

During the last three years, the most popular names for girls born in the Basque Country were Ane, Laia and June and Markel, Martin/Martín and Julen for boys

Ane has been the favourite name for girls since 1996

Ane was the top ranking first name for girls chosen by parents, as has been the case since 1996 taking the data by three-year periods, according to information provided by Eustat on births that occurred between 2020 and 2022 in the Basque Country. Laia and June were in second and third place, followed by Nahia, Malen and Maddi.

Markel is the preferred name for boys, followed by Martin/Martín and Julen. After these, the names most used were Ohian, Jon and Aimar.

In the group of the 25 most popular names for the period 2020-2022, among girls' names, Lea and Libe entered and Maialen and Paula left, compared to the 2018-2020 period. Regarding boys' names, Ekhi, Telmo, Leo and Adei entered, replacing Eneko, Hugo, Ekain and Aner.

The civil registry allows a maximum of two single names or one compound name. In the list of the hundred most popular names there were no compound names, even though it used to be a very frequent custom.

Different spellings of the same name

Basque names predominated, some registered with different spellings, as was the case with Ane-Anne, June-Yune-lune, Leire-Leyre, Jon-Ion and Aritz-Haritz, amongst others, although they are treated as different names.

Mothers of foreign nationality also chose Basque names

If the nationality of mothers is taken into account, those with foreign nationality, 28.5% of total births in this period, also preferred Basque names, but with differences as regards the general ranking. In the case of girls, there were two Basque names amongst the top five: Alaia (which also has meaning in Arabic) and Nahia in second and fifth place, respectively; although top of the list was Sofia/Sofía, of Greek origin; in third place was Sara, of Hebrew origin, and in fourth place Amira, of Arabic origin. Amongst the boys, Julen was in third place; first place goes to Adam, a Hebrew name, second to Mohamed, of Arabic origin, fourth to Mateo and fifth place to Amir.

The most common names for mothers were Leire, María and Nerea, and Mikel, Jon and David for fathers

Of the total of 42,632 births in the 2020-2022 period, the 10 most common names among women who were mothers in the 2020-2022 period were Leire, María, Nerea, Amaia, Laura, Ainhoa, Naiara, Ane, Ainara and Cristina. For this generation of women, on the whole born between 1980 and 1993, 5 of the 10 most common names were Basque, but Castilian names and compound names that include María were still very prevalent.

Regarding men who were fathers in these years, the 10 most repeated names were Mikel, Jon, David, Aitor, Iker, Asier, Iñigo, Xabier, Javier and Gorka. In this case they were born mainly between 1977 and 1991, a period in which compound names gave way to single names and Basque names were already predominant.

The 25 most commonly used names for births in the Basque Country. 2020-2022

Girls					Boys				
	Name	frequency	%			Name	frequency	%	
1	Ane	429	2.09			Mariel	435	1.97	
2	Laila	378	1.84			Martin/Martin	405	1.83	
3	June	348	1.69			Julen	400	1.81	
4	Nahia	330	1.61			Oihan	367	1.66	
5	Malen	297	1.44			Jon	362	1.64	
6	Maddi	294	1.43			Aimar	342	1.55	
7	Nora	287	1.40			Luka	308	1.40	
8	Itxaro	276	1.34			Akur	304	1.38	
9	Iratxi	265	1.29			Ibai	291	1.32	
10	Noa	241	1.17			Andere	289	1.31	
11	Lucia	239	1.16			Oier	282	1.28	
12	Martina	221	1.08			Daniel	270	1.22	
13	Alala	210	1.02			Lukien	251	1.14	
14	Mara	209	1.02			Izai	247	1.12	
15	Háizea	202	0.98			Mikel	244	1.11	
16	Elene	198	0.96			Unax	244	1.11	
17	Jane	198	0.96			Amets	215	0.97	
18	Sara	192	0.93			Iker	194	0.88	
19	Elala	189	0.92			Matteo	188	0.85	
20	Unue	187	0.91			Eñi	182	0.82	
21	Naila	175	0.85			Unai	173	0.78	
22	Enara	174	0.85			Telmo	172	0.78	
23	Sofia/Sofia	164	0.80			Leo	171	0.77	
24	Lea	155	0.75			Adiel	161	0.73	
25	Libe	150	0.73			Hodei	160	0.72	

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 Source: Eustat Birth statistics

For further information:

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