Health protection

An overview of health protection issues in Leicester including Flu, RSV and COVID-19

SOURCES:
UK Health Security Agency: Notifiable diseases
OHID Fingertips

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Leicester
City Council

Health Protection Update Headlines

- **Changes to the childhood vaccination schedule from Jan 1st 2026:** Children born on or after 1 July 2024 will now receive an additional 4 in 1 vaccine at 18 months alongside their second MMR vaccination also at 18 months (previously at 3 years 4 months). This is expected to increase update of the 2nd MMR vaccination.
- **Flu and covid vaccination ongoing** but early indicators are that this season uptake has increased (official figures not yet available).
- **ICB moving to LNR** including with immunisation and screening programmes (due to be delegated from NHS England in April 2027).
- **Two public health investment funds (PHIF) ongoing**. Ten VCSE organisations are currently working to increase screening and vaccination with their own communities. All work is being evaluated with an overall evaluation framework and individual frameworks for each organisation.
- **A further small outbreak of meningitis** in Dorset was limited to three young people who are all recovering. Antibiotics and vaccination has been offered to a large group of young people in the affected area.
- **LLR plans for any potential outbreak** fully worked up.

Healthy life expectancy shows the years a person can expect to live in good health (rather than in poor health).

Similar to the national trend, healthy life expectancy in Leicester has fallen over the past 10 years.

Over this period, healthy life expectancy in Leicester peaked at around 60 years in 2014–16, but has since declined to 58 years in 2022–24.

The latest data shows that males in Leicester can expect to live 58 years in good health, followed by a further 19 years in poor health. This compares with the national average of 61 healthy years and 19 years in poor health.

Females in Leicester can expect to live 58 years in good health, followed by a further 23 years in poor health. By comparison, the national average is 63 healthy years and 20 years in poor health.

There are further inequalities between our most and least deprived residents.

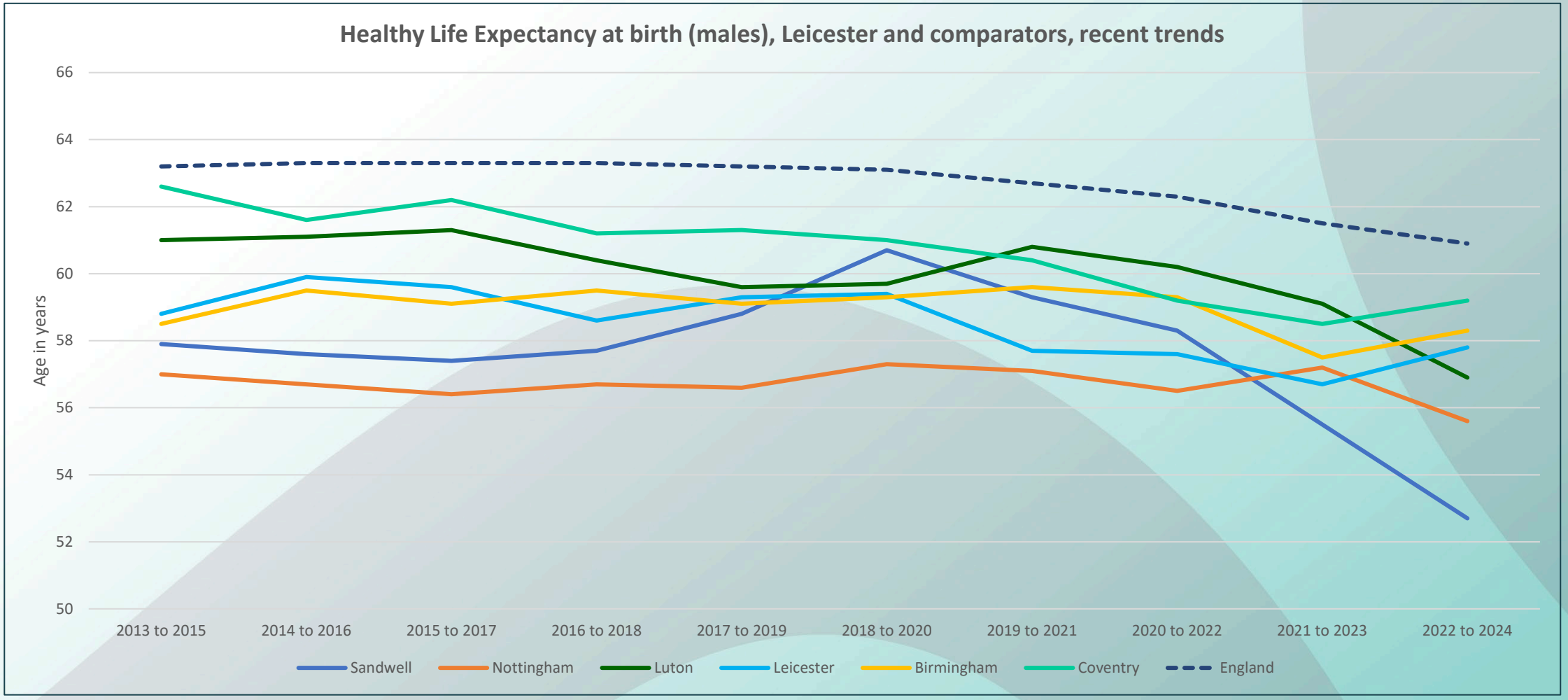
UK healthy life expectancy falls by two years in past decade

Hugh Pym, Health editor and **Nick Triggle**, Health correspondent

27 April 2026, 05:55 BST · 274 Comments

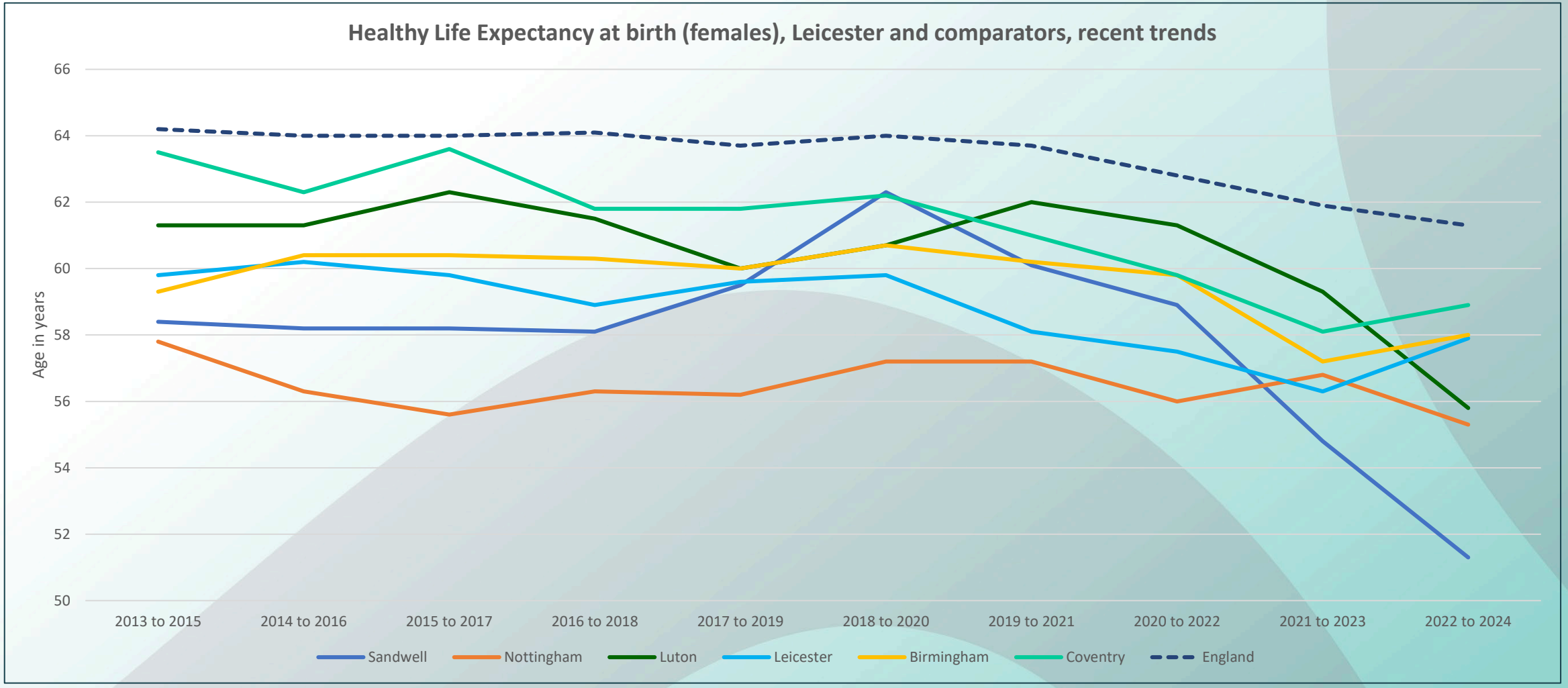
[UK healthy life expectancy falls by two years in past decade - BBC News]

Topic	Product	Source
6. Healthy Life Expectancy: 2022-24	The number of years males are expected to spend in “good” general health	Healthy life expectancy, UK: between 2011 to 2013 and 2022 to 2024 - Office for National Statistics



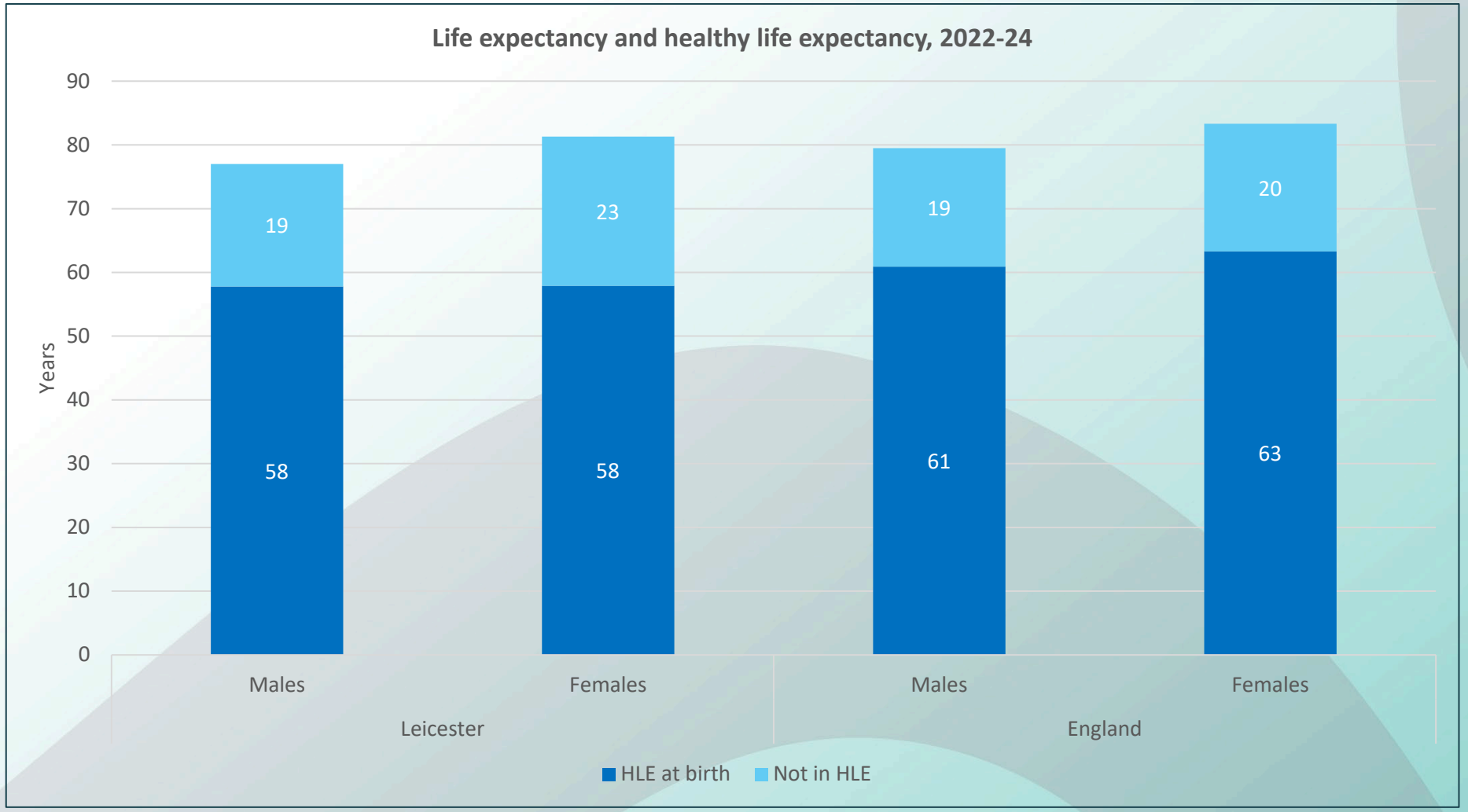
Data: ONS

Topic	Product	Source
6. Healthy Life Expectancy: 2022-24	The number of years females are expected to spend in “good” general health	Healthy life expectancy, UK: between 2011 to 2013 and 2022 to 2024 - Office for National Statistics



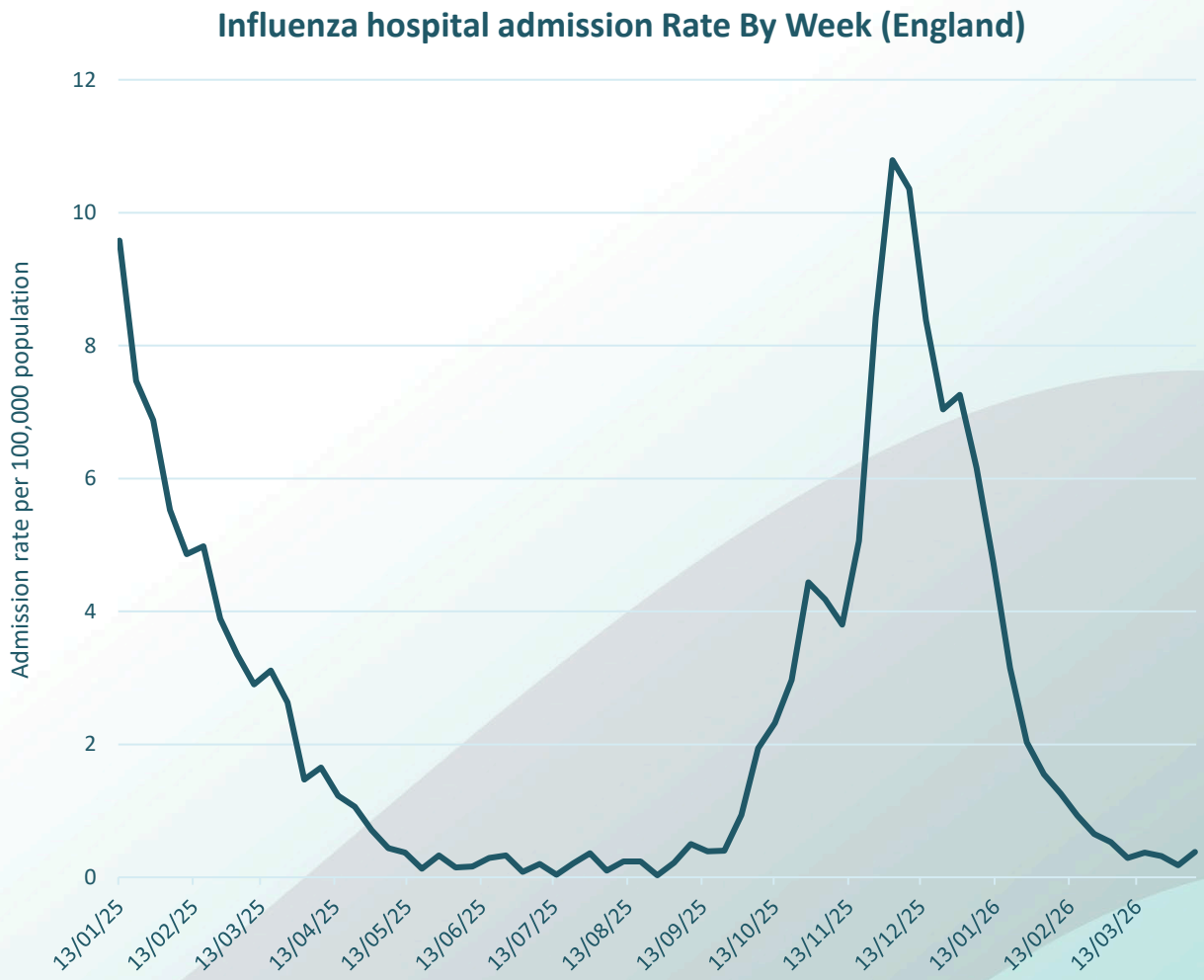
Data: ONS

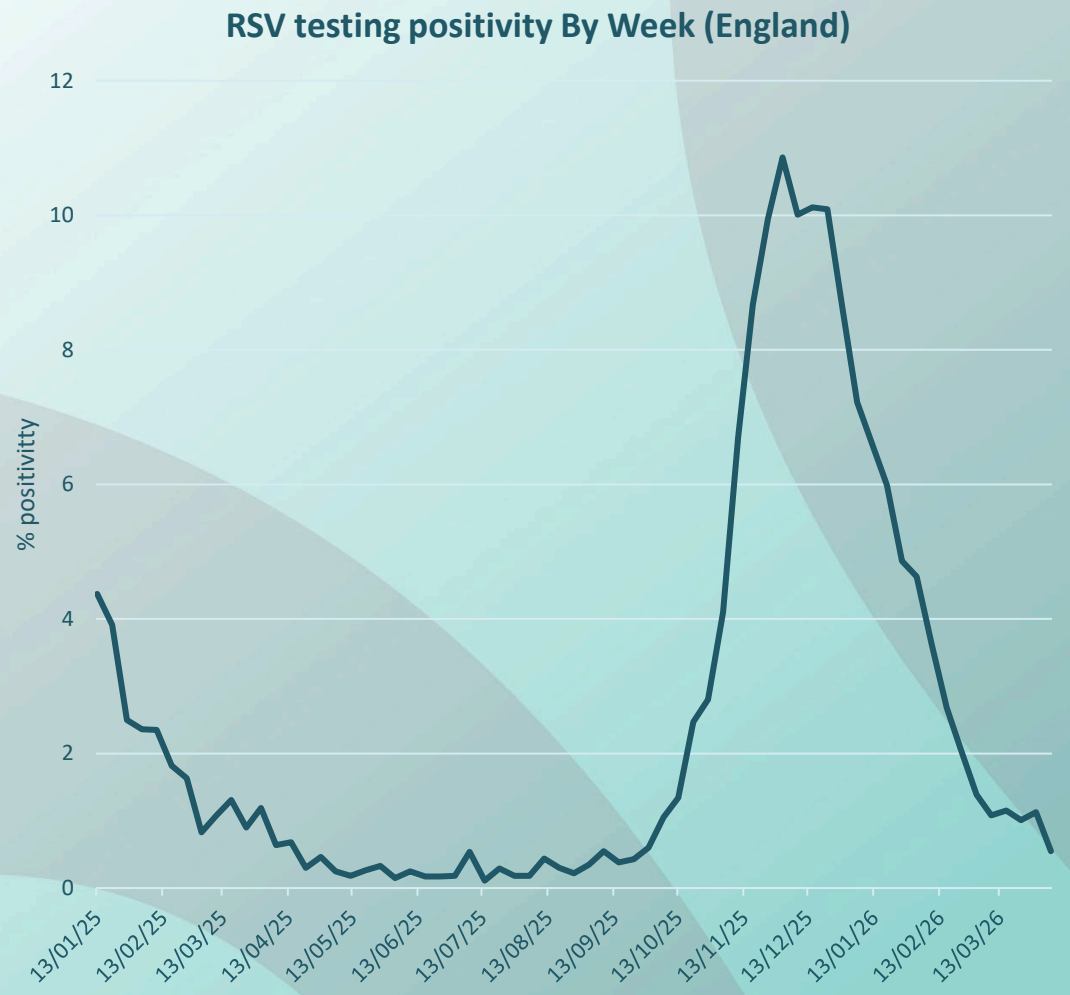
Topic	Product	Source
6. Life and Healthy Life Expectancy: 2022-24	The number of years people are expected to spend in “good” general health and ill health	Healthy life expectancy, UK: between 2011 to 2013 and 2022 to 2024 - Office for National Statistics



Data: ONS and OHID Fingertips

National flu and RSV surveilance: Influenza (commonly known as flu) is a respiratory infection and is currently stable and circulating at baseline levels. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is one of the common viruses that cause coughs and colds in winter. RSV causes mild symptoms, but can be serious for some infants, older adults and people with chronic medical conditions. RSV has decreased and is circulating at baseline levels.





Weekly national flu reports - GOV.UK

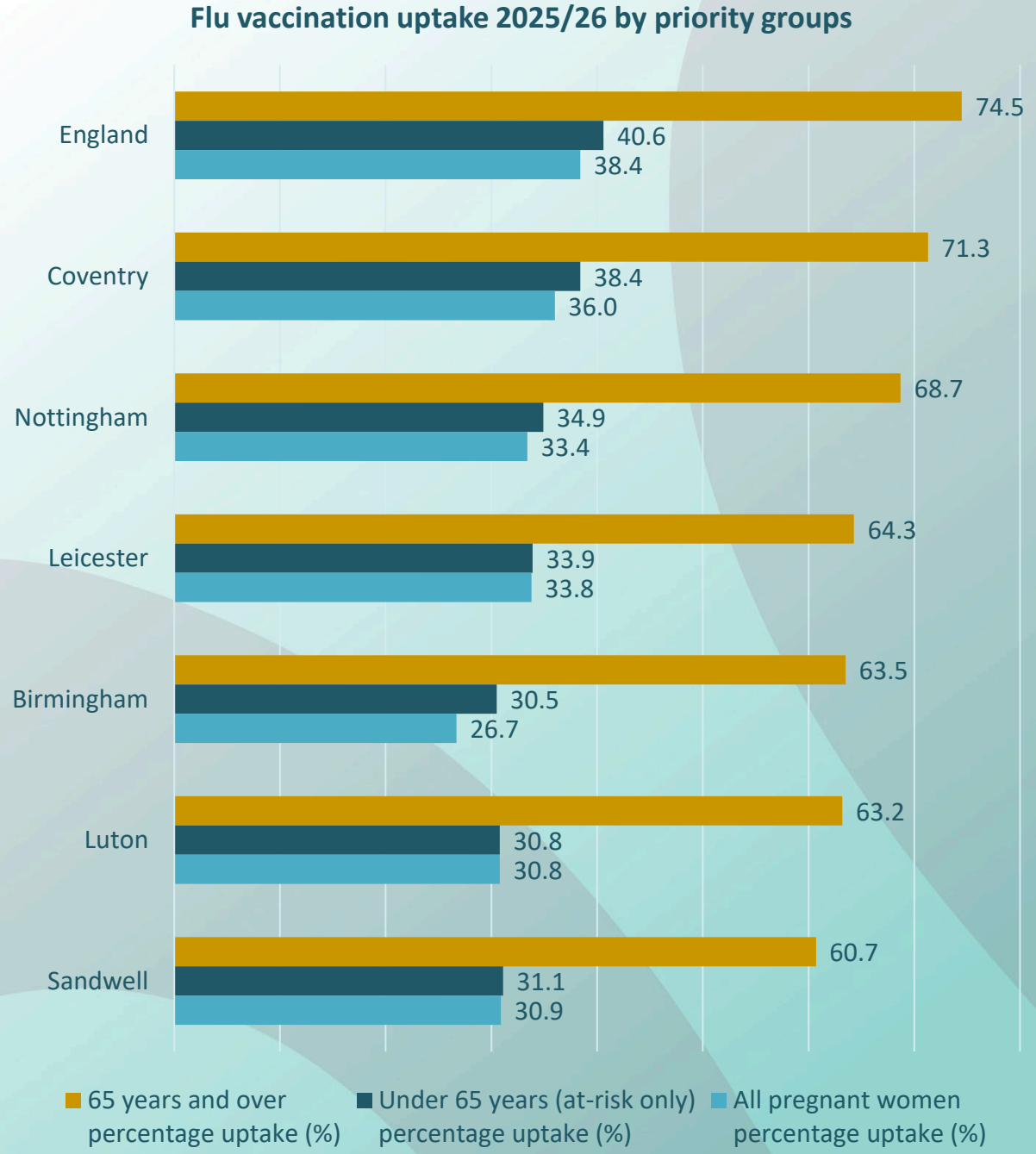
Flu vaccination uptake in priority groups

Influenza (also known as Flu) is a highly infections viral illness spread by droplet infection. The flu vaccination is offered to people who are at greater risk of developing serious complications if they catch flu.

65 year olds and over: 64% of Leicester 65+ year olds were vaccinated against flu. This is below the national average, but similar to our comparators. The goal of 75% has not been achieved in Leicester since 2021/22. In the 2024/25 campaign Leicester achieved 65%.

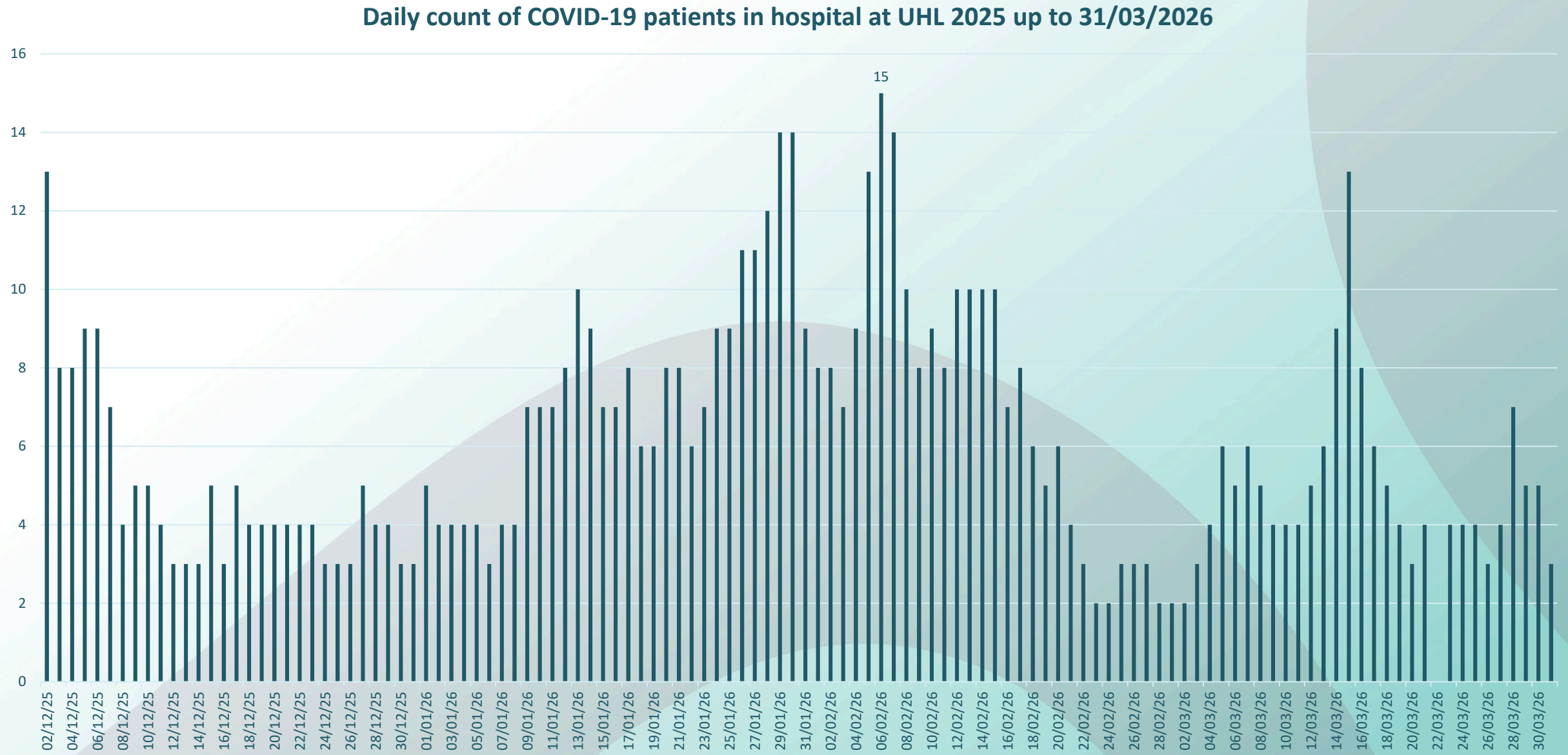
Under 65 (at risk population): About a third (33.9%) of the under 65 at risk population have had the vaccination compared to 40% for the national average. Last year we achieved 32.3%.

Pregnant women: Less than a third (33.8%) of the pregnant population have had the vaccination compared to 35% for the national average. Last year we achieved 30.3%.

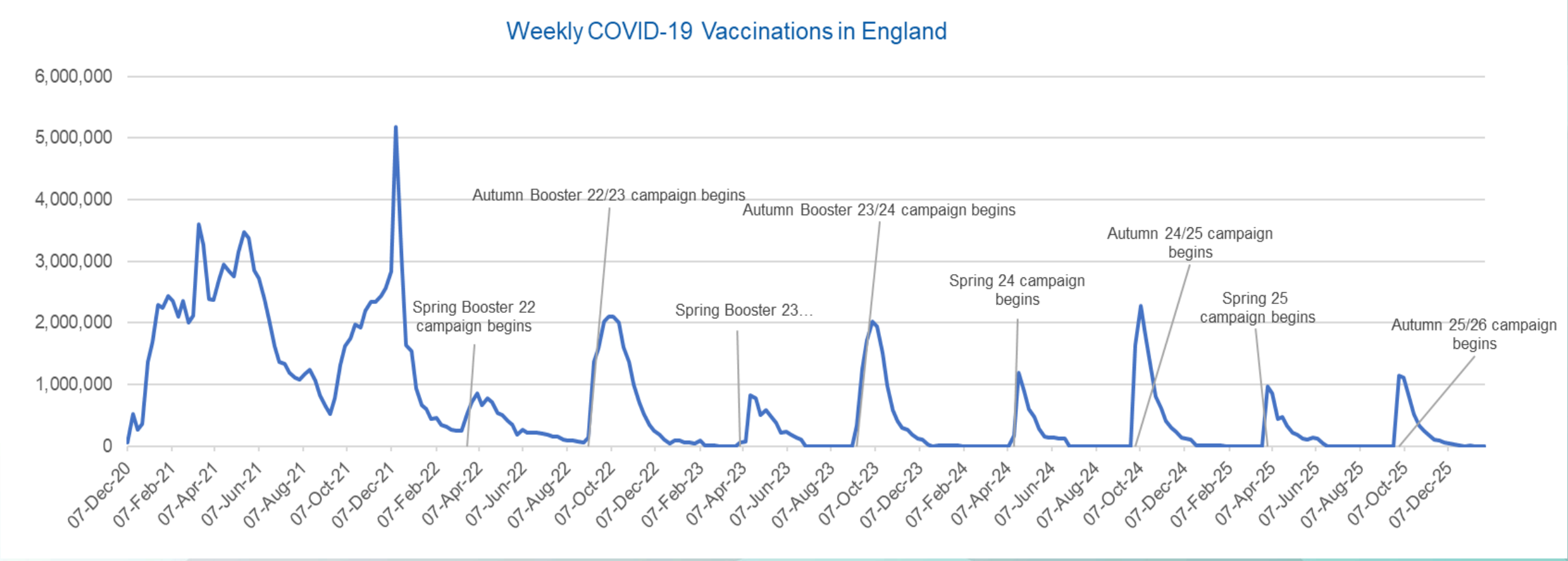


Source: *UKHSA national influenza vaccinations in GP patients in England 2025 to 2026*

COVID 19 in Leicester (UHL): COVID-19 activity remained stable and is circulating at baseline levels nationally. There are currently less than five COVID-19 patients at UHL. The peak in 2026 was 15 in February.



COVID 19 vaccination Autumn Winter Uptake: There continues to be autumn and spring booster campaigns but numbers continue to fall year on year. There has been a pattern of lower uptake in Leicester compared to the national and Leicestershire county for consecutive autumn and spring booster campaigns. Last



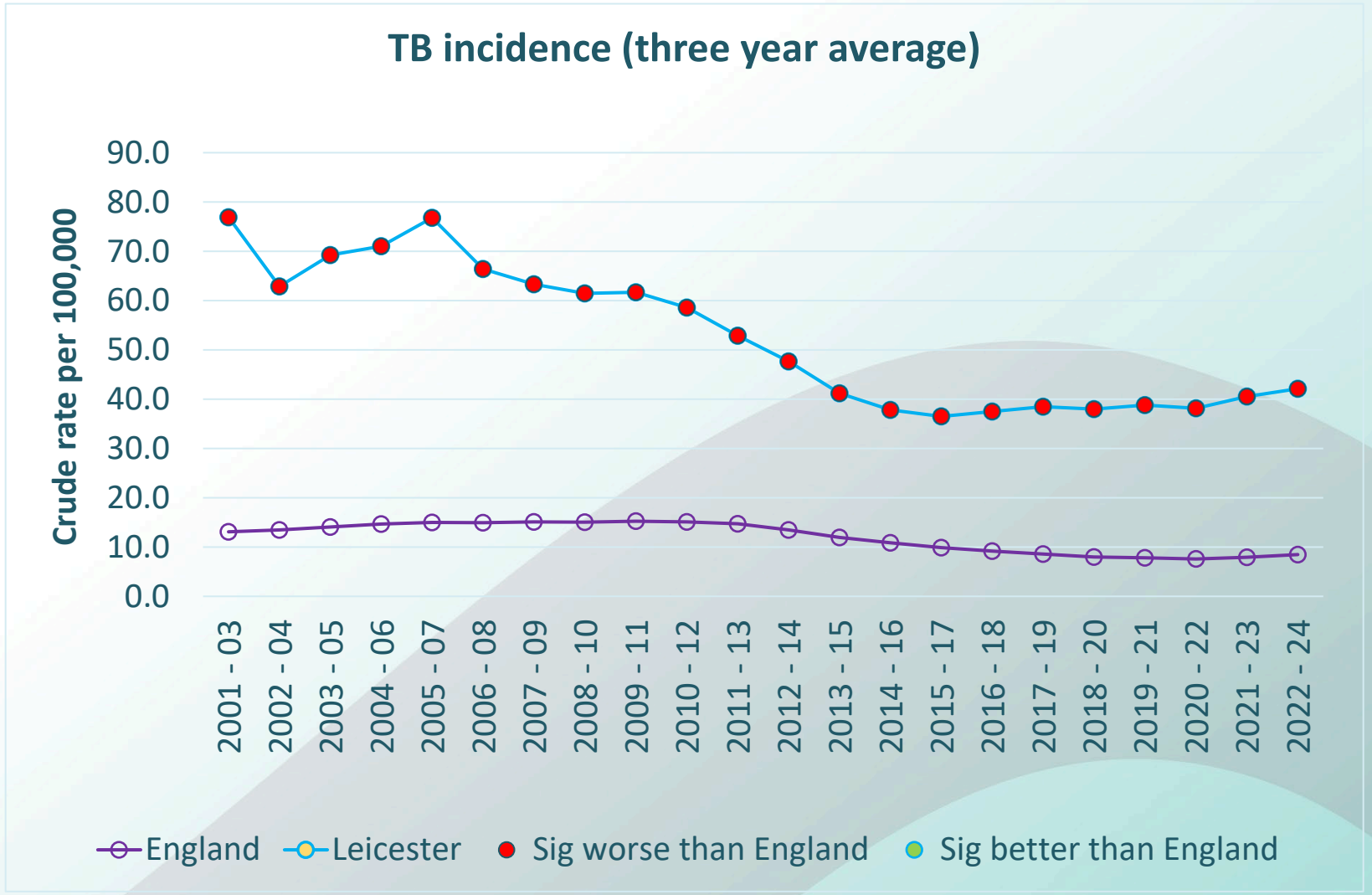
Tuberculosis in England 2024 report

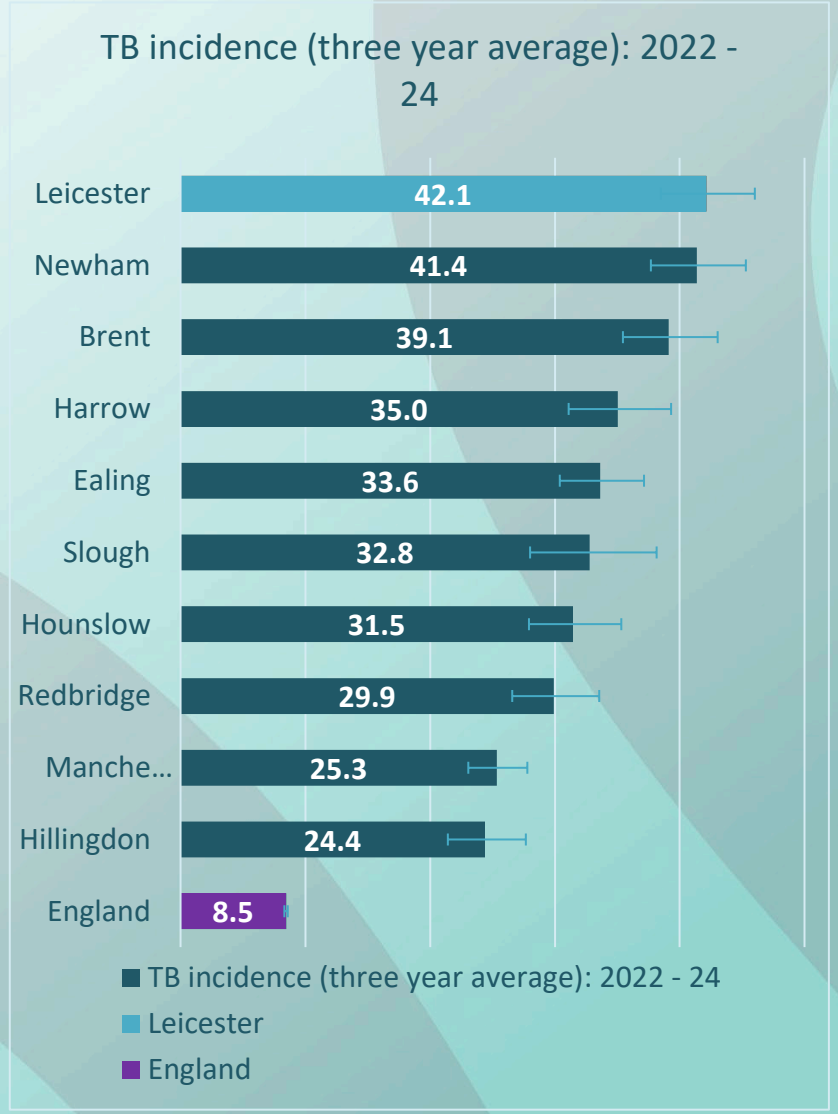
In the calendar year 2024 data shows that:

- In 2024, the steep upward trajectory of TB notifications seen in 2023 continued, with an increase of 13.6% - the largest annual increase since national surveillance began.).
- England remains just under the World Health Organization (WHO) threshold of 10 notifications per 100,000 (9.4) but at current rates of increase England will pass this threshold by the end of 2025.
- TB rates remain highest in urban areas. Rates continue to be highest in London and the Midlands and in those living in the most deprived areas of England.
- 81.9% of notifications were in people born outside the UK, similar to 2023 (80.0%).
- Rates increased in people born in the UK by 5.0% in 2024, only the second year-on-year increase since enhanced surveillance started in 2012.
- Tuberculosis continues to be strongly associated with inequalities. 1 in 7 TB notifications reported one or more social risk factors with the most common being homelessness, asylum seeker status and drug use.
- **In 2024, the same 2 local authority districts as in 2023 had a 3-year average notification rate above 40 per 100,000. These were Leicester City (East Midlands) at 42.1 per 100,000 and Newham (London) at 41.4 per 100,000.**

1. Tuberculosis incidence and epidemiology, England, 2024 - GOV.UK (published 2025)

Tuberculosis in Leicester and England: The three year average TB incidence rate shows Leicester has had a significantly higher rate compared to England for many years. The rate in the city has fallen but in recent years has seen a small increase to about 42 per 100,000 population (an average of 161 notifications a year). Leicester's TB incidence is significantly higher than our comparators, and latest data shows we are currently highest in country with London boroughs Newham, Brent, Harrow, and Ealing also in the top five.





Source: OHID Fingertips

Measles in England: In 2025 there were 959 laboratory-confirmed measles cases reported in England, this was considerably lower than the high of nearly 3,000 in 2024. Promotional material has been circulated to all schools and nurseries in the city reminding parents of where and how they can get their children vaccinated and why this is important.

In 2025 the majority (68%) of these cases were in children aged 10 years and under, and 25% were in young people and adults aged 15 years and over.

51% of these cases were in London, 14% in the North West, and 8% each in the East of England and the West Midlands.

Leicester did not feature amongst the list of authorities with the most cases in 2025.

Since 1 January 2026, there have been 407 laboratory confirmed measles cases reported in England.

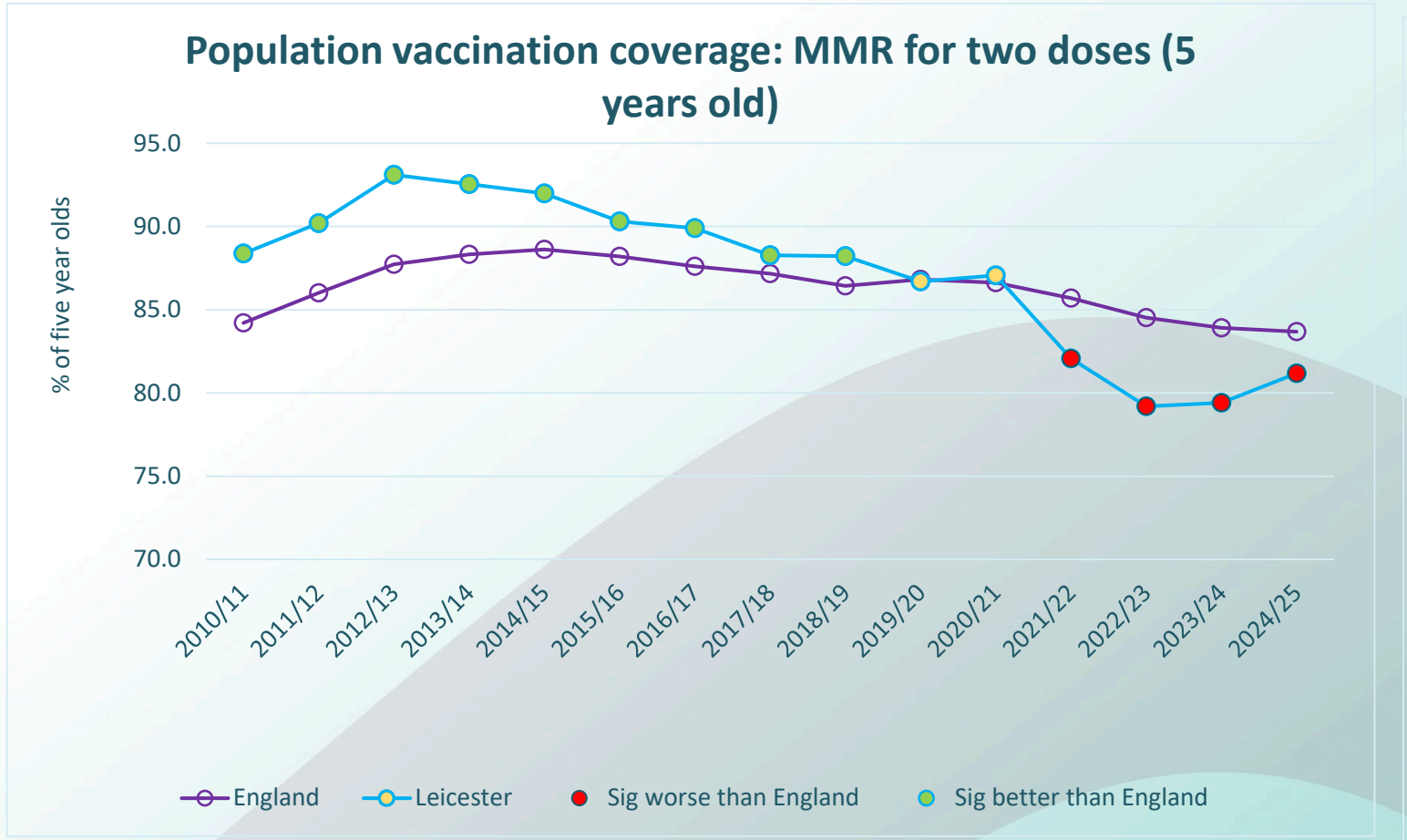
56% of these cases have been in London, 25% in the West Midlands, and 7% in the North West. However, all regions have reported at least one confirmed case.

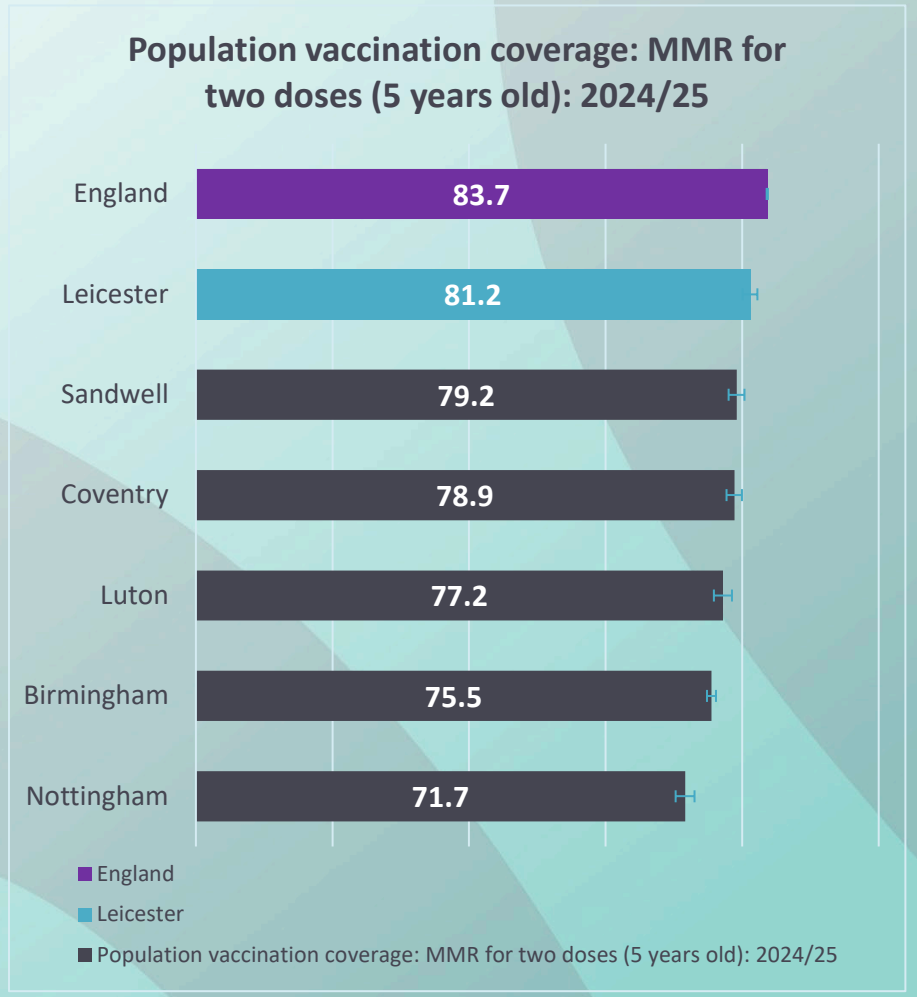
Leicester does not feature amongst the list of authorities with the highest number of cases during 2026 .

Measles | UKHSA data dashboard

Confirmed cases of measles in England by month, age, region and upper-tier local authority: 2025 - GOV.UK

MMR (2 doses) Vaccination in Leicester and England for 5 year olds: The picture of MMR vaccination coverage in our five year old children has changed from a picture of significantly better than the national to one significantly worse. In recent years Leicester has seen improvement in coverage and is better than our comparators.
From 1st January 2026 the 2nd dose of MMR will be given at 18 months rather than 3 years 4 months.





Source: OHID Fingertips
Note: UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) recommend achieving 95% coverage for two doses of the MMR vaccine.

MMR Vaccination delivery in Leicester quarterly data for 2025/26: The quarterly picture for Leicester also shows improvement across the quarters for MMR delivery. The latest for MMR dose 2 delivery at 5 years old is 85.9%, this is higher than the national average at 83.8%.

Vaccination	Q1 2025/26	Q2 2025/26	Q3 2025/26	Q4 2025/26
MMR Dose 1 at 24 months	88.0%	88.6%	87.7%	
MMR Dose 1 at 5 years	92.5%	92.7%	93.5%	
MMR Dose 2 at 5 years	82.7%	83.1%	85.9%	

Cover of vaccination evaluated rapidly (COVER) programme 2025 to 2026: quarterly data - GOV.UK

Childhood Immunisations: Leicester has experienced falling vaccination coverage for a range of childhood immunisations over the last 10 years. The city has often moved from a position of above vaccination target to below the target over this last 10 year period.

Population vaccination coverage	Leicester 2014/15	Leicester 2019/20	Leicester 2024/25
Dtap IPV Hib HepB (1 year old)	**96.1%**	92.3 %	91.4%
Hib and MenC booster (2 years old)	94.4%	90.8%	***88.1%***
PCV booster (2 years old)	94.5%	90.8%	***86.2%***
MMR for one dose (2 years old)	94.8%	91.2%	***88.4%***
MMR for two doses (5 years old)	92.0%	***86.7%***	***81.2%***

Benchmark against goals: *The World Health Organisation (WHO) has set vaccination coverage targets which have been adopted by the Department of Health at national and local levels. The 95 percent target for vaccination coverage is required nationally to ensure control of vaccine preventable diseases within the UK routine childhood vaccination programmes, with at least 90 percent coverage in each geo political unit.*

Above 95% target	90% to 95% acceptable range	***Below 90%***

Childhood Immunisations: Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland has also experienced falling vaccination coverage for a range of childhood immunisations over the last 10 years.

Population vaccination coverage	LLR 2012/13	LLR 2014/15	LLR 2019/20	LLR 2024/25
Dtap IPV Hib HepB (1 year old)	**97.6%**	**96.9%**	94.8%	93.5%
Hib and MenC booster (2 years old)	**96.5%**	**95.9%**	93.8%	91.7%
PCV booster (2 years old)	**96.4%**	**96.0%**	93.8%	90.8%
MMR for one dose (2 years old)	**95.9%**	**96.0%**	93.9%	91.9%
MMR for two doses (5 years old)	93.4%	93.6%	91.3%	***87.1%***

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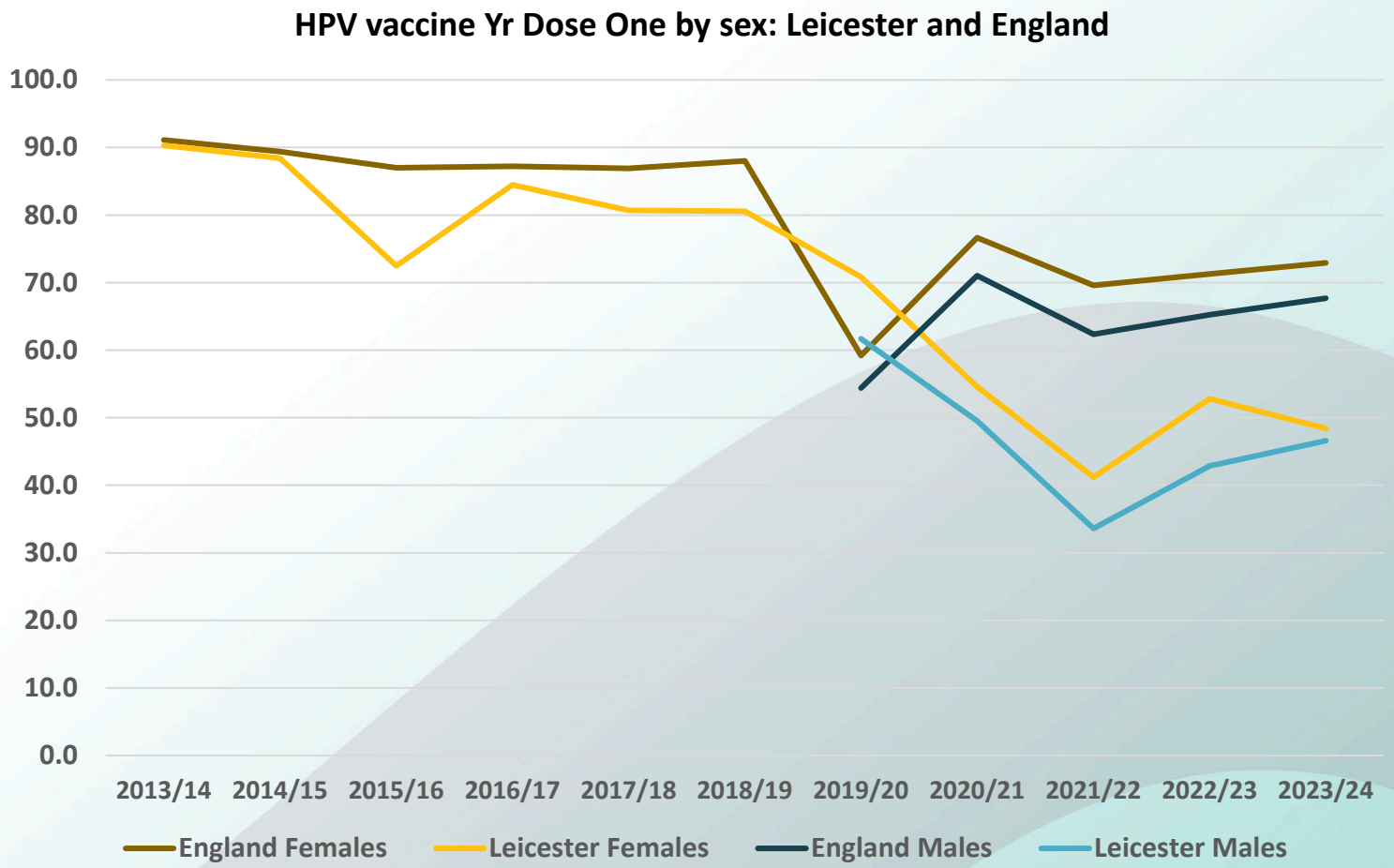
Above 95% target	90% to 95% acceptable range	***Below 90%***

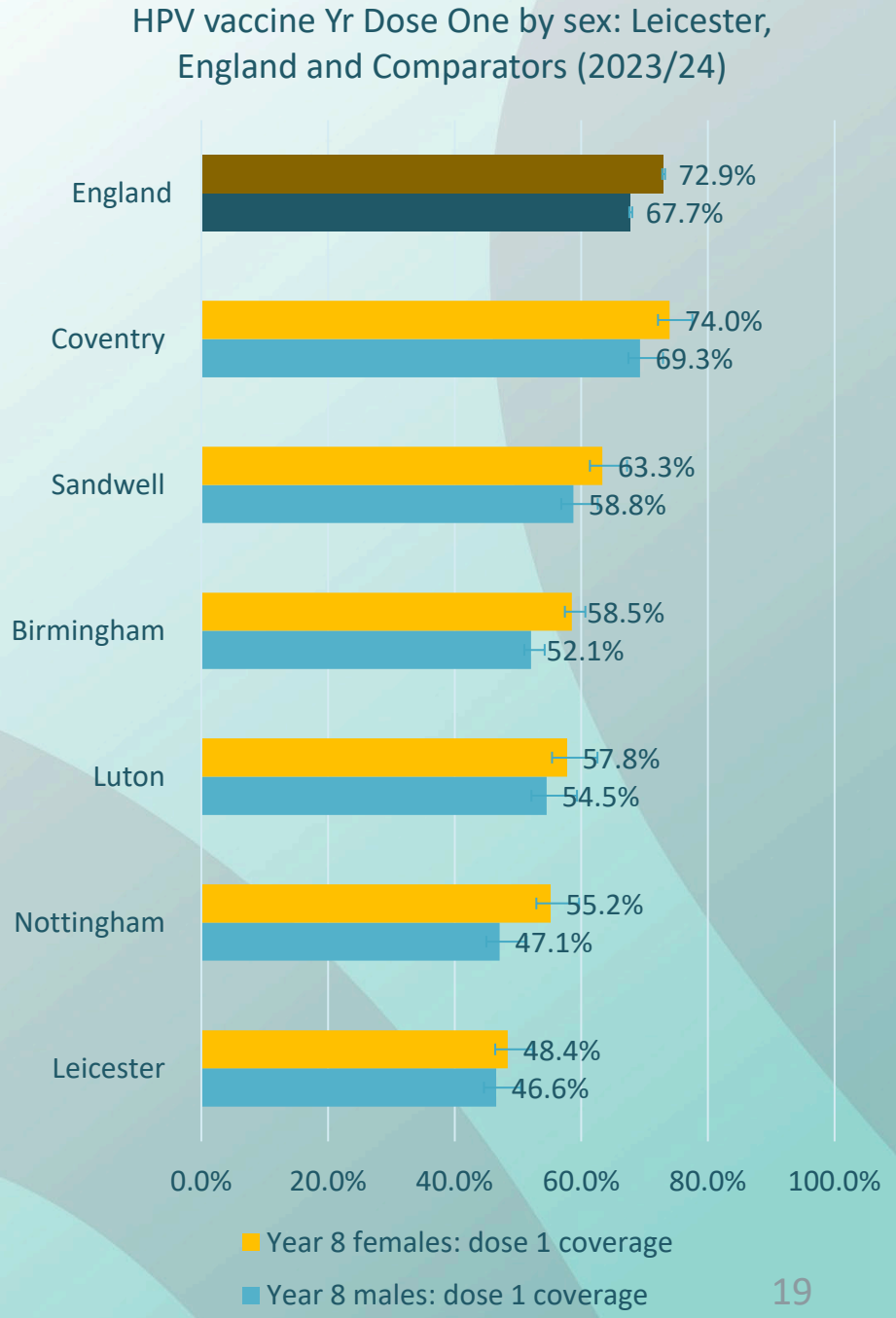
Childhood Immunisations change in the last year: Leicester has seen some small improvement across a range of childhood immunisations in the last year, and placing our coverage closer to the national average for many.

	Leicester 2023/24	Leicester 2024/25	England 2024/25
Population vaccination coverage: Dtap IPV Hib HepB (1 year old)	91.1%	91.4%	**91.3%**
Population vaccination coverage: MenB (1 year)	89.0%	90.2%	**91.0%**
Population vaccination coverage: Rotavirus (Rota) (1 year)	85.5%	85.5%	**88.8%**
Population vaccination coverage: PCV	93.6%	93.8%	**93.1%**
Population vaccination coverage: Dtap IPV Hib HepB (2 years old)	92.6%	93.0%	**92.5%**
Population vaccination coverage: MenB booster (2 years)	84.3%	86.0%	**87.3%**
Population vaccination coverage: MMR for one dose (2 years old)	87.7%	88.4%	**88.9%**
Population vaccination coverage: PCV booster	85.5%	86.2%	**88.0%**
Population vaccination coverage: Hib and MenC booster (2 years old)	87.0%	88.1%	**88.6%**
Population vaccination coverage: DTaP and IPV booster (5 years)	75.9%	77.8%	**81.3%**
Population vaccination coverage: MMR for one dose (5 years old)	91.2%	91.5%	**91.8%**
Population vaccination coverage: MMR for two doses (5 years old)	79.4%	81.2%	**83.7%**

Health Protection - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care

HPV Uptake Trend: This data relates to vaccine coverage for the routine school-aged HPV immunisation programme in England for the 2023 to 2024 academic year. In recent years, there has been a decline in HPV vaccine coverage nationally and at the local authority level. Leicester has seen some improvement in recent years, however the HPV vaccination rate in the city remains below national and many of our comparators





Data source: and link [Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine coverage estimates in England: 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK]

Vaccination against HPV reduces cervical cancer risk up to 18 years later with no signs of waning protection, research has shown.

A Swedish analysis of nationwide data of almost a million girls and women between 2006 and 2023 found a ‘consistently low incidence of invasive cervical cancer’ the follow up period after the introduction of the quadrivalent vaccine.

It extends previous long-term research by six years and with protection particularly strong for those vaccinated before the age of 17 years.

Writing in the BMJ, they concluded that the results ‘further support global strategies aimed at cervical cancer elimination through high vaccine coverage, particularly in younger populations’.
Their analysis was based on 926,362 girls and women born between 1985 and 2001 with no previous HPV vaccination or diagnosis of invasive cervical cancer at the start of follow-up in 2006.
Participants were followed up to a maximum age of 38 years, with those vaccinated before age 17 followed up to a maximum age of 34, they reported.
The researchers also took into account age, county of residence, mother’s country of birth and history of high-grade cervical lesions and non-cervical cancers, parental education and income.
Overall, 365,502 (40%) of participants had received at least one dose of the quadrivalent HPV vaccine.
The data showed 930 cases of invasive cervical cancer – 97 in vaccinated and 833 in unvaccinated individuals.
Those vaccinated before age 17 had a 79% lower risk of cervical cancer compared with the unvaccinated group, with sustained protection (77% lower risk) for 13 to15 years after vaccination, the team reported.
In those vaccinated at age 17 or older, the analysis showed a 37% lower risk of invasive cervical cancer compared with the unvaccinated group, with a 46% lower risk 10 to 12 years after vaccination and a 77% lower risk 13 to 15 years after they were vaccinated.
The figures also showed a population level decline in cervical cancer cases over time, progressively falling as more girls and women were vaccinated.
‘This risk reduction was observed regardless of age at vaccination initiation, with no indication of waning or attenuation over time,’ they said.
‘To our knowledge, this is the first study to assess how the risk reduction varies by time since HPV vaccination based on the longest follow-up.’
Last year GPs were told to focus on HPV vaccination as part of the national immunisation campaign.
It followed changes to cervical cancer screening intervals from three to five years for women aged 25 to 49 years who have a negative HPV test in England.
Uptake of HPV vaccination had declined in the pandemic but has since shown signs of recovery.