



Preparing Medical Students to Care for Patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Background

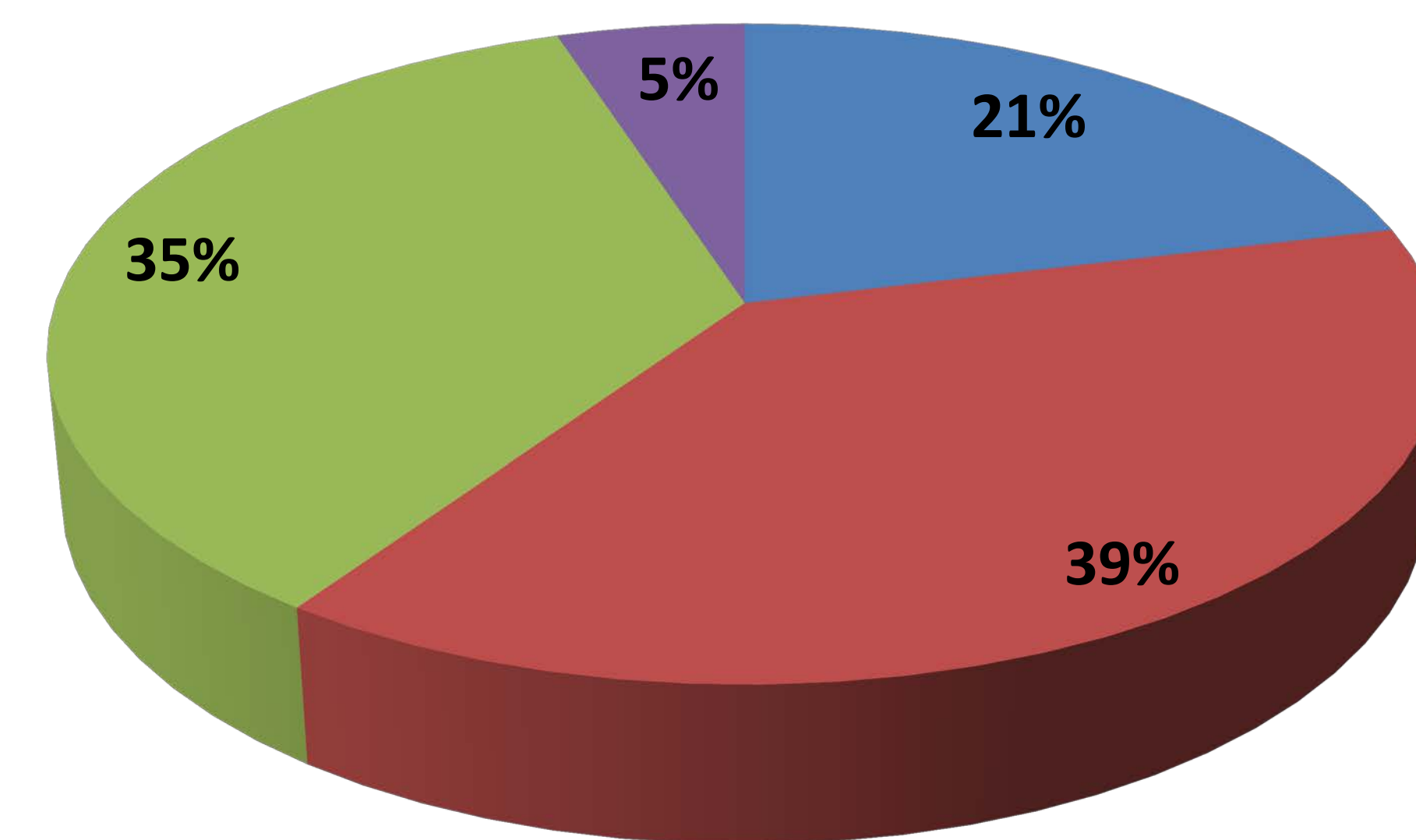
- Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) experience worse health and more barriers to quality care compared to people without disabilities.
- Improving access and quality of care is essential to eliminating the health disparities among patients with disabilities.
- Medical education is increasingly expected to address underserved and vulnerable populations and teach future physicians to be culturally competent.
- Disability education can increase provider knowledge, confidence, and comfort in caring for patients with disabilities.

Methods

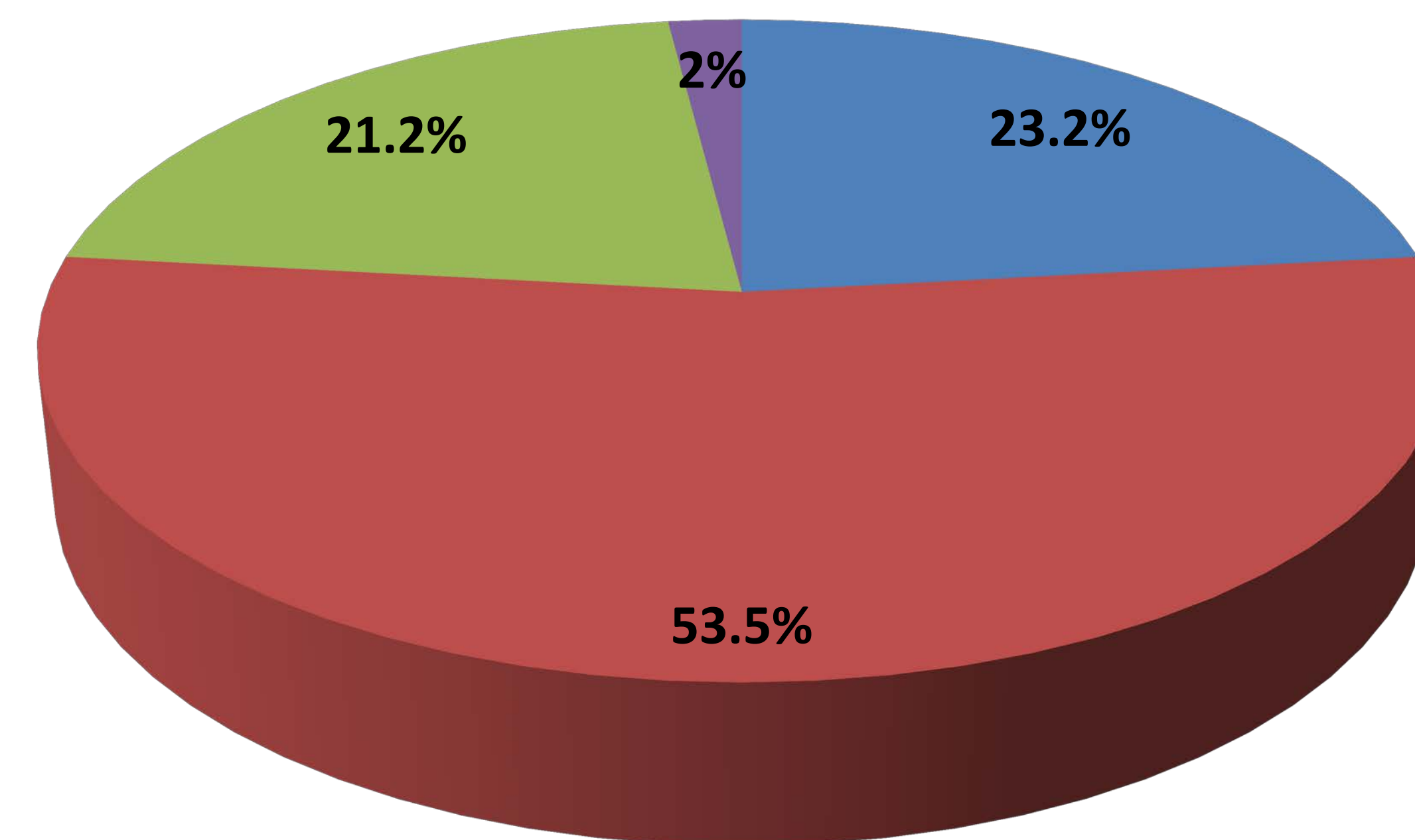
- Mandatory ASD encounter for all 3rd year medical students at The Ohio State University
- The online component of this encounter includes:
 - ASD Lecture
 - Patient Interviews
 - Physical Exams
 - Recorded panel vignettes
- **Family-centered panels consisted of a facilitator (a developmental-behavioral pediatrician) and four to five panel members made up of adults with ASD and family members**
- Medical students were asked ten closed-ended questions about the training and asked to write a 100-250 word reflection using SurveyMonkey
- Panel discussions were conducted from April to September of 2013
- Quantitative and qualitative data (N=99) was analyzed using SPSS and QSR Nvivo respectively

Student Satisfaction

How would you rate the quality of the teaching provided?

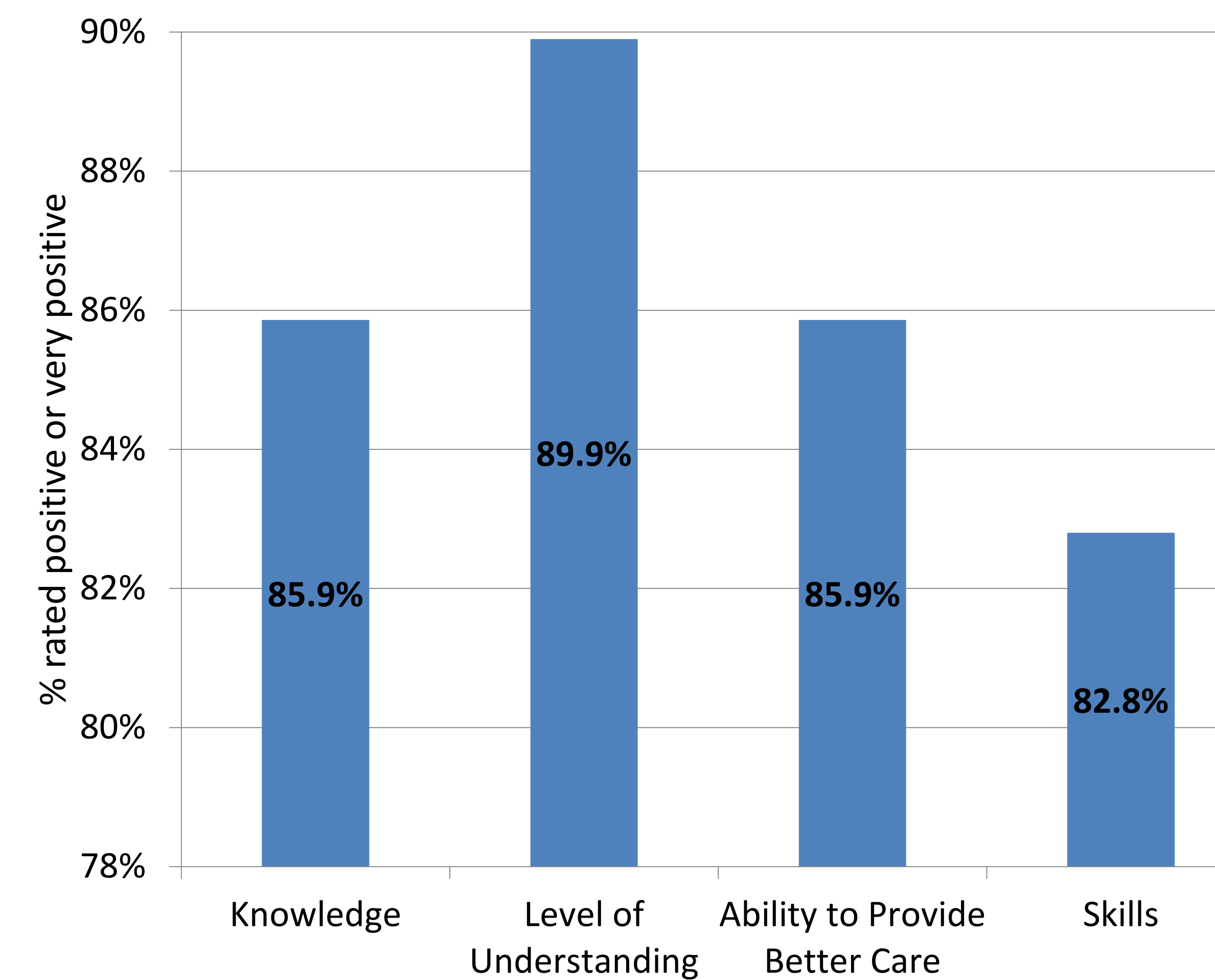


What is your overall level of satisfaction with this learning experience?

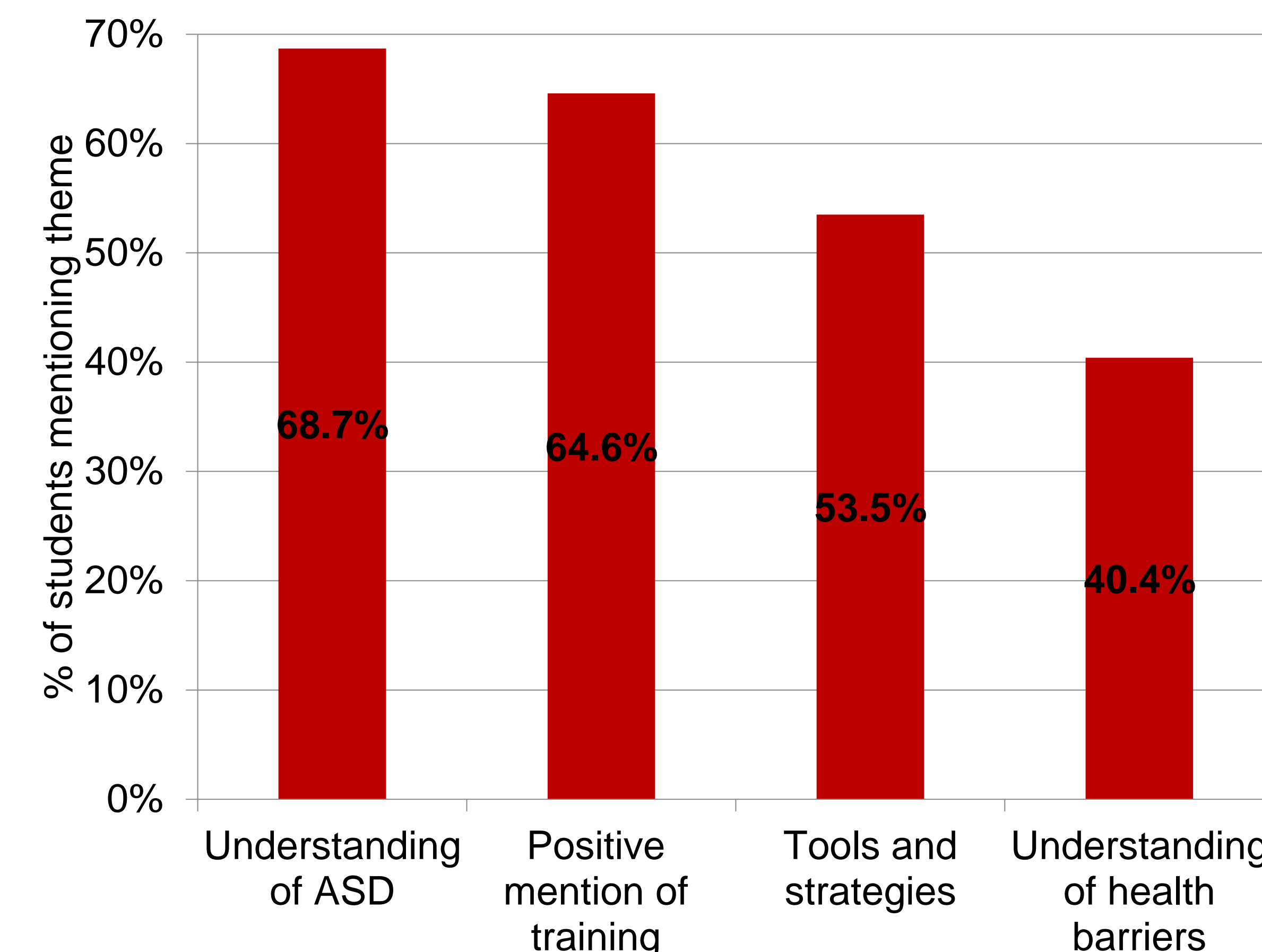


Student Outcomes

Quantitative Results:
Students reported positive change in...



Qualitative Results:
Students commented on impact of training...



Student Reflections

"I found the panel to be extremely worthwhile, and loved the fact that people with autism were able to participate and lend their perspective. It is incredibly helpful to hear a first-hand account when trying to understand a developmental disability."

"Seeing the spectrum of abilities and lifestyles on the autism spectrum was also educational as I had no idea of the level of differences among those with this diagnosis."

"This presentation made it clear that it is crucial to form a relationship with the caretakers and family members of the patient as they can be valuable allies in understanding how best to communicate with the patient."

"Some of their insights they shared could not be learned from a book and if it was not for this workshop, we would probably have never learned them."

Autism Curriculum Guide

Check out our website for resources:

Autism-med-ed.osu.edu



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