

# Babies' First Names 2021

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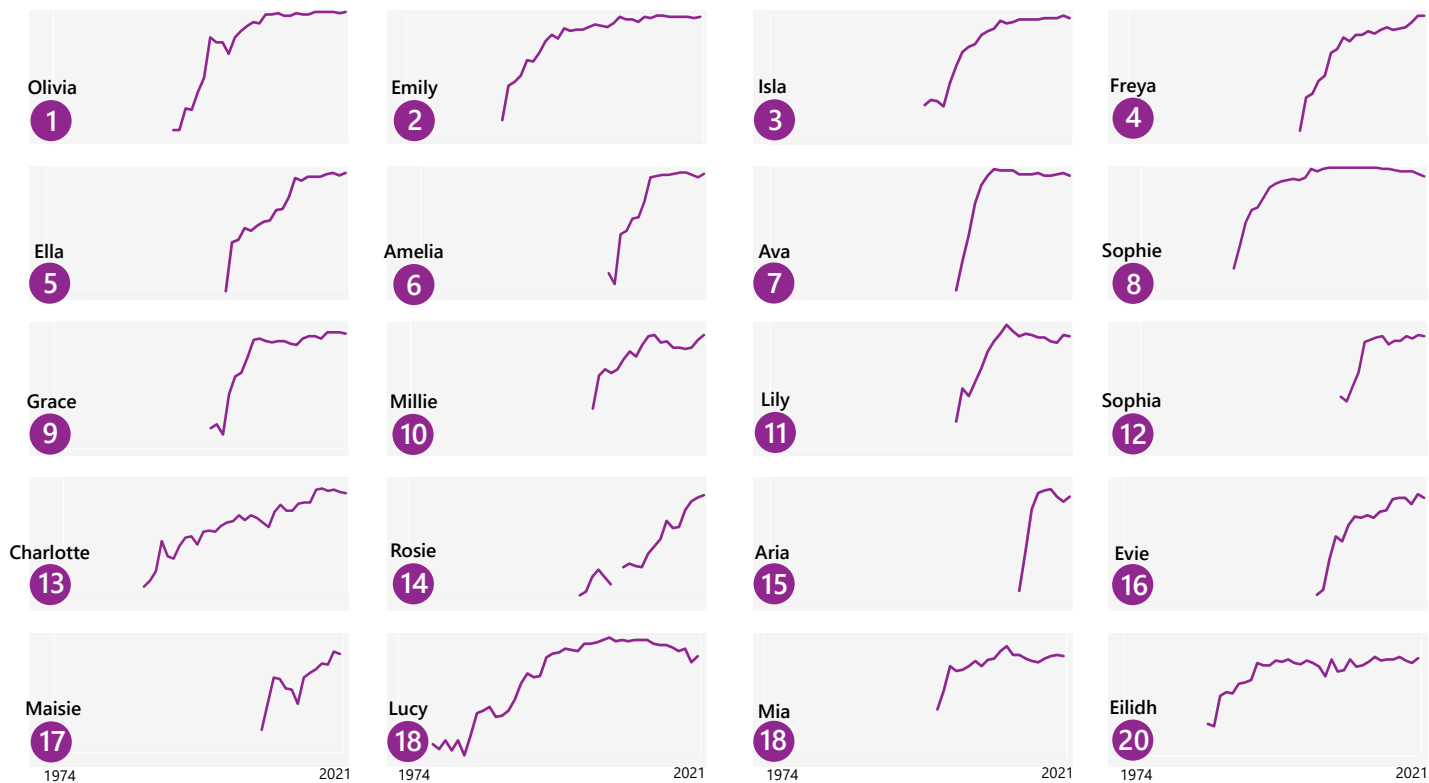


This statistical report looks at the most common babies' names for Scotland and council areas in 2021, from birth certificates.

## Olivia replaces Isla as most popular girls' name

Olivia returned to the top as most popular girls' name of 2021, having previously been the top name between 2016 and 2019. Olivia first broke into the top hundred in 1993 and has been in the top five consistently since 2008.

### Most popular girls' names by rank within top hundred names, 1974-2021







Note that rank is plotted rather than number of babies, and ranks outside of the top 100 have been omitted.

### Fastest rising names between 2020 and 2021

-  **Lyla** (up 56 places to 74th)
-  **Blake** (up 46 places to =93rd)
-  **Rowan** (up 41 places to =93rd)
-  **Lara** (up 38 places to 96th)

### Most common name by age of mother

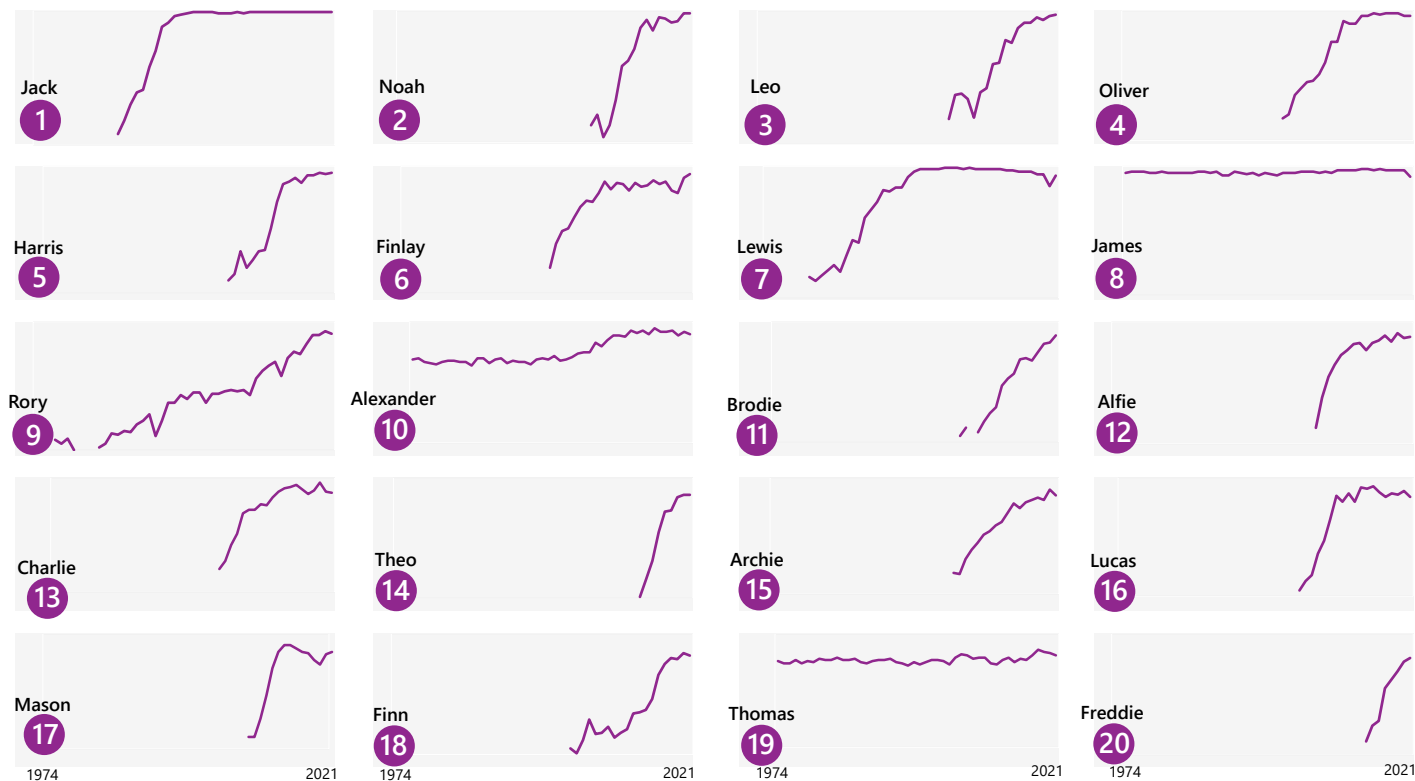
-  Aged under 25 - **Olivia**
-  Aged 25 to 29 - **Olivia**
-  Aged 30 to 34 - **Emily**
-  Aged 35 and over - **Emily**



## Jack remains the most popular boys' name

Jack was the most popular name for a baby boy in Scotland for a 13th consecutive year. Jack has been ranked either first or second every single year from 1998 to 2021. None of the other top five names in 2021 were ranked inside the top hundred when Jack first became the most common babies name.

Most popular boys' names by rank within top hundred names, 1974-2021






Note that rank is plotted rather than number of babies, and ranks outside of the top 100 have been omitted.

### Fastest rising names between 2020 and 2021

-  **Carson** (up 42 places to joint 66th)
-  **Struan** (up 37 places to 95th)
-  **Myles** (up 35 places to 57th)
-  **Elijah** (up 34 places to joint 66th)

### Most common name by age of mother

-  Aged under 25 - **Noah**
-  Aged 25 to 29 - **Jack**
-  Aged 30 to 34 - **Jack**
-  Aged 35 and over - **Jack**



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## Key findings

- **OLIVIA** and **JACK** were the most common names for girls and boys in Scotland in 2021.
  - Olivia moved up one place in the overall rankings from last year, and became the most common name for girls for the second time.
  - Jack remained the most common boys' name for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
- **LYLA** (up 56 places to 74<sup>th</sup>), **BLAKE** (up 46 places to joint 93<sup>rd</sup>) and **ROWAN** (up 41 places to joint 93<sup>rd</sup>) rose by the largest amount of places in the top 100 girls' names.
- For boys, **CARSON** (up 42 places to 66<sup>th</sup>), **STRUAN** (up 37 places to 95<sup>th</sup>) and **MYLES** (up 35 places to 57<sup>th</sup>) rose by the largest number of places in the top hundred.

### How has the popularity of your name changed?

Visit our [interactive charts](#) and search for any name to see how many babies were given this name between 1974 and 2021 in Scotland.

- Younger and older parents chose different names for their babies. There were only 2 boys' names and 5 girls' names which featured in the top 10 for both mothers aged under 25 and those aged 35 or over.
- **OLIVIA** and **NOAH** were the most common names for girls and boys with mothers aged under 25 (same as in 2020). For mothers aged 35 and over, the most common names were **JACK** and **EMILY**.
- The variety of names has increased over time. For baby girls, there were an average of 181 different names for every thousand babies, for boys it was 141 names per thousand. This means that children going to school over the next few years are much less likely to share their name with a classmate than their parents' or grandparents' generations were.
- There is also variation in baby names within Scotland, with only three out of thirty-two council areas picking both Olivia and Jack as the top (or joint top) names.

### Data for this publication:

[All names given to babies in 2021](#)

[All names given to babies between 1974-2021](#)

[Charts and tables from this publication](#)

## Most common names

The most common babies names for girls and boys in Scotland in 2021 were **OLIVIA** and **JACK**. Jack has been the top boys' name since 2008. Olivia was previously top between 2016 and 2019. The top 20 names for boys and girls are shown below in Table 1.

**Table 1: Top 20 babies' names in Scotland, 2021**

Boys				Girls			
Rank <sup>1</sup>	Name	Number	Change in Ranking 2020-2021	Rank <sup>1</sup>	Name	Number	Change in Ranking 2020-2021
1	Jack	382	no change	1	Olivia	349	1 ▲
2	Noah	337	no change	2	Emily	318	1 ▲
3	Leo	289	1 ▲	3	Isla	317	-2 ▼
4	Oliver	284	no change	4	Freya	270	no change
5	Harris	273	1 ▲	5	Ella	259	2 ▲
6	Finlay	255	3 ▲	6	Amelia	257	3 ▲
7	Lewis	254	8 ▲	7	Ava	241	-2 ▼
8	James	252	-5 ▼	8	Sophie	238	-2 ▼
9	Rory	247	-2 ▼	9	Grace	235	-1 ▼
10	Alexander	240	-2 ▼	10	Millie	216	4 ▲
11	Brodie	236	6 ▲	11	Lily	205	-1 ▼
12	Alfie	224	1 ▲	12	Sophia	200	-1 ▼
13	Charlie	220	-1 ▼	13	Charlotte	196	-1 ▼
14	Theo	219	no change	14	Rosie	190	2 ▲
15	Archie	217	-5 ▼	15	Aria	183	4 ▲
16	Lucas	214	-5 ▼	16	Evie	181	-3 ▼
17	Mason	205	2 ▲	17	Maisie	165	-2 ▼
18	Finn	197	-2 ▼	18=	Lucy	164	5 ▲
19	Thomas	193	-2 ▼	18=	Mia	164	-1 ▼
20	Freddie	192	3 ▲	20	Eilidh	160	4 ▲

[click here to view the full list](#)

**LYLA** (up 56 places to 74<sup>th</sup>), **BLAKE** (up 46 places to joint 93<sup>rd</sup>) and **ROWAN** (up 41 places to joint 93<sup>rd</sup>) rose by the largest number of places in the top 100 girls' names.

There is a lot of year-on-year change in the top hundred girls' names, with 14 of the top hundred rising by 20 places or more. The other girls' names rising by 20 or more places were: **LARA**, **HARLOW**, **PENELOPE**, **BROOKE**, **SADIE**, **FLORA**, **GEORGIE**, **CALLIE**, **PHOEBE**, **SKYE** and **HEIDI**.

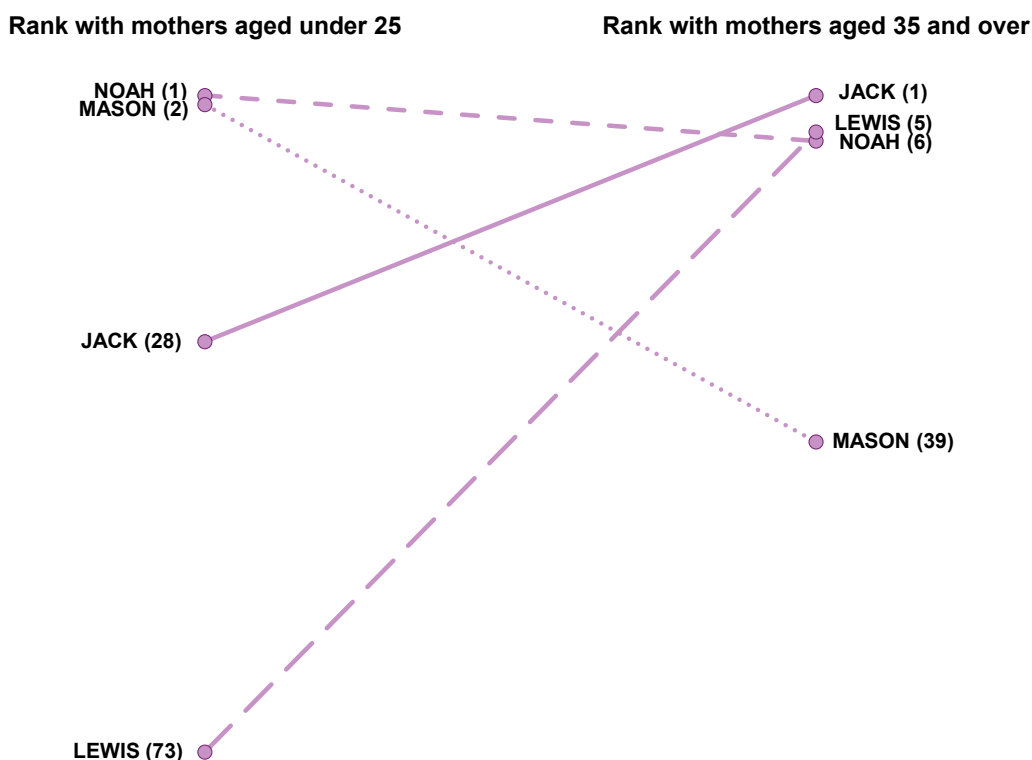
For boys, there were eight names that rose by 20 places or more in the top hundred, these were: **CARSON**, **STRUAN**, **MYLES**, **ELIJAH**, **CALLAN**, **HUDSON**, **LACHLAN** and **ALBIE**.

## Names by age of mother

**JACK**, the most popular name for boys in 2021, was the also the most popular name with mothers aged 35 and above, and only 28<sup>th</sup> with mothers aged under 25. **NOAH** was the most popular name for babies with mothers under 25, but was 6<sup>th</sup> for babies with mothers over 35.

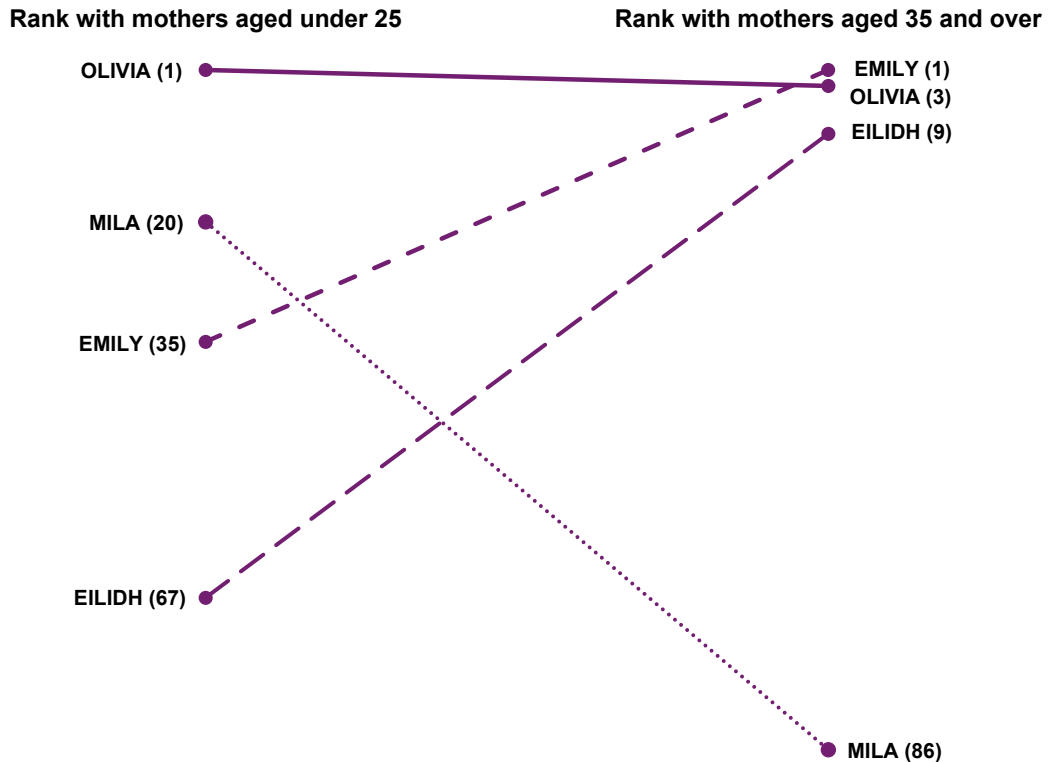
Only 2 of the 10 leading boys names (**LEO** and **NOAH**) chosen by mothers aged under 25 also feature in the top 10 for mothers aged 35 and older.

**Figure 1a: Ranked boys' names by mothers' age group (selected names)**



**OLIVIA**, the most popular name for girls in 2021, was also the most popular name for babies with mothers aged under 25 but only ranked 6<sup>th</sup> for babies with mothers aged 35 and over. **EMILY** was most popular for babies with mothers in the oldest age group, but was 35<sup>th</sup> for babies with mothers in the youngest age group.

**Figure 1b: Ranked girls' names by mothers' age group (selected names)**



**Variety of names chosen**

In Scotland in 2021, there were 4,197 different first names given to girls and 3,458 different first names given to boys. These statistics are based on the birth registrations of 23,241 girls and 24,541 boys.

The rate of different names per 1,000 births fell in 2021 from 190 to 181 for girls. The rate for boys stayed similar at 141.

**Figure 2: Rate of different names per 1,000 births**

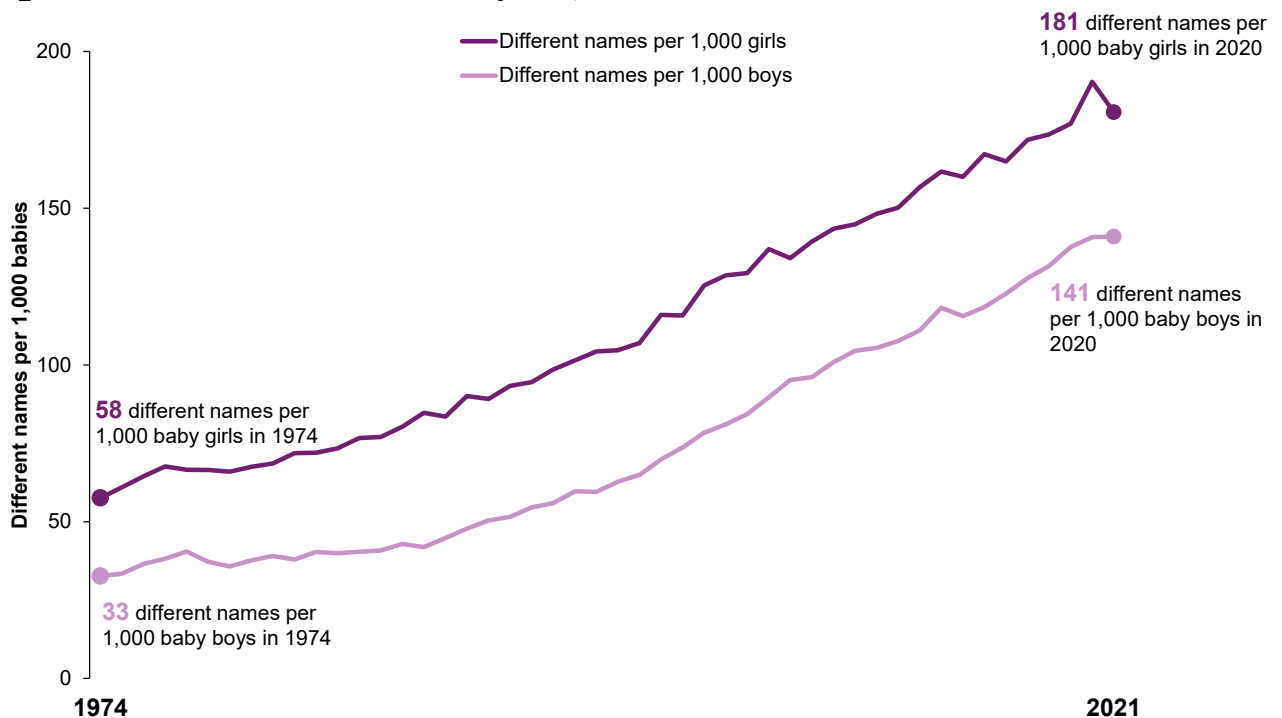


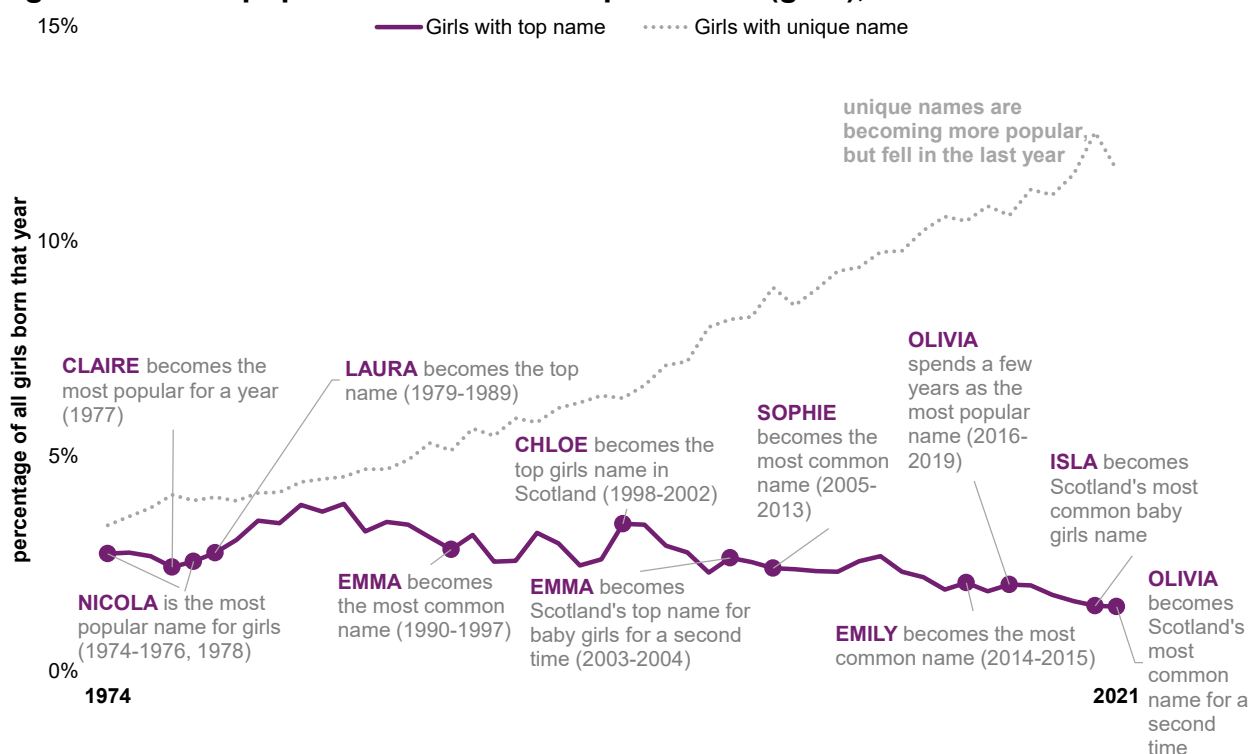


Figure 2 shows how the variety of names given to babies has risen over the years, with the range of names given to girls being consistently greater than for boys. Babies born in 2021 will be much less likely to share their name with a classmate than their parents or grandparents were, when they go to school.

A random selection of 1,000 baby girls born in 2021 would have 181 different names among them, meaning that any one baby would be likely to share their name with 5 others. For baby girls born in 1974, there would have been around 58 different names per 1,000 babies; meaning that any one baby would share their name with an average of 16 others.

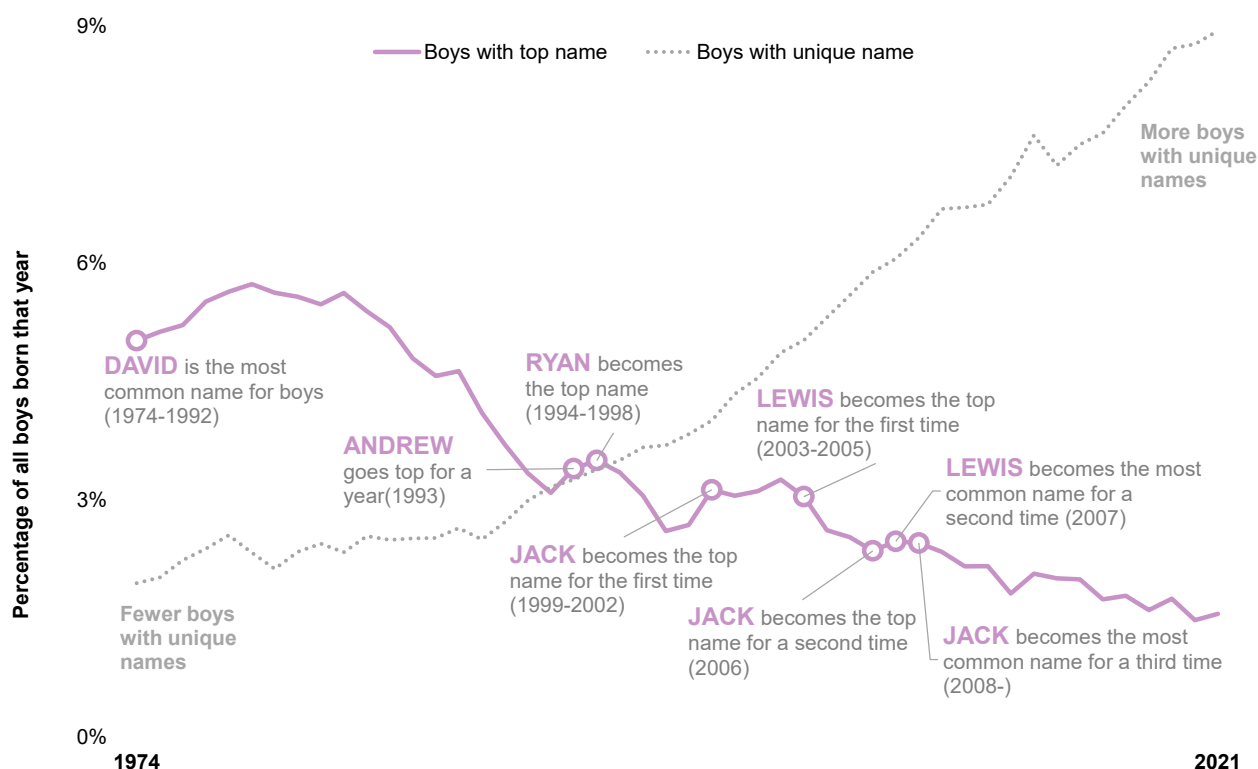
Figure 3a and Figure 3b show how the popularity of the most common baby names and unique baby names have changed over time.

**Figure 3a: Most popular names and unique names (girls), 1974-2021**



In 2021, 1.5% of baby girls born in Scotland had the most common name (Olivia), and 11.7% had a name that no other baby girl was given. The popularity of the most common name has generally decreased over time, with the name Laura being given to nearly one in every twenty-five girls born in 1983 (3.9%), more than twice as common as Olivia is now.

**Figure 3b: Most popular names and unique names (boys), 1974-2021**



The name Jack was given to 1.6% of boys born in 2021, while 8.9% of boys shared their name with no other baby boy born last year. Up until 1994, more boys were given the most common name for the year than were given unique names. In 1979, nearly 1 in 18 babies born was given the name David (5.7%), while around 1 in every 43 babies was given a unique name (2.3%).

## Names and popular culture

Many names become popular due to appearing on TV or film, or due to a celebrity having this name.

There were 27 baby boys named **CONNELL** in 2021, with the average for the previous ten years being under 3 babies with this name per year. This could be influenced by the popular book and TV series Normal People, which had a character with this name and rose to prominence in 2020 and 2021.

The girls' name **MAEVA** had not been used before 2019 when there were 5 babies with this name. In 2021 there were 30 baby girls with this name. This trend could be influenced by Made In Chelsea's Maeva D'Ascanio, [with Google searches for "Maeva"](#) appearing to rise for this reason during 2021 in Scotland.

## Names by area within Scotland

The top girls' name, **OLIVIA**, was the most common girls' name in ten of Scotland's council areas (eight out of thirty-two). The top boys' name, **JACK**, was the top name in eight areas, with the only three areas to have both Olivia and Jack as top or joint top being Argyll and Bute, Dumfries and Galloway and North Ayrshire.

**OLIVIA** was the top girls' name in ten council areas, **ISLA** was the most common in seven and **EMILY** was the most common in four areas. **AMELIA**, **FREYA** and **GRACE** were top or joint top in two areas each.

**JACK** was the top or joint top name in eight areas, with **NOAH** top or joint top in six areas. **OLIVER** and **FINLAY** were top or joint top in four areas each with **HARRIS** being the top name in three areas.

Council area baby name statistics are only available for names that had three instances or more. Orkney Islands had no names used three or more times in 2021, and Shetland Islands didn't have any girls' names used three or more times.

## Notes on statistical publications

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