

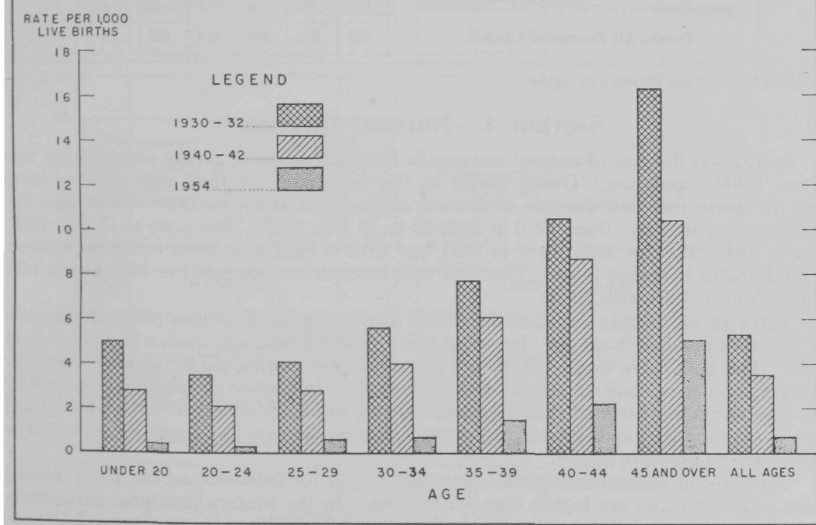
twice as high as the rate at 20-24 years, and at 40-44 years it is over seven times as high. The higher rate for the "under 20" age group, compared with the age group 20-24, is owing to the high proportion of illegitimate children born to young mothers in the "under 20" group.

**16.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 1,000 Live Births by Age Group 1941, 1953 and 1954**

(Exclusive of Newfoundland, Yukon and the Northwest Territories)

Age Group	Maternal Deaths						Rates per 1,000 Live Births		
	1941		1953		1954		1941	1953	1954
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.			
Under 20 years.....	47	5.2	7	2.3	11	3.8	2.77	0.26	0.38
20 — 24 ".....	160	17.8	34	11.1	37	12.8	2.26	0.30	0.32
25 — 29 ".....	217	24.1	73	23.9	68	23.4	2.85	0.61	0.55
30 — 34 ".....	203	22.5	60	19.7	66	22.8	4.05	0.71	0.74
35 — 39 ".....	184	20.4	82	26.9	69	23.8	6.37	1.83	1.49
40 — 44 ".....	82	9.1	43	14.1	33	11.4	7.97	3.10	2.21
45 — 49 ".....	7	0.8	6	2.0	6	2.1	6.57	5.91	5.09
50 years or over.....	1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals, All Ages.....</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.53</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.69</b>
Average age at death.....	30.9		32.9		32.2		...	...	...

MATERNAL DEATHS, 1954



**Causes of Maternal Deaths.**—Table 17 shows maternal deaths by causes, numbers and rates 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.