

Causes of Death.—About nine-tenths of deaths in Canada are due to the 28 causes specified in Table 25. About three-quarters are due to the 10 leading causes: diseases of the heart, cancer, intracranial lesions, violent deaths, nephritis, diseases of early infancy, pneumonia, tuberculosis, influenza and diseases of the arteries.

The classification of the causes of death is according to the revision of the International List of 1938, which was first used in Canada in 1941. Each revision of the International List makes continuity of classification difficult. This applies especially to diseases of the heart, intracranial lesions (cerebral hæmorrhage) and diseases of the arteries.

The rise in the average age at death has been noted above. Causes of death that affect mainly children and young adults have declined. Diphtheria, for example, has very nearly been wiped out. Tuberculosis has also been greatly reduced. On the other hand, the ageing of the population increases the proportion of deaths from the causes that affect mainly older people. Thus, cancer, nephritis and diseases of the heart now account for a substantially larger proportion of all deaths, than they used to.

25.—Deaths and Death Rates per 100,000 Population, by Principal Causes, 1941-45

NOTE.—Figures for 1944 and 1945 are by residence; for previous years by place of occurrence.

Inter-national List No. 1	Cause of Death	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
NUMBERS OF DEATHS						
1, 2	Typhoid fever, including paratyphoid	165	108	116	131	10
8	Scarlet fever	117	129	100	115	7
9	Whooping cough	437	560	416	337	47
10	Diphtheria	240	256	287	309	27
13	Tuberculosis, respiratory system	5,002	4,947	5,080	4,705	4,56
14-22	Tuberculosis, other organs	1,070	1,033	1,088	1,019	98
33	Influenza	2,411	1,227	2,413	1,864	1,08
35	Measles	325	131	190	239	9
45-55	Cancer and other malignant tumors	13,417	13,654	14,135	14,271	14,43
61	Diabetes mellitus	2,140	2,242	2,481	2,362	2,41
73	Anæmias	408	354	392	355	35
83	Intracranial lesions of vascular origin	9,034	8,728	9,245	9,089	9,42
86	Convulsions (under 5 years of age)	199	195	193	155	13
90-95	Diseases of the heart	26,602	27,529	29,282	29,148	29,70
96, 97, 99, 102	} Diseases of the arteries	2,266	2,270	2,506	2,349	2,21
106	Bronchitis	394	383	528	431	39
107-109	Pneumonia	5,955	5,778	6,341	5,940	5,54
119, 120	Diarrhœa and enteritis	2,319	2,400	1,872	2,695	2,01
121	Appendicitis	1,051	824	775	809	67
122	Hernia, intestinal obstruction	908	912	948	911	86
130-132	Nephritis	7,399	7,233	7,473	7,124	6,92
137	Diseases of the prostate	892	855	953	951	84
140-150	Puerperal causes	901	818	798	776	66
157	Congenital malformations	1,901	2,096	2,154	2,004	2,13
158-161	Diseases peculiar to first year of life	6,252	6,029	6,648	6,655	6,39
162	Senility	1,593	1,650	1,774	1,690	1,62
163, 164	Suicides	896	839	758	731	76
166-198	Violent deaths (suicides excepted)	7,546	7,332	7,516	6,957	7,04
	Other specified causes	11,761	11,493	11,289	11,121	10,30
	Totals, Specified Causes	113,601	112,005	117,751	115,243	112,53
199, 200	Unspecified or ill-defined causes	1,038	973	884	809	87
	Totals, All Causes	114,639	112,978	118,635	116,052	113,41

For footnote, see end of table, p. 167.