

Liver disease is one of the top causes of death in England, however most is preventable.

Approximately 5% of liver disease is attributable to autoimmune disorders but most is caused by the following 3 factors: alcohol consumption, obesity, or viral hepatitis.

(Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)- [Public health profiles](#))

Why is this important?



Most liver disease is preventable through public health interventions. Liver disease is more common in more deprived areas.

What is the local context?



Compared to England, Torbay has higher rates of hospital admissions due to liver disease, especially alcoholic liver disease.

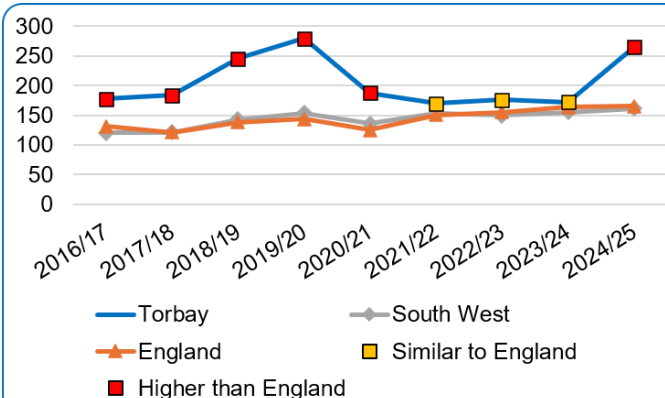
What should we do?



Support people to reduce alcohol intake and maintain a healthy weight. Vaccinate the eligible population against hepatitis.

Hospital admissions: Torbay's rate of hospital admissions due to liver disease has significantly increased in 2024/25 compared to the previous 4 years (Fig 1). Looking at provisional 2025/26 data shows this level of rate has continued in the following year. Torbay's rate is significantly higher than England for the majority of the last 9 years.

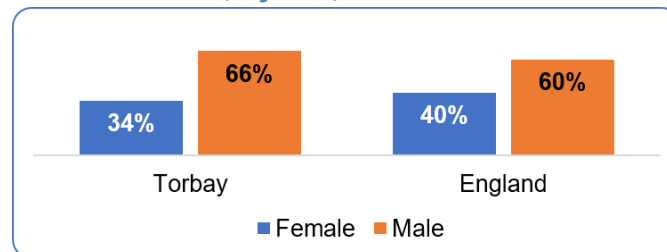
Fig 1: Hospital admissions due to liver disease, all ages, rate per 100,000 population



Source: NHS England- Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Office for National Statistics (ONS)- Population estimates. Age standardised rate

Sex and age: Looking at the 6 years of 2019/20 to 2024/25 combined shows that 2 out of 3 (66%) of Torbay admissions were male and 34% were female (Fig 2). In England, males make up 60% of admissions in this period. Almost half (48%) of Torbay's admissions were aged from 55 to 69, forming by far the largest of the age groups admitted. In England, 39% of admissions were in this age group in this period. (Data from HES)

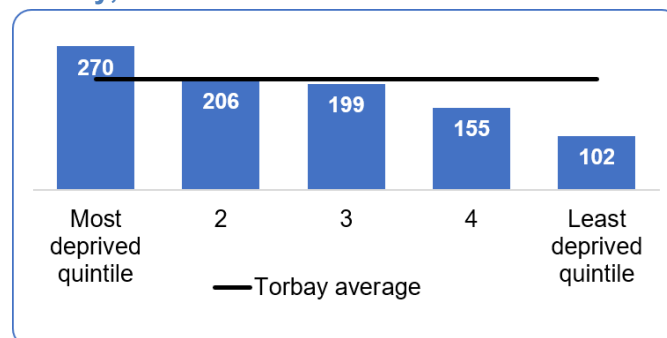
Fig 2: Percentage of hospital admissions due to liver disease, by sex, 2019/20 to 2024/25



NHS England- HES

Deprivation: Fig 3 shows that the rate of hospital admissions due to liver disease is higher amongst those living in more deprived areas and lower in less deprived areas. The data for the 6 years has been split into quintiles with a clear deprivation gradient shown- rates are above the Torbay average in the most deprived quintile and below the average in the 2 least deprived quintiles.

Fig 3: Hospital admissions due to liver disease, rate per 100,000, by deprivation, Torbay, 2019/20 to 2024/25

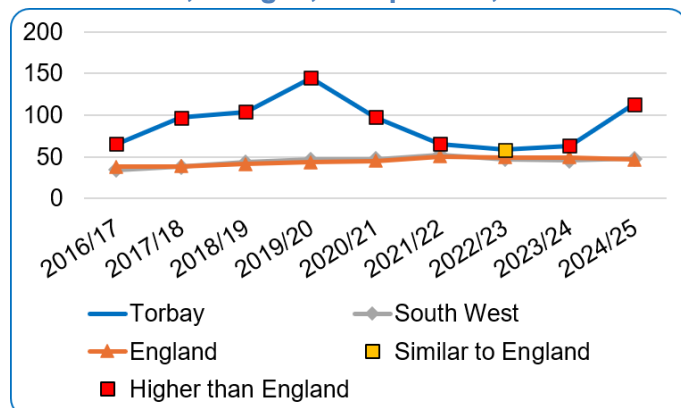


Source: NHS England- HES, ONS- Population estimates, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)- Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2025. Age standardised rate

Alcoholic liver disease: Torbay's rate of hospital admissions for alcoholic liver disease is significantly higher than England in all but 1 of the 9 years shown in Fig 4. The rate has increased in 2024/25, mirroring the trend for liver disease admissions shown in Fig 1.

For 2019/20 to 2024/25 combined, 7 out of 10 (69%) of Torbay's admissions for alcoholic liver disease were male, in England this was 67%. Males had double the number of female admissions in both Torbay and England. People aged 55 to 64 made up 46% of Torbay's admissions in this period, a far higher proportion than other age groups- in England the proportion was 32%. (Data from HES)

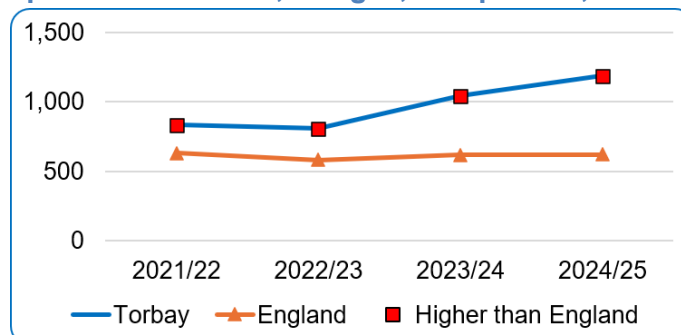
Fig 4: Hospital admissions due to alcoholic liver disease, all ages, rate per 100,000



Source: NHS England- HES, ONS- Population estimates. Age standardised rate

Alcohol: A main cause of most types of liver disease is alcohol consumption. Compared to England, Torbay has a consistently significantly higher rate of hospital admissions relating to alcohol specific conditions (Fig 5). Torbay's rate has risen considerably in the last couple of years of data whereas England's rate has not. Time will tell if this trend continues.

Fig 5: Hospital admissions due to alcohol specific conditions, all ages, rate per 100,000



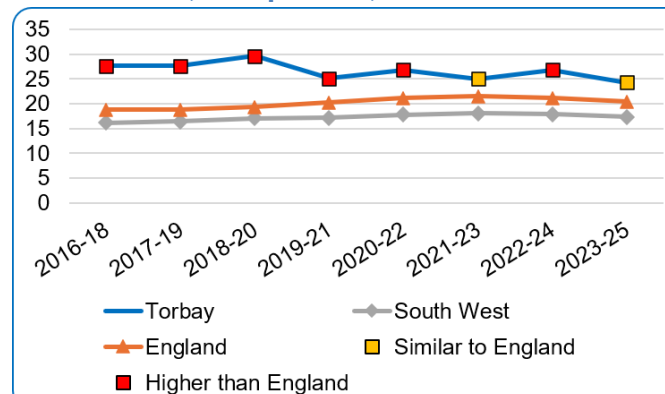
Source: NHS England- HES, ONS- Population estimates. Age standardised rate

Sex and age: Almost 7 out of 10 alcohol specific admissions were males (69% in Torbay, 68% in England) for the 4 years of 2021/22 to 2024/25 combined. There were double the number of male admissions compared to females. In Torbay, 42% of admissions were aged 55 to 69, a larger percentage than other age groups.

Mortality from liver disease: The death rate of people aged under 75 with an underlying cause of death as liver disease has been higher than England over the majority of the last decade, as can be seen in Fig 6.

Looking further into this data shows that Torbay's female rate has been significantly higher than England's female rate for the majority of the periods since 2016-18.

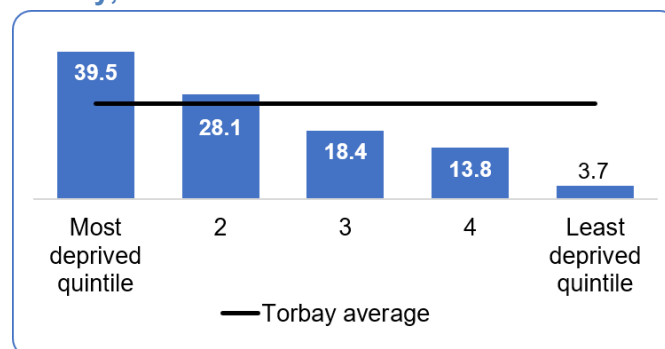
Fig 6: Under 75 year olds mortality rate from liver disease, rate per 100,000



Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)- Public health profiles. Age standardised rate

Deprivation: A clear deprivation gradient can be seen when the mortality rate of under 75 year olds due to liver disease is split into the deprivation levels of where the people lived. When combining the 6 years of 2020 to 2025, Fig 7 shows that the rate within the most deprived quintile is significantly higher than the Torbay average and the 3 least deprived quintiles, while the least deprived quintile has a significantly lower rate than the average.

Fig 7: Under 75 year olds mortality rate from liver disease per 100,000, by deprivation, Torbay, 2020 to 2025



Source: NHS England- Primary Care Mortality Database, ONS- Population estimates, MHCLG- IMD 2025. Age standardised rate

Mortality from alcoholic liver disease: OHID data, available until the period 2022-24, shows Torbay as significantly higher than England for mortality in under 75 year olds due to alcoholic liver disease, per 100,000 population- from 2016-18 onwards. In Torbay the female rate has been significantly higher than England for this time and around double England's rate. Torbay's male rate, although higher than England, is mostly not statistically significantly higher (Data from OHID- Public health profiles. Age standardised rate)

References: All data used is referenced throughout the profile. OHID data was accessed on 16 July 2026, all other data accessed in July 2026.