Experience of people with disabilities living in Quebec during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic

They don't care about us. I don't think there's any help for us. I don't even know where to call if I need help. I find that a lack of consideration... We are forgotten and that is sad.

Many businesses and services have stopped offering accommodations for people like me.

If before the pandemic, I hadn't had the medication and all the background experience that I had, I would have gotten through it, but it would have been much harder.

I lost my vocabulary because I didn't speak. I couldn't wait to go to the hospital to meet someone and talk. It's not fun to get to the point where you're happy to go to the hospital.

I had lost a lot at the functional level. I was limping, I had a cane. Two months without physiotherapy, it was huge. I found that hard.

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people with disabilities from the province of Quebec participated in an interview.

Reference: Fortin-Bédard N, Lamontagne M-E, Ladry N-J, et al. *Exploring the Experiences of People with Disabilities during the First Year of COVID-19 Restrictions in the Province of Quebec, Canada*. Disabilities. 2023;3(1):12-27.

MAIN FINDINGS

Mental health has been negatively affected.

Social contacts with relatives have been reduced.

People with disabilities reported delays and disruptions to health services, and expressed fear of contracting severe COVID-19 due to their health condition.

The lack of consideration for persons with disabilities by public authorities during the COVID-19 pandemic was of particular concern to participants in this study.

METHODOLOGY

Interviews were conducted between December 16, 2020 and May 17, 2021. Participants come from an online survey whose sample is not representative of the population.

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