

Subsection 2.—Infant Mortality

International Comparisons.—The completeness of registration of live births and infant deaths varies from country to country and there is some evidence that the under-registration of deaths is proportionately greater for infants than for other ages. The reliability of the basic data should, therefore, be kept in mind when comparing the rates.

25.—Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births in Various Countries compared with Canada and the Provinces, 1950

(Source: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations* and other official publications. In certain cases final figures are not available and provisional data are used.)

Country]	Infant Mortality Rate	Country or Province	Infant Mortality Rate	Country	Infant Mortality Rate
Sweden.....	21	Canada.....	41	France ¹	47
New Zealand.....	23	British Columbia.....	30	Western Germany.....	55
Netherlands.....	25	Saskatchewan.....	32	Belgium.....	59
Australia.....	25	Alberta.....	32	Japan.....	60
Norway.....	28	Ontario.....	35	Italy.....	63
United States.....	29	Manitoba.....	35	Austria.....	64
England and Wales.....	30	Prince Edward Island.....	36	Spain.....	69
Denmark.....	31	Nova Scotia.....	40	Ceylon.....	82
Switzerland.....	31	Quebec.....	51	Czechoslovakia.....	82 ²
Union of South Africa (White).....	36	New Brunswick.....	57	Portugal.....	94
Northern Ireland.....	39	Newfoundland.....	58	Mexico.....	97
Scotland.....	39	Finland.....	44	India ³	137
		Ireland.....	45	Chile.....	153

¹ Excluding infants born alive but who died before registration of birth.

² 1949.

³ Registration area only.

Canadian Infant Mortality.—A striking improvement has been shown in the rate of infant mortality during the past 25 years. Of the children born in 1946-50, approximately 87,000 lived to their first birthday who would have died at the rate prevailing in the period 1926-30.

Infant mortality of males is 25 to 30 p.c. higher than that of females for Canada as a whole, with wider variations for the individual provinces. It was pointed out earlier that there were between 1,051 and 1,067 males born to every 1,000 females. Because male infant mortality is higher, the excess of males is reduced drastically by the end of the first year. For example, in 1940-42, 397,038 male children were born, compared with 374,908 female children, an excess of 22,130 or 5.9 p.c.; 25,024 male children died during their first year compared with 18,646 female children, that is 6,378 more. The excess of males at one year of age is thus reduced to 15,752, or 4.4 p.c.

Infant mortality rates vary considerably from province to province. One of the principal causes of these variations appears to be the different proportions of births which take place in hospital or under proper medical care, as pointed out earlier on p. 186. Along with increased hospitalization has come better and more widespread pre-natal and post-natal care. Other factors, particularly the supervision of water supplies, improved sanitation and the pasteurization of milk, also have been important.