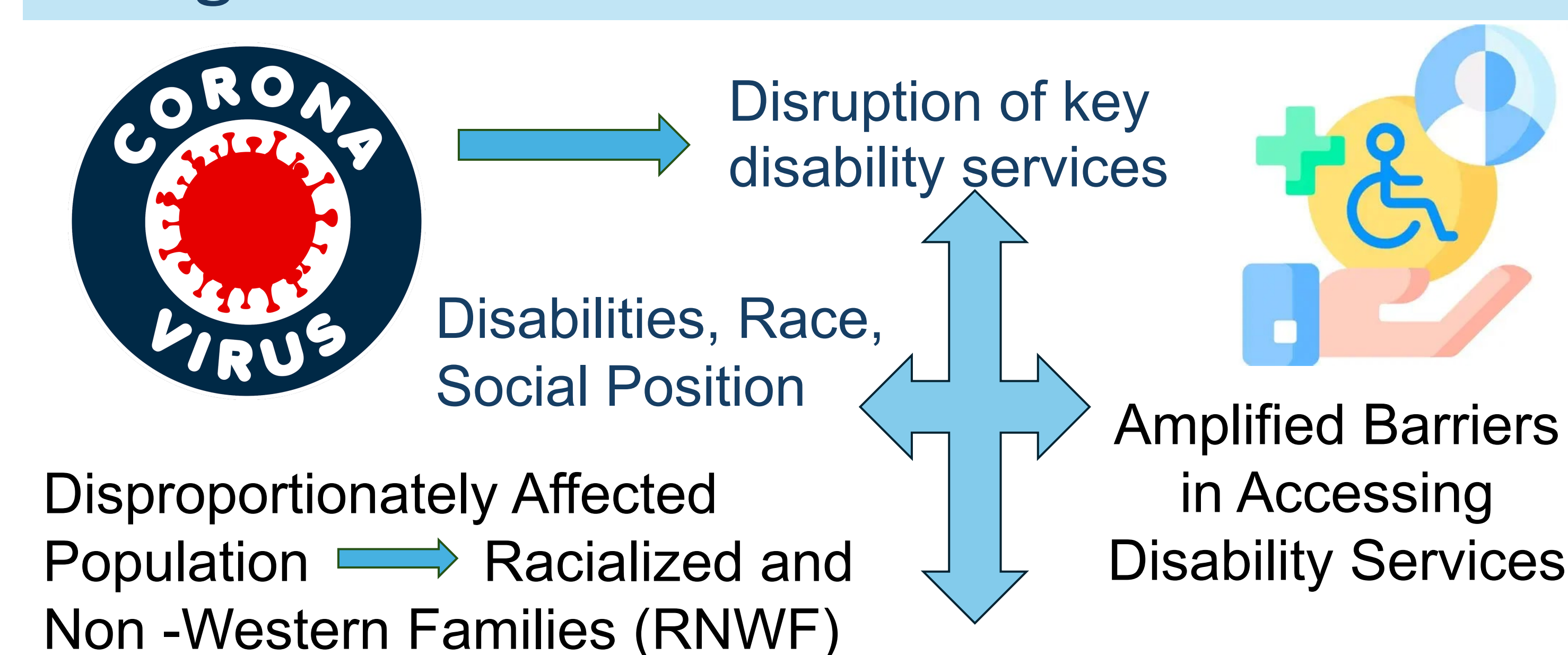


COVID-19 and Children with Disabilities: Experiences of Racialized and Non-Western Families in Accessing Disability Services

Ugbesia S., Nanthakumar S., Lamptey, D.

Background



Objective



Explore the unique experiences of RNWF in navigating disability services during the pandemic

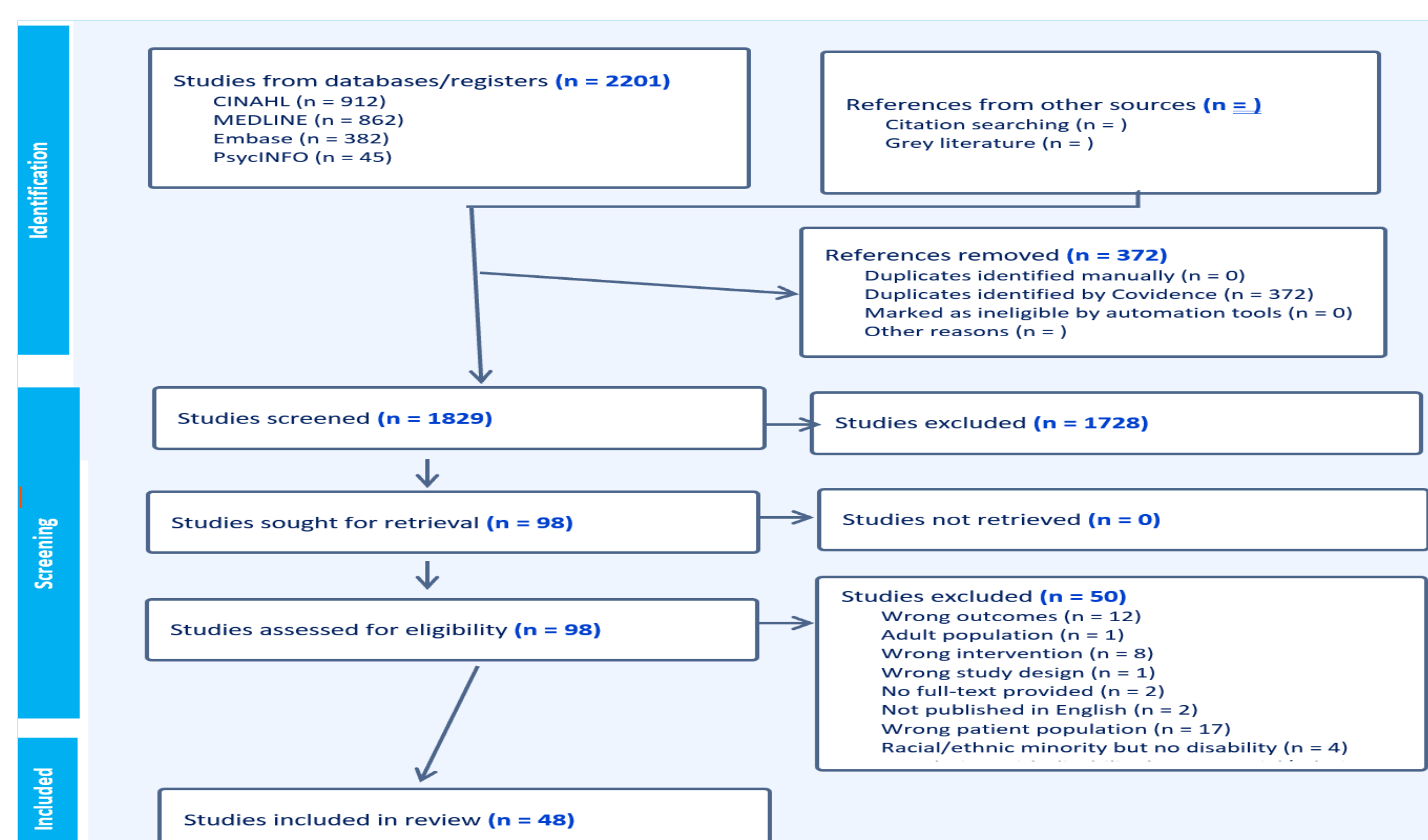


Research Question

What were the experiences of racialized and Non-Western families in accessing disability services during the pandemic?

Method and Analysis

Qualitative Scoping Review Guided by: PRISMA-SR, Thematic Content Analysis, Intersectionality and Ecological Systems Theory



PRISMA Flowchart Diagram

Total articles analyzed for this study

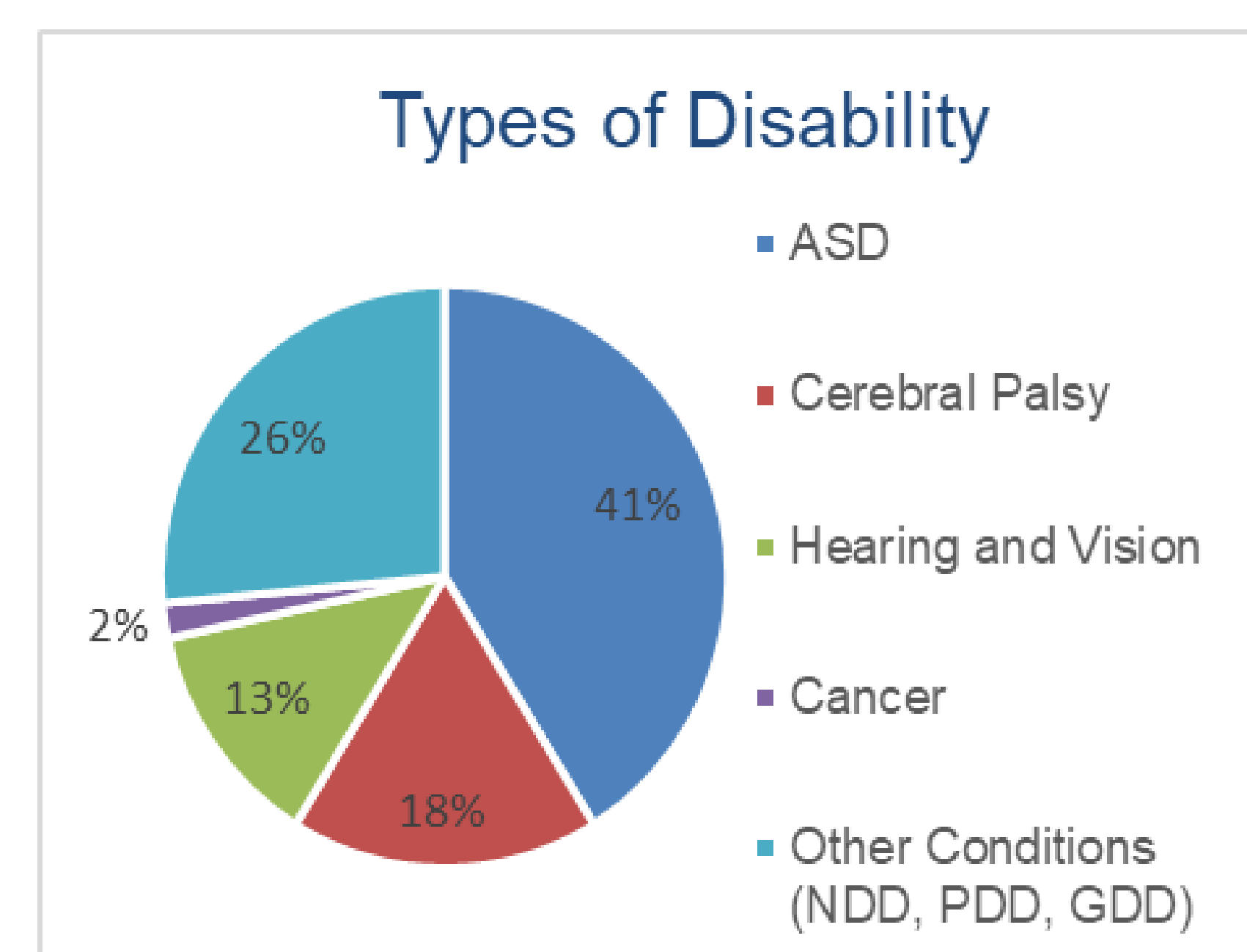
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48

Service Providers and Policymakers Must Work in Partnership With Racialized and Non-Western Children With Disabilities – and Their Families - to Ensure Equitable Access to Disability Services During Public Health Crises

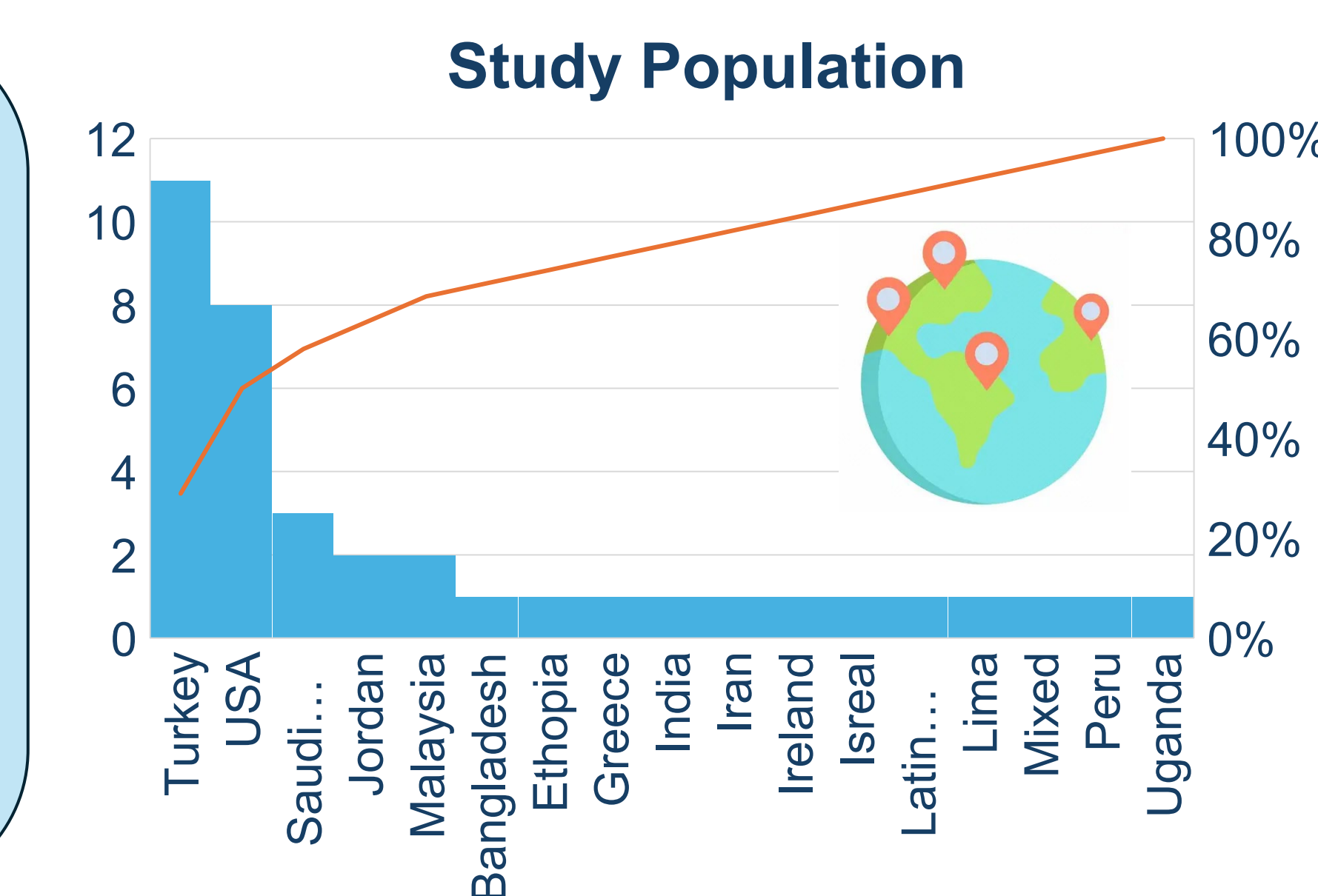


Findings



Despite the prevalence of ASD, RNWF in North America often face challenges in obtaining a diagnosis and support for their children.²

Middle Eastern studies dominated the review, suggesting a research gap for examining the experiences of Black-majority populations



Key Themes

Service Disruption (Uganda)

"My boy has not been able to go for his reviews and therapy exercises for over two months, he is regressing and beginning to self-injure again"

Caregiver Burden (USA)

"I felt like I wasn't a mom anymore I felt like I was the teacher, the speech path, the OT, the language person"

Telehealth Challenges (Turkey)

"Now at home [physical, occupation, and speech therapy were] going to be through the screen...I didn't know what to do"

Conclusion

To improve trust and access, the voices of RNWF must be embedded in policy design, and they should be positioned as partners – not just recipients – of disability services.

Relevance to Holland Bloorview and Clients



Supports HB's commitment to family engagement in designing disability services

Offers insights for future pandemic planning to prevent service gaps for RNWF

Engage RNWF caregivers in co-designing culturally appropriate services