

Research, evidence, and reports collated for you

Unequal pandemic, fairer recovery: The COVID-19 impact inquiry report

COVID-19 impact inquiry publishes a comprehensive review of the factors that fuelled the UK's COVID-19 death toll. This [Health Foundation report](#) shows there is extensive evidence that poor health and existing inequalities left parts of the UK vulnerable to the virus and its devastating impact.

Tackling obesity: the role of the NHS in a whole-system approach

The Kings Fund have published a new briefing, [Tackling obesity: the role of the NHS in a whole-system approach](#). It focuses on rising obesity rates and finds that in recent years the gap in obesity prevalence between the most and least deprived communities has widened substantially, leading to rapid increases in hospital admissions.

Out of the woods? Young people's mental health and labour market status as the economy reopens

Much has been said about the plight of young people during the Covid-19 crisis, both in terms of their labour market and mental health circumstances. [This Resolution Foundation briefing](#) provides an update on how young people were faring at the end of May 2021, shortly after the major relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions in mid-May.

Annual flu report (2020-2021)

Public Health England have published our annual flu report for 2020-2021, which summarises the levels of influenza across the UK. [This year's report](#) shows that flu vaccine uptake in the 65+ and 2-3 year old cohorts was the highest ever achieved, and that the vaccine uptake in the clinically at-risk cohorts was also higher than ever previously recorded.

Health matters: midlife approaches to reduce dementia risk

[Information](#) on midlife approaches to reduce dementia risk.

Risks of covid-19 hospital admission and death for people with learning disability: population-based cohort study using the OpenSAFELY platform

This [research \(in BMJ\) suggests](#) that people with learning disability have markedly increased risks of hospital admission and death from covid-19, over and above the risks observed for non-covid causes of death. Prompt access to covid-19 testing and healthcare is warranted for this vulnerable group, and prioritisation for covid-19 vaccination and other targeted preventive measures should be considered.

Mortality among Care Home Residents in England during the first and second waves of the COVID-19 pandemic: an analysis of 4.3 million adults over the age of 65

[In this research](#) it suggests that the first COVID-19 wave had a disproportionate impact on care home residents in England compared to older private home residents. A degree of immunity, improved protective measures or changes in the underlying frailty of the populations may explain the lack of an increase in the relative mortality risks during the second wave. The care home population should be prioritised for measures aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19.

Alcohol consumption and harm during the COVID-19 pandemic

A [report](#) collating data on alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harm in England during the COVID-19 pandemic and comparing it to data from previous years.

National Food Strategy

[This report, as an independent review for Government](#), follows on from initial findings, published in July 2020. It looks at how the food system works and the impact on public health. It finds that the government has implemented four out of seven of the initial recommendations, including increasing the value of Healthy Start vouchers and agreeing to continue collecting, assessing, and monitoring data on the number of people suffering from food insecurity. However, there are further recommendations contained in this report including the introduction of a sugar and salt reformulation tax, the launch of an Eat and Learn initiative for schools and the strengthening of government procurement rules.

Covid-19: preparing for the future - looking ahead to winter 2021/22 and beyond

This [Academy of Medical Sciences report](#) warns that a mix of Covid-19, influenza, and the respiratory virus Respiratory Syncytial Virus, could push the NHS to breaking point this winter unless action is taken. The report urges policy-makers and the NHS to prepare by expanding Covid-19 testing, increasing the speed and uptake of the Covid-19 vaccination, and strengthening financial and staffing support.

The treatment of autistic people and people with learning disabilities

This [House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee report](#) on the treatment and care of autistic people and those with learning disabilities has found that a lack of adequate community provision has led to many experiencing unnecessary admissions to and intolerable treatment in inpatient facilities. MPs describe the situation as a scandal, given it is happening ten years since the notorious case of Winterbourne View.

Paying for health gains

Payments to health care providers are often based on the number of patients they treat according to their particular health condition with well-known limitations. Payment based on health outcomes, a form of pay-for-performance, has long been advocated as a possible solution. [This Centre for Health Economics \(University of York\) study](#) adopts a contract theory approach and illustrates how it can inform practical implementation of pay-for-performance schemes that reward health outcomes.

Unfair to care: understanding the social care pay gap and how to close it

This [Community Integrated Care report](#) finds that many frontline social care workers are undervalued by as much as 39 per cent – nearly £7,000 per year – in comparison with their peers in equivalent positions in other publicly funded sectors. With the social care sector losing more than 34 per cent of its employees every year and having 112,000 vacancies presently, this research brings into stark focus the roots of an unprecedented workforce crisis. The report provides evidence that frontline carers receive an unjust deal in comparison with other publicly funded industries and breaks the stereotype that social care is a 'low-skilled' sector.

GP Patient Survey: headline findings

This [survey](#), produced with Ipsos MORI, provides information on patients' overall experience of primary care services and their overall experience of accessing these services. Data is weighted by age and gender so that results resemble the eligible registered list population of each practice and CCG. The latest survey consisted of around 2.41 million postal questionnaires sent out to adults registered with GP practices in England from January 2021 to the end of March 2021.

Fit for purpose? Addressing inequities in mental health research exacerbated by Covid-19

This [Centre for Mental Health report](#) was produced on behalf of the Mental Health Research Group, an independent group of leaders in mental health in England. It highlights the inequities in mental health research funding and production, what gets investigated and who gets to contribute, as well as who and what is left out of the conversation. It shares examples of work taking place to address mental health inequalities and to challenge inequities of power and influence within mental health research. The report calls for systemic change in the ways mental health research is planned, funded, and delivered in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The cost of inequality: putting a price on health

This [Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation paper](#) links health to wealth and to the economy, arguing that supporting people to spend more time in good health could help not just individuals, but boost people's time in work, reduce health and care costs, as well as welfare costs on the state. Alongside investments in health, including preventive services that keep people healthier for longer, the report calls for investment in skills training and technological innovation to support increased productivity. The paper is published in partnership with the International Longevity Centre and the Cass Business School at City University.

Covid-19 and the digital divide: supporting digital inclusion and skills during the pandemic and beyond

This [Centre for Ageing Better report](#) offers examples of good practice and recommendations for organisations that deliver services to users and help digitally excluded people with skills training. The report finds that the key to building digital inclusion isn't only about getting more people online, but also building skills and confidence.

National Strategy for autistic children, young people, and adults 2021-2026

The Government has published the next strategy to improve the lives of autistic people: [the national strategy for autistic children, young people, and adults: 2021 – 2026](#). This new strategy, the first of its kind to cover children and young people as well as adults, rightly focuses on supporting autistic people to live their lives in their communities, widening the focus beyond social care and health services. Find more [information from CHIP on support for autistic people](#). CHIP learning disabilities and autistic people team has updated its website area to reflect all the areas of [current work about autistic people and people with learning disabilities, including, Building the Right Support](#).

Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2021: health in coastal communities

This [Chief Medical Officer's annual report](#) highlights the health disparities in coastal communities compared with their inland neighbours, exploring the drivers of poorer health outcomes and the key challenges these regions face. Key themes covered by the report include mental health, deprivation and health, migration and demography, health services and medical workforce, and the health benefits of coastal living.

Attitudes towards and experiences of the NHS during Covid-19: views from patients, professionals, and the public

This [report from the Richmond Group of Charities](#) is the third and final report from a collaboration with Britain Thinks to understand how the experiences and perceptions of patients, professionals and the public have shifted during the pandemic and what this might mean for the future of the NHS in England. It looks at the NHS across three areas: primary care; secondary care; and community care. It also examines four patient types: mental health; long-term health conditions; cancer patients; and surgery patients. Additionally, it looks into what patients and the public understand about the term 'health inequalities'.

COVID-19 Inequalities Dashboard (Covid:WIRED)

[COVID Wellbeing Inequalities Research Evidence Dashboard \(Covid:WIRED\)](#) is an online dashboard from looking at emerging research on the impact of the pandemic on different populations and on different outcomes starting with subjective wellbeing and its six drivers.

Law for health: Using free legal services to tackle the social determinants of health

Health Justice Partnerships are practitioner-led collaborations between free social welfare legal services and healthcare services to better address the health-harming unmet legal needs of patients. [This report](#) introduces and summarises the concept of Health Justice Partnerships and presents findings of a research project conducted at UCL exploring the experiences of clients and GPs in relation to a primary care-based legal advice clinic.

Mind the gap: a policy report on how people are disadvantaged by digital exclusion

The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed a devastating overlap between digital exclusion and social exclusion, social exclusion, and poverty, and then in turn, poverty, and health inequalities. This report acknowledges digitalisation brings both huge benefits for many but also great disadvantage for some and looks at the experiences of local people based on evidence brought to the attention of Chesterfield Citizens Advice workers. [The report](#) sets out measures to ensure that services are 'fair by design', that they are accessible for vulnerable people who cannot use digital and that suitable alternative provisions are always in place to meet their needs.

Chronic pain in England: Unseen, unequal and unfair

Chronic pain is said to affect around 15.5 million people in the UK and is felt unequally across different groups in society. People with chronic pain were more likely to be women, older, live in deprived areas, or be from some minority ethnic groups. [This Versus Arthritis report](#) calls for a rethink in how to support people with chronic pain and reduce the inequalities seen.

Health and Care Experience Profiles: Understanding how services work together

[Healthwatch has developed a qualitative research methodology – the Integration Index](#) - that local health and care systems can use to better understand people's experiences using integrated services. To understand whether integration improves people's experiences in different communities Healthwatch has published a methodology for the local integration index that ensures people's experiences inform how services work together by reviewing existing policies and data while measuring how patients, service users and carers think local services provide joined-up and personalised care. A number of pilots have developed Health and Care Experience Profiles for five groups:

- Children and young people with mental health support needs who are becoming adults.
- People with diabetes who are of South Asian origin.
- People with learning disabilities and their unpaid/family carer, with a recent experience of hospital discharge.
- Black men with a number of health needs including a recent experience of cancer.
- Women with a number of health needs including a recent experience of a heart condition.

Health Survey England Additional Analyses - Health and health-related behaviours of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual adults

This [NHS Digital report presents findings on the health and health-related behaviours of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual \(LGB\) population in England](#). These are analysed by age, sex, and ethnicity. The data are based on a representative sample of adults, aged 16 and over, who participated in the Health Survey for England from 2011–2018. 2% of adults surveyed in 2011–2018 identified as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB).

Inequalities in child development

Experimental analysis of the [Community Services Dataset by PHE](#) that analyses the characteristics of children age 2 and 3 years who have had their development assessed using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) at age 2 to 2.5 years. Characteristics include:

- sex
- ethnicity
- deprivation
- looked-after children
- disability
- vulnerability
- children with a child protection plan
- whether children have moved within and between areas
- where children have a preferred language other than English

Child obesity: patterns and trends

This [PHE slide set presents](#) the latest data on child obesity in England, the 9 English regions, and upper tier local authorities.

Obesity

This [House of Commons research briefing paper](#) covers the work of the UK Government in preventing and reducing obesity, which in recent years has greatly focussed on reducing obesity prevalence in children.

Social prescribing

This [information from the Royal College of Psychiatrists](#) outlines what social prescribing is, how it works and how people with a mental illness who are already having other treatments can benefit from social prescribing.

Coronavirus: the consequences for mental health

This [research from Mind](#) with almost 12,000 people found that those with mental health problems report an increase in the severity of challenges they're facing now and concerns about the future. The authors call for services to be ready for the increase in severity of people's mental health problems, and to take into account the trauma that people have experienced over the past year and how this might affect the support they need.

Reshaping spaces: building back better

The pandemic has had a dramatic impact on high streets and commercial centres across the UK. Reshaping spaces could provide space for 500,000 new homes and unleash tens of billions in private finance to 'build back better'. This [Centre for Policy Studies report](#) argues that we can turn the challenges of the pandemic into an opportunity to revive Britain's high streets, communities and commercial centres.

Restricting promotions of food and drink that is high in fat, sugar, and salt

The [government has published](#) its response to feedback received through this consultation on its plans to restrict promotions of food and drink products high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) by location and by price. It states that promotion of HFSS products will be restricted at locations such as store entrances, aisle ends and checkouts and their online equivalents. It also stated that new volume price restrictions will prohibit retailers from offering promotions such as 'buy-one-get-one-free' or '3 for 2' offers on HFSS products

Health and wellbeing in the private rented sector

This [UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence report](#) is the first output of a project that explores the relationship between living in the private rented sector and subjective wellbeing. It features an overview of key themes from the literature and from interviews with key experts. The second output will include findings from in-depth interviews with 53 tenants.

A perfect storm – health inequalities and the impact of COVID-19

This [Local Government Association \(LGA\) briefing](#) examines both the impact of COVID-19 on inequalities and the impact of the pandemic restrictions on inequality.

COVID-19 Health Inequalities Monitoring for England (CHIME) tool

The [CHIME tool](#) brings together data relating to the direct impacts of COVID-19, such as for mortality rates, hospital admissions and confirmed cases.

What happened to English NHS hospital activity during the Covid-19 pandemic?

This [Institute for Fiscal Studies briefing](#) uses administrative hospital data from across the NHS in England to describe how the use of inpatient (elective and emergency) and outpatient hospital care in 2020 compared with that in the previous year. It shows how overall levels of care changed in the period after the start of the pandemic in March until the end of December 2020 and examines how changes in activity varied across regions and clinical specialties. It also looks at how these patterns differ across patient age, ethnicity, and local area deprivation.

The future role of remote consultations & patient 'triage'

A key challenge for UK governments and health systems will be to build upon the potential benefits that have emerged from technology advances and new ways of working during the Covid-19 pandemic, while ensuring that relational care and health inequalities do not suffer in the longer term. This will only be possible with further evaluation, action, and government investment. This [Royal College of General Practitioners paper](#) sets out the challenges that need to be addressed to ensure GPs and practice teams can continue to provide high-quality patient care as we look towards a 'new normal'.

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Thanks, John.