



COVID-19 Case and Mortality Report
for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Research Summary
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Incidence

Incidence means the number of new cases of COVID-19 in a community in a certain time. Some studies found that people with IDD have a higher incidence of COVID-19 than people without IDD. A study of 64 million patients in the United States found that people with IDD were about 3.5 times more likely to be diagnosed with COVID-19 compared to people without IDD¹. Another study in New York found that rates of COVID-19 were higher for people with IDD who lived in state-funded group homes, especially in the first months of the pandemic². Other studies found that people with IDD were equally likely³ or less likely⁴ to get COVID-19 than people without IDD.

Outcomes and Mortality

People with IDD who are diagnosed with COVID-19 are more likely to be very sick or die compared to people without IDD. One large study found that COVID-19 patients with IDD were about twice as likely to be admitted to the hospital compared to people without IDD¹. This study did not find a significant difference in patients with and without IDD being admitted to the ICU, even though mortality rates were also higher¹. This finding suggests that people with IDD are not receiving the same level of care as people without IDD.

¹ Gleason, Ross, Fossi, Blonksy, Tobias, & Stephens (2021). The devastating impact of COVID-19 on individuals with intellectual disabilities in the United States. *New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) Catalyst*.

² Landes, S. D., Turk, M. A., Formica, M. K., & McDonald, K. E. (2020a). COVID-19 Trends Among Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Living in Residential Group Homes in New York State through July 10, 2020. Syracuse, NY: Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion, Syracuse University.

³ Spreat, S., Cox, R., & Davis, M. (N.D.). COVID-19 case and mortality report: Intellectual or developmental disabilities. https://www.ancor.org/sites/default/files/covid-19_case_and_mortality_report.pdf

⁴ Landes, S. D., Turk, M. A., & Wong, A.W. (2020b). COVID-19 outcomes among people with intellectual and developmental disability in California: The importance of type of residence and skilled nursing care needs. *Disability and Health Journal*, 101051.

Several studies found that people with IDD who have COVID-19 are two to three times more likely to die than people without IDD^{1,2,3,4,5,6}. One large study found that for COVID-19 patients younger than 70, those with developmental disorders were 4.76 times more likely to die than people without developmental disorders⁷. The same study found that COVID-19 patients younger than 70 with intellectual disabilities were 3.61 times more likely to die than people without ID⁷.

Certain developmental disabilities may be even more strongly associated with poor outcomes from COVID-19. For people with Down Syndrome the risk of dying from COVID-19 increases at age 40, compared to 60 for people without Down Syndrome⁸. Another study found that people with Down Syndrome were ten times more likely to die from COVID-19 than people without Down Syndrome, even after controlling for health conditions known to increase the risk of dying from COVID-19⁹.

⁵ McDonald, A. & Ostroff, C. (2020). Covid-19 is deadlier for people with Autism, Down Syndrome. Now families are pushing hard for vaccines. *Wall Street Journal*. https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-is-deadlier-for-people-with-autism-down-syndrome-now-families-are-pushing-hard-for-vaccines-11608729816?st=yivo74xa84i4g8w&reflink=article_email_share&fbclid=IwAR1KANt24-vdLsYE6KFMsf-VZ_CneQ6hywg6zzWECjYKGT2Ld7xOYq_QMU

⁶ Shapiro, J. (2020). COVID-19 infections and deaths are higher among those with intellectual disabilities. *National Public Radio*. <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/09/872401607/covid-19-infections-and-deaths-are-higher-among-those-with-intellectual-disabili>

⁷ Fair Health. (2020). Risk factors for COVID-19 mortality among privately insured patients: A claims data analysis. <https://s3.amazonaws.com/media2.fairhealth.org/whitepaper/asset/Risk%20Factors%20for%20COVID-19%20Mortality%20among%20Privately%20Insured%20Patients%20-%20A%20Claims%20Data%20Analysis%20-%20A%20FAIR%20Health%20White%20Paper.pdf>

⁸ Hüls, A., Costa, A. C., Dierssen, M., Baksh, R. A., Bargagna, S., Baumer, N. T., ... & T21RS COVID-19 Initiative. (2021). Medical vulnerability of individuals with down syndrome to severe COVID-19—data from the trisomy 21 research society and the UK ISARIC4C survey. *EClinicalMedicine*, 100769.

⁹ Cliff, A. K., Coupland, C. A., Keogh, R. H., Hemingway, H., & Hippisley-Cox, J. (2020). COVID-19 mortality risk in Down syndrome: results from a cohort study of 8 million adults. *Annals of internal medicine*.