

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.

Fortunately, we have noticed that the number of clients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection continues to decrease and the number of vaccinations continues to rise. That is why the extensive registration has stopped as of June 1, 2021. For the sake of completeness of the dataset, COVID-19 infections before June 1 can still be entered retrospectively. However, we will continue to monitor COVID-19 infections in people with intellectual disabilities using a monthly online questionnaire. Using this, the effects of the vaccination, ease of restrictions and possible effects of the holiday period can be visualized.

This fact sheet will be the last of its kind. Here we present the overview of the findings on COVID-19 in people with intellectual disabilities based on the registration in 2020 and 2021.

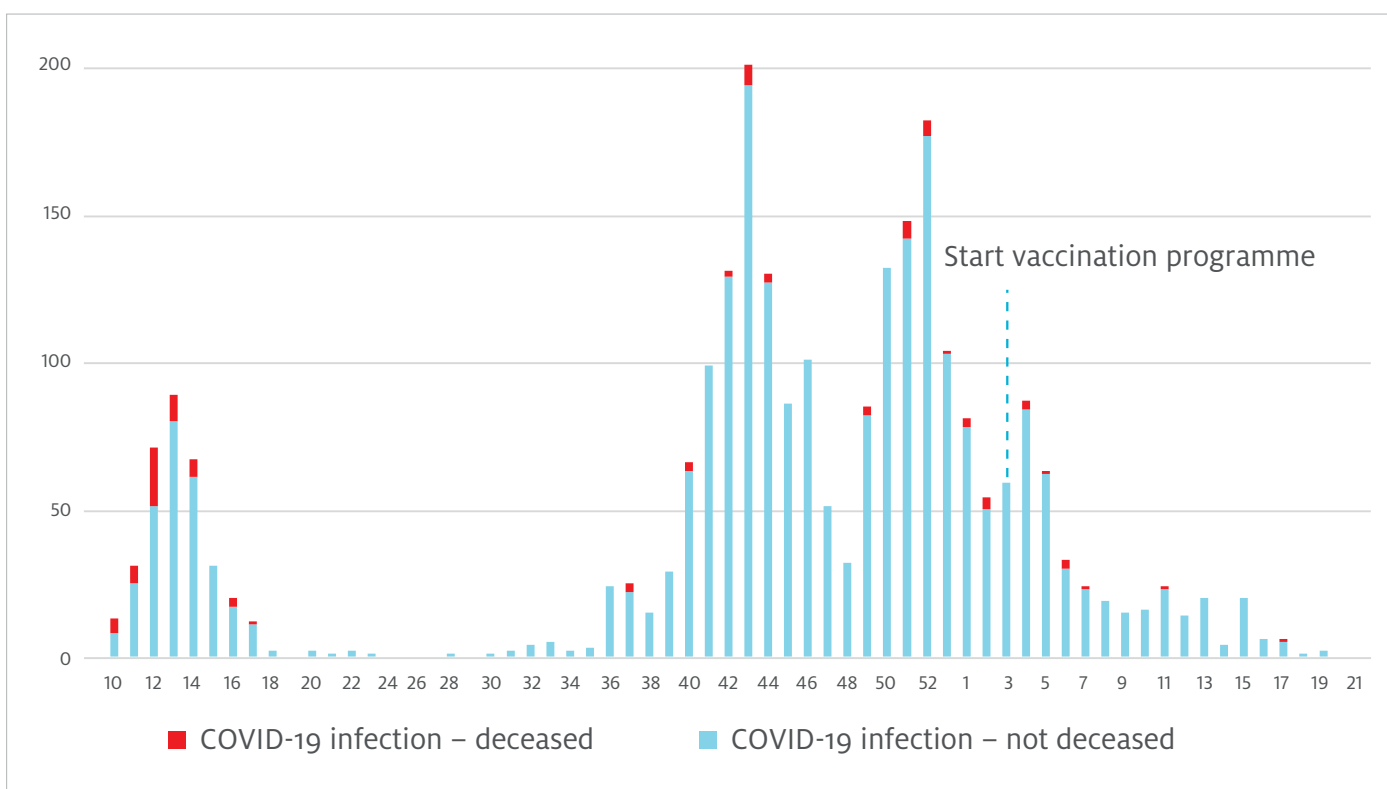
Figures



REGISTRATION

- For this fact sheet, only data from organizations that have continuously actively registered during the entire period have been used. This concerns 36 healthcare organizations at 44 different locations;
- 9,784 patients with intellectual disabilities with suspected COVID-19 infection have been registered;
- 2,599 patients with intellectual disabilities have a confirmed COVID-19 infection;
- 100 patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection have died;
- The case fatality rate in people with a confirmed COVID-19 infection is 4%. The case fatality rate of the general population in the Netherlands is 1.1% (source: RIVM).

Figure 1. Number of patients with a 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 22, 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 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.

Vervolg cijfers



CONFIRMED COVID-19

- 96% of the registered patients have been tested (9,362 patients);
- In total, 28% of these patients tested positive (2,599 patients);
- 55% of confirmed COVID-19 infections in our registration system occur in the 40 to 69 age group and 12% in the 70+ age group. Regarding deceased patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection, these percentages were 52% and 45% respectively;
- 83% of patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection live in a group home and 16% 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 43% of the patients, a daily caregiver in 22% and a parent in 3%. In the other patients, the source of infection is 'unknown' or 'different'.



INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

- 26% of patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection have a mild to borderline intellectual disability, 36% have a moderate and 36% have a severe or very severe intellectual disability. Regarding deceased patients, the percentage of patients with a moderate, severe or very severe intellectual disability is somewhat higher compared to the proportion of patients with a mild to borderline intellectual disability;
- Patients with Down syndrome accounted for 6% of the patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection and 13% of the deceased.



COMORBIDITIES

- Overweight (BMI > 25) occurs in 48% of the patients with a confirmed COVID-19 infection and in 43% of the deceased;
- The most registered comorbidities with a confirmed COVID-19 infection in addition to being overweight are: epilepsy (10%), hypertension (8%), chronic heart condition (6%), and diabetes (6%). Chronic lung disease only is registered with 3% of the patients.



COMPLAINTS AND TREATMENT

Figure 2. The most common complaints with a COVID-19 infection

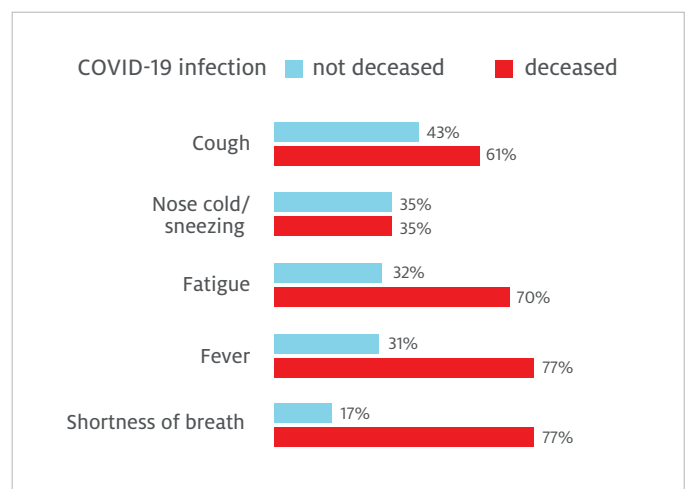
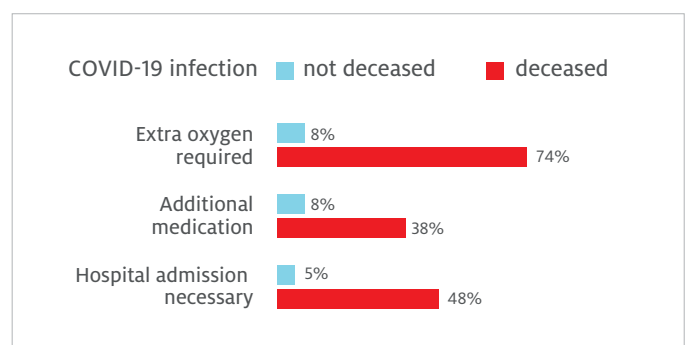


Figure 3. Treatment of COVID-19 infection



In the past year, despite the hectic circumstances, many healthcare organizations have contributed with great commitment to more insight into COVID-19 among people with intellectual disabilities by entering data in the online registration system.

Thanks to all the people who contributed to this!

Together we have made it possible for people with intellectual disabilities to be visible during the COVID-19 crisis and thus receive the attention they deserve in healthcare and policy.

