



## Coronavirus and People with Learning Disabilities Study

### What we know so far (March 2021)

What is this study about?



This study is about coronavirus (also called COVID-19) and people with learning disabilities.



We talked to over 600 adults with learning disabilities. We talked to people living in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.



Nearly 400 family carers or paid supporters of people with severe or profound multiple learning disabilities also gave us information.



This report is about what we have found so far.

## People with learning disabilities who had COVID-19



About 5% of with learning disabilities had COVID-19.

They had a test. The test was positive.



Another 5% of people with learning disabilities thought they had COVID-19.

They did not have a test.



Some of these people (about 15%) went to hospital.

## People with learning disabilities who knew someone who died from COVID-19



People with learning disabilities told us that they knew people who had died from COVID-19.

More than 10% of people with learning disabilities said someone close to them had died due to COVID-19.

## COVID-19 and physical health



Around 30% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had poorer physical health than before March 2020.

## Shielding in the last year



Many people (about 45%) with learning disabilities were shielding.

## Worries about COVID-19



Most people with learning disabilities were worried about getting COVID-19.

Most people with learning disabilities were more worried about their family and friends getting COVID-19.

Half of the people with learning disabilities were worried about going out.

## COVID-19 vaccine



People with learning disabilities can now have the COVID-19 vaccine.

Most people (85%) with learning disabilities said they would have the vaccine.

## Support in the last year



People with learning disabilities are getting less help with their health.

My  
health check



Only half of people with learning disabilities in this study had their annual health check.



Some people (about 32%) with learning disabilities had appointments cancelled.



Community activities, day and respite support stopped for nearly all people with learning disabilities.

## Wellbeing



Many people with learning disabilities felt angry or frustrated.



Many people with learning disabilities felt sad or down.



Many people with learning disabilities felt worried or anxious.



Carers told us they were finding life hard.



Carers said it was hard to sleep. Carers said they were tired.



Carers said they were stressed.



## Employment



Some people (30%) with learning disabilities had jobs.

Some of these people have had to learn to work from home

## Friends and family



Most people had fewer visitors.

People were not allowed to visit because of COVID-19.



Most people with learning disabilities we talked to were keeping in touch with family and friends.



Most people with learning disabilities we talked to used the internet.



Families helped people with learning disabilities to get food.



Families helped people with learning disabilities to get medicine.

**What happens next?**



We want to find out more about people with learning disabilities and COVID-19.



We will talk to people again from April.

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