

My name is Elizabeth Wynn, I'm the Equality and Diversity Manager at the Babraham Institute, and today I'm going to be talking about the gendered impacts of Covid-19.

So this was an interesting talk to prepare for because though we definitely have already observed gendered impacts of Covid-19, we're right in the middle of it. So we don't know the full effects and we're not going to for a long time. And there are definitely fewer, there's a lot less evidence and answers than there are anecdotes and questions. So I'm hoping at the end we'll be able to have a good discussion. I'm really interested in hearing your experiences and your thoughts and, you know, sharing those with each other.

Another thing about this talk is I gave myself a very broad topic. There's a lot that I could cover with this.

It's not all bad news though. In England, Wales and Scotland, abortions prior to 10 weeks can now be managed at home. So this type of medical abortion involves taking two oral medications and previously you needed to take the first one in a clinic and you could take the other one at home later. Now you can take both of them at home. So that's a positive step in abortion access.

Moving on to mental health now. In China's hardest hit areas, like Wuhan where they went into lockdown earliest and have now lifted lockdown, in the aftermath of that women are showing significantly more post-traumatic stress symptoms than men. And this replicates observations from the SARS outbreak in that heavily affected East Asia in the early 2000s.

Some other impacts on mental health of that outbreak that might give us an idea of what we'll see as a result of the Covid pandemic. Among recovered hospitalised patients women showed less psychological resilience than men. And also 17% of healthcare workers experienced significant mental health symptoms. This relates to gender, because in the UK, in the NHS, it's over 70% female NHS

And the thing about this is, it's irrelevant t

reproductive services and effective PPE: these are things which women have been dealing with prior to this, and it's just that this crisis has highlighted and exacerbated the situation.