

rapid decline in the death rate for infants of both sexes is continuing but the declines are slower with advancing age, so that relatively stationary death rates have been established from about 50 years onward for males and from about 80 years onward for females.

The fact that such a pattern exists is important in interpreting the results of these life tables. The arbitrary population base of 100,000 of each sex in the 1956 tables, for example, has been subjected to the mortality rates in effect in 1955-57, and the life expectancy computed *as if those death rates at each age were to prevail during their lifetime*. Actually the theoretical 200,000 infants born in 1955-57 will most probably have a pattern of survival and life expectancy quite different from that of the present life tables as they will spend most of their lives under conditions of public health and medical care which in all likelihood will be superior to those prevailing in 1955-57.

The improvement in life expectancy, particularly among children and adolescents, is caused mainly by the substantial reduction in recent years in mortality from infectious diseases; on the other hand, diseases associated with middle and old age are much less amenable to control. It is therefore unlikely that improvement in life expectancy in the future will be comparable to that of the past quarter-century. As approximately 11 p.c. of deaths in 1955-57 occurred among infants and an additional 75 p.c. among persons over age 50, any additional improvement must come as the result of further declines in mortality from conditions associated with childbirth and early infancy, further control of infectious diseases, prevention of accidents, and advances in combating diseases associated with middle and old age, such as cardiovascular-renal conditions and cancer.

26.—Expectation of Life, 1931, 1941, 1951 and 1956

Age	1931		1941		1951		1956	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.
At birth.....	60.00	62.10	62.96	66.30	66.33	70.83	67.61	72.92
1 year.....	64.69	65.71	66.14	68.73	68.33	72.33	69.04	73.99
2 years.....	64.46	65.42	65.62	68.16	67.56	71.55	68.21	73.15
3 ".....	63.84	64.75	64.88	67.38	66.68	70.66	67.31	72.24
4 ".....	63.11	63.99	64.07	66.56	65.79	69.74	66.38	71.31
5 ".....	62.30	63.17	63.22	65.69	64.86	68.80	65.45	70.35
10 ".....	57.96	58.72	58.70	61.08	60.15	64.02	60.67	65.51
15 ".....	53.41	54.15	54.06	56.36	55.39	59.19	55.86	60.64
20 ".....	49.05	49.76	49.57	51.76	50.76	54.41	51.19	55.80
25 ".....	44.83	45.54	45.18	47.26	46.20	49.67	46.61	50.97
30 ".....	40.55	41.38	40.73	42.81	41.60	44.94	41.98	46.17
35 ".....	36.23	37.19	36.26	38.37	37.00	40.24	37.34	41.40
40 ".....	31.98	33.02	31.87	33.99	32.45	35.63	32.74	36.69
45 ".....	27.79	28.87	27.60	29.67	28.05	31.14	28.28	32.09
50 ".....	23.72	24.79	23.49	25.46	23.88	26.80	24.04	27.65
55 ".....	19.88	20.84	19.64	21.42	20.02	22.61	20.12	23.38
60 ".....	16.29	17.15	16.06	17.62	16.49	18.64	16.54	19.34
65 ".....	12.98	13.72	12.81	14.08	13.31	14.97	13.36	15.60
70 ".....	10.06	10.63	9.94	10.93	10.41	11.62	10.51	12.17
75 ".....	7.57	7.98	7.48	8.19	7.89	8.73	7.98	9.15
80 ".....	5.61	5.92	5.54	6.03	5.84	6.38	5.89	6.75
85 ".....	4.10	4.38	4.05	4.35	4.27	4.57	4.27	4.97
90 ".....	2.97	3.24	2.93	3.13	3.10	3.24	3.07	3.67
95 ".....	2.14	2.40	2.09	2.26	2.24	2.27	2.18	2.74
100 ".....	1.53	1.77	1.46	1.64	1.60	1.59	1.52	2.05

Section 7.—International Comparisons of Vital Statistics

Table 27 gives a summary of Canada's national and provincial vital statistics rates along with those of several other countries. It will be noted that among the countries listed the low crude death rate in Canada is bettered by four countries—Venezuela, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Japan and the Netherlands—and that some of the provinces have lower rates than most other countries. The birth rate also helps to give Canada one of the fastest growing populations, currently ranking eighth among those listed. However, 13 countries reported lower rates of infant mortality.