

Still-births.—Still-births, which are defined by the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1924 as “children which have issued from their mother after the expiration of the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy, and which were not alive at the time of such issue,” are compulsorily registrable in the Dominion. The next table shows the number of such births and their rate per 1,000 live births in individual years for the quinquennium 1923–27.

Still-births (Number and Rate) in New Zealand, 1923–27.

Year.						Total Number of Still-births registered.	Rate of Still-births per 1,000 Live Births.
1923	..	..	..	..	..	894	32.0
1924	..	..	..	..	..	855	30.5
1925	..	..	..	..	..	861	30.6
1926	..	..	..	..	..	886	31.1
1927	..	..	..	..	..	878	31.5

A noticeable feature of the table is the continued high rate of still-births for the year under review.

(NOTE.—Still-births are not included, either as births or deaths, in the various numbers and rates given elsewhere in this report.)

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths (11,613) registered during the year 1927, as compared with 11,819 in 1926 for a smaller population, gives a reduced general death-rate.

Crude Death-rates.

Year.			Crude Death-rate per 1,000 Mean Population.	Year.			Crude Death-rate per 1,000 Mean Population.
1901	..	..	9.81	1924	..	..	8.29
1911	..	..	9.39	1925	..	..	8.29
1921	..	..	8.73	1926	..	..	8.74
1922	..	..	8.77	1927	..	..	8.45
1923	..	..	9.03				

INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant-mortality rate for 1927 was 38.74 per 1,000 births. The achievement of such a phenomenally low infant-death rate stands as a record for New Zealand and also for the world.

Infant Mortality in New Zealand, 1900–27 (per 1,000 Live Births).

Year.	Under One Month.	One Month and under Twelve Months.	Total under Twelve Months.	Year.	Under One Month.	One Month and under Twelve Months.	Total under Twelve Months.
1900	31.1	44.1	75.2	1914	28.9	28.5	51.4
1901	29.8	41.6	71.4	1915	29.2	20.8	50.0
1902	32.2	50.7	82.9	1916	27.0	23.7	50.7
1903	31.7	49.4	81.1	1917	27.9	20.3	48.2
1904	29.4	41.6	71.0	1918	26.7	21.7	48.4
1905	30.1	37.4	67.5	1919	28.4	16.9	45.3
1906	29.6	32.5	62.1	1920	30.8	19.7	50.5
1907	30.4	58.4	88.8	1921	30.7	17.1	47.8
1908	31.2	36.7	67.9	1922	27.2	14.7	41.9
1909	29.9	31.7	61.6	1923	29.1	14.7	43.8
1910	30.2	37.5	67.7	1924	24.0	16.3	40.3
1911	28.5	27.8	56.3	1925	26.4	13.5	39.9
1912	30.1	21.1	51.2	1926	25.46	14.3	39.76
1913	29.7	29.5	59.2	1927	25.83	12.91	38.74

It will be seen from the above table that the decline in the infant-death rate again applies to infants aged one month and over and not to the new-born.