

# Unlocking the Potential of Community-Based Services to Promote Holistic Life Outcomes for Individuals with Autism and Developmental Disabilities

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## Background

- Rising prevalence rates of developmental disabilities have created increased demand for intervention services.
- Community-based interventions may reduce significant economic and structural barriers.
- Yet, there is limited research on caregiver perspectives of community-based services despite their crucial role in intervention plans.

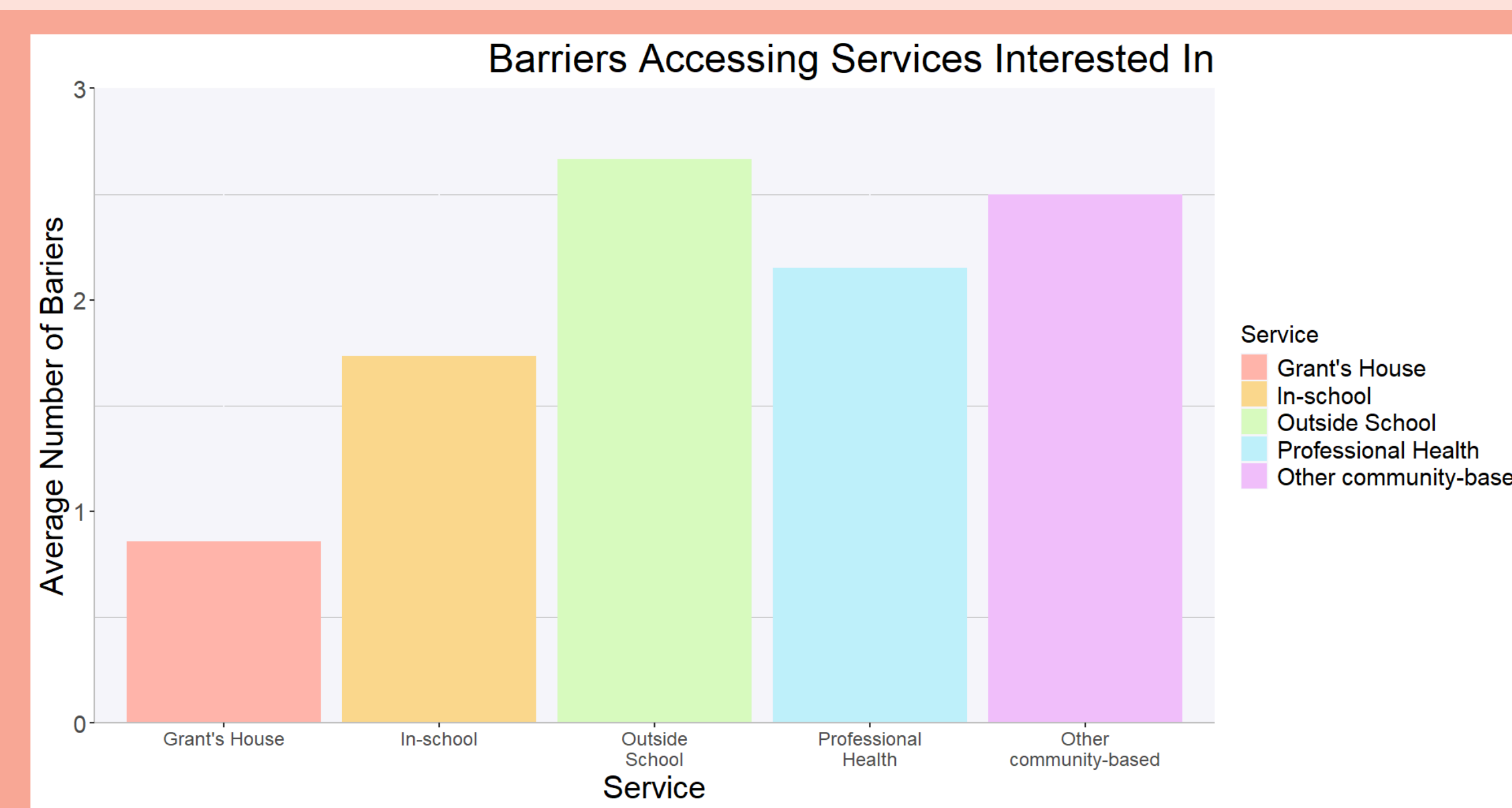
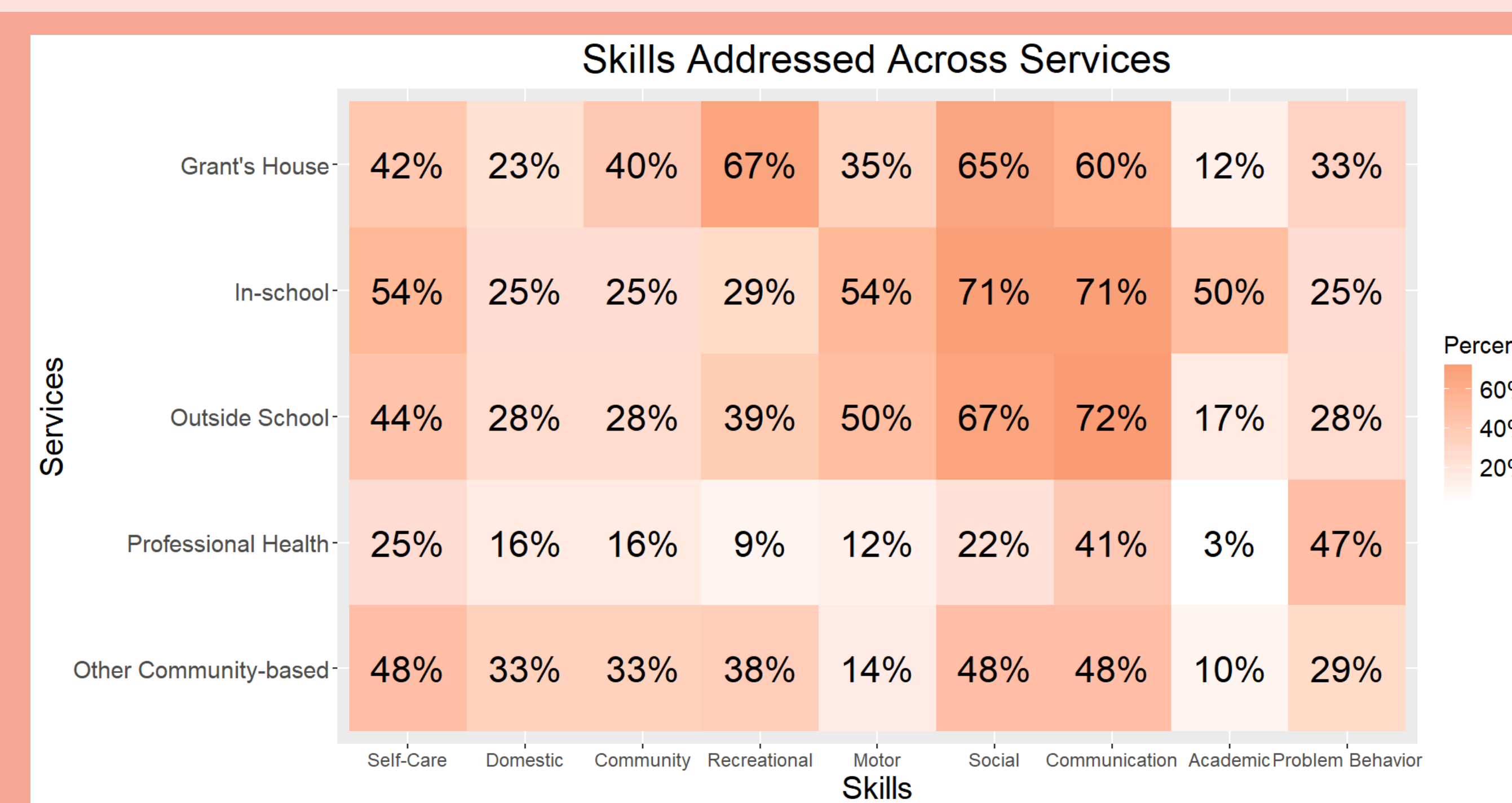
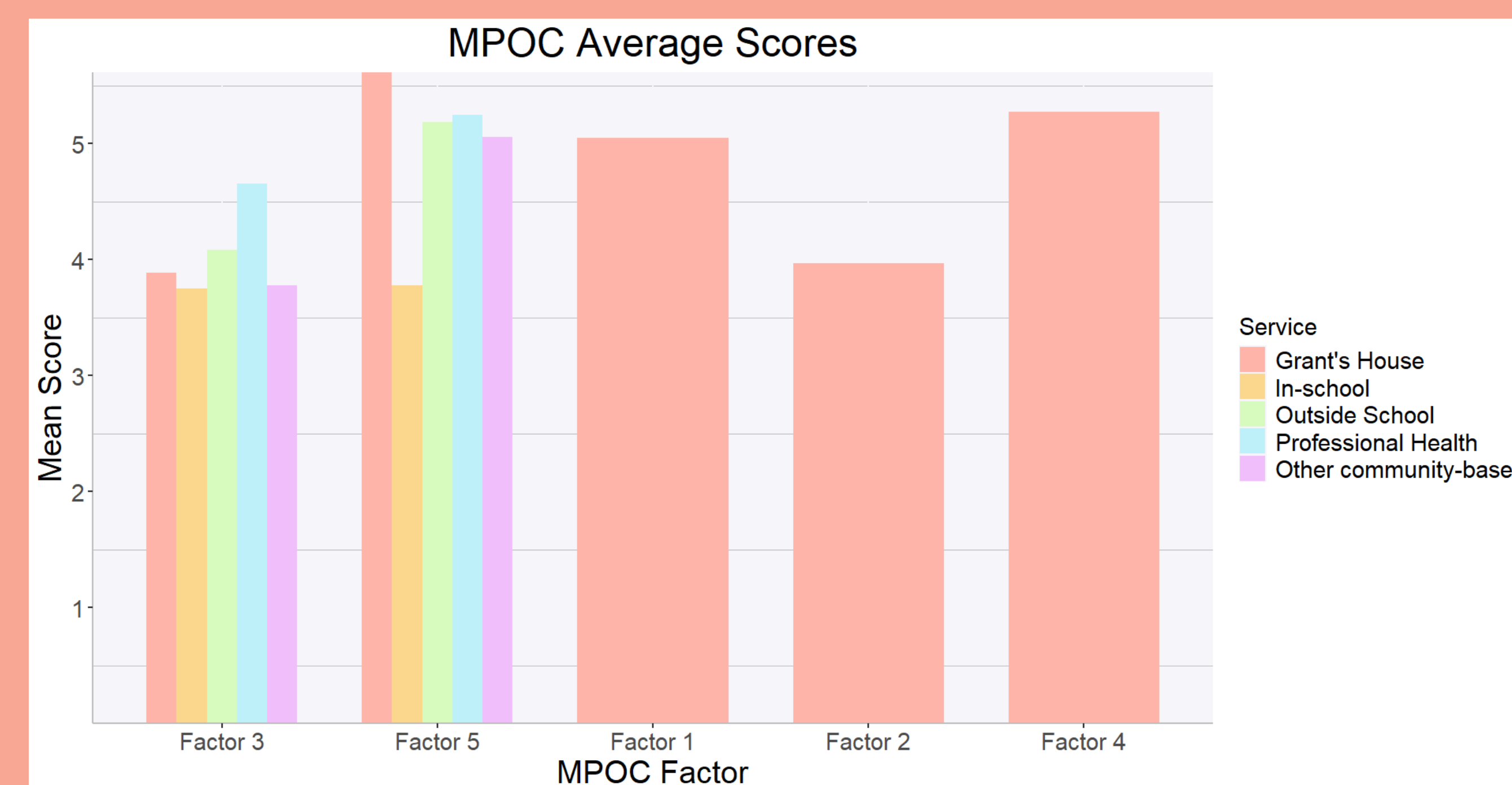
## Method

### Participants

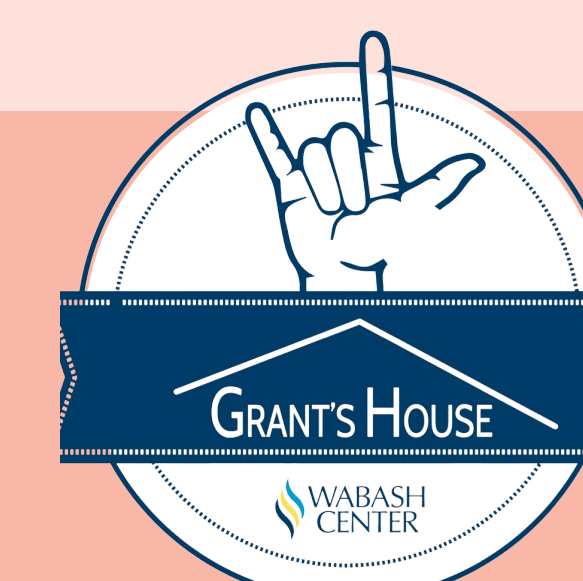
- 43 caregivers of individuals with disabilities access Grant's House, a community-based service.
  - Caregiver: Mean age = 48 (31-69), Female = 91%, White = 88%, Non-Hispanic = 91%
  - Individual: Mean age = 16 (6-28), Female = 35%, White = 88%, Non-Hispanic = 86%, Diagnosis = ASD, 37%; Down Syndrome; 21%

### Caregiver Survey on Service Perspectives

- MPOC (Measure of Processes of Care) assesses provider alignment with a family-centered model.
  - Factor 1: Enabling and Partnership; Factor 2: Providing General Information; Factor 3: Providing Specific Information about the Child; Factor 4: Coordinated and Comprehensive Care; Factor 5: Respectful and Supportive Care
- Caregivers selected the barriers faced accessing services they would be interested in trying.
  - Some barriers include Waitlist, Cost, Insurance, Caregiver Work Schedule, and Transportation



We appreciate all Grant's House families who participated in this study and the John Martinson Honors College for funding this project.



## Results

### MPOC Average Scores

- MPOC Factor 5 (Respectful and Supportive Care) differs across service categories ( $F = 5.38, p < 0.001$ ), including higher scores for GH than IS services ( $p < 0.001$ ).
- MPOC Factor 3 (Providing Specific Information About the Child) does not significantly differ across service categories ( $F = 0.776, p = 0.544$ ).

### Skills Addressed Across Services

- Within Grant's House services, caregivers report recreational, social, and communication skills being addressed more frequently.
  - Recreational skill category differs between GH and other service categories: PH ( $p < 0.001$ ), IS ( $p = 0.003$ ), OC ( $p = 0.050$ ), and OS ( $p = 0.075$ )
  - Community skill category does not significantly differ between GH and other service categories, except for PH ( $p = 0.046$ )

### Barriers Accessing Grant's House Services

- Total number of barriers to accessing services caregivers are interested in significantly differs across service categories ( $F = 3.17, p = 0.016$ ) with significantly lower barriers accessing GH than OS ( $p = 0.013$ ).

## Discussion

- Caregivers report that community-based services, such as Grant's House, are family-centered, recreationally focused, and accessible.
- Future work will expand on relationships between caregiver attributes and service use.