

Tables 15 and 16 illustrate the very large reductions in death rates that have taken place since 1931 in each age group of the population. By far the greatest reductions have been among the young of both sexes. However, even though the rates for females at every age have always been consistently lower than those for males, female death rates have been declining faster and the differences are gradually widening. Between 1931 and 1965 the rates for all females dropped by 33.3 p.c. as compared with only 16.2 p.c. for males.

15.—Percentage Change in Death Rates for Each Age Group, 1931 to 1965

Age Group	Males	Females	Age Group	Males	Females
Under 1 year.....	-72.2	-72.0	50-54 years	-8.4	-42.2
1-4 years.....	-83.8	-85.2	55-59 "	-1.9	-43.3
5-9 "	-68.2	-76.5	60-64 "	+6.1	-40.1
10-14 "	-66.7	-80.0	65-69 "	+1.7	-34.7
15-19 "	-52.0	-77.3	70-74 "	-0.2	-32.0
20-24 "	-46.9	-81.2	75-79 "	-6.2	-34.0
25-29 "	-52.0	-81.6	80-84 "	-7.7	-23.9
30-34 "	-51.4	-78.6	85 years or over.....	-7.3	-8.1
35-39 "	-47.6	-72.9			
40-44 "	-35.2	-60.0	All Ages.....	-16.2	-33.3
45-49 "	-22.2	-50.0			

Despite the very considerable reduction that has taken place in infant mortality, more deaths still occur in the first year of life than in any other single year. Of the total deaths occurring in 1931, almost one quarter were of children under five years of age and more than three quarters of those were of children under one year of age; of the deaths occurring in 1965, almost 8 p.c. were of children under five years and of those about 85 p.c. were under one year. Most of the reduction took place among children over the age of one month but there was also a notable decrease in all childhood ages up to five years.

