

Perinatal Mortality.—'Perinatal' mortality—the combined total of stillbirths and deaths of live-born infants occurring 'around' the natal period—is a relatively new vital statistics concept. Since such deaths frequently have the same underlying causes, associated with pregnancy or delivery, regardless of whether they occur before or after delivery, perinatal deaths are generally considered as including the combined total of stillbirths occurring after at least 28 weeks pregnancy and deaths of live-born infants who fail to survive the first week of life.

In 1964 there were 12,539 such 'deaths', of which 5,520 were stillborn and 7,019 live-born but failed to survive one week, with a national rate of 27.4 such deaths for every 1,000 total deliveries. This perinatal rate has declined slowly but steadily from 65.2 in 1921 to 27.4 in 1964.

Subsection 3.—Maternal Mortality

As indicated in Table 1, pp. 236-237, the number of mothers who die in pregnancy and childbirth has been greatly reduced during the past two decades, reaching an all-time low of 137 in 1964. Since 1951 the rate of maternal mortality per 10,000 births has been under 10 and since 1959 it has been under five. Despite this improvement, Canada's maternal death rate (3.0 in 1964) is higher than those for several other countries (see p. 276). Mortality among unmarried mothers is higher than among married mothers.

Causes of Maternal Deaths.—Table 24 shows the main causes of maternal deaths during the years 1962-64.

24.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births, by Cause, 1962-64

Inter- national List No.	Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths			Rates per 100,000 Live Births		
		1962	1963	1964	1962	1963	1964
	Complications of Pregnancy	52	43	35	11	9	8
640, 641	Infections of the genito-urinary tract during pregnancy.....	3	6	3	1	1	1
642	Toxæmias of pregnancy.....	23	21	17	5	5	4
645	Ectopic pregnancy.....	6	8	6	1	2	1
646-649	Other complications of pregnancy.....	20	8	9	4	2	2
	Abortion	24	27	22	5	6	5
650, 652	Abortion without mention of sepsis.....	9	6	10	2	1	2
651	Abortion with sepsis.....	15	21	12	3	5	3
	Complications of Delivery	78	67	48	17	14	11
670	Delivery complicated by placenta prævia or antepartum hæmorrhage.....	21	20	6	4	4	1
671	Delivery complicated by retained placenta.....	3	5	4	1	1	1
672	Delivery complicated by other postpartum hæmorrhage.....	21	6	15	4	1	3
673, 674	Delivery complicated by abnormality of bony pelvis or malposition of fœtus.....	6	8	5	1	2	1
675	Delivery complicated by prolonged labour of other origin.....	5	4	1	1	1	--
676, 677	Delivery with laceration or other trauma.....	8	10	11	2	2	2
678	Delivery with other complications of childbirth.....	14	14	6	3	3	1
	Complications of the Puerperium	37	28	32	8	6	7
680	Puerperal urinary infection without other sepsis.....	13	—	1	—	—	--
681	Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium.....	13	4	5	3	1	1
682-684	Puerperal phlebitis, thrombosis, pyrexia, pulmonary embolism.....	12	9	13	3	2	3
685, 686	Puerperal eclampsia and toxæmia.....	1	5	1	--	1	--
687-689	Other.....	11	10	12	2	2	3
	Totals, All Puerperal Causes	191	165	137	41	35	30