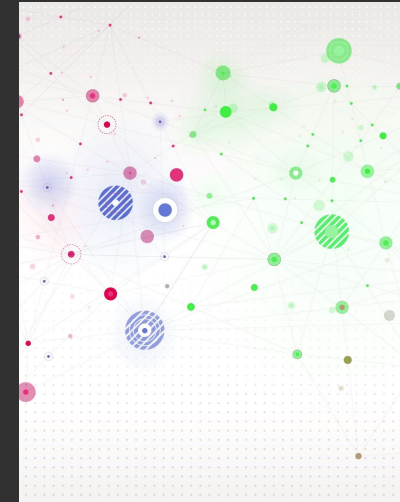


“Reflections on strategies to improve access to oral health care for people in Canada living with disabilities”

Presented to the CSDH AGM,
Nov 20th, 2021

Paul Allison

Faculty of Dentistry, McGill University



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Presentation outline

Who are people in Canada living and working with disabilities?

What disabilities do they have?

What are their general and oral health care needs?

What are their barriers to addressing their oral health care needs?

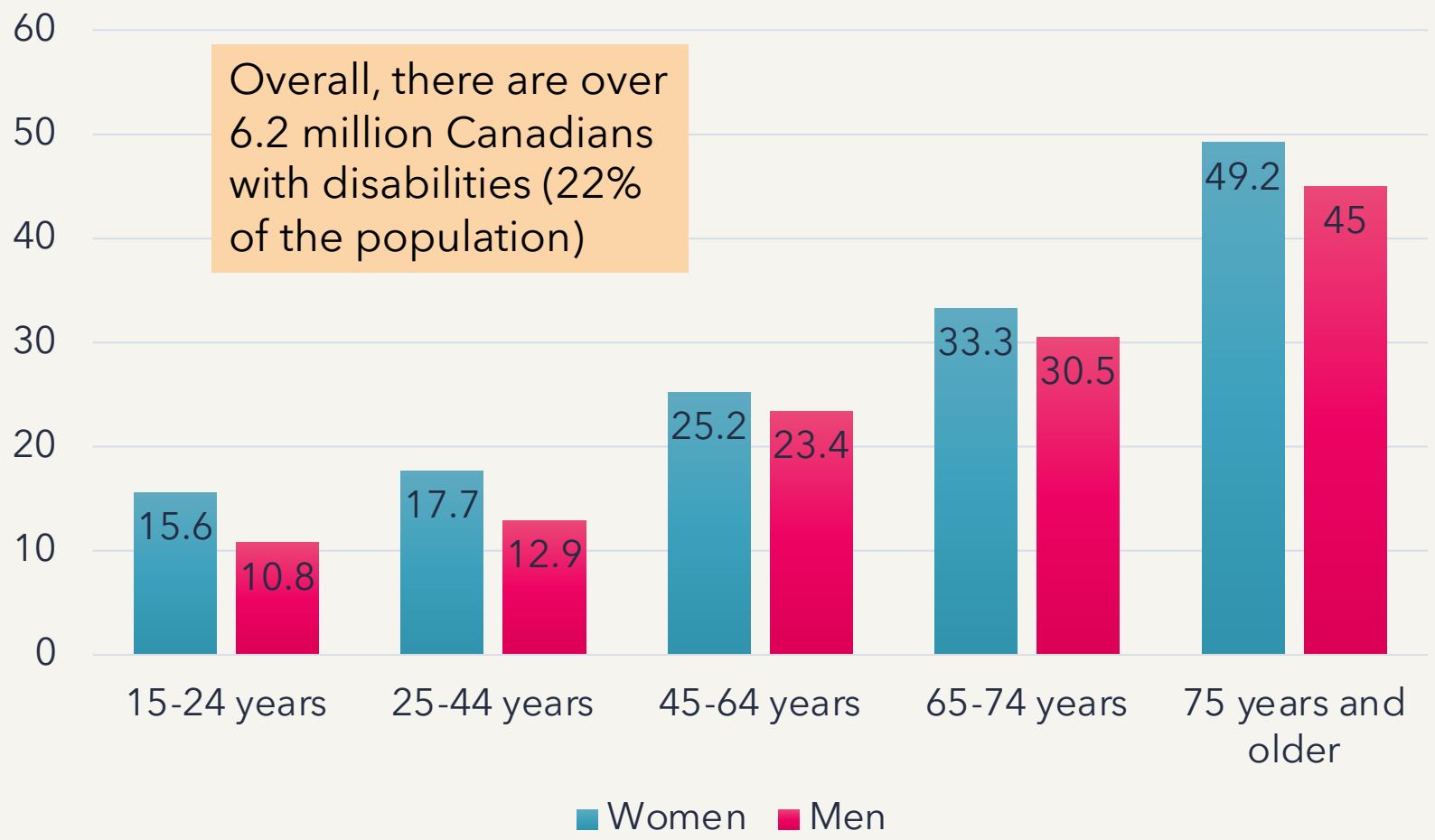
How can we improve their access to oral health care?



Who are people in Canada living and working with disabilities?

Disabilities are more common in women and with increasing age

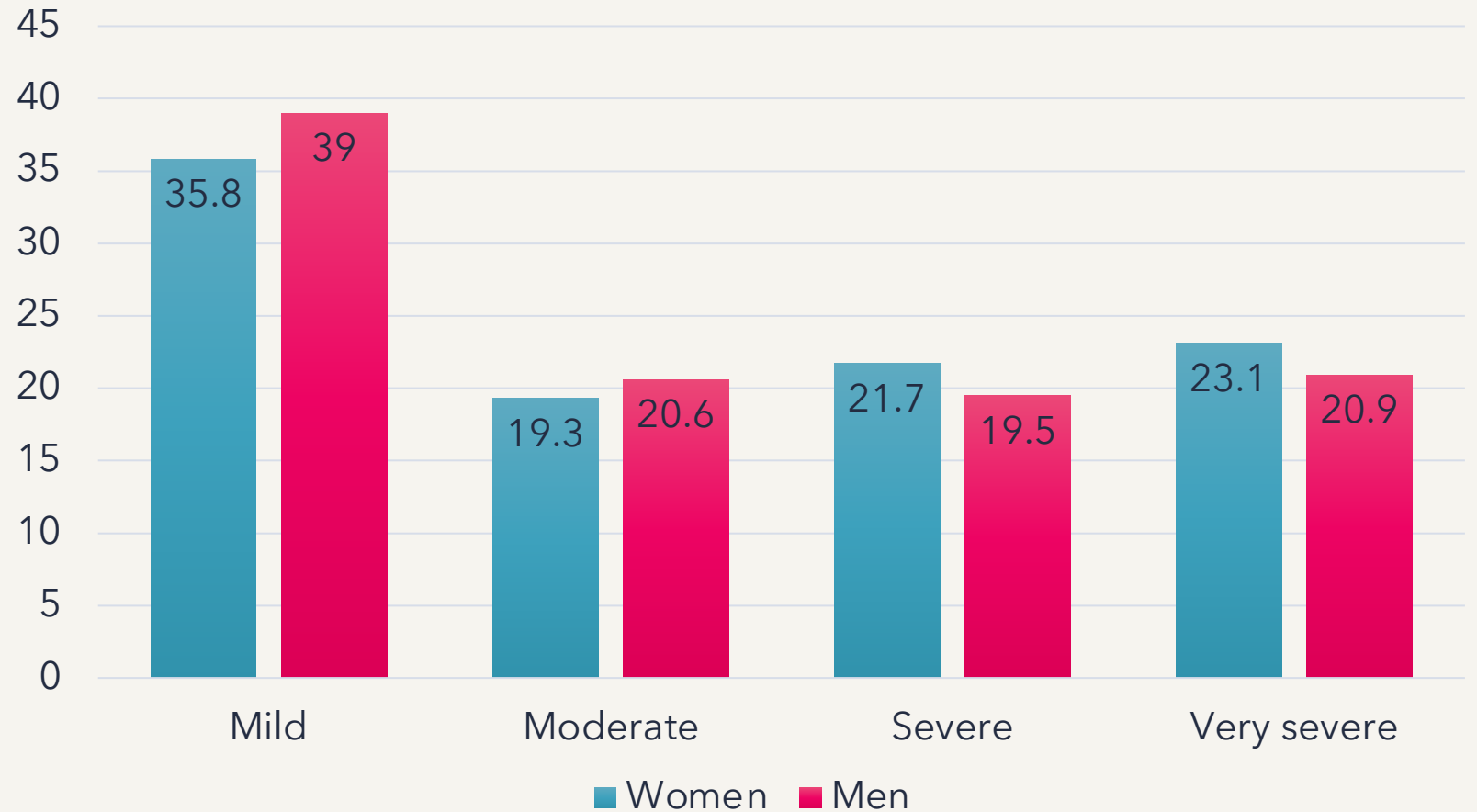
Percentage of the Canadian population 15 years and older with disability, by age and sex, 2017



Who are people in Canada living and working with disabilities?

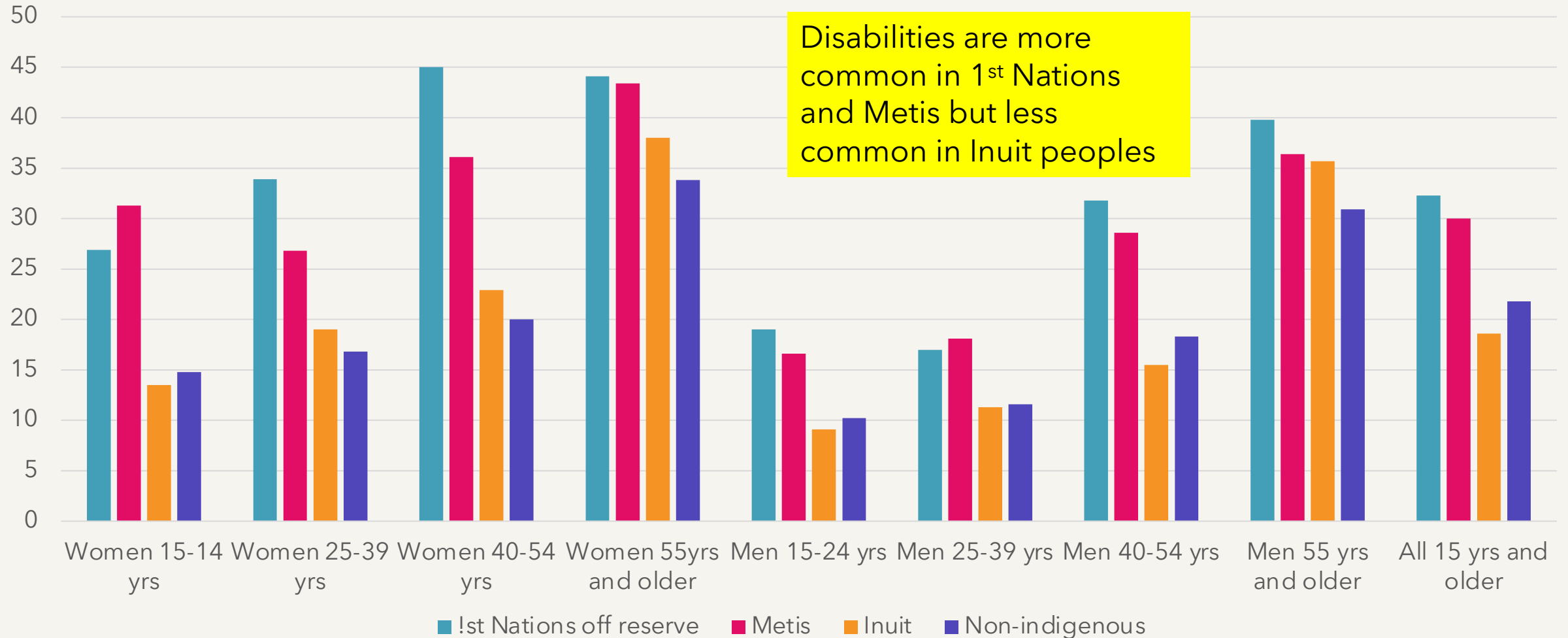
Overall, there are nearly 1.4 million Canadians with very severe disabilities..... BUT 2.3 million with mild disabilities

Percentage of Canadian population aged 15 years or older with disabilities by severity and sex, 2017



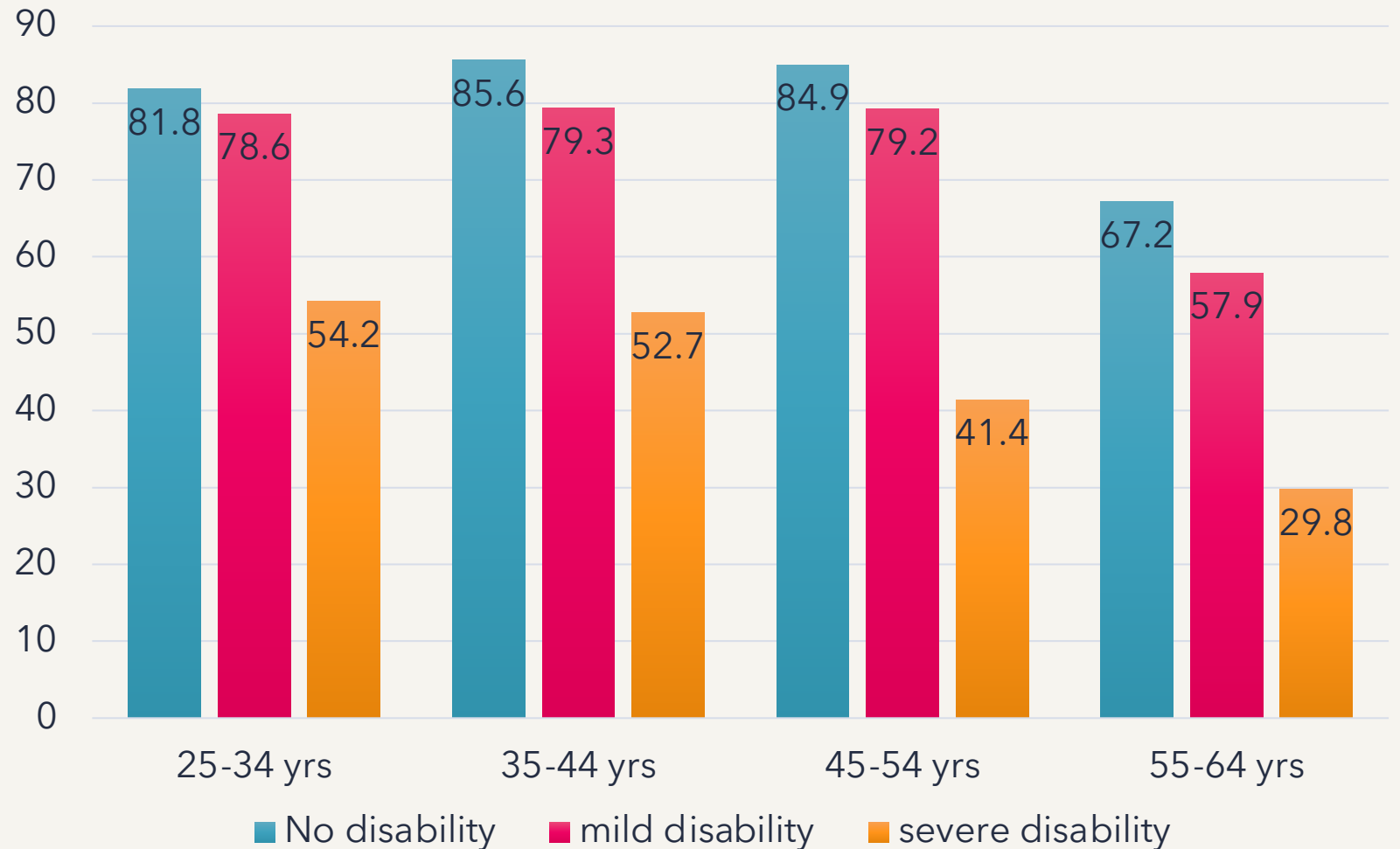
Who are people in Canada living and working with disabilities?

Percentage of people living in Canada with disabilities, by age, sex and Indigenous identity, 2017



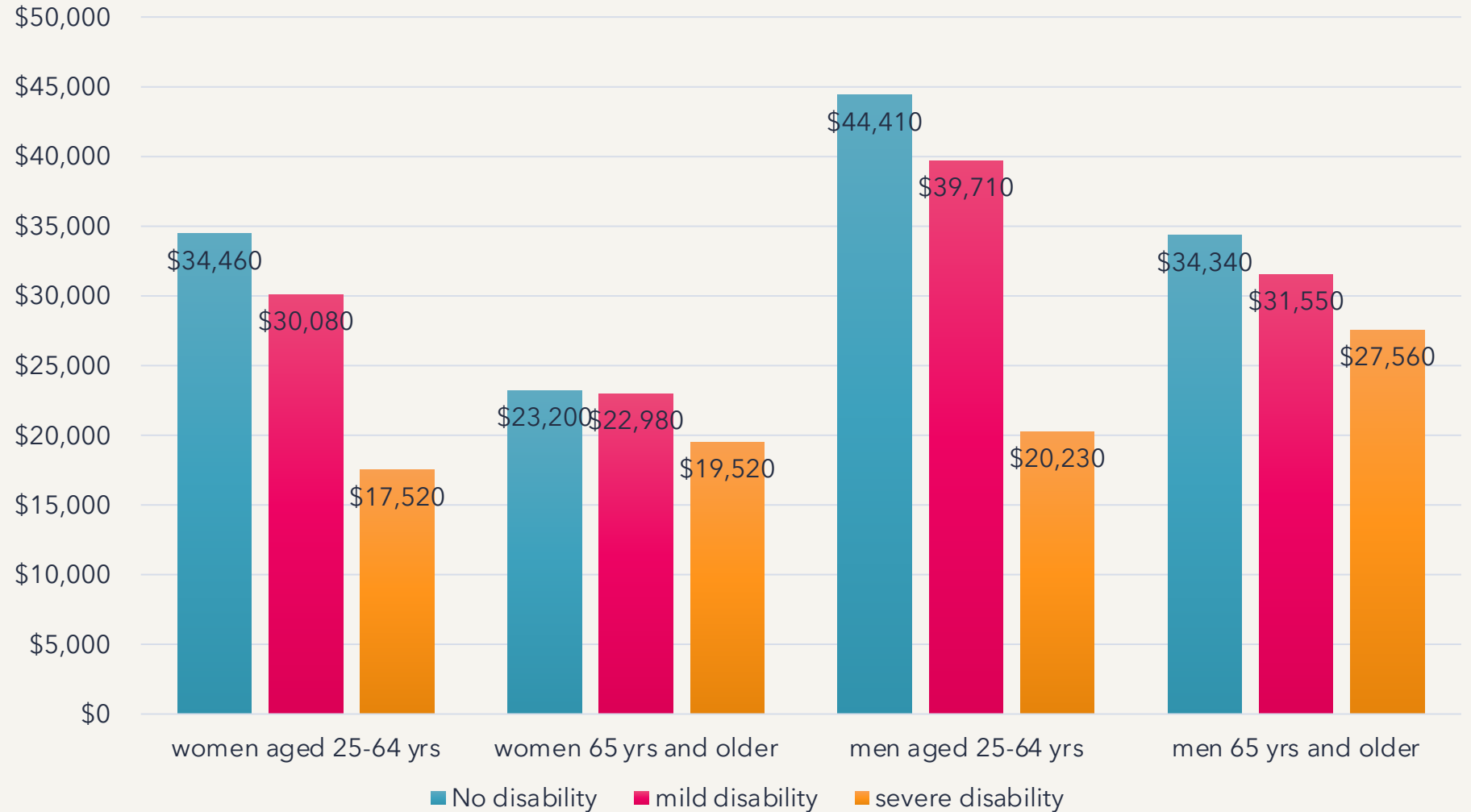
Who are people in Canada living and working with disabilities?

Percentage of Canadian population aged 25-64 yrs employed, by severity of disability, 2016



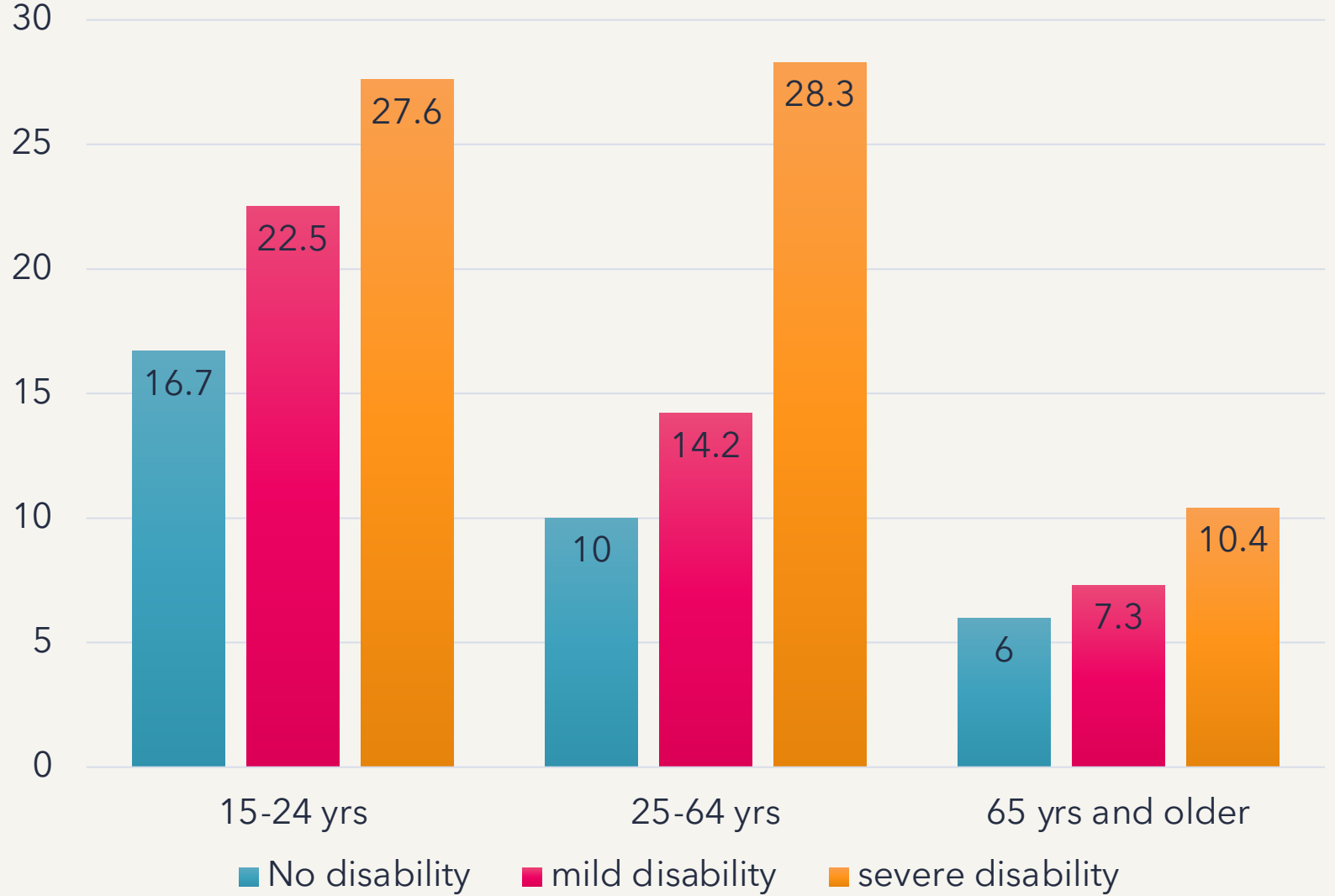
Who are people in Canada living and working with disabilities?

Median after-tax personal income in Canadian population aged 25 yrs and older by disability severity, sex and age group, 2015



Who are people in Canada living and working with disabilities?

Percentage of the Canadian population aged 15 yrs and older living below the poverty line, by disability severity and age group, 2015

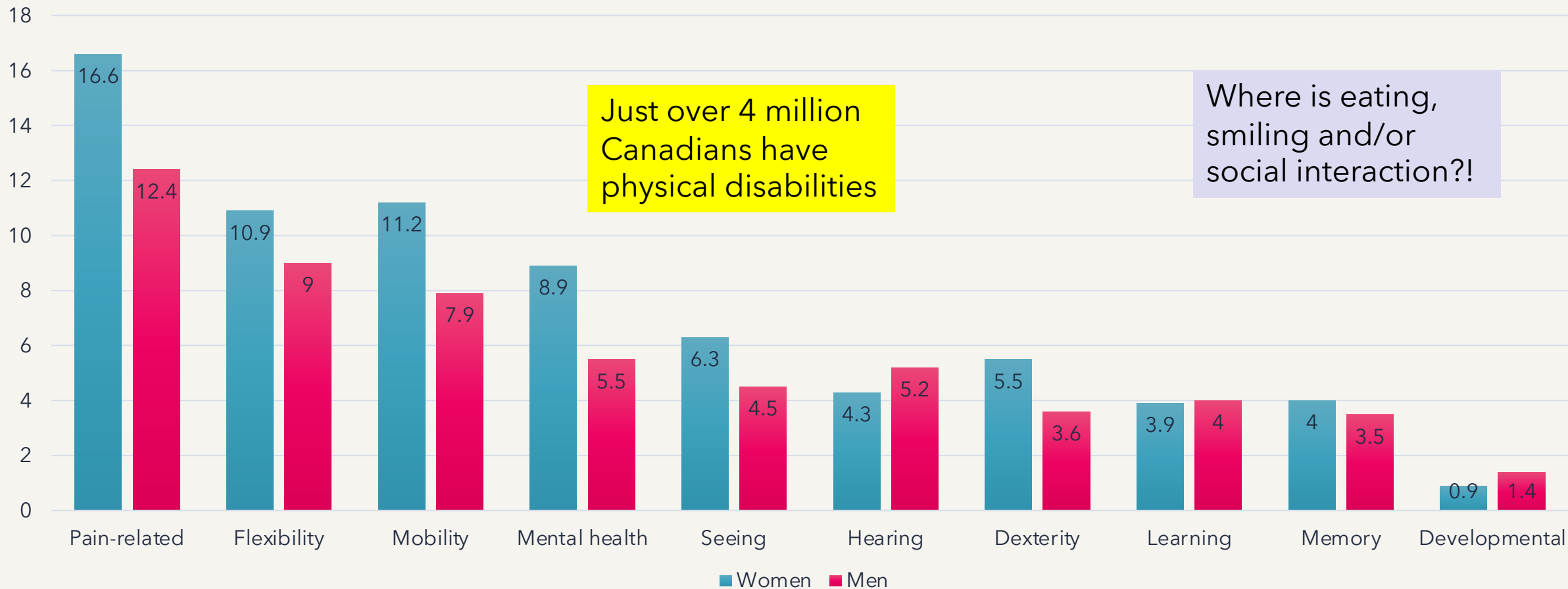


*And what
disabilities do
they have?*



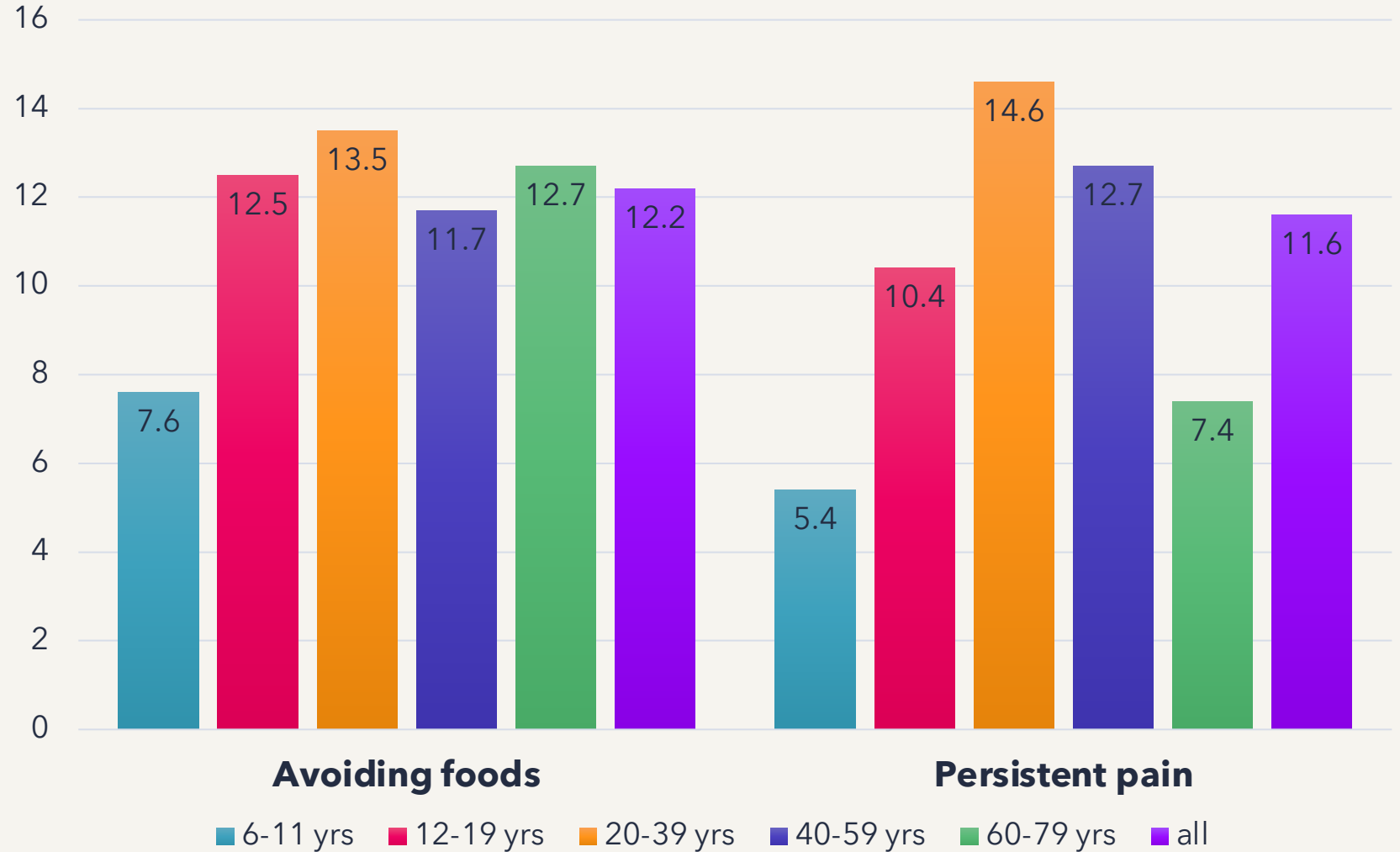
Who are people in Canada living and working with disabilities?

Percentage of Canadian population aged 15 yrs or older with disability by type of disability and sex, 2017



What are their general and oral health care needs?

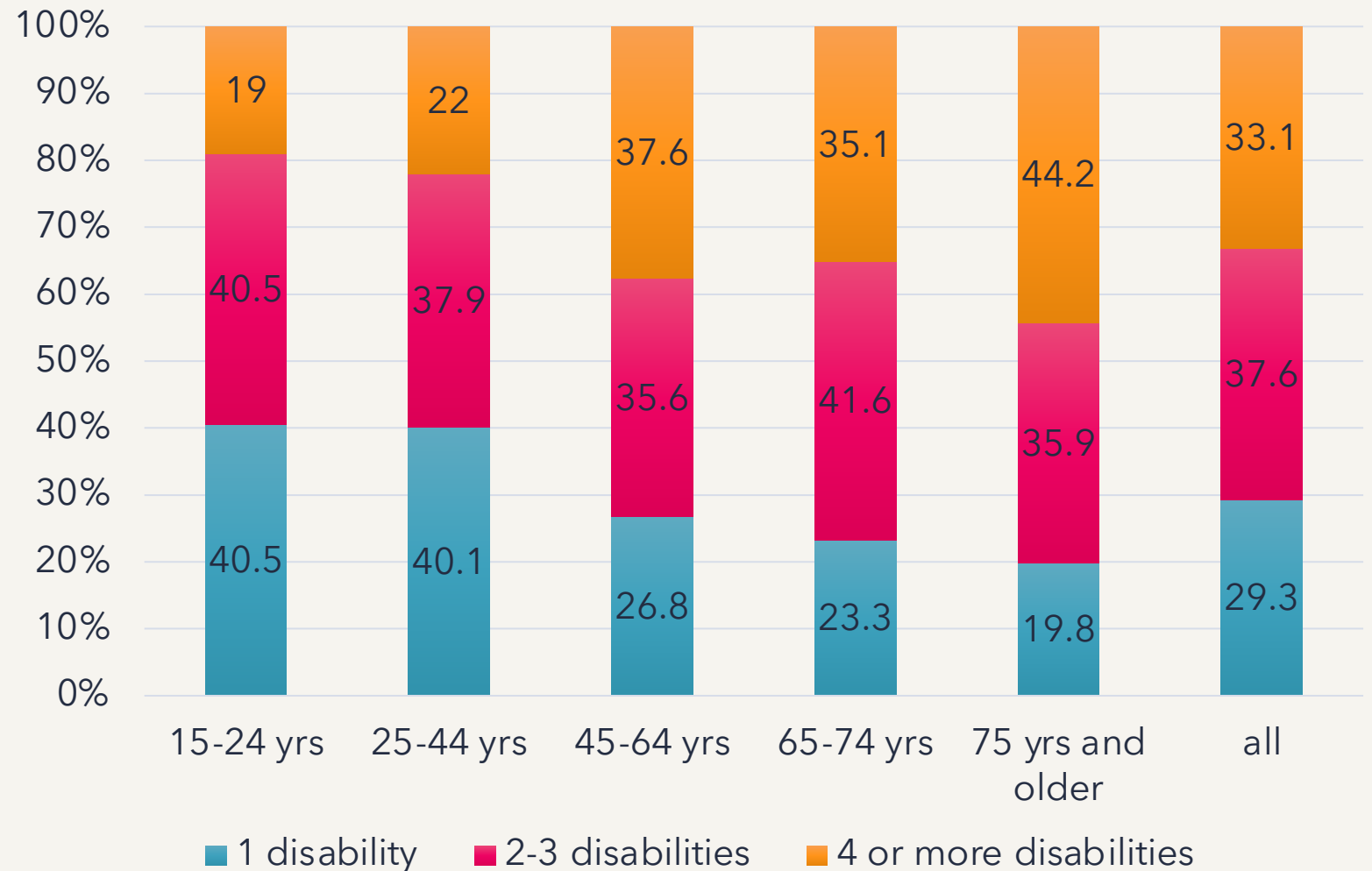
Percent of 6-79 yr old Canadians complaining of avoiding foods or persistent pain, 2007-09



In 2007-09, approximately 12% of Canadians had persistent oral pain and/or avoided certain foods

*Who are people
in Canada living
and working with
disabilities?*

Percent of Canadian population 15 yrs and older with a disability by age group and number of disabilities, 2017



Who are people in Canada living and working with disabilities and what disabilities do they have?

"Disability disproportionately affects women, older people, and poor people. Children from poorer households, indigenous populations and those in ethnic minority groups are also at significantly higher risk of experiencing disability." WHO global plan.... disabilities, 2014-2021.

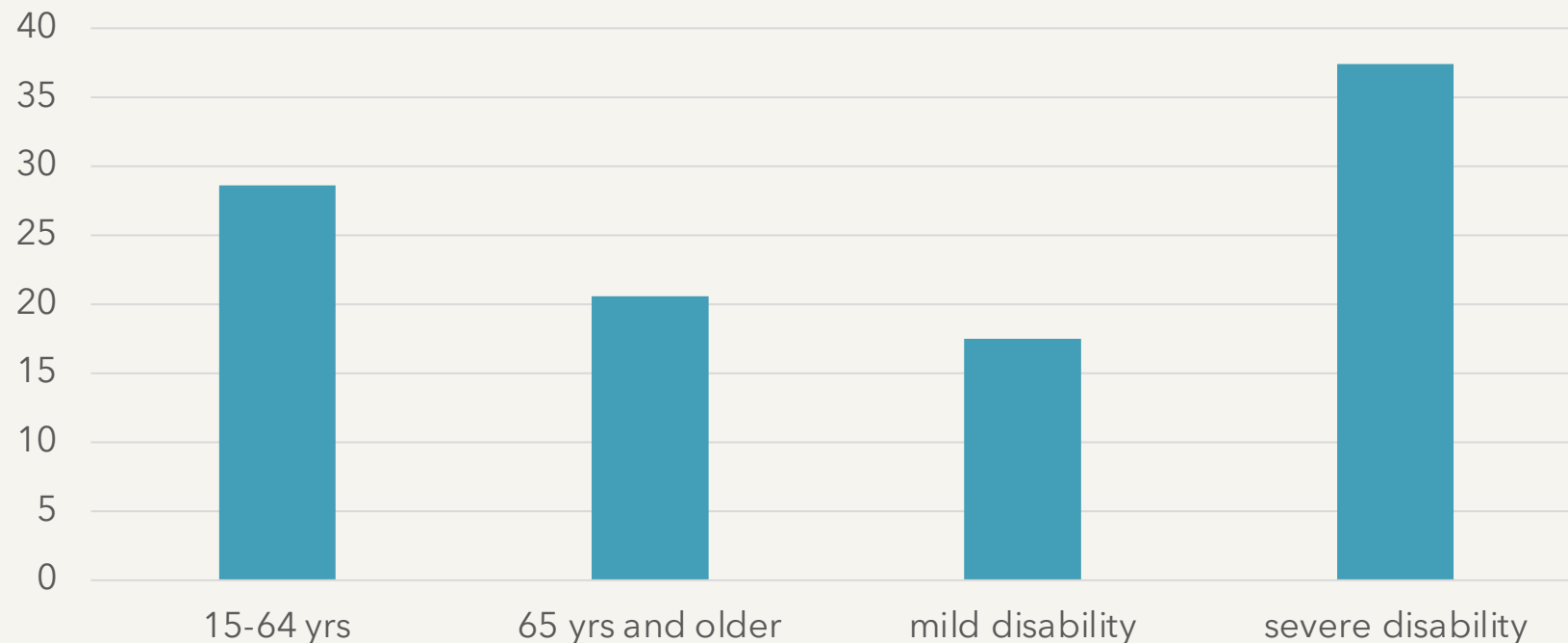
- Increased risk to have disabilities with increasing age
- Increased risk for women
- Increased risk for "off-reserve" First Nations and Metis

- BUT.....
 - 60% have mild/moderate disability*
 - Over 2/3 have physical disabilities*
 - Approximately 1/3 have 1; 1/3 have 2-3; and 1/3 have 4 or more disabilities*

- AND, those with severe disability(ies)
 - Are less likely to be employed*
 - Have lower income*
 - More likely to be below the poverty line*

What are their general and oral health care needs?

Percentage of Canadian population aged 15 yrs and older, with a disability and unmet needs due to cost, by age group and severity, 2017



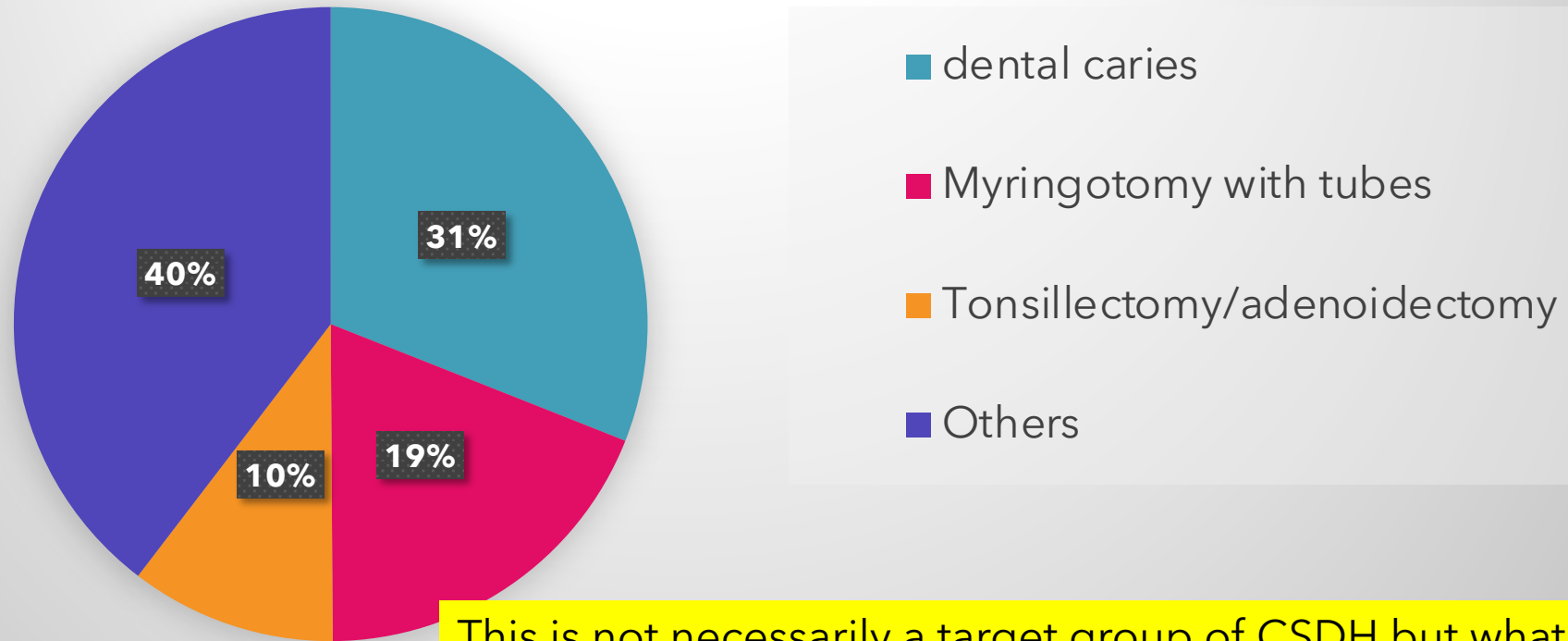
“unmet needs” = personal aids and devices (e.g., canes, walkers, specialized software, or architectural features in the home such as widened doorways and ramps) as well as prescription medication

Statistics Canada,
Canadian Survey on
Disability, 2017

Access to care in 1-5 year-olds in Canada

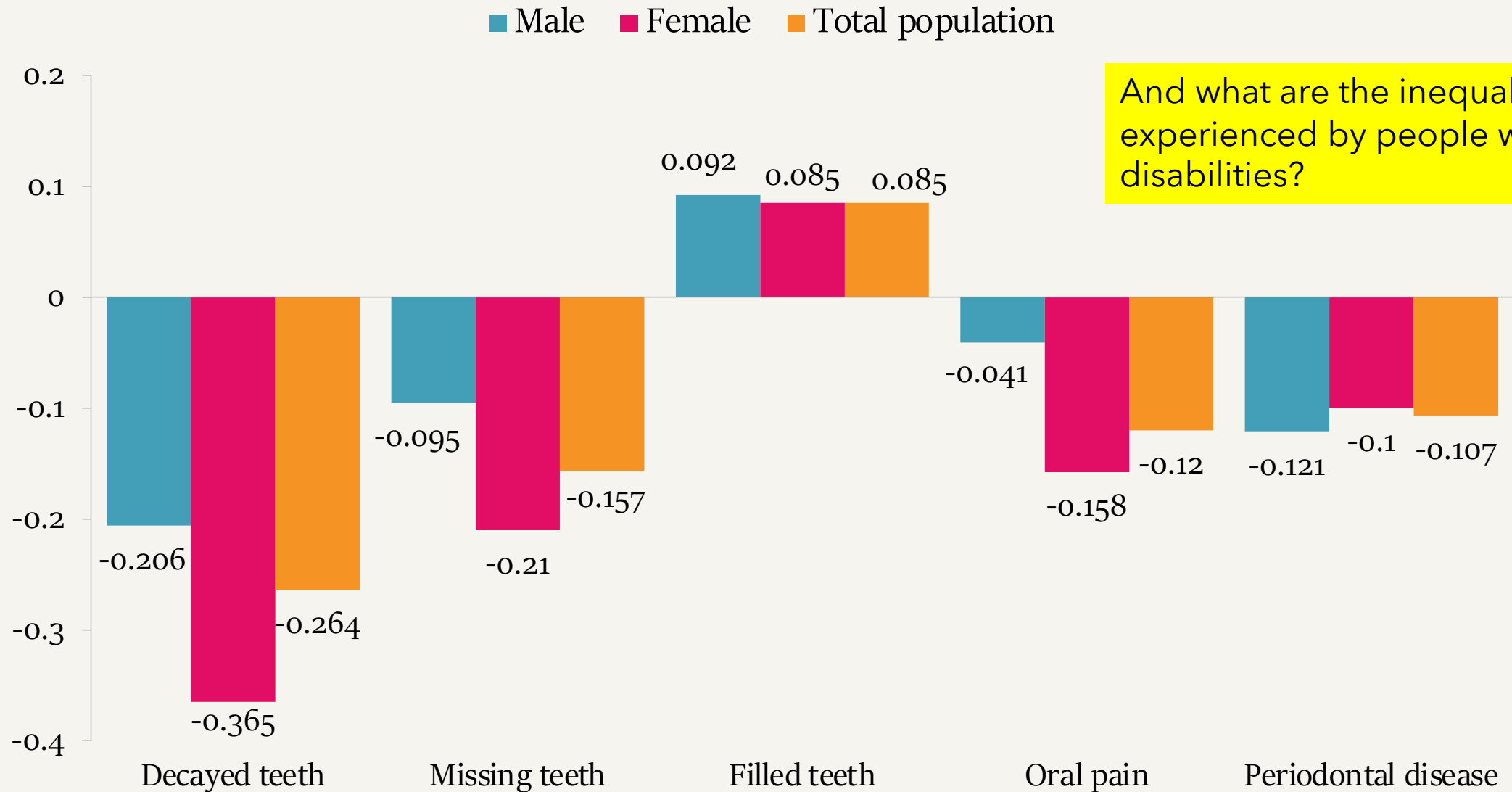
(Scroth et al, 2016)

**% pediatric day surgeries in Canada by procedure type
2010/11 to 2013/14**



This is not necessarily a target group of CSDH but what are the data concerning people with [severe or very severe; approx. 2.7M people in Canada] disabilities needing a GA?

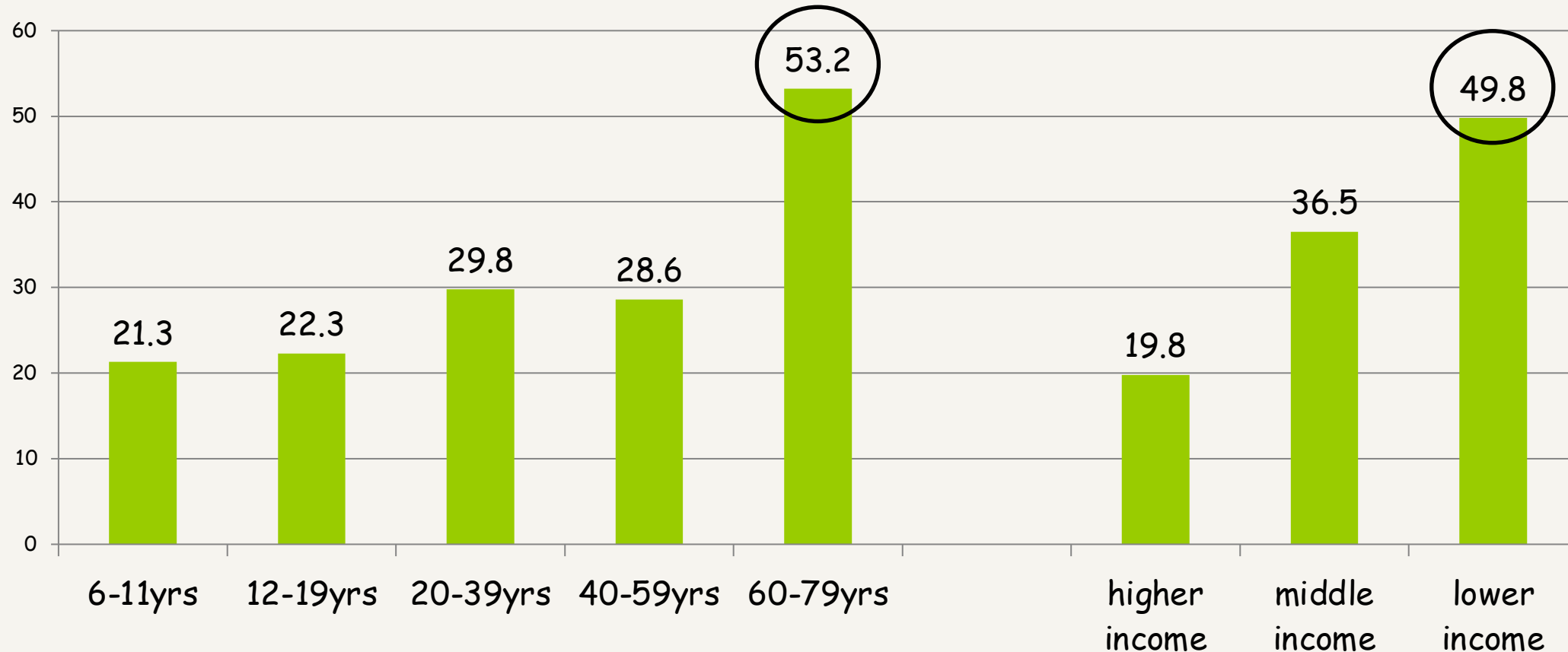
Income-related concentration index for oral health indicators in Canadian adults, 2007-09. (CAHS, 2014)



And what are the inequalities experienced by people with disabilities?

Inequality in those with/without dental insurance in Canada 2007-09 (CAHS, 2014)

Those without dental insurance by age group and family income



*What are their
general and oral
health care
needs?*

According to the 2007-09 survey:

- 34% of 6-79 year-olds need some form of dental care
- This rises to 47% of lower income Canadians compared to those earning higher incomes

What proportion of those with disabilities?

- Approximately 17% of the population avoided seeing the dentists because of cost

How many among those with disabilities?

- All of these indicators are increased in Indigenous populations

And among Indigenous people with disabilities?

What are their general and oral health care needs?

Overall observations

- We know very little about oral health care needs
- Those with more severe disabilities and those aged 15-64 yrs have more unmet needs due to cost
- Persistent pain and avoiding foods are common in the Canadian population
- Dental decay is the most common cause of GA in 1-5 yr olds
- Significant inequalities in oral health conditions exist
- Those aged 60 and older and those in the lowest income group are most likely to have no dental insurance (public or private)

What are the barriers to addressing these needs?

"People with disability face widespread barriers in accessing services, such as those for health care (including medical care, therapy and assistive technologies), education, employment, and social services, including housing and transport. The origin of these barriers lies in, for example, inadequate legislation, policies and strategies; the lack of service provision; problems with the delivery of services; a lack of awareness and understanding about disability; negative attitudes and discrimination; lack of accessibility; inadequate funding; and lack of participation in decisions that directly affect their lives. Specific barriers also exist in relation to persons with disabilities being able to express their opinions and seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through their chosen means of communication."

WHO global plan.... disabilities, 2014-2021

What are the barriers to addressing these needs?

- From a government and health care professional perspective:
 - Information/research
 - oral disabilities*
 - the oral health care needs of people with other disabilities*
 - Training of [oral] health care professionals – which groups and what needs can be addressed through routine services and which groups and what needs require more expertise?
 - Primary health care delivery system(s) that recognize the difficulties of providing dental care for people with disabilities and support domiciliary and mobile care as well as in community centres and hospitals

What are the barriers to addressing these needs?

- From a patient/carer/community perspective:
 - Information
 - Where can I/the person I care for go to get care?*
 - Do I have access to any government support?*
 - Alliances with health care providers
 - Cost
 - Physical barriers
 - Other accommodations eg scheduling, communication, needs of carers
 - Transport
 - Domiciliary and other residential care

*How can we
improve access to
oral health care
for people with
disabilities?*

WHO global disability action plan 2014-2021

“The action plan has the following three objectives:

- (1) to remove barriers and improve access to health services and programmes;
- (2) to strengthen and extend rehabilitation, habilitation, assistive technology, assistance and support services, and community-based rehabilitation; and
- (3) to strengthen collection of relevant and internationally comparable data on disability and support research on disability and related services.”


*How can
we/CSDH
improve access to
oral health care
for people with
disabilities?*

- Defining who is/are the target community/ies and identifying their problems
- Research & information
 - *Add oral disability and care needs to next StatsCan disabilities survey*
 - *Analysis of CHMS, CCHS, CLSA and other major research project data*
 - *Information through CIHI and other agencies*
 - *Specific, relevant projects*
 - *Liaise with representative groups to address their questions*
- Use of the information/findings
 - *With the public and representative groups*
 - *With government agencies*
 - *With health professional groups*

Message

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NCOHR Working Group on Disability and Oral Health

 Network for Canadian Oral Health Research <info@ncohr-rcrsb.ca>
 To: Paul Allison, Dr.

Monday, November 8, 2021 at 10:31 AM

NCOHR Disability and Oral Health Working Group - Leadership Appointment

NCOHR Announcement - November 2021



Dr. Sharat Pani, BDS, MDS

Dear Colleagues,

The NCOHR Executive Committee is pleased to announce Dr. Sharat Pani has been appointed inaugural chair of the NCOHR Disability and Oral Health Working Group.

Dr. Sharat Pani BDS, MDS is an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western University. He has over 50 peer

*How can
we/CSDH
improve access to
oral health care
for people with
disabilities?*

- Training
 - *General dentists, dental hygienists and others*
 - *Relevant residency programs (GPR, not necessarily specialist programs)*
 - *Research*
- Liaison with and integration into the health systems
 - *Use opportunities of government programs increasing access to dental care for relevant groups (e.g. indigenous populations, the elderly etc.)*
 - *With family physicians, nurses and others*
 - *With other relevant specialists*

Thanks very much



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