

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 (68%), cough (68%), fatigue (58%), shortness of breath (43%), nose cold/sneezing (40%) and gastrointestinal complaints (33%).

Figures



REGISTRATION

- 70 organizations have joined the registration system;
- 2.425 patients with intellectual disabilities with suspected COVID-19 infection have been registered (of which 56% are men and 44% women);
- 65 patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection have died;
- The mortality rate in people with a confirmed COVID-19 infection is 13%.



TESTING

- 79% of the registered patients have been tested (1.922 patients);
- In total, 27% of patients tested positive (521 patients). That are 68 more patients since the previous fact sheet;
- 83% of patients with confirmed COVID-19 infections live in a group home and 17% in their own apartment;
- 62% of confirmed COVID-19 infections occur in the 40 to 69 age group and 15% in the 70+ age group.



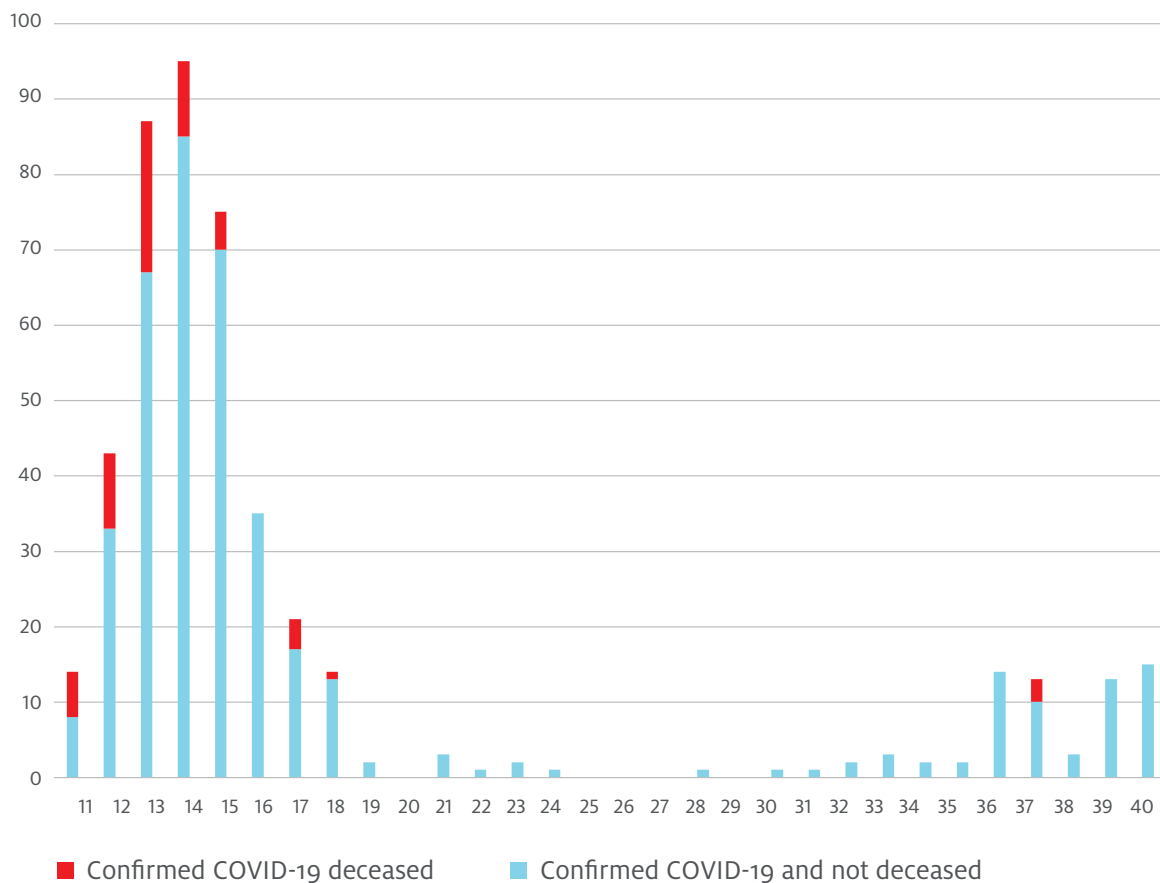
HIGHLIGHTS

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 40:

- 58 patients with intellectual disabilities and confirmed COVID-19 infection have been registered in this period of time, of which 69% are men and 31% are women;
- Most COVID-19 infections occur in the 50 to 59 age group (16 patients). The largest growth in COVID-19 infections, as in the general population, is in the 20 to 29 age group (increase of 35%);
- 56% of the patients live in a group home and 44% 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 40 are included.

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