



## Webinar Series on COVID-19 & Inequality

# Socio-economic Inequalities in Mental Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic

with Andrew Steptoe, University College London

Tuesday 29 June 2021  
4:00pm (CET)  
Virtual event

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated severe challenges to mental health related both to concerns about the infection itself, and to the impact of containment measures (such as stay at home orders) imposed in many countries. At the same time, mental health services have been seriously curtailed, leaving many people vulnerable. This presentation described the effects of the pandemic on the mental health of the general population and high risk groups, with particular reference to socioeconomic inequalities. It drew on findings from research using health registries, longitudinal studies instituted during the pandemic, and work on existing cohort studies.

Andrew Steptoe is Professor of Psychology and Epidemiology at University College London. He is PI of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing in which special waves of data collection were carried out early and later in the pandemic, and is Co-PI of the COVID Social Study that has assessed the trajectory of mental health throughout the past year.

For more information on these studies, see <https://www.elsa-project.ac.uk/covid-19> and <https://www.covidsocialstudy.org/>.

This webinar was organised as part of a series of webinars that aim to explore the evidence base and carve a comprehensive overview of the COVID-inequality nexus in a number of areas including: income, spatial inequality, ethnicity and migration, labour, gender, child and education, mental health, environment and more.

The webinar was open to academics, statisticians, policy professionals and other experts interested or working on these topics.

### Agenda

4:00pm Welcome by Carrie Exton, OECD WISE Centre

4:05pm [Presentation by Andrew Steptoe](#), University College London

4:40pm Discussion by Christopher Prinz, OECD Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Directorate

4:50pm Floor open for discussion

5:10pm Final wrap-up

5:15pm End of meeting



Webinar series organised by the OECD Centre for Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE), in collaboration with the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (ELS)