

# JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025/26

## Healthy Life Expectancy

### Summary points

- ‘Healthy Life Expectancy’ is the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health based on current mortality rates and self-reported good health.
- Healthy Life Expectancy for Bristol men (2021-23, ONS) is estimated at 60.4 years, which is below the national average of 61.5 years.
- The estimated Healthy Life Expectancy for Bristol women is 60.3 years, lower than the national average of 63.5 years.
- There is wide variation in Healthy Life Expectancy across the city. The most deprived 10% of the population have around 16 fewer years of Healthy Life Expectancy than the least deprived 10%.

### Findings

In Bristol, Healthy Life Expectancy estimates (2021-23, ONS) are 60.4 years for men and 60.3 years for women (Figure 1). Both male and female healthy life expectancy in Bristol are below the national average. Bristol has the second highest healthy life expectancy of the English Core Cities for both males and females, behind Leeds in both groups.

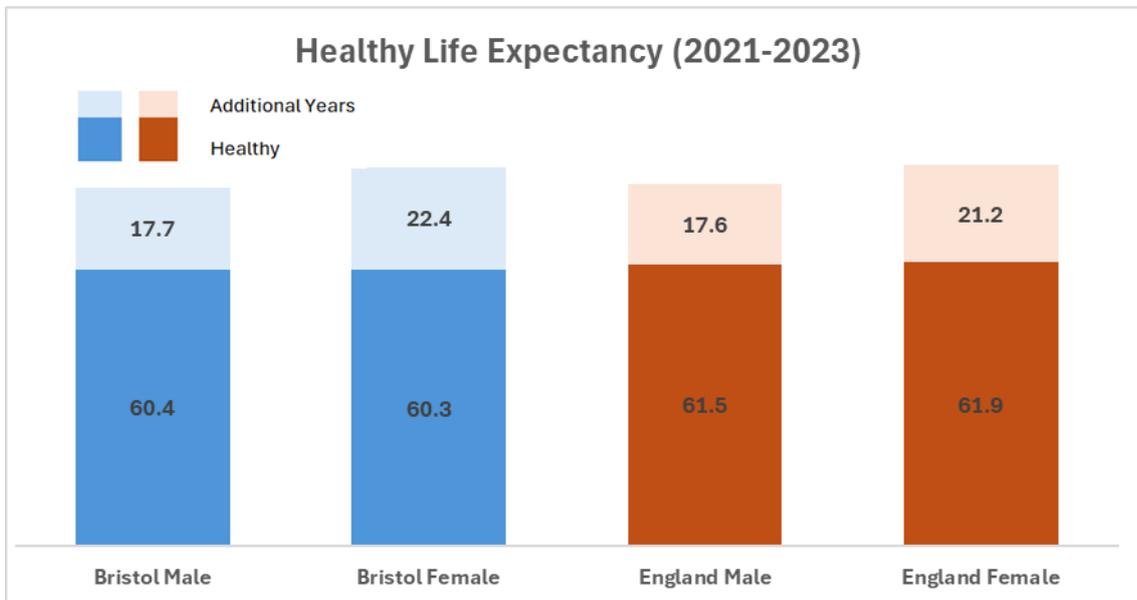


Figure 1: Healthy Life Expectancy and overall Life Expectancy. Source: ONS via Public Health Outcomes Framework, June 2025

### Gender

Women in Bristol live an average of 22.4 years in poor health. This is higher than the England average for women and over 4.5 years worse than the Bristol average for men. Men in Bristol live on average 17.7 years in poor health, similar to the England average for men.

Trend data for the Healthy Life Expectancy measure are shown in figures 2 and 3. For both women and men living in Bristol there has been no statistically significant change in Healthy Life

Expectancy since 2011-13 although the latest data reflects the lowest Healthy Life Expectancy recorded in the last decade. This is mirrored in the national data where Healthy Life Expectancy has been reducing since 2019-21.

Healthy Life Expectancy for both females and males in Bristol has been lower than the national average since 2013-15. The gap with the national average had been reducing over the last six years but notably for females the (nearly) two year reduction in Healthy Life Expectancy experienced in Bristol for 2021-23 compared to a one year reduction nationally has widened the gap once again.

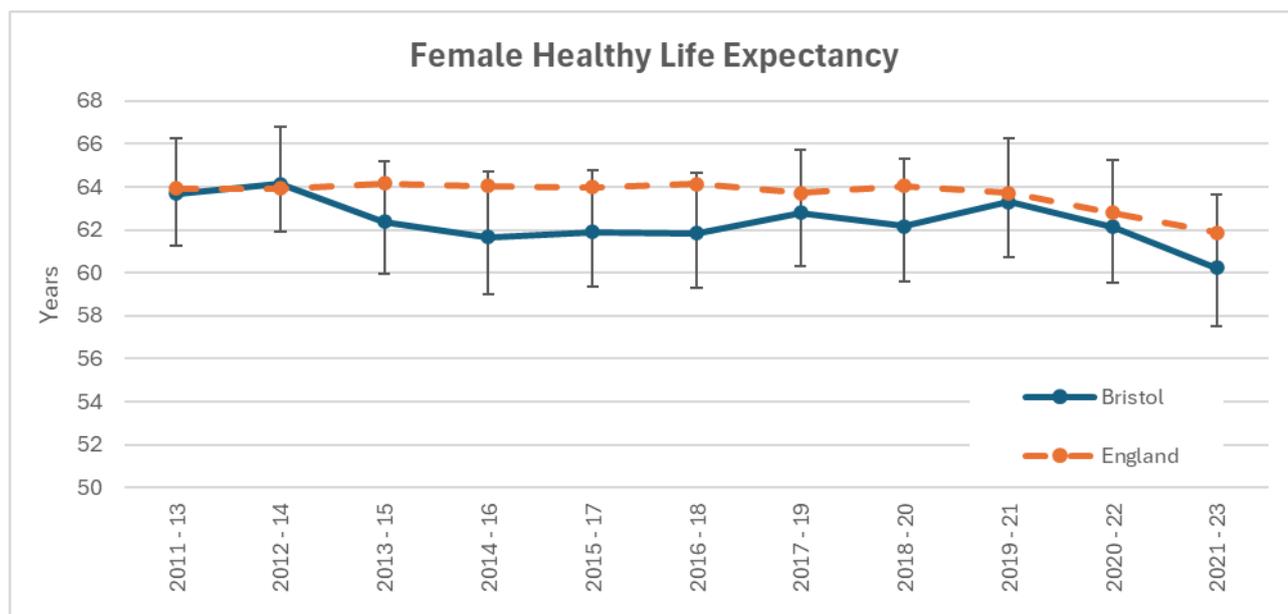


Figure 2: Healthy Life Expectancy trends – Female. Source: ONS via Public Health Outcomes Framework, June 2025

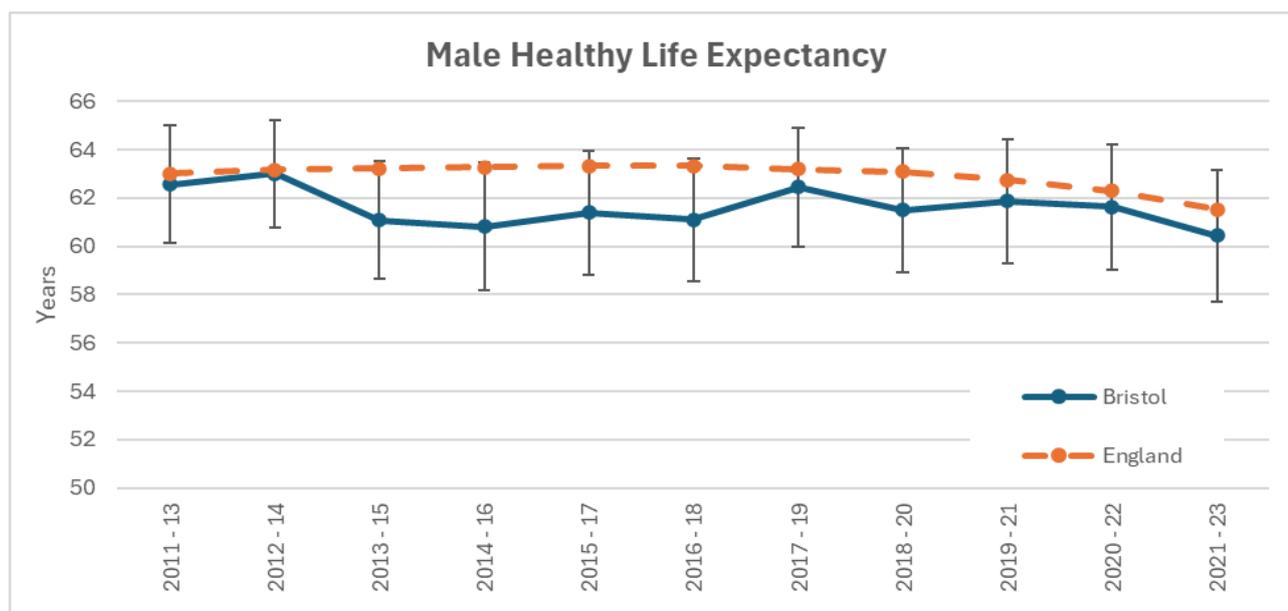


Figure 3: Healthy Life Expectancy trends – Male. Source: ONS via Public Health Outcomes Framework, June 2025

### Healthy Life Expectancy Gap<sup>1</sup>

Small area data<sup>2</sup> from the Office for National Statistics is available for Healthy Life Expectancy within Bristol for the 2009-13 period and highlights the gap within the city. It is not ward-level data, but for smaller areas.

Within Bristol there are five areas where male healthy life expectancy is in the lowest 5% in England. These areas are Knowle West, Barton Hill, Withywood, Upper Easton and Hartcliffe. For females there are three areas that fall within the lowest 5% - Withywood, Hartcliffe and Barton Hill.

The gap in healthy life expectancy between the most deprived 10% and the least deprived 10% within Bristol (i.e. the Healthy Life Expectancy slope index of inequality) for males is 16.3 years and for females it is 16.7 years.

The number of years people are living in ill health has a wide range<sup>3</sup> from 11 years to 31 years for females and from 10 years to 24 years for males between areas.

Bristol’s healthy life expectancy gap does not compare well with other local authorities - out of 149 local authorities in England for males Bristol is 27th worst and for females it is 23rd worst.

Healthy Life Expectancy, Females, 2009-2013

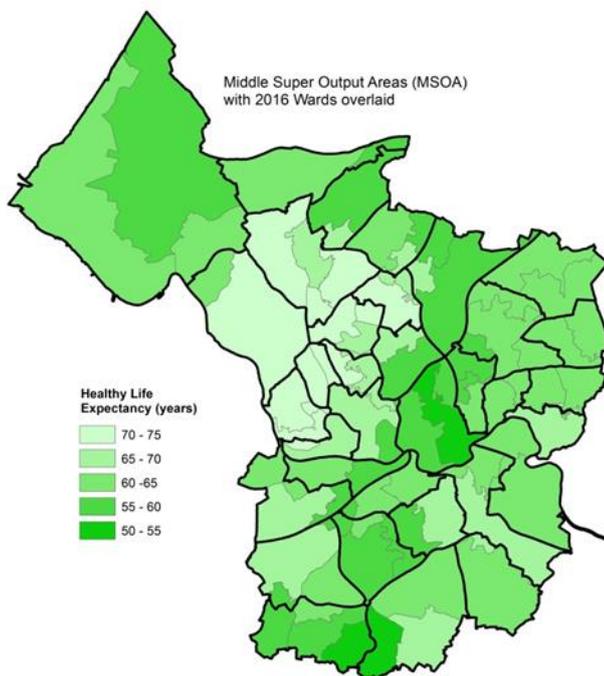


Figure 4: Healthy Life Expectancy by MSAO, Females, 2009-2013

Healthy Life Expectancy, Males, 2009-2013

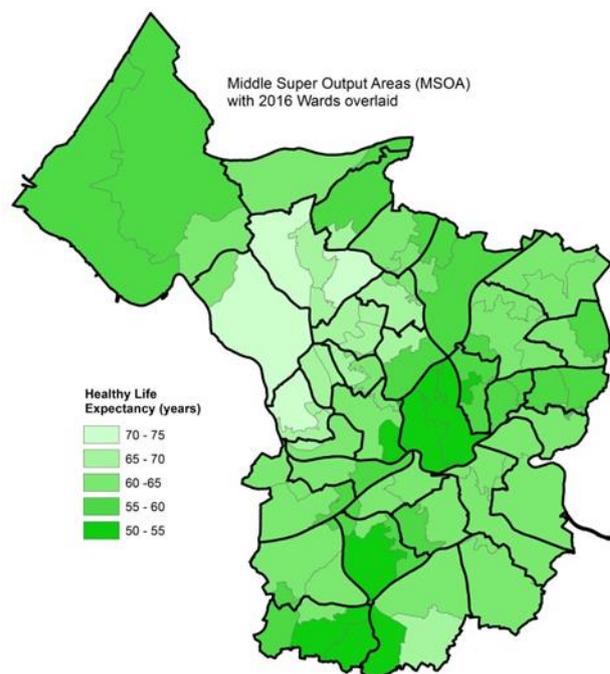


Figure 5: Healthy Life Expectancy by MSAO, Males, 2009-2013

<sup>1</sup> This is not updated annually

<sup>2</sup> 2009-13 for Medium Super Output Areas (MSOA). Source: ONS, Nov 2015. Analysed by Bristol Public Health

<sup>3</sup> NB this is range for MSAO areas

**Further data / links / consultations:**

- Public Health Outcomes Framework: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework>
- ONS Health state life expectancy at birth and at age 65 by local areas, UK: [Health and life expectancies - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/health-and-life-expectancies)

**Covid-19 impact:**

The data within this report includes data collected in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is possible that Covid 19 may have impacted upon the figures for 2018-2020 by bringing on existing or new medical conditions and therefore reducing the number of years a person has lived in good health. The full impact of Covid 19 on healthy life expectancy will become clearer as more data becomes available.

**Date updated:** June 2025**Next update due:** May 2026