

The rise in the average age at death has already been noted (p. 238). 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 12 deaths from diphtheria during the years 1960 and 1961 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. 240 shows death rates for the major cause groups from 1936-61.

15.—Deaths and Rates per 100,000 Population, according to the International Abbreviated List of 50 Causes, 1960 and 1961

International List No.		Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths		Rates per 100,000 Population	
Abbreviated List	Detailed List		1960	1961	1960 ¹	1961
B 1	001-008	Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....	725	678	4.1	3.7
B 2	010-019	Tuberculosis, other forms.....	98	91	0.5	0.5
B 3	020-029	Syphilis and its sequelæ.....	172	160	1.0	0.9
B 4	040	Typhoid fever.....	4	2	--	--
B 5	043	Cholera.....	—	—	—	—
B 6	045-048	Dysentery, all forms.....	32	32	0.2	0.2
B 7	050, 051	Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat..	22	13	0.1	0.1
B 8	055	Diphtheria.....	7	5	--	--
B 9	056	Whooping cough.....	71	36	0.4	0.2
B10	057	Meningococcal infections.....	63	24	0.4	0.1
B11	058	Plague.....	—	—	—	—
B12	080	Acute poliomyelitis.....	83	11	0.5	0.1
B13	084	Smallpox.....	—	—	—	—
B14	085	Measles.....	53	96	0.3	0.5
B15	100-108	Typhus and other rickettsial diseases.....	—	—	—	—
B16	110-117	Malaria.....	2	—	--	—
B17	030-039, 041, 042, 044, 049, 052-054, 059-074, 081-083, 086-096, 120-138	All other diseases classified as infective and parasitic.....	371	430	2.1	2.4
B18	140-205	Cancer (all malignant neoplasms).....	23,181	23,650	129.7	129.7
	(201)	Cancer.....	21,890	22,324	122.5	122.4
	(204)	Hodgkin's disease.....	270	232	1.5	1.5
	(204)	Leukæmia and aleukæmia.....	1,021	1,044	5.7	5.7
B19	210-239	Benign and unspecified neoplasms.....	301	311	1.7	1.7
B20	260	Diabetes mellitus.....	2,081	2,164	11.6	11.9
B21	290-293	Anæmias.....	320	361	1.8	2.0
B22	330-334	Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system.....	15,428	15,299	86.3	83.9
B23	340	Non-meningococcal meningitis.....	177	215	1.0	1.2
B24	400-402	Rheumatic fever.....	53	64	0.3	0.4
B25	410-416	Chronic rheumatic heart disease.....	1,394	1,464	7.8	8.0
B26	420-422	Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease.....	42,439	43,233	237.5	237.0
B27	430-434	Other diseases of heart.....	2,129	2,095	11.9	11.5
B28	440-443	Hypertension with heart disease.....	3,222	3,179	18.0	17.4
B29	444-447	Hypertension without mention of heart....	985	907	5.5	5.0
B30	480-483	Influenza.....	547	537	3.1	2.9
B31	490-493	Pneumonia.....	5,360	5,072	30.0	27.8
B32	500-502	Bronchitis.....	862	839	4.8	4.6

¹ Many rates have been revised since the publication of the 1962 Year Book; see headnote to Table 1.