Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Strategic Evidence Base for Bath and North East Somerset

Society

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Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Views of Residents:

Inequalities:

Crime & Disorder:

Resident Satisfaction

Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

Recorded Crime Trends

Poverty

Community Safety

Food Insecurity

Violence Reduction

Fuel Poverty

Resident Satisfaction

Overall, how satisfied are you with:

% respondents who were either satisfied or very satisfied

Legend: your local area as a place to live — the way the Council runs things

To what extent do you agree that the Council provides value for money?

% of respondents who tended to agree or strongly agreed
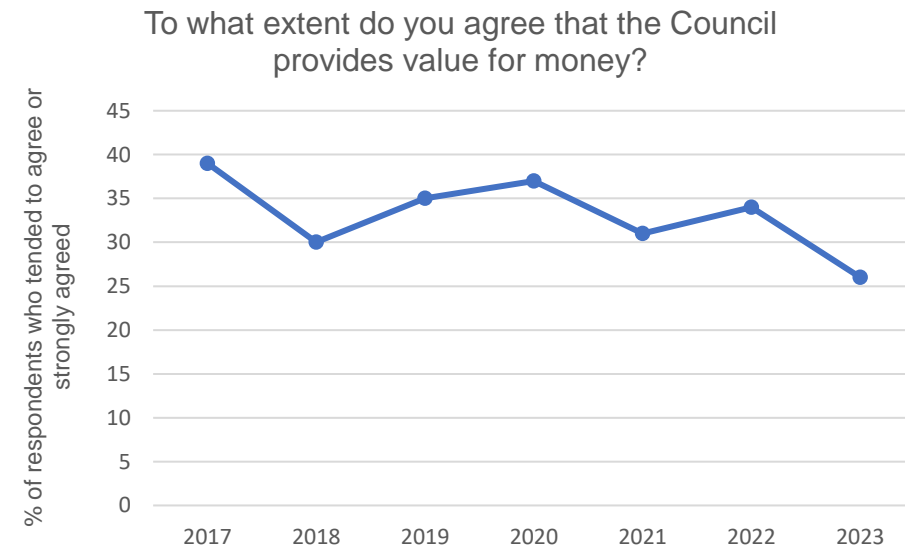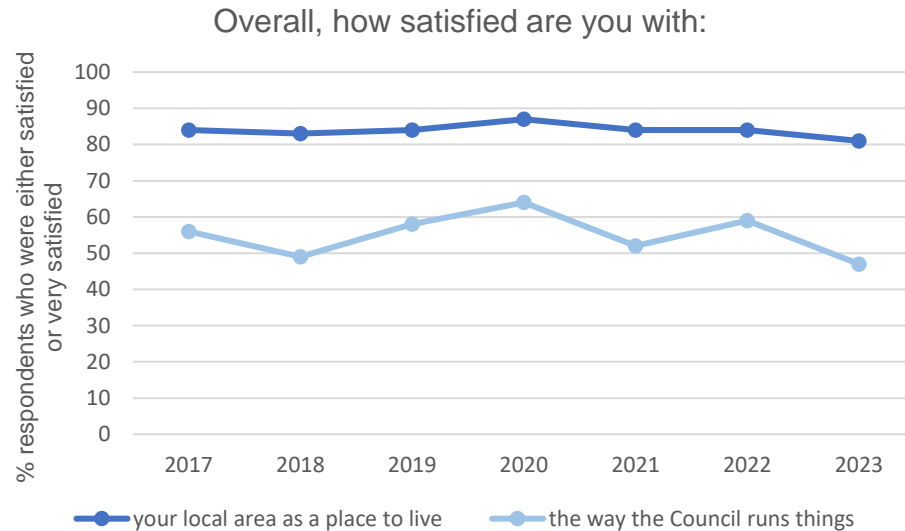
- The percentage of those **satisfied with their local area** as a place to live has **decreased** from 84% in 2022 to 81% in 2023. This is higher than the national rate reported of 75% in 2022. The level of satisfaction has been broadly stable since 2017, with a slight **increase** in 2020 (87%).

- The percentage of those **satisfied with the way the Council runs things**, **decreased** from 59% in 2022 to 47% in 2023 and is similar to the level reported in 2018 (49%).

- The percentage of those **agreeing that the Council provides value for money**, **decreased** from 34% in 2022 to 26% in 2023 and is now at its lowest level since 2018 (30%).
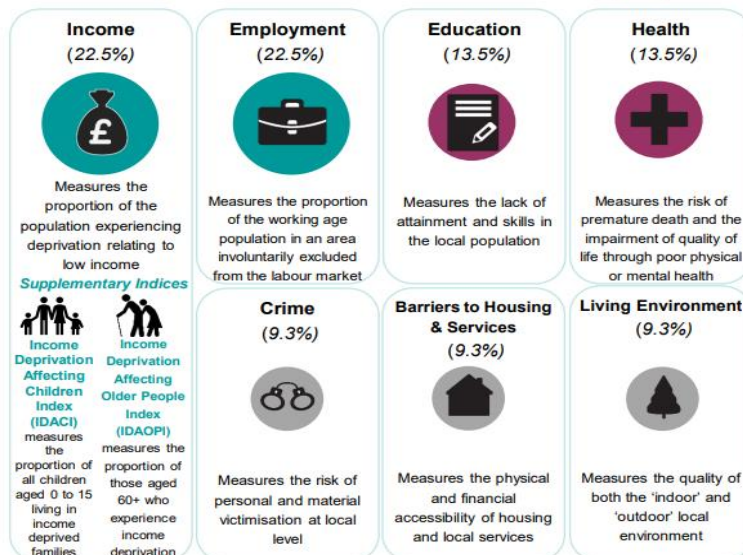
Definition: The Voicebox Resident Survey is an annual survey posted to a randomly selected sample of addresses within the local authority area. The survey aims to provide an insight into Bath and North East Somerset and its local communities and to capture residents' views on their local area as a place to live and the services provided by the Council.

Source: 'Your Local Area' Voicebox results and comparison data 2017 to 2023. National reported rate available from https://lgiu.org/publication/state-of-the-locals/
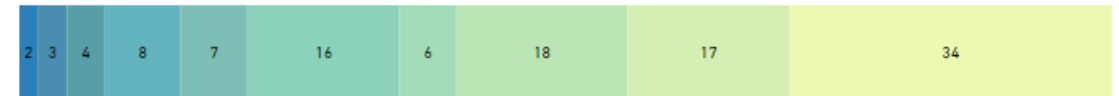
Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

- 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 ranks **269 out of 317** local authorities for overall deprivation in 2019, compared to a rank of 247 in 2015 (where 1 is the most deprived).

- As a whole, B&NES remains one of the **least deprived local authorities** in the country and continues to become relatively less deprived over time.

- However, within some areas, **inequality is widening** and deprivation remains significant. There are now two small areas (LSOAs) within the most deprived 10% nationally – **Twerton West** and **Whiteway**.
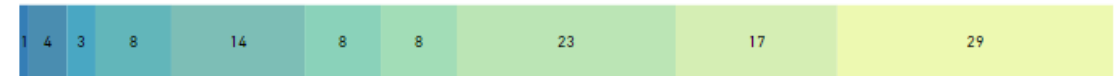
Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (1=Most Deprived Nationally) - Select to filter map

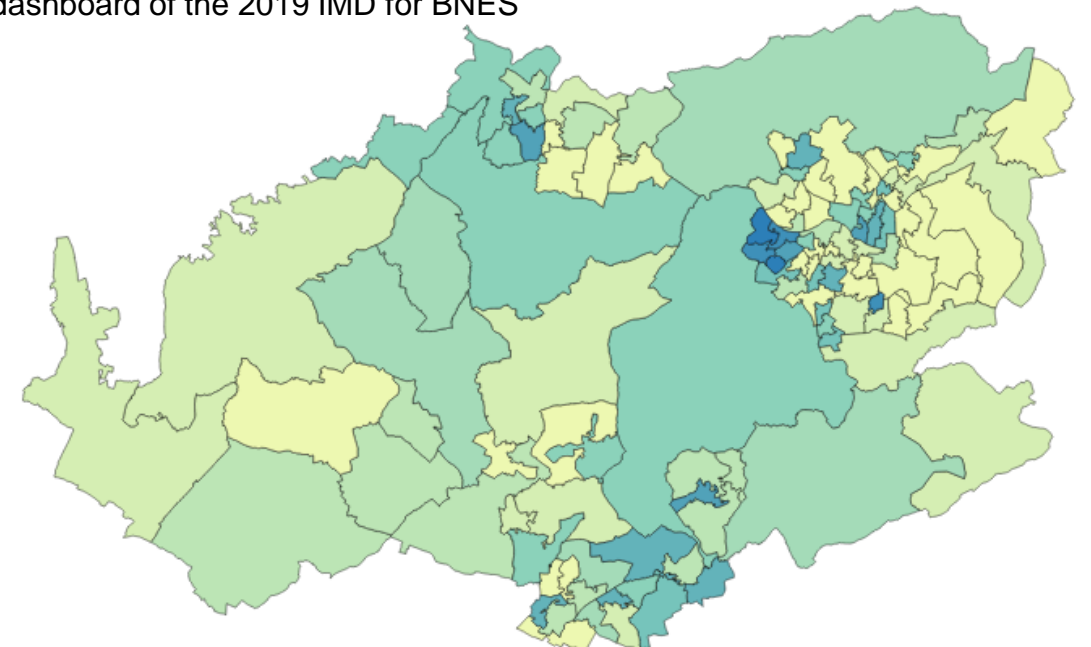| 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 16 | 6 | 18 | 17 | 34 |

2015 IMD

| 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 14 | 8 | 8 | 23 | 17 | 29 |

IMD Decile ●1 ●2 ●3 ●4 ●5 ●6 ●7 ●8 ●9 ○10

Click here to view an interactive dashboard of the 2019 IMD for BNES

There are 7 domains of deprivation, which combine to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2019):

Income (22.5%) — Measures the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income

Employment (22.5%) — Measures the proportion of the working age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market

Education (13.5%) — Measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population

Health (13.5%) — Measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health

Supplementary Indices

Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families

Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) measures the proportion of those aged 60+ who experience income deprivation

Crime (9.3%) — Measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at local level

Barriers to Housing & Services (9.3%) — Measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services

Living Environment (9.3%) — Measures the quality of both the 'indoor' and 'outdoor' local environment

research@bathnes.gov.uk 14/10/2019

Source: In-house analysis of 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*)
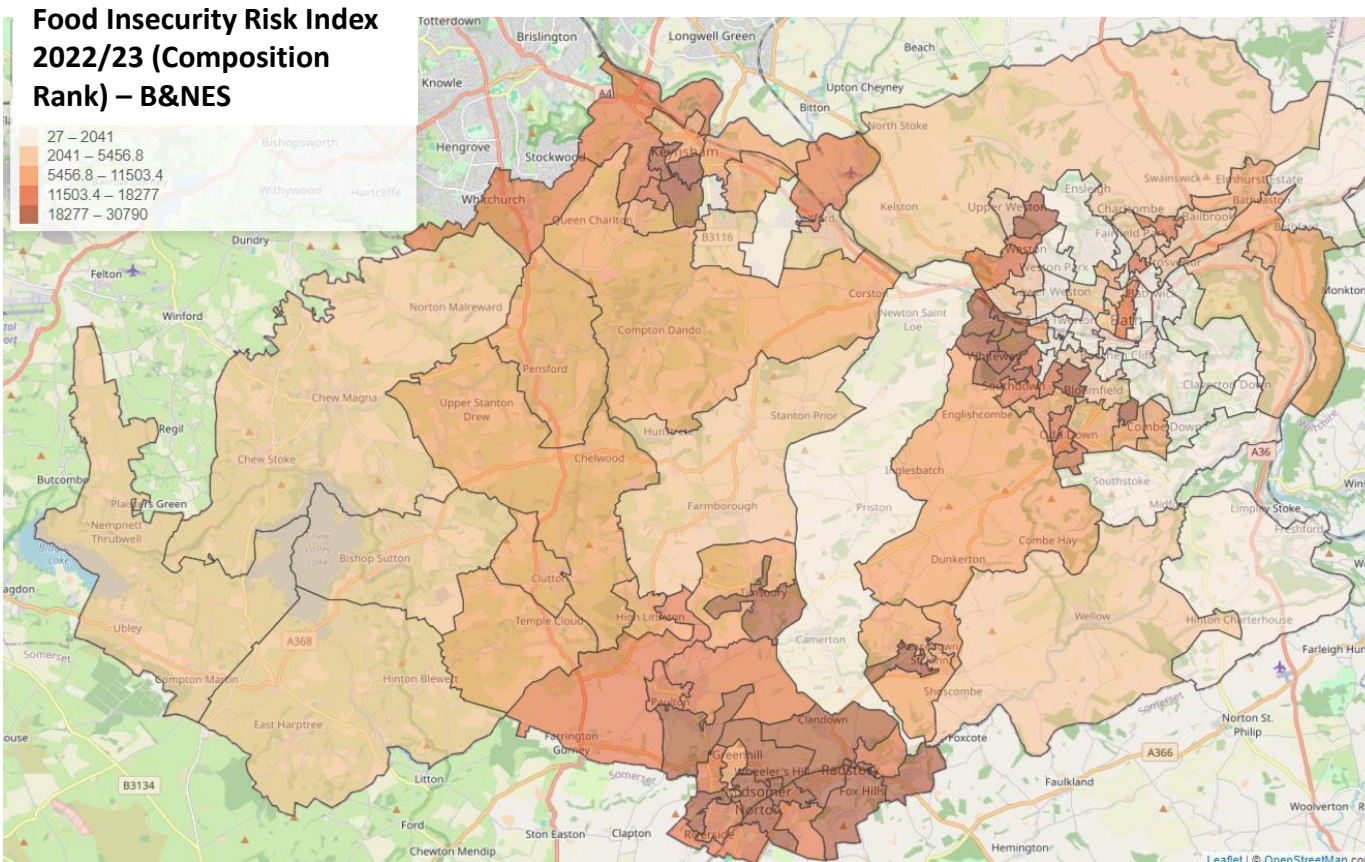

Legend: Percentage of children in relative low income (before housing costs) — — UK (19%) — — B&NES (9%)

- 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**

Food Insecurity 1

Food Insecurity Risk Index 2022/23 (Composition Rank) – B&NES

27 – 2041
2041 – 5456.8
5456.8 – 11503.4
11503.4 – 18277
18277 – 30790

- **Food insecurity** is defined by the FAO[1] as **lacking regular access to enough safe & nutritious food** for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. This could be due to unavailability of food and/or lack of resource to obtain food.

- There is currently **no standard measurement** of Food Insecurity in the UK[2]. In 2019, the FRS[3] estimated 6% of households in the South West were food insecure compared to 8% nationally. In 2023 this had risen to 8% in the South West and 10% nationally.

- The University of Southampton Food Insecurity Tool estimates the relative rank of food insecurity risk across local neighbourhoods in England. Risk is estimated based on household structure, benefits claimants, poor mental health and adult educational attainment.[3]

  - Based on this tool, the 10 areas with the **highest food insecurity risk ranks in B&NES** (2022/23) are: *Twerton West, Whiteway, Whiteway West, Fox Hill North, Midsomer Norton West, Twerton, South Paulton, Westfield North, Peasedown St John & Clandown.*

[1] FAO – Food & Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations. [2] Food Standards Agency Report (Discussion, section 7.1).
[3] FRS – Family Resources Survey, questions related to 30-day period prior to response. Data relates to interviews conducted from April 2022 to March 2023.

Map source: https://mylocalmap.org.uk/iaahealth/ (view interactively here). LSOA ranks from 1 to 33,755. Higher rank = higher risk (darker orange on map). Composition ank data compiled from the 2021 Census, 2022 DWP, 2022 Geolytix data. Smith D et al, Identifying populations and areas at greatest risk of household food insecurity in England. Applied Geography. 2018:91:21-31 *and* Smith D et al, Household food insecurity risk indices for English neighbourhoods. 2022. [3] Composition indicators: claimants of benefits, age 16+ (%), persons on low income and either living alone, or living in a household with dependent children, all ages (%), persons with no educational qualifications, age 16+ (%) and Mental ill health (IMD 2019 Mood & Anxiety Indicator).

Food Insecurity 2

Percentage of households experiencing Food Insecurity (National Data) *
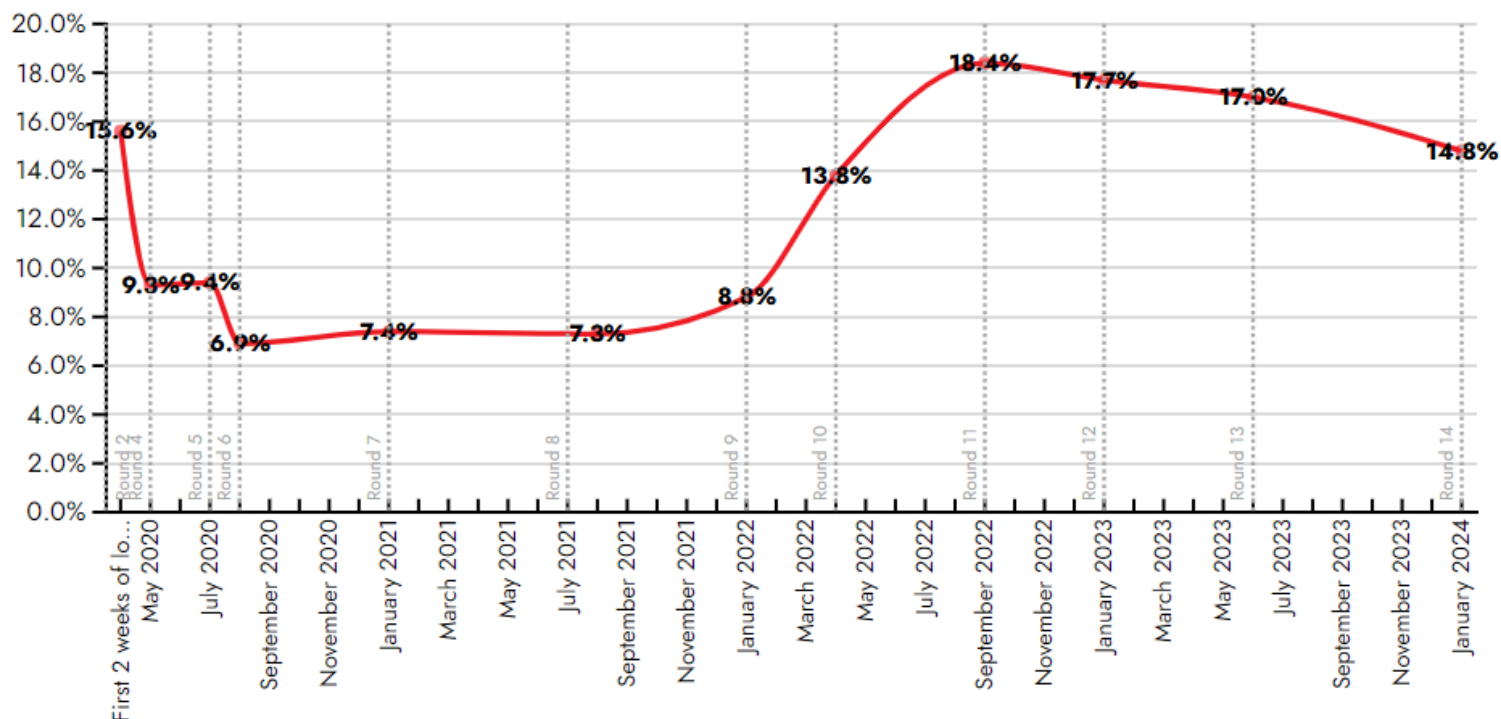
* Moderate or severe food insecurity. 1-month recall period.

- Recent **national** research by The Food Foundation[1] showed **14.8%** of households experienced food insecurity in Jan 2024. Following a sharp increase during 2022, this has now decreased from the peak of 18.4% seen in Sept 2022. These results are higher than those reported in the FRS (likely due to methodological differences)[2]. They also found:

  - nearly half of households on **Universal Credit** experienced food insecurity in the past month.

  - people with **disabilities** continue to be disproportionately affected.

  - **non-white ethnic groups** are at higher risk than white ethnic groups.

  - food insecurity in the past month in **households with children** remains higher than in households without children.

  - food insecure households were more likely to **cut back on purchasing healthy foods** such as fruit, vegetables, fish, dairy and eggs.
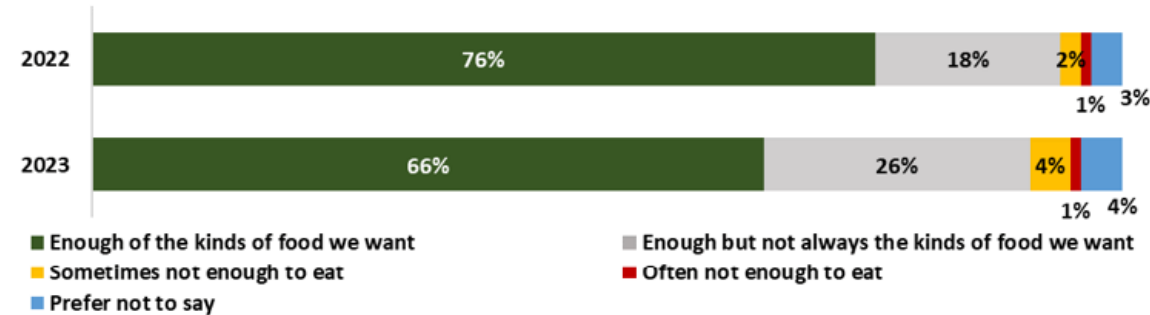
Data Source: The Food Foundation (Round 14).

[1] Results from an online survey of 6,051 adults (18+), conducted 9-16Jan 2024. [2] Questions are: Have you/anyone in your household: 1) had smaller meals than usual or skip meals because you couldn't afford or get access to food? 2) ever been hungry but not eaten because you couldn't afford or get access to food? 3) not eaten for a whole day because you couldn't afford or get access to food?. If they answered yes to any of these 3 questions, they were classified as food insecure. These are an adapted version of questions which form part of the FRS food insecurity questions.
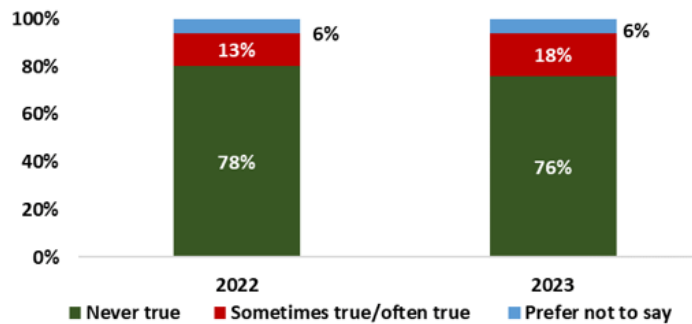
Food Insecurity 3

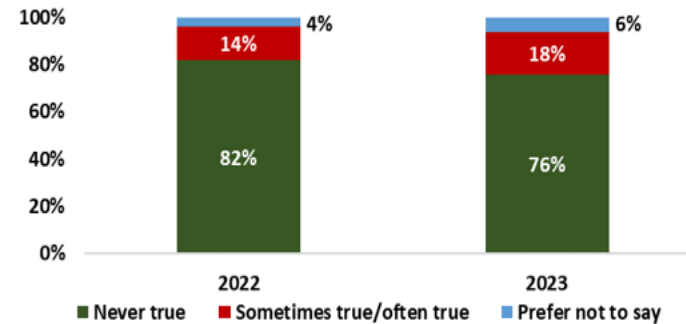## B&NES Resident Survey (Dec 2023)

Which of these statements best describes the food eaten in your household in the last 12 months?

- Enough of the kinds of food we want
- Enough but not always the kinds of food we want
- Sometimes not enough to eat
- Often not enough to eat
- Prefer not to say

I have worried about whether food would run out before I could afford to buy more:

- Never true
- Sometimes true/often true
- Prefer not to say

I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals:

- Never true
- Sometimes true/often true
- Prefer not to say
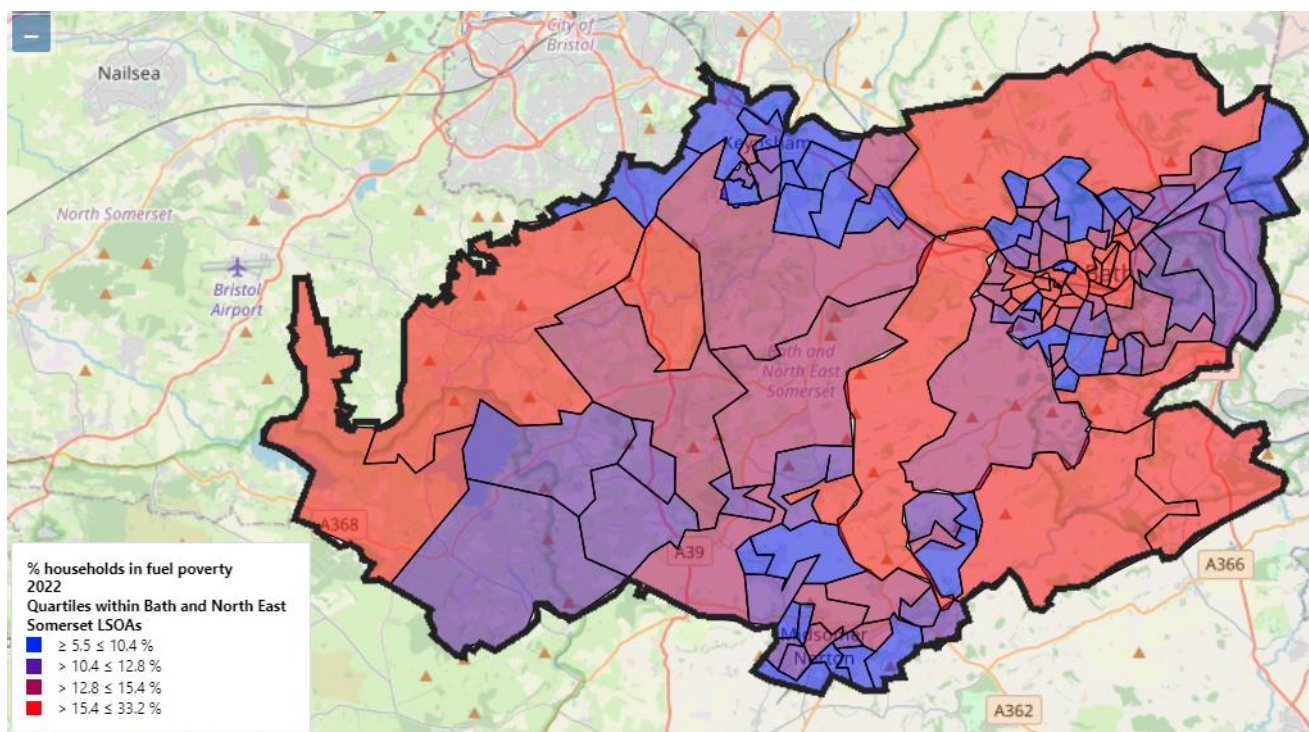
- The most recent **B&NES local resident survey**[1] showed two-thirds (66%) of residents had **enough of the kinds of food they wanted to eat**. This was a decrease from 76% in 2022. It showed an **increase** in the proportion reporting they had **eaten enough but not always the kinds of food they want** in the last 12 months, from **18%** in 2022 **to 26%** in 2023. This has increased from 12% in 2021.
  - there was also an **increase** in those reporting they **sometimes did not have enough to eat,** with this **doubling from 2%** in 2022 to **4%** in 2023. This could equate to **almost 8,000 residents experiencing food shortages** in late 2023.

- The majority of residents indicated they were not worried whether food would run out before they could buy more (76%), the food they bought lasted (79%) and could afford to eat balanced meals (76%). However, there were i**ncreases in those sometimes/often worried that food would run out** from **13%** in 2022 to **18%** in 2023. The proportion reporting they **sometimes/often couldn't afford to eat balanced meals also increased** from 14% in 2022 to 18% in 2023. This concurs with the Food Foundation findings of food insecure households being more likely to cut back on purchasing healthy foods.

[1] B&NES Voicebox resident survey 2023 based on ~1,089 returned questionnaires. Conducted Nov-Dec 2023.
B&NES Voicebox resident survey 2022 based on ~1,083 returned questionnaires. Conducted Dec 2022.

Fuel Poverty

Fuel Poverty in B&NES by LSOA (2022 data)

% households in fuel poverty 2022
Quartiles within Bath and North East Somerset LSOAs
- ≥ 5.5 ≤ 10.4 %
- > 10.4 ≤ 12.8 %
- > 12.8 ≤ 15.4 %
- > 15.4 ≤ 33.2 %

Fuel poverty in England is measured using the **Low-Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE)** indicator. Under this indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if:

- they are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below;

and

- when they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

[**Note**: previous definition of fuel poverty (Pre 2014) - A household was considered to be in fuel poverty when it needed to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel.]

Nationally in 2023, there were an estimated **13.0% of households (3.17 million)** in fuel poverty in England, effectively unchanged from 13.1% in 2022 (3.18 million). It is projected that in 2024, fuel poverty will decrease to 12.7% (3.12 million).

In B&NES in 2022, there were **10,935** (**13.2%**) households in Fuel Poverty. This represents a **1.1 percentage point** increase compared to 2021 (**12.1%**). In 2022, almost half **(57 out of 118 | 48%)** of the LSOAs in B&NES had Fuel Poverty levels of **13% or above,** an increase from 42 (36%) LSOAs in 2021. There is some overlap with LSOAs with high levels of fuel poverty and those where mains gas is not being used for central heating, as well with areas of higher levels of deprivation.

Note: there are concerns that the LILEE metric **underestimates** fuel poverty. Researchers have found that energy insecurity could be **2.5x higher** than as defined by the LILEE metric. They also highlight concerns around omitting households with an EPC A-C rating as 'not fuel poor' which is felt to be incorrect.

Sources:
- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Annual fuel poverty statistics report 2024 (2022 and 2023 data) (published 15Feb24).
- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2024 (2022 data) (published 25Apr24).
- Map Source: LGInform

Crime & Disorder – Recorded Crime Trends

B&NES - Police recorded crime by type (Jan 2019 - Dec 2021)

ASB & Public order ● Criminal damage and arson ● Other crime ● Robbery & Violence and sexual offences ● Theft & Burglary ● Vehicle crime

Police recorded crime (Jan 2019 - Dec 2021)

- The most common crime types in B&NES remain **robbery/violence and sexual offences**; **ASB and public order offences**; and **theft & burglary**.

- Overall, B&NES has seen a **small reduction** in total recorded crime since Jan 2019 across most types of crime. However, robbery & violence and sexual offences have increased over the same period, more rapidly following the re-opening of the night-time economy.

- This is in-line with national crime trend estimates, which indicate a decrease in the incidence of many types of crime during the Covid-19 pandemic (excluding fraud and computer misuse), but with violence and sexual offences now exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

Comparative crime rates in the 12 months ending Q4 2021

- In the twelve months to end of Q4 2021, B&NES recorded **59 crimes per 1,000 people**, an **increase** from 57 crimes per 1,000 recorded in the 12 months ending Q4 2020. There were **11,634** total recorded offences in B&NES during this period.

- Nationally, B&NES ranks **22 out of 152** in all English single tier and county councils for total recorded crime. In the South West, B&NES ranks **11 out of 33** (lower ranks represent fewer crimes)

- The crime types for which B&NES ranks highest are **shoplifting** (ranked 95 of 152) and **public order offences** (ranked 68 of 152) as well as bicycle theft and non-residential burglary (63 of 152 for both).

- B&NES ranks particularly **low for drug offences and possession of weapons** (5 of 152 and 6 of 152 respectively).
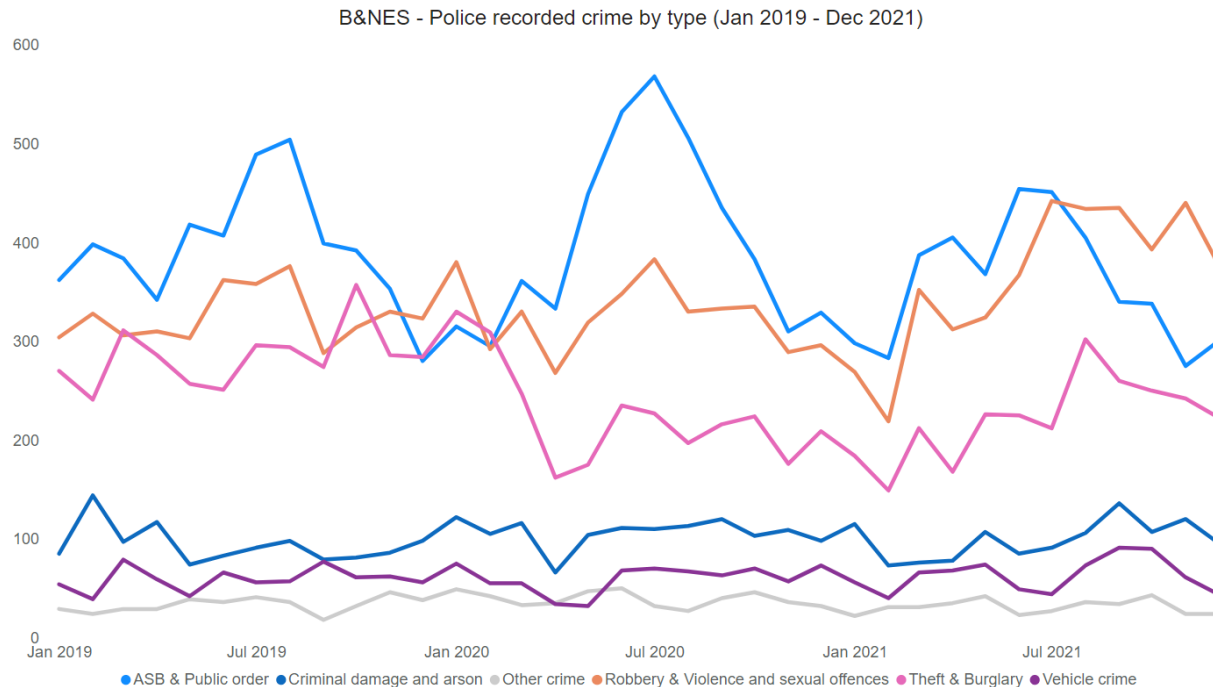
Chart Source: Recorded crime by type Jan 2019 to Dec 2021 - Police Data website

Data Notes: (1) Due to significant changes to police recording, figures do not currently provide reliable trends in hate crime, only a measure of the hate crime-related demand on the police. (2) Police recorded crime figures cover selected offences that have been reported to and recorded by the police.

Crime & Disorder – Community Safety

ASB, Public Order offences, Robbery, Violence and Sexual Assault in B&NES (July 2021 – Dec 2021)
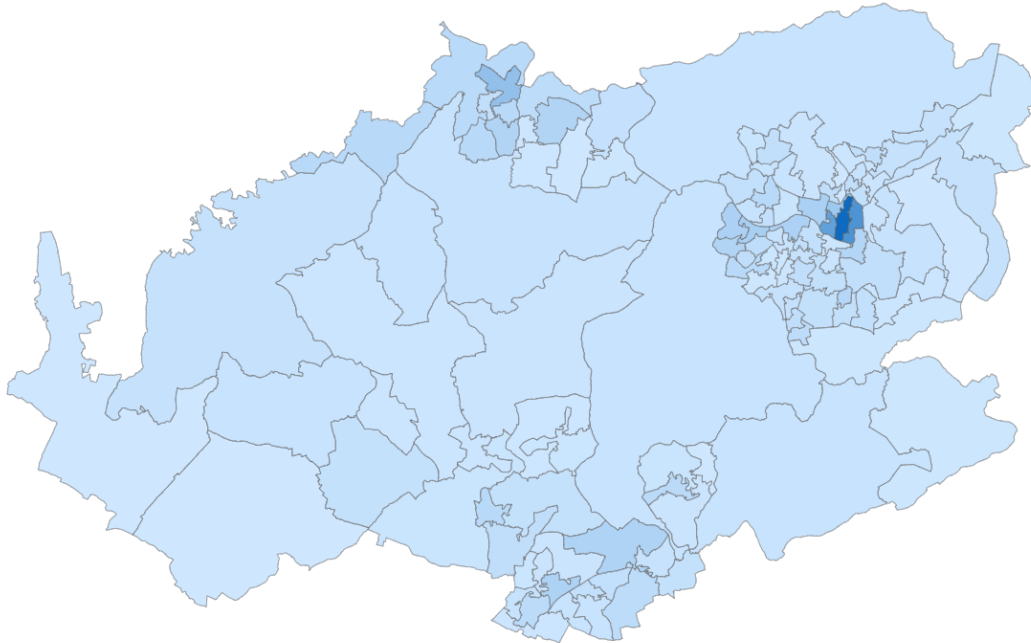
Darker shading represents higher numbers of crimes

From July to December 2021, Anti-social behaviour and violent crime was concentrated in **Bath City Centre**, specifically the Kingsmead and Abbey areas. This is likely closely linked with the Night-Time Economy.
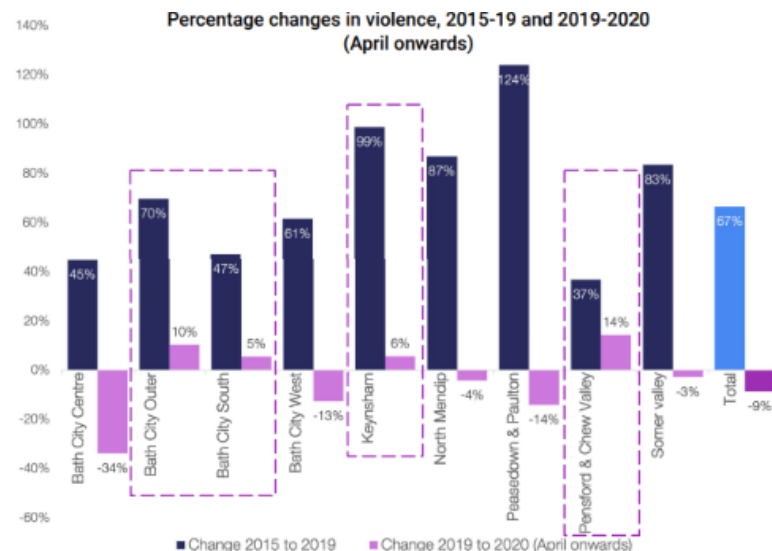
Joint Community Safety Plan 2022 [not yet published]

- The Coronavirus pandemic impacted on crime and the demand for policing services during 2021, and levels of crime and demand for police services are **returning to pre-pandemic levels**.
- Complex crimes with high levels of associated risk, such as Child Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), modern slavery and human trafficking are **increasing and this rise is expected to continue.**
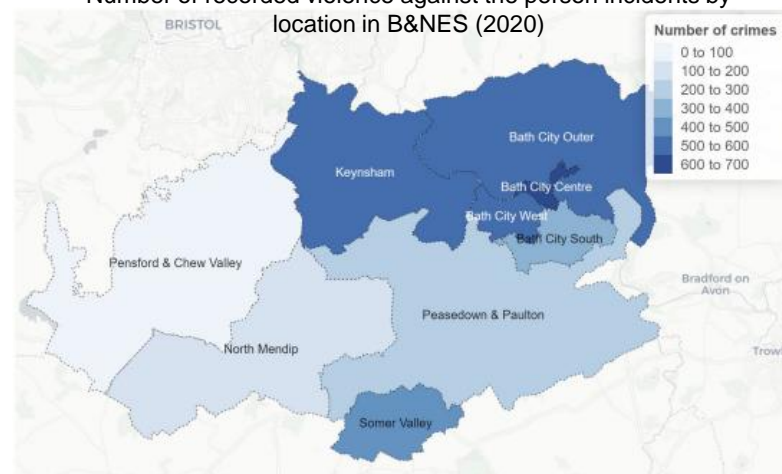- **County lines** are becoming more prevalent in the Avon and Somerset region.

Resident community safety (Voicebox residents survey 2021)

- 85% felt **very safe or safe** from violence outside the home in B&NES during the day and 5% outlined they felt **not very safe** or **not safe at all**.
- Just over half (56%) felt **very safe or safe** from violence outside the home in B&NES during the night and nearly a quarter (23%) felt **not very safe** or **not safe at all**.
- 71% felt children are **very safe or safe** from violence outside the home in B&NES during the day and 11% outlined they felt children are **not very safe** or **not safe at all**.
- 38% felt children are **very safe or safe** from violence outside the home in B&NES during the night and 37% outlined they felt children are **not very safe** or **not safe at all**.
- 62% said they would be very or fairly confident about reporting concerns about violence in their local area and 18% said they would be not very confident or not confident at all.
- 46% said they would be very or fairly confident about recognising the signs of child exploitation e.g., county lines, online grooming and 27% said they would be not very confident or not confident at all.

Chart source: Recorded crime by type July 2021 to Dec 2021 - Police Data website

Crime & Disorder – Violence Reduction

Percentage changes in violence, 2015-19 and 2019-2020 (April onwards)

Bath City Centre: 45%, -34%
Bath City Outer: 70%, 10%
Bath City South: 47%, 5%
Bath City West: 61%, -13%
Keynsham: 99%, 6%
North Mendip: 87%, -4%
Peasedown & Paulton: 124%
Pensford & Chew Valley: 37%, -14%
Somer valley: 83%, 14%
Total: 67%, -3%, -9%

■ Change 2015 to 2019 ■ Change 2019 to 2020 (April onwards)

Number of recorded violence against the person incidents by location in B&NES (2020)

Number of crimes
0 to 100
100 to 200
200 to 300
300 to 400
400 to 500
500 to 600
600 to 700

The **Violence Reduction Unit** commissioned an update to its problem profile of serious violence in 2021, covering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the serious violence landscape in B&NES.

- From 2015 to 2019 all areas of B&NES saw an **increase in serious violence** (inc. homicide, knife and gun crime, robbery, sexual offences and domestic abuse). The pattern during the pandemic has been more mixed, with some areas experiencing an increase despite an overall fall in violent offences.

- In contrast to 2018/19, **Keynsham** is now also an area with higher levels of violence. **Bath City Centre and Somer Valley** continue to be centres of concentrated violence, despite a temporary drop likely due to the **closure of the night-time economy.**

The key findings from the **2020 update** were:

- Despite the temporary drop-off in night-time economy violence due to the closure of the night-time economy, it has been reported that 'gang' and organised violence have become more prevalent.

- B&NES has a high proportion of offences where victims **do not support further action** which may be linked to domestic abuse and young people's willingness to engage with the police.

- The data on Domestic Abuse suggests only **a small increase in volume** but this may be due to challenges in reporting.

- There has been a **large increase in BAME referrals to IRIS** (specialist domestic violence and abuse programme for General Practices).

- The pandemic has had a general exacerbating effect on all drivers of serious violence (e.g. drug misuse, vulnerability and decline in effective enforcement) and has increased most forms of vulnerability. This is particularly true for **financial need and mental health** and opportunities for early intervention may have been lost.

- The cohort of offenders involved in serious and violent crime are getting **younger (under 24)** and there is a perceived increase in the involvement of **young females** in violent offending.

- Services are geographically concentrated in Bath City Centre and can be hard to access for more **rural populations**. (e.g. preventative and restorative domestic abuse perpetrator services and trauma counselling).