

The experiences of older people during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Outline

- ELSA response to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - ELSA COVID-19 substudy
 - National core study (NCS)
- Key findings

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Background



23 March 2020 – PM announces lockdown in UK

- Closure of educational institutions, community facilities, and non-essential shops and services
- Public, and particularly older people, to “stay at home” and limit physical interactions with others
- 3.7m clinically vulnerable patients (74% aged 50+) were required to “shield”

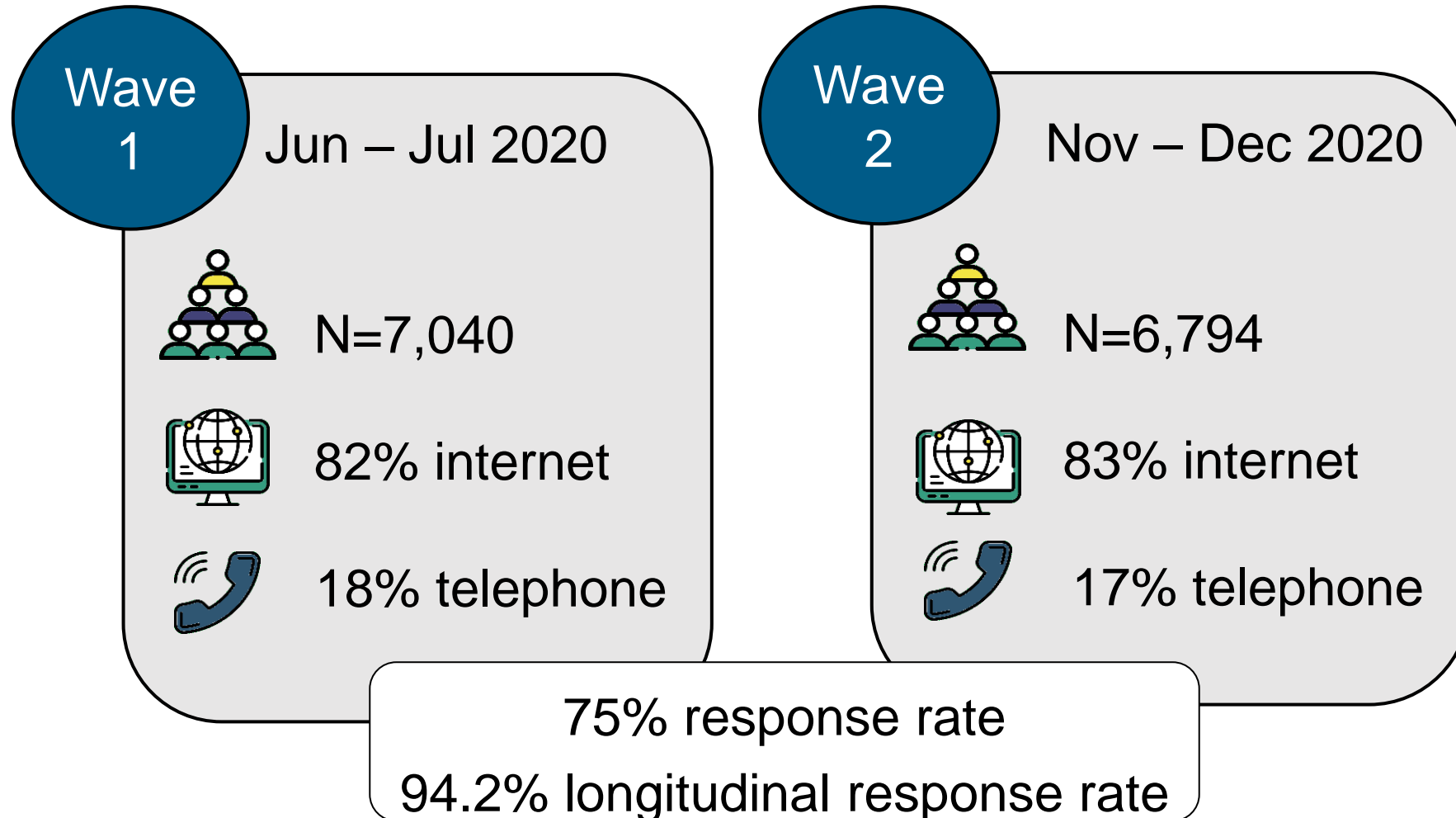
ELSA COVID-19 substudy

Developed to understand the experience of the pandemic among older people and whether and how this affected older people's health, finances, and social lives.



Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council via the UK Research and Innovation COVID-19 Rapid Response call

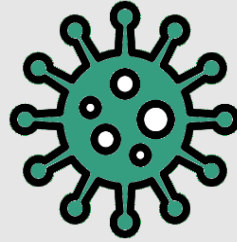
Data collection and participants



Measures



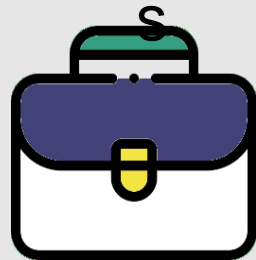
Household
characteristic



Covid-19



Health & health
behaviours



Employment



Financial
situation



Social participation
& connectivity

National Core Studies (NCS)



The National Core Studies (NCS) were established by Sir Vallance, UK Chief Scientific Adviser, in Oct 20 as part of the UK's response to the pandemic.

One of the six NCS created - **COVID-19 Longitudinal Health and Wellbeing NCS** - focussed on understanding the health, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by uniting established population cohorts and anonymised electronic health records to inform policy.



Longitudinal Studies



Collaborative Team



LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



BRADFORD INSTITUTE
FOR HEALTH RESEARCH
| MAKING RESEARCH REAL



KING'S
College
LONDON



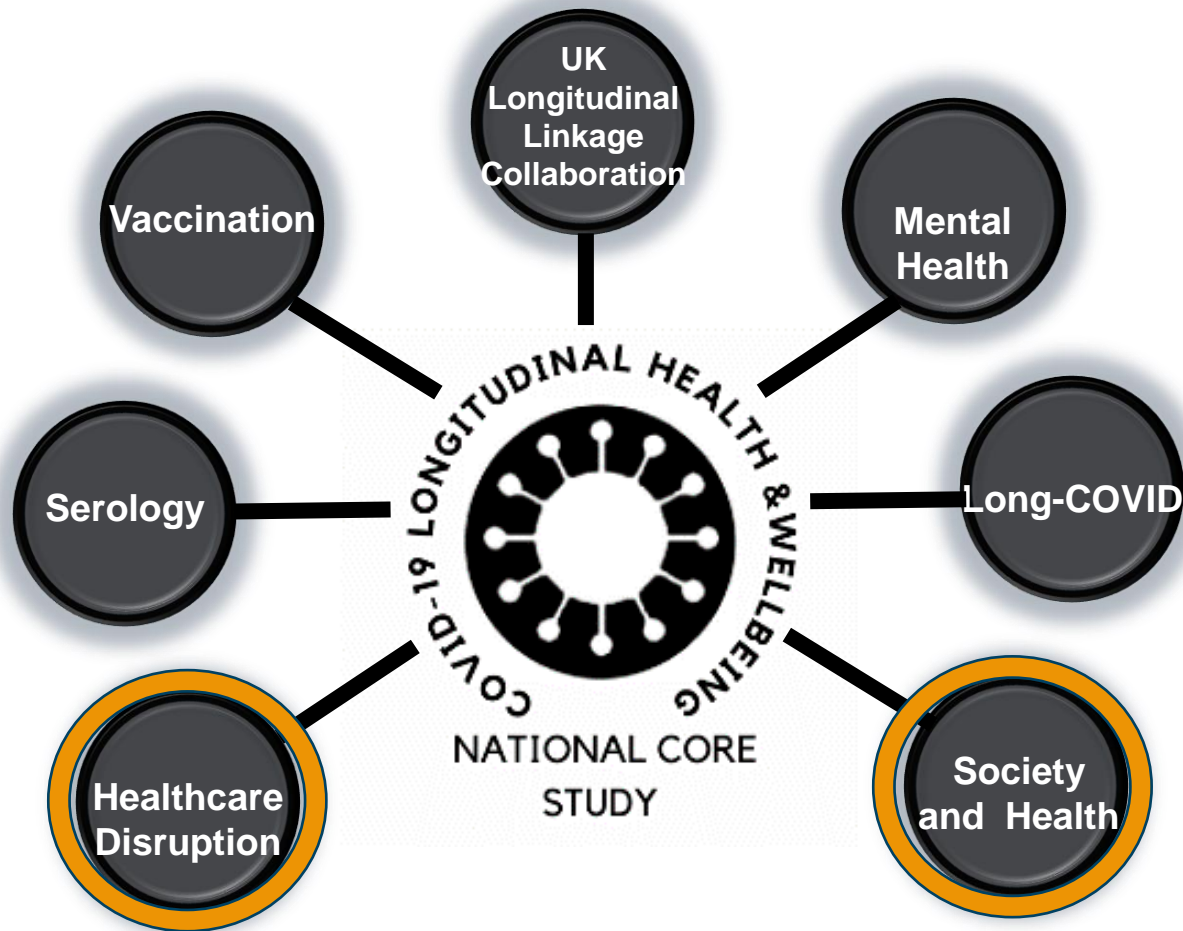
NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY CARE
HEALTH SCIENCES
Medical Sciences Division



NICE National Institute for
Health and Care Excellence



Research Areas



The NIHR-UKRI funded **CONVALESCENCE** study to help define long-COVID, its determinants, and health, social and economic consequences to improve diagnosis, management, and support.

COVID-19 National Core Study

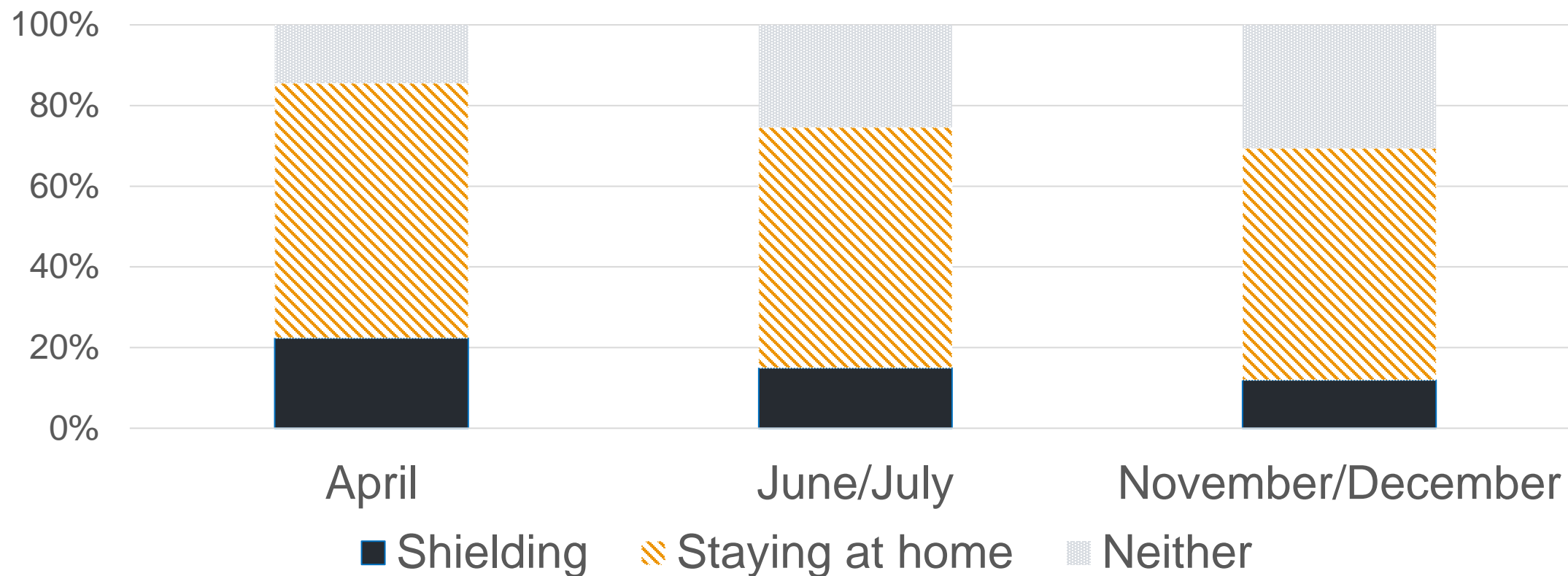


Coronavirus post-acute long-term effects: constructing an evidence base

Outline

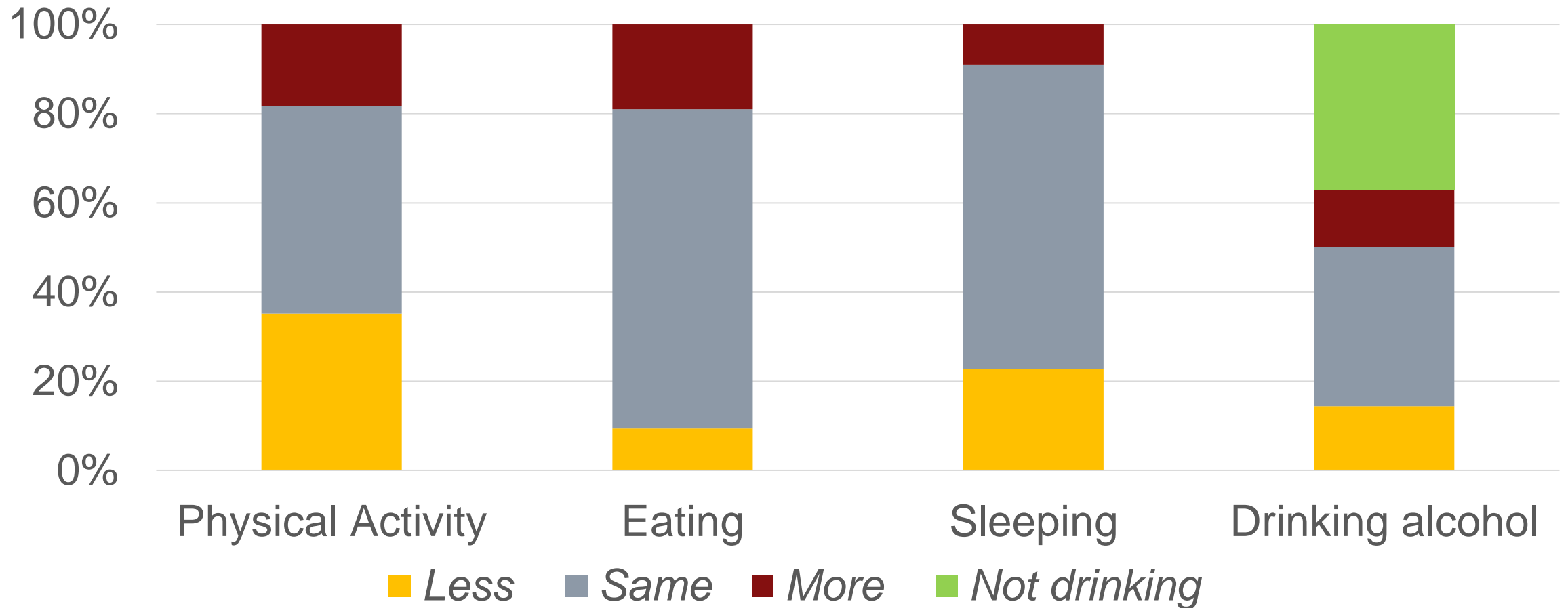
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- **Key findings**

Shielding in 2020



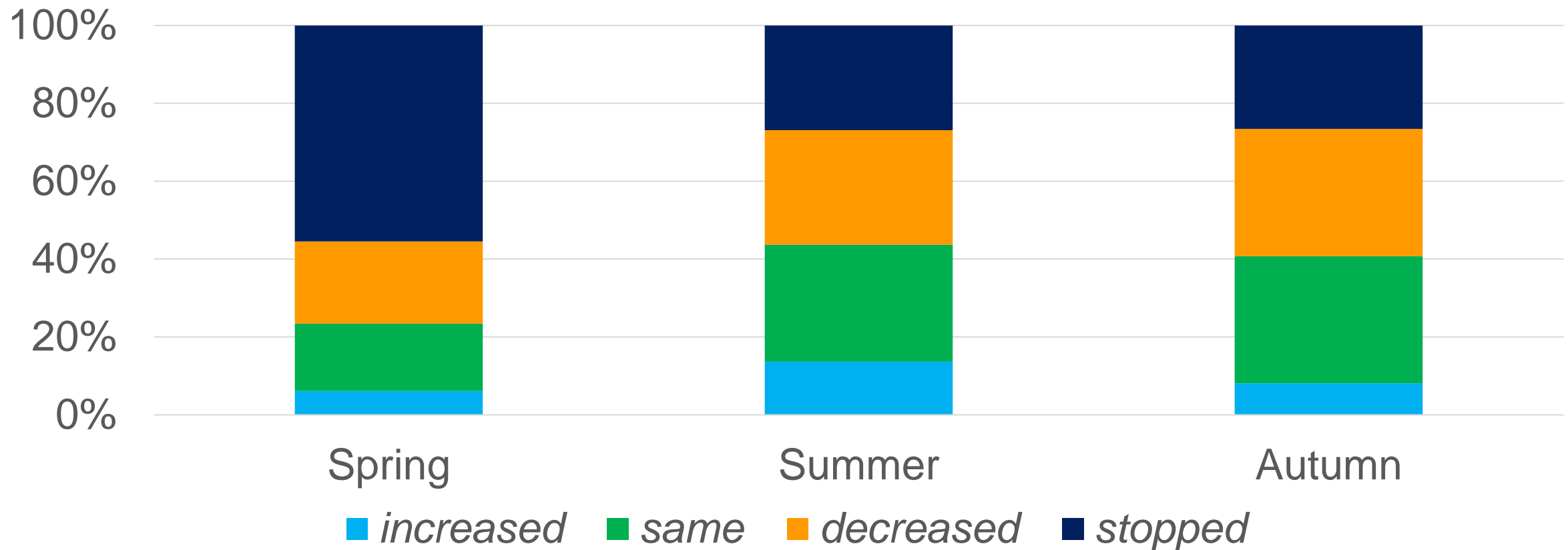
About 28% of respondents reported that they shielded at least once, with 5% shielding throughout

Changes in health behaviours - June/July 2020

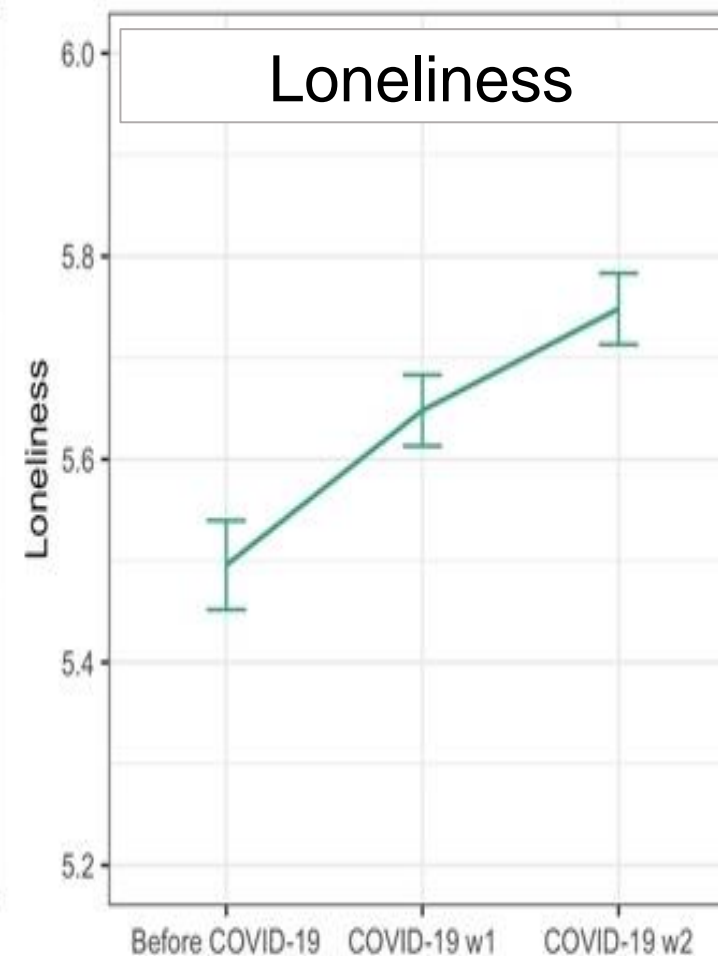
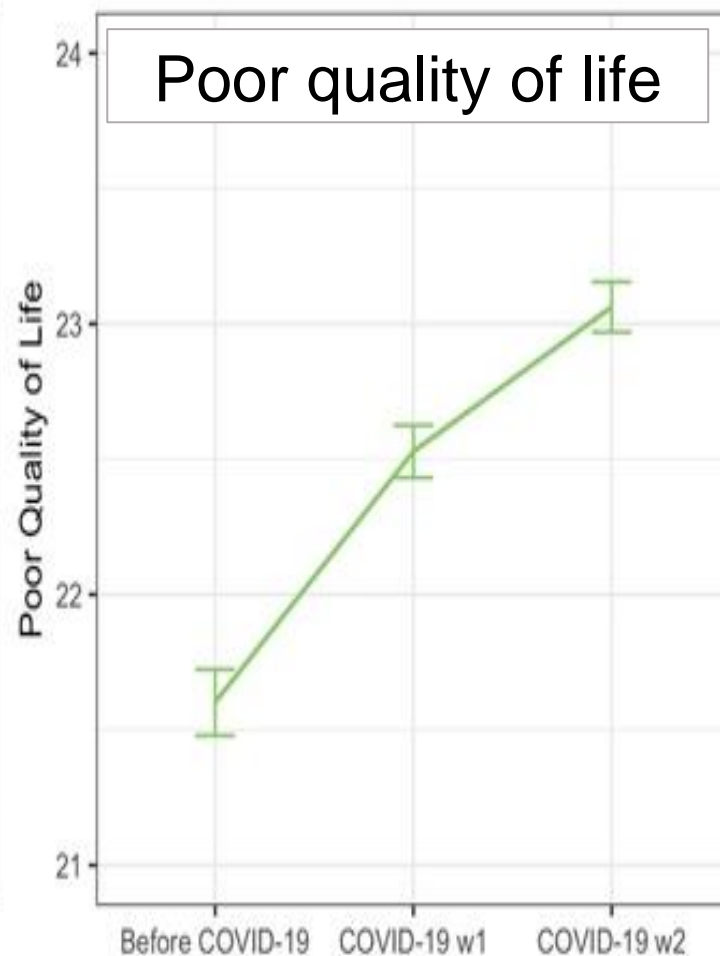
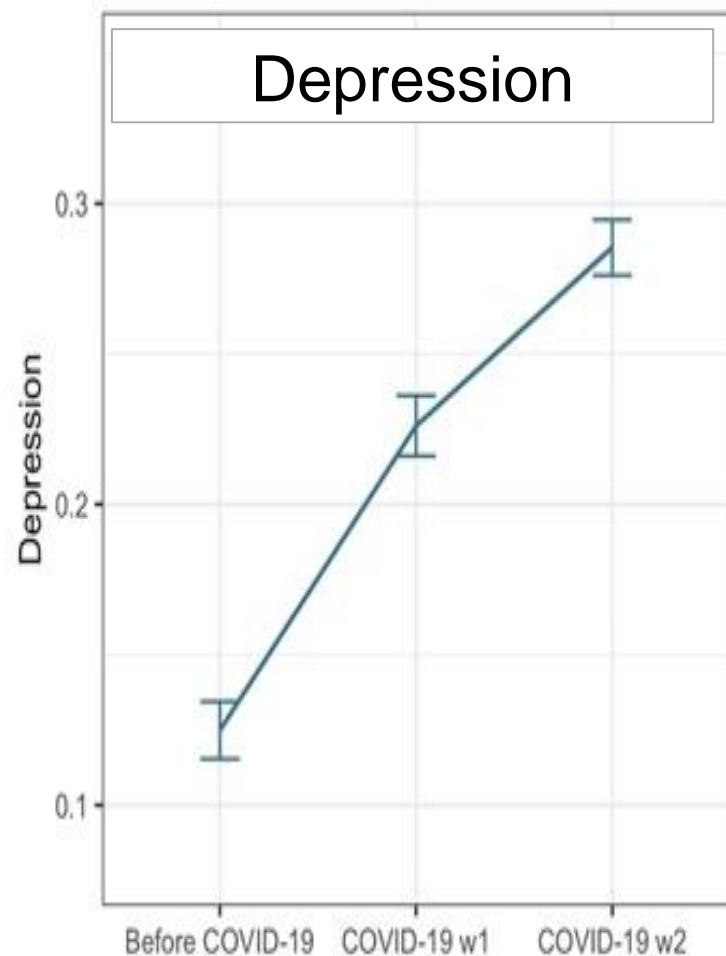


Changes in grandchild care provision in 2020

In Feb 2020, ~50% of grandparents provided grandchild care



Trends in mental health and wellbeing



Differential impact

Poorer mental health and well-being

- Particularly among those with disabilities; multimorbidities; shielding; who experienced changes in health behaviours, provision of informal care, and paid work
- Differences by socioeconomic groups, gender, and living arrangements (women, non-partnered, and low socioeconomic groups experienced greatest deterioration over time)

NCS Overall strategy

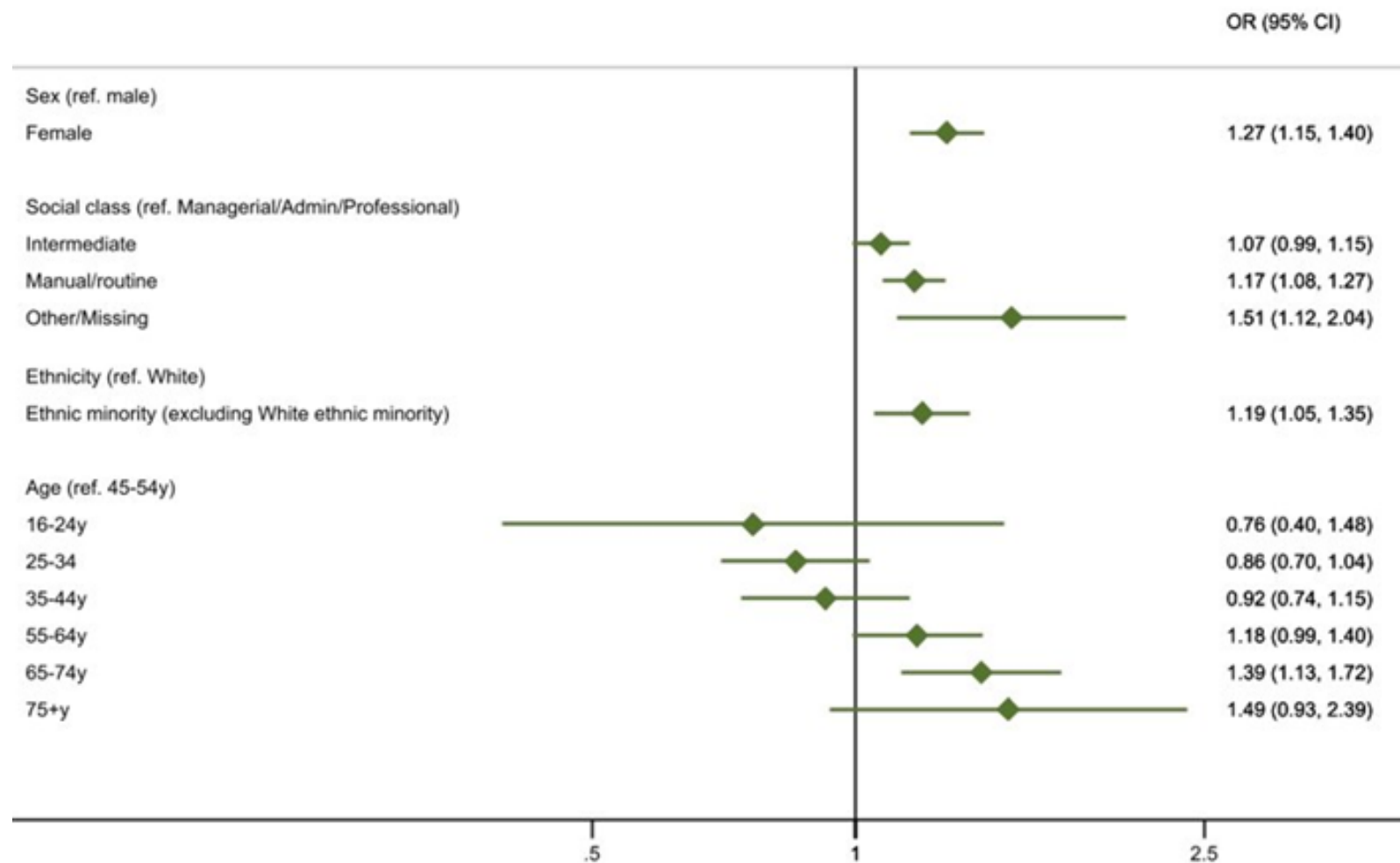
Data: Up to 12 of the UK's pop-based longitudinal studies (n= 68,912)

Method: Statistical analyses within studies then combined with RE meta-analysis. Stratified by age groups and gender

Over 20 publications (and counting)...

1. *Inequalities in healthcare disruptions*
2. *Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and mental & social wellbeing*

Inequalities in healthcare disruptions



Times more likely to experience

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS



Stable employed



Furloughed



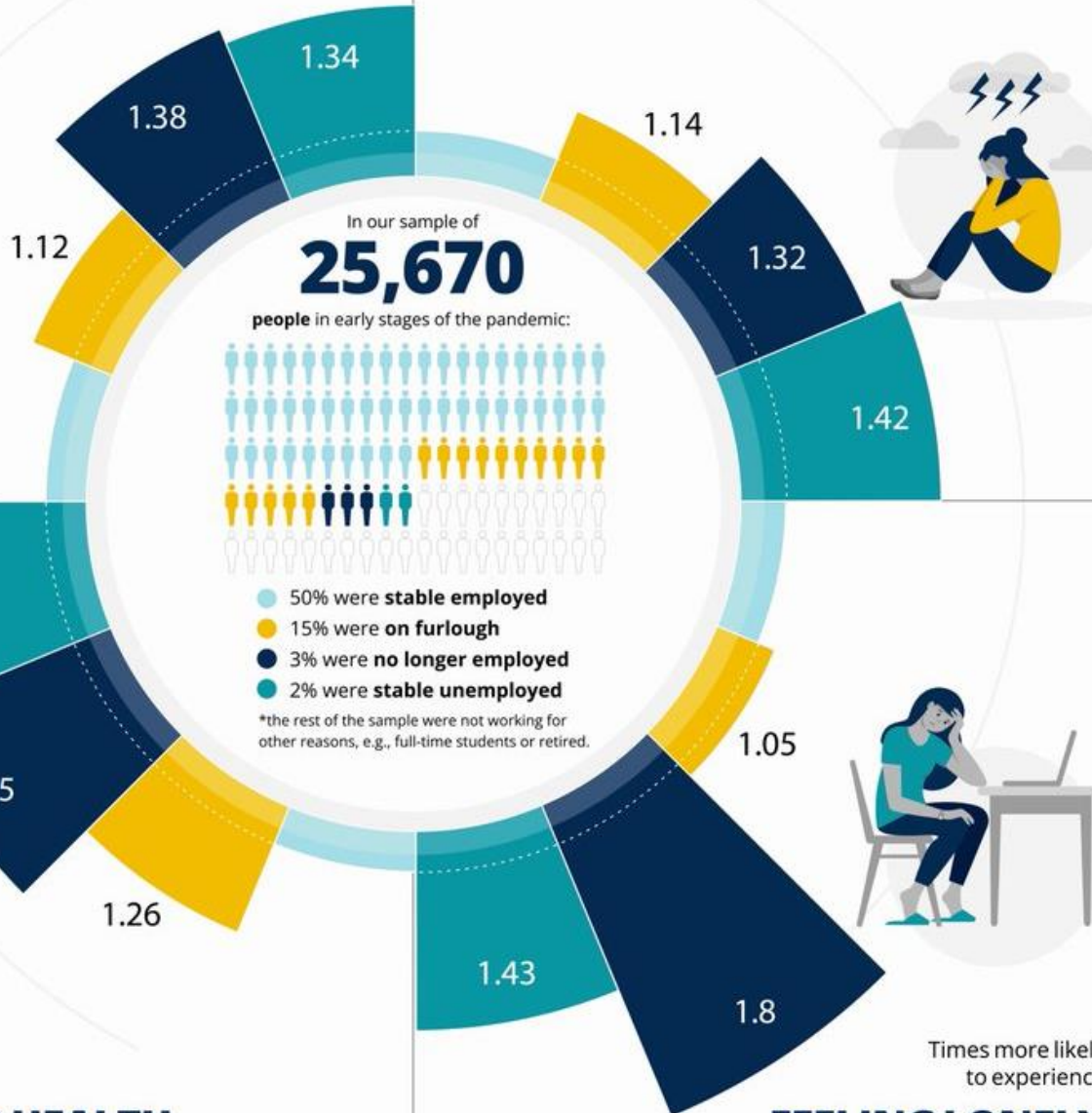
No longer employed



Stable unemployed

Times more likely to experience

LOW LIFE SATISFACTION



Furlough and mental and social wellbeing

Furlough was associated with better mental health outcomes compared to becoming unemployed

➤ *Not as good as employment*

Times more likely to experience

POOR OR FAIR HEALTH



Times more likely to experience

FEELING LONELY

Wels J, et al. Mental and social wellbeing and the UK coronavirus job retention scheme: Evidence from nine longitudinal studies. Soc Sci Med. 2022 DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2022

Thank you for your attention



@COVID19_LHW
@ELSA_Study
@di_gessa

