

# JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025/26

## 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 4.0 deaths per 1,000 live births (2022-24).
- 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 4.0 deaths per 1,000 live births (2022-24), lower than the national average (4.2 deaths per 1,000 births).

From a low in 2009-11, the Bristol rate gradually increased over the next five years before decreasing back down to its 2009-11 rate in 2019-21. Since then the rate has increased year on year and is currently (2022-24) at its highest rate since 2007-09 (Figure 1). Bristol has the lowest infant mortality rate of all English core cities and is over half the rate of Birmingham (8.7 per 1,000) (Figure 2).

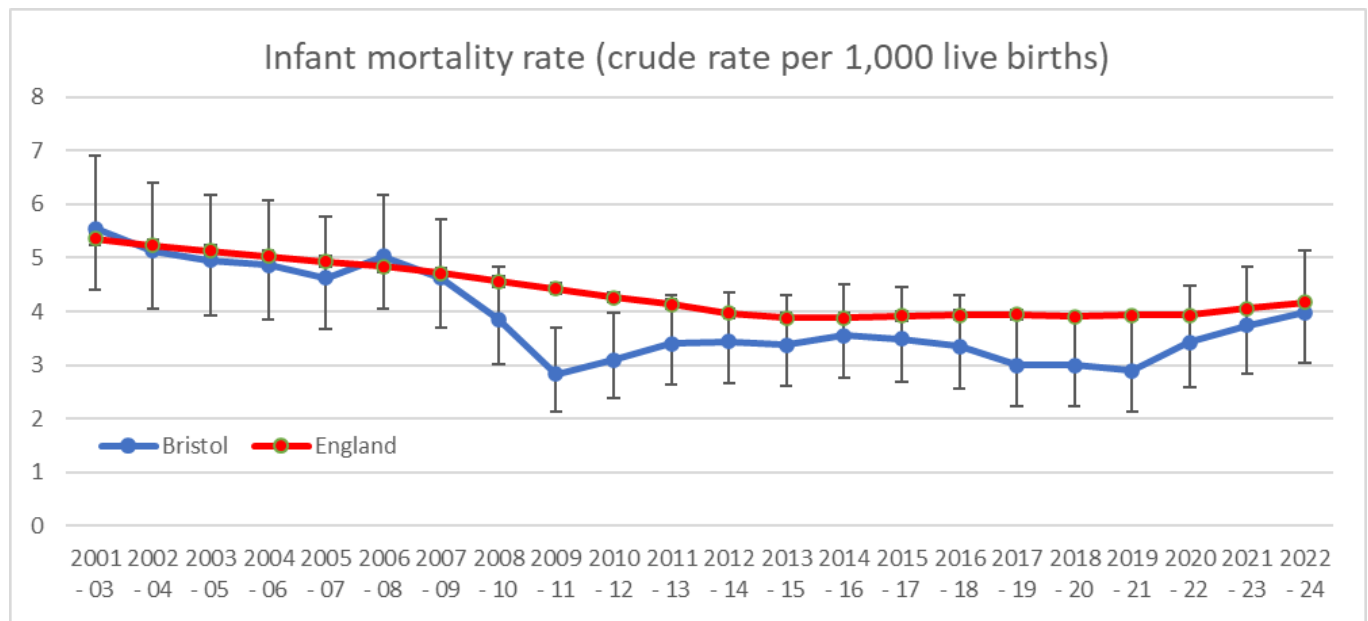


Figure 1: Rate of Infant mortality (age under 1 year) per 1000 live births Source: ONS via Public Health Outcomes Framework (Feb 2026)

<sup>1</sup> Source: ONS birth & deaths data, via Public Health Outcomes Framework (2026)

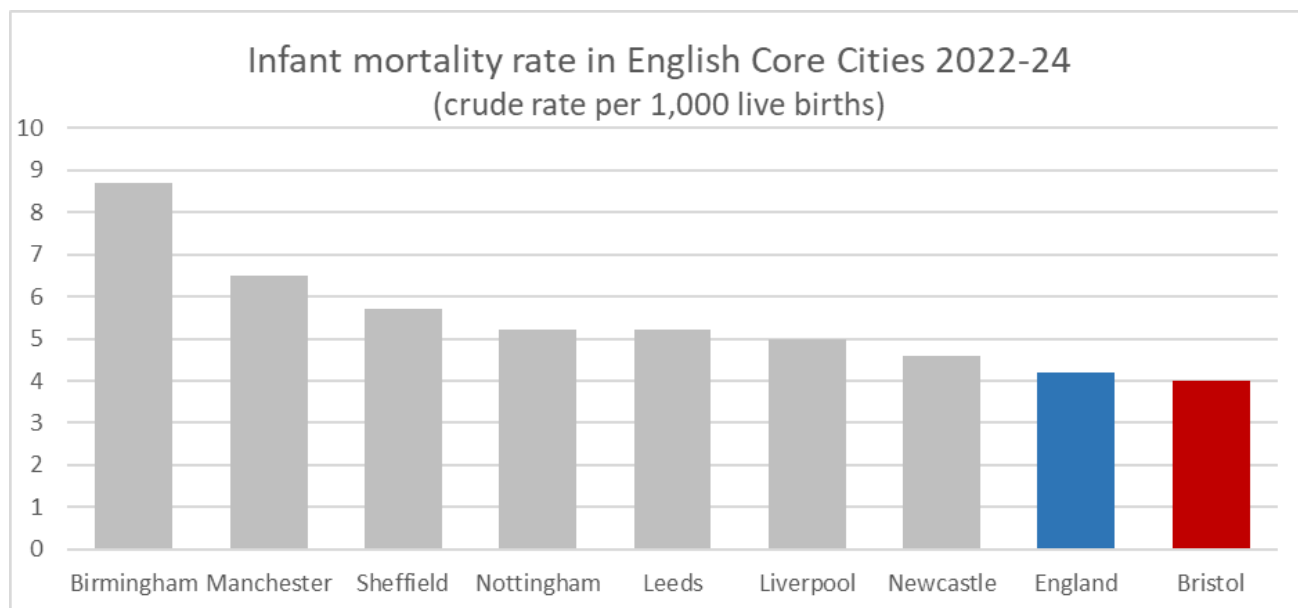


Figure 2: Rate of Infant mortality (age under 1 year) per 1000 live births for English Core Cities. Source: ONS via PHOF (Feb 2026).

**Equalities data:**

Nationally, the infant mortality rate for 2022-24 was 6.4 per 1,000 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 (2.8)<sup>2</sup>. The data illustrates that the more deprived a decile is the higher the rate of infant mortality.

The national dataset for the same period also indicates that the infant mortality rate for males (4.6 per 1,000) is significantly higher than both the national average (4.2 per 1,000) and the infant mortality rate for females (3.7 per 1,000).

**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 2026

**Date of next update:** February 2027

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