

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, with 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. The "expectation of life" column shows the number of remaining years of life expected at each age, given the 1970-72 mortality rates.

Male probabilities of dying were higher than the corresponding female probabilities at all ages. Mortality rates and the probabilities of dying were lowest at the age of about 10 for both sexes. Then male probabilities rose rapidly, reflecting accidents to teen-age boys; the female probabilities rose more gradually. Male mortality was fairly constant from the age of 20 to the late 30s, and then increased steadily with advancing age. Female mortality rose slowly between 10 and 25 years, then more rapidly. About 11,200 of the male cohort would have died by age 50 as compared with roughly 6,600 of the female cohort, and 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 4.46. 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 infant mortality is still quite substantial, life expectancies for male and female infants one year old were only 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 4.47 shows the life expectancies for five Canadian regions for 1951 and 1961, and expectancies by province for 1966 and 1971. The steady widening of the gap between male and female expectancies, evident at the national level, seemed to be continuing in every province to judge from the 1966 and 1971 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 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 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 in the four western provinces were above the national average. Ontario male rates at the younger ages were around the Canadian average, dropping slightly below for older men. Ontario female expectancies were fractionally above the national level.

In the Atlantic provinces, 1971 life expectancies for the very young did not differ greatly from the national average except in Nova Scotia for both males and females, which were somewhat below it, and Prince Edward Island females which were above it. This was also true for the expectancies at 20 years of age. The male expectancies at 40 were around the Canadian figure with Prince Edward Island a little higher and Nova Scotia slightly lower. Prince Edward Island showed the female expectancy at 40, a year above the national average, while Newfoundland and Nova Scotia were slightly below it. The Prince Edward Island expectancies at age 65 were above the Canadian level with the male expectancies at 65 for the other Atlantic provinces clustered around it. The Newfoundland female expectancy at 65 was somewhat below the Canadian level.