

## 17.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births by Cause 1951-54

(Exclusive of the Territories)

International List No.	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths				Rate per 100,000 Live Births			
		1951	1952	1953	1954	1951	1952	1953	1954
640, 641	Infections of the genito-urinary tract during pregnancy.....	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
642	Toxæmia of pregnancy.....	111	97	85	77	29	24	20	18
643	Placenta prævia noted before delivery.....	4	3	7	2	1	1	2	1
644	Other hæmorrhage of pregnancy.....	3	4	4	6	1	1	1	1
645	Ectopic pregnancy.....	13	13	10	11	3	3	2	3
646-649	Other complications of pregnancy.....	16	13	7	11	4	3	2	3
650, 652	Abortion without mention of sepsis.....	22	13	14	17	6	3	3	4
651	Abortion with sepsis.....	29	30	23	24	8	7	6	6
660	Delivery without complication.....	6	9	5	8	2	2	1	2
670	Delivery complicated by placenta prævia or antepartum hæmorrhage.....	43	34	30	24	11	8	7	6
671	Delivery complicated by retained placenta.....	6	10	11	8	2	2	3	2
672	Delivery complicated by other postpartum hæmorrhage.....	38	23	28	32	10	6	7	7
673, 674	Delivery complicated by abnormality of bony pelvis or malposition of fœtus.....	13	12	4	11	3	3	1	3
675	Delivery complicated by prolonged labour of other origin.....	14	12	10	6	4	3	2	1
676, 677	Delivery with laceration or other trauma.....	15	16	13	18	4	4	3	4
678	Delivery with other complications of childbirth.....	13	15	18	15	3	4	4	3
680	Puerperal urinary infection without other sepsis.....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
681	Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium.....	13	10	17	8	3	2	4	2
682-684	Puerperal plebitis, thrombosis, pyrexia, pulmonary embolism.....	25	28	25	21	7	7	6	5
685, 686	Puerperal eclampsia and toxæmia.....	9	12	7	6	2	3	2	1
687-689	Other and unspecified complications of the puerperium.....	10	17	4	6	3	4	1	1
<b>Totals, All Puerperal Causes.....</b>		<b>405</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>72</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 increased steadily from 12.6 in 1940-42 to 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. The 1947 rate however was exceeded in 1953 with a rate of 19.6 and in 1954 with 20.5.

Table 18 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 the death rate in 1926-30 was high but 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 on opposite page.)

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

In Canada, a country with a fairly young population and where immigration has been on a large scale, 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 again raises the male ratio.

\* For international comparisons, see Section 8, pp. 234-35.