

Bristol Quality of Life survey 2023/24



Quality of Life Survey 2023/24 Final Report (May 2024)

1. Introduction to Quality of Life 2023/24

[Quality of Life](#) is an extensive annual resident's survey for Bristol that has been running, in different formats, since 2001. It provides key indicators including measures of inequality, and is a core source of performance metrics for the [Bristol City Council \(BCC\) Business Plan](#) as well as the [One City Plan](#), [Bristol Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) and other [BCC intelligence and statistics products](#).

The Bristol Quality of Life survey is a robust, randomised sample of the population. In 2023 (as since 2019) the survey was mailed to 33,000 Bristol households chosen at random, including a follow up mailing with a paper survey option, and a targeted third phase to boost numbers from low responding groups (see Methodology appendix). There were 4,700 total responses, with 3,928 final "useable" responses meeting the required criteria (slightly higher response than last year). Most (60.5%) of the final useable responses were submitted online (similar to 61% last year). The survey was open Sept-Oct 2023 to residents aged 16 and over in the selected households.

The 2023 survey had 73 questions producing over 200 indicators, on topics including health, lifestyles, community, local services and living in Bristol. Most questions have been kept unchanged, with some revisions reflecting new or changed priorities.

2. Results of the Quality of Life survey 2023/24

Full results of all indicators are available in the [Quality of Life data dashboard](#):

[Quality of Life 2023/24 results](#)

The dashboard provides all results for each indicator (by theme) including Bristol overall, Bristol wards, demographic & equality groups, and deciles of deprivation (with a focus on the 10% most deprived areas). The dashboard also shows ward and group trends as well as the overall trend back to 2018 (unless responses are too low).

This report focuses on **50 Priority Indicators**, highlighting headline issues including:

- **City-wide Summary** – results for Bristol overall from the 2023 survey, compared to the previous year and to the pre-pandemic results from 2019.
- **Deprivation Summary** – records the sentiment of people who live in the 10% most deprived areas of the city (to highlight issues of inequalities), and whether these results differ from the city average, and from the previous year.
- **Appendix: Summary of full results (May 2024)** – all indicators by all aspects

The colour-coding shows how responses changed over time, or where people in the most deprived areas differ from Bristol overall. Changes that are **significantly different** (via statistical t-test) are also highlighted; due to different response levels, the significance threshold varies between indicators.

Quality of Life 2023/24 Priority indicators: City-wide Summary

- a) * = a new indicator in the 2023 survey (or change to existing question)
 b) **Blue text** denotes BCC Corporate Business Plan 2023-24 performance indicators
Green text denotes other PIs (on BCC Performance Management system)
 c) Cells are greyed out where comparisons are not possible due to question not being included in previous surveys.
 d) Please note that gap figures are based on rounded data with whole percentages.

KEY		Statistically Significantly Worse
↑ Increased %	● No change	Worse
↓ Decreased %		Better
		Statistically Significantly Better

Community and Living	2019	2022	2023	Since 2019	Change last year
% satisfied with their local area	79%	75%	74%	↓	-1
% who feel they belong to their neighbourhood	62%	65%	64%	↑	-1
% who agree people from different backgrounds get on well together in their neighbourhood	71%	74%	72%	↑	-2
% who volunteer or help out in their community at least 3 times a year	48%	47%	48%	●	+1
% who lack the information to get involved in their community	28%	27%	26%	↓	-1
% who have access to the internet at home	95%	96%	97%	↑	+1
Health and Wellbeing					
% satisfied with life	75%	62%	66%	↓	+4
% poor mental wellbeing	15%	21%	20%	↑	-1
% who see friends and family as much as they want to	82%	78%	80%	↓	+2
% who do enough regular exercise each week	71%	64%	67%	↓	+3
% who play sport at least once a week	46%	54%	56%	↑	+2
% households who bought less food high in sugar / fat / salt in the past year		39%	43%		+4
% households with a smoker	17%	16%	15%	↓	-1
% at a higher risk of alcohol related health problems	16%	16%	13%	↓	-3
% households which have experienced moderate to severe food insecurity	5%	8%	8%	↑	0
% households that used a 'food bank' during the last 12 months	1%	2%	2%	↑	0
Crime and Safety					
% whose fear of crime affects their day-to-day lives	16%	17%	21%	↑	+4
% who feel police and public services successfully tackle crime and anti-social behaviour locally	28%	22%	21%	↓	-1
% victim of racial discrimination or harassment in last year	6%	5%	6%	●	+1
% who think sexual harassment is an issue in Bristol	27%	35%	33%	↑	-2
% who have been sexually harassed or experienced unwanted sexual attention in the last year*			13%		
Education and Skills					
% who know where to get information, advice and guidance about employment and training	61%	65%	63%	↑	-2
% who have taken part in learning or training in the last year		52%	52%		0
Sustainability and Environment					
% satisfied with the quality of parks and green spaces	72%	73%	71%	↓	-2
% who visit Bristol's parks and green spaces at least once a week	53%	56%	57%	↑	+1
% who think street litter is a problem locally	81%	82%	84%	↑	+2
% satisfied with the recycling service	68%	73%	71%	↑	-2
% satisfied with the general household waste service	71%	74%	73%	↑	-1
% who think air quality and traffic pollution is a problem locally	77%	70%	67%	↓	-3
% concerned about climate change	88%	87%	83%	↓	-4
% who have reduced their household waste due to climate change concerns	69%	55%	53%	↓	-2
% concerned about the loss of wildlife in Bristol		85%	84%		-1
% who have created space for nature		53%	55%		+2
Culture and Leisure					
% satisfied with the range and quality of outdoor events	74%	53%	55%	↓	+2
% who participate in cultural activities at least once a month	43%	32%	37%	↓	+5
% satisfied with the range and quality of entertainment and hospitality venues and events at night		64%	64%		0
% satisfied with leisure facilities/services	46%	40%	39%	↓	-1
% satisfied with activities for children/young people	37%	38%	35%	↓	-3
Transport					
% who think traffic congestion is a problem locally	77%	74%	74%	↓	0
% who walk or cycle to work (active travel)	38%	32%	35%	↓	+3
% who take the bus to work	13%	14%	13%	●	-1
% satisfied with the local bus service	48%	38%	41%	↓	+3
Housing					
% satisfied overall with their current accommodation	88%	84%	83%	↓	-1
% satisfied with the cost of their rent or mortgage payments	59%	49%	41%	↓	-8
% extremely or moderately worried about keeping their home warm this winter		48%	31%		-17
Economy					
% who find it difficult to manage financially	9%	10%	10%	↑	0
% who shop in their local shopping street at least once a week		49%	51%		+2
Council and Democracy					
% satisfied with the way Bristol City Council runs things	43%	39%	34%	↓	-5
% who feel Bristol City Council provides value for money	28%	26%	23%	↓	-3
% satisfied with the way BCC asks for their views before it makes changes that affect them		30%	29%		-1

Quality of Life 2023/24 Priority indicators: Deprivation Summary

- a) * = a new indicator in the 2023 survey (or change to existing question)
 b) "2023 Deprived" shows results from households in the 10% most deprived areas within Bristol (based on the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation)
 c) "2023 Gap" is the difference between the "10% Most Deprived" and 2023 city average.
 d) **Blue text** denotes BCC Corporate Business Plan 2023-24 performance indicators
Green text denotes other PIs (on BCC Performance Management system)
 e) Please note that gap figures are based on rounded data with whole percentages.

KEY

■	Statistically Significantly Worse
■	Worse
■	Better
■	Statistically Significantly Better

Community and Living	2022 Deprived	2023 Citywide	2023 Deprived	2023 Gap	Change in Deprived
% satisfied with their local area	48%	74%	47%	-27	-1
% who feel they belong to their neighbourhood	50%	64%	42%	-22	-8
% who agree people from different backgrounds get on well together in their neighbourhood	61%	72%	57%	-15	-4
% who volunteer or help out in their community at least 3 times a year	38%	48%	39%	-9	+1
% who lack the information to get involved in their community	31%	26%	27%	+1	-4
% who have access to the internet at home	93%	97%	94%	-3	+1
Health and Wellbeing					
% satisfied with life	46%	66%	53%	-13	+7
% poor mental wellbeing	34%	20%	30%	+10	-4
% who see friends and family as much as they want to	67%	80%	73%	-7	+6
% who do enough regular exercise each week	52%	67%	57%	-10	+5
% who play sport at least once a week	39%	56%	43%	-13	+4
% households who bought less food high in sugar / fat / salt in the past year	40%	43%	53%	+10	+13
% households with a smoker	26%	15%	25%	+10	-1
% at a higher risk of alcohol related health problems	9%	13%	9%	-4	0
% households which have experienced moderate to severe food insecurity	16%	8%	19%	+11	+3
% households that used a 'food bank' during the last 12 months	4%	2%	6%	+4	+2
Crime and Safety					
% whose fear of crime affects their day-to-day lives	32%	21%	44%	+23	+12
% who feel police and public services successfully tackle crime and anti-social behaviour locally	22%	21%	17%	-4	-5
% victim of racial discrimination or harassment in last year	8%	6%	10%	+4	+2
% who think sexual harassment is an issue in Bristol	40%	33%	41%	+8	+1
% who have been sexually harassed or experienced unwanted sexual attention in the last year*		13%	15%	+2	
Education and Skills					
% who know where to get information, advice and guidance about employment and training	62%	63%	59%	-4	-3
% who have taken part in learning or training in the last year	47%	52%	48%	-4	+1
Sustainability and Environment					
% satisfied with the quality of parks and green spaces	46%	71%	44%	-27	-2
% who visit Bristol's parks and green spaces at least once a week	40%	57%	40%	-17	0
% who think street litter is a problem locally	93%	84%	94%	+10	+1
% satisfied with the recycling service	59%	71%	59%	-12	0
% satisfied with the general household waste service	58%	73%	61%	-12	+3
% who think air quality and traffic pollution is a problem locally	63%	67%	67%	0	+4
% concerned about climate change	80%	83%	75%	-8	-5
% who have reduced their household waste due to climate change concerns	43%	53%	44%	-9	+1
% concerned about the loss of wildlife in Bristol	85%	84%	79%	-5	-6
% who have created space for nature	49%	55%	48%	-7	-1
Culture and Leisure					
% satisfied with the range and quality of outdoor events	35%	55%	37%	-18	+2
% who participate in cultural activities at least once a month	24%	37%	31%	-6	+7
% satisfied with the range and quality of entertainment and hospitality venues and events at night	45%	64%	49%	-15	+4
% satisfied with leisure facilities/services	28%	39%	34%	-5	+6
% satisfied with activities for children/young people	17%	35%	17%	-18	0
Transport					
% who think traffic congestion is a problem locally	63%	74%	61%	-13	-2
% who walk or cycle to work (active travel)	23%	35%	25%	-10	+2
% who take the bus to work	22%	13%	18%	+5	-4
% satisfied with the local bus service	34%	41%	38%	-3	+4
Housing					
% satisfied overall with their current accommodation	77%	83%	76%	-7	-1
% satisfied with the cost of their rent or mortgage payments	44%	41%	48%	+7	+4
% extremely or moderately worried about keeping their home warm this winter	62%	31%	44%	+13	-18
Economy					
% who find it difficult to manage financially	18%	10%	21%	+11	+3
% who shop in their local shopping street at least once a week	44%	51%	45%	-6	+1
Council and Democracy					
% satisfied with the way Bristol City Council runs things	31%	34%	23%	-11	-8
% who feel Bristol City Council provides value for money	23%	23%	15%	-8	-8
% satisfied with the way BCC asks for their views before it makes changes that affect them	30%	29%	21%	-8	-9

3. Key Findings 2023/24: Full results

Full details are now available in the [Quality of Life data dashboard](#), which includes results for all 240* indicators, as well as for all Bristol wards, for demographic & equality groups, and for deciles of deprivation (including the “deprivation gap” for all indicators). In total the data dashboard includes around 20,000 data points from the 2023/24 survey, plus an additional 55,000 data points of trend from previous surveys. [*Note: not all indicators are available at all reporting levels]

For the ward and demographic / equality groups (including the 10% most deprived areas), a colour-coded statistical t-test has been used to show whether the figure is statistically significantly worse or better than the city average for that indicator, so there is insight provided for each level in the data dashboard.

[All “Quality of Life 2023-24” data is also available to download via [Open Data Bristol](#)].

Overall changes

There are 240 indicators in the full QoL 2023/24 suite, and out of these, 183 were also measured in 2022/23.

Of the QoL indicators with data for the previous year:

- 28 indicators were significantly better in 2023 – with most of the positive changes in the Themes: Health & Wellbeing (11); Housing (6); Sustainability & Environment (3); Culture & Leisure (3)

The most improved were

- "% households who bought more food high in sugar/fat/salt in the past year" (reducing from 7.5% to 3.7%)
 - "% extremely or moderately worried about keeping their home warm this winter" (dropping from 48% to 31%)
 - "% at a higher risk of alcohol related health problems" (falling from 15.8% to 12.6%)
 - "% who say nothing prevents them from leaving their home when they want to" (increasing from 48.4% to 57.4%)
 - "% who participate in cultural activities at least once a month" (rising from 31.9% to 37.4%)
- 26 indicators were significantly worse in 2023 – with most negative changes in in the Themes: Sustainability & Environment (9); Crime (6); Community and Living (5); Council & Democracy (4)

The largest deteriorations were

- "% whose local roads have been flooded during heavy downpours" (increasing from 8.8% to 15.4%)
- "% victim of sex discrimination or harassment in last year" (rising from 10.9% to 17%)
- "% whose fear of crime affects their day-to-day lives" (up from 17.4% to 21.4%)
- "% satisfied with the cost of their rent or mortgage" (down from 49.5% to 41.2%)
- "% satisfied public land is kept clear of litter and refuse" (decreasing from 41.9% to 36.4%)

4. Key Findings 2023/24: Priority Indicators

Overall, results from the 2023/24 survey show a mixed picture. Of the 50 headline Priority Indicators shown, 21 are improved on 2022/23 results (9 by a statistically significant amount), 6 are unchanged, and 22 indicators are worse than last year (5 by a statistically significant amount); 1 is a new measure this year.

In the 10% most deprived areas all but 6 results for our most deprived communities are worse than the Bristol average, same as last year (and statistically significantly worse in 31 of the 50). However, 23 indicators do show at least slightly better outcomes than last year in the most deprived areas, with improvements especially in the Health & Wellbeing, Culture & Leisure, Transport and Housing Themes. 22 show a worsening picture in the most deprived areas (especially in the Crime & Safety, Sustainability & Environment and Council & Democracy Themes); 4 are unchanged and 1 is new.

➤ Community and Living

Results in this section are similar to last year overall, although a few have worsened slightly in the most deprived areas. Most have a significant “deprivation gap”.

Satisfaction with “your local area” fell just 1% point to around 74% city-wide, and to 47% in the most deprived areas; the “Deprivation gap” (27% points) remains one of the starkest of the QoL indicators.

72% feel “people from different backgrounds get on well together” in their neighbourhood, a small decrease from last year, falling slightly more in the most deprived areas (57%). 64% feel they “belong to their neighbourhood”, a slight decrease city-wide, with a bigger drop of 8% points in the most deprived areas (42%).

Close to half of people (48%) regularly volunteer or help out in their community, similar to last year, but significantly less in deprived areas (39%). Only 26% report they “lack the information to get involved in the community”,

97% of people have access to the internet at home, similar to last year, and only slightly more than the most deprived areas (94%).

➤ Health and Wellbeing

Overall this section has significantly better results than last year (though most are still worse than before the Covid-19 pandemic) and also better in the most deprived areas.

People reporting being satisfied with life (66%) improved significantly in the last year and improved in the most deprived areas (53%). People reporting below average mental wellbeing (via a detailed suite of questions) remains around 20% (worse than 15% pre-pandemic); it’s 30% in the most deprived areas, slightly better than last year.

Households experiencing “moderate or worse food insecurity” (via a detailed suite of questions) remains at 8% (worse than pre-pandemic, 5%), but rose further in the most deprived areas (19%). Households using a food bank remains 2% but rose to 6% in the most deprived areas.

A positive result is people at higher risk of alcohol-related health problems has significantly improved (13%) and remains better in the most deprived areas (9%). Also more households have “bought less food high in sugar, fat or salt in the past year” (43%), especially in the most deprived areas (53%). The proportion living in a house where someone smokes (15%) is similar to last year (25% in the most deprived areas).

More people (80%) were able to see friends & family as much as they want, almost back to pre-pandemic results. People doing enough weekly exercise improved (67%) even in

the most deprived areas (57%). People playing sport each week (56%) slightly improved and is significantly better than pre-pandemic results.

➤ **Crime and Safety**

Overall this section is worse than last year. Significantly more people than last year feel “fear of crime affects their day-to-day life” (21%), and this doubles to 44% in the most deprived areas (a 12% point increase). 21% of people feel police and public services are “successfully dealing with issues of crime & anti-social behaviour”.

A third of people (33%) think sexual harassment is an issue in Bristol, similar to last year. A new indicator shows 13% of people have been sexually harassed or experienced unwanted sexual attention in the last year; further analysis highlights 22% of women have experienced this in the last year, and 57% of young women aged 16-24.

The proportion of people who report being a victim of racial discrimination or harassment in the last year rose slightly to 6% (10% in the most deprived areas); further analysis highlights 28% of people from Black, Asian or minoritised ethnic groups have experienced this in the last year (up 2%), especially high for Asian / Asian British (35%).

➤ **Education and Skills**

The percentage of people who know where to get information or advice about employment and training fell slightly, both citywide (to 63%) and in the most deprived areas (to 59%). Over half of people (52%) have “taken part in any learning or training in the last year”, the same as the previous year, whilst the proportion was slightly lower in the most deprived areas (at 48%).

➤ **Sustainability and Environment**

Results in this section show a mixed picture compared to last year, and to the 2019, pre Covid-19 pandemic. Satisfaction with Bristol parks and green spaces (71%) has trended down in the last couple of years citywide to pre-pandemic levels. With less than half (46%) satisfied in the most deprived areas, the “Deprivation gap” (27% points) continues to be one of the worst of all QoL indicators. However, people visiting parks or green spaces at least once a week (57%) stabilized after last year’s fall.

Satisfaction with Bristol’s household waste (73%) and recycling services (71%) fell back slightly but remained above pre-pandemic levels. The proportion of residents who think street litter is a problem remains increased slightly (84%) and remained higher (94%) in the most deprived areas.

Those who think “air quality and traffic pollution is a problem locally” fell further to 67%, a 10% point improvement on pre-pandemic levels, whilst a rise in the most deprived areas erased the disparity with the city average seen previously.

Concern about the impact of climate change dropped significantly, 4% points to 83%, the lowest since 2017. A similar fall was seen in the most deprived areas (75%), maintaining the “Deprivation gap”. Accordingly, slightly fewer (53%) report reducing their household waste due to such concerns, narrowing the difference with the most deprived areas (44%) where there was a slight increase. 84% of people are concerned about the loss of wildlife (or biodiversity) in Bristol, similar to last year, with a notable drop in the most deprived areas (79%). Conversely, there was a slight increase in the proportion of residents who “created space for nature”; with the “Deprivation gap” slightly widening.

➤ **Culture and Leisure**

On balance this section is better than last year, but still significantly worse than pre-pandemic figures. Most indicators here have a significant “Deprivation gap”.

The proportion who “take part in cultural activities once a month” significantly improved (37%), and also rose in the most deprived areas (31%).

Slightly more people are satisfied with outdoor events (55%), but slightly less with leisure services (39%). Satisfaction with activities for children/young people (35%) fell slightly citywide and remained the same in the most deprived areas (17%). The night-time economy indicator remains at 64% of people satisfied with “the range and quality of entertainment venues at night” but rose to 49% in the most deprived areas.

➤ **Transport**

The proportion of people using “active travel” (walk or cycle) to get to work rose in the last year (35%), though is still below pre-pandemic levels, and is 25% in the most deprived areas. 13% of people take the bus to work; 18% in the most deprived areas.

Satisfaction with the local bus service has improved in the last year (41%) and has improved in the most deprived areas (38%). 74% of people think “traffic congestion is a problem locally”, same as last year but significantly better than pre-pandemic; this is down to 61% in the most deprived areas.

➤ **Housing**

The percentage of people satisfied with the cost of rent or mortgage has fallen significantly (41%), down 8% points in the last year and 18% worse than 2019. However, this metric is now better in the most deprived areas (48%).

Also, the proportion “worried about keeping their home warm this winter” (31%) has fallen significantly, 17% points less than last year (44% in deprived areas, down from 62%). 83% are satisfied with their current accommodation, similar to last year.

➤ **Economy**

1 in 10 people (10%) report they “find it difficult to manage financially”, the same as last year, but this is double (21%) in the most deprived areas (last year was 18%).

Just over half of people (51%) in Bristol shop locally at least once a week, continuing a rise in recent years, and almost half in the most deprived areas (45%).

➤ **Council and Democracy**

Overall satisfaction with the council is significantly worse than last year, both city-wide and in the most deprived areas; partly this will be a reflection of frustrations with the national picture, cost of living and budget restrictions the council has to operate under.

Satisfaction with “the way the council runs things” is now 34%, significantly below recent years (39% in 2022 & 2021 and 43% in 2019). This fell further in the 10% most deprived areas (23% satisfied, from 31% last year) and the “deprivation gap” is now 11% points. For reference, 41% of people overall are dissatisfied with the council, and 25% don’t feel strongly one way or the other.

23% of people feel the council provides value for money, down from 26% last year, and is 15% in the most deprived areas (overall 47% feel the council does not provide value for money and 30% don’t have a strong opinion on this).

29% of people are satisfied with how “BCC asks for your views before it makes changes that affect you”, similar to last year (30%). However, this fell significantly in the most deprived areas (21%, from 30% last year).

3,928 responses was very slightly more than recent years (final “useable” responses were 3,905 in 2022 and 3,870 in 2021). Online responses (60.5%) was similar to 2022 (61%), and well above previous years (52% in 2021, 55% in 2020 & 47% in 2019).

➤ Ward responses

This year, all wards bar one achieved the target of 100 responses¹. The range in response by ward this year is from 96 in Central Ward to 135 in Ashley. As in the previous 4 years, this gives a relatively even distribution across the city, including from areas with historically low response rates, due to the additional resources put in to boost the sample to improve the representativeness of the survey.

See ward map and chart in Fig 2 for details:

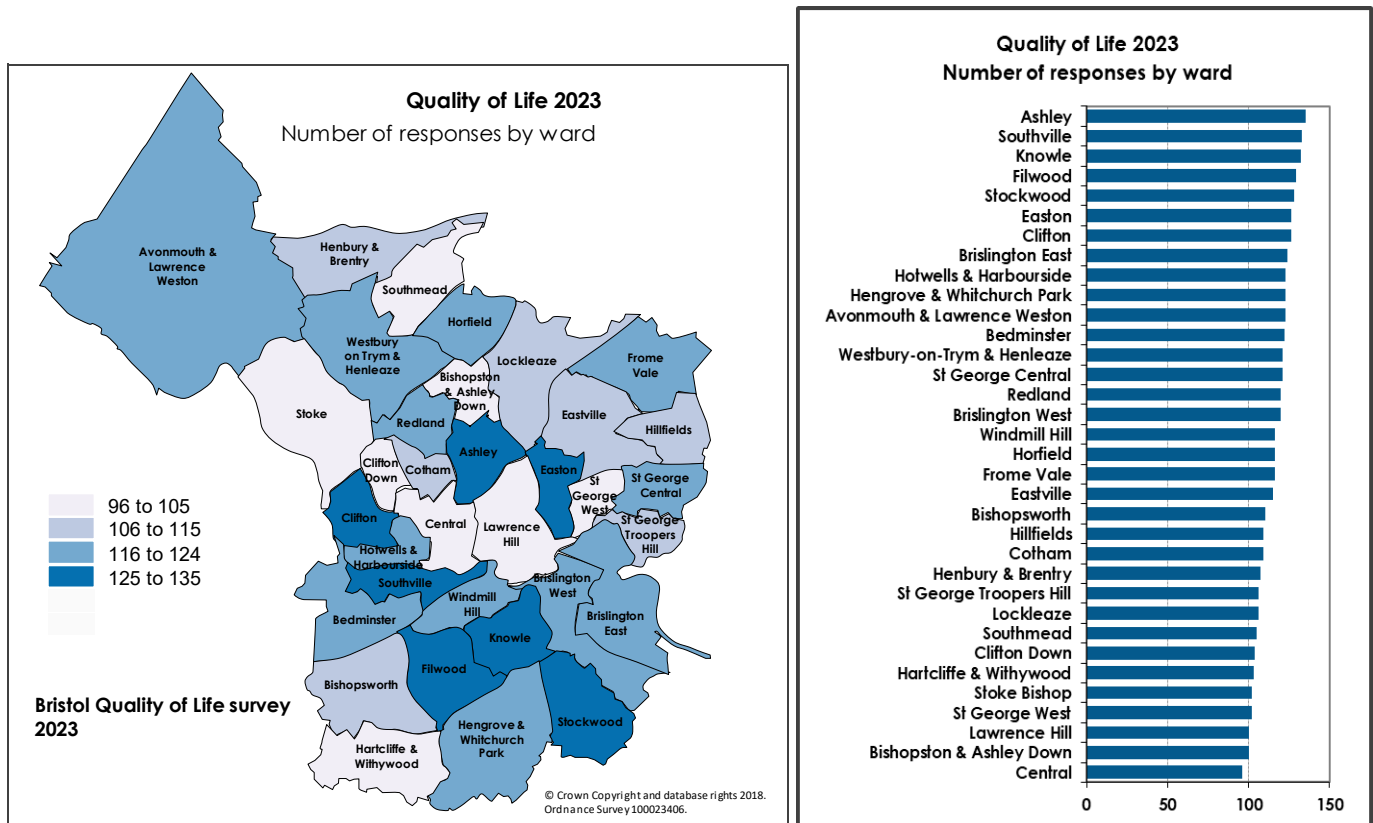


Fig 6.1: Ward map and chart of number of responses by Ward

➤ Equality group responses

Regarding overall responses by Equality groups, the group most under-represented is still young people (aged 16-24). The representation of young people, at 8.7%, is slightly lower but similar to last year (9.4%) and greatly improved on 2021 (3.7%), but is still well below the city average (19.5%); partly though this is because the survey excludes student accommodation. People aged 50 and over continue to be over-represented in the survey responses.

Responses from Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic groups represent 8.6% of respondents in the 2023 survey, above responses in previous years (7.6% in 2022, 6.5% in 2021, 7.4% in 2020 and 6.7% in 2019) but still well below the city average (16.6% of people 16+ are from Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic groups; Census 2021).

¹Central Ward ended just short of target with 96 responses. Responses for 4 others were boosted by the “third phase” in order to meet target (Brislington East, Henbury & Brentry, St George Troopers Hill and Lockleaze)

More women (57%) than men (42.6%) responded to the survey this year. Usually there are more female responses, but this proportion is more than in recent years (54-55% women).

Religion is one characteristic where representation in the survey matches the Census figure. People who follow a religion is around 42% for both counts.

LGB+ respondents (9.5%) are over-represented in the survey compared with city average (6.1%) but similar to last year (9.3%). Trans respondents (1.1%) are similar to last year (1.3%); this group is not compared to Census 2021 data as QoL asks people to self-identify as Trans whereas the Census asks a more complex question.

11.4% of respondents self-identify as disabled, slightly more than in recent years (10% in 2022 and 9.3% in 2021). Census 2021 does not ask whether a respondent identifies as a disabled person, so there is no official Bristol comparison figure. However, a related measure, people whose day-to-day activities are limited by a long-term physical or mental illness or health condition, is included in both the Census and the QoL survey. The proportion of respondents with an illness or health condition which limits their day-to-day activities is 30.6% (6.3% limited a lot, 24.3 limited a little), far higher than the city average of 19.5% (for people aged 16 & over). This is broadly consistent with the over-representation of older people in the survey.

7. Further Information and contact details

The full range of all Quality of Life 2023/24 indicators is now published in the [Quality of Life data dashboard](#), including results for:

- all 240 indicators, with trend since 2018 (where available) for:
 - citywide trend
 - all 34 Bristol wards
 - 3 NHS ICS Bristol Locality Partnership areas plus sub-localities
 - over 30 equality and demographic groups
 - 10 deciles of deprivation across Bristol
- each Bristol ward - overview of all indicators within those wards
- the ICS Locality Partnership areas
- equality and demographic groups - overview of all indicators by group

Results are weighted on ward, sex & age; further details in the Methodology appendix.

For further information, please see www.bristol.gov.uk/qualityoflife or contact qol@bristol.gov.uk.

8. Appendix: Summary of Ward and Demographic Group results (May 2024)

The main body of the report focussed on city-wide results and those from the most deprived areas for the Priority Indicators. This appendix presents summary results of analysis of *all indicators*² in the QoL survey broken down by Wards and Equality / Demographic Groups.

For each indicator, a statistical t-test has been used to determine whether the figure in each ward or group is statistically significantly worse or better than the city average.

Note – full statistical results are available via the [QoL 2023/24 data dashboard](#).

Ward summary

Overall Ward results are summarised in the chart below. Results for only 226 indicators are shown because there were too few responses per ward for 12 of the indicators to produce ward statistics and 17 of the indicators had no polarity (i.e. a “higher” (or “lower”) value can’t be described as either “better” or “worse”).

Hartcliffe and Withywood ward has, by a large margin, the greatest number of indicators (71) that are significantly worse than the Bristol average, the same situation as in previous years.

The four wards with the next highest number of "worse" indicators are Filwood (49), Hengrove & Whitchurch Park (47), Brislington East (45) and Stockwood (43).

Central and Lawrence Hill wards are not that far behind, each with 33 worse indicators, closely followed by Avonmouth and Lawrence Hill, with 31 worse indicators.

These wards contain the majority of the most deprived areas of Bristol in South and Central Bristol, with 5 of the most negatively impacted wards in South / South East Bristol.

Conversely, the wards with the smallest number of indicators that are worse than the Bristol average (6 or less) are mostly clustered in the north and west of Bristol and contain many of the least deprived areas of Bristol.

Of these wards, Stoke Bishop, Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze, Clifton Down and Bishopston & Ashley Down have the greatest number of indicators significantly better than the Bristol average (at 101, 98, 95 and 95 better indicators respectively). These four wards are in the mid-north and west of the city.

The six wards with the next highest number of “better” indicators are close to the centre of the city, towards the west and south, namely Clifton (73), Cotham (62), Hotwells & Harbourside (61), Windmill Hill (61) and Bedminster (59).

² Note – whilst this Appendix and the Data Dashboard aims to include results all QoL indicators broken down by all aspects, in some instances there is insufficient number of responses to produce a robust estimate for a ward, deprived areas and/or demographic group.

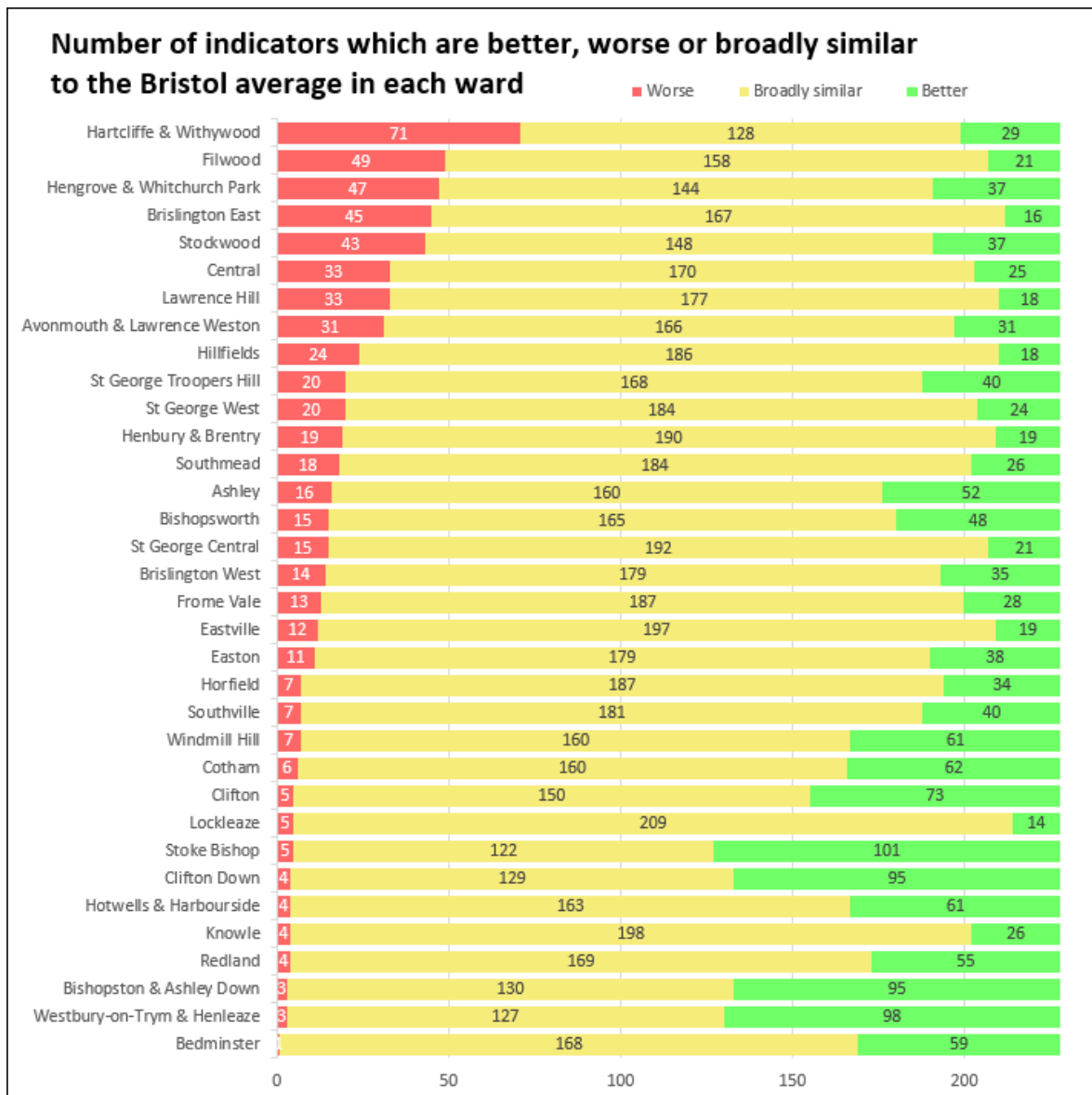


Fig 8.1: Chart showing the number of indicators significantly different from Bristol average by ward

Demographic Group summary

The results for the 10% most deprived areas are shown with those for other demographic groups in the chart below, where residents of deprived areas are classed as a demographic group for comparisons.

Disabled people are the group with the greatest number of indicators (115) significantly worse than the Bristol average, as in previous years.

The two groups with the next highest number of "worse" indicators are council tenants (107) and people with non-degree qualifications i.e. GCSE, NVQ or A level (96).

Other groups with a relatively high number of worse indicators are people living in the most deprived areas (85), people with no qualifications (84) and full-time carers (81).

Lesbian, Gay, Bi or other minority sexual orientation people have 70 worse indicators than the general population.

As well as council tenants – private (67) and housing association (59) tenants have a greater number of worse indicators than people who own their own home (4).

Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, both separately (36-45) and together (64) have a greater number worse indicators than White ethnic groups (0 and 24).

People with a religion have a higher number of worse indicators than people without, with Christians at 41 worse indicators, Other religions at 48 and No religion at 18.

Women (33) have double the number of worse indicators compared to men (16).

Note - There is overlap between demographic groups, as a higher proportion of members of one group may also belong to another group compared with the city average e.g. deprived areas have more council housing. In such cases when an indicator is significantly different for both groups it may be that the results of one group is in fact confounded due to the cross-over with the other group. In the analysis used here it is not possible to disentangle these impacts and say which is the driving factor.

Number of indicators which are better, worse or broadly similar to the Bristol average in each demographic group

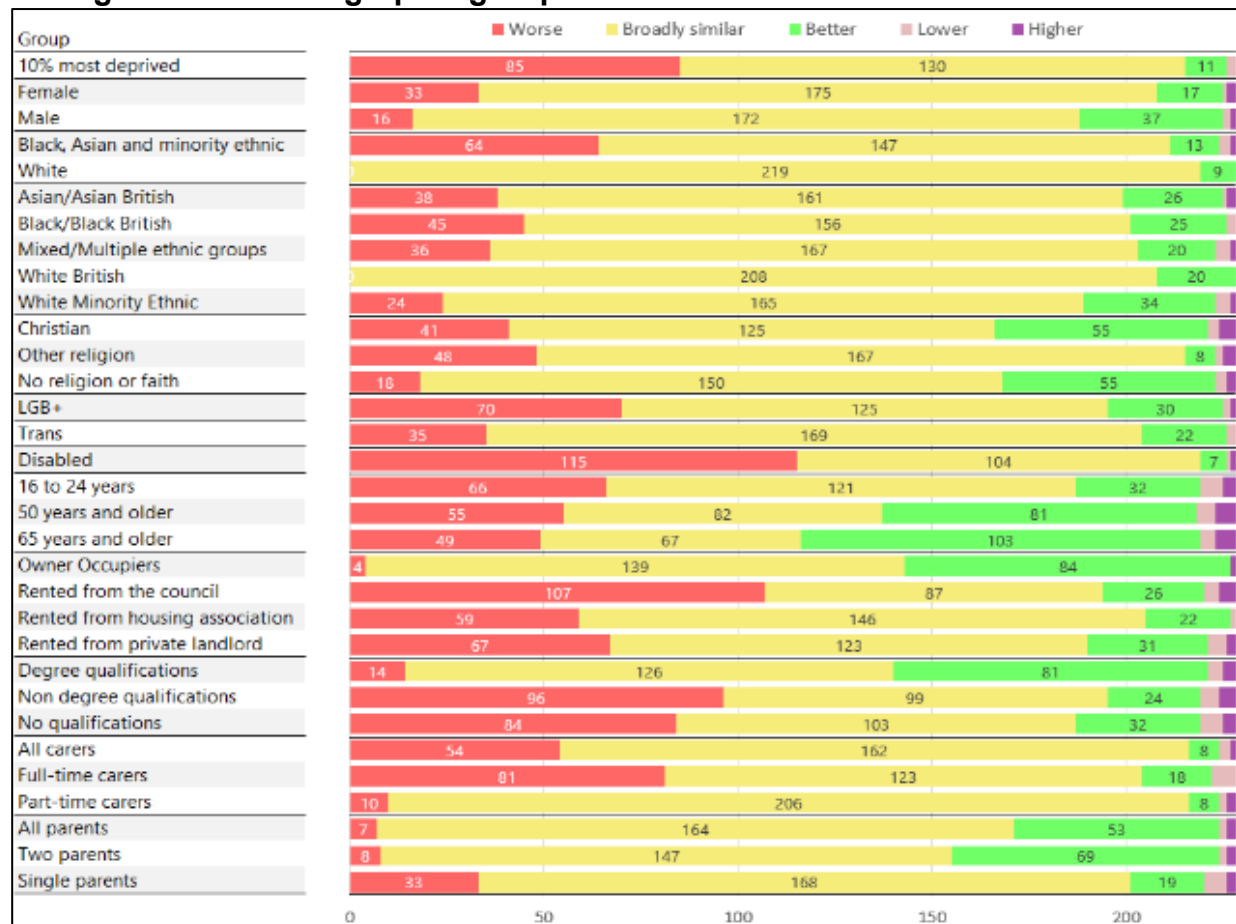


Fig 8.2: Chart showing the number of indicators significantly different from the Bristol average in each demographic group

Headline Issues for Selected Demographic Groups

The groups identified as having a large number of worse indicators, and the size of the differences are considerable, are explored in further detail. For each of these groups and for every worse indicator, the “Gap” has been calculated by subtracting the group average from the city average (adjusting for any negative values).

1. 10% Most Deprived Areas

For residents living in the most deprived areas there are 85 indicators worse than the city average, and 10 where the figure is more than double (or less than half) the Bristol average.

- The biggest gap is the proportion of households that have used a 'food bank' in the past year, which is almost three times as likely for households in deprived

areas (6%) compared with the city average (2%). This finding is coupled with households in deprived areas (11%) being almost three times as likely as city average (4%) to have experienced severe food insecurity in the past year. Both results are consistent with 21% of people in deprived areas finding it difficult to manage financially, twice the percentage of the Bristol average (at 10%).

- Crime and safety indicators are worse in deprived areas with more than two-fifths (44%) of people saying that fear of crime affects their day-to-day, twice as likely as the Bristol average (21%)
- Satisfaction with activities for children is poor in Bristol overall, with only 35% being satisfied, but is even worse in deprived areas with only 17% being satisfied.
- Social isolation appears to be more prevalent in deprived areas, with residents being twice as likely to feel lonely (11%) compared to the Bristol average (5%).

10% Most Deprived Areas – significantly worse indicators	Group average	Bristol average	Gap
% households that used a 'food bank' during the last 12 months	6.1%	2.1%	4.0%
% households which have experienced severe food insecurity	11.1%	4.3%	6.8%
% who find it difficult to manage financially	20.9%	10.4%	10.5%
% who think domestic abuse is a private matter	16.9%	7.4%	9.5%
% whose fear of crime affects their day-to-day lives	44.4%	21.4%	23.0%
% satisfied with activities for children/young people	17.2%	35.5%	18.3%
% who feel lonely because they don't see friends and family enough	10.7%	5.2%	5.5%

Table 8.1: Table of selected QoL indicators which are worse in the most deprived areas

2. Disabled people

For disabled people there are 115 indicators worse than the city average. Headlines:

- Over a quarter (27%) report suffering from disability discrimination or harassment in the last year.
- More than a tenth (11%) have experienced severe food insecurity, over twice the city average.
- Over a quarter (27%) are physically inactive, over three times the city average.
- Almost a half (46%) have poor mental wellbeing, almost two and a half times the city average.

Disabled people – significantly worse indicators	Group average	Bristol average	Gap
% victim of disability discrimination or harassment in last year	27.0%	3.9%	23.1%
% with illness or health condition which limits day-to-day activities a lot	40.5%	6.3%	34.2%
% whose poor health stops them from getting involved in their community	53.4%	11.1%	42.3%

% for whom accessibility issues stop them from getting involved in their community	16.9%	2.1%	14.8%
% whose lack of support and assistance prevents them from leaving their home when they want to	13.1%	2.4%	10.7%
% who feel lonely because they don't see friends and family enough	16.0%	5.2%	10.8%
% poor mental wellbeing	46.2%	19.8%	26.4%
% who are inactive	27.0%	8.4%	18.6%
% who lack the skills or confidence to use the internet	14.2%	4.6%	9.6%
% who find it difficult to manage financially	21.5%	10.4%	11.1%
% households which have experienced severe food insecurity	10.7%	4.3%	6.4%

Table 8.2: Table of selected QoL indicators which are worse for disabled people

3. Council tenants

For council tenants 107 indicators are worse than the Bristol average. Headlines:

- over a third (35%) have no qualifications, over four times the city average
- almost three tenths (29%) are smokers, three times the city average
- one in six experience severe food insecurity (17%), four times city average
- almost two fifths were extremely worried about keeping their home warm in the winter, three times the city average
- three fifths (61%) never participate in cultural activities, almost three times the city average

Council tenants – significantly worse indicators	Group average	Bristol average	Gap
% with no formal qualification	34.8%	7.5%	27.3%
% with illness or health condition which limits day-to-day activities a lot	20.4%	6.3%	14.1%
% smokers	29.3%	9.7%	19.6%
% households which have experienced severe food insecurity	17.1%	4.3%	12.8%
% extremely worried about keeping their home warm this winter	36.6%	11.1%	25.5%
% who cannot afford home broadband or equipment	10.6%	1.7%	8.9%
% who find it difficult to manage financially	29.2%	10.4%	18.8%
% who think domestic abuse is a private matter	23.6%	7.4%	16.2%
% who never participate in cultural activities	60.6%	22.1%	38.5%
% who ride a bicycle at least once a week	8.8%	24.6%	15.8%

Table 8.3: Table of selected QoL indicators which are worse for council tenants

4. Full-time carers

For full-time carers there are 81 indicators worse than the city average. Headlines:

- About two fifths (38%) say caring responsibilities prevent them from leaving their home when they want to.
- Almost 1 in 4 (24%) say more accessible venues would encourage them to go out at night, almost three times the city average.
- One quarter (26%) were uncomfortable using digital services, over two and a half times the city average.

Full-time carers – significantly worse indicators	Group average	Bristol average	Gap
% whose caring responsibilities prevent them from leaving their home when they want to	38.2%	2.8%	35.4%
% for whom accessible venues would encourage them to visit venues and events more often at night	23.6%	8.2%	15.4%
% victim of disability discrimination or harassment in last year	13.7%	3.9%	9.8%
% uncomfortable using digital services	25.9%	9.4%	16.5%
% with illness or health condition which limits day-to-day activities a lot	18.1%	6.3%	11.8%
% with no formal qualification	18.2%	7.5%	10.7%
% extremely worried about keeping their home warm this winter	26.8%	11.1%	15.7%

Table 8.4: Table of selected QoL indicators which are worse for full-time carers

5. Black / Black British

For Black / Black British people there are 45 indicators worse than the city average (worse than last year, with 34 indicators). Headlines include:

- 1 in 5 (19.3%) report experiencing racial discrimination or harassment in the last year, over 3 times the city average.
- 1 in 10 (9.9%) faced religious discrimination or harassment last year
- Over 1 in 10 (11.2%) used a 'food bank' in the last year, over five times the city average (2.1%)
- Almost a quarter (24%) find it difficult to manage financially, over double the city average.
- The group least likely to visit parks and green spaces regularly, only 23.4% compared with 56.5% of Bristol residents on average.

Black / Black British people – significantly worse indicators	Group average	Bristol average	Gap
% victim of racial discrimination or harassment in last year	19.3%	6.1%	13.2%
% victim of religious discrimination or harassment in last year	9.9%	2.3%	7.6%
% households that used a 'food bank' during the last 12 months	11.2%	2.1%	9.1%
% who think domestic abuse is a private matter	17.8%	7.4%	10.4%

% who find it difficult to manage financially	24%	10.4%	13.6%
% extremely worried about keeping their home warm this winter	24.6%	11.1%	13.5%
% in good health	72.2%	83.6%	11.4%
% households who bought more food high in sugar/fat/salt in the past year	13.3%	3.7%	9.6%
% who visit Bristol's parks and green spaces at least once a week	23.4%	56.5%	33.1%

Table 8.5: Table of selected QoL indicators which are worse for Black / Black British people

6. Asian / Asian British

For Asian/Asian British people there are 38 indicators worse than the city average (similar to last year, with 37 indicators). Headlines include:

- Over a third (36.3%) have experienced racial discrimination or harassment in the last year – the group most likely to experience this (same as last year)
- 1 in 10 (10.9%) faced religious discrimination or harassment last year
- 1 in 5 (20.2%) find it difficult to manage financially, double the city average.

Asian / Asian British people – significantly worse indicators	Group average	Bristol average	Gap
% victim of racial discrimination or harassment in last year	36.3%	6.1%	30.2%
% who have been harassed in a park / open space in the last year, due to ethnicity / race	12.3%	1.5%	10.8%
% who have been discriminated against or harassed at work in the last year, due to ethnicity / race	12.4%	2.1%	10.3%
% victim of religious discrimination or harassment in last year	10.9%	2.3%	8.6%
% who agree if a family member was living with HIV, it would have a negative impact on their relationship	29.2%	9.6%	19.6%
% who find it difficult to manage financially	20.2%	10.4%	9.8%
% whose fear of crime affects their day-to-day lives	30.9%	21.4%	9.5%
% for whom alcohol-free alternatives would encourage them to visit venues and events more often at night	33.9%	16.7%	17.2%

Table 8.6: Table of selected QoL indicators which are worse for Asian / Asian British people

7. Single parents

For Single parents there are 33 indicators worse than the city average (better than last year, with 48 indicators). Headlines include:

- Close to 1 in 5 (17.1%) used a 'food bank' in the last year, the highest proportion of any group and over eight times the city average (2.1%)
- Almost a third (30%) find it difficult to manage financially, close to three times the city average.
- Almost 1 in 5 (18.9%) are smokers, double the city average

Single parents – significantly worse indicators	Group average	Bristol average	Gap
% households that used a 'food bank' during the last 12 months	17.1%	2.1%	15%
% households which have experienced severe food insecurity	16.1%	4.3%	11.8%
% who find it difficult to manage financially	30%	10.4%	19.6%
% who feel lonely because they don't see friends and family enough	12.9%	5.2%	7.7%
% smokers	18.9%	9.7%	9.2%
% whose fear of crime affects their day-to-day lives	31.6%	21.4%	10.2%
% satisfied with the quality of parks and green spaces	58.6%	71.1%	12.5%

Table 8.7: Table of selected QoL indicators which are worse for Single parents

8. Lesbian, Gay, Bi or other minority sexual orientation people (LGB+)

For LGB+ people there are 70 indicators worse than the city average (worse than last year with 43 indicators, but there are more indicators on harassment this year). Headlines include:

- 17% have experienced discrimination or harassment in the last year due to sexual orientation (similar to last year, 18.3%)
- Almost a third (31%) have been sexually harassed or experienced unwanted sexual attention in the last year, over double the city average
- Also 1 in 10 have been a victim of disability discrimination or harassment in the last year
- 1 in 10 have experienced severe food insecurity in the last year, over double the city average

LGB+ people – significantly worse indicators	Group average	Bristol average	Gap
% victim of discrimination or harassment in last year due to sexual orientation	17%	2.6%	14.4%
% who have been harassed in a busy outside space in the last year, due to their sexual orientation	6.9%	1.1%	5.8%
% who have been sexually harassed or experienced unwanted sexual attention in the last year	31.1%	13.4%	17.7%
% victim of disability discrimination or harassment in last year	10.1%	3.9%	6.2%
% households which have experienced severe food insecurity	10.1%	4.3%	5.8%
% low life satisfaction	24.1%	14.5%	9.6%
% smokers	19%	9.7%	9.3%

Table 8.8: Table of selected QoL indicators which are worse for LGB+ people

Quality of Life survey – Methodology appendix

The [Quality of Life \(QoL\) survey](#) is a cross-sectional study that collects data annually in September / October. The target population are people, aged 16 years and over, resident within Bristol City Council boundaries. The survey also produces estimates for specific sub-populations such as electoral wards, deprivation deciles, sexes, older people, younger people and ethnic groups.

Random sample process

Individuals are selected at random, from all residential properties listed on the Land and Property Gazetteer (LPG). Student accommodation such as halls of residence are excluded. The survey uses a probability sample to make inferences about the Bristol population, and results are analysed using the “Stata” statistical software package.

The survey is a single stage design with the LPG stratified by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). This means that the residential properties in the LPG are grouped into LSOAs and then separate random samples are taken from each LSOA. The same number people are selected from every LSOA in a specific ward unless the LSOA crosses a ward boundary. The response target is to obtain at least 100 responses from each ward. The predicted response rate for each LSOA is the weighted moving average of the previous 3 years response rates for that particular LSOA.

Invitation process

Phase 1: Initially the selected households are mailed an invitation letter asking them to participate, with a link to the online survey. Respondents are asked to enter a unique reference number, so that they can be removed from the reminder mailing to non-responders.

Phase 2: After approx. 2 weeks, those that have already completed the survey in Phase 1 and any that ask to be excluded (or are returned to sender) are removed from the mailing list. A second mailing is then sent out, with an invitation letter (and online link) plus a paper copy of the survey.

Phase 3: After 1-2 weeks (to allow the peak of responses to the second mailing), targeted promotion of the survey (via social media and local groups) is done to low-responding wards (those at risk of not getting 100 responses); NB this is to *all residents* of those wards, not just the households from the random sample. From previous experience it is known that younger people aged 16 to 24 years and black and minority ethnic groups are also routinely under-represented in the survey, so targeted promotion of the survey to *all members* of these groups is carried out at the same time.

[Note – if additional Phase 3 responses are received from people living in wards that are not under-represented in the final analysis, they are not included in the results; this is to retain focus on results from the random sample as much as possible].

Result weighting

An adjustment, called the finite population correction, is applied to reduce sampling variability due to sampling without replacement. Poststratification is used to adjust sampling weights to sum to the poststratum sizes in the population and so reduce bias due to non-response. The poststrata are ward, age (16-49 years, 50+ years) and sex. The poststratum sizes are the ONS mid-year estimates.

Variance estimates, and thus the standard errors are calculated using a “bootstrap replication” method. The bootstrap is more robust than linearization methods to non-response.

Occasionally missing data can leave only a single sampling unit (individual) in a stratum (LSOA). In these cases the LSOA is merged with a neighbouring LSOA within the same ward.