

Life & death

Overview



Mortality (death) statistics and life expectancy are important measures of the **overall health of a population**



Life expectancy: provides a broad overview of **population health and wellbeing**, highlighting the overall lifespan of a population



Mortality: provides more detailed information about the **causes and patterns of death** within a population, allowing for targeted interventions to improve health outcomes



Together, these measures offer a **comprehensive picture** of a population's health status, **revealing trends and disparities**



Bolton's **main causes of death**¹:

- 26% cancers
- 24% cardiovascular disease
- 19% respiratory infections

Mortality



Mortality reflects **a number of factors** added together over a lifetime:

- **Risk** factors (e.g. smoking)
- Occurrence and severity of **disease**
- effectiveness of **interventions**



Mortality rates are the number of people in every 10,000 who died in the time period, **adjusted** as if the different areas' **age structure** was the same



Bolton's **all cause, all age** mortality rate is **worse** than England²

- Male: 1,317/ 100,000 per year
- Female: 922/100,000 per year



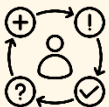
Most deaths happen at older ages



Bolton's **all cause, under 75** mortality rate is **worse** than England²

- Male: 521.3/ 100,000 per year
- Female: 302.8/100,000 per year

Life expectancy



Life expectancy at birth is the number of years a baby born would be expected to live if they experienced **today's age-specific death rates** for the **rest of their life**.



It is **not a prediction** (these factors are unlikely to stay constant)



Bolton's life expectancy at birth is **lower** by around 2 years than England³:

- **Male:** Bolton **76.7**; England 79.1
- **Female:** Bolton **81.3**; England 83.1



Small area life expectancy in Bolton⁴:

- **Male – 15 years difference**
Dunscar & Egerton **85.2**
Central Bolton **70.3**
- **Female – 10 years difference**
Dunscar & Egerton **87.0**
Brightmet North **77.1**

Healthy life expectancy



Healthy life expectancy at birth is the average number of years a baby born would be expected to live **in good health**, if today's situation remained the same for the rest of their life



Good health is **self-rated**, but is a good predictor of service usage.



If a greater part of people's lives is spent in good health, this helps them **live life to the full** as long as possible, and **reduces the cost** of intensive **health and social care** that's often needed for poor health right at the end of life.



Bolton's healthy life expectancy⁵ is **lower** than England⁶:

- **Male:** Bolton **60.3**; England 63.1
- **Female:** Bolton **62.4**; England 64.0

Life & death

Global burden of disease⁷



Global burden of disease - a tool for **comparing diseases, injuries, and risk factors** between times and places



Smoking gives the **greatest Years of Life Lost (YLL)** in Bolton, mainly due to:

- Cancers 3,800 YLL
- Cardiovascular disease 2,000 YLL



High blood pressure is the second largest, mainly due to its impacts on:

- Cardiovascular disease 5,200 YLL



The largest **environmental risks** are

- **Low temperature**
Respiratory infections: 400 YLL
Chronic respiratory disease: 400 YLL
- **Particulate matter pollution**
Cardiovascular disease: 700 YLL
Chronic respiratory disease: 200 YLL
- **Occupational carcinogens** e.g. asbestos
Cancers: 1,300 YLL



Avoidable mortality



Some deaths happen **earlier** than they might have. Avoidable mortality is made of:



Preventable mortality – deaths could be avoided through effective **public health and primary prevention** – the disease leading to death is prevented



Treatable mortality - deaths could be avoided through **effective healthcare**, e.g. secondary prevention and treatment – the disease does not lead to death.



Bolton's **under 75 preventable** mortality rate is **worse** than England²

- Male: 259.9/ 100,000 per year
- Female: 136.0/100,000 per year



Bolton's **under 75 preventable** mortality rates are **worse** than England for⁸

- Cancer: 61.2/ 100,000
- Liver disease: 28.5/100,000
- Respiratory disease: 27.8/100,000

References

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[1] Global Burden of disease [VizHub - GBD Compare](#) All ages all causes 2021, level 2

[2] OHID (2024). Mortality profile. [Mortality Profile - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) 1 year rates 2023

[3] OHID (2025) Fingertips local authority health profiles [Local Authority Health Profiles - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

[4] OHID (2022) Local health. [Local health, public health data for small geographic areas - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

[5] ONS [Health state life expectancies, UK - Office for National Statistics](#) 2018-2020

[6] Fingertips [Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) 2018-2020. Reduced survey response rates following Covid are currently impacting calculation of healthy life expectancy for smaller areas

[7] Global Burden of disease [VizHub - GBD Compare](#) All ages 2021, Risks by cause, Level 3

[8] OHID (2024). Mortality profile. [Mortality Profile - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) persons 3 year rate (2021-2023).

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