

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2024/25

Child Poverty

Summary points

- 18,072 children under 16 (22%) live in *relative* low-income families in Bristol (2022/23), higher than the UK average of 20.1%.
- 13,146 children under 16 (15.9%) live in *absolute* low-income families in Bristol (2022/23); nationally the figure is 15.9% (absolute is compared against 2010/11 income).
- More than half of children living in the wards of Central and Lawrence Hill live in relative low-income families, and more than a quarter of children living in five other wards living in relative low-income families.

Background

Living in poverty can negatively impact outcomes for children and may mean that families make less healthy lifestyle choices than more affluent families. Data on **children living in low-income families**¹ is a good indicator of the proportion of families living in relative poverty.

This is the fifth year of this new version of the indicator², with local data on:

- Relative low income, which measures families in low income in the current year – this is the main focus of this section
- Absolute low income, which measures families in low income now compared with incomes in 2010/11.

National data

Provisional data for 2022/23 (released March 2024) states there are 18,072 children under 16 living in relative low-income families in Bristol, which is 22% of all children, higher than the UK average of 20.1% (figure 1). This figure places Bristol as the third lowest rate of children in low-income families of all the Core Cities. The impact of updated mid-year population estimates on historic data is explained below figure 1.

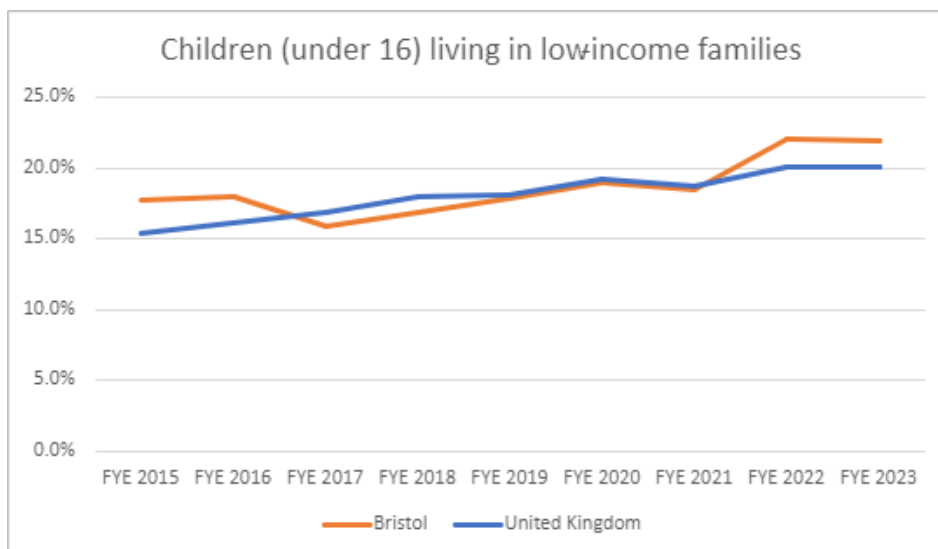


Figure 1: Children (under 16) living in relative low-income families, 2014/15 to 2022/23. Source: DWP Stat-Xplore, Nomis, National Records of Scotland

¹ Income is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and is equivalised to adjust for family size and composition. Low income is where a family has claimed Child Benefit and *at least* 1 of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year.

² Source: [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2023)

Impact of updated mid-year population estimates: Historic data preceding financial year 2021/22 (fig 1) should be treated with caution and is subject to change. ONS have released 2021 and 2022 mid-year population estimates based on the results of the 2021 Census. They are not comparable with estimates for previous years; re-based estimates for 2012 to 2020 will be published later in 2024.

Local analysis

Children living in relative low income families is available by ward³ and Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). Fig 2 highlights the inequalities across the city at ward level for children aged 0-15.

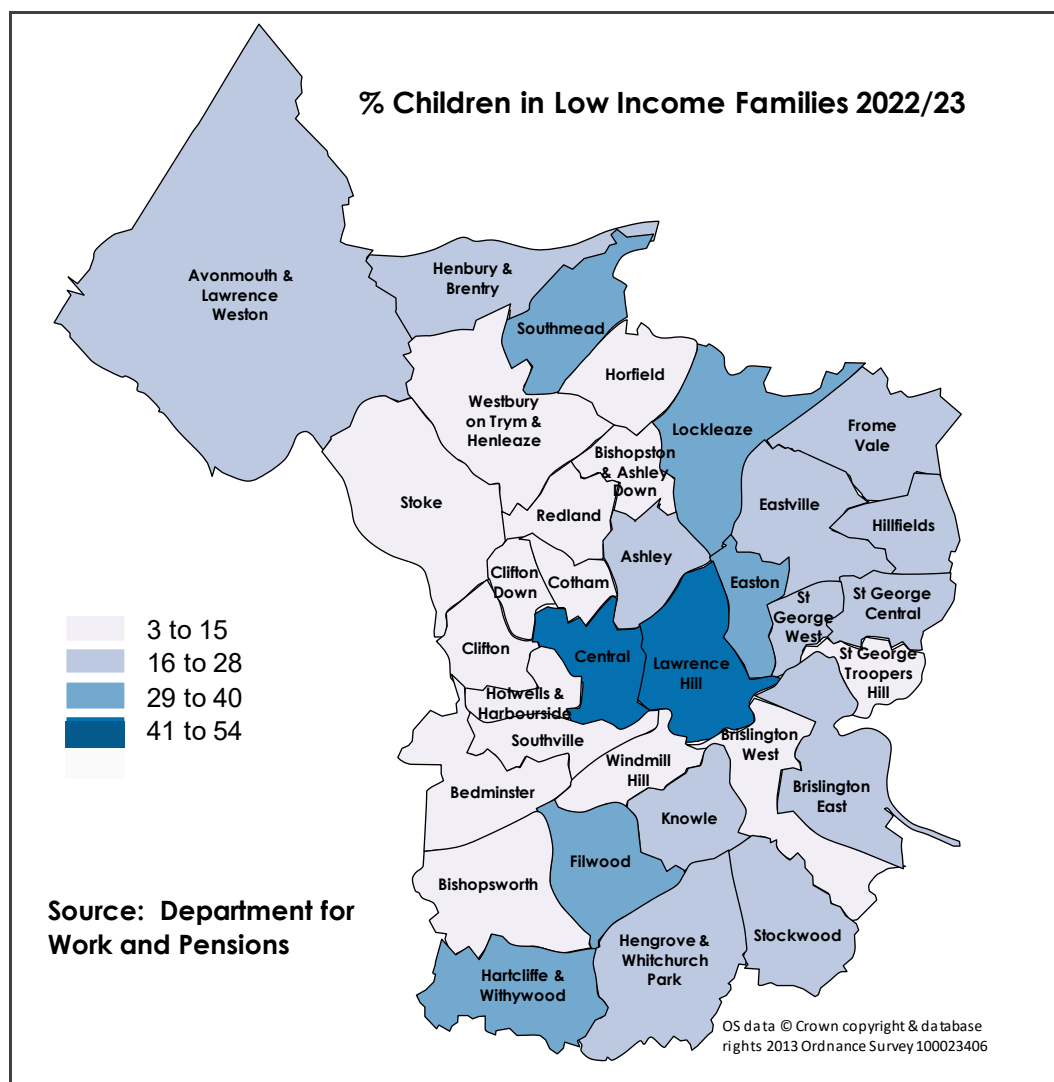


Figure 2: Children (under 16) living in relative low-income families 2022/23 by Ward. Source: DWP

There are three wards where more than 1 in 3 children live in relative low income households. These are Lawrence Hill (54.2%), Central (52.1%) and Hartcliffe and Witherwood (36.4%). There are a further six wards where more than 1 in 4 children live in relative low-income households including Filwood, Southmead, Easton, Lockleaze, Hillfields, and Ashley. In contrast, just 3.2% of children in Redland ward live in low income households.

³ Caution, although populations estimates are the latest available at the time, some ward populations may not reflect more recent changes in the local population therefore some percentages should be viewed with care.

At LSOA level, the numbers of children (0-15yrs) living in low-income families range from as high as 488 in St Philips and 482 in Easton Road to less than 5 in Oakfield Grove, Elmlea, Clifton Village and Rockleaze. Additional areas of the city where more than 250 children live in low-income households include Cabot Circus, St Judes, Barton Hill, Bishport Avenue.

Analysed by sub locality area of the Bristol Integrated Care Board (ICB), there are significantly higher levels of children living in relative low-income families in Inner City (41.2%) compared to the city average, and significantly lower levels in the North and West (Inner) sub-locality (5.6%) (Figure 3).

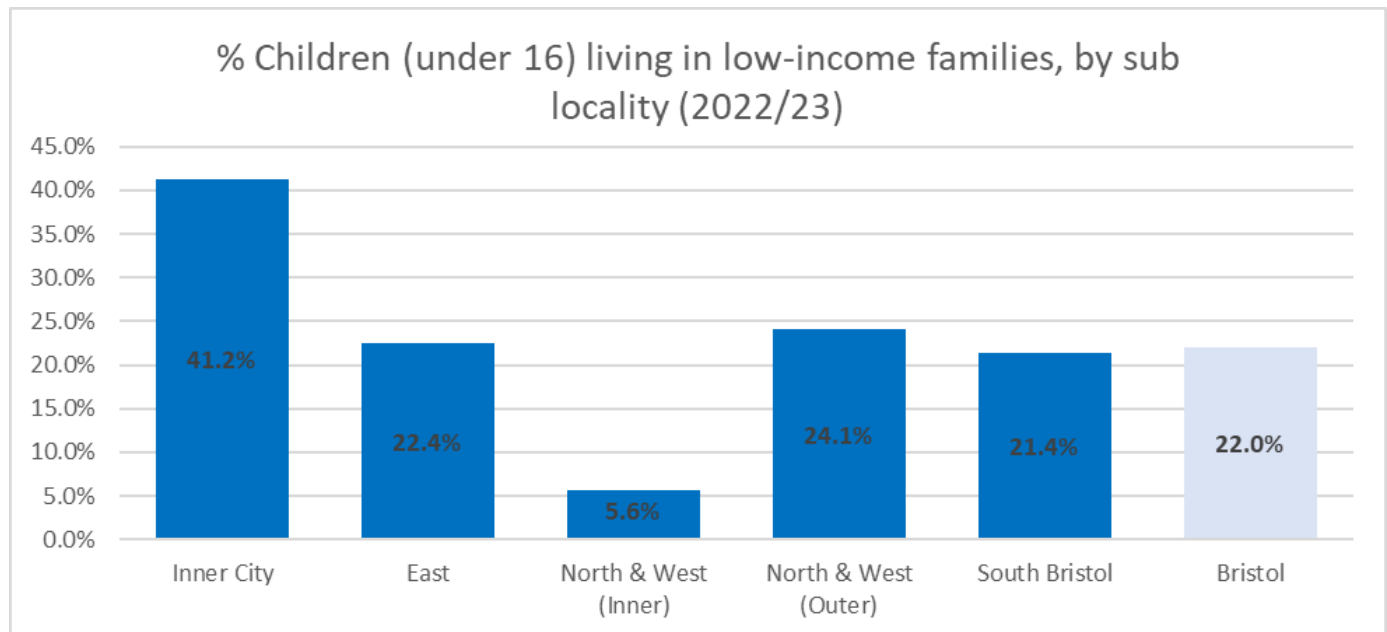


Figure 3: Children (under 16) living in relative low-income families 2022/23 by ICB locality. Source: DWP

Equalities data:

All data analysis here is by geographical area. There is no Equality Group data available.

Further data / links / consultations:

- Data: [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- Ward Level data available for both Relative and Absolute low income in [Ward profile data - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk) or directly through the [Ward Profiles data tool](#) (select the "Child Poverty" Topic).

Covid-19 impact:

The Department for Work and Pensions notes that "While the data for FYE 2021, FYE 2022 and FYE 2023 has undergone extensive quality assurance prior to publication, we recommend that users exercise additional caution when using the data, particularly when making comparisons with previous years and for local areas across countries".

Date updated: April 2024

Date of next update: April 2025