



Ealing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Climate Change and Health 2026

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Executive Summary

CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH IMPACTS IN EALING



Climate change is the biggest threat to our health globally

As a result of climate change, Ealing will likely experience more extreme weather, including heatwaves and flooding

By taking action now, we can reduce these health impacts and support those most vulnerable in Ealing

Health Impacts

- Direct**
 - Increase in heat/cold related deaths (short-term)
 - Reduced air quality (short/medium-term)
 - Extreme weather health impacts (short-term)
 - Increase in climate-sensitive infectious diseases & introduction of new infectious diseases (long-term)
 - Mental health impacts (short/long-term)
- Indirect**
 - Increased burden on health services (short-term)
 - Increased food costs (long-term)
 - Economical strain (long-term)

Heat & Health

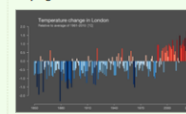
- Direct heat impacts**
 - Physical strain → exacerbations of underlying disease
 - Heat illness/stroke
 - Increased skin cancer risk
- Indirect heat impacts**
 - Air pollution exacerbation
 - Drought, wildfires, flashflooding
 - Instability of food security
 - Increase in infectious diseases

Mental Health

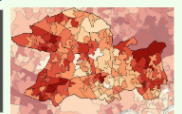
- Direct impacts**
 - Increased temperatures →
 - Increased suicide risk
 - Increased aggressive behaviour
 - Psychiatric symptom exacerbation
 - Distress/Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Physical health impacts leading to increased anxiety & depression
- Indirect**
 - Eco-anxiety (particularly in younger generations)

Climate Risk

Trends demonstrate increasing temperatures across London with varying heat risk in different Ealing wards



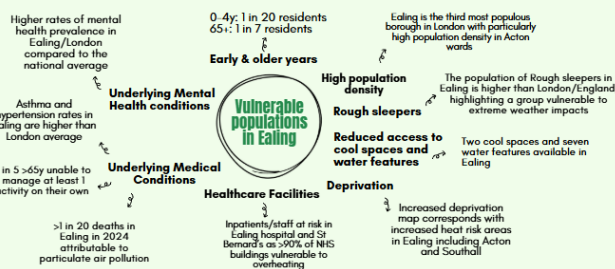
Temperature Change in London 1850-2024
Source: Professor Ed Hawkins, University of Reading



Ealing Heat Risk Map
Source: GLA 2024
Lighter shades - lower heat risk, darker shades - higher heat risk

Climate Justice

- Climate change exacerbates existing health inequalities
- Populations who contribute the least to climate change tend to be the most impacted
- Health impacts will vary due to differences in: exposure, susceptibility & ability to cope making some populations more vulnerable
- More vulnerable groups will experience greater adverse health outcomes
- Vulnerability factors often cross-over with health inequalities & the building blocks of health
- Health impacts will increase as temperatures continue to rise leading to intergenerational inequality



Next Steps

- Climate change is key to health and all partners need to take action through a collaborative, multistakeholder approach
- Through early action and focussing on those most vulnerable, harmful impacts can be reduced through evidence-based interventions
- Key Public Health Recommendations
 - addressing the data gap and strengthening public health intelligence on climate health impacts
 - strengthening preparedness for adverse weather events, focusing on heat

See link for full, expanded executive summary: <https://canva.link/0aqj6a21ird4r8z>

Introduction

Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) are statutory documents published on behalf of the Ealing Health and Wellbeing Board with the purpose of defining the health and wellbeing needs of the population in reference to a particular topic or population group. It aims to identify both current and future health and wellbeing needs in addition to health inequalities, with an overall aim to inform action planning for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, commissioning decisions and influencing local planning and policies. This JSNA focuses on the needs of the Ealing population with regards to how climate change can impact their health.

Aims & Objectives

The main objective of this JSNA is to raise awareness on the impact of climate change on health. It aims to create a portal of evidence for partners and stakeholders to utilise to inform their work and catalyse the development of projects, programmes, policies and strategies which aim to address and prevent health risks for Ealing residents resulting from climate change, and to reduce inequalities. As part of its report, Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK: State of the evidence 2023 (HECC), the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) suggests public health agencies undertake health impact assessments and advise on climate-health risks for local populations and conduct needs assessments to highlight climate vulnerabilities¹.

As part of Ealing Climate Board's Strategy: Healthy Living, part of the action plan is to ensure "vulnerable residents, carers & communities are aware of links between climate and health impacts and support themselves through community-led action". They also plan for social care & education professionals to understand the health impacts associated with heat risk and other climate hazards and use this knowledge to protect public health. This JSNA aims to support these points in the action plan, whilst also contributing to the Health & Wellbeing Strategy at a local level and playing a role in accordance with national guidance for incorporating climate impacts into public health practice. It has been developed as a light-touch desk-top based Needs Assessment to support wider work developing in the council. Further details on background data and council-wide recommendations can be found in the accompanying appendices.

Background

Climate change has been described as the biggest threat to Global Health. Despite this, it is often not highlighted as a priority when discussing climate action².

Health Risks

A warming climate affects health in three main ways:

- Direct effects of extreme weather on physical and mental health
- Direct effects on the planet's life-support systems such as rising sea levels, changing patterns of vector-borne disease

¹ [Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK: state of the evidence 2023](#)

² [The 2025 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: climate change action offers a lifeline - The Lancet](#)

- Indirect effects mediated by social systems such as rising prices of food and fuel, health services pressure, supply chain disruptions³

Specific groups are more vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change due to differences in their susceptibility, exposure and ability to cope. Some examples of these priority groups include:

- children
- the elderly
- those with underlying health conditions
- rough sleepers and people in temporary accommodation

The diagram below denotes some of the detrimental health impacts of climate change.

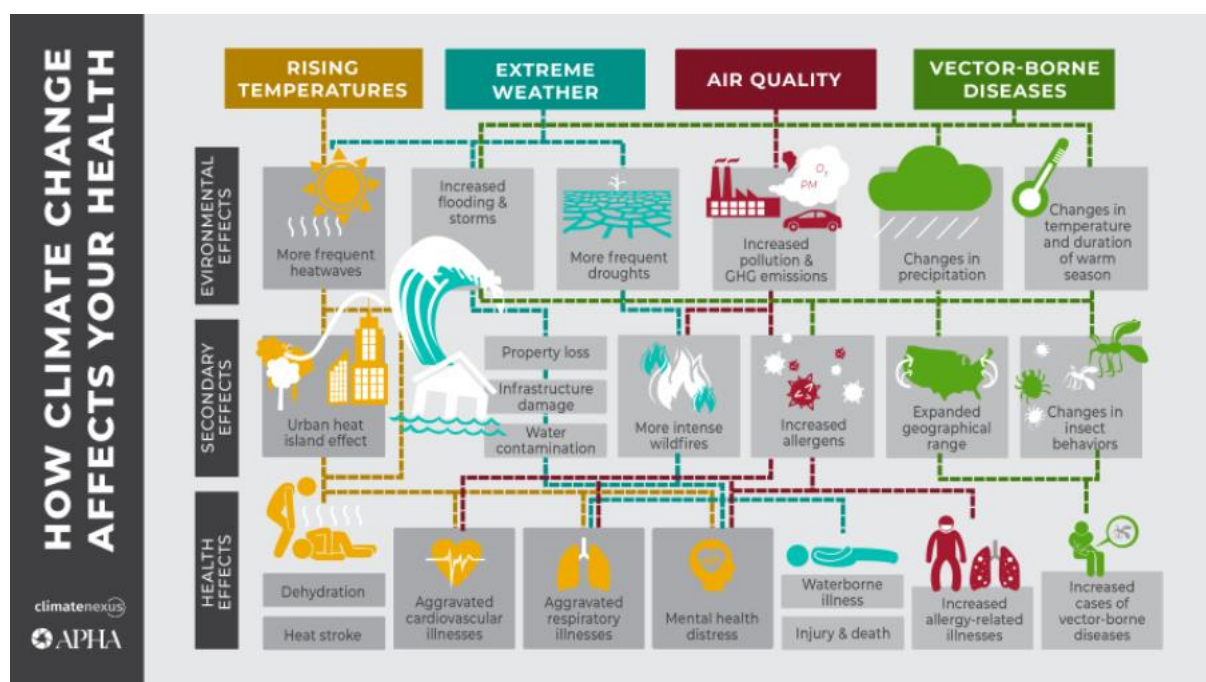


Figure 1: Climate Change Health Impacts Infographic. Source: APHA – American Public Health Association⁴

Many of these health risks are preventable through:

- early action
- targeting priority groups and settings
- promoting adaptive behaviours
- enhancing community resilience

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-applying-all-our-health/climate-and-health-applying-all-our-health>

⁴ <https://www.apha.org/news-and-media/multimedia/infographics/how-climate-change-affects-your-health-text>

- effective interventions involving nature-based solutions and involvement of sectors outside of healthcare such as transportation and urban planning

Climate Action

Our climate has been continuously changing throughout history, however the last two centuries have seen unprecedented rates of warming, mainly due to industrial human activity. The following table summarises actions that have been taken in response to a changing climate at the global, national and local levels.

Global	National	Local
Global level action has been taken with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Action Plan, aligning with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement to create strategies for high-income countries to implement in order to achieve goals in reducing global temperatures and the impacts of climate change.	At a national level, the UK government is aiming to reach Net Zero by 2050. The Climate Change Act was established in 2008 with the aim to set a target for the year 2050 for the reduction of targeted greenhouse gas emissions and to establish a Committee on Climate change amongst other objectives. The NHS is also the first healthcare system globally to commit to Net Zero via Greener NHS ⁵ .	Ealing council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and since then action has been taken to make both the organisation and the borough carbon neutral by 2030. A climate and ecological emergency strategy was created with reviews of outcomes every two years, targeting five key areas: energy, food systems, nature, travel and waste. The Climate Board has been working on a climate adaptation and resilience strategy.

What does this mean for Ealing?

Essential work is being carried out in the council to address climate change in the borough, with the new climate resilience and adaptation strategy providing a key foundation in addressing the gaps on population health impacts and addressing these risks. Through the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Ealing council has committed to ensuring greater contribution of the board to the building blocks of health and wellbeing. A key part of the council plan has also been tackling the climate crisis. This

⁵ [Legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk)

includes taking a more proactive role in responding to the climate crisis and recognising its impact on health and health inequalities, as well as addressing climate injustice.

Despite the above work, no previous JSNA has been carried out on how climate change will impact population health. Together with various stakeholders we aim to collate locally available quantitative data to understand the health risks in Ealing due to climate change and which populations are most at risk. This will allow us to assess the needs of the local population to act on recommendations based on national and global guidance to mitigate these risks and raise awareness of health risks to external and internal partners.

What are the influences of Climate Change on Health

Climate change has the potential to have a wide-range of significant health impacts, with evidence in the UK being strongest for adverse health impacts because of heat/cold, flooding and vector-borne disease⁶.

Health Impacts

Predicted health impacts assessed by UKHSA include but are not limited to:

- Increase in heat and cold-related deaths
 - Impact of heatwaves:
 - excess deaths
 - increased burden on health services
 - increased water and energy strain
 - reduced air quality
 - increase in climate-sensitive infectious diseases
- Increased in morbidity & mortality due to flooding
 - Increased morbidity due to drowning and physical injury through flood waters
 - Car accidents
 - Hypothermia
 - Altered indoor environments such as mould exposure
 - Mental health impacts (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety) due to displacement and loss of or damage to property
- Transmission of infectious disease due to the climate becoming more favourable for infectious agents
- Increase in food imports and prices due to the dependence on climate-vulnerable countries

⁶ [Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK: state of the evidence 2023](#)

Health impacts from climate change have indirect social impacts through straining the economy, reducing economic productivity, increasing worker absenteeism and placing strain on health systems which consequently affect the socioeconomic conditions supporting health and wellbeing.

The below infographic from WHO demonstrates various health risks and the resulting health outcomes. It also touches on vulnerability factors which will be discussed later in this JSNA.

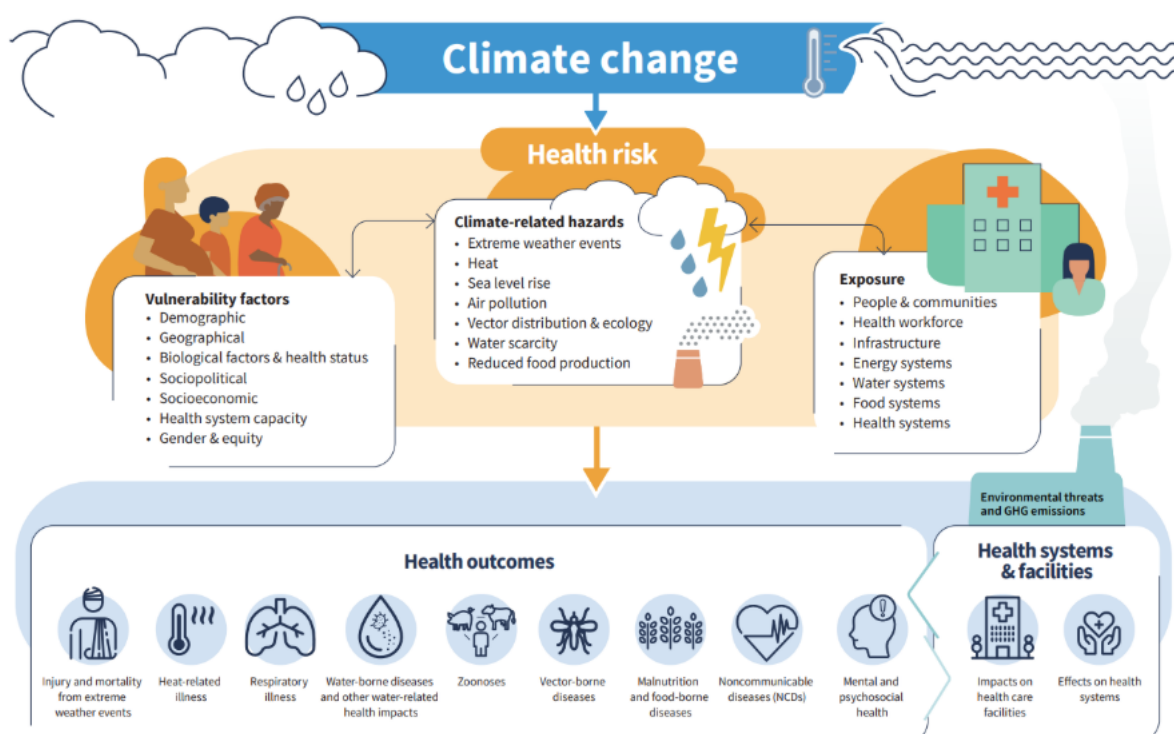


Figure 2: COP29 Overview of climate-sensitive health risks, exposure pathways and vulnerability factors. Source: WHO 2024⁷

⁷ [58595-who-cop29-special-report_layout_9web.pdf](#)

Heat & health

Increasing temperatures will have some of the most significant health impacts of climate change. Excessive heat disrupts balancing systems in the body which in turn impact blood pressure and body temperature, thus increasing harmful health impacts⁸.

These include but aren't limited to:

- Air pollution
 - Air pollution is an independently detrimental risk to health, however when coupled with heat, the impact can be significantly exacerbated. Heat increases the level of certain air pollutants, including ozone and can also trap air pollution in place, therefore increasing the health risks associated with air pollution⁹¹⁰¹¹
 - Exposure to air pollution is associated with increased hospital admissions and morbidity, particularly aggravating pre-existing conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancers¹²
- Extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flash flooding
 - Following prolonged heatwaves, the ground becomes hardened and the soil becomes less permeable, therefore periods of heavy rainfall result in flash flooding events
- Droughts and wildfires
 - A warmer climate leads to evaporation of water, resulting in hot and dry conditions which are more vulnerable to wildfires and increased water scarcity
- Food & nutrition insecurity
 - Extreme weather events such as flooding, drought and heatwaves impact food availability due to disruptions in supply chains and crop impacts, increasing costs and consequently social/mental health

⁸ <https://www.physoc.org/policy/climate-change-and-health/climate-change-physiology-and-cop29/>

⁹ [What Happens When Extreme Heat and Air Pollution Collide | World Resources Institute](#)

¹⁰ [content](#)

¹¹ [Extreme heat worsens air pollution health risks | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#)

¹² [Air quality, energy and health](#)

- Cancer risk
 - Increased Ultraviolet Light (UV) increases the risk of skin cancers
 - Air pollution and wildfires can also increase the risk of lung cancers
- Increase in infectious diseases
 - Increasing temperatures will likely lead to the introduction of invasive vectors of infectious diseases such as mosquitoes
 - Climate modelling by UKHSA has shown the potential for dengue fever, chikungunya virus and zika virus to become established infectious diseases in England by 2040-50
- Physical and mental health
 - Higher temperatures lead to increased rates of dehydration leading to exacerbation of underlying chronic diseases and heat illness

The below WHO infographic summarises indirect and direct health impacts of extreme heat.

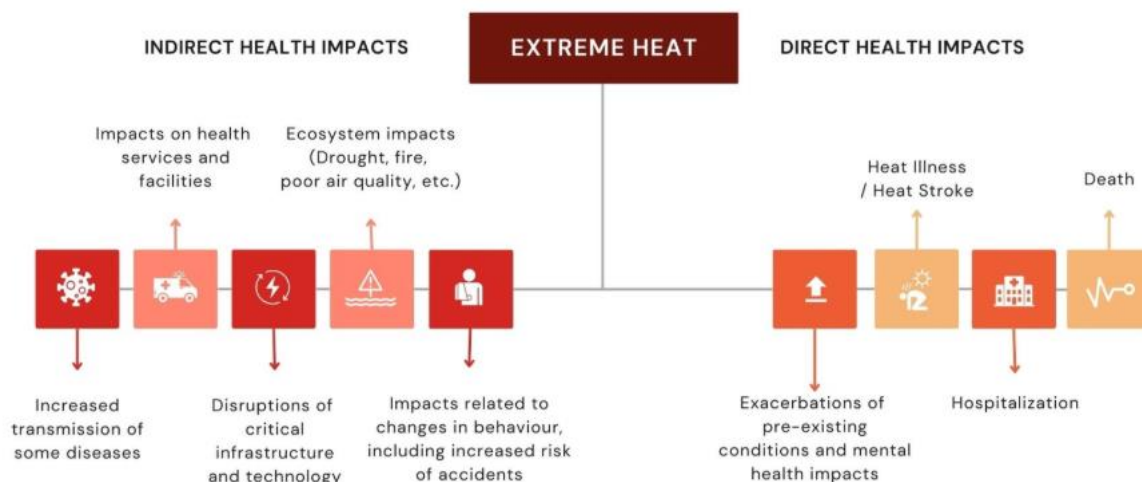


Figure 3: Direct and indirect health impacts of heat. Source: WHO 2024¹³

Heat & vulnerability

Different populations are more vulnerable to health impacts of heat. This is both due to physical coping mechanisms, such as decreased thermoregulation abilities in older

¹³ [Scale and nature of the health impacts of heat](#)

people and children, and also socioeconomic factors¹⁴. These are summarised by WHO.

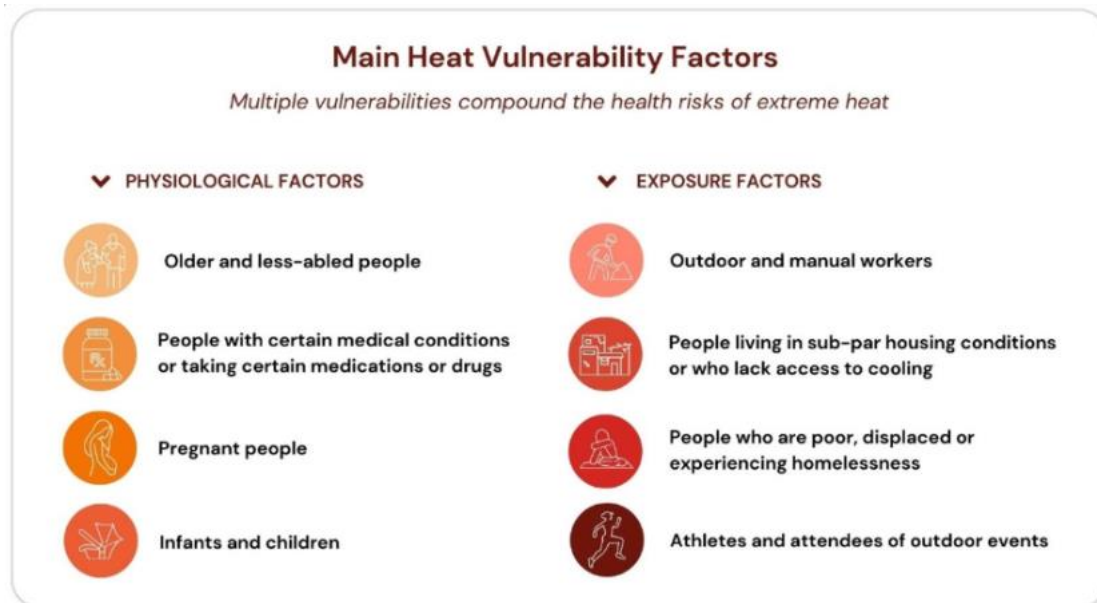


Figure 4: Heat Vulnerability Factors. Source: WHO 2024 ¹⁵

UKHSA delves further into populations vulnerable to extreme heat:

- older people aged >65y
- infants and children <5y
- people with underlying health conditions, particularly
 - o Cardiovascular problems
 - o Respiratory problems
 - o Dementia
 - o Diabetes
 - o Kidney disease
 - o Parkinson's disease
 - o Populations with reduced mobility

¹⁴ [JSNA: Focus on heatwaves](#)

¹⁵ [Main Heat Vulnerability Factors](#)

- Pregnant women
- People on certain medications
- People with serious mental health problems
- People who experience alcohol/drug dependence
- Physically active people and those who spend a lot of time outside
- People experiencing homelessness including rough sleepers and those unable to make home adaptations (e.g. populations in temporary accommodation)
- People living alone/unable to independently care for themselves

Reviewing the above populations, particularly high-risk settings include:

- Care Homes
- Supported Housing
- Temporary Accommodation
- Rough Sleepers
- Children's Centres

Some of these settings across Ealing have been mapped out below on a Heat Risk map:

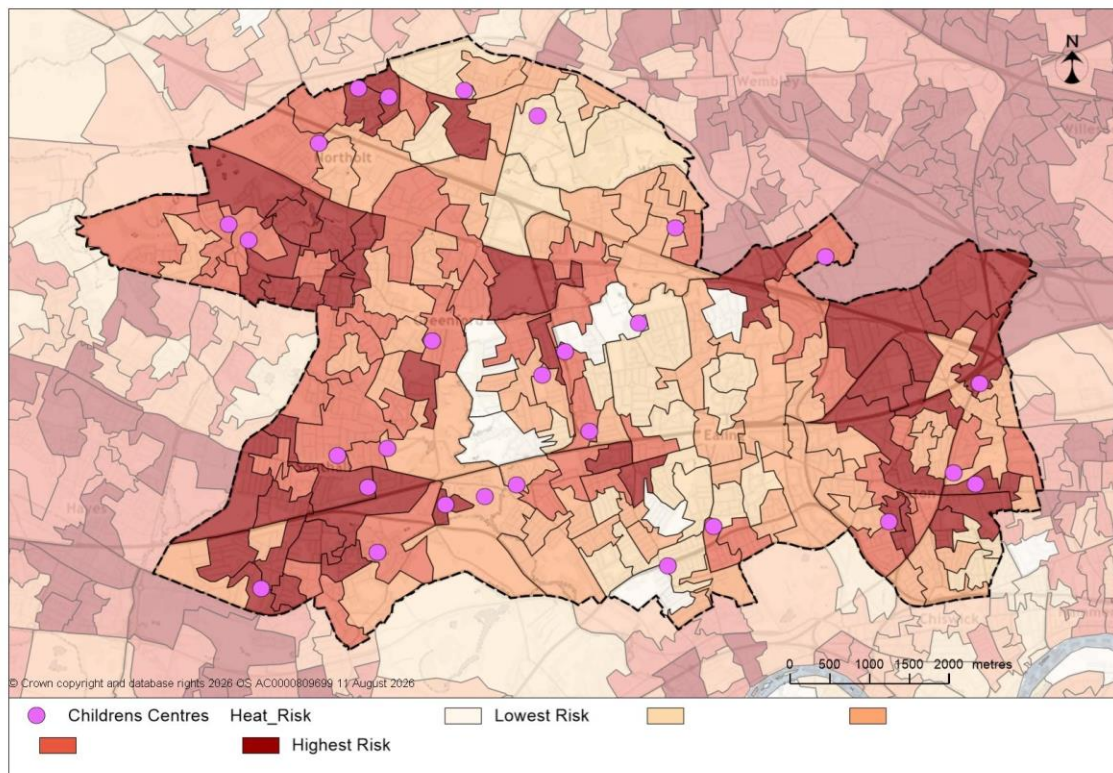


Figure 5 - Ealing Borough Heat Risk Map Children's Centre Locations

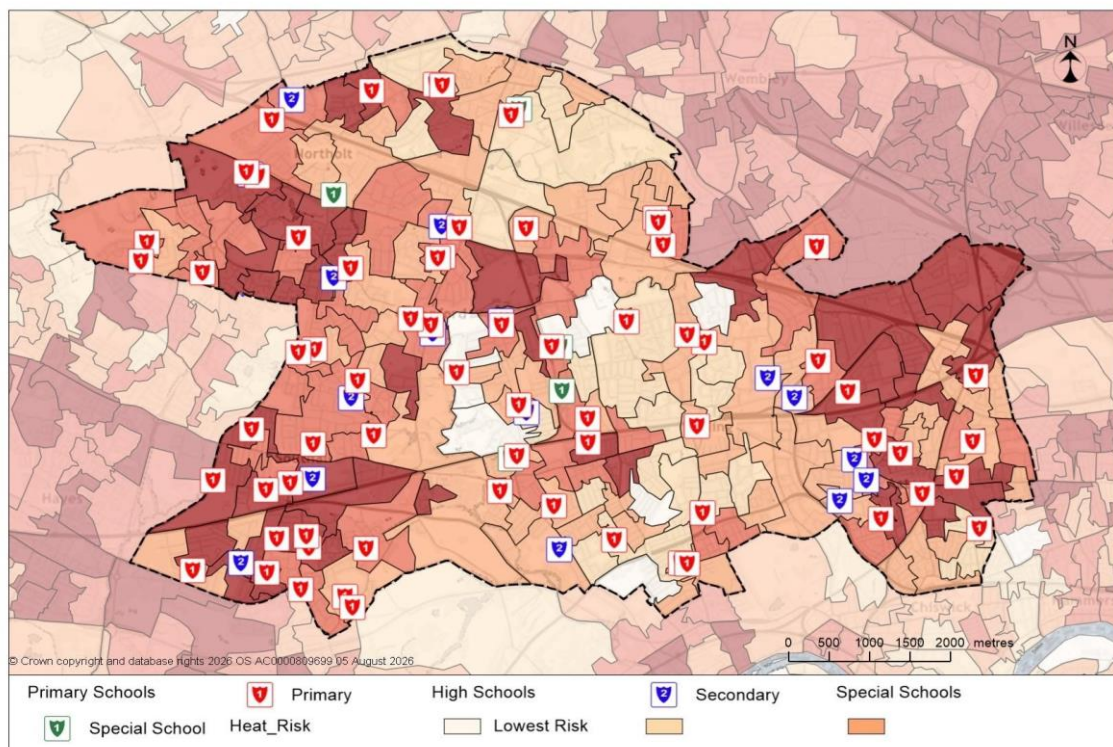


Figure 6 - Ealing Borough Heat Risk Map with Overlaying School settings

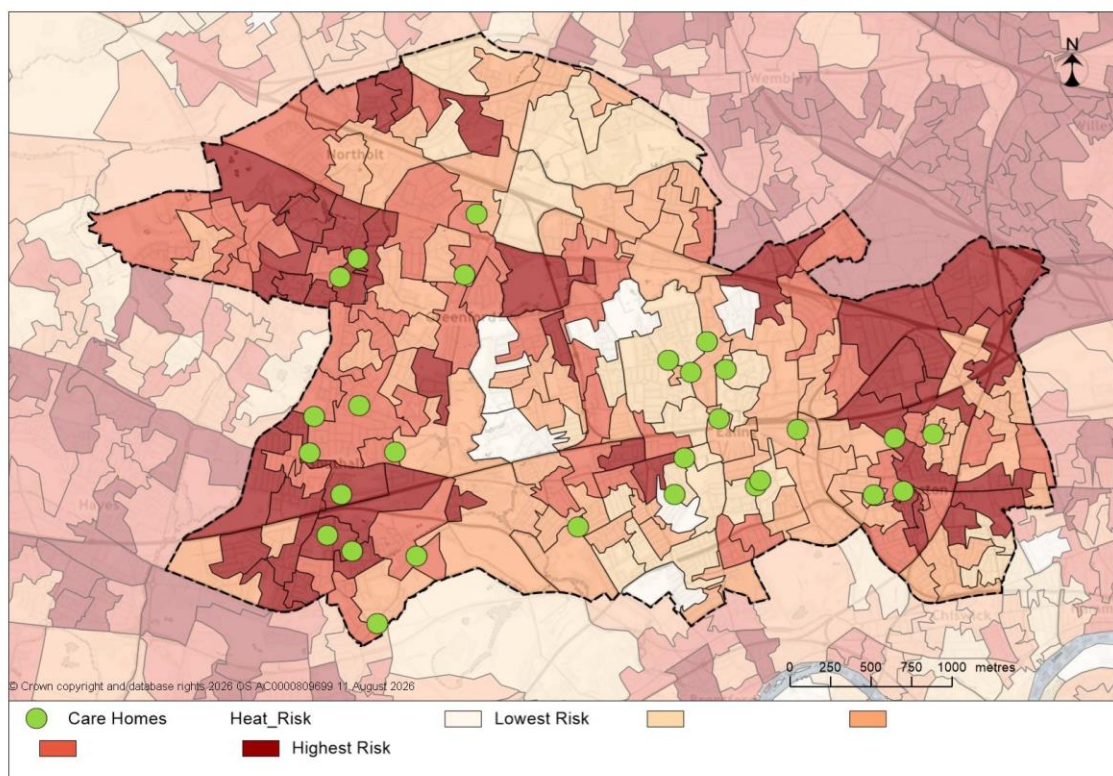


Figure 7 - Ealing Borough Heat Risk Map Adult Care Homes Locations

Mental Health

A less well-known impact of climate change is its adverse effect on mental health. Costs to mental health aren't considered in most climate planning or policies however the intersection between climate change and emotional wellbeing is being increasingly demonstrated in literature¹⁶.

Examples of mental health impacts include:

- Increased rates of suicide with increased temperatures

¹⁶ [The impact of climate change on mental health and emotional wellbeing: current evidence and implications for policy and practice | Grantham Institute – Climate Change and the Environment | Imperial College London](#)

- Research by Imperial College has linked increased temperatures with significant mental health concerns, where the difference between a 22°C day and a day at 32°C is a doubling in the risk of suicide
- Distress and post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from extreme weather events such as flooding and heatwaves
- Impact on physical health can have subsequent mental health impacts
 - e.g. exacerbation of respiratory symptoms in heatwaves, poor sleep leading to increased anxiety and depression rates¹⁷
- Indirect mental distress such as eco-anxiety, particularly in younger generations¹⁸
 - In The Lancet's Planetary Health article on climate anxiety in children¹⁹:
 - over 8 in 10 young people felt worried about climate change
 - many reported that eco-anxiety affects their daily functioning and reported feeling hesitant to have children due to concerns around future quality of life
 - Similarly, in a 2023 UK national survey sample, 1 in 3 young people reported fears around climate change compared to under 1 in 4 adults.²⁰

Further links which have been demonstrated include:

- Links between heatwaves and intimate partner violence
- Exacerbation of psychiatric symptoms in hot buildings
- Increased mortality in populations with pre-existing mental illness

Imperial college has summarised direct and indirect impacts of climate change on mental health.

¹⁷ [Climate change and mental health | Wellbeing | Mind](#)

¹⁸ [Climate change awareness and mental health - GOV.UK](#)

¹⁹ [Climate anxiety in children and young people and their beliefs about government responses to climate change: a global survey - The Lancet Planetary Health](#)

²⁰ [Young People's Climate Anxiety Soaring - Woodland Trust](#)



Figure 8 Direct and Indirect Impacts of Climate Change. Source: Imperial College 2022²¹

Climate risk

The Met Office predicts that because of climate change, across England we will see drier, hotter summers and wetter, warmer winters. These changes have already been taking place, with the current UK climate being warmer, wetter and sunnier than the previous century.

Heat

This warming stripe graphic demonstrates temperature change in London across the last 100+ years, highlighting the rise in temperatures, particularly across the last three decades.

²¹ https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/10.1080/09540261.2022.2128725?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%20%200pubmed#d1e315

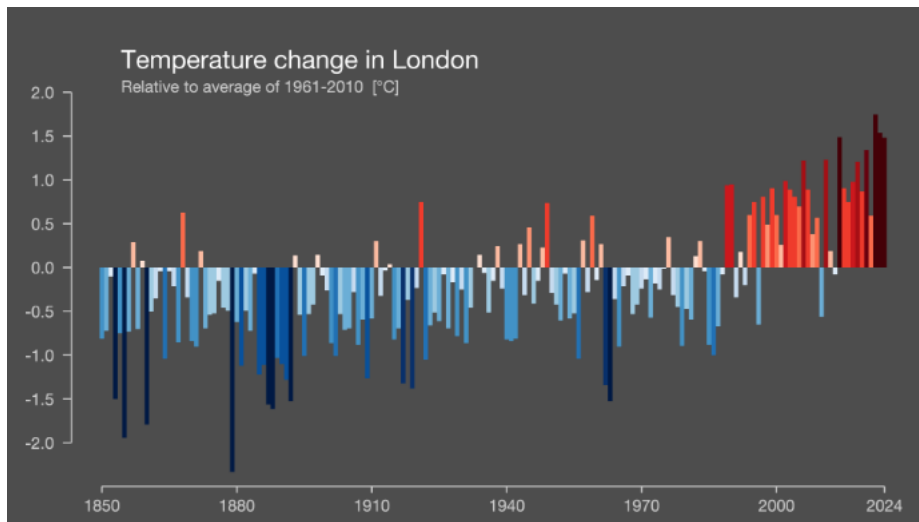


Figure 9 Temperature Change in London 1850-2024. Source: Professor Ed Hawkins, University of Reading²²

The most profound recent example of excess heat impacts in England are from the 2022 heatwave²³. It is estimated that 2,803 people aged 65 years and over died due to the heat in England in 2022, reflecting the older age group accounting for the vast majority of deaths highlighted in the UKHSA chart below. These heatwaves led to 'endemic overheating' across care homes and NHS England recorded over 6800 cases of overheating in hospitals in 2022-23. Further impacts of the heatwaves included school closures and early pick-ups and increased pressure on healthcare settings and emergency services. The severity of future impacts will depend upon how much warming occurs and it is predicted that the number of heat-related deaths per year may triple by 2050. Heat-related mortality costs England £6.8 billion a year, and this is likely to double by the 2050s²⁴.

UK Heat-Associated Deaths

²² [#ShowYourStripes](#)

²³ [Which neighbourhoods are most vulnerable to heatwaves? | Policy and insight](#)

²⁴ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/4th-health-and-climate-adaptation-report/>

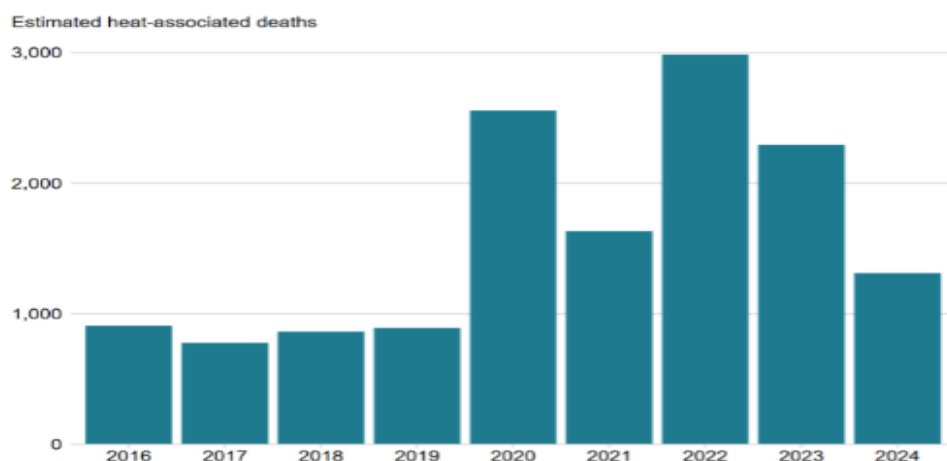


Figure 10: Estimated Heat-Associated Deaths, 2016-2024. Source: UKHSA 2025²⁵

Ealing's Climate

Climate change impacts are already being seen in Ealing with more frequent and severe extreme weather events. Temperatures, both average and daily maximum, have been increasing with a record-breaking temperature of 40°C in July 2022. During this period, a Red Level 4 Heatwave was declared, leading to the Emergency Management Team activating Borough Emergency Control Centre (BECC) arrangements.

The risks of extreme weather events occurring in Ealing as assessed by the Ealing Resilience Forum are noted below. This highlights the likelihood and level of impact in particular of flooding, heatwaves and storms.

Risk Type	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Rating	Lead Assessor
Fluvial flooding (river Brent)	3	4	Very high	EA
Surface water flooding	3	4	Very high	LBE
Heatwaves	3	4	Very high	UKHSA
Drought	2	5	Very high	EA
Storms	4	3	High	Met Office
Poor air quality	3	3	High	EA
Low temperatures, heavy snow	3	3	High	LBE, Met Office
Groundwater flooding	2	3	Medium	LBE
Wildfires	4	2	Medium	LFB

Figure 11 Ealing's Draft Climate Adaptation & Resilience Strategy 2026-2038

²⁵ [Heat summary – heat mortality monitoring reports - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/heat-summary-heat-mortality-monitoring-reports)

An independent review by the London Climate Resilience review explains in depth how London is unprepared for climate shocks, including extreme heat. The London Borough of Ealing is ranked the 9th most socially vulnerable to high heat borough in the country due to the population profile and urban fabric^{26, 27}. Being in an urban environment in London, Ealing is particularly at risk of heat impacts with its dense population profile and urban developments. Compared to the rest of England, Ealing is also more likely to experience the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect due to increased urban land surface such as roads and buildings absorbing and trapping heat, thus making populations more at risk of extreme heat impacts. A lack of green and blue spaces, high pollution levels and high density developments all contribute to the creation of a UHI²⁸.

The map below depicts the heat risk across Ealing with the lightest shades representing lowest heat risk and deepest shades of red representing the highest heat risk.

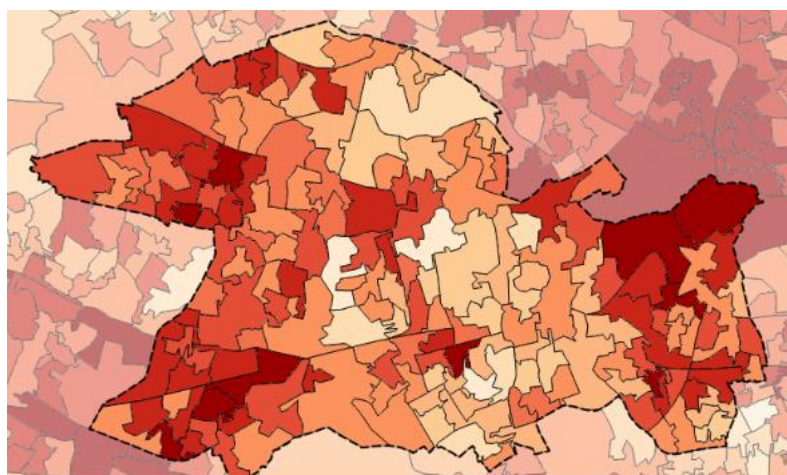


Figure 12 Ealing Heat Risk Map, Earthlite, Ealing Council. Source: GLA

Climate Justice

Climate justice highlights that climate change exacerbates existing inequalities and those that are most affected tend to be those who contribute the least to pollution and are also less able to adapt. Health impacts of climate change will vary between different groups of people due to differences in exposure, susceptibility and ability to cope²⁹. Populations who will be especially vulnerable include those unable to control

²⁶ [The London Climate Resilience Review – July 2024](#)

²⁷ [Which neighbourhoods are most vulnerable to heatwaves? | Policy and insight](#)

²⁸ [» Heatwaves London Climate Change Partnership](#)

²⁹ [Climate change is a matter of justice – here's why | UNDP Climate Promise](#)

their environment or adapt their behaviours according to new risks, such as children, people with disabilities, older adults and people in settings such as schools, prisons, hospitals and social care³⁰.

Health impacts will increase as temperatures continue to rise - this will lead to inter-generational inequality as the impacts will persist or even increase for the next generation, further contributing to health injustice.

Vulnerable Populations

Specific groups will be more vulnerable to the effects of climate change and consequently experience greater adverse health outcomes. These vulnerability factors often cross-over with health inequalities and the building blocks of health. Populations on lower incomes and minority ethnic groups are already experiencing poorer air quality, lack of access to green spaces and overheating.

This wheel created by Lambeth Local Authority depicts vulnerability to climate change, demonstrating the intersection of the building blocks of health and vulnerability to climate change impacts



Figure 13: Climate Change Vulnerability Wheel. Source: Lambeth DPH Report, 2020³¹

³⁰ <https://raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2023/12/HECC-report-2023-overview.pdf>

³¹ [Climate Change and Health – Tower Hamlets](#)

The Ealing Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy summarises some of the factors contributing to vulnerability into three key headings: environmental, personal and social as depicted below.

Factors affecting vulnerability to climate change

Environmental <i>Exposure to climate impact</i>	Personal <i>Individual risk factors</i>	Social <i>Capacity to respond</i>
Housing density & type (taller, smaller, denser = increased risk)	Age (elderly, younger)	Employment status and income
Access to green space	Physical health	Access to insurance
Proximity to water features	Mental health	Access to services
Location in flood risk areas		Social connection
		Housing tenure

Figure 14 Factors Affecting Vulnerability to Climate Change. Source: Draft Ealing Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy, 2026

Measuring vulnerability is difficult due to the complexity involved however an understanding of risks in the context of Ealing's population can help gain an understanding of populations which may be more vulnerable³². With the available data, some of these vulnerability factors are reviewed below within the context of Ealing's population.

Impacts on Ealing

Demographics and Health Inequalities

Population

Ealing has a higher-than-average total population and population density compared to the rest of England, being the twentieth most populous local authority in England and the third most populous borough in London³³. 1 in 20 residents are 0-4 years old, and more than 1 in 7 are 65 and over. With a predicted increase in overall population,

³² [Mapping vulnerability to climate-related hazards to inform local authority action in adaptation: A feasibility study - ScienceDirect](#)

³³ [Ealing population change, Census 2021 – ONS](#)

particularly within the older age group, health impacts of climate change will only be exacerbated.

Ealing is the 8th most diverse local authority across England and Wales, with less than half of the population identifying as White. At least 3 in 4 Ealing residents are from a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) group.

Ethnicity of Ealing Population

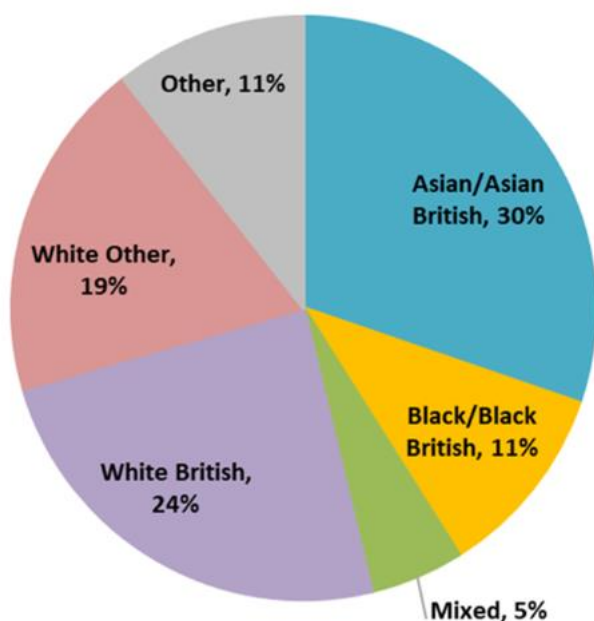


Figure 15 Ealing Population Ethnicity. Source: National Census, 2021

Within the context of different cultures having varying understanding of the impacts of climate change, different challenges and opportunities are provided. For example, a more diverse population could result in increased cultural barriers to raising awareness of health impacts of climate change, and potential language barriers with 3 in 10 residents not speaking English as a main language, and 1 in 5 of this population not speaking English well³⁴. Contrastingly, populations from warmer climates may have strategies to better cope with heat embedded into their lifestyle already.

Deprivation

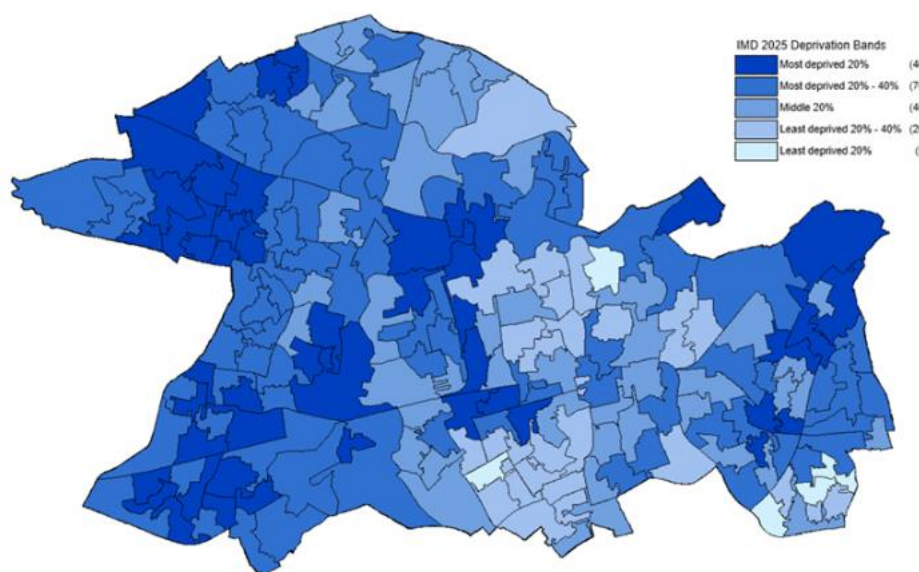
Of the 316 local authorities in England, Ealing was ranked in the top third (94th) most income deprived. The local income deprivation map below demonstrates disparities between neighbourhoods. It demonstrates concentrations of increased deprivation in

³⁴ [Ealing Data – Population](#)

areas such as Southall, Northolt, Greenford and Acton, with less deprived concentrations overall around Ealing³⁵.

Various studies have shown an increased risk of mortality as a result of heat in more deprived groups. This risk may be due to poor access to information and adaptation strategies, differences in housing standards or the underlying prevalence of chronic disease^{36 37}.

Ealing Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2025) map by LSOAs



Ealing Strategic Intelligence & Performance Team

Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey LA0100019807

Figure 16: Borough of Ealing Representing IMD

Following on from deprivation, it is important to consider food security in Ealing. Since 2017, the proportion of children in the borough eligible for school meals has been increasing, with at least 1 in 4 children in Ealing being entitled to free school meals in January 2025, with higher proportions being in Perivale and Ealing, and lower proportions in Hanwell and Southall. In the current economic situation, climate impacts will lead to food imports becoming more expensive, potentially causing food-related anxiety, particularly in those with a baseline lower socioeconomic status or

³⁵ [Exploring local income deprivation](#)

³⁶ [Social determinants of heat-related mortality in England: a time-stratified case-crossover study using primary care records | BMJ Public Health](#)

³⁷ [Small-area assessment of temperature-related mortality risks in England and Wales: a case time series analysis - The Lancet Planetary Health](#)

already experiencing food poverty. These households may be at increased risk of food insecurity and food-related anxiety, thus resulting in another indirect impact.

Broadly comparing the heat risk and deprivation map, the more deprived areas within Ealing generally align with those at greater risk of heat impact. As expected, these areas also broadly coincide with areas where an increased percentage of the population are entitled to free school meals (see Figure 1 in Data Appendix), thus demonstrating layers of vulnerability when assessing populations at risk of harmful health impacts.

Rough sleepers

The monthly estimated rate of rough sleepers in Ealing is higher than in London and England, with a general increasing trend. This reflects an increasing vulnerable population at risk of health impacts, particularly in the context of extreme weather events.

Estimated rate of people sleeping rough In Ealing, London and England, monthly rate per 100,000 population

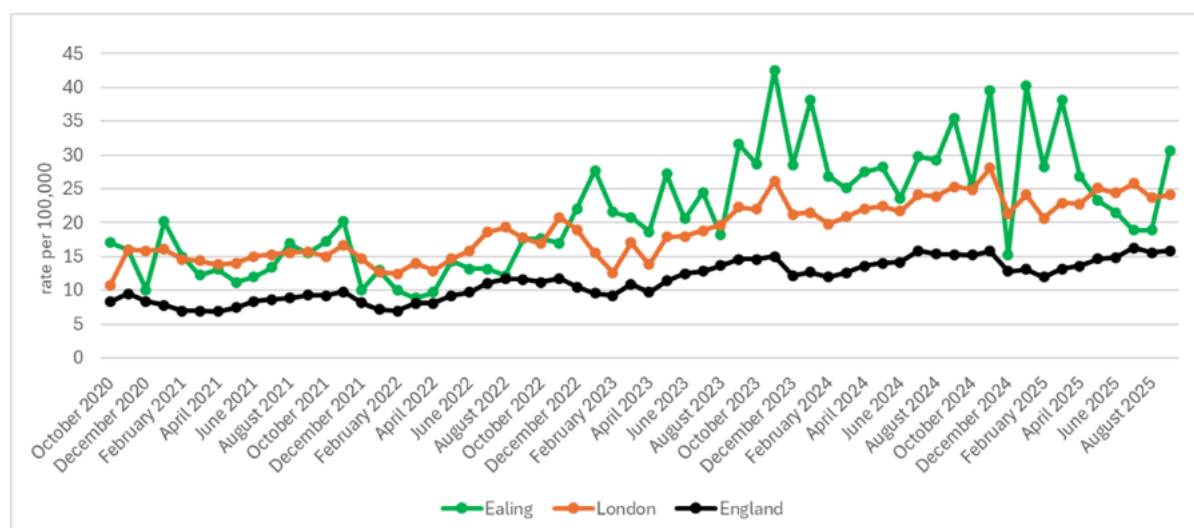


Figure 17 Rate of Rough Sleepers Source: MHCLG Rough Sleeping Data Framework, October 2020 to September 2025

Occupation

Addressing different occupation types is important to ensure employers take appropriate action to mitigate health risks for populations at greater risk of climate-associated health impacts³⁸. Occupations particularly at risk of extreme heat impacts

³⁸ [Workers' health and productivity under occupational heat strain: a systematic review and meta-analysis - The Lancet Planetary Health](#)

include outdoor/manual labour workers such as construction or agricultural workers and employees based in kitchens and factories. Extreme heat increases risk of workplace heat stress, impacting physical health of these populations and also decreasing worker productivity³⁹.

Considering council employees within Ealing, those in office settings need consideration of environmental heat control during periods of extreme heat. For future constructions planned, timing of and climate of work should be considered for outdoor and manual workers who are at increased risk of extreme weather impacts. Additionally, Ealing hosts significant food warehouses, reflecting further at-risk employees.

In the 2025 Annual Population Survey, two thirds of Ealing residents were employed in professional occupations and managerial positions, higher than across London and nationally. This means likely lower than average manual/outdoor workers however the data is not sufficient to establish the health risks of Ealing's population as a direct consequence of occupation.

Infrastructure

Hospitals

More than 90% of NHS buildings in England are vulnerable to overheating⁴⁰. In the July 2022 heatwave, online systems at a South London hospital failed due to extreme temperatures, resulting in a critical disruption to services. These impact both hospital staff and patients, with temperatures above 25° C correlating with a sharp increase in mortality and hospital admissions. Ealing has two inpatient sites including Ealing hospital and the attached Mental Health inpatient unit which may be at increased risk of overheating and should be involved in heat action planning.

Cool Spaces

A lack of access to green and blue spaces makes populations more vulnerable to extreme heat impacts. The below map is taken from the Mayor of London Cool spaces map. It highlights a significant lack of cool spaces in Ealing, with only two cool spaces (Hanwell Library – Tier 1 and Open Havelock – Tier 2) and seven water fountains, mostly positioned south of the borough. Comparison to the rest of London also demonstrates a relative lack of cool spaces, thus showing increased vulnerability of the Ealing

³⁹ [Workplace heat stress](#)

⁴⁰ [Climate emergency: 90% of NHS buildings are vulnerable to overheating, warns UK health alliance | The BMJ](#)

population to heat impacts, particularly in areas of high heat risk such as Southall and Acton.

Key:

Tier 1 cool spaces: venues with all cool space amenities (lower temperatures than outdoors, free seating space, free drinking water and toilets), open 10am – 5pm for at least 5 days a week.

Tier 2 cool spaces: venues with fewer cool space amenities, open for fewer hours/less frequently

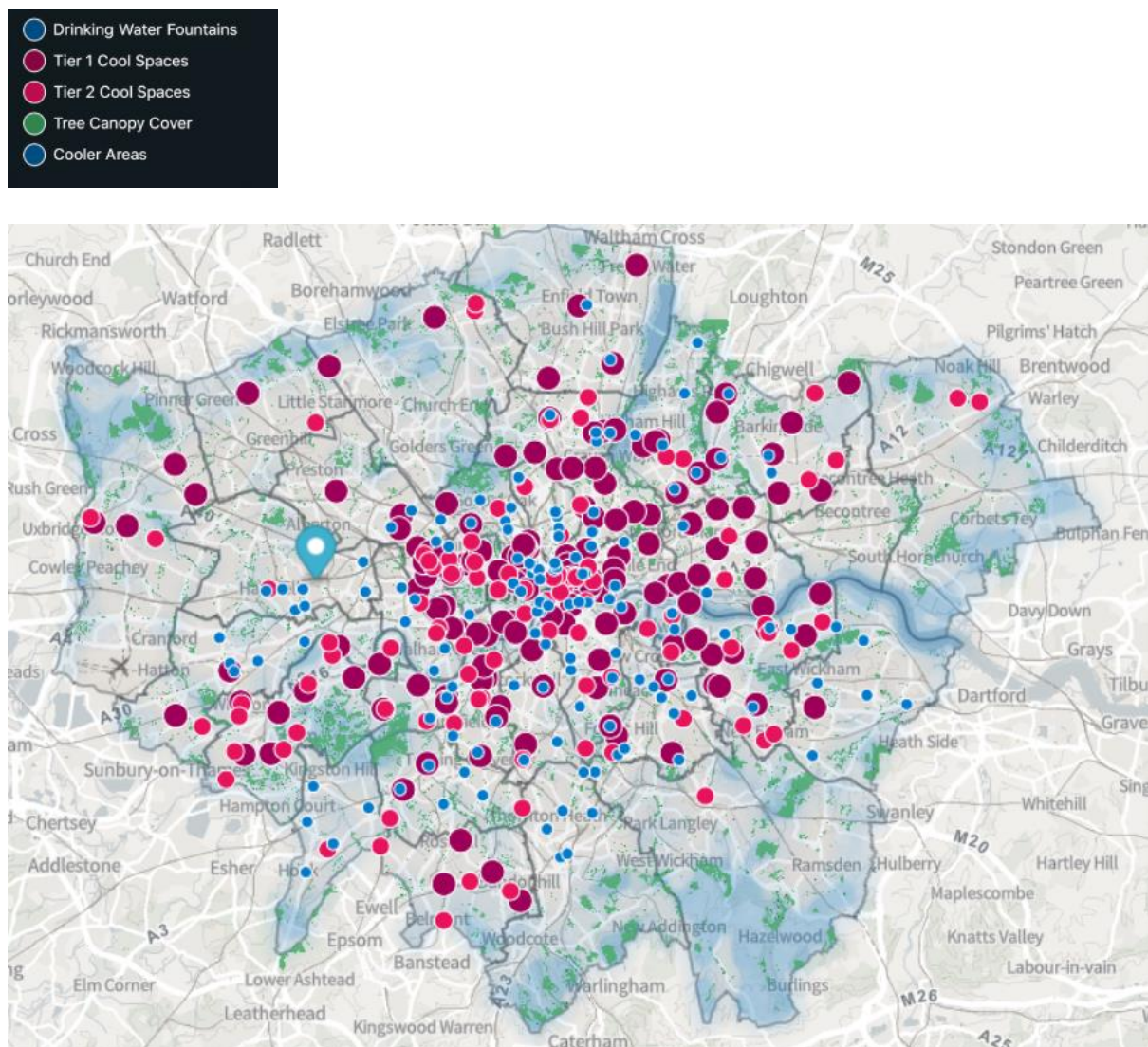


Figure 18: Cool Spaces, 2026, Source: Mayor of London⁴¹

⁴¹ [Cool Spaces](#)

Health of Ealing Population

Life expectancy

In general, Ealing's life expectancy is higher than the England average, excluding South Acton, Norwood Green and Greenford Broadway wards where male life expectancy is significantly lower than the national average. These wards correspond with the increased heat risk areas, reflecting exacerbation of health inequalities through climate change.

Mobility

In Ealing, it is estimated that it is estimated that more than 12,000 people (ages 18-64) have impaired mobility and almost 9000 people aged 65 and over are unable to manage at least one activity on their own. This is a significant proportion of the Ealing population who are more vulnerable to health impacts of climate change due to reduced ability to adapt and recover.

Underlying medical conditions

Ealing's prevalence rates for underlying medical conditions at risk of being exacerbated by climate change or making populations more vulnerable are generally above the London average, causing potential widening of existing health inequalities.

Disease Prevalence in Ealing compared to London/England

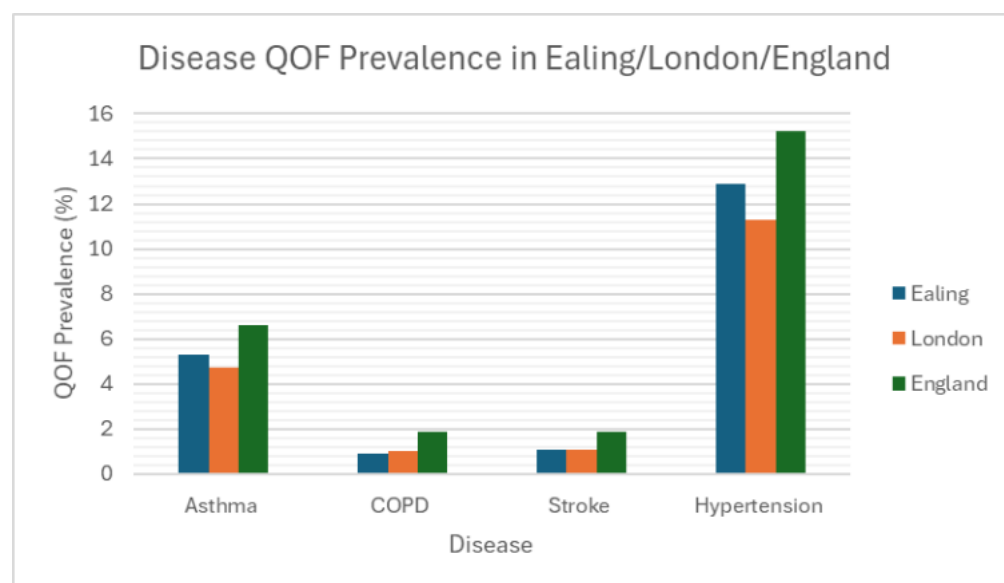


Figure 19 Ealing/London/England Disease Profile, Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), 2025

Air pollution

In 2024, 6.5% of deaths in Ealing were attributable to particulate air pollution. This is very similar to London, but higher than the national proportion. This is understandable considering the population, property and traffic density within London compared to the rest of England, but highlights the more urgent need for London-wide action in mitigating this morbidity and mortality risk, particularly with the risk of increasing temperatures increasing air pollutant levels. Further information on the impact of air quality on health can be found in the 2019 Ealing Air Quality JSNA.

Air pollution: estimated fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution

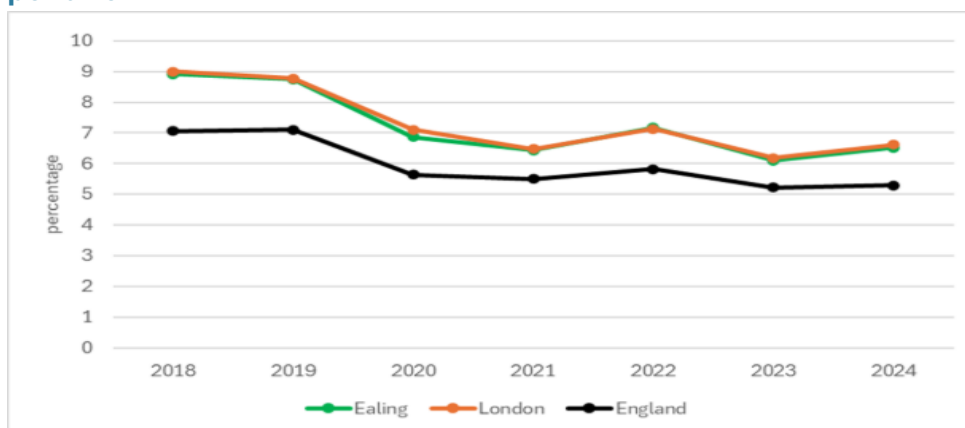


Figure 20 Air Mortality Attributable to air pollution. Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 2025

Mental Health

The percentage of Ealing residents registered with a mental health illness including schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychotic disorders, is similar to the rest of London, but higher than the national average. Contrastingly, the recorded depression prevalence is lower than both London and national figures. Suicide rates in Ealing are similar to London and lower than the national average at 85 cases for 2022-2024. It is difficult to ascertain the geographical spread of the population with mental health diagnoses and would require breakdown by PCN data to gain an understanding of where these vulnerable populations are based. Further details can be reviewed in the data appendix.

Ealing only has one inpatient mental health facility, St Bernard's hospital which is situated next to Ealing hospital within Southall. National evidence shows that these healthcare facilities are at increased risk of overheating therefore making inpatient populations and staff at increased risk of health impacts.

What we are currently doing

Strategy

Ealing council has a climate strategy first published in 2021 which focusses on five key areas: energy, food, nature, travel and waste. The aim of the strategy is to reduce the council's produced emissions with the intended outcome of mitigating climate change. Progress on the strategy is reviewed every two years⁴².

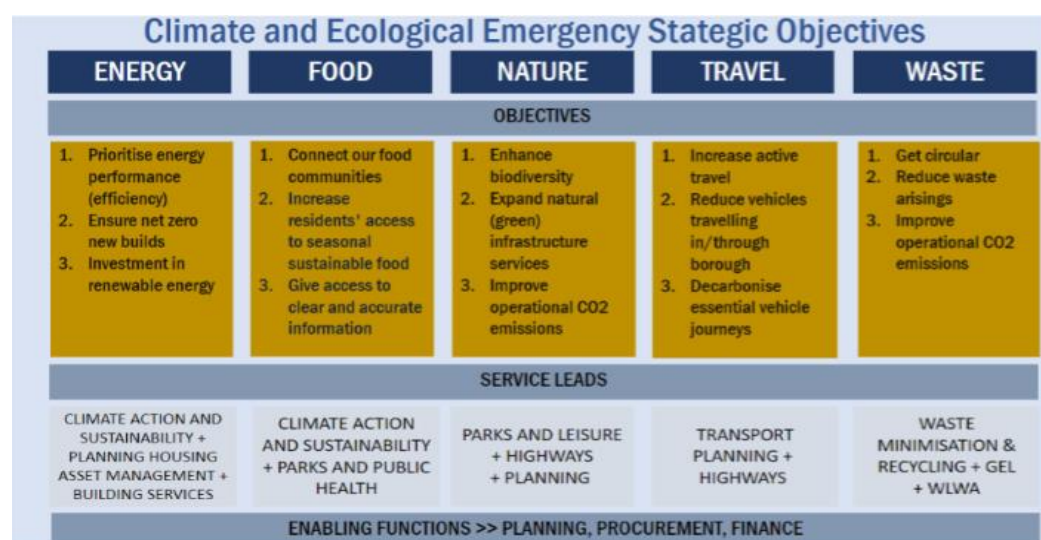


Figure 21 Strategic Objectives, Ealing Climate Strategy 2021

The climate team's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy 2026-2038 also outlines the various pathways already being taken in the borough to climate resilience, focussing on Health, Nature, the Built Environment, Communities and Businesses. The action plan includes multiple strategies and opportunities to be taken for approaching climate change through accountability via multiple stakeholders.

Ealing's Emergency Management Service has various action plans and strategies in place for increasing community resilience, some of which are linked into climate change impacts. For example, as part of the Ealing Resilience Forum there exists a multi-agency flood plan which also includes processes for reaching vulnerable populations.

Slowing down and reducing warming will delay adverse health risks and decrease their severity, providing increased time for adaptation and preparation for health risks. Many

⁴² [Appendix 1 CEES progress report](#)

of these strategies are addressed and further discussion of this can be found in the Climate Resilience Strategy with examples such as the Ealing Borough Resilience Forum and Community Resilience Strategy, Your Voice Your Town and Borough of Sanctuary Strategy. Some of these are detailed in the appendix.

Community programmes

The Ealing Food Partnership programme established by the council in collaboration with residents, communities, volunteers and businesses introduced a food map to help find nutritious, free or inexpensive food across the borough. This sustainable practice helps tackle food poverty through offering affordable, healthy food through promoting local, seasonal food and supports resilience in dealing with potential food supply disruptions due to climate change ⁴³.

The community resilience forum led by the Emergency Management team is also a key stakeholder in engaging the community through hosting training sessions and workshops with community groups and voluntary sector partners ⁴⁴.

Recommendations & National Policy

Specific Recommendations

One of the key findings from this JSNA is that there is currently a significant data gap around local health impacts of climate-related issues. Public health intelligence is key to assessing local needs and providing targeted interventions. This has been carried out through a combination of national intelligence and small-scale local data however moving forward, we suggest increased efforts in monitoring health impacts of climate change.

A further recommendation resulting from this JSNA is considering strengthening preparedness for adverse weather events. At present, good systems are in place to respond to various weather alerts, with particularly good coordination from the emergency management team. However, there is a lack of coordinated effort to proactively prepare for adverse weather events, particularly in relation to heat. This can be reviewed through the severe weather forum, which is jointly led by emergency management and public health taking a lead on driving this agenda. This is beginning to

⁴³ [Finding free or affordable food - Around Ealing](#)

⁴⁴ [Community resilience | Community resilience | Ealing Council](#)

take action with new quarterly meetings between the emergency management team, public health and other partners.

Consultation with the emergency management team also reflected the following recommendations:

- Expanding community resilience approaches and voluntary sector engagement e.g. The Greener School network project and the Resident Associations
- Embedding climate risks into emergency planning and exercising with help from EM to deliver this
- Enhancing early warning systems and targeted communications through the EM comms team
- During flooding episodes: potential BECC activation and coordination of multi-agency response if EM are activated to an incident of this nature.
 - This could outline roles across preparedness, response, and recovery for climate related incidents (e.g. heatwaves, flooding, storms).

Stakeholder involvement and public awareness

One of the key aspects in climate interventions is to ensure stakeholder-wide involvement from service providers through to community groups. This involves not only various council teams such as the climate board, public health, transport, planning and emergency management teams, but also the NHS, local resilience forums and various Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprises (VCSEs). Enhancing community resilience is key in mitigating health impacts of climate change. One method of achieving this is co-production of interventions to ensure greater likelihood of engagement with an intervention. Government guidance also emphasises the importance of embedding climate education into health practice. also emphasises this and recommends increasing local public awareness on the risks of climate change to health and effective mitigation techniques they can adopt⁴⁵.

There are key interventions recommended globally and nationally which can be considered for implementation at the local level to try reducing health impacts of climate change on Ealing residents. Almost all actions related to climate change will also impact health. The Draft Ealing Council's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy has a comprehensive action plan, therefore further thorough, local recommendations aren't detailed as part of this JSNA, however key resources for reference are summarised below.

⁴⁵ [Climate Change, Physiology, and COP29 - The Physiological Society](#)

Recommended Policies and Guidance for Reference

For further reading around mitigation and adaptation strategies, including actions with co-benefits to help health, please refer to the following resources:

- Global
 - Climate Change, Physiology, and COP29 Key Recommendations: [Climate Change, Physiology, and COP29 - The Physiological Society](#)
 - What do recent heat waves teach us about climate change?: [Too Hot to Handle | UNFCCC](#)
- National
 - Which neighbourhoods are most vulnerable to heatwaves? Friends of the Earth Policy: [Which neighbourhoods are most vulnerable to heatwaves? | Policy and insight](#)
 - Climate and Health, Guidance and Regulation, UKHSA: [Climate and health - GOV.UK](#)
 - Heat Health Alert Action Card, UKHSA: [Heat-Health Alert action card for health and social care providers - GOV.UK](#)
- Local
 - Cool Spaces, Mayor of London: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/climate-change/climate-adaptation/cool-spaces>
 - Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy, Ealing Council Climate Team

Summary

Overall, there is a vast range of current and potential future health impacts of climate change at the global, national and local levels. As demonstrated, these health risks can widen existing health inequalities. These inequalities are particularly seen in the more deprived wards of Ealing, where mapping demonstrates increased heat risk corresponding with higher deprivation levels and poorer health outcomes. In order to reduce health inequalities, tackle climate injustice and improve the lives of Ealing's population, early action is required through a multifaceted, multistakeholder approach with a particular focus on vulnerable populations. Whilst the impacts are detrimental and pose a significant threat, practical solutions are available and these health impacts can be reduced through actions which have been highlighted by the Ealing Climate Team.

Appendix 1: Data

Demographics and Health Inequalities

Age

Table 1 shows the population breakdown by the youngest and the oldest age group. In 2025, there were 20,700 children aged under 5 in Ealing and 49,700 people aged 65 and over (Table 1). This table also depicts an increase in the overall population over the next 5 -10 years, with a particular rise amongst the population within the older age group.

Table 1: Resident population by age band in 2025 and projected population over next 5 and 10 years

	Total population (all ages)	0-4	65 and over
2025	380600	20700	49700
2030	402200	22100	57500
	(+5.7%)	(+6.8%)	(+15.7%)
2035	437100	24500	67200
	(+14.8%)	(+18.4%)	(+35.2%)

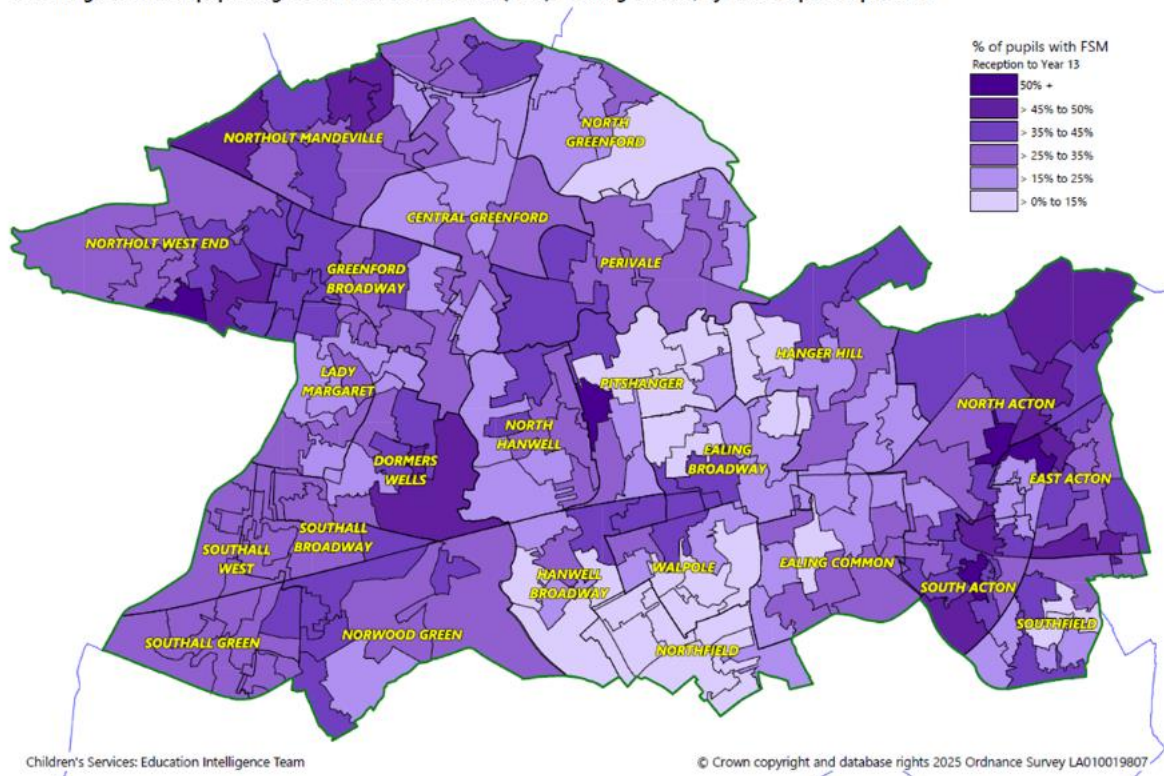
Source: GLA 2022 - based housing-led population projections, 2024 (Note: percentage change is with respect to 2025 figures)

Deprivation

Children receiving free school meals

Figure 1: FSM by ward, 2025

Percentage of current pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in Ealing schools, by lower super output area



Rough Sleepers

Figure 2 below shows that Ealing monthly rate of people sleeping rough is higher than in London and England. The latest data is for August 2025, where 30.6 people per 100,000 population were sleeping rough (24.1 in London and 15.9 nationally). Following the national trend, the rate was lower during the pandemic months (17.1/100,000 in Oct 2020), going up in Jan 2023.

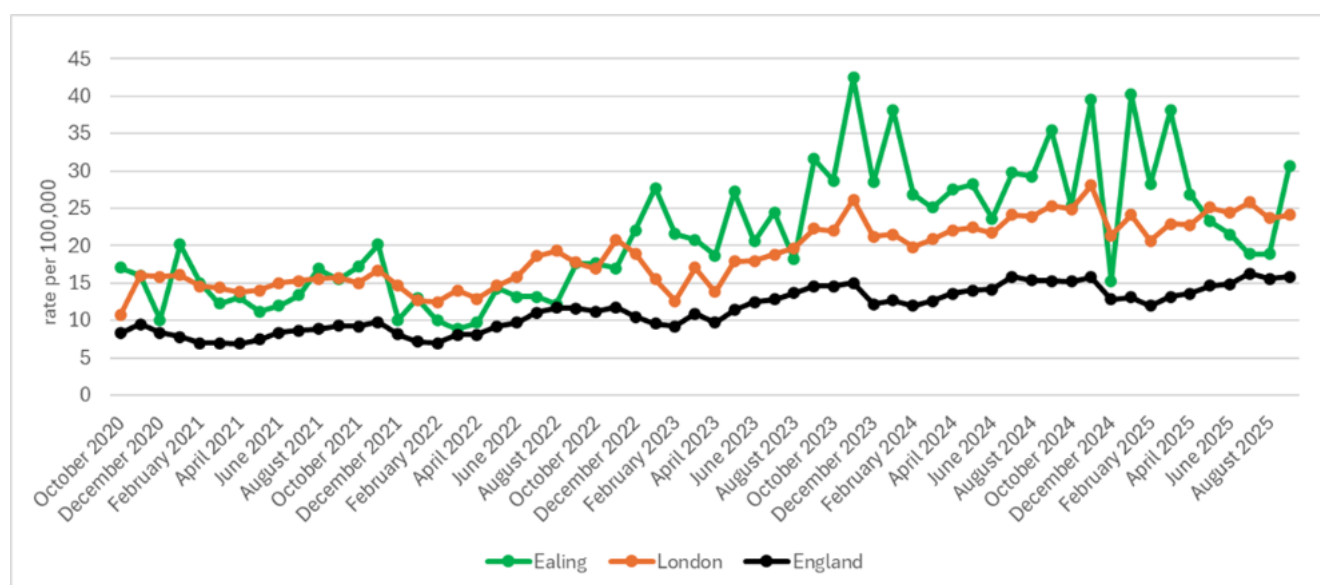


Figure 2: Estimated rate of people sleeping rough In Ealing, London and England, monthly rate per 100,000 population

Source: MHCLG Rough Sleeping Data Framework, July to September 2025

Occupation

Table 2 below shows the breakdown of employment by occupation, from the latest Annual Population Survey (APS, 2025). Two thirds of Ealing residents (65.8%) were employed in the top group as managers, directors, senior officials, or in professional occupations and associate professional occupations. This is higher proportion than across London or nationally (64.9% and 53.5% respectively).

Only 6.9% of Ealing working population is the bottom group, which includes process plant and machine operatives or elementary occupations (10% in London overall and 14.5% nationally).

Table 2: Employment by occupation in Ealing, London and Great Britain

Employment by occupation (Oct 2024-Sep 2025)				
	Ealing (Numbers)	Ealing (%)	London (%)	Great Britain (%)
Soc 2020 Major Group 1-3	118,800	65.8	64.9	53.5
1 Managers, Directors And Senior Officials	25,100	13.8	14.7	11.4
2 Professional Occupations	71,400	39.3	33.4	27.0
3 Associate Professional Occupations	22,300	12.3	16.6	15.0
Soc 2020 Major Group 4-5	27,500	15.2	13.1	17.6
4 Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	12,800	7.0	8.1	9.2
5 Skilled Trades Occupations	14,700	8.1	5.0	8.4
Soc 2020 Major Group 6-7	21,800	12.1	11.8	14.4
6 Caring, Leisure And Other Service Occupations	9,400	5.2	7.4	8.6
7 Sales And Customer Service Occs	12,400	6.8	4.4	5.7
Soc 2020 Major Group 8-9	12,500	6.9	10.2	14.5
8 Process Plant & Machine Operatives	#	#	3.9	5.5
9 Elementary Occupations	#	#	6.2	8.9

Source: ONS annual population survey
Sample size too small for reliable estimate ([see definitions](#))
Notes: Numbers and % are for those of 16+
% is a proportion of all persons in employment

Source: NOMIS, 2025

Infrastructure

Figure 3: Primary schools in Ealing

Location of primary schools by ward and super output area

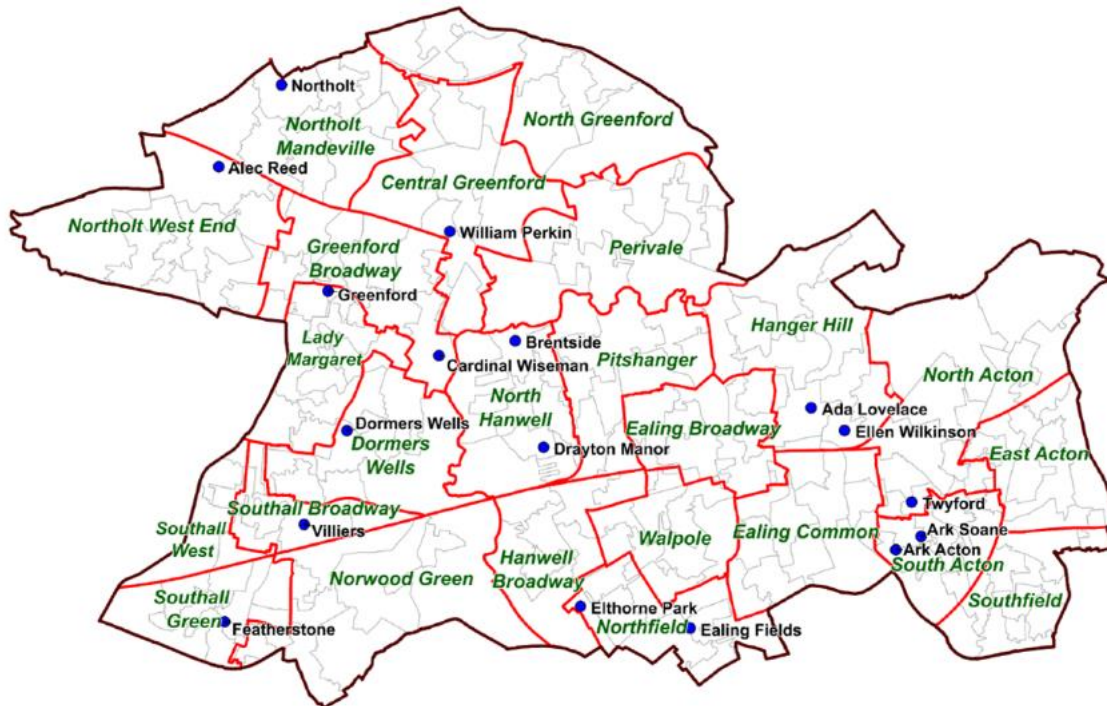


Children's Services and Education Intelligence

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Figure 4: Secondary schools in Ealing

Location of secondary/high schools by ward and super output area



Children's Services and Education Intelligence

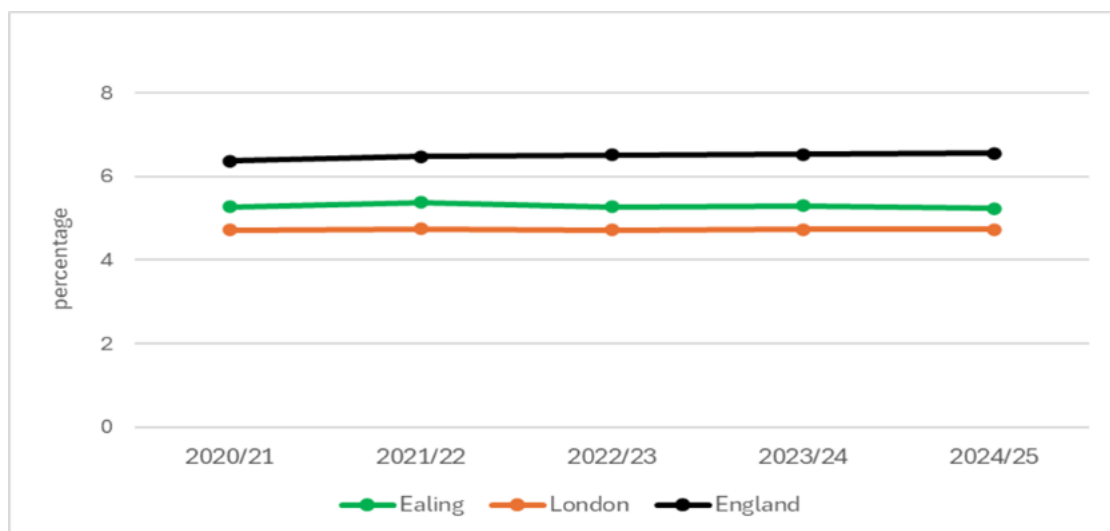
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Source: Ealing School Census, Jan 2025

Health of Ealing Population

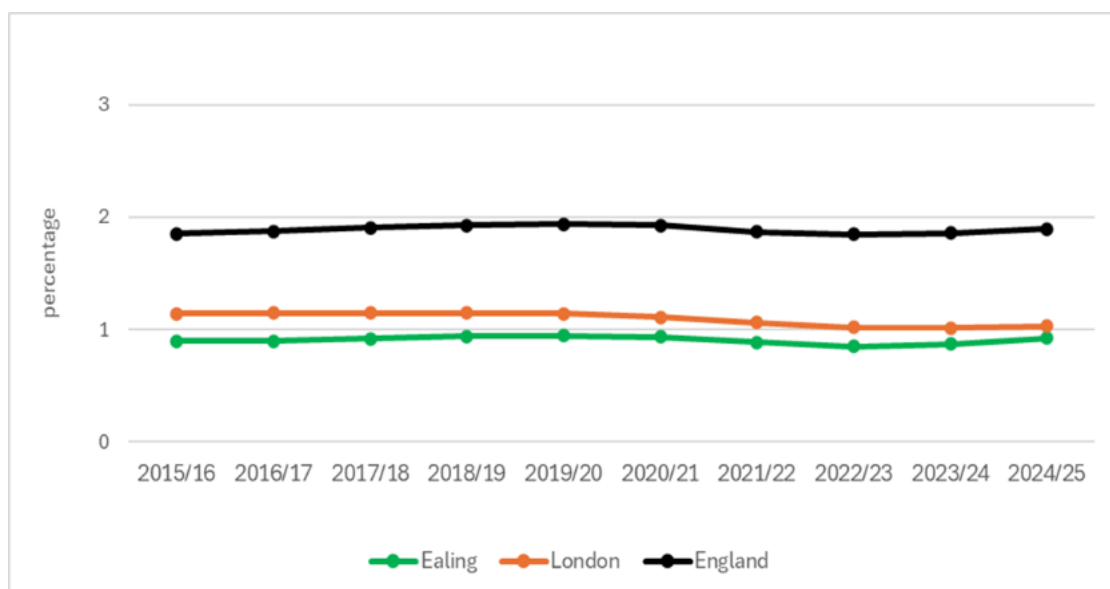
Underlying Medical Conditions

Figure 5: Asthma QOF prevalence



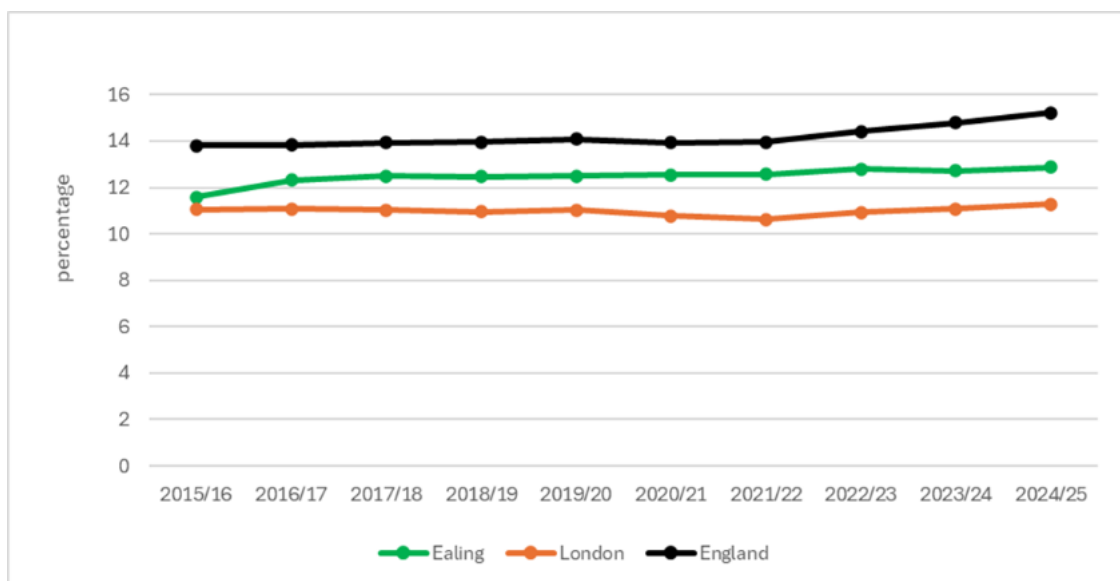
Source: NHS England, Respiratory Disease Profile, OHID, 2025

Figure 6: COPD QOF prevalence



Source: NHS England, Respiratory Disease Profile, OHID, 2025

Figure 7: Hypertension QOF prevalence

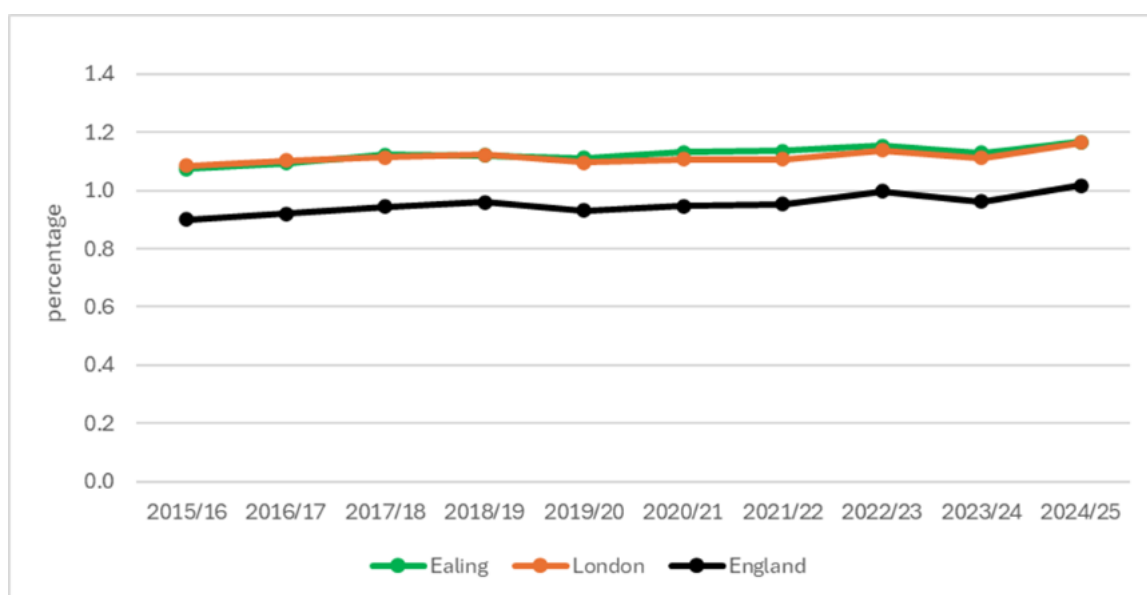


Source: NHS England, Cardiovascular Disease Profile, OHID, 2025

Mental Health

In Ealing in 2024/25, 1.2% of registered population had mental health illness, the same proportion as in London overall, but statistically significantly higher than the national average (1.0%) (Figure 6).

Figure 8: Mental Health QOF prevalence (all ages)



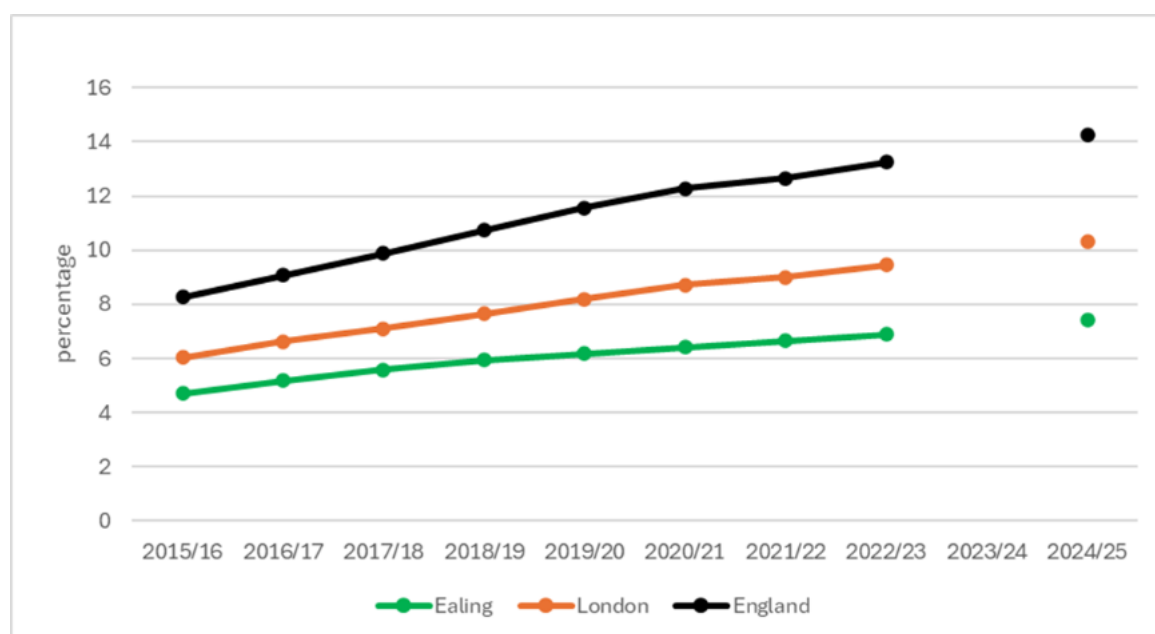
Source: NHS England, Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing Profile, OHID, 2025

Depression

The recorded depression prevalence is the estimated number of people with depression recorded on the practice register as a proportion of the practice list size, aged 18 years or over.

In 2024/25 in Ealing, depression prevalence was 7.4% of adult population, statistically significantly lower than both London and national figures (10.3% and 14.3% respectively) (Figure 7).

Figure 9: Depression QOF prevalence



Source: NHS England, Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing Profile, OHID, 2025; Note: no published data for 2023/24

Table 3: Populations with psychotic disorder or dementia in Ealing and England (rate per 1,000 people), 2025 and 2035 projections

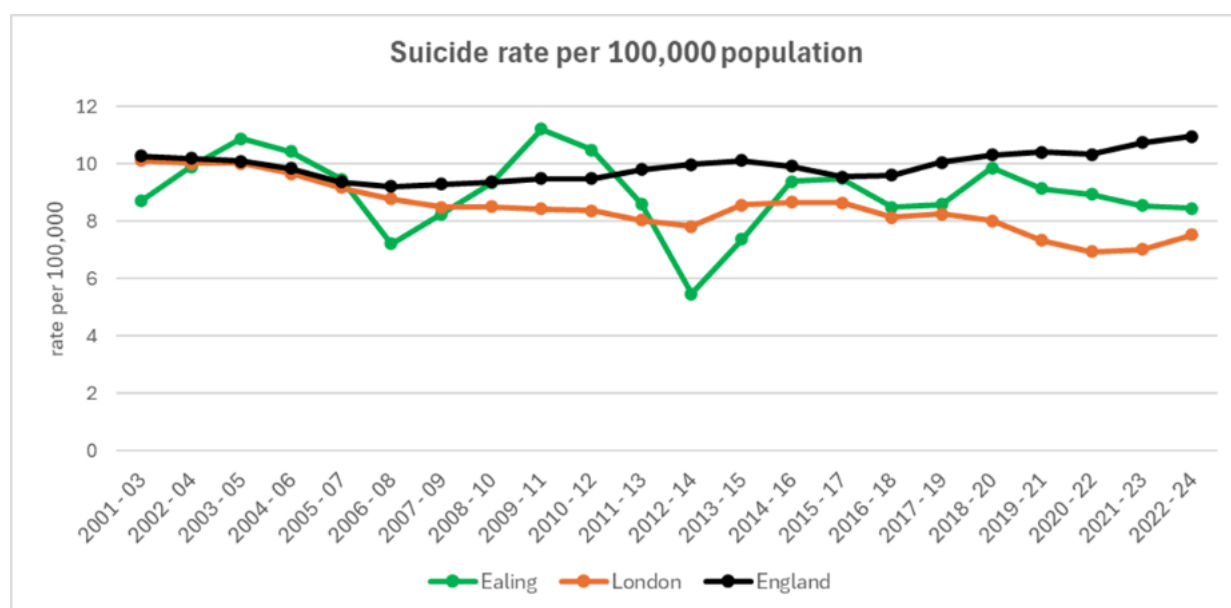
Indicator	Ealing (2025) No	Ealing (2025) Rate	Ealing (2035) No	Ealing (2035) Rate	England (2025) No	England (2025) Rate	England (2035) No	England (2035) Rate
People aged 18-64 predicted to have psychotic disorder	1,785	7	1,795	7	250,956	7	260,044	7
People aged 65 and over predicted to have dementia	3,256	66	4,210	68	796,631	71	1,014,090	75

Source: PANSI & POPPI, with ONS 2022-based Subnational Population projections, June 2025

Suicides

The latest data for Ealing (2022/24), shows a suicide rate of 8.4/100,000 (85 cases). This is statistically similar to London rate (7.5/100,000), but significantly lower than the national figure (10.9/100,000) (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Suicide rate per 100,000 trend data from 2001-03 to 2022-24 for Ealing, London and England



Source: ONS, Public Health Profiles, OHID 2025

Table 4: Populations with reduced mobility in Ealing and England (rate per 1,000 people), 2025 and 2035 projections

Indicator	Ealing (2025) No	Ealing (2025) Rate	Ealing (2035) No	Ealing (2035) Rate	England (2025) No	England (2025) Rate	England (2035) No	England (2035) Rate
People aged 18-64 predicted to have impaired mobility	12,589	49	12,745	50	1,910,483	53	1,856,653	50
People aged 65 and over unable to manage at least one activity on their own	8,666	175	11,096	178	2,060,415	184	2,577,663	192

Appendix 2: Recommendations

Adaptation Examples

The Faculty of Public Health Special Interest Group in Sustainable Development has a list of adaptation examples in response to health-impacts summarised in the table below for reference.

Health Impact	Adaptation Example
Flood-related illness/displacement	Flood response & recovery plans
Heat-related illness	Implementation of England heatwave plan Adapted environments such as shade and availability of drinking water Heat monitoring in health & social care facilities Building controls
Disruption of health and social care services (e.g. hospitals, nursing homes)	Building & infrastructure design Preventing overheating Identification of cool spots, temperature monitoring Working with suppliers to ensure climate Resilience of essential functions such as water, electricity supply and generators
Food production & supply disruption	Developing resilient supply chains Encouraging locally produced foods
Infectious diseases	Surveillance for vector-borne diseases Outbreak control Health promotion
Skin cancer & sunburn	Shade Health promotion campaigns
Air pollution & aeroallergens	Monitoring & alerting Clean air zones, encouraging active travel

The following strategies have the strongest evidence when implemented in combination and are recommended by UKHSA for reducing adverse health impacts of climate change.

Strategy	Examples & benefits
Nature-based solutions	Greening urban landscapes and infrastructure River/wetland restoration Improve thermal regulation, decrease energy costs, provide shade, improve air/water quality, mental health benefits
Mainstreaming climate-health considerations across sectors	Involving public health voice advocating for climate-health impacts in building retrofitting, urban and land-use planning and transportation
Targeting interventions for vulnerable populations + priority settings	Protecting older population throughout cold/hot weather periods Promotion of retrofitting schemes for buildings in most at-risk areas Locations where populations have reduced ability to self-regulate their environment and temperature, such as care homes, prisons, schools, workplaces, hospitals
Early action	Urgency in promoting climate-adaptation/mitigation strategies in policy, practices and infrastructure Strengthening surveillance for rapid detection of disease vectors
Enhancing community resilience through addressing existing inequalities	Addressing current social and health inequities
Promoting adaptive behaviours	Promoting active travel reduces emissions, improves health

	Healthier diets - consistent with low-carbon emissions
Embedding climate education into health, care and public health practice	Aligning public health practice with decarbonisation commitments, supporting emergency planning and response, addressing climate vulnerabilities