

Vital Events – General Background Information – Births and Deaths: Days until Registration

More information about the statistics of the number of days until registration

Both tables show the number of days between the date of the event and the date of its registration. An event that was registered on the same day as it occurred would have a value of '0' for its number of days, an event that was registered on the day after it occurred would have a value of '1', and so on. No account is taken of the times of day at which the event occurred and was registered. Events which occur (e.g.) in the early hours may be registered on the same day, events which occur shortly before midnight cannot be registered on the same day.

For some of the years up to 2016, the statistics are based on slightly fewer events than were registered in the year. This is because the data for a very small proportion of the statistical records for those events may be unreliable, and so those records have been excluded from the analysis (more about this is available from the [excluding cases](#) document). For 2017 onwards, following the introduction of a new computer system, all records which are identified as being for the re-registration of births have been excluded (more about this is available from the document on [arrangements which apply for 2017 onwards](#)).

The tables show several statistics calculated from the number of days between the dates of occurrence and registration: the average number of days, some percentiles, quartiles and the median. The percentiles, quartiles and median show the numbers of days within which the relevant percentages of events were registered. For example, in Table 1, the first row, which is for births which were registered in 1974, shows that:

- 70,093 births were registered in that year;
- the statistics are based on data for 70,083 of those births;
- and so 10 (or 0.01%) of the births which were registered in the year were excluded for the purpose of producing these statistics;
- there was an average of 11.3 days between the dates of birth and registration;
- the first percentile was 1 day – so 1% of births were registered by the day after they occurred;
- the fifth percentile was 2 days – so 5% of births were registered by the second day after they occurred;
- the tenth percentile was 3 days – so 10% of births were registered by the third day after they occurred;
- the lower quartile was 6 days – so 25% of births were registered by the sixth day after they occurred;
- the median was 11 days – so 50% of births were registered by the eleventh day after they occurred;
- the upper quartile was 16 days – so 75% of births were registered by the sixteenth day after they occurred;
- the ninetieth percentile was 20 days – so 90% of births were registered by the twentieth day after they occurred;
- the ninety-fifth percentile was 21 days – so 95% of births were registered by the twenty-first day after they occurred

- the ninety-ninth percentile was 32 days – so 99% of births were registered by the thirty-second day after they occurred.

It may be noted that, in some cases, much larger percentages of events could have been registered after the numbers of days that are shown for the percentiles, the quartiles and the median. This is because many events may be registered after the same number of days. For example, suppose that a given year had 50,000 events of a particular type, and that 23,000 were registered within fewer than the median number of days, 8,000 were registered in the median number of days, and the remaining 19,000 were registered after more than the median number of days. In that case, 62% of events (rather than just 50%) would have been registered within the median number of days. So the actual percentages for some of the statistics (such as the median) could vary greatly from one year to the next.