

# **Child Functioning and Social Participation in Canada using the Washington Group/United Nations Children's Fund Child Functioning Module**

Stacie Kerr

Dafna Kohen, Leanne Findlay, and Rubab Arim

Statistics Canada



# Child disability data in Canada

- National reporting is largely based on survey data:

National disability surveys	Child health surveys
Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2001, 2006	National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth 1994-2009, biennially
Canadian Survey on Disability 2012, 2017, 2022	Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth 2016, 2019, 2023



# Study objectives

1. Describe the sociodemographics of Canadian children with and without functional difficulties based on the Washington Group/United Nations Children's Fund Child Functioning Module (CFM)
2. Examine associations with social participation in contexts including child care, school, and organized sports and clubs
3. Examine the use of the CFM to disaggregate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators



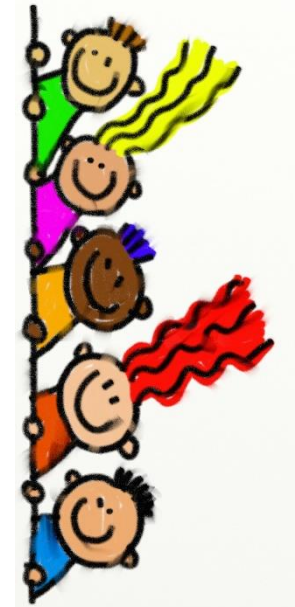
# Data source

- Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, 2019
- National, cross-sectional survey that collected data on issues impacting the physical and mental health of Canadian children
- N=43,000 children aged 2-17
- Difficulties in various functional domains were assessed using the CFM

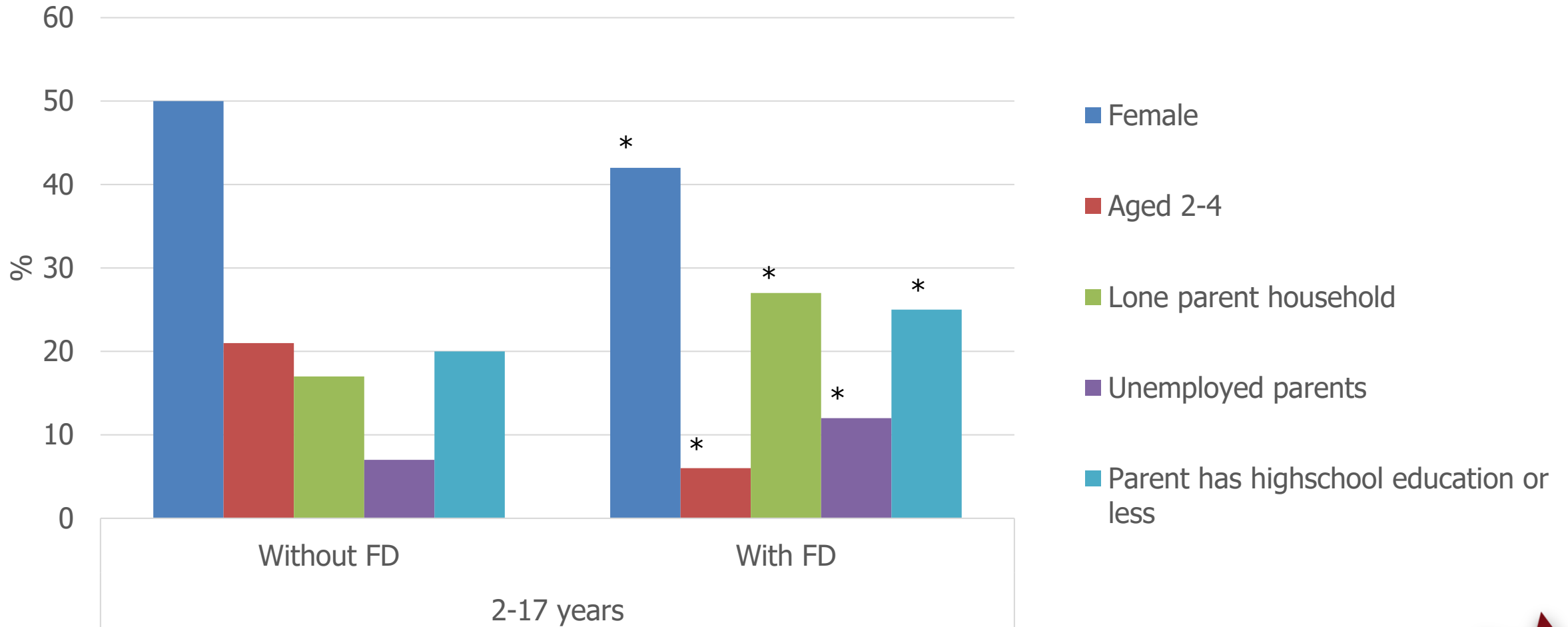


# Identifying children with functional difficulties in Canada using the CFM

- An estimated 700,000 Canadian children aged 2-17 were identified with functional difficulties (12% of the population)
- The most identified functional difficulties were:
  - communication among children aged 2-4 (3%)
  - accepting change among children aged 5 to 11 (5%)
  - anxiety among children aged 12-17 (6%)



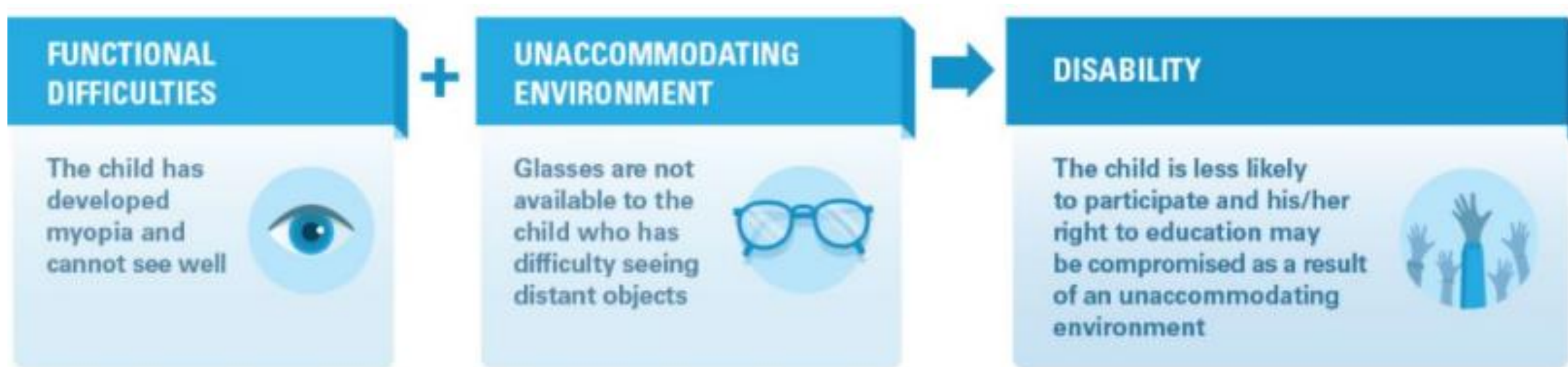
# Sociodemographic characteristics of Canadian children aged 2-17 years with and without functional difficulties based on the CFM



\* Statistically significant difference between children with and without functional difficulties ( $p < 0.05$ )

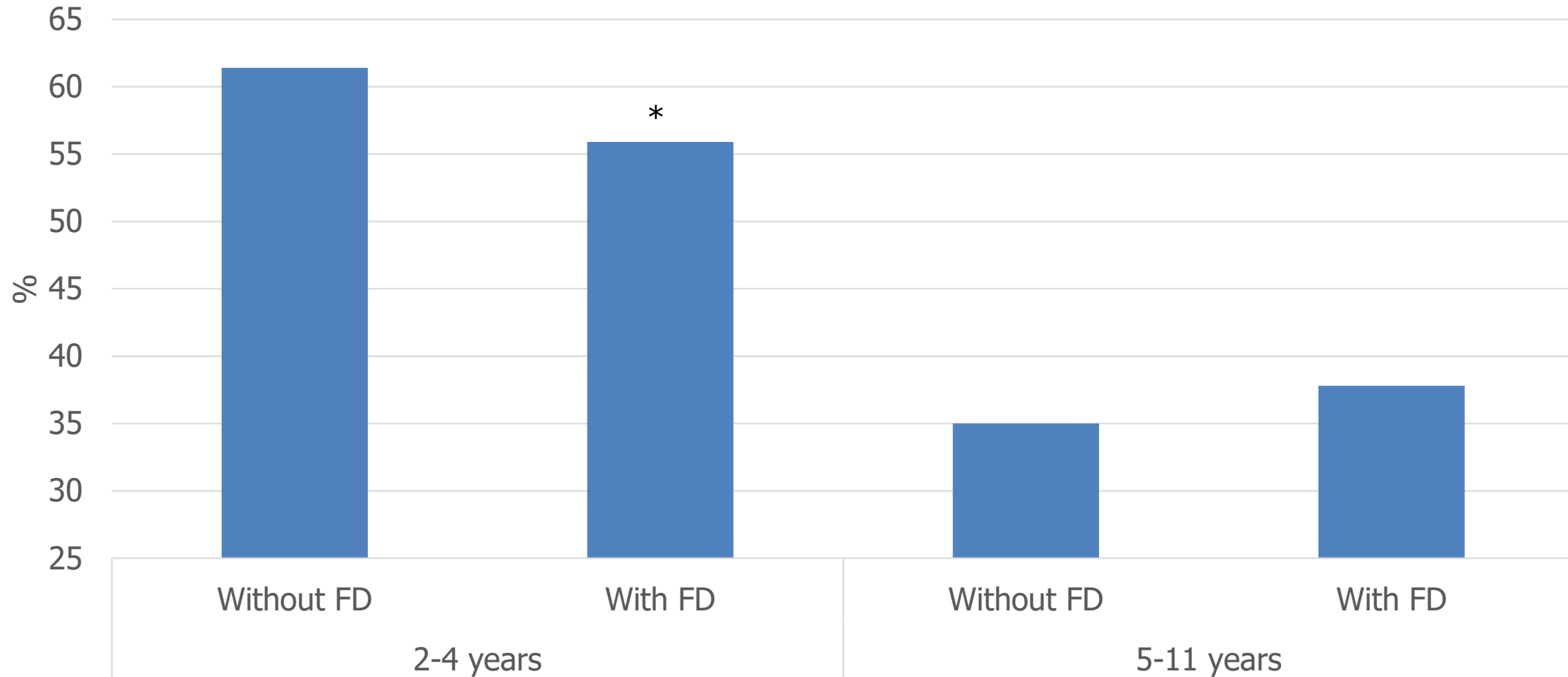
# Using the CFM to examine social participation

Disability can be conceptualized as a social disadvantage imposed by an unsupportive environment in addition to an individual's functional difficulties



Source: UNICEF, 2021

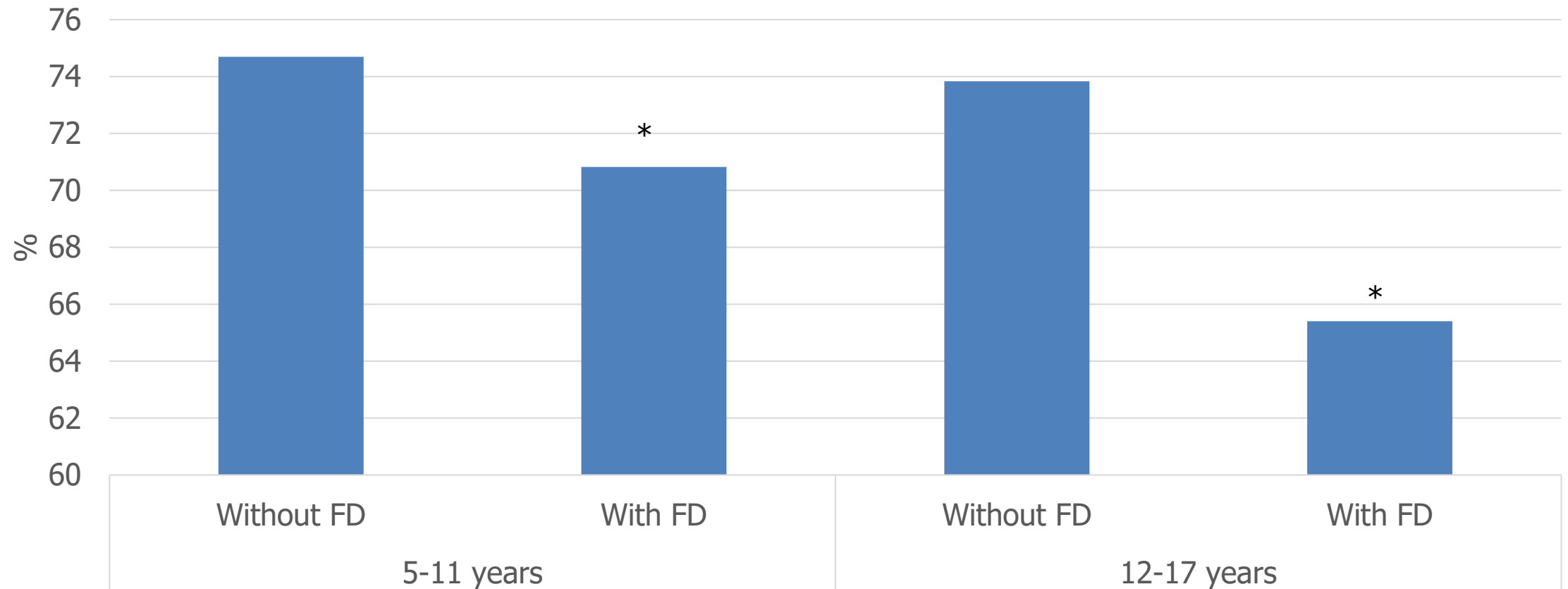
# Child care use among children aged 2-11 with and without functional difficulties



\* Statistically significant difference between children with and without functional difficulties ( $p < 0.05$ )

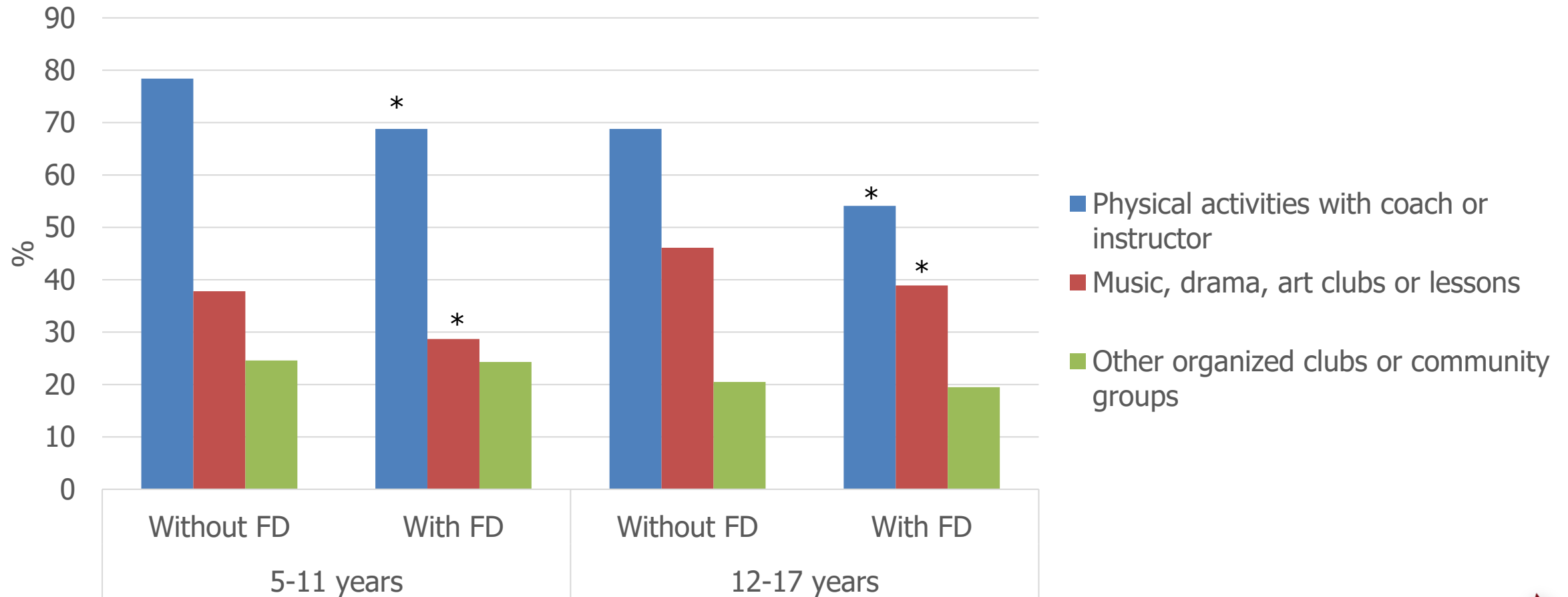


# Attended school 5 days or more in the past week among children aged 5-17 with and without functional difficulties



\* Statistically significant difference between children with and without functional difficulties ( $p < 0.05$ )

# Participation in organized sports and clubs in the past 12 months among children aged 5-17 with and without functional difficulties



\* Statistically significant difference between children with and without functional difficulties ( $p < 0.05$ )



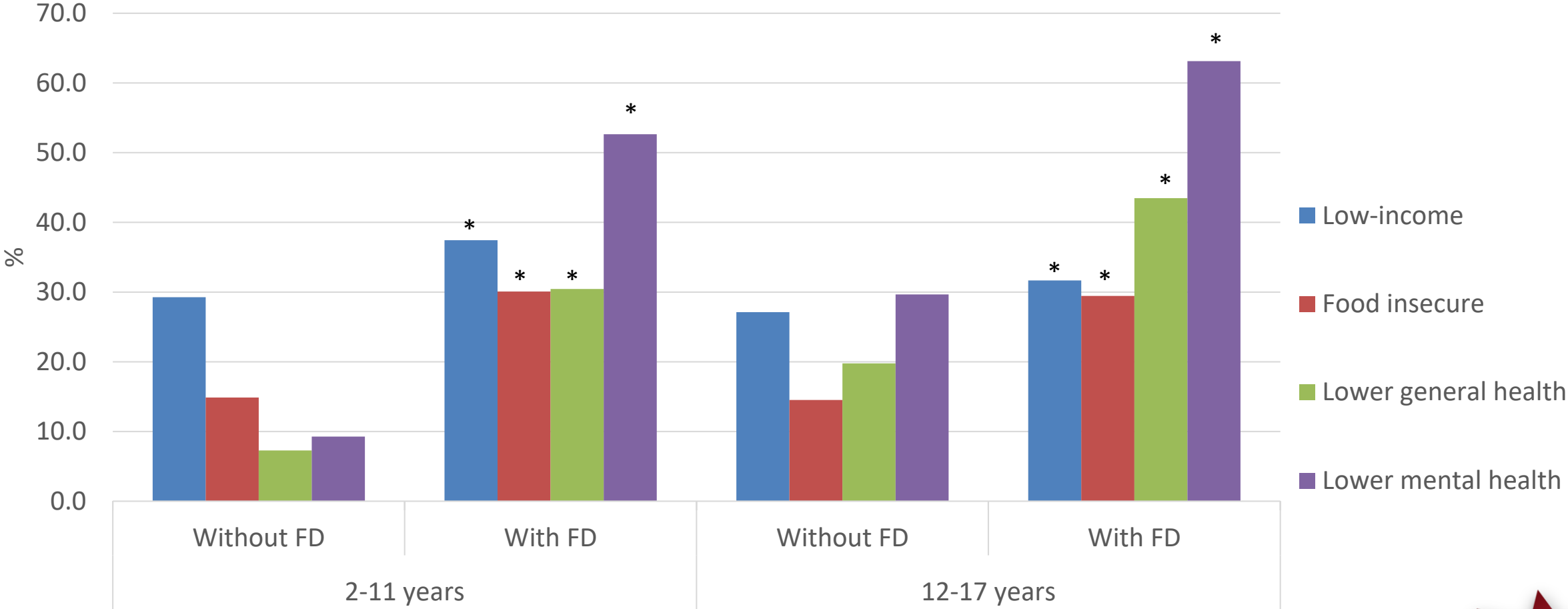
# The CFM as a means to disaggregate SDG indicators

Canada adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015

- Residence in low-income households
- Household food insecurity
- Lower general health
- Lower mental health



# Low-income, food insecurity, and lower general and mental health among children aged 2-17 with and without functional difficulties



\* Statistically significant difference between children with and without functional difficulties (p < 0.05)



# Limitations and future directions

- Little is known about measurement invariance of the CFM across diverse groups in the population

	CFM	GALI (Global Activity Limitation Indicator)
<b>Age group covered</b>	Children aged 2-17	Children of all ages
<b>Number of items</b>	16 items (ages 2-4) 24 items (ages 5-17)	2 items

- Include the CFM and GALI together on a future Canadian child survey to enable a head-to-head comparison and investigate the GALI as a proxy



# Conclusions

- Findings demonstrate the utility of the CFM to report on child functional difficulties in Canada:
  - Sociodemographic characteristics were associated with child functioning in the expected directions
  - Lower rates of social participation were observed among children with functional difficulties than children without functional difficulties
  - Children with functional difficulties had poorer results for four SDG-related indicators than children without functional difficulties



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GRACIAS 谢谢  
**THANK YOU**  
ありがとうございました MERCI  
DANKE धन्यवाद  
شُكراً **OBRIGADO**

Stacie Kerr

Health Analysis Division, Statistics Canada

[stacie.kerr@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:stacie.kerr@statcan.gc.ca)