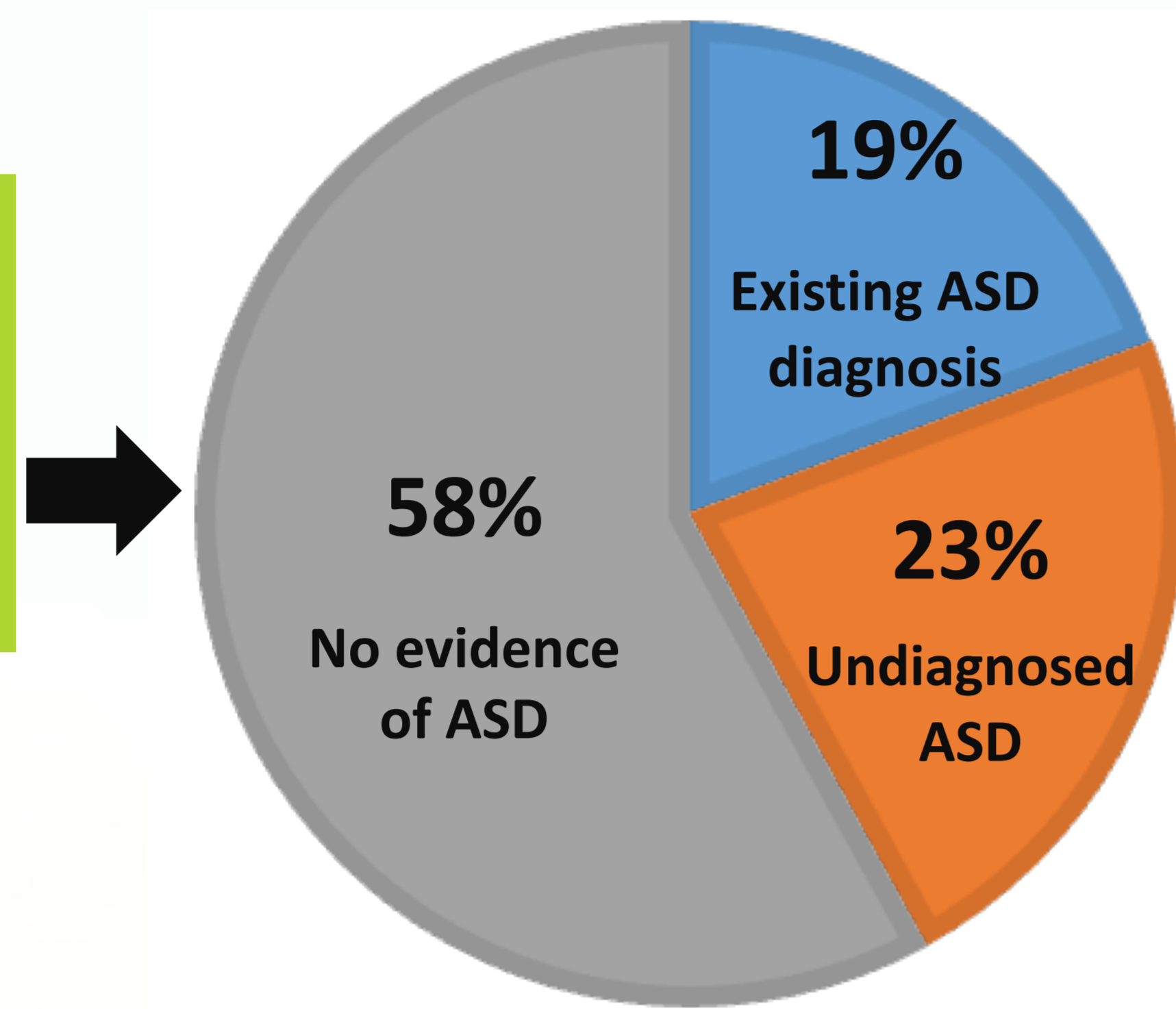


# Prevalence of autism spectrum disorder in young people attending ADMiRE, Ireland's first public specialist service for children with ADHD

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## Graphical abstract summary

Of children and adolescents assessed for ADHD in ADMiRE ADHD specialist service in 2022:

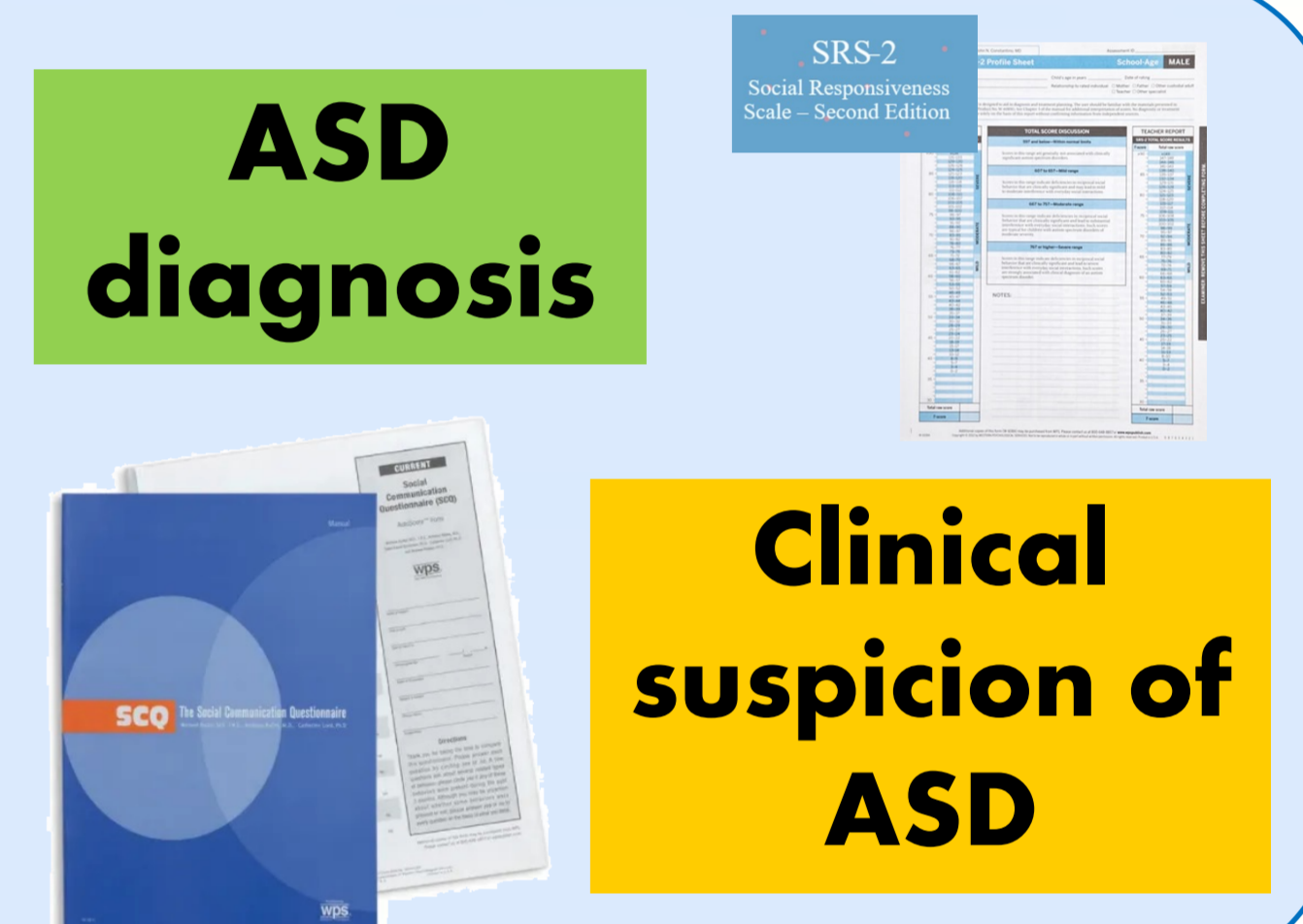


## Introduction and Aims

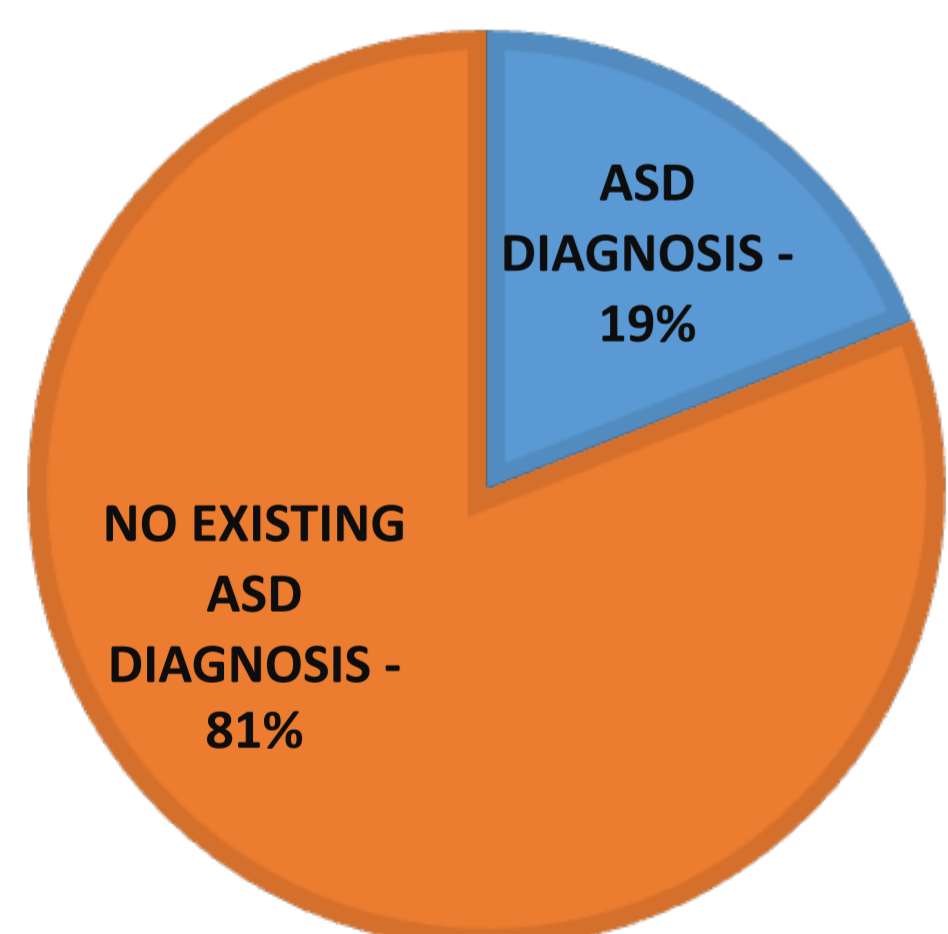
- Approximately 37% of young people (YP) with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) have co-existing autism spectrum disorder (ASD)<sup>(1)</sup>
- When both disorders co-occur, they cause greater morbidity and create more complicated clinical challenges<sup>(2)</sup>
- Previous research in ADMiRE the first public ADHD service in Ireland reported ASD prevalence of 39%.
- This study aimed to investigate the overall prevalence of 1) formally diagnosed ASD and 2) suspected ASD in all new patients who attended ADMiRE for ADHD assessment in 2022.

## Methods

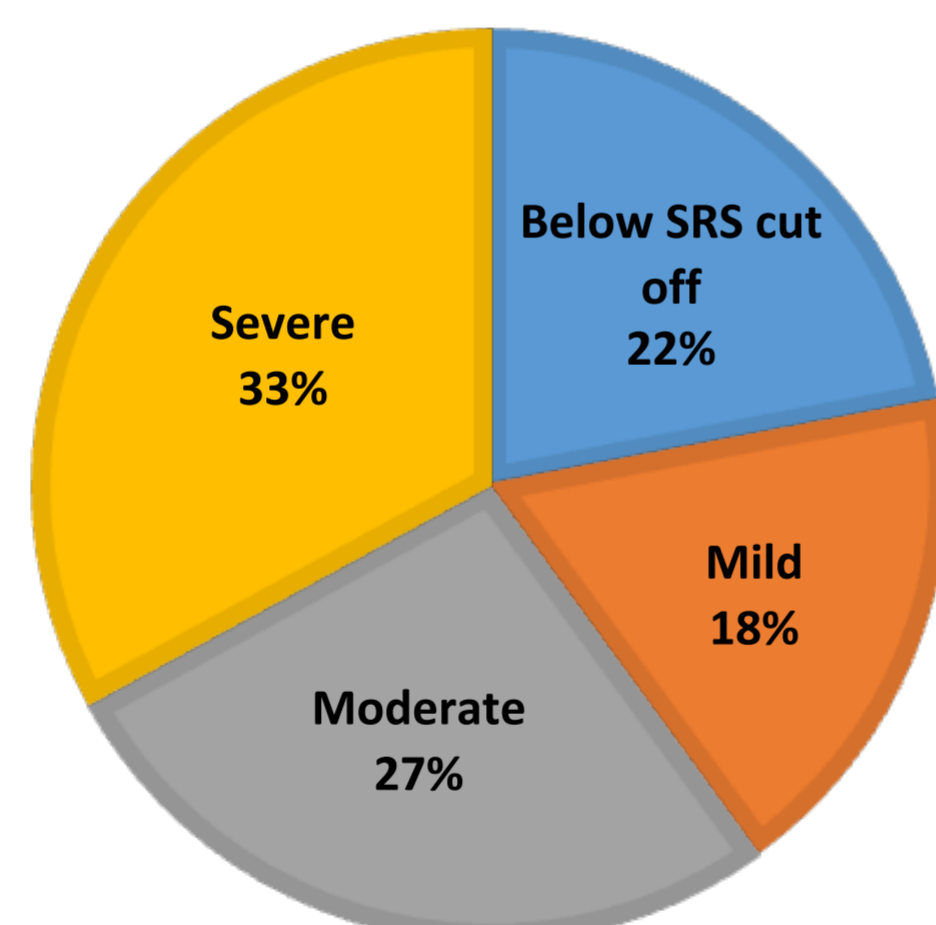
- A retrospective file review of all YP who attended ADMiRE for ADHD assessment in 2022 (n=119) was undertaken.
- Data collected included:
  1. Whether the young person had an existing formal diagnosis of ASD prior to ADHD assessment,
  2. T-scores on Parent and Teacher Social Responsiveness Scale<sup>(3)</sup>,
  3. Parent-reported scores on the Social Communication Questionnaire<sup>(4)</sup>,
  4. Documented clinical suspicion of ASD following comprehensive ADHD assessment.
  5. Data were analysed in Excel and ASD prevalence established.



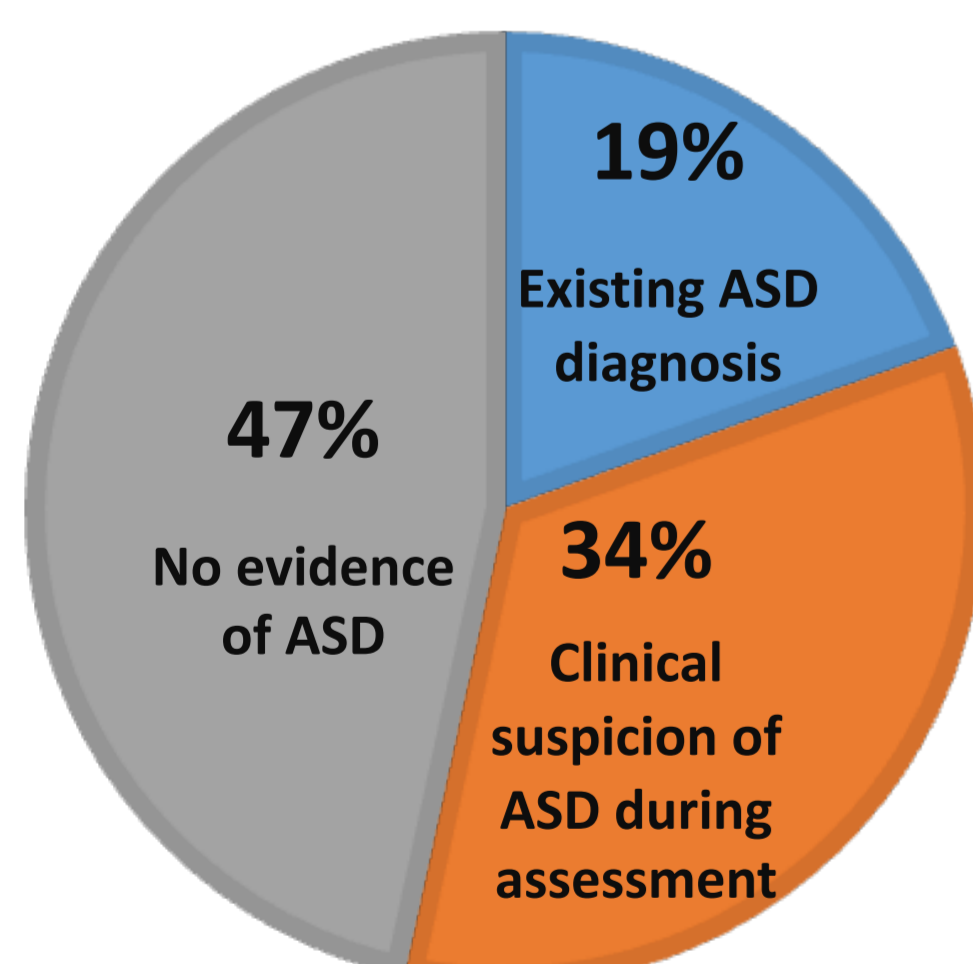
## Results



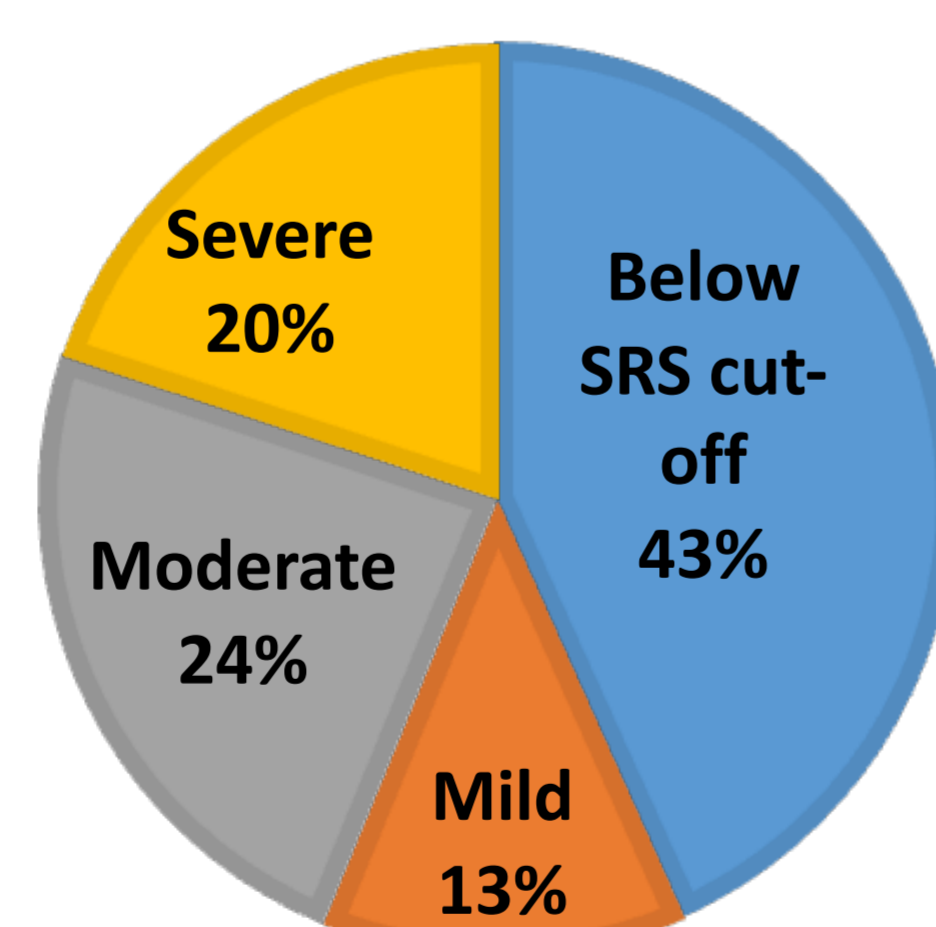
Existing ASD diagnosis



Parent SRS scores



Clinical suspicion of ASD



Teacher SRS scores

- 19% (n=23) had existing formal diagnoses of ASD at initial assessment
- Following ADHD assessment, clinicians suspected ASD in an additional 34% (n=40).

### Of those without an existing ASD diagnosis

- Parent SRS scores were recorded in 95% cases (n=89). 30% (n=27) of those without ASD diagnosis were in the severe range.
- Teacher SRS scores were recorded in 92% (n=85). 20% of those without ASD diagnosis were in the Severe range.
- Parent SCQ scores were recorded in 48% (n=46). 20% (n=9) of those without ASD diagnosis had scores >15.
- Of the 96 YP who had no prior ASD diagnosis, 33% (n=27) had parent SRS scores in the severe range AND additional clinician suspicion of undiagnosed ASD.

## Discussion and Conclusion

- This study highlights the high prevalence of ASD in young people with ADHD.
- In 2022, 19% of young people who attended an ADHD specialist service for ADHD assessment had a formal ASD diagnosis prior to ADHD assessment.
- Of those without a formal diagnosis of ASD at the time of initial assessment, approximately one-third are presenting with significant social-communication difficulties suggestive of ASD (as measured by SRS scores, SCQ scores and clinician impression following assessment).
- This means that of the total 119 YP who attended a specialist ADHD service for ADHD assessment in 2022, 42% (n=50) had either a formal diagnosis of ASD or suspected ASD.
- There is currently no defined pathway for ASD assessment in the public healthcare system in Ireland. This is urgently needed in order to optimise management for young people with ADHD and co-occurring ASD.

### References

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Declarations of Interest: There are no conflict of interest with this poster presentation