**1. INTRODUCTION**

From being disabled persons, people with intellectual disabilities (ID) have now become citizens with full rights from education to work, and from being a formal fixture to becoming a full member of society. To become a full member of society, we need to help people with ID to develop the necessary skills for living in our society. In this study, we focus on one of the most relevant skills: the use of the Internet.

**2. METHODOLOGY**

A non-experimental, quantitative study through a survey design was carried out in 2017. The survey was designed to assess caregivers’ perception of Internet security, concerns about the use of the Internet by people with ID, and the use of prevention strategies. The study included 44 caregivers of patients with ID, including 20 relatives and 24 professionals, with a completion rate of 58%.

**3. OUTCOMES**

**CAREGIVERS PERCEPTION OF INTERNET SECURITY**
- 66% believe that the Internet is unsafe for people with ID.
- 91% believe that the Internet is unsafe for individuals without ID.

**CAREGIVERS’ CONCERNS ABOUT THE USE OF THE INTERNET BY PEOPLE WITH ID**
- 66% are concerned about the use of personal information without consent.
- 59% are concerned about receiving threats.
- 50% are concerned about being stalked.

**USE OF PREVENTION STRATEGIES BY THE CAREGIVERS**
- 84% talk about what they do on the Internet.
- 72% talk about the risks of chatting or flirting online with strangers.
- 62% talk with them about identity and the risks of data theft.

**INTERNET SECURITY INFORMATION AND TRAINING**
- 43% feel trained to prevent problems.
- 48% feel trained to deal with and to solve problems.

**4. CONCLUSIONS**

- **Barriers**
  - The Internet is less safe for people with ID and for children.
  - **Barriers (for people with ID):**
    - Their personal information will fall into the hands of others.
    - They may be asked to send information to strangers.
  - Threats and harassment.
  - They must protect them but at the same time, they must encourage their independence and self-determination.

- **To avoid risks (for people with ID):**
  - Talking about their activities on the Internet.
  - Being aware of certain behaviors (chatting, flirting, misleading advertising and identity and data theft).

- More than half of the participants do not feel ready to prevent or to deal with the problems that people with ID can experience on the Internet.

- **Concerns about security on the Internet**
  - Media
  - Friends and family

- **More attention should be paid to those groups that support people with ID and that can facilitate their access to the Internet.** By providing appropriate strategies to identify, prevent and address the potential risks on the Internet, we will be able to encourage the use of it in a responsible way.