

## Quality homes



**Damp, mould, & cold** are common & significant home hazards<sup>1</sup>

- They often occur together
- Under-heating & poor insulation increase condensation, so mould can grow.



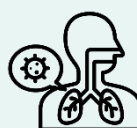
**Cold** homes health impacts<sup>2</sup>:

- Cold air can irritate airways & reduce resistance to infection, increasing risk of **respiratory illnesses**
- Increases **cardiovascular risk**, including heart attacks & strokes,
- Can **worsen pain & mobility** for people living with musculoskeletal conditions such as arthritis
- Stress, discomfort, and disrupted sleep impact **mental wellbeing**<sup>3</sup>



Some types of households are **more often affected** by damp, mould & cold<sup>1</sup>

- Lower-income households,
- Those with high energy costs
- Older or overcrowded homes
- Those living in private rented homes



Exposure to **damp** in the home is associated with a **30-50% increase** in risk of **respiratory disease**<sup>3</sup>



As **summers become hotter**, effective **insulation** of roofs & walls can help to **reduce heat gain** within homes



**12%** of Bolton households are **fuel poor**, but rates vary<sup>4</sup>

- **21%** in Gilnow & Victory
- **18%** in Rumworth South

## Suitable homes



**6,815 (6%)** of Bolton homes are **overcrowded**<sup>5</sup>

**Overcrowding** health impacts<sup>6</sup>:

- Can affect **children's** development, education & mental wellbeing – especially with limited space for study or play.
- Higher rates of **respiratory infections** as close contact increases transmission
- Can **worsen other housing problems** e.g. greater wear & tear, more moisture increasing the risk of damp & mould.



**Older adults & young children** are especially vulnerable to **falls & injuries at home**.

- Falls among older adults are a leading cause of **hip fractures**, with potential long-term disability, reduced quality of life, & increased care need.
- For children, injuries in the home can lead to immediate harm & longer-term impacts on development & wellbeing.



**~1 in 3** adults aged **over 65** fall each year<sup>8</sup>



Overcrowding is **more common among renters** than homeowners<sup>7</sup>

- 9% of social renters
- 6% of private renters
- 1% of owner-occupiers



**Unintentional injuries** are one of the leading causes of **childhood emergency hospital admissions**<sup>9</sup>

- **~half** these incidents occur in the home
- **80%** of incidents occur in the home among **children under 5**

## Stable homes



**Affordable housing** is where a household can meet their housing costs & other essential needs.

- **Over 30% of household income** spent on housing is a common affordability threshold
- Persistent worry can impact **mental health & wellbeing**
- Lack of affordable alternatives may mean households stuck in unsuitable housing



**Housing insecurity** includes:

- Risk of eviction, frequent moves, living in temporary accommodation.



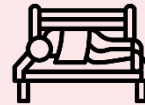
**Homelessness** means:

- Not having your own settled home
- It includes: living in temporary accommodation, staying with friends or family, in housing that is not safe or suitable for long-term living, rough sleeping



Bolton **private rents** are **lower** than the national average, at **£873** per month<sup>10, 11</sup>

- 28% of local median income
- Local **rents are rising faster than average**: Bolton 10.3%; UK 3.5%



**5 individuals** were **sleeping rough** in Bolton in 2025<sup>13</sup>



Bolton **average house price** is **lower** than nationally at **~£200,000**<sup>12</sup>

- 6.2x local average salary
- Local prices are **rising faster than average**: Bolton 4.5%; UK 1.1%



**5.9 per 1000** households in Bolton are owed a **homeless prevention or relief duty**<sup>14</sup>

- The council takes steps to stop them becoming homeless or find them accommodation if needed

## References

October 2026

All information from [Bolton Public health annual report, 2025-26](#) technical report. Specific references below.

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- [3] Fisk WJ, Lei-Gomez Q, Mendell MJ. (2007). Meta-analyses of the associations of respiratory health effects with dampness and mold in homes. Indoor air. [Wiley Online Library](#)
- [4] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Sub-Regional Fuel Poverty Data Explorer. <http://www.domesticenergymap.uk/>
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- [7] MHCLG. (2026). English Housing Survey: Headline findings, Chapter 1: Housing Quality. [Gov.uk](#)
- [8] Bolton Council/ GM ICB. (2026). Bolton Falls Dashboard 2025/26. Internal dashboard.
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- [10] GMCA. (2026). Greater Manchester Housing Market Monitor. [Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#)
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- [12] ONS. (2026). Housing prices in Bolton. [ONS](#).
- [13] LG Inform. (2026). Total number of people sleeping rough: 2025. [LG Inform](#)
- [14] The Health Foundation. (2025). Households that are homeless or at risk of homelessness, by local authority. [The Health Foundation Evidence Hub](#)

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