

Avoidable deaths in children and young people with learning disabilities in Scotland

Scottish

Learning Disabilities

Observatory

Easy read research summary



The Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory carried out a study to look at deaths in children and young people with learning disabilities



We know that people with learning disabilities die up to 20 years earlier than other people.



Children and young people with learning disabilities have a higher risk of dying early compared to adults with learning disabilities.



We think some of the deaths of children and young people could have been avoided.



We compared health data from 2011 for children and young people with and without learning disabilities.



We linked this information with other data about deaths to find out how many of these children and young people aged 5 and 24 had died up to 2020.

What we found



We found that children with learning disabilities were 11 times more likely to die between ages 5-14 than other children without learning disabilities.



Some of the children's deaths could have been avoided if they had been given better health care.



We found that more girls with learning disabilities had died than boys.

We found children with learning disabilities had a higher number of diseases that affect:



how their body works

chest problems with their breathing and lungs

how their stomach and bowels work



Our study shows that children with learning disabilities often have more health problems than other children and need a lot of care and support.



Children and young people with health conditions need to be given better health care to stop them dying early.



We have written a report to share our findings. We will present our report to policy makers and to health care providers.



Find out more about our research at www.sldo.ac.uk

Report author: Dr Laura Hughes McCormack

E-mail: sldo-info@glasgow.ac.uk