

14.—Stillbirths, by Cause, 1964

International List No.	Cause	Males	Females	Total
		No.	No.	No.
Y 30	Chronic disease in mother.....	87	61	148
Y 31	Acute disease in mother.....	12	14	26
Y 32	Diseases and conditions of pregnancy and childbirth.....	240	201	441
Y 33	Absorption of toxic substance from mother.....	1	—	1
Y 34	Difficulties in labour.....	132	120	252
Y 35	Other causes in mother.....	41	34	75
Y 36	Placental and cord conditions.....	1,137	958	2,095
Y 37	Birth injury.....	40	25	65
Y 38	Congenital malformation of foetus.....	276	398	674
Y 39	Diseases of foetus and ill-defined causes.....	882	861	1,743
All Causes.....		2,848	2,672	5,520

Section 3.—Deaths*

No official crude† death rates are available prior to 1921, but some indication of these may be obtained from studies of the early censuses as follows:—

Intercensal Period	Estimated Average Annual Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 Population)	Intercensal Period	Estimated Average Annual Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 Population)
1851-61.....	22	1891-1901.....	16
1861-71.....	21	1901-11.....	13
1871-81.....	19	1911-21.....	13
1881-91.....	18		

As is typical of pioneer populations, Canada had a high death rate in the mid-1850s when the country was still in the throes of pioneer settlement. The crude death rate during that period is estimated as between 22 and 25. Although no data are available, it is assumed that, while mortality at all ages was high, the rate among infants, children and young adults must have been particularly so since even in the 1920s mortality in these ages was still quite high. With the gradual increase in population density and in urbanization and improved sanitation and medical services, the crude rate was halved during the 80 years between 1851 and 1930, dropping from about 22 to 11. It declined steadily to slightly over 8 in the late 1950s and dropped to a low of 7.6 in 1964. This is one of the lowest crude death rates in the world.

Table 1, pp. 236-237, shows the trends since 1941 in the provinces and territories. The generally low rates in the Prairie Provinces are partly the result of their younger average population; the uniformly higher rate in British Columbia is attributable mainly to a high proportion of people in the older age groups.

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 has been steeply downward. Of major significance in lowering the over-all death rate 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 1964 only a little over 10 p.c. took place in this age group. Among females in the same age group the proportion dropped from just under 22 p.c. to 7.4 p.c.

* For international comparisons, see Section 7, pp. 275-276.

† A crude rate is one based on the total population.