

Table 8 indicates that in 1964, considering all women whether married or not, women in their 20s were the most reproductive, as might be expected; on the average, for every 1,000 women between the ages of 20 and 25, 216 infants were born during that year or, expressed another way, about one woman out of four in that age group gave birth to a live-born infant. This compares with a rate of 206 for women in the age group 25-29, which is closer to one in five. However, among *married* women, teen-age mothers have consistently had the highest fertility, with one out of two bearing a child each year on the average, while about 34 out of every 100 married women in their early 20s had a child every year as compared with about one in four women in their late 20s.

8.—Age-Specific Fertility Rates per 1,000 Women, by Age Group, 1941-64  
(Exclusive of Newfoundland for all years and the Yukon and Northwest Territories for 1941)

Year	Age Group							Gross Reproduction Rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
TOTAL WOMEN								
1941.....	30.7	138.4	159.8	122.3	80.0	31.6	3.7	1.377
1951.....	48.1	188.7	198.8	144.5	86.5	30.9	3.1	1.701
1956.....	55.9	222.2	220.1	150.3	89.6	30.8	2.9	1.874
1957.....	60.2	227.1	224.1	149.4	90.7	30.7	2.8	1.907
1958.....	59.2	226.5	223.3	147.9	87.6	28.9	2.7	1.886
1959.....	60.4	233.8	226.7	147.7	87.3	28.5	2.7	1.915
1960.....	59.8	233.5	224.4	136.2	84.2	28.5	2.4	1.893
1961.....	58.2	233.6	219.2	144.9	81.1	28.5	2.4	1.868
1962.....	55.3	232.4	215.6	143.4	77.0	27.5	2.1	1.836
1963.....	53.5	228.2	212.5	140.9	75.7	25.9	2.1	1.800
1964.....	50.6	216.2	206.0	136.0	72.1	25.0	2.1	1.720
MARRIED WOMEN								
1941.....	453.1	340.2	237.8	158.3	99.1	38.9	4.5	...
1951.....	498.5	350.4	248.1	168.7	100.6	36.6	3.7	...
1956.....	551.5	381.7	265.5	169.8	101.0	35.6	3.4	...
1961.....	541.2	374.4	255.6	161.4	89.9	32.1	2.8	...
1962.....	544.7	367.8	253.2	159.1	84.9	30.8	2.5	...
1963.....	547.4	356.8	251.9	155.8	83.1	28.8	2.4	...
1964.....	473.0	344.2	243.8	149.8	78.6	27.6	2.4	...

**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 1964 were born to mothers under 20 years of age, in over one third of the births the mother was under 25 years, and in two thirds, under 30 years; in almost one fifth of the births the father was under 25 years of age, and in over 49 p.c. of all births the father was under 30 years. On the other hand, almost 38 p.c. of the illegitimate infants born were born to mothers under 20 years of age and an additional 34 p.c. to mothers under 25 years. The average age of all the married mothers to whom a child was born in 1964 was 27.9, and of the fathers 31.1 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 1964 was 21.2; that is, half of the mothers of the 25,803 'illegitimate' children delivered in 1964 were under 21.3 years of age.