

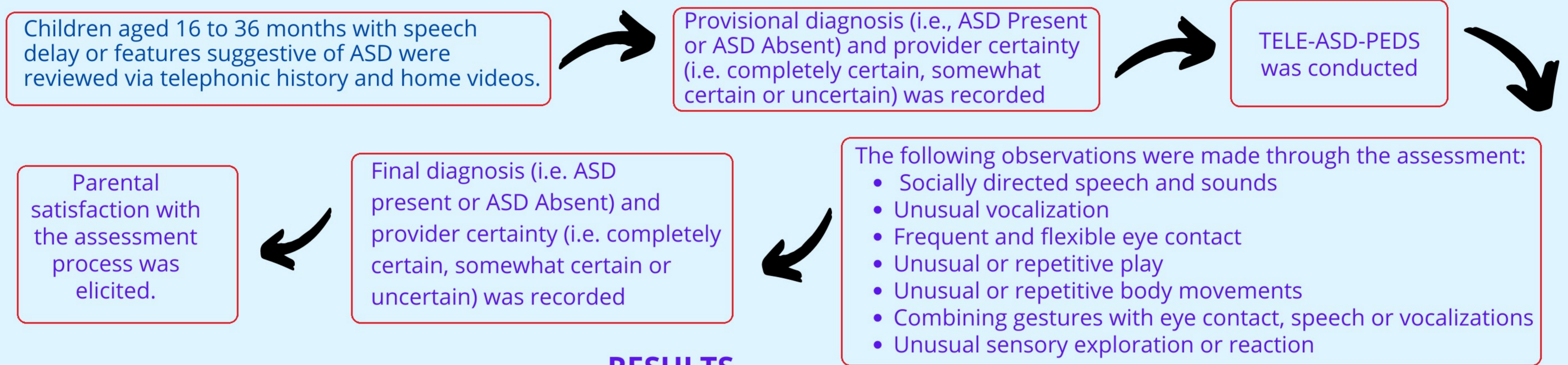
PARENTAL ACCEPTANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TELE-ASD-PEDS IN THE ASSESSMENT OF AUTISM, DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC

INTRODUCTION

Delay in diagnosis is a well-recognised concern in the management of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), worsened with the imposition of social restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The TELE-ASD-PEDS is an open source, novel tele assessment tool designed by the TRIAD team at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Centre in U.S.A. for remote assessment of ASD. The study objectives included:

- 1) Assessing parental acceptance and satisfaction with the use of TELE-ASD-PEDS in diagnosis of ASD
- 2) Determining the effectiveness of the TELE-ASD-PEDS in enhancing diagnostic certainty.

METHODS

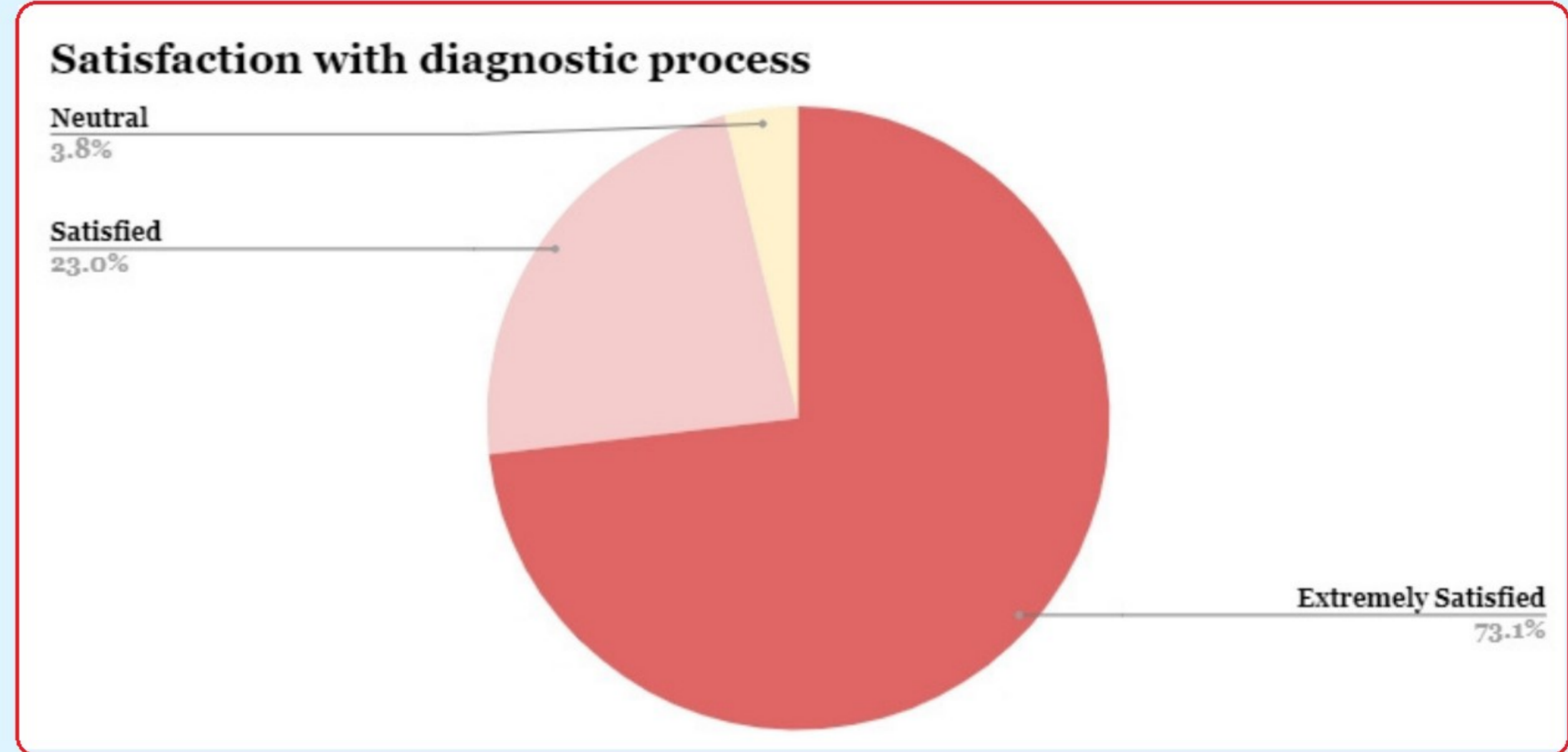


RESULTS

86.6% of the families accepted the TELE-ASD-PEDS at the outset. After addressing parental concerns, the acceptance rate increased to 96.7%.

Out of 26 children who were assessed using the TELE-ASD-PEDS tool:

- Twenty-one were diagnosed to have ASD with 'complete certainty'
- A statistically significant increase in diagnostic certainty was noted after the children were assessed using the TELE-ASD-PEDS tool.
- Out of 26 families who were interviewed at the end of the entire assessment process (i.e., telephonic history, remote assessment process and sharing of diagnosis):
 - 73.1% of the families were 'extremely satisfied' with the process
 - 23.0 % were 'satisfied' with the process.



CONCLUSIONS

The TELE-ASD-PEDS tool can be applied in low resource settings, to improve the reach of ASD diagnostic services as it is acceptable to parents and enhances the assessor's diagnostic certainty.

The Author has declared no conflict of interests