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# Healthcare of Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities During Covid-19: Health Research and Practice

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# Emerging Themes

- People with IDD experiencing mortality from Covid-19 at an earlier age (Hatton, 2020; Turk et al, 2020)
- The impact of comorbidities (Hatton, 2020; Turk et al, 2020)
- The importance of a coordinated approach to infection control and prevention (Mills et al, 2020)
- The importance of supporting families and carers in relation to monitoring of health and recognition of symptoms (Alexander et al, 2020)

# Implications for Practice

- Need to understand individual and group risk factors
  - Health
  - Environment
  - Behaviour
  - Social
- Need for a focus on prevention
  - Of infection with Covid-19
  - Of comorbidities that may increase risk (for example obesity)
- Education and information
  - Of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
  - Of families and carers
  - Of health professionals
  - Of policy makers

## Some Challenges Moving Forward

- The need for better and more nuanced data
  - Including intellectual disability as a variable in national data sets and more accurate reporting of causes of death (Cuypers et al, 2020)
- Ensuring health disparities experienced by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not further exacerbated as healthcare systems seek to address the 'backlog' of cancelled procedures and undetected / unmet health needs
- How best to support recovery and rehabilitation
- The balance between risk and benefit

## References

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