

do not represent any actual population. Usually, the persons in an actual cohort born in the life-table year will have a higher life expectancy than those in the life-table cohort because during their lifetimes public health conditions will presumably constantly improve and standards of medical care will also presumably advance.

Seven official sets of life tables have been published to date, based on deaths in the three-year period around each of the censuses of 1931, 1941, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966 and 1971. The first five of these sets contained tables for Canada and for the five main regions, while the 1966 and 1971 sets included tables for all of the provinces. The Canadian life table values for the 1971 period are given for selected ages in Table 4.47. This Table shows that at 1970-72 mortality rates 2,002 of 100,000 males born would have died in their first year with 97,998 surviving to one year of age, that 126 more would have died in their second year with 97,872 reaching their second birthday and so on. There would be 191 survivors at 100 years of age. The "probability of dying" column represents the ratio between the population at each age and the number of "expected" deaths in the coming year. Finally the "expectation of life" column shows the number of remaining years of life that can be expected at each age, given the 1970-72 mortality rates.

Table 4.47 also shows that the male probabilities of dying were higher than the corresponding female probabilities throughout the Table. Mortality rates and consequently the probabilities of dying were lowest at the age of about 10 for both sexes. Above this age, the male probabilities rose quite rapidly, reflecting accidents to teen-age boys; the female probability rose more gradually. Male mortality was fairly constant from the age of 20 up into the late 30s, and then increased steadily with advancing age. Female mortality rose slowly between the ages of 10 and 25 and then more rapidly for the remainder of the life period. It may be observed that about 11,200 of the male cohort would have died by age 50 as compared with roughly 6,600 of the corresponding female cohort, and that 58,575 males would reach age 70 as compared with 75,995 females.

Life expectancy values over the 1951-71 period are shown in Table 4.48. By 1971, Canadian life expectancy at birth had reached an all-time high of 69.3 years for males and nearly 76.4 years for females. These figures are roughly comparable to the expectancies of other countries with highly developed programs of medical care. Because of infant mortality, which is still quite substantial, life expectancies for male and female infants one year old were still slightly higher than expectancies at birth. Male expectancy at age 20 was 51.7 years, or 6.5 years below the corresponding female expectancy of 58.2. At age 40, the comparative expectancies were 33.2 for men and 39.0 for women. By age 65, the male expectancy had dropped to 13.7 years, with the female expectancy being about 3.8 years higher, at 17.5 years.

Table 4.49 shows the life expectancies for five Canadian regions for 1951 and 1961, and the corresponding expectancies by province for the 1966 and 1971 periods. The steady widening of the gap between male and female expectancies, very evident at the national level, still seems to be continuing in every province to judge from the 1966 and 1971 period figures. For the periods around the 1956 and 1961 censuses, the Prairie region showed the highest life expectancies, both male and female. Throughout the 1951-61 interval, Quebec life expectancies were the lowest, although they showed marked improvement over the decade.

In both the 1966 and 1971 periods, Saskatchewan life expectancies at birth were the highest among the provinces for males and females alike, and Quebec expectancies, although increasing, were still the lowest. In 1971, the Saskatchewan male expectancy at birth (71.1 years) was about 2.8 years above the corresponding Quebec expectancy of 68.3. For female expectancies at birth, Saskatchewan set an all-time record of 77.6, about 2.3 years above the corresponding Quebec expectancy of 75.3. All the 1971 life expectancies for selected ages in each of the four western provinces as given in Table 4.49 were above the national average, with the Saskatchewan rates being the highest in every case. Ontario male rates at the younger ages were around the Canadian average, dropping slightly below it for older men. Ontario female expectancies were fractionally above the national level. Quebec male expectancies at the young and middle ages were roughly a year below the national average, with the difference decreasing for older men 65 years and over. This statement also applies to the female expectancies for that province.

In the Atlantic provinces, 1971 life expectancies for the very young ages did not differ greatly from the national average except in the case of Nova Scotia for both males and