

A year since “freedom day”. Freedom for whom and at what cost?

Indie SAGE briefing 22 July 2022

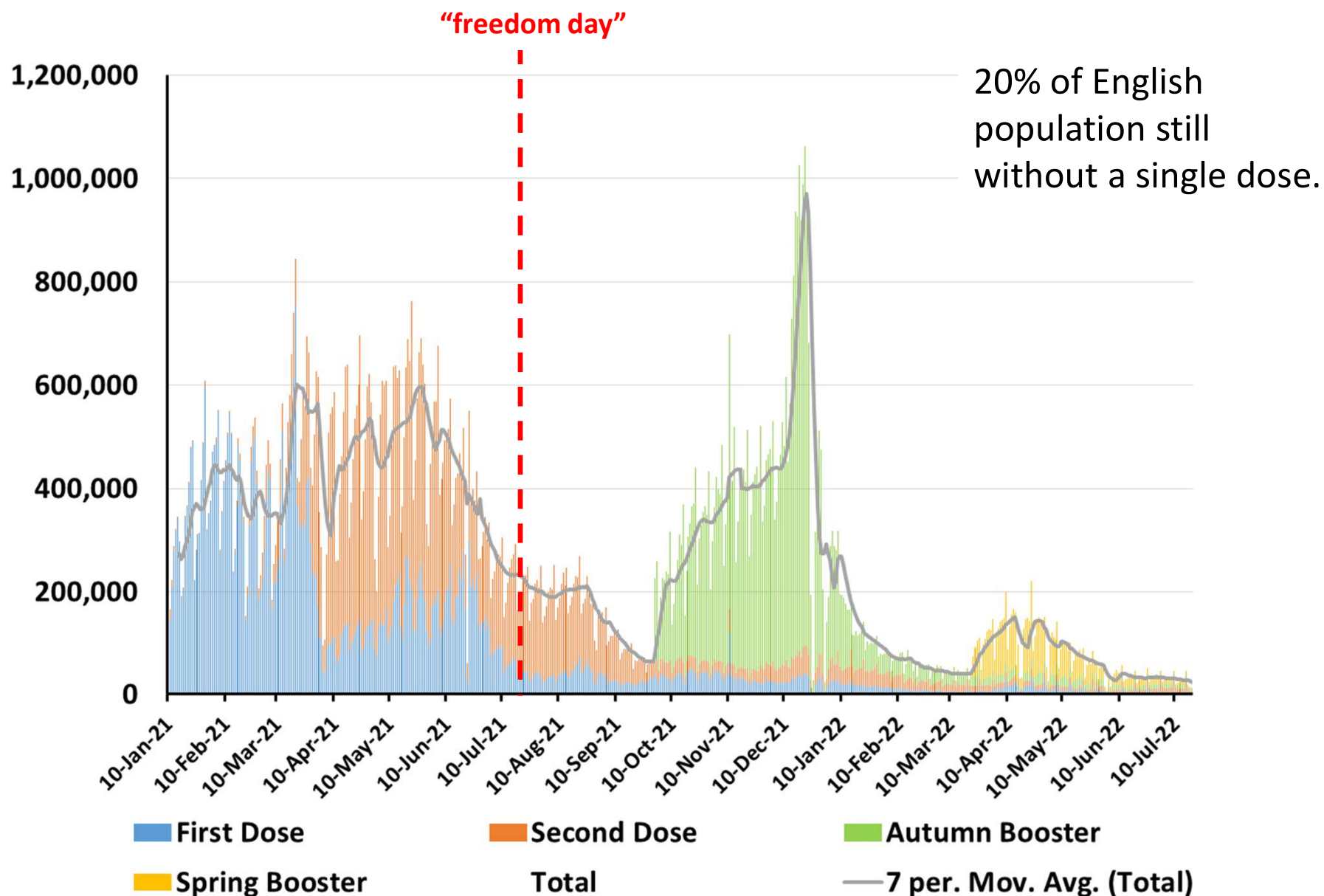
Before I start, want to acknowledge the “numbers team”: Kit, Duncan, Bob

1. Infections & Vaccinations
2. NHS
3. Deaths
4. Children
5. Variants
6. Behaviour
7. Long Covid, Covid & the economy
8. Vulnerability
9. Plan

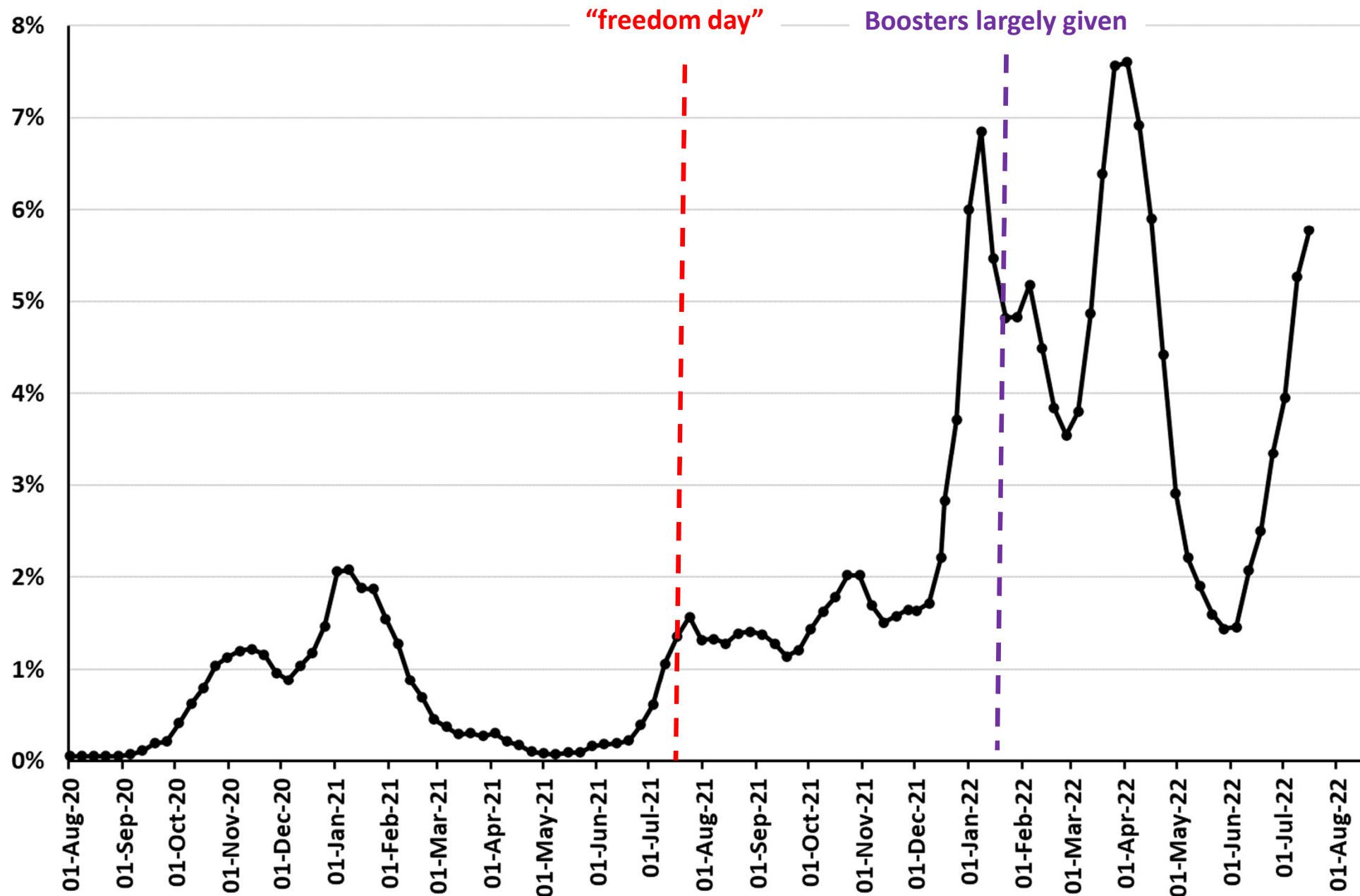
Infections & Vaccinations

Number of First, Second, and Autumn Booster Doses given by Day in the UK Jan 11, 2021 to Jun 29, 2022

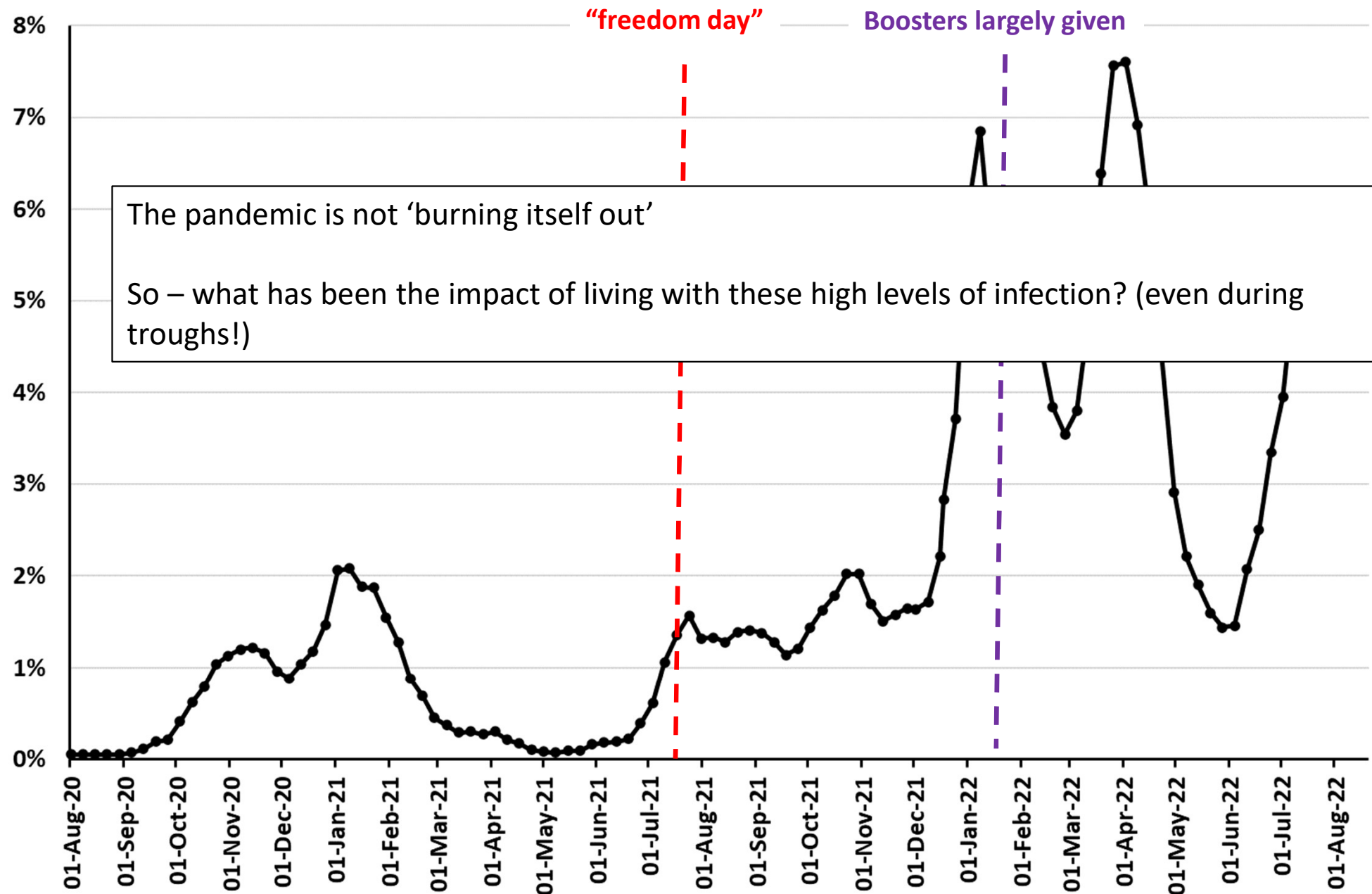
(Source: Covid Daily Update)



Percentage of English population testing positive over time (ONS infection survey)

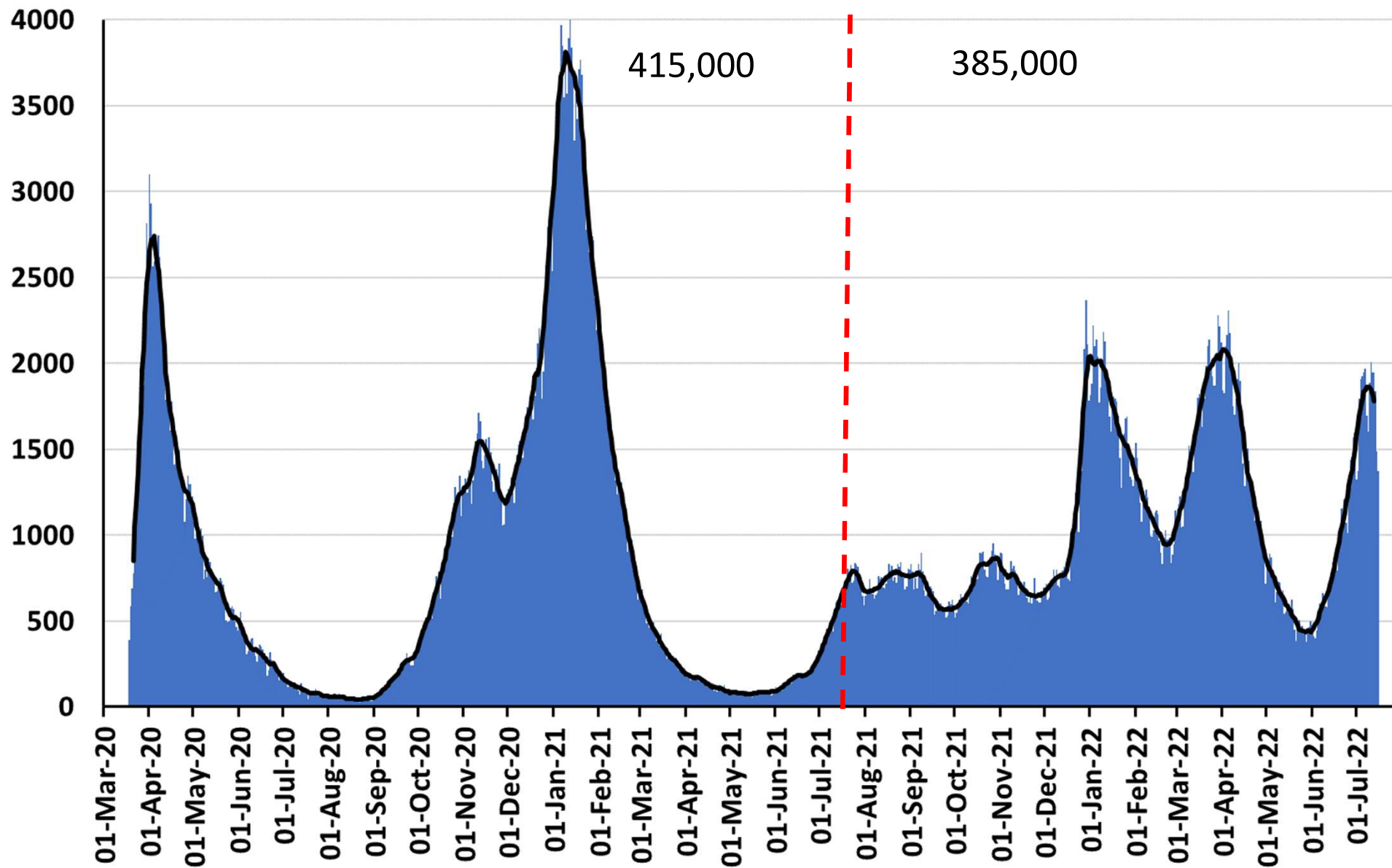


Percentage of English population testing positive over time (ONS infection survey)



Sickness and the NHS

Daily Covid-19 admissions to English hospitals

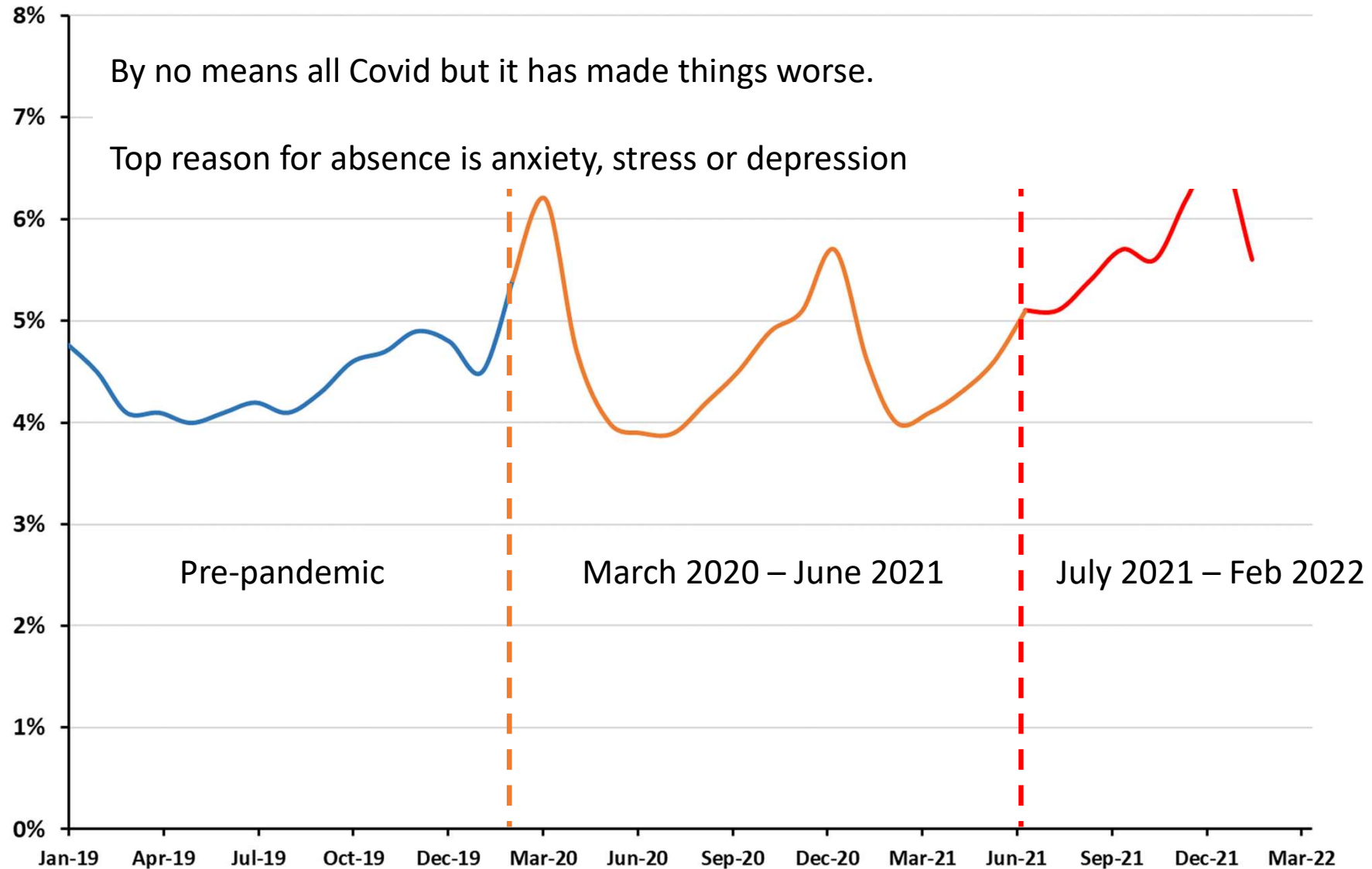


Too many NHS staff are getting sick – on top of trauma from the first two waves

Percent of Staff Absent from NHS Acute Hospital Trusts in England

Jan 2019 to Feb 2022

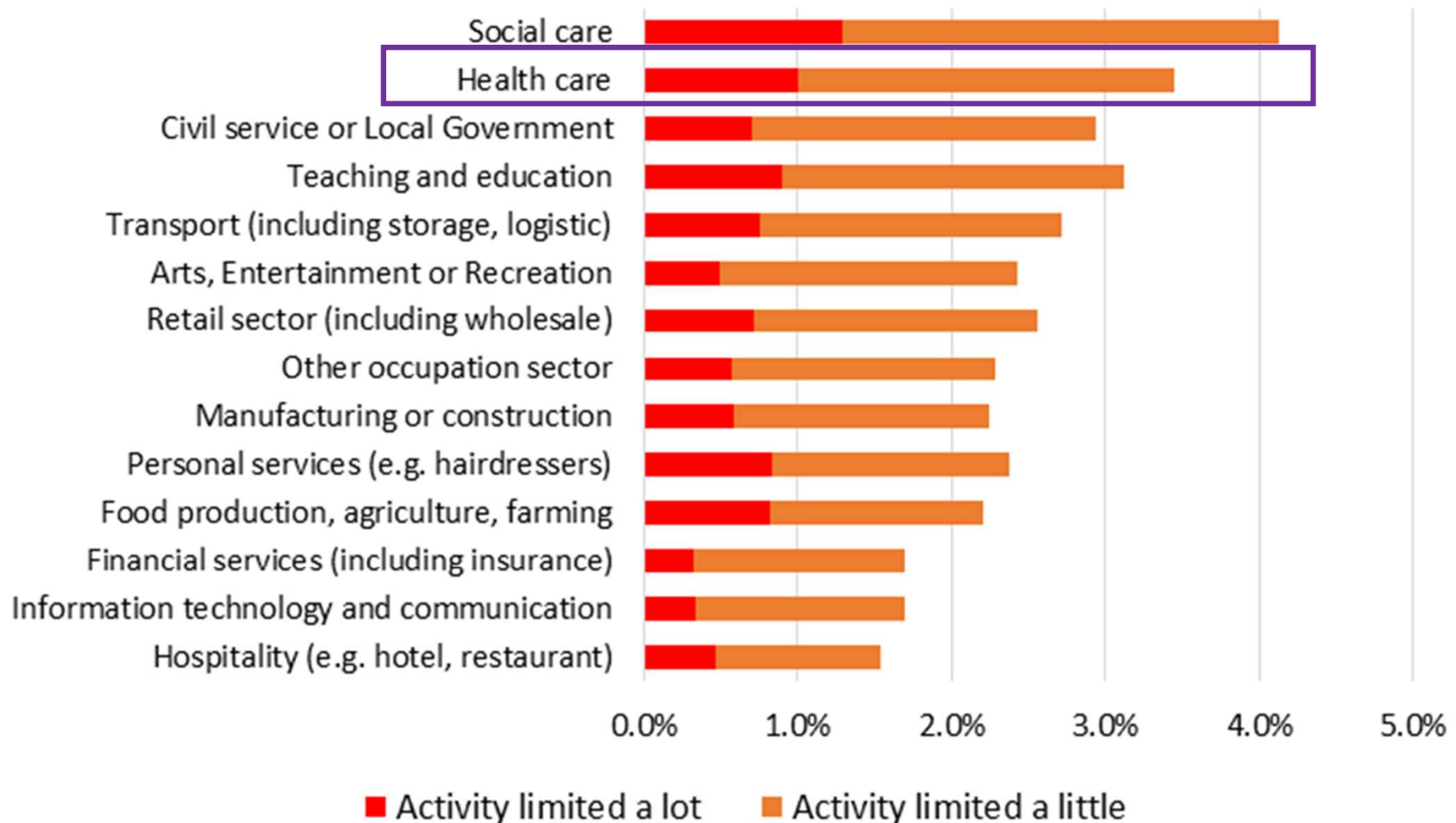
(Source: NHS England Urgent and Emergency Care Daily Situation Reports 2021-22)



Too many NHS staff are getting sick – on top of trauma from the first two waves

Impact on People Living with Self-Reported Long Covid By Job Sector in the UK: May 8 - Jun 4, 2022

(Source: ONS Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in the UK Reports)



Many NHS staff are leaving – and not being replaced

Chronic nurse shortages force closure of minor injuries unit for SEVEN MONTHS

• This article is more than 4 months old

Stressed NHS staff in England quit at record 400 a week, fuelling fears over care quality

Burnout from two years of battling Covid pandemic has created flood of departures and public concern, say

Paramedics are 'leaving in droves' as ambulance callouts almost double

Frontline NHS workers are under pressure as the number of emergency calls in England rises 10 times faster than the number of staff

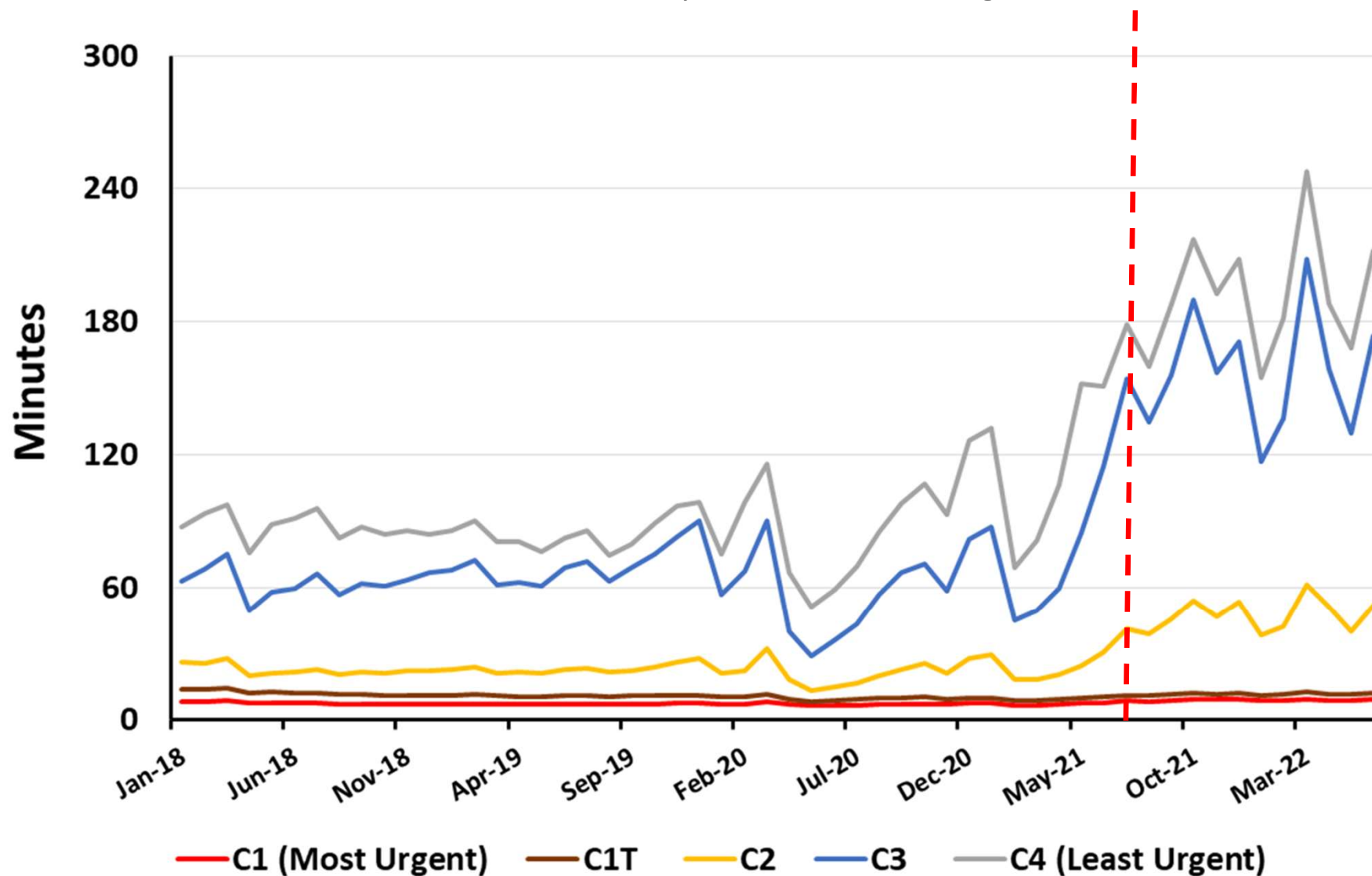
News > Health

GPs 'pushed to breaking point' as hundreds of doctors leave NHS and appointments soar

'Demand rocketing while we haemorrhage doctors, is pushing the remaining staff to breaking point' says leading GP

This is making it very hard to deliver NHS services - acute care is getting less safe during waves

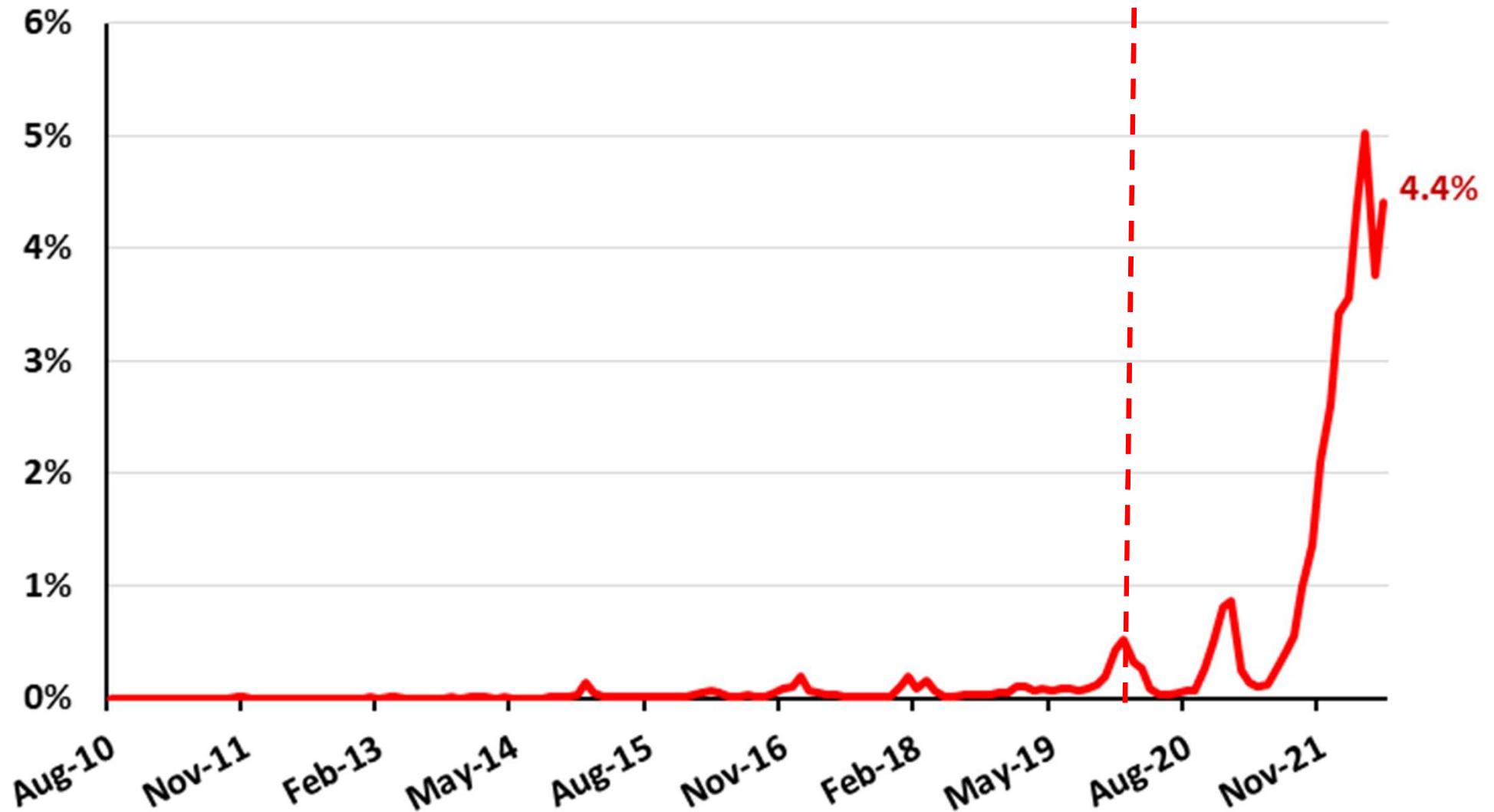
Ambulance response times in England



This is making it very hard to deliver NHS services - acute care is getting less safe during waves

Percent of A&E attendances greater than 12 hours from 'decision to admit' to hospital admission for England: Nov 2010 – Jun 2022

(Source: NHS Monthly A&E Attendances and Emergency Admissions)



This is making it very hard to deliver NHS services - acute care is getting less safe during waves

Southampton General Hospital patients facing 12-hour waits at A&E

13th July

All ambulance services in England under 'extreme pressure' and on highest level of alert

By Jane Kirby and Ella Pickover, Reporters
and Emergency, Hospitals, News England, NHS, Top Stories

All ambulance services in England are on the highest level of alert under "extreme pressure".

A combination of Covid absences among staff, difficult weather and ongoing delays in handing over patients to ambulance trusts struggling to cope.

'Single biggest threat to patients': 200,000 harmed by ambulance delays this year

'Single biggest' threat to patients in the NHS is now not getting an ambulance when they need it, ambulance leader warns

Rebecca Thomas • 3 days ago • 1 Comments



'If you collapse on the way call 999 again': The emergency patients left waiting in agony for ambulances

'Every night's like New Year's Eve'

SHARE 7 COMMENTS

By **Helena Vesty** NHS, social care and patients writer
17:00, 17 JUL 2022

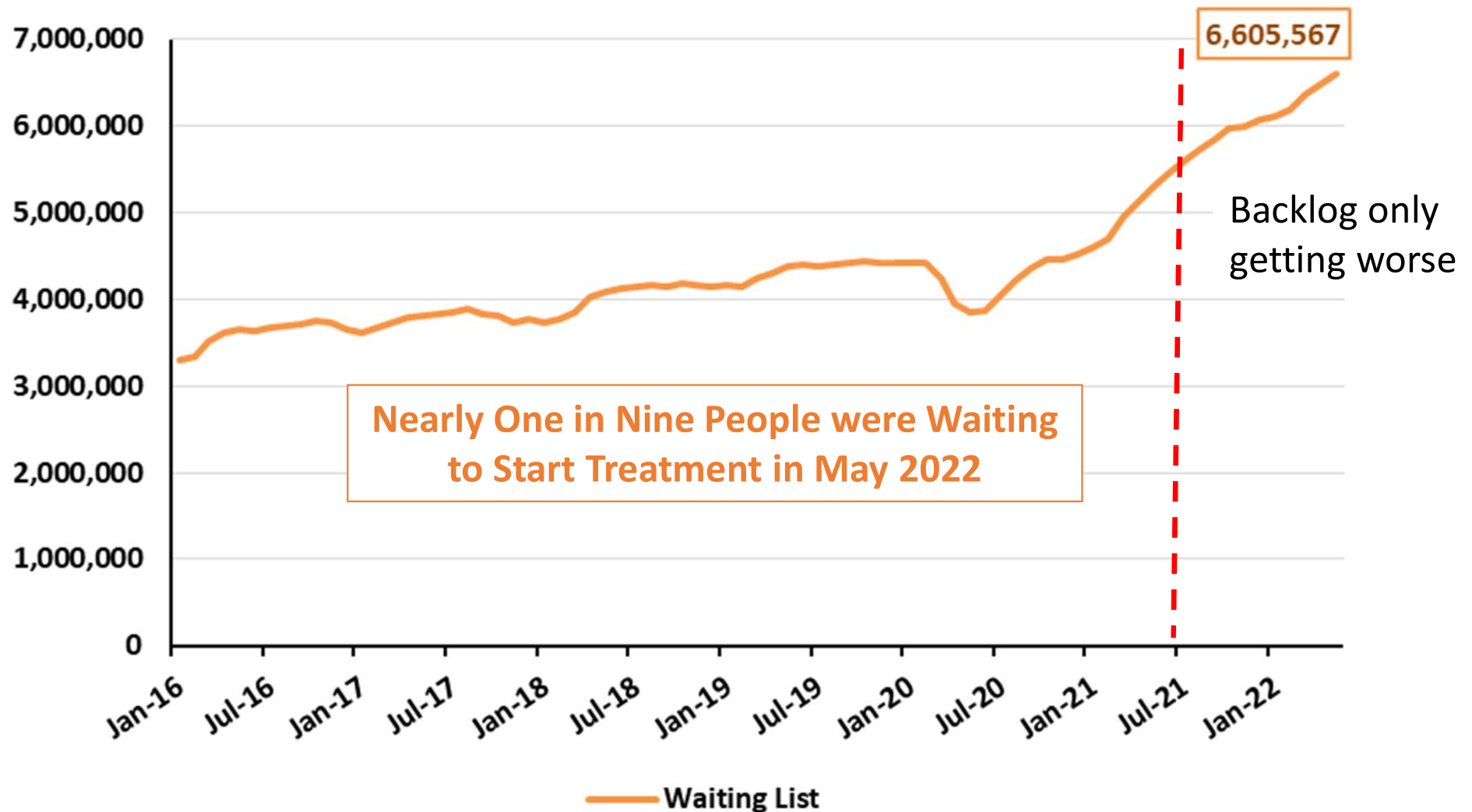
NEWS

News ▶ Health ▶ NHS

Wait for treatment at Derby A&E is now nine hours

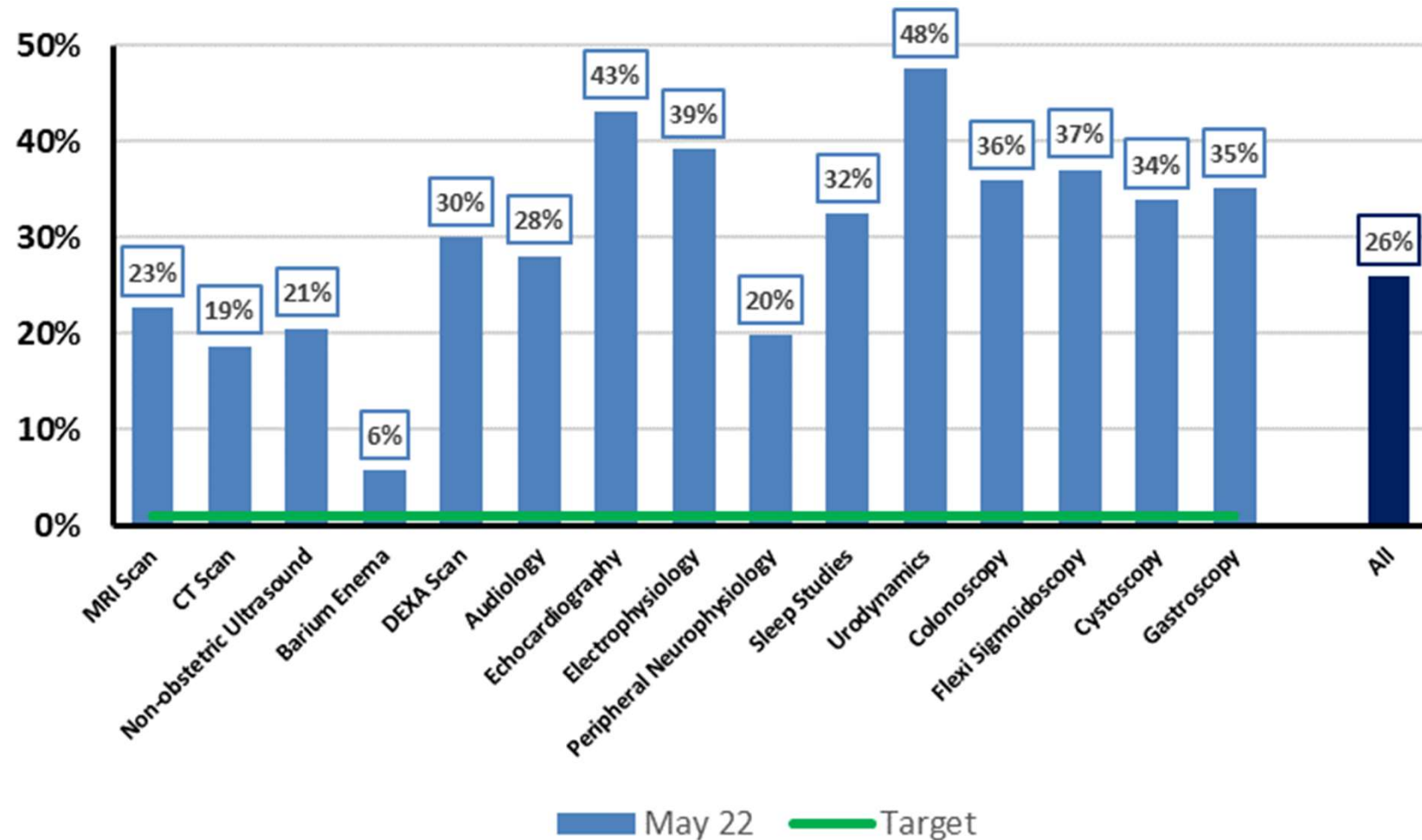
This is making it very hard to deliver NHS services – waiting lists for non emergency care are at record levels

Number of Patients Waiting for Treatment in England (Jan 2016 to May 2022)
(Source: NHS Monthly A&E Attendances and Emergency Admissions)



This is making it very hard to deliver NHS services – important diagnostic tests are taking far too long

Percent of Patients Waiting Longer than Six Weeks for Diagnostic Tests by Type for England (May 2022)
(Source: NHS Monthly A&E Attendances and Emergency Admissions)



% Waiting > 6 wks

This is making it very hard to deliver NHS services – “we could be witnessing the collapse of the NHS” (FT today)

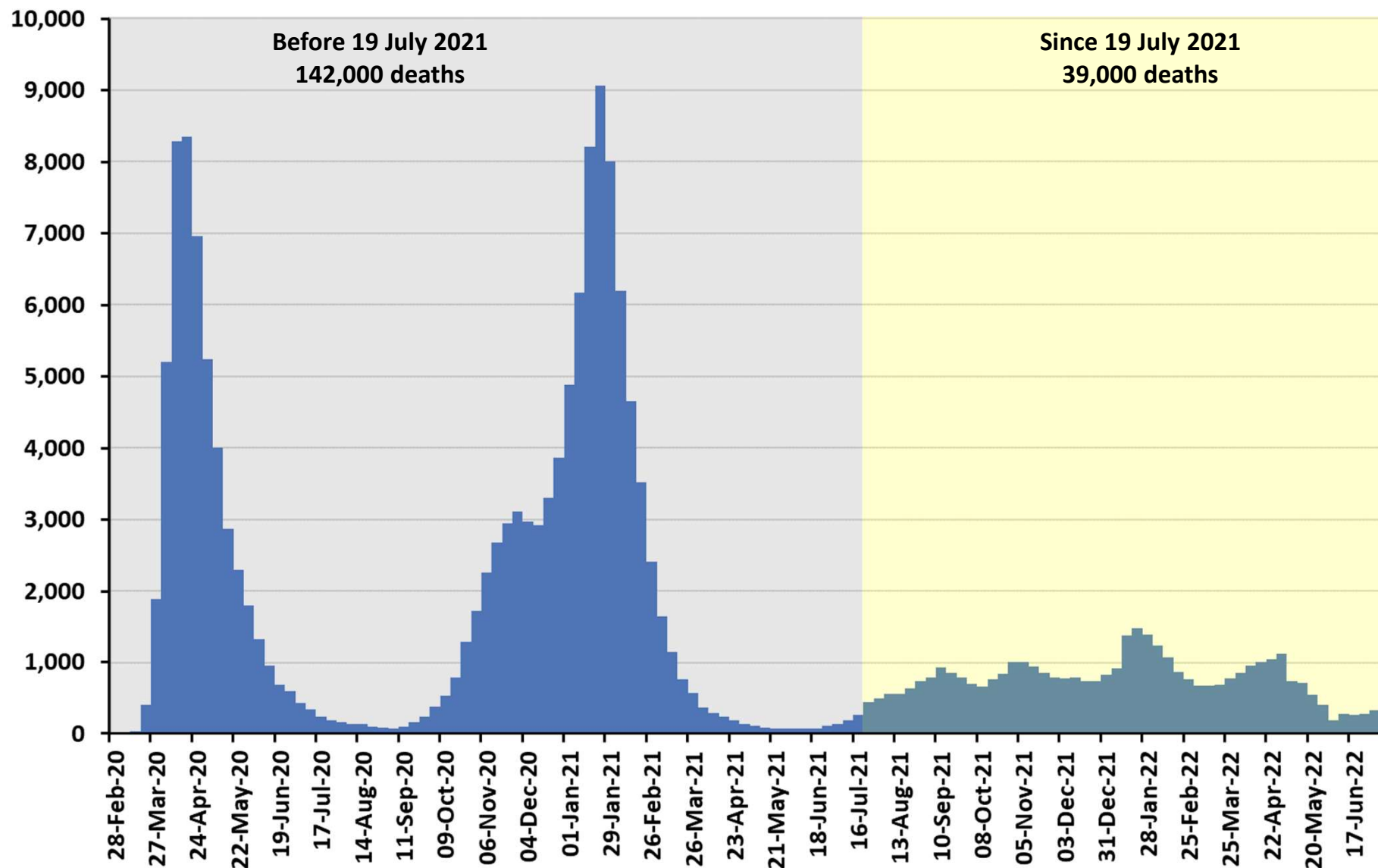
With direct impacts of Covid ruled out, the most plausible remaining explanation is grim: we may be witnessing the collapse of the NHS, as hundreds of thousands of patients, unable to access timely care, see their condition worsen to the point of being unable to work. The 332,000 people who have been waiting more than a year for hospital treatment in Britain is a close numerical match for the 309,000 now missing from the labour force due to long-term sickness.

Difficulties in accessing primary care will almost certainly be contributing too, since this is the gateway to diagnosis and treatment. Forty seven per cent of Britons now find it difficult to get through to someone at their general practitioner's practice, up from 19 per cent in 2012, and 27 per cent said they avoided making an appointment this year because they found the process too difficult (up from 11 per cent).

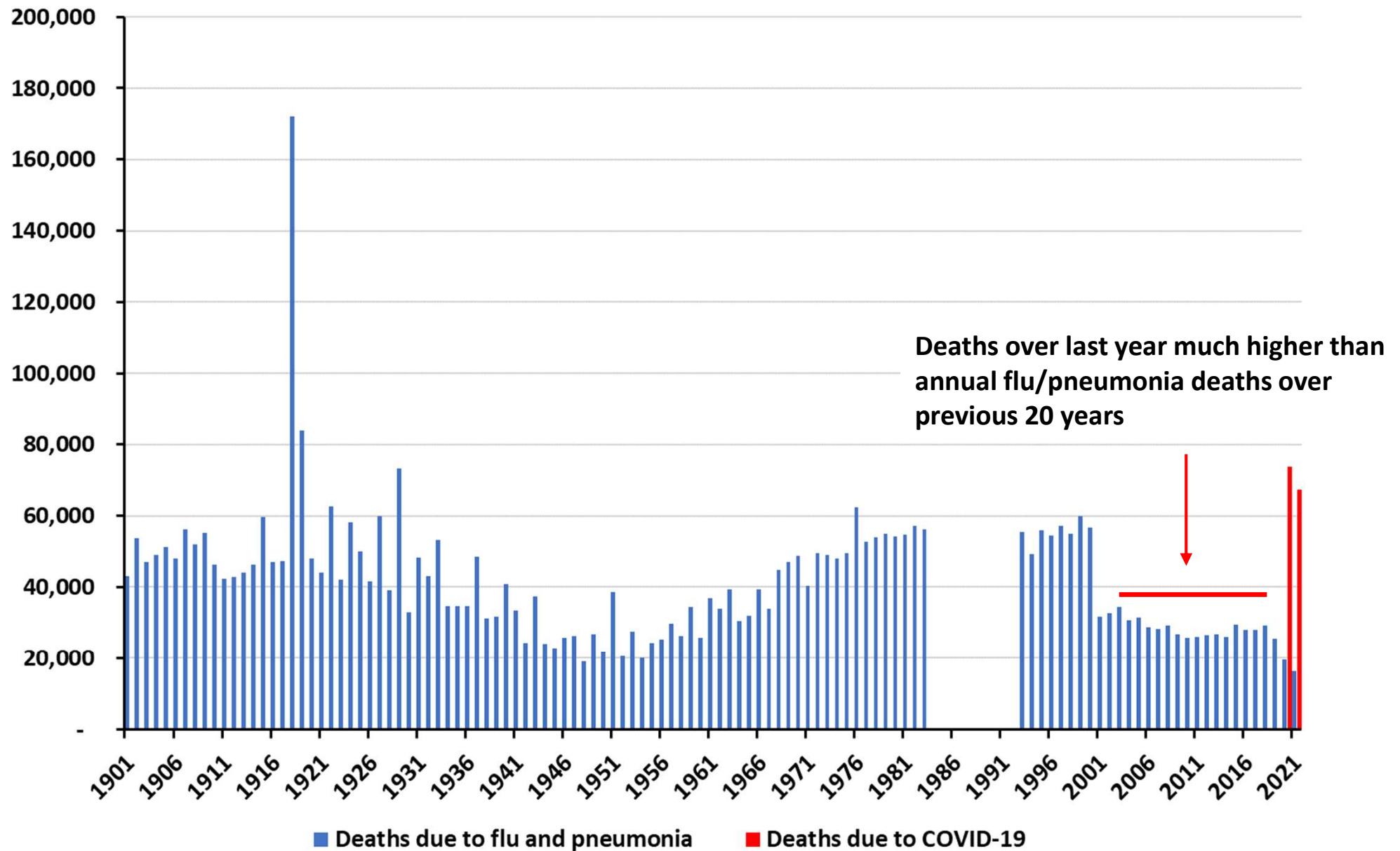
Dr Helen Salisbury

Deaths

Number of weekly deaths in England with Covid as a cause of death on the death certificate (Death registrations) to w/e 8 July 2022



Annual deaths due to flu *and* pneumonia compared to Covid over time up to end of 2021 (ONS death registration).

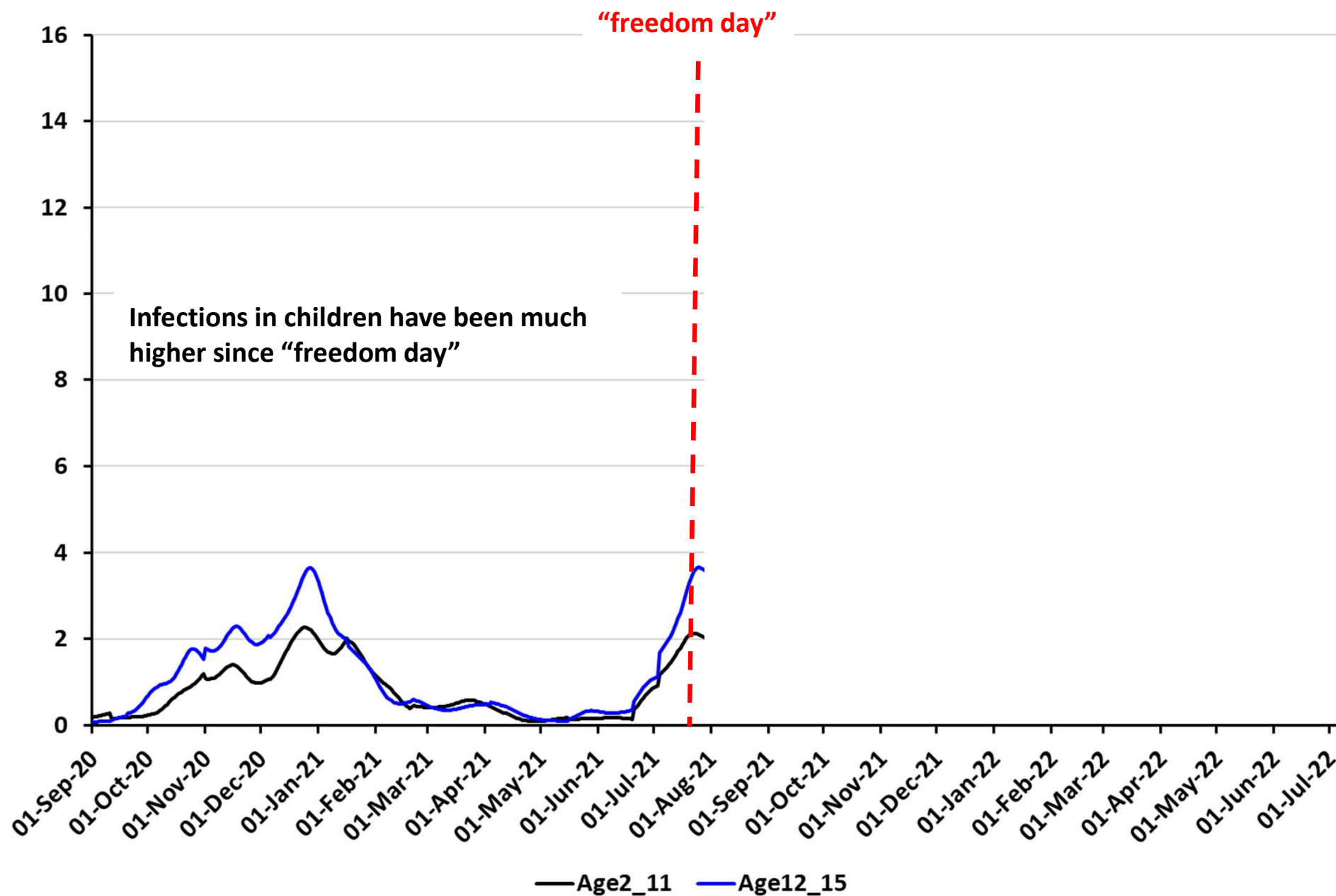


Prof Martin McKee

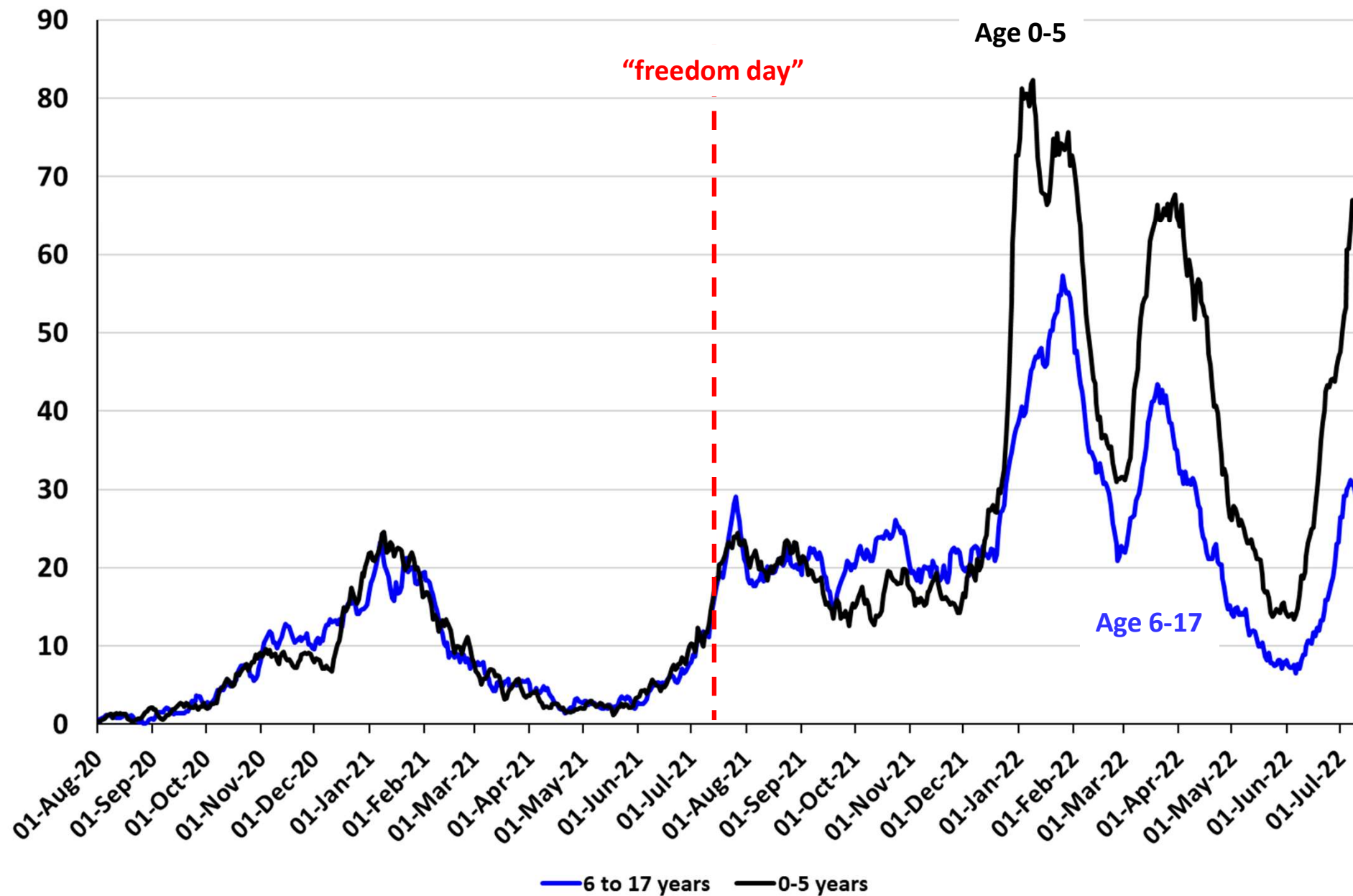
Dr Steve Griffin

Children

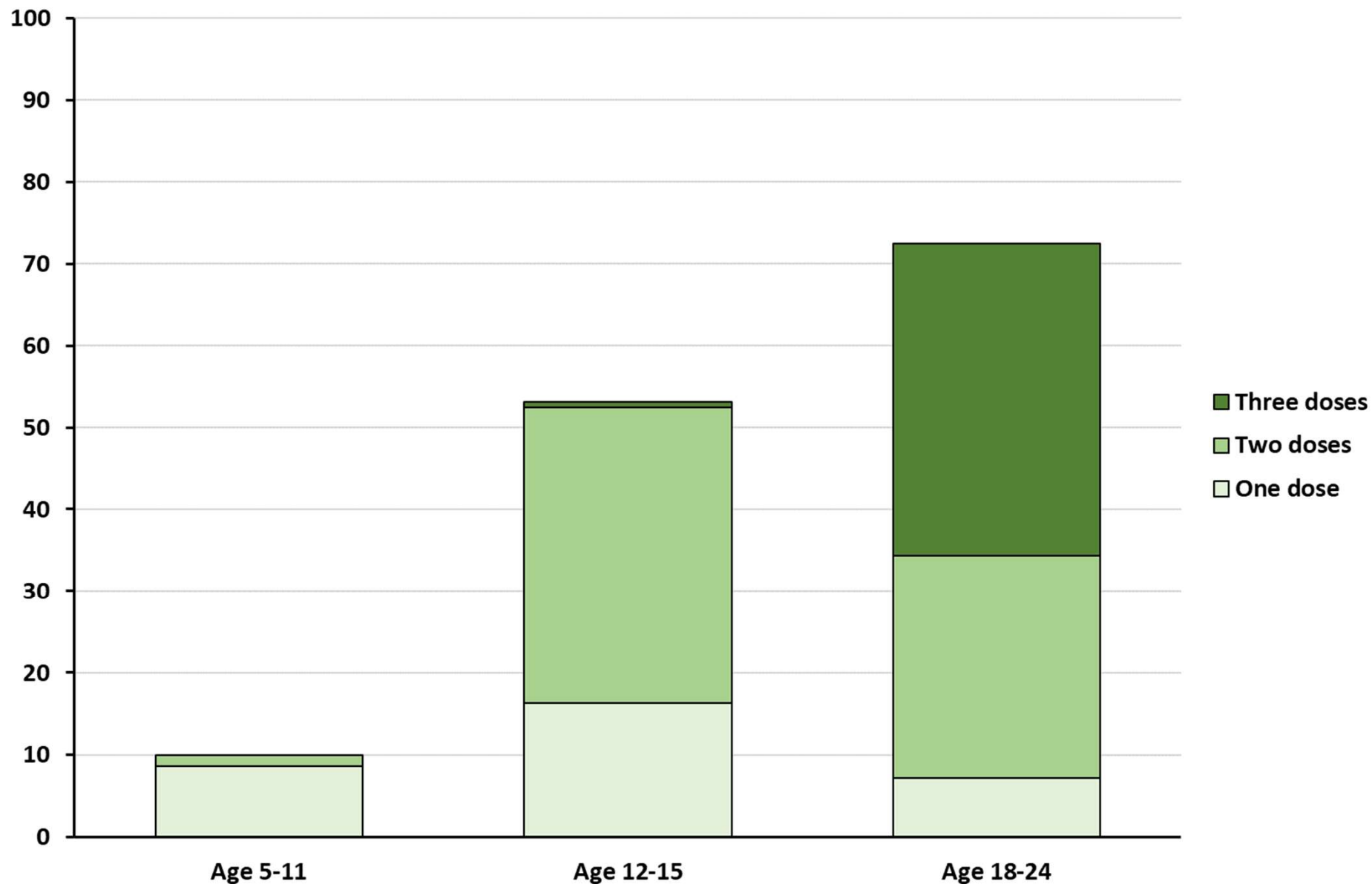
Percentage of English children testing positive over time (ONS infection survey)



Daily rolling 7-day average admissions in children with Covid-19 in England

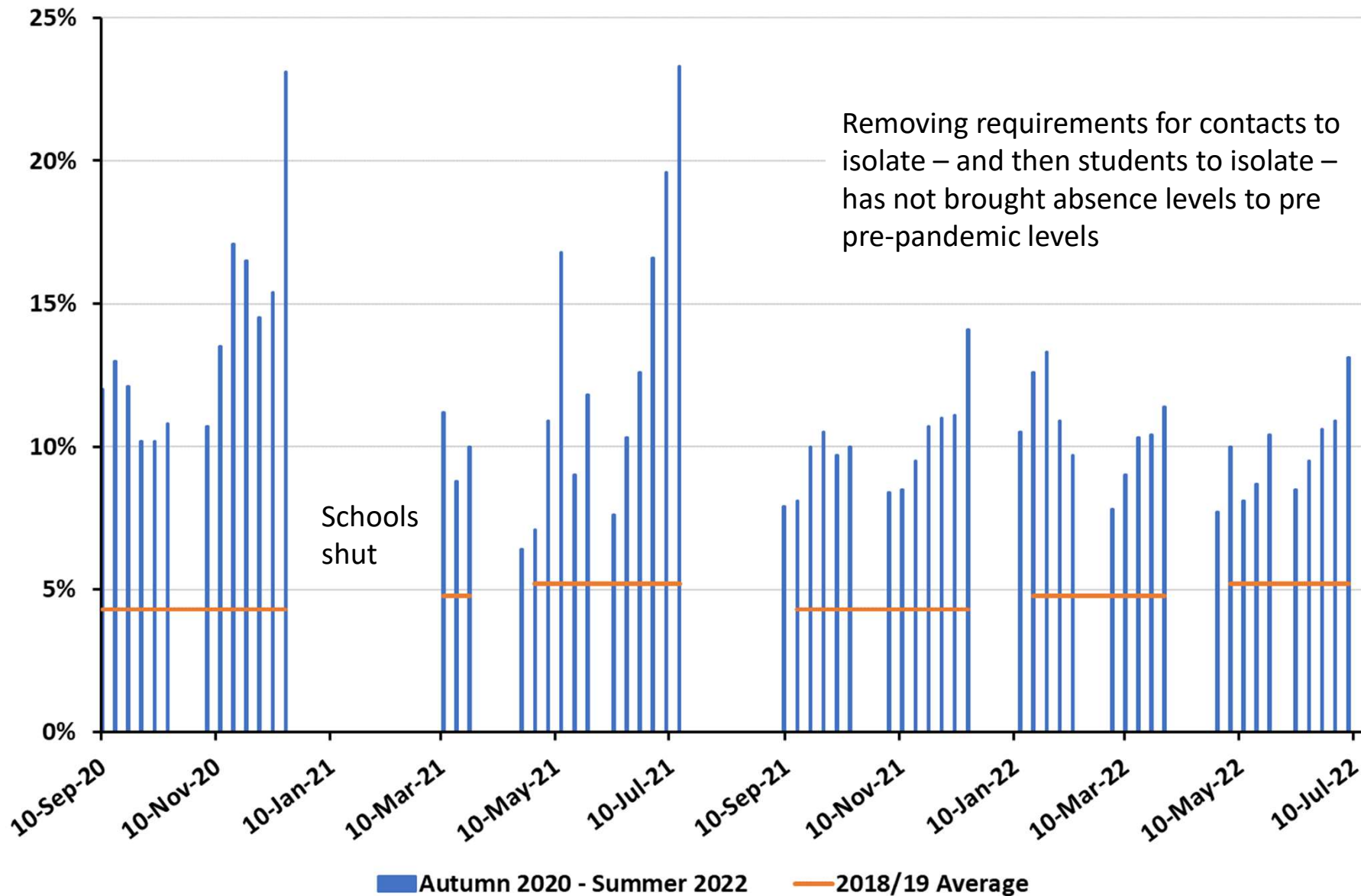


Vaccine coverage in children (compared to young adults) as of 19 July 2022



Percentage of Pupils in All State Schools absent due to Covid-19 and Other Reasons in England from September 2020 to July 2022

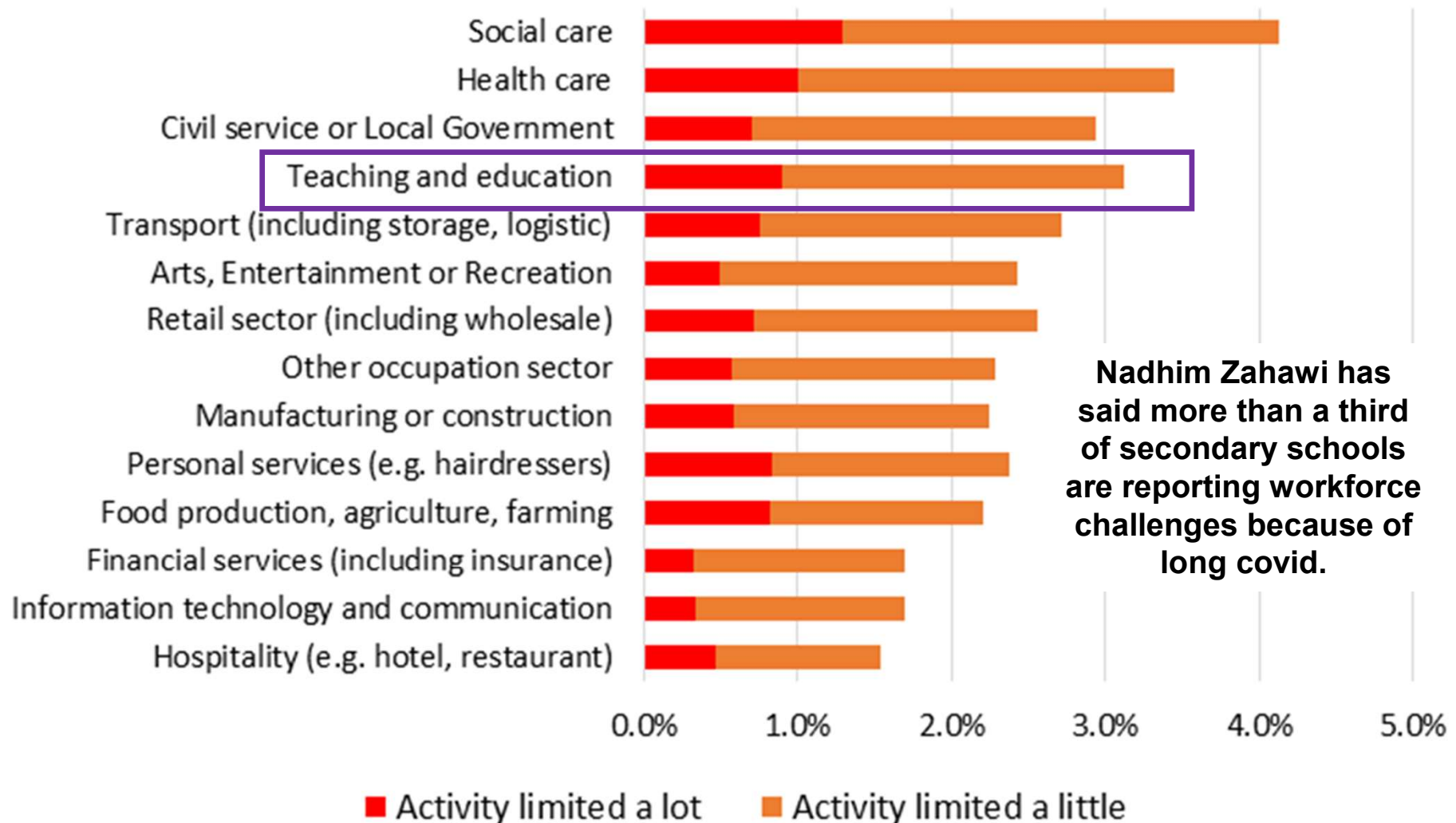
(Source: Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)



Impact of long covid on teachers

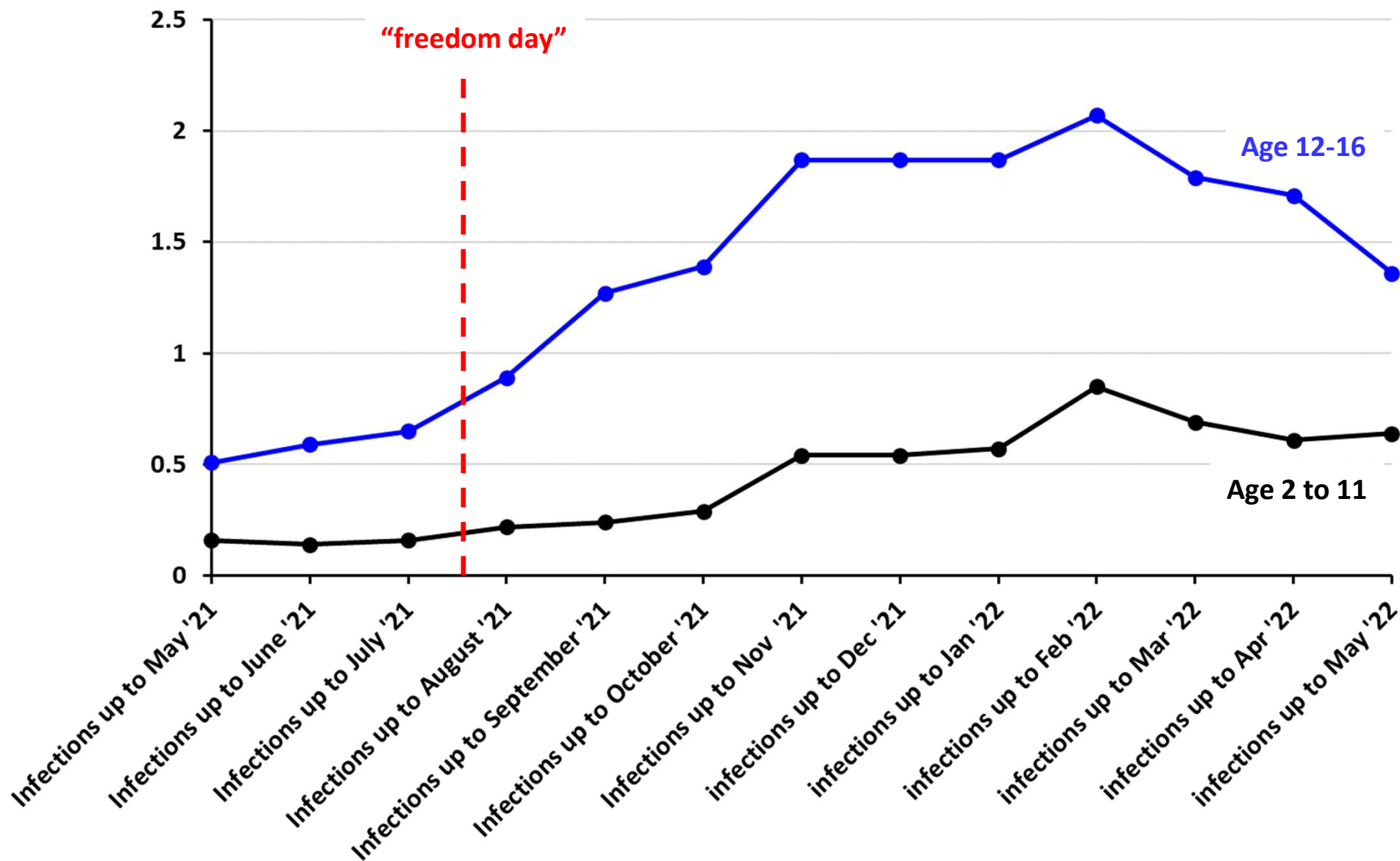
Impact on People Living with Self-Reported Long Covid By Job Sector in the UK: May 8 - Jun 4, 2022

(Source: ONS Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in the UK Reports)



Impact of long covid on kids

Percentage of children reporting symptoms lasting at least 4 weeks over time
(ONS Infection survey)



Dr Zubaida Haque

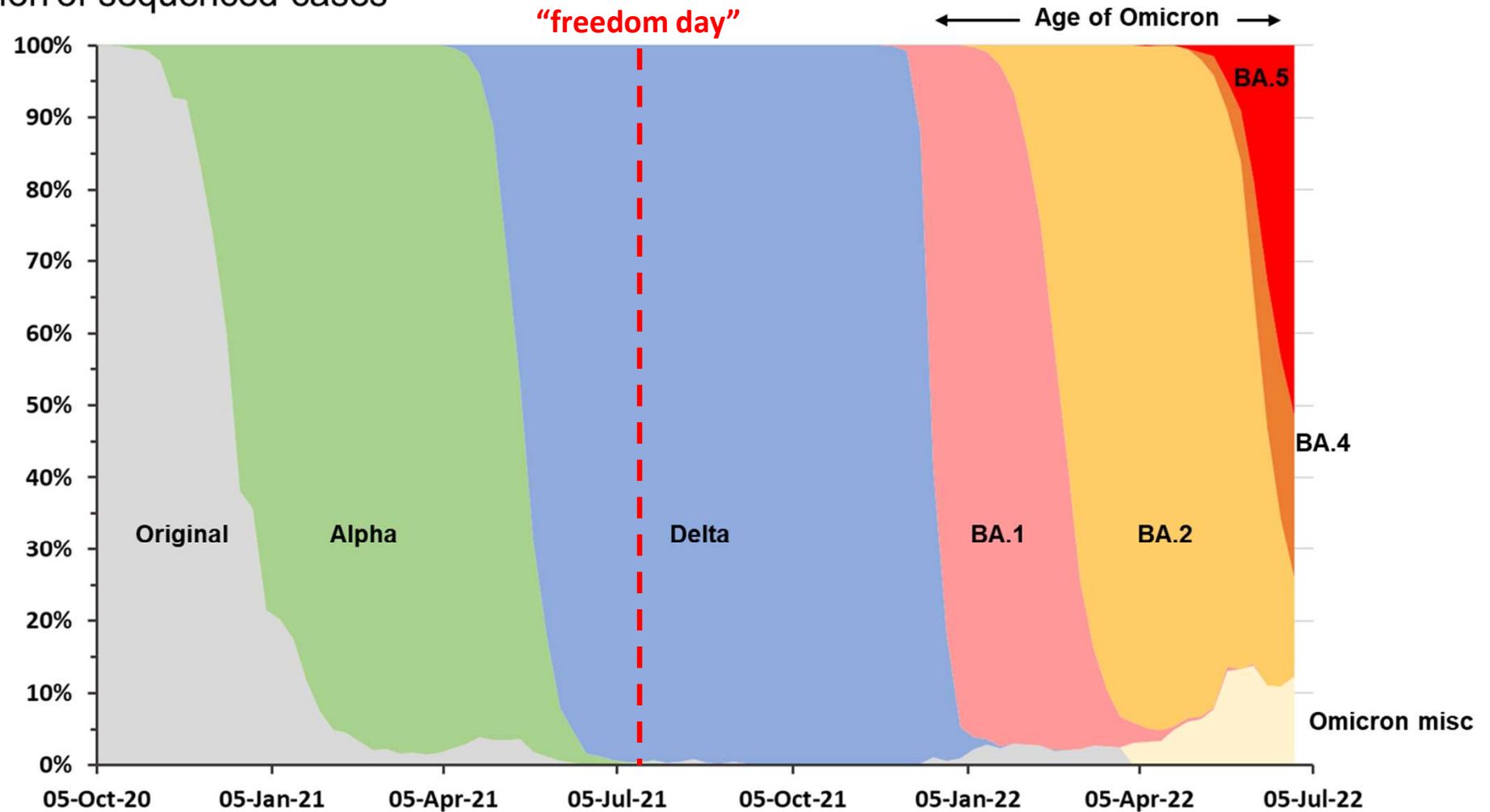
Variants and the future

Coronavirus variants in England since Oct 2020

A year ago the talk was that Delta was the last main variant...

Lots and lots of Omicron subvariants – many of them outcompeting their parents

Proportion of sequenced cases



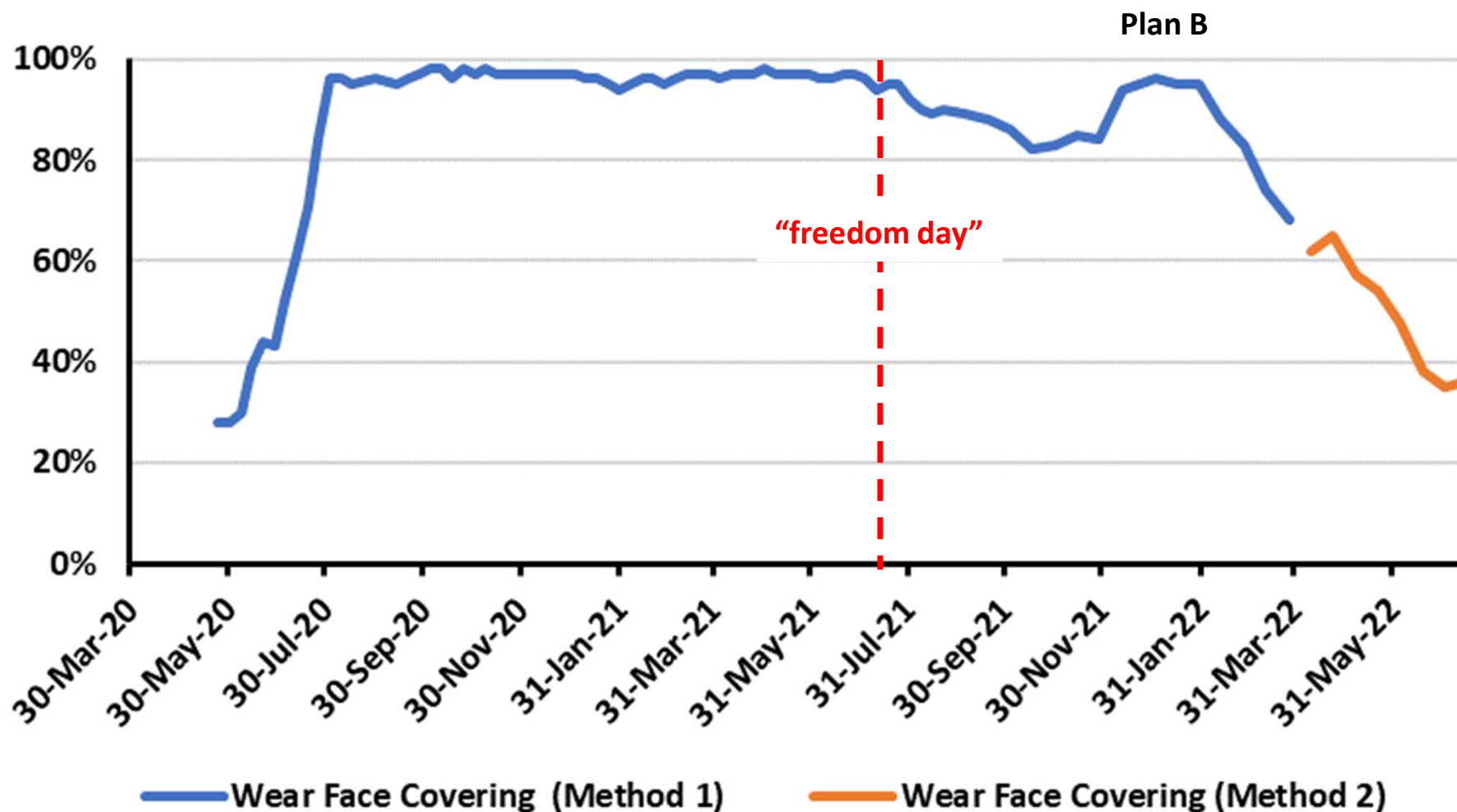
Prof Danny Altmann

Prof Aris Katzourakis

Behaviour

Percent of people who wear face coverings when outside home and on transport – trends over time

(Source: Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain Survey)



Prof Susan Michie

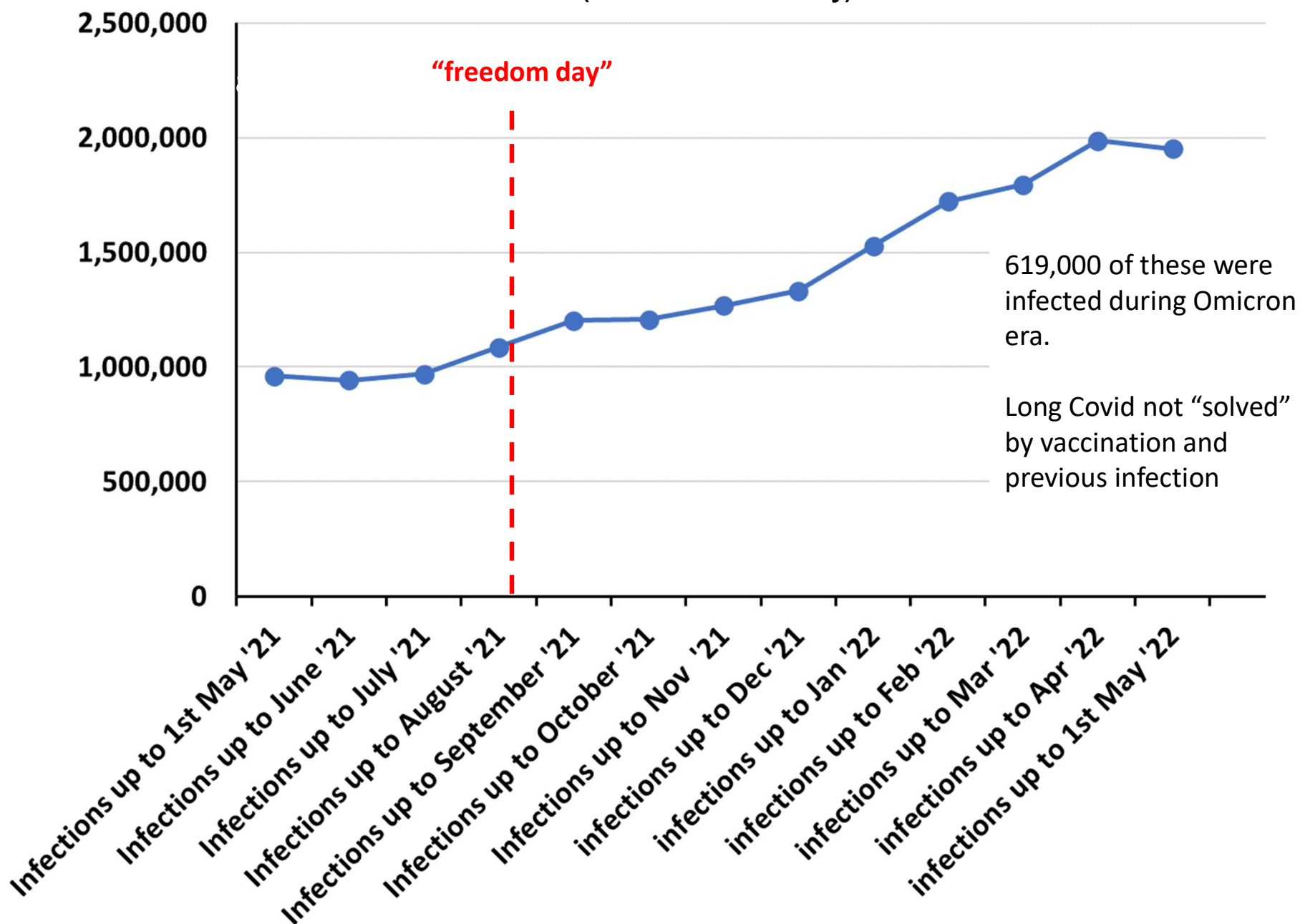
Prof Steven Reicher

Prof Trish Greenhalgh

Long Covid, Covid and the economy

Impact of long covid in England

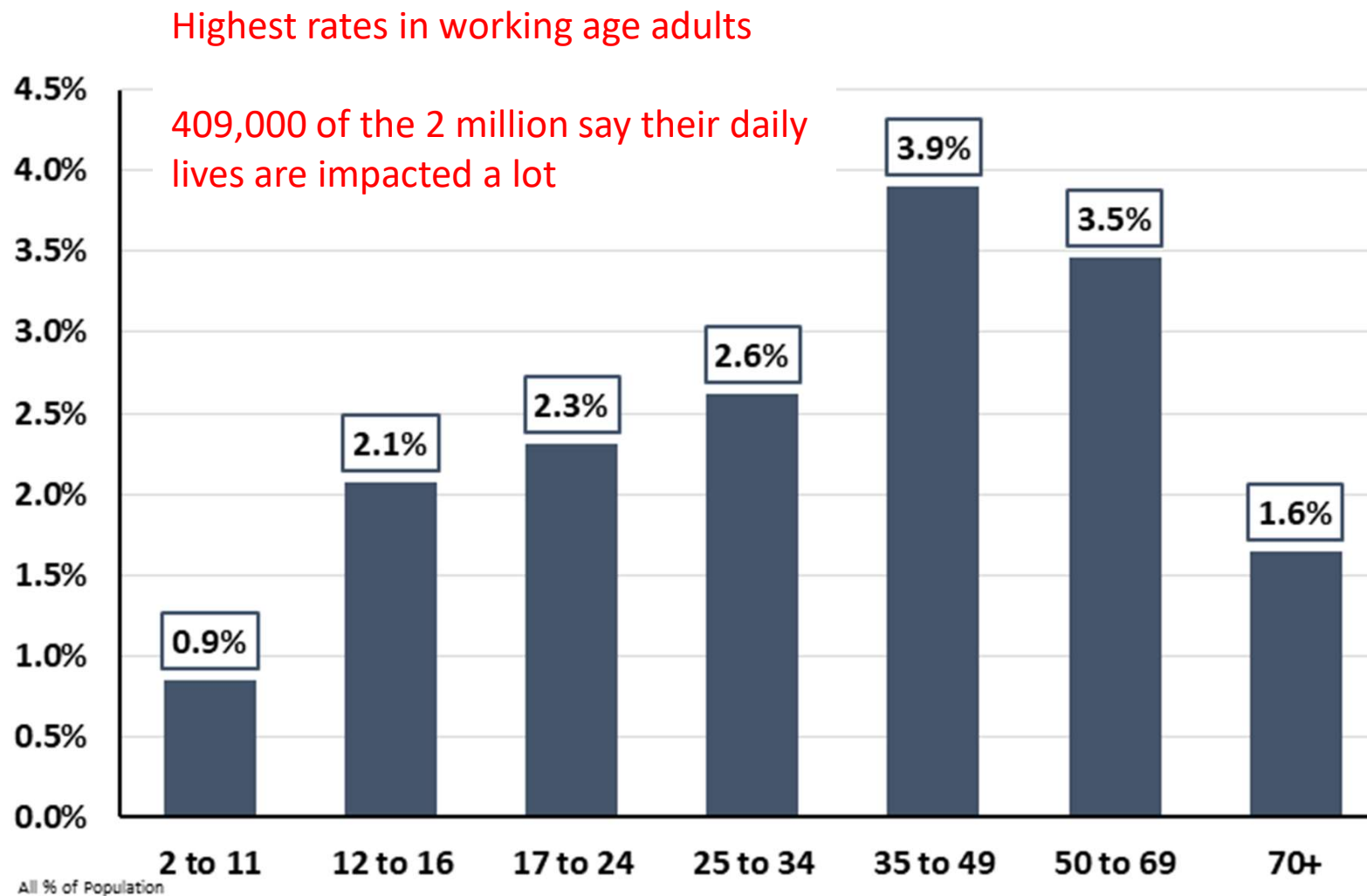
Percentage of English population reporting symptoms lasting at least 4 weeks over time
(ONS Infection survey)



Impact of long covid in England

Percent of Population Living with Self-Reported Long Covid
in the UK by Age: Apr 4 - May 1, 2022

(Source: ONS Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in the UK Reports)



Impact of long covid in England

Bad for our economy – reducing our work force

Now, an analysis from a Bank of England monetary committee member is one of the first to draw links between long covid and the tightening of the labor market. The chronic condition has been one of the main drivers of the shrinking labor pool in the UK, according to a May 9 speech from Michael Saunders, an external member of the bank's nine-member committee.

Coronavirus economic impact

+ Add to myFT

Long Covid now major cause of long-term job absence, say quarter of UK employers

Survey suggests debilitating condition could exacerbate labour shortages and slow economic growth

Work force issues exacerbated by NHS having no spare capacity and long waiting lists! (FT today)

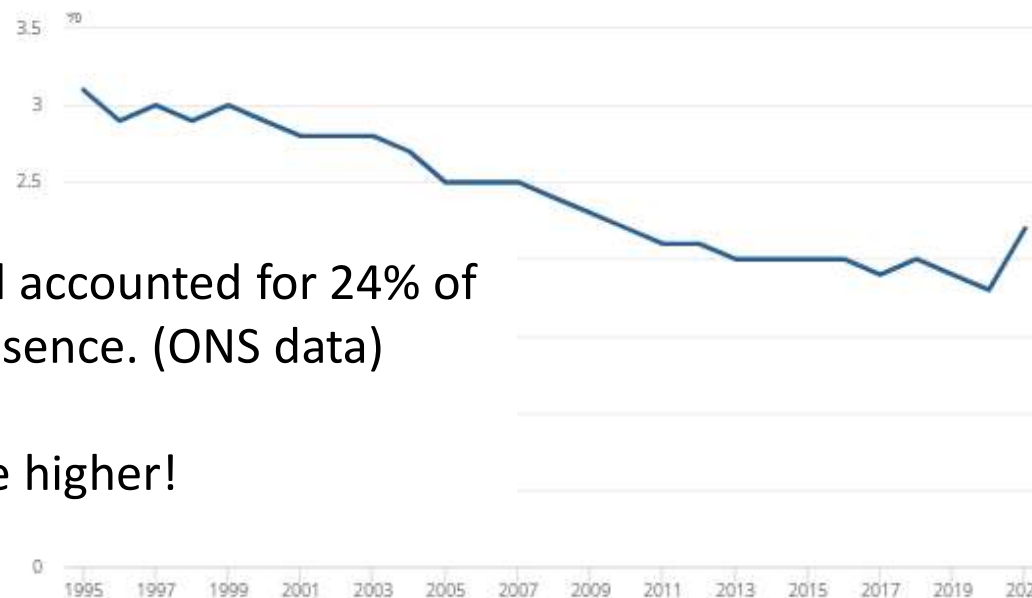
Impact of acute covid on the economy

A significant number of workers are off sick during Covid peaks

Sickness absence

Sickness absence in 2021 rose to the highest rate since 2010

Sickness absence rate, for all people in employment aged 16 years and over,
UK, 1995 to 2021



In 2021, Covid accounted for 24% of all sickness absence. (ONS data)

2022 might be higher!

Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey person datasets

Prof Danny Altmann

Dr Binita Kane

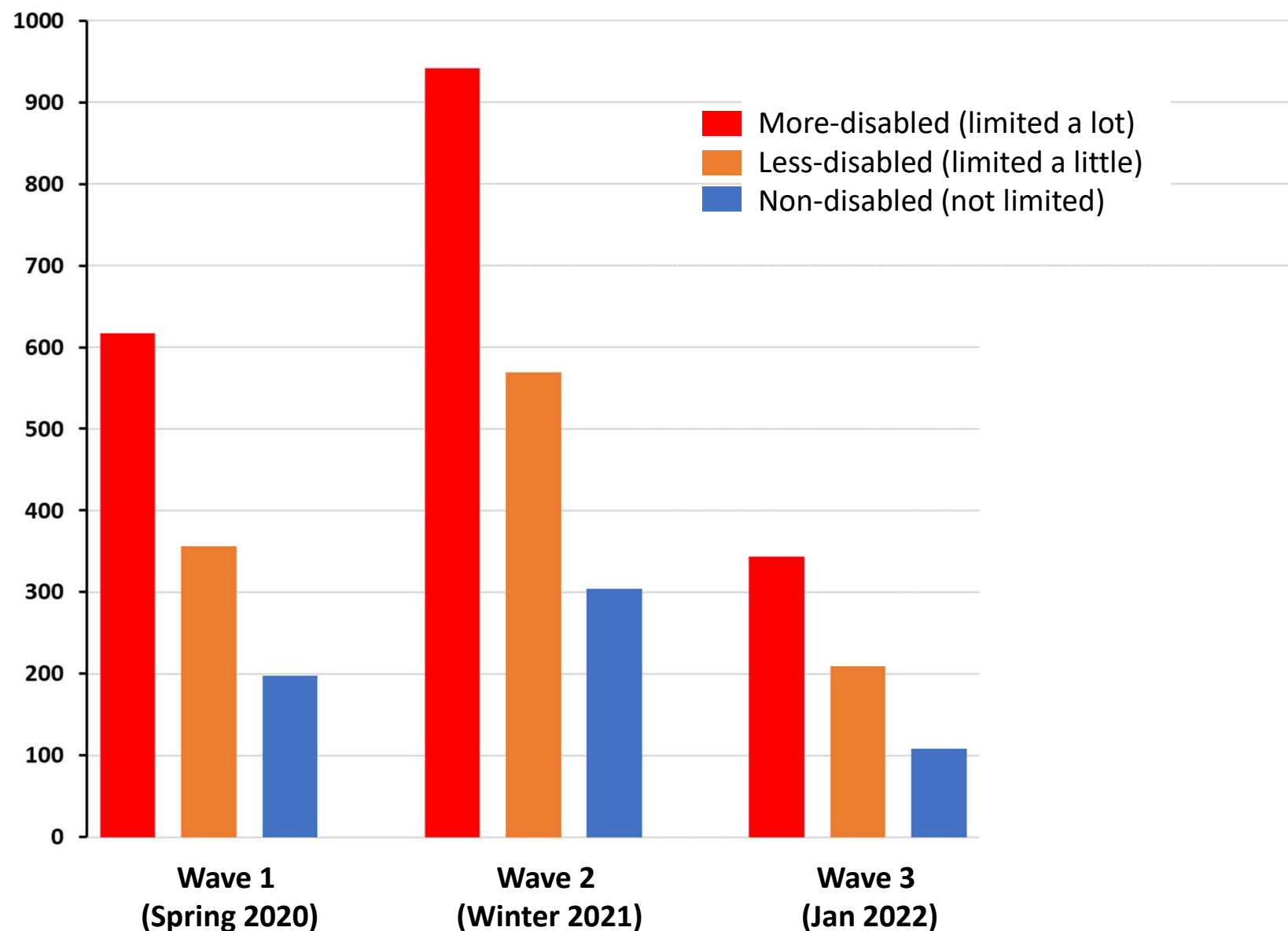
Prof Anthony Costello

Vulnerable
people

Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 person years by disability status – up to March 2022 (ONS death registration)

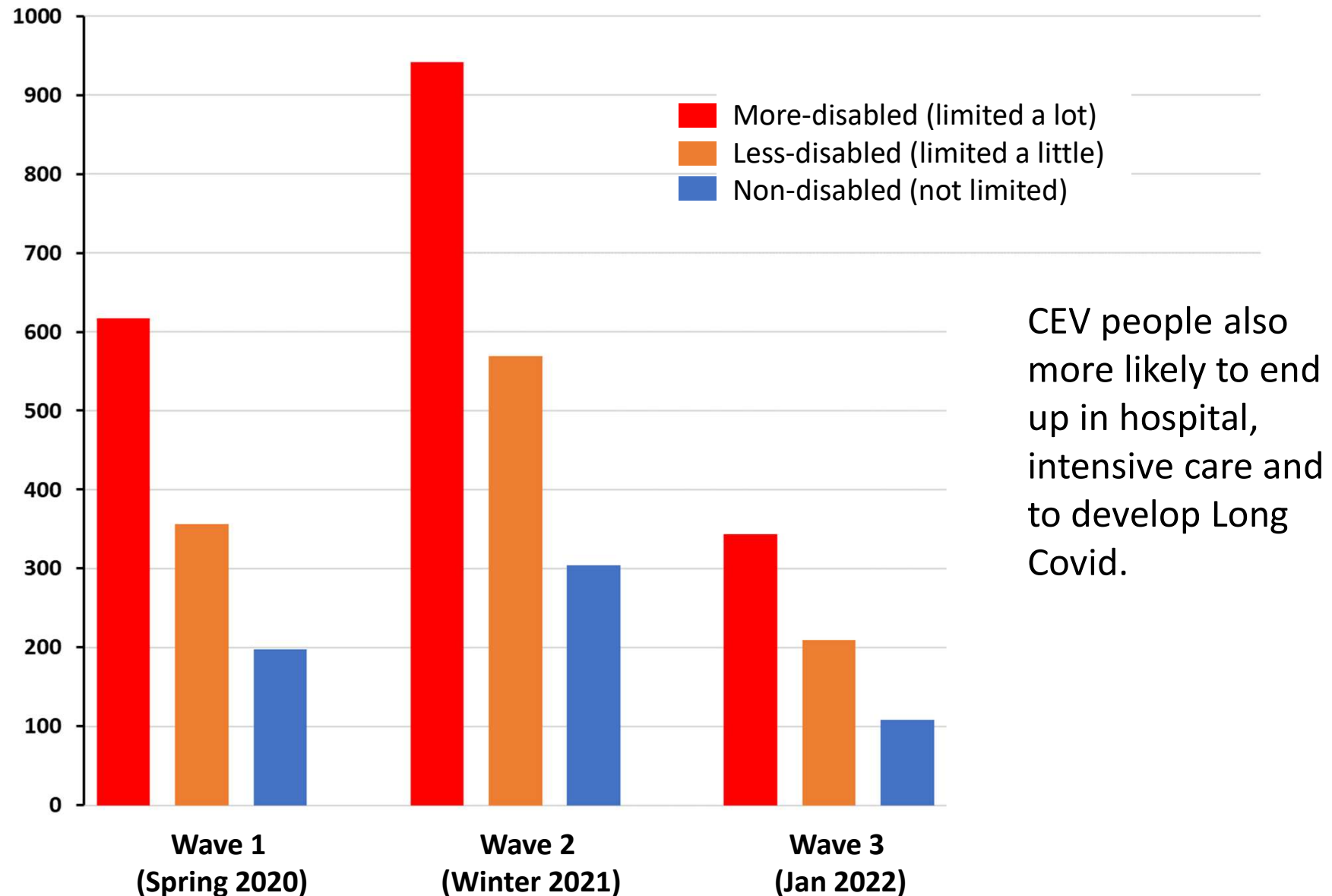
In every wave deaths have been highest in disabled groups.

Mortality rates in the more disabled group were higher in wave 3 (winter 2022) than in the non-disabled group in the worst Dec/Jan 2021 wave.

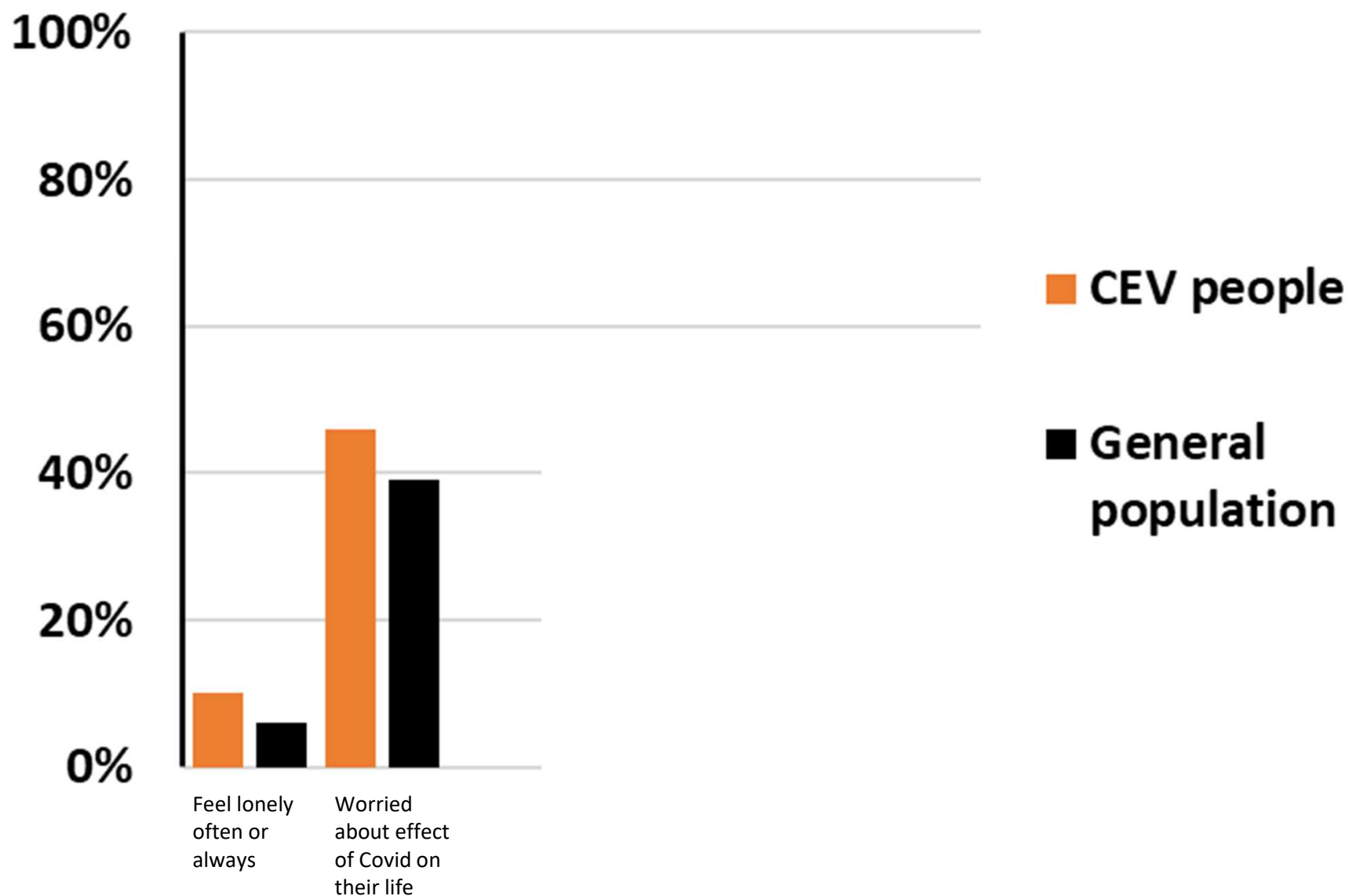


Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 person years by disability status – up to March 2022 (ONS death registration)

In every wave deaths have been highest in disabled groups.



Clinical extremely vulnerable people feel more lonely and less safe (ONS social survey – April 2022)

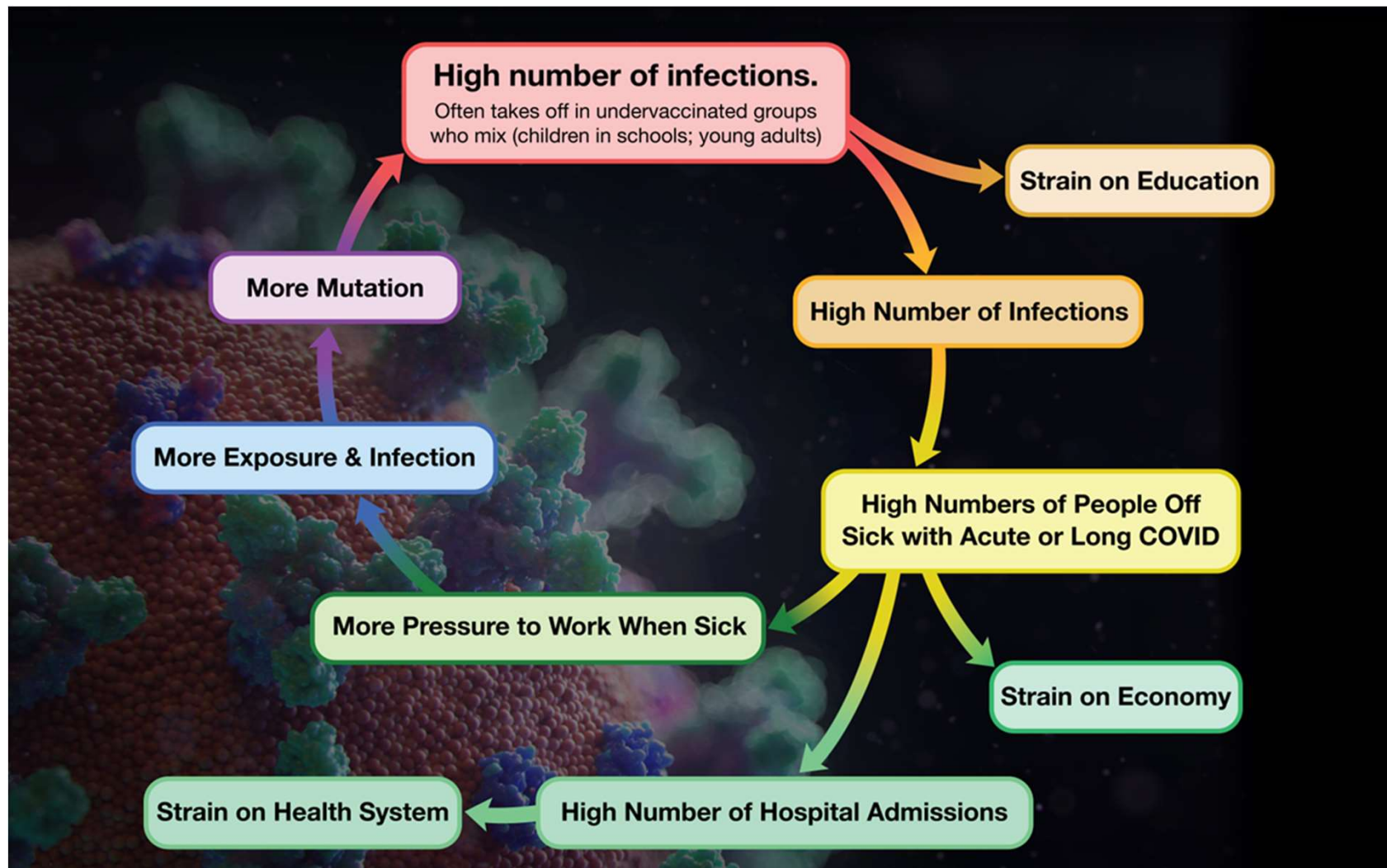


Ms Celia Hensman, Director of The
Disability Policy Centre, UK

Dr Zubaida Haque

Our vicious cycle –
and how to get out
of it

Each go round this vicious cycle causes disruption everywhere each wave and degraded our health, NHS, economy, education and lives



Escaping the circle – a 7-point plan

1. Clear and consistent messaging concerning covid risk and risk mitigation, reinforced by public statements by those in positions of authority;
2. Increased efforts to promote vaccine uptake & research into updated vaccines;
3. Installing and/or upgrading ventilation/air filtration in all public buildings, with schools an urgent priority over the summer holidays;
4. Provision of free lateral flow tests to enable everyone to follow existing public health guidelines;
5. Financial and other support for all workers to self-isolate if infected;
6. Systematic promotion of the use of FFP2/FFP3 masks in indoor public spaces and public transport when infection rates are high;
7. Increased support for the equitable global provision of vaccines and anti-virals.