PEOPLE LIVING WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY/DYSFUNCTION IN ONTARIO: A LOOK AT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

We present the impacts of the COVID-19 virus on people living in the community with spinal cord injury and dysfunction (SCI/D). [1]
Here we present the key findings around:
1) Healthcare Use, 2) Homecare Use,
3) COVID-19 Vaccination, and 4) COVID-19 Mortality.

1) HEALTHCARE USE

Visits to **physicians** and **specialists decreased** at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and later increased.

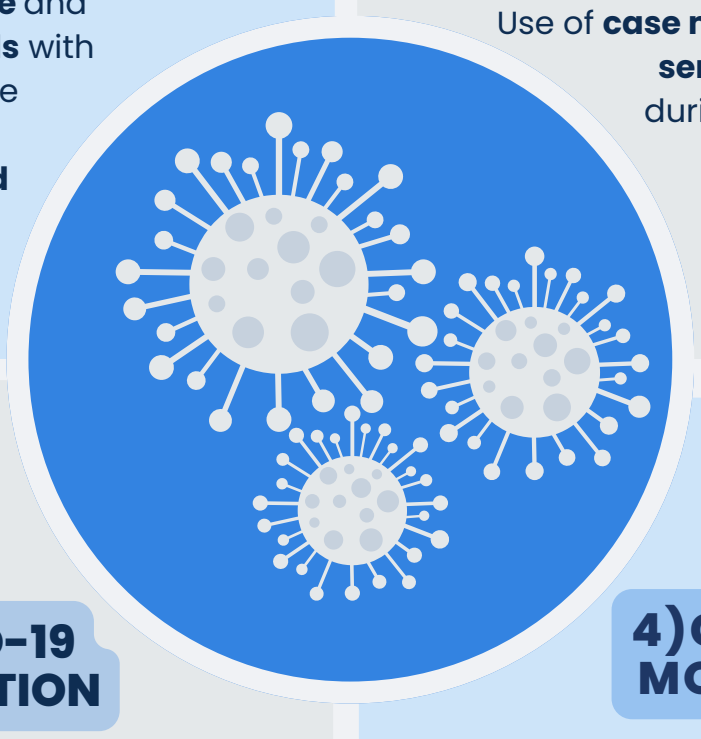
Visits **to emergency departments** and **hospital admissions initially decreased** at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and increased later on.

Telephone and **video calls** with healthcare providers **increased by over 1000%**.

2) HOMECARE USE

The use of **personal support services decreased** and **nursing services increased**. This varied between people between people with **traumatic causes** (e.g. from car accidents or falls) and **non-traumatic causes** (e.g. from tumours or degenerative diseases).

Use of **case management services increased** during the COVID-19 pandemic for both groups of people with SCI/D.



3) COVID-19 VACCINATION

83% of individuals with SCI/D had a **full vaccination (2 doses)** and **66%** received **additional doses (boosters)**.

Vaccination rates for individuals with SCI/D **were very similar** to the general population in Ontario and Canada**, demonstrating little vaccine hesitancy**.

4)COVID-19 MORTALITY

21% increase in mortality from **direct deaths** caused by infection of the COVID-19 virus and **indirect factors** affecting the delivery of healthcare services throughout the pandemic.

Mortality rates showed that **females were more impacted than males** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Differences in mortality rates based on **mental health status** as well as **type of SCI/D were not further worsened** during this time.

FURTHER READING

Full details and results of this work can be found by scanning the QR code, or clicking on the subject headings, below:

1) HEALTHCARE USE

2) HOMECARE USE

3) COVID-19 VACCINATION

4) COVID-19 MORTALITY

[1] We used data from ICES, an independent, non-profit corporation that houses health administrative data in Ontario.

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CIHR IRSC Canadian Institutes of Health Research / Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

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