COVID-19 and homelessness services

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Homeless Health COVID-19 Future NHS workspace

- **Online, collaborative workspace for colleagues working across health and care on the homeless health response to COVID-19**

- **Lots of users and activity**

- **Hosted on Future NHS collaborative platform**

- **Sign up as a user to access content**

- **Includes national and regional resources and links, discussion forum**

- **Share documents and ideas, ask questions, access resources**

- **New regional conversations to connect with others in your region.**

- **To join the workspace email:**
  HomelessHealthCOVID19-manager@future.nhs.uk

- **Experiencing specific local problems?**
  Email Olivia's team: england.covid-health@nhs.net with details.

COVID-19 and homelessness services

Current guidance & updates

17 June 2020

Night shelters: waiting for guidance

Day Centres: can re-open with local Public Health support to plan infection control measures around venue use, social distancing, hygiene.

Day Services meeting 4.30pm Tuesday 23 June and 9am Thursday 25 June – email tasmin.maitland@homelesslink.org.uk **for a registration link**

Homeless Link resources:
- ➢ **Resource list v10**
- ➢ **COVID-19 & Homelessness Transition FAQs**
- ➢ **Guidance for local transition planning**
- ➢ **Engaging with health services during COVID-19**
- ➢ **Structure of the NHS in England**

   www.homeless.org.uk/covid19-homelessness

What next?

- Local Authorities have sent transition plans to MHCLG

- Please share your local plans with Homeless Link

- Concerns about extent of voluntary sector and lived experience involvement in planning

- Risks around transition – housing, but also support

- Continuing lack of clear options for people with NRPF

- Need for effective joint working between health and homelessness

1
Nobody returns or is new to the street.
#EveryoneInForGood

2
Everybody receives the support they need to keep their accommodation.
#EveryoneInForGood

3
No return to business as usual.
#EveryoneInForGood

Impact of Covid-19 on BAME and inclusion health groups

Public Health England stakeholder engagement

'Disparities in the risks and outcomes of COVID-19'
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf - **Chapter 6 Inclusion Health**

'Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups'
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf

Homeless Link attended two consultation sessions in May: one run by National Voices, and the other by Public Health England.

Stakeholder engagement rather than evidence submission.

Impact of Covid-19 on people sleeping rough

"There were 54 men and 13 women diagnosed with COVID-19 with no fixed abode, likely to be rough sleepers. We estimate that this represents 2% and 1.5% of the known population of women and men who experienced rough sleeping in 2019. Data is of poor quality, but this suggests a much higher diagnoses rate when compared to the general population."
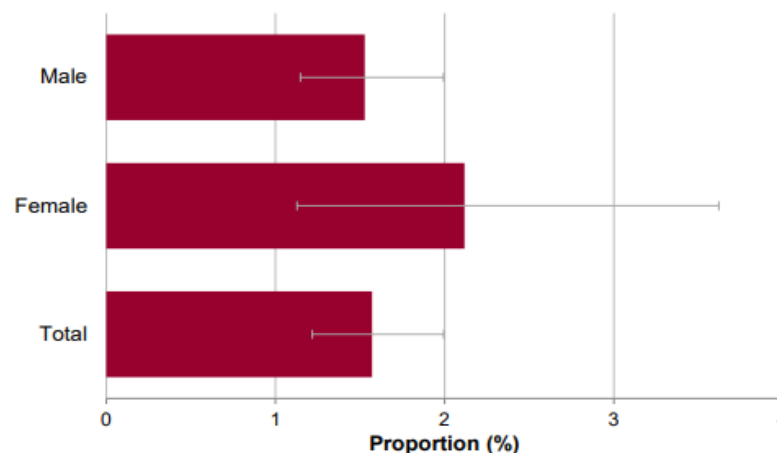

Figure 6.2. Proportion of cases assigned a no fixed abode code per 100 population of rough sleepers by sex and in total as of 13 May 2020, England. Source: Public Health England Second Generation Surveillance System and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Impact of Covid-19 on inclusion health groups

"Stakeholders consistently identified vulnerable groups, including the homeless, migrants, gypsies and traveller communities as being at increased risk throughout the COVID-19 outbreak and even more so in its aftermath.

There were concerns about the ability of national and local government messages and programmes on COVID-19, for example regarding prevention, testing and contact tracing, to reach the most vulnerable and excluded within our society, especially when those groups may be wary or fearful of engaging with statutory services."

Impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups

"The PHE review of disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19 shows that there is an association between belonging to some ethnic groups and the likelihood of testing positive and dying with COVID-19."

"Death rates from COVID-19 were higher for Black and Asian ethnic groups when compared to White ethnic groups. This is the opposite of what is seen in previous years, when the all-cause mortality rates are lower in Asian and Black ethnic groups"

"The literature review and stakeholder feedback indicate that risks associated with COVID-19 transmission, morbidity, and mortality can be exacerbated by the housing challenges faced by some members of BAME groups."

Impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups

Stakeholder feedback – mental health

"Stakeholders highlighted their knowledge of emerging evidence of increased acquisition risk and poorer health outcomes for people with mental illness. This was especially compounded for BAME communities for whom problematic access to primary mental healthcare and mental health promotion have been well described. There were concerns that the importance of mental ill health as a risk factor for COVID-19 was not adequately acknowledged and therefore poorly managed, with many missed opportunities for early intervention and support"

"Key strategies recommended by stakeholders included strengthening targeted programmes for chronic disease prevention; culturally competent and targeted health promotion to prevent chronic diseases…"

Impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups

Stakeholder feedback – workforce

"Key actions recommended by stakeholders included the importance of valuing and respecting the work of key workers; provision of adequate protective equipment; stronger arrangements for workplace wellbeing and risk assessments; targeted education, awareness and support for key workers; occupational risk assessments; and tackling workplace bullying, racism and discrimination to create environments that allow workers to express and address concerns about risk."

"Strategies to create healthy and supportive workplaces (within and outside the health service) that have zero tolerance for discrimination and empower BAME staff to raise concerns about occupational risk and safety are essential."

Impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups

homeless link

Stakeholder feedback – role of faith groups

"Faith communities played a vital role in engaging with communities and were a trusted source of information, leadership and engagement with many BAME groups and needed to be better engaged in future efforts to build community resilience and prepare communities for the immediate and long-term challenges of COVID-19."

Impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups

PHE report recommendations

Recommendations include:

➢ Improving ethnicity data collection and recording in NHS and social care

➢ Support community participatory research

➢ Develop culturally competent occupational risk assessment tools

➢ Target culturally competent health promotion and disease prevention programmes

➢ Ensure that COVID-19 recovery strategies actively reduce inequalities caused by the wider determinants of health to create long term sustainable change

What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services. We work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and campaign for policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

Homeless Link

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www.homeless.org.uk   Let's **end homelessness** together