

Six healthy children died of Covid in a year, but



5+ Vehicles? This GPS Tracker is all the rag...

Ad Expert Market Vehic...



Are You Overpaying For Your Life...

Ad This Is Money

Like 69 Comments 36

Covid killed just six healthy children during the pandemic, while lockdowns have fuelled a timebomb of health disorders among the young, new data showed.



© Andy Rain/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock Ambulances at London hospital during Covid pandemic - Andy Rain/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock

The research examining more than 3,000 deaths of under-18s in England in the year since the first lockdown found a “tiny” proportion were linked to Covid.

Just 25 deaths were caused by the virus, and only six of those involved children without underlying conditions.

The same year saw more than 1,100 heart deaths among children, along with almost 1,200 fatalities linked to neurological conditions and more than 450 deaths among under-18s with respiratory conditions, according to research published in the journal Nature Medicine.



Explore every global bond possibility
• Franklin Templeton

what's this?

17 per cent fall in diagnoses of childhood cancers in the months following the first lockdown.

Researchers found that those diagnosed during the pandemic were twice as likely to be admitted to intensive care before diagnosis, suggesting that the disease was more advanced, when survival chances are worse.

In addition, “alarming” NHS statistics showed that the number of children waiting for treatment for eating disorders has doubled in the past year. The official figures showed more than 2,000 children and

young people waiting for treatment in September 2021, up from 860 in a year.

Experts said that the slew of data painted a devastating picture of the long-term harm inflicted on children and the problems being stored up for the future.

Dr Camilla Kingdon, the president of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, said that the study showed “very, very tiny numbers” of children dying from Covid.

Meanwhile, successive lockdowns and social distancing caused far greater consequences “through lost education, mental health, and other collateral damage”, she said, with much of the impact yet to be seen.

“There was a view that kids weren’t affected by Covid. But what we would constantly try to point out – and which some of this data shows – is actually, these are wider issues that are no less detrimental to children and may have a more long lasting impact actually, than the virus itself,” she said.

Children paid a ‘very, very heavy price’ for pandemic

69

Dr Kingdon said children had paid “a very, very heavy price” for the pandemic. And she said the impact was seen in many aspects of their health.

She warned: “You can also see it in community child health services, autism assessments, therapy referrals.

“We've got a significant backlog to remedy as we move beyond the pandemic. Aspects of child health services have taken a hit because of the pandemic and there's going to be a long process to catch that up.”

Prof Russell Viner, a professor in adolescent health at University College London and an author of the paper on Covid cases, said: “When you look at this data together, it tells us that the indirect effects of the pandemic on children are likely to be significantly greater than the direct effects.”

Likening the actions taken in lockdown to “wrapping our children in cotton wool”, he warned that the steps taken in an effort to protect them now risked “suffocating their mental health”.

Dip in all childhood mortalities during pandemic

Official data show a dip in all childhood mortalities during the pandemic, with most flu and other respiratory infections wiped out by social distancing measures.

bugs leaving immune systems more vulnerable.

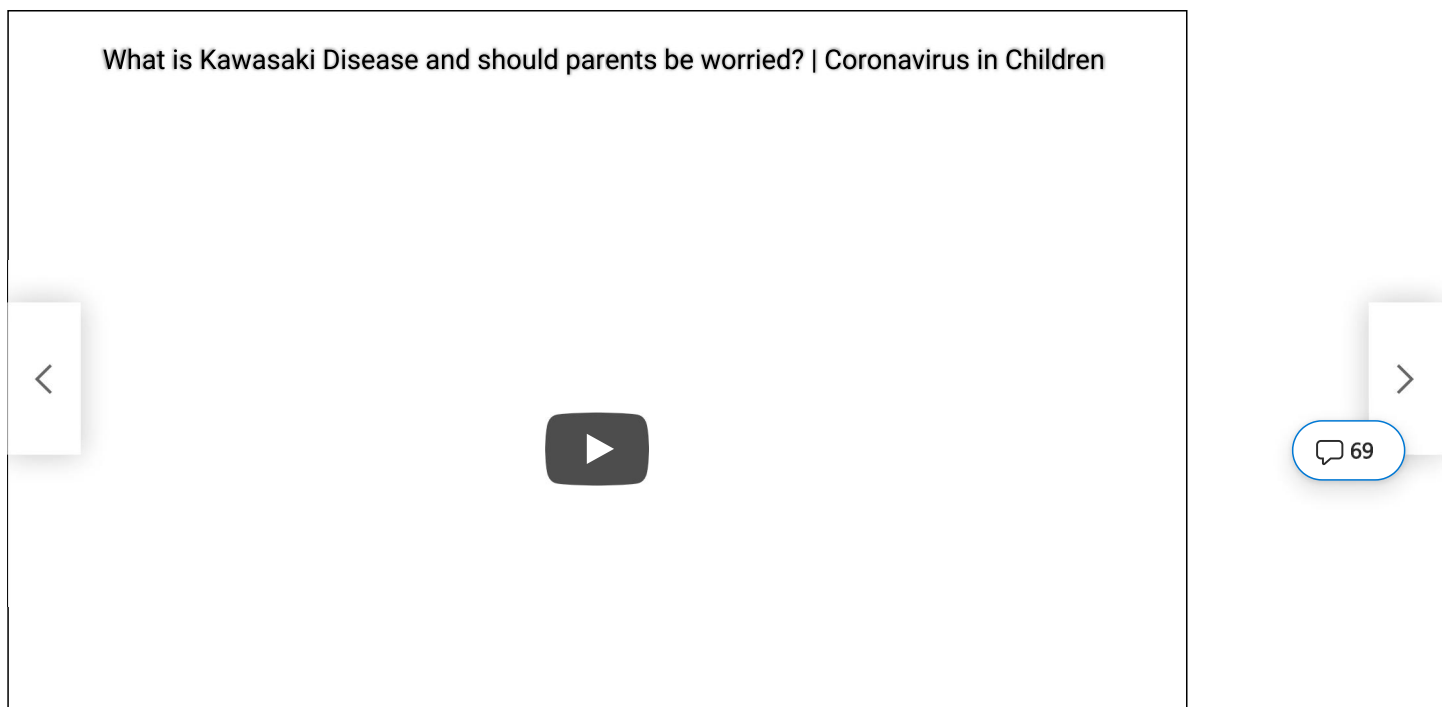
“The concern is that what we are doing is storing up problems for the future,” Prof Viner said.

The study of childhood cancers by the University of Oxford examined diagnoses among children and young people up to the age of 25, comparing the period from February 2020 to August 2020 with the same period in previous years.

Overall, the numbers diagnosed with brain tumours, leukaemia, lymphoma, sarcoma and renal tumour fell by almost a fifth.

The study also suggests cases were detected far later than would normally be the case, with cases diagnosed during the pandemic twice as likely to be detected after admission to intensive care.

On Thursday, NHS data showed 5.8 million people on waiting lists for treatment, and the worst accident and emergency performance on record.



Video player from: YouTube ([Privacy Policy](#), [Terms](#))

The monthly statistics showed that the number of children waiting for treatment for eating disorders has more than doubled in a year.

In total, there were 2,083 children and young people waiting for routine or urgent eating disorder treatment at the end of September this year, up from 860 during the same period last year. Experts said the figures were “alarming”.

The study of childhood deaths was carried out by experts from NHS England, Public Health England and several universities and hospitals, who analysed mortality figures between March 2020 and February 2021.

They found just six healthy children with no underlying health conditions died as a direct result of catching Covid, including two who developed a Kawasaki-like inflammatory condition called Pims-TS.

90 deaths from flu or pneumonia among children in 2019 in England.

The study showed that more than 3,100 children died in the year following the first lockdown, but only 61 were infected with Covid.

Of those, 25 died as a result of the virus, including 19 who suffered from a chronic health condition, most of which were "life-limiting".

Just six deaths involved children without underlying health problems.

Researchers said that during the study period, almost half a million under-18s contracted Covid, giving an infection fatality rate of five per 100,000 people.

That means that if a child tests positive for the virus, they have a 99.995 per cent chance of surviving. With more than 12 million under-18s in England, the researchers said Covid kills two children per million.

While the research was comprehensive and spanned England, it looked only at a time period where the alpha and original strains of the virus were present as the delta variant had yet to take off in the UK.

Researchers said they expected the findings would broadly hold, when they are updated, with children at extremely low risk of death from the virus.

Meanwhile, Hertfordshire County Council has told secondary school children to wear face masks all the time while they are at school, including during lessons. Pupils have been told to remove their masks only while eating, drinking or doing strenuous activity such as sport.

[<](#) Sign up to the Front Page newsletter for free: Your essential guide to the day's agenda from The Telegraph - direct to your inbox seven days a week. [>](#)

69

TOPICS FOR YOU



How Much Should Solar Panels Cost In 2021?

Ad Eco Experts



You'll Never Use an Ordinary Backpack Again

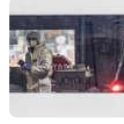
Ad Nordace

MORE FROM THE TELEGRAPH

US Olympian Sunisa Lee says she was pepper-sprayed in racist attack



Austria: Lockdown for 'dithering' unvaccinated is inevitable, says chancellor



Prince Charles's closest aide Michael Fawcett resigns after 40 years...



[VISIT SITE >](#)

[▶ AdChoices](#)



