

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. 238-240, 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.

Age at Death.—In 1958 the ages of the 14,178 infants who died in their first year of life were by no means evenly spread over the twelve-month span. In fact 12,831 or 90 p.c. of the infants were less than six months old and 9,055 or nearly 64 p.c. were less than one month old. There was a sharp drop to 1,160 in the second month with gradual reductions thereafter to the eleventh month. Of the 9,055 deaths during the first month, 7,658 occurred the first week of life, and no less than 4,437 took place in the first day.

Causes of Infant Deaths.—In 1958 approximately two-thirds of the infant deaths were attributed to five causes. Immaturity was the underlying cause of 2,354 deaths followed closely by congenital malformations with 2,235 fatalities. Deaths from pneumonia in infants of four weeks or over numbered 1,557 in 1958, a significant increase over the 1,460 fatalities from the same cause in 1957. Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis accounted for 1,508 deaths, and deaths through injury at birth numbered 1,422.

15.—Infant Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births, by Cause, 1956-58

International List No.	Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths			Rates per 100,000 Live Births		
		1956	1957	1958	1956	1957	1958
001-019	Tuberculosis.....	18	25	27	4	5	6
020-029	Syphilis.....	6	2	4	1	1	1
045-048	Dysentery.....	22	16	12	5	3	3
050	Scarlet fever.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
052	Erysipelas.....	1	—	—	1	—	—
055	Diphtheria.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
056	Whooping cough.....	93	44	32	21	9	7
057	Meningococcal infections.....	38	38	28	8	8	6
085	Measles.....	72	35	35	16	7	7
140-239	Neoplasms.....	41	43	43	9	9	9
273	Diseases of thymus gland.....	33	16	32	7	3	7
325	Mental deficiency.....	44	40	48	10	9	10
340	Meningitis (non-meningococcal).....	140	99	112	31	21	24
391, 392	Otitis media.....	122	132	92	27	28	20
470-475	Acute upper respiratory infections.....	67	79	56	15	17	12
480-483	Influenza.....	168	285	204	37	61	43
490-493	Pneumonia (4 weeks and over).....	1,600	1,460	1,557	355	311	331
500-502	Bronchitis.....	152	97	133	34	21	28
543	Gastritis and duodenitis.....	3	3	4	1	1	1
560-570	Hernia and intestinal obstruction.....	135	97	117	30	21	25
571	Gastro-enteritis and colitis.....	484	445	590	107	95	126
572	Chronic enteritis, and ulcerative colitis.....	4	2	5	1	1	1
750-759	Congenital malformations.....	2,310	2,265	2,235	512	483	475
760, 761	Injury at birth.....	1,548	1,478	1,422	343	315	302
762	Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis.....	1,642	1,751	1,508	364	373	321
763	Pneumonia of newborn (under 4 weeks).....	512	551	519	114	117	110
764	Diarrhoea of newborn (under 4 weeks).....	149	187	149	33	40	32
765-768	Other infections of the newborn.....	52	60	42	12	13	9
769	Antenatal toxæmia.....	137	150	141	30	32	30
770	Erythroblastosis.....	334	356	373	74	76	79
771	Hæmorrhagic disease of newborn.....	109	142	107	24	30	23
772	Nutritional maladjustment.....	93	102	76	21	22	16
773	Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy.....	748	764	872	166	163	185
774-776	Immaturity.....	2,224	2,435	2,354	493	519	501
795	Ill-defined and unknown causes.....	215	226	150	48	48	32
E810-E825	Motor vehicle traffic accidents.....	19	15	25	4	3	5
E900-E904	Accidental falls.....	15	8	14	3	2	3
E916	Accidents caused by fire.....	27	33	29	6	7	6
E921, E922	Inhalation and ingestion of food or other object.....	237	304	299	53	65	64
E924, E925	Accidental mechanical suffocation.....	156	143	152	35	30	32
	Other accidental and violent deaths.....	49	53	50	11	11	11
	Other specified causes.....	579	535	529	128	114	113
	Totals, All Causes.....	14,399	14,517	14,178	3,193	3,095	3,016

¹ Less than one per 100,000 live births.