

8.—Live Births, by Age of Parents, 1953

(Exclusive of Newfoundland)

Age Group	Legitimate				Illegitimate	
	Fathers		Mothers		Mothers	
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.
Under 20 years.....	4,155	1.0	29,452	6.7	6,460	36.1
20 — 24 ".....	70,299	16.2	122,440	28.0	5,976	33.4
25 — 29 ".....	131,997	30.3	128,860	29.5	2,808	15.7
30 — 34 ".....	107,417	24.7	89,825	20.6	1,515	8.5
35 — 39 ".....	67,914	15.6	50,350	11.5	845	4.7
40 — 44 ".....	33,844	7.8	14,593	3.3	263	1.5
45 — 49 ".....	13,729	3.2	1,143	0.3	24	0.1
50 years or over.....	5,581	1.3	13	--	--	--
Totals, Stated Ages.....	434,936	100.0	436,676	100.0	17,891	100.0
Ages not stated.....	1,933	...	193	...	543	...
Totals, All Ages.....	436,869	100.0	436,869	100.0	18,434	100.0
Average ages.....	31.5		28.2		23.8	

Table 9 illustrates the fact that the risk of having a stillborn child increases with the age of the mother. Although stillbirth rates for mothers of all ages have been declining in recent years, they continue to be three times as high among mothers of 40-44 years and about five times as high among those over 45 years as for mothers under 30.

9.—Stillbirths and Rates per 1,000 Live Births, by Age of Mother, 1953

(Exclusive of Newfoundland)

Age Group of Mother	Numbers		Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Stillbirths	
	No.	No.	No.
Under 20 years.....	35,912	393	10.9
20 — 24 ".....	128,416	1,297	10.1
25 — 29 ".....	131,668	1,527	11.6
30 — 34 ".....	91,340	1,441	15.8
35 — 39 ".....	51,195	1,146	22.4
40 — 44 ".....	14,856	546	36.8
45 — 49 ".....	1,167	70	60.0
50 years or over.....	13	2	153.8
Ages not stated.....	736	37	...
Totals, All Ages.....	455,303	6,459	14.2
Average age of mothers.....	30.4		

Order of Birth.—Table 10 shows the order of birth of all live-born infants in 1958 according to age of the mother. As would be expected, 26,915 or three out of every four of the 35,912 infants born to mothers under 20 years of age were first children, whereas almost six out of every ten of the children born to mothers of 20-24 years were second or later children. This is a reflection of the earlier marriages and heavy fertility of recent years.

Table 11 summarizes the pattern of family formation since 1931. The results of the immediate postwar 'baby boom' are obvious—57.9 p.c. of the infants born in 1947 were first or second children while fewer than half of the 1958 babies were first or second children.