

13.—Distribution of Deaths, by Age and Sex, 1931, 1941, 1951 and 1960—concluded

Age Group	1931 ¹		1941 ¹		1951		1960	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION								
Under 1 year.....	94.4 ^r	74.4 ^r	67.0 ^r	51.9 ^r	42.7 ^r	34.0 ^r	30.8	23.7
1 — 4 years.....	6.8 ^r	6.1 ^r	4.7 ^r	4.0 ^r	2.1 ^r	1.8 ^r	1.3	1.1
5 — 9 “.....	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.4
10 — 14 “.....	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.3
15 — 19 “.....	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.4	0.9	1.3	0.5
20 — 24 “.....	3.2	3.2	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.0	1.5	0.6
25 — 29 “.....	3.4	3.8	2.7	2.5	1.8	1.1	1.5	0.7
30 — 34 “.....	3.5	4.2	2.8	2.8	2.1	1.5	1.6	0.9
35 — 39 “.....	4.2	4.8	3.8	3.4	2.5	2.0	2.4	1.5
40 — 44 “.....	5.4	5.0	5.0	4.5	3.9	3.0	3.3	2.1
45 — 49 “.....	7.2	6.6	7.3	6.0	6.4	4.5	6.0	3.5
50 — 54 “.....	10.7	9.0	10.6	8.1	10.4	6.5	9.4	5.4
55 — 59 “.....	15.4	13.4	16.0	12.3	16.2	10.2	15.5	8.1
60 — 64 “.....	22.9	20.7	24.2	18.5	24.5	16.1	24.3	13.3
65 — 69 “.....	35.2	30.3	37.3	30.4	35.1	24.9	35.7	21.7
70 — 74 “.....	55.0	49.1	58.5	47.0	54.5	41.6	55.1	35.6
75 — 79 “.....	87.4	82.9	95.7	79.7	87.6	73.3	83.6	59.6
80 — 84 “.....	134.1	127.1	147.6	131.2	135.5	120.7	131.6	106.3
85 years or over.....	228.1	212.6	241.9	229.3	235.1	212.0	237.8	219.8
Totals, All Ages.....	10.5	9.6	10.8	9.1	10.1	7.8	9.1	6.6
Average age at death.....	43.1	44.8	51.5	53.4	56.3	58.7	59.5	62.7

¹ Excludes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Deaths in Urban Centres.—Table 2 on pp. 184-186 shows the number of deaths in 1960 for urban centres of 10,000 population or over. Without a knowledge of the age composition of each centre it is difficult to compare rates for various centres. The migration of young people from rural areas to some urban centres and of older people to other centres creates a favourable situation for a low or high rate as the case may be. However, despite differences in the age factor, some urban areas have very low death rates compared with other centres of the same size and with other areas in the same province.

Causes of Death.—Table 14 shows the deaths and death rates in Canada grouped according to the International Abbreviated List of 50 Causes. About 80 p.c. of the deaths are caused by diseases of the heart and arteries, cancer, accidents, diseases of early infancy, the respiratory diseases—tuberculosis, pneumonia and influenza—and nephritis.

The rise in the average age at death has already been noted (p. 196). Deaths from causes that mainly affect children and young adults have declined. Diphtheria, for example, has been almost wiped out—in fact there were only seven deaths from diphtheria during 1960 and not a single one in 1959—and tuberculosis has been greatly reduced. On the other hand, the aging of the population has increased the proportion of deaths from certain causes that affect older people. Thus, cancer and diseases of the cardiovascular-renal systems now account for a substantially larger proportion of all deaths than formerly.

These trends indicate the remarkable success that has attended the attack by health authorities on the infective and contagious diseases which in the past have constituted such a great hazard in the early and young adult years of life. They have served similarly to emphasize the emergence of the chronic and degenerative conditions of later life as the targets toward which the public health programs of the future will be directed. In effect, Canada has shared the experience of most western nations in exchanging a high mortality in younger life for high morbidity in older age groups.

The Chart on p. 198 shows death rates for the major cause groups from 1935-60.