

Birth Trends in Gloucestershire

An Overview (2025 Data)

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InformGloucestershire

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Data sources:

Office for National Statistics (ONS): Births in England and Wales: birth registrations

[Births in England and Wales: birth registrations - Office for National Statistics](#)

NOMIS: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Number of live births in Gloucestershire in 2025

In 2025 there were 5,711 live births registered in Gloucestershire, representing a 2.0% decrease from the previous year's total of 5,826.

Table 1: Live births in Gloucestershire and districts, 2025

	Number of live births
Gloucestershire	5,711
Cheltenham	977
Cotswold	627
Forest of Dean	686
Gloucester	1,419
Stroud	1,011
Tewkesbury	991
South West	46,978
England	558,988
England & Wales	585,396

District focus

- The highest number of live births in Gloucestershire's districts was in Gloucester which registered 1,419 live births in 2025.
- Cotswold district saw the lowest number of live births in 2025, at 627.

Live births from 1993 to 2025¹

2025 saw the lowest level of live births registered in Gloucestershire since 1993. Although there has been some fluctuation in the number of live births per year in Gloucestershire, the general overall trend has been of decreasing numbers since 1993.

More recently, since 2020, live births have remained at a consistently lower level, with the exception of 2021 when there was a small peak of 6,138 live births recorded, one year after the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

¹ Caveat from ONS: Delays in birth registrations because of the coronavirus pandemic affected the cut-off dates for our annual birth registrations datasets for 2020 to 2022. [User guide to birth statistics - Office for National Statistics](#)

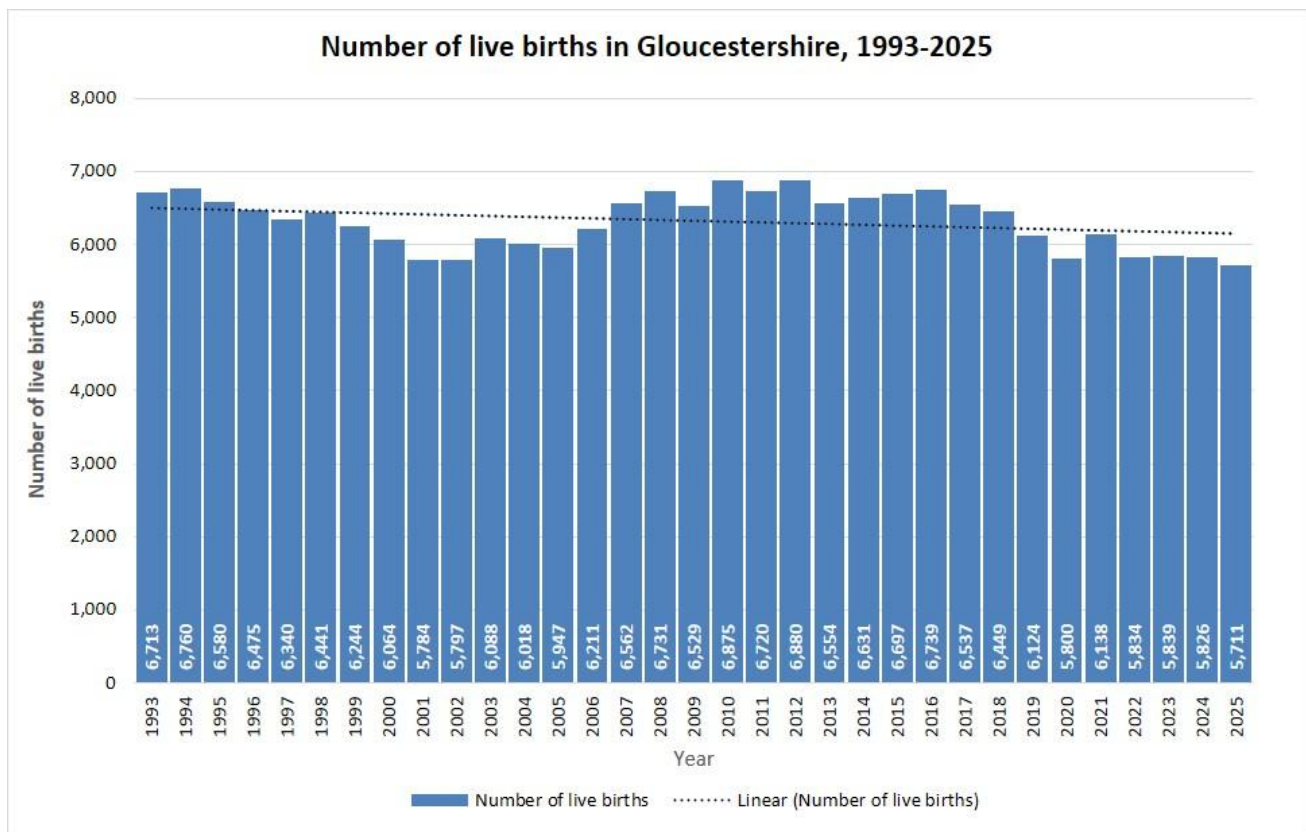


Figure 1: Live birth trends in Gloucestershire, 1993 to 2025

District focus

- Gloucester has registered the largest number of live births every year since 1993.
- Cotswold has registered the lowest number of live births for most years, from 1999 to 2016, in 2018, and from 2020 to 2025.
- During the last year Stroud has seen an increase in live birth numbers, whilst all other districts have seen a decrease; Stroud saw an increase of 72 live births, whilst Forest of Dean saw the largest decrease with 105 fewer live births from the previous year.

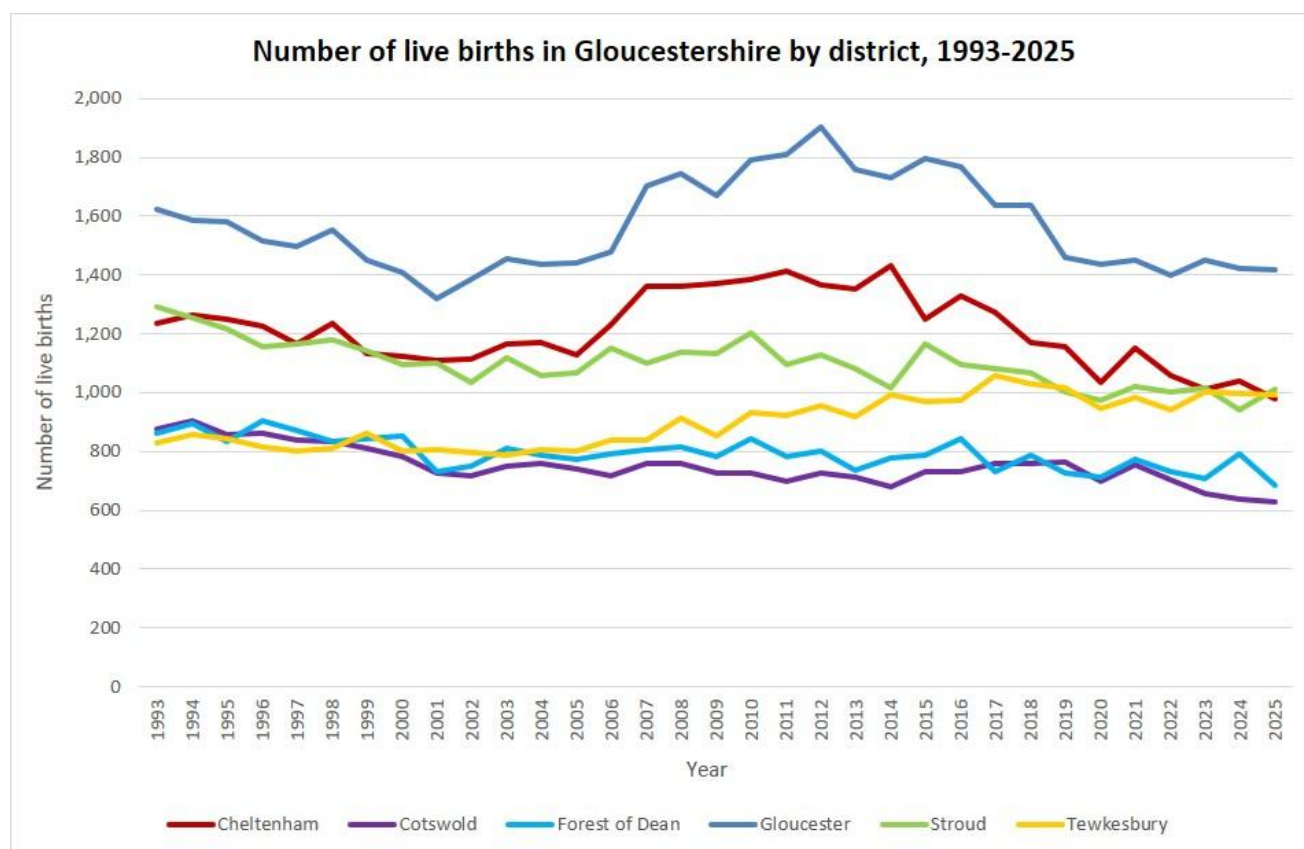


Figure 2: Live births in Gloucestershire by district, 1993 to 2025

General fertility rates

The General Fertility Rate (GFR) is a measure of current fertility levels and relates to the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44.²

In 2025, the GFR in Gloucestershire was 47.9 births per 1,000 women aged 15-44. This was higher than the South West rate of 44.0, but similar to England, and England & Wales which had rates of 48.2 and 48.0 respectively.

The decline in General Fertility Rates in Gloucestershire since 2024 was slightly more pronounced than in the South West, England, and in England & Wales; Gloucestershire saw 1.3 fewer births in 2025 per 1,000 women aged 15-44, whilst England saw 0.7 fewer, and England & Wales saw 0.8 fewer. The decrease in the South West was slightly smaller, with 0.3 fewer births per 1,000 women of child-bearing age in 2025.

² ONS, [User guide to birth statistics](https://ons.gov.uk/user-guide-to-birth-statistics) - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Table 2: General fertility rates in Gloucestershire and districts, 2025 compared with 2024

	General Fertility Rate 2025	General Fertility Rate 2024	Difference in Rate 2024/2025	Increase/ Decrease
Gloucestershire	47.9	49.2	-1.3	↓
Cheltenham	41.2	43.7	-2.5	↓
Cotswold	46.7	46.7	0.0	-
Forest of Dean	47.4	54.8	-7.4	↓
Gloucester	50.4	52.8	-0.4	↓
Stroud	48.9	46.1	2.8	↑
Tewkesbury	53.0	54.8	-1.8	↓
South West	44.0	44.3	-0.3	↓
England	48.2	48.9	-0.7	↓
England & Wales	48.0	48.8	-0.8	↓

District focus

- Tewkesbury had the highest GFR of all districts in 2025 with 53.0 births per 1,000 women aged 15-44.
- Cheltenham had the lowest GFR of all districts in 2025 with 41.2 births per 1,000 women aged 15-44.
- All districts experienced a decrease in their GFR between 2024 and 2025, except Stroud which saw its GFR increase, and Cotswold which saw no change from the previous year.

General fertility rate trends

Since 1993, the General Fertility Rate in Gloucestershire has seen some fluctuation, however the overall linear trend has shown a decline. This pattern has broadly mirrored the trend in the number of live births.

The highest GFR seen in Gloucestershire during this period was in 2012 when there was an average of 63.2 births per 1,000 woman aged 15-44. The GFR has been steadily declining since 2016, with the exception of 2021 when there was small peak – one year after the pandemic began. Gloucestershire's rate of 47.9 in 2025 was the lowest of any year since 1993.

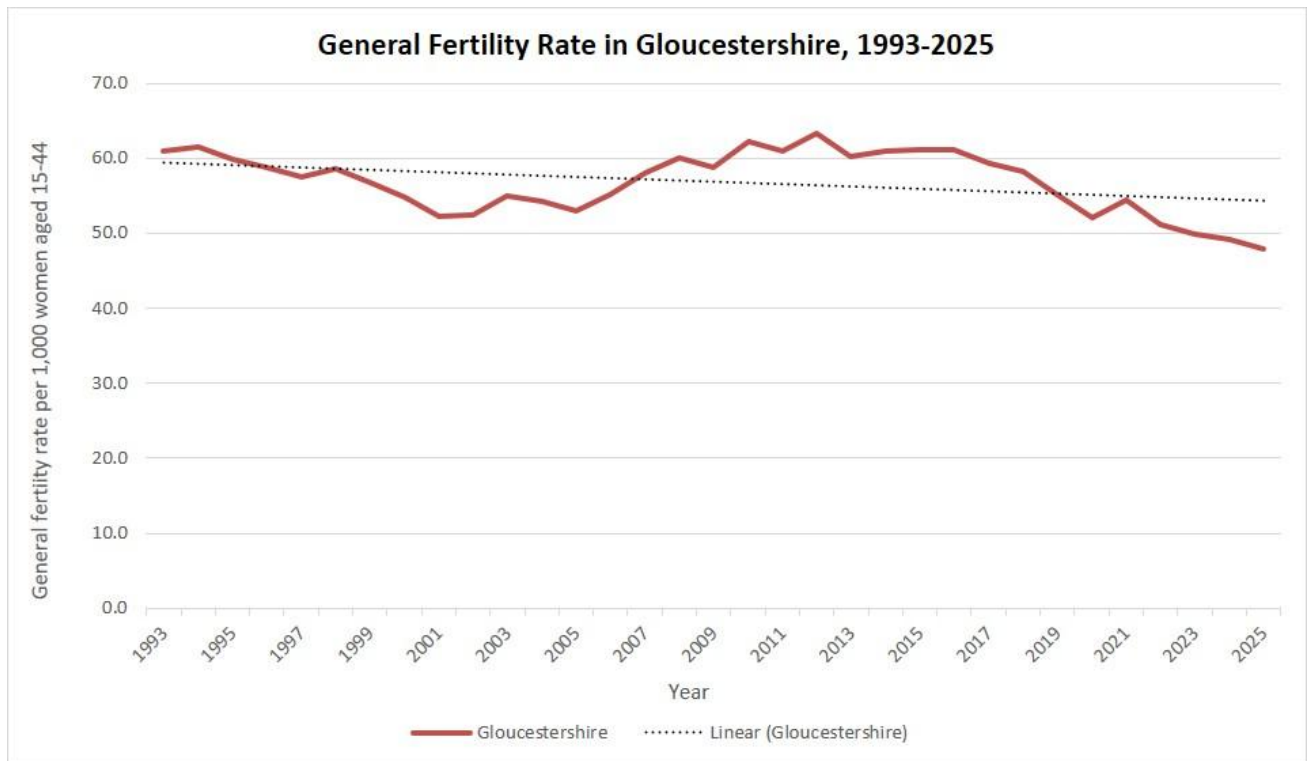


Figure 3: General fertility rate trend in Gloucestershire, 1993-2025

A similar trend can be seen within Gloucestershire's districts. Between 1993 and 2013 Gloucester had the highest GFR of all districts in the county. However, from 2014 to 2025 the GFR in Tewkesbury was the highest of all districts (with the exception of 2016, and in 2024 when Forest of Dean shared the same GFR).

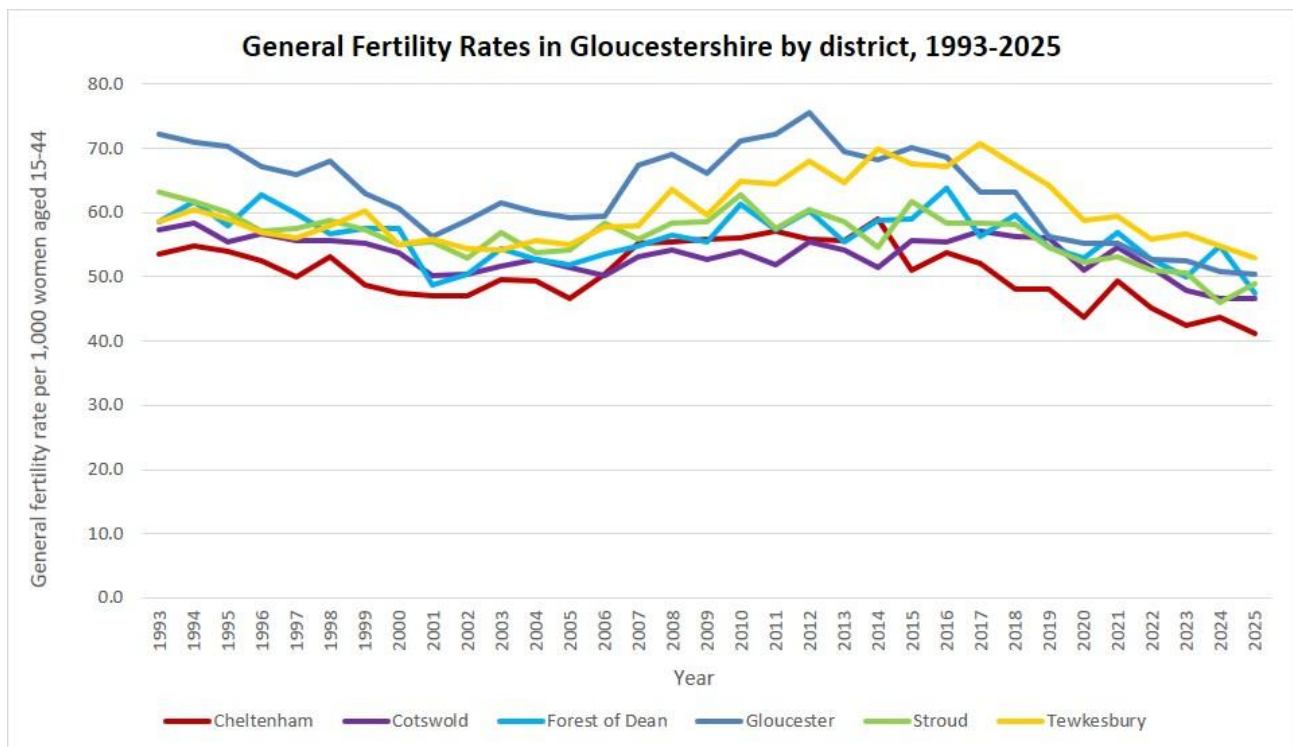


Figure 4: General fertility rate trend by district, 1993-2025

Figure 5 shows the overall reduction in General Fertility Rates in the eleven year period between 2013 and 2025. All areas have seen a decline over this period. Gloucester is the only district to see a greater decline than both the regional and national average.

Cotswold saw the smallest overall reduction, with an average GFR of 7.4 births less in 2025 than 2013.

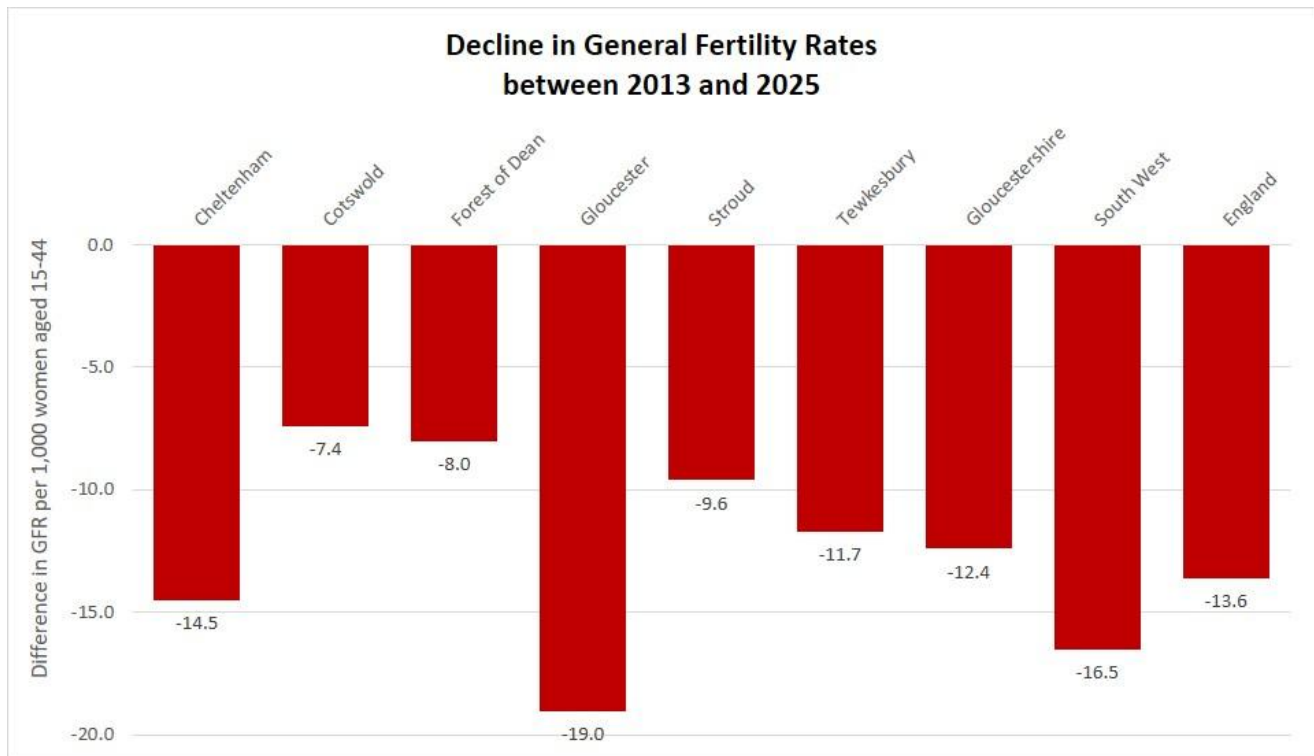


Figure 5: Reduction in General Fertility Rates by district, compared with county, regional and national averages, between years 2013 and 2025

Total fertility rates

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is used to estimate the average number of children that a woman would have over her childbearing years. It is defined more specifically by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as follows:

The total fertility rate in a specific year is defined as the total number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her childbearing years and give birth to children in alignment with the prevailing age-specific fertility rates. It is calculated by totalling the age-specific fertility rates as defined over five-year intervals. Assuming no net migration and unchanged mortality, a total fertility rate of 2.1 children per woman ensures a broadly stable population. Together with mortality and migration, fertility is an element of population growth, reflecting both the causes and effects of economic and social developments. The reasons for the dramatic decline in birth rates during the past few decades include postponed family formation and child-bearing and a decrease in desired family sizes. This indicator is measured in children per woman.³

³ [Fertility rates | OECD](#)

Gloucestershire's TFR in 2025 was 1.43 children per woman. This rate was slightly higher than both the England, and England and Wales averages of 1.39, and also exceeded the regional average which saw an average TFR of 1.31 children per woman in the South West.

Gloucestershire's TFR of 1.43 lies below the measure of 2.1 which is the rate stated by the OECD that would ensure a broadly stable population if mortality remained unchanged and if there were no net migration. This suggests that without the impact of positive net migration, the population of the county would be declining.

Table 3: Total fertility rates in Gloucestershire and districts, 2025

Total fertility rate	
Gloucestershire	1.43
Cheltenham	1.22
Cotswold	1.47
Forest of Dean	1.48
Gloucester	1.46
Stroud	1.47
Tewkesbury	1.55
South West	1.31
England	1.39
England & Wales	1.39

District focus

- The highest total fertility rate was seen in Tewkesbury with an average of 1.55 children per woman.
- The lowest total fertility rate of all districts was in Cheltenham with an average of 1.22 children per woman.

Proportion of live births by age of mother

In 2024, the highest proportion of live births in Gloucestershire was to women aged 30 to 34, continuing the trend of later motherhood. In general, the proportion of live births in each age band in Gloucestershire is broadly in line with that seen both regionally and nationally. However, births to mothers above the age of 30 account for a slightly higher proportion of

total births in Gloucestershire than they do nationally, whilst those to mothers aged under 30 account for a lower proportion.

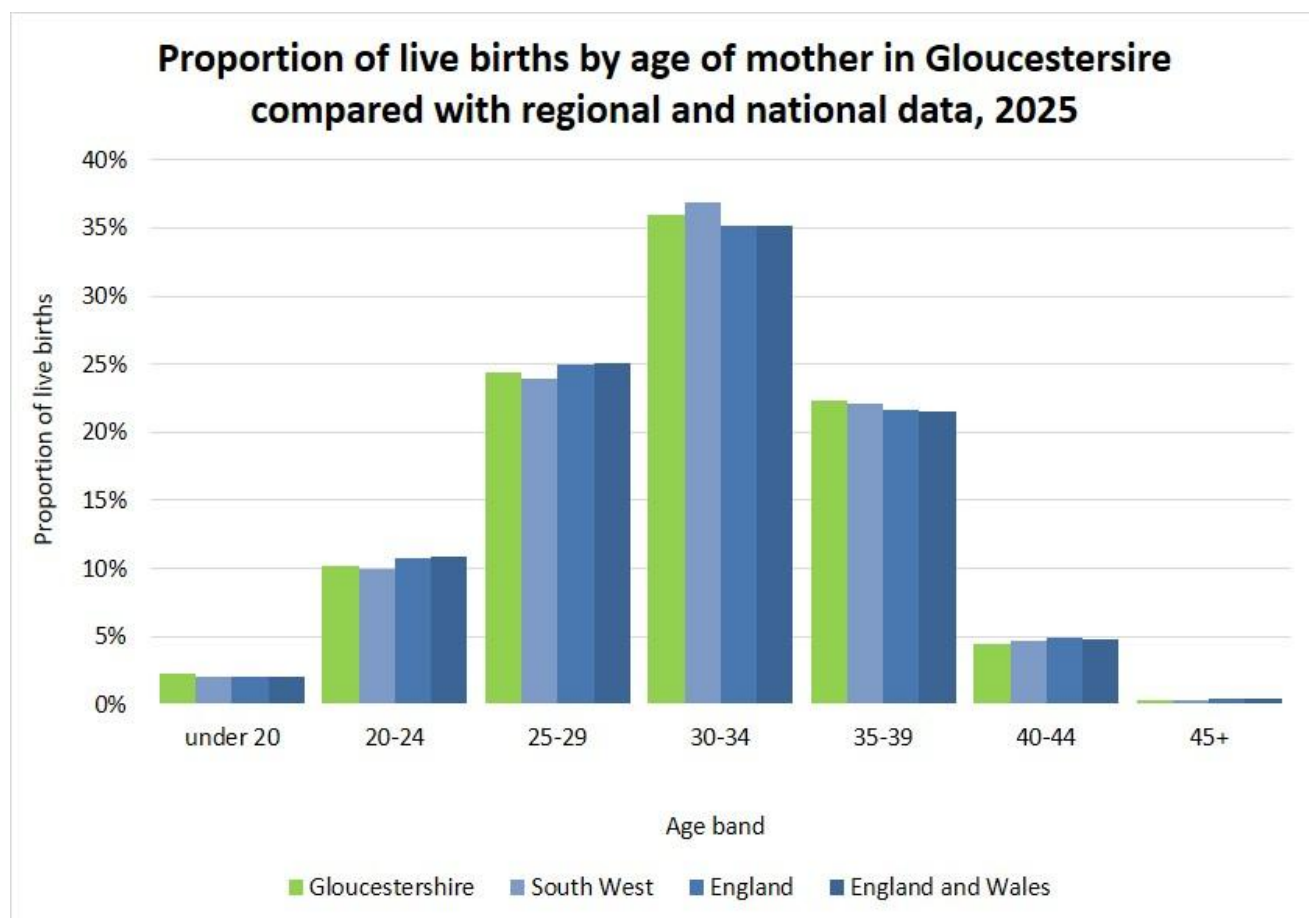


Figure 6: Proportion of live births by age of mother in Gloucestershire compared with regional and national data, 2025

District focus

- For mothers aged under 20, Gloucester has a higher proportion of births (3.2%) than Gloucestershire (2.3%), and is also higher than both the regional and national averages; Cheltenham also has a higher proportion than the regional and national averages, but matches the county average of 2.3%.
- For mothers aged over 35, Cheltenham, Cotswold, Stroud and Tewkesbury (28.6%, 33.8%, 29.0% and 29.0% respectively) all have a higher proportion of births than Gloucestershire (27.1%), as well as the regional and national averages.

Table 4: Proportion of Live Births by Age of Mother in Gloucestershire and Districts, 2025

	Total Number of Live Births	under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+
Gloucestershire	5,711	2.3%	10.2%	24.4%	36.0%	22.3%	4.4%	0.4%
Cheltenham	977	2.3%	9.3%	20.8%	39.1%	23.0%	5.0%	0.5%
Cotswold	627	2.1%	7.7%	23.1%	33.3%	28.7%	4.8%	0.3%
Forest of Dean	686	1.9%	12.8%	29.3%	32.2%	19.0%	4.5%	0.3%
Gloucester	1,419	3.2%	12.2%	28.4%	34.2%	18.8%	2.8%	0.4%
Stroud	1,011	1.4%	8.6%	21.2%	39.9%	23.5%	5.0%	0.4%
Tewkesbury	991	2.1%	9.8%	23.0%	36.0%	23.6%	5.0%	0.3%
South West	46,978	2.1%	10.0%	23.9%	36.9%	22.1%	4.7%	0.4%
England	558,988	2.1%	10.8%	24.9%	35.2%	21.7%	4.9%	0.5%
England & Wales	585,270	2.1%	10.8%	25.0%	35.2%	21.5%	4.8%	0.5%

Live births by age of mother from 2013 to 2025

Between 2013 and 2025, the distribution of live births by age of mother in Gloucestershire has seen a slight degree of change. Figure 7 shows that, since 2013, there has been a general decreasing trend in the proportion of births to mothers aged up to 29 years, for each age band. However, in 2025, there is a slight shift in the proportion of births to particular age groups. The proportion of births has increased in age groups covering 18 to 29 year old mothers during this year. The reverse is apparent for mothers aged 30 and above, where the overall trend is of an increase in the proportion of births each year since 2013. However, in 2025, a decrease can be seen for age groups 30-35, and 40 years and above.

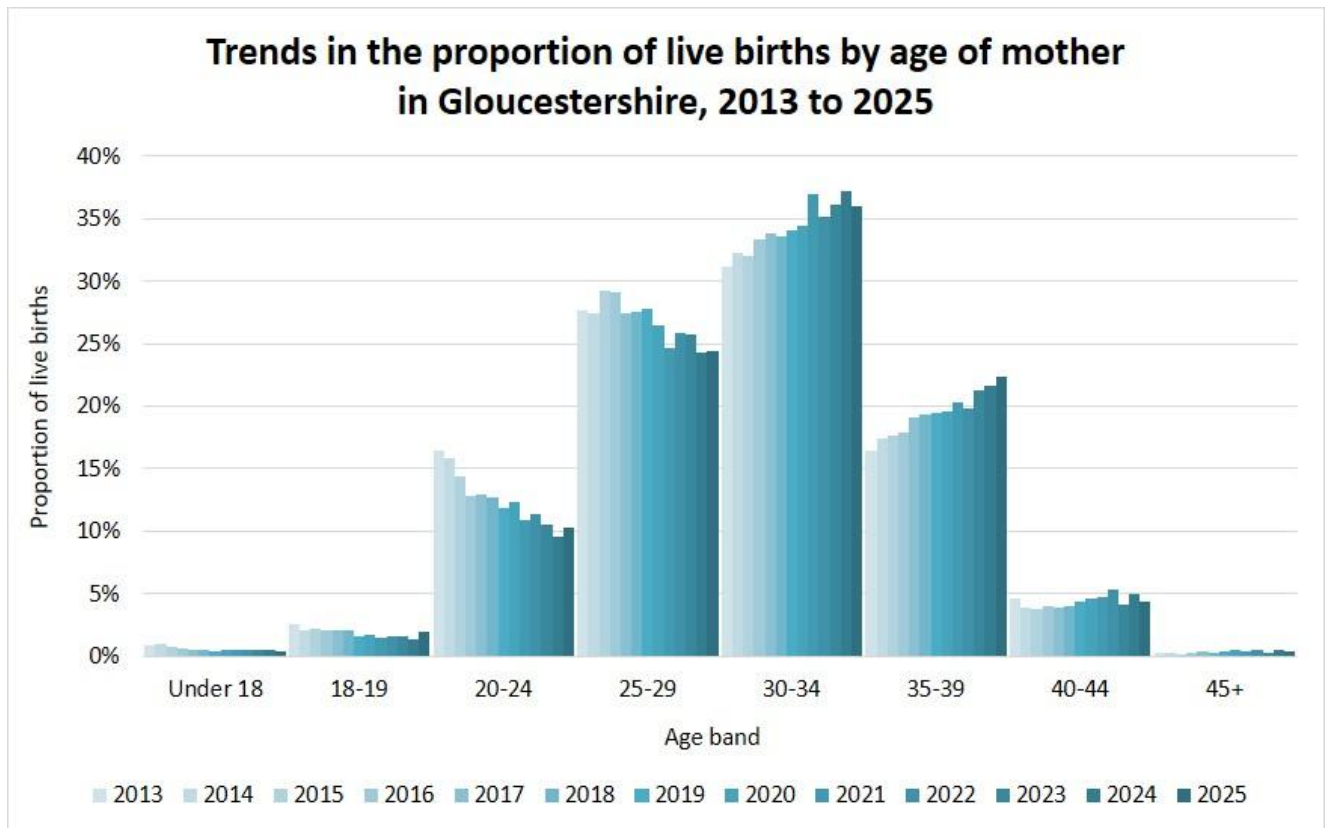


Figure 7: Trends in the proportion of live births by age of mother in Gloucestershire, 2013 to 2025

District focus

- Since 2013, all districts in Gloucestershire have seen a marked increase in the proportion of live births to mothers over the age of 30.
- Gloucester and Tewkesbury have seen the largest proportional rises in the 30+ age group, both with an increase of just over 13 percentage points since 2013.
- The smallest proportional increase in the 30+ age group was in Cotswold, which rose by 7 percentage points over the same period.

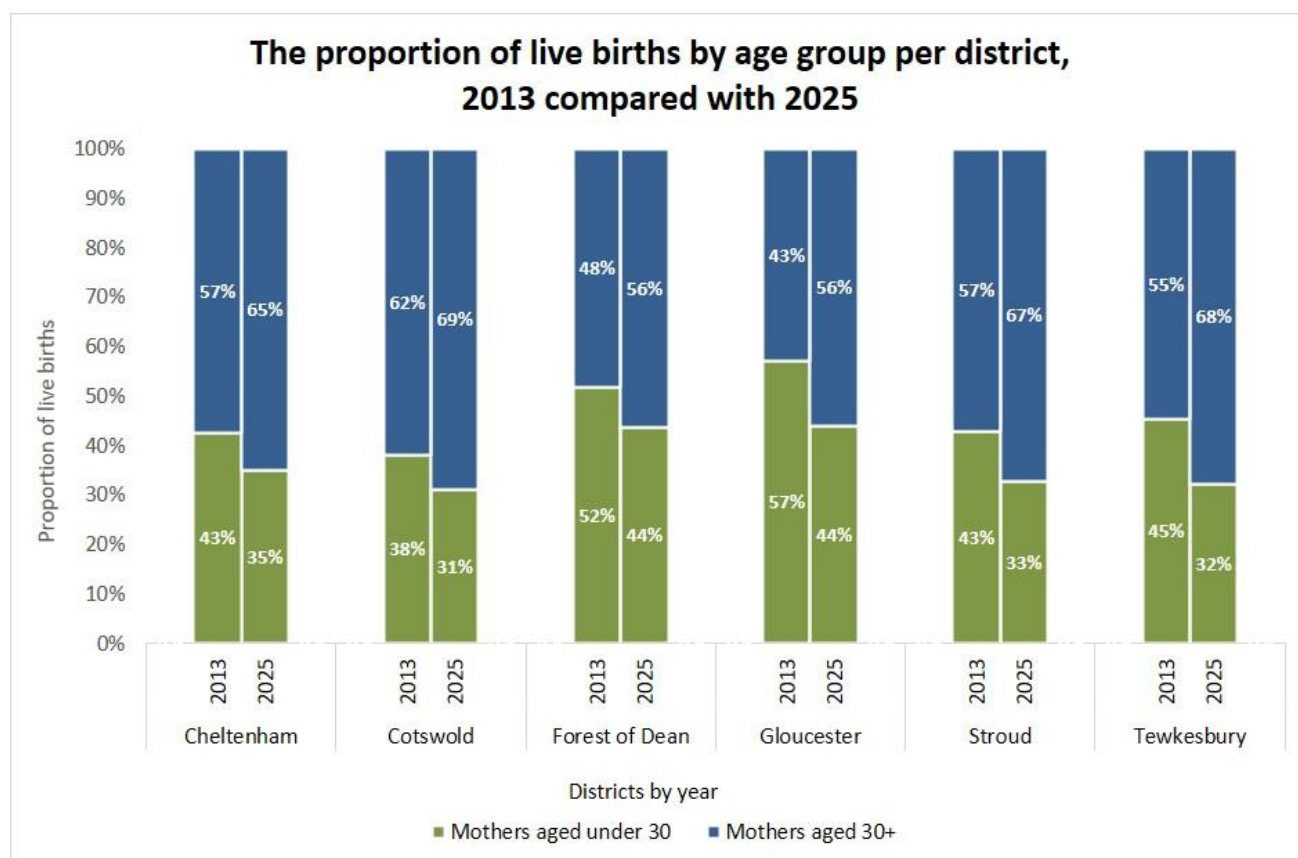


Figure 8: The proportion of live births by age group of mother, per district - 2013 compared with 2025

Live births by Index of Multiple Deprivation⁴

The Indices of Deprivation 2025 provide a set of relative measures of deprivation at small Lower-layer Super Output Area level across England, based on seven domains of deprivation. The domains are combined to produce an overall Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).⁵

In 2025, approximately 60% of births occurred in areas in IMD Quintiles 3,4 and 5.

The 20% most deprived areas in of the county saw the smallest amount of live births (Quintile 1 of IMD), where around 10% of births of the county's births were registered (584 births).

⁴ English Indices of Deprivation 2025, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [English indices of deprivation 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

⁵ More detailed information available on Inform Gloucestershire website: [Overview - 2025 | Inform Gloucestershire](#)

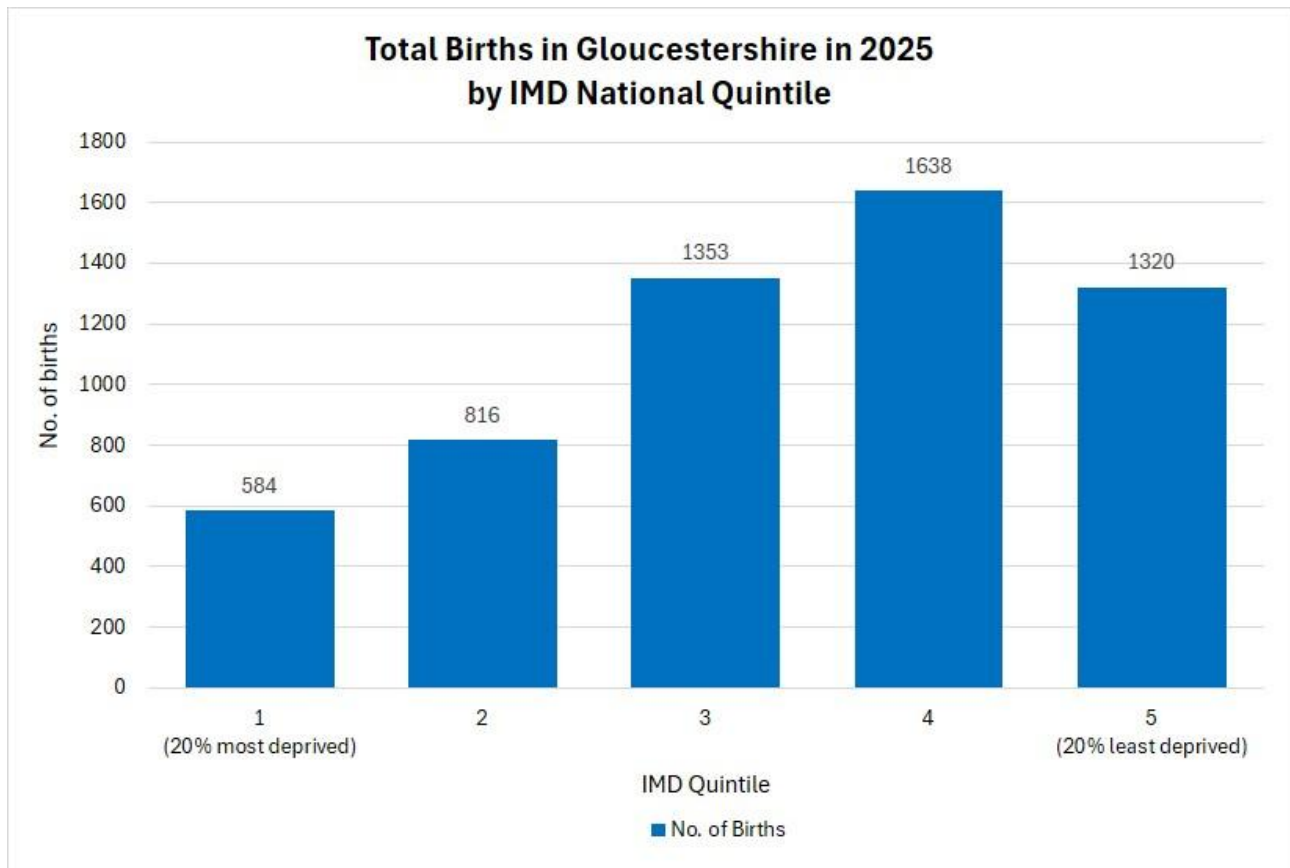


Figure 9: Total live births in Gloucestershire in 2025 by Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintile

A slightly different picture is observed when looking at the General Fertility Rate by IMD Quintile. The most deprived 20% of the county (Quintile 1) has the highest average GFR, at 52.0. This shows that, although the lowest number of births are registered in the most deprived LSOAs, these areas have the highest average General Fertility Rate. Conversely, the lowest average GFR is within the least deprived 20% of the county (Quintile 5). Here, the average GFR is 43.7, which is significantly lower than those in Quintiles 1 and 4.

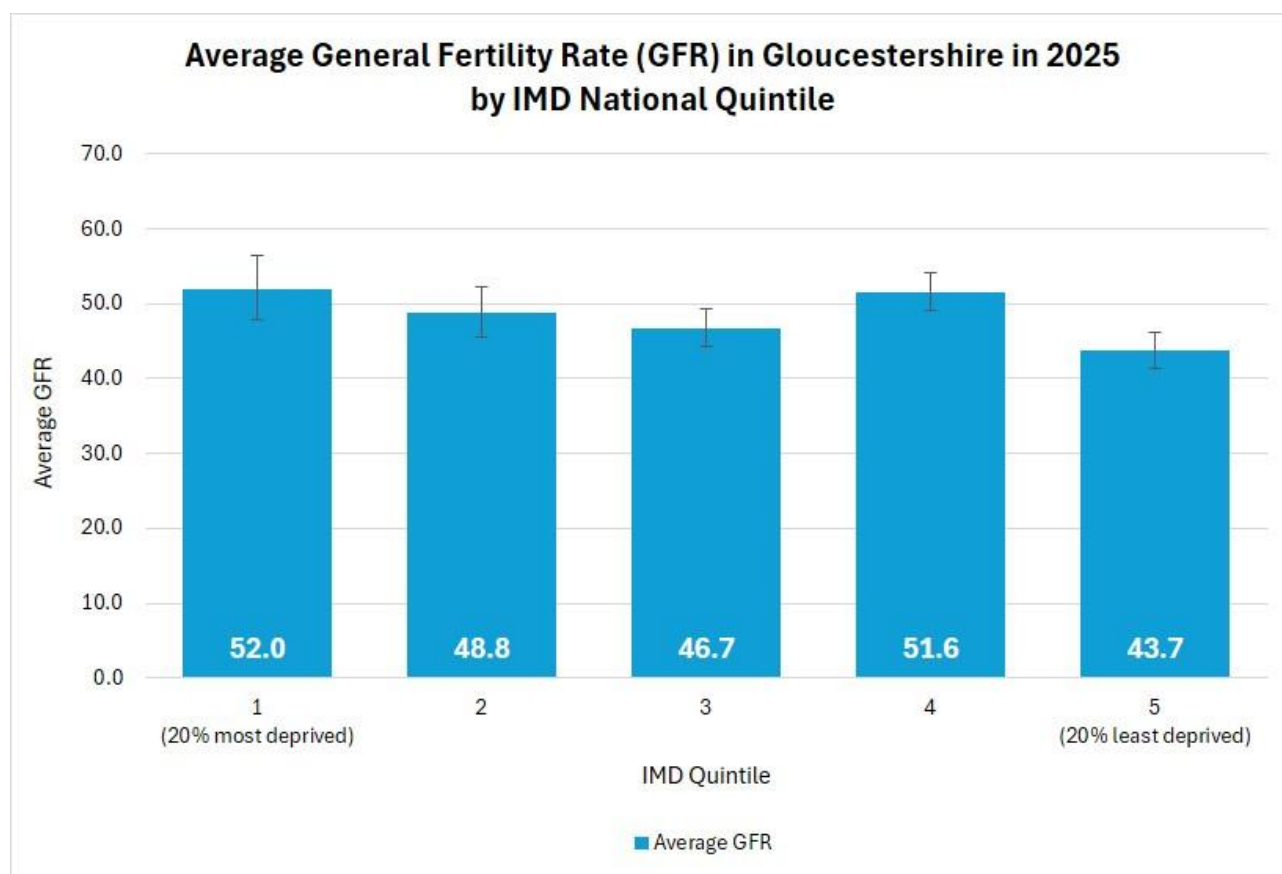


Figure 10: Average General Fertility Rate in Gloucestershire in 2025 by Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintile

Live births by Rural Urban Classification⁶

The 2021 Rural Urban Classification (RUC) is a statistical classification which provides a consistent and standardised method for categorising geographies as either rural or urban according to data from the 2021 Census.⁷

In 2025 there were 1,362 live births registered in rural areas of Gloucestershire, compared with 4,349 within the county's urban areas.

However, birth rates are fairly evenly split between rural and urban areas of Gloucestershire in 2025, as shown in Figure 10. The average GFR is marginally higher in rural areas, although there is no significant difference in rates between rural and urban areas.

⁶ 2021 Census Rural Urban Classification, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, [Rural Urban Classification - GOV.UK](#)

⁷ More detailed information available on Inform Gloucestershire website: [Rural Urban Classification | Inform Gloucestershire](#)

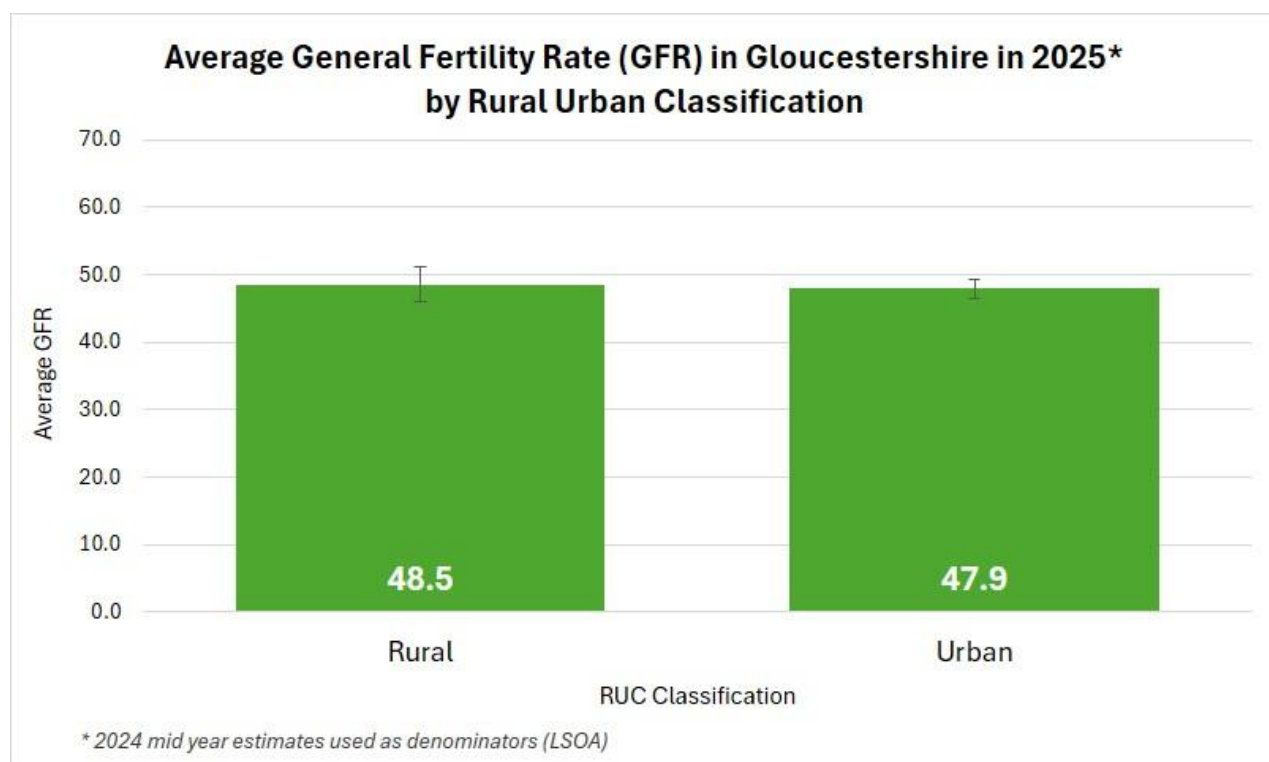


Figure 11: Average General Fertility Rate in Gloucestershire in 2025 by Rural Urban Classification