

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2019/20

Employment and health

Sickness Absence

Overall, 1.2% of working days are estimated to be lost due to sickness absence¹ in Bristol, a slight decrease on the previous year. This remains similar to the national average (of 1.1%) which has also experienced a slight decrease compared to the previous year (Fig 1). Bristol performs mid table when compared with the English core cities.

The percentage of employees who had at least 1 day off in the last week² appears to have been rising in Bristol over the last few years to 2.6% (2015-17) and has doubled when compared to 2011-13 (1.3%) This is in contrast to the national rate which has been decreasing since 2010-12 and now stands at 2.1%.

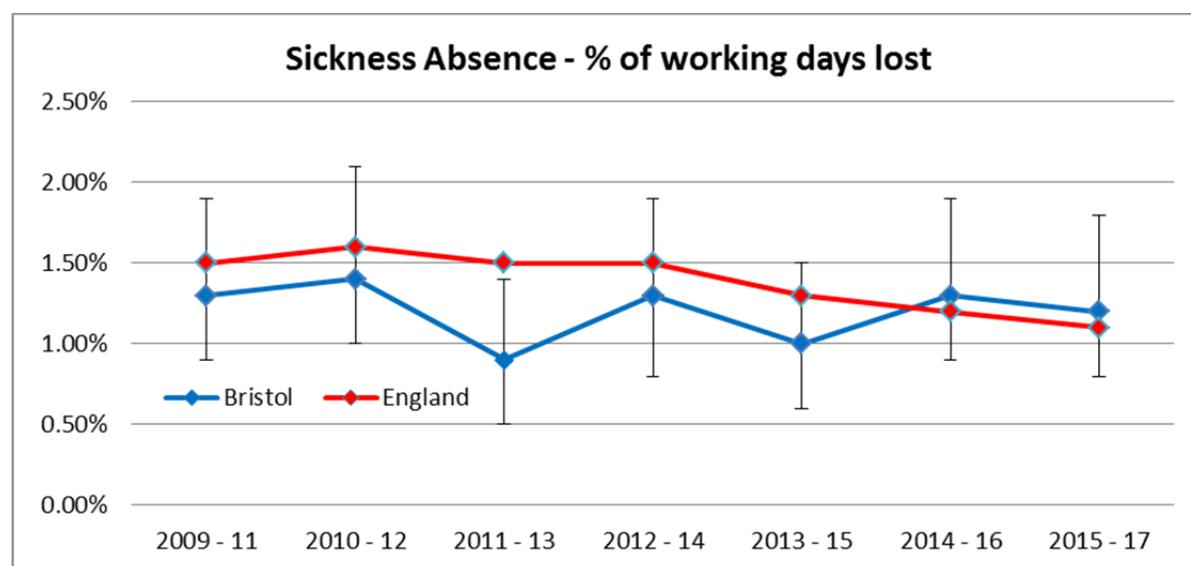


Figure 1: Labour Force Survey via Public Health Outcomes Framework 2019

Causes of sickness absence

The largest cause of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claims³ in Bristol (2018) was poor mental health (56%), followed by musculoskeletal conditions 11%)⁴ – fig 2. This broadly mirrors issues found nationally where 51% of claims are for poor mental health and 12% are for musculoskeletal conditions.

¹ 2015-17; Source: ONS Labour Force Survey via PHOF (Sept 2019)

² 2015-17; Source: ONS Labour Force Survey via PHOF (Sept 2019)

³ Source: ONS statistics, NOMIS, Oct 2019

⁴ See JSNA sections: 'Musculoskeletal' and 'Mental Health'

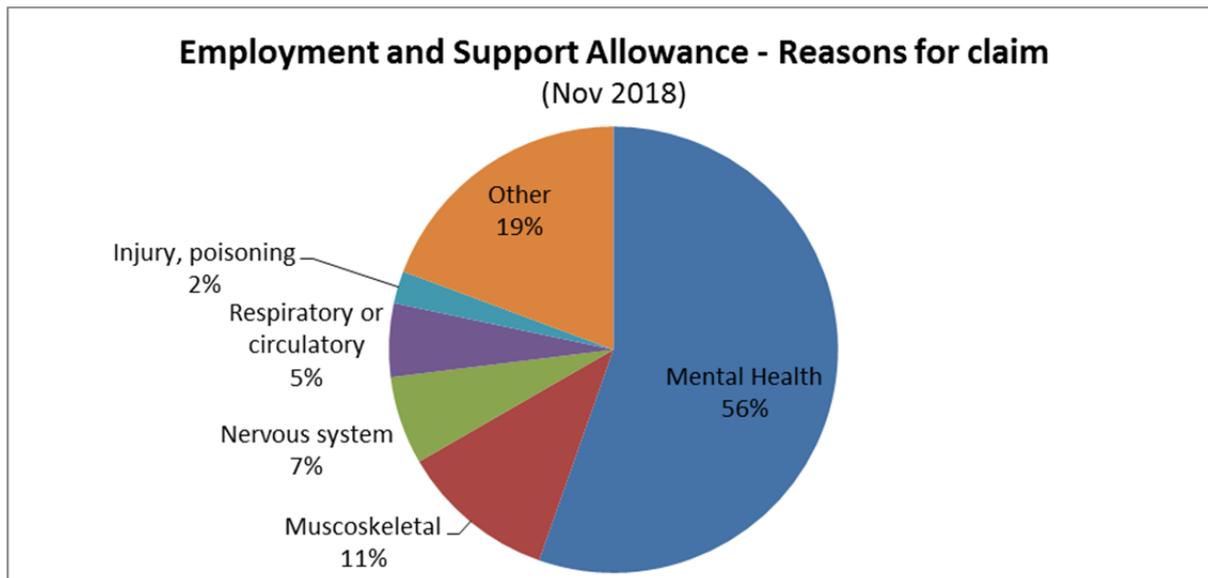


Figure 2: Employment and Support Allowance claims by health reason; Source: ONS statistics, NOMIS, 2019

Equalities data:

Gender: Men are slightly more likely to claim ESA than women, but not significantly so. More men than women claim for reasons of mental and behavioural disorders, diseases of the circulatory system and injury / poisoning. Higher numbers of women than men claim for diseases of the respiratory system, the nervous system and musculoskeletal system.

Age: Claims by age group increases in line with age: 6% of claimants are aged 24 or under, 15% are aged 25-34, 20.1% are aged 35-44, 28.6% are aged 45-54 and 30.4% are aged 55 and over.

Further data / links:

- JSNA Chapter: [Work and health \(2017\)](#)

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