COVID-19: impact on mental health

18th June 2021

**Title:** A matter of priority: COVID-19 vaccination and mental health

The Lancet Psychiatry | July 2021

As risk factors for dying from COVID-19 go, evidence shows that a history of severe mental illness ranks near the top.

This editorial urges the mental health community to focus on the most vulnerable populations, including those with severe mental illness, as they are likely to be at high risk to both COVID-19 and the negative effects of lockdown measures. It urges policy makers and clinicians everywhere to make sure vaccination campaigns prioritise those with severe mental illness.

Full editorial: [A matter of priority: COVID-19 vaccination and mental health](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(21)00209-1/fulltext)

**Title:** Longitudinal changes in psychological distress in the UK from 2019 to September 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence from a large nationally representative study

Psychiatry Research | June 2021

COVID-19 may have a profound and enduring influence on population mental health. Few studies have tracked changes in mental health before and during the pandemic.

In this large (*n*=10918), national, longitudinal probability-based sample of UK adults the prevalence of clinically significant psychological distress rose from prepandemic levels of 20.8% in 2019 to 29.5% in April 2020 and then declined significantly to prepandemic levels by September (20.8%).

By September 2020 distress levels were indistinguishable from prepandemic levels. This recovery may reflect the influence of the easing of restrictions and psychological adaptation to the demands of the pandemic.

Full paper: [Longitudinal changes in psychological distress in the UK from 2019 to September 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence from a large nationally representative study](https://reader.elsevier.com/reader/sd/pii/S0165178121002171?token=E00178AB47E514E66FBDBB7CDB11E831DAC4262400EFAB435908A726D399EEA50E250BA6D592FF0FD18F262CF0152C6D&originRegion=eu-west-1&originCreation=20210618092234)

**Title:** A review on the COVID-19-related psychological impact on older adults: vulnerable or not?

Aging Clinical and Experimental Research | May 17th 2021

The aim of this study was to identify studies published from May 2020 until January 2021 that quantitatively assessed the mental health impact of COVID-19 on older adults using validated psychometric tools.

A comprehensive literature search of original research articles was conducted using specific terms. Research studies suggested that older age may buffer against the COVID-19-related impact on mental health. Despite evidence against generalised perceptions of vulnerability, older adults’ ability to adapt to adversity may be uneven, depending on cultural, social, economic and other individual factors. Taken together, the impact, moreover the long-term impact of COVID-19, is expected to vary across countries and older subpopulations, and remains to be evaluated by prospective, longitudinal studies.

Full paper: [A review on the COVID‑19‑related psychological impact on older adults: vulnerable or not?](https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s40520-021-01873-4.pdf)

**Title:** Psychiatry Research: Special Articles on Mental Health and Covid-19

A special issue of Psychiatry Research focussing on mental health and Covid-19 includes the following articles:

* [OCD during COVID-19: Understanding clinical and non-clinical anxiety in the community](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165178121002079)
* [Predictors and consequences of loneliness during the COVID-19 Pandemic](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165178121002316)
* [The psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on pregnant women](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165178121002754)
* [The comparison of anxiety, depression and stress symptoms levels of healthcare workers between the first and second COVID-19 peaks](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165178121002730)
* [Self-isolation, psychotic symptoms and cognitive problems during the COVID-19 worldwide outbreak](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165178121003127)
* [Obsessive-compulsive symptoms and reactions to the COVID-19 pandemic](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165178121003188)
* [Suicidal ideation among university students during the COVID-19 pandemic: Identifying at-risk subgroups](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165178121003310)
* [Psychological consequences and differential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in patients with mental disorders](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165178121003425)

Full detail: [Special Articles on Mental Health and Covid-19](https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/psychiatry-research/special-issue/10XG4HT9L33)

**Title:** Will the COVID-19 pandemic lead to a mental health pandemic?

The Mental Elf | 16th June 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most influential global events of the 21st century and its mental health impact is a prominent area of concern for researchers and policy makers, as this blog post discusses.

Full detail: [Will the COVID-19 pandemic lead to a mental health pandemic?](https://www.nationalelfservice.net/mental-health/anxiety/covid-19-pandemic-mental-health/)

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We also produce a range of subject-specific news feeds to ensure our clinical and professional teams stay up to date with developments in their work areas. Please visit our [website](http://www.trftlibraryknowledge.com/) for more information

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