

Almost half of young people with long COVID report lost learning

February 1 2023



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

Nearly half (45%) of all young people who reported having long COVID felt they had fallen behind their classmates due to the pandemic—with almost three in five (59%) saying that they had not caught up with lost

learning—according to new research involving UCL.

Led jointly by the UCL Center for Education Policy and Equalizing Opportunities (CEPEO), the UCL Center for Longitudinal Studies (CLS), and the Sutton Trust, the COVID Social Mobility & Opportunities (COSMO) study is the largest study examining the impacts of the pandemic on young people.

Published as a briefing, the study explores the [health impacts](#) and behaviors of almost 13,000 young people across England who were in Year 11 in 2021/22. Most of the cohort are currently in Year 13, if they are still in education. The briefing explores the incidence of COVID-19 and long COVID, and how this has affected young people's education—including GCSE attainment using linked National Pupil Database (NPD) data.

The study found that around half (52%) of young people who were asked to shield from the virus reported that they had fallen behind their classmates, compared to a third (33%) of those who were not asked to shield. The authors note that part of this difference is likely due to the underlying reasons that the person was asked to shield.

Those who were asked to shield were also more likely to say their GCSE grades were lower than they expected, at 36%, compared to 21% of those who were not asked to shield.

Pupils who had severe long COVID also achieved, on average, lower teacher-assessed GCSE scores than their peers who did not suffer from long COVID.

Patterns of long COVID were also found to vary by [young people's](#) social background. One in five (20%) comprehensive state school students who reported having COVID-19 either currently have or

previously had long COVID, compared to one in six grammar and independent school pupils (16%). Furthermore, the study found that those from the most disadvantaged areas of the country are more likely to report long COVID, compared to those from the least deprived areas (25% vs. 18%).

COSMO Principal Investigator, Dr. Jake Anders (UCL CEPEO), said, "With attention on issues around COVID-19 fading, we should not forget its continuing effect on those for whom it was a particularly debilitating illness to experience. Some continue to suffer from long COVID.

"Even those who have recovered have seen implications for their wider lives and life chances, such as lower academic attainment scores for those who experienced severe long COVID. These impacts also seem to have reinforced existing health and socioeconomic inequalities."

More information: Briefing No. 5—Health Impacts and Behaviours. cosmostudy.uk/publications/health-impacts-and-behaviours

Provided by University College London

Citation: Almost half of young people with long COVID report lost learning (2023, February 1) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2023-02-young-people-covid-lost.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.