

Executive Summary

A far cry from
FAIR

Health-care access for
people with disabilities

The “Far Cry from Fair” report provides a comprehensive overview of the systemic barriers people with disabilities face in accessing health care in the United States. **The study highlights how people with disabilities experience three key barriers:**

1. Access Barriers

Many health-care facilities are physically inaccessible, lacking necessary accommodations such as ramps, wide hallways, and accessible medical equipment like adjustable-height exam tables or wheelchair scales. Many health-care settings do not have appropriate policies to guide accommodations. Doctors typically have limited knowledge on how to provide care for patients with disabilities, and patients often face long waits for care. Sensory barriers like overstimulating waiting rooms, inaccessible communication methods, and transportation challenges also limit access to care for people with disabilities. These barriers disproportionately impact people with disabilities who require regular and specialized health-care services.

2. Discrimination, Bias, and Ableism

Pervasive bias and ableism among health-care providers result in substandard care for people with disabilities. Providers often make incorrect assumptions about patients’ quality of life and overlook or inadequately address their medical concerns. People with disabilities, especially those belonging to other marginalized groups, frequently experience compounded discrimination based on race, gender, or socioeconomic status. This bias leads to a lack of trust in health-care systems and contributes to worsened health outcomes.

3. Financial Barriers

The high cost of health care poses a significant challenge. People with disabilities face higher out-of-pocket costs, limited insurance coverage, and additional expenses for specialized equipment and services. Often, insurance policies do not cover preventive or essential care, such as adaptive equipment or necessary screenings. This financial burden exacerbates their inability to afford care, further limiting access to timely and appropriate medical services.

The report calls for systemic reforms to make health care more equitable and accessible for people with disabilities, ensuring that care is patient-centered and inclusive.

Find the full report at www.FISAFoundation.org

