



Child health futures

Supporting improvements in
paediatric health and wellbeing



Royal College of
Paediatrics and Child Health

Leading the way in Children's Health

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) is on a mission to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people both in the UK, and around the world. We undertake and support vital child health research, inform and influence policies for the benefit of children and young people, and advance medical education for child health professionals, particularly paediatricians. We also advocate on public health issues and are a voice for infants, children and young people.



The case for child health support

In the UK, our NHS, the public health system and our research institutions are well-respected and efficient, but there is evidence that we fare poorly in some vital child health outcomes compared with other high-income countries.

Infants, children and young people need healthcare that is tailored to their needs – one that recognises their changing physiology and the treatment challenges this brings, that ensures their voices are heard and where the child health workforce is supported to deliver the best healthcare possible.

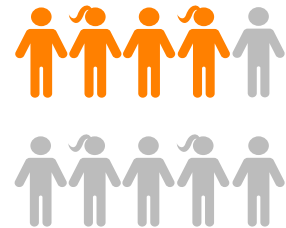
80% of consultant-level and SAS paediatricians have no time in their job plan for research



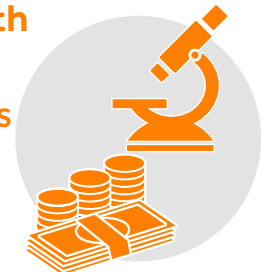
UK infant (under 1 yrs) mortality rate is the 4th worst out of 25 comparable countries



40% of children in England's most deprived areas are overweight



Just **5.4%** of health research expenditure is directed at children's studies, yet children represent over 20% of the population



Child health futures



Our mission as the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health is to transform child health through knowledge, innovation and expertise.

Our primary role is to deliver education and training for paediatricians, advocate for the health and wellbeing of infants, children and young people, and improve the scientific basis of healthcare and the evidence underpinning treatment and services through research and evaluation.

We have launched the Child Health Futures initiative to help us continue our work in:

- Researching child health and driving forward improvements
- Influencing health policy for the benefit of children and young people
- Engaging children and young people (CYP) in all our programmes, ensuring their voices are heard
- Educating and training the paediatric workforce
- Improving global child health and wellbeing

A strong child health workforce, continued advances in clinical medicine for children and health policies that are focused on infants, children and young people are essential to ensure the future health and happiness of children globally.

Did you know?



RCPCH has placed over **100** clinicians in our programmes across low-resource settings

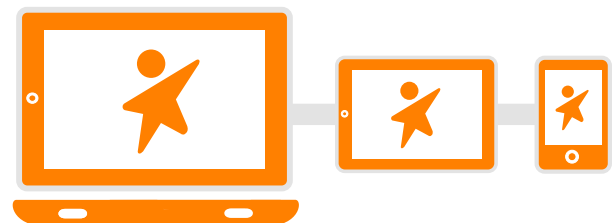
25 measures of the health and wellbeing of UK children are tracked in [RCPCH State of Child Health Report](#)

RCPCH has over **30** free webinars and podcasts to help educate the paediatric workforce



Over **4000** children, young people and their families worked with the RCPCH's engagement collaborative network, RCPCH &Us

RCPCH has over **20,000** members in 88 countries



Supporting child health research



Research is essential to advance the science of paediatrics and improve the health and wellbeing of children. However, child health research is severely underfunded, and there is a near total reliance on charitable support for funding of research.

There are declining numbers of child health research leaders, people with vision, training, ability and drive to take on the challenge of advancing preventive health and healthcare for infants, children and young people. The RCPCH aims to identify and nurture a new generation of child health research leaders.

Fellowships

We have established the Child Health Research Fellowship Fund to support a global increase in clinical and non-clinical research training posts and increase the number of paediatric research projects.

Rare Disease Development Fund

The RCPCH in collaboration with the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit (BPSU) has established the Rare Disease Development Fund to support research and surveillance projects and the delivery of education and training programmes on rare disease and rare complications - with the aim of improving health outcomes for children and young people affected by rare diseases.

Influencing health policy

We want children and young people at the heart of NHS policy and practice. By working collaboratively with organisations, we develop healthcare standards and guidance and shape NHS policy and practice to ensure children and young people have access to high quality, safe and effective care.

We influence key research decision makers so that child health research is seen as equally important as adult health research. We work in partnership with other organisations to implement early intervention strategies to reduce health inequalities for children.

Children and young people engagement

The voice of children, young people and their families is vital in ensuring that the future of paediatrics and child health, is a future where they feel engaged, listened to and respected. We involve children and young people in our work - from them helping to shape our paediatric curriculum to their ideas on service design projects and clinical guidelines.

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My wish for child health is that children and young people are given the power and tools to make decisions that affect their lives. The only way to know what we want is to ask us and talk to us.

RCPCH&Us voice bank

#voicematters ”

Education and training of the paediatric workforce

We work with paediatricians and child health professionals who are keen to continue to learn and equip themselves in a range of skills and knowledge in order to help them deliver the best healthcare for children and young people.

Through our courses, webinars, online learning, podcasts, mentoring and face-to-face training, the RCPCH facilitates the continuing development of the child health workforce. Our programmes cover a variety of educational and supportive topics from safeguarding and rare diseases to clinical leadership and wellbeing for doctors and are mostly run by the paediatric workforce for the paediatric workforce.



Developing new research projects, awarding fellowships, grants and bursaries and supporting education and training programmes is only possible through various generous donations from trusts and foundations, companies, charities and individuals.

Improving global child health and wellbeing

15,000 children aged under five die every day, almost all of them in developing countries from treatable conditions. The RCPCH's global health team works to support and strengthen critical neonatal and paediatric care in district-level hospitals and health centres in low-income countries.

By recruiting and preparing doctors, nurses and midwives for placements in hospitals in low-income countries, we help improve the clinical knowledge and overall quality of care for mothers, newborns and children. Our focus is to build system-level support, working across hospitals and health facilities and to provide classroom training and long-term mentorship to health professionals. Training is also complemented by strategies to improve the supply of essential medicines and equipment, strengthening the wider hospital healthcare system. We have placed more than 100 clinicians in our programmes across a range of low-resource settings.



Help us improve the future of child health

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Your generosity is essential to help us reach our mission to transform child health through knowledge, innovation and expertise. Every day we are promoting and supporting excellence in child health research, advocating on public health issues, acting as the voice for infants, children and young people and improving global child health. But with your help, we can do even more.

Donations are welcomed online, through one-off donations, regular giving or by leaving us a gift in your will. We also welcome donations from charitable trust and foundations, companies, individuals and corporate partnerships, with those who share our aims and objectives. Please visit <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/support-us> or contact fundraising@rcpch.ac.uk.



All offers of funding will be reviewed under the “RCPC H Policy for accepting donations/funding” before acceptance.

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If we can achieve the funding we need, we can ‘turn the tide’ and secure a new generation of child health research leaders – talented, visionary young people who will advance the wellbeing of infants, children and young people, and their life-long health.

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Professor Neena Modi,
Professor of Neonatal Medicine, Imperial College London
RCPCH President (2015-2018)

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We invite you to be a part of this vision that will influence the future of children and young people's health worldwide.

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health is a registered charity in England and Wales (1057744) and in Scotland (SCO 38299).

