

**Age at Death.**—Table 16 shows the distribution of maternal deaths by age groups and average age at death. The latter is about four years higher than the average age of all mothers at the time of childbirth. The rates per 1,000 live births by age groups show that age is a most important factor in maternal mortality. Until very recent years the risk of mortality at childbirth was directly related to the age of the mother; in other words for all mothers of over 20 years the rate rose with increasing age. Though rates for all age groups of mothers have been declining, recently there have been rather significant changes in the rates. Whereas formerly the death rates for mothers in the age group 30-34 was twice or three times as high as the rate for the 20-24 group, in 1957 the pattern changed; in that year the mortality rates for the four age groups of mothers under 35 were quite uniform, but rose sharply with age for those over 35.

**16.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 1,000 Live Births, by Age Group, 1955-57**

Age Group	Maternal Deaths						Rates per 1,000 Live Births		
	1955 <sup>1</sup>		1956 <sup>2</sup>		1957 <sup>2</sup>		1955 <sup>1</sup>	1956 <sup>2</sup>	1957 <sup>2</sup>
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.			
Under 20 years.....	13	4.2	12	4.7	10	4.3	0.44	0.38	0.29
20 - 24 ".....	47	15.4	29	11.4	44	18.7	0.40	0.24	0.35
25 - 29 ".....	62	20.3	59	23.1	51	21.7	0.50	0.46	0.39
30 - 34 ".....	76	24.8	59	23.1	34	14.5	0.85	0.65	0.37
35 - 39 ".....	74	24.2	56	22.1	60	25.5	1.54	1.14	1.17
40 - 44 ".....	29	9.5	38	14.9	32	13.6	1.89	2.51	2.07
45 - 49 ".....	4	1.3	2	0.8	4	1.7	3.54	1.73	3.39
50 years or over.....	1	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals, All Ages.....</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>0.52</b>
Average age at death.....	31.8		32.3		31.9		...	...	...

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

<sup>2</sup> Excludes Newfoundland only.

