

# JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023/24

## Life expectancy

### Summary points

- Male life expectancy in Bristol is 77.7 years, below the England average (78.7yrs) (2021)
- Female life expectancy in Bristol is 82.6 years, just below the England average (82.8yrs) (2021)

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. However, the last two years (2020 and 2021)<sup>1</sup> have seen a slight decrease in life expectancy due to effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Compared to 2019 male life expectancy in Bristol is 1.1 years shorter, and female life expectancy is 0.3 years shorter.

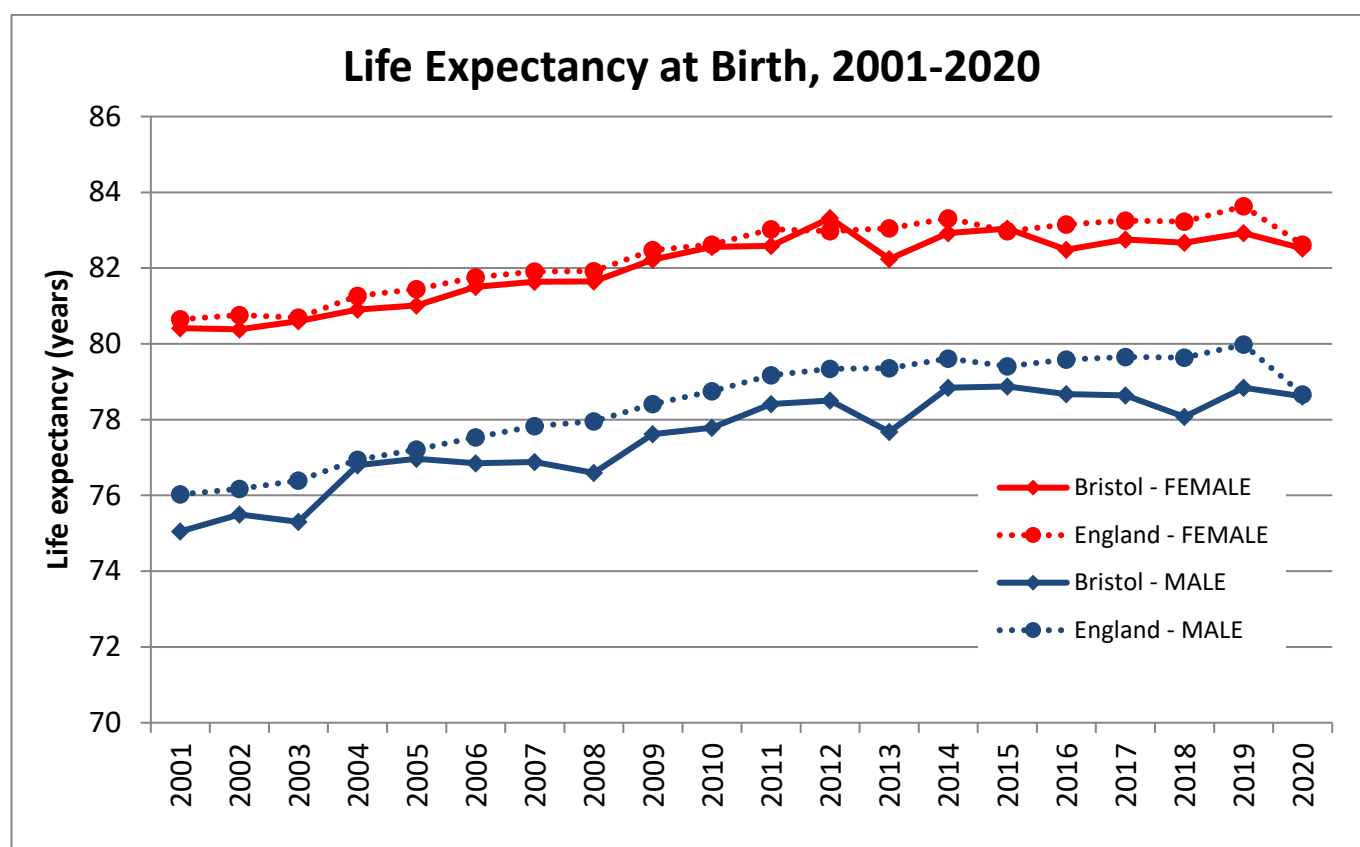


Figure 1: Life expectancy trends. Source: PHOF, April 2023

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the data for the years 2012-2020 is based on the ONS population estimates based on the 2011 Census. These data are based on unrevised population estimates and therefore should not be used to make comparisons with the 2021 life expectancy figures. The official population estimates for mid-2012 to mid-2020 will be revised, to incorporate the data now available from Census 2021. Once revised populations for mid-2012 to mid-2020 are published, the updated back series for this indicator will be published and this section will be updated.

## Findings

Life expectancy for males in Bristol (77.7 years) is just below the England average of 78.7 years. Female life expectancy in Bristol (82.6 years) is also slightly lower than the England average (82.8 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, males in Bristol will live a further 17.6 years on average, just below the England average of 18.4 years. Females in Bristol will live a further 20.5 years on average, also below the England average of 21.

### Life Expectancy within Bristol<sup>2</sup>

At a locality level (Figure 2) life expectancy in Bristol varies significantly. Bristol North & West has the highest life expectancy in Bristol for both males (79.3 years) and females (83.7 years) both being better than Bristol as a whole. Inner City and East and Bristol South localities have lower than average female life expectancy (82.0 years).

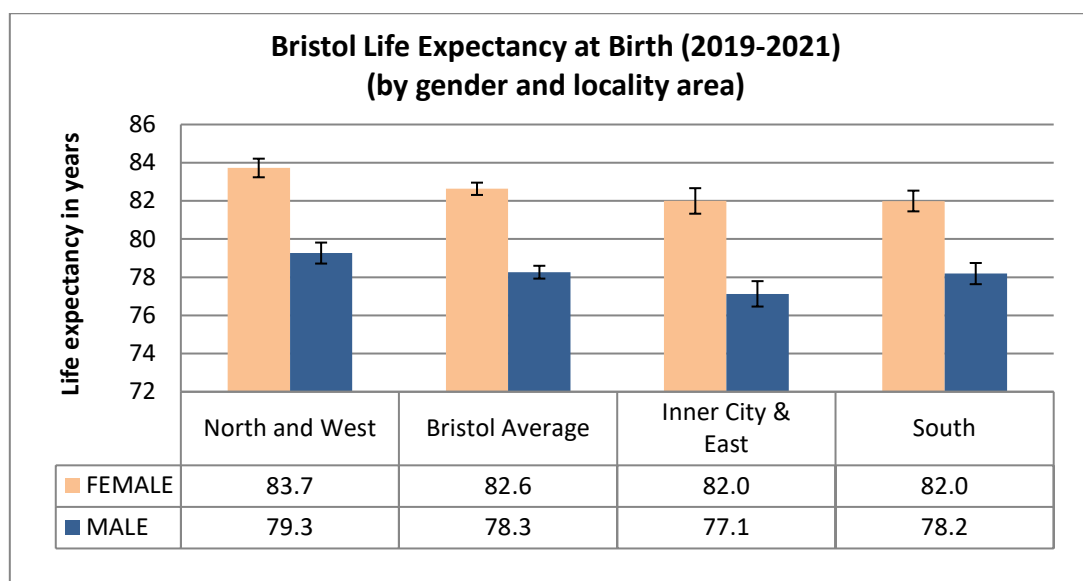


Figure 2: Life expectancy by locality, 2019-2021  
Source: Primary Care Mortality Database via NHS England (April 2023)

Bristol's worst male life expectancy is in Inner City and East (77.1 years). Male life expectancy in Inner City and East 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 that locality.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that the data for the years 2019-2020 is based on the ONS population estimates based on the 2011 Census. Once revised populations for mid-2012 to mid-2020 are published, the updated back series for this indicator will be published.

There are large differences in life expectancy between the wards of Bristol. The highest life expectancy occurs in Cotham for females: 88.3 years and for males: 83.2 years. St George West (73.5 years) has the lowest life expectancy in Bristol for males and Hartcliffe & Withywood (78.4 years) is lowest for females.

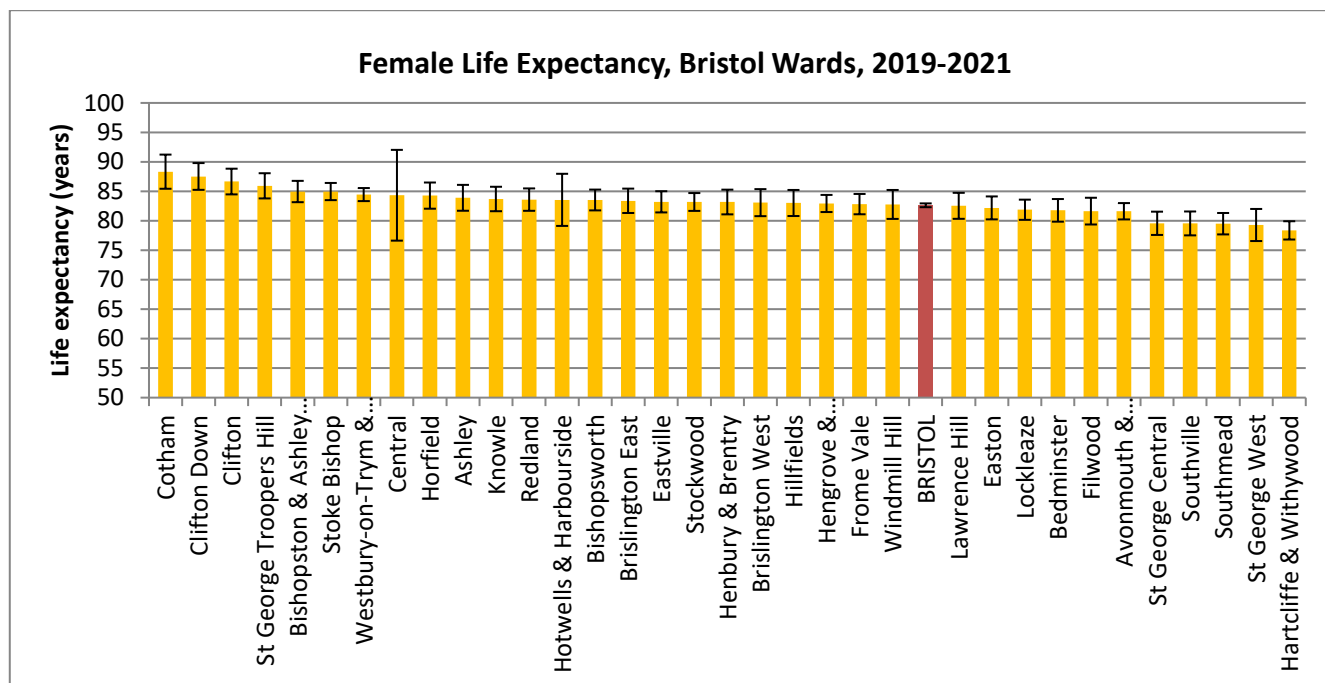


Figure 3: Female life expectancy by ward, 2019 – 2021  
Source: Primary Care Mortality Database via NHS England (April 2023)

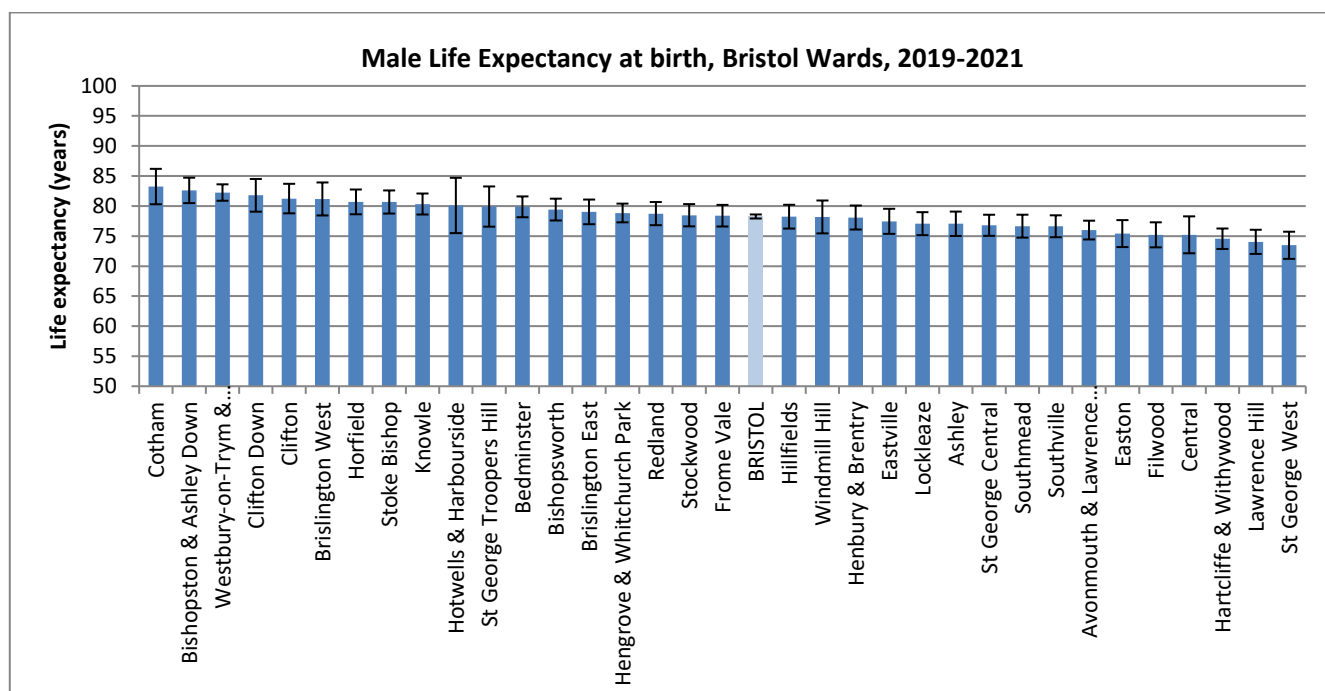
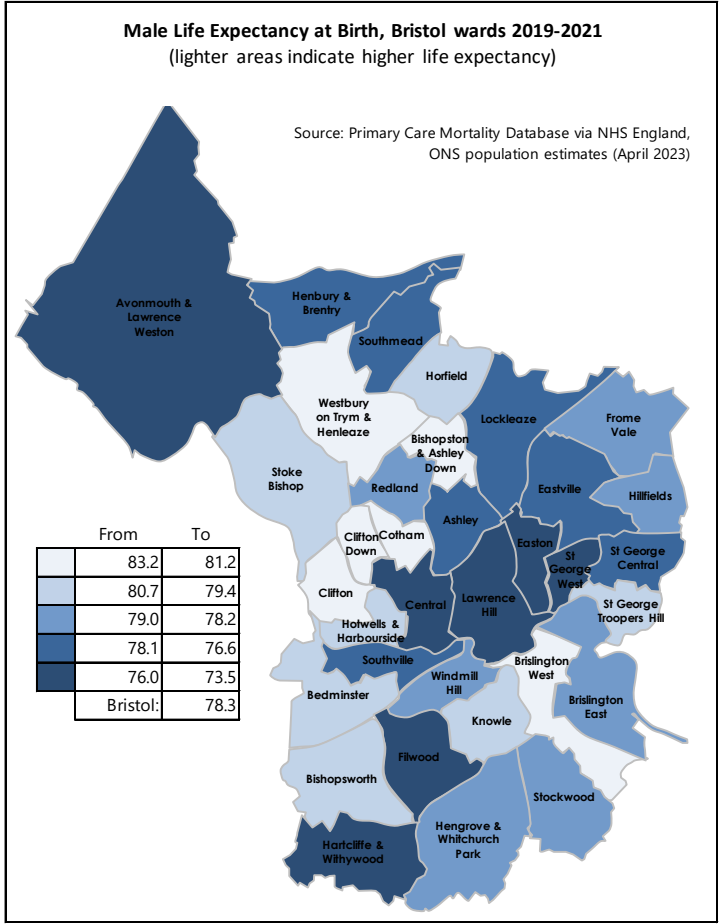
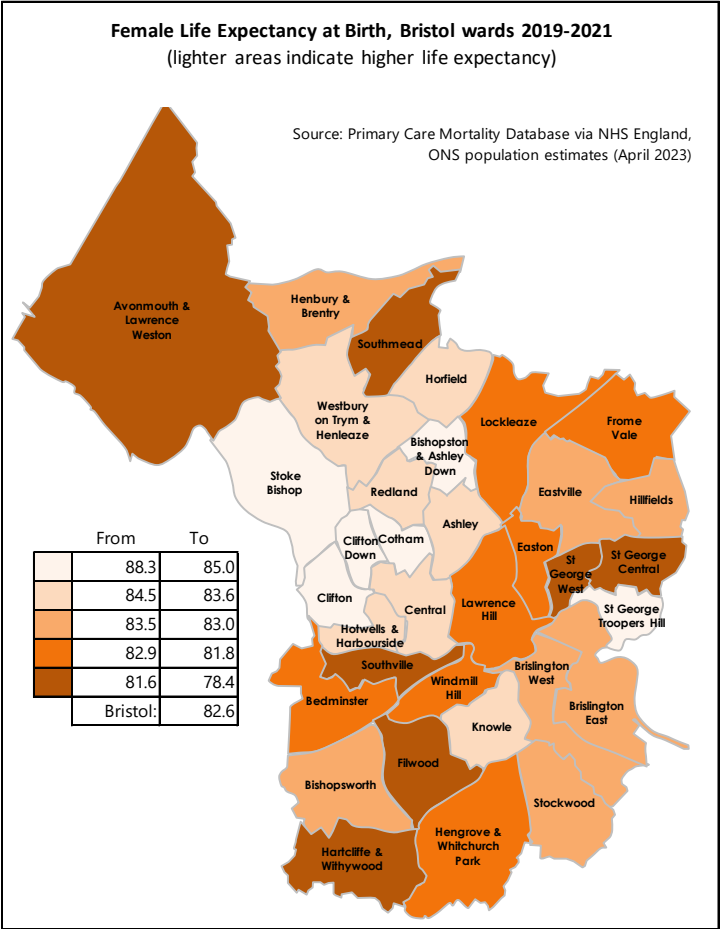


Figure 4: Male life expectancy by ward, 2019 – 2021  
Source: Primary Care Mortality Database via NHS England (April 2023)



Compared to other English Core Cities, Bristol's life expectancy at birth for males (Figure 5) is second highest, just behind Sheffield and significantly higher than Birmingham, Liverpool, Nottingham and Manchester. For females Bristol's life expectancy at birth is the highest and again significantly higher than Birmingham, Liverpool, Nottingham and Manchester (Figure 6).

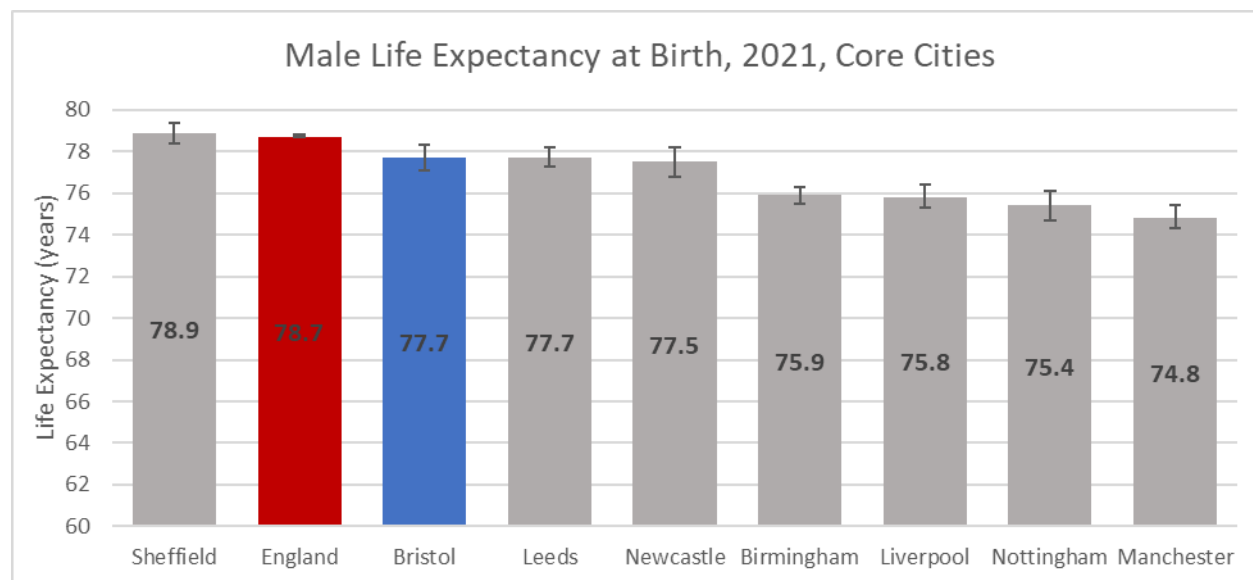


Figure 5: Male life expectancy at birth by Core Cities  
Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, July 2023

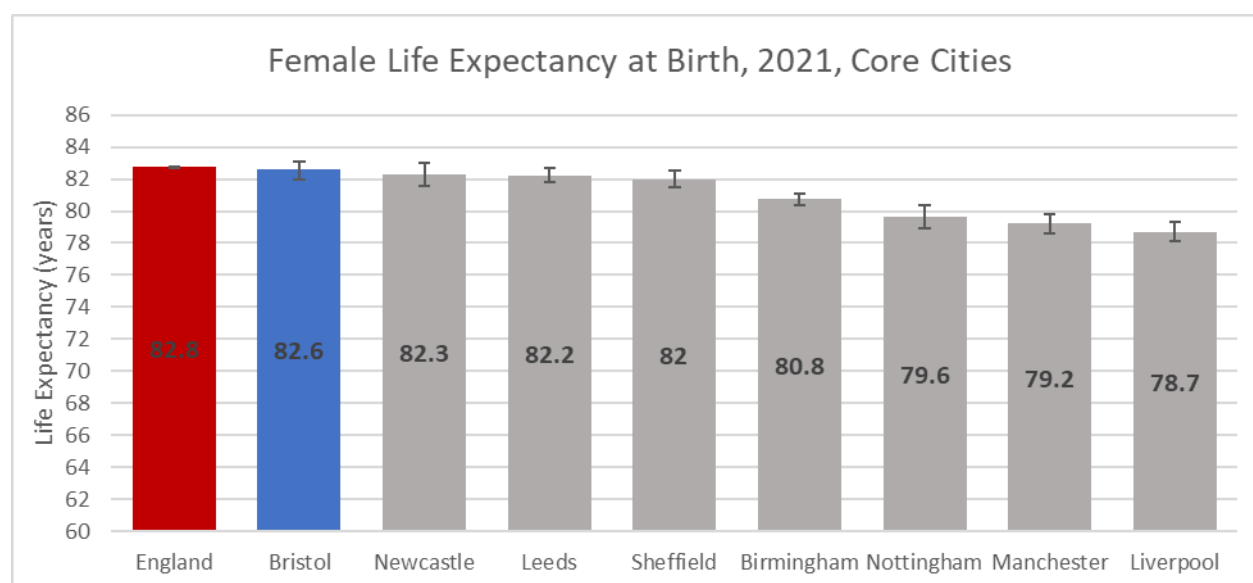


Figure 6: Female life expectancy at birth by Core Cities  
Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, July 2023

## 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.<sup>3</sup>

The gap in life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived groups is currently 9.9 years for males (Figure 7) and 6.9 years for females (Figure 8). This gap has not shown any clear signs of reducing over recent years. For males the gap has slightly increased in 2018-20<sup>4</sup> (the increase is not statistically significant).



Figure 7: Male slope index of inequality  
Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, April 2023

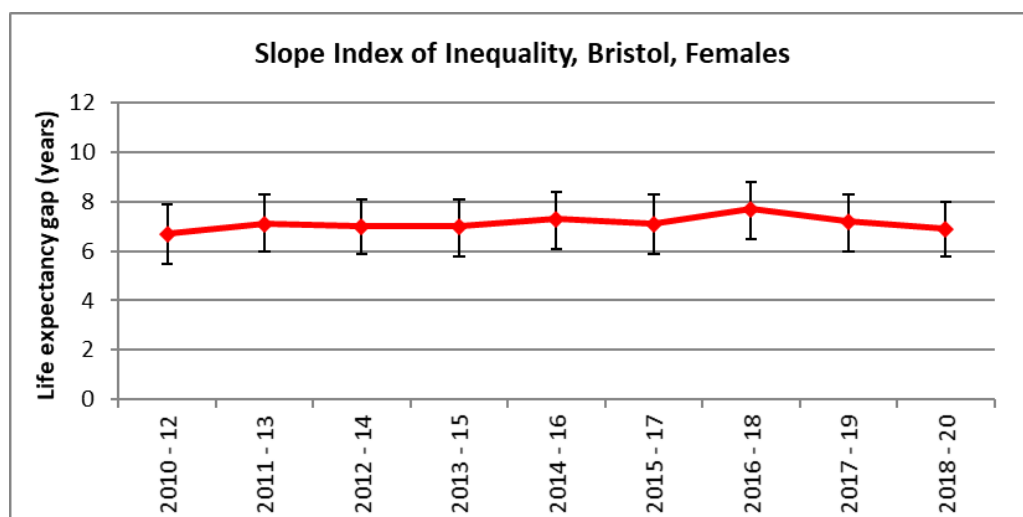


Figure 8: Female slope index of inequality  
Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, April 2023

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> The latest available data

Compared to other English Core Cities, Bristol's slope index of inequality for males (Figure 9) is mid-ranking and significantly lower than Newcastle. For females Bristol's slope index of inequality is the second lowest (Figure 10).

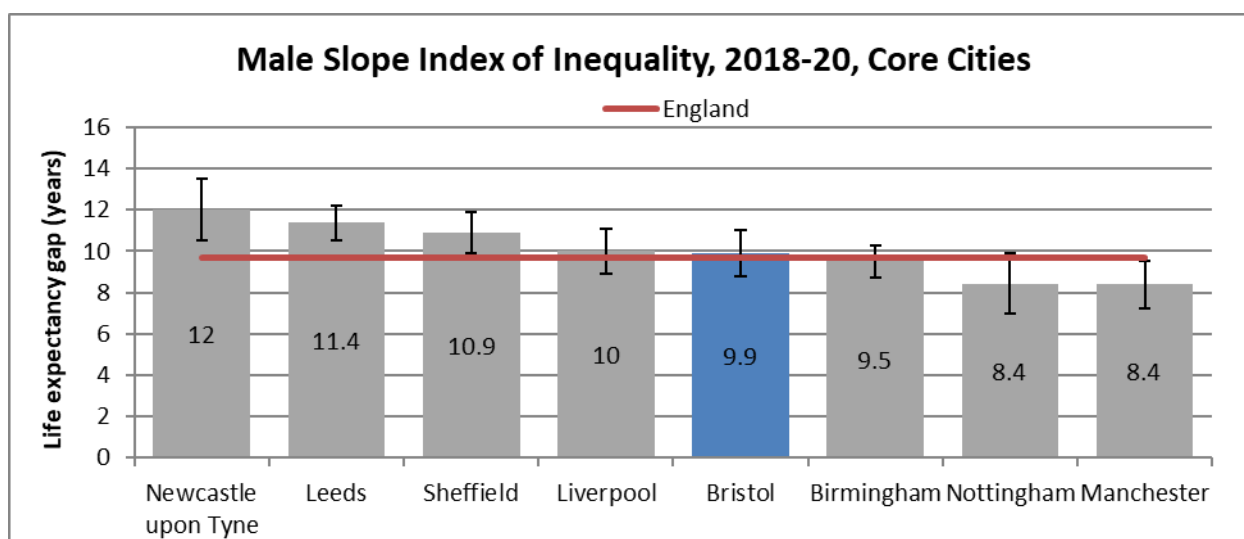


Figure 9: Male slope index of inequality by Core Cities  
Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, April 2023

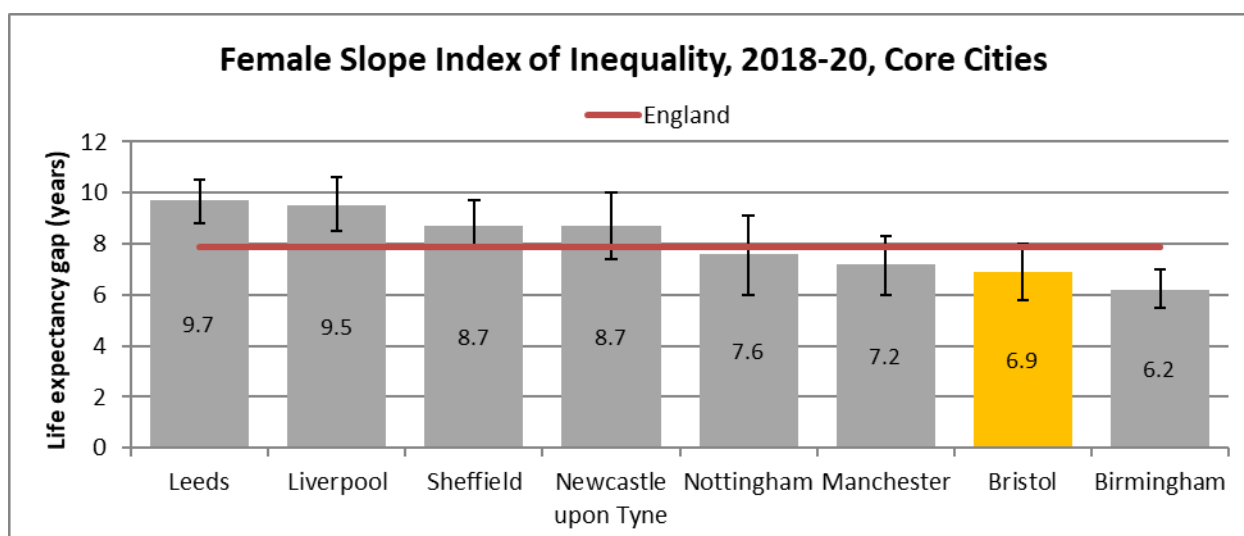


Figure 10: Female slope index of inequality by Core Cities  
Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, April 2023

#### Further data / links / consultations:

- Public Health Outcomes Framework: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework>
- ONS Health state life expectancy at birth and at age 65 by local areas, UK: [Health state life expectancy, all ages, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/health/lifeexpectancy/articles/healthstatelifeexpectancyallagesuk/2019)
- Office for National Statistics (ONS): [Life expectancy for local areas of the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/health/lifeexpectancy/articles/lifeexpectancyforlocalareasoftheuk/2019)

**Covid-19 impact:**

- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has been able to measure the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on regional trends in life expectancy by including 2020 death registrations involving coronavirus (COVID-19).
- These findings include the South West, but are not available at a Bristol level.
- Inclusion of 2020 mortality data caused significant reductions in male life expectancy in 2018 to 2020 compared with 2015 to 2017 in most English regions. The South West observed a small increase, although this was not significant.
- For females, life expectancy significantly increased in the South West (17.7 weeks) in the period 2018 to 2020.
- The continued improvement in life expectancy observed in the South West coincides with lower excess deaths and lower mortality involving COVID-19, compared with other regions of England.

**Date updated:** July 2023**Date of next update:** April 2024