

# Annual Report of the Registrar General (2023)



## **102<sup>nd</sup> Registrar General's Annual Report Published** **9:30am – Thursday, 21 November 2024**

The average age of brides, grooms and first-time mums in Northern Ireland continued to rise during 2023, the Registrar General's 102<sup>nd</sup> annual report revealed today.

August was the most popular month to get married, while the proportion of births to teenage mothers remained the same as 2022 at a record low according to the report published by NISRA.

7,494 marriages were registered in 2023, including 318 same-sex marriages and 89 conversions from civil partnerships to marriage. The average age for brides and grooms increased to 34.1 and 36.1 years respectively, compared with 27.3 years for brides and 29.4 years for grooms in 1993.

August was the most popular month to get married in 2023 with 1,059 marriages taking place. There were 39 civil partnerships registered in 2023 (down from 43 registered in 2022), 6 of which involved male partnerships, 4 involved female partnerships, but the majority, 29, were opposite-sex partnerships.

The report shows that the number of births to teenage mothers (mothers under 20 years of age) reduced from 2022 to the lowest on record at 436 in 2023. However, as a proportion of all births, births to teenage mothers remained the same as 2022 at 2.1 per cent out of the total 19,962 births registered in 2023.

The average age of first-time mums continued to rise, up from 25.9 years in 1993 to 29.5 years in 2023. The average age of all mums similarly rose, from 28.3 years to 31.4 years over the last three decades.

Of the 19,962 births registered (10,203 males and 9,759 females) 46.4 per cent occurred outside of marriage/civil partnership, compared to 22.0 per cent three decades ago. 2023 saw the stillbirth rate decrease from 3.4 per 1,000 births in 2022 to 3.3 per 1,000. A total of 67 stillbirths were registered in Northern Ireland in 2023.

The number of deaths registered in 2023 (17,254) was a 0.6 per cent increase to the level in 2022 (17,159). At the broadest level of cause, cancer continued to be the most common cause of death in 2023, accounting for 27.0 per cent of all deaths. The trachea, bronchus and lung (commonly referred to as lung cancer) was the most common site of cancer for both sexes. At a more detailed level, the leading cause of death for all persons in 2023 was dementia and Alzheimer's disease accounting for 2,026 (11.7 per cent) of all deaths. When analysed by sex, dementia and

Alzheimer's diseases was the leading cause of death for females (1,333 or 15.4 per cent of all female deaths); however, for males the leading cause of death was ischaemic heart disease (945 deaths, 11.4 per cent of all male deaths).

Tragically, there were 221 registered deaths due to suicide (including deaths from self-inflicted injury and events of undetermined intent) in Northern Ireland in 2023, an increase from 203 in 2022 but lower than the 2021 total of 237. Males accounted for over three quarters of all deaths due to suicide (77.4 per cent).

The number of adoptions decreased by 13.7 per cent from 124 in 2022 to 107 in 2023. The average age children were adopted was five years old. The number of gender recognition registrations, whereby individuals re-registered their birth with a new gender, completed in 2023 was 20, up from 6 in 2022.

### **Notes to editors:**

1. This release provides statistics on a number of areas which have policy relevance. In particular, the number of births has implications for planning maternity services and schools, whereas the number of deaths has implications for hospital and palliative care strategies. Population estimates, projections and life expectancy statistics are all of policy interest because of their implications for pensions and the delivery of front-line services for the population in areas such as housing, health care, education and transport.
2. The Report of the Registrar General is published annually and is available at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages/registrars-general-annual-report>. The report includes commentary and infographics designed to bring out the key demographic trends and issues. Detailed statistical tables are also available.
3. Corresponding information for England and Wales is published by the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) and for Scotland by the [National Records of Scotland](#) (NRS). Similar figures for the Republic of Ireland are available from the [Central Statistics Office](#) (CSO) Ireland.
4. Follow NISRA on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). We welcome feedback on the content, format and relevance of this release. Users can send feedback directly to [info@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:info@nisra.gov.uk).
5. Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services:  
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