

Scottish

Learning Disabilities

Observatory



# Health of people with autism

## Findings from Scotland's Census 2011 cohort study

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- Existing research
- Scotland's Census 2011
- Main findings
- Conclusions

## Existing research shows that:

- people with autism experience a range of health problems
- findings on prevalence rates are inconsistent
- there is lack of evidence on self-rated health

## About the Census

- held once every 10 years
- a snapshot of all people in Scotland on one night
- Scotland's Census 2011 was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011
- autism was self-reported

Do you have any of the following conditions which have lasted, or are expected to last, at least 12 months? Tick all that apply.

- deafness or partial hearing loss
  - blindness or partial sight loss
  - learning disability (for example, Down's Syndrome)
  - learning difficulty (for example, dyslexia)
  - developmental disorder (for example, ASD or Asperger's Syndrome)
  - physical disability
  - mental health condition
  - long-term illness, disease or condition
  - other condition, please write in
- or
- no condition

In total, **5,295,403** people live in Scotland

**31,712 (0.6%)** said they had autism

Prevalence by age

Prevalence by gender

1.9%



Children

0.3%



Adults

0.3%



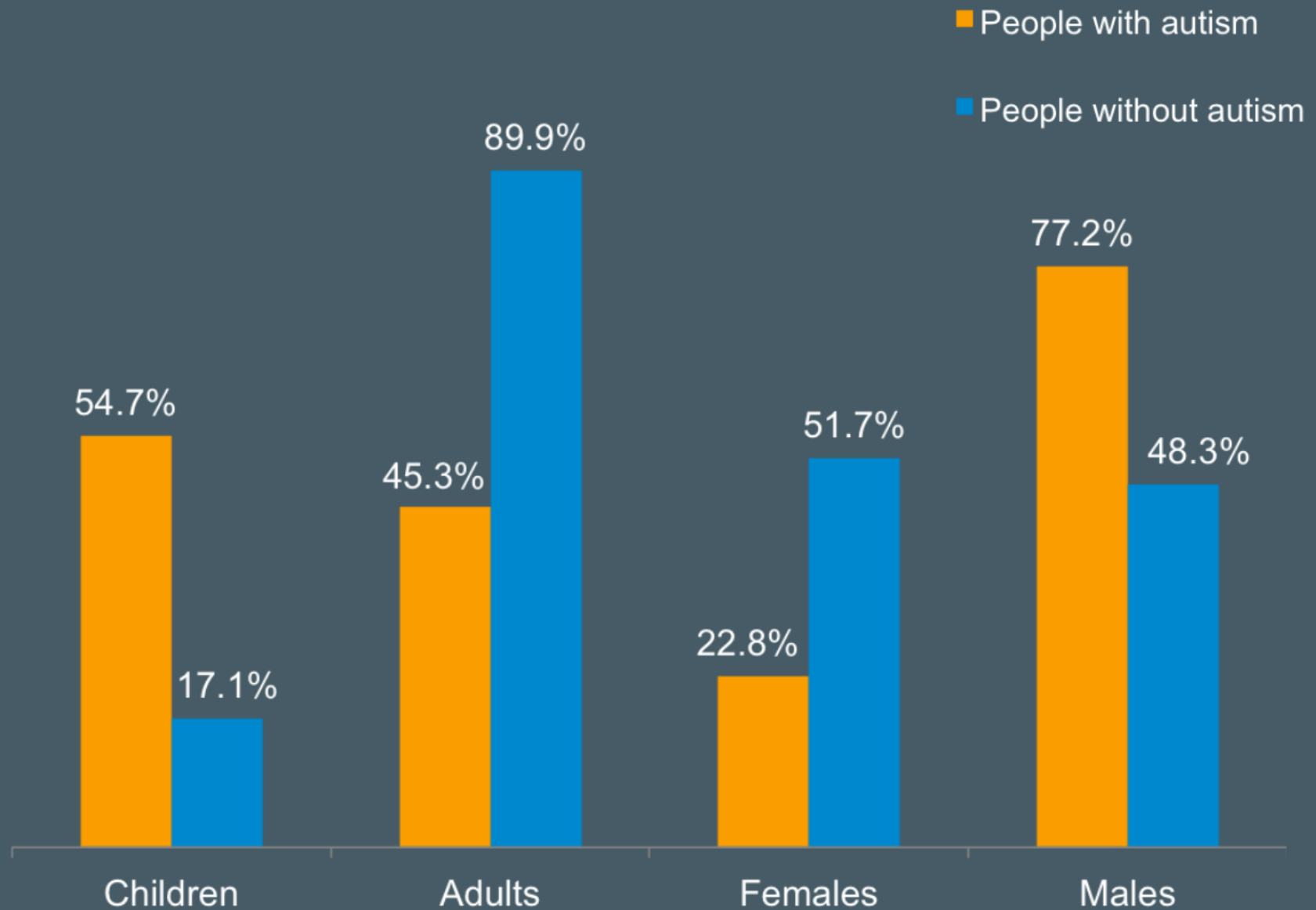
Females

1.0%



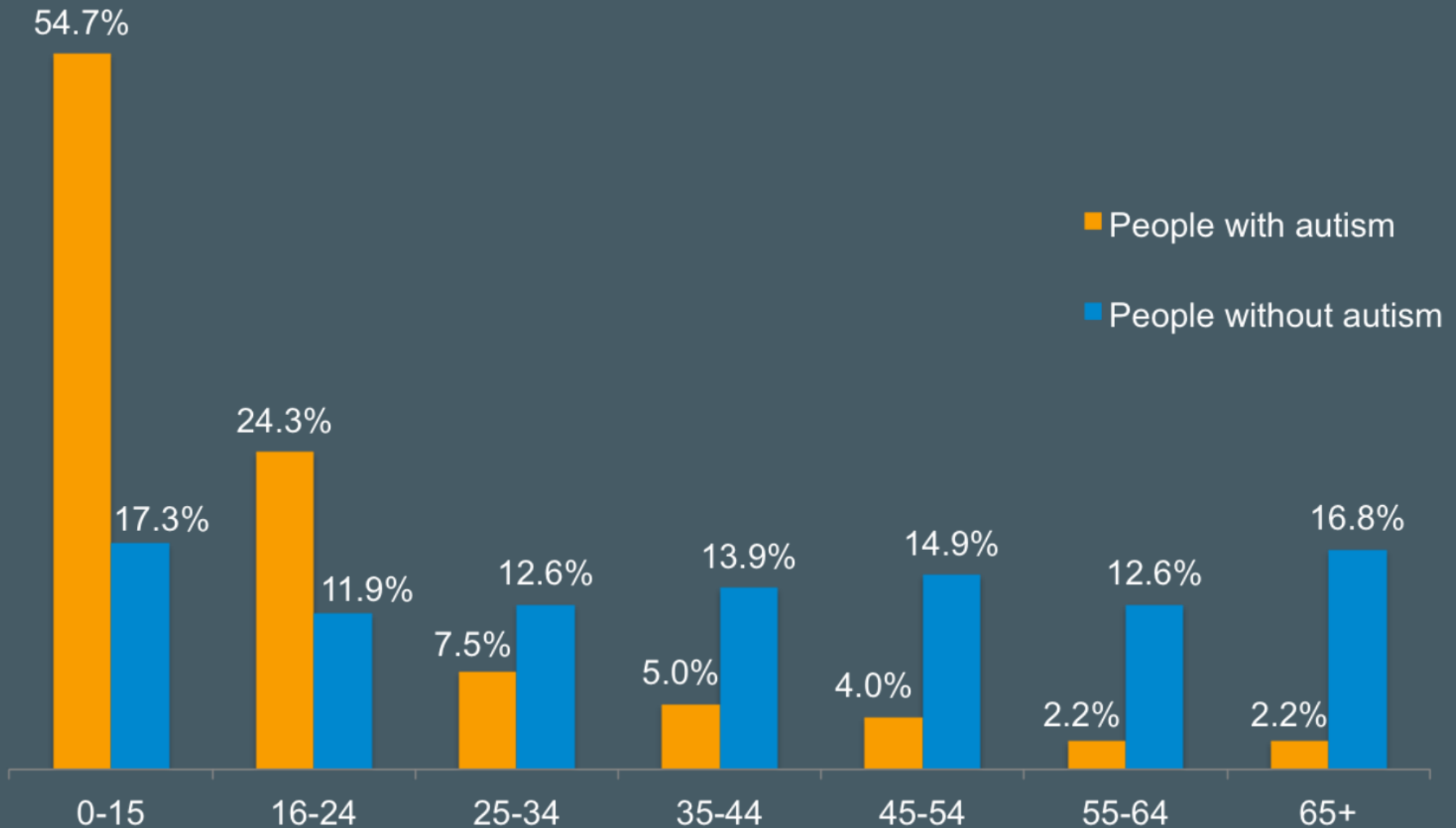
Males

# Proportion of people by age and gender



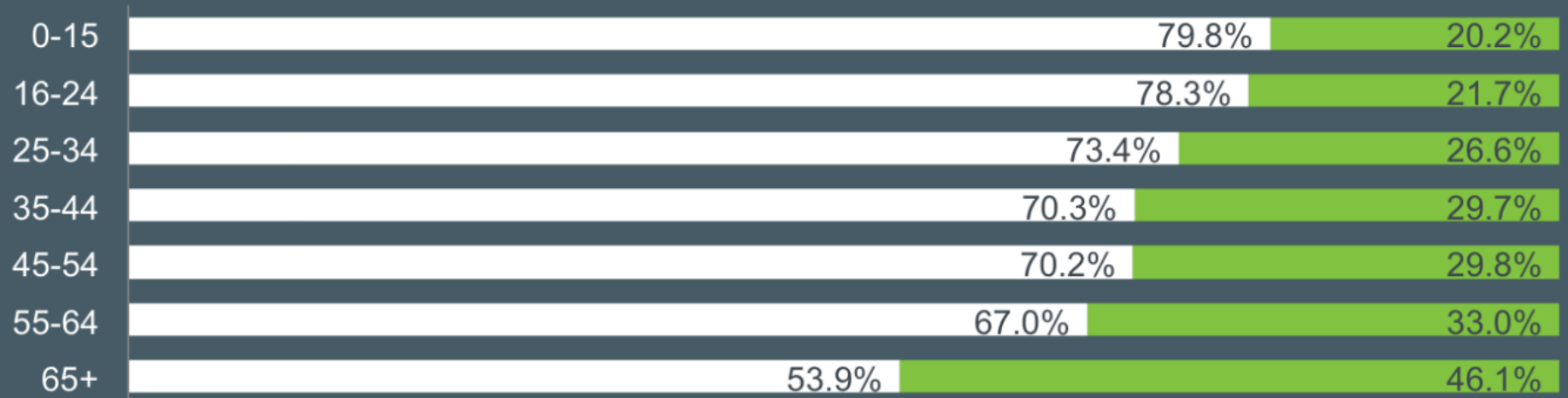


# Proportion of people with autism by age



# Proportion of males and females

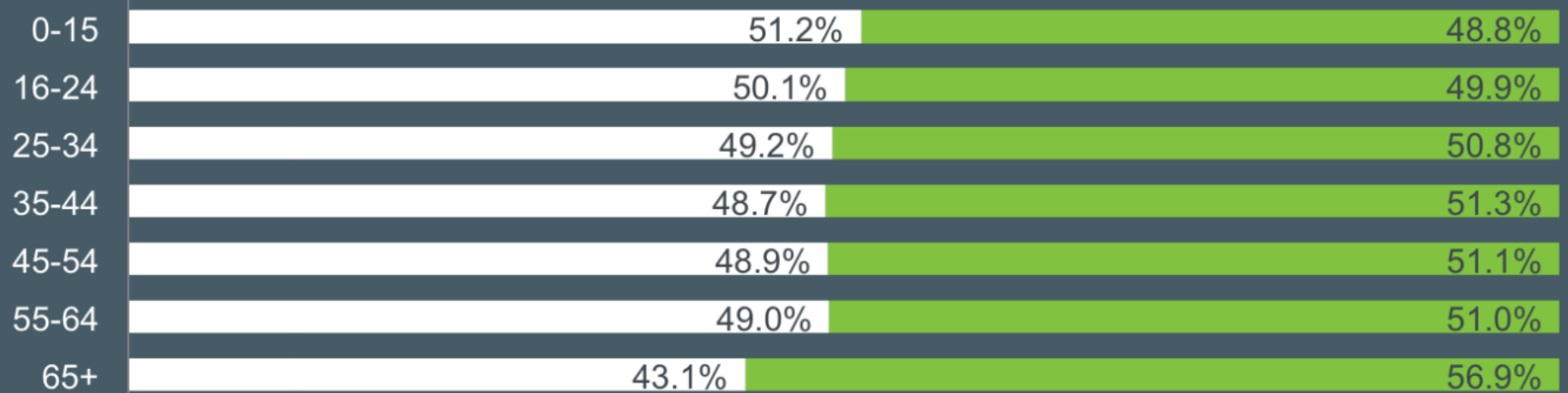
## People with autism



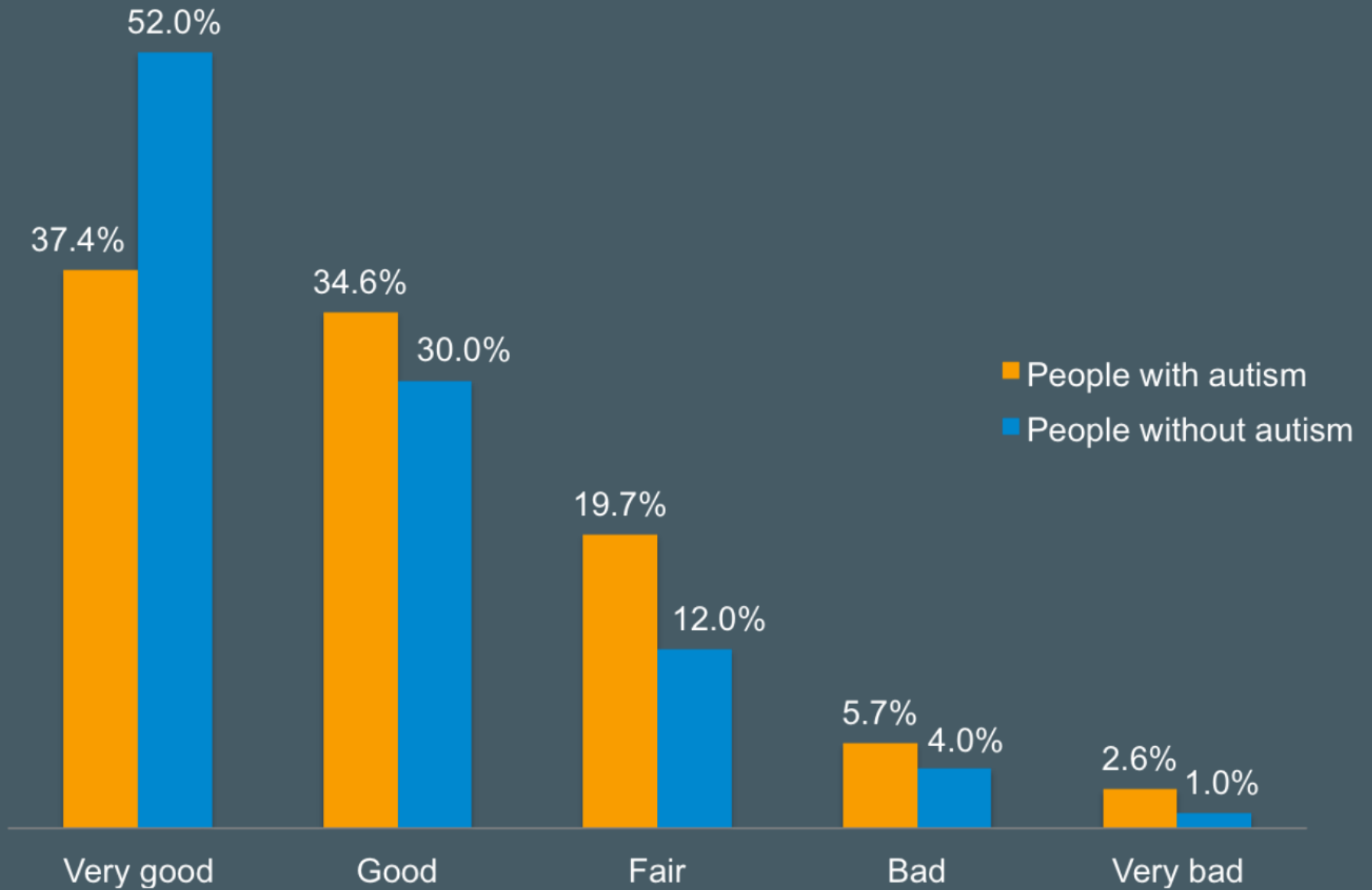
■ Male

■ Female

## People without autism



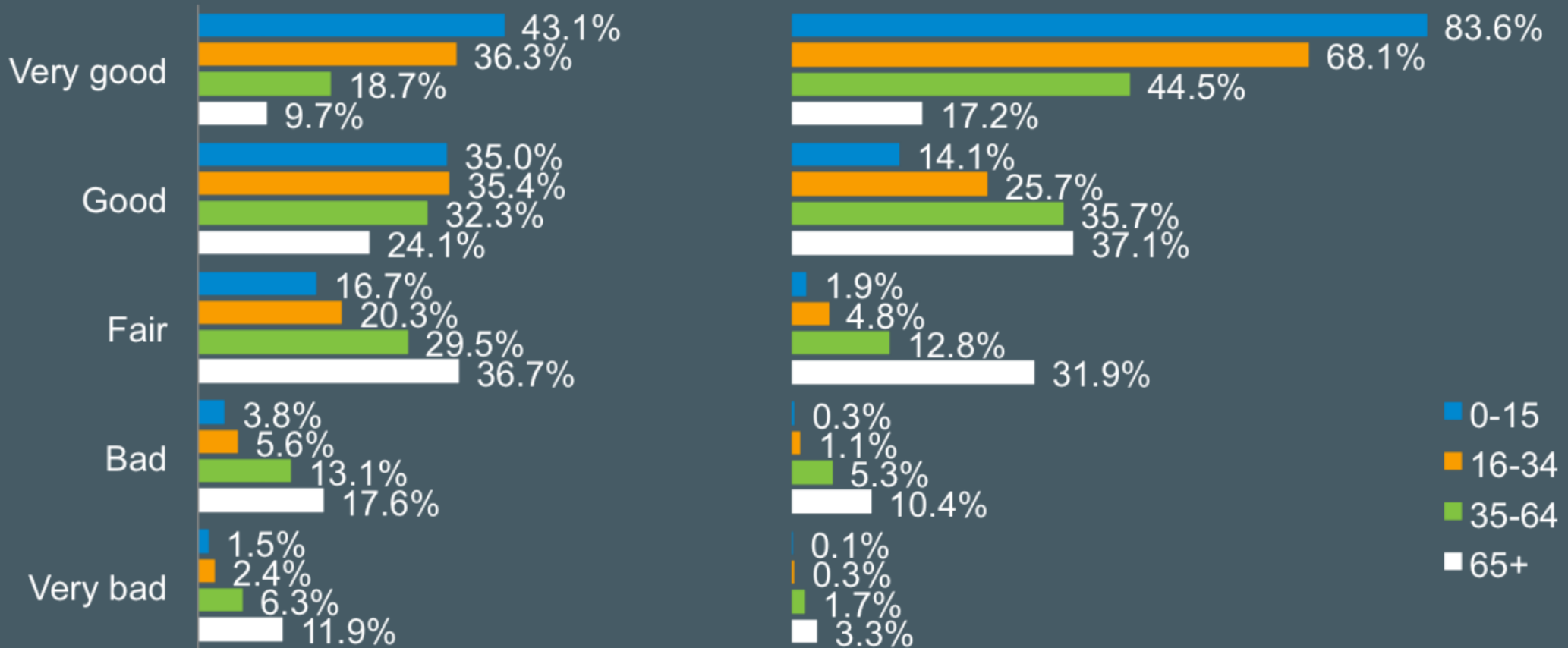
## Self-rated health



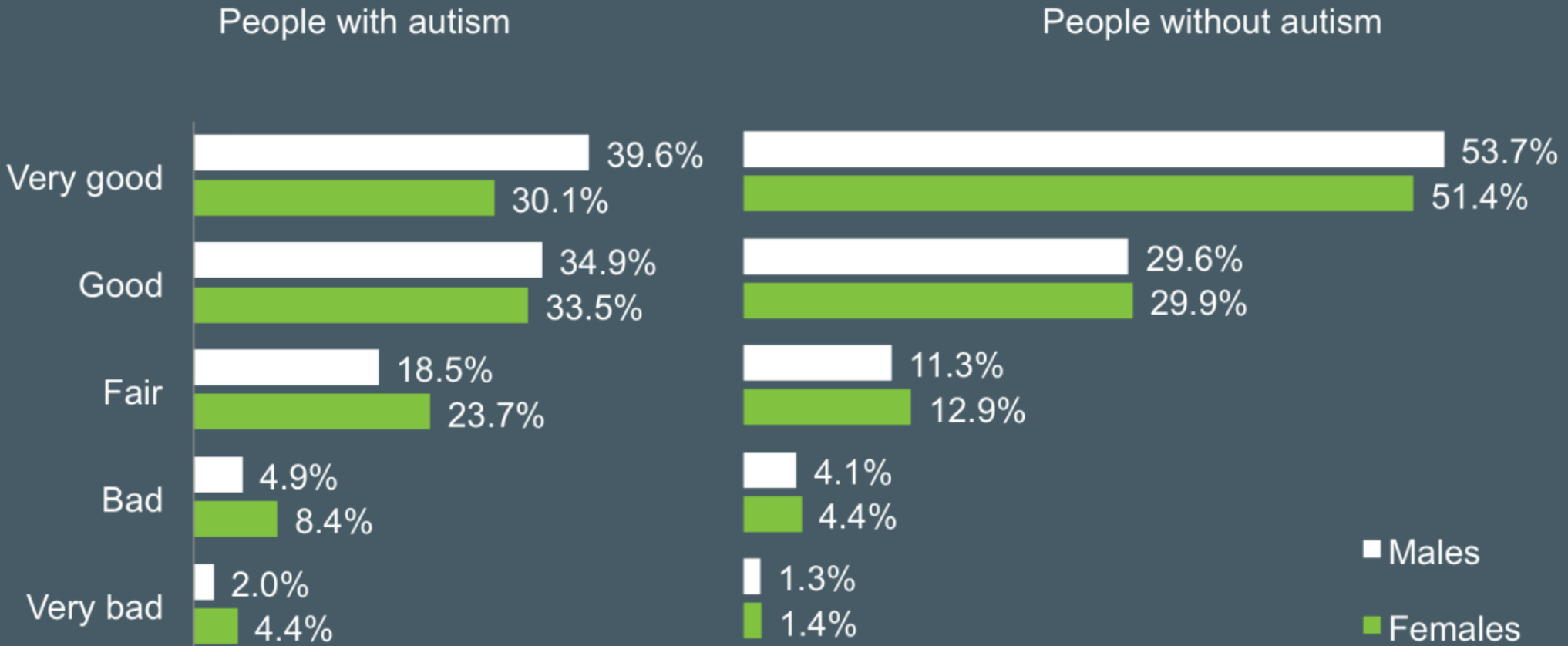
# Self-rated health by age

People with autism

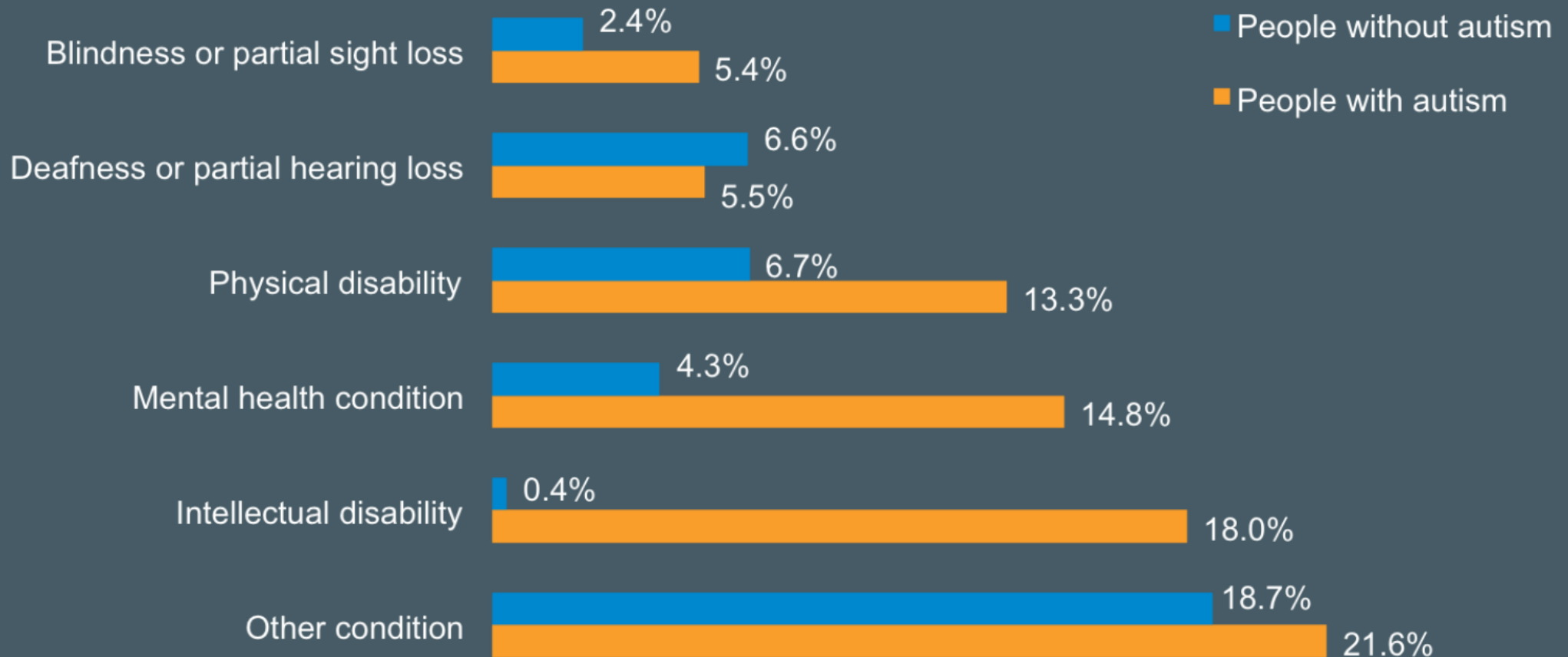
People without autism



## Self-rated health by gender



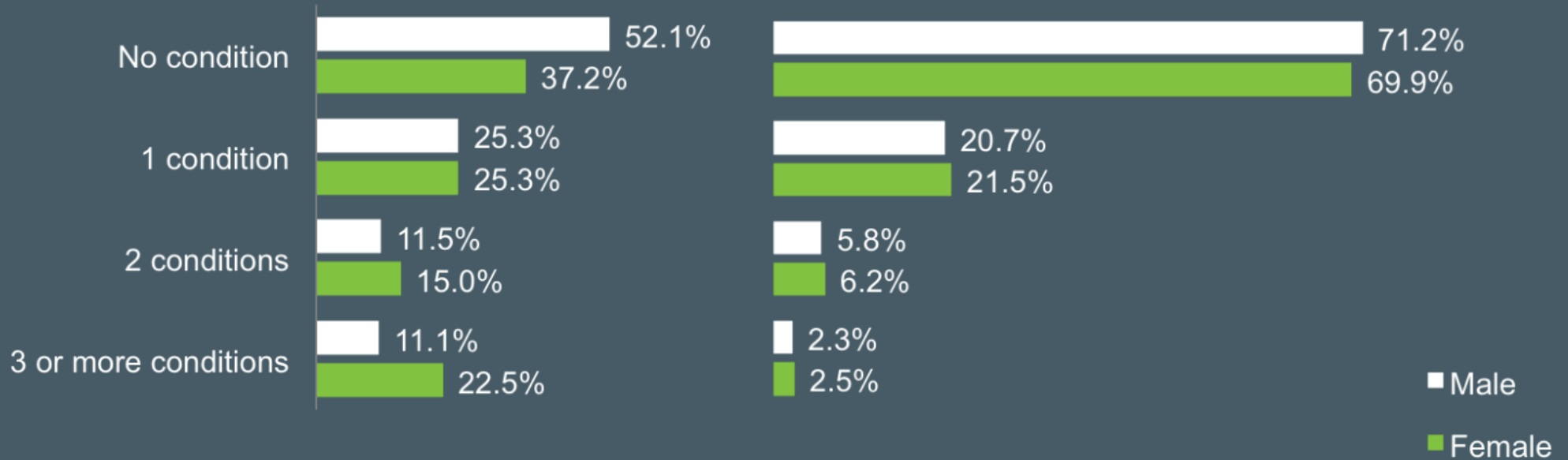
## Other reported comorbidities



# Number of conditions

People with autism

People without autism



# Health limitations

People with autism

People without autism

Day-to-day activities not limited



Day-to-day activities limited a little



Day-to-day activities limited a lot



Male

Female



# Conclusions

## People with autism are more likely to:

- rate their health worse than the general population, especially older people and females
- have other comorbidities, especially intellectual disabilities and mental health problems
- have 3 or more additional conditions, especially females
- report day-to-day activities limitations due to health problems

If you want to know more about findings on:

- specific age groups/gender
- other variables
- local authorities/health boards

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or visit [www.sldo.ac.uk](http://www.sldo.ac.uk) and @ScotLDO