

Did you know that the most common and popular first name given to newborn boys in the German capital Berlin in 2018 was Mohammed, according to a census derived from 700 birth registration offices across the country?

Similarly in the UK, by the end of 2018 the Office of National Statistics (ONS) **announced** that the Islamic name of the Prophet topped rankings in London and the West Midlands, surpassing other popular names such as Oliver, Harry, George, Noah and Jack.

It needs however to be clarified that this British statistic only applies when all different spellings of Mohammed – Muhammad being the most common – are included in the data. Otherwise, Oliver has consistently come ahead of the Prophet's name in the English-speaking country, holding its position as the most popular boy's name since 2013, according to the ONS.

To clarify, spelling variations of the number one Arabic-Islamic name include Muhammad, Mohammed, Mohammad, Muhammed, Mohamed, Mohamad, Muhamad and several others.

Across the Arab world it comes as no surprise that Mohammed in its multiple renditions is by far the most widespread and popular name given to newborn males and alive within contemporary societies. Egypt's Ministry of Health also ranked the name Mohammed first among birth names registered in 2018, which appears to be the last time statistics were officially **revealed**. Suffice to say, since back in 2000, Mohammed has been the most common name given in the world according to sixth edition of The Columbia Encyclopedia.

As for recent female name rankings – while there appears to be less of a consensus, based on the countless available sources – in Egypt, Mariam was **noted** top of the list in late 2018 by the Ministry of Health.