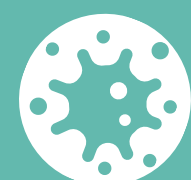





# INFORMING DECISION-MAKING. BUILDING CAPACITY.

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## UNCOVER Applied Evidence Synthesis

-  Created in 2020 by University of Edinburgh staff and students to help with the response to COVID-19.
-  We provide evidence syntheses to local, national and international decision-makers.
-  We prioritise collaboration and cross-disciplinary working, within and beyond the University.
-  Our focus now includes other complex public health issues, from teenage mental health to climate change.

### STUDENT-STAFF PARTNERSHIP

UNCOVER's working model is based on partnership between students (including alumni) and staff. There are two main routes into UNCOVER for students:

-  UNCOVER offers **supervision** of undergraduate and postgraduate systematic review dissertations. These should be on a topic related to our work: so far, most have either focused on COVID-19, or on climate change and health. For interested students, this can also lead into getting more involved with our other work.
-  Postgraduate (Masters and PhD) students, including recent graduates, with **experience or training in systematic reviews** can join UNCOVER as members, and get involved with our diverse projects. We also offer initial training for students who are less familiar with our methods (especially from non-public health programmes).

Student-staff partnership has been a central part of our work from the beginning. It reflects our wider commitment to **capacity building**, which also includes developing open-access training and resources for use around the world. We recognise the skills and hard work our students bring, and appreciate that we are helping to develop the **next generation of public health professionals**, who are capable of addressing complex, real-world challenges in a thoughtful and evidence-based way.

### SNAPSHOTS OF OUR WORK



In 2022, we compared **socioeconomic recovery strategies** from COVID-19 across different countries, to help inform Scotland's planning for recovery.



We carried out several reviews on the interaction of **COVID-19, influenza and RSV** for the World Health Organisation between 2021 and 2023.



We undertook work for the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry on the **public sector response to the pandemic**, reporting in 2022 and again in 2023.



We partnered with the DiaDev project to do a qualitative systematic review of **point-of-care testing in LMICs** during 2022-23.

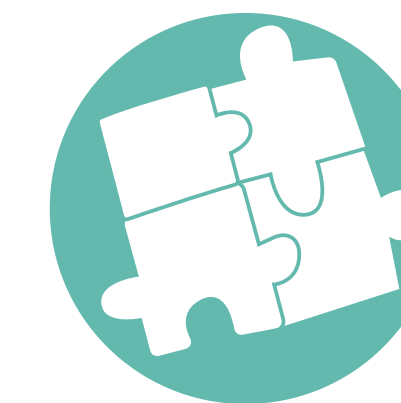
Read more online at: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/usher/uncover/our-output>

100+

More than 100 staff, students and graduates at the University of Edinburgh have worked with UNCOVER since we first set up in March 2020.



We are an online-first community, and our members are based around the world, from Canada to Ghana, South Africa to France, India to the UK.



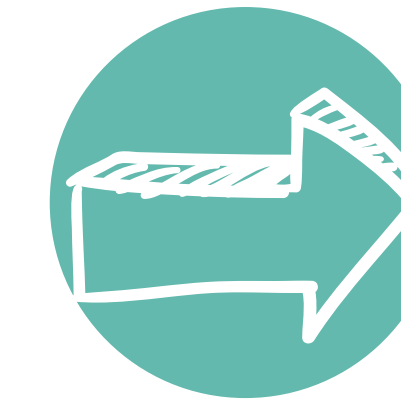
We have produced evidence for the WHO, for UK and Scottish Government advisory committees, and for local councils and start-up organisations.



UNCOVER has published over 40 reviews and evidence summaries (available on our website), many of which have now also been published in academic journals.



We also enjoy international collaborations, with organisations such as the Evidence Commission (COVID-END), Tulane University, RESPIRE, and many others.



**You can get involved.**  
Find out more on our website at: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/usher/uncover>

### WHY IT MATTERS

Many decision-makers and researchers share the same goals: We all want to answer the questions that matter, that will make a difference to the world we live in. We all know that evidence-based decision-making can lead to better outcomes for everyone. But what does the evidence actually say? It can be difficult for decision-makers, working to tackle urgent issues, to see the whole of the evidence base, or to sort out reliable from unreliable answers. UNCOVER was set up with the aim of bridging the academic world and the world of decision-makers. This means bringing our academic training and methods to an environment where decision-makers need rapid (but reliable) answers to often-complex and expansive questions - helping to provide the sound evidence needed to inform the development of public policy. We want to use the tools and skills we have available, to help make a positive difference to the world around us. We know that this ethos is shared by all of our many community members. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNCOVER has adapted well-established public health methods to find, summarise and evaluate the evidence base in answer to decision-makers' questions - from understanding disease transmission in its early days, to exploring different approaches to social and economic recovery from the pandemic around the world. We continue to contribute to the ongoing response to COVID-19, while recognising that there are other urgent and complex challenges with a clear public health dimension, where we may also be able to help with the development of a stronger evidence base. We seek to work in partnership with others within and beyond the University, recognising that the evidence synthesis work we can offer may be a useful complement to wider research, as well as to direct policy development. **If you'd like to join or work with us, we'd love to hear from you!**

**UNCOVER Members Active During Academic Year 2022-23:** Emily Adams, Eldad Agyei-Manu, Chiara Aquino, Thulani Ashcroft, Nadege Atkins, Urmila Bhattacharyya, Emma Birley, Harry Campbell, Gwenetta Curry, Alys Daniels-Creasey, Udani de Silva, Marshall Dozier, Kirsten Duggan, Emma Farfan de los Godos, Ryan Ferguson, Simon Finnigan, Jodie Fryer, Alice Gornall-Wick, Mandara Harikar, Michelle Hart, Karen Hartnup, Toneka Hayward, Damilola Iduye, Aimee Kelley, Prerna Krishan, Durga Kulkarni, Bohee Lee, Xue Li, Sarah Manning, Ruth McQuillan, Emilie McSwiggan, Dudzai Mureyi, Harish Nair, Sarah Nelson, Gemma Nolan, Rima Nundy, Eimear O'Connell, Janet Perkins, Joana Pinto da Costa, Jolie Pistol, Lubna Rahiman, Srikala Ravishankar, Jasmin Rostron, Neneh Rowa-Dewar, Meagan Rust, Heta Shukla, Christa St Jean, Evropi Theodoratou, Vaishali Vardhan, Laura Vokey, Wei Xu, Agnieszka Zawiejska. Full List: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/usher/uncover/who-we-are/members>  
*Dedicated to the memory of our friend and community member, Alice Gornall-Wick.*