

## Heading: Births

### Introduction

The number of births is an important contributing factor to the size of a population, and hence, the needs of that population. By looking at this data as a rate (per 1,000 females) it allows accurate comparison between areas such as local authorities or regions.

### What do we know?

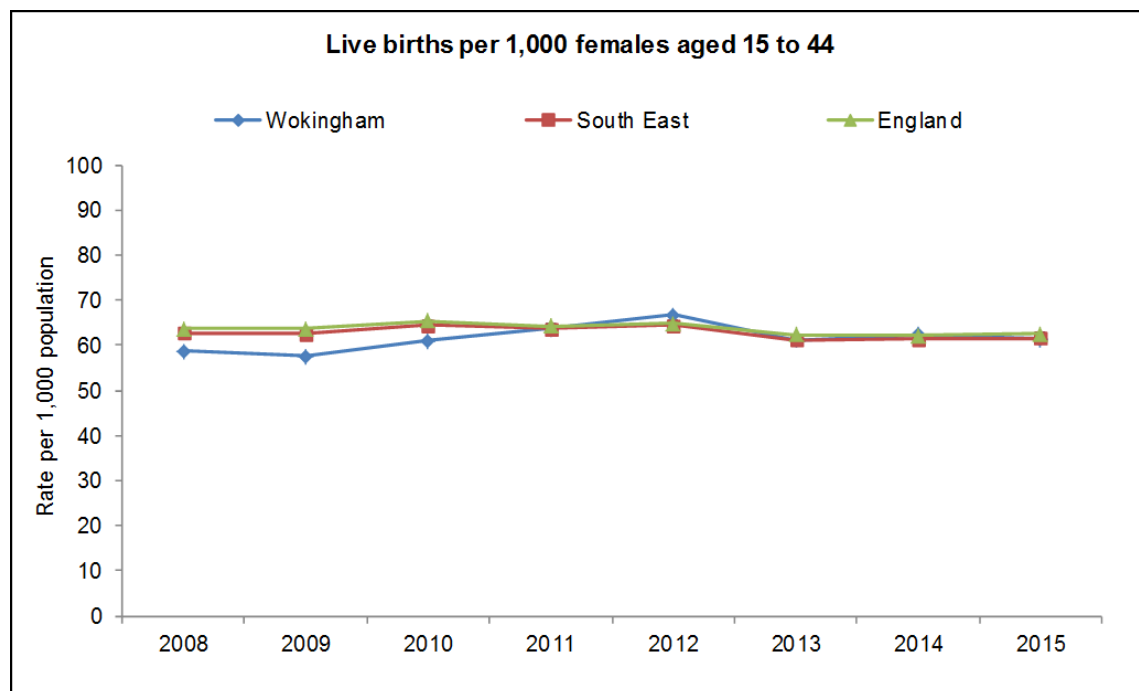
Nationally across England and Wales there was a 0.4% increase in live births between 2014 and 2015. In 2015, there was 1,787 live births and 10 still births in Wokingham. Nationally the still birth rate decreased to 4.5 per 1,000 total births in 2015, which was the lowest rate since 1992.

Wokingham's general fertility rate (GFR) was 61.4 per 1000 women aged 15-44 in 2015. This is similar to the national rate of 62.3 per 1000 women. Wokingham's total fertility rate (TFR), which is the average number of children born per women in her lifetime was 1.86 compared to the 1.82 children per women nationally. 0.2 % of Wokingham's births were to mothers under 18 years of age (lower than the national average of 0.9 %) whilst 5.8% of births in Wokingham were to mothers aged 40 and over (higher than the national average of 4.2%). In 2015 the average age of Wokingham mothers was 30.2 which show women are starting their family's later in life and having fewer children.

### Facts, Figures, Trends

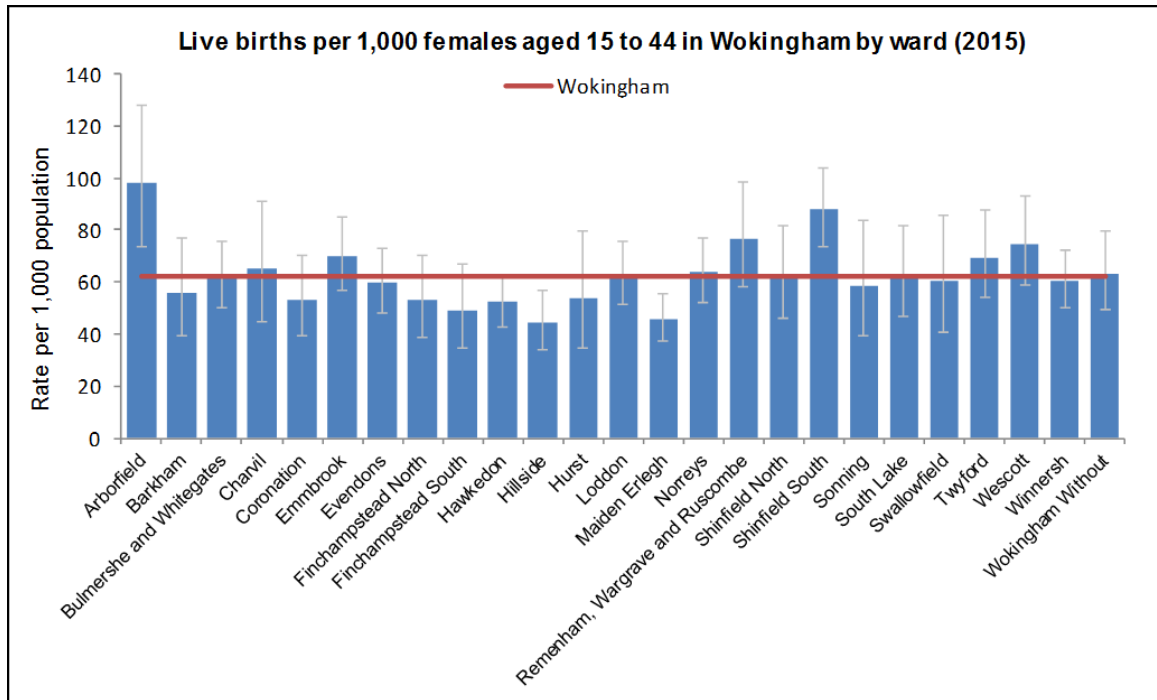
Table one displays the national trend for live births per 1,000 females aged 15 – 44 years.

Table 1: lives births per 1,000 females aged 15-44



Source – ONS 2014

Table two shows the number of live births per 1000 females aged 15-44 in 2014 at ward level. This allows us to draw conclusions where new families may be situated and understand where resources for families need to be focused.



Source – ONS, 2015

It is important to note that these figures are based on a single years data and so are prone to random fluctuation where based on small numbers, so caution needs to be executed when basing decisions solely on this data.

**What is this telling us?**

Wokingham is very similar to the National and South East trend of live births. Arborfield and Shinfield South have a significantly higher number of live births per 1000 females when compared to the Wokingham average.

**This section links to the following sections in the JSNA:**

- Teenage Pregnancy
- Population
- Life Expectancy and Mortality
- Wokingham Wards Profile

**References**

ONS, 2015 :available on [the UK Government Web](http://www.gov.uk)

**Name of Author:**

**Date: 13/03/2017**

**Update Due:**