

Subsection 2.—Infant Mortality

International Comparisons.—The completeness of registration of live births and infant deaths varies from country to country and there is some evidence that the under-registration of deaths is proportionately greater for infants than for other ages. The reliability of the basic data should, therefore, be kept in mind when comparing the rates. Despite these variations, the Canadian rate as well as the rates for some of the provinces appear to be considerably higher than those for many other countries of the world.

19.—Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births in Various Countries compared with Canada and the Provinces, 1951

(Source: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations* and other official publications. In certain cases final figures are not available and provisional data are used.)

Country	Infant Mortality Rate	Country or Province	Infant Mortality Rate	Country	Infant Mortality Rate
Sweden.....	21	Canada.....	38	France ²	46
New Zealand.....	23	British Columbia.....	30	Belgium.....	50
Australia.....	25	Ontario.....	31	Western Germany.....	53
Netherlands, The.....	27	Saskatchewan.....	31	Japan.....	57
Norway.....	28 ¹	Alberta.....	33	Austria.....	62
Denmark.....	29	Manitoba.....	33	Italy.....	67
United States.....	29	Prince Edward Island.....	34	Spain.....	68
England and Wales.....	30	Nova Scotia.....	35	Czechoslovakia.....	78 ¹
Switzerland.....	30	Quebec.....	48	Ceylon.....	88
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	34	New Brunswick.....	52	Portugal.....	89
Finland.....	35	Newfoundland.....	54	Mexico.....	100
Scotland.....	37	Northern Ireland.....	41	India ³	137 ¹
		Ireland, Republic of.....	45	Chile.....	148

¹ 1950.

² Excludes infants born alive but who died before registration of birth.

³ Registration area only.

Canadian Infant Mortality.—Table 1, pp. 176-178, shows the striking improvement that has taken place in the rate of infant mortality during the past 25 years. Of the children born in 1946-50, approximately 87,000 lived to their first birthday who would have died at the rate prevailing in the period 1926-30.

As illustrated in Table 20, infant mortality of males is 25 to 30 p.c. higher than that of females for Canada as a whole, with wider variations for the individual provinces. As pointed out earlier, there were between 1,051 and 1,067 males born to every 1,000 females in the 1941-51 period. Because male infant mortality is higher, the excess of males is reduced drastically by the end of the first year. For example, in 1940-42, 397,038 male children were born compared with 347,908 female children, an excess of 22,130 or 5.9 p.c.; 25,024 male children died during their first year compared with 18,646 female children, that is 6,378 more. The excess of males at one year of age is thus reduced to 15,752, or 4.4 p.c.

As indicated in Tables 1 and 19, infant mortality rates vary considerably from province to province. One of the principal causes of these variations appears to be the different proportions of births that take place in hospital or under proper