

Age of Parents.—Age of parents is an important variable in any analysis of birth statistics. The distribution of legitimate and illegitimate live births by age of the parents is given in Table 9.

Over 7 p.c. of the legitimate children born in 1963 were born to mothers under 20 years of age, in over one third of the births the mother was under 25 years, and in almost two thirds, under 30 years; in almost one fifth of the births the father was under 25 years of age, and in over 48 p.c. of all births the father was under 30 years. On the other hand, almost two fifths of the illegitimate infants born were born to mothers under 20 years of age and over an additional one third to mothers under 25 years. The average age of all the married mothers to whom a child was born in 1963 was 27.9, and of the fathers 31.2 years; ten years ago the average ages of the parents were 28.4 and 31.9, and thirty years ago 29.3 and 33.7, respectively.

The median age of unmarried mothers who bore a live-born child in 1963 was 21.2; that is, half of the mothers of the 23,697 'illegitimate' children delivered in 1963 were under 21.3 years of age.

9.—Live Births, by Age of Parents, 1963

(Exclusive of Newfoundland)

Age Group	Legitimate				Illegitimate	
	Fathers		Mothers		Mothers	
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.
Under 20 years	4,777	1.1	31,575	7.4	8,943	38.7
Under 15 years	—	—	34	--	155	0.7
15 years	1	--	337	0.1	535	2.3
16 "	30	--	1,754	0.4	1,343	5.8
17 "	238	0.1	4,566	1.1	1,993	8.6
18 "	1,145	0.3	9,282	2.2	2,346	10.1
19 "	3,363	0.8	15,602	3.7	2,571	11.1
20—24 "	77,704	18.2	131,566	30.8	8,055	34.8
25—29 "	125,791	29.5	118,534	27.8	3,020	13.1
30—34 "	105,419	24.7	82,524	19.3	1,778	7.7
35—39 "	64,626	15.2	46,650	10.9	1,015	4.4
40—44 "	31,415	7.4	14,668	3.4	291	1.3
45—49 "	11,476	2.7	1,014	0.2	19	0.1
50 years or over	4,767	1.1	11	--	—	—
Totals, Stated Ages.....	425,975	100.0	426,542	100.0	23,121	100.0
Ages not stated.....	652	...	85	...	576	...
Totals, All Ages.....	426,627	100.0	426,627	100.0	23,697	100.0
Average ages.....yr.	31.2		27.9		23.4	
Median ages ¹"	30.2		26.9		21.2	

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

Order of Birth.—Table 10 shows the order of birth of all live-born infants in 1963 according to the age of the mother. As would be expected, 29,824, or almost three fourths of the 40,518 infants born to mothers under 20 years of age, were first-born, 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. In 1963, 189 infants were born to mothers who had not yet reached their 15th birthday.