

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON COGNITIVE CLINIC PATIENTS

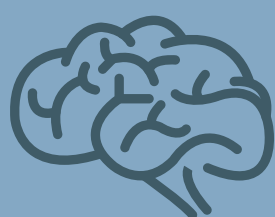


We talked with 20 people living with dementia and their care partners about their experience with the COVID-19 pandemic.



10 participants were female, and 10 were male.

The age range of participants was 55-87, with the average age of 69.



75% were living with Alzheimer's Disease. 25% were living with other types of dementia, including frontotemporal and mixed dementia.

THIS IS WHAT THEY SAID

HEALTH IMPACTS

We heard from participants that they feel **alone, anxious, and left without support**. Several care partners said that they were worried their loved one was experiencing a **decline in their condition**. Care partners also told us about finding it **difficult to cope** with less supports, and their worries about returning to work.



PERSONAL IMPACTS

Participants told us about difficulties with **little supports** due to social distancing measures, and how some are relying on support from their family or community. We also heard about **increased stress** experienced with day-to-day life as care and services have been limited or shut down.

CARE & SERVICES IMPACTS



Many participants told us about their experiences having their care and programming supports changed, from having it **completely removed** to having to shift to **online programs**. While many said they would still prefer face-to-face visits, care partners talked about some things they liked about having **virtual appointments** with their doctors, such as being able to talk with the doctor without their loved one present, and feeling they had more time to ask questions. However, we heard about **challenges with virtual appointments**, like technology issues, or their loved one potentially becoming upset from hearing what the doctor said.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Using technology to help people living with dementia to be social.
- Using technology to connect care partners and help them feel supported.
- More in-person, socially distanced visits from social workers and care providers.
- Better and easier ways for patients to access virtual medical care.

