

Assessing the effectiveness of ADMiRE, Ireland's first early access specialist service for ADHD in children and adolescents

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Background & Objectives

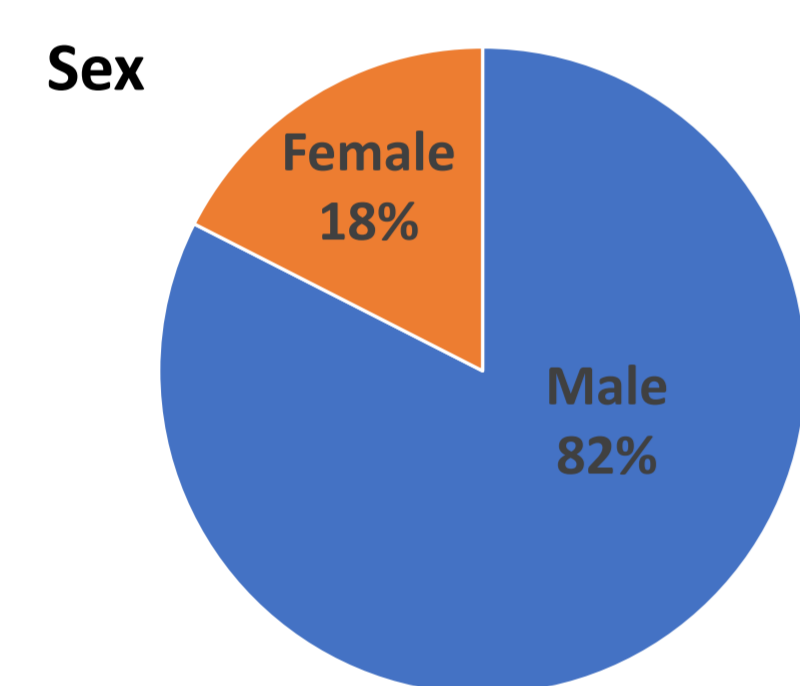
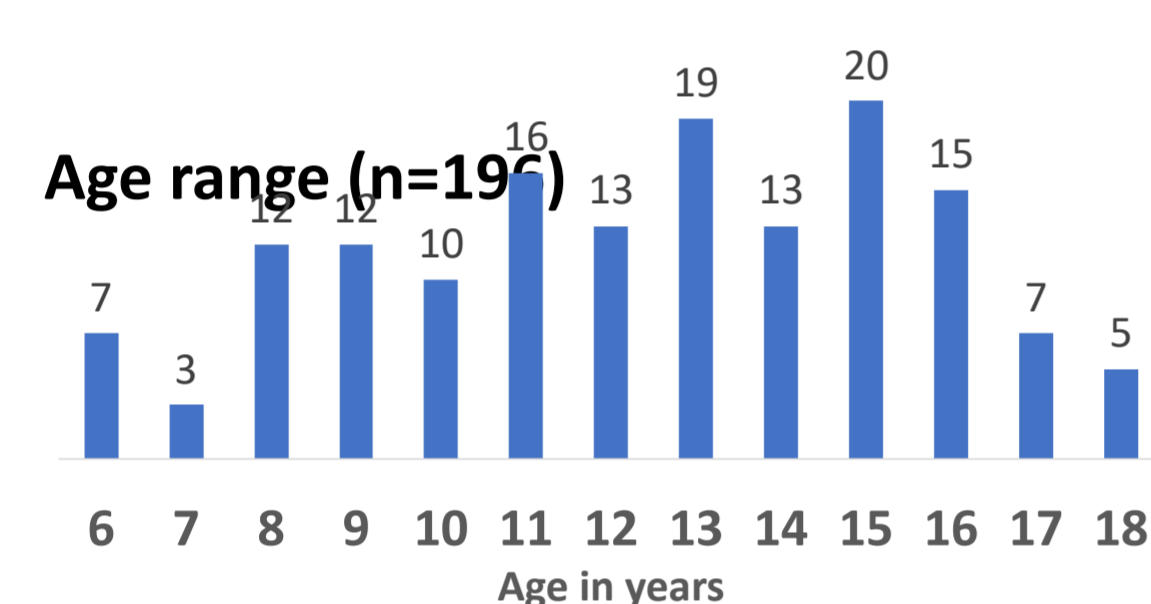
- One-third of children attending Child Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Ireland have a diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). CAMHS are currently overwhelmed with urgent referrals, and "routine" ADHD assessments are often significantly delayed. Set up in 2019, ADMiRE offers early access to a structured assessment/intervention protocol for young people who are referred to CAMHS with likely ADHD, similar to the Dundee Clinical Care Pathway (Coghill and Seth, 2015) but tailored for an Irish healthcare population.
- The research objectives were 1. To determine adherence to international standards for high-quality ADHD care in ADMiRE, and 2. to assess the overall effectiveness of the ADMiRE service in optimization of ADHD treatment.

Methods

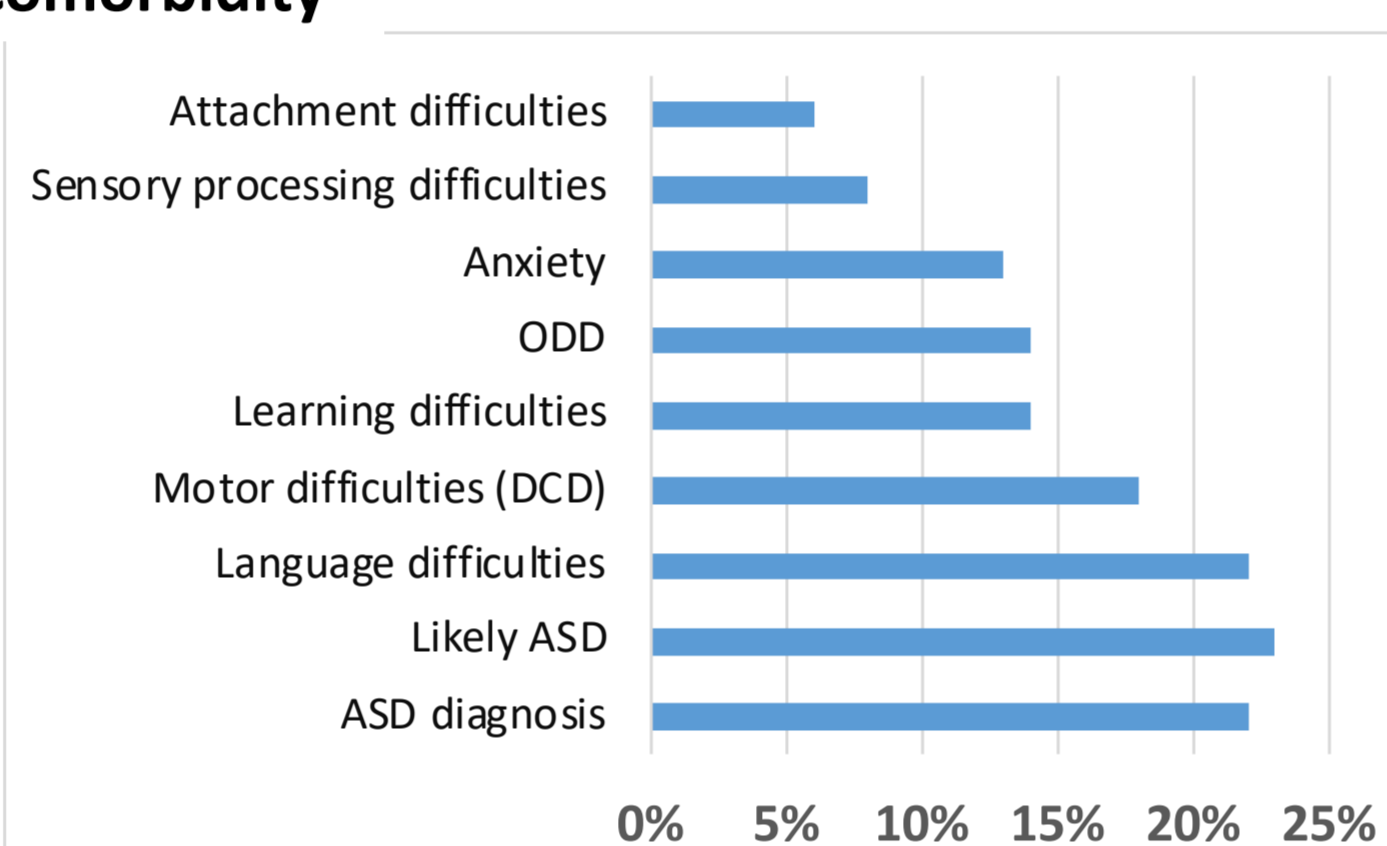
- Files of all young people attending ADMiRE were audited annually over a four-year period in January (2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022). The audit questionnaire investigated adherence to standards obtained from NICE guidelines for diagnosis/management of ADHD (NG87), and included additional information about demographics, diagnosis (including comorbidities), assessment, ADHD severity and pharmacological treatment. The audit data was analysed to investigate adherence to NG87 standards, and to compare progress and trends between 2019 and 2022.

Results

Demographics and Co-occurring difficulties



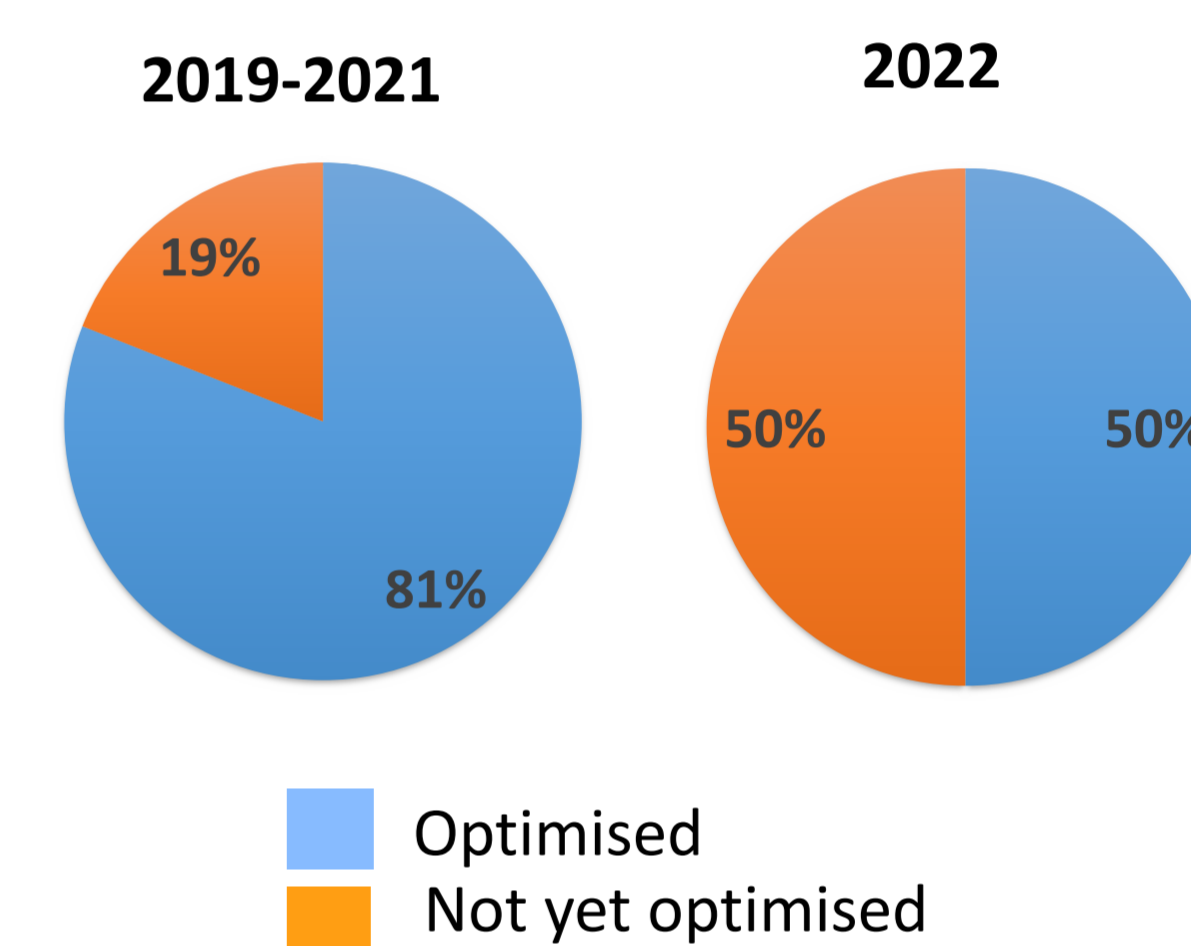
Comorbidity



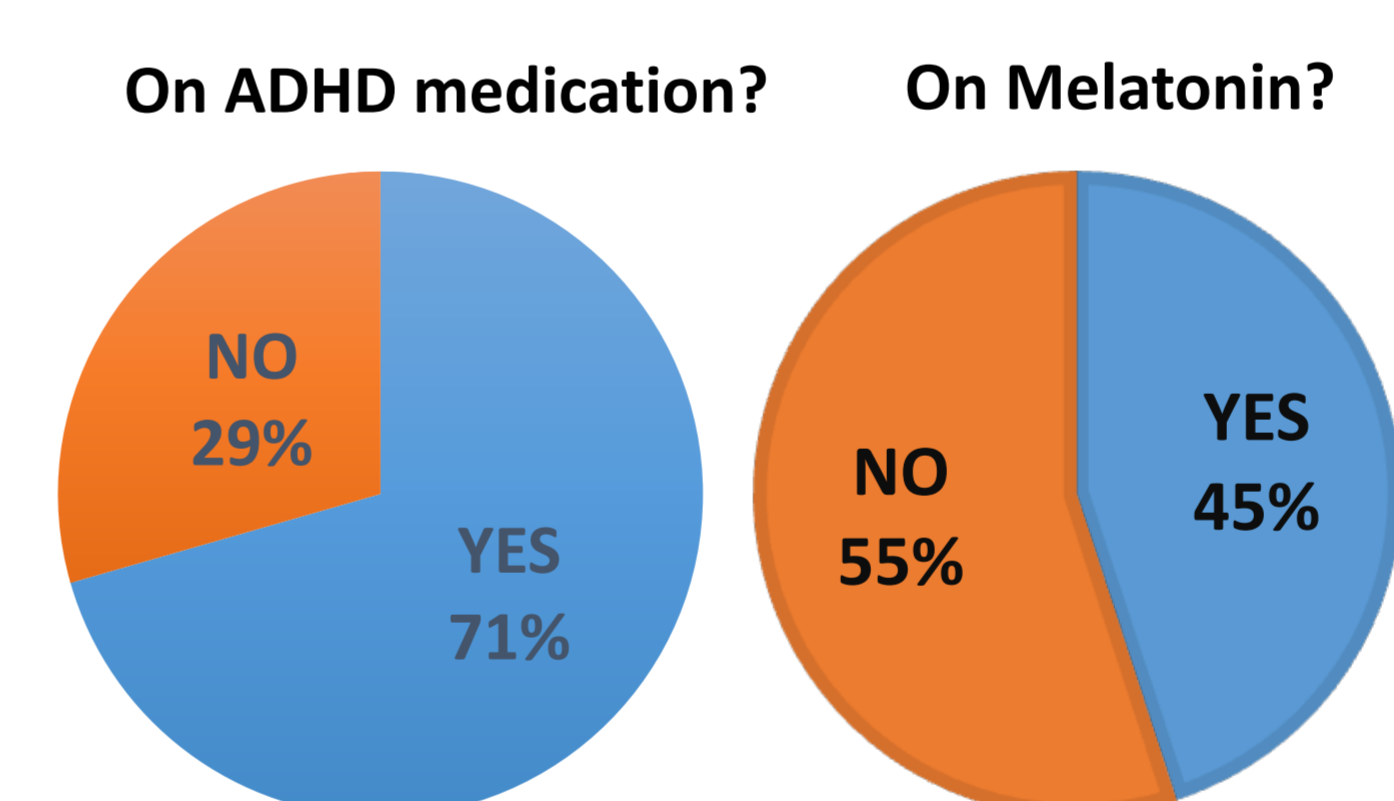
- Caseload in January 2023 was 196 young people
- Male:Female ratio ~4:1
- Age range: 6-18
- Comorbidity levels are very high, in particular with neurodevelopmental disorders, behavioural disorders and anxiety disorders.
- There has been little change in overall demographics, but an increased recognition of co-morbidity since 2019

Optimisation of caseload

- Between 2019 and 2021 (3 years) 81% of the caseload were optimised on ADHD treatment.
- In 2022 (one year), 50% of the caseload were optimised on ADHD treatment
- These young people now attend routine follow up clinics on a 3-6 monthly basis with their CAMHS team.



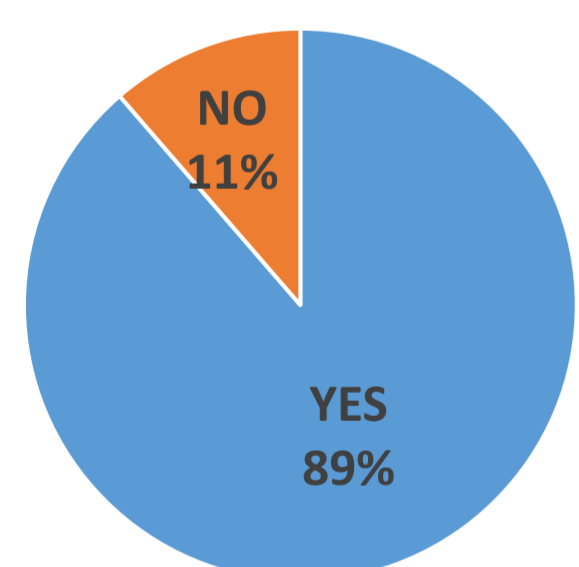
Medication use



- Key points:**
- 71% of the current caseload have moved through the assessment phase and are being treated with ADHD medication.
 - Over the past 4 years Methylphenidate has been the most commonly prescribed ADHD medication
 - 45% of young people attending ADMiRE are on Melatonin for sleep difficulties

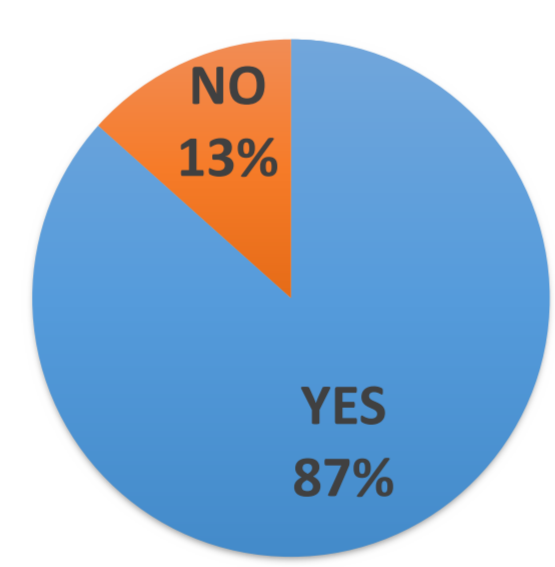
Adherence to standards

Standardised forms used?



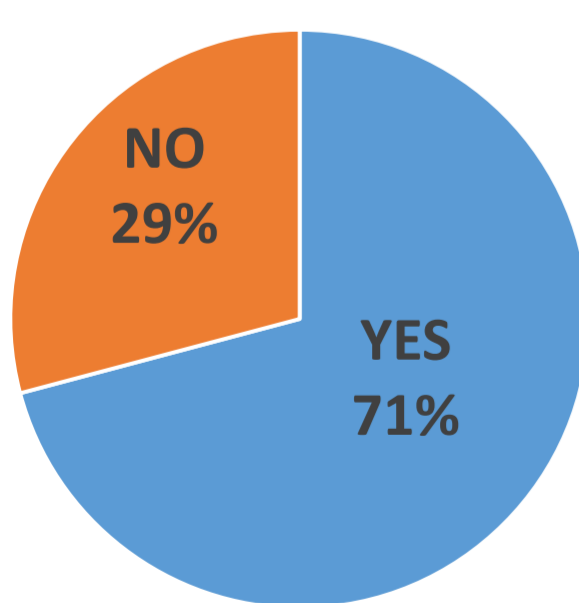
Standardised ADMiRE forms are used in 9 of 10 children attending. Significant improvement since 2019.

Centile charts in file?



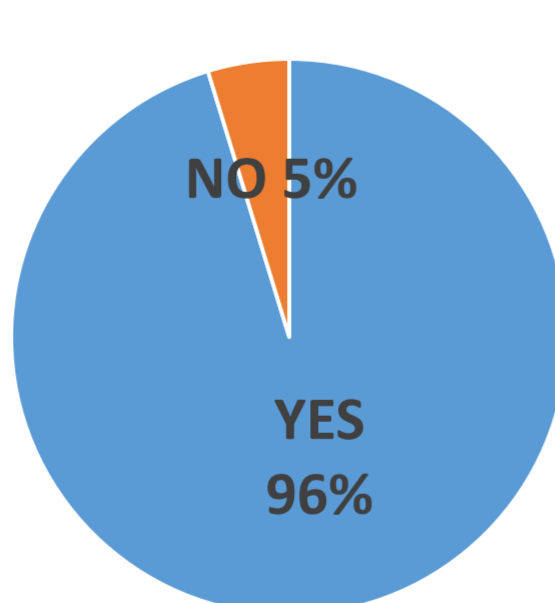
Physical assessment is completed on 100% young people. Centile charts are present in file for 87%.

Teacher ADHD severity monitoring



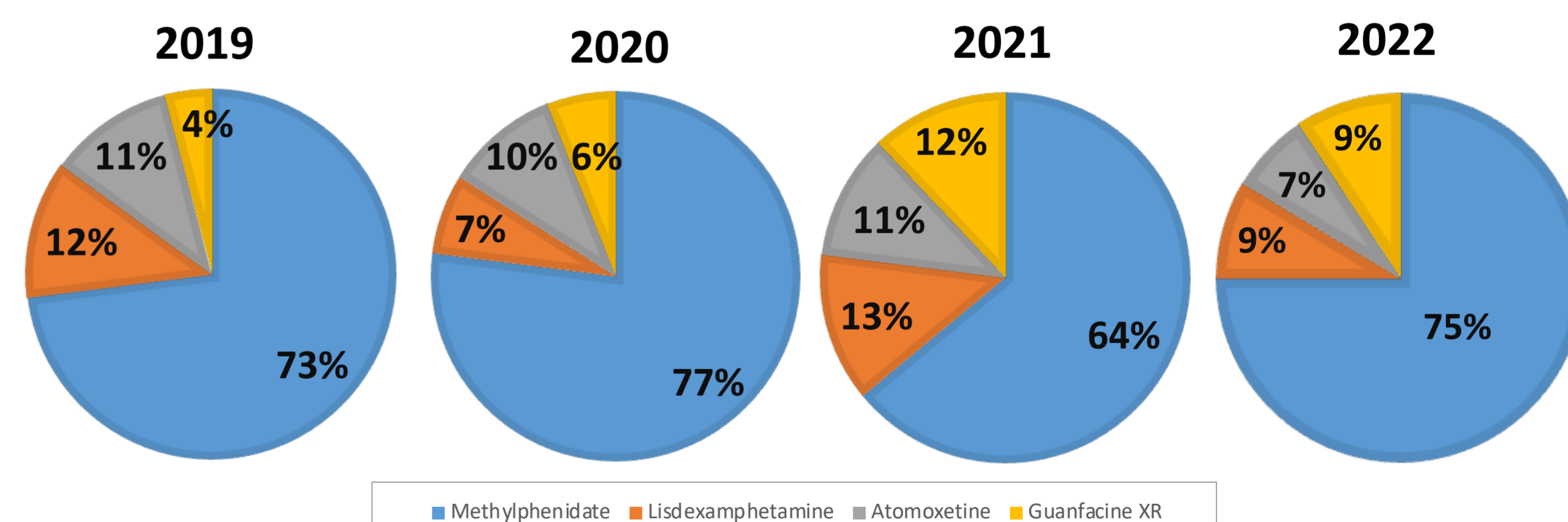
Teachers have provided feedback about ADHD symptom severity in 100% of young people pre-assessment and in 71% for follow up. Significant improvement since 2019

Parent ADHD severity monitoring



Parents provided ADHD symptom severity ratings (every 6/12) for 96% young people with ADHD who are on ADHD medication. Significant improvement since 2019

Trends in primary ADHD medication prescribing 2019 - 2022



Conclusion

- Over the past 5 years, ADMiRE has pioneered the development of effective, efficient and safe ADHD service provision in the public health service in Ireland.
- The clinical care pathway in ADMiRE is very effective and reduces risk. Service user satisfaction is very high, it facilitates rapid training of rotating doctors, and there is interest in implementing the ADMiRE protocol nationally
- This 4 year audit demonstrates ongoing optimisation of the ADMiRE model of care with year-on-year improvements in adherence to international standards
- Planned digital transformation of the ADMiRE model has recently been funded by the Irish government in collaboration with the HSE ICT and Digital Health Department and HSE Digital Transformation team. This transformation will increase accessibility and scalability of the ADMiRE clinical care pathway nationally.

