

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Vital Events Statistics Update

1. Introduction

This paper summarises the recent developments and improvements in vital events statistics within the last year.

2. Same Sex Marriage

Following the introduction of same-sex marriages in December 2014, changes were made to the preliminary annual and quarterly publications to provide separate figures for opposite sex and same sex marriages. As part of the user consultation exercise earlier this year, we asked users for their views on what figures we should provide on marriages in the vital events reference tables. We made a number of changes to take these views into account, primarily adding a new table showing the marital status of parties in same sex marriages.

3. Babies' First Names

The amount of information available was expanded greatly, with the publication of:

- for each year back to 1974, a list (in rank order) of all the first forenames that were given to babies whose births were registered in that year
- a new web section on how the top names have changed over the years, which includes commentary and tables on (for each sex):
 - the top names in each year
 - the top ten names at five yearly intervals
 - the top names in each decade, first forenames, in rank order
- summary files (in Comma-Separated Values (CSV) format) of records of:
 - all first forenames given in each year in a particular period
 - the 'Top 100' names for all the years for which the data are available

4. Weekly and Monthly Data on Births and Deaths

With effect from June 2015, these figures are now released each month, and cover the period up to the end of the previous month. For example, weekly and monthly figures going up to the end of June 2015 were released in July 2015. Prior to that, these figures were released each quarter, and covered the same period as the quarterly figures (e.g. weekly and monthly figures up to the end of March 2015 were released in June 2015, along with the figures for the first quarter of 2015).

5. Drug-related Deaths

Two new tables and an Annex were added, to provide a consistent series of the number of drug-related deaths, based upon the classification of each drug at the end of the latest year which is covered by each edition of the publication;

- five tables were expanded – all now provide figures for four more types of drug;
- another table was expanded to show ten more drugs, or groups of drugs;
- minor improvements were made to three other tables.

6. Infographics and Data Visualisations

A number of infographics and data visualisations have been introduced in the last year.

- Infographic on births and deaths in 2014
- Infographic on marriages and civil partnerships in 2014
- Data visualisation on cause of death, 2002-2014
- Data visualisation on age-specific birth rates, 1973-2014
- Data visualisations on top 20 boys' and girls' names, 2002-2014

All of these can be found on the [Infographics and Visualisations](#) page on the National Records of Scotland (NRS) website.

NRS: Vital Events Statistics branch
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