

As for Canada, while the period elapsed since the introduction of complete and comprehensive vital statistics in 1920 has been too short for the establishing of a definite downward trend, there is nevertheless evident a rather extraordinary reduction in the death rate in the short period of five years, the 1926 death rate for the eight provinces formerly included in the registration area being 10.3 per 1,000 as against 12.4 in 1920. In Quebec, where the same methods of registration were employed for many years, the mortality has shown a decline in recent years from 17.89 per 1,000 in 1910 to 12.2 per 1,000 in 1925, largely on account of the reduction in infantile mortality.

1.—General Mortality.

Total deaths and death rates in recent years are given in Table 19 for the registration area of Canada, by provinces. The decline in the absolute number of deaths from 77,722 in 1920 to 66,477 in 1925 and 70,067 (provisional figure) in 1926, and the drop in the death rate from 12.4 in 1920 to 9.7 in 1925, partly offset by a rise to 10.3 (provisional figure) in 1926, are notable phenomena. Quebec figures from 1922 to 1925 are added from provincial sources.

19.—Deaths and Death Rates, by Provinces, 1922-1926.

Provinces.	Total Deaths.					Crude death rate per 1,000 population.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926. ¹	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926. ¹
P.E. Island.....	1,113	1,150	956	997	877	12.6	13.1	10.9	11.5	10.1
Nova Scotia.....	6,679	6,868	6,583	6,045	6,355	12.6	13.0	12.3	11.2	11.8
New Brunswick.....	5,158	5,013	4,923	4,960	4,984	13.2	12.7	12.3	12.3	12.2
Ontario.....	34,034	35,636	33,078	33,960	35,890	11.4	11.8	10.8	10.9	11.4
Manitoba.....	5,754	5,330	5,023	5,245	5,335	9.2	8.6	8.0	8.3	8.3
Saskatchewan.....	6,119	6,182	5,772	5,628	6,041	7.8	7.9	7.2	6.9	7.4
Alberta.....	5,264	5,006	4,858	4,687	5,159	8.6	8.4	8.1	7.8	8.5
British Columbia.....	4,907	4,997	5,004	4,945	5,426	9.1	9.2	9.0	8.8	9.6
Canada (Registration Area)	69,028	70,182	66,197	64,477	70,067	10.5	10.6	9.8	9.7	10.3
Quebec ²	33,459	35,148	32,356	32,300	37,251	13.3	13.6	13.0	12.2	14.5
Canada (exclusive of Territories)	102,487	105,330	98,553	96,777	107,318	11.3	11.4	10.7	10.4	11.4

¹ 1926 figures are subject to revision. ² 1922-1925 figures Provincial.

Age Distribution of Decedents.—The number of males and females dying in the registration area in the years from 1921 to 1925 is given by single years up to 5 years and by 5-year groups up to 80 years in Table 20, while the percentage of the total number of deaths which occurred in each age-group in each of these years is given in Table 21. It is noteworthy that the deaths at the lower ages are yearly constituting a decreasing proportion of the total. In 1921, 22.0 p.c. of all deaths were those of infants under 1 year, in 1922 20.7 p.c., in 1923 19.7 p.c., in 1924 18.7 p.c., in 1925 18.3 p.c., and in 1926 (provisional figure) 17.1 p.c. Similarly, deaths under 5 years of age fell from 28.3 p.c. of the total in 1921 to 26.5 p.c. in 1922, 25.4 p.c. in 1923, 24.3 p.c. in 1924 and 23.5 p.c. in 1925.

One rather curious result of this is that the median age at death in the registration area (i.e., the age at death of the person who had as many die older than he as died younger than he) advanced from 42.46 years in 1921 to 48.79 years in 1923, 49.81 years in 1924 and 51.68 years in 1925.