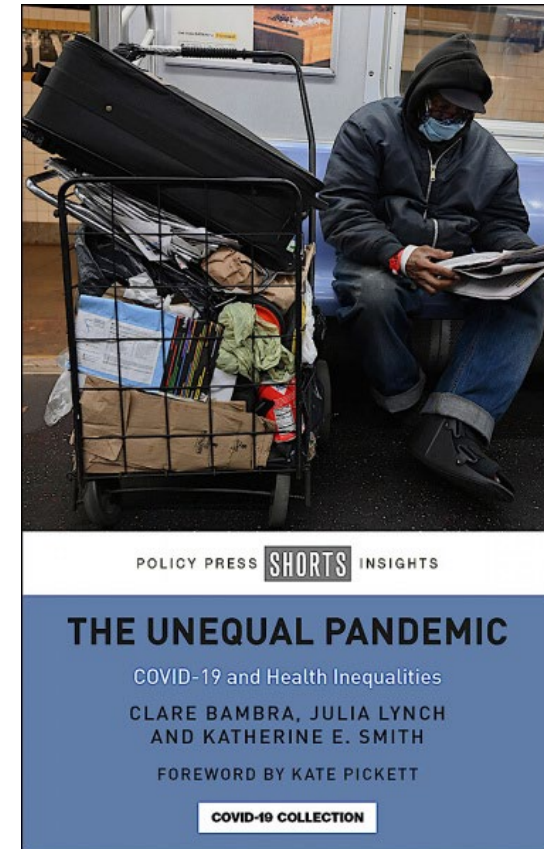


The Unequal Pandemic

COVID-19 and Health Inequalities

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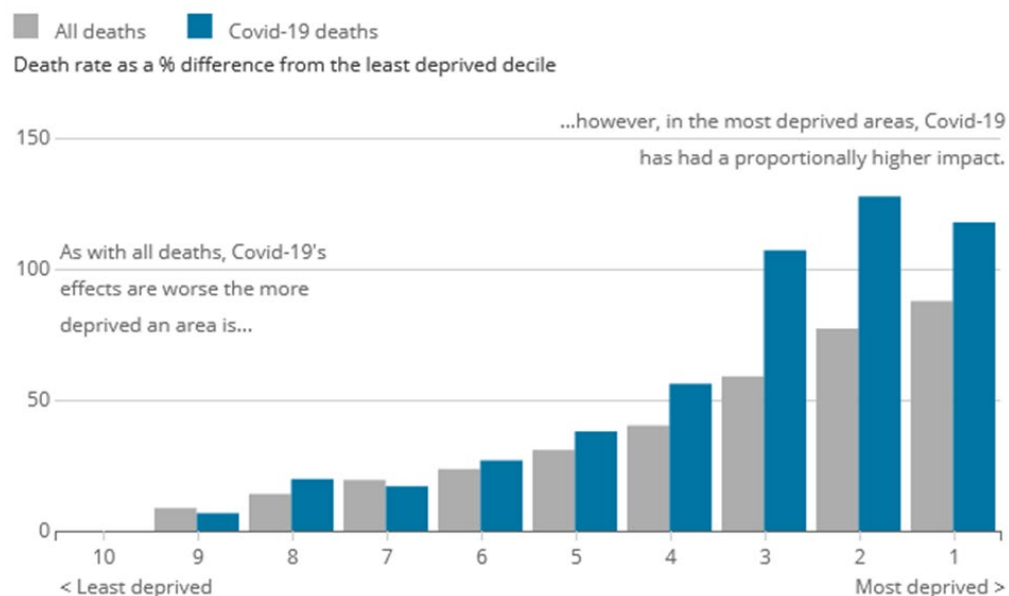


Outline

1. Inequalities in COVID-19
2. A Syndemic Pandemic
3. Pathways to Inequality
4. More Equal Futures



1. Inequalities in COVID-19



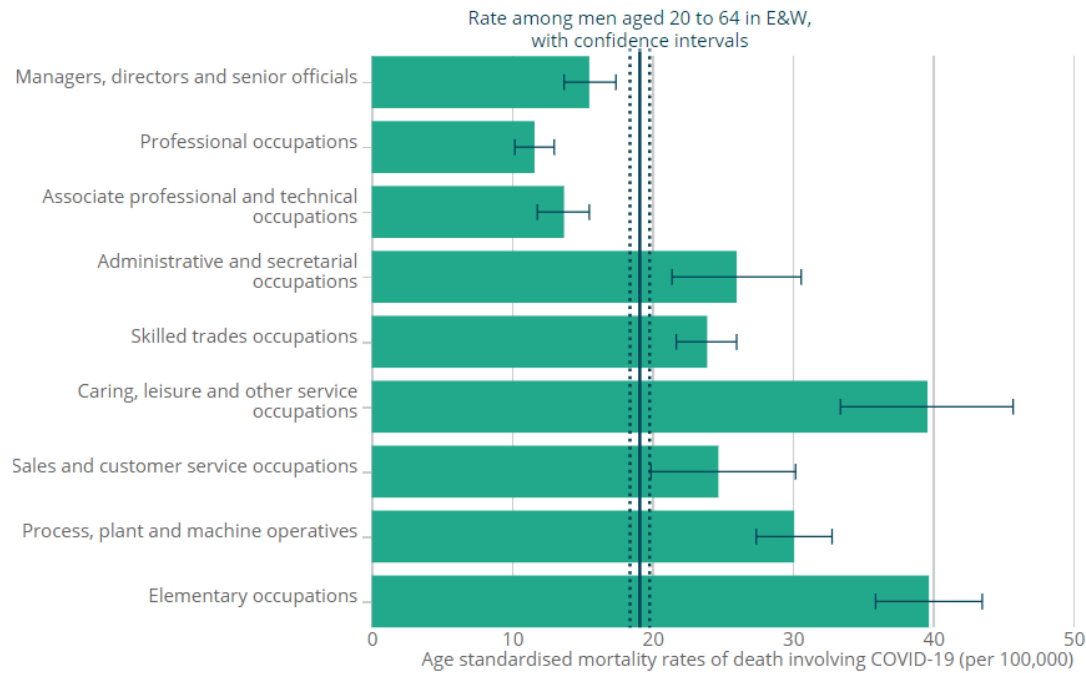
Scotland: COVID-19 death rate was 86.5 per 100,000 in most deprived 20% - more than double that of the 38.2/100,000 in the least-deprived 20%

Wales: most deprived areas had a COVID-19 mortality rate of 109.5 deaths per 100,000 population, almost twice as high as the mortality rate for the least deprived areas of Wales (57.5 deaths per 100,000 population).

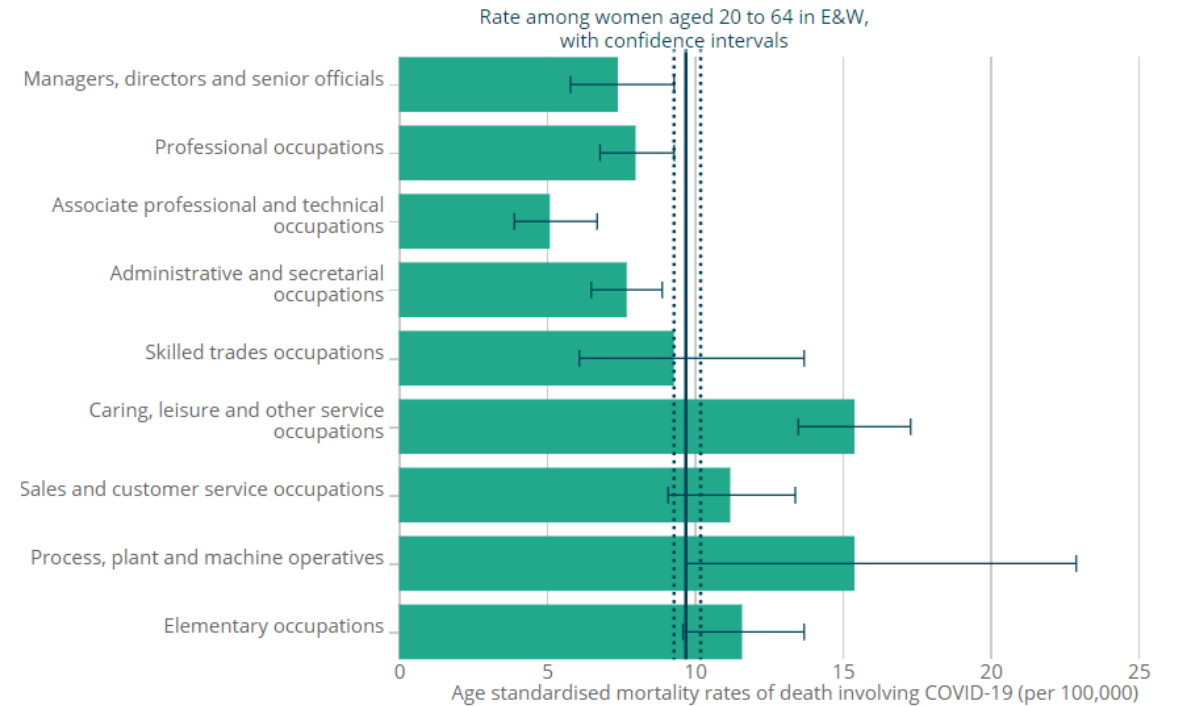
England

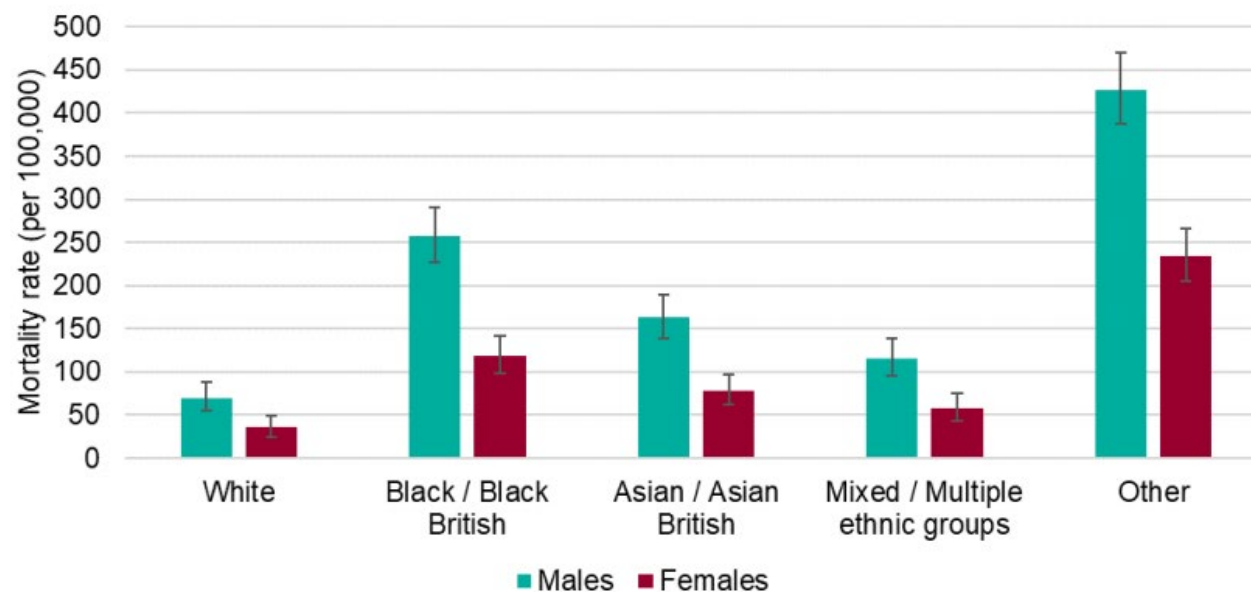
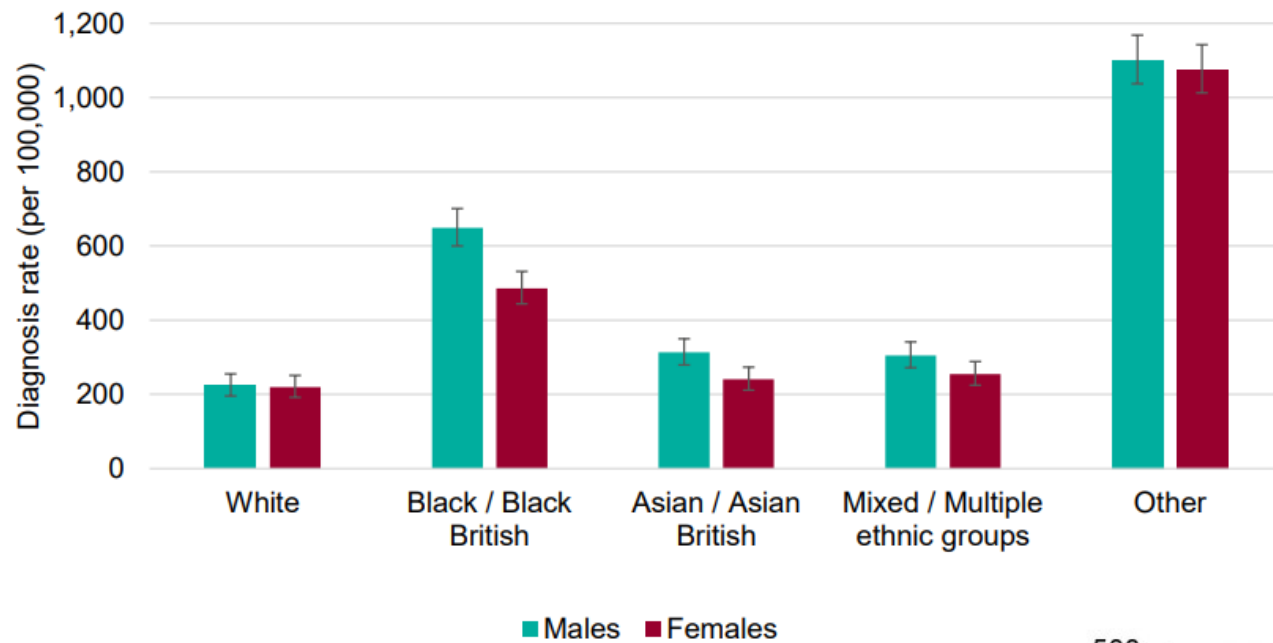
Age-standardised mortality rates of death involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales, by major occupational group, deaths registered between 9 March and 25 May 2020

Men:



Women:



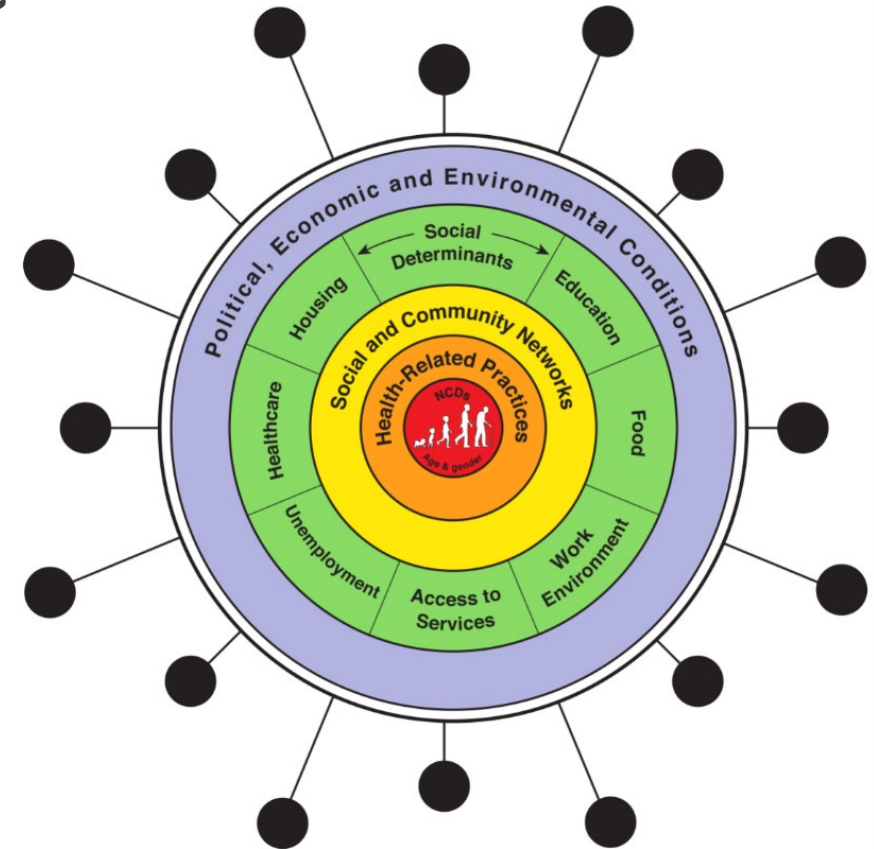


Age standardised rates in laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases by ethnicity and sex, as of 13 May, England. Source: Public Health England

2. A Syndemic Pandemic

'A syndemic is a set of closely intertwined and mutual enhancing health problems that significantly affect the overall health status of a population within the context of a perpetuating configuration of noxious social conditions'

Merrill Singer



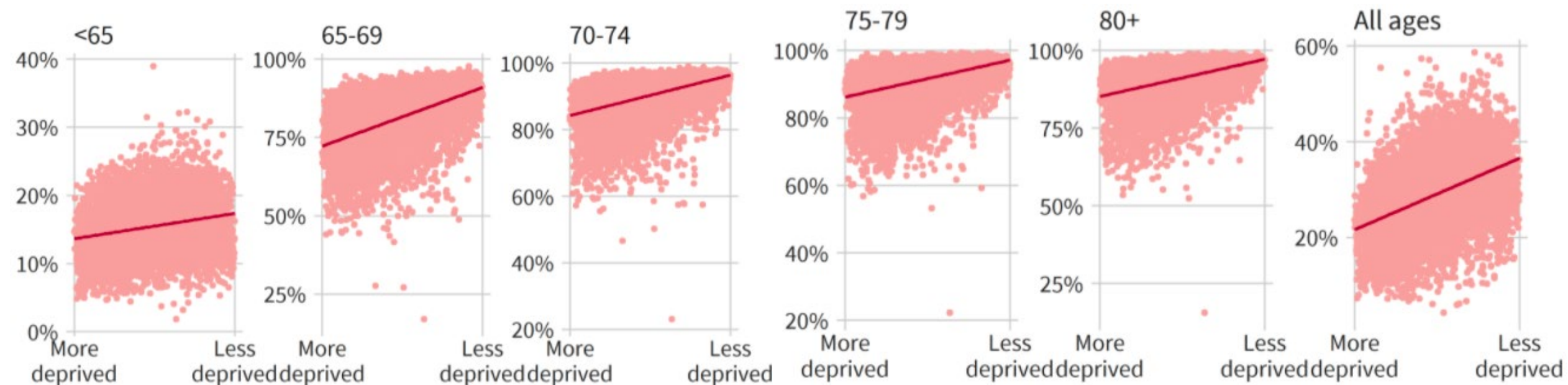
The Syndemic of Covid-19, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and the Social Determinants of Health

3. Pathways to Inequality

1. **Increased vulnerability** - higher burden of NCDs from social determinants
2. **Increased susceptibility** - immune systems weakened by long term exposures to adverse living and environmental conditions
3. **Increased exposure** - inequalities in working conditions
4. **Increased transmission** - inequalities in housing conditions

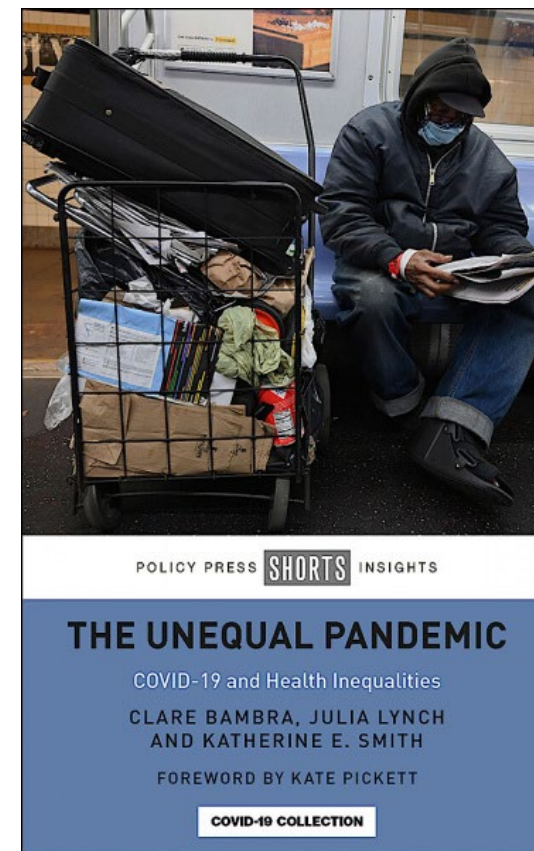


Unequal Vaccines? Inverse Equity



4. More Equal Futures

- ❑ Health inequalities pre-COVID are resulting in an unequal pandemic
- ❑ COVID-19 outcomes worse in less advantaged groups and communities
- ❑ A syndemic of NCDs, Inequality and the Social Determinants of Health
- ❑ Vaccinations need to reach most vulnerable populations
- ❑ Long term action needed on inequalities in NCDs via SDoH



<https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/the-unequal-pandemic>

Further Reading

- Bambra C, Riordan R, Ford J, et al The COVID-19 pandemic and health inequalities J Epidemiol Community Health 2020;74:964-968.
- Bambra C, Norman P, Johnson N. Visualising regional inequalities in the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic in England and Wales. Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space. 2020.
- Daras K, Alexiou A, Rose TC, et al How does vulnerability to COVID-19 vary between communities in England? Developing a Small Area Vulnerability Index (SAVI) J Epidemiol Community Health 2021.
- Todd, A and Bambra, C. Learning from past mistakes? The COVID-19 vaccine and the inverse equity hypothesis, European Journal of Public Health, 31:2, 2021



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