

Iker and Ane are the most popular names of the last three years

Parents tend to choose simple Basque names

Ane and Leire, as has been the case since 1996, come first and second in the choice of girls' first names, according to Eustat data concerning births in the years 2000 to 2002 in the A.C. of the Basque Country. They are followed, with slight variations, by María, Nerea, Irati, Maider, Maialen, Paula and Ainhoa,

On the other hand, Jon ceases to be the most popular boy's name among parents, and drops to second place, behind Iker. Following these, the most common were Unai, Mikel, Ander, Asier, Aitor, Julen and Xabier.

The Civil Register allows a maximum of two single names or one compound name; even so, parents opt for one simple one.

In the list of the hundred most popular names, the only combination to be found for boys is Jon Ander, whereas for girls those names combined with María that were so common in the past do not appear at all.

Different spellings of the same name

The majority are Basque names, some being registered in different written forms, as is the case with Ane-Anne, Itxaso-Itsaso, Leire-Leyre, Jon-Ion, or Aritz-Haritz. In all these cases, the two ways of writing the name, except for Haritz, are among the top 100.

Except in the case of María and Miren, the Basque form of a name is more popular than its Spanish counterpart; this is true of Ane and Ana, Xabier and Javier, Jon and Juan, or Mikel and Miguel.

The source that was used for the production of this information gave the names written in capitals without accents, so in several cases it was not possible to distinguish between a name in Basque or one in Spanish, since the accent is the only differentiating feature between the two. In these cases, both options were presented jointly (Maria / María, Sofia / Sofía, Adrian / Adrián, Martin / Martín).

In birth statistics for 2002, 1,190 different girls' names were registered and 1,005 for boys. Of these, 773, in the case of girls, and 677 in the case of boys, appear only once and these include Chinese, African, Arab, Italian and Anglo-Saxon names, among others.

Table 1: List of the 25 most popular names used in the three last years

	Female names			Male names		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
1	Ane	Ane	Ane	Jon	Iker	Iker
2	Leire	Leire	Leire	Iker	Jon	Jon
3	Maria / María	Nerea	Irati	Mikel	Unai	Unai
4	Nerea	Maria / María	Nerea	Ander	Mikel	Mikel
5	Ainhoa	Irati	Maria / María	Asier	Ander	Ander
6	Irati	Ainhoa	Maider	Unai	Asier	Asier
7	Andrea	Paula	Maialen	Aitor	Aitor	Aitor
8	Paula	Maialen	Paula	Julen	Julen	Eneko
9	Maialen	Maider	June	Iñigo	Xabier	Xabier
10	Maider	Uxue	Uxue	Xabier	Eneko	Julen
11	Uxue	Sara	Ainhoa	Gorka	Iñigo	Oier
12	Amaia	Andrea	Lucía	Eneko	Oier	Markel
13	Sara	Naroa	Naroa	Adrian / Adrián	Gorka	Gorka
14	Laura	Laura	Andrea	Josu	Markel	Iñigo
15	Olatz	Amaia	Haizea	Oier	Aritz	Ibai
16	Oihane	June	Nahia	Markel	Adrian / Adrián	Adrian / Adrián
17	Irene	Haizea	Sara	Andoni	Beñat	Pablo
18	Naroa	Nahia	Naia	Pablo	Imanol	Daniel
19	Eider	Eider	Laura	Alvaro	Alvaro	Alvaro
20	Naiara	Naia	Izaro	Ibai	Pablo	Aritz
21	Jone	Alba	Eider	David	Daniel	Aimar
22	June	Olatz	Alba	Gaizka	Gaizka	Josu
23	Maitane	Garazi	Oihane	Javier	Josu	Gaizka
24	Naia	Naiara	Garazi	Imanol	Ibai	Imanol
25	Garazi	Irene	Olatz	Beñat	Andoni	Andoni

Source: EUSTAT. Birth statistics.

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