

**Causes of Infant Deaths.**—Of the 14,517 infant deaths in 1957 a congenital malformation was the underlying cause of death in 2,265 cases, immaturity in 2,435, pneumonia among infants over four weeks of age, 1,460, postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis 1,751, and injury at birth 1,478; 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 1931-57, and the Chart on p. 214 shows the comparative numbers of children dying at each month of age during the first year of life.

**15.—Infant Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births, by Cause, 1955-57**

Inter-national List No.	Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths			Rates per 100,000 Live Births		
		1955 <sup>1</sup>	1956	1957	1955 <sup>1</sup>	1956	1957
001-019	Tuberculosis.....	21	18	25	5	4	5
020-029	Syphilis.....	5	6	2	1	1	2
045-048	Dysentery.....	11	22	16	2	5	3
050	Scarlet fever.....	1	1	1	2	2	2
052	Erysipelas.....	1	1	—	2	2	—
055	Diphtheria.....	1	—	—	2	—	—
056	Whooping cough.....	107	93	44	24	21	9
057	Meningococcal infections.....	42	38	38	10	8	8
085	Measles.....	66	72	35	15	16	7
140-239	Neoplasms.....	40	41	43	9	9	9
273	Diseases of thymus gland.....	38	33	16	9	7	3
325	Mental deficiency.....	17	44	40	4	10	9
340	Meningitis (non-meningococcal).....	142	140	99	32	31	21
391, 392	Otitis media.....	151	122	132	34	27	28
470-475	Acute upper respiratory infections.....	66	67	79	15	15	17
480-483	Influenza.....	210	168	285	48	37	61
490-493	Pneumonia (4 weeks and over).....	1,567	1,600	1,460	355	355	311
500-502	Bronchitis.....	100	152	97	23	34	21
543	Gastritis and duodenitis.....	5	3	3	1	1	1
560-570	Hernia and intestinal obstruction.....	92	135	97	21	30	21
571	Gastro-enteritis and colitis.....	490	484	445	111	107	95
572	Chronic enteritis, and ulcerative colitis.....	3	4	2	1	1	1
750-759	Congenital malformations.....	2,165	2,310	2,265	490	512	483
760, 761	Injury at birth.....	1,426	1,548	1,478	323	343	315
762	Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis.....	1,594	1,642	1,751	361	364	373
763	Pneumonia of newborn (under 4 weeks).....	481	512	551	109	114	117
764	Diarrhoea of newborn (under 4 weeks).....	134	149	187	30	33	40
765-768	Other infections of the newborn.....	41	52	60	9	12	13
769	Antenatal toxæmia.....	170	137	150	38	30	32
770	Erythroblastosis.....	343	334	356	78	74	76
771	Hæmorrhagic disease of newborn.....	117	109	142	26	24	30
772	Nutritional maladjustment.....	107	93	102	24	21	22
773	Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy.....	703	748	764	159	166	163
774-776	Immaturity.....	1,979	2,224	2,435	448	493	519
795	Ill-defined and unknown causes.....	238	215	226	54	48	48
E810-E825	Motor vehicle traffic accidents.....	12	19	15	3	4	3
E900-E904	Accidental falls.....	17	15	8	4	3	2
E916	Accidents caused by fire.....	36	27	33	8	6	7
E921, E922	Inhalation and ingestion of food or other object.....	249	237	304	56	53	65
E924, E925	Accidental mechanical suffocation.....	116	156	143	26	35	30
	Other accidental and violent deaths.....	71	49	53	16	11	11
	Other specified causes.....	592	579	535	134	128	114
	<b>Totals, All Causes.....</b>	<b>13,767</b>	<b>14,399</b>	<b>14,517</b>	<b>3,116</b>	<b>3,193</b>	<b>3,095</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Less than one per 100,000 live births.

**Subsection 3.—Maternal Mortality**

As indicated in Table 1, pp. 198-199, the number of mothers who die in pregnancy and childbirth has been greatly reduced during the past two decades. Although the number of births has been much greater in recent years, the number of maternal deaths has declined steadily since about 1930 (when there were 1,215 deaths and a rate of almost five deaths for every 1,000 live births) to a record low of 255 in 1957. Since 1945 the rate of maternal mortality has dropped below two per 1,000 live births and has been under one per 1,000 live births since 1951. During the past three years alone the rate has dropped from 76 per 100,000 live births to 54. Mortality among unmarried mothers is higher than among married mothers.