

Some of the effects of the ageing of the population can be observed by the comparison of crude and standardized mortality rates for individual causes of death in 1921 and 1931, since standardized rates are calculated in order to eliminate the effects of changes in sex and age composition of the population. Cancer provides a pronounced example of the ageing effect. The crude rate for cancer was 75.3 in 1921 and in 1931 it was 95.8. The increase was thus 27 p.c. The standardized rate, however, was 72.7 in 1921 and 81.4 in 1931, an increase of only 12 p.c. It may be stated, therefore, that roughly more than half of the increase in the cancer death rate between 1921 and 1931 was accounted for by the ageing of the population. Nevertheless, cancer shows a persistent increase over the years in spite of all efforts to control its spread. Diseases of the heart and arteries are two other important causes which affect people of advancing years and which have shown substantial increases. In the case of diseases of the heart, the crude rate showed an increase of 25.5 p.c. between 1921 and 1931, but, again, the standardized rate increased by only 9 p.c. The crude rate for diseases of the arteries advanced by no less than 71 p.c. and the standardized by 50 p.c. over the decade. For nephritis, a disease which falls in the same general class, the increase in the crude rate was 28.5 p.c. and in the standardized, 12.5 p.c. Pneumonia is particularly fatal among those of advanced years and among infants; the same influences as have been mentioned have, no doubt, affected the figures for this disease.

19.—Deaths in Canada, by Principal Causes, 1931-35.

Int. List No. ¹	Cause of Death.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
1, 2	Typhoid fever.....	421	339	291	293	273
7	Measles.....	167	330	170	188	490
8	Scarlet fever.....	253	197	157	226	242
9	Whooping-cough.....	748	555	552	875	892
10	Diphtheria.....	646	398	239	232	264
11	Influenza.....	3,217	4,236	4,019	2,004	3,392
16	Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis (acute).....	223	164	73	84	64
17	Lethargic or epidemic encephalitis.....	77	76	58	47	54
18	Epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis.....	225	139	109	84	112
23	Tuberculosis, respiratory system.....	6,204	5,870	5,664	5,290	5,466
24-32	Tuberculosis, other organs.....	1,412	1,296	1,275	1,141	1,131
45-53	Cancer.....	9,578	10,024	10,653	10,581	11,156
59	Diabetes mellitus.....	1,244	1,343	1,287	1,321	1,459
71	Anæmia.....	716	728	756	612	650
82 a, b, c	Cerebral hæmorrhage, embolism or thrombosis.....	2,594	2,543	2,639	2,577	2,105
82d	Paralysis without specified cause.....	728	654	559	547	415
86	Convulsions (under 5 years of age).....	368	304	263	261	234
90-95	Diseases of the heart.....	13,734	15,328	15,485	16,352	16,069
96, 97, 99, 102	Diseases of the arteries.....	5,957	6,798	6,950	7,379	8,302
106	Bronchitis.....	469	437	367	380	363
107-109	Pneumonia.....	7,011	7,045	6,487	6,530	7,411
119-120	Diarrhoea and enteritis.....	5,158	3,735	3,395	3,730	2,767
121	Appendicitis.....	1,394	1,454	1,455	1,578	1,491
122	Hernia, intestinal obstruction.....	987	947	1,029	1,074	1,121
130-132	Nephritis.....	5,168	5,635	5,516	5,643	6,176
137	Diseases of the prostate.....	746	879	926	944	1,089
140-150	Puerperal causes.....	1,215	1,181	1,111	1,167	1,093
157	Congenital malformations.....	1,427	1,349	1,374	1,361	1,423
158-161	Diseases of early infancy.....	9,019	7,932	7,337	6,936	6,880
162	Senility (old age).....	2,225	2,192	2,037	1,882	1,932
163-171	Suicides.....	1,004	1,024	922	927	905
173-198	Violent deaths (suicides excepted).....	6,168	5,621	5,294	5,542	5,993
	Other specified causes.....	12,914	12,617	12,546	12,857	13,391
	Totals, Specified Causes.....	103,417	103,370	100,975	100,645	104,805
199, 200	Ill-defined diseases.....	1,100	1,007	993	937	762
	Totals.....	104,517	104,377	101,968	101,582	105,567

¹ The numbers given in this column refer to the International List of Causes of Death, as revised in 1929 by the International Commission on the Classification of Diseases and Causes of Death. This classification, in its detailed, intermediate, or abridged form, is accepted in almost all civilized countries.