

**Multiple Births.**—Approximately one confinement in 85 in Canada results in the birth of more than one child. The proportion of stillbirths is higher among multiple than among single births. It is about twice as high for twins and between three and five times as high for triplets.

### 7.—Single and Multiple Births, Live and Stillborn 1953-56

Confinements and Births	Numbers				Percentages			
	1953 <sup>1</sup>	1954 <sup>1</sup>	1955 <sup>1</sup>	1956	1953 <sup>1</sup>	1954 <sup>1</sup>	1955 <sup>1</sup>	1956
<b>Confinements</b> .....	<b>419,135</b>	<b>437,417</b>	<b>443,586</b>	<b>452,607</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.9</b>
Single.....	414,529	432,525	438,639	447,547	98.9	98.9	98.9	98.1
Twin.....	4,553	4,847	4,897	5,012	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Triplet.....	51	41	50	48	--	--	--	--
Quadruplet.....	2	1	—	—	--	--	—	—
<b>Births</b> .....	<b>423,796</b>	<b>442,355</b>	<b>448,583</b>	<b>457,715</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Single—								
Live.....	407,898	425,615	432,089	440,916	98.4	98.4	98.5	98.5
Stillborn.....	6,631	6,910	6,550	6,631	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5
Twin—								
Live.....	8,777	9,398	9,453	9,683	96.4	96.9	96.5	96.6
Stillborn.....	329	296	341	341	3.6	3.1	3.5	3.4
Triplet—								
Live.....	142	125	139	140	92.8	94.7	92.7	97.2
Stillborn.....	11	7	11	4	7.2	5.3	7.3	2.8
Quadruplet—								
Live.....	8	4	—	—	100.0	100.0	—	—
Stillborn.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals, Live Births</b> .....	<b>416,825</b>	<b>435,142</b>	<b>441,681</b>	<b>450,739</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>98.5</b>
<b>Totals, Stillborn</b> .....	<b>6,971</b>	<b>7,213</b>	<b>6,902</b>	<b>6,976</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Excludes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

**Fertility Rates.**—Sex and age distribution of the population is an important factor in determining birth, death and marriage rates. More than 95 p.c. of children born are to women between the ages of 15 and 50, so that, as noted earlier, variations in the proportion of women of these ages to the population as a whole will cause variations in the crude 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.

**Ages of Parents.**—Ages of the parents is an important variable in any analysis of birth statistics. The numerical and percentage distribution of legitimate live births by the age group of the parents is given for 1955 and 1956 in Table 8, of illegitimate live births by the age group of the mother in Table 9, and of stillbirths by the age group of the mother in Table 10, as well as the average ages of the parents for each year shown.

About 6 p.c. of the legitimate children born each year are born to mothers under 20 years of age, in about one-third of the births the mother is under 25 years, and in almost two-thirds, under 30 years; in 45 p.c. of all births the father is under 30 years of age. On the other hand one-third of the illegitimate infants born are born to mothers under 20, and an additional one-third to mothers under 25 years of age.