

Subsection 1.—General Mortality

Age and Sex Distribution of Deaths.—During the period of national vital statistics (1921 to date), the mortality pattern at all ages was steeply downward. Of major significance in lowering the over-all death rate, referred to on p. 237, were the reductions in infant mortality, in childhood death rates and in those of young adults. In 1931 over 19 p.c. of all male deaths occurred among persons of five to 45 years of age; in 1961 only a little over 10 p.c. of all male deaths took place in this age group. Among females in the same age group the proportion dropped from just under 22 p.c. to less than 8 p.c. in the same period. While death rates for males up to age 45 were roughly halved during the past 25 years, those for females under 45 years were reduced as much as three to four times. In other words, the death rates for females at every age declined more than those for males; the male rates have almost always been consistently higher than those for females and the differences are widening. The crude male death rate stood at 9.0 per 1,000 total male population in 1961 as compared with only 6.5 for females.

Despite the very considerable reduction in infant mortality over the past 25 or 30 years, more deaths still occur in the first year of life than in any other single year. Of the 104,517 deaths occurring in 1931, 25,737 or almost one quarter were of children under five years of age and over three quarters of those were of children under one year of age. On the other hand, of the 140,985 deaths in 1961, 14,938 or 11 p.c. were of children under five years of age, and of those 12,940 or over 86 p.c. were under one year. Most of the reduction took place among children over the age of one month but there was also a notable decrease in all childhood ages up to five years.

The reductions in the mortality rates in early and middle years of life have had the effect of increasing the number of people in the older age groups and raising the average age at death. In 1931 the average age at death of males was 43.1 years and of females 44.8 years; by 1961 this had advanced to 59.7 years and 63.1 years, respectively.

These trends are indicated clearly in Table 14.

14.—Distribution of Deaths, by Age and Sex, 1931, 1941, 1951 and 1961

Age Group	1931 ¹		1941 ¹		1951		1961	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	NUMBERS							
Under 1 year.....	11,667	8,693	8,788	6,448	8,375	6,298	7,447	5,493
1 — 4 years.....	2,844	2,533	1,878	1,566	1,421	1,151	1,154	844
5 — 9 “.....	1,241	963	888	670	711	466	672	405
10 — 14 “.....	821	806	787	536	461	284	527	278
15 — 19 “.....	1,311	1,132	1,118	823	721	457	840	322
20 — 24 “.....	1,502	1,453	1,332	1,039	1,009	549	969	342
25 — 29 “.....	1,388	1,414	1,317	1,173	988	660	895	418
30 — 34 “.....	1,301	1,432	1,211	1,148	1,070	778	1,041	562
35 — 39 “.....	1,512	1,574	1,497	1,242	1,281	1,015	1,422	880
40 — 44 “.....	1,888	1,493	1,744	1,464	1,756	1,266	1,916	1,099
45 — 49 “.....	2,314	1,738	2,416	1,817	2,463	1,607	2,993	1,617
50 — 54 “.....	2,855	1,993	3,355	2,227	3,525	2,083	4,242	2,237
55 — 59 “.....	3,057	2,246	4,394	2,851	4,741	2,832	5,494	2,749
60 — 64 “.....	3,583	2,855	5,288	3,483	6,465	3,902	7,028	3,725
65 — 69 “.....	4,249	3,348	6,057	4,412	8,007	5,119	8,545	5,304
70 — 74 “.....	4,867	4,073	6,495	4,981	8,748	6,439	10,582	7,058
75 — 79 “.....	4,368	4,029	6,421	5,461	8,254	6,904	10,970	8,290
80 — 84 “.....	3,206	3,215	5,020	4,906	6,232	6,130	8,635	7,871
85 years or over.....	2,555	2,998	3,846	4,540	5,336	6,319	7,337	8,782
Totals, All Ages.....	56,529	47,988	63,852	50,787	71,564	51,259	82,709	58,276

¹ Excludes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.