

15.—Death Rates per 1,000 Population of Various Countries compared with Canada and the Provinces, 1951

(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 or Province	Death Rate	Country	Death Rate	Country	Death Rate
Netherlands, The.....	7.5	Peru.....	9.2	Ceylon.....	11.6
Norway.....	8.3	Union of South Africa (Whites).....	9.2	Spain.....	11.6
Denmark.....	8.8	New Zealand.....	9.6	Portugal.....	12.3
Canada.....	9.0	Australia.....	9.7	England and Wales.....	12.5
Alberta.....	7.6	United States.....	9.7	Belgium.....	12.6
Saskatchewan.....	7.7	Sweden.....	9.9	Austria.....	12.7
Newfoundland.....	8.3	Finland.....	10.0	Northern Ireland.....	12.8
Quebec.....	8.6	Japan.....	10.0	Scotland.....	12.9
Manitoba.....	8.7	Italy.....	10.3	France ²	13.2
Nova Scotia.....	9.0	Switzerland.....	10.5	India ³	14.2
Prince Edward Island.....	9.2	Western Germany.....	10.5	Ireland, Republic of.....	14.3
New Brunswick.....	9.4	Venezuela.....	11.2	Chile.....	15.7
Ontario.....	9.6	Czechoslovakia.....	11.4 ¹	Mexico.....	17.2
British Columbia.....	10.0				

¹ 1950.

² Excludes infants born alive who died before registration of birth.

³ Registration area only.

Canadian Mortality.—Since 1931, the Canadian death rate has fluctuated between 10.3 and 9.0 per 1,000 of the population, declining slightly in recent years and reaching a record low of 9.0 in 1950 and 1951. As shown in Table 1, pp. 176-178, this decline has been apparent in all provinces but in varying degrees. The generally low rates in the Prairie Provinces are partly due to their younger average population while the uniformly higher rate in British Columbia is due to the increasing proportion of people in the older age groups.

Sex and Age Distribution of Deaths.—Despite reductions in infant mortality over the past 25 or 30 years, more deaths still occur in the first year of life than in any other single year. Of the 107,000 deaths occurring in 1926, 31,000 or almost 30 p.c. were children under five years of age, and three-quarters of those were children under one year of age. In 1951, of the 125,000 deaths, about 17,000 or less than 14 p.c. were children under five years and five-sixths of those were under one year. Most of the reduction took place among children over one month of age but there was a notable decrease as well in the childhood ages up to five years.

Tremendous reductions took place in the mortality pattern since the early 1920's, with the most important reductions in the childhood and early adult ages. In 1926, over 19 p.c. of all male deaths were of persons five to 45 years of age; in 1951, these accounted for only 11 p.c. of total deaths. The reduction in mortality among females in this age group is still more remarkable, dropping from 22 p.c. to 10 p.c. Thus, death rates for males up to age 45 have been roughly halved during the past 25 years while those for females, in the same ages, have been reduced as much as three to four times.

These reductions in the mortality rates in early and middle years of life have, of course, had the effect of increasing the number of people in the older age groups and of raising the average age of the population as a whole. As a natural consequence, much larger proportions of deaths are now occurring at the older ages. Further, the reductions in rates will eventually raise the average age at death. In 1921, the average age at death of males was 39.0 years and of females 41.1 years; by 1951 this had advanced to 56.4 and 58.8, respectively.