

# JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025/26

## Child Poverty

### Summary points

- 18,844 children under 16 (23.0%) live in *relative* low-income families in Bristol (2023/24), higher than the UK average of 21.8%.
- 16,197 children under 16 (19.8%) live in *absolute* low-income families in Bristol (2023/24); nationally the figure is 18.7% (absolute is compared against 2010/11 income).
- More than half (54.2%) of children living in Lawrence Hill ward and nearly half (47.8%) of children living in Central ward live in low income families.
- Over a third of children living in the wards of Hartcliffe & Withywood and Filwood live in relative low-income families and one in four children living in seven additional wards live 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**<sup>1</sup> is a good indicator of the proportion of families living in relative poverty.

This is the fifth year of this new version of the indicator<sup>2</sup>, 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 – data available in [Ward Profiles data tool](#)

### National data

Provisional data for 2023/24 (released March 2025) states there are 18,844 children under 16 living in relative low-income families in Bristol, which is 23% of all children, higher than the UK average of 21.8% (figure 1). This figure places Bristol as having the lowest rate of children in low-income families of all the English Core Cities.

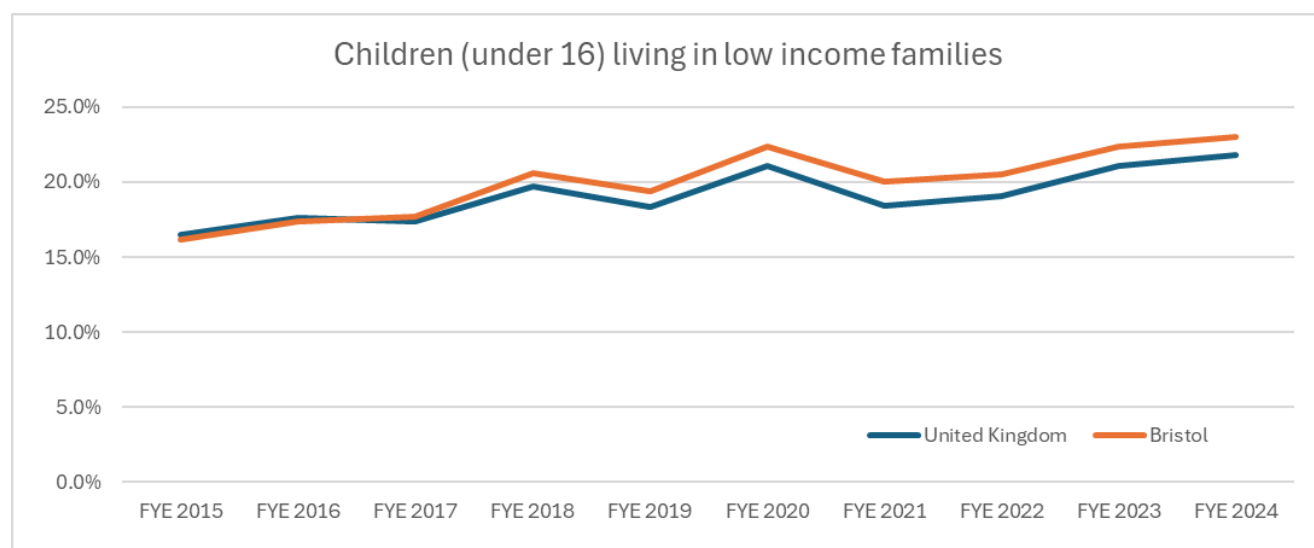


Figure 1: Children (under 16) living in relative low-income families, 2014/15 to 2023/24. Source: DWP Stat-Xplore, Nomis, National Records of Scotland

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Source: [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Local analysis

Children living in relative low income families is available by ward<sup>3</sup> and 2011 Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). Fig 2 highlights the inequalities across the city at ward level for children aged 0-15.

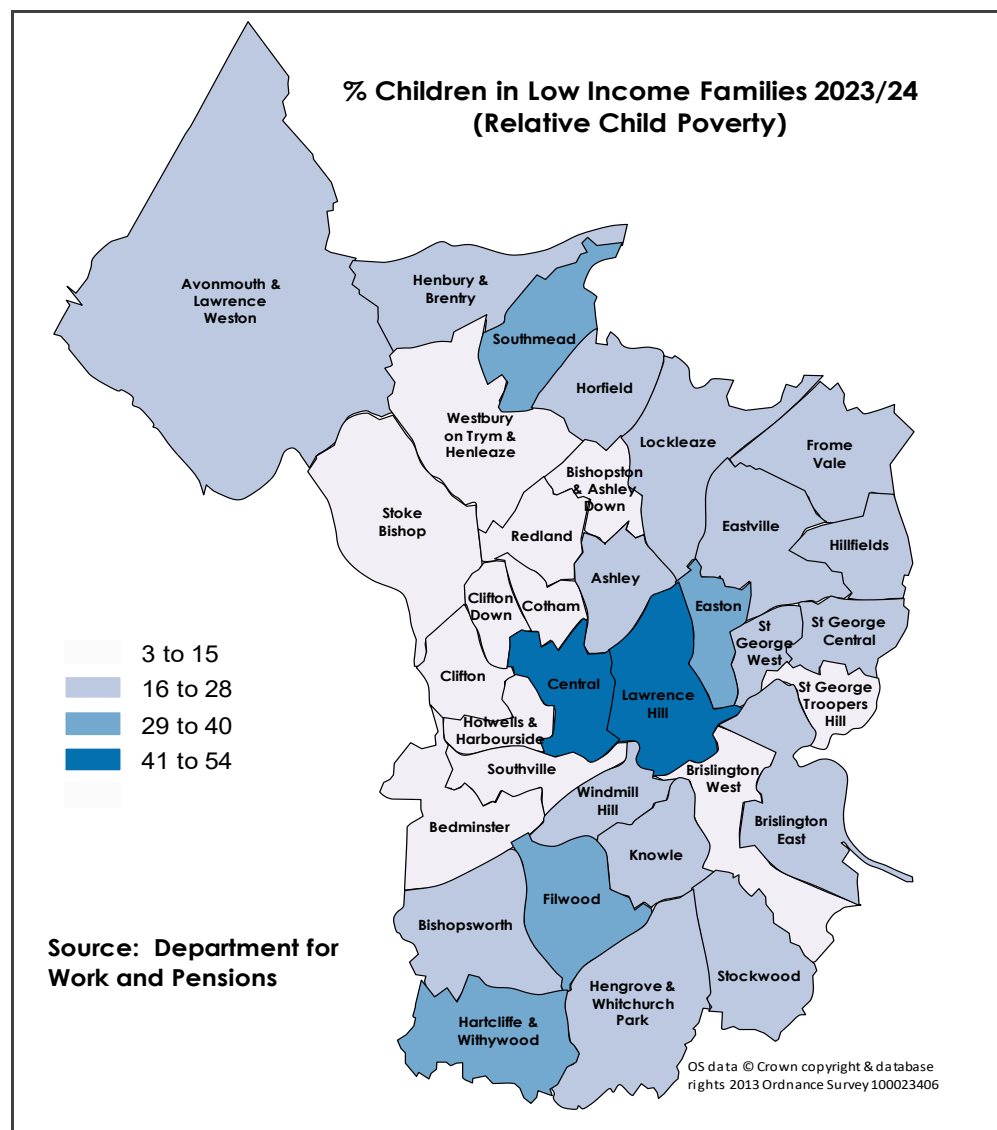


Figure 2: Children (under 16) living in relative low-income families 2023/24 by Ward. Source: DWP

There are four wards where more than 1 in 3 children live in relative low income households. These are Lawrence Hill (54.2%), Central (47.8%), Hartcliffe and Withywood (39.3%) and Filwood (36.9%). There are a further seven wards where more than 1 in 4 children live in relative low-income households including Southmead, Easton, Lockleaze, Eastville, Hillfields, Ashley and Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston. In contrast, just 3.1% of children in Redland ward and 3.4% in Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze 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 504 in St Philips and 459 in Easton Road to less than 5 in Clyde Road, Oakfield Grove, Alma Road, Clifton Down and Clifton Village. Additional areas of the city where more than 250

<sup>3</sup> 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.

children live in low-income households include Cabot Circus, St Judes, Barton Hill and Bishport Avenue.

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 (40.8%) compared to the city average, and significantly lower levels in the North and West (Inner) sub-locality (6.0%) (Figure 3).

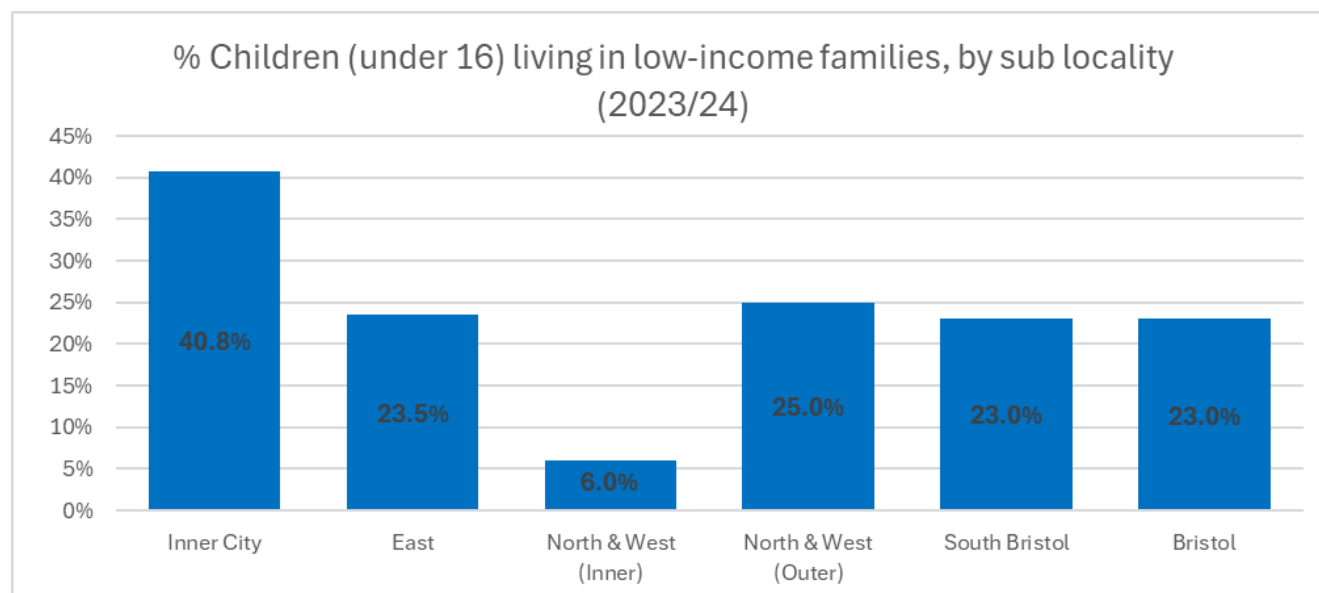


Figure 3: Children (under 16) living in relative low-income families 2023/24 by ICB locality. Source: DWP

### Equalities data:

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

### Further data / links / consultations:

- Data: [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2024)
- 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) (select the “Child Poverty” Topic).

### Covid-19 impact:

The Department for Work and Pensions notes that “While the data for FYE 2021, FYE 2022 and FYE 2023 has undergone extensive quality assurance prior to publication, we recommend that users exercise additional caution when using the data, particularly when making comparisons with previous years and for local areas across countries”.

**Date updated:** April 2025

**Date of next update:** April 2026