

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 crude 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, 1932-36.

Int. List No. ¹	Cause of Death.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
1, 2	Typhoid fever.....	339	291	293	273	256
7	Measles.....	330	170	188	490	376
8	Scarlet fever.....	197	157	226	242	244
9	Whooping-cough.....	555	552	875	892	594
10	Diphtheria.....	398	239	232	264	258
11	Influenza.....	4,236	4,019	2,004	3,392	3,113
16	Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis (acute)....	164	73	84	64	97
17	Lethargic or epidemic encephalitis.....	76	58	47	54	52
18	Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis.....	139	109	84	112	103
23	Tuberculosis, respiratory system.....	5,870	5,664	5,290	5,466	5,528
24-32	Tuberculosis, other organs.....	1,296	1,275	1,141	1,131	1,235
45-53	Cancer.....	10,024	10,653	10,581	11,156	11,694
59	Diabetes mellitus.....	1,343	1,287	1,321	1,459	1,442
71	Anæmia.....	728	736	612	650	646
82 a, b, c	Cerebral hæmorrhage, embolism or thrombosis.....	2,543	2,639	2,577	2,105	1,890
82d	Paralysis without specified cause.....	654	559	547	415	358
86	Convulsions (under 5 years of age).....	304	263	261	234	200
90-95	Diseases of the heart.....	15,328	15,485	16,352	16,069	16,424
96, 97, 99, 102	Diseases of the arteries.....	6,798	6,950	7,379	8,302	9,112
106	Bronchitis.....	437	367	380	363	342
107-109	Pneumonia.....	7,045	6,487	6,530	7,411	7,313
119, 120	Diarrhœa and enteritis.....	3,735	3,395	3,730	2,767	2,378
121	Appendicitis.....	1,454	1,455	1,578	1,491	1,428
122	Hernia, intestinal obstruction.....	947	1,029	1,074	1,121	1,050
130-132	Nephritis.....	5,635	5,516	5,643	6,176	6,402
137	Diseases of the prostate.....	879	926	944	1,089	1,157
140-150	Puerperal causes.....	1,181	1,111	1,167	1,093	1,233
157	Congenital malformations.....	1,349	1,374	1,361	1,423	1,439
158-161	Diseases of early infancy.....	7,832	7,337	6,936	6,880	6,605
162	Senility (old age).....	2,192	2,037	1,882	1,932	1,691
163-171	Suicides.....	1,024	922	927	905	928
173-198	Violent deaths (suicides excepted).....	5,621	5,294	5,542	5,993	6,535
	Other specified causes.....	12,617	12,546	12,857	13,391	14,216
	Totals, Specified Causes.....	103,370	100,975	100,645	104,805	106,339
199, 200	Ill-defined diseases.....	1,007	993	937	762	711
	Totals.....	104,377	101,968	101,582	105,567	107,050

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.