

## **COVID-19 and Health Inequalities**

### **Emerging Evidence**

Collated for Deep End GP groups

Updated: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### Key COVID-19 Health Inequalities Resources:

Online portal with resources on Health Inequalities, launched Feb 2021:

<https://eurohealthnet.eu/media/news-releases/new-online-portal-resources-and-information-health-inequalities>

Specific COVID-19 Resource:

The Impact of COVID-19 on people experiencing poverty and vulnerability:

<https://www.eapn.eu/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-people-experiencing-poverty-and-vulnerability-eapn-report/>

Covid-19 and Vaccines: Ensuring Equitable Access

<https://rm.coe.int/dh-bio-statement-vaccines-e/1680a12785>

COVID-19 Infographic here:

[https://eurohealthnet.eu/sites/eurohealthnet.eu/files/CHAIN\\_infographic%20covid19\\_and\\_inequalities\\_final.pdf](https://eurohealthnet.eu/sites/eurohealthnet.eu/files/CHAIN_infographic%20covid19_and_inequalities_final.pdf)

#### The Health Foundation

Emerging evidence on health inequalities and COVID-19: March 2021

<https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/blogs/emerging-evidence-on-health-inequalities-and-covid-19-march-2021>

The COVID19 Marmot Review

<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/build-back-fairer-the-covid-19-marmot-review/build-back-fairer-the-covid-19-marmot-review-executive-summary.pdf>

## Studies presenting primary data

Study ID Author, Journal, Date	Key findings	Reference	Comments
Joy et al, BJGP Dec 2020	<p>Excess mortality in the first COVID pandemic peak in UK.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Compared with single occupancy, households with ≥9 occupants (including communal dwellings) were associated with higher mortality (OR = 2.8, 95% CI = 2.28 to 3.45, <math>P &lt; 0.0001</math>).”</li> <li>• Increased risk also with black ethnicity, obesity and Intellectual Disability</li> <li>• No relationship with deprivation but may relate to unit of analysis – geographical areas</li> </ul>	<a href="https://bjgp.org/content/70/701/e890">https://bjgp.org/content/70/701/e890</a>	
De Lusignan et al, Aug 2020	<p>Excess mortality in COVID-19. 1.9m adults over 45 in UK GP Research and Surveillance Centre</p> <p>“Being male, older, of black ethnicity, more deprived, and living in a larger household increased EMR.</p> <p>Presence of comorbidities also increased EMR”</p>	<a href="https://www.journalofinfection.com/article/S0163-4453(20)30564-8/fulltext">https://www.journalofinfection.com/article/S0163-4453(20)30564-8/fulltext</a>	
Lone et al, Scotland Lancet, Dec 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohort of 735 patient admitted to ICU</li> <li>• Overall, 30-day mortality was 34.8%. After adjusting for age, sex and ethnicity, mortality was significantly higher in patients from the most deprived quintile (OR 1.97, 95%CI 1.13, 3.41, <math>p = 0.016</math>).</li> <li>• ICUs serving populations with higher levels of deprivation spent a greater amount of time over their baseline ICU bed capacity.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanep/article/PIIS2666-7762(20)30005-3/fulltext">https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanep/article/PIIS2666-7762(20)30005-3/fulltext</a>	
Shazad et al Scotland Medical Virology, July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohort of 173 hospitalised patients up to April 2020</li> <li>• Longer admission duration in most deprived group though no difference in COVID19 outcomes between most and least deprived but numbers very small</li> </ul>	<a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jmv.26371">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jmv.26371</a>	

McQueenie et al. UK Biobank cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UK Biobank data from 428,199 participants; aged 37–73; tend to be more affluent; 1% prevalence COVID19 up to May 2020</li> <li>Higher risk of getting COVID19 in most SE deprived group: 2.79 (2.00–3.90)</li> </ul>	<i>PLoS One</i> <b>15</b> , e0238091, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0238091 (2020)	
Shadmit et al June 2020	<p>Health equity and COVID-19: global perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disproportionate effect on most vulnerable</li> <li>Secondary effects of economic downturn</li> <li>13 case studies describing approaches of governments and local organisations to address these challenges</li> </ul>	<a href="https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-020-01218-z">https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-020-01218-z</a>	Shared by Deep End co-author Liz Sturgiss
UK Office for National Statistics	<p>March to June 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In England, the age-standardised mortality rate of deaths involving COVID-19 in the most deprived areas was 128.3 deaths per 100,000 population; this was more than double the mortality rate in the least deprived areas (58.8 deaths per 100,000).</li> <li>The most deprived areas in Wales had a mortality rate for deaths involving COVID-19 of 109.5 deaths per 100,000 population, nearly twice as high as in the least deprived areas (57.5 deaths per 100,000 population).</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsinvolvingcovid19bylocalareasanddeprivation/deathsoccurringbetween1marchand31may2020">https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsinvolvingcovid19bylocalareasanddeprivation/deathsoccurringbetween1marchand31may2020</a>	
A Rapid Needs Assessment of Excluded People in England During the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020	<p>Rapid review conducted by three independent Public Health Specialists. Data was collected directly from a range of participants from vulnerable groups using surveys and interviews and secondary data was analysed.</p> <p><u>Summary of Key Findings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges with accessing and understanding guidance on COVID-19</li> <li>Barriers to following information and guidance</li> <li>Underlying health conditions and shielding from COVID-19</li> <li>Access barriers for COVID-19 illness: factors which hinder recognition of COVID-19 illness, which delay decision to seek healthcare or delay access.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/covid-full-rna-report.pdf">https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/covid-full-rna-report.pdf</a>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to health services for non-COVID-19 related routine or urgent care</li> <li>• Uptake of services is different to what would normally be expected</li> <li>• COVID-19 has wide ranging implications on people's lives</li> <li>• COVID-19 and measures taken to control it are likely to disproportionately negatively impact the physical and mental health of people from the identified groups</li> </ul>		

### Reports, Reviews and editorials:

- Public Health Review: Bambra et al, April 2020. Essay on COVID-19 and Health Inequalities. The Covid Syndemic: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7298201/>

- Vaccine prioritisation: <https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m3795>

And – exacerbating inequities in the USA

[https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2776053?guestAccessKey=ae4658a1-ed89-43be-b6d6-776e1b4bcc6&utm\\_content=weekly\\_highlights&utm\\_term=020721&utm\\_source=silverchair&utm\\_campaign=jama\\_network&cmp=1&utm\\_medium=email](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2776053?guestAccessKey=ae4658a1-ed89-43be-b6d6-776e1b4bcc6&utm_content=weekly_highlights&utm_term=020721&utm_source=silverchair&utm_campaign=jama_network&cmp=1&utm_medium=email)

- Test and Trace and inequalities: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)32593-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32593-9/fulltext)

### Mortality

- Iacobucci. BMJ News article. Mortality rates. Oct 2020  
<https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/371/bmj.m4099.full.pdf>

- Iacobucci BMJ News. Variation in Excess Mortality. Nov 2020  
<https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4500>
- UK Office for National Statistics. Reports on Mortality available at:  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases>

#### Ethnicity and COVID 19 risk:

- BMJ Review Oct 2020 of Quarterly reports from <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/race-disparity-unit>
- Govt Report, Increased risk in Ethnic minorities largely related to poverty and social disparities
- South Asian Health Foundation. Data on coronavirus: <https://www.sahf.org.uk/covid19>

#### **Related papers**

- Learning from Flu vaccine uptake: BMJ editorial Dec 2020 on disparities in influenza uptake in the UK (and across Europe) by ethnicity and crucially in the under 65 yrs 'clinical risk groups' . People with multimorbidity under 65 are less likely to be vaccinated.  
<https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4713?sso=>
- Chronic lung disease burden in opioid use disorder with COPD rates up to 39% in screening studies and only a 1/3 of opioid users with asthma got a flu vaccination.  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41533-020-0174-2>
- Premature Ageing in Homeless population  
[http://ie.depaulcharity.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/Depaul-Premature-Ageing-Report-Feb-2018\\_0.pdf](http://ie.depaulcharity.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/Depaul-Premature-Ageing-Report-Feb-2018_0.pdf)