

Study: The COVID-19 pandemic and Indigenous people with a disability or long-term condition

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A new study using crowdsourcing data provides insights on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Indigenous participants with a disability or long-term condition.

Over half (57%) of Indigenous participants with a disability or long-term condition indicated that their overall health had become "somewhat worse" or "much worse" compared with before the pandemic, while 64% reported "somewhat worse" or "much worse" mental health.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted services and supports, compounding health care access barriers experienced by Indigenous people. Indigenous participants with a disability or long-term condition most frequently reported disruptions to medical or dental care (54%), physiotherapy, massage, and chiropractic services (40%), medical testing unrelated to COVID-19 (38%), and counselling (32%).

The pandemic also had an impact on participants' ability to meet essential needs. Over half of Indigenous participants with a disability or long-term condition reported a 'moderate' or 'major' impact on their ability to meet their food and grocery (54%) and their Personal Protective Equipment (52%) needs.

The crowdsourcing data reflected health and other disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants with a disability or long-term condition. Indigenous participants were more likely to report worsened overall health and mental health, service disruption, and a greater impact on their ability to meet essential needs.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5323](#).

The study "[Changes to health, access to health services, and the ability to meet financial obligations among Indigenous people with long-term conditions or disabilities since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)" is now available as part of the series *StatCan COVID-19: Data to Insights for a Better Canada* ([45280001](#)).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).

