

# Health service use among adults with cerebral palsy in Ireland



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## Introduction

Cerebral palsy (CP) is the most common childhood disability, with at least 90% surviving into adulthood. Adults report difficulties in accessing services to meet their needs.

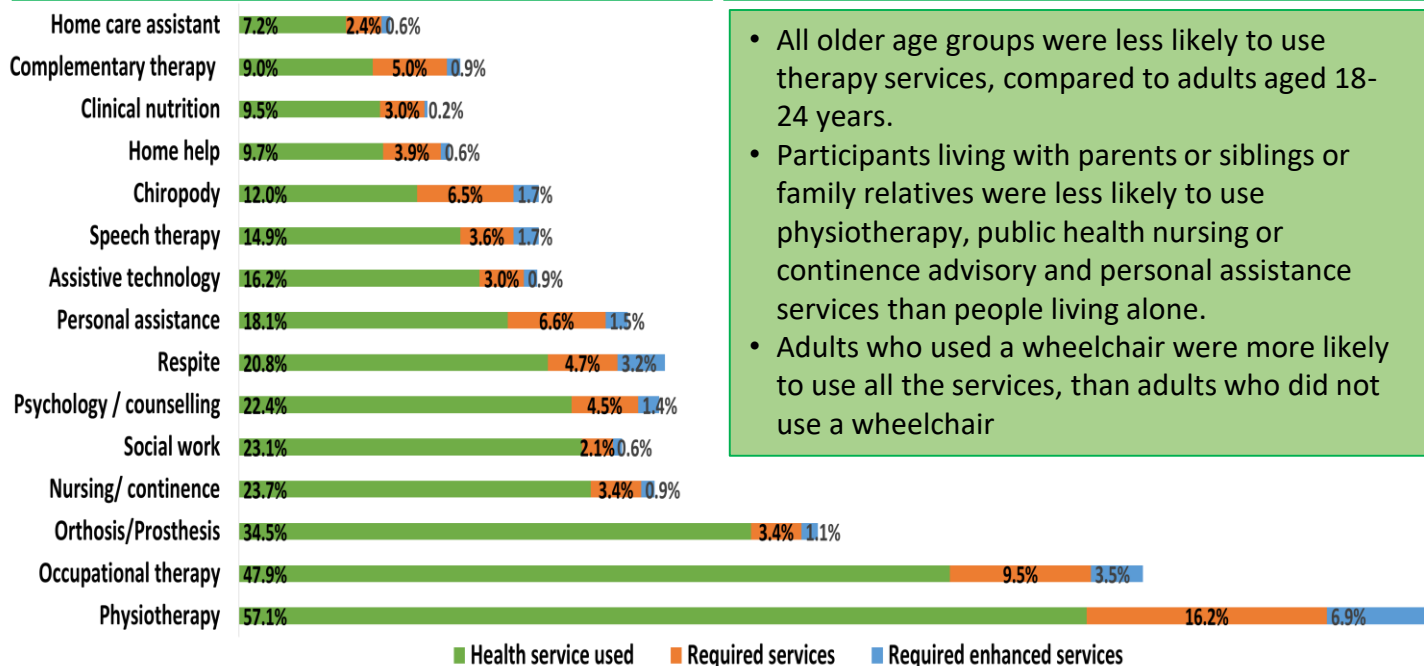
## Aim

- To describe the proportion of adults using health services and related unmet needs among adults with CP in Ireland;
- To examine the associations between factors associated with health service use among adults with CP.

## Methods

- A Secondary analysis of cross sectional data of **1,268** adults with CP.
- We identified 'unmet need' among adults with CP requiring services, but not currently using it, and adults requiring an enhancement of a service they currently use.

- All older age groups were less likely to use therapy services, compared to adults aged 18-24 years.
- Participants living with parents or siblings or family relatives were less likely to use physiotherapy, public health nursing or continence advisory and personal assistance services than people living alone.
- Adults who used a wheelchair were more likely to use all the services, than adults who did not use a wheelchair



## Discussion and conclusions

- Overall, adults used wide- range of health services and also had unmet need for several services.
- Unmet need was high for therapeutic, respite, personal assistance and chiropody services.
- Decrease in therapy use with age may indicate lack of access to services rather than lack of need.
- The findings highlight the need for a lifespan perspective for planning and developing equitable services to meet the needs of adults with CP, regardless of their age, mobility level or living arrangements.

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