

Emergency department attendances

Torbay residents, October 2025

This profile examines the data around attendances at hospital emergency departments, also known as Accident and Emergency (A&E), in England by Torbay and England residents. The profile looks at demographics of those attending and the reasons for their attendance.

Why is this important?



Emergency departments are a vital resource for dealing with life threatening illnesses or accidents.

What is the local context?



Attendances by Torbay residents (number and rate) at emergency departments have grown steadily over the 4 years shown in Figs 1-2.

Attendances: The number of attendances at emergency departments by Torbay residents has increased each year and is around 8,600 higher in 2024/25 than 3 years earlier in 2021/22 (Fig 1).

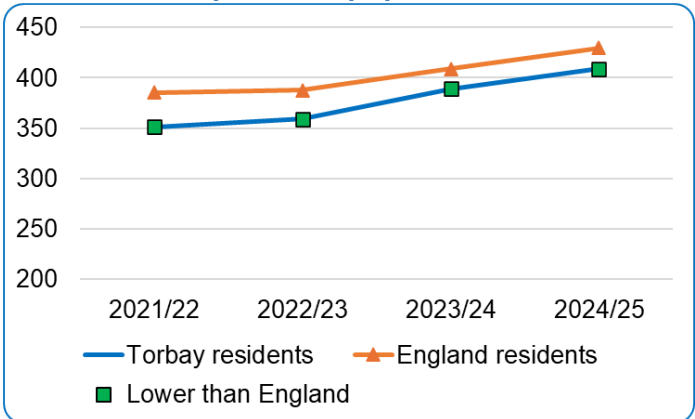
Fig 1: Number of attendances at hospital emergency departments by Torbay residents

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
48,555	49,655	54,390	57,175

Source: NHS England: Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS), rounded to nearest 5

Displaying these attendances as a rate per 1,000 population also shows an increase (Fig 2). Each year's rate is significantly higher than the year before, this is the case for Torbay and England residents. Torbay's rate however is significantly lower than England's rate throughout. The data has been adjusted to account for differing age population structures so Torbay's older than average population has been allowed for.

Fig 2: Attendances at hospital emergency departments by Torbay residents and England residents, rate per 1,000 population

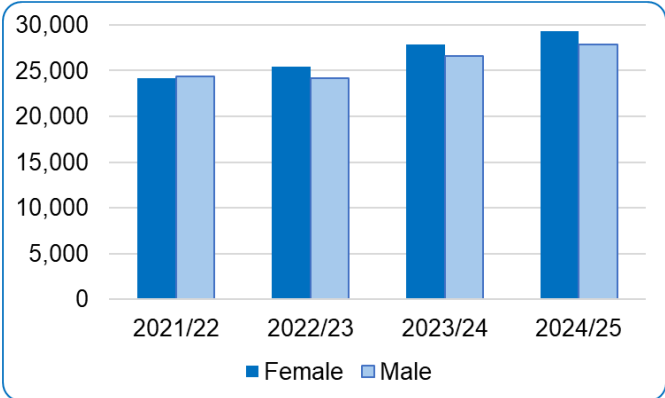


Source: NHS England: ECDS, Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates, age standardised rate

Sex: Fig 3 shows that numbers of both female and male Torbay residents attending emergency

departments have increased over the 4-year period. As a rate per 1,000 population, attendances also significantly increase over this period for both males and females as is the case for attendances by England residents.

Fig 3: Number of attendances at hospital emergency departments by Torbay residents



Source: NHS England: ECDS, rounded to nearest 5

Age: Amongst Torbay residents the highest percentages of attendances in 2024/25 consisted of people aged in their 30s or their 70s (Fig 4). Amongst England residents the percentage of attendances made up of the under 50s was higher than for Torbay residents and the percentage aged 50+ was lower. This could be an impact of Torbay having an older population.

Fig 4: Attendances at hospital emergency departments by Torbay residents, 2024/25

Age group	Number	% of attendances
0 to 9	5,915	10%
10 to 19	6,160	11%
20 to 29	6,045	11%
30 to 39	6,810	12%
40 to 49	5,380	9%
50 to 59	6,390	11%
60 to 69	6,475	11%
70 to 79	6,760	12%
80 to 89	5,515	10%
90+	1,715	3%
All Ages	57,175	

Source: NHS England: ECDS, number rounded to nearest 5

The rate per 1,000 population by age group (Fig 5) shows that the highest rates of attendances by Torbay residents were amongst those aged 80+. There are also smaller peaks within the 0 to 9 and

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the 20 to 29 age groups. The lowest rates were amongst people aged 50 to 69 years. This pattern is the same as the previous year of 2023/24 for Torbay residents. Compared to the rate for England residents in 2024/25, the rate for Torbay residents is higher amongst 10 to 39 year olds and lower than England amongst the other age groups, particularly 0 to 9s and the older ages.

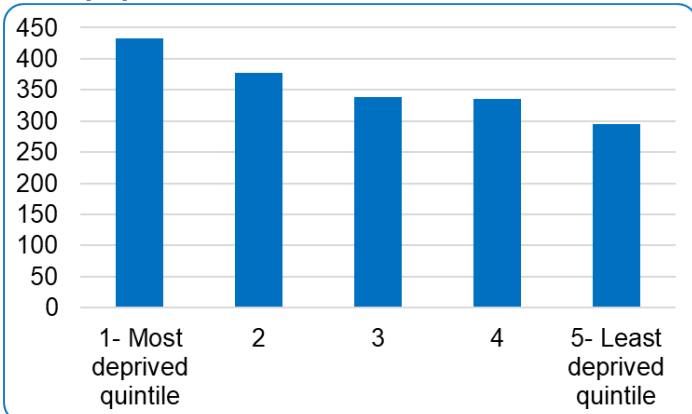
Fig 5: Attendances at hospital emergency departments, split by age, rate per 1,000 population, 2024/25



Source: NHS England: ECDS, ONS mid-yr population estimates

Deprivation: Fig 6 shows rates of attendances in relation to the deprivation level of the area where the attendee lives. The difference is stark with the most deprived areas of Torbay (quintile 1) having a significantly higher attendance rate than the rest, reducing to the lowest rate for the least deprived areas (quintile 5). Quintile 1 has a rate 1.5 times higher than quintile 5.

Fig 6: Attendances at hospital emergency departments by Torbay residents, rate per 1,000 population, 2021/22 to 24/25 combined



Source: NHS England: ECDS, ONS: mid-yr population estimates Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, age standardised rate

Ethnicity: The percentages of attendances by Torbay residents with a recorded ethnicity who identified with an ethnicity which was not White British or not White were 6.4% and 3.2% respectively (in the 4 years 2021/22 to 2024/25 combined). These are a little lower than the

percentage of the population identifying in this way regarding ethnicity in the 2021 census- 7.9% and 3.9% respectively. The percentage of attendances by those identifying as White British is slightly higher than the population percentage recorded as White British in the census- 93.6% compared to 92.1% in the census. Not White consists of those not identifying as White British, White Irish, or any other White background. Data sources are NHS England: ECDS, ONS: Census 2021

Chief complaint: This is as assessed by the care professional first assessing the patient in the emergency department. In 2024/25 the top 5 chief complaints (Fig 7) were similar in make up to the previous year for Torbay residents. All but 1 were in the top 5 for England residents in 2024/25. Around 250 complaint descriptors were available.

Fig 7: Top 5 most common chief complaints for attendances at hospital emergency departments by Torbay residents, 2024/25

Chief complaint	Number	% of attendances
Injury of lower extremity	4,995	9%
Injury of upper extremity	4,945	9%
Chest pain	3,750	7%
Abdominal pain	3,695	7%
Injury of head	2,675	5%

Source: NHS England: ECDS, number rounded to nearest 5, % of attendances excludes unrecognised codes

Diagnosis: The most common grouping for the main diagnosis in 2024/25 of Torbay residents attending emergency departments was 'soft tissue injury/wound'. Almost a quarter of attendances had a diagnosis within this group- 24%, consisting of 12,155 attendances. This diagnosis group was also the most common in 2023/24, consisting of 25% of attendances. The next most common diagnosis group was 'infectious disease' at 13% in both years. 15 diagnosis groups were available. Diagnoses numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 and exclude unrecognised and deprecated codes. Data source is NHS England: ECDS

National plan: The UK Government's [Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England](#) was published in July 2025, It discusses emergency departments and there is a section called 'Redesigning urgent an emergency care'.

References: The data sources used are referenced throughout the profile. All data was accessed in October 2025.