

COVID-19 in people with intellectual disabilities

To gain more insight into the impact of COVID-19 on people with intellectual disabilities, the Academic Collaborative ‘Sterker op eigen benen’ of Radboud university medical center made an on-line registration system available on 24 March 2020. The registration system was commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. The preliminary findings are presented in this fact sheet.

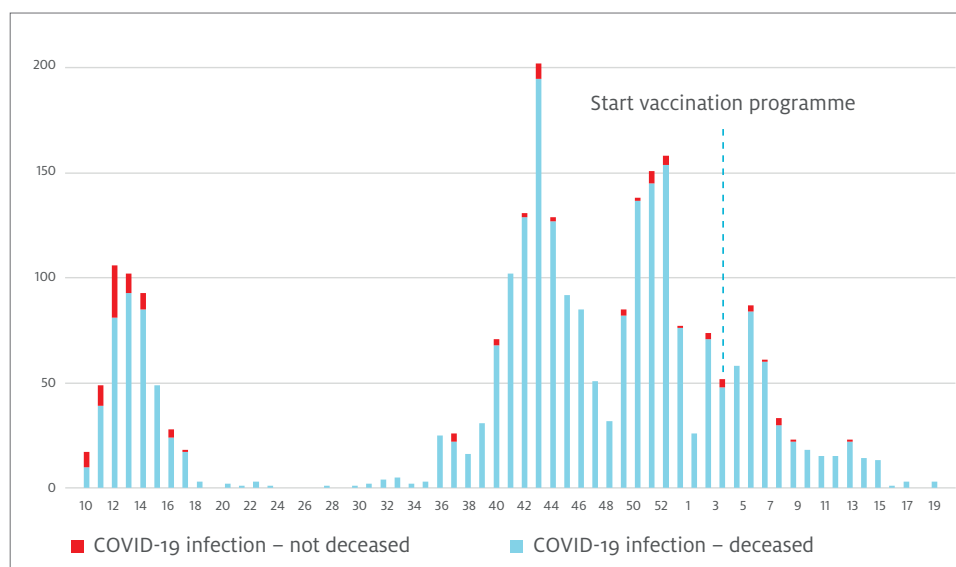
Due to changes in testing policy and heavy workload regarding the vaccination program from the beginning of 2021, it became difficult for many participating healthcare organizations to find time to keep all data properly registered in the database. This resulted in the registration becoming incomplete and therefore less reliable. For the sake of reliability, the data collection has been adjusted and we have taken a critical look at the degree of registration by the participating organizations. In this fact sheet, we present registered data of organizations that participate in the registration to date, which caused the number of participating healthcare organizations in this fact sheet to be lower than previous times.

Figures

REGISTRATION

- 55 healthcare organizations participate in the registration system;
- 10,208 patients with intellectual disabilities with suspected COVID-19 infection have been registered;
- 114 patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection have died;
- The mortality rate in people with a confirmed COVID-19 infection is 4%. The mortality rate of the general population in the Netherlands is 1.1% (source: RIVM).

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, divided into deceased and not deceased. All registered patients in the database with confirmed COVID-19 infection till week 20, 2021, are included.

NB. Not all healthcare organizations have started vaccinating their clients at the same time. The first healthcare organizations started vaccinating in week 3 of 2021, followed by other organizations. In most cases, the second round of vaccination has taken place 3-4 weeks later.

NB. Healthcare organizations have the possibility to register clients with 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



CONFIRMED COVID-19 INFECTIONS

- 90% of the registered patients have been tested (9,224 patients);
- In total, 2,677 patients tested positive (29%);
- 56% of confirmed COVID-19 infections in our registration system occur in the 40 to 69 age group and 12% in the 70+ age group;
- 84% of patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection live in a group home and 15% in their own apartment;
- 58% of patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection are men and 42% are women;
- The suspected source of infection of patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection is a fellow client in 42% of the patients, a daily caregiver in 21% and a parent in 3%. In the other patients, the source of infection is 'unknown' or 'different'.



HIGHLIGHTS

Our registration system shows that the number of confirmed COVID-19 infections in people with intellectual disabilities has decreased over recent months (Figure 1). This was certainly the case after the start of the vaccination program in week 3, 2021. Nevertheless, people are still tested positive for COVID-19 after the vaccination program has started. Below, we report more details on people with intellectual disabilities who tested positive for COVID-19 after week 3:

- In total, 367 patients were registered with a positive test after week 3;
- Information on vaccination status at the time of registration is also available of these patients. Of these patients, 45% was not yet vaccinated, 15% was vaccinated once, 23% was vaccinated twice and the vaccination status of 17% was unknown;
- 29 patients (8%) had a confirmed COVID-19 infection at least 14 days after the first vaccination;
 - 55% of these patients reported complaints and 52% were in the 40 to 69 age group;
- 8 patients (2%) had a confirmed COVID-19 infection at least 31 days after the second vaccination.