

Infant Mortality in Urban Centres.—Because of the relatively small numbers of infant deaths in individual cities and towns, the rates for these centres usually vary widely from year to year. As is evident from Table 2, pp. 199-200, many cities and towns have maintained consistently low rates as compared with the national rate or the rate for the province in which they are situated.

Causes of Infant Deaths.—Of the 14,399 infant deaths in 1956 a congenital malformation was the underlying cause of death in 2,310 cases, immaturity in 2,224, pneumonia among infants over four weeks of age 1,600, postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis 1,642, and injury at birth 1,548; these causes together made up almost 65 p.c. of the total. The Chart opposite shows the relative importance of the major causes of infant deaths from 1931-56, and the Chart on p. 214 shows the comparative numbers of children dying at each month of age during the first year of life.

16.—Infant Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births by Cause 1954-56

International List No.	Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths			Rates per 100,000 Live Births		
		1954 ¹	1955 ¹	1956	1954 ¹	1955 ¹	1956
001-019	Tuberculosis.....	42	21	18	10	5	4
020-029	Syphilis.....	6	5	6	1	1	1
045-048	Dysentery.....	12	11	22	3	2	5
050	Scarlet fever.....	2	1	1	2	2	2
052	Erysipelas.....	1	1	1	2	2	2
055	Diphtheria.....	1	1	—	2	2	—
056	Whooping cough.....	75	107	93	17	24	21
057	Meningococcal infections.....	50	42	38	11	10	8
085	Measles.....	56	66	72	13	15	16
140-239	Neoplasms.....	35	40	41	8	9	9
273	Diseases of thymus gland.....	37	38	33	9	9	7
325	Mental deficiency.....	24	17	44	6	4	10
340	Meningitis (non-meningococcal).....	138	142	140	32	32	31
391,392	Otitis media.....	200	151	122	46	34	27
470-475	Acute upper respiratory infections.....	77	66	67	18	15	15
480-483	Influenza.....	172	210	168	40	48	37
490-493	Pneumonia (4 weeks and over).....	1,577	1,567	1,600	362	355	355
500-502	Bronchitis.....	123	100	152	28	23	34
543	Gastritis and duodenitis.....	5	5	3	1	1	1
560-570	Hernia and intestinal obstruction.....	86	92	135	20	21	30
571	Gastro-enteritis and colitis.....	542	490	484	125	111	107
572	Chronic enteritis, and ulcerative colitis.....	7	3	4	2	1	1
750-759	Congenital malformations.....	2,137	2,165	2,310	491	490	512
760,761	Injury at birth.....	1,386	1,426	1,548	319	323	343
762	Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis.....	1,507	1,594	1,642	346	361	364
763	Pneumonia of newborn (under 4 weeks).....	438	481	512	101	109	114
764	Diarrhoea of newborn (under 4 weeks).....	137	134	149	31	30	33
765-768	Other infections of the newborn.....	51	41	52	12	9	12
769	Antenatal toxæmia.....	146	170	137	34	38	30
770	Erythroblastosis.....	365	343	334	84	78	74
771	Hæmorrhagic disease of newborn.....	136	117	109	31	26	24
772	Nutritional maladjustment.....	112	107	93	26	24	21
773	Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy.....	777	703	748	179	159	166
774-776	Immaturity.....	2,062	1,979	2,224	474	448	493
795	Ill-defined and unknown causes.....	192	238	215	44	54	48
E810-E825	Motor vehicle traffic accidents.....	12	12	19	3	3	4
E900-E904	Accidental falls.....	14	17	15	3	4	3
E916	Accidents caused by fire.....	25	36	27	6	8	6
E921, E922	Inhalation and ingestion of food or other object.....	248	249	237	57	56	53
E924, E925	Accidental mechanical suffocation.....	128	116	156	29	26	35
	Other accidental and violent deaths.....	56	71	49	13	16	11
	Other specified causes.....	644	592	579	148	134	128
	Totals, All Causes.....	13,841	13,767	14,399	3,183	3,116	3,193

¹ Excludes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

² Less than one per 100,000 live births.