

Research, evidence, and reports collated for you

COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing surveillance: Spotlights (November 2020)

[Spotlight reports](#) are part of the COVID-19: mental health and wellbeing surveillance report. They describe variation among the population.

The COVID-19 Long-Term Care situation in England International Long-Term Care Policy

[An overview of the impact of Covid-19](#) so far on people who use and provide long-term care in England, and of the policy and practice measures adopted to mitigate its impact.

Improving outdoor air quality and health: review of interventions

A [comprehensive overview of actions](#) that national and local government and others can take to improve air quality and health.

ONS infection survey

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has released the [findings of the most recent COVID-19 infection survey for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland](#). The ONS survey finds that an estimated 568,100 people within the community population in England had COVID-19 during the week ending 23 October, equating to around one in 100 individuals. The ONS's estimates confirm that the number of COVID-19 infections has continued to increase.

Cold weather plan for England

[Cold weather plan for England](#) sets out to prevent the major avoidable effects on health during periods of cold weather in England.

COVID-19: mental health and wellbeing surveillance report published

The first [Mental health and wellbeing surveillance report](#) was published in September 2020. The report looks at population mental health and wellbeing in England during the COVID-19 pandemic by compiling routinely updated indicators from multiple sources and summarises important findings from ongoing surveys. It is designed to assist stakeholders at national and local level, in both government and non-government sectors. The report will be published regularly moving forwards. You can read more about the report in our [blog](#).

An avoidable crisis: the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic communities

The Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer appointed Baroness Doreen Lawrence to lead this review into how people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds were being impacted by Covid-19. The [review makes both immediate and long-term recommendations](#) to protect those most at risk and tackle structural inequalities in several key areas, including the machinery of government, health, employment and in the education system.

Working together for a healthier post-Covid future

[This analysis](#), commissioned by the Healthier Futures Academy in the Black Country and West Birmingham, illustrates the effects that a Covid-driven recession could have on population health. It frames a discussion about how the NHS, with other local organisations, can more effectively address the causes as well as the effects of ill health.

590 people's stories of hospital during Covid-19

In partnership with British Red Cross, this report reviews the experiences of 590 people after being discharged from hospital. The [research shows](#) significant numbers of people are not receiving follow-up support under the new policy to switch to a 'discharge to assess' model introduced in March 2020 to cope with demand at the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic), leading to unmet needs. It calls on the NHS to address these issues coming into the busy winter period amid growing pressures of a second Covid-19 wave.

Social determinants of health and the role of local government

This [LGA Report](#) provides examples and case studies showing the opportunities for health improvement and highlighting what has already been achieved.

Nowhere to turn for children and young people, England

This [Women's Aid report](#) explores how experiencing and fleeing domestic abuse affects the lives of children and young people.

Investigation into Covid-19 transmission in hospitals

This [Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch \(HSIB\) report](#) charts a four-month patient safety investigation that was launched following concern that patients were contracting Covid-19 after being admitted to hospital. It presents the voices of those working across the health service, from strategic national planners to hospital porters. It also captured experiences of patients and families, providing further insight into the challenges of managing the transmission of Covid-19.

Co-ordination and divergence: devolution and coronavirus

This [Institute for Government report](#) warns that poor communication and a failure to share information have led the four governments of the United Kingdom to make decisions without considering the impact of their actions on other parts of the UK. Politicians must be sure that they do not forgo the potential benefits of coordinating their divergence – in terms of lives saved – because they are unwilling to reach consensus on the best way forward for the whole of the UK.

Health and safety statistics 2020

Published on 4 November 2020, the latest statistics on work-related health and safety in Great Britain include the following key annual figures (2019/20):

- 1.6 million working people suffering from work-related ill health
- 2,446 mesothelioma deaths due to past asbestos exposures (2018)
- 111 workers killed at work
- 0.7 million injuries occurred at work according to the Labour Force Survey
- 65,427 injuries to employees reported under RIDDOR
- 38.8 million working days lost due to work-related ill health and workplace injury
- £16.2 billion estimated cost of injuries and ill health from current working conditions (2018/19)

The release provides detailed commentary on these figures and is supported by:

- HSE statistics [webpages](#), with a range of information (e.g. on different types of work-related ill health and different industry sectors)
- a comprehensive set of [tables](#), designed to make the data accessible to users
- HSE annual, infographic-style [summary booklet](#)

Performance tracker 2020: how public services have coped with coronavirus

This [Institute for Government report](#) analyses the disruptions in hospitals, general practice, adult social care, schools and criminal courts, and the changes made in response. It finds that coronavirus has resulted in backlogs across public services and calls for reviews of the impact of remote general practice and hospital appointments.

Kinship in the city

This report explores the impact of urban loneliness and ideas for reshaping the built environment to improve social cohesion. [Produced as part of the Future Spaces Foundation's Vital Cities programme](#), it builds on an existing body of research into the building blocks of dynamic, socially sustainable cities where individuals and communities thrive.

UK health inequalities: 20,000 more cancer cases a year in the most deprived areas

This [Cancer Research UK report](#) finds that there is a clear variation between socio-economic groups in the determinants of both cancer incidence and outcomes in the UK. It also calls for urgent action to address this and reduce the disproportionate burden of cancer on those individuals from the most deprived areas.

Harnessing housing support: Nottingham Housing to Health service: review of project enablers and potential for spread

The H2H service is a joint project between Nottingham City Homes and NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The partners work together to identify patients in hospital and in the community, who are living in poor or unsuitable accommodation that is negatively affecting their health. The aim is to provide fast-track housing solutions to rehouse them into good-quality social housing. [Their report](#) provides very strong evidence of the benefits that can be achieved through partnership working to the people of Nottingham and describes the practical steps that helped it to happen.

Climate change and sustainability: the health service and net zero

This [British Medical Association report](#) states that with the NHS contributing up to 5 per cent of the UK's total carbon emissions, increased sustainability and changes to working practices are vital if the health of future generations is to be protected. The health service has a responsibility to its patients to reduce its own carbon footprint and to strive for net zero emissions if it is to take a leading role in combating the harmful effects of climate change.

Covid-19 and the Northern Powerhouse: tackling inequalities for UK health and productivity

According to [this report the Northern Health Science Alliance](#), the north of England's economy has been hit harder than the rest of the country's during the Covid-19 pandemic. It estimates the economic cost of the increased mortality in the north during the pandemic at £6.86 billion, and the reductions in mental health in the region due to the pandemic could cost the UK economy up to £5 billion in reduced productivity. ([Report](#)) .

Elective care in England: assessing the impact of Covid-19 and where next

This [Health Foundation analysis](#) shows there were 4.7 million fewer people referred for routine hospital care – such as hip, knee and cataract surgery – between January and August 2020 than during the same period in 2019, representing a potential hidden backlog of unmet care needs.

Early evidence of the development of primary care networks in England: a rapid evaluation study

This [University of Birmingham report](#) finds that primary care networks need to increase the engagement of GP practices and wider primary care teams, and strengthen their leadership and management, to become firmly established to meet the challenges ahead.

Time to bring our care workers in from the cold

This [Age UK report](#) looks at staff shortages and levels of pay within the care workforce and calls for pay equalisation with the NHS.

Black people, racism, and human rights

This [Joint Committee on Human Rights report](#) concludes that the government must urgently take action to protect the human rights of black people and set out a comprehensive cross-government race equality strategy. This must have at its heart improved data collection on racial inequality. The report focuses on four issues where inequality in the protection of human rights is of particular concern: health; criminal justice; nationality and immigration; and democracy.

A critical juncture for public services: lessons from Covid-19

This [Public Services Committee report](#) discusses lessons to be learnt from the pandemic and recommends a number of principles to transform public service delivery. It finds that decisions were made much more quickly and concludes that many public service providers and councils developed 'remarkable innovations' to meet the Covid-19 challenge. However, the Committee raises concerns about public service provision during the pandemic for black, Asian and minority ethnic people and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people, homeless people, and people with complex needs.

Deaths of people identified as having learning disabilities with Covid-19 in England in the spring of 2020

[This review](#), commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care, looked at: deaths from Covid-19 of people with learning disabilities; factors impacting the risk of death from Covid-19 of people with learning disabilities; and deaths in care settings of people with learning disabilities. [It found](#) the death rate up to six times higher from coronavirus during the first wave of the pandemic than the rate in the general population.

The Independent SAGE report 21: Covid-19 and health inequality

This [Independent SAGE report](#) examines health inequalities in Covid-19, contextualising them within the wider issue of health inequalities. It outlines key recommendations that local government and devolved authorities, the NHS and national government should follow to reduce these inequalities.

Alcohol and cancer in the WHO European Region: an appeal for better prevention

This [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) factsheet](#) provides information and guidance on the links between alcohol and a range of cancers for those involved in designing and implementing policies that affect public health. It sets out policy options to reduce the alcohol-attributable cancer burden, making clear that there is strong evidence that the implementation of cost-effective alcohol control policies including pricing policies (or policies that increase the price of alcohol) will achieve this.

The state of ageing in 2020

This [Centre for Better Ageing report](#) provides a snapshot of how people are ageing in the UK through the analysis of nationally available data. It explores the state of our health, our finances, and our communities when Covid-19 hit and the impact it has had so far. It finds that the pervasiveness of poor health, unsafe and low-quality housing, and a lack of social connections – particularly among the poorest in our society – has exacerbated the impact of the pandemic on those who already faced the most challenging prospects in later life. It argues that if the current trajectory is allowed to continue, the gap between those who are able to enjoy later life and those who struggle through it will be even wider for future generations.

Investigation into government procurement during the Covid-19 pandemic

This [National Audit Office report](#) finds a lack of transparency and adequate documentation of some key decisions (such as why particular suppliers were chosen or how the government identified and managed potential conflicts of interest) in the awarding of some contracts while the government was procuring large volumes of goods and services at high speed to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Alcohol dependence and mental health” Blog

“Alcohol dependence and mental health” has just been published on the Public health matters blog. There are an estimated 589,000 people who are dependent on alcohol in England and about a quarter of them are likely to be receiving mental health medication. This blog looks at alcohol dependence and mental health in detail. Read the new post:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/11/17/alcohol-dependence-and-mental-health/>

National Child Measurement Programme: childhood obesity – examples and common approaches

This [PHE report](#), a set of practice examples researched by University College London and an executive summary by Public Health England identify common approaches being implemented by local authorities that had a small but significant 10-year downward trend in childhood obesity at the time the research was done. The findings show the value of engagement with and integration of the National Child Measurement Programme and the importance of addressing health inequalities with 76% having a focus on deprivation.

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Thanks, John