

COVID-19 in people with intellectual disabilities

In the Netherlands, many people have expressed concerns about the coronavirus and its impact on people with intellectual disabilities. To gain more insight into this situation, on 24 March the Academic Collaborative 'Sterker op eigen benen' of Radboud university medical center made an on-line registration system available. The registration system was commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. The preliminary findings of the registration system are presented in this fact sheet.

The organizations of over 75% of clients with intellectual disabilities are now participating in the online registration system. A good national distribution of participating organizations appears to be achieved.

The most common complaints with a COVID-19 infection are: cough (52%), fever (42%), fatigue (41%), nose cold/sneezing (40%) and shortness of breath (25%).

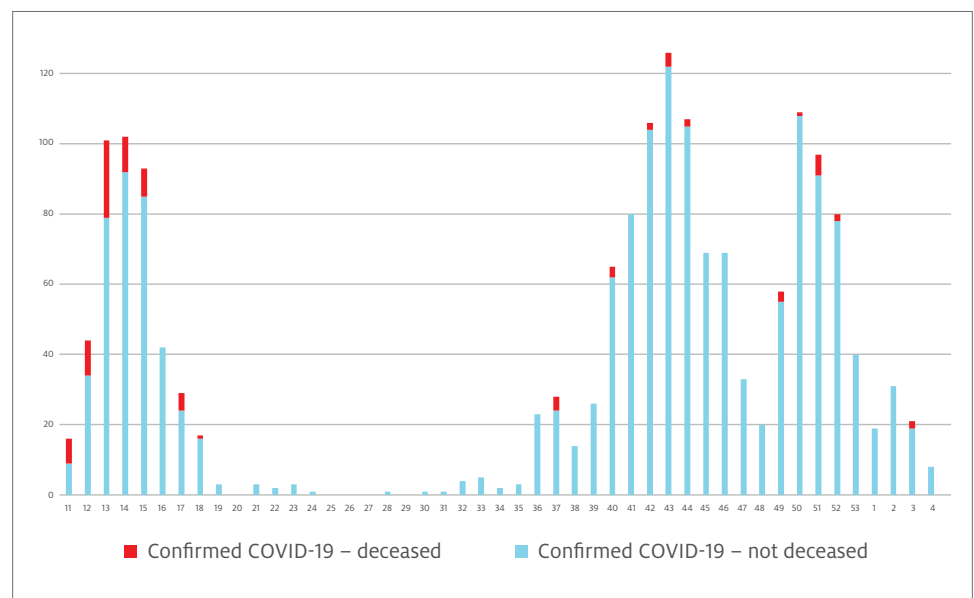
Figures



REGISTRATION

- 72 organizations have joined the registration system;
- 7.512 patients with intellectual disabilities with suspected COVID-19 infection have been registered (of which 56% are men and 44% women);
- 93 patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection have died;
- The mortality rate in people with a confirmed COVID-19 infection is 5%.

Figure 1. Number of patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection and the number of deceased per week



In **figure 1** the weekly number of patients with an intellectual disability with confirmed COVID-19 infection is displayed. The patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection are divided into deceased and not deceased. All registered patients in the database with confirmed COVID-19 infection till week 4, 2021, are included.

NB. Healthcare organizations have the possibility to register clients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection retrospectively. This means that the number of patients with a COVID-19 infection can be supplemented in the last few weeks.

Figures continued



TESTING

- 93% of the registered patients have been tested (6.953 patients);
- In total, 25% of patients tested positive (1.737 patients). That are 120 more patients since the previous fact sheet of 15 January 2021;
- 85% of patients with confirmed COVID-19 infections live in a group home and 14% in their own apartment;
- 57% of confirmed COVID-19 infections occur in the 40 to 69 age group and 13% in the 70+ age group.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Overweight (BMI > 25) occurs in 50% of the patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection and in 46% of the deceased;
- The most registered comorbidities with COVID-19 infection in addition to being overweight are: epilepsy (12%), hypertension (8%), chronic heart condition (8%) and diabetes (6%). Chronic lung disease is only registered in 3% of the patients;
- In 90% of the patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection no additional medication is used. In the patients where additional medication is used, the most commonly used medication are antibiotics (74%);
- 3% of all registered patients with suspected COVID-19 infection (7.512) have been registered more than once in our database.

The recent start of the vaccination program for people with intellectual disabilities has also caused a new period for our data collection. Therefore, we have added a question to the online database about vaccination of the patient.