

The proportion of plural births per 1,000 of all births during the past five years was:—

Year.	All Births.	Plural Births.	Plural Births per 1,000 of all Births.
1906	24,252	215	8·87
1907	25,094	244	9·72
1908	25,940	286	11·03
1909	26,524	266	10·03
1910	25,984	290	11·16

Illegitimacy.

The births of 1,162 children were illegitimate: thus 45 in every 1,000 children born were born out of wedlock, against 46 in 1909.

Proportion of Illegitimate Births in every 100 Births.

Year.	Queensland.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
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
1909	6·99	6·58	5·92	4·18	4·55	5·10	4·61

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 and their Suburbs.

The total number of births registered as occurring in the four chief centres and suburbs in 1910 was 7,221, as against 7,463 for the previous year.

The birth-rates for last year were,—

	Birth-rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.
Auckland City	27·75
" and seven suburban boroughs	26·01
Wellington City	24·13
" and three suburban boroughs	24·19
Christchurch City	27·10
" and three suburban boroughs	25·83
Dunedin City	27·22
" and five suburban boroughs	25·29

By the inclusion of the suburbs the rate is lowered at Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin, but raised at Wellington. Excluding the suburbs, it will be observed that Auckland has the highest rate, Dunedin next highest, Christchurch and Wellington following. The birth-rate for the Dominion last year was 26·21 per thousand. Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin are thus over the average, and Wellington below it.

The birth-rates for the four central boroughs last year show a fall when compared with 1909. In Auckland the rate fell from 29·73 to 27·75; in Wellington from 26·62 to 24·13; in Christchurch from 28·55 to 27·10; in Dunedin from 28·34 to 27·22. The rates for five years, 1906 to 1910, are,—

	Births per 1,000 of Population.				
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Auckland (without suburbs)	29·96	29·63	30·56	29·73	27·75
Wellington	27·85	27·53	27·60	26·62	24·13
Christchurch	28·19	30·47	28·43	28·55	27·10
Dunedin	28·96	25·69	25·48	28·34	27·22

MARRIAGES.

The marriages for 1910 show an increase on the number for the previous year. The number was 8,236, or 142 more than in 1909. The rate per 1,000 of the population was 8·30, as against