

**BIRTH STATISTICS OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (ENAC) Most popular first names 2008-2010**

## **Iker and Ane continued to be the most popular names amongst newborns**

### ***Parents favoured names that were Basque and single***

Ane, as has been the case since 1996, was the top ranking first name for girls chosen by parents, according to information provided by Eustat on births that occurred between 2008 and 2010 in the Basque Country. June and Uxue were in second and third place, followed by Irati, Nahia and Izaro.

Iker also continued to be the preferred name given to boys by their parents, followed by Markel and Oier. After these, the names most used were Jon, Unai and Ander.

The Civil Register allows a maximum of two single names and one compound; although this is the case, parents opted for one single name. In the list of the hundred most popular names there was only one compound name for boys, Jon Ander; in the case of girls, compound names with María, so common in the past, do not appear on the list.

### **Different spelling for the same name**

Basque names predominated, some registered with different spellings, as was the case with Ane-Anne, Itxaso-Itsaso, Leire-Leyre, Jon-Ion, Aritz-Haritz. In all of these cases, the most popular way to express the name was that which appeared in first place, but those appearing as second spellings also appeared amongst the 120 most frequent names.

Except for the case of María and Miren, the Basque forms of names predominated those in Spanish; this was the case for Ane and Ana, Xabier and Javier, Jon and Juan, Mikel and Miguel.

In particular, in Birth Statistics for 2010, 1876 different names for girls and 1788 for boys were registered. Out of these names, 1288 in the case of girls and 1294 in the case of boys appeared only once, amongst which featured Chinese, African, Arab, Italian and Anglo-Saxon names. This situation is very different to that which occurred 10 years previously; in the year 2000, 1024 different names for girls and 900 for boys were registered, with around 600 appearing only once.

### **Mothers of foreign nationality also opted for Basque names**

If we look at the nationality of Mothers, those with foreign nationality also chose Basque names on the whole, but with differences as regards general preferences. Sara was the most popular name in the case of girls, followed by Naiara, Ainara, Ainhoa and Leire. Amongst boys, Iker, Mikel and Ander were the most popular; but in fourth and fifth place were names of Arabic origin: Rayan and Mohamed.

**The most common name for mothers was Ainhoa and amongst fathers it was Aitor**

The most common names amongst women who were mothers in the 2008-2010 period were: Ainhoa, Nerea, Leire, Sonia, Susana, Mónica, Amaia, María, Marta and Cristina. For this generation of women, born on the whole between 1970 and 1980, the 3 most common names were Basque, but Castilian names were still very prevalent. The most popular names were single names, although more than 16% of mothers had a name composed of María.

Regarding men who were fathers between 2008 and 2010, the 10 most repeated names were: Aitor, Javier, Iñigo, Asier, Francisco Javier, Oscar, David, Alberto, Iñaki and Mikel. In this case they were men born mainly between 1969 and 1979, a period in which compound names gave way to single names and Basque names started to become predominant.

**Table 1: List of the 25 top first names used overall in the last three years (2008-2010)**

	Males			Females		
	Name	Frequency	%	Name	Frequency	%
1	Ane	928	3,02	Iker	1.001	3,06
2	June	828	2,70	Markel	925	2,83
3	Uxue	730	2,38	Oier	867	2,65
4	Irati	713	2,32	Jon	865	2,65
5	Nahia	710	2,31	Unai	843	2,58
6	Izaro	587	1,91	Ander	760	2,32
7	Naroa	538	1,75	Mikel	748	2,29
8	Nora	532	1,73	Eneko	736	2,25
9	Naia	520	1,69	Aimar	733	2,24
10	Leire	515	1,68	Unax	635	1,94
11	Lucía	490	1,60	Asier	589	1,80
12	Maialen	487	1,59	Ibai	568	1,74
13	Paula	467	1,52	Julen	541	1,65
14	Haizea	435	1,42	Aitor	492	1,50
15	Sara	429	1,40	Xabier	447	1,37
16	Eider	391	1,27	Beñat	381	1,17
17	Maddi	355	1,16	Alain	344	1,05
18	Iraia	317	1,03	Aritz	317	0,97
19	Nerea	301	0,98	Oihán	317	0,97
20	Maria/María	286	0,93	Martin/Martín	302	0,92
21	Malen	276	0,90	Danel	298	0,91
22	Maider	274	0,89	Gorka	288	0,88
23	Noa	266	0,87	Urko	284	0,87
24	Enara	265	0,86	Adrian/Adrián	277	0,85
25	Irene	259	0,84	Aner	277	0,85

Source: EUSTAT. Birth Statistics

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