

Longevity has improved for both sexes, though more so and at all ages for females, but there has been only slight improvement for males beyond middle life. Briefly, the 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 1960-62, 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 1960-62 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 1960-62.

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 30 years. As approximately 9 p.c. of deaths in 1960-62 occurred among infants and an additional 77 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.

## 32.—Expectation of Life, 1931, 1941, 1951, 1956 and 1961

Age	1931		1941		1951		1956		1961	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	yrs.	yrs.	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	68.35	74.17
1 year.....	64.69	65.71	66.14	68.73	68.33	72.33	69.04	73.99	69.50	74.98
2 years.....	64.46	65.42	65.62	68.16	67.56	71.55	68.21	73.15	68.63	74.11
3 ".....	63.84	64.75	64.88	67.38	66.68	70.66	67.31	72.24	67.71	73.18
4 ".....	63.11	63.99	64.07	66.56	65.79	69.74	66.38	71.31	66.78	72.23
5 ".....	62.30	63.17	63.22	65.69	64.86	68.80	65.45	70.35	65.83	71.27
10 ".....	57.96	58.72	58.70	61.08	60.15	64.02	60.67	65.51	61.02	66.41
15 ".....	53.41	54.15	54.06	56.36	55.39	59.19	55.86	60.64	56.20	61.51
20 ".....	49.05	49.76	49.57	51.76	50.76	54.41	51.19	55.80	51.51	56.65
25 ".....	44.83	45.54	45.18	47.26	46.20	49.67	46.61	50.97	46.91	51.80
30 ".....	40.55	41.38	40.73	42.81	41.60	44.94	41.98	46.17	42.24	46.98
35 ".....	36.23	37.19	36.26	38.37	37.00	40.24	37.34	41.40	37.56	42.18
40 ".....	31.98	33.02	31.87	33.99	32.45	35.63	32.74	36.69	32.96	37.45
45 ".....	27.79	28.87	27.60	29.67	28.05	31.14	28.28	32.09	28.49	32.82
50 ".....	23.72	24.79	23.49	25.46	23.88	26.80	24.04	27.65	24.25	28.33
55 ".....	19.88	20.84	19.64	21.42	20.02	22.61	20.12	23.38	20.30	24.01
60 ".....	16.29	17.15	16.06	17.62	16.49	18.64	16.54	19.34	16.73	19.90
65 ".....	12.98	13.72	12.81	14.08	13.31	14.97	13.36	15.60	13.53	16.07
70 ".....	10.06	10.63	9.94	10.93	10.41	11.62	10.51	12.17	10.67	12.58
75 ".....	7.57	7.98	7.48	8.19	7.89	8.73	7.98	9.15	8.21	9.48
80 ".....	5.61	5.92	5.54	6.03	5.84	6.38	5.89	6.14	6.90	7.48
85 ".....	4.10	4.38	4.05	4.35	4.27	4.57	4.27	4.67	4.46	4.89
90 ".....	2.97	3.24	2.93	3.13	3.10	3.24	3.07	3.67	3.16	3.39
95 ".....	2.14	2.40	2.09	2.26	2.24	2.27	2.18	2.74	2.20	2.32
100 ".....	1.53	1.77	1.46	1.64	1.60	1.59	1.52	2.05	1.49	1.56