Preventable mortality

Summary points

Preventable mortality refers to causes of death that are considered preventable through effective public health and primary prevention interventions (subject to age limits if appropriate). This includes deaths caused by tuberculosis, hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, some cancers, diabetes mellitus, alcohol related diseases, smoking, illicit drug use disorders, ischaemic heart disease, deep vein thrombosis (DVT), aortic aneurysm, influenza, COPD, transport accidents, injuries, suicide and self-inflicted injuries and homicide/assault.

- The preventable mortality rate in Bristol for 2023 is 175.3 deaths per 100,000 persons, significantly higher than the England average (153.0).
- The preventable mortality rate in Bristol for males is significantly higher than for females across three of the four major diseases including cardiovascular, cancer and liver.

Preventable mortality rate –persons (under 75s)

The Bristol preventable mortality rate of 175.3 deaths per 100,000 for 2023, is significantly higher than the England average of 153.0 per 100,000.

Bristol has the third lowest rate of all English core cities, behind Leeds with a rate of 170.3 per 100,000 and Sheffield which has the lowest rate of 170.1 per 100,000 (Figure 1).

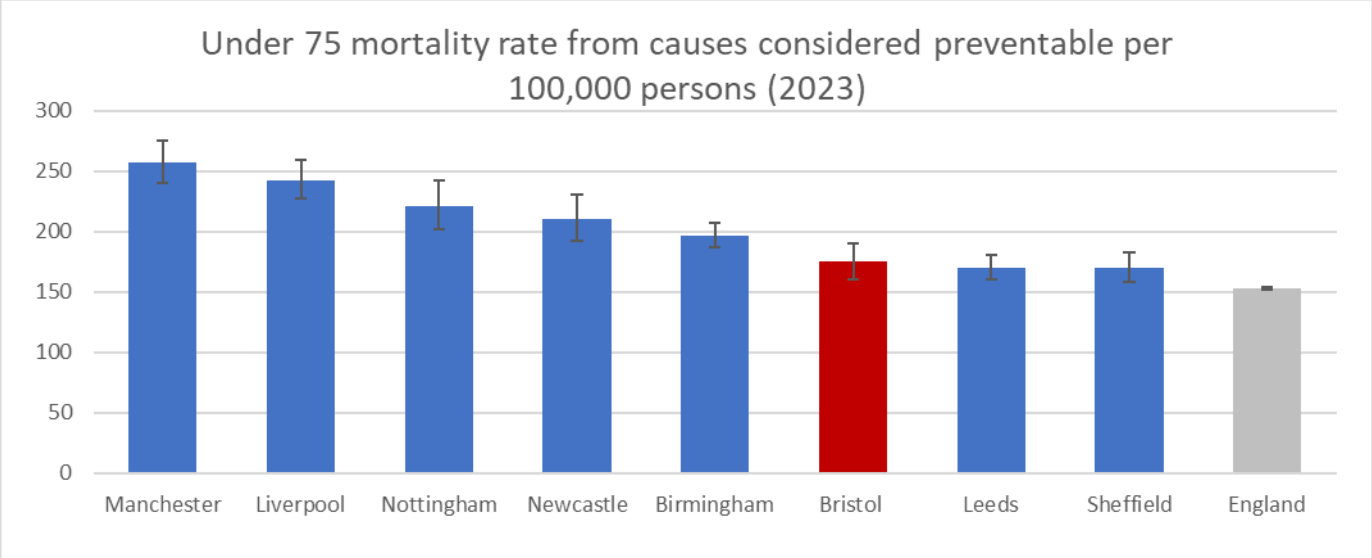

Figure 1: Core city comparison for preventable mortality, 2023 (Source via OHID Mortality Profile, Apr 2025)

Gender: Rates for preventable mortality are significantly higher in males than females. Male preventable mortality rates in Bristol are 237.0 per 100,000, significantly higher than the England average for males (202.5). Female preventable mortality rates in Bristol (115.0 per 100,000) are also higher than the England female average (106.2).

Figure 2 below illustrates both the national and Bristol trend in the mortality rate from causes considered preventable from 2001 to 2023 and is broken down by gender. It shows the

significant difference between males and females over this period, although the rate for males has decreased significantly over the last 20 years.

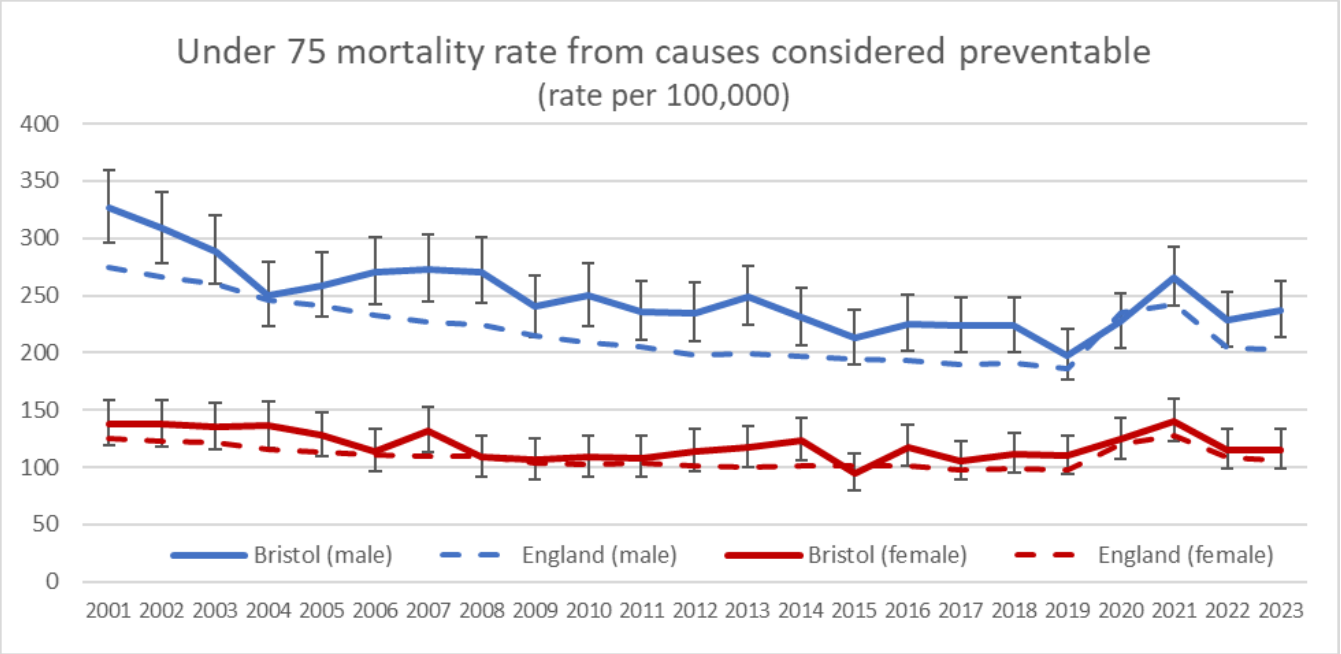

Figure 2: Rates of deaths from causes considered preventable, by gender for Bristol and England average (Source via OHID Mortality Profile, May 2025)

Preventable mortality rate – by cause

The preventable mortality rate for persons aged under 75 (per 100,000 persons) can be broken down by a number of common causes of death, as shown in Figure 3 below. Bristol's preventable mortality rate is higher (worse) than the England average for all major causes and significantly higher than the England average for cancer and respiratory disease.

2021-2023	Bristol			England		
Rate per 100,000 persons	*Under 75 mortality rate*	*Under 75 mortality rate - male*	*Under 75 mortality rate - female*	*Under 75 mortality rate*	*Under 75 mortality rate - male*	*Under 75 mortality rate - female*
Cardiovascular disease	30.7	45.5	16.3	30.5	44.5	17.3
Cancer	62.6	80.3	45.6	49.5	62.2	37.6
Liver disease	20.8	29.7	12.2	19.2	25.4	13.3
Respiratory disease	21.6	25.9	17.6	18.0	19.9	16.2

Figure 3: Under 75 rates of deaths from specific causes considered preventable, by gender for Bristol and England average (Source via OHID Mortality Profile, May 2025)

Gender: The preventable mortality rate for males under 75 in Bristol is statistically significantly higher for cancer and respiratory disease, compared to the England average.

The rate for females in Bristol is statistically significantly higher for cancer than the England average. Rates are also higher for respiratory disease but lower than the national average for cardiovascular disease and liver disease.

In Bristol the preventable mortality rate for all major disease groups (with the exception of respiratory disease) is significantly higher for males than females. Males are more than twice as likely to die of cardiovascular disease and liver disease than females.

Further data / links / consultations:

- OHID Mortality Profile: Mortality Profile - OHID (phe.org.uk)

Covid-19 impact:

It is difficult to identify the full impact of the pandemic on preventable mortality, However with continued pressures on the health care system it may be increasingly challenging to mitigate the risk factors associated with preventable ill health and preventable mortality.

Date updated: May 2025 **Date of next update**: April 2026