

## Section 3.—Deaths\*

Since 1931 the Canadian death rate has fluctuated between 10.3 and 8.2 per 1,000 of the population, the low point having prevailed from 1954 through 1957. Table 1, pp. 198-199, shows that this decline has been apparent in varying degrees in all provinces. The generally low rates in the Prairie Provinces are partly the result of their younger average population; the uniformly higher rate in British Columbia is mainly attributable to a high proportion of people in the older age groups.

## Subsection 1.—General Mortality

**Sex and Age Distribution of Deaths.**—Despite reductions in infant mortality over the past 25 or 30 years, more deaths still occur in the first year of life than in any other single year. Of the 107,000 deaths occurring in 1926, 31,000 or almost 30 p.c. were of children under five years of age and three-quarters of those were of children under one year of age. Of the 136,579 deaths in 1957, 16,891 or about 12.5 p.c. were of children under five years of age and, of those, 14,517 or over 85 p.c. were under one year. Most of the reduction took place among children over the age of one month but there was a notable decrease in all childhood ages up to five years.

Tremendous reductions have taken place in the mortality pattern since the early 1920's, with the most important reductions in the childhood and early adult ages. In 1931 over 19 p.c. of all male deaths were of persons five to 45 years of age; in 1957 these accounted for less than 11 p.c. of total deaths. The reduction in mortality among females in this age group is equally remarkable, the proportion dropping from almost 22 p.c. to approximately 8 p.c. Death rates for males up to age 45 have been roughly halved during the past 25 years; those for females in the same ages have been reduced as much as three to four times.

These reductions in the mortality rates in early and middle years of life have had the effect of increasing the number of people in the older age groups and of raising the average age of the population as a whole. As a consequence, much larger proportions of deaths are now occurring at the older ages and have raised the average age at death. In 1931 the average age at death of males was 43.1 years and of females 44.8 years; by 1957 this had advanced to 58.1 and 60.8 respectively. These trends are indicated clearly in Table 12.

\* For international comparisons, see Section 7, pp. 228-229.

## 12.—Distribution of Deaths, by Age and Sex, 1931, 1941, 1951 and 1957

Age Group	1931 <sup>1</sup>		1941 <sup>1</sup>		1951		1957	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	NUMBERS							
Under 1 year.....	11,667	8,693	8,788	6,448	8,375	6,298	8,313	6,204
1 — 4 years.....	2,844	2,533	1,878	1,566	1,421	1,151	1,326	1,048
5 — 9 “.....	1,241	963	888	670	711	466	699	436
10 — 14 “.....	821	806	787	536	461	284	470	305
15 — 19 “.....	1,311	1,132	1,118	823	721	457	790	332
20 — 24 “.....	1,502	1,453	1,332	1,039	1,009	549	1,022	393
25 — 29 “.....	1,388	1,414	1,317	1,173	988	860	1,044	519
30 — 34 “.....	1,301	1,432	1,211	1,148	1,070	778	1,141	648
35 — 39 “.....	1,512	1,574	1,497	1,242	1,281	1,015	1,341	825
40 — 44 “.....	1,888	1,493	1,744	1,464	1,756	1,266	1,968	1,198
45 — 49 “.....	2,314	1,738	2,416	1,817	2,463	1,607	2,853	1,697
50 — 54 “.....	2,855	1,993	3,355	2,227	3,525	2,083	3,874	2,005
55 — 59 “.....	3,057	2,246	4,394	2,851	4,741	2,832	5,251	2,917
60 — 64 “.....	3,583	2,855	5,288	3,483	6,465	3,902	6,829	3,806
65 — 69 “.....	4,249	3,348	6,057	4,412	8,007	5,119	8,810	5,329
70 — 74 “.....	4,867	4,073	6,495	4,981	8,748	6,439	10,125	6,877
75 — 79 “.....	4,368	4,029	6,421	5,461	8,254	6,904	9,929	7,687
80 — 84 “.....	3,206	3,215	5,020	4,906	6,232	6,130	7,665	7,009
85 years or over.....	2,555	2,998	3,846	4,540	5,336	6,319	6,450	7,444
<b>Totals, All Ages.....</b>	<b>56,529</b>	<b>47,988</b>	<b>63,852</b>	<b>50,787</b>	<b>71,564</b>	<b>54,259</b>	<b>79,900</b>	<b>56,679</b>

<sup>1</sup> Excludes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.