

## Long COVID Among People with Preexisting Disabilities Summary

This study looked at how common long COVID is among people who already had disabilities before the COVID-19 pandemic started (preexisting disabilities) and compared this with the general population.

Here's what we did:

1. We used data from a 2022 survey called the National Survey on Health and Disability (NSHD), which included 2,262 people who had disabilities before 2020.
2. We compared this data to information from the general population using the Household Pulse Survey (HPS).

Here's what we found:

1. 10.4% of people with preexisting disabilities reported having long COVID symptoms, compared to 7.5% of the general population.
2. 40.6% of people with preexisting disabilities who tested positive for COVID-19 reported having long COVID, compared to 18.9% of the general population who tested positive.

So, this study shows that people with preexisting disabilities are more likely to have long COVID. People with disabilities have more trouble getting healthcare, COVID-19 vaccines, and tests. These challenges, along with existing health issues, may cause more people with preexisting disabilities to have long COVID.

We need to learn more about how many people with different disabilities have long COVID and what causes it, so they can get the right services and support. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues and we prepare for future pandemics, we must focus on the needs of people with disabilities to create fair policies and responses that lead to better health for them.

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