

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2026/27

TB (Tuberculosis)

TB is a “notifiable disease”, so must be reported to government authorities. In England TB has been identified as a public health priority due to the health, social and economic burden of the disease. The rates of TB and the risks of delayed diagnosis, drug resistance, and onward transmission are greatest among socially marginalised, under-served populations such as illicit drug users and the homeless.

Summary points

- The TB incidence rate in Bristol remains higher than England’s average. In the last 3 years (2022-24) the average number of notifications in Bristol was 44 per year.
- There were 41 notified TB cases in Bristol in 2024¹. The annual rate per 100,000 population has decreased from 11.3 in 2023 to 8.3 in 2024.
- Among Core Cities, Bristol’s TB incidence rate is 5th highest, after Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham and Newcastle.
- In 2024, 71.4% of pulmonary TB cases started treatment within 4 months of symptoms onset – the same as the England average (71.4%).

Incidence

In Bristol, incidence rates of TB remain higher than the England average but no longer significantly so – see figure.1. Following a period of continuous decline in incidence between 2012-14 and 2020-22, the latest 3 year average rate of TB in Bristol (2022-24) was 9.0 notified cases per 100,000 population, a slight increase on the 2021-23 period (8.5 per 100,000).

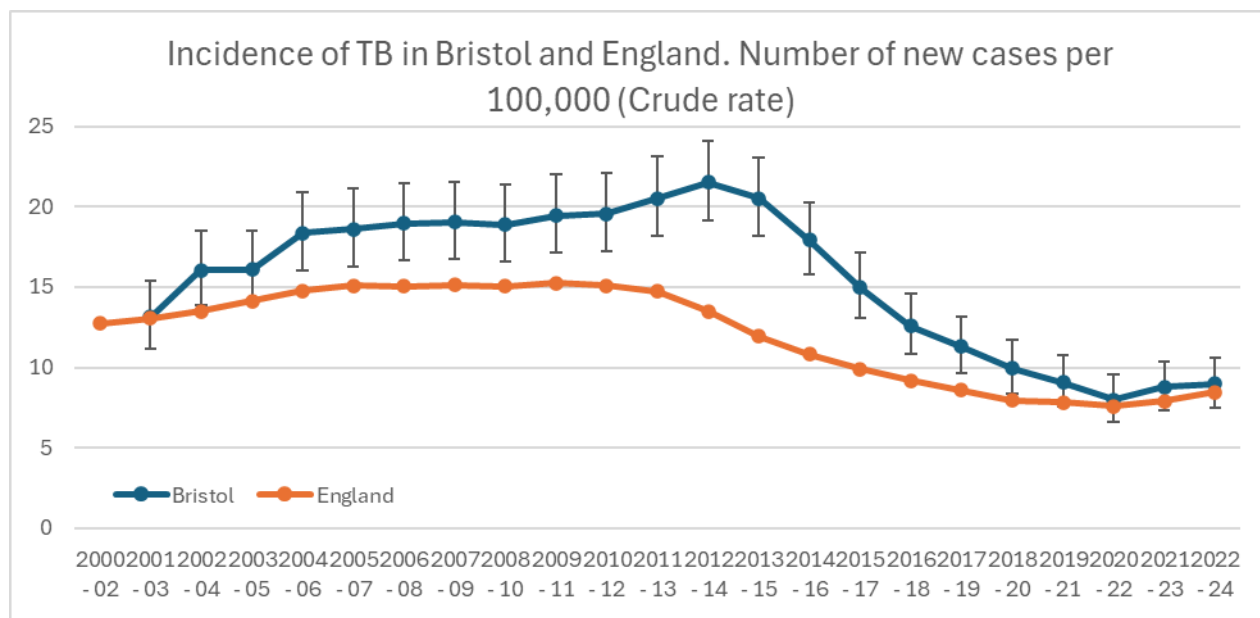


Fig 1: TB incidence rates, 2001/03-2022/24; Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework April 2026

Despite the improvement over the last ten years the 2022-24 rate is still higher than the England average of 8.5 notifications per 100,000 and significantly higher than the South West regional

¹ UK Health Security Agency (2026) [South West of England: tuberculosis 2024](#)

average of 3.5 per 100,000 population. Compared to other cities, Bristol has the 5th highest of English Core Cities², and 11th highest of “nearest statistical neighbours”³- fig 2 and fig 3.

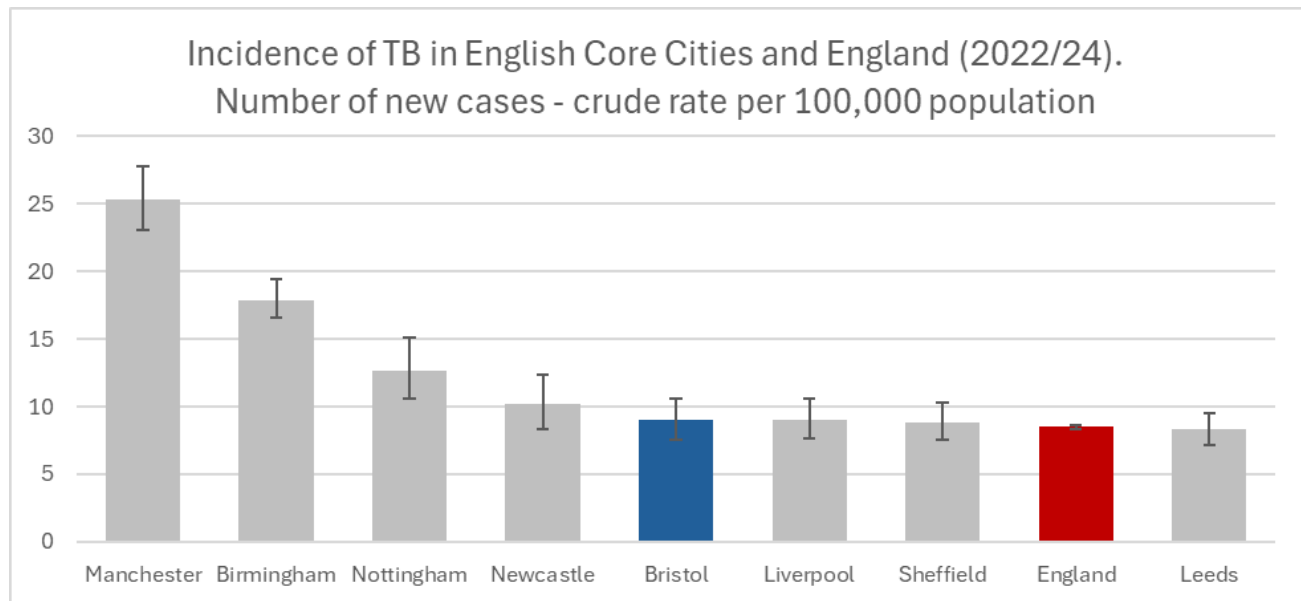


Fig 2: TB incidence rates, 2022-24 for Core Cities; Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework April 2026

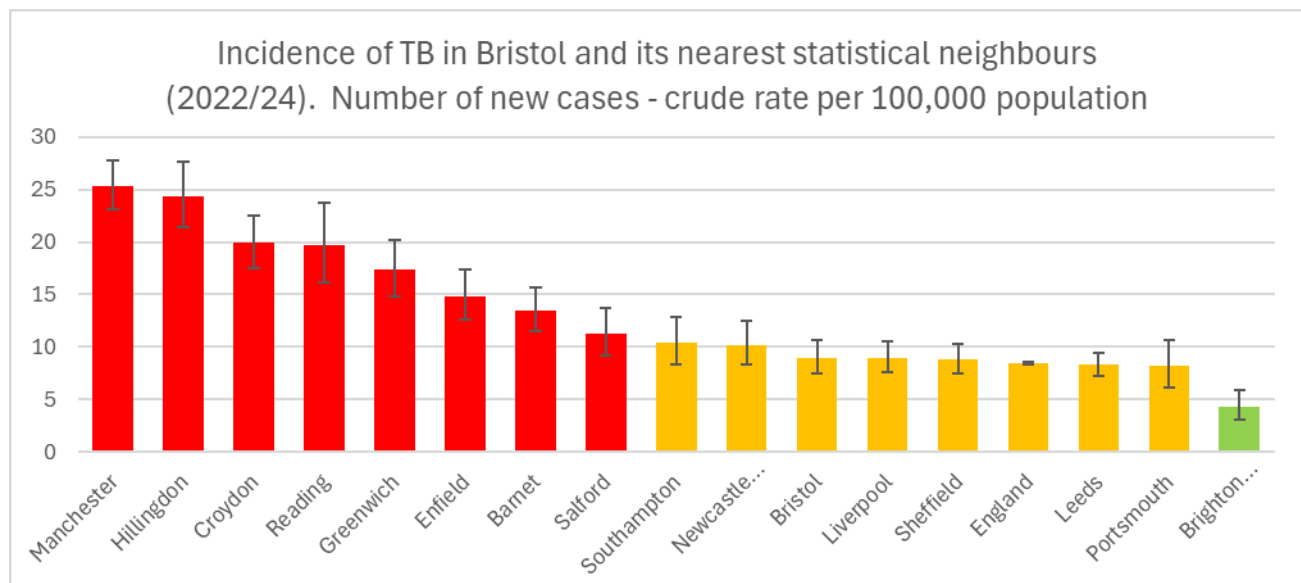


Fig 3: TB incidence rates, 2022-24 for nearest statistical neighbours; Red bars indicate rates statistically significantly higher than England average; amber bars indicate rates statistically similar and green bars – rates statistically significantly lower than England average. Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework April 2026.

² Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, Sheffield

³ Statistical neighbours provide a method for benchmarking progress. For each local authority (LA), these models designate a number of other LAs deemed to have similar characteristics. These designated LAs are known as statistical neighbours. NHS England model uses statistical processes but the factors upon which the classifications are based need to provide a balanced representation of the authorities' traits.

Treatment

In 2024, 47.6% of pulmonary TB cases started treatment within two months of symptoms onset (England average 40.9%) and 71.4% within 4 months of symptoms onset (England average 71.4%).

The number of new cases per year places a notable demand on the health care system. TB “contact tracing” provides an opportunity to identify undiagnosed cases and is key to management of TB. With new testing tools latent TB can be identified (that could otherwise wake up and cause active disease) and appropriate action taken to support these people.

There is an established TB service operating across Bristol which leads on the clinical management of cases, contact tracing and works with UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in response to more complex TB incidents or outbreak situations.

Equalities data:

The UKHSA ‘Tuberculosis in the South West: 2024’⁴ report is the latest published report providing data on health inequalities within the South West region, which states the following:

Among all people with TB in South West England, South Asian was the most recorded ethnic group (32%, 77 out of 240), followed by White (29.0%, 71 cases), Black (20.8%, 50 cases), and Mixed or other (17.0%, 46 cases) ethnic groups. Compared to 2023, in 2024 there was an increase in the number of TB notifications for individuals in the Black, South Asian, and White ethnic groups.

Notification rates were highest in the most-deprived and second-most-deprived deciles (11.2 and 8.7 per 100,000 population respectively).

The UKHSA’s ‘Tuberculosis in England 2025 report’⁵ presents the TB notification rates per 100,000 population for the year 2024 by deprivation decile (IMD 2025) – fig 4. The rate of TB increases with increasing levels of deprivation: 17.5 and 19.1 per 100,000 in the 20% of the population living in the most deprived areas compared with 4.3 and 3.3 per 100,000 in the 20% of the population living in the least deprived areas.

⁴ UK Health Security Agency (2026) [South West of England: tuberculosis 2024](#)

⁵ UK Health Security Agency. ‘Tuberculosis in England 2025 report’,

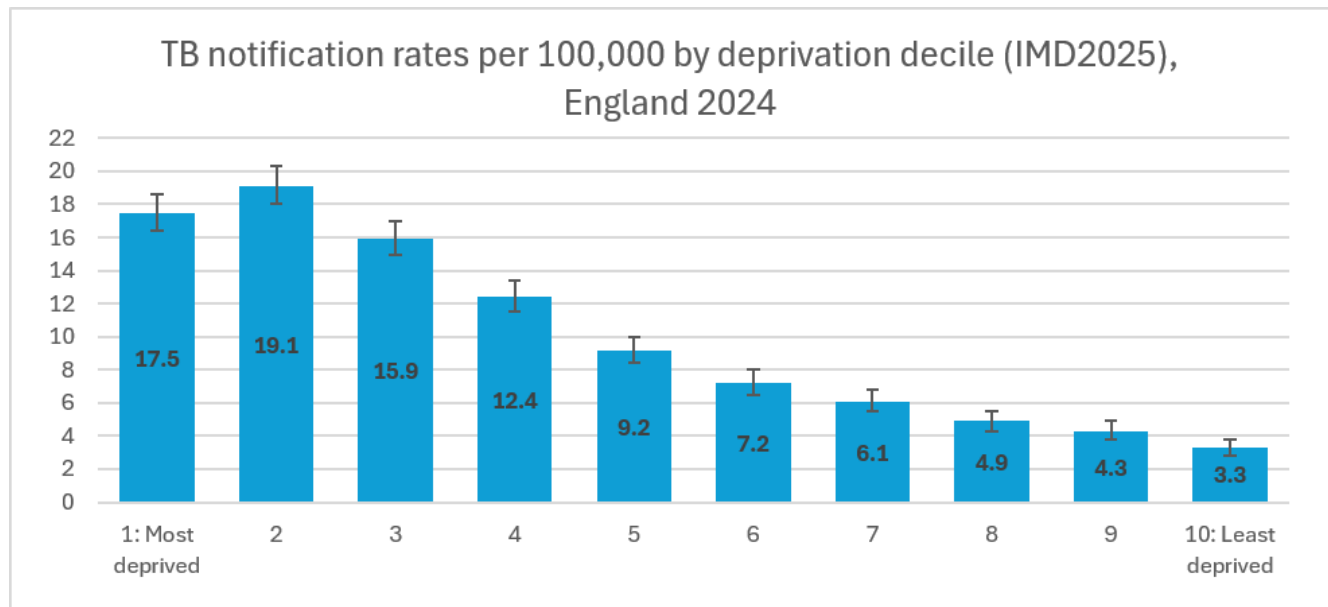


Fig 4: TB notification rates, England 2025; Source: Public Health England’s ‘Tuberculosis in England 2024 report’.

Covid-19 impact:

“During 2020, there were major impacts on healthcare, migration, and social interactions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which may have affected TB notifications in complex ways. It is important to note that the data and findings from 2020 are unlikely to represent the true burden of disease. As such their use in monitoring progress against both elimination goals and planning service provision will require careful consideration and further analysis of both 2020 and 2021 data.

TB prevention and treatment services have been impacted by the Covid pandemic, most notably the TB nurse service suspended the LTBI new entrant screening programme. The service receives data every 6 months with a list of eligible registrants at Bristol GP practices. Eligible individuals are invited by the service to be screened using simple English and the TB alert video that explains the screening process. In the year 2020 to 2021 the TB nurse service suspended screening clinics from March 2020 until the end of October 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. The service was resumed from November 2020 onwards⁶”

Further data / links:

- UK Health Security Agency. (2026) [Tuberculosis in the South West: 2024](#)
- UK Health Security Agency. ‘[Tuberculosis in England 2025 report](#)’
- [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#)

Date updated: June 2026

Date of next update: April 2027

⁶ [Tuberculosis in the South West: 2021 \(presenting data to end of 2020\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)