Changes in health and social support experiences for disabled people from minoritised ethnic groups over the last three years: findings from the CICADA study

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Disabled people from minoritised ethnic groups have been more likely than other groups to face issues accessing support and services for pre-existing conditions during the pandemic and to die from COVID-19. This results from the historical context of multiple structural, contextual and individual discriminatory social disadvantages, which the pandemic increased. The CICADA study has explored the pandemic experiences with and of disabled people from minoritised ethnic groups through an intersectional lens. The aim was to develop solutions and recommendations aimed at reducing inequities, particularly in terms of health and social care and wellbeing. We used a mixed-methods approach including a three-wave survey (5,000 respondents), and semi-structured qualitative interviews (over 250) with follow-up participatory workshops and citizen science support. In this talk we will consider the key findings across and between four broad ethnic groups (Central and East European, South Asian, African and Arab) and white British experiences, and across and between six different disability impacts (mental functioning, mobility, stamina/fatigue, sensory impairment, developmental/intellectual and food-related). Themes include the use of doctors 'back home', using technology in multiple ways, and the roles of community and family networks. Importantly, this is a longitudinal study so the talk will also consider changes through the last three years and their implications for services and communities.

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