

Tremendous reductions have taken place in the mortality pattern since the early 1920's, with the most important reductions in the childhood and early adult ages. In 1926, over 19 p.c. of all male deaths were of persons five to 45 years of age; in 1952, these accounted for about 11 p.c. of total deaths. The reduction in mortality among females in this age group is equally remarkable, the proportion dropping from 22 p.c. to 10 p.c. Death rates for males up to age 45 have been roughly halved during the past 25 years; those for females, in the same ages, have been reduced as much as three to four times.

These reductions in the mortality rates in early and middle years of life have, of course, had the effect of increasing the number of people in the older age groups and of raising the average age of the population as a whole. As a natural consequence, much larger proportions of deaths are now occurring at the older ages. Further, the reductions in rates will eventually raise the average age at death. In 1921, the average age at death of males was 39.0 years and of females 41.1 years; by 1952 this had advanced to 55.8 and 58.2, respectively. These trends are indicated clearly in Table 14.

14.—Distribution of Deaths, by Age and Sex, 1921, 1931, 1941, and 1952

Age Group	1921 ¹		1931		1941		1952	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
NUMBER								
Under 5 years.....	10,827	8,303	14,511	11,226	10,666	8,014	10,281	7,691
5 - 9 ".....	1,166	979	1,241	963	888	670	726	500
10 - 14 ".....	674	611	821	806	787	536	485	295
15 - 19 ".....	866	741	1,311	1,132	1,118	823	747	341
20 - 24 ".....	947	946	1,502	1,453	1,332	1,039	1,031	488
25 - 29 ".....	1,046	1,035	1,388	1,414	1,317	1,173	1,014	599
30 - 34 ".....	1,002	1,051	1,301	1,432	1,211	1,148	1,100	775
35 - 39 ".....	1,263	1,223	1,512	1,574	1,497	1,242	1,344	977
40 - 44 ".....	1,254	1,073	1,888	1,493	1,744	1,464	1,820	1,239
45 - 49 ".....	1,345	1,066	2,314	1,738	2,416	1,817	2,510	1,634
50 - 54 ".....	1,492	1,288	2,855	1,993	3,355	2,227	3,687	2,115
55 - 59 ".....	1,727	1,337	3,057	2,246	4,394	2,851	4,850	2,752
60 - 64 ".....	2,121	1,652	3,583	2,855	5,288	3,483	6,462	3,784
65 - 69 ".....	2,277	1,976	4,249	3,348	6,057	4,412	8,197	5,004
70 - 74 ".....	2,550	2,184	4,867	4,073	6,495	4,981	8,713	6,494
75 - 79 ".....	2,378	2,135	4,368	4,029	6,421	5,461	8,227	6,578
80 - 84 ".....	1,833	1,799	3,206	3,215	5,020	4,906	6,310	5,796
85 years or over.....	1,643	1,912	2,555	2,998	3,846	4,540	5,216	6,168
Totals, All Ages.....	36,411	31,311	56,529	47,988	63,852	50,787	72,720	53,230
PERCENTAGE								
Under 5 years.....	29.8	26.5	25.7	23.4	16.7	15.8	14.1	14.5
5 - 9 ".....	3.2	3.1	2.2	2.0	1.4	1.3	1.0	0.9
10 - 14 ".....	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.7	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.6
15 - 19 ".....	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.0	0.6
20 - 24 ".....	2.6	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.1	2.0	1.4	0.9
25 - 29 ".....	2.9	3.3	2.5	2.9	2.1	2.3	1.4	1.1
30 - 34 ".....	2.7	3.4	2.3	3.0	1.9	2.3	1.5	1.5
35 - 39 ".....	3.5	3.9	2.7	3.3	2.3	2.4	1.8	1.8
40 - 44 ".....	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.9	2.5	2.3
45 - 49 ".....	3.7	3.4	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.1
50 - 54 ".....	4.1	4.1	5.0	4.2	5.3	4.4	5.1	4.0
55 - 59 ".....	4.7	4.3	5.4	4.7	6.9	5.6	6.7	5.2
60 - 64 ".....	5.8	5.3	6.3	5.9	8.3	6.9	8.9	7.1
65 - 69 ".....	6.2	6.3	7.5	7.0	9.5	8.7	11.3	9.4
70 - 74 ".....	7.0	7.0	8.6	8.5	10.2	9.8	12.0	12.2
75 - 79 ".....	6.5	6.8	7.7	8.4	10.1	10.7	11.3	12.4
80 - 84 ".....	5.0	5.7	5.7	6.7	7.9	9.7	8.7	10.9
85 years or over.....	4.5	6.1	4.5	6.2	6.0	8.9	7.2	11.6
Totals, All Ages.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Excludes the Province of Quebec.