

COVID-19 IMPACT ON ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Evidence from longitudinal population studies shows the impact of COVID-19 on access to healthcare in 2020.

UNMET HEALTHCARE NEEDS

IN APRIL 2020, UNMET HEALTH CARE NEEDS WERE MOST PRONOUNCED FOR IN- AND OUT-PATIENT HOSPITAL CARE, AS COMPARED TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

60% DID NOT HAVE THE INPATIENT CARE TREATMENT THEY NEEDED OR EXPECTED, WITH MOST OF THIS BEING DUE TO NHS CANCELLATIONS.

42% HAD THEIR OUTPATIENT CARE APPOINTMENT CANCELLED BY THE NHS.

7% CANCELLED THEIR OUTPATIENT APPOINTMENTS THEMSELVES.



DATA FROM THE FIRST WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC (APRIL-MAY 2020) SHOWS THE IMPACT ON PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY:

16% OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY REPORTED DIFFICULTIES ACCESSING OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS, COMPARED WITH **6%** OF PEOPLE WITHOUT A DISABILITY.



64% OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY REPORTED DIFFICULTIES ACCESSING COUNSELLING IF THEY NEEDED IT, COMPARED WITH **56%** OF PEOPLE WITHOUT A DISABILITY.



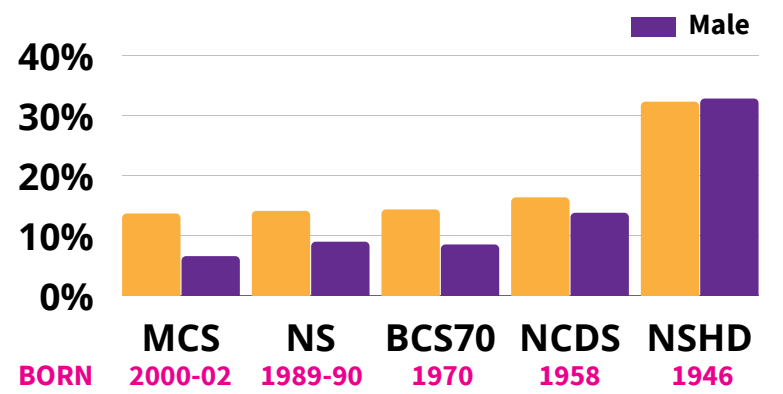
THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE UK HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WIDENED EXISTING HEALTH INEQUALITIES.

CANCELLED SURGERY, MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS OR OTHER MEDICAL PROCEDURES

WOMEN AND THOSE WITH A CHRONIC ILLNESS EXPERIENCED MORE CANCELLATIONS DURING LOCKDOWN, ACCORDING TO DATA FROM UK NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDIES.

ETHNICITY AND SOCIOECONOMIC POSITION WERE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH CANCELLATIONS.

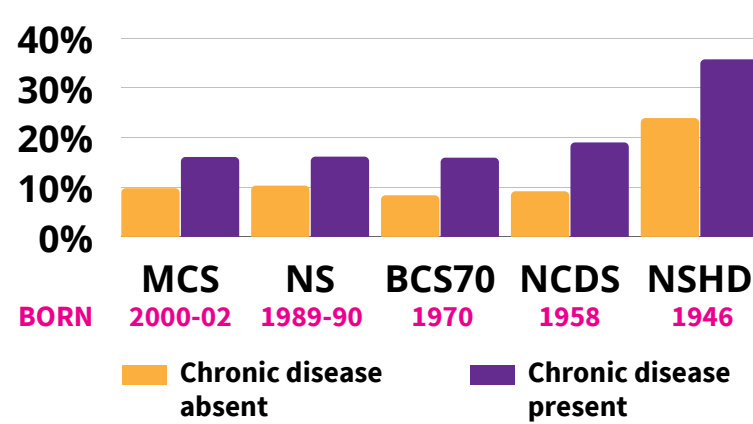
CANCELLATIONS BY SEX:



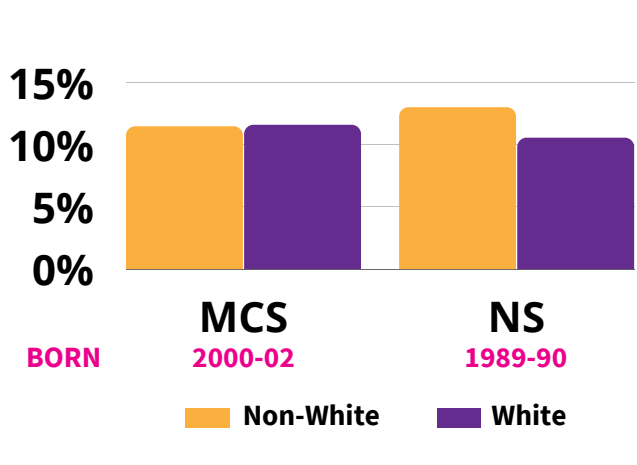
THE STUDIES:

- MCS:** THE MILLENNIUM COHORT STUDY
- NS:** NEXT STEPS
- BCS70:** THE 1970 BRITISH COHORT STUDY
- NCDS:** THE NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT STUDY
- NSHD:** THE NATIONAL STUDY OF HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

CANCELLATIONS BY PRESENCE OF CHRONIC DISEASE:



CANCELLATIONS BY ETHNICITY:



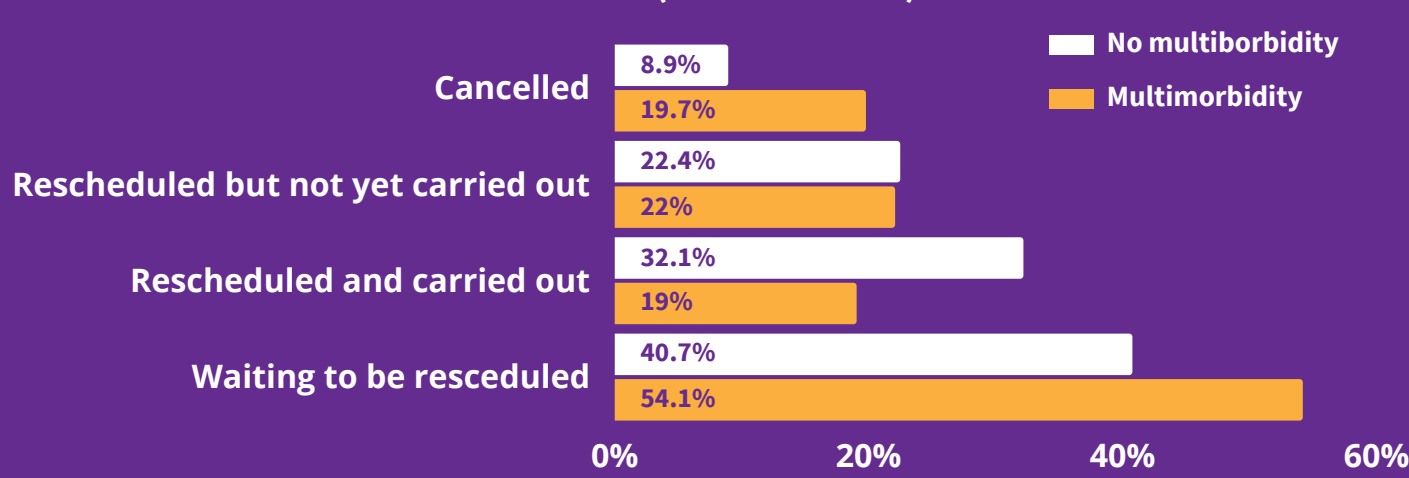
MULTIMORBIDITY AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

AMONG THOSE AGED 50+, PEOPLE WITH MULTIPLE MEDICAL CONDITIONS WERE LESS LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO ACCESS HEALTHCARE.

1 in 5 OF THOSE AGED 50+ WITH MULTIMORBIDITIES HAD A HOSPITAL OPERATION OR TREATMENT CANCELLED (MAR-DEC 2020).

>50% OF THOSE WHO HAD EXPERIENCED CANCELLATIONS WERE STILL WAITING IN NOV/DEC 2020 FOR THEIR TREATMENT OR OPERATION TO BE RESCHEDULED.

CANCELLED HOSPITAL OPERATIONS OR TREATMENTS FOR PEOPLE AGED 50+, ACCORDING TO MULTIMORBIDITY STATUS (MAR-DEC 2020)



WHAT'S NEEDED?



URGENT POLICIES NEED TO BE IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR ALL, SO INEQUALITIES OCCURRING DURING THE PANDEMIC DO NOT BECOME FURTHER ENTRENCHED.

HEALTHCARE FUNDING, CAPACITY AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES SHOULD BE EXAMINED TO ENSURE THEY CAN MEET THE BACKLOG IN DEMAND FOR HEALTH SERVICES RESULTING FROM THE PANDEMIC AND NATIONAL LOCKDOWNS.

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