The COVID-19 pandemic: how the data and statistical community stepped up to the challenges

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24th February 2021
Covid Infection Survey Positivity Estimates, England

Estimated percentage of the population testing positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) on nose and throat swabs from 3 May 2020

**England**

Percentage testing positive for COVID-19

0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5

03 May 14 Jun 26 Jul 06 Sep 18 Oct 29 Nov 06 Feb

Source: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, UK: 12 February 2021
New data

Source: Google Community Mobility Reports
Faster Economic Indicators

The proportion of businesses' workforce on furlough has increased from 11% in early December to 18% in mid-January 2021 – considerably lower than during the first national lockdown in 2020.

Source: Business insights and impact on the UK economy: 11 February 2021
Source: Employment in the UK: January 2021
Likelihood of having the vaccine also varies by characteristics including Sex and Ethnicity

The biggest difference between men and women who reported they were likely to have the vaccine was observed for those aged 30 to 49 years (82% and 76% respectively).

A higher percentage of adults of White ethnic background reported they were likely to have the vaccine compared to adults of ethnic minority background (85% and 69% respectively).

Very or fairly likely to have the vaccine by Sex and Age Group

Likelihood of having the vaccine by Ethnicity

Source: ONS - Opinions and Lifestyle Survey
## Wider Research Collaborations

### Supporting Government
- Providing insights to Government to facilitate the response to the pandemic.

### Local Area Profiles
- Understanding local social and economic impacts of the virus and associated inequalities.

### Identifying Flare-Ups
- Combining test and trace, outbreak indicators and other local data providing real time updates as data becomes available. Facilitated development of guidelines for decision makers at a range of geographies.

### Modelling Regional Impacts
- ERC is carrying out research on behalf of the British Business Bank (BBB) to assess the potential impact on business survival and contraction in the UK private sector, with a particular focus on regions and local economies outside of London and South East England.

### Occupation & Deaths
- Understand how risk of COVID-19 infection and death is linked to Occupation.