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 IDD. 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 pandemic. Other studies found that people with IDD were equally likely or less likely 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 IDD. 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 higher. This finding suggests that people with IDD are not receiving the same level of care as people without IDD.

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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 disorders\(^7\). 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 ID\(^7\).

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 Syndrome\(^8\). 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-19\(^9\).


