

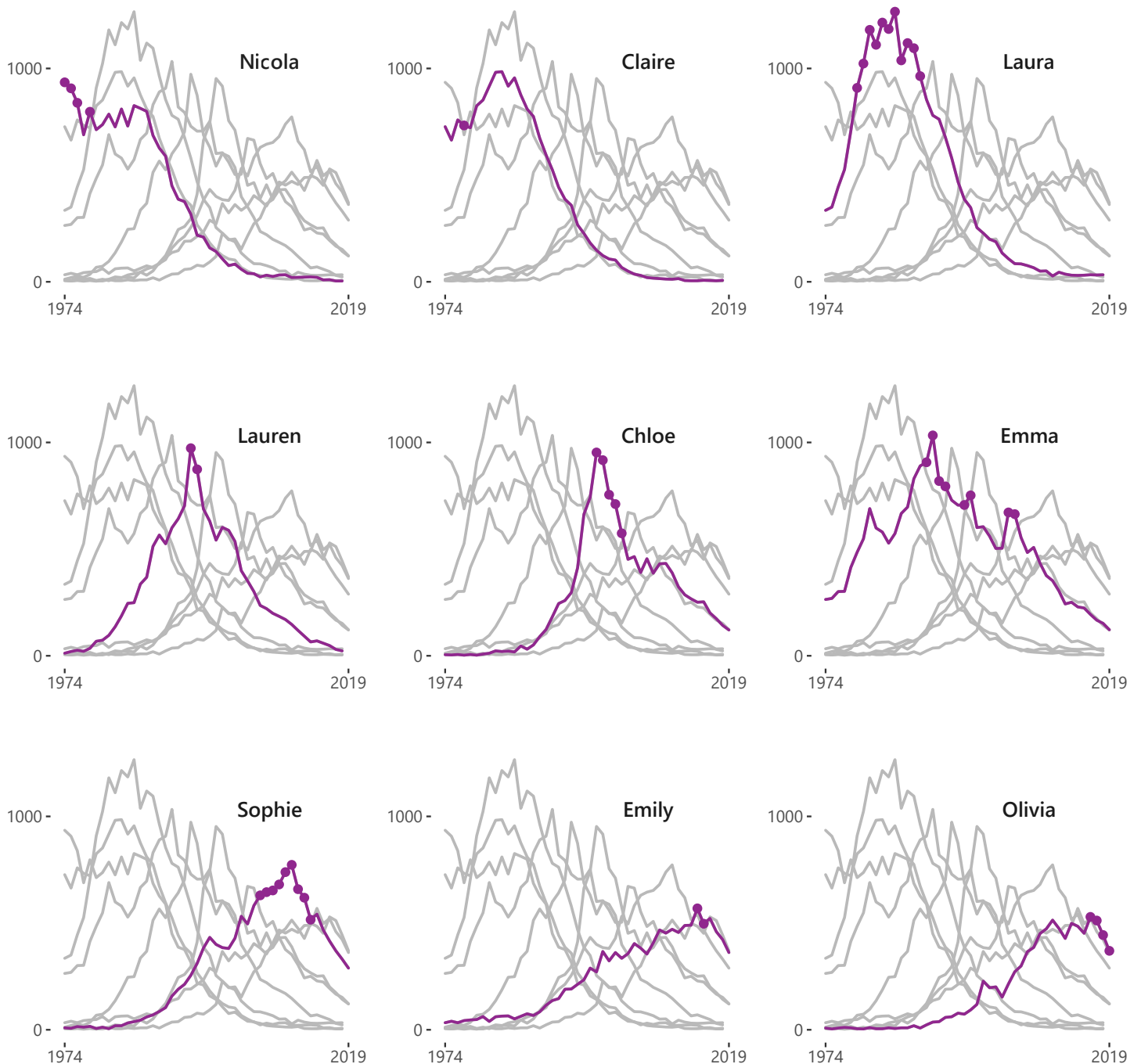
Nine girls' names have occupied the top spot over the last 5 decades

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.

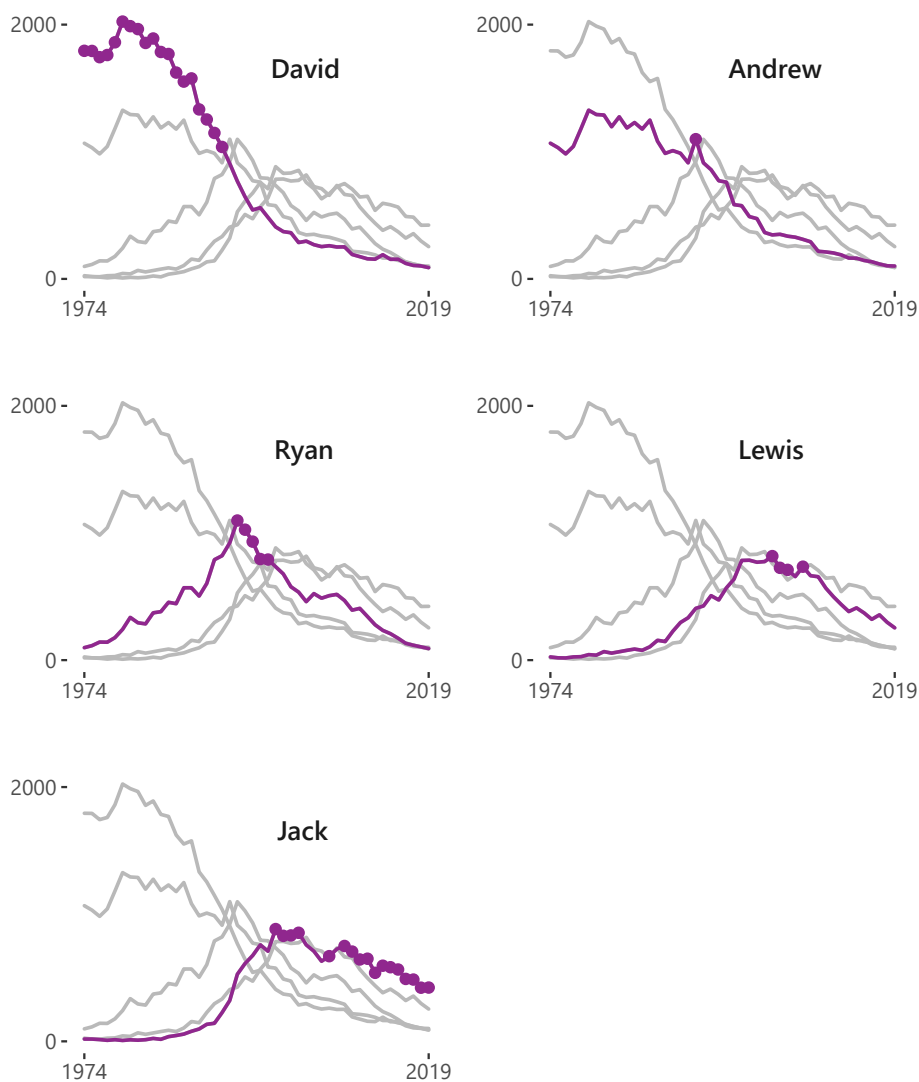
Most popular girls' names from 1974 to 2019

● Years name was ranked 1



Most popular boys' names from 1974 to 2019

● Years name was ranked 1



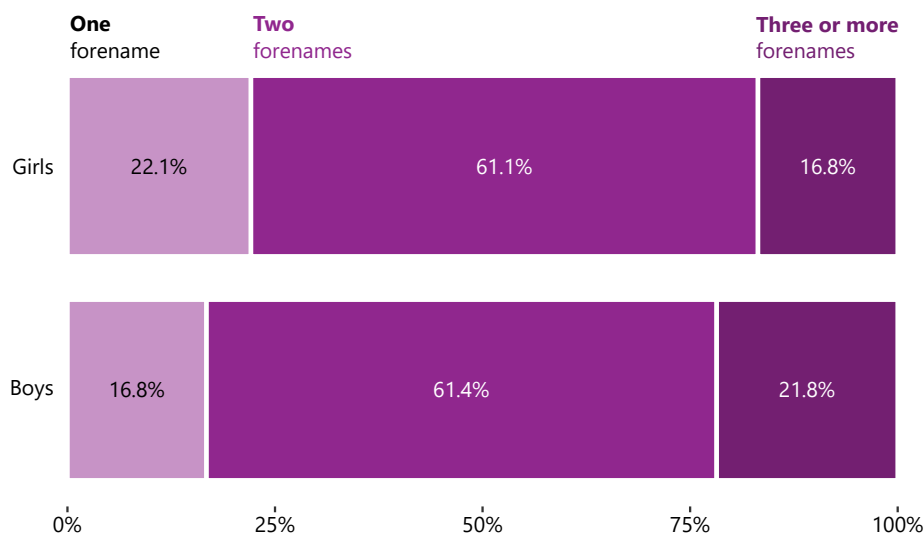
Five boys' names have reached number 1 since the early 1970s

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.

Number of forenames



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.