

23.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births, by Cause, 1950-52
(Exclusive of the Territories)

Inter- national List No.	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths			Rate per 100,000 Live Births		
		1950	1951	1952	1950	1951	1952
640, 641	Infections of the genito-urinary tract during pregnancy	1	1	3	1	1	1
642	Toxæmias of pregnancy	90	111	97	24	29	24
643	Placenta prævia noted before delivery	11	4	3	3	1	1
644	Other hæmorrhage of pregnancy	5	3	4	1	1	1
645	Ectopic pregnancy	19	13	13	5	3	3
646-649	Other complications of pregnancy	9	16	13	2	4	3
650, 652	Abortion without mention of sepsis	24	22	13	6	6	3
651	Abortion with sepsis	25	29	30	7	8	7
660	Delivery without complication	7	6	9	2	2	2
670	Delivery complicated by placenta prævia or ante- partum hæmorrhage	44	43	34	12	11	8
671	Delivery complicated by retained placenta	10	6	10	3	2	2
672	Delivery complicated by other postpartum hæmor- rhage	48	38	23	13	10	6
673, 674	Delivery complicated by abnormality of bony pelvis or malposition of fœtus	14	13	12	4	3	3
675	Delivery complicated by prolonged labour of other origin	12	14	12	3	4	3
676, 677	Delivery with laceration or other trauma	9	15	16	2	4	4
678	Delivery with other complications of childbirth	14	13	15	4	3	4
680	Puerperal urinary infection without other sepsis	—	1	—	—	1	—
681	Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium	12	13	10	3	3	2
682-684	Puerperal phlebitis, thrombosis, pyrexia, pulmonary embolism	26	25	28	7	7	7
685, 686	Puerperal eclampsia and toxæmia	23	9	12	6	2	3
687-689	Other and unspecified complications of the puer- perium	16	10	17	4	3	4
	Totals, All Puerperal Causes	420	445	374	113	107	93

¹ Less than one per 100,000 live births.

Section 4.—Natural Increase

In 1926-30, the rate of natural increase in Canada (excess of births over deaths) was 13 per 1,000 population. Owing partly to the depression, the birth rate declined more than the death rate and the rate of natural increase fell to 9.7 in 1937. Since then the rate has increased to 12.6 in 1940-42, 14.6 in 1945, 17.6 in 1946 and 19.3 in 1947. The rates of 17.8 in 1948, 18.1 in 1949, 18.1 in 1950, 18.2 in 1951, and 19.2 in 1952 were lower owing to increases in total deaths in recent years.

Table 24 shows that the rates of natural increase in the provinces followed generally the rate for Canada as a whole. In earlier years, Saskatchewan and Quebec had the highest rates. The high rates in all the Prairie Provinces were owing partly to their relatively younger populations and consequent low death rates. In Quebec, on the other hand, the death rate in 1926-30 was high; it has declined steadily since. Owing to high birth rates, Newfoundland and New Brunswick have had the highest rates of natural increase in Canada in recent years. (See Chart, "Birth, Death and Natural Increase Rates", p. 218.)

The rates are generally higher for females than for males because death rates for males are higher than for females. In the western provinces particularly, the fact that the ratio of males to females in the total population is higher than in other parts of Canada tends to lower the rate of natural increase.

In a country such as Canada with a fairly young population and where immigration has been large, an excess of males is to be expected but the higher rate of natural increase for females may gradually reduce this excess. The trend is towards an eventual excess of females in the total population as there now is in most European countries—unless immigration raises the male ratio.