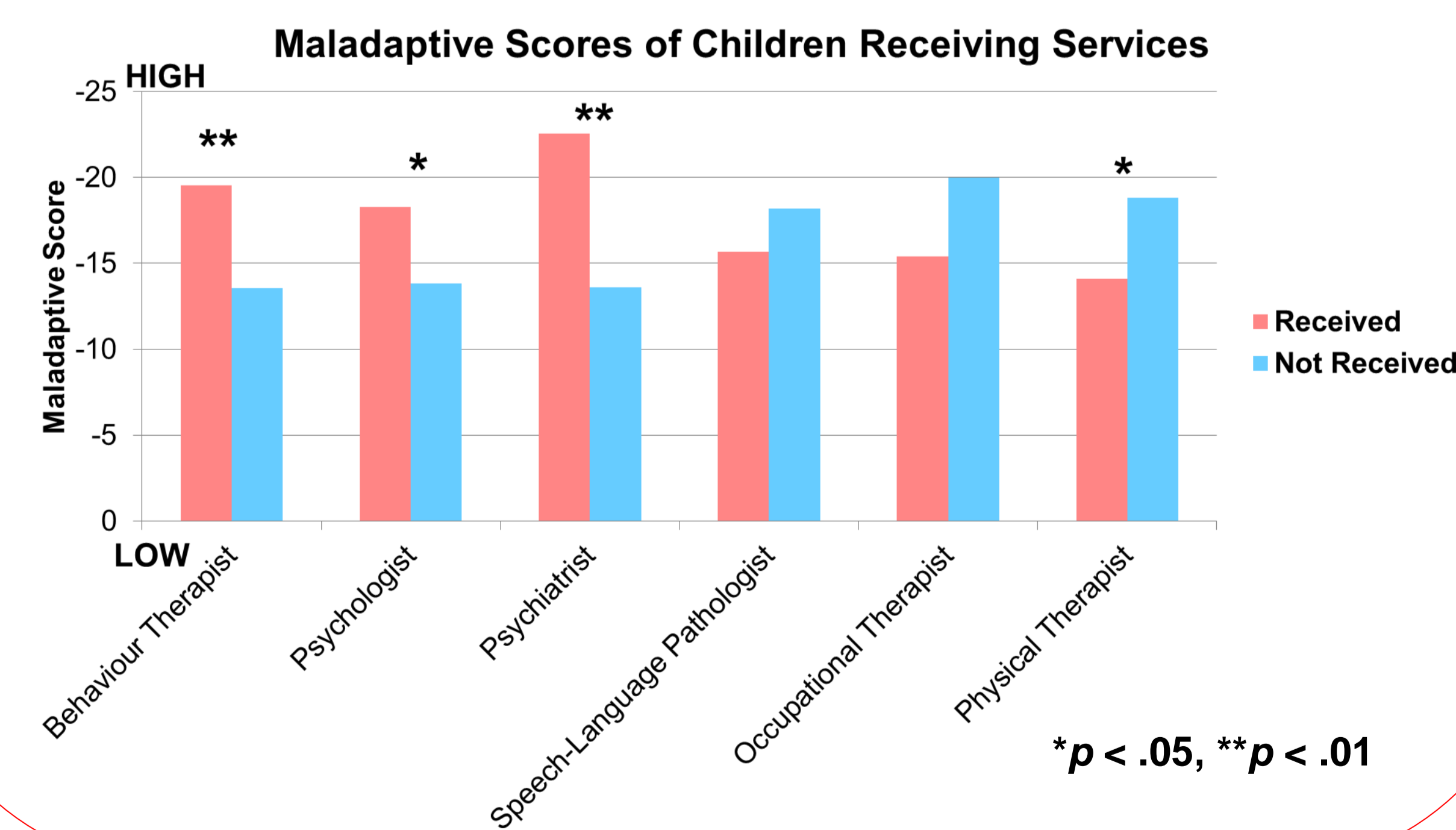
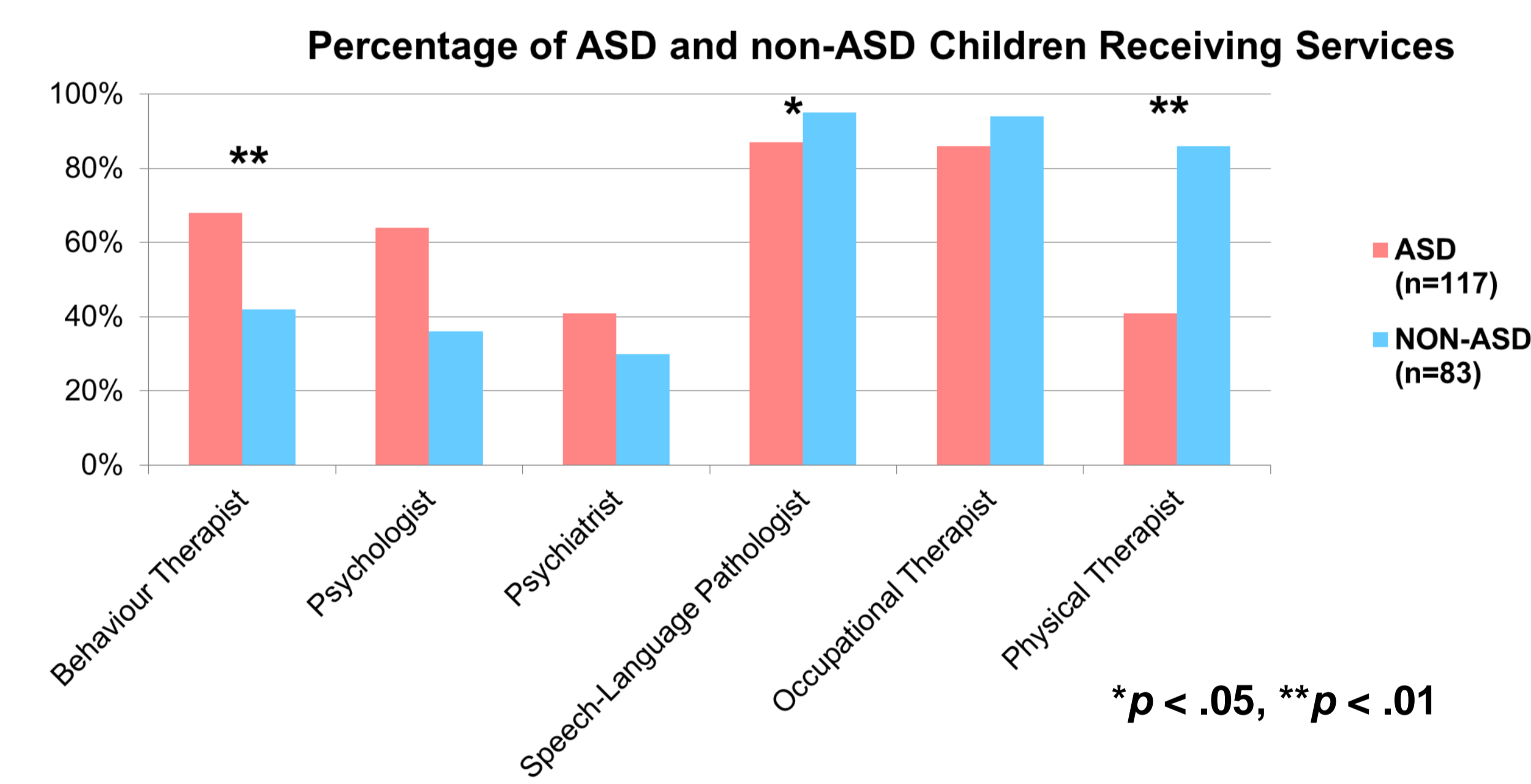
- Caregiver report of diagnoses (ID and ASD used for this study)
- Maladaptive behaviour calculated using Scales of Independent Behavior- Revised (embedded in survey with permission by the publisher of the SIB-R)
- Publicly available service access section
  - Ever needed a specific type of service? (yes/no)
  - Ever received a specific type of service? (yes/no)
  - If received a specific type of service, rate satisfaction (5-point scale)

## Results

### Question 1: Are families receiving the services they need?

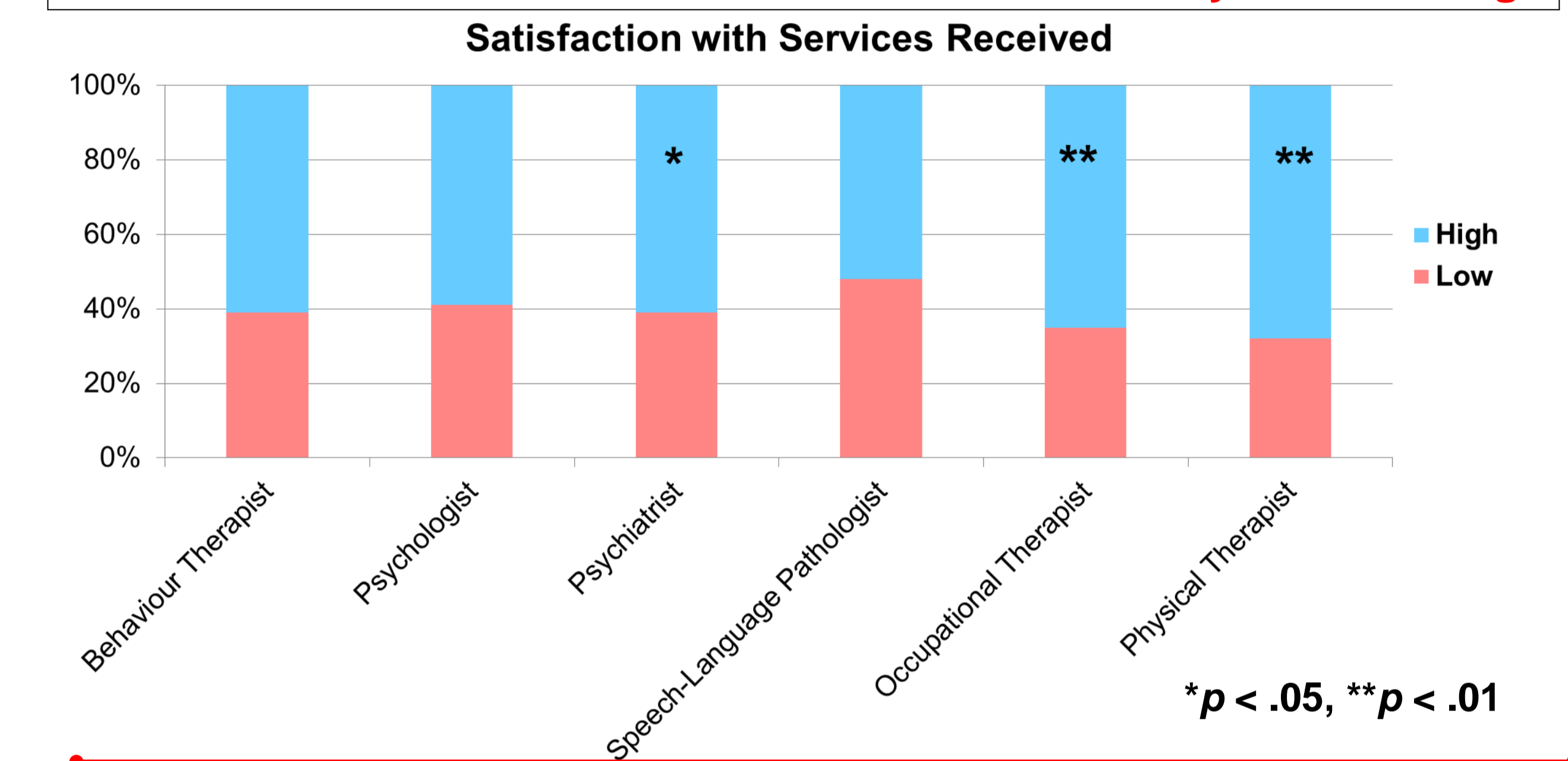


### Question 2: Are child factors related to satisfaction with services?



## Results (continued)

### Question 3: Are families satisfied with the services they are receiving?



### Question 4: Are child factors related to satisfaction with services?

Child factors examined were not related to satisfaction ratings

## Discussion

- Many caregivers report needing a variety of services and, for the most part, these needs are being met
  - The largest service gap is for behaviour therapy
  - Behaviour therapy should be more accessible and readily available
- Maladaptive behaviour and ASD diagnosis are related to the receipt of service from behaviour therapists and other professionals, which may be the result of these children exhibiting more complex needs
- Age is unrelated to receipt of services in this sample aged 3 to 19
- Most families are very satisfied with the services they have received, especially behaviour therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy
- Child factors are not related caregiver satisfaction, which suggests consistent service quality regardless of the child's unique circumstances

## Limitations and Future Research

- The results of this research may be limited to a Canadian population where many services are publicly funded
  - These research questions should be addressed in other countries to see if similar results are found
- This study explored a limited number of child factors
- This study is cross sectional and cannot reflect dynamic factors (e.g., maladaptive behaviour may have changed as a result of services)
- Future research should explore specific barriers that prevent receipt of needed services (e.g., finances, eligibility criteria, wait lists, availability of qualified professionals)

## Acknowledgments

The authors would like to sincerely thank all the families who have generously given their time to complete the Basic and Extended Surveys that were used for this study.

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