

The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on vulnerable groups in the EU

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This research note aimed to review the available evidence on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on five selected groups, namely, people experiencing homelessness, migrants, Roma, people with disabilities, and vulnerable children.

This research distinguished three type of impacts:

- Primary effect of COVID-19 on health
- Secondary effect on wellbeing (income and employment, housing, family and social ties, mental health)
- Tertiary effect (longer-term) on future outcomes (children's education, shifts in social policies).



People experiencing homelessness, migrants, Roma and people living in institutions were at high risk of contagion due mostly to overcrowding and/or low-quality accommodation, which shows a strong link between housing and health.



Secondary and tertiary impacts of the COVID pandemic differ strongly from its primary impacts, in terms of affected groups as well as duration, nature and severity.



The crisis has triggered some **social innovations** such as new investments on services and more decent accommodation for the people experiencing homelessness as well as education providers embracing digital methods addressing specific learning needs of students with disabilities.



Social protection systems have so far played a very important role as 'built-in stabilisers', not just for the economy at large but also for millions of individuals and households that were directly or indirectly affected by the crisis.

To download the full research note, please visit the [SSM website](#)

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