Health Profile for Lambeth 2022

Section 9 – COVID-19

Contents

Findings

December 2021 saw highest number of cases	**April 2020 had highest number of deaths from COVID-19**	**Excess mortality rate in Lambeth was 1.14**	**66.6% of the 12+ population have had a first dose**
On 15 December 2021, there were 2,090 new cases – 3 times the amount seen in any other waves	First two waves during April 2020 and January 2021 saw the highest deaths per day	Over the whole pandemic period – this is the median rate out of the London boroughs	The majority of these took place within the first half of 2021, and older age groups have higher uptake
Females, 25-49 year olds and Asian and Other ethnic groups had highest case rates	**Death rate from COVID-19 for Black and Asian ethnicities double that of White group**	**Excess mortality higher in more deprived areas of London**	**Younger people are less likely to have had a COVID vaccine than older**
Cumulative case rates used London wide	Cumulative case rates used London wide	For period covering the pandemic London wide	Cumulative numbers used London wide

9.1 Introduction

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus. It was first discovered in Wuhan, China at the end of 2019 and quickly spread throughout the world.

The majority of people who are infected with COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention. This can happen to anyone at any age but certain populations, such as older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop a serious illness from the virus.

This section examines the direct impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on health in Lambeth and tries to unpick the inequalities. The first detected case of COVID-19 in Lambeth was on the 24th February 2020 and the first death within 28 days of a positive COVID-19 test was on the 16th March 2020. Since then, there have been 114,894 cases of COVID-19 in Lambeth and 642 deaths within 28 days of a positive test as of the 1st July 2022.

As of the 6th July 2022, a total of 243,173 first dose vaccinations have been given in Lambeth, and 228,349 second dose vaccinations. However, Lambeth remains one of the boroughs with a lower vaccination rate in the 12+ population.

The pandemic will have affected health outcomes both directly (by people becoming ill after being infected with the virus) and indirectly. Some examples of the indirect effects of COVID-19 are people having more limited access to healthcare as well as changes in people dietary and exercise habits.

The areas covered in this section are:

- COVID-19 cases
- Deaths involving COVID-19
- Excess mortality
- COVID-19 vaccinations

9.2 COVID-19 cases

As of the 1st July 2022, there have been a total of 114,894 cases in Lambeth, 94% of which were first episodes (meaning the first recorded incident of the person having COVID-19)[1].
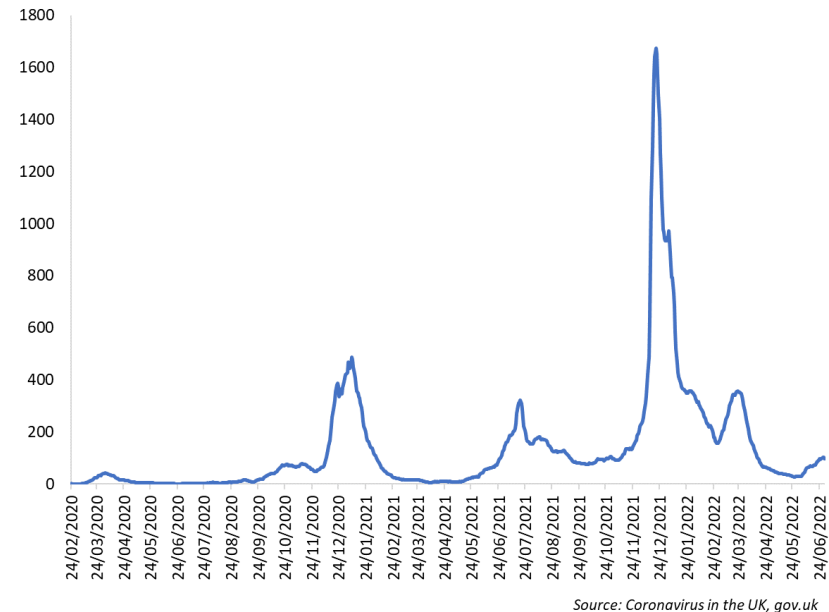
Lambeth experienced 3 main waves of COVID-19 between February 2020 and July 2022. The highest number of cases seen on one day was on 15 December 2021 at 2,090 cases, **figure 9.1**. This is over 3 times the amount seen in any other waves of COVID-19 within Lambeth. The peak in England for that wave came a little after Lambeth's peak – it was seen on the 5 January 2022. This was a general pattern with COVID-19, with Lambeth seeing an increase in cases before it was reflected overall in England.

When looking at case numbers over time, it is important to note that case numbers in the first wave were significantly underestimated by limited testing availability and since April 2022, testing is no longer free for the majority of the public so numbers since will be underestimated by lack of testing.

Lambeth has the 5th highest cumulative case rate out of the 32 London boroughs at 35,702.1 per 100,000 as of the 1 July 2022[2].

In London, cumulative case rates were higher for females than males, highest in ages 25-49, and in Asian and 'Other' ethnic groups[3]. Contrary to national trends, the two least deprived deciles as well as the two most deprived deciles all had rates higher than the London average.

Figure 9.1: 7-day average of number of cases by specimen date in Lambeth

Source: Coronavirus in the UK, gov.uk

9.3 COVID-19 deaths

By the end of June 2022, there have been 642 deaths in Lambeth within 28 days of positive test, and 704 deaths with COVID-19 on the death certificate[1]. The reason that deaths with COVID-19 on the death certificate is more than the number of deaths occurring within 28 days of a positive test as not all of those who died with COVID-19 will have received a positive test, particularly in the first wave of the pandemic when testing was limited, and a small proportion of deaths due to COVID-19 occurred more than 28 days after a positive test.
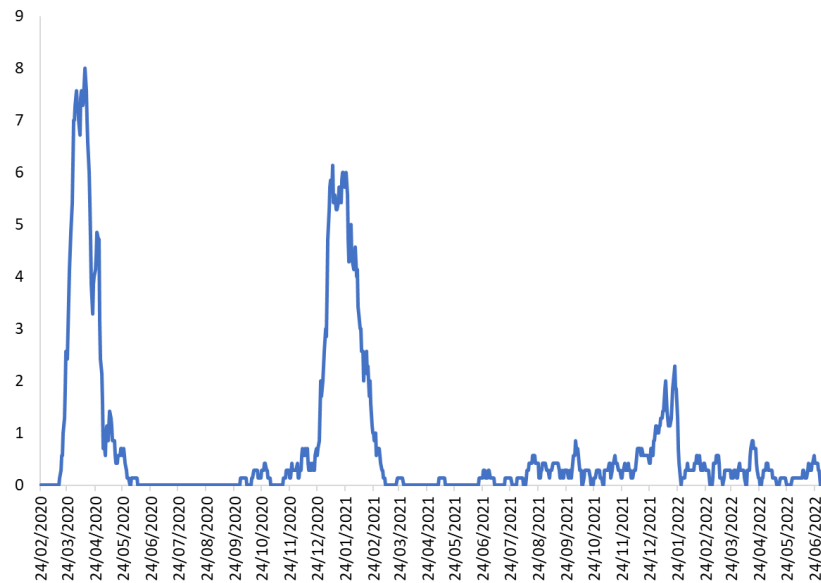
The majority of deaths took place in first two waves of COVID-19 (during April 2020 and January 2021), **figure 9.2**, with slightly higher numbers seen in the first wave but the second wave went on for a longer period. In contrast, while the most recent wave starting in December 2021 saw the highest number of cases by far, the number of deaths has remained relatively low during this period.

Overall, in England, by the end of May 2021, the cumulative COVID-19 mortality rates in Black and Asian groups were more than double the rate in the White group[4]. Looking closer into the waves of COVID-19, the mortality rate in April 2020 was highest among the Black group while in October and November 2020 death rates were highest in the Pakistani ethnic group. Further, in January 2021, the highest mortality rate was among the Asian group, in particular the Bangladeshi group that is predominantly resident in London[5].

Lambeth's overall mortality rate for deaths involving COVID-19 is 194.9 per 100,000, which is higher than London's rate of 180.5 but not statistically significant[6].

Analysis done by the ONS on the link between COVID-19 mortality and job occupation found that those working in occupations that involved being in close contact to others experienced higher mortality rates[7]. Men and women working in social care, and men working in healthcare had significantly higher mortality rates than average.

Figure 9.2: 7-day of average number of deaths within 28 days of a positive test

Source: Coronavirus in the UK, gov.uk

9.4 Excess mortality

Excess mortality is a measure of how much higher all-cause mortality was in the pandemic period than would have been expected, based on previous years, had the pandemic not occurred. Because excess mortality captures deaths from all causes, not just COVID-19, it provides an understanding of both the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19. Some of the indirect impacts of COVID-19 could be more limited access to healthcare or the impact of measures taken to combat the spread of the virus.

In the time covering the pandemic in Lambeth to the most recent date available, 21/03/2020 to the 24/06/2022, the ratio of registered deaths to expected deaths was 1.14[8]. This is the 16th highest rate out of the 32 London boroughs, **figure 9.3**. The first wave of the pandemic saw the highest weekly excess mortality, between 21/03/2020 to 31/07/2020 the ratio of registered to expected deaths was 1.68.
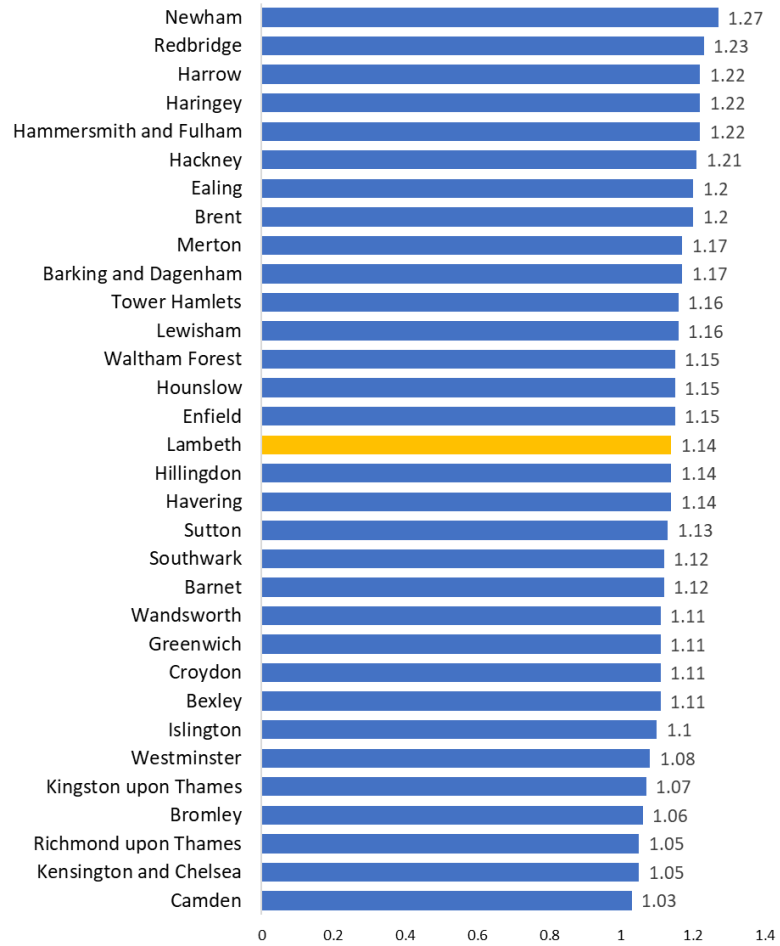
Looking generally in London to get an idea of inequalities in Lambeth, excess mortality was higher in the most deprived two-fifths of London and lower in the least deprived two-fifths of London[3]. However, when looking by sex it's seen that for females, variation by deprivation was less pronounced and remained below the London average for all.

In London, there were more deaths than expected in all ethnic groups[3]. However, excess mortality was highest in the Black and Asian ethnic groups. In the Black ethnic group mortality was 1.37 times higher for females, and 1.57 times higher for males than expected. In the Asian ethnic group mortality was 1.27 times higher for females, and 1.52 times higher for males than expected. This was reflected overall in England, and

analysis done by PHE showed that among Black and Asian groups excess mortality in those aged under 75 did not vary by deprivation and was high across all deprivation groups[4]. This indicates that the excess mortality in those aged under 75 in the Black and Asian groups cannot be explained by deprivation alone and other factors play a role.

These figures reflect inequalities which existed prior to the pandemic and therefore indicate the disproportionate direct and indirect impact of the pandemic on inequalities with excess mortality higher for some population groups than others over the period, indicating that the pandemic exacerbated existing inequalities.

Figure 9.4 Ratio of registered deaths to expected deaths of London boroughs between 21/03/2020 to 24/06/2022

Source: PHE Excess mortality in England weekly reports

9.5 COVID-19 vaccinations

The first COVID-19 vaccinations, outside the clinical trial setting, in England took place on 8 December 2020, 6 days after the first vaccine was approved for use. As of the 6th July 2022, a total of 643,072 vaccinations have been given in Lambeth[9]. In total, the proportions of the 12+ population in Lambeth that have been vaccinated are:

- 66.6% of population have had a first dose
- 62.5% have had a second dose
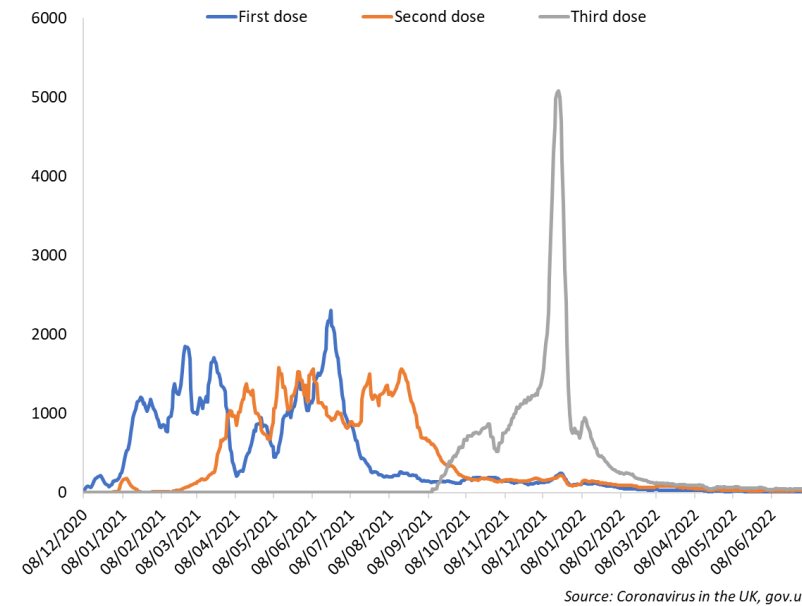- 47.0% have had a booster or 3rd dose

The age group with the highest vaccination rate was 75 to 79 with 84.5% of the population having had a first dose, while the lowest was the 12- to 15-year-olds with 35.3% having had a first dose. These differences however are probably due to vaccination prioritisation, with older age groups being able to access vaccines much earlier than younger.

The vast majority of first doses happened in first half of 2021 before trailing off, but it's seen that people are still getting first doses, **figure 9.4**. The pattern for second doses is similar to first doses with a 3-month lag. The booster vaccination has a very sharp peak in December 2021 when a massive effort was put forward to get as many people to get the booster jab as possible to combat the peak in COVID-19 cases that were being seen.

The London region has the highest proportion of the 12+ population unvaccinated against COVID-19 than in any other region, with only 69.6% having had a first dose[9]. In comparison the next lowest proportion by region is the West Midlands with 80.1% of their population vaccinated.

Looking at proportion by London boroughs, Lambeth has one of the lower first dose vaccination rates being 21 out of 32 boroughs with 1 being the highest vaccination rate.[9]

Figure 9.4: 7-day of average number of first, second and third vaccinations

Source: Coronavirus in the UK, gov.uk

9.6 Appendix

1. https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/

2. https://lambeth.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/about-covid-19-lambeth/covid-19-stats

3. https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/health-profile-for-england/regional-profile-london.html

4. https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/health-profile-for-england/hpfe_report.html#covid-19

5. https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/chime/

6. https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/mortality-profile

7. https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19relateddeathsbyoccupationenglandandwales/deathsregisteredbetween9marchand28december2020

8. https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/excess-mortality-in-england-and-english-regions - accessed on 11/07/2022

9. https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/vaccinations?areaType=ltla&areaName=Lambeth