Health & Wellbeing Bulletin

Tackling UK's mortality problem: Covid-19 and other causes

The number of UK deaths from Covid-19 is among the highest reported internationally, second only to the United States. This comes on the heels of the historical legacy of stalling improvements in life expectancy in the United Kingdom. Veena Raleigh argues that if the United Kingdom's mortality problem is to improve, then we need to understand the driving factors

[Read it now]

Beyond the data: understanding the impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups

This report is a descriptive summary of stakeholder insights into the factors that may be influencing the impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities and strategies for addressing inequalities. The report summarises requests for action, which have been used to inform a number of recommendations. It also includes a rapid literature review. These insights will form the basis of the next steps being taken forward by the Equalities Minister.

Report

⊕

[Public Health England](#)

Covid-19 and inequalities

This report aims to bring together what has emerged so far about the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on inequalities across several key domains of life. It argues that the years leading up to the Covid-19 crisis, and in particular the hangover from the last economic crisis of the late 2000s, had already left households in a precarious position.

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[Report](#)

⊕

[Institute for Fiscal Studies](#)

The geography of the Covid-19 crisis in England

This report analyses how the health, economic and social impacts of Covid-19 vary around England. It explores which local authorities (LAs) have residents who are more vulnerable to severe Covid-19 symptoms because of their age or pre-existing conditions; which LAs have a greater share of workers in shut-down sectors such as retail or hospitality; and which LAs have a greater share of children either eligible for free school meals or receiving children's social services, who might be at particular educational or social risk from the crisis.

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[Report](#)

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[Institute for Fiscal Studies](#)

The mental health effects of the first two months of lockdown and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

This report discusses the impact of Covid-19 on mental health. It finds that mental health in the UK has worsened substantially as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly for groups that already had lower levels of mental health before Covid-19, such as young adults and women.

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[Report](#)

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[Institute for Fiscal Studies](#)

A councillor's workbook on mentally healthier places

This workbook has been designed as a distance learning aid to support councillors in developing mentally healthier communities. It is structured to reflect the three most important factors influencing health as identified by the World Health Organization: individual characteristics and behaviour; physical environment; and economic context.

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[Guidance](#)

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[Local Government Association](#)

BAME women and Covid-19: research evidence

This analysis from the Fawcett Society – together with the Women's Budget Group, Queen Mary University London and the London School of Economics – reveals the pressure on BAME women during the coronavirus lockdown. Forty-three per cent of disabled or retired BAME women and 48 per cent of BAME men say that they had lost government support, compared with 13 per cent of white women and 21 per cent of white men. More than half (51 per cent) of BAME women say they were not sure where to turn for help, compared with one in five (19 per cent) of white women. This is despite the fact that BAME people have been found to be more at risk during the pandemic.

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[Report](#)

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[Fawcett Society](#)

Public health on the frontline: responding to Covid-19

In this series of interviews, directors of public health from across the country talk about the local response to Covid-19.

📄

[Report](#)

Health and Wellbeing Boards reset tool: to support HWB chairs move into the next age of Covid-19

The Local Government Association (LGA) has developed this tool to support the chairs of Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) in moving into the next stage of Covid-19. It states that the LGA can offer free bespoke support to HWBs during this 'reset phase', ranging from a telephone call to talk through issues and planning a meeting to a virtually facilitated workshop to help reset the HWB.

Tool

Local Government Association

Coronavirus and loneliness, Great Britain: 3 April to 3 May 2020

The Office for National Statistics has published an analysis of loneliness in Great Britain during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.

Office for National Statistics

Sexual and reproductive health return on investment tool

This tool quantifies the costs and benefits associated with a range of sexual and reproductive health interventions. It focuses on young people (aged 15 to 24). It allows users to estimate the impact commissioning different services would have on population health and cost savings for local authorities, the NHS and wider government. The tool can be set to focus on the national level or in users' local area (region, local authority or CCG).

[Report](#)

[Public Health England](#)

Spotlight on adolescent health and well-being: findings from the 2017/2018 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey in Europe and Canada.

Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC), a WHO collaborative cross-national study, has provided information about the health, wellbeing, social environment and health behaviour of 11-, 13- and 15-year-old boys and girls for more than 30 years. The 2017/2018 survey report presents data from more than 220,000 young people in 45 countries and regions in Europe and Canada. The data focuses on social context, health outcomes, and health and risk behaviours relevant to young people's health and wellbeing. This report includes new items on electronic media communication and cyberbullying, and a revised measure on family meals. Additionally, measures of individual health complaints and underweight are also included for the first time in this international report.

[Volume one](#) (key findings)

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[Volume two (key data)](#)

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[World Health Organization](#)

What is the current alcohol labelling practice in the WHO European Region and what are barriers and facilitators to development and implementation of alcohol labelling policy?

This report synthesizes evidence on alcohol labelling practices in the Region and aims to describe factors affecting implementation. It argues that policy considerations for the development of successful labelling legislation should ideally address both health information and nutritional information, ensure regulated message presentation, and implement the independent monitoring and evaluation of these measures.

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[Report](#)

🌐

[World Health Organization](#)

Local delivery: protecting social infrastructure

This report recommends that ministers must fund and empower local people to run vital community businesses and service hubs that can help neighbourhoods thrive beyond

the immediate Covid-19 pandemic. It calls on central government to show consistency and political will in supporting grass roots community ventures – or risk hampering recovery by sapping the energy and enthusiasm of capable volunteers.

[Report](#)

[Localis](#)

Carers Week 2020 research report: the rise in the number of unpaid carers during the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak

The six Carers Week charities – Carers UK, Age UK, Carers Trust, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Oxfam GB and Rethink Mental Illness – have published research based on polling carried out by YouGov in May 2020 of 4,557 people over the age of 18 living in the UK. The figures show an estimated 4.5 million people in the UK have become unpaid carers as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is on top of the 9.1 million unpaid carers who were already caring before the outbreak, bringing the total to 13.6 million. 2.7 million women (59 per cent) and 1.8 million men (41 per cent) have started caring for relatives who are older, disabled or living with a physical or mental illness.

[Report](#)

[Carers Week](#)

News and analysis

- [Lack of response to BAME Covid-19 toll risks fuelling tensions, say MPs (The Guardian, 5 June 2020)](#)

- [Inquiry into the impact of coronavirus on ethnic minorities (Equality and Human Rights Commission, 5 June 2020)](#)
- [Coronavirus: WHO advises to wear masks in public areas (BBC News, 6 June 2020)](#)
- [Charities to benefit from support for rough sleepers during pandemic (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 7 June 2020)](#)

- [Covid-19: PHE review has failed ethnic minorities, leaders tell BMJ](#) (BMJ, 8 June 2020)
- [Study launched to monitor prevalence of COVID-19 in schools](#) (Department of Health and Social Care, 9 June 2020)
- [Alcohol off-sales drop credited to minimum unit pricing (BBC News, 10 June 2020)](#)
- [Mental health plummets amid COVID crisis](#) (Municipal Journal, 10 June 2020)
- [Coronavirus response 'is harming ethnic minorities and migrants' (ITV News, 10 June 2020)](#)
- [Who does coronavirus kill in England and Wales? Visualising the data](#) (The Guardian, 11 June 2020)
- [Wellbeing board chairs criticise centralised NHS focused Covid response](#) (Local Government Chronicle, 11 June 2020)
- [Revealed: The key contribution withheld from BAME coronavirus review (Channel 4 News, 11 June 2020)](#)
- [Poorest areas of England and Wales hit hardest by Covid-19 – ONS](#) (The Guardian, 12 June 2020)
- [Councils warn they have no legal powers to enforce 'local lockdowns'](#) (The Guardian, 16 June 2020)
- [Plan to tackle health inequalities on Wearside during Covid-19 crisis backed](#) (ITV News, 17 June 2020)

Events

Using Marmot principles to tackle health inequalities and Covid-19

📅   23 June 2020

📍 Online

[Find out more and book](#)

This webinar will explore the health inequalities exposed by Covid-19 and look at how they can be addressed. Professor Sir Michael Marmot will deliver the keynote speech, and delegates will also hear from local case study areas on how they and their health and wellbeing boards are leading on the wider determinants of health and tackling health inequalities.

Recover, reset, regenerate

📅 24 June 2020

📍 Online

[Find out more and book](#)

This online conference from Foundations, ADASS and Housing LIN will focus on the preventive role of housing and how services will need to adapt and recover from the pandemic to meet needs.

The King's Fund> Ideas that change health care

Health & Wellbeing Bulletin

Volunteering during Covid-19: human connection in a global pandemic

1 June marks the start of Volunteer's Week 2020 and this year, it's even more poignant given the critical role that volunteers have played in the response to Covid-19. Anna Charles sat down with Catherine Johnstone CBE, Chief Executive of the Royal Voluntary Service, to find out about volunteering during Covid-19, the NHS Volunteer Responders scheme and how we can ensure that widespread community engagement can last beyond the current crisis and into the long term.

Listen now

Covid-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes

This is a descriptive review of data on disparities in the risk and outcomes from Covid-19. This review presents findings based on surveillance data available to Public Health England at the time of its publication, including through linkage to broader health datasets. It confirms that the impact of Covid-19 has replicated existing health inequalities and, in some cases, has increased them. These results improve our understanding of the pandemic and will help in formulating the future public health response to it.

[Report](#)

[Public Health England](#)

The Health Foundation Covid-19 survey

This report contains polling data from Ipsos MORI that reveals the UK public's awareness of and attitudes towards the planned smartphone app. It warns that the government's delayed contact-tracing app has the potential to exacerbate existing health inequalities, leaving some people at greater risk of Covid-19 than others.

[Report](#)

[The Health Foundation](#)

Loneliness, social isolation and Covid-19: practical advice

The Local Government Association, together with the Association of Directors of Public Health, have produced this guide for directors of public health and others leading the response to the loneliness and social isolation issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

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[Guidance](#)

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[Local Government Association](#)

Prevention in the age of information: public education for better health

This report highlights that tackling preventable illness must remain a top priority for the government in the 2020s. More than half of the disease burden in England is deemed preventable, with one in five deaths attributed to causes that could have been avoided. It goes on to argue that any prevention strategy must take into account the way information can be used to promote public health and spread information.

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[Report](#)

🌐

[IPPR](#)

NLGN Leadership Index - edition #9: Covid-19

NLGN's Leadership Index is a quarterly survey sent to all chief executives and council leaders/mayors in the UK. It asks council chiefs about their level of confidence in key service areas as well as wider indicators of community wellbeing. The May 2020 survey also asked local government leaders how they are responding to the Covid-19 outbreak. Key findings include council chiefs calling for more support from government, and a significant drop in confidence in the economy, but with levels of community cohesion and trust reaching a new high.

[Report](#)

[New Local Government Network](#)

NHS test and trace: how it works

This guidance gives an overview of the NHS test and trace service, including what happens if you test positive for coronavirus (Covid-19) or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive.

[Guidance](#)

[Department of Health and Social Care](#)

NHS test and trace: workplace guidance

This guidance explains how employers and businesses can play their part in the NHS test and trace programme, developed to manage the risk of the virus re-emerging as restrictions on everyday life are eased, as far as it is deemed safe to do so.

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[Report](#)

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[Department of Health and Social Care](#)

Covid-19: advice for smokers and vapers

People who smoke generally have an increased risk of contracting respiratory infection and of more severe symptoms once infected. Coronavirus (Covid-19) symptoms may therefore be more severe for smokers. This guidance advises how to reduce the risk of contracting Covid-19 for those who smoke or vape, and how to access support to stop smoking and remain smoke-free.

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[Guidance](#)

🌐

[Public Health England](#)

Six-country survey on Covid-19

This paper presents a new dataset collected on representative samples across six countries: China, South Korea, Japan, Italy, the UK and the four largest states in the US. The information collected relates to work and living situations, income, behaviour (such as social distancing, hand washing and wearing a face mask), beliefs about the Covid-19 pandemic and exposure to the virus, socio-demographic characteristics and pre-pandemic health characteristics.

[Report](#)

[Institute of Labor Economics](#)

Age, death risk, and the design of an exit strategy: a guide for policymakers and for citizens who want to stay alive

This discussion paper provides information on the strong age pattern in the risk of death from three countries (China, Italy, the UK). Its authors believe that if politicians want an imminent removal of the lockdown, the safest approach would be a rolling age-release strategy combined with the current principle of social distancing. But even if that is not the policy adopted, citizens need to be shown graphs of the kind in this paper. Honest guidance ought to be given to those in midlife and beyond. Governments have to allow people to understand their personal risk after any release from lockdown.

[Report](#)

[Institute of Labor Economics](#)

News and analysis

- [COVID-19 lockdown could lead to a surge of addiction relapses](#) (Health Europa, 21 May 2020)
- [What is the price of two metre social distancing? (ITV News, 28 May 2020)](#)

- [We cannot ignore the silent crisis of poor mental health in the construction industry](#) (Politics Home, 28 May 2020)
- [Vulnerable people shielding from coronavirus see incomes slide, charity warns](#) (ITV News, 28 May 2020)
- [New research centre will focus on BAME health issues in wake of Covid deaths](#) (Nursing Times, 31 May 2020)
- [Ministers under fire over delayed release of BAME Covid-19 review (The Guardian, 2 June 2020)](#)
- [BAME groups at 'higher risk' of getting Covid-19 with deprivation among factors (Nursing Times, 1 June 2020)](#)

- [Public health officials accuse ministers of 'misjudging risk' as lockdown measures are eased across England (Politics Home, 1 June 2020)](#)
- [Coronavirus: Risk of death is higher for ethnic minorities](#) (BBC News, 2 June 2020)
- [Nurses from Asian backgrounds at highest Covid-19 risk, finds PHE review](#) (Nursing Times, 2 June 2020)
- ['Black lives matter': Matt Hancock acknowledges risk to BAME groups and promises swift response](#) (ITV News, 2 June 2020)
- [Censorship row over report on UK BAME Covid-19 deaths](#) (The Guardian, 3 June 2020)
- [1.1 million more people face poverty at end of 2020 as a result of coronavirus pandemic, finds IPPR](#) (IPPR, 4 June 2020)
- [Cleaner air during UK lockdown relieves asthma for millions (The Guardian, 4 June 2020](#))
- [Thousands of homeless 'back on the streets by July' (ITV News, 4 June 2020](#))