

Longevity has improved for both sexes, though more so and at all ages for females, but there has been only slight improvement for males beyond middle life. Briefly the rapid decline in the death rate for infants of both sexes is continuing, with slower declines with advancing age, so that relatively stationary death rates have been established from about 50 years onwards for males and up to about 80 for females.

The fact that such a pattern exists is important in interpreting the results of these life tables. The arbitrary population base of 100,000 of each sex in the tables has been subjected to the mortality rates in effect in 1955-57, and the life expectancy computed as if those death rates at each age were to prevail during their lifetime. Actually the theoretical 200,000 infants born in 1955-57 will most probably have a pattern of survival and life expectancy quite different from that of the present life table as they will spend most of their lives under conditions of public health and medical care which in all likelihood will be superior to those prevailing in 1955-57.

The improvement in life expectancy, particularly among children and adolescents is due mainly to the substantial reduction in recent years of mortality from infectious diseases; on the other hand diseases associated with middle and old age are much less amenable to control. It is therefore unlikely that improvement in life expectancy in the future will be comparable to that of the past quarter-century. As approximately 11 p.c. of deaths in 1955-57 occurred among infants and an additional 75 p.c. among persons over age 50, any additional improvement must come as the result of further declines in mortality from conditions associated with childbirth and early infancy, further control of infectious diseases, prevention of accidents, and advances in combating diseases associated with middle and old age, such as cardiovascular renal conditions and cancer.

24.—Expectation of Life 1931, 1941, 1951 and 1956

Age	1931		1941		1951		1956	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.
At birth.....	60.00	62.10	62.96	66.30	66.33	70.83	67.61	72.92
1 year.....	64.69	65.71	66.14	68.73	68.33	72.33	69.04	73.99
2 years.....	64.46	65.42	65.62	68.16	67.56	71.55	68.21	73.15
3 ".....	63.84	64.75	64.88	67.38	66.68	70.66	67.31	72.24
4 ".....	63.11	63.99	64.07	66.56	65.79	69.74	66.38	71.31
5 ".....	62.30	63.17	63.22	65.69	64.86	68.80	65.45	70.35
10 ".....	57.96	58.72	58.70	61.08	60.15	64.02	60.67	65.51
15 ".....	53.41	54.15	54.06	56.36	55.39	59.19	55.86	60.64
20 ".....	49.05	49.76	49.57	51.76	50.76	54.41	51.19	55.80
25 ".....	44.83	45.54	45.18	47.26	46.20	49.67	46.61	50.97
30 ".....	40.55	41.38	40.73	42.81	41.60	44.94	41.98	46.17
35 ".....	36.23	37.19	36.26	38.37	37.00	40.24	37.34	41.40
40 ".....	31.98	33.02	31.87	33.99	32.45	35.63	32.74	36.69
45 ".....	27.79	28.87	27.60	29.67	28.05	31.14	28.28	32.09
50 ".....	23.72	24.79	23.49	25.46	23.88	26.80	24.04	27.65
55 ".....	19.88	20.84	19.64	21.42	20.02	22.61	20.12	23.38
60 ".....	16.29	17.15	16.06	17.62	16.49	18.64	16.54	19.34
65 ".....	12.98	13.72	12.81	14.08	13.31	14.97	13.36	15.60
70 ".....	10.06	10.63	9.94	10.93	10.41	11.62	10.51	12.17
75 ".....	7.57	7.98	7.48	8.19	7.89	8.73	7.98	9.15
80 ".....	5.61	5.92	5.84	6.03	5.84	6.38	5.89	6.75
85 ".....	4.10	4.38	4.05	4.35	4.27	4.57	4.27	4.97
90 ".....	2.97	3.24	2.93	3.13	3.10	3.24	3.07	3.67
95 ".....	2.14	2.40	2.09	2.26	2.24	2.27	2.18	2.74
100 ".....	1.53	1.77	1.46	1.64	1.60	1.59	1.52	2.05

Section 7.—International Comparisons of Vital Statistics

Table 25 gives a summary of Canada's national and provincial vital statistics rates along with those of several other countries. It will be noted that among the countries listed the low crude death rate in Canada is bettered by only one country, the Netherlands, and that some of the provinces have lower rates than most other countries. The birth rate also helps to make Canada one of the fastest growing countries and this country currently ranks sixth among those listed. However there is marked room for improvement in rates of infant mortality; although Canada had the eighth lowest rate among the countries listed, 13 countries had equal or lower rates.