

The percentage distribution of deaths has changed greatly since 1930-32. The percentages of deaths at all ages up to 50 years have declined and the average age at death has gradually risen. The reduction in mortality rates in the early and middle years of life increases the number of people in the older age groups and will eventually raise the average age of the population as a whole. In 1931, 16.6 p.c. of the population was 50 years of age or over and the average age of all males was 29.0 years and of all females 28.1 years. In 1941, 19.7 p.c. of the population was 50 years of age or over, and the average age of all males had risen to 30.7 years and of all females to 30.2 years. The average age at death for males in 1926 was 40.0 years and for females 41.9 years; these have risen to 55.7 and 58.1, respectively, in 1950. Compared with most European countries, however, the population of Canada is still young.

23.—Deaths, by Sex and Age Groups, 1948-50

(Exclusive of the Territories)

Age Group	Males						Females					
	1948 ¹		1949		1950		1948 ¹		1949		1950	
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.
Under 1 year.....	8,654	12.8	9,075	12.9	8,773	12.5	6,510	12.5	6,768	12.6	6,551	12.3
1 year.....	712	1.1	654	0.9	608	0.9	592	1.1	614	1.1	482	0.9
2 years.....	336	0.5	358	0.5	340	0.5	277	0.5	296	0.6	245	0.5
3 ".....	265	0.4	273	0.4	288	0.4	183	0.4	197	0.4	212	0.4
4 ".....	209	0.3	193	0.3	181	0.3	161	0.3	163	0.3	158	0.3
Totals, under 5 Years of Age.....	10,176	15.1	10,557	15.0	10,190	14.5	7,723	14.9	8,038	15.0	7,651	14.3
5 - 9 years.....	686	1.0	684	1.0	678	1.0	423	0.8	490	0.9	446	0.8
10 - 14 ".....	479	0.7	517	0.7	469	0.7	328	0.6	341	0.6	321	0.6
15 - 19 ".....	800	1.2	846	1.2	730	1.0	541	1.0	517	1.0	428	0.8
20 - 24 ".....	1,122	1.7	1,065	1.5	943	1.3	761	1.5	706	1.3	572	1.1
25 - 29 ".....	1,011	1.5	1,036	1.5	906	1.3	799	1.5	781	1.5	673	1.3
30 - 34 ".....	1,031	1.5	1,072	1.5	949	1.4	876	1.7	856	1.6	737	1.4
35 - 39 ".....	1,368	2.0	1,339	1.9	1,261	1.8	1,102	2.1	1,042	1.9	1,067	2.0
40 - 44 ".....	1,742	2.6	1,733	2.5	1,724	2.5	1,260	2.4	1,263	2.4	1,305	2.4
45 - 49 ".....	2,391	3.5	2,517	3.6	2,475	3.5	1,608	3.1	1,635	3.0	1,635	3.1
50 - 54 ".....	3,299	4.9	3,357	4.8	3,370	4.8	2,172	4.2	2,177	4.1	2,094	3.9
55 - 59 ".....	4,605	6.8	4,556	6.5	4,600	6.5	2,894	5.6	2,776	5.2	2,778	5.2
60 - 64 ".....	6,258	9.3	6,564	9.3	6,561	9.3	3,787	7.3	3,947	7.4	3,841	7.2
65 - 69 ".....	7,225	10.7	7,747	11.0	7,994	11.4	4,687	9.0	4,948	9.2	5,191	9.7
70 - 74 ".....	7,768	11.5	8,376	11.9	8,476	12.1	5,731	11.0	6,223	11.6	6,273	11.7
75 - 79 ".....	7,190	10.7	7,394	10.5	7,792	11.1	6,091	11.7	6,392	11.9	6,414	12.0
80 - 89 ".....	8,846	13.1	9,476	13.5	9,700	13.8	9,263	17.8	9,459	17.6	9,834	18.4
90 years or over.....	1,395	2.1	1,502	2.1	1,468	2.1	1,894	3.6	2,072	3.9	2,175	4.1
Totals, Stated Ages..	67,392	100.0	70,338	100.0	70,286	100.0	51,940	100.0	53,663	100.0	53,435	100.0
Ages not stated.....	35	--	33	--	54	--	17	--	13	--	14	--
Totals, All Ages.....	67,427	100.0	70,371	100.0	70,340	100.0	51,957	100.0	53,676	100.0	53,449	100.0

¹ Exclusive of Newfoundland.

Causes of Death.—Table 24 shows the deaths in Canada, grouped according to the International Abbreviated List of 50 causes. About 80 p.c. are due to the following groups of causes: diseases of the heart and arteries, cancer, accidents, diseases of early infancy, the respiratory diseases—tuberculosis, pneumonia and influenza—and nephritis.

The rise in the average age at death has been noted above. Causes of death that affect children and young adults mainly have declined. Diphtheria, for example, has been almost wiped out and tuberculosis has been greatly reduced. On the other hand, the ageing of the population increases the proportion of deaths from certain causes that affect older people. Thus, cancer and the diseases of the cardio-vascular-renal systems now account for a substantially larger proportion of all deaths than formerly.