Objective: To describe the perception about disability of active and passive young patients from Teletón Institutes in Santiago and Concepción. Methods: A phenomenological qualitative study of descriptive exploratory character, with intentional sample constituted by 37 participants, corresponding to young active and passive patients from Teletón Institutes in Santiago and Concepción. Production data was carried out through focus groups and a qualitative content analysis by Atlas. ti software. Results: Disability is perceived as a condition of difference and a social phenomenon, which can be considered either positively or negatively. Participants associate disability with socio-cultural problems such as unknowingness, lack of opportunities and discrimination, limited physical accessibility, educational system’s difficulties and problems related to disabled people themselves such as psychological problems. The solution to these problems involves action at different levels, with focus in social, political, and educational solutions but also, solutions coming from people with disabilities. Discussion: Disability is a multidimensional phenomenon, perceived according to the experiences and the context in which young people live; meanings related to the medical and social models of disability coexist in them. Although this condition is viewed as mainly positive, problems associated with it were identified, which hinder patient’s daily life and development, as it also affects the family members and loved ones. Solving these problems is essential to promote the participation and inclusion of people with disabilities into society. Key words: Perceptions, disability, youth, qualitative research.