

Stillbirths.*—The 6,019 stillbirths in 1961 represented a ratio of 12.7 for every 1,000 fetuses born alive. As is evident from Table 12, the stillbirth rate has been decreasing steadily and has been cut by more than half over the past quarter-century. Although the variations between provincial rates have never been wide, rates in some provinces have been reduced more than in others.

The stillbirth rate among unmarried mothers has been consistently higher than that among married mothers, but the difference has been narrowing in recent years; in 1959, for example, the rate for unmarried mothers was actually lower than that for married mothers, but this was reversed again in 1960 and 1961.

12.—Stillbirths and Rates per 1,000 Live Births, by Province, 1941-61

Year	Born to All Mothers													Born to Unmarried Mothers ¹	
	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N. W. T.	Canada ²	No.	P.C. of Total
STILLBIRTHS															
Av. 1941-45	191	50	388	295	2,786	1,988	345	348	327	309	1	6	6,845	355	5.20
“ 1946-50	215	54	358	320	2,898	2,020	349	350	385	352	2	8	7,187	343	4.85
“ 1951-55	222	52	337	291	2,705	2,017	336	313	425	374	6	11	7,088	316	4.60
“ 1956-60	274	46	304	267	2,446	1,992	301	262	388	418	5	12	6,714	291	4.51
1959.....	307	54	261	252	2,324	2,016	299	247	376	404	6	14	6,560	237	3.79
1960.....	275	36	279	246	2,346	1,960	279	221	373	437	7	12	6,471	320	5.16
1961.....	281	46	300	222	1,929	1,870	301	266	372	412	4	16	6,019	303	5.28
RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS														Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births¹	
Av. 1941-45	20.5	22.8	25.6	22.6	28.5	25.6	21.8	18.9	17.4	17.5	11.4	15.7	24.7	30.8	
“ 1946-50	17.4	18.9	19.9	19.0	25.1	19.2	18.1	16.0	15.9	13.6	8.7	12.5	20.2	24.2	
“ 1951-55	17.0	19.0	18.4	17.7	21.0	15.6	15.7	13.3	13.7	11.9	14.1	16.5	17.0	20.3	
“ 1956-60	18.3	17.1	15.9	16.1	17.5	13.0	13.4	10.9	10.5	10.7	10.7	12.3	14.3	15.6	
1959.....	20.7	19.9	13.7	15.3	16.3	12.8	13.1	10.2	9.9	10.1	11.2	14.1	13.7	12.0	
1960.....	18.1	13.2	14.6	15.1	17.0	12.3	12.0	9.2	9.6	10.9	13.0	11.0	13.5	16.2	
1961.....	18.0	16.2	15.5	13.4	14.1	11.9	12.9	11.1	9.6	10.7	7.2	14.3	12.7	14.6	

¹ Exclusive of Newfoundland for all years and the Yukon and Northwest Territories for 1941-50. ² Figures for Newfoundland are included from 1949.

Table 13 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, they continue to be three to four times as high for mothers over 40 years of age as for mothers under 30.

* Although there are at present some provincial differences in the requirements for compulsory registration of stillbirths (i.e., with respect to minimum gestational age-limits and specific criteria of life), stillbirths, as referred to here, may be summarized as including “fetuses of 28 or more weeks of gestation, which did not show any sign of life”.