

1920.
NEW ZEALAND.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

HOSPITALS AND CHARITABLE AID.

REPORT THEREON BY THE CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER AND THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL
OF HOSPITALS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Presented in pursuance of Section 76 of the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1918.

The CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER and INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF HOSPITALS to the Hon. the MINISTER OF
PUBLIC HEALTH.

Department of Public Health, Hospitals, and Charitable Aid,
Wellington, 1st August, 1920.

SIR,—

I have the honour to present my annual report on the work of this Department for the
year ended 31st March, 1920.

PUBLIC HEALTH SECTION.

Population.

The population of New Zealand at the census of October, 1916, was 1,099,449. This total
does not include Maoris, whose number was separately determined as 49,776.

The estimated mean population (excluding Maoris) for 1919 is given by the Government
Statistician as 1,125,549.

Births.

The births registered in New Zealand during the year 1919 numbered 24,483, as against
25,860 in 1918, and a yearly average of 27,223 during the pre-war period 1910–14. The birth-
rate for 1919 was 21·54 per 1,000 of the total population.

The following table is of interest as showing the general course of the birth-rate during the
last twenty years :—

Year.	Total Number of Births registered.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population.	Year.	Total Number of Births registered.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population.
1900 ..	19,546	25·60	1910 ..	25,984	26·17
1901 ..	20,491	26·34	1911 ..	26,354	25·97
1902 ..	20,655	25·89	1912 ..	27,508	26·48
1903 ..	21,829	26·61	1913 ..	27,935	26·14
1904 ..	22,766	26·94	1914 ..	28,338	25·99
1905 ..	23,682	27·22	1915 ..	27,850	25·33
1906 ..	24,252	27·08	1916 ..	28,509	25·94
1907 ..	25,094	27·30	1917 ..	28,239	25·69
1908 ..	25,940	27·45	1918 ..	25,860	23·44
1909 ..	26,524	27·29	1919 ..	24,483	21·54

The table demonstrates the fact that during the period 1900–17 there was little variation
from year to year in the rate. In 1918, however, a noticeable decline occurred in the number
of births, followed in 1919 by a still further decline. Indeed, the birth-rate for the year under
review is the lowest which has been recorded since 1855, when compulsory registration of births
first came into force. This downward movement was not unexpected, and is attributable to
the adverse influences of the war and the epidemic. The absence of men of marriageable age
with the Expeditionary Forces caused the marriage-rates for 1917 and 1918 to fall to an unpre-
cedently low level, while the influenza of November, 1918, claimed the majority of its victims
from adults between the ages of twenty and forty-five.