

Tackling poverty at the end of life in Greater Manchester

Marie Curie

GM NHS Tackling Poverty Group
20 August 2025



About Marie Curie

Marie Curie is the UK's leading end of life charity.

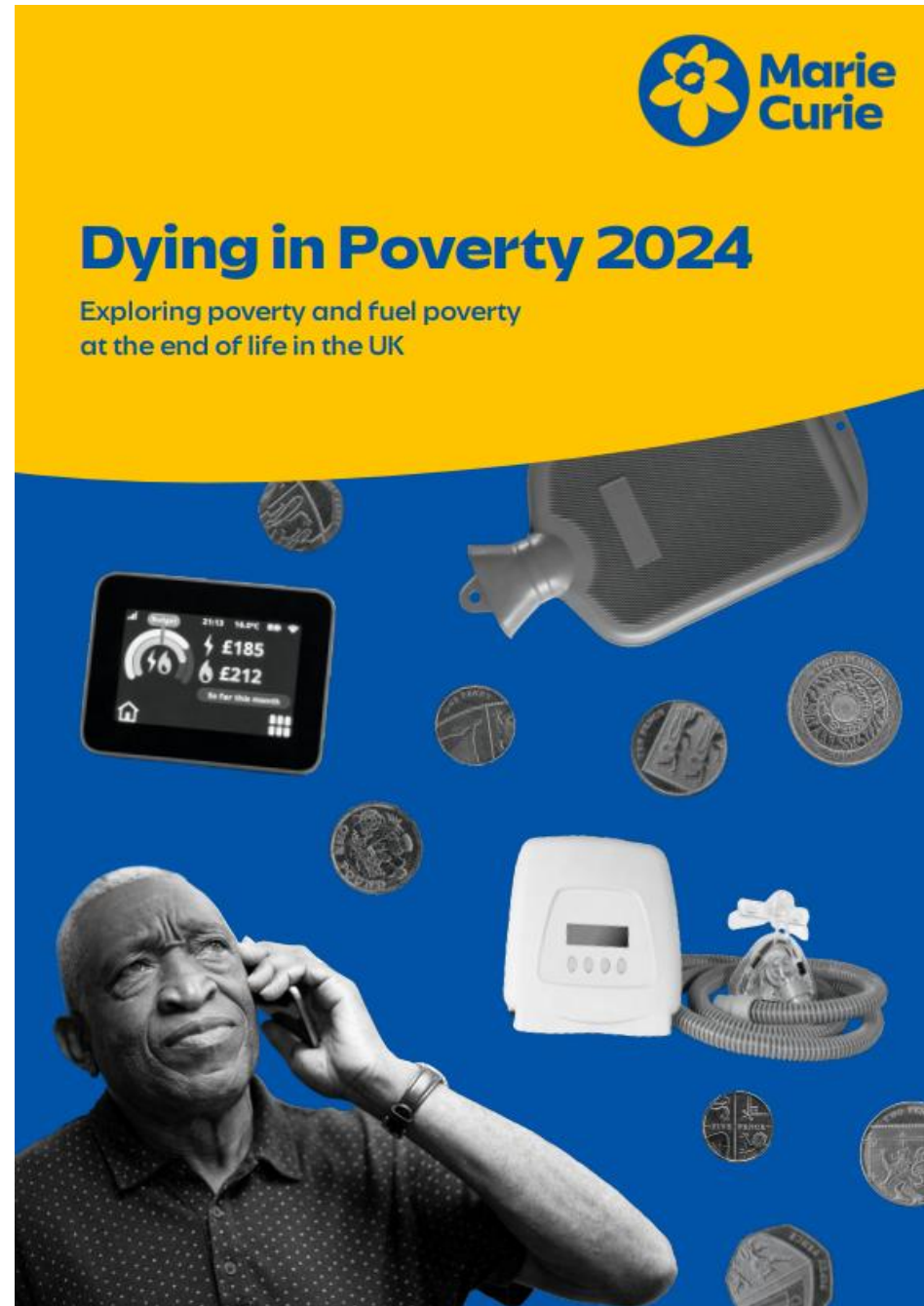
We're here for anyone with an illness they're likely to die from, and those close to them. We bring 75 years of experience and leading research to the care we give at home, in our hospices and over the phone. We push for a better end of life for all by campaigning and sharing research to change the system.



Dying in Poverty

Our 2024 research report

Report can be found here: [dying-in-poverty-report-2024](https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/dying-in-poverty-report-2024)



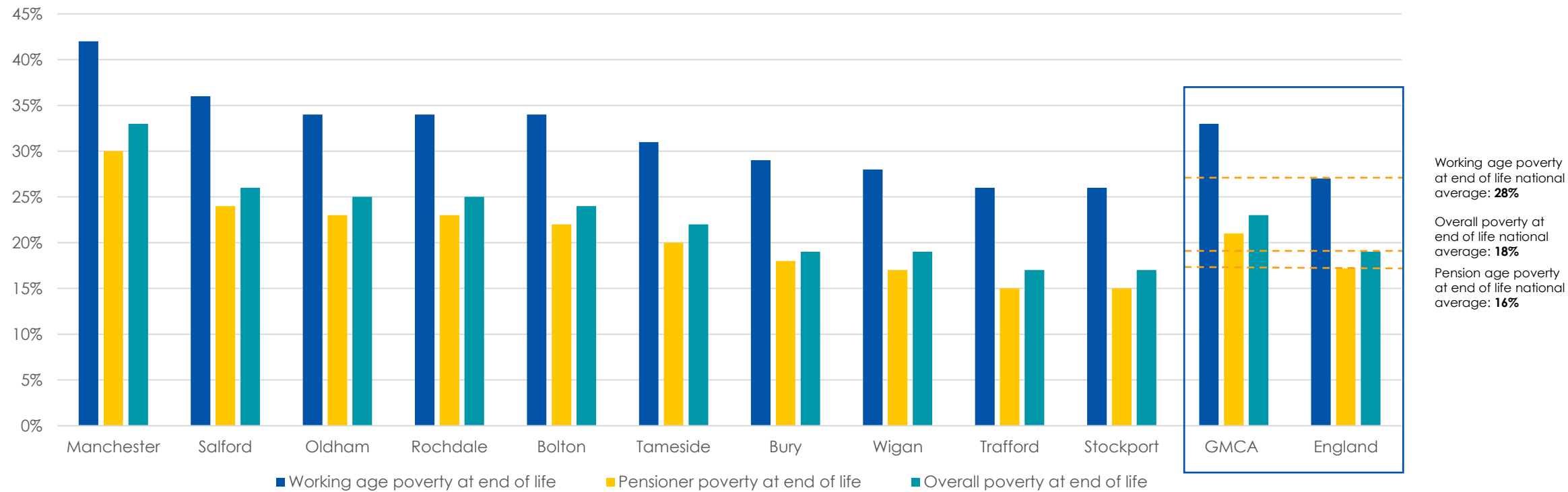
Dying in Poverty

Key findings from the research

The research found that there is an inextricable link between poverty and ill health.

- In our first report in 2022, we found that 90,000 a year died in poverty. Our latest report in 2024 found that this had risen to **111,000** - a 23% rise.
- Working-age people are at a much greater risk of dying in poverty: **28%** of working-age people who died in 2023 died in poverty, compared to **16%** of pension-age people.
- Poverty also affects some groups more than others, including **women and minoritised ethnic groups**, and there are significant geographical variations in the proportion of people dying in poverty.
- We also know that energy costs can increase dramatically for someone living with a terminal illness. Our report found that least **128,000** people died in fuel poverty, struggling to heat their homes or run vital medical equipment

Deaths in Poverty across GMCA



In total, **5,855** people die in poverty in GMCA every year

Deaths in Poverty – compared to the rest of the UK

Local authority	Rank for deaths in poverty out of 363	Rank for deaths in fuel poverty out of 363
Manchester	1	13
Salford	16	31
Rochdale	23	62
Oldham	24	70
Bolton	29	78
Tameside	62	83
Bury	99	147
Wigan	109	130
Trafford	154	205
Stockport	158	228

Policy recommendations

1. Encouraging local authorities to reduce council tax for households including someone with a terminal illness
2. Pushing for a national social tariff for energy
3. Pushing for better support with the running costs of at-home medical devices

Impact of cold homes

NICE NG6 Guidelines

- The NICE NG6 guidelines are about excess winter deaths and illnesses that are associated with cold homes
- It provides guidance on how to identify people at risk, how to prevent winter deaths and poverty related illness and raising awareness amongst practitioners and commissioners
- Marie Curie and the National Energy Association produced a joint report on the impact of NG6 which showed that more action is needed – there are gaps in data and evident, and a lack of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of NG6 recommendations
- We are asking councils to consider strategies to ensure they consider terminally ill people and take steps towards minimising winter deaths and the health risks associated with living in a cold home



Benefits for terminally ill patients

Special Rules

If someone is living with a terminal illness and their healthcare professional thinks they might have less than 12 months to live, they may be able to apply for some benefits under the special rules.

The rules vary depending on which benefit the patient is claiming, but might mean that they:

- Get faster, easier access to some benefits (like ESA, PIP or UC)
- Get the highest rate of some benefits
- Do not need to have medical assessments
- Do not have to fill out all of the benefit claim forms.

There are no negative consequences for the clinician or patient if a patient who claims under the Special Rules lives longer than expected.

Useful links for professionals

[The Special Rules for end of life: information for healthcare professionals - GOV.UK](#)
[Special benefit rules for people with a terminal illness | Marie Curie](#)

Benefits for terminally ill patients

SR1 forms

- In order to claim necessary benefits, patients will need an SR1 medical form. These must be supplied and completed by a GP or registered clinician, to prove the patient is eligible for special rules.
- The form is then sent by the clinician to the relevant government department.
- Including finances in discussions around palliative care can be difficult, but where appropriate, it can be vital in preventing deaths in poverty. The more awareness we can raise amongst professionals about SR1 forms, the less likely it is that the patient will fall through the gap and subsequent poverty.

Useful links

[The Special Rules for end of life: information for healthcare professionals - GOV.UK](#)

[What is an SR1 medical report form for benefits? | Marie Curie](#)

Video guide on special rules and SR1 forms: <https://youtu.be/w6jez7VfIQA>

Thank you and questions

Please contact us at

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