

# Parental Concerns on Patience and Behaviour Management for Children with Disabilities During COVID-19

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## Background

Physical, emotional, cognitive, and behavioural disabilities require unique care and support systems, and adequate access to these services is essential to the child's health.

The sudden COVID-19 Lockdowns shut down many health and childcare services globally, disrupting access to many essential services

However, the closure of these services had a distinct impact on families of children with disabilities

## Research Question

Is there a relationship between disability and parental concerns regarding having patience with and/or managing a child's behaviour/emotions during the COVID-19 pandemic?

## Methods

### Data Collection

Crowdsource File: Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians - Parenting During the Pandemic

- Collected by Statistics Canada
- Participants included parents of children aged 0-14 years throughout Canada
- Key Variables:**
- Familial Demographic factors: Child has disability, Indigenous identity, visible minority status, and employment status
- Dependent: Concern for family - Having less patience with child, Concern for family - Managing child's behaviour/emotions

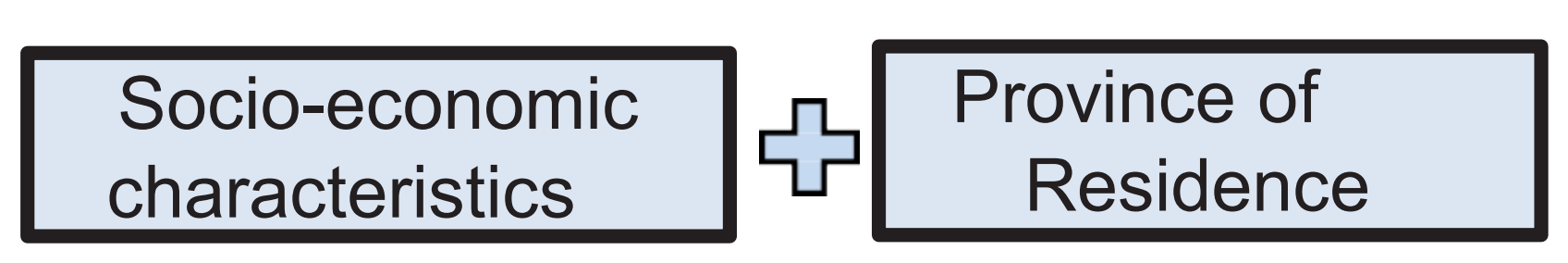
16.9% of all respondents reported having a child between 0-14 with a disability

### Data Analysis

- A binomial regression model was used to assess how disability status is associated with these concerns
- Behaviour Concerns measured as 'No Concerns' (N=2405) vs. 'Some Concern' (N=29772), Patience (N=4402 - No Concern, N=27792 - Some Concern)



Controlled for other sociodemographic factors



# Families with children aged 0-14 with disabilities experience increased concerns about how they will manage their child's behaviour and emotions during the COVID-19 pandemic



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## Results

Disability significantly predicted increased parental concerns about managing children's behaviour.



Families with all family members working from home also experienced increased concern

Figure 1: Concern for family - Managing child's behaviour/emotions vs Demographic and Socioeconomic Indicators<sup>1</sup>

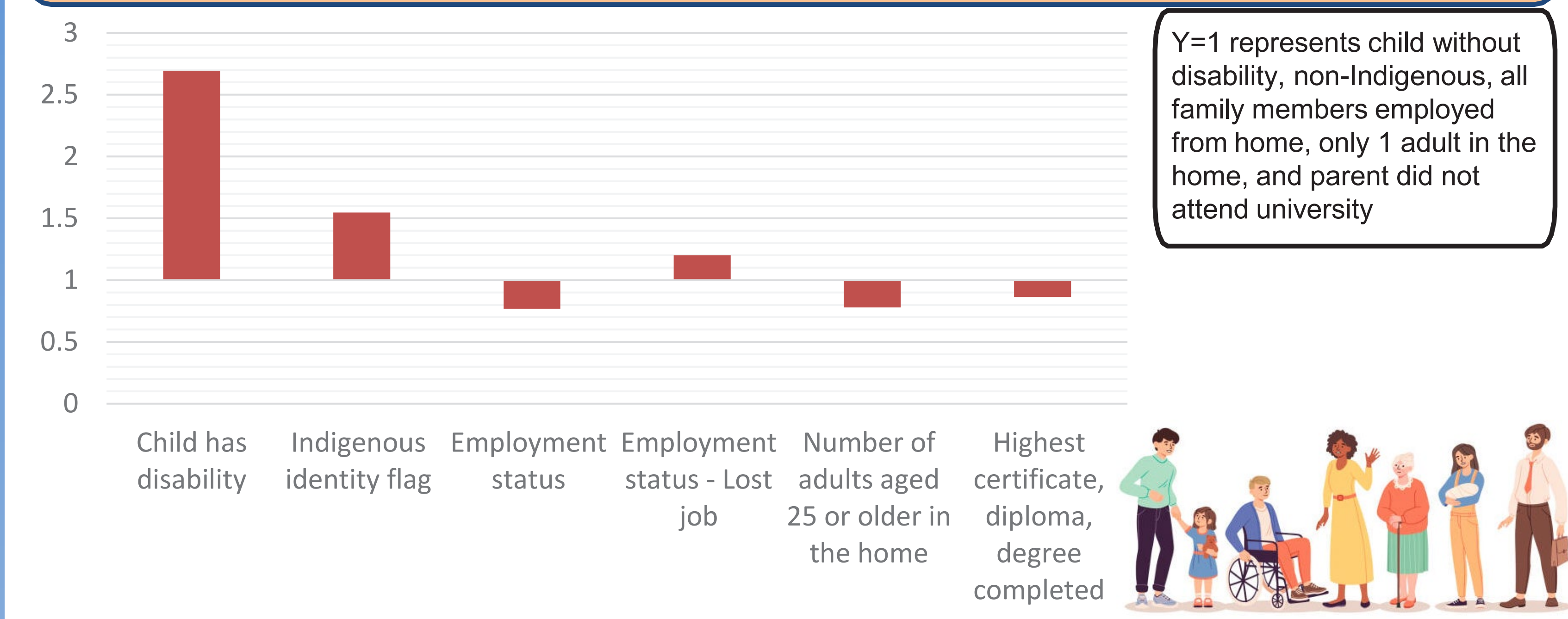
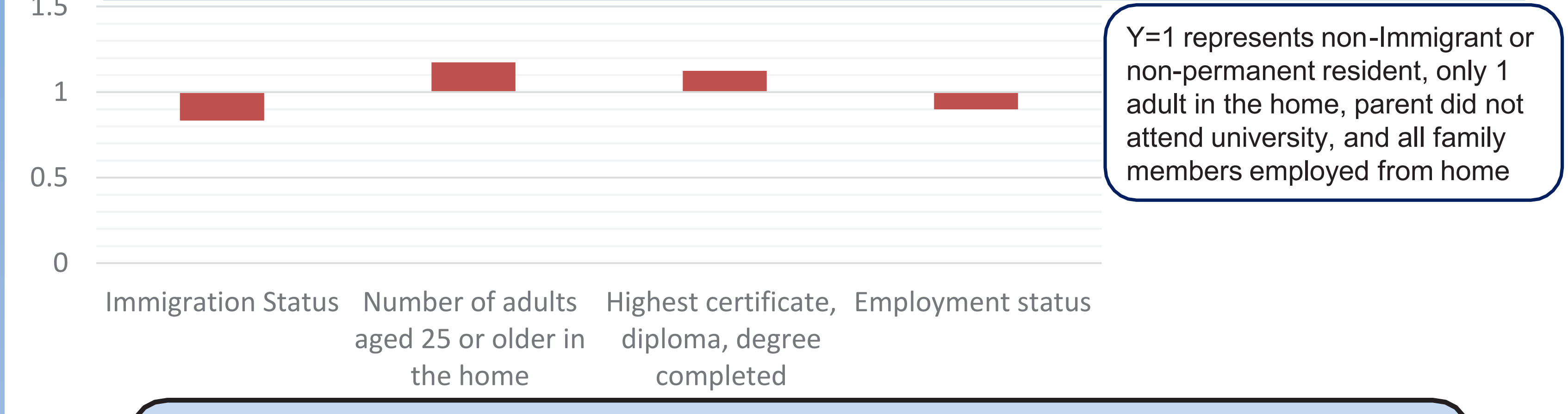


Figure 2: Concern for family - Having less patience with child significant predictors<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Controlled for parental demographic factors: child with disability, visible minority status, Indigenous identity, education level, immigration status, employment status, province of residence, and number of adults in the home

Disability significantly predicts behaviour management concerns ( $X^2 = 2.69, p < 0.05$ ). However, disability is not a significant predictor of patience concerns ( $X^2 = 1.085, p > 0.05$ ) after demographic adjustments

## Conclusion

Families of children with disabilities experience increased concern about managing their child's behaviour and emotions, regardless of demographic

Targeted support is important during global crises

## Relevance to Holland Bloorview



Identifies the need for specialized mental health and behavioural support services for families with children with disabilities

Informs policymakers on how the COVID-19 shutdown affected families of children with disabilities

