



Coronavirus and People with Learning Disabilities Study

Wave 2 Results - July 2021

Briefing: Managing COVID-19 risk

Background

- This study is designed to systematically and responsively track the experiences of adults with learning disabilities through the COVID-19 pandemic across the four UK nations.
- There will be three 'Waves' of data collection over a 12-month period. Wave 2 data were collected between April and May 2021.
- The data in this briefing are taken from Wave 2 of the study. If you want to find out more detail about the people who took part and the Wave 1 findings, you can download the full report [here](#).
- There are two 'Cohorts' of participants in this study. In Wave 2:
 - In Cohort 1, 598 adults with learning disabilities were interviewed by researchers.
 - In Cohort 2, family carers or paid support staff took part in an online survey about the experiences of 273 adults with learning disabilities who they supported/cared for. These were likely to be adults with more severe to profound learning disabilities.
- This document presents selected data about experience of COVID-19 and managing COVID-19 risk from the Wave 2 results. You can download the Easy Read version of this briefing [here](#).

COVID-19 and people with learning disabilities

- 36% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 and 76% of people in Cohort 2 were reported to have a health condition that would be a worry if the person had coronavirus.
- 10% of people in Cohort 1 (including 5% confirmed by positive test or diagnosis) and 13% of people in Cohort 2 (including 9% confirmed by positive test or diagnosis) had had coronavirus.
- Of those who had ever had coronavirus, 10% of people in Cohort 1 and 6% of people in Cohort 2 had contracted coronavirus more than a month previously but had not fully recovered. This might mean that these people have “Long-COVID”
- In the last four weeks, 5% of people in Cohort 1 and 6% of people in Cohort 2 were reported to have been supported by a support worker who had contracted coronavirus.
- In the last four weeks, 2% of people in Cohort 1 and 3% of people in Cohort 2 were reported to be living with someone who had contracted coronavirus.

Managing COVID-19 risk at home

- 94% of people in Cohort 1 and 91% of people in Cohort 2 had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine; 34% of people in Cohort 1 and 48% of people in Cohort 2 had received two doses ([see the vaccination briefing for more information](#)).
- 21% of people in Cohort 1 and 24% of people in Cohort 2 had been tested for coronavirus in the last four weeks.
- For 66% of people in Cohort 1 and 45% of people in Cohort 2, family members or support workers wear PPE (like masks, gloves or aprons) when they are with them.
- For 61% of those people in Cohort 1 in relevant living circumstances, their service had imposed some form of visitor restrictions in the last four weeks; all visits had been stopped for 11% of people, 46% could meet visitors outside, and 4% could see visitors through a window.
- For 38% of those people in Cohort 2 in relevant living circumstances, in the last four weeks their service had imposed some form of visitor restrictions and for a further 48% of people in Cohort 2 their family/friends had voluntarily restricted their visits to protect the person.
- 6% of people in Cohort 1 and 4% of people in Cohort 2 had self-isolated at some point in the last four weeks.
- 9% of people in Cohort 1 and 35% of people in Cohort 2 were still shielding (whether they had been received an official shielding letter or not) at Wave 2.

Managing COVID-19 risk out of the home

- Within Cohort 1, 14% of people were worried a lot about getting infected with COVID-19, 32% were worried a lot about their family or friends getting infected with COVID-19, and 19% were worried a lot about giving COVID-19 to someone else (see Figure 1).
- Within Cohort 1, 10% of people were worried a lot about leaving their home (see Figure 1).

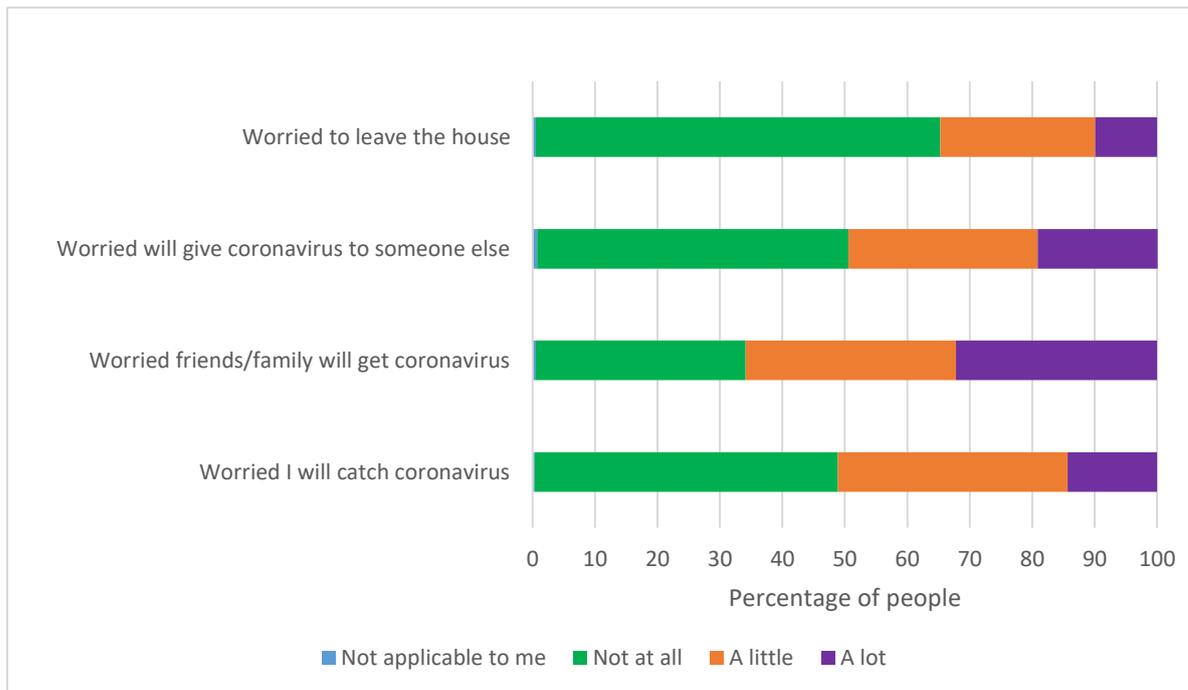


Figure 1. Worries about the pandemic at Wave 2 – Cohort 1

- Although 20% of people in Cohort 1 were exempt from wearing a face mask, 44% of people wore a face mask all the time when they were out and a further 46% wore a face mask in enclosed spaces, such as public transport or shops.
- Although 62% of people in Cohort 2 were exempt from wearing a face mask, 27% wore a face mask all the time when they were out and a further 30% wore a face mask in enclosed spaces, such as public transport or shops.
- For people in Cohort 1, the five most common reasons for leaving their home in the last seven days were: exercising outdoors (79% of people), shopping for food and/or medicine (78%), going to a local park or green space (58%), going to collect a takeaway (37%), and using public transport (34%) (see Figure 2).
- For people in Cohort 2, the five most common reasons for leaving their home in the last seven days were: going out in a private car (62%), going to a local park or green space (55%), exercising outdoors (27%), shopping for food and/or medicine (27%), and going to a hairdresser or barber (13%) (see Figure 2).

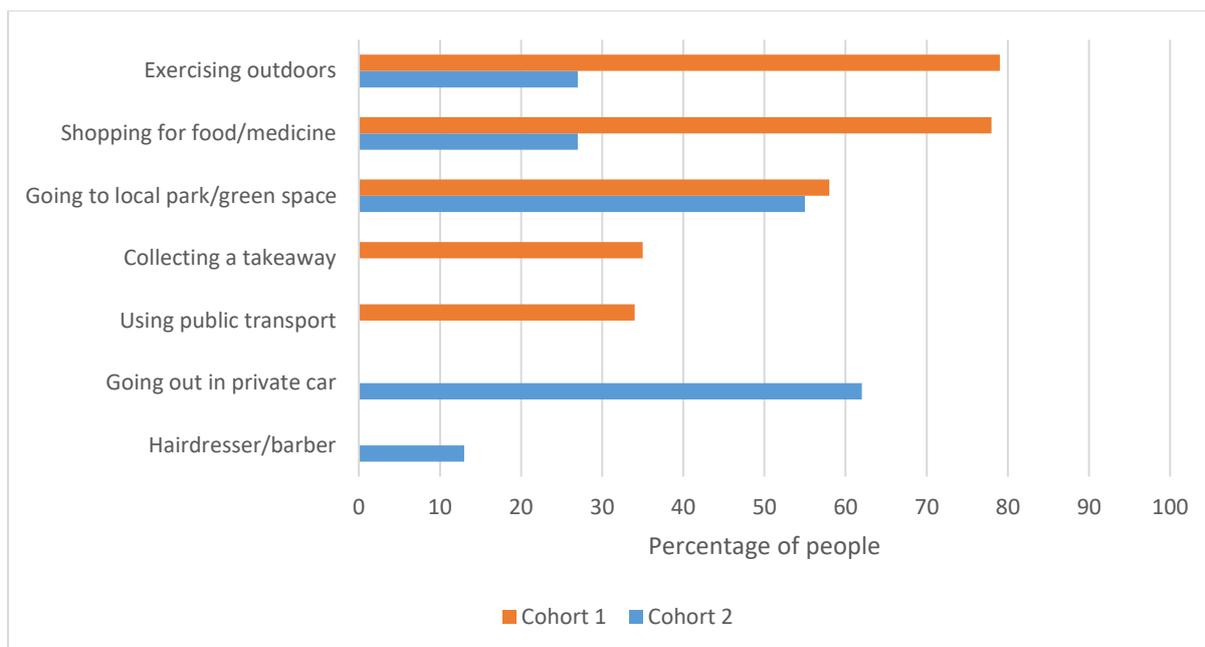


Figure 2: Wave 2 - Five most common reasons for leaving the house in the past week: Cohort 1 and Cohort 2

What happens next?

The Wave 3 interviews and surveys will be starting in July 2021 for people who took part in the Wave 1 and/or Wave 2 interviews and surveys.

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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

