Child Poverty

Summary points

- 15,300 children under 16 (17.8%) live in relative low-income families in Bristol (2020/21), however Bristol remains lower than the figure nationally (18.7%)
- 11,900 children under 16 (13.9%) live in absolute low-income families in Bristol (2020/21); nationally the figure is 15.1% (absolute is compared against 2010/11 income)
- Parts of Central and South Bristol have more than a quarter of children 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 families¹ is a good indicator of the proportion of families living in relative poverty.

This is the third 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

The data for 2020/21 (released March 2022) states there are 15,300 children under 16 living in relative low-income families in Bristol, which is 17.8% of all children, lower than the UK average of 18.7% (figure 1). This figure is lower than the previous year (18.5%) but higher than 2018/19 (17.6%). Bristol also has the lowest rate of children in low-income families of all the Core Cities.

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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, Great Britain: 2014/15 to 2020/21

Local analysis

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

There are four wards where more than 1 in 4 children live in relative low income households. These are Lawrence Hill (40.2%), Central (27.6%), Hartcliffe and Withywood (25.7%), and Filwood (25.3%). In contrast, just 2.6% of children in Redland ward live in low income households.

At LSOA level, the numbers of children (0-19yrs) living in low income families range from as high as 458 in St Philips and 451 in Easton Road to less than 5 in Oakfield Grove, Alma Road, Clifton Central, University and Lower Clifton Hill. Additional areas of the city where more than 250 children live in low income households include St Pauls Grosvenor Road, Barton Hill, St Judes and Cabot Circus. It is currently not possible to calculate rates by LSOA as the population estimates do not identify the number of 16 to 19 year olds defined as child dependents.
Analysed by locality area of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), there are significantly higher levels of children living in relative low-income families in Inner City & East Bristol (24.4%) than the city average of 17.8%, whereas North and West at 12.8% is significantly lower (fig 3).

![Figure 3: Children (under 16) living in relative low-income families 2020/21 by CCG locality. Source: DWP](image)

**Equalities data:**

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

**Further data / links / consultations:**

- Ward Level data available for both Relative and Absolute low income in [Ward profile data - bristol.gov.uk](https://bristol.gov.uk) or directly through the [Ward Profiles data tool](https://bristol.gov.uk) (select the “Child Poverty” Topic).

**Covid-19 impact:**

Data collection for FYE 2021 was affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Figures for FYE 2021 are subject to additional uncertainty and may not be strictly comparable with previous years.

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