

Section 3.—Provincial Programs

Subsection 1.—Mothers' Allowances

All provinces make provision for allowances to needy mothers who are deprived of the breadwinner and are unable to maintain their dependent children without assistance. These programs have undergone a number of changes in recent years. Eligibility requirements have been extended and liberalized. A number of provinces are combining mothers' allowances in a broadened program of provincial allowances to several categories of persons with long-term need. There is a tendency to incorporate this legislation with general assistance within a single Act, while continuing separate administration. In British Columbia, on the other hand, aid to needy mothers is provided under the general assistance program and in the same way as to other needy persons.

Subject to conditions of eligibility which vary from province to province, mothers' allowances are payable from provincial funds to applicants who are widowed or whose husbands are mentally incapacitated and, except in Alberta, to those whose husbands are physically disabled and unable to support their families. They are also payable to deserted wives who meet specified conditions; in several provinces to mothers whose husbands are in penal institutions, or who are divorced or legally separated; in some, to unmarried mothers; and in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia to Indian mothers. Foster mothers may be eligible under particular circumstances in most provinces.

The number of families and children assisted and amounts of benefits paid as at Mar. 31, 1959 and 1960 are given in Table 8 and rates of benefit as at July 1960 in Table 9.

The age limit for children is 16 years in most provinces with provision made to extend payment for a specified period if the child is attending school or if he is physically or mentally handicapped. In all provinces applicants must satisfy conditions of need and residence but the amount of outside income and resources allowed and the length of residence required prior to application vary, the most common period being one year, although in one province it is five years. Two provinces have citizenship requirements.

In each province the relevant legislation is administered by public welfare authorities. In some provinces a Mothers' Allowances Board or Commission makes the final decision regarding eligibility and the amount of allowances granted, or acts in an advisory capacity.

8.—Mothers' Allowances, by Province, as at Mar. 31, 1959 and 1960

Province and Year	Families Assisted	Children Assisted	Payments
	No.	No.	\$
Newfoundland.....1959	3,770	10,250 ¹	2,859,072 ¹
.....1960	4,024	12,898	3,225,273 ¹
Prince Edward Island.....1959	276	729	128,982
.....1960	267	683	130,510
Nova Scotia.....1959	2,196	5,483	1,887,882
.....1960	2,210	5,707	1,920,450
New Brunswick.....1959	2,235	6,495	1,365,075
.....1960	2,213	6,507	1,377,985
Quebec.....1959	22,403	64,969	18,991,476
.....1960	25,778	72,178	20,156,395
Ontario.....1959	9,433	22,632	11,033,373
.....1960	9,722	23,790	12,139,979
Manitoba.....1959	823	2,263	1,324,993
.....1960	1,209	3,300 ²	1,900,000 ²
Saskatchewan.....1959	2,222	5,491	2,030,322
.....1960	2,242	5,563	1,949,697
Alberta.....1959	2,093	4,768	1,857,031
.....1960	2,272	5,153	2,084,682
British Columbia ³1959
.....1960
Canada⁴.....1959	45,451	123,080	41,478,206
.....1960	49,937	135,779	44,884,971

¹ Approximate. ² Approximate. Caseload transferred to the social assistance program. ³ Caseload transferred to social assistance; no separate figures are available. ⁴ Exclusive of British Columbia.