

# How were children born with a cleft affected by the COVID lockdown?



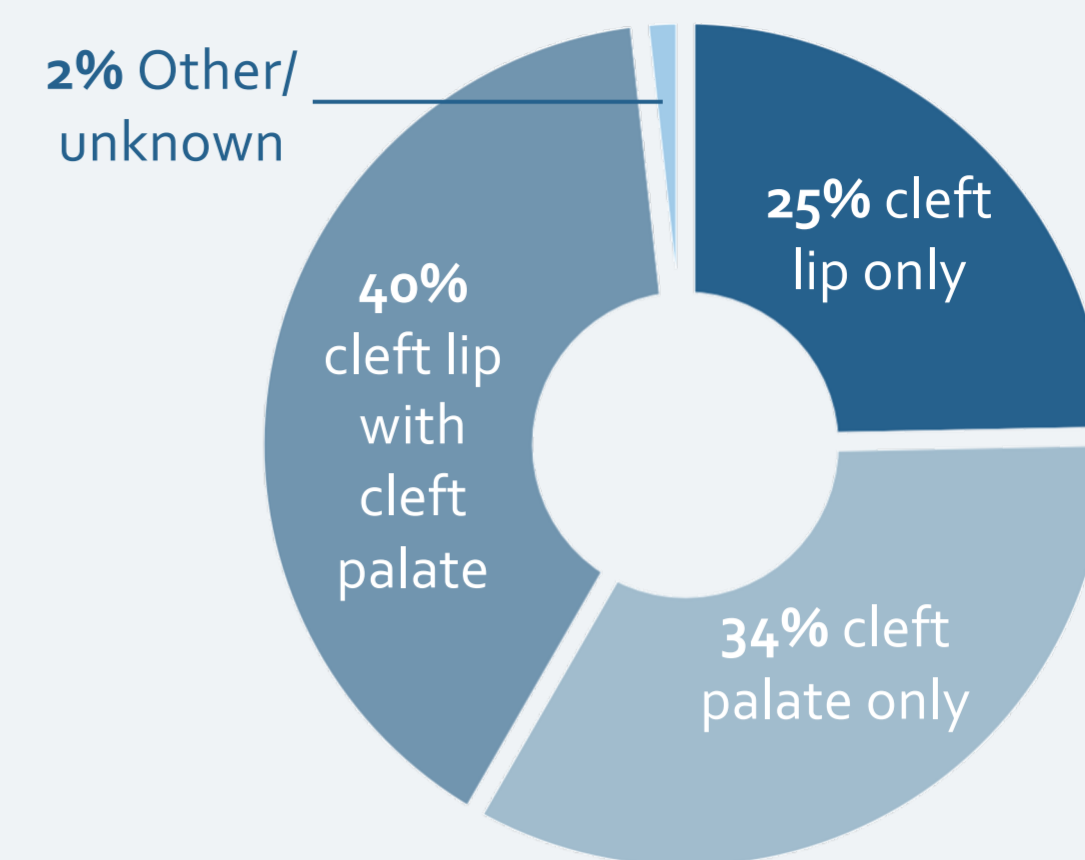
**The Cleft Collective**  
Closing the Gap in Cleft Research  
A Scar Free Foundation Initiative

**1273** parents or caregivers of **1041** children have sent back our questionnaire so far...

The children range from babies to 15 years old, but most were around age 4 - 5



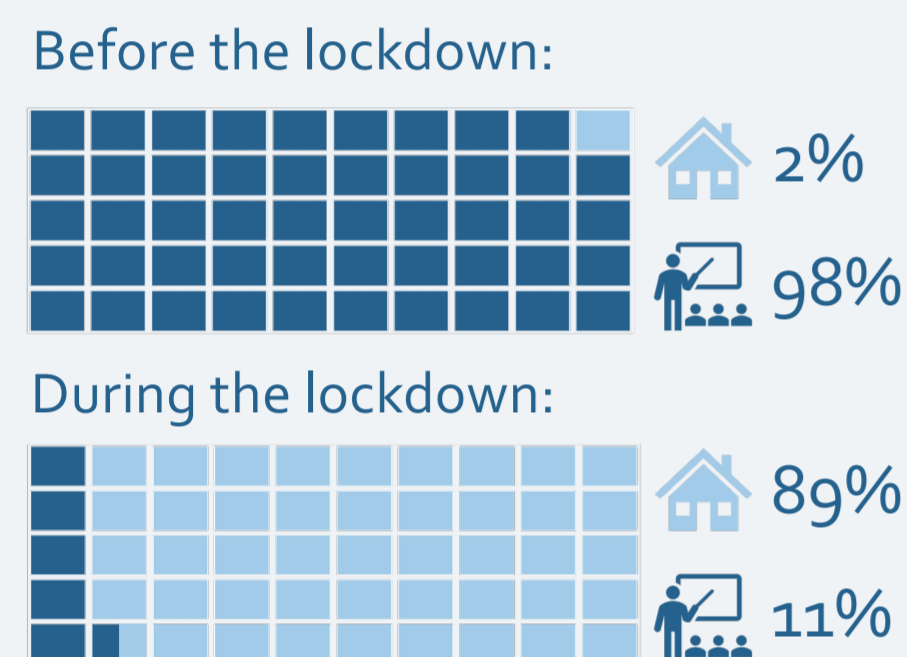
All the children in our questionnaire were born with some form of cleft lip and/or cleft palate



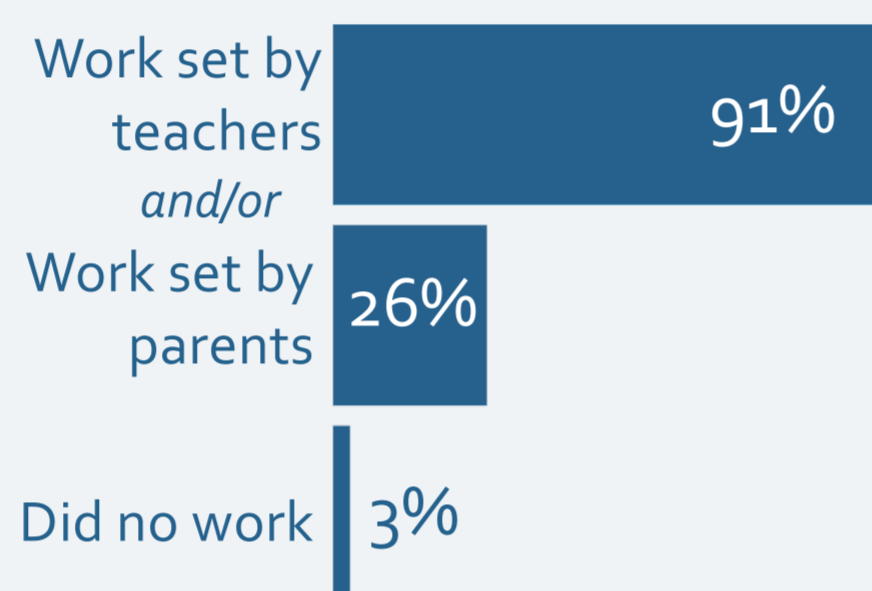
## Education

**428** children were school age. For lots of reasons, some children born with a cleft sometimes struggle at school and might find it particularly difficult to work remotely

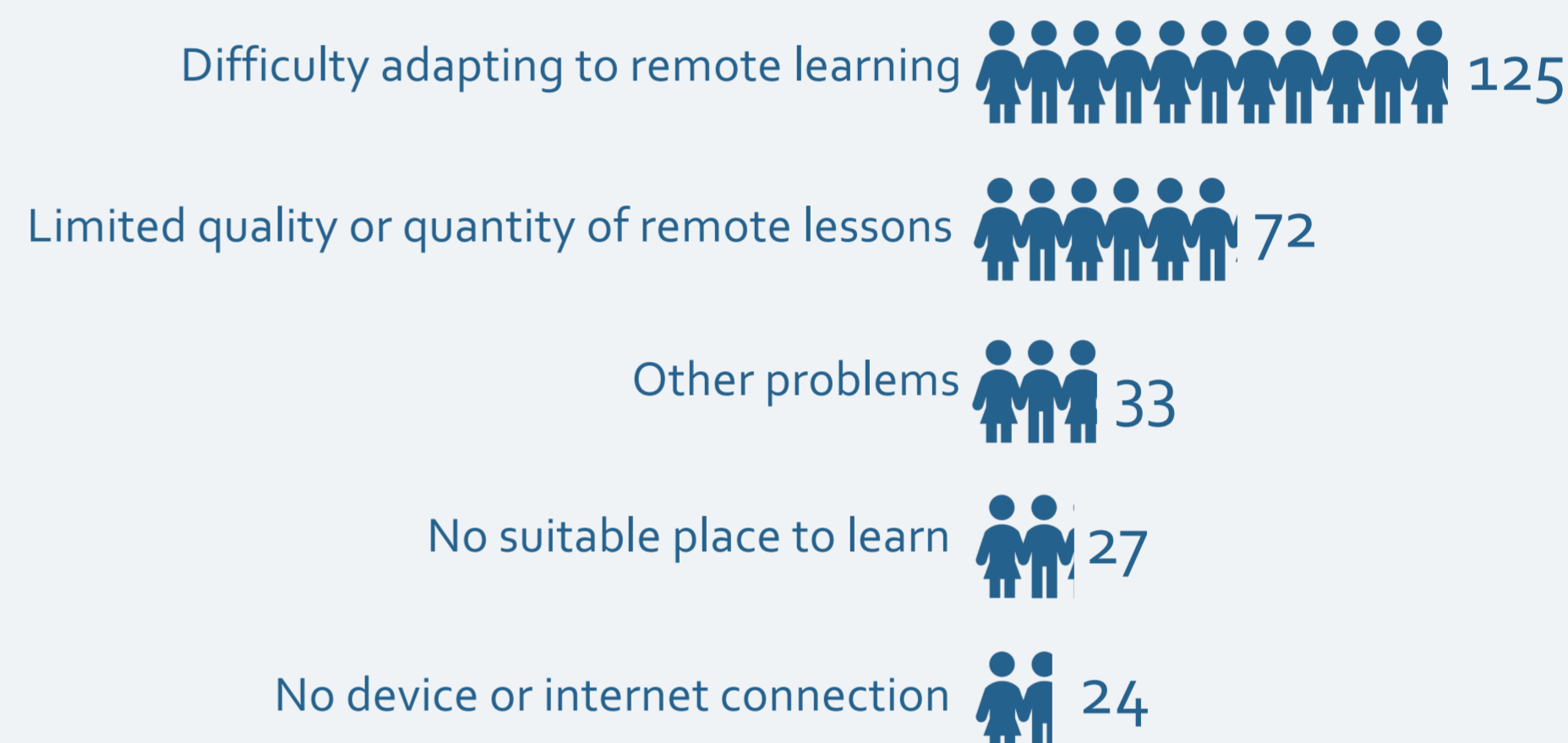
**89%** of children were homeschooled during the lockdown



Most homeschooled children did at least some work set by their teachers

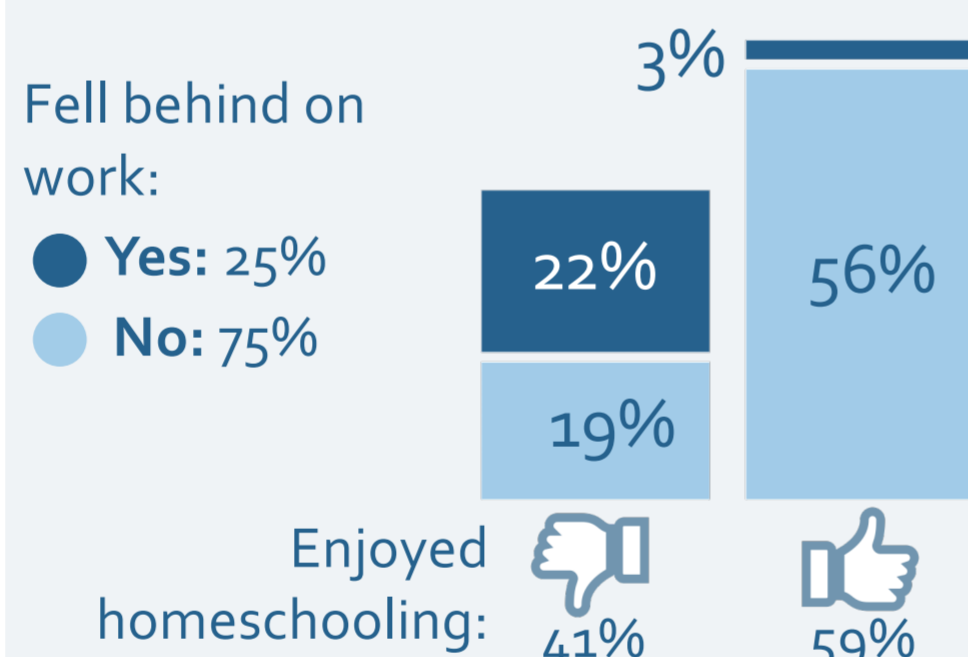


Of the 376 children who were homeschooled, 47% experienced no problems, but most homeschooled children experienced at least one difficulty



Only **12%** of homeschooled children participated in live online lessons, the remaining **88%** used online or paper learning resources

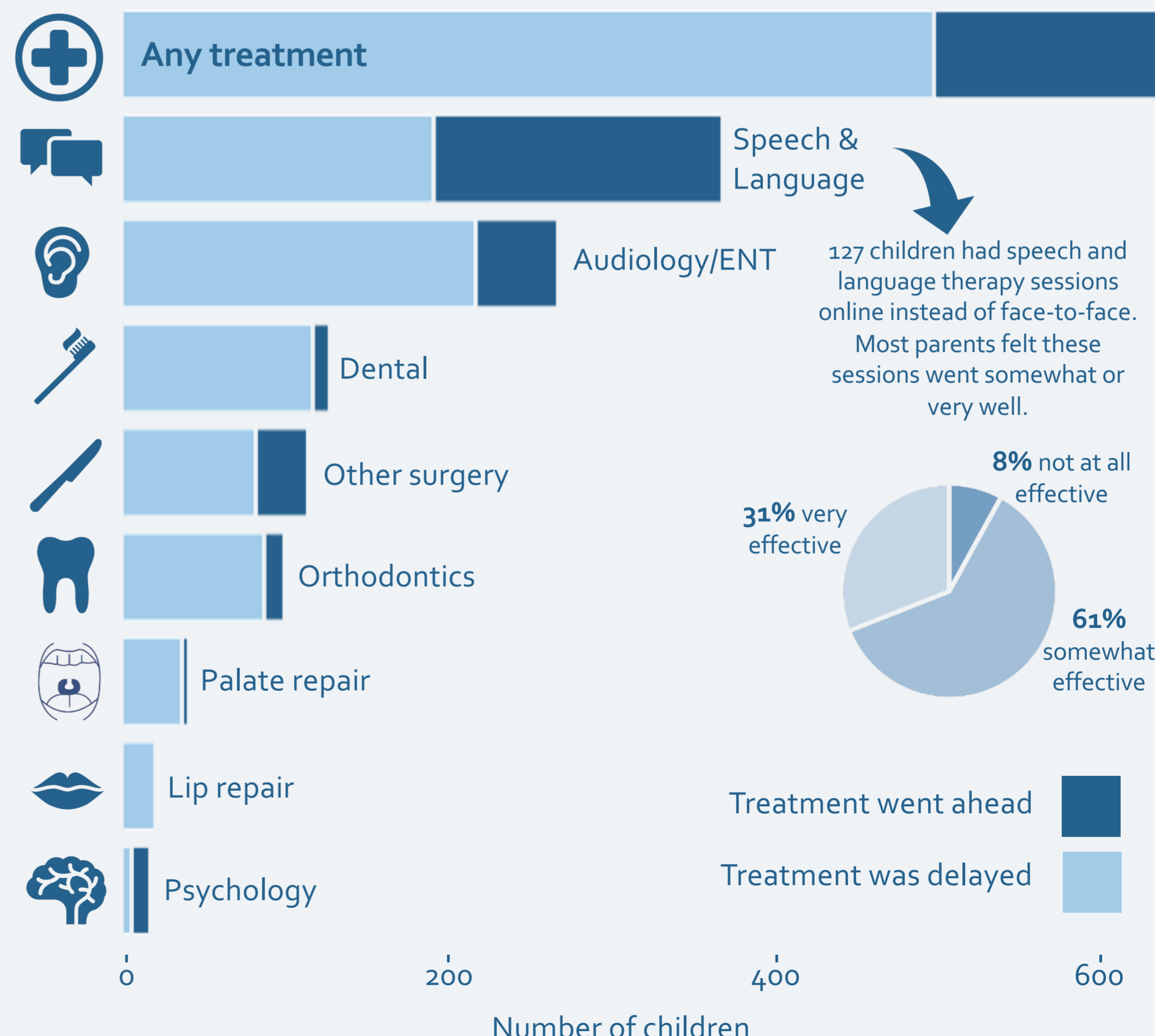
Over 40% of children did not enjoy homeschooling, and these children were more likely to fall behind on work



## Healthcare

Children born with a cleft have complex health needs and undergo vital treatment from multiple disciplines

**78%** of all children with ongoing/planned treatments had their treatments delayed due to the COVID situation



## Emotions

Children born with a cleft can sometimes suffer with low self-esteem and negative emotions

Most children experienced negative emotions to some degree, but moods tended to improve slightly between early lockdown and later when lockdown started to ease

