

Maternal Deaths by Causes.—Table 31 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 sulpha drugs in 1936, the rates from these two causes have decreased by 50 p.c.

31.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births, by Causes of Death, 1944-46

NOTE.—Figures are by place of residence.

Inter- national List No.	Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths			Rates per 100,000 Live Births		
		1944	1945	1946	1944	1945	1946
140	Abortion with mention of infection.....	85	52	41	29.9	18.0	12.4
141	Abortion without mention of infection....	26	18	39	9.1	6.2	11.8
142	Ectopic gestation.....	31	23	28	10.9	8.0	8.5
143	Hæmorrhage of pregnancy—death prior to delivery.....	8	12	8	2.8	4.2	2.4
144	Toxæmias of pregnancy—death prior to delivery.....	45	32	32	15.8	11.1	9.7
145	Other diseases and accidents of preg- nancy—death prior to delivery.....	20	18	35	7.0	6.2	10.6
146	Hæmorrhage of childbirth and the puer- perium.....	150	124	103	52.8	42.9	31.1
147	Infection during childbirth and the puer- perium.....	180	178	122	63.3	61.6	36.9
148	Puerperal toxæmias—death following delivery.....	101	94	88	35.5	32.6	26.6
149	Other accidents of childbirth.....	76	65	61	26.7	22.5	18.4
150	Other and unspecified conditions of child- birth and the puerperal state.....	54	44	38	19.0	15.2	11.5
	Totals, All Causes.....	776	660	595	273.0	228.6	179.9

Section 5.—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 declined more than the death rate. Since then, the rate has increased to 12.6 in 1940-42, 14.5 in 1945 and 17.5 in 1946.

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 due partly 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. In 1946, New Brunswick had the highest rate of natural increase in Canada.

Table 32 shows the numbers and rates of natural increase in Canada and the provinces. Numbers and rates by sex are also shown. It can be seen that in almost all cases, the rates are higher for females than for males. There are two reasons for this. First, the excess of male over female births is relatively smaller than the excess of males over females in the population as a whole, especially in the western provinces. Hence the birth rate for males is lower than the birth rate for females. Secondly, as already noted, the death rate for males is higher than for females.