



**Associatie van
Academische
Werkplaatsen VB**

The question below has been answered by the Academic Collaborative Centers affiliated with the Dutch Association of Academic Collaborative Centers Intellectual Disabilities. An overview of questions can be found on the [Association's website](#).

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Question

What is known about the effect of the measures to control the spread of COVID-19 on problem behavior and functioning in long-term care homes for people with intellectual disability?

Lay summary and take home message

Background. The lockdown-measures in response to COVID-19 in long-term care organizations might have impacted problem behaviour and behavioural functioning of people with intellectual disability. This study tested changes in reported incidents, in particular regarding aggression, unexplained absence, and, for contrast, medication errors. *Methods.* Meta-data on weekly incident and near-incident reports from 2016 to June 2020 involving over 12,000 clients with mild to serious intellectual disability of 's Heeren Loo, a long-term care organization for people with intellectual disability, were subjected to Interrupted Time Series Analysis, comparing the COVID-19 to the pre- COVID-19 period. *Results.* The imposition of lockdown-measures coincided with a significant drop in incidents (total, $p < .001$; aggression, $p = .008$; unexplained absences, $p = .008$; and medication errors, $p < .001$). Incidents in total ($p = .001$) and with aggression ($p < .001$) then climbed from this initial low level, while medication errors remained stably low ($p = .94$). *Conclusion.* The rise in incidents involving aggression, against the background of generally lowered reporting, underline the need for pandemic control measures that are suitable for people with intellectual disability in long-term care.