



UCL INSIGHTS: RESEARCH BRIEFING

Introduction

The research briefing explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the UK population, focusing on changes in life expectancy, birth rates, and health inequalities. It highlights the significant increase in life expectancy since 1980 and the decline in birth rates, which are contributing to a demographic shift towards an older population. The briefing also discusses the impact of the pandemic on health inequalities, with those in lower socioeconomic groups experiencing higher mortality rates and longer recovery times.

Health

Life expectancy has increased significantly since 1980, with a 10-year increase in life expectancy at birth for men and a 12-year increase for women. This is due to a combination of factors, including improvements in healthcare, lifestyle changes, and a decline in smoking. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on life expectancy, with a sharp decline in life expectancy at birth for both men and women in 2020. This decline is expected to be temporary, but it highlights the impact of the pandemic on public health.

Population birth-rates are declining, with a 30% decrease since 1980. This is due to a combination of factors, including a decline in fertility rates, a delay in marriage, and a decline in the number of children per woman. This decline in birth rates is contributing to a demographic shift towards an older population, which has implications for the economy and the welfare state.

Heart disease has receded dramatically, with a 50% decline in mortality rates since 1980. This is due to a combination of factors, including improvements in medical treatments, lifestyle changes, and a decline in smoking. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on heart disease, with a sharp increase in mortality rates in 2020. This increase is expected to be temporary, but it highlights the impact of the pandemic on cardiovascular health.

Briefing on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the UK population, focusing on changes in life expectancy, birth rates, and health inequalities.

Health

activities of daily living

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