

The Child Health Integrated Response Pathway (CHIRP) and Implementing An Objective Psychometric Tool (QbCheck) To Improve ADHD Pathway Efficiency in the Bay of Plenty, New Zealand

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OBJECTIVE

The CHIRP model (combining paediatrics, child development services and child and adolescent mental health) came into effect in 2022, creating a single point of entry and information gathering for children with developmental difficulties. Referrals increased from 847 in January 2022 to 1284 in Jan 2023.

QbCheck was registered in New Zealand and implemented in our service from July 2023. As ADHD referrals surge, we've incorporated QbCheck as an objective tool to measure ADHD symptoms and help streamline our ADHD assessment process.

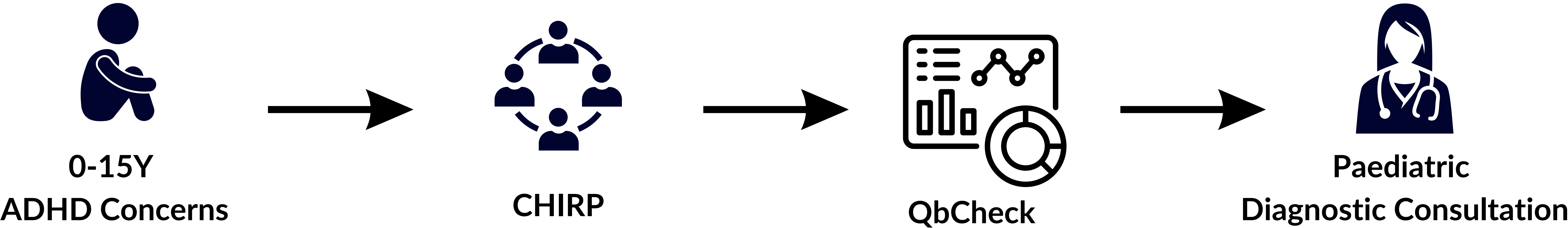
METHODOLOGY

Previously, our ADHD assessments lacked objective evidence, relying heavily on subjective reports from teachers and parents that may be incomplete (6-8%), invalid (19-22%) or discrepant (43-50%).

We have evaluated our revised ADHD pathway for 50 children aged 0-16 years. Measures include:

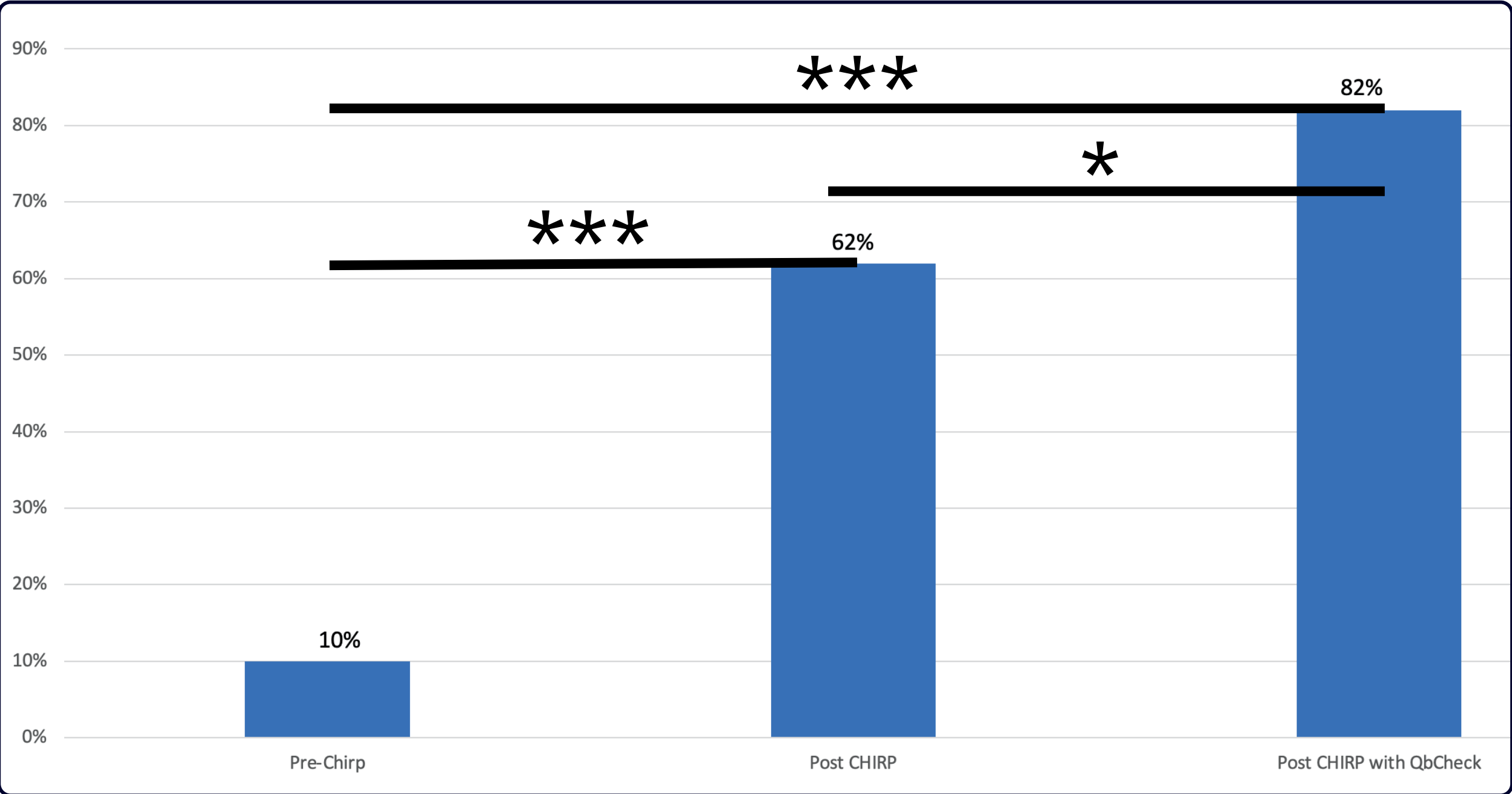
- Time to diagnosis.
- Specialist clinic appointments.
- Equity (representation of Maori patients).

NEW PATHWAY

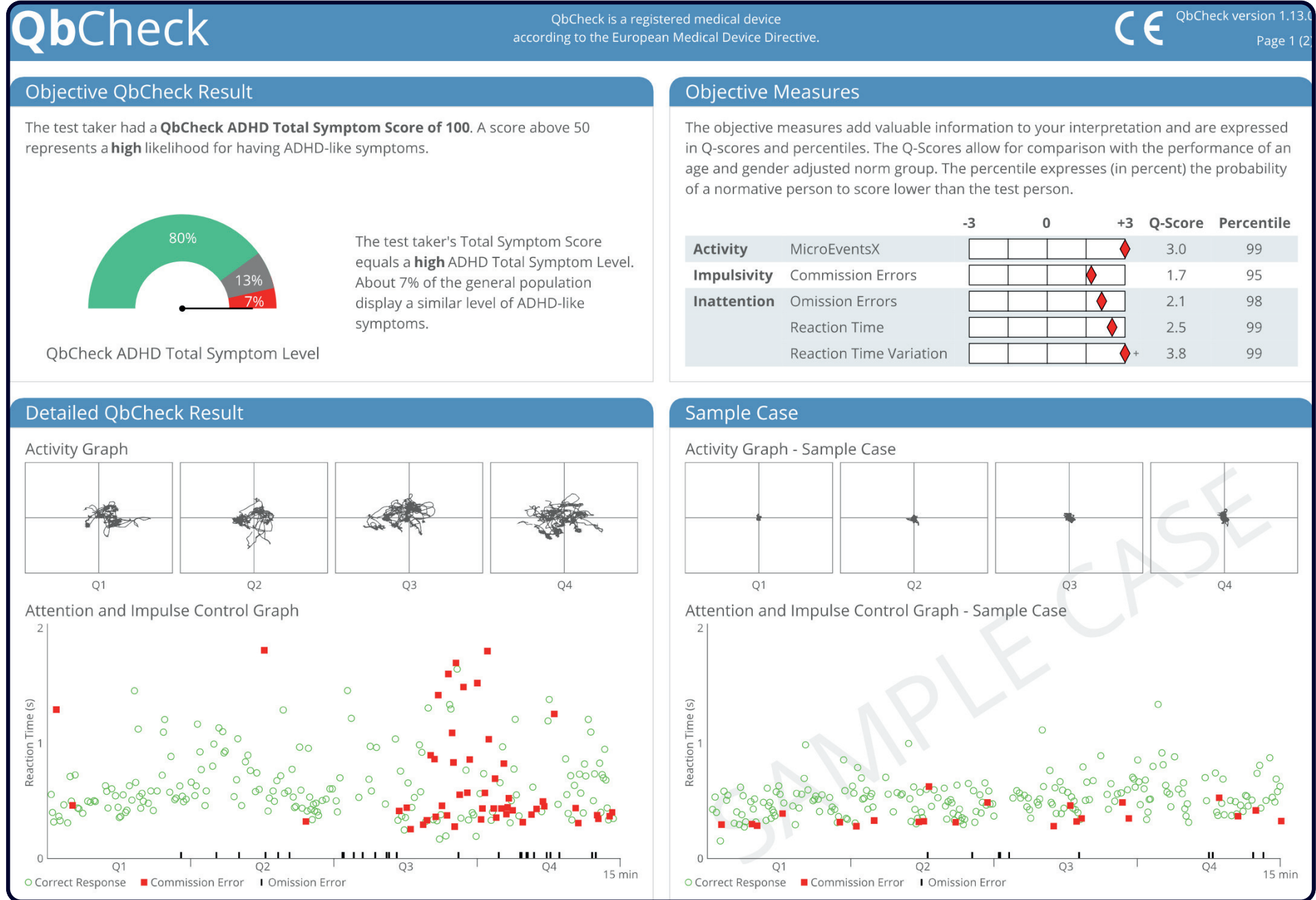


RESULTS

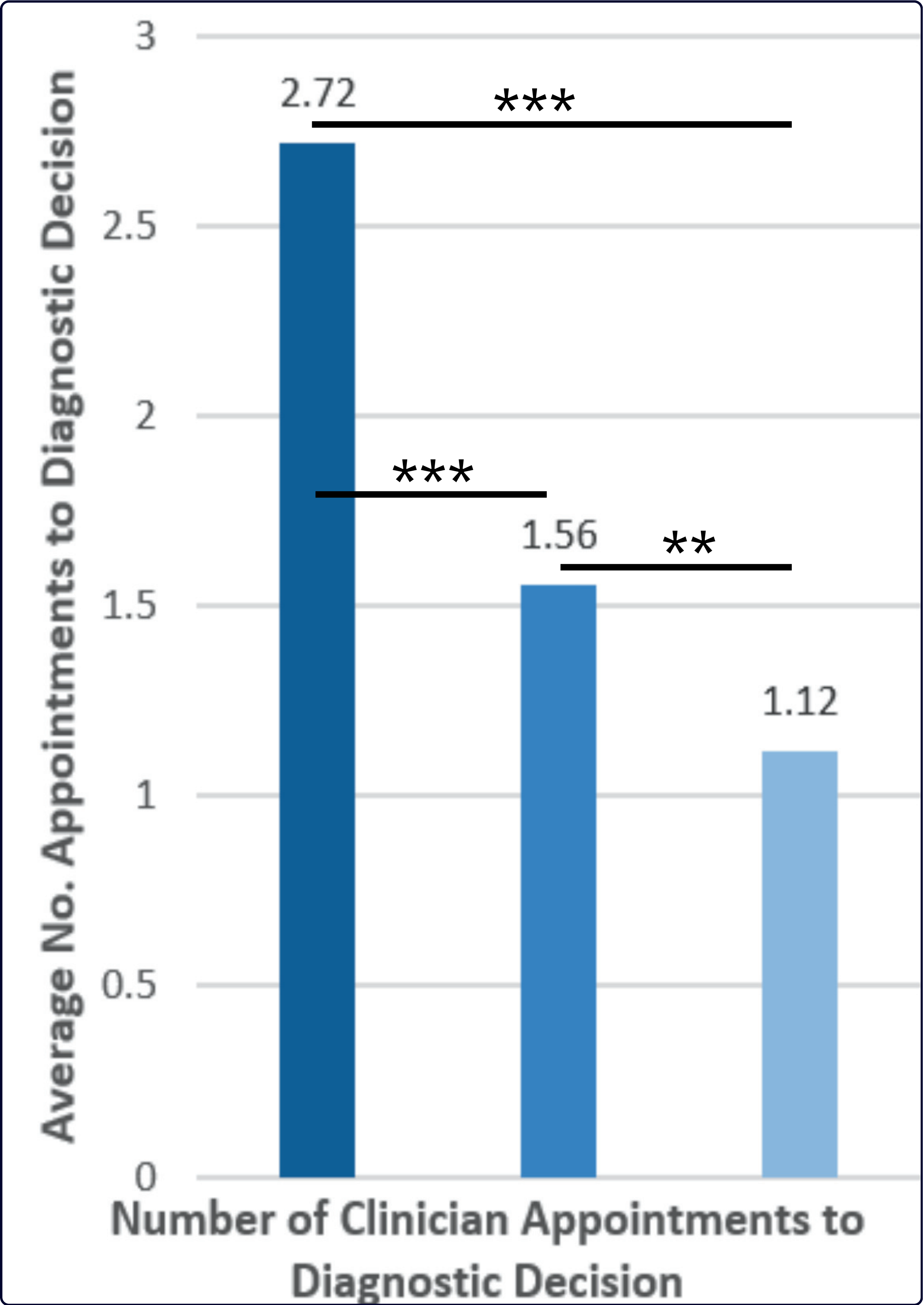
Increased Incidence of Decision Made on First Specialist Appointment



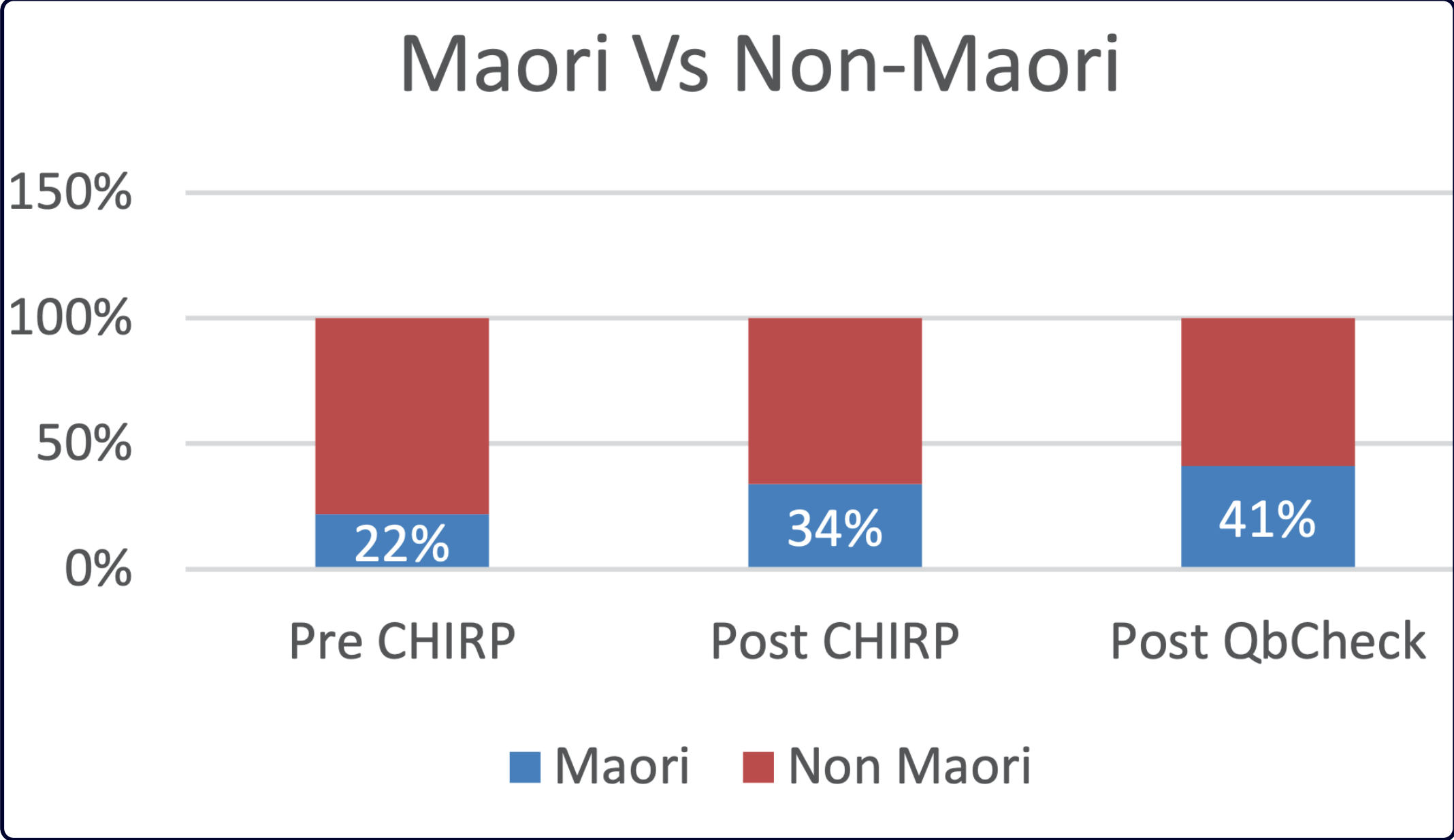
Example of QbCheck Analysis (pre-medication)



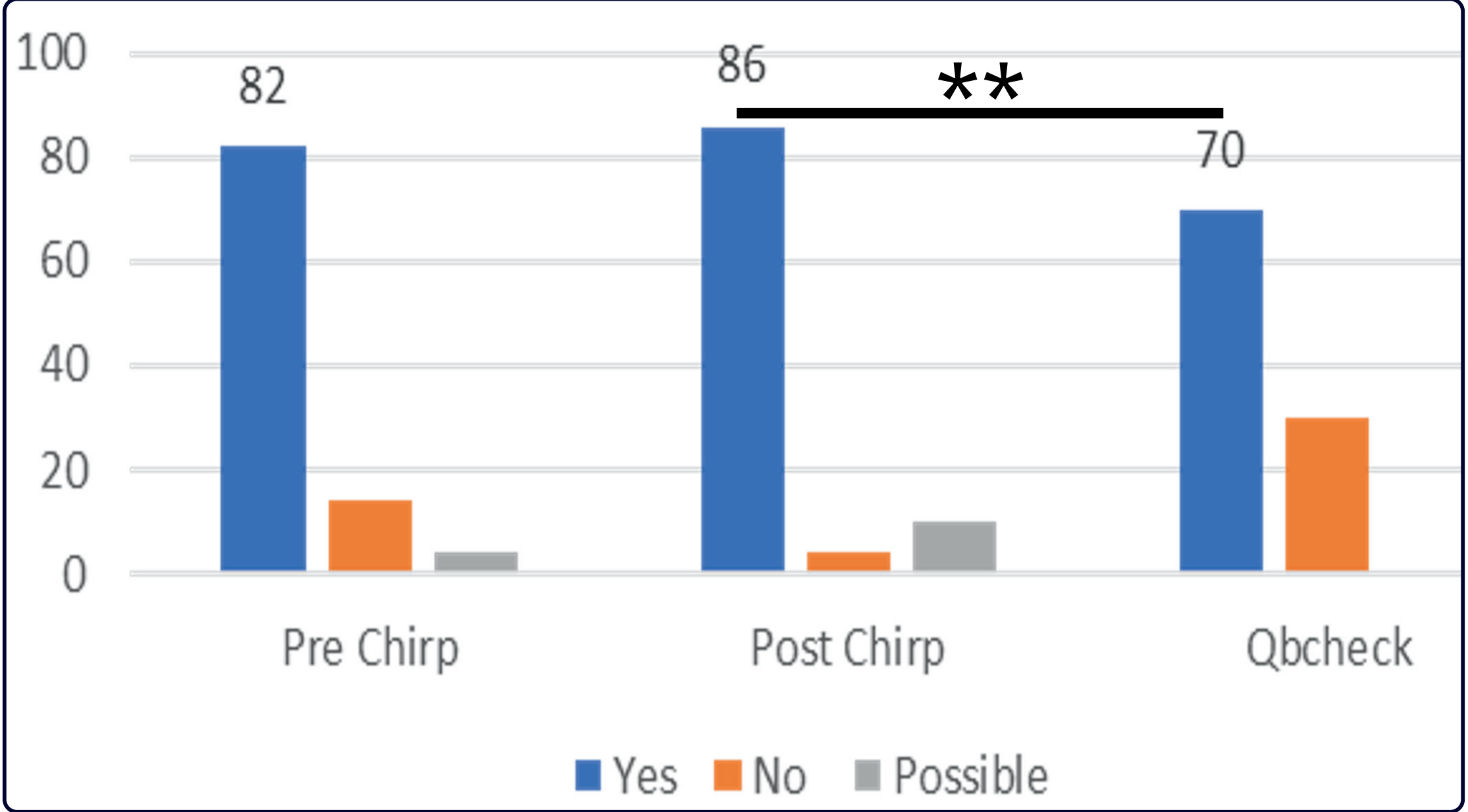
Reduced Specialist Clinic Appointments to Reach Diagnostic Conclusion



Increased Equity of Access



Reduced ADHD Diagnosis Rates



Statistics: Chi Square and Kruskal-Wallis test with pairwise comparisons: *= $p < 0.05$, **= $p < 0.01$, ***= $p < 0.001$

CONCLUSION

Incorporating CHIRP and QbCheck into our ADHD assessments has significantly improved our equity of access and efficiency with reduced waiting times and appointment numbers for families.

The addition of QbCheck has also significantly reduced our diagnostic rates for ADHD which may suggest previous misdiagnosis of patients.

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand

