

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025/26

Dementia

Summary points

- The rate of dementia in Bristol is 0.61%, significantly lower than the England average (0.78%). This may be expected given Bristol's younger population.
- In people aged 65 and over, 4.8% in Bristol are recorded as having dementia, which is higher than the England average (4.3%).
- In Bristol, the percentage of people aged 65 over, estimated to be living with dementia who have received a formal diagnosis is 74.6%, higher than the England average of 65.6%.
- The mortality rate from dementia and Alzheimer's disease in Bristol was 119.9 per 100,000 persons, significantly higher than the England average of 109.9 per 100,000.

Dementia data for Bristol

In 2019 it was estimated that 7.2% of people aged 65 and over in England had dementia which is forecast to increase to 8.3% by 2040¹. This broadly equates to about 4,375 people (65+) living with dementia in Bristol in 2019, increasing to 5,960 in 2040².

In 2024/25, 3,556 people in Bristol (all ages) had a diagnosis of dementia recorded by their GP³. This is 0.61% of all Bristol GP patients and has increased since 2012/13 by nearly 50% (Fig 1). The Bristol rate is significantly lower than the England average (0.78%), which may be expected given Bristol's younger population. However, 4.8% of people aged 65 and over in Bristol are recorded as having dementia, higher than the England average of 4.3% (NHS primary care dementia data for June 2025⁴).

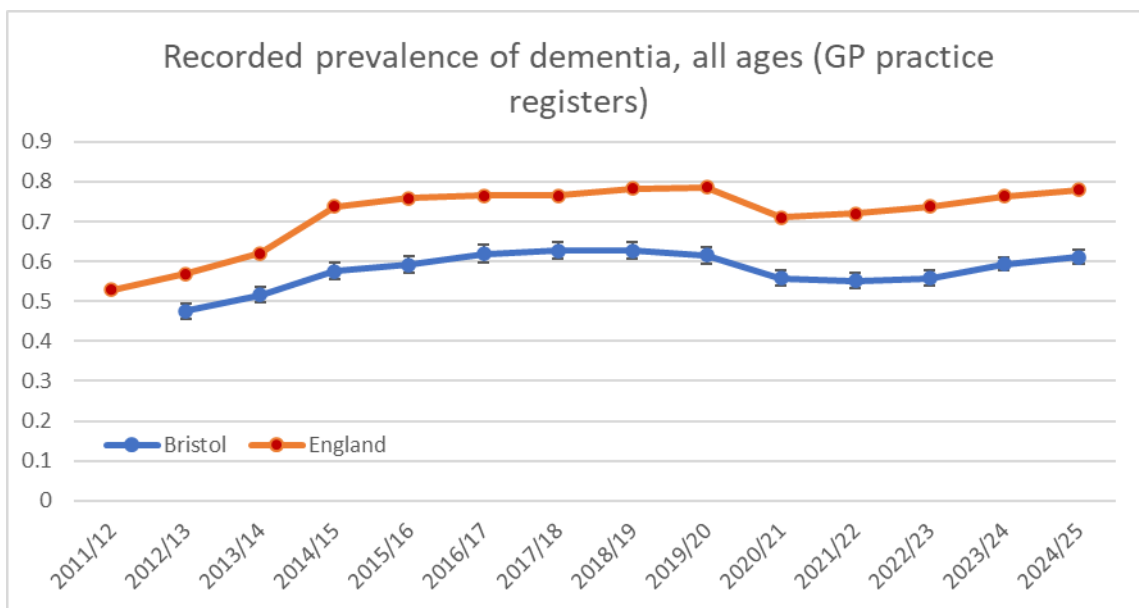


Figure 1: Recorded prevalence of dementia; QOF via NHS Digital, September 2025

¹ Source: Projections of older people with dementia and costs of dementia care in the United Kingdom, 2019–2040; report by Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, (November 2019); <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/>

² Latest population projections 2022-based published here: [Subnational population projections for England - Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/population-projections)

³ QOF 2024/25 via NHS Digital: [Quality and Outcomes Framework, 2023-24 - NHS England Digital](https://www.nhs.uk/quality-and-outcomes-framework)

⁴ [Primary care dementia data - June-2025](https://www.nhs.uk/primary-care-dementia-data)

Diagnosis

In Bristol, the percentage of people aged 65 over, estimated to be living with dementia who have received a formal diagnosis, was 74.6% as at 31st March 2025, higher than the England average of 65.6% (Figure 2). There is a national aspiration to identify two-thirds (66%) of people with dementia and provide appropriate support⁵. Bristol has consistently met the target over the last eight years but did experience a decrease in diagnosis in 2020/21 which is possibly due to Covid-19 and limited GP access. Since then numbers have gradually increased and the diagnosis rate for 2024/25 was similar to 2019/20 pre-covid. Compared to the other English core cities, Bristol has the third highest estimated dementia diagnosis rate, which ranges from 80.8% in Nottingham to 63.9% in Birmingham.

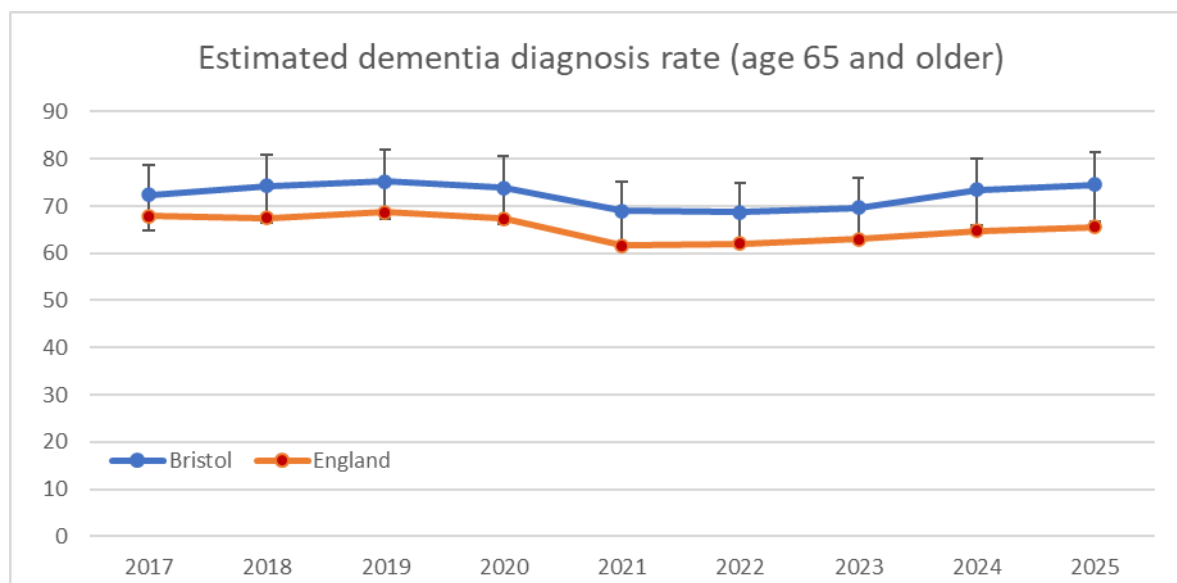


Figure 2: Estimated dementia diagnosis rate age 65+. Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework: Dementia Profile, September 2025

Risk Factors

The biggest risk associated with the development of dementia is age. A person's risk of developing dementia rises from 1 in 14 aged 65 and over, to 1 in 6 people aged 80 and over⁶.

The risk of dementia can be reduced by leading a healthy lifestyle. Choices that are good for the heart and circulation, such as not smoking, eating well, and being active lower the risk of dementia⁷.

Population

Projections estimate that the number of people aged 65 and over in Bristol will increase by 12% by 2032, and by 17.1% by 2040⁸. The number of people with dementia aged 65 and over is projected to rise by 28.4% in the next 10 years⁹. This higher rise is largely due to the projected increase in people aged 85 and over, who have much higher prevalence rates for dementia.

⁵ [NHS England » New plans to improve dementia diagnosis rates](#)

⁶ Source: Dementia UK: Update 2nd Edition: King's College London and the London School of Economics for the Alzheimer's Society (2014)

⁷ www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/about-dementia/helpful-information/reducing-the-risk/

⁸ ONS 2022-based Sub-national Population Projections - these are trend-based projections, which means assumptions for future levels of births, deaths and migration are based on observed levels. Projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward due to the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour.

⁹ Prevalence rates from "Projections of older people with dementia and costs of dementia care in the United Kingdom, 2019–2040; report by Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science for the Alzheimer's Society (November 2019); https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-11/cpec_report_november_2019.pdf

Gender

In 2020 we estimated there were over 1,900 men 65+ with dementia in Bristol and over 2,300 women 65+¹⁰. More women than men develop dementia as women live longer on average.

Ethnicity

The number of people from Black and minority ethnic communities with dementia is expected to increase significantly faster than the national average¹¹. This increase is mostly due to immigration patterns that have resulted in an ageing population from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds. Although there is some evidence to suggest that more people from these communities have dementia compared to white British people¹². Vascular dementia (caused by problems with the supply of blood to the brain) is thought to be more common among Asian and Black Caribbean people because they are more prone to important risk factors for vascular dementia such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension and diabetes.

Living with dementia – care plans

Once a patient has been diagnosed with dementia, a care plan should be put in place as soon as possible and reviewed on a regular basis via face-to-face, to ensure that all patient and carer(s) needs are being met. Data from the Quality Outcome Framework (QOF) for 2024/25 shows that 79.3% of care plans in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Integrated Care Board (ICB) area were reviewed in the last 12 months, higher than the England average of 76.0% (Figure 3). Reviews decreased significantly during 2020/21 to a low of 41.5% but have increased year-on-year since and are now similar to pre-pandemic levels.

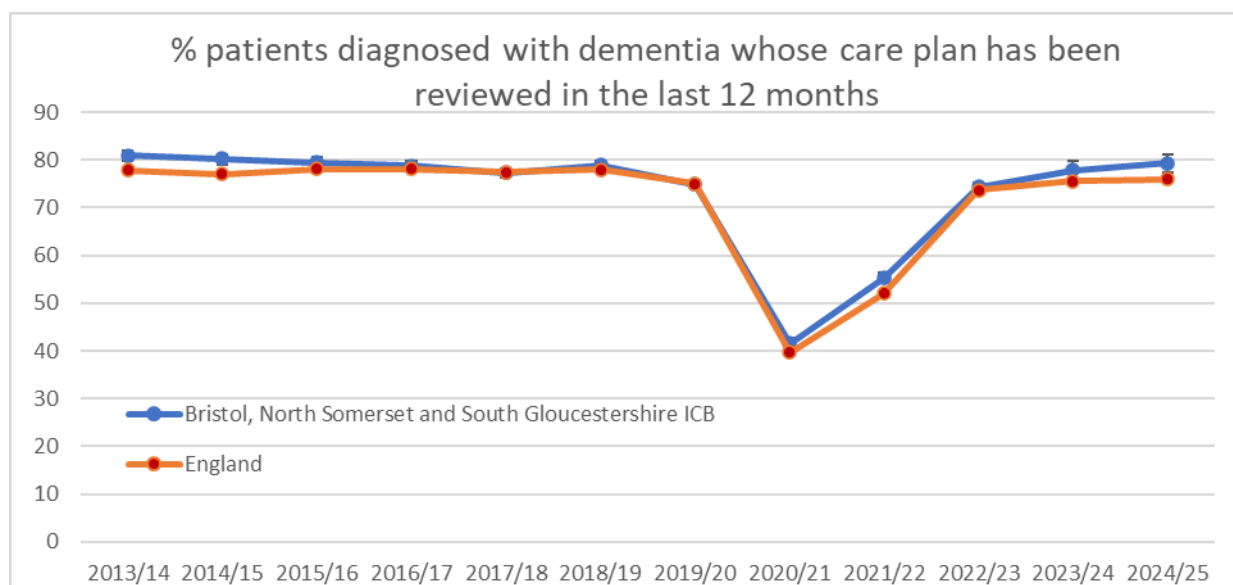


Figure 3: The percentage of patients diagnosed with dementia whose care plan has been reviewed in a face-to-face review in the preceding 12 months. Source: QOF 2024/25

¹⁰ Prevalence rates from “Dementia UK: Update Second Edition report (2014)” applied to 2019-based ONS population estimates

¹¹ All-Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia (2013). Dementia does not discriminate. The experience of Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

¹² Adelman, S. (2010) 'Prevalence and recognition of dementia in primary care: a comparison of older African-Caribbean and white British residents of Haringey', PhD thesis, University College London.

Memory assessment services

The following has been extracted from the ‘Dementia surveillance factsheet¹³’ for the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (BNSSG ICB), March 2025:

The majority of formal diagnoses of dementia are provided by specialist clinicians at memory assessment services (memory clinics). To receive a referral to a memory clinic from primary care, an individual should be first assessed to eliminate any potential underlying causes that may be contributing to memory and welfare issues. Since March 2020, the COVID19 pandemic has affected the provision of the usual health services in England, limiting access to memory assessment services.

The bar chart in figure 4 shows the referrals to memory clinics as a percentage of all individuals receiving an assessment for dementia since 1 April 2024 for England, South West region and BNSSG ICB. The memory clinic referrals data is cumulative and resets in April each year.

Memory service referrals: percentage of primary care assessments for dementia resulting in a referral from 1st April
Cumulative, all ages, England, NHS region, ICB, March 2025

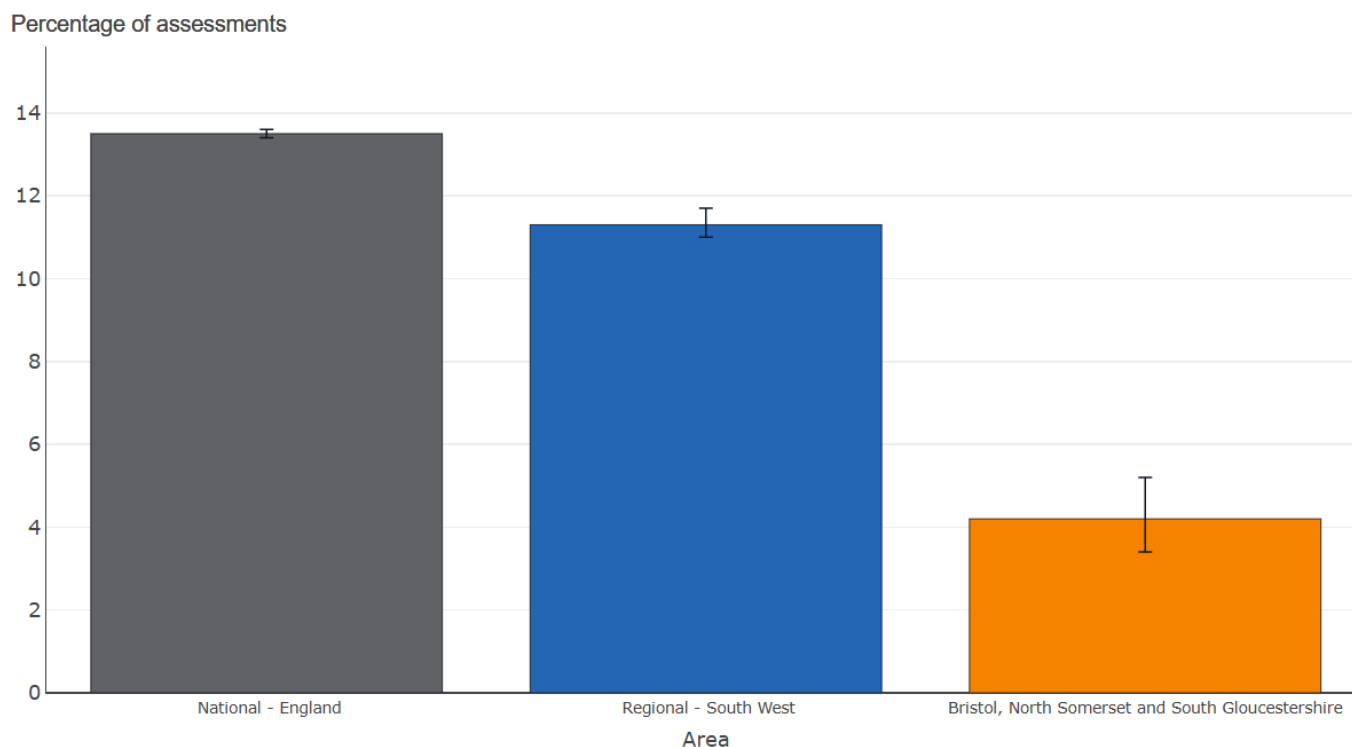


Figure 4: % of primary care assessments for dementia resulting in a referral 2024/25

Between April 2024 and March 2025 there were 80 referrals to specialist memory assessment services in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. This was 4.2% of the dementia assessments provided in the ICB. This percentage was significantly below the national England value of 13.5% and below the South West regional value of 11.3%.

¹³ [Dementia surveillance factsheet \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk)

Mortality

Dementia and Alzheimer's disease is a leading cause of death in England. The mortality rate from dementia and Alzheimer's disease in Bristol for the three year period 2021-2023 was 119.9 per 100,000 persons, significantly higher than the England average of 109.9 per 100,000 (Figure 5). The number of deaths recorded with the underlying cause as dementia and Alzheimer's disease has gradually increased over the last twenty years and doubled from 607 in 2001-2003 to 1,214 in 2020-22, with a decrease to 1,180 experienced in 2021-23. Of the 1,180 deaths in 2021-2023, 34% (401) were male and 66% (779) were female.

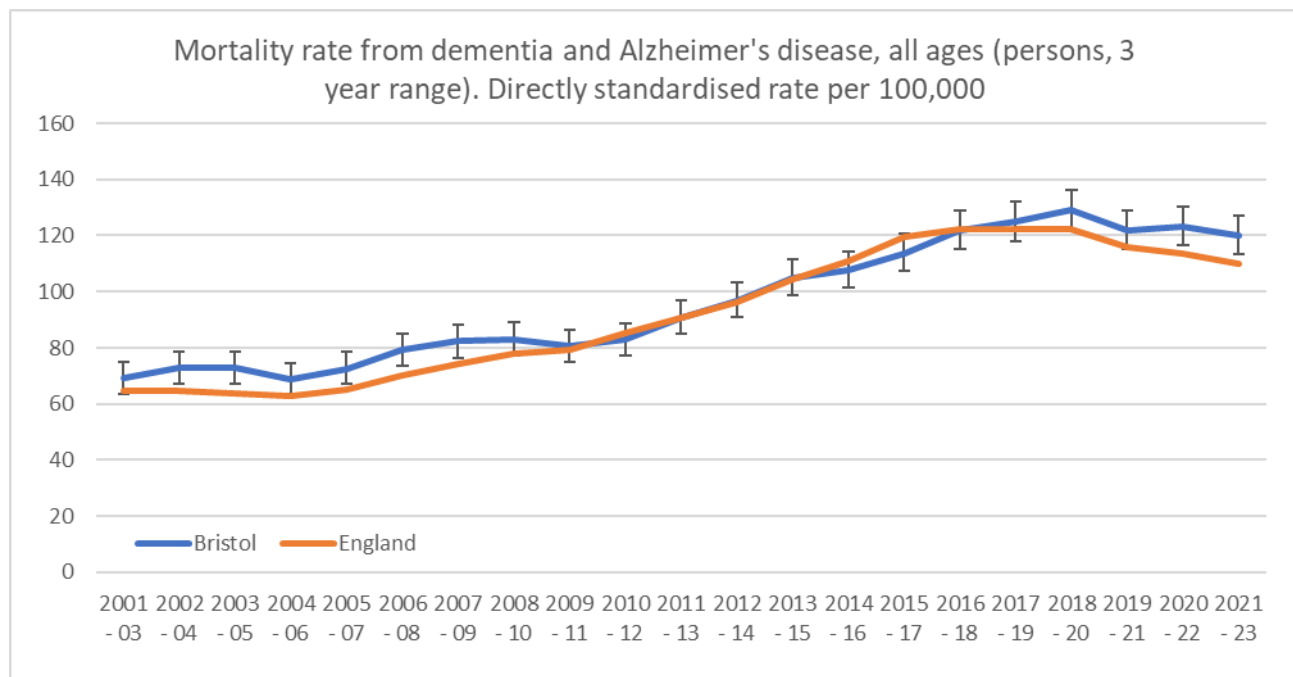


Figure 5: Mortality rate from dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, September 2025.

The mortality rate for deaths where Dementia and Alzheimer's disease is mentioned as a contributing factor was 174.1 per 100,000 people in Bristol, significantly higher than the England average of 164.0. Similar to the trends experienced above, the number of deaths has more than doubled over the last twenty years. This indicator captures mortality trends for all deaths where dementia or Alzheimer's disease was mentioned as a contributing cause, as this contributes to a proportion of deaths where dementia or Alzheimer's disease was not coded as the underlying cause of death.

Further data / links:

- PHE Dementia Profile: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/dementia>
- Dementia Statistics Hub: www.dementiastatistics.org/

Date updated: September 2025

Date of next update: September 2026