



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

## **Palliative and end of life care: Patterns of care**

Patterns of care related to 4 major conditions;  
cancer, dementia, cardiovascular disease and  
respiratory disease

**England 2021**

# Version history

Date	Version	Summary of changes
18 August 2023	1	First publication



# Palliative and end of life care factsheet: Patterns of care

Factsheet published on the Palliative and end of life care profiles

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/end-of-life>

Direct link to the factsheet

[https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/documents/peolc\\_patterns\\_of\\_care\\_factsheet\\_2021.html](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/documents/peolc_patterns_of_care_factsheet_2021.html)



# Number of people who died of or with 4 major conditions, England 2021

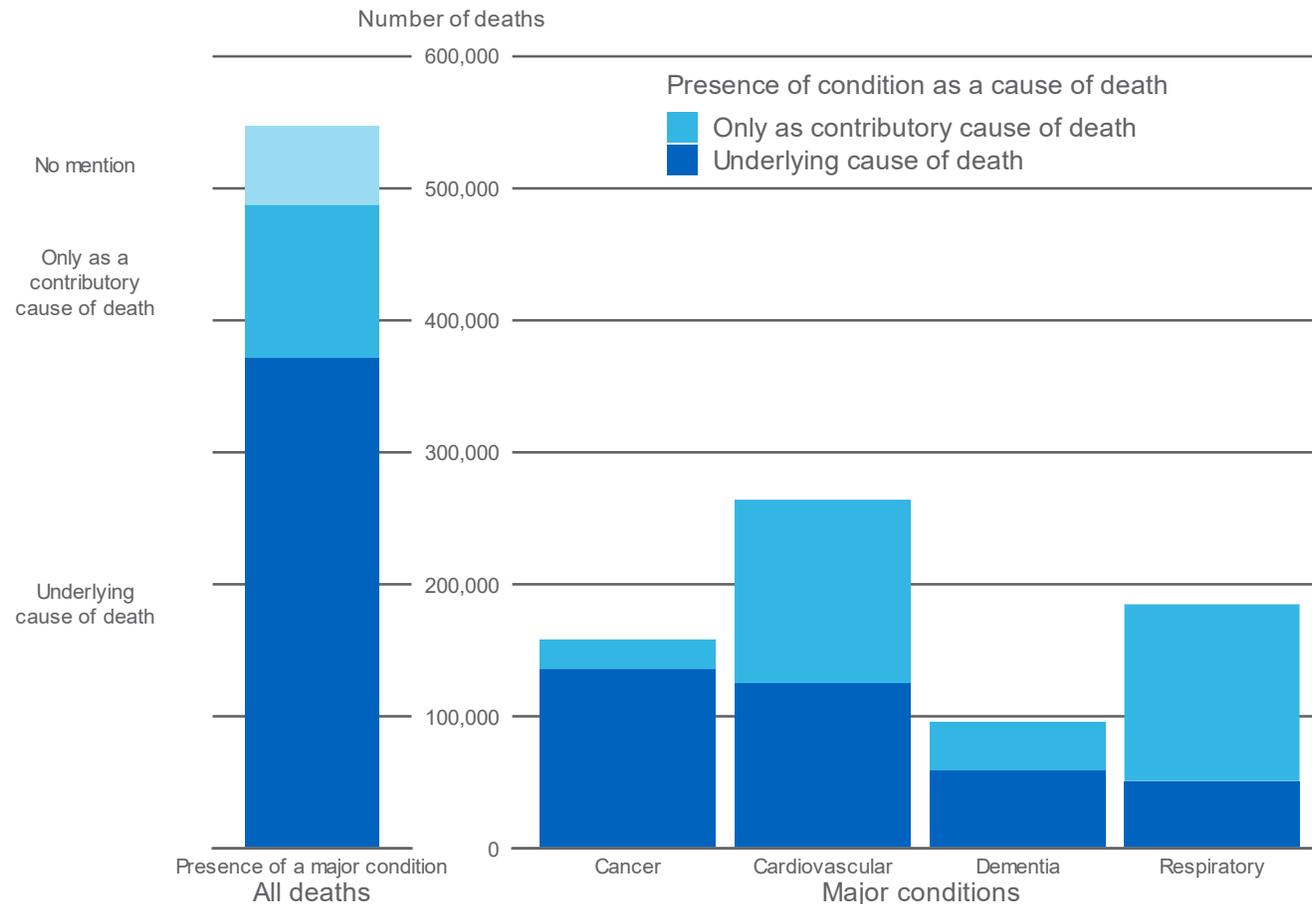
Deaths with the condition as	Cancer	Cardio-vascular	Dementia	Respiratory	Any of the four conditions
Underlying cause of death	135,645	125,445	59,300	51,003	371,393
Only a contributory cause of death	22,114	138,579	36,085	133,890	115,605
Underlying or contributory cause of death (total)	157,759	264,024	95,385	184,893	486,998

**Total of all deaths (excluding neonatal deaths) : 547,648**

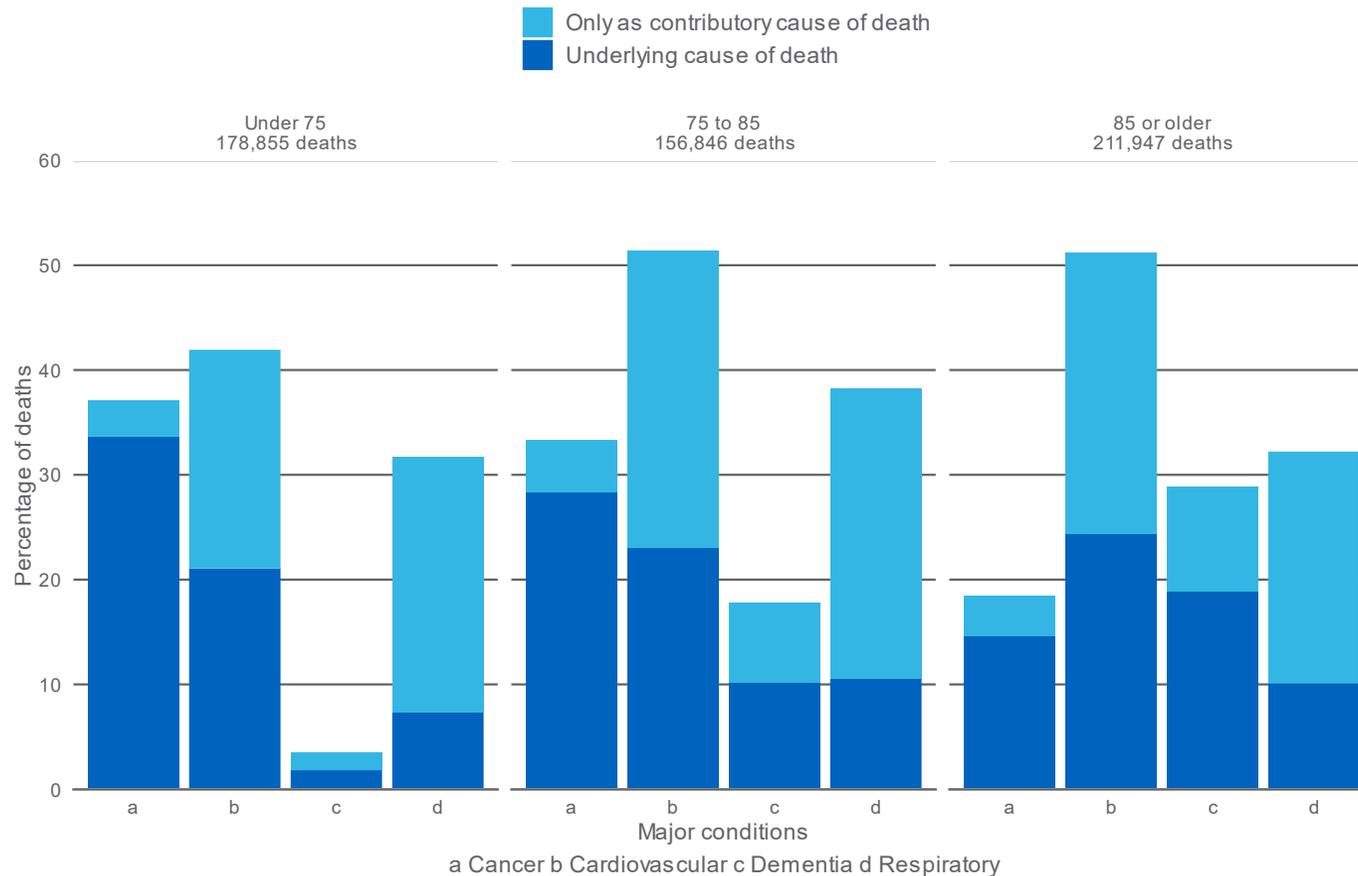
# Deaths of or with 4 major conditions as a percentage of all people who died, England 2021

Deaths with the condition as	Cancer	Cardio-vascular	Dementia	Respiratory	Any of the four conditions
Underlying cause of death	24.8%	22.9%	10.8%	9.3%	67.8%
Only a contributory cause of death	4.0%	25.3%	6.6%	24.4%	21.1%
Underlying or contributory cause of death (total)	28.8%	48.2%	17.4%	33.8%	88.9%

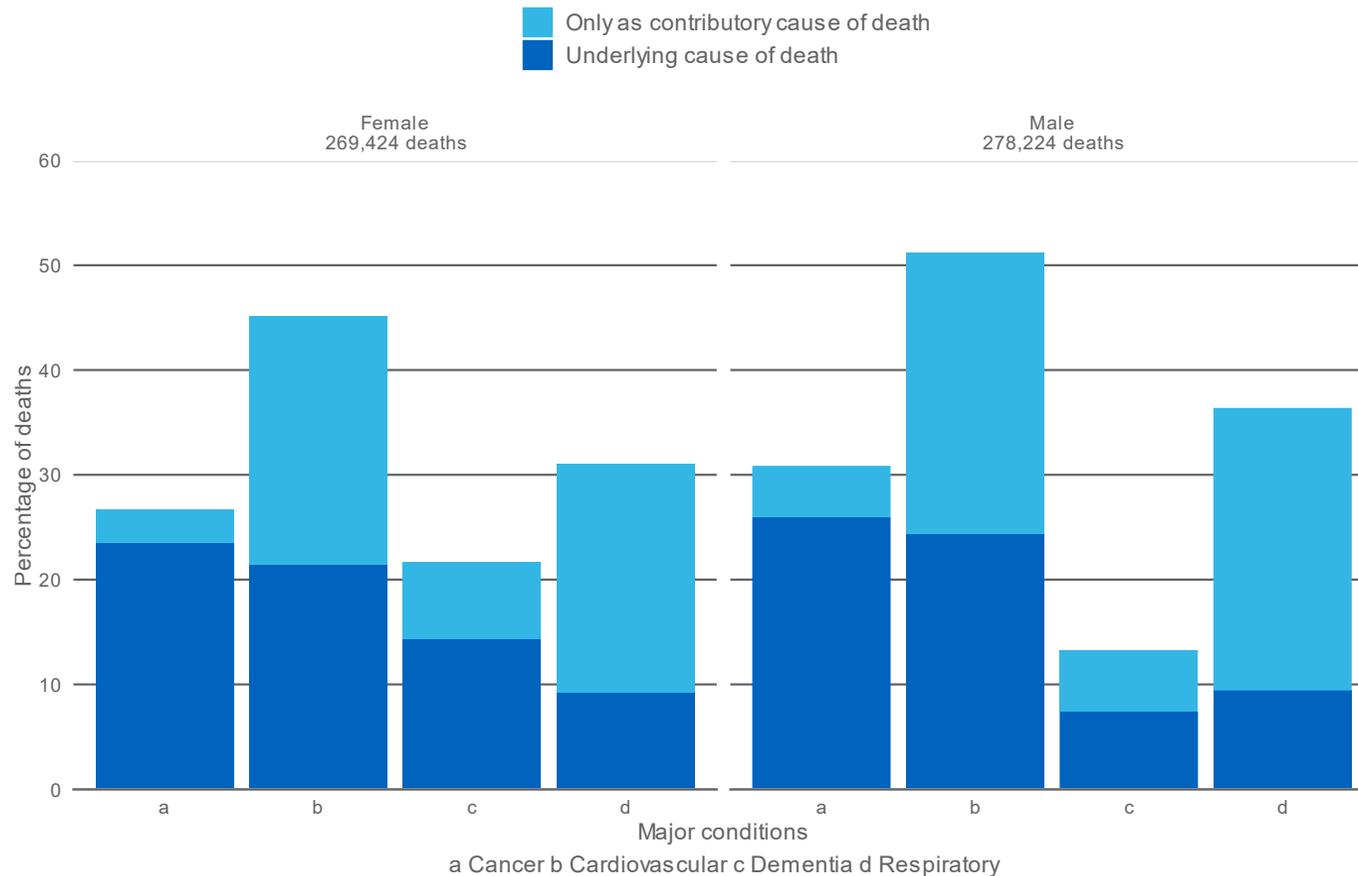
# Number of people who died of or with 4 major conditions, England 2021



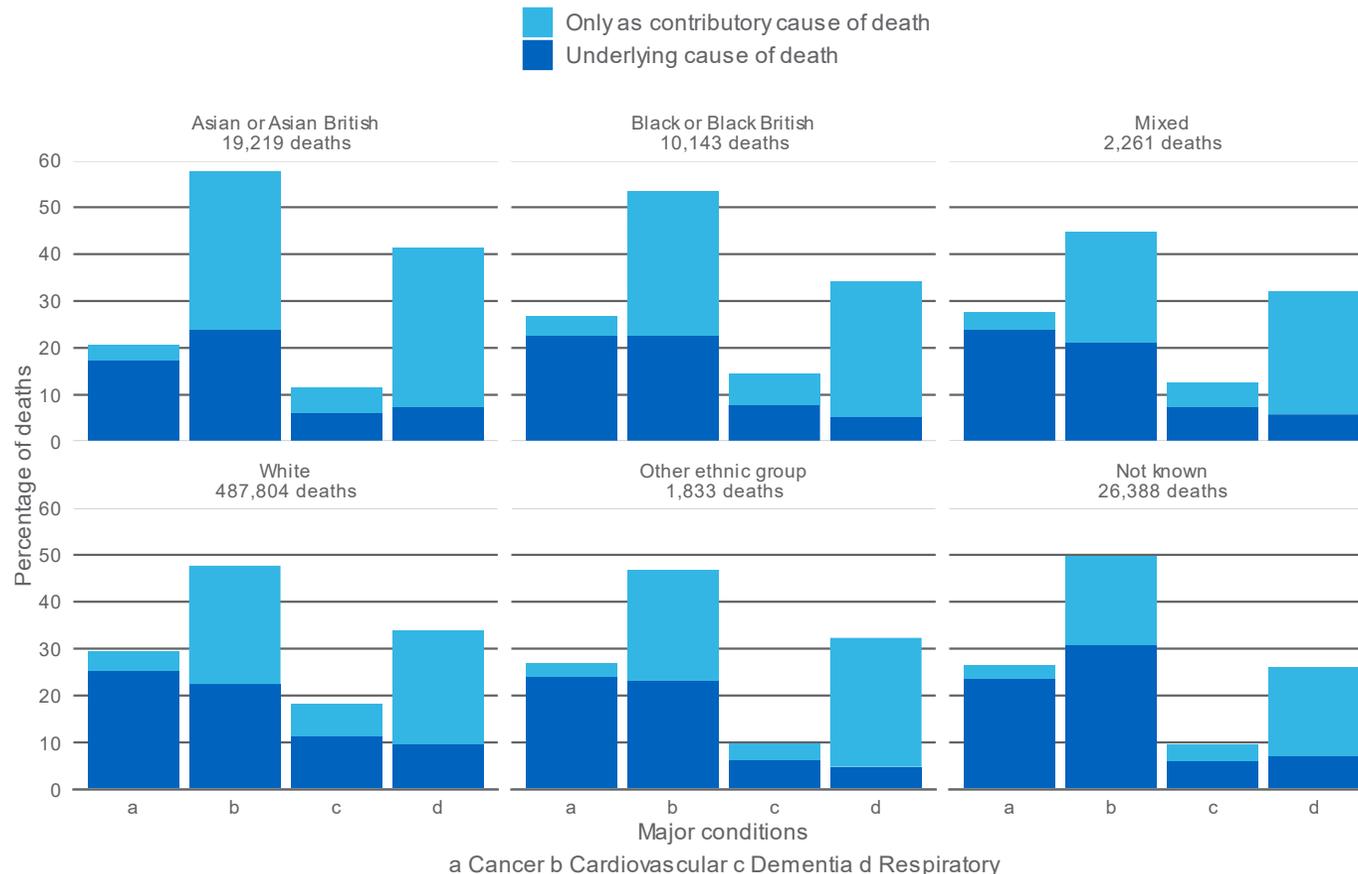
# Percentage of people who's death involved one of 4 major conditions by Age, England 2021



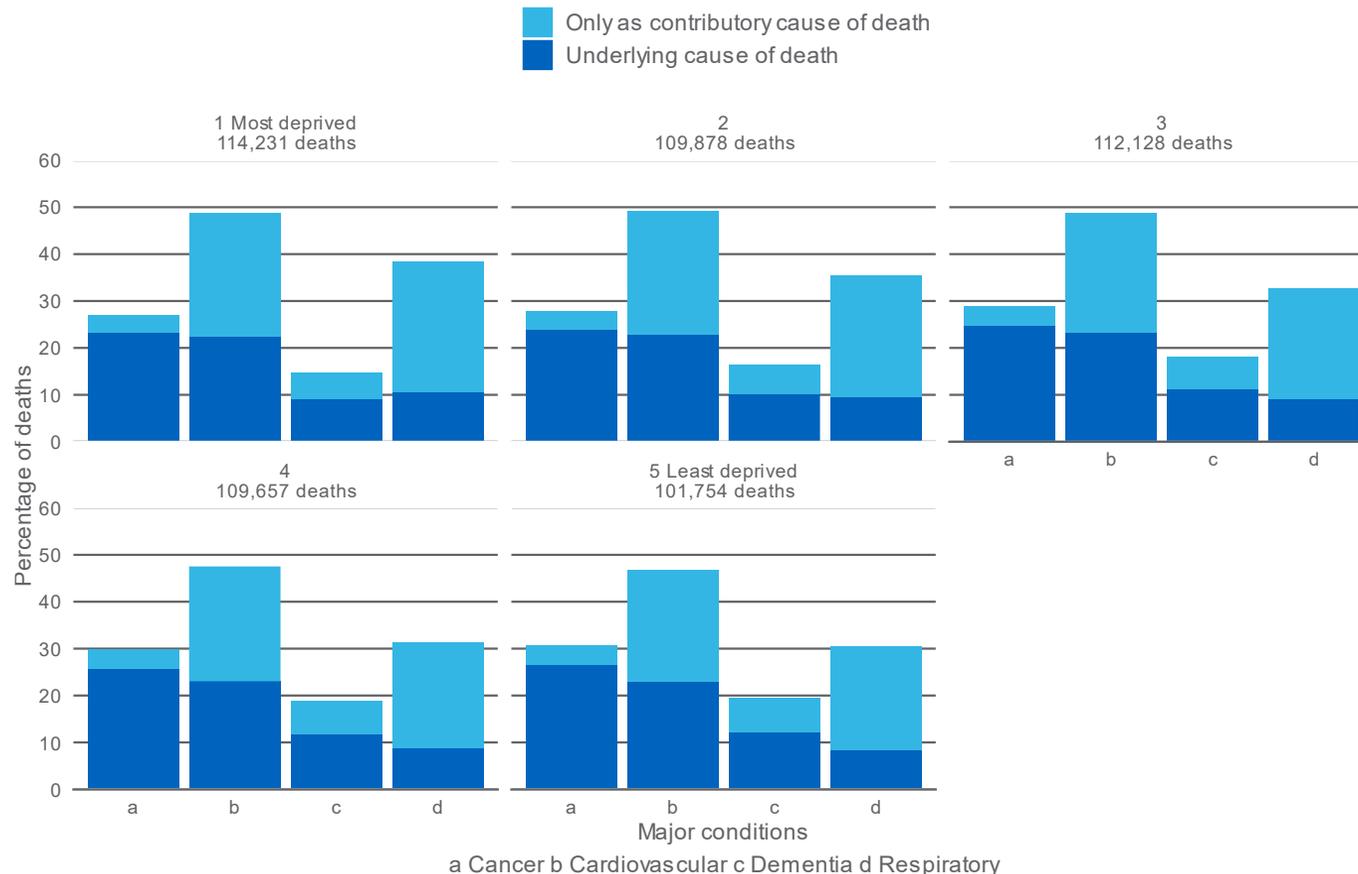
# Percentage of people who's death involved one of the 4 major conditions by Sex, England 2021



# Percentage of people who's death involved one of the 4 major conditions by Ethnicity, England 2021



# Percentage of people who's death involved one of the 4 major conditions by Socio-economic deprivation, England 2021



# Distribution of all deaths by Age, England 2021

	Under 75	75 to 85	85 or older
Number of deaths (any cause)	178,855	156,846	211,947
Percentage of all deaths	33%	29%	39%

# Percentage of all deaths that have one of the 4 major conditions among the causes of death by Age, England 2021

		Under 75	75 to 85	85 or older
MC as underlying cause of death	Number of deaths	114,229	113,030	144,134
	Percentage of deaths	64%	72%	68%
MC as underlying cause of death or contributory cause of death	Number of deaths	153,438	147,579	185,981
	Percentage of deaths	86%	94%	88%

# Distribution of all deaths by Sex, England 2021

	Female	Male
Number of deaths (any cause)	269,424	278,224
Percentage of all deaths	49%	51%



# Percentage of all deaths that have one of the 4 major conditions among the causes of death by Sex, England 2021

		Female	Male
MC as underlying cause of death	Number of deaths	184,581	186,812
	Percentage of deaths	69%	67%
MC as underlying cause of death or contributory cause of death	Number of deaths	237,455	249,543
	Percentage of deaths	88%	90%

# Distribution of all deaths by Ethnicity, England 2021

	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed	White	Other ethnic group	Not known
Number of deaths (any cause)	19,219	10,143	2,261	487,804	1,833	26,388
Percentage of all deaths	4%	2%	0%	89%	0%	5%

# Percentage of all deaths that have one of the 4 major conditions among the causes of death by Ethnicity, England 2021

		Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed	White	Other ethnic group	Not known
MC as underlying cause of death	Number of deaths	10,509	5,921	1,320	334,770	1,071	17,802
	Percentage of deaths	55%	58%	58%	69%	58%	67%
MC as underlying cause of death or contributory cause of death	Number of deaths	17,246	9,000	1,873	434,793	1,553	22,533
	Percentage of deaths	90%	89%	83%	89%	85%	85%

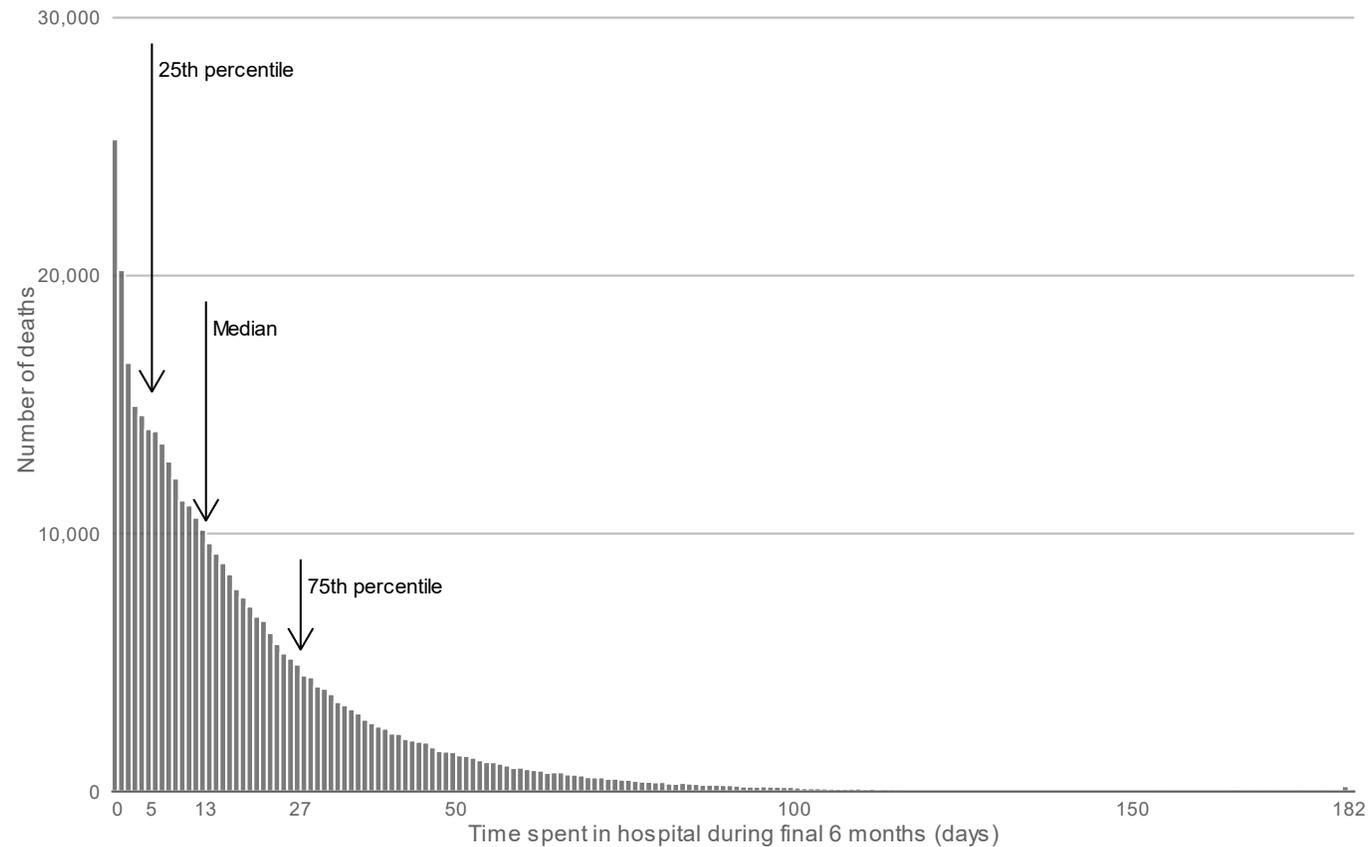
# Distribution of all deaths by Socio-economic deprivation quintile, England 2021

	1 Most deprived	2	3	4	5 Least deprived
Number of deaths (any cause)	114,231	109,878	112,128	109,657	101,754
Percentage of all deaths	21%	20%	20%	20%	19%

# Percentage of all deaths that have one of the 4 major conditions among the causes of death by Socio-economic deprivation, England 2021

		1 Most deprived	2	3	4	5 Least deprived
MC as underlying cause of death	Number of deaths	74,582	73,161	76,625	75,876	71,149
	Percentage of deaths	65%	67%	68%	69%	70%
MC as underlying cause of death or contributory cause of death	Number of deaths	100,827	97,676	99,919	97,645	90,931
	Percentage of deaths	88%	89%	89%	89%	89%

# Variation in the time spent in hospital during the last 6 months of life, England 2021



# Time spent in hospital during the final 6 months of life for people who died of 4 major conditions, England 2021

Measure	Cancer	Cardio-vascular	Dementia	Respiratory	All deaths
People with at least 1 hospital admission	116,559	80,887	31,711	40,336	395,438
People admitted as a percentage of all deaths	86%	64%	53%	79%	72%
Total days in hospital (millions)	2.1	1.5	0.6	0.8	7.7
Median	13	11	14	13	13
Range for middle 50% (interquartile range)	5 to 25	3 to 26	6 to 28	5 to 27	5 to 27

The Median and Range were calculated for people with at least 1 hospital admission in their final 6 months

# Time spent in hospital during the final 3 months of life for people who died of 4 major conditions, England 2021

Measure	Cancer	Cardio-vascular	Dementia	Respiratory	All deaths
People with at least 1 hospital admission	106,189	73,868	27,159	38,028	364,759
People admitted as a percentage of all deaths	78%	59%	46%	75%	67%
Total days in hospital (millions)	1.6	1.1	0.5	0.6	6.0
Median	11	10	13	11	12
Range for middle 50% (interquartile range)	5 to 21	3 to 22	5 to 24	4 to 22	4 to 23

The Median and Range were calculated for people with at least 1 hospital admission in their final 3 months

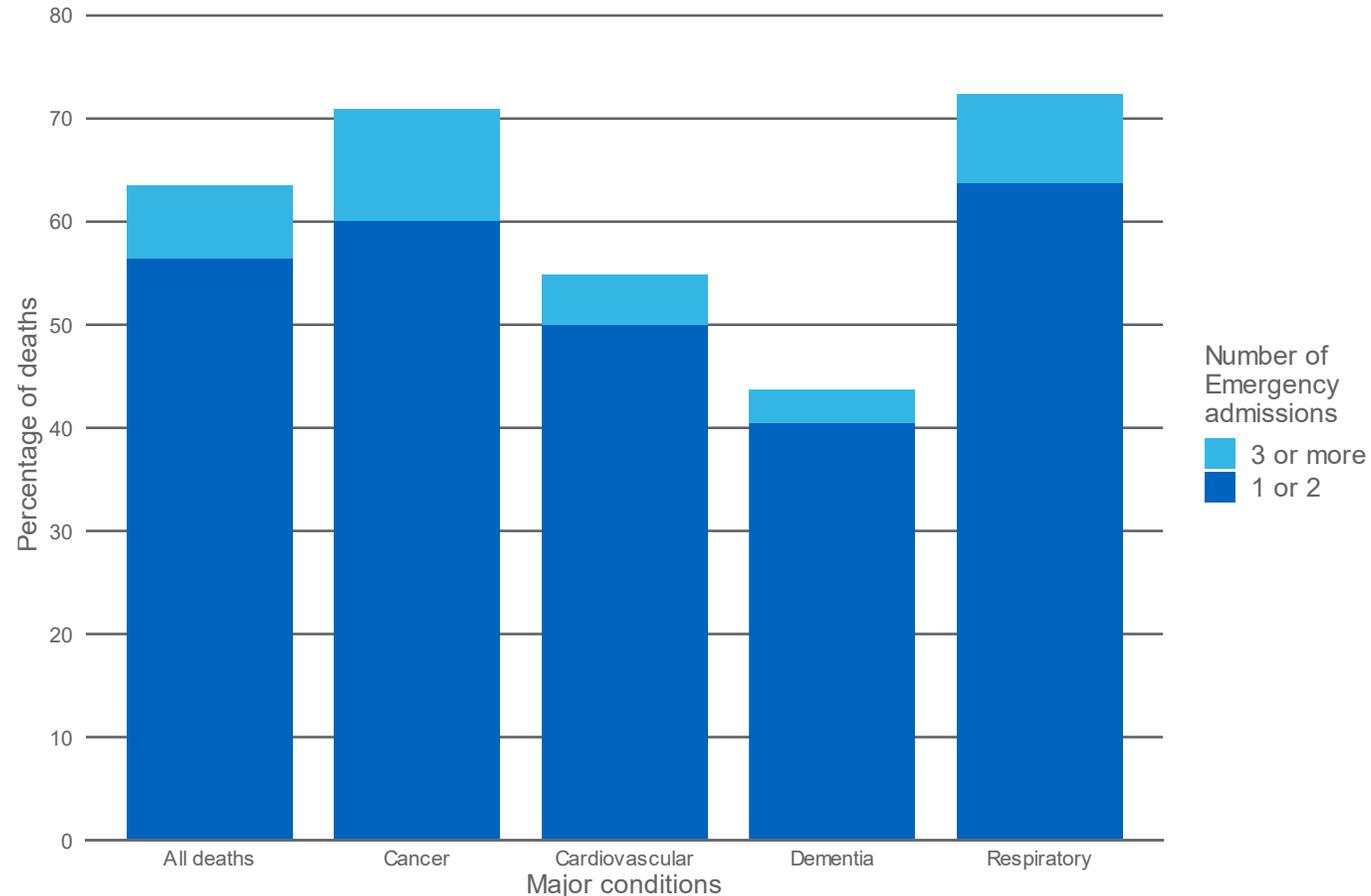
# Emergency hospital admissions in 2021

	Under 75 years	75 to 84 years	85 years or older	All ages
Number of admissions (millions)	4.1	1.0	1.0	6.1
Admissions involving people in the last year of life (millions)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9
Percentage of all admissions that involve people in the last year of life	8%	28%	33%	15%

# Length of stay following emergency hospital admissions in 2021

	Under 75 years	75 to 84 years	85 years or older	All ages
Number of admissions (millions)	4.1	1.0	1.0	6.1
Admissions involving people in the last year of life (millions)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9
Percentage of all admissions that involve people in the last year of life	8%	28%	33%	15%

# Percentage of people who have emergency hospital admissions during the final 3 months of life for people who died of 4 major conditions, England 2021



# Emergency hospital admissions during the final 3 months of life for people who died of 4 major conditions, England 2021

	Cancer	Cardio-vascular	Dementia	Respiratory	All deaths
Number of emergency hospital admissions	159,129	98,664	35,961	56,705	526,052
Proportion of people with at least 1 emergency hospital admission	71%	55%	44%	72%	64%
Proportion of people with 3 or more emergency hospital admissions	11%	5%	3%	9%	7%

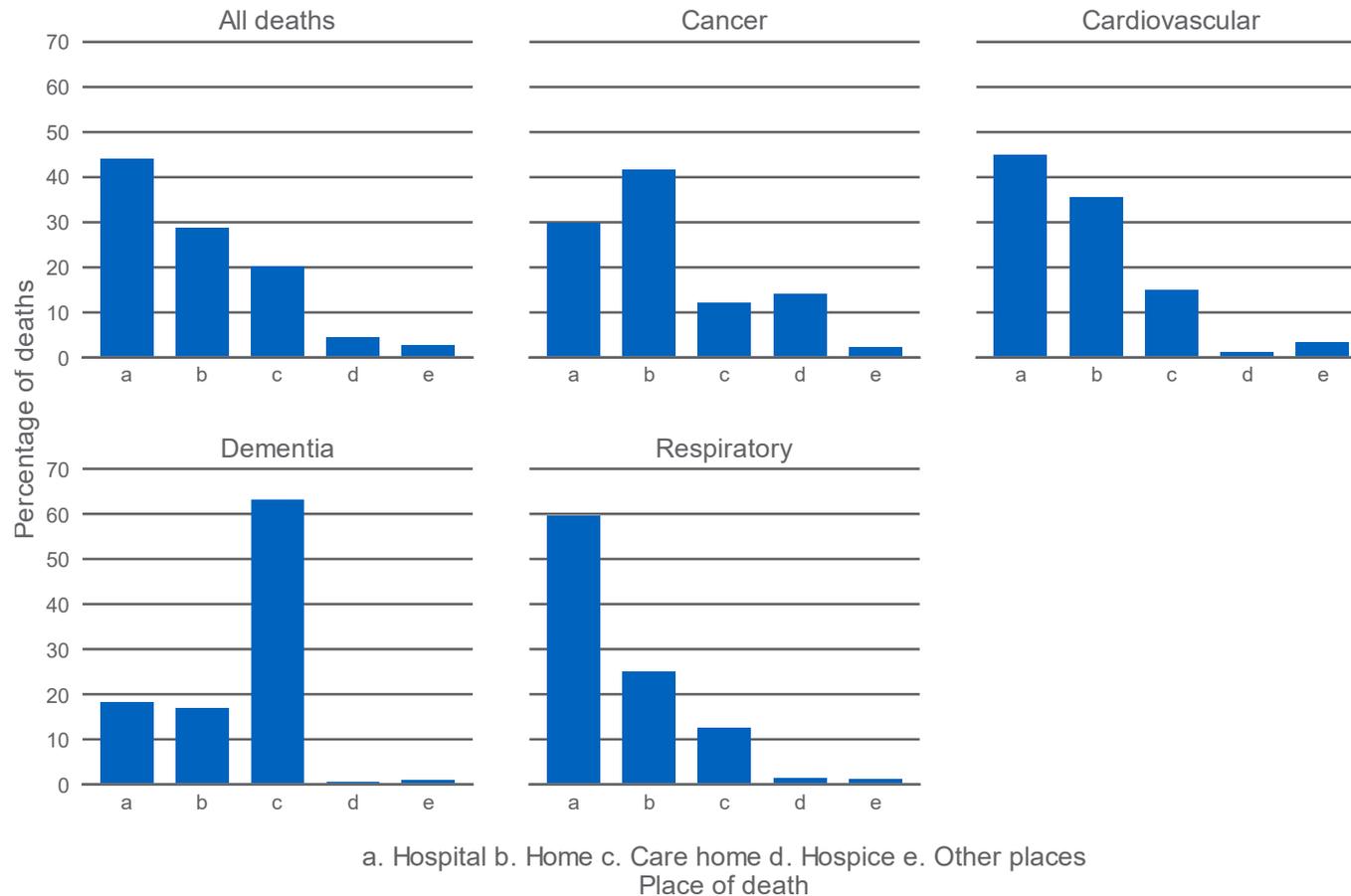
# Number of deaths by setting

Place of death	Cancer	Cardio-vascular	Dementia	Respiratory	All deaths
Care home	16,433	18,879	37,451	6,435	110,545
Home	56,455	44,674	10,069	12,806	157,312
Hospice	18,979	1,360	381	699	23,882
Hospital	40,566	56,384	10,787	30,431	241,219
Other places	3,212	4,148	612	632	14,690

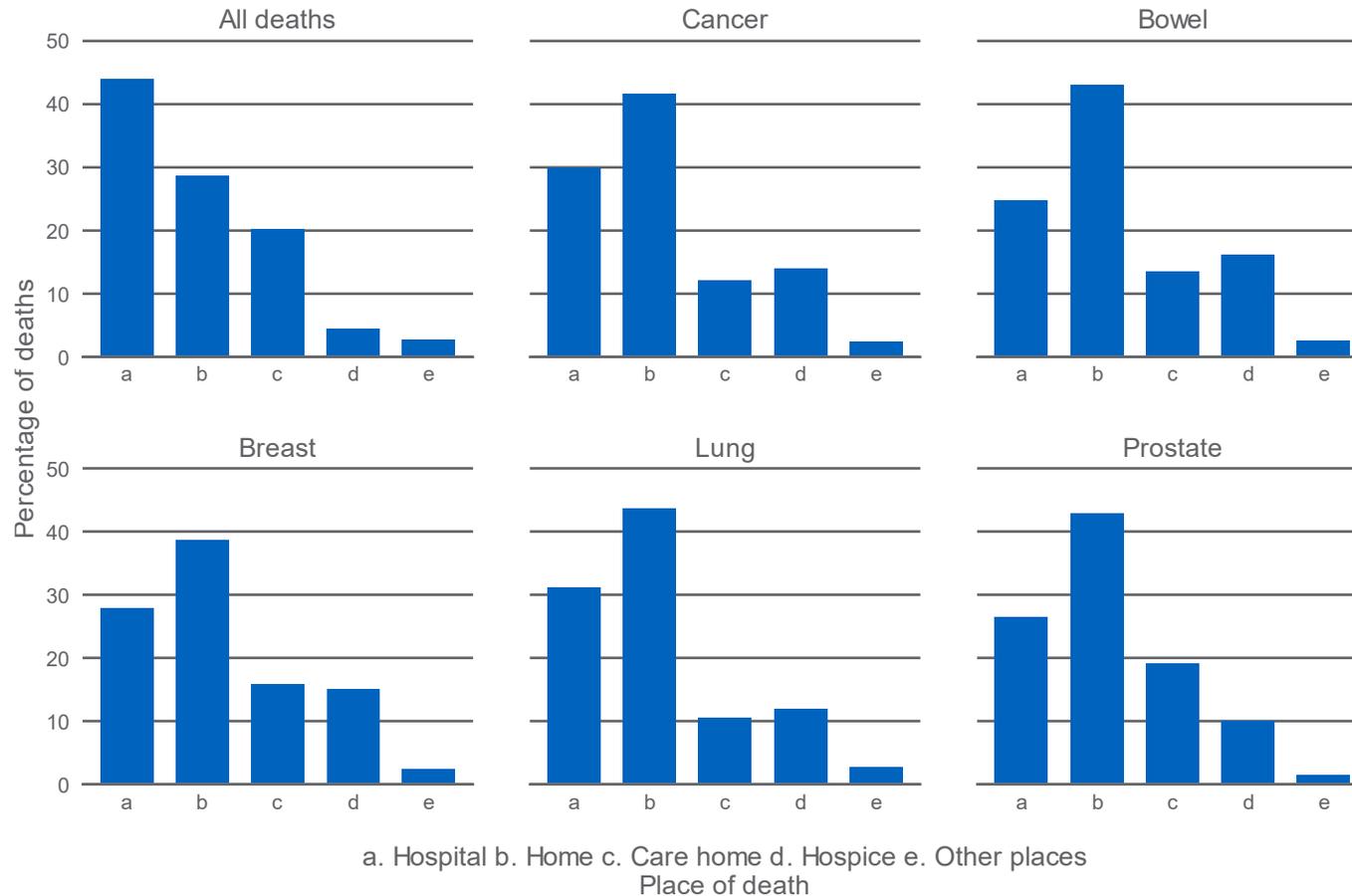
# Percentage of deaths by setting

Place of death	Cancer	Cardio-vascular	Dementia	Respiratory	All deaths
Care home	12.1%	15.0%	63.2%	12.6%	20.2%
Home	41.6%	35.6%	17.0%	25.1%	28.7%
Hospice	14.0%	1.1%	0.6%	1.4%	4.4%
Hospital	29.9%	44.9%	18.2%	59.7%	44.0%
Other places	2.4%	3.3%	1.0%	1.2%	2.7%

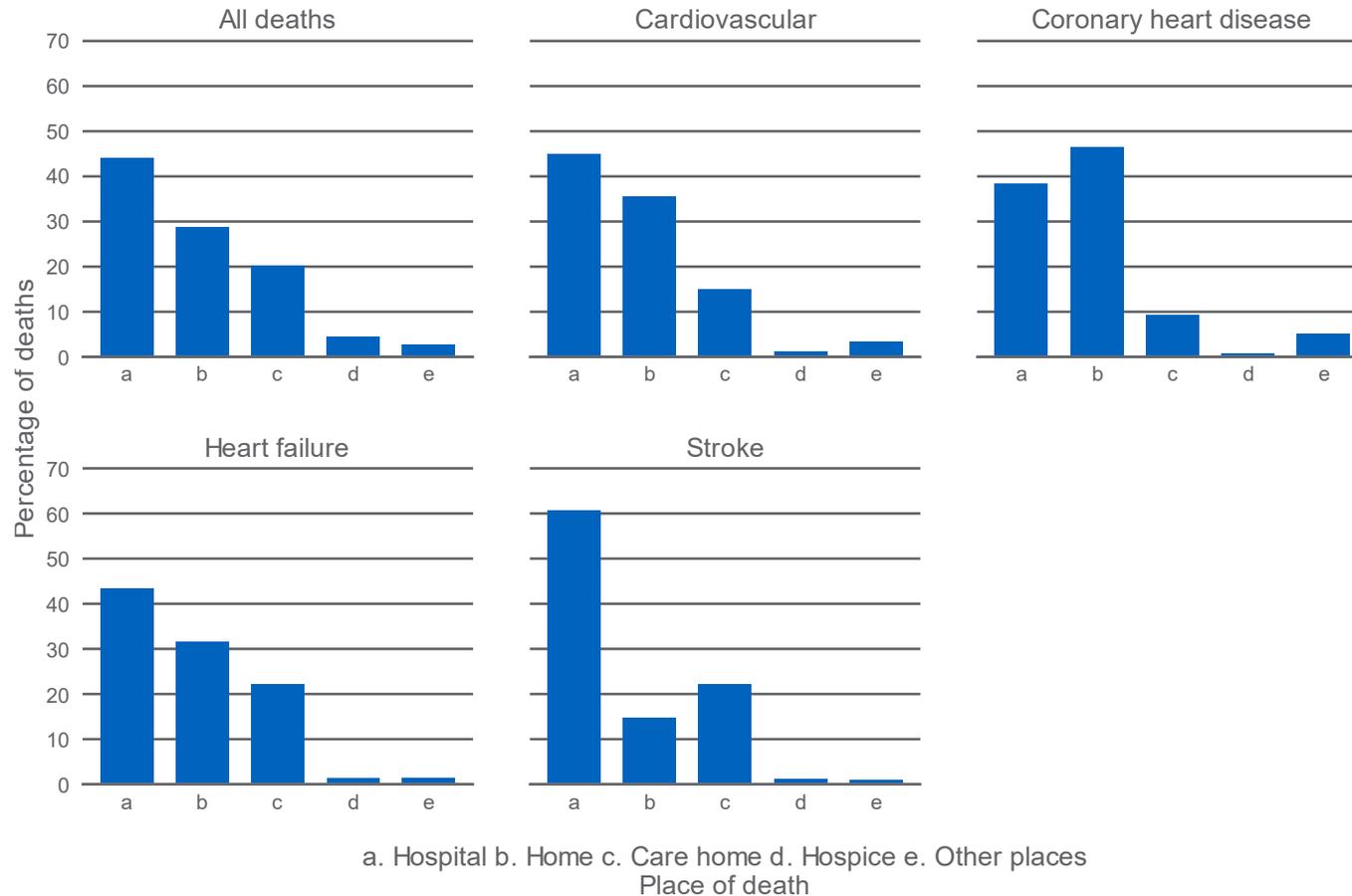
# Place of death for people who died of 4 major conditions, England 2021



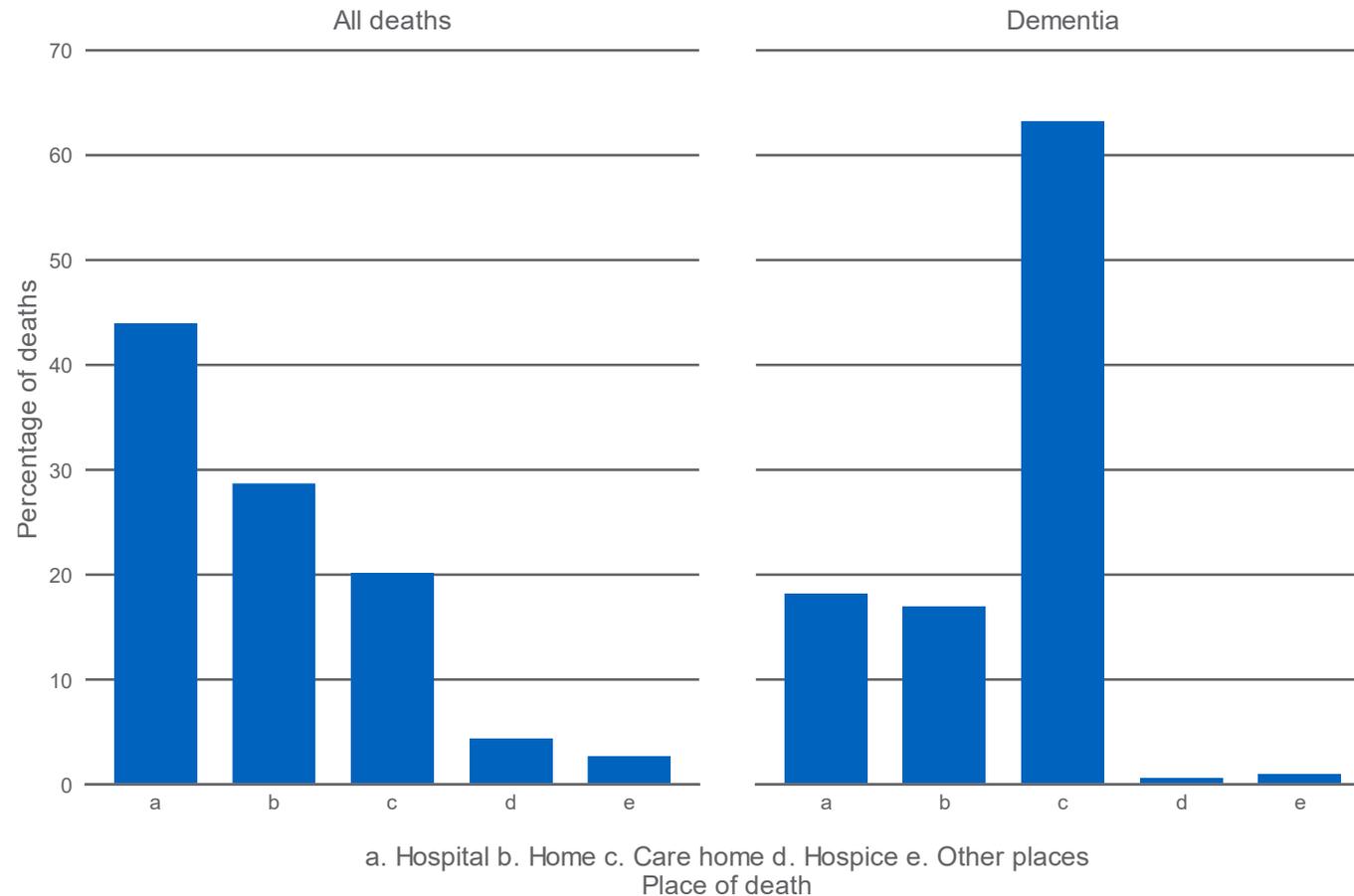
# Place of death for people who died of Cancer, England 2021



# Place of death for people who died of Cardiovascular disease, England 2021



# Place of death for people who died of Dementia, England 2021



# Place of death for people who died of Respiratory disease, England 2021

