



Coronavirus and People with Learning Disabilities Study What we know so far (March 2021) - England

What is this study about?



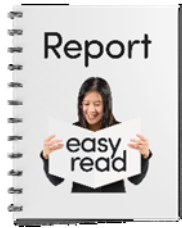
This study is about coronavirus (also called COVID-19) and people with learning disabilities.



We talked to 181 adults with learning disabilities living in England.



126 family carers or paid supporters of people with severe or profound multiple learning disabilities in England also gave us information.



This report is about what we have found so far.

People with learning disabilities who had COVID-19



About 6% of people 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 14%) 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.

Nearly 20% of people with learning disabilities said a friend or family member 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



About half of people (about 50%) with severe and profound learning disabilities were shielding.

Worries about COVID-19



Most people with learning disabilities (66%) were worried about getting COVID-19.

Most people with learning disabilities (80%) were more worried about their family and friends getting COVID-19.

Nearly half of the people with learning disabilities (47%) were worried about going out.

COVID-19 vaccine



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

Most people (86%) 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



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



Some people (about 28%) with learning disabilities had appointments cancelled.



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

Wellbeing



Most people with learning disabilities (66%) felt angry or frustrated at least some of the time.



Most people with learning disabilities (72%) felt sad or down at least some of the time.



Most people with learning disabilities (73%) felt worried or anxious at least some of the time.



Carers told us they were finding life hard.



Over half of carers (55%) said it was hard to sleep. Most carers (63%) said they were tired.



Most carers (68%) said they were stressed.

Employment



Some people with learning disabilities we spoke to (38%) had a job before coronavirus.

Most people who had a job before were still doing their job, had been furloughed, or had their job held open for them (88%).

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 (83%) were keeping in touch with family and friends.



Most people with learning disabilities we talked to (90%) used the internet.



Families helped people with learning disabilities to get food.



Families helped people with learning disabilities to get medicine, and chemists delivered medicines to people's homes.

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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