

12.—Distribution of Deaths by Age and Sex 1921, 1931, 1941, 1953 and 1954—concluded

Age Group	1921 ¹		1931		1941		1953		1954	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION									
Under 5 years.....	28.9	22.7	26.8	21.2	20.0	15.5	10.5	8.2	9.5	7.4
5 - 9	3.1	2.7	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.5
10 - 14	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.4
15 - 19	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.4	0.6	1.2	0.6
20 - 24	3.7	3.7	3.2	3.2	2.6	2.0	1.9	0.8	1.7	0.7
25 - 29	4.0	4.1	3.4	3.8	2.7	2.5	1.7	1.0	1.6	0.9
30 - 34	3.8	4.5	3.5	4.2	2.8	2.8	2.0	1.2	1.9	1.2
35 - 39	4.7	5.5	4.2	4.8	3.8	3.4	2.6	1.8	2.3	1.7
40 - 44	5.6	5.9	5.4	5.0	5.0	4.5	3.9	2.8	3.6	2.7
45 - 49	7.3	7.1	7.2	6.6	7.3	6.0	6.2	4.1	5.7	3.9
50 - 54	9.8	10.2	10.7	9.0	10.6	8.1	10.4	6.4	10.0	6.0
55 - 59	15.2	13.5	15.4	13.4	16.0	12.3	15.7	9.5	15.1	8.8
60 - 64	21.9	19.7	22.9	20.7	24.2	18.5	24.2	15.4	24.1	14.5
65 - 69	33.4	33.2	35.2	30.3	37.3	30.4	35.3	24.3	35.3	23.1
70 - 74	56.9	52.8	55.0	49.1	58.5	47.0	53.7	39.9	52.0	37.8
75 - 79	89.4	80.9	87.4	82.9	95.7	79.7	82.4	67.6	79.8	63.4
80 - 84	133.8	122.4	134.1	127.1	147.6	131.2	129.3	111.0	125.0	103.3
85 years or over.....	228.2	224.9	228.1	212.6	241.9	229.3	231.9	208.9	227.7	207.7
Totals, All Ages.....	10.9	10.2	10.5	9.6	10.8	9.1	9.8	7.4	9.4	7.0
Average age at death....	39.0	41.1	43.1	44.8	51.5	53.4	56.5	59.4	57.3	60.0

¹ Excludes the Province of Quebec.

Deaths in Urban Centres.—In Table 2 (pp. 202-203) deaths are classified by place of residence of the decedent. Death rates in urban centres vary only slightly from those of their respective provinces. However owing to the influx of young people from the rural areas the age distribution of the population in urban centres is often more favourable to a low death rate than that of the province as a whole.

Causes of Death.—Table 13 shows the deaths in Canada grouped according to the International Abbreviated List of 50 Causes. About 80 p.c. are in the following groups of causes: diseases of the heart and arteries, cancer, accidents, diseases of early infancy, the respiratory diseases—tuberculosis, pneumonia and influenza—and nephritis.

The rise in the average age at death has already been noted (p. 212). Causes of death that mainly affect children and young adults have declined. Diphtheria for example has been almost wiped out and tuberculosis has been greatly reduced. On the other hand the ageing of the population increases the proportion of deaths from certain causes that affect older people. Thus cancer and the diseases of the cardio-vascular-renal systems now account for a substantially larger proportion of all deaths than formerly.

These trends indicate the remarkable success that has attended the attack by health authorities on the infective and contagious diseases which in the past have constituted such a great hazard in the early and young adult years of life. They have similarly served to emphasize the emergence of the chronic and degenerative conditions of later life as the targets towards which the public health programs of the future will be directed. In effect Canada has shared the experience of most western nations in exchanging a high mortality in younger life for high morbidity in older age groups.

The following graphic presentation shows death rates for the major cause groups from 1931-54.