

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023/24

Child Poverty

Summary points

- 17,950 children under 16 (21.8%) live in *relative* low-income families in Bristol (2021/22), higher than the UK average of 20.1%
- 14,140 children under 16 (17.1%) live in *absolute* low-income families in Bristol (2021/22); nationally the figure is 15.3% (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 families**¹ is a good indicator of the proportion of families living in relative poverty.

This is the fourth 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 2021/22 (released March 2023) states there are 17,950 children under 16 living in relative low-income families in Bristol, which is 21.8% of all children, higher than the UK average of 20.1% (figure 1). This figure places Bristol as the second 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 overleaf.

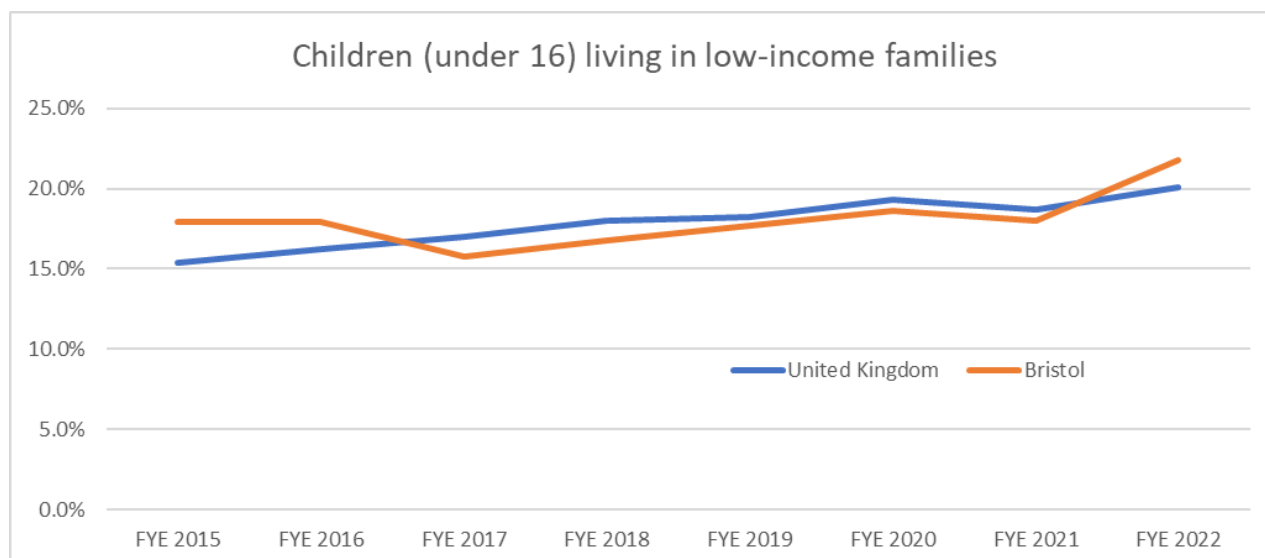


Figure 1: Children (under 16) living in relative low-income families, 2014/15 to 2021/22. Source: DWP Stat-Xplore, Nomis, National Records of Scotland

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 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2022)

Impact of updated mid year population estimates: Historic data preceding the financial year 2021/22 (Fig 1) should be treated with caution and is subject to change. The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) have advised that ONS have released 2021 mid year population estimates, based on the results of the 2021 Census. They are not comparable with estimates for previous years. Rebased estimates for 2012 to 2020 will be published in due course.

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.

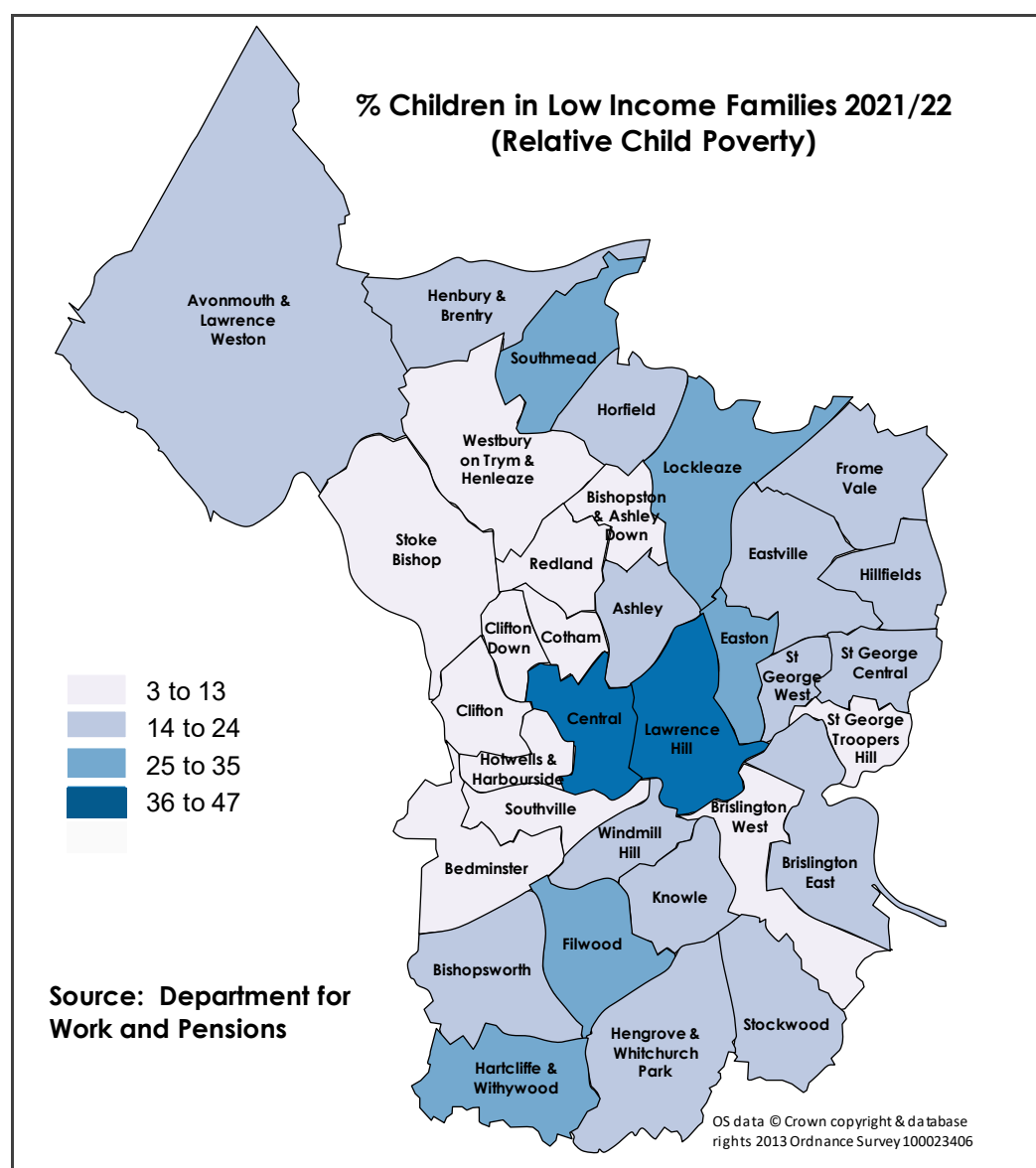


Figure 2: Children (under 16) living in relative low-income families 2021/22 by Ward. Source: DWP

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.

There are three wards where more than 1 in 3 children live in relative low income households. These are Lawrence Hill (46.6%), Central (39.8%) and Hartcliffe and Withywood (34.1%). There are a further four wards where more than 1 in 4 children live in relative low income households including Filwood, Southmead, Lockleaze and Easton. In contrast, just 3% of children in Westbury-on-Trym ward live in low income households.

At LSOA level, the numbers of children (0-15yrs) living in low income families range from as high as 487 in St Philips and 436 in Easton Road to less than 5 in Oakfield Grove, University Halls, Clifton Down and Rockleaze. Additional areas of the city where more than 250 children live in low income households include Illminster Avenue West, Bishport Avenue, St Judes and Cabot Circus.

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 (36%) compared to the city average, and significantly lower levels in the North and West (Inner) sub-locality (5.5%) (Figure 3).

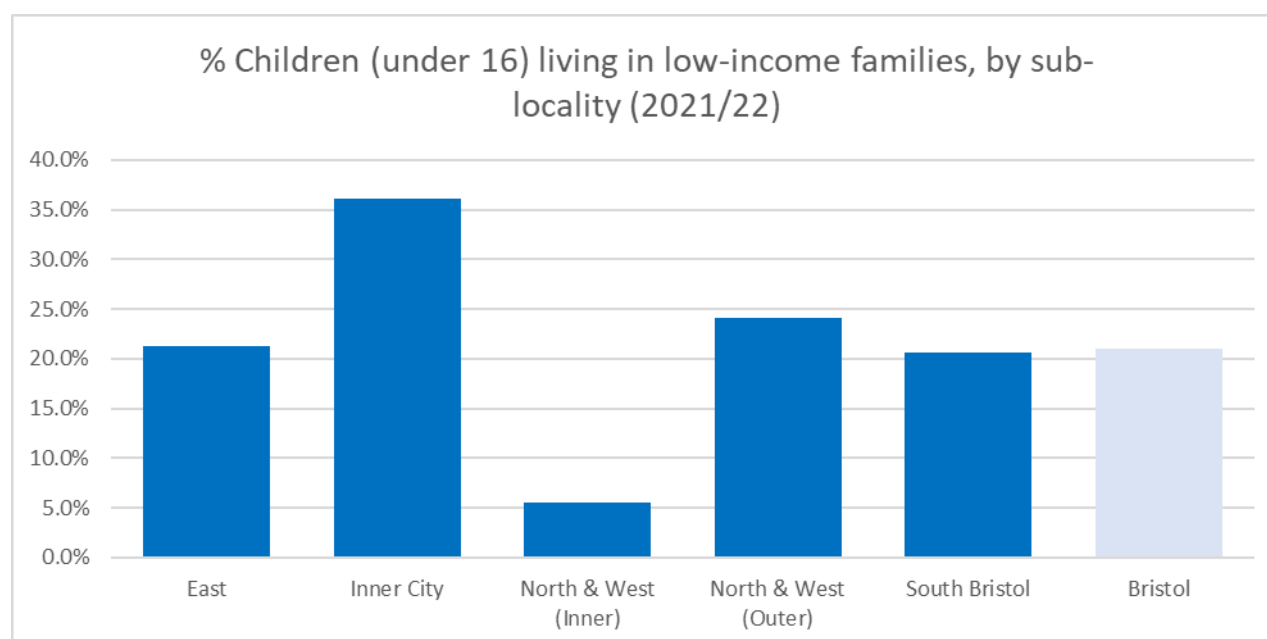


Figure 3: Children (under 16) living in relative low-income families 2021/22 by ICB locality. Source: DWP

Equalities data:

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

Further data / links / consultations:

- Data: [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/statistics/children-in-low-income-families)
- Ward Level data available for both Relative and Absolute low income in [Ward profile data - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/ward-profile-data) or directly through the [Ward Profiles data tool](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/ward-profiles-data-tool) (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

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