

Introduction

Over 14 million children & adolescents are obese in the United States.

❖ Why Should we care?

- ❖ Short Term illnesses
- ❖ Long-term conditions
- ❖ Increased cost
- ❖ Health care system burden

Problem Statement

The focus of this project is to assess gaps and barriers to pediatric providers' knowledge of bariatric surgical interventions, available resources, and current referral practices.

Methodology

❖ Project Design:

- Quantitative, cross-sectional

❖ Project Population & Setting:

- 125 pediatric providers from a health care system in central & northern New Jersey

❖ Intervention:

- 39-question needs assessment survey

❖ Measurable outcomes:

Gaps in provider knowledge of:

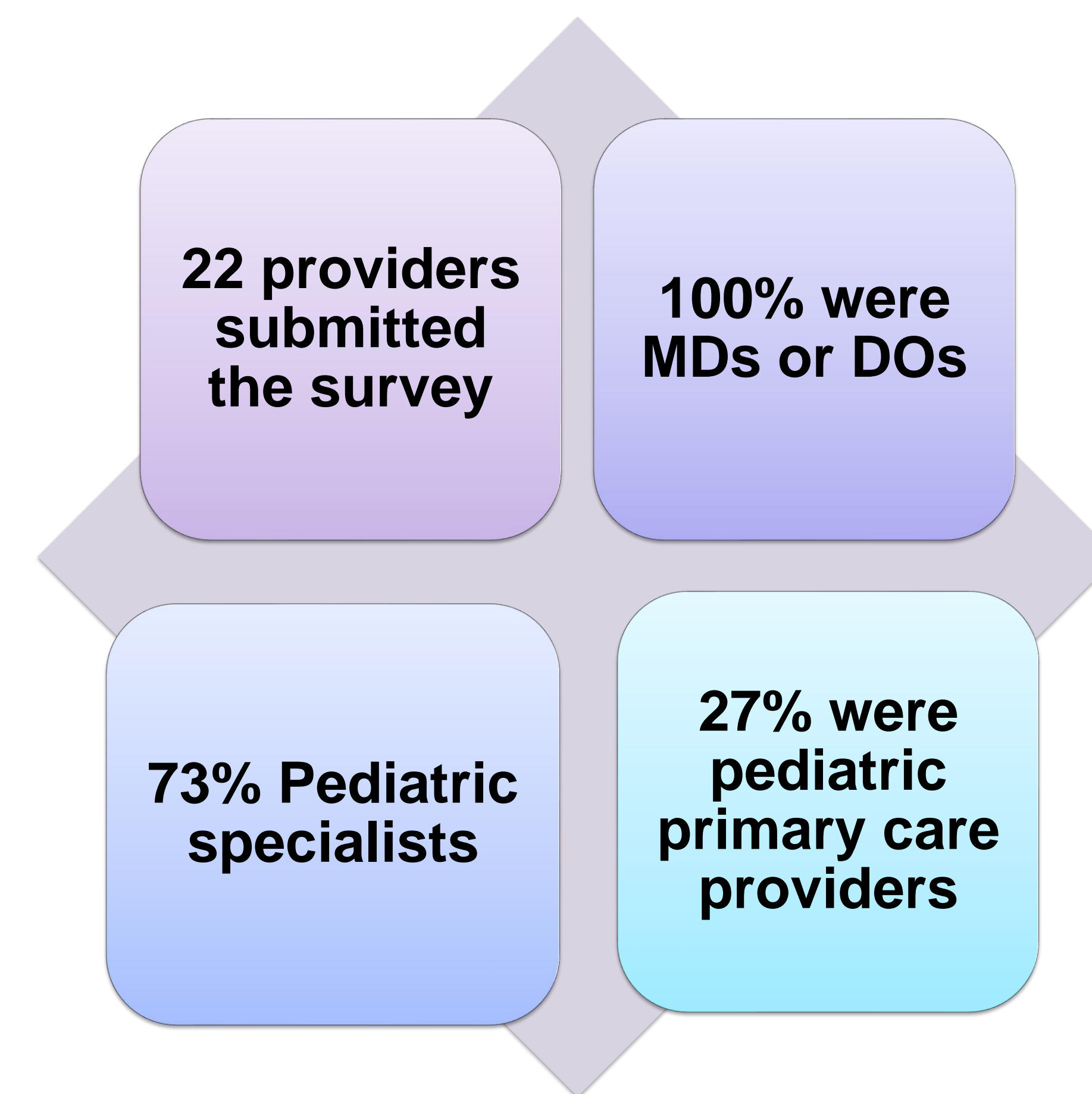
- bariatric procedures
- available resources
- referral patterns

❖ Data Analysis:

- Descriptive Statistics & Themes

Results

Demographics



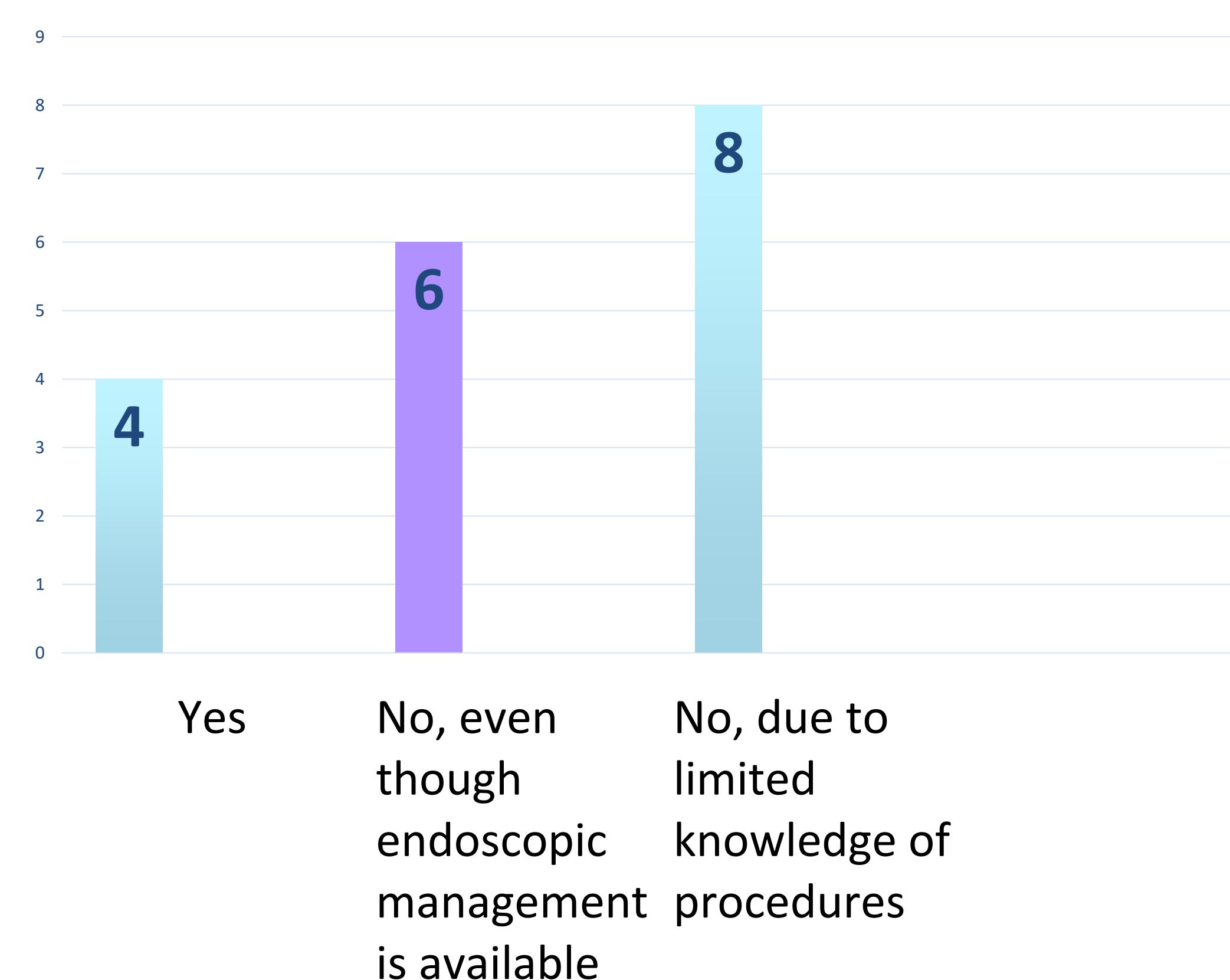
Limited Provider Knowledge

❖ 63% were aware bariatric procedures were treatments for adolescents

❖ Providers had **limited knowledge of:**

- When to refer adolescents
- Safety of bariatric procedures

❖ 44% did not refer due to lack of knowledge of procedures



Provider Perceptions

❖ Providers want more incorporation of:

- Nutrition
- Exercise
- Lifestyle/ behavioral modification

❖ Providers would want adolescents in a weight loss program for **6-9 months** before considering surgical interventions

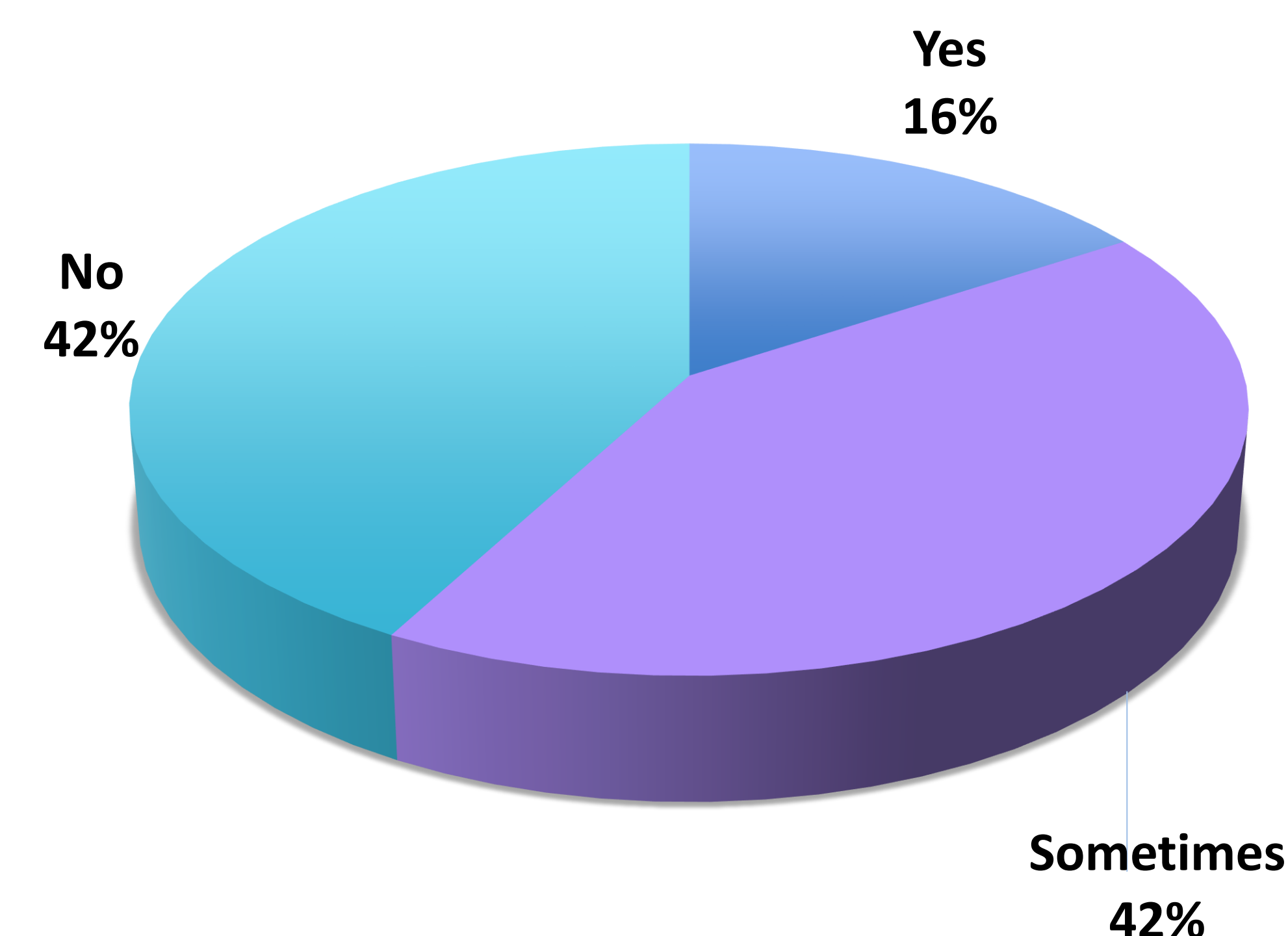
❖ Providers were concerned adolescents **were being pushed** for bariatric surgery before they were ready

"...I do not feel it is ethical for me to refer to bariatric surgery when my patients have not been able to try a good multidisciplinary non-surgical interventions"

Referral Pattern

❖ Only 16% of providers referred for bariatric management

❖ Providers were unaware of local surgeons performing procedures



Discussion

❖ Results signify the **need to increase pediatric providers education** on bariatric management for adolescents.

❖ Pediatric providers should be aware the **American Academy of Pediatrics(AAP)** and **American Society for Metabolic Surgery (ASMBS)** Guidelines state:

- Pediatric providers should be familiar with and **understand the efficacy, risks and benefits** of bariatric procedures
- Providers should **refer** severely obese adolescents **in a timely manner**
- The ASMBS **no longer considers** previous weight loss attempts as a barrier to bariatric surgery

Implications

❖ Clinical Practice

- **Educational interventions** on bariatric management, resulting in **increased referral patterns.**

❖ Quality and Safety

- Increase providers' knowledge in order to **select the best treatment option** for obese adolescents.
- May result in **better quality of life** for the patient

❖ Education

- Evaluate **medical school curriculum**, and **provide additional education and training** in adolescent obesity management

