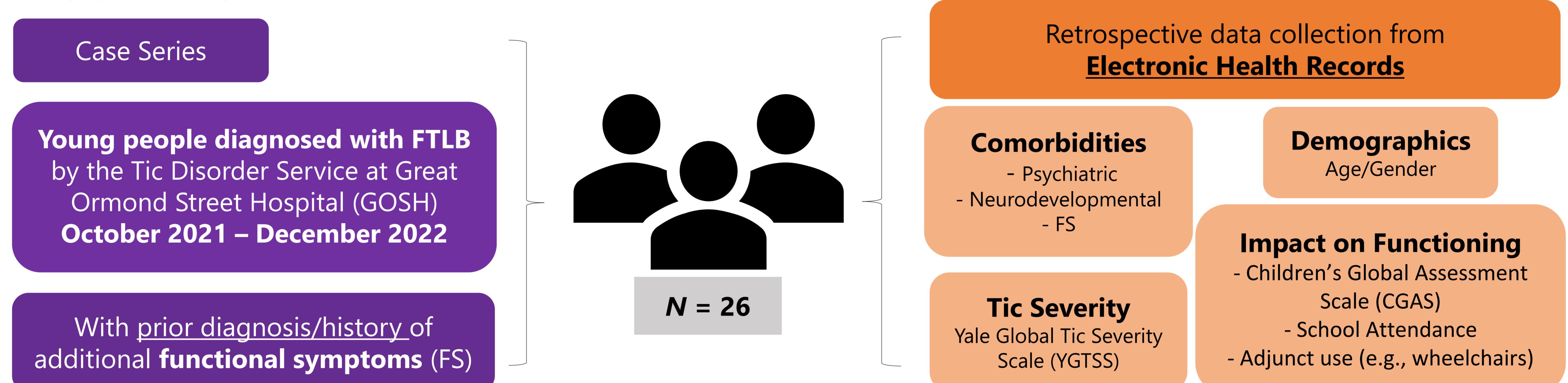


Young people with functional tic-like behaviours and co-occurring functional symptoms experience high rates of comorbidity, moderate-severe tics and functional impairment.

Characterising young people with functional tic-like behaviours (FTLB) in the context of functional symptoms (FS): preliminary data analysis

Background: Functional tic-like behaviours (FTLB) are characterised by multiple, complex vocal and motor tics with rapid onset and evolution, usually from age 12 years, which significantly affect functioning (Pringsheim et al., 2023). FTLB are considered a subtype of functional neurological disorder (FND) as 32% of young people with FTLB also experience additional functional symptoms (FTLB-FS) (Martino et al., 2022). This study aimed to establish demographic characteristics, comorbidity profile, tic severity and impact on functioning in a FTLB-FS cohort.

Methods

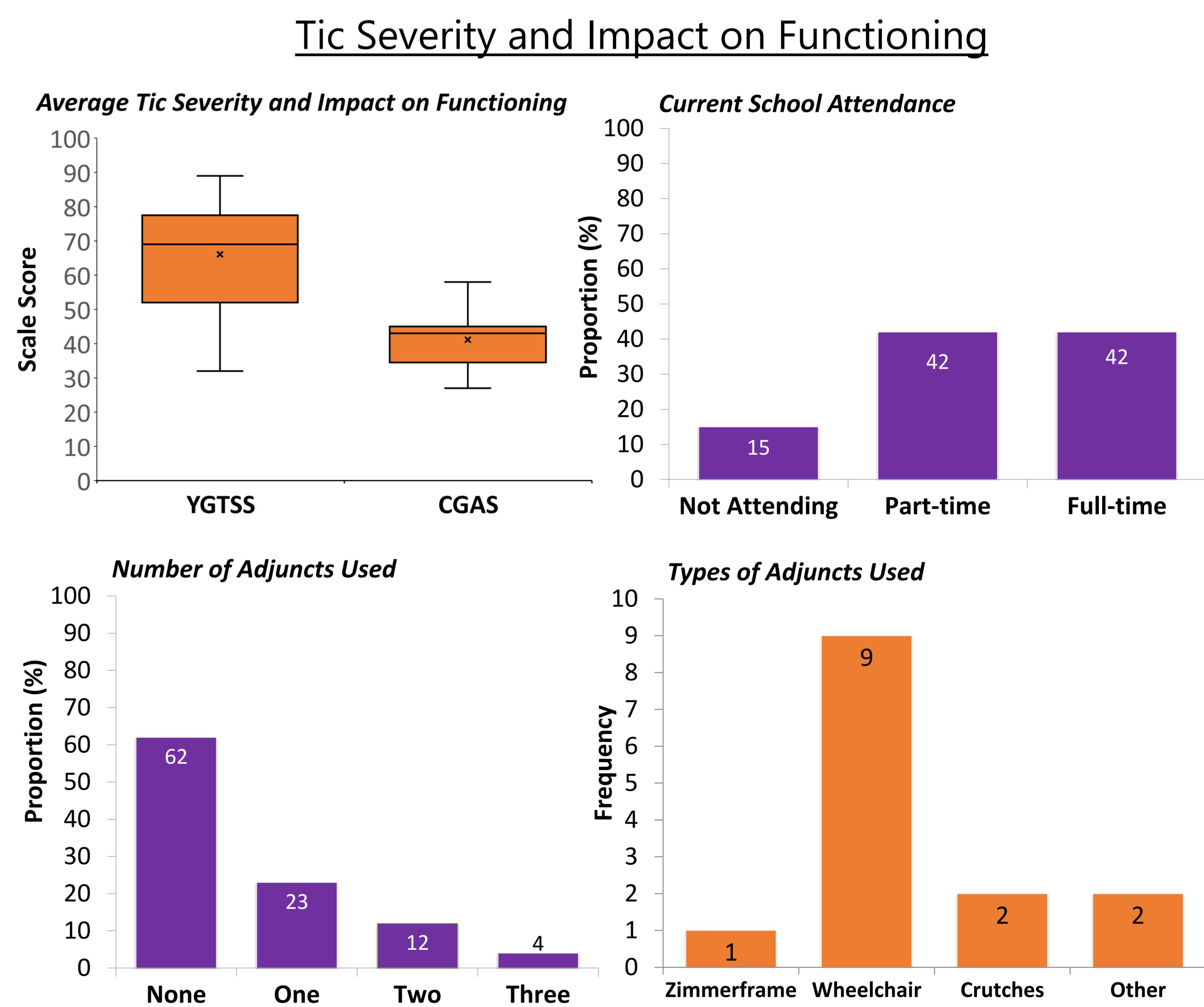
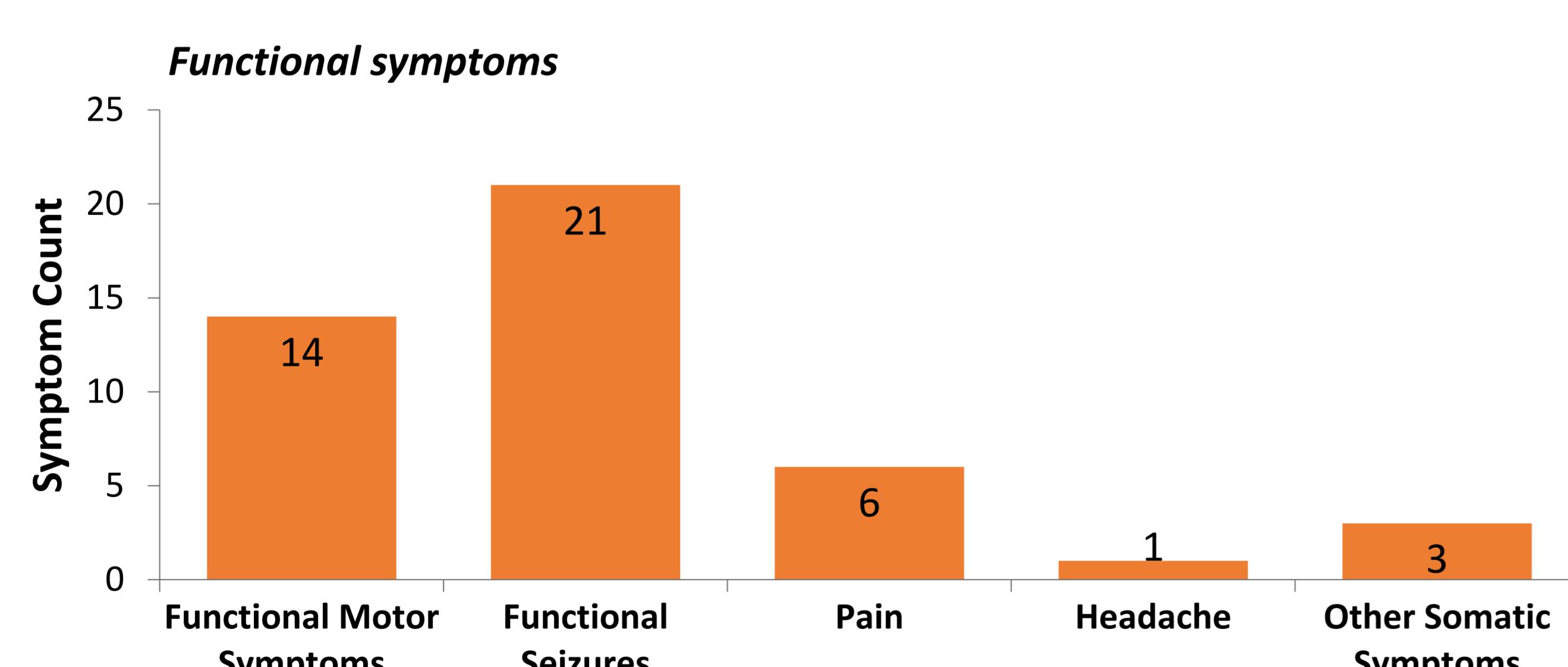
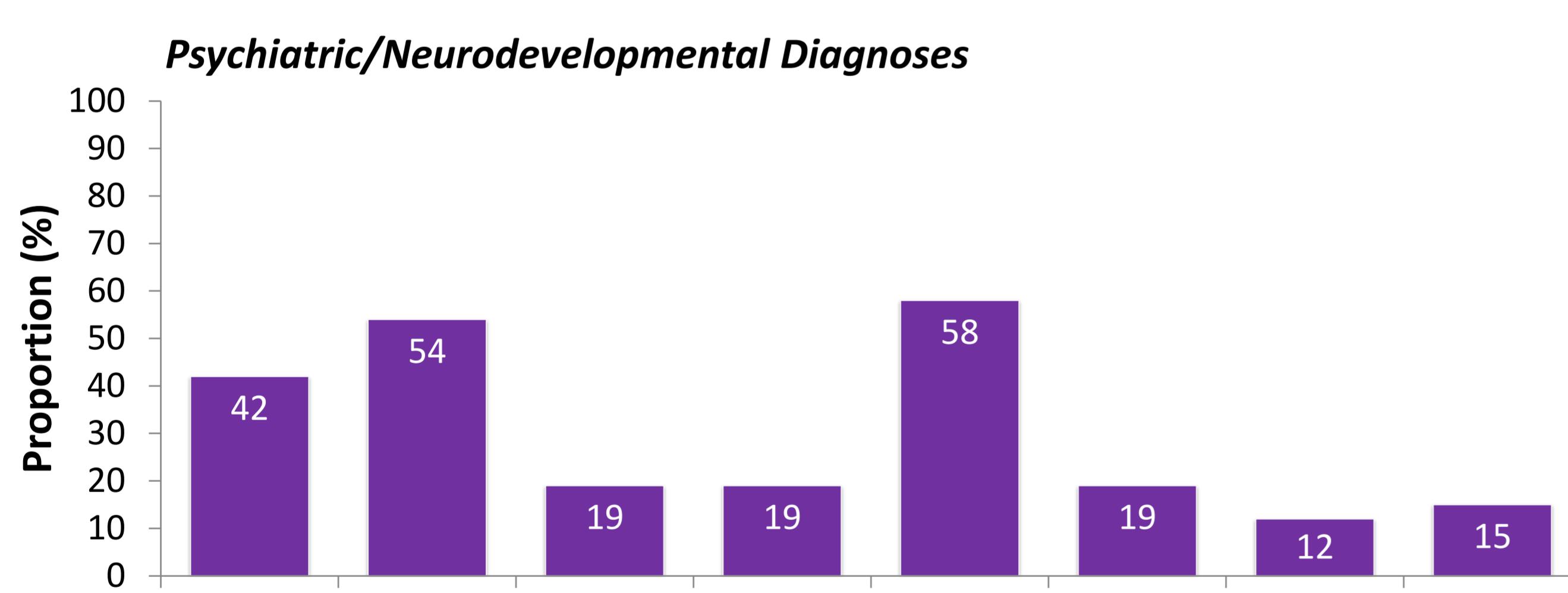


Results

Demographics

Predominantly identified as **female (73%)** with a **mean age of 14.58 years** (range 11 to 17 years, $SD=1.63$ years)

Comorbidities



Limitations: High comorbidity rates may be driven by selection bias due to the specialist nature of the service, hence replication among larger, representative samples is necessary. The frequencies of FS may lack reliability as screened Electronic Health Records document self-reported phenomenology rather than in standardised clinical language, which can lead to inaccurate FS categorisation. As this case series omitted a comparison FTLB alone or FS alone cohort, future research is required to determine the specificity of our findings.



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