



Breaking Research

School Mental Health Survey Results

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- **Collaborators:** Ontario Ministry of Education, Mental Health Assist, Ontario Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health, People for Education, Ontario Association of Chiefs of School Social Work, Association of Chief Psychologists with Ontario School Boards, Youth Advisory Committee
- **School Boards, Schools, Students, Educators and Principals**



Speaker Outline

1. Michael Boyle

SMHS & Student Mental Health (MH) Needs (1983-2014)

2. Kathy Georgiades

Selected SMHS Findings

3. Kathy Short & Ian Manion - Discussants

Responding to Student MH in Schools & Communities



Student MH Needs – Outline

- 1. Methods – 2014 OCHS and SMHS**
- 2. Review – Trends in Youth MH Needs**
- 3. Youth MH Needs in 1983 OCHS and 2014 SMHS**
 - a) Indicators of Youth MH Needs:
Emotional-Behavioural (Emot-Beh) Symptoms,
Self-Identified Need for Help
 - b) Differences in MH Need 1983 and 2014:
Youth Report: aged 12-16
 - c) Male – Female Differences in 2014
 - d) Service Use and MH Need in 2014

2014 Ontario Child Health Study (OCHS)



2014 School Mental Health Surveys (SMHS)





2014 OCHS → SMHS

OCHS (In-Home): 9,000 4-17 year olds

180 Communities

1

2



180

Select Schools with 10+ OCHS participants

SMHS (In-School):

45 School Boards

1



45



2014 SMHS Objectives

Primary Objectives:

1. Between-school differences in student MH
2. School level variables that account for differences
3. Potential of schools to reduce MH inequalities

Secondary Objective:

Combine with 2014 OCHS to unpack the influence of families, neighbourhoods and schools on MH



2014 SMHS Response

In-School Surveys 2014



Principal



Teacher



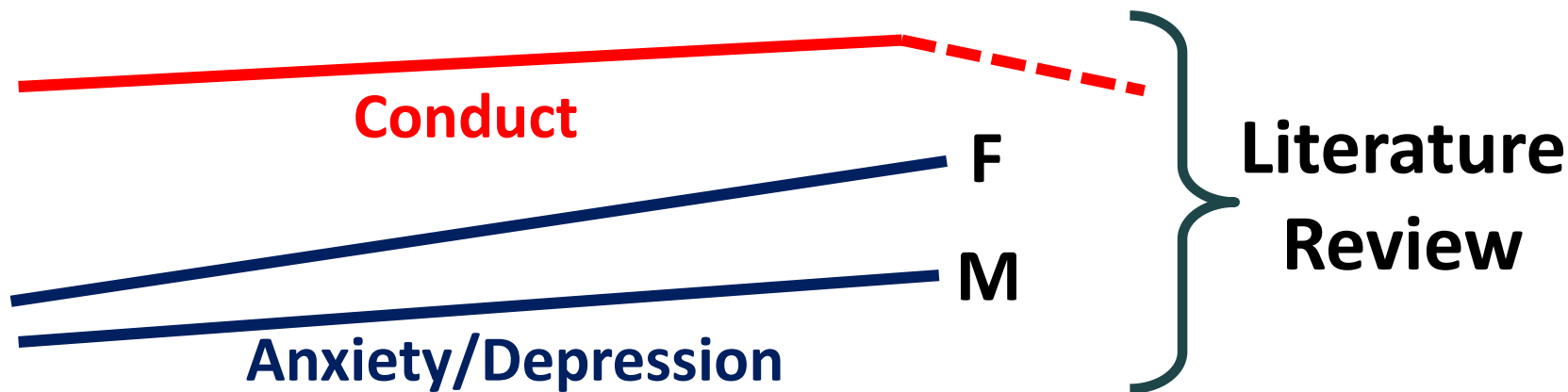
Student

Sample

- 249 schools -> 180 elementary ~70%
-> 69 secondary
- 206 principals ~83%
- 3,374 teachers ~66%
- 31,148 students: gr 6-12 ~60%

Trends in Youth MH Need - Review

Collishaw, JCPP 56:3 (2015), pp 370–393



Canadian Data

NLSCY: Conduct, Anx/Dep

OSDUHS: Conduct

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

2015

1983 Ontario Child Health Study



2014 School Mental Health Surveys





Indicators of MH Need Youth Age 12-16

1. Emotional-Behavioural (Emot-Beh) Symptoms

Risk for Conduct Disorder, Anxiety, Depression in the past 6 months measured by a brief checklist (youth report)

2. Perceived Need for Help

Student reports they had emotional or behavioural problems in the past 6 months and needed professional help from a doctor, counsellor, or other mental health worker

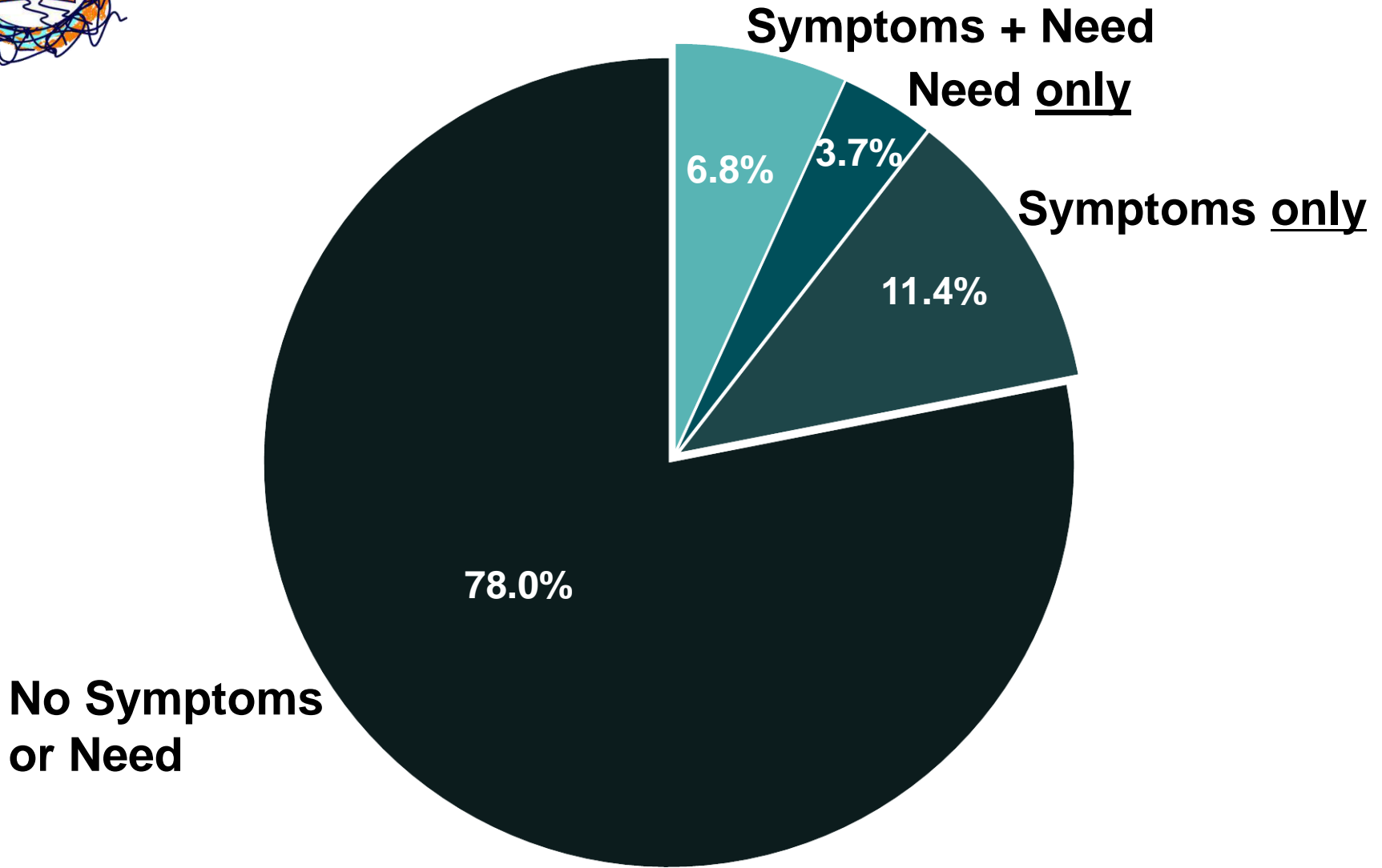


Classification of MH Need in 2014

Groups

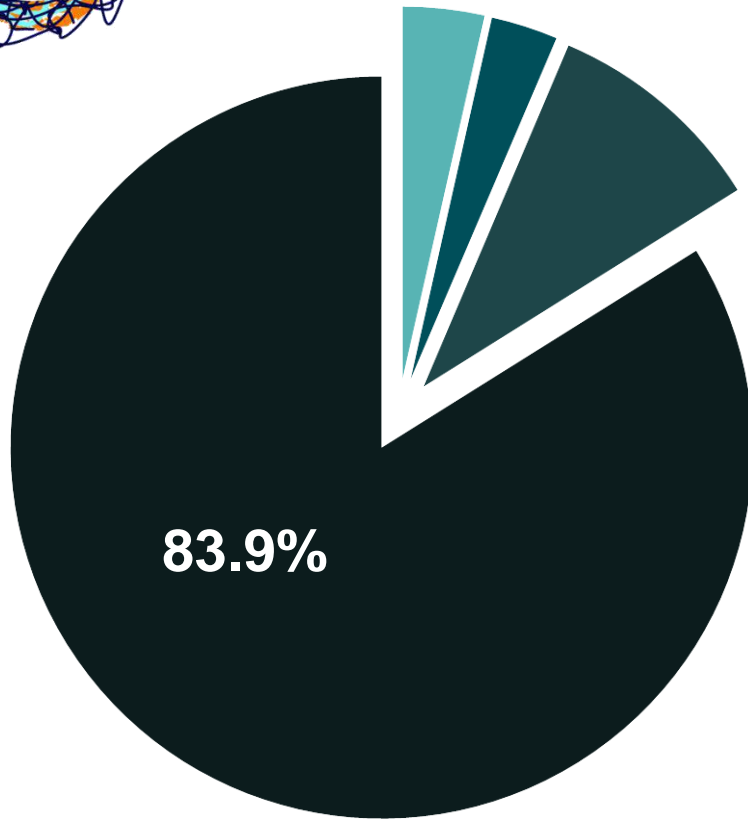
- 1) Perceived Need + Emot-Beh Symptoms
- 2) Perceived Need Only
- 3) Emot-Beh Symptoms Only
- 4) No Symptoms or Need

MH Need in 2014*

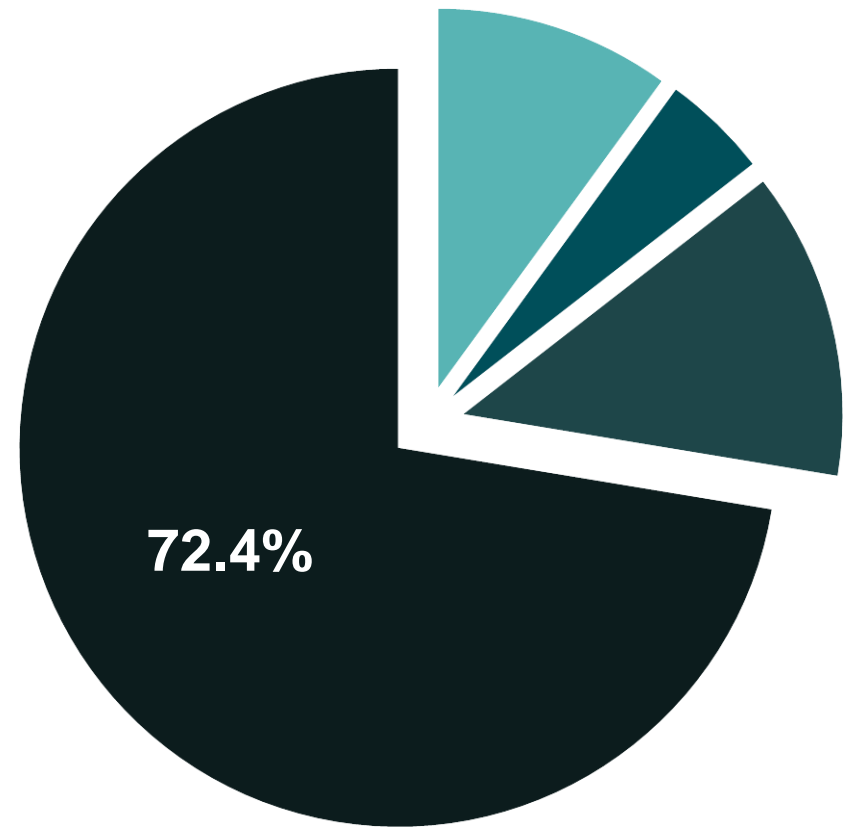


*Preliminary Findings based on Youth Report

MH Need in 2014 by Sex*



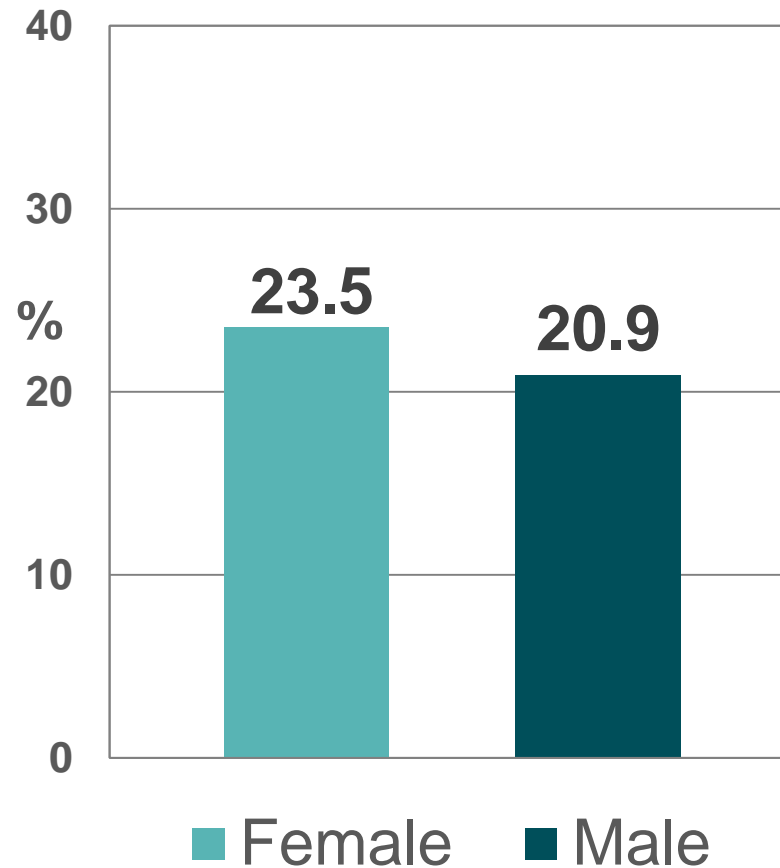
Males



Females

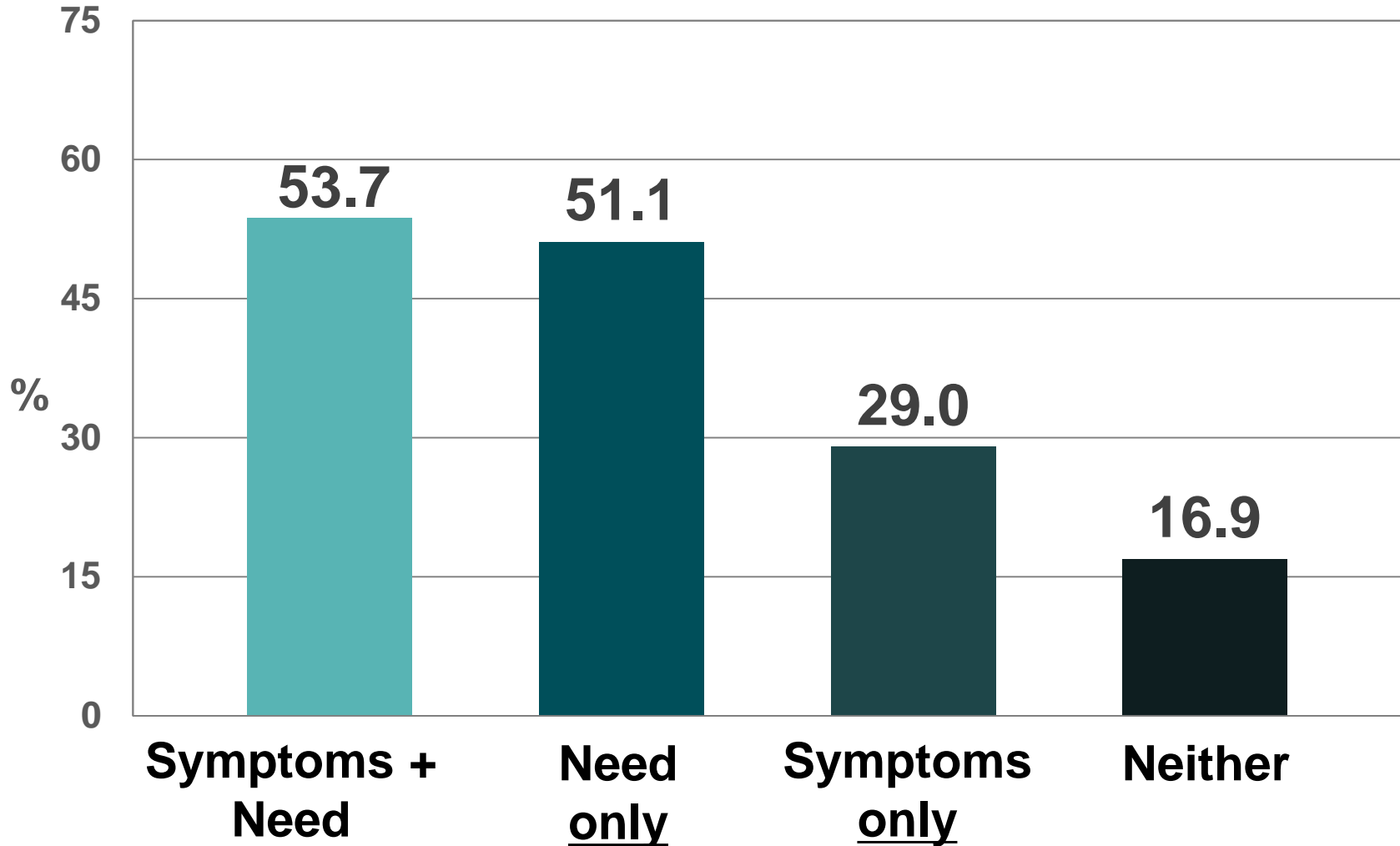
*Preliminary Findings based on Youth Report

Reported Service Use in 2014 by Sex*



*Preliminary Findings based on Youth Report

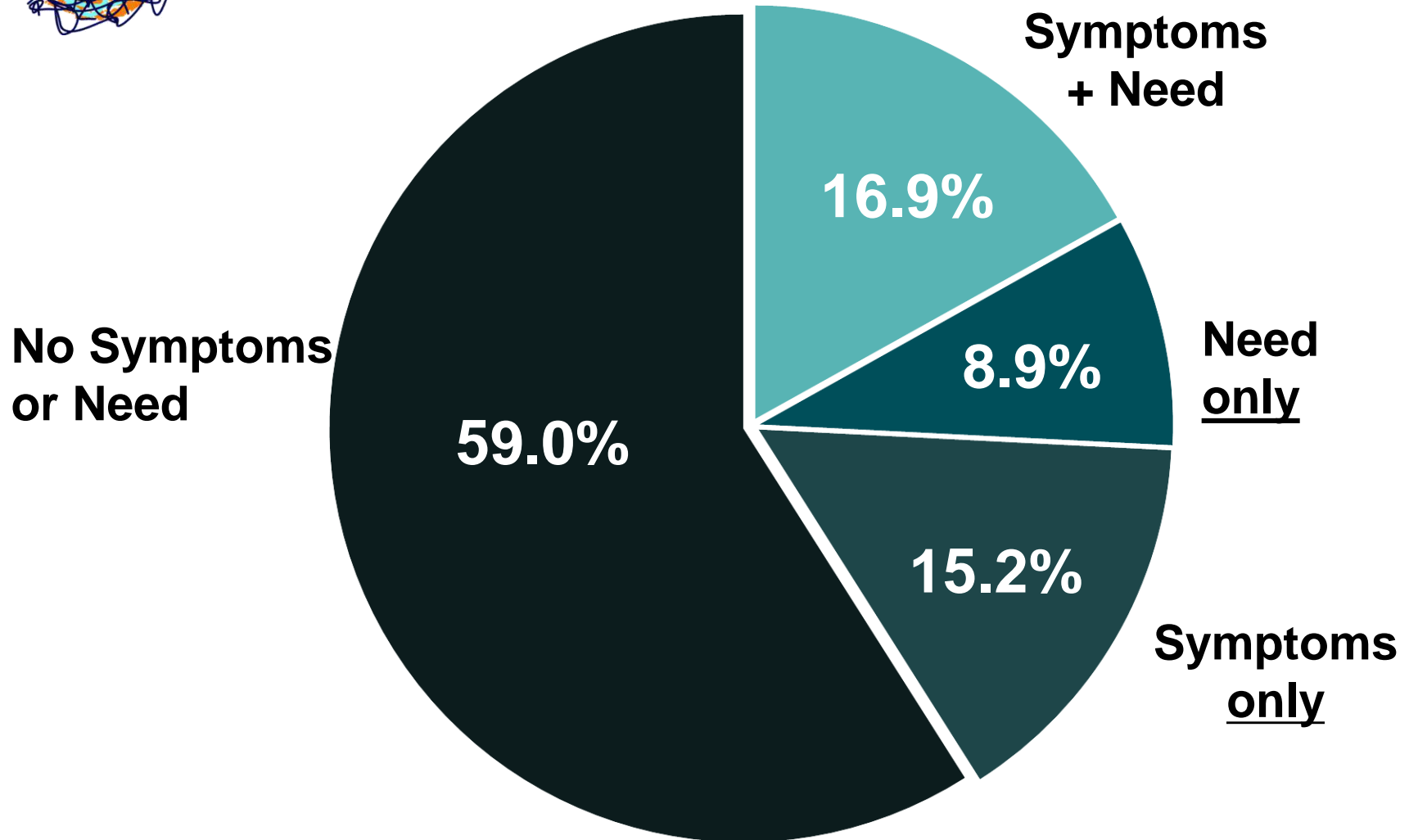
Service Use by MH Need*



*Preliminary Findings based on Youth Report



MH Need Among Service Users*



*Preliminary Findings based on Youth Report



Caveats

1. Needs formal review

2. Some issues

(a) assessment context – home vs school

(b) effects of survey design – oversampling of poor and wealthy communities in SMHS

(c) measurement equivalence 1983-2014

Summary



1983 vs 2014

1. CD ↓
2. Anx/Dep & Need ↑
3. Females ↑
4. Link between need & symptoms stronger

Summary



1983 vs 2014

1. CD ↓
2. Anx/Dep & Need ↑
3. Females ↑
4. Link between need & symptoms stronger

2014

5. Service use related more strongly to need than symptoms
6. Majority of service users report neither need nor symptoms