

PRESERVING DISABILITY SUPPORTS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN AFTER COVID

The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations is a cross-disability coalition of nearly 30 state and local organizations and groups. For more than 20 years, Survival has focused on changing and improving policies and practices that support people with disabilities of all ages to be full participants in community life. People with disabilities and their families have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. In a recent Survival survey of more than 300 people with disabilities and their families, we can see the full impact of COVID-19 on the disability community and the significant needs that must be addressed in the biennial budget.

Summary: **26%** of the respondents were people with disabilities, **47%** were family members, and **27%** Support persons. **65%** indicated they use some form of Long-Term Care, **25%** Children's Long-Term Support or other children's services, and **32%** indicated using special education services. All respondents indicated they have experienced some changes in services that have had a negative impact on their or their loved one during the pandemic. Families' concerns over the direct care workforce crisis have been elevated during this pandemic. Loss of skills, deteriorating emotional health, and financial instability were predominant themes throughout the survey responses. (318 respondents)

Here are some of the results:

SPECIAL EDUCATION

9 in 10 report a negative change in special education services. **3 in 4** families expect their child to experience skill regression. **2 in 3** expect or are experiencing increased behavior challenges. Over **2 in 3** say they expect their child to lose friendships and critical

