

2020 BIRTHS IN BIRMINGHAM

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Summary

In 2020 there were 14,991 Live births in Birmingham. This compares with 15,483 in 2019, a decrease of -3.2%. Births have generally been declining since 2012, this is in line with the national trend. Whilst the overall number of births declined there were increases in fertility rates for mothers aged 35 or over. At 2.2% the rate of decline for non-UK born mothers is modest compared with UK born mothers (-21%).

Birmingham 2020 Live Births

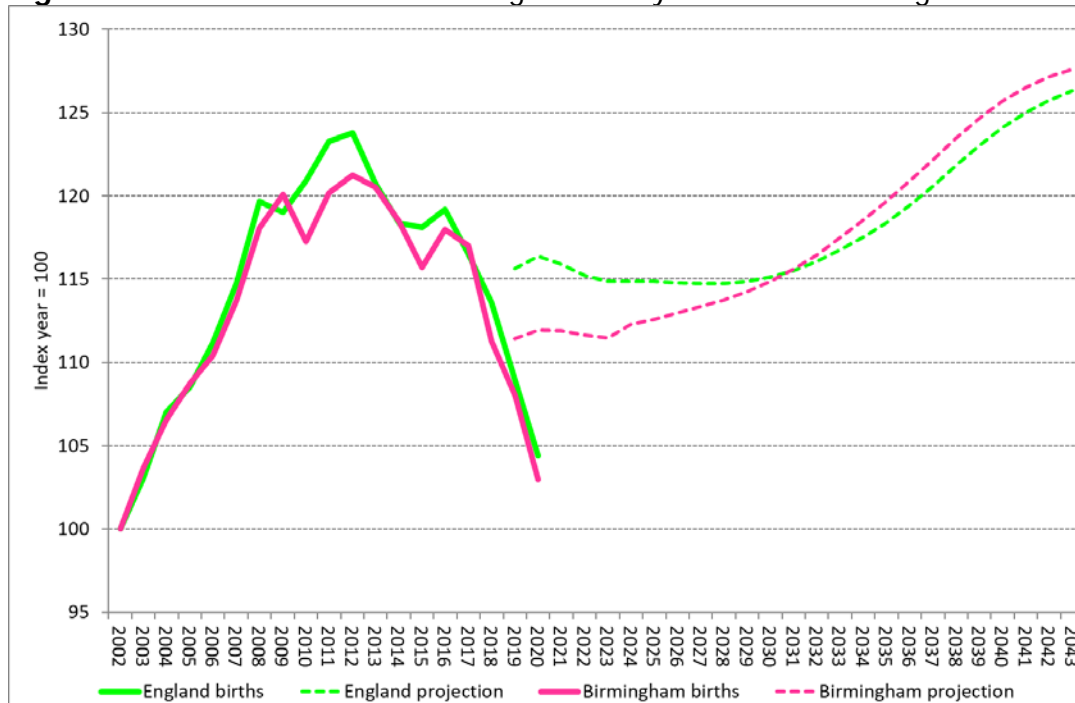
There were 14,991 Live births to mothers who were resident in Birmingham in 2020. This compares with 15,483 in 2019, a decrease of -3.2%. Table 1 shows that the number of births in England also decreased. The General Fertility Rate (GFR) was 61.0 births per thousand population in Birmingham. This was higher than the region and England. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR)³ in Birmingham was 1.78 children per woman in 2019, compared with 1.66 for England.

Table 1: Birth numbers and fertility rates, 2020

Area name	Number of births in 2020	Number of births in 2019	% change in births 2019 to 2020	Crude birth rates ¹	GFR ²	TFR ³	standardised mean age of mother
England and Wales	613,833	640,370	-4.1	10.3	55.1	1.58	30.7
England	585,195	610,505	-4.1	10.3	55.3	1.59	30.8
West Midlands region	63,748	65,982	-3.4	10.7	57.3	1.65	30.2
West Midlands (Met County)	35,485	36,695	-3.3	12.1	58.8	1.68	30.4
Birmingham	14,991	15,483	-3.2	13.1	59.3	1.74	31.0

1. Crude birth rates represent the number of live births per thousand population.
 2. General fertility rate (GFR) is the number of live births per 1,000 women age 15-44.
 3. Total Fertility (TFR) is the average number of live children that a group of women would bear if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing years.
 4. The mean age is calculated using fertility rates per 1,000 female population by single year of age
- Source: Office for national Statistics, Crown Copyright 2021.

Figure 1: 2002 to 2020 Index of change for mid-year births in Birmingham and England



Projected births taken from the 2018 mid-year population projections. Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2021

Births have generally been declining since 2012. Figure 1 shows that this is in line with the national trend. The 2018 population projection estimate that Birmingham births will steadily increase, exceeding the 2012 peak births by 2036. However, early indications are that the projection is high, as the projection for 2019 and 2020 is 6% higher than actual births.

Births by country of birth

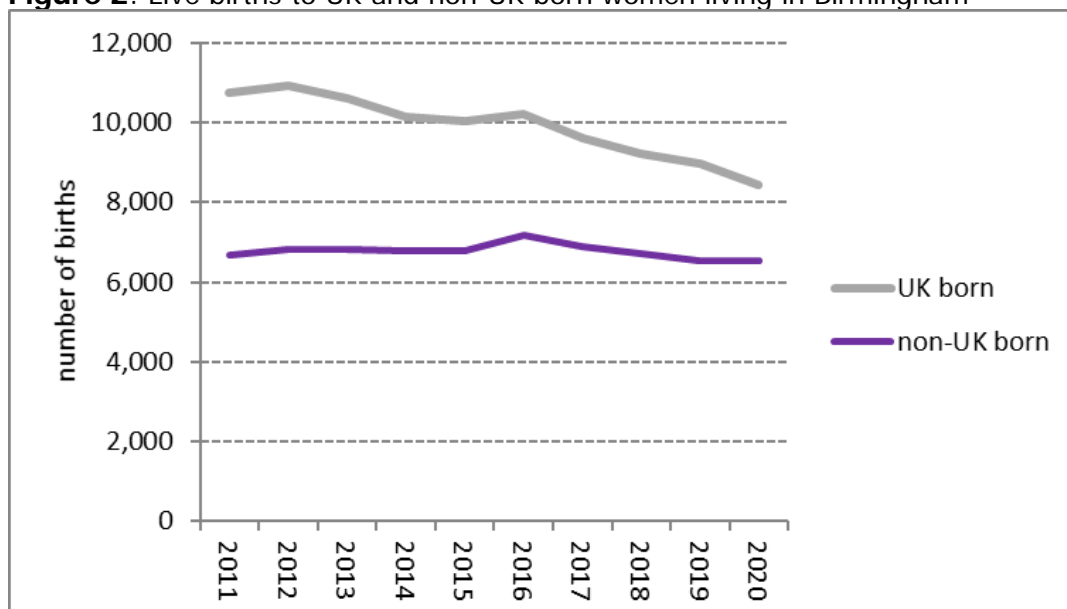
Table 2: Live births to non-UK born mothers resident in Birmingham

Year	All live births	Mother's birthplace in the UK	Mother's birthplace outside the UK	Mother's birthplace in the EU	Mother's birthplace in New EU ²	Mother's birthplace in Europe (non-EU)	Mother's birthplace in Middle East & Asia	Mothers birthplace in Africa	Mother's birthplace in the rest of World	%live births to non-UK born
2020	14,991	8,453	6,536	1,232	917	152	3,414	1,517	221	43.6
2019	15,483	8,962	6,521	1,305	990	145	3,431	1,419	221	42.1
2018	15,916	9,220	6,696	1,392	1,083	143	3,483	1,417	261	42.1
2017	16,506	9,619	6,887	1,336	1,060	138	3,685	1,497	231	41.7
2016	17,404	10,215	7,188	1,394	1,103	131	3,828	1,552	283	41.3
2015	16,828	10,032	6,796	1,195	950	124	3,749	1,461	267	40.4
2014	16,925	10,156	6,768	1,109	866	88	3,926	1,322	323	40
2013	17,421	10,609	6,811	986	762	93	4,062	1,379	291	39.1
2012	17,766	10,932	6,833	894	667	91	4,175	1,341	332	38.5
2011	17,423	10,743	6,680	800	579	70	4,168	1,319	323	38.3

Source: ONS, Crown Copyright 2020

Table 2 shows the number of births in Birmingham by the mother's country of birth. There were 14,991 Live births to mothers resident in Birmingham in calendar year 2020, of these, 6,536 (43.6%) births were to non-UK born mothers. Overall, the number of births was down on 2019, for UK-born women (-5.7%), non-UK born women show a modest increase of +0.2%. Between 2011 and 2020 figure 2 shows the decline in number of births was much steeper for UK born mothers (-21%) compared with non-UK born mothers (-2.2%). It also illustrates the gap is closing for the number of children born to UK-born mothers compared with non-UK born mothers.

Figure 2: Live births to UK and non-UK born women living in Birmingham



Source: ONS, Crown Copyright 2021

Table 3: Parents country of birth – Birmingham

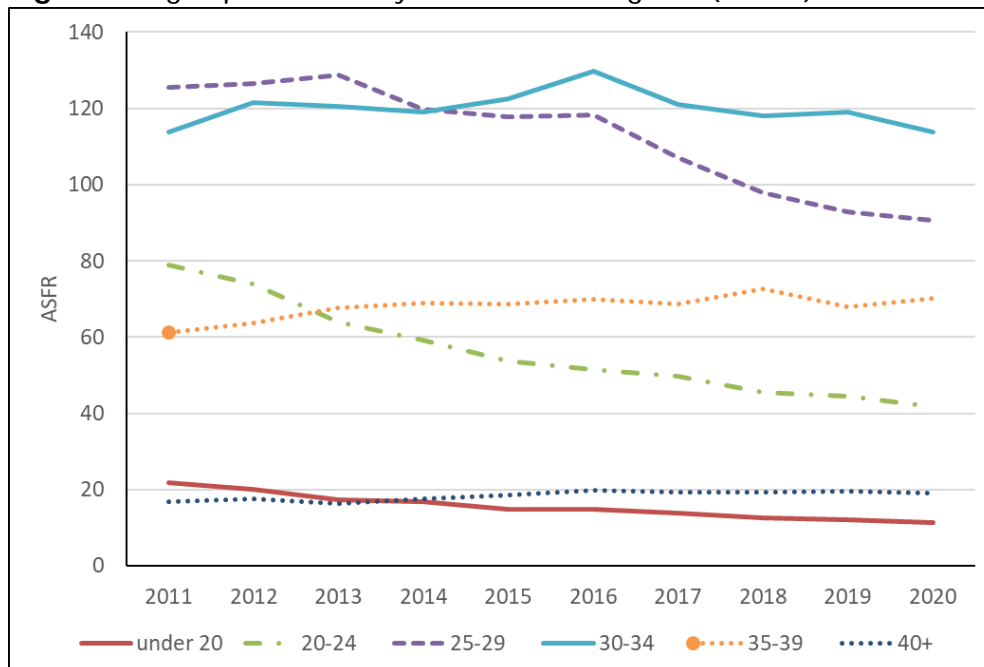
Year	Live births	Live births where one parent is born outside the UK	% Live births where one parent is born outside the UK	Live births where both parents are born outside the UK	% Live births where both parents are born outside the UK	Live births where either one or both parents are born outside the UK	% Live births where either one or both parents are born outside the UK
2020	14,991	3,184	21.2	4,809	32.1	7,993	53.3
2019	15,483	3,274	21.1	4,283	31.2	8,097	52.3
2018	15,916	3,253	20.4	5,007	31.5	8,260	51.9
2017	16,506	3,428	20.8	5,130	31.1	8,558	51.8
2016	17,404	3,561	20.5	5,358	30.8	8,919	51.2

Source: ONS, Crown Copyright 2021

Table 3 shows that when the country of birth of the father is considered that over 50% of births are to families where either one or both of parents were born outside of the UK. Unfortunately, there is no information on a parent’s date of entry into the UK. It is not possible therefore to use this data to estimate migration. Nevertheless, the data illustrates the indirect, demographic effects of international migration.

Fertility rates

Figure 3: Age Specific Fertility Rates for Birmingham (ASFRS) 2011 – 2020



Source: ONS, Crown Copyright 2021

Figure 3 and table 4 shows Age Specific Fertility Rates (ASFRs) for Birmingham over the last decade. It shows a decline in fertility rates in younger women, older women show increases. The sharpest decline has been amongst women in their twenties. There were increases for women aged 35 and over. Women aged 30 to 34 have been the most fertile since 2014, previously it was those aged 25 to 29. Fertility rates for the over 40’s has been higher than that of teenagers since 2014.

Table 4: Birmingham fertility rates by age

Year	under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40+	TFR
2011	21.8	78.8	125.6	113.9	61.2	16.9	2.09
2012	20.0	73.9	126.5	121.6	63.6	17.5	2.12
2013	17.5	64.0	128.7	120.5	67.7	16.3	2.07
2014	17.0	59.2	119.9	119.0	69.0	17.7	2.01
2015	14.9	53.7	117.9	122.6	68.7	18.6	1.98
2016	14.9	51.6	118.2	129.7	69.9	19.9	2.02
2017	13.8	49.7	107.0	121.0	68.7	19.4	1.90
2018	12.7	45.6	97.9	117.9	72.6	19.3	1.83
2019	12.1	44.5	92.8	118.9	67.9	19.7	1.78
2020	11.4	41.9	90.7	113.8	70.3	19.2	1.74

Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020
2011 to 2016 calculated by BCC, 2017 onwards published by ONS

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for Birmingham in 2020 decreased to an average of 1.74 children per woman from 1.78 in 2019 and 2.09 in 2011 (Table 2). The ONS briefing – “Births in England and Wales 2020” states 3 possible reasons for the decrease in total fertility rates:

- Improved access to contraception
- Reduction in mortality rates for under 5’s, resulting in women having fewer babies.
- Lower levels of fertility, or difficulties conceiving due to postponement in childbearing.

Reasons for postponement could include greater participation in higher education, delaying partnership formation, having a longer career before starting a family or labour market uncertainty.

Figure 4: 2020 Live Births in Birmingham's neighbourhoods

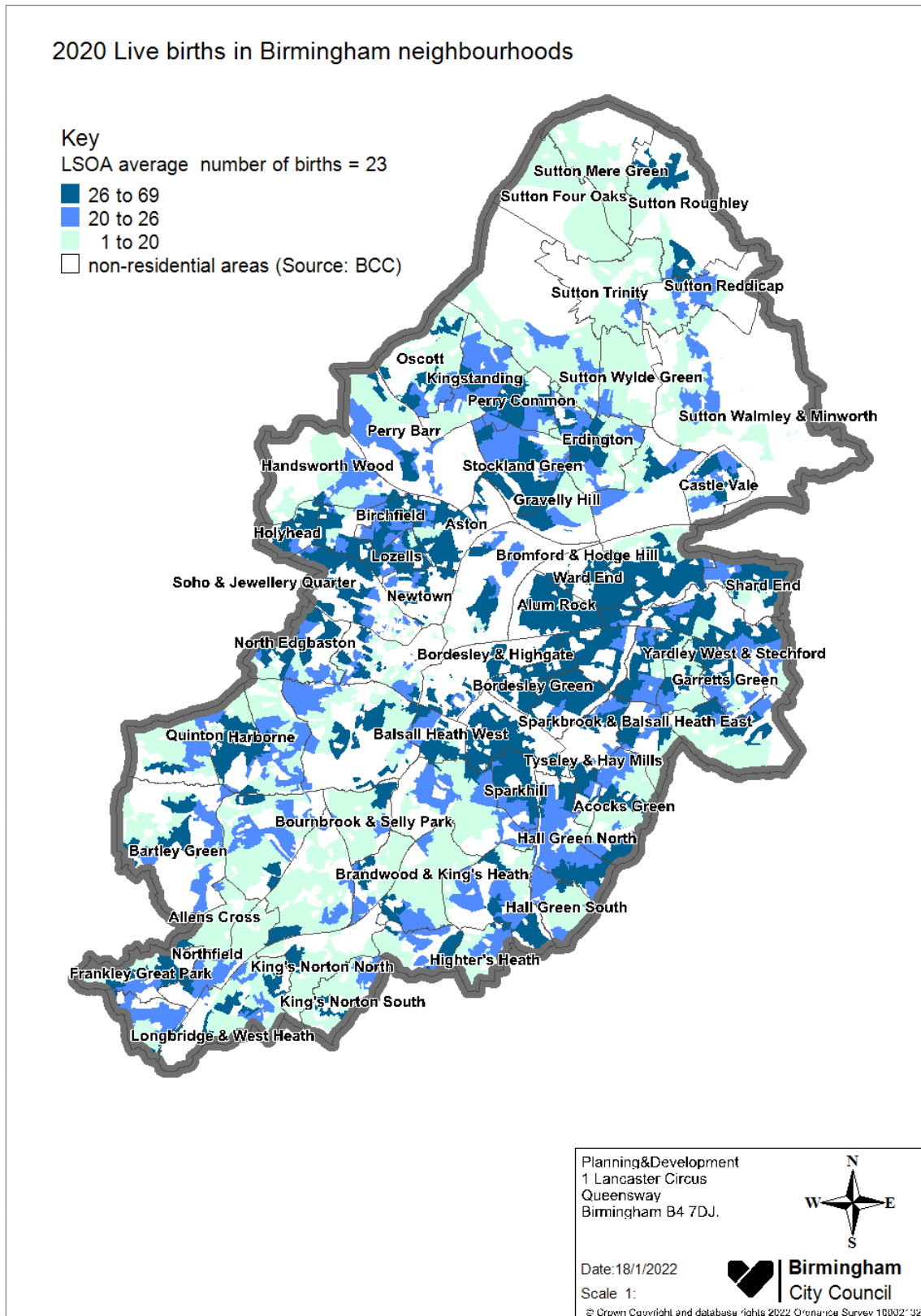


Figure 4 shows 2020 birth registrations in Birmingham neighbourhoods. Births are more concentrated in the areas surrounding the city centre. There are fewer in the northern and southern peripheries.

Appendix 1: Notes

Birth Statistics are compiled annually for each local government and health area from the information collected at birth registration. The Carers have a legal responsibility to register births within 42 days. Pre COVID the proportion of births registered on time was 95%, this dropped to 58% in 2020. This is because birth registrations were suspended in March 2020. Services resumed June 2020 in some areas depending on lockdown restrictions. Even where registration services resumed death registrations were given priority, partly to help the bereaved and so deaths could be reported promptly to support the Government's response to the pandemic. The number of births in Table 1 includes all 2020 births registered by 12 August 2021, (in previous years the deadline was 25 February) and some late registrations from 2019 (194). ONS are confident that the small number of late registrations do not impact on the trend and the pattern observed, but they say they will review the data to confirm this is still the case in 2020. Births are assigned to the area of the mother's usual place of residence at the time of birth, as stated at the registration. If the address of usual residence is outside of England and Wales, the birth is included for any aggregate for England and Wales (and hence the U.K total) but excluded from any District totals.

Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is the simplest overall measure of fertility. It is the number of live births per thousand mid-year population. However, this does not provide valid comparison between areas as it is affected by differences in the age composition of the population.

General Fertility Rate (GFR) is the number of live births per thousand women aged between 15 and 44.

Age Specific Fertility Rates (ASFR) measures fertility for specific age groups of women of childbearing age, usually between the ages of 15 to 44. In this briefing the groups consist of five-year age ranges. The rate is expressed per 1,000 women in that age group. $ASFR = (\text{live births per age group} / \text{female population in age group}) \times 1,000$.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) represents the average number of children per woman that would be born to a group of women if current age specific fertility rates persisted through their childbearing years. 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 increasingly delaying childbearing to older ages the TFR may underestimate average family size. BCC calculated TFRS for Birmingham using formula by summing five-year-age-specific fertility rates over all ages within childbearing years (15-44). National TFRS were published by ONS they were calculated by summing single-year-age-specific fertility rates over all ages within childbearing years (15-44 years).

Replacement Level represents the level of fertility required for the population to replace itself in size in the long term. In the UK women would need to have, on average 2.08 children to ensure long term "natural replacement" of the population.

Standardised mean age is a measure that eliminates the impact of any changes in the distribution of the population by age and therefore enables trends over time to be analysed. Standardised means are calculated using rates per 1,000 female population by single year of age of mother.