

GENERAL EXPLANATION ABOUT BIRTH STATISTICS

Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) collected data on birth events from 1964 to 1980 by health personnel for the most populous 25 provinces. The number of provinces increased to 49 provinces in 1981. Then, it was needed to collect data on birth events for the whole country to make plans and programs for future. Therefore, TurkStat had meetings with related organizations and decided to collect data on birth events by population directorates, so they started to collect data on birth events for the whole country on 1 November 1983.

But, after TurkStat evaluated birth data, it was seen that data on birth events collected from administrative registers were missing and unreliable. Therefore, it was decided to stop collecting data on birth events on 1 January 1986 until the new system is established.

The Central Civil Registration System (MERNIS) was converted to the on-line system in 2001. Because of this, it was decided to get data on birth events from MERNIS database. Then, it was signed a protocol related to data change between the Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Civil Registration and Citizenship Affairs and TurkStat on 7 February 2006. In the framework of this protocol, for 2001 and later, the data related to birth events were taken from MERNIS database, and births statistics was published by TurkStat.

The birth information of the newborn deaths in the TurkStat causes of death database getting from the Death Registration System of the Ministry of Health, which was not included in the MERNIS database, has been added to the birth data since 2009. In addition, births which were not included in the MERNIS database and will be registered with a delay in the MERNIS database were obtained from the Ministry of Health Birth Notification System, and information of these births was started to add to the birth data on time as of 2020.

Birth data were revised 5 years retrospectively due to delayed registrations in the administrative records. Birth statistics for 2015-2019 are updated as of March 31, 2021 and also birth statistics for 2020 are announced as of the same date in this press release. In addition, birth statistics which were published according to "the place of event (the place of birth occurred)" until 2008, were started to publish according to "the usual residence of mother" in 2009. Besides, birth statistics in district level has been published from "TurkStat Dissemination Database" since 2014.

Definitions

Live birth: Regardless of the duration of pregnancy, the births where the child lives at least a few minutes and shows evidence of life like crying, breathing or moving.

Crude birth rate: The number of live births per thousand population in a given year.

$$CBR = \frac{B}{P} \times 1\,000$$

CBR : Crude birth rate

B : Number of births

P : Mid-year population

Age specific fertility rate: The average number of live births per thousand women in certain age group.

$$ASFR = \frac{B_i}{P_i} \times 1\,000$$

ASFR : Age specific fertility rate

B_i : Number of live births at age group i

P_i : Mid-year female population at age group i

Adolescent fertility rate: The average number of live births per thousand women in 15-19 age group.

$$AFR = \frac{B_{15-19}}{P_{15-19}} \times 1\,000$$

AFR : Adolescent fertility rate

B₁₅₋₁₉ : Number of live births at 15-19 age group

P₁₅₋₁₉ : Mid-year female population at 15-19 age group

Total fertility rate: The average number of live births that a woman would have under the assumption that she survived to the end of her reproductive life which is 15-49 age group and bore according to a given age specific fertility rate.

$$TFR = \sum_{i=15}^{i=49} \frac{B_i}{P_i}$$

TFR : Total fertility rate

B_i : Number of births at age i

P_i : Mid-year female population at age i

Unknown ages were distributed to the other ages by weighting method. After that, age specific fertility rates and total fertility rates were calculated by using weighted ages.