

ECHO Autism: Primary Care Early Diagnosis Program

The Public Health Problem

Early identification of autism is a critical entry point to accessing interventions and services that can improve a child's developmental outcomes. Despite the ability to reliably diagnose autism in children as young as 15 months old, the average age of diagnosis in the U.S. is **> 4 years old**. Delays in diagnosis reflect a growing mismatch between the number of children needing evaluation and the availability of qualified clinicians.

Program Background

ECHO Autism: Primary Care Early Diagnosis is an evidence-based model that equips primary care physician and practitioner (**PCP**) participants to provide early autism detection and diagnostic services, coupled with long-term care management, for their patients with autism in their medical homes.

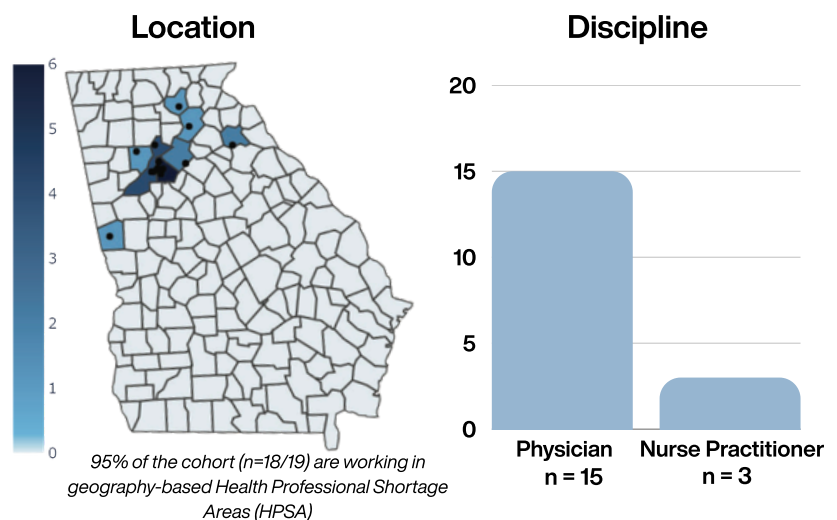
The program aims to:

- 01 Build PCP Knowledge & Skills in Autism Best Practices**
- 02 Increase Timely Access to High-Quality Autism Care for Children across Georgia**

Year 1 Engagement

- 19 PCP Participants**
 - 16 obtained STAT instrument reliability with certified trainer
 - 15 completed the full year of training
- 6 Hub Team Interdisciplinary Experts**
- 1 In-Person 2-day Kick-Off Training**
- 23 All-Teach, All-Learn Virtual ECHO Sessions**
- 27 Overflow Virtual Consultation Sessions**
- 50 Case Presentations**
 - 8 care management
 - 42 diagnostic evaluations

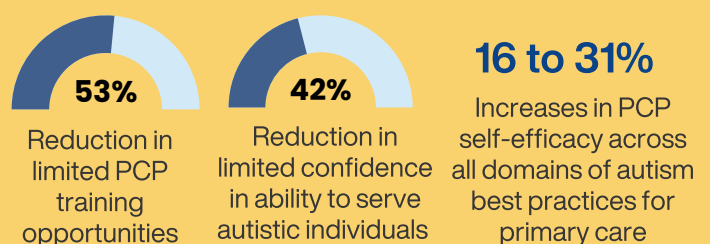
About the Cohort of PCPs



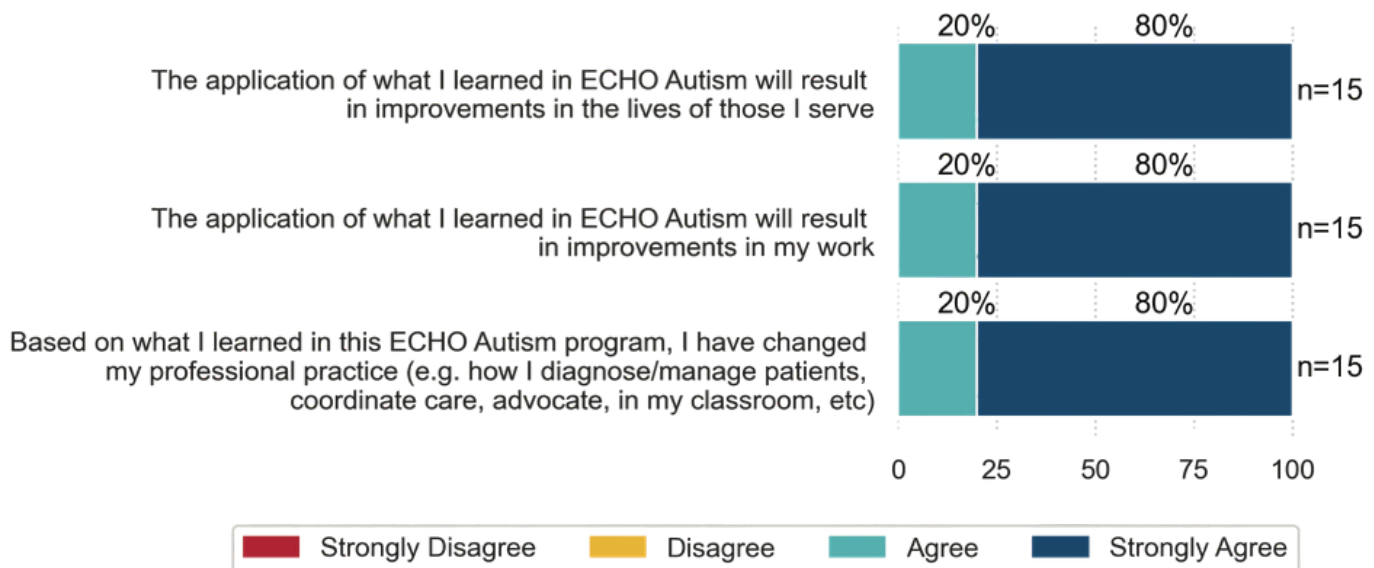
Impact on Early Access to Autism Services

- 180 Autism-positive screenings completed by PCPs in the final 6 months of the program**
- 68 Autism diagnostic evaluations with follow-up care management completed by PCPs**
 - 42 with hub team expert case consultation

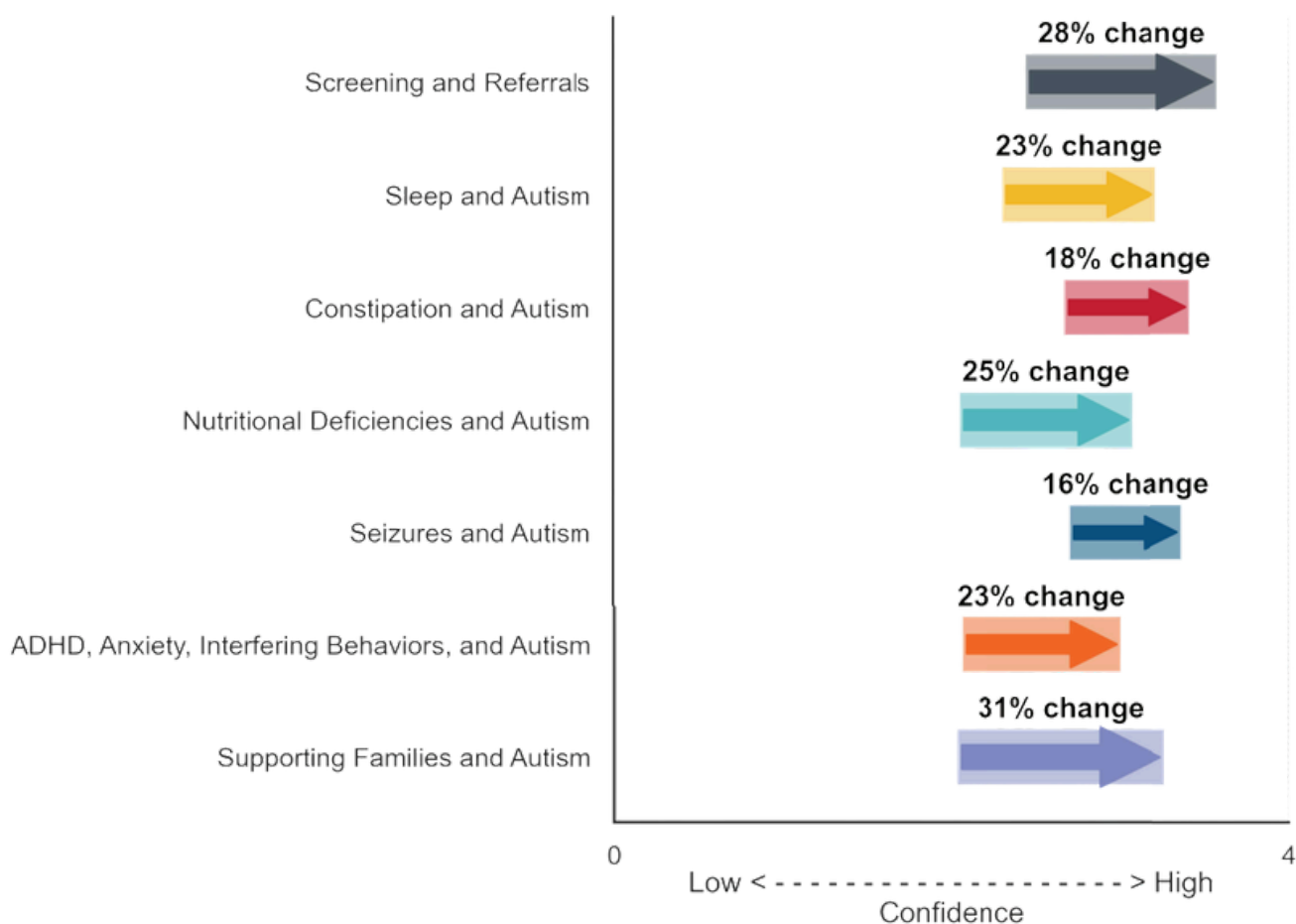
Breaking through Top Barriers to Autism Services in Primary Care



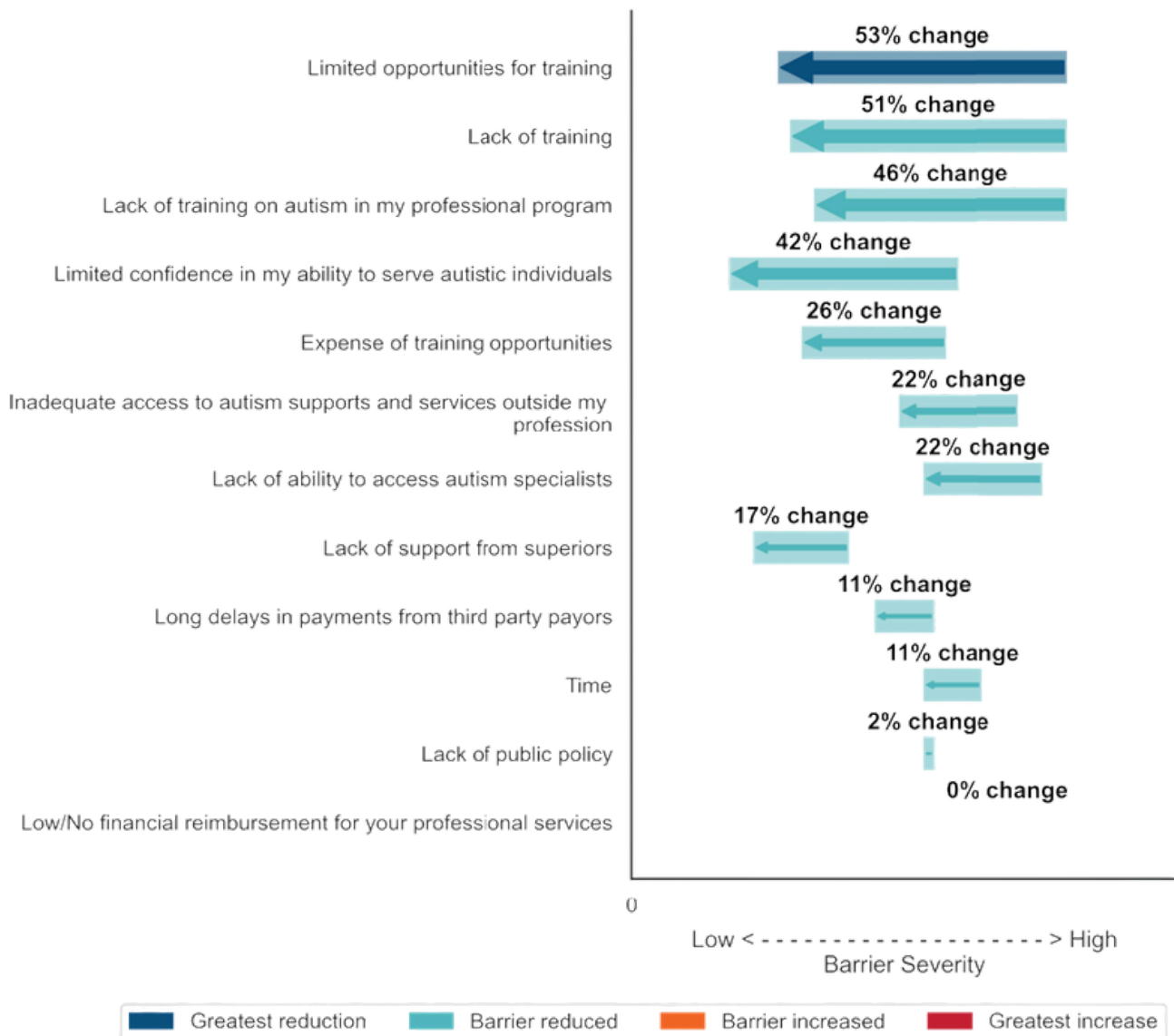
Changes in PCP Participants' Professional Practice



Changes in PCP Participants' Self-Efficacy



Barriers Reduction

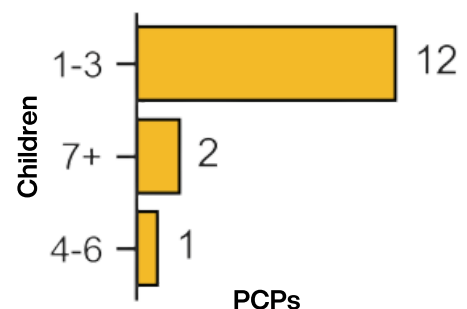


Moving Forward: Anticipated Ongoing Provision of Autism Care

Plan to Take Referrals



Children Plan to Evaluate Monthly



*Results are self-reported in participant surveys. Pre survey response rate was 95% (n=18/19).

*Four cohort participants withdrew after STAT instrument training. Post survey response rate was 100% (n=15/15)