

Origin of Parents.—Table 19 shows the numbers and percentages of children born to parents of the principal racial or ethnic groups in Canada. A person's origin is usually traced through the father. For example, if the father is English and the mother French, the person's origin is said to be English. Illegitimate children, however, are usually classified by the origin of their mother, since the origin of the father is seldom known.

Table 19 shows that about 60 p.c. of Canadian children are born to parents who are of the same origin; 40 p.c. are born to parents of different origins. A certain amount of this inter-mixture has no doubt been going on for many years.

19.—Live Births to Parents of Specified Origins, for Canada,¹ 1944-47

Origin of Parents and Year	Numbers			Percentages			
	Father	Mother	Both Parents	Father	Mother	Both Parents	
English.....	1944	56,138	59,551	32,908	19.8	21.0	11.6
	1945	54,711	59,412	31,522	18.9	20.6	10.9
	1946	69,421	75,423	40,130	21.0	22.8	12.1
	1947	78,247	86,078	45,109	21.8	24.0	12.6
Irish.....	1944	25,438	25,631	8,492	9.0	9.0	3.0
	1945	25,871	26,069	8,521	9.0	9.0	3.0
	1946	31,953	31,863	9,879	9.7	9.6	3.0
	1947	36,003	35,567	10,742	10.0	9.9	3.0
Scottish.....	1944	26,263	27,058	8,787	9.2	9.5	3.1
	1945	26,575	27,490	8,851	9.2	9.5	3.1
	1946	33,874	34,138	10,963	10.2	10.3	3.3
	1947	38,029	38,110	11,852	10.6	10.6	3.3
French.....	1944	112,087	117,576	104,672	39.4	41.4	36.8
	1945	115,218	120,212	107,431	39.9	41.6	37.2
	1946	123,555	128,591	113,235	37.4	38.9	34.2
	1947	128,853	133,000	116,410	35.9	37.0	32.4
Other origins.....	1944	51,764	53,402	28,861	18.2	18.8	10.2
	1945	53,156	54,839	29,272	18.4	19.0	10.1
	1946	58,088	60,078	29,745	17.6	18.2	9.0
	1947	63,224	65,673	30,692	17.6	18.3	8.5
Origin unspecified.....	1944	12,530	1,002	226	4.4	0.4	0.1
	1945	13,199	708	70	4.6	0.2	--
	1946	13,841	639	69	4.2	0.2	--
	1947	14,738	666	62	4.1	0.2	--
Totals.....	1944	284,220	284,220	183,946 ²	100.0	100.0	64.7 ²
	1945	288,730	288,730	185,667 ²	100.0	100.0	64.3 ²
	1946	330,732	330,732	204,021 ²	100.0	100.0	61.7 ²
	1947	359,094	359,094	214,867 ²	100.0	100.0	59.8 ²

¹ Exclusive of the Territories.

² These figures or percentages are of children whose fathers and mothers are of the same origin. The difference between this figure and the total number of births represents the number of children whose parents are of different origins.

Section 4.—Deaths

Except for wars and their after-effects — military and civilian deaths in the First and Second World Wars must be counted in tens of millions — impressive declines in the death rate have been recorded during the past century in many countries of the world.