

Vital Events Reference Tables - Notes and Definitions

General

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used:

P -	Persons	NS -	Not Stated
M -	Males	HBA -	Health Board Area
F -	Females	NK -	Not Known

ICD - International [Statistical] Classification of Diseases [and Related Health Problems]

Tabular Conventions

Where a range of years is listed in a time series table, e.g. 1951-55, the data presented will be an average for this period.

Throughout the tables 'year' means 'calendar year' except where otherwise defined. By convention, many of the time series presented start at census years e.g. 1991.

Rates given as '0' or '0.0' indicate that the actual rate is less than 0.5 and 0.05 respectively. Cases where there were no events at all are normally indicated by the use of a dash (-), but this may not always be the case: occasionally, a zero (0) may be used to indicate that there were no events, or a dash may appear where the rate was very low but not zero. Dots (...) in any cell indicate that the information is not available, or, in the case of a rate, that the denominator may not be available.

In tabulations using ages and age-groups, or years, the sign < followed by a figure means up to but not including the figure stated, e.g. < 4 weeks means 'under 4 weeks'. Where two ages appear in the same column, for example 20-24, both ages are included.

Background Information

The following background information is available in the Vital Events section of the National Records of Scotland website.

[General background information](#) which applies to most (if not all) of the Vital Events statistics, including notes on topics such as:

- date of registration;
- geographical basis of the statistics (e.g. place of residence or occurrence, administrative areas); and
- age and age standardisation.

Population

All population figures refer to estimates at 30 June of the year in question.

The estimated population of an area includes all those usually resident there whatever their nationality. Students are treated as being resident at their term-time address. Members of UK and non-United Kingdom armed forces stationed in Scotland are included; UK forces stationed outside Scotland are excluded. Short-term international migrants are excluded.

Births

[Births – Background Information](#), including notes on topics such as:

- registration arrangements;
- fertility rates; and
- marital status of parents.

Stillbirths and Infant Deaths

Background information which is specifically about the statistics of [Stillbirths and Infant Deaths](#), including notes on topics such as:

- the definition of stillbirths; and
- the definitions of perinatal, neonatal, postneonatal and infant deaths.

Marriages and Civil Partnerships

[Marriages and Civil Partnership - Background information](#), including notes on topics such as:

- the coverage of the statistics; and
- types of marriage and celebrants.

Divorces and Dissolutions

[Divorces and Dissolutions - Background information](#), including notes on topics such as:

- the coverage of the statistics; and
- the revision of the historical series of divorce statistics.

Deaths

[Deaths - Background information](#), including notes on topics such as:

- death certificates and coding the causes of death;
- causes of death - summary lists; and
- years of life lost.