

# CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS\*

## CONSPECTUS

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A short historical outline of the early collection of vital statistics in Canada is given at pp. 104-105 of the 1940 edition of the Year Book. Co-operation of the provinces in the collection of comparable statistics was finally brought about as a result of the establishment of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, under the Statistics Act of 1918. From 1921 to 1925 comparable vital statistics were compiled by the Bureau for all provinces, except Quebec. Quebec has been included in the registration area since Jan. 1, 1926. From then on, vital statistics have been on a comparable basis for all provinces.

The main tables of the Summary and of Sections 2 to 5 which follow cover statistics for the nine provinces. Section 6 deals with those of Yukon and the Northwest Territories; the reasons for this separation are given there. A Section on communicable diseases is at the end of the Chapter.

**Classification of Vital Statistics.**—Until recently, vital statistics were all classified by place of occurrence. In 1944, however, the classification of births and deaths by residence was begun; births being classified by the residence of the mother. A number of special tabulations by residence have been made for a few years before 1944; in Tables 2 to 5 the figures for 1941-45 are given by residence. In all the other tables of this Chapter, only the figures for 1944 and 1945 are by residence, except in Tables 11, 12, 13, 23, 28 and 34. Headnotes of the tables throughout show the classification used.

For most provincial figures and rates, the change in classification makes comparatively little difference. But for individual localities, the differences may be quite large. In such cases, the figures for the years 1941 and after are not comparable with the five-year averages for the earlier years.

### Section 1.—Population and Summary of Vital Statistics

**Population by Sex and Age.**—In calculating many vital statistics rates it is necessary to know not only the total population but also the distribution by sex and age. Hitherto, such calculations have usually been restricted to the years about the Census, since it was thought that estimates of population by sex and age for more than two or three years before or after each Census were not sufficiently accurate. On the other hand, the use of such estimates can fill important gaps in our knowledge of vital statistics phenomena.

\* This Chapter has been revised by J. T. Marshall, Director, Vital Statistics Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.