

Legitimate Birth Rates per 1,000 Married Women of Ages 15-44.—Undoubtedly the test of birth rate most generally accepted by vital statisticians is supplied by the comparison of the total number of legitimate births with the total number of married women between the ages of 15 and 44, though a small number of births occur where the mothers are either below 15 or past the 45th birthday. This test was applied to the registration area of Canada for 1921-24 in a table on p. 164 of the 1927-28 Year Book on the assumptions:—(1) that the number of married women in the country increased proportionately to the estimated increase of the general population between 1921 and 1924, and (2) that the number of Canadian-born, of British-born and of foreign-born married women increased between 1921 and 1924 proportionately to the estimated increase of the general population. Since the estimate covered only a short period since the census, the above assumptions may be accepted as approximately correct.

Two points of great importance were brought out by the table:—first, the substantial decline from 199 to 175.7 in the legitimate birth rate per 1,000 married women of ages 15 to 44 in the short period covered; secondly, the fact that in the registration area as a whole, foreign-born married women had proportionately rather more children than Canadian-born, and these considerably more children than British-born.

In Table 6 will be found for each of the provinces the percentage of legitimate children born alive to Canadian-born, British-born and foreign-born mothers respectively. It is noteworthy that children born to foreign-born mothers in 1926 outnumbered children born to Canadian-born mothers in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. For the Dominion as a whole, 72 p.c. of the children had Canadian-born mothers, 13 p.c. British-born mothers and 15 p.c. foreign-born mothers.

6.—Percentage of Legitimate Children born alive to Canadian-born, British-born or Foreign-born Mothers, in each Province, 1926.

Provinces.	Canadian-born.	British-born.	Foreign-born.
Prince Edward Island.....	95.7	1.3	2.0
Nova Scotia.....	86.5	9.7	3.7
New Brunswick.....	92.3	3.5	4.2
Quebec.....	92.0	2.8	5.2
Ontario.....	68.7	20.9	10.4
Manitoba.....	49.2	19.4	31.4
Saskatchewan.....	41.5	15.4	43.1
Alberta.....	36.3	19.6	44.1
British Columbia.....	38.2	35.7	26.1
Canada (exclusive of Territories).....	72.0	13.0	15.0

Sex of Living Births.—Table 7 shows the number of living male and female births reported for each province in the registration area in the years 1922-27, together with the proportion of male to female births. Prince Edward Island is the only province in which the number of female births has in certain years exceeded male births. The preliminary figures for 1927 indicate that among every 1,000 born, 515 were males and 485 females. In other words, there were 1,063 males born to every 1,000 females.