

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025/26

End of life care

Summary points

- 26.3% of residents living in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) died at home in 2024, significantly lower than the England average of 28.1%
- 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

Data is reported at Integrated Care Board (ICB) level only and is not available at local authority level.

In 2024 BNSSG had a significantly lower percentage of people of all ages dying at home (26.3%) than England (28.1%) – fig 1. Of those that did not die at home, 40.5% died in hospital (significantly lower than national 42.3%), 25.9% died in a care home (significantly higher than national 21.5%), 4.7% in a hospice (significantly lower than national 5.5%) and 2.6% in other places (same as national 2.6%).

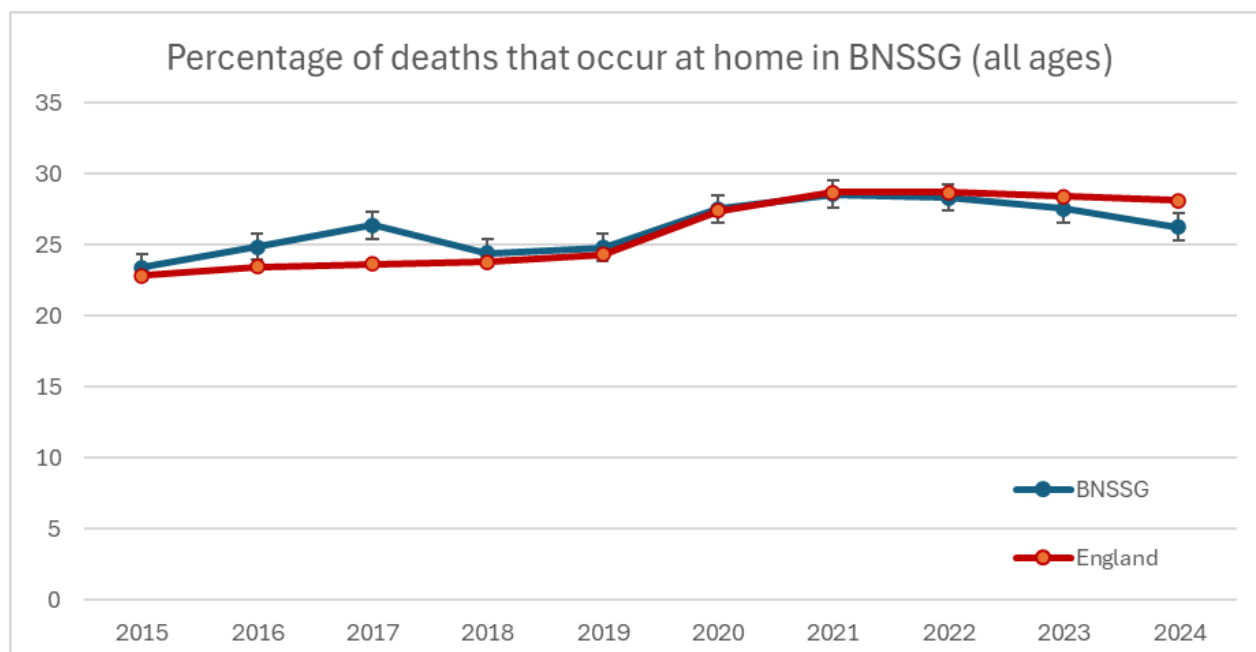


Figure 1: Percentage of deaths at home, all ages. Source: ONS Mortality File, for National End of Life Care Intelligence, Public Health England, via <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/end-of-life>

Equalities data: By age group 36.5% of under 65 year olds died at home compared to 33.7% of 65-74 year olds, 26.9% of 75-84 year olds and 19.8% of 85+ year olds. Figure 2 overleaf illustrates how the percentage of deaths occurring at home has changed over the last 10 years.

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

Whilst the 2024 proportion of deaths at home is higher across all age groups than the 2015 proportion, there has been a general downward trend since 2022, and is significantly lower in the 65-74 years age group in 2024 than two years previously.

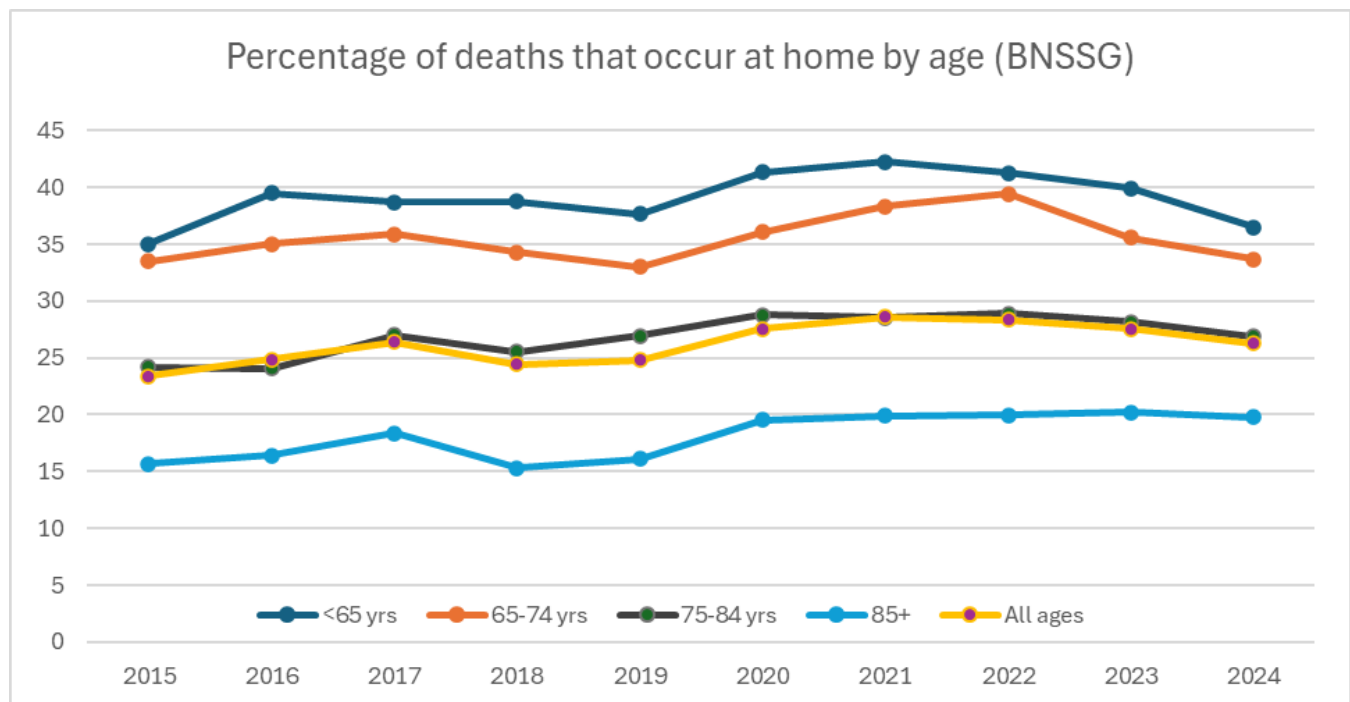


Figure 2: Percentage of deaths at home, by age. Source: ONS Mortality File, for National End of Life Care Intelligence, Public Health England, via <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/end-of-life>

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 November 2024 to October 2025, palliative and end of life care (PEoLC) was provided for 2,292 people, representing 27.5% of all deaths, higher than the national figure of 22.7% of deaths.
- In the same period, 153 of the people receiving PEoLC in care homes in BNSSG were temporary care home residents, 6.7%, of all those who received PEoLC in a care home. This compares to 6.6% in England.

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

- In BNSSG in the twelve months ending October 2025, 6.5% of all people who died in a care home were aged under 75 years old, 28.8% were aged 75 to 84 years old and 64.7% were 85 years and older. This differs to the England profile where 9.7% were under 75 years, 30.7% were 75 to 84 years and 59.5% were aged 85 years and older.
- Dementia was among the underlying or contributory causes of death for 46.7% of all people who died in a care home in BNSSG in the twelve months to October 2025, lower than the England figure of 48.3%

² Source: [Palliative and End of Life Care Profiles - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

Care home bed rates: December 2025

- BNSSG had a total of 7,957 care home beds in December 2025, a rate of 8.9 beds per 100 people aged 75 and older, higher than the national rate of 7.8 beds. Compared to England, BNSSG had a higher rate of nursing home beds (5.3 per 100 compared to 3.8 per 100) but a lower rate of residential home beds (3.7 per 100 compared to 4.0 per 100).

Dying in usual place of residence by cause of death

National data for 2024 showed that 88.1% of people who died, died of or with one of the 4 major conditions – Cancer, Cardiovascular, Dementia, Respiratory. The condition(s) people live with as they approach the end of their life can affect where they are cared for and where they ultimately die.

People who died of cardiovascular disease were most likely to die at home (35.4% compared to 28.1% of all deaths) followed by 34.8% of cancer deaths, 22.6% of respiratory deaths and 15.5% of dementia deaths. Further information on place of death for people who died of 4 major conditions is available in the [Patterns of care, England 2024](#) factsheet.

Covid-19 impact:

A study³ 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 2024 \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

Date updated: February 2026

Date of next update: February 2027

³ [Changes in mortality patterns and place of death during the COVID-19 pandemic: A descriptive analysis of mortality data across four nations - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)