

Background

- \succ Neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDD) affect the brain's development and function.
- \succ Youth with NDD require specialized services and supports, particularly during the transition from pediatric to adult services.
- > The Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) is a provincial crown corporation that funds supports and services to adults with developmental disabilities.
- > However, there is a lack of comprehensive information on the utilization and effectiveness of these services.

Research Question

What are the perspectives of service providers regarding access to services for youth with neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDD), and how can these perspectives be validated and enriched through the input of individuals with lived experiences of NDD?

Methods

A qualitative study was conducted. Ethics approval was granted by the University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (REB21-1597).

- \succ 5 semi-structured interviews with service providers and 1 interview with a patient partner.
- > Participants were recruited through purposeful sampling and snowball sampling.
- > Inclusion criteria: Service providers have worked or currently working with different ministries providing services and support for youth with NDD and their families in British Columbia. Patient partner was a parent of a youth with NDD in British Columbia.
- > Interviews followed informed consent and were recorded and transcribed.
- \succ Using thematic analysis, data were analyzed inductively. The research team used Nvivo12 to store and code the interviews.
- \succ Information from the service providers was presented to the patient partner for their perspectives.

THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY UNIVERSITY OF Aligning Service Provider Perspectives in Barriers and Facilitators in Services with Lived **Experience for Youth with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities During Transition**

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Key Takeaways

Barriers in Accessing Services

Youth with NDD often face significant hurdles in accessing services that cater to their unique needs.

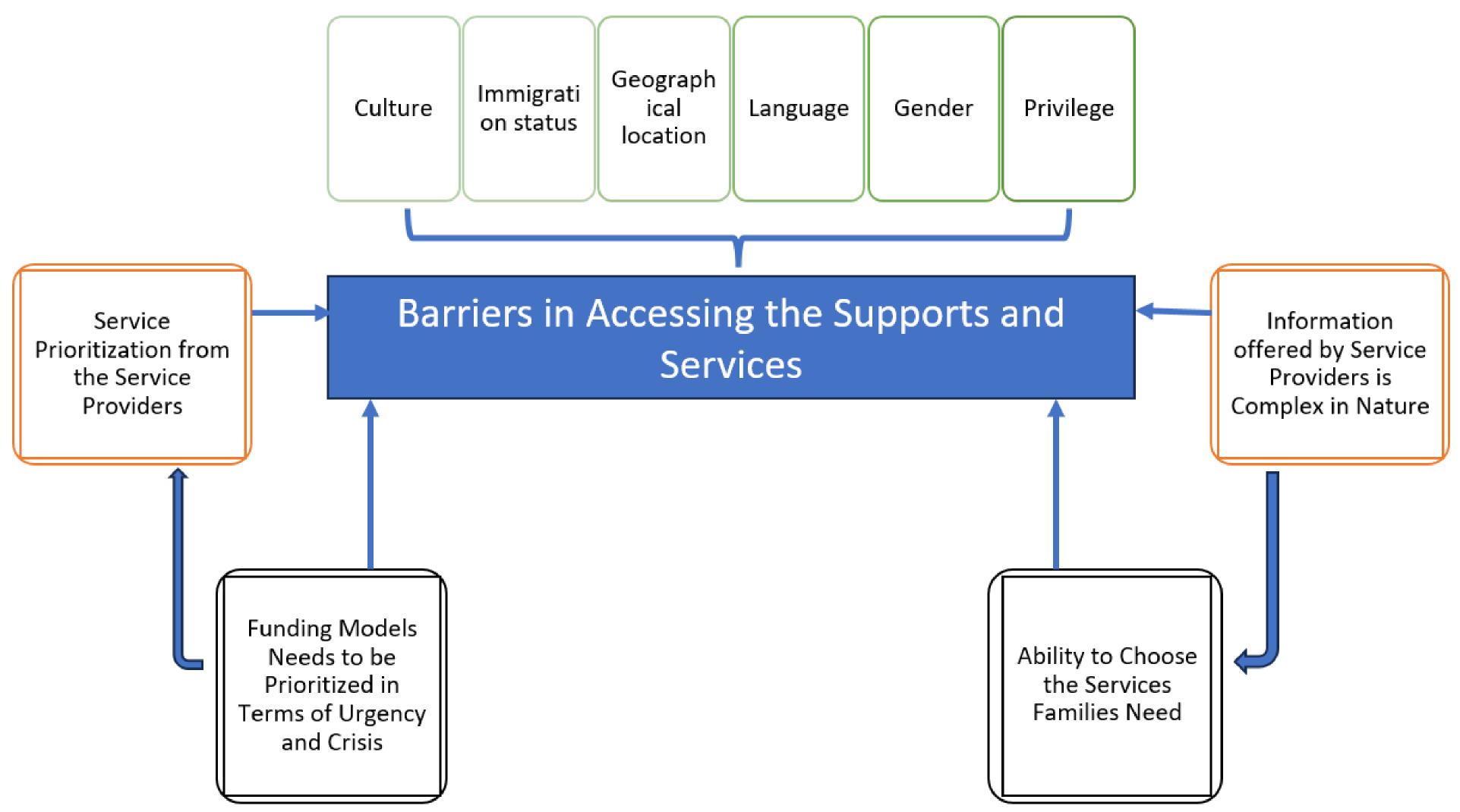
- There is a need of getting away from the
- Limited funding holds back people from

Equitable Access

with NDD, especially those who face additional challenges such as poverty, low socioeconomic status, or immigrant status is a vital step towards building an inclusive society.

- Families frequently find themselves in a
- Services are easier to navigate in some

Figure 1: Key themes, sub-themes and quotes from service providers and patient partner.



lot of them are just very bewildered and confused." "So, for wealthy people, CLBC is just great. But for poor people, you're going to end up on the street now, or in shelters [...]"

Quotes from Service Providers

"I hear the questions that they (families) have, and a

Quotes from Service Providers

People with intellectual disabilities who are born into affluent privileged families have by far a better situation, receive better services, have better housing [...]"

"The people who are already in a marginalized situation by culture, race, intellectual... All of those things, it's far less likely that they are going to be able o access those services that are needed for them. So, there's no doubt in my mind that people who come from privileged affluent families do better."

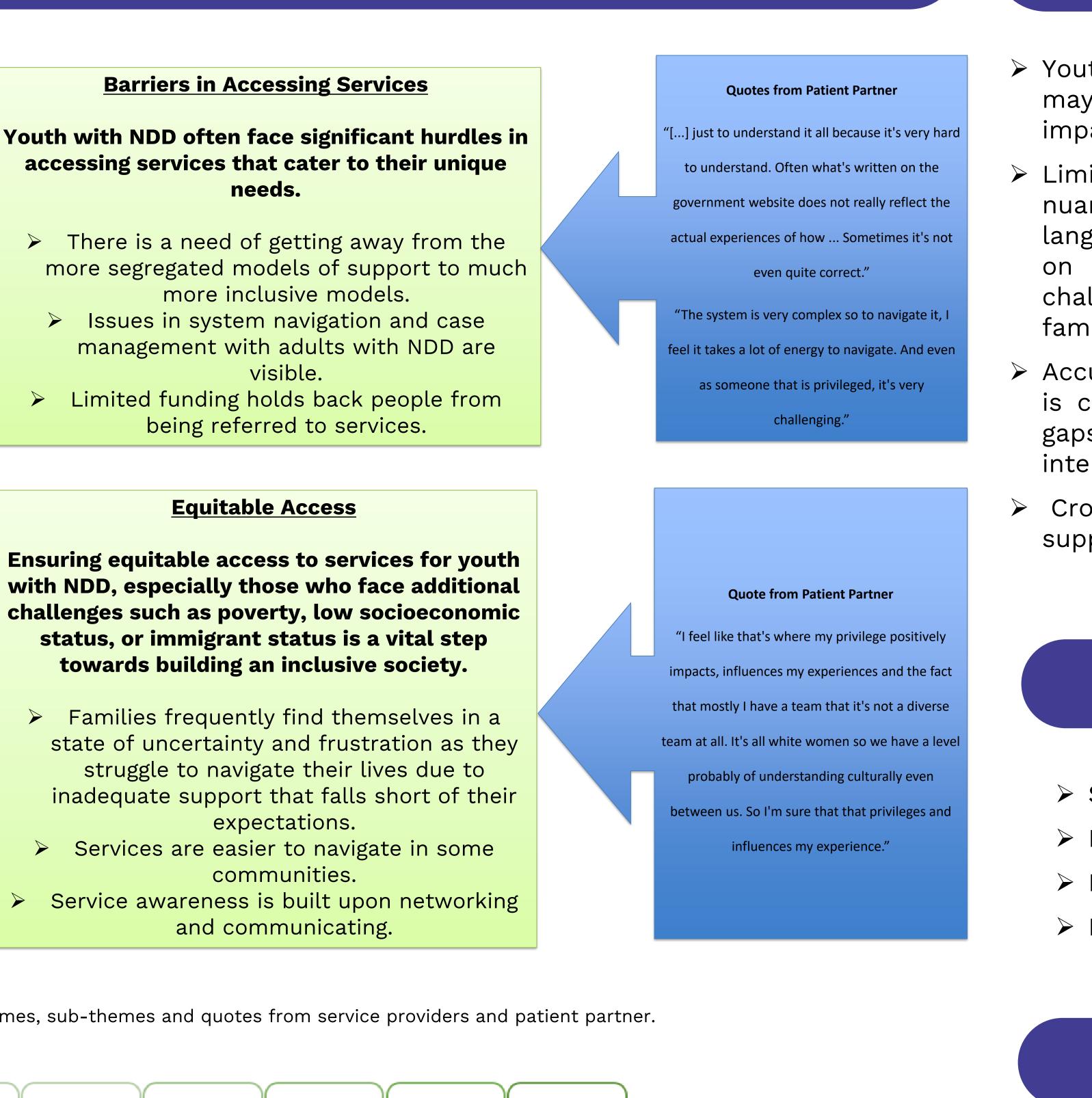


Figure 2: Key areas that were highlighted in the interviews as barriers and facilitators to service access for youth with NDD.

Discussion

> Youth with NDD from disadvantaged backgrounds may face delays in receiving appropriate support, impacting their overall development and well-being.

 \succ Limited awareness of available resources, cultural influencing help-seeking behaviour, nuances language barriers and potential discrimination based immigrant status further compound the challenges faced by these individuals and their families.

 \blacktriangleright Accurate and up-to-date data on these populations is crucial for informing policy decisions, identifying gaps in services, and implementing targeted interventions to address specific challenges.

> Cross-ministry collaboration is needed to better support the families with NDD.

Limitations

> Small sample size.

Preliminary data.

Potential biases.

> Limited geographical scope.

Future Directions

Conducting larger-scale studies. Incorporating decision-makers' perspectives. Mixed-methods approach.

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