

The average age of mothers who bore stillborn children in 1961 was 30.2 years; as shown in Table 9, the average age of mothers who bore legitimate live-born children was 28.1 and of those who bore illegitimate live-born offspring was 23.6.

### 13.—Stillbirths and Rates per 1,000 Live Births, by Age of Mother, 1961

(Exclusive of Newfoundland)

Age Group of Mother	Live Births	Stillbirths	Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live Births
	No.	No.	No.
Under 20 years.....	39,628	400	10.1
20 — 24 “.....	135,700	1,136	8.4
25 — 29 “.....	127,570	1,388	10.9
30 — 34 “.....	89,041	1,232	13.8
35 — 39 “.....	50,851	1,020	20.1
40 — 44 “.....	15,582	490	31.4
45 — 49 “.....	1,146	52	45.4
50 years or over.....	17	1	58.8
Ages not stated.....	574	19	...
<b>Totals, All Ages.....</b>	<b>460,109</b>	<b>5,738</b>	<b>12.5</b>
Average age of mothers.....		30.2	

### Section 3.—Deaths\*

No official crude† death rates are available prior to 1921, but some indication of these may be gleaned from studies of the early censuses as follows:—

<i>Intercensal Period</i>	<i>Estimated Average Annual Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 Population)</i>	<i>Intercensal Period</i>	<i>Estimated Average Annual Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 Population)</i>
1851-61.....	22	1891-1901.....	16
1861-71.....	21	1901-11.....	13
1871-81.....	19	1911-21.....	13
1881-91.....	18		

As is typical of pioneer populations, Canada had a high death rate in the mid-1850's when the country was still in the throes of pioneer settlement. The crude death rate during that period is estimated as between 22 and 25. Although no data are available, it is assumed that, while mortality at all ages was high, the rate among infants, children and young adults must have been particularly so since even in the 1920's mortality in these ages was still quite high. With the gradual increase in population density and in urbanization and improved sanitation and medical services, the crude rate was gradually halved during the 80 years between 1851 and 1930, dropping from about 22 to 11. It declined steadily to slightly over 8 in the late 1950's and dropped to a low of 7.7 in 1961. This is one of the lowest crude rates in the world.

Table 1, pp. 220-221, shows the trends since 1941 in the several provinces. The generally low rates in the Prairie Provinces are partly the result of their younger average population; the uniformly higher rate in British Columbia is mainly attributable to a high proportion of people in the older age groups.

\* For international comparisons, see Section 7, pp. 256-257.

† A crude rate is one based on the total population.