

Causes of Death.—About 91 p.c. of the deaths in Canada are due to the 28 specified causes given in Table 24. About 80 p.c. are due to ten 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, that 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 on p. 214. Causes of death that affect children and young adults mainly have declined. Diphtheria, for example, has been almost wiped out. Tuberculosis has been greatly reduced. On the other hand, the ageing of the population increases the proportion of deaths from the causes that affect older people mainly. Thus, cancer, nephritis and diseases of the heart now account for a substantially larger proportion of all deaths than formerly.

24.—Deaths and Death Rates per 100,000 Population, by Principal Causes, 1945-47

International List No. ¹	Cause of Death	Numbers of deaths			Rates per 100,000 Population		
		1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947
1, 2	Typhoid fever, including paratyphoid . . .	101	91	62	0.8	0.7	0.5
8	Scarlet fever	79	58	42	0.7	0.5	0.3
9	Whooping cough	470	231	232	3.9	1.9	1.8
10	Diphtheria	271	227	140	2.2	1.8	1.1
13	Tuberculosis, respiratory system	4,565	4,818	4,616	37.7	39.2	36.8
14-22	Tuberculosis, other organs	981	1,003	833	8.1	8.2	6.6
33	Influenza	1,087	1,601	1,099	9.0	13.0	8.8
35	Measles	97	235	134	0.8	1.9	1.1
45-55	Cancer and other malignant tumours	14,439	14,767	15,615	119.3	120.2	124.3
61	Diabetes mellitus	2,417	2,409	2,484	20.0	19.6	19.8
73	Anæmias	355	311	321	2.9	2.5	2.6
83	Intracranial lesions of vascular origin	9,421	9,486	9,583	77.8	77.2	76.3
86	Convulsions (under 5 years of age)	134	119	107	1.1	1.0	0.9
90-95	Diseases of the heart	29,705	29,854	32,050	245.5	243.1	255.2
96, 97, 99, 102	Diseases of the arteries	2,210	2,230	2,374	18.3	18.2	18.9
106	Bronchitis	394	378	363	3.3	3.1	2.9
107-109	Pneumonia	5,549	5,657	5,688	45.9	46.1	45.3
119, 120	Diarrhoea and enteritis	2,019	1,873	1,988	16.7	15.2	15.8
121	Appendicitis	677	551	470	5.6	4.5	3.7
122	Hernia, intestinal obstruction	863	854	864	7.1	7.0	6.9
130-132	Nephritis	6,926	6,822	6,568	57.2	55.5	52.3
137	Diseases of the prostate	847	820	841	7.0	6.7	6.7
140-150	Puerperal causes	660	595	554	5.5	4.8	4.4
157	Congenital malformations	2,134	2,338	2,483	17.6	19.0	19.8
158-161	Diseases peculiar to the first year of life	6,394	7,053	7,415	52.8	57.4	59.0
162	Senility	1,624	1,584	1,489	13.4	12.9	11.9
163, 164	Suicides	764	1,002	948	6.3	8.2	7.5
166-198	Violent deaths (suicides excepted)	7,047	7,195	7,666	58.2	58.6	61.0
	Other specified causes	10,305	9,995	9,890	85.2	81.4	78.8
	Totals, Specified Causes	112,535	114,157	116,919	929.9	929.4	931.0
199, 200	Unspecified or ill-defined causes	879	774	806	7.3	6.3	6.4
	Totals, All Causes	113,414	114,931	117,725	937.2	935.7	937.5

¹ The numbers given in this column refer to the International List of Causes of Death, as revised in 1938 by the International Commission on the Classification of Diseases and Causes of Death.