



Socio-economic impact of Covid-19

City Intelligence Unit, GLA
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1. Introduction

- This briefing presents evidence on the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 on London and Londoners.
- It presents a number of findings on Londoners' financial position, their well-being and health, as well as data about their family situation and the community.
- Topics included in the briefing focus on recent data releases that tell us how social policy issues are evolving in London since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- If you would like to know more about any of the findings or datasets featured, or would like to suggest a topic for inclusion in a future briefing, please email SocialEvidence@London.gov.uk.

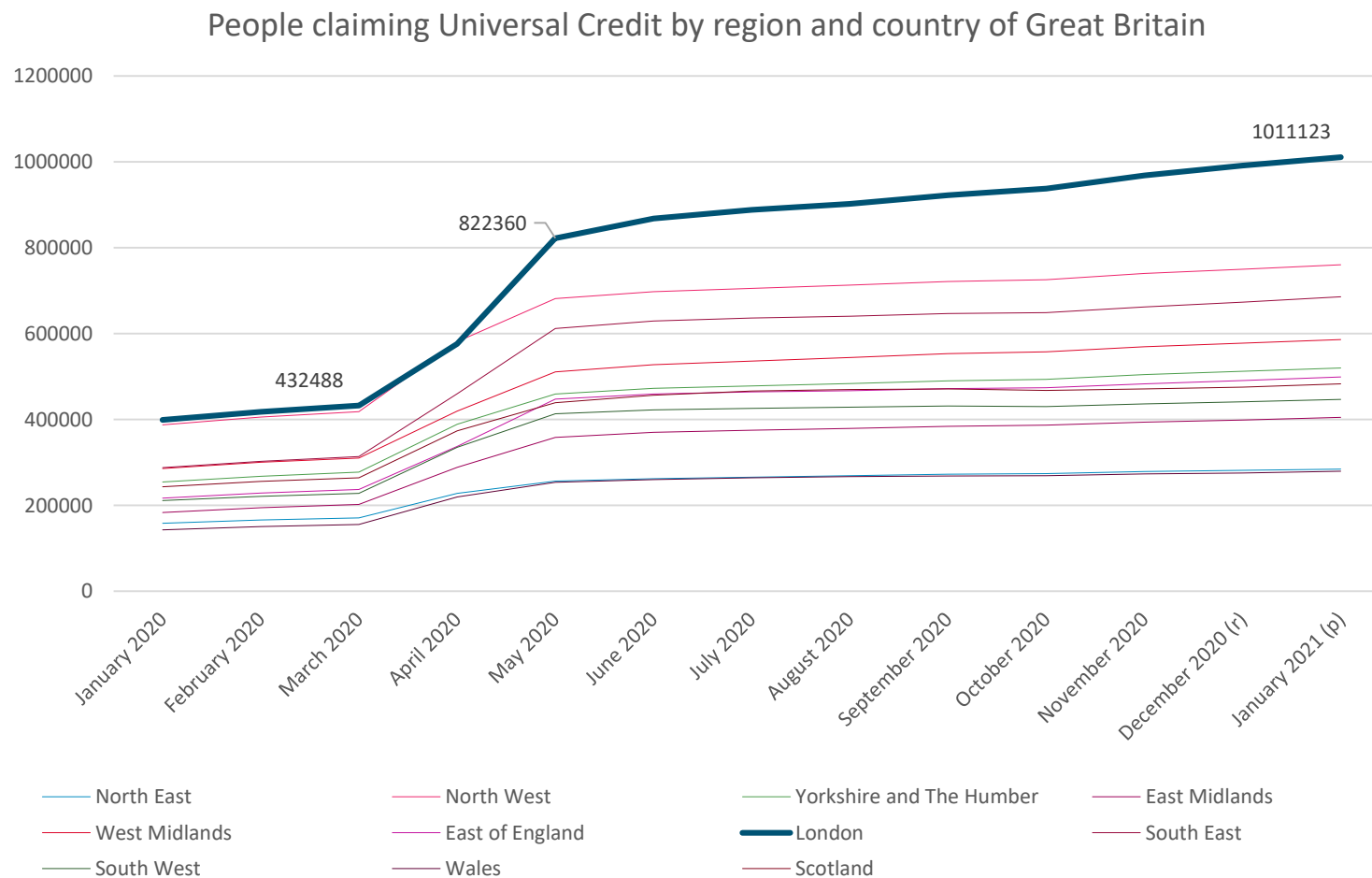
2. Household finances

- As the UK reaches a year since the pandemic hit, the number of people struggling financially continues to grow. A report from the [Standard Life Foundation and University of Bristol](#) looks at the 3.8 million people who have had a financial shock e.g. losing a job or working reduced hours who are not eligible for the government support schemes. Many of this group, like many Londoners, are anxious about their finances, struggling to pay bills and using savings to make ends meet.
- The latest release of [The London Intelligence](#) from Centre for London shows an increasing polarisation with more Londoners working longer hours as well as fewer hours, more people with increased disposable income, and more with less, but finds most people still have enough to get by. A similar picture is reflected nationally in the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA's) [Financial Lives 2020 Survey](#) with increases in both debts and savings, but overall, many more people with low financial resilience.
- While the FCA report finds limited increase in take up of debt advice [StepChange](#) reports clear increases seen in the number of new clients seeking advice, with an increasing proportion of those clients in arrears on their essential household bills, as well as increases in those with credit card and personal loan arrears. Almost one in five of the total UK clients from 1st April to 31st October were Londoners, with 68 in every 10,000 of the capital's adult population contacting the charity. Clients have said that the support of friends, family and charities has been vital, with many missing meals, or going without other essentials.

2. Household finances cont'd

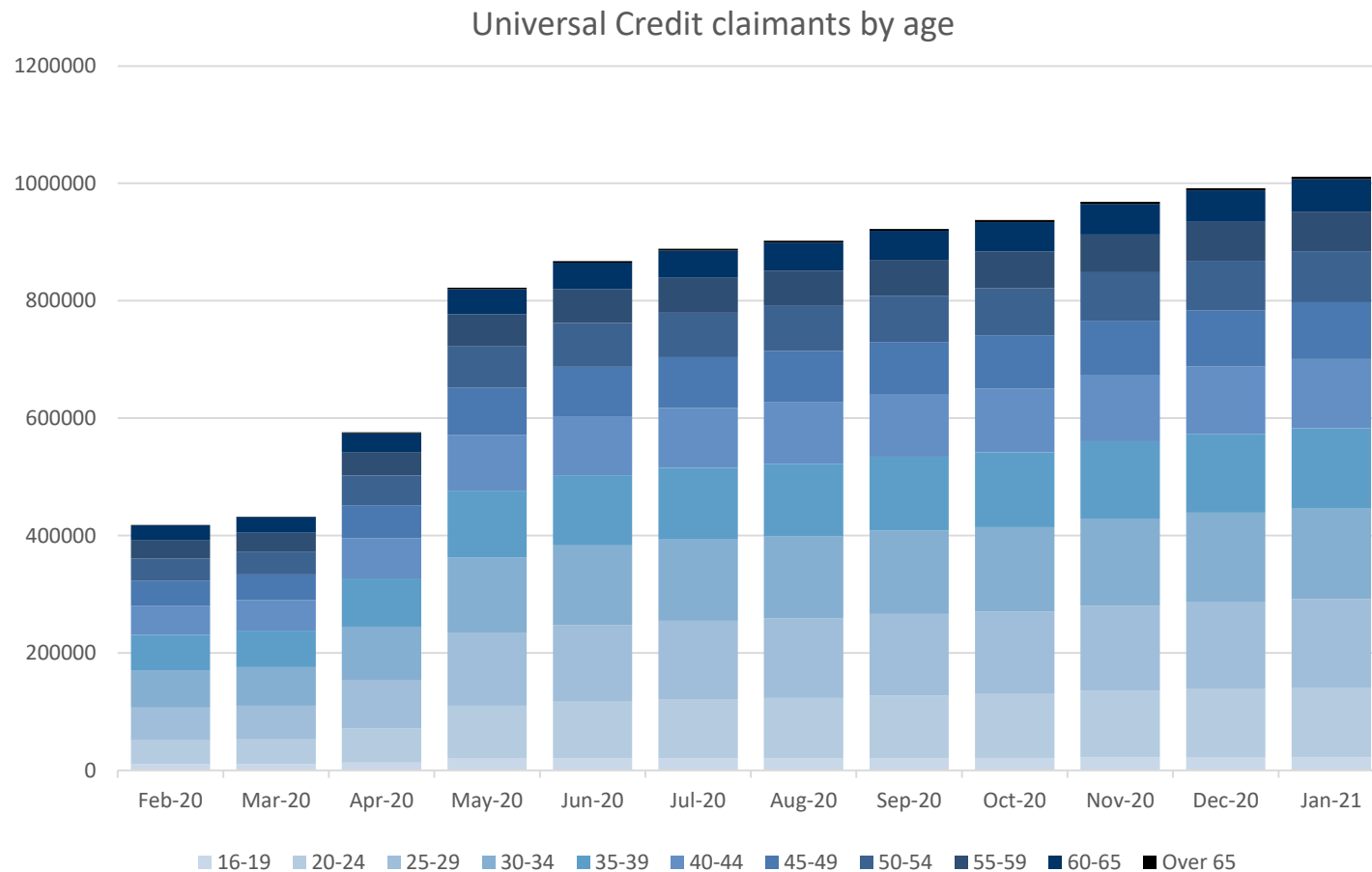
- Not surprisingly, those paid below the [Living Wage](#) are most likely to be struggling financially and that this impacted on health, happiness and family life. For those struggling the most, unable to afford the basic necessities, the pandemic has made life even harder. [Those in destitution](#) may have little or no internet access and many have been unable to gain access to the support that they need.
- Organisations supporting struggling Londoners are in increasing demand, as the Covid-19 pandemic is impacting particularly the most vulnerable groups in society. However, this report from [Demos](#) finds that many charities that exist to support such groups have seen cuts in their funding alongside a greater demand for that support, which cannot be sustained.
- This section examines the latest evidence for London on household finance issues and increased reliance on welfare for some people.

More than a million Londoners are claiming Universal Credit



- Universal Credit (UC) claimants have almost doubled since March across Great Britain as a whole, but have increased further and more rapidly in London than in any other area.
- London started the pandemic with a relatively low proportion of its working age residents claiming UC, but this has risen to more than one in six – similar to the proportions in the North East and the North West. The area with the steepest increase outside London is the South East, where the rate has risen to one in eight.

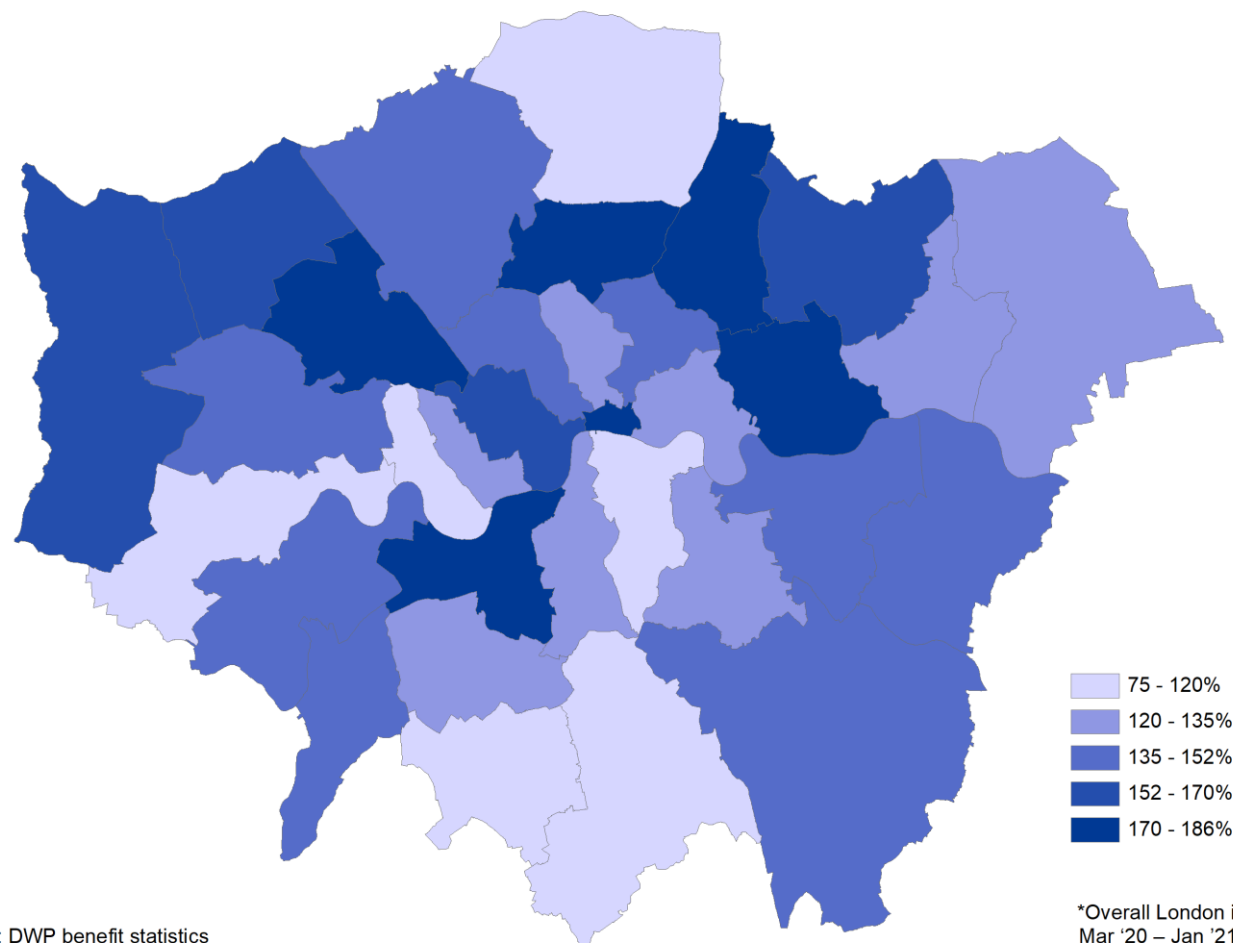
Universal Credit claims have risen most among younger Londoners



- More than 300,000 of London's UC claimants are in the 25-34 age group.
- 52 per cent of UC claimants were women, down from 57 per cent before the pandemic.
- Nearly 40 per cent of claimants were doing at least some work in January, with 43 per cent unemployed and looking for work.

Nearly one in four working age residents in Barking and Dagenham and in Hounslow are claiming UC

Percentage increase in number of people claiming Universal Credit March 2020 - January 2021

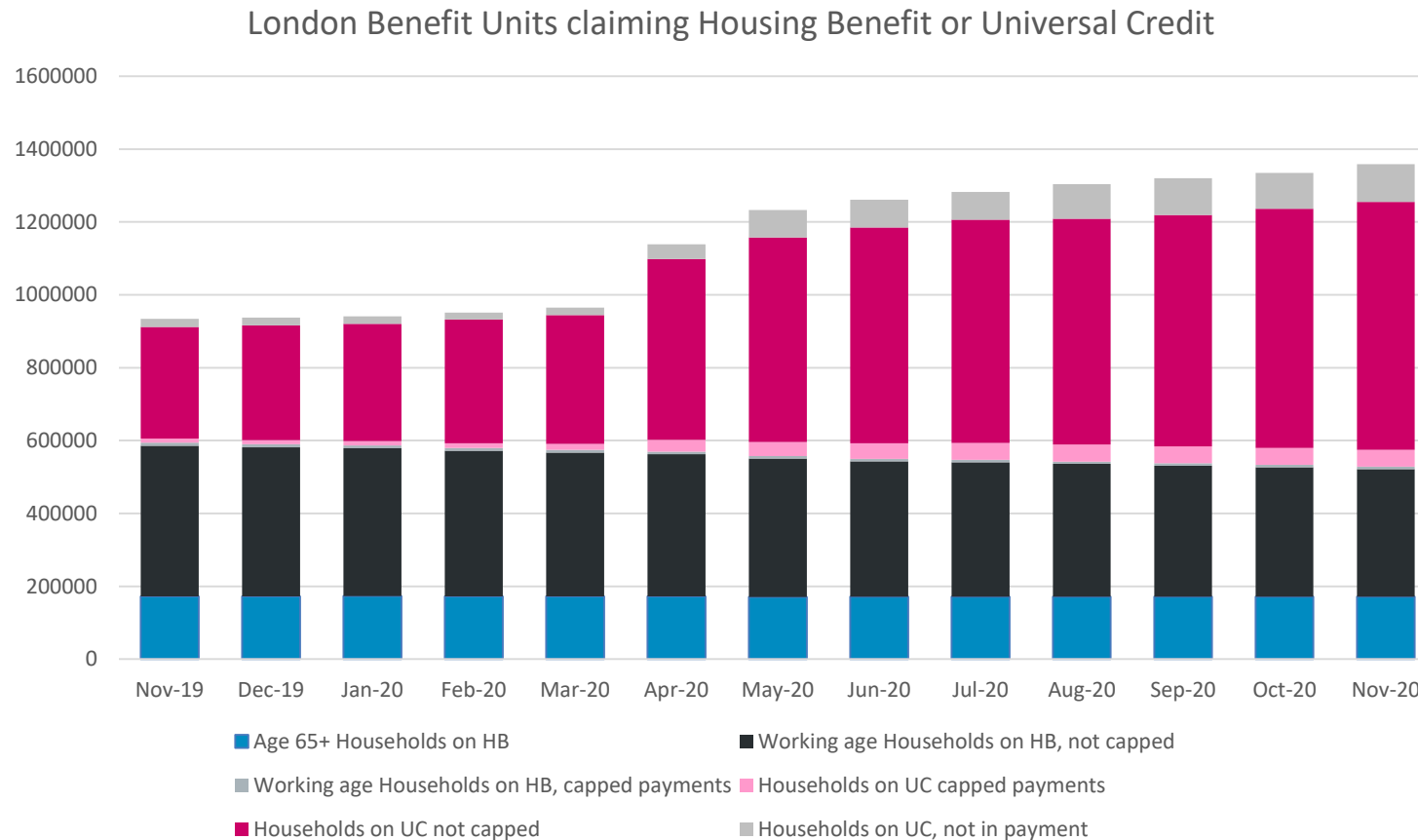


Source: DWP benefit statistics

*Overall London increase
Mar '20 – Jan '21 133.8%

- The number of UC claimants doubled between March 2020 and January 2021 across London as a whole and has continued to increase since, but the picture varies between boroughs.
- Barking and Dagenham has the highest proportion of its working age residents claiming UC, but the rise has been relatively moderate. In contrast, Wandsworth has seen a steep increase, but the rate remains less than half the rate of Barking and Dagenham.

Claims for help towards housing costs approach 1 million in London



Source: DWP

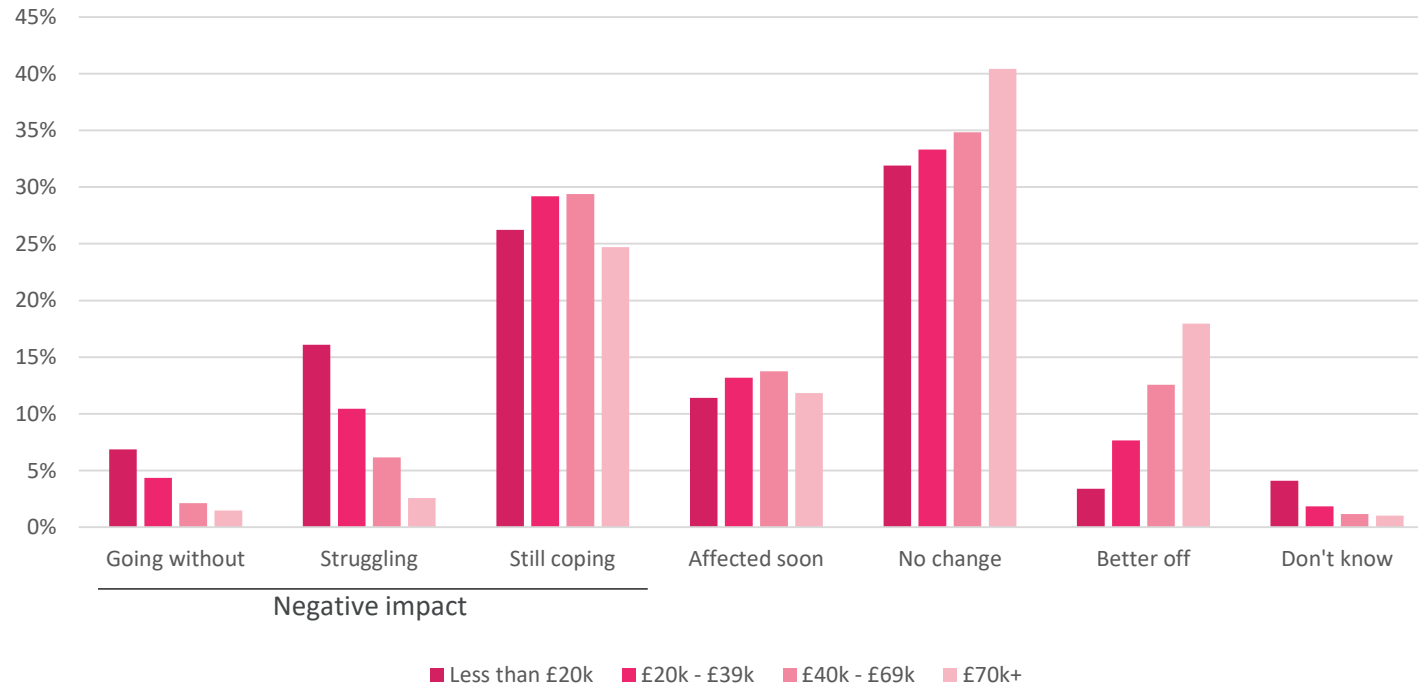
Note: A 'benefit unit' is a specific term for a 'family', consisting of a single person or a couple living together along with any co-resident dependent children. Older, non-dependent, children would form separate benefit units.

Benefit cap statistics are estimated for September 2020 onwards as the data are not yet published.

- 460,000 households were paid a housing element of UC in addition to 530,000 households claiming Housing Benefit.
- The continued decrease in Housing Benefit claims is more than made up by the increase in households claiming Universal Credit.
- Single people with no child dependents are the most numerous claimants of both Housing Benefit and Universal Credit in London.

One in nine London households are going without or struggling financially as a result of the pandemic

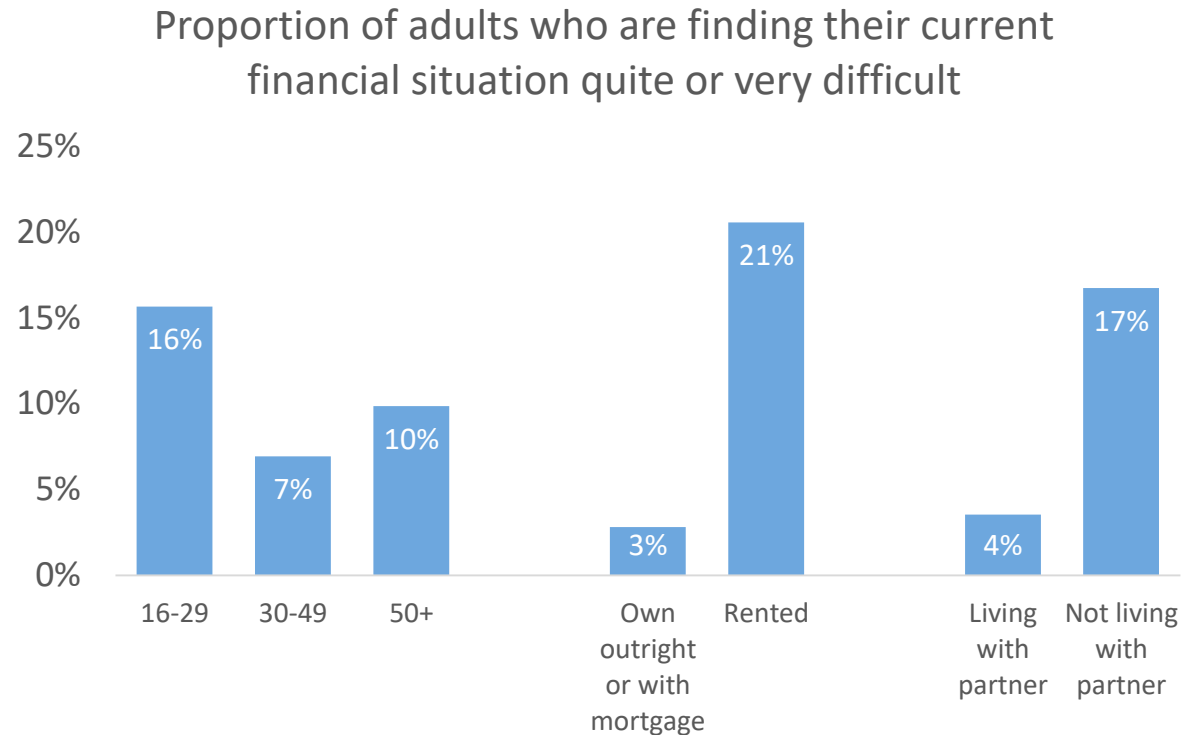
Financial impact of pandemic by household gross income band



- Just over a third of Londoners said the pandemic had no financial impact for their households throughout the last year.
- One in ten adults reported being better off financially as a result of the pandemic, particularly those in higher income groups, but as the pandemic goes on, more households are experiencing a negative impact on their financial situation.
- More households with lower income have been struggling due to the coronavirus negatively impacting their finances; this didn't ease during the summer but has increased during the current restrictions.

In November around one in five Londoners who were renting were finding their current financial situation quite or very difficult

- Around two thirds (68 per cent) of Londoners aged 16+ say they are doing alright or they are living comfortably when judging their current financial situation. However, 10 per cent say they are finding it quite or very difficult.
- Renters are more likely to say their current financial situation is quite or very difficult (21 per cent) compared with owners (3 per cent).
- Londoners not living with a partner are also more likely to describe their financial situation as difficult (17 per cent) compared with Londoners living with a partner (4 per cent).
- Younger Londoners aged 16-29 around twice as likely as Londoners aged 30-49 to say their financial situation is difficult (16 per cent and 7 per cent respectively).



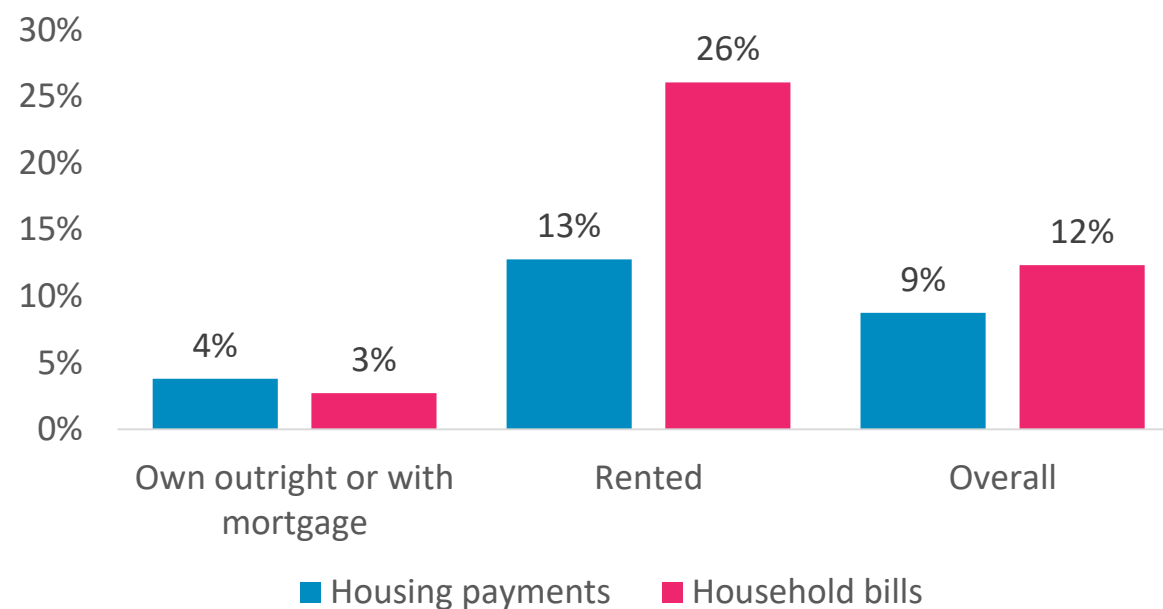
Base: Nov-20 16-29: 118; 30-49: 317; 50+: 604; Own outright or with mortgage: 749; Rented: 259; Living with partner: 646; Not living with partner: 393

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

Renters are more likely to be behind with their housing payments and household bills than owners

- Nine per cent of Londoners aged 16+ were not up to date with their rent or mortgage in November 2020.
- There is a split by household tenure with 13 per cent of renters not being up to date compared with 4 per cent of owners.
- Twelve per cent of Londoners aged 16+ were behind with some or all of their other household bills in November 2020.
- Again there is a split by household tenure with 26 per cent of renters being behind on their household bills compared with 3 per cent of owners.
- Six per cent of renters have turned to new borrowing from a bank or credit card compared with two per cent of owners, to cope with a reduction in earnings since January/February 2020.

Proportion of adults not up to date with housing payments and household bills, by household tenure

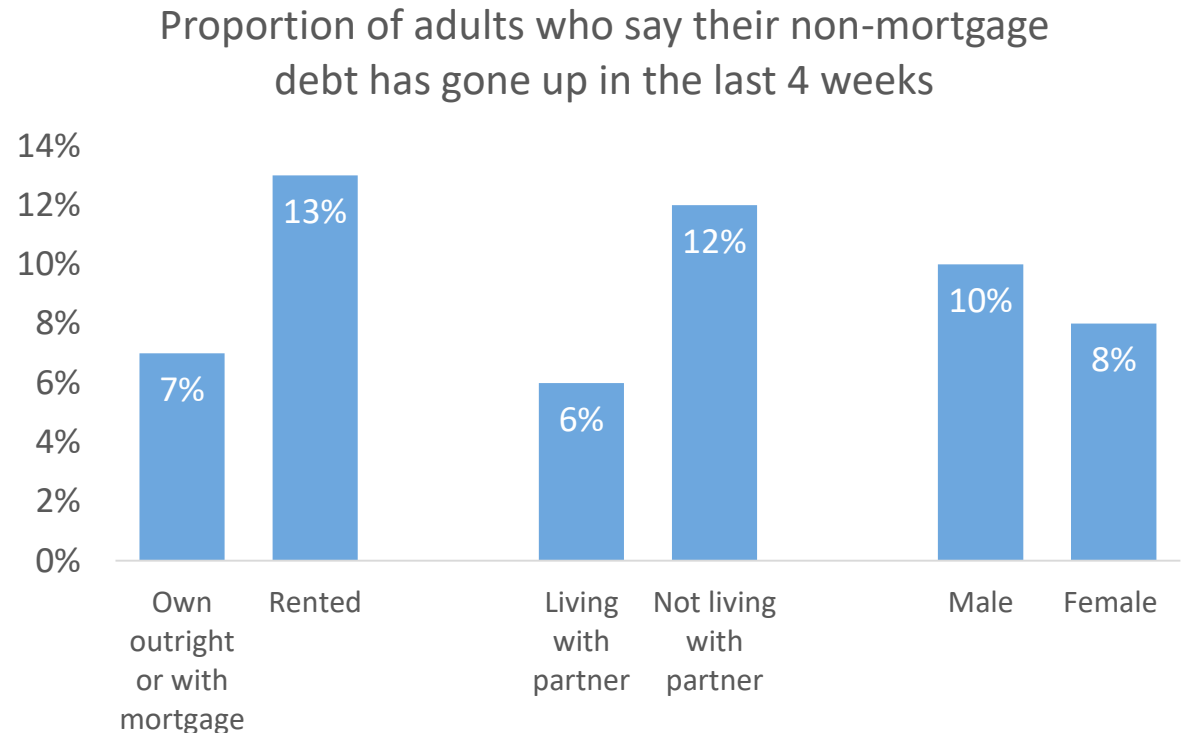


Base: Nov-20 Londoners aged 16+ Housing payments - Own outright or with mortgage: 393; Rented: 250; Overall: 664; Housing bills - Own outright or with mortgage: 751; Rented: 259; Overall: 1,040

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

Renters are more likely to say their non-mortgage debt has increased recently than owners, as well as being less able to save money

- Around a quarter (27 per cent) of Londoners aged 16+ say they currently owe money on debts, other than mortgages.
- Around two thirds (66 per cent) of Londoners aged 16+ say that in the last 4 weeks the amount of money they owe has stayed the same, 25 per cent say it has decreased while it has increased for 9 per cent.
- Renters (13 per cent) are around twice as likely as owners (7 per cent) to say that in the last 4 weeks the amount of money they owe on non-mortgage debt has increased.
- Nearly half (46 per cent) of Londoners aged 16+ have been able to save some money in the last 4 weeks, other than to meet regular bills.
- Renters (37 per cent) are less likely to have been able to save in the last 4 weeks compared with owners (54 per cent).

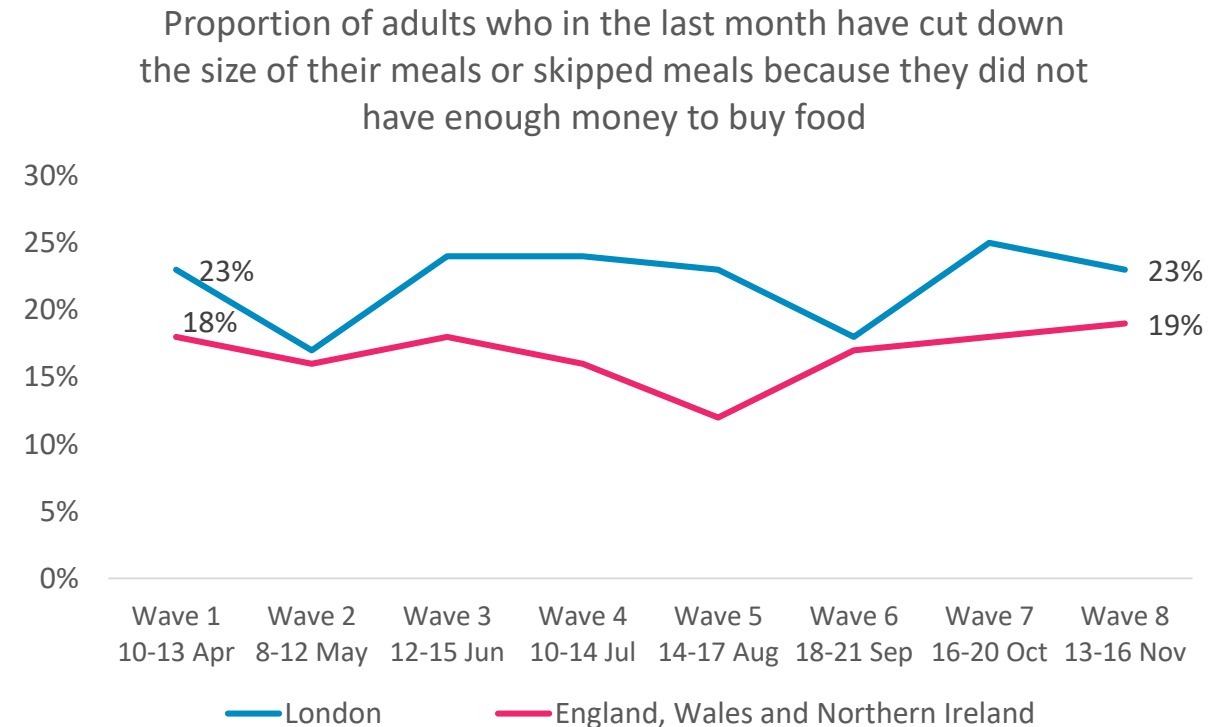


Base: Nov-20 Own outright or with mortgage: 681; Rented: 239; Living with partner: 590; Not living with partner: 358; Male: 398; Female: 548

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

Londoners have consistently been affected to a greater extent on one measure of food insecurity (skipping meals or reducing meal sizes) than adults nationally, since the start of the pandemic

- A greater proportion of Londoners aged 16-75 has consistently reported cutting down the size of meals or skipping meals in the last month because they did not have enough money to buy food compared with adults nationally.
- In November around a quarter (23 per cent) of Londoners aged 16-75 reported they had done this in the last month.
- In November around one in nine (11 per cent) Londoners aged 16-75 reported that in the last month they had arranged for food to be delivered to their house through a food charity or food bank.



Base: All adults aged 16-75 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland Wave 1: 2,039; Wave 2: 2,040; Wave 3: 2,045; Wave 4: 2,068; Wave 5: 2,071; Wave 6: 2,065; Wave 7: 2,067; Wave 8: 2,023; London Wave 1: 304; Wave 2: 304; Wave 3: 305; Wave 4: 305; Wave 5: 254; Wave 6: 305; Wave 7: 305; Wave 8: 294

Source: Food Standards Agency. (2021). Covid-19 Consumer Tracker Waves 1-8.

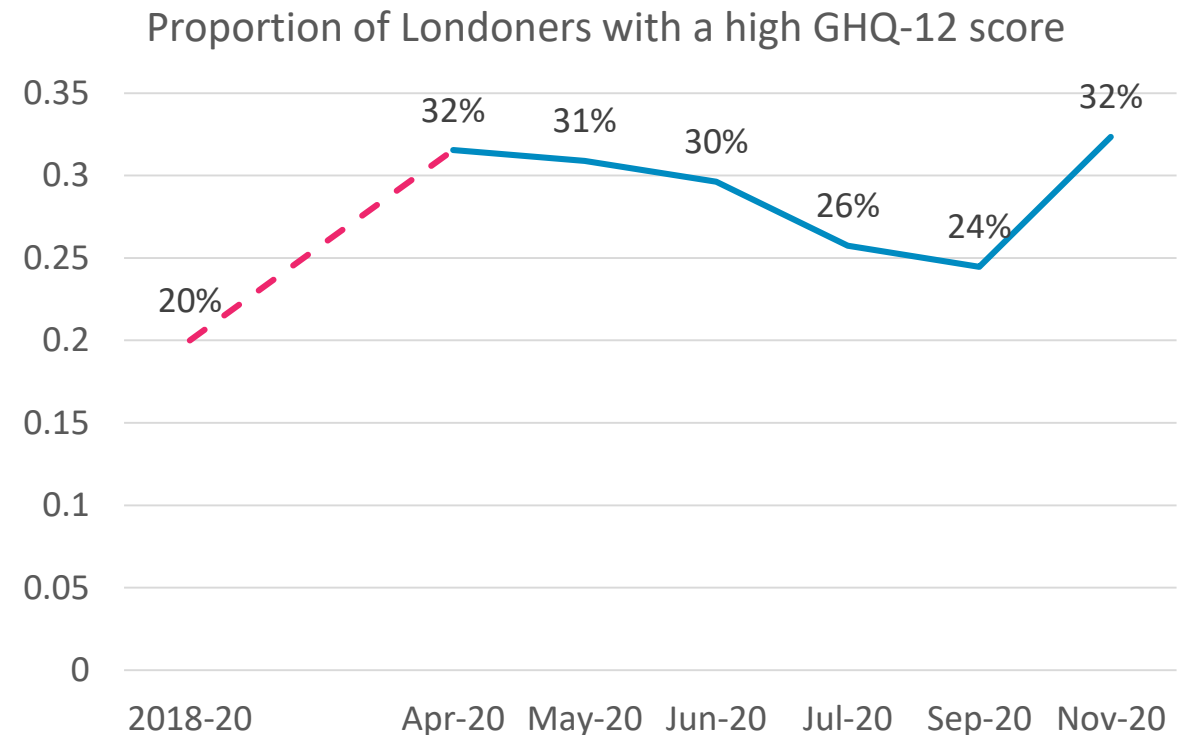
3. Wellbeing

- Sources are continuing to emerge about the effect that the Covid-19 pandemic is having on people's wellbeing.
- A [recent survey from the Royal Society for Public Health \(RSPH\)](#) has revealed the mental and physical health impacts of home working. People who switched to working from home as a result of Covid-19 have experienced feeling less connected to colleagues, taking less exercise, developing musculoskeletal problems and disturbed sleep.
- The UK Parliament is currently investigating the [long-term impact on wellbeing by living online](#). Oral and written evidence has been submitted to the inquiry from a range of academics and organisations ahead of a formal meeting that was held in early March.
- This briefing has been published while we are in the midst of the third national lockdown. The data in this section is largely from the period of the second national lockdown (November 2020), so can serve as a proxy for what the situation may currently be like.

The second national lockdown saw the proportion of Londoners who have poorer mental health rise to the level seen during the first national lockdown

- The General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) helps to identify minor psychiatric disorders in the general population. Higher scores are indicative of poorer mental health.
- **In November 2020, around a third (32 per cent) of Londoners aged 16+ reported characteristics of poor mental health, which has increased from 24 per cent in September.**
- **Younger Londoners are more likely to display features of poorer mental health than older Londoners:** 43 per cent of Londoners aged 16-29 in November 2020 reported characteristics of poor mental health, compared with 26 per cent of Londoners aged 50+.
- **White Londoners are more likely than BAME Londoners to show a GHQ-12 score of 4 or more** (in November 2020: 36 per cent and 24 per cent respectively).
- **Fewer Londoners living with a partner had aspects of poor mental health** in November 2020 (24 per cent compared with 41 per cent not living with a partner).

Note: The General Health Questionnaire focuses on two major areas: the inability to carry out normal functions; and the appearance of new and distressing phenomena, with each of the 12 items rated on a four-point response scale. A coding method was used whereby the maximum score for any respondent is 12, with higher values indicating poorer mental health. A threshold of 4 or more was set as the difference between 'no or few mental health problems' and 'poorer mental health'.

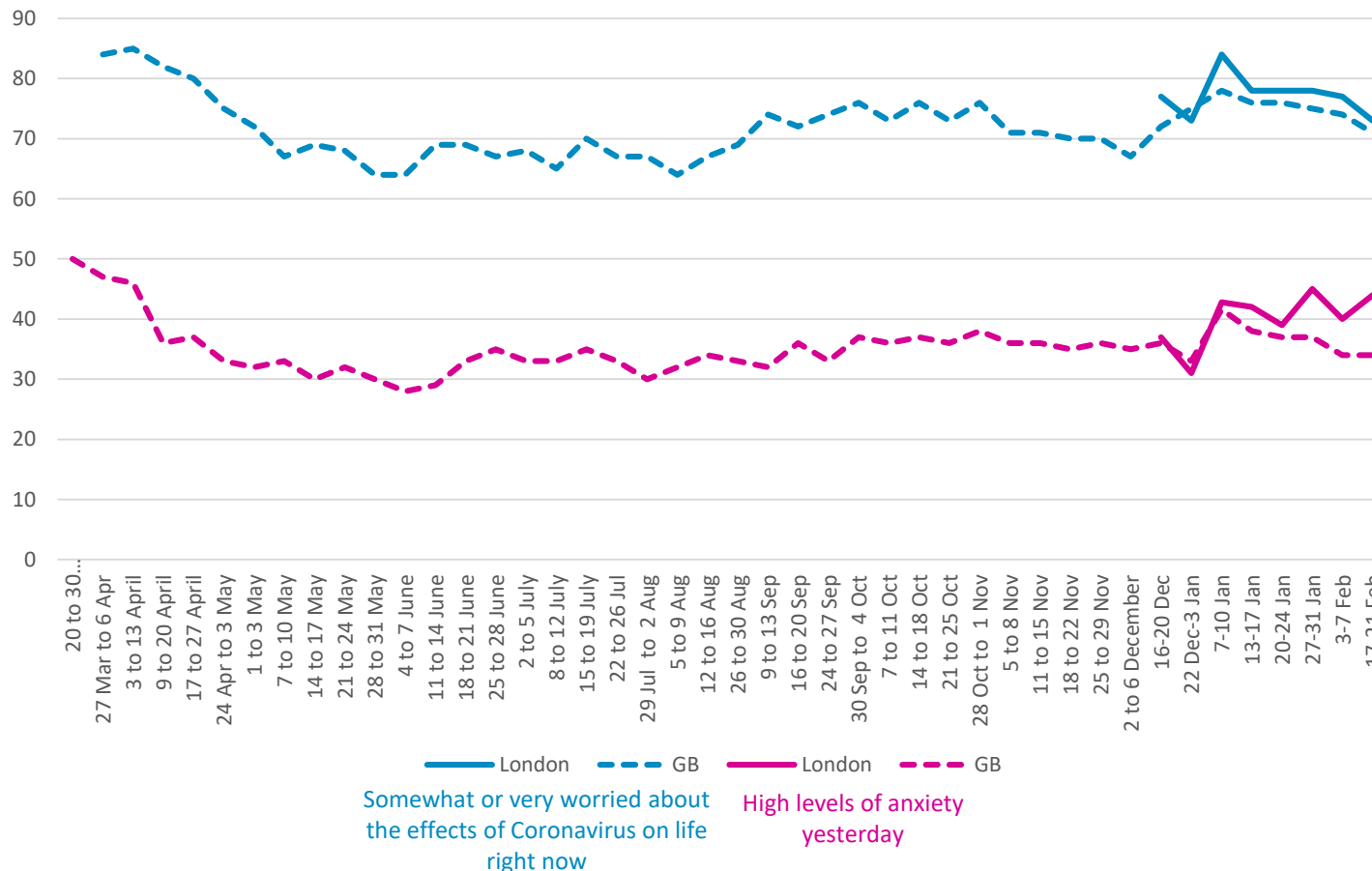


Base: Londoners aged 16+ 2018-20: 3,607; April-20: 1,617; May-20: 1,419; June-20: 1,295; July-20: 1,297; Sep-20: 1,129; Nov-20: 1,031

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

Most Londoners are worried about the impact of coronavirus on their lives

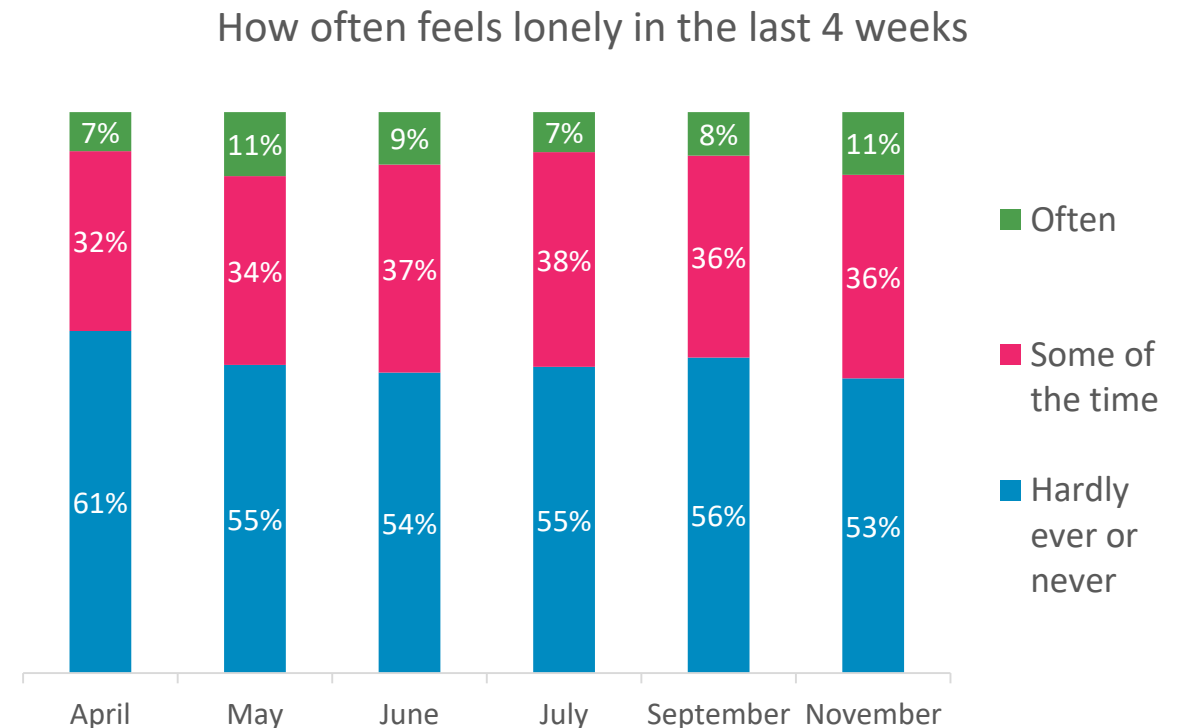
Percentage of adults anxious and worried



- Weekly tracking of levels of anxiety and how worried adults are about the effect of coronavirus reveal that Londoners are more anxious during the latest lockdown than the wider British population.
- Most Londoners are concerned about their ability to make plans generally and for personal travel, their freedom and independence and their relationships, though just one in five are concerned about their health. Concerns peaked in the first two weeks of the current lockdown.
- Anxiety appears to have increased in London in the week of the February half term break, prior to the announcement of the roadmap to recovery.

In November 2020 the proportion of Londoners feeling lonely at least some of the time reached the highest rate since the start of the pandemic

- In November 2020, 11 per cent of Londoners aged 16+ reported that they felt lonely 'often' in the last 4 weeks. A further 36 per cent reported feeling lonely 'some of the time' in the last 4 weeks.
- Younger Londoners continue to be more likely to cite chronic loneliness (lonely often in the last 4 weeks): 23 per cent of Londoners aged 16-29 in November 2020 reported this, compared with 7 per cent of Londoners aged 50+.
- Fewer Londoners living with a partner experienced chronic loneliness in November 2020 (4 per cent compared with 18 per cent not living with a partner).

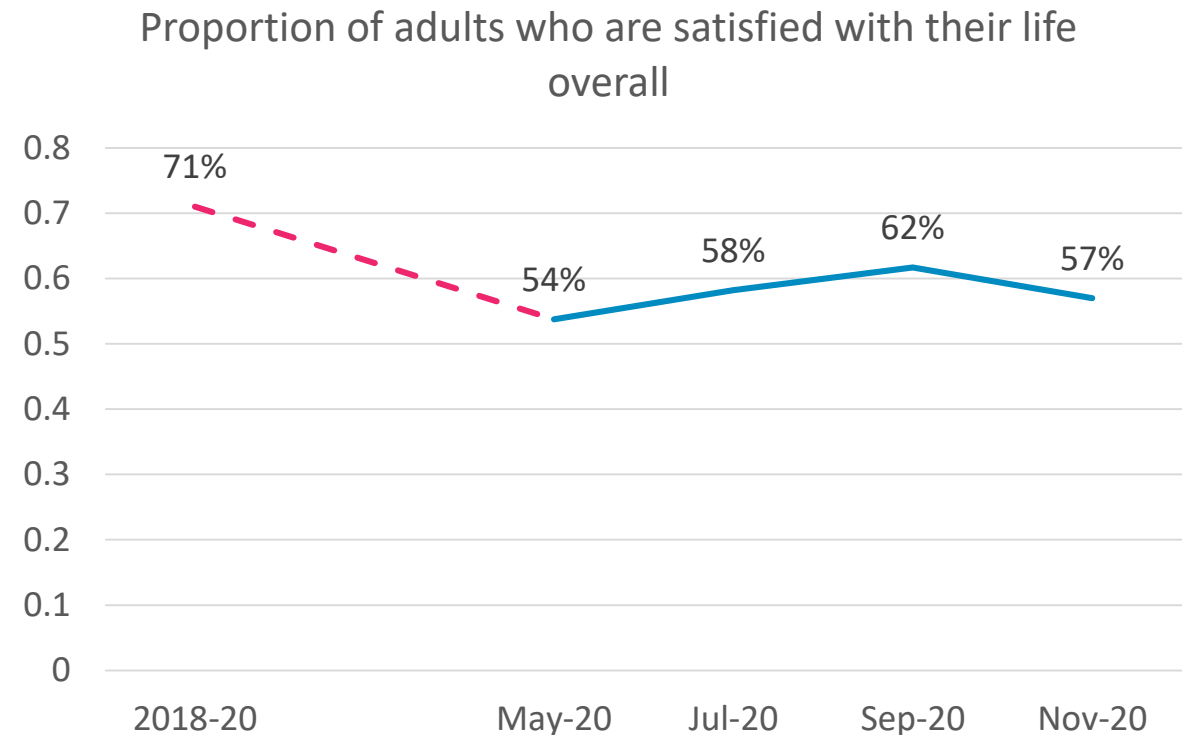


Base: Londoners aged 16+ April-20: 1,813; May-20: 1,475; June-20: 1,341; July-20: 1,349; Sept-20: 1,194; Nov-20: 1,067

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

Life satisfaction was slowly recovering during the summer but, with the advent of the second national lockdown in November, has fallen again

- In November 2020, 57 per cent of Londoners aged 16+ reported that they were satisfied with their life overall. This compares with 62 per cent in September. The pre-pandemic estimate from this survey in 2018-20 was 71 per cent, so remains below.
- Around two thirds (67 per cent) of Londoners who are owner-occupiers are satisfied with their life currently compared with around four in ten (43 per cent) Londoners who rent.
- Londoners not living with a partner were less likely than those living with a partner to be satisfied with their life currently (45 per cent and 69 per cent respectively).



Base: Londoners aged 16+ 2018-20: 3,661; May-20: 1,426; July-20: 1,308; Sep-20: 1,138; Nov-20: 1,037

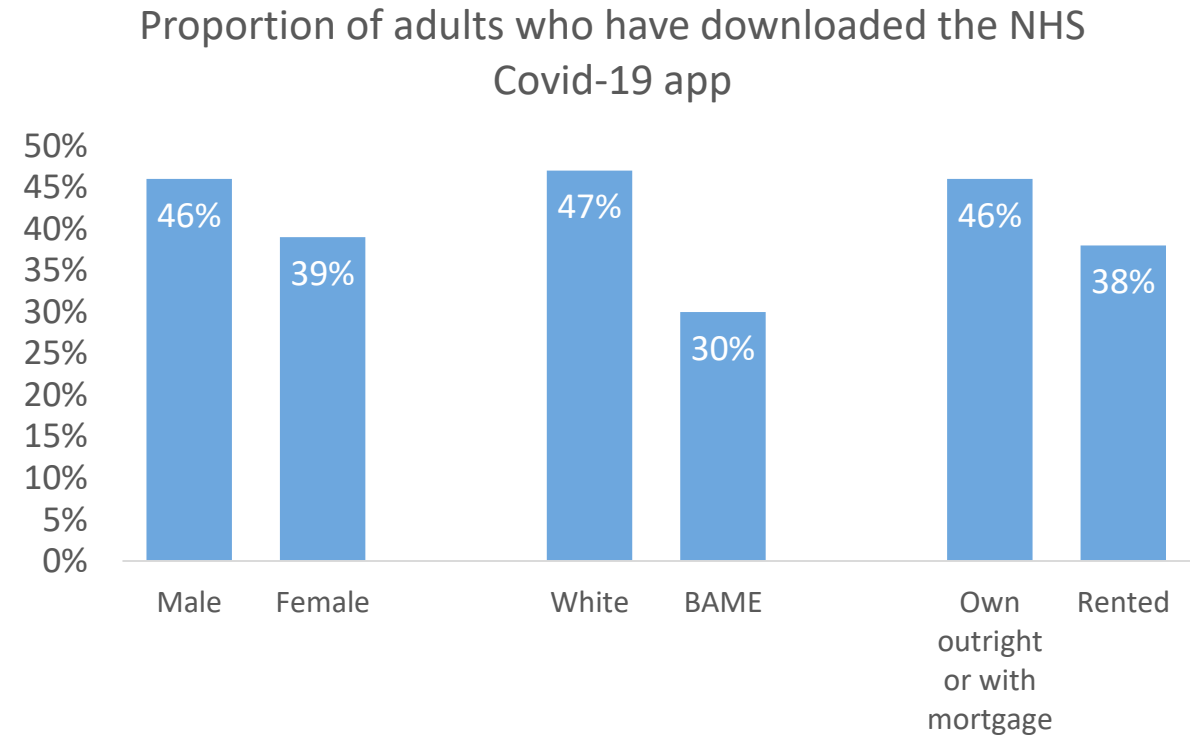
Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

4. Health

- In Autumn last year, the Health Foundation launched a [time-limited UK-wide inquiry](#) to consider how people's experience of the pandemic was influenced by their health and existing inequalities and the likely impact of actions taken in response to the pandemic on people's health and health inequalities – now and in the future. This will report in Summer 2021.
- Turning to research that has published, a [recent study has looked at post-traumatic stress disorder \(PTSD\) of Covid-19 patients put on a ventilator](#), finding that more than a third of this group have experienced PTSD symptoms.
- London's regional director for Public Health England (PHE), Kevin Fenton, posted a [blog](#) in February commenting on London's ongoing Covid-19 health inequalities. Ethnicity continues to be a major factor in the health outcomes of communities during the second wave of the pandemic. Deprivation is also a key factor.
- The team behind the [Covid Symptom Study app](#) have recently published some findings on [diet and health behaviours during Covid-19](#). They created a 'disruption index' representing how much each person's life had altered in five areas: diet quality, snacking, sleep, exercise and alcohol consumption. Their data showed that two-thirds of UK participants experienced some level of disruption to their diet and lifestyle.
- This section will now present data on some aspects of Londoners' behaviours around health.

In November around six in ten (58 per cent) Londoners had either not downloaded the NHS Covid-19 app or did not have a compatible smartphone

- In November 2020, around four in ten (42 per cent) of Londoners age 16+ had downloaded the NHS Covid-19 app. A larger proportion had not (47 per cent) while 11 per cent do not have a smartphone or have a non-compatible one.
- For Londoners who had not downloaded the NHS Covid-19 app the main reasons given were:
 - I am taking precautions (e.g., social distancing, wearing a mask) so do not need the app (33 per cent)
 - I do not trust the information it provides about exposure to coronavirus (26 per cent)
 - I am worried about my privacy (23 per cent)
 - Have not got around to downloading it (21 per cent)

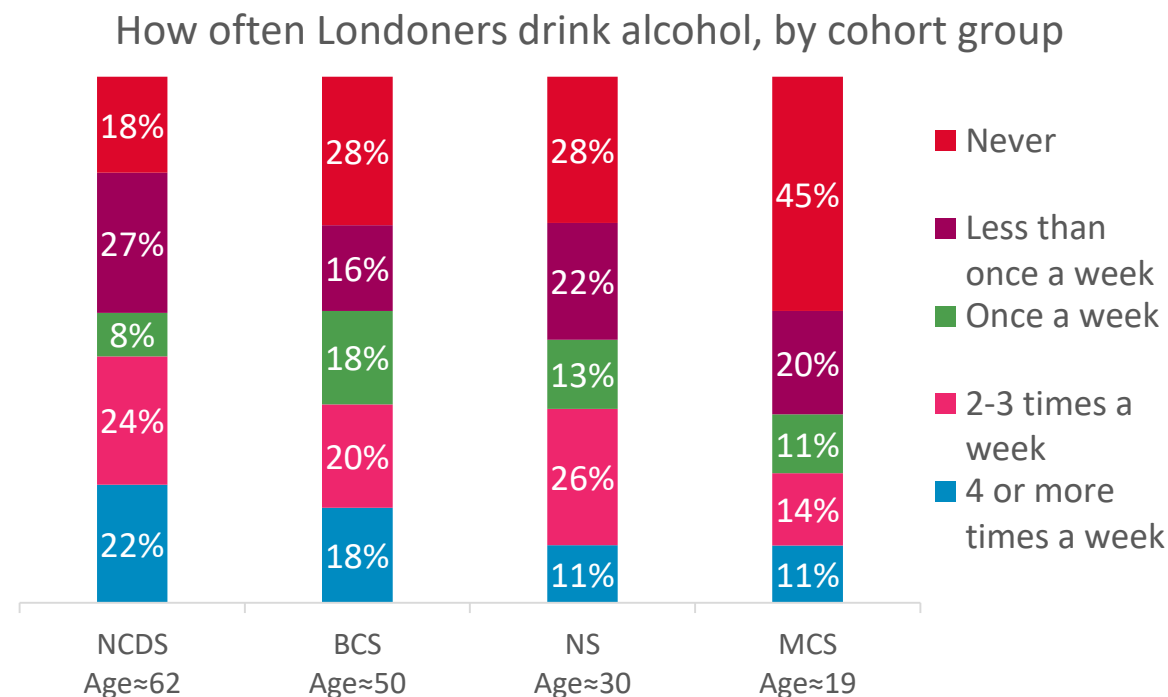


Base: Nov-20 Male: 435; Female: 642; White: 630; BAME: 426; Own outright or with mortgage: 774; Rented: 273

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

Younger Londoners are more likely to have not had any drinks containing alcohol in the last four weeks

- In September 2020, around one in five (22 per cent) older Londoners from the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS) reported having had an alcoholic drink 4 or more times a week in the last four weeks. These cohort members are aged around 62.
- Next Steps (NS) cohort members who are aged around 30 and Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) members who are aged around 19 are around half as likely to have drunk alcohol that often in the last four weeks (both 11 per cent).
- Nearly half of MCS members (45 per cent) reported never having an alcoholic drink in the last four weeks, when asked in September.



Base: Sept-20 1958 National Child Development Study: 342; 1970 British Cohort Study: 358; Next Steps: 600; Millennium Cohort Study: 228

Source: University College London, UCL Institute of Education, Centre for Longitudinal Studies. (2020). COVID-19 Survey in Five National Longitudinal Cohort Studies: Millennium Cohort Study, Next Steps, 1970 British Cohort Study and 1958 National Child Development Study, 2020. [data collection]. 2nd Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 8658, <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8658-2>

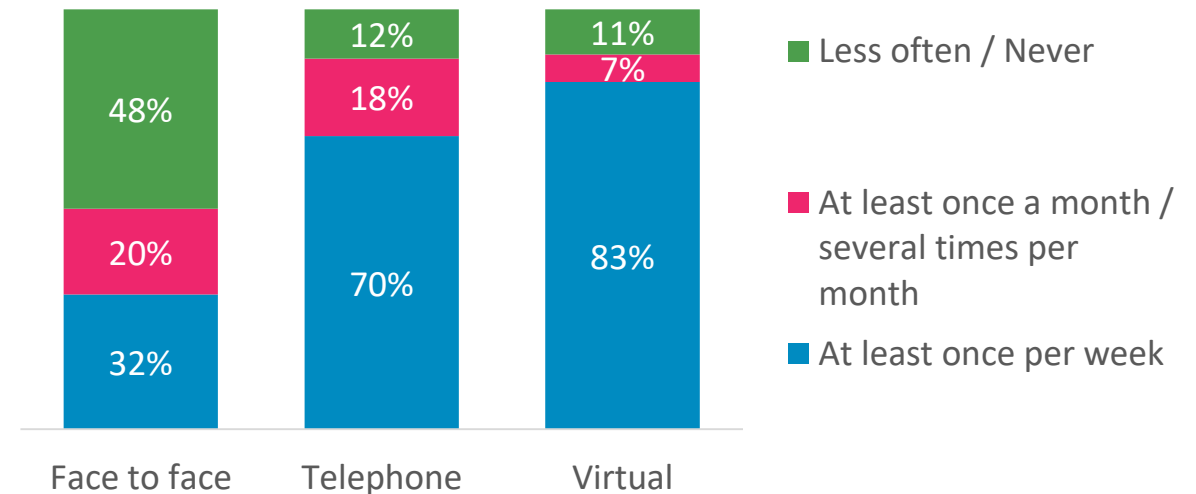
5. Families and community

- This final section looks at the impacts the pandemic is having on Londoners' day-to-day lives, community life in London, as well as the experiences of those in education at this time.
- A [study](#) of over 15,000 people across the UK carried out by Belong – The Cohesion and Integration Network and the University of Kent has found that neighbourhoods investing in social cohesion programmes are twice as likely to have residents volunteering to help others during the pandemic.
- In January 2021 the Co-SPACE study published a [report](#) looking at how parents' mental health symptoms and stressors have changed over the course of the pandemic. Parental stress and depression were elevated during the first lockdown (when most children were home-schooled) and reduced when the lockdown restrictions eased in the summer. However, parental stress, depression, and anxiety increased between November and December (when new national restrictions were introduced).
- ONS have released experimental statistics from their [Student Covid-19 Insights Survey \(SCIS\) in England](#). A greater proportion of students reported being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their academic experience since the start of the autumn term (37 per cent), compared with 29 per cent reporting the same at the end of November 2020 (20 to 25 November 2020).

The second national lockdown meant that around half of Londoners reported not meeting in person with friends and family they did not live with during November

- In November 2020, around eight in ten (83 per cent) Londoners aged 16+ had text chats with friends or family they did not live with at least once a week. Around seven in ten (70 per cent) had phone/video calls with them at least once a week, but only three in ten (32 per cent) had met face to face at least once a week.
- Around half (48 per cent) of Londoners had not met in person with friends and family they did not live with during November.
- Female Londoners are more likely to have engaged in text chats with friends or family they do not live with daily (43 per cent) compared with male Londoners (34 per cent).
- Londoners not living with a partner are also more likely than those living with a partner to have engaged in text chats with friends or family they do not live with daily (44 per cent and 35 per cent respectively).

How often Londoners met in person with friends and family who do not live with them, had spoken with them on the phone or in a video call, or had engaged in text chats with them in the last 4 weeks



Base: Nov-20 Londoners aged 16+ Face to face: 1,068; Telephone: 1,069; Virtual: 1,069

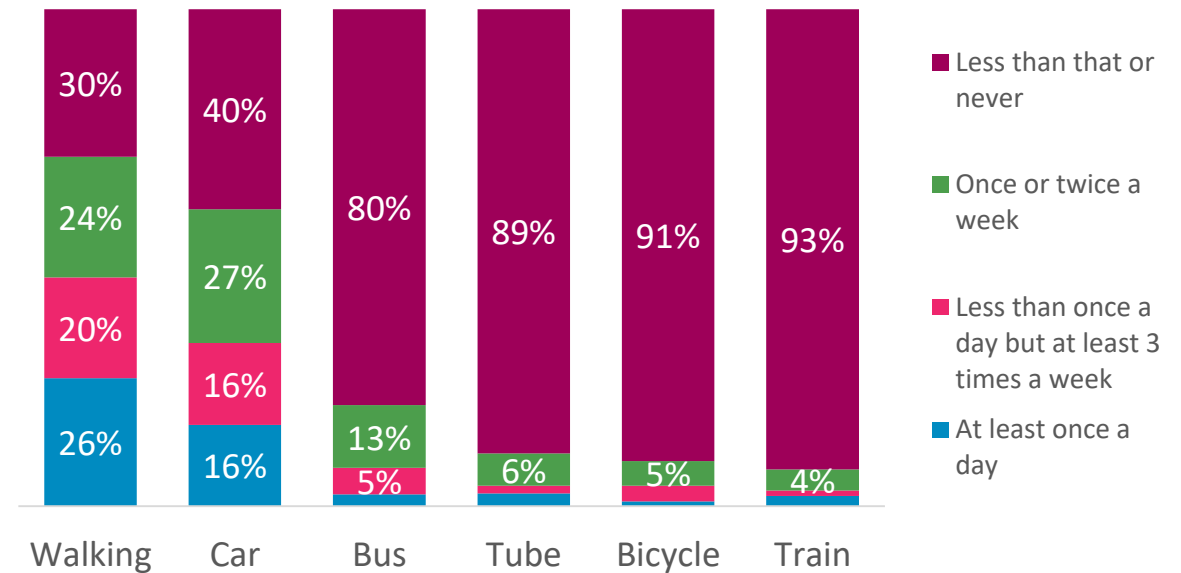
Note: Telephone means on the phone or in a video call (e.g. Facetime, Zoom, Skype). Virtual contact includes using text messaging, Instagram, Facebook, or WhatsApp.

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

In November, most Londoners were getting around by walking and travelling by car, and not using public transport

- In November 2020, the large majority of Londoners aged 16+ did not use public transport (bus, tube or train) to get around, though of the three modes bus travel was the most likely to be used in November (at least once a week by 20 per cent of Londoners).
- BAME Londoners (28 per cent) are more likely to have travelled by bus at least once a week in November compared with White Londoners (17 per cent).
- Walking and car travel were the modes of travel that Londoners most frequently used in November; 70 per cent of Londoners reported walking somewhere at least once a week, while 60 per cent of Londoners reported travelling by car at least once a week.

How frequently Londoners travelled by different modes of transport



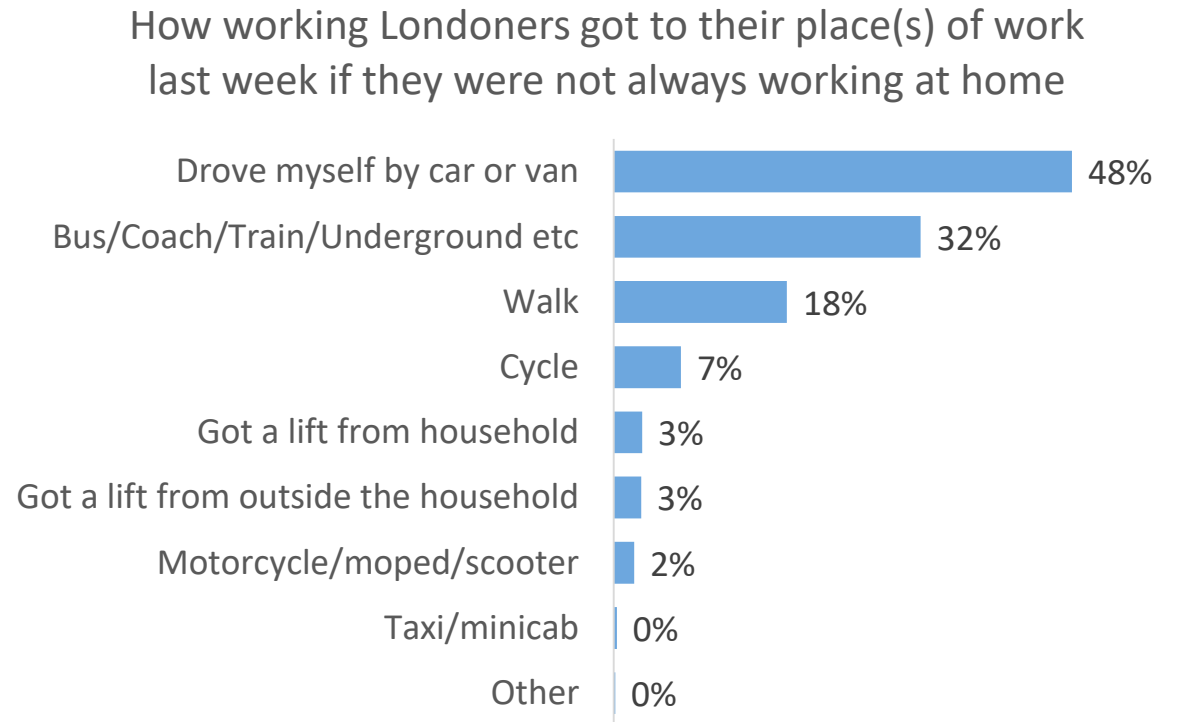
Base: Nov-20 Londoners aged 16+ Walking: 1,052; Car: 1,052; Bus: 1,053; Tube: 1,051 Bicycle: 1,051 Train: 1,052

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

Note: Car travel includes journeys as a driver or passenger; Bicycle excludes times when they have 'gone for a bike ride'. Walking excludes times when they have 'gone for a walk'.

In November, if workers had to go to their place of work, it was BAME workers and workers not born in the UK who were more likely to use public transport

- In November 2020 around half (48 per cent) of workers in London who worked in the last week and did not always work from home got to their place of work by driving themselves. Around a third (32 per cent) took public transport.
- BAME workers (40 per cent) are more likely to have used public transport than White workers (27 per cent) if they had to travel to their place of work.
- London workers not born in the UK (45 per cent) are also more likely to have used public transport to go to work than workers born in the UK (27 per cent).

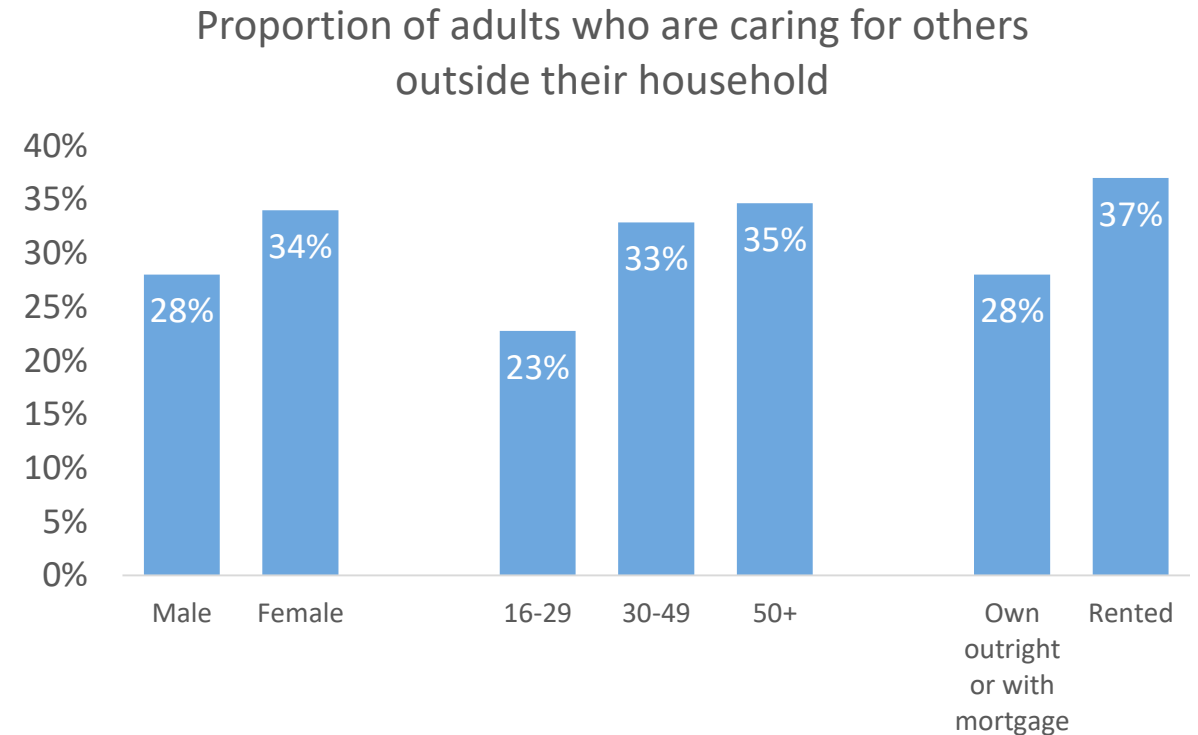


Base: Nov-20 London workers who worked in the last week and did not always work from home: 315

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

In November around a third of Londoners provided informal help to people they did not live with in the last 4 weeks

- In November 2020, around a third (32 per cent) of Londoners aged 16+ had provided help or support to family, friends or neighbours they did not live with in the last 4 weeks.
- Female Londoners are more likely than male Londoners to provide this informal help (34 per cent and 28 per cent respectively).
- Older Londoners aged 50+ are more likely (35 per cent) to have provided this help compared with younger Londoners aged 16-29 (23 per cent).
- Londoners living in rented accommodation are also more likely (37 per cent) to have provided this help compared with younger Londoners who own their own accommodation (28 per cent).



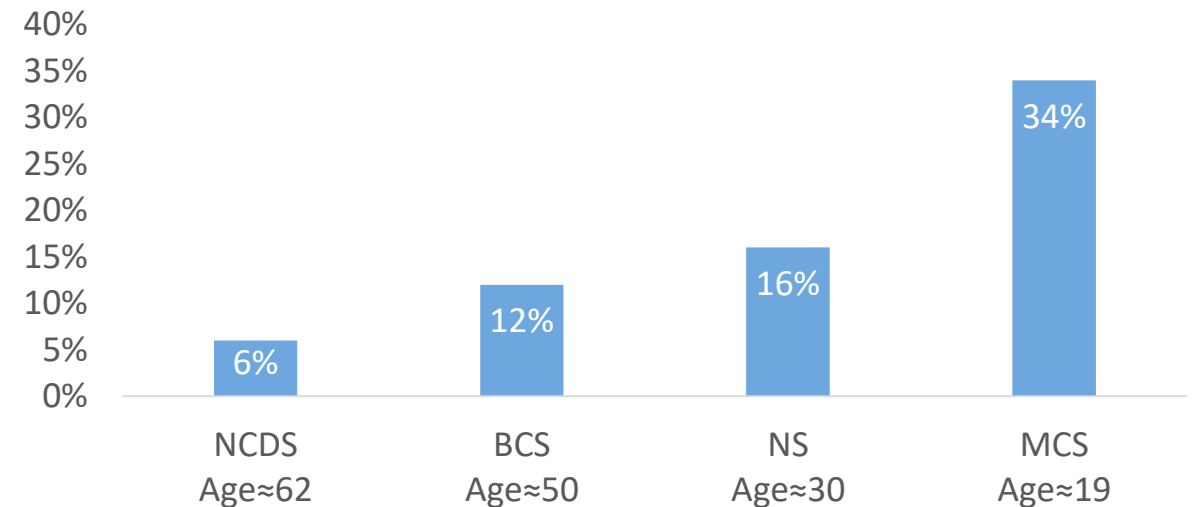
Base: Nov-20 Male: 430; Female: 636; 16-29: 122; 30-49: 327; 50+: 619; Own outright or with mortgage: 768; Rented: 268

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

Younger Londoners were more likely to report getting into more arguments with the people they live between March and May last year, when lockdown restrictions were strictest

- During the period between March and May, when the lockdown restrictions were strictest, younger Londoners were more likely to say that they argued more often with the people they lived with compared to before the Coronavirus outbreak.
- This was reported by around a third (34 per cent) of Londoners in the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), who are currently around age 19.
- This compares with six per cent of Londoners in the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS), who are currently around age 62.

Proportion of adults who argued with the people they live with more often between March and May, compared to before the Coronavirus outbreak



Base: Sept-20 1958 National Child Development Study: 93; 1970 British Cohort Study: 169; Next Steps: 136; Millennium Cohort Study: 122

Source: University College London, UCL Institute of Education, Centre for Longitudinal Studies. (2020). COVID-19 Survey in Five National Longitudinal Cohort Studies: Millennium Cohort Study, Next Steps, 1970 British Cohort Study and 1958 National Child Development Study, 2020. [data collection]. 2nd Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 8658, <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8658-2>

In September the opinions of 18-20 year old students who had switched to home learning were divided on whether they had been able to continue their studies effectively whilst being at home, with only around a third agreeing

- Millennium Cohort Study members were born in 2000-02, so a large proportion are still in education (school, college or university).
- Of those London cohort members who were now studying at home, they were asked to agree/disagree with the following statements where 0 means 'completely disagree' and 10 means 'completely agree'. The table below compares their ratings given in the first survey in May and the second survey in September.

	Date	Disagree (0-3)	Neither (4-6)	Agree (7-10)
I am satisfied with the learning resources provided by my learning establishment	May 2020	10%	47%	42%
	Sept 2020	15%	53%	32%
I have been able to continue my studies effectively whilst being at home	May 2020	28%	48%	23%
	Sept 2020	22%	43%	35%

- Satisfaction with the learning resources provided has decreased from May to September.
- A greater proportion of cohort members believe they are able to continue their studies effectively whilst at home in September compared with May.

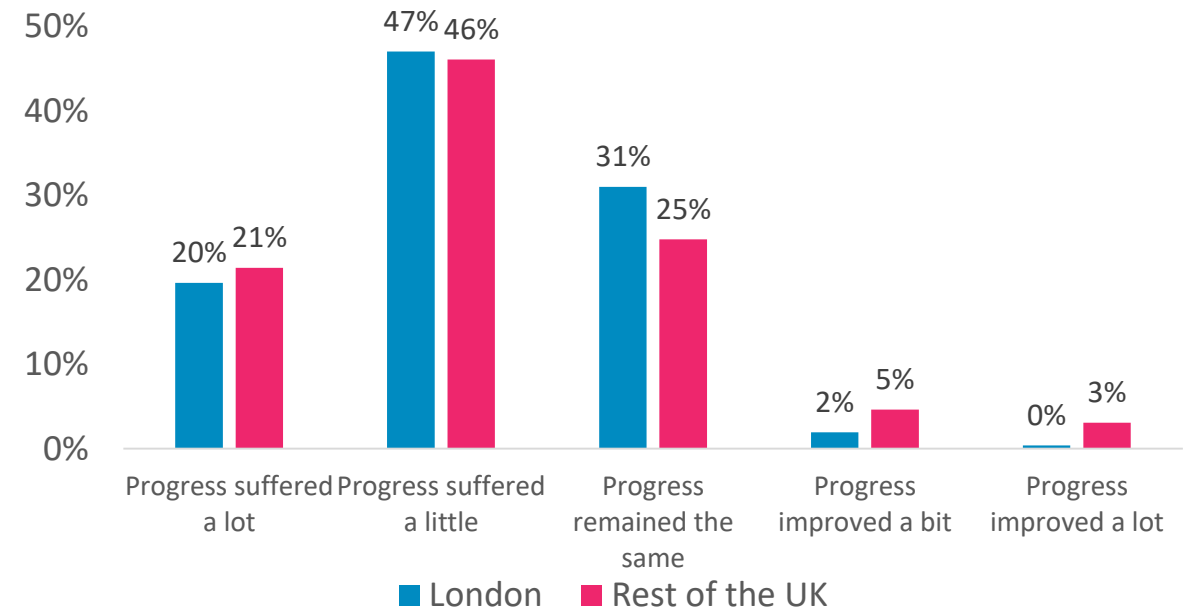
Base: Millennium Cohort Study May 2020: 128; Sept 2020: 111

Source: University College London, UCL Institute of Education, Centre for Longitudinal Studies. (2020). COVID-19 Survey in Five National Longitudinal Cohort Studies: Millennium Cohort Study, Next Steps, 1970 British Cohort Study and 1958 National Child Development Study, 2020. [data collection]. 2nd Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 8658, <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8658-2>

Around two thirds of London parents felt their child's academic progress had suffered to some extent since March

- In November, parents were asked about how their child's academic progress had been affected since the start of lockdown and the closure of schools in March.
- 67 per cent of parents in London and across the UK said their child's progress had suffered to some extent (a lot or a little).
- 31 per cent of London parents felt their child's academic progress remained the same as it would have done if schools remained open, similar to the UK overall (25 per cent).
- Only two per cent of London parents reported their child's academic progress had improved since lockdown began, less than the rest of the UK where eight per cent of parents reported an improvement.

London parent's views of the effect of lockdown on their child's academic progress since March 2020

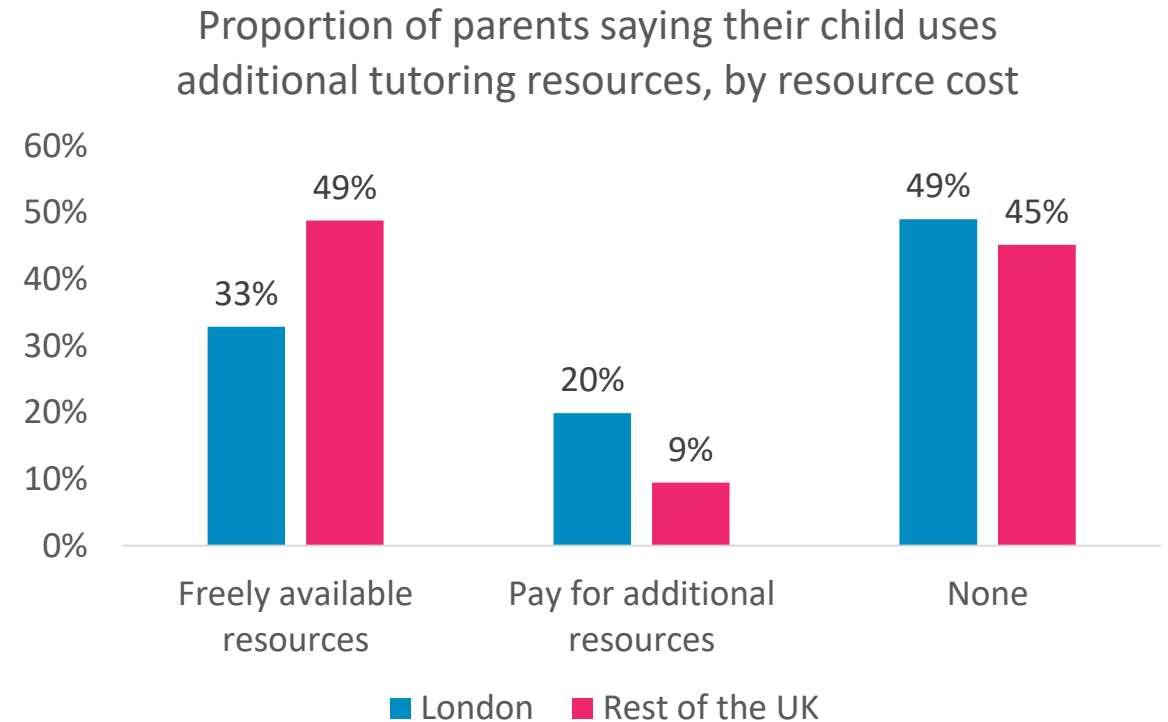


Base: Nov-20 Parents aged 16+ Rest of the UK: 2,648; London: 306

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

Children living outside of London are more likely to make use of free tutoring resources than those living in the capital

- In November 2020, around one in three (33 per cent) London parents mentioned their child uses free resources for learning outside of school, compared to around half (49 per cent) of parents across the rest of the UK.
- However, paying for tutoring resources was more likely in London, with around one in five (20 per cent) London parents saying their child used paid-for resources, compared to around one in ten (9 per cent) in the rest of the UK.



Base: Nov-20 Parents aged 16+ Rest of the UK: 2,674; London: 309

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

6. Contact details

If you would like to know more about any of the findings or datasets featured, or would like to suggest a topic for inclusion in a future briefing, please email SocialEvidence@London.gov.uk

ANNEX – Cohort studies

- The Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) and the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing (LHA) carried out an online survey of the participants of five national longitudinal cohort studies in May 2020. A second survey was carried out in September 2020.
- The aim of the surveys was to collect insights into the lives of study participants during the lockdown.
- These studies have been following large nationally representative groups of people since birth, and their ages currently range from 19 through to 74. The studies included are:
 1. Millennium Cohort Study (born 2000-02) (MCS),
 2. Next Steps (born 1989-90) (NS),
 3. 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS),
 4. 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS), and
 5. MRC National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD, 1946 British birth cohort)
- In this briefing we pick out some of the key findings relating to cohort members' health behaviours and education from these surveys. Note: the NSHD study was not analysed as this data is held under a different licence which has different access conditions, so was not obtained.