COVID-19 & Disability:
An unequal response

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Dearth of disability-related Covid-19 data can confound response efforts

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COVID-19 disability disparities
COVID-19 disability disparities

1. Gaps in accessibility

- Inaccessible COVID-19 information
- Barriers to testing & vaccine
- Differential impact of social measures
COVID-19 disability disparities

1. Gaps in accessibility
2. Disability data limitations

- Primarily from nursing homes
- Cannot track COVID-19 and vaccine rates
- Gaps from across disability groups
COVID-19 disability disparities

1. Gaps in accessibility
2. Disability data limitations
3. Pandemic response

- Magnified inequities in the disability community
- Exposed gaps in disability inclusion
- Did not consider a large % of the population
COVID-19 disability inequities persist

COVID-19 vaccine rollout gaps mirror and are a result of the inequities observed at the start of the pandemic.
COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard for people with disabilities

disabilityhealth.jhu.edu/vaccinedashboard
Methods

- Data from health department websites
- 50 states, DC, 5 US territories
- Updated weekly
- Prioritized accessibility
COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Dashboard

1. Long-term care & nursing homes
2. Other congregate care settings
3. People with chronic conditions
4. Additional disability groups:
   • People receiving direct support care in the community
   • People with intellectual or developmental disabilities
   • Recipients of certain Medicaid programs
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<tr>
<th>State:</th>
<th>Current phase as of 4-21-21:</th>
<th>Long term care phase:</th>
<th>Other congregate care settings phase:</th>
<th>Chronic conditions phase:</th>
<th>Other disability-related group phase:</th>
<th>Caregivers for people with disabilities phase:</th>
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<td>1B</td>
<td>1C</td>
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**Long term care definition:** Residents and Staff of nursing homes, skilled nursing and assisted living facilities

**Other congregate care settings definition:** persons working or living in congregate settings including but not limited to homeless shelters and group homes

**Chronic conditions definition:** persons 16-64 years of age with high risk medical conditions (including but not limited to: cancer; chronic kidney disease; COPD; heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies; immunocompromised state; solid organ transplant; obesity BMI >30 kg/m2; sickle cell disease; smoking; type 1 and 2 diabetes; pregnancy; other medical conditions as determined by your medical provider)

**Other disability-related group definition:** Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

**Caregivers for people with disabilities definition:** those providing in-home or mental health care directly

State page: [https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/index.html](https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/index.html)
<table>
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</tbody>
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COVID-19 Accessibility Dashboard

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Accessibility
- Top 1/3rd (fewest accessibility errors)
- Middle 1/3rd
- Bottom 1/3rd (most accessibility errors)
- No state website

COVID-19 Vaccine Registration

WebAIM: web accessibility in mind

Disability Health Research Center
Launched February 8, 2021

• Prioritization Dashboard: ended April 21, 2021
• Accessibility Dashboard: ended May 19, 2021

• National Council on Disability petition to the National Governors Association
• Cited by local, state, and national advocacy groups
• At peak: ~2,000 dashboard visits per day
COVID-19 & Disability: Best Practices & Lessons Learned

Partner with the disability community
COVID-19 & Disability: Best Practices & Lessons Learned

Partner with the disability community

Prioritize accessibility
COVID-19 & Disability: 
*Best Practices & Lessons Learned*

1. **Partner with the disability community**
2. **Prioritize accessibility**
3. **Collect disability data**

*Johns Hopkins University | Disability Health Research Center*
Learn more!

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Thank you