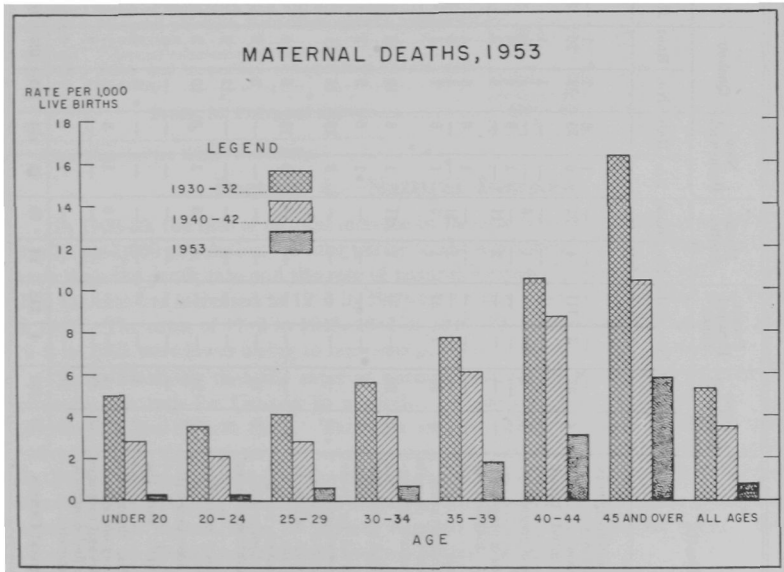


over eight times as high. The higher rate for the "under 20" age group, compared with the age group 20-24, is owing to the high proportion of illegitimate children born to young mothers in the "under 20" group.

21.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 1,000 Live Births, by Age Group, 1931, 1941 and 1952

(Exclusive of Newfoundland and the Territories)

Age Group	Maternal Deaths						Rates per 1,000 Live Births		
	1931		1941		1952		1931	1941	1952
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.			
Under 20 years.....	70	5.8	47	5.2	12	3.4	4.58	2.77	0.46
20 - 24 ".....	193	15.9	160	17.8	44	12.6	3.17	2.26	0.41
25 - 29 ".....	254	20.9	217	24.1	75	21.5	3.83	2.85	0.64
30 - 34 ".....	270	22.2	203	22.5	84	24.1	5.50	4.05	1.04
35 - 39 ".....	265	21.8	184	20.4	76	21.8	7.87	6.37	1.75
40 - 44 ".....	142	11.7	82	9.1	46	13.2	10.92	7.97	3.49
45 - 49 ".....	21	1.7	7	0.8	10	2.9	15.26	6.57	9.98
50 years or over.....	—	—	1	0.1	2	0.6	—	—	—
Totals, All Ages.....	1,215	100.0	901	100.0	349	100.0	5.65	3.53	0.89
Average age at death.....	31.6		30.9		32.6	



Causes of Maternal Deaths.—Tables 22 and 23 show, by cause, the numbers and rates of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Until a decade ago, puerperal sepsis and toxæmias of pregnancy were by far the most important causes. Since 1936, the rate for puerperal sepsis has been reduced by almost 95 p.c. owing in large measure to the use of sulpha and other antibiotics. Although there has been a reduction of over 70 p.c. since 1936 in the maternal death rate from toxæmias of pregnancy, this group still remains a major cause of maternal deaths, second only to complications of delivery.