

Sexes of Children Born.

The figures show that during each year since 1886 there has been a preponderance of births of male children. It would appear, however, that this excess of male births is not sufficient to compensate for the heavier mortality which occurs among this sex. Of the total population in 1871 there were 70·52 females to every 100 males, but in 1907 the proportion of the females to 100 males had risen to 88·67.

Year.	Number of Births of		Proportion of Births of Males to every 100 Females.
	Males.	Females.	
1887	9,725	9,410	103·3
1888	9,641	9,261	104·1
1889	9,514	8,943	106·4
1890	9,293	8,985	103·4
1891	9,377	8,896	105·4
1892	9,101	8,775	103·7
1893	9,310	8,877	104·9
1894	9,472	9,056	104·6
1895	9,493	9,053	104·9
1896	9,511	9,101	104·5
1897	9,600	9,137	105·1
1898	9,615	9,340	102·9
1899	9,724	9,111	106·7
1900	10,107	9,439	107·1
1901	10,471	10,020	104·5
1902	10,653	10,002	106·5
1903	11,217	10,612	105·7
1904	11,762	11,004	106·9
1905	12,109	11,573	104·6
1906	12,397	11,855	104·6
1907	12,835	12,259	104·7

Twin Births.

There were 244 cases of twin births (488 children) registered in 1907. The number of children born was 25,094; the number of mothers was 24,850: thus, on an average, one mother in every 102 gave birth to twins, against 114 in 1906, 97 in 1905, 93 in 1904, and 97 in 1903.

Illegitimacy.

The births of 1,157 children were illegitimate: thus 46 in every 1,000 children born were born out of wedlock, against 47 in 1906.

The rates of illegitimacy in Australasia are quoted. That for 1907 in New Zealand was less than in any of the Australian States, except South Australia and Western Australia.

Proportion of Illegitimate Births in every 100 Births.

Year.	Queensland.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
1898	6·04	6·93	5·29	3·62	4·99	5·09	4·23
1899	5·97	7·15	5·49	3·95	4·91	6·08	4·40
1900	6·40	7·01	5·91	4·24	4·82	5·43	4·63
1901	5·93	7·16	5·58	3·98	3·88	5·94	4·57
1902	6·04	6·60	5·51	4·36	3·96	5·36	4·46
1903	6·76	6·71	5·73	4·18	4·69	5·61	4·55
1904	6·89	7·12	5·74	4·01	4·36	5·82	4·52
1905	7·00	7·37	5·61	4·37	4·19	5·52	4·57
1906	7·68	7·04	5·58	4·00	4·78	5·78	4·67
1907	...	7·04	5·62	4·10	3·89	...	4·61

These figures show the proportion of illegitimate births to every 100 births for New Zealand to be fairly steady during the period 1898–1907; the difference amounts only to 0·38 per cent. on a comparison of the first and last years.