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Estimating the burden of COVID-19 pandemic on mortality, life expectancy and lifespan inequality in England and Wales: a population-level analysis

BMJ Journals

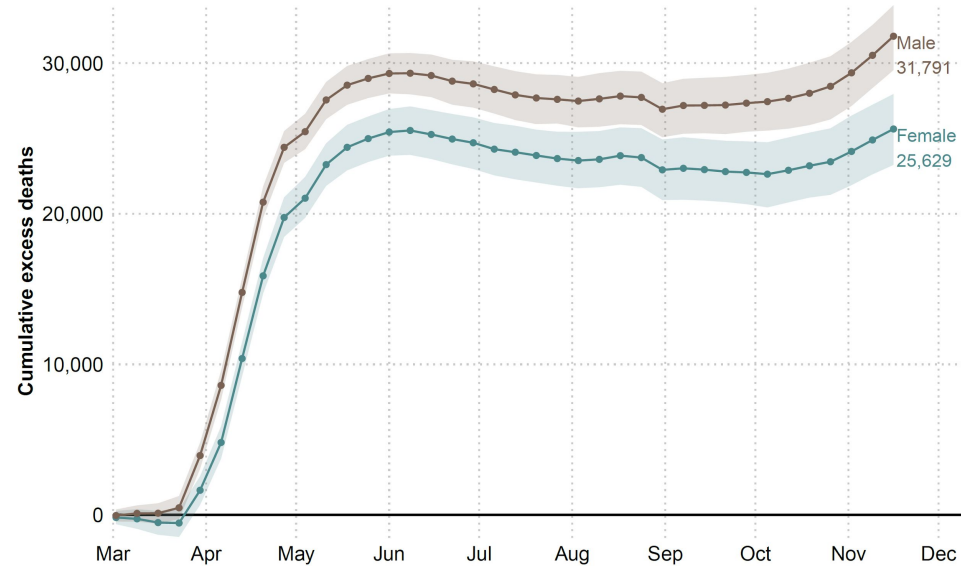
Journal of
**Epidemiology &
Community Health**

Objective

To estimate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on **mortality, life expectancy and lifespan inequality** from week 10 to week 47 ending November 20, 2020 in **England and Wales**

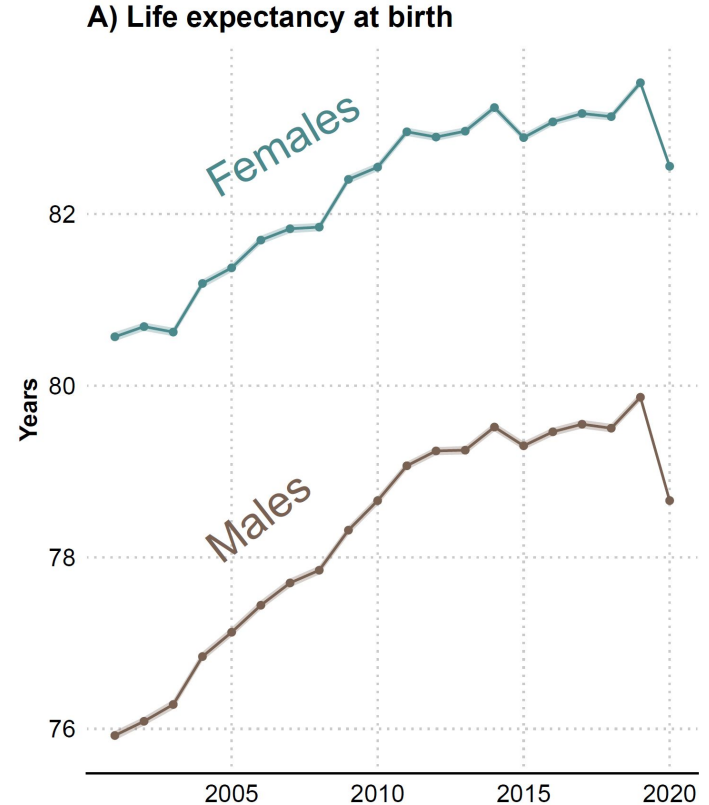
Results

- 57,419 excess deaths in the first 47 weeks of 2020
- 55% of which occurred in men.
- Men experienced elevated risks of death in all age groups.
- Excess deaths increased sharply with age



Results

Life expectancy at birth
dropped 0.9 and 1.2 years for
women and men relative to the
2019 levels, respectively.



Final points

- England & Wales are amongst the worst performers in terms of excess deaths.
- Lower than baseline mortality observed in the summer months of the 85+ age groups suggest potential mortality displacement effects, i.e., that some deaths were brought forward in this age group due to the pandemic.
- Life expectancy fall 0.7 and 1.1 years below the official projected life expectancy in 2020 for females and males.
- Life expectancy regressed to the levels of 2010.
- Our results show a previously undocumented pattern of life expectancy and lifespan inequality change, with both decreasing concurrently due to the unique nature of the mortality stress triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Media coverage of preprint

The collage features three news articles. At the top right is the Expresso header with a blue background and white text. Below it is the Mirror header with a red background and white text. In the center is the Guardian header with a dark blue background and white text. The main headlines are: 'Coronavirus pandemic has knocked two years off life expectancy for average Brit' from the Mirror, 'Covid has 'cut life expectancy in England and Wales by a year'' from the Guardian, and 'Coronavírus retira dois anos de vida a mulheres e homens, afirma estudo' from the Expresso. The Expresso article includes a sub-headline 'Investigadores da Universidade de Oxford, no Reino Unido, apontam que a Covid-19 fez regredir a esperança média de vida a níveis que igualam os de 2008.' and a small image of people in a laboratory setting.

Expresso EXCLUSIVO
ÚLTIMAS OPINIÃO ECONOMIA EXPRESSO CURTO PODCASTS TRIBUNA PRESIDENCIAIS 2021 MULTIMÉDIA COVID-19

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THE Sun LIFE'S TOO SHORT Coronavirus pandemic knocks two years average life expectancy for men and women, study reveals
Samantha Lock
18 Jul 2020, 1:09 | Updated: 18 Jul 2020, 15:14

Coronavirus pandemic has knocked two years off life expectancy for average Brit

Covid has 'cut life expectancy in England and Wales by a year'

Coronavírus retira dois anos de vida a mulheres e homens, afirma estudo
Investigadores da Universidade de Oxford, no Reino Unido, apontam que a Covid-19 fez regredir a esperança média de vida a níveis que igualam os de 2008.

Exclusive: Life expectancy has regressed to 2010 levels, say scientists, with poor hardest hit
Probing impact of COVID-19 on life expectancy
Lead researcher Jose Manuel Aburto, of the Department of Sociology at Oxford University, said: "We have provided estimates of life expectancy ...
24 Sept 2020

Currently working on international losses of 2020 life expectancy

José Manuel Aburto

 @jm_aburto

jmaburto@sdu.dk

Excess deaths project

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