

Teens and Covid-19 (TEC-19)

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The Teens and COVID-19 (TeC-19) research study adopted a longitudinal qualitative research design to follow the experiences of teenagers living in the UK through the pandemic. The aim of TEC-19 was to better understand how young people were feeling and behaving to inform messaging and compliance with lockdown restrictions. The UK arm of the study ran between 23rd March 2020 and March 2021. A co-production approach was adopted whereby the research team involved adolescents in the entire research process, including through two patient and public involvement (PPI) panels of adolescents aged 12-16 years. The UK TEC-19 study followed 80 adolescents (aged 12-19 years) over the first year of the pandemic through repeated online focus groups [FGDs] (see figure 1).

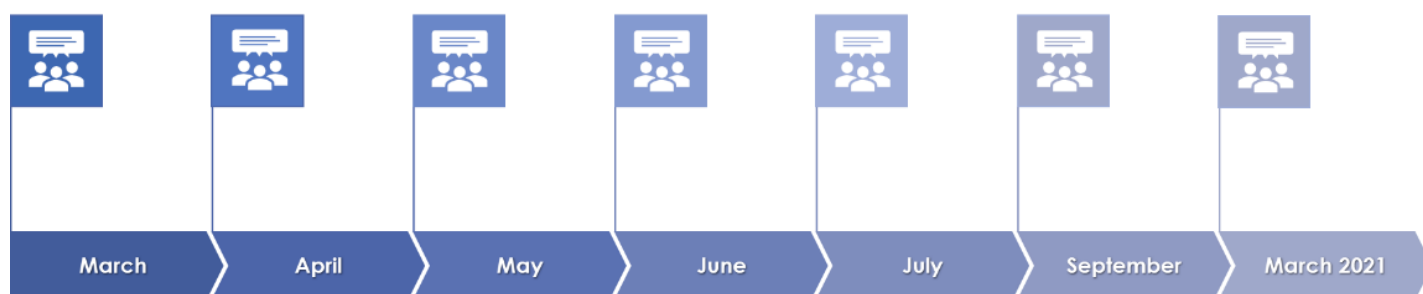


Figure 1

In addition to the FGDs, we engaged local stakeholders eager to use research insights to inform their evolving COVID-19 responses, used social media diaries to gain a deeper insight into the young people's lives in lockdown, and invited them to complete brief mentimeter polls to capture their perceptions of key events and policy changes occurring during the pandemic.

In addition to the UK study, mirror qualitative longitudinal studies were carried by partners in Canada, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, and South Africa to explore young people's experiences of the pandemic in these settings (see figure 2). We analysed the data using thematic analysis, and compared findings across the different settings. All international partners were involved in the adaptation of this project into their settings. Through the expansion of TEC-19, we have developed a committed and effective research

collaboration which meets regularly, and who share resources and support each other during the research process. We have achieved capacity strengthening through these working relationships between multi-disciplinary researchers in the team and have created the potential for further collaboration.

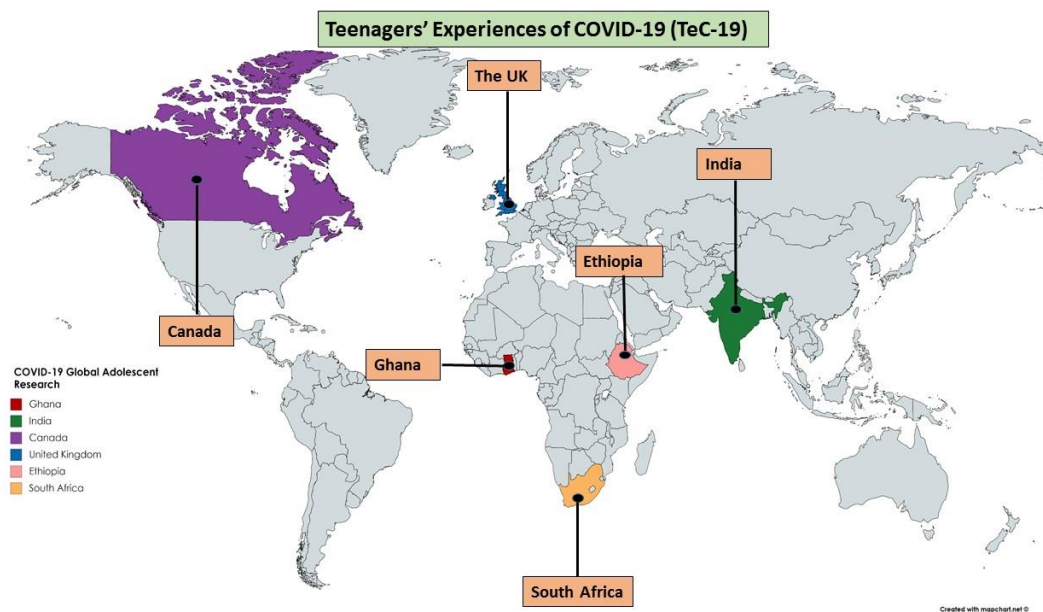


Figure 2

Project contacts

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Project outputs

<https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-022-12755-3>