

# Births and deaths

## Fertility / Mortality

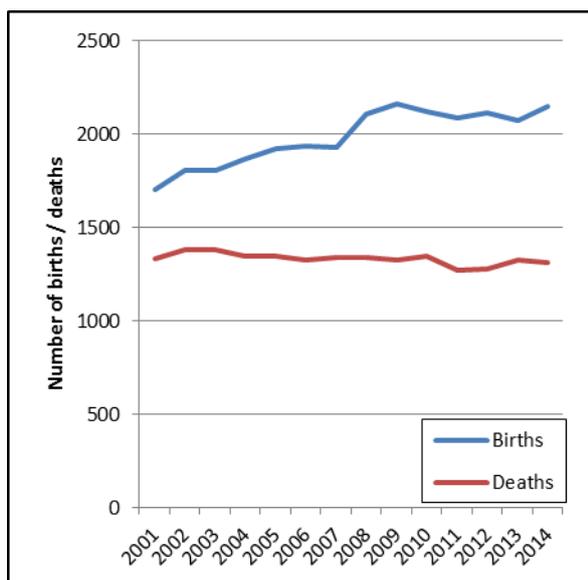
### Births / Deaths

Natural Change is the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths each year which, together with migration, are the main components of population change. While the number of births rose significantly in 2008 and less so in 2009, they have since dropped slightly in 2010 and are trending back towards the 2009 high.. The number of deaths, however, has remained largely constant, with a small drop in 2011 and 2012 before returning to the downward trend set before 2011. Consequently, Natural Change has also increased to its highest since 2009: (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Births and Deaths**

	<b>Births</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Natural Change</b>
<b>2001</b>	1,704	1,336	368
<b>2002</b>	1,805	1,385	420
<b>2003</b>	1,804	1,380	424
<b>2004</b>	1,869	1,346	523
<b>2005</b>	1,922	1,345	577
<b>2006</b>	1,938	1,326	612
<b>2007</b>	1,928	1,340	588
<b>2008</b>	2,111	1,344	767
<b>2009</b>	2,162	1,325	837
<b>2010</b>	2,119	1,347	772
<b>2011</b>	2,088	1,269	819
<b>2012</b>	2,116	1,278	838
<b>2013</b>	2,074	1,330	744
<b>2014</b>	2,150	1,314	836

Source: National Statistics 2016



Source: National Statistics 2016

## Fertility

Bedford Borough's General Fertility Rate<sup>1</sup> (GFR) was 67.8 in 2014, higher than that of England (62.2) and the East of England (64.1).

It is also the highest it has been in the last ten years. This reflects the large increase in the number of births during 2008 and 2009, due in part, to the recent increase in migrants from the European Union Accession countries

## Mortality

Mortality rates in Bedford Borough are lower than those in the East of England and in England. (Table 1)

**Table 1: Mortality Rates**

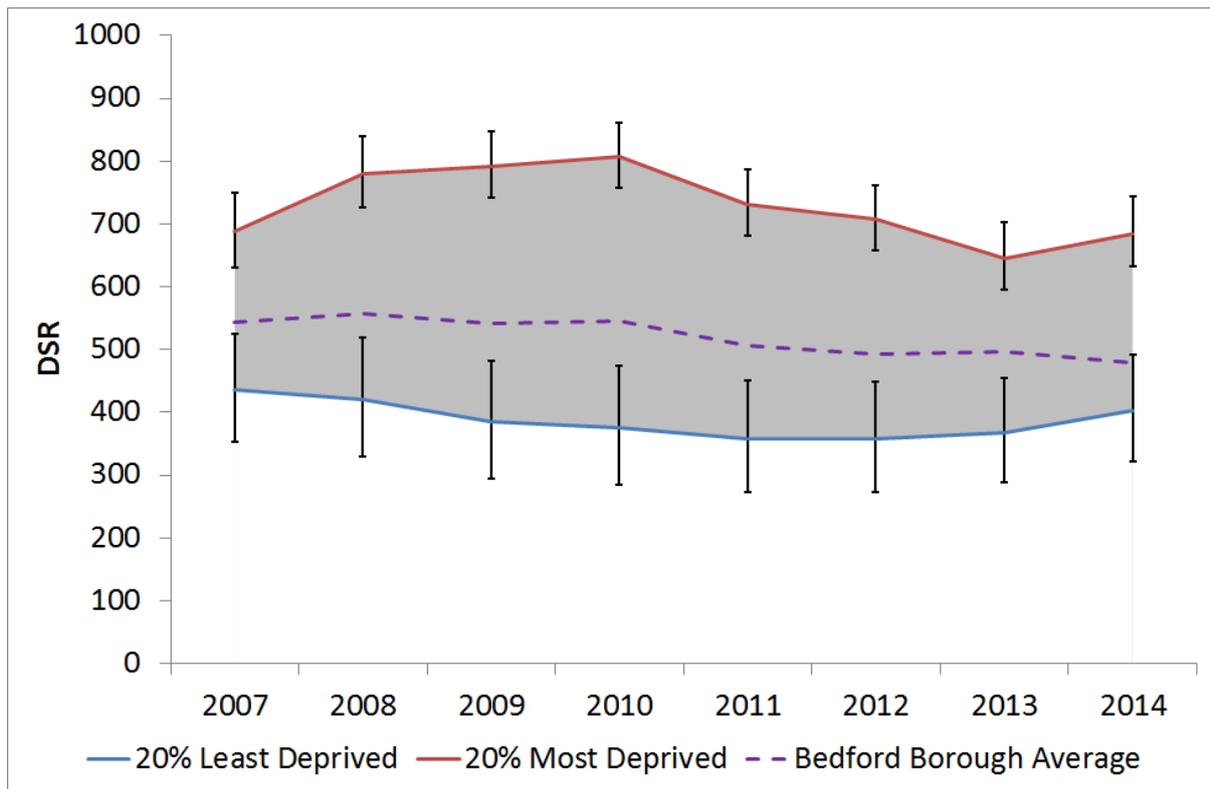
Mortality Rate 2014	Bedford Borough	East of England	England
Crude <sup>2</sup>	801.59	884.56	863.23
Standard <sup>3</sup>	93.56	94.70	100

Source: National Statistics 2016

The crude rate has declined slightly over recent years in line with the national and regional rates, as has the standard rate.

The gap between the highest and lowest areas of deprivation within Bedford Borough has remained largely constant (Figure 2) with a significantly greater rate of mortality in the 20% most deprived areas compared to the 20% least deprived areas.

**Figure 2: Deprivation gap**



### Infant mortality

High rates of infant mortality can be seen as a product of disadvantaged communities. Although Bedford Borough had a higher rate of deaths under 1 year than the East of England and England and Wales in 2010, the actual number of deaths was small (10) and the higher rate cannot, therefore, be interpreted as significant. (Table 2). Deaths under 4 weeks and the perinatal mortality rate were both higher than the regional and national figures, but again actual numbers were low:

**Table 2: Infant Mortality, 2014**

Age	Bedford Borough	East of England	England
Under 1 year <sup>4</sup>	4.7*	3.6	3.9
Under 4 weeks <sup>5</sup>	3.7*	2.7	2.7
Perinatal mortality rate <sup>6</sup>	9.2	6.6	7.4

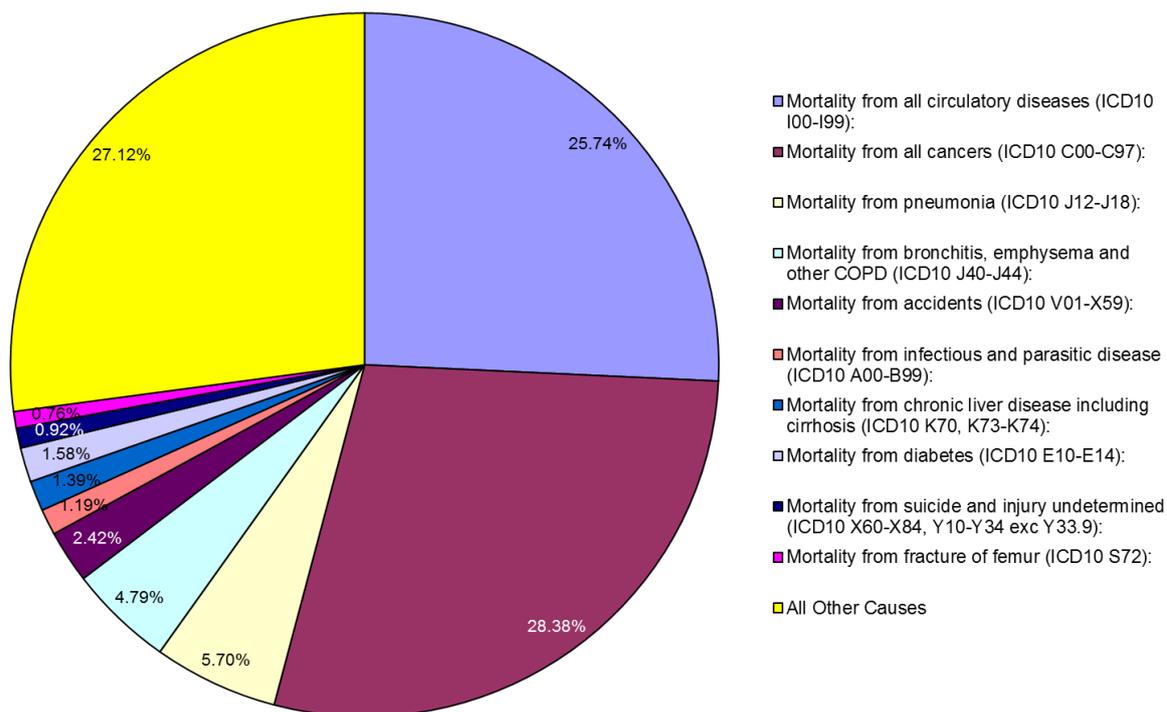
Source: National Statistics 2016

Denotes a rate calculated from less than 20 events.

### Causes of Death

The total number of deaths in the Borough has remained fairly constant in recent years.

**Figure 3: Percentage of total mortalities, 2012-2014 in persons of all ages**



Source: National Statistics 2016

Neoplasms (cancer) are responsible for over a quarter of deaths. A further quarter are caused by diseases of the circulatory system including heart disease and strokes.

Other main causes of death include pneumonia, bronchitis, emphysema and other COPD, and accidents

<sup>1</sup> General Fertility Rate (GFR) is defined as the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44, 2014

<sup>2</sup> Crude Mortality Rate is the number of deaths per 100,000 population, 2014

<sup>3</sup> Standard Mortality Rate is the number of observed deaths as a % of the expected deaths if the population of an area experienced the same age specific deaths as England, 2014

<sup>4</sup> Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births

<sup>5</sup> Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births

<sup>6</sup> Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live births