

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2026/27

Falls

Fear of falling contributes to social isolation, which both reduces the quality of many older people lives, and increases the need for care and support services. However, falling is not an inevitable part of ageing. The risks of falling, sustaining injury following a fall and of being admitted to hospital following an injury, can all be reduced.

Summary points

- In 2024/25 there were 1,630 emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over in Bristol.
- The Bristol rate of emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over in 2024/25 was 2,539 per 100,000 population, significantly higher than England average of 1,958 per 100,000.
- Central ward had the highest rate of emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over in the 3 year period of 2022/23 – 2024/25.
- There were 395 emergency hospital admissions for hip fracture in people aged 65 and over in 2024/25 in Bristol, a rate of 618 per 100,000 population. This is significantly higher than the England average of 536 per 100,000.

Emergency admissions for fall-related injuries

In 2024/25 Bristol’s rate of emergency admission to hospital for injuries due to falls among people aged 65 and over was 2,539 per 100,000 population, significantly higher than the England average of 1,958 per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Bristol has the 17th highest rate of emergency admissions for falls of all local authorities in England and the third highest rate of all English Core cities. Core City rates range from 3,035 per 100,000 in Liverpool to 1,711 per 100,000 in Leeds.

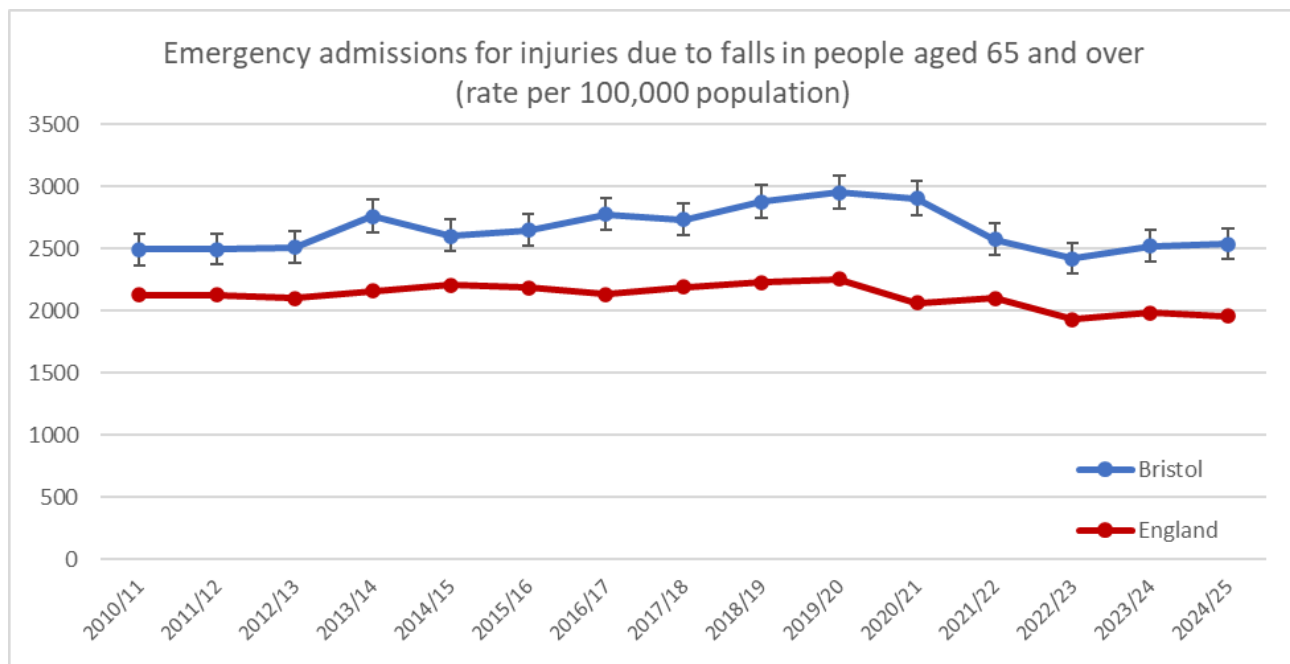


Figure 1: Hospital admissions from injuries due to falls (65+) via Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF), May 2026.

During 2024/25 there were 1,630 emergency admissions to hospital with an injury due to a fall among people aged 65 and over. 64% (1,050) of those were people aged 80 and older.

The rate of emergency falls admissions in that age group was 6,225 per 100,000 population in 2024/25, statistically significantly higher than the England average (4,866). Since 2011/12 the rate among over 80s in Bristol has been consistently higher than England average (Figure 2)

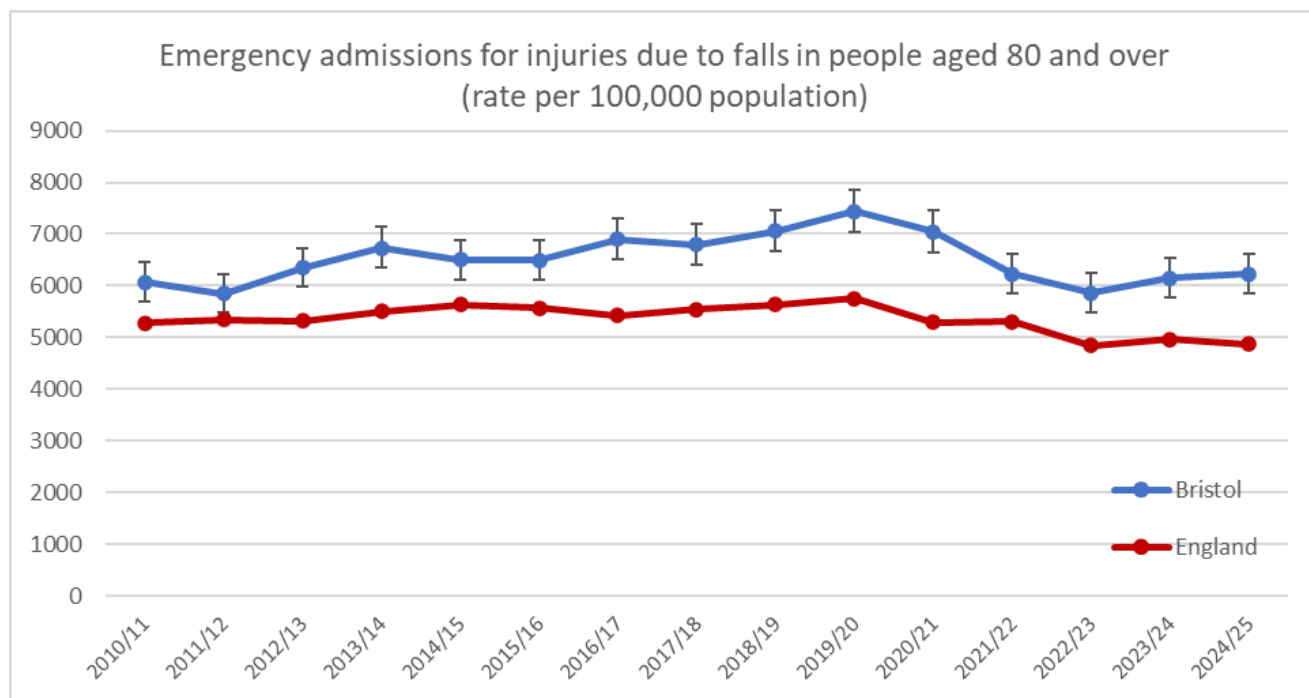


Figure 2: Hospital admissions from injuries due to falls (80+) via PHOF, May 2026.

Almost two thirds (63%) of falls-related admissions (aged 65+) are among females. Rates have gradually been increasing in the last two years following its lowest recorded rate in 2022/23 (2,646 per 100,000) but are still significantly lower than the peak experienced in 2020/21 (3,242 per 100,000). Female rates in 2024/25 remain significantly higher than the admission rate for males (Figure 3).

Among males there was a statistically significant increase in falls admissions rates between 2010/11 and 2018/19: from 1,995 to 2,734 per 100,000 (37% increase) (Figure 3). Rates have slowly increased over the last two years but remain significantly lower than the 2018/19 peak. Rates among males and females in Bristol across all age groups are significantly higher than the England average (Figure 4).

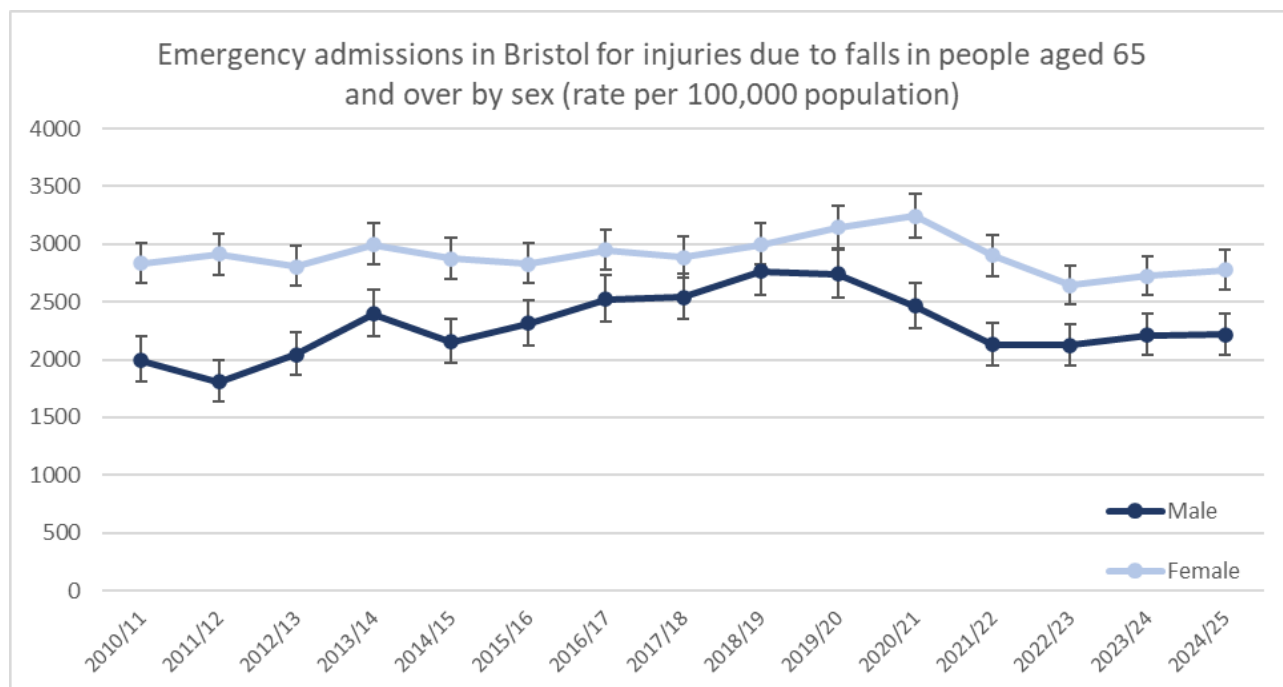


Figure 3: Hospital admissions from injuries due to falls (65+) via PHOF, May 2026.

Public Health Outcomes Indicator 2024/25	Bristol		England	Significantly lower/higher than England
	Number	Rate / 100,000	Rate/ 100,000	
Injuries due to falls in people aged 65 and over (persons)	1,630	2,539	1,958	higher
Injuries due to falls in people aged 65 and over (Male)	605	2,216	1,660	higher
Injuries due to falls in people aged 65 and over (Female)	1,020	2,773	2,149	higher
Injuries due to falls in people aged 65-79 (Persons)	575	1,268	955	higher
Injuries due to falls in people aged 65-79 (Male)	245	1,114	812	higher
Injuries due to falls in people aged 65-79 (Female)	335	1,409	1,068	higher
Injuries due to falls in people aged 80+ (Persons)	1,050	6,225	4,866	higher
Injuries due to falls in people aged 80+ (Male)	365	5,414	4,119	higher
Injuries due to falls in people aged 80+ (Female)	690	6,729	5,282	higher

Figure 4: Emergency hospital admissions from injuries due to falls (PHOF, May 2026)

Analysis of the 65+ falls admissions rates (age standardised rates per 100,000) by Bristol ward in the 3 year period 2022/23 to 2024/25 showed the highest rates were in Central (7,358 per 10,000 population), Southville (4,279), Filwood (3,900), Easton (3,834), and Eastville (3,347). All of these wards plus Southmead, Hartcliffe and Withywood, and St George Central were statistically significantly higher than the Bristol average of 2,494 per 100,000 population.

The lowest rates have been in Hotwells and Harbourside, St George Troopers Hill, Stoke Bishop, Horfield, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze, and Hillfields – all significantly lower than the Bristol average. See figure 5 for more details.

By sub-locality emergency admission rates are highest in South Bristol (2,736 per 100,000), followed by Inner City (2,696), North and West (Outer) (2,695), Bristol East (2,671) and North and West (Inner) (1,996).

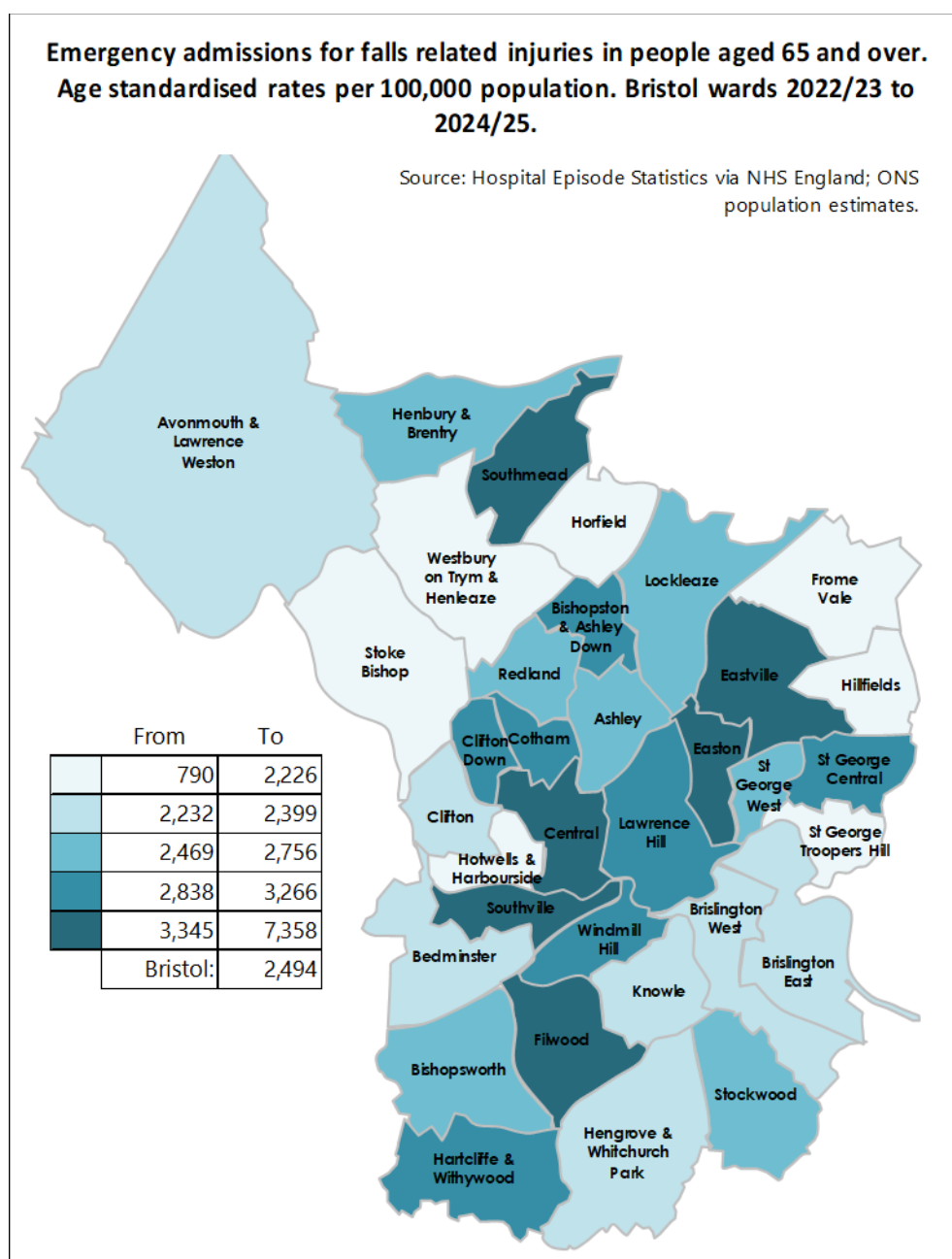


Figure 5: Hospital admissions from injuries due to falls. Source: Hospital Episode Statistics via NHS England, 2022/23 to 2024/25

Hip fracture

One of the most common injuries resulting in emergency admission following a fall is fractured neck of femur (or hip fracture). In 2024/54 Bristol’s rate of hip fractures (618 per 100,000) increased on the previous year and was significantly higher than the national average of 536 per 100,000 (Figure 6). 395 people aged 65 and over in Bristol were admitted to hospital with hip fractures in 2024/25.

Females accounted for 67% of hip fracture admissions in 2024/25 (265 admissions), a rate of 715 admissions per 100,000 aged 65+, statistically similar to the national rate (633 per 100,00). Males accounted for 33% of admissions (135 admissions), a rate of 494 per 100,000 aged 65+, significantly higher than the national rate of 394 per 100,000.

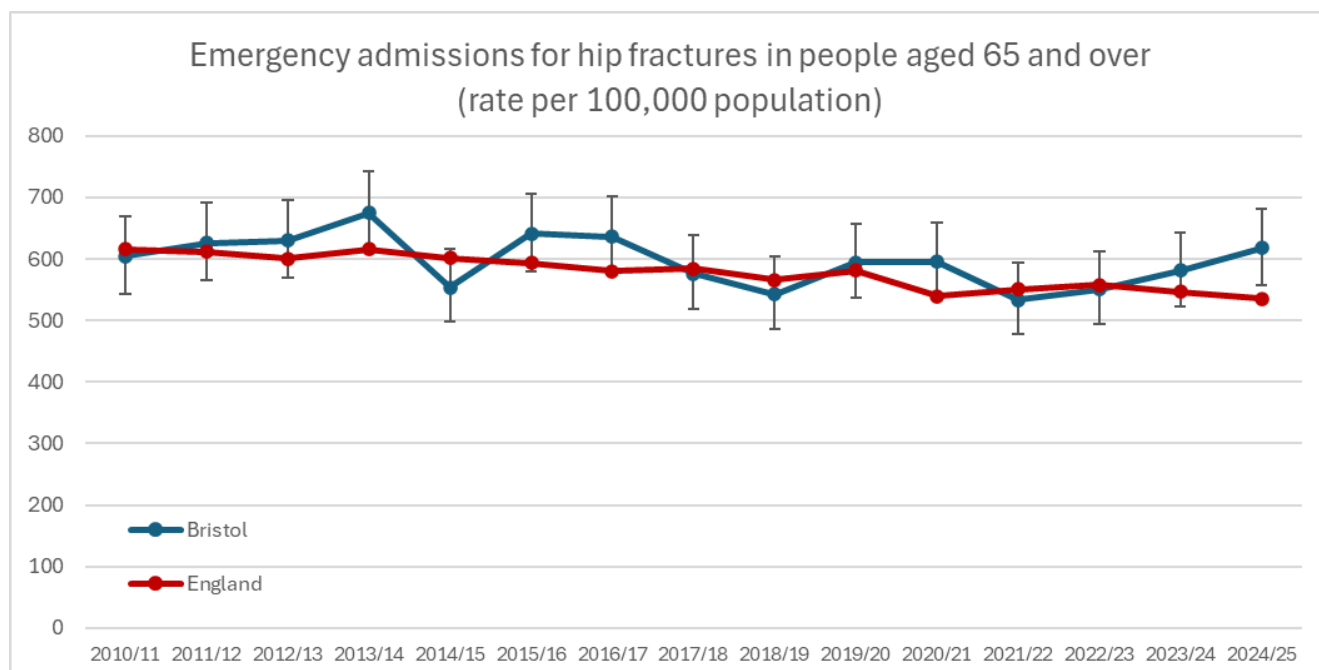


Figure 6: Hospital admissions due to hip fractures. PHOF, May 2026.

Further data / links / consultations:

- [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#)
- [Population estimates - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Hospital Episode Statistics \(HES\) - NHS Digital](#)
- [Wider impacts of COVID-19 on physical activity, deconditioning and falls in older adults](#)

Covid-19 Impact:

Whilst it is too early to identify the full impact of the pandemic on falls prevalence it is likely that the pandemic requirements for the public to stay home will have had a negative impact upon the ability of many older people to maintain their levels of physical activity. This would have a negative impact upon the levels of strength and fitness that older and frail people were able to maintain. This ‘deconditioning’ is a known risk factor that increases the likelihood of future falls.

Date updated: May 2026

Next update due: May 2027