Poverty, health, and covid-19

Yet again, poor families will be hardest hit by the pandemic’s long economic fallout

Margaret Whitehead, David Taylor-Robinson, Ben Barr

Covid-19 does not strike at random—mortality is much higher in elderly people, poorer groups, and ethnic minorities, and its economic effect is also unevenly distributed across the population. The economic fallout is likely to be felt for years. Without concerted preventative action worse off families and communities will be disproportionately affected, increasing health inequalities in the UK and globally.

Even before covid-19, extremely disturbing trends in health were emerging in England. Growing child health were emerging in England. Growing child mortality is much higher in elderly people, poorer groups, and ethnic minorities, and its economic effect is also unevenly distributed across the population. The economic outcome is much higher in elderly people, poorer groups, and ethnic minorities, and the economic effect is also unevenly distributed across the population. The economic outcome is much higher in elderly people, poorer groups, and ethnic minorities, and the economic effect is also unevenly distributed across the population.

Margaret Whitehead, David Taylor-Robinson, Ben Barr

Covid-19 does not strike at random—mortality is much higher in elderly people, poorer groups, and ethnic minorities, and its economic effect is also unevenly distributed across the population. The economic outcome is much higher in elderly people, poorer groups, and ethnic minorities, and the economic effect is also unevenly distributed across the population.

Covid-19 does not strike at random—mortality is much

higher in elderly people, poorer groups, and ethnic minorities, and the economic effect is also unevenly distributed across the population.

Covid-19 does not strike at random—mortality is much

higher in elderly people, poorer groups, and ethnic minorities, and the economic effect is also unevenly distributed across the population.
above all we must avoid reintroducing austerity measures to fix the economy, which would again fall heaviest on the most disadvantaged groups and communities, widening health inequalities still further. Instead, we must “build back fairer.”

Competing interests: We have read and understood BMJ policy on declaration of interests and have no interests to declare.

Provenance and peer review: Commissioned; not externally peer reviewed.

7 Banaruak. C. Fears grow of nutritional crisis in lockdown UK. BMJ 2020;370:m3193. doi: 10.1136/bmj.m3193 pmid: 32819891
12 Ofsted Chief Inspector. “We cannot furlough young people’s learning.” Education in the media. https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/03/ofsted-chief-inspector-we-cannot-furlough-young-peoples-learning/

This article is made freely available for use in accordance with BMJ’s website terms and conditions for the duration of the covid-19 pandemic or until otherwise determined by BMJ. You may use, download and print the article for any lawful, non-commercial purpose (including text and data mining) provided that all copyright notices and trade marks are retained.