Life expectancy

Summary points

- In Bristol people are living longer: men living 1.4 years longer and women 0.8 years.
- Life expectancy for both men and women is below the England average.
- There is significant variation in life expectancy across the city.

Life expectancy at birth

Life Expectancy at Birth (LEB) is the average number of years a person would expect to live based on current mortality rates. It is possible to extend life expectancy if people adopt healthy lifestyles, if improvements are made to the wider determinants of health such as employment, and if vulnerable people are supported through their life course, for instance by averting and mitigating the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

People in Bristol are living longer. Compared to 10 years ago, men in Bristol now live 1.4 years longer, and women live 0.8 years longer. However, the latest life expectancy figures have fallen slightly for both men and women.

Findings

Life expectancy for men in Bristol (78.4 years) is just below the England average of 79.6 years. For women life expectancy in Bristol (82.6 years) is also slightly lower than the England average (83.2 years).
Due to the limited amount of personal details recorded on a death certificate it is not possible to calculate life expectancy estimates for other equalities dimensions such as ethnicity.

Life expectancy at 65 is the average number of years at age 65 a person would survive if he or she experienced the age-specific mortality rates for that area and time period throughout his or her life after that age. At age 65, men in Bristol will live a further 18.2 years on average, just below the England average of 18.9 years. Women in Bristol will live a further 20.8 years on average, also below the England average of 21.2.

**Life Expectancy within Bristol**

At a sub locality level (fig 2) life expectancy in Bristol varies significantly. Bristol North & West (inner) has the highest life expectancy in Bristol for both men (81.7 years) and women (85.6 years), both being significantly better than Bristol as a whole. Bristol East sub-locality has the worst female life expectancy (81.6 years).

![Fig 2: Life expectancy by sub locality, 2016-2018](source: Bristol Public Health Knowledge Service using ONS data (August 2020))

Bristol’s worst male life expectancy is in Inner City (77.3 years). Male life expectancy in Inner City is unexpectedly low compared to female life expectancy in that area. Further investigation is needed to identify the reason for the low male life expectancy in Inner City.

There are large differences in life expectancy between the wards of Bristol. For women the highest life expectancy is in Clifton (92.3 years) and for men - in Hotwells & Harbourside (84.8 years). However, the female life expectancy for Hotwells & Harbourside has a great deal of uncertainty and is not significantly different to any other wards in Bristol. Lawrence Hill (73.9 years) has the lowest life expectancy in Bristol for men and St George Central (77.6 years) is lowest for women.
Fig 3: Female life expectancy by ward, 2016 – 2018
Source: Bristol Public Health Knowledge Service using ONS data (August 2020)

Fig 4: Male life expectancy at birth, Bristol Wards, 2016-2018
Source: Bristol Public Health Knowledge Service using ONS data (August 2020)
Female Life Expectancy at Birth, Bristol wards 2016-2018
(lighter areas indicate higher life expectancy)

Source: Bristol Public Health Intelligence using ONS data (August 2020)

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Male Life Expectancy at Birth, Bristol wards 2016-2018
(lighter areas indicate higher life expectancy)

Source: Bristol Public Health Intelligence using ONS data (August 2020)

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Life Expectancy Gap

The standard national measure of inequality in life expectancy is the Slope Index of Inequality (SII) statistic. This measures the estimated difference (using a line of best fit) in life expectancy (in years) between the most deprived 10% of the population and the least deprived 10% within Bristol. This measure allows us to compare Bristol’s inequalities to other local authorities and to monitor changes over time in a statistically robust manner.¹

The gap in life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived groups is currently 9.8 years for men (fig 5) and 7.7 years for women (fig 6). This gap has not shown any clear signs of reducing over recent years. For both genders the gap has slightly increased in 2016-18, although the increase is not statistically significant.

¹ NB Due to these reasons, the Slope Index of Inequality is used as the primary measure of the gap in life expectancy, not the difference between the individual wards with the lowest and highest figures.
Compared to other English Core Cities, Bristol’s slope index of inequality for men (fig 7) is mid-ranking and significantly lower than Newcastle and Leeds. For women Bristol’s slope index of inequality is the second lowest (fig 8).

![Male Slope Index of Inequality, 2016-18, Core Cities](image1.png)

*Fig 7: Male slope index of inequality by Core Cities*
*Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, August 2020*

![Female Slope Index of Inequality, 2016-18, Core Cities](image2.png)

*Fig 8: Female slope index of inequality by Core Cities*
*Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, August 2020*

**Further data / links:**
- ONS Health state life expectancy at birth and at age 65 by local areas, UK: [https://www.ons.gov.uk/healthstatelifeexpectancyatbirthandatage65bylocalareasuk](https://www.ons.gov.uk/healthstatelifeexpectancyatbirthandatage65bylocalareasuk)

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