

Births in Urban Centres.—Table 2, pp. 222-226, shows the number of births in 1961, as compared with the average for 1956-60, to mothers residing in each urban centre of 10,000 population or over. The table also shows crude birth rates for each centre based on the 1961 Census population. However, comparison of such rates as between different centres must be made with caution since, as previously noted, they are influenced by the proportions—and the ages—of the married females in their populations, as well as by the actual fertility of those females. Because populations of urban centres are not available for intercensal years, comparable rates cannot be computed for the 1956-60 period.

Illegitimacy.*—In 1961, over 4 p.c. of the live births in Canada were illegitimate. This percentage is low compared with that of many countries of the world.

5.—Illegitimate Live Births and Percentages of Total Live Births, by Province, 1941-61

Year	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada ¹
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS													
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Av. 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
“ 1951-55	426	139	1,082	659	4,086	4,065	969	1,044	1,481	1,898	53	50	15,951
“ 1956-60	587	139	1,201	687	4,675	4,891	1,166	1,194	1,941	2,505	72	102	19,160
1959.....	550	140	1,230	708	4,888	5,218	1,226	1,282	2,128	2,658	76	117	20,221
1960.....	626	126	1,249	632	4,902	5,119	1,356	1,326	2,197	2,673	84	123	20,413
1961.....	666	135	1,334	735	4,931	5,456	1,469	1,419	2,430	2,580	94	141	21,490
PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS													
Av. 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
“ 1951-55	3.2	5.1	5.9	4.0	3.2	3.2	4.5	4.4	4.8	6.1	12.9	7.5	3.8
“ 1956-60	3.9	5.2	6.3	4.1	3.3	3.2	5.2	5.0	5.3	6.4	14.2	10.8	4.1
1959.....	3.7	5.1	6.5	4.3	3.4	3.3	5.4	5.3	5.6	6.6	14.2	11.8	4.2
1960.....	4.1	4.6	6.5	3.9	3.6	3.2	5.8	5.5	5.6	6.7	15.6	11.2	4.3
1961.....	4.3	4.8	6.9	4.4	3.6	3.5	6.3	5.9	6.2	6.9	16.8	12.6	4.5

¹ Figures for Newfoundland are included from 1949, and those for the Yukon and Northwest Territories from 1951.

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. The chance of a mother delivering twins is about one in 90, triplets, one in about 10,000 and quadruplets, one in about 750,000 or more. Two sets of quadruplets were born in Canada during 1960, the first since 1957.

Other facts illustrated by Table 6 are that the proportion of stillbirths is higher among multiple than among single births, about twice as high for twins and between three and five times as high for triplets.

* The term “illegitimate”, as used here, does not refer to *all* births conceived out of wedlock but is necessarily restricted to those in which parents reported themselves as not having been married to each other at the time of birth or registration and, in Ontario, to those in which the marital status of the mother was reported as “single” at the time of birth or registration.