



The Learning Disabilities Mortality Review  
(LeDeR) Programme



University of  
**BRISTOL**

# Deaths of 50 people with learning disabilities from COVID19

## Easy Read

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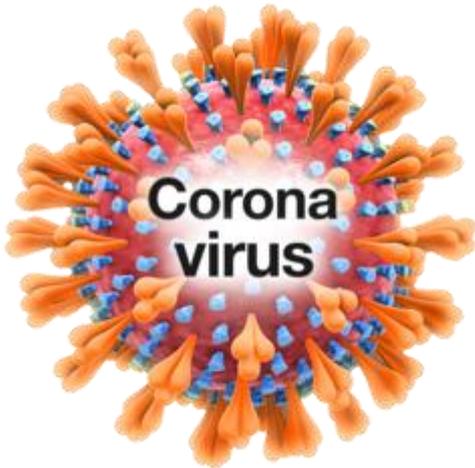


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## Deaths of people with learning disabilities from COVID19

### Early findings from the LeDeR programme



We looked at the first 50 completed LeDeR reviews of deaths of people with learning disabilities from COVID19.

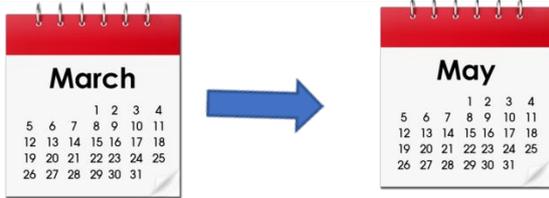
COVID19 is a virus that can cause people to be very ill. Some people die from COVID19.



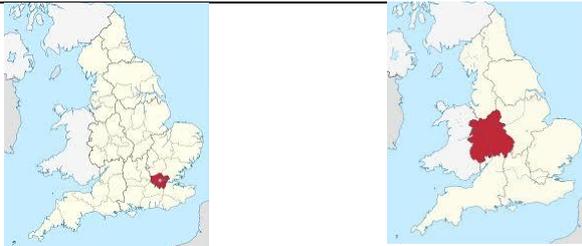
This summary tells you what we found.



The 50 deaths may not tell us the same things that we would find in a bigger number of deaths.



All of the deaths were between March and May 2020.



Most of the 50 deaths were from London and the Midlands.



35 of the 50 people who died were aged between 50-74 years.

A few were older than this.  
A few were younger than this.



20 of the 50 people who died were from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups.



None of the 50 people who had died had the most severe learning disabilities.



44 of the 50 people were in hospital when they died.



This is what we found out.



32 out of 50 people needed help with walking.  
17 out of 50 people had mental health needs.

These may be risk factors for dying from COVID19 because the people needed lots of support from other people.

They may have been more likely to catch the virus from them.

It could also be that people who need support with moving around or with their mental health needs don't get the same care as other people.



18 out of 50 people had epilepsy.

People with learning disabilities and epilepsy may be at greater risk from the virus than other people.

People with epilepsy should take extra care not to catch the virus.



The main signs of having COVID19 (cough, fever, loss of smell or taste) may be different in people with learning disabilities.



None of the 50 people had a loss of smell or taste. Some didn't want to eat or drink anything – that may be a sign of the virus.



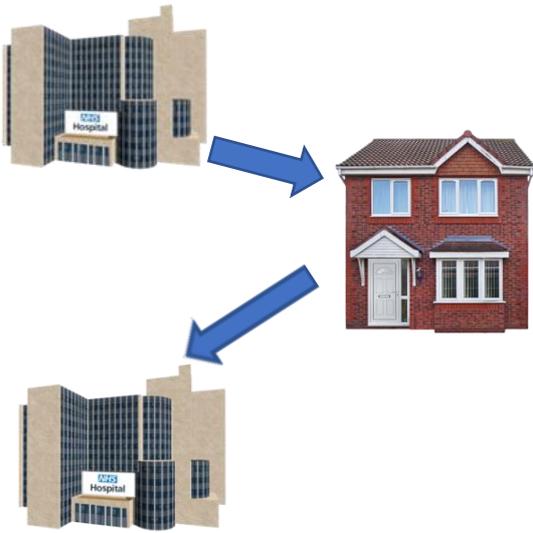
Some people were thought to have had no signs of the virus at all.



39 people out of 50 had a 'Do Not Resuscitate' decision made before their death.

This means that a doctor thought the person's heart should not be restarted if it stopped beating.

We need to keep checking that these decisions are made properly.



10 people had been sent home from hospital, only to have to go back into hospital again quite soon afterwards.

We need to make sure that people are well enough before being sent home from hospital.

They should not have COVID19 when they are sent home.



Concerns about the person's care or treatment were raised for 13 of the people who died.

The concerns were mostly about three things



1. The use of equipment to stop the spread of the virus

2. how quickly people were treated

3. how decisions were made about a person's care.





We think there should be extra funding for specialist learning disabilities staff.

This is to make sure that people with learning disabilities get the right care.

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