

Iker and Ane continue to be the most popular names among new-borns

Parents opted for single Basque names

Since 1996, Ane has been the top ranking first name that parents choose for girls, according to information collected by Eustat on births in the Basque Country between 2006 and 2008. Uxue and Nahia were in second and third place, followed by Irati, June and Naroa.

Iker also continued to be the preferred boy's name, followed by Jon and Unai. The next most popular names were Aimar, Markel and Ander.

The Civil Registry allows a maximum of two single and one combined name. However, most parents chose just one single name. There was only one combined name for boys, Jon Ander, on the list of the hundred most popular names. In the case of girls, combined names with Maria, which were once so popular, did not appear on the list.

Different spellings for the same name

Basque names predominated, some of which were registered with different spellings, such as Ane-Anne, Itxaso-Itsaso, Leire-Leyre, Jon-Ion or Aritz-Haritz. All these cases with different forms of the name, except for Ion, were among the top 100 names.

Except in the case of Maria and Miren, the Basque form of a name is more common than the Spanish version. This holds true for Ane and Ana, Xabier and Javier, Jon and Juan, and Mikel and Miguel.

In particular, birth statistics for 2008 showed 1,793 different names for girls and 1,713 for boys. Out of those, 1,239 girls' names and 1256 boys' appeared once and they included Chinese, African, Arabic, Italian and Anglo-Saxon names, etc. These results show that the number of names used had increased by 71.3% in the case of girls and have double in the case of boys since 1999.

The most popular names among mothers was Ainhoa and Aitor among fathers

The most common names among the women who gave birth between 2006 and 2008 were: Ainhoa, Susana, Sonia, Nerea, Amaia, Mónica, Leire, Marta, Cristina and María. In this generation of women, most of whom were born at the end of the dictatorship and the beginning of the democracy (between 1969 and 1979), the most popular names were single ones, but there were more Spanish than Basque ones. In any event, over 20% of mothers had a combined name with Maria.

As far as the men who were fathers between 2006 and 2008, the 20 top names were: Aitor, Javier, Francisco Javier, Iñigo, Oscar, Asier, Alberto, José Antonio, Roberto and José Luis. In this case, there were mainly men born at the end of the dictatorship (between 1967 and 1977) and many of the names were combined and there were very few Basque ones.

Table 1: List of the 25 top first names used overall in the last three years (2006-2008)

	Males			Females		
	Name	Frequency	%	Name	Frequency	%
1	Ane	849	2,83	Iker	1.113	3,48
2	Uxue	840	2,80	Jon	873	2,73
3	Nahia	760	2,53	Unai	873	2,73
4	Irati	752	2,51	Aimar	870	2,72
5	June	736	2,45	Markel	864	2,70
6	Naroa	616	2,05	Ander	844	2,64
7	Izaro	594	1,98	Oier	834	2,61
8	Leire	533	1,78	Eneko	782	2,45
9	Lucía	504	1,68	Mikel	780	2,44
10	Nora	471	1,57	Asier	669	2,09
11	Maiálen	461	1,54	Ibai	624	1,95
12	Naia	453	1,51	Julen	601	1,88
13	Paula	451	1,50	Unax	596	1,87
14	Haizea	443	1,48	Aitor	575	1,80
15	Nerea	415	1,38	Xabier	475	1,49
16	Sara	360	1,20	Beñat	405	1,27
17	Maria/María	357	1,19	Aritz	388	1,21
18	Eider	334	1,11	Gorka	318	1,00
19	Maddi	331	1,10	Adrián/Adrián	312	0,98
20	Iraia	323	1,08	Iñigo	310	0,97
21	Maider	323	1,08	Alain	298	0,93
22	Irene	305	1,02	Pablo	293	0,92
23	Garazi	294	0,98	Martín/Martín	265	0,83
24	Ainhoa	255	0,85	Urko	264	0,83
25	Malen	230	0,77	Lander	250	0,78

Source: EUSTAT. Birth Statistics

For further information:

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