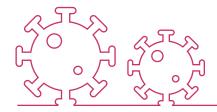


COVID-19

Research Portfolio Impact Report

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1. Introduction

This report highlights emerging impacts from social science research projects funded through the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) response to COVID-19 and details the convening role that ESRC played to facilitate engagement between the research and stakeholders.

Background

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, UKRI announced a rapid research funding call to address the urgent issues raised by the crisis. The funding opportunity was open to all UKRI's research community and over £554m was awarded via research grants.

ESRC's COVID-19 portfolio funded through the rapid response round is made up of 195 grants, which is 47% of the total number of grants funded by UKRI, and an investment of approximately £50m into social, behavioural and economic research. This highlights the critical need that emerged for social science research and expertise in the UK's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ESRC has also funded other investments relevant to COVID, such as the Economics Observatory and the International Public Policy Observatory, as well as time-critical COVID-19 research since the original rapid response call ended, and several of ESRC's core investments repurposed their research to focus on the impacts of COVID-19.

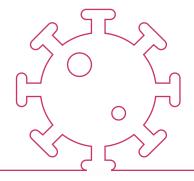
This report highlights outcomes and impacts of this research portfolio, with particular focus on the research funded through the rapid response call. However, it is recognised that impact often occurs over much longer timescales, and we anticipate that impact from these awards will continue beyond their formal end dates.

The full list of ESRC funding through the COVID-19 rapid response call can be found at Annex 1.

Research during a pandemic

The pandemic has presented both challenges and opportunities for everyone across the globe. The research community was no exception. The pandemic raised enormous questions which the research community quickly convened to answer. However, at the outset in 2020, nobody knew how the crisis would unfold, how long it would last, what public health interventions would prove effective, how different groups would be impacted, and that new variants and dynamics of COVID-19 would still be emerging over two years later.

The timeframes for standard grant routes were unsuitable for supporting research that was needed to inform urgent policy decisions and secure time-critical data for future research. UKRI's emergency route for COVID-19 research, alongside flexibility in enabling existing grant holders to address COVID-19 research questions, was designed to enable the research community to respond at pace. This report reflects the research opportunities posed by the pandemic. But the challenges faced by the community in conducting research in a pandemic should also be recognised – from difficulties with data collection to challenges with staff and research participant recruitment. This was compounded by the same challenges felt across the country, such as illness, remote working, and care responsibilities.





2. ESRC's COVID-19 research

A wide range of projects were awarded which spanned the breadth of ESRC's remit and disciplines. The graphics in this section provide an overview of ESRC's COVID-19 portfolio as funded through the UKRI rapid response call, breaking down the awards by theme, duration, geographic distribution, funding and research outputs.

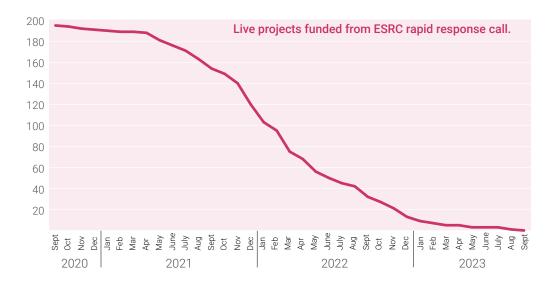
ESRC projects by theme

The projects can be grouped into themes around key cross-cutting topics:



Project duration

Projects were 12 to 18 months in length and aimed to deliver clear pathways to impact in that time. Due to the pressures of the pandemic, around a quarter of projects have requested extensions to funding, with the maximum request being 12 months. We granted an extension where requests met exceptional circumstances. Most projects will either finish by or finish in 2022, with the last project due to end in September 2023.

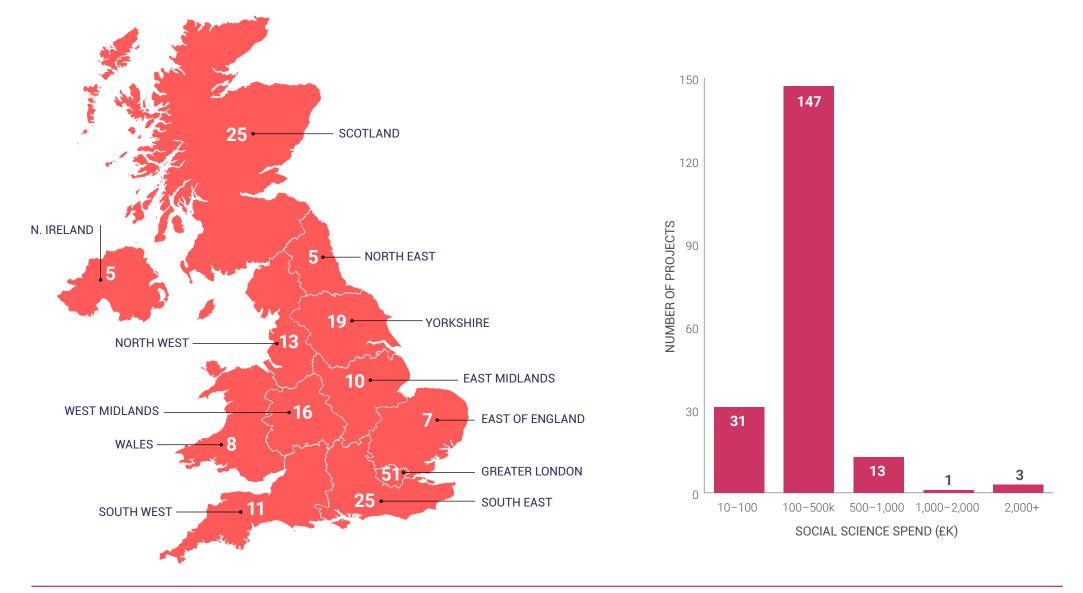


Geographical distribution of projects

Projects were led by teams from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the four countries of the UK, and involved research relevant to both the national context as well as a more local focus. The map below shows the geographical distribution of projects based on the lead HEI.

Project funding

Projects funded in the social sciences through the UKRI rapid response call ranged from £10,000 to £2.2m.



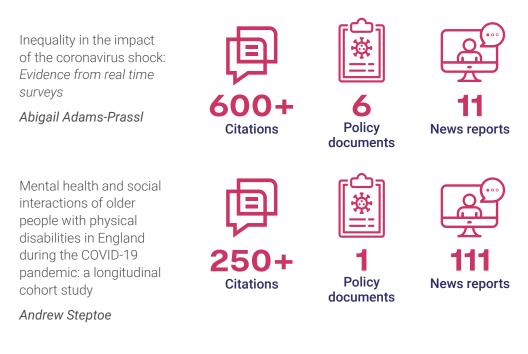
Research outputs

The expectation set for projects funded through the call was to undertake research that would produce actionable insights and generate impact. The policy and practice impact highlights from projects funded through the rapid response call are captured on page 9. However, the projects have also produced academic outputs which have been essential to enable impact to occur as can be seen from the graphic below.



300+ Research publications to date

NOTABLE OUTPUTS



Response of ESRC data investments to the pandemic

The collection of new social science data, and reuse of existing relevant data is making important contributions to the pandemic response. Data collection has been commissioned¹ to understand the impact of the pandemic and to help inform decision-making through ESRC's data investments, including:

Understanding Society

A COVID-19 study was added to the UK Household Longitudinal Study, funded by ESRC and The Health Foundation. This included a regular web and telephone survey asking about COVID-related issues. The survey covered the changing impact of the pandemic on the welfare of UK individuals, families and wider communities. Several of the projects funded in the rapid response call also reported using data from Understanding Society, and wide impact from the study has been reported from use of the data for mental health monitoring to the government using COVID-19 data to model changes to household income under furlough².

ADR UK

ESRC's administrative data research investment has been involved in several projects seeking to use administrative data to help answer questions about the pandemic. This included partnering on The Local Data Spaces programme to help local authorities harness data to tackle the pandemic, working on rapid response projects to understand interactions between health services and shielded people in Wales, and ADR researchers in Northern Ireland creating linked datasets with partners to better quantify the risks and impact of health and social care delivery planning.

Centre for Longitudinal Studies

Three waves of a survey were completed to find out about the pandemic experiences of participants in five national longitudinal cohort studies. The survey collected a range of insights into the lives of the participants including (but not limited to) physical and mental health, employment and education, and family and household. Participants were also asked to provide a blood sample to test for COVID-19 antibodies.

COVID Social Mobility and Opportunities Study (COSMO)

COSMO is a longitudinal cohort study which examines impacts of the pandemic on educational inequality and social mobility, focusing on young people in England who were in Year 11 in 2020-21.

1 List of ESRC-funded COVID-19 data activity:

www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ESRC-21062022-Social_science_COVID_activity_20220609.pdf page 24

² The impact of Understanding Society | Understanding Society

3. Engagement and communication

ESRC has undertaken communication and engagement activities to ensure the outputs and outcomes from the COVID-19 research are accessible to stakeholders. ESRC has been well placed to carry out this convening activity, making links between research outputs and relevant users across government and industry.

Seminar series

Ten 'Actionable insights' seminars, organised with the Government Social Research Profession, ran through 2021-22 with the aim of connecting policymakers and analysts across government with ESRC's COVID-19 research portfolio. The virtual seminars focussed on key areas of policy, linking attendees directly to research outcomes. Each seminar attracted around 250 attendees across 15 ministerial departments, nine nonministerial departments, 33 agencies and public bodies, devolved governments, local government and the third sector.

Reflecting the wide-ranging evidence needs across government and the cross-cutting nature of the challenges raised by the pandemic and recovery, seminars covered: business resilience and innovation; how to mitigate mental health impacts on children and families; remote working and the future of work; behaviour, attitudes and social distancing; addressing learning loss and educational inequalities; the environment and the green recovery; housing, homelessness and rough sleeping during COVID and beyond; understanding disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on minority ethnic communities; the impact of geography and region on fiscal responses to COVID-19 and responding to the domestic abuse crisis. Many revealing actionable insights were discussed at these seminars. Feedback after the seminars demonstrated that these were well received by the policy and analyst community and provided evidence that stakeholders from across government followed up with the academic presenters following the seminars. Although it is too early to demonstrate impact arising from these connections, they demonstrate the importance of ESRC's convening role in accelerating engagement and uptake of research findings.

A series of seminars with the Knowledge Transfer Network also focussed on ESRC's COVID-19 research and implications for business. These seminars covered three different topic areas, including flexible working models and employee wellbeing. These were recorded and made available online for continued access by relevant stakeholders.



Communications

UKRI and ESRC have conducted a range of communications activities to draw attention to the outputs and outcomes of the COVID-19 funding, and to widen the stakeholders engaged with ESRC's research in this area. The content and reach of some of the communication activities can be seen in the graphic below, including an article that was published in Civil Service World in December 2021³. The article explores ESRC's Actionable Insights seminars and broader COVID-19 policy engagement activities, such as the funding of the Economics Observatory and the International Public Policy Observatory, which identify evidence needs and connect policymakers to the evidence base. The graphic also references the UKRI COVID-19 Hub⁴, which contains information about UKRI's COVID investments and role in responding to the pandemic.

ESRC's three most popular online COVID-19 stories were around conspiracy theories, the impact on our lives and crime trends, with the latter amassing nearly 1,000 views. ESRC's COVID-19 research has been among some of the most popular content on the UKRI COVID Hub, with an announcement of a study of the impacts of COVID-19 on Year 11 school pupils being the most popular item for ESRC on Twitter between April and June 2021. ESRC's funded research has also been included in content for the 'UKRI Impacts and Investments around the UK' factsheet.

This factsheet provides information across a range of activities with relevant pages for geographical areas sent to MPs, Assembly Members and MSPs, as well as published on the BEIS website. In addition, in March 2022, regional emails were sent by UKRI to MPs, outlining examples of COVID-19 project impacts in their area. Details of eight of ESRC's COVID-19 projects were included.

GOALS, RESEARCH, ACTION!

The scale and speed of the UK's pandemic response required close cooperation between civil servants and researchers. **Dr James Canton and Dr Charlotte Sausman** explain how the organisation is learning from this experience and helping policymakers act on insights from research



3 <u>Civil Service World Article – December 2021</u>

4 UKRI COVID Hub

4. Impact highlights from the Covid-19 portfolio

UKRI required all the rapid response projects to complete a quarterly survey which captured outcomes and impacts from the awards. This section demonstrates a selection of highlights from across the portfolio where research findings have led to outcomes with a potential for impact.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND RECOVERY

The impacts of the pandemic have been wide-reaching and have led to difficult economic decisions. The results have affected individuals, workplaces, and businesses in different ways. In 2020, the UK saw the largest drop in economic output for 300 years, leading to government decisions designed to stop the downward trend, including heavy borrowing⁵. The research funded by UKRI has explored both the economic impacts of the pandemic as well as issues around economic recovery. Projects have looked at the impact of COVID-19 on productivity, investment and tax policy, they have modelled the effects of the pandemic on household spending decisions and considered the effectiveness of government decisions such as the furlough scheme.

MODELLING THE IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC

In their award to model the impacts of the pandemic, NIESR demonstrated how interconnected different sectors of the UK economy are, and the demand and supply implications from one sector to another⁶. For example, areas of the economy that were locked down due to an inability to social distance (for example the manufacturing and construction sectors) had a 'spillover' effect to other sectors which relied on their supply, causing a larger fall in GDP than otherwise expected. The findings from this research were discussed with government economists. The evidence informed decisions on reopening the economy after the first lockdown, and helped policymakers consider different strategies for easing lockdowns in May and June 2020. It has also contributed to the development of a new sectoral approach to modelling the UK economy which will be available to subscribers in government and the private sector.

SUPPORTING FISCAL POLICY DECISIONS

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) led research focused on supporting fiscal policy decisions during the pandemic⁷. Their findings shed light on areas such as the effects of the self-employed income support scheme and the impact of furlough on different groups, including the effect it had on the amount of support they could receive from government. Researchers provided advice on policy options and their work informed government choices on how to design and unwind the furlough scheme.

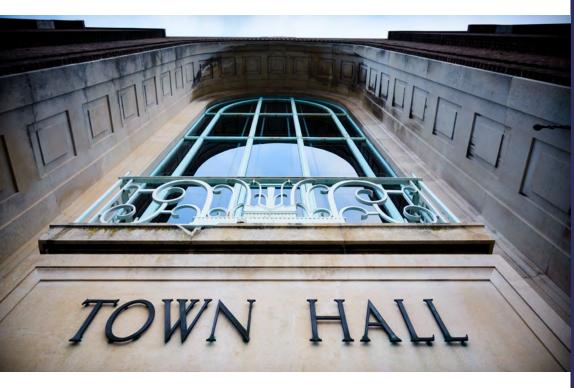
HOUSEHOLD SPENDING

The IFS also developed a model of consumer behaviour to understand the effects of lockdown on households' spending decisions and living standards⁸. Researchers analysed the geographical patterns of these changes, comparing the extent of the recovery from the first national lockdown in different parts of Great Britain. They also looked at the effects of the second English lockdown and the numerous other localised public health restrictions that have taken place. Combining novel datasets, researchers measured the effect of shutting hospitality and non-essential retail venues on spending on categories of goods and services, showing how consumers buy different items when these restrictions are imposed. Researchers have published briefings to inform government and the media about the geographic impacts of the pandemic on consumer spending. Auditors KPMG are now using some of the methods developed in the research to update their forecasts to address structural changes induced by COVID-19 and therefore to improve their forecasts of the pandemic's impacts.

 5 Financial Times, UK suffers biggest drop in economic output in 300 years, 12 February 2021: www.ft.com/content/96e19afd-88b3-4e8d-bc3e-a72bd1f60d3c
 6 Project Reference: <u>ES/V003844/1</u> 7 Project reference: <u>ES/V00381X/1</u>8 Project reference: <u>ES/V010026/1</u>

LOCAL AUTHORITY SPENDING

An IFS project focused on understanding the effects of the pandemic at a local level looked at council revenue and spending⁹. This has helped inform government policy through engagement throughout the project with the department then called the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG and now Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities). As a result, some of the policies adopted by MHCLG around financial support to councils have been consistent with the recommendations made in the project reports. The project's findings have also informed local government through a partnership with the Local Government Association, which has informed local authority officials in their discussions with councillors on the financial impacts of the pandemic. The project has informed parliamentary scrutiny of central and local government through giving evidence to the MHCLG committee's inquiry on Local Government and the 2020 Spending Review.





Measuring the effects of COVID-19 on businesses and the UK economy (ES/V004387/1)

Paul Mizen, University of Nottingham

Since 2016, the ESRC-funded Decision Maker Panel (DMP) has been surveying thousands of businesses each month on the uncertainties they face.

Funding from UKRI enabled the DMP team to ask UK businesses of all sizes and sectors about the impact of the pandemic on a fortnightly and monthly basis. The panel has been asked how many employees have been furloughed, how many people are working from home and what effect the pandemic has had on costs. Findings include that the spread of COVID-19 and the measures to contain it led to a fall in sales of around 30% in 2020 Q2, while employment growth fell about 5%.

DMP evidence has informed rapid policy interventions by the Bank of England and the government to mitigate such impacts. Responses from businesses are immediately used for policy decisions in real time by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) and Financial Policy Committee, HM Treasury, BEIS, 10 Downing Street and COBRA. DMP gave evidence on economic uncertainty for meetings of the MPC in 2020-21 and was used to justify and explain the MPC decision to maintain interest rates at historic low levels in speeches and official publications such as Inflation/Monetary Policy Reports.

9 Project reference: ES/V005073/1

EMPLOYMENT AND WORK

The pandemic had a profound impact on employment and work, and the changes seen early in the pandemic continue to affect working lives. It is likely that for many workplaces some degree of change in working practices will be permanent. Work has been reorganised, new technology introduced and supply chains have been restructured. At times during the pandemic, there were risks to entire sectors of employment, particularly the service industry where close contact is a key feature. There has been a shift in some workplaces towards more flexible working, and hybrid models of work incorporating remote with office work. While homeworking was required for some sectors, many workers were disadvantaged while struggling with childcare responsibilities and lack of space, while for others the pandemic meant they were furloughed or lost <u>their jobs.</u>

HOME WORKING

A team at the University of Southampton, Institute for Employment Studies, and consultancy Half the Sky explored how the pandemic led to an experiment on how working from home was changing working lives.¹⁰

The project found that productivity had been sustained, and was sometimes enhanced during lockdowns, but that early in the pandemic there was a drop in workforce well-being. This was particularly the case for groups who faced greater challenges during the lockdowns, such as those with caring and managerial responsibilities. Later in the research, when hybrid working was more available and working from home took place amid less extreme circumstances, these differences dropped off and well-being was restored to previous levels. This reflects the adaptation that has gone on around less extreme forms of working from home, and as employers have become more adept at supporting their workforces. The research found that a permanent mindset shift had occurred around work organisation, with hybrid, supported by flexible working arrangements, becoming the default position.

Researchers have submitted evidence to Government inquiries and consultations and have provided oral evidence on remote working to the inquiry of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee at the Welsh Parliament, with the research reflected in their subsequent report. The team have taken part in policy briefings for multiple Government departments, employers, and professional organisations, and the research has been cited in various parliamentary briefings on remote and hybrid work.

10 Project reference: <u>ES/V009648/1</u> 11 Project reference: <u>ES/V009400/1</u>

WORKING-CLASS WOMEN

The role of working-class women in the world of work during the pandemic was explored by a team led by the University of Nottingham¹¹. The project found that working-class women were carrying out essential but undervalued work, exposing the gender and class inequalities that impact women's working lives, exacerbated by pressures from the pandemic around job insecurity, childcare responsibilities and balancing both paid and unpaid work. The project found that current benefit systems like Universal Credit and sick pay, as well as public services such as social care and childcare were not ready to meet the needs of many. The project findings have been delivered during oral evidence to the UK Parliament Work and Pensions Committee inquiry into the Department for Work and Pensions preparations for changes in the world of work. The project team has also met with the Women and Equality Commission to contribute to parliamentary deliberations about economic recovery post-COVID.



INDEPENDENT ART WORKERS

Researchers at the University of Essex led a project that considered the impact of the pandemic on freelance art workers in the UK¹². The project found that there was a growing disconnect between freelance workers and arts organisations during the pandemic. Uncertainty around the return of live performance, along with cancellations due to COVID-19, led to fear that positive changes for better equity and inclusion for theatre industries that had started will be lost as the industry recovers financially. This research helped inform the Arts Council England's November 2021 report on the impact of COVID-19 on theatre workers. The project has run regional focus groups which have fed into mayoral cultural arts pledges for local Metro Mayor areas.



12 Project reference: ES/V011103/1



Where does work belong anymore? The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on working in the UK (<u>ES/V003976/1</u>)

Abigail Marks, University of Stirling

The issue of homeworking was explored by a team led by the University of Stirling, which found that homeworkers experienced an increased volume of work. This was due to the creation of work by the pandemic, for example to manage operational changes, the move to homeworking and becoming familiar with novel systems, at the same time as balancing other requirements such as home-schooling, and balancing time around online meeting collaboration tools which removed the previous pattern and pace of the former working day.

The team are working with trade unions, businesses and public sector bodies to provide guidance based on their findings. They are also working with the Department of Work and Pensions around questions on wellbeing.

EDUCATION

The pandemic led to school closures and the adoption of home-schooling to limit the spread of COVID-19. This exposed existing inequalities in how well children do at school and the sort of life they will go on to have. During the first lockdown, educational inequalities between private and state school students were brought into focus, and those from poorer families received less home schooling compared to those from wealthier families¹³. Disadvantaged pupils have fallen further behind their peers, and these inequalities are mirrored in pupils' mental health, with an increase in symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression during lockdowns¹⁴. The deepening of educational inequalities could have long-term effects on individuals' educational and career progression. This raises important questions about policy and how public services can respond most effectively to improve young people's life chances. Education projects funded through the COVID-19 rapid response call have looked at the continuing and longterm effects of lockdown on children and young people, including mental health and wellbeing, learning, skills and recovery.

ONLINE LEARNING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A team led by The Open University have found that there has been considerable change in strategic planning for digital education in secondary schools as a result of the pandemic¹⁶. The team found that very few schools remained in the same position after restrictions lifted, as they were in relation to their digital strategy before the pandemic. The project also found that some schools moved from a position in which digital learning was used by individual teachers only, to putting their entire curriculum online. However, the research has also found that mental ill health amongst staff and pupils, staff shortages and financial constraints, are causing some schools to return to prepandemic digital planning levels. This is particularly marked in schools in areas of high socio-economic deprivation.

The project findings have been shared via various channels, including a seminar for the British Educational Research Association. A free course: Strategic Planning for online learning, for school leaders, will be launched on the Open University Free Learning channel, Openlearn in July 2022.

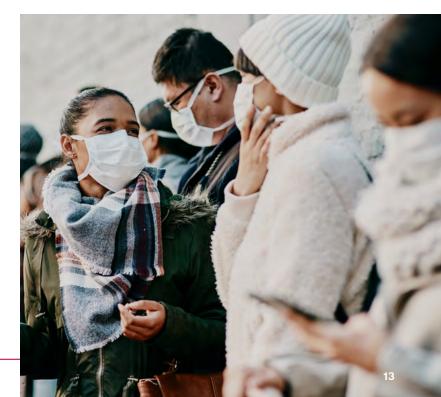
andemic¹⁶. development¹⁵. They found that greater access to early

childhood education and care between spring and winter 2020 was linked to increased growth in the number of different words understood, in children under three. This was more pronounced in children from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The findings were presented to policymakers at the Department for Education and Welsh Government, and a briefing note has been disseminated to ministers and civil servants. Welsh National Speech noted that the research helped them to respond and use the results to show how lockdown had contributed to widening the gap between richer and poorer families and enabled them to direct recovery funds accordingly.

SOCIAL-DISTANCING AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

effect of social distancing policies on children's language

A team from Oxford Brookes University studied the



13 The Sutton Trust, "Learning in Lockdown" 21 January 2021

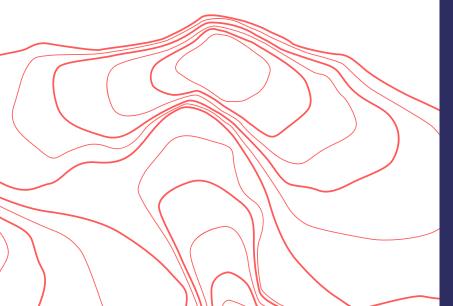
14 Simona Skripkauskaite et. al., 'Co-SPACE Report 08: Changes in children's and young people's mental health symptoms: March 2020 to January 2021, 17 February 202: <u>https://cospaceoxford.org/findings/</u> changes-in-children-mental-health-symptoms-from-march-2020-to-jan-2021

15 Project reference: <u>ES/V004085/1</u> 16 Project reference: <u>ES/V016989/1</u>

CAREER PROSPECTS

A team led by the University of Southampton focused on recent graduates and the impact of the pandemic on their career decisions and outcomes¹⁷. Most graduates who took part in the study believed that COVID-19 had a significant impact on their career prospects with many reports of challenges in finding employment, knowing where opportunities lie, what employers are looking for as well as staying focused and motivated. The findings from the study have generated significant knowledge on the impact of COVID-19 on educational leavers' initial employment prospects. The first wave of the study led to the development of bespoke case reports to 16 Higher Education Institute partners, detailing survey outcomes against their institution's graduate population, with the intention of customising their provision. A report has also been disseminated through the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, which has strong connections with key stakeholders in Higher Education.

17 Project reference: ES/V015761/1





SPOTLIGHT

A Duty of Care and a Duty to Teach: educational priorities in response to the COVID-19 lockdown (<u>ES/V00414X/1</u>)

Gemma Moss, UCL

The project team explored how primary schools were responding to the pandemic and the unexpected challenges it provoked. A survey of 1,653 primary teachers at schools in England during lockdown found teachers and schools offering vital support for student welfare and wellbeing alongside support for learning. Schools with the highest numbers of children living in poverty went to considerable effort to make sure their welfare needs were met.

Researchers used the survey findings to promote key messages for policy makers in response to the crisis. These included highlighting: the vital role schools play in supporting children living in poverty; the impacts of unequal access to digital online learning resources; the need for teachers to adapt teaching strategies to take account of the different conditions for learning at home; the value of school-based knowledge for understanding the impacts of the pandemic and how they might best be remedied. Many teachers reported that the experience of supporting home learning had enabled them to better understand their communities. Regardless of their own school context, teachers considered that a hurried return to high pressure testing and accountability would unfairly penalise schools serving the most disadvantaged communities.

A review of the literature on learning disruption, caused by unplanned and extended school closures due to natural causes, identified the following priorities for recovery: letting local knowledge lead in devising appropriate strategies for pupil recovery was more successful than central direction; re-pacing the curriculum created better opportunities for schools to address pupils' diverse needs; paying attention to staff and pupil mental health was an important part of recovery planning. Researchers made submissions to the Education Select Committee Inquiry into COVID-19 and the Education Recovery Commissioner. Briefing notes were produced for policymakers and for schools. Evidence from the project has provided support for key reform strategies suggested by a range of other educational organisations operating at a national scale such as the Chartered College of Teaching and teacher unions. Briefing notes influenced the suspension of testing in 20/21. The team's first report (Moss et al, 2020), published in June 2020, has had 6,498 downloads, the peer reviewed article based on a literature review (Harmey and Moss, 2021) has had 9,747 views, and in line with the research findings, funding for recovery has been switched from the National Tutoring Programme back to schools.

HEALTHCARE

The NHS and other resourceconstrained public services entered the pandemic with little slack, hampering resilience to shocks and the effectiveness of the response ¹⁸. At the same time, COVID-19 forced many public services to develop remarkable innovations to deal with the crisis. According to the House of Lords Public Services Committee, 'decisions which before the pandemic took months were made in minutes. Good personal and organisational relationships broke down longstanding barriers between the statutory and voluntary sectors. New ways to deliver services flourished. Digital technology was used more widely, and more successfully, than ever before' 19.

CANCER HELP-SEEKING

A team at Cardiff University studied the impact of COVID-19 on cancer help-seeking attitudes and behaviours²⁰. The project found that during the first six months of the pandemic, nearly half of those surveyed who had experienced a potential cancer symptom did not contact their GP. Barriers included concerns over wasting doctor's time, overstretching the NHS, not wanting to make a fuss, concerns over healthcare access and concerns about COVID-19 infection. The project has released policy reports on cancer symptom presentation behaviour and cancer screening intentions during COVID-19. These were shared widely using various media and were well received by key stakeholders, policy makers and NHS clinicians. This resulted in further engagement with third sector organisations, NHS organisations and Welsh Government's Screening Division to discuss how to best translate the findings into planned campaign activities and changes to screening policy and practice in Wales. The team provided evidence and recommendations to the Wales National Screening Committee on strategies to increase the flexibility and person-centeredness of cancer screening services and novel technologies to address the backlog.

18 Institute for Government, 'How fit were public services for coronavirus?', 3 August 2020 www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/public-services-coronavirus

19 House of Lords Public Services Committee, 'A critical juncture for public services: lessons from COVID-19', 13 November 2020

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld5801/ldselect/pubserv/167/167.pdf

20 Project reference: <u>ES/V00591X/1</u>

RETENTION OF NHS STAFF

The retention of NHS staff was the focus of a project led by the University of Bath which found that staffing levels, morale, stress and workload were rated as much worse than before March 2020. Specific issues such as anxiety over being pressured to receive a vaccination and long COVID were also identified²¹. The research team worked closely with stakeholders such as NHS employers and the Royal College of Nursing and have presented their findings to these stakeholders. The project has provided NHS England and NHS Improvement with findings relevant to specific policy/strategy relevant issues, for example difference in staff intention to leave the NHS by age and grade.



COVID-19 AND PARKINSON'S

A team led by Lancaster University focused their research on understanding the implications of COVID-19 restrictions on the wellbeing of individuals affected by Parkinson's²². The research has found that the deterioration of symptoms such as slowness of movement, fatigue and muscle cramp worsened as the pandemic continued through 2021, as did the mental health and wellbeing of people with Parkinson's. Greater feelings of loneliness were reported by both those with Parkinson's and their carers, which contributed to anxiety and depression, and many carers took on more caring responsibilities. Carers were found to have lower mental health and wellbeing scores and greater levels of social isolation than for people with Parkinson's. In the three months before they were surveyed, 30% of people with Parkinson's had an appointment with their care provider cancelled and only 50% of respondents admitted to hospital received their medication on time. The findings from this research have been included in a report and shared with Parkinson's UK and this has been discussed at a large network event with an audience of professionals and people with Parkinson's. The project team continue to work with Parkinson's UK and the report has enabled the charity to consider its response to the findings reported, including, for example, lobbying for the return of Parkinson's nurses and more support for carers. Parkinson's UK have also referred to the research in their membership bulletins and outlined the key issues and need for support.



21 Project reference: <u>ES/V015389/1</u> 22 Project reference: <u>ES/W001209/</u>



COVID-19: Supporting family carers in making decisions for older relatives with dementia (<u>ES/V003720/1</u>)

Nathan Davies, UCL

The project produced a decision tool to help families and carers of people with dementia make difficult decisions around the care of people with dementia who are unwell with COVID-19 during the pandemic.

The tool is now used within hospitals, care organisations and by family carers and has helped clinicians, carers and people with dementia to make decisions, such as whether to receive care at home or in hospital, which treatments to receive and includes support for very difficult decision-making around resuscitation. The tool guides carers through the process of making these decisions whilst taking into consideration the wishes and preferences of the person living with dementia and the legal aspects of making decisions. The tool also helped carers by providing symptoms of COVID-19 more commonly seen in older people, where to find help and support in decision-making and how carers could help look after themselves. Additional research was carried out to ensure the decision tool would be applicable to people from various backgrounds.

The decision tool was included in the NHS England dementia pathway for COVID-19, circulated by NHS England to all the dementia clinical leads, and was cited as a resource in NHS clinical guidelines on Dementia wellbeing which would reach all NHS staff and services.

MENTAL HEALTH

People's mental health and wellbeing have been affected during the pandemic, with strong evidence from cross-sectional and longitudinal studies that mental health has declined²³. Groups that have suffered disproportionately from COVID-19 and the policy responses to it include frontline health staff, women and minority ethnic groups. Disruption to mental health support services is likely to have long-term effects, particularly for children and young people.

23 L Aknin et. al. 'A Review and Response to the Early Mental Health and Neurological Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic', PsyArXiv, 19 February 2021 (<u>https://doi. org/10.31234/osf.io/zw93g</u>).
24 Project reference: <u>ES/V004034/1</u>
25 Project reference: <u>ES/V015699/1</u>

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH

A team from the University of Oxford led the Co-Space project, which tracked children and young people's mental health throughout the COVID-19 pandemic²⁴. The project found an increase in mental health symptoms for participating children and young people during the lockdowns when schools were closed to most students, and this was particularly evident in primary school-aged children. These improved as lockdowns eased. There were also elevated levels of mental health difficulties across the pandemic for specific groups of children and young people, including those with special educational needs, neurodevelopmental disorders, low family incomes and from single-adult households.

The findings from the project have informed the Department for Education's State of the Nation 2021 report on children and young people's wellbeing. The team has worked closely with practitioners and policymakers throughout the project to ensure the findings lead to real-world impact. The findings have also been disseminated to parents and carers as well as voluntary and community groups. The findings of the project have also informed further academic research, through the SPARKLE and CO-CAT projects, which are evaluating interventions for children and young people's wellbeing.

MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN STATE CARE

A study, led by University of Bristol studied the mental health of children in State care in England during the pandemic²⁵. The survey results showed that during the pandemic children in care had significantly worse mental health assessment scores and wellbeing scores compared with children in the general population. As well as a national report the team produced individualised, local authority-level reports that were shared with the local authorities that participated in the research. Some local authorities are using the findings to influence decisions being made by the Corporate Parenting Boards and senior management teams about mental health provision for children and young people in care. One local authority has requested to take part in a pilot to explore whether the survey could be used as an assessment tool with children in care in their local authority. The results from the surveys have also been presented to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England and the Department for Education policy and analyses teams and were used as evidence in the final report of the National Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England.

Photo by Erika Giraud on Unsplash



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AGEING POPULATION

A team led by University College London (UCL) conducted a longitudinal study looking at the impact of COVID-19 on the ageing population in England²⁶. The results have highlighted the impact of the pandemic on the health, wellbeing and prosperity of older people living in England, with observed increases in depression, anxiety and loneliness and deterioration in wellbeing, quality of life and sleep. The data from the study had been cited in Government reports, including from Public Health England (PHE). The Department for Work and Pensions shadow team has picked up the data, and results related to mental health have been disseminated in different formats including presentations to the OECD and PHE.



26 Project reference: ES/V003941/1



A longitudinal mixed-methods population study of the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic: Psychological and social adjustment to global threat (<u>ES/V004379/1</u>)

Richard Bentall, University of Sheffield

The impacts of the pandemic on the UK general population were monitored by a team led by the University of Sheffield through a longitudinal mixed-methods study. The study has found that the majority of the UK population has been resilient, with little to no anxiety, depression or COVID-19 trauma symptoms reported. They also found approximately 5% of the survey group reported chronic poor mental health, and 20-30% had declining mental health. 8% of the survey group were found to report improving mental health. The research team also considered the UK population's attitude to vaccination and the links between political-psychological dispositions, the belief in a range of conspiracy theories and an unwillingness to social distance and vaccinate.

The project team were in regular contact with Public Health England and the findings were included in their routine mental health and wellbeing surveillance report, which has been used to inform policy, planning and commissioning in health and social care during the pandemic. The findings have also been used in various Government reports, such as an NHS staff wellbeing report carried out by the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, as well as the Department for Education's State of the Nation wellbeing in children and young people's report. Their research has been cited by a number of organisations which advocate mental health support for children, young people and families.



MINORITY COMMUNITIES, VULNERABLE AND DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

Some of the most vulnerable groups and communities in society are also those that have been most badly affected by the COVID-19 crisis. People facing homelessness lack the ability to selfisolate and often live in crowded temporary accommodation, which makes them more likely to catch, and suffer from, the virus. Vulnerable children, such as those living with domestic abuse or with parents who suffer from drug or alcohol dependency, have 'lost some of the protections of being at school'. Domestic abuse victims have been isolated with abusers and are at greater risk of harm and refugees, migrants and asylum seekers face destitution and a lack of the support services on which they would ordinarily depend. Minority ethnic groups have been among the most vulnerable to both the disease itself and to negative social and economic impacts brought about by the pandemic. Compared to the white UK majority, COVID-19 related mortality was higher for all minority groups, especially during the first wave²⁷. Economic and social factors such as employment, housing, income and social and cultural practices and behaviour have been some of the factors that lead to the difference in COVID-related outcomes for minority ethnic groups.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS

A team led by Edinburgh Napier University focused on the use of temporary accommodation to house asylum seekers and refugees during the COVID-19 outbreak²⁸. The project has been working with asylum-seeker participants to understand the impact of their hotel-type accommodation during the pandemic on their health and wellbeing. The team have engaged several times with the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland regarding the relocation of asylum-seeking mothers to a specially repurposed Mothers and Baby Unit. As a result of these engagements an inspection of the 'Unit' by the Commissioner was organised by the project. The Commissioner expressed views about the unsuitability of the building for mothers and babies during a pandemic, and these concerns were noted to the housing provider in a report citing evidence from the project. The decision has now been taken to no longer use the Unit as accommodation for asylum seeking families and children

27 The British Academy, 'The COVID Decade: Understanding the long-term societal impacts of COVID-19', March 2021 <u>www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/documents/3238/COVID-decade-</u> <u>understanding-long-term-societal-impacts-COVID-19.pdf</u>

28 Project reference: <u>ES/V015990/1</u>

PRISONERS AND COVID-19

Research looking into how prisoners have coped with the COVID-19 lockdown in England and Wales has been carried out by a team at Queens University Belfast along with the User Voice Charity²⁹. Findings from the project have shown reporting of poor communication from prison management to prisoners on the changing restrictions and rationale for regime changes. There was also reported deterioration in educational opportunities, access to healthcare, staff/ prisoner relations, access to exercise, and in the number of visits, all leading to a measurable deterioration in mental health and social relationships. The project team has been working with HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and HM Prison Inspectorate throughout the research and have been feeding in research findings at the local prison level and to the senior management team of HMPPS. Drawing on the emerging findings from their research, the project team have been working with the Prison Service's 'gold command' team in developing the recovery strategy for moving forward from the lockdown and re-establishing positive, rehabilitative cultures inside prisons.



²⁹ Project reference: ES/V01708X/1

MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS

A team led by Kings College London (KCL), carried out research to identify and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on inequalities experienced by people from minority ethnic backgrounds working in health and social care³⁰. The NHS is the largest employer of people from minority ethnic backgrounds, comprising at least 20% of the workforce, and over the past five years they have experienced increasing levels of discrimination, bullying and abuse in the workplace. The pandemic has focused attention on the problem and exacerbated the adverse working conditions facing minority ethnic staff. The research shows that discrimination experiences are common and are compounded by a pressurised work environment and a hierarchical workplace structure. Minority ethnic staff report discouragement for promotion, with staff being told by managers that they are not ready to move up or they are better at their current position. Furthermore, redeployments to the 'frontline' were perceived to be more expected of minority ethnic staff. The team has disseminated key findings to NHS Trusts by delivering talks at national trust-wide network meetings for minority ethnic staff. The Welsh Centre for Public Policy has commissioned two reports (health & social care and employment & income) to inform the Welsh Government Race Equality Strategy – these have now been published, and the team is providing ongoing consultancy to the Welsh Government to support the development and implementation of their Race Equality plan.



30 Project reference: ES/V009931/1

SPOTLIGHT

Responding to the COVID-19 Domestic Abuse Crisis, developing a rapid police evidence base (<u>ES/V007033/1</u>) *Katrin Hohl*

A team at City, University of London led a project to provide a near real-time evidence base to inform the police approach to domestic violence and abuse triggered by the UK COVID-19 lockdowns. They routinely interviewed officers from seven police forces, analysing how lockdowns impacted on the volume and nature of domestic abuse coming to police attention, and how frontline officers responded to it. The project found that the pandemic had exposed the domestic abuse crisis rather than created it and that it had contributed to victims finding it harder to leave.

The project findings have had a significant influence on police decision making in relation to their handling of domestic abuse during the pandemic. The evidence has informed the National Police Chiefs Council as well as the Home Office understanding of how COVID-19 lockdowns impacted on domestic abuse. The findings have also informed police decision-making and resourcing. The National Police Chiefs Council and Cumbria Police noted that the research has informed the allocation of resources to process demand relating to domestic abuse and other safeguarding referrals. This has enabled a stronger case to be made to senior management about increasing staffing to maintain effective processing systems.

OTHER IMPACTS

The report has focused on research outcomes that have emerged around the thematic areas within ESRC's COVID-19 portfolio. There is research relevant to other cross-cutting policy areas such as the levellingup agenda, and some examples are drawn out in this section.

PLACE/LEVELLING UP

Recovering from COVID-19: Informing, supporting and developing guidance for UK Local Authorities (<u>ES/V015346/1</u>)

Duncan Shaw, University of Manchester

This project has developed a new framework to help UK Local Authorities design and conduct recovery and renewal from COVID-19 – which involves designing recovery plans that prepare for future emergencies and longer-term renewal strategies that facilitate major transformation of local resilience. This framework has been approved as an international standard ISO/TS 22393 which is available globally. The project has worked with Local Resilience Forums (such as Essex, Thames Valley, Greater Manchester, Avon and Somerset) and with local government (in Vancouver, Palestine, Chile) to design and apply the framework.

BEHAVIOUR

Real-time monitoring and predictive modelling of the impact of human behaviour and vaccine characteristics on COVID-19 vaccination in Scotland (ES/W001489/1 and ES/V012851/1)

Rowland Kao, University of Edinburgh

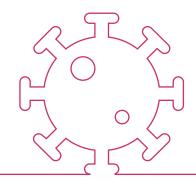
The team worked with Public Health Scotland to exploit real-time monitoring of vaccine uptake, COVID-19 testing and cases, to identify geographical localised impacts on infection rates. Their findings have generated predictors of vaccine uptake across Scotland. The project's modelling analysis features in the Scottish Government's Coronavirus (COVID-19): modelling the epidemic outputs, which underpin Scottish government decision-making on COVID-19 restrictions

ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN RECOVERY

Waste Management During the COVID-19 Outbreak: Investigating a Critical Sector in Crisis (<u>ES/V005200/1</u>)

Angeliki Balayannis, University of Exeter

The project team has worked in close partnership with two key industry associations, The Chartered Institutions of Waste Management and the Resource Management Association Scotland (RMAS). These organisations have provided guidance to the waste sector's COVID-19 response, and for future resilience and preparedness. The project has coproduced data, hosted workshops and published a COVID-19 report with these organisations, and are in the process of co-developing a resilience plan for the next 20 years with RMAS.



5. Lessons learned

It has been over two years since the outbreak of COVID-19, and the start of the rapid response funding programme, and this has given ESRC and UKRI the chance to reflect on the process of awarding funding in such circumstances, and the advantages and disadvantages of carrying out research during a pandemic.

UKRI has commissioned work³¹ to evaluate UKRI's response to the pandemic, and these reports include lessons learned and recommendations for UKRI. In this report, we capture a few of the lessons learned from ESRC's rapid response projects, which should be taken account in future urgent research. The following areas for future consideration were reported by several of the projects through the quarterly UKRI monitoring surveys:

Collaboration

Projects noted that strong relationships with partners were important for keeping up momentum on projects. These included partnerships with other academics, industry, policy-makers and civil society. One project noted that high level buy-in from industry partners was vital for them to secure the necessary data. The importance of setting expectations with project partners before submitting the proposal was also noted, as well as continued work to maintain good relationships with partners during projects. Another project noted that academic collaborations stimulated by the pandemic had been useful and worked best when supported by resource for coordination and administration purposes. It was important to invest time and resources in building partnerships with key stakeholders, as well as allowing flexibility as some partner organisations were particularly busy during the pandemic.

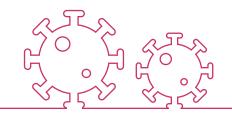
Flexibility

Many projects noted that more time needed to be allocated to projects to account for delays caused by the pandemic, such as delays in data access, participant recruitment, staff recruitment and staff sickness. Staff stress was noted in the reporting, due to illness, caring responsibilities and the pressures of carrying out research during a pandemic – more time and flexibility would have helped in these cases. Projects commented on the need for flexibility in approaches so that projects can adjust when circumstances rapidly change. This could have been considered during the assessment of proposals to ensure project timelines were realistic when faced with such uncertainty. More flexibility around end dates was suggested, for example

allowing an additional three months without the need for formal extension requests. Putting greater resources into the earlier stages of a project was suggested to keep on top of rapidly changing events. Several projects noted the importance of regular team meetings to ensure good communications and the ability to be adaptable and flexible.

New ways of working

The shift to online working was widely reported in the responses. Having regular online team meetings was noted as important for team building and conducting research, and projects noted that online approaches to data collection became more common. Projects were more innovative and open to experimentation to make effective use of different digital media platforms, to help communicate with stakeholders and larger audiences across the UK. Virtual and online meeting/working tools were important in helping reach a wider audience, including internationally and enabling new ways to build collaborations and partnerships in the context of the pandemic. It was thought important to recognise that not all people have access to online methods of communication and that alternative methods such as telephone interviews should also be considered. The need to consider the difficulties that some groups of people might have when not meeting face-to-face was noted (e.g., people with dementia), and that approaches might need adapting to ensure participant wellbeing. It was also noted that online interviewing can however be more flexible and less threatening to some vulnerable groups than traditional face-to-face interviewing. The need to address ethical issues around online research was noted. There were suggestions of how to work differently, and the need in some areas for guidance on this, for example on how to conduct online focus groups.



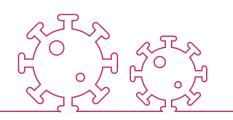
6. Forward look

UKRI's rapid-response funding provided an opportunity for researchers from different scientific disciplines to tackle COVID-related research questions and has created the foundations for an interdisciplinary community of expertise relating to the pandemic. The nature of the rapid response funding call presented opportunities for researchers to explore ways of delivering impact at pace, such as the inclusion of stakeholders and project partners in the initial phases of the project. There have also been advances in methodological innovations, catalysed by the pandemic, the details of which are captured in a separate ESRC commissioned report³².

Going forwards, it will be important to understand the longer term social and economic impacts that the legacy of the pandemic will have, or any future changes to the status of COVID-19 in the UK. The social science community has been primed for future research because of this funding. New research will be embedded in future UKRI investments, as the impacts of COVID-19 will be relevant to a broad range of research, from economic research to research into health, education, employment and environment.

The research needs of the pandemic have led to new activity for ESRC, particularly around engagement and identifying impact from the rapid response funding. Through these activities, ESRC has acted as a broker between academia and government, for instance in developing the Actionable Insights Seminars, which have been so well attended and received that they have been expanded into a series that covers a broader range of policy issues. ESRC is better placed going forwards to respond to new crises and has the knowledge, experience and infrastructure to support our research community and stakeholders to deliver outcomes that will respond to emerging needs.





7. ANNEX 1: List of Rapid Response grants in ESRC remit

Ref Number	PI	Lead RO	Title
ES/V004042/1	Abigail Adams-Prassl	University of Oxford	The Impact of COVID-19 on Economic Inequality and Employment Progression
ES/V003976/1	Abigail Marks	University of Stirling	Where does work belong anymore? The impact of the COVID19 pandemic on working in the UK
ES/V015559/1	Alfred Duncan	University of Kent	SMEs and the macroeconomic response to Covid-19
ES/V005006/1	Alison Fildes	University of Leeds	Gemini COVID-19 study: Immediate and longer-term impacts on the health, behaviour and wellbeing of UK families
ES/V012789/1	Alissa Goodman	University College London	Understanding the economic, social and health impacts of COVID-19 using lifetime data: evidence from 5 nationally representative UK cohorts
ES/V013009/1	Allan Williams	University of Surrey	COVID-19: TOURISM RECOVERY, RISK AND UNCERTAINTY
ES/V004980/1	Ana Beduschi	University of Exeter	COVID-19: Human Rights Implications of Digital Certificates for Health Status Verification
ES/V00400X/1	Andrea Baronchelli	City, University of London	COVID-19: Monitoring the effects of the pandemic on illicit online trade.
ES/V003941/1	Andrew Steptoe	University College London	English Longitudinal Study of Ageing COVID-19 Substudy
ES/V012657/1	Andrew Summers	London School of Economics	The fiscal response to Covid-19: 'Thinking big' on tax policy after the crisis
ES/V015389/1	Andrew Weyman	University of Bath	Should I stay or should I go? NHS staff retention in a post COVID19 world, challenges and prospects
ES/V005200/1	Angeliki Balayannis	University of Exeter	Waste management during the COVID-19 outbreak: Investigating a critical sector in crisis
ES/V004107/1	Anna Krzywoszynska	The University of Sheffield	COVID-19: The local as a site of food security resilience in the times of pandemic: opportunities, challenges and ways forward.
ES/V01529X/1	Anthony Savagar	University of Kent	Economic Recovery from COVID-19 in the UK: A Big Data Analysis of Real-Time Business Creation in Geographic Regions and Industrial Sectors
ES/V004921/1	Ben Brewster	University of Nottingham	COVID-19 and Child Criminal Exploitation: Closing Urgent Knowledge and Data Gaps on the Implications of Pandemic for County Lines.
ES/V004956/1	Benjamin Spigel	University of Edinburgh Business School	Entrepreneurial resiliency, innovation, and change during the COVID-19 Crisis
ES/V016652/1	Berry Billingsley	Canterbury Christ Church University	Essential experiences in science: addressing the gap in primary enquiry-based practical science created by lockdown and aiding school recovery
ES/V015222/1	Birgitta Rabe	University of Essex	Mind the Gap: Educational Inequalities during Covid-19
ES/V005464/1	Biritta Gatersleben	University of Surrey	Nature Engagement and Wellbeing Pre-, During and Post Covid-19: Supporting the UK (Green) Recovery
ES/W000849/1	Bridget Byrne	University of Manchester	COVID-19 BAME highlight. The social, cultural and economic impacts of the pandemic on BAME groups in Britain
ES/V016970/1	Carlos Carrillo Tudela	University of Essex	The impact of COVID-19 on unemployment and earnings inequality.
ES/V010964/1	Carol Brayne	University of Cambridge	Impacts on social connections and wellbeing of COVID-19 policies in the Older Population: CFAS cohort Over 75s (OPPO)
ES/V009508/1	Carol Propper	Imperial College Business School	Understanding the impacts of COVID-19 on the provision of NHS health care and patient outcomes
ES/V017543/1	Catherine Robinson	University of Kent	Occupational changes and skill mismatch following Covid-19: implications for graduates in the UK
ES/W000482/1	Cathy Atkinson	University of Manchester	Motivational interviewing for contact tracing: developing co-produced training to improve practice
ES/W001772/1FF	Chijioke Obasi	University of the West of Scotland	Unmasking educational inequalities: The impact of COVID-19 on deaf students in higher education

Ref Number	PI	Lead RO	Title
ES/V010018/1	Chris Tang	King's College London	Social learning about COVID-19 vulnerability and social distancing in high density populations: the case of UK urban dwelling Bangladeshis
ES/W001187/1	Christopher Deeming	University of Strathclyde	Understanding the social impacts of coronavirus under different health restrictions: Longitudinal analysis using the ONS OPN Covid-19 survey
ES/V004891/1	Claire Cameron	University College London	COVID-19: Families, children aged 0-4 and pregnant women: vulnerabilities, resources and recovery in Tower Hamlets
ES/W001306/1	Clare Kelliher	Cranfield University	The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Employer Perceptions of Part-time Working: the implications for economic recovery and future working
ES/V015982/1	Coral Sirdifield	University of Lincoln	Understanding and learning from the impact of COVID-19 on probation's work to improve the health of people under its supervision
ES/W001039/1	Damian Breen	Birmingham City University	COVID-19 BAME Highlight Religious community organisations' interventions around the impact of Coronavirus on Muslims in Birmingham in post-Covid Britain
ES/V007610/1	Daniel King	Nottingham Trent University	COVID-19 and VCSE organisations response
ES/V017063/1	Daniel Plumley	Sheffield Hallam University	Counting the costs of COVID-19 on professional football clubs and their communities
ES/V010182/1	Daniel Sage	Loughborough University	Enhancing the use of ResilienceDirect in the Covid-19 response: a comparative analysis of Local Resilience Forums
ES/V015958/1	Danny McGowan	University of Birmingham	Did the Furlough Scheme and Mortgage Holidays Prevent Mortgage Default?
ES/V008781/1	Darja Reuschke	University of Southampton	Addressing inclusivity in the spatial and social impacts of COVID-19 on the self-employed in the UK
ES/V015834/1	David Best	University of Derby	The impact of COVID, lockdown and subsequent easing on recovery in an ongoing international study of people in recovery from drug addiction
ES/W00173X/1	David Eiser	University of Strathclyde	COVID and the UK nations' fiscal frameworks: impacts, performance and lessons
ES/W000601/1	David Fletcher	University of Sheffield	Increasing rail transport throughput while avoiding incentives to compromise social distancing: agent-based quantification leading to guidelines
ES/V005073/1	David Phillips	Institute for Fiscal Studies	Covid-19 and councils' finances: understanding risks and impacts & improving policy
ES/W001535/1	David Rose	University of Reading	Farming resilience: civil society's role in supporting vulnerable rural communities through and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic
ES/V015699/1	Dinithi Wijedasa	University of Bristol	MH-CAT: A longitudinal survey of the mental health of children in State Care in England through the COVID-19 pandemic
ES/V015346/1	Duncan Shaw	University of Manchester	Recovering from COVID-19: Informing, supporting and developing guidance for UK Local Authorities
ES/V016393/1	Edmund Sonuga-Barke	King's College London	Supporting Parents and Kids through Lockdown Experiences (SPARKLE)
ES/V01711X/1	Elaine Douglas	University of Stirling	The impact of COVID-19 Fear: evidence to inform social, health and economic recovery (a Healthy Ageing In Scotland study)
ES/V003909/1	Elena Musi	University of Liverpool	COVID-19: Being alone together: developing fake news immunity
ES/V015354/1	Elisabetta Versace	Queen Mary University of London	Dance In The Time Of Covid-19 (DIT-TOC): Augmented feedback to enhance motor skills learning while socially isolating
ES/V012053/1	Emily Harrop	Cardiff University	Supporting people bereaved during COVID-19: a mixed methods study of bereaved people's experiences and the bereavement services supporting them
ES/V016245/1	Emily Munro	University of Bedfordshire	Care leavers' transitions to adulthood in the context of Covid-19: Understanding pathways, experiences and outcomes to improve policy and practice

Ref Number	PI	Lead RO	Title
ES/V015826/1	Emmanuel Mamatzakis	Birkbeck, University of London	Why do households repay their debt during COVID 19 crisis? wellbeing and financial implications.
ES/V015265/1	Fidel Perez-Sebastian	University of Hull	The Economic Linkages of Covid-19 Across Sectors and Regions in the UK
ES/V015427/1	Fiona Copland	University of Stirling	Supporting separated migrant children to thrive during COVID-19
ES/V003844/1	Garry Young	NIESR	Modelling the Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the UK economy
ES/V015729/1	Gavin Oxburgh	Northumbria University	Supporting the interviewing and legal representation of crime victims and suspects using digital communication methods: Is it remotely possible?
ES/V00414X/1	Gemma Moss	University College London	A duty of care and a duty to teach: educational priorities in response to the Covid-19 lockdown
ES/V011138/1	Gemma Williams	Birmingham City University	Periods in a Pandemic: how UK period poverty initiatives are managing with Covid-19 related challenges
ES/W001152/1	Gill Wyness	UCL Institute of Education	Student to Degree Mismatch: The Role of Schools and the Impact Of Disruption From Covid-19
ES/V01577X/1	Golo Henseke	UCL Institute of Education	Youth economic activity and health (YEAH) monitor
ES/V00445X/1	Graham Farrell	University of Leeds	REDUCING THE UNANTICIPATED CRIME HARMS OF COVID-19 POLICIES
ES/W001195/1	Grant Allan	University of Strathclyde	The sectoral economic impacts of COVID-19 on the tourism economy: a regional analysis focussed on Scotland, fcus on informal support and underpinning mechaniss, s many services have gone online or stopped
ES/V015818/1	Gulbanu Kaptan	University of Leeds	Capitalising on COVID-19 as a Trigger for Positive Change in Food Waste Behaviour
ES/V009869/1	Hannah Lambie- Mumford	University of Sheffield	Meeting food vulnerability needs during COVID-19: applying a systems approach to evidence based policy and practice
ES/V01367X/1	Hannah Nash	University of Leeds	The impact of COVID-19 related school closures on foundation skills in reception children
ES/V015737/1	Hannah Smithson	Manchester Metropolitan University	The Youth Justice System's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Implications and impacts for policy, practice and justice- involved children
ES/V015664/1	Harjoat S. Bhamra	Imperial College, London	Covid-19: Industry Level Origins of Fluctuations in Growth Rates and Economic Welfare
ES/V003798/1	Harry Ferguson	University of Birmingham	Child Protection and social distancing: Improving the capacity of social workers to keep children safe during the COVID-19 pandemic
ES/V015370/1	Helen McCabe	University of Nottingham	Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 and COVID-related Decision-Making on Forced Marriage Vulnerability in the UK
ES/W000474/1	Helen Stalford	University of Liverpool	Vulnerable Children in a Hostile Environment: The Legal and Social Impacts of Covid-19 on Young Unaccompanied Asylum- Seekers in England
ES/V011286/1	Henry Overman	LSE	Supporting the SME Response to COVID-19: Survey on Technology Adoption
ES/V011103/1	Holly Maples	University of Essex	The Economic, Social, and Cultural impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Independent Arts Workers in the United Kingdom
ES/V004840/1	Imran Awan	Birmingham City University	Covid-19: What are the Drivers of the Islamophobic Infodemic Communications on social media
ES/V015435/1	Ingela Naumann	University of Edinburgh	Childcare and Wellbeing in Times of Covid-19: Developing crisis-resilient care solutions
ES/V015281/1	Irene Hardill	Northumbria University at Newcastle	Mobilising Voluntary Action in the four UK jurisdictions: Learning from today, prepared for tomorrow.
ES/W000881/1	lyiola Solanke	University of Leeds	COVID-19 BAME highlight call' - Co-POWeR - Consortium on Practices of Wellbeing and Resilience in BAME Families and Communities

Ref Number	PI	Lead RO	Title
ES/V016989/1	Jacqueline A Baxter	Open University	Leading school learning through covid 19 and beyond: Online learning and strategic planning through and post lockdown in English secondary schools
ES/V011057/1	Jacqueline Broadhead	University of Oxford	Tracking Public Attitudes and Preferences for Post-COVID-19 Labour Migration Policies
ES/W001756/1	Jake Anders	UCL	The Covid Cohort Study
ES/V017055/1	James Buchan	Edinburgh Napier University	Locked down, locked out? Local Partnership Resilience in the Covid-19 Pandemic
ES/V009648/1	Jane Parry	University of Southampton	How is the COVID-19 accidental experiment around working from home changing the way the UK will work after lockdown?
ES/W001209/1	Jane Simpson	Lancaster University	Assessing the well-being implications of the COVID-19 restrictions on individuals affected by Parkinson's
ES/W000156/1	Jason Davies	Swansea University	Learning from the impact of and recovery from COVID-19 within prisons: the effect of COVID-19 management and the environment on wellbeing and harm.
ES/V004883/1	Jason Reifler	University of Exeter	COVID-19 (Mis)Information Exposure and Messaging Effects in the United Kingdom
ES/V015486/1	Jean V.McHale	University of Birmingham	Removing rights from the vulnerable: the impact of COVID-19 Social Care "easements"
ES/V004913/1	Jesse Matheson	University of Sheffield	The geography of post COVID-19 shutdown recovery risk in UK economic activity. Implications for recovery inequality and targeted stimulus
ES/V015788/1	Jessica Woodhams	University of Birmingham	Investigating the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on stranger sex offender behaviour and victim vulnerability.
ES/V015621/1	Jill MacBryde	University of Strathclyde	Understanding the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on UK manufacturing and identifying priorities for renewal through innovation
ES/V009788/1	John Curtice	NatCen Social Research	Will COVID19 Change What The Public Expect of Government?
ES/V005383/1	John Drury	University of Sussex	Facilitating the public response to COVID-19 by harnessing group processes
ES/W001837/1	John MacArtney	University of Warwick	The impact and implications of Covid-19 on the relational, social, and healthcare experiences of hospice care in the West Midlands
ES/V004859/1	John Mohan	University of Birmingham	Assessing financial vulnerability and risk in the UK's charities during and beyond the COVID-19 crisis
ES/V015451/1	John Potter	University College London	A National Observatory of Children's Play Experiences During COVID-19
ES/V004026/1	Jon Burchell	University of Sheffield	How to understand, scale and maximise the effectiveness of volunteer responses to COVID-19.
ES/V015117/1	Julia Haferkorn	Middlesex University	Investigating the monetisation of live streams of musical performances in the wake of COVID-19
ES/W001721/1	Julia Pearce	King's College London	Exploring the psychological drivers and impact of public health communications on vaccination beliefs of minority ethnic groups
ES/W001225/1	Karen Schucan Bird	University College London	#ReachIn: A rapid review of informal Social Support Interventions for victim & survivors of domestic violence & abuse
ES/W001985/1	Karri Gillespie-Smith	University of Edinburgh	Road to recovery:Understanding the impact of COVID and recovery phases on children and young people with Intellectual Disabilities and their families
ES/V00591X/1	Kate Brain	Cardiff University	Covid -19; Cancer attitudes and Behaviour Study
ES/V013203/1	Kate Hardy	University of Leeds	The impact of COVID-19 on the provision of Early Years childcare in England and Wales
ES/V004549/1	Kate Hunt	University of Stirling	Transitions to more harmful forms of gambling during Covid-19 pandemic: behaviours and targeted marketing in young people and bettors on sport
ES/V006320/1	Katharine Tyler	University of Exeter	Identity, Inequality, and the Media in Brexit-COVID-19-Britain

Ref Number	PI	Lead RO	Title
ES/V007033/1	Katrin Hohl	City, University of London	Responding to the Covid-19 domestic abuse crisis: developing a rapid police evidence base
ES/V015672/1	Kavita Datta	Queen Mary University of London	Migrant Remittances and Covid-19: Practices of Care during Crisis
ES/V004255/1	Kevin Brazil	Queen's University Belfast	Necessary discussions: Advance care planning for nursing homes in a COVID-19 outbreak
ES/V015745/1	Khatidja Chantler	Manchester Metropolitan University	Safeguarding Victims of Domestic Abuse during Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities
ES/V005898/1	Konstantinos Angelopoulos	University of Glasgow	Assessing policy to address the medium-run impact of COVID-19 on income and health inequality with models informed by the history of disease outbreaks
ES/V010026/1	Lars Nesheim	IFS and UCL	Modelling the effects of pandemic control measures and financial support on businesses, regions and households
ES/V003887/1	Laura Shallcross	University College London	COVID-19: Burden and impact in care homes – a mixed methods study
ES/W001810/1	Laura Sheard	University of York	Impact of Covid-19 on delivery and receipt of prison healthcare in the UK and implications for health inequalities: a mixed methods study
ES/V004964/1	Linda Clare	University of Exeter	Identifying and mitigating the individual and dyadic impact of COVID-19 and life under physical distancing on people with dementia and carers (INCLUDE)
ES/V01580X/1	Linda Mulcahy	Oxford University	Virtual Justice: Enhancing accessibility, participation and procedural justice in family courts and tribunals during the COVID-19 pandemic
ES/V013017/1	Lindsey Macmillan	UCL	Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on young peoples' learning, motivation, wellbeing, and aspirations using a representative probability panel
ES/V003879/1	Lisa Scullion	University of Salford	COVID-19: Welfare at a (Social) Distance: Accessing social security and employment support during the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath
ES/V016210/1	Liz Todd	Newcastle University	Children and young people living in poverty: COVID-19 needs and policy implications
ES/V016202/1	Lorna O'Doherty	Coventry University	Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on criminal justice journeys of adult and child survivors of sexual abuse, rape, and sexual assault
ES/V015680/1	Lucy Frith	University of Liverpool	Exploring remote working practices for patient public involvement and engagement in health and social care research – responding to Covid-19 and rising health inequalities
ES/W001780/1	Lynda Jiwen Song	University of Leeds, Leeds University Business School	Designing human resource management practices to improve the wellbeing of healthcare workers from BAME backgrounds in the context of COVID-19.
ES/V004050/1	Manon Jones	Bangor University	COVID-19: Identifying effective remote literacy teaching methods for primary-aged children
ES/V015338/1	Marianna Fotaki	University of Warwick	Understanding the financial impact of COVID-19 on the UK care home sector – implications for businesses and the workforce
ES/W001829/1	Mark Linden	Queen's University Belfast	Impact of COVID-19 on family carers for profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD): Development of a support programme.
ES/V005197/1	Martin Dempster	Queen's University Belfast	COVID-19: Developing evidence-based messages to encourage preventive health behaviours
ES/W002507/1	Martin Dempster	Queen's University Belfast	COHERE phase 2: Living systematic reviews and evidence and gap map on determinants of COVID-19 Health Related Behaviour
ES/V003968/1	Martin O'Connell	Institute for Fiscal Studies	The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on nutrition

Ref Number	PI	Lead RO	Title
ES/V012851/1	Martine Stead	University of Stirling	OPTIMising general public Uptake of a Covid-19 vaccine: a Mixed methods study (OPTIMUM)
ES/V015893/1	Mary Malone	Oxford Brookes University	Investigating how nurse education prior to and during Covid prepares nurses for the pandemic : an analysis of what works
ES/W001764/1	Matthew Davis	University of Leeds	Adapting offices to support COVID-19 secure workplaces and emerging work patterns
ES/V015419/1	Meryem Duygun	University of Nottingham	UK SMEs: quantifying their pandemic risk and credit risk exposures in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis
ES/V004905/1	Michael Dieter	University of Warwick	COVID-19 App Store and Data Flow Ecologies
ES/W00156X/1	Michael M Hopkins	University of Sussex	Optimising Covid-19 diagnostic Testing Systems (OCTS): An international comparative study of diagnostic innovation and learning
ES/V004441/1	Michael M. Hopkins	University of Sussex	Covid-19 international comparative research and rapid knowledge exchange hub on diagnostic testing systems
ES/V015206/1	Michael Robling	Cardiff University	Establishing the impact of COVID-19 on the health of domiciliary care workers in Wales: developing a model for UK service planning and carer support
ES/V015761/1	Michael Tomlinson	University of Southampton	The Impact of Covid-19 on Recent Graduates' Career Decisions and Outcomes
ES/V004018/1	Michael Winter	University of Exeter	Food System Impacts of COVID-19
ES/V004433/1	Mike Rivington	James Hutton Institute	COVID-19: Food and Nutrition Security during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic
ES/V008072/1	Mirko Draca	University of Warwick	Rescuing a `Sick' Labour Market: Using Online Vacancy Data to Track COVID-19's Economic Impact.
ES/V016253/1	Monica Lakhanpaul	UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health	COVID-19 impacts on children under 5 in temporary accommodation—co-developing solutions from lockdown to the recovery phase—A mixed-methods study
ES/V015710/1	Muhammad Waqas	University of Bradford	The role of the neighbourhood environment in shaping the mental health consequences of Covid-19
ES/V003720/1	Nathan Davies	University College London	COVID-19: Supporting family carers in making decisions for older relatives with dementia
ES/V01546X/1	Nathan Hudson	NatCen Social Research	Mobilising the Voluntary and Community Sector to Address the Unmet Needs of the UK LGBT+ Population during Covid-19.
ES/V004085/1	Nayeli Gonzalez- Gomez	Oxford Brookes University	The effects of social distancing policies on children's language development, sleep and executive functions.
ES/V009877/1	Neil R Smith has been replaced by Isabel Taylor	NatCen Social Research	Monitoring socioeconomic and mental health trajectories through the COVID-19 pandemic
ES/V004867/1	Neil Stewart	University of Warwick	Real-time evaluation of the effects of Covid-19 and policy responses on consumer and small business finances
ES/V015850/1	Nicky Stanely	University of Central Lancashire	Domestic Abuse: Harnessing Learning Internationally under Covid-19 (DAHLIA-19) Previous title: Policy and Practice Responses to Families living with Domestic Violence & Abuse under Covid-19 in 5 Countries: Generating Knowledge to Inform Recovery
ES/V01532X/1	Olga Biosca	Glasgow Caledonian University	Financial lives and wellbeing in low-income groups post Covid-19 (FinWell-Covid)
ES/V017551/1	Ozlem Arda	Brunel University London	Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) digital footprints and its ethical implications during COVID-19 outbreak and beyond
ES/V00381X/1	Paul Johnson	IFS	Supporting fiscal policy decisions in the crisis
ES/V004387/1	Paul Mizen	University of Nottingham	COVID-19: Measuring the effects of Covid-19 on businesses and the UK economy
ES/W001799/1	Paul Richter	Newcastle University	Influencing policy and practice through examining UK small business understanding of and response to COVID-19 regulation and guidance

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ES/V009389/1	Paula Jarzabkowski	City, University of London	Risk sharing mechanisms to mitigate the economic consequences of pandemics: mobilising insurance expertise & capital to provide solutions for the UK
ES/V015141/1	Peter Hopkins	Newcastle University	Responding to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers in the context of COVID 19: resilience, adaption and new forms of care
ES/V015311/1	Peter John	King's College London	Mitigating the Spread of COVID-19 in Mass Transit Using Behavioural Science
ES/V011855/1	Peter Mackie	Cardiff University	COVID-19 and rough sleepers: a randomised controlled trial to evaluate models of housing and support to reduce infection and homelessness
ES/V004034/1	Polly Waite	University of Oxford	COVID-19: Supporting Parents, Adolescents and Children during Epidemics (Co-SPACE)
ES/V004263/1	Prasanta Kumar Dey	Aston University	Impact of COVID-19 on Staff Mental Health and Well-Being in SMEs:Strategies and Interventions to Support Workforce and Boost Productivity in the UK
ES/V015605/1	Regina Frei	University of Southampton	Forecasting and influencing product returns and fraud rates in a Covid-19 world
ES/V004379/1	Richard Bentall	University of Sheffield	A longitudinal mixed-methods population study of the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic: Psychological and social adjustment to global threat
ES/W003058/1	Richard Purves	University of Stirling	Limiting virus transmission during a Sporting Mega Event: COVID 19 and UEFA EURO 2020
ES/V015842/1	Richard Simmons	University of Stirling	Optimising Outcomes from Procurement and Partnering for Covid-19 and Beyond: Lessons from the Crisis
ES/V009370/1	Rose Cook	King's College London	Gendering the UK's social policy response to the COVID-19 crisis
ES/W001489/1	Rowland Kao	University of Edinburgh	Real-time monitoring and predictive modelling of the impact of human behaviour and vaccine characteristics on COVID-19 vaccination in Scotland
ES/V015257/1	Roxana Barbulescu	University of Leeds	Feeding the Nation: seasonal migrant workers and food security during COVID-19 pandemic
ES/V00476X/1	Sandra Walklate	University of Liverpool	Domestic Abuse: Responding to the Shadow Pandemic
ES/V009451/1	Sarah Charman	University of Portsmouth	Pandemic Policing: public attitudes towards compliance and organisational resilience
ES/V01708X/1	Shadd Maruna	Queen's University Belfast	Coping with the COVID Crisis in Prison
ES/V015877/1	Sharon Wright	University of Glasgow	Health, social, economic and cultural impacts of COVID-19 on migrant essential workers in the UK
ES/V015273/1	Sian Moore	University of Greenwich	The role of Health and Safety Representatives in COVID-19
ES/V015508/1	Simeon Djankov	London School of Economics	How the design of bankruptcy procedures impacts macroeconomic and employment outcomes in the post-Covid recovery period: lessons from previous crises
ES/W001950/1	Simon James Gibbons	King's College London	Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 disruption on the quality and retention of trainee and newly qualified secondary school teachers
ES/V011081/1	Simon Stewart	University of Portsmouth	Homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic: homeless migrants in a global crisis
ES/V004077/1	Simon Wilcock	Bangor University	The impact of Covid-19 restrictions on recreation and use of green space in Wales
ES/V015494/1	Siobhan McAndrew	University of Bristol	Social trust, crisis perceptions, and viral misinformation over the course of the Covid-19 emergency period
ES/V009907/1	Sofia C. Franco	Scottish Association for Marine Science	Resilience of the UK seafood system to the Covid-19 disruption (RiseUp)
ES/V004581/1	Soo Downe	UCLan	COVID-19: Safety and personalisation for UK maternity care provision during and after a pandemic.

Ref Number	PI	Lead RO	Title
ES/V009931/1	Stephani Hatch	King's College London	Identifying and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on inequalities experienced by people from BAME backgrounds working in health and social care
ES/V009427/1	Stephanie van Goozen	Cardiff University	Psychosocial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic: Identifying mental health problems and supporting wellbeing in vulnerable children and families
ES/V010433/1	Stephen Machin	LSE	Generation COVID and Social Mobility: Evidence and Policy
ES/V005529/1	Sube Banerjee	University of Plymouth	DETERMIND-C19: Impact of COVID-19 on people newly diagnosed with dementia and their family carers, a mixed method study nested in DETERMIND
ES/V016032/1	Sue Ziebland	University of Oxford	Experiences of COVID-19 and recovery: learning from polyphonic voices for communities, policy makers and health and social care providers
ES/W001845/1	Susan McVie	University of Edinburgh	Policing the Pandemic: The Role of Enforcement in Securing Compliance with the Coronavirus Regulations
ES/V007270/1	Swati Dhingra	Centre for Economic Performance LSE	The Real-Time Economic Effects of Covid-19 in the United Kingdom
ES/W001705/1	Tarek Virani	University of the West of England	Developing a resilience framework and toolkit for UK creative micro-businesses as a route to recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic.
ES/V015990/1	Taulant Guma	Edinburgh Napier University	Investigating The Use Of Temporary Accommodation To House Asylum Seekers And Refugees During The COVID-19 Outbreak
ES/V012754/1	Thiemo Fetzer	University of Warwick	Quantifying and Simulating the Impact of Social Distancing Policies on Firm-Level Productivity
ES/V015443/1	Toby James	University of East Anglia	National recovery and resilience: learning from elections during a pandemic
ES/V003917/1	Tom Kirchmaier	London School of Economics	COVID-19: Outreach to Domestic Abuse Victims in Times of Quarantine
ES/W001349/1	Tom Russ	University of Edinburgh	Sharing the diagnosis of dementia in the post-Covid clinic: patient and practitioner perspectives
ES/V004069/1	Tom Shakespeare	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Disabled people and COVID-19 in the UK
ES/V009400/1	Tracey Warren	University of Nottingham	Carrying the work burden of the Covid-19 pandemic: working class women in the UK
ES/V010069/1	Trisha Greenhalgh	University of Oxford	Remote-by-Default Care in the COVID-19 Pandemic: addressing the micro-,meso-, and macro-level challenges of a radical new service model
ES/W001330/1	Valentina Cardi	King's College London	COVID-19 BAME highlight: A collaborative approach to understand and remediate the impact of COVID19 on mental health in BAME communities: A pilot study
ES/W001993/1	Vasiliki Totsika	University College London	School attendance among children with neurodevelopmental conditions a year after the COVID-19 pandemic
ES/V017047/1	Vikki Ann Entwistle	University of Aberdeen	Developing practical ethics of care for the dead and bereaved: learning from the ways COVID-19 disrupted and reshaped funeral provision
ES/V015974/1	Vincent Connelly	Oxford Brookes University	Rapidly formed COVID-19 teams in the NHS: implications for leadership, team-working, career intentions and individual mental health.
ES/W001691/1	Zara Brodie	University of the West of Scotland	An investigation into the experiences of domestic abuse helpline staff and service users during COVID-19 lockdown
ES/V011154/1	Zoe Trodd	University of Nottingham	COVID-19 Risk and Response: Impacts and Mitigations for Modern Slavery Victims and Survivors