

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023/24

Children in the youth justice system

Summary points

- The rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system in Bristol in 2022 was 225.9 per 100,000 population, significantly higher than the national average (148.9 per 100,000). The gap between Bristol and England rates is significantly narrower than in 2010.

Findings

Young people in the criminal justice system are more likely to make unhealthy life style choices and are less likely to succeed in education and are more likely to have adverse health outcomes in adulthood. The Bristol Youth Justice Service is a multi-agency team who work with young offenders.

First time entrants to youth justice system

The rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system¹ in Bristol is 225.9 per 100,000 (12 months to December 2022) (Fig 1). Rates for both Bristol and England have gradually been decreasing since 2010 but for the first time in twelve years there has been a slight increase on the previous year.

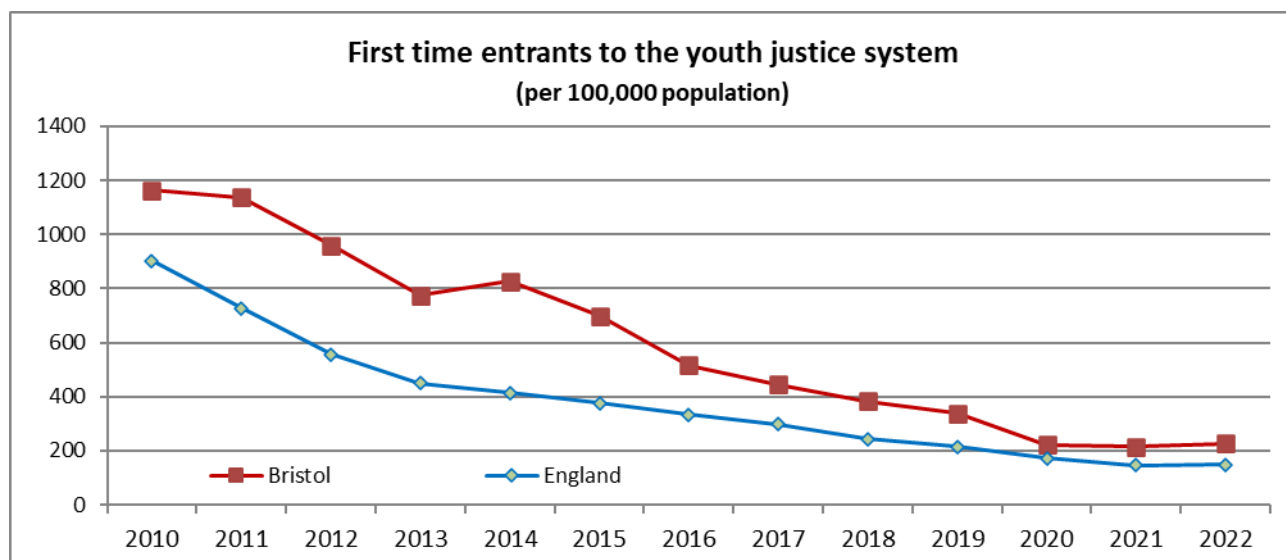


Fig 1: Rate of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System. Source: PHOF – Sep 2023

Figure 2 overleaf shows how Bristol compares to the other English core cities. Most cities show a downward trend over the past eight years although rates have increased slightly in 2021 compared to the previous year for half of the core cities. In 2015 Bristol had the second highest rate of first-time entrants of all core cities but by 2018 it had improved its ranking to mid-table. Bristol maintained mid table until 2022 when it is now third highest behind Nottingham and Manchester.

¹ 10-17 year olds receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction. Figures calculated by PHE's Population Health Analysis team using crime data supplied by Ministry of Justice and population data supplied by Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Over the same eight year period Bristol has successfully reduced the rate of first-time entrants by nearly 68%, the third highest improvement of all core cities. Birmingham and Newcastle have seen improvements of over 77%, higher than the England average of 60.3%.

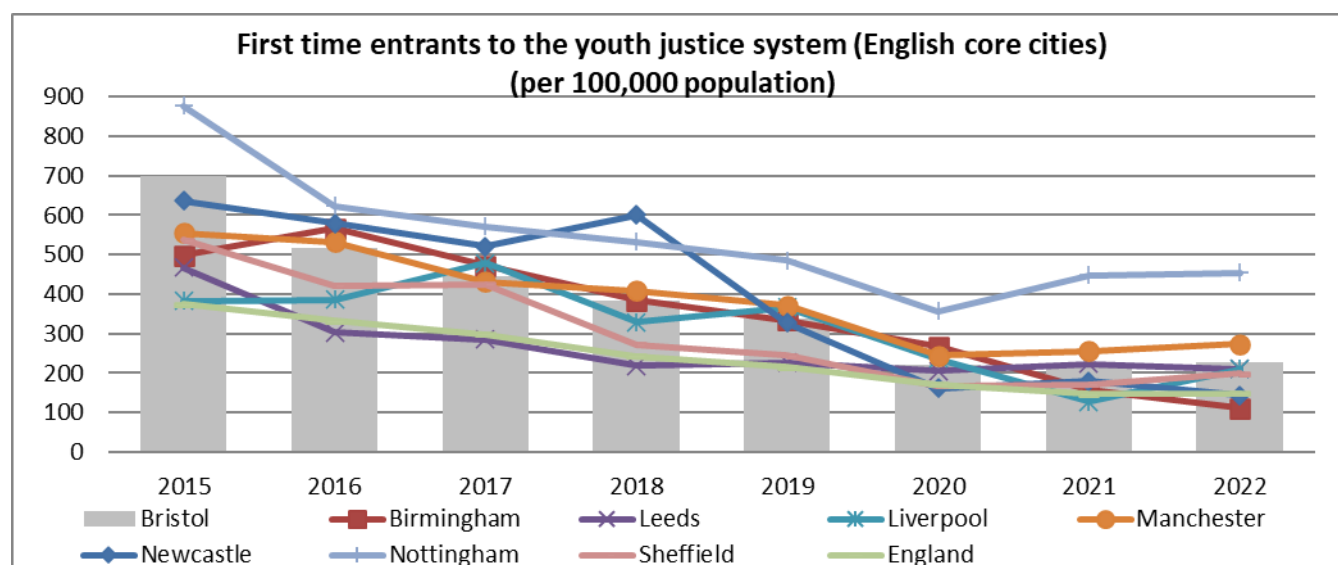


Fig 2: Rate of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System – English core cities. Source: PHOF Sep 2023

Children in the youth justice system by ward

The data is based on the child's address when they committed the crime and not the location of the crime itself.

Across all the wards, data shows that there were 556 individual children committing 1,346 offences² in Bristol during the three year period April 2020 to March 2023. Over this three year period, the number of children committing offences and the number of offences has fallen each year.

Across Bristol the rate of offenders per 1,000 of the population (aged 10-17) was 14.2, for the three year period (i.e. April 2020 to March 2023), a reduction on the previous period (16.4).

Of the thirty-four wards in Bristol, sixteen had a higher rate in offenders than the citywide figure. The wards ranged from no children committing offences in Clifton Down to 2 per 1,000 population (aged 10-17) in Redland to 39.0 in Hotwells and Harbourside (fig 3).

² Source: Police National Computer database via BCC Youth Offending Team, 2023

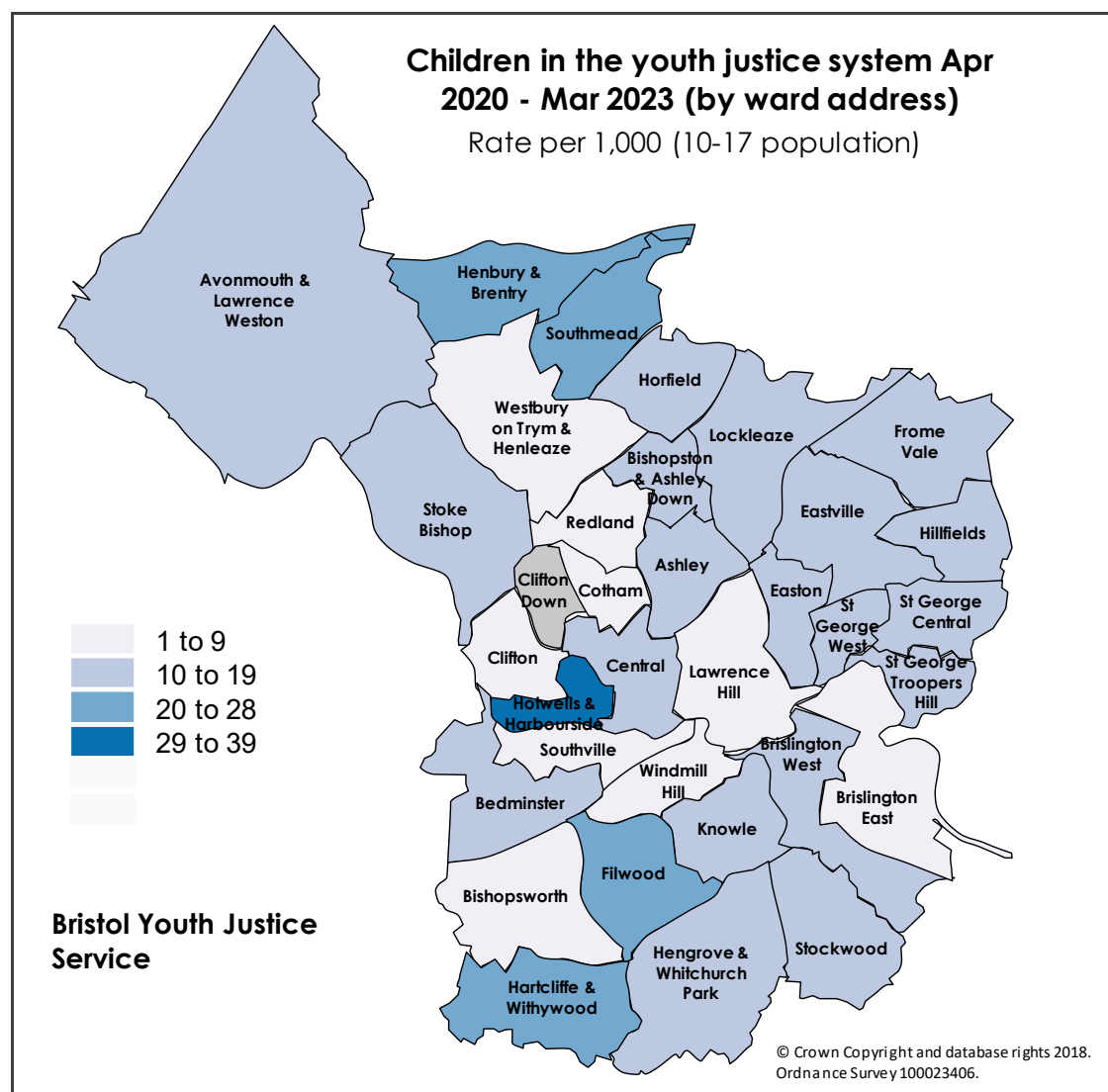


Fig 3 Rate of individual children in the youth justice system 2020-23 (Youth Justice Service)

Equalities data:

Over the period April 2020 to March 2023, 70.5% of youth offenders were of white ethnicity, 27.9% of black, asian and minority ethnicity and 1.6% were of unknown ethnicity. In terms of gender for the same 3 year period, a total of 77.5% were male and 21.9% were female. Gender was unknown / not recorded for three offenders.

Further data / links:

- Children in the Youth Justice System data – [Wider Determinants of Health Profile](#)

Covid-19 impact:

The periods of lockdown saw a reduction in offending by young people, this was countered by an immediate return to levels of offending when restrictions were reduced in communities. The courts did not suffer any significant back logs and cases were managed effectively.

Date updated: September 2023

Date of next update: September 2024