

Cognitive and behavioral problems in people with severe brain injury



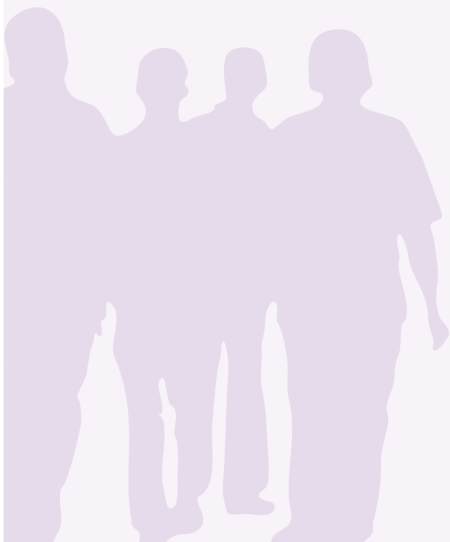
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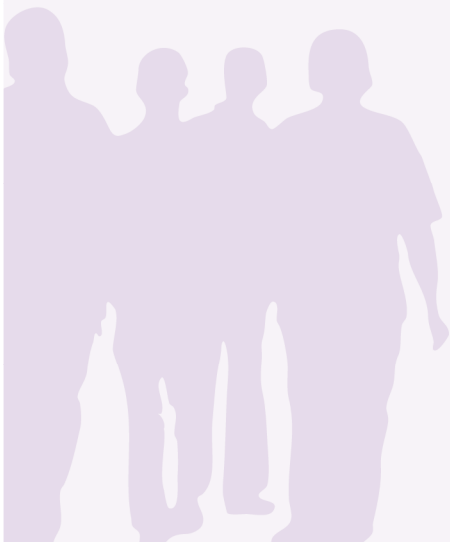
7th European Congress of Mental Health in Intellectual Disability

Investigated group

- **17 patients**
- **Severe brain damage by accident or illness**
- **After initially normal development**



- **Intensive training in revalidation centre gave no results**
- **Presented at observation clinic for ID between 1988 – 2007:**
 - **Which capabilities are left?**
 - **Which care do they need?**



Observation reports screened on*:

- **Problems in cognition**
- **Behavioral problems**
- **Emotional problems**

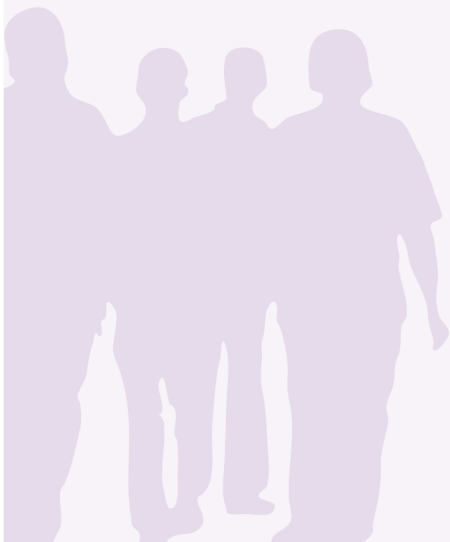
* Based on a paper of Beers, K.A. (1990) 'Traumatisch hersenletsel'

Classification of the problems

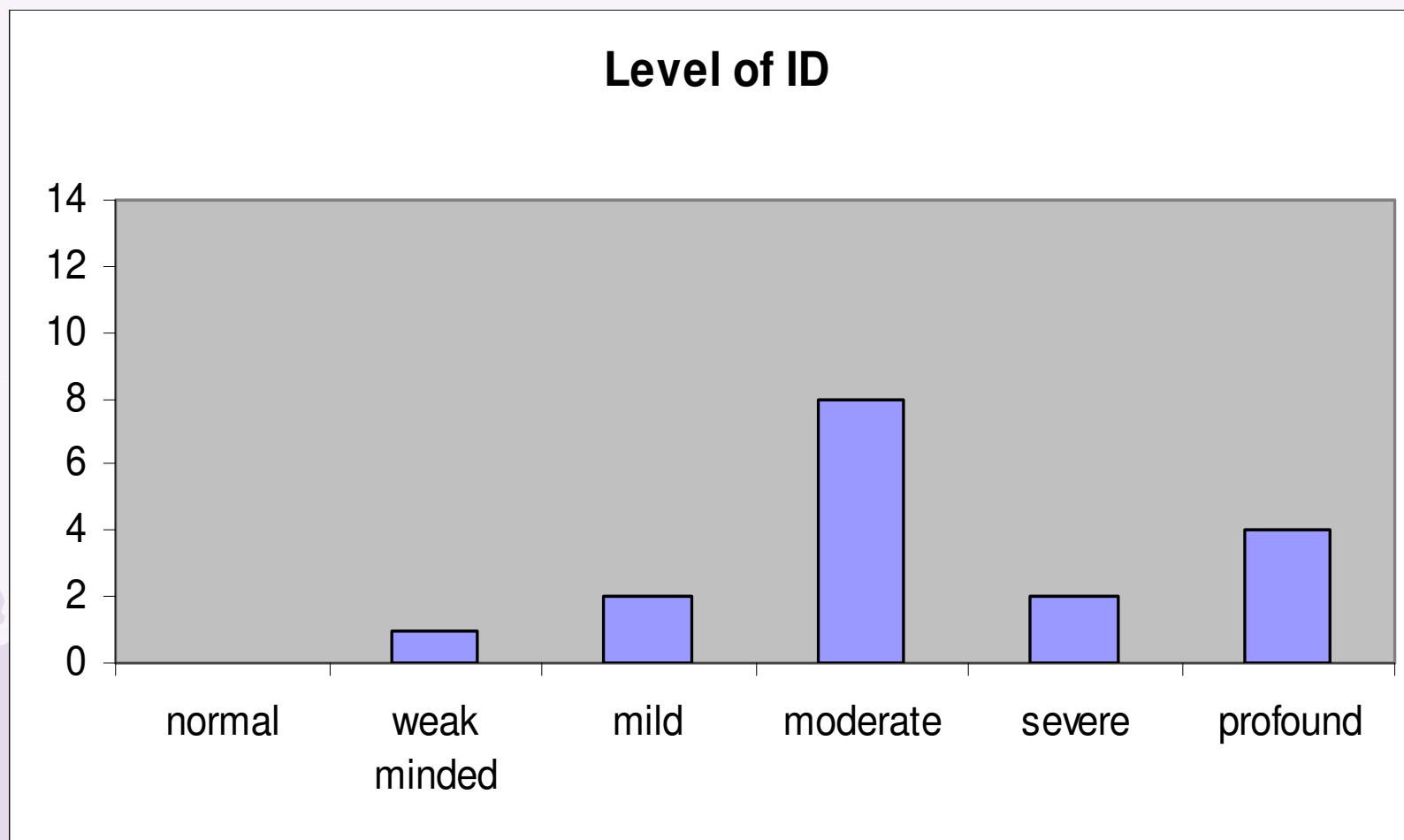
- **No problem**
- **Mild problem (patient can reasonable live with it)**
- **Severe problem (invalidating daily life of the patient)**
- **Capability completely absent**
- **No information**



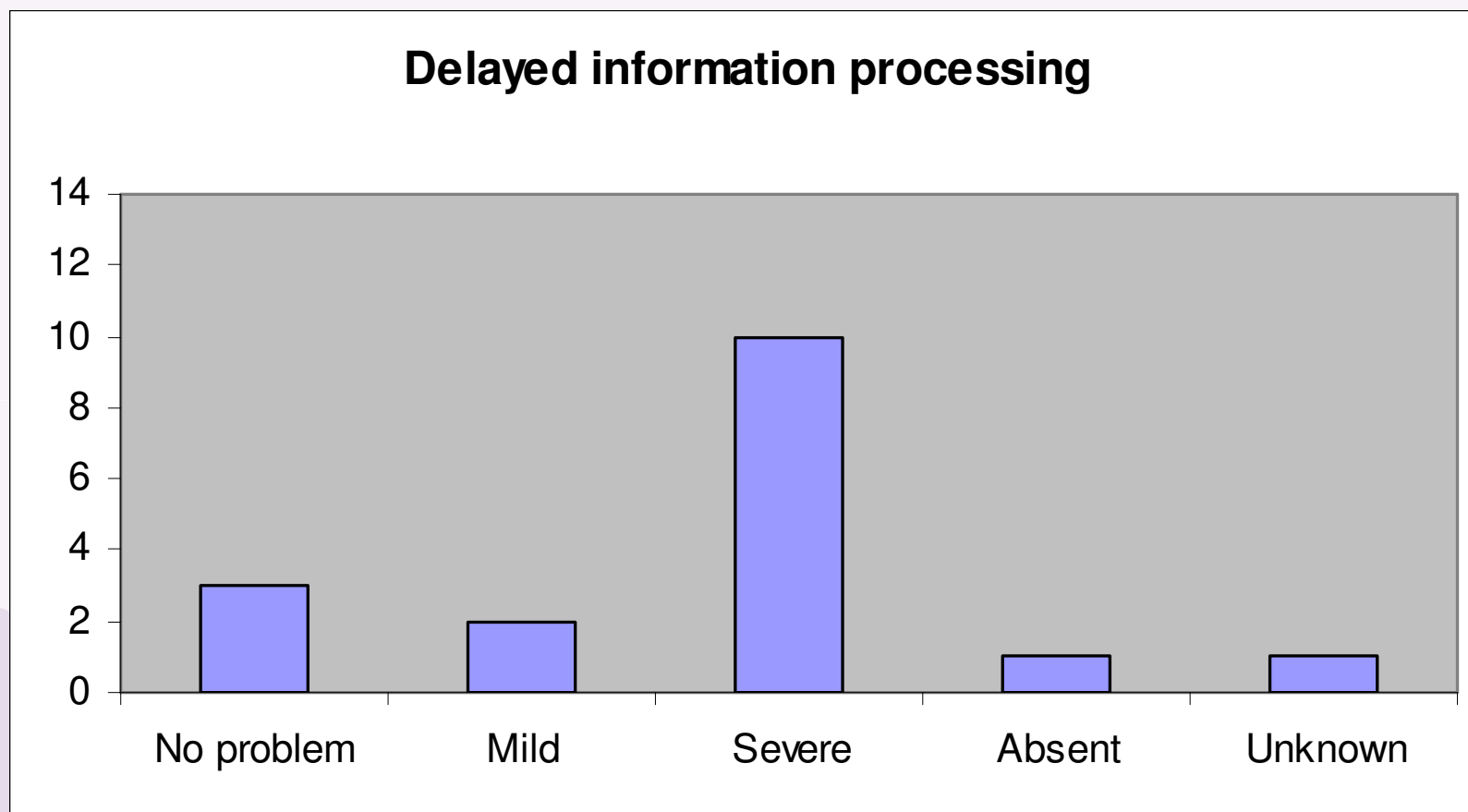
Most striking problems:

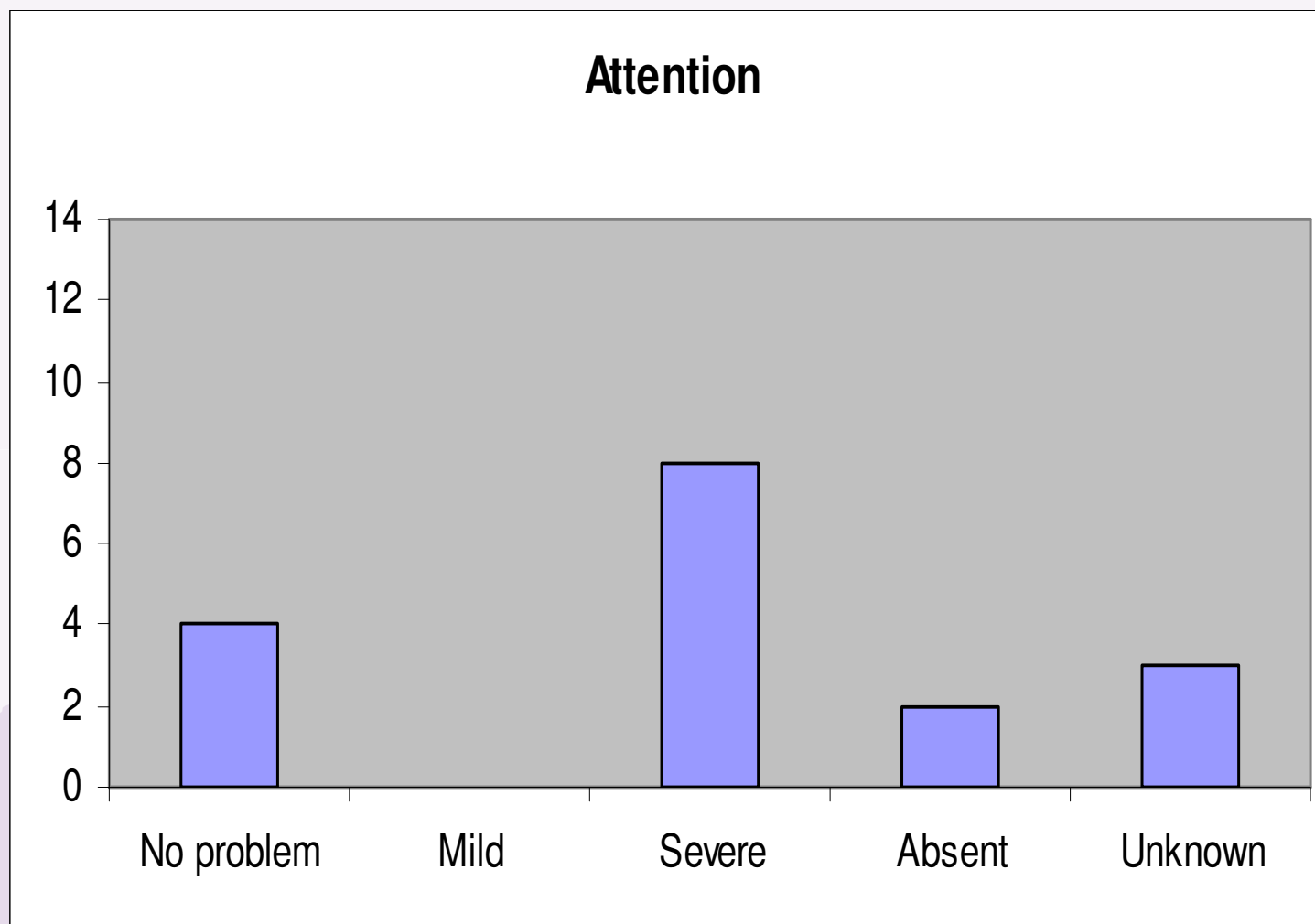


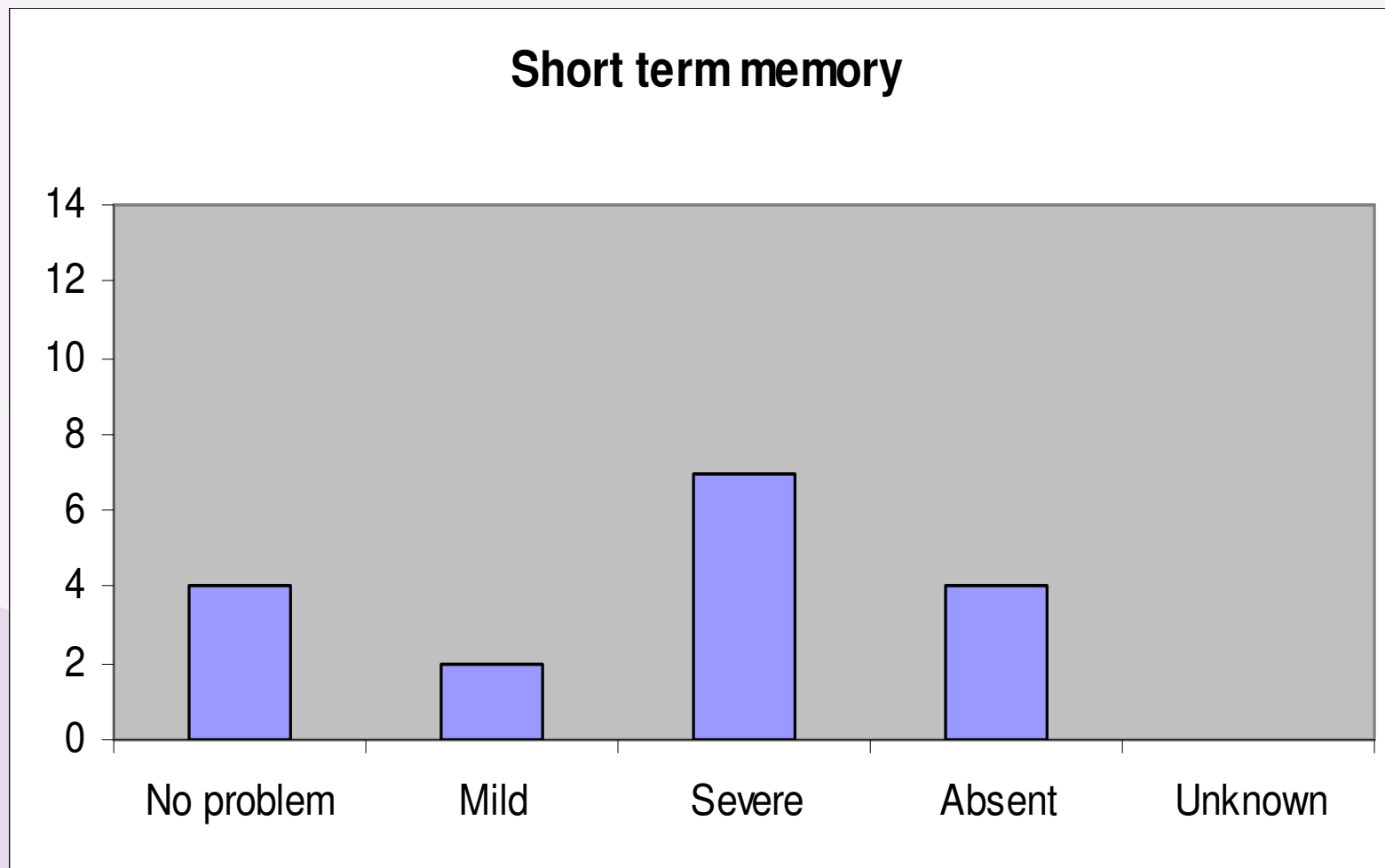
Dramatic decline in IQ

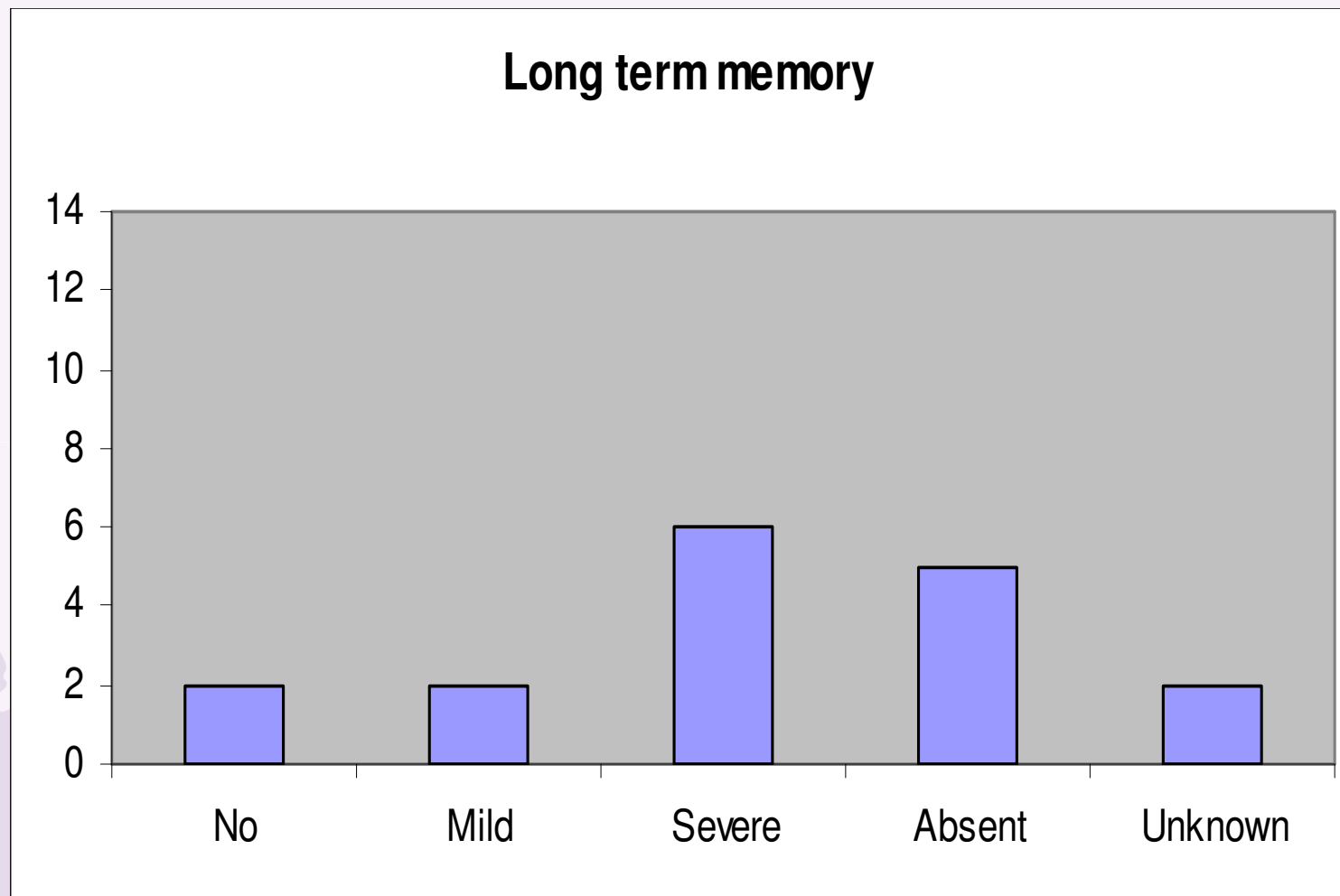


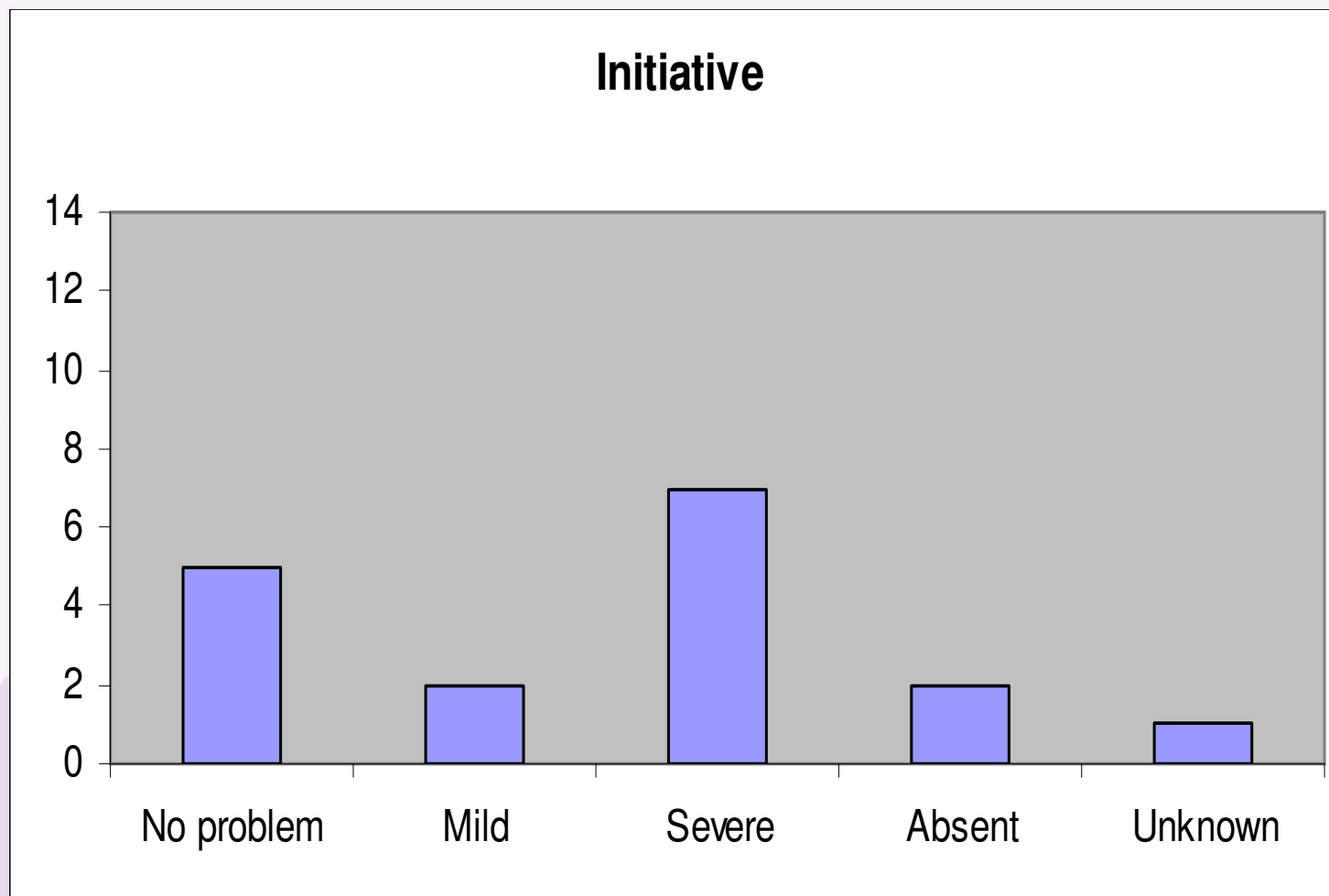
Delayed information processing



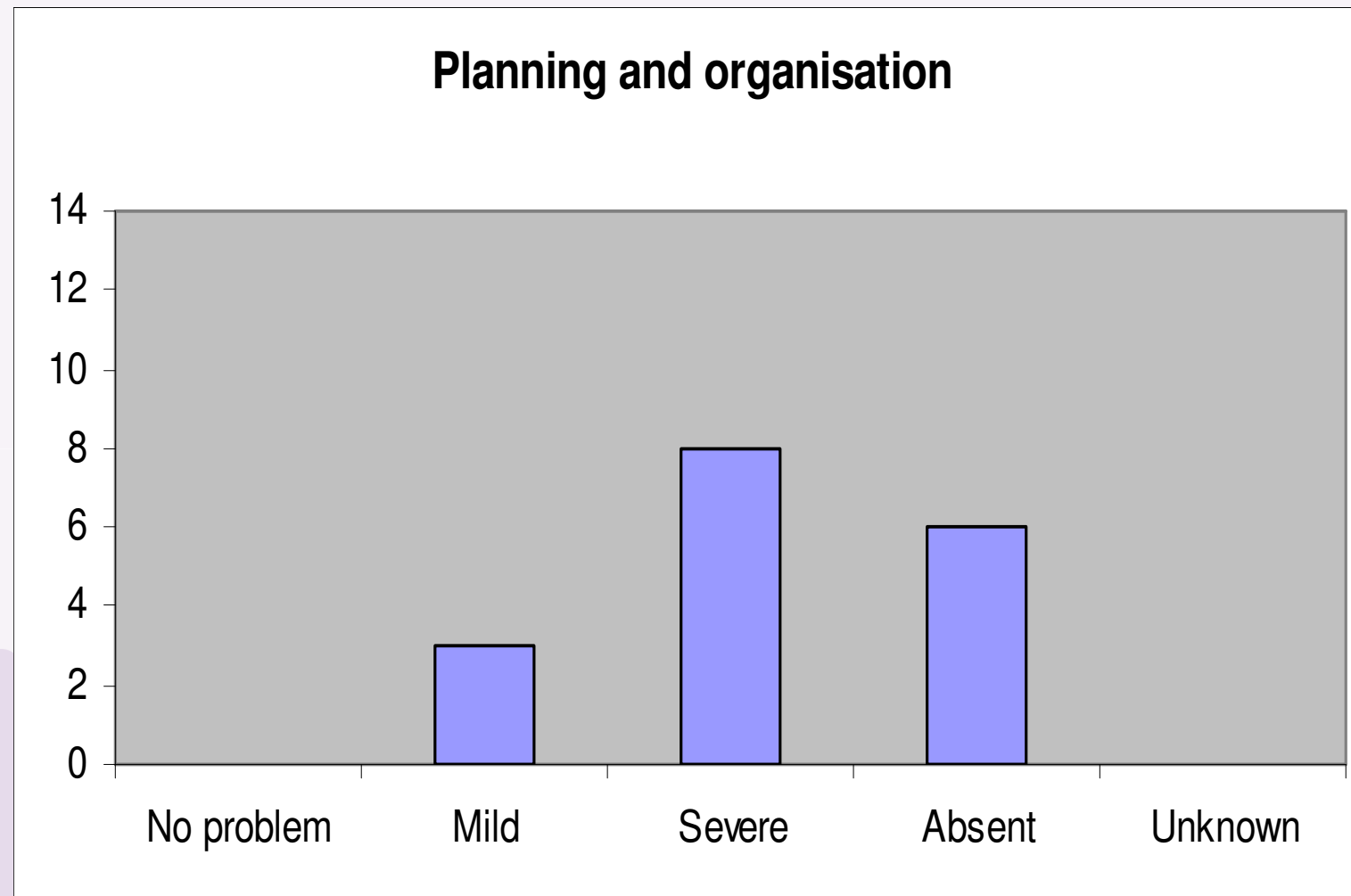




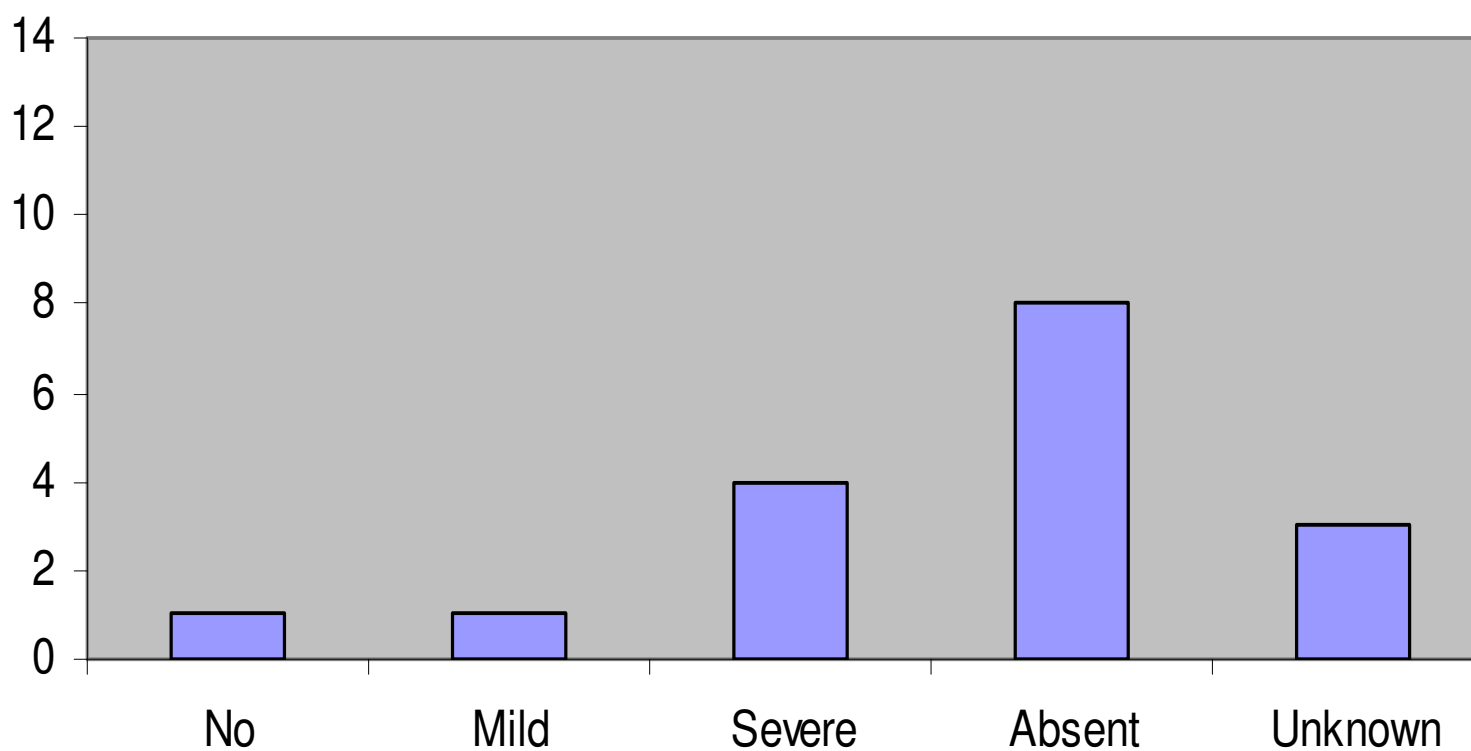


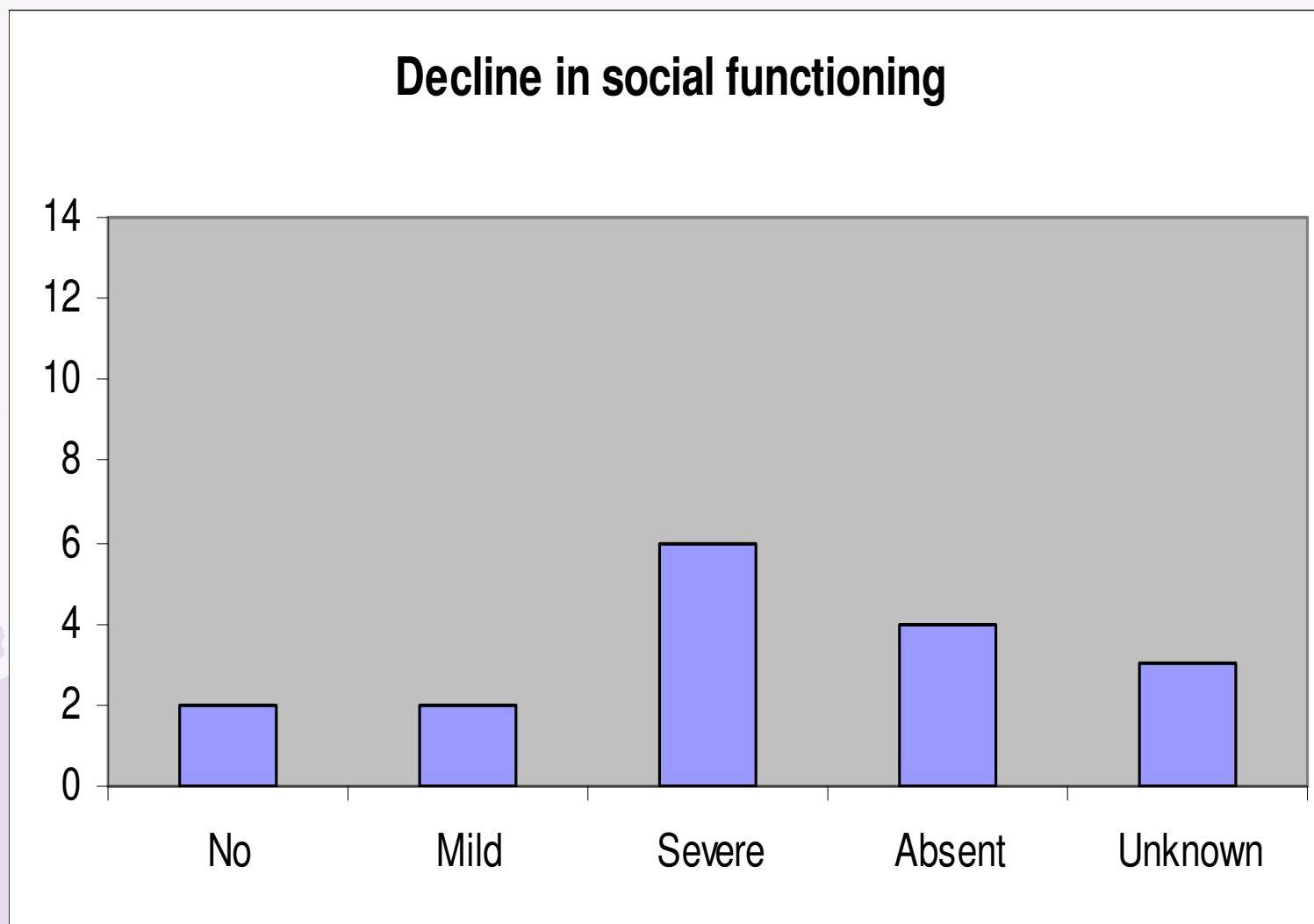


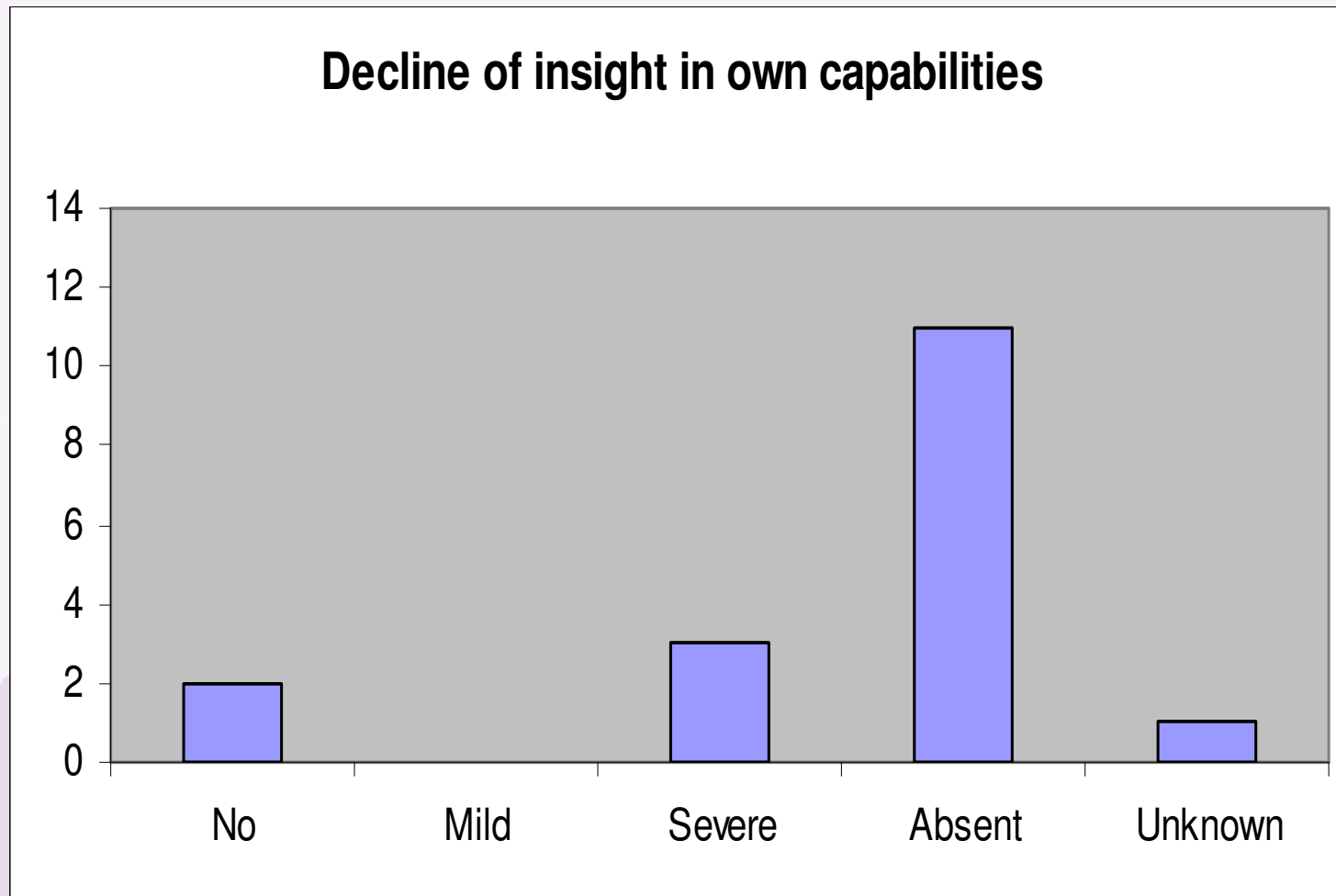
Planning and organisation

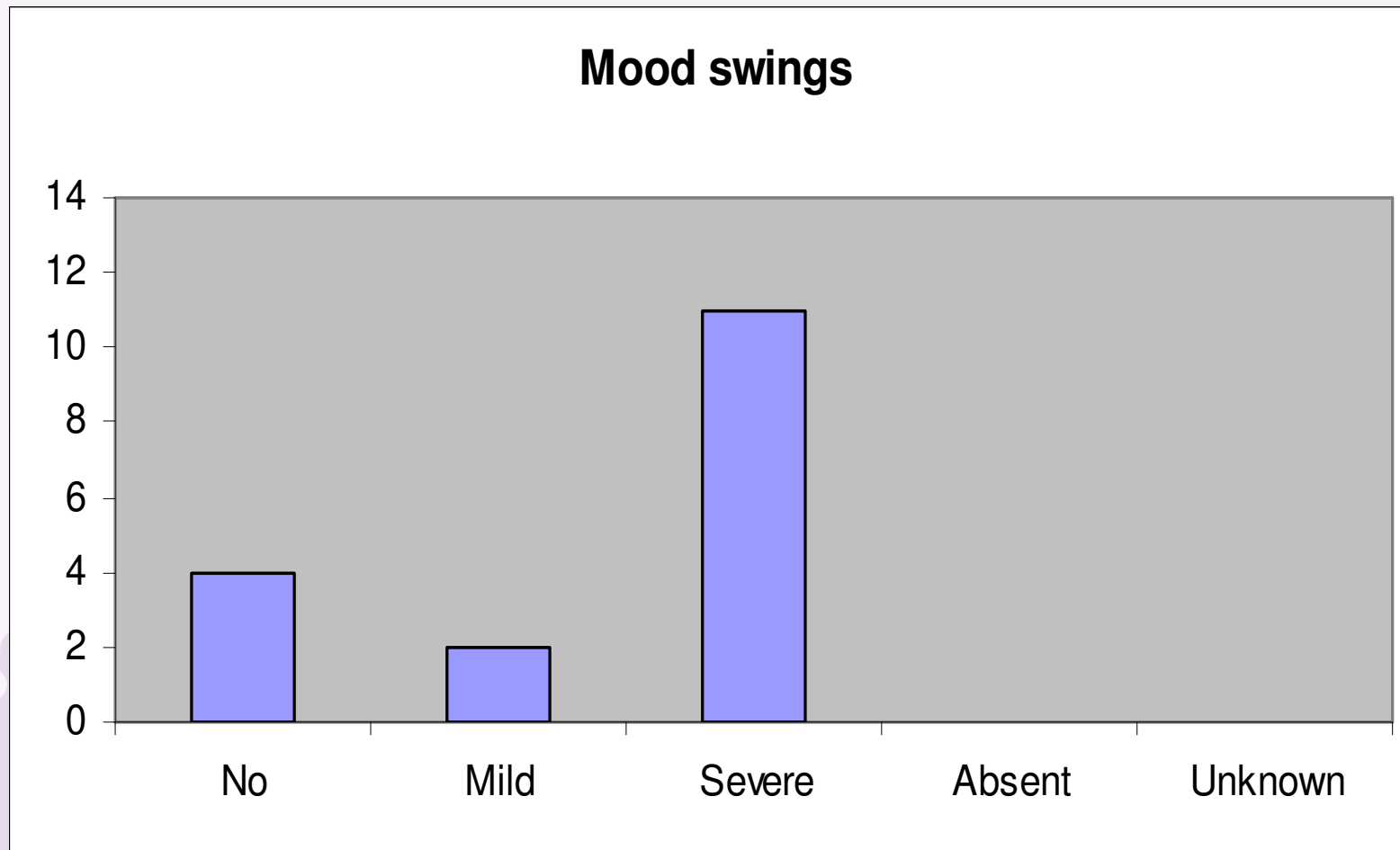


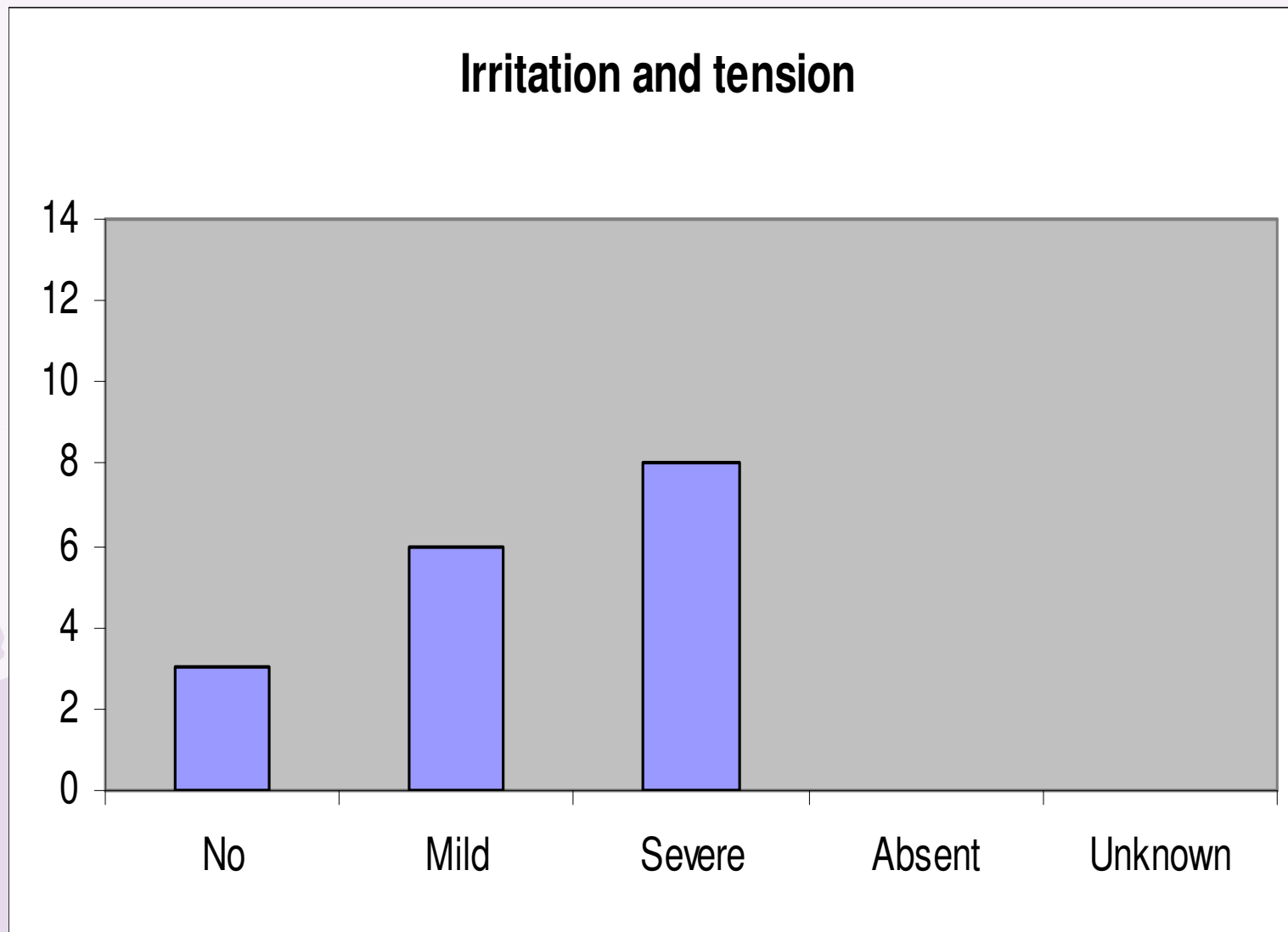
Decline in evaluation of own behaviour

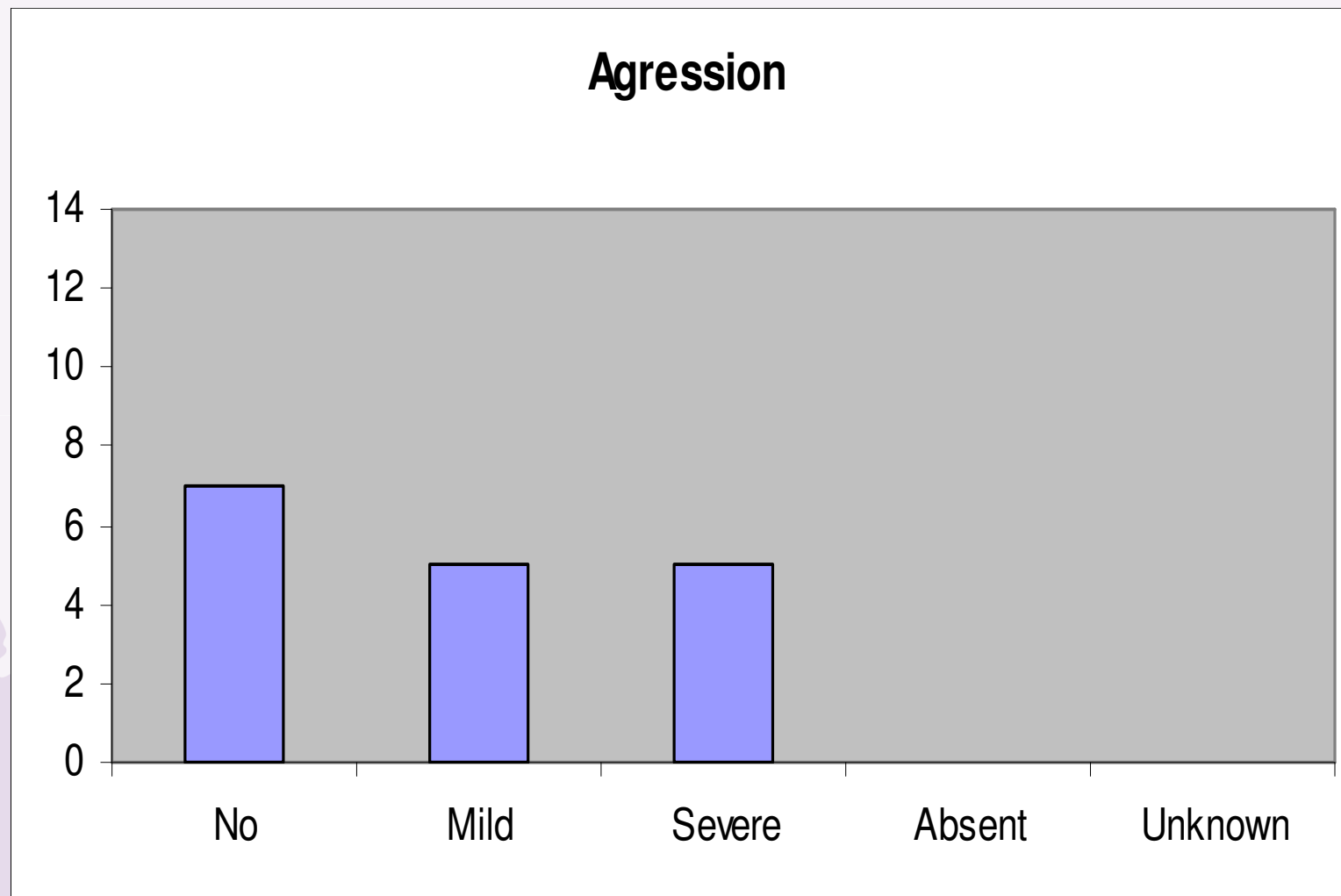




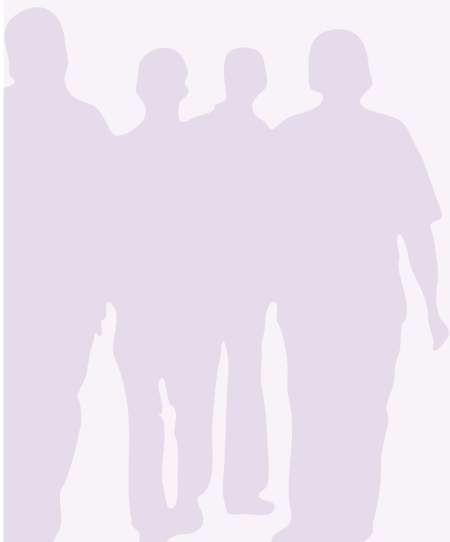




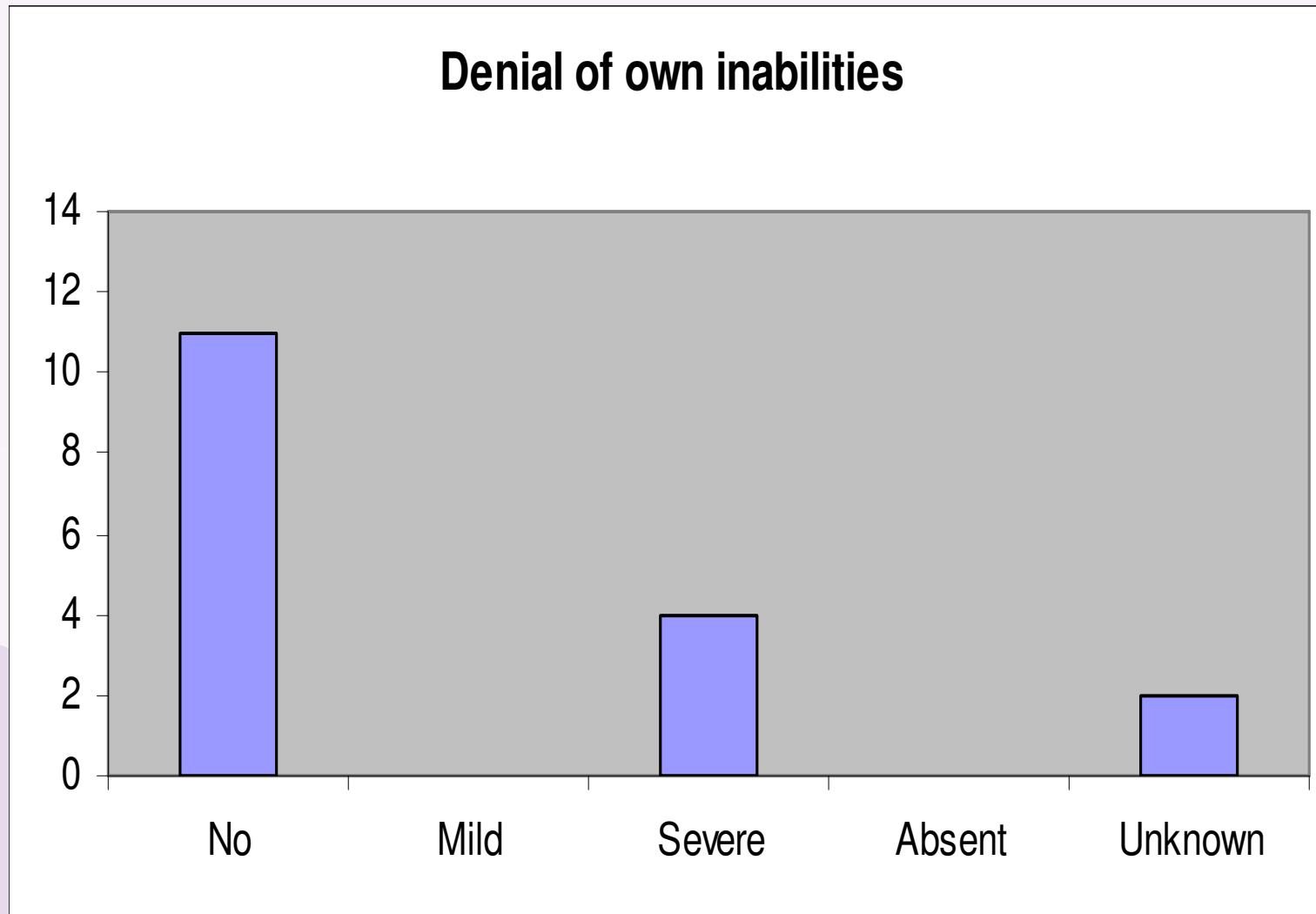


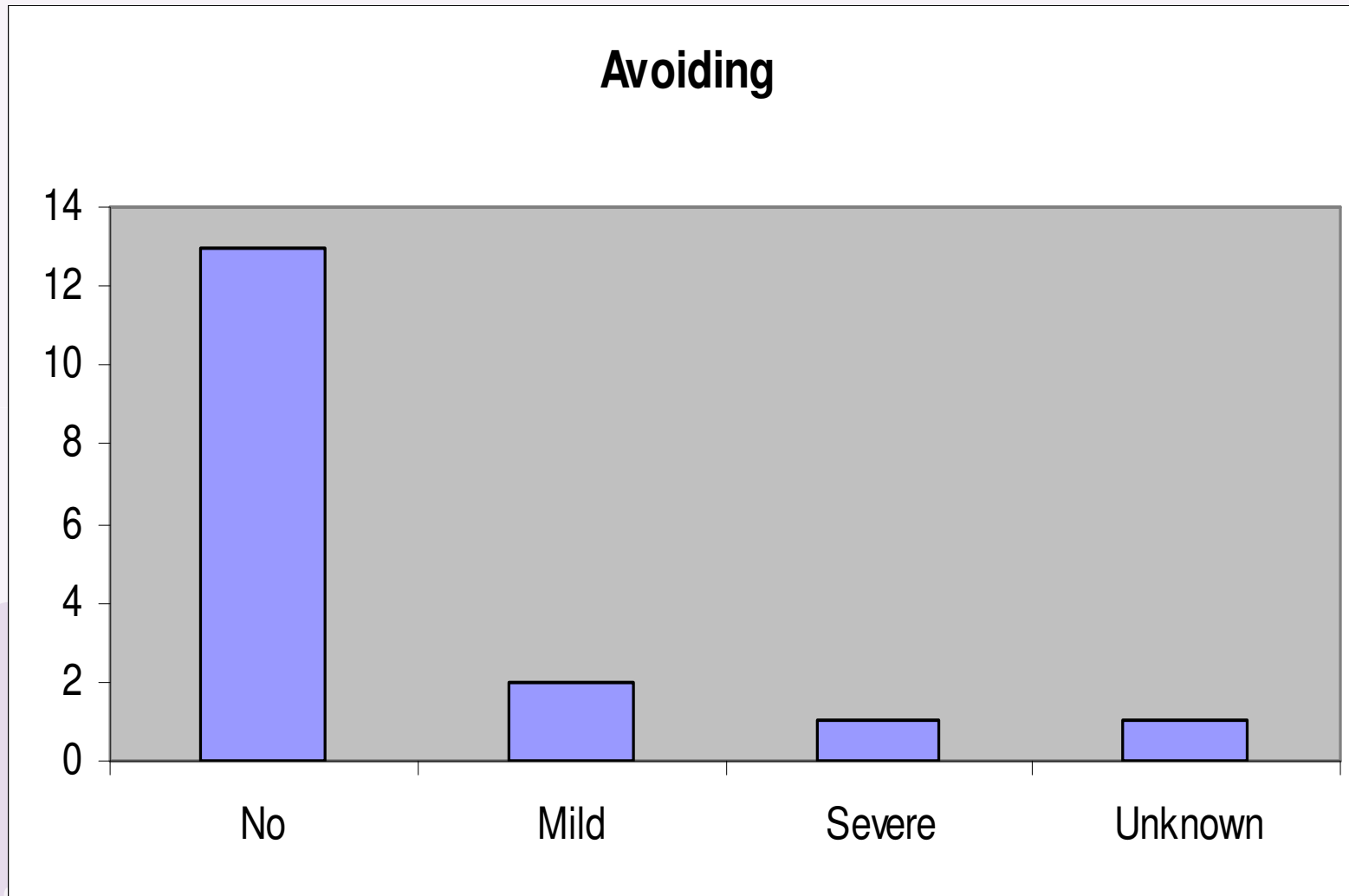


**Expected problems, but not
occurring in this specific group:**

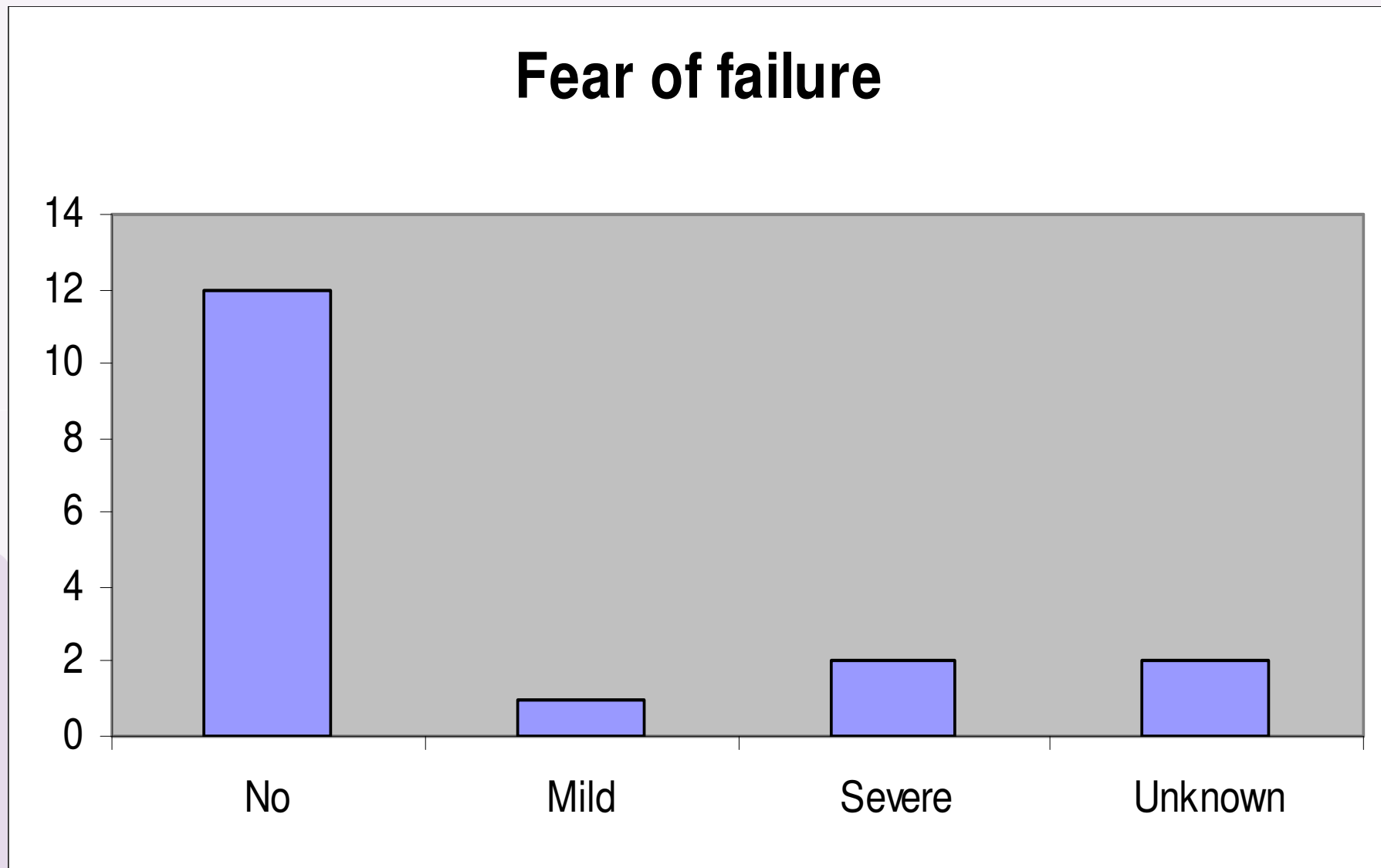


Denial of own inabilities





Fear of failure



Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF score)

Between 1 – 40, mostly 20 – 30:

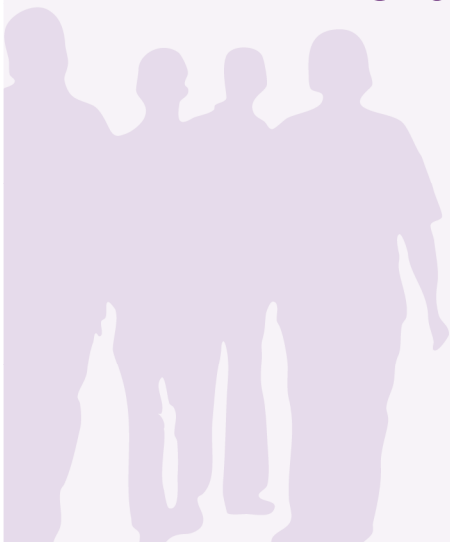
‘Inability to function in almost all areas’

- **communication**
- **work**
- **social life**
- **self-care**



Conclusion

- **Inability to learn**
- **Inability to compensate**
- **Islets of knowledge and skills**
- **Inability to organize their own lives in all fields of daily life**

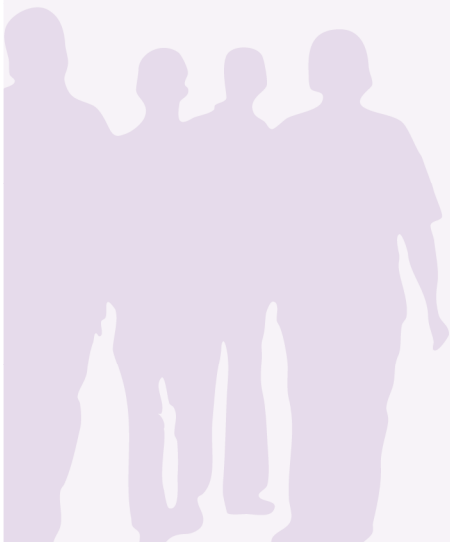


Style of Treatment

- **Adequate adaptation to the capabilities of the individual**
- **Same activities repeated everyday**
- **Knowledge of their past (work, interests)**
- **Right balance of rest and activity**
- **Continuous support in all areas of daily life**
- **Calm and slow**



**An adequate treatment lessens the
behavior problems (aggression,
mood swings etc.)**



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