

Of recent years the Maori birth-rate has been very much in advance of the European birth-rate :—

Table No. 30.—Table showing Birth-rate of Maori Population from 1939 to 1944

Year.	Number of Maori Births.			Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1939	2,157	1,959	4,116	46·20
1940	2,217	2,048	4,265	46·87
1941	2,156	1,978	4,134	44·77
1942	2,222	2,108	4,330	45·84
1943	2,267	2,173	4,440	45·78
1944	2,328	2,180	4,508	45·32

Maori death-rates are also very high as compared with the European death-rates.

Table No. 31.—Table showing Death-rates of Maori Population from 1939 to 1944

Year.	Number.			Rate per 1,000 of Maori Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1939	967	808	1,775	20·89	18·87	19·92
1940	844	749	1,593	17·98	17·00	17·51
1941	1,020	881	1,901	21·66	19·48	20·59
1942	933	799	1,732	19·43	17·20	18·34
1943	862	812	1,675	17·51	17·11	17·27
1944	861	825	1,686	17·12	16·77	16·95

In particular, infantile deaths are at a very much higher figure than for the European population.

Table No. 32.—Table showing a Comparison between Maori and European Infantile Death-rates, from 1933 to 1944

Year.	Maoris.		Non-Maoris.	
	Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Maori Births.	Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Non-Maori Births.
1933	273	92·61	770	31·64
1934	279	93·59	781	32·11
1935	355	109·20	773	32·26
1936	399	109·92	769	30·96
1937	366	92·17	812	31·21
1938	566	153·26	971	35·63
1939	473	114·92	898	31·14
1940	372	87·22	990	30·21
1941	517	125·06	1,045	29·77
1942	424	97·92	964	28·71
1943	399	89·86	951	31·37
1944	461	102·26	1,012	30·12

A comparison of infantile mortality among Maori and European infants reveals important differences. There is little difference between the Maori and European infantile death-rate in the *first three months* of life, ante-natal and unavoidable causes being the essential factors in the death-rate at this stage. From this point on care of the infant plays an increasing part in its survival. In the second quarter the European rate falls considerably, but the Maori rate remains at a high figure. In the third quarter the Maori rate is twelve times as high as the European rate. The cause is carelessness of feeding at a crucial stage of the infant's growth. Maori mothers tend to wean their children early and subsequent thereto do not trouble about satisfactory feeding. The Maori death-rate in the ages 1 to 5 years is also very much higher than the European rate. Even in adult life to 35 years of age the Maori death-rate is two or three times greater than the European rate, although in later adult life the differences while still significant, tend to be reduced.