

Multiple Births.—Approximately one confinement in 90 in Canada results in the birth of more than one child as compared with one in 85 several years ago—in other words, the chances of a confinement resulting in the birth of more than one child are fewer now than formerly. However, in 1960 there were two sets of quadruplets born in Canada, the first since 1957. Other facts illustrated by Table 6 are that the proportion of stillbirths is higher among multiple than among single births and is about twice as high for twins and between three and five times as high for triplets.

6.—Single and Multiple Births, Live and Stillborn, 1957-60

Confinements and Births	Numbers				Percentages			
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1957	1958	1959	1960
Confinements	470,651	471,436	480,524	479,786	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single.....	465,423	466,065	475,266	474,613	98.9	98.9	98.9	98.9
Twin.....	5,178	5,334	5,205	5,112	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Triplet.....	49	37	53	59	--	--	--	--
Quadruplet.....	1	—	—	2	--	—	—	--
Births	475,930	476,844	485,835	485,022	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single—								
Live.....	458,859	459,652	469,022	468,469	98.6	98.6	98.7	98.7
Stillborn.....	6,564	6,413	6,244	6,144	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
Twin—								
Live.....	10,093	10,360	10,110	9,907	97.5	97.1	97.1	96.9
Stillborn.....	263	308	300	317	2.5	2.9	2.9	3.1
Triplet—								
Live.....	137	106	143	168	93.2	95.5	89.9	94.9
Stillborn.....	10	5	16	9	6.8	4.5	10.1	5.1
Quadruplet—								
Live.....	4	—	—	7	100.0	—	—	87.5
Stillborn.....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	12.5
Totals, Live Births	469,093	470,118	479,275	478,551	98.6	98.6	98.6	98.7
Totals, Stillborn	6,837	6,726	6,560	6,471	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3

Fertility Rates.—The sex and age composition of a population is obviously an important factor in determining *crude** birth, marriage and death rates. Since more than 99 p.c. of the children born each year are to women between the ages of 15 and 50, variations in the proportion of women of these ages to the total population will, of course,

* A *crude* rate is one based on the total population.