

26 November 2010

# **Correction Notice**

## **Births and Deaths in England and Wales**

### **2009**

A production error was identified in the calculation of standardised mortality rates for 2009, when originally published on 21 July 2010. The rates have now been corrected.

ONS apologises for any inconvenience caused.

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## Births and Deaths in England and Wales



2009

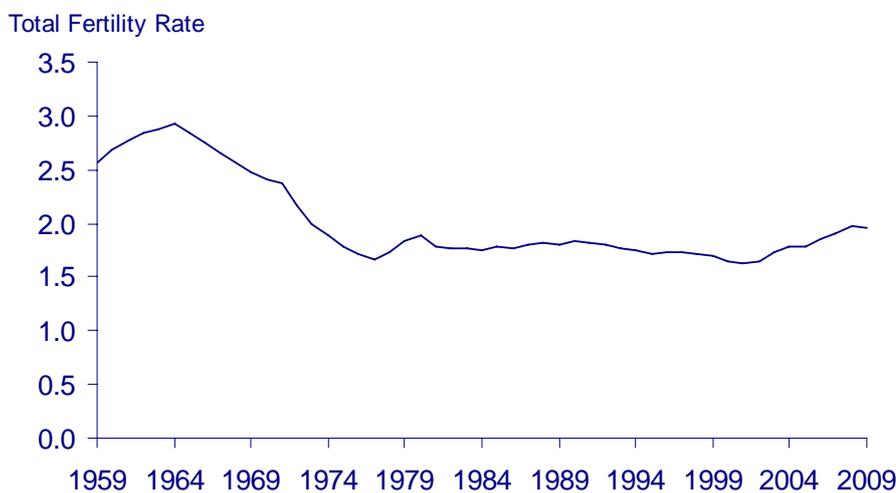
**Date:** 21 July 2010

**Coverage:** England and Wales **Theme:** Population

Fertility rates for 2009 give an average number of 1.96 children per woman in England and Wales. This represents a slight decrease in fertility from 1.97 children per woman in 2008. This is the first annual decrease since 2001 when the average number of children per woman was 1.63, having fallen from 1.65 in 2000.

The 2009 total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.96 children is still relatively high compared with recent years, although it is notably lower than in the 1960s when it reached a peak of 2.93 in 1964.

**Total Fertility Rate in England and Wales 1959–2009**



Source: Office for National Statistics

Age-standardised mortality rates have continued their downward trend in 2009, with 6,573 deaths per million population for males and 4,628 deaths per million population for females. Compared with 2008, this is a fall of 4.1 per cent for males and 5.5 per cent for females. Since 1999, age-standardised mortality rates have decreased by 26 per cent for males and 22 per cent for females.

The 2009 age-standardised mortality rates for both males and females are the lowest ever recorded in England and Wales.

Other key statistics on births and deaths in 2009:

### **Births in England and Wales, 2009**

There were 706,248 live births in England and Wales in 2009, compared with 708,711 in 2008, a fall of 0.3 per cent. This is the first annual decrease in births since 2001, when there were 594,634 live births (down from 604,441 in 2000), and represents a change from the rising numbers of births observed over the past seven years.

The number of stillbirths increased slightly to 3,688 in 2009 from 3,617 in 2008. The stillbirth rate also rose slightly to 5.2 per thousand live and stillbirths in 2009 from 5.1 in 2008. Fluctuations in the number of stillbirths and the stillbirth rate have occurred during the last decade (the highest stillbirth rate over the last decade was 5.8 per thousand live and stillbirths in 2003). The increase in stillbirths in 2009 is thought to be a small fluctuation in the time series.

Compared with 2008, there have been small decreases in fertility rates for women aged under 30. The largest percentage decrease was observed for women aged under 20 with a fall of 2.7 per cent. For this age group the fertility rate fell from 26.0 live births per 1,000 women aged under 20 in 2008 to 25.3 in 2009. Fertility rates for women aged 20–24 and 25–29 fell by 0.7 per cent and 0.8 per cent respectively. For women aged 30–34 fertility rates in 2009 remained unchanged.

In contrast, fertility rates for women aged 35–39 and 40 and over continued to increase in 2009 by 1.0 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively. This continues the trend of the last two decades, during which the number of live births to mothers aged 40 and over has nearly trebled from 9,336 in 1989 to 26,976 in 2009. These changes in age-specific fertility rates have resulted in the standardised average (mean) age of mother rising to 29.4 years in 2009, compared with 29.3 years in 2008 and 28.4 years in 1999.

The proportion of live births in England and Wales, to mothers born outside the United Kingdom continued to rise in 2009, reaching 24.7 per cent compared with 24.1 per cent in 2008 and 14.3 per cent in 1999. The proportion of births to mothers born outside the UK has increased every year since 1990 when it was just under 12 per cent.

### **Live births in England and Wales, 2009: area of residence**

The West Midlands had the highest TFR among the Government Office Regions of England in 2009 with 2.06 children per woman. The North East had the lowest TFR (1.81).

Among the local authorities in England, Westminster had the lowest TFR with 1.16 children per woman, while North Dorset had the highest TFR (3.01). The TFR for North Dorset is based on a relatively small population (estimated to be less than 10,000 women aged 15–44). Fertility rates based on small numbers of women can be less robust.

In Wales, Ceredigion had the lowest TFR with 1.59 children per woman, while Newport had the highest TFR (2.26).

### **Death registrations in England and Wales, 2009**

There were 491,348 deaths registered in England and Wales in 2009 compared with 509,090 in 2008 (a fall of 3.5 per cent), and 553,532 in 1999. The last time annual death registrations fell below 500,000 was in 1952.

Circulatory diseases, such as heart disease, remain the most common major cause of death, contributing to a third of all deaths registered in 2009. The overall downward trend in circulatory disease death rates has continued. Between 1999 and 2009, they fell by 42 per cent to 2,078 deaths per million population for males and by 40 per cent to 1,312 deaths per million population for females.

Cancer accounted for just over a quarter (29 per cent) of all deaths registered in 2009, with a rate of 2,068 deaths per million population for males and 1,489 for females. Since 1999 death rates for cancer have fallen, by 15 per cent for males and 12 per cent for females.

In 2009 there were 3,312 infant deaths (under 1 year of age) registered giving a rate of 4.7 deaths per 1,000 live births compared with 4.8 in 2008 and 5.8 in 1999. The infant mortality rate in 2009 (based on registrations) is the lowest ever recorded in England and Wales.

### **Death registrations in England and Wales, 2009: area of residence**

The North West had the highest standardised mortality ratio (SMR) among the Government Office Regions of England in 2009 with mortality levels 12 percentage points above the national level. In contrast, mortality levels were lowest in the South East (8 percentage points below the national level).

In 2009 the local authority in England with the highest SMR was Blackburn with Darwen UA (34 percentage points above the national level) while Kensington and Chelsea had the lowest (39 percentage points below the national level).

In Wales, Merthyr Tydfil had the highest SMR (24 percentage points above the national level) while Ceredigion and Monmouthshire had the lowest (12 percentage points below the national level).

More detailed data for births can be found at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408)

More detailed data for deaths can be found at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14409](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14409)

## Background Notes

1. All figures for 2009 are final. Death figures are based on deaths registered in the data year. Birth figures are based on birth occurring in the data year, but incorporate a small number of late registrations from births occurring in the previous year.
2. Revised mid-2002 to mid-2008 population estimates were published on 13 May 2010. These revised estimates have been used in the calculation of birth and death rates and also the standardised mean (average) age of mother for 2002 to 2008.
3. The total fertility rate (TFR) is the average number of live children that a group of women would have if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their child-bearing lives. The TFR provides an up-to-date measure of the current intensity of childbearing. Changes in timing of births may influence the TFR; for example if women are delaying childbearing to older ages the TFR may underestimate average family size. National TFRs are calculated by summing single-year age-specific fertility rates over all ages within the child-bearing lifespan (taken to be ages '15 and under' to ages '44 and over'). TFRs for subnational areas (that is Government Office Regions, counties, unitary authorities and health authorities/boards) are calculated by summing five-year age-specific fertility rates over all child-bearing ages and then multiplying by five (this method gives more robust TFRs for areas with smaller populations). The TFRs for 2009 have been calculated using the mid-2009 population estimates.
4. The 2009 standardised mean (average) age of mother has been calculated using the mid-2009 population estimates.
5. Further 2009 birth statistics will be published later in 2010. This includes further information on parents' country of birth (published on 26 August 2010).
6. Further statistics on 2009 death registrations in England and Wales will be published later in 2010.
7. The infant mortality rates in this release have been calculated by dividing the number of infant death registrations (deaths under 1 year) by the number of live births occurring in the year plus late registrations from the previous year. Infant mortality rates can also be calculated using death occurrences, these rates are not released until later because for the death occurrences dataset to be acceptably complete it must be taken some 9 months after the end of the relevant calendar period. Further statistics on infant deaths occurring in England and Wales in 2009 will be published in Child Mortality Statistics.
8. The age-standardised mortality rates in this release are directly age-standardised to the European Standard Population, which covers all ages and allows comparisons between populations with different age structures, including between males and females and over

time. Age-standardised rates for 2009 in this release are calculated using the mid-2009 population estimates.

9. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the media office.
10. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

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