

Of course the preceding statements are not to be taken to mean that every year will show a decline in the death rate as compared with the preceding year. There will always be years of specially high mortality, for instance 1918, when the death rate in Ontario, the most populous of the provinces of Canada, was 15.3 per 1,000 as against 12.0 in 1917 and 11.9 in 1919. (This was owing to the great influenza-pneumonia epidemic of that year.) Over a period, however, these idiosyncrasies of individual years are reduced to negligibility, and it remains true that from decade to decade there is, generally speaking and under normal conditions, a decline in the crude death rate of the countries of the white man's world.

As for Canada, while the period elapsed since the introduction of complete and comprehensive vital statistics in 1920 has been too short to establish a definite downward trend, the rate of 12.4 per 1,000 for that year in the eight provinces then included in the registration area was substantially higher than in any subsequent year. When the year 1920 is eliminated from the series, there is little evidence of continued trend, but it is significant that the rate for 1929, in spite of exceptionally high mortality from influenza, was only 10.7 per 1,000, approximately equal to the average rate for 1921-23. If provincial figures for Quebec are used for the years 1920 to 1925, a similar comparison can be made for the crude rate of the Dominion as a whole, which was 13.7 in 1920 and 11.6 in the year 1929, the latter figure corresponding closely to the average over the period 1921-23.

Subsection I.—General Mortality.

Total deaths and crude death rates in recent years are given in Table 20 for the former registration area and for Canada, by provinces. Quebec figures from 1921 to 1925 are added from provincial sources.

20.—Deaths and Death Rates, by Provinces, 1921-1929.

A.—TOTAL DEATHS.

Year.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que. ¹	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Former Registration Area ¹	Canada. ²
1921.....	1,209	6,420	5,410	33,433	34,551	5,388	5,596	4,940	4,208	67,722	101,155
1922.....	1,113	6,679	5,158	33,459	34,034	5,754	6,119	5,264	4,907	69,028	102,487
1923.....	1,150	6,868	5,013	35,148	35,636	5,330	6,182	5,006	4,997	70,182	105,330
1924.....	956	6,583	4,923	32,356	33,078	5,023	5,772	4,858	5,004	68,197	98,553
1925.....	997	6,045	4,960	32,300	33,960	5,245	5,628	4,697	4,945	68,477	98,777
1926.....	898	6,366	5,002	37,251	35,909	5,335	6,060	5,159	5,474	70,203	107,454
1927.....	913	6,378	4,902	36,175	34,775	5,309	6,031	5,069	5,750	69,117	105,282
1928.....	952	6,202	4,972	36,632	37,128	5,396	6,166	5,699	5,910	72,435	109,057
1929 ³	1,122	6,657	5,213	37,221	38,102	5,808	6,707	6,254	6,396	76,229	113,450

B. CRUDE DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.

Year.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que. ¹	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Former Registration Area ¹	Canada. ²
1921.....	13.6	12.3	14.2	14.1	11.8	8.8	7.4	8.4	8.0	10.6	11.5
1922.....	12.6	12.6	13.2	13.3	11.4	9.3	7.9	8.9	9.1	10.6	11.4
1923.....	13.1	13.0	12.7	13.6	11.8	8.6	7.9	8.4	9.2	10.7	11.5
1924.....	10.9	12.3	12.3	12.4	10.8	8.0	7.2	8.1	9.0	9.9	10.6
1925.....	11.5	11.3	12.3	12.2	10.9	8.3	6.9	7.8	8.8	9.9	10.5
1926.....	10.3	11.8	12.3	14.5	11.4	8.3	7.4	8.5	9.6	10.3	11.5
1927.....	10.5	11.7	11.9	13.9	10.9	8.2	7.2	8.2	10.0	10.0	11.1
1928.....	11.1	11.3	12.0	13.8	11.5	8.2	7.2	9.0	10.1	10.3	11.3
1929 ³	13.0	12.1	12.4	13.8	11.6	8.8	7.7	9.7	10.8	10.7	11.6

¹ Provincial figures, 1921-1925. ² Exclusive of the Territories. ³ Subject to revision. ⁴ The former registration area consisted of all the provinces except Quebec.