

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

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
PERCENTAGES—concluded					
Births—concluded					
Triplet—					
Live.....	88.9	89.7	88.5	92.2	93.3
Stillborn.....	11.1	10.3	11.5	7.8	6.7
Quadruplet—					
Live.....	1	1	100.0	87.5	—
Stillborn.....	—	1	—	12.5	—
Totals, Births.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Live.....	97.3	97.6	97.7	97.7	97.9
Stillborn.....	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1

¹ Less than one-tenth of one per cent.

Fertility Rates.—The sex and age distribution of the population is an important factor in determining birth, death and marriage rates. Since more than 95 p.c. of children are born to women between the ages of 15 and 50, differences in the proportion of women of these ages to the population as a whole will cause differences in the birth rates of different countries or regions, even though the fertility of women at each age may be the same. Measures of fertility which are independent of the sex and age distribution of the population have, therefore, been devised. The best known of these are age-specific fertility rates and reproduction rates.

Further details on this subject may be found at pp. 153-154 of the 1947 edition of the Year Book or from the report "Gross and Net Reproduction Rates, Canada and the Provinces," published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

Age of Parents.—The numerical and percentage distribution of legitimate live births by the ages of the parents, is given in Table 13, of illegitimate live births by the age of the mother, in Table 14, and of stillbirths by the age of the mother in Table 15. The average ages of the parents are also given.

It will be seen that the average age of parents is now slightly lower than it was in 1930-32. Besides the fertility rates at each age, two other factors help to determine the average age of parents having children; first, the average age of potential parents, that is, of the population between the ages of 15 and 50 and secondly, the proportions of first and second births to the total. The average age of men between 15 and 50 was 30.9 years in 1931 and 30.7 in 1941; the average age of women was 30.4 in 1931 and again 30.4 in 1941. The changes are thus very small. Other things being equal, a high proportion of first and second births will result in a lower average age of parents. In 1930-32, first births were slightly less than one-quarter of all births, and second births less than one-fifth. First and second births thus were 43 p.c. of the total. In 1940-42, first births were over one-third of all births, and second births nearly one-quarter. First and second births together thus were 56 p.c. of the total. These changes are very great and account for the lower average age of parents.