

Caregiver Perspectives on Pediatric Chronic Pain Management: Insights into Desires and Needs

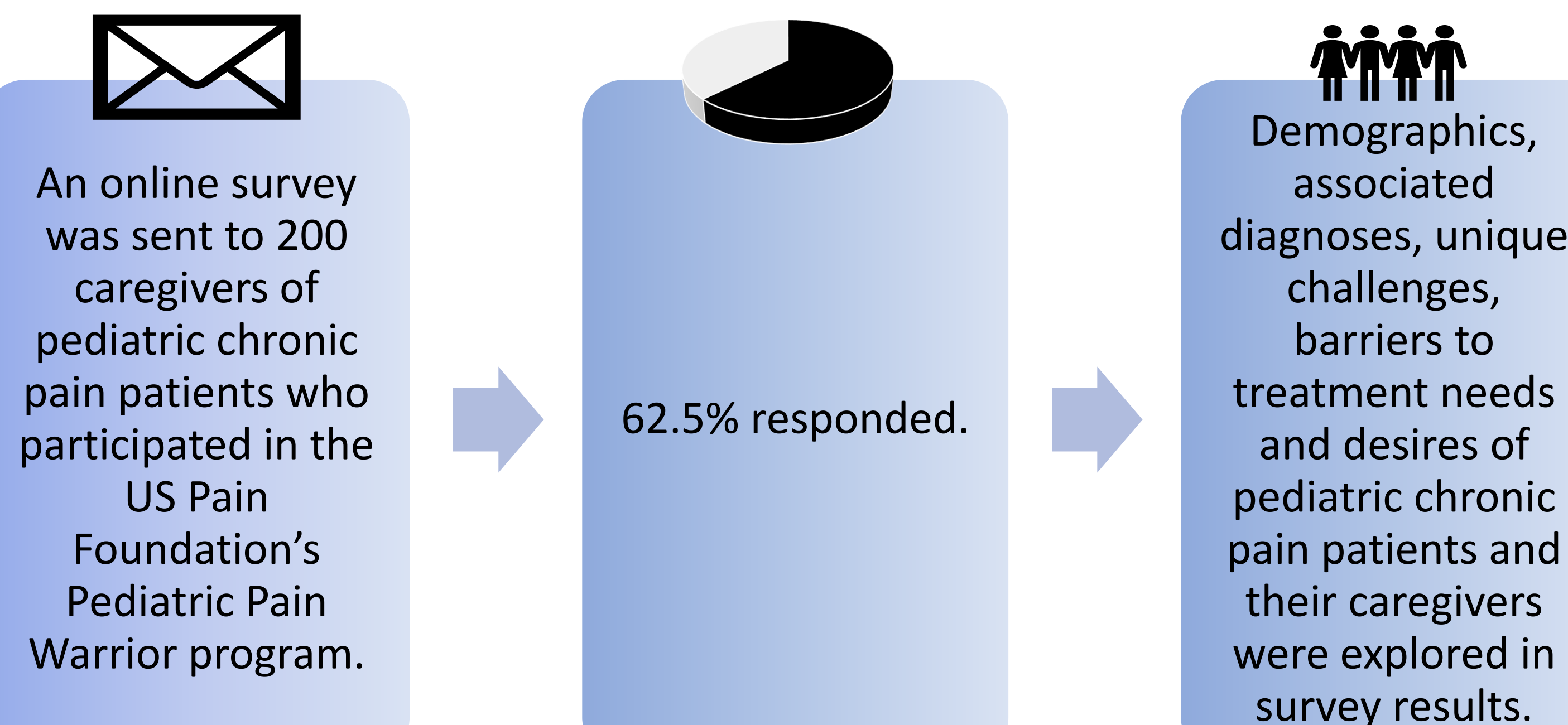
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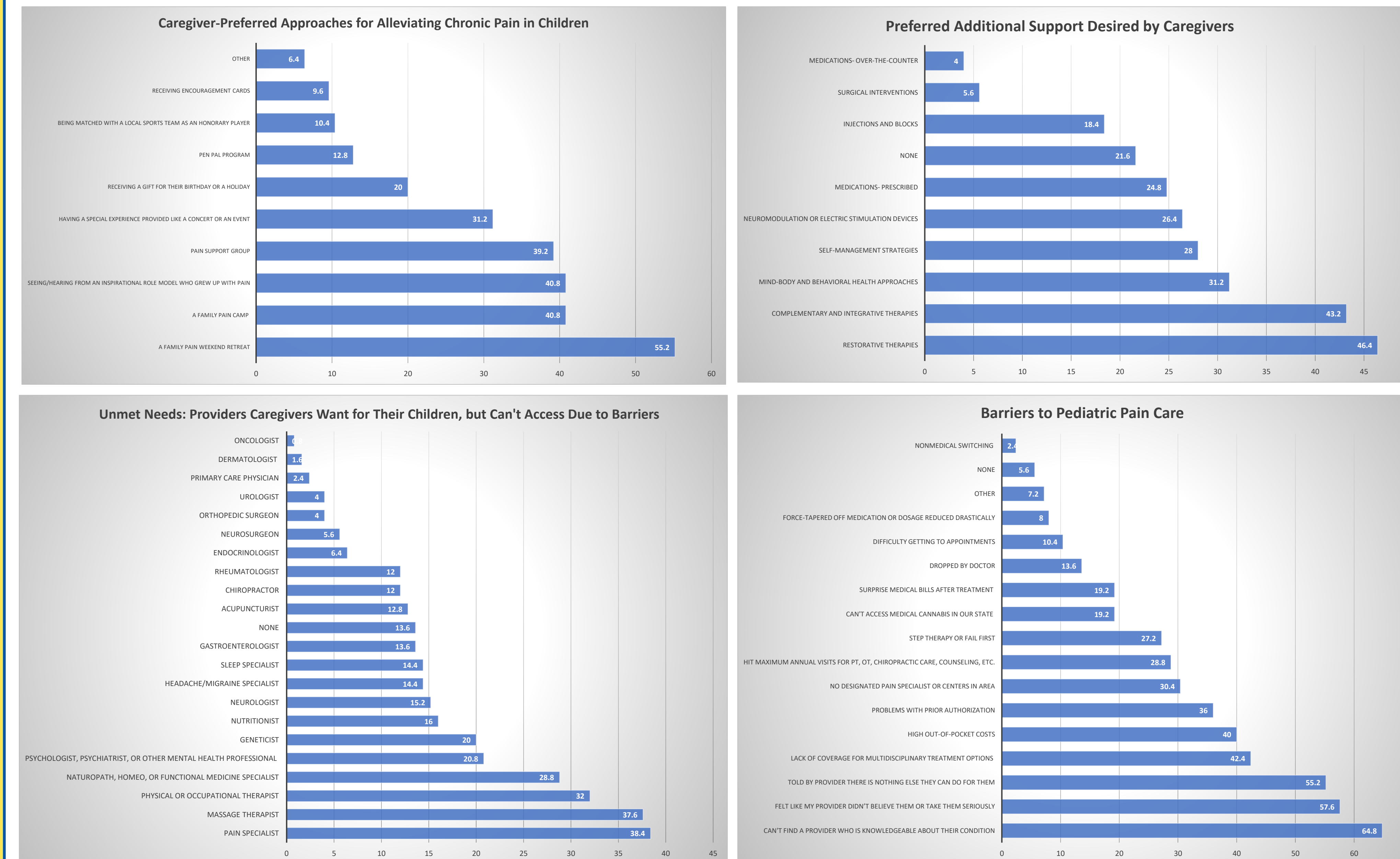
Background

Pediatric chronic pain presents a complex medical challenge, affecting a substantial number of children worldwide. This condition not only imposes a significant burden on affected children but also profoundly impacts their caregivers. Understanding the desires and needs of both pediatric patients and their caregivers is crucial for optimizing treatment approaches and improving quality of life. This study aims to better understand these desires and needs through survey results of caregivers to children living with chronic pain across the US.

Study Design



Results



Caregivers of pediatric pain patients express significant unmet needs and desires for specialized care. Many indicate a desire for their child to see various specialists, including pain specialists (38.4%), massage therapists (37.6%), and mental health professionals (20.8%), citing barriers such as cost and provider availability. Common barriers to care include a lack of designated pain centers (30.4%), difficulty finding knowledgeable providers (64.8%), and financial constraints (40%). Caregivers also express a desire for more education on therapies and medications (67.2%) and emphasize the importance of complementary therapies (43.2%), mind-body approaches (31.2%), and restorative therapies (46.4%). They advocate for enhanced support through initiatives like family pain retreats (55.2%) and role model interactions (40.8%) to improve their child's pain management outcomes.

Conclusion

- Caregivers advocate for better access to specialized pain care and therapies.
- Barriers like cost, provider shortages, and lack of support hinder effective treatment.
- Systemic changes are needed, including education and multidisciplinary care.
- Addressing these issues is key to improving outcomes for children and families affected by chronic pain.

References & Acknowledgements

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