

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 most common complaints with a COVID-19 infection are: fever (72%), cough (70%), fatigue (63%), shortness of breath (47%), gastrointestinal complaints (37%) and nose cold/sneezing (37%).

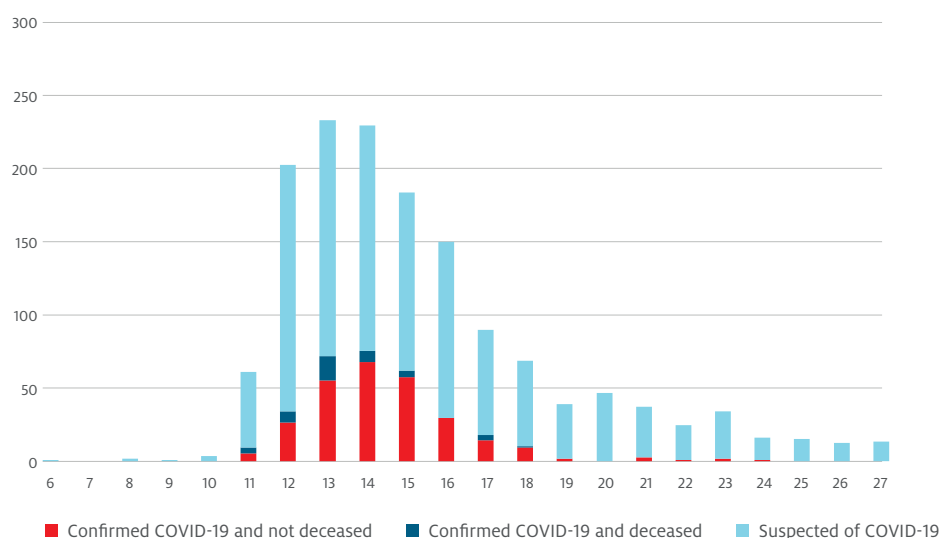
Figures



REGISTRATION

- 69 organizations have joined the registration system;
- 1.808 patients with intellectual disabilities with suspected COVID-19 infection have been registered (of which 56% are men and 44% women);
- 113 registered patients have died, and a COVID-19 infection has been confirmed in 58 of those cases by means of testing;
- The mortality rate in people with a confirmed COVID-19 infection is 14%.

Figure 1. Number of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection per week



In **figure 1** the weekly number of people with an intellectual disability with suspected or 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 till week 27 are included.

NB. Healthcare organizations have the possibility to register clients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection retrospectively.

Figures continued



TESTING

- 1.316 of the registered patients have been tested;
- Of this group, 32% tested positive;
- 88% of patients with confirmed COVID-19 infections live in a group home and 12% in their own apartment;
- 61% of confirmed COVID-19 infections occur in the 40 to 69 age group and 17% in the 70+ age group.



HIGHLIGHTS

- 27% of patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection have a mild to borderline intellectual disability, 35% have a moderate and 38% have a severe or very severe intellectual disability. The mortality rate is comparable in all three groups;
- 14% of patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection have Down syndrome;
- Overweight (BMI>25) occurs in 52% of the patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection and in 64% of the deceased;
- The most registered comorbidities with COVID-19 infection in addition to being overweight are: epilepsy (12%), chronic heart condition (9%), hypertension (8%) and diabetes (7%). Chronic lung disease only is registered with 3% of the patients;
- More than half of the patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection is male (54%). Also the majority of the patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection who needed hospitalization (52%) or who deceased (53%) concerned men. For comparison the figures of the general population are included in figure 2.

Figure 2. Percentage of men with confirmed COVID-19 infection compared to the general population

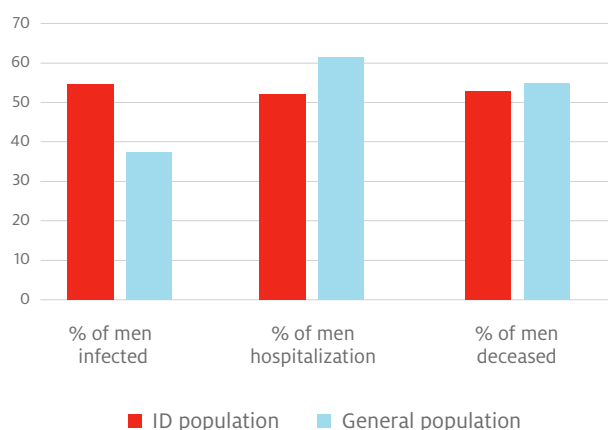


Figure 2 shows the percentage of men with confirmed COVID-19 infection, the percentage of men with COVID-19 infection where hospitalization was deemed necessary and the percentage of men with COVID-19 infection that is deceased, both for people with intellectual disabilities and the general population (figures of the general population are derived from the RIVM).

