

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2026/27

Life expectancy

Summary points

- Male life expectancy in Bristol is 79.1 years, below the England average (80.0 yrs)
- Female life expectancy in Bristol is 83.4 years, below the England average (83.8yrs)

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, between 2020 and 2024 there was a slight decrease in life expectancy due to effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest provisional data for 2025 shows that life expectancy for males in Bristol is now the same as pre-pandemic (2019) whilst female life expectancy in Bristol is now 0.4 years longer than 2019.

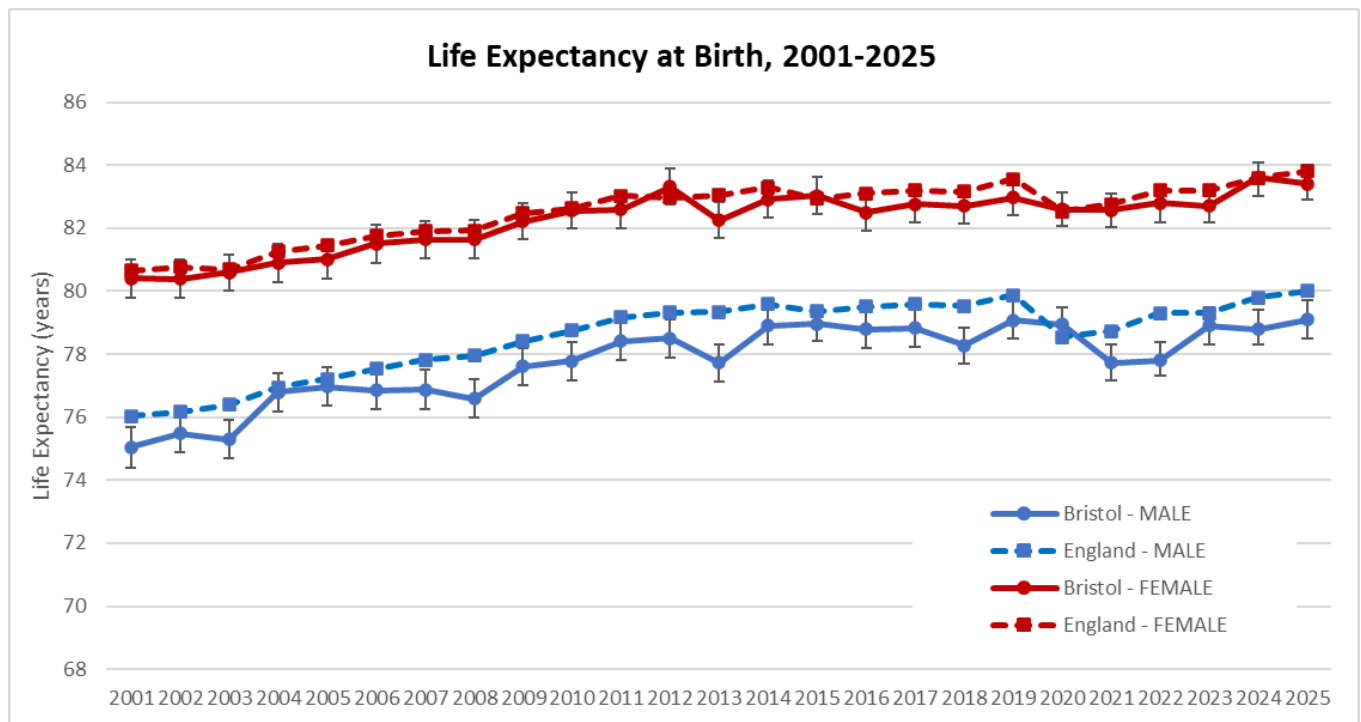


Figure 1: Life expectancy trends. Source: PHOF, May 2026

Findings

Life expectancy for males in Bristol (79.1 years) is significantly lower than the England average of 80.0 years. Female life expectancy in Bristol (83.4 years) is lower than the England average (83.8 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 18.7 years on average, significantly lower than the England average of 19.3 years. Females in Bristol will live a further 21.4 years on average, just below the England average of 21.7 years.

Life Expectancy within Bristol

At a locality level (Figure 2) life expectancy in Bristol varies. Bristol North & West has the highest life expectancy in Bristol for both males (80.3 years) and females (84.3 years). Inner City and East has significantly lower life expectancy for males (77.3 years) than the city average (79.0 years).

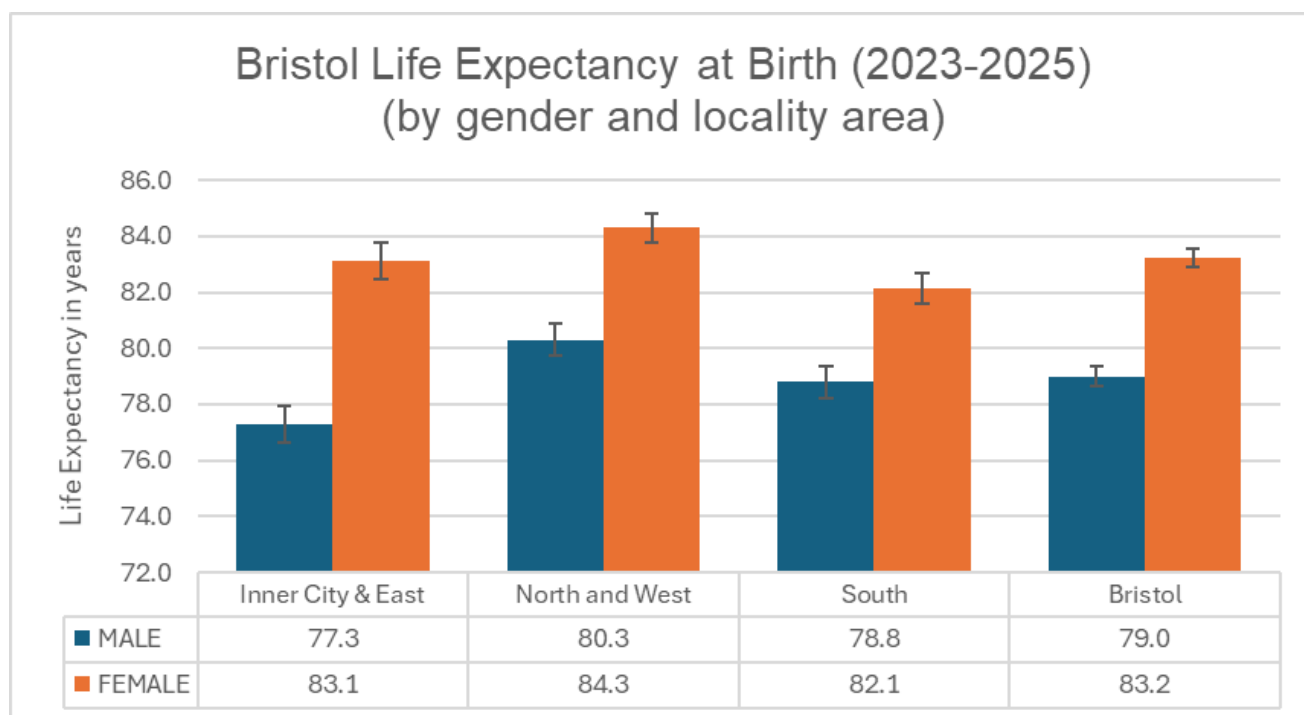


Figure 2: Life expectancy by locality, 2023-2025. Source: Primary Care Mortality Database via PHOF (May 2026)

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.

There are large differences in life expectancy between the wards of Bristol. The highest life expectancy occurs in Clifton Down for females (90.0 years) and in Clifton for males (85.4 years). Central has the lowest life expectancy in Bristol for males (72.0 years) and St George West is lowest for females (79.1 years) (Figures 3 - 6).

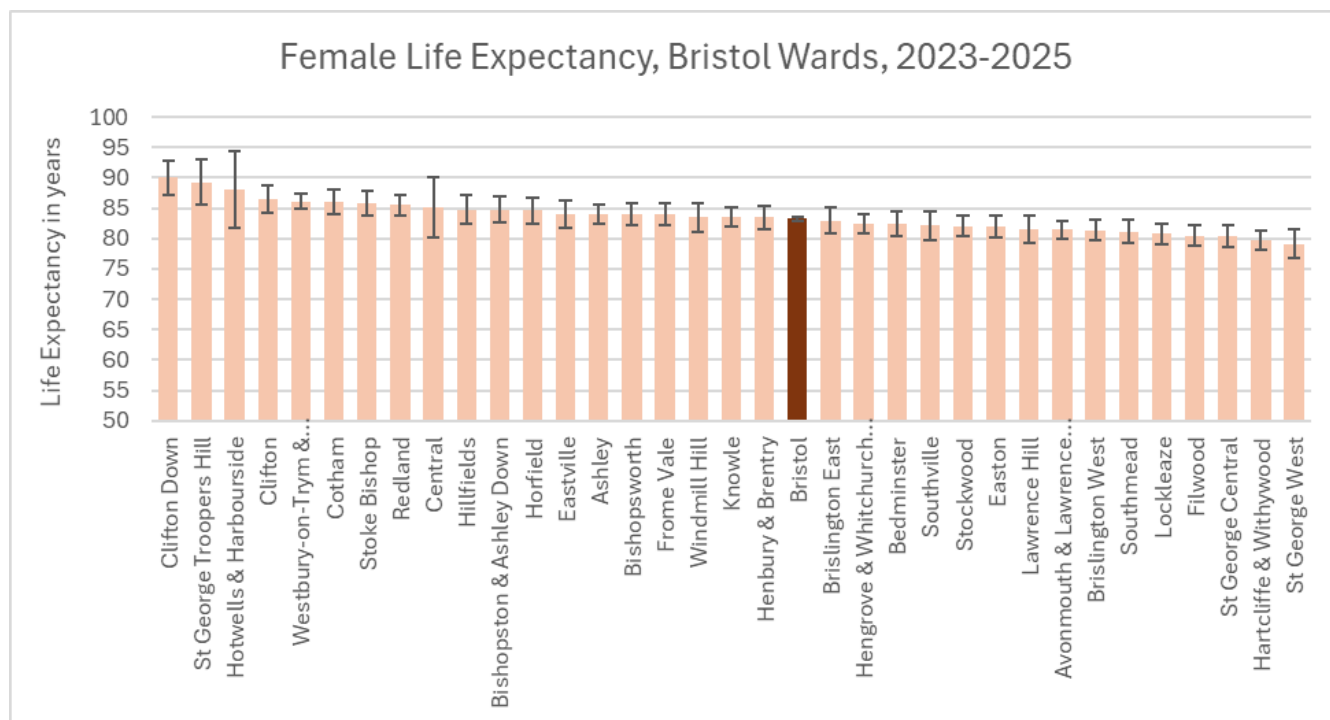


Figure 3: Female life expectancy by ward, 2023 – 2025. Source: Primary Care Mortality Database via PHOF (May 2026)

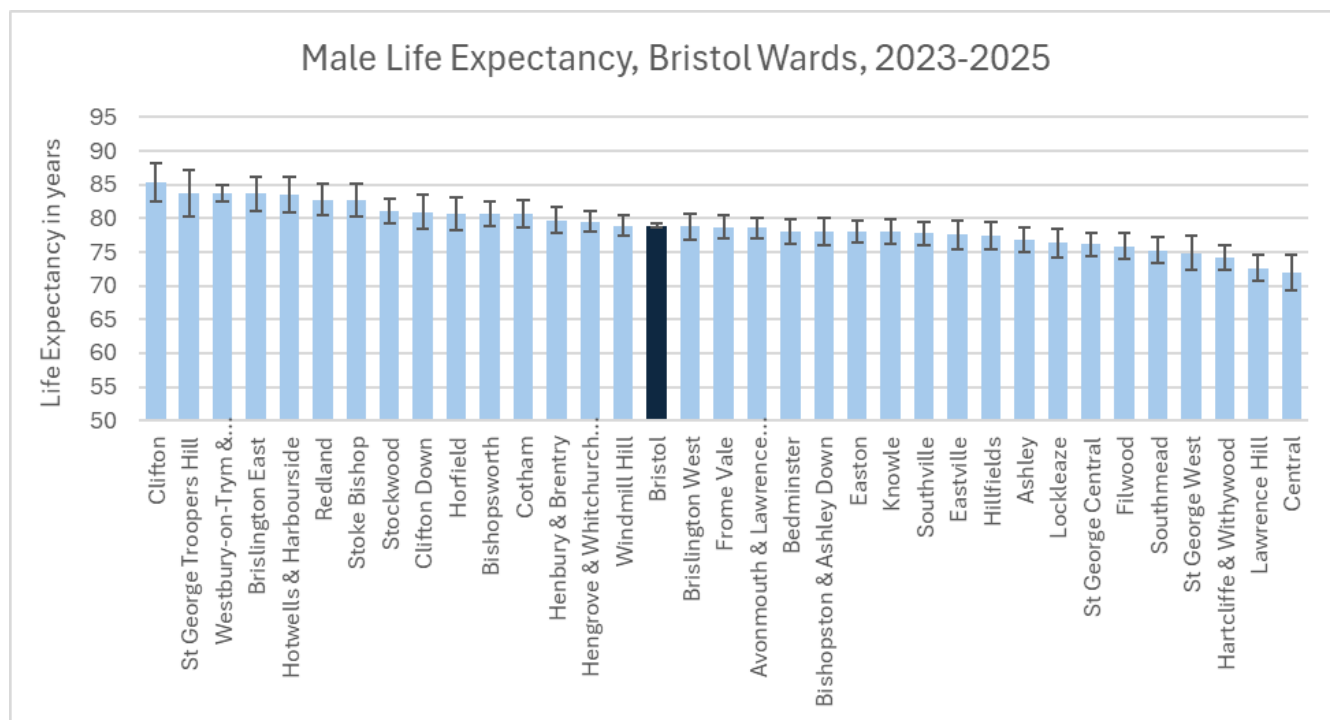


Figure 4: Male life expectancy by ward, 2023 – 2025. Source: Primary Care Mortality Database via PHOF (May 2026)

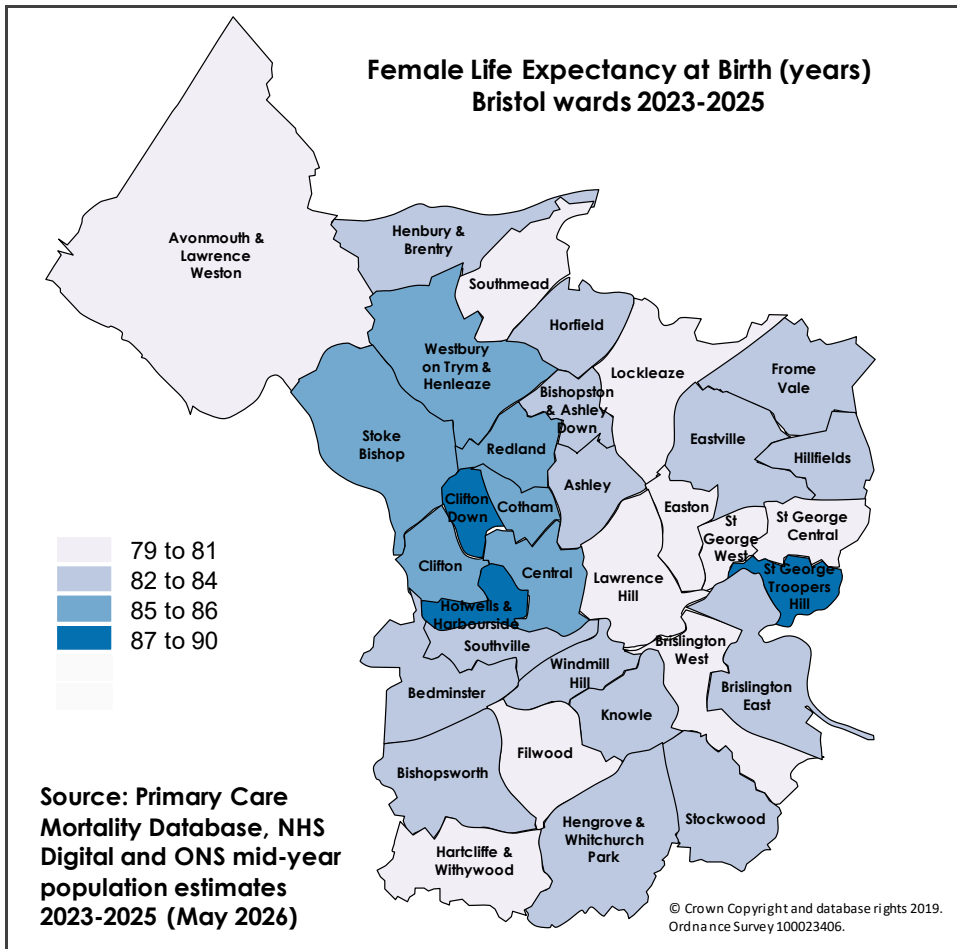


Figure 5: Female life expectancy by ward map, 2023 – 2025. Source: Primary Care Mortality Database via NHS England (May 2026)

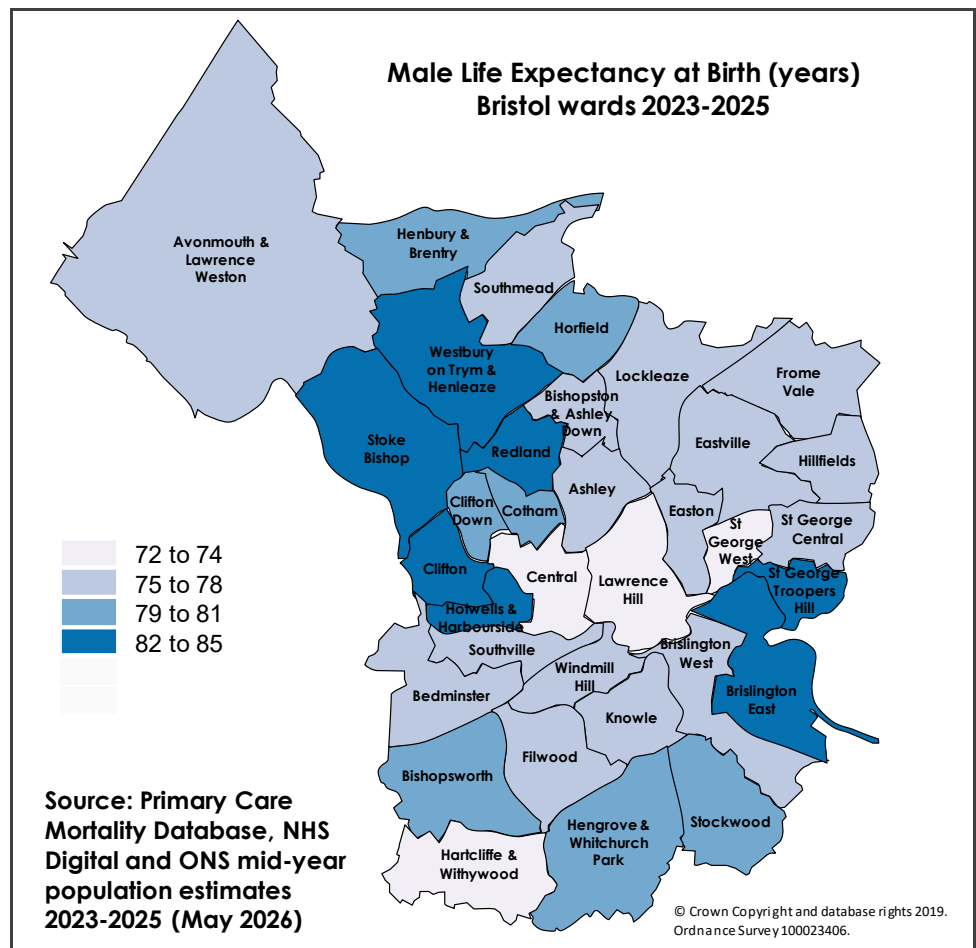


Figure 6: Male life expectancy by ward map, 2023 – 2025. Source: Primary Care Mortality Database via NHS England (May 2026)

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.¹

The gap in life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived groups is currently 10.5 years for males and 7.3 years for females (Figure 7). This gap has not shown any clear signs of reducing over recent years. The latest data for 2022-24 shows that the gap for females has increased for the second period running whilst the gap for males has reduced for the second period running.

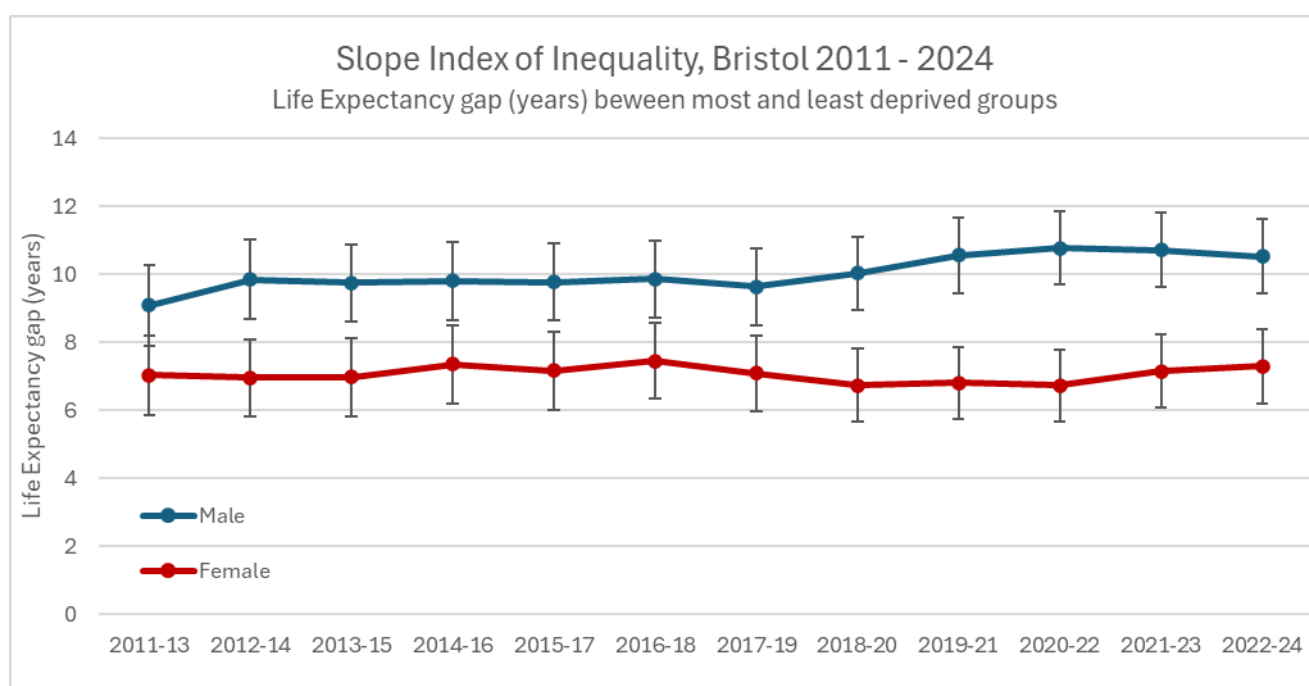


Figure 7: Male and Female slope index of inequality. Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, May 2026.

Compared to other English Core Cities, Bristol’s slope index of inequality for males (Figure 8) is mid-ranking and significantly lower than Newcastle and Leeds. For females Bristol’s slope index of inequality is the third lowest and significantly lower than Newcastle, Leeds and Sheffield (Figure 9).

¹ 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.

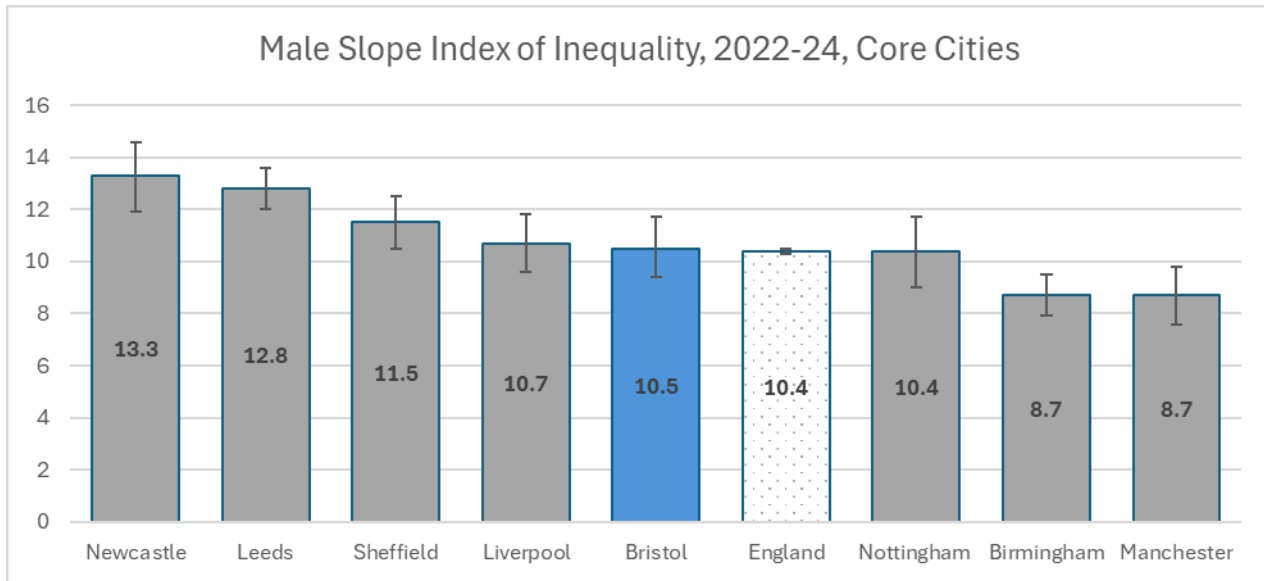


Figure 8: Male slope index of inequality by Core Cities. Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, May 2026

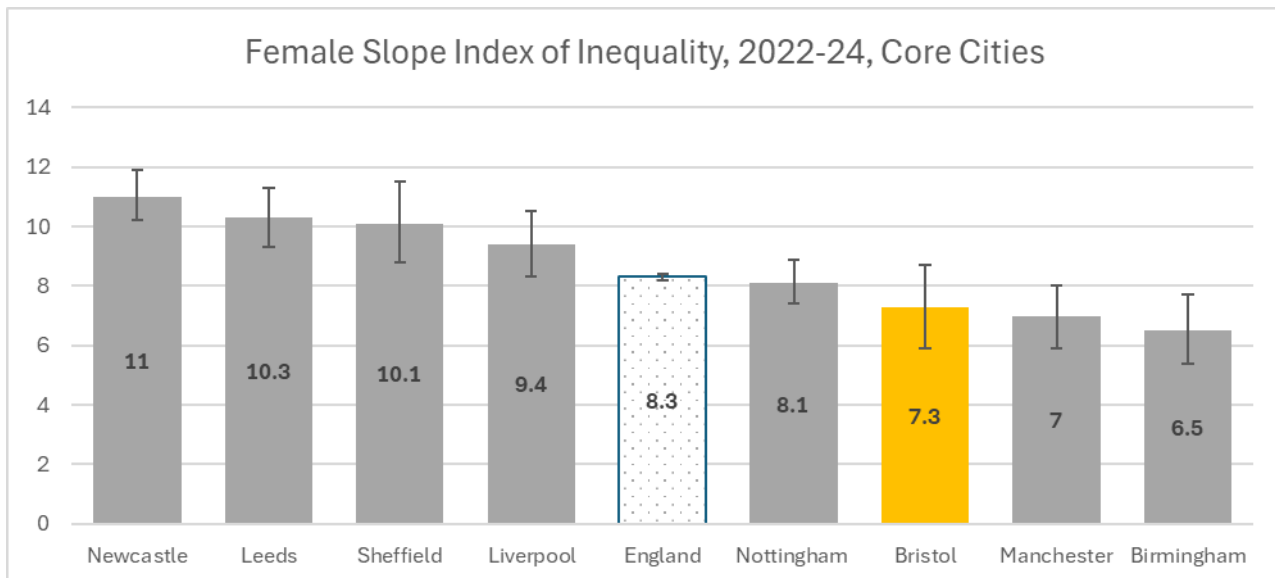


Figure 9: Female slope index of inequality by Core Cities. Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, May 2026

Further data / links / consultations:

- [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#)
- [ONS Health state life expectancy at birth and at age 65 by local areas, UK](#)
- Office for National Statistics [Life expectancy for local areas in England, Northern Ireland and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

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 2020-2022 death registrations involving coronavirus (COVID-19).

- These findings include the South West but are not available at a Bristol level.
- Inclusion of 2020-2022 mortality data caused significant reductions in male life expectancy in 2020 to 2022 compared with 2017 to 2019 in most English regions. The South West observed a small decrease.
- For females, life expectancy decreased in the South West (1.2 months) in the period 2020 to 2021. For males, the decrease was 4.8 months.

Date updated: May 2026

Date of next update: May 2027