

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 (61%), fever (55%), fatigue (50%), nose cold/sneezing (42%), shortness of breath (33%), and gastrointestinal complaints (24%).

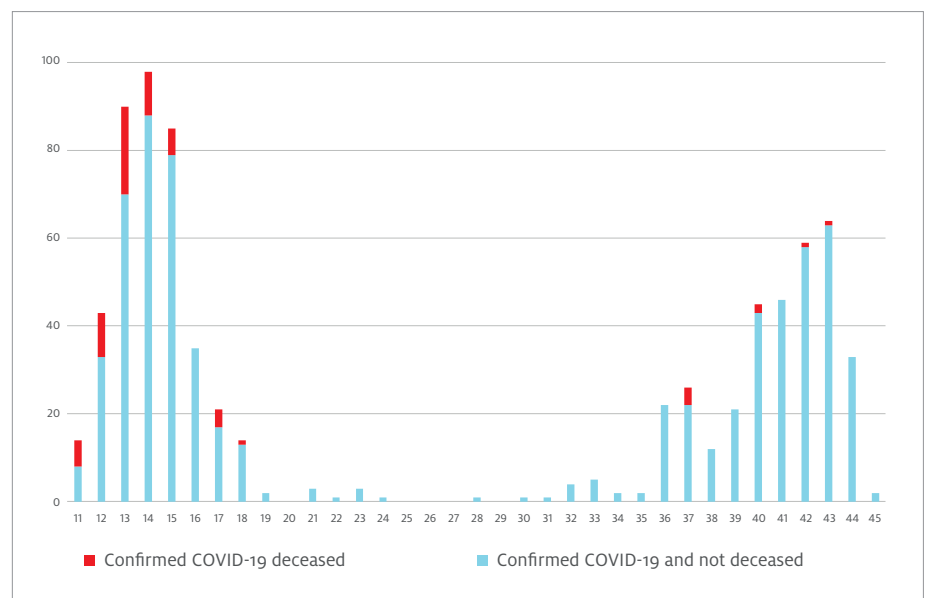
Figures



REGISTRATION

- 72 organizations have joined the registration system;
- 4.522 patients with intellectual disabilities with suspected COVID-19 infection have been registered (of which 56% are men and 44% women);
- 71 patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection have died;
- The mortality rate in people with a confirmed COVID-19 infection is 8%.

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



In **figure 1** the weekly number of people 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 45 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

- 88% of the registered patients have been tested (3.962 patients);
- In total, 22% of patients tested positive (853 patients). That are 212 more patients since the previous fact sheet;
- 84% of patients with confirmed COVID-19 infections live in a group home and 15% in their own apartment;
- 60% of confirmed COVID-19 infections occur in the 40 to 69 age group and 14% in the 70+ age group;
- 10% of patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection have Down syndrome;
- Overweight (BMI>25) occurs in 50% of the patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection and in 50% of the deceased;
- The most registered comorbidities with COVID-19 infection in addition to being overweight are: epilepsy (10%), hypertension (7%), chronic heart condition (6%) and diabetes (6%). Chronic lung disease only is registered with 4% of the patients.



HIGHLIGHTS

In the nationwide increase in coronavirus infections in the Netherlands, we also see an increase in the amount of confirmed COVID-19 infections in people with intellectual disabilities (see figure 1). In addition to the data above, we report here more details on recent COVID-19 infections reported from week 36 till week 45:

- 330 patients with intellectual disabilities and confirmed COVID-19 infection have been registered in this period of time, of which 56% are men and 44% are women;
- Almost half of all newly confirmed COVID-19 infections in this period were in the 50 to 69 age group (155 new patients). The percentage increase was greatest in the age group younger than 30 years (increase of 111%: 60 new patients);
- 81% of the patients live in a group home and 17% live in their own apartment.