



Age at Death.—Table 18 shows the distribution of maternal deaths by age group and average age at death; the latter is about four years higher than the average age of all mothers at the time of childbirth. Until recent years, the risk of mortality at childbirth was directly related to the age of the mother—in other words, for all mothers of over 20 years the rate rose with increasing age. While death rates for all age groups of mothers have been declining, there have been rather significant changes in the rates. Formerly, the rate for mothers in the age group 30-34 was twice or three times as high as the rate for the 20-24 group, but recently mortality rates for the four age groups of mothers under 35 years of age have not been far apart, although after age 35 a sharp rise occurs.

18.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 10,000 Live Births, by Age Group, 1959-61
(Exclusive of Newfoundland)

Age Group	Maternal Deaths						Rates per 10,000 Live Births		
	1959		1960		1961		1959	1960	1961
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.			
Under 20 years.....	12	4.8	11	5.5	10	4.8	3.2	2.8	2.5
20 — 24 “.....	41	16.3	28	14.1	26	12.5	3.1	2.1	1.9
25 — 29 “.....	51	20.3	33	16.6	36	17.3	3.8	2.5	2.8
30 — 34 “.....	54	21.5	43	21.6	56	26.9	5.9	4.8	6.3
35 — 39 “.....	63	25.1	43	21.6	50	24.0	12.0	8.3	9.8
40 — 44 “.....	25	10.0	33	16.6	25	12.0	16.6	21.6	16.0
45 — 49 “.....	4	1.6	8	4.0	5	2.4	32.4	71.0	43.6
50 years or over.....	1	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals, All Ages.....	251	100.0	199	100.0	208	100.0	5.4	4.3	4.5
Average age at death.....	31.8		32.8		32.5	