

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – August 9, 2022  
Steven Freeman, Director of Communications  
[StevenFreeman@azdes.gov](mailto:StevenFreeman@azdes.gov)  
(520) 307-6640



## **Council Research Review Shows COVID-19's Devastating Impact on Those in the Disability Community**

(Phoenix, AZ) - The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) is proud to announce the release of their new literature review "*COVID-19 Impact on the Disability Community*". This literature review shows how the disability community has been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As restrictions are lifted and as life resumes for many, those in the disability community remain at higher risk of hospitalization and death due to their underlying health conditions. The research to date demonstrates a connection between an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD) and the possibility of profound or even fatal outcomes from COVID-19. Research shows that the fatality rate for people with I/DD increases as the age decreases and suggests that younger people with I/DD are more vulnerable to fatality from COVID-19 than their peers.

This literature review aims to bring "greater awareness regarding the risks the disability community faces and the importance of taking preventative steps to protect them", stated Michele Thorne, ADDPC contributor. This review shows that patients having I/DD had greater odds of mortality than patients with heart failure, kidney disease, or lung disease.

*COVID-19 Impact on the Disability Community* can be found online at [Covid-19's Impact on the Disability Community](#). For additional details on the research reviewed for the report, contact Michele Thorne at (602) 320-6556 or [mthorne@care4thecaregivers.org](mailto:mthorne@care4thecaregivers.org).

For more information about ADDPC's goals and efforts around Arizona, visit the Council online at <https://addpc.az.gov/about>

###

### **About the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council**

*The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council serves as Arizona's innovation lab for residents with developmental disabilities, along with their families, providing education, advocacy, research, and support to projects that accomplish our three current goals: increasing employment opportunities, encouraging individuals to advocate for themselves, and creating inclusive communities for everyone.*

*A staff of six assists the all-volunteer Council, which is made up of individuals with disabilities, family members, professionals in the disability field, and state agency representatives appointed by the Governor of Arizona. Visit us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)*