

Parental Perception of Fall and Fall Precaution

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Introduction

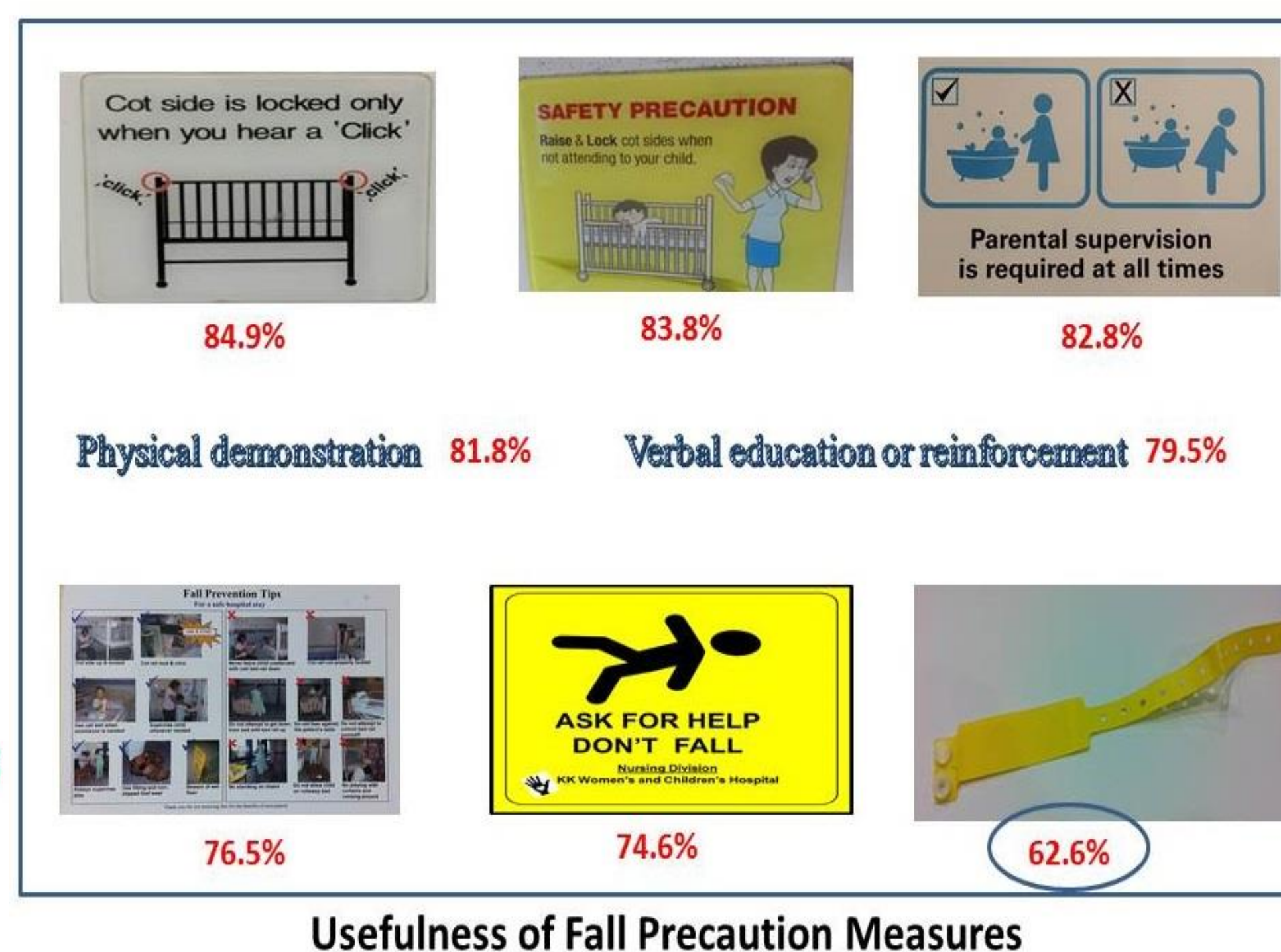
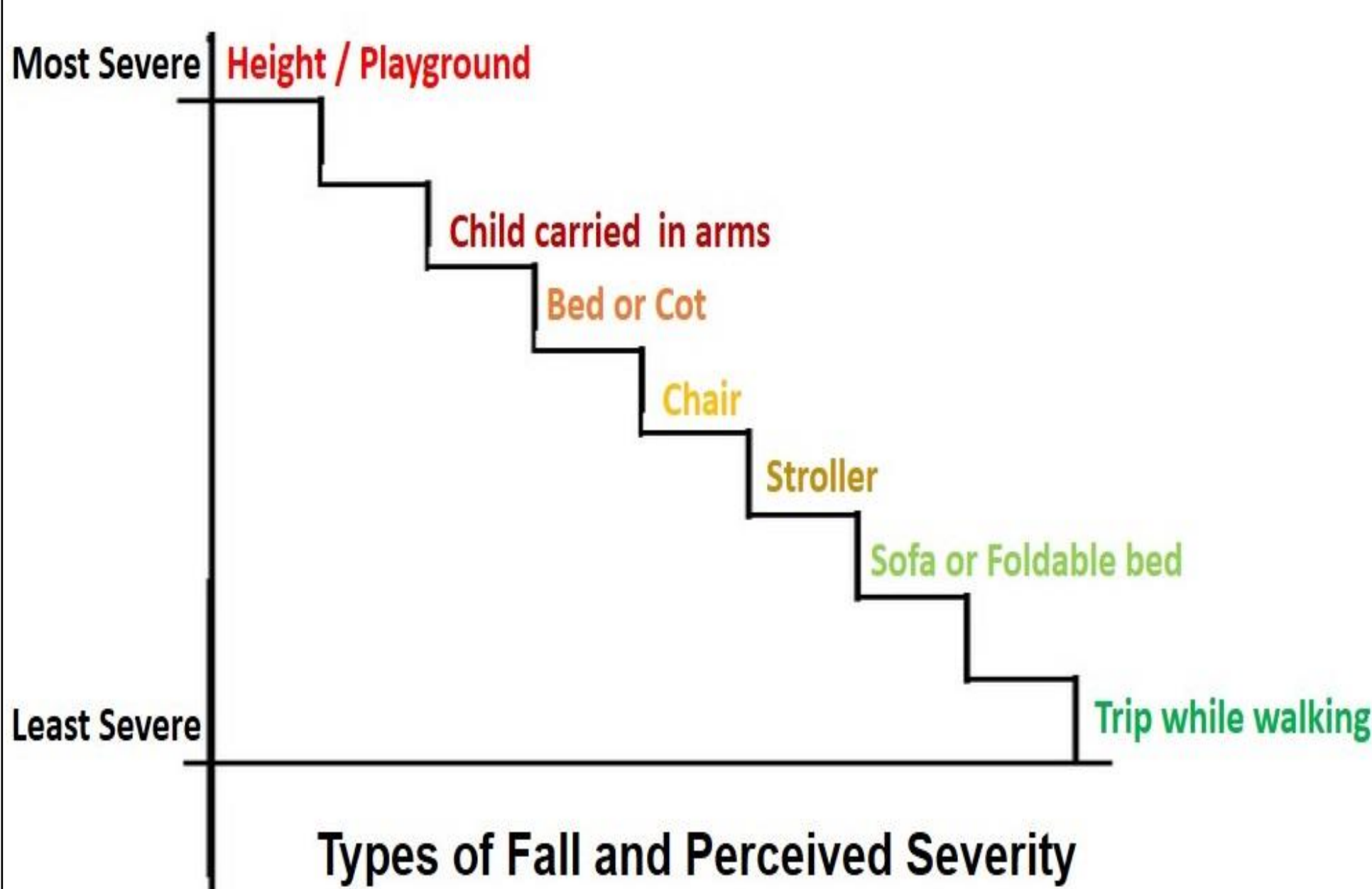
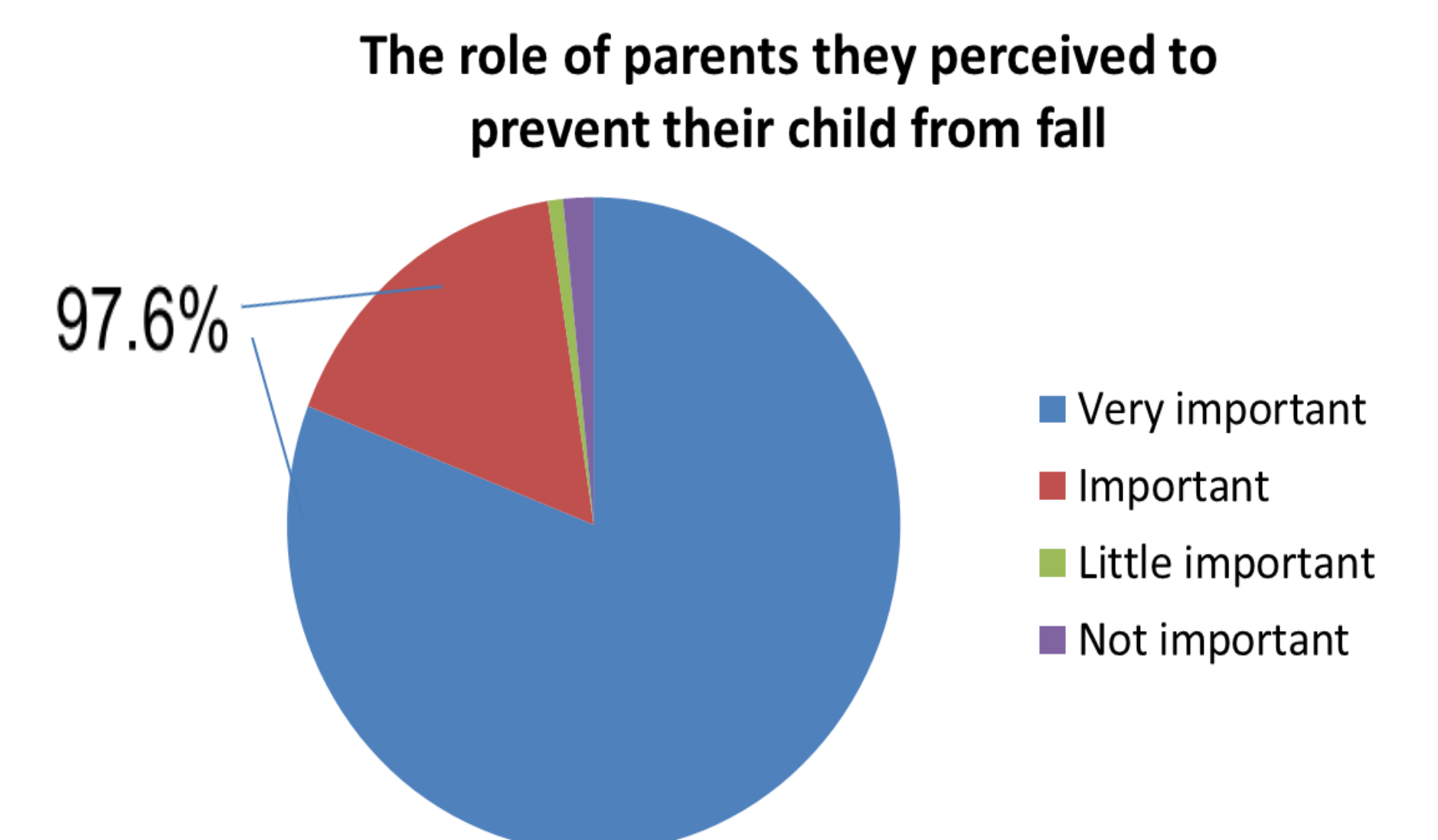
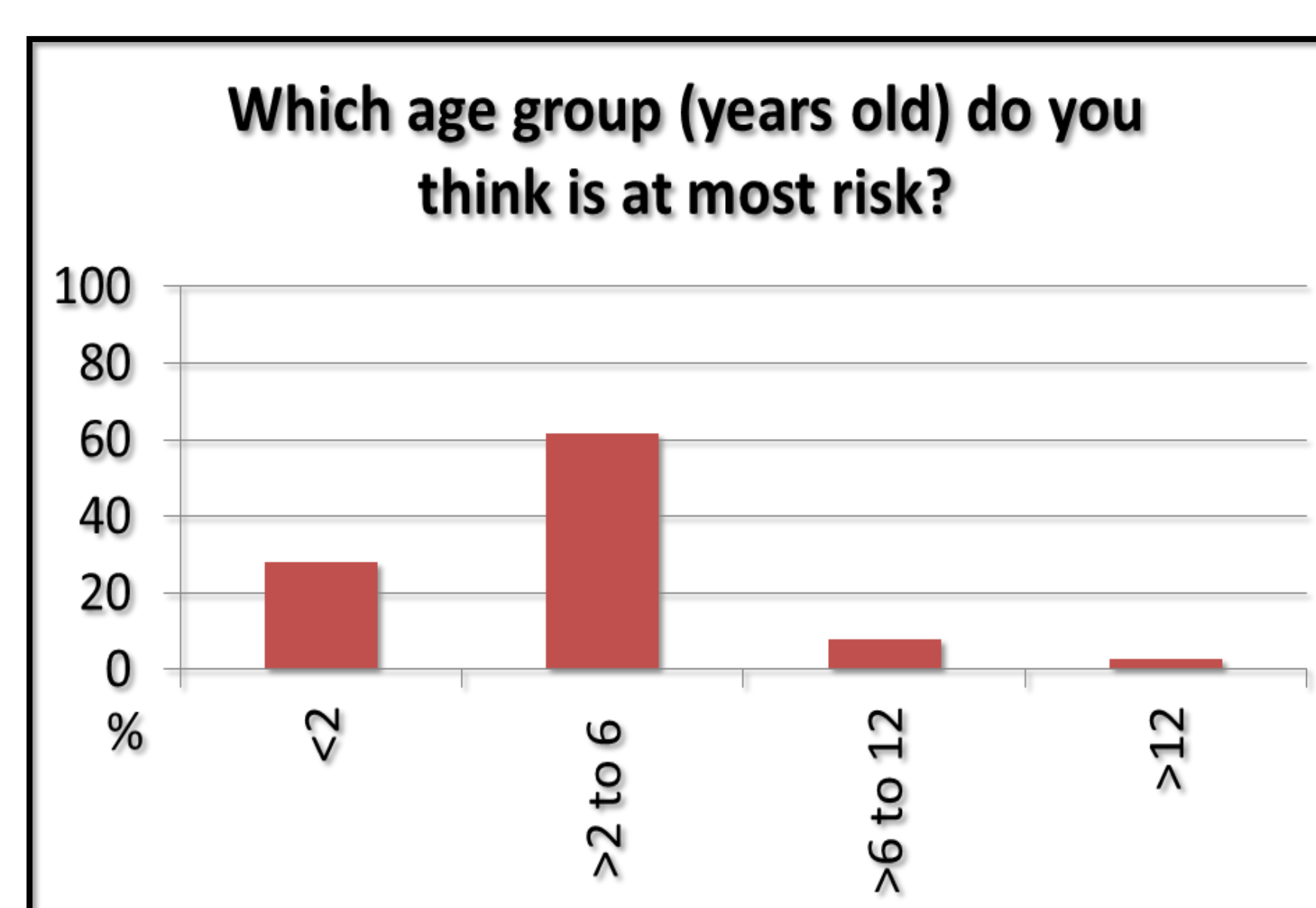
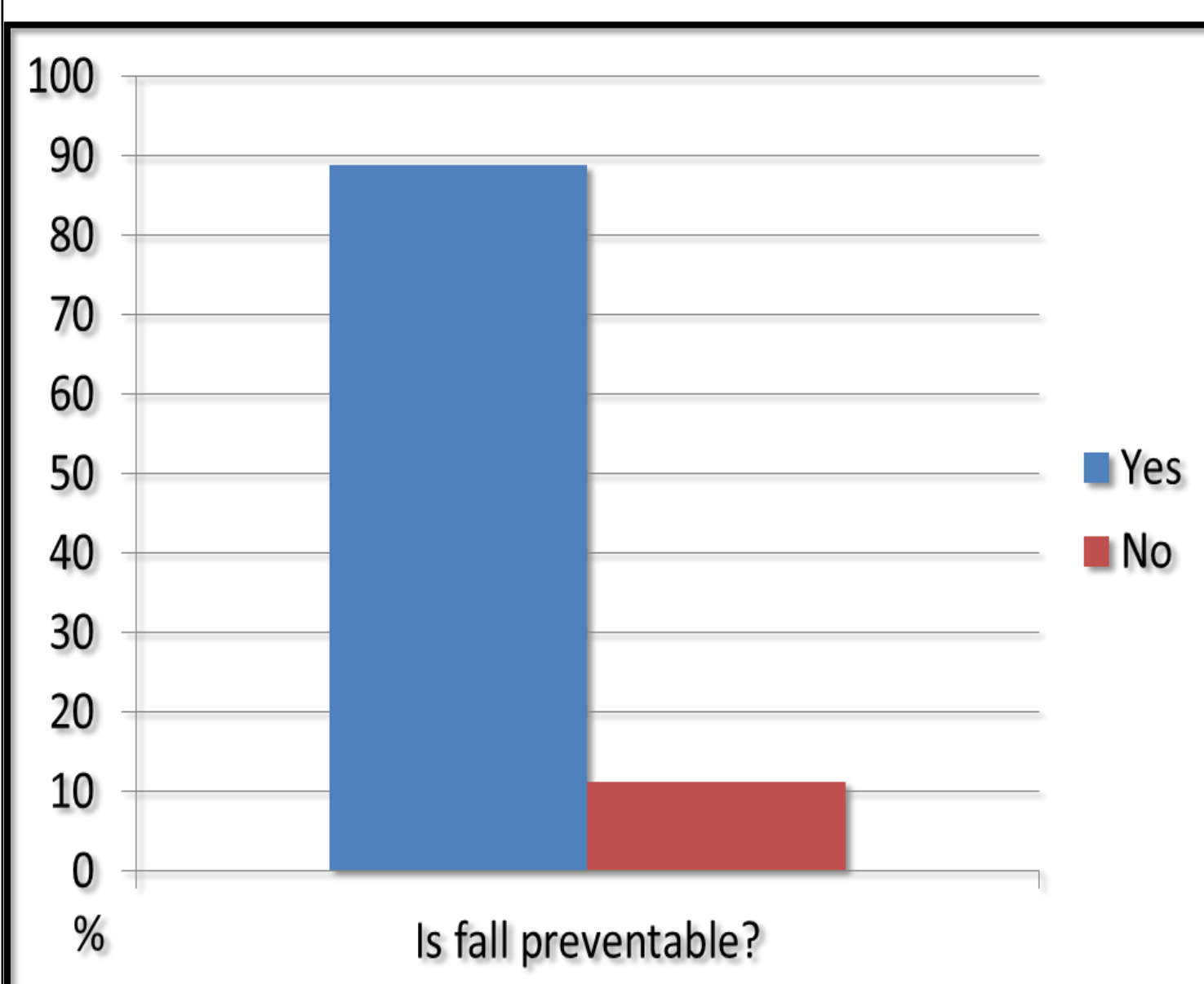
Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injury to children outside hospitals and a considerable concern during hospitalization. A large number of children fall incidences occurred with their parents in attendance. Despite new fall risk assessment tools and/or educational initiatives, fall rate incidence was marginally improved. This study explored the significance of parental perception on children's fall which could determine the compliance behaviour towards fall precaution measures provided during children's hospitalization.

Methods

A descriptive quantitative study with self-validated survey questionnaires used on a convenience sampling of 367 parents of inpatients (medical and surgical). Verbal consent was taken with anonymity ensured. The self-administered survey questionnaires comprised three parts: 1) perception of fall; 2) fall precaution measures; 3) demographic information. The data were analysed using SPSS version 19.

Results

88.8% parents perceived fall is preventable. 61.7% parents perceived 2 to 6 years old child was at most risk of fall while 27.9% of the parents thought less than 2 years old child were at risk, which coincided with the fall statistics in KKH. 97.6% parents perceived an importance on their role to prevent their child from fall during hospital stay. The higher the place a child fell from, the more severe the consequence they perceived, while "trip and fall" and its consequence could not be ignored from the fall statistics. Most of the parents received and satisfied with fall precaution education. Though fall precaution measures were generally rated useful with yellow wrist tag having lowest support (62.6%), only less than 75% parents adhered to the fall precaution measures all the time.



When was education given	Parents Satisfaction, N (%)	
	Satisfied or Very satisfied	Not satisfied or Little satisfied
Upon admission	143(59.6%)	7(2.9%)
During handover	24(10%)	4(1.7%)
Both	60(25%)	2(0.8%)

Child's age group (years old)	Adherence to precaution (All the time), N (%)
< 2	78 (74.3%)
> 2 to 6	101(73.2%)
> 6 to 12	56 (70%)
> 12	13 (46.4%)

Conclusion

It is strongly suggested that parents should be 100% adherence to fall precaution measures especially for child less than 12 years old. Healthcare providers used yellow wrist tag as a visual alert yet partnership with parents on 'tagged' fall risk is crucial. Further study to explore specific reasons of low adherence behaviour in parents towards fall and fall precautions is useful to promote optimal patient safety in KKH.

Recommendation

We have summarised parents' comments to serve as a reference to design and improve on fall precaution measures.

- Reinforcement in nurse-parent education on fall precaution measures and fall severity upon admission and during nursing handover time
- Animated video or pictorial chart to educate child on fall risk and precaution
- Install child friendly hand rails, shower seat and height adjustable cot
- Prominent signage on hospital wall
- Cot padding to all beds.