

Impacts of COVID-19 on people with physical disabilities

The COVID-19 pandemic caused drastic changes in the lives of the general population. People with physical disabilities, who already encounter multiple barriers in their daily lives (e.g., mobility, accessibility, isolation), may face **additional challenges** in the context of the pandemic.



RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and associated isolation and protective measures, among people with physical disabilities?

RAPID REVIEW OF THE PUBLISHED LITERATURE

11 studies were extracted through a literature review conducted on August 10, 2020 in online databases.

SOME OF THE IMPACTS ON PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES...

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

- Difficulty accessing health care (e.g., cessation of home-based physiotherapy, insufficient public transportation resources, changes in usual care)

BODY FUNCTIONS

- Sleep disturbances and worsening of sleep
- Mood changes
- Behavioral disturbances
- Fear of coming to hospital
- Worsening of neurological condition

ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATION

- Reduction of physical activity
- Changes in social and lifestyle habits
- Difficulties in performing activities of daily life

These results are summarized in an article that highlights the lack of studies on the consequences of the pandemic for people with physical disabilities and their specific needs.

Reference: Lebrasseur A, Fortin-Bédard N, Lettre J, Bussièrès E-L, Best K, Boucher N, Hotton M, Beaulieu-Bonneau S, Mercier C, Lamontagne M-E, Routhier F. (2020). Impact of COVID-19 on people with physical disabilities: A rapid review. *Disability and Health Journal*. [in press]