

CHILDREN WITH BRAIN-BASED DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Canadians with developmental disabilities and their families have been flagged as an "at-risk" group by several media outlets, including in official statements. 1



CONCERNS

There is a concern that children with brain-based developmental disabilities may be more affected by COVID-19 than children without disabilities due to the potential for underlying health conditions that can increase the risk of complications.

Families in particular are concerned about the **risks** for their children.

WHAT DOES RECENT COVID-19 RESEARCH TELL US?



29 Studies involving:



2288 Children who tested positive

for COVID-19



Children with a brainbased developmental disability



Children at risk of developing a brain-based developmental disability

Results

- Overall, the included studies showed that there is a greater risk of developing severe COVID-19 disease in children with brain-based developmental disabilities.
- Although mortality is very low in children overall, the mortality rate appears to be higher in children with disabilities compared to children without disabilities.

persons with disabilities in studies that compared persons with

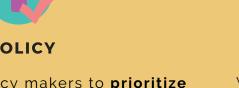
An initial review of the literature was conducted in April 2020 and updated in October 2020.

Note that most studies included children that were hospitalized from COVID-19 in secondary and tertiary care centers. Results of this review should therefore be interpreted with caution.

WHAT CAN WE DO NEXT?



Ask Canadian policy makers to prioritize vaccination in children with brain-based developmental disabilities, given their greater risk for severe complications.





ENGAGEMENT

Work with Canadian brain-based developmental disability organizations and families to design:

- Methods for ongoing reporting about the occurrence and impact of COVID-19;
- Health, education, and social programs and supports that take into account the specific needs of children with brainbased developmental disabilities and their families as the pandemic evolves.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

The Review

developmental disabilities: Update of a rapid review. SPOR Evidence Alliance.

UNICEF

CHILD-BRIGHT Network

Network collaborators including youth, parents, and researchers.

The research literature review was conducted by the SPOR Evidence Alliance in cooperation with CHILD-BRIGHT





www.child-bright.ca December 2020