

Section 6.—Communicable Diseases

The national reporting of communicable diseases in Canada was undertaken in 1933 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, at the request of the Federal Department of Pensions and National Health in co-operation with the Provincial Departments of Health. Since then, the Vital Statistics Section of the Bureau has been responsible for the weekly compilation and analysis of communicable diseases except for a short period during 1939-40, when the work was transferred to the Department of Pensions and National Health. The reports of cases of venereal diseases are included in the current analyses and a standard report form is used by all the provinces.

Table 33 shows the number of cases of certain communicable diseases reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by the Provincial Departments of Health in 1948. The reporting of two diseases, dysentery and rubella, is not compulsory in all provinces and the totals for Canada should, therefore, be accepted with reservations.

33.—Cases of Certain Communicable Diseases Reported by Provincial Departments of Health, 1948

(Exclusive of the Territories)

| Disease | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. | Canada |
|---------------------------------|--------|-------|------|--------|--------|-------|------------------|-------|-----------------|--------|
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Chickenpox..... | — | 2,032 | 247 | 8,149 | 17,258 | 2,991 | 2,175 | 2,802 | 6,110 | 41,764 |
| Diphtheria..... | 2 | 7 | 10 | 569 | 132 | 49 | 31 | 63 | 35 | 898 |
| Dysentery..... | — | — | 1 | 97 | 17 | 22 | 4 | 5 | 32 ² | 177 |
| Amœbic..... | — | — | 1 | 22 | 9 | 6 | — | 3 | — | 40 |
| Bacillary..... | — | — | 1 | 75 | 8 | 16 | 4 | 2 | 31 | 136 |
| Encephalitis (infectious)..... | — | — | — | 7 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 3 | — | 36 |
| Influenza (epidemic)..... | — | 1,865 | 1 | — | 737 | 149 | 2 | — | 1,246 | 4,000 |
| Measles..... | 6 | 963 | 182 | 23,658 | 33,013 | 1,241 | 685 | 2,118 | 4,138 | 66,004 |
| Meningitis (meningococcal)..... | 1 | 8 | 12 | 41 | 53 | 15 | 13 | 6 | 24 | 173 |
| Mumps..... | — | 828 | 86 | 7,576 | 9,440 | 2,067 | 2,125 | 1,456 | 1,023 | 24,601 |
| Poliomyelitis (epidemic)..... | 1 | 29 | 10 | 46 | 372 | 142 | 84 | 359 | 125 | 1,168 |
| Rubella ³ | — | 17 | — | 1,523 | 826 | 37 | 87 | 290 | 405 | 3,185 |
| Scarlet fever..... | 10 | 176 | 176 | 3,130 | 3,052 | 246 | 131 | 241 | 383 | 7,545 |
| Smallpox..... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tuberculosis..... | 74 | 286 | 576 | 4,899 | 1,576 | 1,491 | 543 ⁴ | 850 | 2,068 | 12,363 |
| Pulmonary..... | 5 | 274 | 570 | 4,780 | 5 | 1,479 | 414 | 850 | 1,919 | 10,266 |
| Non-pulmonary..... | 5 | 12 | 6 | 19 | 5 | 12 | 9 | — | 149 | 411 |
| Typhoid and paratyphoid..... | 2 | 6 | 12 | 370 | 39 | 10 | 31 | 25 | 70 | 565 |
| Undulant fever..... | — | 7 | 1 | 106 | 72 | 12 | 6 | 38 | 66 | 308 |
| Venereal diseases..... | 113 | 1,044 | 835 | 8,921 | 6,301 | 1,969 | 1,323 | 2,351 | 4,634 | 27,491 |
| Syphilis..... | 44 | 429 | 355 | 3,681 | 2,299 | 482 | 314 | 319 | 984 | 8,907 |
| Gonorrhœa..... | 69 | 615 | 480 | 5,239 | 4,002 | 1,487 | 1,006 | 2,032 | 3,617 | 18,547 |
| Other venereal diseases..... | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 3 | — | — | 37 |
| Whooping cough..... | — | 582 | 24 | 3,398 | 992 | 344 | 265 | 1,194 | 285 | 7,084 |

¹ Not reportable in New Brunswick.

² Including one case where type was not stated.

³ Reporting not compulsory in New Brunswick and Manitoba.

⁴ Including 36 cases where type was not stated.

⁵ Type not segregated.

Section 7.—Natural Increase

In 1926-30 the rate of natural increase in Canada (excess of births over deaths) was 13 per 1,000 population. Owing partly to the depression, the birth rate declined more than the death rate and the rate of natural increase fell to 9.7 in 1937. Since then the rate has increased to 12.6 in 1940-42, 14.5 in 1945, 17.5 in 1946, 19.2 in 1947 and 17.7 in 1948.

The rates of natural increase in the provinces followed generally the rate for Canada as a whole. In earlier years, Saskatchewan and Quebec had the highest rates. The high rates in all the Prairie Provinces were due partly to their