

Barriers to Care among US School-age Children with Disabilities

**Carissa Scurlock, BS,
Huiyun Xiang, MD, MPH, PhD**

The Research Institute
at Nationwide Children's Hospital
College of Medicine, Ohio State University





Background

- 5.8 – 18.0% of children in the U.S. **have a disability** (U.S. Census Bureau 2006; Newacheck, Inkelas, and Kim 2004; Limbos et al. 2004)
- Health promotion for children with disabilities is important



Surgeon General's Call (2005):

"People with disabilities must be able to get the care and services they need to help them be healthy. "



Surgeon General's Call (2005):

“For people with disabilities, getting health care can be difficult because of lack of access. ”



Challenges:

- **Mobility**
- **Accessibility**
- **Social barriers**
- **Communication**



Study Objective:

To compare financial barriers to care experienced by families of US school-age children with and without disabilities

Methods:

- Data Source
 - 2005 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
 - Cross-sectional, national household survey providing health information on a nationally representative sample of the noninstitutionalized, civilian population in the U.S.
 - Computer-assisted personal interview with all members of household aged 17 or 18 years or more (based on year of survey)
 - For children, a knowledgeable adult family member provides information



Methods: Study Subjects

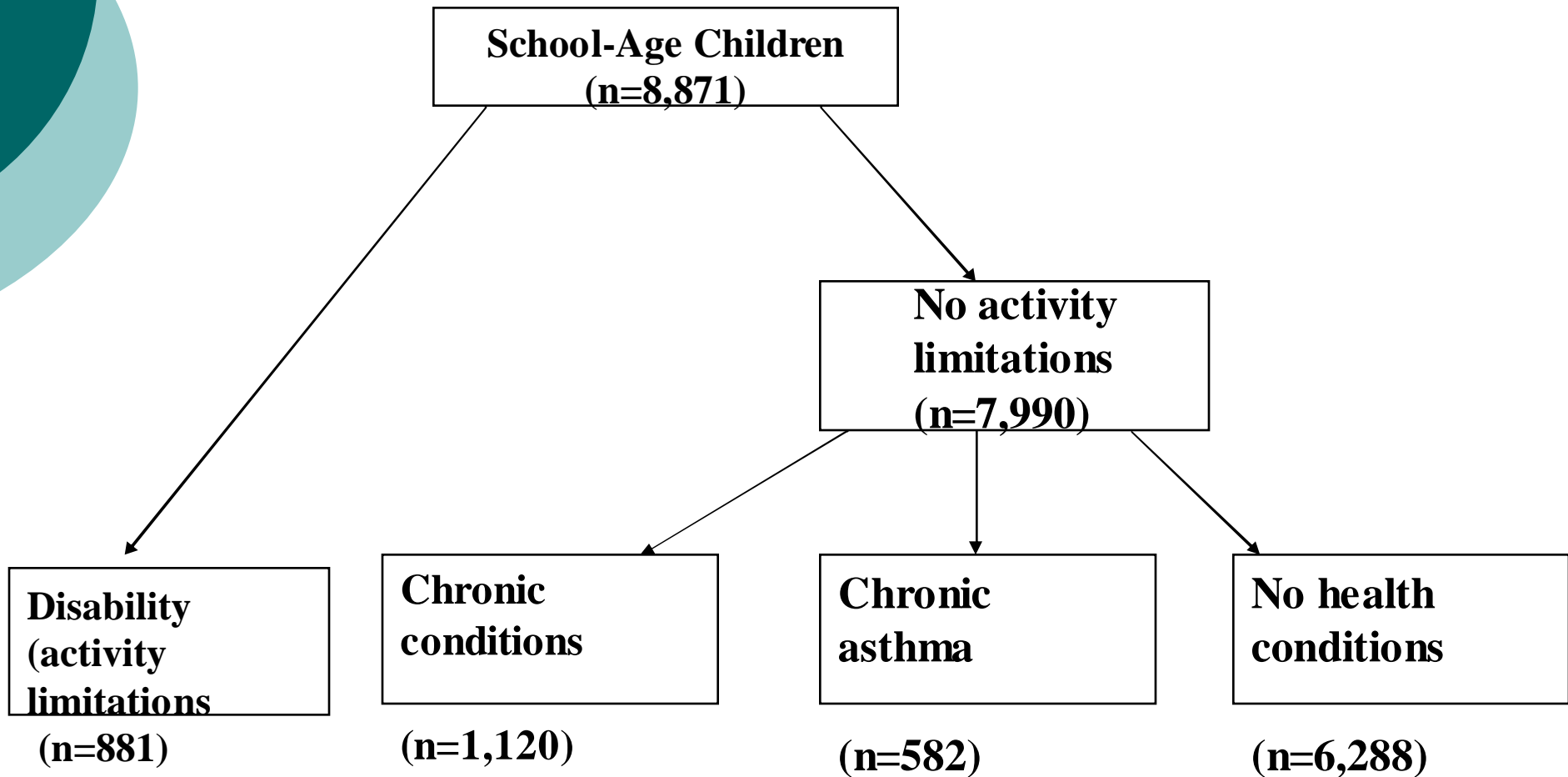
School-age Children aged 5-17 years



Classification of Disabilities:

- Used the concept of disability in the WHO approved *International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF)*
- Respondents asked series of questions to determine if the child in question was “limited in any way”
- Disability was defined as a “yes” response for the variable indicating if a child was limited in any age-appropriate activity

Classification of Disabilities:





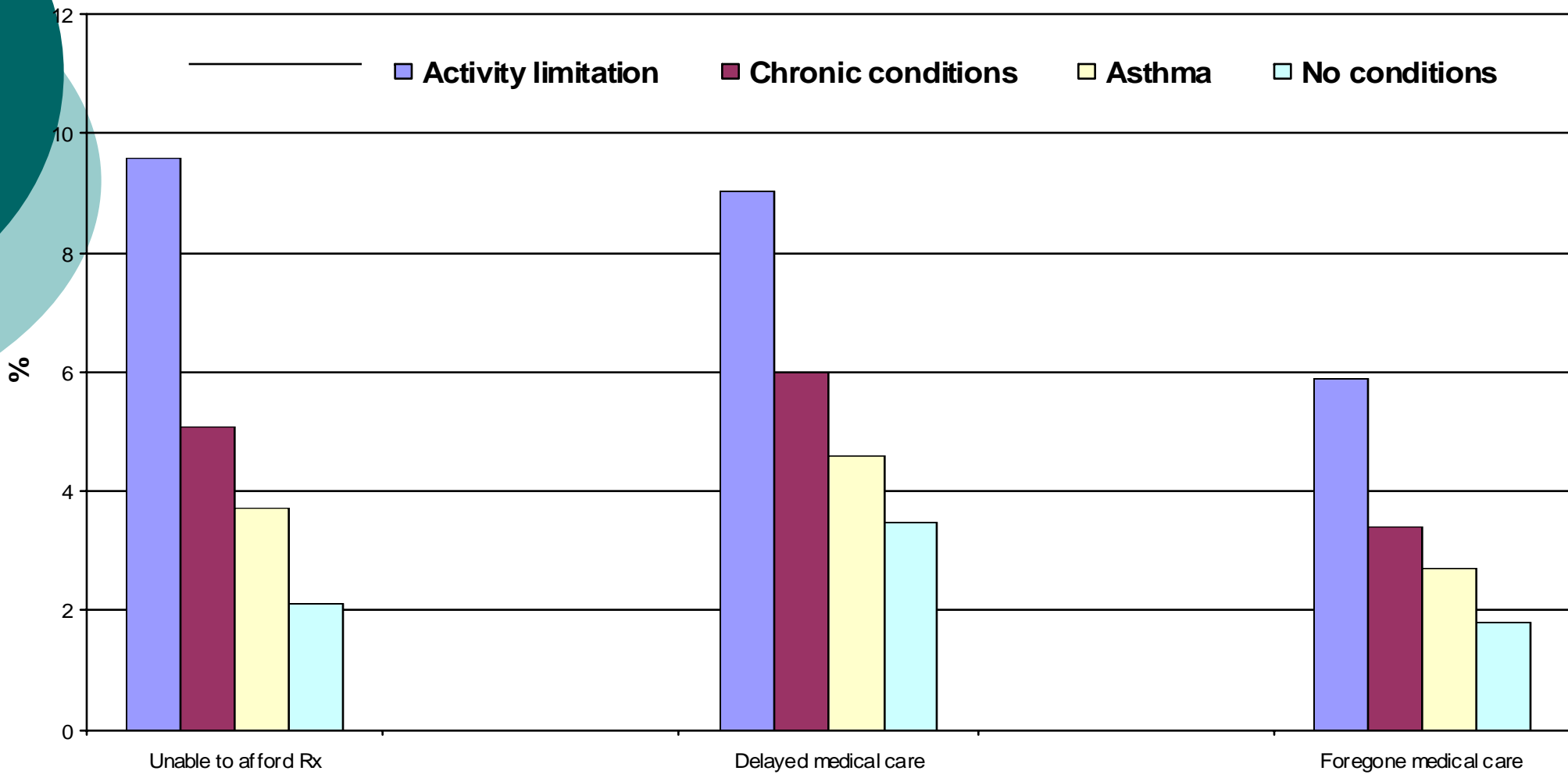
Definition of Financial Barriers to Care:

Financial barriers to care were defined as being unable to afford prescriptions or having delayed/foregone medical care because of cost during the previous 12 months

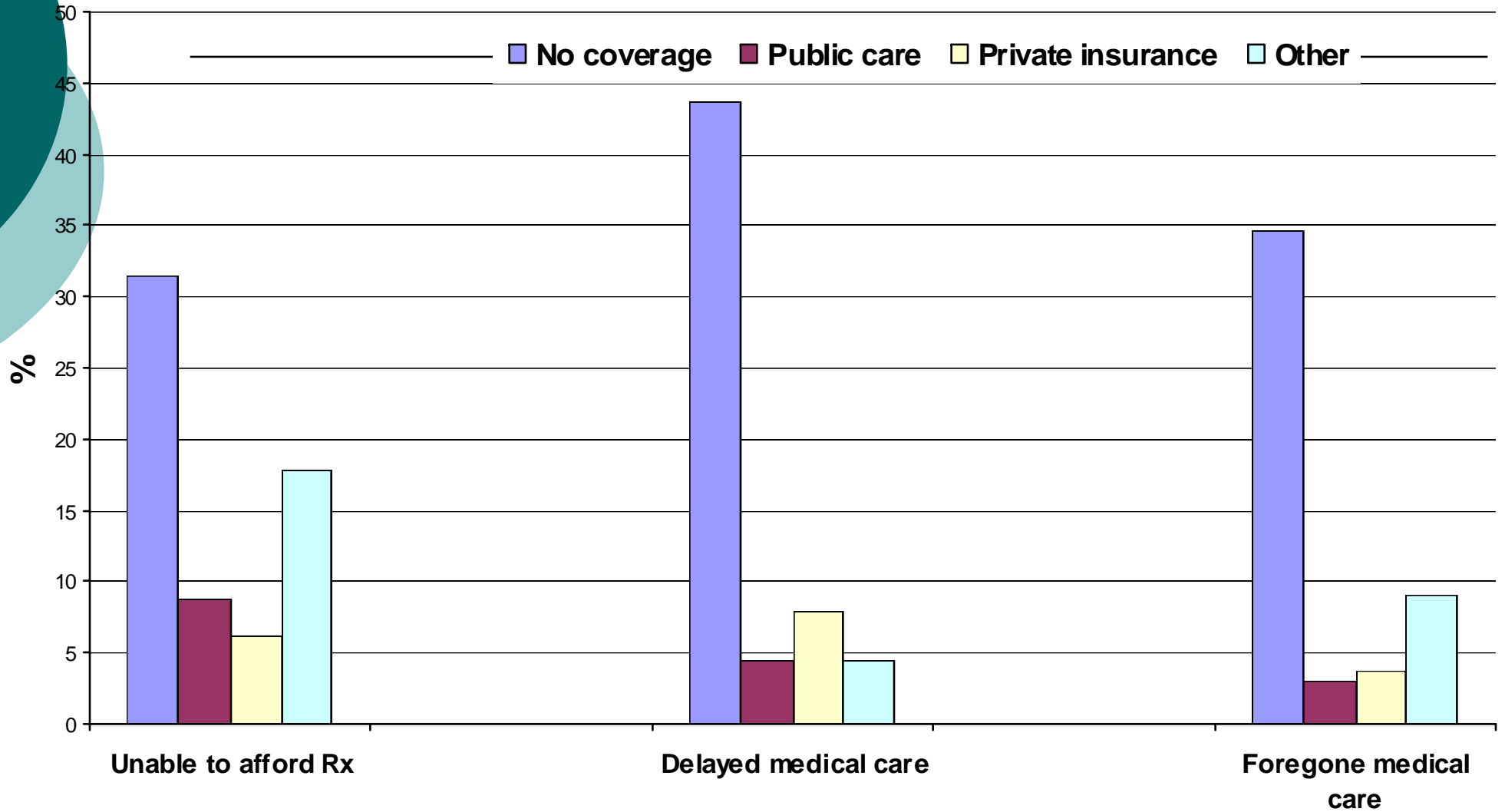


Results

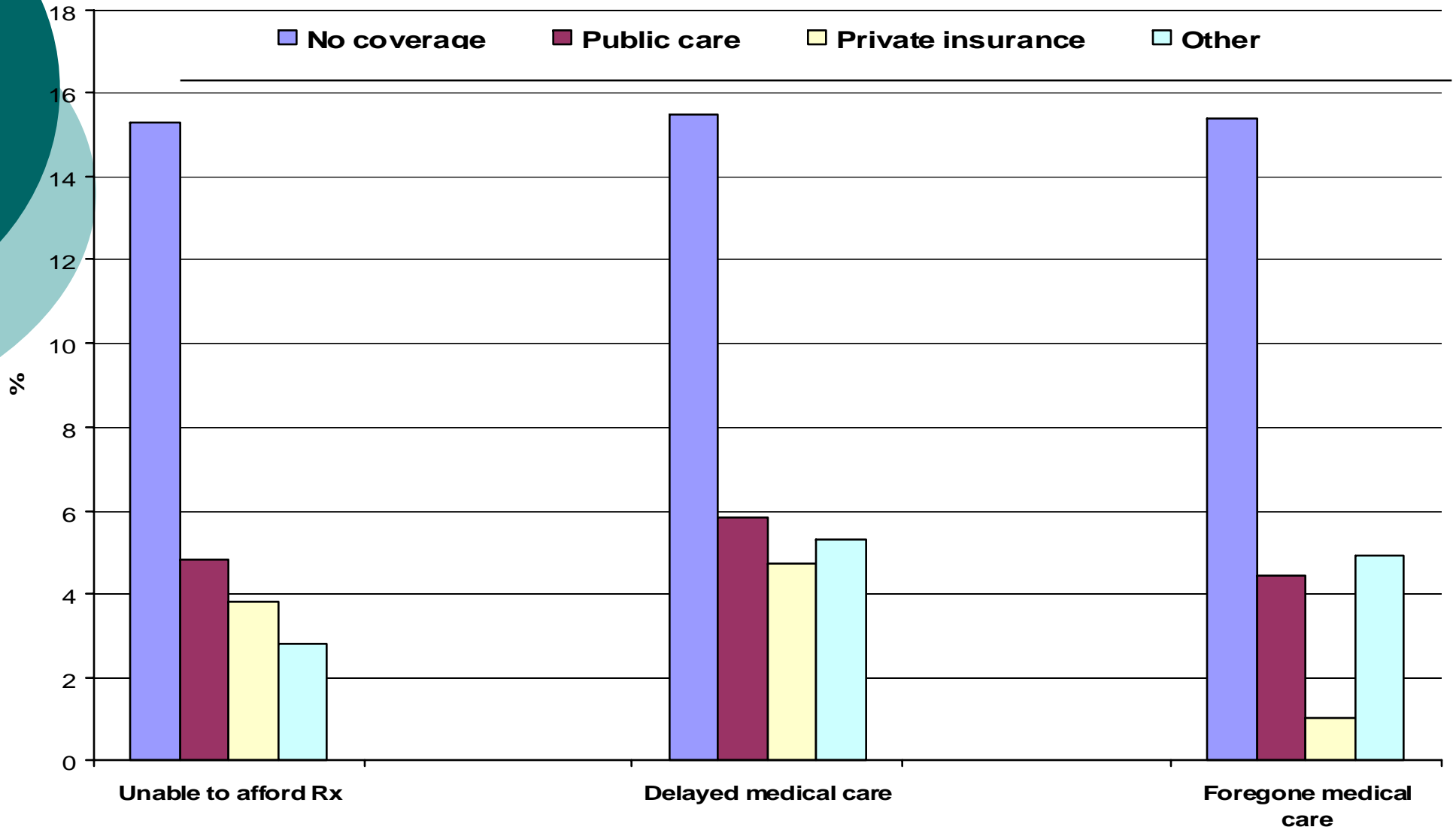
Financial Barriers to Care



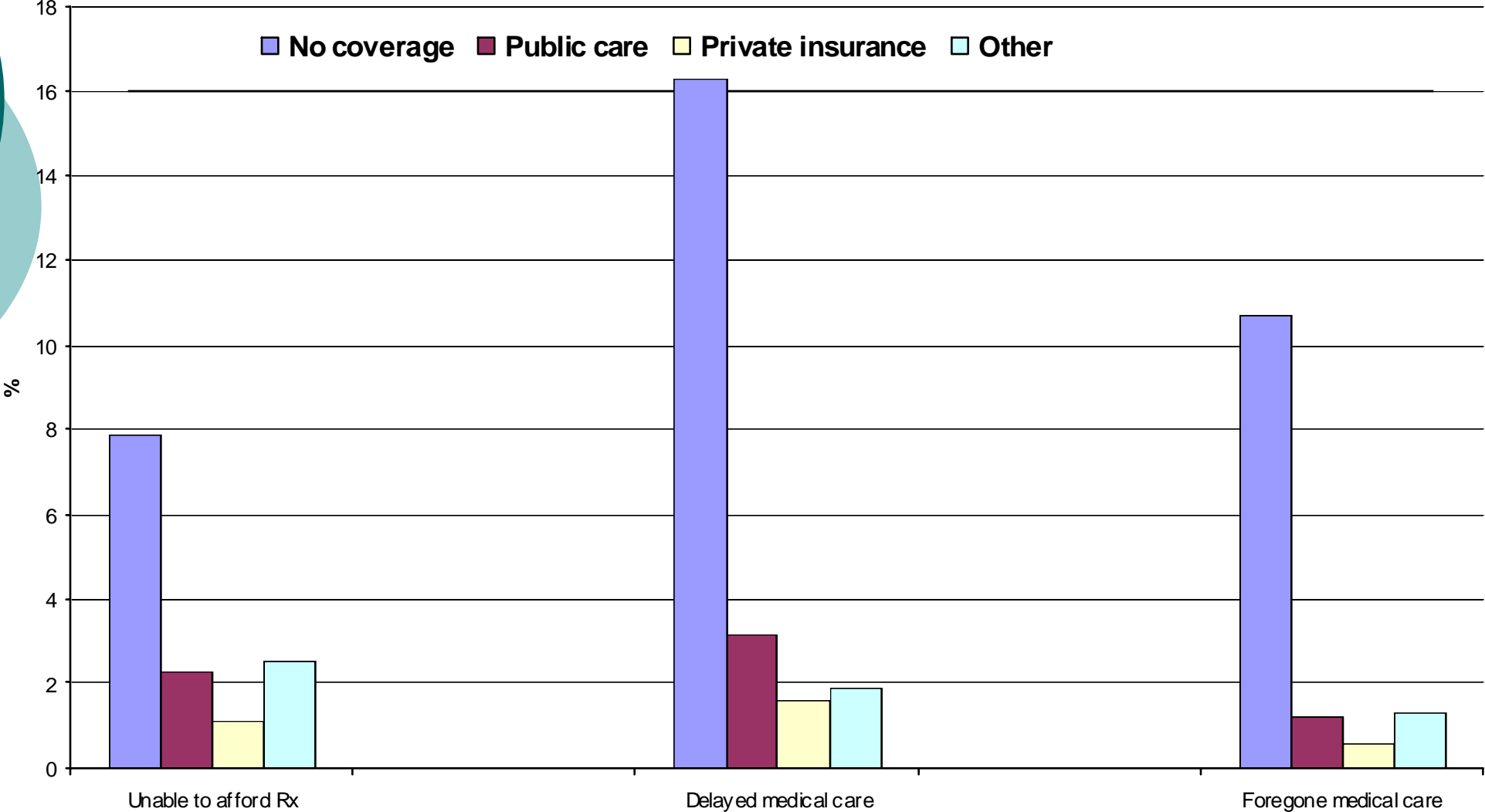
Children With Activity Limitations: Financial Barrier to Care



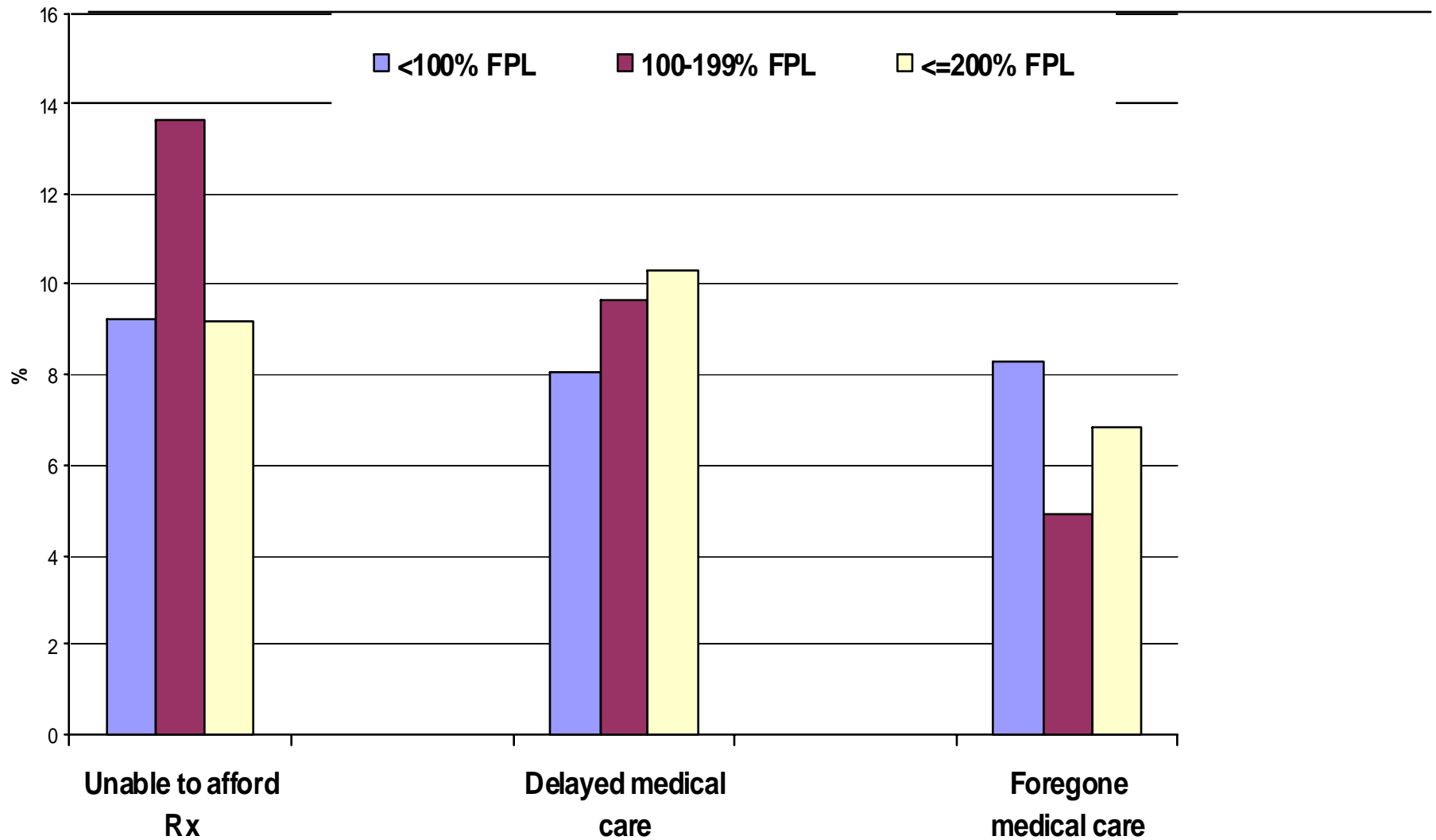
Children With Chronic Conditions: Financial Barriers



Children With no Conditions: Financial Barriers to Care



Children With Activity Limitation: Financial Barrier to Care



Multivariable Logistic Regression

Odds Ratio of Financial Barrier

Activity limitation	3.70 (2.37-5.76)
Chronic condition	1.74 (1.29-2.34)
Asthma	1.70(1.05-2.75)
No conditions	Reference
No coverage	7.40 (8.28-10.37)
Public care	1.25 (0.83-1.87)
Private insurance	Reference
Other	1.55 (0.82-2.90)



Conclusions:

- Children with activity limitations are more likely to have financial barriers to care compared to other children
- Disability and chronic conditions and no insurance coverage are two most important factors in financial barriers to care

Questions?

Huiyun Xiang, MD, MPH, PhD

Assistant Professor

Center for Injury Research and Policy

The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital

College of Medicine and Public Health

The Ohio State University

huiyun.xiang@nationwidechildrens.org

Phone: 614-722-2400