



Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

# Strategic Evidence Base for Bath and North East Somerset

## Society

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Inequalities:

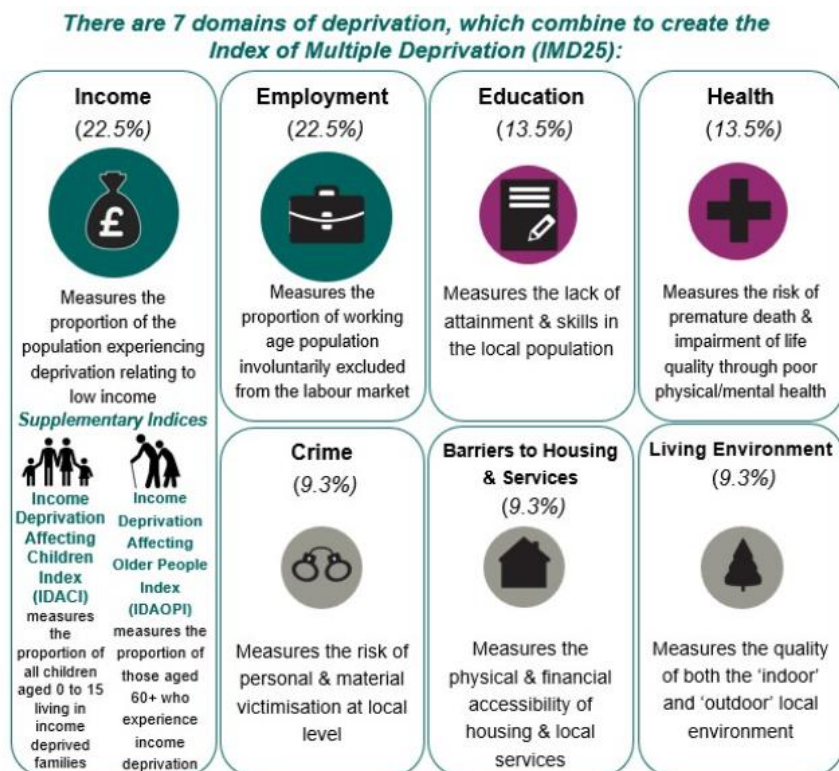
Indices of Multiple  
Deprivation (IMD)

Poverty

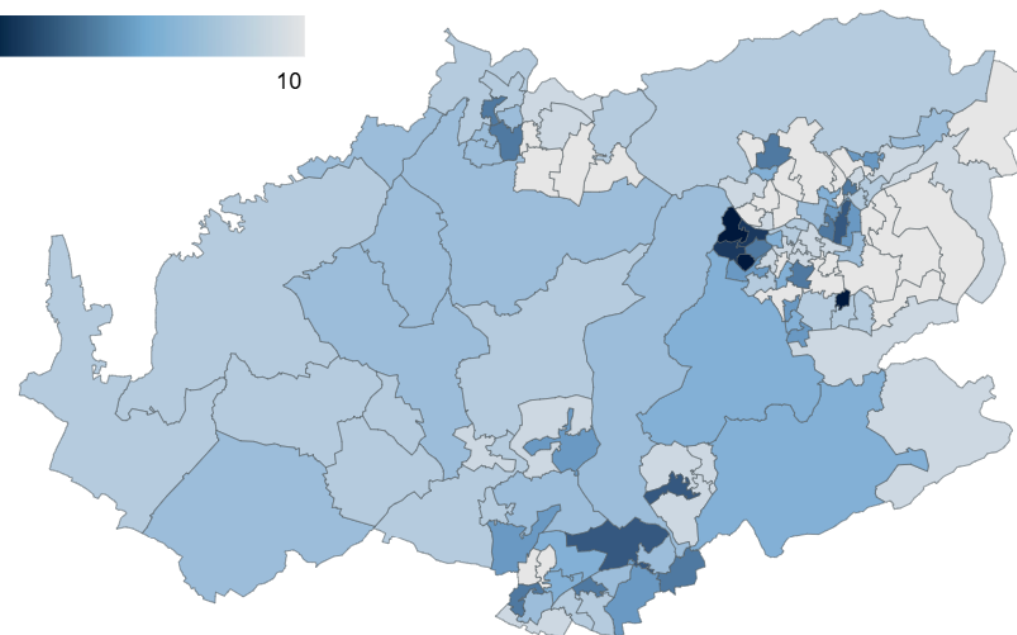
# Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

- The English [Indices of Deprivation](#) 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 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

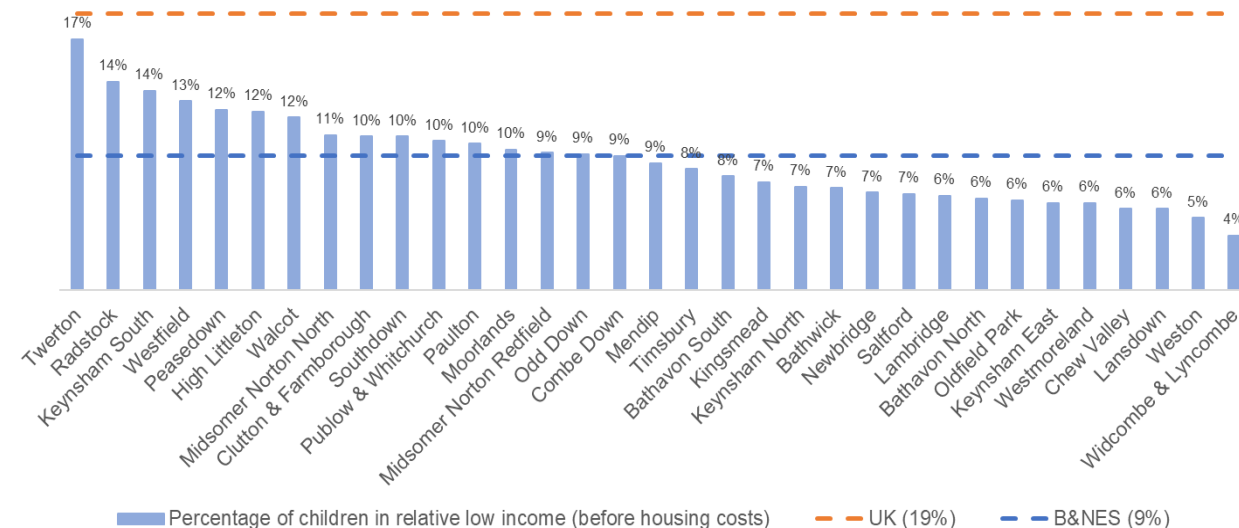


Decile of IMD (1 = most deprived)



Source: In-house analysis of 2025, 2019 and 2015 [IMD data](#)

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 **individuals** in **relative** low income/**poverty (after housing costs)** in the **UK** has **changed little** 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** **children** have had the **highest relative poverty (after housing costs)** rates throughout the last **25 years**. 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 **B&NES** 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 **B&NES** 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**