Babies' First Names 2019

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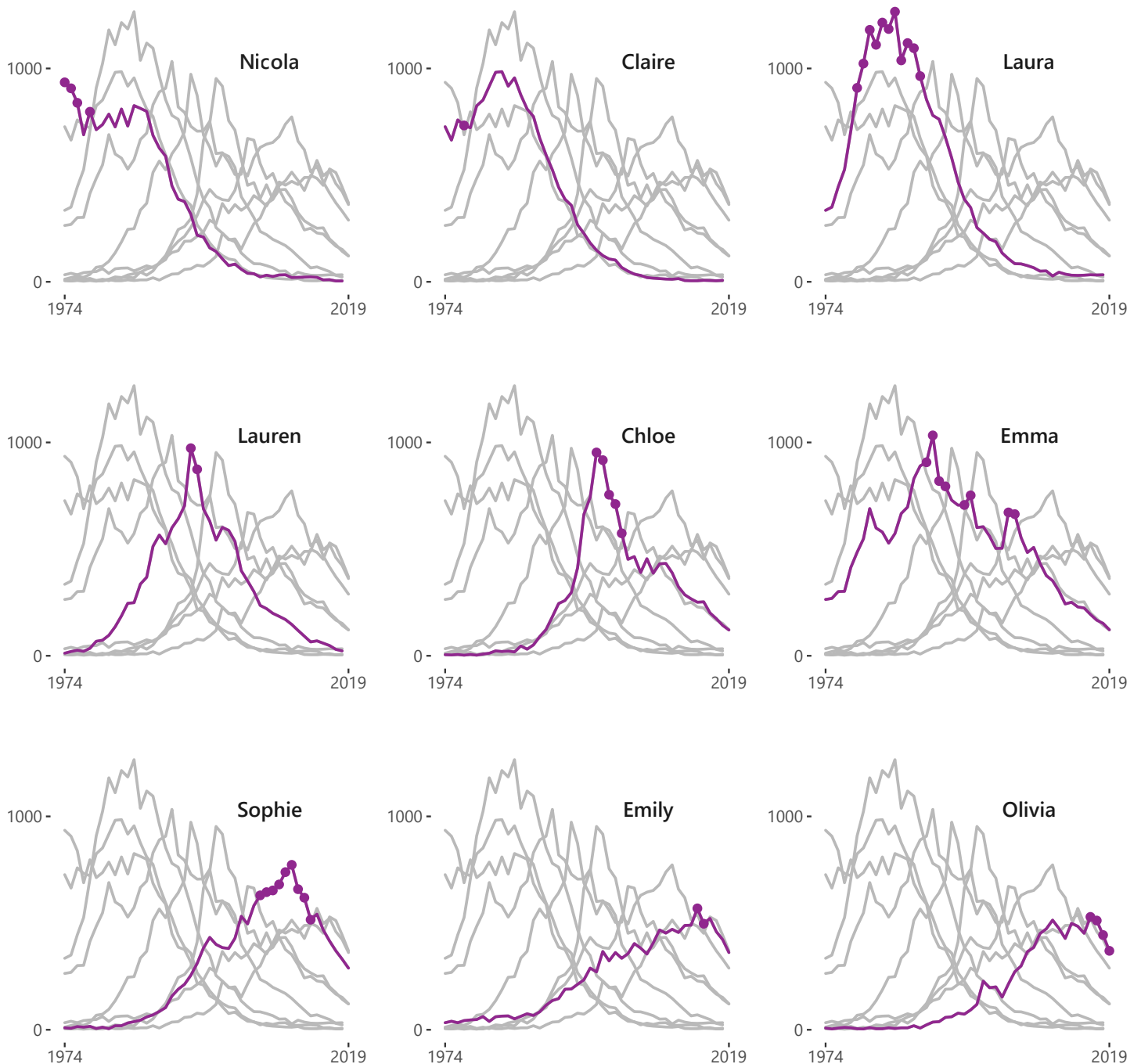Preserving the past | Recording the present | Informing the future

Nine girls' names have occupied the top spot over the last 5 decades

In the 70s and 80s a name had to be given to a lot of babies to reach number 1. There were over 1,000 babies given the name Laura each year when the name hit peak popularity in the early 1980s. In comparison, Olivia has been the top girls' name for the last 4 years but the name was given to an average of 450 babies each year.

Some names have had a long run at the top – such as Laura (11 years) and Sophie (9 years) whereas others (Claire, Lauren and Emily) have made only a brief appearance at the top of the list.
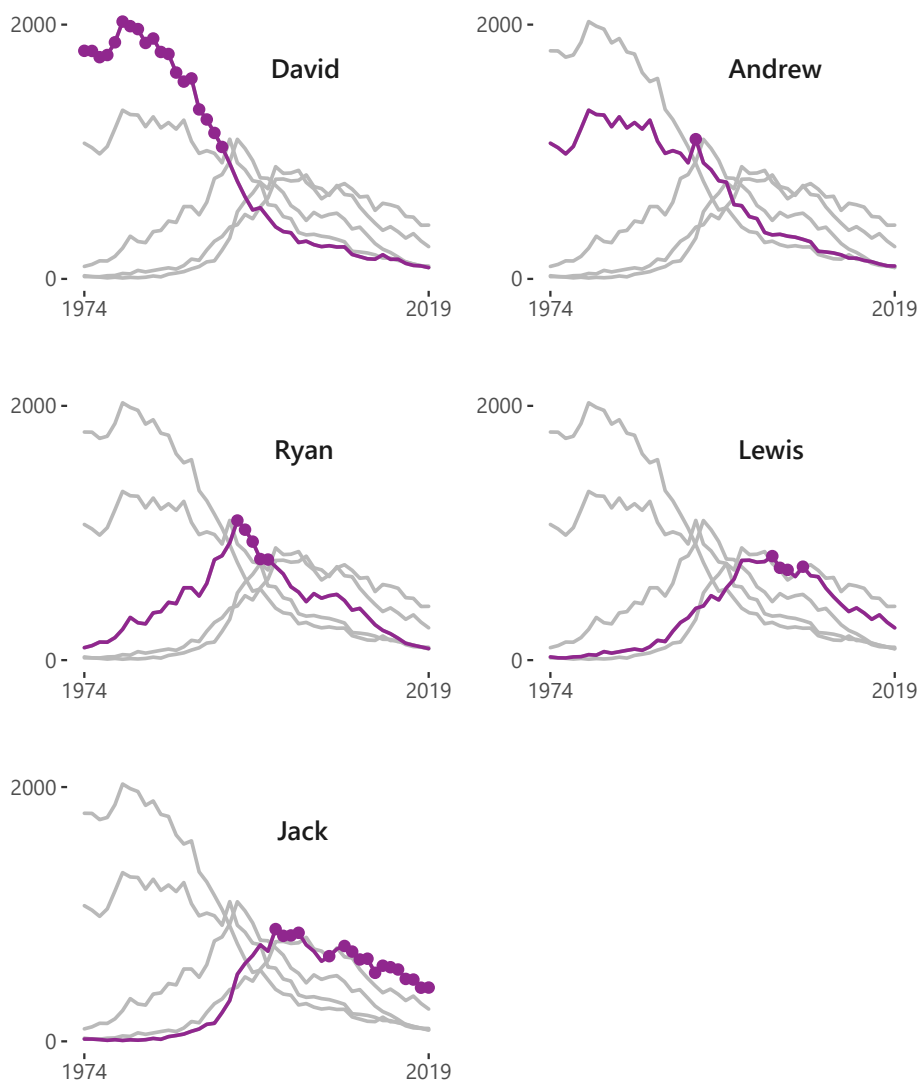
Most popular girls' names from 1974 to 2019

● Years name was ranked 1

Most popular boys' names from 1974 to 2019

● Years name was ranked 1

David

Andrew

Ryan

Lewis

Jack

Number of forenames

|	**One** forename	**Two** forenames	**Three or more** forenames
Girls	22.1%	61.1%	16.8%
Boys	16.8%	61.4%	21.8%

Five boys' names have reached number 1 since the early 1970s

David had 19 years at the top, from 1974 to 1992. At its most popular there were over 2,000 boys named David in 1979.

Andrew took the top spot for a single year in 1993, but was quickly replaced by Ryan who held the top spot until 1998.

Jack then began its reign as the most popular boys' name in 1999 but was unseated briefly by Lewis for a few years in the mid-2000s. Jack then regained top place in 2008 and has remained in first place ever since. The number of boys named Jack has been falling, however, from a peak of almost 900 in 1999 to below 450 in recent years.
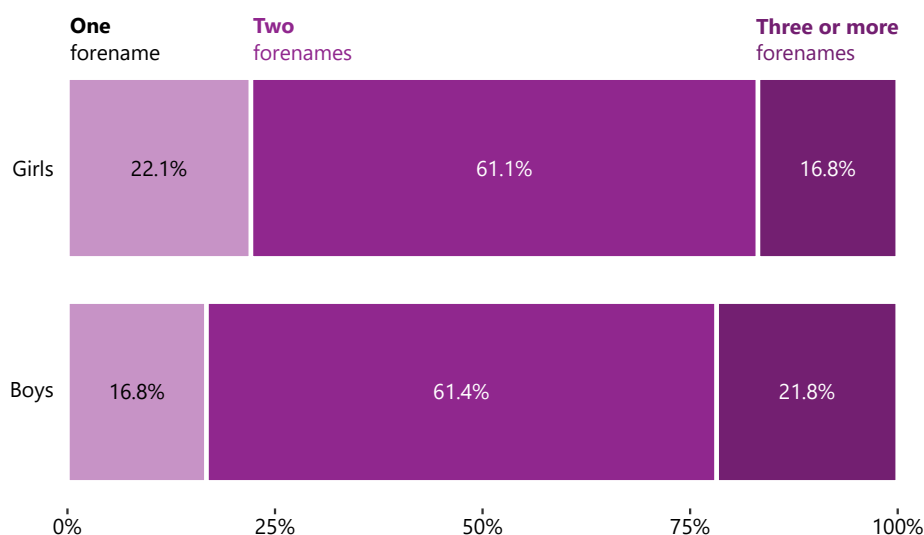
Around two-thirds of babies are given 2 forenames

Boys are more likely than girls to be given 3 or more forenames. One in 5 boys has 3 or more forenames compared to 1 in 6 girls.

Similarly, girls are slightly more likely than boys to only be given 1 forename.

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Main points

The main points from the statistics in this publication are:

- **Jack** remained the most popular first forename for baby boys, for a twelfth consecutive year. **Oliver** and **James** remained in second and third places, respectively. **Charlie** climbed seven places to fourth.
- The rest of the boys' Top Ten were **Harris** (up three places to fifth), **Noah** (up three places to sixth), **Lewis** (down one place to seventh), **Leo** (down three places to eighth), **Rory** (up one place to ninth) and **Alfie** (up six places to tenth). Charlie and Alfie were the only entrants to the boys' Top Ten; **Alexander** (down four places to eleventh) and **Logan** (down nine places to thirteenth) dropped out of it.
- The fastest climbers within the boys' Top Twenty were Charlie, Alfie and **Max** (up six places to twelfth). There were two entrants to the boys' Top Twenty: **Theo** (up eleven places to sixteenth) and **Brodie** (up seven places to eighteenth).

- **Olivia** was the top girls' name for the fourth year running. **Emily**, **Isla** and **Sophie** remained in second, third and fourth places, respectively.
- The rest of the girls' Top Ten were **Ella** (up one place to fifth), Amelia (down one place) and Ava (up one place) both joint sixth, **Grace** (remained eighth), **Freya** (up four places to ninth) and **Charlotte** (up one place to tenth). Freya and Charlotte were the only entrants to the girls' Top Ten; **Aria** (down three places to twelfth) and **Jessica** (down three places to thirteenth) dropped out of it.
- Freya and **Ellie** (up seven places to eleventh) were the fastest climbers within the girls' Top Twenty. There were two entrants to the girls' Top Twenty: **Rosie** (up seven places to nineteenth) and **Millie** (up one place to twentieth).

- Other big climbers within the 2019 baby name Top Fifty charts included (for boys) **Arthur** (up 20 places to 26th) and (for girls) **Willow** (up 10 places to 24th) and **Daisy** (up 11 places to 38th). Particularly fast-rising entrants to the Top Fifties were (for boys) **George** (up 13 places to joint 40th), **Tommy** (up 41 places to 48th) and **Andrew** (up 13 places to joint 49th) and (for girls) **Gracie** (up 22 places to joint 39th), **Hallie** (up 15 places to 44th) and **Ayla** (up 19 places to joint 47th).

- The births of 23,955 boys and 22,568 girls were registered in the period covered by these figures. In total, 3,370 different boys' first forenames and 4,095 different girls' first forenames were recorded; and 2,138 boys and 2,668 girls were given names that were unique (within the period, for that sex). The number of different names per 100 babies and the fraction with unique names were well above the levels of 10 and, much more so, 40 years ago. For example, the proportion of boys with unique first forenames was greater this year (8.9 per cent in the period covered by these figures) than in the whole of 2009 (6.7 per cent) or 1979 (2.3 per cent).

- Jack was the first forename of only 1.8 per cent of the boys, and Olivia was the first forename of just 1.6 per cent of the girls. Of all the boys' births that were registered, 38 per cent had a first forename that was in their Top Fifty, and 36 per cent of all girls had a Top Fifty first forename.

The most popular first forenames in Scotland, 2019 (provisional: up to 2 December)

All the information for 2019 in this publication is provisional, being based on data for **births which were registered in (roughly) the first eleven months of the year** (refer to Note 2 on page 13). The statistics for 2018 are based on data for all the births registered in that year, and so supersede the provisional figures that appeared in the previous edition.

Table A (below) shows the Top Twenty boys' and girls' first forenames for 2019. The following more detailed information may be found on our website:
- the Top 100 boys' and girls' first forenames in 2019, showing changes since the previous year:
  a) in order of popularity (Table 1); and
  b) in alphabetical order (Table 2);
- the Top Ten boys' and girls' first forenames for each council area (Table 3).

Full lists of all the first forenames which were given to babies in Scotland in 2018 (including those registered too late to be counted in the previous edition of this publication) are available from the 'Babies' First Names' pages of the website. Similar lists covering all births registered in Scotland in 2019 will be published in mid-March 2020.

Table A – First forenames: Scotland, 2019 (provisional: up to 2 December)

Boys Rank	Name	Number	Change in rank: 2018 - 2019 (prov.)	Girls Rank	Name	Number	Change in rank: 2018 - 2019 (prov.)
1	Jack	423	no change	1	Olivia	370	no change
2	Oliver	337	no change	2	Emily	362	no change
3	James	320	no change	3	Isla	342	no change
4	Charlie	288	7	4	Sophie	289	no change
5	Harris	284	3	5	Ella	265	1
6	Noah	256	3	6=	Amelia	260	-1
7	Lewis	254	-1	6=	Ava	260	1
8	Leo	252	-3	8	Grace	253	no change
9	Rory	241	1	9	Freya	244	4
10	Alfie	234	6	10	Charlotte	224	1
11	Alexander	225	-4	11	Ellie	208	7
12	Max	222	6	12	Aria	206	-3
13	Logan	218	-9	13	Jessica	204	-3
14	Lucas	216	-1	14	Sophia	203	-2
15	Harry	212	-4	15	Lucy	201	-1
16	Theo	208	11	16	Lily	185	-1
17	Thomas	205	-3	17	Harper	181	no change
18	Brodie	194	7	18	Mia	171	2
19=	Archie	190	-2	19	Rosie	169	7
19=	Finn	190	1	20	Millie	156	1

Commentary

Boys' names

Jack remained the most popular first forename for baby boys, for an twelfth consecutive year. **Oliver** was second and **James** was third, in both cases for the third year running. James has now been either second or third for eleven years in a row; Oliver has been second or third in each of the latest five years, and was fourth in 2013 and 2014.

Charlie climbed seven places to fourth, **Harris** rose three places to fifth, **Noah** was up three places at sixth, **Lewis** was down one place at seventh and **Leo** dropped three places to eighth. However, it should be noted that there was very little difference between the numbers for the names in sixth (256), seventh (254) and eighth (252) places. **Rory** rose one place to ninth, and **Alfie** was up six places at tenth. Charlie and Alfie were the only entrants to the boys' Top Ten; **Alexander** (which fell four places to eleventh) and **Logan** (down nine places to thirteenth) dropped out of the Top Ten.

Charlie, Alfie and **Max** (up six places to twelfth) were the fastest climbers within the boys' Top Twenty. **Theo** (up eleven places to 16th) and **Brodie** (up seven places to 18th) entered the boys' Top Twenty.

Theo and **Arthur** (up 20 places to 26th) were the big climbers within the boys' Top Fifty. **George** (up 13 places to joint 40th), **Blake** (up 7 places to 47th), **Tommy** (up 41 places to 48th) and **Andrew** (up 13 places to joint 49th) entered the boys' Top Fifty.

A little further down the boys' Top 100, **Riley** (up 23 places to joint 51st), **Ruaridh** (up 18 places to joint 67th) and **Louis** (up 12 places to joint 73rd) were also moving upwards. By this stage, a small change in numbers could make a marked difference to the ranking - for example, Ryan (60th) was the first forename of only 16 more babies than Owen (80th). **Carson**, **Cody, Ellis, Louie, Roman, Sonny** and **Theodore** all entered the Top 100.

Names with clear falls in their popularity included Logan, **Jacob** (down 7 places to 21st), **Adam** (down 12 places to 33rd), **Cameron** (down 9 places to 37th), **Callum** (down 8 places to joint 40th), **Matthew** (down 8 places to joint 42nd), **Arran** (down 17 places to joint 64th), **Dylan** (down 16 places to 66th), **Arlo** (down 11 places to joint 67th), **Connor** (down 17 places to joint 67th), **Robert** (down 13 places to joint 67th), **Jackson** (down 20 places to 79th) and **Fraser** (down 18 places to joint 82nd). Jackson had the biggest fall within the Top 100; **Aidan** and **Ben** were both down 19 places to joint 90th and joint 94th, respectively.

Finlay (down 3 places to 22nd) and Jacob dropped out of the boys' Top Twenty. **Angus** (down 2 places to joint 51st), Arran, Connor, Dylan, **Jude** (down 9 places to joint 54th) and **Luca** (down 3 places to joint 51st) dropped out of the Top Fifty. **Jake, Jayden, Josh, Kayden, Lyle** and **Tyler** were no longer in the Top 100.

By the 'cut-off' date, 23,955 boys' births had been registered. Jack was the first forename of only 1.8 per cent of the boys. Of all the boys' births, 38 per cent had a first forename that was in their Top Fifty.

Girls' names

Olivia was the top girls' first forename for the fourth year running. **Emily** remained in second place for a fourth consecutive year, **Isla** was third as in the previous two years, and **Sophie** was fourth for the third year in a row. Emily had also been the top girls' name in 2014 and 2015, and was second in 2008 and 2012. Sophie had also been top in every year from 2005 to 2013, and was second in 2002, 2004, 2014 and 2015. Isla had also been fourth in each year from 2013 to 2016.

Ella rose one place to fifth, two names were joint sixth - **Amelia** (down one place) and **Ava** (up one place), **Grace** remained eighth, **Freya** climbed four places to ninth and **Charlotte** was up one place at tenth. Freya and Charlotte were the only entrants to the girls' Top Ten; **Aria** (down three places to twelfth) and **Jessica** (down three places to thirteenth) dropped out of it.

Freya and **Ellie** (up seven places to 11th) were the fastest climbers within the girls' Top Twenty. **Rosie** (up seven places to 19th) and **Millie** (up one place to 20th) entered the girls' Top Twenty.

Willow (up 10 places to 24th) and **Daisy** (up 11 places to 38th) were the fastest climbers within the girls' Top Fifty. **Gracie** (up 22 places to joint 39th), **Hallie** (up 15 places to 44th), **Ayla** (up 19 places to joint 47th) and **Molly** (up 7 places to joint 47th) entered the girls' Top Fifty.

A little further down the girls' Top 100, **Ada** (up 15 places to joint 57th), **Bella** (up 10 places to joint 59th), **Bonnie** (up 13 places to joint 59th), **Luna** (up 20 places to joint 62nd), **Callie** (up 14 places to joint 64th), **Hope** (up 19 places to 68th), **Lexi** (up 12 places to 72nd) and **Violet** (up 22 places to joint 73rd) were also moving upwards. By this stage, a small change in numbers could make a marked difference to the ranking - for example, Thea (61st) was the first forename of only 17 more babies than Georgie (80th). **Abbie**, **Ailsa**, **Aoife**, **Elizabeth**, **Eve**, **Evelyn**, **Harley, Lottie, Lucie, Mirren, Myla, Nova** and **Scarlett** were all entrants to the Top 100.

Names with clear falls in their popularity included **Evie** (down 5 places to 21st), **Holly** (down 9 places to joint 41st), **Erin** (down 11 places to joint 45th), **Layla** (down 13 places to 51st), **Sienna** (down 10 places to joint 52nd), **Maya** (down 9 places to 56th), **Rose** (down 11 places to joint 64th), **Abigail** (down 10 places to joint 66th), **Iona** (down 13 places to joint 69th) and **Leah** (down 12 places to joint 70th). **Cara** had the biggest fall within the Top 100: down 31 places to joint 96th; **Lilly** fell 28 places to joint 89th.

Eilidh (down 3 places to 22nd) and Evie dropped out of the girls' Top Twenty. **Alice** (down 7 places to 53rd), Layla, Maya and Sienna dropped out of the Top Fifty. **Aila**, **Amelie**, **Clara**, **Darcy**, **Eden, Kayla**, **Lena**, **Nina**, **Penelope, Piper, Quinn** and **Rebecca** were no longer in the Top 100.

By the 'cut-off' date, 22,568 girls' births had been registered. Olivia was the first forename of just 1.6 per cent of the girls. Of all the girls' births, 36 per cent had a first forename that was in their Top Fifty.

Changing trends in naming babies

For both boys and girls, the range of names used has widened greatly over the last 100 or more years. Parents are increasingly selecting names which are different. Figure 1 and Tables B, C and D illustrate this trend.

The continuous lines in Figure 1 show that the percentage of babies who were given the top name for their sex has tended to decline gradually over the past 30-40 years: for boys (the thick black line), it is down from just below 6 per cent at the end of the 1970s to under 2 per cent in recent years; for girls (the thin grey line), it was slightly less than 4 per cent in the early 1980s and is now below 2 per cent.

Figure 1 also shows that the percentage of babies who were given a name that was 'unique' (refer to Note 10 on page 14) for their sex has tended to rise fairly steadily over the past 40-or-more years: for boys (the black dashed line), it is up from under 2 per cent in 1974 to almost 9 per cent in 2019 (provisional); for girls (the grey dashed line), it has grown from just over 3 per cent in 1974 to almost 12 per cent in 2019 (provisional).

Figure 1 – Babies with the top name, and with a unique name, percent of all births, Scotland, 1974 to 2019 (provisional: up to 2 December)
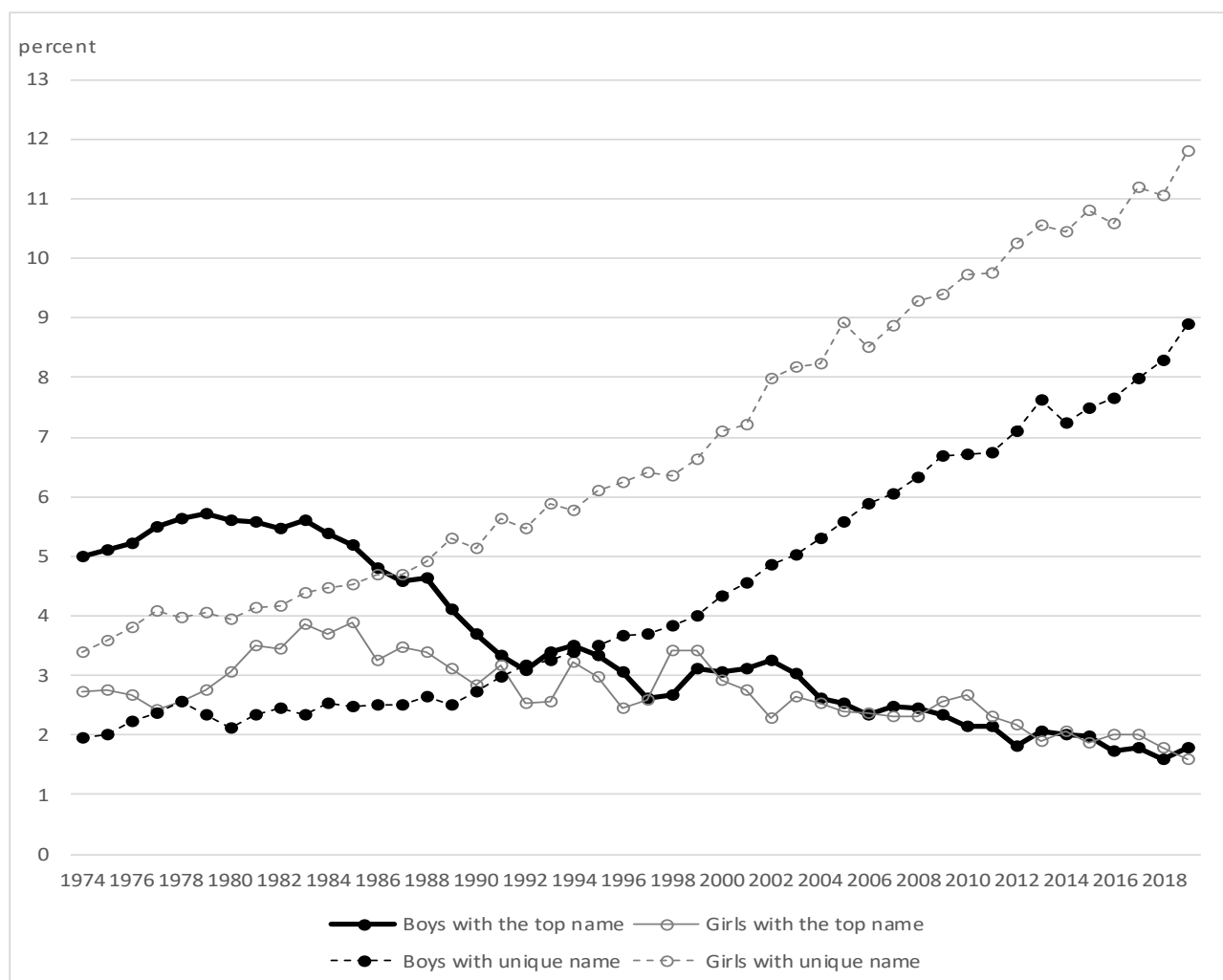
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Table B shows that, in 1900, over 68 per cent of boys were given a first forename that was in their Top Ten, as were 58 per cent of girls – whereas the corresponding figures for 2019 were both around 12 or 13 per cent.

Table B – Top Ten first forenames, percent of all births, Scotland, selected years

	Boys	Girls
1900	68.4	58.1
1950	53.3	36.3
1975	32.6	20.2
2000	21.7	20.4
2019 (prov.)	12.1	12.7

Note: refer to Note 9 regarding the definition of the 'Top Ten' for the purpose of this table

Table C shows the number of different first forenames that were given to babies of each sex in selected years. For births registered by the 'cut-off' date in 2019, 3,370 different first forenames had been given to boys (equivalent to 14.1 different names per 100 baby boys) and 4,095 to girls (18.1 per 100 baby girls). The 'per 100' figures are well above the levels of 10 years ago (boys: 10.5 per 100; girls: 14.5 per 100) and, much more so, 40 years ago (boys: 3.7 per 100; girls: 6.6 per 100).

Table C – Number of different first forenames, Scotland, selected years

	Numbers		Per 100 births	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1979	1,314	2,194	3.7	6.6
1989	1,362	2,624	4.2	8.5
1999	1,835	2,879	6.5	10.7
2009	3,153	4,184	10.5	14.5
2014	3,359	4,427	11.6	16.0
2015	3,359	4,474	11.8	16.7
2016	3,465	4,330	12.3	16.5
2017	3,476	4,408	12.8	17.2
2018	3,465	4,334	13.2	17.4
2019 (prov.)	3,370	4,095	14.1	18.1

Note: break between 2018 and 2019, which covers only 11 months or so

Figure 1 showed that the percentage of babies with 'unique' (refer to Note 10) first forenames has generally been rising over the past 40-or-so years, with an occasional year not following that trend. The numbers for selected years are given in Table D, which shows that, for births registered by the 'cut-off' date in 2019, 2,138 boys (8.9 per cent) and 2,668 girls (11.8 per cent) had unique first forenames. These percentages are above the levels of 10 years ago (boys: 6.7 per cent; girls: 9.4 per cent) and, much more so, 40 years ago (boys: 2.3 per cent; girls: 4.0 per cent).

Table D – Unique first forenames, Scotland, selected years

	Numbers		Percent of all births	
	Boys	**Girls**	**Boys**	**Girls**
1979	823	1,336	2.3	4.0
1989	812	1,642	2.5	5.3
1999	1,131	1,787	4.0	6.6
2009	2,016	2,711	6.7	9.4
2014	2,102	2,894	7.2	10.5
2015	2,126	2,891	7.5	10.8
2016	2,158	2,781	7.6	10.6
2017	2,176	2,872	8.0	11.2
2018	2,184	2,764	8.3	11.1
2019 (prov.)	2,138	2,668	8.9	11.8

NB: refer to Note 10 for the definition of 'unique' for the purpose of these figures.
Break in series between 2018 and 2019, which covers only 11 months or so.

Finally, an aspect of the changing range of names is an increasing variation in spelling. All these statistics count different spellings separately. If combined, **Aidan/Aiden** (joint 90th and 89th, respectively) would be in 39th place and **Holly/Hollie** (joint 41st and joint 66th, respectively) would be 20th. That assumes, of course, that they would not be overtaken by other combinations of different spellings of names that, some might consider, might be counted together (for example, 'Ben' and 'Benjamin', 'Charles' and 'Charlie', and so forth).

Number of forenames

The number of forenames given in 2019 is summarised in Figure 2, below. Eighty-three per cent of boys and seventy-eight per cent of girls whose births were registered by the 'cut-off' date in 2019 had more than one forename.

Figure 2 – Number of forenames, percent of all births, Scotland 2019 (provisional: up to 2 December)
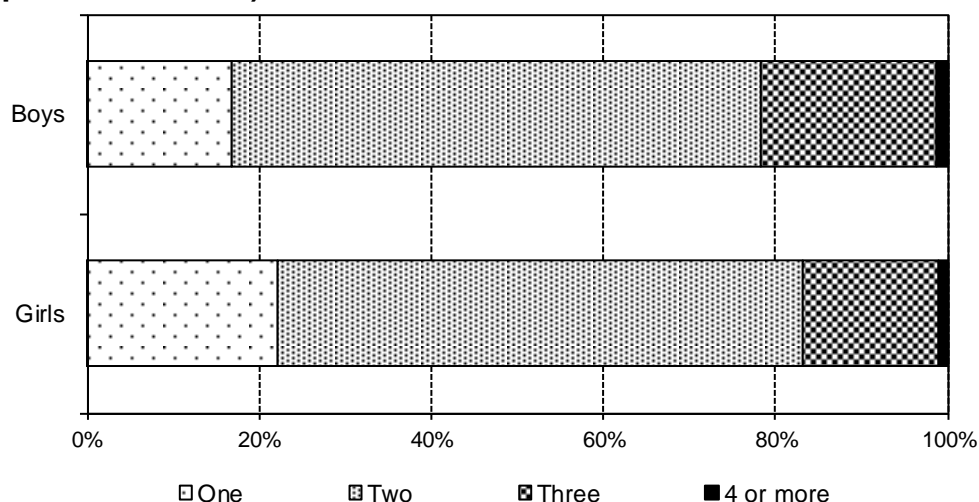

Table E shows the relative popularity of second forenames. It is clear that second forenames are more 'traditional', reflecting the names of previous generations in many cases. There are few big changes from year to year in the lists of second forenames, with **James** and **Rose** being consistently popular (the latter overtook **Elizabeth** in 2012). In the statistics for 2006 to 2012, inclusive, there were no changes to the names which appeared

in the two Top Tens, and just a few minor alterations in some of their rankings. However, recent years have seen changes at the foot of the Top Ten for girls' second names, which has had room for only two of **Ann**, **Mary** and **May**: in 2013, May replaced Mary in the Top Ten; in 2014, Mary was back in, and Ann was out; in 2015, Ann returned and May was out; in 2016, May was back in again, and Ann was out again; in 2017, Ann returned again, displacing Mary; in 2018, Mary was back in again, and Ann was out again; in 2019, Ann returned yet again, and May fell out again. There have also been entrants to, and leavers from, both Top Twenties.

Table E – Second forenames, Scotland, 2019 (provisional: up to 2 December)

Boys			Girls		
Rank	**Name**	**Number**	**Rank**	**Name**	**Number**
1	James	1,610	1	Rose	955
2	John	1,023	2	Elizabeth	713
3	William	804	3	Grace	595
4	Alexander	700	4	Margaret	382
5	David	595	5	Jane	314
6	Robert	559	6	Anne	308
7	Thomas	506	7	Louise	301
8	Andrew	431	8	Catherine	277
9	George	413	9	Ann	267
10	Michael	332	10	Mary	265
11	Joseph	222	11	May	263
12	Peter	191	12	Jean	186
13	Scott	181	13	Isabella	170
14	Paul	177	14	Marie	169
15	Jack	170	15	Mae	153
16=	Daniel	156	16	Helen	149
16=	Ian	156	17	Maria	128
18	Patrick	154	18	Sarah	120
19=	Alan	142	19	Lily	110
19=	Stephen	142	20	Olivia	93

Regional variations

The Top Ten first forenames in each council area are given in Table 3, which can be downloaded from our website. **Jack** was the top boys' first forename in 13 council areas, **James** was top in four areas, **Charlie** was top in three and **Archie, Finn, Lewis, Noah** and **Thomas** were each top in two areas. Sometimes names were top jointly with other names. Several other names were top (or joint top) in one council area. **Olivia** was the most popular girls' first forename in 7 council areas, **Emily** and **Isla** were each top in six, **Amelia, Ella, Jessica** and **Sophie** were each top in three, and **Ava, Charlotte** and **Grace** were each top in two areas. Again, sometimes, names were joint top; again, some other names were top (or joint top) in one council area.

Notes on these statistics

1. By law, all births have to be registered, and the details are sent by local registrars to the National Records of Scotland (NRS). These data allow the production of tables showing the most popular first forenames, not just for a section of the population or for those births that were announced in a particular newspaper, but for all babies born in Scotland.

2. All of the information for 2019 contained in this publication and its accompanying tables is provisional. It is based on births which were registered up to and including Monday 2 December 2019 (unless their details had not been entered into the computer system by that date, which could have happened in a few cases - for example, if the registrar did not have access to the computer system, and the details were not keyed in until after this 'cut-off' date).

3. The figures for 2018 cover all births that were registered in the whole year, and therefore differ from those given in the previous edition of this publication.

4. These figures do not include any names that were given to babies who were stillborn.

5. The rankings were based on the first name that was identified as having been recorded in the 'child's forename(s)' part of the entry of the registration of the birth. NRS identifies the names automatically, by using a computer program function which extracts (from the text in the 'child's forename(s)' field) sequences of characters which are 'delimited' by spaces (or by the start and end of the field). The computer function will count a sequence of characters which contains a hyphen (for example 'Mary-Frances') as a single name. However, it will count as two separate names any name that consists of two words, with a space between them. As a result, in the statistics in previous years, NRS has counted 'Da Silva' as two separate names ('Da' and 'Silva'), and likewise 'St Clair'. Similarly, for the purposes of these statistics, NRS would count 'J' as the first forename of a child whose forenames were recorded as 'J Arthur', and NRS would count 'JK' as the first forename if those two letters (with no intervening space) were all that was recorded in the 'child's forename(s)' field. It follows that the full lists of all the first forenames may include some entries which are not actually babies' names, and that there could be some tiny percentage errors in the analysis of the numbers of forenames given to babies. It is simply not feasible for NRS to scrutinise carefully all the babies' names that are given in a year, in order to identify those names (like 'Da Silva') that consist of two (or more) separate words, with the aim of counting them correctly for the purpose of these statistics.

6. Variants based on the same name were counted separately – for example, in these statistics, 'Ben' and 'Benjamin' are different names, likewise 'Agnes' and 'Senga', and 'Tony' and 'Anthony'. Different spellings (for example Stephen, Steven; Holly, Hollie; Callum, Calum) were counted separately.

7. Accents were ignored, so (for example) 'Chloe', 'Chloé', 'Chloë'. 'Chloè' and 'Chlöe' are all counted as the same name: 'Chloe'.

8. The amount of information about forenames that is held in the NRS birth statistics database depends upon in which of three periods the birth was registered. For births that were registered from 1974 to 1995, the 'child's forename(s)' field in the original version of that database could hold only 15 characters (including spaces between different forenames). Therefore, if a child was given several forenames, or some long forenames, the 'child's forename(s)' field might not have room for all of them: when that happened, the statistical database's list of that child's forenames was 'truncated' after the 15th character. In 1996, a new statistical computer system and birth statistics database were introduced, with a 'child's forename(s)' field that

could hold 30 characters (including spaces) - so, for births registered from the start of 1996 to part way through 2016, a list of forenames was truncated (in the statistical database) only if there was a total of more than 30 characters (including spaces). The current statistical computer system and birth statistics database were introduced during 2016. Now, up to 200 characters are allowed in the 'child's forename(s)' field, so it should be able to hold all the forenames for every birth that has been registered since then. Because the previous versions of the birth statistics database could hold only a truncated list of forenames, any remaining forenames (or parts thereof) for 'pre-2016' birth registrations are unavailable for the production of statistics. This could cause small percentage errors in the analysis of the numbers of forenames given to babies whose births were registered in 2016 and earlier years. In addition, the changes in the size of the 'child's forenames' field would cause breaks, (i) between 1995 and 1996 and (ii) between 2015, 2016 and 2017, in any time-series of the number of forenames that were given when births were registered. Please note that the administrative computer system's record of birth registrations was designed to hold all the names that were given, so they would all appear in full in any further copies of a child's birth certificate that may be produced.

9. For the purpose of Table B, the 'Top Ten names' should consist of exactly ten names. For example, if two or more names were tied in tenth place, only one of them should be counted when the percentage given in Table B is calculated; similarly, if three or more names were tied in ninth place, only two of them should be counted for the calculation; and so on. This differs from the approach which is used for the other tables (both in this publication and on the website): other tables will show more than (say) 20 names in the 'Top Twenty' if (for example) two names are tied in twentieth place, or three names are tied in nineteenth place.

10. For the purposes of Figure 1 and Table D, a first forename is counted as being 'unique' if only one birth of that sex, registered in that year, had that first forename. (Note: 'year' refers to the period up to the 'cut-off' date, in the case of the provisional figures for the latest year.) Therefore, a first forename may not be truly unique within a year. For example, a boy called Sue might have a first forename that was unique for boys in a given year - but there could be several girls for whom Sue was their first forename. Or, a particular year might have two babies with the same 'unique' first forename: one being the only boy with that first forename, the other being the only girl. It should also be remembered that, for the purpose of these figures, a name is 'unique' as a first forename if no other birth, of the same sex, registered in the same year, has the same first forename: no account is taken of whether or not the name was given to other babies (of that sex, in that year) as, say, their second forename. Finally, in the case of the latest year, a first forename which was 'unique' in the period up to the 'cut-off' date may turn out not to be unique in the year as a whole, because it may have been given to another baby of the same sex whose birth was registered after the 'cut-off' date. On the other hand, some of the babies whose births were registered after the 'cut-off' date may be given first forenames that were not given to any of the babies whose births were registered earlier in the year – so further 'unique' names may be added later in the year.

11. The lists of the Top Ten first forenames for each council area do not show any first forenames which were given to fewer than three babies in that area.

12. Prior to the introduction of the current statistical computer system during 2016, the NRS birth statistics database held the information that had been recorded when the birth was first registered. It did not take account of any changes that were made if a birth was re-registered (for example, to add the father's details). However, for data obtained following the introduction of the current system, in those cases where a

birth was re-registered in the same calendar year as it was first registered, NRS's birth statistics database holds the information that was provided when the birth was re-registered (rather than the original registration record). This could affect the comparability of the pre- and post-2016 statistics of the numbers of forenames that were given when births were registered, if (for example) some re-registrations involve the child being given additional forenames.

13. In all the records that were in the NRS birth statistics database before the current statistical computer system was introduced during 2016, names were held in upper-case format (for example 'Mary-Frances' would be held as 'MARY-FRANCES', and both 'McKenzie' and 'Mckenzie' would be held as 'MCKENZIE'). In all the records that were added thereafter, names are held in the database in the same format as they were typed into the computer by the registrar. Therefore, to ensure that the pre- and post-2016 data are formatted in the same way, NRS's computer programs that extract information from the database to produce statistics of baby names use a computer function to ensure that the programs process all the names in upper case format. Then, when NRS produces the tables and lists of names, it uses another computer function to convert the names that will appear in the tables and lists into so-called 'proper case' format (so that they will be more 'readable'). The method used by the latter function produces the correct result in almost all cases (for example it will convert 'MARY-FRANCES' to 'Mary-Frances'). However, in a very small percentage of cases, it cannot return a name to its exact original format. For example, all names that the programs have processed as 'MCKENZIE' will be converted to 'Mckenzie': the function will not convert some of them to 'Mckenzie' and others to 'McKenzie'. As a result, a few names in the full lists will have a lower-case letter where there should be an upper-case letter (as another example, a first forename of 'JK' would appear in those lists as 'Jk'). Please note that this issue affects only a tiny proportion of the names which appear in lists that have been produced from the statistical copy of the data, and that the administrative computer system's record of every birth registration (from which any further copies of birth certificates will be produced) has the names exactly as they were recorded by the registrar (for example, with upper-case letters only where the original entry has upper-case letters).

14. Very occasionally, in these statistics, a name's rank for the previous year (which can be derived from what appears as its rank in the current year and as its change in rank from the previous year) will differ from its rank as shown in the full list of names for the previous year that was published in mid-March (usually). This may happen because the full list of names was produced from the data which NRS held around the beginning of March, and so could not take account of any changes that were subsequently made before NRS 'froze' the data for the previous year (for the purpose of its statistics) around the end of April (usually). For example, in the full list of boys' names for 2018 (published in mid-March 2019), Alexander and Harris appeared jointly in seventh place. However, when the statistics for (the first eleven-or-so months of) 2019 were produced at the start of December 2019, Harris was fifth, with a change in rank of three, which implied that Harris had been in eighth place in 2018 (and Alexander was eleventh, with a change in rank of minus four, implying it was seventh in 2018). This was due to there being one fewer birth registration record for a boy with 'Harris' as the first forename in the data for 2018 when they were 'frozen' (for statistical purposes) around the end of April 2019 than there had been in the data for 2018 as they stood around the beginning of March 2019 (when the full list of names for 2018 was produced).

Notes on statistical publications

National Statistics

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in line with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (available on the UK Statistics Authority website).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is National Records of Scotland's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Information on background and source data

Further details on data source(s), timeframe of data and timeliness, continuity of data, accuracy, can be found in the About this Publication document that is published alongside this publication on the NRS website.

National Records of Scotland

We, the National Records of Scotland, are a non-ministerial department of the devolved Scottish Administration. Our purpose is to collect, preserve and produce information about Scotland's people and history and make it available to inform current and future generations. We do this as follows:

- Preserving the past – We look after Scotland's national archives so that they are available for current and future generations, and we make available important information for family history.

- Recording the present – At our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.

- Informing the future – We are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce statistics on the population and households.

You can get other detailed statistics that we have produced from the Statistics section of our website. Scottish Census statistics are available on the Scotland's Census website.

We also provide information about future publications on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website.

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Revisions and Corrections
We, the National Records of Scotland, label any revisions and corrections that we have applied to any of our statistics. These revisions and corrections are clearly marked on the webpage of the publication as well on our [revisions and corrections](#) page available on the NRS website.

Where applicable, revisions will also be carried out in accordance with the [revisions policy for population, migration and life events](#) statistics available on the ONS website.

Enquiries and suggestions

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Related organisations

Organisation	Contact
The Scottish Government (SG) forms the bulk of the devolved Scottish Administration. The aim of the statistical service in the SG is to provide relevant and reliable statistical information, analysis and advice that meets the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.	Office of the Chief Statistician and Strategic Analysis Scottish Government 2W, St Andrews House Edinburgh EH1 3DG Phone: 0131 244 0442 Email: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot Website: http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics
The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for producing a wide range of economic and social statistics. It also carries out the Census of Population for England and Wales	Customer Contact Centre Office for National Statistics Room 1.101 Government Buildings Cardiff Road Newport NP10 8XG Phone: 0845 601 3034 Minicom: 01633 815044 Email: info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk Website: www.ons.gov.uk/
The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is Northern Ireland's official statistics organisation. The agency is also responsible for registering births, marriages, adoptions and deaths in Northern Ireland, and the Census of Population.	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency Colby House Stranmillis Court Belfast BT9 5RR Phone: 0300 200 7836 Email: info.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk Website: www.nisra.gov.uk