Bath & North East Somerset Council Improving People's Lives Strategic Evidence Base for Bath and North East Somerset Society Last Published: November 2025

Improving People's Lives

Inequalities:

Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

Poverty

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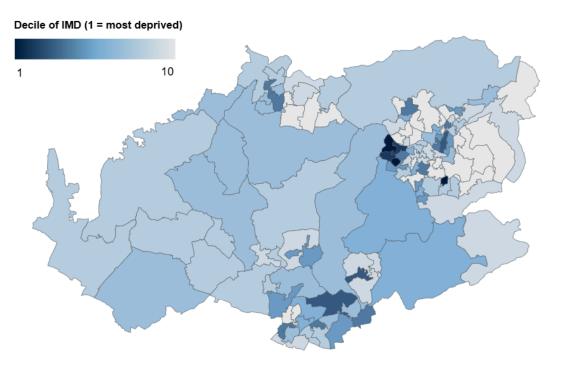
- The English <u>Indices of Deprivation</u> measure relative deprivation in small areas in England. The IMD represents information from across seven domains, including income, employment, health and more.
- B&NES remains among the least deprived local authorities nationally. In 2025, B&NES is less deprived than about 82% of local authorities nationally (245 out of 296 local authorities, where a rank of 1 is the most deprived).
- While deprivation levels remain low overall, B&NES has become relatively more deprived compared to other areas since 2019, when 85% of local authorities were more deprived relative to B&NES. There are now three small areas within the most

There are 7 domains of deprivation, which combine to create the

- deprived 10% nationally (**Twerton West, Whiteway and Fox Hill North**) an increase from one area in 2015 (Twerton West) and two areas in 2019 (Twerton West and Whiteway).
- We now have approximately 4,500 people living in areas of B&NES that fall within the most deprived 10% nationally. A decade ago, this figure was around 1,500, with Twerton West being the only Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) in that decile in the 2015 IMD.

Click here to view an interactive dashboard of the 2025 IMD for B&NES

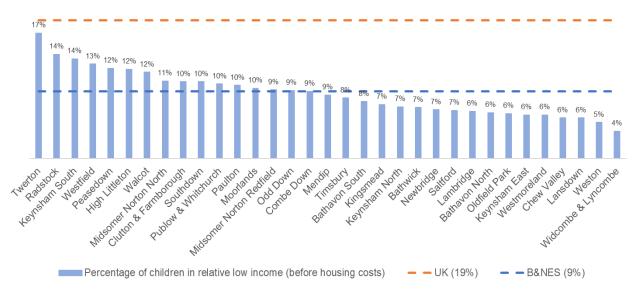
Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD25): Income Employment Education Health (13.5%)(13.5%)(22.5%)(22.5%)(£) Measures the lack of Measures the Measures the risk of Measures the proportion of working premature death & attainment & skills in proportion of the age population impairment of life population experiencing the local population involuntarily excluded quality through poor deprivation relating to from the labour market physical/mental health low income Supplementary Indices Living Environment Barriers to Housing Crime (9.3%)& Services (9.3%)(9.3%)Deprivation Deprivation Affecting Affecting Children Older People Index Index (IDACI) (IDAOPI) measures measures the the Measures the risk of Measures the Measures the quality proportion of proportion of all children of both the 'indoor' those aged physical & financial personal & material aged 0 to 15 60+ who accessibility of and 'outdoor' local victimisation at local living in experience income housing & local level environment income deprived services deprivation



Source: In-house analysis of 2025, 2019 and 2015 IMD data

Poverty

Percentage of Children and Young People (aged 0-15) in Low-income Families, B&NES electoral wards, FYE 2020/21 (provisional)



Notes: official statistics on the number of children living in relative and absolute low income families before housing costs (BHC) by local area across the United Kingdom. Figures are calibrated to the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) survey 3-year regional averages of children living in low income households but provide more granular local area information that is not available in HBAI.

Source: DWP (2022), Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2021, available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2021

Definition: **Absolute poverty**: a condition where household income is below a necessary level to maintain basic living standards (food, shelter, housing). **Relative poverty**: a condition where a household is a certain percentage below median incomes.

- The percentage of <u>individuals</u> in <u>relative</u> low income/poverty (after housing costs) in the UK has <u>changed little</u> since around the turn of the millennium, with a little over 1 in 5 living in poverty (22% during the period 2015/16 to 2019/20, which dropped to 20% during 2020/21, but due to data collection issues during the pandemic this was not significantly different to previous year).
- In the **UK** <u>children</u> have had the **highest relative poverty** (*after housing costs*) rates throughout the last <u>25 years</u>. Since 2013/14 child poverty has been rising, reaching **around 3 in 10** (31% during 2019/20, which dropped to 27% during 2020/21, but due to data collection issues during the pandemic this was not significantly different to previous year).
- The biggest improvement in UK relative poverty (after housing costs) rates since the 1990s has been seen in pensioner poverty falling from a high of 28% and 29% in the mid to late 1990s to 13% in 2012/13. However, pensioner poverty in 2019/20 stood at 18% (which dropped to 15% during 2020/21, but due to data collection issues during the pandemic this was not significantly different to previous year).
- There are several measures of local child poverty available:
 - 1 in 5 (20%) children and young people in <u>B&NES</u> in 2019/20 were estimated to be living in relative poverty (after housing costs), amounting to some 6,500 children and young people aged 0 to 15.
 - 1 in 11 (9%) children and young people in <u>B&NES</u> in 2020/21 were estimated to be living in relative poverty (before housing costs), some 3,000 children and young people aged 0 to 15. The comparable figure for the UK using this measure is 19%, two percentage points higher than the comparable figure for Twerton ward (17%). Other wards with relatively high child poverty rates include Radstock (14%), Keynsham South (14%) and Westfield (13%).
- The current cost of living crisis is likely to force more people into poverty. In May 2022, 88% of UK adults reported an increase in their cost of living. The Resolution Foundation estimates an extra 1.3 million people will fall into absolute poverty in 2023, including 500,000 children
 - Based on these estimates, it would mean nearly 4,000 more people in B&NES in absolute poverty, including 1,500 children