

and length of pregnancy before delivery.* Analysis of this information shows that (1) there are variations in average weight according to the age of the mother, (2) women under 20 and over 35 tend to produce higher proportions of immature infants, so that the late 20's and early 30's would appear to be the ideal ages for motherhood, and (3) practically all infants of less than 28 weeks gestation are delivered 'immature' according to the definition. The average single male infant born at full term weighs about 7½ lb. at birth and the average female about 4 oz. less.

Stillbirths.†—The 5,732 stillbirths in 1963 represented a ratio of 12.3 for every 1,000 foetuses 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 is narrowing.

* Obtainable from the Vital Statistics Section, DBS.

† Stillbirth figures given here refer only to foetuses of 28 or more weeks gestation which "showed no sign of life". Up to the end of 1963, only foetuses delivered after at least 28 weeks pregnancy which showed no sign of life were required to be registered with the provincial authorities; as of Jan. 1, 1964, all provinces (except Newfoundland) provide for the compulsory registration of all stillbirths of 20 or more weeks gestation, a 'stillbirth' being defined as "the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother, after at least 20 weeks pregnancy, of a product of conception in which, after such expulsion or extraction, there is no breathing, beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or unmistakable movement of voluntary muscle". Available data for stillbirths of 20-27 weeks pregnancy for those provinces having this legislation in effect before 1963 are obtainable from the Vital Statistics Section, DBS.

12.—Stillbirths and Rates per 1,000 Live Births, by Province, 1941-63

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
NUMBERS (28 WEEKS OR MORE GESTATION)															
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
1961.....	281	46	300	222	1,929	1,870	301	266	372	412	4	16	6,019	303	5.28
1962.....	249	58	277	238	1,824	1,925	276	248	388	377	3	19	5,882	315	5.59
1963.....	265	52	240	236	1,800	1,873	269	243	367	365	5	17	5,732	323	5.91
RATES															
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	
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	
1962.....	16.5	20.7	14.3	14.5	13.5	12.3	12.0	10.6	10.0	9.9	5.5	16.8	12.5	14.4	
1963.....	17.2	17.6	12.6	15.0	13.5	12.1	11.8	10.3	9.5	9.7	10.0	14.6	12.3	13.6	

¹ Exclusive of Newfoundland for all years and the Yukon and Northwest Territories for 1941-50.

² Figures for Newfoundland are included from 1949.