COVID-19 in the UK
Not all are equal

Martin McKee

A framework for analysis

Who is at greatest risk on becoming infected with COVID-19, and why?

Who is most likely to die if they are infected?

Who suffers most from responses to the pandemic?

Are we doing enough to protect them from both the illness and the treatment?
Who is at greatest risk on becoming infected with COVID-19

Why?

- **Increased vulnerability:**
  - pre-existing health conditions

- **Increased susceptibility:**
  - Immune systems weakened adverse living and environmental conditions

- **Increased exposure:**
  - Working conditions - lower paid workers, especially in the service sector, are much more likely to be designated key workers and required to go to work during lockdown – and to be in public facing roles
  - Travel - more likely to rely on public transport and less likely to be able to work from home
  - Housing - overcrowded multigenerational households


Who is most likely to be admitted to ICU?

[Graph showing the distribution of patients critically ill with confirmed COVID-19 compared to the general population across different quintiles of Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).]

Figure 9. Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) * distribution of patients critically ill with confirmed COVID-19 admitted from 1 September 2020 compared with the general population

https://www.icnarc.org/Our-Audit/Audits/Cmp/Reports

Who is most likely to die?

[Graph showing age-standardised mortality rates for all deaths and deaths involving COVID-19 by local area and socioeconomic deprivation.

Source: Office for National Statistics – Deaths involving COVID-19 by local area and socioeconomic deprivation

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathssubjecttoquerybyratesandsocioeconomicdeprivation/deathsoccurringbetween1marchand31july2020]
Who is most likely to die?

Age-standardised mortality rates of death involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales, major occupational group, deaths registered between 9 March and 25 May 2020

Source: Office for National Statistics

Who is most likely to die?

Who suffers most from responses to the pandemic?
Where are the restrictions?

UK local authorities with extra restrictions
Restrictions are different in each of the four nations. Areas highlighted are those where additional rules apply or are due to come into force.

Are we doing enough to protect people from both the illness and the treatment?

Coping

- Twice as many unemployed people (25.8%) surveyed say they are not coping well with the stress of the pandemic compared to people in employment (12.25%).
- Over one in 10 (10.93%) unemployed people surveyed say nothing has helped them cope with the stress of the pandemic.

Are we doing enough to protect people from both the illness and the treatment?


Almost half of people surveyed who are unemployed (44.7%) say they were worried about having enough food to meet their basic needs in the past two weeks, compared to 29.3% of people in employment. Since early April, unemployed people are the only group for whom worry about this issue has not reduced.
What must be done?

Above all, control the pandemic

The only way out is to get infections as low as possible - #ZeroCOVID

Herd/ population immunity is neither feasible or ethically justifiable

Implement an effective Find, Test, Trace, Isolate, Support system

With emphasis on Support for those isolating

Ensure financial support includes those in gig economy

“Build back better”