



Coronavirus and People with Learning Disabilities Study

What we know about Digital Lives

June 2021

What is this study about?



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

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



Nearly 300 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.

Using the internet or phone

People with learning disabilities told us:



Nearly all people with learning disabilities (96%) had the internet at home



Most people with learning disabilities (90%) told us they used the internet at home



Nearly all people with learning disabilities (98%) had a phone they could use

Family carers and paid support staff told us:



Many people with severe or profound learning disabilities (72%) had the internet at home



Nearly half of people with severe or profound learning disabilities (44%) used the internet at home



Nearly half of people with severe or profound learning disabilities (48%) had a phone they could use with help

Using the internet



Many people with learning disabilities (59%) made video calls to family and friends



Nearly half of people with learning disabilities (47%) used Facebook



Some people with learning disabilities (15%) played video games online



Nearly half of people with learning disabilities (49%) watched films and television online



Nearly half of people with learning disabilities (49%) went to online groups



Some people with learning disabilities (27%) went shopping online



Many people with learning disabilities (43%) did online activities on their own

What time did people spend online?



Most people with learning disabilities (83%) who used the internet used it everyday

Taking part in online activities



Most people with severe or profound learning disabilities (86%) were offered online activities



No

Some people with learning disabilities (34%) did not like online activities



Yes

Most people with learning disabilities (62%) liked online activities

What happens next?



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



We will talk to people again from July.

Research team contact details

England

Sue Caton:

Email: s.caton@mmu.ac.uk

Telephone: 07425 374068



Northern Ireland

Peter Mulhall:

Email: p.mulhall@ulster.ac.uk

Telephone: 028 90366318



Scotland

Roseann Maguire:

Email: Roseann.Maguire@glasgow.ac.uk

Telephone: 0141 211 3902



Wales

Edward Oloidi:

Email: edward.oloidi@southwales.ac.uk

Telephone: 01443 483 042

