

Births in Urban Centres.—Table 2, pp. 202-203, shows the number of births in 1953 and 1954, regardless of where they occurred, to mothers residing in urban centres of over 10,000 population.

Illegitimacy.—In 1954 less than 4 p.c. of the live births in Canada were illegitimate. This percentage is low compared with that of many countries of the world. In the five year period 1926-30 it was 3 p.c., whereas the average of the ten years 1945-54 was just over 4 p.c. The apparent increase was partly the result of more complete registration of illegitimate births brought about by the co-operation of provincial registration officials and social welfare agencies.

5.—Illegitimate Live Births and Percentages of Total Live Births by Province 1921-54

(Exclusive of Yukon and the Northwest Territories)

Year	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada ¹
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS											
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Av. 1921-25.....	.	46	457	245	..	1,658	407	291	321	152	.
" 1926-30.....	168	42	558	299	2,334	2,196	501	489	479	240	7,138
" 1931-35.....	205	74	652	373	2,431	2,707	501	651	613	330	8,333
" 1936-40.....	246	83	766	415	2,539	2,939	506	663	643	475	9,030
" 1941-45.....	406	107	1,074	591	3,003	3,751	597	673	852	889	11,536
" 1946-50.....	441	152	1,244	754	3,382	4,256	766	914	1,202	1,516	14,375
1951.....	417	138	1,147	643	3,650	3,807	771	971	1,272	1,633	14,449
1952.....	315	118	1,041	648	3,913	3,920	952	994	1,310	1,857	15,068
1953.....	411	145	1,034	661	4,163	4,080	988	1,043	1,559	1,896	15,980
1954.....	488	127	1,060	658	4,420	4,251	1,094	1,128	1,562	2,042	16,830
PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS											
Av. 1921-25.....	..	2.3	3.8	2.2	..	2.3	2.5	1.3	2.1	1.5	..
" 1926-30.....	2.5	2.4	5.1	2.9	2.8	3.2	3.5	2.3	3.0	2.3	3.0
" 1931-35.....	3.1	3.8	5.7	3.6	3.1	4.2	3.7	3.2	3.7	3.3	3.6
" 1936-40.....	3.2	4.0	6.4	3.7	3.2	4.6	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.9
" 1941-45.....	4.4	4.9	7.1	4.5	3.1	4.8	3.8	3.6	4.5	5.0	4.2
" 1946-50.....	3.6	5.3	6.9	4.5	2.9	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.9	5.9	4.1
1951.....	3.6	5.2	6.7	4.0	3.0	3.3	3.9	4.5	4.7	5.8	3.8
1952.....	2.5	4.4	5.8	3.9	3.1	3.2	4.6	4.4	4.5	6.2	3.7
1953.....	3.2	5.3	5.7	4.0	3.2	3.1	4.7	4.4	5.0	6.0	3.8
1954.....	3.6	4.7	5.6	4.0	3.3	3.1	4.9	4.5	4.6	6.2	3.9

¹ Figures for Newfoundland are included for 1949-54 only.

Stillbirths.—The rate of stillbirths has been falling since 1926 though not equally in all provinces. The rate of stillbirths to unmarried mothers has always been considerably higher than that for married mothers and consequently higher than the over-all rate; but this difference has been disappearing in recent years.