

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: cough (65%), fever (62%), fatigue (54%), nose cold/sneezing (40%), shortness of breath (38%), and gastrointestinal complaints (29%).

Figures



REGISTRATION

- 72 organizations have joined the registration system;
- 3.490 patients with intellectual disabilities with suspected COVID-19 infection have been registered (of which 56% are men and 44% women);
- 67 patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection have died;
- The mortality rate in people with a confirmed COVID-19 infection is 11%.



TESTING

- 84% of the registered patients have been tested (2.940 patients);
- In total, 22% of patients tested positive (641 patients). That are 120 more patients since the previous fact sheet;
- 83% of patients with confirmed COVID-19 infections live in a group home and 16% 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.

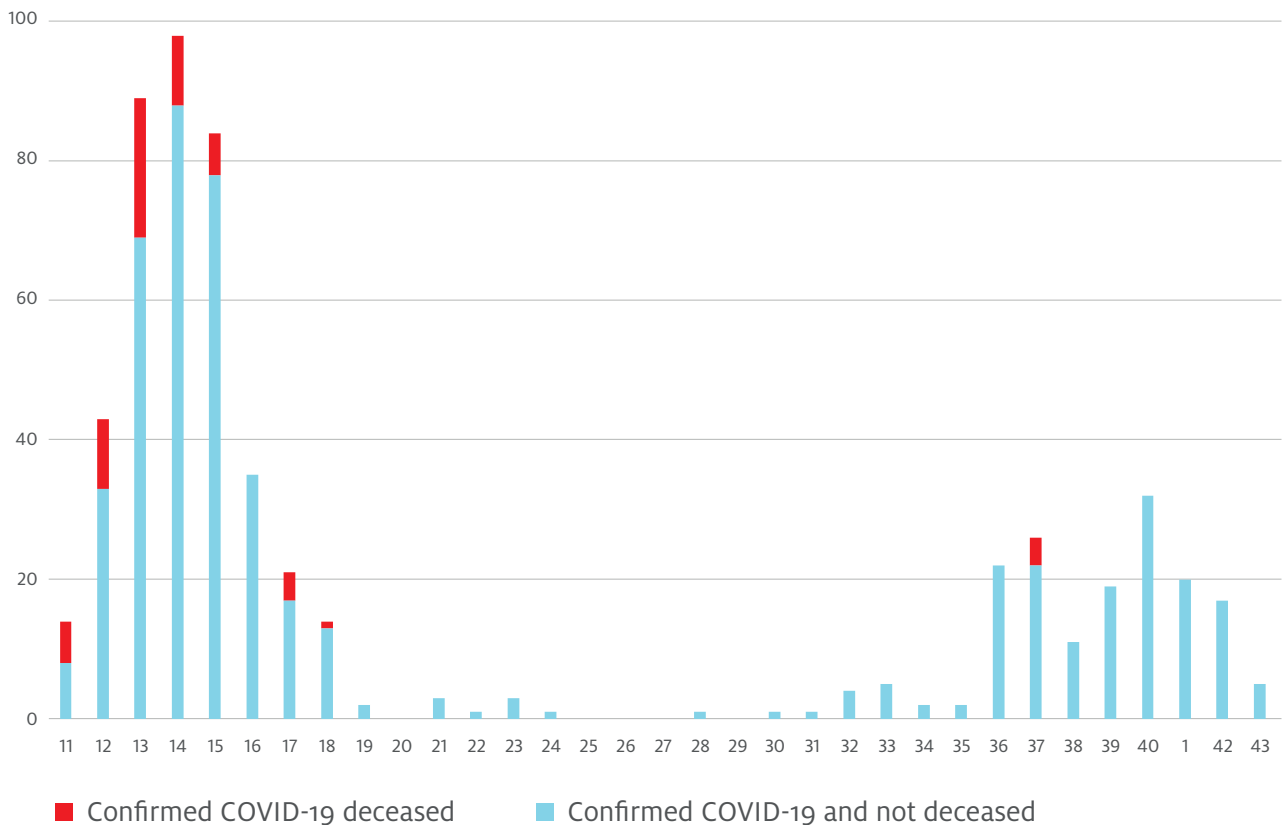


HIGHLIGHTS

- 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. The slight increase that we detected earlier now appears to be continuing (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 43:
- 152 patients with intellectual disabilities and confirmed COVID-19 infection have been registered in this period of time, of which 60% are men and 40% are women;
 - Most COVID-19 infections occur in the 50 to 59 age group (35 patients). As in the general population, a large increase in COVID-19 infections is especially visible in the 20 to 29 age group (increase of 81%);
 - 73% of the patients live in a group home and 25% live in their own apartment.

Figures continued

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 43 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.