



BACKGROUND

- Language barriers account for, **25 million** Spanish speakers receiving about **1/3 less** health care than other Americans.²
- Hispanics with LEP reported inadequate access to care and health care status and received less preventive services than English-speaking Hispanics.³
- Nationally, **1/3** of malpractice claims pertain to a communication failure.¹
- In the U.S, **13%** of hospitals are compliant with all 4 National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in health care.¹

OBJECTIVES

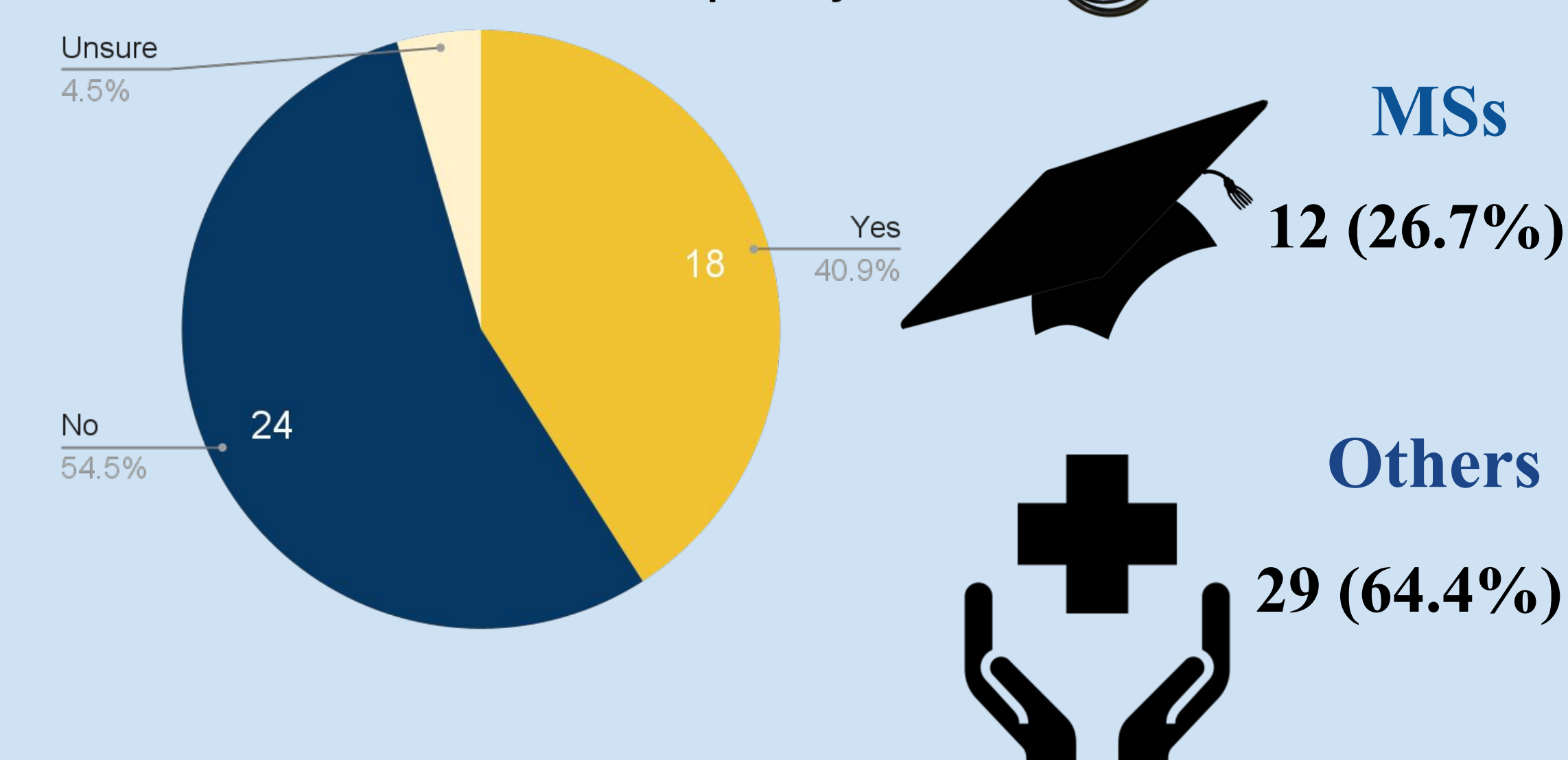
To determine the necessity for translation services from the perspective of medical professionals in providing quality healthcare in Spanish-speaking communities.

METHODS

- A cross-sectional quantitative study (exposure: language barriers, outcomes: quality of healthcare) among medical professionals (N=53) that work with the Hispanic/Latinx communities across San Diego County was conducted.
- In April 2022, a 17-item online survey was distributed through various platforms, (flyers, email, Reddit, Instagram)
- Survey assessed cultural competency and future interpretation services among medical professionals.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Figure 1. Number of Medical Professionals Who Have Taken a Cultural Competency



MDs
4 (8.9%)

MSs
12 (26.7%)

Others
29 (64.4%)

RESULTS

- **54.6%** (n=24) professionals reported feeling somewhat or extremely uncomfortable communicating with Spanish-speaking patients without an interpreter.

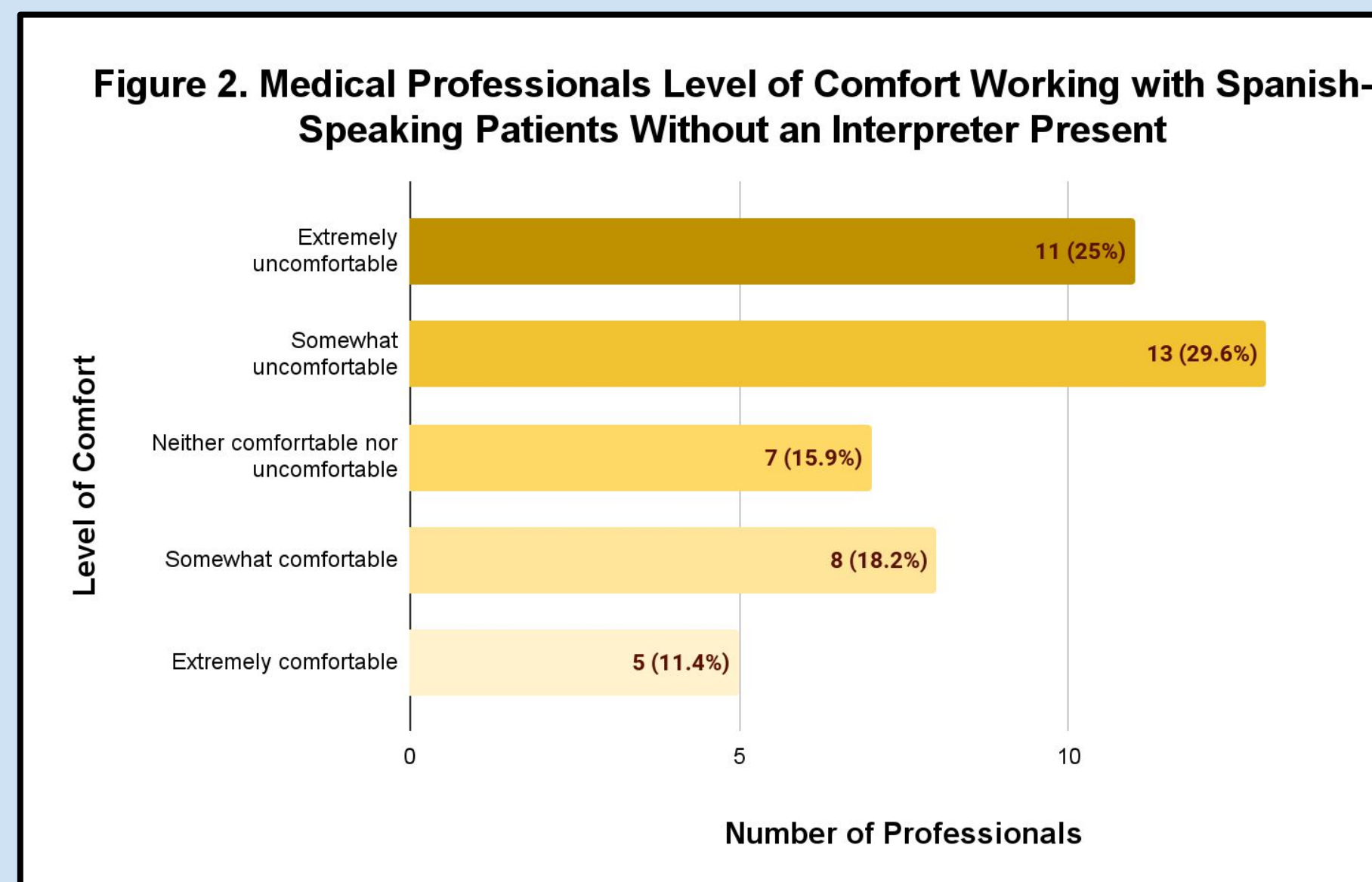
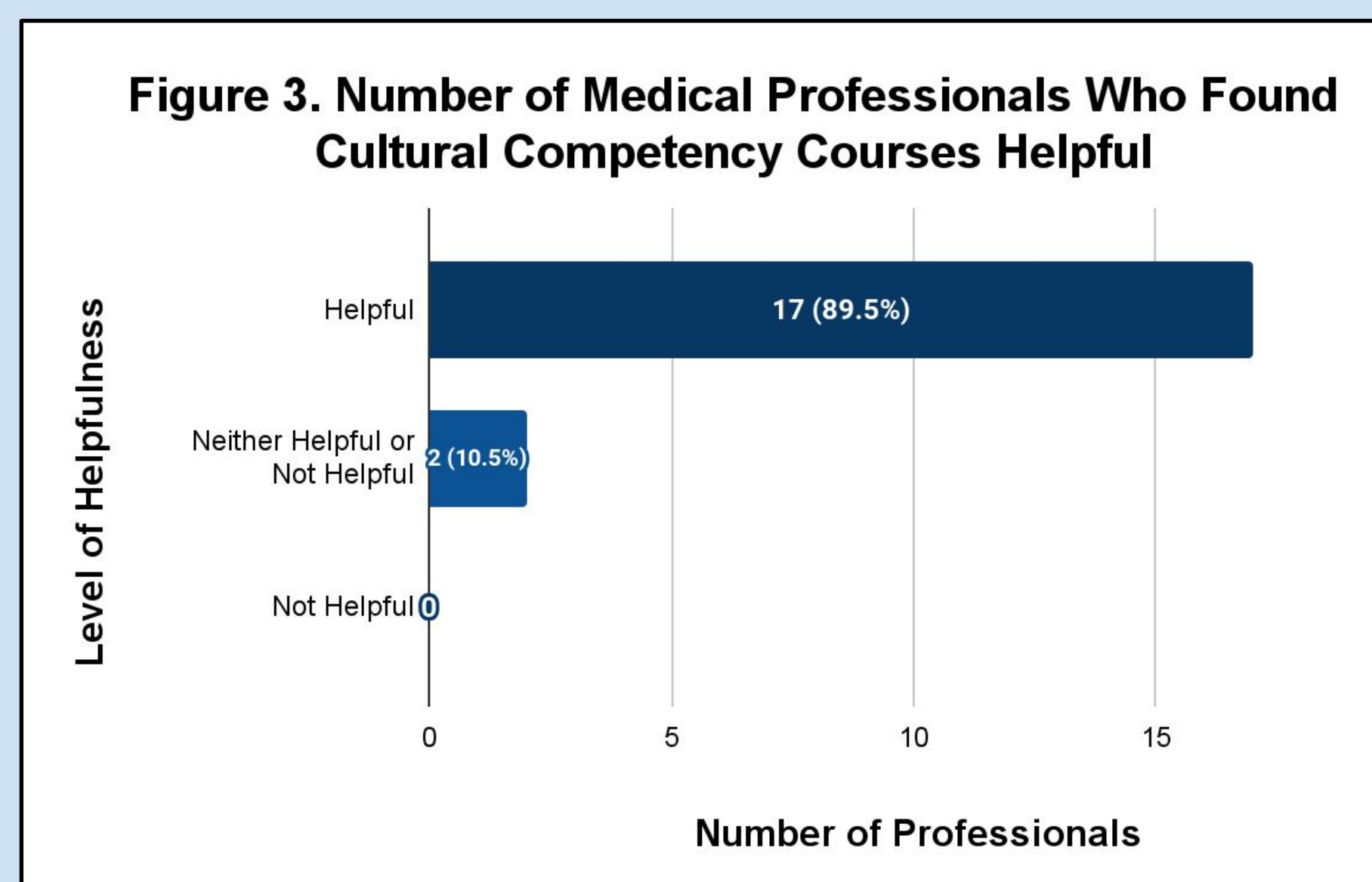


Table 1. Number of Non-Licensed Professionals Interpreting During Clinic Visits

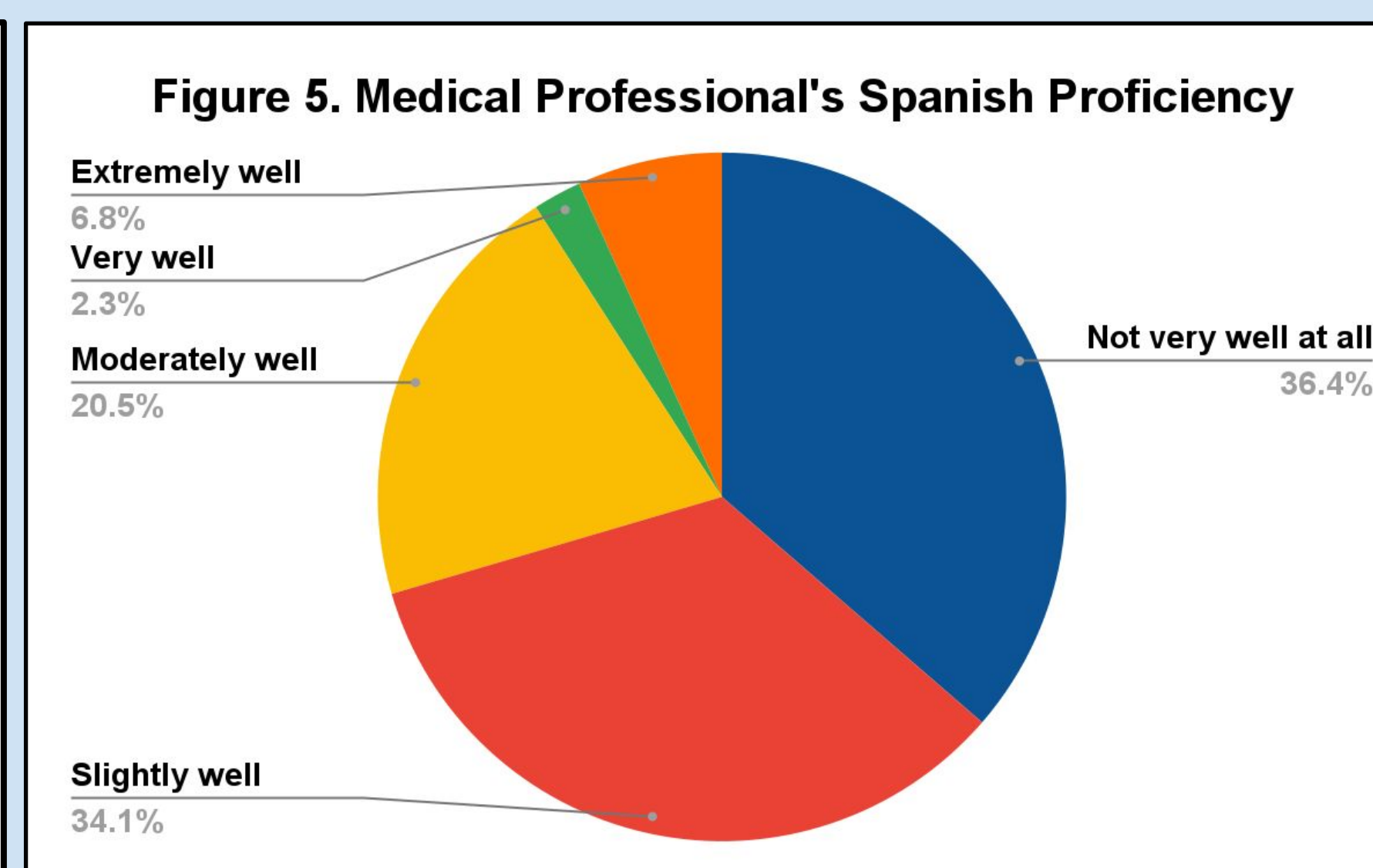
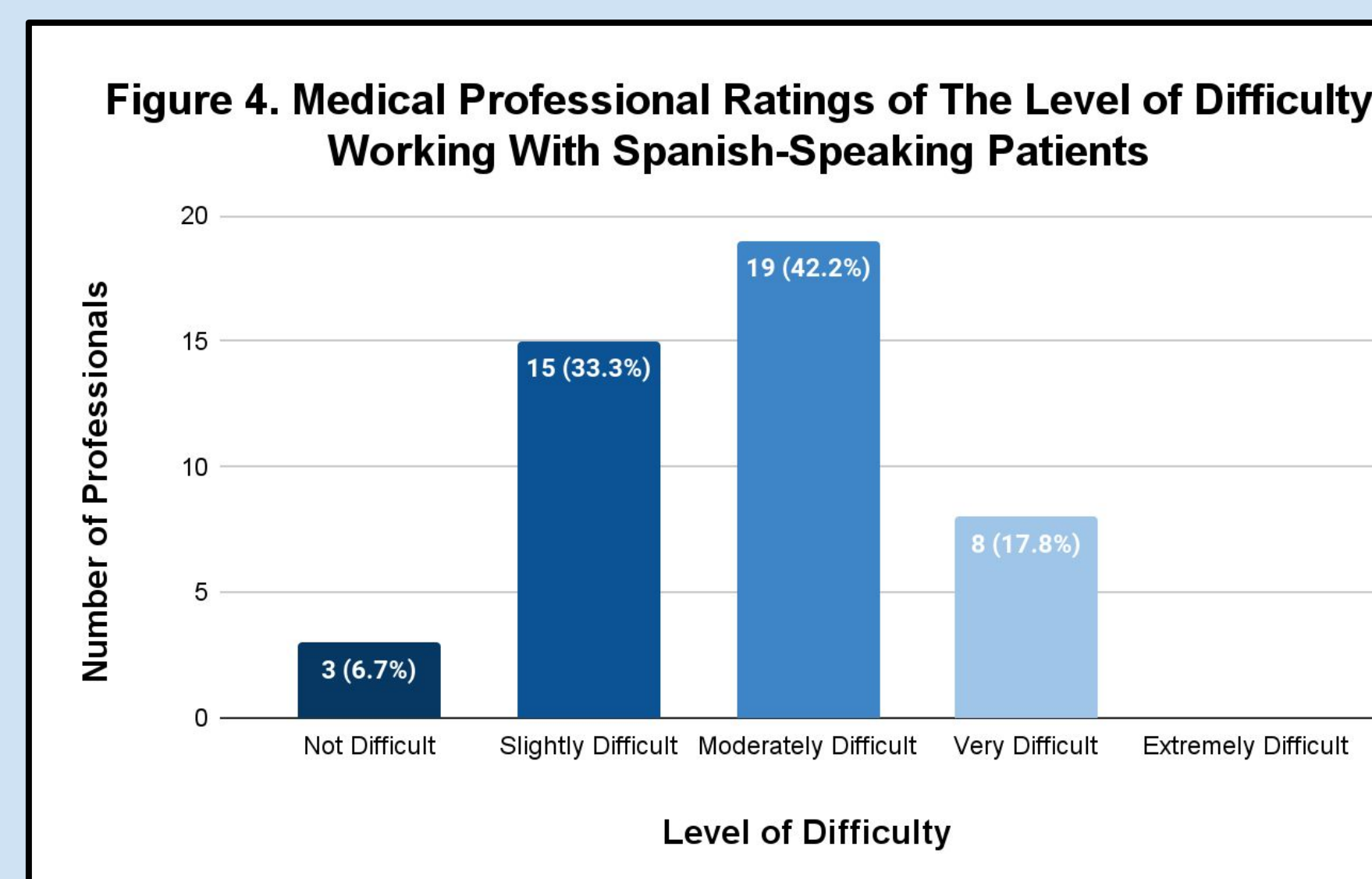
Questions	Answers	Responses
Have other (non licensed medical interpreters) like family members helped translate during a visit with a patient?	Yes	25 (56.82%)
	No	18 (40.91%)
	I don't know	1 (2.27%)
Have you had children interpret on behalf of a patient before?	Yes	19 (43.18%)
	No	25 (56.82%)
	I don't know	0



Cultural Competency; its importance

- **40%** (n=18) reported having taken cultural competency training and **89.5%** (n=17) found it helpful in their practice

But why are translation services needed?



- **95.5%** (n=42) of medical professionals would provide interpretation services if having their own practice.

CONCLUSIONS

- Medical providers associate better quality of healthcare with translation services.
- **54.5%** had NOT taken a CC course or training. Of those answering yes, **89.5%** found it helpful
- **54.5%** of medical professionals feel somewhat or extremely uncomfortable meeting with a spanish speaking patient without an interpreter (translation services are needed).
- **43.2%** have had a CHILD interpret on behalf of a patient in a clinical setting. 2 vulnerable populations at risk.
- If own practice, **95.5%** of medical professionals claimed to provide language translation services for patients(i.e interpreters).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Standardization and allocation of funds for language translation services should be considered to be made available in all of California and the United States. State and Federal regulations that insure equitable patient-interpreter ratios.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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