

as high. The slightly higher rate in the first age group shown in the table, compared with the second, is due to the high proportion of illegitimate children born to young mothers.

31.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 1,000 Live Births, by Age Groups, 1945-48

(Exclusive of the Territories)

Age Group	Maternal Deaths								Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
	1945		1946		1947		1948		1945	1946	1947	1948
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.				
Under 20 years.....	28	4.2	27	4.5	24	4.3	24	4.7	1.65	1.39	1.07	1.06
20 - 24 ".....	110	16.7	90	15.1	96	17.3	83	16.3	1.40	0.97	0.92	0.84
25 - 29 ".....	161	24.4	142	23.9	107	19.3	106	20.8	1.95	1.46	1.00	1.02
30 - 34 ".....	136	20.6	130	21.8	144	26.0	107	21.0	2.21	1.90	2.00	1.56
35 - 39 ".....	135	20.5	121	20.3	120	21.7	115	22.5	3.79	3.17	3.06	2.97
40 - 44 ".....	81	12.3	72	12.1	55	9.9	66	12.9	6.98	5.91	4.43	5.42
45 - 49 ".....	8	1.2	13	2.2	8	1.4	9	1.8	7.14	10.99	7.65	8.38
50 years or over.....	1	0.2	—	...	—	...	—
Totals, All Ages at Death.....	660	100.0	595	100.0	554	100.0	510	100.0	2.29	1.80	1.54	1.47
Average Ages at Death	31.5		31.7		31.5		31.9	

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

32.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births, by Causes of Death, 1945-48

(Exclusive of the Territories)

International List No.	Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths				Rates per 100,000 Live Births			
		1945	1946	1947	1948	1945	1946	1947	1948
140	Abortion with mention of infection.....	52	41	43	33	18.0	12.4	12.0	9.5
141	Abortion without mention of infection..	18	39	36	26	6.2	11.8	10.0	7.5
142	Ectopic gestation.....	23	28	15	17	8.0	8.5	4.2	4.9
143	Hæmorrhage of pregnancy—death prior to delivery.....	12	8	4	6	4.2	2.4	1.1	1.7
144	Toxæmias of pregnancy—death prior to delivery.....	32	32	27	31	11.1	9.7	7.5	8.9
145	Other diseases and accidents of pregnancy—death prior to delivery.....	18	35	24	17	6.2	10.6	6.7	4.9
146	Hæmorrhage of childbirth and the puerperium.....	124	103	136	117	42.9	31.1	37.9	33.7
147	Infection during childbirth and the puerperium.....	178	122	93	90	61.6	36.9	25.9	25.9
148	Puerperal toxæmias — death following delivery.....	94	88	81	97	32.6	26.6	22.6	27.9
149	Other accidents of childbirth.....	65	61	57	57	22.5	18.4	15.9	16.4
150	Other and unspecified conditions of childbirth and the puerperal state....	44	38	38	19	15.2	11.5	10.6	5.5
	Totals, All Causes.....	660	595	554	510	228.6	179.9	154.3	146.8