

Births and deaths in Kent - 2019

Related information

The [Population and Census](#) web page contains more information which you may find useful.

Population data presents the latest population estimates and an analysis of annual change

Population forecasts presents the latest thinking about future population levels

2011 Census provides information of the characteristics of the population

NOTE: within this bulletin 'Kent' refers to the Kent County Council (KCC) area which excludes Medway

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This bulletin presents an analysis of the total number of live births and deaths in Kent and Kent districts during the calendar year 2019. Birth and death rates are also presented to compare Kent with the regional and national average. A 2002 to 2019 time series is also presented.

Summary of findings

- During the year 2019 there were 16,537 births and 15,100 deaths in Kent. This resulted in a net increase of +1,437 people due to natural change.
- Maidstone saw the largest number of live births in 2019 with a total of 1,891. However, Dartford had the highest general fertility rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years of 69.6.
- Canterbury had the greatest number of deaths with a total of 1,706. Folkestone & Hythe saw the highest number of deaths per 1,000 population (Crude Death Rate) at 12.2.
- Dartford experienced the greatest positive natural change in population (meaning there were more births than deaths) with a net gain of +744 people.
- Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe and Thanet have all seen a negative natural change in 2019 (meaning there were more deaths than births).

Introduction

Every year the number of births and deaths that occur in England and Wales are collated and presented by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The change in population produced by these natural events is known as "natural change" and relates to the resident population. These figures alone do not

represent the total change in population as that depends on inward and outward migration as well as natural change. The ONS monitor both sets of data and use them to calculate their annual mid-year population estimates. Please note that the births and deaths data for the Mid-year population estimates are counted from 1st July to 30th June. The figures presented here are for the calendar year (1st January to 31st December) so there will be differences between the two.

Total number of births and deaths during 2019

In 2019 there were 16,537 registered births and 15,100 registered deaths in Kent, excluding Medway Unitary Authority. This resulted in a net increase in Kent's resident population of +1,437 people from natural change alone.

The population in eight of the 12 Kent local authority districts all increased during 2019 due to natural change. The four remaining districts saw a slight loss in resident population due to there being more registered deaths than births.

Table 1: Births, deaths and natural change in Kent in 2019

Local Authority	Births	Deaths	Natural Change
Kent	16,537	15,100	1,437
Ashford	1,378	1,162	216
Canterbury	1,310	1,706	-396
Dartford	1,612	868	744
Dover	1,073	1,222	-149
Folkestone & Hythe	1,027	1,384	-357
Gravesham	1,343	881	462
Maidstone	1,891	1,528	363
Sevenoaks	1,217	1,130	87
Swale	1,717	1,399	318
Thanet	1,414	1,684	-270
Tonbridge & Malling	1,425	1,062	363
Tunbridge Wells	1,130	1,074	56
Medway Unitary Authority	3,330	2,266	1,064
Kent & Medway	19,867	17,366	2,501

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), © Crown Copyright

Birth Summary Table 2: Live births by local authority 2019

Death Summary Table 3: Deaths by local authority 2019

Data presented by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Increase in population due to natural change tends to be lower in East Kent districts such as Dover, Thanet and Folkestone & Hythe. Despite very healthy birth rates in these areas, the actual number of births tends to be lower in

these districts than in other Kent districts. Due to a higher proportion of elderly population, the number of deaths in these districts tends to be higher than in other Kent districts. Therefore, the balance between the two leads to smaller population increase and even a reduction in resident population due to natural change.

Mid and West Kent districts tend to have a younger age profile and for this reason the number of births in these districts, such as Ashford, Maidstone, Dartford and Tunbridge Wells, is typically much higher than the number of deaths leading to higher population growth due to natural change.

Despite Canterbury having a large young population, the number of births in Canterbury is lower than would be expected for the population profile of the area. This is because Canterbury's young population largely consists of students who are not likely to be bearing any children. The number of deaths is still quite high in Canterbury because of the older population profile of coastal resorts such as Herne Bay and Whitstable. The number of births is therefore low in relation to the number of deaths, resulting in negative population change in 2019.

Birth and death rates

We know that the numbers of births and deaths will be affected by the population profile of an area which makes it difficult to compare with different areas. In addition, areas with similar profiles will be difficult to compare due to the difference in the total overall population. For comparison it is sometimes better to look at birth and death rates. Rates put the number of births and deaths into context according to the population size and profile of an area.

There are four methods of measuring the numbers of births and deaths rather than looking at the total numbers.

For births there is the General Fertility Rate (GFR) and the Total Fertility Rate (TFR):

- The GFR denotes the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years in a specific area.
- The TFR represents the average number of live children that women in that area would have if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates for the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan. The national TFR rate for England & Wales in 2019 is 1.65. Therefore, if an area has a higher TFR than 1.65, then there were more births than would be expected.

For deaths there is the Crude Death Rate (CDR) and the Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR):

- The CDR is the number of observed deaths per 1,000 resident population in a specific area.
- The SMR is calculated as the number of observed deaths in an area, divided by the expected number of deaths of that area (if the area had the same population age and sex structure as England & Wales) multiplied by 100. The national SMR for England & Wales is 100. Therefore, if an area has a higher SMR than 100, then there were more deaths than would be expected.

Table 2 shows the 2019 birth and death rates for England & Wales, the South East region, Kent and all local authority districts and Medway Unitary Authority.

Table 2: Birth and Death Rates 2019

Local Authority	BIRTHS		DEATHS	
	GFR	TFR	CDR	SMR
England & Wales	57.5	1.65	8.9	100
South East Region	56.9	1.69	8.8	92
Kent	59.4	1.76	9.5	99
Ashford	60.2	1.81	8.9	98
Canterbury	39.0	1.32	10.3	102
Dartford	69.6	1.93	7.7	106
Dover	57.6	1.70	10.3	95
Folkestone & Hythe	59.2	1.77	12.2	105
Gravesham	68.2	1.99	8.2	96
Maidstone	61.8	1.81	8.9	97
Sevenoaks	61.9	1.87	9.4	89
Swale	65.1	1.94	9.3	108
Thanet	61.2	1.84	11.9	108
Tonbridge & Malling	60.7	1.83	8.0	90
Tunbridge Wells	56.8	1.75	9.0	89
Medway	61.7	1.76	8.1	110

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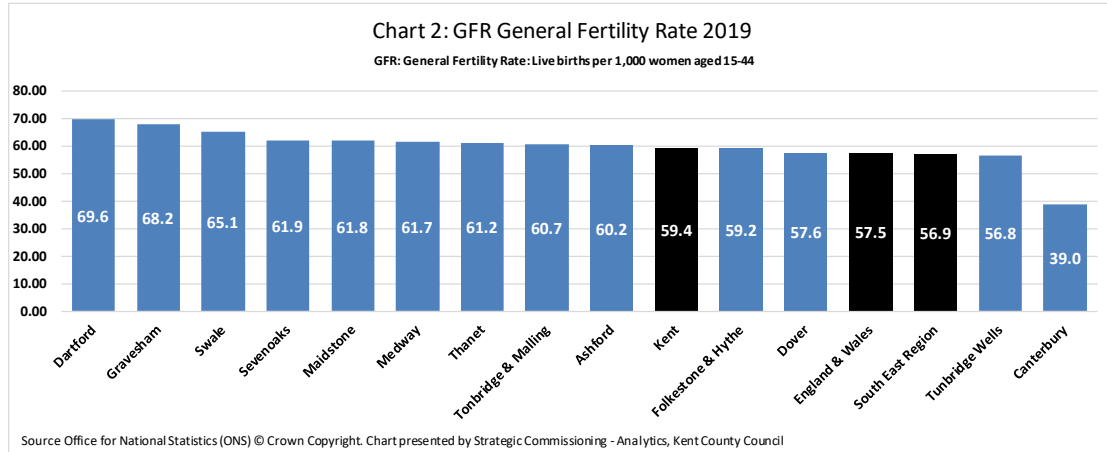
Birth Summary Table 2: Live births by local authority 2019

Death Summary Table 3: Deaths by local authority 2019

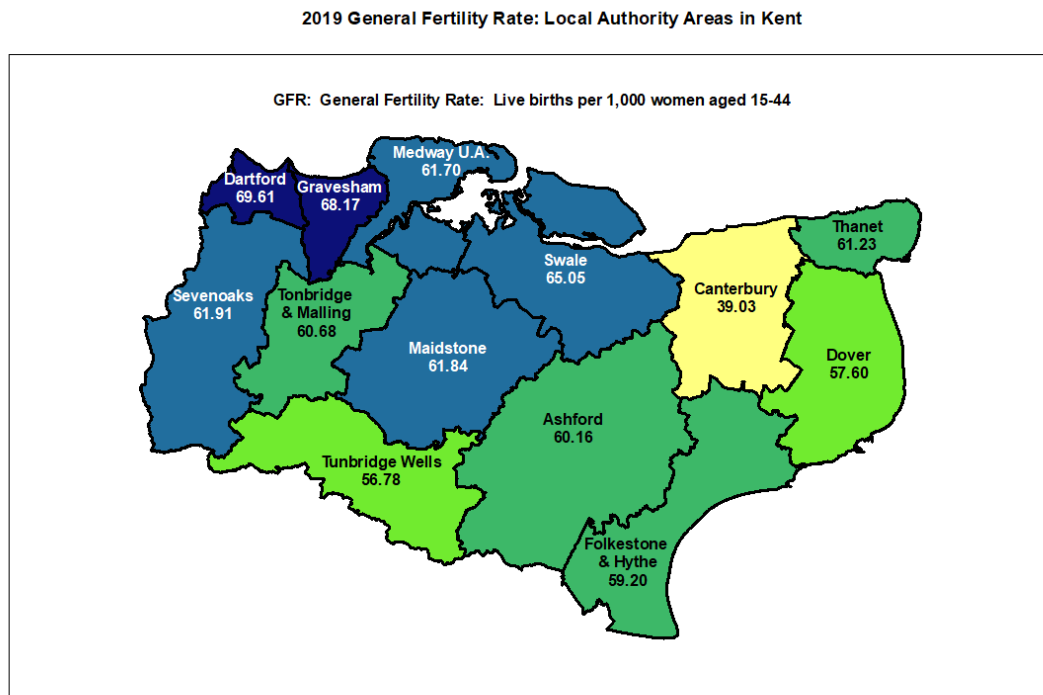
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The General Fertility rate or GFR is higher in Kent than in England & Wales as a whole. As expected, Canterbury has the lowest GFR, where there were 39 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years. Dartford has the highest GFR for 2019 where there were 69.6 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years.

See chart 2 and Map 1 for details



Map 1: General Fertility Rate 2019

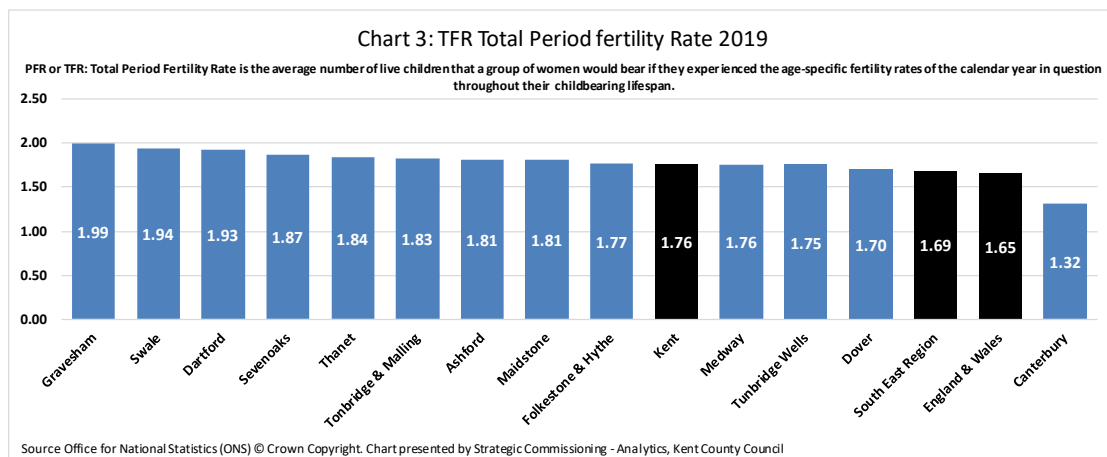


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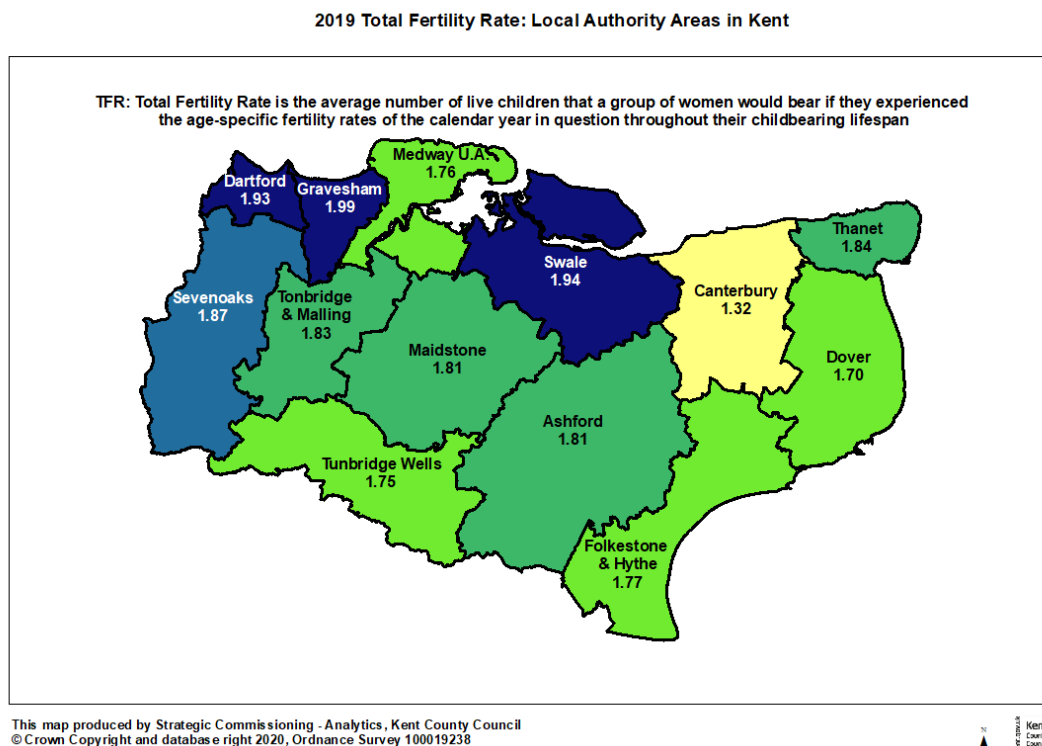


The TFR shows that women in Canterbury on average experience 1.32 live births compared to 1.65 in England & Wales. As explained earlier in this bulletin, Canterbury has a very large student population that contributes largely to the population aged 15 to 44. These students are not likely to be having children and therefore the population is artificially high compared to the number of live births.

See chart 3 and Map 2 for details

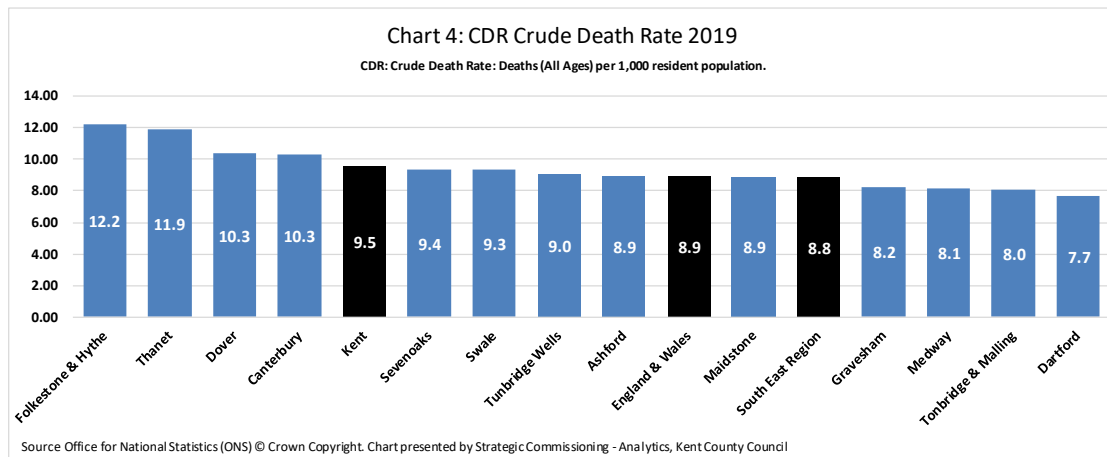


Map 2: Total Fertility Rate 2019

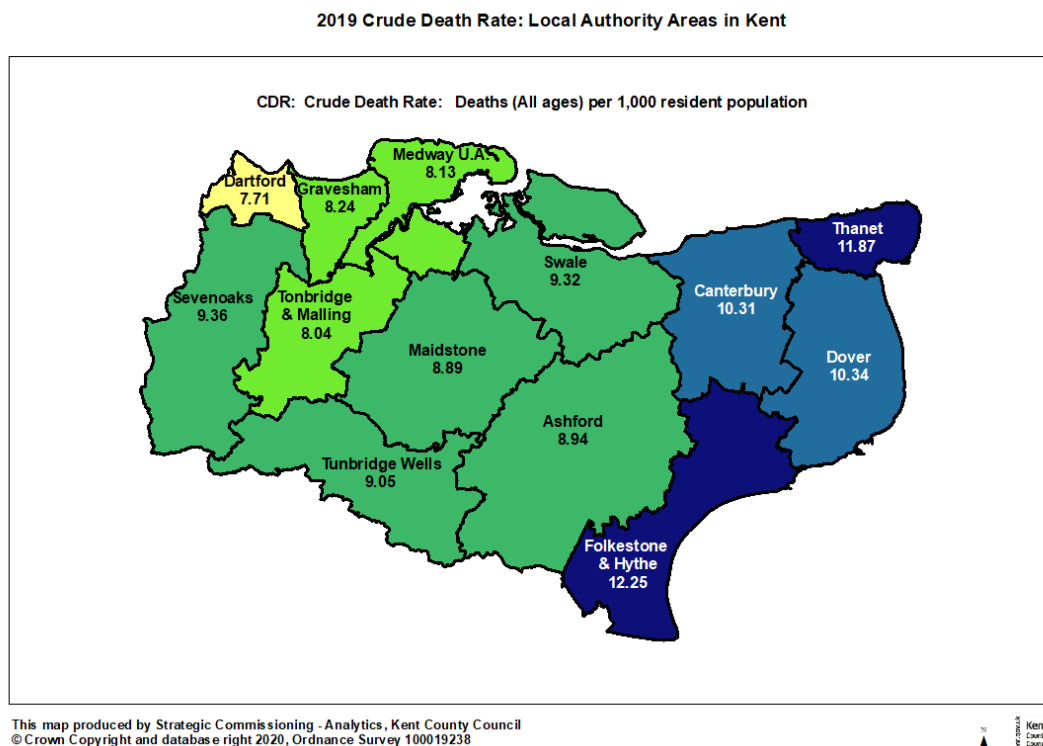


Folkestone & Hythe has the highest CDR which reflects the higher number of residents over pensionable age living in the area. There were 12.2 deaths per 1,000 resident population in Folkestone & Hythe during 2019. The top three areas with high CDR are all coastal districts which traditionally have a higher number of older population than the rest of Kent. The lowest CDR is seen in Dartford where there is a younger population profile.

See chart 4 and Map 3 for details

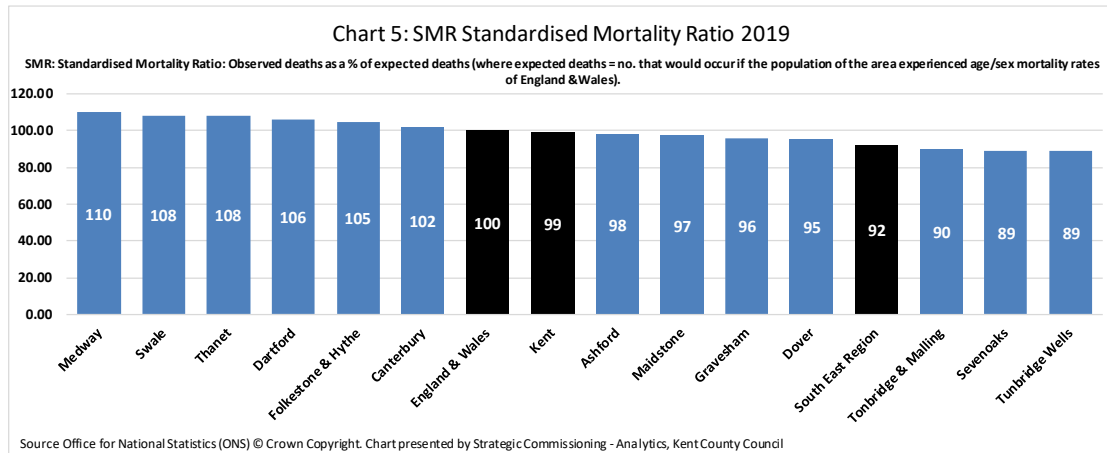


Map 3: Crude Death Rate 2019

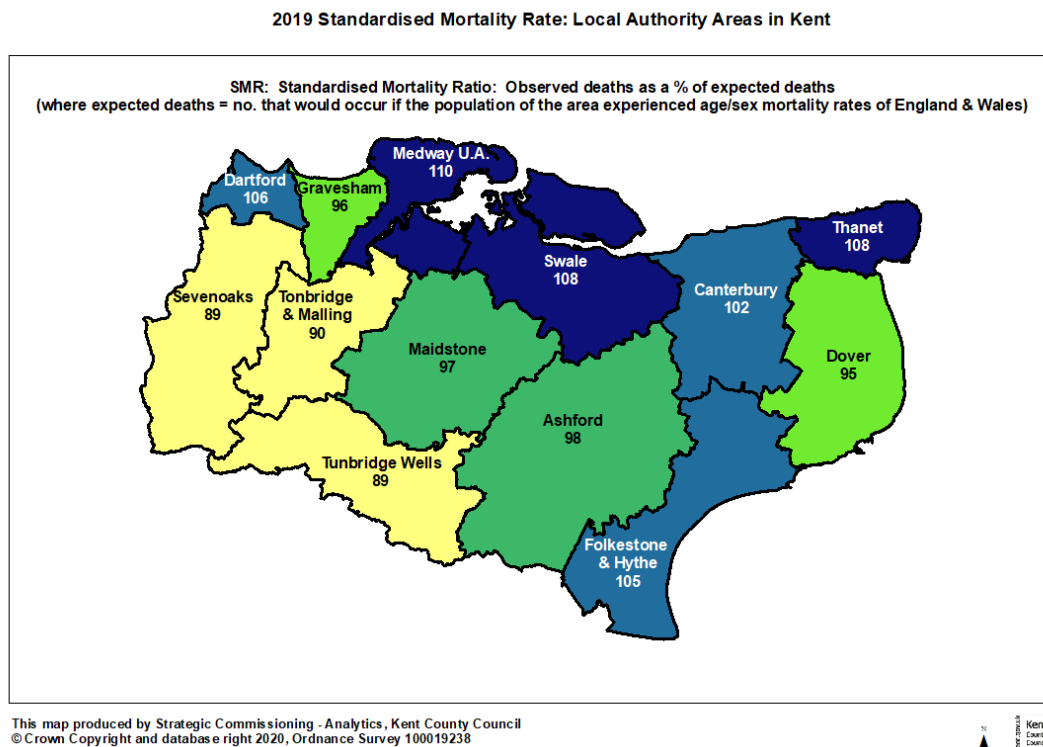


Kent has a lower Standardised Mortality ratio than England and Wales. However, five of the local authority districts in Kent and Medway Unitary Authority have a higher SMR than that seen nationally. All districts with a SMR higher than 100 would appear to have a higher death rate than would be expected for the age profile for the area.

See chart 5 and Map 4 for details

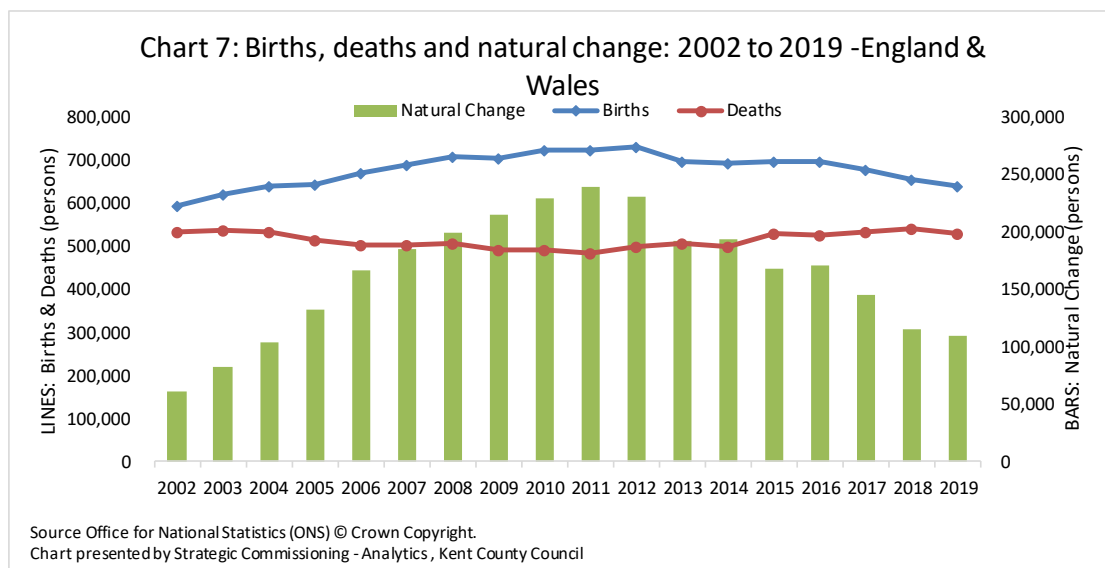
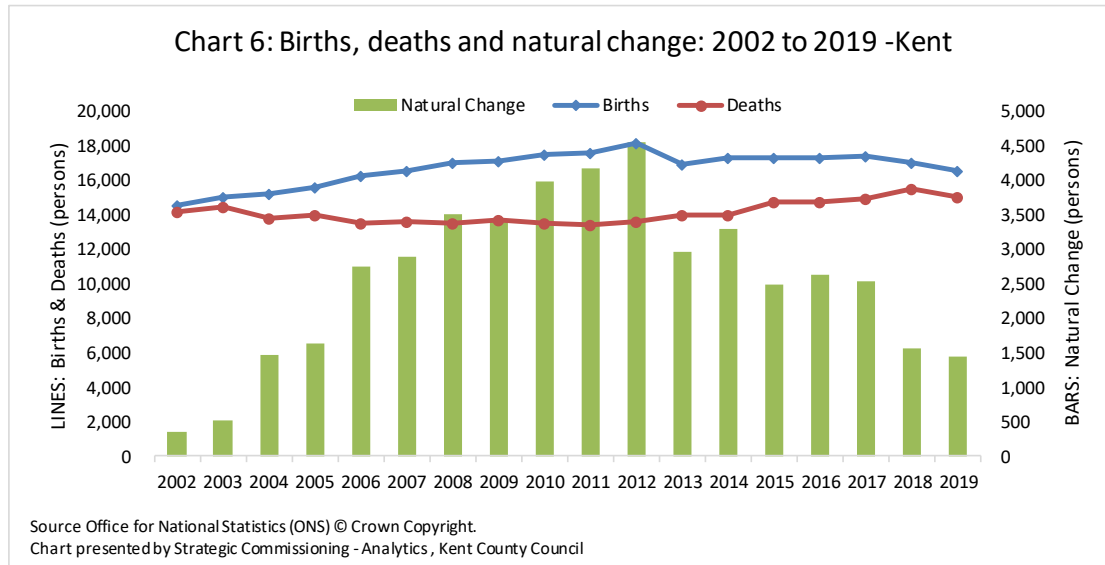


Map 4: Standardised Mortality Ratio 2019



Time series between 2002 and 2019

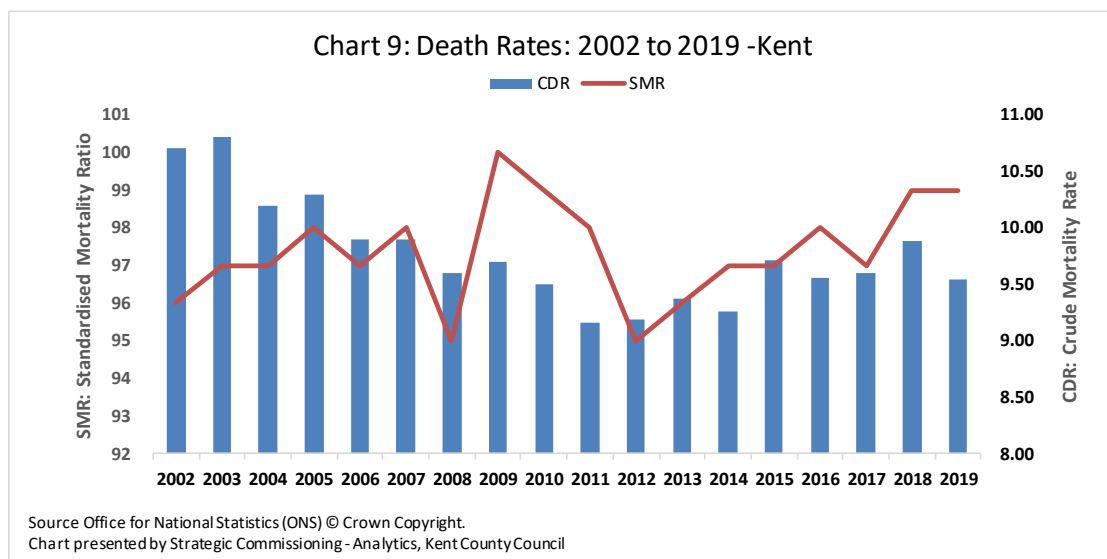
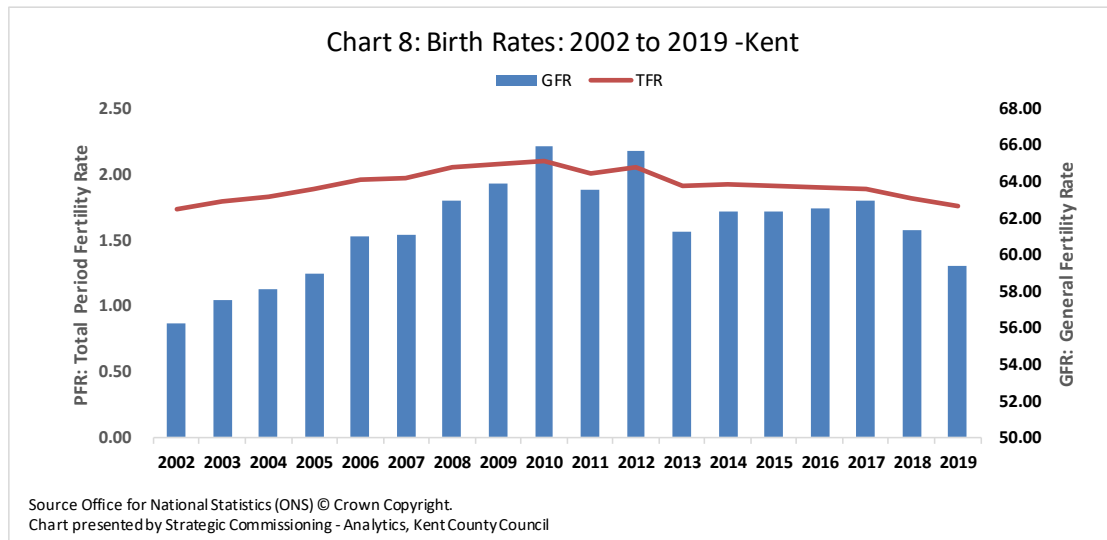
Charts 6 and 7 present the numbers of births, deaths and subsequent natural change in Kent and England & Wales. The pattern of births, deaths and natural change in Kent and England & Wales over the past 18 years is similar.



In 2002 there were 14,604 live births in Kent. The number of births rose each year up to 2012 when there was a baby boom of 18,147. In 2013 the number of births fell to 16,955, below the 2008 level. Between 2014 and 2017 the number of live births had begun to rise albeit at a slower rate than that seen between 2002 and 2012. The number of births during 2019 is the lowest since 2006. In contrast, the number of deaths in Kent has declined slightly and then begun to increase again over the years. In 2002 there were 14,245 recorded deaths. The number of deaths fell each year up to 2011 when there were at their lowest of 13,434. However, between 2012 and 2019 figures have begun to rise again. 2019 saw the second highest number of deaths for 18 years

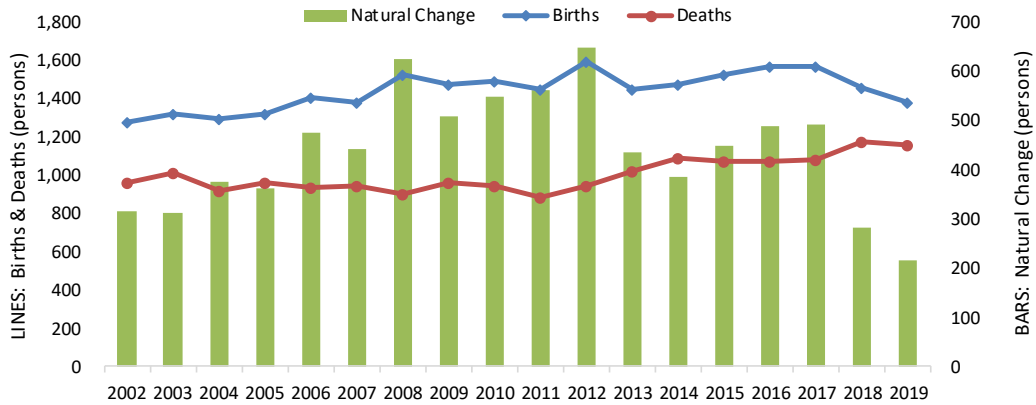
with 15,100. As a result, the population growth due to “Natural change” has now begun to fall since its high point in 2012.

As mentioned earlier, rates put the number of births and deaths into context according to the population size and profile of an area. Charts 8 and 9 show that despite annual fluctuations in both rates in Kent, the death rate has risen since 2012 whilst the birth rate has fallen.



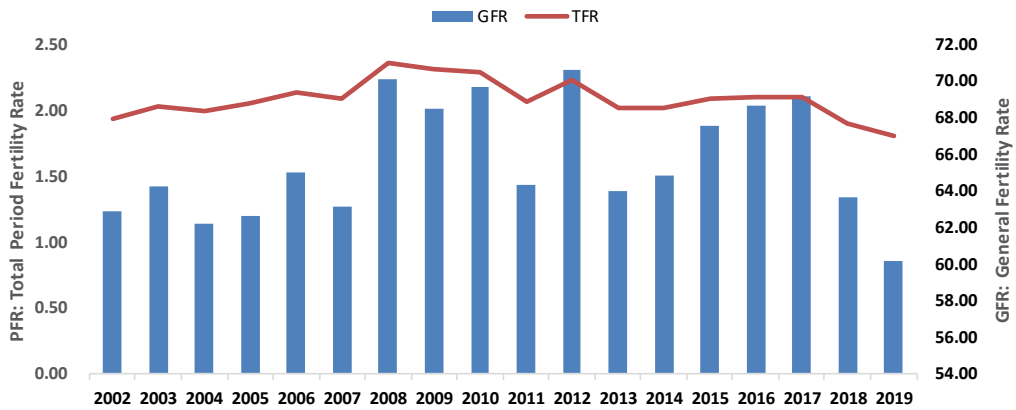
The pattern of births, deaths and natural change plus birth and death rates varies considerably amongst Kent’s local authority districts and Medway Unitary authority as presented on pages 11 to 23. Further information on population change is presented in the “[Migration in Kent](#)” and “[What’s causing Kent’s population growth?](#)” bulletins. This bulletin will be next updated in Mid-2021, when the data for the year 2020 will be published. For further information on the Office for National Statistics please visit www.statistics.gov.uk

Births, deaths and natural change: 2002 to 2019 -Ashford



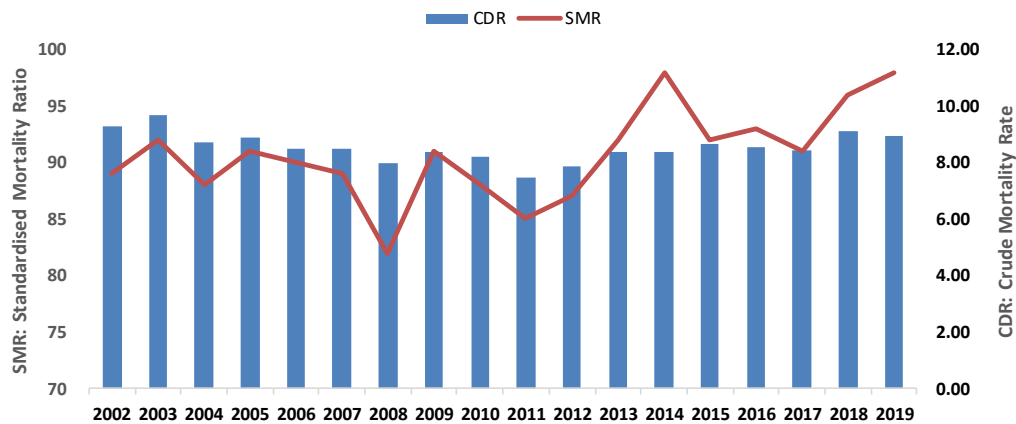
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Birth Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Ashford

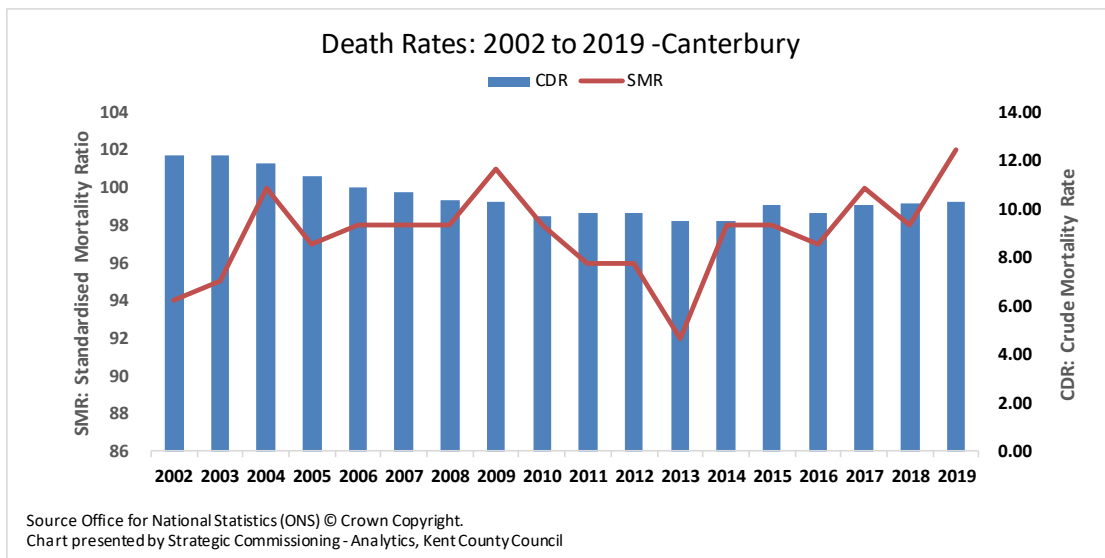
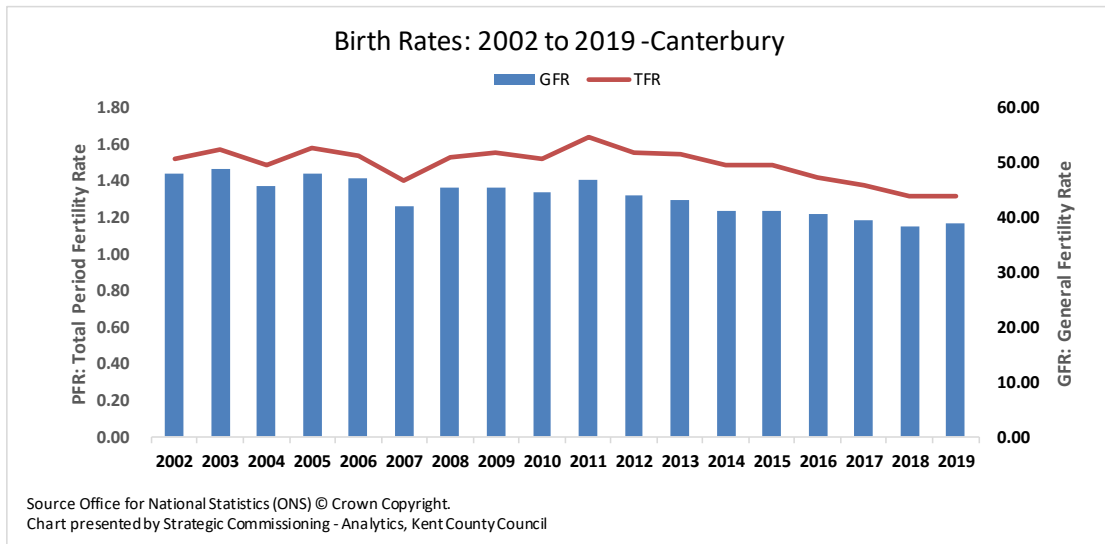
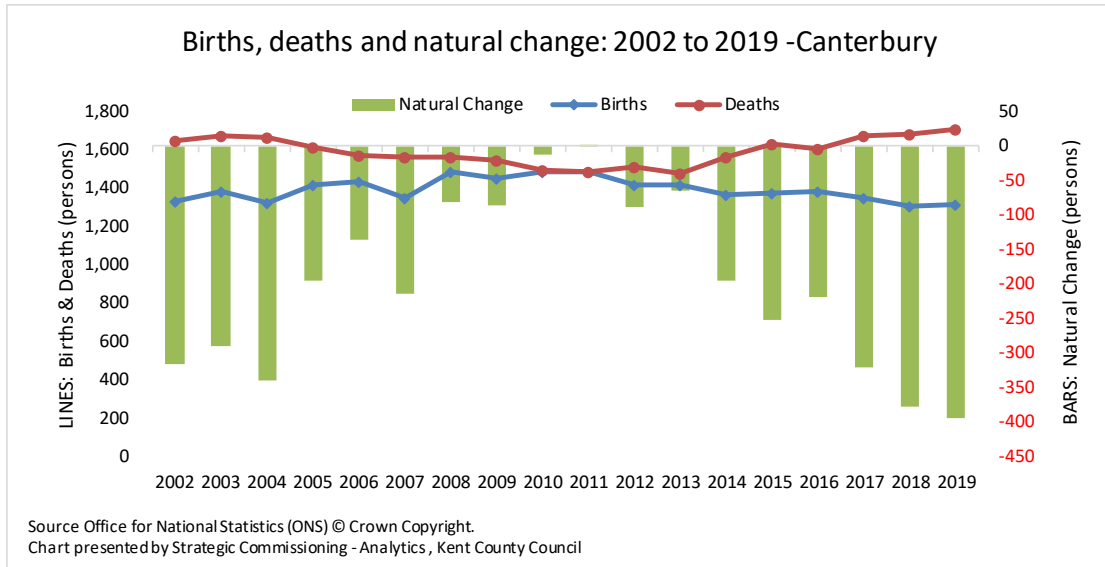


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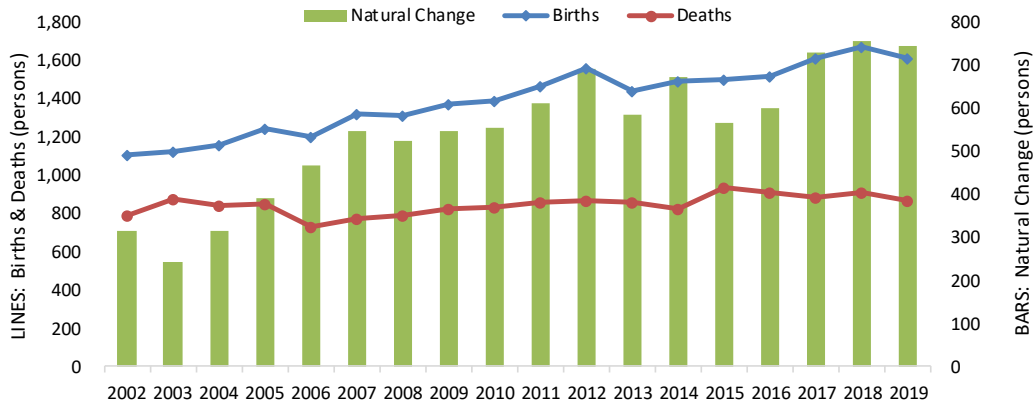
Death Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Ashford



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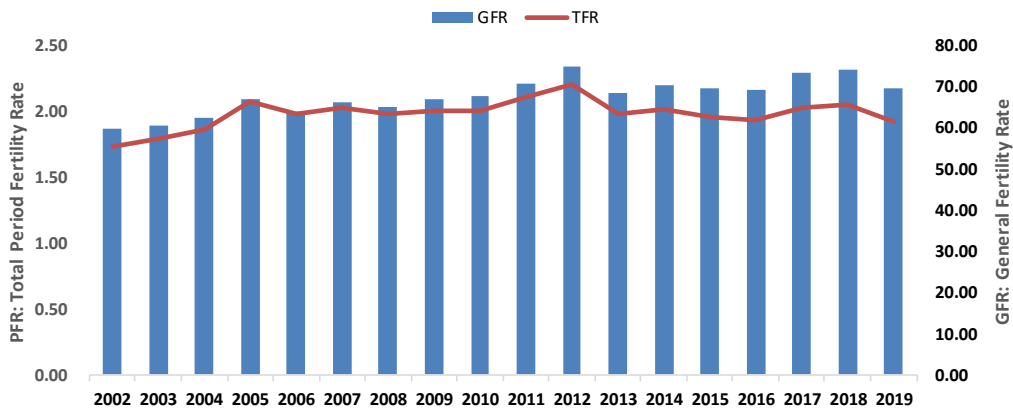


Births, deaths and natural change: 2002 to 2019 - Dartford



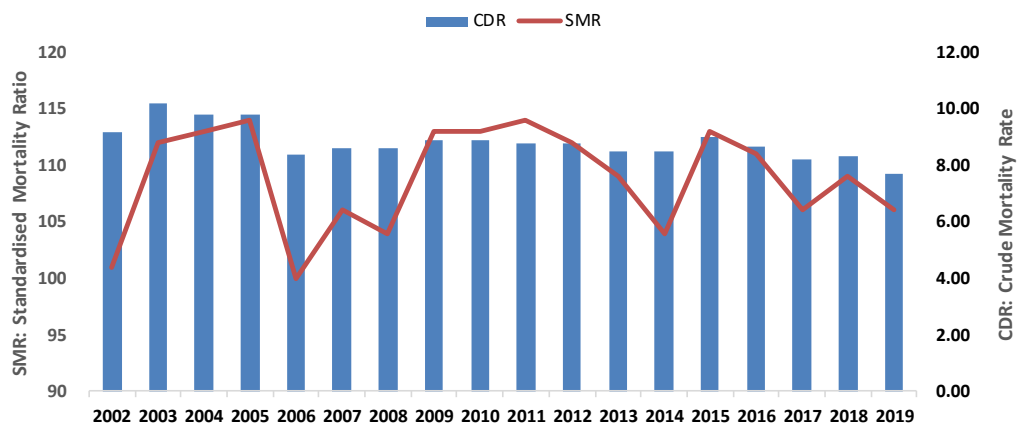
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Birth Rates: 2002 to 2019 - Dartford



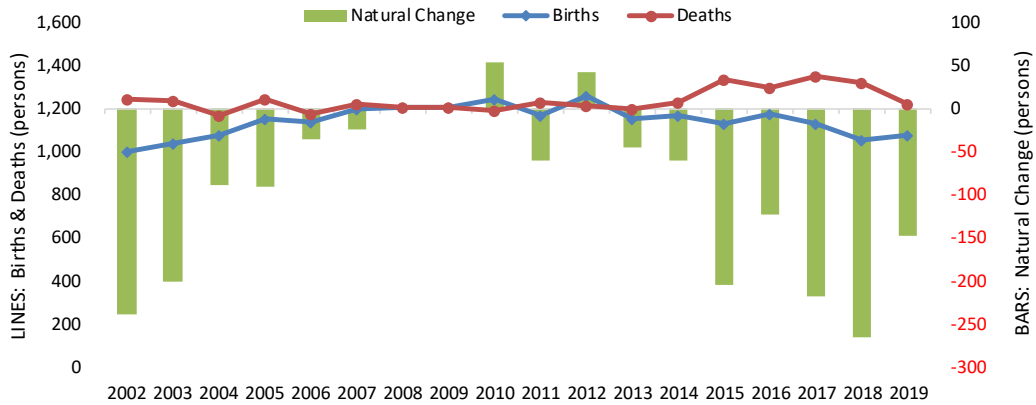
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Death Rates: 2002 to 2019 - Dartford



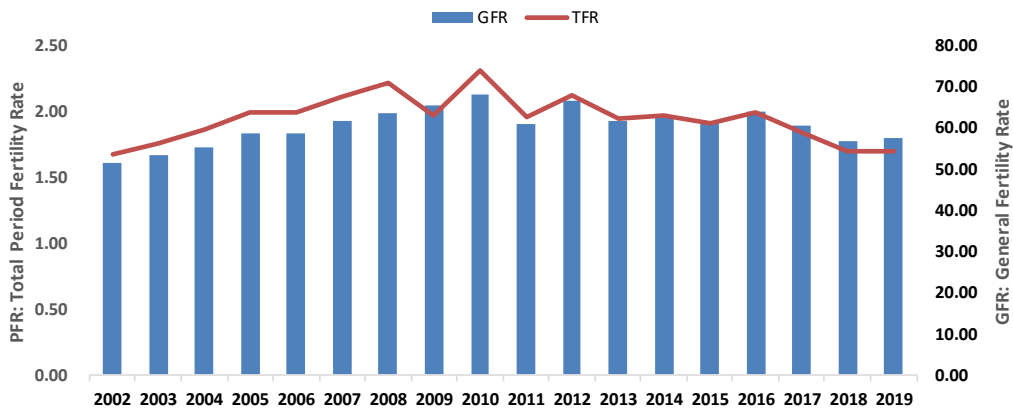
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Births, deaths and natural change: 2002 to 2019 -Dover



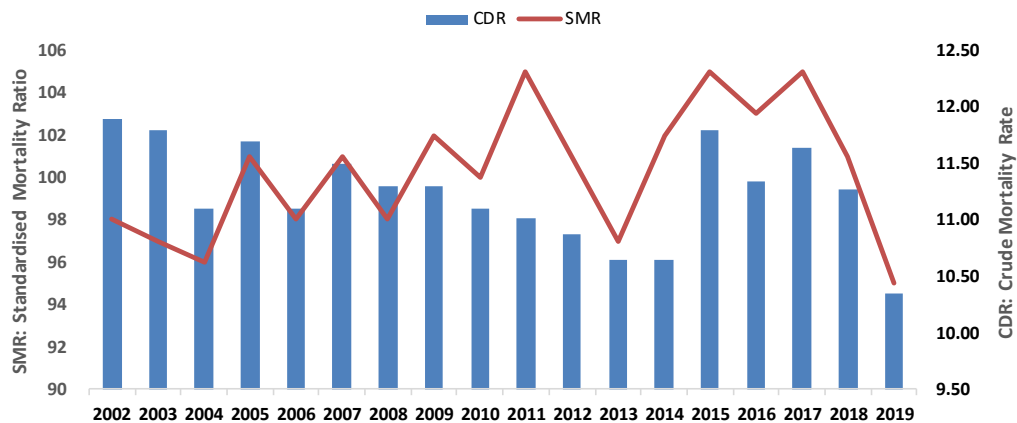
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Birth Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Dover



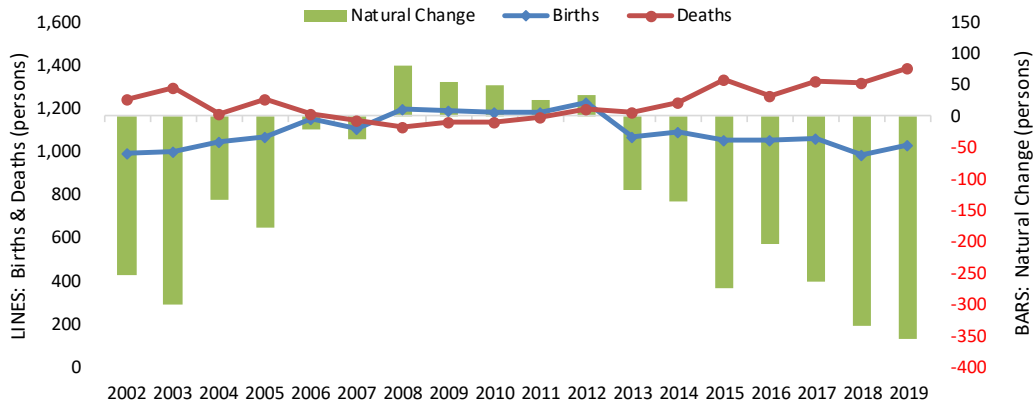
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Death Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Dover



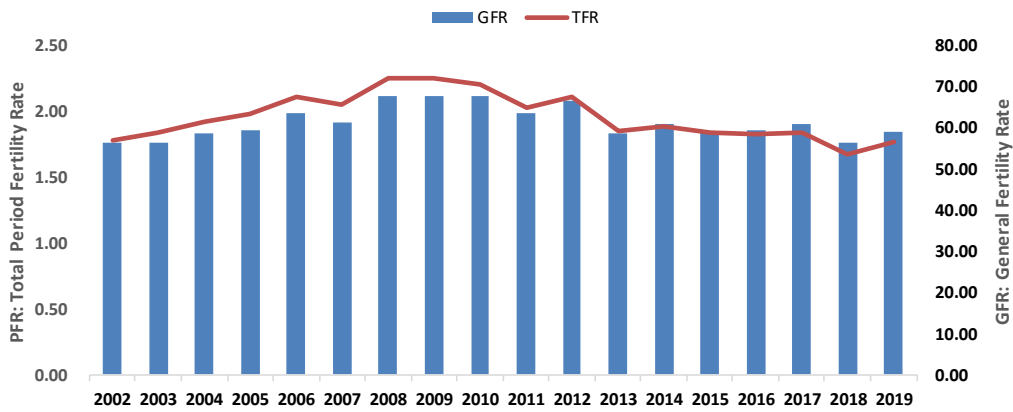
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Births, deaths and natural change: 2002 to 2019 -Folkestone & Hythe



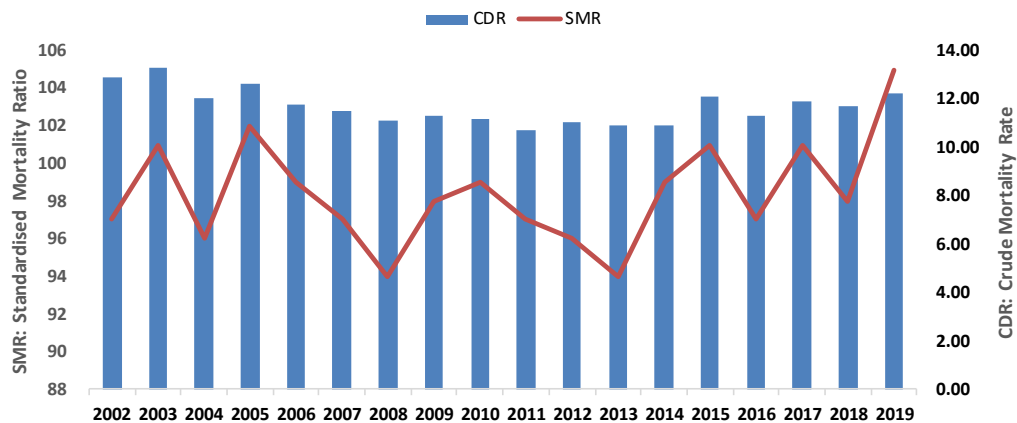
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Birth Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Folkestone & Hythe



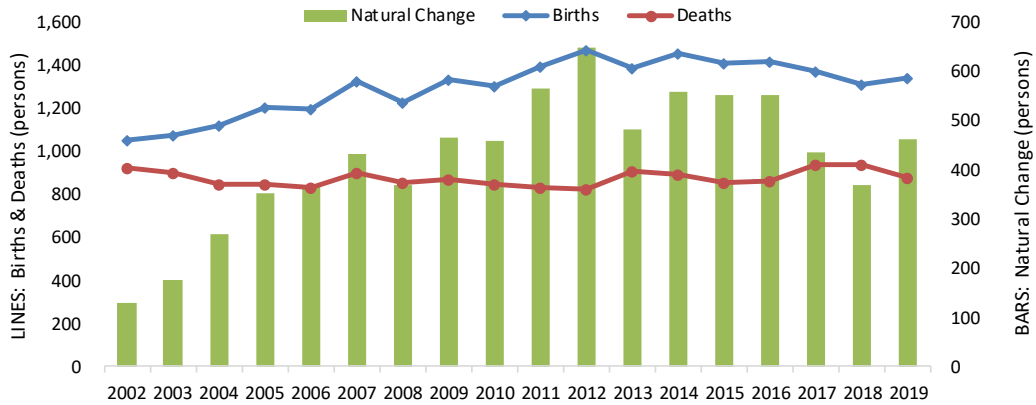
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Death Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Folkestone & Hythe



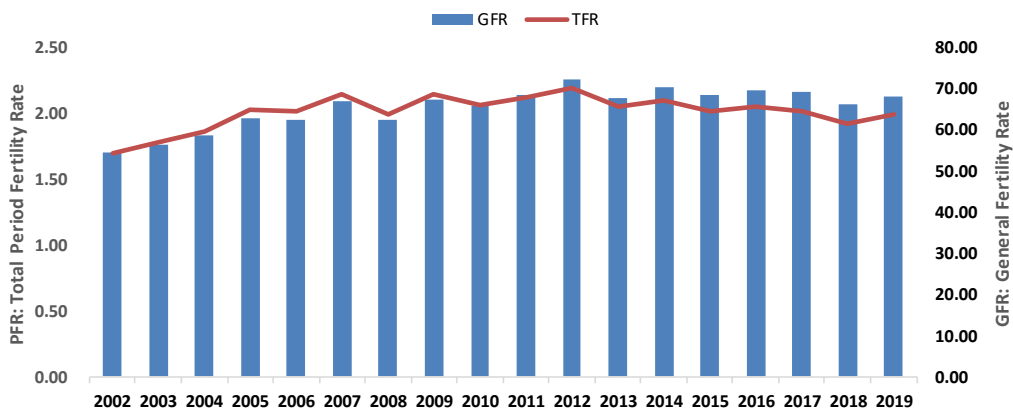
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Births, deaths and natural change: 2002 to 2019 -Gravesham



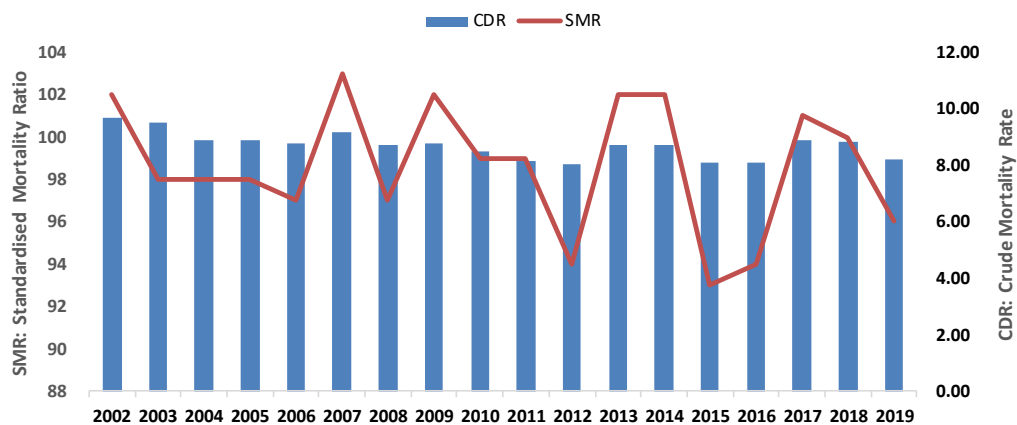
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Birth Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Gravesham

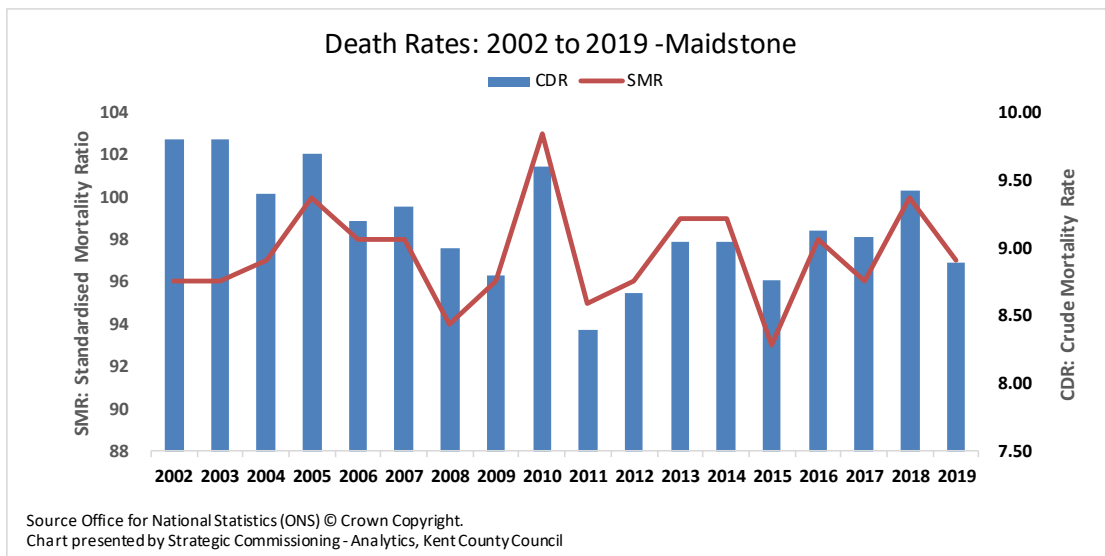
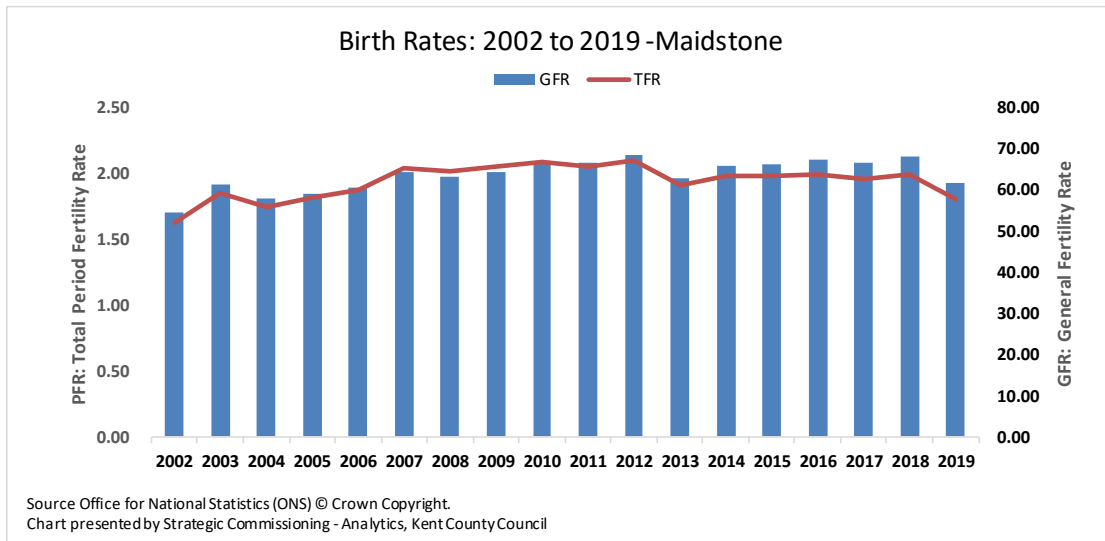
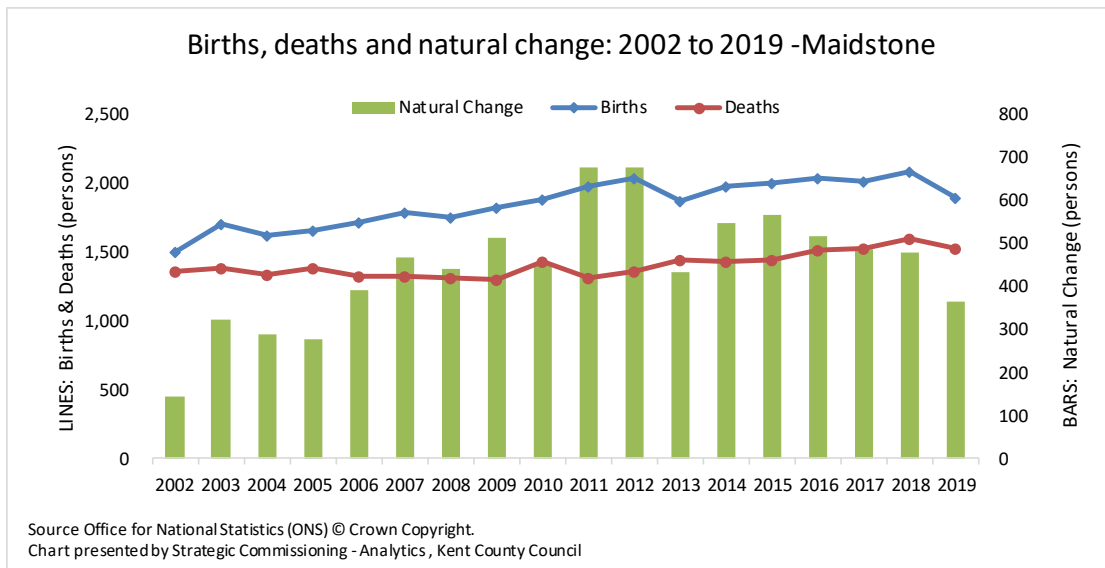


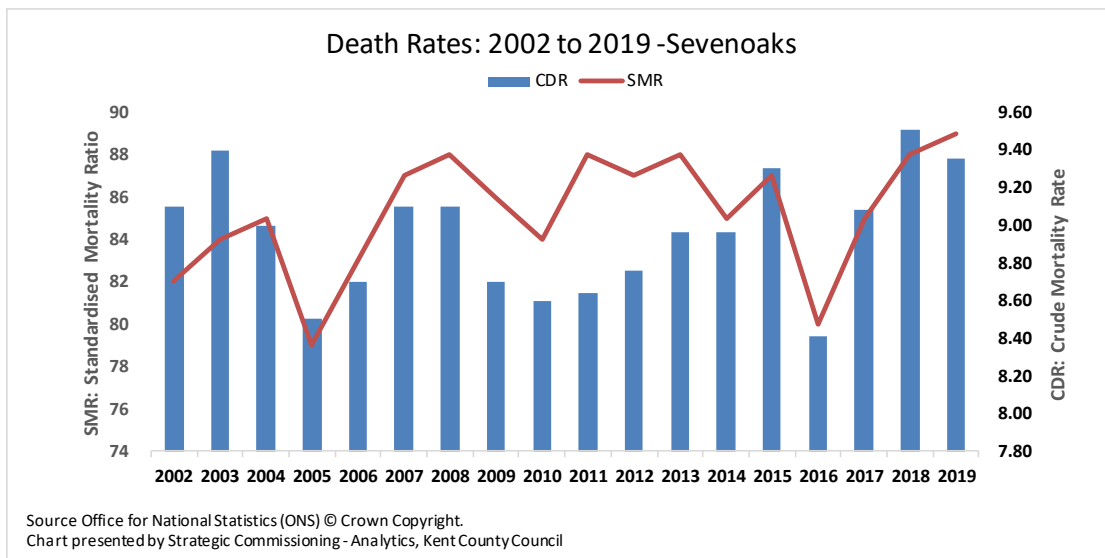
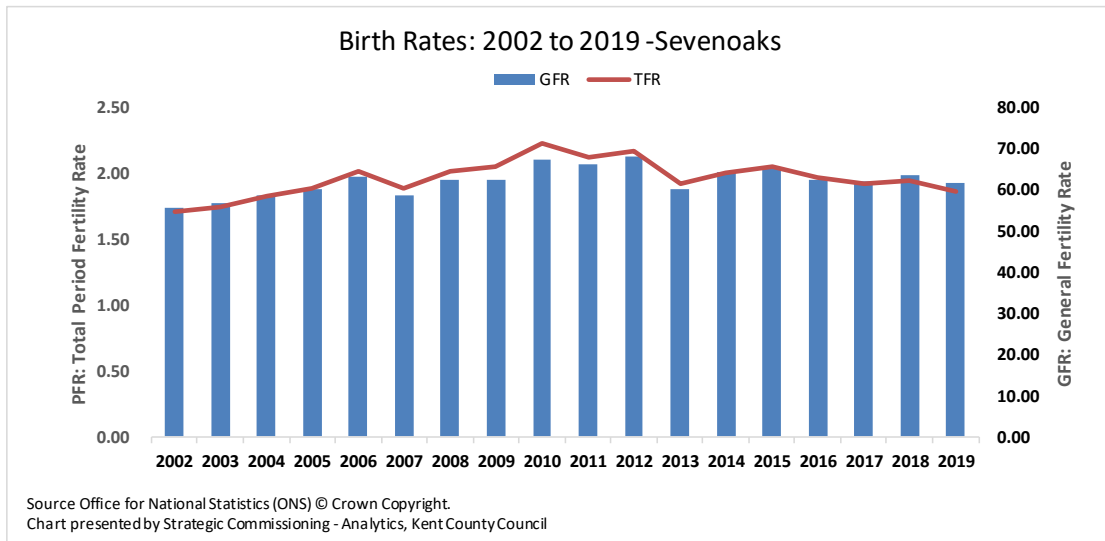
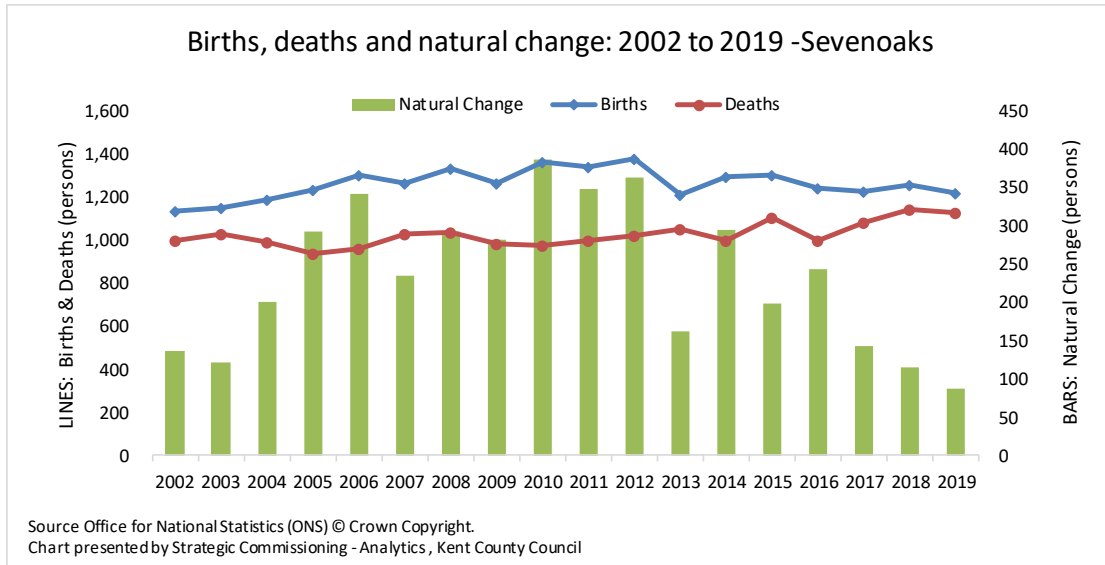
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Death Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Gravesham

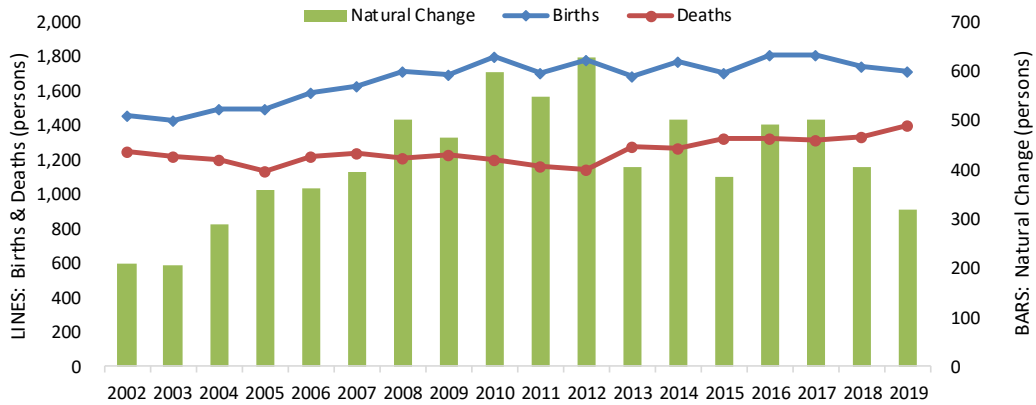


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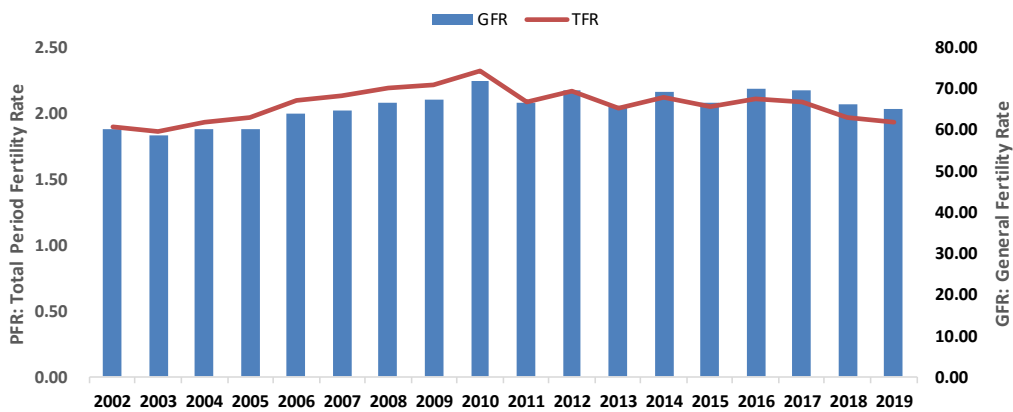


Births, deaths and natural change: 2002 to 2019 -Swale



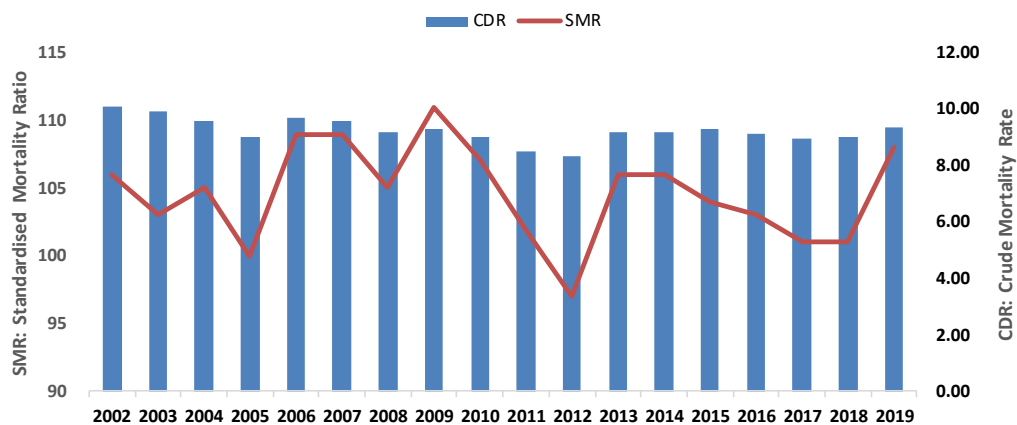
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Birth Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Swale



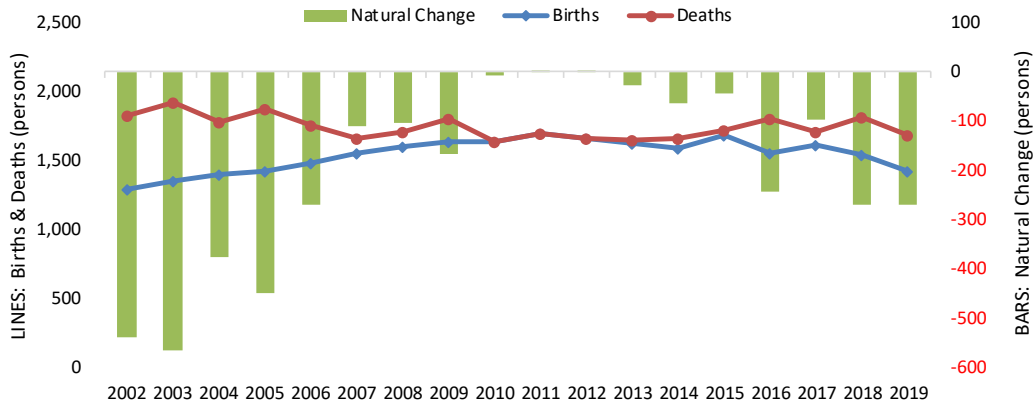
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Death Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Swale



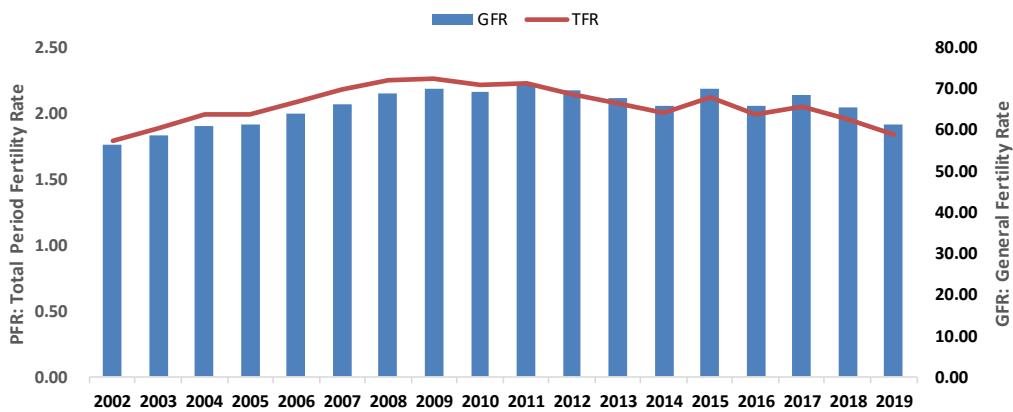
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Births, deaths and natural change: 2002 to 2019 -Thanet



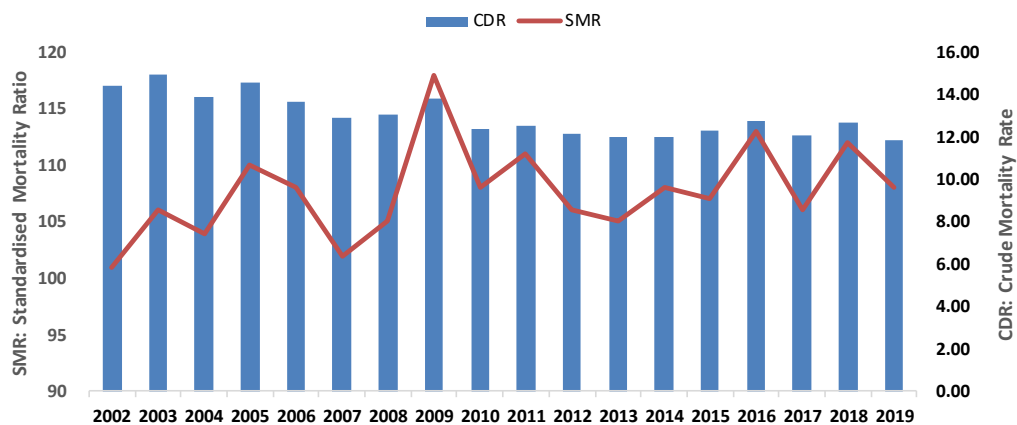
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Birth Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Thanet



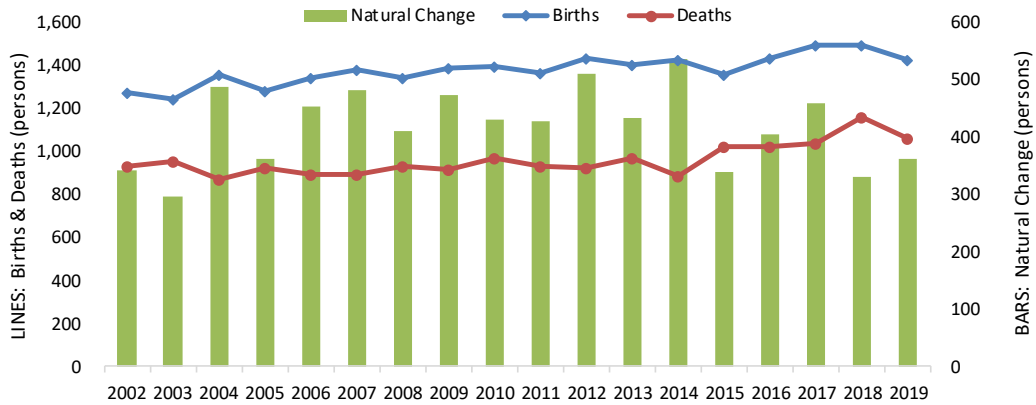
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Death Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Thanet



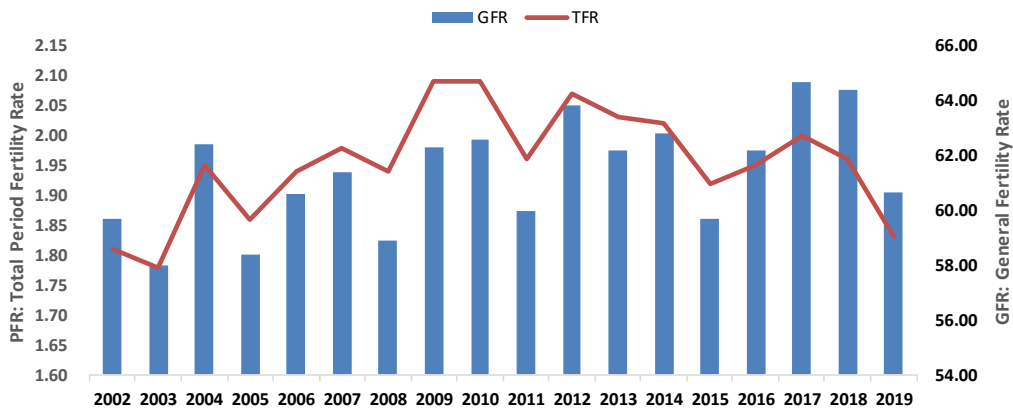
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Births, deaths and natural change: 2002 to 2019 -Tonbridge & Malling



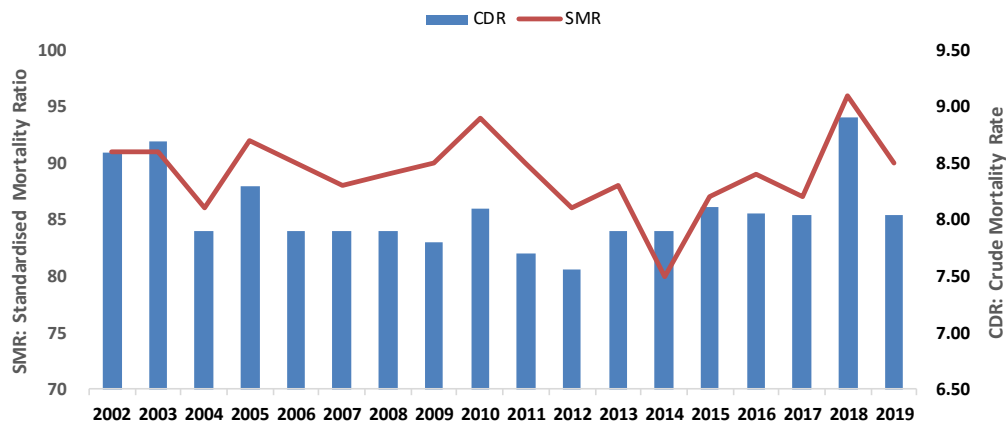
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Birth Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Tonbridge & Malling



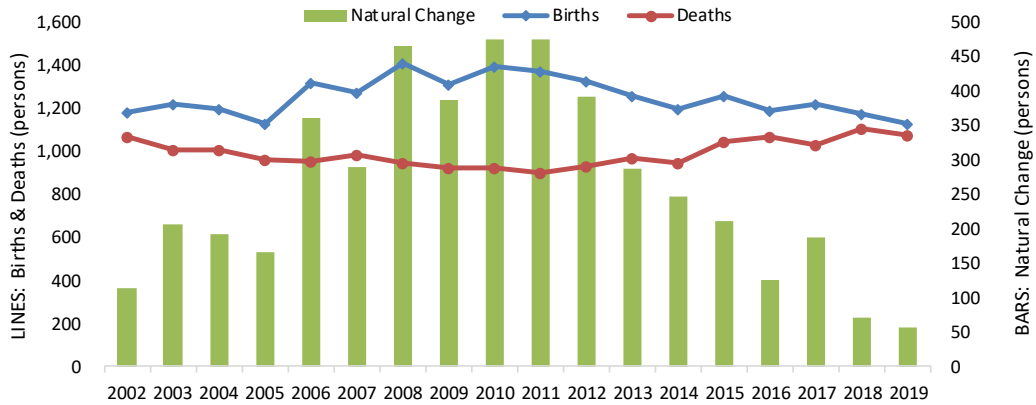
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Death Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Tonbridge & Malling



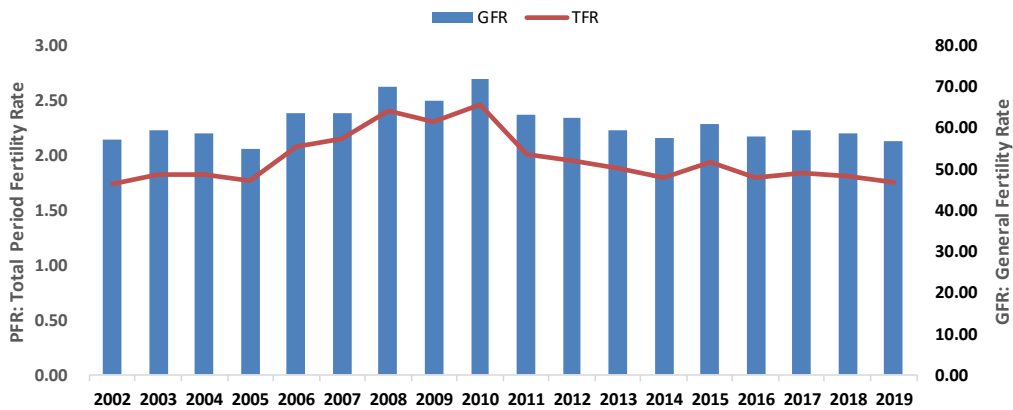
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Births, deaths and natural change: 2002 to 2019 -Tunbridge Wells



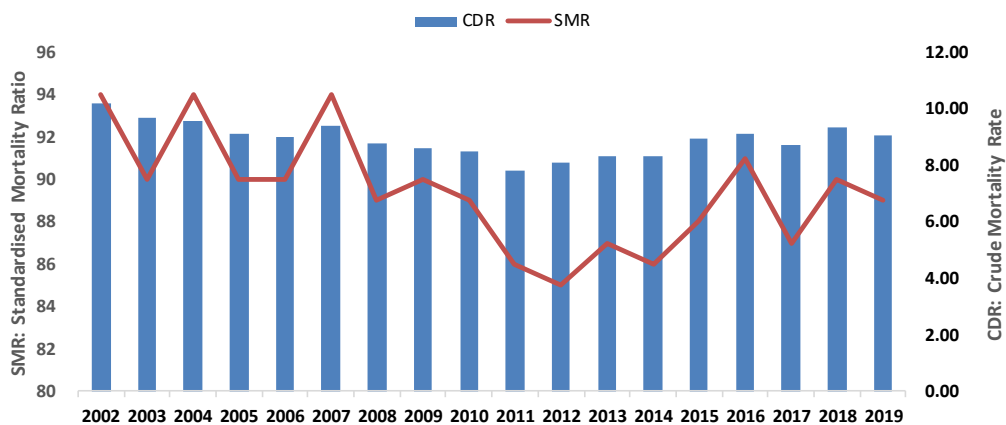
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Birth Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Tunbridge Wells



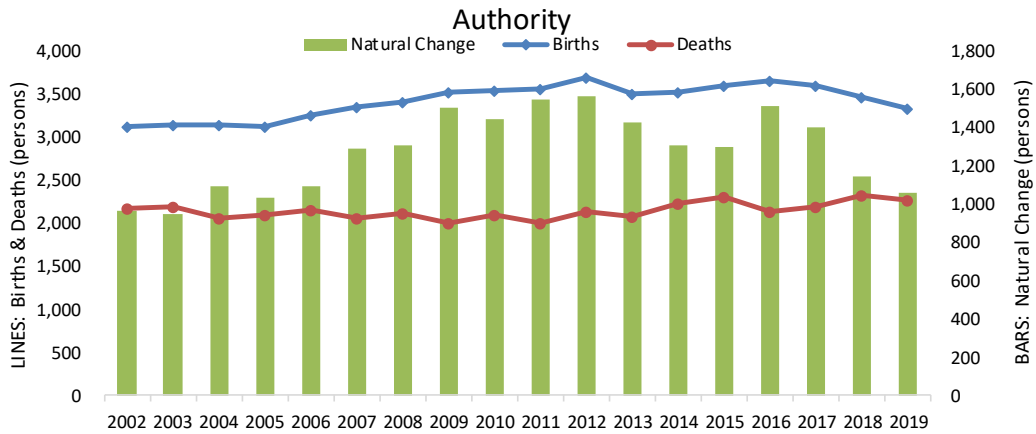
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Death Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Tunbridge Wells



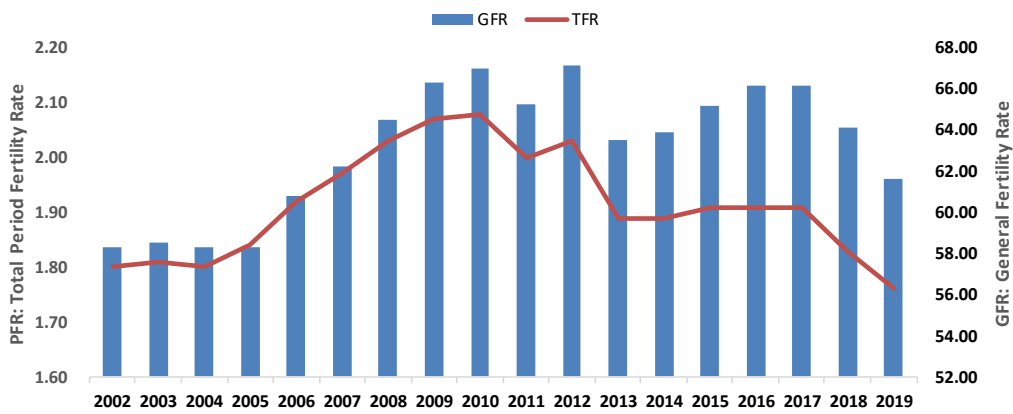
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Births, deaths and natural change: 2002 to 2019 -Medway Unitary



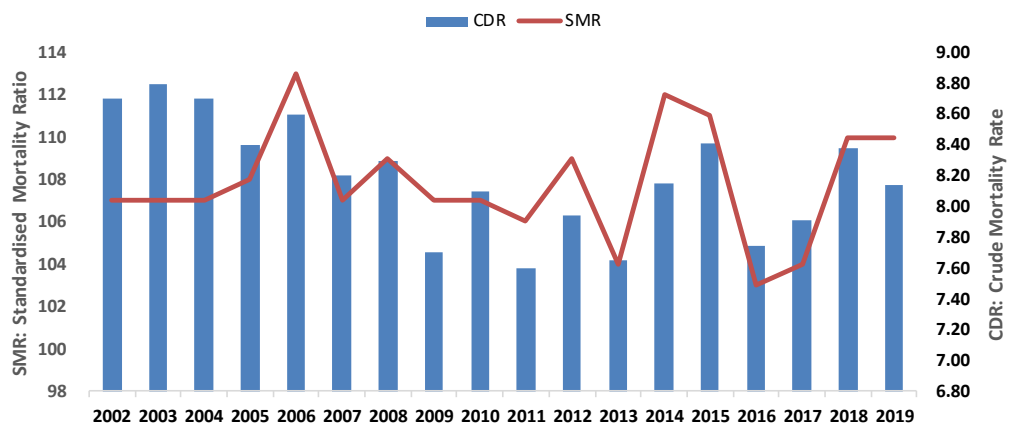
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Birth Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Medway Unitary Authority



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Death Rates: 2002 to 2019 -Medway Unitary Authority



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