

# JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2024/25

## Infant Mortality

### Summary points

- The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live born children.
- The infant mortality rate in Bristol was 3.7 deaths per 1,000 live births (2021-23).
- Bristol has the lowest infant mortality rate of all English core cities.

Infant mortality rates are higher in children born into poverty, to teenage mothers and those aged over 40, among mothers from minoritized ethnic groups to mothers who have not accessed antenatal care or have lifestyle choices that increase vulnerability of their infants (e.g. smoking, alcohol or drug misuse).

The rate of infant mortality<sup>1</sup> in Bristol was 3.7 deaths per 1,000 live births (2021-23), lower than the national average (4.1 deaths per 1,000 births).

From a low in 2009-11, the Bristol rate appeared to rise over the next few years but as of 2020-22 the rate has started to increase - see Figure 1. Bristol has the lowest infant mortality rate of all core cities and is half the rate of Birmingham and nearly half the rate of Manchester – see Figure 2.

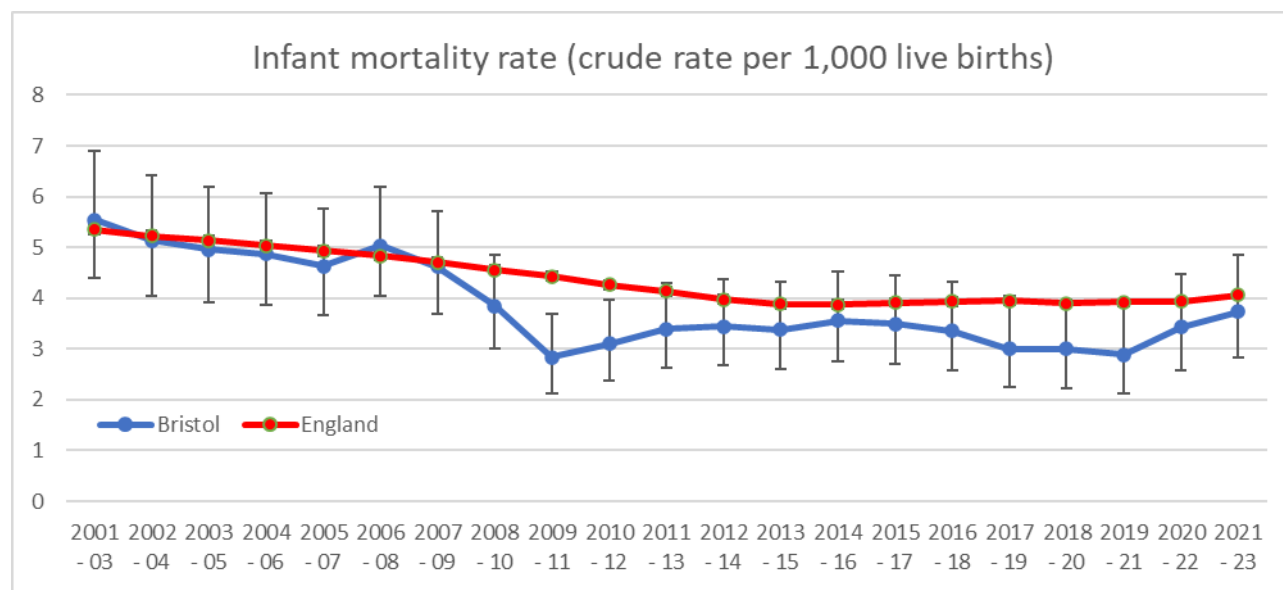


Figure 1: Rate of Infant mortality (age under 1 year) per 1000 live births Source: ONS via Public Health Outcomes Framework (Feb 2025)

<sup>1</sup> Source: ONS birth & deaths data, via Public Health Outcomes Framework (2025)

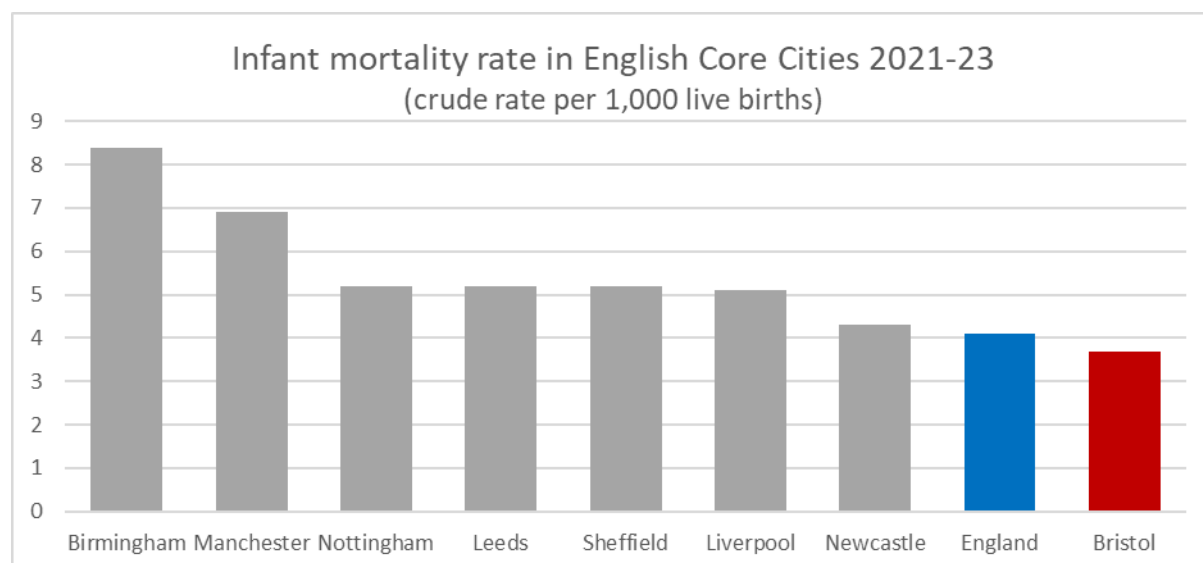


Figure 2: Rate of Infant mortality (age under 1 year) per 1000 live births for English Core Cities. Source: ONS via PHOF (Feb 2025).

### Equalities data:

Nationally, the infant mortality rate for 2021-23 was 6.5 for infants living in the most deprived decile (using the postcode of mother's usual residence), significantly higher than the national average and significantly higher than those living in the least deprived decile (2.9)<sup>2</sup>. The data illustrates that the more deprived a decile is the higher the rate of infant mortality.

### Further data/links:

- [Child and infant mortality in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)
- [Child and Maternal Health - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk)

**Date updated:** February 2025

**Date of next update:** February 2026

<sup>2</sup> LSOA11 deprivation deciles in England (IMD2019)