

Maternal Deaths by Causes.—Table 32 shows, by causes, the numbers and rates of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Until recently, puerperal sepsis and toxæmias of pregnancy were by far the most important causes. Since the introduction of sulphadiazine in 1936, the rates from these two causes have been halved.

32.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births, by Causes of Death, 1941-45

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

Inter-national List No.	Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths					Rates per 100,000 Live Births				
		1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
140	Abortion with mention of infection.....	87	83	77	85	52	34.1	30.5	27.2	29.9	18.0
141	Abortion without mention of infection.....	39	34	42	26	18	15.3	12.5	14.8	9.1	6.2
142	Ectopic gestation.....	30	28	30	31	23	11.8	10.3	10.6	10.9	8.0
143	Hæmorrhage of pregnancy—death prior to delivery.....	12	10	11	8	12	4.7	3.7	3.9	2.8	4.2
144	Toxæmias of pregnancy—death prior to delivery.....	74	54	42	45	32	29.0	19.8	14.8	15.8	11.1
145	Other diseases and accidents of pregnancy—death prior to delivery.....	38	23	18	20	18	14.9	8.4	6.3	7.0	6.2
146	Hæmorrhage of child-birth and the puerperium.....	143	137	159	150	124	56.0	50.3	56.1	52.8	42.9
147	Infection during child-birth and the puerperium.....	235	228	184	180	178	92.0	83.7	64.9	63.3	61.6
148	Puerperal toxæmias—death following delivery.....	140	118	117	101	94	54.8	43.3	41.3	35.5	32.6
149	Other accidents of child-birth.....	66	58	64	76	65	25.9	21.3	22.6	26.7	22.5
150	Other and unspecified conditions of childbirth and the puerperal state.....	37	45	54	54	44	14.5	16.5	19.0	19.0	15.2
	Totals, All Causes	901	818	798	776	660	352.9	300.4	281.4	273.0	228.6

Section 4.—Natural Increase

In 1926-30 the rate of natural increase in Canada was 13 per 1,000 population. It fell to 9.7 in 1937. Owing partly to the depression, the birth rate fell more than the death rate. Since then, the rate has risen to 12.6 in 1940-42 and 14.5 in 1945.

The rates of natural increase in the provinces followed generally the rate for Canada as a whole. In the earlier years, Saskatchewan and Quebec had the highest rates. The high rates in the Prairie Provinces were partly due to their relatively younger populations and consequent very low death rates. In Quebec, on the other hand, the death rate in 1926-30 was high; it has declined steadily since. Quebec now has the highest rate of natural increase in Canada and one of the highest in any civilized area.