

BACKGROUND

- Post-acute sequelae of COVID-19 (PASC) or Long COVID affects at least 500,000 American children.
- An estimated 3.7-58% of paediatric patients with COVID-19 will develop PASC.
- PASC often involves neurological, behavioural, and psychiatric symptoms.
- Full spectrum of neuropsychiatric symptoms among children with PASC is largely undocumented.

METHODS

Design: Retrospective cohort study

Inclusion Criteria: Patients 21 and under. We reviewed medical records for all patients seen in paediatric neurology clinic after referral from the multi-disciplinary PASC clinic at Boston Children's Hospital between April 2021 and October 2023. Physicians made the diagnosis of PASC based on criteria established by CDC.

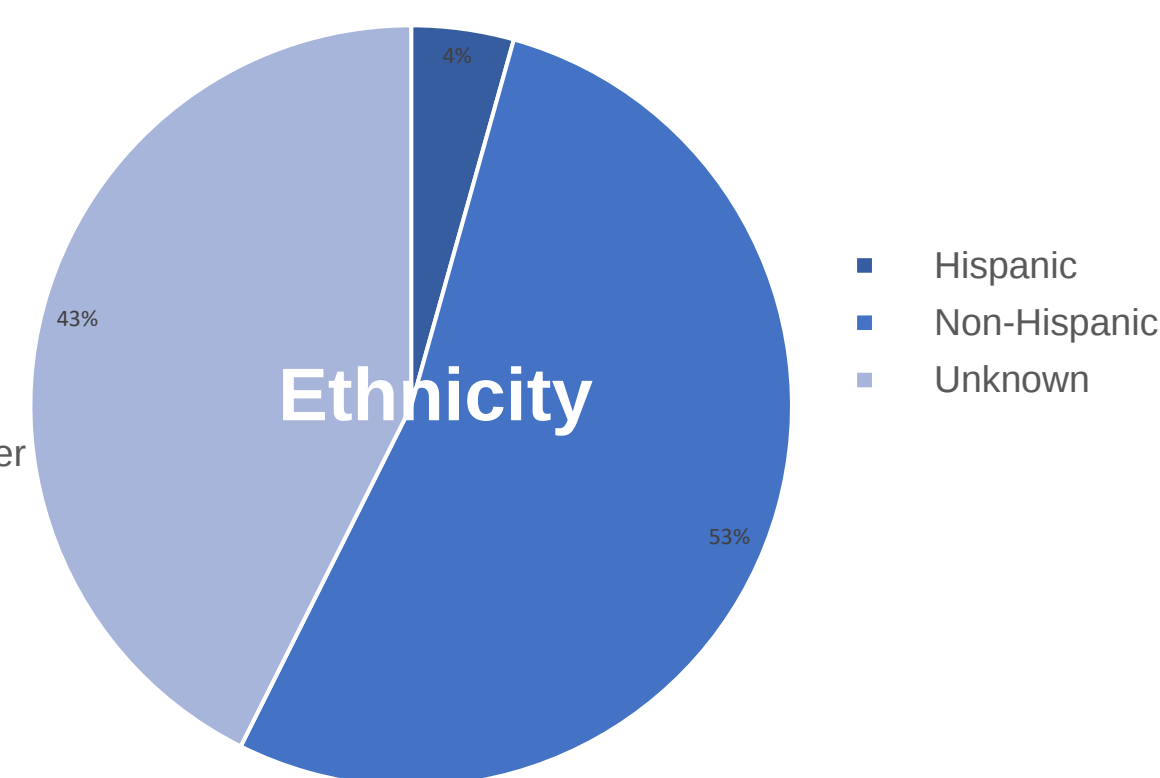
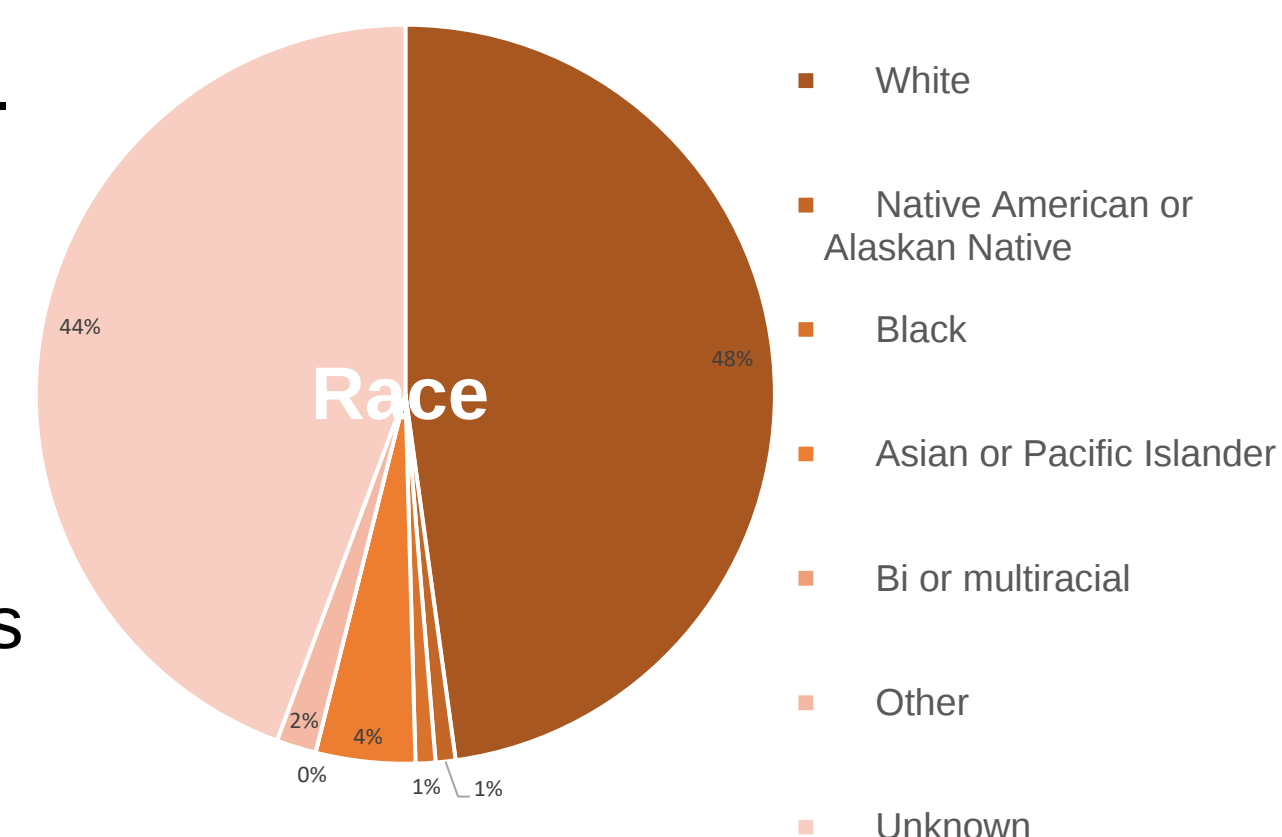
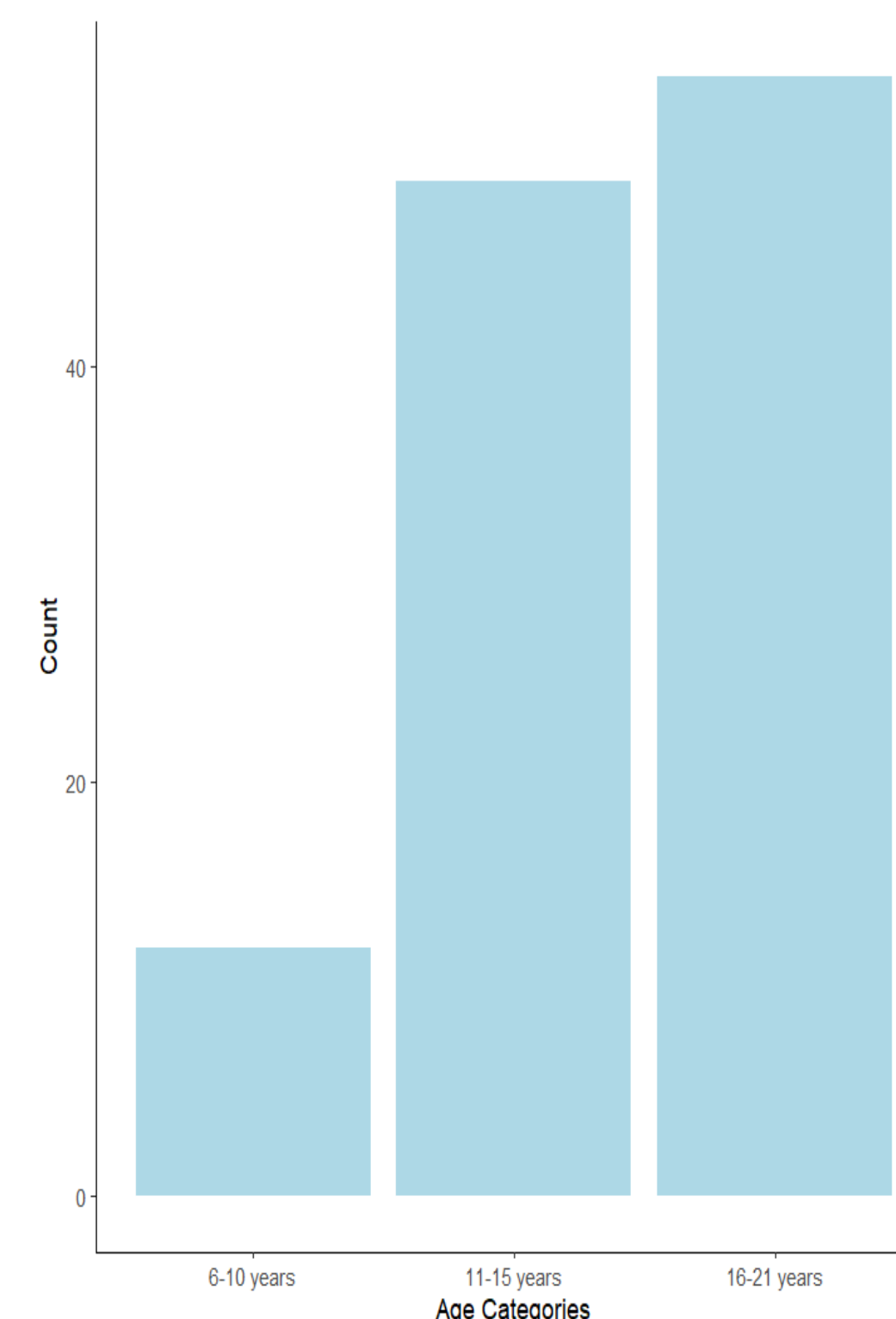
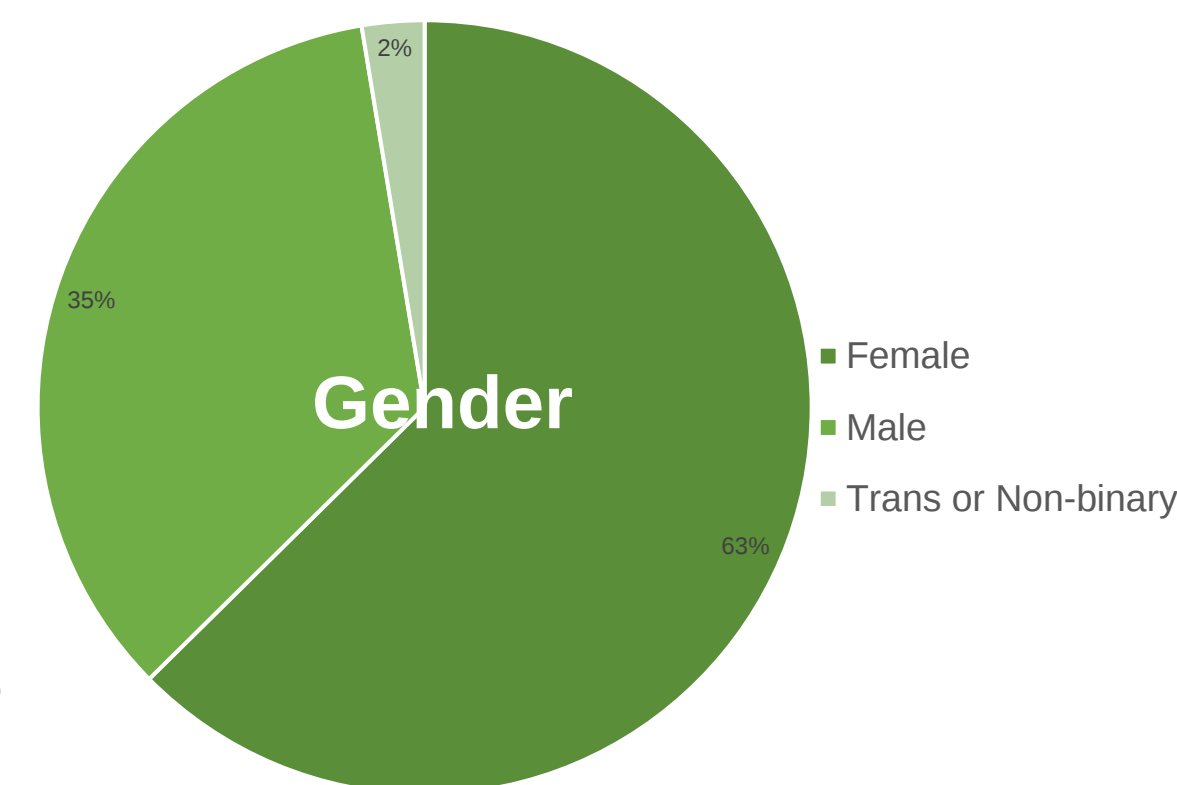
Data Abstraction: We used standardized instruments to abstract data from medical records.

RESULTS

- As of October 2023, 362 patients had been seen in multi-disciplinary clinic, 139 (38%) were referred to neurology, and 115 were seen in neuroimmunology.
- Neurology was the most common subspecialty evaluation.
- 64.4% of patients were female.
- Of the 115 evaluated in neuroimmunology, 87 (75.7%) had a family history of autoimmunity.
- Many patients (47.8%) had school accommodations already established; program staff (educational specialist) helped set up accommodations for remainder.
- Fatigue, headaches, attention, and sleep problems were among the most common symptoms.

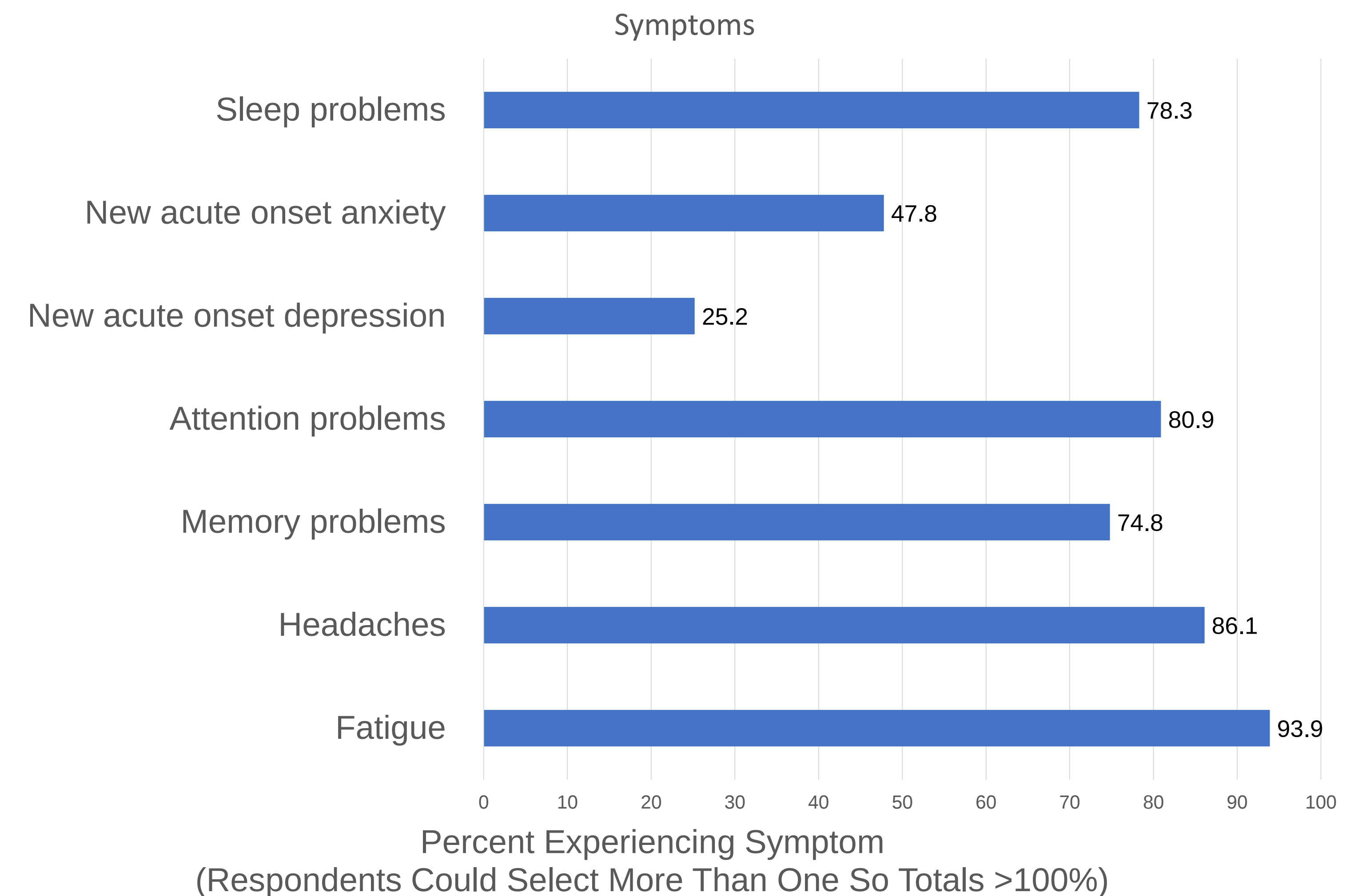
Patient age in years: mean **15.3**
range **6.3-21.4**

Healthy prior to PASC: **74 (64.4%)**



Functional impact: **14.8%** needed extended leave of absence from school.

RESULTS



CONCLUSIONS

- PASC can be associated with extensive neuropsychiatric symptoms and cause substantial functional limitations.
- Paediatric PASC patients experience significant neurological impacts, thus the most common subspecialty referral was neurology.
- PASC treatment requires a coordinated team approach to manage numerous symptoms and their impacts.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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