

Section 3.—Deaths

Declines in the death rate have been recorded in many countries during the past twenty years. Crude death rates should be used with caution in comparing the mortality levels of different populations, for they are affected by differences in the age composition of the population as well as by differences in the levels of mortality.

Subsection 1.—General Mortality

International Comparisons.—A comparison of the death rates in Canada and the provinces with those in certain other countries is shown in Table 13. It will be noted that the death rate for Canada is among the lowest in the world and that the majority of the provinces have lower rates than most other countries.

13.—Death Rates per 1,000 Population in Selected Countries compared with Canada and the Provinces, 1952

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

Country or Province	Death Rate	Country or Province	Death Rate	Country	Death Rate
Netherlands.....	7.3	Ontario.....	9.3	Northern Ireland.....	10.8
Norway.....	8.3	British Columbia.....	10.1	Venezuela.....	10.8
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	8.6	Denmark.....	9.0	England and Wales.....	11.3
Canada.....	8.7	Japan.....	9.0	Portugal.....	11.8
Newfoundland.....	7.4	New Zealand.....	9.3	Yugoslavia.....	11.8
Alberta.....	7.6	Australia.....	9.4	Austria.....	11.9
Saskatchewan.....	7.9	Finland.....	9.5	Ireland.....	11.9
Manitoba.....	8.2	United States.....	9.6	Belgium.....	12.0
Quebec.....	8.4	Sweden.....	9.6	Ceylon.....	12.0
New Brunswick.....	8.8	Spain.....	9.7	Scotland.....	12.0
Nova Scotia.....	8.8	Switzerland.....	9.9	France ¹	12.3
Prince Edward Island..	8.9	Italy.....	10.0	Chile.....	13.8
		Peru.....	10.1	India ²	13.8
		Western Germany.....	10.5	Mexico.....	14.9

¹ Excludes infants who were born alive but died before registration of birth. area only.

² Registration

Canadian Mortality.—Since 1931, the Canadian death rate has fluctuated between 10.3 and 8.7 per 1,000 of the population, declining in recent years and reaching a record low of 8.7 in 1952. As shown in Table 1, pp. 187-189, this decline has been apparent in all provinces but in varying degrees. The generally low rates in the Prairie Provinces are partly the result of their younger average population and the uniformly higher rate in British Columbia is the result of 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 of children under five years of age, and three-quarters of those were of children under one year of age. In 1952, of the nearly 126,000 deaths, almost 18,000 or a little over 14 p.c. were of 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 all childhood ages up to five years.