

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2024/25

End of life care

Summary points

- 30.0% of Bristol residents died at home in 2023, higher than the England average of 28.4%
- Care homes provide palliative and end of life care for over a quarter of people who die in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) each year

Meeting people's preferences for place of care and place of death is a measure of the quality of end of life care. Surveys and research indicate that home is the preferred place of death for many people¹.

Place of death

In 2023 Bristol had a higher percentage of people of all ages dying at home (30.0%) than England (28.4%) – fig 1. Of those that didn't die at home, 39.7% died in hospital (lower than national 42.8%), 22.3% died in a care home (higher than national 21.0%), 4.3% in a hospice (lower than national 5.2%) and 3.6% in other places (significantly higher than national 2.6%).

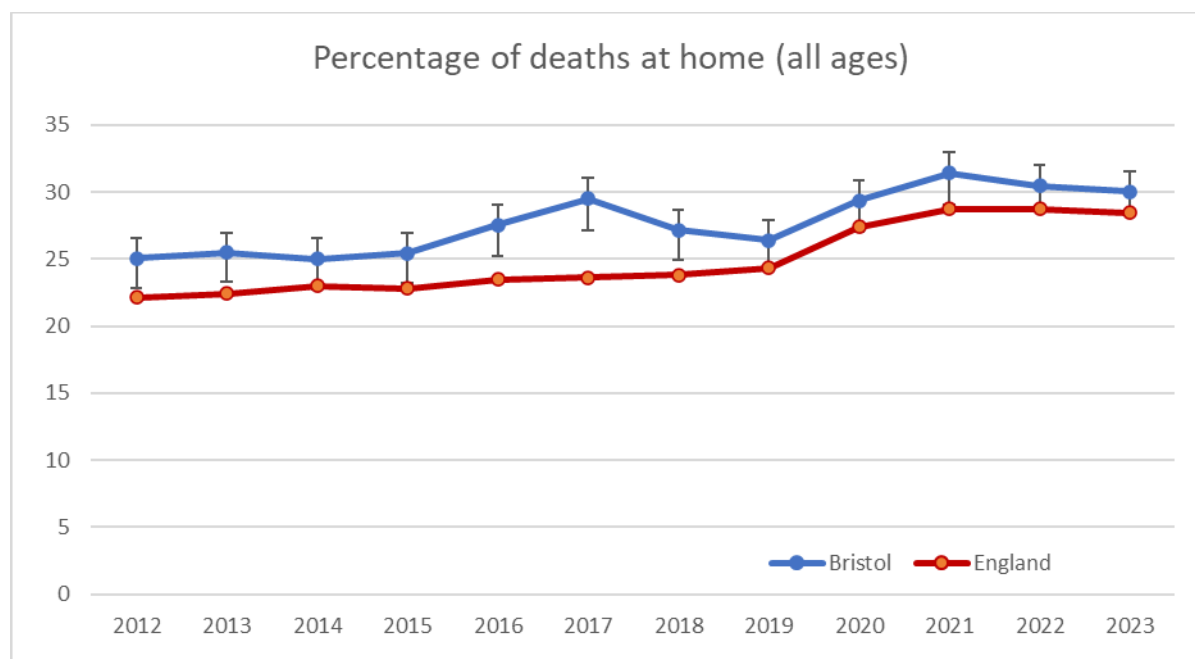


Figure 1: Percentage of deaths at home, all ages. Source: ONS Mortality File, for National End of Life Care Intelligence, Public Health England, via <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/end-of-life>

Equalities data: By age group 38.5% of under 65 year olds died at home compared to 38.1% of 65-74 year olds, 29.0% of 75-84 year olds and 23.2% of 85+ year olds. Figure 2 overleaf illustrates how the percentage of deaths occurring at home has increased across most age groups since 2012. There have been marked increases in 2020 and 2021 which coincides with the pandemic, but since then the % of under 65 year olds dying at home has decreased back to pre-pandemic levels.

¹ PHE report: [Patterns of end of life care in England, 2008 to 2010 \(2013\)](#)

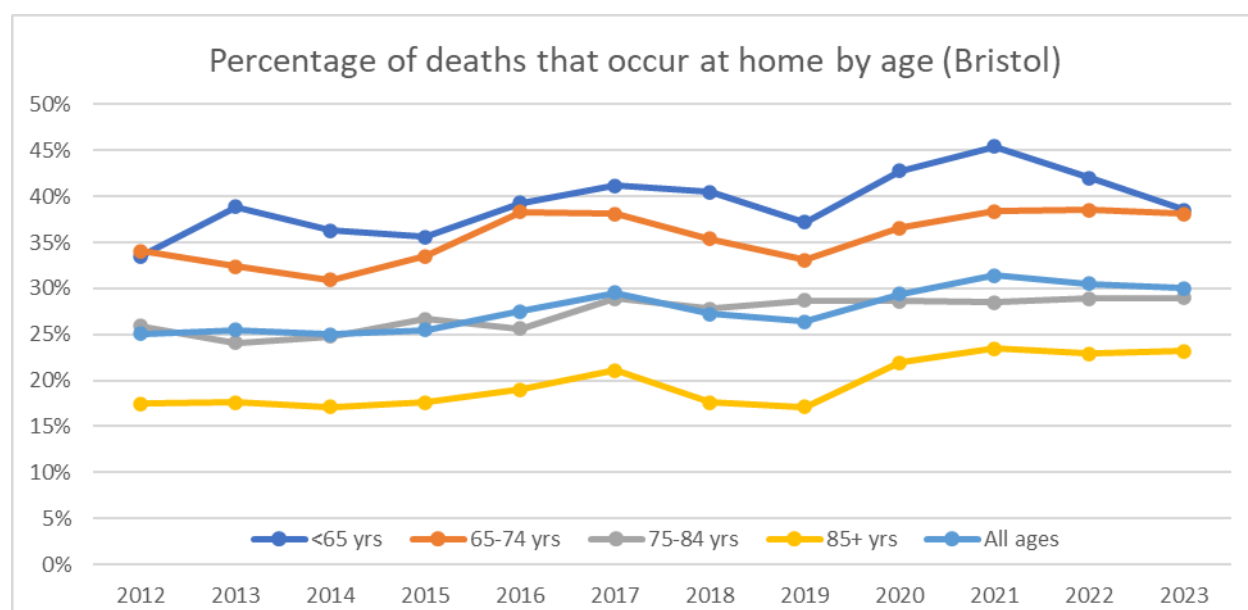


Figure 2: Percentage of deaths at home, by age. Source: ONS Mortality File, for National End of Life Care Intelligence, Public Health England, via <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/end-of-life>

Deaths in care homes and provision of care²

The following findings have been extracted from the Department of Health and Social Care 'Palliative and end of life care factsheet' which reports at NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) ICB level - data is not available for Bristol only:

Number of people cared for near the end of their life in care homes

- In BNSSG in the 12 months from July 2023 to June 2024, palliative and end of life care (PEoLC) was provided for 2,441 people, representing 28.7% of all deaths and higher than the national figure of 24.1% of deaths.
- In the same period, more than a third of people (39.7%) who received end of life care in care homes in BNSSG were temporary residents (people who died in a care home but lived elsewhere) higher than nationally (36%). In addition, 50.3% of people receiving end of life care in care homes in BNSSG lived and died in a care home (51.3% in England) and 10.1% of people lived in a care home but died elsewhere compared to 12.7% nationally.

People receiving end of life care in care home by age and dementia diagnosis

- In BNSSG in the twelve months ending June 2024, 7.7% of all people who died in a care home were aged under 75 years old, 25.2% were aged 75 to 84 years old and 67.1% were 85 years and older. This is a similar profile to England where 8.2% were under 75 years, 25.4% were 75 to 84 years and 66.4% were aged 85 years and older.
- Dementia was among the underlying or contributory causes of death for 45.9% of all people who died in a care home in BNSSG in the twelve months to June 2024, similar to the England figure of 45.8%

Care home bed rates: October 2024

- BNSSG had a total of 7,801 care home beds in October 2024, a rate of 9.2 beds per 100 people aged 75 and older, slightly higher than the national rate of 8.9 beds. Compared

² Source: [Palliative and End of Life Care Profiles - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://palliativeandendoflifecareprofiles.data.ohiph.org.uk/)

to England, BNSSG had a higher rate of nursing home beds (5.4 per 100 compared to 4.3 per 100) but a lower rate of residential home beds (3.9 per 100 compared to 4.6 per 100).

Dying in usual place of residence by cause of death

Data cross referencing dying in usual place of residence by cause of death has been removed from the End of Life Care profiles, but historic data relating to 2016 showed that more people in Bristol (all ages) were able to die in their usual place of residence, compared to the national average, when the underlying cause of death was cancer (49.1% compared to 44.5%). The Bristol rate was similar to the national average for respiratory disease (32.1% compared to 32.2%) and circulatory disease (46.7% compared to 44.8%)³.

In addition, further details by underlying cause of death are available in the End of Life Profile, for all deaths whether at home or not – see 'Further data'.

Covid-19 impact:

A study⁴ into understanding patterns of mortality and place of death during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK found that while numbers of people who died in care homes and hospitals increased above expected only during the pandemic waves, the numbers of people who died at home remained above expected both during and between the pandemic waves. This has implications for palliative care and community services.

Further data / links:

- End of life care profiles: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/end-of-life>
- Enhanced health in care homes framework: [NHS England » Enhanced health in care homes framework](#)
- Patterns of care, England: [Palliative and end of life care factsheet: Patterns of care, England 2022 \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

Date updated: January 2025

Date of next update: January 2026

³ Source: PHE End of Life Care Profiles (extracted October 2019)

⁴ [Changes in mortality patterns and place of death during the COVID-19 pandemic: A descriptive analysis of mortality data across four nations - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)