



**YOUNG ADULTS
WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS
A NEW STAKEHOLDER GROUP**





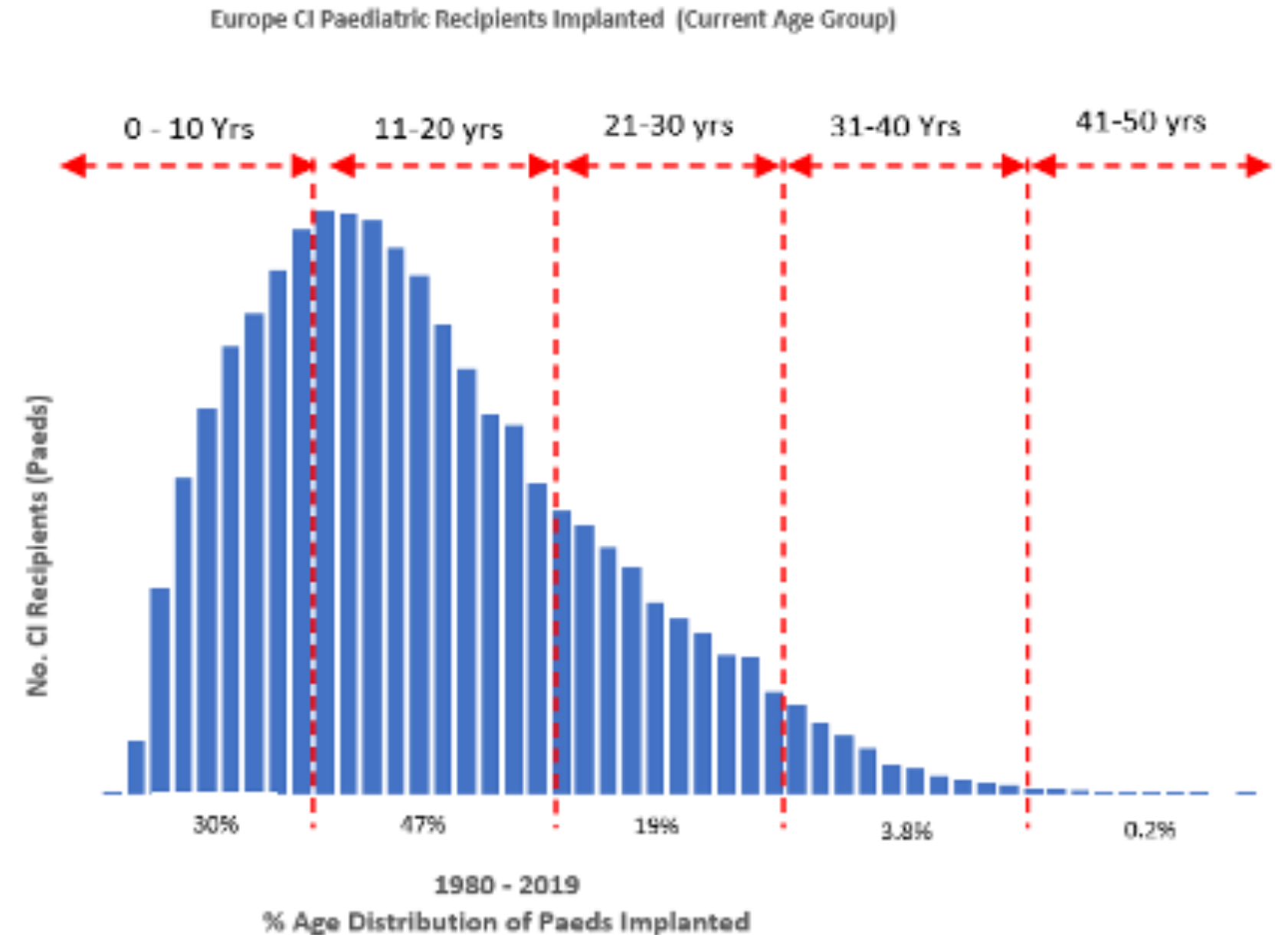
YOUNG ADULTS WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

WHO ARE WE?



WHO ARE WE?

- Today's young adults with cochlear implants are the **first generation** of children who were implanted under the age of 18
- Current Ages of Today's Group: **18-40**
- Combination of unilateral CI, bilateral CIs, and bimodal users
- Diverse Academic & Career pathways
- **Diverse LIVED experiences**



Reference: Archbold, et al. ESPCI 2023; *Young People with CI: Their views on CI Services*

**YOUR CURRENT GENERATION
OF PEDIATRIC COCHLEAR
IMPLANT USERS ARE YOUR
FUTURE YOUNG ADULTS WITH
COCHLEAR IMPLANTS.**





THIS MATTERS BECAUSE...

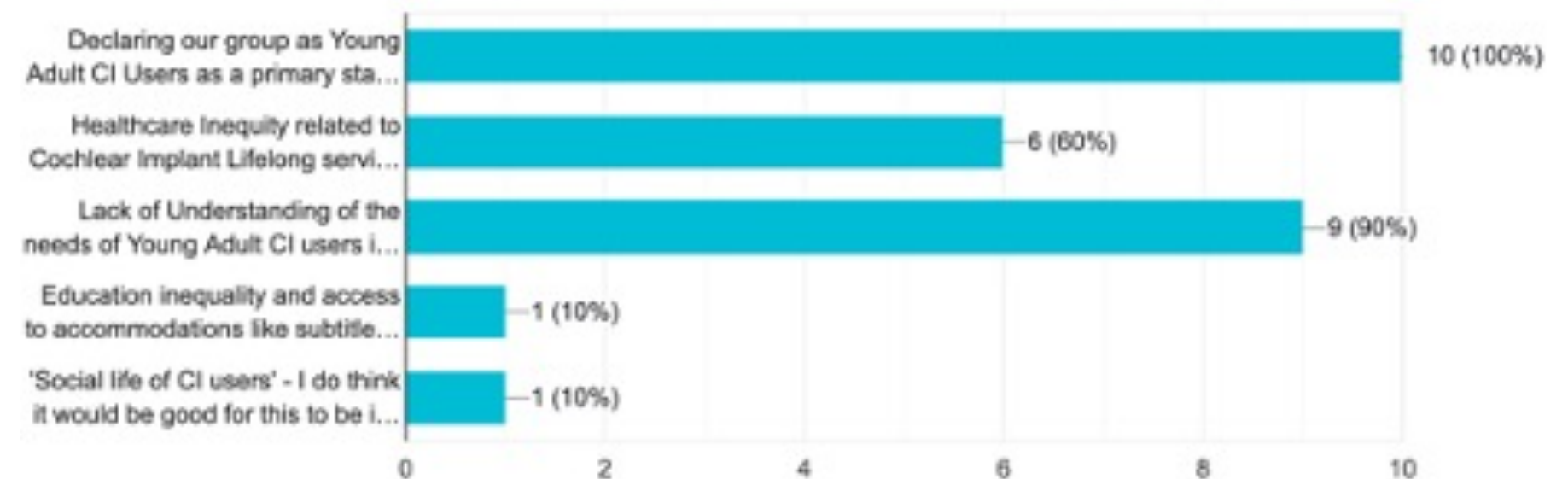
**WE ARE THE NEW
STAKEHOLDERS**

A GLIMPSE OF OUR LIVES...

- **Top 2 Responses:**

- “Declaring our group as Young Adult CI Users as a primary stakeholder that the world needs to support us and our needs”
- “Lack of Understanding of the needs of Young Adult CI users in the everyday life”

Outside of the CIICA Conversations with Young Adults with CIs, our advisory group discussed on October 16th of 2023 the following other "topics"/...opics we should consider with the Other checkbox. 10 responses



OUR REALITY

- “As a cochlear implant user participating and active in the hearing world, my deafness is more hidden... **I find my deafness can be seen as 'fixed', which means that discrimination can happen without people even realising they are doing it...** because they can easily assume I can hear and brush my needs under the carpet.”
- “**Lack of understanding that I DO still need additional supports and accommodations to support my needs as Young Adult with CIs...** I hear and speak "too well" therefore I "don't really need those supports”...”
- “All the while, **we could be deaf again in a snap.** It’s frightening and hard to think about.”
- “(We need to declare) the unique placement of CI users in society and how **their communication needs differ depending on the circumstances in which they are in.**”
- “... **we are a stakeholder group, and we must be recognized.** Our voices must be heard and must be respected. **Our lived experiences are valuable, and we DO bring meaningful considerations to the table that should be considered** - whether it's considerations related to education, work accessibility, CI care/technology development, healthcare, etc.,... **(the world) do not think of Young Adults who use CIs that likely also identify as d/Deaf.**”

Reference: Archbold, et al. ESPCI 2023; *Young People with CI: Their views on CI Services*



LACK OF ACCESS TO CI CARE

- “Once implanted, especially at young ages, there are **life long costs associated with mapping, repairs or replacing parts** and the event that the processor is damaged or lost and since being implanted so young it’s very possible there could be a need for re-implantation if the device fails after 30-40 years or longer.
- “ (There is a) **lack of understanding of our needs** as Young Adults with CIs, **lack of advocacy for our needs** and sharing the benefits of regular CI mapping for hearing & life quality of life to public & other Young adults with CIs, and **significant financial burden for Young Adults with CIs** due to high costs.”
- “Many people get their cochlears later in life when they may have 20 years to live or less but not me I may have mine for 80 or more years. **I’ve already had them 19 years so I’m facing struggles and issues the older generation knows nothing about...**”

**“I will have CIs all my life.
I SHOULD HAVE
SUPPORT FOR THEM
ALL MY LIFE.”**

Reference: Archbold, et al. ESPCI 2023; *Young People with CI: Their views on CI Services*





LIFELONG CI SERVICES ARE A

A HUMAN RIGHT

FOR PEOPLE WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS



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