

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATES.

The total number of births registered as occurring in the four metropolitan areas in 1917 was 9,064, the rates being as follow:—

	Birth-rates per 1,000 of Population.	
Auckland City .. .. .	22.29	
Auckland Metropolitan Area .. .. .		22.33
Wellington City .. .. .	24.46	
Wellington Metropolitan Area .. .. .		25.25
Christchurch City .. .. .	23.25	
Christchurch Metropolitan Area .. .. .		22.96
Dunedin City .. .. .	21.57	
Dunedin Metropolitan Area .. .. .		22.47

By the inclusion of the suburban portions the birth-rate is raised in the case of three of the metropolitan areas—the Christchurch rate being lowered. Excluding these suburban portions, it will be observed that Wellington has the highest rate, Christchurch next highest, Auckland and Dunedin following.

The birth-rates for two of the central boroughs last year show increases when compared with 1916. These are Wellington and Christchurch. Both Auckland and Dunedin show decreases when compared with 1916. The rates for the five years 1913 to 1917 are—

	Births per 1,000 of Population.				
	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Auckland City .. .. .	23.23	23.94	21.95	23.26	22.29
Wellington City .. .. .	24.88	25.25	24.04	24.08	24.46
Christchurch City .. .. .	23.56	20.56	21.54	23.13	23.25
Dunedin City .. .. .	21.61	20.87	19.68	23.11	21.57

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATES.

The total number of deaths registered in the four metropolitan areas during 1917 was 4,109—viz., 2,882 in the cities, and 1,227 in the suburban portions.

By including the suburban portions the death-rate is lowered in the case of all four metropolitan areas. The rates for the year are—

	Death-rates per 1,000 of Population.	
Auckland City .. .. .	12.36	
Auckland Metropolitan Area .. .. .		10.45
Wellington City .. .. .	10.05	
Wellington Metropolitan Area .. .. .		9.37
Christchurch City .. .. .	12.13	
Christchurch Metropolitan Area .. .. .		11.04
Dunedin City .. .. .	12.23	
Dunedin Metropolitan Area .. .. .		11.58

The death-rates for the cities, including suburban boroughs, for five years are as below:—

	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.				
	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Auckland (including suburbs)* .. .. .	10.61	9.42	9.05	9.58	10.45
Wellington .. .. .	9.08	10.47	9.71	9.45	9.37
Christchurch .. .. .	10.15	9.58	9.01	10.77	11.04
Dunedin .. .. .	11.03	10.22	11.03	11.73	11.58

\* Metropolitan areas in 1917.

If the number of deaths of infants under one year be excluded, the mortality among the rest of the population is found to have been for 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917 in the following ratio to the 1,000 living:—

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Auckland (including suburbs)* .. .. .	8.74	8.19	7.39	8.39	9.29
Wellington .. .. .	7.79	8.59	8.19	8.06	8.14
Christchurch .. .. .	8.82	8.25	7.80	9.28	10.14
Dunedin .. .. .	9.59	9.25	9.53	10.70	10.93

\* Metropolitan areas in 1917.

The degree of infantile mortality is perhaps best shown in the proportion of deaths of children under one year of age to every 100 births. For 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917 the proportions at the chief centres were—

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Auckland (including suburbs)* .. .. .	8.08	5.76	7.17	5.92	6.10
Wellington .. .. .	6.02	8.26	6.28	6.51	5.65
Christchurch .. .. .	6.35	6.82	5.42	6.67	4.93
Dunedin .. .. .	7.34	5.43	7.23	5.47	4.02

\* Metropolitan areas in 1917.

Again, the percentage of deaths of children under five years to the total number of deaths is—Auckland, 18.61; Wellington, 21.19; Christchurch, 15.14; Dunedin, only 10.93.

Excluding suburban portions, and dealing with the deaths at all ages in the four cities only, the rates for 1917 are found to be higher than in the previous year in all cases except that of Dunedin. The figures for five years are given:—

	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.				
	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Auckland City .. .. .	11.49	10.43	9.99	11.10	12.36
Wellington City .. .. .	9.30	10.73	10.02	9.73	10.05
Christchurch City .. .. .	10.40	10.02	9.58	11.14	12.13
Dunedin City .. .. .	11.98	11.00	11.58	12.37	12.23

Omitting the deaths of infants under one year, and calculating the rate on the population of one year of age and upwards, all four cities show higher rates in 1917 than in the previous year. The mean rates for five years are also given:—

	Deaths per 1,000 of Population, excluding Infants under One Year of Age.					Mean of Five Years.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	
Auckland City .. .. .	9.42	9.14	8.38	9.60	11.02	9.51
Wellington City .. .. .	8.03	8.72	8.73	8.26	8.73	8.49
Christchurch City .. .. .	9.06	8.64	8.53	9.87	11.22	9.46
Dunedin City .. .. .	10.54	10.00	10.23	11.29	11.58	10.73

Subjoined is a table showing the rates of infant mortality in the four cities for each of the past five years, together with the means of those years:—

	Deaths of Children under One Year to every 100 Births.					Mean of Five Years.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	
Auckland City .. .. .	9.88	6.30	8.08	7.41	7.11	7.76
Wellington City .. .. .	5.90	8.87	6.24	6.91	6.30	6.84
Christchurch City .. .. .	6.56	7.59	5.62	6.48	5.01	6.25
Dunedin City .. .. .	7.72	5.81	7.88	5.80	4.19	6.28