

Advancing Early Detection of Diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy for High-Risk Infants in BC

Ram Mishaal,
 Mor Cohen-Eilig, Mia Francl,
 Carolyn Chowne, Keith O'Connor, Nandy
 Fajardo, Carol Lai, Vivian Wong,
 Nastaran (Sunny) Vafi
 Sunny Hill Health Centre, at BC Children's Hospital

Why does this matter?

- Currently in British Columbia (BC) Canada, a surveillance and care gap exists for infants at high risk of cerebral palsy (CP).
- A recent review of the Canadian CP Registry found the mean age of diagnosis in BC to be 25 months.
- Despite presence of risk factors, many are not eligible for care by neonatal follow-up units.

What did we do?

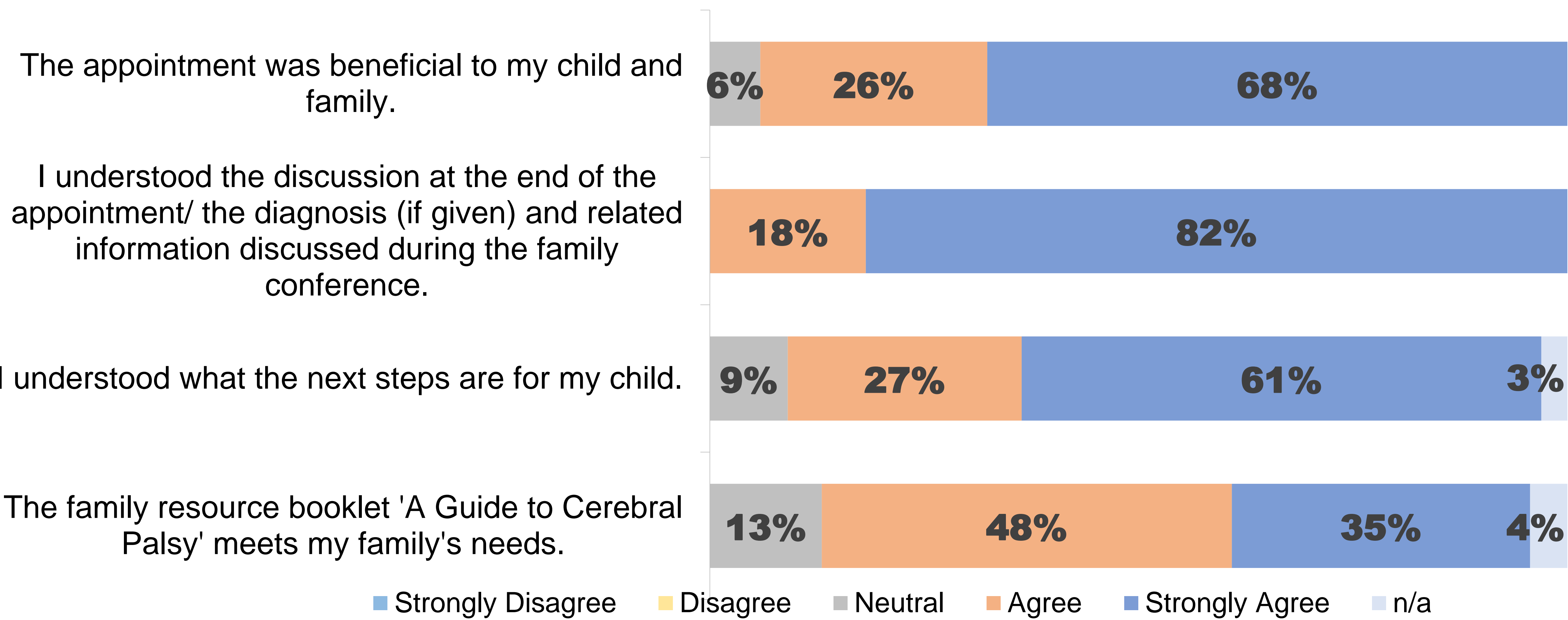
- The CP Early Diagnosis Clinic (CPEDC) was launched in November 2021 to provide timely assessments and direction for care to infants at high risk of CP in BC.

Objectives:

- To decrease the diagnosis age for high-risk infants to 4-12 months and facilitate early intervention
- To develop a new diagnostic and follow-up pathway for high-risk infants

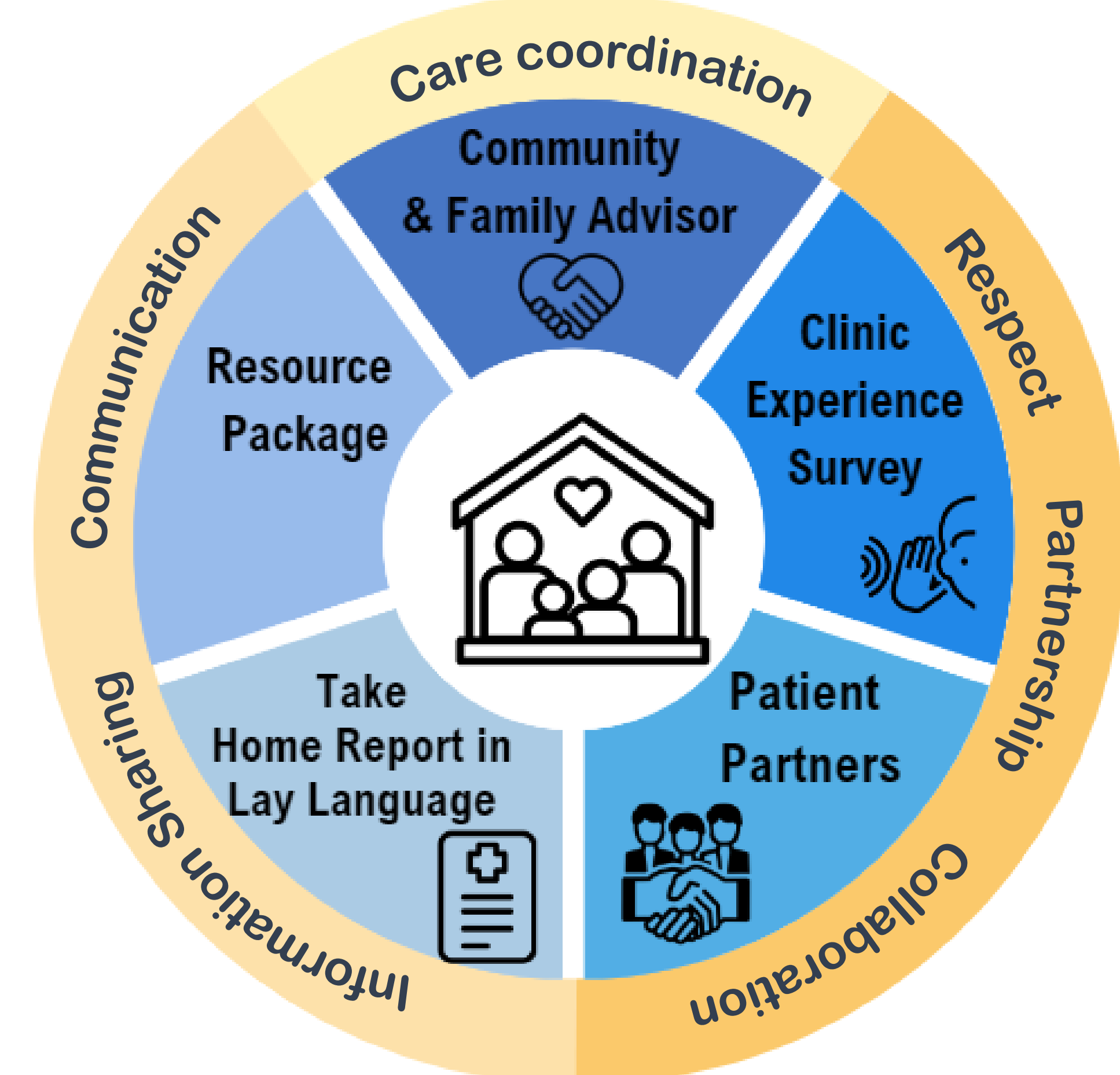
Satisfaction Survey:

Survey Response Rate: 63%



Standardized Service Delivery in:

- Identification and surveillance of high-risk infants
- Quality of care & enhance patient experience
- Referrals for early intervention and support



CP Early Diagnosis Clinic

1st Appointment (4-6 months CA)

- Parent interview
- Standardised physical tests (e.g. HINE)
- Diagnosis and care planning
- Provides resources package
- Referrals for early intervention

2 weeks phone follow-up

2nd Appointment (10-12 months CA)

- Motor/ Developmental assessment (DAYC / AIMS)
- Confirms diagnosis if unable to make diagnosis at the first visit
- Follow up plan

Following The AACPDM Care Pathway for early diagnosis of CP

CPEDC intake criteria
 Based on evidence review of high-risk factors of CP

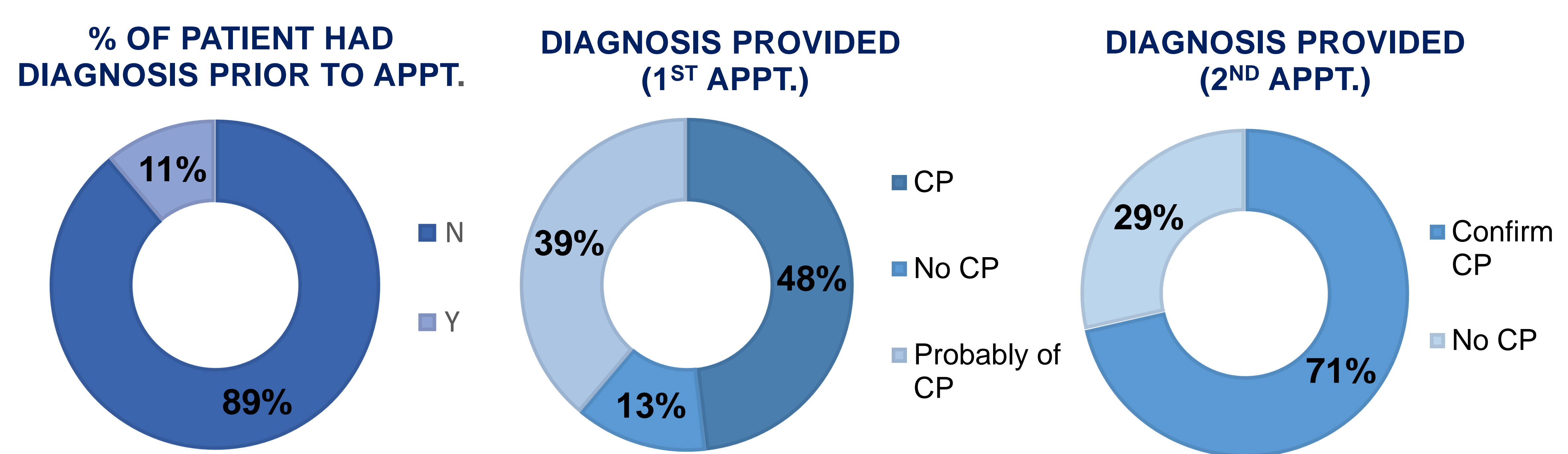
- < 1 year old
- Has an abnormal GMA result
- Demonstrates at least one of the medical criteria or clinical/ developmental risk factors for CP

CA – Corrected Age
CP – Cerebral Palsy
GMA – General Movements Assessment
HINE – Hammersmith Infant Neurological Examination
DAYC – Developmental Assessment of Young Children
AIMS – Alberta Infant Motor Skills

Outcomes & Significance

Nov 2021 – Oct 2023

# of children assessed (1st appt.)	54	Mean Admission Age (CA)	7 ± 5 months
# of children assessed (2nd appt.)	22	Mean Diagnosis Age (CA)	10 ± 5 months



Next Steps:

- Knowledge translation initiatives with community & primary care clinicians
- Expansion of the intake criteria to increase accessibility of assessment for all high-risk children

We are scaling up:
 Capacity increases to 80-100 patients per year

Positive Family Feedback

"Appreciated the team approach to one assessment. Saved my child from being assessed multiple times. And saved us parents from having to share the information with multiple providers."

"Accessibility to early diagnose is important and our family is thankful for it."

"The process of diagnoses usually has been long, sad and too many experiences where I felt like I wasn't been heard, respected and supported. Sunnyhill was the opposite of that. Your facility and the people in it are amazing and an example of what health care should be. Thank you!"

Contact: Ram Mishaal (Ram.Mishaal@cw.bc.ca)

Sunny Hill Health Centre

BC Children's Hospital
 Provincial Health Services Authority

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
 Division of Developmental Pediatrics
 Department of Pediatrics | Faculty of Medicine

Learn more about Sunny Hill Health Centre at BC Children's Hospital

