

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

Year.	All Births.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets.	Plural Births per 1,000 of all Births.
1909	26,524	265	1	10·03
1910	25,984	288	2	11·16
1911	26,354	300	2	11·46
1912	27,508	329	3	12·07
1913	27,935	314	1	11·28

Illegitimacy.

The births of 1,181 children were illegitimate: thus 42 in every 1,000 children were born out of wedlock, against 43 in 1912, and 41 in 1911.

Proportion of Illegitimate Births in every 100 Births.

Year.	Queensland.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
1903	6·79	6·71	5·73	4·16	4·70	5·61	4·55
1904	6·90	7·12	5·74	4·02	4·36	5·82	4·52
1905	6·97	7·37	5·61	4·35	4·19	5·52	4·57
1906	7·68	7·04	5·58	4·00	4·78	5·78	4·67
1907	7·68	6·9	5·62	4·09	3·86	5·78	4·61
1908	7·54	6·80	5·76	4·47	4·35	5·24	4·26
1909	7·05	6·44	5·92	4·22	3·95	5·45	4·61
1910	6·39	6·28	5·59	4·38	4·13	5·33	4·47
1911	6·22	6·14	5·96	4·21	4·47	5·33	4·09
1912	6·14	5·64	5·72	4·71	4·39	4·78	4·28

These figures show the proportion of illegitimate births to every 100 births for New Zealand to be fairly steady during the period 1903–10; but the rates for 1911 and 1912 are below the average.

Births and Birth-rates in the Four Chief Cities and their Suburbs.

A little explanation is necessary in regard to the birth-rate of the four chief centres for 1913, as compared with previous years. Up to and including 1912 all births occurring in the four centres were treated as belonging to the centres. Owing chiefly to the fact that many women living in country districts go to the cities to enter public or private maternity homes, it was found that the birth-rates for the centres were usually well above the rate for the whole Dominion. For 1913 information as to the domicile of parents was obtained, and the births allocated accordingly, the result being that many births which in former years would have been included in the municipalized areas were excluded, the rates being reduced accordingly. No proper comparison is therefore possible as between 1913 and previous years, the apparent decrease in 1913 being due not to any falling-off in numbers, but to the alteration in system.

The total number of births registered as belonging to the four chief centres and their suburban boroughs in 1913 was 7,341, as against 8,084 occurring in the municipalized areas for the previous year.

The birth-rates for last year were,—

	Birth-rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.
Auckland City	23·23
" and eight suburban boroughs	25·93
Wellington City	24·88
" and four suburban boroughs	24·67
Christchurch City	23·56
" and four suburban boroughs	24·31
Dunedin City	21·61
" and five suburban boroughs	22·53

By the inclusion of the suburbs the rate is lowered in the case of Wellington, but raised for the other three centres. Excluding the suburbs, it will be observed that Wellington has the highest rate, Christchurch next highest, Auckland and Dunedin following. The birth-rate for the Dominion last year was 26·14 per thousand, so that each of the four centres is below the average.

The rates for five years 1909 to 1913 are given below. As stated above, however, no proper comparison can be made between 1913 and previous years.

	Births per 1,000 of Population.				
	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Auckland (without suburbs) ...	29·73	27·75	30·03	29·66	25·93
Wellington " ...	26·62	24·13	26·67	27·49	24·67
Christchurch " ...	28·55	27·10	28·45	28·29	24·31
Dunedin " ...	28·34	27·22	29·45	27·13	22·53