



SPECIAL RELEASE

Registered Live Births in the Philippines, 2021

Date of Release: 23 February 2023
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Explanatory Note

Data on births presented in this release were obtained from the timely and late registered births at the Office of the City/Municipal Civil Registrars all throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General through the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)-Provincial Statistical Offices (PSOs). The information presented includes births that occurred from January to December 2021 based on data files received by the PSA-Central Office from the PSOs that were registered as of 31 March 2022. Figures presented herein are not adjusted for under registration. This release includes births of Filipinos whose usual residence is abroad and births of foreign nationals that occurred in the country during the reference period. Births of Filipinos abroad which were reported to the Philippine Foreign Service Posts are presented in a separate report.

Twelve births per thousand population

In 2021, a total of 1,364,739 live births were registered, which is equivalent to a crude birth rate (CBR) of 12.4 or 12 births per thousand population.¹

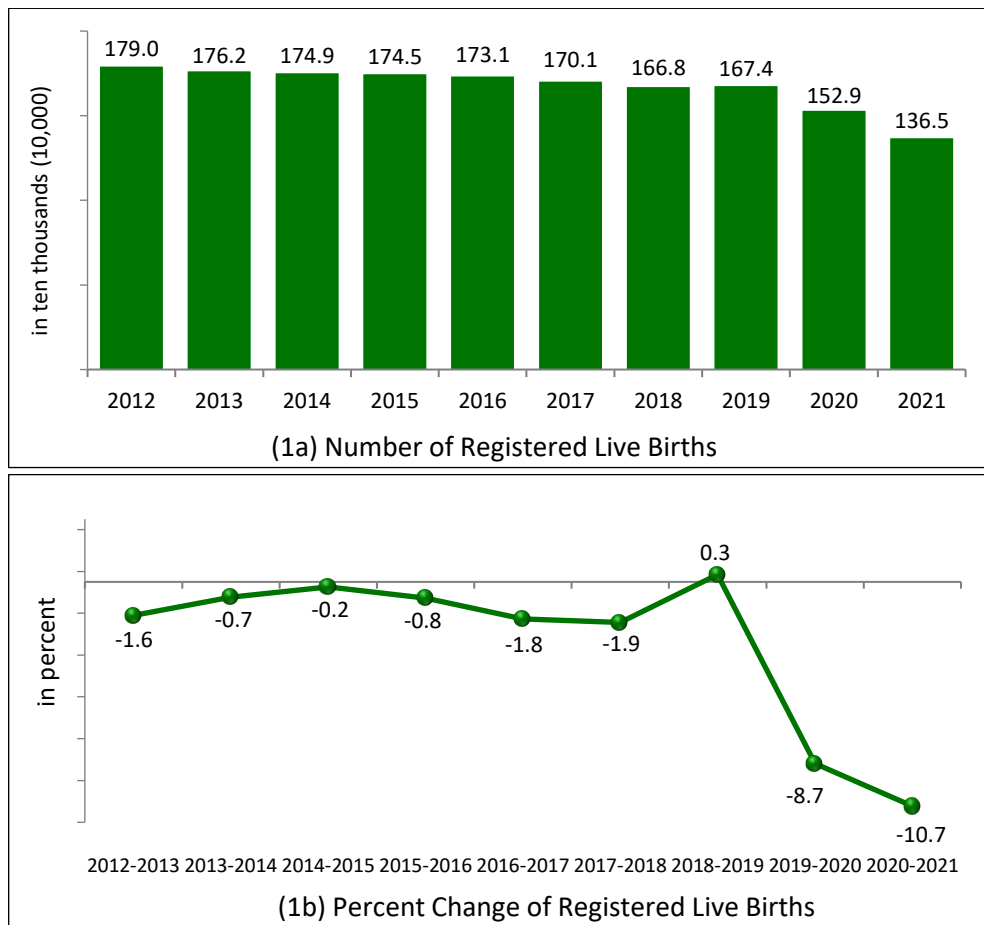
The number of registered live births showed a generally decreasing trend. A decrease of -23.8 percent in the registered live births was noted in the past ten years, from 1,790,367 in 2012 to 1,364,739 in 2021. The highest rate of decline was noted in 2021 with -10.7 percent. (Figure 1 and Table 1)

On the average, 3,739 babies were born daily, which translates to 156 babies born per hour or approximately three (3) babies born per minute. (Table 1)

¹Population estimate used was taken from the updated population projections based on the 2015 Census of Population available at www.psa.gov.ph/statistics/census/projected-population



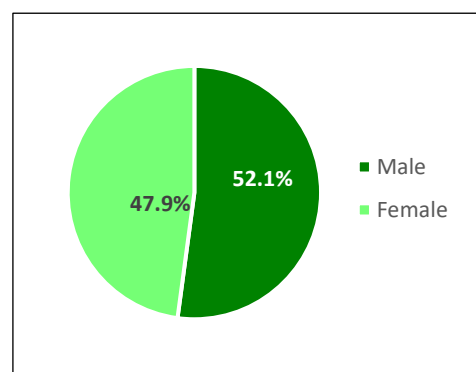
Figure 1. Number and Percent Change of Registered Live Births in the Philippines: 2012-2021



More males were born than females

In 2021, more males (711,434 or 52.1% share) were born than females (653,305 or 47.9% share), resulting in a sex ratio at birth of 109 males per 100 females. (Figure 2 and Table 2)

Figure 2. Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Sex, Philippines: 2021

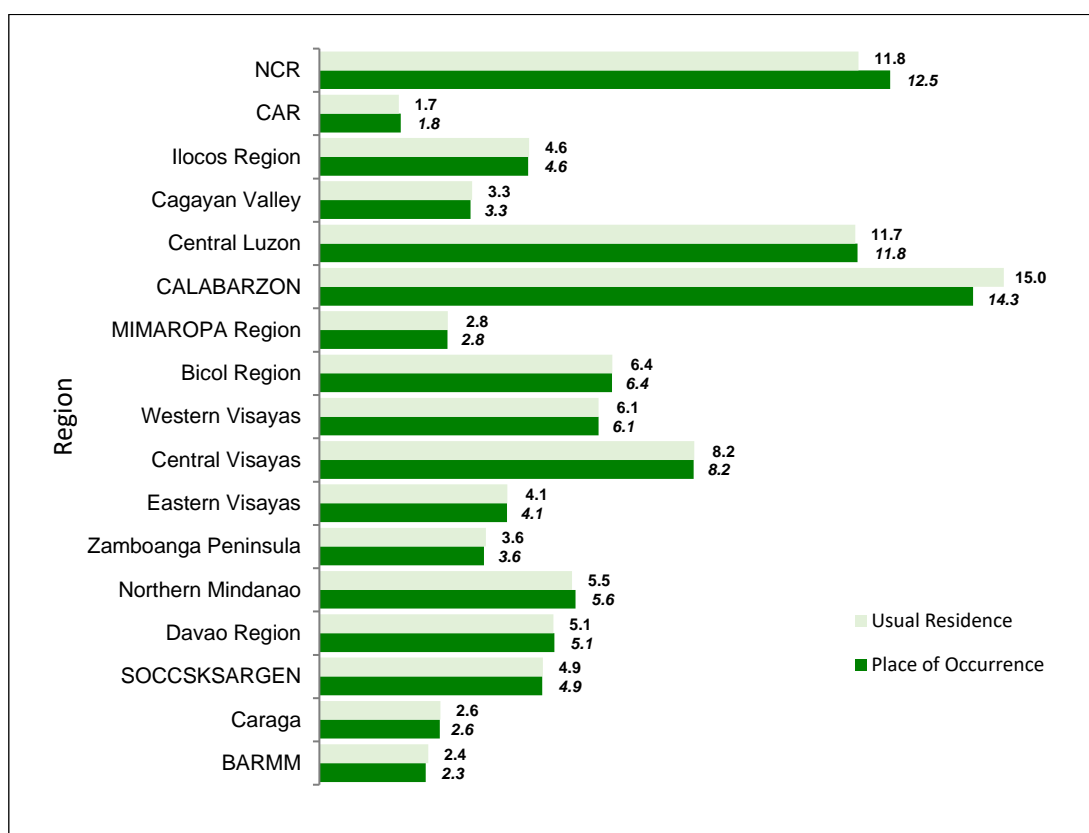


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Highest occurrence of births recorded in CALABARZON

Areas with relatively large population reported the highest number of live births by place of occurrence and by usual residence of mother. Of the total live births, 57.4 percent were born in Luzon, 18.4 percent in Visayas, and 24.2 percent in Mindanao. Among regions, the CALABARZON recorded the highest number of birth occurrences with 14.3 percent share. This was followed by National Capital Region (NCR) (12.5% share) and Central Luzon (11.8% share). The same regions recorded the highest number of live births by usual residence of mothers, collectively sharing 38.5 percent or two in every five babies born in 2021. (Figure 3 and Table 2)

Figure 3. Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Region of Place of Occurrence and by Usual Residence of Mother, Philippines: 2021

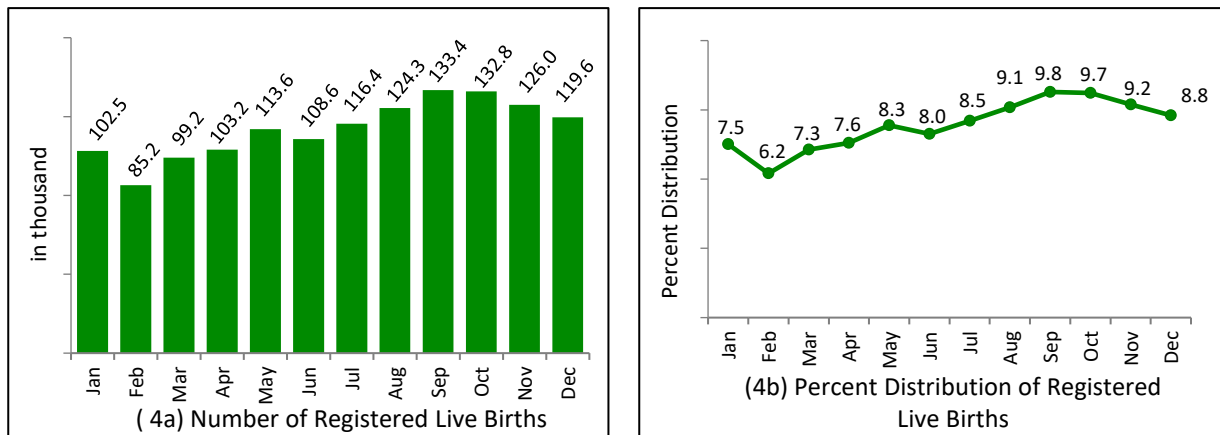


Most number of births registered in September

In 2021, most registered births occurred in September at 133,409 or 9.8 percent of the total births in the country. It was followed by the months of October (9.7% share), November (9.2% share). On the other hand, the month of February had the least number of births (6.2% share). (Figure 4 and Table 3)

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Figure 4. Number and Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Month of Occurrence, Philippines: 2021

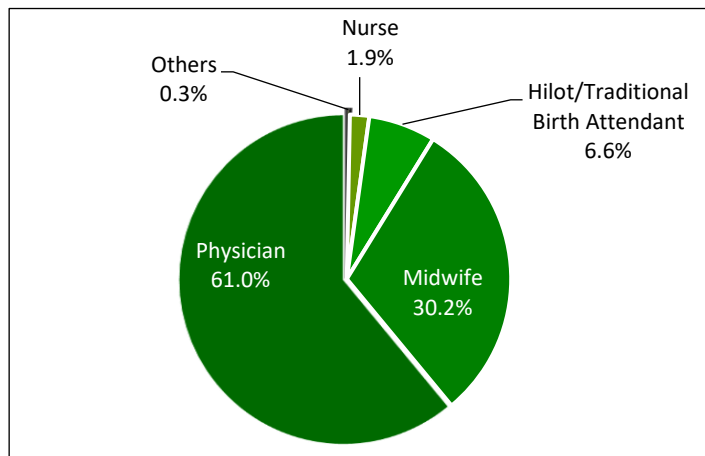


In terms of daily average, September recorded the highest with an average of 4,447 births per day, which translates to 185 births per hour. On the contrary, February had the lowest daily average number of births with 3,043, equivalent to 127 births per hour. (Table 3)

Nine in ten birth deliveries were medically attended

Of the total number of births in the country, 93.1 percent were attended by health professionals (physician, midwife, or nurse). Majority of births were delivered by physicians (61.0% share), followed by midwives (30.2% share). On the other hand, 6.6 percent of births were delivered by a hilot/ traditional birth attendant. (Figure 5 and Table 4)

Figure 5. Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Attendant at Birth, Philippines: 2021



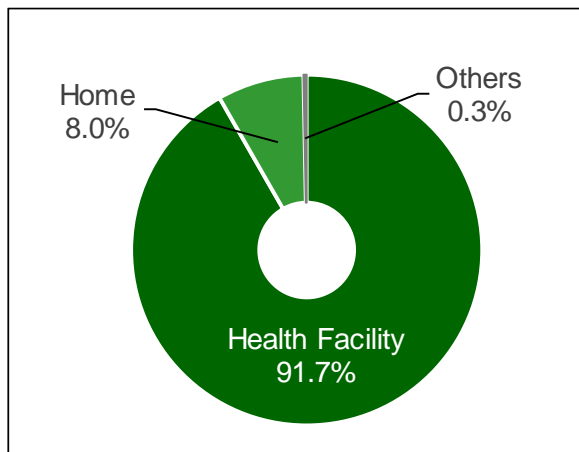
The number of births by place of occurrence and by usual residence of mother showed a remarkable proportion of births attended by health professionals in 16 regions. This is indicative of improving health services in terms of maternal and child health care. Fourteen regions had medically attended births higher than 90.0 percent. On the other hand, only three-fifths (59.9%) of the births that occurred in BARMM were medically attended while the rest were attended by traditional birth attendants—either hilot or unlicensed midwives, or other type of attendants. (Table 4)

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Nine in ten births delivered in health facilities

In 2021, nine out of 10 births were delivered in a health facility (91.7%), which was either a hospital, birthing clinic, lying in, outpatient care center, specialized care center, and the like. Only 8.0 percent of total births were delivered at home and 0.3 percent were delivered in other locations. (Figure 6)

Figure 6. Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Site of Delivery, Philippines: 2021



About nine in ten newborn babies weighed more than 2,500 grams

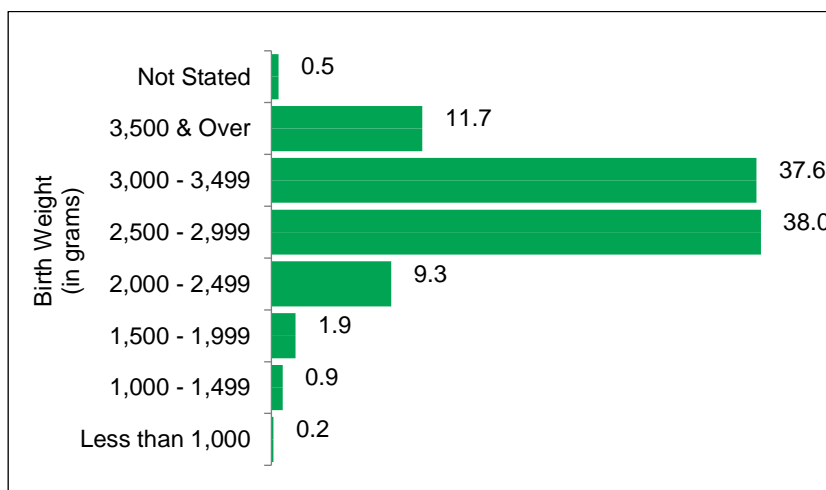
Birth weight serves as a measure of the nutritional status of newborns. Low birth weight is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as weight at birth less than 2,500 grams (5.5 lbs.).

Of the total number of newborn babies, 87.3 percent were above the defined low birth weight.

The median birth weight was about 3,000 grams. In other words, half of the newborn babies weighed at least 3,000 grams.

Moreover, most babies or about four in ten (38.0%) weighed between 2,500 to 2,999 grams, while 2,167 (0.2% share) babies were born weighing less than 1,000 grams. (Figure 7)

Figure 7. Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Birth Weight, Philippines: 2021



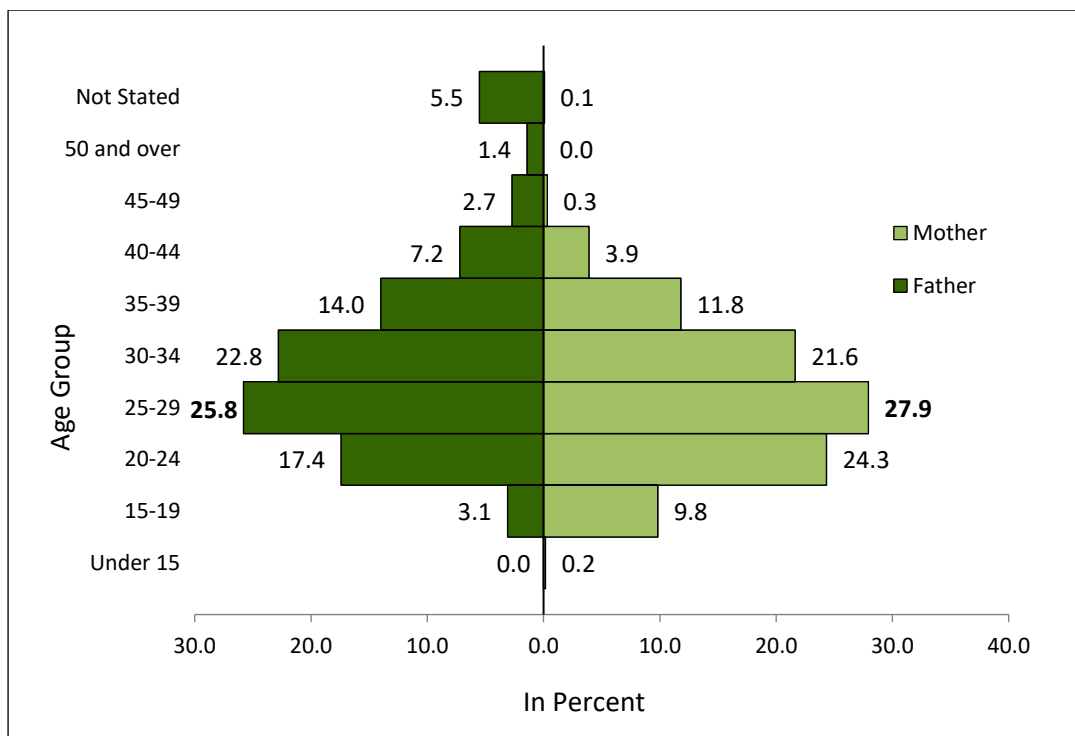
Note: Details may not add up to 100.0% due to rounding

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Majority of babies were born to mothers aged 25-29 years old

In 2021, majority of registered births had parents aged 25-29 years (381,289 or 27.9% for mothers while 352,406 or 25.8% for fathers). However, babies born to adolescent mothers (136,302 or 10.0% share), those younger than 20 years old, were more than three times of babies sired by adolescent fathers (42,618 or 3.1%). (Figure 8 and Table 5)

Figure 8. Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Age Group of Father and Mother, Philippines: 2021



Note: Details may not add up to 100.0% due to rounding

The median age of mothers was 27 years old while the median age for fathers was 30 years old. This means that half of the births in 2021 were to mothers and fathers who were at least 27 years old and 30 years old, respectively.

“High-risk” age of pregnancy covers the age group 17 years old and younger (3.7% share), and 35 years old and over (16.0% share). This is because childbearing in these age groups is more likely to have complications during pregnancy and labor that may result to higher morbidity and mortality to both mother and child.

About 9.8 percent of the births in 2021 were to mothers aged 15-19 years. Moreover, the adolescent birth rate,² or the number of births to women ages 15-19 per 1,000 women in that age group, was 26 per 1,000 women in 2021.

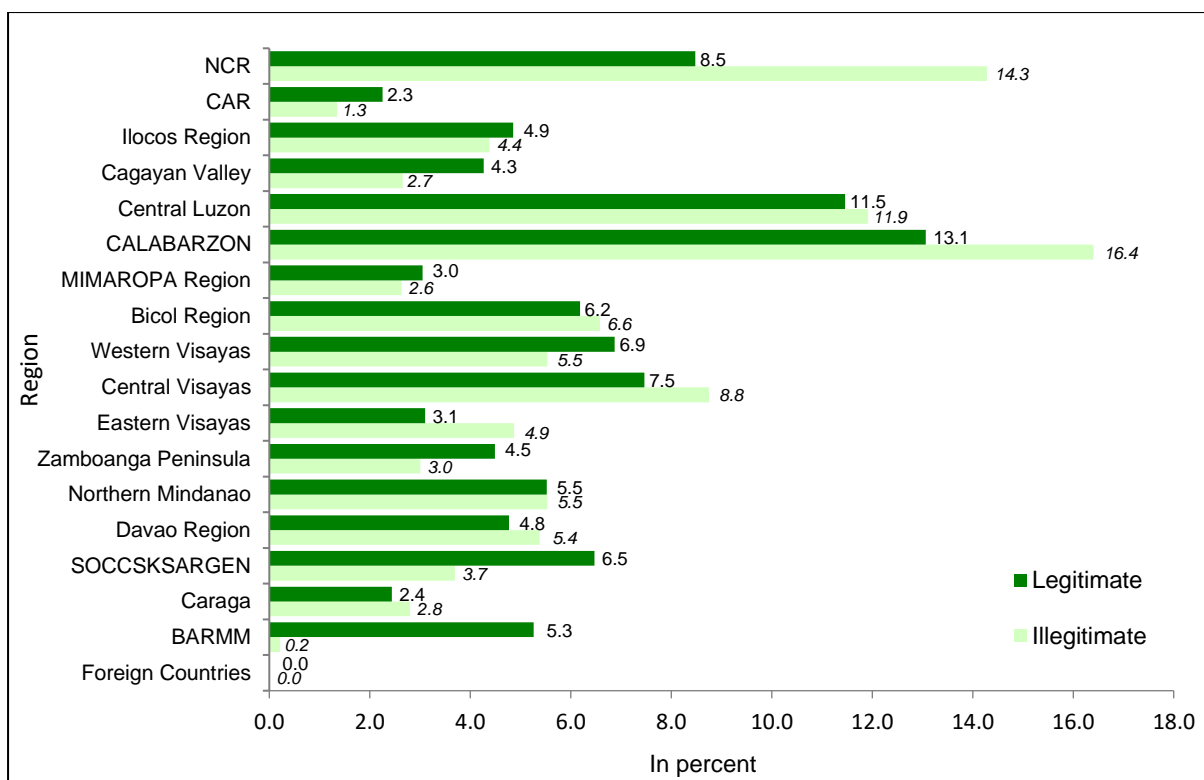
² Population estimate for females aged 15-19 years old used in the computation was from the 2015 census-based population projections available at <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/census/projected-population>

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More than half of babies were born to unwed mothers

More than half (779,154 or 57.1%) of the total registered live births in 2021 were born out of wedlock. The three regions that recorded the highest number of illegitimate children based on usual residence of the mother were CALABARZON (16.4% share), NCR (14.3% share), and Central Luzon (11.9% share). (Figure 9 and Table 6)

Figure 9. Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Legitimacy Status, and by Usual Residence of Mother (Region), Philippines: 2021



Note: 0.0 is less than 0.05 percent

Moreover, 12 regions reported at least half of its registered births in 2021 as illegitimate, led by NCR (69.2%), Eastern Visayas (67.6%), and CALABARZON (62.6%). On the other hand, BARMM recorded the highest proportion of legitimate births at 94.8 percent. (Table 6)

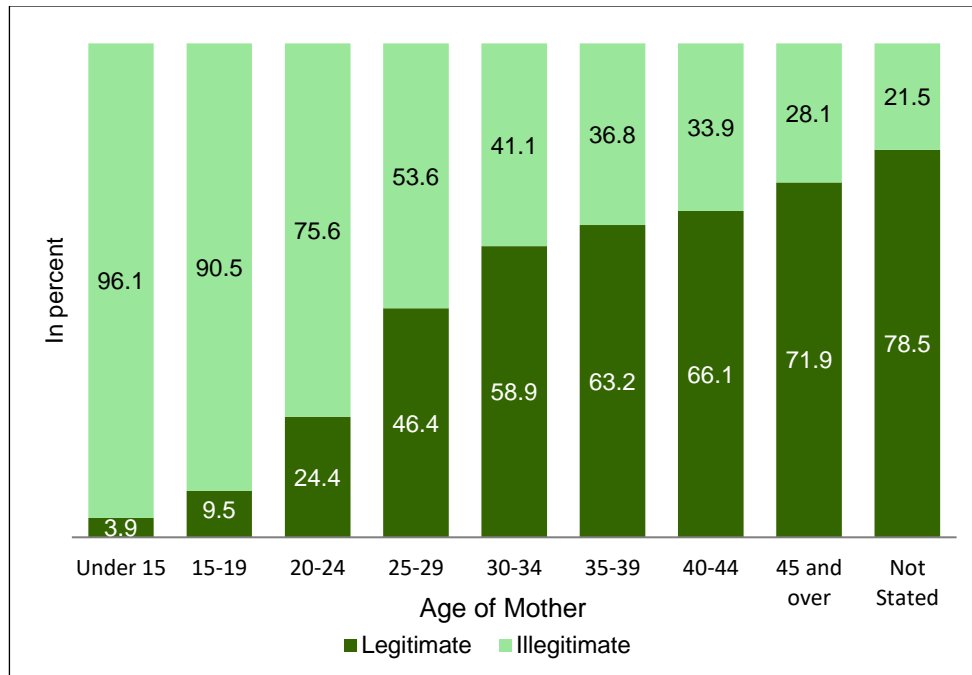
Mothers aged 20-24 years had the highest number of illegitimate babies in 2021, contributing 250,999 or 32.2 percent of the total illegitimate births that year. This was followed by mothers aged 25-29 years, who contributed 204,525 or 26.2 percent of the total illegitimate births in 2021.

By age group of mothers, highest proportion of illegitimate births were to adolescent mothers aged under 15. Of the total number of babies born to adolescent mothers aged under 15, 96.1 percent were illegitimate. This was followed by births to adolescent mothers aged 15-19 years and mothers aged 20-24 years, with 90.5

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percent and 75.6 percent, respectively. On the other hand, the least proportion of illegitimate babies (28.1%) were to mothers aged 45 years old and over. (Figure 10 and Table 7)

Figure 10. Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Age of Mother and by Legitimacy Status, Philippines: 2021



About 90 percent were registered on time

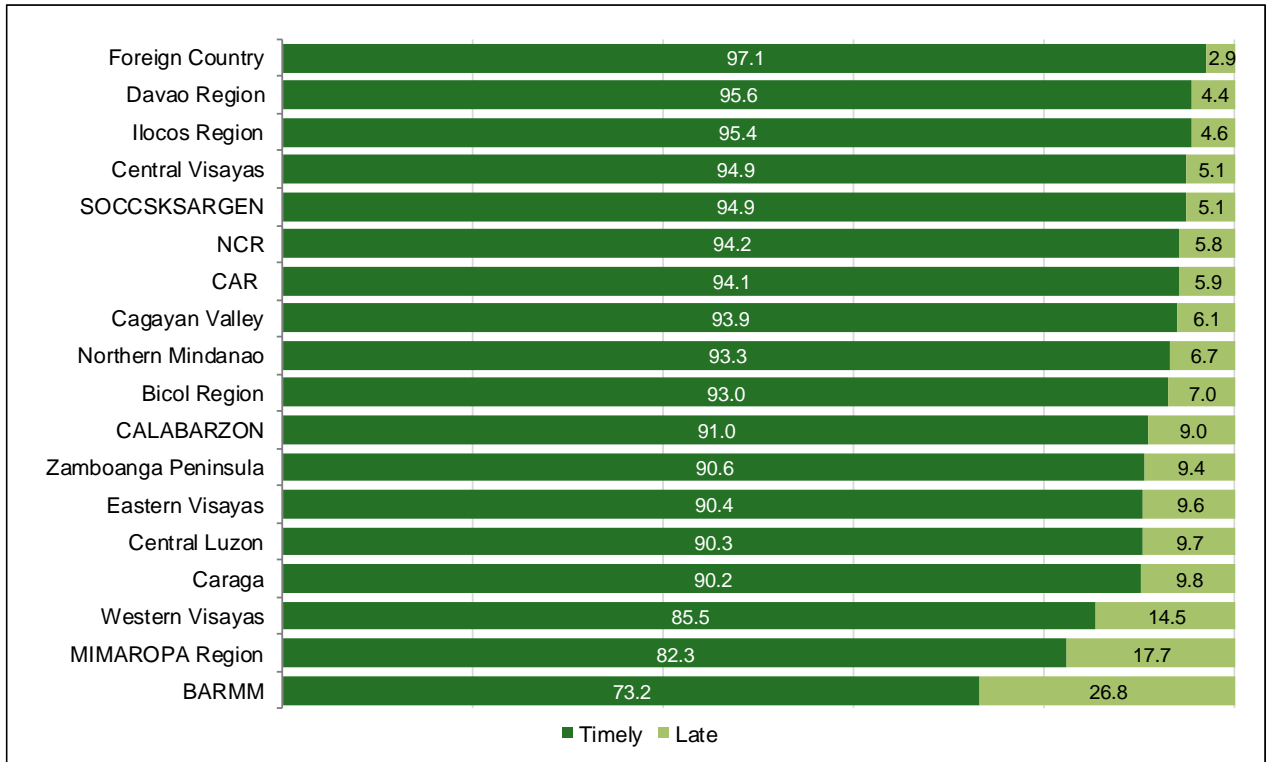
Timely registration refers to registration of the birth within 30 days of occurrence. In 2021, nine in every ten births were registered timely.

The three regions that recorded the highest share in timely registered births in 2021 based on usual residence of mother were CALABARZON (14.9% share), NCR (12.1% share), and Central Luzon (11.6% share). These three regions also recorded the highest number of late registered births, collectively sharing 37.7 percent of the total. (Table 8)

Fourteen (14) out of 17 regions had at least 90.0 percent of its births registered within the reglementary period. Davao Region had the highest proportion of timely registered births with 95.6 percent of its total registered births, followed by Ilocos Region with 95.4 percent. On the other hand, BARMM recorded the highest proportion of late registered births at 26.8 percent, followed by MIMAROPA (17.7%). (Figure 11)

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Figure 11. Proportion of Registered Live Births by Registration Status and by Region of Usual Residence of Mother, Philippines: 2021



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Attachments:

1. Table 1. Number and Percent Change of Registered Live Births, Philippines: 2012-2021
2. Table 2. Number of Registered Live Births by Sex, by Place of Occurrence, and by Usual Residence of Mother (Region), Philippines: 2021
3. Table 3. Number, Percent Distribution, and Daily Average of Registered Live Births by Month of Occurrence, Philippines: 2021
4. Table 4. Number and Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Attendant at Birth and by Region of Place of Occurrence and Usual Residence of Mother, Philippines: 2021
5. Table 5. Number and Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Age Group of Father and Mother, Philippines: 2021
6. Table 6. Number and Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Legitimacy Status, and by Region of Usual Residence of Mother, Philippines: 2021
7. Table 7. Number and Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Age of Mother and by Legitimacy Status, Philippines: 2021
8. Table 8. Number and Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Registration Status, and by Region of Usual Residence of Mother, Philippines: 2021

Table 1. Number and Percent Change of Registered Live Births, Philippines: 2012-2021

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number	1,790,367	1,761,602	1,748,857	1,744,767	1,731,289	1,700,618	1,668,120	1,673,923	1,528,684	1,364,739
Percent Change		-1.6	-0.7	-0.2	-0.8	-1.8	-1.9	0.3	-8.7	-10.7
Per Day	4,892	4,826	4,791	4,780	4,730	4,659	4,570	4,586	4,177	3,739
Per Hour	204	201	200	199	197	194	190	191	174	156

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Data on live births are those registered at the Office of the City/Municipal Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General; Certificate of Live Birth-Municipal Form No. 102)

Note: Figures are results of actual registration without any adjustment for under registration.

Leap years: 2012, 2016 and 2020

Table 2. Number of Registered Live Births by Sex, by Place of Occurrence, and by Usual Residence of Mother (Region), Philippines: 2021

Region	Number						Share (%)		Difference (Place of Occurrence Less Usual Residence of the Mother)
	Place of Occurrence			Usual Residence			Place of Occurrence	Usual Residence	
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes		
Philippines	1,364,739	711,434	653,305	1,364,739	711,434	653,305	100.0	100.0	-
National Capital Region (NCR)	170,370	88,556	81,814	160,946	83,552	77,394	12.5	11.8	9,424
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	24,316	12,651	11,665	23,701	12,340	11,361	1.8	1.7	615
Region I (Ilocos Region)	62,287	32,563	29,724	62,597	32,710	29,887	4.6	4.6	-310
Region II (Cagayan Valley)	45,139	23,600	21,539	45,648	23,875	21,773	3.3	3.3	-509
Region III (Central Luzon)	160,702	83,456	77,246	159,984	83,117	76,867	11.8	11.7	718
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	195,174	101,935	93,239	204,333	106,761	97,572	14.3	15.0	-9,159
MIMAROPA Region	38,239	19,852	18,387	38,371	19,917	18,454	2.8	2.8	-132
Region V (Bicol)	87,358	45,529	41,829	87,464	45,604	41,860	6.4	6.4	-106
Region VI (Western Visayas)	83,351	43,650	39,701	83,363	43,662	39,701	6.1	6.1	-12
Region VII (Central Visayas)	111,780	58,365	53,415	111,920	58,416	53,504	8.2	8.2	-140
Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)	55,999	29,073	26,926	56,105	29,135	26,970	4.1	4.1	-106
Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)	49,182	25,572	23,610	49,684	25,814	23,870	3.6	3.6	-502
Region X (Northern Mindanao)	76,468	39,934	36,534	75,441	39,388	36,053	5.6	5.5	1,027
Region XI (Davao)	70,195	36,571	33,624	69,868	36,419	33,449	5.1	5.1	327
Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN) ¹	66,556	34,983	31,573	66,677	34,995	31,682	4.9	4.9	-121
Region XIII (Caraga)	35,903	18,770	17,133	36,108	18,874	17,234	2.6	2.6	-205
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) ²	31,720	16,374	15,346	32,495	16,839	15,656	2.3	2.4	-775
Foreign Countries	-	-	-	34	16	18	-	*	-34

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Data on live births are those registered at the Office of the City/Municipal Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General; Certificate of Live Birth-Municipal Form No. 102)

Note: Figures are results of actual registration without any adjustment for under registration.

* Less than 0.05 percent

- Counts are equal to 0

¹ Excludes the City of Cotabato and includes the 63 barangays in the province of Cotabato that are now part of the 8 area clusters in BARMM as data by barangay are not available

² Includes the City of Cotabato and excludes the 63 barangays from the province of Cotabato that now comprise the 8 area clusters in BARMM

Table 3. Number, Percent Distribution, and Daily Average of Registered Live Births by Month of Occurrence, Philippines: 2021

Month of Occurrence	Number	Share (%)	Daily Average
Total	1,364,739	100.0	3,739
January	102,521	7.5	3,307
February	85,207	6.2	3,043
March	99,235	7.3	3,201
April	103,197	7.6	3,440
May	113,586	8.3	3,664
June	108,555	8.0	3,619
July	116,378	8.5	3,754
August	124,281	9.1	4,009
September	133,409	9.8	4,447
October	132,752	9.7	4,282
November	126,022	9.2	4,201
December	119,596	8.8	3,858

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Data on live births are those registered at the Office of the City/Municipal Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General; Certificate of Live Birth-Municipal Form No. 102)

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Table 4. Number and Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Attendant at Birth and by Region of Place of Occurrence and Usual Residence of Mother, Philippines: 2021

Region	Number of Registered Live Births		Health Professionals		Hilot/Traditional Birth Attendant		Others		Not Stated	
	Place of Occurrence	Usual Residence	Place of Occurrence	Usual Residence	Place of Occurrence	Usual Residence	Place of Occurrence	Usual Residence	Place of Occurrence	Usual Residence
Philippines	1,364,739	1,364,739	93.1	93.1	6.6	6.6	0.3	0.3	*	*
National Capital Region (NCR)	170,370	160,946	96.0	95.8	3.9	4.0	0.2	0.2	*	*
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	24,316	23,701	96.7	96.6	1.1	1.1	2.0	2.1	0.2	0.2
Region I (Ilocos Region)	62,287	62,597	93.1	93.1	6.9	6.8	0.0	*	*	*
Region II (Cagayan Valley)	45,139	45,648	96.5	96.5	2.8	2.8	0.7	0.7	*	*
Region III (Central Luzon)	160,702	159,984	97.4	97.4	2.5	2.6	0.0	*	*	*
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	195,174	204,333	93.2	93.5	6.6	6.3	0.2	0.2	*	*
MIMAROPA Region	38,239	38,371	85.9	85.9	13.0	13.0	1.1	1.1	*	*
Region V (Bicol)	87,358	87,464	94.3	94.3	5.6	5.6	0.1	0.1	*	*
Region VI (Western Visayas)	83,351	83,363	93.9	93.9	5.6	5.6	0.5	0.5	*	*
Region VII (Central Visayas)	111,780	111,920	94.5	94.5	4.8	4.8	0.6	0.6	*	*
Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)	55,999	56,105	95.1	95.1	4.7	4.7	0.2	0.2	*	*
Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)	49,182	49,684	87.4	87.5	12.2	12.2	0.4	0.4	*	*
Region X (Northern Mindanao)	76,468	75,441	90.7	90.6	9.0	9.1	0.3	0.3	*	*
Region XI (Davao)	70,195	69,868	96.5	96.5	3.3	3.3	0.3	0.3	*	*
Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN) ¹	66,556	66,677	88.0	87.9	11.7	11.7	0.3	0.3	-	-
Region XIII (Caraga)	35,903	36,108	94.4	94.4	5.2	5.2	0.3	0.3	-	-
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) ²	31,720	32,495	59.9	61.1	40.0	38.7	0.2	0.2	*	*
Foreign Country	-	34	-	97.1	-	2.9	-	-	-	-

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Data on live births are those registered at the Office of the City/Municipal Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General; Certificate of Live Birth-Municipal Form No. 102)

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Table 5. Number and Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Age Group of Father and Mother, Philippines: 2021

Age Group	Number		Share (%)	
	Father	Mother	Father	Mother
Total	1,364,739	1,364,739	100.0	100.0
Under 15	67	2,320	*	0.2
15-19	42,551	133,982	3.1	9.8
20-24	237,574	331,913	17.4	24.3
25-29	352,406	381,289	25.8	27.9
30-34	310,881	295,302	22.8	21.6
35-39	191,003	161,140	14.0	11.8
40-44	97,940	53,373	7.2	3.9
45-49	36,954	4,336	2.7	0.3
50 and over	19,788	122	1.4	*
Not Stated	75,575	962	5.5	0.1

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Table 6. Number and Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Legitimacy Status, and by Region of Usual Residence of Mother, Philippines: 2021

Usual Residence of Mother	Total	Legitimate			Illegitimate		
		Number	% Share (Region)	% Share (Total Legitimate)	Number	% Share (Region)	% Share (Total Illegitimate)
Philippines	1,364,739	585,585	42.9	100.0	779,154	57.1	100.0
National Capital Region (NCR)	160,946	49,650	30.8	8.5	111,296	69.2	14.3
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	23,701	13,198	55.7	2.3	10,503	44.3	1.3
Region I (Ilocos Region)	62,597	28,429	45.4	4.9	34,168	54.6	4.4
Region II (Cagayan Valley)	45,648	24,971	54.7	4.3	20,677	45.3	2.7
Region III (Central Luzon)	159,984	67,110	41.9	11.5	92,874	58.1	11.9
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	204,333	76,505	37.4	13.1	127,828	62.6	16.4
MIMAROPA Region	38,371	17,858	46.5	3.0	20,513	53.5	2.6
Region V (Bicol)	87,464	36,198	41.4	6.2	51,266	58.6	6.6
Region VI (Western Visayas)	83,363	40,248	48.3	6.9	43,115	51.7	5.5
Region VII (Central Visayas)	111,920	43,705	39.1	7.5	68,215	60.9	8.8
Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)	56,105	18,155	32.4	3.1	37,950	67.6	4.9
Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)	49,684	26,293	52.9	4.5	23,391	47.1	3.0
Region X (Northern Mindanao)	75,441	32,320	42.8	5.5	43,121	57.2	5.5
Region XI (Davao)	69,868	27,938	40.0	4.8	41,930	60.0	5.4
Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN) ¹	66,677	37,893	56.8	6.5	28,784	43.2	3.7
Region XIII (Caraga)	36,108	14,272	39.5	2.4	21,836	60.5	2.8
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) ²	32,495	30,816	94.8	5.3	1,679	5.2	0.2
Foreign Country	34	26	76.5	*	8	23.5	*

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Table 7. Number and Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Age of Mother and by Legitimacy Status, Philippines: 2021

Age of Mother	Total	Legitimate		Illegitimate	
		Number	Percent Share	Number	Percent Share
Total	1,364,739	585,585	42.9	779,154	57.1
Under 15	2,320	91	3.9	2,229	96.1
15-19	133,982	12,672	9.5	121,310	90.5
20-24	331,913	80,914	24.4	250,999	75.6
25-29	381,289	176,764	46.4	204,525	53.6
30-34	295,302	174,062	58.9	121,240	41.1
35-39	161,140	101,837	63.2	59,303	36.8
40-44	53,373	35,286	66.1	18,087	33.9
45-49	4,336	3,129	72.2	1,207	27.8
50 and over	122	75	61.5	47	38.5
Not Stated	962	755	78.5	207	21.5

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Data on live births are those registered at the Office of the City/Municipal Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General; Certificate of Live Birth-Municipal Form No. 102)

Note: Figures are results of actual registration without any adjustment for under registration.

Table 8. Number and Percent Distribution of Registered Live Births by Registration Status, and by Region of Usual Residence of Mother, Philippines: 2021

Usual Residence of Mother	Total		Timely Registration		Late Registration	
	Number	Percent Share	Number	Percent Share	Number	Percent Share
PHILIPPINES	1,364,739	100.0	1,249,654	100.0	115,085	100.0
National Capital Region (NCR)	160,946	11.8	151,625	12.1	9,321	8.1
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	23,701	1.7	22,307	1.8	1,394	1.2
Region I (Ilocos Region)	62,597	4.6	59,717	4.8	2,880	2.5
Region II (Cagayan Valley)	45,648	3.3	42,855	3.4	2,793	2.4
Region III (Central Luzon)	159,984	11.7	144,408	11.6	15,576	13.5
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	204,333	15.0	185,845	14.9	18,488	16.1
MIMAROPA Region	38,371	2.8	31,581	2.5	6,790	5.9
Region V (Bicol)	87,464	6.4	81,299	6.5	6,165	5.4
Region VI (Western Visayas)	83,363	6.1	71,237	5.7	12,126	10.5
Region VII (Central Visayas)	111,920	8.2	106,260	8.5	5,660	4.9
Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)	56,105	4.1	50,721	4.1	5,384	4.7
Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)	49,684	3.6	44,993	3.6	4,691	4.1
Region X (Northern Mindanao)	75,441	5.5	70,384	5.6	5,057	4.4
Region XI (Davao)	69,868	5.1	66,759	5.3	3,109	2.7
Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN)	66,677	4.9	63,287	5.1	3,390	2.9
Region XIII (Caraga)	36,108	2.6	32,565	2.6	3,543	3.1
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)	32,495	2.4	23,778	1.9	8,717	7.6
FOREIGN COUNTRY	34	*	33	*	1	*

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Data on live births are those registered at the Office of the City/Municipal Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General; Certificate of Live Birth-Municipal Form No. 102)

Note: Figures are results of actual registration without any adjustment for under registration.

Includes babies born to mother whose usual residence is a foreign country

* Less than 0.05 percent