

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023/24

End of life care

Summary points

- 30.5% of Bristol residents died at home in 2022, significantly higher than the England average of 28.7%

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

In 2022 Bristol had a significantly higher percentage of people of all ages dying at home (30.5%) than England (28.7%) – fig 1. Of those that didn't die at home, 41.1% died in hospital (lower than national 43.4%), 21.4% died in a care home (higher than national 20.5%), 3.3% in a hospice (significantly lower than national 4.7%) and 3.7% in other places (significantly higher than national 2.6%).

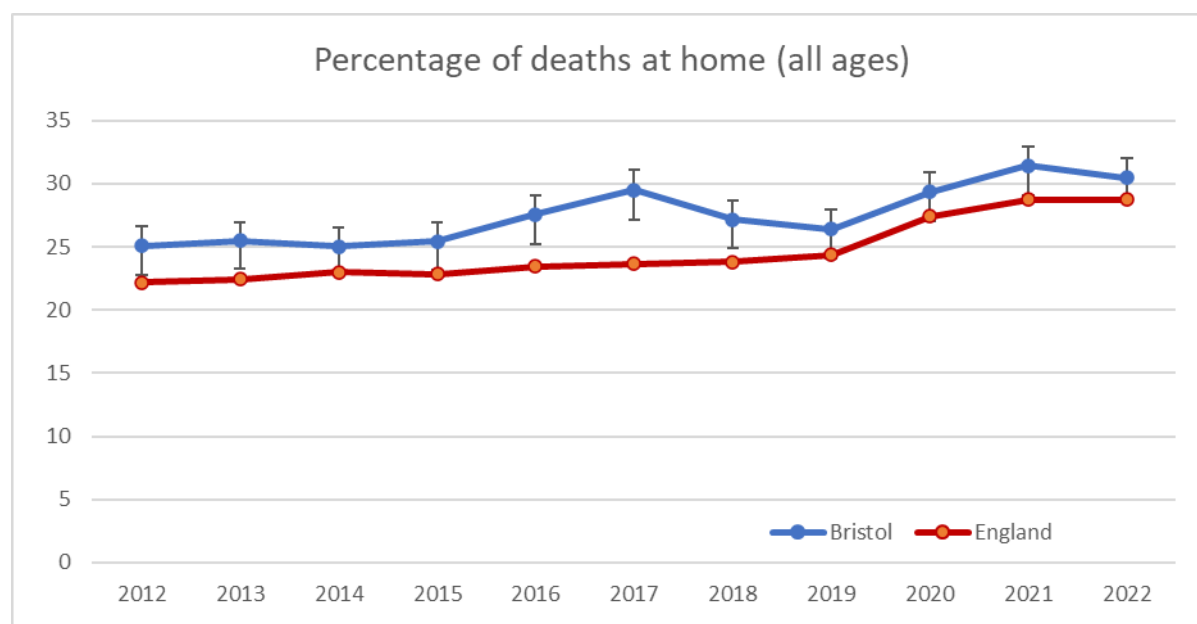


Figure 1: Percentage of deaths at home, all ages. Source: ONS Mortality File, for National End of Life Care Intelligence, Public Health England, via <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/end-of-life>

Equalities data: By age group 42.0% of under 65 year olds died at home compared to 38.5% of 65-74 year olds, 28.9% of 75-84 year olds and 22.9% of 85+ year olds. Figure 2 overleaf illustrates how the percentage of deaths occurring at home has increased across most age groups since 2012. There have been marked increases in 2020 and 2021 which coincides with the pandemic.

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

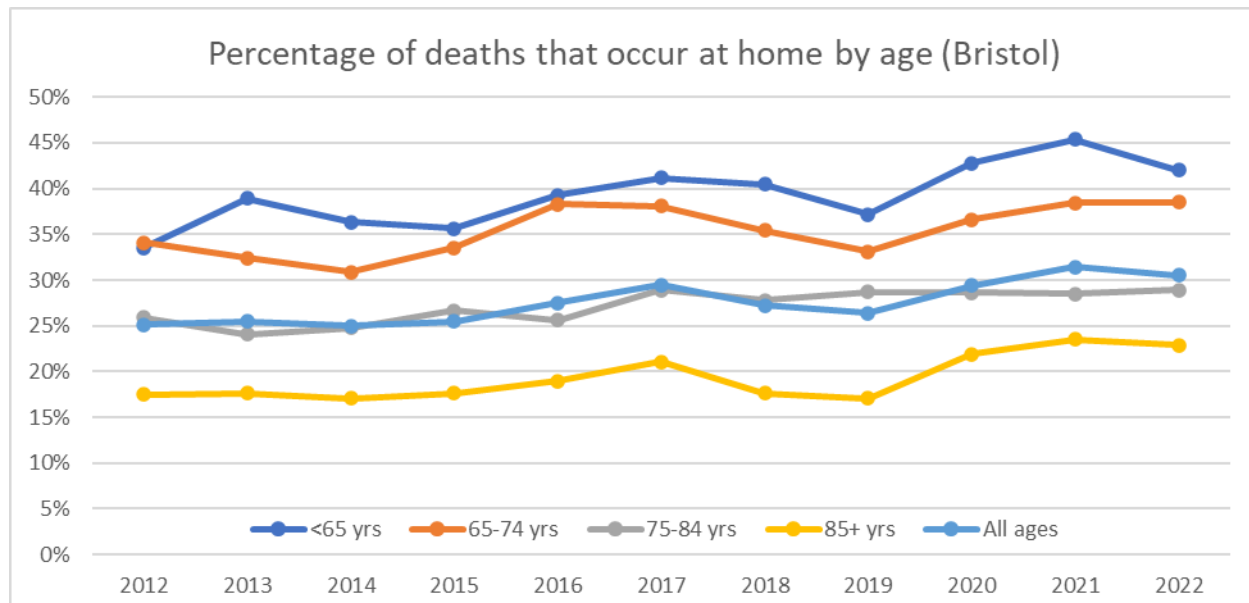


Figure 2: Percentage of deaths at home, by age. Source: ONS Mortality File, for National End of Life Care Intelligence, Public Health England, via <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/end-of-life>

Deaths in care homes and provision of care²

Number of people cared for near the end of their life in care homes

- In Bristol in the 12 months from October 2022 to September 2023, 826 people were cared for near the end of their life in a care home; this comprised 23.6% of all people who died (similar to the national figure of 23.9%)

Age of people cared for near the end of their life in care homes: 2021

- In Bristol, 41.3% (562) of all people who died aged 85 years and older and 13.1% (296) under 85 years were cared for in a care home. This compares to England where, 39.7% (84,204) of all people who died aged 85 years and older and 12.9% (43,150) aged under 85 years were cared for in a care home

People who died from COVID-19 in care homes

- In Bristol in the 52 weeks from the 3rd December 2022 up to the 8th December 2023 of the 751 people who died in a care home, 16 (2.1%) died from COVID-19; this is 22.2% of all COVID-19 deaths. In England, of the 113,941 people who died in a care home, 2,206 (1.9%) died of COVID-19; this was 13.4% of all people who died from COVID-19

People who died with dementia in care homes: 2022

- In Bristol, of all people who died in a care home, 49.8% (383 of 769) died with dementia, compared to 46.6% in England
- In Bristol, of all people who died with dementia, 61.8% (383 of 620) died in a care home, compared to 55.1% in England

Care home bed rates: 1 December 2023

- Bristol had 93 care homes with a total of 2,681 beds, of which 69.7% were in nursing homes and 30.3% in residential homes. The care home bed rate was 9.5 beds per 100 people aged 75 years and older

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

- In England, the care home bed rate was 9.3 beds per 100 people aged 75 years and older. 48.6% of beds were in nursing homes and 51.34 in residential homes

Dying in usual place of residence by cause of death

Data cross referencing dying in usual place of residence by cause of death has been removed from the End of Life Care profiles, but historic data relating to 2016 showed that more people in Bristol (all ages) were able to die in their usual place of residence, compared to the national average, when the underlying cause of death was cancer (49.1% compared to 44.5%). The Bristol rate was similar to the national average for respiratory disease (32.1% compared to 32.2%) and circulatory disease (46.7% compared to 44.8%)³.

In addition, further details by underlying cause of death are available in the End of Life Profile, for all deaths whether at home or not – see 'Further data'.

Covid-19 impact:

A study⁴ 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 2021 \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

Date updated: January 2024

Date of next update: January 2025

³ Source: PHE End of Life Care Profiles (extracted October 2019)

⁴ [Changes in mortality patterns and place of death during the COVID-19 pandemic: A descriptive analysis of mortality data across four nations - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)