

Multiple Births.—Approximately one confinement in 85 in Canada results in the birth of more than one child. In 1926-46, there have been 61,444 such confinements, of which 60,878 were twins and 559 were triplets. There have been six sets of quadruplets. The Dionne quintuplets were born in 1934.

Table 12 shows that the proportion of stillbirths is higher among multiple than among single births. It is about twice as high for twins and between two and six times as high for triplets.

12.—Single and Multiple Births, Live and Stillborn, 1944-46, with Five-Year Averages, 1936-45

NOTE.—Figures for 1944 to 1946 are by residence; for previous years by place of occurrence.

Confinements and Births	Average 1936-40	Average 1941-45	1944	1945	1946
NUMBERS					
Confinements—					
Single.....	229,778	277,398	284,563	288,734	330,405
Twin.....	2,667	3,096	3,140	3,283	3,664
Triplet.....	21	26	26	30	40
Quadruplet.....	1	1	1	2	Nil
Totals, Confinements.....	232,466	280,520	287,730	292,049	334,109
Births—					
Single—					
Live.....	223,668	270,857	278,144	282,330	323,586
Stillborn.....	6,110	6,540	6,419	6,404	6,819
Twin—					
Live.....	5,041	5,902	6,003	6,310	7,034
Stillborn.....	293	289	277	256	294
Triplet—					
Live.....	56	70	69	83	112
Stillborn.....	7	8	9	7	8
Quadruplet—					
Live.....	1	1	4	7	—
Stillborn.....	Nil	1	Nil	1	—
Totals, Births.....	235,177	283,670	290,925	295,398	337,853
Live.....	228,767	276,832	284,220	288,730	330,732
Stillborn.....	6,410	6,838	6,705	6,668	7,121
PERCENTAGES					
Confinements—					
Single.....	98.8	98.9	98.9	98.9	98.9
Twin.....	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Triplet.....	2	2	2	2	2
Quadruplet.....	2	2	2	2	2
Totals, Confinements.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Births—					
Single—					
Live.....	97.3	97.6	97.7	97.8	97.9
Stillborn.....	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1
Twin—					
Live.....	94.5	95.3	95.6	96.1	96.0
Stillborn.....	5.5	4.7	4.4	3.9	4.0

¹ Two quadruplet confinements occurred in 1937, one in 1944 and two in 1945.

² Less than one-tenth of one per cent.