

The Trend in Births in Waltham Forest

Births reached a peak of 3,933 children in 1992 after a rising trend.

The children born in 1992 are now in secondary schools, and the number of secondary school pupils in Waltham Forest is set to rise until 2006.

Since 1992 the number of births per year in the Borough have slowly fallen, and they are now 10% lower than in 1992. Births have remained at the same level for the last 4 years, with no discernable trend.

calendar year	annual live births	<u>average family size</u>	
		WF	E & W
1987	3,442	1.99	1.81
1988	3,662	2.10	1.82
1989	3,586	2.07	1.80
1990	3,671	2.07	1.84
1991	3,856	1.99	1.82
1992	3,933	2.03	1.80
1993	3,784	1.96	1.76
1994	3,711	1.92	1.75
1995	3,642	1.90	1.72
1996	3,644	1.96	1.73
1997	3,586	1.99	1.73
1998	3,603	2.01	1.72
1999	3,549	2.02	1.70
2000	3,521	2.05	1.66
2001	3,510	1.81	1.64
2002	3,569	n/a	n/a

Nb: The average family size is the period fertility rate.

This measures how many children a women would have if current fertility rates continued.

The average family size in England and Wales has fallen steadily.

In Waltham Forest it has increased since 1995, and explains why the expected fall in births has not taken place.

The Sex Ratio at Birth in 2000

Along with the rest of the country, more boys are born than girls in Waltham Forest.

The sex ratio is 106 boys to every 100 girls born.

There are more males in every age group of the population until age 25 years, but there are more females than males in every subsequent age group.

Infant Mortality Rate for Waltham Forest compared with England and Wales

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) measures the number of deaths in the first year of life per thousand live births. The Infant Mortality Rate in Waltham Forest is higher than the IMR for England and Wales. The decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate in England and Wales has been steady, but is not decreasing in Waltham Forest.

	<u>Waltham Forest</u>		<u>England & Wales</u>
	Infant deaths under 1 year	Infant Mortality Ratio	Infant Mortality Ratio
1991	30	7.8	7.4
1999	32	9.0	5.8
2000	24	6.8	5.6
2001	32	9.1	5.5

Births under 2500 grams for live and stillborn infants per 100 births

The higher proportion of a low birth weights in Waltham Forest may explain the higher infant mortality rate. However, advances in medical techniques have also increased the number of low birth weight babies that survive.

	<u>Waltham Forest</u>		<u>England & Wales</u>
	< 2500 grms	< 2500 grms	< 2500 grms
1991	6.7	6.9	6.9
1995	8.6	7.7	7.7
1996	8.2	7.6	7.6
1997	8.3	7.8	7.8
1998	8.0	7.8	7.8
1999	8.3	7.9	7.9
2000	9.6	7.9	7.9
2001	9.2	7.9	7.9

Live births outside marriage per 100 live births

The proportion of births outside marriage was the same as England and Wales in 1995, but has steadied and is now below the National rate which has reached 40%.

	<u>Waltham Forest</u>		<u>England & Wales</u>
	%	%	%
1991	34.0	30.0	30.0

1995	34.0	34.0
1996	35.0	36.0
1997	37.0	37.0
1998	37.0	38.0
1999	36.0	39.0
2000	35.0	39.0
2001	36.0	40.0

Proportion of births by the mother's age

	1987	1992	1997	2000	2001
<u>age of mother</u>	%	%	%	%	%
under 20 yrs	7.7%	5.5%	5.6%	5.5%	5.0%
20 to 29	61.2%	57.9%	51.2%	45.7%	45.0%
30 and over	31.1%	36.6%	43.2%	48.8%	50.0%
Total births	3,442	3,933	3,585	3,521	3,510

Up to 1998 the highest proportion of births were to the age group 20 to 29 years. Over more than a decade the number and proportion of births to women over 30 has slowly risen. In 2000 and 2001 the greater proportion of births is now to women of 30 years and over as more women delay the start of their families as they pursue a career. By 2001 half the births in Waltham Forest are to mothers aged 30 years and above, compared to 31% of births in 1987.

Source: Office for National Statistics Vital Statistics

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