

IMPACT OF DISRUPTED ACCESS TO REHABILITATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES ON FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES DURING COVID-19

Prior to the pandemic, 92% of participants reported that their child received one or more therapies per week; at the time surveyed, only 54% were receiving any therapies. 49% of those who were receiving therapies via any modality during the pandemic reported being somewhat or very satisfied with therapy delivery.

Reported child physical and mental health impacts were high - 43% reported a decline in their child's mobility/movement, 61% reported a decrease in their child's physical activity, and 61% reported an increase in their child's stress and anxiety compared to before the pandemic.

Caregiver mental health impacts and caregiver burden were also reported to have increased during the pandemic by a majority of the sample.

Five qualitative themes were identified relating to telehealth, access to therapies, child well-being, and positive and negative aspects of caregiving during a pandemic.