Introduction
People with disabilities experience unique risks during disasters, epidemics, and pandemics that can impact health and health care. Yet, we do not know the full impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities.

Research Approach
AAHD conducted the COVID-19 and Disability Survey between April 17 and May 1, 2020, and 2,469 adults with disabilities responded. Adults who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing made up 7% of the sample (182 persons).

Main Findings - Access to Regular Health Care & Services

Use of Direct Care Workers & Impact of COVID-19 for Persons with Mobility Disabilities
- Only 13% of respondents reported having a Direct Care Worker (DCW).
- Of these, 81% were still receiving DCW services during the pandemic.
- 65% of respondents still receiving DCW services were unable to maintain safe distances from their Direct Care Worker.

Access to Regular Health Care Treatment
- 50% of respondents who needed regular health care (such as physical therapy, dialysis, etc.) were able to receive it during the pandemic.
- 50% of respondents needing regular health care reported their access had been disrupted during the pandemic.

Access to Prescription Medications
- Among respondents taking prescriptions, 93% reported no access problems.
- Only 7% of respondents reported access to prescription medication access had been disrupted during the pandemic, but any disruption of life-sustaining medication can be critical.

New Challenges to Accessing Health Care
- 67% of respondents reported that they were not facing new challenges to accessing health care.
- 33% of respondents reported new challenges to accessing health care and prescriptions!

Conclusion
- Population-based research is critically needed to fully document these problems.


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