

Proportion of Illegitimate Births in every 100 Births.

Year.	Queensland.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
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	7.31	7.04	5.62	4.10	3.89	5.86	4.61
1908	7.45	6.89	5.76	4.33	4.35	4.97	4.26

These figures show the proportion of illegitimate births to every 100 births for New Zealand to be fairly steady during the period 1899–1908.

Births and Birth-rates in the Four Chief Cities.

The total number of births registered as occurring in the four chief centres and suburbs in 1909 was 7,463, as against 7,276 for the previous year. The birth-rates last year were :—

		Birth-rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.
Auckland City	...	29.73
" and seven suburban boroughs	...	27.46
Wellington City	...	26.62
" and three suburban boroughs	...	26.42
Christchurch City	...	28.55
" and three suburban boroughs	...	27.65
Dunedin City	...	28.34
" and six suburban boroughs	...	26.26

By the inclusion of the suburbs the rate is lowered in each case. Excluding suburbs, Auckland has the highest rate, Christchurch next highest, Dunedin and Wellington following. The birth-rate for the Dominion last year was 27.29 per thousand. Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin are thus over the average, and Wellington below it.

The birth-rates for two of the central boroughs last year show a fall when compared with 1908. In Auckland the rate fell from 30.56 to 29.73, in Wellington from 27.60 to 26.62, but rose in Christchurch from 28.43 to 28.55, in Dunedin from 25.48 to 28.34. The rates for five years, 1905 to 1909, are :—

	Births per 1,000 of Population.				
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Auckland (without suburbs)	30.06	29.96	29.63	30.56	29.73
Wellington	29.72	27.85	27.53	27.60	26.62
Christchurch	29.70	28.19	30.47	28.43	28.55
Dunedin	23.90	28.96	25.69	25.48	28.34

MARRIAGES.

The marriages for 1909 show a decrease on the number for the previous year. The number was 8,094, or 245 less than in 1908. The rate per 1,000 of the population was 8.33 as against 8.82 in 1908. It is shown by the table following that there has been considerable increase in the marriage-rate, which has been above the standard during each of the last fourteen years :—

Marriages, Number and Rate.

Year.	Total Number of Marriages registered.	Marriage-rate.		Year.	Total Number of Marriages registered.	Marriage-rate.	
		Per 1,000 of Population.	Compared with Rate in 1882–86 taken as 100.			Per 1,000 of Population.	Compared with Rate in 1882–86 taken as 100.
1882–86	3,663	6.68	100	1898	5,091	6.91	103
1887	3,563	5.97	89	1899	5,461	7.28	109
1888	3,617	5.97	89	1900	5,860	7.67	115
1889	3,632	5.93	89	1901	6,095	7.83	117
1890	3,797	6.12	92	1902	6,394	8.01	120
1891	3,805	6.04	90	1903	6,748	8.23	123
1892	4,002	6.23	93	1904	6,983	8.26	124
1893	4,115	6.22	93	1905	7,200	8.28	124
1894	4,178	6.15	92	1906	7,592	8.48	127
1895	4,110	5.94	89	1907	8,192	8.91	133
1896	4,843	6.85	103	1908	8,339	8.82	132
1897	4,928	6.83	102	1909	8,094	8.33	125