

Report launch

The impact of the closure of day services



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



INCLUSION IRELAND
National Association for People
with an Intellectual Disability



pobal

government supporting communities

What we did



In March, Disability Day Services closed to most people because of Covid-19. They are still closed more than 3 months later



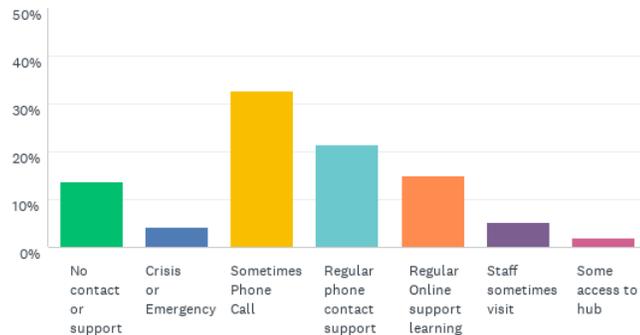
Inclusion Ireland did an online survey in June. We wanted to know how the closure of services has affected you. 346 people answered the survey.



We wrote a report about what people said in the survey. We are now launching the report. We have sent it to the Government and HSE.

What you told us

Q7 What contact or support are they getting from the day service since it closed?



- The support people got was different.
- Just more than half of people got a very low level of support.
- Just less than half of people got a higher level of support.
- Less than 10% of people had in person contact with support staff.
- 16% of people got online support such as classes and meetings on Zoom or Skype.
- 1 in every 5 people could not use online support as their disability was too great.

How this made people feel



- More than half of people with a disability said they felt more lonely. One third of family members said there was an increase in anxiety. Some other people were more withdrawn.



- 38% of people said there was an increase in behaviour of concern. There was also more anger reported.



- One fifth of people were happier at home. People with a disability had happier at 30%. This led to concern the person may not want to go back to the service.

What supports people want now



- Direct, in person contact with staff was very important. This was either by a home visit, or an outing or by going to the centre. Phone support by staff was also very important.
- For people with more complex disabilities, in person support was the only form of support people said would work.
- For some people online activities through Zoom or Skype was an important support.
- It was also important for people to meet their friends on Zoom or Skype.
- Online support does not work for people with more complex disabilities.

Respite and therapy services



- 123 people had access to respite before the lockdown and 40 had home support.
- Only 15 people got respite since the lockdown and only 16 got access to home support.



- 130 people had access to at least one therapy support before lockdown.
- Only 28 had support during lockdown by phone or online.

What we want to happen now



- Services need to reopen as it says in the Roadmap for Reopening Ireland. People need full access to day services. Respite, therapy and home support must also be restored in a safe way.
- The Minister for Health or Disability must make 'special' funding available to support services to open to as many people as possible safely. The funding would pay for extra buildings, safety measures and more staff if needed.
- Clear communication on when and how services are reopening is needed.
- People with disabilities must be consulted with on reopening.
- Safety measures must be clearly set out

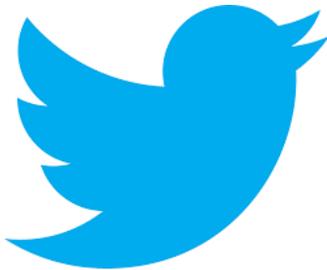
Stay in touch with us



- Call 01 8559891 or 0818 559891



- Email info@inclusionireland or covid19support@inclusionireland.ie let us know and we will send you our e-newsletter



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Thank you for giving us your time this morning.

The report is available at www.inclusionireland.ie