

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. The average age of mothers who bore stillborn children in 1962 was 30.2 years; the median age, i.e., the age above and below which half of the stillbirths occurred, was 29.8. The average age of mothers who bore legitimate live-born children was 28.0 and of those who bore illegitimate live-born offspring was 23.6.

13.—Stillbirths and Ratios per 1,000 Live Births, by Age of Mother, 1962
(Exclusive of Newfoundland)

Age Group of Mother	Live Births	Stillbirths	Stillbirth Ratio per 1,000 Live Births
	No.	No.	No.
Under 20 years	39,628	382	9.6
20 — 24 "	138,006	1,162	8.4
25 — 29 "	124,145	1,316	10.6
30 — 34 "	87,063	1,203	13.8
35 — 39 "	48,628	1,010	20.8
40 — 44 "	15,443	432	31.2
45 — 49 "	1,035	48	46.4
50 years or over	11	—	—
Ages not stated	670	30	...
Totals, All Ages	454,629	5,633	12.4
Average age of mothers	27.8	30.2	...
Median age of mothers ¹	26.8	29.8	...

¹ The age above and below which half of the stillbirths occurred.

Table 14 shows the causes of stillbirths in 1962.

14.—Stillbirths, by Cause, 1962

International List No.	Cause	Males	Females	Total
		No.	No.	No.
Y 30	Chronic disease in mother	83	71	154
Y 31	Acute disease in mother	19	12	31
Y 32	Diseases and conditions of pregnancy and childbirth	272	214	486
Y 33	Absorption of toxic substance from mother	—	—	—
Y 34	Difficulties in labour	212	153	365
Y 35	Other causes in mother	33	41	74
Y 36	Placental and cord conditions	1,173	943	2,116
Y 37	Birth injury	40	25	65
Y 38	Congenital malformation of foetus	308	452	760
Y 39	Diseases of foetus and ill-defined causes	967	864	1,831
	All Causes	3,107	2,775	5,882

Section 3.—Deaths*

No official crude† death rates are available prior to 1921, but some indication of these may be gleaned from studies of the early censuses as follows:—

Intercensal Period	Estimated Average Annual Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 Population)	Intercensal Period	Estimated Average Annual Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 Population)
1851-61	22	1891-1901	16
1861-71	21	1901-11	13
1871-81	19	1911-21	13
1881-91	18		

* For international comparisons, see Section 7, pp. 267-268.

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