



# COVID and Disability Data Collection Activities

Finland

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## Finland:

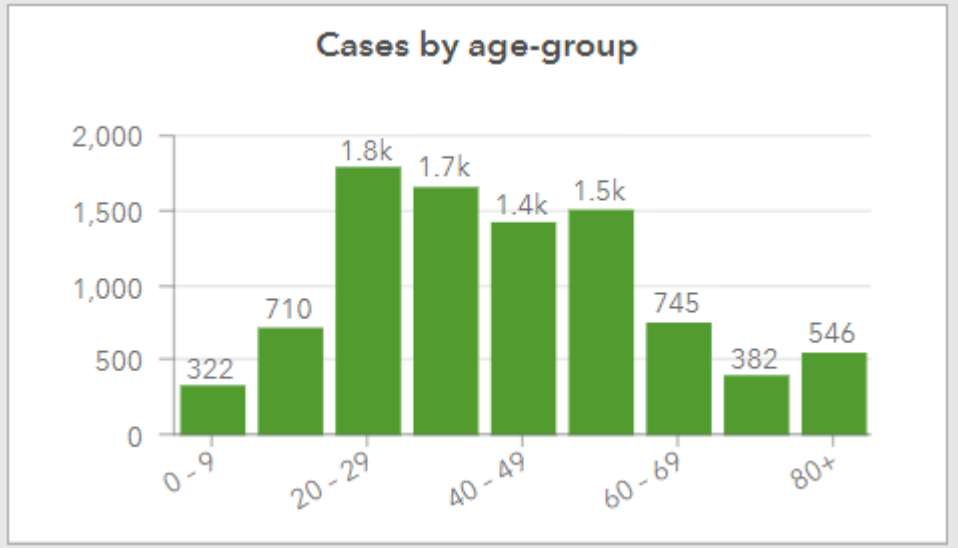
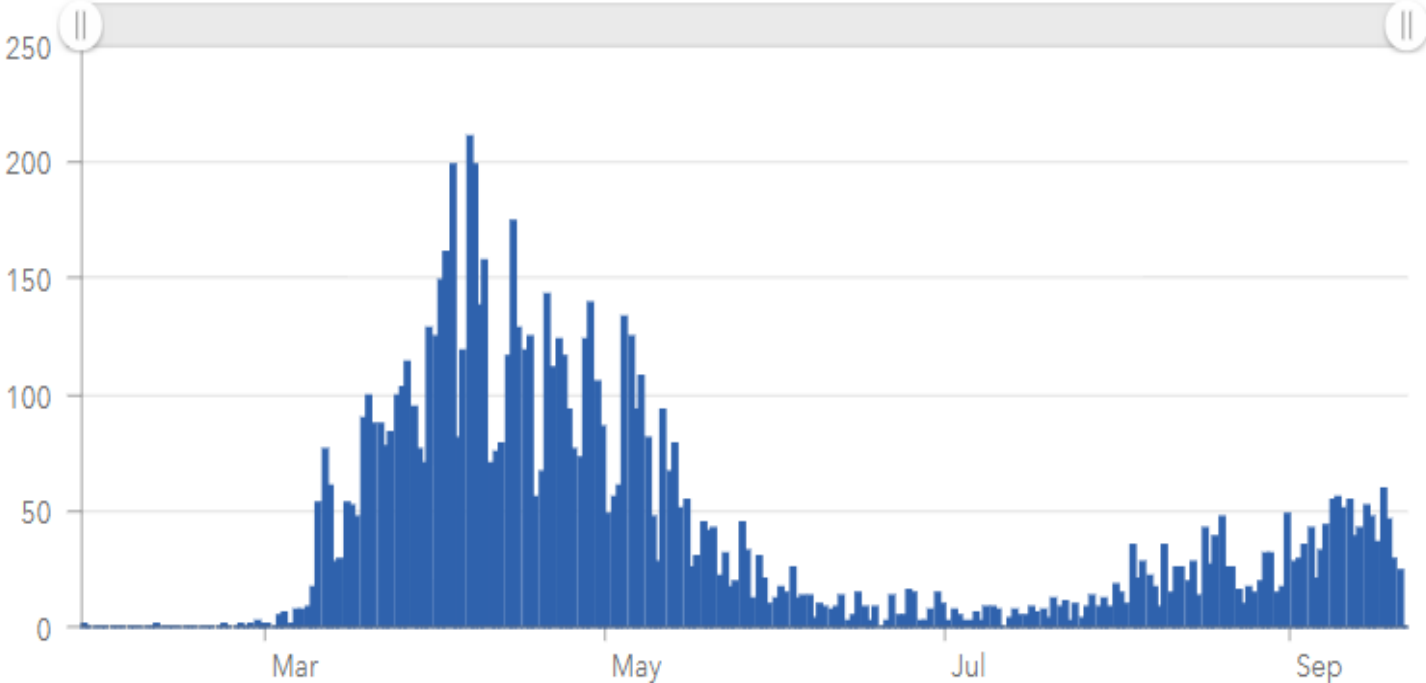
- Total population 5,5 million
- Capital Helsinki
- The surface area is 338,432 km<sup>2</sup>
- The neighbouring countries are Russia (east), Norway (north), Sweden (west) and Estonia (south)
- Official languages: Finnish, Swedish

Source: <https://toolbox.finland.fi/seasons-destinations/finland-on-the-world-map/>

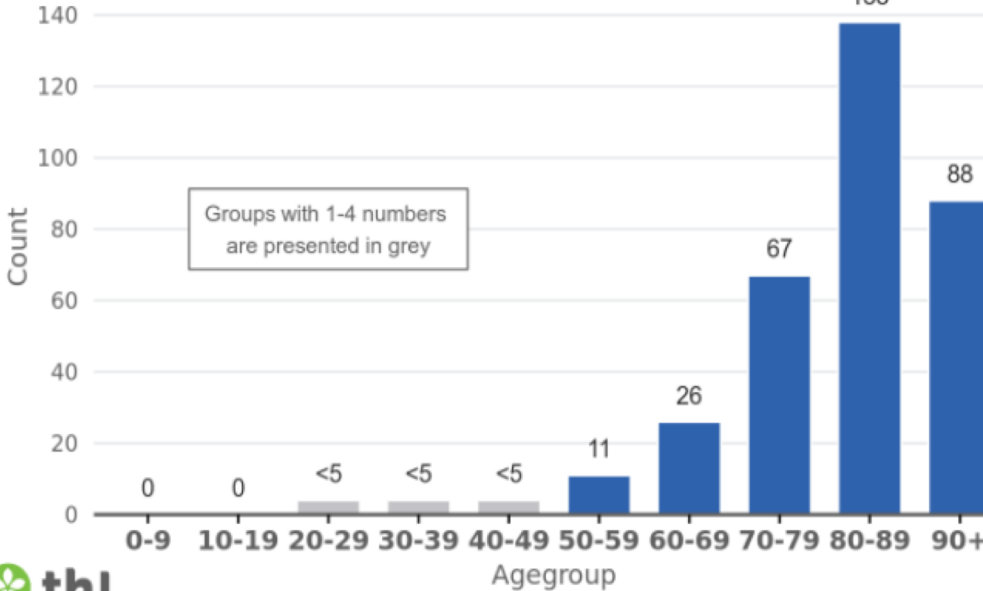
# Coronavirus in Finland, Sept 21<sup>th</sup>

- Reported cases: 9046
- In hospital care: 16
- In intensive care: 3
- Deaths: 339
- Cases / 100 000: 160

Cases by day (by date of specimen collection)



Deaths associated with COVID-19 by age-group



# Population surveys: disability and the impact of COVID

- Four data collections between Autumn 2020-Spring 2021:
  1. Adult population, cross-sectional study, n=60 000
  2. Adult population, follow-up study, n=10 000
  3. Children and youth 10-20 years, cross-sectional study, n≈ 388 000
  4. People with foreign background, 18-64 y, follow-up study, n=7 800
- Samples from the Population register, representing Finnish population / foreign born population
- Comprehensive contents on health, wellbeing, services, etc.+questions on COVID-19 impacts on everyday life
- **Disability questions** based on Washington Group (modified): at least seeing, hearing, mobility and cognition

# Research questions, examples

- Disaggregation by disability
  1. What is the impact of the COVID-19-related restrictions on everyday life, health and wellbeing, services etc.
  2. Have the differences between people with and without disabilities become larger or smaller? Population level changes (comparison with data collected before the pandemic)
  3. What are the individual level changes among people with disabilities compared to people without disabilities?
  4. Intersectionality: e.g. foreign born people with disabilities

# Data to be collected from people with disabilities (PwD) and other stakeholders

- As a part of a development project, information on the impact of COVID-19 is to be gathered from PwD, service producers and local authorities
- Using the findings from the interviews and those based on population surveys, different stakeholders (PwD, DPOs, service providers, authorities of the municipalities, THL, etc.) will work together
  - To develop instructions, plans and operational models for use in municipalities
  - To produce accessible information for PwD
- **The project aims to support the functioning of PwD in the future crises so that their needs and rights will be respected**

# Thank you!



Photo by Suvi Sainio: the lake of Saimaa, Eastern Finland