

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF

Racialized Parents of Children with Autism

IN PEEL REGION

Preliminary results, March 2023

Study Conducted By: Social Planning Council of Peel (SPCPEEL)

Lead Investigator: Dr. Srimanta Mohanty

In Collaboration With: Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS)
and Kick Start Therapy

Presented By: Jacob Mathew & Shelby Martindale



SOCIAL PLANNING
COUNCIL OF PEEL

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMMUNICATION



Purpose of Study

Examine the impact of cultural attitudes and beliefs on clients experiences.

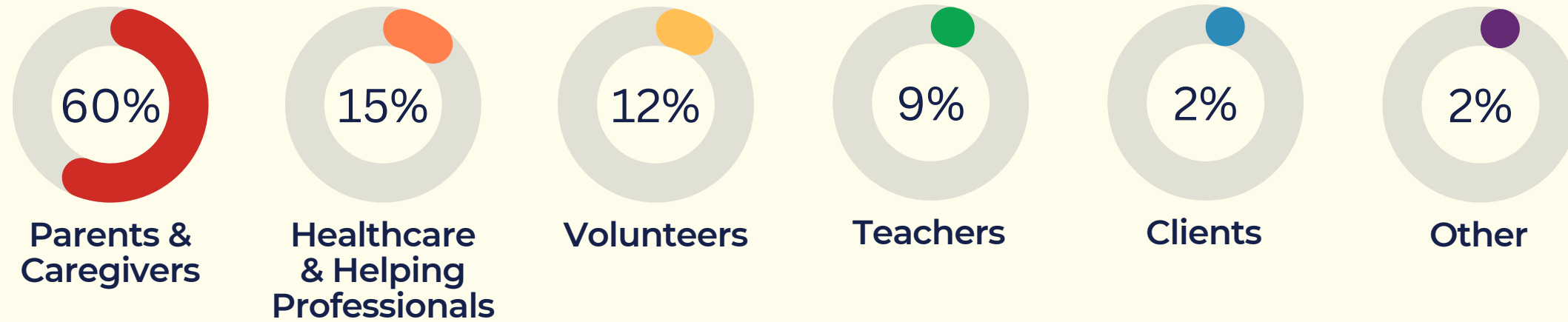
Pinpoint potential ways to adapt therapies to cultural backgrounds.

Explore potential solutions or supports that service providers could offer.

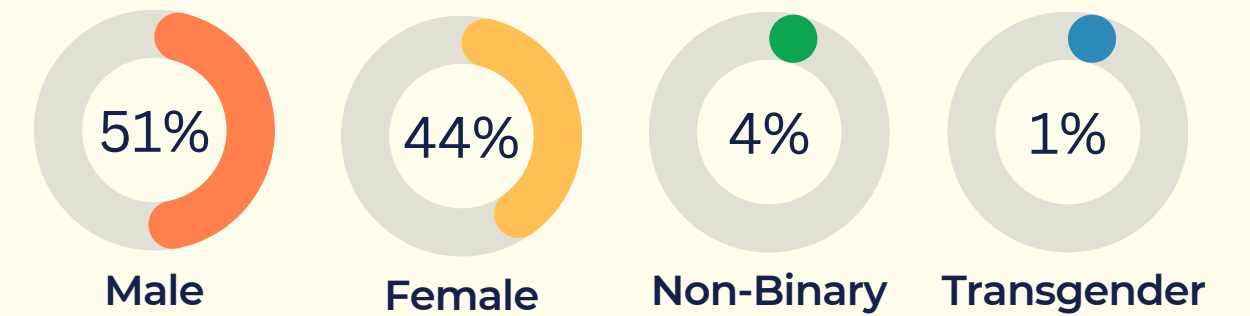
Identify the most pressing challenges faced by families of autistic children.

Respondent Characteristics

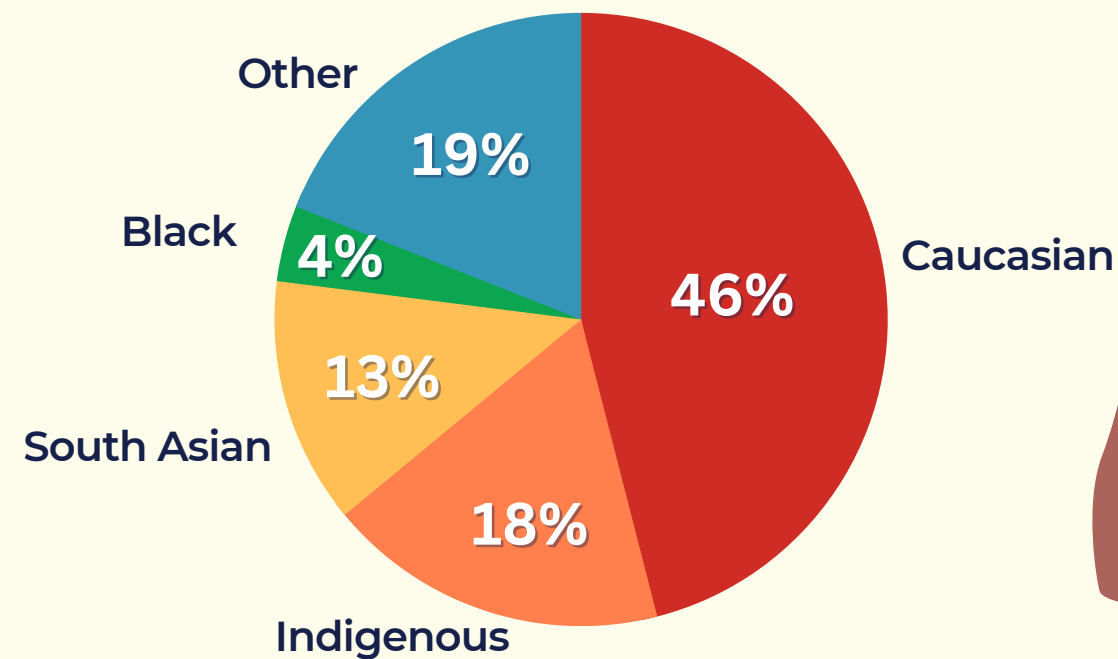
ROLE IN CHILDS LIFE



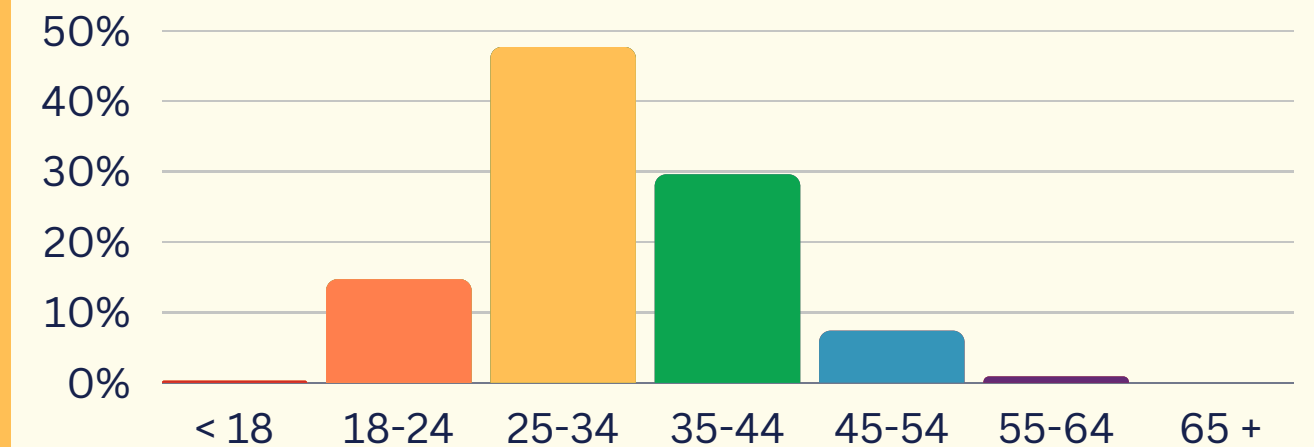
GENDER IDENTITY



RACIAL BACKGROUND

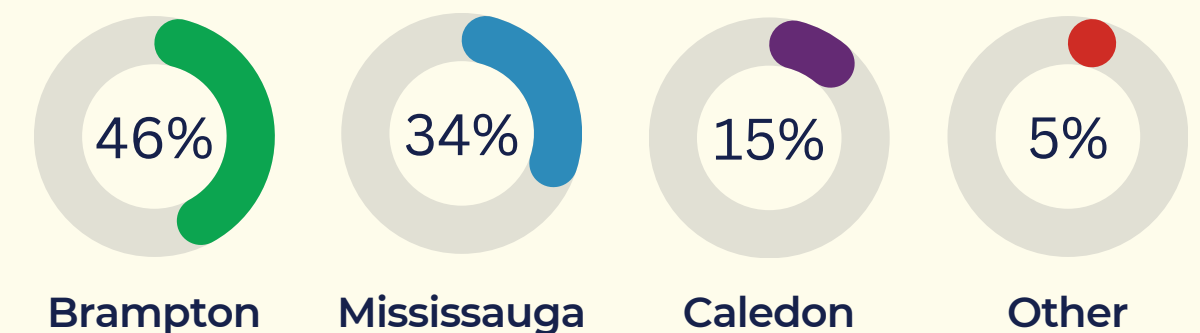


AGE



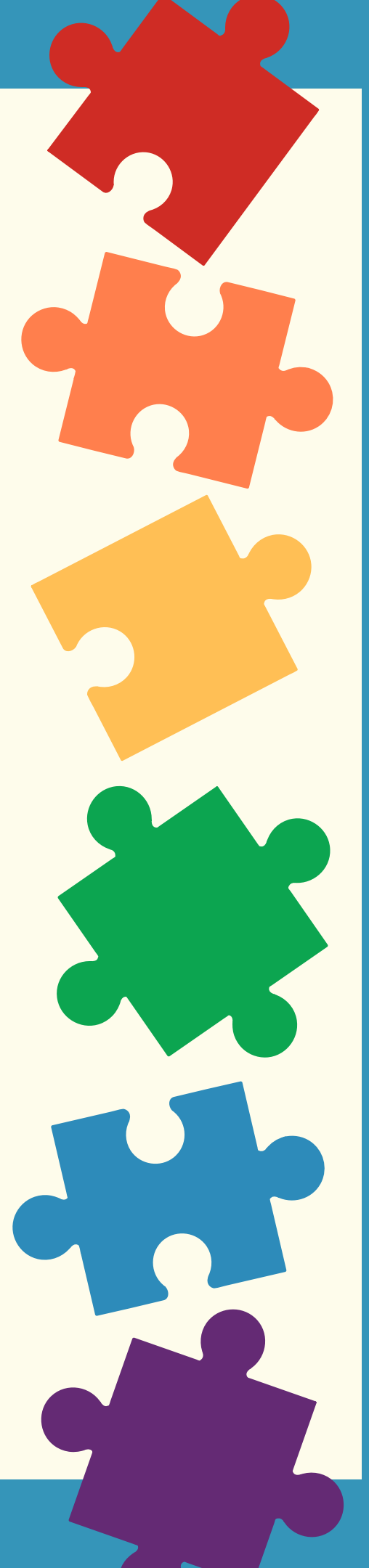
1131
Total Survey Respondents

LOCATION



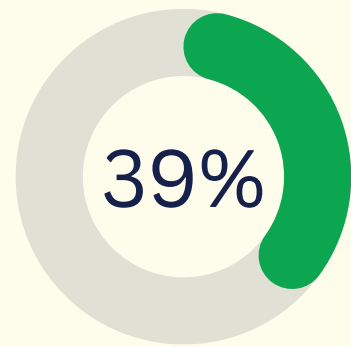
Key Findings

- 1 The Impact of COVID-19
- 2 Challenges Families Face
- 3 Cultural Attitudes Toward Autism
- 4 Self-Care
- + Recommendations

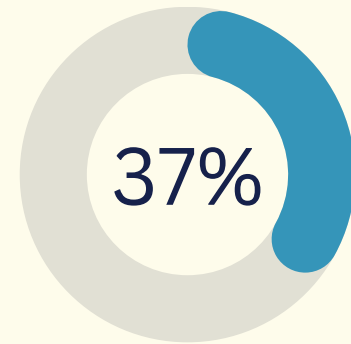


The Impact of COVID-19

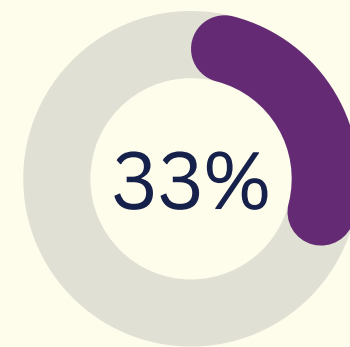
Organizations and clients had difficulty adapting to the changes that were required to continue providing/accessing services during the pandemic



Clients we're unable to access online services.

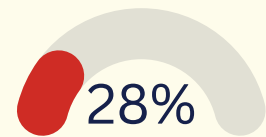


Organization didn't offer in person services.

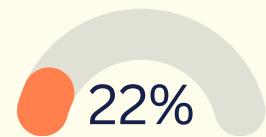


Organization didn't offer virtual services.

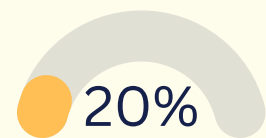
Other challenges highlighted by COVID-19:



Lack of childcare



Difficulty reaching the organization due to staff working remotely



Lack of awareness of resources

Question #5 :

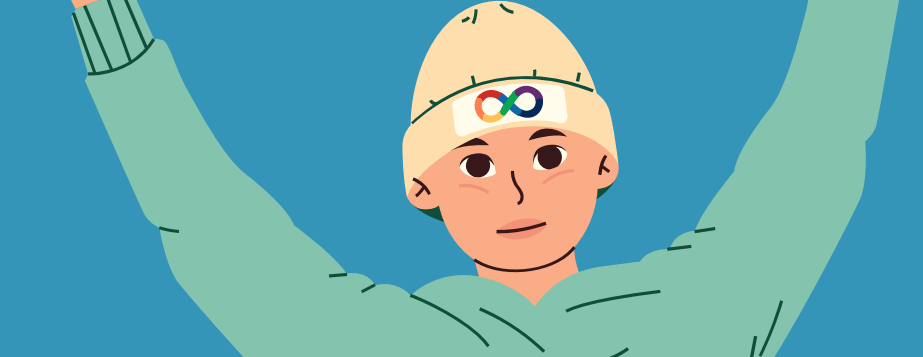
“What struggles have you experienced in obtaining autism related services during COVID-19?”

1023
Respondents
answered
this question

Question #7 :

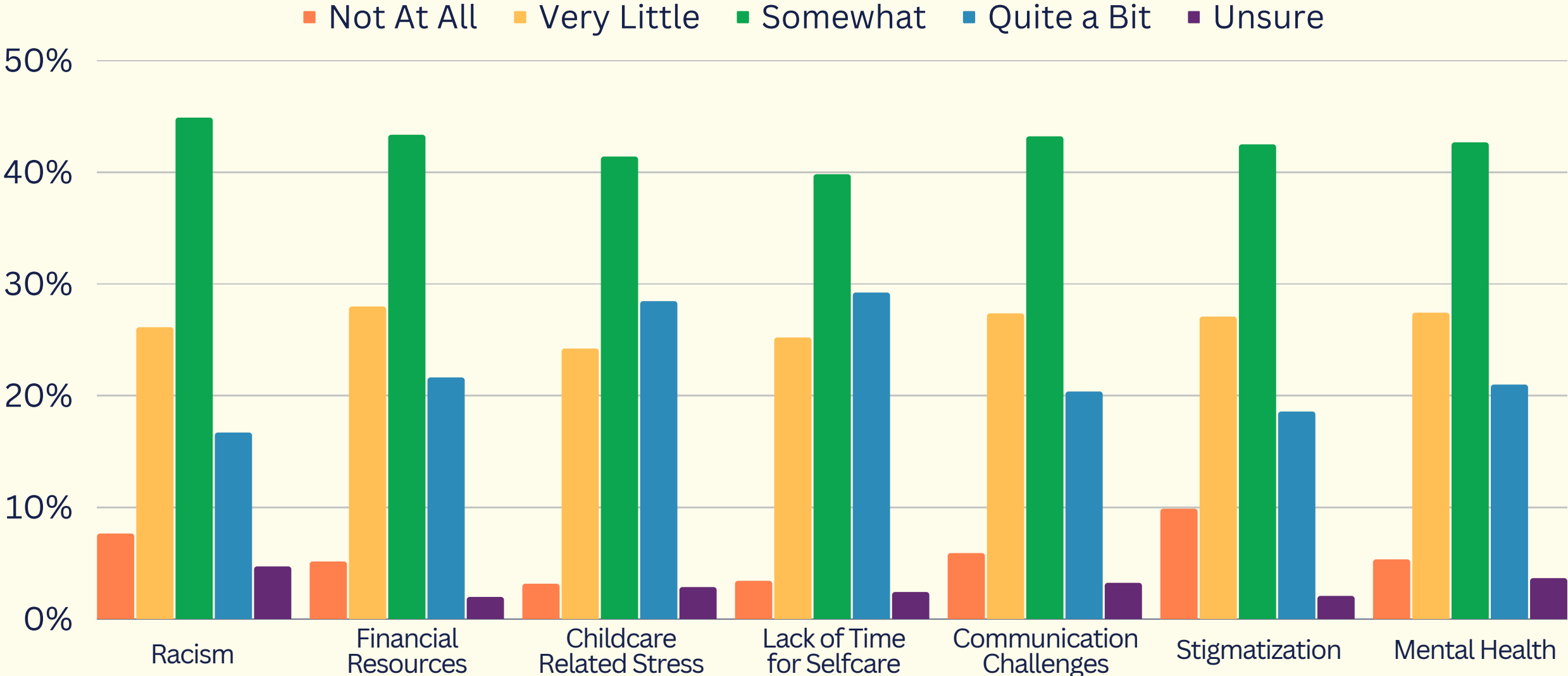
“Please indicate the extent to which you believe each of these issues impact the parents or caregivers of child/ren with autism in Peel Region”

1022 Respondents answered this question



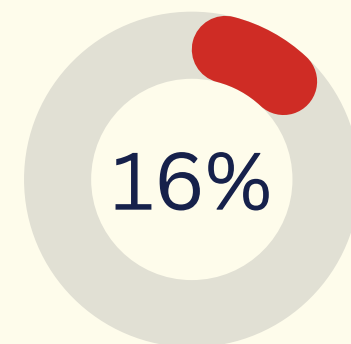
Challenges that Families Face

All of the challenges listed were rated as having somewhat of an impact on parents and caregivers with child/ren with autism

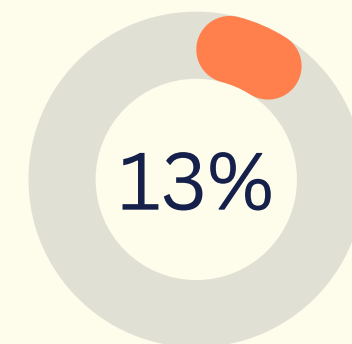


Challenges that Families Face

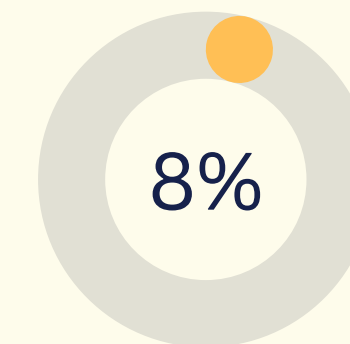
- FINANCES
- CHILD CARE
- BEHAVIORS
- PARENTS
- STIGMA
- MENTAL HEALTH
- KNOWLEDGE OF AUTISM
- EARLY DIAGNOSIS
- RESOURCES
- SOCIALIZATION
- COMMUNITY
- COMMUNICATION
- RACIAL BARRIERS
- CULTURAL ISSUES
- EXTERNAL PRESSURE



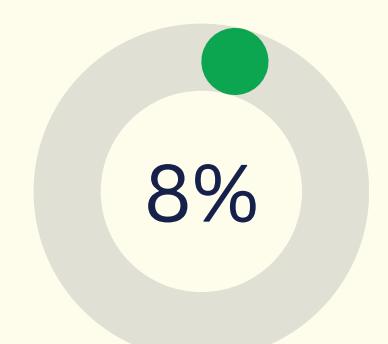
Financial Challenges



Communication Challenges



Mental Health Challenges



Child Care Challenges

Question #15 :

“What is the most important problem or challenge that Autistic children and their families face that service providers/organizations can help you with?”

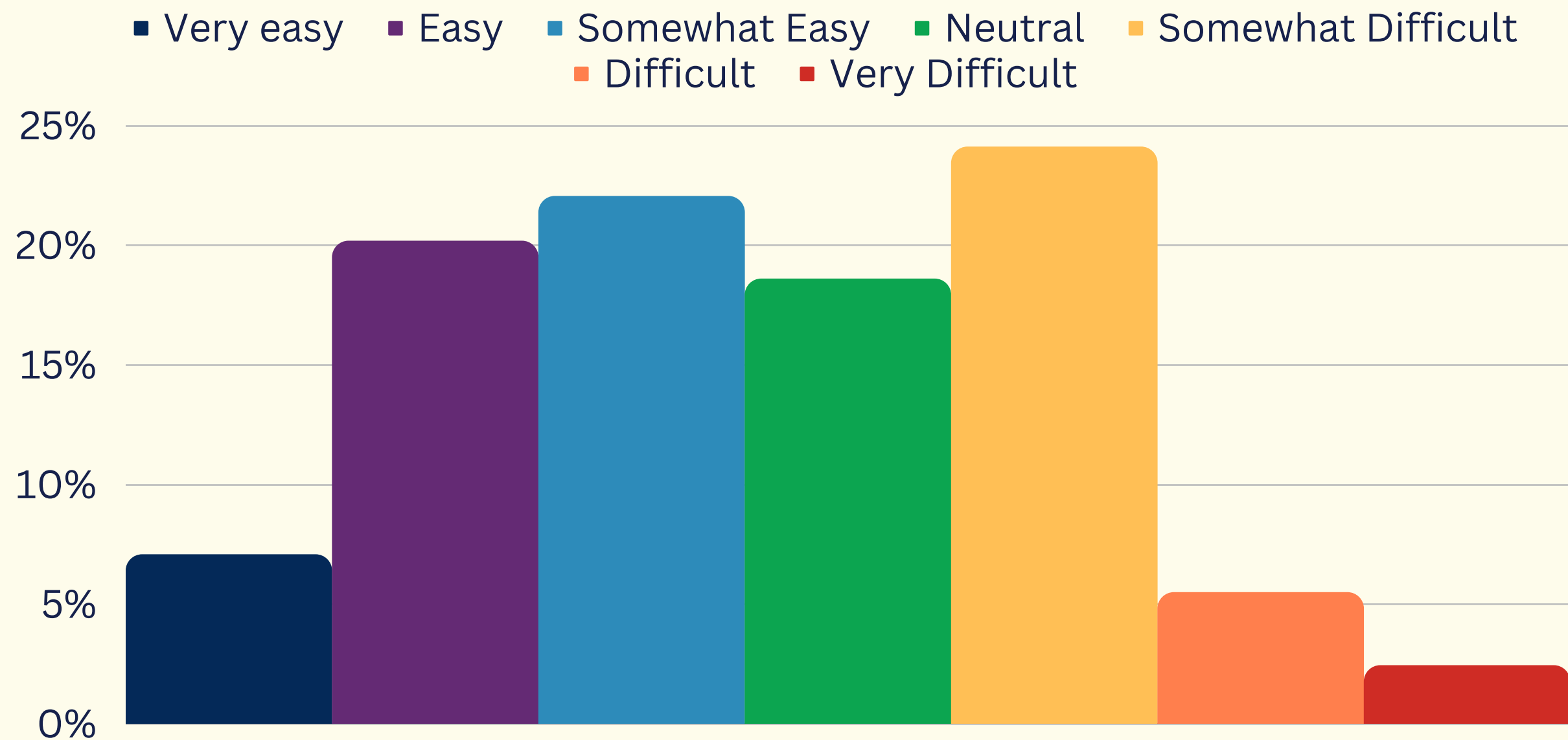
290

Quality Responses

this question was open-ended



Cultural Attitudes Towards Autism



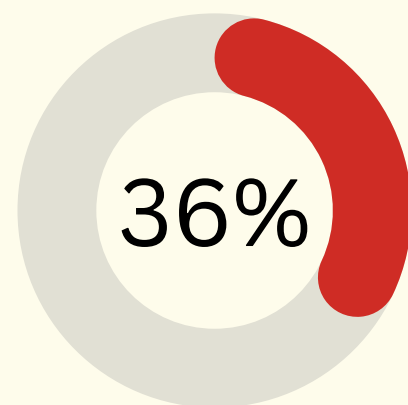
Question #12 :

“ How difficult has it been for your child to deal with cultural attitudes and beliefs about autism? ”

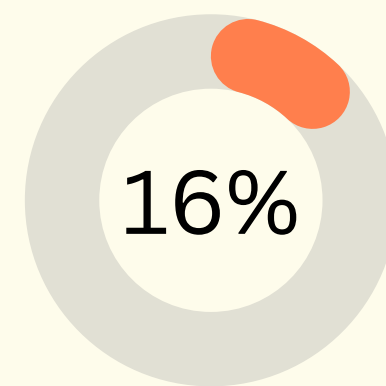


1016
Respondents answered this question

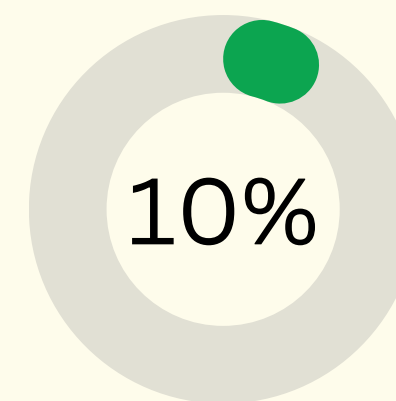
Self Care



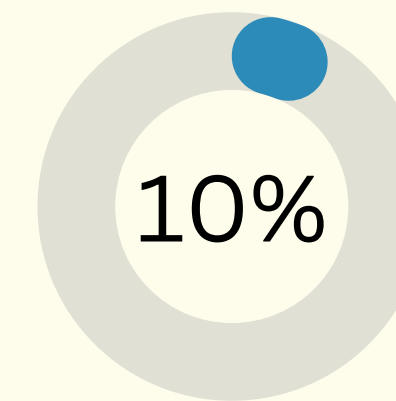
Paying more attention to the child



Look after the parent's mental health



Seeking treatment immediately



Seeking more knowledge from doctors

Other important themes:

- Increasing communication
- Being patient
- Modes of intervention that could be helpful
- Actively cooperate with the treatment
- Consider finances

Question #10 :

“What advice can you give to parents/families of a child who has been newly diagnosed with autism?”

220

Quality Responses

this question was open-ended



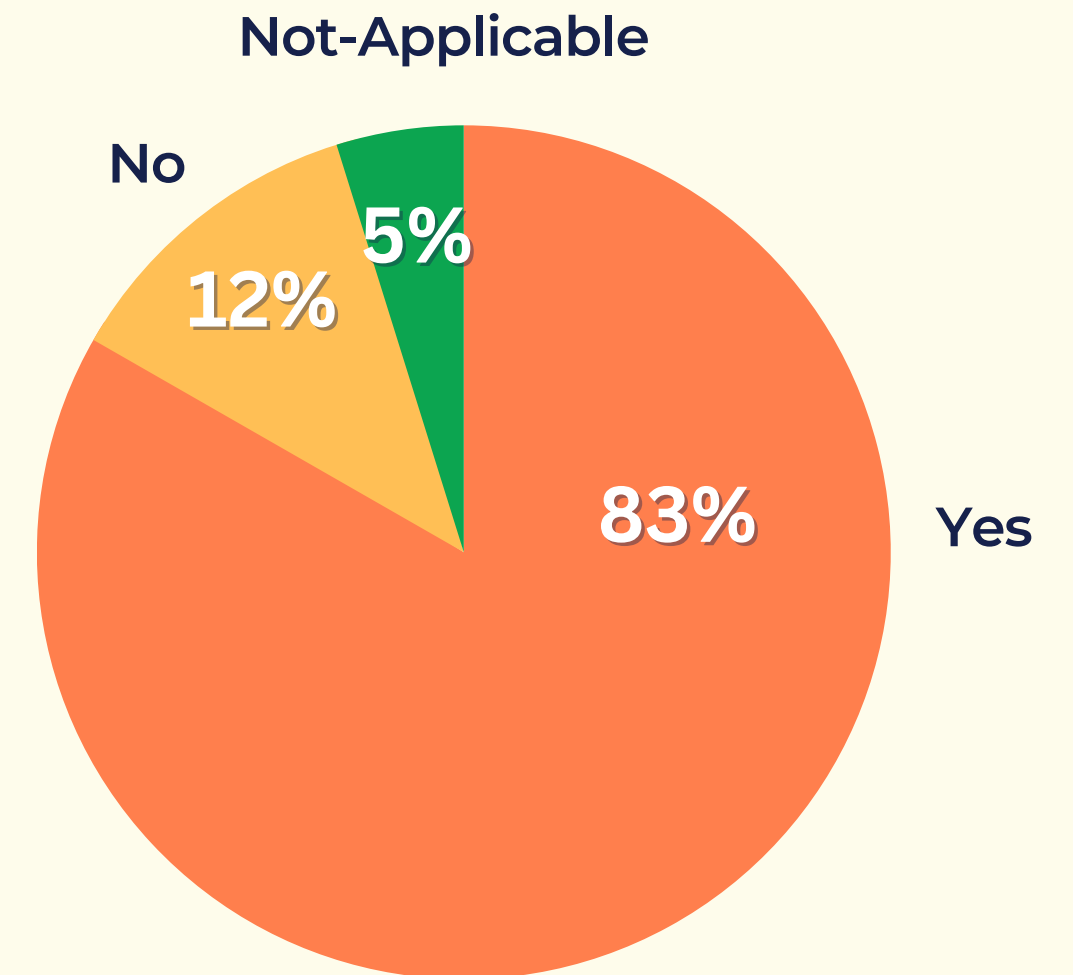
Question #16 :

“ Would you be interested in receiving training to become your child’s therapist at home if it meant it would reduce the number of hours (therefore cost) of ABA therapy you attend? ”



Self Care

- A high percentage of parents answered yes
- This indicates a majority of parents would like to take care of their children at home and reduce the cost of ABA therapy



Reccomendations

Macro Level

- Develop policies and programs that address the intersection of culture and autism.
- Advocate for more autism awareness and research.
- Advocate for funding to support individual families, agencies and autism research

Mezzo Level

- Train within organizations to develop cultural competency.
- Implement community based programs to connect families.




Tips when
working with
clients!

Offer training and
education resources to
parents.

Provide culturally
sensitive counseling and
support to the entire
family, allowing space to
understand the context
of their family and
culture

Connect with other
organizations to help
navigate different
systems (healthcare,
education, etc.)





**Thank
You!**